

Hogsett presents proposed 2023 budget to council with public safety as top priority

By **ABRIANA HERRON**
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Mayor Joe Hogsett presented his proposed 2023 city-county budget to the Indianapolis City-County Council during its meeting Aug. 8.

Totaling around \$1.4 billion, the mayor said his proposed budget reflects some of Indianapolis' most pressing concerns and top priorities — public safety, infrastructure, homeowner tax relief and education.

Mayor Joe Hogsett presents his proposed city-county budget Aug. 8, 2022. (Screenshot from city-county council meeting)



"In the midst of these historic challenges, we've worked hard to keep our eyes on what matters most," Hogsett said. "Fighting gun violence, rebuilding our streets and roads, growing our local economy and improving student achievement."

More than \$300 million would be invested in public safety, which includes salary bonuses for experienced and first-year Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

officers, as well as a \$10,000 hiring bonus. The increased salary and hiring bonus serve as incentives to recruit more officers as IMPD has 200 unfilled positions currently.

About \$266 million is earmarked for IMPD's general fund, with another \$29 million for pensions. IMPD's total proposed allotment of \$313 million represents 22% of the whole city-county budget. It's also about 15% more than IMPD received in the 2022

See **BUDGET, A5** ►



Indiana House Republicans look on as Rep. Cherrish Pryor (D-Indianapolis) speaks on the House floor on Aug. 5, 2022, during debate on a near-total abortion ban. (Photo/Brandon Smith/IPB News)

Indiana's near-total abortion ban is now law, takes effect Sept. 15

By **BRANDON SMITH**
IPB News

Indiana Republican lawmakers voted Aug. 5 to force thousands more people to give birth every year in a state with some of the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the country.

And Gov. Eric Holcomb quickly signed the near-total abortion ban into law.

"Following the overturning of Roe, I stated clearly that I would be willing to support legislation that made progress in protecting life," Holcomb said. "In my view, SEA 1 (ss) accomplishes this goal"

Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville), the bill's

See **BAN, A3** ►

Top Indiana companies wait to oppose new abortion ban until after it's enacted

By **CASEY SMITH**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Major Indiana companies that previously declined to publicly comment on a near-total abortion ban are now speaking out against the newly enacted restrictions, saying the move could inhibit business growth and make it harder to retain skilled workers.

One of Indiana's largest employers and oldest companies, Eli Lilly and Company, was the first to step out, saying it will begin looking for expansion opportunities outside of the state in the wake of new abortion restrictions.

The Indianapolis-



Signs left from abortion protests at the Indiana Statehouse on July 25, 2022. (Photo/Leslie Bonilla Muñoz/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

based company remained silent while the abortion bill was debated for two weeks by Indiana lawmakers. Officials said in a statement Aug. 6

— hours after the governor signed the measure into law — that the abortion ban could hurt the company's ability to bring in "diverse scientific,

engineering and business talent" to Indiana. "As a global company headquartered in Indianapolis for more than 145 years, we work hard to

See **OPPOSE, A9** ►

Shooting, attempted robbery leaves Indianapolis funeral director dead

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

A shooting and attempted robbery around 1:30 a.m. Aug. 6 outside a funeral home left a beloved Indianapolis funeral director dead.

James Dixon III was the owner and director of Dixon Memorial Chapel & Cremation Services.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force were in the area conducting an investigation regarding recent violent crimes when they observed the shooting.

Officers found Dixon on the ground and rendered medical treatment while other officers chased the potential suspects. The suspects ran to a vehicle that was later identified as a stolen vehicle in a separate carjacking incident, according to police. Officers in an unmarked vehicle blocked the suspects' vehicle and at least one of the suspects fired shots at the officers. The windshield of the unmarked car was struck by gunfire, but no officers were injured.

One IMPD officer fired his weapon at the suspects, but neither were hit. The 18-year-old passenger, Jashan Wallace-Carswell, of the vehicle got out, dropped a handgun on the ground and

See **SHOOTING, A9** ►



James Dixon III (Photo from Dixon's Facebook)



Larry Smith (left), the new president and CEO of Fathers and Families Center, shakes hands with former President and CEO Wallace McLaughlin. (Photo provided by Larry Smith)

New Fathers and Families Center president, CEO wants to make 'well-kept secret' more known

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

Fathers and Families Center announced Larry Smith as its new president and CEO. Smith, who is also a Recorder columnist, started his role this month and has hopes for expanding the organization, which helps fathers,

grandfathers and women find the tools they need to take on the responsibilities of parenthood.

Fathers and Families gives resources, guidance and support to men to encourage them to be great parents. The organization has various programs to help with essential skills, parenting skills, high school equivalency

See **SECRET, A7** ►



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www.indianaminoritybusinessmagazine.com





NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Now in its 16th year, the annual awards dinner recognizes individuals, companies and organizations that have exhibited a high level of commitment to diversity in the state of Indiana.

There are many individuals, organizations and businesses that are making an effort to impact Indiana's minority communities. The Champions of Diversity awards highlight all of the people who have worked to advance equity in our state. In addition, the event gives our partner organizations and businesses the opportunity to share the impactful work they are doing. Collectively, the event brings greater visibility to diversity, equity and inclusion advocates throughout Indiana.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

We have recognized hundreds of diverse leaders over the past 16 years. Here are some of the award winners that were celebrated:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award

- Winnie Bulaya, Founder, Refugee Welcome Basket (2020)
- James & Nancy Cotterill, Unite Indy (2019)
- Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance (2018)
- Gregory S. Fehribach, The Fehribach Group (2017)
- Mark & Karen Hill, Founders, Collina Ventures (2016)
- Shrewsbury & Associates (2015)
- The Eskenazi Family Foundation (2014)

- Eli Lilly & Company (2013)
- Second Helpings (2012)
- John McClelland, Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana (2011)
- Melvin and Bren Simon, Simon Property Group (2010)
- James Morris, President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment (2009)
- Pastor Glenn Palmer, Calvary Temple (2008)

Rosa Parks Trailblazer Award

- Rupal Thanawala, Partner, Tenthpin Management Consultants (2020)
- Gurinder Singh Kalsa, Founder and Chairman of SikhsPAC (2019)
- Salesforce (2018)
- George Rawls M.D., The Aesculapian Medical Society (2017)
- The Oaks Academy (2016)
- Karen Freeman Wilson, Mayor, City of Gary (2015)
- Deborah Hearn Smith, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana (2014)

- Vera Bradley (2013)
- John Mellencamp (2012)
- Honorable Tanya Walton Pratt (2011)
- Dr. Rose Mays, IUPUI School of Nursing (2010)
- Frank Anderson, Marion County Sheriff (2009)
- Cordelia Lewis Burks (2008)

William G. Mays Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award

- Elizabeth J. & Laurie Henry, Owners, McDonald's (2020)
- Nathan & Deborah Oatts, Oatts Trucking and Nubian Construction (2019)
- Lamont Hatcher, AIS (Apex Infinite Solutions) (2018)
- Courtney Cole & Monica Peck, Co-Owners Hare Chevrolet (2017)
- Engaging Solutions, LLC (2016)
- John T. Thompson, CEO, Thompson Distribution Company(2015)

Lifetime Education Advocate Award

- Dr. Eugene White, President Emeritus, Martin University (2020)

Diversity Choice Award

- Bart Peterson, Former Mayor, City of Indianapolis (2008)



Thank you to First Financial Bank's continued support as the Champions of Diversity Awards title sponsor for the third year in a row! We would not be able to celebrate our winners each year without all of our wonderful partners and sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring this year's awards, please email us at ChampionsofDiversity@indyrecorder.com

Indianapolis district, charter schools compared in test score study

By ELIZABETH GABRIEL
WFYI

A recently released study found some Indianapolis students enrolled at different types of charter schools learned more than students at the city’s traditional district schools.

It’s the second analysis on the city’s school sectors by Stanford University’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes. This is part of the center’s ongoing research project on schools in select U.S. cities. Researchers used pre-pandemic data from the state’s standardized tests in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years.

The study compares the academic growth of Indianapolis students at three types of public schools: charter schools, traditional schools controlled by the Indianapolis Public Schools district and innovation schools that operate autonomously within the IPS district through a special contract.

The study dissects academic performance outcomes among student demographics and the type of schools they attend. But like CREDO’s previous study on Indianapolis, the schools examined are not identified, nor are how many of each type of school are included in the analysis.

The authors’ findings on education in the city over all follow years of similar findings from state data: “Students in Indianapolis posted weaker learning gains compared to the state average in both reading and math” during each of the school years studied.

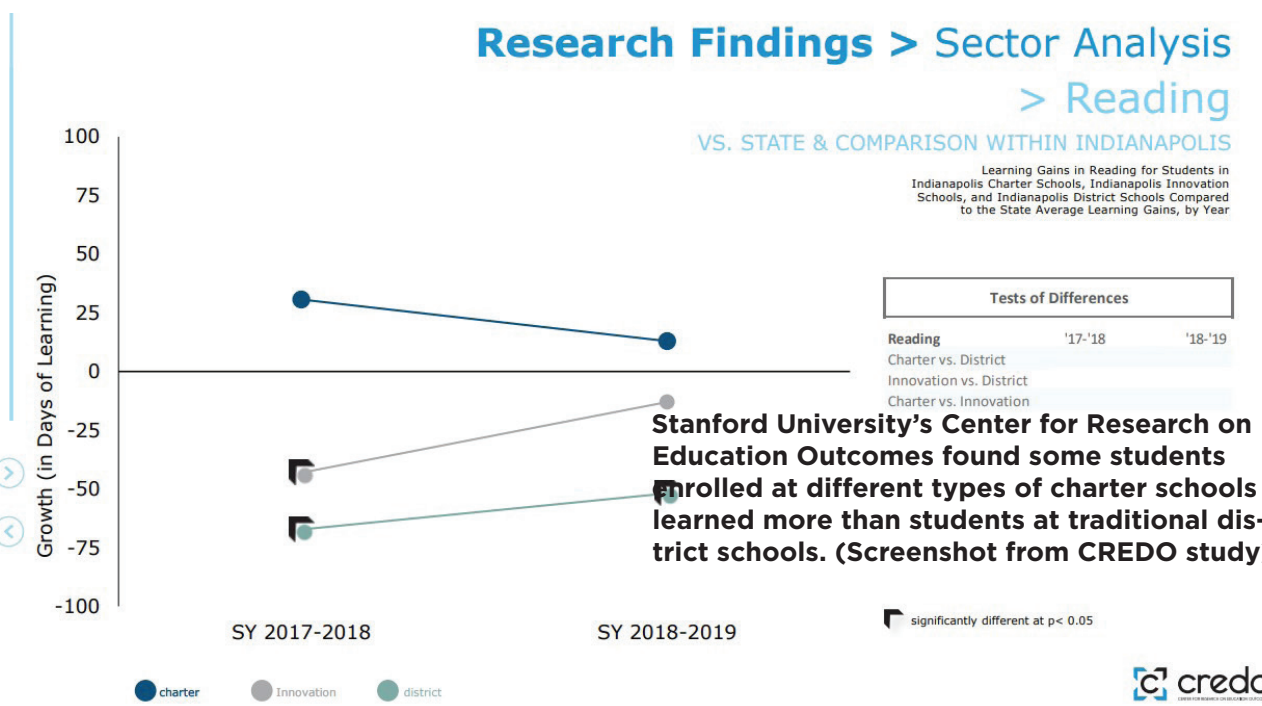
But Indianapolis students in poverty who attend charter schools showed stronger academic growth in math and similar growth in reading compared to the state average, according to the study.

CREDO’s own metric for comparison also found that students at Indianapolis charter schools gained more days of learning in math and reading during a typical academic year than similar students at traditional IPS district schools and innovation charter schools within the district. Other comparisons in the study include:

Black and Hispanic students at charter schools had stronger academic growth in math and reading compared to Black and Hispanic peers at district schools. No significant difference in learning gains were found between the same student groups in innovation charter schools compared to district schools.

Students in poverty at charter schools had more learning gains in math and reading compared to their peers at district schools. No significant difference in learning gains were found between the same student group in innovation charter schools compared to district schools.

No matter what type of school English language learners in Indianapolis attend from the study, they



show similar learning gains in reading and math.

Joe Waddington, associate professor in the University of Kentucky’s department of educational policy studies and evaluation, said the study shows the outcome of different school types, but it isn’t designed to designate which school types are more effective.

Waddington, who has studied education outcomes in Indiana and was not part of the CREDO study, said people should be cautious of assuming the reason certain groups of students performed better than others is solely because of the type of school they attend.

“It might be that the needs of a certain school within a certain community look very different from one on the other side of town, even though they’re part of the same school [district],” Waddington said.

In a statement, IPS Superintendent Aleesia Johnson said the study provides insight into what works, and “fix where we aren’t delivering for students.”

Johnson is currently leading the district through a restructuring process that is expected to include closing schools. Johnson also wants to replicate curriculums with a proven record of success at some schools that will remain open.

“We are clear-eyed about the challenges facing both our district and our charter schools,” Johnson said in a statement. “We know too many of our students are not experiencing strong academic performance and their school experience varies depending on the school they attend.”

In 2015, IPS began partnering with charter schools, first as a way to restart failing schools, and then as means to share with established charter schools. Leaders at these schools have independent control of

policies and academics while still being part of the district.

The Mind Trust — the Indianapolis education reform group that has spearheaded the growth of charter and innovation schools in Indianapolis — assisted CREDO in categorizing Indianapolis schools for the study.

The Mind Trust CEO Brandon Brown said the study proves the charter model is working for students.

“Now, it’s true that [traditional] charter schools are making the most academic progress. I think it’s important to remember that many of the new innovation schools are restarts of historically very low performing schools,” Brown said. “So I think it’s very promising that the innovation schools as a group are making more academic progress, while we also know there’s a long way to go.”

So far, the IPS district restarted nine schools with innovation charter agreements as of the 2020-21 academic year.

Innovation partnerships have become a focus in multiple school board election cycles and policy debates over funding. This year, IPS chose not to renew a contract with one innovation school and leaders at another decided on their own to close the school.

The state’s 2022 standardized test score data was released in July.

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

BAN

► Continued from A1

House sponsor, said it makes Indiana what she calls the most “pro-life” — that is, anti-abortion — state in the country.

“It is consistent with our overall goal to care for mother and baby,” McNamara said.

Abortions would only be allowed if the pregnant person’s serious health or life is at risk; if there’s a lethal fetal anomaly up to 20 weeks post-fertilization; and in cases of rape or incest, but only up to 10 weeks.

Rep. Joanna King (R-Middlebury), the bill’s co-sponsor, said she believes life begins at conception.

“I believe life is a gift,” King said. “This body has the duty to protect life.”

Rep. Carolyn Jackson (D-Hammond) said the bill is not about being “pro-

life.” She said it’s about the state “punishing women for their biology.”

“And it is cruel, it’s unjust and it’s downright despicable,” Jackson said.

The House vote was 62 to 38, with nine Republicans joining every Democrat to oppose the measure.

Rep. Cindy Ledbetter (R-Newburgh) is one of those Republicans. She talked about her own unplanned pregnancy when she was young. She said she was poor when she came to Indiana and lacked access to health care services. Ledbetter said the state has failed to help provide services that could’ve prevented abortions over the years.

“I cannot, in good conscience, vote for this bill,” Ledbetter said.

Rep. Ann Vermilion (R-Marion) also voted against the measure. She called

herself “pro-life and pro-choice” and said she worries the ban will galvanize voters and force Republicans out of office.

“I think we have to stop calling ourselves ‘pro-life’ if it only means we have a priority list on life,” Vermilion said.

In an emotional, and at times tearful speech, Rep. Maureen Bauer (D-South Bend) said she sees people getting involved in politics because of this issue, “as if their future depended on it.”

“Forced birth is not freedom,” Bauer said. “Indiana’s going to force women and girls to give birth when 50% of our state is a child care desert. Forced birth in the only wealthy nation that does not provide paid family medical leave. Forced birth in a nation where Black moms face higher rates of death from pregnancy and childbirth. Forced birth where we average one mass shooting per day and have no universal health care or universal child care.”

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Photography by Ralph Vandale

The SHE Xperience provides a platform for Black-owned businesses to increase their customers and revenue, learn sound business practices, build relationships, and circulate their dollars within the Black community. Our vision has always been to connect every Black, female-owned small business owner in Indianapolis with the people and tools needed to create, grow, and sustain thriving businesses. We are able to unlock these resources by utilizing the FIRST black owned department store inside the Circle Center Mall in downtown Indianapolis. Katina Washington has been the driving force when it comes to plowing the way for the women business in growth & opportunity.

The SHE Xperience Dept. Store houses more than 10 black-owned businesses. These businesses include: Born II Win, Divine Grace, In My Sistas Ear, Bouchic By Carla, Struggle Made Me, ZURRI Boutique, Mizanur, Glamorous Goddess Cosmetics, Koqovel Cosmetics & Skin Care, Heaven On Earth Organics, A Scent of Sunshine, Shashay Shoetique, Fit 4 Me, Beat By She, Bodied 4 Lyfe, Buddah Skin Co, Sincerely Victoria's Sister, and Iscream For Candles. The SHE Xperience has been able not only to provide a platform but invest into multiple black-owned businesses to aid in their success. Following the African Ubuntu philosophy, "I am because we are," We are excited to see what the future holds.

‘The SpongeBob Musical’ embraces differences through diverse cast

By **ABRIANA HERRON**
abrianah@indyrecorder.com

During Jada Radford’s audition at Footlite Musicals, Director Dennis Jones said he knew “she was the one” for the role the moment she walked on stage.

“Her audition was fabulous,” he said. “She’s so good she doesn’t know it. When she opened her mouth, it was like, ‘Oh my gosh.’”

The 18-year-old had been in several school productions, but never in community theater. Now, she has a lead role in “The SpongeBob Musical,” playing Sandy Cheeks.

For more than six weeks, Footlite Musicals’ directors, Jones and Ed Trout, along with cast members, have contributed much of their time — starting with the two-day auditions and now with the beginning of dress and technical rehearsals — in preparation for the debut show of the musical on Aug. 12. However, this show is years in the making.

Footlite Musicals applied with The SpongeBob Musical’s Playhouse to produce the show at the end of 2019, but the production was halted because of the pandemic. Since 1955, Footlite Musicals — a non-profit organization that takes teenagers ages 13-18 and, in eight weeks, prepares them for

a theater production — has presented some of Broadway’s best-known musical productions seven times a year.

Now that the directors have the chance to put on the show, they want to make sure they “do it right,” Jones said.

One underlying theme in the show is embracing differences, and with that, the directors wanted to make sure they illustrated the theme through diversifying the cast.

“Sometimes shows are not geared toward us, but we can gear it,” said Jones, who is Black. “We want to include everyone in our shows, whether Black, brown or disabled.”

The cast consists of six African American, two Asian and two Latino members and a costumer who is disabled, according to Jones. Radford is one of the Black cast members.

Radford was involved in school theater at Lawrence North High School, and in her last production, “Chicago,” she played Roxie Hart. Playing the role of Sandy Cheeks in this production is her first experience with community theater.

“It’s such a breath of fresh air to do something so fun,” she said. “I’m very excited to see the characters come to life.”

Radford will attend Marian University in the fall, where she will study biology. During her first year of college, she plans to step away from per-

forming arts to focus on her studies, but will continue with theater in the future.

Jones is excited about the show because of the diverse cast, the fun storyline and giving people, both young and old, the opportunity to experience live theater after the pandemic.

“This show is just a fun family friendly show,” Jones said. “If they have ever watched ‘SpongeBob,’ the characters are there but the story is different.”

The last day to see the show is Aug. 21. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 at footlite.org, and the shows will be at Hedback Theatre, 1847 N. Alabama St.

Jones hopes people will get involved with the theater through seeing the plays, volunteering or auditioning for the next play.

“I really want people that don’t get a chance to come and see live theater, to come out and experience live theater and have fun,” Jones said. “That would do my heart good.”

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

Jada Radford, 18, plays Sandy Cheeks in “The SpongeBob Musical,” produced by Footlite Musicals. (Photo provided by Dennis Jones)

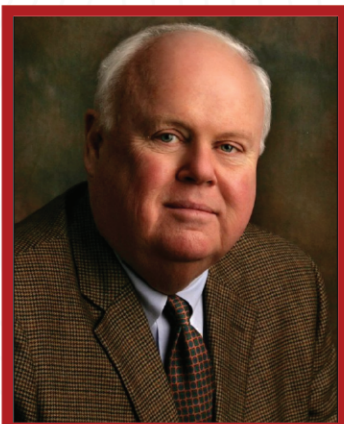
“THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL”

All shows will be at Hedback Theatre, 1847 N. Alabama St. Tickets cost between \$15 to \$25 per person.

- List of showtimes:
- Aug. 12 — 7:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 13 — 7:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 14 — 2:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 18 — 7:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 19 — 7:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 20 — 7:30 p.m.
 - Aug. 21 — 2:30 p.m.

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BUDGET

► Continued from A1

budget.

Close to \$400 million would go toward infrastructure improvements for streets, residential roads, bridges and stormwater systems. This is a part of \$1.1 billion in spending for the next five years to enhance infrastructure.

The proposed budget would also fund \$2 million for a new mental health response team entirely made up of clinical professionals. The trained health care clinicians will respond to nonviolent mental health or substance abuse episodes.

The mayor has worked with Faith in Indiana to create this public safety initiative and plans to launch it in early 2023. Josh Riddick, an organizer with Faith in Indiana, believes the pilot will be an “invaluable resource” to Black and brown communities.

“The clinician-led team is the first step in building a system that can keep people safe and offer help, not handcuffs,” Riddick said in a statement. “While this first step is excellent, we see an opportunity to continue to take steps toward building a safer community through additional alternatives to a traditional law enforcement response.”

A property tax package is another investment Hogsett highlighted in the budget. He said this would give most Indianapolis homeowners a \$100 to \$150 tax credit to help navigate market increases.

There would also be more investments in a higher education grant program and an elementary literacy program. Indy Achieves Completion Grants would receive a \$500,000 increase for program expansion, allowing for 200 more grants to be awarded every school year. The new Circle City Readers Program would receive a \$1 million investment to serve 1,000 students.

The council started budget hearings Aug. 9, and the council will vote on the budget in October. Find the full hearings schedule online at indy.gov.

“My colleagues and I will not only continue to focus on fiscal and policy decisions that strengthen and benefit our communities, but we are committed to funding and supporting programs that address the disparities in our city,” Vop Osili, city-county council president, said in a statement.

There is no additional funding for rental assistance in the budget, but there is money to provide tenants with legal services.

Budget increases in the Marion County Coroner’s Office, sheriff’s department and Indianapolis Fire Department are outlined in the proposed spending as well.

“For nearly three years now, despite the hard days and the long nights, we’ve kept our collective faith in each other, and we never lost the belief that tomorrow will be better,” Hogsett said. “I leave you tonight by saying, ‘Let’s get back to work.’”

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



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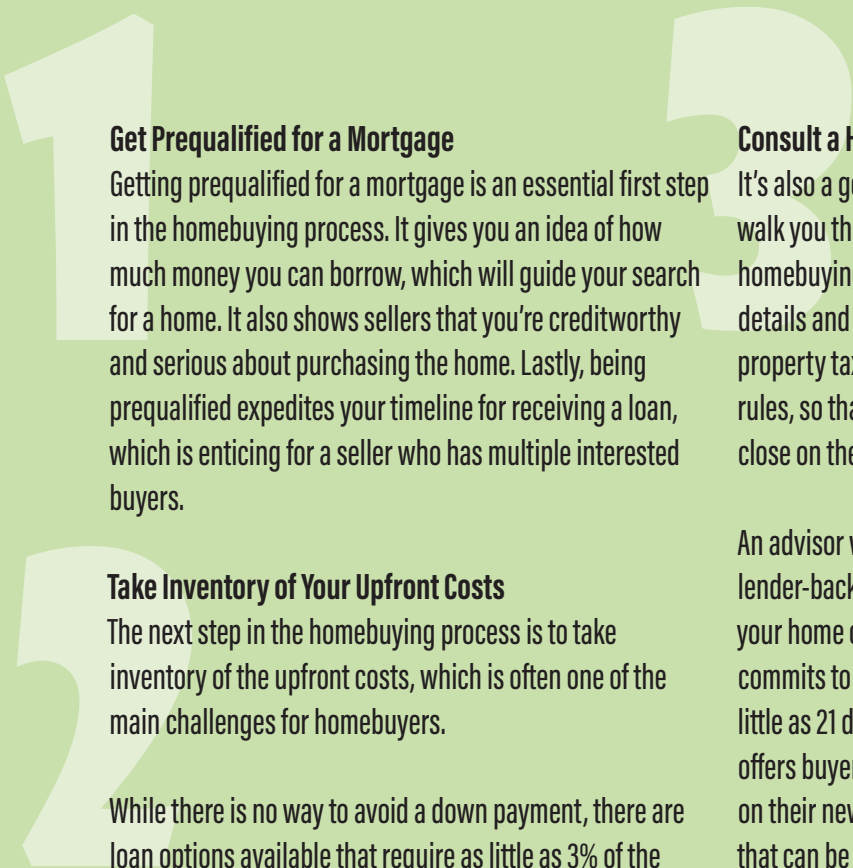
TIME IS MONEY:

THREE CONSIDERATIONS TO HELP YOU MOVE THROUGH THE HOMEBUYING PROCESS MORE QUICKLY

It's an interesting time to be buying a home as markets across the country continue to experience historically low inventory and high demand. While the competition has been intense for buyers, there are signs that the real estate market could be cooling down as existing home sales continue to fall due to rising interest rates and other factors.

Before jumping in, prospective buyers should educate themselves on the process. Beyond the search, buyers need to think about financing, prequalification and closing costs to be in the best position to move quickly on the home of their dreams.

If you're one of the many Americans in the market for a home, completing these three steps will help increase your chances of having an offer accepted.



Get Prequalified for a Mortgage

Getting prequalified for a mortgage is an essential first step in the homebuying process. It gives you an idea of how much money you can borrow, which will guide your search for a home. It also shows sellers that you're creditworthy and serious about purchasing the home. Lastly, being prequalified expedites your timeline for receiving a loan, which is enticing for a seller who has multiple interested buyers.

Take Inventory of Your Upfront Costs

The next step in the homebuying process is to take inventory of the upfront costs, which is often one of the main challenges for homebuyers.

While there is no way to avoid a down payment, there are loan options available that require as little as 3% of the purchase price as a down payment for eligible homebuyers

There are also many location-based and lender-backed financial resources available to help level the playing field and assist with upfront costs. Chase offers Homebuyer grants up to \$5000 that can be used toward a down payment and/or closing costs in eligible neighborhoods across the country. Qualified buyers can earn an additional \$500 by getting a DreaMaker mortgage and completing a certified homebuyer education course.

Consult a Home Lending Advisor

It's also a good idea to consult a home lending advisor to walk you through some of the more complex details of homebuying. An advisor can help you understand technical details and key terms like upfront costs, market trends, property tax laws in different zip codes and fair housing rules, so that nothing comes as a surprise when it's time to close on the home.

An advisor will also ensure you're taking advantage of lender-backed resources available to help get you into your home on time. For example, Chase's Closing Guarantee, commits to closing customers on their new homes in as little as 21 days or gives them \$5,000 cash. The program offers buyers peace of mind, knowing that they can close on their new home without delay or receive compensation that can be put toward additional costs.

It's in your best interest to shop around and find a lender who will help you find the lowest rates and fees. Prequalifying with multiple lenders can be a good way to check quotes, and it also allows you to keep a pulse on how the rapidly changing interest rates can impact the amount of house you can afford.

While the homebuying experience can be stressful, we're here to help you find the best options available for you. There are also plenty of other resources available – especially if you are a first-time homebuyer – to boost your homebuying knowledge, like the Beginner to Buyer podcast, which offers prospective homebuyers a place to get answers to all their homebuying questions. Every episode offers conversations with real buyers and expert guests about each step of the process, from mortgage application to closing.

Learn more about the homebuying process, [here](#).

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SECRET

► Continued from A1

tion and financial literacy. Most importantly, Smith said, the organization ensures fathers have the tools they need to develop strong co-parenting skills.

“Whether parents are together or apart, children need to see that they can get along,” Smith said, “that the child feels loved, even if mom and dad don’t live under the same roof.”

The founding president and CEO of Fathers and Families, Pastor Wallace McLaughlin, said in a statement he is excited and pleased that Smith will have his position. He said Smith’s management skills and community leadership experience will be an essential asset to the organization.

“I strongly believe that Larry’s personal, religious, and academic development has uniquely prepared him to assume the helm of this agency at such a time as this,” McLaughlin said. “He acutely knows and understands the challenges and complexities that many of our African American men and their families face each day.”

Smith said Fathers and Families has been a “well-kept secret” that he wants to make more known. His hope is to broaden the organization so it is the first thing that comes to mind when people are looking for parenting resources.

Smith became a father to his first daughter just shy of his 17th birthday. It was difficult and embarrassing, he said, especially because he was riding the bus from his home on the east side to a predominately white Perry Township school, all while he held different positions as class president, vice president, homecoming king and prom king.

“I was so involved,” Smith said. “I had all of these positive things going on in my life as a high school student and then, wow, here’s a baby. So, I had to figure that out. ... In many ways, my older daughter and I kind of grew up together.”

Smith pushed through, continuing to hold his class president position and finish school with one thing on his mind: maintaining a strong relationship with his daughter and her mother whom he co-parents with. Smith said he wishes an organization like Fathers and Families had been around for him to learn from.

Fathers and Families is crucial to the future of Indianapolis, Smith said, because more people need to understand the importance of fatherhood and Fathers and Families has a role to play to get more fathers involved.

Fathers and Families has a three-week class for men to learn how to provide for their families and be outstanding role models. Class topics include health care enrollment, legal issues, health and wellness, and career exploration. The program also helps fathers get a high school equivalency diploma and provides on-site counselors for them to talk to.

There is also a Woman to Woman program held twice a month for women and co-parents to learn self-care, better communication, raise awareness on domestic violence and promote healthy relationship choices. The program also helps women get a high school equivalency diploma and employment placement.

Smith’s goal as president is to upgrade the organization’s technology, create an app, ensure employees are compensated fairly and have the tools they need to succeed.

“I want to ensure that the people who are here want to be here and have a passion for ensuring that fathers have the tools that they need,” Smith said.

Contact staff writer Jayden Kennett 317-762-7847 or email at jaydenk@indyrecorder.com. Follow her on Twitter @JournofJay.



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Never too early

By E. FAYE WILLIAMS



(TriceEdney) — I would find it difficult to believe my readers haven’t received admonitions about timeliness during their lives. We’ve all heard, “Early to bed, early to rise.” Accordingly, the first requirement of successful employment is to “show up to work on time.” My military friends have even explained to me that, “If you are just on time, you’re late!”

As I write this, a lack of time looms large in front of us all. We are less than 100 days from midterm elections and we don’t have time to waste! We must consider the ramifications of the coming election before it’s too late. It’s been said more times than necessary, but I will say it once more: The outcomes of the next election will determine the future of our personal rights and exactly how “real” our “democracy” is.

We don’t have the luxury of equivocation. We cannot spend time debating the duplicities of our adversaries or the severity of potential outcomes. The threats we face have been presented dramatically, and we must respond accordingly. We cannot view our circumstance myopically or selfishly. The threat to any freedom is an ultimate threat to all freedoms.

The autonomy of women to make independent health and reproductive decisions is under increasing risk. Against the majority opinion of Americans,

the Supreme Court’s rejection of Roe threw the issue of reproductive rights back to individual states, of which many immediately established draconian, absolute restrictions against medically supervised abortions. Under the premise of recognizing personal rights traditionally enumerated in the Constitution, the validity of Roe was rejected.

Although Justice Alito, who wrote the majority decision, expressed that it had limited applicability to Roe, Clarence Thomas opened the door to reexamining SCOTUS decisions that related to unenumerated rights. Decisions which he (Thomas) identified as deserving additional review are contraception, marriage equality and LGBTQ rights. That thought process actually opens other personal rights which are not “deeply rooted in history” to judicial review.

Extremist Republicans, who constitute the majority or most outspoken of their party, have telegraphed and sometimes bull-horned their desired outcomes for the future of the nation. The “deeply rooted in history” criterion affords subjective judgments limited only by SCOTUS’ willingness to entertain challenges to established law. Their targets could be any unenumerated right. Those additionally include: voting rights (both women and Blacks); school integration; interracial marriage; and any right adjudicated after an undetermined date designated as “post-deeply rooted history.” I make no claims of this happening, but we potentially stand at the mercy of

radical reactionaries.

More frequently than ever, I hear television commentators suggest that the 2022 midterms have the potential to be the last fair elections of our nation. Republican efforts to erode public confidence in election integrity support that assessment. I do not question the autocratic intent of the “new Republican party,” I reject and resist it. With little subtlety, they have shown their willingness to control our society with a dystopian authority of law or the suggestion of violence.

Our imperative is to be proactive. Waiting to react is too great a risk. Consequently, our only viable and legal option is to vote — with a purpose. We must recognize and resist real threats to our existence and those of our progeny. We can no longer sacrifice the good for the perfect, but must select and support candidates who are not dedicated to authoritarian principles. We must act in concert with like-minded individuals and groups and use that strength to spread the message of resistance. We must start now — it’s never too early!

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq., is a minister, a UN peace ambassador, president of the Dick Gregory Society, author of “Dick Gregory: Wake Up and Stay Woke,” and Host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” on WPFW-FM-89.3 radio, as well as a columnist for Trice-Edney Wire Service.

With extremism on the rise in Republican Party, Kansas voters turn out to preserve abortion rights

By BEN JEALOUS



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Red flags are flying for democracy and democratic values. We need to pay attention to the threats — and also to signs that we can work together to preserve our freedoms.

This summer’s primary elections are making it clear that our rights and freedoms are threatened by the rising power of extremists within the Republican Party.

Consider the Aug. 2 primaries in Arizona. President Joe Biden’s 2020 victory in the state sent many Arizona supporters of former President Donald Trump down a deep hole of lies and conspiracy theories about the election. They engineered a ridiculous “audit” that stirred up election-deniers from across the country but failed to undermine Biden’s victory.

Responsible Republicans defended the election and its outcome, but on Aug. 2, they were outvoted by Trump’s troops. Mark Finchem, who claims against all evidence that the election was stolen from Trump, won the nomination to be secretary of state.

He has called for the 2020 election to be decertified. He wants to get rid

of early voting and restrict voting by mail — and give legislators the power to override voters. Finchem, who was at the Capitol on Jan. 6, is a member of the Oath Keepers, the far-right group whose members were involved in planning and leading the assault. A state Republican consultant told The Atlantic, “I would absolutely expect Finchem to both bend the meaning of laws and throw up roadblocks to the normal election procedures.”

Arizona Republicans have also nominated Blake Masters for the U.S. Senate. Masters’ campaign was backed and funded by far-right billionaire Peter Thiel, who has openly said he no longer believes in democracy. Masters has blamed gun violence on “Black people.” His campaign has generated excitement among the white nationalist crowd that was energized by Trump.

The governor’s primary is close, but as I wrote this column the day after the election, it appeared that Trump endorsee Kari Lake will win the Republican nomination. Lake, an election conspiracy advocate, calls President Biden “illegitimate” and has said that if she wins, she will instruct the attorney general to seize all voting equipment in the state.

Arizona is also home to politicians who openly embrace white nationalists, including Rep. Paul Gosar and state Sen. Wendy Rogers, who both won

their primaries.

Other extremists have picked up Republican nominations this summer, including election conspiracy theorist Doug Mastriano, who has campaigned with QAnon activists in his bid for governor of Pennsylvania; Trumpist election denier Dan Cox for governor of Maryland; Confederate sympathizer Michael Peroutka for attorney general of Maryland, who has said laws passed by the state legislature are illegitimate because in his eyes, legislators broke God’s law by embracing marriage equality; and Big Lie promoter Kristina Karamo for secretary of state in Michigan.

The list goes on — too many to name in a single column.

This is bad news. In a political system dominated by two political parties, it is dangerous to have one party taken over by the kind of truth-rejecting, voter-suppressing, authoritarianism-embracing people who are still driven by the same lies and rage that fueled the Jan. 6 attack on our country.

But Trumpists aren’t winning all their races. We have seen examples of courageous Republicans standing up to the Trump mob.

And voters in Kansas gave us another big bright spot on Aug. 2, when they rejected an anti-choice referendum by more than 20 points.

After the Supreme Court’s hard-right

majority overturned Roe v. Wade, anti-choice legislators have rushed to pass more extreme anti-abortion bills targeting health care workers and even friends and family who help someone needing abortion care. Those bills represent the wishes of powerful religious-right groups that have a lot of influence in the Republican Party, but they don’t represent the public, which overwhelmingly supports access to abortion.

Given a choice about whether to strip abortion-rights protections out of the state constitution and give legislators a green light to pass a ban, Kansas voters overwhelmingly voted no.

That victory for privacy, freedom and bodily autonomy was driven by huge voter turnout and the organizers who worked to achieve it. It is a promising sign that many Americans can be motivated to vote this year by the Supreme Court’s harmful embrace of a restrictive and regressive social agenda.

Let’s make it so.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and professor at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free” will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

Revolutions, evolutions and Serena Williams

By JULIANNE MALVEAUX



(TriceEdneyWire.com) — Unquestionably, Venus and Serena Williams revolutionized women’s tennis. With serves that approached the speed of light, fantastic agility, exceptional athleticism and the grace of gazelles, they changed how women played tennis.

Furthermore, they were outspoken about issues like pay equity, advocating that women tennis players should earn as much as men. While they were graceful, they were not gracious,

sometimes because of the hateful, racist barbs lobbed at them. Serena had a couple of famous meltdowns and shouting matches with referees. She paid the price for them, and, often, she won anyway.

And she’s given us many magic tennis moments. Consider the iconic black catsuit she wore in 2018 as a new mom. Conventional tennis was aghast, and the French Tennis Federation went so far as to ban the look. Venus and Serena’s presence in championship tennis was an irritant to those who once saw tennis as a narrow white occasion, and their appearance was harshly criticized when, as teens, they sported beaded braids. Some criticism was so ugly and vociferous that one wonders if the protest was on the Williams sisters’ fashion or their simple presence.

While Serena has been well-sponsored, I don’t think she’s ever gotten her “due.” I’ll never forget the 2006 US Open “I Feel Pretty” campaign celebrating Maria Sharapova and her white blondness. The sizzling Serena is the antithesis of white blondness, and there has never been such a celebration of her Black beauty. Despite slights large and small (and it was rather disgusting to see all these Sharapova look-alikes

sprinkled throughout Manhattan and on television “feeling pretty”), Serena has been the personification of Dr. Maya Angelou’s poem, “And Still I Rise.” “You can write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies; you may trod me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I rise.”

Serena says she is “evolving away” from tennis and toward other things, including her venture capital firm. After winning 23 grand slams, the most in the Open era, she says she will likely hang her racket up after this month’s U.S. Open. Many say she is unlikely to win it — she’s not won a tournament since winning Wimbledon in 2016. More recently, she’s given birth to daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian in 2017 and has since been plagued with injuries. Still, she has continued to compete and speak out about Black maternal health after her harrowing birth experience. She continues to grace magazine covers and remains an advocate for women, civil rights and human rights.

Serena will be 41 on Sept. 26. Her evolution is timely. She and her husband want to expand their family. She has other fish to fry in the sizzling grease of life. And she continues to inspire young people, not only tennis players but many others who admire her persistence, resilience and presence.

Indeed, Serena’s evolution reminds us all about the seasons of life and the transitions we all experience as we age. Our movements are evolving, too. Even our methods of organizing are evolving.

The internet has changed the ways we communicate, organize and interact. It has changed how we view politics, economics and even race matters. The combination of communications shifts and COVID-19 has revolutionized the workplace, with only the most turgid bureaucracies insisting that things must be as they always were. Hybrid schedules and hybrid learning are more the rule than the exception, with employers learning that they can expect more productivity from workers who can enjoy flexibility. Additionally, our planet may benefit from the new workplace flexibility as our carbon footprint shrinks when we do less commuting.

Serena Williams and her sister, Venus, revolutionized tennis as we knew it 50 years ago when Martina Navratilova and Chrissie Everet dominated the sport. The Williams women opened the door for a generation of more diverse and hard-hitting players. Now Serena is doing another kind of role-modeling. She is modeling balance, the art of aging gently and gracefully, and the magic inherent in second and third acts and new life chapters. Serena has not always gotten her due, but she will always be an iconic champion, a tennis GOAT (greatest of all time). In her evolution, may she forever rise.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at Cal State L.A. julianne-malveaux.com.

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OPPOSE

► Continued from A1

retain and attract thousands of people who are important drivers of our state's economy," Lilly officials said in a statement.

"Lilly recognizes that abortion is a divisive and deeply personal issue with no clear consensus among the citizens of Indiana," the statement continued. "Despite this lack of agreement, Indiana has opted to quickly adopt one of the most restrictive anti-abortion laws in the United States."

The new law outlaws all abortions except in the case of a fatal fetal anomaly and cases of serious health risk to the mother — up to 20 weeks post-fertilization. Rape and incest survivors can get an abortion up to 10 weeks post-fertilization.

Indiana is the first state in the nation to approve such legislation since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in late June. The ban takes effect on Sept. 15.

A Lilly spokeswoman said the company plans to honor all current Indiana commitments.

In May, the drug manufacturing company announced plans to invest \$2.1 billion in two new manufacturing sites in Boone County. The new facilities are intended to expand the company's manufacturing network for active ingredients and new therapeutic drugs, creating hundreds of new jobs in the state.

It's unclear if or how the new development might be affected by Lilly's opposition to the abortion ban.

Cummins speaks out against the new law

Cummins Inc., an engine manufacturing company that employs some 10,000 people across Indiana, said the abortion restrictions could impact the company's ability to attract and retain employees and will affect future decisions on growth.

Cummins is the largest employer in Bartholomew County, with about 8,000 employees in the Columbus area. Its global headquarters are in Columbus.

"Cummins believes that women should have the right to make reproductive healthcare decisions as a matter of gender equity, ensuring that women have the same opportunity as others to participate fully in the workforce and that our workforce is diverse," Jon Mills, a company spokesman, said in a statement Aug. 6. "This law is contrary to this goal and we oppose it."

Mills maintained the company has "been communicating our position on this issue" to its employees and "directly with legislative leaders prior to, and during, the legislative process."

He added that the company is "deeply concerned" about how the law could impede its ability to attract and retain a diverse workforce and the ability to ensure women have equal opportunity to fully participate in the workforce.

"For Cummins to be successful it is critical that we have a safe and welcoming workplace, and communities where we embrace our differences and enable all employees to thrive," Mills said. "As we continue to grow our footprint with a focus on selecting communities that align with our values and business goals, this law will be considered in our decision-making process."

Cummins officials said they will continue to provide its employees access to high quality and affordable health care, including reproductive health benefits, "regardless of where they live."

White House weighs in, too

President Joe Biden's administration has also condemned Indiana's decision. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called it a "devastating step."

"And, it's another radical step by Republican legislators to take away women's reproductive rights and freedom, and put personal health-care decisions in the hands of politicians rather than women and their doctors," she said in a statement.

Jean-Pierre said Indiana's ban should be "a signal to Americans across the country to make their voices heard." The White House also called on Congress to

"act immediately" to pass a law restoring the protections set under Roe. "Until then, President Biden is committed to taking action to protect women's reproductive rights and freedom, and access to care they are afforded under Federal law," Jean-Pierre said.

Biden signed an executive order July 8 that sought to protect access to abortion medication and emergency contraception. Another executive order signed by the president aims to ensure women seeking abortions can travel across state lines to access to the procedure.

Vice President Kamala Harris earlier came to the Indiana Statehouse to oppose the abortion-restricting legislation. She argued that the government "should not be telling an individual what to do," especially as it relates to "one of the most intimate and personal decisions a woman could make."



2022



DETAILS

DATE & TIME

Wednesday
August 24, 2022
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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REGISTRATION LINK

<https://OMWBDsRTS2022.eventbrite.com>

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SHOOTING

► Continued from A1

was handcuffed without further incident. The 19-year-old driver of the vehicle, Stacey Myron Fuller, got out and ran northbound, throwing a handgun over a fence before he was taken into custody, according to police.

Detectives are investigating to determine if the suspects were involved in additional robberies. Both suspects have been arrested and charged with murder and robbery resulting in serious bodily injury. Fuller faces additional charges including resisting law enforcement.

A separate investigation is being conducted by IMPD Internal Affairs. The officer who fired his gun has been placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure. Body-worn cameras were activated at the time of the incident, according to police.

The civilian-majority Use of Force Review Board will conduct a mandatory hearing for an attempted use of deadly force against a person after the conclusion of the criminal process.

Community, family members mourn Dixon

Many friends, family and community members are mourning Dixon's death. Rev. Dr. Charles Harrison tweeted, "I am saddened to learn that James Dixon III Funeral Director of Dixon Memorial Chapel & Cremation Services was shot & killed this wknd. When will this madness end that continues to disproportionately impact communities of color? My thoughts & prayers are with Mr Dixon's family."

A friend of Dixon wrote

on Facebook: "I knew James to be a true friend, very kind & caring who had a Love for God, a God Centered Spirit & a loving soul! His presence in this earthly realm will truly be Missed by his family & all who knew Him."

"He was an Genuine Young Gentleman Man, who was Sincerely Devoted to & Loved His Family & Friends! A man who never met a stranger nor hesitated to help those in need. We will truly miss your friendship, wittiness, intelligence, sense of humor, your laughter, your voice, your squinted eyes, your smile & your charming charismatic personality!"

Another friend of Dixon wrote, "Please keep my buddy James Dixon III & his family, friends, & loved ones in your prayers. He was taken away from us last night to be with the Lord. We have lost a very special people that didn't do nothing but help any person when they needed it. My Heart is hurting along with a lot of you I know. I know he is with the Lord. "James" my buddy, you Rest on now. We Love you and will miss you dearly."

Allisha Jones-Pickens, founder of Community of Hope in St. Louis, said on Facebook she knew Dixon when he worked at her uncle's funeral home. She wrote, "He was all around great guy and he will truly be missed."

There was a vigil for Dixon on Aug. 10 at 1910 N. Bellevue Place.

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

22 | 23

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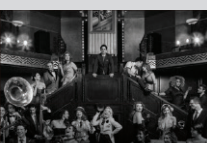
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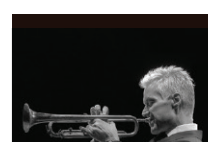
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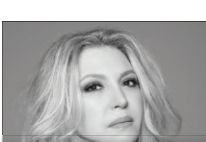
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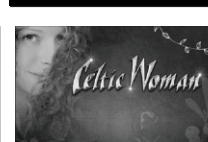
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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX AS KIDS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

By FARAH YOUSRY

Monkeypox has been found in nearly every state across the U.S. The White House declared it a public health emergency just a few weeks after the World Health Organization designated monkeypox a public health crisis of international concern.

Anyone can get monkeypox through close physical contact and sharing personal items with an infected person. A handful of cases among children have been reported in the U.S., out of nearly 9,000 cases reported so far.

“Monkeypox spreads through close skin-to-skin contact, which – in the case of children – could include holding, cuddling, feeding, as well as through shared items such as towels, bedding, cups, and utensils,” said Kate Fowlie, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in an email.

Back-to-school season is starting, and as kids return to the classroom, they will also spread germs. But one infectious disease expert said monkeypox isn’t a major concern and parents should not be alarmed.

To learn more about how to keep kids safe, Side Effects Public Media’s/the Recorder’s Farah Yousry spoke with Dr. Kristina Bryant, professor of infectious diseases in the department of pediatrics at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Could kids going back to school increase monkeypox cases?

As cases spread among adults, more children are bound to get monkeypox, Bryant said, especially if they’re in the same household.

“This virus is spread through close contact, including the kind of close contact that happens in normal households,” she said. “People hug their children and sit on the couch with them. And that’s just what parents do.”

But the return to school is not likely

to cause a big increase in cases.

Most schools and day cares have protocols for children with rashes, she said, and these protocols help limit the spread of illnesses, including monkeypox.

How can parents best protect their children?

Information about pediatric cases reported in the U.S. is limited. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they were likely the result of household transmission.

“One thing parents can do to protect their children is just to be aware of their own health condition,” Bryant said. “Parents who have risk factors for developing monkeypox [who develop symptoms] should be forthright with their child’s pediatrician” and discuss concerns about their child’s potential exposure to monkeypox.

Adults who share a household with young children should try to isolate themselves if they suspect monkeypox exposure or start developing symptoms.

“With monkeypox, people aren’t contagious until they develop symptoms. And so we don’t need to worry that people are spreading the virus and they don’t know it,” Bryant said.

Monkeypox rash can look like a number of skin conditions that affect children, like hand foot and mouth disease or molluscum, or even some allergic rashes or chickenpox, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“All of these are much more common causes of rashes in children than monkeypox. And so, right now, I really don’t think that parents need to be alarmed,” Bryant said.

What is the CDC’s guidance to providers regarding monkeypox and children?

Children are not eligible for the monkeypox vaccines unless they were exposed to someone who has monkeypox. The available vaccines work as a preventive measure and also reduce the severity of symptoms post-exposure if given between four and 14 days after exposure, according to the CDC.

There are two Food and Drug Administration-approved vaccines for monkeypox so far: ACAM2000 and JYNNEOS.

The ACAM2000 vaccine is cleared for people of all ages. But the vaccine can have negative side effects for children 12 months or younger and for people with certain skin conditions like eczema and atopic dermatitis and those who are immunocompromised, according to the CDC.

JYNNEOS, on the other hand, seems to have less severe side effects but is only approved for people 18 years or older.

“But the CDC tells us that that vaccine can be offered to younger children as part of an expanded access investigational new drug protocol,” Bryant said. “And

so it’s important that physicians who care for children know that any child who’s been exposed can be offered this vaccine. Their parents will just need to be educated about the risks and the benefits of the vaccine.”

The treatment TPOXX, or tecovirimat, is also available under special expanded access protocols, the CDC’s Fowlie said. The agency has developed guidance for health care providers about identifying, preventing and treating monkeypox in children and teens.

What do we know about how monkeypox affects children?

Monkeypox has been endemic in some countries in Africa. It was seldom found outside of that geographic

area, which is why health experts consider the way the virus has spread there as an indicator of what we may see in the U.S.

Based on cases of monkeypox in Africa, Bryant said there is a concern that young children may be at higher risk for severe disease. That’s particularly concerning for children who have health conditions that compromise their immune systems.

Historically, monkeypox case fatality has been “higher among young children,” according to the World Health Organization. But over the past few months of the outbreak in Europe and the U.S. there have been no reported deaths among children.

There are two different types of monkeypox viruses, known as clades. The Congo Basin clade is associated with severe illness and has a 10% fatality rate, and the West African clade leads to less severe illness with a fatality rate of less than 1%. The less-fatal West African clade is circulating in the U.S. now.

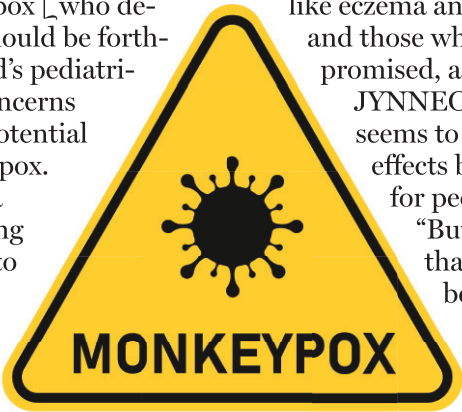
What do we know about the risk of monkeypox during pregnancy?

Based on studies from African countries, some pregnant people who were infected with the Congo Basin clade of monkeypox have suffered pregnancy complications like miscarriage or still birth.

“We know that this virus can potentially cause more severe disease in pregnant women,” Bryant said. “And that’s a concern for pediatricians.”

Read the rest of this article online at indianapolisrecorder.com

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



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Funding for this work is provided to the Marion County Public Health Department by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program (CDC DP18-1813).

The Importance of Vaccines and Pregnancy

The Marion County Public Health Department is joining other healthcare organizations in August to recognize National Immunization Awareness Month. This is the perfect time to understand the importance of following the vaccination schedule from birth to adulthood to protect against certain diseases.

During pregnancy, a woman shares everything with the baby. Any vaccine received during pregnancy not only protects the woman, it also gives the baby some early protection. A flu shot is recommended, as well as whooping cough vaccine, also called Tdap.

Whooping cough can be serious for anyone, but for a newborn, it can be life-threatening. Up to 20 babies die each year in the United States due to whooping cough. About half of babies younger than one year old who get whooping cough need treatment in the hospital.

The younger the baby is when he or she gets whooping cough, the more likely he or she will need to be treated in a hospital. It may be hard to know if a baby has whooping cough because many babies with this disease don't cough. Instead, it can cause them to stop breathing and turn blue.

When the whooping cough vaccine is given during pregnancy, the body will create protective antibodies and pass some of them to the baby before birth. These antibodies will provide the baby with some short-term, early protection against whooping cough.

Changes in the immune, heart, and lung functions during pregnancy make it more likely to get seriously ill from the flu. Catching the flu also increases the chances for serious problems for a developing baby during pregnancy, including premature labor and delivery. A flu shot protects a baby for several months after birth from flu-related complications.

An ob-gyn or midwife may recommend a woman receive some vaccines right after giving birth. Postpartum vaccination will help protect from getting sick and passes some antibodies to the baby through breastmilk.

The baby will also get his or her own vaccines to protect against serious childhood diseases. Learn more about the recommended immunization schedule for children from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the diseases vaccines can prevent, at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/.

Many diseases rarely seen in the United States are still common in other parts of the world. Talk to an ob-gyn or midwife about vaccines if international travel during pregnancy is planned. More information is available at www.cdc.gov/travel/.

Even before becoming pregnant, it's important to stay up-to-date on all vaccines. This will maximize protection for mom and baby. For example, rubella is a contagious disease that can be very dangerous if contracted during pregnancy. In fact, it can cause a miscarriage or serious birth defects. The best protection against rubella is MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 6 months and older. This includes people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. CDC also recommends COVID-19 vaccines for infants 6 months and older whose mother was vaccinated or had a COVID infection before or while pregnant.

CDC has guidelines for the vaccines needed before, during, and after pregnancy. *Resources are available at CDC.gov.*

Dems rally around abortion. Are they reaching Black voters?

By HARM VENHUIZEN
Associated Press/Report for America

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Facing critical races for governor and U.S. Senate, Democratic hopefuls in Wisconsin are hoping that their support for abortion rights in the face of a Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade can overcome the headwinds of a midterm election long expected to favor Republicans. But there's one key group their strategies might fail to mobilize: Black voters.

An issue with strong support from white Democrats is more complicated in the Black community, especially among churchgoers who hold more conservative views on abortion. The topic is so fraught that most community organizers avoid bringing it up.

“Among the Black Baptist church alone, that would split us in half,” said David Liners, executive director of WISDOM, a faith-based organizing group with a statewide presence, when asked why his group isn’t organizing around abortion. Karen Royster, spokeswoman for Milwaukee-based Souls to the Polls, called abortion “taboo” in church circles, making it difficult for faith leaders to do any sort of work around it.

Other groups, like Black Leaders Organizing Communities, “won’t proactively bring up the issue” while doing voter outreach, but will discuss it if it comes up, said Angela Lang, BLOC’s executive director.

It’s an issue bound to get even more focus after a decisive statewide vote in heavily Republican Kansas recently in favor of protecting abortion access, buoying Democratic hopes the issue could galvanize voters elsewhere.

AP VoteCast shows that overall, Black voters in the 2020 presidential election were more likely than white or Hispanic voters to say abortion should usually be legal. But among those identifying with or leaning toward the Democratic Party, things looked different: White Democrats were more likely than either Black or Hispanic Democrats to say abortion should be legal in most or all cases, 88% to 77% to 76%.

Valerie Langston, a 64-year-old Milwaukee woman who is Black, backs Democrats and supports abortion rights. She said she’s afraid to bring up the issue with friends because she has occasionally been surprised to learn that some of them are anti-abortion.

“They’re still going to vote Democrat even if they don’t agree with abortion,” she said.

Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, who won the election four years ago by just over 1 percentage point, said he isn’t worried about voter enthusiasm. He has noted that he has vetoed nine bills from the Republican-controlled Legislature that would have restricted abortion access. At a news conference, he projected confidence that the issue will carry him to reelection.

“I don’t think there’s going to be any trouble,” Evers said when asked if he thought voters with varied views on abortion might not be motivated to support him.

Doctors in Wisconsin have stopped providing abortions after the Supreme Court’s ruling due to an 1849 ban that Republican lawmakers have said they want to update. Anti-abortion groups have said they’ll work to clarify the law to defend against challenges.

State Sen. La Tonya Johnson, a Black Democrat who represents a majority-Black district in Milwaukee, noted many voters are focused on economic concerns. She said she hasn’t seen groups going door-to-door to talk about abortion rights, even though Black women are more likely than any other group to obtain an abortion, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Wisconsin Democratic Party’s engagement teams that work directly with voters of color year-round prefer to take conversations where voters lead them, spokeswoman Iris Riis said. When it comes to abortion, “It’s not the only thing we’re talking to voters about, but we are talking about it,” she said.

Shakya Cherry-Donaldson, executive director of 1000 Women Strong, a national political organizing group focused on issues that matter to Black women, favors a more direct approach. The key is to focus on the idea that “we have to have autonomy from the state,” she said — a message that resonates enough with a historically marginalized community to overcome personal and religious views on the morality of abortion.

“The framing of our messaging is that we cannot go back, only forward. Civil rights were won for all of us,” Cherry-Donaldson said.

But her group is not in Wisconsin this year, focusing its efforts in seven other states where they were able to staff and fund their work.

Paru Shah, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee whose work focuses on race, ethnicity and politics, said Democrats would do well to make sure they are messaging on issues like crime and voting rights rather than focus on one

particular issue like abortion.

“There isn’t a lot of single-issue voting happening among Democrats in general, but especially among Black women who have kind of been the backbone of Democratic turnout for at least the last 10 years,” said Shah.

The GOP’s strategy and messaging to reach Black voters on abortion will be the same in the midterm as it’s been for decades.

“What we will do is explain the inordinate — I would say even lopsided — access to abortion that’s being pushed on African American women,” said Gerard Randall, chair of the Wisconsin Republican Party’s African American Council.

“They will hear certainly from the pulpits in many of their churches a similar message of restraint when it comes to accessing abortions,” he said.

Still, Wisconsin Democrats see the issue as key to winning both the governor’s race and the U.S. Senate race this fall.

Polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research has found most people in the United States want Congress to pass legislation guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide and that overwhelming majorities also think states should allow abortion in specific cases, including for a woman’s health and for rape.

The Democratic front-runner in Wisconsin’s Senate race, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is Black, emphasizes abortion access as a civil right. In his latest television ad, Barnes, who grew up in Milwaukee, and his mother talk about her decision to end a complicated pregnancy. LaJuan Barnes highlights that she was able to choose: “It was my decision, not some politicians’.”

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



Getty images

INDY FAITH SPOTLIGHT:
Ministry helps reentry process for recently incarcerated men

By ABRIANA HERRON
abrianah@indyrecorder.com

Jeff Madry spent 20 years in prison, and when he was released at 42, he took odd job after odd job in order to make sure he stayed out of trouble.

“It’s a very vulnerable position to be an outcast in society,” he said. “You got a record, and it follows you for the rest of your life.”

Now, 12 years later, he works with New Life Development Ministries to not only aid male offenders in finding occupations after being released from jail or prison, but to also embody a successful reentry process for young men today.

Since 1990, New Life Development’s

goal has been to reduce recidivism rates — the rate at which people released from jail or prison re-offend and are put back in custody — through supporting, training and creating job opportunities for newly released offenders in Indianapolis.

The ministry’s mission is rooted in faith.

“God is the core of what we do,” said Phillip Moore, program manager for the organization. “We’re not a church in a traditional sense, but we do use the word of God to minister people who walk through the door.”

Indiana’s recidivism rate was 33.8% in 2021, according to the Indiana Department of Corrections.

The organization holds a 16-week

program that teaches released offenders the skills needed to become construction workers while also paying them during their training. The ministry exclusively prepares its members to work in construction because that field is “one of the most forgiving lines of work,” Madry said.

President and CEO Rev. Eugene Potter has built and maintained connections with construction companies and workers, allowing for many of their members to get hired immediately after completing the program.

All 16 members at the recent training program were paid \$15 an hour for their training and received jobs with a construction company shortly after completion.

For New Life Development to continue its work, the organization is seeking donations, sponsors and volunteers in hopes of expansion.

“I had it in my spirit to be a part of reentry,” Madry said. “We’re not in this for the money. It’s about making a difference. I am thankful for my new life. I am a life saver.”

New Life Development will begin another program in September. For more information, visit nldmindy.org.

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



Since 1990, New Life Development Ministries’ goal has been to reduce recidivism rates through supporting, training and creating job opportunities for recently released offenders in Indianapolis.



Phillip Moore works as New Life Development Ministries’ program manager. The organization holds a 16-week program, teaching newly released offenders the skills needed to become construction workers. (Photos/Abriana Herron)

Bethel AME to host COVID-19 vaccine clinic,
honor pastoral anniversary, friends and family

By STAFF

Receive a COVID-19 vaccination or booster shot starting at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at Bethel Cathedral A.M.E. Church, 6417 Zionsville Road.

The clinic will honor Senior Pastor Dr. Carlos Perkins’ four-year anniversary preaching at Bethel A.M.E. The first 50 people who attend the clinic will get a \$25 gas gift card.

The church will also celebrate its annual “Friends and Family” service, where Bethel invites friends, family and other members of the community for a worship service. The clinic is sponsored by the Conference of National Black Churches.

For more information visit bethelcathedral.org.



Getty images

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Barnabas in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Psalms 2:4, 37:13 and 59:8 are the only verses that mention God doing what? Mourning, Dancing, Laughing, Fishing
3. Shechem, Hananeel, Babel and Siloam are perhaps best described as? Temples, Towers, Wells, Harlots
4. From 2 Corinthians 7:10, what does the sorrow of the world produce? Salvation, Truth, Anger, Death
5. Which prophet had a son named Shearjashub? Isaiah, Elijah, Nathan, Ahijah
6. What moved Noah to prepare the ark? Repentance, Godly fear, Stubbornness, An Angel

ANSWERS:

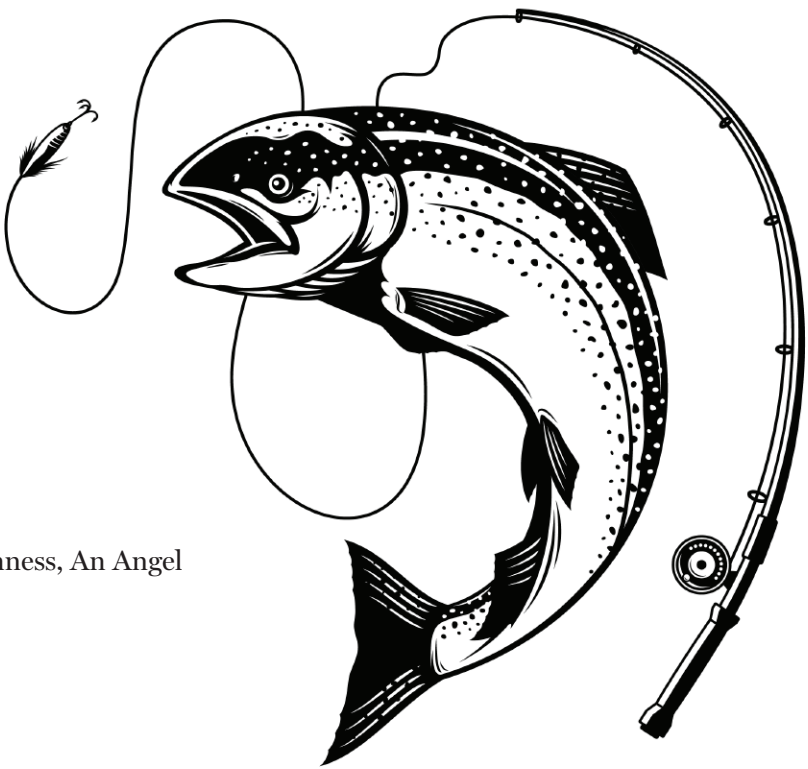
- 1) Neither,
- 2) Laughing,
- 3) Towers,
- 4) Death,
- 5) Isaiah,
- 6) Godly fear

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D H G O G

Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

PSALM 10: 2-4

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 19:14

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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M	C	T	A	T	E	U	E	Z	G
K	O	R	H	E	A	S	V	M	H
R	L	U	M	I	E	T	T	A	T
P	J	E	T	H	S	Z	I	Y	S
Q	R	I	T	H	X	R	O	N	
D	R	O	L	S	D	R	O	N	

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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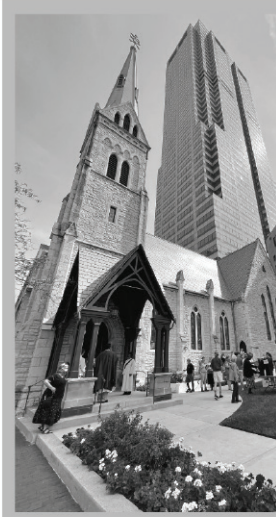
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‘KEEP GROWING AND KEEP GOING’: New space for Black restaurant owners opens at City Market



Naptown Hot Chicken is one of four restaurants that are apart of S.O.U.L. There are six different spice levels to choose from.



Chef David Brown owns Naptown Hot Chicken. Customers can choose from different levels of spiciness. (Photos/Jayden Kennett)

Cajun beef pasta from T Street Eat. The dish can also be replaced with chicken, lamb and shrimp.



Chef Wuan's Kitchen is one of the restaurants located in the City Market as apart of S.O.U.L.



Two Crazy Ladies is one of the restaurants in the S.O.U.L. kitchen. All of their food is vegan.

By JAYDEN KENNETT
jaydenk@indyrecorder.com

Four new booths in Indianapolis City Market will provide a space for Black restaurant owners to get their start. A new program with the Indy Black Chamber of Commerce and Bank of America launched Aug. 3 to bring more Black restaurant owners into City Market and provide them with guidance to continue their business after they leave.

The kitchen incubator called S.O.U.L. (Supporting Our Unique Locals) was funded by a grant from Bank of America and will provide fully equipped kitchen spaces and help with setup costs. The four new restaurants are Naptown Hot Chicken, Chef Wuan's Kitchen, Two Crazy Ladies and T Street Eat.

The chamber saw a need for more vendors at City Market after seeing so

many leave, said Anita Williams, Indy Black Chamber of Commerce board chair. So, they asked for an opportunity to put four caterers into the market to grow their restaurants. The kitchen will be available to Black caterers and food truck owners who need more space.

The program will also provide classes focused on food safety, menu creation and marketing, Williams said.

The goal is to create a “revolving door” for restaurant owners “to grow and out-grow” City Market, Williams said.

Tasha Claytor, a business owner in the program, was looking for a way to support her family during the pandemic. On top of being a full-time registered nurse, she was doing Lyft, DoorDash and Instacart to keep her family afloat.

That venture was put on hold when her grandmother, Alberta, died at the end of July. Two weeks later, a voice-

mail sparked inspiration.

“One day for her last birthday, I made some food for her,” Claytor said. “I was making a trip for her, a memorial trip, and I got a voicemail ranting and raving about how good my food was. And I was like, that’s it. I can cook.”

Taking bits and pieces of recipes from her grandmother and the excitement of presentation from her mother, Claytor created T Street Eat.

Having a space in City Market will provide more stability for her business by allowing them to be open more consistently, rather than sporadically like they were operating before.

“This basically is to help build a foundation for our kids and then show that we can do it, we can own a business,” Claytor said.

Chef David Brown, owner of Naptown Hot Chicken, was also looking for his passion. His upbringing in

Haughville has been an inspiration to continuously move forward, do better and stay local, he said.

Brown has been in the food industry for about 15 years after an eight-year stint in the Navy and Army. Going from a rescue swimmer to a chef brings on a different kind of heat, but he said it made for a smooth transition.

After serving, he got his master’s degree and searched for his next adventure. He wanted something easy but unique, he said. His twist on the Nashville Hot Chicken is a liquidized sauce instead of the original hot breading. He hopes to inspire others to “keep growing and keep going.”

“Always keep your goals, make big goals, accomplish those goals, and set more goals,” Brown said.

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

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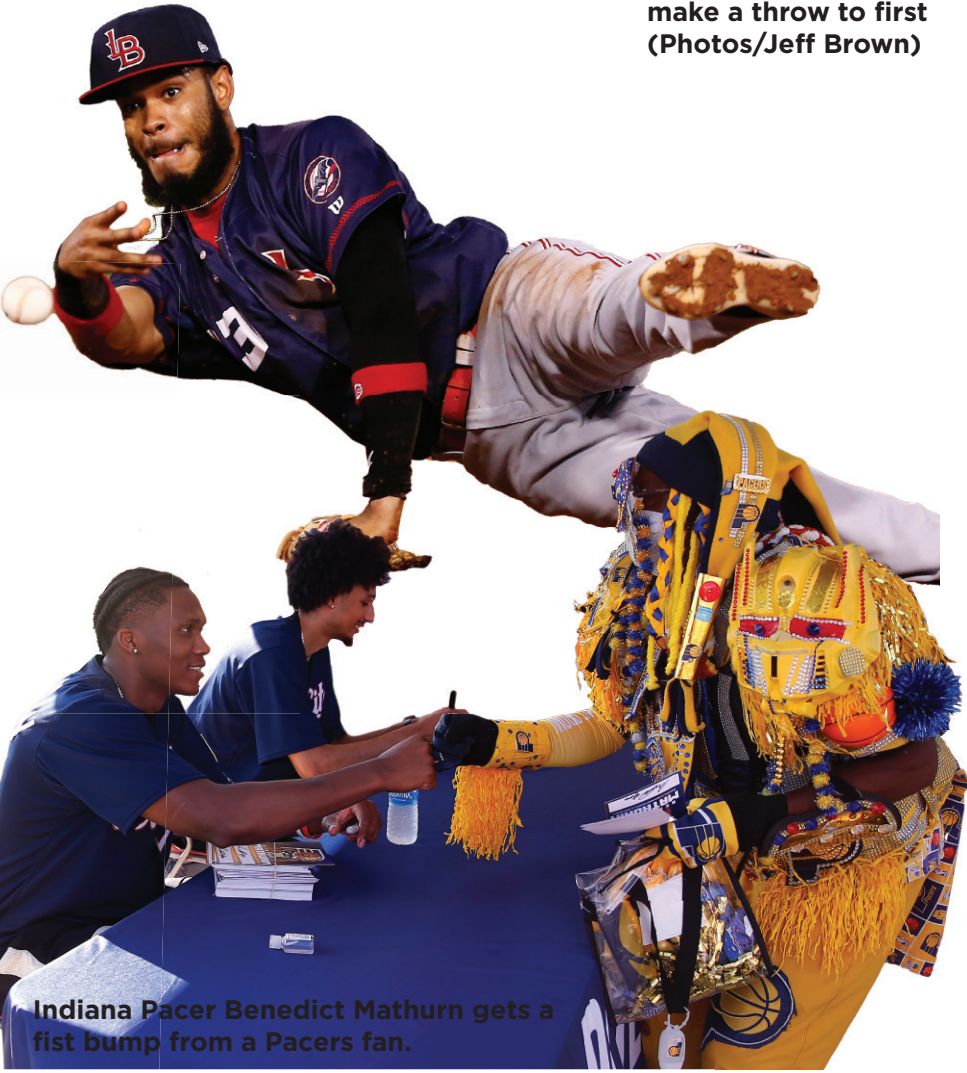
Louisville vs. Indianapolis

Indianapolis Indians pitcher Roansy Contreras (18) delivers a pitch to the plate during the Indians' game vs. Louisville.



The mascot from the Fort Wayne Mad Ants joined Rowdy, Boomer and Freddy Fever to entertain the crowd.

Louisville Bats infielder Cristian Santana (23) tries to make a throw to first (Photos/Jeff Brown)



Indiana Pacer Benedict Mathurn gets a fist bump from a Pacers fan.

Dizzy Runs Pro-Am championship



In the inaugural season of the Dizzy Runs Pro-Am team, Kyle Guy Foundation (KGF) came out on top with a 106-105 victory over team Mojo Up for the championship. (Photos/David Dixon)



Myles Colvin (Heritage Christian), one of the few high school players in the Dizzy Runs Pro-Am, put on a show in the dunk contest. He was runner up.

Questions galore for Colts

By DANNY BRIDGES

I seem to recall what happened. If my memory serves me correctly, the last time we saw the Indianapolis Colts, they laid two weeks' worth of eggs down the stretch and missed the playoffs in a totally embarrassing fashion.

That stench you can still smell from the finale against the hapless Jacksonville Jaguars was pinned on the since-traded Carson Wentz, and after Jim Irsay scolded his general manager and head coach, everyone at West 56th Street is now all in on the new season, which kicks off this weekend as the NFL preseason begins.

Everyone is undefeated in NFL training camp, and, generally speaking, unsubstantiated enthusiasm runs rampant, but here are five questions that are certainly worth examining when it comes to the Colts.

What is a realistic expectation for the current offensive line, specifically the left tackle slot?

Is Matt Pryor truly a bona fide NFL starter? No. But he's going to be the guy who trots out as No. 1 on the depth chart, and that's a huge concern.

They drafted Bernard Raimann with the 75th pick in the draft, but he's a project.

Combine that with whether Quenton Nelson, Ryan

Kelly and Braden Smith can stay healthy and there are more questions than answers about this unit. The jury remains out.

Then there's the wide receiver depth, or, more appropriately, the clear lack thereof.

Obviously, Michael Pittman Jr. is not a legit No. 1, and then it drops to Alec Pierce, who the Colts selected with the 53rd pick in the draft.

The Colts can't be serious about Paris Campbell remaining healthy, so this position is without question one of uncertainty and remains a great concern.

Who is your edge rusher, you ask? That would be newly acquired Yannick Ngakove, who is backed up by Kwity Paye and Ben Banogu, and, coupled with All-Pro interior lineman DeForest Buckner, gives new defensive coordinator Gus Bradley some hope as opposed to a foundation for his player-specific scheme.

The defensive backfield is certainly another area to watch with concern as Kenny Moore Jr. campaigns for a contract extension. The Colts aren't looking to extend him right now, and while he's proficient, he's not a lock-down corner.

Safety Julius Blackmon is young and talented, and while the Colts are hoping newly acquired Stephen Gilmore can return to his 2019 form, that's a pipe-

dream at this juncture.

Did I mention stud linebacker Darius Leonard, who now goes by Shaquille, will likely begin the season on the physically unable to perform list as a result of back surgery?

This is a tremendous blow to the defensive unit, and despite the optimistic projections, there is no definite timeline for his return to game action.

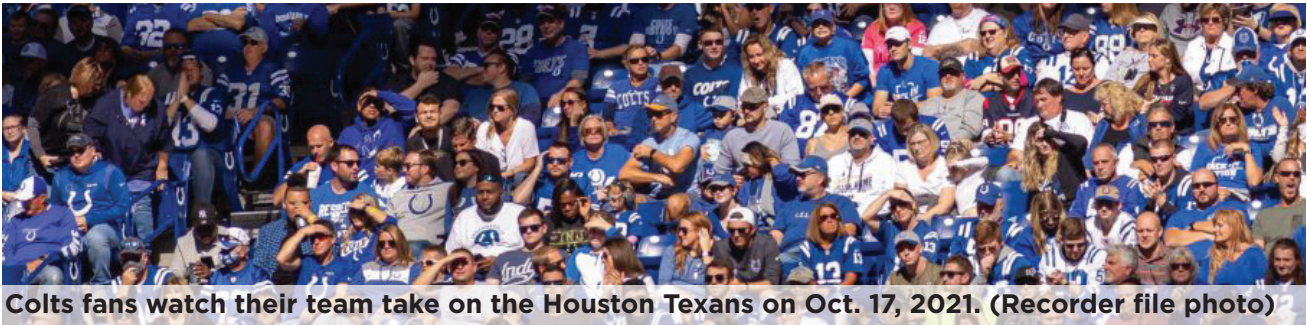
The Colts are certainly better at the quarterback position by virtue of how general manager Chris Ballard masterfully jettisoned Wentz to Washington, thereby getting out from underneath his ridiculous contract. He then acquired Hall of Famer-to-be Matt Ryan from Atlanta for a third round draft pick.

Say what you want about Ballard, but that was a stellar set of moves in a relatively short period this offseason.

Ryan has been a remarkably durable player in his career, but at 37 years old, he will be forced to show what mobility he has left behind the aforementioned offensive line.

Notes: The Colts begin their preseason Aug. 13 when they visit the Buffalo Bills at 4 p.m. The game can be viewed locally on FOX 59 and NFL Network.

Colts owner Jim Irsay will showcase his incredible and eclectic collection of musical instruments and other iconic artifacts at Lucas Oil Stadium on Sept. 9. Tickets are free and include a live performance from his rather impressive band. Go to jimirsaycollection.com for info.



Colts fans watch their team take on the Houston Texans on Oct. 17, 2021. (Recorder file photo)

Danny Bridges, who still has hope that the Colts will give their loyal fan base something they can be proud of this season, can be reached at 317-370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.