



High school seasons hit home stretch

Anoka County UNION HERALD

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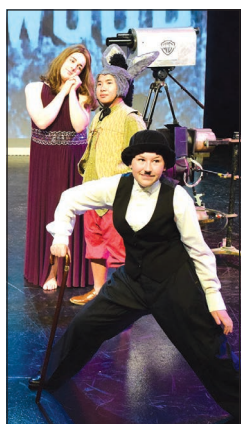
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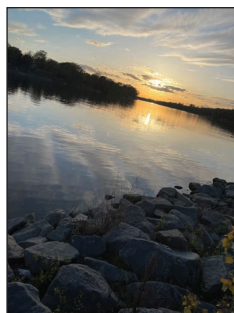
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PUBLIC NOTICE: The city of Coon Rapids' water emergency expired Oct. 19. See this and other Public Notices on pages 1-8B



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STILL SHORTHANDED

Local restaurant owners hoped it would get easier to hire after enhanced unemployment benefits expired — it didn't

By Jonathan Young
Managing Editor

Randall Hubin's plans for last weekend involved covering shifts he couldn't fill at his restaurants.

On Saturday, the co-owner of the Andover and Champlin Pizza Ranch locations was scheduled to work in store, and on Sunday he planned to deliver pizzas, because

he didn't have enough drivers available.

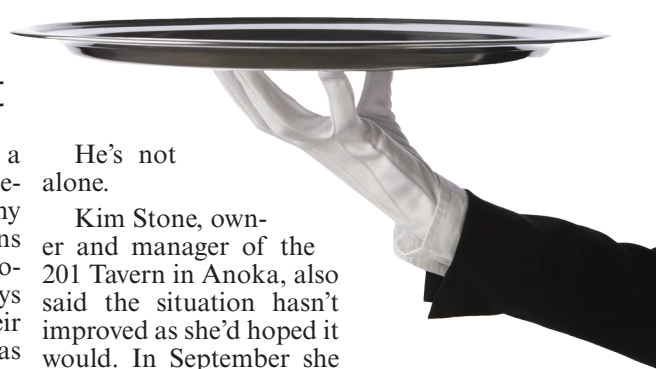
Earlier this year, Hubin and his wife delayed opening the Champlin Pizza Ranch because they couldn't hire enough staff, but like many business owners, they hoped the situation would improve once the enhanced unemployment benefits from the federal government ended Sept. 4.

About a month and a half after the extra benefits expired, hiring isn't any easier. In fact, the Hubins decided to close the Andover location on Mondays so as not to burn out their staff, which thinned as younger employees went back to school.

"I did think I would see more people coming off the sidelines," Randall Hubin said.

He's not alone.

Kim Stone, owner and manager of the 201 Tavern in Anoka, also said the situation hasn't improved as she'd hoped it would. In September she started seeing some applications for bartenders and servers and hired about four people in the last month. But she still can't attract kitchen staff, where



her real shortage lies.

"We've suffered so long [in the restaurant

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Pumpkins to spare



Anoka County Farms in Ham Lake had several pumpkin-themed games available for kids during a "Peanuts"-themed party Oct. 16-17, such as bowling, checkers and tic-tac-toe. See more photos on page 9A.

Photo by Emilee Wentland

Design for new Anoka County Jail, 911 center moves ahead

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

Over the objection of two commissioners, Anoka County is moving to the second phase of design for a new jail and 911 call center. Phase 2 will cost over \$17 million.

In April the board approved a \$44,500 contract with Wold Architects for site plan design services for a new jail, 911 call center, workhouse and parking structure. The board reviewed a site plan at an Oct. 1 work session.

Wold proposed putting the 911 call center on the corner of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Hanson Boulevard in Andover, next to the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

The proposed jail and parking ramp would remain in the area of the County Government Center in Anoka. The two-story jail would encompass the space occupied by the existing parking ramp and jail. The seven-level parking ramp would have 1,200 parking stalls and be surrounded by Fourth Avenue, Golf Street, Fifth Avenue and Jackson Street in Anoka.

The county workhouse would be expanded at its current location, 3300 Fourth Ave., in Anoka.

In a 4-2 vote Oct. 12 the County Board approved an updated contract with Wold, with Commissioners Matt Look and Jeff

Continued on 8A

Voters to decide fate of \$34.5 million in funding

Anoka-Hennepin residents will also be asked to approve additional operating revenue

By Emilee Wentland
Staff Writer

Anoka-Hennepin School District voters will have the opportunity Nov. 2 to renew or reject the district's \$34.5 million operating levy, which is up for renewal once a decade.

The levy, which represents 9.3% of the funding used to operate schools, expires at the end of 2022.

Residents will also be asked to renew the capital projects levy and to approve an additional operating referendum.

"You have to vote to let your voice be heard," Communications Director Jim Skelly said last month.

Although the operating levy doesn't expire until next year, Chief Financial Officer Michelle Vargas told ABC Newspapers earlier this year that it's "common when it's that large of an amount to get out there a year early so you don't have a loss in

programming."

Question 1

Voting yes on Question 1 would renew the existing operating levy and would not result in a tax increase.

The operating levy, which raises \$34.5 million a year, was last approved in 2012.

Continued on 10A

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