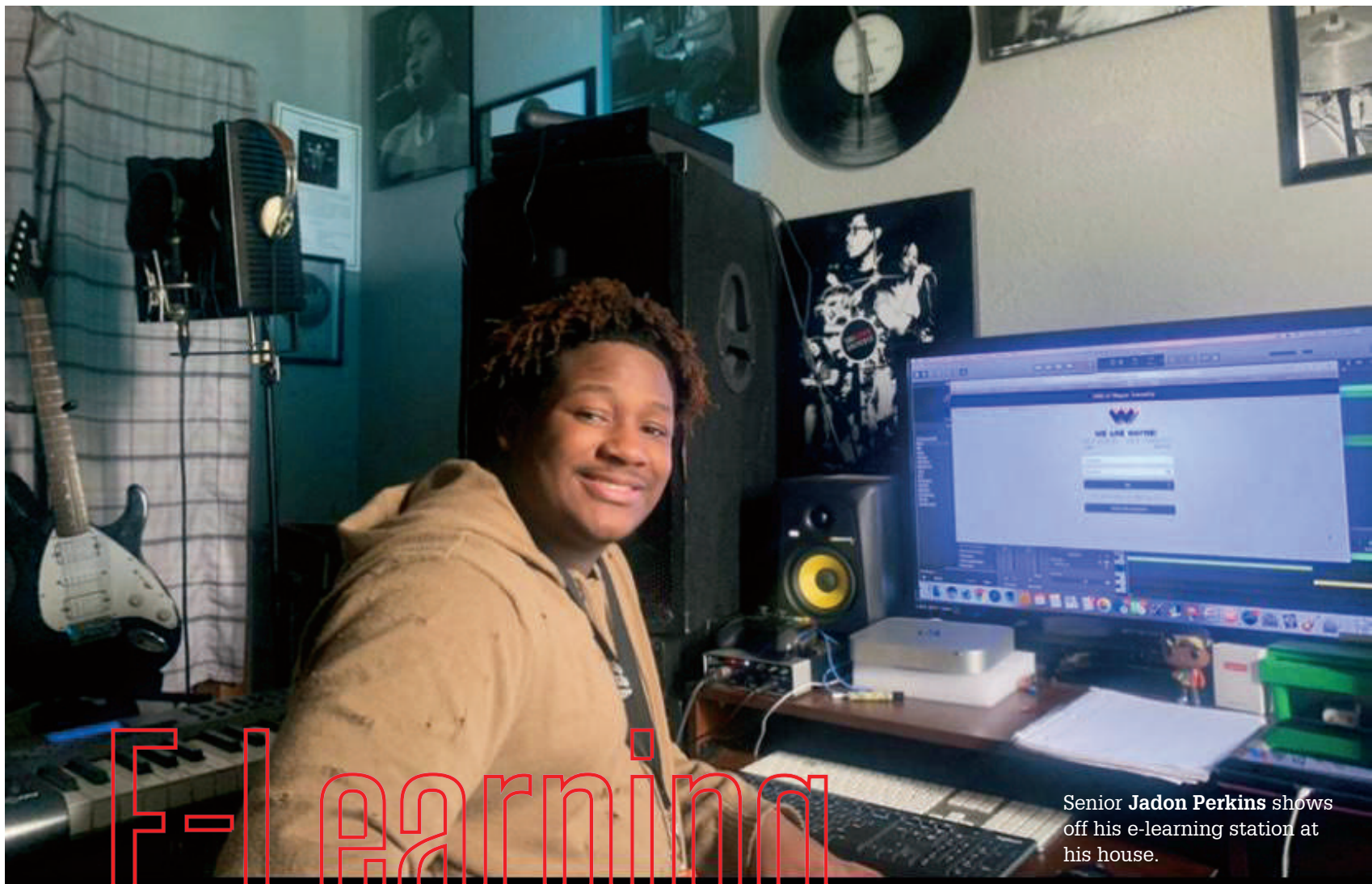


Walsworth



Senior **Jadon Perkins** shows off his e-learning station at his house.

## Teachers, students struggle with remote learning challenges

**T**he news came so quickly that both teachers and students were caught scrambling to make things work.

On March 12, 2020, staff and students went home from school not knowing what was going to happen next. Teachers spent that last day trying to get familiar with the its Learning program and trying to make sure students understood that remote learning was a real possibility.

By that evening it was announced that schools would be out for at least two weeks and three weeks later schools were closed for the rest of the school year. Physical schools that is because teaching and learning went online.

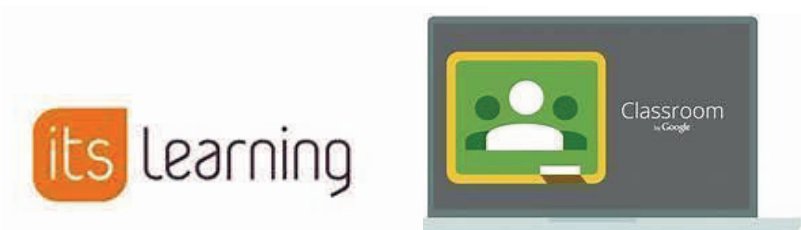
So when spring break ended on March 30, teachers and student logged on to remote learning stations and school continued.

"One of my biggest challenges has been preparing materials for lessons," web design teacher **Debbie Davidson** said. "We only have a classroom set of books so in order for my students to work through lessons I have had to take photos of each page in the chapter and then convert these into a pdf file. This takes lots of time. It has been challenging trying to answer questions that my students have as we email back and forth when they get stumped on something."

Davidson was not alone. Many teachers continued to teach through Google classroom assignments, some turned to its Learning to communicate and many just used email and text messages. Several also set up Zoom meetings with individual classes and all departments held Zoom meetings within their departments for weekly or bi-weekly meetings. The new normal was being common.

"It's confusing because everyone is teaching at different times and getting connected to the different formats teachers are using

2



can be tricky," senior **Shelby Jackson** said. "This is not the ideal way to learn."

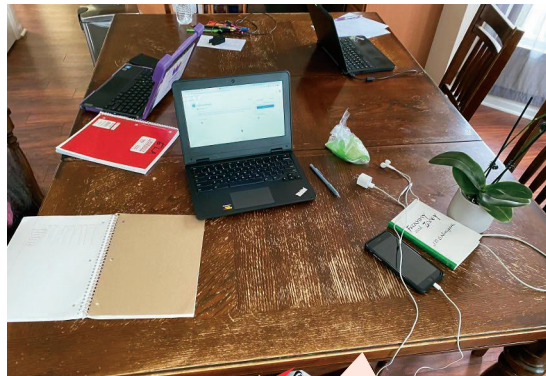
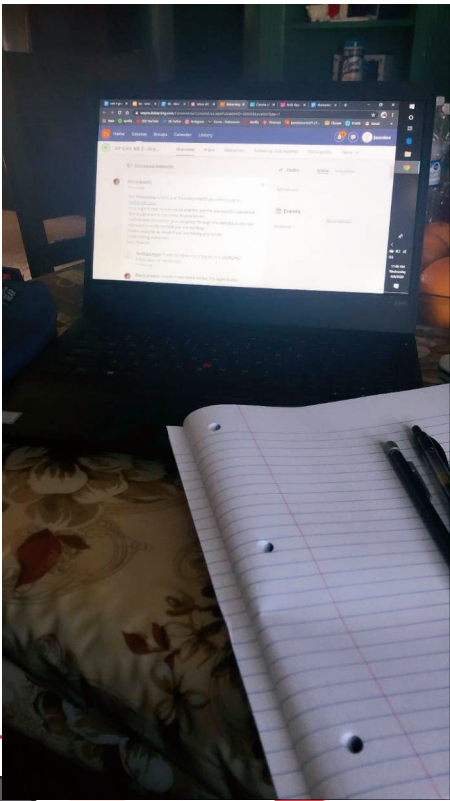
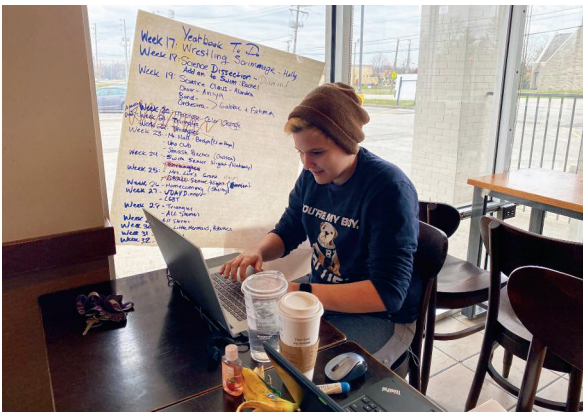
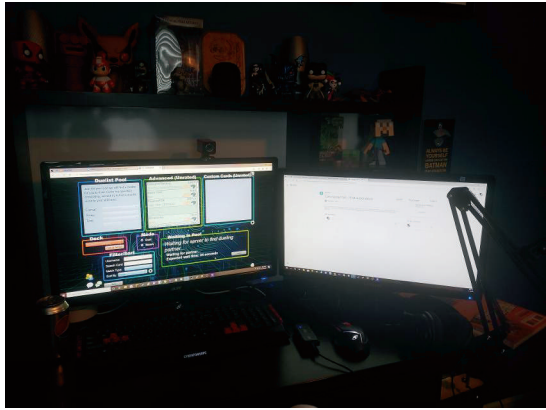
Teachers were asked to have at least one graded assignment per week for the last eight weeks of school and students were told that three days a week teachers would be available for "office hours". The school distributed 345 devices during the first two weeks of April to help students get connected at home. Many students faced the challenges of sharing remote learning time with siblings or having to spend their time at home watching siblings while parents worked. Some simply did not have remote access capabilities.

"The biggest challenging has just been communicating with everyone," science teacher **Karly Hiquet** said. "Plus I just miss my students. We do so much group work that is just not possible through remote learning so that has been something to deal with."

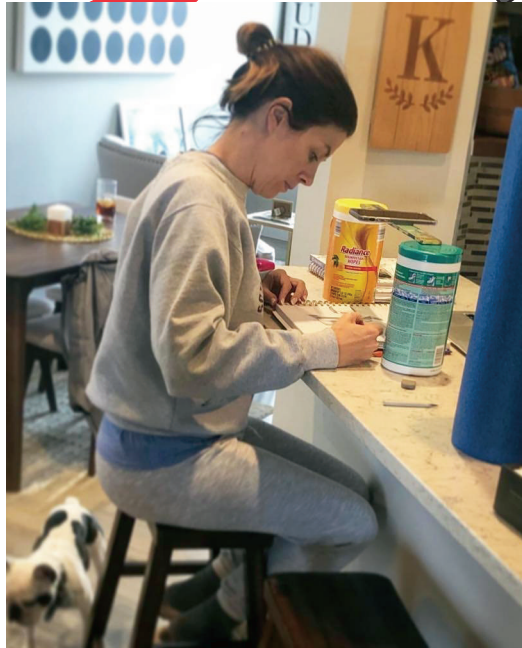
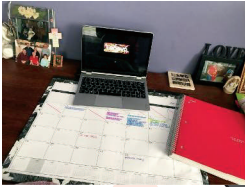
As much as teachers miss students, students also missed teachers.

"I never realized how much I would miss school," senior **Kendall Davis** said. "It is one of those thing that you don't realize how much you like it until it is taken away. I miss my friends, my teachers and yes even the school work. This is not how I envisioned finishing my senior year."

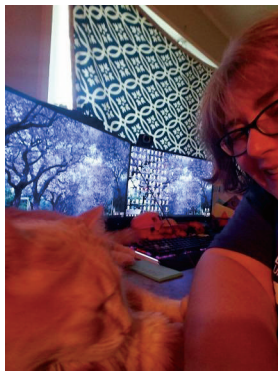




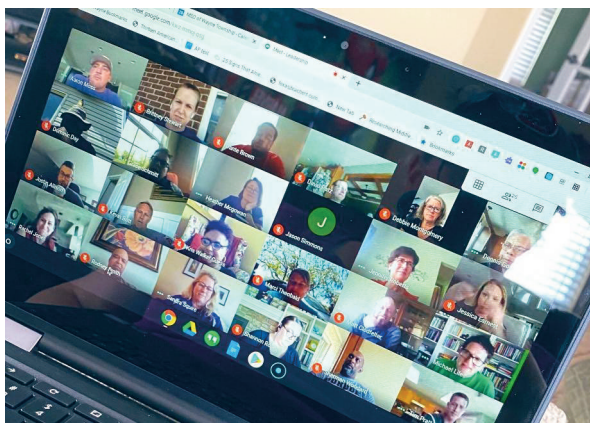
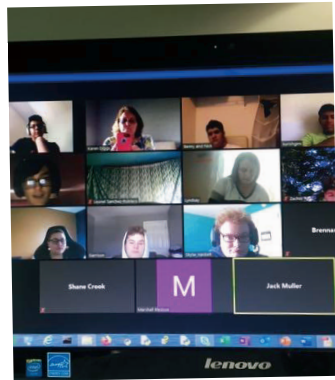
Remote learning took on all kinds of looks. Senior **Kendall Davis** (left) enjoyed a dark room for his studies while senior **Sydney Brown** (above) moved her yearbook planning to the Starbucks on 10th Street. Senior **Jasmine Cortez** (right) kept a notebook near her computer. Sophomore **Amadou Diallo** moved his work area to the family dining room while senior **Shelby Jackson** (inset) was organized in her bedroom.



Art teacher **Allison Knudsen** (above) prepares an art lesson from her home. English teacher **Paisley Kleinhenz** (below left) wears a mask while teaching remotely and English teacher **Mahala Frandsen** (below right) has company in her new classroom)



Teachers were creative in getting lessons out to their classes and communicating with each other. The performing arts department (above) has a Zoom meeting, which Impact classes (above right) also used. Performing arts chairman **Dennis Goins** (right) addresses his department during a meeting. English teacher **Matt Welches** (below middle) took his class outside when he could and all department chairs (below right) met regularly through Zoom.







# Wayne comes together to provide much needed support

While students and teachers were away from the building due to the coronavirus health crisis, several staff members went above and beyond to help solve community problems. Area 31 staff members **Tim Pratt** and **Aaron Moss** played a special part in helping the community. Pratt spent the first two weeks away from school gathering personal protective equipment from classrooms around Ben Davis and delivering them to IU West Hospital. "I knew we had the equipment and I knew there was a need for it," Pratt said. "It was just a matter of getting everything together and getting it to those who needed it," Pratt collected gloves, masks, gowns and anything he could find that he felt might be needed in a hospital. He inventoried what he collected and then -- with the help of superintendent Dr. Jeff Butts -- delivered it to IU West Hospital in Avon. "It just feels good being able to help in some small way," Pratt said. "It is the right thing to do." Moss, who teaches advanced manufacturing, teamed with a friend who teaches at Zionsville High School, to produce face shields using 3-D printers. "It is a technology available to us that just made sense," Moss said. "We saw a need and we know we had the ability to make them (the face shields) so we got together and made it happen." That's the Wayne way.



Area 31 staffers **Tim Pratt** (above and right) and **Aaron Moss** (left) found creative ways to help the community during the health crisis.







## Feeding Wayne families

When it came to making sure students were fed during the Covid-19 health crisis, Wayne Township rose to the occasion. The township served nearly 90,000 meals a week during the nearly three months that students were out of school. Lunches were served at three elementary schools around the township and school buses were used to deliver food during spring break. Staff members from the administration and all schools volunteered their time to serve the meals and community members were allowed to pick up two meals per child on the three days per week food was served. The township made sure to follow proper guidelines serving the meals by dropping them off in trunks and back seats while maintaining proper social distancing during the deliveries.



570

Chromebooks provided to Ben Davis students for home use.

## Providing Technology

One of the bigger issues faced during the remote learning part of the pandemic, was making sure all students had access to technology. The township distributed 570 chromebooks to Ben Davis students for home use during the eight weeks that students dealt with remote learning. **Brad Perdue** (right) cleans the chromebooks before delivery while the circle drive in front of the Ninth Grade Center (left) was used as the pickup location. "We now know we have a huge equity gap in technology with our students," principal **Sandra Squire** said. "That is something we will work on going forward."







# Community Pride

## Facebook group honors Class of 2020

Senior **Sierra Lee** was struggling with all that was missing from her final months of high school, when a Facebook group came to her rescue.

"This page is honestly really special I think just because as seniors we want to show off our accomplishments and be able to get support and love from our community," Lee said. "Just that feeling of getting adopted by some stranger or someone you know is a great feeling because you know that there is someone who cares and wants you to feel special."

Lee was one of approximately 350 Ben Davis seniors who were adopted through this page by a community member.

Being "adopted" means that person treats you to something in honor of the Class of 2020. For some, it was candy and t-shirts, for others special cards and sayings, for others yard

signs and some seniors even received a school yearbook.

The group was founded by Michelle Palmer Nuckols, a Wayne Township mother who has one student at BD and one graduate.

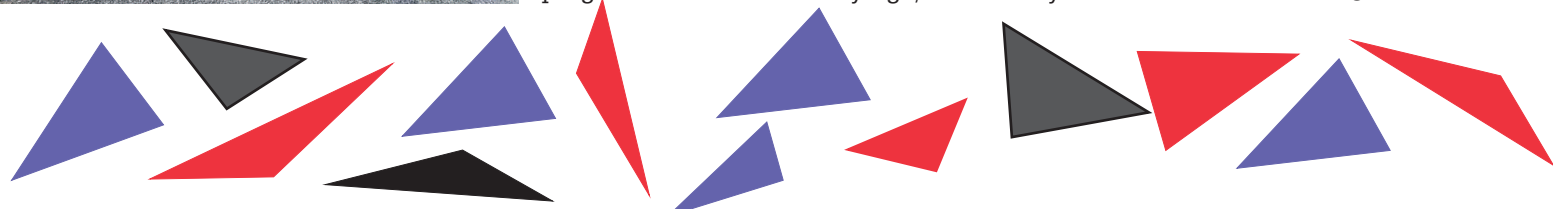
"We just wanted to do something to show this class how proud we as a community are of them," Nuckols said.

Covid-19 cost the Class of 2020 Wayne Walks, prom, senior skip day, Evening of Excellence, Arts Alive, SWEAT, the Top 30 banquet and more. This page was not designed to replace those traditions, but to add to them.

"Those tears I will miss out on, that euphoric feeling of accomplishment and success and just being able to say 'I did it,'" Lee said. "Since life is different we just have to keep moving and begin the next chapter of our life and to continue being successful."



Seniors like **Malik Temple** (above) joined a Facebook group where community members adopted a student. Some seniors received yard signs (left) through this program.

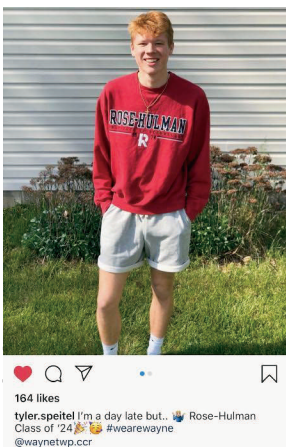


### Top 30 parades

On the evening of May 5, three caravans gathered on the Ben Davis parking lot and split their separate ways to honor the Top 30 academic students at Ben Davis. The caravans were filled with administrators and teachers who drove to each Top 30 student and honored them with a yard sign.







## Senior E Day

The first of May is reserved for what has been called Senior Signing Day. At Ben Davis, we refer to it as Senior E Day where seniors can announce if they play to Enlist, Employ or Educate after high school. This year the day went virtual, as seniors posted on social media their intentions for their post-high school plans. Other senior traditions like Wayne Walks, Evening of Excellence and the final shows from theatre and choir also went virtual.



## Student media programs keep on ticking

Despite the obvious setbacks caused by Covid-19, the student media programs were alive and broadcasting or publishing.

BDTV continued producing a weekly broadcast by obtaining cell phone videos from students and staff and putting together a broadcast that aired over Youtube and was emailed throughout the township.

WBDG radio remained on the air during the pandemic and even produced podcasts that were streamed throughout the two months that students were away from school.

Spotlight and Keyhole also continued to publish, with Spotlight content filling up their online web site bdsplight.com and Keyhole students producing this supplement.

In addition, April and May are big contest months for high school student media. Ben Davis student media programs combined to win 18 awards from the Women's Press Club of Indiana, 34 from Ball State University and eight from Youth Journalism International.

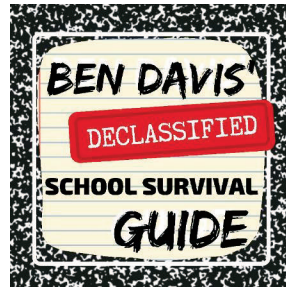
Senior **Anna Eggers** grabbed the biggest award when she was named runner-up for international student journalist of the year as awarded by YJI.

Spotlight earned two first place awards from YJI with its first issue of the year -- the Declassified School Survival Guide (pictured) -- named the best special section of the year and an editorial about school change also earned first place. BDTV grabbed first place in multi-media sports with **Hannah Baines** winning for her Football Hype story.

"The judges said our declassified guide was 'just a warm, happy reading experience'," journalism teacher Tom Hayes said. "I don't know if anything we have ever produced has gotten that kind of praise."

Hayes also was especially proud of Eggers, who became the second BD journalist to be recognized by YJI (2018 graduate Evelyn Sanchez was named International Student Journalist of the Year her senior year).

"Anna has left a huge mark in X109," Hayes said. "She will be missed in that classroom."





# 'This is my city'

## BD alumni report from the front lines

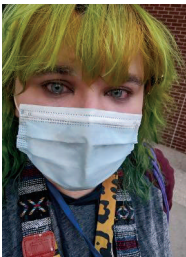
Lauren Chapman vividly remembers 2009. "The video I shared Saturday night of protesters fleeing tear gas was *literally* where I learned to parallel park," said Chapman, a 2011 Ben Davis graduate. "December 2009 with Mr. Butterworth."

Only in May and June of 2020, that spot was in the middle of downtown protests that lasted for more than 10 days following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis. Chapman and 2014 BD graduate Breanna Cooper worked as local reporters covering the protest rallies, Chapman with WFYI Channel 40 and Cooper with the *Indianapolis Recorder* newspaper.

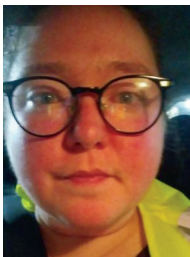
"In many ways this whole thing is surreal," Chapman said. "Growing up I saw this type of stuff happening on television



An unidentified women reacts to being the victim of a tear gas explosion on May 31, 2020 in downtown Indianapolis. Former *Spotlight* editors Breanna Cooper and Lauren Chapman covered the two weeks of rallies protesting against racism. The two reporters provided all these photos.



Cooper



Chapman

halfway around the world. Never did I imagine I would be taking pictures of it where I learned to drive."

The rallies turned violent on

May 30 and 31 and both Chapman and Cooper were in the middle of the violence. Chapman was the victim of six tear gas explosions and Cooper was the victim of two.

"I never thought I would have to learn how to survive tear gas," Cooper said.

Besides those two violent nights -- which received plenty of news coverage -- the rallies were for the most part nonviolent with protesters calling for an end to police

violence and racism.

"Absolutely I understand where the anger comes from," Chapman said. "I grew up 10 minutes from downtown and the people out here are my friends. I understand why they are calling for change."

So does Cooper.

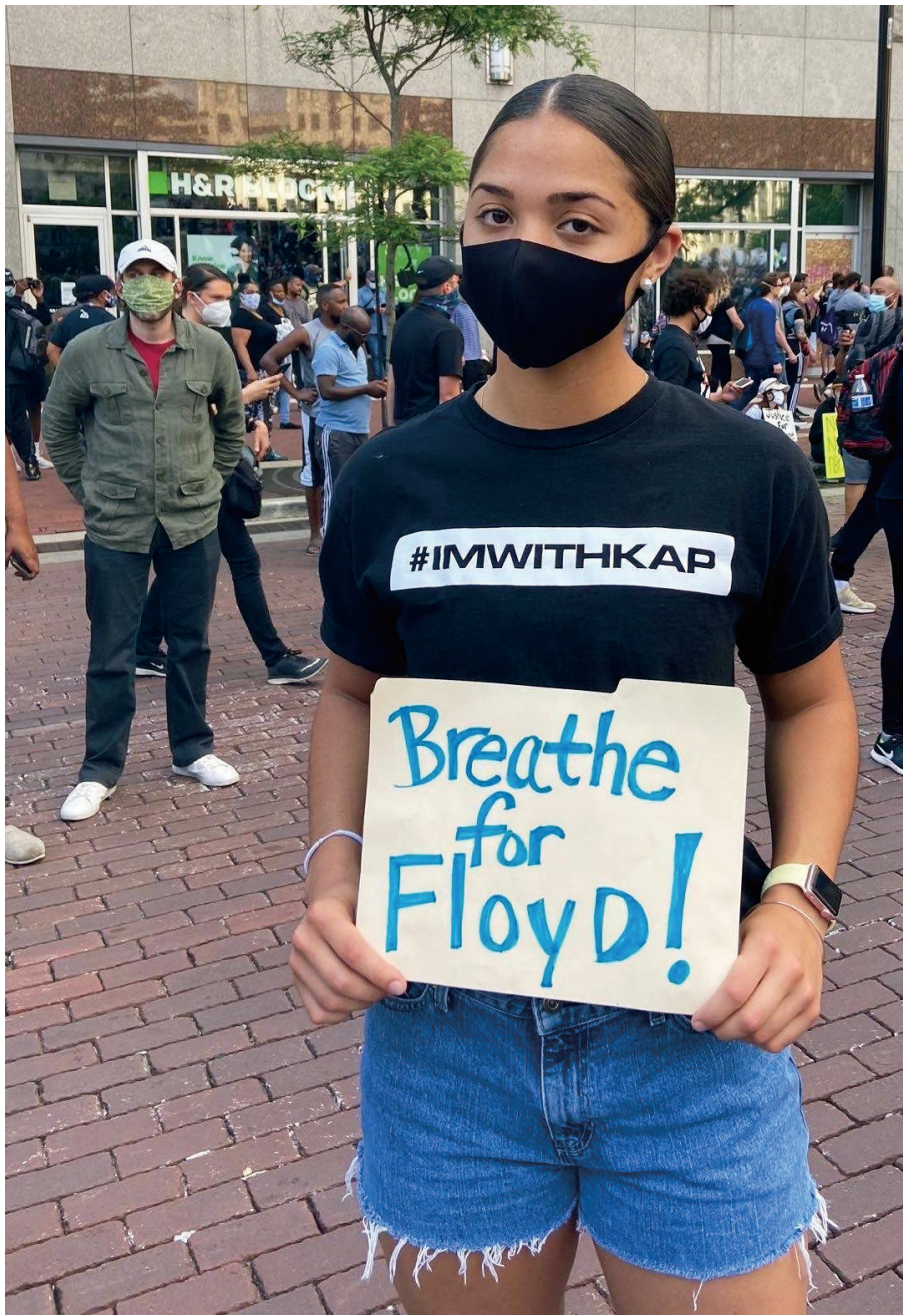
"People are hurt in this city and around the country," Cooper said. "It hurts to see this in my downtown, but I understand why they are protesting. It is time for a change."



The police presence was felt every night of the rallies and the police reacted with force on May 30 and 31 when the protests turned violent. The violence caused Mayor Joe Hogsett to set a county-wide curfew the week of June 5. "It was scary to be in the middle of all this," said 2014 Ben Davis grad Breanna Cooper.







## Attending the rallies was right decision for Robinson

Like many people across the country, sophomore Kansas Robinson was tired.

"My family had lots of talks about how furious and exhausted we were with the way black people are treated," Robinson said. "It makes us sick and the only thing that could help the way we felt was to get out and use our voice. At first my parents were not sure if they were going to let me go or not because they thought it might be dangerous. But I used my voice and they let me go. We joined the rally, for our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives due to racism and for our brothers and sisters who could be next. I believe our voices matter and can make a difference. I wanted my voice to be heard."

Robinson attended the May 30 rally but left before things turned violent.

"Through this experience I learned that George Floyd could have been my father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, friend or even my brother and that's a scary thing to think about," Robinson said of the man whose death at the hands of police in Minneapolis caused the rallies across the nation. "The thing I will remember the most is seeing people of all races and ages coming together calling for the same change."

**" I would absolutely speak out against injustice again but as my dad said, I hope this is the last time I ever have to."**

**- sophomore Kansas Robinson (left)**



Rallies across the city called for an end to police brutality and racism. The mostly peaceful gatherings usually began near the Monument Circle and would extend to the Indiana Statehouse and beyond. A rally at the Statehouse on June 6 brought an estimated crowd of 10,000.

