Surprise Scholarships

Each North High senior will graduate with $10,000 for school.
As I was placing stories on pages for this edition, I realized there was a theme that inadvertently tied three stories together. Two of the stories, both on Page 11, celebrate the lives of three pioneering Northerners: Richard Copeland, who died recently, and galler Edie Moncrieffe, who passed two years ago. Both men have great personal legacies. Copeland owned THOR Construction and was a champion for hiring Black and Brown contractors and developers. He knocked down walls so that other contractors and developers of color could get the jobs to build.

Moncrieffe played a leading role in integrating the all-white Men’s Association. The Men’s Ward Golf Club and formed groups to integrate other Black and Brown people, especially to the game. Manderville has been gone for two years but there is a campaign underway to have his name on the very clubhouse he was initially denied access to in the 1950s because of his skin color.

The third piece is our cover story about a fundraising effort led by Pilgrim United Communities to give every graduating senior at North High a $10,000 scholarship for college or career training. Some $100,000 is on track to graduate and during an assembly to announce the grants, a handful of High Alumni who went on to successful careers then literally swept the floor of the Northside with words of encouragement to work hard and follow their dreams.

Who among these seniors will be the next Copeland, the next Moncrieffe or any number of accomplished Northerners? Imagine what these two would say to the Class of 2022 as its members prepare to carry into the future. “Rise Higher” reminds this generation that they have written a book of prayers and offers words of encouragement to the Class of 2022 as its members prepare to carry into the future. manderville, who died recently, and Moncrieffe, who passed two years ago. Both men have great personal legacies. Copeland owned THOR Construction and was a champion for hiring Black and Brown contractors and developers. He knocked down walls so that other contractors and developers of color could get the jobs to build.

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Peter Hayden wins award that will carry his name

Peter Hayden, CEO and president of Turning Point in North Minneapolis, received the Indigenous, Inclusivity and Equity Award from the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest (NARIC) for his work on diversity, equity and inclusion. The award will carry his name in the namesake of the award.

Nonprofits Launch Growth Fund for small businesses

Many people worry that seeing a therapist will result in a diagnosis that will “follow” them, making life difficult. In reality, seeing a therapist is more likely to help you in your life than harm you. According to National Alliance on Mental Illness, 25% of adults in the U.S. have serious mental illnesses and more than 16 million people in serious mental distress are arrested annually; people with serious mental illness are in jail on any given day. Therapy, rather than being something that will put you into the system, is actually a way to help you cope with life’s challenges in healthier ways that could keep you out of the system.

The diagnosis and mental health information is protected under privacy laws that protect medical information. If you’re worried about how diagnosis may affect your life, you can keep it private, or share it only with people you trust to be supportive.

Working with a therapist or counselor is a therapeutic opportunity to explore your thoughts, feelings, and patterns of behavior. It can also help you learn new coping skills and techniques to better manage daily stresses. If you are experiencing a negative mood, undergoing a significant change, feeling isolated, using substances to cope with stress, feel like you have lost control, or suspect that you have a mental health condition, our therapists and counselors at NMS are one call away to support you.
West Broadway Avenue recommended for Blue Line extension

West Broadway Avenue in North Minneapolis could be the future ground for zippy light rail trains under a recommendation released April 18 by the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County.

The METRO Blue Line extension has been proposed to run from Target Field along West Broadway Avenue to County Road 81 in Crystal and Robbinsdale and along West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park. The recommendation was made after two years of community input and technical analysis. A route using Lowry Avenue had been considered.

“The new proposed route... will bring transformational benefits to residents from Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park,” Irene Fernando, Hennepin County District 2 commissioner and chair of the Regional Railroad Authority, said in a written statement. “The communities served by the proposed route are transit-reliant and racially diverse and have experienced historical disinvestment. The proposed route will connect students to education, workers to jobs, patients to healthcare, and families to resources, while connecting the corridor to the broader transit network. This project will ignite economic development for small businesses, result in more affordable housing options, increase access to educational opportunities, and build wealth for working families.”

While a boom in development has followed most light rail routes, affordable housing has not. Residents in some communities were displaced by raised rents and soaring property taxes once construction began.

To avoid negative impacts, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs is leading an anti-displacement work group, which includes residents and business owners in the impacted areas.

“The new proposed route... will bring transformational benefits to residents from Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park,” said the Met Council’s Robert Lilligren, whose District 7 includes North Minneapolis. “We have an opportunity with the Blue Line Extension and this Anti-Displacement Work Group to come up with direct and actionable steps that can minimize the harm and address the concerns of the community, while ensuring this one-in-a-generation investment benefits all of the cities and people along the corridor.”

A final vote on the route will not happen anytime soon. The Met Council must first complete the Green Line extension and determine funding for the Blue Line extension, which could run $1.5 billion. County officials say construction will take about three years and will not begin until 2025 at the earliest.

Continued on page 23

Paid Volunteer Opportunities

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers age 55+ in your area to provide companionship to older adults or mentor school age children or younger. Volunteers serve 10 or more hours per week for tax free stipend and mileage reimbursement.

Please contact Tina at 651-310-9425 or tina.voss@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!
perseverance,” Mosley said. “But most importantly, it’s standing in front of someone that believes in you. I hope that each and everyone one of you has someone that stands in front of you and believes that, and it’s up to you to put that grit and determination behind that dream to actually make that happen.”

Pillsbury United will hold the funds and remit them directly to the college or career program of their choosing. North seniors who have yet to decide a course can take up to one year to determine those plans. Pillsbury United will make college and career counselors available for the summer to guide the students.

The road to graduation for this class was marked by extreme difficulties. Shutdowns when the pandemic arrived isolated students and forced them into virtual classrooms. There was the police murder of George Floyd, disproportionate experiences of violence in the community and mostly, recently a three-week teachers strike.

“You deserve every ounce of love that’s coming your way. I want you to soak in this moment and I want you to enjoy it.”

Mauri Friestleben, North Principal

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Pillars basketball coach Larry McKenzie spoke and introduced North alums who have gone on to great achievement. They included Chanda Smith Baker, chief impact officer and senior vice president for the Minneapolis Foundation, Jamez Staples who founded Renewable Energy Partners and local entrepreneur, barber, and fashion designer Houston White.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Ikey Hill and his fellow seniors hold up their scholarship leaders to pose for a group photo.

North High seniors on April 15 knew something was up. Their giddy teachers could barely keep the secret that would be unveiled in the auditorium at the end of the day.

Weeks from graduating the high school experience for the Class of 2022 at North was hardly typical or carefree. The face masks many were wearing, for one, were a reminder that the first pandemic in a century was not over.

The masks could not hold back the awe-struck expressions or joyous shrieks when they learned each North senior will receive up to $10,000 toward their post-secondary education or career training.

“I am so happy. I really can’t believe it,” said Khadija Ba, who received admission to the University of Minnesota and hopes to one day go to law school. “The teachers were going around all day that there was a surprise for us, but I didn’t expect this, honestly. It just shows that someone’s looking out for the Northside.”

Leaders at Pillsbury United Communities, which owns and operates North News, raised $1 million to go to the roughly 100 North High students on track to graduate in June. Funds came from the following foundations and corporations:

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies Fund of the St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation, Cargill Foundation, General Mills, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation, Minnesota Twins, Target and U.S. Bank.

Adair Mosley, the president and CEO of Pillsbury United, choked up as he made the announcement. Principal Mauri Friestleben stood to the side of the stage to get a private moment for her tears. Others, many who were North High alums, smiled and clapped and approached the seniors with fist bumps.

“I know dreams don’t come true without some grit, determination and perseverance,” Mosley said. “But most importantly, it’s standing in front of someone that believes in you. I hope that each and everyone one of you has someone that stands in front of you and believes that, and it’s up to you to put that grit and determination behind that dream to actually make that happen.”

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By David Pierini, Twin Cities

A group of Henry High School teachers has filed a formal complaint against Minneapolis Federation of Teachers President Crosta Callahan for what they call "racIALIZED form" during the recent teachers' strike.

The complaint sent to the union's executive board on April 21 also signals the group's intent to initiate a recall campaign against the teachers' strike.

The complaint says that teachers were estranged by Callahan and other union members as they pressed union leaders on whether a contract-proposed language during negotiations that would protect youth education.

This was a key demand when teachers voted to strike that was suddenly dropped as the strike began, according to the Henry teachers. It was missing from signs posted by the union, left out of open streets at rallies, and omitted from daily updates by the union.

"I guess it is a victory, but there was a lot of harm done," said Henry guidance counselor Alex Leonard, "certainly learned some lessons in this union at the expense of educators of color.

"Together we stand united in our calls to make up about 1 percent of the teaching force,

"I'm sitting here fighting this battle with my friends and neighbors, trying to be heard.

"We supported all of the demands, but part of the reason we voted to strike was for teachers of color who had seen young colleagues be "excessed."

"That was a demand for enforceable retention language that was written into the contract and will endure.

"We negotiated nation-leading language that was written into the contract and will endure. Our students and educators of color will be heard.

"Our work, our voice, our community, has been hidden from those who don't see us. We were just kind of invisible.

"Callahan told North News the union's main goal was to "cancel" BIPOC teachers, calling for the removal of the term "racialized form" in communications and, called, the group and frustration "righteous, justified" but "stipulated.

The school strike aimed to protect BIPOC teachers. Instead, some feel 'ostracized'
He was proudest of what he built in North Minneapolis on the course at Theodore Wirth. He was adequate to address his contributions to that year. The final vote would take place by the end of scheduled for September 2023 and a two-year process. A final hearing is after the groundbreaking golfer who lived renamed the Swiss chalet-style club house 6 after a formal request was submitted to Board held the first public hearing on April

“Eddie was in hospice, on his deathbed and still coaching me, telling me about competition and saying, ‘I know you can beat this person,’” said Judith Arriand with fellow BWOC members to begin play on putting greens and the driving range. He was initially denied access to the clubhouse but as his game grew, Manderville was instrumental in desegregating the Men’s Association at the club.

Over a 60-year career, he held several positions with the club and co-founded Black Women on Course (BWOC). As a recruiter and instructor, BWOC has more than 200 members, many who first learned the game from Manderville.

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Request for Proposals

In partnership with the City of Minneapolis, Summit Academy OIC is pleased to announce an RFP for our Summit Works program. Summit Works will directly address post-pandemic economic conditions by connecting Minneapolis residents from untapped social networks with living wage jobs.

Through this Request for Proposal (RFP), Summit Academy invites qualified providers in our community to consider participating in this new venture. Summit is seeking partners with experience in effectively engaging unemployed, or under-employed people in our community and placing them into stable, living wage jobs. The specific duties of qualified partners include:

1. Recruit, assess, and coach Minneapolis residents
2. Provide training, skills building, and job supports so people with little to no employment history can prosper and thrive as workers
3. Provide opportunities to earn training credentials which lead to higher wage jobs and economic mobility
4. Engage employers and place people in stable, living wage jobs

Up to $275,000 is available to fund this service from June 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Email RFPS@saoic.org for full RFP with submission details.

RFP submissions are due no later than 5pm on May 26th 2022.

Henry’s outdoor sports fields may finally get bathrooms – in 2027

By Kennedy Plasencia, Henry High School

Henry High School has been in operation since 1937. However, many generations of athletes, coaches, and fans have not had access to a bathroom or drinking water at its outdoor athletic facilities. Adjacent to the school on 43rd and Morgan Avenues lays Henry’s outdoor facilities. This area includes two fields, and a multi-purpose track used by the football, soccer, cross country, baseball, and track and field teams. There are seven main high schools within Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS). All high school outdoor athletic facilities have access to permanent water fountains, restrooms, and bathrooms. However, Henry High School has partnered with Fair High School – which lacks access to permanent water fountains and restrooms.

For nearly a decade, Thomas Johnson has served as a school psychologist at Henry High School. For six of those years, Johnson and Jeffery Byrd have led the track and field team. Johnson believes the lack of outdoor drinking fountains and restroom facilities has directly impacted Henry Students. “The lack of access sends a subtle, sometimes obvious message that our students aren’t valued as much as student athletes from other MPS high schools,” Johnson said. “Our students deserve to have at bare minimum, what other schools have and we need to, as a district and a community, provide that for them.”

Currently, Henry’s athletes and coaches provide their own water for home events and practices. Coaches are provided with gatorade jugs, but they must be filled and transported between the field and school building. Portable restrooms are available, but coaches and athletes say the portable restrooms are often unsanitary due to frequent vandalism. As a result, student athletes, parents, and coaches use the restroom before or after attending outdoor games.

Members of Henry’s track and field team recall numerous instances of exhaustion in temperatures as high as 95 degrees. Without running water at the stadium, many resort to using a water spigot. Yasmin, a Henry track athlete says, “There should be a water bottle filler. Water isn’t a privilege, it’s a right.”

Operations officials for the district agree renovations for Henry’s athletic facilities are long overdue.

Renaissance for the outdoor facilities are scheduled for 2026, but more likely to be finished in 2027, as a part of a turf field project.

Although outdoor restrooms and water fountains are not yet guaranteed, Henry High School’s outdoor athletic facility was built without bathrooms or drinking water. Photo by Brent Snyder
As a graduate of the Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge program, Kennis Littleton understands the power of a fresh start.

Littleton brings this appreciation to the Harrison neighborhood where he is the new manager of Venture North Bike and Coffee shop, which needs its own new beginning after being shuttered during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Already, Littleton has hired a new bike mechanic and opened the shop for tune-ups and bike sales. The coffee shop awaits its city inspection before it can serve customers again. Yet, just a couple of days after the shop reopened, neighborhood residents were stopping by to express gratitude for its reopening.

Littleton had no java to sell, but was happy to offer free cups from his own pot of coffee.

“T have high hopes with the brand recognition and the sense of community the shop has built,” said Littleton, 38. “I’m actively trying to make sure all the things people love about the shop stay in place. I can see how a few things can be done differently, but at the same time, we will stay true to its roots.”

Redeemer Center for Life, a non-profit partner of Redeemer Lutheran Church, opened Venture North in 2011 to bring low-cost, rebuilt bikes to the neighborhood and create career pathways in the cycling industry for local youth.

Each year, the shop refurbishes, sells or donates hundreds of bikes, serves thousands of coffee drinks, and serves as a tune-up center for the neighborhood. It is BIPOC-owned and is the only bike shop on the Northside. The Redeemer Center for Life leadership team is especially proud of the shop’s mechanic training program.

Littleton spent much of his youth on bikes. But his growing up in a broken home led him down a dark path of substance abuse. The birth of his daughter, Rina, in 2017 was an awakening for Littleton.

Once he held her, he sought new roads from himself and his family.

“The Holy Spirit washed over me,” he said. “I was sobbing. I was literally asking the Lord, why me? Why are you blessing me?”

Thirty days later, he sought recovery through Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge, a holistic treatment program. There, he was mentored by a pastor, Kevin Saunders, who recognized Littleton possessed a natural business acumen. He was brimming with ideas.

After graduating from treatment, Littleton continued his recovery by living in a sober house. During this time, Littleton started his own hauling company and found a niche delivering appliances.

Saunders joined the executive team at Redeemer Center for Life in 2021 and when the organization began to ponder how to reopen the bike and coffee shop, he immediately thought of Littleton.

It seemed an ideal fit: A program with a track record of training neighborhood youth continued on with a relatable leader and promising entrepreneur in Littleton.

“He’s the perfect candidate,” Saunders said. “He has the drive and instincts. He has a genuine curiosity about the neighborhood and a personality that is authentic. He has a sincere interest in the uplift of this community.”

Littleton has started a GoFundMe page to give the bike and coffee shop a quick propell to get the bike and coffee shop off the ground.

Kennis Littleton is the new operator of North Minneapolis’ only bike shop. Photo by David Pierini

Continued on page 23

VENTURE NORTH BIKE AND COFFEE PEDDLES FORWARD WITH NEW MANAGER
**Polar track team off to a running start**

By Zelaun Black and Jaivon Hill, North High School

Fresh off a strong showing at last season’s state track meet, North High is not only positioning itself for a return but with more Polars qualifying for the finals.

Five members of last year’s boys team – Jory Peters, Kameron Clay, Jaren “JT” Sampson, Caylon Redd and Jaivon Hill – raced in the state meet.

Sprint coach Vontee Copeland believes the team is talented enough to qualify for several open events at state.

“Once we start competing against bigger schools, we want more people to qualify in state for open events,” Copeland said.

Through fundraising, the team was able to purchase $60,000 in new equipment and the success of last year’s team has attracted athletes from all grades.

Senior sprinter La’Quita Jamison-Travis is running the 4x100m relay and open 100. Jamison-Travis said of her goals, “I want to push myself and get faster, then make it to state in the process.”

Junior Jayland Baker is in his second year with the team and hopes to return to the state meet. He’s running the open 100, two relay events. “I want to perfect my start, get faster and make it back to state,” Bake said.

The Polars showed their hunger during the first of five

Continued on page 23
North students, alum angered by the CDD boundary changes

North High students protested during a recent board meeting against the CDD boundary changes at the Davis Center. Photo by Taylor Butler

The Comprehensive District Design of Minneapolis Public Schools seeks to give every student in the city a quality education regardless of zip code, ethnicity or family income. Decades of policy and practice have led to racial disparities and one of the nation’s worst achievement gaps.

This rollback of the plan has been controversial. To shift resources, administrators adjusted school boundaries and altered the pathways to city high schools.

By Asiah Bankhead and Ayanna Melander, North High School

Generations of Northsiders attended North High School and students today understand this legacy. And that leaves people angry and frustrated about boundary changes that have led to racial disparities and one of the nation’s worst achievement gaps.

The boundary changes this year and some fear the new influx of students could contribute to gentrifying North High. This is happening at a time when the district is making long overdue renovations to our school.

Polar parents are also concerned about the new boundaries.

“I actually live North of Broadway. My daughter is a junior at North and there has been talk that she may not be able to attend North,” said Polar PTA President Kelly Jackson. “How do I feel? Angry, tricked, but I will not just give in without a fight.”

“They never considered the impact that it would have on our life long Poleners, who looked forward to attending North for high school. They have parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, sisters that are alumni and this has been their dream. I’m fearful this will kill the Northside Pride. This is a place where our Black and Brown students can be unapologetically ourselves. They should allow every student in the city a quality education before age 3.

Learn more at littlemomentscount.org

Little everyday moments have a tremendous impact on building a baby’s brain, especially before age 3.

Connectivity Program: Only eligible households may enroll. Benefit is up to $30/month ($75/month Tribal lands). After the benefit is applied, you’ll be billed at Comcast’s standard monthly prices, including any applicable taxes, fees, and equipment charges.

To learn about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) direct assistance, and others.

Continue on page 23

NORTH NEWS

Easter Bunny Hunt 2022
202 W BROADWAY AVE, MINNEAPOLIS
Mon-Sat 10A-10P, Sun 11A-6P

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poem or prayer is followed by a prompt he labeled “Invitation.” One simply engages the reader to regularly set aside time to reflect, another suggests writing a letter to an important person to express gratitude for their influence. The pages nurture self-confidence, offer reasons for gratitude and help manage strong emotions. The book ends appropriately with a “Commitment” and a collaboration with the reader in finding that rising higher has begun.

The power of poetry:

Davis’ poetry is the art of listening. I was coming with my own stories. My sister would babysit me when my parents were at work. So we would just come up with these games or little stories. I remember being a little kid. But I never knew that this would be my career. I just did it because it was fun and a way of taking the abstract and making it concrete and tangible. What I try to do through songs and through my poems is to call and respond, to give and receive. You go into the classroom, you look out into the world, especially in today’s day and age, there’s so much bad news. We shouldn’t even call it news, it should be called the worst things that are happening near you. We’re inundated with all that negativity.

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Advice to survive a polarized world:

When I was little, I got really sick with pneumonia. I was already creating like music and poetry. That was my way of drawing, poems, songs, I would make my own comic books. That was my way of getting creative and experiencing. I think life has just continued on. I think I got about a foot of healing in that. I found a lot of healing in that. I understand that I take care of myself. And that’s what I hope that my poems can do for students, that they can have that understanding that they’re not going to survive. We have to figure out how the grace and the patience and the intentionally to listen to each other. We’re always going to have to set aside time. How do we have the grace and the patience and the intentionally to listen to each other? We’re always going to have to set aside time. If you’re not able to do that, if you’re not truly listening, you’re not truly being present. You’re just speaking space, and the words that need to be spoken, the things that need to be spoken, the ways of being together? I think there’s a way that even when I look out into the world, especially in today’s day and age, there’s so much bad news. We shouldn’t even call it news, it should be called the worst things that are happening near you. We’re inundated with all that negativity.

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The power of the art:

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North students protest extended school day

By Asiah Bankhead

April 29, 2022

By Ayanna Melander

North High School

April 29, 2022

The students have some solutions. They propose a 3:42 pm dismissal like South, declining and students are feeling less and nervous, angry and aggravated like never before. Just over 38 percent of North students whose proposals and events have been delayed or rescheduled. Instead of being the amount by its normal time of 15.5 cm, it now ends at 8:30 a.m. This is not the amount of time they spent on school issues, but it also participating in extracurricular activities.

“Just over 38 percent of North’s students, whose proposals and events have been delayed or rescheduled. Instead of the amount by its normal time of 15.5 cm, it now ends at 8:30 a.m. This is not the amount of time they spent on school issues, but it also participating in extracurricular activities.”

As the public comment period began, the audience was worried against making remarks to specific directors. Students did not speak up about what they perceived as a lack of attention to be paid. The students were able to solve all problematic situations if they spoke up and those with people more power in the school system would give students a voice in these matters. Give the students and the teachers a say. A lot of problems expressed that concerns to the board but felt they were not heard.

The way we could solve all these problematic situations is if we knew there are some solutions. They propose a 3:42 pm dismissal like South, declining and students are feeling less and nervous, angry and aggravated like never before. Just over 38 percent of North students whose proposals and events have been delayed or rescheduled. Instead of being the amount by its normal time of 15.5 cm, it now ends at 8:30 a.m. This is not the amount of time they spent on school issues, but it also participating in extracurricular activities.

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Let’s Work Together for a Better Highway 252/I-94

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Join us at our Public Open House happening on:

Tuesday, May 3
from 5:30 to 7pm at
Ebenezer Community Church
9200 W. Broadway Ave.,
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445