

Daily Globe

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After ballot defeat, District 518 weighs next move

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WORTHINGTON — A little more than a month after voters in District 518 defeated a proposed operating referendum, the district's board of education is pondering its next move.

The board, in a work session Monday night, discussed various topics regarding the future of the district. With regard to the referendum, the board and administrators are looking into a possible mail-in ballot for the operating referendum to be distributed to the public in April.

School officials are still looking into the cost and effectiveness of such a ballot.

"If we don't get the right information out to the public, it could be another fail," Prairie Elementary Principal Josh Noble said of the mail-in ballot option. "However, if we wait until November, it does put us even further back."

If school officials decide to go with a mail-in ballot and it fails, they would not be allowed another attempt until 2015.

District 518 also asked voters in November to approve \$38.9 million in bonding for construction of a new intermediate school for grades 3-5, an addition of 56,000 square feet to the high school and additional high school remodeling. Since that did not pass, officials agreed that until the operating referendum issue was solved, they could not move forward with the bond measure — but that it remains a top priority for the district.

SCHOOL BOARD, A2

End of an era



VEASEY CONWAY/DAILY GLOBE

After 18 and a half years, Margaret Vosburgh is ending her stay as manager of Worthington's Memorial Auditorium. "It's been a fantastic journey so far," she said.

Vosburgh resigns from Memorial Auditorium

AARON HAGEN
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WORTHINGTON — It was June 1995.

Margaret Hurlbut Vosburgh recently completed her master's in arts administration and business management when a pair of persistent Worthington residents convinced her to become the manager at Memorial Auditorium.

Now, 18 and a half years later, Vosburgh has resigned, effective Dec. 31.

"It's been a fantastic journey so far," she said. "It's like coming to the edge of something and you learn how to fly. I think it's just time."

Things have changed since Vosburgh first started.

"It started as a place where the gymnastics team was still in the building when I first came here," she said. "It was not necessarily

just a performing arts center. You start to see a vision and I think that build up comes with working with advisory boards, different boards of directors, and you begin to talk to the community to see what people have on their minds and what kind of visions they have."

Throughout her tenure, Vosburgh has overseen many projects, including a \$1.93 million renovation that added a new lobby. The addition gave the auditorium a new look, Vosburgh said.

"Things just build on each other. The auditorium sits in a great position right now," she said.

"When people walk into the door who have never been here before, they are truly amazed. I've had people say to me, 'This is like being in Minneapolis.'"

"The acts we have on the stage, all the way from the Vienna Choir Boys coming from around the

world to our local entertainers; there are none finer than the local folks who are on the stage," she continued. "Corn of the Cob is a great example. That was actually my first show that I worked on."

In fact, the project is one of the memories of the job she will take with her to her next endeavor.

"It's tough to name any one particular thing. I think seeing my son on the stage for the first time in a Prairie Fire Children's Theater production is a memory I'll never forget," she said. "There are just so many of them. I think my very first Corn off the Cob show, I can never forget that show. I think coming in and turning the lights on after the renovation. I still go out into the lobby every once in a while and just sit there and realize how spectacular it really is."

VOSBURGH, A3

City sets levy at 0.9 percent

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WORTHINGTON — The 2014 levy has been set.

During its regular meeting Monday night, the Worthington City Council set the 2014 levy at \$3,175,460. That represents a .9 percent increase from a year ago. In total, that's approximately \$28,000 more than last year.

"The increase in our adjusted tax capacity and the .9 percent increase, overall, there's about a six percent decrease in taxes for folks," City Administrator Craig Clark said. "So, many residents are seeing a drop in their 2014 payable taxes."

The levy includes \$2,238,512 in general purpose tax and a special tax levy of \$936,948.

The city will receive \$3.1 million from the state from Local Government Aid.

Of the total budget — which is in excess of \$7 million — a large portion goes to city personnel.

"A large percentage, a little over 57 percent goes to wages and benefits," Clark said. "Where we saw increase in wages and health care costs will be included in that section."

One of the items the council spent the most time discussing was the request to use Chautauqua Park for camping for the Tour of Minnesota bike ride. The event will be spending the night in Worthington on June 14, which is the Saturday of the Windsurfing Regatta and Unvarnished Musical Festival.

While the council passed the request, it didn't come without discussion.

CITY COUNCIL, A2

Our Lady of Guadalupe event is this weekend

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WORTHINGTON — With a melting pot of languages, cultures and traditions in southwest Minnesota, the approaching Christmas season often brings people together in a festive holiday spirit of celebration.

From Lutherans who make lute-fisk to Catholic traditions in Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas celebrations, if you didn't grow up in those faiths, what is the significance of such things? And then there's fruitcake. It's not tied to any religion, but why does everyone have a distinct "love it" or "hate it" opinion?

Over the next few weeks, the *Daily Globe* will delve into some of these traditions with hopes of enlightening our readers about the traditions of the friends and neighbors around us.

At St. Mary's Catholic Church tonight in Worthington, the public is invited to attend an informational program about Our Lady of Guadalupe and why it is celebrated locally. The Rev. Jim Callahan and the Rev. Luis Vargas say this year's feast to Our Lady of Guadalupe will bring Anglo and Hispanic parishioners together to



mark the celebration.

The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe began in Mexico, when her apparition appeared before an Indian man, Juan Diego, in 1535, Vargas explained.

Before Guadalupe's apparition, Vargas said the Azteca tribe, which offered up human sacrifices to the sun, was struggling.

"For them, the God was the sun. They offered the heart of the people to the sun," he said. "It was difficult to receive the new religion of Christianity."

After Guadalupe's appearance, Vargas said the tribe was more willing to accept Christianity.

"Many people think that the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a Hispanic feast and they don't realize that the apparition — yes, it appeared in Mexico — but she is considered the Patroness of the Americas," Callahan added. "At the time she appeared, there was a lot

of division in Mexico between the Spanish and the Indians. This brought unity to the communities."

Our Lady of Guadalupe is considered the Patroness of Social Justice and deemed a unifier between people.

"It's really important (to note that) because she appeared in Mexico and the picture of Guadalupe became a Mexican symbol, in reality it was a symbol for the whole church, and especially for the church in the Americas," Callahan said.

Tonight's program explaining Our Lady of Guadalupe begins at 7 p.m. in the church. It will include discussion about who she is, why Catholics celebrate her and the historical details surrounding her.

"She is the same as the Holy Virgin Mary," said Vargas. "Some people think it is different, but it is the same."

While the Our Lady of Guadalupe feast is traditionally marked on Dec. 12, St. Mary's will host a 6 a.m. *Mañanitas* or birthday celebration, in which people will gather in the church to sing songs and hymns, and present roses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

TRADITIONS, A3

HLWD receives project of year award

HERON LAKE — The Heron Lake Watershed District was awarded the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) Project of the Year award for its "Grassroots Effort to Bring Back Fulda Lakes" project during the MAWD annual meeting Friday at Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria.

Each year, the association honors innovative programs and projects that have achieved project partnerships, public benefit, use of creative solutions, innovative project financing and management, project success and address a clearly defined project.

HERON LAKE, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ruth Schaefer, co-chair of the Minnesota Association of Watershed District Awards committee (left) and Jerome Deal, MAWD President (right) present HLWD Administrator Jan Voit and Manager Gary Ewert with the Project of the Year award at the MAWD annual meeting Friday.

\$1.00 SINGLE COPY

WEATHER

LIGHT SNOW

HIGH 16°
LOW -7°



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GOOD MORNING

James Vink

Luverne

Thank you for subscribing!



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Worthington WEATHER brought to you by Avera Medical Group Worthington

Regional Forecast Map

Tuesday Light snow 16° / -7°	Wednesday Partly cloudy 0° / -3°	Thursday A few clouds 21° / 10°	Friday Breezy with some snow showers 20° / 8°	Saturday Very cold with light snow showers 10° / 3°
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Almanac

Temperature	High	Low	Precipitation	Sun and Moon
Yesterday	0°	-9°	Yesterday	Sunrise
Normal	27°	9°	Month to date	Sunset
Record	51° in 1999	-16° in 1972	Normal month to date	Today
Statistics through 6 pm yesterday			Year to date	Wednesday
			Normal year to date	Thursday

Regional cities

	Yesterday			Today			Tomorrow			Thursday		
	Hi	Lo	Prcp	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Iowa												
Des Moines	10	2	0.03"	26	8	pc	14	2	pc	27	15	pc
Estherville	4	-7	Trace"	18	-7	pc	3	-5	pc	23	10	pc
Ft. Dodge	5	-6	0.00"	22	0	pc	7	-3	pc	24	13	pc
Mason City	2	-5	Trace"	18	-2	pc	3	-6	pc	22	10	pc
Sioux City	9	-4	0.00"	25	-2	ls	6	2	pc	27	14	pc
Minnesota												
Albert Lea	3	-4	n/a"	17	-6	pc	2	-8	pc	21	9	pc
Duluth	-2	-6	0.04"	6	-15	mc	1	-10	pc	10	1	pc
Mankato	1	-6	0.00"	16	-10	pc	1	-8	pc	19	8	pc
Marshall	3	-8	0.00"	15	-9	ls	-1	-2	pc	20	8	pc
Minneapolis	3	-3	0.01"	10	-11	pc	0	-9	pc	16	8	pc
Redwood Falls	2	-8	Trace"	15	-13	ls	-1	-7	pc	19	7	pc
Rochester	2	-5	0.01"	14	-4	w	3	-7	pc	19	9	pc
South Dakota												
Watertown	1	-11	Trace"	15	-13	ls	1	-5	pc	19	6	pc
Brookings	n/a	n/a	n/a"	16	-11	ls	-1	-2	pc	21	8	pc
Sioux Falls	18	-8	0.00"	19	-7	ls	0	-1	pc	23	10	pc

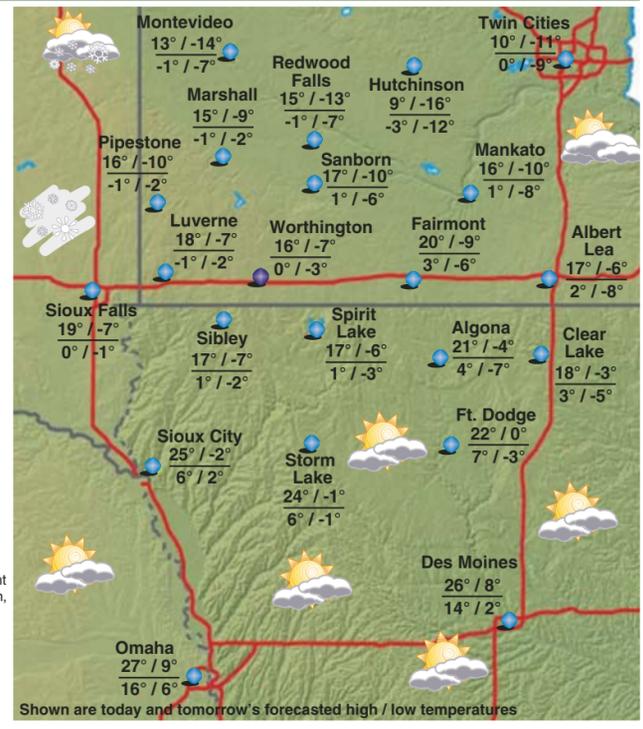
Today	12:57 PM	Moonrise	12:54 AM
Wednesday	1:28 PM	Moonset	2:00 AM
Thursday	1:59 PM		3:04 AM



Road conditions: Iowa 800-288-1047, Minnesota & North Dakota 866-696-3511, South Dakota 866-697-3511

W: bz-blizzard, c-cloudy, fg-fog, hs-heavy snow, hz-haze, ls-light snow, mc-mostly cloudy, mx-wintery mix, pc-partly cloudy, r-rain, sh-showers, sn-snow, su-sunny, th-thunderstorm, w-wind

Maps and Forecast Produced by: DayWeather, Inc. www.dayweather.com Cheyenne, Wyoming



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Briefs

MnDOT to present MN 60 plans

WORTHINGTON — The Minnesota Department of Transportation will host an open house from 4 to 5 p.m. today in the Farmers Room of the Nobles County Government Center regarding the 2014 MnDOT landscaping project along Minnesota 60. There will be no formal presentation, but the public is welcome to stop by and view the plans and offer comments to the MnDOT staff in attendance.

Sons of Norway event is Saturday

WINDOM — The Sons of Norway Stanger Lodge will host its monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Cottonwood County Historical Society Museum, 812 Fourth Ave., Windom. The morning event will be the Lodge's Christmas program and party. The special program, "The Star of Bethlehem," will be presented by LaVern Christianson. Based on the famous lectures by astronomy professor Karlis Kaufmanis, Christianson's presentation will feature the story of the Three Wise Men from the Gospel of Matthew who followed the Star to Bethlehem to find Jesus. Kaufmanis served on the faculty at both Gustavus Adolphus College and the University of Minnesota. In addition to the program, there will be singing of Christmas carols. As part of the morning, a variety of holiday refreshments will be served. The public is cordially invited to attend the free program. For more information about Sons of Norway or the meeting, contact Christianson at (507) 831-4549.

CITY COUNCIL

from Page A1

"One of the reasons they are coming to Worthington on June 14 is because of the Regatta," Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Darlene Macklin said. "They want to be a part of the Regatta festivities." Being close to the center of the celebration is the reason Chautauqua was chosen over another park — such as Olson Park. "I'm concerned about this," council member Scott Nelson said. "We're putting a whole bunch of people right in the neighborhood. I really don't like the idea of this thing. I'd rather we did it over and Olson Park and took up more green space. I'm concerned this is going to turn into a big mess for the neighborhood and a bunch of calls to the police department." Macklin said the behavior of the riders shouldn't be

an issue. If there is a mess, Macklin said, the Sports and Recreation Committee will be the hosts and responsible for clean-up after the group moves on. "I'm confident they aren't going to be a destructive group," council member Diane Graber said. "One of the objectives of Regatta is to bring more people in from other towns... This is one way to do that." Kenton Meier said he has participated in some of these rides before and said the conduct of bike riders is decent. "You can't say that about the RAGBRAI group, that's probably not a good description," Nelson said. "Some riders can get out of control." Meier said this group will be 125 to 150 bikers compared to 15,000 for RAGBRAI. "It's a whole different thing in that respect," he said. "Are you going to put all

"... That's out of hand. That's not the kind of comment an elected official should make."
 Alan Oberloh
 Mayor

your names on a list with your cell phone numbers so the police department can direct you right over there?" Nelson asked. That question did not sit well with Mayor Alan Oberloh. "Scott, that's out of hand," Oberloh said. "That's not the kind of comment an elected official should make." The council approved the 2014 Minnesota Legislative Priorities, which, in part, include Lewis and Clark bonding request, completion of Highway 60 to St. James, Biotechnology Advancement Center for bonding request and

housing. "Widely we feel it's understood by the general public," Graber asked. "These are issues the public has very widely had conversations about over the years," council member Ron Wood said. "This is information that's filtered around back up to us." Scott Hain, General Manager of Worthington Public Utilities, presented an executive summary of the budgets from his department. The water rates will not change, the wastewater charges will be going down and the electric rates will increase. "Overall, the three utility budgets that were approved and the rates approved by the commission, it would cost the average residential customer an addition \$1.63 per month on their utility bill for those three services," Hain said. "That's about a 1.3 percent increase." The council also approved a request for the Worthing-

ton Fire Department to do a controlled burn exercises. An unoccupied dwelling at 860 South Lake Street, which is owned by Shine Brothers, will be used by the WFD. Olson Park Campground fees were also approved. There is a slight increase in the fees next year, mostly to cover sales tax, plus a modest increase for the city. The park use fees were approved, and no changes were made from 2013. A special use permit was approved for 322 10th Avenue for a 352 square foot addition to the existing structure. The first reading of zoning application fees was also heard. Before the regular meeting began, the Economic Development Authority approved a tax levy of \$83,000, which is the same as it was a year ago. Daily Globe Community Content Coordinator Aaron Hagen may be reached at 376-7323.

SCHOOL BOARD

from Page A1

An additional topic discussed Monday was the possibility of upgrading athletic facilities. The district is looking to add a soccer field and to upgrade Trojan Field, as well as other projects. Both the operating and the building bond referendums, though, are seen as taking precedence. Other key points on the agenda were discussion on open enrollment and a possible reduction list. Officials discussed the possibility of closing open enrollment — either for all schools in the district or just certain grades — if the building bond referendum continues to not be passed. "I think we have to look at the ramifications of Worthington expanding and what that means for the schools," District 518 Board Member Steve Schnieder said. "It's just like adding water to some-

thing that can't hold it — we just can't fit everyone at a certain point." A decision on closing open enrollment has yet to be made, but officials discussed alternatives — such as expanding online classes — to avoid the issue. If the event the next operating referendum initiative doesn't pass, the district is also examining some possible cuts that could be made to its schools. Cutting certain classes that don't meet enrollment requirements and cutting supplies were among the suggestions brought forward Monday, and there even is the last-resort possibility of staff reductions. "I think our past history has shown that we do not make staff cuts, and in fact we have added staff," Board Chair Linden Olson said. "We would only make staff cuts if it was absolutely necessary and we had no choice."

HERON LAKE

from Page A1

Award nominations were submitted by 11 watershed districts across the state. The HLWD was notified it was a finalist in the Project of the Year category in late August. A detailed project description was submitted in early October. Nominations were reviewed by a committee of eight managers and staff representing watershed districts throughout the state. The grassroots effort in Fulda began with townspeople noticing the degradation of First and Second Fulda Lakes. The HLWD applied for funds based on the needs described by landowners,

and essential partnerships were established with the Department of Natural Resources, Murray County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fulda Game and Fish Club, State of Minnesota, landowners and Murray Soil and Water Conservation District. Fulda Lakes are seeing improvement as a result of collaboration that made the drawdown, reclamation and restoration projects possible. In recognizing the HLWD for its efforts, a committee member said, "A highly suc-

cessful effort to restore Fulda Lakes. This is a great example of cooperation for water quality improvement and a very cost-effective project." Another said, "Lake Wobegon has nothing on the citizens of Fulda; they dream big and now can reap the rewards of such an ambitious project." Three finalist projects were honored during the MAWD annual meeting. Others included the Green Line Green Infrastructure project by the Capitol Region Watershed District; and the Reach 20 Restoration by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

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WORTHINGTON MOVIE GUIDE
 Times in () are Sat/Sun. * = Fri/Sat
 The Cinema 5 features Sony 4K digital projection for spectacular picture quality!
 This schedule valid through Thurs 12/12/13
Frozen (PG) (1:00, 3:20, 7:00, 9:20*)
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (1:15, 3:30, 7:15, 9:00*) (PG-13)
Delivery Man (PG-13) (1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30*)
Last Vegas (PG-13) (1:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25*)
Free Birds (PG) Sat & Sun at (1:30)
 See it first! **The Hobbit 2** (PG-13) Thurs 12/12 at Mongrel
 EVERY Tuesday Bargain Night! **NORTHLAND Cinema 5** All seats \$5.50 on Tues!
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