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Grothman gives presentation to GL Rotary, p. 12



Tiger boys run to an invite title at Berlin meet, p. 14



OFFICIALS FROM THE Ripon Police Department, the Ripon Area Fire District and the DNR examine the vehicle stuck in Silver Creek last week Saturday. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

Vehicle loses control, ends up in Silver Creek

Weekend crash causes no injuries

By Joe Schulz
jschulz@ripypress.com

A car lost control and ended up in Silver Creek, but caused no injuries last week Saturday.

Shortly before 11 a.m., Ripon resident Jamie Melville was test-driving a car that was for sale, heading southbound on Pearl Street.

Melville told police that the vehicle had no functioning brakes. He turned right onto Kellogg Street, and was unable to slow the vehicle to a stop before reaching the end of the road, according to the crash

report.

At that point, Melville steered the vehicle off the roadway to avoid striking a house, and the vehicle continued through the lawn of a house on Kellogg Street toward Silver Creek.

According to the report, Melville then jumped out of the car while it was moving.

The vehicle struck an embankment wall, shifting it, and went over the embankment and completely into the creek.

Because of the location of the vehicle in Silver Creek and

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'Prom Royalty'



MAKING UP THE Ripon High School Class of 2023 Prom Court are, front row, from left, Mini Court representatives Ellie Wood and Everett Esala; second row, court members Ariana Arnetveit, Alli Bumby, Paige Kouba, Olivia Jennings, Paige Biever; back row, Noah Olson, Dylan Kamin, Oliver Roeper, Landon Shidell, Roman Mueller, Henry Willett, Sheridan Zimmerman and Jonathan Muenchow. Inset, Mueller and Muenchow smile after being crowned as "prom royalty." *Jonathan Bailey photos*

Court, royalty announced during 'Studio 23' prom

Ripon High School (RHS) held a Studio 23 prom last week Saturday, with the Class of 2023 Prom Court being announced during a Grand March in the high school auditorium.

To make its practices more equitably-aligned, Ripon Area School District made the deci-

sion to do away with the historic "king and queen" titles and the conventional arrangement of a prom court.

Instead, it asked students to vote for a "top-12," noting that those students, regardless of gender, would be prom court representatives.

Once the votes were tallied, the ballot was reissued with the names of these individuals so students could vote for their top-two choices for "prom royalty," in lieu of the accustomed "king and queen" labels.

For more photos from the grand march, see the back page.

Downtown Ripon gears up for summer season

Revitalization has helped make Ripon a travel destination

By Joe Schulz
jschulz@ripypress.com

With warmer weather finally hitting Ripon, local businesses are gearing up for the summer tourism season.

Foot traffic through downtown Ripon typically picks up in the summertime and only has continued to increase throughout the downtown revitalization as Ripon has become a destination for visitors looking to do some shopping, find a quality bite to eat or enjoy the city's small-town atmosphere.

Ripon Main Street Executive Director Craig Tebon noted Ripon starts seeing a significant uptick in tourism traffic around



A CAR FULL of people passes by Knuth Brewing Co. as part of one of Ripon's favorite summer traditions, Scoop the Loop. *Jonathan Bailey photo*

mid-June, fueled by people coming to their summer homes in Green Lake.

"Historically, it's been in the third week of June. The summer homes start to be occupied and

it seems like it takes about two weeks for them to do the Green Lake thing, and then they start branching out to the neighboring communities after that," Tebon said. "Usually, we see our big-

gest increase around July 4."

On top of that predictable tourism influx, downtown Ripon has received increased media attention from outside the local area, which has increased foot

traffic outside of the traditional tourism season, he noted.

"It's ramping up," Tebon said. "That's the icing on the cake."

Business owners who came to downtown Ripon before the revitalization have seen a steady uptick in foot traffic from summer to summer.

One business owner, DIG Garden Store & More owner Yvonne Baumgartner, noted foot traffic has increased year-round, especially on weekends.

"In the summer months, it's much busier, too," she said, noting the month of May is DIG's busiest time of year as many are beginning work on their gardens.

Meanwhile, Back Porch Gatherings owner Tammy Gutierrez noted foot traffic at her business sees a significant summer uptick from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

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the area around that portion of the creek, several trees were removed and a heavy wrecker was brought in to remove the vehicle from the creek, Ripon Police Chief Bill Wallner noted.

“The Department of Natural Resources officer was also on scene,” Wallner said. “That is typical whenever we have a concern of waterways being involved.”

Ripon Area Fire District (RAFD) Capt. John Hollatz noted officials had to remove the trees and use the heavy wrecker to extract the car because a sanitary sewer line crossed the creek, with an old sanitary line encased in concrete nearby and concrete walls on either side of the vehicle.

“We couldn’t disturb that concrete sewer pipe or the retaining walls on either side,” he said. “That’s how we opted for the heavy wrecker to put a boom out over the top of the creek and pull that car straight out.”

Hollatz noted RAFD was on the scene to protect the area to ensure no one was around the car when it was being lifted and assisted with cutting trees to help get the car out.

He added that it was a miracle that no one was injured in the crash.

“It could have ended pretty bad,” Hollatz said. “There were a bunch of kids out there who could have been out there playing that morning.”

Three traffic violations were listed in the crash report: operating a motor vehicle without insurance, operating without a license and failure to keep the vehicle under control.

Police were unable to determine whether the brakes were functioning due to damage, the report said.

Drugs and alcohol were not believed to be a factor in the crash and no drug or alcohol tests were given to Melville, the crash report added.



A SILVER CAR sits in Silver Creek after losing control last week Saturday. Air bags were deployed in the vehicle, which the driver jumped out of before it landed in the creek. Jonathan Bailey photo



TIRE MARKS IN the grass show the path the vehicle took as it lost control and ended up in Silver Creek. Jonathan Bailey photo



RIPON AREA FIRE District Capt. John Hollatz, left, and Ripon Officer Timothy Grenier, right, talk to an official from the DNR. Jonathan Bailey photo

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