

**Desmond Tutu**

Desmond Tutu, South Africa's moral conscience, dies at 90

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**  
**Associated Press**

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Desmond Tutu, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning icon, an uncompromising foe of apartheid and a modern-day activist for racial justice and LGBT rights, died Dec. 26 at 90. South Africans, world leaders and people around the globe mourned the death of the man viewed as the country's moral conscience.

Tutu worked passionately, tirelessly and non-violently to tear down apartheid — South Africa's brutal, decades-long regime of oppression against its Black majority that only ended in 1994.

The buoyant, blunt-spoken clergyman used his pulpit as the first Black bishop of Johannesburg and later as the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, as well as frequent public demonstrations, to galvanize public opinion against racial inequity, both at home and globally.

Nicknamed "the Arch," the diminutive Tutu became a towering figure in his nation's history, comparable to fellow Nobel laureate Nelson Mandela, a prisoner during white rule who became South Africa's first Black president. Tutu and Mandela shared a commitment to building a better, more equal South Africa.

Upon becoming president in 1994, Mandela appointed Tutu to be chairman of the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which uncovered the abuses of apartheid.

Tutu's death Dec. 26 "is another chapter of bereavement in our nation's farewell to a generation of outstanding South Africans who have bequeathed us a liberated South Africa," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said.

"From the pavements of resistance in South Africa to the pulpits of the world's great cathedrals and places of worship, and the prestigious setting of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, the Arch distinguished himself as a non-sectarian, inclusive champion of universal human rights," he said.

Tutu died peacefully at the Oasis Frail Care Center in Cape Town, the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Trust said. He had been hospitalized several times since 2015 after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997.

"He turned his own misfortune into a teaching opportunity to raise awareness and reduce the suffering of others," said the Tutu trust. "He wanted the world to know that he had prostate cancer, and that the sooner it is detected, the better the chance of managing it."

In recent years he and his wife, Leah, lived in a retirement community outside Cape Town.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama hailed Tutu as "a moral compass for me and so many others. A universal spirit, Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in

See TUTU, A5►

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Mass shooting at FedEx shakes community

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

A mass shooting at an Indianapolis FedEx facility near the airport in April left nine people dead, including the shooter, and a community shaken.

At roughly 11 p.m. April 15, Brandon Hole opened fire in his former workplace — where he had last worked in 2020 — before taking his own life. It was the city's third mass shooting in 2021. The 19-year-old's mother alerted police in 2020 of her fears Hole would "commit suicide by cop."

Eight victims, who ranged in age from 19 to 74 and included four members of the Sikh community, were killed.

- Matthew Alexander, 32, a Butler University graduate who loved golf

See FEDEX, A3►



**Mourners leave flowers and candles for the eight victims of the FedEx shooting during a vigil April 18, 2021. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)**

## Indianapolis Public Library CEO resigned amid racism scandal, funding loss



**Former IndyPL worker Bree Flannelly addressed the board May 24, 2021, to discuss her experiences with discrimination. (Screenshot)**

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

The controversy started with a Zoom call May 24.

During a virtual board meeting, members of the Indianapolis

Public Library (IndyPL) board of trustees heard from a former employee about how she was treated. Before Bree Flannelly, a Black woman, could get very far into her statement, board President Jose Salinas muted her.

Salinas said he wanted to avoid any discussion of personnel issues in public and meant no ill will toward Flannelly. Other board members voiced their displeasure at Flannelly's silencing and urged him to allow her to continue. Flannelly shared her story of racism, ableism and sexism. During her five years of employment, Flannelly told the board she heard Black patrons referred to as porch monkeys.

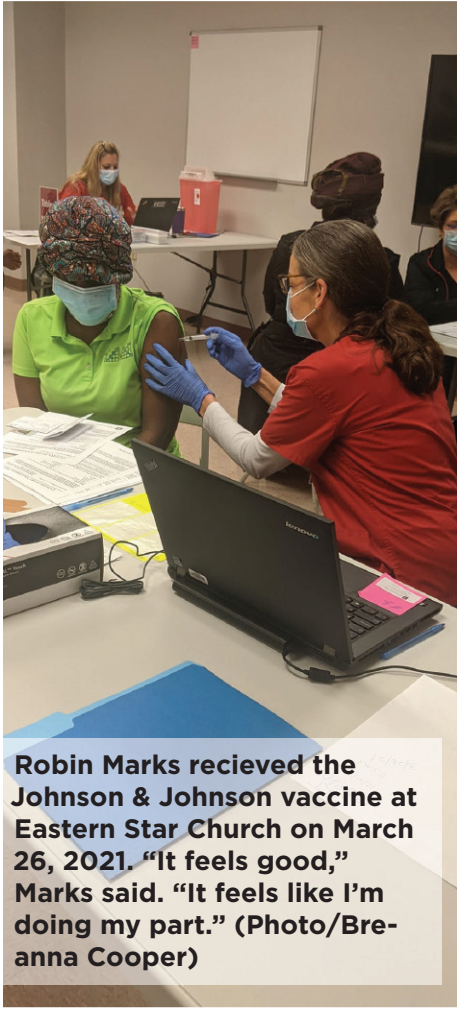
Flannelly's description of her experience set off a firestorm that would eventually result in the resignation of the library's CEO, Jackie Nytes.

Nytes, who began her tenure as CEO in 2012, repeatedly said, while the library wasn't perfect, anti-racism efforts were in place. The efforts, she said, were "extensive, sincere and engaging people at all levels of the organization."

Dr. Patricia Payne, who is in her sixth year on the board of trustees, wasn't surprised by the allegations. While

See INDYPL, A8►

## COVID-19 vaccinations rolled out in 2021



**Robin Marks received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at Eastern Star Church on March 26, 2021. "It feels good," Marks said. "It feels like I'm doing my part." (Photo/Breanna Cooper)**

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

Throughout 2020, the threat of COVID-19 kept many people away from their loved ones, children from their classrooms and stands at Lucas Oil Stadium empty. The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine helped create some semblance of normalcy in 2021.

Children returned to the classroom, with the option of learning virtually, and restaurants, bars and entertainment venues were allowed to go back to full capacity.

Hoosiers were eligible to sign up for the first dose — or only dose if they received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine — in January. Since then, the Indiana Department of Health reports a little over half of eligible Hoosiers have been vaccinated against the virus.

To combat skepticism from the Black community, local officials made it a point to spread awareness of the vaccine. From the time the vaccine was announced, Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department, dispelled myths about vaccines and told Indianapolis residents what side effects they could expect from the shot.

"This is a battle," Caine said during a meeting of the local chapter of the NAACP on Jan. 7. She explained side effects, such as headaches and fevers, were common, but better than the long-term effects that come with COVID-19.

Faith leaders also got involved in the effort to get people vaccinated. Jeffrey Johnson Sr., senior pastor at Eastern Star Church, got vaccinated in part to put his congregants at ease.

"I don't believe it's my responsibility to tell people to take the vaccine," Johnson said. "I do believe that I have a responsibility as one of the leaders here to inform and educate. ... If they see me get my vaccine and the second shot and I'm still around, that may be helpful."

Eastern Star Church hosted a series of vaccine clinics, including one March 26. There, Robin Marks received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after losing her nephew to COVID-19 in 2020.

"It feels good," Marks said of being vaccinated. "It feels like I'm doing my part."

Efforts from city and faith leaders may have worked. Many Hoosiers were relieved to get vaccinated, including

See VACCINATIONS, A3►

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## Education moved closer to normal but still comes with plenty of stress

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The K-12 education scene looked much closer to normal in 2021 than it did in 2020, but along with that came other struggles, namely for teachers and staff who grappled with teaching through a pandemic, lobbying for better pay and sometimes dealing with angry parents.

At the start of the school year in August, the Recorder spoke to teachers and administrators about adjusting back to a mostly in-person learning environment. Only some K-12 students were eligible to be vaccinated at the time, and not every district had a mask mandate.

David Johnson III, a math teacher at Lynhurst 7th and 8th Grade Center in Wayne Township, said the school year started smoother than he anticipated, but he and many others still couldn't shake the thought that going virtual again was still an option — something that could happen abruptly.

Everyone seemed to have built up more



resilience by that point, though.

“If it does happen, the kids are used to it,” Johnson said. “My colleagues, we’re used to it.”

Aside from rising case counts, part of the benefit of mask mandates in schools was it loosened the parameters of who should be considered a close contact, who would need to quarantine and, ultimately, how likely a full shutdown was. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for example, said social distancing could be lessened from

3 feet to 6 feet for staff and students if everyone was masked, even if they weren't vaccinated.

By the end of the year, anyone 5 and older could get vaccinated, meaning virtually everyone in K-12 was eligible.

The Recorder spoke to a brother and sister who got their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine in November. Asked why he decided to endure the little pinch and get a shot, 10-year-old Brody Herrmann said, “I hate COVID.”

About 58% of everyone 5 and older in Marion

County has received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to the state health department.

On the outskirts of Marion County and elsewhere through the state, many teachers, administrators and school board members dealt with parents who believe their children are being taught critical race theory, an advanced academic concept that isn't part of K-12 curriculum. They also had parents and even some doctors who tried to downplay the severity of COVID-19

**Pike Township Schools teachers and families stand outside Central Elementary School before a school board meeting Nov. 11, 2021. They rallied in support of teacher pay raises beyond the district's current offer. (Photo/Elizabeth Gabriel/WFYI)**

in opposition to wearing masks.

In many cases, critical race theory is conflated with anything to do with diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as social emotional learning. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita got involved by releasing a “Parents’ Bill of Rights” that ranged from telling parents how to request public records to answering questions about critical race theory.

The more prominent issue in some Marion County districts was pay and a shortage of teachers and staff.

The Pike Classroom Teachers Association, representing educators in the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township,

needed a state mediator after it couldn't reach an agreement with the district. Teachers were especially concerned about pay for “middle-year” teachers, generally defined as those with eight to 22 years of experience.

Teachers and staff packed some school board meetings, and tensions occasionally flared during the public comment period. The union eventually agreed to a one-year deal that includes a base salary of no less than \$45,000. Before the agreement, one teacher told the Recorder it was difficult going from one day to the next without knowing for sure if school would be virtual or in person, as call-offs from teachers and bus drivers occasionally left the district with too few staff for in-person learning.

“I don't feel disrespected,” said Keisha Nickolson, a fifth grade teacher. “I just feel like I'm not being heard.”

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

## FEDEX

► Continued from A1

- Samaria Blackwell, 19, a “kid who loved everybody”
- Amarjeet Johal, 66, a grandmother and “an angel in every life she touched”
- Jasvinder Kaur, 50, a grandmother of three who immigrated to the United States in 2018
- Amarjit Sekhon, 48, a wife, mother of two and “backbone” of her family
- Karli Smith, 19, a basketball player at and graduate of Crispus Attucks High School. She started working at FedEx two weeks before the shooting.
- John Weisert, 74, was a mechanical engineer before working at FedEx, and planned to travel with his wife Mary.

In the following days, vigils were held at several locations throughout the city and state.

“We're hurting right now, but we'll come back stronger than ever,” a member of the Sikh community told mourners during a vigil April 18 in Beech Grove. “But please remember when you go home tonight, pray and hold your families tight. There are families now who can't do that anymore.”

Through an attorney, Hole's family issued a statement to the victims' families.

“We are devastated at the loss of life caused as a result of Brandon's actions; through the love of his family, we tried to get him the help he needed,” the statement read. “Our sincerest and most heartfelt apologies go out to the victims of this senseless tragedy. We are so sorry for the pain and hurt being felt by their families and the entire Indianapolis community.”

Because Hole obtained the weapons used in the

shooting legally, the incident sparked controversy about gun control legislation and Indiana's red flag law. The law allows police to seize a person's firearms if they are deemed a danger to themselves or others. Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said a provision in the law allowed Hole — who had a shotgun taken from him after being questioned by police in 2020 — to carry out the attack.

To bar an individual from obtaining future weapons under the red flag law, a prosecutor must seek a special hearing. Satisfied that Hole didn't attempt to get his seized shotgun back, Mears opted not to seek a hearing, a move that created tension with Indianapolis Fraternal Order of Police President Rick Snyder after the shooting.

“The police took all steps available to them to ensure lawful intervention measures were completed for the safety of the individual at large and the community at large,” Snyder said April 22. “Subsequently, we have learned that the Marion County prosecutor failed to do his part by filing the necessary paperwork with the courts that would have triggered that his perceived shortcomings of the red flag law as the basis for his decision to not initiate court proceedings. ... As a result of this missed opportunity, we now know the suspect was able to legally purchase firearms months later ... that we believe were used in the attack.”

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

## VACCINATIONS

► Continued from A1

Emerson Allen. Allen, 67, received his second dose of the Moderna vaccine in March. For the Vietnam War-era veteran, the personal toll COVID-19 had was enough to convince him to get the shot.

“I wasn't hesitant,” Allen said. “My neighbor and one of my best friends died of the COVID, and three of my daughters caught the virus and all recovered. So it hit close to home.”

By November, children 5-11 years old were eligible for the vaccine. Siblings Bellamy and Brody Herrmann got their vaccines at a county health department clinic. Bellamy, 6, said he got the vaccine so she could “be safe.”

As more Hoosiers — young and old — were vaccinated, COVID-19 protocols started to go by the wayside. In June, the city-county council voted to loosen health restrictions, allowing fully vaccinated Indianapolis residents to ditch their masks. Marion County residents were “on the honor system,” meaning people didn't have to prove their vaccination status if they weren't wearing their masks in public.

Since March 2020, 18,280 Hoosiers have died from COVID-19.

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



## Marion County Sheriff's Office



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Roberto Lugo (American, b. 1981), *The Expulsion of Colin Kaepernick and John Brown* (detail), 2017, porcelain, china paint, luster, 47 × 24 × 24 in. (installed). Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Martha Delzell Memorial Fund, 2019.15A-B © Roberto Lugo. Courtesy of Wexler Gallery.



TUTU

►Continued from A1

his own country, but also concerned with injustice everywhere. He never lost his impish sense of humor and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries.”

Tutu’s life was “entirely dedicated to serving his brothers and sisters for the greater common good. He was a true humanitarian,” said the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader and Tutu’s friend.

“His legacy is moral strength, moral courage and clarity,” Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba said in a video statement. “He felt with the people. In public and alone, he cried because he felt people’s pain. And he laughed — no, not just laughed, he cackled with delight — when he shared their joy.”

A seven-day mourning period is planned in Cape Town before Tutu’s burial, including a two-day lying in state, an ecumenical service and an Anglican requiem mass at St. George’s Cathedral in Cape Town. The southern city’s landmark Table Mountain will be lit up in purple, the color of the robes Tutu wore as archbishop.

Throughout the 1980s — when South Africa was gripped by anti-apartheid violence and a state of emergency gave police and the military sweeping powers — Tutu was one of the most prominent Black leaders able to speak out against abuses.

A lively wit lightened Tutu’s hard-hitting messages and warmed otherwise grim protests, funerals and marches. Plucky and tenacious, he was a formidable force with a canny talent for quoting apt scriptures to harness support for change.

The Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 highlighted his stature as one of the world’s most effective champions for human rights, a responsibility he took seriously for the rest of his life.

With the end of apartheid and South Africa’s first democratic elections in 1994, Tutu celebrated the country’s multi-racial society, calling it a “rainbow nation,” a phrase that captured the heady optimism of the moment.

In 1990, after 27 years in prison, Mandela spent his first night of freedom at Tutu’s residence in Cape Town. Later, Mandela called Tutu “the people’s archbishop.”

Tutu also campaigned internationally for human rights, especially LGBTQ rights and same-sex marriage.

“I would not worship a God who is homophobic,” he said in 2013, launching a campaign for LGBTQ rights in Cape Town. “I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. No, I would say, ‘Sorry, I would much rather go to the other place.’”

Tutu said he was “as passionate about this campaign as I ever was about apartheid. For me, it is at the same level.” He was one of the most prominent religious leaders to advocate LGBTQ rights — a stance that put him at odds with many in South Africa and across the continent as well as within the Anglican church.

South Africa, Tutu said, was a “rainbow” nation of promise for racial reconciliation and equality, even though he grew disillusioned with the African National Congress, the anti-apartheid movement that became the ruling party after the 1994 election. His outspoken

remarks long after apartheid sometimes angered partisans who accused him of being biased or out of touch.

Tutu was particularly incensed by the South African government’s refusal to grant a visa to the Dalai Lama, preventing the Tibetan spiritual leader from attending Tutu’s 80th birthday as well as a planned gathering of Nobel laureates in Cape Town. The government rejected Tutu’s accusations that it was bowing to pressure from China, a major trading partner.

Early in 2016, Tutu defended the reconciliation policy that ended white minority rule amid increasing frustrations among some Black South Africans who felt they had not seen the expected economic opportunities since apartheid ended. Tutu had chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that investigated atrocities under apartheid and granted amnesty to some perpetrators, but some people believed that more former white officials should have been prosecuted.

Desmond Mpilo Tutu was born Oct. 7, 1931, in Klerksdorp, west of Johannesburg, and became a teacher before entering St. Peter’s Theological College in Rosetenville in 1958. He was ordained in 1961 and six years later became chaplain at the University of Fort Hare.

He then moved to the tiny southern African kingdom of Lesotho and to Britain, returning home in 1975. He became bishop of Lesotho, chairman of the South African Council of Churches and, in 1985, the first Black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg. In 1986, Tutu was named the first Black archbishop of Cape Town. He ordained women priests and promoted gay priests.

Tutu was arrested in 1980 for joining a protest and later had his passport confiscated for the first time. He got it back for trips to the United States and Europe, where he spoke with the U.N. secretary-general, the pope and other church leaders.

Tutu called for international sanctions against South Africa and talks to end apartheid.

Tutu often conducted funeral services after the massacres that marked the negotiating period of 1990-1994. He railed against black-on-black political violence, asking crowds, “Why are we doing this to ourselves?” In one powerful moment, Tutu defused the rage of thousands of mourners in a township soccer stadium after the Boipatong massacre of 42 people in 1992, leading the crowd in chants proclaiming their love of God and themselves.

As head of the truth commission, Tutu and his panel listened to harrowing testimony about torture, killings and other atrocities during apartheid. At some hearings, Tutu wept openly.

“Without forgiveness, there is no future,” he said at the time.

The commission’s 1998 report lay most of the blame on the forces of apartheid, but also found the African National Congress guilty of human rights violations. The ANC sued to block the document’s release, earning a rebuke from Tutu. “I didn’t struggle in order to remove one set of those who thought they were tin gods to replace them with others who are tempted to think they are,” Tutu said.

In July 2015, Tutu renewed his 1955 wedding vows with wife Leah, surrounded by their four children.

“You can see that we followed the biblical injunction: We multiplied and we’re fruitful,” Tutu told the congregation. “But all of us here want to say thank you. ... We knew that without you, we are nothing.”

Tutu is survived by his wife of 66 years and their children.

Asked once how he wanted to be remembered, he told The Associated Press: “He loved. He laughed. He cried. He was forgiven. He forgave. Greatly privileged.”

AP journalist Christopher Torchia contributed to this report.



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Janna Hymes





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## 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.

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## HOW TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR



By STAFF

Good riddance to 2021. Will 2022 be better? Don't look to us for guarantees, but here's what we do know: You can't have a good year if you don't start it right.

Here's a guide on where and how to celebrate this New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

### New Year's Eve with Alonzo Bodden

How about laughing your way into 2022? Comedian Alonzo Bodden will perform two shows at Helium Comedy Club, followed by a champagne toast at midnight. Bodden won Season 3 of "Last Comic Standing" on NBC and has his own "Comedy Central Presents" special.

• **WHEN:** 8 P.M. AND 10:30 P.M. DEC. 31  
• **WHERE:** HELIUM COMEDY CLUB, 10 W. GEORGIA ST.  
• **COST:** TICKETS START AT \$39 AT INDIANAPOLIS. HELIUMCOMEDY.COM.

### Black & White Affair

The Black & White Affair will feature pop, soul, R&B and other music. There will also be art, food, drinks and games.

• **WHEN:** 9 P.M. DEC. 31-3 A.M. JAN. 1  
• **WHERE:** PHIRI ART, 120 E. MARKET ST. #500  
• **COST:** \$5-\$300 AT EVENTBRITE.COM

### Black and Gold NYE 2022 Celebration

Maybe you're looking to ring in the new year while also temporarily forgetting the year that was. The Black and Gold NYE 2022 Celebration will feature multiple bars and a champagne toast at midnight.

DJ Day-Day, DJ Sounds by Todd, DJ-DJ and DJ Pimp Cee will have music throughout the night with a performance from Bobby V. B-Swift from 96.3 will serve as host. Classy cocktail attire is recommended but not required.

• **WHEN:** 10 P.M. DEC. 31-3 A.M. JAN. 1  
• **WHERE:** THE VOGUE THEATRE, 6259 N. COLLEGE AVE.  
• **COST:** \$40-\$125 AT EVENTBRITE.COM

### Back to the 80s NYE Party

Time to break out your neon and acid washed jeans! Mucky Duck Pub is taking guests back

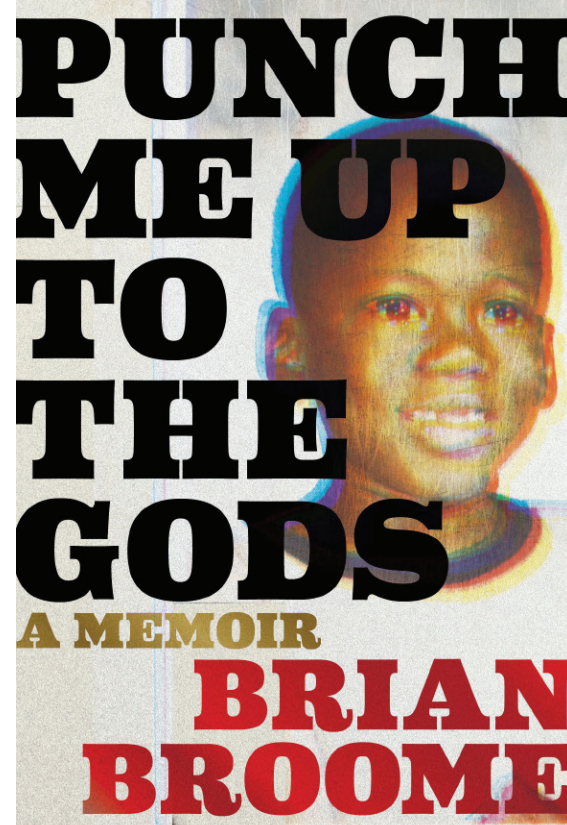
to the 1980s to ring in 2022, with DJ BSMOOTH playing all the hits from the decade. There's no cover, free parking and a free toast at midnight.

• **WHEN:** 6 P.M. DEC. 31  
• **WHERE:** MUCKY DUCK PUB, 4425 SOUTHPORT CROSSING DRIVE  
• **COST:** FREE

### Indianapolis NYE Bar Crawl

If you're planning a kids-free New Year's Eve, the Indianapolis Bar Crawl is for you. Starting at 6 p.m. at Brother's Bar and Grill, 910 Broad Ripple Ave., registration for the crawl gets you into five bars in Broad Ripple without having to pay a hefty cover charge. After signing in at Brother's, you're free to go to the participating bars in any order you'd like.

Along with bar entry, participants get drink tickets, a complimentary appetizer buffet at Brother's, access to a photo booth, a champagne toast, live music and karaoke and a VIP viewing of the ball drop.  
• **WHEN:** 6 P.M. DEC. 31-3 A.M. JAN. 1  
• **WHERE:** BROTHER'S BAR AND GRILL, 910 BROAD RIPPLE AVE.  
• **COST:** \$19.99 AT EVENTBRITE.COM



## Best books of 2021

By TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

There's still a lot of winter left. That's the fact staring you in the face. Once the holiday decorations are down, the toys are all put away and you've rediscovered your gift certificates ... what do you do with them?

You buy books, of course. And to get you started, here are a few sure-fire picks for the Best of 2021:

### Fiction

What would you do if life throws you a curveball? In "The Guncle" by Steven Rowley (Putnam, \$27), gay man, former TV star, Palm Springs fixture, no-responsibilities Patrick is asked to take care of his niece and nephew for the long term. He never wanted kids at all. He never wanted to fall in love with them, either. Cute, sweet, funny, heartfelt — what more

► Continued on A7

**Martin University Launches Center for Racial Equity & Inclusion**

**2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TABLOID**  
**BLACK HISTORY MATTERS**

**DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Artwork Deadline:	Ad sizes:	Width X Height	Rates:
Monday, February 14, 2022	Full Page	10.325 X 9.95	Full Page \$1,835
	Half Page Vertical	10.325 X 4.925	Half Page \$1,335
	Half Page Horizontal	5.1375 X 9.95	Quarter page \$1,075
	Quarter Page	5.1375 X 4.925	Inside Front Cover \$2,000
			Inside Back Cover \$2,000
			Back Cover \$2,235
			Center Spread \$2,800

*From slavery to Reconstruction, Jim Crow to the Civil Rights Movement to the current protests against injustice, Black history exists on a continuum and is made every day. In honoring the past, the Recorder recognizes our perseverance and triumphs, using our achievements to guide our future. The Black History Month special section will highlight local African American history makers of today and those who prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. Whether breaking ground in the boardroom, making a difference in government or organizing protests, local and national leaders stand on the shoulders of greatness and continue in the advocacy of their forebears.*

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SATURDAY JANUARY 8  
**FREE EVENT**

**PLAYOFF FAN CENTRAL**  
INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER  
SATURDAY JANUARY 8 TO  
MONDAY JANUARY 10  
**FREE EVENT**

**AT&T PLAYOFF PLAYLIST LIVE!**  
MONUMENT CIRCLE  
SATURDAY JANUARY 8 SUNDAY JANUARY 9  
FEATURING  
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**FREE EVENT**

**EXTRA YARD 5K**  
INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER  
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► Continued from A6

could you want?

You don’t have to have read any of the other Cork O’Conner novels to want “Lightning Strike” by William Kent Krueger (Atria, \$27), which takes readers back to 1963, and a murder in small-town Minnesota. Cork O’Conner is a young teen then, the son of the local sheriff, and he knows that Big John Manydeeds couldn’t have possibly hung himself. But how does a boy go about proving something like that? For fans, that’s a can’t-miss question. For new fans, it’ll send you racing toward the rest of the Cork O’Conner series.

Watchers of “The Handmaiden’s Tale” will absolutely devour “Outlawed” by Anna North (Bloomsbury, \$26). In a small corner of Texas, at an unstated time, 17-year-old Ada is struggling to give her husband children, which embarrasses him, and that’s something only witches do. And so Ada is cast out of the community and heads north, to safety, where barren women are outlaws. This dystopian, feminist Western is dangerous and delicious.

“Raft of Stars” by Andrew J. Graff (Ecco, \$26.99) is a coming-of-age story of two boys who are best friends, and one of them is abused by his father. Tired of seeing his friend hurt, the other boy shoots the man and both boys run away to escape what surely will be legal trouble and maybe even jail time. They’re running toward a lie, though, and they’re heading for a waterfall they don’t know is there. This is one of those books with heartbreakingly beautiful prose in a story that’ll leave you with sweaty palms.

And finally, have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you’d taken a different path? In “The Nine Lives of Rose Napolitano” by Donna Freitas (Pamela Dorman Books, \$26), one woman has many options in her life, each one ending in a way she never thought possible. It’s like “Groundhog Day” with a twist that’ll roll around in your mind for days...

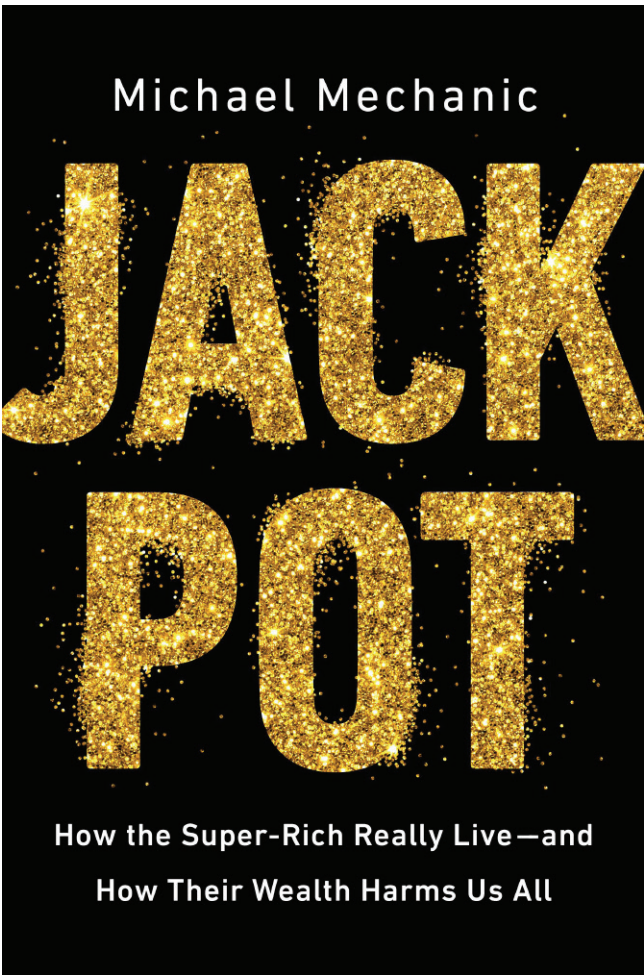
Nonfiction

For every kid who grew up with a pile of comic books next to the bed, in a drawer, or in the closet, “American Comics: A History” by Jeremy Dauber (W.W. Norton, \$35) is a must-have. Here, Dauber follows comics from their political roots to today’s activist cartoons, and how we went from Katzenjammer Kids to MAD Magazine to comix as we know them. The bonus is that Dauber puts comics into fascinating historical perspective.

Did you buy your lottery ticket this week? If you did, it’ll make a fine bookmark for “Jackpot: How the Super-Rich Really Live — and How Their Wealth Harms Us All” by Michael Mechanic (Simon & Schuster, \$28). You might think twice about the burdens of wealth after reading this book — and you might re-examine your thoughts on what one person’s wealth does to everyone else...

Readers who love memoirs will enjoy “Punch Me Up to the Gods” by Brian Broome (HMH, \$26), who writes about growing up, being in love with the boy who abused him, and the father who did, too. It’s a coming-out tale that’s sometimes funny and always graceful, one that will sometimes make you gasp, and that you’ll be glad you read.

You know that feeling you get when you come across a stack of old magazines in the attic? That gentle,



hometown, old-time feeling is extra-rich inside “The Ride of Her Life” by Elizabeth Letts (Ballantine, \$28). This is the story of Annie Wilkins, aging, ailing, and alone, and the audacious cross-country ride she decides to take on a horse she’d just purchased. This feel-good story is set in the 1950s, and its neighborliness might make it be the perfect antidote for today’s world.

Lastly, “The Redemption of Bobby Love” by Bobby and Cheryl Love with Lori L. Tharps (Mariner Books/HMH Books, \$28) might be the most unusual memoir you read this winter. As a young man, Walter

Miller ran away from a prison bus and to New York, where he renamed himself Bobby Love and went into hiding in plain sight. Love kept to the straight-and-narrow, fell in love, got married and raised a family, but 40-some years later, the law caught up with him. This astounding, impossible story, told alternately between both Loves, is one you’ll ... um, love.

Children’s Books

Based on a real event (the Mexican Revolution), “The Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna” by Alda P. Dobbs (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) is the story of a young girl who becomes responsible for her Abuelita and her little sister when the Federales destroy their village and their home. This causes the trio to run north, one step ahead of those who wish to kill them, on a race to reach the border and make it to America. It’s an exciting read for 8-to-14-year-olds.

Kids who love silly stories will enjoy “Egg Marks the Spot: A Skunk and Badger Story” by Amy Timberlake, the second in what appears to be a series. A whirlwind named Skunk and his very staid, very reticent friend, Badger, are at odds again — this time, over a missing rock from Badger’s collection. There are chickens involved, a bit of a mystery, dinosaurs and a lot of fun for your 7-to-10-year-old. Hint: Find the first Skunk and Badger book; your child will want that one, too.

For teens who enjoy unique memoirs, “Violet and Daisy: The Story of Vaudeville’s Famous Conjoined Twins” by Sarah Miller (Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99) is the story of the Hilton sisters and their careers and lives. Born conjoined at the bottom of the spine, Violet & Daisy were “adopted” by a woman who ruled their lives. When she died, the girls were passed on to that woman’s heirs, who mishandled their careers and left them nearly penniless. This is a thrilling tale of legalities, Vaudeville and two women determined to make their own ways, despite that they were conjoined forever. It’s the perfect read for any 14-and-older reader, including adults who love memoirs.

So now, get to the bookstore. Hunt at the library. Don’t miss these excellent books for adults and kids — and Season’s Readings!



# HIRING EVENT

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 9am–1pm  
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# admiration and appreciation

As the year comes to a close, Eskenazi Health is grateful for our extraordinary staff members who demonstrate in so many ways, large and small, their unwavering commitment to our patients and our community.

Their work has never been more important, and we appreciate all that they do.

We wish health and happiness for all in the new year.





INDYPL

► Continued from A1

she credited the library for its involvement in racial equity training, she condemned the culture at IndyPL.

“The library is run like a plantation,” Payne told the Recorder in May. “You have the house employees, which is not the word I want to use, but they’re receiving favor and the field employees are receiving punishment.”

As the board of trustees squabbled about who should conduct an internal climate study, the Central Indiana Community Foundation announced in August it would withhold \$28 million of funding from the library until a noticeable change in the workplace culture was evident.

Amid calls for her to step down and funding at risk, Nytes submitted her resignation to the board of trustees at a special board meeting Aug. 20. In an internal email to staff before the meeting, Nytes said she needed to resign so the library could improve.

“The heaviness that hangs over the library these days is something that we haven’t been able to shake and as your CEO, I have to play a major role in getting us to a better place,” Nytes wrote. “If I cannot do that, then I need to allow someone else the chance to see if they can.”

John Helling, who previously served as IndyPL’s chief public services officer for over five years, started as interim CEO on Sept. 1. In November, the board of trustees announced the local law firm Ice Miller would oversee the internal climate study for a fee of \$100,000. Union members, as well as Payne and Dr. Khaula Murtadha — the latter of whom offered to conduct the study for free — objected, as the second highest bid was \$27,000.

A climate study survey was sent to IndyPL staff Dec. 9, with the results expected to be returned to the board of trustees in early 2022. The search for a permanent CEO will begin after Ice Miller presents its findings to the board.

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

Recorder Women’s Auxiliary’s toy giveaway



RWA Secretary Cherill Threte



President Virginia Mason



Members Linda Lewis-Everett and Eunice Trotter



Member Lydia Glover and Judge Brenda Roper as Mrs. Claus

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# WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.

There’s nothing we wouldn’t do for the health and well being of our fellow Hoosiers. But sadly, COVID-19 has tested the limits of what health systems can accomplish on their own. And now, almost two years into the pandemic – desire, expertise and modern medicine are simply not enough.

## We need help. Your help.

The situation is dire. We have more patients in our hospitals than we have beds. We're converting available units into critical care wards, just to make room. And as you know, healthcare workers across the country are exhausted and running out of steam. It’s a daily challenge to treat incoming COVID-19 patients, as well as those who suffer from strokes, heart attacks, car accidents, cancer and appendicitis.

## We need action. Right now.

Communities rally together. And the moment we’re in requires all of us to do our part to regain control before the situation grows even worse. Here’s what you can do:

- 1. Get vaccinated.** Join the millions of Hoosiers, five and older, who have rolled up their sleeves over the past year.
- 2. Get boosted.** It will strengthen your immunity and provide further protection from all variants of COVID-19, including Omicron.
- 3. Get tested.** If you have symptoms, please get tested. Should the result come back positive, inform those whom you’ve been in contact with.
- 4. Get masked.** Face coverings are a simple and effective way to reduce the spread.

And please remember, if you have a mild case of COVID-19, call your doctor or go to a MedCheck/Urgent Care facility. Do not go to an emergency room, as we'd strongly prefer to save those beds for the very sickest and most in need of immediate attention. Our strength is in our ability to come together. And it is together, that we will finally see our way out of this.

**Ram Yeleti, MD**  
*EVP, Chief Physician Executive*  
Community Health Network

**Robin Ledyard, MD**  
*SVP, Chief Medical Officer*  
Community Health Network

**Jean Putnam, DNP, MS, RN, CPHQ**  
*EVP, Chief Nursing Officer*  
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**Chris Weaver, MD, MBA**  
*SVP, Chief Clinical Officer*  
Indiana University Health

**Michele Saysana, MD**  
*VP, Safety, Quality & Patient Improvement and Chief Patient Safety & Quality Officer*  
Indiana University Health

**Jason H Gilbert, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC**  
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**Lee Ann Blue, MSN, RN**  
*EVP, Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer*  
Eskenazi Health





EDITORIAL

Rokita relishes roles as a contrarian

By OSEYE BOYD



At a time when coronavirus cases are spiking, local hospitals are calling in the National Guard and Navy for help, hospital staff are suffering from burnout, and there’s a fear of running out of beds in intensive care units, Attorney General Todd Rokita thought it was the right time to let the state (and the world) know he doesn’t believe the situation is as dire as it’s being portrayed.

In an interview with WSBT in South Bend on Dec. 17, Rokita was asked about his lawsuits against the Biden administration’s federal vaccine mandates. Host Todd Connor asked Rokita, “How do you rationalize trying to stop people from having to get the vaccines, but yet so many in the hospital are the unvaccinated?”

Rokita replied, “Well, you know, first of all, I don’t believe any numbers anymore. And I’m sorry about that, but this has been politicized.”

Like Connor, the host, my first follow-up question was, “You don’t believe the numbers coming from your own people?” The current administration is Republican. Rokita is Republican, so I would think he would have more trust in this administration than he would a Democrat’s. My second follow-up question was, “Who politicizes issues more than Rokita?”

I’ve noticed many on the right love to gaslight us and say the left is politicizing an issue when it’s those on the right all along. If you continuously repeat a talking point, people will believe it and it becomes

a reality. So, each time a politician says the left is politicizing an issue, those who follow that politician will believe it so. Rokita is good at this. It’s an art form for many on the conservative right. The Democrats really should take lessons.

Rokita has politicized the coronavirus pandemic for a while now. COVID-19 shouldn’t be a political issue for anyone. It’s a life and death issue for so many. Since March 16, 2020, the virus has caused the death of 18,280 Hoosiers. There were 170 deaths from Dec. 16 to Dec. 27, and there were 5,815 new cases during that period. I don’t care about your political affiliation; these numbers are concerning. Instead of playing politics, it would be nice if Rokita made himself useful and tried to find ways to protect Hoosier lives in a real way.

Instead, Rokita is a habitual filer of lawsuits against the Biden administration when it comes to COVID-19 mandates. As of this month, Rokita joined 23 other states in suing the Biden administration over mask and vaccine mandates for preschool programs funded by Head Start. He’s not providing another solution, just lawsuits.

What I find most interesting is in the Parents’ Bill of Rights Rokita says protecting children is his utmost concern. The preamble of his letter to parents starts:

“Thank you for all you do, including raising and protecting our children, who are any society’s greatest and most valuable asset. We cherish our kids and would do anything to keep them safe, happy, and prepared for the future.”

That sounds good until you realize keeping chil-

dren safe isn’t really the point of the Parents’ Bill of Rights and has never been. The Parents’ Bill of Rights was a smokescreen to stop critical race theory in schools. Again, critical race theory isn’t in schools. What Rokita is really trying to do is quash conversations and lessons in school about racism and the role it’s played in this country. In addition to mentioning CRT, Rokita’s Parents’ Bill of Rights also mentions the 1619 Project and Black Lives Matter.

Rokita finds a way to get in where he fits in. He makes himself relevant by using our children as pawns. The inaccurate lessons our children have been learning is just fine, but as soon as educators try to give accurate information on America’s history of racism, a Parents’ Bill of Rights surfaces. It’s as if only white parents and white children matter to Rokita. But they don’t really matter either. If they did, Rokita wouldn’t deny what’s right there in his face: thousands of Hoosiers dying when they don’t have to and thousands of children receiving an education that misses the mark when it comes to the foundation of America.

Has Rokita gone to any Indiana hospitals to see what doctors, nurses and other hospital staff are up against? Has he talked to Black parents and their children to see how the lessons they learn make them feel inferior? I seriously doubt it. That would require actual effort. Rokita is more interested in what he believes and what he wants. He relishes being contrarian as he believes that makes him principled. No, it just makes you contrary for the sake of being contrary. That’s useful to absolutely no one but yourself.

Facing mortality

By LARRY SMITH



“It’s time for a biopsy.” My doctor spoke those words calmly, though not necessarily solemnly. He added, in his matter-of-fact manner, “It could just be prostatitis” (i.e., inflammation of the prostate). But it wasn’t prostatitis; it was cancer.

Over the years, my morbid curiosity had led me to wonder how I would react if I were ever given a serious diagnosis. Suddenly, it was no longer merely a hypothetical. I soon realized that, as a man of faith, I didn’t fear death. My major concern was that I might miss out on spending time with my children and grandchildren.

It turns out that my prognosis is very good. They caught the cancer early. (Fortunately, prostate cancer is among the slowest moving types of this ailment.) After my diagnosis, I resumed my daily activities as if nothing hap-

pened — almost. I began to consult with several doctors, spoke with several men who had been given the diagnosis and conducted an exhaustive amount of research.

Given my relatively young age (51) and the fact that I am otherwise healthy, the doctors were reluctant to push me toward one type of treatment as compared to another. (It would have been much easier and more comforting if they had done so.) After several months of research, I was in danger of “analysis paralysis,” caught in an endless cycle of “what if” scenarios. Finally, after much prayer, I selected the treatment to undertake. I am very comfortable with my decision.

When one comes face-to-face with one’s mortality, there are a few options. One can slink away in despair. One can pensively wonder about “what comes next.” Or, one can occupy the intermediate space between boldness and humility. The paradox between being bold and being humble is not as confusing or contradictory as it might seem. Christians are instructed

to “come boldly to the throne of grace” (i.e., go in confident prayer to Christ). Yet, we also should be humble, realizing that we can do nothing to earn or deserve God’s blessings.

Today, I find myself thinking more and more about the contrast between the ethereal poetry of life and the gritty, utilitarian prose of living. Life is a God-given gift. Consider, for example, that there is no greater joy than gazing upon one’s child for the first time. Yet, within a relatively short period of years, that newborn will begin to experience the inexorable reality of living in a fallen world.

Faith is the factor that causes me to understand that life is not random and meaningless. Further, it is a much more intellectually satisfying proposition than the notion that we are simply the product of a series of completely improbable cosmic “coincidences” that somehow led to life on Earth. Indeed, I believe that it takes much more faith to be an atheist than it does to be a Christian.

The choice of whether to have faith is

not as stark as it may appear to some. Everyone has faith — all 7 billion of us on Earth. The question is in what (or whom) we place our faith. Either one has faith in chance, fate or luck, or one can have faith in the God who is above all of that. When one understands that God is real, one must make a choice: serve God or serve ourselves.

Johnny Nash’s joyous psalm exults, “I can see clearly now. The rain is gone.” But God’s word helps us to understand that we don’t always need to see clearly. As Apostle Paul puts it, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” In other words, we don’t have to worry about the future because we have faith in the One whose power and love are limitless. Thus, even though I can’t see tomorrow, I don’t fear what it may bring.

In the end, despite all of life’s challenges — and in some cases because of them — it’s a wonderful life.

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

Recovery or crisis?

By JULIANNE MALVEAUX



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — According to MasterCard’s spending reports, consumers spent more than 10% more than they did in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic even hit. Inflation rose by 6% each month in October and November (don’t add it up — it’s monthly, not annual).

Unemployment rates are lower than they’ve been in more than a decade. And yet, folks are singing the blues, asking for an extension of child tax credits, looking for support for those

living at the periphery and looking for opportunity. The Scrooges in the House aren’t inclined to do a darn thing about it. Thus you get a Sen. Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia), whose one-trick line is that he can’t support inflation, or a Sen. Kristen Sinema (D-Arizona), a skill for Big Pharma. While some economists are tout-ing economic recovery, others wonder who is recovering.

Dr. Algernon Austin, who directs the Race and Economic Justice Program at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, asserts that we aren’t counting disadvantages correctly. In particular, he has written that Black male unemployment is far

more severe than the unemployment rate data measure, especially when we consider the employment-population ratio, incarceration and other factors that leave Black men far more unemployed than other men. In his estimation, about \$12 billion is leaked from the Black community because of job losses and related differentials.

Austin’s work does not directly address the losses that the Black community experience because of the differential treatment of Black women, but they are at least equal. Discrimination and differential treatment are a tax on the African American community, which is often unrecognized. The recent focus on the wealth gap allows us to delve into the history of the gap, the systematic ways that predatory capitalism has extracted wealth from the Black community. It’s not just about the past, though. It is about the current practices that African American workers are disadvantaged, discriminated against and robbed of economic agency.

I appreciate the many ways that younger Black folks create alternate paths to income and wealth for themselves and their communities, using electronic media, selling their “merch” and

putting their face in the space. However, they should not be denied the mainstream paths to economic prosperity, ways too often riddled with pitfalls, challenges and just everyday racism. Thus, when conversations about economic recovery occur, it is essential to note that an unequal start will result in an unequal finish. In other words, centuries of discrimination will yield unequal recovery results. This is important because as some, like Sen. Manchin, are talking about inflation, some are harder hit by inflation than are others. When some, like Manchin, talk about low unemployment, others say they can’t find jobs. And while some are talking economic recovery and sup-

ply chain issues, others are spending up a storm. Our economy has always been bifurcated, but COVID-19 has made it even more so. President Joe Biden has not done a great job, but he is exponentially better than his predecessor. Yet he has not done enough to close gaps between the haves and the have nots.

Many are experiencing an economic recovery, and good for them. Too many, still, are living through an economic crisis, which is not so good for them or their families. The gridlock between the House and the Senate paralyzes our nation and puts stumbling blocks in the path forward. Are we prepared to allow a few narcissistic laggards to throw a monkey wrench into the Biden plan?

And is President Biden prepared to prioritize collegiality over results?

When the data is disaggregated, we will find that economic recovery is uneven. The Biden administration can fix some of this through executive order, and they need to do it as soon as possible. There are young folks who heard our president say he had their backs. Now they want him to exhibit some backbone. Those whose lives are in economic crisis aren’t interested in gloating about economic recovery.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State LA. [julianne@malveaux.com](mailto:julianne@malveaux.com).

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**By FARAH YOUSRY**

"I got my vaccine even before the president of the United States," said Dr. Wassim Abdallah, a Lebanese physician at Indiana University School of Medicine, who was an internal

In many of these immigrant doctors' minds, the pandemic has made it clear that where people are born affects the

Not too long after, mask

Employment situations like Jones' — that do not offer

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

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## First COVID-19 shot recipient in US now a vaccine activist

By **LINDSEY TANNER**  
AP Medical Writer

She became a vaccine celebrity by accident. Since being hailed as the first person in the United States to get a COVID-19 vaccine, New York nurse Sandra Lindsay has become a prominent face in the country's biggest-ever vaccination campaign.

She has been promoting the shots on panels, in Zoom town halls and at other events. "I encourage people to speak to experts who can answer their questions, to access trusted science. I let them know that it's OK to ask questions," said Lindsay, who has spoken at events in the U.S. and Jamaica, where she is from.

Lindsay got her shot in a widely televised moment on Dec. 14 of last year as the U.S. was kicking off its vaccination effort. After getting emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration just days earlier, the first shipments of COVID-19 vaccines had been arriving at hospitals for high-risk health care workers.

It was a tough time for Lindsay, who saw the impact of COVID-19 up close at Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens.

"I just felt broken, defeated, just tired and burned out," said Lindsay, director of critical care nursing at the hospital. "Witnessing the overwhelming loss of lives, loss of livelihoods."

Northwell Health said it asked for volunteers to get the shots, and that Lindsay "happened to go first" among those who raised their hands. The moment was aired on TV, and she became widely regarded as the first American to get the shot outside of a clinical trial.

Since then, Lindsay has been recognized by President Biden as an "Outstanding American by Choice," a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services program that recognizes citizens who have been naturalized.

With the arrival of the omicron variant and new surges around the country, Lindsay's still addressing fears and misinformation. Some mistakenly believe the shots aren't needed if they eat well and exercise, Lindsay



**Sandra Lindsay**

said. Others say the vaccines are a way for the government to track people, or an experiment on Black people.

She said she acknowledges the mistrust in communities of color, which stems from past history. But she reassures people by noting she did her own research before getting her shot, and that there are safeguards in place. "We've had millions and millions of people around the world get vaccinated without any significant adverse event," she said.

She also stresses that getting a shot will help protect others.

Some worries, like fear of needles, can be easier to address, she said.

After children became eligible for the vaccines, Lindsay offered comfort to a 9-year-old girl getting her shot at the hospital. She had to decline the girl's request to vaccinate her since she's not a pediatric nurse but offered to hold her hand — and did.

Later, Lindsay got a letter from the girl saying how much the gesture had meant.

Looking back, Lindsay said she's grateful for the role she's been able to play: "It's very rewarding to hear people come up to me and say, 'Thank you very much. You've inspired me to get vaccinated.'"

*The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.*



## Flu is making a comeback in US after an unusual year off

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**  
AP Medical Writer

The U.S. flu season has arrived on schedule after taking a year off, with flu hospitalizations rising and two child deaths reported.

Last year's flu season was the lowest on record, likely because COVID-19 measures — school closures, distancing, masks and canceled travel — prevented the spread of influenza, or because the coronavirus somehow pushed aside other viruses.

"This is setting itself up to be more of a normal flu season," said Lynnette Brammer, who tracks flu-like illnesses for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The childhood deaths, Brammer said, are "unfortunately what we would expect when flu activity picks up. It's a sad reminder of how severe flu can be."

During last year's unusually light flu season, one child died. In contrast, 199 children died from flu two years ago, and 144 the year before that.

In the newest data, the most intense flu activity was in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and the number of states with high flu activity rose from three to seven. In CDC figures released Dec. 27, states with high flu activity are New Mexico, Kansas, Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, Georgia and North Dakota.

The type of virus circulating this year tends to cause the largest amount of severe disease, especially in the elderly and the very young, Brammer said.

Last year's break from the flu made it more challenging to plan for this year's flu vaccine. So far, it looks like what's circulating is in a slightly different subgroup from what the vaccine targets, but it's "really too early to know" whether that will blunt the vaccine's effectiveness, Brammer said.

"We'll have to see what the impact of these little changes" will be, Brammer said. "Flu vaccine is your best way to protect yourself against flu."

There are early signs that fewer people are getting flu shots compared with last year. With hospitals already stretched by COVID-19, it's more important than ever to get a flu shot and take other precautions, Brammer said.

"Cover your cough. Wash your hands. Stay home if you're sick," Brammer said. "If you do get flu, there are antivirals you can talk to your doctor about that can prevent severe illness and help you stay out of the hospital."

*The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.*

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Glendale Town Center (prior Macy's)  
2615 E. 62nd St.

#### Saturdays

Nov. 6 – April 30  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Closed: 11/27; 12/25; 01/01 (holidays)

### Garfield Park

#### Winter Farmers Market

Friedens United Church of Christ  
8300 S. Meridian St.

#### Saturdays

Nov. 20 – April 30  
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Closed: 12/25; 01/01 (holidays)



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## CDC Shortens Recommended Isolation, Quarantine Periods for COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced this week a change in its recommendation for people who test positive for COVID-19 or who are exposed to the virus.

Based on currently information about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days to 5 days for people with COVID-19, if asymptomatic (no symptoms), followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

The change is based on science showing that most COVID-19 transmissions happen early in the illness, generally 1-2 days prior to the beginning of symptoms and then the following 2-3 days.

As a result of this, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if no symptoms are present at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

In addition to this new guidance, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated, or if it's been more than six months since their second mRNA dose (Pfizer or Moderna vaccine) or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine and have not yet received a booster, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.

If a 5-day quarantine is not possible, it is very important for an exposed person to wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around others for 10 days after exposure. Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure.

For everyone exposed to COVID-19, best practice would also include a test at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Isolation relates to behavior after a confirmed infection. Quarantine refers to the time following exposure to the virus or close contact with someone known to have COVID-19. Both updates come as the Omicron variant continues to spread throughout the U.S. and reflects the current science on when and for how long a person is most infectious.

"The Omicron variant is spreading quickly and has the potential to impact all facets of our society," said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "CDC's updated recommendations for isolation and quarantine balance what we know about the spread of the virus and protection provided by vaccination and booster doses. These updates ensure people can safely continue their daily lives."

Dr. Walensky continued, "Prevention is our best option: get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial and high community transmission, and take a test before you gather."

Marion County Public Health Department Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Virginia Caine joins CDC in promoting these as important ways to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"Colder weather and holiday celebrations result in more indoor gatherings, which – right – is happening as COVID-19 numbers are trending in the wrong direction," said Dr. Caine. "As we look forward to spending time together with family and friends, let's do all we can to protect each other's health."



## US Catholic clergy shortage eased by recruits from Africa

By **KWASI GYAMFI ASIEDU**  
Associated Press

WEDOWEE, Alabama (AP) — The Rev. Athanasius Chidi Abanulo — using skills honed in his African homeland to minister effectively in rural Alabama — determines just how long he can stretch out his Sunday homilies based on who is sitting in the pews.

Seven minutes is the sweet spot for the mostly white and retired parishioners who attend the English-language Mass at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in the small town of Wedowee. "If you go beyond that, you lose the attention of the people," he said.

For the Spanish-language Mass an hour later, the Nigerian-born priest — one of numerous African clergy serving in the U.S. — knows he can quadruple his teaching time. "The more you preach, the better for them," he said.

As he moves from one American post to the next, Abanulo has learned how to tailor his ministry to the culture of the communities he is serving while infusing some of the spirit of his homeland into the universal rhythms of the Mass.

"Nigerian people are relaxed when they come to church," Abanulo said. "They love to sing, they love to dance. The liturgy can last for two hours. They don't worry about that."

During his 18 years in the U.S., Abanulo has filled various chaplain and pastor roles across the country, epitomizing an ongoing trend in the American Catholic church. As fewer American-born men and women enter seminaries and convents, U.S. dioceses and Catholic institutions have turned to international recruitment to fill their vacancies.

The Diocese of Birmingham, where Abanulo leads two parishes, has widened its search for clergy to places with burgeoning religious vocations like Nigeria and Cameroon, said Birmingham Bishop Steven Raica. Priests from Africa were also vital in the Michigan diocese where Raica previously served.

"They have been an enormous help to us to be able to provide the breadth and scope of ministry that we have available to us," he said.

Africa is the Catholic church's fastest-growing region. There, the seminaries are "fairly full," said the Rev. Thomas Gaunt, director of Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which conducts research about the Catholic church.

It's different in the U.S. where the Catholic church faces significant hurdles in recruiting home-grown clergy following decades of declining church attendance and the damaging effects of widespread clergy sex abuse scandals.

Catholic women and married men remain barred from the priesthood; arguments that lifting those bans would ease the priest shortage have not gained traction with the faith's top leadership.

"What we have is a much smaller number beginning in the 1970s entering seminaries or to convents across



Getty Images

the country," Gaunt said. "Those who entered back in the '50s and '60s are now elderly and so the numbers are determined much more by mortality."

From 1970 to 2020, the number of priests in the U.S. dropped by 60%, according to data from the Georgetown center. This has left more than 3,500 parishes without a resident pastor.

Abanulo oversees two parishes in rural Alabama. His typical Sunday starts with an English-language Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lanett, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) from Birmingham along the Alabama-Georgia state line. After that, he is driven an hour north to Wedowee, where he celebrates one Mass in English, another in Spanish.

"He just breaks out in song and a lot of his lectures, he ties in his boyhood, and I just love hearing those stories," said Amber Moosman, a first grade teacher who has been a parishioner at Holy Family since 1988.

For Moosman, Abanulo's preaching style is very different from the priests she's witnessed previously. "There was no all of a sudden, the priest sings, nothing like that. ... It was very quiet, very ceremonial, very strict," she said. "It's a lot different now."

Abanulo was ordained in Nigeria in 1990 and came to the U.S. in 2003 after a stint in Chad. His first U.S. role was as an associate pastor in the diocese of Oakland, California, where his ministry focused on the fast-growing Nigerian Catholic community. Since then, he has been a hospital chaplain and pastor in Nashville, Tennessee, and

a chaplain at the University of Alabama.

Amid the U.S. clergy shortage, religious sisters have experienced the sharpest declines, dropping 75% since 1970, according to the Georgetown center.

When Maria Sheri Rukwishuro was told she was being sent from the Sisters of the Infant Jesus order in Zimbabwe to West Virginia to work as a missionary nun, she asked her mother superior, "Where is West Virginia?"

She was scared, worrying about the unknowns.

"What kind of people am I going to? I'm just a Black nun coming to a white country," Rukwishuro told The Associated Press from Clarksburg, West Virginia, where she has been teaching religious education to public and Catholic school students since arriving in 2004.

Rukwishuro vividly remembers that at her introduction, a little girl walked to her and "rubbed her finger on my fingers all the way, then she looked at her finger and she smiled but my heart sank. ... She thought I was dirty." Despite that, Rukwishuro says most people have been very welcoming. She's now a U.S. citizen and says, "It feels like home."

One of her first culture shocks was an overnight snowfall. "I really screamed. I thought it was the end of the world," she said. "Now I love it. I do my meditations to that."

During their integration into American life, it is commonplace for newly arrived clergy to face culture shocks.

For Sister Christiana Onyewuche of Nigeria, a hospital chaplain in Boston administering last rites for the dying, it was cremation. She recalled thinking, "Like really? ... How can they burn somebody? I can't even imagine."

She came to the U.S. 18 years ago and previously served as the president of African Conference of Catholic Clergy and Religious, a support group for African missionaries serving in the U.S.

Onyewuche said African clergy can face communication challenges with the Americans they serve. To address this, many dioceses have offered training to soften accents, she said. Abanulo, who went through the training in Oakland, says it helped him slow down his speech and improve his pronunciation.

Abanulo, who moved to Alabama in 2020, admits he was initially apprehensive about his latest posting, which meant exchanging a comfortable role as university chaplain for two rural parishes.

"People were telling me 'Father, don't go there. The people there are red-necks,'" he said.

But after a year, and a warm reception, he says he now tells his friends, "There are no rednecks here. All I see are Jesus necks."

*Associated Press religion coverage receives support from the Lilly Endowment through The Conversation U.S. The AP is solely responsible for this content.*

## Faith leaders fast to stop homicides in Indianapolis

By **BREANNA COOPER**  
[BreannaC@indyrecorder.com](mailto:BreannaC@indyrecorder.com)

In an effort to curb the rate of homicides that has increased throughout the pandemic, local faith leaders organized a series of fasts meant to bring peace.

Nearly 500 Indianapolis residents were killed since Jan. 1, 2020

In August, a group of local faith leaders, led by Pastor Clyde Posley of Antioch Baptist Church, met on Monument Circle for a vigil. There, leaders shared prayer and announced seven-day-long fasts. Posley said while policing and grassroots efforts are important, prayer must be at the helm of anti-violence work.

"This is not meant to replace the efforts of the police or the mayor," Posley said. "... Making Indianapolis a safer place will require God to help us tackle the evil forces in our city."

Throughout the fasts — which occurred every Thursday for 24 hours — participants were asked to pray for five things:

- The power of God to cast out and release the city

from the evil spiritual forces perpetuating gun violence and violent crime in Indianapolis

- Unity among city leaders, faith leaders, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and elected officials in the battle for a safer Indianapolis

- Wisdom to implement the specific violence reduction programs and approaches that are most effective

- A resurgence of public confidence in God and his voice throughout Indianapolis

- Restoration of godly family structure, values, principles and community commitment to youth and next generation development

Charles Ware, founder of Grace Relations at the College of Biblical Studies, said fasts and prayer was a call for unity among Indianapolis residents and pleaded with Hoosiers to "cry out to God" and ask for direction.

"Tell us what you want us to do," Ware said in a prayer August 5. "... We're weak, we're confused. We need a divine intervention."

Despite the fasts, the homicide rate in Indianapolis broke a record in 2021, with 269 people killed, according to IMPD.

"This cannot be the lived experience of families in our city — anywhere in our city," Mayor

Joe Hogsett said following the shooting death of 12-year-old Day'Shawn Bills in May. "That is why the city, IMPD, elected officials, community anti-violence groups, church groups and individuals are doing all that we can, everything we can

think of, to address the spike in deadly violence in Indianapolis."

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



Faith leaders gathered on Monument Circle on Aug. 5, 2021, to pray for peace in the city. As of Dec. 29, 269 people have been killed in Indianapolis in 2021. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)









Ujamaa Community Bookstore is in the same space as a former Indianapolis Public Library branch at Flanner House. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

## Ujamaa Community Bookstore opened at Flanner House

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

The Ujamaa Community Bookstore opened its doors at Flanner House as a space to spotlight not only books, but also Black businesses, art and culture in general.

The idea for the bookstore came from a question Flanner House CEO Brandon Cosby posed in an interview with the Recorder in July.

“What if you could have a bookstore that was focused on us, but then every other object that was in that store was made by Black hands?” he asked.

The bookstore, which is in the space of a former Indianapolis Public Library branch, features images of historical events and figures, including Harriet Tubman, Madam C.J. Walker and “Whipped Peter.” There is also a depiction of the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith, who were lynched in Marion in 1930.

There are also regular programs at the bookstore, including instrument lessons, acting classes and roller-skating

lessons.

“I want people to walk in and feel like this is their bookstore,” the store’s manager, Rohini Townsend, said. “I wanted the entire diaspora represented. That meant belief systems. That meant books. That meant art. It means everything.”

Ujamaa is a Swahili word that means brotherhood, extended family and cooperative economics. The bookstore opened on Juneteenth.

There are free books for children and teenagers to promote reading, and there’s a section that operates as a book exchange, where readers can take a book or leave a book. There are also free school supplies.

“Piece by piece we will continue to support the neighborhood and the community by not just making those things available but giving it to them in a way that honors and values the Blackness of who they are,” Cosby said. “Ujamaa is a love offering to the community.”

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



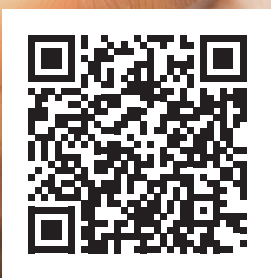
“The Trigger Wall” at Ujamaa Community Bookstore shows historic images of Harriet Tubman, Transatlantic slave ships and The Mummy Caricature line the back wall. (Recorder file photo)

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Indy continued hosting large sporting events in 2021

By TYLER FENWICK  
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

First came a March Madness like none other before it. Then there was the Indianapolis 500 and all of the events that come with it. By December, Lucas Oil Stadium hosted a full-capacity Big Ten football championship game. Indianapolis, long held up as a city that knows how to host large sporting events, kept doing so throughout 2021, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continued. Each step along the way showed where the public was with pandemic fatigue and risk tolerance.

At the NCAA men's basketball tournament, which was played almost entirely in Indianapolis arenas, the NCAA allowed up to 25% capacity for all rounds. The Elite Eight, Final Four and national championship at Lucas Oil Stadium could handle about 17,500 fans per contest.

The relatively few fans who got to attend NCAA tournament games were in tightly regulated spaces. Attendants reminded people to pull their mask over their nose, and there were constant announcements to wear a mask unless actively eating or drinking.

When it was time for the Indianapolis 500 two months later, capacity was capped at 40%, but that's a deceiving number considering the enormous size of Indianapolis Motor Speedway. That meant about 135,000 spectators were still able to attend. It was the largest crowd at a sporting event since the



Getty Images

start of the pandemic. Though the 500 drew a large attendance, one important factor is it's an outdoor event spread over 560 acres. Even when the race is closer to full capacity, spectators on the infield grass can find space to get away from the crowds. By the time college football arrived, it would have been difficult to discern the U.S. was still in the middle of a pandemic as crowds went back to full capacity and masks were mostly optional. Michigan and Iowa played in front of more than 67,000 mostly maskless fans at Lucas Oil Stadium on Dec. 4. Wear-

ing a mask was encouraged but not required. It's difficult to say for sure what kind of COVID-19 surge, if any, large sporting events may have been responsible for. Shortly after the Big Ten football championship, there was a surge in Marion County that can likely be attributed to the more contagious omicron variant. The Indianapolis 500 also roughly coincided with the rise of the delta variant, and the race was on Memorial Day weekend, when more people gathered with family. The seven-day moving average for

cases increased slightly in early April following the NCAA tournament. It was around 80 in mid-March and reached 170 by April 17 before going down again. Indianapolis will host the College Football Playoff national championship Jan. 10, 2022. The playoff committee has a plan to possibly postpone the game as late as Jan. 14 as the omicron variant takes hold in some college football programs during bowl season. Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty\_Fenwick.

Colts beat Cardinals 22-16



Colts running back Jonathan Taylor (28) looks for a hole at the line of scrimmage.



Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray (1) chases a bad snap into the end zone. (Photos/Jeff Brown)



Colts place kicker Michael Badgley (6) connects for a field goal.



Colts defensive tackle DeForest Buckner (99), defensive end Dayo Odeyingbo (54) and safety George Odum (30) signal a safety to the referees.



Colts wide receiver Michael Pittman (11) heads up field after a catch.



Taylor (28) gashes through the Cardinals' defense as part of another 100-yard rushing performance.