2018 in North Minneapolis
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Blessing Caldwell, 6, is hoisted upwards to top a Christmas tree with a star outside the Minneapolis Police Department's Fourth Precinct. Community members decorated the tree in response to a racist incident involving a different tree inside the station. Page 3
Letter from the Editor

It’s here! In your hands you have the last edition of North News in our third year of relaunched existence.

Last year at this time, we published an online-only photo story that showcased a year of North Minneapolis moments captured by our talented photographer David Pierini. The wild success of that story led us to create a print version of it this year (Page 7). We hope you take a moment with this photo story and meditate on the beauty, community, and challenges of life in North Minneapolis in 2018. Some of these images have been previously printed on our pages. Others were initially left on the cutting room floor and picked back up for this piece. Enjoy these photographic portals back to warmer months and victories and incidents that keep us fighting for equity and justice.

With the new year comes a subtly new look for North News. In this paper you’ll notice that we have updated our fonts and some of our recurring graphics. The intention is to improve readability, modernize our publication, and create internal efficiency as we move into 2019. Let us know what you think!

If you love what we do, and you’re looking for last minute holiday gifts, consider subscribing to North News. For $30 a year, give yourself and your loved ones a window into life in North Minneapolis, and support local media and youth journalism programming in the process.

We look forward to serving you in 2019!

Kenzie O’Keefe
Editor/Publisher, North News
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Happy Holidays from the North News team!

Clockwise from top, left: Pillsbury United Communities CEO Adair Mosley, Editor and Publisher Kenzie O’Keefe, Staff Reporter Cirien Saadeh, Photographer David Pierini, and Intern Reporters Ashley Powell, Myesha Powell, and Daija Triplett. Photo by David Pierini

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Most cities rarely have an opportunity to remake 48 acres of space, let alone a mile of riverfront in an underserved, disenfranchised community. As a location in an area with a deeply rooted history of strategic disinvestment and racial segregation, the Upper Harbor Terminal (UHT) site provides the City and the local neighborhoods with a unique opportunity to be visionary.

As the City works to right past and current injustices, community engagement processes need to be made-over in order to hear voices that have often not been heard. As a member of the City of Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), I heard a presentation from a few folks in the community that feel they have not been heard when it comes to the development of this site. I am not a resident of Ward 4 or Ward 5, but the concerns that these individuals brought before CEAC resonated with me.

The UHT site is a special opportunity for the City of Minneapolis to follow through on the values it has resolved to uphold around engagement processes need to be made-over in order to hear voices that have often not been heard. As a member of the City of Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), I heard a presentation from a few folks in the community that feel they have not been heard when it comes to the development of this site. I am not a resident of Ward 4 or Ward 5, but the concerns that these individuals brought before CEAC resonated with me.

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The UHT site is a special opportunity for the City of Minneapolis to follow through on the values it has resolved to uphold around resident engagement and investment, particularly in North, Green Zones, and climate change with the visions of community members. I do not think the City should lose sight of these different goals and opportunities. Others on CEAC felt the same way and wrote a letter to the City Council and Mayor Frey to ask for additional time before approving any development plans for the UHT site, so an inclusionary planning process can be used. That letter can be found here: https://bit.ly/2rv7Cim

What can you do? If you feel the same way I do, please contact your council member! They are the ones with the power to slow the UHT planning process down.

Erin Niehoff, Ward 2 resident

Northside residents Sydney Baker and Duquiero Cano got creative with the first snowfall in December and built a snow monster in their yard at 4210 Girard Ave. N. “This sculpture is actually the beginnings of a saucer slide that we will be creating as more snowfalls come!” said Cano.

Photo courtesy of Duquiero Cano
North Minneapolis at a glance

Once again, MPD is searching for new Fourth Precinct leader
After a Christmas tree at the Minneapolis Police Department’s Fourth Precinct was decorated with racist objects by two officers, and the incident caught public attention, community leaders expressed outrage and city leaders promised quick, punitive action. Mayor Jacob Frey vowed that the officers involved would be fired (a statement he later backtracked), and in a statement released the day the news broke, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo said, “I am ashamed and appalled by the behavior of those who would feel comfortable to act in such a manner that goes against our core department values of Trust, Accountability and Professional Service.” On Dec. 3, Arradondo announced in another press release that the precinct will no longer be led by Aaron Biard who has been the precinct’s inspector since June 2017. While a search for a new inspector is underway, Assistant Chief Mike Kjos will assume the role. Kjos filled the position prior to Biard’s appointment, after Michael Friestleben was removed from the role. According to the Star Tribune, the two officers who decorated the tree are on paid administrative leave while an investigation takes place.

Met Council awards major grant to workforce development center
The Metropolitan Council recently announced a $1.6 million Livable Community grant to the Northside-based Minneapolis Apprenticeship and Training Center for site acquisition and development of a training center for students, young people, and adults for careers in clean energy, water systems, and technical construction. The grant was part of a larger $9.6 million in grants awarded to housing and economic development projects across the Twin Cities metropolitan area. An additional $1.2 million was awarded to the Olson Townhomes for site preparation for a project aiming to building 92 affordable homes for low-income families, replacing an already existing multifamily residential development. All nine projects funded by the Metropolitan Council have stormwater management and/or energy conservation elements.

Minneapolis City Council votes to approve Minneapolis 2040
During its Dec. 7 meeting, the Minneapolis City Council voted to approve Minneapolis 2040, the City’s comprehensive planning document. The document outlines fourteen goals and 100 policies under one primary theme, which states that “Minneapolis’ growth must be managed with a focus on undoing barriers created by a history of policies in the city that have prevented equitable access to housing, jobs, and investments, resulting in significant disparities.” The City of Minneapolis must now submit the plan to the Metropolitan Council, which requires updated plans from the cities within its purview every ten years, consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s own development plans.

“No Ceilings” opens at New Rules
A new exhibit, “No Ceilings,” opened at New Rules (2015 Lowry Ave N) on Dec. 8. It runs through Jan. 31. The exhibit, presented by New Rules and other partners, is an intergenerational and interactive look at the ways in which artists express the idea of people, communities, and a world with “no ceilings.” The exhibit will include 20+ artists and designers, and the art will include photography, fashion and accessories, furniture, paintings, and printmaking. For more information about New Rules, visit www.newrulesmn.com.

Concern about UHT plans grows
The City of Minneapolis, the Office of Councilmember Phillipe Cunningham (Ward 4), and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board held two community meetings on Dec. 8 and Dec. 11 to discuss the concept plans for the Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment. The concept plans were met with confusion and, since then, Northside leaders have begun sharing a petition asking the Minneapolis City Council to not pass the proposed concept plans and to slow down on the river development process. The petition is linked on the Environmental Justice Coordinating Council’s Facebook page, amongst other Northside nonprofit pages.

Santa Claus brings holiday cheer to Northside YMCA
Charles Maynard, 3, felt nervous as he shook hands with Santa Claus during the Fourth Annual Cookies with Santa at the North Community YMCA. Next in line to greet Santa was Charles’ friend, Brandon Carlisle, also 3. The Dec. 1 event gave families a chance to play games, eat Christmas cookies and have their photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photo by David Pierini
More fried chicken for West Broadway

By Cirien Saadeh Staff Reporter

Inadvertently, Krispy Krunchy Chicken (KKC), West Broadway’s newest food business (1120 West Broadway Ave.), has found itself at the center of a major discussion about the Northside’s small business landscape: where is the Northside going and how do we make sure the Northside is not being left behind?

KKC is a fast-growing convenience store quick-serve restaurant out of Louisiana. It’s a national chain with 2600 locations in 47 states.

There are five franchise locations in Minnesota: three in Minneapolis, one in St. Paul, and one in Minnetonka. The new West Broadway franchise is owned by brothers Randy and Naser Hammad, immigrants from Jordan. Randy moved to the United States 40 years ago and has owned gas stations and tobacco shops all over the Twin Cities since 2002. Naser immigrated just nine-months ago.

The restaurant is connected to a Marathon gas station, which Randy and his business partner Nabil Al-Qudemi, an immigrant from Yemen, tore down and rebuilt in early 2018. It’s also only one of at least two properties that Naser Hammad plans on purchasing in North Minneapolis. The second will likely be on Penn Ave. and Dowling Ave. “It’s a project for 2019,” said Randy.

Hammad’s restaurant is far from the only restaurant that serves fried chicken in North Minneapolis. Within just a four block radius of the franchise are Popeye’s, Wendy’s House of Soul, Hooks, and Breaking Bread.

That four-block area is also symbolic of much larger discussions happening in the Northside: how do we create an economy that people want to and can build a diverse number of businesses in, how do we make sure people can eat, how do we make sure people can eat healthy food, how do we shift community behavior and psychology so that new businesses can open and succeed in the Northside, and who does the Northside really belong to?

The restaurant’s opening was a point of tension for community. On social media, community members, like Nicole Pacini, complained that “North Minneapolis has yet another fried chicken spot on Broadway,” Others were concerned that the restaurant is fast food, not locally owned, and/or unhealthy.

Youth leaders with Appetite for Change were also frustrated with the opening of the new restaurant. “I want to see food businesses owned by people in my community. I want to know where the food is coming from,” said Aaliyah Demery, a 17-year youth mentor with Appetite for Change. “I don’t think it’s an accident that people keep opening up all these chicken places. Do they live here in North Minneapolis? Are they eating their own food? I think people need to be confronted about their actions.”

Randy and Naser Hammad co-run their business together. According to Randy, the brothers came to North Minneapolis not in spite of rumors and stereotypes, but because of them.

“We are working with the City [of Minneapolis] and we hear the rumors and we want to be part of the work being done to tell a new story about North Minneapolis,” said Randy at the shop’s grand opening on Dec. 7.

But, some community members worry that another fried chicken restaurant reinforces an old, stereotypical story about North Minneapolis. “We have so many Northside food vendors with a more diverse palate to offer. These vendors don’t have access or capital to get their own building,” said Farrington Llewellyn, a Northsider with the West Broadway Coalition (WBC). “We have so many vacant buildings on the Northside; is the City making these properties accessible to residents from the neighborhood who want to start restaurants? How can we as a community support the type of food we want to see in the area?”

According to WBC Executive Director John Bueche, who joined the organization in early 2018, there is a reason for the wealth of fried chicken restaurants in North Minneapolis.

“There’s a mix of real and perceived market limits. There is not many other types of restaurants here and that fact keeps people thinking that other kinds of restaurants don’t work here,” said Bueche. “And once it’s perceived, it can quickly become real, because we all develop blind spots.”

Still, others are less worried. They’re excited for another fried chicken option. “It’s so lovely. We need this. I eat fried chicken almost every day,” said Machelle Alexander, a longtime Northsider who stopped by the grand opening, “It’s beautiful that we get this choice, because I didn’t like Popeye’s or Hooks.”

Krispy Krunchy Chicken is open 10am-9pm, Monday-Saturday and 10am-7pm on Sundays.

Interviews with Randy and Naser Hammad were done primarily in English, but some Arabic did need to be translated for this piece.
**catch up with our Council Members**

**WARD 4:**  
Phillipe Cunningham

Wow! It’s already been a year since I had the tremendous blessing of being sworn in as the Ward 4 Councilmember! I went into this first year elected on a platform and vision of transformational community wealth building in our community. A lot of time this year has been invested in translating this platform and vision into strong local government policy and financial investments and continuously gathering feedback to fine tune the Ward 4 Action Plan, my directive from the residents of Ward 4. Significant time was also invested in building strong relationships inside and outside of City Hall. Throughout this first year of this term, the Ward 4 Office and community worked hard to make big change together.

We established a solid foundation for continued engagement. Being accessible is a value of mine. As such, I host two weekly community office hours at local coffee shops. There are quarterly convenings to update you on the Ward 4 Action plan, the progress towards the plan’s goals, and gather feedback. Additionally, we host monthly Coffee with Cunningham event for us to dig deeper into issues in our community, how the City impacts those issues, and work towards solutions together.

We passed several ordinances this year and impacted the City of Minneapolis operates, such as revitalizing and creating systems change for Conduct on Licensed Premises and the creation and funding of a new Office of Violence Prevention. The 2019 City Budget passed and included the Fletcher-Cunningham Omnibus Amendment that invested $1.1M in public safety prevention and intervention strategies that are working in our community like Group Violence Intervention and domestic violence outreach. Finally, I led amendments to the Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan that set the goal of eliminating racial disparities so all communities can thrive and created a Northside policy to ensure the City prioritizes community wealth building in North Minneapolis.

Moving into 2019, our work will include the creation of an Upper Harbor Terminal community advisory committee and a new youth development fund, improved funding of rental housing, wage theft protections, more equitable property/special assessments, and a lot more.

Thank you for your trust in my leadership! Thank you for being committed and engaged! Thank you for making the Northside a vibrant community that is filled with compassion, activism, and positive energy! I am both proud and humbled to represent you, all of you.

Stay tuned because the 2019 State of the 4th Ward address date will be released soon, which will feature more details on how the work from this year will impact our community and what’s next for 2019!

Have the happiest of holidays, Northsiders!

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**WARD 5:**  
Jeremiah Ellison

My first year representing the people of Ward 5 has wrapped up, and I couldn’t be prouder of the work my team and I have done. I will eventually go down the laundry list of things we got done (or are moving in the right direction) but first, I wanted to take some time to say thank you. Growing up on the Northside, I never put much thought to how a neighborhood gets formed. As a kid, I simply knew to run to North Commons to go to play football; to walk over to JXTA to paint and draw; to go with my family to Lucille’s or Broadway Pizza. I didn’t see my neighborhood in terms of its borders, its designated land-uses, or zoning restrictions. I saw people that cared about their neighborhood and people trying to make a living, and I’m proud to say that’s still what I see today. So, thank you—for being my neighbor; for making our Northside your home; for being a community. This first year has humbled me, and has motivated me even more to continue improving as your representative.

We just wrapped up the budgeting process, and I think it’s important to highlight some things I believe will really benefit Ward 5. First, I want to highlight our housing priorities. We’ve heard a lot about the $40 million going into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which will help generate and preserve the affordable units that Minneapolis so desperately needs, but a lot more goes into creating stable homes for people. In this year’s budget, the Council President Lisa Bender and I also secured an additional $500K for legal representation for tenants facing eviction, as well as an additional $2 million for a revolving repair fund for rental units falling into disrepair—both budget items will go a long way in preventing displacement for vulnerable tenants.

Unrelated to housing, but absolutely no less important, is the historic $500 thousand for Village Trust Financial Cooperative (VTFC)—a black owned credit union. If you haven’t heard of Village Trust, it’s time you looked into them. Being iced out of access to capital—or competent and fair banking—is one of the many ways black communities have been denied the ability to build wealth. By investing in growing, black-led institutions like Village Trust, the city is being forced to put its money where its mouth is with regards to our commitment to racial equity. But it’s by no means enough. As we celebrated our investment in VTFC, let’s remember to push for more and find more ways for the city to repair past disinvestments.

I’m running out of space and have much more to say, but I’ll leave you with this—as we head into next year, our work on the Renters’ Bill of Rights, Cultural Corridors, Right of First Refusal, Intentional Communities, and much more, is well on its way. If you want to know more about what I’m working on, and—more importantly—if you want to help me shape my priorities moving forward, please reach out to my office. I’m proud to be your representative—I’m proud to work for the people of Ward 5. And as always, please feel free reach out to my office at 612-673-2205 or email me at ward5@minneapolismn.gov.
The school board report
Our education reporter brings you the latest news from MPS

By Cirien Saadeh Staff Reporter

City of Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has included $3.3 million in his city budget for a program titled, “Stables Homes, Stable Schools,” in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, which is meant to provide rental assistance (through housing vouchers) and support services for MPS students and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, 8.5% of MPS students (approximately 3500 students) are currently experiencing homelessness. The program will begin at 15 MPS schools for up to 320 families and 648 students. At first it will extend only through 8th grade. If the three-year pilot is successful, program developers have plans to extend it through high school.

MPS has released the results of a Equity and Diversity Impact Assessment meant to identify and analyze potential inequities in MPS Human Resources policies, practices, and procedures. According to study results, one third of MPS employees are people of color, and 17% of MPS teachers are people of color. Study results note that MPS has limited access to teachers of color due to “persistent barriers and recruitment strategies. Systemic barriers include diversity in teacher preparation programs as well as teacher licensure requirements. Recruitment strategies include “passive recruitment,” and what current teachers feel is a lack of commitment to recruiting a more diverse teaching staff. The study also notes other challenges in hiring, including: contractual obligations; hiring practices; and a challenging work environment for teachers of color due to “persistent negative interactions,” including microaggressions, feeling excluded and unwelcome in their school building, and being held to different standards than white colleagues while also being told that they are not meeting expectations.

There will be no school for MPS students beginning Dec. 23. Students will return from winter break on Jan. 7. MPS students do not have school on Jan. 21 and Jan. 24-25.

The next MPS Business Meeting will be held on Jan. 15, beginning at 5:30pm with a public comment period. Committee of the Whole will be held Jan. 29, beginning at 6pm. Both will be held at the MPS Davis Center (1250 West Broadway Ave.).

Educator spotlight Lindsey Cermak

Lindsey Cermak is a GED teacher who works out of Sumner Library. Photo by Cirien Saadeh

By Cirien Saadeh Staff Reporter

Lindsey Cermak is a GED teacher with the Open Door Learning Center, a project of the Minnesota Literacy Center. Cermak, who works out of the Sumner Library, has been with the program for eight years, most of that time spent in the Northside. Cermak was recommended for this month’s Educator Spotlight, because of her “ground-breaking” work.

Why go into teaching? I always thought about teaching. At least that was an option for me in high school. I never thought about adult education, though. When I graduated college, I did Americorps Vista, as a way to learn more things about myself. And, by taking the position working with the GED program here, I fell in love with it. Adult education is not always on people’s radar. It’s always elementary education or secondary ed, but I absolutely loved it, so I stayed. The rest is history.

What does a day in your life, as a teacher, look like? We have classes Monday-Thursday, in the morning, for about three and a half hours a day. Writing skills, reading skills, math skills. Also students have time to work individually on a particular subject that they may be studying for. So I try to a hybrid of individual time and class time. And then lesson planning and other administrative work take up some of my day. But, definitely, with all of the different things I am responsible for, teaching in the classroom is the highlight of my job because of my students. The relationships with my students are why I love my job so much.

What are your favorite pastimes? I love being with family and friends and I’m also very active in my church. I also have an adorable nephew who I love to see.

What are your thoughts on the Northside? I think the Northside is a great place with amazing people, and it’s unfortunate that so much of what is reported is violence and crime and which I think is not giving an accurate picture of everything that the Northside is. It’s an amazing community and that does not make it out to the news.

What is your favorite subject to teach? I get pretty excited about teaching math, but I did not always like math. When I was in school, it was not my favorite subject. It became my favorite subject to teach, though, one reason being because it can provoke so much fear in people. It can be such a barrier and cause people to be very down on themselves. That doesn’t have to be the case, though, because people know more than they think they do. So I think by helping to instill that confidence in students, that you do know this, you can do this, this does not have to be a scary thing, that confidence can translate to other areas of their lives. It’s what it represents; I think that is why it became so fun for me to teach.

What should potential adult learners know about this program? Give yourself a break. Believe you can do it, because that’s half the battle. I think people are very hard on themselves and there is a lot of shame that can come around getting your GED, but that doesn’t need to be the case, because it’s not a shameful thing. I think another important thing is that it does take time; it requires a commitment. If you can come consistently, that is when we see progress and when we see knowledge and skills build. It’s not the learning, they learning they can do. The key is to give yourself a break and believe that you are smarter than you think you are. And then just know it’s a time commitment, but it’s temporary.

North News launched this column to highlight the work of Northside educators doing innovative and socially just work in our North Minneapolis classrooms. If you have any recommendations for our upcoming spotlights, email North News at ciriens@pillsburyunited.org. Please provide contact information for the person you recommend.
In 2018, inspiring projects were brought to fruition, persistent challenges plagued us, and new leaders came on the scene, promising to carry us into new eras of equity and prosperity in North Minneapolis. We inaugurated new Minneapolis City Council representation in Phillipe Cunningham and Jeremiah Ellison, and we elected new Hennepin County Board representation in Irene Fernando. We saw our infrastructure transformed; the BRT line construction on Penn is nearly completed, and the corner of Penn and Plymouth has been rapidly and radically built up with two brand new, architecturally masterful buildings: THOR Companies Headquarters and Estes Funeral Home, both home to black-owned businesses with deep roots in community. The Association for Black Economic Power and Village Trust Financial Cooperative have unflinchingly fostered community wealth building. New food and beverage businesses like La Doña Cervecería, Tori 44, Krispy Krunchy Chicken, and the Zen Bin brought us fresh gathering places and culinary experiences. Juneteenth, a celebration of Freedom Day, came back to the community by taking place in Bethune Park this year.

We mourned the untimely deaths of Juan Reed, Thurman Blevins, Donise White, Nate Hampton, and many others. We experienced the rise and fall of Wirth Co-op and witnessed dysfunction from some of our neighborhood organizations. We felt our housing crisis deepen. Amidst all that occurred, Northsiders laughed, danced, sang, loved, cried and held each other. Through creativity, vibrancy, and showing up for each other, we’ve been able to reach new heights and have been buoyed through periods of despair.

Here are a few of those magical moments.
Despite a major snowstorm, Prince Day at UROC took place as planned on Saturday, April 14. Prince's extended family members, North Minneapolis community, and University of Minnesota researchers came together to explore how Prince's family and community on the Northside helped give rise to his global stardom. On the walls were images of Prince that included lyrics, poetry and quotes that visitors absorbed during the event.

A few hundred people gathered at Victory Memorial in North Minneapolis for a Veteran's Day ceremony that marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Dignitaries looks turns speaking at the podium and the crowd was visibly moved by the vocals of gospel singer Robert Robinson, who sang three songs, including the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America." A group of Junior ROTC cadets from the General Colin L. Powell Leadership Academy presented the colors and an honor guard from VFW Post 494 fired three volleys to honor those who lost their lives serving their country. Following a moment of silence, a C-130 H3 transport plane flew over the flag flying over Victory Memorial Plaza to conclude the event.

James Young's fourth grade year at Lucy Craft Laney Elementary School started off with an enthusiastic greeting from school staff and parents lining the entrance-way. The greeting is a tradition that signals the first day of the school year at Laney.

All photos by David Pierini
North Minneapolis’s own Jovonta Patton, a Billboard-charting gospel artist, sings at the University of Minnesota’s Ted Mann Concert Hall during a musical event celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"There is a sense of sharing, a sense of closeness; we look out for one another."
- Florence Timmerman

Twin Cities’ premier senior rock group “Alive & Kickin” artistic director Michael Ferrell, center, helps Agnes Chik-Fufa belt out a song during an audition for the group. Afterwards, Ferrell told music director Jason Hansen, left, “We’ve got a new rocker and she’s gonna be good.” The group meets at the Cora McCorvey Health and Wellness Center each Monday.

Florence Timmerman (left) and Jessie Johnson have known the Northside for more than a hundred years each. The sisters, who are 100 and 104 years old, grew up at 37th and Bryant Ave. N before the neighborhood had paved roads. They spent their lives educating generations of students in the community, and now they live together in Timmerman’s home in the Folwell neighborhood.

All photos by David Pierini
The Aztec dance troupe Kalpulli Ketzal Coatlicue, including Rolis Marin, center, performed Aug. 11 at the Annual Festival of Fathers and Family at North Commons Park.

Asian Media Access, a youth program that uses technology, art, and community organizing to improve cultural understanding and develop leadership skills, is located on Plymouth Ave. Here, Keng Thao, center, stretches with friends in the dance studio at AMA before practicing hip-hop dance moves for an upcoming performance this past summer.

"North Minneapolis is always a first stop for immigrants. It increases the diversity we love. We never feel we are outsiders."

- Ange Hwang
North Minneapolis is home to the only naturally filtered, chemical-free pool in the country, Webber Natural Swimming Pool. It’s open during the summer months, and entry is free.

Freedom Day, a celebration of Juneteenth, was held in Bethune Park this year. Park Board Superintendent Mary Merrill (left) was instrumental in making it happen. Renowned storyteller Nothando Zulu (right) performed a piece called “Libations” on stage at the event.

Queen J delighted in the legs of her daughter, Amor, kicking as she hears the music of gospel singer Jovonta Patton at Freedom Day, a celebration of Juneteenth, at Bethune Park.

All photos by David Pierini
On Nov. 6, Irene Fernando was elected Hennepin County Commissioner for District 2. She and District 4-elect Angela Conley have made history by being the first two people of color to be elected to the board in its over 150 year history. Fernando rallied voters with a campaign that communicated greater advocacy, transparency and equity for the county through a clearly articulated policy agenda, her “Commish Dish” YouTube videos, and the occasional Beyoncé reference.

On June 23, Thurman Blevins Jr. was shot and killed by police in the Lind Bohanon neighborhood. A large protest and vigil to honor his memory were held the day after. Here, at the vigil, some of Blevins’ cousins, including DaReil Moore, second from right, gathered each other in as they listened to speakers.

The ministry of Pastor Kelly Chatman does not end with the people in the last row of pews. He believes Redeemer Lutheran Church ministers to all of Harrison neighborhood. Cora Iverson and her son, Elijah, 1, pictured here, live in an apartment owned by Redeemer. Their building is next door to the church, which provides affordable housing for those in need.

"I’m hopeful that we can make very material points of progress toward more equitable allocation of funds and resources."

- Irene Fernando
Richard Copeland, the founder and chairman of the largest minority-owned construction company in the state, THOR Companies, was born in the Sumner-Olson housing projects in North Minneapolis, just blocks from his company’s multi-million dollar headquarters at the Penn and Plymouth Ave. N intersection. The building was built this year.

"Our hope is to strengthen this part of the community in an overall effort to help the entire community."
- Richard Copeland

Nancia Buchanan leans into Patience Epps while they read quietly in a hallway with Shelly Marquez Sanchez at Ascension School.

All photos by David Pierini
Student stories

North News has a journalism class partnership with North High School. Students in our class produce these stories each month.

Winter break plans

By Eddie Beamon North High

It’s December, and this is the time of year when we make the hot cocoa, turn on the heat, and get ready for the holiday season. Students are making moves to plan their two week break, and three North High students shared their thoughts and plans with North News reporter, Eddie Beamon.

KJ Jackson, Sophomore
E: What are you doing for winter break?
K: Yea, we usually decorate our Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve. We make cookies. By then come pop out and show some support. “It’s here at North, so if y’all wanna pop out, sic.” It’s here at North, so if y’all wanna pop out, a tournament [called] “Above The Rim Classic.”

Brandon Tucker, Senior
E: What are your plans? You got any traditions for winter break?
B: We light up the tree, and I gather my nieces up, and we watch Christmas movies.
E: What do you want for Christmas this year?
B: I just want me a new bedroom with a special gift.
E: Are you excited for the new year? Do you got any plans for the new year?
B: Live my best life, be successful.

Ijahlee Waller, Senior
I: No! You know, I’m a still do me, be me, that’s it. What is one of your favorite meals around this time of year?
I: Jerk Chicken and Oxtail with some rice and peas. Period.
E: What are your plans? You got any traditions for winter break?
I: We make the hot cocoa, turn on the heat, and have high schools the next day,” said Gabriella Detzauer, a member of North High’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA).

QQuest supports LGBTQ students

By Xavious Tran North High

QQuest, one of the few teen LGBTQ events for MPS and SPPS students during the school year, takes place only once a year. The event is for kids who identify as LGBTQ. “Q-Quest is a workshop conference for school GSAs and allies to come together and have good time. They have one day for middle schools, and have high schools the next day,” said Gabriella Detzauer, a member of North High’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA).

QQuest is a great event for LGBTQ youth who are out, who are closeted, or even those who are unsure of their sexuality. The workshops provided in QQuest are centered towards LGBTQ topics, and they’re very informative. This year, the conference was located at Crosswinds School in Woodbury.

QQuest is an event where kids can be themselves and meet other kids who are also LGBTQ. Students can meet other people who are dealing with similar struggles and empower each other.

QQuest may be for everyone, and can be especially helpful to closeted kids. “This would be a great event for closeted kids. I was actually closeted when I first went, in the seventh grade. It made me feel not so alone even though nobody knew I was queer. It was still nice to hear that there were people that are or were going through the same thing as me. And closeted kids or any queer kids for that matter need to know they aren’t alone. Feeling alone in my opinion is one of the worst feelings ever, so just knowing that there’s at least one person out there that understands you can make a huge difference,” said Jay Mackbee, a Southwest High student.

QQuest is a great event for anyone who feels they need someone to talk to or relate to. QQuest is an event where you can be yourself and express your true self without judgment. “I just love seeing students get to be themselves and express themselves in ways they can’t usually do during a normal school day. I also love watching my students perform and be student leaders in workshops and make new friends,” said Kate Allen, a social worker at North High.

Students who aren’t out may feel uncomfortable during the school day. QQuest can change that.
The City of Minneapolis is now accepting applications for the Minneapolis 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program, which helps property owners obtain property tax reductions for agreeing to keep a portion of rental units affordable for 10 years. For more information check out: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cpde/housing/WCM-SP-214366

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

Northside Boxing Club (1704 33rd Ave N) offers free lessons to kids ages 9-21. Training includes boxing drills, technique work, running and strength conditioning. Each session ends with a healthy meal. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 4pm-5:30pm and 6pm-7pm. On Fridays, youth open boxing is offered from 4pm-7pm.

Hennepin County funding assistance for lead paint - Homeowners and landlords may be eligible for a free home test and as much as $8,000 in lead reduction costs, such as new windows. Contact: healthyhomes@hennepin. us or 612-943-4182.

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

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

Do you live in Near North or Willard/Hay? Then your block could be eligible for a mini block club grant through the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council. Funds are available for a project or event you want to create. For more information call 612-335-5924 or email contacts@nrrc.org.

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

Spend Diversity Dashboard – The City of Minneapolis has developed a new tool, available to the public, that details the city’s discretionary spending and the improvements the city can make in increasing participation of women-owned and minority-owned businesses in City of Minneapolis contracts.

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

Pillsbury United Communities’ Oak Park Center (1701 Oak Park Ave N) hosts free community dinners on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5pm-7pm.

**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Ongoing Thursdays – Community Coffee & Conversation, 11am-1pm. Get to know neighbors and enjoy complimentary beverages. All are welcome at Serendipity Spot (3300 Lyndale Ave N).

The Bell Museum is seeking four resident artists for the next round of its Resident Artist Research Project. This program invites dynamic candidates from all disciplines to investigate artistic practice as a lens for science discovery, and offers a unique opportunity to engage with Bell curators and staff, University of Minnesota researchers, scientific collections, as well as the greater community. Made possible in part with generous funding from The McKnight Foundation, the Resident Artist Research Program is also a way for Minnesota’s official natural history museum to celebrate local artists. Interested artists living and working in Minnesota will be asked to consider their work in the context of the following “Big Ideas:” frontiers of discovery, immersive experience, collecting and curating, and ways of knowing. Residencies are open to individual and collaborative artists of all disciplines, including but not limited to writers, poets, storytellers, dancers, designers, map makers, musicians, video and film artists, as well as artist collectives. Excellent candidates may be makers of 2D or 3D objects and/or have experience in performance, events, installations, new (immersive) media, social practice, or audience-activated artwork. The application deadline is Dec. 30 at 11:59pm. For more information, check out: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/call-for-artists-18-20.

Fridays – Family Storytime. 10-11am. Webber Park Library. For children of all ages and their parent or caregiver. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Tuesdays – Boot Camp at The Trailhead: Tammie’s most popular class. Boot Camp is a multifaceted high-energy class that combines elements of strength and cardio to create the perfect morning workout. As you work your way through the various stations, you’ll find this session challenging you in varied ways as each targets a different muscle group. Boot Camp is a great way to get in a well-balanced and challenging workout before you start your day. Theodore Wirth Parkway Trailhead, 6:15am-7:15am.

UROC presents “Joy in Translation” in the UROC Gallery. Fine art photographer Anna Min spent the last year seeking out joy and wonderment in the modern world and answering the question, “Where does joy go when it’s not around here?” The resulting exhibit, “Joy in Translation,” is a collection of images designed to delight the eye, inspire joy, and give the heart hope for another day. The gallery showing has opened and will remain open through Jan. 31.

12/22 & 12/29 – Free Snowshoe Rentals. 11am-3pm. Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center (4900 Mississippi Court). Get into the spirit of the season by dropping in to check out a pair of snowshoes to explore the park. All Ages.

1/27 – Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents an organ recital by Monica Czausz – one of America’s leading concert organists. She has received numerous first prize awards in competitions since 2015, and has been featured performer at both the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society national conventions. She will offer an eclectic performance on Mount Olive’s 55-rank Schlicker organ. 4pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church (3045 Chicago Ave S.). A reception in the church’s Chapel Lounge follows the recital. This event is free and open to the public; a free-will offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.

**EDUCATION**

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

Mondays – Sign up for a weekly 30-minute session to practice reading and do literacy activities with a teen mentor. 2pm - 5pm. Visit or call the Webber Park Library to register. 612-543-6751. Sponsored by the Webber Park Friends. For kids entering grades K-3.

Project for Pride in Living (PPL) seeks volunteers interested in mentoring and tutoring youth in grades K-5th grade who are living in supportive housing in Camden. Volunteers are matched 1:1 with a youth to build a strong relationship, tutor in literacy concepts, and engage in enrichment activities like arts & crafts, games, creative play, etc. To apply, visit www.ppl-inc.org/volunteer or contact Volunteer Coordinator Caitlin Dougherty at caitlin.dougherty@ppl-inc.org / 612-455-5108.

Teen Tech workshop is held every other Thursday. North Regional Library, 5pm-7pm. Get creative and make music, videos, animation, and other projects using high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library’s Teen Tech Squad. More information at http://www.hclib.org/about/locations/north-regional.

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

BE AWARE

Just like eating greasy food can clog people’s arteries, grease and fat can build up in drainpipes in homes and restaurants and out under the streets. Clogs in the pipes can cause sewage backups into basements and call for expensive repairs. The City is hoping to raise awareness about the impacts that grease can have on plumbing at individual properties and in the City’s sewer system. A new rule has passed that allows the City to charge property owners for cleaning, repairing or replacing City pipes clogged with grease.

The grease rule sets up a framework to mitigate risks and decrease the costs to rate payers. Problem spots in one-tenth of the sewer system have cost the City close to $1 million since 2012 to keep pipes flowing. The clogs divert money and time from other critical sewer system needs as crews are inspecting pipes and clearing out grease every two weeks. The costs of these services in a small number of locations are borne by sanitary sewer rate payers across Minneapolis.

Find more information here: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease

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

Sidewalks are a critical part of Minneapolis’ transportation system and they should be open for everyone. With the snow season upon us, here’s a refresher on the City’s rules. Minneapolis ordinance requires property owners of houses and duplexes to clear sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall and all other property owners must clear their sidewalks within four daytime hours. In addition to relying on complaints reported to 311, this season City inspectors will also be out in neighborhoods actively looking for sidewalks that aren’t shoveled. Failure to shovel and maintain your sidewalk could result in a warning letter and, if left uncleared, a bill for the City to remove snow from your sidewalk. An average bill is approximately $150. People should call 311 to learn more about resources available to people who may need help clearing their sidewalks. Several nonprofit organizations are ready to provide for-hire services or provide help when the snow falls. Find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/shovel.

Snow season is here. The City of Minneapolis sent out about 177,000 Snow Emergency brochures, one to each household in the city explaining the rules. The brochure has graphics and text showing where to park during the three phases of a Snow Emergency. The brochures contain the Snow Emergency parking rules and lists ways people can find out when to move their cars for a Snow Emergency. Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there’s enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our streets. To get that done, people need to follow the parking rules and move their vehicles so crews can plow the full width of the street. When the snow flies, City Public Works crews have enormous jobs to do, with more than 1,400 miles of streets, parkways and alleys that need to be cleared. It’s important for drivers to follow the Snow Emergency parking rules so plows can do the best job possible clearing snow. Vehicles parked on the street in violation of Snow Emergency rules can be ticketed or towed. For more information, visit: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow

People must be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in Minneapolis as of 10/1. Minneapolis raised the age from 18 to help protect younger generations from lifelong nicotine addiction, tobacco-related illnesses, and the tobacco-related health disparities between white populations and people of color. Research shows raising the age to buy tobacco will keep an estimated 30,000 young people from starting to smoke over a 15-year period in Minneapolis.

CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about certain rights and their responsibilities as it relates to the Cold Weather Rule (CWR). The CWR protects residential customers who are experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct. 15, 2018 and April 15, 2019. While the CWR does not prevent customers from being disconnected for nonpayment, it does provide customers with extra protection between Oct.
JXTA: A LOOK BACK AT 2018

JXTA is alive with joy and energy as 2018 draws to a close.

This year, our paid youth apprentices trained alongside professional artists to hone creative talents and work on real client projects. We hosted activists, international artists, and other creatives in our gallery space and JXTA Labs. And we launched a $14 million capital campaign for a new building. While we raise this money, a new skate-able art plaza will become a hub of activity for North Minneapolis in the summer of 2019.

Truth be told, it’s always a joyful time at JXTA. We’re creating art and we’re creating real jobs. Ultimately, we’re creating a more vibrant, equitable, socially connected, and economically sustainable world.

Wishing you much joy this season, and throughout the year.

DeAnna Cummings,
Chief Executive Officer
Roger Cummings,
Chief Cultural Producer

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I want the community to know how thankful I am."

A year ago, Jaequan Faulkner, 13, was your average pre-teen, going to school at Sojourner Truth Academy, and, in his own words, "getting into trouble."

Then, he decided to spend his summer selling hot dogs outside his Penn Ave. home and became the focus of international news coverage.

It all started when his business boomed due to a viral Facebook post. Amidst all the attention, someone reported him to the Minneapolis Health Department for serving food without a license, and he had to shut down. But, city officials didn’t want to see the young man’s entrepreneurship stifled, and they pitched in time and dollars to get him the support, training, and license he needed to get cooking again.

Media outlets picked up the feel-good story, and Faulkner has spent the second half of this year balancing hot dog sales with responding to all the media attention.

“This year is only the beginning,” said his uncle Jerome Faulkner, who Jaequan lives with.

This month, North News talked with Jaequan about being a local celebrity and his future in the food business.
This has been a big year for you. Tell us about some of the highlights. It has. Highlights have been when I made it in the newspaper, and when I made it to the news because I was able to show my uncle who lives in California.

What was going on in your life this time last year? I was just a 12 year old, going to school. I was getting in trouble for doing things I shouldn’t have been doing. I was trying to stop that. My auntie and uncle motivated me. They told me what they had gone through and that was rough.

How did you come up with the idea for your business? I started doing hot dogs two years ago. My uncle had a roller. He wouldn’t let me use it. When he finally did, I lost focus. But he gave me another chance and [it turned into this business]. First, I called it Jaequan’s Hot Dogs, but then I [changed it to] My Uncle Shaultbody’s so it could be a family business. My uncle said hot dogs were old; I came up with “Old Fashioned!” It’s Mr. Faulkner’s Old Fashioned Hot Dogs.

Did you imagine you’d end up here? No, not really. I thought I would just be a boy outside doing something, like a lemonade stand. I saw that people actually appreciated it and liked it because of my age.

Has anyone given you any advice about having a business? NEON. The Northside Economic Opportunity Network. They are on Broadway. They actually had helped me get my license, get set up, and showed me everything I needed so I wouldn’t have problems. They gave me advice: they said that somebody tells me I can’t do something or that I can’t go somewhere, do the things to make it that way. I’m going to keep working with them to get a permanent location this spring.

Where would you like your permanent location to be? We were thinking in front of the house but since it’s not a commercial spot, we can’t have it here. Right across the street on Golden Valley could work. I imagine it being a shop, but if I don’t make it I have a stand. Either way I’ll still be grateful. I started selling turkey and beef but the turkey wasn’t selling as fast so I stopped. I don’t want to spend a lot of money to add something in case it doesn’t do well. I have a Facebook account and people have asked for veggie dogs. I will be trying that. If I had a shop, people won’t have to ask where I’ll be.

Do you still sell hot dogs during the school year? I did three times, but it’s too cold [now] so I’ll be shutting down till it gets a little warmer.

What do you like about living in North Minneapolis and being a business owner here? When most people hear about North Minneapolis, they’re like, “I’m not going over there: crime, too many shootings.” People mainly come in cars. You don’t see a lot of walking. When you see a kid with a stand, it makes you want to come. That’s what I want to do: make the Northside not a bad side anymore.

“Don’t give up. Don’t let anybody tell you, you can’t.”

Who do you look up to? My Uncle Shaultbody who lives in California. He has a business. He has his own shirts, and he writes his own books. He grew up with a little but now he’s big. He’s one of my uncles who actually made it. He was the reason I started this. He did it, and I wanted to show him I could do it too.

You were a guest on the Steve Harvey Show this year. What was that like? I’m a big fan of Steve Harvey. …me actually going to meet him was like, “I made it.” My Uncle Shaultbody was like, “you’ve made it further than me!”

How can the community support you? They’ve been supporting me a lot. They send me money, and they send me chips, pop, water that I can sell. [They shouldn’t send me hot dogs because] I can’t sell [them.] …I want the community to know how thankful I am.

Faulkner has taken an active approach to marketing his business. This summer he flagged cars down on Penn Ave. in front of his hot dog stand.

How have you spent your earnings? I don’t like Jordans; I buy Nikes or Filas shoes. I bought my own school uniform. I’m going to a non-uniform high school so I’ll have to buy clothes for that.

Police have been very supportive of you and your stand. What have those relationships been like for you? To me that was a really positive experience. Growing up, my parents and police didn’t get along. But seeing a young man and police actually bonding, doing something great, the whole community comes together. I hope that for the Northside community; that we come together and that there won’t be so many shootings.

Where do you hope to be a year from now? Ten years from now? A year from now, I hope to be somewhere on Broadway or somewhere where a lot of famous restaurants are at. Somewhere big. Ten years from now, I want to be in California having businesses there because when I was on the Steve Harvey show there, people wanted to support me. My uncle is there too and he would help me.
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