

## 1 year in, Lift Indy part of larger development initiative in Martindale-Brightwood

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Christopher Lang keeps hearing if he just waits five more years, things will be different in his Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. It's not that Lang is an impatient guy — he's lived in the area his whole life — but he said he's tired and done.

Lang, 57, grew up here and got his home on East 29th Street when his mother died about 12 years ago. He grew up playing in the streets with other children.

Some 40 years ago, people valued their property and respected neighbors, Lang said. That's all changed; there's too much violence now.

"I'm at the age where I would like to sit in my backyard and be comfortable," he said, "but I'm fearful it might be a shooting."

Lang, who renovates houses, is upgrading his home now and preparing to sell it. He still has to put on

Christopher Lang, 57, sits in his living room at his home on East 29th Street on March 21, 2022. Lang plans to renovate the home, which used to be his mother's, and move out of the city. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)



See LIFT, A5▶



Getty Images

## Black adults were hospitalized for COVID-19 more often than white adults during omicron wave

BY FARAH YOUSRY

Black adults in the U.S. were hospitalized at nearly four times the rate of white adults during the recent omicron wave, according to a new study from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Regardless of race and ethnicity, adults who were not vaccinated and boosted were also at a strikingly higher risk of hospitalization compared to those who received their primary vaccine doses and boosters or additional doses, the researchers found.

The overall hospitalization rate for the U.S. population during the omicron wave was around 38 cases per 100,000 — more than double that of the delta wave just six months prior. Black Americans were hospitalized at a rate of nearly 94 per 100,000 — compared to about 24 per 100,000 for white Americans.

The study was conducted by public health experts and physicians from multiple states using data on COVID-19-related hospitalization rates of people 18 and older from late December 2021 through January 2022. The data was collected by a surveillance tool known as COVID-NET.

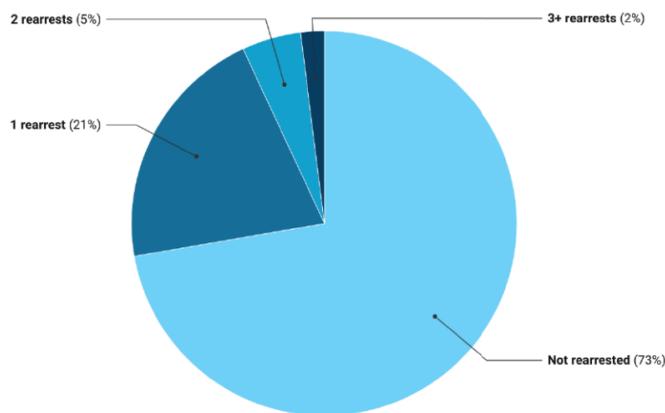
Unvaccinated individuals were

See ADULTS, A7▶

## The Bail Project issues report to judges, responds to criticism

### Rearrest outcomes for clients of The Bail Project

About three-quarters of The Bail Project clients are not rearrested for a new allegation during the pretrial period.



Rearrest rates are based on a report from The Bail Project.  
Chart: Tyler Fenwick • Source: The Bail Project • Created with Datawrapper

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Clients of The Bail Project in Marion County appear in court 95% of the time, and a little more than 25% are arrested for a new allegation during the pretrial period, according to a report the charitable bail organization put together for Marion County judges.

The Bail Project has come under fire because of high-profile cases in which the accused perpetrator was bailed out by the group. The organization's leaders have called it a concerted attack orchestrated in part by the private bail bond industry, but Marion Superior Court suspended its support for the organization in December 2021 and requested the report in order to continue support.

The report includes data specific to The Bail Project, as well as a comparison to those released on bonds paid by the commercial bail bond industry. There are five letters of support at the end of the document from people and organizations including Indiana Addiction Issues Coalition and Recycle-Force.

The organization created a portal and unique login for judges to access lists and data used for the report. Communications director Camilo Ramirez said judges hadn't responded as of March 21.

The Bail Project, which helps poor

people post bail they otherwise can't afford, came to Indianapolis in 2019. The group takes referrals and meets with the person being held pretrial. If eligible, The Bail Project posts bail at no cost to the person. The organization also provides court notifications and transportation with the idea being people will still show up to court without a direct financial incentive.

The report says getting 95% of clients to appear in court offers "ample evidence that people return to court at high rates without having financial 'skin in the game.'" In the case of a surety bond, a private bail agent typically charges a percentage of the full bail amount, and the person won't get that money back regardless of if charges are dropped or the person is found not guilty.

Most clients of The Bail Project face misdemeanors or low-level felonies, the report says. The organization has provided bail for 980 people, and more than half of cases have been dismissed. Of those who received convictions, 15% were required to serve additional time incarcerated.

### OTHER FINDINGS IN THE REPORT:

- More than half of the people in jail are Black, and 62% of the group's clients are Black.
- Clients have made 3,686 court ap-

See BAIL, A7▶



A memorial was created for a child who was killed in an apparent hit-and-run March 18, 2022, near the corner of East 21st Street and North Post Road. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

## Juvenile boy dies in hit-and-run

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

A 7-year-old boy died March 18 while waiting for the bus in what police believe was a hit-and-run on the far east side near the intersection of North Post Road and East 21st Street.

According to Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, investigators believe the child was hit by two vehicles shortly after 7:30 a.m. The first vehicle was a light-colored sedan that fled the scene in an unknown direction. The second vehicle is believed to be the vehicle that caused the fatality.

Police said the driver of the second vehicle remained on scene and cooperated with the investigation.

The child, identified by the coroner's office as Sevion Sanford, was pronounced dead at the scene. Sanford was a student at Lakeside Elementary School, less than half of a mile east from where he was hit.

By early afternoon, there was a makeshift memorial at the entrance to an apartment complex on 21st Street at the school bus stop. Family, friends and community members gathered for a memorial March 20.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853 or email at tylerf@indyrecorder.com. Follow him on Twitter @Ty\_Fenwick.



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# Zora's Daughters: A Sisterhood of Creativity



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Emry G.



Jalissa W.



Jaliyah W.



Journey W.



Kennedy W.



Laila B.



MaKayla M.



Nyli-Ann A.



Paeli G.



Perri H.



Savannah S.



Taylor T.



Camike Jones



Chantel Massey



Keesha Dixon



Latrice Young

**By CAMIKE JONES**

In 2019, only 15% of Black eighth graders were at or above reading proficiency according to “The Nation’s Report Card” from the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP). Additionally, research has shown that Black girls between the ages of 5 and 19 are perceived to “need less nurturing, protection, support, or comfort” than their white counterparts. These statistics present a scenario in which literacy, a necessary tool for education and economic advancement, and having a sense of being supported as they develop, can be rare for Black girls. The Asante Art Institute sought a way to address these issues with a new program called Zora’s Daughters, an intergenerational creative writing experience for girls.

Focusing on uplifting great Black women writers like the program’s namesake, Zora Neale Hurston, as well as Maya Angelou, Ntozake Shange and more, Zora’s Daughters aims to fill in the gaps of an educational system that many times leaves Black girls feeling unseen and unheard. Knowing that representation matters, the program includes works that celebrate Black culture and Black girlhood. Girls connect to literature in profound and meaningful ways when they can see themselves in the stories being told.

Dionne Smith, a parent of two participants, said, “without this program [her daughters] would not have been introduced to Nina Simone or many of the other brilliant minds from women of color.” Many of the girls who join

enjoy writing and would like to become professional writers. The exposure the girls receive opens them up to a world of possibilities in which they, too, could become one of the great voices of our culture.

“Finding your voice is one thing,” said executive director of the Asante Art Institute Keesha Dixon, who envisioned creating a program that built girls’ confidence. “Having the confidence to share it whether it is written or spoken is about embracing your potential and overcoming your fears. Zora’s Daughters is the place and space where cultural shame and self-doubt don’t exist.”

The Arthur Dean Family Foundation has partnered with the Asante Art Institute to provide this one-of-a-kind experience in our community. With their ongoing support, Zora’s Daughters has brought

the program to two community sites, the Indiana State Museum and Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, and established a school partnership with Tindley Summit Academy.

Professional poet and spoken word artist Chantel Massey said she “wished [she] had a program like this when [she] was growing up.” Recognizing the value of a space that encourages girls to grow as creators, Massey along with multi-talented artist, Latrice Young, share their expertise as teaching artists at Zora’s Daughters.

Previous participants have praised the program for giving them a place to create and connect. Alia H. said Zora’s Daughters “made [her] believe in [her]self more as a Black girl,” and Savannah S. liked “seeing other Black girls

that believe in [her].” Yuu S. liked that they could “still have fun while writing.” Gaining new writing skills, having fun and making friends are key components of the program.

On March 19, Zora’s Daughters presented its first ever “Lit Fair: A Celebration of Literature” at which girls presented their original works and display their writing. Attendees read their stories, poems and letters as they learned about what inspired the girls’ creativity.

The Spring 2022 session begins in April, with more sessions to come throughout the year. For more information about joining as a participant, volunteer or teaching artist, contact Camike Jones, program manager, at [cjones@asanteartinstitute.org](mailto:cjones@asanteartinstitute.org).

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## 'Everything on the table' as IPS addresses enrollment decline and too many schools

By ELIZABETH GABRIEL  
WFYI

Indianapolis Public Schools has too few students for the number of buildings in the district. A dozen of those facilities in use are in poor or worse condition, district leaders say.

Nearly \$500 million in improvements, repairs and other deferred maintenance is needed to fix these and other school buildings, according to a recent analysis the district commissioned. The analysis also found the district has the capacity to serve around 46,600 students at IPS-owned buildings but only enrolls 28,100 students — a 60% utilization rate.

These challenges come as the district faces impending annual deficits and seeks to stabilize enrollment and improve academics.

The fiscal pressures raise the question of whether district leaders will consider closing schools — an option used in recent years to address a shrinking enrollment of secondary grades. Closure can provide some benefits, such as fewer operational and maintenance fees and the potential to sell buildings for cash.

Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said no decisions have been made yet on how to address the buildings.

"I think people should know that everything is on the table," Johnson told WFYI. "But that doesn't mean only closure is on the table. That means we could consider closures. We could consider consolidations; we could consider new buildings — which I think there's certainly evidence that we need some new buildings; we could consider

### IPS building conditions

A recent assessment of 72 facilities owned by Indianapolis Public Schools showed that no buildings are considered new or like new, and more than 20 percent are in unsatisfactory or poor condition. That is according to a composite score assigned to each building based on building and grounds conditions, technology and academic readiness.

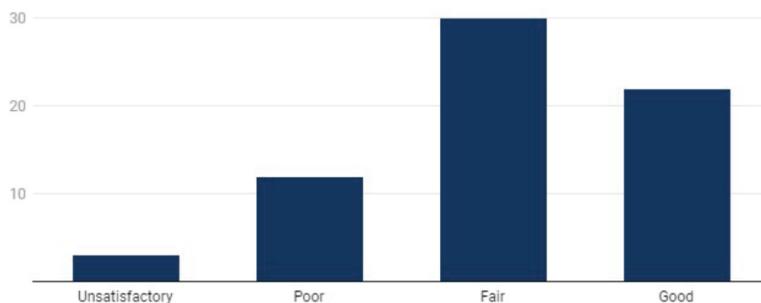


Chart: Lindsey Erdody/WFYI • Source: Indianapolis Public Schools • Created with Datawrapper

renovating."

The district is asking for parent and community feedback on what changes the district should make as it continues a planning process, branded as "rebuilding stronger." IPS is holding public meetings over the next three months to address academic achievement gaps, effective and efficient use of buildings and budgetary concerns.

The IPS administration is expected to present a "reorganization plan" to the Board of School Commissioners in October.

### School buildings in poor condition

A consulting firm was hired to study the district's facilities. The reports the firm produced, which were estimated to cost more than \$600,000 in total,

are to "provide specific recommendations and key observations leading to the most effective use of IPS facilities." IPS has not released the full reports prepared by Florida-based MGT Group.

Buildings were given a composite score based on its physical condition — such as roofs and HVAC systems, ability to support learning, technology infrastructure and exterior conditions such as fencing and playgrounds.

According to parts of the study made public, 15 of 67 IPS school buildings are in poor or worse condition, including three buildings that IPS has already closed.

Out of the 12 still operational buildings in poor or unsatisfactory condition, 11 are elementary schools.

Repairing those schools would cost more than \$465 million to bring all buildings up to "a condition of good or

better," said Shareyna Chang, executive director of portfolio strategy for IPS. That's roughly the equivalent to the district's annual operating budget.

### Enrollment decline

Facility usage is an ongoing concern. Throughout the 1970s, district enrollment drastically declined from a high of 109,000 students. As a result, dozens of buildings were sold or repurposed.

In the past year, enrollment ticked up due in part to charter schools partnering with the district. But enrollment has yet to reach the levels of 2006, when about 37,500 students were enrolled in district-controlled schools.

In 2017, the district closed three high schools and one middle school due to a decades-long decline in secondary students. In 2020, Thomas Carr Howe Community High School was shuttered after the state ended intervention of the school and returned it to district control. Last week, the school board approved the closure of northeast side School 69 for this summer.

Today, IPS serves around 31,300 students. Of those, 28,100 students — a 22% decrease from 2006 — attend class at an IPS-owned building. This total includes students enrolled at charter schools operated at an IPS facility but managed independently within the district.

Contact WFYI education reporter Elizabeth Gabriel at [egabriel@wfyi.org](mailto:egabriel@wfyi.org). Follow on Twitter: [@\\_elizabethgabs](https://twitter.com/_elizabethgabs).

## Local High School Fair to Highlight 17 of Indy's Public High Schools

Event features student performances, college scholarship information, gas card giveaway, and more

By Shartel Andy

Nine of the 10 highest performing high schools on the 2020-2021 ISTEP+ assessment within center township are Innovation Network or charter schools. And more often than not, in Indianapolis, these schools are also led by people of color who reflect the students they serve, something education research has long shown benefits all students. Yet, charter and Innovation Network schools remain amongst Indy's best kept secrets.

Tomia Reed, a parent whose child is enrolled at BELIEVE Circle City said, "I'm glad my neighbor told me about BELIEVE. It's been really good for my daughter, Mayanna. She enjoys it there, she's doing well, and the school's teaching approach works for us. I also really like the opportunity for college credits and smaller classes. And to think I almost didn't know about it"

Sentiments like this is why Indy Schools is hosting its first High School Fair on Saturday, April 9, from 11am-3pm at The Global Village Welcome Center located at 4233 Lafayette Road. During the event, 17 of Indianapolis' free, public charter and Innovation Network high schools will be featured.

There will be student performances from BELIEVE Circle City High School, Christel House International, Purdue Polytechnic High Schools, and Thrival Academy. Plus families can take part in educational workshops, learn more about academic resources, college scholarship information, Indy Summer Learning Labs, sources connecting families with teen employment opportunities, and more. Radio One Indianapolis' B-Swift, a radio host from WHHH Hot 96.3 FM, will also be on-site playing station hits and emceeing the event with raffle prizes and gas card giveaways.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees can register at [indyschools.org](http://indyschools.org).

SO WHAT'S THE CATCH?

"The catch is there is no catch. "Knowledge is power. We simply want to showcase Indy's free, public charter and Innovation Network Schools," said Edward Rogers, manager of community outreach at The Mind Trust, which is one of the event organizers.

HELPING STUDENTS EXCEL BEYOND TEST SCORES

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many local charter and Innovation Network high schools were already using unique

methods of teaching, wrap-around services, student programs like study abroad, project-based learning, early college courses, STEM certifications, and more, all to further help students excel beyond test scores.

"Our scholars were struggling before the pandemic, so we couldn't let the pandemic keep us from fighting for what our kids need," said Kimberly Neal-Brannum, BELIEVE Circle City High School Founder and Head of School. "When the pandemic hit, we were even more determined not to allow the pandemic to dictate what is possible for our students," she continued.

BELIEVE Circle City High School is nestled between Fall Creek and Ivy Tech Community College. The school prides itself on building student agency, involving students in real-life advocacy movements, and taking care of its school community. Back in January, they implemented mobile COVID testing to ensure the safety of their staff and families as everyone returned from the holiday break.

Another school that pushes the envelope of possibility is Purdue Polytechnic High School (PPHS). Not only are their students being accelerated academically with STEM programming, they are also passing along skills to grade school students through their Algebra by 7th grade program. PPHS students carve out time each week to tutor elementary schoolers to ensure they acquire the math skills they need to flourish academically by the time they reach high school.

"PPHS equipped my son with practical, applicable real life skills - not only in academic subjects - but also in skills like effective communication, teamwork, and innovative thinking," said Robert MacKinnon. His son Joshua graduated from PPHS, and is currently a freshman at Purdue University.

SETTING THE FUTURE UP FOR THE FUTURE

Brandon Brown is CEO of The Mind Trust, an Indianapolis-based education nonprofit that works to improve public schools in Indianapolis. Speaking to the impact of Innovation Network and charter high schools he said, "Results are clear: autonomous public schools provide strong, innovative options for high school students. Black students attending Innovation Network or charter high schools in Indianapolis are three times more likely to be proficient compared to Black students at district-run high schools."

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## Herron School of Art gallery celebrates body positivity

By BREANNA COOPER  
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

When one thinks of the fashion industry, “body positivity” probably isn’t the first thing that comes to mind. Looking at photographer Tarik Carroll’s work, however, might change that. Carroll’s first solo gallery, “EveryBODY Is a Good Body: The Re-Formation of Beauty Standards,” opened at IUPUI’s Herron School of Art and Design on March 23.

The gallery contains a video element, as well as several prints which were featured in GQ France. It was always Carroll’s dream to photograph for GQ but the lack of diversity in the fashion industry — from skin tones to body types — left him dissatisfied with his work. It was a 2016 marketing ploy by American Eagle — an April Fool’s Day “joke” mocking the notion of using plus-sized male models for an underwear line — that inspired Carroll to shake things up.

“I got tired of creating work that I couldn’t see myself in,” Carroll said. “The American Eagle thing made me think, ‘What if I actually did this for real and created work with intention?’ I wanted to showcase a spectrum of masculinity, spectrum of body types and sexualities, and I wanted to create work that people could truly seem themselves in.”

Through “The Everyman Project,” Carroll found himself excited to be behind the camera again. The shoots — which he describes as more like a party — also serve as a healing moment for the men involved,



who are typically left out of the body positivity messages largely geared toward women.

“A lot of us men, we were raised by ideas that were very much aligned with toxic masculinity,” Carroll said with a subtle Brooklyn accent. “Men aren’t supposed to emote or show weakness or softness. There was never a safe space for me growing up where I could say, ‘I don’t feel comfortable in my body.’ ... In having these conversations with friends, they had very similar experiences, if not worse. I saw a common thread that there’s

a lot of suffering going on amongst us men.”

Following the March 23 opening of his gallery, Carroll took part in a discussion moderated by Herron Galleries director and curator Joseph Mella. Carroll is the first featured artist in the school’s new annual series, Michael A. and Laurie Burns McRobbie Emerging Artist Series.

Speaking to young artists, Carroll said, leaves him hopeful for the future of both the arts world and the body positivity movement. Though the influence of social media

has led to an “overly-filtered” world, he said it also provides artists with more opportunities than ever to share their work and grow their unique talents.

While Carroll cites photographers David LaChapelle, Herb Ritz and Avedon as his “trinity” of influences, his message for budding artists comes from another one of his influences: Madonna.

“She drove the point home that the point of art is to provoke and start conversations,” Carroll said. “But also, to thrive as an artist, you have

to express yourself from a space that feels truly authentic to you. That doesn’t mean the influences go away, but I have to tell my story as a plus-size person, a queer person, a Black person, and channel all of that into my work.”

Carroll’s gallery will be open through April 26.

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



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**LIFT**

► Continued from A1

a new roof and gutters, update the flooring, add a new backsplash in the kitchen and other projects, but he's hoping to be done and gone in the next 18 months.

The people telling Lang to hang around for another five years might be on to something. The section of Martindale-Brightwood he lives in was designated in February 2021 as one of the city's Lift Indy neighborhoods.

Lift Indy is a community development program that's part of the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD). The neighborhood will get about \$3.5 million in investments to help current homeowners and get more people into homeownership.

DMD officials said the first year of the program is spent organizing with neighborhood groups. In the case of Martindale-Brightwood, organizations leading the projects are Edna Martin Christian Center, the local community development corporation and Renew Indianapolis.

The second year — which in Martindale-Brightwood will technically start in April — is when most activity happens, said Jennifer Fults, who manages the department's Division of Community Investments. The third and final year of the program is spent putting finishing touches on projects.

**Announced projects:**

- A construction program to create homeownership opportunities for 10 low-income families.
- A home repair program to help longtime residents upgrade things such as roofing, siding, insulation and patios.
- An initiative to provide wraparound services such as employment and career coaching.
- A mortgage refinance program to allow longtime residents to stay where

they are.

• A mortgage program to make homeownership more attainable for up to 10 low- to moderate-income households.

As of October 2021, Fults said there were about 30 people enrolled in the wraparound services program, and three homeowners had repairs completed. Renew Indianapolis, which is building 10 homes for low-income families, has plans for seven homes as of now, Fults said, and construction should start this year.

**Other developments in Martindale-Brightwood**

The larger Martindale-Brightwood area will also look different in the coming years because of other initiatives, including a special taxing district that will use property taxes generated by new development to fund affordable housing and infrastructure.

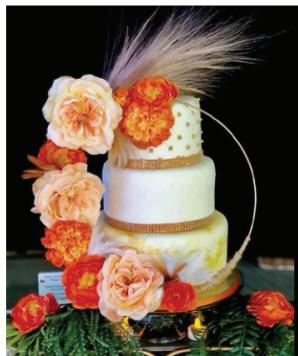
The tax district, known as a housing tax increment finance district, or HOTIF, encompasses portions of the Hillside neighborhood.

A HOTIF, which is outlined in state law, dictates property taxes that come from improvements to land in the area go toward the fund. The department expects the district to generate \$200,000 annually.

The DMD will also soon start interviewing developers for ideas related to the former Colonial Bakery maintenance facility, a 1.3-acre plot of land along Winthrop Avenue on the west side of the Monon Trail.

The site is part of the city's "25th and Monon" vision plan, which calls for lower-density, single-family housing.

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



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## EDITORIAL

## Braun puts his foot in his mouth

By OSEYE BOYD



Oh, Sen. Mike Braun, what are you going to do with you?

On March 22, Braun held a press call where he discussed the hearings of Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson and judicial activism — especially as it relates to the conservative go-to issue of the last

four decades, *Roe v. Wade*.

Braun said he believed the U.S. Supreme Court overstepped in *Roe v. Wade* and should've let individual states determine the legality of abortion. He said judicial activism is the culprit for this ruling. Braun's whole premise is based on his assumption that Indiana would've banned abortions if given the choice. While that is likely the case, it isn't a certainty. Let's just say Braun's imaginary utopia went all wrong and Indiana legalized abortion. In this alternate reality, Braun would then argue the Supreme Court needs to step in and outlaw abortions across the nation. He would want judicial activism when it favors his point of view.

This isn't the world we live in, though, and abortion is legal, so I'll get back to the point of this column and how Braun made a fool of himself.

During the call, Times of Northwest Indiana reporter Dan Carden followed up with a logical question after Braun said states should have the right to make such decisions. Carden asked if Braun felt the same way about *Loving v. Virginia*, which outlawed

banning interracial marriage in this country.

Well, this is where Braun put his entire foot in his mouth.

"When it comes to issues, you can't have it both ways," Braun said. "When you want that diversity to shine within our federal system, there are going to be rules and proceedings that are going to be out of sync with maybe what other states would do. It's the beauty of the system, and that's where the differences among points of view in our 50 states ought to express themselves."

About five hours later, Braun backtracked, saying he "misunderstood a line of questioning that ended up being about interracial marriage." I listened to the question more than once, and I watched Braun give a response more than once. It didn't look like a misunderstanding occurred. He didn't seem confused. He didn't ask for the question to be repeated. He seemed confident in his answer. The reporter followed up with another question along the same line. "So, you would be OK with the Supreme Court leaving the question of interracial marriage to the states?"

Braun, again looking clear-eyed and very confident in his answer, said, "Yes. I think that that's something that if you're not wanting the Supreme Court to weigh in on issues like that, you're not going to be able to have your cake and eat it too. I think that's hypocritical."

Carden then asked about another case, *Griswold vs. Connecticut*. Braun said, "Well, you can list a whole host of issues. When it comes down to what-

ever they are, I'm going to say that they're not going to all make you happy within a given state, but we're better off having states manifest their points of view rather than homogenizing it across the country as *Roe v. Wade* did."

Again, Braun didn't seem confused to me.

This is what happens when you make things an absolute — you make a fool out of yourself. You don't have any wiggle room to adjust when it makes sense.

But you know what? I believe Braun spoke his truth. He doesn't believe the Supreme Court should've ruled on interracial marriage. The conservative argument for states' rights is older than their argument against abortion. If I was playing the drinking game where I had to take a shot every time I heard states' rights or abortion from a conservative, I'd never be sober. If I had a nickel for every time those words were uttered, I'd never be poor.

What I want to know from Braun is what cases should the Supreme Court take and rule on? Why do we even have a Supreme Court? If we left everything up to states, it's possible we would have states where "separate but equal" would still be the law of the land.

But maybe Braun would be OK with that.

By the way, why even have senators at the federal level creating legislation for the entire country? Doesn't that interfere with states' rights, Sen. Braun? What would your job be then?

## 'I'm sorry, (Judge) Jackson'

By LARRY SMITH



I am for real.

The political theater surrounding the historic nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court has often been equally amusing and frustrating, especially because

the outcome is pre-determined given Democratic control of the Senate. The only suspense is whether any Republicans will vote for her.

Presidents have made 165 nominations to the Supreme Court since it was established in 1789; 127 have been confirmed, with seven declining to serve. If confirmed, Judge Jackson would be the 115th person — and first Black woman — to serve. Importantly, the Senate has rarely been a rubber stamp for the president; even two of George Washington's 14 nominees were rejected. Still, the vast majority of nominees — even the controversial ones — are eventually confirmed. Robert Bork is an exception; Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh are the rule. Some, such as Harriet Miers, have withdrawn their nomination when it appeared to be in trouble.

Historically, the confirmation process

has largely been bipartisan. (Three of Ronald Reagan's five nominees were unanimously confirmed.) However, razor thin vote margins — along party lines — have become the norm in our closely divided Senate. Sadly, nominees have become mere political pawns in the high-stakes chess match between Republicans and Democrats. Indeed, most senators aren't really speaking to the nominees during the process; they're speaking to their constituencies — and to each other. (Looking at you, Lindsey Graham.) Long gone are the days when most senators simply asked questions like the once obligatory metaphor of umpires calling "balls and strikes."

To be clear, this problem is bipartisan. In 2016, then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell engaged in despicable gamesmanship regarding President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland. (McConnell refused to give the Senate the opportunity to vote on Garland, who is now U.S. Attorney General.) This still enrages Democrats, very few of whom voted for any of Donald Trump's nominees. As the nation becomes ever more politically polarized, it is nearly impossible to see an end to this reality.

While the partisan animosity over judicial nominees is real, senators usually

don't see the nominees as genuine foes; rather, their goal is to make them foils. Still, Republican attacks-designed-as-stupid-questions seem particularly personal when it comes to Judge Jackson. Leading up to the hearings, they even challenged her bona fides — despite the fact that she has more experience than four justices who currently sit on the court. Further, she sits on the D.C. Court of Appeals and has been confirmed by the Senate thrice — including last year. Then there are the familiar dog whistles and tone-deaf racial stereotypes. For example, Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana expressed his great surprise at how "articulate" Judge Jackson is.

Of course, racism directed at Judge Jackson is not confined to the Senate. Tucker Carlson, the Eddie Haskell of white nationalism, called for the release of Jackson's LSAT scores. (He never has done so for white nominees.) To be clear, anything that Judge Jackson, or any nominee, has done and said is fair game. Further, any decision that she has made is in bounds. Yet, in considering her experience and record, if Judge Jackson is not qualified to be elevated to the Supreme Court, literally nobody is.

Of course, all of this is Kabuki theater. As I stated above, Judge Jackson is

going to be confirmed — as she should be. Yet, in our highly partisan environment, Republicans will rarely vote for nominees from Democratic presidents and vice versa. The simple truth is that if Jackson were asked exactly the same questions and offered precisely the same answers as now-Justice Barrett did during her (i.e., Barrett's) hearing, roughly the same number of Republicans would vote for her. Sadly, the party of the nominator is more important than the qualifications of the nominee. This is exceedingly dangerous for our democracy.

Through it all, Judge Jackson has exhibited superlative composure, self-control and even good humor. (I strongly suspect that President Biden would be forced to withdraw her nomination if she reacted to tough questioning in the way that Brett Kavanaugh did during his SCOTUS confirmation hearing.) Judge Jackson's temperament will be crucial when she becomes the first Black woman ever to serve on the highest court in the land. Our ancestors will weep with joy.

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

## Celebrating the powerful example of extraordinary women

By LORENZO ESTERS



In my life and career, countless women have mentored, nurtured — and, yes, challenged — me to be better. These women rose above obstacles, made a difference in their communities and served as role models.

Their impact will endure for years to come.

One example of these incredible women is my mother, Clara Harvey Esters. My father died at age 29, which left her to care for my brother and me on her own. Despite the challenges, she dared me

to pursue the higher education she never received. She exhibited an unwavering commitment to hard work and service to others that forged a path for my academic endeavors.

My mother remains my first and greatest example of the value of education and service.

Another extraordinary woman in my life was a trailblazing professor. The late Ila A. Wells was the first woman and first African American to earn a Ph.D. in English from Northern Illinois University. She was my inspiration to pursue English as a major.

As an undergraduate at a small historically Black liberal arts college, I took every class Dr. Wells taught. I soaked in her timeless lessons about the power of writing and oratory, the importance of serving others and the value of maintaining a sense of humor.

This Women's History Month, we salute people like my mother and Dr. Wells. We honor the extraordinary women who persevere each day to improve their own lives and the lives of their families, friends and community members.

There are many such women in our own backyard. I've had the privilege of meeting an impressive number of these incredible women at Ivy Tech Community College Indianapolis.

There's Jody May, who defied the odds after she lost her eyesight in an accident 10 years ago. Instead of letting that barrier define her, she pressed on in her pursuit of an education. She's studying elementary education and culinary arts at Ivy Tech, working toward her dream job of teaching family and consumer sciences at a school for the blind.

Jody also is finding ways to remove any obstacles she faces along her academic journey. Her hope is that her efforts will create an easier path for other students with visual impairments.

Elisa Pride also is a source of inspiration. She is an Ivy Tech graduate who pushed beyond the challenges of being a single parent and student, with the support of her professors and Career Coaching and Employer Connections staff. One of her biggest motivators: Elisa is determined to use her education to become a licensed clinical social worker who assists victims of human trafficking.

Elisa now is on her way to a bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, she's already helping others as an employee in the Ivy Tech Express Enrollment Center.

Tapiwa Mzumara is another woman doing impressive things at Ivy Tech. She's a second-year biotechnology student and president of the Student Government Association. The decade-long route she took to achieve these feats shows her determination to make a difference.

Tapiwa left school in her first semester to address a host of issues at home, not the least of which was caring for her chronically ill mother. Eight years later she remained committed to finishing what she started. With the help of an Indy Achieves grant, she reentered school and became a student leader. Next up: a bachelor's degree.

Clara Harvey Esters, Ila A. Wells, Jody May, Elisa Pride and Tapiwa Mzumara have exhibited strength, resilience and a community-minded spirit. They have made a difference, often in the face of adversity. And they are among the many extraordinary women who inspire me to pursue greater things.

These women — and the other incredible women like them — are changing lives every day. We are all better because of their example.

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

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# BAIL

► Continued from A1

pearances.

- For those rearrested for a new allegation, 82% were for misdemeanors and low-level felonies.
  - Over 70% of clients identify at least one need for housing, substance use treatment, employment or mental health resources.
  - Clients are 20% less likely to be arrested for new charges as those who are released on bonds paid by the commercial bail bond industry. (To create a comparison group, the organization developed a sample of people released pretrial who shared characteristics with its clients.)
  - Only “a fraction of one percent” of rearrests were for allegations of murder.
- It's the allegations of murder that have made headlines. The report details specific cases, including at least one person later charged with murder who got bail

assistance not only from The Bail Project, but also a private entity and family.

“We don't show up at the jail and just start swiping a credit card,” said Twyla Carter, the group's national legal and policy director.

Carter and others with The Bail Project say it's unfair to pin all of the blame on a charitable bail organization when private bail bond groups aren't held to the same standard.

The backlash from high-profile cases led state Republicans to pass legislation that sets limits on who charitable bail organizations can help. Now, organizations such as The Bail Project can only assist people charged with misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies, so long as the accused hasn't been convicted of a violent felony before.

Carter said the legislation cre-

ates a double standard by limiting what charitable groups can do but not for-profit bail businesses.

“It is clearly a piece of legislation that is not about protecting the public,” she said. “It's not about public safety.”

David Gaspar, national operations director, said the new law and general pushback against the organization will negatively impact poor people who are in jail before they go to trial.

“The Bail Project being targeted isn't an attack on The Bail Project directly,” said Gaspar, who lives in Indianapolis. “It's an attack on our most impoverished community members.”

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

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# ADULTS

► Continued from A1

hospitalized at 12 times the rate of fully vaccinated and boosted people and nearly four times the rate of individuals who received only the primary vaccine doses. This is consistent with other studies that found hospitalization and death rates were much higher among unvaccinated people.

“Taken together, these findings suggest that the increased risk for hospitalization among Black adults during the omicron-predominant period might also be due, in part, to lower proportions of Black adults receiving both the primary vaccination series and booster doses,” the authors of the study said in the report.

Black adults in the U.S. still lag whites in terms of vaccination rates in most states. Two-thirds of white adults and 57% of Black adults are fully vaccinated — defined as having received a primary series, which could have been one or two shots depending on which vaccine an individual received. Data also show that 62% of booster recipients are white and 8% are Black, according to federal-level CDC data.

Black adults also have higher rates of chronic conditions — such as diabetes, hypertension and certain types of cancers — and lower access to health care, which could make them more vulnerable to a COVID-19 infection, according to earlier studies.

“The increase in transmissibility of the omicron variant might have amplified these risks for hospitalization, resulting in increased hospitalization rates among Black adults compared with White adults, irrespective of vaccination status,” the authors said.

But compared to delta, hospitalized patients during the omicron wave had shorter hospital stays and fewer admissions to the intensive care unit. Other earlier studies have hinted at less severe illness caused by omicron compared to delta.

Still, hospitals were more overwhelmed during the omicron wave than previous waves because of the sheer amount of people who caught the virus.

The surveillance tool, COVID-NET, includes COVID-19 hospitalization data from about 10% of the U.S. population representing 14 states. The authors note this as a limitation of the study since the findings may not be representative of every state.

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

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- Work with newsroom management to determine an article's angle, length and format.
- Arrange and conduct interviews with sources.
- Research and analyze background information prior to conducting interviews.
- Check reference materials, such as books, news files or public records, to obtain relevant facts.
- Be able to cover breaking news and quickly turn around copy for digital publication as well as possible follow-up articles for print.
- Receive assignments and pitch article ideas based on leads or tips.
- Discuss issues with editor to establish priorities.
- Proofread copy and correct grammar and punctuation errors in content, following prescribed editorial style and formatting guidelines.
- Understand the editorial process and be prepared to revise work to meet editorial standards.
- Coordinate with production staff on locating art for stories.
- Work with additional newsroom staff to maintain social media accounts and websites.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Education and Qualifications:**

- BA or BS in journalism, mass communication, or related field.
- Ability to be proactive and assertive in efforts to secure interviews and information for content, experience writing news briefs, short- and long-form news stories and features.
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INNOPOWER

## How to support people with developmental disabilities in your workplace and community

By STEVE SMITHERMAN



March marks Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to increase public awareness of the needs and potential of all people with developmental disabilities. The awareness month also highlights a time to provide encouragement and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve self-sufficiency and independence.

A developmental disability is attributable to a mental, physical or combined impairment that results in substantial functional limitations in three or more activities of daily living, such as self-care, communications, learning, mobility, problem solving or independent living. Examples of developmental disabilities include cerebral palsy, epilepsy and Down syndrome. Despite having unique challenges, with the right individualized supports, people with developmental disabilities have the potential to contribute greatly to their families, workplaces and communities.

### Importance of inclusion

It's vital to consider and value people with developmental disabilities in the same way we would anyone else. While we are all different and unique, we tend to have similar aspira-

Getty Images



tions for a good life — living somewhere we enjoy with those closest to us, engaging in work and social activities that interest and stimulate us, and maintaining relationships with family and friends. It's pivotal to respect the autonomy of people with developmental disabilities to make decisions for themselves based on their own preferences and to treat them with the same respect we expect people to treat us.

Additionally, it's important to advocate that people with developmental disabilities be meaningfully included in activities and places that many of us take for granted, like the

school system, in sports and recreational activities, places of worship, volunteering activities and in the workplace. As a health plan, our team at CareSource is creating a culture where our care coordinators discuss employment during the initial and annual plan of care. We provide education to the person or their caregiver when they are interested in a job and help to identify and secure the supports necessary to accomplish their employment goals.

As an employer, we need to practice what we preach. At CareSource, we are committed to employing and creating

internship opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Sometimes, we need to customize a job to match the skills and strengths of a person. Other times, we need to offer a compatible job coach or technology to assist and allow them to be as productive and successful in their role as possible. By embedding evidence-based practices and flexibilities into our workplace, our workforce will be more reflective of the rich diversity of our markets and the people we serve. The quality of the services we will provide will be enriched, and our strategies, ideas and innovations will be better informed by the very populations we are here to serve.

### How to be supportive

Common misconceptions about people with developmental disabilities is that they are limited in what they can do or how they can contribute to family life, the workforce or their communities. We can minimize these assumptions by meaningfully engaging with developmental disabilities in our workplaces, social circles or various recreational activities. The more that people with developmental disabilities are included in typical community life, the clearer their value as friends, classmates, employees and coworkers is realized by the public and people who benefit from their engagement.

People should also utilize resources and take the chance

to educate themselves about the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the federally funded Developmental Disabilities network (including state Councils on Developmental Disabilities, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, and state Protection and Advocacy Systems). Also, consider learning more about advocacy groups focused on people with developmental disabilities like Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered and TASH.

As private citizens, we can engage as a volunteer for advocacy organizations supporting people with developmental disabilities, we can become a mentor or peer to someone with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or we can participate in community events that are focused on promoting people with developmental disabilities. As CareSource expands its programs and investments in the developmental disability population through our Complex Health Solutions portfolio, we are creating more opportunities for everyone to engage with people with developmental disabilities and support them in achieving enhanced quality of life outcomes and to live their best lives.

*Steve Smitherman is president of CareSource Indiana.*



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## National Health Survey is Coming to Marion County

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), the most comprehensive survey of the health and nutritional status of the U.S. population, is coming to the Marion County beginning April 23.

All counties and cities in the United States have a chance to be selected for the survey and, this year, Marion County is one of 15 counties selected. Each year, only 5,000 residents nationwide are chosen to participate in NHANES, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The survey provides important national data on critical public health issues.

"NHANES serves as the nation's health check-up, by going into communities throughout the country to collect health information," said Brian C. Moyer, PhD, director of NCHS.

"The survey provides a wealth of important data about many of the major health and nutritional issues affecting the country."

Since 1960, NHANES has played an important role in improving the health of people in the U.S. The data address critical health concerns, such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Public health officials, legislators, and physicians use this information to develop health policies, direct and design health programs and services, and expand the health knowledge of the nation. The data also help produce national references and standardized growth charts used by pediatricians.

"With this survey, we will be among the first in the nation to have access to critical health care data," said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. "This health information will help drive our public health efforts and play a crucial role in keeping the City of

Indianapolis healthy." NHANES collects a broad range of data that impact the lives of everyone in the country, regardless of age, addressing everything from air quality to vaccinations and the low-fat and "light" foods found in grocery stores.

Now more than ever, collecting timely information on the status of the nation's health is critical. A team of health professionals, nutritionists, and health technicians is heading to Marion County and strongly urges everyone who has been selected for the survey to participate.

Residents will have an invitation-only opportunity to participate in NHANES. Addresses are randomly sampled within Marion County. By selecting participants this way, when combining data from all counties visited this year, data can more accurately represent the U.S. population.

Households will receive one or more letters inviting them to take part by completing a brief online questionnaire to see if anyone in the home is eligible to participate. Those eligible will be contacted to set up a telephone health interview at a convenient time, followed by a health examination that takes place in a local NHANES mobile examination center.

While no direct medical care is in the mobile center, participants receive a report on physical findings, along with an explanation of those findings from survey medical staff.

All information collected in the survey is kept confidential and individual privacy is protected by law. NHANES is taking all precautions needed, as recommended by CDC, to keep survey participants and staff safe by following guidelines on social distancing, use of personal protective equipment, handwashing, and sanitation of the mobile examination center. More information is available at [cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/](http://cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/).

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## Light of the World pastor gets long-awaited installation service

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Rev. Janae Pitts-Murdock had to wait more than a year because of the pandemic, but she was officially installed as senior pastor at Light of the World Christian Church, where Pitts-Murdock became interim pastor in 2019.

The church voted to make her its senior pastor in November 2020, but an installation service was put off until March 6. Pitts-Murdock is the church's first female senior pastor, and it wasn't lost on her that she was installed on the first Sunday of Women's History Month.

"It means I am the fulfillment of my ancestors' dreams," she said.

Bishop T. Garrett Benjamin, senior pastor emeritus at Light of the World, said at the installation service more churches will start opening their doors to Black women.

"I guess it is clear now that we cannot consign our history to one month, but we are breaking barriers and ceilings every day," he said. "This is the year of the woman. This is the year of the Black woman."

Pitts-Murdock originally didn't consider the permanent position because her contract as interim was for 15 months and stipulated she wouldn't be considered for the role. Meanwhile, a search committee tried to find the church's next senior pastor.

Keeping the mindset of an interim pastor is important, Pitts-Murdock said, because her role was to stabilize the church through a transition and make immediate adjustment so a permanent leader could come in and look to the future.

"I would say I want to be such a good interim that the permanent pastor writes me a thank-you note," she said.

Pitts-Murdock learned the term "good" is relative because she was in her interim role for only about seven months before the COVID-19 pandemic forced major changes. Whereas Light of the World, like any other church, would typically measure success based on how many people show up at services, how much money comes in, how many baptisms there are and other metrics, church leadership's mindset had to shift.

Suddenly it was all about how broad online engagement was — not just paying attention to how many people watch a livestreamed service but how many people watch it throughout the week.

A daily prayer call every morning at 7 averages 100 people, Pitts-Murdock said.

"I'm proud of us because we've adapted so well," she said.

The church is still in a hybrid mode with both in-



Light of the World Christian Church leaders lay hands on Janae Pitts-Murdock at her installation service March 6, 2022. (Photo provided by Light of the World)

person and online ministry.

At the installation service, Dwayne Montgomery, head of the search committee, said he made more than 100 calls to people all over the country as he looked for someone who was the right fit at the church.

"We were looking for someone who absolutely loved Jesus Christ," he said. "We were looking for someone who could bring a powerful word to the congrega-

tion."

That process eventually led to Pitts-Murdock. "As we were looking for the best," Montgomery said, "I'm here today to tell you that's exactly what we found."

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

## Jehovah's Witnesses returning to in-person meetings

SPECIAL TO THE RECORDER

All congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses across the world are being encouraged to begin holding in-person meetings during the week of April 1.

Tyra and Darryl Hudson, of Central Indiana, have been attending meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses for 43 years. "I couldn't wait for this moment. I was so happy and thrilled!" said Tyra. "Our virtual meetings are nice, but you don't get the hugs and the laughter." Darryl added, "I'm very excited and nervous, but the meetings encourage me to keep going through the tough times."

For most of the last two years, buildings for worship have remained closed globally due to the risks associated with meeting in person. Jehovah's Witnesses in the U.S. also suspended their public ministry on March 20, 2020. Since that time, they have carried on their ministry through letters and phone calls while holding twice-weekly meetings in a virtual format. Average attendance at these meetings exceeded 1.5 million each week in the U.S., even though there are fewer than 1.3 million

Jehovah's Witnesses in some 13,000 congregations.

"There is a collective shout of joy among Jehovah's Witnesses around the world right now," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "While we have prospered in many ways as individuals and congregations using technology to bring us together, nothing can adequately replace being together in person. We have longed for this moment for the better part of two years."

The move back to in-person meetings coincides with two global events being held in all 120,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. The first is a special lecture scheduled in most congregations for April 10 entitled, "Where Can You Find Real Hope?" Additionally, the annual commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ will be held on April 15, the very day he sacrificed his life 1,989 years ago. Both of these gatherings will be held in person at local Kingdom Halls with live speakers. No collections are ever taken.

"The timing of resuming in-person meetings could not be better," said

Hendriks. "Bringing everyone back together for these special events will have a powerful effect on the worldwide congregation."

Guidelines for holding hybrid meetings have been sent to all congregations in the United States. Over the past six months, many Kingdom Halls have been equipped with the required technology to hold a productive meeting that allows for in-person and remote attendees, all of whom can participate in the discussions. A pilot program was held in October and November in countries around the world to assess how this could be done most effectively. The lessons learned in these pilot meetings have helped form the plan for moving forward with reopening all Kingdom Halls, where the law permits.

"It has been heartwarming to see the peace and unity among Jehovah's Witnesses during this very divisive time," said Hendriks. "We know resuming in-person meetings will bring us even closer together. We're anxious to see one another again."

The Hudsons are especially looking forward to their 85-year-old Bible

student's first time at an in-person meeting. Tyra said, "Our Bible student has only attended meetings by phone. Now she will be able to put faces with the names that she's heard. We are excited for her to feel the love from all our friends."

As of now, Jehovah's Witnesses have no plans to resume their public ministry, though their alternative ministry continues. In fact, since the start of the pandemic through November 2021 in the U.S. alone, Jehovah's Witnesses spent more than 400 million hours in virtual Bible studies, writing letters of comfort to their neighbors and making phone calls. They have released 77 new language translations of the Bible and held two global virtual conventions in more than 500 languages.

"No time was wasted in the past two years," said Hendriks. "Our congregants have been busy and productive helping each other and their neighbors through this most challenging time. That's what love and unity are all about."

For more information on Jehovah's Witnesses, go to [jw.org](http://jw.org).



Tyra and Darryl Hudson, of Central Indiana, eagerly anticipate returning to their place of worship with their fellow congregants. (Photos taken pre-pandemic, provided by Jehovah's Witnesses)

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, is coming

By MICHAEL SAAHIR



“Ramadhan is the month in which was sent down the Qur’an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (Between right and wrong). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting, but if anyone is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (Should be made up) by days later. Allah intends every facility for you; He does not want to put to difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful.” Qur’an 2:185

The Islamic greetings of peace be with you: As-Salaam Alaikum!

Before getting into the main topic of this writing, let us first acknowledge that March marks 32 consecutive years that the Indianapolis Recorder newspaper has carried this Islamic column, initially called “Al-Islam in America.” We are grateful for this opportunity to bring to our readership insights and perspectives of the Islamic religion and community.

Ramadan is scheduled to begin April 2 in shaa Allah (G\_d Willing) and will last for 29 or 30 days, depending on the sighting of the new moon. The Islamic calendar, as with the Jewish calendar, uses the lunar cycle to count our months. (The word “month” is derived from the word “moon.”) As Muslims, we do not worship the moon.

Able-bodied Muslims fast from one hour before sunrise until sunset each day of Ramadan. No intake of food or drinks or any other items (such as smoking), nor any sexual activities, arguing and agitating other people. The fast of Ramadan is a time for spiritual and mental strengthening while simultaneously bringing our physical appetites under our command and control. All Muslims are not always able to



Getty Images

fast each and every day, especially if one is ill or on a journey. Also, women during their menses do not fast; nonetheless, all Muslims, during Ramadan, regardless of illness, traveling, etc., still should mentally and spiritually maintain the purpose and intent of Ramadan with prayers and the reading of the entire Qur’an. One-thirtieth of the Qur’an is to be read each day of the month, thus having read the entire holy book.

Allah speaks highly of fasting. Prophet Muhammed, the prayers and peace be upon him, shared that Allah said, “Every good deed of Adam’s son (humanity) is for him except fasting; it is for Me. and I shall reward (the fasting person) for it ...” For the individual Muslim fasting is a very personal relationship with her or his Lord-Creator. Albeit, that millions of Muslims around

the world are fasting at the same time, still, this act is between each individual Muslim and their creator. No person can fast for another.

The main objective of the fasting Muslim is to mature into a state of G\_d-consciousness. In Al-Islam we call that mental-spiritual state “Taqwa.” Our self-denial of food and drink during the daylight hours is a discipline that brings us into that state of taqwa. Ramadan elevates our whole human life above being driven by the animalistic physical level of existence. Ramadan gives us the opportunity to develop our command and control over our lives in accord with the Word of Allah (G\_d) — in order that we’ll be an asset toward the betterment of the human family.

In closing, we invite our readers to join us in the practice of Ramadan, if not for the entire month, then maybe

observe a day or two. Fasting is for learning and earning the blessings of building a disciplined life of mind and spirit over matter, with a focus upon pleasing our creator.

Upon the completion of the Ramadan fast, Muslims worldwide celebrate the Islamic holiday called Eid Al-Fitr; the “Returning victory of one self to their original natural.” Eid Al-Fitr is a time for special prayers, good food (in the daytime), fun and games and visiting the sick, and reflecting on the blessings of Ramadan.

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

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fax 283-5615

**Pastor Nello A. Holman and First Lady Kay Holman**

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10:50 am

**Sunday School**  
9:15 am

**Monday Morning Prayer**  
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## House passes bill to prohibit discrimination based on hair

By FARNOUSH AMIRI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black people who wear hairstyles like Afros, cornrows or tightly coiled twists should not face bias in society, school and the workplace, the U.S. House said March 18 in voting to make it explicit that such discrimination is a violation of federal civil rights law.

“There are folks in this society who think because your hair is kinky, it is braided, it is in knots or it is not straightened blonde and light brown, that you somehow are not worthy of access,” Democratic Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, the lead sponsor of the bill, said during debate on the House floor. “Well, that’s discrimination.”

The House voted 235-to-189 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of hair texture and hairstyles. The bill now goes to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain. President Joe Biden has already said he would sign the bill, known as the Crown Act, into law.

All but 14 Republicans voted against the measure, calling it unnecessary and a distraction. They said protections against hair discrimination already exist in several federal laws.

“This is what the Democrats are focused on,” said Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan. “Fourteen months of chaos and we’re doing a bill on hair.”

But House Democrats noted that, in several instances, judges have dismissed civil rights cases on the basis that the law does not directly cover discrimination on the basis of hair. The House bill makes clear that hair is in fact included.

Rep. Ilhan Omar of Min-



Getty Images

nesota, who is the first Somali-American lawmaker in Congress, called the opposition from her GOP colleagues “quite disheartening.”

“These members, who are mostly male and white, who have never experienced this kind of discrimination, who don’t have the ability to actually speak to it ... really should leave it up to the policymakers

who have done the work and who have experienced this level of discrimination,” the progressive lawmaker said in an interview.

In addition to Afros, cornrows and twists, the bill mentions protections for other hairstyles and textures of styles that often draw prejudice against Black people.

Supporters pointed to a 2019

study by Dove that showed that 1 in 5 Black women working in office or sales settings have said they had to alter their natural hair. The study also found Black students are far more likely to be suspended for dress code or hair violations.

Coleman, a New Jersey Democrat, began to work on the proposal after two incidents of discrimination made national

headlines. One involved Mya and Deanna Cook of Malden, Massachusetts.

In 2017, the twin sisters were told by their high school staff to remove their box braids. They refused, saying the policy was discriminatory and unevenly enforced. School administrators told them that the ban on hair extensions had been designed to “foster a culture that emphasizes education rather than style, fashion or materialism.”

For refusing to comply, Deanna, a runner who had qualified for the state finals, was kicked off the school track team. Mya was removed from the softball team and told she couldn’t attend the prom.

“It’s such a shock that it doesn’t matter who you are, how old you are, what you are — when people have hatred towards a certain group, they don’t care. They will treat you in that type of way,” Deanna Cook told The Associated Press in an interview.

In a December 2018 incident in New Jersey, a high school student was forced to choose between forfeiting his wrestling game or cutting off his dreadlocks. Andrew Johnson, then 16, got his hair cut courtside and went on to win the match. But he appeared visibly distraught by what had happened.

An Associated Press investigation documented how some Black female service members faced discrimination in the ranks, navigating a culture that often labeled them as “aggressive or difficult” and their natural hair as unkempt or unprofessional.

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

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

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

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STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE BOONE SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF BOONE ) ESTATE DOCKET: 06D01-2203-EU-000046 ) IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF THOMAS JOYCE, DECEASED ) NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ) Notice is hereby given that JAMES JOYCE AND/OR DORIS G. BRAUMAN MOORE were, on March 17, 2022, appointed as Personal Representatives of THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOYCE, deceased, who died on the MARCH 8, 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.

DATED at Indiana this March 17, 2022.

BOONE County Superior Court

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Doris Brauman Moore Brauman Moore & Harvey Law Offices

128 East Main Street Brownsburg, Indiana 46112

Telephone: (317) 858-5000 Fax: (317) 858-5009

Attorney Number: 21958-32 5320-942352

03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NUMBER 48D08-2203-EU-008673 ) IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY J. JACKSON, DECEASED. ) NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA

In the matter of the Estate of Betty J. Jackson, deceased. Notice is hereby given that Nancy S. Jackson was, on March 17, 2022, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Betty J. Jackson, deceased, who died on the 13th day of February, 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 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 March 17, 2022

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

Claire E. Lewis, 115 North Girls School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46214, (317) 484-8115. 5320-942383

03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT ) COUNTY OF MARION ) CASE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002542 ) IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: Adrian Thompson Name of Minor Tierra Thompson Petitioner ) NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME ) Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Tierra Thompson, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on March 3, 2022, to change the name of Adrian Dion Thompson Jr. to Adrian Dion Duncan.

The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the MARION CIRCUIT Court on May 24, 2022, at 9 a.m., which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.

This matter will be heard remotely, and the Court will issue/issuues a WebEx invitation for attendance.

Date Clerk, Marion Court 5320-942019

03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT ) COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO: 49C01-2203-PL-008592 ) AGG DEVELOPMENT LLC ) Plaintiff, ) v. ) ERROL LANN, SHAWN E. CARPENTER, and ) unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names are unknown to Plaintiffs, ) 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 1310 N Colorado Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46201-1645 and described as follows: ) The following REAL PROPERTY, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, COUNTY OF MARION AND THE STATE OF INDIANA: AND KNOWN AS BEING LOT 162 IN C. E. AND W. H. JOHNSON'S EAST 10TH STREET ADDITION, AMENDED, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGE 63, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA, BE THE SAME ) MORE OR LESS, BUT SUBJECT TO ALL LEGAL HIGHWAYS. ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): ) Forum Credit Union, Jefferson Capital Systems LLC, Bowman & Heintz, Saxon Mortgage, Inc. and The Unknown Tenant ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) ) whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Joseph A. Swift, Deceased ) JEREMY MCDANIEL, MIDLAND FUNDING LLC and STATE OF INDIANA, ) 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 2701 S Berwick Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46241-5302 and described as follows: ) Part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 20, Township 15 North, Range 3 East, in Marion County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: ) Beginning at a point in the North line of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 20, distant 564 feet West of the Northeast corner thereof; and running thence South parallel to the East line of said 1/4 Section, a distance of 115.6 feet to a point; thence West parallel to the North line of said 1/4 Section a distance of 182.4 feet to a point; thence North parallel to the East line of herein described tract, 115.6 feet to a point in the North line of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 20, Township 15 North, Range 3 East, in and along said North line a distance of 182.4 feet to the place of beginning. Said land is designated as Tract "A" on a survey by Elvan F. Scotten. ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): Jeremy McDaniel, Midland Funding LLC and ) State of Indiana ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) ) whose whereabouts are unknown: The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Jennifer M. McDaniel, 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/ SUSAN M WOOLLEY ) SUSAN M. WOOLLEY Attorney No. 15000-64 Attorney for Plaintiff ) SUSAN M. WOOLLEY 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 ) 5320-942379 ) 03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

to-wit: LOT NUMBER FIFTEEN (15) IN WOODLAND PLACE, BEING A RE SUBDIVISION OF LOTS NUMBERED NINETEEN (19) TO THIRTY-EIGHT (38), INCLUSIVE, AND THIRTY FEET OFF OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT NUMBER EIGHTEEN (18) IN HENRY J. PRIER'S SUBDIVISION OF LOT 4 IN ROBSON AND VORHEES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGE 61, MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. Commonly known as: 23 Woodland Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46201

To the following Defendants whose whereabouts are not known: Errol Lann, Shawn E. Carpenter and the unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgages, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiff. In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this law suit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before thirty (30) days after the Third Published Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.

The Name and Address of the Attorney Representing the Plaintiff is:

Kathleen S. Crebo HOCKER LAW LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 6626 E. 75th St., Suite 410 Indianapolis, IN 46250 T: (317) 578-1630 F: (317) 849-1892 E: Kathleen.Crebo@hock-erlaw.com

/s/ Myla A. Eldridge Marion County Clerk 3/16/2022

SEAL:

Prepared By: Kathleen S. Crebo #29876-49, HOCKER LAW LLC 5320-942171

03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D01-2203-MF-008469 ) Community Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company Plaintiff, ) vs. ) The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jeffrey S. Myers and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Jeffrey S. Myers, et al. ) Defendants. ) NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION ) TO: The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jeffrey S. Myers and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Jeffrey S. Myers, et al. ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): ) The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jeffrey S. Myers and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Jeffrey S. Myers, et al. ) BE IT KNOWN, that Community Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, J. Dustin Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Marion Superior Court #1 its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Jeffrey S. Myers and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Jeffrey S. Myers, et al. ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): ) NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff, ) vs. ) THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF CATHERINE J. KREIPKE, 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 3967 Marcella Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46226-5438 and described as follows: ) Lot 46 in Beacon Heights Addition, an Addition to the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 32, Page 153 in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana. ) This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): ) Against the property commonly known as 3967 Marcella Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46226-5438 and described as follows: ) Lot 46 in Beacon Heights Addition, an Addition to the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 32, Page 153 in the Office of the Recorder 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or said claims will be forever barred. Dated at Indianapolis, Indiana, this March 14, 2022. /s/ Myla A. Eldridge Clerk of Marion County Superior Court

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. By /s/ Matthew S. Love MATTHEW S. LOVE Attorney No. 18762-29 Attorney for Plaintiff 3/11/2022

IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 5320-942069 03/25/22, 04/01/22, 04/08/22

SOLICITATION FOR: Furniture and Services; 5022-22-1175 PROPOSAL DUE DATE: April 25, 2022 by 3:00 PM ET

TENNESSEE No. 22-TM-4-1 IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF THE MALE ADULT: ANDREW JAMES FRANKLIN, DOM/5/31/2001 By: KRISTINA HIRT (Mother) and ROBERT CASEY HIRT (Step Father)

Devises, Legatees, Descendants, Personal Representatives, Executors, Trustees, and Administrators; and Harvard Green at Camby Village II Homeowners Association, Inc.

Attorney for Christian Laster TOLAND LAW FIRM 1748 Madison Avenue, Suite C Indianapolis, Indiana 46227

Indiana's Finest Wrecker will be having an auction/public sale on April 4th, 2022 at 8AM. 7576 W Washington St Indianapolis, IN 46231

Table with 5 columns: Year, Make, VIN, Price. Lists vehicle auction details for various years and makes.

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: PROBATE DIVISION COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2203-EU-008465

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D12-2203-MF-008295

REGION'S BANK DBA REGIONS MORTGAGE Plaintiff, Vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS & DEVICES OF DON W. HUFFMAN AKA DON HUFFMAN AND TIME INVESTMENT COMPANY INC.;

NOTICE TO BIDDERS A. Sealed bids to provide all equipment, labor, and material to complete a Ball State University Public Works project titled:

NOTICE OF SUIT To the defendants named below herein, and any other person who may be concerned.

IN THE MARION COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION STATE OF INDIANA CAUSE NO. 49D08-2112-EU-004795

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RAY H. SMITH, DECEASED AMENDED NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO BE PUBLISHED

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF Mark E. Earley, Deceased

All persons who have claims against this Estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within five (5) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or within one (1) year after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Notice is hereby given that Sherri Gibbs and Juli Miller were, on March 15, 2022, appointed as co-personal representatives of the Estate of Mark E. Earley, deceased.

Notice of Suit The State of Indiana to the defendants named above and any other person or persons who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court named above.

Bidding documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations or on their website: BSU Facilities Planning & Management Office

Attorney for the Plaintiff Green, Waters Ogle & McCarter 117 Court Avenue Sevierville, TN 37862

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002281

IN RE: THE NAME CHANGE OF: GEORGE MATHEAL LEWIS, Plaintiff. ORDER SETTING HEARING AND NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: PROBATE DIVISION COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2201-EU-001452

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARLA A. CUNNINGHAM, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that David Jason Cunningham was, on the 22nd day of February, 2022, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Marla A. Cunningham, deceased, who died on the 3rd day of December, 2021.

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: CIVIL DIVISION COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D09-2203-DN-001947

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF: MINNELIS ENNOLS, Plaintiff, And. OMAR ENNOLS, Respondent. NOTICE OF SUIT - SUMMONS SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Summons - Service by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO.: 49D14-2210-DN-000506

Summons by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO.: 49D14-2210-DN-000506

Summons by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D06-2107-CT-023432

Summons by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D06-2107-CT-023432

Summons by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D08-2203-EU-006606

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION OF CHERYL D. LOVELESS, Deceased NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D09-2203-DN-001947

Summons - Service by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D13-2202-MF-006154

Summons - Service by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D16-2110-JP-009195

Summons - Service by Publication STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) (SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D12-2203-MF-007838

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LEGAL SERVICES

-- address unknown. And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Edward M. Smith.

day of May, 2022, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded.

Project Executive 5320-941262 03/18/22, 03/25/22

FOR CHANGE OF NAME Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Tierra Thompson, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on January 25, 2022, to change the name of Ahmir Treshan Thompson to Ahmir Treshan Duncan.

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

5320-941056 03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

MDK # 22-003963 STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT #13 ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D13-2203-MF-006859

03/18/22, 03/25/22, 04/01/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-005538

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002538

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

BE IT KNOWN, that Fifth Third Bank, National Association, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, J. Dustin Smith, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Marion Superior Court #13 its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of Kevin Gillespie AKA Kevin E. Gillespie and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of Kevin Gillespie AKA Kevin E. Gillespie, et al.

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D8-2202-EU-006060

03/18/22, 03/25/22, 04/01/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-003910

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

NOTICE OF ADOPTION STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT #16 ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D16-2112-AD-041798

03/18/22, 03/25/22, 04/01/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D10-2110-DC-008480

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03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

NOTICE OF ADOPTION STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT #16 ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D15-2201-DC-000784

03/18/22, 03/25/22, 04/01/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-004733

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03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

NOTICE OF ADOPTION STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT #16 ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49D15-2201-DC-000784

03/18/22, 03/25/22, 04/01/22

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT ) SS: COUNTY OF MARION ) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2201-MI-002537

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22

03/11/22, 03/18/22, 03/25/22



Sip & Share Wines is a boutique winery passionate about creating community with wine for wine lovers overlooked and underrepresented by the wine industry with our diversity of artisanal vegan wines.



Unique Writing Solutions VC Rowley and Associates creates hand-crafted writing instruments with exotic hardwood from around the world.



The following Trailer will be sold at auction for unpaid charges. (I) red utility #4 AJFS 18 21 VJ0 205 69 \$1362.00 At 9am APRIL 10, 2022 5299

Reedy Financial Group, P.C. seeks Staff Accountant II - Multiple Openings in Indianapolis, IN w/ reqm't to work in Seymour, IN office up to 20% of the time.

Indianapolis International Airport Chauffeur (FT) 3p-11:30p \$20.47/hr Indianapolis, IN, United States

General Description Operate bus safely, providing transportation for the public and employees, primarily between parking lots and the terminal.

Essential Functions Operate bus in a safe, efficient manner in highly congested areas.

Minimum Requirements Must possess class B CDL with a passenger and air brake endorsement.

Physical Requirements Ability to operate bus and other motor vehicles. Ability to climb stairs and equipment.

Work Environment Work independently. Work outdoors and indoors. Exposure to all types of weather and temperature conditions.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, and skills required of personnel so classified.

# Upcoming showcase promotes Indy musical talent

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

GANGGANG — a cultural development firm — has named nine Indianapolis performing artists as recipients of the Next Up Fellowship. The fellowship, which is a partnership between GANGGANG and the city, will provide the nine artists with \$100,000 in career growth opportunities including classes on brand identity, touring and social capital, among other things.

“Next Up is another incredible opportunity for artists and for Indianapolis at large,” GANGGANG co-founder Alan Bacon said. “If this program helps more artists make it to the next level, then we all win. Individual success will eventually elevate other performing artists and the entire creative economy within the city.”

The nine Next Up fellows will host a showcase March 25 at The Vogue in Broad Ripple. Among the performers are band Huckleberry Funk and AshLee Baskin, whose stage name is Psywren Simone.

Dexter Clardy, vocalist for Huckleberry Funk, said the fellowship will allow the band more opportunities to expand their reach.

“So far, we’ve had a lot of just really



**Screengrab of AshLee Baskin performing. (Video/Marc Bessiake)**

good conversations with people in the industry that definitely can make an impact, and they’ve been pointing us in the right direction,” Clardy said. “We’re still looking for a good manager with connections to help us find the right venues, and maybe get us connected with producers to elevate our sound. Having people around you is really important. There is really good music here in the city, and people should get behind us and trust GANGGANG and

## Support local music!

**Who: The Next Up fellows**

**When: 7 p.m. March 25 (doors open at 6 p.m.)**

**Where: The Vogue, 6259 N. College Ave.**

**Cost: \$10-\$15, tickets available at thevogue.com**

who they back.”

Huckleberry Funk used the downtime during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place order to solidify their sound, which Clardy describes as “gritty R&B.” The frontman said audiences can expect to hear music from the group’s latest album, “Give It Time,” along with other new material during their showcase set.

Baskin plans to incorporate new elements into her performance, as well, and said the fellowship is a great way to boost creative partnerships in Indianapolis.

“I’m excited to bring my set to be a part of this showcase,” Baskin said. “Each performer will add a different dynamic, a different flavor, and I’m excited to see this gumbo we’re all putting together. ... There’s a lot of potential for collaboration amongst the cohort to build an artistic ecosystem and put Indianapolis in those conversation with Chicago and Atlanta when it comes to a robust local music scene.”

Baskin — who is currently working

on an EP — said the fellowship will help her learn about touring outside of Indiana.

While both Clardy and Baskin benefit professionally from the Next Up Fellowship, they said the community as a whole benefits when the arts are funded and supported.

“I think the pandemic showed us that the arts maintain the community,” Baskin said. “Especially for a lot of local businesses and arts venues, we saw that when national artists weren’t coming through, they were calling on us. A lot of us quite literally kept a lot of businesses afloat. ... Aside from that, we know that art lifts. When you’re in a heavy situation, art can heal, art can encourage and provide a release not only for the artist but for those taking it in. Art is one of those things that everyone needs.”

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

# Hogsett announces Elevation Grant Program applications open April 1

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

Applications for the Elevation Grant Program will be accepted starting April 1. Previously known as the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, this program will invest \$45 million in Indianapolis neighborhoods over the next three years to address root causes of violence in the city.

Last year, the city-county council unanimously voted to fund the grant program using money from the American Rescue Plan. This is the city’s largest investment in violent crime reduction efforts in recent years.

“We know that a neighborhood has no better advocate than the neighbors themselves,” Mayor Joe Hogsett said during a press conference March 21. “That’s why the city and The Indianapolis Founda-

tion want to make sure that as many qualifying organizations as possible apply for these grants, to amplify the good work already being done by groups across Marion County.”

The funds from the Elevation Grant Program will be distributed over multiple rounds of grants, each of which focuses on a specific root cause of crime. The first round — totaling \$5.5 million — will provide money to grassroots organizations focused on building up neighborhoods, youth empowerment and mental health outreach.

“Infrastructure development is crucial to lasting success,” Alicia Collins, director of community leadership at The Indianapolis Foundation, said. “We must elevate grassroots organizations and provide holistic support to sustain and empower the incredible work these residents have been doing — and will continue to do — to change our community. For

generations, our city’s neighborhoods most impacted by violence have also been impacted by systemic disinvestment. This program will work towards addressing the result of that while also re-investing and elevating these communities’ futures — investing into their safety, opportunities, hopes and joy.”

The Indianapolis Foundation will host multiple information sessions for interested applicants.

- 5:30 p.m. March 24 at Martin University
- 5:30 p.m. March 28 at Martin University
- 10 a.m. March 31 (virtual)

Applications for the Elevation Grant Program will be accepted through May 1. To register, visit [elevationgrant.org](http://elevationgrant.org).

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

## Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site creating Book of History

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

Latoya Botterton became a United States citizen in 2013. Just a few days before the Fourth of July, her naturalization ceremony at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site (BHPS) was surrounded by American flags. Originally from Dominica, Botterton is one of nearly 1,500 people to become U.S. citizens at the presidential home on the city’s northeast side since 2003.

As the BHPS finishes its Old Glory, New Vision capital campaign to make the site more walkable and create a Citizenship Plaza, the presidential site is creating a Book of History to honor the people naturalized at BHPS. However, because that information is

For more information on the Benjamin Harrison Book of History, email BHPS at [bookofhistory@bhpsite.org](mailto:bookofhistory@bhpsite.org).

confidential, workers at BHPS need permission to publish names in the book, which will be housed in the Citizenship Plaza.

“We’re calling out for anyone who’s been naturalized here to share their names and to give us their expressed permission to recognize them for having been naturalized here,” Charles Hyde, president and CEO of BHPS, said. “With all the renovations, the book is one of the things I’m most excited about. ... One of the most meaningful things in any given year for me is being a part of the naturalization ceremony.”



**The Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site has hosted naturalization ceremonies for nearly 1,500 new United States citizens since 2003. (Photo provided by Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site)**

The book will be stainless steel with turnable pages and will contain names of people

who have been naturalized and the year of their ceremony. Hyde said the presidential site

hopes to have the book installed by July 1, when BHPS will host a naturalization ceremony.

Botterton, who is the chief operating officer and chief financial officer at Central Indiana Corporate Partnership Inc., encourages anyone who was naturalized at BHPS to get involved in the project.

“It is quite the honor to become a naturalized citizen,” Botterton said. “This is an opportunity for future generations to be able to see how many immigrants were naturalized at this site and was a part of that history.”

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

# Celebrating women from around the world

By **THOMAS BUTLER-GUERRERO**  
thomasBG@indyrecorder.com

On March 19, the annual International Women’s Gathering at the Global Village Welcome Center brought women of different nationalities together to encourage and support each other by sharing their heritage and experiences to celebrate Women’s History Month.

This year’s theme was “Break the Bias” as a diverse group of panelists shared how they rose through the ranks in their respective fields and defined their own success. The panelists who took the stage included Rupal Thanawala, business and digital strategy executive; Tiffany Vivo, Marion Circuit Court judge; Myla Eldridge, Marion County clerk; and Gloria Griesinger, assistant treasurer at Cummins Inc.

The panelists discussed their journeys of breaking the barriers to achieve their current careers. Thanawala opened the discussion by describing her journey as a biomedical engineer 35 years ago to becoming a visionary innovator who also creates opportunities for others.

“So, I had to speak up and had to define my own path or people were going to define it for me,” Thanawala said. “If you want to open doors for yourself, I want you to knock over this door and come inside.”

During the event, Lauren Casey, Good Morning Indiana anchor from WRTV, presented the Jefferson Award to Thanawala. Every month WRTV recognizes one person for their outstanding work in the community with the Jefferson Award. Thanawala provided technology and a computer lab with 75 computers for immigrants to use.



**(L-R): Myla Eldridge, Rupal Thanawala, Gloria Griesinger and Tiffany Vivo discussed their careers during the annual International Women’s Gathering. (Photo/Thomas Butler-Guerrero)**

Vivo, who immigrated from the Philippines, shared her story of coming to the United States to pursue her career dreams. Vivo began as commissioner in the Marion Superior Court in January 2011 and is now a magistrate in the Marion Superior Court Family Relations Division.

“Bias is a way of thinking based upon a preconceived idea that tends to dictate a certain thought pattern that influences the way you believe or think about something,” Vivo said. “It is a challenge, but it is not an insurmountable challenge. We can do it.”

A bust of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist and the world’s youngest Nobel Prize laureate, was unveiled in the art gallery to commemorate her work. Dozens of women dressed in the native attire of their homeland applauded while complimenting each other and learning more about the inspiration of their clothing.

“I always knew about girl power, because growing up I was encouraged to believe that even though I may look or sound differently, at home it did not matter I was taught that we belong there,” Vivo said. “It does not matter what anybody tells you, you belong there and if you want it, you will get it.”

Over 50 vendors showcased merchandise such as jewelry, purses and clothes throughout the flea market inside of the banquet hall. Guests also had the opportunity to partake in a feast of unique entrees from all over the world and are available locally.

“I think eating other people’s food and trying to speak other languages such as simple gestures as ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ is a sign of respect,” Griesinger said.

Contact Thomas Butler-Guerrero at 317-924-5143. Follow him on Twitter @TBGofficial\_.

## 'It's a bonding experience': Mother, 2 daughters compete together in karate

By TYLER FENWICK  
tyler@indyrecorder.com

Karate has taught Natalia Silk discipline and humility, but facts are facts. Silk is 9 years old and competes alongside her mother and younger sister, but ask her if she's the best among them, and she'll give the correct answer through a reserved smile.

"Yes."  
This isn't really about who's more accomplished in the martial arts, though. It's about family.

The last time the Recorder spoke to Silk, she was 6 years old and had just earned her first-degree black belt in taekwondo. Now, her mother, Charisse Johnson, and 6-year-old sister, Aaliyah Silk, are part of the fun and competition.

"It's a bonding experience," Johnson said during a practice at IRISE Martial Arts on East Washington Street. "I mean, by us doing this together, we work out together, we eat healthy together just because we know we all have goals in mind to win."

Grand Master Charles Ingram started working with Natalia about a year ago and immediately saw the potential of a high-level competitor. They'll travel to the US Open ISKA World Martial Arts Championships in Orlando this summer, competing against athletes from around the world.

Natalia and her family are learning Tang Soo Do, a Korean martial art that Ingram describes as "a branch off from the Chuck Norris style of karate."

Natalia is a leader, and it's easy to see why. She stands in front of the class and is quick to help others perfect their form. Everyone pays attention.

"There's kids that is much older than her," Ingram said. "But guess what. She's a black belt, she's a leader, and they respect her."

Even the way Natalia speaks about Tang Soo Do makes it clear she has a level of maturity and awareness that goes beyond what you would expect from a child her age. What 9-year-old talks about doing things she "never thought had been possible" and describes the sport as involving "more strength and less power"?

While Natalia leads one group in warmups on the main mat, Johnson is helping younger children in another part of the room. She's trying to become an instructor.

Johnson was inspired to get involved by watching how martial arts helped Natalia physically and mentally, including in the classroom.

"She's pretty strong, and I'm a mom who works out," Johnson said, "so I just wanted to get involved with it because I saw how it kept her focused and motivated. As parents, we need that, too."

Ingram loves when families take up martial arts together. He thinks it should be more common, especially for mothers and girls. It's special seeing Johnson and her two daughters competing alongside one another and supporting each other.

"That's so important when a mom can support her daughters and the daughters can support their mom," he said, "and they can say, 'Man, we did it together as a team.'"

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



## Pacers defeat Trail Blazers



Duane Washington Jr. shoots over the top of Portland defender Josh Hart.

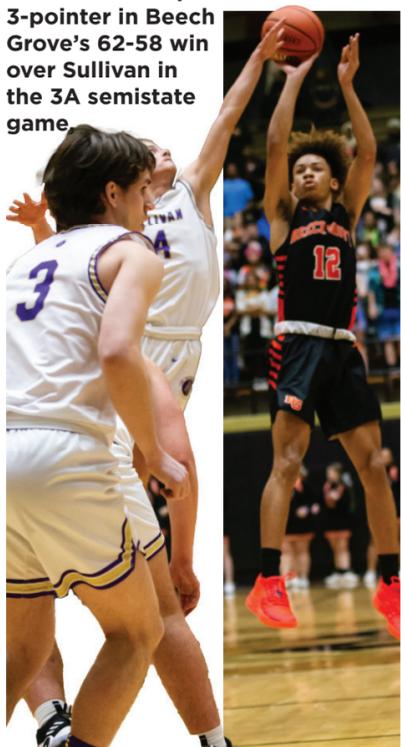
Buddy Hield dribbles up the court during the Pacers' 129-98 win over the Trail Blazers on March 20. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Goga Bitadze blocks a shot.

## Beech Grove going to state

Jeremiah Alexander hit a deep 3-pointer in Beech Grove's 62-58 win over Sullivan in the 3A semistate game.



Jeremiah Tate goes up for a shot. The Hornets will play in the state title game March 26. (Photos/David Dixon)



## Cathedral defeats Bloomington

Tayshawn Comer hit a shot late to help seal Cathedral's 61-55 victory over Bloomington North in the 4A semistate game. (Photos/David Dixon)



Jaron Tibbs takes a hard fall after being fouled. Cathedral will play for a state title March 26.

