

'THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN!'

Activists protest NRA Convention in downtown Indianapolis
Over 50 protesters demonstrated at a park in front of the Convention Center where the NRA held their annual event



Activist, Jauston "TheKingTrill" Huerta hugging a fellow protester
 By: **JADE JACKSON**
 JadeJ@IndyRecorder.com

Demonstrators took turns reading the names of thousands of children killed by gun violence as they protested outside the NRA Convention last weekend. They demanded action on gun con-

rol, with some laying out in the grass to symbolize deaths caused by gun violence. They want the NRA to stop obstructing gun control legislation. "Our kids are worth more than your guns!" Their chants could be heard across the street from the event.

See NRA, A8▶

IT COULD HAPPEN HERE:

Tennessee lawmakers reinstated to statehouse
With 70 Republicans and only 30 Democrats in the House of Representatives, Indiana, like Tennessee, is a Republican Supermajority



State Rep. Justin Jones, D-Nashville, center, marches with supporters to the state Capitol Monday, April 10, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)
 By: **JADE JACKSON**
 JadeJ@IndyRecorder.com

House in the last two weeks should be a wake-up call for Hoosiers. State Rep. John L. Bartlett, the parliamentarian for the group, said the Republican-led Tennessee House targeted two Black lawmakers for pro-

A top state lawmaker in the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, said the shocking events in the Tennessee

See LAWMAKERS, A8▶

Two officers charged with felonies in death of Herman Whitfield III



By **JAYDEN KENNETT**
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Two Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers were charged with felonies for their alleged roles in the in-custody death of Herman Whitfield III. A Marion County grand jury indicted the officers for their alleged roles in the death April 13. An indictment is a finding of probable cause to hold a trial, according to a news release. "Chief Taylor respects the grand jury process. As with anyone under indictment, the officers should be considered innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law," IMPD said in a prepared statement. "Mr. Whitfield's death was a tragedy for all involved, and our thoughts continue to be with those impacted

by his loss." Whitfield III died in police custody April 25, 2022 after five IMPD officers and a trainee were called to the family's home for an apparent mental health crisis. Whitfield died in police custody after being tased, handcuffed and held in the prone position for more than five minutes. His death was ruled a homicide by the Marion County Coroner's Office last July, according to a report from the coroner. Whitfield died of "cardiopulmonary arrest in the setting of law enforcement subdual, prone restraint and conducted electrical weapon use." The report also lists "morbid obesity" and "hypertensive cardiovascular disease" as contributing factors in his death. Bond was set at \$15,000 for

IMPD Officers Adam Ahmad and Steven Sanchez. Ahmad was indicted on charges of involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, battery resulting in serious bodily injury, battery resulting in moderate injury and battery. Sanchez was indicted on two counts of involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, battery resulting in serious bodily injury, battery resulting in moderate injury and battery. All six officers involved, including Ahmad and Sanchez, remain on paid administrative duty status, according to IMPD. Contact staff writer Jayden Kennett at 317-762-7847 or by email jaydenk@indyrecorder.com. Follow her on twitter @JournoJay.

'Life looks a lot different right now'; Black teen hospitalized after being shot by homeowner

By **TIMORIA CUNNINGHAM**
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Ralph Yarl, (pictured right) a Black teen from Kansas City, Missouri was hospitalized when he was shot after knocking on the wrong door. The Staley High School junior drove to a home one block from his own to pick up his siblings in the evening of April 13. He did not have his phone with him at the time and drove to the wrong house. According to a GoFundMe statement created by Faith Spoonmore, Yarl's aunt, "the man in the home opened the door, looked my nephew in the eye, and shot him in the head." Spoonmore said that Yarl fell to the ground after being shot, "and the man shot him again." Just before 10 p.m. officers were called to the residence where Yarl was found.



According to a statement from the Kansas City Police Department, Yarl "was transported to a local hospital for his injuries. The homeowner was taken into custody and placed on a 24-hour investigative hold," the Kansas City Police Department said in a statement. "Detectives and Crime Scene personnel immediately responded, processed the scene and recovered a firearm." In her statement, Spoonmore described her nephew as kind, quiet, friendly and well-mannered. She wrote that "life looks a lot different right now," and although the 16-year-old is "doing well physically" he has a long road ahead "mentally and emotionally," the statement said. Contact staff writer Timoria Cunningham at 317-762-7854. Follow her on Twitter @timoriac.

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Hands-on Black History Two Hours Away

By EDUCATOR BARNES

Travel doesn't have to be expensive, and it does not have to be far away. My husband and I were in a conundrum as our twin sons' spring break approached. In kindergarten, we took them to Washington D.C. One of my sons learned about the Dr. King monument that school year and asked to see it in person. We got on a plane and flew to D.C.

However, every year, it is not feasible for us, both my husband and I, to get days off during their spring break. Spring break dates are popular request times. Most jobs rotate time off, so the same employees don't have the same breaks off.

This year, for 6th grade, we set our sights on Louisville, KY. At a minimum, we knew we could drive back home on the same day if necessary. I was born in Jeffersonville, IN, a small city that many people don't know about. Normally, I say, "I was born in Jeffersonville, IN, which is across the bridge from Louisville." Due to the Kentucky Derby, most folks know where Louisville is, which gives them an idea of where I was born. However, I was raised in Indy. When you have family who lives so close to Louisville, many times, they aren't interested in exploring the city. At 39 years old, I decided that it was about time to do so.

As a former English teacher and current college professor, I like to ask students, "Where are the Black people?" or "What is the Black history in this place?" Black people are everywhere. This country was built on our backs through forced and unpaid labor. When we were in Louisville, I asked these same



questions. This landed us at the Roots 101 African-American Museum. This museum was named USA Today's Top 10 Best New attractions of 2021.

When we entered, we were greeted by Lamont Collins, the museum's founder. He told us that he named the museum Roots 101 because he wanted Black people, especially children, to learn their roots and to know we have a rich history in Africa that did not begin with African enslavement. The 101 part of the name is based on the fact that foundational college courses are typically labeled 101. He sees the museum as a starting place that will hopefully spark continued education.

The museum journey starts in Africa and weaves its way to the last exhibit, Black Future. Since the museum is in Louisville, local history is interwoven throughout the national Black history captured in the museum. Local highlights include Muhammad Ali, The Allen Hotel, a

hotel listed in the Green Book that let Black people know which places were safe for them when traveling, and the tragic murder of Breonna Taylor, an injustice that captured national attention.

My boys enjoyed the experience. Their favorite part is that you could touch items in the museum. This is not always the case in other museums.

Hoosiers, fill up the tank and head down the highway to the Roots-101 African-American Museum. You won't regret it.

Contact Indy Kids Winning reporter Educator Barnes at 317-721-2181 or shawntab@indyrecorder.com. Follow her on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & TikTok @educatorbarnes.

Educator Barnes' work is supported through a partnership between Indy Kids Winning and the Indianapolis Recorder. Visit indykidswinning.com to learn more.



Principals in the Ocelotl Mino cohort meet to address student achievement.

Principals of color connect to improve student achievement

By PATRICK JONES II

MelanatED Leaders, a non-profit organization that caters to education leaders of color in Indianapolis, has established a cohort of dedicated principals known as Ocelotl Mino. According to Priya Parker, author of "The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters," the first step in gathering is "committing to a bold, sharp purpose." This cohort aims to provide a platform for education leaders of color to commit to the bold purpose of sharing feedback and strategies for improving student proficiency, especially among students of color.

The group is named after the jaguar warriors in ancient Aztec culture and the women warriors of West Africa in the Kingdom of Dahomey, both of whom were called upon during times of struggle and turmoil. The group is led by Darius Sawyers, former principal of Paramount Englewood Middle School, who now serves as the Chief Strategy Officer for Teach for America Indianapolis.

"Sharing space with other leaders who are just as fired up about student academic outcomes is priceless. It's

urgent that we get this right," said Sawyers.

Ocelotl Mino includes leaders from Adelante Schools, The PATH School, Paramount Virtual, and Monarca Academy.

"We come together as a collective to do the necessary work to move the needle forward with academic success for our students. Each leader brings the mindset that this work is urgent and change has to happen now!" says Brandalynn Hayes, DEI manager and principal of Paramount Online school.

MelanatED Leaders believes that this gathering space for leaders of color is exceptionally important in growing Black and Latino principals in Indianapolis and driving student achievement. Early literacy and math skills are linked to lifetime financial and professional success, making it critical for education leaders to develop strategies that support these skills.

Through the Ocelotl Mino cohort, MelanatED Leaders is working towards training leaders and creating a better school environment for students of color in Indianapolis.

Contact Patrick Jones II at info@melanatedleaders.org.

APRIL 8TH-29TH

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THIS WEEKEND IN THE ARTS: APRIL 21-23

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

Whether you're looking to go out with family or friends this weekend, enjoy live music, visit a museum, art gallery or try out a new restaurant, the Indianapolis Recorder has you covered. We've put together an extensive list of just a few of the events and activities going on in and around Indianapolis in This Weekend in the Arts.

Unfortunately, we couldn't cover everything going on in one calendar. So, if there's something going on that we and other Hoosiers should know about this month, feel free to let us know! Send an email to newsroom@indyrecorder.com so we can include it in the next edition.

Friday, April 21

Tea's The Artist Open Mic Night

Tea's Me Cafe Indy, 140 E. 22nd St.
#B

6-8 p.m.

\$10

Returning for monthly Third Fridays due to popular community demand, Tea's Me is presenting an open mic centered around youth and teens. The event is family-friendly and open to all to share their talents, whether it be singing, dancing, poetry or musical instruments.

eventbrite.com/e/teas-the-artist-open-mic-night-tickets-457237057347

Premium Blend Presents: Space Jams

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian St.

7-10 p.m.

\$10; free for children under 18

Presented by MAP FUND, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Jazz Foundation, From the 317 and GangGang, Space Jams will feature two live performances of Premium Blend's new album, "Virtue," with digital animation in the planetarium. Premium Blend includes saxophonist Jared Thompson, guitarist Ryan Taylor, keyboardist Steven Jones, drummer Richard "Sleepy" Floyd and bassist Brandon Meeks.

childrensmuseum.org and eventbrite.com/e/premium-blend-presents-space-jams-tickets-567315254197

Salute to Black Medical Heroes Youth Summit

Central Library, 40 E. St. Clair St.

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Free

Students from local schools grades 3-12 can participate in Central Library's Salute to Black Medical Heroes Youth Summit, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Chemen Neal, MD, Executive Associate Dean and Chief Diversity Officer of Indiana University School of Medicine. A registration form for school groups is available on the library's website. Students ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

attend.indypl.org/event/8160338

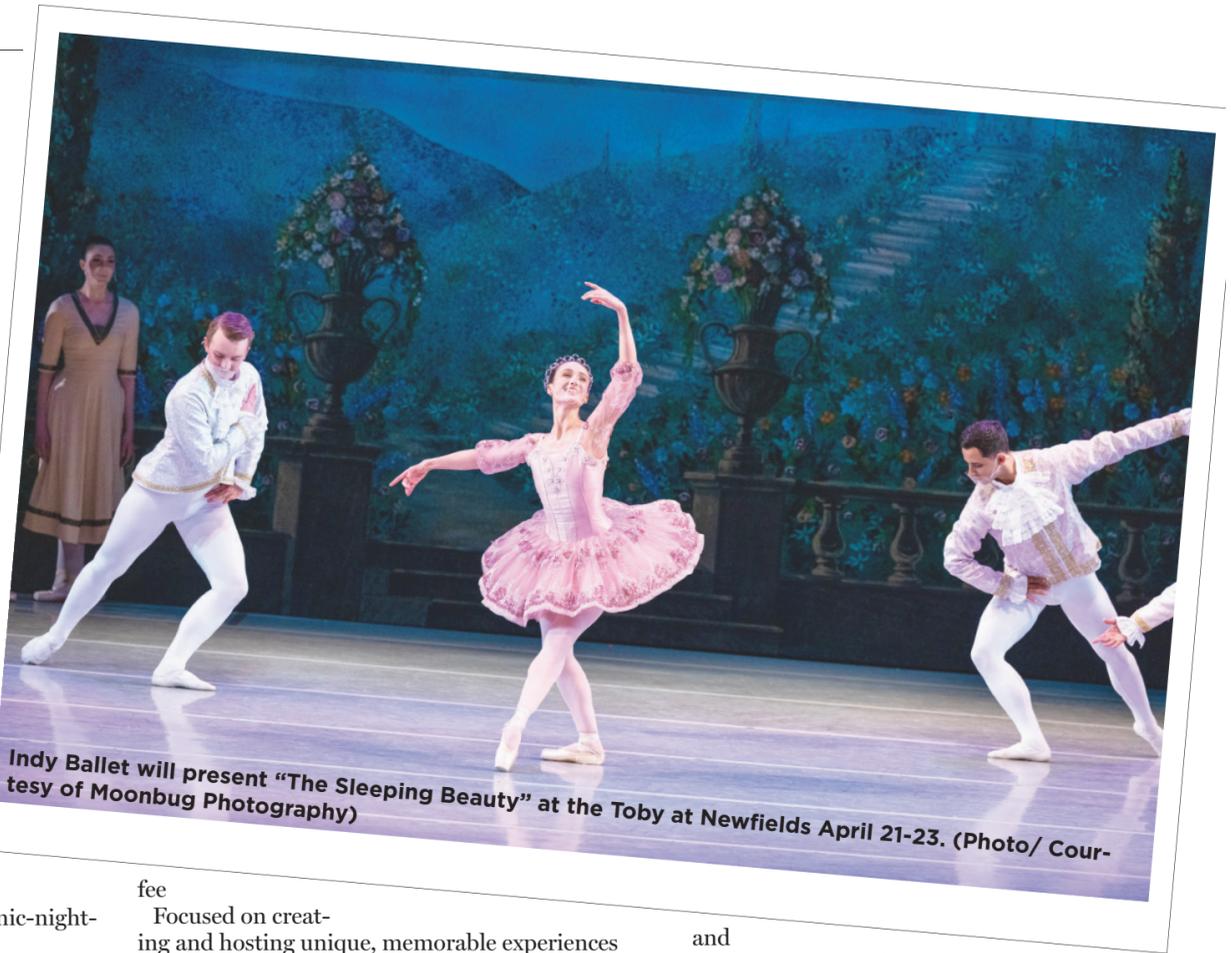
Saturday, April 22

Beautiful Brown Girls April Brunch

BlankUs Luxury Lounge, 501 N. College Ave.

11 a.m.

Tickets start at \$10; additional \$10 non-member



Indy Ballet will present "The Sleeping Beauty" at the Toby at Newfields April 21-23. (Photo/ Courtesy of Moonbug Photography)

fee

Focused on creating and hosting unique, memorable experiences for women of color around the country since 2012, Beautiful Brown Girls' April Brunch in Indianapolis will feature a menu catered by BlankUS Luxury Lounge.

[Beautifulbrowngirls.com](https://beautifulbrowngirls.com)

The Sleeping Beauty

The Toby, Newfields, 4000 N Michigan Road

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets start at \$35

Indy Ballet presents a timeless fairytale full of love and magic with "The Sleeping Beauty" at The Toby. Told through three stunning acts, this ballet is approximately two hours with two brief intermissions and is recommended for guests ages 5 and older.

indyballet.org/beauty

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.

IndyFringe Basile Theatre, 719 E. St. Clair St.

7:30-8:30 p.m.

\$6-\$16

Featuring a cast of student performers, this fast-paced musical — based on the 1970s cartoon — follows young schoolteacher Tom as he navigates through his first day of teaching. Various characters who represent different facets of Tom's personality emerge from the TV set to show him creative and innovative ways to win over his students through music.

indyfringe.org/upcoming-shows

Sunday, April 23

Sensory Friendly Afternoon

Indiana State Museum, 650 W Washington St

3-5 p.m.

\$11-\$16; included with general admission

In partnership with the Autism Society, the Indiana State Museum will host an interactive learning

and

museum day experience specifically tailored toward individuals with sensory processing needs. Sensory-based activities will be set up throughout the museum, in addition to social narratives at the ticket counter, and Sensory Bags can be checked out to elevate the trip. The Autism Society of Indiana will also be onsite to assist families as needed.

indianamuseum.org

World Book Day Story Time

Indy Reads, 1066 Virginia Ave.

2-3 p.m.

Pay What You Can or \$10-\$20 donation

Students, staff and volunteers of Indy Reads will present an array of children's stories in multiple languages during Story Time for World Book Day. The family-friendly event welcomes children and people of all ages and features an activity where guests can make their own bookmark.

eventbrite.com/e/world-book-day-story-time-tickets-605215173877

Brenda Williams

The Jazz Kitchen, 5377 N. College Ave.

7 p.m.

Tickets start at \$20

Patrons are invited to join Indy-based jazz singer and actress Brenda Williams for a night of soulful tunes, sultry jazz melodies and powerful Motown classics. The event will also include dining and beverage options.

thejazzkitchen.com

Please note: Admission and ticket prices listed are general and before taxes/fees.

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

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Centerstage takes place at the Herron School of Art and Design, 725 W. New York St., April 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Photo provided by IUPUI)



“One” by Lanetta Kennedy explores topics of colorism and bias among a group of college students as they wait out a storm together. (Photo provided by IUPUI)

ANNUAL BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP TO RETURN; PREMIER NEW PLAY

By **CHLOE MCGOWAN**
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The second annual Centerstage workshop series returns this month with keynote speaker Dr. Jackie Taylor and the world premiere of local playwright’s Lanetta Kennedy’s one-act play.

The workshop series — presented by the African Repertory Theatre of IUPUI — returns April 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Herron School of Art and Design, and focuses on training young and aspiring Black actors, directors, set and costume designer; and lighting and sound technicians in the basics of the industry, said Vernon A. Williams, IUPUI’s communications and community engagement strategist, and director of OnyxFest.

“If you’re interested in Black theater, then this is the place for you to be,” Williams said. “It doesn’t matter how little experience you have, or how much experience you have, there’s always areas in which you can learn more, and that’s what we are going to try to achieve during this lively exchange of information.”

Williams said Centerstage was started in 2022 as a response to community requests to expand the knowledge and relationship building within the Black theatre community. One of the unique things about the workshop series is that it also brings in industry professionals and educators to highlight the behind-the-scenes operations, such as marketing and financing, in addition to on and offstage work, Williams said.

“We wanted to do something that would cover the gamut of aspects of production,” Williams said.

Even though the program is in its sophomore year, Williams said it’s already expanding. This year, there will be more workshops under each aspect of theatre — including “The Show,” “the Action,” “The Look” and “The Business.” Each touch on the many differ-

ent aspects of theatre, ranging from playwriting, directing, acting, design and visuals and production.

Centerstage will also conclude with the world premiere of Indianapolis-based playwright, singer and actress Lanetta Kennedy’s one-act play, “One,” at 1 p.m.

Taylor, the founder and CEO of the 40-year-old Black Ensemble Theater of Chicago, will deliver the keynote speech at 2 p.m.

“We talk about the production of Black theatre in theory during the workshops, and people get a chance to see it in practice with the production of ‘One,’” Williams said.

Kennedy, who wrote “One” during the pandemic, said it was inspired by conversations she had with her daughter about the colorism and stereotypes she’d encountered on campus at IU in Bloomington. Though she was disheartened to know things like this are still happening, Kennedy said at heart she was a storyteller, so she decided to write a play about the topic.

The play follows the story of a group of college students who are stranded in a dorm room during a storm and are forced to have a difficult conversation about colorism and confront their own biases. Kennedy said not all Black people identify with the same things and how much melanin they have doesn’t necessarily equate Blackness — but that doesn’t make anyone less than another.

“There is no measure of Blackness,” Kennedy said. “I also hope that when people walk away from this play, they understand the power in unity. I can be surrounded by light-skinned people, dark-skinned people, people of different colors, shades and still be united, and there’s strength behind that.”

Theater is a powerful tool, and Kennedy said powerful messages can be incorporated into plays and tackle nuances people don’t want to address while still maintaining humor

and serious emotions that resonate with audiences. “One” purposely incorporates language and music people in the Black community are familiar with to better connect them to the story and emotions on-stage,” Kennedy said.

“When you’re in a dorm room setting, it’s more intimate,” she said. “This is some one-on-one time, and you get to almost feel what the other person feels when they’re communicating with you.”

Kennedy is grateful for those who came before her and paved the way for Black playwrights to tell impactful stories, and said it brings her joy to know her work is now being used as an example for aspiring writers and actors and an outlet for positive messages.

Directly following the premiere of “One,” Williams said Taylor — who’s written and produced more than 100 plays and musical biographies — will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement award before giving a keynote speech and participating in a moderated Q&A.

“She is an extremely valuable addition to what we’re doing because she’s nationally known,” Williams said. “To have her come down and lend her expertise to Centerstage ... it’s gonna be quite a thrill to have her presence there, to have her present and to have her share her wealth of knowledge in terms of theatre with Centerstage.”

Centerstage takes place at the Herron School of Art and Design, 725 W. New York St., April 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Williams said the program will include breakfast and a light lunch, and workshops will take place in the Eskanzai Auditorium and breakout rooms. The workshops are free to attend, but registration is required and available on Eventbrite.

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

Sterling Elliott to join Carmel Symphony Orchestra for Masterworks 5

By **CHLOE MCGOWAN**
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Cellist Sterling Elliott will join the Carmel Symphony Orchestra for its last Masterworks performance of the season, performing Saint-Saens Concerto No. 1 at The Palladium April 22.

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra, which has been around for almost 50 years, is always comprised of 60 to 75 classically trained musicians primarily from the Carmel, Indianapolis and Fishers areas, as well as musicians from around the U.S. The orchestra hosts five Masterworks concerts each year with guest musicians and singers, in addition to its Pop series, which features music styles ranging from Broadway to jazz to Motown, said Janna Hyme, creative director of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra.

“We’re not only expanding our season but also the quality. I think it’s getting better all the time,” Hyme said. “My goal is just to have people in the community know that they have an orchestra in their town that is really top notch at their disposal, and we play all kinds of music.”

The final Masterworks concert of the 2022-23 season will feature guest cellist Sterling Elliott performing French composer Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns’ “Cello Concerto I,” and Hyme said she could not be more excited to introduce the Carmel community to such a talented, young musician.

“The thing about Sterling that’s so incredible is not only is he a great musician, but he is so well-rounded, so respectful, so kind and knowledgeable,” Hyme said. “People really gravitate towards him because I think he’s really got a star quality about him. He’s an excellent musician, and I can’t wait for a Carmel audience to get to know him and fall in love with him right away.”

The 23-year-old musician, who hails from a family of musicians in Newport News, Virginia, said he began playing the cello as early as three years old — though his mother bought him the cello while she was still pregnant with him, he said. Elliott’s mother is also violinist and he said she wanted to share her love for music with her children — and create her own string quartet.

In addition to touring and playing with orchestras around the country, Elliott said he is currently working on his master’s at The Juilliard School and plans to pursue an Arts Diploma following graduation this spring.

Although this is not Elliott’s first time playing under the direction of Hyme, this is his first time joining the CSO. He said it is always refreshing to play a piece so near and dear to him with a new orchestra.

“It’s always a pleasure to open up that interpretation — not only to different conductors or returning to the same conductor — but inviting musicians such as the Carmel Symphony Orchestra to join you in what will be a new experience and a new interpretation,” Elliott said. “I’m really excited to play the very first note and start that organic experience.”

The concerto, which is performed in three movements, is unique as it does not include pauses before each movement and has an abnormal non-existent introduction, Elliott said. However, he said listeners



have always regarded Saint-Saens Cello Concerto No. 1 as “a star concerto,” especially when it was first written and performed. The cello concerto was one of Saint-Saens’ first works to gain traction, and Elliott said contemporary critics praised the piece for being distinctive from his previous works.

That remains true today, as Elliott said many musicians learn and fall in love with the concerto at a young age because of its standard techniques, playing styles, and “almost magical” seamless transitions.

“It’s a little bit radical in that while it’s in three movements, it’s one continuous work,” Elliott said. “It occurs throughout, even within the movements, this idea that there is no flipping to the next chapter. When you enter a new emotion or introduce a new character, it just really quickly melts into very fast and traditional; it’s almost magical.”

Hyme said Saint-Saens was a child prodigy, and his cello concerto was written as a sort of dialogue between the orchestra and the cello. Elliott said the piece will feel like going on a journey to another world in the first and second movements, then coming full circle in the third. It’s an emotional concerto filled with feelings of defiance, strength and romance.

Masterworks 5 will also include Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, and the world premiere of In Rowan Oak: a piece written by living composer Dr. John Berners, a professor of music at the University of Indianapolis. Hyme said the piece is a tribute to American author William Faulkner, whose home in Mississippi is named Rowan Oak.

“This is a really cool piece; it’s quite difficult for the orchestra,” Hyme said. “But it has sort of a — he calls it a Southern Gothic style — and I really love that. We’re gonna come out on stage and talk about it, and then we’re going to perform it, and then we go into the Saint-Saens, and I love the juxtaposition of those two pieces together.”

Masterworks 5 takes place April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at The Palladium in Carmel, 1 Carter Green. Tickets start at \$10 and can be purchased at thecenterpresents.org. For information on the Carmel Symphony Orchestra’s upcoming season, visit carmelsymphony.org.

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

Indianapolis Professional Association (IPA) Spring Networking Luncheon



(L to R) - Attorney Huff, Clete Hassan Ladd, Innovator and Professor, University of Phoenix, College of Education, Gwendolyn.J. Kelley, Education Researcher and Lead Editor, NAACP - Indiana Black Academic, Earl L. Harris, Jr., Indiana State Representative, Chair, Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, Kimberly Stewart-Brinston, Senior Associate Director, Office of Admissions, IU Bloomington and Judy Ransom-Lewis.



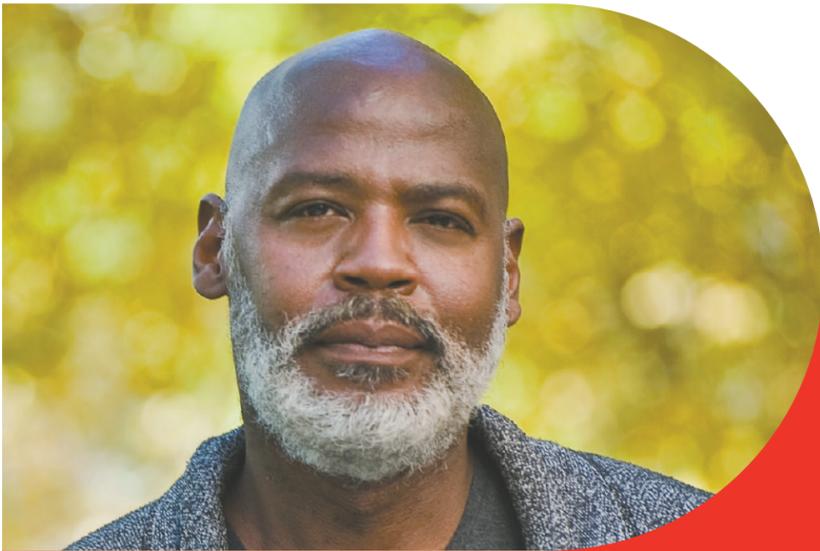
Attorney Bernard Huff



M Faye Godwin

The Indianapolis Professional Association (IPA) held their Spring Networking Luncheon recently at the Martin Luther King Center. The program and event coordinator was Attorney Bernard Huff. This year’s theme was “Exploring Racial Educational Gaps in local schools with substance and solutions”. Judy Ransom-Lewis is the IPA Board Chair and M. Faye Godwin is the IPA President. Photos/Curtis Guynn

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Lawrence Central High School Prom: The Roof was on fire!



Above: The Royal Court. (L to R) - Principal Bush, Jack Bilyeu, Jada Lee, Ayanna Johnson and Micha Williams. Right: Promgoers are all smiles.



Prom attendees pose for a group photo.



Promgoers enjoy a group dance.

Indiana is leading the charge in locating lead service lines, but more research is still needed

By **JAYDEN KENNETT**
jaydenk@indyrecorder.com

The Environmental Protection Agency announced in early April that the remaining funds from the \$15 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be allocated to states based on the greatest needs after a report found that the first round of funding left states with the most lead service lines behind.

Vice President Kamala Harris emphasized Biden's administration's commitment to supporting the replacement of all lead pipes within 10 years.

Research is the main component of locating lead service lines and has proven to be complicated. The Natural Resources Defense Council published a report last year that determined the EPA's published allotments for the first round of funding wasn't equitable and left states like Illinois, Michigan and Missouri receiving significantly less per line than other states.

Some states were receiving an estimated \$151 per lead service line, while other states were receiving an estimated \$10,000 per lead service line. Lead pipes are found in every state but are most prominent in the Midwest and Texas, according to NRDC. As states continue to identify the amount of lead pipes, the total number will increase and so may the price.

However, the lack of data is still concerning, according to NRDC. When the report was published in 2021, only 10 states — including Indiana — had an estimate on the number of lead pipes throughout the state, while a little less than half didn't have estimates at all, and other states were still completing surveys. NRDC estimated the total number of lead pipes in the United States to be more than 6 million. Based on new research, the EPA estimates that number to be closer to 9.2 million.

The exact number of lead pipes is still unknown. Indiana, however, has played a significant role in helping the nation identify holes in research when

it comes to lead service lines. Indiana is only one of two states to identify partial lead service lines, or pipes made from lead with connections to other materials such as plastic and copper. Citizens Energy Group has already begun replacing lines in some Indianapolis neighborhoods. NRDC expressed "significant concerns" that many other states and utilities have not tracked partial LSLs and millions may remain in the ground uncounted.

One notable change is that Florida has the most lead service lines in the nation and reported the number is actually 5x more than original estimates.

Children, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color experience the greatest burden from lead exposure, according to the Environmental Defense Fund. The Indiana Advisory Committee reported to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that lead exposure was becoming a civil rights issue in Indiana and impacting children of color the most.

"Indiana has a troubling history with caring for and protecting non-white residents from lead poisoning," the report said.

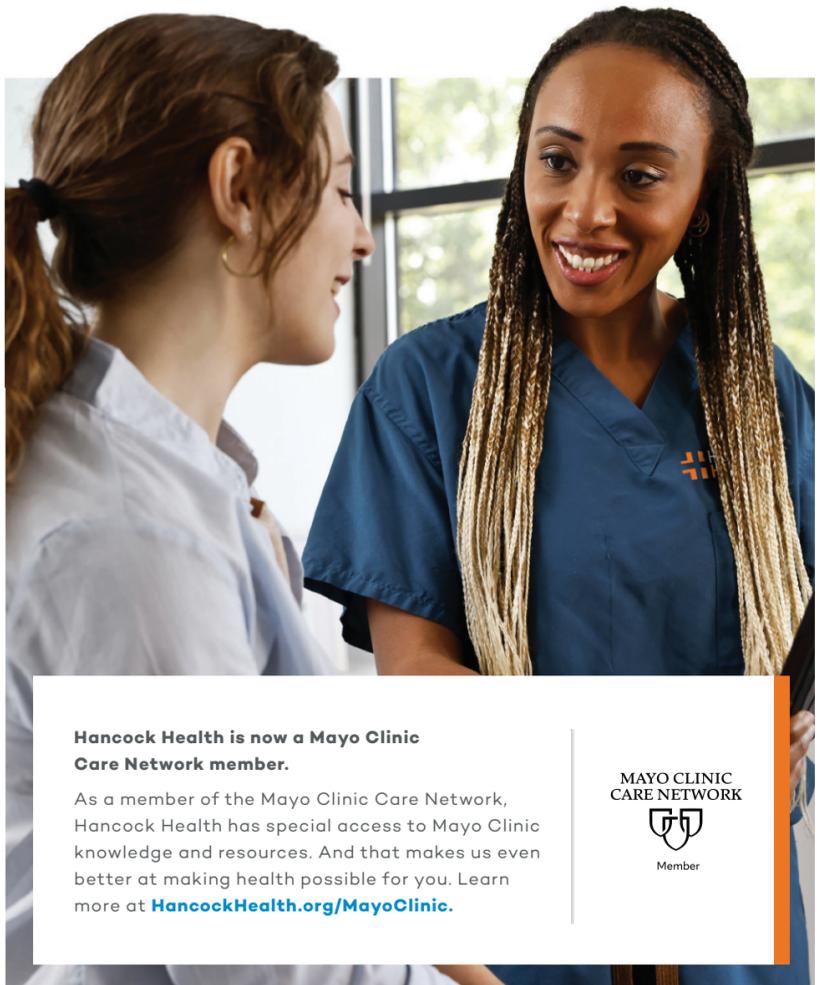
Records of lead service lines have helped Citizens positively identify and have ideas where lead service lines may be located, Dan Moran, director of water quality system control and planning at Citizens said.

"Drinking water won't be safe until the country pulls the millions of lead pipes out of the ground found in every state," said Erik D. Olson, senior strategic director for health at NRDC in a news release. "President Biden's American Jobs Plan is a historic opportunity to fix the nation's lead pipe crisis. Removing lead pipes will improve health and create jobs, starting in low-income communities and communities of color with the highest rates of lead exposure."

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



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LAWMAKERS

► Continued from A1

testing gun violence.

“What happened in Tennessee, in my opinion, is illegal,” Bartlett said. “It was a direct attack on those lawmakers. That same situation could happen here. There are rules and regulations in any organization, but what happened there seems to be creeping more and more across the nation,” said Bartlett.

Tennessee Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, both Democrats, lead gun control protests on the chamber floor earlier this month following the Covenant School shooting. One week later, Nashville’s Metro Council unanimously voted to reinstate them.

Greg Shufeldt, an associate professor of political science at the University of Indianapolis, said he’s worried that it may set a precedent that could lead to public mistrust.

He said a comparison could be drawn between what happened in Tennessee and what happened last week in the Indiana General Assembly when, during a party-line vote, Republicans welcomed the NRA to Indianapolis.

“We’ve seen some of the same type of legislation here in Indiana. Making the right to own a gun easier without requiring permits and things like that, but the opposition is less organized and less vocal, and there’s a variety of reasons for that,” said Shufeldt.

Indiana is one of 39 trifecta states, meaning one party holds the governorship and both legislative houses.

“Republicans control the Governor’s Mansion, the state House and the Senate. Of the 50 seats in the Indiana state Senate, Republicans have 40. Of the 100 state House seats, Republicans have 70, compared to Democrats’ 30,” said Shufeldt.

Justin Pearson celebrates with supporters after being reinstated to the Tennessee House of Representatives by the Shelby County Board of Commissioners building in Memphis, Tenn., on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. (Chris Day/The Commercial Appeal via AP)

Even with less organized opposition, could something similar to what happened in Tennessee happen in Indiana?

Article 4, Section 14 of the Indiana Constitution states:

Either House may punish its members for disorderly behavior, and may, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same cause.

Bartlett said committing a felony or taking a bribe are some of the crimes that would warrant an expulsion. Given that Republicans have more than two-thirds support to pass laws without Democratic participation, what happened in Tennessee could happen in Indiana, although it is not likely.

“I’ve seen some things in Indiana over the years that I did not agree with,” said Bartlett, “When I first came into the Statehouse back in 2008, if you were working in the health industry and a bill came up regarding health, you recused yourself. In my opinion, that’s

self-serving.”

Indiana Democrats have controlled the Statehouse in Indiana as recently as 2008, but the state has been under Republican control since 2010.

“The House and Senate get to have wide latitude to make their own rules. This goes for other states and the U.S. House and Senate. If you have two-thirds of the vote, you can kick somebody out for what’s considered disorderly behavior. It doesn’t have to be unlawful (conduct),” said Shufeldt.

What happened in Tennessee has been largely viewed as excessive overreach. It’s a power that the majority of lawmakers in Tennessee had the legal authority to do, but it’s a practice that Shufeldt said is rarely invoked.

“You have legislators who are convicted of crimes or involved in scandals. Very rarely would someone get expelled like this. In Tennessee, the law allows a temporary stop gap for local election authorities to appoint somebody back in their posi-

tion,” Shufeldt said.

Bartlett said there was a lot of support to put Jones and Pearson back in office.

He looks at their actions from a historical take of seeking action by being proactive. “There’s always this notion that you have to pay your dues and I’ve never really agreed with that. We need to embrace young folks and get them into the political arena. Do as they did. Get involved, get elected because the young folks make change,” said Bartlett.

Still, the supermajority action in Tennessee is what a lot of people are afraid of, Bartlett said.

Indiana State Representative Earl Harris Jr., D-East Chicago, issued the following statement regarding Tennessee Reps. Justin Jones and Justin Pearson, who were reinstated: “What we’re seeing in Tennessee ought to be a wakeup call for all Americans. Standing up for what we believe in is not just a cornerstone of being a public servant, it’s a

cornerstone of our collective democracy.

The expulsion of Reps. Jones and Pearson—yet not their white colleague who also participated in the rally—represents the growing tide of racism and partisanship in politics. While these issues have always existed, to see them be so clearly used to silence African American lawmakers in 2023 is shocking.

By partaking in the rally, these representatives were not only practicing their First Amendment rights, they were standing with their communities in the wake of senseless violence.”

Harris said the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus stands with Rep. Jones and Rep. Pearson just as they stand with every lawmaker trying to do right by their constituents and communities.

Contact senior staff writer Jade Jackson at 317-607-5792. Follow her on Facebook and Twitter @IAMJADEJACKSON

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NRA

► Continued from A1



Demonstrators took turns reading the names of thousands of children killed by gun violence while others laid out in the grass to symbolize their deaths.

John Klassen was in town for the NRA Convention, and he stood across the street, watching the protest intently before heading inside.

“I am very intrigued. I actually see three cop cars parked side by side over there, and I would like to ask the protesters specifically if they’d like for them to be disarmed as well,” said Klassen.

He said police have a duty to protect citizens and they do so with a gun. Vice versa, citizens also protect themselves by using guns.

Klassen is from Canada where citizens are allowed hunting and shotguns with a firearms acquisition certificate.

Firearms are federally regulated in his country.

Canadian law prohibits automatic weapons and rifles. It’s largely illegal for anyone except police and military to own them.

In 2020, CDC data showed that 79% of all homicides in the U.S. were gun related while only 37% of all homicides in Canada were.

“I live in a small rural town but if I lived in any other place, I would automatically feel unsafe at night. When you have a bigger city there’s more crime. I would like to defend myself if I had the option. That would be better than having nothing,” said Klassen.

When it comes to the overwhelming number of mass shootings in the states, Klassen feels that it’s a separate issue.

He wishes that people didn’t lump independent gun ownership in the same category as mass shootings.

“I do think that part of it is fear and them not knowing a lot about guns. Murder by itself is against the law and that’s something that the majority of us can’t even conceive of doing. Especially to little kids,” said Klassen.

That’s something that activist, Jouston “TheKingTrill” Huerta, said is directly related to gun ownership.

The most vocal at the protest, he said he’s seen too many people die for him not to speak up on the issue on gun control.

“The fact that these systems have normalized it. What we need to do is regulate this system so that our children no longer continue to perish in bloody warfare right before our very eyes,” said Huerta.

He wants legislation to address gun registration because it’s too easy for anyone to access any type of weapon. He’d like a more intense vetting system on purchasing firearms.

If there’s a person who has been documented with a mental illness, but can still walk into a local Walmart to purchase a gun, he said it’s not okay.

In recent years Walmart stopped selling modern sporting rifles and AR-15’s. “When it comes to children being killed by what you say is your God-given right, that’s the issue. There’s a connection, but they [NRA] try to spin it like it’s not connected,” said Huerta.

Contact senior staff writer Jade Jackson at 317-607-5792. Follow her on Facebook and Twitter @IAMJADEJACKSON

Remembering Anthony J. Bridgeman

April 5, 1972 to April 6, 2023



Born in Brooklyn, NY, Anthony J. Bridgeman made his mark on Indianapolis through a rich life filled with love for his family, service to his community, and a gift for connecting with others. He was a courageous leader, a strategic thinker, and a life-long learner who demonstrated his care for others in everything he did.

He moved to Indianapolis to attend Butler University. After graduating from Butler and later earning a master's degree in urban planning from IUPUI, Anthony put his talents to use in public, non-profit and private sectors. As Director of Community Initiatives at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Anthony led the Museum's community revitalization efforts by managing a \$3 million neighborhood improvement fund that invested in housing and removing blighted commercial and residential properties. He convened a broad-based coalition of community stakeholders, which worked towards positive community change in the immediate and adjacent neighborhoods to the Museum. He managed the Museum's community outreach programs to underserved households statewide. He also created and directed the Mid-North Promise Program, a neighborhood-based community development initiative providing case management, educational support services, and scholarships.

As Vice President of Community Development Banking at PNC, he helped execute the bank's Community Reinvestment Act strategy

by leveraging lending and investment tools with a focus on serving low- and moderate-income communities and households. He also led several programs with businesses and was often a thought leader on various panels, steering committees, and task forces on issues related to education, community development, human services and other issues.

Anthony channeled his passion for cycling and history into a higher civic cause. He was a founding member of the grassroots Major Taylor Coalition to honor Indianapolis native and world champion cyclist Marshall "Major" Taylor (1878-1932) with a large downtown mural as a trailblazing Black athlete. Anthony worked tirelessly and provided crucial connections with the Indianapolis Arts Council and other local organizations to make the project a reality. The five-story mural on the Barnes & Thornburg building on South Meridian Street was completed in 2021, with Anthony among the speakers at the dedication ceremony.

Anthony admired Taylor for his athletic achievement but even more for his high integrity and perseverance amid overt and persistent racism. Throughout the four years of working on the mural project, Anthony would bring his son, Grant, to meetings and events to honor Major Taylor and his legacy. "Anthony was kind and welcoming to my family and me from the moment we met him several years ago," wrote Karen Donovan, Major Taylor's great-granddaughter. "I appreciate all that he has done for Major's legacy, and I especially love that he is an incredible father to his son."

It was his role as father to Grant that Anthony cherished most. Together they enjoyed traveling, playing video games, watching movies, and many other adventures and interests. Anthony always was proud of Grant, and planned for Grant's future educational pursuits.

Anthony was interested in everything and everyone – learning, reading, eating great food (especially African and Caribbean cuisine), and making great friends along the way. He served on the boards of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, American Red Cross – Indiana Region, City of Indianapolis Business and Neighborhood Services, LISC Local Advisory Board, Indianapolis Board of Zoning Appeals and Momentum Indy.

He was an Indy's Best and Brightest Award Winner in 2012. In February 2023, Anthony was recognized with the Robert Zdenek Staff Member of the Year award at Prosperity Indiana's annual conference, a significant accomplishment in his field.

Anthony, who loved martial arts, riding his bike and other physical fitness, was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2020. He persevered through multiple rounds of various aggressive treatments (while working full time at a job he loved). After noticing new developments, his doctors placed him in hospice care in March 2023. His family is grateful for the care provided by Dr. Shadia I. Jalal and her team, who specialize in cancer treatment at the Multi-D Oncology Clinic for Indiana University Health. His final days included 24-hour care at home, listening to tribute videos, and being surrounded by family and friends.

Anthony leaves behind his beloved son, Grant J. Bridgeman, his parents Anthony J. (Hazel) Bridgeman Sr. and Janice (James) Lawson, as well as brothers Kevin Bridgeman, James 'Jimmy' Lawson, Ngozi Bridgeman, Njeri Bridgeman, extended family, best friend Marquisha Bridgeman and a host of close friends.

In Anthony's memory, you may consider making a gift to one of the many organizations Anthony served, including the Starfish Initiative, where he was a mentor, Freewheelin' Community Bikes, or Momentum Indy.

Annual 'open style' dance competition to return

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

The fourth annual Indy Open Dance competition is set to return this weekend.

Presented by Xiphos Corps at IUPUI, the competition, which aims to highlight dancers of all ages and skill levels from around Indianapolis and the greater Midwest region, will return to Emmerich Manual High School on April 22 at 5 p.m. The "open style" competition welcomes groups performing any style of dance to compete, said Indy Open spokesperson Chris Carrington.

"We at Indy Open Dance Competition pride ourselves in fostering the arts and especially, the dance community, here within central Indiana and the greater Midwest through our event," Carrington said. "We aim to provide an inclusive, engaging event that caters to all ages and backgrounds, dancer and non-dancer alike."

Indy Open will present 13 local and regional dance groups including Indanza Training Team and Dazzling Pearls from Indianapolis, Outlet Hip Hop Dance Troupe from Muncie, The Piecemakers from Chicago and more.

The competition will award cash prizes to the top three winners, including \$1200 for first place, \$600 for second place and \$200 for third place.

"We hope that this event builds the dance community and provides a space for teams to share their work," Carrington said.

The Indy Open Dance Competition will take place at Emmerich Manual High School, 2405 Madison Ave., April 22 at 5 p.m. Doors open at 4 p.m. Tickets start at \$15 and are available on Eventbrite or at facebook.com/indyopendancecompetition/.

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

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Black mothers' lives matter

By CAMIKE JONES
camikej@indyrecorder.com



President Biden, in an effort to shed light on the need to improve care for Black mothers, proclaimed April 11 through April 17, 2023 as Black Maternal Health Week. According to Biden's proclamation, "Black women in America are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women. This is on top of the fact that women in America are dying at a higher rate from pregnancy-related causes than in any other developed nation."

At a time that is supposed to be celebratory and joyous for the family, Black women are most vulnerable to inadequate healthcare stemming from institutional racism and the biases of healthcare professionals.

Serena Williams, undisputedly one of the greatest athletes of our generation, nearly succumbed to the subpar care she received during the birth of her daughter. In a Vogue story from February 2018, Williams recounts her pleas for a CT scan while in labor at the

hospital. First being dismissed by the nurses, Williams knew something was wrong and she knew she needed medical attention. She eventually received the CT scan which uncovered multiple blood clots in her lungs. Williams then underwent an emergency life-saving surgery. She has since shared her story to further advocate for healthcare professionals to listen to Black women when they are asking for help.

Despite her peak physical fitness and wealth, Williams was not immune from the biases in medical care. Fortunately, her voice was finally heard in time to save her life.

Myths about Black peoples' tolerance for pain persist. As found in a study on racial biases in medicine published by the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, 40% of medical students believed that Black people literally have thicker skin. Residents also believed that Black people had a higher tolerance for pain due to less sensitive nerve endings. Further, the underlying belief that Black patients are more inclined to abuse drugs, medical practitioners may be less likely to respond to requests for pain relieving medication.

As these myths continue to influence medical professionals, it is no wonder

that Black mothers are not receiving the care they need and deserve.

This country has not successfully honored the sacred time of pregnancy and delivery – especially for Black women. Just a few generations ago, Black enslaved mothers were birthing children in the field, handing their newborns over to wet nurses, and quickly returning to work on the plantation. Even now, mothers are applauded for how quickly they return to work or how little time they take off in the care of themselves and their young children.

The United States falls behind other developed countries in providing paid maternity leave. Neighboring countries like Canada and Mexico provide 100% of the mother's pay for 12 or more weeks after delivery, according to the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. With more than half of Black households being led by women, it makes sense that Black mothers may have to make the tough decision to prioritize returning to work over their own health.

We are long overdue for change as it pertains to Black maternal health. Biden's proclamation is a step in the

right direction. Having the support of the Biden administration in acknowledging this issue is momentous. This proclamation demonstrates that Black women's voices are being heard in a major way.

"I call upon all Americans to raise awareness of the state of Black maternal health in the United States by understanding the consequences of institutional racism; recognizing the scope of this problem and the need for urgent solutions; amplifying the voices and experiences of Black women, families, and communities; and committing to building a world in which Black women do not have to fear for their safety, their well-being, their dignity, or their lives before, during, and after pregnancy," proclaimed President Biden.

Black mothers deserve healthy pregnancies. Black mothers deserve to be heard when they are in pain. Black mothers deserve to survive their labor and have healthy babies. Black mothers deserve to live. Black mothers' lives matter.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Camike Jones at 317-762-7850 or by email at CamikeJ@IndyRecorder.com.

Cowardly Lyin'

By Larry Smith



How much does a lie cost? Apparently, the answer is \$787.5 million. That's the price that Fox News has agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems for intentionally broadcasting lies about the company interfering in the 2020 presidential election. (To be fair, that's not the cost of just one lie, but it's fair to say that it's the cost of

Fox News facilitating the same lie being spread over and over again on its airwaves.)

In stunning fashion, the companies agreed to the settlement mere minutes before their attorneys were to make opening statements in Dominion's defamation lawsuit against Fox. (The jury was seated and ready.) At issue was the fact that Fox News repeatedly aided and abetted representatives of Donald Trump who lied about Dominion "switching votes" to President Joe Biden in its voting machines. Based upon voluminous internal communication that Dominion had obtained, it was clear that Fox was well aware that such claims were false. Yet, Fox repeatedly facilitated the lie as if it were a fact.

Judge Eric Davis, who would have presided over the trial, wrote that the "evidence developed in this civil proceeding demonstrates that it is CRYSTAL clear that none of the statements relating to Dominion about the 2020 election are true." (His emphasis.) In commenting on the settlement, Fox admitted that Judge Davis determined that "certain claims about Dominion" that they aired were "false".

There is no spin in this zone; Fox News lied.

Notably, Fox did not apologize for spreading the hoax that Trump had won the election, which is something that Dominion had sought. Still, it's a stunning admission from a company that is extremely reluctant to admit intentional wrongdoing. Obviously, Fox's leaders concluded that having Rupert Murdoch, other executives, and Fox's high-profile personalities take the witness stand would have been disastrous.

Last year I wrote a column regarding the importance of truth, sharing some of the dangerous consequences of ignoring objective reality in favor of one's own narcissistic version of the "truth". I wrote in part:

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

Irrespective of whichever party would have prevailed in the civil trial, it is clear that democracy would have lost. If Fox had won, that company (and scores of its wannabes) would have been immeasurably emboldened to continue poisoning the well of truth and decency – both of which are integral to democracy. Yet, even if Dominion had won, the millions of people who are deluded into believing Fox's multiple lies on multiple topics would have con-

cluded that the jury was simply full of "woke liberals" who wanted to take down Fox. Democracy still loses in that scenario.

The only way for democracy to be strengthened is for media organizations, including Fox, to dedicate themselves to facts – regardless of what they may be. I understand that, in the short term, failing to propagate Trump's lies would hurt Fox's viewership (and thus its revenue). But truth is infinitely more important than profit.

In the Gospel of John, after a brief discussion with Jesus Christ, the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate asks Him, "What is truth?" Pilate doesn't wait for Jesus to answer, but he does declare that he finds "no guilt" in Him. Theologians are not completely sure why Pilate asks the question or what answer he desired. But the question itself still stands as an ontological wonder – one that we must constantly embrace.

At a minimum, truth is the antithesis of a lie. It stands on its own. Admittedly, it is often much more difficult to determine the mere facts, but the pursuit thereof should be the ultimate goal of all human beings. And while news organizations are not the ultimate arbiter of truth, they have a moral obligation to present the truth as best they understand it to be. That responsibility is not too much to ask in return for the privileged perch on which they sit.

As Fox News found out, intentional lies can be very costly. Fortunately, the truth is free.

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

Global Motivations: A Trusted Global Voice With Impact and Influence

By DR. TOBY MALICHI, Hon.D.Bus., D.H.L.



There are 8 billion people in the world! 96% of U.S. customers are outside of the borders of the United States which amounts to more than 79% of purchasing power. "Indiana has over 500,000 thousand small businesses that employes over 1.2 million Hoosiers." Not all are exporting or are export ready. Organizations like the Global Chamber Indianapolis and Indiana, U.S. Department of Commerce Export Center, Indiana District Export Council, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and Indiana District U.S. Small Business Administration are dedicated to providing global services that assist Indiana's startups, small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on "how to" capitalize on this vast global market economy. But wait, there's more!

Great news! Not only is Indiana going global, but Forbes Magazine voted Indiana as the number one state in America to start a business. As Founding Executive Chairman, of Malichi Group Worldwide (Malichi.com), my own global business has specialized in facilitating cross-border trade and invest-

ment deals, and global business diplomacy for more than 41 years. And, as owner and operator of Global Chamber Indianapolis and Indiana operating in over 195 countries, 525 Regional Metro Markets on 6 Continents, I am even more resolved and encouraged to inspire leadership, and provide principal, sage advice and wisdom to as many potential startups, and SMEs who want to "go or grow" globally. Kudos to all of Indiana's elected officials statewide who passed legislation into law that yielded Forbes exemplary honor.

Moreover and recently, I attended an 'Indiana Goes Global' conference. Incidentally, after I asked and answered a very serious question, backed by actual global business experience and credibility in response to the panel's presentation, many of the participants thought that I should have been a speaker. There were no black or brown on any of the panels, and in my professional opinion.....it showed!! However, the opening plenary panel of high-profile speakers, sponsored by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, DHL International, Andretti Autosport were superb to say the least. The esteemed panel were Indiana's great Secretary of Commerce, Brad Chambers, Mike Parra, Chief Executive Officer, DHL Americas, and the famed Indy 500 Race Driver,

Michael Andretti, owner. What a gentleman. Mr. Andretti told me personally and the participants that Andretti Autosport is hiring.

Larry Ingram, President of Larry Ingram and Associates stated, "Dr. Toby will have your business firing on all cylinders! He has an amazing track record for international business success!"

To that end. SAVE THE DATE! May 4th 2023. I am co-chairing my brainchild, Doing Business in Africa Conference, to be held at the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel.

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For any questions, comments or Conference Registration information. Please contact:

Dr. Toby Malichi, Hon.D.Bus., D.H.L. Malichi Group Worldwide, Direct: 317.515.8866 or email: Dr.Toby@malichi.com or LinkedIn.com @DrToby-Malichi

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BRANCH 2023 HOUSTON CHRONICLE

PARKLAND NASHVILLE UVALDE
 SANDY HOOK SANTA FE COLUMBINE etc...

Teen mom of triplets finds forever home with NICU nurse

Katrina Mullen, 45, and Shariya Small, 17, developed a bond after the teenager gave birth to triplets at the hospital where Mullen works

By **JADE JACKSON**
JadeJ@IndyRecorder.com

Caption: Shariya Small was adopted by Katrina Mullens who has five other children in February 2023

Katrina Mullens, a nurse, first noticed 14-year-old Shariya Small when she consistently arrived at Community Hospital North alone to visit the triplets that she had recently given birth to in the NICU.

"I just became her NICU mom. She would try to find me when I was at work if I wasn't taking care of the babies. I just noticed how quiet she was. She'd get dropped off at the hospital and spend two, three, four days sometimes just sleeping at their bedside," said Mullens.

The triplets, Sarayah, Serenitee and Samari were premature and spent close to five months in the NICU.

Mullens said she'd seen plenty of teen moms throughout her nursing career, but they'd usually be at least sixteen.

She herself was a teen mom and related to Small.

Mullens extended an olive branch to the young mother, saying she'd love to still keep in contact to know how the triplets are growing.

They exchanged phone numbers after discharge.

They started talking every day.

"She would facetime me and text me and call



Shariya Small was adopted by Katrina Mullens who has five other children in February 2023

me to ask me questions. Samari had feeding issues so he couldn't eat by mouth. He couldn't have a bottle, so he ended up getting a feeding tube in his stomach before going home," said Mullens.

She didn't know much about Small's home situation, but the teen mom and her triplets were living with a family member.

They didn't have a bedroom. Mullens went to visit the family to check in at least twice.

"I went baring gifts. I got them some clothes and bottles and bibs that she needed. I was concerned about their sleeping situation with the babies, and I noticed that Samari was very skinny. She told me that he wasn't tolerating his food and throwing up a lot since he'd been home," said Mullens.

The triplet was covered in eczema flare-ups which indicated to the nurse that he may have a milk allergy.

After encouraging Small to visit her pediatrician, the baby was admitted to Riley Hospital for Children.

Small didn't have anybody to watch the girls while she was at the hospital with Samari. She asked Mullens who agreed as she just so happened to be on vacation that week.

He was diagnosed as a failure to thrive.

The Indiana Department of Child Services was called.

Since Mullens had the girls, she was informed that a DCS case worker would be stopping by to visit them.

"I was informed that all four of them were being removed from their home and that they

were going to be placed in foster care. They said that Shariya wanted to come live with me. We hadn't discussed it. I was dumbfounded for a moment, but I said yes," said Mullens.

She wasn't a foster parent, but DCS said if she were willing to take the teen and her babies in, they would handle the rest on their end to equip the family.

Mullens has five boys of her own, three of whom still live with her.

Knowing that it would have been hard to find a foster home that would take all four of them and adding Samari's medical issues, she didn't want to see them split up.

It's been two years now, and Mullens adopted Small at the beginning of the year.

"She doesn't call me mom. I just became her permanent person. She

doesn't have to worry about ever being alone. She has a place to grow, and she's done amazing since she's been with me," said Mullens.

The 17-year-old is planning on attending

college.

Contact senior staff writer Jade Jackson at 317-607-5792. Follow her on Facebook and Twitter @IAMJADE-JACKSON



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Think globally, act locally: how to help the climate crisis in your own backyard

By **JAYDEN KENNETT**
jayden@indyrecorder.com

As we approach Earth Day, we are reminded of the urgent need to address the climate crisis. A recent report from the United Nations comes as a "dire" warning that the earth is on track to exceed the agreed warming limit if "drastic" and "immediate" cuts to greenhouse gas emissions aren't made.

The science-based report said human-induced climate change is causing widespread disruption in nature and hitting lower-income and communities of color the hardest. While the greenhouse effect is essential to life on Earth, human-made emissions are trapping emissions in the atmosphere and causing the earth to warm at concerning rates.

While the climate crisis itself is a global concern, solving it can start locally.

Track your carbon footprint

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gasses generated by actions. The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is one of the highest rates in the world. There are plenty of websites that can help track carbon footprints by calculating the amount of people in the household and their transportation modes. You can track your carbon footprint at carbon-footprint.com or <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

Drive less, walk more

A single gallon of gasoline burned creates more than 8 grams of carbon emissions. When possible, walk, bike or take public transportation. Be smart about when and how you drive.

Have all or part of your monthly energy use Green Power

AES Indiana offers an option for all consumers to operate part or all of their electricity using environmentally friendly, renewable resources for only a couple dollars more on your bill. The energy sector is dependent on nonrenewable energy resources such as coal, natural gas and oil, which cannot be replaced once it is gone. It's important to invest in renewable energy because it naturally replenishes itself in the environment.

You can choose to offset 100%, 50% or 25% of your home and businesses have an option to enroll at least 10%. A

typical customer using 1,000 kWh per month enrolled at 100% level would pay an additional \$5.50 on their bill. Participating in Green Power supports further development of renewable energy sources and helps accelerate the amount of renewable energy coming onto the grid. Estimate the cost to run your home or business on green power at <https://myaccount.aesindiana.com/GreenPowerEstimator/default.aspx>

To register for Green Power, simply login to your AES account and select the usage amount.

Energy & Waste

Doing small tasks like turning down the heating by 1 degree can make a big difference. Lowering the thermostat by just one degree can cut down heating bills by up to 10%, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Select energy efficient products such as LED lightbulbs and solar powered lights. An official list of energy efficient products can be found on energystar.gov.

Recycle Electronics Locally

Indiana's Electronic Waste law prohibits households, small businesses and schools from disposing of electronic waste in the trash. This earth day, drop your electronics off at Riverside Park, 2420 Riverside Drive. The Indianapolis Office of Sustainability and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works joined RecycleForce to host an electronics recycling drop off event. Similar events in recent years have drawn hundreds of attendees and diverted thousands of pounds of electronic material from the landfill. The event will start at 9 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. on April 22.

"We encourage residents across Marion County to participate in another year of Earth Day electronics recycling as they re-organize during spring cleaning," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "Together, we can divert electronic waste from our landfills, while continuing to offer impactful re-entry employment opportunities."

Attendees should use the park entrance at East Riverside Drive and W 27th Street. Due to the 30th Street bridge closure over the White River, attendees should approach from 16th Street, south of the event.

A new career with endless opportunities.

Spring into a new career with Eskenazi Health Center.

Eskenazi Health Center is hosting a virtual career fair for medical assistants, dental professionals, registered nurses and clinicians on Wednesday, April 26 from 3 - 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly with hiring managers from multiple Eskenazi Health Center locations and learn about the unparalleled benefits Eskenazi Health has to offer. New and experienced medical assistants, dental professionals, registered nurses and clinicians are encouraged to attend.

Register for the event online at eskenazihealth.edu/events.

Pregnancy app helps expectant mothers track fetal movement

By TIMORIA CUNNINGHAM
Timoriac@indyrecorder.com

According to the University of Utah, one in every 165 pregnancies end in still births across the country, which translates to roughly 24,000 stillbirths a year.

A stillbirth is defined as the death of an unborn baby in the womb after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Indiana loses nearly 500 babies a year due to still births. Some causes for stillbirths include genetics, financial, emotional, or other personal stress, issues with the placenta or umbilical cord and racial disparities. In the United States, stillbirths are more than twice as likely among Black women than among White women.

To help decrease the number of stillbirths in the state in 2021 the Indiana Minority Health Coalition and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield partnered with Count the Kicks, an app that allows expectant mothers to track their baby's fetal movements,

"We thought it would be a great partnership to partner with Count the Kicks and Anthem after seeing the success that Count the Kicks had in Iowa with their program," said Lauren Lancaster, the Maternal Child Health Manager at the Indiana Minority Health Coalition.

Count the Kicks is an app created based on public health research in Norway that demonstrated a 30% reduction in stillbirths by teaching pregnant women how to monitor fetal movement during the third trimester of pregnancy. By doing kick counts daily, the app allows



users to count the fetal movements of the baby. Users will set a timer at the same time everyday within the app and measure how long it takes the baby to reach 10 fetal movements.

The app tracks the sessions, and users can reach out to their provider if they notice a decrease in fetal movement.

According to Lori Riester, Obstetric Practice Consultant with Anthem, counting fetal movement is one of the earliest indicators for mothers to notice if something is wrong.

"The reason that this Count the Kicks application is so crucial, it's like a building block for improving help across the board," Riester said.

Lancaster said it is important to be "aware of your baby's fetal movement if they should decrease," and seek medical attention.

"We always just encourage them to continue to go and speak to their provider. If that provider doesn't

listen try a different provider... their voices deserve to be heard," Lancaster said.

Count the Kicks has a free app that comes in 14 different languages and is available in the iOS and Google Play app stores that provides expectant moms a simple, non-invasive way to monitor their babies' well-being every day. For those who don't have access to a mobile device or reliable internet there are paper charts they can download here.

In the first 15 months of Count the Kicks being in Indiana, the app has amassed 1,000 users. Nearly 100,000 pieces of Count the Kicks educational materials were sent to Providers and/or Healthcare Professionals to share with expectant parents in Indiana.

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

Sexual Assault organization to host conference at the end of the month

By TIMORIA CUNNINGHAM
timoriac@indyrecorder.com

Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking will host a sexual assault awareness and prevention conference at the end of the month. The theme for this year's conference is "Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow," to highlight the history of Rape Crisis Centers in Indiana, provide information to service providers, give attendees updates from the statewide Rape Crisis Center and provide confidentiality training.

The ICESAHT hosts this event every year with the intention of training service providers across the state on how to respond to victims of sexual assault.

Attendees can expect to hear from survivor leaders, people who have been victims of sex violence and are sharing their experience to help others. The conference will also consist of a legislative wrap-up panel.

"We know... that many victims do not come forward because of the shame and blame associated with reporting sex assault," said President and CEO of ICESAHT, Beth White. "We want to change this to make sure that victims know help is available."

The conference is set to take place April 25-27 via Zoom from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The cost for the event is free for Rape Crisis Center staff and is \$75 for non-Rape Crisis Center attendees. You can register for the conference up until April 27 and the link can be accessed at <https://www.icesaht.org>.

One in three women in Indiana have been sexually assaulted and 63% of assaults are not reported to police. Indiana ranks high in the nation for the number of reported rapes among high school girls.

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

Help Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Abuse

Child abuse and neglect are serious public health problems that can have long-term impacts on health, opportunity, and wellbeing. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year in the United States.

This issue includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person that results in harm, the potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and initiative is rooted in communities working together to serve children and their families in meaningful, impactful ways that provide families what they need to thrive through both calm and challenging times.

Providing information about best practices that are known to build parental capacity through protective factors is key in helping families become more resilient. Protective factors are conditions or attributes that mitigate or eliminate risk and can increase the health and well-being of children and families. They provide parents with the tools they need to parent effectively even under stress.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is more than just raising awareness about the reality of child maltreatment. It's about taking action to reduce it. The Marion County Public Health Department joins in this national effort in providing families with the support they need.

Certain issues, such as a family's neighborhood, income level, or other societal factors can make parenting more challenging. Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Experiencing poverty can place a lot of stress on families, which may increase

the risk for child abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are 5 times higher for children in families with low socioeconomic status. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are four common types of abuse and neglect:

- Physical abuse is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.
- Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts.
- Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Examples include name-calling, shaming, rejecting, withholding love, and threatening.
- Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, access to medical care, and having feelings validated and appropriately responded to.

To make child abuse less likely to occur, investments in communities and families are needed which means partnering with family and strength-based focused organizations and programs. All children deserve to grow up in safe, supportive environments.

The Marion County Public Health Department has professional and compassionate social workers who are trained to offer support and counsel for any resident experiencing problems or concerns related to social, financial, psychological and environmental needs.

To ask questions or to receive help, please call the Social Work Department at 317-221-2364.

National Day of Vaccines

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- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Childrens Vaccines will be Offered along with Adult Flu and COVID shots
- On-Site Career Opportunities
- Other Services and Information



Black church, NHL's Penguins reach historic land-use accord

By PETER SMITH
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — More than 60 years ago, a historic Black church was forced to give up its sanctuary, compensated for what it says was a fraction of its value, to an urban renewal project that wiped out the heart of an African American neighborhood known as the Hill District.

Now, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is poised to recoup some of that loss and reclaim a spot near its former home. It has reached an agreement with the Pittsburgh Penguins — the NHL franchise that now holds development rights to the site near its current arena — for the church to use a 1.5-acre parcel that it envisions using for housing and other revenue-generating development.

"I have never been hockey fan. ... Now I'm a hockey fan," said AME Third District Bishop Errenous McLoud Jr., thanking the Penguins during a news conference Friday preceded by a special worship service on the site Bethel is acquiring. He noted this accord "could and should become a model for reparations all over the world."

The agreement came after years of public calls and demonstrations by the church. Its battle is a microcosm of a larger one over the legacy of the 1950s project, in which leaders in the Black community have long sought redress from the powers that be in Pittsburgh's political, business and sports realms.

The Penguins didn't come into existence until 1967, playing first in one arena in the former neighborhood and now in a newer one nearby.

But Kevin Acklin, president of business operations for the Penguins, said the team is "recognizing our role here as a steward" of the property and its legacy.

"Mistakes that were made 70 years ago, we can't fix them,

The Rev. Dale Snyder sits in the pews at Bethel AME Church where he is pastor, in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Bethel, considered Pittsburgh's oldest Black congregation, lost its previous sanctuary when much of the city's historic Lower Hill District was razed in the 1950s. More than 60 years later, in what's being called a step toward "restorative justice," the church is poised to obtain use of a 1.5-acre parcel near its former site in an agreement with the Pittsburgh Penguins. (AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski)



but we can do what we can today for a better future, for restorative justice," Acklin said in an interview.

He hopes the agreement, and the larger efforts to remake the site, can serve as a model for other U.S. cities with the wounds of similar mid-20th century urban renewal projects.

"We have the ability to do good and work with a group of people and a church that's trying to do good," he said.

The aptly named Hill District — rising steeply to the east of Pittsburgh's central business district — became in the 20th century a hub for Black culture, renowned for its jazz clubs and other cultural touchstones portrayed in many of the plays of acclaimed dramatist August Wilson.

Bethel AME had a prominent role in that community. Founded around 1808 and considered Pittsburgh's oldest Black church, it was active from its earliest years in childhood education and civil rights. It opened a large brick church in 1906 in the Lower

Hill District, with rounded arches and a prominent tower, home to 3,000 members at its peak.

But in the 1950s, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh declared much of the Lower Hill to be blighted. It oversaw demolition of about 1,300 buildings across 95 acres, displacing over 8,000 people, more than 400 business and multiple houses of worship — although not a mostly white Catholic church, as Bethel members have noted.

Bethel leaders fought the church's demolition unsuccessfully, ultimately receiving \$240,000 for a property that had been valued at \$745,000.

A cross-town highway, civic arena and some housing were built in the former neighborhood, but other planned structures never materialized.

The result was a concrete and asphalt gash between the downtown and the remaining parts of the Hill District, which continues to struggle economically.

In the beginning, the Penguins played in the original

arena and then a newer one nearby after the former was demolished. Under agreements with public authorities, the franchise has development rights to 28 acres of the former arena site. A 26-story mixed-use building is on the rise, and a small urban park has opened, with other projects on the drawing board.

Bethel, meanwhile, now worships further up in the Hill District. Its more modest, modern sanctuary is bathed in the light of stained-glass windows telling stories of the Bible and honoring Methodist stalwarts such as AME pioneer Richard Allen.

In attendance Friday was Bishop Kurt Kusserow of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has supported Bethel in its reparation efforts. The relationship grew out of a Lutheran-AME dialogue that itself was rooted in tragedy — the 2015 racist massacre of nine attendees of a Bible study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

When ELCA leaders learned that the killer had been a member of one of its churches, they called for members of their predominately white denomination to build ties with AME churches.

"As we learned more about white privilege and all of that reality in our country," Kusserow said, "it was our responsibility to use that privilege in any possible way to accompany what the AME church was seeking in terms of reparations."

The Rev. Dale Snyder, pastor of Bethel, said the church's plans for the site include housing and a day-care center, with other possible commercial development.

"This is a model for how we can heal the broken realities of America," Snyder said.

The Rev. Prudence Harris, an associate pastor and lifelong Bethel member, said she was 5 when she and her parents watched the previous sanctuary being demolished.

"I remember my mom crying," she said. On Friday, Harris said, "she's shining down."

Acklin said the 1.5-acre site is larger than the 13,000-square-foot property that Bethel formerly owned, and which has been designated for other uses.

He sees the agreement as part of larger efforts to work with the Hill District community to restore its former connections to downtown.

In 2014, all of the major parties involved — which include the city, county and two public authorities — agreed to a plan intended to include Hill District stakeholders.

But the long process has required vigilance to ensure the new developments benefit the neighborhood, said Marimba Milliones, president of the Hill Community Development Corp.

"When we're talking about addressing a historic wrong, it has to be for the entire site," Milliones said.

Minneapolis OKs dawn Muslim prayer call, 1st for big US city

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — Minneapolis will allow broadcasts of the Muslim call to prayer at all hours, becoming the first major U.S. city to allow the announcement or "adhan" to be heard over speakers five times a day, year-round.

The Minneapolis City Council unanimously agreed April 13 to amend the city's noise ordinance, which had prevented dawn and late evening calls at certain times of the year due to noise restrictions, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. The vote came during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"The Constitution doesn't sleep at night," said Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, after the vote. He said the action in Minneapolis shows the world that a "nation founded on freedom of religion makes good on its promise."

Minneapolis has had a flourishing population of East African immigrants since at least the 1990s, and mosques now are common. Three of 13 members of the council identify as Muslim. The decision drew no organized community opposition. Mayor Jacob Frey is expected to sign the measure next week.

"Minneapolis has become a city for all religions," said Imam Mohammed Dukuly of Masjid An-Nur mosque in Minneapolis, who was among several Muslim leaders who witnessed the vote.

Three years ago, city officials worked with the Dar Al-Hijrah mosque to allow the adhan to be broadcast outdoors five times daily during Ramadan. Prayers are said when light appears at dawn, at noon, at mid- to late afternoon, at sunset and when the night sky appears. In Minnesota, dawn arrives as early as before 5:30 a.m. in summer, while sunset at the solstice happens after 9 p.m.

The city allowed year-round broadcasts last year, but only between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. — typically excluding early morning prayer and sometimes night prayer.

At a recent public hearing, Christian and Jewish leaders expressed support for extending the hours for the adhan.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, who on Thursday was observing the final day of Passover, said the Jewish call to prayer — which is generally spoken rather than broadcast — doesn't face legal restrictions. Observers said church bells regularly toll for Christians.

"It's something I grew up with, but not my children," council member Jamal Osman said, adding that hearing the call to prayer from local mosques brings him joy.



Yusuf Abdule, standing, director of the Islamic Association of North America, prays with fellow Muslims at the Abubakar As-Saddique Islamic Center in Minneapolis on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Minneapolis will allow broadcasts of the Muslim call to prayer at all hours, Thursday, April 14, 2023, becoming the first major U.S. city to allow the announcement or "adhan" to be heard over speakers five times a day, year-round. (AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski)

Prayers That Move God

By DR. PRESTON T. ADAMS III

Matthew 11:22-24 - So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."



Just as oxygen is essential to sustain physical life, prayer is essential to sustain a sound spiritual life. A solidly grounded prayer life is essential to our victory over any situation we face. Prayer in its simplest form is communication with God. It is us talking to God and God talking to us. Sometimes we don't know what to pray for. In those moments, the Holy Spirit speaks on our behalf.

E. M. Bounds in "The Necessity of Prayer" notes: "Whenever a study of the principles of prayer is made, lessons concerning faith must accompany it." Prayer is actually faith claiming and taking hold of its natural, immeasurable inheritance. Prayer throws faith on God and God on the world. Only God can move mountains. But faith and prayer move God.

Mark 11:22-24 emphasizes some words of Jesus that are the very keystone of the arch of faith and prayer. A faith that realizes, appropriates, and takes is described here. It's not a passive faith. It's an aggressive faith that realizes the awesomeness of God.

So how do we make sure our faith is growing and not declining as the years go by? How do we keep our faith strong as in a world that is growing increasingly colder and heartless? What will assure that our faith keeps its hold as religion becomes a mere formality and worldliness becomes

victorious?

First, we must guard our faith. Luke 22:31-32 states: "And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail...'" Satan attacks our prayer life through our faith. This is why Jesus prays for Peter's faith to remain strong. If Satan can break our faith, he can break our prayer life. If he breaks our prayer life, he breaks our connection with God. And if he breaks our connection with God, he breaks our access to the only One that can move mountains.

Secondly, we must grow our faith. 2 Peter 1:5 says: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith..." Peter's encouragement is that we add to our faith. How? Through consistent and intentional prayer, and by standing firm on the promises of God through every trial and hardship we face.

Finally, we must ground our faith. In Matthew 8, a leper comes to Jesus for healing from his disease.

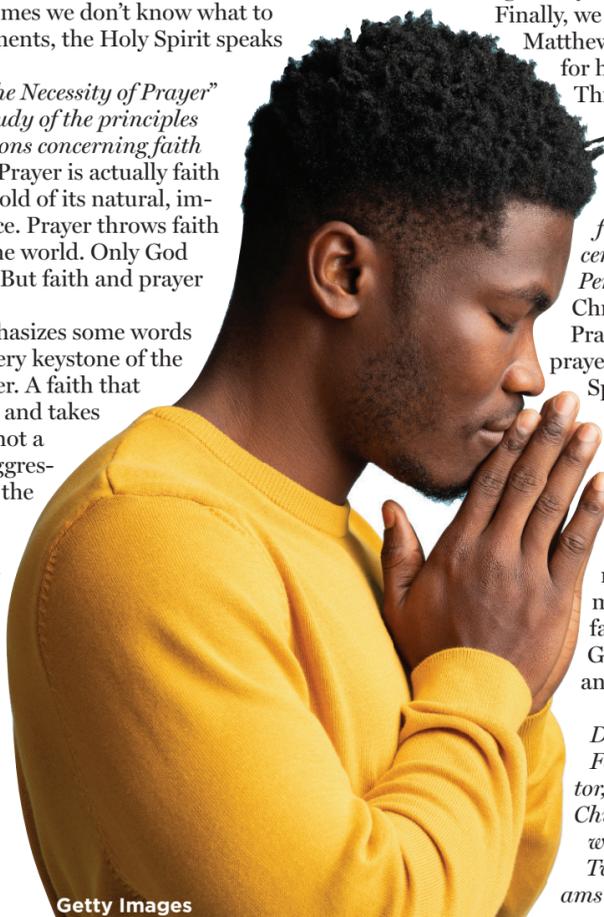
This leper grounded his faith in the One who could make him whole again.

According to Bounds, "faith that creates powerful praying is faith that centers itself on a powerful Person." That Person is Jesus Christ!

Prayers That Move God are prayers that moves mountains.

Speak to every mountain in your life. Speak to every evil mountain, every financial mountain, every debt mountain, every health mountain, and every relationship mountain. Whatever the mountain, speak to it, have faith in God, and watch God move the mountain and cast it into the sea.

Dr. Preston T. Adams, III
 Founding and Senior Pastor,
 Amazing Grace Christian Church (Indianapolis)
www.agccindy.org
 Twitter: @DrPrestonTAdams



Getty Images

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Philippians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Mark 8, Jesus healed a blind man by putting what onto his eyes?
Sand, Wind, Blood, Spit
3. What elderly cousin of Mary was the mother of John the Baptist?
Jael, Rahab, Sarah, Elisabeth
4. In Hebrews 13:17, how should Christians act toward elders?
Respectfully, In submission, Cheerfully, Timidly
5. What book of the Bible foretold the virgin birth?
Joel, Isaiah, Jonah, Malachi
6. Who was Shamgar the son of?
Ehud, Samson, Anath, Tola

ANSWERS:

- 1) New,
- 2) Spit (spittle),
- 3) Elisabeth,
- 4) In submission,
- 5) Isaiah 7:14,
- 6) Anath

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*I am in the midst of lions;
I am forced to dwell
among ravenous beasts
— men whose teeth are
spears and arrows, whose
tongues are sharp swords.*

PSALM 57:4

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 fax 283-5615

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 10:50 am

Sunday School
 9:15 am

Monday Morning Prayer
 6:00am

Wed. Bible Study
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Thurs. Family Living
 7:00pm

Fri. Victory Over Addictions
 7:00pm

Temple of Believers
 Deliverance Center
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Bishop James Humbert
 Pastor

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 10:00 AM

Morning Worship
 11:30 AM

Tuesday Bible Study
 7:30 PM

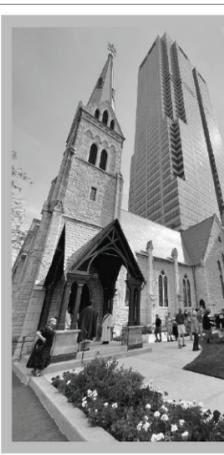
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Lawsuits Pile Up Against Companies Who Failed to Honor DE&I Pledges After Murder of George Floyd



By **Stacy M. Brown**
NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

The aftermath of George Floyd's murder has led to several large corporations facing multiple lawsuits for failing to meet the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) commitments they made.

The commitments were made following Floyd's death in 2020, with businesses quickly issuing statements and pledging to adopt new ways to combat racism.

Those pledges included addressing ethnic and gender inequalities among their employee ranks.

However, according to [Bloomberg Law](#), a host of lawsuits claim those pledges were never met.

Among the most egregious parties are Wells Fargo and Delta Air Lines.

Bloomberg said those companies falsely claimed that, over the past three years, they worked to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Five shareholder lawsuits allege that Wells Fargo ran afoul of federal law against discrimination.

Wells performed "sham interviews to nominally fulfill a diversity-enhancing policy," the lawsuit claims.

Further, the bank's board acted on diversity and inclusion issues only because of negative media coverage.

Law firms have filed at least 40 suits alleging that employment discrimination has only

increased since pledges were made.

Sarah Fortt, worldwide co-chair of Latham & Watkins LLP's environmental, social, and governance practice, told the outlet that she also noted a spike in "'reverse discrimination' claims."

According to a published report, these lawsuits take the form of shareholder derivative proceedings, in which investors claim that a company's failure to achieve specific DEI goals caused the value of its stock to decline. Bloomberg noted that "DEI-specialized lawyers, academics, and practitioners contend that companies must balance the needs of the business, employees, shareholders, and customers when creating progressive initiatives while averting legal action from any of those groups."

Bloomberg continued: One strategy offered is formulating policies "aspirationally," or in general terms.

Lawyers asserted that instead of creating a strict quota to employ a specific number of people of color for its board, a corporation might aim to match the proportion of people of color in its workforce to that of people of color on its board.

Elena Philipova, director of sustainable finance at Refinitiv, noted that the most prosperous businesses are genuine, and authentic and have DEI objectives built into their DNA.

Despite the lawsuits, some corporations have moved to improve DEI within their organizations.

For example, in December 2020, Microsoft announced that it had achieved its goal of doubling the number of Black and African American managers, senior individual contributors, and senior leaders in the U.S.

However, the report noted that the company still has work to do to achieve gender and racial parity at all levels.

Additionally, some companies are incorporating innovative approaches to improve diversity and inclusion.

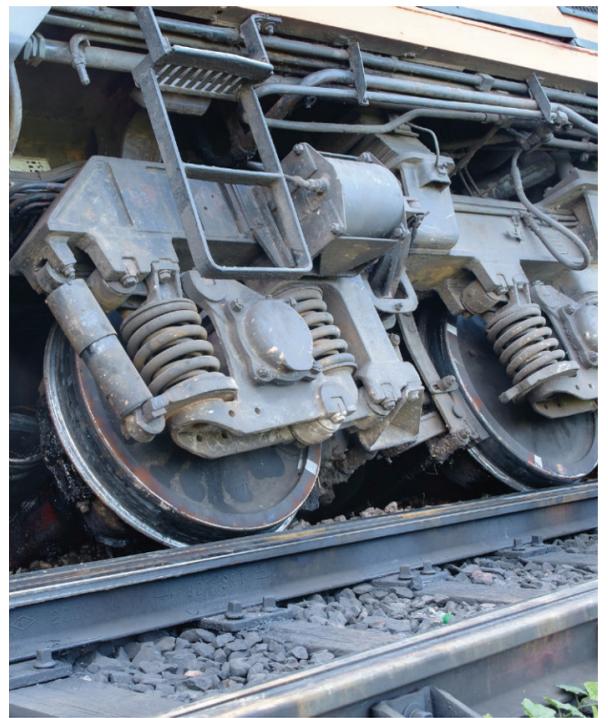
For instance, Airbnb has reportedly implemented a program called "Project Lighthouse" to increase representation across race, gender, and other dimensions.

The program includes creating "belonging assessments" that measure employees' sense of belonging and connection to the company and then creating tailored solutions based on the results.

Still, the report concluded that some corporations had improved diversity and inclusion, while others faced lawsuits for failing to meet their DEI commitments.

The most prosperous businesses are open and honest about their objectives, pay attention to their staff, and incorporate DEI objectives into all operations, Philipova told Bloomberg.

Stacy is a veteran journalist and author of the new book, "Celebrity Trials: Legacies Lost, Lives Shattered, So What's the Real Truth."



Rail CEO repeats derailment apologies before Ohio Senate

By **SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON**
Associated Press/Report For America

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Norfolk Southern's CEO reiterated apologies April 18 for the East Palestine train derailment and vows to make things right during his first testimony to Ohio lawmakers since the fiery accident, expressing support for some additional safety proposals but resistance to others.

An Ohio Senate panel on rail safety questioned Alan Shaw over a wide range of topics related to the derailment and subsequent controlled chemical release that rocked the small village on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, including long-term support systems for the community, two-person crew mandates and tanker car safety standards.

Shaw has promised millions of dollars to help the community recover but also faces a lawsuit from Ohio's Attorney General Dave Yost over costs for the toxic chemical spill cleanup and environmental damage, even as they work together to establish funds for resident health care, property value issues and water protections.

The federal government has also sued the railroad.

Shaw said he supports Congress' efforts in railway safety legislation, spearheaded by Ohio U.S. senators and representatives, including provisions to increase inspection oversight for railways, further investment in wayside detectors and stricter standards for tanker cars, such as those that were carrying hazardous materials on Feb. 3.

However, when pressed on a two-person crew mandate for all trains, Shaw stated that there is no data to support that two-person crews help prevent derailments and that his railroad will "follow the science."

Ohio lawmakers recently passed a state transportation budget that would impose new rail safety measures on Norfolk Southern and other railroads traveling through their state, including a two-person crew mandate.

Whether they're allowed to do so, however, remains a point of debate. The Ohio Railroad Association, a trade group, has argued that several of the measures are preempted by federal law. Legislators say the General Assembly can put statewide safeguards in place to help protect constituents.

No one was injured during the Feb. 3 derailment, but half of the nearly 5,000 East Palestine residents were evacuated for days. Many say they continue to suffer from health problems such as rashes, headaches and trouble breathing.

Samantha Hendrickson 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.

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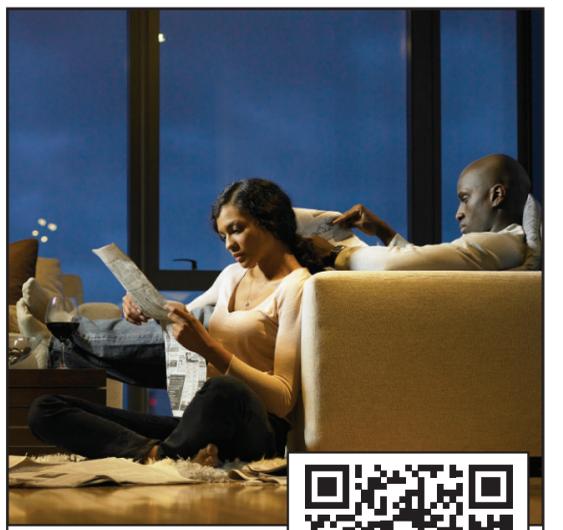
Myia A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk of Court. By: /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell. Deputy Clerk 5320-968349. 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23, 04/21/23.

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49C01-2303-PL-012414. CAVEA INVESTMENTS, LLC, Plaintiff, v. JAMES POSTON, ESTATE OF RODDELL GREEN II, HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CORPORATION, MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS and unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgagees, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiff.

(3rd) published Notice of Suit. If you fail to do so, judgment may be entered against you and in favor of the Plaintiff. The name and address of the attorney is: Janet Davis Hocker #17380-49, HOCKER LAW, LLC 6626 East 75th Street, Suite 410 Indianapolis, Indiana 46250. T: 317-578-1630 E: Janet.hocker@hock-erlaw.com. /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell Marion County Clerk SEAL: Prepared By: Janet Davis Hocker #17380-49, HOCKER LAW, LLC 5320-968428 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

Marion County Primary Election is Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Polls will be open 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Corrected list of Vote Centers. Visit Vote.Indy.gov for more information. VOTE CENTER NAME ADDRESS CITY ZIP. IFD STATION 18 42 N WARMAN AVE INDPLS 46222. IFD STATION 30 2440 N TIBBS AVE INDPLS 46222. IFD STATION 41 1750 E 10TH ST INDPLS 46229. IFD STATION 44 7804 E 10TH ST INDPLS 46219. IFD STATION 44 7345 E 30TH ST INDPLS 46219. SACRED HEART PARISH HALL 1125 S MERIDIAN ST INDPLS 46225.

Indiana's Finest Wrecker will be having an auction/public sale on May 1st, 2023 at 8AM. 7576 W Washington St Indianapolis, IN 46231. List of vehicles to be included in the sale: Year Make VIN Sale Price. 2014 CHEVROLET 1G11B5SL6E1F130722 \$1,500.00. 2008 PONTIAC 1G22G57HX94294694 \$1,500.00. 2007 CHEVROLET 3CNFK12327G205253 \$1,500.00. 2002 CHEVROLET 2G1WW12E629194090 \$1,500.00. 2013 FORD 1FADP3K24DL110850 \$1,500.00. 2006 NISSAN 3N1CB51D76L521835 \$1,500.00. 2000 FORD 1FDXF47F8YE25558 \$1,500.00. 2009 BUICK 5320-969151 1G4HD57M09U118046 \$1,500.00.



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STATE OF INDIANA) MARION CIRCUIT COURT)) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2303-PL-012675. MACALLAN PROPERTIES, LLC, Plaintiff, v. FIRST SAMUEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH; MARION COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITAL CORP.; CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS; DEPT OF BUSINESS & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES; MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT; INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING PARTNERSHIP; BANK OF AMERICA, NA; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATIONS SYSTEMS, INC.; GAIA SOLUTIONS, INC.; and ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN. Defendant(s). SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION. THE STATE OF INDIANA TO DEFENDANTS: You are notified that you have been sued by the entity/person identified as "Plaintiff" in the Court caption written above. The nature of the suit against you is stated in the Complaint to Quiet Title upon the real estate legally described as:

Legal description: A BROWNS RIVERSIDE PARK ADD L124. Street address or common description: 1414 King Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46222. Parcel: 9018660. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): First Samuel Missionary Baptist Church; Marion County Health & Hospital Corp.; City of Indianapolis; Dept of Business & Neighborhood Services; Marion County Public Health Department; Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership; Bank of America, NA; Mortgage Electronic Registrations Systems, Inc.; Gaia Solutions, Inc. In addition to the named defendant(s), there may be other potential defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If any named defendant or potential defendant has a claim for relief against plaintiff arising from plaintiff's assertion of superior and exclusive title to the real estate described above or if any named defendant or potential defendant controverts plaintiff's request to quiet title to the real estate described herein against the entire world, you must assert such a claim in a written answer to be filed with the court. To answer in writing, you or your attorney must file your written answer to plaintiff's complaint with the Clerk of the Marion Circuit/Superior Court within thirty (30) days commencing the day after the 3rd publication date, and if you fail to do so, judgment will be entered granting plaintiff's request to quiet title to the described real estate.

Attorney for plaintiff: James F. Driscoll, #28232-64. DRISCOLL LAW, P.C. 5209 Hohman Ave, Suite 204 Hammond, IN 46320 (219) 472-9595. Myia A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk of Court. By: /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell. Deputy Clerk 5320-968347. 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23. SB# IF2301009. STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49D03-2302-MF-005435. FRANKLIN CREDIT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION, SERVICER FOR WILLINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST OF BOSCO CREDIT II TRUST SERIES 2010-1, PLAINTIFF VS. GWEN WILLIAMS, ET AL. 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 a Complaint on Note and for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the following described real estate: LOT NUMBERED 159 IN KENSINGTON COMMONS SECTION 2, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 26, 1999 AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 99-12349 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. More commonly known as: 6032 North Draycott Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46239. This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are known to me: Eagle Finance Company, Consumers Financial Services, State of Indiana Department of Workforce Development Office of the Indiana Attorney General, State of Indiana, Department of Revenue, Gwen Williams, David Richards, AEC Management and Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust 2006-WL2. This Summons by Publication is also specifically directed to the following named Defendants whose whereabouts are unknown to me: Leticia Johnson. In addition to the above named Defendants being served by this Summons, there may be other Defendants who have an interest in the 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, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded. SOTTILE & BARILE, LLC By: /s/ Dennis V. Ferguson Dennis V. Ferguson (8474-49) Joel F. Bornkamp (27410-49) Attorney for Plaintiff ATTEST: Clerk of the Marion Superior Court 5320-968300 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

1446-190407. STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT) COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D12-2303-MF-001068. MCLPASSET COMPANY, INC., PLAINTIFF, vs. JOSEPH MILES A/K/A JOSEPH A. MILES, MCL POLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; DEFENDANT(S). NOTICE OF SUIT. The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named and any other persons who may be concerned: You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a Complaint for Foreclosure of Note and Mortgage on the real estate commonly known as 2033 S Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46225 and described as follows: LOT 89 EXCEPT 8 FEET BY PARALLEL LINES TAKEN OFF THE ENTIRE SOUTH SIDE THEREOF, AND 12 FEET BY PARALLEL LINES TAKEN OFF THE ENTIRE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT 88 IN THE THEODORE MEYERS ADDITION TO THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 9 PAGE 42 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA. This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named defendants whose whereabouts are unknown to me: JOSEPH MILES A/K/A JOSEPH A. MILES. In addition to the above named Defendants being served by the summons, there may be others 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 or response. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third publication of this Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff. /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell Clerk, Marion Court Respectfully submitted, /s/ Jason Duhn Jason E. Duhn Ser No: 26807-06 Diaz Anselmo & Associates, LLC P.O. BOX 19519 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318 Telephone: (630) 453-6960 Facsimile: (630) 428-4620 Service E-mail: answersms@dallegal.com 5320-968342 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49D13-2302-MF-006300. RUF MORTGAGE COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff, vs. NATHAN PFEIFFER, RACHEL RATCLIFFE and WILDWOOD FARMS, Defendants. NOTICE OF SUIT. The State of Indiana to the Defendant(s) above named, and any other person who may be concerned: You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is: Complaint on Note and for Foreclose Mortgage on Real Estate. Against the property commonly known as 3733 Laurel Cherry Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46226 and described as follows: Lot Number 89 in Moeller Estates at Wildwood Farms, Section 2, as per plat thereof, recorded August 17, 2001 as Instrument No. 01-146308, in the office of the recorder of Marion County, Indiana. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): Nathan Pfeiffer and Rachel Ratcliffe. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s) whose whereabouts are unknown: Moeller Estates at Wildwood Farms. If you have a claim for relief against the plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded, by the Plaintiff. FEIWELL & HANNOY P.C. By: /s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney No. 22108-29 Attorney for Plaintiff BRYAN K. REDMOND FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400 Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 579-6800 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. 3/29/2023 /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell 5320-968351 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

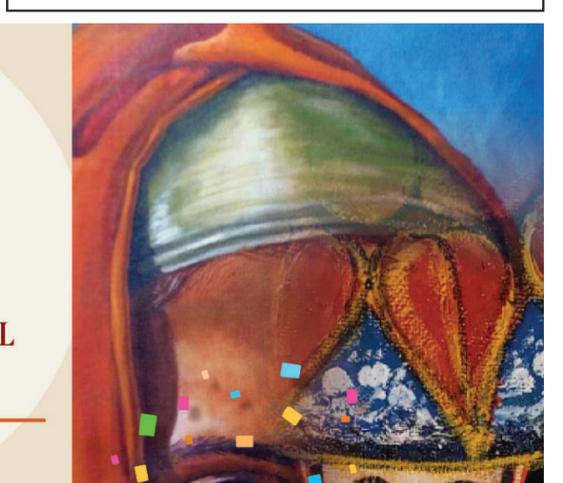
Commonly known as: 2931 Highland Place, Indianapolis, IN 46208 ("Real Estate"). To the following defendants: JAMES POSTON, ESTATE OF RODDELL GREEN II, HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CORPORATION, MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS and the unknown husbands, wives, widows, widowers, surviving spouses, heirs, legatees, devisees, grantees, children, descendants, mortgagees, creditors, administrators, executors, trustees, receivers, guardians, successors, assigns, if deceased, of all persons above named, all persons, associations, partnerships, partners, trustees, assigns, representatives, successors, corporations, or claimants, who assert any title to claim upon or interest in the real estate herein described, all women once known by any of the names or designations above stated, whose names may have been changed and the names of all the spouses of persons above named; described and designated as defendants to this action who are married and whose names are unknown to Plaintiff. In addition to the defendants being served by this summons, there may be other defendants who have an interest in this cause of action. If you have a claim for relief against plaintiff, CAVEA INVESTMENTS, LLC, arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your response. You must answer the Complaint in writing on or before thirty (30) days after the third (3rd) published Notice of Suit. If you fail to do so, judgment may be entered against you and in favor of the Plaintiff. The name and address of the attorney is: Janet Davis Hocker #17380-49, HOCKER LAW, LLC 6626 East 75th Street, Suite 410 Indianapolis, Indiana 46250. T: 317-578-1630 E: Janet.hocker@hock-erlaw.com. /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell Marion County Clerk SEAL: Prepared By: Janet Davis Hocker #17380-49, HOCKER LAW, LLC 5320-968075 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION CIRCUIT COURT)) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO.: 49C01-2303-PL-012487. MACALLAN PROPERTIES, LLC, Plaintiff, v. UNNAMED HEIRS OF ELMA RHOTON; UNNAMED HEIRS OF CHRISTINE CROSS; UNNAMED HEIRS OF J.C. CROSS; WEST INDIANAPOLIS DEVELOPMENT CORP.; DEPT OF BUSINESS & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES; MARION COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITAL CORP.; GARY JACKSON; GREGORY JACKSON; CONNIE BLASKIEWICZ; TERESA BARTLEY; MARK HOLBROOK; BETH ANN WARD; KIMBERLY RENAY SIZEMORE; and ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN. Defendant(s). SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION. THE STATE OF INDIANA TO DEFENDANTS: You are notified that you have been sued by the entity/person identified as "Plaintiff" in the Court caption written above. The nature of the suit against you is stated in the Complaint to Quiet Title upon the real estate legally described as:

Legal description: WHEELS OXFORD PK ADD L37. Street address or common description: 1209 Kappes St, Indianapolis, IN 46221. Parcel: 1075403. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following named defendant(s): Unnamed Heirs of Elma Rhoton; Unnamed Heirs of Christine Cross; West Indianapolis Development Corp.; Dept of Business & Neighborhood Services; Marion County Health & Hospital Corp.; Gary Jackson; Gregory Jackson; Connie Blaskiewicz; Teresa Bartley; Mark Holbrook; Beth Ann Ward; Kimberly Renay Sizemore. In addition to the named defendant(s), there may be other potential defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If any named defendant or potential defendant has a claim for relief against plaintiff arising from plaintiff's assertion of superior and exclusive title to the real estate described herein against the entire world, you must assert such a claim in a written answer to be filed with the court. To answer in writing, you or your attorney must file your written answer to plaintiff's complaint with the Clerk of the Marion Circuit/Superior Court within

30 days commencing the day after the 3rd publication date, and if you fail to do so, judgment will be entered granting plaintiff's request to quiet title to the described real estate. Attorney for plaintiff: James F. Driscoll, #28232-64. DRISCOLL LAW, P.C. 5209 Hohman Ave, Suite 204 Hammond, IN 46320 (219) 472-9595. Myia A. Eldridge, Marion County Clerk of Court. By: /s/ Katherine Sweeney Bell. Deputy Clerk 5320-968350 04/07/23, 04/14/23, 04/21/23.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE WORLD ARTS EXPO. 2023 FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITING April 1 thru May 27 ARTISTS' RECEPTION Friday, April 21, 2023 | 5pm to 9pm Meet the Artists Program at 6:30pm Hors D'oeuvres will be served. The INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE WORLD ARTS EXPO is an exposition of global art and culture. Come view artworks exploring cultures and countries of the world by established international and local artists at Indy's Global Village.



ARTWORK CREDITS. Ohuchi C. Zom Burning Questions (detail) Yoshimi C. Fuqua Okinawan Classical Dancer (detail)

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STATE OF INDIANA) MARION CIRCUIT COURT)) SS: COUNTY OF MARION) CAUSE NO. 49C01-2303-PL-012487. MACALLAN PROPERTIES, LLC, Plaintiff, v. UNNAMED HEIRS OF ELMA RHOTON; UNNAMED HEIRS OF CHRISTINE CROSS; UNNAMED HEIRS OF J.C. CROSS; WEST INDIANAPOLIS DEVELOPMENT CORP.; DEPT OF BUSINESS & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES; MARION COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITAL CORP.; GARY JACKSON; GREGORY JACKSON; CONNIE BLASKIEWICZ; TERESA BARTLEY; MARK HOLBROOK; BETH ANN WARD; KIMBERLY RENAY SIZEMORE; and ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN. Defendant(s). SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION. THE STATE OF INDIANA TO DEFENDANTS: You are notified that you have been sued by the entity/person identified as "Plaintiff" in the Court caption written above. The nature of the suit against you is stated in the Complaint to Quiet Title upon the real estate legally described as:

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COMMENTARY:

Transfer portal detractors are hypocrites at the highest level

By **DANNY BRIDGES**
Bridgeshd@aol.com

It's really not hard to find a college football or basketball coach who's a detractor of the transfer portal. Their quotes can generally be found in just about any local newspaper that elects to talk with them as well as radio stations in their respective home markets. Then there's the websites run by some alleged college basketball expert that will tell you what a coach is thinking, many times without even speaking to the individual who's simply lamenting the fact that he lost a player without any warning and can't understand why the individual would ever consider leaving.

They'll also tell you just how ill-advised many of these transfer decisions are, and in some cases elaborate on just how tragic the decision a player makes to leave is, pointing the finger at the player as he goes out the door, citing his inability to be part of a system, and to work hard daily and "grow."

Most of these coaches are securely wrapped within a cocoon of guaranteed money. Coaches have the potential to claim even more riches when their contract pays them for winning a high percentage of their games and excelling further in conference tournaments like the heralded NCAA Basketball Tournament or BCS Football Championship Playoffs.

It's all right there for the viewing in terms of public information and some of the financial terms are staggering.

That being said, the mere threat of a player who's disenchanted about playing time leaving the sacred domain disguised as a basketball or football program is decried as unwise and ultimately carries profound consequences for the player.

Just ask the coach who feels scorned by a young man seeking greener pastures.

He'll spell it out for you.

They also blame it on the player's right to pursue Name, Image, and Likeness monies, rather than talk to you about

how they got beaten soundly by another university on that front, all the while claiming we don't "publicly" discuss such matters despite the fact that those dealings are certainly no longer proprietary in nature.

They'll also try to convince you it's the fault of shoe and apparel companies too, when they themselves are often paid huge sums to wear those clothes bearing that logo.

Simply put, coaches want to keep their foot on player's throats and keep them around under the now defunct adage that getting your degree as a member of "my" program is more important than the potential riches out there associated with an unconscionable potentially successful transfer to another university.

Forget the player who many times comes from an impoverished environment who could certainly use the extra cash from a similar platform at another program. The coach's position is that, "we recruited you and this is clearly the best place for you," even if you're languishing on the bench with

a limited shelf life. You do belong here.

Their decision to seek opportunities elsewhere for any reason is always quickly denounced internally and quite often publicly, too.

Why would anyone want to leave this Shangri-la and seek more playing time and the coveted financial rewards that might present themselves with a simple change of one's zip code? Preposterous, eh?

Not every Division One athlete is professional material and clearly who one gets career advice from matters, but it's time for these hypocritical coaches who possess the contractual right to pick up and leave anytime there's a better gig awaiting them, to give the same consideration to their players without such malice.

Scholarships have always been granted annually, so that four-year commitment garbage doesn't fly in today's competitive environment of college sports. Much to the chagrin of these influential and wealthy coaches, the players now have a mechanism that levels the

playing field and in my opinion, that's a beautiful thing.

Make coaches work a bit harder to earn what are, in many cases, exorbitant salaries, and recognize that the recruitment of players is only one phase of their livelihood and the transfer portal is another crucial component.

It's a highly competitive market and business is booming, with plenty of cash to go around.

How the pie is now being cut in college sports is bothering many coaches and if I'm a player with options, then that's just a beautiful thing for me.

Winning now costs more than many universities want to pay, but don't blame your balance sheet on a player who simply wants to pan for their gold elsewhere as they see fit.

Danny Bridges who supports the transfer portal one hundred percent can be reached at (317) 370-8447 or at Bridgeshd@aol.com.

St. Paul Saints vs Indianapolis Indians 4-14-23



Indianapolis Indians outfielder Chavez Young (9) makes the catch for the out during a MiLB game between the St. Paul Saints and the Indians on April 13, 2023 at Victory Field. (Photos by Jeff Brown/Indianapolis Recorder)

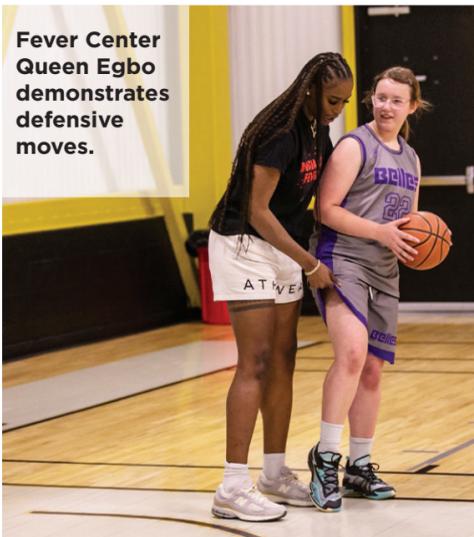


Indianapolis Indians outfielder Miguel Andujar (26) makes a diving catch during a MiLB game between the St. Paul Saints and the Indians on April 13, 2023 at Victory Field.



Indianapolis Indians outfielder Miguel Andujar (26) connects for a single and drives in a run during a MiLB game between the St. Paul Saints and Indianapolis on April 13, 2023 at Victory Field.

Fever Fanatic's basketball workout



Fever Center Queen Egbo demonstrates defensive moves.



Fever Guard Kelsey Mitchell demonstrates dribbling drills for the young players.

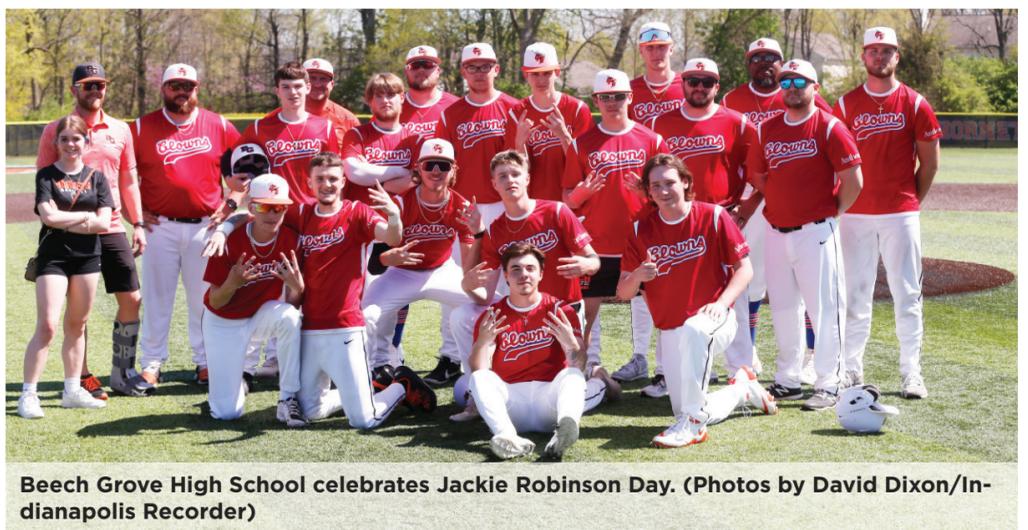


Indiana Fever players Kelsey Mitchell and Queen Egbo host a team workout with The Fever Fanatics girls' basketball team. (Photos by David Dixon/Indianapolis Recorder)

Jackie Robinson Day (42)



Purdue Polytechnic plays Beech Grove at game celebrating Jackie Robinson Day.



Beech Grove High School celebrates Jackie Robinson Day. (Photos by David Dixon/Indianapolis Recorder)