

Sox champs

END OF THE CURSE

BOSTON ENDS 86 YEARS OF FRUSTRATION BY SWEEPING ST. LOUIS IN WORLD SERIES / SPORTS



ROCHESTER Democrat and Chronicle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004

DemocratandChronicle.com

50 CENTS NEWSSTAND

INSIDE TODAY



WEEKEND MAGAZINE

HAUNTED HOUSES, HAYRIDES, PUMPKIN PAINTING AND MORE

LIVING

GET INTO THE SPIRIT WITH PARTY TIPS AND JACK-O'-LANTERNS

TURN TO PAGE 1C



LOCAL

SCHOOL 9 STUDENTS PRACTICE BEING DOCENTS AT HIGH FALLS

TURN TO PAGE 1B



BUSINESS

LINDA YANISZEWSKI NAMED SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

TURN TO PAGE 10D



SPORTS

LIKE IT OR NOT, THE BILLS HAVE A FULL-BLOWN RUNNING BACK CONTROVERSY BREWING

TURN TO PAGE 1D

BUSINESS

ROCHESTERIANS WILL HAVE MORE DIRECT FLIGHTS TO FLORIDA NEXT WEEK

TURN TO PAGE 10D



LIVING

YOU CAN'T EVER FORGET THE PAIN OF LOSING YOUR PARENTS, SAYS ANA VECIANA-SUAREZ

TURN TO PAGE 1C

Copyright 2004 Gannett Rochester Newspapers Six Sections

Metro

A B C

Red tape hinders effort to fill police vacancies



SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Officer Eric Smith watches the time as Officer Adrian Smalls counts the number of sit-ups by Jeff LaFave of the New York Police Department, who was demonstrating his physical mettle for a position on the Rochester force.

PATRICK FLANIGAN
STAFF WRITER

Like many Rochester residents, Bill Nichthauser would like to see more cops on the streets. But he understands the budget constraints that prevent the mayor from expanding the Police Department.

However, Nichthauser was surprised to learn the city could add at least 40 officers without breaking the budget, simply by filling vacant positions.

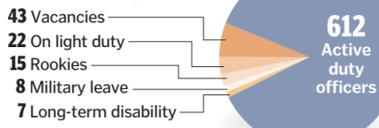
"I know there's a constant problem with staffing folks, but I always thought they were up to the maximum amount they could have in their budget," said Nichthauser.

At the end of this month, the Rochester Police Department, with an authorized strength of 707 officers, will have 43 openings among uniform positions. The future also holds the

A bite out of crime fighting

Vacancies and other shortfalls have cut the strength of the Rochester Police Department.

Rochester Police Department staffing



Regional police staffing levels

Officers per 1,000 residents	Rochester	Buffalo	Syracuse
	3.3	3.1	3.4
	707 officers 215,093 residents	881 officers 285,019 residents	486 officers 144,001 residents

SOURCE: Rochester Police Department

KELLY EGAN staff artist

possibility for more vacant positions, with almost half of the uniformed force up for retirement next year.

Current vacancies represent about the same number of uniformed officers

from the State Police and Monroe County Sheriff's Office that augmented the city force this summer under a state program called Operation Impact.

The vacancies are spread

What's at stake

A high number of vacancies affects public safety. When the Rochester Police Department is not at full staff, it hinders the department's ability to fight crime. Police Chief Robert Duffy said if the slow-moving bureaucratic hiring process is not changed, the openings could remain a long-term problem.

across the department, with empty slots in patrol, investigations and administrative positions. Police Chief Robert Duffy said every job is crucial, so filling them would go a long way toward lowering crime.

"It would have a very discernible impact when the positions are filled," said Duffy, who said the

POLICE, PAGE 7A

Xerox revises health benefits

New plans are built on pay-first deductibles

JOY DAVIA
STAFF WRITER

Xerox Corp., the Rochester area's third-largest employer, has revamped its employee health insurance benefits.

Gone will be most of the health maintenance organizations, with their fixed co-payments for services. Next year, Xerox's non-union workers — the majority of its Monroe County employees — will choose mainly from deductible plans, meaning they will pay a certain amount out of pocket before their health insurance kicks in. After the deductible is met, Xerox will pay 70 percent to 80 percent of a person's in-network medical costs.

The exception is preventive care, which includes annual physicals, cholesterol tests and well-child care. For those services, workers will still pay a \$15 co-payment, although that will not count toward the deductible.

The bottom line for employees: Those with many health care needs could end up paying more, said Xerox spokeswoman Christa Carone. Healthy

Inside

■ Graphic compares costs under new plan versus old, 7A
■ B&L also announces health plan changes, 10D

Coming up

■ Employees often struggle choosing plans, so we look at the trends and offer tips, Sunday

workers who have only a few doctor visits could pay less.

Xerox had to make drastic changes, Carone said, because the company and its workers would not have been able to afford the cost increases under this year's plan options. Since 2000, Xerox's health care costs have jumped 42 percent.

Xerox isn't the only company trying to figure out how to deal with health care increases. Bausch & Lomb Inc. also announced on Wednesday major changes to its Rochester plans.

Overall, local businesses expect to see 10.4 percent

XEROX, PAGE 7A

Ballot controversies surge in key states

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Election controversies stewed in the battleground states of Florida and Ohio on Wednesday, just days ahead of Tuesday's presidential election.

In Florida, election officials are questioning how many of a batch of 58,000 absentee ballots reached Broward County voters who requested them more than two weeks ago after hundreds of people complained that they never got their ballots.

The problem involves ballots mailed Oct. 7 and 8, though the number of those missing was uncertain. Some have been returned to be counted.

The Florida State Police investigated but found no criminal violations.

Inside More presidential campaign coverage, 3A, 6A

The county blamed the U.S. Postal Service, which denied responsibility. Postal Service spokeswoman Enola C. Rice said absentee ballots are sorted and delivered immediately.

Absentee voters who did not receive a ballot can request another be sent by overnight mail.

Meanwhile, in Ohio, a federal judge on Wednesday temporarily stopped hearings on Republican challenges to as many as 35,000 voter registrations.

About half the Republican challenges were filed in Democrat-heavy Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland. □

Newborns may get once-over for 44 diseases

New screening requirements may mean that babies born in New York will undergo a single blood test for 44 diseases.

With the new testing, New York may require more screening tests for inherited, and sometimes life-threatening disorders, than any other state.

The expansion plan is being attributed in large part to the advocacy of the Hunter's Hope Foundation, started by former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly, whose son Hunter suffers from Krabbe disease, a progressive disorder of the nervous system.

Although Krabbe disease is not on New York's expanded list, a pilot program is under way to find a reliable test for Krabbe. □

STORY: 5B

56.4% in Monroe oppose legalizing same-sex unions

JIM MEMMOTT
SENIOR EDITOR

Lynn Eich and Helen Klimeck-Jones both live on the west side of Monroe County. Each woman is married with children. Each is a Christian.

But the two women responded differently when asked by pollsters whether same-sex marriages should be legalized in New York state.

Of the 500 Monroe County voters who responded to the poll, 56.4 percent were opposed to the legalization of same-sex marriages in the state and 36.8 percent were in favor of legalization.

Eich, 44, of Spencerport, was part of the majority.

"I think most people, whether they have a

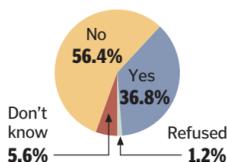


Lynn Eich

Helen Klimeck-Jones

Poll results

Do you think that New York state should legalize same-sex marriage?



NOTE: The poll was conducted Sept. 19 through 23 and surveyed 500 people. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

SOURCE: Democrat and Chronicle, WXXI and WOKR-TV Voice of the Voter poll

TRICIA POWERS staff artist

way to receive all the benefits a married couple gets."

The majority opposition to the legalization of same-

POLL, PAGE 6A



SUN AND CLOUDS

53° 42°
Expanded Weather 6B

INDEX

LOTTERY EDITORIALS DEATHS TELEVISION CLASSIFIED
2A 14A 2B 5C 1E

Restaurant reviews

See where our critic has been eating. New reviews online every Thursday. DemocratandChronicle.com click on "Eat & Drink/Reviews"



DemocratandChronicle.com

Find out why over 500,000 people visit every month.*

Source: DemocratandChronicle.com Website figures for 11/03-1/04