



## Meet the Class of 2020

# Anoka County UNION HERALD

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**PUBLIC NOTICE:** The Coon Rapids Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. June 18 to discuss subdividing land at 3110 131 Ave.

See this and other Public Notices on pages 1-4B



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# PROTESTS SPREAD NORTH

## Anoka sees peaceful gathering June 1

By Jonathan Young  
Managing Editor

A crowd gathered peacefully on Main Street in downtown Anoka Monday, June 1, to protest the death of George Floyd in police custody.

Assembling next to City Hall near the Rum River bridge, protesters held signs and chanted phrases such as “No justice, no peace,” “I can’t breathe,” and “Prosecute the police.” There were also call-and-response chants with George Floyd’s name.

“Anoka doesn’t want to hear none of this, so I really think we should make them hear it,” Jalyiah Taylor, one of the leaders of the protest, shouted to the crowd. Taylor grew up in Anoka and now lives in Coon Rapids. “I’m so tired of feeling (expletive) unsafe in Anoka. Anoka High School tormented me.”

Many motorists honked in support as they drove by the group, which swelled to more than 100 people, but a few shouted angrily at protesters.

Organizers called for a peaceful protest and asked those in attendance to wear masks, which some did, to minimize the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus.

The protest took place despite a last-minute cancellation notice online by Hannah Helmer, one of the original organizers, citing a desire for more time to plan in order to

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Above, Jalyiah Taylor, one of the leaders of the peaceful protest in Anoka June 1, yells “I can’t breathe,” echoing the words of George Floyd who died in Minneapolis police custody after an officer restrained him with a knee on his neck. Below, peaceful protesters gather along Main Street near the Rum River Bridge in Anoka. Photos by Jonathan Young



## Northtown Mall hit with minor damage, looting May 28

By Jonathan Young  
Managing Editor

Unrest spread to Anoka County the evening of May 28 as looters targeted Northtown Mall in Blaine, while riots and property damage continued across the Twin Cities after the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.

According to Capt. Mark Boerboom of the Blaine Police Department, the May 28 incident was isolated to Northtown, where there was “minimal damage to the building.”

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## Quiet weekend under curfew in Anoka County

By Jonathan Young  
Managing Editor

A heavy police presence was visible in Anoka County last weekend after the county imposed a curfew from the evening of May 29 through the morning of June 1, but the unrest in Minneapolis and St. Paul didn’t spill into the county as it had May 28.

Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart said there were no major issues in the county over the weekend, even as the National Guard, State Patrol and other agencies sought to contain unrest and looting

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## Andover HS senior found ways to overcome hearing loss

By Connor Cumiskey  
Staff Writer

After being born with hearing loss, Andover senior Alexa Peet has worked hard to overcome its challenges.

“For me, hearing loss will always probably be the biggest thing I will have to overcome throughout life,” Peet said.

Peet was born with moderate



Alexa Peet

to severe hearing loss. It was caught fairly quickly, and she began wearing hearing aids by age 4.

Peet said she is reminded about her hearing loss at odd times, like remembering her hearing aids are electronic when she wants to go swimming. She sometimes forgets

that not everyone faces the same issues.

“The funny thing about it is, you realize that you’re different and you realize that things are harder for you, but when that’s all you’ve grown up knowing, it’s sometimes something you forget about,” Peet said.

She also notices her difficulty hearing during long lectures or when a class watches a movie without subtitles. Large gather-

ings were also difficult, like the lunch room or school dances.

One place where Peet experienced greater difficulties was listening tests she took in her Spanish class.

“I’d have moments where I’d have to work through talking to the teacher about getting an extra try, or another few times trying to do the listening test because it is

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