# A Minnesota summer that started with a brazenly violent shooting ends with another one

**TIM HARLOW** 

Star Tribune

This summer in Minnesota will now be remembered for two planned acts of violence, one at the beginning and one at the end, that are likely to leave lasting marks on the state's sense of security and well-being.

The Wednesday morning shooting at Annunciation Church in south Minneapolis left two children dead and 17 people injured, 14 of them children. Police said a single shooter, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, was responsible.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said lives were changed and the community was "deeply traumatized by the sense-less attack," which he called a "deliberate act of violence."

The Minneapolis shooting came just two months after the assassination of former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, at their home in Brooklyn Park. State Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette Hoffman, were also shot and injured that morning at their Champlin home. The alleged shooter, Vance Boelter, is facing federal and state

The June 14 shootings of the Hortmans and Hoffmans left many Minnesotans worried about the direction of the state's political culture and have many elected officials rethinking their own personal security.

The Annunciation shooting, in which alleged shooter Robin Westman was apparently standing outside and firing through windows into the church during a start-of-school service, is certain to revive a long-running debate about how society can stem these repeated acts of violence, particularly those targeting children.

The shootings at Annunciation punctuated a particularly violent 18 hours in the city of Minneapolis, in which three people were killed in three separate shootings around the city. Following the church shooting, O'Hara said he didn't believe the other incidents were connected to what happened at Annun-

ciation. The violent high-profile bookends to the summer of 2025 come after officials had cautiously reported what they called a



Kenny Community School parents Megan Elliott, right, and Alyssa Olson tie green and blue ribbons, the colors for Annunciation Catholic School, around trees near the home of one of the victims in Minneapolis. "We don't know what else to do," Elliott said. (Elizabeth Flores/The Minnesota Star Tribune/TNS)

"promising decline" in gun violence during the first quarter of the year. Minneapolis went 62 days without a homicide — starting Feb. 15 and ending the night of April 18. That was the longest stretch without a homicide in more than eight years.

As of Wednesday, police had responded to far fewer "shots fired" calls than at this time last year, and 75 fewer people had suffered gunshot wounds, according to city data.

Then came Tuesday and Wednesday, which between them saw five people killed by guns in Minneapolis, and scores of others wounded.

"I'm very brokenhearted," Minneapolis resident Pamela Smith said in response to the Annunciation shooting. "I'm so sick and tired of this. I'm very brokenhearted. Just to know that somebody's baby was in there, somebody's mother, father, sister, brother."

Gov. Tim Walz, who has spoken publicly of the personal toll he felt after the June political shootings, found himself again in the role of the state's chief consoler.

Children at Annunciation were "met with evil and horror and death" during their school Mass, Walz said on Wednesday afternoon at a news conference.

"What happened here today will not be gone," Walz said. "Minnesotans will not step away.'

In the hours ahead of the Annunciation shooting, Minneapolis police officers had been scrambling from the scene of one fatal shooting to another. At about 2 a.m. on Wednesday, officers had gone to the corner of 8th Street and Hennepin Avenue. One man was killed

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and a second was injured when a gunman opened fire at close range and shot into a group of people on a sidewalk, police said.

The shooter fled the

Another man was taken to HCMC with noncritical injuries, police said.

About six hours earlier, one man in his 20s was fatally shot in the 2700 block of 3rd Avenue S. Police went to the scene at about 8 p.m. Tuesday and found the victim with gunshot wounds.

Officers rendered aid before the man was taken to HCMC, where he died, a statement from Minneapolis police said.

A short time later, a second man in his 20s with apparent gunshot wounds was dropped off at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Preliminary information indicates that his injuries were related to the shooting in the 2700 block of 3rd Avenue S., police said.

The late-night and early morning shootings came after one person was killed and six others hurt in a shooting around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday near Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in the 2900 block of Clinton Avenue S. Minneapolis police have not announced any arrests in any of the three shootings on Tuesday and early Wednes-

There have been 41 homicides in Minneapolis this year, according to a Minnesota Star Tribune database. That compares with 51 at this time last year.

"The level of gun violence across the city within the last day is deeply unsettling," O'Hara said Wednesday. He said that before the Annunciation shootings.

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#### 121 Help Wanted

vidual with developmental disabilities. Individual must be responsible to communicate with support team and work assigned hours. This is part time employment in Independence. If you are interested, please call J. Krause at 620-332-w9045. Sep3

#### 132 Rummage Sale

ANNUAL FALL Sale! Lots of nice clothes for everyone, Little Tykes kitchen, small patio table with 2 chairs, toys, shoes, lots of misc. 7:30-? Saturday, 1017 W. Main.

#### 135 Pets & Supplies

ACA POMERANIAN puppies, 2 males, \$500 each. Call 620-714-

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LOWRY CONSTRUCTION, new construction, room additions, steel buildings, remodeling, roofing, insurance claims. Locally owned since 2001. We do it all, 620-330-1943.

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#### 200 Public **Notice**

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter August August 22 , Daily Reporter August August 2025)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS SITTING AT INDEPENDENCE First National Bank in Fredonia

No. MGI-2024-CV-000068 Christopher N. Heilig, et al. Defendants NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued and delivered to me for execuof Montgomery, and State of Kansas, in a certain action pending in said court, wherein First National Bank in Fredonia, is Plaintiff, and Christopher N. Heilig, et al. are Defendants, I will the front door of the Montgomery. at the front door of the Montgomery County Courthouse, Independence, Kansas, on September 18, 2025, at 2:00 o'clock P.M. of said day, offer for sale and sell at public auction for cash in hand and as one entire tract or parcel, the following described real estate, situated in the County of Montgomery, State of Kansas, to-wit:

The West 45 feet of Lot 6 in Grandview Addition and Lot 1, Except West 7 feet, Olthoff's Addition all in the City of Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas, commonly known as 626 E.

Edison Street, Independence, Kansas. Said real estate will be sold subject to redemption of twelve months as provided by law, and for the purpose of satisfying the unpaid balance of the judgment rendered in said action in favor of the Plaintiff therein in the sum of \$3,000.00 plus interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from June 24, 2024, plus taxes, costs, title insurance avenues and insurance. title insurance expense and insurance expense and the costs of said action,

accrued and accruing.
Sheriff of Montgomery County
State of Kansas
Kyle M. Fleming #19838
P.O. Box 875

P.O. Box 875
Parsons, Kansas 67357
(620) 421-4580
kfleming@fleming-lawfirm.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
August 22, 29 &
September 5, 2025

(First published in the Independence

Daily Reporter August 22 , 2025)
IN THE 14TH JUDUCIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS

MOINIGUMERY COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

OF
Grace Virginia Pierce-Sprague
to change his/her name to:
Grace Virginia Sprague
Case No. MGI-2025-CV-58
PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60
NOTICE OF HEARING- PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF KANSAS
TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY
BE CONCERNED:
You are hereby notified that Grace

You are hereby notified that Grace Virginia Pierce-Sprague, filed a Petition in the above court on the 18th day of August, 2025, requesting a judgement and order changing his/her name from Grace Virginia Pierce-Sprague to Grace Virginia Sprague Sprague to Grace Virginia Sprague.
The Petition will be heard in Montgomery County District Court, 300 E. Main St, Independence, Kansas, on the 6th day of October, 2025, at

9:00 am.
If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before September 29, 2025 in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. lf you fail to act, judgement and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.
s. Grace Virginia Pierce-Sprague
619 W. Maple St.
Independence, KS 67301

(First published in the Independence Paris published in the Independence Daily Reporter August 29, 2025) Performance Public Hearing Notice The city of Independence, KS will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 5:30PM, in the City Hall d 120 N 6th St Independen 67301 for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Grant No. 23-CR-002 which was for a Commercial Rehabili-

tation Project.
The proposed activities included the The proposed activities included the Phase I Rehabilitation of the Bookstore Building located at 106 N. 8th St Independence, KS 67301, consisting of roof/guttering including demolition and removal of deteriorated framing, installing new framing required for the new roof, masonry work, windows, doors, fire escape and asbestos removal. Actual accomplished activities included demolition, framing, masonry included demolition, framing, masonry work, and asbestos removal. This grant was funded, all or in part,

from the Kansas Department of Com-merce, Small Cities Community Devel-opment Block Grant (CDBG) funds. All aspects of the grant will be discussed, and oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of the city's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to persons with disabilities. Requests should be submitted to David Schwenker, City Clerk (620-332-2500) by September 10, 2025 August 29, 2025

(First published in the Independence Daily Reporter August 29, 2025) IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WILSON COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE INTEREST OF:

K.J. yob: 2015, a minor child Case No. WL-2024-JC-4 K.J. yob: 2018, a minor child

Case No. WL-2024-JC-5
AMENDED NOTICE OF
HEARING-Publication
Pursuant to K.S.A. 38-2237
The mother, the father, the paternal grandparents, the maternal

grandparents and all other persons who are or may

be concerned
You are hereby notified that
a petition has been filed in this court
alleging that the child named above
is a Child in Need of Care. The Court may find that the parents are unfit by reason or conduct or condition which renders the parents unable to care properly for a child, the conduct or

#### 200 Public Notice

condition is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, the parental rights of the parent should be terminated, and a permanent custodian should be appointed for the child.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for the 12th day of September, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. At the hearing the Court may issue orders relating to the care, custody, and control of the child. The hearing will determine if the parents should be deprived of their parental rights and the right to custody of the child.

The parent(s), and any other person having legal custody are required to appear before this Court on the date appear before this Court on the date and time shown, or to file your written response to the petition with the Clerk of the District Court prior to that time. Failure to respond or to appear before the Court at the time shown will not prevent the Court from entering judgment as requested in the petition, finding that the child is a Child in Need of Care removing the child from tion, finding that the child is a Child in Need of Care, removing the child from the custody of parent, parents, or any other present legal custodian until further order of the Court, or finding the parents unfit, and entering an order permanently terminating the parents' parental rights.

An attorney has been appointed as guardian ad litem for the child: John K. Chenoweth (620)378-4444. You have the right to appear before the Court and be heard personally, either with or without an attorney. The

either with or without an attorney. The either with or without an attorney. The Court will appoint an attorney for any parent who desires an attorney but is financially unable to hire one. The Court may order one or both parents to pay child support. An attorney has been appointed for you: Father: John Chenoweth (620) 378-4444; Mother: Jacob Manbeck (620) 305-2592.

Date and time of hearing: September Date and time of hearing: September

12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.
Place of hearing: Wilson County
Courthouse, 615 Madison, Courtroom 210, Fredonia, KS 66736. /s/ Amanda Davis Clerk of the District Court

Augst 29 & September 5, 2025

## Helpful Tips

throughout the day Stress affects people from all walks of life, and the causes of stress are

as varied as the people it afflicts. In its 2017 Stress in AmericaTM survey, the American Psychological Association found that the three most common sources of stress were the future of the nation (63 percent), money (62 percent) and work (61 percent). According to the National Institute of Mental Health, routine stress that becomes chronic can result in a host of negative side effects. Such stress can suppress the immune system, disrupt digestion and have an adverse ef-fect on sleep. But men and women who feel stressed at the end of each day need not resign themselves to sleepless nights and/or weakened immune systems. A proactive approach to alleviating stress during the day can help men and women reduce their stress levels and avoid the negative side effects associated with chronic stress.

Walk away. The APA notes that tak-ing a break from a stressor is one of a handful of healthy techniques that research has indicated is a successful way to reduce stress, both in the short- and long-term. If a project at work is proving especially stressful, step away for a short period of time to do something else, whether it's to go for a brief walk or converse with a coworker about something unrelated to the project. Avoiding the stress entirely, especially if it's a work project or a bill that must be paid, is not the answer. But a short break from the stressor and thinking about it can provide a new perspective and time to calm down.

Meditate, When stressed out, men and women should not discount the potential benefits of meditation. Researchers from Johns Hopkins University examined more than 19,000 meditation studies, ultimately concluding that mindful meditation can ease stresses like anxiety, depression and pain. The APA notes that such meditation has been found to reap immediate benefits, potentially helping people who can find time to meditate during the day to pre-vent their stress from accumulating

Find time to exercise. The APA notes that research continues to support the notion that exercise is as beneficial to the mind as it is to the body. Exercising several days per week is especially beneficial to mind and body, but even 20-minute exercise sessions, including a walk around the grounds of an office complex or a quick swim during a lunch break, in the midst of stressful days can help people combat stress for several hours afterward.

throughout a hectic workday.

Delegate more during the day. Work is the third-leading source of stress among Americans. Men and women who feel overworked may benefit by delegating more tasks during their days or simply stepping back and taking on less work. The potential effects on your career of taking on less work will likely pale in comparison to the toll chronic stress, which can contribute to heart disease and stroke, takes on your body. Stress is a part of daily life for many

people. But there are several simple and quick ways for stressed out men and women to reduce their stress during the day.



Must drive own vehicle. Applications available at 320 N. 6th St., Independence

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