

New lawn of the land for RCTC B1

Java joints find local partners D1

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WEEKEND POSTBULLETIN

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Crime up over last year, but down from peak

BY EMILY CUTTS
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The overall crime rate for the city of Rochester in 2018 saw a slight increase from the previous year but is still down compared to the five years before that, according to state crime reports.

The Rochester Police Department crime rate for serious offense crimes, or Part I crimes, was at

INSIDE: Read about the results of the state report. **C6**

2,277 in 2018, compared to 2,060 in 2017. The list of Part I offenses consists of criminal homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and larceny.

These numbers are part of the 2018 Uniform Crime Report released by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Bureau of

Criminal Apprehension earlier this month. Police departments and sheriff's offices from across the state submit data to the BCA to be compiled as part of the report.

"It can be difficult to know why crime increases," Rochester Police Capt. Casey Moilanen said of the uptick in the city. "We have been working

really hard to build trust and transparency with the community, and studies have shown there are a number of crimes that are not reported to the police for a number of reasons," he said. "With us trying to build trust and transparency with the community, we might be seeing more people willing to contact us and report crimes." Moilanen said that

crime typically rises with growth in population and population density.

The BCA defines crime rate as the "number of crimes reported by law enforcement per 100,000 in population." It is calculated by dividing the number of index crimes by the population of the community then multiplying the answer by 100,000. This calculation allows

communities of varying sizes to be compared on a more equal standing.

Rochester's crime statistics seem to buck the statewide trend of a decrease in murder and an increase in rape.

But even with the small increase, Rochester's serious crime rate has dropped since its seven-year peak in 2012

See **CRIME**, Page A7

City maintains stance on ICE activity

BY JOHN MOLSEED
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With Immigration and Customs Enforcement expected to round up thousands of undocumented migrants throughout the country starting Sunday, Rochester and Olmsted County officials are reconfirming local law enforcement does not participate in the federal agency's activities.

"The City of Rochester and the Rochester Police Department pride ourselves on being part of and a champion of a compassionate community," states a release the city shared in English and Spanish on Thursday. "The Rochester Police Department does not collect or maintain information related to the immigration status of residents and visitors. Also, we do not employ or assign officers to the enforcement of federal immigration laws."

Rochester Mayor Kim Norton said the stance is not a change for the city's police department, which has maintained a distance from federal immigration enforcement activities in the area.

Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson followed with a similar written statement. "The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office law enforcement deputies do not engage in federal immigration violation enforcement," he wrote.

Torgerson and Rochester Police Chief James Franklin have noted deputies and officers respond to all calls for service and don't want people to hesitate asking for help based on immigration status.

"The officer's response and decision-making is based solely on the facts and circumstances of the incident, those involved, and its impact on our community," the city's statement reads.

Last year, Torgerson and other county officials held a series of conversations with members of the Latino community to discuss concerns about ICE actions in the county. The sheriff noted local law enforcement policies don't honor ICE requests to hold people, since immigration violations are considered civil matters, and the detention center solely deals with criminal charges.

On Thursday, his statement indicated no communication has been sent to the county regarding potential ICE activity in the upcoming days.

"(The) Olmsted County Sheriff's Office is not aware of any specific enforcement activity by the federal government in our communities nor have we been informed of any immigration enforcement operation anywhere in Olmsted County," he wrote.

See **ICE**, Page A3



Post Bulletin photos / graphic by Ken Klotzbach / klotzbach@postbulletin.com

Rochester's Down by the Riverside concerts have drawn some big names over the years. Some recent notables include (from left) The Gin Blossoms, Lucius, Kansas, American Band, Paul Revere and the Raiders, Soul Asylum, Jefferson Starship, and Foghat.

Down by the Riverside goes purple

With the Revolution playing the final week, season wraps on a Princely note

BY TOM WEBER

When Down by the Riverside kicks off its annual season Sunday night, there will be a purple hue in the sky.

In fact, there'll be a touch of purple at every Down by the Riverside concert this season, leading up to the Aug. 18 finale by The Revolution, Prince's former backing band.

"The rooftop lights of the government center will be purple every Sunday night, plus the entire week of the Revolution concert," said Chris Alcott, assistant general manager of Riverside Concerts, the arm of city government that organizes the series.

It's all part of a Summer of Purple tribute to Prince, who died in 2016.

INSIDE

The first Down by the Riverside concert in Rochester was held in 1992, but it was in 2000 that the series settled on a winning formula. **PAGE A3**

After Prince's death, tribute concerts and memorials were quickly arranged in the Twin Cities. Now, Alcott said, "We're doing a Rochester event in honor of Prince."

This year's DBTR T-shirts given out on opening night are purple, downtown bars and restaurants are being encouraged to come up with Prince or purple-themed menu items, and other related events, including screenings of "Purple Rain," are being put in place.

Alcott said he expects the Revolution concert, plus this week's opening show

by 10,000 Maniacs, to draw the biggest crowds this year. Whether they'll attract the 20,000 people that the most popular concerts in the past decade have drawn, only time will tell.

Part of that might be decided, once again, by how much trouble people are willing to put up with to get downtown. Construction projects and Down by the Riverside have gone hand-in-hand in recent years.

Three years ago, it was the Mayo Civic Center expansion project; for the past two years it was the Hilton/parking ramp project; this year it's the torn up streets around the library and government center.

RIVERSIDE: Page A3

OBITUARIES PAGE A7

Anne Marie Eastman, Rochester
Kay (Laufenburger) Jilk, St. Charles
Rozella Olsen, Midlothian, Va.

Victor Schnobrich, Rochester
Darlene Marie Wentworth, Rochester
Dr. Steven Zeldenrust, Rochester

INDEX

Business **D1** Lottery **A7**
Weather **C8** TV/Puzzles **E7**
Comics **F1**

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WEEKEND
6 52 104 11983 8