

NORTH NEWS

May 29, 2020

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Demontá Mathis hugs his mother, Crystal Wilson, whose face was buried in graduation balloons. Mathis was one of 60 North High School seniors who picked up their caps and gowns May 20. The COVID-19 pandemic closed schools and kept Minnesota's high school seniors from having a traditional graduation. North seniors donned their graduation robes for pictures to be used in a virtual ceremony, but parents and friends greeted them with cheers and tears as they exited the high school. Photo by David Pierini

A CLASS LIKE NO OTHER

Celebrating the seniors whose high school careers were upended by the coronavirus.

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Letter from the Editor Harry Colbert, Jr.

Dear readers of North News:

Please allow me to introduce (or reintroduce) myself.

My name is Harry Colbert, Jr. and I am humbled and honored to be your new editor-in-chief of North News. And I'm excited for the journey on which, together, we're about to embark.

But before I lay out my vision let me first thank and congratulate outgoing editor-in-chief, Kenzie O'Keefe. Kenzie has masterfully guided the North News ship for the past four years—the inaugural years under the parent organization, Pillsbury United Communities (PUC). In many ways Kenzie has become as much a part of the fabric of North Minneapolis as the publication itself has become. PUC is blessed to have her remain within the organization as its director of Policy and Advocacy.

Well, if my name rings a bell it may be because I'm no stranger to the Northside. For the past four years I've been the managing editor of *Insight News*—a publication headquartered in North Minneapolis. In total, I spent 10 years with the periodical, and together we told the stories of the Twin Cities' Black community—coverage which garnered more than a dozen national and state awards.

At the helm of North News I will bring that same level excellence, continuing where Kenzie left off. In the coming months there will be subtle changes, less in coverage, but more in aesthetics. More to the point, the aesthetic of the

website. The process of a website redesign was already underway before my hire, so I'm excited to pick up the task. Also, expect to see a more pronounced presence on social media as we embark upon telling the stories of individual Northsiders in written, photographic and/or video vignettes. Each one of us has a story to tell ... a story worth telling.

North News is an entity of PUC, but it is your periodical. It belongs to you and we are here to serve you ... the residents, businesses and social entities that make up North Minneapolis. We take our responsibility of serving the community with the utmost respect.

And I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me directly with any questions, comments, concerns and story ideas. I'm accessible via email at harryc@pillsburyunited.org.

I say it with sincerity, I truly look forward to hearing from you. And once we get through this current pandemic I hope to introduce (or reintroduce) myself in person.

Together in community,

Harry Colbert, Jr.
Incoming Editor, North News
harryc@pillsburyunited.org
612-701-3883

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Phone: 651-245-2647
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Harry Colbert, Jr.
Editor/Publisher/Advertising

Emily Ronning
Graphic Designer

David Pierini
Staff Reporter

Lyle James
Delivery

Anya Johanna DeNiro
Copy Editor

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Letter from the Editor Kenzie O'Keefe

Dear community,

As the story was told to me, nearly five years ago, Adair Mosley, then the chief of staff at Pillsbury United Communities, picked up a copy of North News at the Lowry Cafe and learned it was for sale from an ad inside. An idea was seeded. Soon after, Chanda Smith Baker, then the CEO of PUC, ran into Margo Ashmore, then the owner of the paper, in a bathroom at a Hawthorne Huddle. Conversation ensued. The idea to rethink the Northside news source was cemented. Adair had the vision to lead it into life, and I was hired soon after to do the groundwork.

Fifty newspapers later, I have typed my last letter from the editor, and another chapter in North News' long story comes to an end. We've produced four and a half years of papers. More than 150 students have taken our journalism classes at North and Henry High schools. Thousands of stories have been written. We've endured a few shocking elections, too many tragedies, more joys than could be recorded, and now a global pandemic.

I'm endlessly grateful to those who stood with me, supported me, and guided me during this last nearly half a decade: Adair Mosley,

Chanda Smith Baker, Margo Ashmore, Sam Wilbur, David Pierini, Cirien Saadeh, Abdi Mohamed, Joel Luedtke, Mauri Friestleben, Anya DeNiro, Lyle James, Vanan Murugesan, Larry MacKenzie, Shawn Harris-Berry, and so many more. Thank you to every intern who learned on the job, every advertising customer who made production possible, and every Northsider who trusted me to hold and tell your stories.

Though I'm leaving North News, I will remain in the community and with Pillsbury United Communities as the organization's new Director of Policy and Advocacy. I'm ready to implement so much of what I've seen and heard from the community as a reporter and intentionally track toward systems change.

I leave knowing North News is in capable hands. I've already been humbled to witness Harry Colbert's leadership, and I look forward to seeing the excellence that comes next for this essential publication.

In service,

Kenzie O'Keefe
Outgoing Editor, North News
kenzieo@pillsburyunited.org
651-245-2647

North Minneapolis at a glance

New housing nearly complete at Penn & Golden Valley Rd.

A new development is taking form at the corners of Penn Avenue and Golden Valley Road. Penn Avenue Union, a mixed use development of affordable housing, and commercial and office space, is expected to be completed by fall. The project of George Group North and designed by Mobilize Design Architecture offers 65 affordable housing units—40 one-bedroom, 19 two-bedroom and six three-bedroom—situated above the street-level commercial space that will include a food hall for restaurants offering dine-in and takeout options. Jamil Ford, partner with Mobilize Design Architecture, said the new development serves the needs of community. “The importance of this development is we are providing additional affordable housing on a street with great access to public transit,” said Ford. “And

it is a job creating project.” According to Ford, the construction cost for the project is \$12.5 million, with Tri-Construction, a minority-owned firm, handling the build. Penn Avenue Union is going up across the street from another George Group North development, Commons at Penn, which was also designed by Mobilize Design Architecture. George Group North is owned by former NBA champion, Minneapolis’ Devean George. *By Harry Colbert, Jr.*

Northsider makes sports history

Tamara “Tee” Moore has made sports history ... again. Moore, the state’s first black Ms. Basketball, again made history when she was named head coach of Mesabi Range College men’s basketball program, a college about three hours north of the Twin Cities competing in the Minnesota College Athletic Conference. Moore is the first ever black woman hired as a men’s college basketball coach.

Currently she is the only woman to coach a NCAA men’s team. A graduate of Minneapolis’ North High School, where she won a state championship as a senior, Moore earned a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin. Her All-Big 10 play led her to the WNBA, where in 2002 she was drafted 15th overall by the Miami Sol. Moore credited her North Minneapolis upbringing to her success. “I belong to the community of North Minneapolis,” said Moore. “I got my start (in sports) at the Y (YMCA) on Broadway (Avenue) and at the Boys and Girls Club. But I really started taking basketball seriously at North (High School). Prior to accepting the job at Mesabi Range College, Moore was the head coach of the women’s program at Edison High School. Keeping it Minneapolis, Moore has an incoming freshman class that includes four players from Patrick Henry High School and three from Edison. Provided the upcoming season is not affected by

the COVID-19 pandemic, Mesabi Range will tipoff Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 at Anoka Ramsey Community College. *By Harry Colbert, Jr.*

Incumbents—except Dehn—land DFL endorsements for fall election

The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party endorsing conventions were held digitally for the first time in early May because of the coronavirus. Political newcomer Esther Agbaje landed a surprise endorsement over fourth term State Rep. Raymond Dehn (59B), whose district covers the lower half of North Minneapolis and part of downtown. In the northern half, second-term Rep. Fue Lee (59A) received the endorsement. Sen. Bobby Joe Champion (59) and current school board members KerryJo Felder and Kim Ellison also locked down endorsements. *By Kenzie O’Keefe*



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Northsiders #RunWithMaud



More than 40 people gathered at the Victory Memorial in North Minneapolis May 8 to walk or run 2.23 miles as part of the #RunWithMaud movement. The run was held to observe the birthday of Ahmaud Arbery, who was fatally shot during a jog by a retired Georgia police officer and his son. Fitness instructor Chaz Sandifer organized the local event and running groups across the country urged their members to run 2.23 miles to symbolize the date Arbery died. **By David Pierini**

North High's Tyler Johnson drafted by the Buccaneers



A little more than four years ago, Tyler Johnson was throwing passes for North High, but soon he'll be catching them from future Hall-of-Famer Tom Brady. Drafted in the fifth round of the NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Johnson will join forces with the likes of Brady—recently signed to the Bucs—and fellow former Patriot, tight end Rob Gronkowski. Once play resumes, Johnson will write a new chapter in his journey from NFL to NFL — Northside For Life to National Football League. While at North, Johnson led the football Polars to the Class 1A state title game and won a state title in basketball. The year prior to Johnson's arrival, North's football team lost every game it played. At the University of Minnesota, Johnson moved from quarterback to wide receiver and the move clearly played off. One of the best players in the Big 10, Johnson was the 2020 Outback Bowl MVP — a game played in Tampa. Johnson finished his college career with a magical season that included 86 catches for 1,318 yards and 13 touchdowns — all tops in the Big 10. **By Harry Colbert, Jr.**

MPS passes equity and redistricting plan despite public outcry

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Superintendent Ed Graff says a school equity plan approved by the school board May 12 will take “an enormous lift” from the entire community to successfully implement over the next few years.

But will the Comprehensive District Design (CDD) be shouldered with some of the same muscle that fought so hard to stop it?

The MPS Board of Directors voted 6-3 to move forward with a plan that seeks to end decades of racial disparities and one of the country's worst achievement gaps. The CDD will attempt to do so with a radical redrawing of school boundaries and redistribution of programs and resources that for so long seemed out of reach for students in North Minneapolis and the northeast part of the city.

North Minneapolis gains three magnet schools: Franklin Middle School and elementary schools Bethune Community and Hall International. North also gains a technology career training program at North High School. Boundary changes and new school pathways will lead to more integration. With the CDD, the district plans to attract and retain more teachers of color, bring additional advanced placement courses to North schools and develop culturally specific programming for each school.

The CDD also triggers disruption, especially for parents, students and teachers in the southern portion of the city who love their schools. Most of the magnet programs are currently south and the plan will shift programming for STEM, art and dual language immersion to the center of the city.

Why dismantle successful schools, critics asked? For a long time, MPS built up programming in other parts of the city, while enrollment in places like North Minneapolis dwindled. Performance and test scores suffered. Graduation rates declined. Parents in North who were able to do so, moved their kids to other schools or out of the district altogether.

Graff, hired by the district in 2016, looked at the system and, with other administrators, came forward publicly to say they had failed students of color for too long. At Graff's direction, MPS devised a major overhaul.

“I do not think it's a perfect plan. There are so many things to work out,” said Sondra Samuels, CEO of the Northside Achievement Zone and member of the Advancing Equity Coalition. A Northside parent, Samuels moved her kids to different schools – public, private or other districts – in search of more rigor and better outcomes. “The system repeatedly failed black and brown families. But we finally have wholesale change upon us. We have a district and a superintendent who is publicly saying we failed you. Can't we clap for that?”

Very few have. The public comment periods were dominated by school communities resisting changes and questioning whether the plan would actually work. The Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT) came out against the plan, chiding the six board members who voted to pass it despite overwhelming opposition. Prominent civil rights attorney,



Protestors, including civil rights attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong (far right), rallied outside Minneapolis Public Schools headquarters before the school board vote on the Comprehensive District Design. **Photo by David Pierini**

Nekima Levy Armstrong, also joined the chorus of critics and organized a parade of cars to drive by the MPS headquarters to show support for delaying a vote.

The Northside's own representative on the board, KerryJo Felder, urged administrators to put off the vote until an independent equity audit of the plan. She says the CDD's boundary changes will shrink enrollment at a number of elementary schools, including Cityview, Lucy Laney, Jenny Lind and Hmong International Academy, which will go from a K-8 to a K-5. She says the decline in enrollment at a non-magnet school makes it vulnerable for future closure.

“It squeezes our Northside bloodlines and I worry some elementary schools will eventually have to close,” Felder said. “We have our eye on the magnet schools, but what about Lucy Laney? People choose Lucy Laney and (the board) killed it with one vote.”

Parents who were vocal in opposition say they wasted their breath. There's a disconnect. Where critics felt their feedback fell on deaf ears, administrators and board members said public comments led to important changes to the CDD.

To those who felt ignored, At-large Director Kimberly Caprini said administrators held 25 different community information sessions, received feedback from surveys and focus groups and in all, received more than 10,000 “unique pieces of input.” That includes the hotlines set up to receive voice messages to be broadcast during live-streamed audio conference meetings of the board.

“Special care was taken to hear and incorporate the voices of those traditionally underserved,” she said. “I expect that

same care to continue through implementation of this work. I'm excited to hear how the community can help make our implementation a success.”

Levy Armstrong hopes for more collaboration in the months and years ahead, but is skeptical.

“It's hard to believe they will take community feedback seriously, given how poorly they engaged the community prior to the vote,” Levy Armstrong said.

The MFT said it would push to be part of the planning that takes place. But collaboration will not be enough, said Greta Callahan, a kindergarten teacher at Bethune Community School and the MFT's recording secretary.

“Equity will be achieved when there's a well-informed plan in place, full funding of education, sufficient resources to meet each students' needs and changes outside the schools that interrupt racist policies in housing, healthcare, criminal justice and all the other systems of our society that put unfair obstacles in the way of some students and not others,” she said.

The COVID-19 pandemic only added to the anger, anxiety and belief administrators weren't hearing the voices of opposition. The last two board meetings were held by audio conference, which meant comments could only be registered ahead of time on a hotline recording their calls.

Parents hoped the board would consider waiting to vote until after the danger of the virus had passed and public gatherings, like school board meetings, could resume.

“It has been a shock to me that people say let's wait,” Samuels said. “I've watched generations of kids being failed by the system. We don't have time.”

Farmers markets will open but COVID-19 strikes at the communal spirit

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

Northside farmers markets are getting ready to open after state officials determined they are essential and thus exempt should COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions continue into the summer.

But the flow of the markets, at least for the first few weeks, will not have their usual bustle and intimacy.

The managers of the Camden and West Broadway markets are developing social distancing protocols to keep vendors and customers safe.

The Minneapolis Lyndale Farmers Market, a daily market that opened April 25, has signs and staff directing customers to maintain at least six feet between people. Extra tables serve as a barrier in front of vendors.

"While mingling and chatting have always been an important part of the market experience, given current health and safety recommendations, we ask that you minimize your interaction with others and complete your marketing efficiently," a notice posted to the Lyndale market's website reads. "Please do not treat the market as a place to gather and socialize at this time."

The Camden market will return to the North Market parking lot on June 6 but with a drive-up system, market manager Chaz Sandifer said.

Customers will stay in their cars as they receive boxes of goods they've ordered ahead of time online at thenewmpls.info/farmersmarket.

The West Broadway Farmers Market, located in Freedom Square, will open its 16-week season on June 19. Market manager DeVon Nolen said planning is underway, and market workers will likely limit the number of customers in the market area. Vendors will also be spaced further apart and may have an extra table in front of their stands to place purchases and exchange money.

Nolen said the guidelines were drafted by the Minnesota Farmers Market Association after state Agriculture Commissioner Thom Peterson confirmed markets would not be part of closures impacting bars and restaurants.

There will be additional hand-washing stations at the West Broadway Market. Food for on-site consumption at the markets will be prohibited in the short term.

"We are planning a full season, but this might change," Nolen said. "There are so many things up in the air right now. One of the draws of the market is that it's a big communal space, and that's something we don't have a lot of in North Minneapolis. Some of that intimacy will be taken away, but we have to follow all of the precautions."

Sandifer said that despite the restrictions, the market will still bring people out and be a source



The West Broadway Farmers Market in Freedom Square is set to open on June 19. Photo courtesy of Appetite For Change

for healthy food.

She said customers will likely have to order at least 48 hours ahead. She is also trying to develop a delivery system for senior citizens who may not be able to visit the market.

"It will be time to rebuild and bring the community together, but in a different way," Sandifer said. "All of our lives stopped. This isn't going to be perfect, but people need to sell food and people need to buy food. This will be something to start with."

Sandifer and Nolen both said they hope the social distancing measures can be relaxed as the market season progresses.

Nolen said Minneapolis farmers markets generated \$13 million for the city in 2018, but there are benefits that are difficult to quantify, especially the social benefits.

"For 16 weeks, I watch people transform," she said. "I will miss those things that make summer full and rich for me. Hopefully, it's short-lived."

Regular legislative session ends without a bonding bill

A handful of North Minneapolis projects look to have some viability in a special session ahead

By Kenzie O'Keefe Outgoing Editor

Minnesota legislators wrapped up the 2020 legislative session without a bonding bill—a package of public infrastructure projects that had the potential to bring over \$30 million in development to North Minneapolis.

North Minneapolis projects will likely have another shot at landing state dollars come June 12 when a special session is likely to be convened by the governor and a bonding bill is revisited.

"We will see a bonding bill. What's in there and how much is a whole other world to discuss," said Brett Buckner, a North

Minneapolis resident and managing director for onemn.org, a policy think tank.

"I'm hopeful that there will be a bonding bill," said Northside Sen. Bobby Joe Champion (D-59), "but what is it going to look like?"

Champion says there seems to be a consensus at the capitol that a bonding bill "could spur the economy and provide jobs and opportunities" during the impending economic downturn brought on by the coronavirus.

The question, he says, is how the legislature—which is deeply divided down partisan lines—gets there. "There has to be great cooperation and give and take," he said.

In January, Gov. Tim Walz proposed a \$2 billion bonding package for 2020. It included \$11.25 million for a new community building at North Commons Park and \$3 million for the 26th Avenue N river overlook and a Grand

Rounds trail connection between it and Ole Olson Park. It also included funding for bus rapid transit improvements that would include the D Line in North Minneapolis.

In the final weekend of the regular session, House Democrats, who have the majority, failed to pass a \$2 billion bill that included \$20 million for a concert venue at the Upper Harbor Terminal site, the city of Minneapolis' stated top bonding priority. The House bill mirrored the governor's proposed funding for North Commons Park and for the 26th Avenue overlook.

Senate Republicans then failed to pass their own much smaller \$1 billion bill in the final hours of session. That bill did not include any of the North Minneapolis projects.

Buckner says he's "90% confident" that both the North Commons and overlook projects, put

forth by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, will make it into an eventual bill. It may not be at the full dollar amounts requested, but "It's a start; we can come back next year and say 'let's finish the job,'" he said.

Rep. Fue Lee (D-59A) says he understands that passing a bonding bill will be "a top priority" in the special session. He will be pushing for the Upper Harbor Terminal project and funding for bus rapid transit, amongst other priorities.

Champion worries that the Upper Harbor project has become too controversial to receive support. "When there is such tension around projects," he says it makes it easier for Republicans to "say 'why do it?'"

"I'm afraid sometimes...we allow the need for the perfect to get in the way of the good," he added. "Of course we don't want displacement...but how do we balance this without losing the opportunities?"

Businesses adjust to the 'new normal' of operating during a pandemic

By Harry Colbert, Jr. Editor

For the better part of three months while America has been plodding along in its “new normal” due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Northside business owners have been navigating the turbulent waters of trying to remain afloat while at the same time keeping their staffs, families and the community safe.

The question now becomes how much longer this new normal will last and what business will look like in a post-COVID-19 world.

On a typical day the McDonald's at 916 West Broadway Ave. is bustling with customers—many of them students from nearby schools, others workers from the many businesses along North Minneapolis' main thoroughfare. Now, several of the businesses are closed and schools are uninhabited for the foreseeable future. And Big Macs aren't flying off the grill at the same pace.

“Volume is certainly lower. It's pretty much been cut in half,” said Tim Baylor, who owns and operates several McDonald's franchises, including the West Broadway location.

The anchoring business of the strip mall between Bryant and Emerson Avenues North now serves customers solely through its drive-thru window. Baylor said when the virus initially hit and orders to shutter restaurant dining rooms came down, he tried to keep the store's lobby open but some customers would not comply with the social distancing guidelines, thus he made the decision to completely close-off the restaurant's interior to customers. Baylor said he is in the enviable position of having a drive-thru option and corporate backing.

“McDonald's will fare better (than other independent restaurants) because of size and our model,” said Baylor. “And because we have a drive thru. Most businesses don't have that option.”

While business is markedly down, Baylor said he's in no hurry to reopen his interior doors—even if the governor says he can.

“I'm not going to open just because I can or for the sake of money,” said Baylor. “I have a responsibility to my staff, customers and to the community.”

Teto Wilson doesn't want to open too soon

either, but he also doesn't want to cause further economic hardship to the shop's barbers who rely on his business being open.

Wilson is the owner of Wilson's Image Barbers & Stylists, 2124 1/2 West Broadway Ave. Deemed by the governor a nonessential business, barbershops and beauty salons were ordered closed back in March. Provided the date isn't again pushed back (a reopen date has twice been delayed), Wilson will be allowed to open June 1 as long as he can demonstrate a plan to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. Still, Wilson remains hesitant.

“In my business we're breathing each other's air and I'm interacting with a lot of people so that concerns me,” said Wilson.

The shop owner said he will open June 1 if he gets the OK, but said his decision is more so to provide his fellow barbers with an income. Still, he will be enforcing new shop rules including not allowing customers in the waiting area (unless it is a minor child of a customer).

“Before, there could be 20 ... 30 people in the shop at one time. Traditionally in the black community the barbershop is a social gathering space,” said Wilson.

Just because the governor deemed barbershops nonessential, it didn't decrease the demand for services. Wilson said he had several customers requesting cuts during the

mandated Stay at Home period, but he declined the requests.

“I said it's not worth it,” said Wilson. “I didn't want to be taking the chance to catch the virus or to bring it home to my daughters. I heard one story about a barber (in another state) who was still taking clients and he came down with COVID-19 and died just so one of his customers could look good and so he could get a couple of dollars.”

Dr. Juneau Robbins is another business owner who had to make the tough call as to whether or not to remain open.

A chiropractor who operates Cultural Chiropractic, 3900 Thomas Ave. N., Robbins' business is absolutely essential to his patients suffering from moderate to severe back and neck pain. And chiropractic medicine is a



Franco Bina dons protective mask and gloves when serving customers through the drive-thru window at the McDonald's located on West Broadway Avenue. Photo by Harry Colbert, Jr.

hands-on practice.

In the initial weeks of the pandemic Robbins closed the doors to his clinic, but he has since reopened with a modified schedule and additional precautions. He and his staff are spacing out patients in 30-minute intervals and he disinfects his equipment after each use.

“Actually I do it twice, so the patient prior sees me do it and again before the next patient,” said Robbins, speaking with his nose and mouth covered with a mask. “I want each patient to see me disinfecting so they have that level of comfort and reassurance knowing I'm maintaining a safe environment.”

Robbins said his clinic is operating about about a 40 percent capacity. That's in part due to the increased time between patients and in part due to the nature of his business. Much of Robbins' practice is caring for those injured in auto accidents, but with less drivers on the road due to the Stay-at-Home order, there have been fewer accidents. But Robbins has found a productive use of that extra time by addressing the “back-end” business demands of billing, charting and other paperwork.

Like Wilson, Robbins is cognizant of possible infection and spreading it to his family.

“When I come home I undress and place my clothes in a bag and I immediately shower before interacting with my wife and son,” said Robbins.

With people having “extra time” on their hands it's easy to assume several would take

the opportunity to tackle some of those home improvement projects on their list. But that may not be the case. Darryl Weivoda, owner of North End Hardware, 3117 Penn Ave. N., said his business is suffering along with many of the rest. In what he calls a needs based business, Weivoda said while the need may still be there, people are not patronizing home improvement at normal spring levels.

“The contractors aren't coming in as much anymore. They aren't being called for as many jobs so they don't have the same need for supplies,” said Weivoda, who has been associated with the business for close to 43 years.

Typically the store would open at 7 a.m. to accommodate contractors, but without that influx of business North End now opens at 8 a.m. To keep his workers safe he has installed a plexiglass shield at the checkout and has his employees wear masks.

“Our goal is to keep everyone safe and gainfully employed,” said Weivoda.

Each of the Northside business owners applauded the governor's response to the pandemic and cautioned against opening up the economy too soon.

“The numbers (of people with the virus) are still concerning to me,” said Wilson. “I'm concerned that we may open up too soon, and the numbers shoot up again, and we have to shut everything back down.”

catch up with our Council Members



WARD 4:
**Phillipe
Cunningham**



Northsiders,

I hope you are all taking care of yourselves amidst these unprecedented times. I for one have read countless emails and listened to even more messages that have started with the sentence "I never thought I would," but indeed these times are unprecedented.

COVID-19 has completely changed everything—from the flow of our day to day, to the structure of our council meetings. I know I can speak for all of us when I say this is not what we thought was in store. I want to use this month's column to share as many available resources as possible with as many of you as possible.

First and foremost, the City has a website for all things COVID-19 at minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus. This also includes links and information on community partner resources, information for small businesses, updates from the Minnesota Department of Health, and much more.

Secondly, if you are on Facebook, please follow the Ward 4 page at facebook.com/minneapolisward4. I am sharing resources and information here the most, and often as soon as the information becomes available, so this is the best place to check for updates from me and my office!

Thirdly, I would like to encourage everyone to comply with state and local government emergency regulations, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s recommendations and guidelines for slowing the rate of transmission for COVID-19. At this time, the CDC recommends that everyone wear a cloth face covering,

even if they are not sick, as this reduces the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 as some carriers of the disease do not have symptoms. Other suggestions include:

- Cleaning your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Staying home as much as possible
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces
- Covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze and cough

Lastly, I wanted to lift up all the incredible displays of community I have seen during these times. I have both witnessed and heard many stories about community members helping our vulnerable populations make it through with food deliveries and food shelves. I've seen neighbors going the extra mile to support one another, sharing their resources. Parents putting their all into supporting their kids through the adjustment to online course work, and many more. To say I am amazed is an understatement! I am so proud to have you all as neighbors and constituents.

If you are aware of any vital information or resources that can help our community during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office!



WARD 5:
**Jeremiah
Ellison**



I hope everyone has been doing everything they can to keep themselves and their loved ones safe from this highly contractable and dangerous virus. In the past months I've seen incredible community leadership and it humbles me to see folks on the Northside working to support one another.

We've reached an interesting point in this pandemic, the part where people get a little restless and the temptation to return to normal overcomes common sense. I hope we can continue to work on distancing and protection—the better we do now, the faster this crisis ends and the more deaths we prevent.

The mayor has issued a new order to wear masks whenever indoors. This isn't a suggestion, but a new rule that will help prevent people from dying from this virus.

The governor has lifted Minnesota's "Stay at Home" order and replaced it with an order continuing to encourage Minnesotans to stay close to home but allowing for gatherings of friends and family of 10 people or fewer. This means more people will be circulating and interacting with each other. And this means a greater ability for COVID-19 to spread person-to-person. To contain the spread and reduce any confusion, I want to lay out some of the governor's core guidelines:

- Cover your cough, stay home if you're ill, and wash your hands frequently.
- Only hang out with people you live with, such as parents, housemates or siblings.
- Keep six feet between yourself and others: Gatherings of groups of 10 or fewer people (regardless of age) are permitted. Even in small groups of 10 or fewer people, folks should wear face coverings and practice social distancing,

that is, keeping six feet between you and those around you.

- Wear a mask or cloth face covering in places you can't easily social distance, like the grocery store or pharmacy.

- Masks or cloth face coverings can help with preventing *your* germs from infecting others—especially in situations where you may spread the virus without symptoms. These face coverings *are not* a substitute for social distancing.

- Wearing a mask does not mean people who are sick should go out into the community. If you are sick and need to go to the doctor, call your health care provider before going in and wear a mask to the clinic.

- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Find more information at health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus.

There is so much more to say that I cannot fit into this column, but to stay up to date on what we're working on, please sign up for our newsletter to get more regular updates from the Ward 5 office at minneapolismn.gov/ward5. And keep an eye out for more of these columns in North News.

Thank you, and as always, I look forward to seeing you out in the community! Call my office at 612-673-2205 or email me at ward5@minneapolismn.gov.



A CLASS LIKE NO OTHER

Nichomus Dilday briefly removed his face mask to smile for a photograph that was to be used for a virtual graduation ceremony for the North High School class of 2020. **Photo by David Pierini**

History will remember the Class of 2020, their senior year disrupted by a global pandemic that canceled the traditional *Pomp and Circumstance* march.

North High School seniors walked one at a time into their gymnasium for the last time to pick up caps and gowns and pose in them for pictures for a virtual ceremony for online viewing. But as they exited, they were greeted by teachers, families and friends cheering and crying. Love and joy couldn't

help but close the gulf created by social distancing rules, which broke down for brief moments for hugs and selfies. It wasn't the ceremony they had looked forward to, but years from now, it may be remembered as something more intimate.

Each year North News celebrates our community's graduates by running their names and interviews with local valedictorians on our pages. Join us in celebrating them on the pages ahead.

By **David Pierini** Staff Reporter



Congratulations NORTHSIDE GRADUATES!

EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

Hamza Abdi
 Hashim Abdi
 Amal Abdulahi
 Abdi Aden
 Ward Aden
 Rahma Ahmed
 Suhayb Ali
 Itzel Hernandez Arroyo
 Emily Malagon Arroyo
 Brian Pinos Baltazar
 Ja'corrien Barnes
 Solveig Bremer
 Ke-Nay Brown
 Christopher Urzua Cantoran
 Adriana Castaneda

Mayra Aguilar Cerezo
 Mao Chang
 Taseyana Coleman
 Willie Dillon
 Amy Dischinger
 James Douglas
 Nurto Dubow
 Ayanna Easton
 Jalen Easton
 Francisco Martinez Flores
 Jerry Fullilove
 Olivia Gekonge
 Anthony Goldstein
 Jasmine Goodwin-Monette
 Zuriel Gray
 Javonna Grimes
 Javonni Grimes

Genesis Guzman Bello
 Pierre Hampton
 Tanavia Harrington
 Ayan Hassan
 Hassan Hassan
 Kawther Hassan
 Ronjnae Hobbs
 B'jorn Holmes
 Meftuha Ibrahim
 Aliyah R Jabbar
 Jessica Jimenez Marquez
 Johana Jimenez Marquez
 Tyler Johnson
 Hamdi Kadiye
 Ariel Keith
 Avery Lee
 Pathong Lee

Estavon Linklater
 Mckenzie Martin
 Sharyia Miles
 Sheliah Milligan
 Martesha Mitchell
 Abdinasir Mohamed
 Amin Mohamed
 Miski Mohamed
 Said Mohamed
 Mirly Diego Montejo
 Ashton Mueller
 Parker Munn
 Jarrin Ndiritu
 Deamoura Olasande
 Lamonte Olasande
 Latelyshala Olasande
 Hoda Omar

Jasmine Peck
 Camila Pedroza-Garcia
 Marcus Poe
 Serena Poisson
 Christasia Powell
 Richard Sanmartin Procel
 Govind Ram
 Janice Reynoso
 Laylah Rivera
 Elantre Rogers
 Darryl Rollins
 Marquell Ross
 Maimun Rufai
 Jaiden Seabrooks
 Roda Shafea
 Judas Singleton
 Abdullahi Siyad



Class of 2020, YOU DID IT!

Celebrate your success and continue investing in your dreams.
 Thank you for who you are and for who you'll become.

- Commissioner Irene Fernando
 (but you can call me "Commish")



Make sure your family is counted!
 Fill out your Census: mncounts.com



Make sure your vote is counted!
 Request an absentee ballot: mnvotes.org



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Deena Smoot
 Sueda Suleiman
 Mirical Sumler
 Bonnie Taylor
 Joseph Tedla
 Lamin Touray
 Kayla Washington
 Kyle Yang
 Tou Yang
 Joliana Ybarra
 Kataja Young

Jersey Jones
 Megan Line
 Kenyatta Miller
 Shaunte Payne
 Jason Phipps
 Deyanni Richardson
 Mayon Reid
 Darrius Selmon
 Asana Thomas
 Iris Tyler
 Yarekzy Villa Espinosa
 Shardayja White

Danielle Brown
 Nikolas Brown
 Timothy Brown
 Gustavo Sanchez Callejas
 Freshawn Collins
 Cierrea Day
 Nichomus Dilday
 Gabriella Detzauer
 George Edwards
 Sean E Elliott
 Armand Gibson
 Jaylen Green
 Jimmy Olivar Gutierrez
 Howard Hadley
 Darius Hanson
 Jermaine Hardin
 Quixote Herron
 Kelan Holcomb
 Alexis Hollmon
 Armoni Holmes

Destiny Hooks
 Dalisia Hoskins
 Jasmine Jackson
 Quientrail Jamison-Travis
 Cassidy Jelks
 Taryn Jiles
 Simone Jolly
 Ajah Jones
 Cyana Jones
 Kyron Joplin
 Amari Kocur
 Ra'shunda Lomax
 Tiembra Lungelow Woods
 Said Mahamed
 Demonta Mathis
 Mohamed Mohamed
 Tauries Murry, Jr.
 Kylese Perryman
 Kazuri Ransom
 Iyonna Riddley

THE FAIR SCHOOL

Tawfiq Bilal
 Kiara Decker
 Ariella Flores
 Eric Gomez Zangano
 Ki'Shya Graham
 Justice Jacobs
 Michael Johnson

**NORTH COMMUNITY
 HIGH SCHOOL**

Dynasty Anderson
 Toyana Anderson
 Dayanna Pintado Arpi
 Ryland Baker
 Jessica Barnett



**Congratulations
 Class
 of 2020!**



JASMINE JACKSON

NORTH HIGH

INTRODUCING THE

Jasmine Jackson, 18, is graduating from North High School with a GPA of 3.85. She plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science where she'll play basketball, in the fall.

By **Kenzie O'Keefe** Outgoing Editor

Additional reporting by **Kyla Moore**

Congratulations on being valedictorian!

How does it feel? I am excited, but I was not surprised at all. When I was a freshman, it was one of my goals to graduate valedictorian of our class. This last quarter, I was neck-and-neck with another girl. I didn't care if I wasn't going to be it because she is one of my friends. It was like "we're in this together."

It's a huge accomplishment. Tell us about the ingredients in your academic success.

Try not to procrastinate. Try to make the work fun in some type of way. For example, I really love math. I took precalculus my junior year. It was a real small class. We made a song about an equation just to remember it.

Describe your experience being a student at North High in a couple of words.

Adventurous and a challenge.

What advice do you have for younger students who aspire to succeed like you?

Don't be scared. Even if you don't know these people at school, once you start, they will become your family. Once you see someone once, you'll see them all the time. Once you get involved in groups, those people become your friends. It's easier to make friends when you're involved.

How should they figure out what to get involved in? If you want to get involved in something, ask Ms. Aram, our librarian at North High. She knows a lot about what's happening in the school.

What are your plans for after high

school? I'll be attending North Dakota State College of Science, majoring in criminal justice and minoring in sociology. I have a scholarship to play basketball. It's not a full ride, because I tore my ACL and meniscus and hadn't committed to a college before I injured myself. I will have to redshirt my first year. I will be attending college in August. I'll be living in the dorms.

How did you choose your major and minor? One day we went to shadow our basketball coach, Crystal Taylor, at her job. She's a probation officer. It seemed fun. We talked to lawyers, judges, defense attorneys, and detectives. She helps people get their lives on track. I took intro to sociology at MCTC for PSEO. We learned why people do the things they do. It made me feel more interested.

How do you feel about moving far away from home? I feel no type of way about it. I always wanted to leave Minnesota. It's boring. I've been here 18 years of my life. I want a new experience, a new vibe.

You'll be giving a speech at North High's graduation. What do you most want to convey to the people who will be listening? A little bit of what we're going through with COVID-19. It isn't the way we wanted it to end, but we're still achieving our goals. Some of my goals were graduating with a 3.8 or higher, being an award winner, and being a mentor. I love my senior class. I love how small we are. We're so close.

Continued on Page 20

Valedictorians

NAYELI HERNANDEZ LIMAS

PATRICK HENRY HIGH

Nayeli Hernandez Limas, 18, is graduating from Patrick Henry High School with a GPA of 3.97. She plans to live at home in North Minneapolis while attending the University of Minnesota this fall.

By Kenzie O'Keefe Outgoing Editor

Congratulations on being valedictorian!

How does it feel? I had no idea I would be the valedictorian. I was speechless when I found out. I thought they had made a mistake. Even though I am still processing it, it is a huge honor to be able to carry the title.

It is a huge accomplishment. Tell us the ingredients of your academic success.

My number one motivation was my parents. They have always pushed me to value my education since they didn't have the opportunity to have a good education. With all the things they have done for me, I thought it was the least I could do.

Describe your experience being at Henry in a couple of words.

Whew! A roller coaster. It's had its ups and downs. Some of the ups are my teachers and friends, just spending time with them. My teachers are funny and made my classes fun to be in. Some of the downs are a couple of fights. The hallways were always packed.

How long have you attended Henry High? What were you involved in?

I've been going there for four years. I have played sports—softball for two years and soccer for three years. I was in drama club my freshman and sophomore year.

What advice do you have for younger students who aspire to your level of academic success?

Try and build strong relationships with both teachers and friends. In high school, relationships break. You should try to build a strong structure to your relationships so they

don't break over small things. Also, just keep persevering; keep pushing yourself.

What are your plans for after high school?

For a long time, I was undecided about what I wanted to do with my future. Recently I decided I wanted to pursue computer science at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I knew I wanted to go there but I didn't know what I wanted to study. I thought maybe I was interested in the arts. I took on an internship at an architecture company and decided it wasn't for me. I decided on computer science. I love it and want to improve software in the future.

You'll be giving a speech at Henry's graduation. What do you most want to convey to the people who will be listening?

I know we've been through a lot this year. We started off good, happy about being seniors. Then the new year came and a lot went down. Now we've come to the realization that we're still starting a new chapter of our life. We should continue going straight, looking ahead, aiming for happiness and success. Throughout all of these challenges, we should just keep trying.

Because of the coronavirus, your senior year is ending quite differently than you must have expected. How are you thinking about that?

For starters, it is sad and disappointing that I won't get to experience the feeling of walking across a stage and receiving my diploma and

Continued on Page 20



David Snoddy, Jr.
 Jason Spellmon
 Antonio Steele
 Raziq Tehuti
 Makwun Thompson
 Taylor Tidwell-Bennett
 Tiara Timothy
 Xavius Tran
 Robert Urman
 Joelee Vang
 Jakari Walker
 Jasiona White
 Alex Worcester
 Chanel Wright


Janaan Bint Shahir Ahmed
 Asha Ali
 Fartoun Mohamed Ali
 Cameron Hassan Allbritton
 Angel Alonzo
 Miguel Alejandro Amigon Sanchez
 Jovani Ayi Amouzou
 Mckayla Unique Andrews
 Lakayla Aunjanae Armstrong
 Gisell Ayala-Corral
 Kayaira Barnes
 Isaiah R. Barth
 Armonie L. Baylock
 Ramahn Aykil Bell
 Haley Rae Bloomquist
 Juan Bocardo
 Ashantae Braxton
 Samuel James Briggs
 Tylia Sofia-Kathleen Brooks
 Tysaiah Jay'onnie Bryant
 Elijah Ciar Bullock-Propes

Lamar Dazjar Burgess
 Devon Burks
 Minnie La'veda Burks
 Nury Jailin Cabrera Pino
 Mark Campbell
 Glentrel La'von Carter
 Kao Tang Chang
 Noushai Chang
 Pade Chang
 Pao Zay Chang
 Alicia Ciriaco Cruz
 Darryl Daveon'courvoisier Clark
 Destiny Nicole Coleman
 Tremayne Isaiah Colon
 Karla Jhoana Cortes Miguel
 Kaniah E. Cross
 Diamond Latrice-Cierra Davis
 Keyontre Dayshaun Davis
 Marvion N. Davis
 Sade Joann-Denise Dobbins
 Keontay TI Dorsey

Janiya Lonye Edwards
 Patrick William Edwards
 Shon'terrika De Lexus Christina Edwards
 Trent Dean Elavsky
 Chrishira Patrice Monique Emory
 Eric Estrada Popoca
 Thomas Evans
 Jazmine Danielle Ewing
 Haroun Mohamed Farah
 Lisa Lavonna Freeman
 Emily Margrite Fridolfson
 Marbry Nicole Fridolfson
 Deleon Laparis Gardner
 Jamar A. Gardner
 Joshua Gollaz
 Wilkin Yoel Gomez Vazque
 Shamira Aree Goodman
 Marissa Marie Gravdal
 Mariah Marlya Guyton
 Amelia Juliet Hager

**PATRICK HENRY
 HIGH SCHOOL**

Yusuf Syid Abdullah
 Hodan Shugri Abdullahi
 Arlyn Adan Aquino



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Congratulations!
Class of 2020—you are the future

UROC celebrates North Community High School and
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Traceya A. Hambrick
 Steven Soua Hang
 Decker John Harmon
 Titan Harness-Reed
 Davon Jermaine Harris
 Romeo Martell Harris
 Resaqa Muhumed Hassan
 Athena Her
 Pha Her
 Soulivong Her
 Mirella Hernandez Arellano
 Nayeli Elizabeth Hernandez Limas
 Jan Ronald Hernandez-Soto
 Adrian Herrera Sanchez
 Nahja Bryahn Herron
 Coriantay Rashad Holiday
 Kiyanna Alexis Holland
 Jaynicia Mashay Hollins
 Havion Holmes
 Andrea Rose Hooper
 Xzavian House

Jakari Hunnecook
 Adetomiwa Sade Ijiyode
 Alena Tamara Johnson
 Dantanie Devielle Johnson
 Destiny Lenae Jones
 Sinjin Kain Kasai
 Lakira Monay Kent
 Macy Maliek Keopaseuth
 Fartun Muktar Kesity
 Xee Oi Khang
 Duncan Keith Kleinsasser
 Andrew Louis Kespohl Knoth
 Emily Ione Kral
 Skyler Marie Kramer
 Danae E'chelle Lawson
 Tevi Patrice Lawson Ahluivi
 Chee Meng Lee
 Eric B. Lee
 Louie Chong Leng Lee
 Lucky H. Lee
 Pa Xiong Lee

Sichoun Lee
 Lamarr Lesure
 Avery Marcus Lewis
 Sierra T. Lillard
 Reyna Esmeralda Lopez Lazcano
 Jacqueline Lopez Lopez
 Melanie K. Lor
 Xao Lor
 Kenneth Lavell Mack
 Cristina Martinez Hernandez
 Jirah Lavelle McClain
 Bertilla Grace McCullough
 Julian Romero McGee-Shinnick
 Da'Quan McKee-Smith
 Shamariyeh Aniya Ze'aria Melton
 Rahmo Ali Mohamed
 Ridwan Ali Mohamed
 Jamal Abdi Mohamud
 Steven Dewitt Moore, Jr.
 Graciela Cecilia Lynn Morales
 Ashley B. Moreira

Darnell L. Mosley
 Leia Alima Mosley
 Annie Moua
 Thanh Dieja Vu-Minh Nguyen
 Samiya Bashir Noor
 Deangelo Norris
 Ibereayo Abike Olagbaju
 Alena Nina Oupasong
 Sincere Savion Overall
 Deja E. Palmore
 Robert Alan Parker
 Marquan Parrish
 Lashelle Patterson
 Trelle Eugene Patterson
 Rajah Lynette Peeler
 Aniya Monte Phillips
 Tysheeka Poole
 Tyvone Martez Poole
 Zyere Jakye Porter
 Maximillion Zaldez James Powell-Fountain

Congratulations
 TO THE 2020 GRADUATING CLASS!

Your hard work during an unprecedented and challenging year
 did not go unnoticed. We applaud you!

Best of luck,
First Avenue

Jamar Prowell
 Kenneth Purnell
 Alfredo Ramirez Isiordia
 Aaliyah Josephine Ratliff
 Catrell Redd
 Demetri James Redd
 Alicia Monet Renfroe-Lighten
 Breonna Marie Robinson
 Chrishaya J. Robinson
 Jamesa Edwardnese Robinson
 Alejandro Rodriguez Jimenez
 Telyce D. Rollins
 Kadar Ahmed Sahal
 Jaylen Terell Salter
 Diamond M. Sanders
 Moses Martin Santiago
 Marizah Kanissa Da-Jhane Scott
 Trevion Scott
 Ke'la Chane Scuefield
 Daja Simone Shief
 Micky Siphakaykham

Isaiah Dean Smith
 Tremohn L. Smith
 Patrick Justice Snyder
 Jackson Elliot Sonquist
 Estefania Soriano Aguilar
 Deverick Deray Spates
 Arius Spearman
 Demarcus Devonir Stafford
 James Lee Stanback
 Coby Ethan Stearns
 Anthony Davion Stewart
 Ja'kasia Va'taria Stewart
 Datelle L. Straub
 Angus Thao
 Johnny Thao
 Ka Zoua Thao
 Kaolee Thao
 Kue Thao
 Rocky Thao
 Yalee Thao
 Yeejtsim Thao


Terrica Monae Thomas
 Christina Thor
 Darrius Kevin Tiggs
 Leigha Kendra Tippet
 Tekya Tershane Zora Triplett
 Alaysha Re'nay Turner
 Amarie Dayvion Turner
 Damarion Turner
 Aliyah Hope Vang
 Alucard Vang
 Angel Pazong Vang
 Calisna Pazoo Vang
 Houaci J. Vang
 Jason Vang
 Karen Vang
 Laichia Vang
 Marcus Vang
 Pa Chia Vang
 Pachia Vang
 Pheng Vang
 Tee Rwg Vang

Tong Vang
 Xeng Vang
 Jeremy Vara-Barreto
 David Steven Vasquez
 Trayquan Vaughn
 Anthony Vergara Gonzalez
 Nikkie Vongphakdy
 Angelina Mai Yer Vue
 Benjamin Kongmeng Vue
 Ka Vue
 My Sue Vue
 Pazong Vue
 Yanyua N. Vue
 Demara Wallace
 Ijahman Waller
 Aaliyah Warren
 Alexis Ida White Hawk-Ruiz
 Michael Joseph Wiedemeier-Kirk
 Aalyiah Michelle Williams
 Angel Williams
 Daekarrion Leymarr Williams



Congratulations, Northside Seniors! Whatever you do, be bold. Never let others stop you from achieving your dreams.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

from Asian Media Access

to the class of 2020 from North and Henry HS!

Celebrating Pan Asian Heritage Month with Asian Media Access through Bicultural Healthy Living



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 Timmey Williams
 Da'fyiness Latianiia Williamson
 D'angelo Malik Woodson
 Aleena Pa Ying Xiong
 Avon Gao Nou Ci Xiong
 Jacy Xiong
 Jailias Xiong
 Lina Xiong
 Maslibdas Ly Xiong
 Priscilla Kabsib Xiong
 Sukie Xiong
 Alex Xiong-Donkhong
 Saray Yanez Alejo
 Casie Chi Yang
 Chee Yang
 Chinou Yang
 Christina Pajah Yang
 Chwkong Yang
 Fong Yang

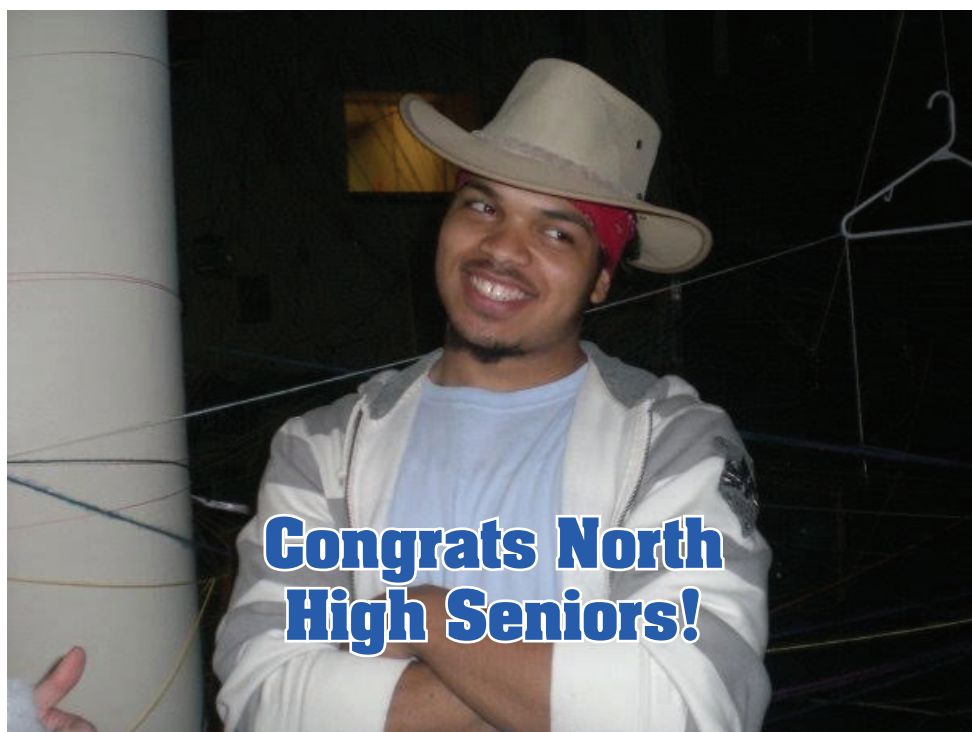
Jaylen Yang
 Kashia Yang
 Kyle Yang
 Maly Yang
 Nou Yang
 Peng Yang
 Timothy Yang
 Antuan Yarbrough
 Dominique Monet Young

**PYG ARTS AND
 TECHNICAL HIGH
 SCHOOL**

Jalen Barnes
 Noordin Bille
 Brynell Brown
 Ashauntyana Crosby
 Shiyah Ellis
 Marlesha Evans
 Dearon Freeman

Jesus Gochez Ponce
 Daisha Goodloe
 Kyria Gurley
 Parris Harper
 Rosie Harris
 Antazia Harvey
 Pichai Her
 Lu'Prela Jackson
 Keymari Jordan
 Avayana Kemp
 Lakira Kent
 Keylaya Kirk
 Tamia Lee
 Jaequeline Lopez Lopez
 Jakere Marsh
 Makalia Miller
 Deja Milton
 Rahmo Mohamed
 Steven Moore, Jr.
 Ta'Kia Morris

Dezarae Newstrom
 Kashis Noble
 Rotavia Perkins
 Tyvone Poole
 Deontay Reese
 D'Pree Robinson
 Shayanna Scott
 Kierra Smith
 Elvena Starks
 Sherman Starr
 Da'Quan Thomas
 Ulani Wair
 Avril Ware
 Aalyiah Williams
 Shawn' Deon Wright
 Christina Yang



**Congrats North
 High Seniors!**

Your community sees your work, your effort, and your greatness, and we can't wait to see what you do next. Here's to hoping your senior photos turned out better than mine!

Ward 5 City Council Member Jeremiah Ellison

**Congratulations Class
 of 2020!**



**"Live with life. Be courageous,
 adventurous. Give us a
 tomorrow, more than we
 deserve." - Maya Angelou**



Seniors say goodbye to the end of high school as they knew it



A North High senior walks out the door to cheering faculty and friends, a makeshift graduation march in an era of social distancing and suspended gatherings. **Photos by David Pierini**

By Najima Ali & Myesha Powell
Contributors

Jasiona White, 17, will be graduating in the top of her class at North High School in June. She thought this would be one of the happiest seasons of her life. It's turning out to be one of the biggest letdowns.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Minneapolis Public Schools have been closed and students have been doing virtual, distance learning since March. Senior proms, in-person graduation ceremonies, and other events have been canceled.

With physical distance comes major disappointment. "We have completed years of high school for this moment just for it to be taken from us? Not fair," White said.

White's sadness is shared by seniors across the district and the nation. They are grieving sports seasons that never started, opportunities to star in school plays, and rights of passage they have looked forward to for a long time. They will not get the time they thought they had. They won't have a

chance to make the memories they wanted to make.

They have spent the final months of their high school careers dealing with one loss after another. "As much as leaving school is exciting, for some students saying goodbye to four years of memories is even more important," said Fartoun Ali, a senior at Patrick Henry High School.

"We all understand that we need to stay home but if this whole global crisis was prevented ahead of time we could have enjoyed our senior moments," said Mirella Hernandez Arellano, a senior in the IB program at Henry. "I'm not able to play my softball season which is very sad for me."

"I feel like my time is being washed down the drain," said Kenneth Purnell, another senior at Henry. He understands that human life is at stake, and says he hopes "everyone is staying safe," but his disappointment runs deep. "It devastates me to see how long I've waited for this year to happen, but at the end, it doesn't," he said.

Students are grappling with expectations that went unmet this spring and uncertainty that will last much longer. Rumors have circulated. "There's talk about having us repeat our senior year which is unfair for all of us," said Arellano in April. According to sources close to the district, MPS did not consider having students repeat grades.

Maimun Ahmed Rufaia, a senior at Edison High School, says at first, she appreciated the school closure. "I was really happy cause I really needed a break," she said. Now, it's "messed up my head."

"I'm tired of reading teachers' emails because it's not helping, I have been told that I'm gonna graduate by mail. Proms and events are getting canceled, and that really messed up my head," she said. "Now I just want everything to go back to what it was before."

What this means for college plans remains to be seen. For now, students seem to be taking their lives one day at time, uncertain when all of this will end.

Shingle Creek
Neighborhood
Association

**Congratulations
Graduates!**

Welcomes You

LaTrisha
VETAW
FOR PARK BOARD AT LARGE

**Be fearless in pursuit of what sets your
soul on fire. Congratulations class of 2020.**

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

We have seen you put in the work each day as you have explored who you are. You have learned to ask the right questions, how to connect and build your community, you have envisioned what your future could look like and focused on making it your reality. Your strength is powerful, and the world is ready for you!

As you continue to connect to your purpose and discover what that looks like, remember we are always here for you and are so proud of the person you have become, and the person you are still becoming.

Keep dreaming, exploring and show the world how you shine.

Congratulations!

-Alana, Rose, Kenny, Micah, April, & Kathleen

**PROJECT
SUCCESS™**

To the Graduating Class of 2020, congratulations!

Under a totally unique and challenging set of circumstances, you did it. You should be incredibly proud. Your community is incredibly proud of you!

Here are a few quick thoughts of advice as you move toward the future.

1. **Create a clear vision of what you want to create, where you want to go, and how you want your future to look. It all begins with a clear vision.**
2. **Maintain a mindset to be of service to others. Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent we pay for our time here on earth." It is true.**
3. **Be deliberate about balancing your life with self-care. Discover activities, hobbies, and pursuits that bring you joy.**

Finally, be committed to the greatness of you. You are as unique as this time, and the world is waiting for what you have to offer. Here's wishing you a future full of blessings!

Sincerely,
Dr. Juneau Robbins
Cultural Chiropractic North /
Robbins Urban Wellness Retreat



— CLASS OF 2020 —

“Education exposes you to what the world has to offer, to the possibilities open to you.”

Sonia Sotomayor | Supreme Court Justice



CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE GRADUATES OF THE
CLASS OF 2020



HOUSTON WHITE
CAMDENTOWN

**Congratulations
Class of 2020**

We see your resilience
and we stand by you!

~The Folwell neighborhood~



Class of 2020

Aaliyah Demry
Iron Dale High

Armand Gibson
North High

Nacory Holiday
Columbia Heights High

Congrats!

www.afcmn.org



Congratulations,
**PYC
Graduates!**

pcyc-mpls.org

**CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2020 GRADS!**

Despite these unusual times,
nothing can take away from
what you have achieved.

Your resilience and hard work
inspires us all.



PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES

Valedictorians

 continued from pages 12 & 13

Jackson continued from Page 13:

Your senior year is ending quite differently than you must have expected. How are you thinking about that? Not being able to walk across the stage at graduation hit us really hard. There will be no senior prank, no senior skip day, and we don't get to spend time with each other. We'll be graduating on a Zoom call. I'm hurt. There's no fun or excitement in it.

Is there anything special you're planning to celebrate your accomplishments? I don't know. Everybody has a grad party. I'll have one. It's going to be a big one because I didn't get a graduation.

Who or what in your life inspires you? Myself. Everything I was going through as a child, I didn't really let it affect me. I persevered through anything. My best friend Taylor also inspires me. I've been knowing her since kindergarten. We've been through everything together. We didn't let anything stop us. A YoungLife leader named Mackenzie also inspires me. That's probably the closest adult

I have to me at the moment. She's always a text away. She helped me with my college decision. She's always there and I truly appreciate it.

When you look 10 years in the future, where do you want to be? I will have three children, two degrees, and a nice house. I will be a social worker. I don't know where I'm going to live yet, but somewhere nice. I will be involved in some kind of mentorship program, something that involves kids. I will be married.

Are there any words you live by? Yes, a scripture: "the pain that you're feeling cannot compare to the joy that is coming." You might be in a bad place right now, but eventually they will be better. Things don't stay bad for long. There will be some kind of light in your situation. Ask yourself what am I gaining from this and what am I learning from this?

Is there anything else you'd like to say to your community? Thank you for everything that you guys have done. Thank you for your support. To my classmates, I'm proud of you all. We did it.

Hernandez Limas continued from Page 13:

shaking my principal's hand and getting to thank my parents. But, I'm thankful we are graduating.

What do you want the larger community to know about how the coronavirus is affecting high school seniors? It's quite depressing. It took a really important day away from us. We still have graduation but it won't be a traditional one. I want people to know that we feel sad and we wanted a graduation.

Is there anything special you're planning to celebrate your accomplishments? I am the second person in my family to graduate high school; my family was really looking forward to it. We were thinking of making food and getting together and having a party. Because of social distancing, we won't be able to do that. I won't be able to celebrate like I wanted to with all my family. Instead, we'll still decorate and make food just for us, my parents and two younger

sisters.

Who or what in your life inspires you? My parents inspire me. Both of my parents are hard workers! My dad works hard to provide for my family and is always trying to put a smile on my face. My mom has worked hard to raise her children and has taught me many important life lessons. I love my parents so much and am grateful for everything they've done for me.

When you look 10 years in the future, where do you want to be? I want to be happy. I hope I find a good job that I love. I hope I get a chance to travel and explore the world. Before my plans were canceled, I was going to go to Morocco this year. I also want to go to Switzerland. The landscape is just so pretty. I've seen a lot of pictures. I want to canoe there.

Are there any words you live by? "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." It's by Confucius.



Congratulations!

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2020

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ZONE

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Dancing Bear Chocolate planned a quiet opening weekend and sold out



Dancing Bear Chocolate opened in Victory neighborhood in early May to long lines of people who happily emptied store shelves. **Photo by David Pierini**

By **David Pierini** Staff Reporter

When Joe Skifter and Steven Howard applied for a loan to open their chocolate business in the Victory neighborhood, a loan officer dismissed their monthly revenue projections. He told the couple they would “never make that much money on the Northside.”

Three hours after Dancing Bear Chocolate opened on May 8, the shop was out of chocolate. In one short shift, the couple had earned that monthly total they had filled in on the application.

Looking at the growing line outside the building on Thomas and 44th Avenues, Skifter predicted another sell-out day Saturday.

“[Friday] was supposed to be a quiet opening for the neighborhood,” Skifter said. “We should’ve known better because people were over the moon about our business right from the get-go.”

One customer proved it by approaching the takeout window from where Skifter took orders. He presented him an empty bag and told him to fill it with an assortment up to \$100. The customer before him spent \$61.

“This chocolate is life-changing,” said Paul Schulz, who was first transformed by their truffles when he won a basket of them in a school fundraiser.

Howard is the chocolatier behind the artisanal confections, which include chocolate-dipped nuts and fruits, assorted truffles and a fudge brownie called a “Bear Paw.” He is a longtime pastry chef who opened chocolate shops in Tulsa, Okla. and was an executive pastry chef at D’Amico Cucina.

Howard wanted a bear to be part of the branding to honor his Minnesota roots. Skifter suggested the name Dancing Bear because his husband used to dance in the basement of their nearby home for exercise.

Howard and Skifter started Dancing Bear Chocolate in January 2018 with an Etsy store and the occasional pop-up shop. The chocolates grew in popularity and soon, they began looking for a brick-and-mortar shop and kitchen.

Last year, they bought the building that was once a dentist’s office,

directly across the street from Loring Elementary School. Let that sink in: a sweet shop where a dentist once filled cavities across the street from a school.

But John Steffens, whose father Dr. Vernon Steffens bought the building for a dentist practice, said his father would be pleased with the building’s new use. He stopped by Saturday for a sample of Dancing Bear products.

“My dad used to say, ‘Don’t floss all your teeth, only the ones you want to keep,’” John Steffens said with a laugh.

For now, the shop will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12-7 pm. The couple is still completing the kitchen so that all of the chocolate will be made there. A larger cooler will be installed within the next week, allowing the two to make larger quantities of chocolate.

Skifter said he and Howard were so insulted by the disparaging comments about North Minneapolis the loan officer made that day, they turned down that loan.

Opening on the weekend of Mother’s Day was a smart business decision, but Skifter and Howard never planned for a pandemic, which has also been good for business. Turns out, chocolate is an essential tool to get through these anxious times.

“We’re not going to let a pandemic stop us,” Skifter said. “We decided to try and do whatever we can to open. But if this is any example of what we can do in a pandemic, what happens when we can invite people into the store so that they can see what we’re doing?”



Customers walked away happy but not sure how long their new stash of chocolate would last. **Photo by David Pierini**

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Hmong families delay funerals to wait out social distancing rules

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

If a Hmong funeral is not conducted according to tradition, many families fear the soul of the deceased may never find its way home.

So when Minnesota ordered strict social distancing protocols in March to slow the spread of COVID-19, many Hmong families put funerals on hold until their large families could properly gather to honor a loved one's passing.

Some 30 Hmong funerals are now delayed in the Twin Cities until mass gathering restrictions are lifted, according to one mortician who handles arrangements for them. North Minneapolis's Glenwood Funeral Home, one of four in the cities that specializes in serving Hmong families, has four postponed funerals, including one that was scheduled to take place the first full day of Gov. Tim Walz's stay-at-home orders.

Funeral homes continue to offer

Glenwood Funeral Home recently hosted a small funeral for Chue Yang. The funeral home was decorated by another family, which had to postpone a loved one's funeral in March. **Photo by David Pierini**

services, but can allow no more than 10 people in the building at a time to pay their respects.

"Many [Hmong] families don't want to do it with 10 people," said Vong Yang, owner of the Glenwood Funeral Home. "These are huge families and if it means storing the body, they will wait."

"This is a little bit of a struggle for the families. In the Asian community, they don't want to hold the body that long and so they are concerned. They call and check, maybe once a week, to make sure the body is still in good condition," he added.

Glenwood Funeral Home remains decorated for a funeral that was to take place on March 28. Decorative covers adorn chairs and silvery translucent



banners hang gently from the ceiling. Expensive flower arrangements were in place and the meat of an entire cow was being prepared to feed guests and mourners.

Paul Maher, a St. Paul mortician who works with Glenwood Funeral Home and two other Hmong funeral homes, said he has had Hmong families come to visit their deceased family members. His facility includes a cooler that can store 75 bodies.

"I had one family come yesterday because it was the person's birthday, their dad," Maher said. "The funeral was supposed to be a month ago. They came and celebrated his birthday, five of them. They have 11 kids. The family had them on a Zoom call on their phone and they all sang Happy Birthday."

North News was unable to get in touch with the families awaiting services through Glenwood Funeral Home.

A funeral is the most sacred ceremony in Hmong culture and it is not unusual for families to take a month to plan a one, said Maher. Food is ordered to feed as many as 500 people, many of whom need time to make travel arrangements. Family will spend two days just decorating the funeral home. The family also dresses their loved one for a journey they hope reunites them

with their ancestors.

Food includes a whole cow and a pig because some believe these animals can guide the deceased to the afterlife.

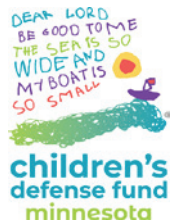
Hmong families turn to funeral homes like Glenwood because an owner like Yang understands the importance of the family taking charge of the arrangements.

But the postponed funerals puts a financial pinch on him. Where many funeral homes want payment upfront, Yang waits out of respect until after a service to bill a family.

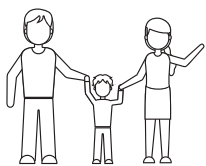
On a recent Wednesday (most Hmong funerals are on Saturdays), Glenwood hosted a small funeral for a Northside woman, who happens to be related to Yang. The small number of people gathering wore masks and sat far apart amidst another family's decorations.

Not all Hmong families strictly adhere to the tradition of an elaborate funeral. Some younger generations, Yang said, opt for a service that is simple. Some families, where a dying loved one could communicate their wishes, ask family members not to wait.

"The people who know they're going to die, know we are in a pandemic," Yang said. "They say, 'I know where I'm going so don't do much.'"



CENSUS 2020: COUNT ALL KIDS



For additional information and resources:

cdf-mn.org/2020census

The Census is a questionnaire used to get a complete population count of everyone living in the U.S.

It is critical that we count all kids in the Minnesota Census so that children and babies have the resources they need to be healthy and on track for a successful future.

Children under the age of 5 are the most likely group to be undercounted.

Children who are missed in the 2020 Census miss an opportunity to be counted for ten years - most of their childhood.

The Census helps decide how much money your community will get for important resources, including schools, child care, summer & after school programs, and more.

What can you do?

Respond to the census completely and accurately--it's easy and secure so your personal data will be protected.

On your form, be sure to include the information of all people living in the household on April 1.

Spread the word: Every person filling out the census form needs to count EVERY CHILD living at that address, including babies.

COVID-19 hits close to home for an 18-year-old frontline worker

By Najima Ali and Hafsa Muse
Contributors

COVID-19 wasn't a concern for Amina Ismail, 18, until she contracted it.

Despite the fact that she works at Walmart and interacts with hundreds of people during each shift, she wasn't worried. She didn't wear a mask or gloves for protection and says she even joked about the idea of knowing someone who was infected with the virus. She didn't feel that the coronavirus presented a real threat to her.

Then two of her friends from work got the virus. Soon after, she started having severe symptoms herself: a high fever, light-headedness, and a loss of taste and smell.

She first started showing symptoms on May 6. She says she went to North Memorial Hospital to get a test but was denied due to a stated lack of testing kits and because her symptoms were mild at that point. They suggested she go to a clinic, but she went home.

"I infected my dad and my sister."

Amina Ismail

The following Monday, her family rushed her to the emergency room due to her extremely high fever. "My body felt hot," she said.

She's back home now, in stable condition. But while she's not suffering from physical symptoms of COVID-19 anymore, she is suffering from extreme guilt. She thinks about all the innocent people she might have infected before she got a positive test—and those she knows she infected, like her family members.

Ismail has nine siblings. Her 11 family

members, including her parents, all live together in tight quarters. Even though her family was "cautious," she wasn't able to completely self quarantine in her house. "I infected my dad and my sister," she said.

She isn't sure if she's still contagious, and she's keeping to herself as much as possible until her next check-up. At times she feels lonely and abandoned by the people in her life.

She hopes people will learn from her experience. "This virus is real and it does things to your body while you don't even realize you have it," she said.

"If you are going outside, wear a mask and take it seriously."

Amina Ismail is a pseudonym. The young woman whose experiences are written about here asked for anonymity.



Amina Ismail has become vocal about the importance of protective gear since contracting the coronavirus. Photo courtesy of Abdirizak Muse

Celebrate Juneteenth

Come together online to celebrate this significant moment in African American history with powerful stories, performances, rhythms and songs for all ages

Sunday afternoon
June 14, 2-4 p.m.

Tuesday evening
June 16, 6-8 p.m.

Find event details and the link to watch online:
www.bit.ly/JuneteenthHCL

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With his gigs on hiatus, bluesman 'Cornbread' Harris still feels he's 'a blessed dude'



James "Cornbread" Harris at his North Minneapolis home. Photo by David Pierini

By David Pierini Staff Reporter

When James "Cornbread" Harris sings the song that gave him his nickname, he holds the final note for as long as he can to rising hoots, hollers and applause from a nightclub

audience.

Harris pushes the note out with a Herculean breath from lungs that are 93 years of age. But when he last gave the note its heavy lift, Harris received a single "Wow!" over the telephone.

His typically active gig calendar is now idle as nightclubs and other public spaces remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the final note in his signature song Cornbread, Harris says he feels like he is "going down slow."

"I hear everything else will come back first before the pleasure of sitting and listening to music," the Northside blues man said. "That's my mainstay, that was my living. I'm on social security, but it's not much."

His status as a local music legend meant he could count on relatively steady work before the coronavirus forced life to a standstill. He had a schedule of two to four gigs each week. He was booked Friday nights at the Loring Pasta Bar, Sundays at the Grand Cafe, and an average of two appearances per month at clubs like Hell's Kitchen and Icehouse.

A birthday bash performance at the Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge for April 23 was canceled.

There were also steady pop-up jobs at senior centers, bar mitzvahs, weddings and fundraisers.

A friend drove him to the bank recently and it was relief enough to learn he remains above water, though "the water is up to my nose," he said. He awaits his government stimulus check and is in the process of filing for relief available to independent contractors.

Since the closures, he has played a small concert for four people in his home. He has also put his phone on the top of his piano to play for fans who call with requests. On a call this week, he worried about losing stamina for holding the last note in Cornbread. "Do you have a stopwatch?" he asked. "Time me. Now put your earplugs in."

The note stayed aloft for more than 30 seconds.

"I'm a blessed dude," said Harris with a broad smile. "I can call people up and make their day.

People have come by with cards and notes and food. I'm still eating cupcakes from my birthday. My fridge is stocked."

"The Lord gave me a talent, helped me develop it and then let me take credit. The people I play for know I'm down and they've been looking after me making sure I'm OK. Yeah, I'm a blessed dude," he said.

Among the friends who check in with Harris is Susan Breedlove, a retired history teacher who lives a few blocks from him.

They have been friends for 15 years, but Breedlove said she has known Harris longer because her son, now 37, took piano lessons from Harris at the Capri Theater when he was 5.

This week, she called Harris to tell him she had bought lemons. He knew instantly that a lemon meringue pie would soon come his way.

"Despite the challenges he has had, the conversation with him is always upbeat and very enriched," she said. "The thing he talks about the most is how he misses the people and those connections."

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GRADUATIONS & AWARDS

Kristopher Fitzhenry, a graduate of Patrick Henry High School, graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Spring graduates from Minnesota State University-Mankato included a number of students with ties to the area. They are: **Miranda Hanson**, MS, Counseling and Student Personnel; **Isaac Ngafua**, BS, Interdisciplinary Studies; **Abdullah Siddique**, MACC, Accounting; **Richard Toweh**, BS, Construction Management; **Chester Whalley**, BS, Management; **Amanda Appell**, SPEC, Educational Leadership; **Victoria Balko**, BS, Applied Organizational Studies, *Cum Laude*; **Amanda Fay**, SPEC, Educational Leadership; **Bryce Hoffa**, MS, Counseling and Student Personnel; **Taylor Kueng**, BS, Community Health Education; **Miranda Mier**, BA, English, *Summa Cum Laude*; **Jaclyn Tan-Wohlrs**, BS, Biology; **Mai Ker Thao**, BS, Law Enforcement; and **Yin Tai Vue**, BS, Communication Studies. **Aojaze Davis** will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from University of Sioux Falls.

Mira Grinsfelder was among 144 University of Wisconsin-Madison students recently named to the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. **Hans Lundsgaard**, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2021, won the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence for fall 2019. **Kristopher Fitzhenry**, a graduate of Patrick Henry High School, graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. **Carson Brady** was named to the Dean's List at University Of New England in Maine, for spring semester. **Lucinda Anderson**, a graduate of Armstrong High School in Robbinsdale, was named Most Valuable Player of the University of New Hampshire cross country ski team. She was the only Nordic skier on her team to qualify for the NCAA Championship. **Kathryn Manes**, a sophomore English Education major, was among over 850 Bob Jones University students named to the spring 2020 Dean's List.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

FOOD

Minneapolis Public Schools food bus service is providing weekly grab and go food. An end date has not yet been released. Each weekly food box will contain seven breakfasts and seven lunches for a total of ten meals. Families are welcome to take one box per child, per week. This free food is for ALL children 18 and younger, no matter where the kids go to school. No paperwork or identity is checked. Also included are persons over 18 years of age who have been determined eligible for transitional education services by Minnesota Department of Education. Contact-free pickup is available Monday-Friday from 10am-2pm at: **MONDAY:** Waite Park School, Hiawatha School, Edison HS, Andersen School, Hale School, Olson Middle, Farview Park, Laney School, Whittier Park, Bancroft School. **TUESDAY:** Bottineau Park, Beltrami Park, Cityview School, Seward School, Green School, Jenny Lind School, Hospitality House, MLK Jr. Park, Bossen Field, Phillips Park. **WEDNESDAY:** Northeast Athletic Field Park, Marcy School, Anwatin School, Hmong

School, Folwell School, Lyndale School, Keewaydin School, North Commons Park, Longfellow School, Peavey Park. **THURSDAY:** Audubon Park, Elliot Park, Webster School, Bethune School, South HS, Windom School, Mastery School, Minneapolis PAL, Jefferson School, Sanford School. **FRIDAY:** Harrison Park, Pratt School, Henry HS, Hall School, Northeast Middle, Roosevelt HS, Folwell Park, Bryant Square Park, Sullivan School. Daily Food Truck Sites: Mary's Place, 401 North 7th St, 10-10:45 am; Brian Coyle Center, 420 S. 15th Ave., 11:15am-Noon; and Willard Park, 1626 Queen Ave. N., 12:30 -1:15 pm

Use the Free Meals for Kids mobile app to find and access free meals at hundreds of schools and other sites across Minnesota.

NorthPoint Health and Wellness offers a community food shelf at 1835 Penn Ave. N. It's open 10am-4pm, Monday-Wednesday. Intake closes at 3:30pm. New intakes are taken over the phone: 612-767-9500. The food shelf has suspended choice shopping and is pre-packaging food according to family size. The NorthPoint food shelf has an increased need for donations as need for food has surged. Visit northpointhealth.org/ donate for dropoff and pickup details.

Camden Community & Help At Your Door is providing grocery assistance to community elders and neighbors with disabilities, delivery fees are waived for those who qualify. The group is also looking for volunteers to make deliveries.

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church is delivering meals to seniors in Elliott Park, Bryn Mawr, North Minneapolis, and Downtown Minneapolis. Contact 612-250-8799.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church and New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church is offering The Camden Promise: regular distribution, Monday and Friday at 9:45am, prepacked boxes for pick-up. Wednesday: 6pm community meals pre-wrapped and a box of food to go. Additionally, providing daycare scholarships for the children of healthcare workers and anyone else who has a need to keep working to support their families. 4656 Colfax Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 55412. Support this work by making a donation.

Free takeaway dinners for all are offered at Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave. N) on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 4-6pm. One per person.

With one call, the Minnesota Food HelpLine assesses the caller's situation and provides solutions to food needs: 1-888-711-1151.

Hunger Solutions has an extensive list of food shelves, senior resources, free meals, discount groceries, and farmers' markets across the state of Minnesota.

Gov. Tim Walz recently announced a June 1 reopening of restaurants, which have been closed for on-site service since March 17. Service will be restricted to outdoor seating and restricted to tables six feet apart. No more than 50 customers may be seated at one time. Reservations will be required and masks are mandatory for workers and "strongly encouraged" for customers. No more than four per table or six for families.

HEALTHCARE

NorthPoint Health and Wellness offers a variety of supports at this time. Main Campus Clinic hours at

1313 Penn are 10am-5pm, Monday-Friday. Phones are answered at 8am. MNsure and Snap Enrollment are located at the Main Campus. The 800 W Broadway Ave. office is closed. Northside Teen Clinic is open regular hours 3-6pm, Monday-Thursday. Cora McCorvey Center is open 10am-5pm Monday-Friday. The Food Shelf is open regular hours 10-4pm Monday-Thursday. Intake closes at 3:30pm. Harm Reduction and Testing Services is open Tuesday-Wednesday 2-5 pm and Thursday-Friday 11am-5pm. With questions, call the clinic at 612-543-2500 or Human Services at 612-767-9500. Everyone entering a NorthPoint location will be screened for COVID-19.

Drive-up COVID-19 testing is available by appointment in North Minneapolis. You must have one or more COVID-19 symptoms in order to be tested: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Many people are asymptomatic (have no symptoms) and are still able to spread the virus. You must have an appointment to be tested. Drive-up appointments must be in a vehicle. Everyone in the vehicle who would like to be tested must have an appointment. Why get tested? It allows people to take additional steps to slow the spread, protect others and allows all of us to know the impact on our community. Call 612-543-2500 to schedule your appointment today.

Immediate mental health support for people 18-plus from Hennepin County: 612-596-1223. For people under 18: 612-348-2233.

The City of Minneapolis recently opened hygiene stations for homeless residents across the city, including one at Bryant and Broadway Avenue North. Each station includes a porta-potty, hand-washing, a sharps container and trash bin.

NCE Wellness is providing therapy via telehealth, now covered by most major insurance companies. For an intake, call 612-310-8683 or visit their website.

The insurance companies selling private health insurance plans on MNsure are waiving co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing. Minnesotans enrolled in these plans will have no costs associated with medically directed testing in compliance with the Centers for Disease Control guidance. Contact your insurance company directly for questions about plan benefit details and how best to access care.

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY

The City of Minneapolis is providing free wifi via the US1 Wireless network. Access it at minneapolismn.gov/wireless/index.htm. This website also offers a link to the "Get Connected Guide," a list of organizations that provide free or low price options for computers and connectivity.

Comcast is offering free Internet while schools are closed to anyone who is eligible for FRPI, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), or SSL. No contract, no credit check, no installation fee, 25 Mbps speed. Visit internetessentials.com.

Minnesota After School Advance is offering up to 75% off Chromebooks to eligible families with school age children (K-12) to help with distance learning. Visit mnafterschool.org/chromebooks. For questions, call 763-202-9012.

EMPLOYMENT

If your employment has been affected by COVID-19, you can apply for unemployment benefits. On March 16, Gov. Tim Walz issued an executive order to ensure workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have full access to unemployment benefits. Visit uimn.org for instructions. If you need to talk to someone, call 651-296-3644. You can be assisted in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, or any other language you prefer. Customer Service representatives are available Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm. Through the CARES Act, self-employed people are eligible for unemployment benefits.

Springboard for the Arts is sponsoring a personal emergency relief fund that provides Minnesotan artists grants of up to \$500 to compensate for income lost due to canceled gigs or events. More information and the application can be found on Springboard for the Arts' website.

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council has announced an emergency relief fund for small arts groups and nonprofits. Call 651-645-0402 for more information.

OTHER SERVICES

Are you a high school-aged black girl needing sisterhood amidst this current reality? Project Diva offers several ways to connect via Zoom and Facebook.

Victory neighborhood residents in need of grocery shopping, medication pick ups, transportation, food support, and household supplies can contact their neighborhood association for support at victoryneighborhood.org or 612-529-9558.

Folwell Neighborhood Association is collecting items for homebound residents. Donate items to the FNA Drop off location. Text 612-227-0410 to set up a time. Items include: non perishable food, over the counter medicine, toiletries, bottled water, laundry and dish supplies, toilet paper, etc. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver donated goods. If you would like to help contribute financially, you can donate through PayPal using donate@folwell.org. If you are a Folwell resident who needs assistance, please fill out the request form at folwell.org.

Free JPAY from Peace of Hope, Inc. is being offered during the COVID-19 crisis while no prison social visits are permitted. Direct message your name, their name/OID# and state location to the organization's founder Sharon Brooks Green on Facebook. Include up to a three sentence message you'd like to convey.

Xcel Energy will not disconnect service for failure to pay. The energy company's CEO promised not to disconnect service to any residential customers until further notice in an email statement on March 16. If you are having difficulty paying your bills, contact Xcel and they will arrange a payment plan that works for you.

RESOURCES

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary employees for the 2020 Census. The jobs offer weekly pay, competitive pay rates, flexible hours, and paid training. By joining the 2020 Census team, you can support your community while getting paid to do it.

Learn more here: 2020census.gov/jobs.

Neighborhood HealthSource hosts free and reduced cost mammograms for eligible women every month at one of their three Northside clinics. Call 612-287-2433 or visit neighborhoodhealthsource.org for more info.

Hennepin County funding assistance for lead paint – Homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home test and as much as \$8,000 in lead reduction costs, such as new windows. Contact: healthyhomes@hennepin.us or 612-543-4182.

Minnesota Solid Waste & Recycling customers who have not signed up to participate in the **organics recycling** program may do so at any time by visiting www.minneapolismn.gov/organics. There is no extra cost, but you have to sign up.

Tuesdays – The Twin Cities Mobile Market delivers affordable and healthy food weekly to locations across North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities. A wide variety of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and staples like rice and dried beans are available at below-market prices. Cash, all major credit cards, debit cards, SNAP/EBT, and Market Bucks are accepted! Questions? Call 612-280-2434. Their delivery schedule does change. For schedule and map information, check out: <https://www.wilder.org/Programs-Services/tcmm/Pages/default.aspx>.

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then your block could be eligible for a mini block club grant through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council. Funds are available for

a project or event you want to create. For more information call 612-335-5924 or email contactus@nrcc.org.

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council is partnering with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid to connect residents of Near North and Willard Hay with free attorneys. If you are having legal troubles that relate to your home or business and live in the Near North or Willard Hay neighborhood visit their clinic at the NRRC office Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am-3pm or set up an appointment by calling 612-335-5925.

The City of Minneapolis offers **free energy efficiency home visits and 0% financing on recommended energy-saving upgrades** while funding lasts to qualified households with a family income less than \$94,300. Homeowners and renters can call 651-328-6220 or visit mncee.org/hes-mpls to schedule.

If you live in Hennepin County and have a desire to improve the child protection system, consider volunteering for the Citizen Review Panel. The panel meets the second Monday of each month at the Health Services Building (525 Portland Ave). Panel members serve for a two-year term. Email Mary.Doyle@state.mn.us for an application packet and more information.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Juneteenth celebrations will be online due to COVID-19 restrictions on mass gatherings. The Hennepin County Library will host a special

online presentation to honor this important African-American holiday. Performers include Voice of Culture Drum and Dance, Million Artist Movement, Black Storytellers Alliance, Neverending Storycircle, Journey Productions, Passed Presents, and Black Table Arts. Funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The two-hour celebration will be available for viewing at <https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/5ec27558171b7a2400152ce1> on Sunday, June 14, from 2-4pm and Tuesday, June 16, from 6-8pm.

The Yoga Room is providing online yoga classes on Facebook, check "events" for the next scheduled class. The community can support the studio by taking the classes and sharing the events with friends on Facebook. Payment is \$10 suggested or pay what you can via paypal to laurie@northsidecenter.net.

Fitness instructor Val Fleurantin is holding virtual Zumba, cardio boxing and strength training classes via Zoom. She is asking for a minimum donation of \$2, which can be transferred with the Cash App. For the schedule, visit Fleurantin's Facebook page.

Fitness instructor Chaz Sandifer is offering unlimited exercises classes, wellness chats, and meal prep for \$20 via Zoom, the video conferencing app. Classes include HIIT, cardio-kickboxing, Trap Bandz, Circuit Training, and more. Sign up by emailing thenewmpls@gmail.com.

The Webber Park branch of the Hennepin County

Library is among a handful of branches offering curbside pickup of books and other media. Go to www.hclib.org to place an item on hold and select the pickup location. Once you receive notice that your item is ready, call the branch and staff will check out the items, bag them and place them on a car outside the library. Patrons will be given an order number that will appear on a label affixed to the bag. The Webber Park branch is the only Northside library with a pickup location.

EDUCATION

The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Business Meeting** will be held on June 9, beginning at 5:30pm at the Davis Center, 1250 West Broadway Ave.

The next **Minneapolis Public School Board Committee of the Whole meeting** will be held on June 13, beginning at 6pm at the Davis Center at 1250 W Broadway Ave.

What's Up 612! is an online resource for children and youth, ages 5-21, where citywide after school activities can be found. More information can be found at: <http://www.whatsup612.com>

MN Comeback and Great MN Schools launched Minnesota School Finder. This resource guide for parents provide objective, relevant information on schools across Minneapolis so parents can find schools that are the best fit for their kids.

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GET CONNECTED TO A NETWORK OF OVER 100 EMPLOYERS THAT ARE HIRING NOW!

Attend an Information session, available every Tuesday and Friday, at 10am and 2pm.
1301 Bryant Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

twincitiesrise.org
612-338-0295

HOUSING

Governor Walz has issued Executive Order 20-14 to temporarily suspend evictions (except in cases of illegal activity or when a tenant is endangering the safety of other tenants) and request that financial institutions place a moratorium on pending and future foreclosures.

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority says it will not file any unlawful detainers or move forward with any eviction hearings until further notice.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency has released information on suspension of evictions and foreclosures with loans held by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae. Check details for eligibility.

If you are experiencing homelessness, St. Stephens Catholic Church offers support. Call 612-248-2350.

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has developed a new program to help first-time homebuyers who have faced barriers to buying a home through traditional mortgage lenders. Under the program, homebuyers can buy on the open market using Habitat's affordable, fixed-rate mortgage. They can even work with the Realtor of their choice, complete Habitat's homeownership education and buy a home in their preferred neighborhood or city. The new program reaches a broader income range, including those who may think their income is too high to qualify. Households earning \$40,000-\$80,000 have successfully bought a home in Habitat's redesigned homeownership program. The program revolves around an "unbeatable mortgage," a 30-year fixed-rate with monthly payments set to no more than 30 percent of income. Down payment assistance may be available. Interested residents can find more information on the mortgage program at: www.BuyWithHabitat.org or by calling 612-540-5660.

NorthPoint Health and Wellness has announced an eviction prevention pilot program. This program is open to anyone who lives in Hennepin County, lives in a rental unit, and is concerned about being evicted or being unable to pay rent. Mediation services, legal help, and housing case management is available for renters; services are also available for landlords interesting in assisting their tenants.

To enroll in the pilot contact NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center at 612-767-9159 or visit 1315 Penn Ave N.

The City of Minneapolis can help renters who want smoke-free housing, and it can help property owners make their buildings smoke-free. For smoke-free rental housing help, renters and property owners and managers can call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/smoke-free.

Owners and renters will be able to learn energy information about a Minneapolis home or apartment before they sign on the dotted line. In February, the Minneapolis City Council approved three policies that combined touch all housing types in the city: residential energy Benchmarking, time of rent energy disclosure, and time of sale energy disclosure. The goals of these policies are to reduce overall housing costs, ensure homeowners and renters have reliable information about their energy costs when deciding where to live, and reduce carbon emissions.

The City Council passed a measure on Nov. 2 reforming the way the City works with landlords and renters when complaints are made about disruptive criminal and nuisance conduct to provide more protections for tenants and resources for landlords to resolve problems. Highlights of the amendments to the City's Conduct on Licensed Premises ordinance include: 1) A violation of the ordinance cannot stem from 911 calls reporting domestic violence, domestic abuse, a health-related emergency or any other similar tenant assistance response. 2) When a Minneapolis Police Department crime prevention specialist determines that an incident at a rental property requires City intervention after reviewing a police report, a letter is sent to both the landlord and the tenant about what needs to be done to resolve the problem issues. 3) A new panel convened by the City's Regulatory Services Department will review the issues and help determine a community-centered approach that encourages landlords and tenants to resolve problems with a goal of discouraging unnecessary tenant displacement.

Starting over the next few years, homebuyers and renters will be able to learn energy information about a Minneapolis home or apartment before they sign on the dotted line. The Minneapolis City Council approved three policies that combined touch all housing types in the city: residential energy

Benchmarking, time of rent energy disclosure, and time of sale energy disclosure. The goals of these policies are to reduce overall housing costs, ensure homeowners and renters have reliable information

about their energy costs when deciding where to live, and reduce carbon emissions. These policies are recommended in Minneapolis' Climate Action Plan and will help the City make progress toward its community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals. Minneapolis joins nearly 20 other cities in adopting residential energy benchmarking for large buildings.

BE AWARE

Early voting: With health officials urging residents to limit contact, the City of Minneapolis is recommending residents vote early by mail for the August primary and November general elections. Ballot applications should be requisition no later than 10 days prior to each election date. To receive a mail-in ballot visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>.

Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling is changing how it collects batteries from homes. No batteries may go with recycling. Alkaline batteries such as AA or AAA may be disposed of in Solid Waste and Recycling black garbage bags. Rechargeable batteries, lithium batteries and items containing batteries such as cell phones and electronic cigarettes are prohibited from all City of Minneapolis garbage and recycling carts. Hennepin County will accept batteries at its permanent drop off locations in 1400 W 96th Street Bloomington, MN and 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park.

The City of Minneapolis has drafted documents on frequently asked questions (FAQs) and rules to help provide guidance to employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under the City's wage theft prevention ordinance. The ordinance took effect on Jan. 1 and include parts of the state's new wage theft law. Employers must adhere to a regularly scheduled payday, provide pre-hire notices of certain employment terms and conditions, and provide statements at the end of each pay period. Email wagetheft@minneapolis.gov or call 311 to learn more.

The City's Municipal Minimum Wage Ordinance took effect Jan. 1, 2018. There will be a tiered phase-in period for small and large businesses. Large businesses employing more than 100 workers began paying \$10 an hour. Small businesses with 100 or fewer employees pay at least \$10.25. Large businesses have until July 1, 2022 to reach a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and small businesses have until July 1, 2024 to reach \$15 an hour.

Through its 311 service, the City of Minneapolis has opened a new hotline for reporting hate crimes. Which are harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. The 311 hotline will be answered 7am- 7pm weekdays and 8am - 4:30pm weekends. Those with a report to make can also call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in the case of immediate physical violence, property damage, or threats, people should call 911.

Following Minneapolis fire laws will help keep our neighborhoods safe and livable; outdoor fires are permitted 9am-10pm, must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet high and must be

completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at \$200. For more information on recreational fires or to register a complaint about a recreational fire, call 311 or email Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov, or to register a complaint about a recreational fire outside 311 hours, call 911. The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish a fire immediately if it is hazardous.

City of Minneapolis inspectors will respond to 311 complaints about property maintenance. The city encourages property owners to remove trash and debris, mow lawns, trim vegetation extending over sidewalks, streets and alleys, bundle brush and branches and remove inoperable vehicles. Because of added difficulties everyone is facing during the pandemic, anyone who gets a violation letter and finds complying to be a hardship is invited to call 311 to discuss the situation. The City is committed to balancing the needs of the community, renters and owners, and being fair, reasonable and flexible. Visit minneapolismn.gov/inspections/index.htm for more information.

BUSINESS DEVELOPEMENT

Salons, barbershops and tattoo shops can reopen June 1 but can only allow 25 percent capacity, according to an order recently issued by Gov. Tim Walz. Masks are required for both workers and customers.

Local Initiatives Support Council has \$2.5 million in funding to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses facing immediate financial pressure because of COVID-19—especially entrepreneurs of color, women-owned businesses and other enterprises in historically underserved communities who can't get flexible, affordable capital. It can be used for paying rent and utilities, meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, and other immediate operational costs. Call the Twin Cities LISC office at 651-649-1109 for more information.

The US Small Business Administration is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Minnesota small businesses and nonprofits suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus. This would allow businesses to apply for loans to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills they can't pay due to the disaster's impact. Visit: sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19. Questions? Contact your business advisor first and then call the SBA hotline at 1-800-659-2955.

The City of Minneapolis' Business Technical Assistance Program (B-TAP) and Small Business Team have put in place emergency funds to assist Minneapolis businesses and non-profits with COVID-19 related issues. This assistance can be used to help navigate layoffs, assess finances and triage expenses, apply for relief funds, transition to e-commerce, etc. Davis Law Office is an approved provider for these services and is happy to help or to connect you with the appropriate provider for your need – send questions/requests to covidresponse@davismeansbusiness.com.

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Please inquire for pricing if you'd like a different size than the ones listed.

To place your notice: Email harryc@pillsburyunited.org or call 612-701-3883

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Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for.

WE ARE THE CHANGE THAT WE SEEK.

- Barack Obama

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020!

This Spring, you've had to reimagine your education and graduation. You've demonstrated resilience in the face of adversity. And now, your futures are full of possibilities.

We can't wait to see the contributions you'll make to your community in this next chapter.

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