



Melvin Girton Sr.

Longtime pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church dies at 91

By STAFF

Melvin Girton Sr., who served as pastor at Christ Missionary Baptist Church for more than 50 years, died Oct. 29 at the age of 91.

Girton led the northwest side church from 1964 to 2015. He began going to Sunday school there as a young boy and was baptized in the church when he was 11, according to the church's website.

Girton's nephew, John Girton, called his uncle an "interrupter." Whether it was fighting for Black women's right to be pastors or reaching across denominational and racial lines, the elder Girton showed "a willingness to consciously challenge systems."

John Girton went on to be the pastor at Christ Missionary Baptist Church after his uncle. He has since retired and said the only pressure he felt in that role

See GIRTON, A3►

A visitation service will be 2-6 p.m. Nov. 7 at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, 1001 Eugene St., with a musical from 6-8 p.m. There will be a celebration of life at 11 a.m. Nov. 8 at the church. The family requests memorial contributions be sent to Crispus Attucks High School Alumni Foundation, 4444 N. Irwin Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 46226. Memorial contributions will be used to support a scholarship in honor of Dr. Melvin B. Girton Sr.

To raise kids around here, 'It takes a little love, lots of prayer' and a football coach who cares



The Indy Steelers have been a part of the Tarkington Park community located in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood for years. Hundreds of children from around the area have trained under Donnell Hamilton, who is known as Coach Nell. (Photos/Stephanie Mbathi)

BY FARAH YOUSRY

Richard Donnell Hamilton remembers his godfather — who was also his football coach — telling him, "I know you're not gonna let this big boy push you down."

Hamilton was a 6-year-old playing football with the 9-year-olds. He remembers that this "big boy" was the biggest one on the opposing team. Still, he ran into him as hard as he could.

"And I fell down and snot was coming out of my nose. So I mean, from there, I just love football, you know," he said with a laugh. "I just love the competition. I love being physical."

And if you ask Hamilton now to describe the sport, he would say: "Football is life." And it is not hard to see why.

Hamilton fell in love with the sport as a toddler; he played in middle school and high school and received multiple statewide accolades. He held the record for most interceptions in a season for decades. He was the team captain. His coaches and teammates expected that he would be a college football player and shortly after that, an NFL star.



Coach Nell is like a father to many of the Indy Steelers players. He guides them through practice but also arranges for other events off the field like BBQ and pool parties.

But, as a senior in high school growing up in Butler-Tarkington neighborhood on Indianapolis' near north side, he used to hang out with the wrong crowd. He got in trouble and was jailed.

"Football was over. I felt like school was over. I felt like, man, forget it. I'm gonna be out

See COACH, A11►

Rental assistance program expanded

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The city's rent assistance program will accept applications for up to 12 months of help, an increase from the previous period of three months.

The money for the expansion comes from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, which allocated \$91 million for rent assistance. The city-county council approved the allocation in September.

As of the announcement Oct. 27, the city has distributed \$70.7 million in rent assistance to 30,000 households. Apply at indyrent.org.

Households can use the money to pay back rent or pay ahead in three-month installments, Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett said.

"We're proud to continue to extend a lifeline to residents still feeling the economic impact of the pandemic," Mayor Joe Hogsett said in a statement. "This extension provides an opportunity to families across Indianapolis to regain economic stability and more equitably experience prosperity."

To be eligible for rental assistance, Marion County households must be below 80% of the area median income, have experienced a reduction in earned income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and be at risk of housing instability.



GettyImages

The expansion comes at a time when Indianapolis is facing what many consider an eviction crisis. Eviction Lab, a Princeton University program that tracks evictions, counted 712 eviction filings in Indianapolis during the week of Sept. 19-26. That was the highest number since August 2020 in the first week following the end of the state's eviction moratorium.

An eviction moratorium from the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) staved off some evictions, but the moratorium wasn't as sweeping as that state's. The CDC moratorium ended in August.

Landlords could still file for evictions during the moratoria, so many of the cases being heard now are part of a backlog of pending cases.

The assistance is meant to keep people out of eviction court, but if they do end up there, most townships in Marion County have legal assistance,

which can include help negotiating with a landlord, legal advice and getting connected to rent assistance. The only townships without legal assistance — Franklin and Perry — will have it when the city and its partners are able to hire enough attorneys.

Many tenants who go to court don't have an attorney, while landlords — especially corporate landlords — are typically well represented.

Many tenants who go to court are low-income and about a year behind on rent, according to Brandon Beeler, director of the Housing Law Center at Indiana Legal Services, one of the participants in the legal assistance program.

The Indiana Supreme Court, following recommendations from a task force, established a program that requires courts to tell the tenant and landlord about rental assistance that is available. If both parties agree to apply for the funding, eviction proceedings can be delayed for 90 days.

Both parties can also agree to use a mediator. In that case, the eviction filing is sealed, so what many call "the scarlet E" won't haunt that person's record.

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



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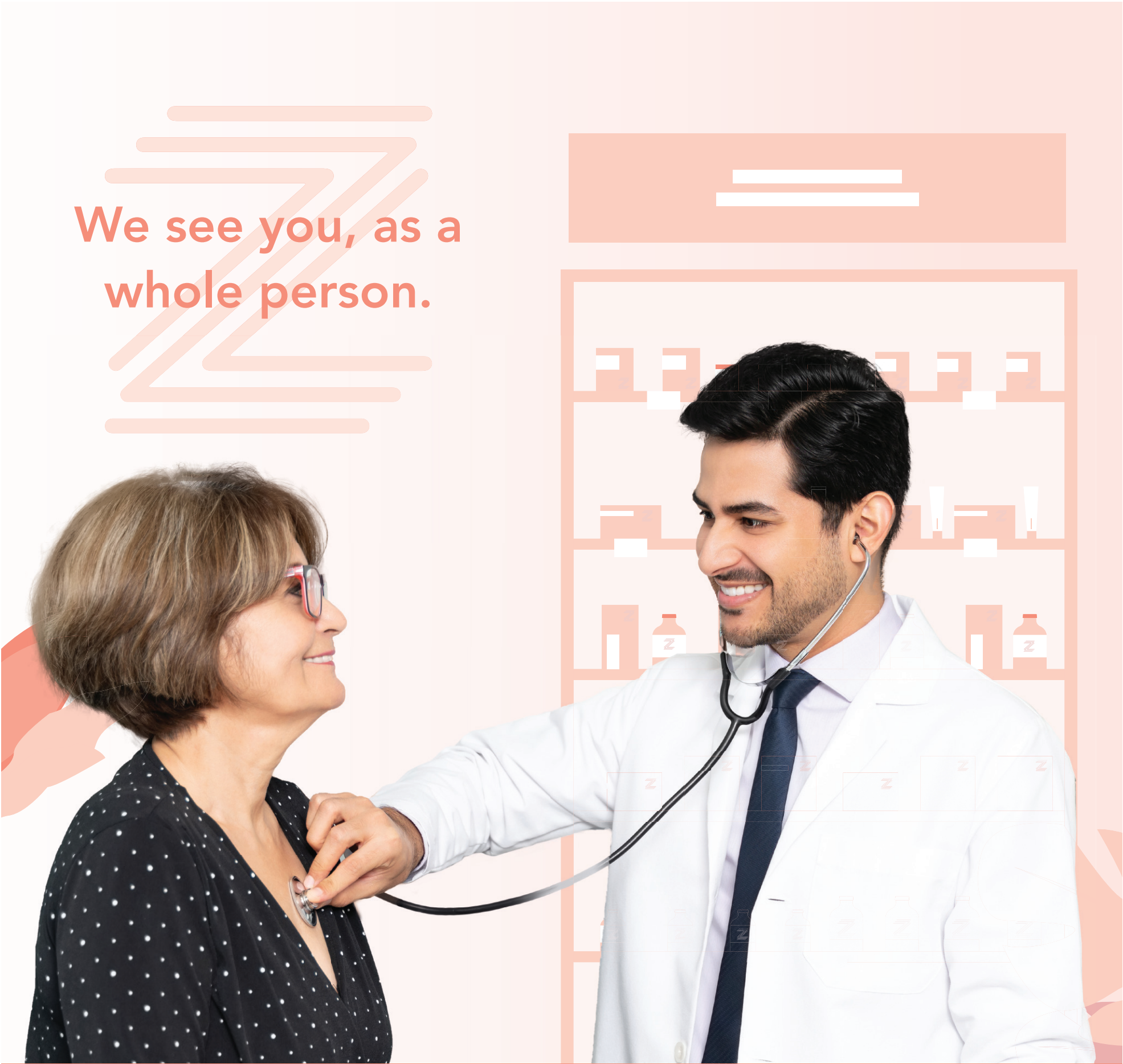
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GIRTON
► Continued from A1

was to continue a legacy and have the same impact on his peers and future generations. Other than that, there’s no living up to what Girton did over 51 years. “There’s really no way to follow somebody like that,” he said. “It’s just impossible to think that I could fill his shoes.”

Girton served as president of the Baptist Ministers Alliance and was also involved with the local NAACP chapter and National Baptist Convention.

Rev. Wayne Moore, pastor at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church and current president of the Baptist Ministers Alliance, said Girton should be remembered with the likes of local faith leaders such as the

late Andrew J. Brown and Arthur Johnson. “He is in what I would call the faith-based iconic hall of fame,” said Moore, who was an associate pastor at Christ Missionary Baptist Church in the 1980s.

Girton was a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis.

David Greene, president of the Concerned Clergy and pastor of Purpose of Life Ministries, knew Girton for 20 years and remembers him as an advocate for social justice.

“He was legendary in our city as one of the senior

pastors at the forefront of social justice issues and issues that impacted the city,” Greene said.

Greene recalled a press conference Girton held in 2018 when then-United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions visited Indianapolis to speak at the Indiana Law Enforcement Conference. Girton used the opportunity to advocate for equity within the community.

“He was never afraid to take a stand,” Greene said. “He loved pastors, and he emphasized that all we have is each other and we need to encourage one another.”

BRIEFS

Martindale-Brightwood community invited to education forum

Martindale-Brightwood residents are invited to an education forum to help improve education outcomes for students at James Russell Lowell School 51, as well as broader goals for neighborhood education.

The forum, in partnership with Edna Martin Christian Center, will be 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at School 51, 3426 Roosevelt Ave.

Free food and child care will be provided. Register online. Send questions to School 51 Principal Pat Lumbley at lumbleyw@myips.org or 317-226-4251.

College Football Day at children’s museum

Teachers can get free admission to College Football Day noon-3 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. The event is hosted by the 2022 College Football Playoff Indianapolis Host Committee.

College Football Day will feature giveaways, photo opportunities, interactive games and flag football outside in the Riley Children’s Health Sports Legends Experience.

A limited number of tickets are available to teachers for free. Each teacher can get up to four complimentary tickets. Once all free tickets are gone, teachers will receive discounted admission. The reduced price will be \$8.75 for adults and \$6.75 for children under 18.

New film celebrates greatriarch, Martindale-Brightwood


“Rasheeda’s Freedom Day,” a short film by Dija Henry and the Harrison Center, will be shown at 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at Toby Theater at Newfields.

The 35-minute film tells the story of Indianapolis resident and greatriarch JoAnna LeNoir, who left an abusive situation and moved her family to Martindale-Brightwood. The suggested rating for the movie is PG.

A panel discussion featuring JoAnna LeNoir, greatriarch; Dija Henry, director, actress and CEO of Blue House Entertainment; and Sampson Levingston, local historian of Through 2 Eyes Indiana, will follow the screening.

The red carpet will begin at 6:30 p.m. and a meet and greet will be 8 p.m.


Visit discovernewfields.org for tickets.



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DeAndra Dycus' oldest son was hit by a stray bullet while attending a birthday party and is now paralyzed.

Ceasefire rallies to prevent gun violence

Unity Indy City, a movement started by Della Brown and Ron Gee, held peace rallies for a 72-hour ceasefire to prevent gun violence in the city. Rallies were held at several locations, bringing the neighborhood communities together for a peaceful gathering of family and friends. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



India Hammond (l) and Jeanna Parker held signs peace calling for peace near 25th Street and North Sherman Drive.



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Gentrification, housing instability among explanations for lagging enrollment in IPS

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Indianapolis Public Schools is slowly rebounding from the effect COVID-19 has had on enrollment, but that's not the case at the K-6 level, where almost every grade is still below pre-pandemic numbers.

The culprits could include gentrification and housing instability.

Low-income and Black residents in Indianapolis have two things working against them when it comes to housing stability: Landlords evict more people here than almost anywhere else in the country, and neighborhood demographics have shifted as more communities experience gentrification, leading to displacement in some cases.

"We're not isolated from those realities," Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said.

The fallout from those realities plays out in two ways. Just because a family needs to move because of an eviction or rising housing costs doesn't mean they'll leave IPS boundaries. Those students may stay in the district but at a different school. That would impact retention rates at specific schools but not necessarily the overall enrollment number for the district.

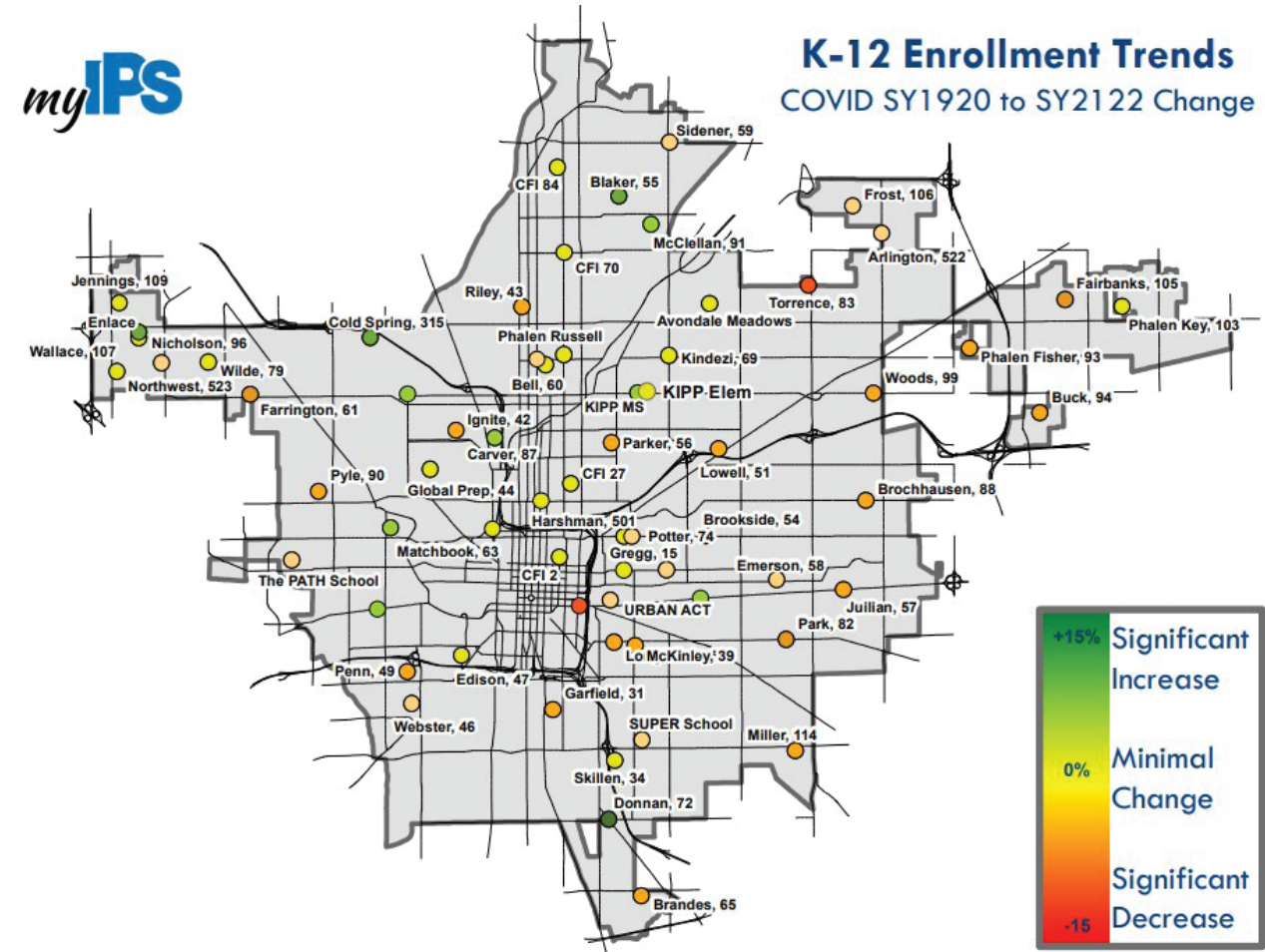
IPS provides transportation for choice schools anywhere within district boundaries, but if a student moves outside of the boundary for his or her neighborhood school, transportation could be an issue, especially for low-income families.

Other times, a family may move out of the district into a township school, or they may enroll their student into a private or charter school not affiliated with IPS. That would impact overall enrollment numbers.

Maps prepared by Patrick Herrel, the district's director of enrollment and options, show how housing costs have changed within IPS boundaries with two maps — one over the last one-year period and the other over 10 years.

The 10-year map shows the near east side and southeast side experiencing the highest spikes in housing costs. The one-year map shows virtually the whole district has seen at least a 10% increase.

The fact that housing costs have risen almost every-



A map shows enrollment trends in Indianapolis Public Schools, which is rebounding to pre-pandemic levels. (Screenshot)

where in the district over the last year makes it more likely that when families have to find somewhere else to live, they're looking outside of the district, Herrel said.

The only grade in K-6 to recover from the pandemic effect is first grade. Fifth and sixth grade are farthest behind.

The picture is much different in grades 7-12, where enrollment has increased across the board compared to pre-pandemic numbers. The largest increase is in 12th grade.

Teachers get a new contract

The school board approved a two-year contract with the teachers' union that includes a roughly 3% raise for the current year and another 3% next school year.

The agreement increases first-year teacher pay to about \$49,000 this school year and \$50,000 next school year. The district will also increase its 403(b) retirement fund match.

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

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Caden Curry
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Joe Davis
Lutheran



D.J. Gordon
Park Tudor



William Harris
Park Tudor



Tayven Jackson
Center Grove



Montez Jones
Lawrence North



Aataeveon Jordan
Franklin Central



Bryce Llewellyn
Cathedral



Caleb Marcus
Brownsburg



Colin McPeck
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John Nabors
Covenant Christian



Danny O'Neil
Cathedral



De-Fayebeon Pittman
Arsenal Technical



DeQuan Stennis
Sccecina Memorial



J'uan Swanson
Ben Davis



Damon Thompkins
Beech Grove



Javon Tracy
Decatur Central



Max Walters
Brebeuf Jesuit



Blaine Wertz
Hamilton Southeastern

"Developing life goals is the big picture. Every day during practice, workouts, and games these young men learned the importance of developing good work habits, accountability, teamwork, leadership, respect, and perseverance. These lessons have made them stronger young men and their performance on the field is evidence of their work. Team sports teach you that people are depending on you to do your job, and when you don't, the team fails. These young men did not allow their teams to fail." - InnoPower



IMPD annual Community Day

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department East District recently held its annual Community Day at JTV Hill Community Center on the near north side. Surrounded by Halloween decorations, several hundred visitors were able to pick up information from the many vendors who were present. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Zera, 8, gets an arm sticker from Raynah Digins, of Fantasy Face Painting Plus.



Sequitta Mays (r), with Finish Line Youth Foundation, gives IMPD Sgt. Tamra Harper a gift bag.



Aster Bekele, founder of Felege Hiywot Center.

Catch the Stars Foundation trick-or-treat trail Halloween party

Catch the Stars Foundation, founded by retired WNBA player Tamika Catchings, recently held a trick-or-treat trail Halloween party at Tarkington Park Center. Catchings, who is currently vice president and general manager of Indiana Fever basketball operations, passed out Halloween candy and gifts. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett, Jasmine Black and her children, Landan 4, and Kaplan Logan, 5 months old, and Tamika Catchings.



The Neal family took time out from gathering candy to pose with Catchings.




Access to high-speed internet is a necessity.

Too many Hoosiers do not have access to the affordable, high-speed internet they need to work, attend school, see the doctor, and avoid isolation. That's why AARP fought for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a federal program to help lower the cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hoosiers who may have experienced financial setbacks during the pandemic or are struggling to get by may be eligible for a discount of up to \$50 per month for high-speed internet services through this short-term program.

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Indianapolis-based Midwest Fashion Week goes to South Africa, puts all eyes on Gauteng tourism and economy



By **KACIE CLARK**
Special to the Recorder

When we think of fashion meccas, the Midwest doesn't typically come to mind — and South Africa likely doesn't either. And yet, both regions are brimming with talent and untapped economic pathways that are under-explored and under-appreciated. On Sept. 25, local fashion production company Midwest Fashion Week ended its runway show hiatus with an exclusive event in Johannesburg, South Africa, to change these views. The goal? To bring awareness to the culture and talents of the people, expand international tourism and bridge the gap between the Midwest and South African economies so that both may prosper.

Like many countries, South Africa was significantly affected by the pandemic, especially its tourism sector which boosts local business and industry. To dispel misconceptions and show that the region is safe for visitors looking to explore the beautiful lands, vibrant city life and many historical and wildlife sites of Gauteng Province, Midwest Fashion Week partnered

CONTINUES ON, A9►



(Above): (l to r) Lionel Moise, Barba Gaoganediwe, Berny Martin, Thebe Ikalafeng, Carol Bouwer during a discussion at “CONNEXIONS,” a runway show produced by fashion production company Midwest Fashion Week in Johannesburg, South Africa. The models are wearing hats by Heather Marie Design of South Bend and suits from Indianapolis fashion designer Catou.



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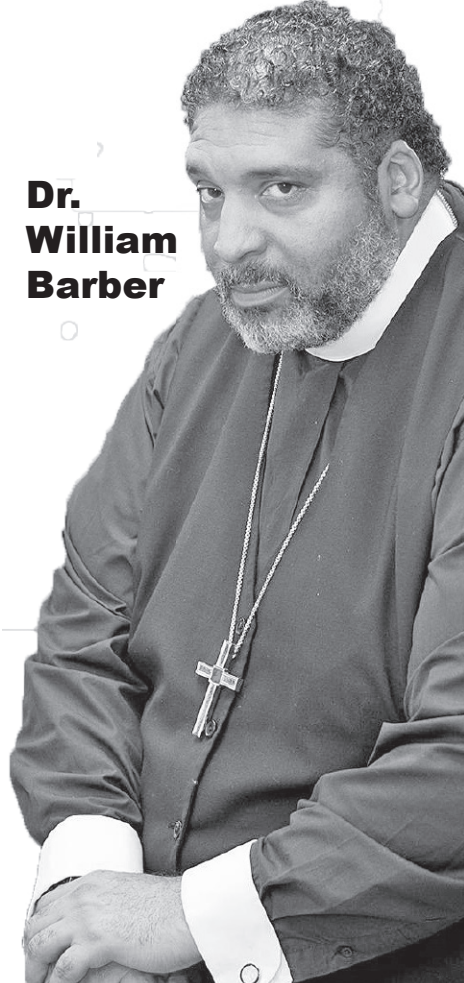


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EDITORIAL

When Black is controversial and offensive

By OSEYE BOYD



Remember way back in 2020 when brands took to their social media pages and blacked out the profile image to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter?

Remember how companies promised to be more inclusive and diverse, to do better?

It seems like ages ago, but it was just a year ago, and it was en vogue to be all “Black lives matter.” Unfortunately, our collective attention span is short in America, and we’ve forgotten about it and moved on.

I thought the campaigns, which included pledges to be better, were dubious to begin with. Were these companies truly committed to the real work of change, would it last or was it just for show? You know, another way to for capitalism to capitalize.

Turns out much of it was performative. Who would’ve guessed?

As someone who works in Black media, I took a special interest in whether brands would put their money where there blacked-out profile was and if it would continue long term.

YouTube is one of the companies that pledged to work to “dismantle systemic racism” and support Black creatives and the Black community. In June 2020, YouTube’s CEO Susan Wojcicki announced a multiyear \$100 million fund for “amplifying and developing the voices of Black creators and artists and their stories” on the brand’s official blog. YouTube also took steps to protect people from hate speech

and harassment on its platform.

Sounds great, doesn’t it?

It does until you realize YouTube parent company Google made it difficult for advertisers to connect with YouTube videos that dealt with “Black Lives Matter” content.

“But an investigation by The Markup found that YouTube parent company Google blocks advertisers from using dozens of social and racial justice terms including Black Lives Matter, to find YouTube videos and channels upon which to advertise,” according to an article in The Markup, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates how businesses use technology to change society.

What’s interesting is Google didn’t block keywords such as “all lives matter” and “White lives matter.” Google Ads did block “Black power,” but it didn’t block “White power.” Other blocked keywords included “reparations,” “colonialism,” “antifascist,” “American Muslim” and “sex work.”

When contacted about this disparity, Google added even more words and phrases to the list: “Black excellence,” “LGBTQ,” “Say Their Names,” “antiracism,” “civil rights,” “Black is beautiful,” “believe Black women,” “abolish ICE,” “Black trans lives matter,” “I can’t breathe,” “queer,” “Muslimfashion.”

In addition to Google keeping ad dollars out of the pockets of Black people, a Vice Media Group analysis found “content related to the death of George Floyd and resulting protests was monetized at a rate of 57% lower than other news content.” A senior vice president at Vice went on to detail how a large entertainment company’s ad agency sent a list of blocked

words that included “Black people” and “Black Lives Matter” but issued a statement of support for the Black Lives Matter movement that same week.

The duplicitousness isn’t surprising.

Advertisers want to steer clear of controversy. Making money for shareholders is what’s important for business not necessarily having a stance on an issue, but executives want to look like their business cares. It’s all marketing.

Basically, Black people and all things concerning Black people are controversial. As someone who works in Black media, this is disheartening and anger inducing. It’s maddening to know an article on an issue as important as decreasing maternal mortality for Black women and infant mortality for Black babies could be viewed as controversial because the word “Black” is used. How then do we disseminate important information to our community?

It’s a given in the Black Press that some might not like what you do, and you may not get ads because of it. However, you don’t expect to learn the biggest search engine in the country has a concerted effort to steer ad dollars away from Black media just because you use the word “Black,” and at the same time allowing for the use of actual racist phrases.

We continually have to fight an uphill battle just to survive, and so many times we’re not even aware of how much we’re up against.

Growing up I learned Black is beautiful. However, the society teaches you our very existence is controversial and offensive.

OPINIONS

IRT commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and access brings awareness in art

By JANET ALLEN and SUZANNE SWEENEY



The Indiana Repertory Theatre (IRT) is the largest, nonprofit, professional theater in Indiana. Housed in the historic Indiana Theatre, IRT is one of the heartbeats of Indianapolis, drawing adults and young people from across the state. For much of its history, and particularly the past eight years, IRT has been led by two women: Margot Lacy Eccles

Artistic Director Janet Allen and managing director Suzanne Sweeney. We are one of only five female-led theaters in the country. In concert with a volunteer board of directors, we helm an organization that has served over 100,000 people annually, employing a full-time staff of 50 and a freelance staff of over 100 actors, directors and designers. Committed to a mission that

is inclusive, the theater creates professional productions of plays that are meant to fire the imagination and empathy of people throughout our community, inviting audience members to learn more about each other and deepen their shared sense of humanity.

This season was curated to address many things we’ve questioned throughout the pandemic. The plays stand as our answer to some of those questions: What do we need in our lives now to broaden our thinking, fuel our empathy, steel our nerves, cause us to laugh or cry, and dedicate our energies to making our world better and more inclusive? We’ve leaned into work by female playwrights as well as a play that is an entirely female cast. In fact, over half of our roles this season will go to women!

The season is bookended with comedies because we desperately need to find reasons to laugh at our fragilities, having spent too much of the last two years lamenting them! “The Book Club Play” and “Steel Magnolias” each focus on a tight social world: a book club gathering, and a beauty salon gathering of regulars. “The Book Club Play,”

written by Mexican American master playwright Karen Zacarias, allows us to celebrate her unique female voice around National Hispanic Heritage Month. It provides audiences with a hilarious ride through a familiar social construct, the book club. “Steel Magnolias,” with an entirely female and multicultural cast, also dives into the secrets held by a tight group of community members, exploring both the laughter and pathos of Southern women who gather to share the upheavals and joys of their lives.

Another way in which we are celebrating the artistry of women is in producing the regional premiere of Jessica Huang’s “The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin,” which introduces us to a family caught up in a little-known segment of American immigration history, the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943). This work explores deeply the impact of this particular immigration crisis in the mid-20th century, but the resonances to today’s immigration issues — the “Muslim ban,” the situation at our Mexican border, the acts of hatred rained upon Asian Americans since the pandemic — all are part of the larger

impact of this beautiful play.

In recent years, our institutional commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA) has brought us into greater awareness of creating more work opportunities for female artists and artists of color, and while we have long had real strength in female staff, we have improved our female representation on our board, our freelancers and in our stated institutional values. We are pleased to say the IRT is thriving even in the adversity created by COVID-19. We are telling important stories on our stages, and we are welcoming all people (safely!) with open arms and hearts. We make art because we think it makes a difference in people’s lives both to make it and receive it and even more, to discuss it! Come see us and learn more at irtlive.com

Janet Allen is the Margot Lacy Eccles Artistic Director of Indiana Repertory Theatre. Contact her at jallen@irtlive.com.

Suzanne Sweeney is managing director of Indiana Repertory Theatre. Contact her at ssweeney@irtlive.com.

Build Back Better framework is a down payment on the American dream

By MARC H. MORIAL



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — “We need to build America from the bottom up and the middle out, not from top down with the trickle-down economics that’s always failed us. I can’t think of a single time when the middle class has done well but the wealthy haven’t done very well. I can think of many times, including now, when the wealthy and the super-wealthy do very well, and the middle class don’t do well. “These are not about left versus right, or moderate

versus progressive, or anything else that pits Americans against one another. This is about competitiveness versus complacency. It’s about expanding opportunity, not opportunity denied. It’s about leading the world or letting the world pass us by.” -President Joe Biden

For decades, American families have struggled to achieve the American dream of economic prosperity, homeownership and financial freedom due to years of neglect and failure of investment from Congress and the Trump administration.

The United States ranked 22nd in U.S. News & World Report’s 2021 “Best Countries for Raising Kids” rankings, and 34th of 35 in Asher & Lyric’s “Raising a Family Index.” Among 31 countries rated by UNICEF for family-friendly policies, the United States fell at the very bottom. The World Economic Forum’s Global Social Mobility Report ranked the United States 27th. We have the worst income inequality among the G7 nations. The Social Progress Index, which measures the extent to which countries provide for the social and environmental needs of their citizens, ranks the United States 27th.

By almost every conceivable metric, the United States has fallen behind. This week, President Biden reassured the American people that their dreams have not been forgotten.

While the framework for the Build Back Better Agenda and Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that President Biden announced recently does not include all of the National Urban League’s priorities, it is a substantial down payment on a historic investment in a prosperous future.

The framework is heavily based on the Main Street Marshall Plan, the National Urban League’s compre-

hensive plan to lift urban communities out of poverty and stimulate their economic growth.

It will facilitate the creation of millions of family-sustaining jobs, enable more Americans to join and remain in the workforce, and expand the American economy to allow equal opportunity for growth. Elements of the Main Street Marshall plan include:

- Universal and free preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds, making high-quality education available to more than 6 million children.
- Extension of the American Rescue Plan’s expanded Child Tax Credit, which reduced child poverty by 25% after only one payment and could slash child poverty by more than 40% in a typical year.
- Extension of the American Rescue Plan’s tripled Earned Income Tax Credit for more than 17 million low-wage workers.
- Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap, extending insurance coverage to 4 million Americans who are currently uninsured.
- Investment in the construction, rehabilitation and improvement of more than 1 million affordable homes.
- Down payment assistance that will allow hundreds of thousands of first-generation homebuyers to purchase a home and build wealth.

The Build Back Better Agenda and infrastructure bill are an investment in a nation that is inclusive, equitable and, most of all, attainable. It is time for the House and Senate to pass it and send to the president’s desk so we can put the American people first.

Marc H. Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

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COACH
► Continued from A1

here in the streets, you know, ended up being shot,” he said.

During his senior year at high school, Hamilton was shot in the knee two days after Christmas on Graceland Avenue right around the corner from Tarkington Park.

He still managed to get a scholarship to Western Kentucky University to study business but after almost two years of college ball, he was sent to prison and kicked out of school and off the football team.

He still feels the impact of the bullet in his leg from two more than two decades ago. But it’s also a good reminder for him of what it takes to raise youth around here. Hamilton is now in his 40s and does not play football anymore. “I played football when I was 150 pounds lighter,” Hamilton said. “You know, like the knee I got shot in, I still feel it. I’m overweight so I’m not into playing it anymore. I get my kicks out of coaching, watching, critiquing, and just putting back what I’ve learned and what I know back into the the youngsters.”

Hamilton never got the chance to become the pro football player he once aspired to be. But for him the ultimate do-over is the Indy Steelers, a youth football team that he’s been coaching for more than a decade.

‘A community affair’

On a green field at Tarkington Park on 39th and Illinois streets, a group of nearly 100 kids from around the neighborhood meet three days a week to practice football. The soundtrack to their practice is Hamilton’s yells, parents’ cheers and the ringing bell from the towering North United Methodist Church across the street.

It’s a community affair and that’s how Hamilton wants it to be.

Hamilton — or as the kids call him, Coach Nell — comes a few minutes early to unload some practice equipment from his pickup truck as well as a cooler with water and Gatorade. But besides the tackles, runs and throws, he also arranges for some lectures for the teams.

During practice on a sunny Saturday at noon, the kids sit in a circle around Joseph Jefferson Jr., a football player at Pike High School. Jefferson used to



In the neighborhood where the Indy Steelers play football, access to quality education is an ongoing issue. Only 7% of schools in Indianapolis neighborhoods with mostly Black and brown families are performing above the state’s average, compared to 47% of the schools located in white neighborhoods.

train on this very same field with Coach Nell. Much like his father, Joseph Jefferson, the former Colts star, Jefferson is a high school football star and now has college scholarships lined up.

But the reason Coach Nell asked him to speak today was not to teach the kids some of his football skills. It was to show them what a young man a few years older than them can achieve if he keeps his focus and priorities straight.

“It’s more than just football because unfortunately football does not last forever. So, education is really important. You go to college, you major in something and after football you can pursue [a] career and make your own money,” Jefferson said to the kids as they squinted their eyes to look at him. He tells them that anything is possible if they put in the work.

“Just listen to the coach. Do good in school. Be a responsible young man. Ya know right from wrong,” Jefferson said.

Every few weeks, Coach Nell arranges for a different speaker to continue to keep the kids inspired, focused and hopeful. There is no shortage of challenges around here especially for naturally rebellious and curious teenage boys.

Six years ago, the team lost De’Shaun Swanson, one of its 10-year-old players, to a stray bullet that entered the boy’s house near the park. While many of his friends are still reeling from the tragic death, this was not the first time most of the Steelers players have had to deal with gun violence despite their very young age.

“Every kid here has been touched by gun violence one way or the other,” Hamilton says. “It feels like it’s normal to them. That’s just wrong.”

Violence, education attainment impact life expectancy

And it’s not just gun violence slashing

years off of these young, innocent lives and taking away their caregivers and breadwinners. It’s also the lack of access to quality education that touches Black children more than any other community.

The latest study on life expectancy in Indianapolis by SAVI and Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health found that educational attainment is one of the factors that is most able to predict the life expectancy of a community. That is, communities with lower educational attainment had lower life expectancy.

And that’s a problem for the Steelers children.

Black and brown students in Indianapolis lack access to quality schooling across all age groups, according to a new report commissioned by the public health school at Indiana University. In fact, only 7% of schools in neighborhoods with mostly Black and brown families are performing above the state’s average as opposed to 47% of the schools located in white neighborhoods. According to the report, more than 70% of Black and brown children are enrolled in low-performing schools.

Tyree, a 15-year-old who just graduated from the Steelers, still comes to the park to hang out with friends and Coach Nell on practice days. He says Coach Nell taught him so much more than how to score a touchdown. Tyree’s first name only is used for privacy concerns.

“[Coach Nell] taught me football. He also taught me some life skills that not everything needs to be in violence, and that you can solve anything just by talking about some life skills that you need to work in, you don’t need to spend your money on everything that you see and buy,” he said.

Coach Nell and the Steelers were a much-needed outlet that kept Tyree

occupied when school was not the welcoming place it needed to be. And it kept him from engaging in some illegal activities some other school students were involved in.

“They would run off and go steal at the store or something. But at that time, I was at practice with Coach Nell,” he said.

“It’s everywhere.” That’s what families around here would say about gun violence, crumbling schools and poverty. And with them the stress and sense of hopelessness which could lead to wrong choices, especially at those crucial, formative years in young teenage boys’ lives.

According to a report by the Sentencing Project, 1 in 3 Black men born in 2001 can expect to be incarcerated in his lifetime — compared to 1 in 17 white men. Similarly, 1 in 18 Black women born in 2001 can expect to be incarcerated in her lifetime — compared to 1 in 111 white women.

Bias in policing exists as per a number of reports. But the socioeconomic conditions of the Black community also lead to this stark disparity in incarceration. And that could have lifelong effects on these men and women’s life and career prospects — and ultimately their health.

Coach Nell knows all about that from his days as a young teenager when bad choices changed the course of his life.

“I think it’s just instant gratification, you know. I mean, you’re selling drugs, making money and the girls love you and you feel you’re in control you know, you have power over everything when in reality you really don’t,” Coach Nell said. “It takes a little love, takes a lot of prayer and it takes, you know, people to be in your corner. You might need to have to start over and get a second chance at something.”

This story was reported as part of a partnership between WFYI, Side Effects Public Media and the Indianapolis Recorder. Contact Farah Yousry at fjyousry@wfyi.org or 857-285-0449. Follow her on Twitter @Farah_Yoursrym.

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James Turner is Committed to Community

James Turner, founder of Urban Education Recruiting Services, remains dedicated to serving his community. James and his company are part of the Advancing Tech in 46218 (AT46218), which takes a holistic approach to opening the world of tech to people looking for opportunities in one specific zip code in Indianapolis.

Q: Sports have been a big part of your life. During your years at Broad Ripple High School, you were Indiana All-Star for football, All-State for basketball, and City Athlete of the Year in 1994, then went on to play basketball in college at Texas Christian University. How have you leveraged your experience to help others?

A: I was born and raised in Indianapolis by a single mom and am the youngest of three. Sports opened up opportunities for me and provided a path towards an education. An education should be a right, not a privilege, and I am dedicated to helping others find their path towards an education.

Q: After college, you lived in Dallas, Texas for a while. What brought you back to Indy?

A: In Dallas, I was a Field Director for Promotions for SFM Sony | Universal, working in marketing. I earned my undergrad degree in secondary education and received a call from IPS in 2007. I was offered a job to coach basketball and I worked within the administration at Arsenal Tech. For the next seven years, I was a Discipline Dean in IPS and I coached the entire time.

Q: Sounds like you were tapped for leadership and contributed to the educational ecosystem. Please share how teaching and coaching have been a part of your life.

A: Absolutely. Dr. White was instrumental in starting my career in Discipline, which is how I adopted the term “Discipline with Dignity”. I am heavily involved



with Tabernacle which is where I grew up and started an early fundamentals basketball academy for ages six to thirteen. We are now in our 11th year for this program. This feeds into the summer camp, which is in its 9th year and it’s a combo of sports + tech. There is a computer lab in Tab, and it is all housed there. I am the Basketball Director for Tab Recreational. When I had my own kids, I coached them in little league sports, so their friends were given the same daddy treatment.

I am a father of four, with three of my children currently playing basketball in college on scholarships.

Q: Wow.
A: Yes, wow. It goes back to creating opportunities. I keep in touch with the families that I have coached, because when they outgrow Tab, they feed into the Center for Leadership Development (CLD), 100 Black Men, or enter other programs to

continue their growth, which enables scholarship opportunities.

Q: What are you doing with Urban Education Recruiting Services?

A: Awareness of opportunities can change lives and getting an education is very important, both for personal growth as well as a path towards generational wealth. We work with Martin University and Eleven Fifty Academy. With Scott Jones creating a no up-front cost, 0% (zero!) interest educational funding tool, the Career Accelerator Fund, for students of any age to accelerate part-time or full-time into a career in tech. Indiana has invested \$75 million into a similar fund that Jones spearheaded with legislators, which will be self-generating going forward.

Payback doesn’t happen unless someone achieves a high-paying job and the cost of training is a super low amount. This is one tool to help create opportunities towards wealth generation via education, and people need to know about this. It’s our job — I work with my wife, leesha — to share the news of what is possible with people so they can transform their lives.

Q: That’s quite the mission.

A: We are facilitating success stories from our urban community. Technology is not the wave of the future, it is now and there are opportunities available now funding for an education. Folks need to take advantage of these opportunities.



Roll up your sleeves: Kids' turn arrives for COVID-19 shots



By **LINDSEY TANNER**
AP Medical Writer

Hugs with friends. Birthday parties indoors. Pillow fights. School children who got their first COVID-19 shots Nov. 3 said these are the pleasures they look forward to as the U.S. enters a major new phase in fighting the pandemic.

Health officials hailed shots for kids aged 5 to 11 as a major breakthrough after more than 18 months of illness, hospitalizations, deaths and disrupted education.

Kid-sized doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine cleared two final hurdles Nov. 2 — a recommendation from CDC advisers, followed by a green light from Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With the federal government promising enough vaccine to protect the nation's 28 million kids in this age group, pediatricians' offices and hospitals began inoculating children, with

schools, pharmacies and other locations planning to follow suit in the days ahead.

Brian Giglio, 40, of Alexandria, Virginia, brought his 8-year-old son Carter in for vaccination at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. The boy has Type 1 diabetes that puts him at risk for complications if he were to become infected.

"Carter is the last in our house to get vaccinated and he was always the one that we had the most concern about," Giglio said.

The vaccine — one-third the dose given to older children and adults and administered with kid-sized needles — requires two doses three weeks apart, plus two more weeks for full protection to kick in. That means children who get vaccinated before Thanksgiving will be covered by Christmas.

"The timing before winter holidays is very fortunate," said Dr. Jennifer Shu, whose Children's Medical Group office in Decatur, Georgia. "This age group will be able to spend holidays with

friends and family more safely than they have been able to since the start of the pandemic."

Authorities said they expected a smooth rollout, unlike the chaos that plagued the national rollout of vaccines for adults nearly a year ago.

Walgreens planned to start kids' vaccinations at their pharmacies soon and said parents could sign up online or by calling 1-800-Walgreens. CVS was also accepting appointments online and by phone for vaccinations at select pharmacies.

Government authorities said pediatricians and family doctors, whom parents depend on to give routine childhood vaccinations, could help build trust.

Dr. Ada Stewart, a Black family physician in Columbia, South Carolina, works at a clinic for underserved patients that has been giving COVID-19 shots to grandparents, parents and teens and said she's ready to add younger children to the mix. She's seen the toll the virus has taken on

them — not just in family illness and death but with school disruptions, slipping grades and mental strain.

A Pfizer study of 2,268 children found the vaccine was almost 91% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infections. The FDA examined 3,100 vaccinated kids in concluding the shots are safe.

Some skeptics have questioned the need for kids to get vaccinated since they are less likely than adults to develop severe COVID-19. But with the delta variant, they get infected and transmit "just as readily as adults do," Dr. Anthony Fauci said at a recent White House briefing.

Since the pandemic began, at least 94 children aged 5 to 11 have died from COVID-19, more than 8,300 have been hospitalized, and over 5,000 have developed a serious inflammatory condition linked to the coronavirus. Black and Latino youngsters and those with chronic conditions are among the hardest hit.

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CDC Recommends COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 5-11

On November 2, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave its recommendation that everyone ages 5 and older should get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against virus.

Scientists have conducted clinical trials with about 3,000 children and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has met the safety and efficacy standards for authorization for children in this age group.

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. COVID-19 vaccines are being monitored for safety with the most intense safety monitoring program in U.S. history. CDC monitors the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines after the vaccines are authorized or approved for use, including the risk of myocarditis — inflammation and damage to the heart muscle — in children ages 5-11 years.

Also, there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems.

Just like adults, children cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine, including the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

While adolescents ages 12 years and older receive the same dosage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as adults, children ages 5-11 receive one-third of the adult dose of this vaccine. Smaller needles, designed specifically for children, are used for children in this age group. A second shot of the vaccine is needed three weeks after their first shot.

"I am thrilled that this lifesaving protection will now be available for the 5-11-year-olds in our community," said Virginia A. Caine, M.D., director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department. "I encourage any hesitant parents to do their homework by reading about the vaccine and approval process from reputable sources like our local media partners, and talk to their pediatrician about the benefits and risks of the COVID vaccine for their child."

The experience of getting a COVID-19 vaccine will be very similar to the experience of getting routine vaccines. Here are some tips to support a child before, during, and after vaccinations. Talk about what to expect. It is not recommended to give pain relievers before vaccination to try to prevent side effects.

Tell the doctor or nurse about any allergies the child may have.

To prevent fainting and injuries related to fainting, the child should be seated or lying down during vaccination and for 15 minutes after the vaccine is given.

After vaccination, the parent or adult will be asked to stay for 15-30 minutes so the child can be observed in case they have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.

The child may experience some side effects from the vaccine, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. Common side effects include pain, redness or swelling in the area of the arm where the vaccine was given.

Other side effects might include tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever or nausea. These side effects may affect a child's ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects, and severe allergic reactions are rare.

For more information about COVID-19 for children ages 5-11, for any age group, please visit CDC.gov.

To get a list of COVID-19 vaccination sites in Indiana, please visit [OurShot.IN.gov](https://www.ourshot.in.gov). Walk-ins are welcome at vaccination clinics, but appointments are also available.

Across Africa, major churches strongly oppose LGBTQ rights

By **KWASI GYAMFI ASIEDU, CHINEDU ASADU, RODNEY MUHUMUZA and MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**
Associated Press

In Ghana, home to a diverse array of religions, leaders of major churches have united in denouncing homosexuality as a "perversion" and endorsing legislation that would, if enacted, impose some of the harshest anti-LGBTQ policies in Africa.

In Nigeria, the umbrella body for Christian churches depicts same-sex relationships as an evil meriting the lengthy prison sentences prescribed under existing law.

And in several African countries, bishops aligned with the worldwide United Methodist Church are preparing to join an in-the-works breakaway denomination so they can continue their practice of refusing to recognize same-sex marriage or ordain LGBTQ clergy.

In the United States, Western Europe and various other regions, some prominent Protestant churches have advocated for LGBTQ inclusion. With only a few exceptions, this hasn't happened in Africa, where Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran leaders are among those opposing such inclusion.

"The mainstream churches — all of them — they actually are totally against it," said Caroline Omolo, associate pastor at the Cosmopolitan Affirming Community in Nairobi, Kenya. It is a rare example of a church in Africa serving a predominantly LGBTQ congregation.

Ghana, generally considered more respectful of human rights than most African countries, now faces scrutiny due to a bill in Parliament that would impose prison sentences ranging from three to 10 years for people identifying as LGBTQ or supporting that community. The bill has been denounced by human rights activists even as Ghanaian religious leaders rally behind it.

"Their role in perpetuating queer-phobia and transphobia is clear and it's very troubling and dangerous," said Abena Hutchful, a Ghanaian who identifies as queer and co-organized a recent protest against the bill in New York City.

The lawmakers proposing the bill said they consulted influential religious



Getty Images

leaders while drafting it.

"We don't accept murderers, who should we accept somebody who is doing sex in a sinful way?" Archbishop Philip Naameh, president of the bishops' conference, told The Associated Press. "If you take a stance which is against producing more children, it is a choice which is injurious to the existence of the Ghanaian state."

The Christian Council — whose members include Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Anglican churches — considers homosexuality "an act of perversion and abomination," according to its secretary general, the Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

"Homosexuality is not a human right and we reject it in all uncertain terms," he declared earlier this year.

In Africa's most populous country, the Christian Association of Nigeria has threatened to sanction any church that shows tolerance for same-sex relationships.

Such acceptance "will never happen," Methodist Bishop Stephen Adegbite, the association's director of national issues, told the AP.

Asked about Nigeria's law criminalizing same-sex relationships with sentences of up to 14 years in prison, Adegbite said there are no alternatives.

In Nigeria's commercial capital,

Lagos, Catholic Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins told the AP that Catholic teaching "recognizes in the dignity of every human person." However, he said LGBTQ people who enter into same-sex relationships are leading "a disordered way of life" and should change their behavior.

Nigeria is home to one of the United Methodist bishops, John Wesley Yohanna, who says he plans to break away from the UMC and join the proposed Global Methodist Church. That new denomination, likely to be established next year, results from an alliance between Methodists in the United States and abroad who don't support the LGBT-inclusive policies favored by many Methodists in the U.S.

In Uganda, where many LGBTQ people remain closeted for fear of violence and arrests, there is a retired Anglican bishop who in 2006 was barred from presiding over church events because he voiced empathy with gays.

In decades of ministering to embattled LGBTQ people, Christopher Senyonjo said he learned that sexuality "is a deep, important part of who we are. We should be free to let people be who they are."

In 2014, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed a harsh anti-gay law that, in its original version, prescribed the death penalty for some homosexual

acts. Later that year, amid intense international pressure, a judicial panel annulled the legislation on a technicality.

However, a colonial-era law criminalizing sex acts "against the order of nature" remains in place.

Frank Mugisha, a prominent gay activist in Uganda, described church leaders as "the key drivers of homophobia in Africa." Some Anglican leaders, he said, have deepened their hostility toward LGBTQ people in a bid to not lose followers to aggressively anti-LGBTQ Pentecostal churches.

In all of Africa, only one nation — South Africa — has legalized same-sex marriage. Even there, gay and lesbian couples often struggle to be accepted by churches, let alone have their marriages solemnized by clergy.

South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, world-renowned for his opposition to apartheid, has been an outspoken supporter of LGBTQ rights.

"I would not worship a God who is homophobic," he once said. "I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. No, I would say 'Sorry, I would much rather go to the other place.'"

US to pay \$88M to families, victims of SC church massacre

By **MEG KINNARD**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Families of nine victims killed in a racist attack at a Black South Carolina church have reached a settlement with the Justice Department over a faulty background check that allowed Dylann Roof to purchase the gun he used in the 2015 massacre.

The Justice Department will pay \$88 million, which includes \$63 million for the families of the nine people killed and \$25 million for five survivors who were inside the church at the time of the shooting.

Bakari Sellers, an attorney who helped broker the agreement, told The Associated Press the "88" figure was purposeful. It's a number typically associated with white supremacy and the number of bullets Roof said he had taken with him to the attack.

"We've given a big 'F you' to white supremacy and racism," Sellers told the AP. "We're doing that by building generational wealth in these Black communities, from one of the most horrific race crimes in the country."

According to the Justice Department, settlements for the families of those killed range from \$6 million to \$7.5 million per claimant. Survivors' settlements are \$5 million per claimant.

Months before the June 17, 2015, church shooting, Roof was arrested on Feb. 28 by Columbia, South Carolina, police on the drug possession charge. But a series of clerical errors and missteps allowed Roof to buy the handgun he later used in the massacre.

The errors included wrongly listing the sheriff's office as the arresting agency in the drug case, according to court documents. An examiner with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System found some information on the arrest but needed more to deny the sale, so she sent a fax to a sheriff's office. The sheriff's office responded it didn't have the report, directing her to



Getty Images

the Columbia police.

Under the system's operating procedures, the examiner was directed to a federal listing of law enforcement agencies, but Columbia police did not appear on the list. After trying the separate West Columbia Police Department and being told it was the wrong agency, the examiner did nothing more.

After a three-day waiting period, Roof went back to a West Columbia store to pick up the handgun.

The lawsuit for a time was thrown out, with a judge writing that an examiner followed procedures but also blasting the federal government for what he called its "abysmally poor policy choices" in how it runs the national database for firearm background checks. The suit was subsequently reinstated by a federal appeals court.

"The mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church was a horrific hate crime that caused immeasurable suffering for the families of the victims and the survivors," Attorney General

Merrick Garland said in a statement. "Since the day of the shooting, the Justice Department has sought to bring justice to the community, first by a successful hate crime prosecution and today by settling civil claims."

In 2017, Roof became the first person in the U.S. sentenced to death for a federal hate crime. Authorities have said Roof opened fire during the Bible study at the church, raining down dozens of bullets on those assembled. He was 21 at the time.

The slain included the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, pastor of the AME Emanuel Church, a state senator, as well as other pillars of the community. They all shared deep devotion to the church, known as Mother Emanuel, and passed that faith along to their families, many of whom offered Roof forgiveness when he appeared in court just days after the attack.

The FBI has acknowledged that Roof's drug possession arrest should have prevented him from buying a gun.

Speaking with AP in Washington ahead of the news conference, Pinckney's eldest daughter recalled the night of the shooting and said she was committed to maintaining the legacy of her father, who died when she was 11.

"I've done whatever I can to keep his memory alive and to carry on his legacy throughout my life," Eliana Pinckney, 17, told the AP. "Just to make sure that the memories that I have with him can be shared with other people, so that other people are inspired by the life that he lived, and the life that he would keep living if he was still here."

The deal, which was reached earlier this month, is still pending a judge's approval, Sellers said.

"All nine of these families have been so strong, and they deserve this closure," Sellers said. "Of course we wanted more, but this is just, and this is justice, and finally, these families can say that they got it."

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

It may cost you your head

By PRESTON T. ADAMS III

“10) He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, 11) and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12) And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.” Matthew 14:10-12



There is a cost to following Christ. There is a cost to being one of his disciples. The cost associated could partly explain what we are seeing in the mass exodus of regular church attenders, capable workers for the vineyard and servants who accept the mantle to accelerate the growth of God’s kingdom.

The cost comes from the need for disciples to operate with integrity and honesty. This does not mean that Jesus’ disciples are perfect. We all have our proclivities. But there are some core foundational characteristics of Jesus’ disciples that we must strive to uphold.

Matthew 14 tells the tragic end to the life of John the Baptist. We know John the Baptist as the “forerunner of Jesus.” It was John who admonished his listeners to “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” It was John the Baptist who prophesied the coming of the Messiah. And, as powerful as John’s ministry was, he wanted us to be clear that he was not the Messiah.

John’s prison sentence wasn’t due to any crime he committed. He was imprisoned because of his refusal to go along with the sins of King Herod the Tetrarch. Herod desired to have his brother’s wife, Herodias. And when John refused to bless this unholy union,

Herod threw him in jail.

Later, as the story goes, Herodias’ daughter, who was the niece of Herod, after seducing Herod through her sensual dancing, requested at the urging of her mother that John the Baptist be executed by beheading. Herod, having made a public obligation to grant Herodias’ daughter whatever she wanted, was forced to honor her request.

John was beheaded because he was a man of integrity. Integrity is a core tenet of discipleship. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Integrity is moral uprightness. Disciples are called

to live a life of integrity.

John was beheaded because he was godly. A quick Google search helps us to understand that “a godly person is someone who is deeply religious and shows obedience to the rules of their religion.” It further denotes: “What makes one godly is living your life with a deep respect for, and obedience to godly principles. God’s word is the path to godly character development. Then there is the call to dependence on God by trusting him completely. Surrendering to his will and his leadership is a key step in becoming godly.”

The characteristics of true disciple-

ship are extensive. We could also include faith, hope, love, charity, kindness, compassion, perseverance, prayer, service and commitment.

Just like John the Baptist, when we decide to follow Jesus and really mean it, it may cost us our head.

Dr. Preston T. Adams III is senior pastor at Amazing Grace Christian Church in Indianapolis. Contact Pastor Adams via email at seniorpastor@agccindy.org or via Twitter @DrPrestonTAdams. For more information, visit agccindy.org.


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Pastor Nello A. Holman and First Lady Kay Holman

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Indpls, Indiana 46208

phone 925-4382

fax 283-5615

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Sunday School 9:15 am

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Morning Worship	11:00am
Sunday Evening Service	6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study/Prayers	7:00pm/8:00pm
Friday Bible Study	11:00am

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Women of color growing force as mom influencers

By ASTRID GALVAN
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Kisha Gulley was once kicked out of a Facebook group for mothers with autistic children after a contentious debate she felt was racial. Over and over, she clashed with the white-dominated groups she'd sought out for support as a new mom.

So Gulley, who is Afro Latina, started her own parenting blog and social media accounts. It's now a source of income for her.

The multibillion-dollar world of sleep training guides, toddler activity ideas, breastfeeding tips and all things parenting has traditionally been overwhelmingly white. Parenting book jackets feature mostly white faces. The so-called mom influencers that brands choose to advertise their products have, until recently, also been mostly white.

This has left a hole for women of color — especially new moms — who struggle to find culturally relevant parenting advice and products.

Increasingly, they're taking matters into their own hands.

When she learned her firstborn son was autistic, Gulley dove deeply into research, digging for any resources that might help her family. And even though there was a lot of information out there, there were small but significant questions that many experts couldn't answer.

How, for example, could she comb through her son's thickly textured hair without triggering his sensory issues?

It was a frustrating time for her that climaxed in the Facebook group when she felt that several white women were dismissive and rude to a Black mom who had sought advice about how to talk to her family about her child's autism diagnosis. The women didn't grasp that in some communities of color, older generations can be apprehensive about autism and tend to think issues come down to behavior and discipline. Gulley defended the mom and was kicked out of the group.

She grew her own social media presence soon after, and now makes a living from it.

Over the years, mommy bloggers have evolved into Instagram influencers.



Getty Images

Carefully curated images accompany posts with tips on how to get a baby to sleep or teach them to feed themselves. Often, influencers advertise products they say moms might find helpful.

The trend was started mostly by white women and the brands that sought them out. Ferguson says the landscape is much more diverse now, and brands are more intentional about reaching a diverse range of parents.

But a problem persists. Marketing budgets are much more limited for multicultural targets than for general advertising, Ferguson said. Traditionally, white women have been paid to market to general audiences. That means a white mom could earn much more money marketing to an audience of all ethnicities and races than a woman who markets specifically to, say, Latina moms.

"It's still that archaic way of looking at

marketing," Ferguson said. "The brands and the agencies that understand (the need to diversify) are making progress. The issue is that there's still so many that are behind."

Brands are just now catching up to the Latino and Black American markets, said Larry Chiagouris, a professor of marketing at Lubin School of Business at Pace University.

Chiagouris said the parenting influencer world has been dominated by white women because they've been the majority in the past, but that he's increasingly seeing Latinas, Black and Asian American women joining the sphere.

"It's like a chicken and an egg situation. Marketers want to spend money on Latino influencers, but you have to find them. There's not as many as you might think," Chiagouris said.

Jacqueline Hernandez Lewis of Long

Island, New York, began blogging nine years ago as a law student and military wife seeking a community.

After she became a mom, Hernandez Lewis, 33, wanted to find a space where Latinas and other moms of color felt empowered. When she went back to work after her first child, she struggled to adapt and wanted to find a way to spend more time at home while still earning income. She now has three little ones.

Hernandez Lewis earned \$25 from her first sponsored post. Now, she earns anywhere between \$700 to \$3,000 per post, while also working full time.

"We deserve to be represented on the business side. There's brands that haven't been as inclusive as I'd hoped, but a lot of brands are shifting and becoming more inclusive," Hernandez Lewis said.

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SUMMONS -- SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE HANCOCK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT)

SS: ROOM 1)
COUNTY OF HANCOCK)
CAUSE NO.: 30D01-2109-)
DN-0013126)
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE)

OF:)
TIFFANY MARBLE,)
Petitioner,)
and)
DERRICK MARBLE,)
Respondent.)
NOTICE OF SUIT)

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

This Summons by Publication is specifically directed to the following named Defendant(s) whose addresses are: n/a.

And to the following Respondent whose whereabouts are unknown: Derrick Marble.

In addition to the above-named Defendants being served by this Summons there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit.

If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your Attorney, and if you fail to do so a Judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.

ATTEST:)
Clerk of the Hancock)
County Court)
Tasha R. Roberts)
Attorney for Petitioner)
Roberts Litigation Group)
118 North Delaware Street)
Indianapolis, IN 46204)
Telephone: (317) 631-0172)
5320-931141)

11/05/21,)
11/12/21,)
11/19/21)

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)
SS:)
COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO. 49D03-2108-)
MF-028485)
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AROE'S SECOND ADDITION)
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/s/ Brian K. Tekulve)
Law Office of Gerald M.)
Shapiro, LLP)
4805 Montgomery Road,)
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Norwood, OH 45212)
Phone: (513) 396-8100)
Fax: (847) 627-8805)
Email: mmurtland@logs.com)
Dated)
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MARION COUNTY, INDIANA,)
AS PER PLAT THEREOF)
RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK)
14, PAGE 87, IN THE OFFICE)
OF THE RECORDER OF)
MARION COUNTY, INDIANA.)
ALSO, 15 FEET EAST OF)
AND ADJOINING LOT 22)
AND 15 FEET EAST OF)
AND ADJOINING 5 FEET)
OFF THE NORTH END OF)
LOT 21 BEING 105.65 FEET)
VACATED OFF THE NORTH)
END OF ALLEY.)
State Parcel#: 9006196,)
9006197, 9046263)
Address: 2201 Bridgeport)
Road, Indianapolis, IN 46231)
Therefore, said Defendant)
is hereby notified of the fil-)
ing and pendency of said)
Amended Complaint and)
that unless Defendant files)
an answer within thirty (30))
days of the last publication of)
this notice, default judgment)
may be entered against said)
Defendant for the relief sought)
in the Amended Complaint.)
/s/ Brian K. Tekulve)
Law Office of Gerald M.)
Shapiro, LLP)
4805 Montgomery Road,)
Suite 320)
Norwood, OH 45212)
Phone: (513) 396-8100)
Fax: (847) 627-8805)
Email: mmurtland@logs.com)
Dated)
Marion Super-)
rior Clerk, Court)
5320-930728)
11/05/21,)
11/12/21,)
11/19/21)

11/05/21,)
11/12/21,)
11/19/21)

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT)

SS:)
COUNTY OF MARION)
CAUSE NO. 49D03-2108-)
MF-028485)

TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC)
Plaintiff,)
VS.)
VINCENT A. PAYNE)
UNITED STATES OF)
AMERICA -)
INTERNAL REVENUE)
SERVICE)
UNITED STATES OF)
AMERICA)
INDIANA FINANCE FINANCIAL CORPORATION)
Defendants.)
NOTICE OF SUIT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION)
TO: Vincent A. Payne)
Plaintiff, by counsel, hereby)
gives Notice of the Amended)
Complaint filed in the Marion)
Superior Court against the)
above-named Defendant.)
Plaintiff also filed an Affidavit)
of a competent person showing)
that the residence and)
whereabouts of Defendant,)
Vincent A. Payne, upon diligent)
inquiry is unknown. The cause)
of action is for default on a)
promissory note and foreclosure)
upon a mortgage on the following)
decried real estate:)
LOT 22 AND THE NORTH)
HALF OF LOT 21 IN CON-)
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Indiana focused on finishing stronger after Elite Eight run

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Teri Moren and her Indiana women's basketball program will go into this season with an advantage most other teams don't enjoy. Her veteran-led team, coming off of the program's first Elite Eight appearance, can focus on the little things that went wrong.

Moren, who's going into her eighth season at Indiana, knows where the Hoosiers need to get better. The depth on their bench wasn't good enough, and it contributed to fatigue late in the season.

Moren puts it bluntly: She's counting on players who come off the bench to step up.

"You guys have to get better. You've gotta be more productive," she said at Big Ten basketball media days in October.

The Hoosiers have their core. All five starters return to a team that went 21-6 in a pandemic-altered season, including 16-2 in the Big Ten. That's a big reason Indiana is No. 8 in the Associated Press preseason rankings. (The top Big Ten team is defending conference champion Maryland at No. 4.)

Only four non-starters are back for this season. The Hoosiers added three freshmen — guards Kaitlin Peterson and Keyarah Berry and forward Mona Zeric — but lost a number of players to transfers.

Every non-starter returning from last season combined to play just 10% of the team's minutes.



Indiana women's basketball head coach Teri Moren speaks with reporters at Big Ten basketball media days Oct. 8, 2021, in Indianapolis. (Recorder file photo)

"I think it's gonna be a great year," two-time all-conference senior Grace Berger said. "We're excited to have our bench really, really produce this year."

Berger will be one of several anchors for this team. She led the country with

three triple-doubles last season and won gold in the offseason with USA Basketball in the 2021 FIBA Women's AmeriCup.

Another returning starter, Ali Patberg, is in her seventh season of college

basketball. Patberg, also a two-time all-Big Ten selection, started her career at Notre Dame before transferring to Indiana.

Practices have been smooth and efficient because of the veterans on the team, Moren said, but Patberg knows their experience will be valuable as the Hoosiers deal with the ups and downs of a long season.

"If you're having some down games or you're in a losing streak, you need to figure it out quickly," she said.

Coming into such a highly anticipated season, Moren is trying to avoid the fate of the university's football team, which is likely not going to play in a bowl game one season after looking like one of the best teams in the Big Ten.

"The Elite Eight, that run's over," Moren said. "That was awesome. Unbelievable experience, one that we'll never forget. But it's over."

Some teams have spent this offseason diagnosing enormous issues, trying to figure out how to just be competitive. Indiana may have to take a more big-picture look next offseason, but for now, the Hoosiers can nitpick at the little stuff.

"Those little details are what makes a difference between being in the Elite Eight and being in the Final Four and being a national champion," Berger said.

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

Hammerin' Braves rout Astros to win 1st WS crown since 1995

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Most of the season, it just seemed this wasn't their year.

They dropped their first four games, and soon injuries piled up. They lost their most dynamic player before the All-Star break. They were stuck below .500 in August.

Yet out of nowhere, suddenly, these Atlanta Braves transformed themselves and took off.

Jorge Soler, Freddie Freeman and the Braves breezed to their first World Series championship since 1995, hammering the Houston Astros 7-0 in Game 6. Max Fried threw six dominant innings in a signature pitching performance to close it out.

"We hit every pothole, every bump you could possibly hit this year," Freeman said. "Injuries, every single kind of thing that could happen, that could go wrong went wrong, and we overcame every single one of those things."

How proud Hank Aaron would've been.

Even so, Atlanta's troubles never fully went away.

Soler backed Fried early with a monster three-run shot for his third homer against the Astros.

Freeman hit an RBI double and then punctuated the romp with a solo home run in the seventh that made it 7-0.

By then, it was a total team effort. Ailing star Ronald Acuña Jr., the dynamo of Atlanta's future, bounded from the dugout to join the celebration for Freeman, the longtime face of the franchise.

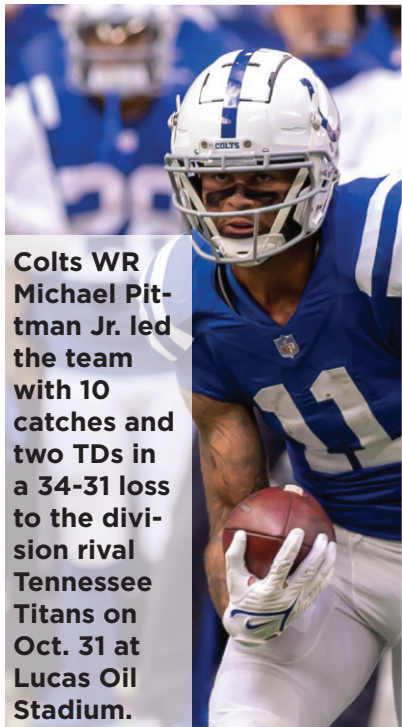
When Yuli Gurriel grounded out to end it, Freeman caught the throw at first base, put the ball in his pocket, and the party was on for manager Brian Snitker's club.

"Nobody ever wanted to let Hank down," Snitker said. "That's just the way it was, we didn't want to let him down. He charged us with a responsibility to make these guys better and we weren't going to let him down."



Getty Images

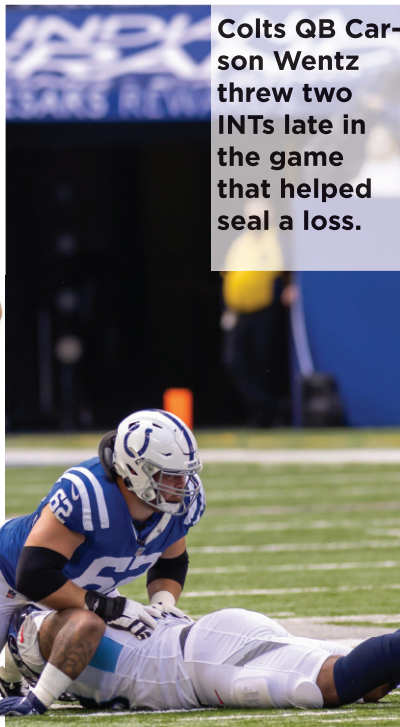
Colts come up short against Titans



Colts WR Michael Pittman Jr. led the team with 10 catches and two TDs in a 34-31 loss to the division rival Tennessee Titans on Oct. 31 at Lucas Oil Stadium.



The Colts defense held Titans star RB Derrick Henry to 68 yards, though Henry hurt his foot in the game and may need season-ending surgery. (Photos/Walt Thomas)



Colts QB Carson Wentz threw two INTs late in the game that helped seal a loss.



VS

NOVEMBER 14 | 1:00PM

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