

The Globe

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Driver charged in fatal crash

Man faces multiple felonies after Worthington teen's death in July collision

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — Charges were recently filed against one driver in the two-vehicle collision that killed 19-year-old Worthington resident Erick Fuentes, and injured several others in early July.

Sylis Kamm, 19, of Wilmont, has been charged with a felony count of manslaughter in the second degree for culpable negligence that resulted in death. Kamm also faces one count of criminal vehicular homicide and two counts of criminal vehicular operation that resulted in great bodily harm, all felonies.

The July 6 crash, which happened near St. Kilian, involved a green Chevy pickup registered to Kamm and a white 2005 Chevy Silverado which was pulling a flatbed trailer hauling construction equipment.

According to the criminal complaint, there was severe front-end damage to the green Chevy when officers arrived on the

scene. The white Chevy pickup had severe damage and was resting partially upside down in a ditch near County Road 15t and County Road 18.

Two juveniles were reported to have been in the vehicle with Kamm at the time of the crash, one of whom had already been transported to the hospital, having been found unresponsive. Kamm was also transported to the hospital to receive medical treatment.

They were five adult males traveling in the white 2005 Chevrolet pickup, four of whom were receiving medical care when officers arrived. They were later transported to local hospitals for further treatment.

The fifth passenger, Fuentes, died on the scene due to injuries. It is noted in the complaint that a later autopsy confirmed the cause of death as multiple blunt force injuries sustained from the collision.

On the scene, one officer spoke with a passenger who had been in the white Chevy. He stated that he had been on his cell phone when he heard two other occupants of the vehicle yell. The passenger looked up to see the second pick-up, and the white Chevy ended up in the ditch.

After the crash, he tried to help the other men get out of the vehicle, along with the

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Kamm



Top: Josie Edwards, 4, pedals for the win in the kids pedal pull in her age division Sunday afternoon at the Nobles County Fair in Worthington.

Above: The Josh Abbott Band performed in the Grandstand on Friday night during the Nobles County Fair in Worthington. Left: A couple try out the Scrambler ride on the midway during the Nobles County Fair on Friday night in Worthington.

Photos by Tim Middagh / The Globe

FUN AT THE FAIR

By Tim Middagh
The Globe

Worthington

The 143rd Nobles County Fair provided fun for the entire family, with Midway rides, grandstand events, livestock shows, lots of tasty foods, music and an opportunity to make memories.

District 518's VIBE program terminated

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — The Minnesota Department of Education has terminated District 518's online VIBE program, which had been under review for the past two years following a 2018 parent complaint.

Eighteen teachers with the VIBE program, who do not work in District 518 buildings, will need to be put on leave or terminated. Two have been offered positions with the school but have not accepted, said Superintendent John Landgaard Monday at a meeting of the District 518 Board of Education's Instructional Committee.

VIBE, or Virtual Instruction by Excellence, is a public school program for homebound and home-schooled students that allows them to learn online. About 400 students from around the state were enrolled in

the program last year, and 700 were expected for the 2022-23 school year.

"They'll either move to a different program, they'll home-school, or they'll go back to in-person (learning)," Landgaard said.

One of the two reasons the MDE cited for the termination was licensure issues, which Landgaard believed was likely due to a data entry error, as everyone in the program was licensed appropriately.

MDE also stated it did not agree with the curriculum's usage of multiple options for parents, believing it did not fully meet Minnesota standards.

"They go by a report they get and they don't look at anything else," Landgaard said. "We had communications last fall, January, and they showed up for a site visit on May 26, and we got this email on July 28."

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Council hears presentation on child care

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — During their latest meeting, the Worthington City Council heard a presentation from the Community and Economics Development Associates, who were retained by Nobles County to investigate opportunities to develop child care facilities in the area.

This undertaking comes on the heels of a 2021 needs assessment, conducted by the nonprofit organization First Children's Finance, which found a considerable shortage of child care options in and

around Worthington.

Joshua Schuetz, project manager for CEDA, broke down the goal of the project into three main parts: expanding child care capacities, supporting existing providers, and focusing on community education.

"Everyone deserves access to quality child care," Schuetz stated, emphasizing that part of CEDA's work is in establishing connections within the community. "We want to make sure that there's access in the sense of there being slots available and be that people know about what resources there are and are able to access those

resources."

While ideas like creating a child care fund to help out current providers with small expenses, and incentivizing students to go into the field were brought up as possibilities to help close the child care gap, Schuetz stated that for now, a lot of focus has been on establishing a taskforce who will be able to continue tackling the problem after CEDA's work at the government level is completed. Making contacts within the community and establishing a network with employers like JBS and

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GOOD MORNING

Virgil Chapman
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