



The Globe

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Crash on McMillan Ave.



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Sanford Worthington Ambulance and Worthington Rescue personnel assist at the scene of a crash on Friday on McMillan Avenue, at the intersection with Bristol Street.

Non-profit awarded grant funds

Seeds of Justice will receive \$140K to help increase health care access

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — Seeds of Justice, a Worthington-based nonprofit, was one of 11 entities in Minnesota to receive grant money from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation in an effort to increase access to health care coverage. Over a two-year commitment, Blue Cross Blue Shield will provide grant funds to advance racial and health equity for Minnesotans.

Seeds of Justice will receive \$140,000 from the foundation — one of the larger grant amounts to be awarded, according to Bukata Hayes, vice president of racial and health equity at Blue Cross and Blue Shield Minnesota.

“We deeply understand the work that Seeds of Justice is doing and its critical nature to access coverage in the Worthington area,” said Hayes. “We were eager to partner with a trusted community-based organization.”

The grant comes after Worthington was identified as a “hot spot” for high uninsurance rates, with 10.4% of the population identified as being without insurance, according to the State Health Access Data Assistance Center. Blue Cross Blue Shield has hopes that with these additional funds, Seeds of Justice will be able to better understand barriers to accessing health care and will connect community members with available resources.

“Worthington is one of the most diverse communities in the state, so when it comes to addressing issues around access to coverage, we see Worthington as an important place to do this work to learn and apply in other communities across the state.”

For Aida Simon and Letty Rodriguez, two representatives with Seeds of Justice, this grant is something they are incredibly grateful for. The Blue Cross Blue Shield grant will allow Seeds of Justice to broaden its network of leaders across the community to do more outreach and authentic community engagement.

JUSTICE: Page 3

Worthington Christmas concert

Chamber singers return to spread holiday cheer

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — For those who love Christmas songs but are already bored with hearing the same tunes over and over, the Worthington Chamber Singers’ upcoming concert may present a solution.

This year’s theme, “Repeat the Sounding Joy,” allowed director Eric Parrish to choose a few familiar favorites as well as some rarer tunes, whether centuries-old or yet-unpublished.

“I try to find things that are challenging for the group as well,” Parrish said.

A number of musicians are coming together to accompany the group. “Joy to the World” will also feature the Worthington Brass, for example, and Sylvia Andersen will play the organ for “Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring.” Morgan Rukstales will play the violin along with pianist Kris Stewart for “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child.” Matt Saxman is accompanying the group as well.

Some of the less-commonly-heard pieces are “This Christmastide,” which was written for opera singer Jessye Norman in the 1980s, and



Tim Middagh / The Globe

The Worthington Chamber Singers practice for their upcoming concert at First United Methodist Church in Worthington.

“The Call,” an unpublished work Parrish heard at a performance of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

About half of the songs are sung without accompaniment.

“I always print the lyrics in the program,” Parrish said.

“It heightens the experience to be able to follow along.”

The concert, scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday at First United Methodist Church in Worthington, will be dedicated to Steve Rubis, one of the group’s founding members, who died

in December 2020. Admission cost is a freewill offering, with the proceeds donated to a local charity after the group’s expenses — purchasing sheet music, typically — are paid.

CONCERT: Page 3

Jackson school remembers Zariah Scott

The first-grader died after a vehicle collision that killed mother, brother

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

JACKSON — Grief counselors visited the first-grade classrooms at Riverside Elementary the Monday after Zariah Chanel Scott, 6, died of injuries sustained in a fatal collision that had already claimed the lives of her mother, Mariah Nelson, and her 1-year-old brother, Symere.

Zariah loved singing, dancing and painting, according to her obituary, and her favorite color was purple.

She always looked out for her brother and her sisters, Serenidee Schoenecker and Armani Scott, who was also

injured in the Nov. 13 collision.

“We just want to make sure the family knows we support them in every way that we can,” said Dr. Kimberly Meyer, Riverside’s principal.

Grief counselors were also available to talk with the students individually during the day, keeping things age-appropriate for the young people, and the school sent a letter to parents of first-graders so they knew what was going on, Meyer said. A school counselor and school psychologist are available at Riverside as well.

Many students made cards

for Zariah’s family.

“With this age group of students, it’s really hard to know how they process things,” Meyer said. “It’s been a hard hit on the whole community, and Riverside — and the students and teachers, and everyone.”

Riverside students gathered outside Tuesday to remember their classmate with a balloon release, and Zariah’s funeral was on Wednesday.

“Zariah will always be remembered for her love of life, laugh, and her beautiful smile that would light up any room she walked in,” her obituary states.



Dan Condon / The Jackson County Pilot

Riverside Elementary students release pink and purple balloons in memory of Zariah Scott, 6, who died recently following a Nov. 13 vehicle crash that also claimed the lives of her mother and 1-year-old brother.

WEATHER

CLOUDY

HIGH 37°
LOW 29°



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