NORTH NEWS

December 22, 2023

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GREAT*NORTH INNOCENCE PROJECT

Pictures of the Year:

Azhae'la Hanson uses photography to express her love for the Northside.

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ALSO INSIDE

Marvin Haynes looking forward to new life outside prison. **Page 4**

Henry name change started with Semaj Rankin. Page 5

Marvin Haynes embraced cousins, Destiny Coleman, left, and Grace Coleman shortly after his release from prison. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson



They said it here: Memorable quotes from 2023

There are two things we seem to be getting less good at these days - reading and listenina

Sure, your hearing is fine, and you've read this sentence. Our brains have only so much capacity for all the noise in our polarized world and the waves of words, images and blue light that our screens send crashing toward us each day.

But there are still people who speak in

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David Pierini

Editor/Reporter/Advertising

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the moment in a way that cuts through the fog and brings us to rapt attention.

Our jobs as reporters in part, is to listen in public settings or interviews for good quotes. We listen for that sentence or two that distills an issue, event or feeling to its bit of context to resonate. Others, despite the context, can hit some personal truth inside us. The person speaking was sent by the Universe with a message.

Below are some of the guotes from 2023 North News stories that stuck with

"Move me, Forney!" - Activist Roxxanne O'Brien to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board President Meg Forney in a discussion over the board's tree removal policies. O'Brien's time at the podium was up and she challenged Forney to have her removed after she refused to go back to her

"So. the next meeting we have, you're going to tell us how you're going to solve this problem, and then we're going to tell you whether that works." - Andrew McGlory, to a group of Blue Line project down West Broadway Avenue.

"It's an injustice for the people who

look like me as we're forced to take justification at one time for using an incinerator. But the way I look at it, it's like a landfill but for the air. It doesn't make the problem go away; it spreads essence. Sometimes a good quote needs a it out." - Camden resident Marco Fields on supporting the closure of Hennepin County's trash incinerator.

> "I would say don't procrastinate and just be you. You shine the brightest when you are you and you work hard. You can cry, you can stress, but just get your work in." - Lija Vang, one of three Henry High School valedictorians.

> "If you're super successful and you're taking from others, that's not a good person. People who are successful should definitely want to return your successes." Mishima Padilla. North High School

"It would be a dream for me to get my

driver's license. Not just me, everybody. You can't get a car without a driver's license; you can't get places without one. If I could get a license, I would drive everyone." - Susanna Guzman on the eve managers regarding plans to bring light rail of state legislators passing a law that would allow undocumented workers to obtain a driver's license.

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Azhae'la Hanson

Reporter/Photographer/Youth Program Coordinator

Anya Johanna DeNiro Thomas Toley

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"There's an opportunity for kids who the biggest risks. I'm sure there was a look like me to say, 'Wow,' and at least start asking questions and maybe get inspired to do something similar or greater. We never ever do anything for it to stop with us. It is to create momentum." – state Sen. Bobby Joe Champion on becoming the first Black president of the Senate.

> "I don't understand why people are pulling out guns on kids. And then I think about it, and it's other kids that pull guns on kids." – Mariyah Hardeman, a North High School student talking about the shooting death of a friend.

> "One hour of service. All we have to do is give one hour of service in our community. All we have to do is give one hour of service somewhere in our community, whether it's picking up litter, hugging a young one, giving them a structure of real love... and that will take us to a wonderful state." - Mike Tate, the man known as Coach Tate at North Commons Park, after receiving a History Maker at Home Award from the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights for his work with youth.

> "I just want to see my mom... go walking; I mean just the simplest things when you go through something like this. The simplest things are all that matters." - Marvin Haynes, after his release from prison. He was sentenced 20 years ago for a murder he did not commit.

"With this law, we are saying that we will not allow hair discrimination as a proxy for race discrimination. Yes, we're also saying that it is perfectly fine to show up as you are. Black children, especially young Black girls have been prevented from fully participating in school because of a lack of understanding about their hair." - Rep. Esther Agbaje on the CROWN Act becoming the law in Minnesota.

"We are going to dress, speak, choose music, and wear our hair, that represents who we are and I don't want them to be ashamed of that. They don't have to be anything other than who they are, which is brilliant, stellar, and outstanding." - Cierra Burnaugh, director of the dance school Dance City.

"I fight with my brothers a lot. So, it doesn't scare me to fight a boy." - Madison McDonald, 9, on being the first girl in the state to box against boys.

"I let the world say what they want to say; legend, the goat, (and) trailblazer are things I let other people apply to my name. But I am very humbled by this ball right here. And I feel like my story is not fully written yet. I want to go as high as I can." - Tamara Moore, former North High and WNBA standout who coaches the men's basketball team at Mesabi Range

North Minneapolis at a glance

Another milestone for Manderville

NEWS

The late Eddie Manderville aced 12 holes-in-one in his lifetime, a rare feat sufficient for his namesake to be stamped across the game of golf in Minnesota.

But the renaming of the chalet at Theodore Wirth Golf Club after Manderville is far more significant than his shotmaking. The chalet doors, initially locked to Manderville because he was Black, swung open thanks to his insistence he belonged.

And he held the door open for other Black golfers, especially women, over a 60-year career. Manderville, who passed away in 2020, was a coach and mentor (and if you were good, he was likely to coax you to play nine holes for money). He co-founded the Black Women on Course. a club now with more than 200 members, many of whom learned the game from Manderville.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board on Dec. 6 unanimously approved renamina the chalet after Manderville. The Black Women on Course joined a twoyear campaign of friends and family who lobbied MPRB to rename the chalet.

Manderville was inducted into the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame earlier this

Farewell, Thirsty Whale. Welcome back, Thirsty Whale

The cakes were sublime and the lines to get a donut or cupcake stretched far outside the door at 4149 Fremont Ave. N. So, it came as a shock on Dec. 3 when the Thirsty Whale Bakery announced on Facebook its immediate closure.

But less than two weeks later, the bakery's page announced it would reopen with new owners. Alise and Luke McGregor, who own YoYo Donut, purchased the

bakery and began operations on Fremont Avenue North on Dec. 18.

Original owners Megan and Kyle Baker said they could not continue because of economic forces. The Bakers made quite a name for their business. One Twin Cities magazine gave their wedding cakes unicorn status, while Megan Baker was a finalist on a Food Network competition show for Halloween Cake decorating in

The original head baker was retained to create the treats the neighborhood

An extra sweet MLK event

Sweet Potato Comfort Pie will hold its annual Martin Luther King Jr. holiday of service event on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 1:15-4:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley.

The event is titled "Our Origins Travel Onward" and will feature a photo exhibit and a special ancestor tribute. At 2 p.m., there will be a procession of 95 pies baked by community members as a way to comfort one another and strengthen human connections

Award-winning television journalist Shayla Reeves will emcee the event. Entertainment will include Mari Harris and the Heart and Soul Drum Academy. More information and registration can be found at sweetpotatocomfortpie.org/events.



Barbies on West Broadway



Brianna Bogan, right, was selling hand creams at her vendor's table, Bri's Treats during the Holiday on West Broadway event on Dec. 9. Between sales, she took a break with Treasure Hill to play with Barbie dolls. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson





Marvin Haynes walks out of prison ready to enjoy the simple things

By **Azhae'la Hanson**, Reporter

Taking a walk, seeing the sun and trees and sinking his teeth into a cheeseburger are among the simple things Marvin Haynes is most excited to experience with his newly granted freedom.

Haynes was released from Stillwater Prison on Dec. 11 after a judge exonerated him for a murder he did not commit.

Judge William Koch signed off on an agreement between Haynes and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, which sought to vacate the conviction because

found out on his birthday last week that he would be freed after 19 years in prison.

"I haven't cried so much in 19 years. I am overwhelmed with emotion and innocence, and the truth prevails."

degree murder in 2004 when he was happen," Marving Havnes said. 16 for the shooting death of North Minneapolis flower shop clerk Randy Sherer. When Haynes was first brought in for questioning, detectives falsely stated that they'd found evidence linking Haynes evidence connecting him to the murder.

His sister, Marvina, has been advocating for Marvin's release since he was first convicted in 2004. She brought his case to the attention of attorneys them. And that is what we have tried to do from the Great North Innocence Project today." last year. With the evidence gathered by was granted a hearing in front of Koch in family members and met new ones.

In a press conference following his release, Haynes's family packed into a room at the Hennepin County Government

of a lack of physical evidence. Haynes Center. Marvina stood alongside her the time that was missed. He went in as brother as he thanked her for her support. He says without her, his release might not have been possible.

"When Minneapolis police took excited to get my life back," Haynes Marvin from my family, it really caused a he saw Haynes, his uncle. He was four said. "These people have recognized my lot of harm... Today, we're here to rejoice and they were sleeping in a tent together in Marvin's freedom and to make sure that Haynes, 36, was convicted of first- these types of injustices don't continue to

Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty announced that they are building a conviction integrity unit to take a closer look at past cases similar to Haynes's.

"The Hennepin County Attorney's to the crime. There was never any physical Office bears responsibility for taking almost 20 years away from Marvin Haynes and his family," she said. "Doing the right thing sometimes means we must seek to undo the harms of the past and not defend

Hugs ensued after the press the Innocence Project, Marvin Haynes conference as he connected with old

> "It's a feeling you just can't explain," said Haynes's older sister, Lakisha Wright. "Time is something you can never make up, but we're going to make the best of all

a kid and got out as a man. We will rally around him to help him move forward and support him."

Jermaine Hall remembers the last time that they built in their living room.

"I was a kid." Hall said. "And he was a kid." Hall is now 24 years old. "I missed a lot of his life. He missed a lot of my life, we're going to rebuild it now."

Haynes hasn't seen his mom in three years, it's the first place he rushed to after the press conference.

"It took 19 years, but I'm here, and all I want to do is move forward and get my life back," Haynes said. "I want to get a job and get my life back, I was in prison working 25 cents an hour. If it pays, I'm willing to do it."

Andrew Markquart of the Great North Innocence Project said it is likely that they will be seeking restitution for Marvin in the future. In the meantime, Marvin is ready to see the sun.

"I just want to see my mom... go walking; I mean just the simplest things. When you go through something like this, the simplest things are all that matters,"

New services at North Minneapolis Service Center: License plates

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NEWS NEWS

Seeing a just finish to what he helped start

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

When Semaj Rankin started high school at Patrick Henry, he wanted to rep his school to the fullest. He had bought school paraphernalia to wear head to toe when one day, a school liaison pulled him aside and pointed to the Patriot logo on his

"That was the day I found out who Patrick Henry was," Rankin said.

He could no longer walk down the halls proudly in his school upon learning that the founding father, Parick Henry, owned enslaved people.

The campaign started by Rankin and others in 2017 finally reached a successful end on Dec. 12, when the Minneapolis Board of Education voted to change the name to Camden High.

While at Henry, Rankin attended groups that would discuss and break down

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MARTIN LUTHER

KING, JR. TRIBUTE

at the University of Minnesota

Black history to remind him of his place in this community and the world then and

"Knowing my history is something that I embody," Rankin said. "I was taught that I can overcome and the heights I can reach."

As a Black man pursuing an education, Rankin knew Patrick Henry should not have been the face or reflection of where he pursued his goals and aspirations. At the time, the history of this founding father was known by few. He began reaching out to the community for support to raise awareness about the problematic history of his high

"It started out as a thing for exposure, then once the word got out, I noticed that more people thought like me," Rankin said. "The next year, we started the movement."

In 2017, the #changethename movement had a face, Semaj Rankin, Janaan Ahmed and the students they recruited. Rankin and the group would meet with staff and alumni to fight for the funds and support to rebrand the school. He remembers thinking it was common sense to change the name. Still, it was an uphill battle with alumni and people who wanted to keep the name

Former Henry High Principal Yusuf Abdullah uses the words courageous, bold,

The campaign to rename Patrick Henry High School started with Semaj Rankin, seen here in 2017. The Henry name will be dropped from the school starting next year. Photo by Kenzie O'Keefe

and determined to describe the students claim a building that is in our community who chartered the movement. The first week he set foot on the Henry campus, students approached him with the idea.

"We know slavery was a horrible act in our history, and for our students that reflect the current demographic to want to

is something that I needed to support,"

He remembers the moment the Henry

Continued on page 23

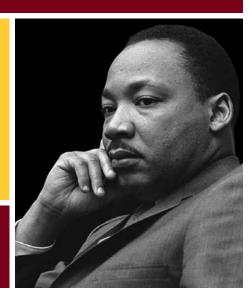


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Marvin Haynes takes to the podium during the press conference following his release from Stillwater Prison. He says he's excited to get his life back. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

NOW

catch up with our

Council Members



LaTrisha

Vetaw

My first term in office has ended and there is a lot to look back on. We had a very successful budget season, with all four of our amendments being passed.

The four amendments my office brought forward to the Mayor's budget proposal are the

- \$200,000 to fund a study for the train crossings at Lyndale Avenue North, Humboldt Avenue North, and 45th Avenue North. Over the past two years, train crossing blockages have been one of the top complaints my office receives. This study will allow us to evaluate the three locations to determine infrastructural solutions and apply for state and federal grants. This is a huge accomplishment, • and we are looking forward to seeing what comes out of the study.
- \$1,350,000 to support 911 recruitment and retention efforts. 911 is at the frontline

Minneapolis City Council members LaTrisha Vetaw (Ward 4) and Jeremiah Ellison (Ward 5) were inaugurated in January 2022 and January 2018, respectively. We have invited them to keep in touch with the community through this monthly column in our newspaper.

of emergency response in our city. If we don't have 911 call takers then we don't have police, EMS, and fire responding to emergencies. I am proud to support our 911 department with this amendment because public safety in our city greatly depends on its success.

- Department to increase support to will bring. our Cultural Districts. These funds will
- Department to add the position of MFD Intergency Coordinator, This position will departments/agencies to better anticipate can continue to do so this next term.

and assist in identifying issues where coordination with MFD will be required. I am happy I could support our Fire Department with this amendment and will continue to work closely with them in this next term.

I am proud of what my office has accomplished in these last two years and am • \$120,000 to the Arts & Cultural Affairs looking forward to seeing what the next term

Starting in January, the City Council will support festivals, cultural spaces, equity- no longer be in City Hall due to ongoing based programs, creative projects, and renovations. City Council offices and Chambers relationships with community partners will be across the street in the old Public and collaborators. I am happy to support Service Center. This is an exciting change, but our Arts Department and can't wait to it means our ability to meet with constituents see the impact it will have on our cultural will be limited to either our ward office, out in community, or virtual. Thank you for your \$118,732 to the Minneapolis Fire patience and understanding during this

Thank you, Ward 4, for a great first term, I am serve as a liaison between MFD and other honored to be able to serve you and grateful I



Jeremiah Ellison

As we near the end of this year and term, I have found myself in a state of thoughtful reflection. I've been thinking about my role in • the community, the work of my office, and the challenges we see every day on the Northside.

From this reflection, my team and I took a closer look at the progress we have made in the past two years and the results are incredibly encouraging and hopeful. I wanted to share it with you and say thank you for • trusting me to represent Ward 5 and giving me another opportunity to keep advocating for our community.

Since the beginning of this term (January 2022 - Present), my team and I have:

- Coordinated and worked on 926 constituent cases that came directly to our office. These constituent cases include connecting residents to city information/ resources, referring neighbors to state and federal partners for non-city-related issues, and providing information about free legal aid services in our community to • those in need.
- Arranged 255 legislative meetings with groups and organizations including (but not limited to): advocacy organizations, city departmental heads/staff, labor partners, nonprofits, and state legislators. The purpose of these meetings is for our office to advocate for programs/projects at the city and state levels, receive policy

briefings from city staff, and discuss legislative priorities.

- Attended 132 community events on the Northside, including (but not limited to): celebrations of life/homegoing services, community forums, community discussions, grand opening events, groundbreaking events, and listening
- Organized 106 community meetings with Northside residents, leaders, neighborhood advocates, and small business owners to ensure that our office was on the ground listening to what Northsiders were saying and needing.
- Hosted 71 sessions of "Open Coffee Hours with Jeremiah" where Northside residents have direct access to my team and me for auestions/concerns that we can assist with.
- Published 40 newsletters from the Ward **5 office** that has a listsery of 3,400+
- justice victory for the Northside to protect next year!

the public health and well-being of our most vulnerable residents.

Hosted 9 public events to connect and provide direct resources. The highlights of our ward events include our "Black Business Week Ward 5 Job & Resource Fair" in July 2023 where 100+ community members met and received information about entrepreneurship, job, and mentorship opportunities, Minneapolis Public Works Hiring Information Session in January 2023 and our Ward 5 Community Wellness Walk with the Health Department Commissioner Chaplin and his team to introduce him to community members and for our city staff to hear about public health challenges directly from Northsiders. A Blue Line discussion at JXTA Arts to hear from the community their thoughts and concerns on the light rail.

Despite the barriers and hardships of this term, I'm proud of the work that our office has done to serve the Northside. It's clear Advocated for 9 legislative actions that your advocacy, organizing, passion, and and continued funding and legislative commitment to the Northside are making a **support for 5 city programs.** Examples significant difference. I'm unbelievably honored of these legislative actions and programs to represent the Northside as your Council are authoring and passing a city ordinance Member and am thrilled to finish this year that will reduce the presence of mold rental strong with more community events, legislative units and requiring the City's Regulatory meetings, and policy victories. Thank you for Services Department to inspect properties your relentless belief in a bright and thriving for mold. This is an incredible environmental future for the Northside. I am excited to return



NORTH MINNEAPOLIS IN FOCUS

Photos and text by Azhae'la Hanson

An image can create powerful narratives, and as a photographer and writer for North News, I have this deepening sense of responsibility to get it

myself that there is so much more here, people who don't live here. and people need to see that, too.

Minneapolis online when I was a student happen over North when we were not who we truly are. I hope we can share at North High School and seeing the at our lowest in this community, those many more moments and stories that we overbearing negative coverage of the moments of who we are. And without experience together. community in which I lived. I thought to the prying eye of insistent narratives from

I hope this year continued us in the

I am moved by the moments that right direction of letting the world know

Thank you, Northside! And if you see me out and about, say cheese!

NOW





Clockwise from top:

- 1. JJ legacy teacher Kandice Childs twists her student's hair during resting time in her classroom. The student was telling her how he wanted to look like his older brother, who has locs.
- 2. Fred Davis, right, strikes a pose with his Mustang at the Northside We Outside event in June.
- 3. Pastor Jerry McAfee speaks out against the transfer of a license for Merwin Liquors to We Push For Peace. The community has been in strong opposition to the store's problematic presence on the corner of West Broadway and Lyndale avenues for generations.





Clockwise from top left:

- 1. Anthony Taylor's Melanin in Motion program invited people of color to explore outdoor sports. Axel Lester, 4, rode the slopes for the first time.
- 2. Head varsity football coach Charles Adams dances with his team after securing a section championship title.
- 3. Former North High and WNBA standout now coaches the men's basketball team at Masabi Range College. "I let the world say what they want to say; legend, the goat, (and) trailblazer are things I let other people apply to my name. But I am very humbled by this ball right here. And I feel like my story is not fully written yet. I want to go as high as I can."



Clockwise from top:

- 1. Urban farming guru Michael Chaney dances his way to the front of the parade line on Juneteenth. He was this year's parade marshall.
- 2. Nakaiya Abdullah, center, became the first girl to complete a season on North High's football team.





- Clockwise from top:

 1. Pamela Weems twirls in a custom pink outfit at a breast cancer awareness event. Weems is a two-time breast cancer survivor and started the Pink Ladies, an awareness organization dedicated to providing support for African-American women who have been impacted by breast cancer.
- 2. Artist Loretta Day painted a mural on Plymouth Avenue North during this summer's Mural Fest.
- 3. A group of cousins took advantage of the open gates during football practice at North High and raced around on the field.









Clockwise from top:

- 1. Minneapolis Public Schools hosted an annual Powwow in September to celebrate the Native/Indigenous students and families in the district.
- 2. Kevin Alwaik, owner of Webber Mart, smiles at his cat, Maddi. Aldwaik has operated the store since 2014 and has become an integral part of the Webber/Camden community.





Kaleena Johnson looks at Saturn through the Hall STEM Academy's telescope. The academy is the only school in MPS to have the facility among elementary schools and was installed last year.



Solana Anderson prays for her son, Omar Brown, while he nears the end of his standout college season at the University of Nebraska and embarks on his dream to play in the NFL.

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Trailblazing aerospace engineer shoots for the moon with children's book

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

NEWS

An astronaut, a career many kindergartners dream of once and never again, stayed on Sideena Grace's mind until she graduated high school. The wonders of space kept her in awe of what she could be one day. But her dream was met with a harsh reality in college when she was the only Black woman pursuing an Applied Physics at Hamline University...

In 2021, Grace made history by becoming Hamline University's first Black woman to graduate with a degree in Applied Physics in the university's physics program. Her remarkable journey

continued as she immediately transitioned to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she stood out as the only Black woman in her 2021 cohort within the Aeronautics and Astronautics department.

This reality would put her on a trajectory of inspiring other young and aspiring scientists to reach for the stars regardless of the circumstances.

Her children's book, Adventures with Sideena: ABCs in Space, brings kids on a journey through space and offers a window into her own dream as an aerospace engineer.

"I wanted to create a book that can give children the opportunity to get the exposure to STEAM that I got," Grace said. She developed an interest in science while at Ascension Catholic School in North

During her final year at MIT, the weight of being one of the few Black people in STEAM academia led Grace to reflect on her journey as a Black woman in the field. Her story is one of determination and resilience, and it offers inspiration for aspiring scientists and engineers from

Continued on page 23



Sideena Grace. Photo provided by Sideena Grace





As tree bills hit the neighborhood, **Mitchel Hansen** had questions

By **David Pierini**, Editor

Mitchel Hansen is a gadfly, his persistence matched only by the green beetle currently eating its way through the Minneapolis tree canopy.

The emerald ash borer burrows under the bark of ash trees; Hansen gets under the skin of government officials who are being forced by him and other environmental justice advocates to change a tree removal policy that has stuck several fixed-income Northside residents with the

Hansen, the outreach coordinator for the Harrison Neighborhood Association, was among the first to see the growing hardships caused by tree condemnations and sounded the alarm

His obsession with data played a significant role in a group effort that capped a contentious year with several wins for residents. The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has committed to changes in engagement with disadvantaged communities, easier access to information and a growing list of hardship options now in place or in the

"I think Mitchel is a genuine human being who can put himself out there very courageously and be supportive of community members," said Roxxanne O'Brien, of Parks and Power, whose elderly mother received a tree removal order at her home. "And he was relentless, night and day, requesting data and trying to find anyone who would listen.'

What Hansen brought to the fight can be traced to a fast-moving sled near his home outside of Milwaukee, Wisc., when he was 6. He lost control of the sled and collided with a tree.

Brain energy

The accident left him with a traumatic brain injury. After he came around, new behaviors surfaced. Hansen was diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome, a condition known for obvious tics that can be difficult to quell.



Mitchel Hansen was among the first people to see a pattern of harm to low-income Northsiders caused by tree removal costs. Photo by David Pierini

Hansen grew up with relentless teasing and one of his tics, mimicking back what was said to him, frustrated teachers who kicked him out of class. He was later diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and obsessivecompulsive disorder.

The injury, the Tourette's and OCD gave Hansen a kind of superpower – an ability to hyperfocus. When something looked askew, Hansen would fixate on the thing causing the problem.

When a ball was kicked out of bounds in soccer, Hansen locked on the player designated to toss the ball in bounds. He'd repeat, "Throw the ball in, throw the ball in, throw the ball in."

Tourette's Syndrome also taught him how to read people. He could tell when people were focusing on his tics rather than what he was saying.

For Hansen, Tourette's is a condition, not a disability. Proof can be found in Grammy-winning singer Billy Ellish, soccer legend David Beckham and former Minnesota Twins and World Series champion Jim Eisenreich. Mozart, too.

about someone successful with my condition winning, or changing the world," Hansen said. "Even if we win a World Series, people still focus on our disorder instead of our unique abilities.

Tourette's Syndrome can walk up to a Neighborhood Association. After the first podium, speak truth to power, and not be couple of Harrison residents came to him afraid. We are smart, strong, powerful, and with tree orders and bills, he went to a

His mother passed when he was in college and the grief gutted him. "I was halls of power. in pretty bad shape," he said. As the going to help people," he said.

This revealed to him a clear path. After studying everything from technical writing and landscape architecture, he moved to Minneapolis to be with extended family. From his new home, he finished his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to the University of Minnesota for a master's dearee in social work.

created a Special Olympics team in Saint "Growing up, I never read or heard Paul in 2012, Later, he worked with kids

with severe emotional behavior. Hansen's experience growing up gave him the empathy to work with deeply troubled kids.

The emotional drain from the work led him to try something new. In 2020. "I want kids to see that someone with he accepted the job with the Harrison Green Zone meeting where he met O'Brien, a skilled organizer unafraid to challenge

Hansen is comfortable raising his voice depression made him question his life, he and using his abundant energy to fire off had an epiphany: "If I'm going to live, I am countless emails or data requests, develop his own maps showing tree removal hot zones, and question discrepancies he finds in timelines and other data points.

The emails went to forestry, the finance department and park board directors. He sent notes to anyone tied to trees, government or environmental justice. Through the emails, he connected with state workers, scientists, and city officials. Some on the team gave guidance, while As a social worker, Hansen co- others helped write a successful grant

Continued on page 23

Nonviolence 'Hub' comes to Lowry and Penn

By **Azhae'la Hanson**, Reporter

NEWS

Will Wallace was taking feedback about community safety from the residents of the Jordan and Cleveland neighborhoods when a grandma approached him and shared that she was too scared to walk down the street

The woman asked Wallace what he was going to do about her fear.

"I'm gonna take my responsibility to the next level," Wallace said he replied. "Starting a collective effort of organizations so that grandma doesn't have to leave the neighborhood."

The Non-Violence Peace Force began operations on the corner of Lowry and Penn earlier this fall and more are to follow in efforts to create a community safety hub. Will Wallace, program director of counteract fear with a safe space for the area, as the intersection has been known as a place needing intervention.

The collective of organizations that will occupy the building will be known as The Hub and Wallace says it will ease the stress of burnout that intervention organizations often face when they do the work alone.

Among the first to join The Hub is the Truce Center. Program director Miki Frost-Lewis brings his passion for youth mentorship from his other Truce Center in St. Paul. He said North Minneapolis has always been on his list for expansion.

"These kids are suffering from a lack of resources," Frost said. "Right here in this hot spot, we believe we can make some

The center features a computer lab, a peace kitchen, and a community room. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., community members access computers. From 3 p.m.-7 p.m., it is an afterschool center for youth for homework help, mentorship, community awareness, conflict resolution, depression and suicide prevention.

"I think when they first walk in, I just want to be able to take that tension that they may be experiencing," Frost-Lewis the Nonviolence Peace Force, hopes to said. "I want them to know that as soon



Will Wallace joined in a game meant to show how to build connections at The Hub's **grand opening.** Photo by Doretha Landers

as they walk in that [negative] energy dissipates from them and we start to work on whatever services they may need."

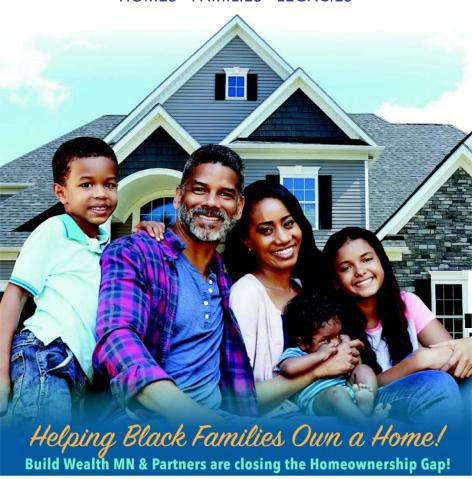
Several other organizations will join

The Hub in the coming weeks.

"I hope the community embraces this enough to make it theirs," Wallace said.







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Lady Polar basketball seeks to restore championship luster

NEWS

By Doretha Landers, North High School

Brianna Edwards remembers attending the girls' state basketball championship in 1999 and watching players like Tamara Moore and Tisa Mitchell obliterate their opponents. She went home that night and wrote "Lady Polar" on her bedroom door in

"I wanted to be a part of that legacy," Edwards said

As soon as she was eligible to play high school basketball, she ran to North High School's gym. She graduated from North in 2009 with a championship of her own. It was the last time the Lady Polars saw the limelight of the state tournament. Thirteen years later, Edwards has come back as North's head girls' varsity coach. She wants her team to restore the Lady Polars to a shining legacy.

"We have to start from scratch and start

with giving these girls what they deserve," Edwards said.

She said female athletes have always had to fight harder for resources. During her first coaching season last year, she spent a lot of her own money to get resources to her players and coaches that already existed for male sports at the high school. She began raising money this year with a goal of \$25,000 for basic necessities like uniforms and team meals and providing more training opportunities.

"Our objective is to get all the young babies in here and continue to keep playing because that's why North was successful," Edwards said. "We had the village then and we need to come together again and give it to these players now."

Kennedy Robinson, one of the varsity captains, said she and the team have accepted Edwards's challenge of becoming a better program.

"Coach Bri is teaching me that as long as I play the role my team needs me to play, it will all work out and we will become better together," she said.

Robinson stands out as a leader, shows up to practice on time and does what she can to be a team player, something Edwards has helped her with to apply on and off the

"My goal for the team is to grow together. To grow bonds that can carry on into adulthood and to become better young



Coach Brianna Edwards runs through plays with Mahogany Brown, left, and Brooklyn Pettis. Photo by Doretha Landers

women. And to push through and win," she

Edwards on the coaching staff this year as in November with two full Varsity and JV the junior varsity head coach. Mitchell won Squads. Varsity is off to a very strong start, two state championships in 1998 and 1999 with a winning record of 4-2 as of December with the Lady Polars.

"I'm trying to blaze the trail that someone blazed for me, that I blazed for Bri, that Bri's stay hungry. I think we could shake up this blazing for these girls," Mitchell said.

The Lady Polars' theme this season is "stay hungry." Edwards is hoping they will Tisa Mitchell, class of 2000, joins win their conference this year. Tryouts ended

> "If we could stay healthy, we could conference really bad," Edwards said.



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What was thrown away on West **Broadway gets a** second life as art

By David Pierini, Editor

West Broadway Avenue is full of history. Walk slowly up and down this welltraveled passage, it may offer the wanderer mysterious fragments of the past.

Seven contemporary art students from IXTA in North Minneapolis rescued bits and pieces from a life of litter, giving everyday detritus a new identity of art on a gallery wall. Led by their instructor Cameron Downey, the students scoured West Broadway for discarded objects and assembled sculptures from their finds.

They created an exhibit titled "Encounters," which will hang in the new JXTA Arts Center's new gallery, 2007 Emerson Ave., N., through Jan. 10.

Throughout history, artists have created works with found objects, incorporating items into sculpture, collage, and encaustic painting. It remains a popular tool to make a statement about contemporary society, play on nostalgia, or convey humor and absurdity by juxtaposing

"I wanted to give everybody the chance to hone their skills with their voices as artists and know what it feels like to be in conversation with the landscape," Downey said. "And collecting things, changing the life of an object is also a way to be in conversation community."

The seven artists - Ella Alden Pope, Cristina Lumppipo, Janai Ford, Henry Adams, Myles Pohlman, Harmonee Harrison and Tano Unpingco – took unique approaches to searching for the materials and why they created their final pieces.

Some found meaning in each object, in a way allowing something to whisper its secret, while others gathered and gathered, waiting for time in the studio to decide what to use. There was also a lot of swapping back and forth as artists saw the possibilities of arranging random objects into a cohesive piece.

"I felt like the things, instead of waiting for one to speak to me, they are speaking at the same time and vying for my attention," Myles Pohlman said. "I found random computer bits, a bunch of security tags, there was this really cool, black, almost chromatic glass... there's just so much interesting stuff,



Janai Ford, left, and Cristina Lumppio place a piece by Lumppio in the JXTA gallery before the exhibit's Dec. 7 opening. Photo by David Pierini

it was really hard to navigate."

Among the items found were slats of wood, a Nike shoe, scrap metal from both a washer and an oven, an entire marble countertop, a smoke alarm and several containers. How all of those things became art can only be answered by a visit to the JUXTA gallery before the show closes.

Henry Adams used objects that sounded musical when tapped with drumsticks. Music is so important to him, so it only seemed natural he creates a percussive piece that includes sticks for the viewer to play (Caution: this is the only piece in the show where tactile interaction

Ella Alden Pope used the white Nike shoe with red swoosh. She enshrined it in rusted metal and split the toe box, peeling it back a little to reveal a mouth full of metal

"I wanted to add an element of social relevance," Alden Pope said of the shoe. "I really wanted to talk about consumption and how that affects the Black community. My art stems from my own identity, and I think with this piece, I found a way to value something that's perceived as discarded."



Ella Alden Pope brought life, including a set of sharp teeth, to an old shoe. Photo by David Pierini

New MPS hire pushes esports and STEM initiative to curriculum

NEWS

By **Kiya Darden**, North High School

Minneapolis Public Schools recently hired an esports TOSA to connect esports to STEM curriculums across the district.

lacquie Lamm, a teacher on special assignment with MPS, came from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She is tasked with launching varsity esports programs across the district this school year. The district currently only has four esports programs, all of which are afterschool clubs. With the new collaboration, Lamm hopes to expand after-school esports programs and embed esports into the MPS K-12 curriculum.

"I believe students will be able to learn and adapt in a creative way. It's an alternative to traditional tests and notetaking," Lamm said.

Kay Lynn Wong, an esports club advisor and special education teacher at North High, is anticipating that this initiative will help bring inclusivity and diversity into the STEM curriculum. Gamers who may not possess elite athletic skills can compete to sports-like fanfare and through her esports club, students have been able to participate in school in a way they haven't before.

"Having a space in the building that's for non-athletics but you can also be considered an athlete is important," Wong

Last year, North placed second in Rocket League and top 16 in Super Smash Bros Ultimate during the esports state tournament last Spring.

Wong believes that normalizing gameplay in STEM and everyday learning will create better pathways toward a rapidly growing career industry. Esports reached professional status in 2013 and

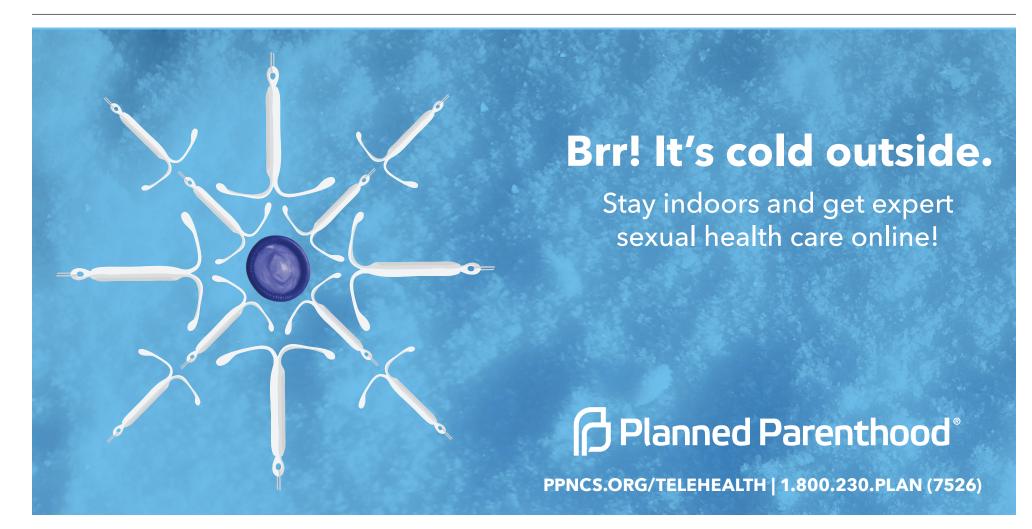


Ron Lynch is a sophomore who became a member of the gaming club last year. Photo by Azalea Petry-Towns

top gamers can average between \$12,000 students in their education," Wong said. to \$60,000 in annual earnings, the same as some entering tech fields.

"Gamifying education is not just finals that take place in spring 2024. about playing a game; it's about engaging

Wong and the esports team hope to have another successful year in the state



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Youth Club: St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 2901 Emerson Ave. N. grades 6-12. Wednesdays aat 6:30 p.m. Transportation available. To enroll, call 612-529-7726

Hockey for boys and girls ages 6-17: at North Commons Park and Northeast Arena during the months of November through February. All equipment is provided and the cost is minimal. Register and get more information at North Commons Park, 612-370-4921.

Safe Station: Struggling with substance abuse? Start your recovery journey at Minneapolis Fire Station 14, 2002 Lowry Ave. N., where a firefighter or recovery coach can help get you a variety of services. Open 24 hours. No judgment or shame. Safe Station is a partnership with the Twin Cities Recovery Project and the Minneapolis Fire Department.

Free legal advice: Legal Aid takes on civil cases, such as housing, family, consumer tax, immigration and public benefits. The non-profit organization now has a clinic in the office of the Harrison Neighborhood Association, 1501 Glenwood Ave. Services are free for those who qualify. Must be 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines or age 60-plus. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Walkins welcome, but appointments are preferred. Call 612-746-3611 to make an appointment.

Homework help: Sumner Library, which is closed for the next year for renovation, has a temporary site on at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N. Limited service includes homework help, computer access, onsite technology assistance and printing and copying. Free tutoring and help with homework runs each Monday and Thursday from 4-7 p.m.

The Healing Place: The Healing Place is back at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Ave. N. It is committed to healing trauma in the Black community by helping to break the cycle of oppression. It is a safe space if you need a prayer, a conversation or just a place to sit. Every Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Food Distribution: Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 3355 4th Street N., will distribute free fresh food on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 10 DavidP@pillsburyunited.org.

a.m.-noon. There are no pre-qualifications. Evervone is welcome.

Free Dinners: The Camden Collective and the Sanneh Foundation sponsor a weekly free food pickup at Salem Lutheran Church, 4150 Dupont Ave. N., each Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Call 612-521-3644 for more information. Walkups are welcome.

Pet supplies: Are you in need of pet supplies or pet resources? The North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center, 1401 44th Ave. N., is open for curbside pickup Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 764-273-0710 to place an order and leave

Radio updates in your language: Tune into Minneapolis's cultural radio programs for COVID-19 updates. The city is broadcasting updates on KMOJ 89.9 FM (English), La Raza 95.7 FM (Spanish), KALY 101.7 FM (Somali) and WIXK AM 1590

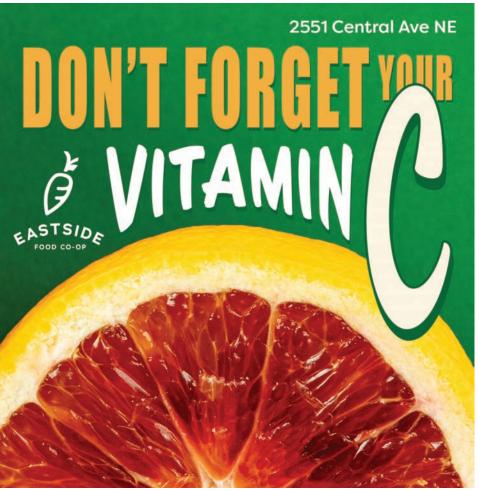
Minneapolis Ward 4 contact info: If you live in Ward 4 and want to reach City Councilwoman LaTrisha Vetaw, contact Maggie Kohl via email: maggie.kohl@ minneapolismn.gov or cell: 612-258-3982. Contact Betsy Brock with other needs via email: betsy.brock@minneapolismn. gov or cell: 612-257-5242. You can also reach Vetaw via email: latrisha.vetaw@ minneapolismn.gov or cell: 612-322-1143.

Minneapolis Ward 5 contact info: If you live in Ward 5 and want to reach City Councilman Ieremiah Ellison, call his office at 612-673-2205 or email him at ward5@ minneapolismn.gov. You can also contact his policy associate Bethny Turnwall at bethany.turnwall@minneapolismn.gov

Hennepin County District 2 contact info: To reach Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando, call 612-348-7882 or email her at irene.fernando@hennepin. us. For constituent services contact policy aide Bill Emory at 612-348-3526 or at bill. emory@hennepin.us

Minneapolis Public Schools, District 2: Sharon El-Amin is the Board of Education director representing North Minneapolis. She can be reached at 612-986-3281 or Sharon.El-Amin@mpls.k12.mn.us

Do you have an ongoing program, meeting or event you would like to see published in North News? Please send the details to





Patrick Henry Name Change Continued from page 5

NEWS

students presented at site council with adults in strong opposition to the change and took on grueling and discouraging comments from the adults in the room.

"Our students came back and were almost defeated." Abdullah said.

Fuel was the word that came to Rankins mind when he recalled that day. "Fuel to the fire," Rankin said.

By the time Rankin was a senior, the group wasn't able to gain enough momentum for the change to happen, but he noticed a change amongst the student and staff body that was a monumental step for the group: people were talking.

"People knew here and there about the history of Patrick Henry, but by the time I left, a majority of the people had a standpoint," he said.

He remembers frequent debates in class and in the halls, people expressed how they felt, and what once was not well known was common conversation.

"We had succeeded in that way. People talking is how movements grow," Rankin said.

He left, understanding that although he didn't get the support to change the name that year, the effort would continue on. And it did. Five years later, he is able to witness his efforts pay off.

"I knew that if it were right, someone would finish the course," Rankin said.

In 2022, former Minneapolis Public Schools board member Kimberly Caprini sponsored the vote to change the name of Patrick Henry High School. It was approved unanimously and thus began the process for finding a new name.

"When this all started, a lot of people said the students were trying to change history. But you can't change history," Caprini said. "Every student that has walked through those halls will still have their memories and you can't take those things away. But what you can do is create a space in a community that is present."

Students consulted with community and local middle schools and of several hundred submissions, Camden High School appeared as one of the top choices against Victory High School.

"Camden" is a name of Scottish descent, meaning 'winding valley', and it is also the name of the surrounding neighborhood in North Minneapolis where the high school is located.

"I asked the students, 'What's the difference between a moment and a movement?' It's a sacrifice." Abdullah said. "Over the course of the year, staff, to sacrifice a lot in the site council meetings STEAM enthusiasts.

that were filled with 300 opposers to the name and understandably so. But change had to happen, and it did. So my heart is full of joy."

The name will go into effect on July 1. The decision on rebranding the school colors and mascot is up for the high school to decide on their own.

Aerospace Engineer **Continued from page 15**

underrepresented backgrounds.

Some of the toughest times pursuing both degrees in physics and aerospace engineering came not from the curriculum itself, but proving that she deserved to be in the room. Inspired by her own experiences, she started her company, Grace Innovations, LLC and wrote a book prior to graduating from MIT this past June. Through Grace Innovations, LLC, as

an Aerospace Engineer, Grace is working to create innovative products for both earth and hopefully space. One of her products is a pain relief product that she hopes to be used in space. She wrote and self-published her children's book Adventures with Sideena: ABCs in Space to introduce Black and Brown children to STEAM and make them feel that they belong and have a place in science and space exploration.

The book features Sideena as the main character and serves as a unique tool to introduce children to the world of STEAM through a person of color. She tours schools in an astronaut suit and shares her story to audiences of young minds. Using the ABC's and poetry, Grace hopes to make science more engaging and accessible to kids to keep their dreams of being an astronaut

encouraging students, especially Black and Brown students to pursue these careers in STEAM," Grace inclusive, then what's the point? I am on a mission to change the mindset of design."

The book is now available on Amazon and sgraceinnovations.com. It can be requested to be placed in public libraries.

"I realized that I could do more than iust admire scientists and engineers like Mae Jemison; I decided to become both - a scientist and engineer," she said, "My goal is to inspire every child to believe they can be the next trailblazer. I want them not just to admire me, but to envision themselves becoming scientists, engineers, or even

Despite the challenges, Grace still dreams of one day going to space, people embodying the very essence of the dreams students, and community ended up having she aims to inspire in the next generation of

Mitchel Hansen Continued from page 16

proposal that awarded the city \$8 million to help defray the costs for people on fixed incomes. But not for those already assessed the costs.

It was a start, though, Park Board Supt. Al Bangoura began to search for donors that could cover folks assessed further back. On Dec. 1, the park board announced it had received a \$500,000 grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Fund to cover some of the city's most needy property owners.

"Mitchel became my data quy," Bethany Turnwell, senior policy aide for City Councilman Jeremiah Ellison. "If I need some insight on a topic, especially around emerald ash borer, it's not a small set of data. He's like, 'Let me just dump this entire information on you.' He has this ability to dig deep into a topic and see the nuance that exists. He can see how the nuance harms other people."

One staff member privately said MPRB adopted some of Hansen's ideas since the backlash began.

Becka Thompson, who represents the Northside, and Bangoura, have publicly acknowledged the change that is resulting from feedback from residents and activists. Those changes include the new grant and donations to help with tree removal costs and better communication in multiple languages with communities around tree removals and education on tree treatment when it's an option. MPRB staff improved the website and adopted a 20-year option for spreading costs on property taxes.

The board voted on Dec. 6 to pause tree removals so that more people who need help can be eligible when applications begin for the \$8 million fund.

Bangoura said the community made said. "But if we don't have things that are an excellent case to the Cargill fund that will be used to help low-income property owners going back to last year.

"I want to make sure I express my gratitude to community," Bangoura said. "This (donation) was (because) of a lot of people. We did the backend work, but the community expressed their concerns. They were very vocal and we heard them. So, I want to say thank you."

It would be against Hansen's nature to relax and feel MPRB will do right moving forward. His data searches have helped him connect dots that go beyond ash trees and give him insights into what may motivate some of the city's most influential

"I'm glad people are getting help, but it's hard to see the toll that this takes on them," he said.



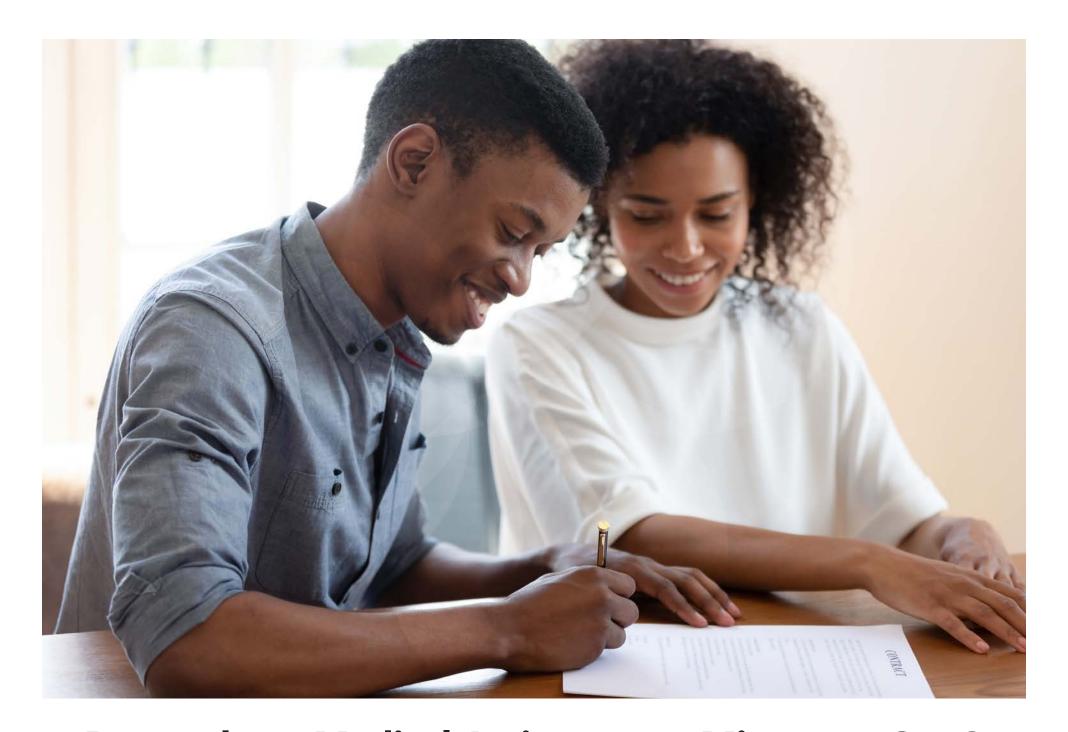


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