

# The Globe



## Shopko slated to close

By Leah Ward  
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WORTHINGTON — Following a press release last month that announced the closing of 38 Shopko locations, Shopko released an updated list Wednesday of 174 additional closings. This time around, the Worthington location is on the list.

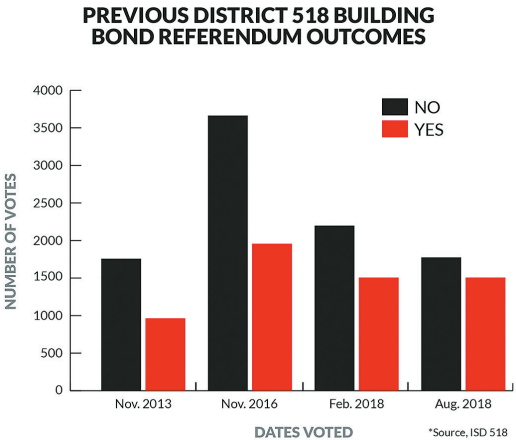
Liquidation will begin next week, and

May 12 is slated to be the last day of operation, according to Shopko Public Relations Manager Michelle Hansen. Nearby Shopko stores in Pipestone, Windom and Luverne are not on the new list of closures, though Shopko pharmacies in Luverne and Pipestone did close suddenly last week.

“The go-forward list is comprised of our top-performing stores,” Hansen

wrote in an email to The Globe. Worthington’s Shopko currently staffs 13 full-time employees and 40 part-time employees, Hansen said. The announcement has drawn many Worthington residents to change.org, where they’ve signed a petition asking Shopko to reverse its decision.

**SHOPKO:** Page A2



Mike Christofiles shows the Bronze Star and Gallantry Cross medals he received recently for his service in the Vietnam War from 1967-1968.

Tim Middagh / The Globe



## 50 YEARS LATER, VIETNAM VET GETS HIS HONORS

Round Lake man finally receives Bronze Star, Gallantry Cross for service

By Julie Buntjer  
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**Round Lake**  
More than 50 years after serving his country as a pathfinder and paratrooper with the 101st Airborne in the Vietnam War, Mike Christofiles has finally

received a pair of medals he earned on the battlefield. Just days before Christmas, a package arrived at his Round Lake home containing some precious hardware — a second Bronze Star (his first, given to

**VET:** Page A6

## District 518’s fifth building referendum is Tuesday

Past votes have come with a cost

By Alyssa Sobotka  
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WORTHINGTON — Independent School District 518 residents know the drill.

For the fifth time in six years, district residents will go to the polls Tuesday to vote on the district’s latest bond proposal to address campus-wide overcrowding issues. The one-question ballot is for a \$32 million bond for an intermediate school. A remaining amount of an estimated \$5.8 million needed to construct the new school building will be covered by the district.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the combined polling site, Lakefield Church, 1000 Linda Lane.

The Nobles County Auditor-Treasurer’s Office had transmitted 663 absentee ballots by noon Friday. The deadline to vote early at the Nobles County Government Center was 5 p.m. Friday, but ballots received by the office by mail Tuesday may still be tallied.

District 518 Board of Education Chairperson Brad Shaffer said he has hope this proposal will have greater support. That hope, he said, derives from an October work session that included a combination of district administrators, board members and then-board candidates.

“This particular amount (\$32 million) was supported by everyone at the table,” Shaffer said of the roundtable work session that included individuals who had at one time been involved in the Worthington Citizens for Progress Committee and had actively opposed previous referendums. “That gives me a little bit more hope, because it appears those who had been against the referendums felt this was a more reasonable request.”

Tom Prins and Don Brink, who had filed for a school board seat and participated in the work session, each said they wanted to see the district commit more of its own money to a proposal. Brink added tha a \$30 million proposal is what he wanted to see, which was consistent with what WCPC Chairperson David Bosma told board members at an April school board meeting prior to drafting what became its failed \$35 million proposal in August.

The first time the district brought a proposal forward to alleviate space issues was in 2013, as the district’s enrollment continued to climb toward capacity.

According to information on the district’s

**REFERENDUM:** Page A7

## Area gets another blast of winter

### Snow, dangerous wind chills sock region again

By Alyssa Sobotka  
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WORTHINGTON — Just a week after area residents toughed out record-low temperatures for the area during the polar vortex, Mother Nature had another challenge up her sleeve.

Starting Wednesday and con-

tinuing into Thursday, communities across southwest Minnesota experienced both snowfall and windy conditions. While the National Weather Service’s in-depth process of confirming a blizzard had not been finalized Friday morning, the NWS could “unofficially confirm” the Worthington, Pipestone and

Jackson areas experienced the trifecta of blizzard conditions — snow accumulations, blowing snow and whiteout conditions.

According to National Weather Service Meteorologist Alex Trellinger, the Worthington

**BRACE:** Page A5



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Traffic slows along Nobles County 35 by Worthington Middle School on Thursday as wind gusts in the 40-mph range reduce visibility.

**\$1.50 SINGLE COPY**

**WEATHER**

**MOSTLY CLOUDY**

**HIGH 13°  
LOW 6°**

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**GOOD MORNING**

**Dorothy Lass**  
Luverne  
Thank you for subscribing!