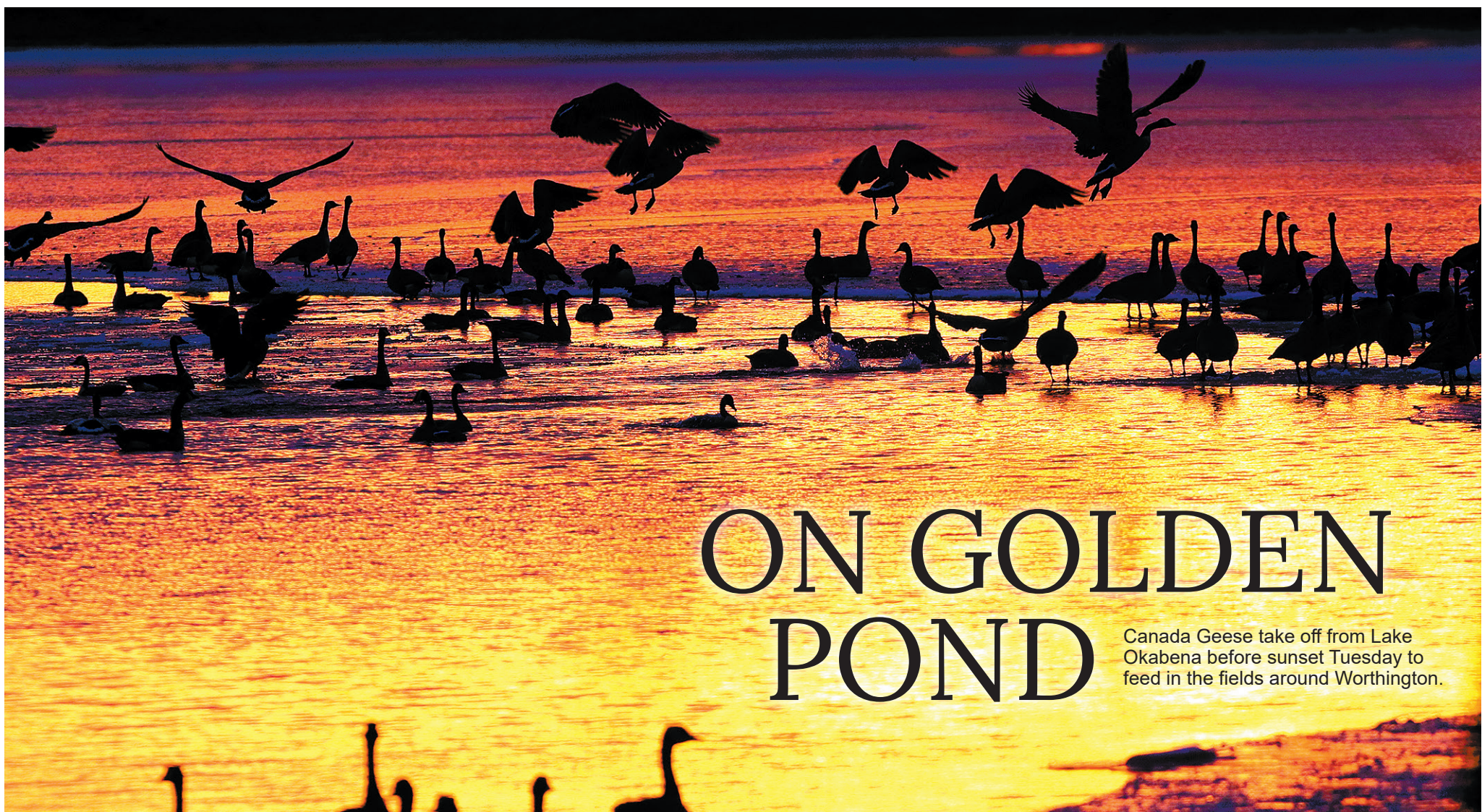


No. 96
dglobe.com

The Globe



ON GOLDEN POND

Canada Geese take off from Lake Okabena before sunset Tuesday to feed in the fields around Worthington.

Tim Middagh / The Globe

Teens having babies

Nobles County has Minnesota's third-highest birth rate among teens 15-19, report says

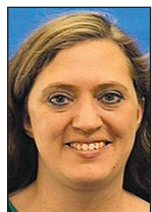
By Julie Buntjer
jbuntjer@dglobe.com

Worthington

While the number of Minnesota teens ages 15 to 19 giving birth has declined by 70 percent since 1990, information from the University of Minnesota's Prevention Research Center shows Nobles County continues to have one of the highest birth rates among teens in the state.

The 2018 Minnesota Adolescent Sexual Health Report ranks Nobles County's teen birth rate the third-highest in Minnesota at 39.3 per 1,000 teens ages 15 to 19, trailing only Mahanomen (75.6) and Watonwan (48.9) counties.

The county's teen birth rate moved up from



Michelle Ebbers
public health nurse with Nobles County Community Services

fourth highest in 2017, although the number of births actually declined slightly during the one-year period, from 41 to 39.3 births per 1,000 teens ages 15-19.

Michelle Ebbers, a public health nurse with Nobles County Community Services, said 47 teen pregnancies have been recorded so far this year. That number represents pregnancies among all youths, not just those ages 15-19. Ebbers said the youngest teen pregnancies weren't even teenagers, but 12-year-old girls.

The high birth rate among teens is believed to be the result of several factors.

Cultural acceptance

Ebbers said 80 percent of the pregnant teens seen by Nobles County Community

TEENS: Page A3



Ryan McGaughey / The Globe

Francois Nkuna Balumuene, far right, the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ambassador to the United States, speaks Friday at the Worthington Event Center. Looking on, from left, are Worthington residents and DRC natives Nathalie and Mcnay Nkishama, and Worthington Mayor Mike Kuhle.

City welcomes ambassador from African nation

Worthington exploring potential for beneficial partnerships with Democratic Republic of Congo

By Ryan McGaughey
rmcgaughey@dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

That well-known cinematic quotation was spoken by Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) in the classic 1942 film "Casablanca," set in Morocco's capital city. Those familiar words weren't uttered during Friday's lunch hosting Francois Nkuna Balumuene, the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ambassador to the United States, inside the Worthington Event Center, but they were certainly applicable for a far greater reason than their mere connection to the African continent.

Balumuene, who arrived Thursday afternoon in Worthington, appeared at a social

that evening at the Event Center and was back Friday for the lunch event, which was attended by approximately 50 people. The program was sponsored jointly by First State Bank Southwest, the Southwest Initiative Foundation and Worthington Regional Economic Development Corp., which worked to coordinate the event.

Following introductory remarks from Worthington Mayor Mike Kuhle, WREDC Executive Director Abraham Algadi and Balumuene — who is addressed as His Excellency — attendees introduced themselves, watched a brief video about the DRC and took the opportunity to ask their Congolese visitor questions.

AMBASSADOR: Page A4

Tinsel and Tidings on Tenth



Tim Middagh / The Globe

A royal wave greets onlookers Friday night during the Tinsel and Tidings on Tenth holiday parade in downtown Worthington. For more photos, turn to **Page B5**.

\$1.50 SINGLE COPY

WEATHER

SNOW LIKELY

HIGH 32°
LOW 22°



INDEX

Classifieds
Deaths
Diversions
Education
Health
Lifestyles

B5
A5
B4
A6
A8
A7

Markets
Opinion
Outdoors
Religion
Sports
Weather

A5
A4
B3
A6
B1
A2

GOOD MORNING

Jerry Perkins
Worthington
Thank you for subscribing!

