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District 518 continues to prepare for any mandate

Vaccines and weekly testing on the table

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — District 518 continues preparing for a mandate that could give employees two options: being vaccinated for COVID-19, or wearing a face mask and testing weekly for the virus.

“Do we have employees who aren’t going to want to test? Yes. Do we have employees that don’t want vaccinations? Absolutely,” said Superintendent John Landgaard at the District 518 Board of Education meeting Tuesday. “We’re going to work with them the best we possibly can.”

While the federal mandate is currently stalled by legal challenges, Minnesota has its own state-level regulatory agency, Landgaard explained, and they are moving forward on the vaccinate-or-test requirement.

“Again, I think most school districts or even a lot of businesses would choose not to do this,” Landgaard said. “There are some that have, but we’re kind of being forced into it.”

The mandate, if it goes into effect, means employers with more than 100 workers must either require vaccination, or have employees comply with face masking and weekly testing.

It remains unclear when the rule will go into effect, but Landgaard said the district will begin collecting vaccination status information soon. Then the school will need to set up testing for those who do not wish to be vaccinated, which must be done on paid time.

DISTRICT 518: Page 4

7 hospitals receive grants for COVID-19

Funds will go towards testing and mitigation

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — Seven hospitals in southwest Minnesota are about to get a booster in their fight against COVID-19 in the form of \$244,084 each in federal grants.

Sanford facilities located in Worthington, Jackson, Luverne and Westbrook, as well as Windom Area Hospital, Pipestone County Medical Center and Murray County Memorial Hospital, Slayton, are all slated to receive grant money. The funds must be used for coronavirus testing and mitigation, which could include contact tracing, distributing personal protective equipment, establishing testing sites and testing education.

“The grant is very specific in how it can be used,” said Sandra Schlechter, chief financial officer at Pipestone County Medical Center. “We are going through the grant criteria at this time to determine how or if we can use the funds.”

HOSPITALS: Page 4



Emma McNamee / The Globe

Worthington business owner Bill Keitel stands behind the counter at Buffalo Billfold Co., holding a photo of buffalo calves from Dakota Sweetgrass Bison Ranch.

LIFE OF LEATHER

Buffalo Billfold Co. celebrates 50 years in business

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

Worthington
On the corner of Tenth Street and Fourth Avenue in Worthington, a brick building houses the Buffalo Billfold Company, where Bill Keitel and his wife Laurie have been selling — and making — leather products since 1972.

Originally from Luverne, Bill, 69, came to Worthington in 1971 and, armed with a dozen belts and some candles, the Keitels opened up shop the following year. Today,

their staff operates out of two floors in the historic Tenth Street building, and maintains an online store with more than 130 different products available.

“It’s taken us 50 years to become an overnight success,” Bill joked. “But here’s what it is. We’ve really had a blast here in Worthington. We like what we do. We like the people. Worthington has been incredibly supportive of us.”

During an informal tour of the store, Bill pointed toward a corner at the front end of the basement. Fifty years ago a picture was

taken of the Keitels’ first day, set up in that same corner.

Since then, the business has expanded exponentially. Piles of tanned leather and cut-outs that have yet to be sewn on one of the six industrial sewing machines in the shop cover much of the work area in the basement. A large table is set up with finished products and shipping boxes. The team at Buffalo Billfold is preparing to send out holiday orders.

Back up the stairs, Rebecca Roepke, an out-of-town customer, came

into the shop with her husband. The Keitels offered a warm welcome, which Roepke reciprocated enthusiastically.

“I’ve been waiting two years to come back here,” Roepke said excitedly. “I drove all the way over from Wisconsin.”

She proudly showed off her Buffalo Billfold traveling purse, which she got passing through Worthington a couple years ago, before launching into a tale about her first encounter with the Buffalo Billfold name.

BUFFALO: Page 3

MnDOT proposes Luverne roundabout

Site at intersection of Kniss Avenue and Main Street

By Julie Buntjer
The Globe

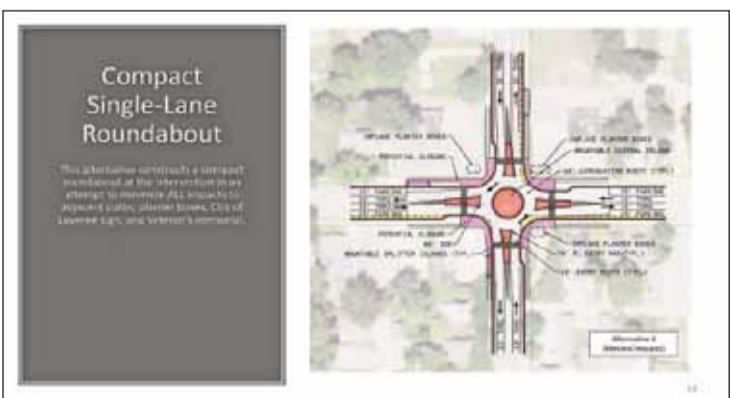
LUVERNE — Minnesota Department of Transportation engineers met with Rock County commissioners and Luverne City Council members Tuesday evening to discuss the potential construction of a compact roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Highway 75 (Kniss Avenue) and Rock County State Aid Highway 4 (Main Street).

The intersection is a main thoroughfare in the city and the site of two severe crashes — including one in which

a pedestrian was hit — in the last five years. Meanwhile, there were five left-turn crashes and 20 property damage crashes (fender benders), according to Ross Baker, one of two MnDOT traffic engineers to present the proposal at the joint meeting.

MnDOT plans to make improvements to U.S. 75 from Main Street to Veterans Drive in 2025, and said now is the time to consider placing a roundabout at the intersection.

ROUNDBOUT: Page 3



Contributed art

One of several alternatives presented for the intersection of U.S. 75 and Main Street in Luverne is this revised compact single-lane roundabout.

WEATHER

MOSTLY CLOUDY **HIGH 44°**
LOW 27°



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