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STAND UP PERFORMANCE

VIDEO

For video, see brainerddispatch.com

Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Gabe Jukish performs flips on a Jet Ski Sunday on Rice Lake in Brainerd. The Jukish family made a special appearance with their personal watercraft during intermission of the Brainerd Ski Loons performance.

Montessori permit gets approval

North Brainerd learning center to remain open

By Theresa Bourke
Brainerd Dispatch

The Montessori School of Brainerd will be able to continue operating its satellite learning facility in north Brainerd.

The Brainerd City Council voted 6-1 Monday, Aug. 16, to approve a conditional use permit for the school to operate a house at 310 N Seventh St. as a private learning center for homeschooled students who have aged out of the Montessori School.

by Montessori School of Brainerd owners James and April Erfurth, operated as such during the past school year, which drew concerns from some neighbors about traffic and neighborhood preservation, and prompted the conditional use permit application.

While a school is a permitted use in residential neighborhoods in Brainerd, the Erfurths did not have a permit for School.

PERMIT: Page A9

Chaos, death at Kabul airport

Biden defends withdrawal from Afghanistan

Reuters

KABUL - Thousands of people desperate to flee Afghanistan thronged Kabul's airport on Monday after the Taliban seized the capital, prompting the United States to pause evacuations as President Joe Biden confronted mounting criticism over the U.S. withdrawal.

Crowds converged on the airport seeking to escape, including some who clung to a U.S. military transport plane as it taxied on the single runway, according to footage posted by private Afghan broadcaster Tolo news.

U.S. troops fired in the air to deter people trying to force their way onto a military flight evacuating U.S. diplomats and embassy staff, a U.S. official said.

Five people were reported killed in the chaos, which forced a pause in evacuation flights. A witness said it was unclear if they had been shot or killed in a stampede. A U.S. official told Reuters two gunmen had been killed by U.S. forces there over the past 24 hours.



Leah Millis / Reuters

President Joe Biden delivers remarks on the crisis in Afghanistan during a speech Monday in the East Room at the White House in Washington.

A Pentagon spokesperson said there were indications that one U.S. soldier was wounded.

A German evacuation plane diverted to the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, because it could not land in Kabul. Another circled

over the city, although authorities said late on Monday a military transport aircraft had landed to evacuate foreign nationals and Afghan staff.

BIDEN: Page A9

Minnesota reports more COVID-19 breakthrough cases with delta variant

By Dana Ferguson
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Health on Monday, Aug. 16, reported that 1,572 more Minnesotans had tested positive for a breakthrough COVID-19 case as compared to a week earlier, bringing the total number of cases reported in people who've completed a vaccine series to 7,171.

To date, 584 fully vaccinated Minnesotans

have been hospitalized with breakthrough cases, including 70 more than a week earlier. And 60 were reported to have died from breakthrough infections, according to the department.

The infections among fully-vaccinated people continue to be rare, according to the state's data. Just 0.24% of those vaccinated against COVID-19 have tested positive for the illness.

DELTA: Page A8

Minnesota schools divided on masking

Policy talks contentious for districts

By Elizabeth Shockman
MPR News

The Fridley public school district will require every person in their buildings to wear a mask when classes start this fall, regardless of vaccination status. Jael McLemore, who is Fridley's director of communications, said it was a student-centered decision.

"For us, that was a



Evan Frost / MPR News

Second grade students at Wildwood Elementary set up tablets to take home for remote learning in Stillwater, Minnesota, on Sept. 10, 2020.

no-brainer. We are for students," McLemore said. "Almost 47%

of our student population do not have access to vaccines. So we have to think about what that looks like for them."

McLemore said the majority of families in her district were in favor of mandating masks in school.

"Our parents have been calling and emailing and asking and saying, 'We want to know, because based on your answer, we are going to be making a decision as to where we are going to send our students.' Because that's important for them," McLemore said.

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NHRA

Steve Torrence hopes to check BIR off his list with a victory

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