

Metro+State

Cooling down at the pool

The new \$2 million aquatic center at Bethel Park is busy on opening day. » B10

Gang probe under way

MORE ARRESTS ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THOSE OF JAIL GUARD, TEEN SON, POLICE SAY

By John Tuohy

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Investigators this week began cracking down on two street gangs whose rivalry is thought to have led to the shooting of 10 people Downtown during Indiana Black Expo's final weekend.

A 34-year-old woman and her 16-year-old son were arrested on gang-related charges during a raid Tuesday at their Southeastside home.

Authorities promised other arrests are to come.

"We will use every resource to make sure that these two gangs are put out of commission," said Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi.

Investigators said Michelle Hurns,

a guard at Marion County Jail II, and her son are members of the Grimmie Boyz gang. The gang is a rival of the Ratchet Boyz, to which Downtown shooting suspect Shamus L. Patton belongs, prosecutors say.

Larry Brodeur, Marion County's chief of gang prosecutions, said the boy arrested Tuesday was at the scene of the shootings that night but was not one of the victims of the gunfire. He wouldn't say whether the boy was an intended target.

Patton, 17, is charged with aggravated battery and 13 other counts in connection with nine of the shootings

on July 17.

On Tuesday, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department detectives armed with a search warrant seized gang pictures taped to the wall, cell phones, a computer, bullets and a Grimmie Boyz T-shirt at Hurns' home in the 3200 block of Carpenter Court.

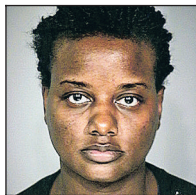
They also confiscated a silver, four-door 2009 Dodge Charger that the boy drove to the house while detectives had it staked out.

Hurns faces charges of felony criminal gang activity, resisting law enforcement and obstruction of justice. The boy was preliminarily charged with criminal gang activity, resisting law enforcement, disorderly conduct and operating a vehicle without a

license.

Hurns has been suspended with-

» See Probe, Page B10



Michelle Hurns



ROB GOEBEL / The Star

"I'm trying to hang on," said Eddie Maxie, seen at his clothing store at 3224 E. 10th St. on the Eastside.

Effort aims to revitalize 'Near East'

By Jason Thomas

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Through thick and thin, Eddie Maxie has owned a clothing store on 10th Street in the heart of the Eastside.

For six years, he's seen customers come and go as the neighborhood has dealt with crime and high foreclosures.

"I'm trying to hang on," said Maxie, 37, who is adjusting his product line to include school uniforms just in time for the back-to-school season.

"I've been here this long," he said. "The way I look at it, without me and a few others, there would be nothing here."

Neighborhood leaders and the city's Super Bowl host committee have entrepreneurs such as Maxie and potential investors in their cross hairs with a new marketing campaign launched this week.

Armed with new demographic information from a retail market analysis, the East 10th Street Civic Association and the Indianapolis 2012 Super Bowl Legacy Economic Development Committee have developed a rebranding strategy with the hopes of luring new businesses and sparking interest in the Near Eastside.

Now it's called NearEast — part of the rebranding effort — with a snazzy new slogan: "It's Happening Here."

The neighborhood is the epicenter of the host committee's "legacy project," which includes the revitalization of the 10th Street business corridor, constructing or rehabilitating up to 200 homes and an \$11 million community center that will be on the campus of Tech High School.

"I think the data really supports the strong buying power that's present here in the community," Tammi

» See NearEast, Page B3

NEAR EAST

A rebranding of the Near-Eastside neighborhood as NearEast is part of the revitalization effort.

LEGACY PROJECT

The Near Eastside is being targeted by the Indianapolis 2012 Super Bowl Host Committee for its "legacy project," which has three key components:

- » The revitalization of the East 10th Street commercial corridor.
- » The construction or rehabilitation of up to 200 homes.
- » An \$11.2 million, 27,000-square-foot Near Eastside Education and Wellness Center and NFL Youth Education Town to be located on the campus of Arsenal Tech High School. About 90 percent of the center's cost has been raised in pledges and grant dollars, all in private funding. The National Football League will contribute \$1 million toward the facility, which will have a gymnasium, a fitness center, classroom and activity space and technical lab space.

— Jason Thomas

Volunteers have been working to spruce up the USS Indianapolis Memorial and its grounds along the Downtown Canal

IN SHIPSHAPE CONDITION

Survivors will gather at ceremony Sunday

By Stephanie Wang

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By now, Ray Miller knows the story pretty well.

He has spent 100 hours meticulously painting the engraved letters that tell the tale of the worst naval disaster in U.S. history.

"You get in touch with the story," said Miller, 49, as he looked up at the USS Indianapolis National Memorial. "It gets me in touch with an honor before my time."

With this year marking the 65th anniversary of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, Miller and about a dozen other volunteers have undertaken an effort to preserve the memorial — the first since the two-tone granite monument's installation along the Downtown Canal Walk in 1995.

As the smooth stone memorial started showing signs of wear and weather, the volunteers feared the Indianapolis' famous story would begin to fade, too.

"We're carrying on the memory," Miller said.

The Indianapolis, a World War II armored cruiser that shuttled one of the atomic bombs, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine between Guam and the Philippines on July 30, 1945.

In a communications nightmare — that later would be exposed as a scandal — the rescue was delayed for five days.

Of 1,196 servicemen aboard the Indianapolis, only 317 survived. Some went down with the ship. Some drowned as they waited for help to arrive. Others were eaten by sharks.

Two who didn't make it home were Miller's uncles, brothers who lied about being siblings to stay together on the ship. Their names are etched into the dark granite among the neat, long rows that also contain the names of their fellow crew members.

Washing and waxing that stone is just one of the jobs that the cleanup crew wanted to finish before their big deadline: the reunion this weekend of the approximately 50 remaining survivors.

When the volunteers proposed a cleanup plan to the Indiana War Memorials Commission last year, they had a laundry list of tasks.

Remove the mildew, mold and moss that crept along the structure. Repair chips in the cement base. Treat the splotches of water discoloration. Clean out leaves

IF YOU GO

The memorial service for USS Indianapolis survivors is open to the public.

» **WHERE:** The USS Indianapolis Memorial, on the east side of the Canal Walk between St. Clair and North streets.

» **WHEN:** 9 a.m. Sunday. The ceremony is expected to last about an hour.



MICHELLE PEMBERTON / The Star

Mike Koss coordinated volunteers for the extensive cleanup project at the USS Indianapolis National Memorial.



and rub off the rust stain in the fountain. Weed, water and mow the lawn.

Every year, the survivors come from their corners of the country to honor those lost and remember the history of the Indianapolis.

"You look up and realize what those men went through," said volunteer Barry Fairfax, 65, Carmel. "What we're doing is nothing compared to them. Absolutely nothing."

Fairfax's voice grows low and slow. It gives him pause, this labor of love.

As a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, "I didn't have to sleep in a foxhole," Fairfax said. "I didn't have to

» See Memorial, Page B3

JUST ONE MINUTE

[TIME IS RUNNING OUT]

You can still be counted

If you haven't completed a questionnaire yet for the 2010 census, you have just two more days to be counted: After Friday, the U.S. Census Bureau's toll-free telephone assistance line will be shut down.

"I urge residents (who) believe they did not re-

ceive a form, who did not mail it back or have not been contacted by a census enumerator to call," U.S. Census Bureau Director **Robert M. Groves** said in a news release.

The toll-free number, (866) 872-6868, is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The questions may be answered quickly in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese or

Russian. More than 130,000 people have called to be counted this year, the Census Bureau says. All answers are confidential.

Census data are used to apportion congressional seats, to distribute federal funds to tribal, state and local governments and to decide what community services to provide.



Cathy Kightlinger's TALK OF OUR TOWN

4 women are honored as strong role models

Four area female leaders, deemed solid role models for young women, got top honors Wednesday from Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis.

The organization — which aims to empower girls to be confident, prepared and proud of themselves — annually gives out its Touchstone Awards to women who are role models in the Indianapolis area.

One of those honored Wednesday, **Fay H. Williams**, helped found Girls Inc. in 1969.

“Circumstances are different now (for women),” Williams said. “We have had the women’s movement and the civil rights movement, but the issues are the same — gender equality, removal of barriers and developing self-esteem.”

Williams said she was proud to have helped found an organization that has sustained itself by helping girls become mature women for 40 years.

“It’s still growing, evolving.”

This year’s honorees are:

» **Myra Borshoff Cook**, founding principal of Borshoff, an Indianapolis public relations firm established in 1984. Cook is known for her ability to gracefully handle big PR conundrums.

Among her roles, she has served as public relations counsel to Indianapolis Colts owner **Jim Irsay** and his team and leads an account with J.D. Byrider, the country’s largest used car and finance company. Irsay made an appearance to congratulate Cook personally during the event at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

» **Becky Skillman**, who has been Indiana’s lieutenant governor since 2005.

In a second term with Gov. **Mitch Daniels**, she has helped move the administration’s initiatives through the legislature. Skillman also has served as president of the Association of Indiana Counties and spent 12 years in the state Senate.

» **Juana O. Watson**, founder of Badges Without Borders, which educates public safety personnel in the Spanish language and culture to improve their services to the Latino community.

She also founded two Latino/Hispanic community centers, co-founded the Indiana Diversity Women’s Network and was senior adviser for Latino and immigrant affairs to Daniels.

» Williams, an attorney who was a founding board member of Girls Inc.

Specializing in family law, Williams has served as a Marion County Municipal Court analyst and adjunct professor for Butler University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She also was a founding board member of the National Woman’s Education Fund and the Indianapolis Urban League.

The Indianapolis Colts served as the presenting sponsor for this year’s event.



CATHY KIGHTLINGER / The Star

The four women honored with 2010 Girls Inc. Touchstone Awards as positive role models were (from left) Juana O. Watson, Fay H. Williams, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and Myra Borshoff Cook. They were honored Wednesday in Downtown Indianapolis.

Jeanne White-Ginder to help hemophiliacs



Jeanne White-Ginder

Jeanne White-Ginder, the mother of Indiana teen Ryan White, who died in 1990 of AIDS after undergoing a tainted blood-clotting treatment for hemophilia, is lending her support to Hemophilia of Indiana.

White-Ginder, who has long been an HIV/AIDS activist, will be on hand in Indianapolis in September as the honorary spokeswoman for the 2010 Hemophilia Walk at Fort Harrison State Park, according to **Michael Perigo**, development director for Hemophilia of Indiana.

“We’re really heartened and excited,” Perigo said. “She represents a whole group of people who were impacted with HIV/AIDS through their hemophilia.”

It is the second year for the fundraising walk.

White-Ginder will be on hand with **Val Bias**, president and CEO of the National Hemophilia Foundation, for a private Sept. 24 reception at Downtown Indy’s Crowne Plaza. They also will be at the park for the walk.

Outshoot a Fever player? Try it for charity

In an effort to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Indiana Fever players **Tully Bevilacqua**, **Ebony Hoffman** and **Briann January** will accept one-on-one basketball shooting challenges Wednesday at Conseco Fieldhouse.

The players will appear as part of the LLS Fever Shoot-out. For \$30, fans can interact and play hoops with the players from 2 to 5 p.m.

Participants will get a ticket to an upcoming Fever home game; \$15 of the cost of every ticket sold goes to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. For tickets and information, visit feverbasketball.com or call (317) 917-2964.



BIRTHDAY OF NOTE

Izod IndyCar Series driver **Justin Wilson** turns 32 Saturday.

GOT A TIP?

Send ideas, tips and rumors to Cathy Kightlinger at cathy.kightlinger@indystar.com. Follow her at twitter.com/ckightlinger. Or call her at (317) 444-6067.

Memorial

» The ship captain’s name finally was cleared in 2000.

From B1

worry about someone coming around the corner and shooting me.

“It’s perhaps a way of paying back.”

The Indianapolis story on the monument reads, was used as Franklin D. Roosevelt’s personal carrier before it went into battle for World War II. In the battle for Okinawa, the ship was hit by a kamikaze pilot. And the Indianapolis became best known for its central role in the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

But the Indianapolis’ legacy would be further defined by the tragedy of its loss.

On the south side of the memorial, the tale of her sinking unravels. After delivering the bomb, the Indianapolis was ordered to the Philippines.

Before the ship could get there, it was spotted by a Japanese submarine. The sub fired upon the Indianapolis, and two torpedoes hit it.

“It bounced the ship up and down about three times,” recalled Jim O’Donnell, the only Indianapolis native to survive the ship’s sinking. “And it just kept going forward.”

The Indianapolis sank in 12 minutes. About 900 men made it into the water, and they would float there for nearly five days — those who lived through it.

“There was nothing you could do,” O’Donnell said.

The sailors and Marines fought exposure, starvation, dehydration and the pain of their wounds. Then came the sharks.

“There were sharks all around you all the time,” O’Donnell said. “You had to stay in a group. If you were out there by yourself, a shark would’ve had you.”

After the ship’s loss, its sinking was shrouded in scandal.

The Indianapolis was said to have not sent a distress signal, though the sailors radioed several of them. The SOS messages were disregarded for various reasons, including suspicion of an enemy trap.

Shortly after the end of the war, the ship’s captain, Charles B. McVay III, was court-martialed and convicted of endangering his men by not taking evasive actions. He committed suicide with his Navy-issued revolver in 1968.

In 2000, then-President Bill Clinton signed legislation clearing the captain’s



MICHELLE PEMBERTON / The Star

Mike Koss wipes the last of the wax from the USS Indianapolis National Memorial. The cleanup of the memorial was completed in time for this weekend’s reunion of survivors.

FAST FACTS

- » The USS Indianapolis Memorial was dedicated on Aug. 2, 1995.
- » The memorial was designed by architect Joseph Fischer to mimic the structure of the ship. The dark granite monolith on the north end of the plaza represents the bow, and the raised, curved overlook behind the monument is meant to be the ship’s bridge.
- » The 10 stars cut into the base of the monument stand for the 10 battle stars awarded to the Indianapolis.

name.

Kept coming back

These days, it’s easier to read that tale carved into the monument. A new layer of black paint details each letter.

It became the pet project for Ray Miller, a “walk-on” with the group. Passing by the volunteer team from the Indianapolis Radio League, he asked to paint one letter. But then he kept coming back.

It’s honorable work, Miller said, and he knows honor. Miller, an Army man, fought in three tours in Iraq and came home wounded.

His body is rejecting the shrapnel fragments still embedded in his back from an IED explosion, which has caused him to develop leukemia.

When he couldn’t work during chemo-

therapy treatments, Miller spent his days painting the memorial. Line by line, he filled in nearly every letter on the south panels and many of them on the north ones.

“He likes the story,” said volunteer coordinator Mike Koss, 57, Indianapolis. “He has a real appreciation. He says, ‘Despite my condition, look at what they suffered.’”

Because of the efforts of Miller and others, the monument looks better. The ground is no longer littered with cigarette butts and empty bottles. The grass is no longer a crispy brownish-yellow color. The polished granite shines in the sun and glows under the floor lights at night.

A single change

With the approval of the commission, the volunteers made a single change to the monument, painting the once-gray official Marine seals and unofficial Navy emblems. They carefully matched the paint colors according to standards or got as close as they could, inventing a custom light brown for the Navy emblem that they like to call “CA-35” — the identification number of the Indianapolis.

“This is about the survivors,” Fairfax said. “This is not about us.”

On Sunday, the cleanup crew will attend the remembrance ceremony, but they will stand quietly somewhere in the background — behind the manicured lawn and gleaming memorial.

★ Call Star reporter Stephanie Wang at (317) 444-6914.



Artist’s rendering provided by RATIO Architects
An \$11 million community center is part of the legacy project for the Near Eastside.

NearEast

» Effort sees potential for growth in struggling neighborhood.

From B1

Hughes, executive director of the civic association, said about the study. “More importantly, it’s adding credibility to the efforts and vision we have for the district.”

With the new market data, officials seek to draw more business to an area bordered by I-70 on the north, Washington Street on the south, Emerson Avenue on the east and the I-65/I-70 split and Massachusetts Avenue on the west. The analysis also included an area that is a six-minute

drive in any direction from Tuxedo Street and East 10th Street. **+ SEE MORE PHOTOS** Go to Indy Star.com/multimedia for a photo gallery with this story.

The study, conducted by LISC MetroEdge, a market analysis firm, shows the neighborhood has several selling points, including its proximity to Downtown, interstate access and a core population of about 35,000 with diverse incomes.

But the neighborhood’s greatest asset could be outside the corridor: About 111,000 people live within the six-minute drive area, which officials say is an untapped reservoir — especially when Near-Eastside residents spend more than \$169 million each year on general merchandise in that area instead of their own neighborhood.

“To see \$169 million in resources being spent outside our neighborhood because we don’t have the services here really speaks to the demand in our community for various things,” said James Taylor, CEO of the John H. Boner Community Center, a social services organization on 10th Street. “What we want to do as a community is capture that and keep it within our neighborhoods.”

The study revealed the neighborhood lacks businesses in four key categories: general merchandise, groceries, restaurants and miscellaneous retail, such as thrift stores and florists.

“They need to get it together,” said Jackie Cooks, 49, a bus driver with Indianapolis Public Schools who was visiting thrift stores along 10th Street on Wednesday.

She was in the heart of the study area, which is farther east on 10th Street from visible improvements, such as \$5 million in infrastructure upgrades under way, including new streetlights, alleys and sewers; and People’s Health Center, a \$6 million health center for the poor.

“Visitors will not want to be down on this end,” Cooks said. “It’s not a good place to be seen.”

Officials face a tough road. The revival efforts focus on an area that contains four census tracts ranked among the top 10 (out of 211) for the most violent crimes committed in the city in 2008, according to police crime data. The neighborhood’s foreclosure rate hovers around 30 percent.

But the study offers officials hope: The percentage of neighborhood households earning middle incomes or above increased from 21 percent in 2000 to 26 percent in 2009.

“When you look at the data, there is both wealth and prosperity right next to low to moderate incomes,” Taylor said. “There is disposable income here in the neighborhood that could support businesses coming here.”

Maxie sees the potential, which is one reason he has refused to close his clothing store.

While he awaits the revival to seep farther east — “I’ll believe it when I see it,” he says — Maxie is buoyed by an increased police presence that has created what he calls a safer atmosphere.

He’s here to stay, at least until the 2012 Super Bowl hype hits.

“You look at 10th Street, and it’s very eclectic. It could be another Broad Ripple, an artistic-type place,” Maxie said. “I’d love for them to come back here and revitalize the place. It definitely has potential.”

★ Call Star reporter Jason Thomas at (317) 444-6087.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

A retail market analysis of the East 10th Street corridor on the Near Eastside was released earlier this week. It was conducted by LISC MetroEdge, a market analysis firm, in partnership with the East 10th Street Civic Association and the Indianapolis 2012 Super Bowl Legacy Economic Development Committee.

It comes with a new branding strategy for the neighborhood, referring to the Near Eastside as NearEast, and has the slogan: “It’s Happening Here.”

To view the study, visit www.civicassoc.org, click on “Initiatives,” and scroll down to “Business Tenant Recruitment Program.”

— Jason Thomas