

The Globe

No. 51
Unlock digital at
dglobe.com/activate

1872 Celebrating 150 years 2022

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Local 6-year-old healing after being struck by truck

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

Worthington
Seated in a wheelchair, six-year-old Toby Metteer lets himself be pushed along the sidewalk leading into Chautauqua Park, holding a fruit drink in one hand — his left arm still tucked into a sling. It'll be a number of weeks before he gets the OK from doctors to start handling weight and movement again.

His leg is secured in a blue cast, already adorned with signatures and messages from family and doctors. Mike Metteer, Toby's father, points to one that says: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger in six to eight weeks," and the family chuckles.

It has been a little over three weeks since Toby was hit by a Ford F-150 truck while crossing Nobles Street in Worthington, but he pulls himself along the edge of a picnic table with his right hand determinedly to show off the full leg cast that goes up to his hip.

Still, it's hard to slow a six-year-old boy down. He points to the playground and goads his older brother, Ian, into pushing him some of the ways there. Back at the picnic table, he brags about a walleye he caught the other day, reeling it in on his own, while Ian holds his hands up, demonstrating that it was "this big!"

He quickly goes back to asking about the park, or playing a game and Ian once again helps wheel him off to look at the rest of the park. Metteer warns them not to go too fast; Toby is still recovering from a brain injury, and they don't want to make him nauseated.

It's certainly not the summer the Metteer family had imagined.

"It's hard, even once he's able to bear weight again and start using crutches, he'll have to be in a boot," Mike explained. "His whole summer is going to be wrapped up in this."

Mike Metteer was at work when he got the call that his son had been hit by a truck while crossing the street in



Special to The Globe
Older brother Ian, 10, pushes Toby Metteer along in his wheelchair.

front of his grandparents' house. His grandmother had been inside, resting, while Toby was helping his grandfather with the landscaping in the front yard. He'd gone to cross the street to play with one of the neighbor kids.

According to the incident report, the driver didn't see him until it was too late. She slammed on the brakes but clipped Toby with the front left bumper.

When officers arrived on the scene, he was still lying in the roadway.

"Honestly, I'm surprised there haven't been more accidents like this," said Metteer, talking about

the 500 block of Nobles Street where his children's grandparents live. "That close to a highway, there should be way more access to crosswalk and sidewalks over there ... but the one side is just driveway to driveway. There's nowhere to cross over."

Metteer left work immediately and arrived in time to follow the ambulance to Sanford Worthington Medical Center. From there, Toby was airlifted to Sanford Children's Hospital, where doctors found he had a traumatic brain injury, along with a broken tibia and humorous bone on his left side.

RECOVERY: Page 7

Worthington Fulbright scholar teaching English in Brazil

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

SALVADOR, Brazil — One of Aisha Kimbrough's most rewarding experiences has been moving to a totally new place and finding comfort in unfamiliarity, and receiving a prestigious U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Award has allowed her to do that again — this time in Brazil.

Kimbrough applied for the Fulbright program in fall 2019 through Whitman College, her undergraduate institution. She received the award in 2020, but the program was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; as such, she started in April 2022 and will be in Brazil until mid-December.

"My interest in language-learning stems from my personal story as a daughter to an Eritrean mother and Jamaican-American father, and also growing up in a diverse, global community like Worthington," Kimbrough said.

As a child listening to her family communicate in multiple languages, she grew to understand that language serves as communication, but also as a method for building community, resisting dominant narratives and preserving culture, history and identity, she said. Worthington's racial and ethnic diversity also meant that the global was local, and hearing Oromo, Karen, Mam, Spanish and Thai spoken on a regular basis made Kimbrough especially keen on language-learning and education too.

After her undergraduate

work, she moved to Seville, Spain, and taught English at a public high school for two years, which helped her expand her knowledge of education and its significance.

Now she teaches English to undergraduate and graduate students alike at the Federal University of Bahia in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

"I lead my own conversation, English language, and U.S. culture classes where I get to learn from my students and have intellectual conversations on racism, inequality, African history, and much more," Kimbrough said. "What I learned is that oftentimes, it is thought that school is somehow politically neutral or disassociated with social issues such as race, class, etc. But my experience in Spain and currently now in Brazil demonstrates the exact opposite: educational spaces like the classroom are at the crux of social and political inequities."

Those classrooms have differed significantly based on students' ages, school resources and the political and social climate, too. In Spain, she worked with middle- and high-school-aged students, and witnessed "a lot of disrespect and devaluation of educators," which she said she also saw applied to grade school teachers in the U.S. In Brazil, she teaches at the university level, where students are in school because they want to learn rather than because they have to be there.

SCHOLAR: Page 6



Contributed
Aisha Kimbrough received a prestigious U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Award and is currently teaching in Brazil. She is also working on a project focusing on the Tropicalia musical tradition.

Plans for GreatLIFE facility addressed

By Emma McNamee
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — GreatLIFE Golf and Fitness CEO and Chairman, Tom Walsh Sr., visited Worthington's 18-hole golf course on Tuesday to address concerns and questions from members. The visit followed last week's special meeting of the Worthington City Council, during which a proposal from Walsh to deed the course and facility to the city was discussed.

Under Walsh's proposed agreement, the city would

become responsible for the cost of chemicals and fertilizers used in the maintenance of the golf course grounds — which last year cost \$24,000 and Walsh anticipated \$30,000 for this year. Additionally, GreatLIFE would continue to operate and maintain the facility.

As part of that agreement, GreatLIFE would pay the city of Worthington 50% of the first \$100,000 in annual cash flow.

The city would also become responsible for any capital improvements that need to

be made to the facility. Walsh stated that a year and a half ago, they received a bid for about \$300,000 in order to make the improvements necessary to the facility — not including the parking lot, and changes necessary to make the facility ADA compliant.

"We were going to do the exterior of the building, windows, insulation, drop the ceiling down in the bar dining room," Walsh listed off. "Now, for all of that, we'd probably be looking closer to \$400,000."

PLANS: Page 7



Tim Middagh / The Globe

Tom Walsh Sr. spoke at GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness Club in Worthington Tuesday.

WEATHER

ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS HIGH 77° LOW 53°



INDEX

Classifieds 10-11
Divisions 5
Puzzles 5
Sports 8-9
Weather 2



District 518 talks raises, hiring and the difficulty of finding substitutes

By Kari Lucin
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — District 518 will continue to use Teachers on Call, a staffing service that provides substitutes for the school, despite some questions about its usefulness, the District 518 Board of Education decided Tuesday.

“At this point, I’ve talked to some administration... they don’t feel we’ve gotten the bang out of this project like we feel we should have, so I will not be supporting the extension of this (contract) tonight,” said Mike Harberts, school board member.

“Are we getting more substitutes since we have this?” asked Tom Prins, another school board member.

Superintendent John Landgaard answered no, but noted that the district probably wouldn’t get more substitutes if it stopped using Teachers on Call either, as subs have been difficult to find regardless.

Landgaard explained that the real benefit of using the service is that the substitutes aren’t District 518 employees, so the school does not have to track hours to find out if it would be required to offer them health insurance or

benefits. If a substitute worked more than 30 hours in a week as a District 518 employee, the school would be required to offer them the opportunity for benefits.

Landgaard also pointed out that if Teachers on Call was no longer used, each school building would need to find its own subs again, meaning a significant amount of calling around for administrative staff.

“I don’t think Teachers on Call is going to create more subs, but I don’t think going away from it is going to create more subs either,” said Brad Shaffer, board member, adding that he’d hate to dump more work on the administrative staff.

The new contract represented a 2% increase in cost from the previous year, meaning that as a staffing service, Teachers on Call would receive 30% rather than 28% of the funds paid to them.

The contract was approved with Harberts and Prins dissenting. Adam Blume was not present.

Staff shortages, hiring difficulties and employment in general came up during other parts of the meeting as well.

The district approved a number of salary and benefit increases for a

number of positions.

- ▶ 3.23% in 2022-23 and 3.17% in 2023-2024 for the attendance officer;

- ▶ 4.04% and 2.29% for the district accountant;

- ▶ 3.96% and 3.2% for the database network specialists;

- ▶ 3.29% one-year increase for community education non-licensed coordinator for 2022-23;

- ▶ 4.09% and 3.35% for food service coordinator;

- ▶ 3.93% and 3.64% increase for the Secretarial Association of Worthington;

- ▶ 4.14% and 3.46% for food service staff;

- ▶ 3.39% and 3.45% for technology management specialists;

- ▶ 4.49% and 3.17% for district administrative secretaries;

- ▶ 3.76% and 3.49% for the Custodial Association of Worthington;

- ▶ 4.08% and 3.21% for Worthington Administrators Association;

- ▶ 3.34% and 3.23% for the parent liaisons/community connectors;

- ▶ 11.10% and 3.31% for the director of operations, with adjustments based on job responsibilities, job rating and adjusted duties;

- ▶ 3.86% and 3.56% for the activities direc-

tor; and

- ▶ 7.69% and 3.58% for the human resource coordinator, with adjustments based on job responsibilities, job rating and adjusted duties.

Landgaard noted that the district still has a significant amount of hiring to do, with positions available in all of its buildings. He also said three people have been hired in special education who are expected to graduate in December.

The superintendent informed the board that wage and benefit negotiations are still going on with District 518’s paraprofessionals. According to Landgaard, the paras have requested a 2.25% increase for the first year of the contract and a \$2 per hour increase in the second, which he said was “over 5%.” District 518 had offered a 7.5% increase total over the two years.

The current wage range for paraprofessionals in District 518 is \$16.06 to \$18.01 for Class I paras and \$16.46 to \$18.36 for Class II paras, which includes all paras, from those paid the starting wage to those at the top of the pay scale.

In other news Tuesday, the board:

- ▶ Agreed that more discussion would

be needed about an unnamed company that hopes to donate between \$300,000 and \$400,000 to the district in exchange for naming rights. Initially the company had hoped to purchase a scoreboard, but as the District did not need one, Landgaard suggested donating toward either a baseball field or a soccer field, both of which the district has planned to build eventually anyway. The donation would likely not pay for the entire project, however, so the school board will need to decide whether to accept the funds and pay for some of the field on its own, or decline the donation. The board reached the consensus that Landgaard should continue to discuss the issue with the potential donor, and that more talk is needed.

- ▶ Accepted donations from Boxtops for Education for Prairie Elementary, Optimists for flexible seating, WAMBO for a Triple A scholarship and an anonymous donor for the Worthington High School Dance Line Student Activity Club.

- ▶ Approved tax abatements for KJSM Investments for properties on Cherrywood Lane and for JBS for six properties on

East Avenue through the Nobles Home Initiative.

- ▶ Approved a preliminary initial budget for the 2022-23 school year that includes \$79.92 million in expenditures — a decrease from the \$83.12 million budget from the previous school year.

- ▶ Approved a three-year service agreement with Daktronics for \$57,975 for parts and labor for all the scoreboards in District 518, except the one at its baseball field, which is more than 10 years old.

- ▶ Agreed to meet with the watershed regarding a potential pond on District 518 property near the Intermediate School.

- ▶ Agreed to discuss the fate of West Elementary at a future meeting.

- ▶ Received a public comment from Rebecca McGaughey, who teaches seventh grade at Worthington Middle School. McGaughey praised the district’s paraprofessionals for their hard work and emphasized their importance within the district, calling them “a valuable gift to our district, to our teachers, and most importantly, to our students.”

RECOVERY

From Page 1

“That first week in the hospital was probably the roughest point,” said Kaylynn Minard, Mike’s girlfriend, who stayed in Sioux Falls during Toby’s recovery. “It really threw us for a loop because he was so in and out of it. He couldn’t tell us what hurts, he couldn’t really communicate and that’s really a scary thing to watch.”

Toby struggled with memory displacement during those early days of recovery, and when able to, he asked for his mom, who died in 2019. On top of the injuries, he had difficulties with eating and using the restroom, as well as communicating with family and doctors.

“About a week in, it was like this switch flipped,” Mike said. “He woke up from a nap and said he wanted some animal crackers. Since then, he’s been much



Special to The Globe

Toby Metteer, 6, in the Sanford Children’s Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, after being hit by a car in Worthington on June 2.

more normal — or normal for Toby.”

“It was really kind of miraculous, how fast he changed,” Minard added. “I was ... glad that he kind of just came out of it as well as he did, because it really was just night and day for him.”

Released from the hospital after 11 days, Toby still has a long road to recovery ahead of him. While some of his appointments will be handled in Worthington, he has several appointments in Sioux

Falls over the coming weeks and months. Once he’s out of his casts, Toby will still have to use crutches, and therapy is likely to be a months-long process for him — but his family is happy to see improvements already.

“He’s a tough little guy,” Mike said.

“Always has been.” The family has set up a GoFundMe page at <https://gofund.me/b2f51274> to help cover costs associated with the accident.

PLANS

From Page 1

However, Walsh stated that one of the biggest concerns with the facility is water access. While the golf course has used an easement — granted to the city during its ownership of the course — to access up to 30 million gallons of water to maintain the grounds annually, Walsh said the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has begun to “crack down” on water usage from Lake Okabena.

No formal citations have been issued by the DNR at this time.

Worthington City Council members agreed to look into the legality of transferring water rights to the golf course during its meeting last week, which could help GreatLIFE secure water.

“If they do that, it’s great,” Walsh said. “But we still need to look at somewhere between \$400,000 to \$450,000 in repairs to bring (this

facility) up to GreatLife standards.”

Should the city reject the proposal, Walsh says GreatLife will seek more corporate partners, secure additional members — of which the Worthington facility currently has about 400 — and increase dues.

Walsh said the facility is likely to raise its membership dues July 1 — \$10 for golf and fitness, and \$5 for those

with fitness only memberships — regardless of what happens with the proposal. Since taking over the facility, this will mark the second dues increase in eight years.

While nothing official is scheduled yet, Walsh said a meeting with Worthington city officials will likely take place in the coming weeks, to further discuss the future of the facility and golf course.

We’re Here When You Need Us

<p>Crossroads Care Center</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia Care • Skilled Nursing Care <p>965 McMillan St., Worthington, MN 507-376-5312</p>	<p>South Shore Care Center</p> <p>SPECIALIZING IN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PT, OT, Speech Rehabilitation Services • Skilled Nursing Care <p>1307 S. Shore Dr. Worthington, MN 507-376-3175</p>
--	--

Need some help?

Andrew M. Titus
TITUS LAW OFFICE, PLLC
Civil • Family • Criminal • Probate

1008 Fourth Avenue, Worthington • 507.376.6123
www.tituslawofficepllc.com

BENSON FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

Proud to be
Worthington’s locally
owned funeral home
for five generations.

Phillip Benson
Funeral Director
M-3596

Alyssa Benson
Funeral Director
M-4110

www.bensonfh.com 1225 Ryan’s Road | Worthington, MN | 507.376.4477

Front Porch Music Concerts

The Double Down Daredevils
Minnesota-based Bluegrass and Americana band

Thursday, July 21 • 7 pm
at End-O-Line Railroad Park and Museum
440 North Mill Street, Currie

Free refreshments will be served • Bring your own lawn chair or blanket

Funding provided by a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, made possible by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund. Questions? Call 507-836-6533 or email museum@co.murray.mn.us

Scholtes AUTO

Family Owned & Operated for 90 years

5 STAR ★★★★★ DEALER

Sales • Service • Body Shop • Rentals

100+ Vehicles Online • www.scholtesauto.com

1215 Sherwood St., Worthington...507-376-3136

MEGA PRODUCE SALE

JUNE 24-26

5/\$5 Avocados

3.99 Whole seedless watermelon

1.88/lb. Prima peaches or nectarines

16.00 a dozen! .50 Sweet corn each

LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION DAY

JULY 7, 2022

8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

COME LEARN ABOUT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

MEET WITH INSTRUCTORS AND EXPLORE THE PROGRAM

registration available!

LEARN WITH PURPOSE

www.mnwest.edu • 800-658-2330

A member of Minnesota State.
An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Educator/Employer.