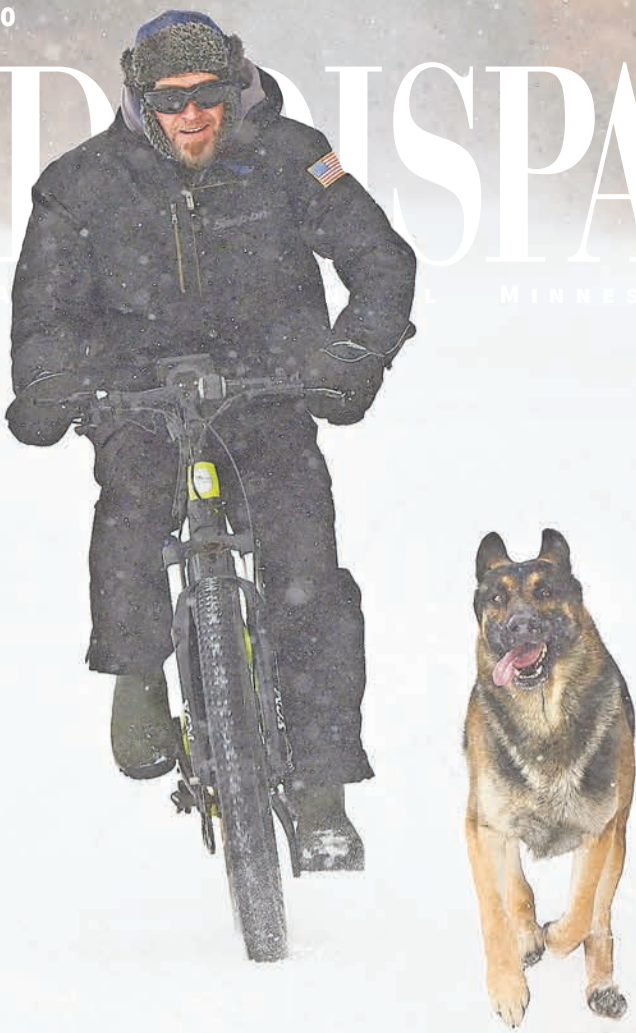


# BRAINERD DISPATCH

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA SINCE 1881



## RIDING WITH GRUMPY

Steve Kohls / Brainerd Dispatch

With snow swirling in the background, Mitch Tuomi rides his e-bike with his dog, Grumpy on Friday on the Paul Bunyan Trail. Tuomi has unofficially clocked Grumpy's speed at 33 miles per hour while riding together.

## DFL bills would require education requirements

### Ethnic studies, climate change could be mandatory in Minnesota schools

By Dana Ferguson  
Brainerd Dispatch

ST. PAUL — Minnesota students would see new lessons in ethnic studies and climate change added to their K-12 curricula under a pair of proposals traveling through the state Legislature.

The Minnesota Education Policy Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 23, took up and passed the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party proposals. The first would create a new graduation requirement that students complete a high school ethnic studies course and that public and charter schools

integrate ethnic studies into primary and secondary classes. St. Paul and Minneapolis school districts have set similar requirements at the local level.

The second would require schools to teach students about climate change and how it contributes to "social and economic justice issues."

Authors of both the proposals told the committee they brought the bills after hearing from students and educators who felt the topics weren't getting adequately addressed in the classroom.

**CLIMATE:** Page 8

## What you need to know about this year's 'Gull Lake Frozen Fore'

By Frank Lee  
Brainerd Dispatch

NISSWA — Organizers of the Gull Lake Frozen Fore are getting back into the swing of things.

Following a year when fundraisers were upended by the coronavirus pandemic, the three-day local celebration that starts Friday, Feb. 25, is returning to form with its pre-pandemic activities.

"Last year, it was very sized down," said Sarah Smith, chairperson of the Gull Lake Events committee. "We did not have our tent up at Hole-in-the-Day Bay. And we did not have shuttle buses running."

To watch people jump into the frozen Gull Lake is a highlight. The 17th annual Gull Lake Frozen Fore takes place in the Brainerd lakes area with a weekend of activities and fun for adults, such as snow golfing to dancing on a frozen lake.

The Frozen Flop will take place in the middle of Hole-in-the-Day Bay. Spectators will stay warm — and "flopers"



Contributed / Confidence Learning Center

A participant swings a golf club at the "golf hole" at Zorbaz as part of the 2020 Gull Lake Frozen Fore fundraiser.

**VIDEO**  
For video, see  
brainerddispatch.com

can keep out of the bitterly cold wind that is expected — under the heated tent.

Following the Frozen Flop is the heated tent party featuring an

ice bar, food and live music from Dos Guys and Shane Martin, who will be performing an Alabama tribute, "Songs of the South."

Avid golfers and duffers alike will likely enjoy Saturday's golfing, where they can catch a ride on provided shuttles (or drive their own snowmobiles) and

play nine holes of winter golf at nine different locations around Gull Lake.

"We provide the golf club and a fresh supply of tennis balls so all you have to do is venture around the lake and try getting a point at each location. The diversity

**FROZEN FORE:** Page 8

## No verdict reached in federal trial of 3 ex-Minneapolis officers

By Rochelle Olson  
and Andy Mannix  
Star Tribune

ST. PAUL — Jurors completed a day of deliberations without reaching a verdict Wednesday in the federal case against three former Minneapolis officers accused of helping Derek Chauvin by depriving George Floyd of his constitutional right to be free from unreasonable seizure.

The 12-person jury is deliberating charges against J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao. Kueng and Thao are accused of failing to intervene on Floyd's behalf to stop the illegal restraint. All three officers are charged with failing to provide Floyd

medical aid as his condition deteriorated.

The jury's closed-door discussions began shortly before 10 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. Lunch was provided to them in the deliberation room so they were able to work without a break. The 12-person, all-white panel was expected to return for more discussions at 9 a.m. Thursday.

To reach a verdict, the jurors all must agree on whether to convict or acquit the officers in the case that drew global attention.

Floyd died in police custody on May 25, 2020, on the street outside Cup Foods in South Minneapolis after a clerk

**VERDICT:** Page 8

## Meters nixed from new downtown parking plan

By Theresa Bourke  
Brainerd Dispatch

BRAINERD — There's a new plan for parking in downtown Brainerd, and it doesn't include parking meters.

Downtown business owners made their feelings clear on the subject of parking meters in December, when the city's parking commission brought forth recommendations to alleviate downtown parking concerns. Among those recommendations was the implementation of parking meters along sections of Laurel and South Seventh streets between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., with most of the funds from the meters



Kelly Humphrey / Brainerd Dispatch

Vehicles are parked on Wednesday in downtown Brainerd.

going to the Economic Development Authority.

The City Council hosted a nearly hour-long public comment peri-

od on the recommendations, receiving criticism on nearly every front. Council members

heard the concerns and

sent the plan back to its parking commission for further review.

The parking commission was established in 2020 and tasked with addressing parking-related concerns downtown. The group revised its recommendations, taking out parking meters altogether, with the new eight-step plan coming before the council Tuesday, Feb. 22.

The main changes to the plan, as outlined by Community Development Director David Chanski, come with the first two recommendations — parking lot rates and enforcement.

**METERS:** Page 8

### INSIDE TODAY

OPINION 6 CLASSIFIED 9 COMICS 4 SPORTS 10 DEAR ABBY 7



**Basketball**  
Warriors play host to Sartell

**10** 



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