

NORTH NEWS

March 31, 2023

Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis

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Moore in the making

Northsider Tamara Moore leads the Mesabi Range men's team on and off the court.

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Remembering Auntie Beverly
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Franklin Middle School students write about experience with COVID. Page 7

Parks Board schedules listening sessions on tree removals.
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Tamara Moore runs defensive drills before their match against Rochester Community College.
Photo by Azhae'la Hanson





Letter from the Editor David Pierini

If high school has a special place in our hearts, then middle school occupies a deep pit in our stomachs.

We cringe when we think about grades 6, 7 and 8. I can still smell a bully's breath and I shrink when I remember how I blew out the crotch of some tight-fitting pants at the Sadie Hawkins dance.

Cliques, pimples, hormones, horrifying scenes in mirrors...Some of us, decades later, are still processing these cruelly confusing years?

In the midst of all that is middle school, imagine this age group being forced to accept the unpredictable terms of a global pandemic.

COVID-19 still lingers though it is not the menace it was in 2020. Vaccines and antiviral treatments are effective defenses against a fast-spreading disease that was filling hospitals and morgues. A very dark time in the world continues to shrink in our rear-view mirror.

But a sticky residue remains for kids who went to bustling schools one week and found themselves shut out of public spaces the next. Schools, recreation centers, the mall and other places kids might converge were shuttered.

Angel Dwyer's students at Franklin Middle School are still trying to make sense of the two or so years they feel they lost. Many were just months away from a fifth-grade graduation. That was gone. Some spent fifth grade in a virtual classroom only to find themselves in middle school when schools reopened.

She could see COVID's impact in their grades, emotions and in the awkward and sometimes tense relationships with peers.

There is no medicine that could restore what was lost, but Dwyer's anecdote for them was to prompt them to write about their experiences, feelings and how being isolated for a period of time shaped their current understanding of life.

On three pages starting with Page 7, we bring you essays, poems and even a psychological illustration from Dwyer's students. Asking a middle schooler to open up to difficult feelings and experiences of any topic can seem near impossible; however Dwyer seems able to convince her students of the healing properties of writing.

Their words will bring pause to your day. It may also make you giggle and some of the essays will have you wipe away

tears. If this feature looks familiar, it is because our first collaboration with Dwyer's reading class was last year when her students wrote about living with the specter of violence in their community.

The students felt empowered by the exercise, proud to see their byline in print and readers raved about what they shared.

We had to do it again, plus there is no way to say no to Dwyer. She loves and teaches fiercely. We're all better for it.



Cashmere Hamilton-Grunau took in the vast Xcel Energy Center during the state high school wrestling tournament in early March. Photo by Azah'e'la Hanson

North athlete 'in good spirits' after being shot on walk home

By Azha'e'la Hanson, Reporter

Cashmere Hamilton-Grunau, a standout wrestler and football lineman at North High, is recovering after being shot in the legs while walking home the night of March 22.

Hamilton-Grunau was walking home with a friend on the 2100 block of 8th Avenue North when they were approached by a car full of teenagers who asked if the two were in a gang. Hamilton-Grunau became scared and fled. Someone in the car opened fire, striking him twice in the right leg and once in the left. One bullet will remain lodged in his right leg for life, the

Star-Tribune reported.

Known by friends and family as Cash, Hamilton-Grunau recently finished an outstanding wrestling season at the state champion tournament, leading the team in wins and helping usher in a new winning era for the North High program (A story about the team's trip to the state tournament is on page 19).

Coach Andrew Caprichio visited Hamilton-Grunau in the hospital that night and said his wrestler was alert and engaging.

"He won't be having surgery and is expected to recover," Caprichio said. "I visited him last night and he's in good

spirits."

Hamilton-Grunau was to be released from the hospital after a few days.

At the start of the next school day, students gathered with Principal Mauri Friestleben to share notes to Cashmere on Facebook live.

"They are dealing a lot, with what I would argue is an abnormal and atypical heaviness that age them beyond their years," Friestleben said.

The school is still grieving the loss of Deshaun Hill, a quarterback for the Polars who was fatally shot last winter.

"This shouldn't be an occurrence," said Hamilton-Grunau's teammate, Noah

Tietjen. "He doesn't gangbang," said another friend.

Kiyon Watkins-Jefferson, a classmate who was in the area when the shooting occurred offered his classmate this message: "There's a lack of young men in our community. Young men don't prey on the innocent. Young men lead by example. They are beneficial to their environment and they look for tangible skills to practice. I want to see more like-minded men in my area, not destroyers, but builders of the future, of the community and of unity so we can work on the real problems that we face. We wish you a speedy recovery, Cash."

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Friends, family and artist mourn the passing of Beverly Cottman

By David Pierini, Editor

From her library of African fables and folktales, storyteller Beverly Cottman offered a blessing that, in part, gave thanks to the ancestors for the lessons they left behind. Call their names and know they are listening.

The teacher, artist and the beloved griot known as Auntie Beverly joined the village of ancestors on March 11, passing away in her sleep during a trip to Egypt with friends. She had just turned 80.

Not long after the news of her passing was posted on Facebook by Kenna Cottman, tributes poured in from across the country. There were messages from storytelling groups and former students of her science class at North High. Others were artists who had grown from the gentle encouragement of Cottman and her husband, Bill, a photographer and writer. Their roles in promoting the arts in North Minneapolis continue to flourish.

Friends raised more than \$6,000 to bring Beverly Cottman home from Egypt. A day-long celebration of life was planned for March 31.

While grief over her sudden passing is profound, others found comfort in the

image of Cottman reunited with her husband, who died on Dec. 8, 2021. Some saw them as dancing again or walking hand-in-hand like kids.

"It's like a lot of people are going on the altar," said Roger Cummings, co-founder and chief cultural producer at Juxtaposition Arts, where the elder Cottmans were board members. "That's sad... And on some level it makes us strong because you know they're going to be looking after us and helping us out."

Cummings said Cottman's warmth will endure. In conversation, she had a big, easy smile and often placed a gentle hand on the arm of the person across from her.

Beverly Cottman was born in California in 1943 and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. She met her husband, Bill, while both were students at Howard University. They graduated in 1967, married that same year and moved to Minneapolis, where Bill took a job as an engineer with Honeywell.



Auntie Beverly helped Yoyo Brown, 6, weave a Mkeka, a mat on which rests the symbols of Kwanzaa at Sumner Library in December. Photo by David Pierini



Beverly Cottman leading a Kwanzaa celebration at Sumner Library in December. Photo by David Pierini

Ebrima Sarge have performed for the troupe. Jameson runs youth programming for KRSM radio.

Beverly Cottman was a science teacher for more than 30 years. She was a resident artist for COMPAS, an arts education nonprofit organization in Saint Paul.

"Every last bit of her art has a story to tell. These stories come from being African American and wanting to understand our hidden history. A lot of people say when you lose an elder, you lose a library."

Keiona Cook

"My first experience as a performing storyteller happened at a birthday-party for my granddaughter," Cottman said in a 2019 interview on the COMPAS website. "The children were enthralled by the simple stories of the Little Red Hen and Zomo the Rabbit. I felt good telling them."

"Afterwards, I realized that I had been telling stories as a science teacher for a long time. I had helped students understand complex ideas by putting them in story form and had made historical figures more accessible by telling the stories of their lives and work."

Last September, Cottman offered a blessing for youth, elders and ancestors at the 32nd Annual Black Master Storytellers Festival. In December for Kwanzaa, families gathered at the Sumner Library to hear her tell stories. Afterward, Cottman, family and friends helped children weave Mkeka mats. The mats hold the symbols of Kwanzaa and represent the idea that nothing can be built without first laying a foundation.

Storytelling was not the only art form she practiced. She considered herself an "interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary arts. She wrote poetry and created collage and found-object sculptures. She was an early member of the Ananya Dance Theatre, a contemporary dance troupe rooted in social justice and calls to action.

African heritage, social justice and the transfer of wisdom were unifying threads in all Cottman created. Also attached to everything she created was a story.

Friend and fashion designer Keiona Cook said everything Cottman created was with a teacher's love and sensibility.

"Every last bit of her art has a story to tell," Cook said. "When I do my work, designing couture garments, my work tells a story. These stories come from being African American and wanting to understand our hidden history."

"A lot of people say when you lose an elder, you lose a library."

Aerospace firm will launch manufacturing facility in North Minneapolis

By David Pierini, Editor

Construction for a new manufacturing plant will begin later this year on West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis and when it gets ready for production, the call for workers will read something like this:

Wanted: Northsiders interested in building spaceships and satellites.

The RiverNorth Development Partners and Eden Prairie-based aerospace firm ION Corp. announced a partnership on March 10 to build a plant at the intersection of West Broadway and Washington avenues. The announcement was made at the offices of the Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation and attended by several local leaders in government, business and non-profit organizations.

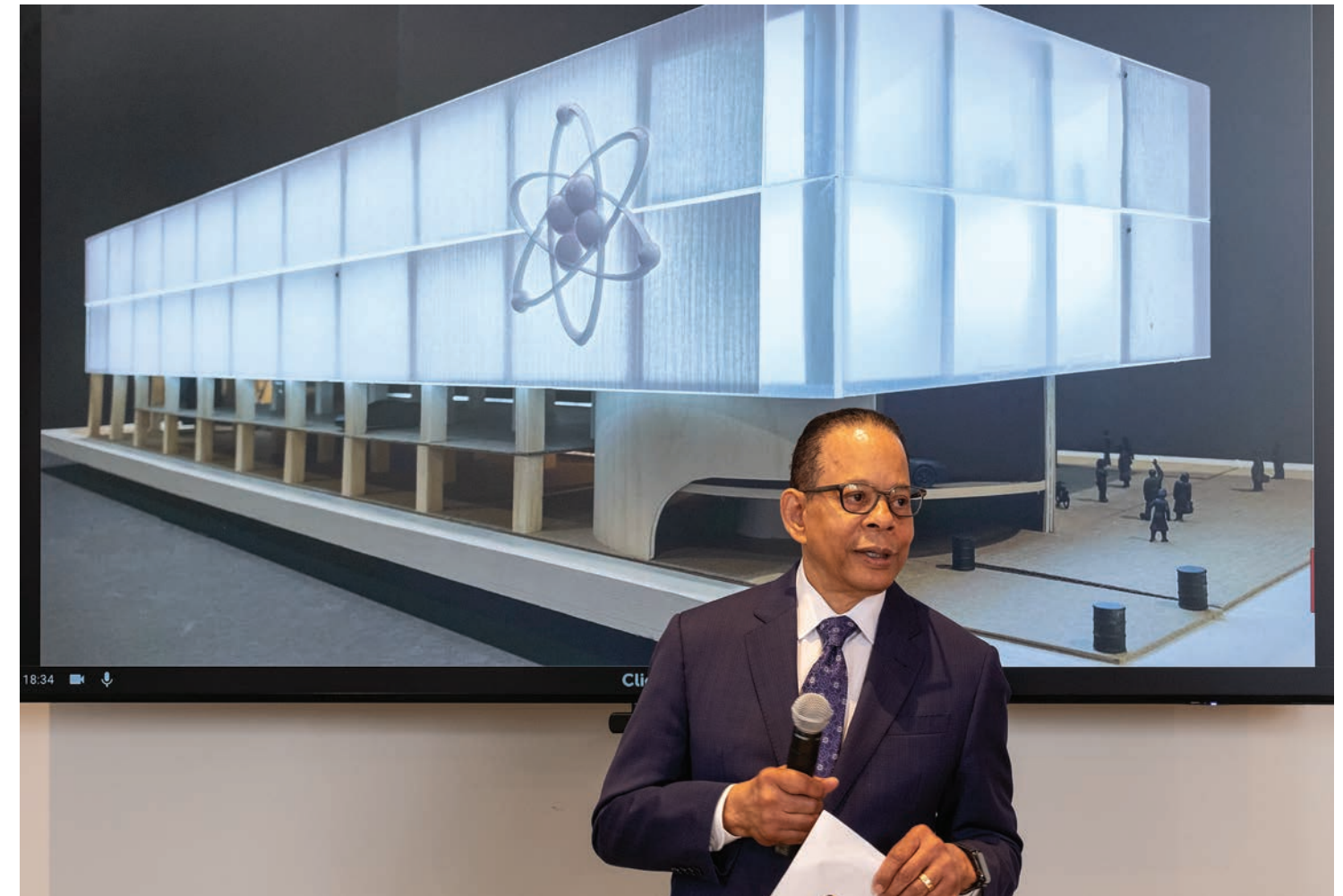
"For me, this project represents a love that I've had in North Minneapolis since I was a boy. I have been fortunate in business and I now want to give back to the community."

Wendell Maddox, ION Corp. founder

The ION facility, which will be located at 201 W. Broadway Ave. N., will create more than 100 jobs and generate projected revenues as high as \$24 million.

Anthony Taylor, managing director of RiverNorth Development Partners, said the ION expansion was borne out of talks among local thought leaders after the police murder of George Floyd.

Taylor said the group wanted to find a way to create development that focuses on equity by attracting businesses with shared values, businesses that would invest in the Northside and deliver on the promise of good-paying jobs for Northsiders. RiverNorth Develop Partners was formed



Wendell Maddox, ION Corp. founder and CEO, made a commitment to build a aerospace manufacturing facility on West Broadway Avenue. Photo by David Pierini

and The ION facility is its first project.

"We believe this will be a catalyst for our shared aspirations for North Minneapolis to be a vital and thriving community," said Anthony Taylor, managing director of RiverNorth Development Partners. "We see this as a trajectory toward wealth creation."

ION Corp. has operated for 37 years making components for the aviation, defense and space industries. Its founder, Wendell Maddox, is a southsider who grew up boxing and playing football at the Phyllis Wheatley Center.

Not only did he become transfixed by the images of the first man stepping on the moon, he went on to serve on several advisory panels with the man he watched on TV that day in 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong. The two became friends.

"I think this is going to be something people will be able to replicate in other minority areas around the country," Maddox said "For me, this project represents a love that I've had in North Minneapolis since I was a boy. I have been fortunate in business and I now want to give back to the community."

ION has designed and built components for the James Webb space telescope, the Mars rover and the rockets that will eventually send astronauts toward Mars. Taylor said RiverNorth and ION will work to develop training programs that serve as a pipeline for Northsiders to work for the aerospace company.

Maddox said the annual payroll will be more than \$10 million and the workforce will include engineers and about 70 jobs for aerospace technicians, positions that require a high school diploma. Starting wages will range between \$25 and \$75 per hour.

The ION facility will be 112,800 square feet of manufacturing and research space. If construction begins this fall, the facility

could be up and running by the first quarter of 2025.

"This will result in NASA getting wonderful benefits from the incredible people here on the Northside," Mayor Jacob Frey said. "This will make a big difference for a whole lot of people."

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This project was funded at least in part with Federal funds from USDA.

catch up with our Council Members

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.



WARD 4:
LaTrisha Vetaw



Happy Spring, Ward 4! It has been a long winter and we are so happy that it is finally spring. Here is an update on two exciting things to look forward to this spring:

Minneapolis 2040 Plan Land Use Rezoning

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan, the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) is making progress on The Land Use Rezoning Study.

As required by state law, this project will eliminate conflicts between the City's comprehensive plan and zoning regulations. It includes an overhaul of the City's zoning map and will establish new zoning districts and development standards. Following the comprehensive plan's lead, the project is centered around advancing equity, supporting small business retention, the environment, and expansion. It will:

- Replace existing primary zoning districts with new districts that better align with Minneapolis 2040 policies
- Allow a wider range of goods and service (commercial) uses in more districts to meet daily needs of residents
- Ban establishment of new heavy polluting uses
- Require first floor activity in some commercial mixed-use and production mixed-use development
- Eliminate some overlay districts in

favor of regulations that apply more broadly to all development

The public engagement process was completed on March 26th after being extended for an additional 30 days. The approval and adoption process begins with a public hearing at the Planning Commission on April 24th at 4:30 pm in City Hall room 317. For more details as well as answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.minneapolis2040.com/overview/

Community Commission on Police Oversight

The City of Minneapolis is now reviewing applications for the new 15-member Community Commission on Police Oversight (CCPO). The city received over 160 applications for the commission, which will convene for the first time in late April.

This is a very high number of applicants for a single appointed body within the City's enterprise and far surpasses the number of applicants typically received for the Police Conduct Oversight Commission (PCOC), the former police oversight body.

The new commission will include 15 members – 13 will be appointed by the City Council (one per ward) and two appointed by the mayor. The civilian commissioners will serve as review panels on a rotating basis to review investigations of alleged police misconduct. As panelists, they will have direct access to investigatory case files being reviewed and provide recommendations on the merits of misconduct allegations that will be forwarded to the Chief of Police. When a panel recommends a finding of merit for allegations of misconduct, the panel will recommend an appropriate range of corrective actions.

The work of the full commission will take place during public meetings, which will provide an opportunity for residents to observe presentations, listen to discussions and provide public input. The city sought applicants

Continued on page 23



WARD 5:
Jeremiah Ellison



This past month has offered many exciting and productive events in our Ward and State. I had the honor of joining the Mayor, Councilmember Rainville, Elfric Porte, Director of Housing Policy and Development in CPED and David Wellington of Wellington Management at a press conference to highlight the historic number of affordable housing units which started construction in Minneapolis in the last year. We are producing more deeply affordable housing than we ever have in the city's history. Deeply affordable means units that are available at or lower than 30 percent of the area median income which can translate to a family of four making about \$35,000 a year. The city closed on 264 deeply affordable housing for rent in 2022 compared to 41 average annual closing between 2011 and 2018 with the majority being in our Ward. We are producing more than six times the amount of deeply affordable, low-income housing than we did in the past seven years. I will continue to advocate for this throughout our Ward and city.

I was happy to be engaged with ION Corporation as they announced an expansion to the Northside. ION Corporation is a local, BIPOC-owned aerospace engineering company headquartered in Eden Prairie. They are looking to expand operations to a second facility to be built as Phase 1 of the RiverNorth Development on West Broadway Ave. ION provides a

variety of scientific, engineering, and custom manufacturing services to its clientele, such as NASA, Boeing and Lockheed Martin. This manufacturing facility will be bringing over 100 jobs to West Broadway Ave. 50-75% of those jobs will be available to our community who only have a high school diploma and with starting wages between \$25-\$75/hr with a career trajectory. Plans call for breaking ground this fall with completion in the first quarter of 2025.

At a press conference on March 7, 2023, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison announced that he has served investigative demands on automakers Kia and Hyundai as part of a civil investigation linked to an explosion of vehicle thefts that have wreaked havoc on the lives of consumers. The purpose of the civil investigation is to determine whether these two companies violated state consumer protection and public nuisance laws by knowingly selling Minnesotans vehicles that lacked industry-standard, anti-theft technology. "At the end of the day, the problems is caused by two companies that decided that they could earn a larger profit by excluding the immobilizers that are industry standard, that every other vehicle has," said St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, appearing at the news conference with AG Ellison and his Minneapolis counterpart Jacob Frey. "They've made millions of dollars off selling those vehicles, they've created enormous cost in terms of lives lost, in terms of property damage, in terms of people inconvenienced, and most certainly in terms of cost to taxpayers as a result of the enormous response our cities have to make when these crimes occur." Our office applauds Attorney General Ellison, Mayor Carter, and Mayor Frey for their leadership on this issue. I appreciated the opportunity to attend this press conference and

Continued on page 23

Coming of age during COVID

Looking back at the three years since COVID shook education in isolated directions, my middle school students reflected on the ways distance learning, social separation, and new norms affected them. Although all lost in some ways, whether it was passion for a school subject, the passing of family members, or making pivotal memories with friends, most also gained a new appreciation for golden moments easily taken for granted, such as the taste of candy, hugging a loved one, and following a school routine.

For my seventh and eighth grade reading students, writing and art have been powerful coping mechanisms that allow reflection, processing, and the creation of honest ideas to replace what was taken or destroyed. As these students focus internally on their own experiences, I hope readers are able to connect in meaningful ways to their stories. The underlining theme is one of hope and optimism; that while these chapters come to a close, the entire story isn't finished yet, and there is plenty of time to rewrite the ending in new directions.

Angel Dwyer, Reading Teacher, Franklin STEAM Middle School, Minneapolis

Student reflections continued on page 8



My'Ana Morgan decided she could best express how she felt during the pandemic with this illustration.



'Instead of hugging, I texted, I love you.'

By **Ja'mari Robinson**, Eighth grade

When I first heard about COVID, I really did not feel any type of way. I didn't understand COVID. I just knew that you could get it. I worried that my family would get it. I wondered if animals could get it. I wondered if I would get it. Then I got it.

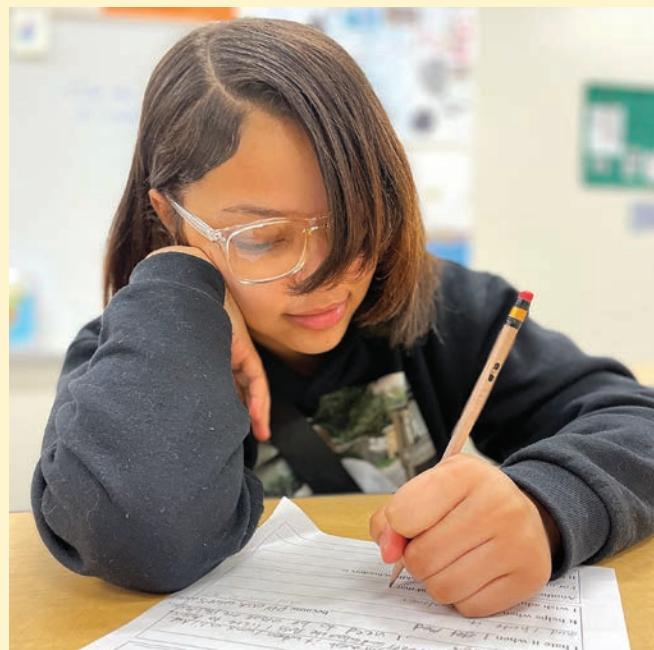
At first, COVID separated me from my dogs. I missed my dogs playing with me. I felt like a prisoner in my room. All I wanted was to play with my dogs.

Over time, COVID also took my family away. Not like dead, but like hugging them. I missed hugging my mom, my dad, and my sister and brother. Instead of hugging them, I texted them, I love you. It was painful when I had to lay in my bed all day. I felt helpless when I just had to play on my TV instead of playing with my dogs. I just wished that I never had COVID. COVID did make me appreciate spending time with my dogs. I realized I took things for granted such as my family. I didn't mind having COVID, but I still want to play with my dogs. I actually enjoyed playing with my family.

I remember hearing I had COVID. I remember looking outdoors and noticing the smell of pool water.

The taste of candy for a while was also a memory. I tried to eat chocolate but it tasted like nothing. This made me sad because it was how I knew I had COVID. This memory is important to me because I had COVID three or four times.

Because of COVID, we had to lay in our beds and wait to feel better. I learned that no matter what, never give up on life. You should keep going. You have more time to live. You still got power. It's easy to feel mad and sad. It's harder to feel happy or kind. Everyone needs a better life. It is 2023, not 2020.



A chance to show love to grandma

By **Rayeona Peoples**, Seventh grade

When I first heard about COVID, I felt like I didn't really care because I didn't know what COVID could do to people. I didn't understand how it got here or how you can get it or give it to people. Now, I worry about people being

healthy. I wonder if COVID will ever get over. Is COVID going to get bigger, bigger than what it is nowadays? I didn't know so many people died from COVID.

At first, COVID took my freedom, like going where I want to go and seeing the people I want to see, and going to my sister's house. I missed that. I couldn't see my mom and sister and my friends and family for about two months. Also, I missed going to the mall with my friends and going places with my mom and my grandma. Instead of going with my friends, I had to stay in my room for one month. I felt like a bird in a cage that couldn't fly and go nowhere. All I wanted was my family and friends and to go places with friends and family.

On the other hand, COVID made me appreciate not having to go to school with all the kids and drama. I didn't mind helping my grandma. It gave me a chance to show her some love.

I actually enjoyed helping my grandma and being in the house with her and knowing that she was good. Going through COVID has made me realize that many people died from it and lost family members.

COVID took the freedom that I used to have. However, COVID also made me appreciate my Grandma's care and help. At times, I felt sad because I didn't get to see my friends daily. I think seventh-graders have had a hard time getting up and going to school. Because of COVID, we had to stay in the house and not see people. I learned that no matter what, you should help your elders and anyone who needs help. Treat people how you want to be treated.



A soft pillow for comfort

By **Tasheanna Roberts**, Eighth grade

When I first heard about COVID, I felt sad. It was summer. I didn't understand what COVID was. I heard it was like a disease. I worried that my family wouldn't be safe, especially my little baby cousins and my brother and sister. I wondered if everyone was going to be ok. I

didn't know how people could get the sickness. At first, COVID took my freedom to go to school. I missed spending time with my family.

I missed hanging out with friends. Instead of being sad, I was happy because I could spend time with my brothers,

my sister, and my mom. I felt like a tiger in a zoo because I got my freedom taken away. All I wanted was to go back to school and spend time with my grandma.

On the other hand, COVID made me appreciate spending time with family, talking, and playing games together. I realized I took things for granted such as eating meals together with my family. Thanks to COVID, we got split up. I didn't mind spending time at home because when I was at school it was rough. I was getting picked on. I actually enjoyed staying home and getting more sleep with the soft pillow in my room that I share with my siblings.

Going through COVID has made me realize I should not take stuff for granted. You should always be grateful for whatever you get. COVID made me appreciate how much my mom does for us.

COVID took a lot of peoples' freedoms. At times I felt sad because I couldn't see friends. It was lonely even though I had my brothers and sisters. And other times I felt mad because I couldn't get space away from my brothers and sisters. We all had to stay at home and do nothing except for picking up and cleaning. I think eighth-graders have had to overcome their fears and fight harder because a lot of kids were taking their anger on other kids during COVID.

Because of COVID, we had to stay at home to do school over Zoom and it was really loud in my house so it was hard to focus. I learned that no matter what, never give up and always have hope that COVID will go away.



The loss of a father

By **Whitney Holley**, Seventh grade

Teenagers these days need to mature and realize right from wrong. They need to do the right thing. Teenagers like me feel depressed, damaged, trapped, controlled, and hurt. Sometimes being depressed makes it hard to eat, sleep, go outside, be active, express how we really feel, and vent to others. For me, it's the opposite. I want to get outside to clear my mind.

I think most teenagers struggle with a lack of attention, love, and support. I struggle with depression, built-up anger, and heartbreak. When I feel depressed, I sleep all day and don't leave my room. I hate it when people ask me if I'm okay over and over. It only makes me think about whatever made me not okay in the first place. Sometimes it helps when I eat food and go to sleep, but not all the time.

I really started this depression phase when I lost my father a few years ago. When I got the call, I just broke down. I was supposed to go see him in a few days. My dad and I had some good memories. Ever since then, I haven't seen my mother the same. I try to stay strong for her because I don't like seeing her

cry or sad, so I always do my best and watch over my siblings.

When I need to clear my mind I go to my room and listen to music while cleaning something. Sometimes it helps me when I talk to someone with the same emotions as me. They will have a better understanding of where I'm coming from. But it isn't always easy to trust others. People might make you feel welcome but they could be using you. That's another reason why I like to be alone. I don't trust most people. It seems like you are there every time somebody needs you but as soon as you need someone, nobody's there for you. I had to learn that the hard way. Whenever someone needs someone to talk to, I try to listen. I don't want any more kids killing themselves because of depression. I try not to do anything that's going to leave me dead or in the hospital because I know the impact it's going to have on the world. It's easy for me to feel sad because everything in my world is falling apart and it's starting to get harder to keep a smile on my face.

I think if teens have more love in their lives and more attention they would be happier. Everyone needs someone to remind them why they are on this Earth, to tell them why they are worth it and that they are loved.



Teens need self-care

By **Noemy Zhanay**, Eighth grade

It can be difficult to be a teenager. A lot of them have difficult times with their feelings. Teenagers like me feel stress and depression. They feel bad about themselves.

I think most teens struggle with body

image and do not like the way they look. In my life, I struggle with feeling good about myself. Sometimes I don't like how I look. When I feel this, it makes it hard to care about myself for who I am. I hate when people change who they are for someone or to fit in, but I understand sometimes you have to fit in.

Recently, I've been stressed about going to high school. It can be difficult to feel safe nowadays. There is a lot of violence out there. A lot of families lose their children to violence. I've learned to handle stress by drawing or talking to God about my day or how I feel. I also talk to my cousin.

I want people to have better days since there is a lot of struggle, especially for those who come to the United States. I hope people do not make others feel bad about themselves. Coming here is not easy and they're already having difficult times.

It's easy to feel insecure about yourself. Sometimes you can feel like people are looking at you, judging you or talking behind your back.

It's hard to trust people. You worry others will tell your secrets. Everyone needs someone that they can trust and feel safe to talk to. We all need ways to make each other feel good and not make others feel insecure.

Eighth-graders deal with family stresses. For me, I have good parents that support me in every way. I'm thankful to have supportive parents.

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SSI is for people with low income and financial resources, who are either 65 or older, or an adult or child with a disability or blindness.



Produced at SSI: 10/2022



Me, Myself, and My Life

By **Sade Comer**,
Eighth grade

The start of my year of 2023
Needs improvement.
My uncle died
And I was the one to find him
In his bed just laying there and
Every time I looked at him or walked
Past him, it broke my heart
That I had to stay in that house alone
With no reason to wake up.
I had been trying to help him for a long time
But he is to rest now.
With all that happening to me
I was so sad and i'm sad to this day.
That man was the reason i did not leave
My house. I stayed because i knew
People had it worse than me
And i knew my uncle needed my help
So i stayed in my house.
And now i am trying new things
With my life such as self care and
Making art and different patterns.
And on the plus side, I'm getting two jobs
That i might like in the summertime.

And what i say to this is if someone died
In your life, keep pushing
Because they are looking down on you
AND they know
LIFE GOES ON.



'I just want to be happy again'

By **Alyssiah Davis**,
Eighth grade

My life before COVID was way different than it is now. In school I was really good at math. Then COVID hit and everything changed in the worst way. I loved math, it was my favorite class. But after COVID arrived, I got angry at everything. Math was not fun for me anymore.

I started disliking it to the point I would cuss out my teachers. Did I like that for myself? No, no I did not. That was ugly. Being ugly is being mean to everyone and everything. That is not who I am. Online learning was really hard, too. I didn't get any work done because I just couldn't learn from a computer. I needed some real help.

From the time I left my fifth-grade year to seventh grade, I was not in the mood to do anything. Everything was changing, even myself, and I hated it. It didn't feel

right at all. My mindset changed, my mental health changed, and I started to feel really lonely. For me, being lonely was never the case. I always had someone to go to and express how I felt. Then COVID happened and it was gone within a snap of my fingers. Anxiety and depression kicked. I still have depression. It feels like it will never go away, and I hate it. I just want to be happy again.

School was really hard because nobody really did the online work. But I tried. I did try, but it got boring. All the mixed feelings I was having didn't make it any better.

Not knowing everything you thought you were going to know was hard. Going to a place you know nothing about was hard, too. This was my starting middle school year. I didn't do any work; that was a big problem for me. I missed out on having a fifth-grade graduation and everything included with that. I was so heartbroken. It wasn't what I wanted. I wanted to see all my friends one last time.

My feelings about math are not the same as they were back three years ago. Math is not hard because it's just a bunch of numbers, though everything is out of place for me. My focus, my mindset, just everything. Because I had to focus to get my math work done, I just gave up. I want my love for math to come back, but I don't think I can focus anymore with this depression I have.

Time has gone by fast, and now that I'm in eighth grade. I'm starting to kind of come out of this dark mindset I've been stuck in for a minute. I love the feeling so much. I know I have people who love and care about me. Not feeling angry really makes me come out of that dark place even more. Knowing you can be loved this much will really open your eyes.



Never again

By **Brian Gross**,
Eighth grade

I think every 100 years
There's been a virus.
And me thinking about it,
God might be telling us something
And it might come out one day.
And we'll know what we're doing wrong.

When I had COVID it was the worse
Because I was puking and had a bad cough.
And COVID-19 was the worse because
I barely got to see my family when that happened.
When my Papa got COVID, he passed.
However, he's in a better place now.

I never want to go through COVID-19 again.

MPRB to hear out Northside homeowners burdened by tree removal orders

By **David Pierini**, Editor

Felicia Perry already had two ash trees removed by order of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board when she attended a recent community meeting of other fed-up Northsiders.

There, Perry told a staff forester that the board's approach to the mandated cut downs of diseased trees was callous, costly and another form of trauma inflicted on Black and Brown residents.

She appreciated his willingness to listen and had hoped he would pass on the feedback.

The next morning, a park board tree inspector was in Perry's backyard to condemn a third tree he said was infested with emerald ash borer.

"Is it because I spoke up?" said Perry, wondering why the most recent tree was not identified during the previous inspection last year. "How do you inspect my property and miss this one? Now you're coming

back? It was the day after that guy was in that meeting. I really feel like I am being targeted."

In a statement to North News, MPRB apologized that the condemnation felt retaliatory to Perry, adding "the tree inspector's condemnation of her ash tree had no connection whatsoever to the community meeting."

Commissioner Becca Thompson, who represents North Minneapolis on the parks board, said there is "zero way" Perry was being targeted. But she acknowledged the board has misfired on communications with Northside neighborhoods currently bearing the brunt of the emerald ash borer infestation.

Parks and Recreation Supt. Al Bangoura wants to reset the conversation with the Northside regarding emerald ash borer. At a parks board meeting on March 15, he announced a schedule of four meetings with Northside residents for April.

Forestry and other parks board staff

will host the meetings (see details at the end of the article) to answer questions and clear up misunderstandings about the efforts to stop the spread of emerald ash borer.

"This is a real effort to be present in the community to listen to constituents and their concerns around emerald ash borer," Bangoura said. "We hear you and we want to really listen and respond to your concerns."

MPRB is not alone in its struggle to relate to a historically marginalized community where many feel like government or private developers do things to them, not with them or for them. Community leaders say there is a disconnect in the messaging and assumptions that residents have equal access to information or know where to find it posted.

Many of the complaints aimed at the park board can be heard in meetings with



This piece of an ash tree cut down last fall in the Harrison neighborhood shows the damage from emerald ash borer. Photo by David Pierini

Continued on page 22

Ash tree removal in your yard?

All Minneapolis residents and property owners are invited to a community meeting to get information on:

- Why Minnesota's ash trees are dying and need to be removed
- How the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is working on the problem
- What to expect for tree removal costs and payment options, including financial hardship options

Monday, April 10, 6-7:30pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting (bit.ly/MPRBmtgApril10)

*** Wednesday, April 12, 6-7:30pm**
Harrison Recreation Center, 503 N. Irving Ave.

*** Monday, April 17, 6-7:30pm**
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, 2117 West River Rd.

*** Saturday, April 22, 10:30am-Noon**
Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave. N.

* Light refreshments, children's activities at in-person meetings

minneapolisparks.org/private_tree
612-230-6400 (Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30)



Norsemen listen attentively to Moore's game plan to push ahead of their opponents. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

Tamara Moore leads men's college basketball team to historic season

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Tamara Moore is no stranger to making history.

In 1998, Moore was voted the first Black Ms. Basketball in Minnesota, and led the Lady Polars of North High to the state championship that same year. In 2002 she finished her college career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison named the all-time leader in steals and assists. She went on to play 12 years of professional basketball overseas and in the WNBA.

She started her coaching career with the Edison High School girls basketball team when she got a call from an unfamiliar area code – Virginia, Minn. The familiar voice

on the other end said there was an opening to coach the men's basketball team.

The caller was Sara Matufzak, the volleyball coach at Mesabi Range, and her former guidance counselor from North High. Matufzak initially wanted to catch up, but when Moore inquired about an opening for a girls basketball coach, Matufzak replied no. And sent her the application for the men's coaching job instead.

"There wasn't a doubt in my mind that she couldn't do it," Matufzak said.

And so within years of not even knowing Virginia Minn. existed, Moore prepared to make it her home.

By accepting the job, Moore made history again as the first Black woman to

coach a men's collegiate basketball team. She is one of three women in the U.S. to ever accomplish the feat.

Moore just finished her second season as head coach of the Norsemen, a Division III junior college team. This season, the team has seen a night-and-day transformation from the prior year finishing with a record of 19-10 versus 9-17 in 2021-22.

In late February, Moore led the Norsemen to their most successful season since 2014, and competed in the state championship game for the first time in 21 years.

"To know I didn't even know about this town or this school before I got hired is crazy," Moore said. "It's crazy how the

connection of North High brought me out here. The Northside has been in everything in my life."

Although Moore started her collegiate coaching career in an unfamiliar place, she brought along pieces of home with her – some of her players.

"They chose me and I chose them," Moore said. "And every day they choose me and I choose them."

When it was time to build her team of Norsemen, she turned to the same recreation centers in which she grew up playing basketball. The majority of Moore's players hail from Henry, North, and Edison high schools, and are players she's been watching since before they were teenagers.

For a time, Moore coached in the Run and Shoot Basketball League at Fairview Park alongside her lifelong friend, Jamil Jackson. Three of her starting five grew up playing in the league.

She met Glentrel Carter when he was just 12 and coached his big sister.

"I already knew what type of coach she was," Carter said. "I knew her hunger for the game. It was the same as mine."

Moore is determined to give opportunities to athletes from her community to play collegiate ball. When Mark Campbell was a senior at Henry High School, Moore told his entire basketball team they could play for her.

"Stuff at home was really just a distraction from the goals that I want to accomplish," Campbell said. "I wanted to surround myself with the right people, and limit myself to stuff I could get into."

The isolation of leaving the big city and spending three years in a place like small-town Minnesota, made Moore and her team curate a family of their own. Her duties as a coach go beyond the court, and she often adopts the role of an aunt or mother figure for the team.

"If I can do anything, I'm going to make sure they're never hungry," Moore said. "I cook dinner, I give rides, I open the gym so they have a place to go, we go tubing or to the movies, or sometimes to the Walmart. There's not a lot to do here so I want to show them that they have a support system."

"I let the world say what they want to say, legend, the goat, 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

When Moore first got the job, they weren't allowed to play their first season because of COVID-19, so she spent a year getting to know her players before ever stepping on to the court.

"I got seven guys going and I know I'm not ready for them to be gone, they're my babies," Moore said.

This year's team started with 26 players, but by the time they entered the gym, numbers dwindled to 14. Half of the remaining bunch are in their last year at Mesabi Range and fought to make their last year count.

"She took her team to the next level and it's just been a real blessing for our



Moore sits in solitude before her games and takes a quiet moment to go over her gameplay and listen to gospel music. "Won't He Do It", by Koryn Hawthorne fit her mood this Sunday afternoon. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

conference," said Kurt Kohler, executive director of the Minnesota College Athletic Conference (MCAC). "Her passion for the game, but probably more important, the passion for the relationships that she has with their players, is what we want out of everybody in society. She just really embodies what a leader in the coaching role is all about."

On Feb. 26, Moore and the Norsemen entered the Anoka Ramsey Community College gym to compete for the Region XIII Championship title and advance to nationals.

"Go son!" and "You got this, Tamara!" could be heard from the crowd as the players took to the court.

It was the closest game that many of the Northside players have had to home in the past three years, and the first time their families would be able to make the drive and see them play—and it was a packed house.

Jamil Jackson attended to support his former players, and Moore.

"It's a great feeling to see them continue their dreams," he said.

The game had most spectators on the edge of their seats, however the Norsemen



Moore gets active on the sidelines, and yells to her players to get low and stay on their opponent. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

Continued on page 14

Tamara Moore
Continued from page 13

fell behind a 10-point lead and couldn't close the gap in time. Masabi Range lost 69-79 to Rochester Community and Technical College.

As the clock hit zero, Moore ran to comfort her sophomore players.

"Hold your heads high," she told the players. "You fought to make it here, I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish. Today wasn't our day, but you still have tomorrow."

Moore is planning on returning to Mesabi Range for one more year, and then will begin applying for higher coaching positions. She hopes to one day coach a Division 1 team, and work with the NBA.

"I'm not ready to be done coaching these boys," Moore said.

No matter where she goes, she plans on bringing the Northside with her.



Moore comforts sophomore Glentrel Carter after the hard loss in their running for state champions.
Photo by Azhae'la Hanson



Left: Mark Campell goes up for a basket, and lands 12 points for the Norsemen.
Photo by Azhae'la Hanson



Former Polar Moore and former Patriot Mark Campell banter back and forth about which Northside high school is the best as they enter the championship arena. They laugh and agree to disagree. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

Beneficiaries can skip probate court with this one-page document

By **Yinping Xiao** and **Matt Hulstein**,
Legal Aid

The Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) hosts a free legal clinic, with lawyers from Legal Aid. In addition to helping residents with their legal problems, Legal Aid will share "Know-Your-Rights" information in North News.

This month's topic: Transfer on Death Deeds.

A Transfer on Death Deed (or "TODD") is a simple, one-page document that says who gets a piece of property when the owner dies. When a homeowner passes, their surviving family usually has to go through probate court to transfer title of the house to the heirs. This means filing and completing a court case, which can be confusing, expensive, and protracted. Even if the homeowner

has a will, that will must go through the probate court process.

A TODD avoids probate altogether. With a TODD in place, the transfer of ownership happens automatically when the homeowner dies, without the need for any court process. The homeowner can list any person (or entity) they want to be the beneficiary: spouses, kids, friends, even charities.

A few things to know about TODDS:

If there are more than one living homeowner (like spouses), the TODD indicates ownership only transfers to the beneficiaries when the last current homeowner dies.

A TODD is revocable at any time by the owner, either by a revocation or drafting a new beneficiary of the same property. The beneficiaries will

not have any interest until the title is transferred.

The surviving family may want to record the original homeowner's death certificate and a survivorship affidavit. These documents are not technically required, but they make it clear in the recorded property records that the last homeowner died and who the new owners are.

What are the Benefits of a TODD?

TODDs are simpler and cheaper than a trust or a will.

TODDs avoid probate cases. The transfer of ownership under a TODD is automatic, meaning the beneficiaries can work with mortgage lenders or municipalities immediately, without having to wait for probate orders (which could take months).

Sounds Great! How Do I Get A TODD?

Visit Legal Aid's Harrison Legal Clinic! A free lawyer is on-site at HNA's Offices, 1501 Glenwood Ave, Ste. A, every Tues and Thurs from 10 - 3:30. Walk-ins are welcome. To schedule an appointment, call 612-352-9778. The clinic can help with many civil case-types, including housing and homeownership, consumer, family law, tax, benefits, and immigration. To qualify for Legal Aid, you must be a Hennepin resident who is either low-income OR aged 65+. If you want to try to draft and record a TODD yourself, go to lawhelpmn.org and search "Transfer on Death Deed."

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Friends lined up for Nekima Levy Armstrong to sign copies of her new children's book, *J is for Justice*, during a reception at the Capri Theater. Photo by David Pierini

Nekima Levy Armstrong book shows kids what it means to stand for justice

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Activist and civil rights attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong has written her first children's book titled *J is for Justice*.

We Win Institute bought 200 copies of the book to give away during a March 3 signing in the community room at the Capri Theater. The room was filled with purple balloons and tables covered with purple tablecloths sprinkled with heart and star confetti to match the colors of

the book and Levy Armstrongs iconic purple lipstick.

Levy Armstrong says the book was born out of her own experience of bringing her children to protests, particularly, her youngest child which she began attending since she was pregnant with her. The main character Joy is based on her youngest daughter Assata Joy Armstrong. The mother is inspired by herself, and the father is inspired by her husband, Marques Armstrong. The

names of her other three children are also included in the book.

"My husband would put my daughter on his shoulder during protests, and then as she was able to walk, she would get out and walk amongst the community, learn chants, and understand what it means to stand up for justice," Levy Armstrong said. "I also witnessed many other parents bringing their children out to the frontlines where they held bull horns, signs, and would see them

marching or being pushed in strollers. They were all sources of inspiration to me for this book."

As a mom out on the frontlines fighting for justice for George Floyd, as well as other victims of police violence, Levy Armstrong thought it was important to invite children into the conversation because it is crucial to intentionally training up the next generation of advocates, activists, and organizers.

"Folks don't necessarily see the

uniqueness and the power of children being there," she said. "It is powerful, it is special."

She sees children as a necessary component to fight for an equitable society.

Recent controversy among policymakers and parents across the nation has pressed for the restriction of books in public schools that teach a comprehensive and holistic view of American history. They often targets books that aim to educate students on the current and historical socio-political dynamics of oppressed minority populations in the United States.

This is no controversy or debate for Levy Armstrong.

"We have an opportunity to help shape the minds of our young people to remind them that they have the voice that they can use, and that their voices matter. Additionally, we can teach them to not discriminate against people because of the color of their skin and to respect and value the humanity and human dignity of all people. Which are messages that are incorporated into the book."

Nekima Levy Armstrong

"We have to recognize that our children are already being exposed to things happening in the world through social media, conversations with their peers, what they're seeing on television, and things that they're hearing about," Levy Armstrong said. "And so we have to, as adults, be proactive in terms of having that conversation with children because if we're not proactive, society is going to teach them and the default of society teaching them is not consistent with what will make a more racially just an equitable society."

She sees her book as a necessary tool to broach what can sometimes be challenging conversations with their children about racial injustice in a language that's easy to understand with illustrations that complement the story for teachers to introduce the concepts into their classrooms.

In the book, there's a chance for readers to learn and recite some of the authentic chants from the front line. Elementary students from JJ Montessori



Chalchiutzin Duen, 4, flips through the pages of *J is for Justice*. Photo by David Pierini

school were able to participate in the chants during Levy Armstrongs initial book release in February. Students chanted:

"What do we want?
Justice!
When do we want it?
Now!"

In the back of the book, Levy Armstrong created some chants of her own along with a glossary of common racial justice and social justice terms that children need to know.

At a previous book-signing in Brooklyn, NY, Levy Armstrong was shocked to see mostly adults on hand holding stacks of books to be signed. At the Capri, a long line snaked around the room as Armstrong personalized each inscription and accommodated requests for photos.

"I think this is beautiful," Lacreasha

Continued on page 23



Levy Armstrong leading a march in the summer of 2020. Photo by David Pierini

Northside dean of students is the Harlem Globetrotters newest ref

By Azhae'la Hanson, Reporter

Ty Raheem worked many odd jobs to stay occupied upon retiring from playing professional basketball overseas. He picked up shifts as a security guard for a time at the Target Center and ushered in the many who flocked to see those in the limelight shine.

This winter, Raheem returned to the Target Center to be ushered into his own dressing room – as a ref for the Harlem Globetrotters.



While in his dressing room, Ty Raheem takes a moment to appreciate how far he's come since working security at the Target Center. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

"I knew if I worked hard no matter what my timetable is I could be blessed with an opportunity."

Ty Raheem

dean of students at a Northside charter school.

He attributes his work ethic to his uncle, who currently works in the NBA and always had more than one job when Raheem was growing up.

"I watched my uncle hustle and work

Continued on page 23



Raheem does his routine stretches and the occasional jig to prepare for a night of fun and basketball. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

3 Polars at state wrestling tournament, 3 steps forward for program

By Azalea Petry-Towns, North High School

North High's wrestling program ended a memorable and historic season in March. The program pulled itself out of the ashes with coaches Andrew Caprichio and Norman Alston in 2020 and a small troupe of football players who wanted to participate in an off-season sport.

Caprichio and Alston remembered the early days at North, when their team had as little as five wrestlers. Today, the gym is packed with more than 20.

"Don't be scared to wrestle anybody no matter what their record is. Just get out there and wrestle."

Cashmere Hamilton-Grunau

"It gives me a lot of pride about what we were able to do with the program," Caprichio said.

The team recently won the city championship for the first time in 27 years and sent three wrestlers Lamarcus Osborne, Stephon Rendo, and Cashmere Hamilton-Grunau to compete individually at state, the most wrestlers the program has sent in more than a decade.

And, before this season, most of the team, including state qualifiers Lamarcus and Stephon, had never wrestled before.

"Cash's first year wrestling was last year and he went to state," said coach Ray Dehn. "Now both Stephon and Lamarcus are going to state this year with Cash, and it's their first time wrestling. There's something to be said about that. They're just great athletes."

North has a

number of multisport athletes, who trickle into other sports to stay involved throughout the school year.

"Our wrestlers, you know, for whatever reason, come to us with more athleticism and more strength than the average kids out there. But less experience," Dehn said. "We know we're not going to be able to catch up to the technique that a lot of our opponents have, so we teach as much technique to stifle attacks and teach them stamina, so they can outlast their opponents, outwork them and utilize our strengths."

Stephon, who possesses great stamina in long matches, Lamarcus, has good size, and Cashmere, strong as a bull, entered the Xcel Center ready to keep up their winning momentum. They fell short of taking home a title, encountering opponents with superior wrestling technique.

Coaches and wrestlers held their heads high for such an accomplished season.

"We're some of the least experienced wrestlers at this tournament. So it's a great opportunity to just learn from it. At the end of the day, this is as high as you can get, it does not get any higher than



Lamarcus Osborne takes a moment to take in his surroundings after his match. He learned a big lesson that he will consider for his next season—building up stamina. Photo By Kiya Darden



Stephon Rendo goes head to head with his opponent, and struggles with a mind game. He learned that before you even enter the ring, you need to be prepared for the amount of people watching you, he let his nerves get the best of him. Photo by Azhae'la Hanson

this, so I'm excited to come back next year and improve on what we got."

As a team full of juniors, they all have a shot at next year, and they'll be back in

the gym soon.

"Don't be scared to wrestle anybody

Continued on page 23

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Minneapolis Documenters

POWERED BY PILLSBURY UNITED

Pillsbury United Communities' Minneapolis Documenters program pays community members like you to take notes at public meetings. Below is a monthly recap of city, county and school board actions impacting North Minneapolis.

Business, Inspectors, Housing, and Zoning (March 14)

Received and filed a consent decree between Bell Lofts North, LLC and the City of Minneapolis. A burst pile last December displaced 50 residents, who were temporarily moved into hotels and assisted by local nonprofits for services. Through the decree, Bell Lofts owner Chris Webley agrees to pay renters their full security deposit and one month's rent. Totaling \$22,000. The city will dismiss the citation requiring relocation assistance upon payment to renters.

Authorized the issuance of up to \$15 million in charter school lease revenue bonds for Harvest Best Academy.

Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (March 15)

The advisory committee discussed updates to Shared Mobility infrastructures and programs. Nice Ride E-Bikes are no longer operating this year. However, the city has partnered with other agencies bring in E-bikes and scooters from various companies. This season, residents will see more accessibility options, more signage about transportation options, and more adaptable vehicles, staff said.

Election News

There are two new challengers in Ward 4 - Angela Geniece Williams and Daniel LaCroix. The incumbent in Ward 4 is LaTrisha Vetaw.

Minneapolis Planning Commission (March 6)

A new, two-story, mixed-use building with six dwelling units and 2,654 square feet of commercial space at 2323 Emerson Ave. N. in the Jordan neighborhood.

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (March 2), approved a complex district water management plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal project.

Minneapolis Board of Education (March 21)

The Finance Committee will review an audit report on the district's radio station, KBEM, and receive updates on enrollment, budget and the district's capital plan.

Jackie Renzetti is the program manager for Minneapolis Documenters. Visit minneapolis.documenters.org to learn more.

NOTICES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Help with homework: St. Olaf Lutheran Church offers after-school tutoring with an "expert mathematician" on hand. Sessions run 3 to 5 pm, Mondays and Thursday and 3 to 6 pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The church also offers a Youth Club for grades 6 through 12 on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Transportation available. Call 612-529-7726 to enroll in tutoring or the Youth Club.

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% of federal poverty guidelines or age 60-plus. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. Walk-ins welcome, but appointments are preferred. Call 612-746-3611 to make an appointment.

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 a.m.-noon. There are no pre-qualifications. Everyone 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 a voicemail.

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 (Hmong).

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.

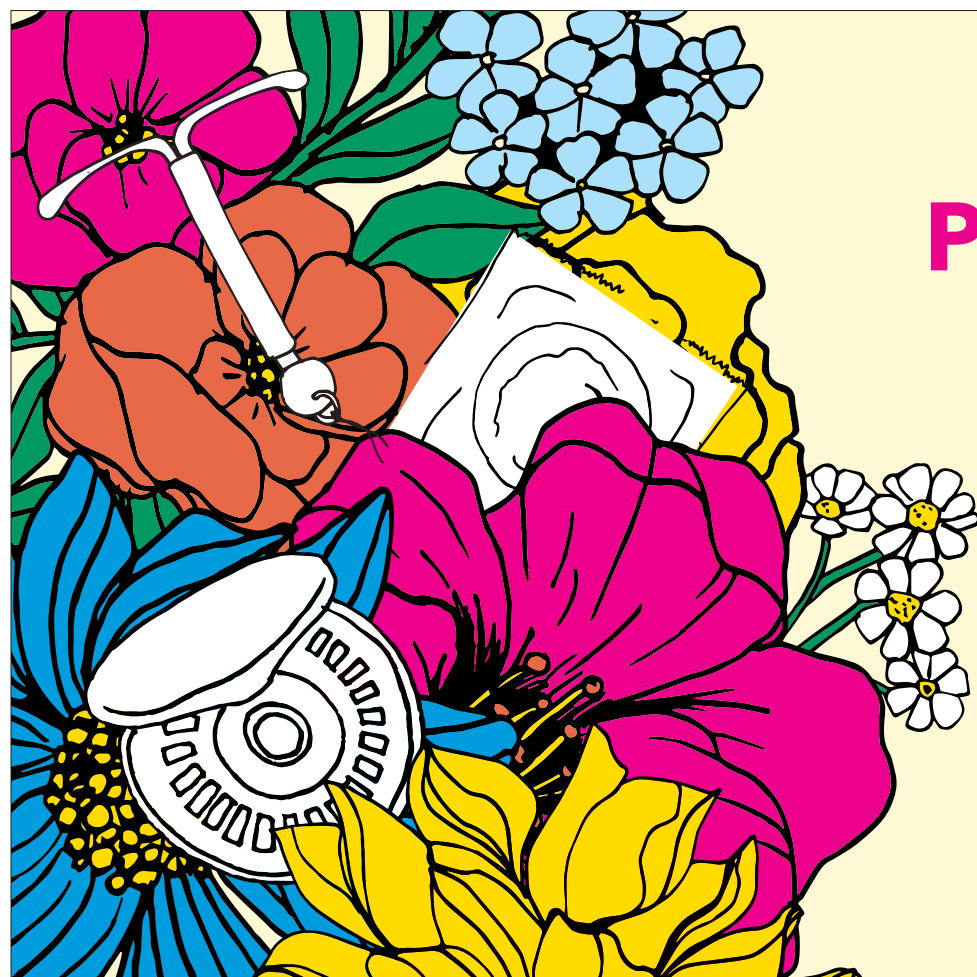
Minneapolis Ward 5 contact info: If you live in Ward 5 and want to reach City Councilman Jeremiah Ellison, call his office at 612-673-2205 or email him at ward5@minneapolismn.gov. You

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 DavidP@pillsburyunited.org




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Tree Removal
Continued from page 11

transportation officials over a proposed light rail line that will run through North Minneapolis.

Why are we just hearing about this now? Come talk to us. Show us proof. You are destroying our neighborhoods. This will extract generational wealth.

In the case of trees, Minnesota law gives municipalities the power to condemn trees on private property to slow the spread of tree-eating pests. In Minneapolis, MPRB manages the forest canopy. That same law makes property owners responsible for paying to have infested trees cut down.

A homeowner may have 60 days to find a tree service or the park board will hire one for them and tack the bill onto their property taxes. Estimates vary widely among local tree services and homeowners can be stuck with a bill of a few thousand dollars.

Property owners basically have just two options to divert costs to their tax bill – pay over five years or 10 years.

In the October 2022 issue, North News chronicled the hardships of Harrison neighborhood residents on fixed incomes

who were caught off guard by tree removals and the bills that followed. Since the article, residents organized and shared stories on Facebook. They've attended meetings and tried to get information and relief, especially for more vulnerable residents, from the parks board.

Many complained of a lack of engagement or advance warning of the presence of tree inspectors. Communication was in the form of the condemnation order and estimates from tree services.

On the eve of her third tree being condemned, Perry attended a meeting at the Cub Foods Community Room, for a vision session organized by Amoke Kubat, an artist who had a tree condemned by MPRB in late 2021.

MPRB's urban forest expert Philip Potyondy attended and got an earful from residents. He tried to talk about trees and emerald ash borer. Residents wanted to talk about costs and how the parks board has communicated with residents.

Perry said she felt intimidated at a November meeting when the forestry and finance directors pulled her aside before she was set to speak (the MPRB statement also addressed this. It said the intent of the officials was to be helpful and not dissuade

her from speaking).

To Potyondy, Perry offered advice about providing information in different formats, different languages and seeking out community leaders who know how to bring people together around issues.

"I feel there's like a trauma behind this thing," Perry said. "It's happening without my consent. I've experienced intimidation. I've experienced financial loss, I've experienced spiritual loss. I had no time to say goodbye and these trees are gone. This is how I've experienced this. What you're witnessing here is important for you to download and process. Y'all have not been coming correct and you have to do better."

After hearing from Northsiders about tree removal costs, Commissioner Thompson said the board is lobbying state lawmakers for greater tax relief for vulnerable residents who experience a sudden expense like a tree removal or pipe burst.

At the March 15 meeting, Deputy Supt. Jennifer Ringold mentioned the hardships while presenting updates to MPRB's racial equity plan. While parsing the cost of a tree removal over 10 years on property taxes was added during the last equity plan update, Ringold said, "There's interest, obviously with four listening sessions coming up,

maybe we need to go further."

Mitchel Hansen, the community outreach director for the Harrison Neighborhood Association, said the association has used up its Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds helping homeowners pay for tree removals.

He asked that the board grant an extension of time during the listening sessions for residents with imminent removals.

"We (the association) just can't fund people to stay in their homes," Hansen said. "We all care about trees. We need to work together on both and not force people to have to worry about losing their homes. If we're talking about equity, let's make this happen."

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board will hold four listening sessions for residents impacted by tree removal orders. The dates, times and locations are: April 10, 6-7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Check the MPRB website closer to the date for a link: April 12, 6-7:30 p.m. at Harrison Recreation Center, 503 Irving Ave. N.; April 17, 6-7:30 p.m. at MPRB, 2117 W. River Road; and April 22, 6-7:30 p.m. at Creekview Recreation Center, 5001 Humboldt Ave., N.

NEWS

NEWS

J is for Justice
Continued from page 17

Johnson said about the book. "This is really nice and very important especially for my little Brown girls to see a book and have a book like this in our library at home."

Wisdom Mawusi brought her daughters, Nahlah 17, and Nandi 8, to support a friend and fellow social justice activist.

The signing at the Capri was the first time Mawusi was able to hold the book in her hands.

"Books open us up to new ideas and we know what's possible," Muwasi, the founder and director of the Northside non-profit Black, Bold and Brilliant. "They inspire us. I love books featuring Black people."

"I think children should read a book like this because it helps them understand the world around them and helps give them a purpose. And understand their agency to make change."

Globetrotters Ref
Continued from page 18

multiple jobs for 20 years and then for him to finally get an opportunity for the NBA to hire him was clear-cut motivation," Raheem said. "I knew if I worked hard no matter what my timetable is I could be blessed with an opportunity."

As he spent time mentoring youth, he noticed that, like himself, there were a lot of retiring athletes not knowing their next steps. In February 2022, he started his own officiating company, Brother Bros Officiating, to provide opportunities for Northside youth who went to college and played ball to have an opportunity to still be involved in the game when they came home.

"I wanted to create the opportunity because I am really big on giving people a chance," Raheem said.

After all, it was because someone gave him a chance, that he was able to grace the courts alongside the legendary barnstorming basketball team. Raheem was hand picked to finish the Harlem Globetrotters United States tour after former referee Kevin Baker was promoted to head stage manager.

"Kevin Baker saw the work I do in the community, and how hard I've always worked," Raheem said. "He gave me my flowers for my business and the positivity I'm doing for the community, and he

decided to take a chance on me."

Baker met Raheem during his time refereeing in a professional men's league, where Raheem played. He remembered Raheem being the only one that didn't talk smack to the ref.

"I know about 400 officials and he was the first brother to come to my mind," Baker said. "He's got great character, I love to see him in action."

Leslie Ray-Redmond, a security officer, was working the court when she saw Raheem and couldn't believe her eyes. They used to work shifts together when he was a part of the staff.

"I didn't know he was going to be working the game," Ray-Redmond said. "I was just excited to be down here because I'm a Globie fan, but then I saw Raheem and I was shocked. I'm so excited to see him."

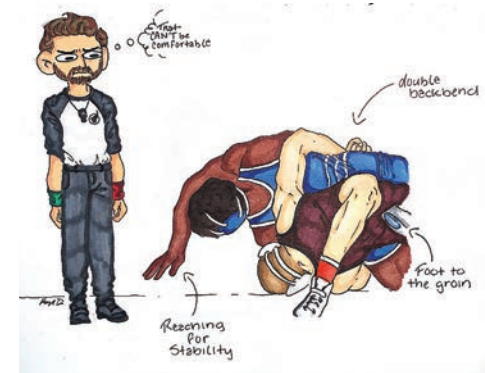
She could be seen shouting "that's my best friend" moments later as Raheem entered the court.

Raheem was greeted by more than 50 people to celebrate his homecoming performance at the Target Center with the Harlem Globetrotters. When the troupe started their iconic Lion King bit that chooses a baby to hold up to the crowd of fans, Raheem's daughter won the honor.

"I'm so proud of you" is what Raheem hears when he's surrounded by family and friends. He's excited to finish out the tour, come home to his family and continue to train and inspire the next generation of referees in the community.

North Wrestling
Continued from page 19

no matter what their record is," Cashmere said. "Just get out there and wrestle. North High wrestling is on the come up, watch out for us."



North High journalism student Kiyi Darden, is practicing her political cartoons for this story.

continue catching up with our
Council Members

Ward 4: LaTrisha Vetaw
Continued from page 6

for the commission that represent a cross section of Minneapolis, including formerly incarcerated individuals, LGBTQ community members, Black, Indigenous, other people of color, people with different abilities, as well as community members from every ward of Minneapolis.

Thank you to everyone from Ward 4 that applied. I am looking forward to reviewing the applications and working with you in the future.

Don't forget to sign up for the Ward 4 Newsletter at www.minneapolisismn.gov/government/city-council/ward-4/newsletters/ or reach out to our office at ward4@minneapolisismn.gov or 612-673-2204.

Ward 5: Jeremiah Ellison
Continued from page 6

support our local and state partners in finding a solution to this problem.

As always, join me from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM every Monday for Open Coffee Hours! These are informal and a chance for me to hear directly from you while we share coffee or a meal (virtually). Office hours is on a first come first served basis. Please try not to call in past 12:50 p.m. as we want to leave enough time to chat about what you'd like to discuss. Please RSVP at www.minneapolisismn.gov/ward5, and my staff will follow-up with the call-in details. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to Dieu Do, Policy Associate, at dieu.do@minneapolisismn.gov.

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