



Renowned Black journalist, radio personality Askia Muhammad dies

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

Askia Muhammad, a renowned journalist, photographer, poet, and Black Press columnist, died Feb. 17.

See **ASKIA**, A8►

Critical race theory: Panel discusses origins, applications

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Two lawmakers, a psychology professor, a law professor and a senior fellow from the Heritage Foundation talked for nearly two hours about critical race theory on a panel organized by the NAACP. If you're waiting for the punchline, this isn't the setup to a joke.

Everyone got their crack at describing critical race theory and its relevance in America today — whether it's a sinister plot to brainwash fourth graders or a helpful lens through which to see why racial disparities continue to exist in everything from education to life expectancy.

But first, what is everyone talking about? Kevin Brown, a professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, described critical race theory, or CRT, as a framework

See **RACE**, A4►



ALL 3 DEFENDANTS CONVICTED OF HATE CRIMES IN ARBERY KILLING

By **RUSS BYNUM**
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP) — The three men convicted of murder in Ahmaud Arbery's fatal shooting were found guilty of federal hate crimes and other lesser charges Feb. 22 for violating Arbery's civil rights and targeting him because he was Black.

In addition to the federal hate crimes, the jury also found father and son Greg and Travis McMichael and neighbor William "Roddie" Bryan guilty of attempted kidnapping, while the McMichaels were also found guilty of the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime.


During the trial, prosecutors showed roughly two dozen text messages and social media posts in which Travis McMichael and Bryan used racist slurs and made derogatory comments about Black people. The FBI wasn't able to access Greg McMichael's phone because it was encrypted.

The McMichaels grabbed guns and jumped in a pickup truck to pursue Arbery after seeing him running in their neighborhood outside the Georgia port city of Brunswick in February 2020. Bryan joined the pursuit in his own pickup and recorded cellphone video of Travis McMichael fatally shooting Arbery. The killing became part of a larger national reckoning on racial injustice after the graphic video leaked online two months later.

Defense attorneys contended the three didn't chase and kill Arbery because of his race but acted on the earnest, though

See **AHMAUD**, A9►

Education bill gets a revamp, still not supported by many teachers



EmpowerED Families team parents, students and volunteers were at the Statehouse rallying in opposition to HB 1134. (Photo/Conn Photography)

By **BREANNA COOPER**
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If you familiarized yourself with House Bill 1134 — a controversial education bill that would require teachers to publish their curriculum and allow parents to opt their children out of social emotional lessons — you might not recognize it in its current form, which passed through the Senate Education and Career Development Committee on Feb. 23.

Sen. Linda Rogers, R-District 11, proposed a series of amendments to the bill to appease the myriad teachers, parents and high school students who spoke out against this bill. On Feb. 16, over 200 members of the public signed up to speak before the Senate Education

See **BILL**, A4►

Howard University Receives \$2M to digitize Black newspaper archive



The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center houses the archive, which dates to the 1970s and includes newspapers from Africa and the Caribbean.


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

Howard University has received a \$2 million donation to digitize its Black Press Archives, which contains more than 2,000 newspaper titles including publications such as the New York Amsterdam News, Chicago Defender, Washington Informer, Baltimore AFRO and other historically Black publications.

The university said it hopes to make the archives more broadly available to researchers and the public.

"Once digitalized, Howard's Black Press Archive will be the largest, most diverse, and the world's most accessible Black newspaper database," Benjamin Talton, the director of Howard's

See **ARCHIVE**, A5►



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A MODEL FOR ACCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



By ANNE HOUTMAN



look closer at these numbers, the equity gap is widening among students from wealthy families and those who have historically been underrepresented in higher education, including low-income students, students of color and those who identify as the first from their family to attend college. Interestingly, men continue to enroll in higher education at lower rates than women. All of this is alarming for today's students, for tomorrow's workforce and for the future of Indiana.

That's why my administration is committed to widening the path to Earlham College. We are one of the nation's Top 100 Liberal Arts colleges according to U.S. News and World Report, and our students come from all 50 states and dozens of countries around the world. In a typical year, nearly a quarter of our students are international, and an equal number identify as domestic minorities. But the majority of these students are from outside Indiana. We can and must do better in our own backyard, and we have introduced several initiatives that are specifically focused on Hoosiers.

Our new INspire Earlham initiative offers free tuition to low- and middle-income students in Indiana who seek a challenging and rewarding liberal arts experience. Families with an annual household income of \$60,000 or less — the average Hoosier household earns just less, according to the U.S. Census — are eligible. The remaining costs are covered by state and federal grants and significant institutional aid, which is given to all Earlham students who meet admissions standards.

INspire Earlham doesn't cover the cost of room and board, but those costs are comparable to — in some cases even less

than — those of flagship public universities. For eligible students choosing to commute, they can study on our Richmond campus for virtually nothing. Graduates of Ivy Tech Community College can transfer to Earlham in six popular courses of study knowing that every credit they earned will count toward a bachelor's degree.


Programs like INspire Earlham and our Ivy Tech partnership can widen the path for Indiana students, but it's equally important to keep them on that path.

At Earlham, we are a small school with a relatively large endowment. That combination allows us to be nimble, and we have recently reenvisioned our signature program, the EPIC Journey, with retention and career readiness in mind. This intentionally designed four-year journey combines outstanding teaching, personalized advising and unparalleled out-of-the-classroom experiences. Over the course of their time at Earlham, our students form life-long friendships with one another and their professors. They have the agency to ask questions and feel heard. And they graduate with all of the tools necessary to thrive in their careers.

Through the EPIC Advantage, Earlham guarantees up to \$5,000 for every student to participate in at least one fully funded internship, research experience or community-based project before graduation. Many of our students participate in more than one, and many of these experiences are based in Indianapolis, greatly increasing the likelihood that students will consider Indiana a destination to begin their careers.





Private institutions like ours often have a reputation for being too costly and out of reach for the average Hoosier family. But at Earlham, we're committed to changing that perception. One student recently described Earlham as "an elite college without the elitism," and I couldn't agree more. Through programs like INspire Earlham, we are actively ensuring that a world-class education is within reach for every student — especially those in our own backyard.

Anne Houtman is president of Earlham College.



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RACE
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to explain how race and racism “continue to shape the meaning of racial inequality in our dominant culture, in our concepts of equality laws and in our institutional governmental and private practices.”

Brown was at the original critical race theory workshop held in 1989 in Madison, Wisconsin, and he developed the first Race in Law course to be taught at any law school in Indiana.

CRT’s origins were high-level, Brown said, concerned mostly with the law.

“No one seemed to care what we did until the last couple years,” he said.

Mike Gonzalez, the Heritage Foundation fellow, quoted original theorists to make his point that CRT is “corrosive of American principles and traditions.” He called CRT a Marxist construct — Brown said they weren’t Marxists — and said it’s “another instrument to tear down the narrative of American history and culture.”

Gonzalez participated virtually; everyone else was at the McKinney School of Law at IUPUI. Republican Sen. Scott Baldwin was scheduled to be part of the panel, but state NAACP President Barbara Bolling-Williams said he canceled at the last minute without explanation. Baldwin, a member of the Senate Education and Career Development Committee, was criticized and apologized earlier this year for say-

ing teachers should be “impartial” when talking about things such as Nazism.

Baldwin’s office did not respond to a request for comment about the NAACP panel.

Two other lawmakers — Democratic Sen. Greg Taylor and Republican Rep. Bob Behning — were at the panel, which is also available to watch on the Recorder’s Facebook page.

Taylor, a lawyer, took a class from Brown at IU. “At 22 years old, I had no idea what he was talking about,” Taylor said. “I had no idea, no comprehension. So I’m confident that no child in K-12 will understand this.”

Gonzalez said he understands school children aren’t reading papers from founding CRT theorists but that programs and curriculum “are very much guided by the tenets of critical race theory.”

Behning, chair of the House Education Committee, said Republicans crafted their slate of anti-CRT bills for the current legislative session based on what they heard from parents.

Russ Skiba, a psychology professor at IU, said he doesn’t doubt the sincerity of local lawmakers, but he questions the sincerity of national conservative groups — including the Heritage Foundation — and pointed out the similarities between the text of bills in Indiana and model legislation from other organizations.

“None of those bills have anything to do with critical race theory,” he said.

Skiba and Gonzalez had a short back-and-forth, but the panel was otherwise fairly mild and cordial.

Brown’s point about CRT is that he and others in the late 1980s were reacting to the push for colorblindness, not only in personal interaction among people but also in the law. It stood to reason, they thought, that colorblindness would lock racial disparities into place, and Brown showed numerous charts to demonstrate that.

“We were more prophets than fools,” he said.

One of the consequences of colorblindness, Brown said, is any attempt to account for race now — what he calls “color consciousness” — can be portrayed as being racist.

During the closing statements, Brown offered an unprompted observation, saying he doesn’t feel like the original CRT movement succeeded because they didn’t get their basic points across.

“We never imagined that this was gonna end up as a debate at K-12 education,” he said. “Our theories were not for K-12 kids. Our theories were for the people who have the responsibility to administer justice in our society.”

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



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House Bill 1361: TANF and Child Care Assistance Eligibility (Rep. Goodrich and Rep. Pryor)

Senate Bill 84: Suicide and Drug Overdose Reporting (Sen. Leising, Sen. Breaux and Sen. Randolph)

Senate Bill 88: Prescription Drug Rebates and Pricing (Sen. Charbonneau and Rep. Shackelford)

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House Bill 1134: Education Matters (Rep. Cook)

House Bill 1187: Gary Community Schools (Rep. Brown)

House Bill 1223: Education Matters (Rep. Davison)

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BILL
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and Career Development Committee. Despite the changes from Rogers’ amendments — which removed verbiage that would allow parents to opt children out of certain lessons and sue school districts for potential violations — many teachers still called on members of the committee to nullify the bill.

Christiana Beebe, an elementary school teacher in Brownsburg, testified before the General Assembly earlier in the session about Senate Bill 167 — a bill similar to HB 1134 that never made it out of committee — and said she appreciated the amendments Roger made, but still could not support the bill.

“When teachers spend hours reviewing curriculum materials ... we don’t only look at materials through an academic lens,” Beebe said in her testimony. “Teachers are members of the communities in which we work. We live, we work, we worship, we raise our own children in those communities, and we ensure the materials we approve are representative of the community’s interests.”

Further, while the amended version of the bill removes language that would potentially prohibit teachers discussing issues such as racial violence and slavery,

Beebe is concerned the mere presence of this law would keep teachers from discussing “hard truths” in their classrooms, worried about getting a complaint from a parent.

Authored by Rep. Anthony Cook, R-District 32, the original bill would have prohibited schools from teaching certain concepts about race and ethnicity and would have discouraged teachers from discussing topics that could make students feel “discomfort or guilt.” Cook, a former principal at Noblesville High School and former superintendent of Hamilton Heights School Corporation, said he wanted to ensure parents have a say in what their children learn.

One speaker, Dr. Gwen Kelly, said the bill is unnecessary due to rights that parents already have. Kelly is the vice chair of the Children’s Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana and works with the local chapter of the NAACP and the Indianapolis Alliance of Black School Educators, among other groups, though she represented herself only when she spoke Feb. 16.

“The African American community does not understand this bill and does not want to see it pass,” said Kelly, who is Black. “I remain puzzled by the need for House

Bill 1134. As a 50-year veteran educator, I know that parents already have the right to be on committees and meet with teachers in schools ... and there are procedures in place for grievances.”

Kelly called the bill “complicated and chaotic,” and said as an independent educational research consultant, she’s concerned about how the bill could impact African American students, who statistically see less educational achievement compared to their white peers in Indiana.

Despite around 200 members of the public signing up to testify on the bill last week, only a few dozen people got the chance to speak, and the public comments section on HB1134 closed the final two hours of the committee hearing, where multiple bills were discussed. Sen. Jeff Raatz, chair of the committee, said he randomly selected people to speak but said he made sure both sides of the debate were represented. More than 90% of the people signed up to speak, he said, opposed the bill.

The amended bill will now move for a vote before the entire Senate.

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

ARCHIVE

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Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, told the Associated Press.

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center houses the archive, which dates to the 1970s and includes newspapers from Africa and the Caribbean.

The \$2 million grant from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation should also help increase diversity in the university, officials stated.

Howard University credited its Center for Journalism & Democracy for helping to secure the funding from the Logan Family Foundation, which supports

social justice causes in journalism and the arts.

“We will be able to go back and look at these archives and these newspapers and the way the Black press was covering the world and have a greater understanding of who we are as a society, who we were back then and who we are now,” Nikole Hannah-Jones told the news service.

“Right now, we really are only getting a very narrow part of the story, and that is the part of the story told through power and through the ruling class.”



The 100 Black Men of Indianapolis Inc. recently partnered with Martin University, the Red Cross of Central Indiana, Indiana Black Expo, Boys and Girls Club and RTV6 to host a blood drive. The drive had a special focus on local individuals with sickle cell. Red Cross nurse Cassidy Myers helps Andre S. Givens, president of 100 Black Men of Indianapolis Inc., prepare to donate blood. (Photo/Curtis Guynn)



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THE ‘MOTHER OF BLACK HOLLYWOOD’

actress Jenifer Lewis joins the Truth Check Campaign to promote social media literacy

By **NSENGA K. BURTON**
NNPA Newswire Culture and Entertainment Editor

Jenifer Lewis is everything you would imagine and more. Known and loved as the “Mother of Black Hollywood,” and named a “National Treasure,” by TV Guide, Lewis has been bringing her fabulous talents to the stage, small and big screen for decades. Whether putting the names of rogue students “on her list” as Dean Davenport on the iconic television show, “A Different World,” telling it like it is as Aunt Helen on “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” or serving love and shade as Ruby, the matriarch of the Johnson clan on the ABC hit show “Black-ish,” Lewis brings passion, skill and talent to her performances that have made her a household name and a beloved member of Hollywood.

In addition to her screen presence, Lewis is also lauded for using social media to entertain, educate and inform. On Lewis’ social media platforms, you are as likely to find the Screen Actors Guild nominee belting out show tunes and improvising “in these streets” hits with R&B royalty like Brandy as you are to see Lewis getting her social media followers information for social justice issues like voting, protesting police brutality, mental health treatment and celebrating Black history and culture like Juneteenth.

Lewis, who is known as much for her activism as her acting, is taking on a new challenge — stopping the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 on social media through a partnership with The Center for Black Health & Equity (The Center). The Center has launched TheTruthCheck.org, an online training resource to provide African Americans with social media literacy and fact-checking skills to avoid the influence of COVID-19 vaccine misinformation.



Jenifer Lewis

“I lived through the AIDS pandemic,” said the thespian. “I saw how misinformation made a bad situation worse. We survived it and we will survive this. I’m an Alpha female and I’m a leader and you have to know what you’re leading and that is why I partnered with the Center for Black Health & Equity on TheTruthCheck.org.”

Misinformation and disinformation, the intentional spread of misinformation in order to deceive targeted populations, has resulted in the deaths of nearly 900,000 Americans. Most of those who have died from COVID-19 have been Indigenous, African American and Latinx for a variety of reasons. Black, Indigenous and Latinx populations are more likely to be employed as essential workers, increasing their exposure to the virus. They are more likely to work low-wage jobs which lack insurance and paid time off. Black, Native, and Latinx Americans

are more likely to be uninsured than other populations, making them less likely to receive preventive care. Black Americans are more likely to have preexisting conditions that increase the risk of complications from the virus. Black, Native and Latinx Americans are more likely to live in dense, multi-generational housing, making social distancing more difficult, and typically have less access to medical facilities and resources.

This is why Lewis believes we all need to come together to help end the spread of COVID-19 because “if one of us has COVID, we all have COVID,” she said. The spread of misinformation through social media has to end because the consequences are dire for our community.

“As Omicron and other variants continue the spread of COVID-19, we are finding that the main sources African Americans rely on for information about the vaccines are also the

sources not trusted, with social media being the main culprit,” said Delmonte Jefferson, executive director for The Center. “Yet, people repeat what they hear from social media without checking for accuracy first. This practice of receiving and sharing misinformation amplifies health disparities and harms the Black community. Truth Check aims to correct this contagious spread of inaccurate and false narratives.”

Understanding the consequences of misinformation for our community, the “Black-ish” star joined the TheTruthCheck campaign to encourage the African American community to check the facts when it comes to health decisions.

“I believe it is critical to collectively lend our voices to share the truth about COVID-19 and vaccines to empower our people to make sound, informed decisions about what is best to save lives,” said Lewis. “We should all be social media savvy and give it the side eye before we believe it and share it.”

Misinformation isn’t the only reason Lewis joined TheTruthCheck.org campaign. “I joined because I care. I want people to have joy in their lives,” she said. “It is time for us to come to the table and to have these conversations about the new reality. It will never be what it was. The world has changed, and we have to change with it. In order to change with it, you have to be educated about it.”

Truth Check has been funded by the CDC Foundation to support The Center and effective community outreach initiatives centered on communities of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) to share accurate, culturally appropriate information about the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines and to link adults to vaccine services.

To learn more about the campaign and how to spot misinformation on social media, visit TheTruthCheck.org.

Eskenazi Health celebrates Black History Month.



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Black History Month books for children

By **TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER**

The people you love are very special to you.

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If you had a plate full of your favorite thing to eat, would you share it? In "Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott" by Mara Rockcliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Random House, \$18.99), you'll read about Gilmore, whose resourcefulness in the face of racism helped finance a small part of the Civil Rights Movement.

When Rosa Parks was arrested for a quiet act that launched a movement, Gilmore was working as a cook at a restaurant. She participated in the bus boycott, but she also felt she could do more — and so she bravely began to collect money, quietly, right in front of the very people who could arrest her, too. For kids ages 5-7, this is a great introduction to this unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement.

For children who want to know more individual stories of slavery, "Seeking Freedom: The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America" by Selene Catrovilla, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Calkins Creek Books, \$18.99) is a book to find. It's the true story of a man, an escaped slave, who played a silent but important part in the Civil War, the defeat of the Confederacy, and the end of slavery. Also, for children

ages 5-7, this is an exciting tale and a great discussion starter.

Slightly older children who have been following along with today's news will enjoy "Evicted! The Struggle for the Right to Vote" by Alice Faye Duncan, art by Charly Palmer (Calkins Creek, \$18.99). It's a story of the early years of Jim Crow, when sharecroppers could kick a family off their farm merely because the adults wished to register to vote. White shopkeepers wouldn't do business with them anymore, either, leaving them with few options. This book explains what those sharecroppers had to do to cast their ballots. Duncan tells individual tales, placing them inside a larger narrative so that kids ages 7-12 will understand why voting is a precious right.

And finally, for the 3-to-5-year-old who loves a good fable, "Mermaid Kenzie, Protector of the Deep" by Charlotte Watson Sherman, illustrated by Geneva Bowers (Boyd's Mills Press, \$17.99) is a book they'll love. Mermaids are a big part of African folklore, and this cute book tells the story of a young girl who loves to swim and to pretend that she protects everything in the sea. Imagine what happens when she learns that she really can help her underwater friends and the home in which they live ...

If your child craves more or different Black history books, or if you've got an older child who needs a good book, be sure to ask your favorite librarian or bookseller for help. They've got millions of ideas at their fingertips, including these special books.

Childhood Friend's Death Inspires Woman To Advocate For Heart Health

It's been more than 40 years since Holli Harrington's childhood friend passed away from a congenital heart defect, but that lingering loss is one of the reasons that Harrington chose to become one of the American Heart Association's five "Woman of Impact" nominees this year.

"Alisa was missing a chamber in her heart and only lived to be 12, but she never let her condition define her," Harrington says. "I often wonder what my life would be like if she were still here, but then I remember that she is here in spirit and forever in my heart. She motivates me to live my life to the fullest and has influenced my outlook that even in difficult conditions life is a blessing."

Blessing others is what Harrington, and the four other nominees hope to do as part of the "Woman of Impact" program, now in its second year. Each have pledged to raise awareness about heart disease and stroke and to raise money to fund research and education.

"In addition to losing my best friend at a young age, I've watched family members manage through heart conditions, and I've seen firsthand that being informed saves lives," Harrington says.

In fact, while nearly one of every three deaths is related to heart disease, the American Heart Association says that most heart disease can be prevented by the lifestyle choices we make.

The AHA's seven keys to ideal heart health are moving more, eating better, managing high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and weight, and not smoking.

"We need to be conscious and intentional to stay healthy," says Harrington, who felt that promoting women's health through the Go Red for Women campaign would be an impactful



act of service to celebrate her 30th year as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which has physical and mental health as key focus areas. "People are not as active as they have been historically. This can be attributed to convenience and technology, and COVID has played a role in increased inactivity, too. I'm concerned how this is affecting our heart health now and how it will impact future generations. We need to be conscious of 'idle time' and find ways to move more even if it's just walking or pacing while on the phone."

Harrington knows she needs to practice what she preaches.

"I'm on a personal journey to improve my own health, and the Woman of Impact program provides me the opportunity to encourage and inform others, especially those I love."

To learn more about "Woman of Impact" and heart health, you can visit www.heart.org/indygoesred. The Recorder will be profiling all five "Woman of Impact" nominees during the coming weeks.

Rupal Thanawala is managing director at Trident Systems, a leading business and technology consulting practice, and tech editor for Indianapolis Recorder. Contact her at rupal@indyrecorder.com.



Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council
and Business Equity for Indy

**Salutes Central Indiana Corporations
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more than
\$376 Million
spent with BLACK BUSINESSES

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Ivy Tech Community College
Old National Bank
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The Indianapolis Public Library
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The Mid-States Minority Supplier Development Council (Mid-States MSDC), an affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, is part of the nation's most dynamic network and force in developing successful relationships between America's top corporations and supply-chain providers from the Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American communities. Our mission to accelerate economic growth by driving opportunities and collaboration between corporations and minority businesses.

Mid-States MSDC, in partnership with Business Equity for Indy (BEI), a joint effort of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, the Indy Chamber, in collaboration with the Indianapolis Urban League is focused on growing a more inclusive business climate and build greater equity and economic opportunity for the Indy Region's Black residents and people of color.

Learn More and Make Your Commitment by Visiting
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Free tax help for qualified households

People or families with a combined income of \$66,000 or less can get free tax preparation help at the East 38th Street Branch of Indianapolis Public Library through April 11.

Assistance is available by appointment 1-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Schedule an appointment at the branch or by calling 317-275-4352. The prep service is part of Indy Free Tax Prep, a network of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites administered by United Way of Central Indiana in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service. Tax prep help is also available at John H. Boner Community Center, Holy Angels Catholic Church and Shepherd Community Center.

All library branches will print limited quantities of federal, state and county tax forms for patrons free of charge.

ASKIA

► Continued from A1

“With deep sadness, the family of Askia Muhammad announces his passing of natural causes today at the age of 76,” WPFW-Radio in Washington, D.C., said in a statement.

“A private service will be held with a memorial planned for a future date. There are no words to express the profound sadness we feel at the passing of our dear brother.”

Officials at the station, where Muhammad, a Final Call editor, said he had given much and was always gracious and smiling.

“Words are inadequate at this moment. So, we just hold onto the vibration of love, truth, perseverance, hope and joy that Askia always exuded,” the station continued.

“Let us reflect on the beautiful legacy that Askia left us and how we can collectively carry forth the impeccable vibration of his spirit.”

For more than 40 years, Muhammad had been a fixture on WPFW, the Final Call, and his column appeared regularly in Black-owned newspapers like the Washington Informer.

An author, Muhammad’s most recent book, “The Autobiography of Charles 67X,” featured a collection of photos, poetry and personal essays covering his life as a politically and socially engaged journalist.

When interviewed by The Final Call about the book and his start in radio, Muhammad said he didn’t have very much jazz music.

“I discovered in my limited collection that there was a recording by Charlie Parker. My name given by my mother was Charles, so I had some identification with that,” Muhammad stated.

“Then I discovered that he recorded a song, his signature song, ‘Yardbird Suite.’ The ‘Yardbird Suite’ was recorded on my first birthday.

“So, I said it’s a natural. I’ll have a yard bird show, and that was it, and since I have this one double album with Charlie Parker songs, I have plenty of Bird, 27 songs on that album,” the longtime journalist reflected. “Bird” and “Yardbird” also were the nicknames of the iconic jazz composer and saxophonist.

“I was able to launch a show, and that was the first song, the ‘Yardbird Suite.’ I call my show ‘Sweets’ as in candy because I didn’t want to be confused with Charlie Parker’s Yardbird Suite.

So there we went, and that’s why,” he said.

More than 40 years later, Muhammad’s show remained vital, and the Washington, D.C., City Council enacted a resolution commemorating that achievement.

Despite his connections to the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, who appeared on the show on Tuesdays, D.C. City Council recognized Muhammad even though one council member said the Minister was not welcome in D.C.

“The spirit of our beloved new ancestor, Askia Muhammad, rises,” tweeted Howard University Professor Greg Carr. “He is #MaaKheru [The Voice is True]. We cherish the time he spent here in this form and in this place, finding and speaking the truth,” Carr continued.

“We will keep him in our memory and lift his example to light our way.”

Renowned journalist Roland Martin also paid tribute to Muhammad.

“I crossed paths with Askia Muhammad many times, including having him as a guest on TV One and News One Now,” Martin wrote on Twitter. “Sorry to hear of his transition to ancestor.”



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AHMAUD

► Continued from A1

erroneous, suspicion that Arbery had committed crimes in their neighborhood.

The panel of eight white people, three Black people and one Hispanic person received the case Feb. 21 following a weeklong trial in U.S. District Court in the port city of Brunswick. The jurors adjourned for the night after about three hours of deliberations, and resumed deliberations at 9 a.m. the next day.

The trial closed with prosecutors saying 25-year-old Arbery’s slaying on a residential street was motivated by “pent-up racial anger,” revealed by the defendants’ electronic messages as well as by witnesses who testified to hearing them make racist tirades and insults.

“All three defendants told you loud and clear, in their own words, how they feel about African Americans,” prosecutor Tara Lyons told the jury.

Defense attorneys insisted that past racist statements by their clients offered no proof they violated Arbery’s civil rights and targeted him because he’s Black. They urged the jury to set aside their emotions.

“It’s natural for you to want retribution or revenge,” said Pete Theodocion, representing William “Roddie” Bryan. “But we have to elevate ourselves ... even if it’s the tough thing.”

The basic facts aren’t disputed. The slaying of Arbery nearly two years ago, on Feb. 23, 2020, was captured in a graphic cellphone video that sparked widespread outrage. Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael armed themselves after spotting Arbery running past their home and chased him in a pickup truck. Bryan joined his neighbors in his own truck and recorded the video of Travis McMi-

chael firing at point-blank range.

Police found Arbery had no weapon and no stolen items. Prosecutors said he was merely out jogging.

Travis McMichael’s attorney, Amy Lee Copeland, told the jury that prosecutors presented no evidence that he “ever spoke to anyone about Mr. Arbery’s death in racial terms.” She said her client opened fire in self-defense after Arbery tried to take away his shotgun.

Greg McMichael’s attorney, A.J. Balbo, argued that his client initiated the chase not because Arbery was a Black man, but because he was “THE man” the McMichaels had seen in security camera videos taken from a nearby house under construction.

The McMichaels and Bryan, convicted of murder last fall in a Georgia state court, pleaded not guilty to the federal charges.

FBI agents uncovered roughly two dozen racist text messages and social media posts from the McMichaels and Bryan in the years and months preceding the shooting.

For instance, in 2018, Travis McMichael commented on a Facebook video of a Black man playing a prank on a white person: “I’d kill that f---ing n----r.”

Some witnesses testified they heard the McMichaels’ racist statements firsthand. A woman who served under Travis McMichael in the U.S. Coast Guard a decade ago said he called her “n—r lover,” after learning she’d dated a Black man. Another woman testified Greg McMichael had ranted angrily in 2015 when she remarked on the death of civil rights activist Julian Bond, saying, “All those Blacks are nothing but trouble.”

Campus Without Walls:
Harnessing our Collective Power to Achieve
Educational and Career Equity for All

By Lorenzo Esters



By harnessing our collective power, our community can blaze new trails in equity and opportunity.

It was a conversation with a colleague this Black History Month that reminded me of this important point. And I believe we can make that collective impact in the Indianapolis area today by heeding the call to close the racial gaps in the education-to-workforce pipeline.

During a recent meeting in my office, my colleague noticed two pictures on my shelf — one of Frederick Douglass and the other of Mary McCleod Bethune. We discussed what each of those individuals means to me.

Douglass was born into slavery but fought his way to freedom, becoming a lion among abolitionists, social reformers, writers and speakers. As the first Black U.S. presidential appointment, he strengthened the power of Black governmental leaders and paved the way for the development of Howard University.

Bethune also represents many firsts that have helped to shape the landscape for education and opportunity. The first among her 16 siblings to be born outside of slavery, she went on to become a leader in education, civil and women’s rights, and U.S. government. She helped establish what is known today as Bethune-Cookman University.

The pictures of Douglass and Bethune, I told my colleague, remind me of the lasting impact that bold action and community leadership can have.

That’s when it struck me. The characteristics that are impactful to me about these two giants in Black history are the attributes we at Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis are working to display every day in our efforts to promote equity in educational and career opportunities in our community.

Findings from Business Equity for Indy (BEI) tell the story of the work that remains in achieving education and career equity. BEI and its Learning and Talent Opportunities Taskforce, on which I’m proud to serve, have issued reports with findings such as the following:

In 2019 the college-going rate for Marion County high school graduates was 10 percentage points lower for Black students than for white students.

In Indianapolis, of the 3,077 Black students who graduated from high school in 2012-2013, just 442 graduated from an Indiana public postsecondary institution in six years with either a two-year or four-year degree.

Among the 2016 Marion County high school graduation cohort, only 253 Black students graduated from an Indiana four-year institution on time, and only 14 Black students graduated from a two-year institution on time.

There are clear racial and gender gaps in the median wage earned five years after completing certificate, associate degree or bachelor’s degree work in Indiana public institutions. Among all demographics tracked for 2010 postsecondary graduates, Black students had the lowest earnings.

We are committed to providing education and training that addresses gaps in both education and career development — to help ensure health and economic security for individuals and families in our service area of Marion, Hendricks and Boone Counties.

Our latest effort is this semester’s launch of our vision “The Campus Without Walls: Building Pathways to Opportunity by Design”. With this overall approach, we aim to take an array of educational and economic opportunities to diverse locations. We are striving to capitalize on the shared strength of Ivy Tech Indianapolis and the communities it serves, taking a two-pronged approach:

Education by Design calls for working with partners in K-12 schools, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, government agencies and local employers. We’re working to build a wide variety of education and career pathways that support the efforts of those in the community to earn postsecondary credentials and improve their lives.

Success by Design focuses on ensuring that students are getting the top-quality education and experiences that encourage them to persist, graduate and succeed in the workplace. This internal focus aims to empower, motivate and inspire Ivy Tech Indianapolis faculty and staff by advancing data and accountability systems, engaging in budget-driven planning, and removing barriers to outstanding customer service.

We believe this new vision is in line with efforts like our recently extended tuition freeze and textbook fee waiver as well as our expanded transcript availability for students. Other new initiatives also are targeting persistence and career preparation for all students, including those who are looking to upskill or reskill.

Ivy Tech Indianapolis’ Talent Rich initiative is working to enroll 500 or more Black students at Ivy Tech Indianapolis by July. We’re partnering with InnoPower, a local nonprofit dedicated to economic development in the Black community, on this effort. And our career development and employer engagement program Career Coaching and Employer Connections (CCEC) aims to match student and alumni competencies with the skills local companies say they need most.

The Campus Without Walls vision represents our continued commitment to leading the way toward educational and economic equality through strong campus and community partnerships. And we know we’re not alone. Through the combined efforts of schools, employers and organizations throughout the Indianapolis area, we can work to uphold the tradition of inspiring leadership and community action that Frederick Douglass and Mary McCleod Bethune displayed so long ago.

Lorenzo L. Esters is chancellor of Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis.





CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY WITH KHEPRW!

‘Caste’
by
Isabel Wilkerson
Monthly Book Group

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.



Centering The Black Voice
w/
Dr. Terri Jett

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

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.



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

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.

TO SIGN UP, GO TO: WWW.KHEPRW.ORG/BHM
OR WATCH LIVE ON FACEBOOK.COM/INDYRECORDER

EDITORIAL

What was meant to destroy us made us stronger:
‘Our painful yet beautiful culture’

By OSEYE BOYD



Over the weekend I watched “Women of the Movement,” an episodic series about the life and death of Emmett Till and the lifelong struggle for justice for his lynching by his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. We know how it ends, and yet I still had to watch.

Some say this is Black trauma and don’t want to think about it. I can’t disagree that these are traumatic events, but I’m compelled to watch and read these real-life accounts. It’s imperative that we educate ourselves about history, so we know what has led us to this point, how we avoid repeating history and how we continue to push for a better society.

Yes, it is traumatic. Black people’s lives in this country have been traumatic since our ancestors stepped off the first slave ship. As I watched this traumatic story unfold, I couldn’t help but shed tears at the pain and fear I imagined Emmett felt. I thought about how heavy the burden has always been on Black children. Youthful transgressions — both real and perceived — of Black children could and have resulted in death. Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Cornelius Fredericks and Cedric “C.J.” Lofton and countless more Black youth, specifically males, have joined Till in dying way too young and for no reason other than white supremacy says their lives are less valuable.

While we know their stories and the stories of others who’ve been killed in the name of white

supremacy, how many stories are unknown? We know about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Medgar Evers, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol Denise McNair, but how many other little girls and freedom fighters are buried in unmarked graves or in gravesites that no longer exist? How many stories and people have been long forgotten because their families were too afraid to say a word? How much violence have we forgotten about because it’s too painful to remember?

I had to reflect on the fear Moses Wright, Emmett’s uncle, felt when the white men came looking for Emmett. The fear all Black people in the South before the Civil Rights Movement felt. (I want to note the 1950s weren’t that long ago. Someone born the year Emmett was killed, 1955, is 67 years old.) Never looking a white person in the eye, always saying Mr. or sir, Mrs. or ma’am, had to be done just to survive. A Black person could never give the perception that he or she was on equal footing as a white person. (Again, this wasn’t too long ago. I’m going to go out on a limb here and say there are some people who still hold these views and some of them held positions of power — and some of them passed those views down to their children, who also hold positions of power. Could that be how systemic racism works and why it’s still in effect?) The fear of making one wrong move — whether intentional or accidental — that could result in loss of livelihood or life was always hovering over Black people.

The fear wasn’t unfounded. The amount of violence done to Black people and perpetrated by white people is often glossed over or forgotten altogether.

Today, we like to talk about how Black people are violent. White people aren’t viewed as violent. I’m not here to argue Black people aren’t violent. Instead, I’m here to ask why that stereotype exists for us, but the group that has actually destroyed whole communities, lynched men, women and children, held slaves and done all manner of sadistic, vile acts is somehow viewed as nonviolent or less violent, even peace loving as a whole. Before Ahmaud Arbery there was James Byrd Jr. Byrd was dragged by a pickup truck for miles and murdered by three white men. We’ve seen countless mass shootings at schools, churches (Mother Emanuel AME Church) and businesses perpetrated by white men. We’ve seen white mob violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021, yet we pretend white people aren’t violent and place violence squarely on the shoulders of Black people, who’ve been victimized by state-sanctioned and white vigilante violence (also often state sanctioned, by the way).

While our history is definitely traumatic and traumatizing, trauma isn’t all we are. I also reflected on that double-edged sword known as strength that Till-Mobley exhibited. We shouldn’t have to be so strong, yet we are. We shouldn’t have to endure so much, yet we do. Being ridiculously strong shouldn’t be a point of pride, yet it is.

My heart hurts and I shed tears for people I’ve never met, but I know them. They are me. They are my family. Those stories deserve to be heard, which is why I will always listen. It’s all a part of our painful yet beautiful culture.

What is it good for?

By LARRY SMITH



Among the pitches that Joe Biden made to the American people when he was running for president was the fact that he had decades of experience to bring to bear in performing the job. Such experience, he argued, would be a distinct advantage when addressing the inevitable challenges that face all those who have occupied the Oval Office. Since being elected, Biden has had to contend with a global pandemic, a struggling economy, racial unrest, seemingly intractable partisan bickering and infighting among Democrats that has stalled his agenda. On top of all that, he has been forced to play high stakes poker with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the past several weeks.

We are on the brink of the biggest military conflict in Europe since World War II. The Biden administration has engaged in nonstop diplomacy to avert what would certainly be a humanitarian disaster. Also, as a deterrent, America and our allies have threatened drastic economic and other conse-

quences were Putin to decide to order a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. (I use the phrase “full-scale” because Russia has already breached Ukraine’s borders.)

As of this writing, tensions remain exceedingly high. Yet, while the possibility of war is very real, there is still a chance that Putin’s calculus will lead him to conclude that the costs of instigating one are more than he is willing to pay. No one knows for sure what Putin ultimately will decide — and that perhaps includes Putin himself.

Even if war ultimately breaks out, it is clear that Biden’s long tenure in government has paid dividends in this crisis. As a recent editorial in The Economist points out, Russia loses regardless of whether its president decides to go to war or to send its troops home. Specifically, if he chooses to go forward with an invasion, he will have caused his country (and his cronies) to face potentially crippling sanctions, the end of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline with Germany and millions of dollars being drained from its stagnant economy. Most importantly, images of Russian soldiers coming home in body bags will exacerbate his already difficult domestic situation.

President Biden has done a masterful job of reinforcing NATO countries’ commitment to each other, as well as convincing our European allies (including a reluctant Germany) to exact a high cost to Russia if it does invade. Even Republican commentator Peggy Noonan has lauded Biden for playing “a bad hand” as well as could be expected. Speaking of which, one accomplishment that Putin has unwittingly earned is mostly squashing political partisanship in the U.S. — at least on this issue.

Republican politicians have been uncharacteristically supportive of Biden, even if that means (in some cases) simply not voicing criticism. There has even been, in the main, agreement as to reserving the step of leveling sanctions unless Russia goes further. Most Republicans respect the fact that a potential war should not be treated as an opportunity for a sound bite. Only the usual chorus of the most negative naysayers (e.g., Sens. Cotton and Hawley), along with the right-wing media machine, have bitterly complained.

President Biden certainly is mindful that American credibility is on the line with our foes — and our friends. President Bush’s response to Russia’s

invasion of Georgia in 2008 was, to put it mildly, muted. In 2013, months after warning that the use of chemical weapons by President Bashar al-Assad in Syria would be a “red line,” President Obama decided against a muscular military response when Assad crossed it. And, most recently, President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA (aka the “Iran nuclear deal”) and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

This history must weigh heavily on President Biden as he considers how to respond to a more deadly Russian incursion into Ukraine. But the time has come for the U.S. to again aggressively defend its ideals, as well as to be seen as the only legitimate “leader of the free world.” With his domestic agenda sputtering and an uncertain future for his party in congress, Biden’s decision-making during this crisis must be lauded. I’m grateful that I don’t sit in his seat, but I’m encouraged that he does.

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

Brian Flores files lawsuit
challenging NFL hiring practices

By DEVON DAVIS



On the first day of Black History Month, former Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores decided that enough was enough. He filed a lawsuit against three NFL teams: the Denver Broncos, New York Giants and Miami Dolphins and against the league itself for discrimination in the

hiring and firing processes of coaches.

Flores is Black, and even though his time spent in Miami resulted in more wins than losses he was still fired. Flores claimed that he was given a sham interview by the New York Giants merely to fulfill the Rooney Rule requirement. His complaint included a screenshot of a text from Bill Belichick congratulating him on getting the Giants job three days before his interview, which led to Coach Belichick realizing he congratulated the wrong Brian. It was announced Jan. 28 that the New York Giants hired the Buffalo Bills’ offensive coordinator Brian Daboll for their vacant head coaching position. Once announced, this received a big backlash of complaints deeming the Giants held a fake interview to avoid a fine for violating the Rooney Rule, a 2003 addition to the NFL rulebook.

The Rooney Rule basically allows exposure. It is the model of making sure that the hiring pipeline is diverse and counting on exposure over time to fix the problem. According to the league website, “In 2021, the NFL approved changes requiring every team to interview at least two external minority candidates for open head coaching positions and at least one external minority candidate for a coordinator job. Additionally, at least one minority and/or female candidate must be interviewed for senior level positions (e.g., club president and senior executives).” The Rooney Rule may have been well-intended when enacted in 2003, but it’s only

there so that teams can satisfy an interview requirement as they hire the candidate they want. It’s a collective ownership group comprised of no Black representation at the table. One could say that the development of the Rooney Rule has no teeth to it at all. It’s literally a, “Hey, we checked that box.” My position here is that in a league made up of 70% Black athletes, there should absolutely be more people who look like them at top positions. At some point the NFL has to question whether or not the Rooney Rule has helped the actual reason it was put into place or has it only widened inequalities.

The NFL has denied the allegations, stating that the claims are “without merit.” However, on Feb. 5, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell sent a memo to all 32 teams saying that the league’s lack of diversity is “unacceptable.” The quick turnaround has led many, including Flores’ lawyers, to believe that Goodell and the NFL are trying to save face. Just last week the NFL hired the nation’s first Black woman attorney general Loretta Lynch to defend the league against the racial discrimination lawsuit, in which we must allow the court process to do its job. But in closing, I will say: This is not just the time to create more pipelines; it’s simply time to hire more Black coaches and front office executives.

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

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Kamau Bell is wrong; we don't need to talk about Cosby, we need to talk about his illegal trials

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

Writer Kamau Bell proclaimed Black America's "need to talk about Bill Cosby" in his Showtime documentary that included comedians, educators, journalists and those who have accused the iconic entertainer of sexual assault.

Bell claimed that for the smart, funny and politically aware at dinner parties, the conversation would have to center on Cosby.

But for many others who declined to indulge in exploration and dissemination of another African American that mainstream media proved human, Bell missed the mark. Badly.

"He may as well have worn Black face, because the documentary is a minstrel show and as much as you may agree that Cosby is a hypocrite, Bell can't afford to look in the mirror," said Lorenzo Simpkins, an actor who has appeared as an extra in multiple movies and television shows, including Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder's "Stir Crazy."

"Bell is as misled and foolish as the knuckleheads who said, 'Cosby admitted to drugging and raping women,'" Simpkins offered about the tired and wildly misreported civil deposition the entertainer sat for in a lawsuit brought in 2005 by Andrea Constand.

During the deposition, Cosby acknowledges that he provided quaaludes to women who would have sex.

"He did not say he slipped them mickeys or gave them the quaaludes to knock them out so he could take advantage of them," Simpkins insisted. But Simpkins said that's not his most significant problem with Bell's one-sided documentary that didn't include statements or appearances from anyone on Cosby's team.

"The biggest problem is that it's a distraction that Showtime will use to make money and to denigrate a Black man further, and they can say 'look, it's another Black man [Bell] doing the denigrating,'" he asserted.

Instead, Simpkins and others said Black Americans — men in particular — should most want to discuss the two trials of Cosby and the way they were handled and reported.

The prosecutor ran for office with ads that promised: "to get Cosby." Juror nullification proved so intense during the first trial that Cosby's attorneys successfully petitioned to select a panel from across the state in Pittsburgh. One petition juror, a Black woman and a former police officer, was disqualified based on a false charge that she altered timecards while working for the department.

Judge Steven O'Neill stacked the deck against Cosby, even refusing to allow him to call a witness who said the alleged victim had confided that she could set Cosby up. The first trial ended with a hung jury.

The second trial began with racial epithets hurled by a prosecutor toward the defense, a juror who proclaimed that Cosby was guilty before the start of the trial, and O'Neill allowed five women to present unproven allegations.

The former district attorney, Bruce Castor, wasn't allowed to testify about a deal he hammered out with Cosby, and O'Neill allowed the use of Cosby's infamous civil deposition.

#Metoo and Metoo-inspired signs littered the courthouse, and some of the alleged but uncharged victims communicated with prosecution witnesses on the stand.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Max Baer slammed Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele after the high court freed Cosby last year after spending nearly three years in prison.

Justice Baer called Steele's conduct "reprehensible."

"[The court] had to protect 13 million Pennsylvanians from that type of illegal conduct," Justice Baer continued. "What we found was that what the state did was inappropriate."

According to a report from the American Bar

Association, the criminal justice system's pervasive problems with racism start before the first contact and continue through pleas, conviction, incarceration, release and beyond.

The net effects of history's injustices are staggering. According to statistics the NAACP examined, although Black people make up 13.4% of the population, they make up 47% of wrongful conviction exonerations and 35% of people executed by the death penalty.

Further, the Bar Association noted that African Americans are incarcerated in state prisons at five times the rate of whites. In addition, Black men face disproportionately harsh incarceration experiences than prisoners of other races.

"The evidence of differential treatment and injus-

tice in the 'justice' system is overwhelming," Bar Association officials wrote. "Because the problems are historically rooted, pervasive and ongoing, it is even more critical to take action now (and in the future)."

Yet, Bell wants to focus on white media-driven allegations that a group of primarily non-Black individuals made against an African American icon, Simpkins and others demurred.

"Kamau Bell is the kind of guy that would be the funniest slave on the plantation. He would never have to work on weekends," deadpanned Dr. Boyce Watkins.

Nicole Lewis, the host of the podcast and YouTube program "Nicole's View," called Bell's documentary "smut."

"No relevance to anything besides tearing

down his achievements," Nicole stated. "This is what Kamau Bell is pushing for us to converse about?"

Further, in American culture "where sensationalism is what tends to sell, I knew it was only a matter of time before our courtrooms would be inundated with personal opinion, public antics and trial by public in general," said Phoenix Jackson, the chief communications officer at Phoenix Affect.

"The Cosby trial displayed at its peak the type of sensationalism that perpetuates the classless culture in America," Jackson continued.

"As a communications executive and celebrity publicist, I would never want my clients to experience a public trial. I would want an unbiased, clear-to-the-law trial for the best form of objectivity.

No matter the circumstance or who is on trial. Everyone deserves that."

Dean Tong, a nationally known defense expert in sex crimes cases, said it's incumbent upon all parties who are potentially adverse to the African American male accused of the unthinkable to be free from confirmation bias.

"I was not at Bill Cosby's trial, but I was at Michael Jackson's trial in 2005 in Santa Maria, California, and these allegations foster and exacerbate emotions on steroids which can supersede logic," Tong demanded.

"I'm not saying Cosby was or is innocent, although his conviction was reversed. All Black, white, Hispanic, Asian defendants must receive a fair and impartial trial by a jury of their peers. The Constitution has the last say so."

We want to hear from you.

Text "Recorder" to 73224 to send us your questions.


Area hospitals made commitments to address health equity. What would you ask them, if you could?


Livestreamed to the Indianapolis Recorder Facebook page


Feb. 28 | 6-7:30 p.m.

We'll be speaking to hospital CEOs in a livestreamed event, "Treating Racism as a Public Health Crisis." Send us your questions through the number above and help us shape the conversation.

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INNOPOWER

Why the U.S. is losing the war on diabetes

By **TRUDY LIEBERMAN**
Hoosier Health

It's no secret that diabetes is becoming the scourge of America. It plagues 1 in 10 Americans, and every one of us probably knows someone who struggles with the disease. In 2017 the U.S. mortality rate for diabetes was 42% higher than the average among 10 other industrialized countries. That's a poor showing for America.

Many of those Americans are taking insulin, a drug discovered a century ago. Sales of drugs to treat diabetes have increased about 212% from \$24 billion in 2011 to \$75 billion in 2020, second in total revenue only to drugs used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.

With all that money spent on pharmaceuticals to control the disease, you would think the U.S. was getting a loud bang for its buck. That's not the case. Reporters at Reuters, the global news service, have produced an amazing series about diabetes in America revealing that disease has produced a medical catastrophe.

One of the series' authors, Chad Terhune, told me the U.S. had been making a lot of progress until around 2010-2011 when complications from the disease seem to have rounded a corner in middle-aged adults. "Diabetes has followed the obesity crisis," Terhune told me. "It has a lot to do with



healthy lifestyles and health disparities. It's a reflection of income inequality." Sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets and

lack of consistent medical care for many people also contribute to the halt in progress in improving outcomes for

people with the disease.

We also know some patients ration their diabetes medications and skip doctor's appointments because they don't have the money to pay the large deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs. Ironically, it was the insurance industry that pushed those onerous costs onto policyholders to discourage them from seeing doctors. The goal was to impose high cost sharing by their insurance policies in the hope that if people had to pay more out-of-pocket, they'd be less inclined to go to the doctor for every minor ailment. The goal was to lower the overall cost of health care for the country and, of course, benefit insurance companies through fewer claims to be paid out.

Some 20 years after that — cost-containment strategy surfaced, the strategy seems has backfired, harming thousands of diabetic patients. Delays in care simply impose higher costs because people don't show up for treatment until they are much sicker. One study of lower-income workers and their family members who had diabetes had 22% more emergency room visits for preventable complications after they had switched to high-deductible plans.

Reuters reporters didn't just interview patients, researchers and experts in diabetes care. They examined the rates of potentially avoidable hospi-

talizations related to diabetes tracked by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. They found from 2016 to 2017, the most recent year of available data, hospitalization rates increased for short-term complications, long-term complications and lower-extremity amputations. When reporters asked for more recent state-specific data, only eight states responded.

One was Indiana. Rates of short-term diabetes complications and amputations increased in all responding states, except Indiana. Rates of controlled diabetes without mention of complications decreased nationally from 2011 to 2015 and in six states that responded through 2018. Indiana, however, reported an increase. So Indiana results are mixed — making it hard to judge how well Indiana is doing in preventing diabetes complications.

The Reuters series on diabetes illustrated the three evils in America's health system: underuse, overuse and misuse of medical services. It serves as a warning not just for diabetics but for the rest of us who inevitably will need health care in our lives.

Have you or a family member had trouble paying for diabetes drugs? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.



MARCH 2022

Thursdays • 10, 17, 24, 31
1:30 – 3 p.m.

APRIL 2022

Thursdays 7, 14, 21, 28
1:30 - 3 p.m.



New Reports on Health, Well-being of Children During COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released two new reports in February that provide important insights on the health and well-being of children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first report looked at pediatric emergency department visits. The study found that overall pediatric emergency department visits decreased in 2020, 2021, and in January 2022 compared with visits in 2019, while COVID-19-related emergency department visits increased across all pandemic years and among pediatric age groups.

There were also increases in the weekly number and proportion of emergency department visits for certain types of injuries, some chronic diseases, and visits related to behavioral health concerns, especially among older children (5–11 years) and adolescents (12–17 years).

Factors affecting caregivers during the pandemic, including unavailable or unpredictable childcare, illness, financial hardship, and mental health concerns, might increase a child's vulnerabilities.

Loss of a parent or caregiver increases in other challenges and disruptions in daily routine due to the COVID-19 pandemic might have also increased a child's behavioral health concerns and unhealthy coping behaviors.

The second report examined changes in pediatric emergency department visits for mental health conditions and found that adolescent girls (12–17 years) accounted for the largest increases in the number and proportion of emergency department visits for mental health conditions in 2020, 2021, and in January 2022 compared with 2019.

Weekly visits for eating and tic disorders increased for females, and particularly adolescent girls (12–17 years), during 2020, 2021, and in January 2022. The highly complex nature of individual experiences makes it difficult to identify a single reason for changes in mental health conditions during the pandemic.

While extended time at home could increase family support for some youth, it may have increased challenges and stressors among others. These factors, as well as other pandemic-related stressors that impact families – increases in parental mental health problems, parental substance use, financial strain, and loss of a parent or caregiver – could have created or increased the risk for mental health conditions.

Early identification and expanded evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies are critical to improving children's mental health, especially among adolescent girls who might have increased need.

CDC recommends increased awareness for health concerns among children and adolescents that could arise due to delayed medical care and heightened emotional distress.

To learn more, please visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

ABCs of Diabetes Classes in March

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

Classes provide instruction on medications, nutrition, exercise, monitoring, complications, and available community resources. This program is open to anyone with diabetes or pre-diabetes. Family members and friends are also welcome.

Classes in March will be offered online on Thursday, March 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 1:30-3 p.m., and in-person at the Martindale-Brightwood Branch Library, 2434 N. Sherman Drive, on Wednesday, March 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Advance registration is required, and participants should plan on attending all four classes for that month.

To register or for more information about upcoming classes, please visit MarionHealth.org/diabetes or call 317-221-2094.

Plan to attend all four classes.
Registration required 1 week prior to first class.
marionhealth.org/diabetes • 317-221-2094

*** Don't be shy, we will help you with the online part!**

EXPLAINER: Why are thousands of baptisms deemed invalid?

By **PETER SMITH** and **NICOLE WINFIELD**
Associated Press

When is a baptism not a baptism?
When the cleric presiding at the ceremony alters the ritual language in such a fundamental way that it undercuts its meaning, according to the Vatican.

And even the altering of a single, crucial pronoun can render a baptism invalid, it says.

A Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Andres Arango, resigned Feb. 1 as pastor of his parish in Phoenix, after acknowledging he had been using the incorrect baptismal formula during more than two decades of priestly ministry in Arizona, California and Brazil.

Arango used the formula, "We baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," instead of the prescribed singular pronoun: "I baptize you ..."

Theologically, that makes all the difference, the Vatican ruled in 2020, because it's not the "we" of the congregation doing the baptizing, but rather the "I" of Jesus Christ, working through the priest.

Now the Diocese of Phoenix is putting out a call to anyone who underwent the ritual under Arango to receive "valid" baptisms — and potentially other rites of initiation. The diocese estimates that thousands were affected.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR IT TO BE "VALID?"

Baptism is the basic rite of initiation into the Christian faith. In Catholic theology, baptism is considered a sacrament — a visible rite conveying spiritual grace — and is "necessary for salvation," according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "The church does not know of any means other than baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude" — that is, heaven.

For a sacrament to be valid, it has to be presided over correctly, the church teaches.

"Baptism for us is for salvation, so it's a big deal. We need to make sure to make it right," said Jay Conzemius, moderator of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's tribunal and past president of the Canon Law Society of America.

HAS THIS COME UP BEFORE?

Yes. Cases have arisen in Michigan and Oklahoma of priests who learned their baptism was invalid.

The Vatican in June 2020 issued guidance declaring that the formula "We baptize you ..." was invalid and that anyone who baptized using it must be re-baptized properly.

The Vatican said then that some unnamed priests were using the "We"



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formula to make the baptism more of a communal affair involving parents, godparents and the community in welcoming a new member into the Catholic Church. But in an explanatory note accompanying its decision, it recalled that when a priest baptizes someone, it is actually Christ performing the sacrament, not the community.

"Modifying on one's own initiative the form of the celebration of a sacrament does not only constitute a liturgical abuse ... but a wound inflicted upon the ecclesial communion," the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said in the note.

The Vatican clearly knew that its ruling would cause upheaval, but for such a fundamental sacrament which concerns the salvation of a soul, it felt the need to insist that freelance variations were not only unacceptable but invalid.

IS THE CHURCH SAYING THAT ANYONE INVALIDLY BAPTIZED IS

GOING TO HELL?

No, according to church officials and theologians.

"Even if we want to make sure that everything is done as the rite needs to be done, what needs to be emphasized just as loudly is the notion that God isn't constrained by the errors that a priest might make," said Gregory Hillis, professor of theology at Bellarmine University, a Catholic school in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Nobody's assuming God's going to say, 'Well, I'm sorry, you got the first person plural rather than the first person singular,'" Hillis said.

Added Monsignor Stephen Doktorczyk, vicar general for the Diocese of Orange, California: "There's a saying that God works through the sacraments, but he is not limited to the sacraments."

WHAT OTHER IMPACT DOES THIS HAVE?

If a person's baptism is deemed

invalid, then subsequent rites such as confirmation and, in the case of priests, ordination are also not valid as sacraments.

A priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit discovered in 2020 that the deacon who baptized him as an infant used "We" rather than "I." He had to receive a valid baptism — and confirmation and ordination, since those hinged on a valid baptism. And the archdiocese also worked to arrange sacramentally valid baptisms for those whose rites he had presided at without knowing he wasn't validly ordained.

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Black gay priest in NYC challenges Catholicism from within

By **KWASI GYAMFI ASIEDU**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Parishioners worshipping at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Harlem are greeted by a framed portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. — a Baptist minister named after a rebellious 16th century German priest excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

The Rev. Bryan Massingale, who sometimes preaches at St. Charles, pursues his ministry in ways that echo both Martin Luthers.

Like King, Massingale decries the scourge of racial inequality in the United States. As a professor at Fordham University, he teaches African American religious approaches to ethics.

Like the German Martin Luther, Massingale is often at odds with official Catholic teaching — he supports the ordination of women and making celibacy optional for Catholic clergy. And, as a gay man, he vocally disagrees with the church's doctrine on same-sex relations, instead advocating for full inclusion of LGBTQ Catholics within the church.

The Vatican holds that gays and lesbians should be treated with dignity and respect, but that gay sex is "intrinsically disordered" and sinful.

Massingale was born in 1957 in Milwaukee. His mother was a school secretary and his father a factory worker whose family migrated from Mississippi to escape racial segregation.

But even in Wisconsin, racism was common. Massingale said his father couldn't work as a carpenter because of a color bar preventing African Americans from joining the carpenters' union.

For Massingale, racism within the U.S. Catholic Church is a reason for the exodus of some Black Catholics; he says the church is not doing enough to tackle racism within its ranks and in broader society.

Nearly half of Black U.S. adults who were raised Catholic no longer identify as such, with many becoming Protestants, according to a 2021 survey by

the Pew Research Center. About 6% of Black U.S. adults identify as Catholic and close to 80% believe opposing racism is essential to their faith, the survey found.

The U.S. Catholic Church has had a checkered history with race. Some of its institutions, such as Georgetown University, were involved in the slave trade, and it has struggled to recruit African American priests.

Conversely, Catholic schools were among the first to desegregate and some government officials who opposed racial integration were excommunicated.

In 2018, U.S. bishops issued a pastoral letter decrying "the persistence of the evil of racism," but Massingale was disappointed.

"The phrase 'white nationalism' is not stated in that document; it doesn't talk about the Black Lives Matter movement," he said. "The problem with the church's teachings on racism is that they are written in a way that is calculated not to disturb white people."

At Fordham, a Jesuit university, Massingale teaches a class on homosexuality and Christian ethics, using biblical texts to challenge church teaching on same-sex relations. He said he came to terms with his own sexuality at 22, upon reflecting on the book of Isaiah.

"I realized that no matter what the church said, God loved me and accepted me as a Black gay man," he said.

His ordination in 1983 came in the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that disproportionately affected gay men and Black Americans. Among his first funerals as a priest was that of a gay man whose family wanted no mention of his sexuality or the disease.

Pope Francis has called for compassionate pastoral care for LGBTQ Catholics. However, he has described homosexuality among the clergy as worrisome, and Vatican law remains clear: same-sex unions cannot be blessed within the church. Some dioceses have fired openly LGBTQ employees.

Massingale has a different vision of the church: one



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where Catholics enjoy the same privileges regardless of sexual orientation.

"I think that one can express one's sexuality in a way that is responsible, committed, life giving and an experience of joy," he said.

Massingale remains optimistic about gradual change in the Catholic Church because of Pope Francis and recent signals from bishops in Europe who expressed a desire for changes, including blessing same-sex unions.

"My dream wedding would be either two men or two women standing before the church; marrying each other as an act of faith and I can be there as the official witness to say: 'Yes, this is of God,'" he said after a recent class at Fordham. "If they were Black, that would be wonderful."

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

Obituary

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, God sent his Angels to lift Marvis Claudette Wiggins Fulford to join Him in His heavenly home. Marvis was born on July 30,1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Bessie Althea and Luther Wiggins.

Marvis retired from Metropolitan School District of Washington Township in Indianapolis, IN, as a School Social Worker. Throughout her professional career, she dedicated her life to the students, parents, and staff in the Indianapolis school system. Marvis began her early profession as a Social Worker for the State Department of Children Services, Norfolk, VA & Indianapolis, IN.

Marvis graduated from John Bartram High School, Philadelphia, PA in 1964. She matriculated at Norfolk State College where she received a B.S. Degree in Social Work in 1970. While attending Norfolk State College, she became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Delta Epsilon Chapter in 1968. In that same year (1968) she married the love of her life, Wilbert H. Fulford, Jr. and to that union 2 children were born, Bryan and Niah Fulford. Marvis also received a Master’s degree in Social Work from Indiana University Purdue University at



Indianapolis (IUPUI) in 1994.

Throughout her life, Marvis was known as a warm, loving, caring and compassionate person, devoted to her family, church, sorority and friends who always greeted you with a smile. She welcomed Christ into her life at an early age. As a resident of Norfolk, she attended First Baptist Berkley, Norfolk, Virginia. And for the past 40years, Marvis was a devoted member of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN. Marvis believed in putting God first and demonstrated this by her walk of faith, until her health began to fail.

Marvis leaves to cherish her memory, husband of 53 years Wilbert H. Fulford, Jr.; son Bryan W. Fulford, Altamonte Springs, FL; daughter, Niah Y. Fulford, Atlanta, GA;

sisters Althea Osborne (Jerry), Fort Worth, TX; Darlene Bates (Otis), Fayetteville, NC; brother, Terry Wiggins (Brenda), Woodbridge, VA; sister-in-law, Deborah Crawford, Norfolk, VA; Aunt, Line Briggs, Gates, NC; Life-long friends Reho Satchell, Philadelphia, PA; Linda Burks, Kingwood, TX; Myrtle Humphrey, Norfolk, VA, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 25th at Crown Hill Funeral Home & Cemetery, viewing from 10am to 12pm with homegoing services immediately following. The homegoing service can also be viewed via Crown Hill’s Facebook page. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.crownhill.org for the Fulford family.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Yesteryear and today: Embracing the sanctity of Black Lives

By ANGELIQUE WALKER-SMITH

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17



Recently, I discovered the gravesite of a great auntie with an older cousin. Her gravesite — like so many gravesites of people of African descent in the Black Belt of Alabama — was hidden. A few days later we visited

the family gravesite of my great-great-grandmother, also hidden and buried behind the high hedges of a very well-kept white cemetery with many other descendants. I fell to my knees, prayed and once again gave thanks for my ancestors and for the honor of being their descendant.

Black History Month offers a hallowed time for all of us to give thanks to ancestors like these and to actively engage in solidarity with their legacy, which calls us to faith, love, equity and hope. It is a time to not only recognize the public and visible leadership of those most often celebrated, but to also recognize those who have been less visible, invisible and even removed from the mem-

ory of yesteryears. Alabama is not the only place where our gravesites are hidden; they are hidden in locations across the nation and around the world.

Stories, individuals and peoples of Africa and of African descent have been systematically erased from our memories. This erasure includes Black lives who did not survive infancy as well as those who gave life. Black lives have been erased from cradle to grave. This lack of memory desanctifies Black lives and compromises the history and herstory of all of us.

The proper honoring and remembrances of gravesites and the related narratives of Black lives remind us of the policies of enslavement of African peoples, of the Emancipation Proclamation, of the abbreviated period of Reconstruction and of the congressional reversal of these policies that ushered in the Jim Crow laws. It reminds us of periods when Black lives were not properly buried, when they were isolated or even bulldozed over to benefit those who took Black farmlands and built their homes atop Black lives. This legacy informs the system of racism today.

The acts of honoring and remembering helps to avoid repeating past horrors like these and encourages a more sanctified way forward as cited in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. This remembrance also recognizes the hope these ancestors foresaw for their children. Today, their descendants are reclaiming the meta-narratives and common narratives of and by people of Africa and African descent. We ask, “Who do you know who can tell ancestral and descendent stories?”

Students from our historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and related sanctuaries will be sharing their voices during our Black History Month observance at Bread for the World. This month, Bread will also be convening leaders from Black farming communities, addressing the upcoming farm bill while celebrating the sanctity of Black lives. We invite you to join us as we remember and honor Black lives, as we advocate together to end hunger.

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



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Friday Bible Study	11:30am

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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.

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STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE BOONE SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF BOONE) ESTATE DOCKET: 06D01-2202-EU-000023

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JERALD SWANK, DECEASED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that VICKY SWANK was, on February 11, 2022, appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of JERALD SWANK, deceased, who died on JANUARY 30, 2022.

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.

DATES at Indiana this 2/11/2022.

BOONE County Superior Court
Attorney for personal representative:

Doris Brauman Moore
Brauman Moore Law Offices

128 East Main Street
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

Telephone: (317) 858-5000
Fax: (317) 858-5009
Attorney Number: 21958-32
5320-939441

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE BOONE SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF BOONE) ESTATE DOCKET: 06D01-2202-EU-000026

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JOELLEN K. BURNETT, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that JOHANNA KIMBERLI SHAHAN and or KEVIN BURNETT were, on February 14, 2022, appointed as Personal Representatives of the Estate of JOELLEN K. BURNETT, deceased, who died on JANUARY 25, 2022.

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.

Dates at Indiana this 2/14/2022

BOONE County Superior Court

Attorney for personal representative:

Doris Brauman Moore
Brauman Moore Law Offices

128 East Main Street
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

Telephone: (317) 858-5000
Fax: (317) 858-5009
Attorney Number: 21958-32
5320-939506

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE JOHNSON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF JOHNSON) ESTATE NO. 41D01-2202-EU-000058

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: LARRY NILES ELLIS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the Superior Court of Johnson County, Indiana

Notice is given that Joshua Niles Ellis was, on February 12, 2022, appointed personal representative of Larry Niles Ellis, deceased, who died on November 19, 2021, and is authorized to administer the estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of the Johnson County Superior Court, Probate Division within three (3) months from the date of publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months from the date of death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Johnson County, Indiana, this day February 15, 2022.

/s/ Treina McLaughlin
Clerk of the Johnson County Superior Court 1, Probate Division

Shane A. Toland (22775-41)

Attorney for Joshua Niles Ellis

TOLAND LAW FIRM

7748 Madison Avenue, Suite C

Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

Phone: (317) 921-0094
Fax: (866) 314-6005
shane@shaneloland.com

5320-939796

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2022-PL-004361

ESTATE OF YVONNE BARKER

Plaintiff,

v. HENRY BARKER, and any HEIRS

ASSIGNS AND ANY OTHER UNKNOWN POSSIBLE CLAIMANTS,

Defendants.

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

This summons is to HENRY BARKER, ANY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, AND ANY OTHER UNKNOWN POSSIBLE CLAIMANTS and to any other person who may be concerned.

You are notified that you have been sued in Marion Circuit Court 1, 200 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, which may be contacted at (317) 327-4747, in an action entitled: Estate of Yvonne Barker v. Henry Barker, et.al, Cause Number 49C01-2022-PL-004361, by the entity named above

as Plaintiff. This summons by publication is specifically directed to HENRY BARKER, ANY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, AND ANY OTHER UNKNOWN POSSIBLE CLAIMANTS, whose whereabouts are unknown. In addition to the above named Defendants, being served this summons, there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.

The Plaintiff, Estate of Yvonne Barker, is represented by Stacy L. McGuyre #31064-32, Attorney at Law, 2028 N Park Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202, who may be contacted at (317) 965-0407.

The nature of this suit against you is a VERIFIED ACTION TO QUIET TITLE, alleging sole interest in the property located at 4525 Vernon Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46226.

An answer or other response in writing to the complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after notice of suit published by this newspaper, and if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded by the Estate of Yvonne Barker.

/s/ Stacy L. McGuyre
Stacy L. McGuyre, I.D.

#31064-32

Counsel and Personal Representative of the Estate of Yvonne Barker

Attest: /s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk, Marion County Courts

5320-939865

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002061

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:

YENIFER ROJAS JAIMES,

Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

YENIFER ROJAS JAIMES, whose mailing address is: 2608 SICKLE ROAD, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46219, and, if different my residence address is:

in the MARION County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that YENIFER ROJAS JAIMES has filed a petition in the MARION Court requesting that her name be changed to JENNY ROJAS JAIMES.

Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on May 5, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

/s/ Yenifer Rojas Jaimes
Petitioner

5320-939949

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CASE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002191

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:

CANDRA OLIN JONES,

Petitioner.

ORDER SETTING HEARING AND

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Petitioner, Candra Olin Jones, whose mailing and residential address is 4819 Oakwood Trail, Indianapolis, IN 46468 in Marion County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Candra Olin Jones has filed a petition in the Marion County Circuit Court requesting that her name be changed to Candra Olin Atobatele.

Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. This matter will be heard remotely, and the Court will issue/issues a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing.

/s/ Candra Olin Jones
Candra Olin Jones
January 19, 2022
Date

So Ordered: February 3, 2022

/s/ Susan Boatright
Judicial Officer

5320-939538

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002918

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:

ANGELA PARROTT

Petitioner

ORDER SETTING HEARING AND

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ANGELA PARROTT, whose mailing address is 8303 SOUTHERN SPRINGS DR., and if different, my residence address is:

in the MARION County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that ANGELA PARROTT has filed a petition in the MARION CIRCUIT Court requesting that her name be changed to ROXIE SOLLEY.

Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on April 26, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. This matter will be heard remotely, and the Court will issue/issues a WebEx invitation for attendance at the hearing.

/s/ Angela Parrott
Petitioner

1/27/22

Date

So Ordered: 2/11/2022

/s/ Susan Boatright
Judicial Officer

5320-939958

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: CIVIL DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D014-2210-DN-000506

Domingo Mejia Portillo

2166 Napoleon St

Indianapolis, IN 46203

Plaintiff

Vs

Dominga Molina Cruz

Address Unknown

Indianapolis, IN 46203

Defendant

NOTICE OF SUIT

The State of Indiana to the Respondent above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is Petition for Dissolution of Marriage.

And to the following respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Dominga Molina Cruz.

In addition to the above named respondent being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the Petitioner arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 3/25/22 (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.

Myla A. Eldridge, Clerk

5320-937663

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-040548

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

OF THE ESTATE OF MADELINE C. CAWTHORN, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on January 27, 2022, James D. Cawthorn was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MADELINE C. CAWTHORN, who died on the 1st day of September, 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, this January 27, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk of the Superior Court of Marion County,

Probate Division

5320-939946

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D08-2202-ES-004050

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES DURIVAGE

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Shyrelle Durivage was, on the 8th day of February, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of James Durivage, who died on December 29, 2020.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Marion County, Indiana, this February 8, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court

5320-940037

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) ESTATE DOCKET: 49D08-2202-ES-004546

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ESTATE OF DARRELL TANNER, DECEASED

NOTICE OF SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notices are hereby given that, on the 16th day of February, 2022, Elaine Turner was appointed personal representative of the Supervised Estate of Darrell Tanner, deceased, who died on the 24th day of December, 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, this February 16, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk, Marion County Superior Court,

No. 8, Probate Division

5320-939915

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) ESTATE DOCKET: 49D08-2202-ES-004546

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUPERVISED ESTATE OF DARRELL TANNER, DECEASED

NOTICE OF SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notices are hereby given that, on the 16th day of February, 2022, Elaine Turner was appointed personal representative of the Supervised Estate of Darrell Tanner, deceased, who died on the 24th day of December, 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, this February 16, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk, Marion County Superior Court,

No. 8, Probate Division

5320-939915

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) DOCKET NO.: 49D08-2202-EU-003981

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

MARGARET BLYTHE POTTS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the matter of the Estate of Margaret Blythe Potts, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Jack Potts was, on the 8th day of February, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Margaret Blythe Potts, deceased, who died on the 5th day of January, 2022.

All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, THIS FEBRUARY 8, 2022.

LIS, INDIANA, THIS FEBRUARY 8, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
CLERK, MARION SUPERIOR COURT

Aaron M. Pitt
Indiana Supreme Court

No. 30806-49

Huelskamp and Rivas P.C.
1809 Prospect Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

46203

(317) 423-1989
5320-939884

02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) ESTATE NO. 49D08-2202-EU-004084

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: TRACY J. FUGATE, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the Superior Court of Marion County, Indiana

Notice is given that Brian Fugate was, on February 10, 2022, appointed personal representative of Tracy J. Fugate, deceased, who died on January 27, 2022, and is authorized to administer the estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of the Marion County Superior Court, Probate Division within three (3) months from the date of publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months from the date of death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Marion County, Indiana, this day February 10, 2022.

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge
Clerk of the Marion County Superior Court 8, Probate Division

Shane A. Toland (22775-41)

Attorney for Brian Fugate

TOLAND LAW FIRM

7748 Madison Avenue, Suite C

Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

Phone: (317) 921-0094
Fax: (866) 314-6005
shane@shaneloland.com

5320-939459

02/25/22, 03/04/22, 03/11/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: CIVIL DIVISION) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D09-2112-DC-010838

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF JOYCE CUMMINGS,

Petitioner,

vs. MUHAMMAD SHEIKH Respondent.

NOTICE OF SU

L E G A L S ■ L E G A L S ■ C L A S S I F I E D

BANK NA, AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE CERTIFICATE-HOLDERS AND CERTIFICATE INSURER OF THE BEAR STEARNS ASSET BACKED SECURITIES I TRUST 2004-FR2, ASSET BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-FR2, Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF REBECCA A. HIGH BUTTE, DECEASED, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SPEEDWAY WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. and ROBERT H. BUTTE, KNOWN HEIR OF REBECCA A. HIGH BUTTE, DECEASED,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate

Against the property commonly known as 3138 Acoma Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46235-2407 and described as follows:

Lot Numbered 115 in Eastbrook Meadows, Section 2-A, an Addition in Marion County, Indiana, as per plat thereof recorded May 12, 1975, as Instrument No. 75-23068, in the office of the recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Rebecca A. High Butte, Deceased

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 or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff

BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727

NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 2/2/2022/s/MyllaA.Eldridge 5320-938830

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 4) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D04-2202-MF-003564

TOWD POINT MASTER FUNDING TRUST 2021-PM1, Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF NORMA M. MILBURN, DECEASED, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate

Against the property commonly known as 3037 Foltz St, Indianapolis, IN 46241-6309 and described as follows:

Lots 1273 and 1274 in Mars Hill, an Addition in Marion County, Indiana, the plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 16, page 147, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s):

whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Norma M. Milburn, Deceased

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 or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ Matthew S. Love MATTHEW S. LOVE Attorney for Plaintiff

MATTHEW S. LOVE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727

NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 2/2/2022/s/MyllaA.Eldridge 5320-938833

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 4) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D05-2202-MF-003547

WILMSHAW SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS.B, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MELVIN T. WOODS, DECEASED, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate

Against the property commonly known as 3037 Foltz St, Indianapolis, IN 46241-6309 and described as follows:

Lots 1273 and 1274 in Mars Hill, an Addition in Marion County, Indiana, the plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 16, page 147, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s):

whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Norma M. Milburn, Deceased

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 or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ Matthew S. Love MATTHEW S. LOVE Attorney for Plaintiff

MATTHEW S. LOVE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727

NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 2/2/2022/s/MyllaA.Eldridge 5320-938833

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 4) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D05-2202-MF-003547

WILMSHAW SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS.B, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MELVIN T. WOODS, DECEASED, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate

Against the property commonly known as 3037 Foltz St, Indianapolis, IN 46241-6309 and described as follows:

Lots 1273 and 1274 in Mars Hill, an Addition in Marion County, Indiana, the plat of which is recorded in Plat Book 16, page 147, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s):

whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Norma M. Milburn, Deceased

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 or response.

Plaintiff,

vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF MELVIN T. WOODS, DECEASED, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be

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

The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and to Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate

Against the property commonly known as 3138 Acoma Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46235-2407 and described as follows:

Lot Numbered 115 in Eastbrook Meadows, Section 2-A, an Addition in Marion County, Indiana, as per plat thereof recorded May 12, 1975, as Instrument No. 75-23068, in the office of the recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devisees of Melvin T. Woods, Deceased

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 or response.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff.

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff

BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727

NOTICE FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 2/2/2022/s/MyllaA.Eldridge 5320-938829

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 8 PROBATE DIVISION STATE OF INDIANA CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-042914

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMES W. MILTON JR., DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO BE PUBLISHED

In the Court of Marion County, Indiana

Notice is hereby given that, on December 29, 2021, Monica J. Milton was appointed Personal Representative of the Unsupervised Estate of James W. Milton Jr., deceased, who died intestate on November 3, 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 January 28, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Superior Court 8

Cara M. Chittenden Disc. No. 27059-49 REBECCA W. GEYER & ASSOCIATES, PC 11550 N. Meridian Street, Ste. 200 Carmel, IN 46032 (317) 973-4555 (317) 489-5195 fax cchittenden@rgeyerlaw.com 5320-939291

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003612

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARCELLA G. WHITMAN, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on January 18, 2022, Margaret E. Burton was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of Marcella G. Whitman, deceased, who died on the 4th day of October, 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, this January 28, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Court

Probate Division 5320-939261

02/18/22, 02/25/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-001662

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARCELLA G. WHITMAN, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on January 18, 2022, Margaret E. Burton was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of Marcella G. Whitman, deceased, who died on the 4th day of October, 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, this January 28, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion Superior Court

Probate Division 5320-939261

02/18/22, 02/25/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003163

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARIAM D. BIBBS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 9, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAM D. BIBBS, deceased, who died October 2, 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, on February 9, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT LC 29-1-7-7

Notice to be published in newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.

2/18/22, 2/25/22, 3/4/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003163

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARIAM D. BIBBS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 9, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAM D. BIBBS, deceased, who died October 2, 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, on February 9, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT LC 29-1-7-7

Notice to be published in newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.

2/18/22, 2/25/22, 3/4/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003163

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARIAM D. BIBBS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 9, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAM D. BIBBS, deceased, who died October 2, 2021.

All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of

this Court within three months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this January 24, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Mylla Eldridge, Clerk of the Superior Court of Marion County

Claire E. Lewis, 115 North Girls School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214, (317) 484-8115. 5320-938969

02/18/22, 02/25/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 8) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-002475

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF PHYLLIS ZIEGE, DECEASED

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Scott Gronotte was, on the _____, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Phyllis Ziege, deceased, who died on January 17, 2022, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

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 _____, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk of the Marion County Courts

Eric M. Oliver Attorney No. 27613-32 Oliver & Cline LLP 7 N. Washington Street P.O. Box 223 Danville, Indiana 46122 (317) 563-7400

Attorney for Estate 5320-939290

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003569

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF PEGGY JO CLINE, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO BE PUBLISHED

In the Court of Marion County, Indiana

Notice is hereby given that, on December 29, 2021, Monica J. Milton was appointed Personal Representative of the Unsupervised Estate of James W. Milton Jr., deceased, who died intestate on November 3, 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 January 28, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, Marion County Superior Court 8

Cara M. Chittenden Disc. No. 27059-49 REBECCA W. GEYER & ASSOCIATES, PC 11550 N. Meridian Street, Ste. 200 Carmel, IN 46032 (317) 973-4555 (317) 489-5195 fax cchittenden@rgeyerlaw.com 5320-939291

02/18/22, 02/25/22, 03/04/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2202-EU-003569

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF PEGGY JO CLINE, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO BE PUBLISHED

In the Court of Marion County, Indiana

Notice is hereby given that, on December 29, 2021, Monica J. Milton was appointed Personal Representative of the Unsupervised Estate of James W. Milton Jr., deceased, who died intestate on November 3, 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, on February 2, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT LC 29-1-7-7

Notice to be published in newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.

2/18/22, 2/25/22, 3/4/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2202-EU-004373

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARK ALLEN JUGG, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 10, 2022, Brand Spears was appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Mark Allen Jugg, who died on the 21st day of January, 2022.

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, this February 10, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk of Marion County Superior Court

Probate Division 5320-939261

02/18/22, 02/25/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003163

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARIAM D. BIBBS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 9, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAM D. BIBBS, deceased, who died October 2, 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, on February 9, 2022, /s/ Mylla A. Eldridge Clerk, MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT LC 29-1-7-7

Notice to be published in newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.

2/18/22, 2/25/22, 3/4/22

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) SS: PROBATE DIVISION) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-003163

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF MARIAM D. BIBBS, DECEASED

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that, on February 9, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of MARIAM D. BIBBS, deceased, who died October 2, 2021.

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, Marion County, Indiana Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2021					
Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cas & Inv Bal Jan 1, 2021	Receipt	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2021
00101	LIBRARY OPERATING	\$31,372,799.01	\$48,048,487.51	\$43,365,461.99	\$36,055,824.53
00226	PARKING GARAGE	\$748,155.69	\$106,054.08	\$206,948.91	\$647,260.86
00230	GRANT	\$487,780.82	\$443,443.23	\$298,816.35	\$632,407.70
00245	RAINY DAY	\$6,502,287.05	\$1,022,476.26	\$2,217,463.32	\$5,307,299.99
00270	SHARED SYSTEM	\$197,613.17	\$106,897.16	\$105,015.95	\$199,494.38
00276	CARES GRANT FUND	\$0.00	\$29,686.47	\$29,686.47	\$0.00
00277	ARP GRANT FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,409.30	-\$6,409.30
00301	B&I REDEMPTION FUND	\$3,997,201.26	\$7,502,672.18	\$9,118,980.01	\$2,380,893.43
00321	B&I REDEMPTION FUND II	\$325,985.31	\$8,066,119.92	\$7,736,335.22	\$655,770.01
00471	LIBRARY IMPROV RESERVE FUND	\$2,461,259.74	\$1,974.20	\$30,990.50	\$2,432,243.44
00475	2015 BOND - RFID BOOKS AND MA	\$155.33	\$0.00	\$155.33	\$0.00
00476	2016 BOND - MICHIGNA ROAD	\$6,820.97	\$0.00	\$6,820.97	\$0.00
00477	2017A BOND - BRIGHTWOOD	\$37,772.43	\$0.00	\$37,772.43	\$0.00
00478	2017B BOND - EAGLE	\$546,337.21	\$0.00	\$546,337.21	\$0.00
00479	2018A BOND AHS/ILS/FACS IMPV	\$1,639,569.25	\$0.00	\$492,830.47	\$1,146,738.78
00480	2018B BOND - WEST PERRY BRANC	\$5,152,672.46	\$0.00	\$4,586,974.54	\$565,697.92
00481	2019 BOND - LAW WAY RENOVATIO	\$151,499.57	\$0.00	\$140,042.61	\$11,456.96
00482	2020BOND - FAC RENOV EQUIP A	\$5,240,454.57	\$0.00	\$1,873,671.00	\$3,366,783.57
00483	2021A BOND - GLENDALE	\$0.00	\$15,497,553.37	\$121,173.15	\$15,376,380.22
00484	2021B BOND - FORT BEN	\$0.00	\$14,297,517.23	\$220,569.10	\$14,076,948.13
00485	2021C BOND ENERGY CONSERV	\$0.00	\$5,574,116.45	\$55,869.77	\$5,518,246.68
00800	GIFT	\$1,466,129.49	\$2,372,306.66	\$1,836,604.75	\$2,001,831.40
00806	PAYROLL LIABILITIES	\$69,480.60	\$1,375,206.47	\$1,382,688.07	\$61,999.00
00812	FOUNDATION AGENCY FUND	\$646.07	\$3,962.01	\$4,080.37	\$527.71
00813	STAFF ASSOCIATION	\$31.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.00
00814	SALES TAX	\$24.01	\$7,817.29	\$6,907.76	\$933.54
00815	PLAC CARD REVENUE	\$8,599.55	\$34,792.25	\$26,650.00	\$16,741.80
Total All Funds		\$60,413,274.56	\$104,491,082.74	\$74,455,255.55	\$90,449,101.75

Indiana transgender athlete ban on fast track to governor

By CASEY SMITH
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Senate on Feb. 22 refused to amend a Republican-backed bill that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in school sports that match their gender identity, putting it on the fast track to passing.

If the full Senate approves the bill, which could happen as soon as Feb. 24, it would head to the governor for consideration. The Indiana House already passed it.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb has not publicly said what he thinks of the proposal. A spokesperson for the governor's office did not provide additional comment Feb. 22.

Lawmakers in the Senate are moving forward with the ban — making no changes to its language — after the House advanced the bill last month, largely along party lines.

Five Republican senators joined the 11 Senate Democrats on Feb. 22 in an unsuccessful effort to prevent the ban from moving forward by sending the issue to a special study committee that would meet after this year's legislative session ends. Those Republicans were Ron Alting of Lafayette, Eric Bassler of Washington, Vaneta Becker of Evansville, Chip Perfect of Lawrenceburg and Kyle Walker of Indianapolis.

Another failed amendment offered by Democratic Sen. J.D. Ford, of Indianapolis, would have required the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) to maintain policies regarding athlete eligibility based on gender.

A separate defeated proposal offered by Ford would have established a scholarship fund for transgender athletes and required the Indiana Attorney General's Office to contribute money equivalent to what is spent annually fighting lawsuits against the potential new law.

Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union have maintained that the group will file a lawsuit if the “hateful legislation” is signed into law in Indiana.

Corrine Youngs, policy director and legislative counsel to Attorney General Todd Rokita, has testified at the Statehouse in support of the bill, noting that Rokita's office sees the bill as a way of protecting “the amazing progress made for women” in athletics. She added that the bill is “constitutional,” and if it's challenged, “we will defend it in court.”

Ford said defending such a law would be “terrible” for Indiana's image and a “waste” of taxpayer dollars.

“Senators, these are kids that we are actively attacking,” Ford said Tuesday. “To me, we can have debate on the LGBTQ-plus community, but we do not and should not have a debate on human existence for these kids.”

Rep. Michelle Davis, a Republican from Greenwood who authored the bill, said its purpose is to “maintain fair competition in girls sports.”

Opponents maintain that the bill is unconstitutional, sexist and bigoted, emphasizing that it targets already vulnerable transgender Hoosier youth. They also say it amounts to a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

Emma Vosicky, executive director of GenderNexus, an Indianapolis-based social service agency for trans and nonbinary people and their families, emphasized that transgender students in Indiana already participate in school sports “without issue.”

The proposal would prohibit K-12 students who were born male but who identify as female from participating in a sport or on an athletic team that is designated for women or girls. But it wouldn't prevent students who identify as female or transgender men from playing on men's sports teams. It also would not apply to sports at the collegiate level.

Former Indiana Republican Rep. Christy Stutzman proposed similar legislation in 2020, although the bill did not advance from the House education committee.

Democrats have maintained that such bills are “discriminatory” and “harmful to kids.” They also contend that the IHSAA already has a policy that requires transgender girls who want to play sports to show they've completed hormone therapy, and that their muscle mass or bone density is typical of other girls the same age.

If the bill passes the Legislature, Indiana could be the 11th Republican-dominated state to adopt such a ban on transgender women or girls. Federal judges have halted enforcement of the laws in two of those states, Idaho and West Virginia. The U.S. Department of Justice has challenged bans in other states, slamming them as violations of federal law.

Casey Smith is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Smith on Twitter.

Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver opens up to Black Press



The NBA's Phoenix Suns have won a Western Conference title and have advanced to the conference finals four times.

By STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver says he never had a race conversation with his children.

It wasn't necessary, he said. “It wasn't even something they thought about,” Sarver stated, adding that his three sons have a mix of friends from individuals who are white, Black, Hispanic and of different nationalities and ethnic groups. But things were different for Sarver when his parents raised him.

“It was natural. When I grew up, my parents did have the conversation with me. They would say ‘these words are no good,’ ‘this is how you behave,’ and ‘this is how you act,’” the Tucson, Arizona, native remarked.

Sarver opened up during an exclusive 30-minute interview with National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

“My dad loved politics. Often, he was in Washington calling on senators and congress members even though they didn't have anything in common. My dad said it's important to spend time with people who have other positions, and maybe let them know that those positions aren't right.”

Skeptics might argue that Sarver's words don't specifically address the nasty allegations leveled against him last year by an anonymous person to ESPN.

But there's little doubt that Sarver had that unsubstantiated report in mind when speaking with Chavis, a disciple of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who worked with the slain civil rights champion at a young age.

“Dr. King was willing to sit down with people who had different views, and we don't do that enough today, and I think it's important,” Sarver determined.

“Sometimes, we spend more time looking at other people's faults and why we don't like them versus some of the things we like about them – even our family members.”

Sarver strikes as savvy but not cagey, intentional, and honest during his sit-down with Chavis.

He recounted how, as an 8-year-old, he attended his first Phoenix Suns game and how 35 years later, he approached then-NBA Commissioner David Stern about the possibility of buying and starting a pro franchise in Las Vegas.

“He said the league was not ready to expand to Vegas, but that a team had just become available in my own backyard,” Sarver recalled.

A lifelong sports fan, Sarver credited University of Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson with referring him to NBA veteran Steve Kerr who assisted him in buying the Suns.

Sarver purchased the team for \$401 million, and his ownership was immediately felt on the court as the Suns won 62 games and advanced to the Western Conference Finals during his first season at the helm.

Under Sarver, the Suns have won a Western Conference title and have advanced to the conference finals four times.

For Sarver, it's been the progress the team has made in diversity, equity and inclusion that he's most proud.

“One of the things I'm proud about is that the Phoenix Suns have been a leader of diversity, equity, and inclusion in terms of hiring practices and things in the community, including standing for racial justice even before it was popular,” Sarver stated.

The team has hired African Americans and women in leadership positions

throughout the organization, including visible roles as head coaches and general managers.

“The two main ingredients for me were my parents. I'm blessed to have had parents with high moral standards,” Sarver asserted.

“My dad was a handshake man. His word was his bond, and he wasn't afraid to take a position on things. After my dad died, my mom was extremely philanthropic.

“So, for me, as a businessperson, one of the feelings that I get that makes me most happy is to see other people work their way through the organization and to see other people have success and get to places they maybe didn't think they could.”

Sarver noted that he's routinely displayed a willingness to offer chances to a younger generation.

However, he said pro sports teams tend to recycle coaches and general managers, which often negates opportunities for younger ones and minorities.

“For better or worse, I always felt that I could find talent in places people weren't looking, so I didn't have to recycle,” Sarver declared.

“I've looked at other areas where I could give people of color a chance.”

With critical race theory such a hot button issue, Sarver proclaimed the importance of knowing one's history.

“A lot of young people, as they get farther and farther away from the time that [my generation] grew up, don't know,” Sarver contemplated.

“It's important that we know our history and learn from our history. In the Jewish community, the farther we get away from people in the Holocaust ... those stories need to be told so younger generations have a greater appreciation.

“The Jewish and Black communities have always been very close; both have been underdogs, and both have fought against prejudice. So, there's a lot of common respect and relationship there.”

Sarver called sports the great unifier that brings people together.

“We can use that platform to strive for positive change,” Sarver said.

“Society today is difficult in terms of race relations. We can use someone like Dr. King who could bring us together.”

The Sarver Foundation works toward that end, he said.

“What we've done is support the basic needs of disenfranchised youth as it relates to education, health care, and low-income housing,” Sarver continued.

“We're trying to make a difference in our youth, and we work with medicine at the Sarver Heart Center, which has a specialized unit dedicated to heart disease in Black women and women in general.

“My dad taught me that there are three types of people: talkers, takers, and doers. He said I needed to be a doer,” Sarver said.

Finally, Sarver addressed cancel culture, calling it unfortunate.

“We're a melting pot, and when you're leading an organization, you'll see all sorts of different kinds of people,” he concluded.

“Your job is to be bring out the best in everybody to help make your organization successful. There's a lot to be said about positivity and trying to be positive with people.

“But through social media, a number of people sometimes don't have all of the facts and believe the cause they are supporting is noble; that the facts aren't as important, and I think that's a mistake. I think accuracy and having facts and respect for people's views and being able to work with different people is a sign of a good leader.”

Prosecutor: 3 cops in Floyd killing ‘chose to do nothing’

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI, TAMMY WEBBER and AMY FORLITI**
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Three former Minneapolis police officers charged with violating George Floyd’s civil rights “chose to do nothing” as a fellow officer squeezed the life out of Floyd, a prosecutor said in her closing argument Feb. 22. Defense attorneys countered that the officers were too inexperienced, weren’t trained properly and did not willfully violate Floyd’s rights.

J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao are charged with depriving Floyd of his right to medical care when Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck for 9 1/2 minutes as the 46-year-old Black man pleaded for air before going silent. Kueng and Thao are also charged with failing to intervene to stop Chauvin during the May 25, 2020, killing captured on a bystander video that triggered protests worldwide and a reexamination of racism and policing.

Prosecutors sought to show during the month-long trial that the officers violated their training, including when they failed to roll Floyd onto his side or give him CPR. Prosecutors have argued that Floyd’s condition was so serious that even bystanders without basic medical training could see he needed help. But the defense said the Minneapolis Police Department’s training was inadequate and that the officers deferred to Chauvin as the senior



In this image from Minneapolis city surveillance video, Minneapolis police are seen attempting to take George Floyd into custody May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn. The video was shown as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill presides Monday, March 29, 2021, in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, in the death of George Floyd at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis, Minn. (Court TV via AP, Pool)

officer at the scene.

Thao watched bystanders and traffic as the other officers held down Floyd. Kueng knelt on Floyd’s back and Lane held his legs. All three officers testified.

During her closing argument, prosecutor Manda Sertich singled out each former officer.

Thao stared directly at Chauvin and ignored bystanders’ pleas to help a man who was dying “right before their eyes,” Sertich said.

Kueng casually picked gravel from a police SUV’s tire as Chauvin “mocked George Floyd’s pleas by saying it took a heck of a lot of oxygen to keep talking,” she said.

And Lane voiced concerns that showed he knew Floyd was in distress but “did nothing to give Mr. Floyd the medical aid he knew Mr. Floyd so desperately needed,” the prosecutor said.

But attorneys for rookies Lane and Kueng urged jurors to question why their clients were charged at all.

Lane’s attorney, Earl

Gray, said his client was “very concerned” about Floyd and suggested rolling Floyd on his side so he could breathe, but was rebuffed twice by Chauvin. He noted that Lane tried to help revive Floyd after the ambulance arrived, telling jurors that “any reasonable person should just be disgusted, should be infuriated” that Lane was charged.

Kueng’s attorney, Thomas Plunkett, said Police weren’t adequately trained on the duty to intervene and that Chauvin was in charge. He also said Kueng looked up to Chauvin, his former field training officer, and “relied on this person’s experience.”

“I’m not trying to say he wasn’t trained,” Plunkett said. “I’m saying the training was inadequate to help him see, perceive and understand what was happening here.”

He told jurors to “apply the law to the facts” and to be “the exact opposite of a mob.”

Thao and Chauvin went to the scene to help Kueng and Lane

after they responded to a call that Floyd used a counterfeit \$20 bill at a corner store. Floyd struggled with officers as they tried to put him in a police SUV.

Thao’s attorney, Robert Paule, said his client thought the officers were doing what they believed was best for Floyd — holding him until paramedics arrived.

The charges include language that the officers “willfully” deprived Floyd of his constitutional rights. That means jurors must find that officers acted “with a bad purpose or improper motive to disobey or disregard the law,” Paule said.

He noted that Thao increased the urgency of an ambulance call for Floyd, something he said was clearly “not for a bad purpose.” He also said that Thao reasonably believed Floyd was on drugs and needed to be restrained until medical assistance arrived.

On the intervention charge, Sertich said, prosecutors merely had to prove that the officers

knew the force Chauvin was using was unreasonable and that they had a duty to stop it but didn’t. On the charge that Floyd was denied medical care, the fact that the officers knew Floyd was in distress but did nothing is proof of willfulness, she said.

She pointed to the 2 1/2 “precious minutes” after Floyd became unresponsive and before paramedics got there. “They chose to do nothing, and their choice resulted in Mr. Floyd’s death,” she said.

Sertich contrasted the officers’ inaction with the desperate cries of bystanders pleading with them to get off Floyd and to check for a pulse: “Even though they had no power, no authority, no obligation, they knew they had to do something.”

Those bystanders, Sertich said, gave Thao and Kueng “play-by-play commentary” that should have raised their awareness that Floyd was in trouble — shouting that Floyd could not breathe, that he wasn’t

responsive and urging the officers to look at him.

Jurors were expected to begin deliberations Feb. 23, after the judge gives them instructions.

At the start of the trial, U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson selected 18 jurors, including six alternates. Fourteen remain: 12 who will deliberate and two alternates. A jury that appears to be all white will consider the case after a juror who appeared to be of Asian descent was dismissed Feb. 22 without explanation. The court did not release demographic information, other than each juror’s county of residence.

Chauvin pleaded guilty in the federal case in December, months after he was convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges.

Lane, who is white, Kueng, who is Black, and Thao, who is Hmong American, also face a separate trial in June on state charges alleging that they aided and abetted murder and manslaughter.

The trial was wrapping up just as another major civil rights trial in Georgia resulted in the conviction of three white men on hate crimes charges in the death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man who was chased and shot in February 2020.

This story was updated to correct Floyd’s age when he died. He was 46, not 45.

Webber reported from Fenton, Michigan.

EXPLAINER: Deciding when to use ‘invasion’ label in Ukraine

By **ROBERT BURNS and LORNE COOK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized troops to cross Ukraine’s border into regions controlled by Russian-backed separatists, the White House initially stopped short of calling it an invasion. That changed Feb. 22, and key allies in Europe joined in saying Putin had crossed a red line.

“This is the beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine,” President Joe Biden said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was equally explicit.

“We saw last night that further Russian troops moved into the Donbas into parts of Donetsk and Luhansk,” he said Feb. 22, referring to the two areas of Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region controlled by Russian-backed separatists. “What we see now is that a country that is already invaded is suffering further invasion.”

But not all invasions are viewed as equal.

Asked whether Putin’s decision to send in what he called “peacekeepers” amounts to an invasion, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said, “I wouldn’t say that’s a fully-fledged invasion, but Russian troops are on Ukrainian soil.”

Use of the term “invasion” is important in this case because it sets the stage for what Biden said could become multiple waves of economic sanctions, in coordination with NATO allies and other countries who view Putin’s aggression as a violation of international law and a threat to order in Europe.

Sanctions are the West’s main tool for pushing back because they have ruled out taking on Russia militarily.

WHAT’S HAPPENING ON THE GROUND IN UKRAINE?

The picture is ominous and not entirely clear.

Putin on Feb. 21 said Russia recog-



nized the rebel regions’ independence “in borders that existed when they proclaimed” their independence in 2014. That constitutes territory held by the Ukrainian army. Putin also issued a decree authorizing the use of what he termed peacekeepers in that region, although Russian officials had not confirmed that troops had crossed the border in response to the decree.

Separately, Russian lawmakers granted Putin permission to use the military abroad, raising fears of a ma-

jor invasion, including an operation aimed at toppling the Kyiv government.

IS THIS AN INVASION?

It’s difficult to see this as anything other than an invasion, although people can argue over terminology. The disagreements would fade if, as many expect, Putin launches a full-scale offensive to topple Kyiv.

Biden said it defies logic to think Putin has taken such extensive military preparations, including putting more than 150,00 troops on the border and moving blood supplies to those areas, for reasons other than invading his neighbor.

“You don’t need blood unless you plan on starting a war,” Biden said.

Mary Ellen O’Connell, a Notre Dame law professor and an expert on international law and the use of force, says any crossing of a national border with military forces is unlawful, even if it’s called something other than an invasion.

“A lawful response is gauged by the scale and effects of the incursion,” she said. “Using force to take control of an entire country, displacing a government and military forces loyal to it is the most extreme form of violation.”

WHAT WAS WASHINGTON’S INITIAL RESPONSE?

After Putin outlined his rationale Feb. 21 for recognizing the independence of the Donetsk and Luhansk areas, a White House official tiptoed around the question of whether Putin’s action constituted a military invasion.

The official said Russian troops had been operating in the rebel-held areas for eight years without admitting it.

“Now Russia looks like it’s going to be operating openly in that region, and we are going to be responding accordingly,” the official said.

WHAT WILL WASHINGTON DO NEXT?

After stating publicly that Russia has again invaded Ukraine, the question is how far Biden will go in responding. He has made clear that he would not send U.S. troops into Ukraine, but on Feb. 22 said he has ordered a shifting of Europe-based U.S. troops to three NATO members who feel most vulnerable to potential Russian attack: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Those three Baltic states were annexed by Moscow following World War II and regained their independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Biden announced heavy financial sanctions against Russian banks and oligarchs and said more would be imposed if Putin extends his invasion.

Global reaction against Putin’s moves in Ukraine has been swift, with little argument about the legality. “Moscow has now moved from covert attempts to destabilize Ukraine to overt military action,” Stoltenberg told reporters Feb. 22. “This is a serious escalation by Russia, and a flagrant violation of international law.”

WILL RUSSIAN TROOPS STOP AT INVADING UKRAINE?

Putin has given no indication he intends to start a war on NATO territory, but the allied nations still worry. That is why the Biden administration sent 4,700 additional troops to Poland this month and set up a more robust military headquarters staff in Germany, while also shifting 1,000 troops from Germany to Romania.

Stoltenberg said that NATO allies have more than 100 jet planes on high alert and more than 120 warships ready at sea from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean Sea.

“Every indication is that Russia continues to plan for a full-scale attack on Ukraine,” Stoltenberg said.

— *Cook reported from Brussels. AP writer Danica Kirka contributed from London.*

NFL scouting combine loosens virus rules after blowback

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

Players attending the NFL’s scouting combine won’t have to stay in a “bubble” as originally ordered after organizers loosened regulations Feb. 21 after getting blowback for strict COVID-19 rules issued over the weekend.

In a memo sent to all invitees and obtained by The Associated Press, the National Invitational Combine said, “We encourage all players to remain within the secure Combine areas at all times for your safety.

“However, if you would like to leave the secure areas during free time in your schedule, you are now permitted to do so at your own risk,” the memo said.

The memo indicated prospects would still be limited to a single support person such as an athletic trainer or massage therapist, although players will be free to meet with others off-site.

“As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we continue to evolve our Combine policies and procedures in consultation with medical experts,” the memo said. “While masks continue to be required for air travel and during medical exams at the Combine (players and medical personnel), wearing a mask at other times while on site is recommended, but not required.”

The memo said that if players preferred “to remain in the secure areas and have approved medical support personnel (physical therapist, massage therapist, or approved athletic trainer) enter the secure area to provide medical treatments, please follow the previously communicated procedure” in which they would have to register that individual for approval by the NIC.

The changes came 48 hours after



Getty Images

prospects were told in a memo they would be restricted to a “bubble” while at the combine, which rankled players and their agents.

The idea of a boycott was bandied about in response to the rules issued over the weekend, but several agents said they couldn’t in good conscience advise their clients to skip the combine, which will take place in Indianapolis March 1-7.

“I understand their grievances,” agent Leigh Steinberg said before the rules were eased. He noted that most of the 324 prospects invited to the combine have been training with a team of specialists “and they want to take their trainers with them to the combine, and they might want access to their agent. They might have family members. And they may have an entire support group both for their physical and emotional health — and the NFL regulations

seem unduly restrictive.

“Having said that, we will send our players because this is the Super Bowl of scouting events,” Steinberg added. “And you have players who have worked their whole lives to prepare for the NFL draft.”

Agent Joe Linta concurred, saying, “It’s not the time to be guinea pigs for change and use your career” as a bargaining chip.

“It’s also in the interests of the NFL to have full participation,” Steinberg said.

The organization that oversees the operation of the annual NFL scouting combine informed draft prospects in a memo Feb. 19 that they’d be in a bubble in secure locations, and that any player who violates the policy “at any time will be disqualified from further participation and sent home.”

These logistical decisions were made by the National Invitational Camp,

which runs the combine, and not the National Football League itself.

The NFL resisted the idea of a “bubble” even during the height of the pandemic. And the league lifted almost all COVID-19 restrictions late in the season after dozens of players ended up contracting the Omicron variant in December. For the second year in a row there were no disruptions to the playoffs caused by the pandemic.

Anyone with access to players at the combine must provide proof of vaccination against the coronavirus and proof of a booster shot, if eligible.

Face coverings are recommended for players and attendees at the combine but not required.

AP Sports Writer Michael Marot contributed to this report.

Purdue stays in B1G title race with win over Rutgers



Eric Hunter Jr. scored 7 points in Purdue’s 84-72 win over Rutgers on Feb. 20. (Photos/Walt Thomas)

Jaden Ivey added more highlights to his season with a game-high 25 points.

Sasha Stefanovic had 11 points.

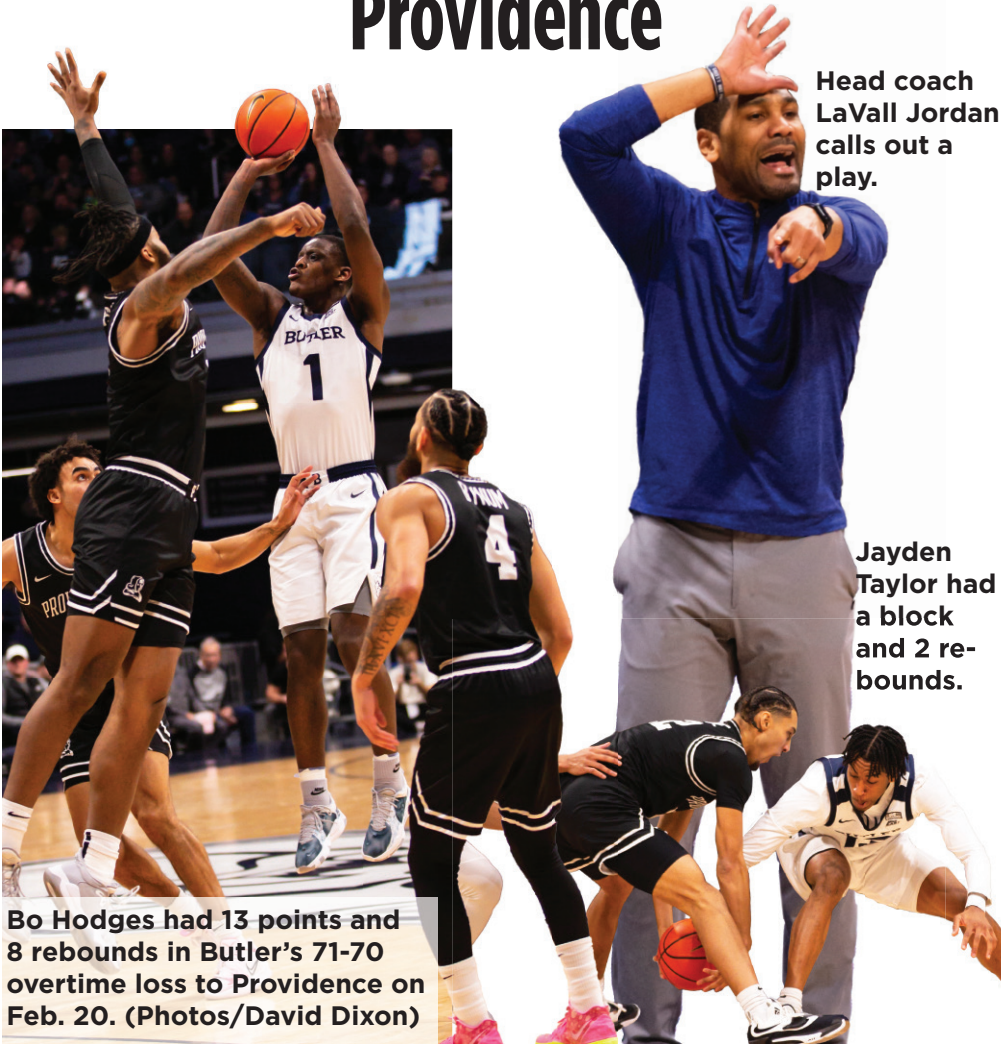


Coach Matt Painter gives instructions from the sideline.



Zach Edey added 15 points and 7 rebounds.

Butler men lose to No. 8 Providence



Head coach LaVall Jordan calls out a play.

Jayden Taylor had a block and 2 rebounds.

Bo Hodges had 13 points and 8 rebounds in Butler’s 71-70 overtime loss to Providence on Feb. 20. (Photos/David Dixon)

Butler women fall short vs. Xavier



Zoe Jackson had 5 points and 5 assists in Butler’s 73-54 loss to the Xavier on Feb. 20.

Xavier’s Shaila Beeler went up high to catch a pass. (Photos/David Dixon)