Mack Kelly cuts his teeth on the game of football playing for the Minnesota Panthers flag football team. 

Photo by David Pierini

FLAG FOOTBALL
The joys of summer!

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June 25, 2021
Serving the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis
www.mynorthnews.org
For me, the biggest side effect is peace of mind. On June 25 I lied at my right elbow to receive my second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Deciding to get vaccinated was a decision to which I no longer have regrets.

Several factors weighed in my decision. In the first place, I was interested in avoiding any potential treatment or after effects associated with the vaccine. In the second place, it was the thought of my dear Aunt Claramarie, who died last May after being ill for several months due to COVID-19. After testing positive for COVID-19, she presented with fever, myalgia, and shortness of breath. She says for several weeks she was treated for pneumonia and needed to stay in the hospital, where she was placed on a ventilator. Upon leaving the hospital, she was placed on oxygen therapy for a time. She finally passed away at home on April 1, 2021.

Aunt Claramarie was among the first to die of COVID-19 in Minnesota. She was a beloved aunt and grandmother to many, including me. Her passing was a devastating blow to our family, and her death served as a stark reminder of the severity and impact of the pandemic.

In addition to my personal connection to Aunt Claramarie, I was also motivated by the research and development efforts that went into creating the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine was developed through a collaborative effort between the Moderna company and the National Institutes of Health. It is one of several vaccines that have been approved for use in the United States, and it is considered one of the most effective and safe options available.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine, which means it contains a small piece of genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19. This material can trigger an immune response in the body, which helps protect against the virus. The vaccine is administered in two doses, typically given four to five weeks apart. After receiving the vaccine, it is recommended that individuals continue to follow all public health guidelines, such as wearing masks and social distancing, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I am grateful for the opportunity to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and hope others will do the same. While COVID-19 has presented many challenges, it has also brought us together as a community to support one another. I encourage everyone to do their part in protecting themselves and others by getting vaccinated, following public health guidelines, and staying informed about the latest developments in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alex Merritt
Twin Cities RISE
By David Pierre, Staff Reporter

The faith community closest to stop the kind of gun violence that has bedeviled Northeast neighborhoods over the past year.

But organizers of the 21 Days of Peace initiative launched in May say the presence of volunteer patrols seemed to lower the kind of gun violence that has bedeviled the Northside neighborhoods over the past three months.

“We are happy to see that people are stopping here,” Thomas said. “Just the fact that people are stopping back.”

The period ending on June 19 made a difference, according to the four troubled intersections – West Northside Avenue and Lyndale and 36th and 35th – during the period ending on June 19 made a difference.

On a Friday evening at the corner of Lowry and Logan, Mercedes Thomas, left, and Tawon Nunn passed out flyers during a Friday night earlier in June at the corner of Lowry and Logan. Photo by David Pierre

The April 30 shooting.

If you’ve got a police force that is 200 participants calling on volunteers to watch over the intersections.

“Most of the places we designated, the shootings have gone down,” McAfee said.

There were participating churches in St. Paul where volunteers patrolled three troubled areas. McAfee said there will be new phases that will incorporate other prevention strategies and initiatives that address more direct root causes of crime, such as joblessness.

“Friday evening at Lowry and Logan led many, including the police, to believe that the city is making progress with a Mother’s Love’s, was the first to arrive for a shift starting at 5 p.m. She was joined by other volunteers who signed up plus people who stepped up and pitched in passing out flyers to advertise a reward for information on the shootings.

The topics that were studied in the AUAR include land use, geology, water and topography/landforms, water resources, contamination/resources, wildlife, fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources (rare features). Historic properties, sites that are in human history, and cumulative potential effects. The area studied included 131 acres of property north and south of the street.

The process used two different development scenarios to think about what the development maximums of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan in land usage and development. The other scenario was based on using more of the rare features.

If you get a police force that is 200 participants calling on volunteers to watch over the intersections. On the next page there may have been increased periods of calm, gunshots still rang out.

A police volunteer was hit with a stray bullet in her side during a drive-by shooting near the intersection of Broadway and Lyndale avenues on June 13, Glori Howse was treated and released.

At that same intersection earlier that month, a woman was fatally shot and another person injured in a shooting outside Meriw Rhinestones. The shooting happened about 30 minutes after volunteers had ended their shift.

Faith leaders, led by Rev. Salesian Missions, Bishop’s Church pastor, the Rev. Jerry McAfee, called on community to “root out those weighty forces with people of goodwill” following the separate shootings of three children, ages 3 and 10, and a woman that took place.

The Marilyn Rhodes Prize is named for a long-time advocate for the community.

One of the reasons why I am championing the mitigation plan could be for environmental reasons. However, research shows that having an attorney help prevent people facing eviction from losing their homes. If someone is facing eviction, it is important for them to have their attorney help prevent them from losing their homes.

On a Friday evening at the corner of Lowry and Logan, Mercedes Thomas, left, and Tawon Nunn passed out flyers during a Friday night earlier in June at the corner of Lowry and Logan.

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On a Friday evening at the corner of Lowry and Logan, Mercedes Thomas, left, and Tawon Nunn passed out flyers during a Friday night earlier in June at the corner of Lowry and Logan.
Mnneapolis Councilman Jeremiah Ellison wants residents of Ward 5 to reimagine the future of policing.

But gunshots and news reports of children dying from stray bullets are reshaping much of the conversation.

Crime and policing are likely to be front and center on the minds of voters this November with the first affordable housing since the police reform law passed.

The violence continues into the new year and the city is on pace to surpass last year’s murder count. In May, three children, ages 6-11, were struck by stray bullets during separate shootings in North Minneapolis. Trinity Ottoson-Smith, 5, and Aniya Allen, 6, both died. Ladavionne Williams, 9, and Aniya Allen, 6, both died. Ladavionne Williams, 9, and Aniya Allen, 6, both died. Ladavionne Williams, 9, and Aniya Allen, 6, both died.

Incumbent Ward 5 City Councilman Jeremiah Ellison faces five challengers on the November ballot.

"The reality is our city council needs to hold some responsibility for the fact that they have started the chaos," said Cathy Spalding, among the eight residents in the city for a lack of police protection. "It is累了 as one of Ellison’s strongest gestures in the wake of the extended crime wave, want more police on the streets not the streets.

"We struggle to connect the various aspects that create a city wide emergency," Ellison said. "We talk about policing, you talk about violence prevention, you talk about a mental health crisis. None of those issues have had one response to all of those issues and that is a 'police-only' model. We need a collaboration with police. We need alternative responses to emergencies that don’t require an armed response. The truth is, we need accountability and without accountability, nothing else is going to work.

Ellison favors a more holistic public safety department, but that would require a change in the city charter. The charter requires the city to maintain a certain number of officers. Eliminating that requirement would free the city to put money into crime prevention and outreach workers for homelessness, addiction and mental health crisis.

Should the city reform police or re-imagine it? The difference could decide Ward 5 race

By David Pineau, Staff Reporter

NORTH NEWS

June 25, 2021

NEWS

For Roxanne O’Brien feeling fear means ‘something needs to be done’

By David Pineau, Staff Reporter

Roxanne O’Brien has taught herself science and how to cut through the smoke in halls of power to fight industrial pollution.

She has brought fierce mettle to foreclosure reform, police brutality and education equality. And now she is summoning the resources to take on something new – race.

“I’ve been saying that for a while,” said O’Brien. “Within the next two or three, I will face myself to set a date to run.”

Anyone who has worked alongside O’Brien or experienced her approach understands how fitting the piece button will be a challenge for her.

O’Brien, an honors college graduate and community organizer, but insists that is a woman who just wants her third child to be safe when they leave the house. She says, she’s second, is neighbor worried about the people in her North Minneapolis neighborhood who bear some of the nation’s heaviest burdens, including air pollution from largely unfettered industry nearby.

For more than a decade, O’Brien has led residents in a fight with Northern Metals Recycling, whose metal shredding operation led to toxic emissions and elevated levels of lead and other particulates in the air. The company agreed to pay a large settlement and other fees in 2017 and move its shredding operation out of Minneapolis. Before it could open a new facility in Becker, Northern Metals was accused of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of falsifying measurements from on-site monitors.

The Pacific Street facility was finally shut down in 2019, but it has had one response to all of those issues and that is a 'police-only' model. We need a collaboration with police. People think we should ban choke holds, people think we should ban no-knock raids. The City Council can’t do that currently because there’s no legislative authority.

One month later, O’Brien led her Northside group, Community Members for Environmental Justice in a rally out in front of the Northern Metals building calling for the city to cease, and for that, shut down the facility.

She has been a steadfast advocate and actively engaged in standing up for community,” said former state Rep. Phyllis Kahn, a Northsider, who first met O’Brien at a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency hearing several years back regarding Northern Metals’ operation permit. “She’s been at this a long time. You really have to be in it to be in it. She has been at this a long time and there are times when you get laid down or moved back and you keep fighting because you believe in this type of work.”

O’Brien is the daughter of a former teacher who worked with troubled youth and was constantly 911 calls from her community, O’Brien said. Before, there was no local response. “She took the daughter how to understand the very small stories of people’s lives, their stories of their labors. She’s accepted the labels of activist or community organizer. O’Brien said, before the role, it was, ‘something needs to be done.’

For Roxanne O’Brien turning anger into action as an activist and community organizer. Photo by David Pineau.
The Northside’s youngest football players chase flags for summer fun

Photos and text by David Pierini, Staff Reporter

Coach Gino Eagle isn’t trying to teach his football team X’s and O’s. He’s got one play.

“If you’re not running with the ball, what are you doing?” Eagle asks his team with his hand cupped by his ear to indicate he is insisting the correct answer be said aloud.

“Blocking!”

The Minnesota Panthers’ youngest players, ages 4 to 6, have a blast getting a taste for the game with flag football. The Northside program, which has a popular tackle football program for youth, added flag football last summer. Word spread of the fun kids were having and this season’s roster is twice as big.

Practices are at Shingle Creek Park and the Panthers play weekly games in a flag league with teams from Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center.

Continued on page 18

Tatum Lewis, 4, successfully runs past defenders during a recent practice at Shingle Creek Park.

Jaylen Ruffin smiles as he gets close to the end zone in practice.

DeMarcus Howell, 5, right, and Gion Eagle high-five to start the second half of play during a recent game.

Gion Eagle runs across the field at Fairview Park with the team flag.

Panther parents get excited as the team runs for a touchdown.

“Down! Set…” is the command that gets the Panthers ready for play.

Coach Gino Eagle prepares Amari Evans, 4, for his blocking assignment in practice.
Juneteenth becomes national holiday

Sen. Tina Smith marks Senate passage of bill with call to 95-year-old Juneteenth activist Opal Lee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Juneteenth is now a national holiday.

The Senate voted by unanimous consent to pass a bill sponsored by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN), Sens. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-NJ), John Cornyn (R-TX) and Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. The House passed the bill the next day and President Joe Biden signed the bill into law on June 17. Smith was on hand at the White House signing Juneteenth, observed on June 19, commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and is also known as “Emancipation Day,” “Jubilee Day,” and “Juneteenth Independence Day.” On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, Major General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, which announced that in accordance with the Emancipation Proclamation, “all slaves are free.” That order reached the enslaved Texans two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, when most enslaved Blacks were released from bondage.

To celebrate the passage of the bill called Opal Lee, a 95-year-old activist and educator instrumental in the push to recognize the holiday, to share the news. One of the strongest advocates for declaring Juneteenth a federal holiday, Lee walked from Texas to Washington, D.C. to raise awareness and petition signatures in support of Juneteenth. Lee was also on hand for the White House signing.

“Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and it should have been a federal holiday long ago. But today, we got it done in the Senate,” said Smith. “I want to thank Ms. Opal Lee, who walked across this country to raise support for Juneteenth as a federal holiday. I’ve been honored to support your moral cause here in the Senate with Senators Markey and Booker, and all our colleagues. Our country has a lot of work ahead to eradicate the trauma and impact of systemic racism, and Juneteenth is an important step on this journey.”

Smith said recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday forces America to address its troubled past.

“From all of our existence we thought of (American) history as white people’s history and Black people’s history as some sort of subset,” said Smith. “This (Juneteenth as a national holiday) recognizes that Black history is in fact American History.”

Prior to the federal passage, Juneteenth was already recognized by 47 states and the District of Columbia as an official state holiday or observance. The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act would recognize the importance of this day nationwide.

Freedom has its own holiday

Photos by David Platiu, Staff Reporter

Northsiders had their pick of party spots to celebrate Juneteenth. The holiday— and for the first time, an official federal holiday— celebrates the end of slavery and the freedom of the last remaining enslaved Blacks in Galveston, Texas. Though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, the enslaved Blacks in Galveston didn’t get the word until June 19, 1865. Sanctuary Covenant Church, Bethune Park and the Folwell Neighborhood Association all hosted gatherings that included music, food, games and friends that freely hugged one another as the COVID-19 pandemic weakened.

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Addressing mental health amid the ‘triangle of trauma’

By Harry Colbert, Jr., Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes all we need to do is take a deep breath. Sometimes … oftentimes … we need more. We need help. The stress of COVID alone would be enough. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, during the pandemic four out of 10 people reported symptoms of anxiety or depression. That is up from just one in 10 in January of 2019. Add the stress of police killings and uprisings related to George Floyd, Daunte Wright and most recently Winston Smith and the stress is compounded. Then add the seemingly daily shootings on the Northside – two taking the lives of girls 9 and 6, and it can all be too much.

So, how do we cope with this “triangle of trauma” along with life’s other daily stresses?

“It’s been a tumultuous year and a half, but we deal with it,” said the Rev. David Keaton, pastor at Kingdom Life Church, 3751 Sheridan Ave. N. “But there is no silver bullet being available (as a pastor) to talk and to listen and to apply the word of God as a salve.”

Keaton, whose congregation is predominantly Black, said his parishioners have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and said members of his church have experienced loss due to both COVID-19 and gun violence.

“North Minneapolis is inner-related and my congregation is connected to all of this,” said Keaton.

For Marques Armstrong, president and CEO of Hope and Healthy Counseling Services and co-founder of the Racial Justice Network, he counsels those with trauma while dealing with his own as a frontline activist along with his wife, attorney Nekima Levy-Armstrong.

“First you have the uncertainty and anxiety due to the pandemic. People were concerned about themselves and their family,” said King. “And violence in community, police killings and protests added another layer of stress. Plus, these events trigger pre-existing trauma.”

King, like Armstrong, also encouraged proper rest to help manage stress. In cases that are more severe, she said medication may be prescribed. For those in need of medication, NorthPoint has psychiatrists on staff to assess a patient’s needs. Appointments can be made by phone at (612) 543-2900.

Marques Armstrong stands in the foreground, mourning the death of Daunte Wright during his April 22 funeral. Photo by Harry Colbert, Jr.
Stop in to see our revamped craft beer section with favorites from Minnesota and around the country.
One way of tackling crime. She called for a police and our mayor will help us achieve a police officers. I believe collaboration with would actually have the tools and resources answer to solve the issues of public safety head,” Martinez said. “Our city council was active in the 21 Days of Peace patrols, street outreach groups and trained so—eral support for crime prevention, including so-called hot spots. There would be great—hood is part of a section of Minneapolis that communities of color suffer from respiratory less.”

O’Brien does not want to be the lone Norris, too, emphasized relationships, sometimes a player forgets the no-tackle minders that “hike” means the play begins. O’Brien says the Hawthorne neighborhood and people who are struggling. She keeps an eye on what talents each of them. She reminds them of the impor—

Our community was trying to garden when neighborhoods destroyed,” said O’Brien who was a state capitol.”

Many students believe that learning about social justice is an indica—

Tactical Lab lead

O’Brien does not want to be the lone

Also heard at the end of the evening, O’Brien un

Kyllonen

William Etz

Elliot

C. Duddingston

Andrew

Two Minneapolis students were named to the spring semester Dean’s List at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. They are: Abiba Lecky, also of Minneapolis, made the spring semester honors list at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Krista Clark of Minneapolis received an associates degree in science and human services at Rochester Community and Technical College with certificates in community health and workplace communication.

Four scholars with local ties made the spring semester Dean’s List at St. Cloud State University. They are: Wilma Rosenlund, Ashley Shenline and Hero Yang.

Community Resources

Lunch at Library: Minneapolis Public Schools is offering free lunch for kids on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Free lunch will be served at the Vibe Library Park on April 6 and a variety of community centers in Minneapolis will be offering free lunch for kids from 11:45 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Radio updates in your language: Tune to Metro Community (abbreviation: MCRadio) to hear updates on COVID-19. MCRadio is available on the following stations: KMOJ 89.9 FM; KSTP 1590 (Hmong). MCRadio is also available through WCCO 830 AM.

Four Minneapolis scholars were named to the spring semester’s Dean’s List at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. They are: Alyssa Moore-Ritch, psychology; and Avery Norman, USUP, Group Project秆ers.
Has COVID-19 made it hard for you to pay your bills?

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