

Library drama continues in 1st board meeting since CEO fallout



Dr. Khaula Murtadha and Dr. Patricia Payne introduced a resolution to skip another candidate search and elect Nichelle M. Hayes as CEO of Indianapolis Public Library. Someone from the crowd asked, “Who here is for this motion?” to which many people raised their hands. (Photo/Jayden Kennett)

By JAYDEN KENNETT
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Community members and activists gave the Indianapolis Public Library board an earful at the board’s monthly public meeting Dec. 19.

About 100 people were at the Library Services Center, along with a notable police presence, to express their disdain for the board not offering Nichelle M. Hayes the permanent CEO job. This was the first public meeting since the board voted to offer the position to Gabriel Morley, who declined the offer a day later amid pushback from the community.

People disrupted the meeting often, walking to the middle of the floor to ask questions and erupting in chants. At times, board president Jose Salinas threatened to stop the meeting because of disruptions, but the meeting continued.

“I ain’t ever felt so alienated in my life,” Pastor Lionel Rush said standing mere feet away from the board’s table at the front of the room. People erupted in cheer and gave a standing ovation. Board members didn’t make much of an attempt to stop Rush, who spoke for about a minute.

Organizers from the Party for Socialism and Liberation

See CEO, A9►



The now-demolished Oaktree Apartments, near the corner of 42nd Street and Post Road on the far east side, had been empty since 2014. (Recorder file photo)

City seeks redevelopment ideas for former Oaktree Apartments site

By TIMORIA CUNNINGHAM
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The city is taking redevelopment ideas for the former Oaktree Apartments site on the far east side.

Community feedback gathered in the Oaktree Revitalization Plan, released earlier this year, includes ideas such as housing, restaurants, greenspace, a library, office space and room for recreational activities.

“This request for the information of former Oaktree Apartment site is a step in the right direction as we continue to transform the far eastside of Indianapolis,” City-County Councilor La Kiesha Jackson said at a press conference Dec. 14 at the Community Alliance of the Far Eastside.

The apartment complex at 42nd Street and Post Road was demolished in 2019 after a yearslong legal battle between the city and London-based

See OAKTREE, A9►

City-county council supports research for carbon credit program. Now what?

By JAYDEN KENNETT
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The Indianapolis City-County Council recently passed a special resolution to show its support for a possible carbon credit program. Now the city will evaluate how it might benefit from such a program.

Carbon markets allow for businesses, municipalities and other organizations to purchase a carbon credit to offset their greenhouse gas emissions, according to the North East Foresters Association. A carbon credit provides ways for businesses to reduce their impacts on climate change by monetizing a single tree or acre.

The resolution, passed Dec. 5, doesn’t mean Indianapolis will definitely have a carbon credit program. Instead, councilor John Barth, who sponsored the resolution, said it’s about the council “expressing our support” to move the city toward having a program

See CARBON, A9►



Mary Warlo’s 6-month-old son, Calieb, has sickle cell disease. Infections that might only cause mild illnesses in other children could cause serious illness or worse in children with sickle cell. (Photo/Farah Yousry)



By FARAH YOUSRY

Mary Warlo has been extremely worried lately.

Her baby Calieb, who is 6 months old, has sickle cell disease. In early December he went for a few days without liquid penicillin, a medication that he — and thousands of other children in the U.S. — rely on to prevent potentially life-threatening infections.

Warlo couldn’t easily find a pharmacy in Indianapolis that had the

medicine in stock. She and her husband frantically drove around for hours, stopping at five different pharmacies before they were able to get their prescription filled.

“It was extremely stressful and I am worried about what will happen the next time we need to fill his prescription two weeks from now,” she said.

Pediatric sickle cell disease specialists say they are alarmed by signs that the stock of liquid

penicillin is dwindling in some places. They say children’s lives depend on this medication, and a penicillin shortage could spell disaster.

“I’m most worried that all of the work that we’ve done over the decades to ensure that our infants and children with sickle cell disease can live long and healthy lives will be compromised, because of them not being able to access ... a basic medication,” said Dr. Seethal Jacob, a pediatric hema-

See PENICILLIN, A6►

Kwanzaa celebrations across Indianapolis

By CHLOE MCGOWAN
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It’s been more than half a century since Maulana Karenga, a professor in California, created Kwanzaa. The weeklong celebration was originally meant to help bring Black people together following the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles and has since become a staple of the holidays for many Black Americans.

Kwanzaa is observed formally from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. It’s a way to honor African heritage and usually ends with a meal and gifts.

The seven principles of Kwanzaa:

- *Umoja (Unity)*: to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
- *Kujichagulia (Self-determination)*: to be respon-


sible for ourselves and create your own destiny.

- *Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)*: to build and maintain your community together.
- *Ujamaa (Collective economics)*: to build, maintain and support our own stores, establishments and businesses.
- *Nia (Purpose)*: to restore African-American people to their traditional greatness.
- *Kuumba (Creativity)*: using creativity and imagination to make your communities better than what you inherited.
- *Imani (Faith)*: believing in our people, families, educators, leaders and the righteousness of the African-American struggle.

Although the pandemic put a halt to many of Kwanzaa events and forced others to go virtual, we

See KWANZAA, A7►





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The team here in Indianapolis recently presented Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana with a check for \$25,000. This contribution is in addition to our long-standing philanthropic support to help fight hunger and food insecurity across the country. We are proud to be able to help our community as we work together to move forward.



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IPS delays vote on \$414M tax referendum amid community criticism

By ELIZABETH GABRIEL
WFYI News

After a month of debate and community opposition, the Indianapolis Public Schools board delayed a vote planned for Dec. 15 to place a \$413.6 million property-tax referendum on the May 2023 primary ballot.

IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson and school board members offered no public comment during the meeting or took questions from the media afterward to explain the setback.

Leaders of nearly 30 charter schools have been critical of the proposal and said their students would face a widening racial and socioeconomic equity gap if the referendum went forward. Advocacy groups and some community members told the board they won't support the levy if funds aren't equitably shared with charter schools within the district boundary.

Earlier this month, Johnson said the district would not share referendum funds with independent charter schools.

It's uncertain when the IPS board will discuss the referendum again and if they will decide to share funds with charter schools who do not already partner with the district. School corporations must certify a referendum ballot question 74 days before a primary election, according to state law. The IPS board has until Feb. 17 to vote on the language to meet the deadline for the May 2 primary ballot.

"The specifics of the operating referendum are still under consideration as we continue conversations with our partners," IPS spokesperson Marc Ransford said in a statement Dec. 13 after the board did not review the referendum plan during a public meeting. "We remain committed to delivering on our Rebuilding Stronger plan and earning our community's support."

If the board does not hold a special meeting before the end of the month to address the referendum, it will be



Indianapolis Public Schools Board President Evan Hawkins and Superintendent Aleesia Johnson listen during a board meeting presentation Nov. 17, 2022, at the district office. Hawkins' term as a board member ends Dec. 31, 2022. (Photo/Eric Weddle/WFYI)

taken up by a much different group of commissioners next year.

The term for board members Evan Hawkins, Susan Collins and Taria Slack ends Dec. 31. The three did not seek reelection. Nicole Carey, Hope Hampton and Angelia Moore — winners of the November election — will join the seven-member board in January.

The IPS board was expected to vote on a resolution Dec. 15 as part of the process to get the operating tax request on the spring ballot. If approved, the referendum would generate \$413.6 million over eight years, or \$51.7 million annually, according to district documents. This would replace the current operating referendum approved by voters in 2018.

Education advocates have asked the district to equitably allocate per-student funding from the operating referendum to charter schools who partner with the district and those who do not.

Students, parents and school leaders say the revenue is needed to provide more academic support to students and decrease the funding gap between traditional IPS schools and charter schools.

A coalition of city charter school leaders said the gap would increase by around \$2,300 for independent charter schools if the referendum was passed as proposed.

Charter schools are not eligible to receive property tax funds or referendum funds. But a public school district can agree to share referendum revenue with charter schools.

Last year, IPS agreed to share roughly

\$27.5 million of its remaining 2018 operation referendum funds with 25 innovation charter schools that partner with the district. Now those schools receive \$500 per in-district resident student. In comparison, students enrolled in district-managed schools receive \$1,800 in funding.

Local advocacy groups praised the board's decision to delay the vote. Stand for Children Indiana's executive director Justin Ohlemiller said he was hopeful changes could be made that earn the support of the group.

The week prior, IPS board members voted to place a \$410 million capital referendum on the May ballot. The funds will pay for a new \$34.6 million facility for Joyce Kilmer School 69 and improvements at roughly 20 other schools. If approved, it would add \$3.18 per month in property taxes to homeowners of a median-valued property.

Basics of the \$413.6 million operating property tax levy

If the levy is approved as originally proposed, the local property tax levy for the operating referendum would switch from \$0.19 to no more than \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value on Jan. 1, 2024. It would generate \$51.7 million annually and add \$2.60 per month in property taxes to homeowners of a median-valued property.

Indiana property taxes are capped at assessed value rates based on the type of property: 1% for owner-occupied homes; 2% for other residential properties and farmland; and 3% for all other property. But if voters approve a local referendum, a property tax bill can exceed the cap and the extra taxes go to the local school district.

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

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Don't miss out on these holiday lights in Indianapolis

By **CHLOE McGOWAN**
chloegm@indyrecorder.com

Whether you put your own lights up before or after Thanksgiving, Christmas lights are a staple of the holiday season.

Indianapolis has a seemingly endless supply of holiday events and experiences, especially when it comes to colorful and festive twinkly lights. From White River State Park to Newfields, we've put together a list of places where you can still enjoy some light shows this holiday season.

WINTERLIGHTS

Where: Newfields, 4000 N. Michigan Road
When: 5-9 p.m. (recurring Nov. 20-Jan. 8, 2023)
Cost: Tickets start at \$29

Featuring more than 1.5 million lights, guests will be able to enjoy holiday-themed snacks from local vendors, hot cider and cocoa as they walk through a multitude of wintery light displays such as the Landscape of Light on the Lilly Allée and the Ice Storm Walk in the Garden for Everyone.

discovernewfields.org/winterlights

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF LIGHTS

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center, 1202 E. 38th St.
When: 6-10 p.m. (recurring until Jan. 1, 2023)
Cost: Tickets start at \$30

Featuring new light displays and more holiday-themed music, the Christmas Night of Lights returns this year with its RGB Field of Lights. Reservations are required.

christmasnightsoflights.com

DASHER'S LIGHTSHOW

Where: Castleton Square Mall, 6020 E. 82nd St.
When: 5:30-10:30 p.m. (recurring until Dec. 31)
Cost: \$29.95 per vehicle

Featuring food, drinks and an extravagant holiday light display, Dasher's Lightshow comes to Indianapolis for a 25-30-minute drive thru experience.

dasherslightshow.com/indianapolis

CHRISTMAS AT THE ZOO

Where: Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 W. Washington St.
When: 5-9 p.m. (recurring until Dec. 30)
Cost: Included with the price of admission

Christmas at the Zoo offers even more opportunities to meet Santa, both in Santa's Study or in Flights of Fancy with Vacation. Kids can see Santa's sleigh and a few reindeer in Santa's Barn or decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus in her kitchen.

indianapoliszoo.com

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Where: Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St.
When: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. (recurring until Jan. 7, 2023)
Cost: \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids (5-17), members are free

Walk through a dazzling winter wonderland with more than 75 trees decorated with Christmas lights representing different families and organizations throughout the state in addition to a holiday scavenger hunt, caroling, "A Christmas Story" screening and more.

indianahistory.org

CIRCLE OF LIGHTS

Where: Soldiers and Sailors Monument, 1 Monument Circle
When: Nightly (recurring until Jan. 13, 2023)
Cost: Free

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Indianapolis will be lit up with festive lights and decorations through the new year, featuring holiday music and pop-up shops with food and beverages and carriage rides.

downtownindy.org

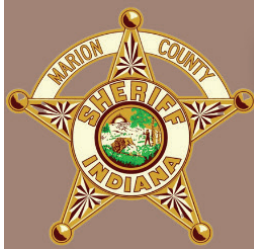
A MERRY PRAIRIE HOLIDAY

Where: 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers
When: 5:30-9:30 p.m. (recurring until Dec. 22)
Cost: \$22 for guests, \$11 for members

In addition to Reynolds Christmas Lights, Connor

Prairie will feature North Pole Village, where kids can take photos with Santa.
connerprairie.org

Contact staff write Chloe McGowan at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @chloe_mcgowanxx.



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Cierra Johnson named Harrison Center’s next Creative Placemaking Fellow

By **CHLOE McGOWAN**
chloegm@indyrecorder.com

From the canvas to the community, local artist Cierra Johnson is making a name for herself at the Harrison Center.

Johnson, a mixed media artist who was born and raised on Indianapolis’ east side, said she started formal art training at the age of 12. Having attended Shortridge High School Arts Magnet program before continuing her education at the Art Institute of Chicago, Johnson returned to Indy to earn a degree in visual communication from Ivy Tech.

Johnson’s work with the Harrison Center ranges from creating portraits in her studio to inviting the community in during First Fridays and participating in Storytelling Drawing Sessions each Wednesday.

“I’ve done those portraits recently of people that I know, which has been a really valuable experience,” she said. “To hear their stories directly from them and for them to be able to tell it their way, and then to be able to record that using artwork, has been amazing.”

When she’s not making art, Johnson is the marketing and communications director for a local fraternity. However, next year, when she steps into her new role as Creative Placemaking Fellow, she’ll be working for the Harrison Center full time helping to build relationships with the Black community and Martindale-Brightwood area.

“Doing that type of work is really important,” Johnson said. “When I’m not making things, I’m just trying to shake hands or meet people and do outreach because I want more people involved in arts.”

The fellowship, which begins in January, will see Johnson at the forefront of the Porch Party Indy initiative and managing FoodCon, a neighborhood food festival in collaboration with Indiana Humanities.

As an artist and painter, Johnson’s work is centered around incorporating abstract acrylic paint and integrated illustration using marker, colored pencil, watercolor and various house-

hold materials. Although Johnson said she’s comfortable making art this way, she said the materials she uses are often a result of circumstance.

For example, one of her pieces, “Keys to Life,” incorporates brown paper lunch bags.

“Because I have kids, and so there’s always craft supplies around,” she said. “So it’s a mix of high art materials, like heavy body paints, with common household items, like a paper bag or tissue paper, for the texture.”

Although Johnson has a grasp on how different materials work together in her art, she said she still enjoys the challenge of rethinking how everyday items and people are seen. When it comes to the subject of her work, themes of people, community, leadership and femininity stand out.

“The work is always about myth and history and experience as a Black person and as a woman,” she said. “It’s always a feminine perspective, so anyone who inhabits a feminine space should be able to relate to the works that I make.”

“Keys to Life” embodies that idea, Johnson said. The portrait is based off the song “Money, Power, Respect” by The Lox featuring Lil Kim and reinterpreted through the lens of Johnson’s experience as a woman.

Even though Lil Kim is only a feature on the song, Johnson said her presence on the track solidified the idea that women are always present, doing part of the work and should be spotlighted for their efforts.

“You know oftentimes, in everyone else’s lives, Black women oftentimes create culture, but that’s not whose names are in history books,” Johnson said. “I think my real purpose is to push that idea even farther — that in every area of life, there is probably a Black woman who helped you get to do what you are doing in some form or fashion.”

Read the rest of this article online at indianapolisrecorder.com.

Contact staff writer Chloe McGowan at 317-762-7898. Follow her on Twitter @chloe_mcgowanaxx.



HEALTH INSURANCE QUESTIONS?
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Open enrollment for the health insurance marketplace is underway and ends Jan. 15. Eskenazi Health understands this can be a confusing process, especially if your insurance changed during the pandemic. That’s why Eskenazi Health is here for you to assist you in understanding your health insurance options. We are also here to help with questions surrounding Medicaid eligibility under the COVID-19 public health emergency, which may end soon. For more information about your options and what you need to do before the deadline, please visit eskenazihealth.edu or call 1.855.202.1053.

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Faculty: Purdue Northwest CEO must resign for racist remarks

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP) — The faculty senate of Purdue University Northwest is demanding the resignation of CEO and Chancellor Thomas Keon after he mocked Asian languages during commencement.

The open lettersigned by eight members of the senate’s executive committee called for Keon to step down because the remark insulted Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the “inexcusable behavior caused national and international outrage.”

“His behavior does not reflect the diversity and inclusiveness that Purdue faculty, staff and students value,” said the letter released Dec. 16.

Keon apologized for the Dec. 10 remark.

“I made a comment that was offensive and insensitive,” Keon said. “I am truly sorry for my unplanned, off-the-cuff response to another speaker, as my words have caused confusion,



Faculty at Purdue University Northwest are calling for Chancellor Thomas Keon to resign after he mocked Asian language in response to the keynote address at the university’s graduation ceremony. (Screen-shot from recording of ceremony)

pain and anger.”

Keon’s gaffe came after keynote speaker James Dedelow referenced a made-up language he sometimes uses on a radio show he hosts with family. Keon responded with an impression that he said was “sort of my Asian version” of Dedelow’s offering.

A message left with a spokesperson for Purdue University Northwest was not immediately returned.

PENICILLIN

► Continued from A1

tologist who treats sickle cell disease at Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis.

Every year, 2,000 babies are born in the U.S. with sickle cell disease, a complex genetic disorder that affects the blood. The vast majority of sickle cell patients are Black.

As recently as the early ‘80s, nearly 1 in 3 children with sickle cell disease would die before their fifth birthday. Then, a landmark clinical trial found that a simple intervention could slash rates of life-threatening bacterial infections by more than 84%. The intervention involved two doses of preventive penicillin, administered daily between 2 months and at least 5 years of age.

Thanks to the widespread use of penicillin — and mandatory newborn screening for sickle cell disease — the death rate for children with sickle cell disease

has plummeted over the past several decades. Today, more than 95% of children with sickle cell disease will reach their 18th birthday.

Sickle cell disease weakens the immune system of children who have it, which makes a bacterial infection extremely risky.

Jacob is worried that more of her patients will end up in the hospital with serious bacterial infections and said that she is “significantly concerned that some of them may become so ill that they would pass from that infection as well, or its associated complications.”

What’s driving the recent shortage of antibiotics

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration tracks

drug shortages and has not indicated that there is shortage of penicillin in the U.S. But some hospitals like Riley Children’s in Indiana — and also St. Louis Children’s Hospital in Missouri — notified providers in early December that their liquid penicillin stock is running low, advising them to look for other alternatives.

Warlo said her doctor told her that if she can’t get liquid penicillin for her son Calieb, they may have to switch him to penicillin tablets. Warlo would need to crush the tablets and put them in his feedings.

One alternative to penicillin for children with sickle cell disease is an antibiotic called amoxicillin. Dr. Monica Hulbert, a pediatric sickle cell specialist at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, said she prescribed it to one of her patients the week of Dec. 1, but they were unable to find it in stock because of an ongoing nationwide shortage of amoxicillin.

Hulbert said the penicillin shortage is likely to push providers to prescribe alternative antibiotics with a broader range of coverage than penicillin, which can be a lot more expensive for patients. Some alternative antibiotics may also require prior authorization from insurance — a process that could take anywhere from 48 hours to a few weeks, Hulbert said, leaving children with sickle cell vulnerable to potentially life-threatening infections.

Hulbert also worries that as shortages for some antibiotics persist, there could be a ripple effect. “The trick is that when one thing is unavailable, then everybody switches to the next thing. And then, demand may exceed supply on that too,” Hulbert said.

‘We cannot let this happen’

Antibiotic shortages in the U.S. are common, said Erin Fox, a senior pharmacy director at the University of Utah. Fox has been tracking antibiotic shortages since 2001 and has found that antibiotics are always present among the top five drugs in short supply every year — and that could be for several reasons.

“These are older drugs, they’re generic drugs, they are low-cost drugs. And so because of those characteristics, there’s actually not a lot of incentive for manufacturers to have any extra on hand or any kind of backup supplies,” Fox said.

During the current shortage some manufacturers said they’ve been hit by labor shortages, Fox said. She’s also been hearing from more manufacturers who say that they have been holding their end of the contract, producing the amount of antibiotics they have been asked to produce.

But it seems that this year, that’s not enough, said Michael Ganio, senior director of pharmacy practice and quality at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Ganio said the current shortage doesn’t appear to be due to manufacturing hiccups or quality issues. It’s more likely a shortage driven by a sharp increase in demand over the past several weeks.

The country is dealing with a surge in infectious diseases “after a period of latency due to COVID-related mitigations like masking, remote work and schooling and social distancing,” he said.

Ganio is worried that the current shortage might have ripple effects — a shortage of one drug can fuel the shortage of alternatives for that drug.

“This is unusual, in that we’re seeing the second and third choices affected,” Ganio said.

To resolve the shortages, manufacturers will need to ramp up production to stock up pharmacy shelves, he said. He’s hopeful that at least some manufacturers will be able to quickly do that, thanks to new technologies.

Dr. Kerry Morrone at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in New York said she’s not heard from her patients or her hospital pharmacy of penicillin shortages yet. But she’s heard of shortages from her peers in other states, and that has alarmed her.

As things stand, the amoxicillin shortage is affecting sickle cell patients when they end up with a common complication called acute chest syndrome. The idea that penicillin, too, could possibly face a dire nationwide shortage terrifies her.

“We cannot let this happen. I’m dead serious,” Morrone said. “If there’s a short supply [of penicillin], I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Sickle cell disease patients already face a litany of social and economic challenges every day that makes it hard to get basic care. Being hit with a widespread penicillin would have huge ramifications, said Morrone.

“Children will die,” she said.

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

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MALCOLM X INSTITUTE OF BLACK STUDIES AT WABASH COLLEGE
Scott Feller, President
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STEVEN JONES
Director
Malcolm X Institute

The giving spirit



L-R: Kristian Stricklen, Mrs. Darlene Eberhardt from Community Spirits and DeWayne Brown from Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits.

Tito's Hand-made Vodka, Community Spirits and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits supported the Madam Walker Legacy Center's Holiday on the Ave Series. (Photo/David Dixon)



Celebrating 55 years of marriage

Ted and Elsie Siddle of Indianapolis celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary December 2. (Photo provided by Elsie Siddle)

KWANZAA

► Continued from A1

put together a list of a few events going on around Indianapolis celebrating Kwanzaa.

Umoja Village Celebration

Where: The Amp at 16 Tech, 1220 Waterway Blvd.
When: 2-6 p.m. Dec. 26
Cost: Free
Presented by the Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee, Umoja Village Celebration will celebrate the first day of Kwanzaa, or Umoja, which highlights the principle of unity. The celebration will include an African Village marketplace, food vendors, African drumming and dancing, musical performances and more. [facebook.com/IndyKwanzaaCommittee](#)

Pre-Kwanzaa Market

Where: The Speak Easy, 5255 Winthrop Ave., #110
When: 4-9 p.m. Dec. 26
Cost: Free
Hosted by the Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee, guests can shop from local vendors, learn more about the holiday and celebrate Kwanzaa together. [facebook.com/IndyKwanzaaCommittee/](#)

Inspirational Talk

Where: Crispus Attucks Museum, 1140 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
When: 2-6 p.m. Dec. 27
Cost: Free
Celebrating the second night of Kwanzaa and highlighting the principle of self-determination, the Indianapolis Kwanzaa Committee will host an inspirational talk with a guest speaker. For more information email indykwanzaa@gmail.com. [facebook.com/IndyKwanzaaCommittee](#)

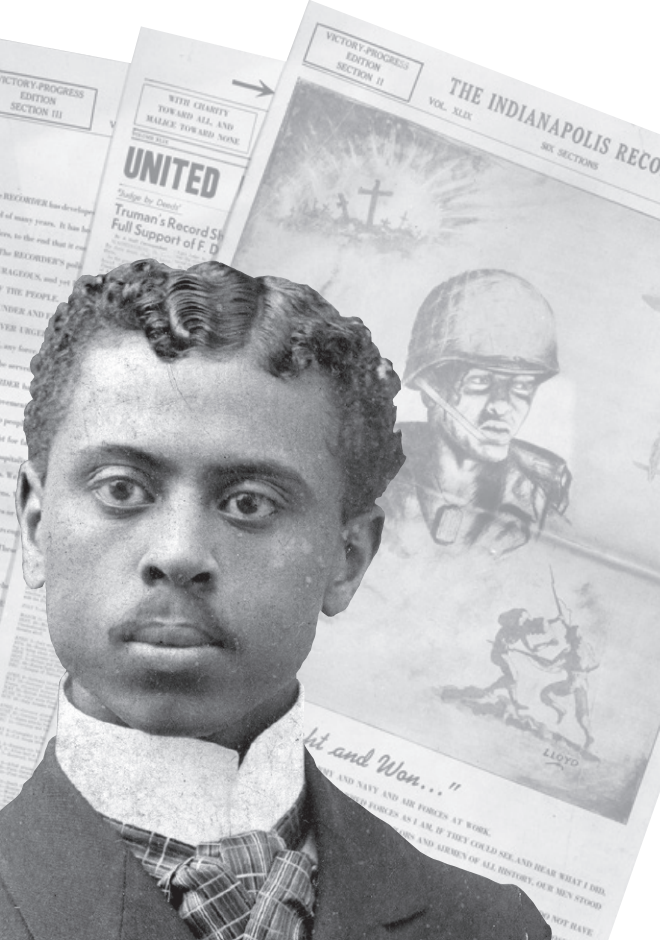
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Indy Nia Celebration — Kwanzaa at the Tube

Where: Tube Factory Artspace, 1125 Cruft St.
When: 6-9 p.m. Dec. 30
Cost: Free
This celebration aims to highlight Nia, the fifth principle of Kwanzaa, which represents the idea of

cooperative economics. The event will feature Black-owned businesses, youth resources and libations. Search "Indy Nia Celebration (Kwanzaa at Tube)" on Facebook.

Contact staff writer Chloe McGowan at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @chloe_mcgowanxx.

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EDITORIAL

Unqualified

By LARRY SMITH



In its adjectival form, the word “unqualified” means to offer a hearty endorsement: “President Miller has my unqualified support.” It denotes an unapologetic affirmation. However, as a noun, “unqualified” has essentially the opposite meaning. It is a damning judgment, if not a complete condemnation: “That interviewee is utterly unqualified.”

In some instances, that label can be akin to a collective epithet. In our society, “unqualified” is often a synonym for “Black person.” It is an underhanded way to slander African Americans with a patina of objectivity. Rather than the punch of outright racism, it is a handshake of disingenuity and condescension. In short, Black people are generally assumed to be unqualified for most roles — other than sports.

By contrast, it is relatively rare for the word “unqualified” to be attached to whites who are candidates for jobs or political office — especially if the person is male. The default position is that the white person is inherently qualified, even when they are demonstrably not. Ask yourself when the last was that you heard something along the lines of, “We want the most qualified person” when the candidate was white and male.

A mountain of research has found that whites (and, tragically, Blacks) tend to view Black people as less intelligent than whites. To be clear, the facts do not support that stereotype. That becomes especially clear when there is educational, socioeconomic and

nutritional parity among the races. Indeed, I have taken deep pleasure in repeatedly debunking this racist myth in my lifetime.

Some people will argue that I’m suggesting that all white people are racist any time they call an African American unqualified. That is not the case. Obviously, not all Black people are qualified for all jobs. (Nobody should hire me as a chef or nuclear scientist or forklift operator.) However, the rate at which the charge that any given African American is unqualified is far greater than the reality. This stereotype goes back to the antebellum period, when human traffickers (aka plantation owners) insisted that their human captives were incompetent, even though they knew full well that they couldn’t run such a complex operation with stupid people.

All this comes to mind as I observe the controversy that surrounds the Indianapolis Public Library, whose board of trustees decided not to hire Nichelle M. Hayes as permanent CEO. Hayes, who served as interim CEO for nine months, was one of two finalists for the permanent role. The trustees chose someone who had brief — and controversial — stints in similar roles in Atlanta and New Orleans. That person declined the employment offer less than a day after the trustees extended it. (Even he knew that he wasn’t the right person for the job.)

For their part, the trustees insist that their selection was based on the other candidate’s alleged superior qualifications in comparison to Hayes. However, they are loathe to share exactly what constitutes said qualifications, despite repeated requests for them to do so. In effect, their response is “trust us.”

The root word of trustee is “trust.” There needs to

be a basis upon which to establish trust with this board, especially given the turmoil that the library system has endured in the past 18 months. Trust is difficult to obtain when there is a dearth of transparency. Indeed, the dictionary bears witness to the fact that transparency precedes trust.

Further, the trustees have a logic problem. Ms. Hayes served as interim CEO for nine months. If she is not qualified, the trustees were derelict in their duty for allowing her to serve for that long. They then selected Hayes to be one of just two finalists. Again, why do so if she is unqualified? If she is qualified, the trustees engaged in intentional malfeasance by not hiring her as permanent CEO, especially after the other candidate declined. Which is it? In the absence of any evidence from them, Occam’s Razor suggests that it’s the latter.

Next year marks the sesquicentennial of the Indianapolis Public Library. During those 150 years, no African American woman has led it. That fact constitutes a syllogism: No Black woman has led the library; ergo, no Black woman has been qualified to lead it. It’s circular logic-cum-cruel hoax.

Fortunately, the trustees have the power to correct this situation. First and foremost, Ms. Hayes clearly is qualified. Second, she enjoys the support of the vast majority of the Indianapolis community who have weighed in on this matter.

My support for Nichelle Hayes is unqualified.

Larry Smith is a community leader. The views expressed are his own. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.

Far-right school board candidates: ‘We’ll be back’

By BEN JEALOUS



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Back in August, I wrote that getting “back to school” this year would also mean getting back to fighting far-right attacks on education. The threats included a rising number of efforts to ban books and the right’s efforts to take over local school boards.

So how did the right do in this fall’s school board elections? Well, as in Congress, there was no conservative “red wave.” However, the right did score just enough wins to keep coming back. And the groups behind those wins are promising to do just that.

According to news reports, about half the candidates endorsed by one national group, Moms for Liberty, and a third of those endorsed by another, the conservative 1776 Project PAC, won in November. Earlier this year, Moms for Liberty racked up notable wins in their home state of Florida, where extremist Gov. Ron DeSantis gave them a boost; and in addition to taking over some school boards in their home state, they took over some boards in a few districts in South Carolina.

Their strategy was to try for a repeat performance of the Virginia election in 2021, where Republican Glenn Youngkin won the governor’s race on a similar cynical “parental rights” platform. The platform is code for highlighting culture war battles over issues like COVID-19 masking and vaccine policies, “critical race theory” and anti-LG-BTQ activism. Let’s be clear: Despite the marketing behind this movement, it doesn’t represent the views of many parents.

And if the far right doesn’t have good ideas, it definitely has plenty of money. The 1776 Project reportedly spent almost \$2.8 million on ads and other campaign material for candidates. In Texas, a right-wing cellphone company called Patriot Mobile spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to help right-wing candidates in several school districts, and called it “just the beginning.”

In the end, this campaign strategy was not the universally successful formula the right hoped it would be. For starters, the so-called “parental rights” groups don’t speak for all parents — especially Black and brown parents. In many places, parents and teachers worked together to push back against ultraconservative takeover attempts. Winning candidates endorsed by

Moms for Liberty and the 1776 Project were in the few hundreds, far fewer than the thousands endorsed by the National Education Association — of which more than 70% won their races. This time.

I’m an optimist at heart, and it gives me hope to see that the dishonest and damaging drive to take over school boards did not sweep the nation. It is very good to know that enough parents, teachers and students spoke out to prevent that from happening. We want schools where all kids can flourish. We want schools where history lessons are not whitewashed to hide harsh realities about our nation’s troubled past. As a parent, I don’t want my children lied to in school. That won’t help them succeed in school or in life. As a lifelong student of history, I know that we can’t understand our present reality or begin to shape a more inclusive future without being grounded in the complexity of our past.

But I also know the far right wants to make school board races a steppingstone to bigger things. Investing in school board takeovers is a power-building strategy. Ultra-conservative activist Steve Bannon said it himself when he claimed the path to “save” the nation will “go through the school

boards.” Not only that, but extremists in the GOP — including former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos — now want to get rid of public education entirely. And yes, many public schools, including those in Black and brown neighborhoods, need to get better. But privatizing education is not the way to get there.

So we need to stay alert to the right’s efforts to get control of school boards, because they’ll be back. We who care about honest teaching and inclusive public schools should go to school board meetings. We should pay attention to school board races and candidates. And if we can, we should run for the school board ourselves. Our kids’ educations, and their futures, depend on it.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and professor of the practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book, «Never Forget Our People Were Always Free,” will be published by Harper Collins in January 2023.

Stop normalizing anti-Blackness

By JULIANNE MALVEAUX



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Autumn Robeson Monahan is a 17-year-old Black girl attending high school in Slaton, Texas. The senior, who transferred to Slaton High School when her parents relocated there from Ohio, hoped to be her high school valedictorian based on her stellar grades. Instead, she was subjected to regular, vile, racist harassment from white students who showered her with the N-word word, even when she respectfully asked them to please stop.

From where I sit, the constant use of the N-word is assaultive and aggressive. Autumn complained to school administrators, who did nothing even though there was a policy that students who used such slurs

would be suspended. Instead, the young lady was subjected to multiple verbal assaults and attempted to handle her challenges by asking offending white students to stop using the word. Their caucosity was rampant. They ignored her requests, and one day she snapped, yelling and slapping the fellow student who seemed to find the use of a racial slur amusing.

Nobody condones violence, and the use of the N-word is violent. School administrators chose to take no action against the unnamed white boy (who deserves suspension and more, and his parents should be reported to Child Protective Services for raising such a little monster) but suspended Autumn for 45 days, sentencing her to an “alternative” facility where students are required to wear orange jumpsuits (talk about the school-to-prison pipeline) and subjected to extreme so-called discipline.

Rather than submit to such extreme insanity, Autumn ran away from home and was considered a suicide risk. Her parents have filed a lawsuit against the school district and complained to the Department of Education. Still, this amazing young lady has had her high school senior year interrupted and besmirched. And the toxic little white boy who taunted her mercilessly has experienced no consequences. We don’t even know his name!

Anti-Blackness is at a peak, and it is disgustingly virulent. Black people are being openly massacred by so-called law enforcement officers who face few consequences for their murderous ways. They claim they fear for their lives. What did Autumn fear when, after enduring racist harassment, she snapped? Who wouldn’t snap after the madness? And why is this so acceptable? High school administrators say the N-word is “only a word.” But it is also the last word our ancestors heard before they were lynched. It is the word that was used to marginalize and criminalize. It is a word that sometimes seeps into the lexicon, a word that some say stings less when uttered as “n***a” instead of “n****r.” But it is also a word that is

historically objectionable.

The white administrators who said a word is just a word aren’t so weak on enforcement when other ethnic slurs are used. They wouldn’t say a word was just a word if they were called out of their name. When a young girl complains about racist hazing, administrators need to stop it. They should not protect the intellectually challenged white boy who insisted that he could use slurs because he was empowered to do so. Autumn complained. Her parents complained. Nothing happened. The young lady felt powerless and alone. The entire school system is at fault because they looked away from the madness of racial hazing. But we are also all at fault because we have normalized anti-Blackness.

Racist violence, whether verbal or physical, is the norm in this nation. It seems okay for white folks to haze, harass and demean Black people. It is unacceptable, and there need to be consequences, not just for those who attacked and hazed Autumn, but for all of those who choose to haze and attack Black children in education systems all over the nation. Too many people think that racism is “no big thing.” It’s not a big thing for ignorant, myopic and unaffected people. But for Autumn, an ambitious young woman, who has been scarred by these incidents because myopically ignorant white administrators failed to take action, it’s a big thing.

What action can we take as a collective? What can we do? As we end the year and make those empty resolutions, let’s make one with teeth. Let’s resolve to put an end to virulent anti-Blackness. Let’s support Autumn and every young student dealing with racist administrators. Let’s work to get them out of the jobs they do not deserve. Let’s say no more as emphatically as we can.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at California State University at Los Angeles.

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CEO

► Continued from A1

presented a petition that has garnered more than 1,800 signatures, including several of Morley’s former employees in New Orleans, to demand the board hire Hayes as CEO.

Board members Dr. Khaula Murtadha and Dr. Patricia Payne introduced a special resolution to skip a nother candidate search and offer Hayes the job. A majority of the board voted against hearing it.

The board announced in a press release before the meeting that the CEO search was compromised and an investigation into the breach revealed “the breach was initiated by a party involved in the search process with the goal of influencing the outcome.”

The board initially decided to move forward with the “compromised” search process, but now believes the breach warrants a fresh CEO search, according to the press release.

Many people at the meeting said they were confused by the CEO search process and the need for another search.

Brandon Cosby, CEO of Flanner House, said he has never seen an interview process have to start over after a candidate declines, including his own interview process at Flanner House. Cosby also said he believes the board is undermining the value of Black women in the community.

“You all screwed up. And you called on a Black woman to clean up your mess,” Cosby said during the public comment period, referring to Hayes’ time as interim CEO. “And then you offered to hire a white person to go ahead and move forward.”

Queen mother of Kwanzaa at the library, Mashariki Jywanza, said she is also disappointed in the board — excluding Murtadha and Payne, a common sentiment many others expressed as well. Murtadha and Payne were the only board members to vote against offering Morley the job.

A representative from the Black Caucus American Library Association said the organization is reconsidering having its 12th national conference in Indianapolis next year because of the search process.

Several people called for board members to resign and said they’ll reach out to the Indianapolis City-County Council, which has two appointments on the board, to push for resignations. Other seats are appointed by the Marion County Board of Commissioners and Indianapolis Public Schools.

Contact staff writer Jayden Kennett 317-762-7847 Follow her on Twitter @Journofay.



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owner Indy Diamond LLC. It had been empty since 2014, when the Marion County Health Department condemned the property and the Marion County Superior Court ordered the remaining 46 tenants to move out after the buildings became unlivable from years of neglect.

Before that, there were hundreds of police runs, incident reports and code violations. A tornado in 2008 destroyed nearly 50 units and damaged another 200, and many of the buildings had been destroyed by fires.

The city has spent more \$3 million on the 19-acre site since 2018 on demolition and community planning.

“Every neighborhood in Indianapolis is Indianapolis, and each one tells its own story,” Hogsett said.

Responses to the Former Oaktree Apartment Site Request for Information are due to the Department of Metropolitan Development by Jan. 31, 2023. Visit indy.gov/activity/find-bid-opportunities to learn more.

Contact staff writer Timoria Cunningham at 317-762-7854. Follow her on Twitter at @_timoriac.

CARBON

► Continued from A1

in the future. Establishing a carbon credit program would require passing an ordinance, which Barth said he hopes to do eventually. The resolution requires an update by November 2023 on timelines, a proposed model and potential outcomes of a program.

Exploring new public policy such as carbon credits can be challenging. Barth said he wants to make thoughtful, impactful decisions versus making decisions because something sounds exciting, which is why the council is looking at what it considers successful carbon credit programs in Seattle and Austin, Texas.

“My position is, let’s be confident in the steps we take by doing the appropriate research,” Barth said.

Councilor La Keisha Jackson said this is an opportunity for Indianapolis to be innovative for future generations.

“Trees heal,” Jackson said, which was a big reason why she supports a carbon credit program. Trees help reduce crime and stress, and they increase property value and bring foot traffic to businesses. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, a 10% increase in tree coverage can reduce crime by roughly 12%.

“In my council district, I want that equity for the community and equity for the youth,” Jackson said, who represents District 14 on the far east side.

The city and its partners are already planting thousands of trees a year and upholding Indy’s status as a certified “Tree City USA” for 34 consecutive years, according to the special resolution. The city has a goal of planting 30,000 trees by 2025; the Department of Public Works and its partners have planted more than 23,000 trees since 2018. However, the city can only fund upkeep of the trees for about three years.

A carbon credit program is one way to ensure that trees are healthy for years or even decades, said Jeremy

Kranowitz, CEO and president of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful.

Additional upkeep for trees can make a difference in the survival of a tree, he said, and maintaining a tree past three years would mean more self-sufficient, thriving trees in Indianapolis.

“It’s in the city’s best interest to maintain those trees for their lifetime,” Kranowitz said.

There are opportunities for organizations to offset their carbon footprint, which would provide more of an incentive for corporations and even education institutions to become more sustainable as well.

“These are trees that I can see, touch and watch grow over time. There’s something really enticing about having your carbon emissions offset right near where you live, work and play,” Kranowitz said.

Stringent requirements and limitations could prove difficult to register some trees in Indianapolis for carbon credits, he said. To get carbon credits for older trees, the city will have to demonstrate that the tree is at risk of being chopped down. If the tree is not at risk of being cut down, it can’t be used for carbon credits.

Carbon credits are not a quick fix to climate change, and it won’t generate massive amounts in revenue for the city, but Kranowitz said implementing carbon credits could be beneficial to the community, and every little bit helps.

“The important thing is that trees have value and right now, we’re not capturing any of that value,” Kranowitz said. “It is something that is measurable, and it is something that is making a difference, and it is something that I think we should be pursuing.”

Contact staff writer Jayden Kennett 317-762-7847. Follow her on Twitter @Journofay.

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Want to email your doctor? You may be charged for that

By AMANDA SEITZ
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The next time you message your doctor to ask about a pesky cough or an itchy rash, you may want to check your bank account first — you could get a bill for the question.

Hospital systems around the country are rolling out fees for some messages that patients send to physicians, who they say are spending an increasing amount of time poring over online queries, some so complex that they require the level of medical expertise normally dispensed during an office visit.

Patient advocates, however, worry these new fees may deter people from reaching out to their doctor and that they add another layer of complexity to the U.S. health care system's already opaque billing process.

"This is a barrier that denies access and will result in hesitancy or fear to communicate and potentially harm patients with lower quality of care and outcomes at a much higher cost," said Cynthia Fisher, the founder of Patient Rights Advocate, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that pushes for hospital price transparency.

The explosion of telehealth over the last three years — driven by the COVID-19 outbreak and relaxed federal regulations for online care — prompted many doctors to adopt more robust telecommunication with their patients. Consultations that once happened in an office were converted to computer or smart phone visits. And health care systems invited patients to use new online portals to message their doctors with a question at any time, American Medical Association president Jack Resneck Jr. told The Associated Press.

The charges vary for each patient and hospital system, with messages costing as little as \$3 for Medicare patients to as much \$160 for the uninsured. In some cases, the final bill depends on how much time the doctor spends



Getty Images

responding.

Under new billing rules, doctors are permitted to bill Medicare for as little as five minutes of time spent on an online message in a seven-day period, according to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare.

Doctors need to be paid for the time they spend doling out expert medical advice — even over messages, said University of Chicago health economist Katherine Baicker. But it's also important that hospital systems are transparent about what patients can expect to pay as they roll out these new charges, she added.

"Co-pays do not accomplish anything when they are not clear for patients ahead of time," Baicker said.

Physicians at University of California San Francisco Health field roughly 900,000 email threads — 3 million total messages — in a year, according to Jess Berthold, a spokesperson for the system.

The hospital announced in November 2021 it would start charging for some of those messages, after noting a spike during the pandemic. During a year's time, 1.4% of email threads, or about 13,000, have resulted in a bill.

Only certain messages trigger a charge. Patients won't be charged, for example, for prescription refills, scheduling an appointment, asking a follow-up question about an office visit within the last seven days, or if their doctor advises they should schedule a visit in response.

What types of messages will prompt a bill? Sending your doctor a picture of a new rash, asking for a form to be filled out or requesting a change in medication.

Navigating how much you might end up owing can be trickier.

At UCSF, patients on Medicaid who message their doctor won't have any out-of-pocket costs, and those on traditional Medicare may have to pay \$3 to \$6. Patients on private insurance will be billed a co-pay — typically about \$20 — as will patients on Medicare Advantage, the private insurance plans for Medicare.

Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, the latest major hospital system to announce charges for online messages, rolled out similar guidelines late last month, with messages costing as much as \$50 for those on private insurance. And at Northwestern Medicine in Chicago, which charges \$35 for some messages, fewer than 1% of those correspondences resulted in a bill, spokesman Christopher King said.

All of those systems use the online portal MyChart. Epic, the privately owned software company that runs MyChart, does not track which health systems charge patients for messages, spokeswoman Barb Hernandez said in an email. The company did not answer questions about whether it receives a share of the fees from those charges.

Giving patients advice online can save a patient time or money in the long run, hospital systems argue. If the doctor can answer a patient's question over email, the patient can cut out wait times for an appointment and avoid taking time off work to go to the doctor's office.

Plus, some patients simply prefer the convenience of getting a quick answer from the doctor on an app, Berthold of UCSF added.

"If patients can have access to a doctor right when questions or concerns arise, they can seek care more quickly and be treated more quickly," Berthold said.

But Fisher argues it could have the opposite effect with patients thinking twice before they message a doctor. Instead, some people may turn to free, unreliable advice online.

"It becomes a slippery slope, and that slippery slope is not in favor of the patient," she said.



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People with Mild Flu Symptoms Should Avoid Hospital ER

Flu activity is high in many parts of the United States, including Indiana and locally in Marion County. Hospitals are reporting an increased number of cases for influenza, COVID-19 and RSV, and emergency departments are filled with people seeking medical care.

To help ease the demand on hospital emergency departments and intensive care units, the Marion County Public Health Department is requesting that anyone experiencing mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat, body aches, cough, and headache to seek evaluation and treatment first through a primary care provider, community health center, or urgent care center.

Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department, says hospital emergency departments have been overwhelmed, with some people waiting hours for treatment. Dr. Caine says those critical resources should be reserved for the sickest individuals experiencing a medical emergency.

Anyone exhibiting severe flu-like symptoms, including high fever, severe headache, difficulty breathing, confusion, severe weakness or unsteadiness with an inability to walk, seizures, and persistent pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, should still seek medical treatment immediately at a hospital emergency department.

Dr. Caine says patients who are seen by a medical care provider for flu-like illness should receive antiviral treatment, even before any lab confirmation of flu. Antiviral medication can lessen symptoms and shorten the time a person is sick by 1-2 days.

She also recommends a flu shot for everyone age 6 months and older, and the updated COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for those who need a booster or for anyone who has not yet received a dose of the vaccine.

"Getting vaccinated is the most effective way to protect against influenza and COVID-19," adds Dr. Caine. "These vaccines, which can be given at the same time, can shorten the length and the severity of illness for those who become infected, especially among individuals at high risk for complications or hospitalization."

Wearing a high-quality mask when in crowded places is also recommended to help prevent the spread of flu and COVID-19. Since influenza is more aggressive this year, the combination of a flu shot and wearing a mask helps keep people healthy as many prepare for holiday gatherings.

Other ways to reduce the spread of flu includes:

- Washing hands frequently
- Covering all coughs and sneezes
- Staying home when feeling sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces at home that are touched often, using a general household cleaner and following label directions

All hospitals in Marion County recently implemented temporary visitor restrictions to better protect patients, staff and other visitors from the flu.

Temporary restrictions at hospitals currently include: No visitors with symptoms of influenza, no visitors under the age of 18, and visitors are limited to two immediate family members as identified by the patient.

The wearing of masks by visitors is also required.

Marion County hospitals participating in the temporary restrictions include hospitals within Community Health Network, Franciscan Health Indianapolis, Ascension St. Vincent, Indiana University Health, and Eskenazi Health.

Visitors should check with a hospital's website or call in advance to learn more about its specific restrictions and any exceptions.

Plan to attend all four classes.
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Indy Faith Spotlight: Project Transformation is a ‘transformative experience’

By ABRIANA HERRON
abrianah@indyrecorder.com

When Costeena Weathersby was hired as the new executive director of Project Transformation Indiana, she had no idea she would be rebuilding the program from the foundation up.

The organization was founded in 2017 with funding from a church, but when the previous director left in 2021, so did all of Project Transformation’s funding. “Now, I am really kind of restarting this organization all over again,” Weathersby said. “So, it’s kind of rough.”

Project Transformation, which has other branches around the nation, is a three-fold program that helps churches engage with their community, children raise their reading scores, and young adults find their purpose.

The organization partners with two churches locally — North United Methodist Church on the north side and Cumberland United Methodist Church on the east side — to host a seven-week reading program for students over the summer.

Weathersby said there was about \$20,000 in the budget for the entire program, but in the 10 months she’s been the executive director she has been able to raise the budget to almost \$100,000. The organization also had to hire a new board as well as continue navigating a pandemic.

During those seven weeks, children go to the churches to read; adult volunteers are also there to read to them Mondays through Thursdays.

The churches get to interact with a younger community, the children get to sharpen their reading skills, and the interns get some direction as to where they want their life to go. Weathersby said the program is important because it supports three groups in different ways all while spreading the love of God.

Once Weathersby got enough funding, the organization hosted an event Nov. 15 where people could bring their old books and exchange them for other people’s old books. She plans to have more events like that in the future, but now Project Transformation will continue preparing for its summer reading program.

The organization also hires around 15 college-aged interns to lead the program, and during their paid internship, those students receive housing at a local college, food and an experience that follows them years after the program is over.

As an education major at Ball State University, Jaina Cox knew she wanted to use the summer after



Project Transformation’s 2019 interns pose with children at North United Methodist Church. (Photo provided by Project Transformation)

her freshman year to work with children. When she heard about Project Transformation, she made sure to sign up.

“Project Transformation was a transformative experience,” she said. “It really taught me a lot about people and myself, which I think definitely led me to where I am today.”

She said when she first started Project Transformation she was “pretty immature” and still learning how to handle different people. By the end of the internship, she learned how to “build my own community,” which was helpful as she moved to another country to teach.

Cox is now a teacher in Kuwait, a very small country in the Middle East. She teaches a fourth grade class for a private all-girls school.

Cox was happy to hear that Project Transformation is still around because of all the benefits people will

receive from it.

“If you really give it your all, you’ll get what you put in plus more,” she said.

The organization will begin looking for interns in April 2023. Weathersby said if anyone wants to help the program, they can volunteer to read to the children, donate food to help feed the interns or donate to the organization. Project Transformation hopes to expand to other cities in Indiana, including Fort Wayne, Terre Haute and Evansville.

Project Transformation is hiring a new program director. If you are interested in the position, reach out to Weathersby at ptexecutivedirector@gmail.com.

Contact religion reporter Abriana Herron at 317-924-5243. Follow her on Twitter @Abri_onyai. Herron is a Report for America corps member and writes about the role of Black churches in the community.

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Anticipate your expectation

By JOHNSON A. BEAVEN III



“And she [Elizabeth] exclaimed with a loud cry ... And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” Luke 1:42, 45-49 ESV

This portion of Scripture is generally referred to in the Christian community during the season called Advent. Advent is the liturgical time of the year observed in preparation of celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. Yet, within this story is an enormous import for us which God desires we maintain beyond the Advent season into every season of our lives.

Two key elements stand out in this story: expectation and anticipation. We often consider these two states synonymous or closely related, and rightly so. Yet there is a differentiation. We see this in the story of Mary’s visitation to her relative Elizabeth, both expectant mothers to Jesus the Christ and John the Baptist, respectively.

Expectation is associated with belief — that something is going to happen or come to pass. It is simply having an expectation. Generally related to air travel, based upon the flight schedule we expect the flight to depart and arrive at its designated time.



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Spiritually, it is a mindset that expects God to perform something. After Mary received the angelic pronouncement that she would supernaturally give birth to one called the Son of God, she responded with “be it unto me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary, as all expectant mothers do, believed that at the time of life, generally around the ninth month, she would give birth. Elizabeth confirmed Mary’s blessed state based on her belief also with expectation of the birth stating, “and blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her of the Lord” (Luke 1:45).

Anticipation is associated with behavior — what one does in the meantime until what is expected happens. It is

more than simply having an expectation. It is specifically living with expectancy. Generally, an expectant mother does not bemoan the forthcoming birth of her child. She gleefully prepares for the baby’s arrival by arranging a room, purchasing clothing and other items to have in place when the baby is brought home.

Spiritually, anticipation is expressed by our response to what we believe God is going to perform. Mary was not merely expecting the birth, but she exclaimed “my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant” (Luke 1: 46, 47).

Just as a mother naturally must wait on the time of giving birth, there will be times we have to wait on the expect-

tation; and the waiting may sink your heart. Proverbs 13:12 states, “Hope [expectation] deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire or a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” It is in this moment that we must live in anticipation, praising and rejoicing in God, until the expectation is fulfilled.

Live every day of your life in expectancy of the great things you expect God to perform according to his promises.

Rev. Johnson A. Beaven III is pastor of Citadel of Faith Church of God in Christ. Contact him via email at jabeaven@gmail.com, or via Twitter @jbeaven.

Senate proposes reevaluating state’s tax structure

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Some state senators are touting the possibility of reinventing Indiana’s tax structure to determine whether the state could eliminate individual and corporate income taxes. They say it’ll take pressure off residents and businesses, but it would also depress future revenue as others say Indiana needs to invest in its quality of life.

Sen. Travis Holdman said he planned to introduce, and pass, a bill establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission that would analyze how the state should reorganize its taxes once it fully funds its only outstanding debt: a pension fund for teachers who retired before 1996.

“I think one of the things we can do is take a look at that tax structure we have and what we can do to make a difference for the whole state of Indiana and the taxpayer,” Holdman said at a panel of fiscal leaders Dec. 16.

The pre-1996 teacher retirement fund, which has just over \$8.8 billion left in unfunded liability, is expected to be paid off by 2030, freeing up an additional \$1 billion in expenditures annually.

Indiana is already in the process of cutting its 3.23% individual income tax rate to 2.9% over seven years following the passage of a bill in the 2022 session. The state also waived its utility receipt tax.

“I think that’s somewhat aggressive but I think we can get there,” Holdman, R-Markle, said. “It’s going to mean there’s less revenue for us to spend at the state level.”

Holdman said it would enable the state to compete for businesses with places such as Tennessee, Florida or Texas, which have no income tax. Holdman chairs the Senate’s powerful Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee and would likely helm any major tax overhaul in that chamber.

Indiana ranks ninth-highest in the Tax Foundation’s 2023 State Business Tax Climate, above both Tennessee and Texas.

But Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, cautioned that the state’s tax climate wasn’t what hindered its economic progress, but rather its quality of life.

“We talk about attracting and (retaining) corporations but you’ve got to have the infrastructure, the human infrastructure, to do those jobs to compete with other states,” Porter, also a panelist, said.

The case against more tax cuts

Ball State University economist Mike Hicks pushed back against the proposition. Hicks, another panelist, said that Indiana needed to pivot its focus from continued tax cuts to addressing the “deficit” of public services.

“I think it would be important over the long run to change the focus of the debate about taxes from simply looking at the rates and trying to use the marginal tax rate as a way to attract economic activity,” Hicks said. “It hasn’t



Getty Images

worked here; it doesn’t work really anywhere.”

Hicks argued that the state’s workforce, whose college attendance and health lags behind the rest of the nation, turns many potential employers away from the state. Less than half of Hoosiers have an advanced certification or college degree and fewer high school graduates are pursuing higher education.

In a manufacturing intensive state like Indiana, factories long supported Hoosiers without college degrees but soon even those jobs, which are decreasing in number, will require some form of advanced training or degree.

Instead, the state should turn to attracting more remote workers, Hicks argued. That population has exploded from 40,000 in 2019 to more than 750,000 today.

“That means there are more remote workers in Indiana than there have ever been factory workers; that’s a third of families who can go anywhere,” Hicks said. “They’re not moving to low tax places, they’re moving to places that have nationally competitive schools, that have quality of life things. ... It’s really about public services.”

Hicks, a graduate from the University of Tennessee — from the state Holdman wants to emulate — said that even the volunteer state hadn’t figured out how to pay for public services to attract people.

“The quality of public services plays much more into the decision of households to locate someplace,” Hick said. “If you want to be a place that has more people in a decade or two or three, you have to have public services that are at the level people want.”

Cutting taxes jeopardizes revenues

Cris Johnston, the director of the office of management and budget, cautioned lawmakers should ensure the system’s sustainability before cutting revenues.

“You have to figure out what is your sustainable fiscal policy to pay for services,” Johnston said. “We need to have a longer term perspective on meeting all of [our] obligations.”

That state contributed an additional \$545 million to the pre-’96 teacher’s retirement fund last year and \$2.5 billion this year due to higher-than-expected revenues.

In contrast to the majority of Indiana’s other accounts, that fund was designed to be paid as the state operated, not upfront. That account is nearly 38% funded, while the state’s other defined benefit plans are funded at nearly 90%, on average.

Though Holdman proposed reevaluating the state’s property tax structure as well, following a jump in county assessments due to rising home prices during the pandemic, he cautioned against taking action in 2023 due to the state’s “complicated” property tax structure.

Property taxes, unlike income taxes, are in Indiana’s constitution and will be much more difficult to change.

“We don’t want to be moving too quickly on this without giving it time to settle,” Rep. Hal Slager, R-Schererville, agreed.

The Senate proposal to reevaluate Indiana’s tax system comes as the state explores how to fund public health, higher government employee salaries and continued Medicaid obligation in a slowing economy as the nation approaches a “mild recession” in early 2023.

Legislators convene at the Capitol on Jan. 9.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Niki Kelly for questions: info@indianacapitalchronicle.com.

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Plaintiff

1. West Lafayette Campus

ments online:

By /s/ Matthew S. Love

LEGALSLLEGALSLLEGALSL

Plaintiff, vs. The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of David D. Hubbard and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of David D. Hubbard, et al. Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO: The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of David D. Hubbard and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of David D. Hubbard: BE IT KNOWN, that U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee for the CIM Trust 2019-R3 Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2019-R3, the above-named Plaintiff, by its attorney, Susan B. Klineman, has filed in the office of the Clerk of the Marion Superior Court #11 its Complaint against Defendant The Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, beneficiaries of David D. Hubbard and their unknown creditors; and, the unknown executor, administrator, or personal representative of the Estate of David D. Hubbard, upon diligent inquiry is unknown, and that said cause of action is for default on the promissory note and to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate in Marion County, State of Indiana, to wit: South Half of the South Half of Lot 35 in East 21st Street Gardens, an addition to the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 19, page 44 in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana. commonly known as 1701 Kildare Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46218. NOW, THEREFORE, said Defendant is hereby notified of the filing and pendency of said Complaint against them and that unless they appear and answer or otherwise defend thereto within thirty (30) days after the last notice of this action is published, judgment by default may be entered against said Defendant for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated Clerk, Marion Superior Court #11 Susan B. Klineman (17405-49) Stephanie A. Reinhart (25071-06) J. Dustin Smith (29493-06) Nicholas M. Smith (31800-15) Chris Wiley (26936-10) Attorneys for Plaintiff MANLEY DEAS KOCHAL-SKI LLC P.O. Box 165028 Columbus OH 43216-5028 Telephone: 614-220-5611 Facsimile: 614-220-5613 Email: sef-SBKline-man@manleydeas.com 12/09/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22

SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MARION COUNTY) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D14-2209-DN-006678 Norma Loredo Plaintiff V. Marco Loredo Estrada Defendant NOTICE OF SUIT The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Petition for Dissolution of Marriage Hearing February 21, 2023, at 9 a.m. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose unknown are: Marco Aurelio Loredo Estrada. And to the following defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Marco Aurelio Loredo Estrada. In addition to the above named defendants being served by this summons there may be other defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, on or before the 22nd day of January, 2023, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of

Suit) and if you fail to do so a judgement will be entered against you for what the plaintiff has demanded. ATTEST: Clerk of the Marion Court John A. Kassiss Attorney at Law Attorney# 23334-29 2647 Waterfront Parkway East Dr., Suite 275 Indianapolis, IN 46214 (317) 759-6800 (317) 423-0476 Fax 5320-961267 12/09/22, 12/16/22, 12/23/22

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS The Trustees of Purdue University will receive sealed bids for the following projects until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on the 12th day of January 2023 in the offices of Capital Asset Management, 2550 Northwestern Avenue, Suite 1100, West Lafayette, IN 47906. 1. West Lafayette Campus – Chaffee Hall ACB-1 Refrigeration System Replacement – 2023 2. West Lafayette Campus – Hilltop Apartments RA3 Shingle Roof Replacement – 2023 3. West Lafayette Campus – Krannert Building Experimental Economics Lab Renovation - 2023 4. West Lafayette Campus – Pfendler Hall Room 241 Dean's Auditorium Renovation - 2023 5. West Lafayette Campus – Purdue Memorial Union Rack N Roll Renovation Phase II – 2023 6. West Lafayette Campus – Ross-Ade Stadium East Condensate Line Replace-

ment Phase II – 2023 7. West Lafayette Campus – Shreve Hall East Buss Bar Replacement - 2023 8. West Lafayette Campus – Stewart Center Multiple Vestibule Cabinet Heaters - 2023 9. West Lafayette Campus – University Street Parking Garage Elevator Repairs - 2023 Bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud in the offices of Capital Asset Management, 2550 Northwestern Avenue, Suite 1100, West Lafayette, IN 47906. Bids received after such time will be returned unopened. Bids may be withdrawn prior to such time, but no bids shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days thereafter. The Principal Subcontractor Questionnaire listing the names of the bidder's principal subcontractors shall be submitted with the bid. The remainder of the Questionnaires and Material Lists shall be submitted prior to 3:00 p.m. (EST) on the 19th day of January 2023, to: Capital Asset Management 2550 Northwestern Avenue, Suite 1100 West Lafayette, IN 47906 Phone (765) 494-0580 Bids shall be for complete construction only, properly executed and submitted on Form 96, accompanied by executed Form 96A (as prescribed by the State Board of Accounts) giving financial data as recent as possible, and a Non-Collusion Affidavit together with other documents as required by the Instructions to Bidders and addressed to The Trustees of Purdue University, clearly marked with the project and the bid opening date. Each bid must be accompanied by the Contractor's written plan for a program to test the contractor's employees for drugs in accordance with IC 4-13-18. Each bid must be accompanied by a Contractor's Combination Bid Bond and Bond for Construction in the form included in the specifications made payable to The Trustees of Purdue University in an amount equal to the maximum total of the base bid and any alternate bids, guaranteeing the execution and faithful performance of the contract for the work if awarded. The Instructions to Bidders contained in the specifications for the projects are by this reference made a part hereof, and all bidders shall be deemed advised of the provisions thereof, and of the General Conditions of the contract, specifications, plans and drawings for the project. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 1 will be held on January 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Room 115 of Chaffee Hall (CHAF), located at 500 Allison Rd., West Lafayette, IN. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 2 will be held on January 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Room 1130-B of Capital Asset Management, located at 2550 Northwestern Ave., West Lafayette, IN. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 3 will be held on January 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Room 701 of Krannert Building (KRAN), located at 403 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 4 will be held on January 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Room G11 of Purdue Memorial Union (PMU), located at 101 N. Grant St., West Lafayette, IN. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 5 will be held on December 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Room 1130-B of Capital Asset Management, located at 2550 Northwestern Ave., West Lafayette, IN. Free parking and the main entrance are on the North side of the building. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 7 will be held on January 3, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Shreve Hall (SHRV), located at 1275 Third St., West Lafayette, IN. Please meet at the Front Desk. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 8 will be held on January 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held in Conference Room B-10 of Stewart Center (STEW), located at 128 Memorial Mall, West Lafayette, IN. A voluntary pre-bid meeting for Project No. 9 will be held via Microsoft Teams on January 5, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. EST. Please contact Mark Kelley at kelle134@purdue.edu to obtain meeting information. The architectural/engineering firms for these projects are: Project No. 1 Mussett, Nicholas and Associates, Inc. 502 S. West Street Indianapolis, IN 46225 Phone (317) 631-9241 Project No. 2 Etica Group, Inc. 407 Broadway Street New Haven, IN 46774 Phone (260) 748-0591 Project No. 3 MSKTD & Associates, Inc. 930 North Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 Phone (317) 917-1190 Project No. 4 Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf 626 North Illinois Street Indianapolis, IN 46204 Phone: (317) 635-6030 Project No. 5 Moake Park Group, Inc. 7223 Engle Road, Suite 200 Fort Wayne, IN 46804 Phone (260) 424-6516 Project Nos. 6 & 8 Applied Engineering Services 5975 Castle Creek Parkway, North Drive, Suite 300 Indianapolis, IN 46250 Phone (317) 810-4141 Project No. 7 Nova Engineering, PC 2338 S. Cline Ave. Schererville, IN 46375 Phone (219) 865-3352 Project No. 9 Stuard & Associates, Inc. 2562 Lincoln Hill Road Martinsville, IN 46151 Phone (765) 342-8246 To view or obtain bid documents online: Repro Graphix Inc. 437 N. Illinois St Indianapolis, IN 46204 Web: PurduePlanroom.com Phone: 1-800-718-0035 Email: Plans@Reprographix.com A \$300 deposit will be required for each hardcopy set of bidding documents. One compact disk or download is available at no charge. Postage and handling fee may apply. All orders must be placed online but bidders may choose to pick up orders at: Purdue Print & Digital Services delivered by Xerox: 698 Ahlers Drive West Lafayette, IN 47907 Phone: 765-494-2006 Bidding Documents are on file in the office of: Senior Vice President for Administrative Operations 2550 Northwestern Avenue, Suite 1100 West Lafayette, IN 47906 Phone (765) 494-0580 The Board of Trustees of The Trustees of Purdue University reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive, to the extent permitted by law, any of the terms, conditions and provisions contained in this Advertisement for Bids or the Instructions to Bidders or any informality, irregularity or omission in any bid, provided that such waiver shall, in the discretion of the Board of Trustees, be to the advantage of The Trustees of Purdue University. THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY By James K. Keefe Senior Director for Capital Asset Management Date: 11/30/2022 5320-961491 12/09/22, 12/23/22

Holiday Fun with a Joyful Pop

Family Features

With countless ways to enjoy the holiday season from decorating and hosting parties to wintertime activities, it's a perfect time to bring family and friends together for some festive fun. One simple ingredient can be your go-to for just about any tradition: popcorn, which is an inexpensive, versatile, whole grain that makes holiday occasions better.

Consider these simple seasonal ways you can let popcorn fuel your holiday adventures.

Decorate

Strings of popcorn and cranberries add a nostalgic touch to the family tree while making popcorn trees adds whimsy to the table. Before stringing popcorn, let it sit out for a day or two as freshly popped popcorn may be too fragile to thread without breaking. Push a threaded needle through the center of each kernel then pull the kernel to the end of the knotted thread, adding an occasional cranberry, if desired. Festive trees can be made using popcorn mixed with melted marshmallows then shaped and finished with sprinkles.

Give It as a Gift

If it's your turn to host this year's holiday party, popcorn makes for a perfect party favor. Pop up a delicious treat like these Cranberry Popcorn Balls, place them in pretty jars or neatly wrap them then finish each with a bow. For an added touch, include the recipe instructions and popcorn kernels in a separate container so your guests can make it at home.

Enjoy It as a Snack

Freshly popped popcorn is a simple and delicious snack to share after a day of shopping,

caroling, sledding or decorating. You can take the holiday season up a notch with creative recipes like Gingersnap Popcorn Snack Mix, White Chocolate Peppermint Popcorn Bark and Easy, Elegant Holiday Popcorn. These treats are perfect for popping up in the morning so the snacks are ready once guests arrive.

Visit Popcorn.org to find more sweet, salty and savory holiday recipe ideas.



Gingersnap Popcorn Snack Mix

Yield: 2 quarts

- 2 quarts popped popcorn
- butter-flavored nonstick cooking spray
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar substitute
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black or white pepper

Preheat oven to 325 F.

Spread popcorn on baking sheet and spray lightly with nonstick cooking spray.

In small bowl, combine sugar substitute, ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and freshly ground pepper; sprinkle evenly over popcorn.

Spray again with nonstick cooking spray and toss to coat evenly.

Bake 7 minutes and serve warm.



Easy, Elegant Holiday Popcorn

Yield: 8 cups

- 8 cups popped popcorn
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
- candy sprinkles

On serving platter, spread popcorn in thin layer.

Over double boiler or in microwave, melt milk chocolate chips. Drizzle over popcorn.

Over double boiler or in microwave, melt white chocolate chips. Drizzle over popcorn.

Sprinkle candy sprinkles over warm, chocolate-coated popcorn. Allow drizzles to set until firm.



White Chocolate Peppermint Popcorn Bark

Yield: 1 pound

- 5 cups popped popcorn
- 12 ounces white chocolate baking chips, chopped
- white chocolate or white candy coating
- 1 cup crushed hard candy peppermints

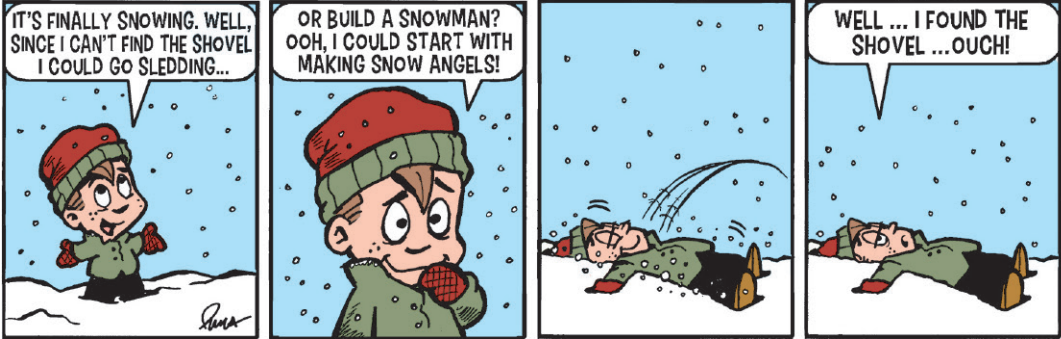
Cover baking pan with foil or wax paper; set aside.

Place popcorn in large bowl; set aside.

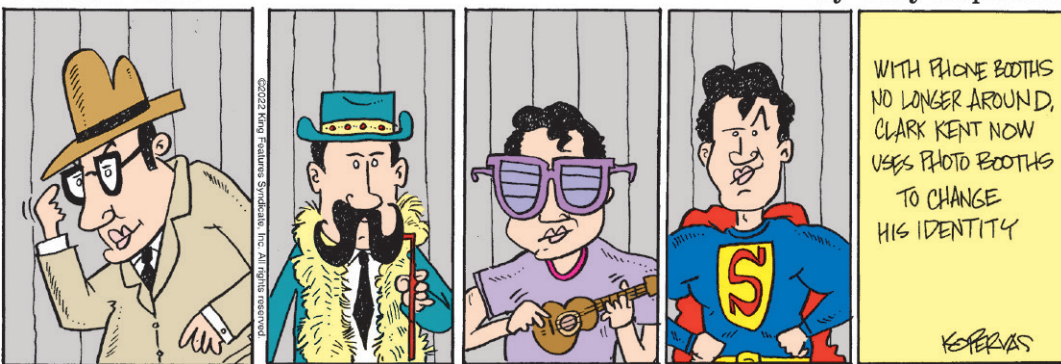
In double boiler over barely simmering water, melt chocolate, stirring until smooth, or melt according to package directions.

Stir in crushed peppermints after chocolate is melted. Pour chocolate mixture over popcorn mixture and stir to coat. Spread onto prepared pan; cool completely.

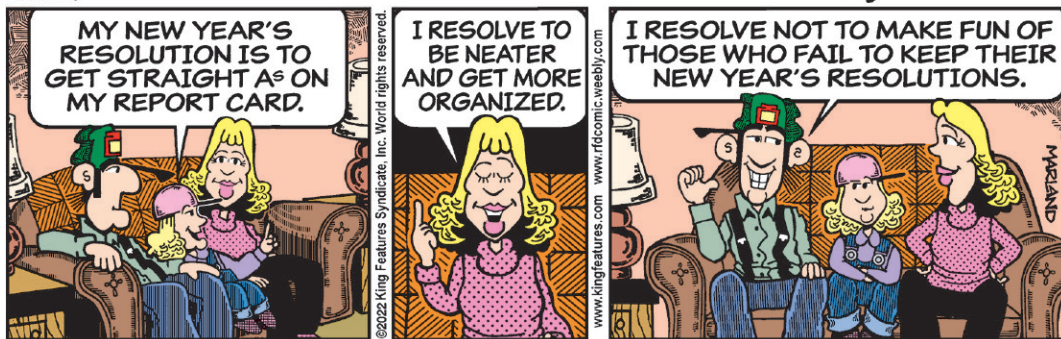
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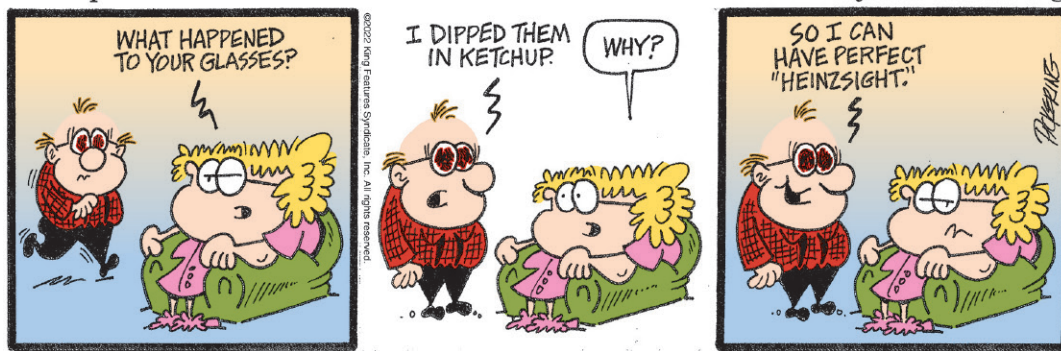
Out on a Limb



R.F.D.



The Spats

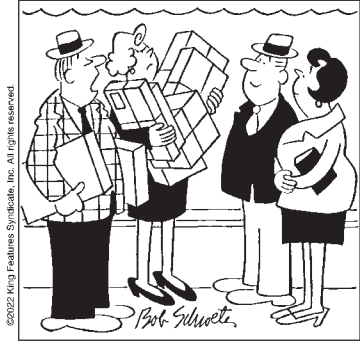


Just Like Cats & Dogs



OLIVE





"It all started when she found an empty _____ in the closet this morning!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Athletic
EIGAL

Portion
HEARS

Frail
RENTED

Turned
WEAKS

TODAY'S WORD

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Mike Marland

by Jeff Pickering

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dallas cager, for short
- 4 Reindeer herder
- 8 Persian leader
- 12 Hit CBS series
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Roof overhang
- 15 Like some salad dressings
- 17 Frat letters
- 18 Duo
- 19 Sikhs' headwear
- 21 Enjoy, as fine food
- 24 Luau bowlful
- 25 Guitar's kin
- 26 Yule quaff
- 28 Desert flora
- 32 Simple
- 34 Drench
- 36 Lunch herb
- 37 Pesto herb
- 39 Super Bowl VIP
- 41 P followers
- 42 Joke
- 44 Learned one
- 46 Sans
- 50 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 51 Coup d' —
- 52 "Deathtrap" playwright
- 56 Impetuous
- 57 Toy block name

DOWN

- 9 "Funny!"
- 10 Bard's river
- 11 Big name in oil
- 16 Farm female
- 20 Sinbad's bird
- 21 — luck (accidental success)
- 22 Furniture brand
- 23 At once
- 27 Jewel
- 29 French chicken dish
- 30 Undecided
- 31 "Meet Me — Louis"
- 33 Pizza slices,

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- 58 Here, to Henri
- 59 BPOE members
- 60 Beloved
- 61 Fanatic
- often
- 35 Sports bar sets
- 38 Asian language
- 40 Wan quality
- 43 Screen Actors —
- 45 Compete
- 46 Existed
- 47 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 48 Chore
- 49 Sloth's home
- 53 Khan title
- 54 Post-op area
- 55 Little louse

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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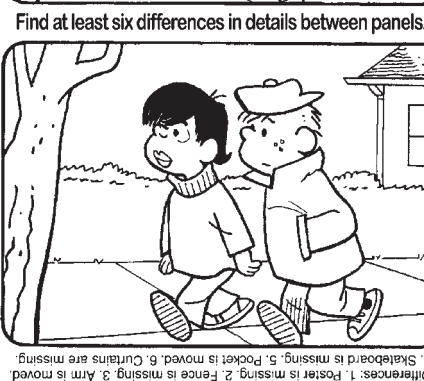
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦
♦♦♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLINOFF



Differences: 1. Poster is missing; 2. Fence is missing; 3. Arm is moved; 4. Skateboard is missing; 5. Pocket is moved; 6. Curtains are missing; 7. The most distant region in our solar system, beyond the Kuiper Belt; 8. Night; 9. Albumen; 10. 12 feet in diameter.

HANGER

Today's Word

3. Tender; 4. Askew

1. Agile; 2. Share; solution

SCRAMBLERS

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: B equals H

HUAPB RGAUKEHG PUZH ZEPB G

DAMGTEJBKN BEFB VUVLKGPEUH

UD VGAPERLKGK SGSN SEAYJ UD

VAMN: TEYNN BGZT.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the next-door neighbor on TV's sitcom "Home Improvement"?
- 2. LITERATURE: Which war was the setting for Anthony Doerr's novel "All the Light We Cannot See"?
- 3. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "All Along the Watchtower," performed by Jimi Hendrix?
- 4. GEOGRAPHY: When is Earth Day celebrated each year?
- 5. HISTORY: Which two city-states fought the Peloponnesian War?
- 6. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for the disorder called sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia?
- 7. ASTRONOMY: Where is the Oort Cloud in space?
- 8. GEOMETRY: How many sides does a nonagon have?
- 9. FOOD & DRINK: What's another name for egg white?
- 10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How large is the Times Square ball that drops at midnight on New Year's Eve?

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- 10. 12 feet in diameter.
- 9. Albumen.
- 8. Night.
- 7. The most distant region in our solar system, beyond the Kuiper Belt.
- 6. Brain freeze.
- 5. Athens and Sparta.
- 4. April 22.
- 3. Bob Dylan.
- 2. WWII.
- 1. Wilson.

M	A	V	L	A	P	S	H	A	H
C	S	I	N	E	A	R	E	A	V
V	I	N	E	G	A	R	E	A	V
S	O	S	I	N	E	G	A	R	E
S	N	S	A	S	T	O	W	A	S
D	I	N	E	O	N	P	O	I	O
U	K	E	N	O	G	C	A	C	T
B	M	E	R	E	W	E	T	M	O
G	A	S	I	L	V	A	P	O	R
N	T	S	A	V	A	T	L	I	O
W	I	T	O	H	O	I	L	I	O
E	T	A	T	I	L	E	G	A	L
R	A	S	H	I	L	E	G	A	L
E	L	K	S	D	E	A	R	D	E

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1	9	6	2	7	4	3	8	5
7	2	5	3	8	1	9	4	6
3	4	8	6	5	6	7	2	1
6	8	2	6	1	3	4	5	7
5	6	3	8	4	7	1	9	2
4	1	7	5	2	9	6	3	8
2	3	1	4	6	8	5	2	7
8	7	4	1	6	5	2	6	3
6	5	9	7	3	2	8	1	4

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

answer
North Carolina town with a freakishly high population of particularly baby birds of prey: Kiddy Hawk.



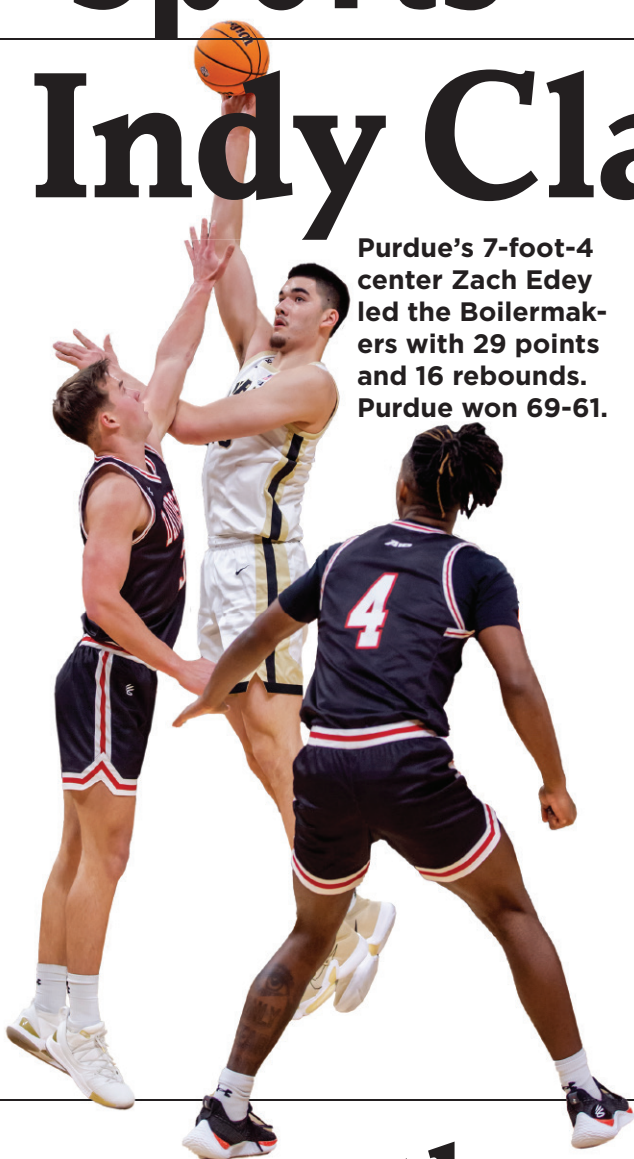
Congratulations 2023 Award Winners!



2022 Indy Classic



Ball State's Jalen Windham (a Ben Davis graduate) runs the fast break as Ball State beats Illinois State 83-69 at the Indy Classic.



Purdue's 7-foot-4 center Zach Edey led the Boilermakers with 29 points and 16 rebounds. Purdue won 69-61.



Purdue freshman Braden Smith (a Westfield graduate) had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Boilermakers. (Photos/David Dixon)

Esports seen as pathway to boost diversity in STEM careers

By **CLAIRE SAVAGE**
Associated Press/Report for America

CHICAGO (AP) — As a kid, Kevin Fair would take apart his Nintendo console, troubleshoot issues and put it back together again — experiences the Black entrepreneur says represented “a life trajectory changing moment” when he realized the entertainment system was more than a toy.

“I think I was just genuinely inspired by digital technology,” he said.

Motivated by his love for video games, Fair learned to code and fix computers. In 2009, he started I Play Games!, a Chicago-based business that exposes young people of color to a side of video gaming they might not have otherwise known existed.

By channeling students’ enthusiasm for esports — multiplayer competitive video games — schools and businesses like Fair’s aim to prepare them for careers in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, at a time when the fields lack racial diversity.

Despite industry inequality and representation issues, young video game users are diverse. A 2015 Pew Research Center study found Black teens are slightly more likely than their peers to play video games, while roughly the same amount of white and Hispanic teens play.

Meanwhile, Black and Hispanic workers make up just 9% and 8% of STEM employees in the U.S. respectively, Pew said last year.

Fair said businesses like his will help close the diversity gap. Increasing diversity in STEM would

improve pay equity, invigorate innovation and help keep America competitive on a global scale, as testing reveals the U.S. is lagging in STEM education.

University of California Irvine research supports Fair’s strategy: a collaborative program with the North America Scholastic Esports Federation found that school-affiliated clubs aimed at using student interest in esports in an academic context facilitated math and science learning, increased STEM interest, and benefited kids at low-income schools the most.

Grace Collins, a Cleveland-area teacher who launched the first all-girls varsity esports high school team in 2018, said creating a welcome space and improving representation is crucial to building out diversity in both esports and STEM.

“I think the challenges for diversity in esports and the challenges for diversity in STEM are often very similar ... so solving this problem in one place can help alleviate them on the other side,” Collins said.

But video games are not a cure-all for the STEM diversity gap. “It’s a systemic problem that’s way bigger than esports,” Wilke said.

Lack of representation, online extremism and expensive equipment buy-in could have the opposite effect by reinforcing stereotypes and exacerbating inequality.

Although surveys show increases in developers of color, white men remain overrepresented in the gaming industry.

Fair said there is a long way to go to improving racial diversity in both STEM and esports.

“I can have a lot of kids that love playing FIFA. But

that doesn’t mean that they’re going to desire to become engineers,” he said. “You have to kind of try and show directly how what they’re doing, the activity that they want to do connects to something that they can make money in.”

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

Shemar Worthy, a 21-year-old DePaul senior majoring in information systems, plays an online game at the university’s Esports Gaming Center (AP Photo/Claire Savage)



Colts continue to seek answers after historic collapse

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jeff Saturday still believes the Indianapolis Colts made the right calls in an inexplicable loss at Minnesota on Dec. 17.

The interim coach contends they didn’t play too conservatively after taking a 33-0 halftime lead and has no regrets about trying a quarterback sneak on fourth-and-inches that came up short rather than attempting a long field goal to extend their lead late in regulation.

Regardless, the 39-36 overtime loss that capped the NFL’s largest comeback in league history only added one more embarrassing chapter to a season most Colts fans would rather forget.

“I wouldn’t change any of it,” Saturday said of his decisions. “It is what it is, you’ve got to get it. The game is over if we get it. I’ll never back down from that call, I can assure you. I loved where we were. I felt that was how we were going to close the game out and unfortunately, we didn’t.”

That’s certainly the way Saturday the player and his teammates would have approached it during their careers. Of course, back then, Peyton Manning was orchestrating his own comebacks.

But things have changed dramatically for a franchise that has been seeking stability at quarterback since Andrew Luck’s sudden retirement in August 2019 and hasn’t found a solution to their turnover disparity or inability to protect leads.

Now the Colts (4-9-1) find themselves on the edge of becoming the third AFC

team to be mathematically eliminated from the playoffs while entering another uncertain offseason after a host of midseason changes.

Plus, the Colts must decide what to do with 37-year-old quarterback Matt Ryan — perhaps sooner rather than later given the circumstances. Saturday says Ryan will continue to start.

But even that will be up for debate after this season. After losing four straight since winning his head coaching debut at Las Vegas in early November, fans are clamoring for more changes and Saturday’s clock management and play-calling have been heavily scrutinized.

And yet, Saturday still wants the job, and his players still want him in the locker room.

“He’s an awesome coach, filling in, doing the best he can,” Pro Bowl center Ryan Kelly said. “I thought the challenges he put out there were awesome, and he’s got our back 100%. I love the guy.”

WHAT’S WORKING

Pass rush. Despite all the problems, Indy’s defense has generally played well — especially the pass defense. Against the Vikings, they put Kirk Cousins under constant duress, sacking him seven times to give the Colts 39 and a top-10 ranking this season.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Finishing. Since Saturday replaced the fired Reich, Indy has blown fourth-quarter leads against Philadelphia and Pittsburgh at home, gave up the second-most fourth-quarter points in



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Matt Ryan (2) is stopped on a fourth down run during the second half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, in Minneapolis. (AP Photo/Abbie Parr)

an NFL game (33) at Dallas and now has blown a 33-point halftime lead at Minnesota.

STOCK UP

Dayo Odeyingbo. Despite committing a key penalty, the second-year defensive end delivered the most productive day of his career. He entered Week 15 with 25 tackles and two sacks in his career. Against Minnesota he had five tackles, four solos, and matched his previous total for sacks.

STOCK DOWN

Ryan. While he had no giveaways this week, Ryan now holds the distinction of being the quarterback on the wrong side of the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history and the greatest comeback in regular-season history.

INJURIES

Jonathan Taylor, the 2021 NFL rush-

ing champ, didn’t even make it through the first series before re-injuring his ankle. Had Taylor played, it might have helped Indy ice a victory. Now it appears he could miss the rest of the season with a high ankle sprain.

KEY NUMBERS

460 — Even though it was obvious the Vikings would spend most of the second half throwing the ball, the league’s No. 3-ranked pass defense couldn’t stop them. Kirk Cousins wound up throwing for 460 yards and four touchdowns.

NEXT STEPS

After massive collapses in two games, it’s hard to know what to expect next. A sub-.500 record, Taylor’s injury and Ryan’s future are all forcing Indy to search for answers. Wins won’t be enough at this point. Indy needs to start thinking about the future.