

SUNDAY

The Journal Times

Racine County's Daily Newspaper

Juneteenth

Area residents celebrate holiday

LOCAL, B1 AND A3



In Memoriams

Honoring the memories of community members we lost **SPECIAL SECTION, INSIDE**



PARTLY SUNNY AND WARMER 77 • 67 FORECAST, A14

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Daddy and me



Murl Monroe, left, walks along Zoo Beach with his children.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEGAN POWELL

Rob Stinson, a.k.a. Reggie White, smiles with his daughter, a.k.a. Aaron Rodgers.



Christopher Cosey shares a kiss with his child.

Fathers who 'never had a professional picture' have their love captured on camera

RACHEL KUBIK
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RACINE — Deontrae Mayfield often posts photos with his 9-month-old daughter on Facebook. One day, he asked other fathers to do the same: post pictures with their kids. But the results were not quite what he was expecting.

He was seeing a lot of selfies, and many outdated photos. Nothing really new or high-quality.

"I was like, wow. A lot of guys probably never had a professional picture," Mayfield said. "I wanted to bridge a visual gap by photography.

I wanted them to have something they can hang on their wall and be proud of."

Megan Powell works as an X-ray technician at Ascension All Saints Hospital, but is a professional photographer on the side, focusing on family and maternity photography.

Mayfield and Megan began collaborating on a "Daddy and Kids" photoshoot, a project focused on highlighting black men as fathers.

"I was all in, 100%, right away," said Megan Powell, whose husband is Racine Police Department Lt. Walter Powell. "I was like, 'yes absolutely! Deontrae is a mile a minute with his great ideas.'"

"It was amazing," Mayfield said. "It worked out super, super well."

Please see **FATHERS**, Page A9



Michael Branch's daughter smiles up at him along Lake Michigan.

'You have to help us here'

Why the city holds bars responsible for unruly patrons' behavior even after they leave

DEE HÖLZEL
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RACINE — If two patrons of a cupcake shop left the store and began fighting down the street, there would probably be no consequences for the shop's owner.

The same is not true for the city's bar owners/operators.

The city's nuisance ordinance makes the per-

son who holds the license for the bar answerable for whatever their patrons might do within 200 feet of the premises — the length from end to end of an NHL hockey rink — even if the business has closed for the night and the incident occurred on public property.

The nature of the business means bar owners have issues very different than other business owners.

Responsibilities

The question of a bar owner's responsibility was raised by Yolanda "Yogi" Blair, whose husband, Terrance, was shot and killed outside Mr. Kool Sports Bar, 1330 Washington Avenue, in the city's Uptown neighborhood on May 15.

Mr. Kool had just reopened on May 13, under new ownership, after the bar's previous owner died

in 2020.

The new owners were Tom and Donna Paschen. Yogi was listed on city paperwork as the site manager while Terrance was also a manager.

Blair told The Journal Times that events began on May 15 at around 2:35 a.m. — after Mr. Kool had closed and staff was cleaning up

Please see **BAR5**, Page A10



MARK HERTZBERG, SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL TIMES

Terrance Blair, 42, was shot and killed and a 28-year-old woman wounded early Sunday, May 15, outside Mr. Kool Sports Bar, 1330 Washington Ave.

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The Tradition lives on

Bars

From A1

inside — when one of the bartenders received a call that there was fighting in the parking lot.

She said in the meeting with the city, “they told us that their parking lot was our responsibility,” even though the parking lot is city-owned. If there was a fight, she continued, the owner/operator would “have some responsibility

to try and break it up.”

When Yogi left Mr. Kool that night, she said it was to try and diffuse the situation before the police had to be called. Terrance Blair followed her out because he was worried about her safety, she said. Within minutes, he had been shot. The last time Yogi saw her



T. Blair

husband, he was being taken away in an ambulance. He was dead before dawn.

Requirements

The proprietors of Mr. Kool learned about their requirement to maintain security in the city’s parking lot at what is called the Good Neighbors Meeting, which includes many different city departments, such as the police department and health department.

Good Neighbors Meetings are organized whenever there’s a new bar opening, or when current bar owners are called on to resolve nuisance complaints.

The Good Neighbors Meeting is not a public meeting with an agenda, but there are notes from the Feb. 22 meeting between the new owners of Mr. Kool and city staff.

In the notes from that meeting, Sgt. Robert Ortiz, from the Racine Police Department, indicated the bar would be required to have an effective security team and the team “should be aware of any potential issues occurring at the parking lot to the north of the premises and work to mitigate those issues, since patrons have parked there in the past.”

In a phone interview Friday, Yogi and Tom Paschen both said they complied with all the city’s mandates. There was professional security working that night, and both Yogi and Terrance followed security workers outside to break up the fight prior to the shooting.

“Once we got alerted there was a fight outside, we went out with them (security),” Yogi said.

PS&L

The city’s Public Safety & Licensing Committee oversees liquor licenses. The committee is comprised of members of the City Council who serve on a rotating basis. They are advised by an attorney from the City Attorney’s Office as well as a liaison from the Racine Police Department.



ALEX RODRIGUEZ, ALEX.RODRIGUEZ@JOURNALTIMES.COM

Despite the tragedy that has befallen her, Yolanda “Yogi” Edwards took her husband’s words to heart and will keep Golden Chicken open in his honor.

What’s a nuisance?

The city’s municipal code was written with the intent of protecting neighborhoods and to prevent bars from becoming a nuisance to the neighborhood due to noisy and intoxicated crowds, or violence.

Racine municipal code section 6-197 mandates:

- Disorderly premises prohibited: It shall be unlawful for any licensee to cause or permit, on any licensed premises, violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances that tend to cause or provoke a disturbance.
- Nuisance prohibited: It shall be unlawful for any licensee to operate a licensed premises in such a manner as to constitute a public nuisance, including but not limited to areas in which there is constant loitering, excessive noise, threats, fighting,

weapons use or display, illegal drug use or sale, public urination, or otherwise illegal activity or disorderly conduct.

If a business is labeled as a “chronic nuisance premises,” that means the premises has generated at least three or more responses from the police department for public nuisance activities within a 90 day period, regardless of whether an arrest was made. A police response shall be counted against the premises if the call was in response to a public nuisance activity occurring at or within 200 feet of the premises by a person associated with the premises — such as a patron of a bar who has just left the bar.

A chronic nuisance premises also is defined as “a premises that has generated at least three or more enforcement actions to correct violations of the building code, fire code, public health code, or a combination thereof, within a 180-day period, each of which was generated on a separate date.”

The Paschens and Yogi were before the committee on March 7, but the mandate about keeping the parking lot free from disturbances did not come up.

Alderman Jeff Coe was the committee chairman at the time, and he raised the issue of security, asking, “How are you going to control the people if it gets out of hand and stuff like that?”

Tom Paschen, who identified himself as the manager for the Mr. Kool Sports Bar LLC, said there would be security cameras inside and out, which is a requirement of the liquor license, and they would have either a professional third-party security service or hire professionally-trained and certified security to work the door.

Alderman Melissa Kaprelian asked if the business would have professional security during all open business hours, and Tom Paschen indicated they would.

Paschen said the plan was to have security at the door, doing crowd control, checking IDs, and ensuring no one under 25 years old entered the bar.

Please see BARS, Page A12

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