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Resumption of class on hold **A6**



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EU export threats won't affect vaccines, PM says **NP1**



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U.K. surpasses 100,000 COVID deaths **NP5**

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Window to win in AL East is wide open for Blue Jays **NP11**

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Mask incident sparks slander suit

Lawyer refused takeout service is suing restaurant for damages

TREVOR WILHELM

A Windsor lawyer is suing Thai Palace for defamation, claiming he was bombarded with hate mail and death threats after the restaurant went public over his refusal to wear a mask at its outdoor takeout window.

In a lawsuit served Tuesday, Antoine d'Ailly is claiming \$50,000 in

damages against Thai Palace and owner Renu Anderson for fallout from the Oct. 7, 2020, incident.

"Unfortunately, they chose to go to the media with a story containing false statements which were widely publicized," d'Ailly said in a written statement provided Tuesday by his lawyer. "As a result, my office received an avalanche of hate mail and hate calls, including

threats of significant bodily harm."

None of the accusations contained in the lawsuit have been tested in court.

D'Ailly is claiming damages for "libel and/or slander, or in the alternative, unjust enrichment." He also wants an order permanently preventing the defendants from making or spreading any defamatory statements about him.

Anderson's lawyer said they intend to fight the lawsuit.

"It is unfortunate that this matter is being pursued publicly in court," said David Robins with

Strosberg Sasso Sutts LLP. "While facing the challenges of running a restaurant during the pandemic, we will vigorously defend this claim."

D'Ailly said in his statement of claim that he placed a pickup order with Thai Palace on Oct. 7, 2020. When he went to the business's outdoor takeout window to pick it up, he said he was refused service because he wasn't wearing a mask.

The lawsuit claims he told an employee, and then Anderson, that he had a medical exemption. SEE LAWSUIT ON **A5**

THE CAT CAME BACK



DAN JANISSE

Braiden Bendzsak visits Hunter the cat near his home in Windsor on Tuesday. The nine-year-old managed to find the feline after it had gone missing for 74 days. **A3**

Mayor's dream for city has expansive corridors linking downtown, university

DOUG SCHMIDT

If there's an arterial road in Windsor ready-made for transformation into a smart stretch of progressive urban boulevard living, it's the wide asphalt ribbon that is University Avenue, west of the downtown.

City council on Monday is expected to unleash big financial incentives on developers to help transform two major, yet somewhat dilapidated, arterial corridors connecting the downtown to the University of Windsor.

The city's sixth community improvement plan will focus on targeting new development and property upgrades along parallel two-kilometre stretches of University Avenue West and Wyandotte Street West. Architectural concept drawings show wide sidewalks and off-street strips of shade

trees, planters and other greenery next to dedicated bike lanes or other ribbons of active transportation. Ground-level commercial developments are topped by residential offerings.

"What we're really trying to show is a Parisian feel, with residential supporting commercial," said Mayor Drew Dilkens.

The aspirational example of the people-crowded city streets of the French capital was described last summer by Ward 2 Coun. Fabio Costante. Administration's final report and recommendations on the newest CIP are unlikely to face much, if any, opposition next week, with Ward 3 Coun. Rino Borotolin among those last year expressing the view that its approval will trigger a positive transformation of the area west of the downtown.

"It will send a signal to developers

that the city is willing to be a partner," Dilkens told the Star Tuesday, adding that the municipality's support when it comes to community investment plans is "only a fraction of the overall investment."

Among the incentives to be offered along the two thoroughfares:

- 100-per-cent forgiveness on all municipal development fees (for such costs as planning approvals and building permits), up to \$50,000 per property;
- 50-per-cent cost share by the city (up to \$20,000) for streetside commercial/mixed-use building facade improvements;
- Municipal tax rebates effectively erasing any increases due to the increased property value that new development brings for a five-year period (or up to 10 years for "catalyst" projects).

SEE DOWNTOWN ON **A5**

Amherstburg improving, but financial risk still a concern

JULIE KOTSIS

Seven years after Amherstburg was in serious financial difficulties, signs of improvement are showing, but the town continues to carry risk well above comparable municipalities.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's annual financial indicator review, a barometer of changing fiscal circumstances, describes an improving picture when it comes to the town's financial health, but it also highlights the need for more work to be done, said treasurer Justin Rousseau.

The review is based on the town's financial statements for 2019. SEE FINANCES ON **A4**