

Closing

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Hoops

Fans on both sides left the Eden Prairie High gym Feb. 4, knowing they had seen a special game.

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Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022

Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby takes over Water Street



(SUN PHOTOS BY NATALIE CIERZAN)

The 2022 Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby took over Excelsior Feb. 4-5 with excited dogs, mushers and visitors. Activities over the two days included meeting the mushers, Hug-a-Husky, watching the race, food trucks and merchandise at the Klondike Village and much more. Twenty-four teams competed on race day. Dave Hochman from Carlowrie, Manitoba (No.23) took first place, Mike Bestgen from St. Cloud (No.9) took second (pictured above), and Carl Knudsen (No.12) from Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan finished third.

LEFT: Klondike Dog Derby Founder and President Bethany Hway speaks during the opening ceremony of the race. MORE PHOTOS inside and online at sailor.mnsun.com.

COVID colors caucus night

In SD48, Republicans condemn mandates, while Democrats meet remotely

By **KEVIN MILLER**
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Differing formats highlighted dueling views on public health as Republicans and Democrats held their respective caucuses Feb. 1.

Senate District 48 Democrats, like many other units of the party, held their caucus remotely, while Republicans in the district met in person as usual.

For the Democrats, organizing the remote caucus "was a scramble," said Rod Fisher, chair of the Senate District 48 Democrats. "... That's what omicron demanded of us."

Republicans in the district, which includes most of Eden Prairie and southern Minnetonka, saw the coronavirus variant differently, gathering in several classrooms at Eden Prairie High School to organize the party and address the issues of the day, a discussion still dominated by COVID-19.

Bill Hoag, chair of the Senate District 48 Republicans, thinks both sides of the political spectrum overreacted in their response to the pandemic. "Somewhere in the middle is the truth," he said.

While Fisher missed the camaraderie of a traditional caucus format, he said he got more opportunity than normal to communicate with the grassroots party

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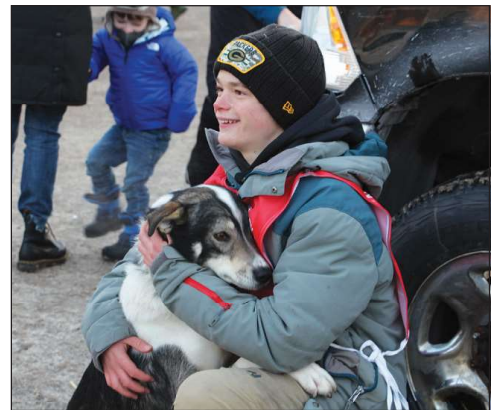
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Dog Derby

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A Klondike Dog Derby banner extends across Water Street on race day Feb. 5. Leading up to the race, visitors and residents lined either side of the divided street to find a good place to watch. **TOP RIGHT:** One of the many events to get residents and visitors excited about this year's Lake Minnetonka Klondike Dog Derby was sled dog rides in The Commons Park in Excelsior on Feb. 4. Tickets were sold out for the event. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The highly anticipated Hug-a-Husky event in the west parking lot the day before the official event went off without a hitch. Residents, visitors and even the caretakers of the dogs couldn't resist spending some time with the sled dogs, who were eager for the attention from participants both young and old.



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