



High school action hits 2nd half

Anoka County UNION HERALD

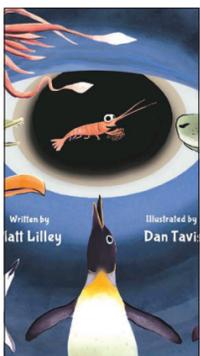
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PUBLIC NOTICE:
The Coon Rapids City Council will host a public hearing Wednesday, Feb. 2, regarding adopting a 2022-2026 capital improvement plan.
See this and other Public Notices on pages 1-6B



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A-H continues mask mandate for K-6

More than 10% of students were absent Jan. 6 as omicron surged

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

The Anoka-Hennepin School District will continue a districtwide mask mandate in elementary schools due to high absence rates among students and staff as the omicron variant of the novel coronavirus surges in

Minnesota.

The continuance comes less than a month after the district announced plans to base mask requirements on school or classroom data rather than county data. It has used county-level data for masking requirements since the beginning of the school year and was set to use school-level

data beginning Jan. 18. That would have made masks optional unless indicators at a specific school triggered mask requirements.

On Jan. 10 Superintendent David Law announced the district will be reverting to a districtwide K-6 mask mandate instead of going through with the Jan. 18

change. That continuance could last indefinitely. Under the updated guidelines, masks are strongly recommended, but not required, for seventh-grade students and above.

The next time the board could take action regarding the mask

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'IT'S CRUSHING'

Mercy Hospital emergency room under strain due to COVID

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

Oak Grove resident Nick Saggerson didn't have COVID-19, but he was impacted by the unusually high number of patients in Mercy Hospital's Coon Rapids emergency room this week as the omicron variant of the novel coronavirus swept the state.

Saggerson went to the ER with heart and kidney problems, and he told ABC Newspapers Monday, Jan. 10, that he'd been waiting more than 15 hours just to be assigned to a floor.

"I've been watching the news, so I know hospitals are full," Saggerson said.



Continued on 9A Staff work in the Mercy Hospital emergency room in Coon Rapids Monday, Jan. 10.

Photo by Emilee Wentland

Sammy's Pizza is coming to Ramsey — with a twist

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

Sammy's Pizza is coming to Ramsey, but it's going to be a little different than the local chain's fans are used to.

The new location, at 13939 St. Francis Blvd., will only do takeout and delivery, which will be run by Doordash. Owner Jeff Perrella had the idea to go without the typical bar and dining room because takeout has become so popular since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"The popularity of takeout has just skyrocketed," said Perrella, grandson of Sammy Perrella, the restaurant's namesake. "So this store is kind of a response to that."

There's no set opening date, but Perrella is aiming for the end of January.

Perrella has worked with Sammy's since he was 12. He and his brother opened the Sammy's locations in Coon Rapids and Elk River. At one point, Perrella left the area and tried something else, but ultimately came back to working at Sammy's, he said.

The new location is "actually quite a bit different" from other



Jeff Parella, owner of the new Sammy's Pizza in Ramsey, holds a stack of pizzas.

Photo submitted

stores, Perrella said.

The to-go only factor is just one of the major changes.

This location will serve a variety of oven-toasted subs, each named after pop culture references.

"That's something we've never

really done before," Perrella said. "But there's nothing quite like it. Nobody nearby here really has a nice, toasted, handmade sub."

Some of the sandwich options, which Perrella curated himself, in-

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Andover Crossings development takes step forward

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

The city of Andover is one step closer to seeing new apartments, senior living and commercial property in a new multi-faceted development at the northeast corner of Seventh Avenue and Bunker Lake Boulevard.

The Andover City Council approved a conditional use permit and planned unit development for Andover Crossings, a 19-acre property, Jan. 4. The council saw a sketch plan for the development in August.

The proposed development has space for undetermined commercial properties, which could include office space, restaurants, child care, cafes or a

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