

# Hornaday's Horde raids the Big Blue at state track

**By Lenny Sementi**

Head boys track coach Ryan Hornaday and his assistant coaches, Stan Wienke, Austin Sexton and Tracey Hornaday took a large contingent south to Charleston this past weekend invading the big blue oval at Eastern Illinois University for the IHSA state track meet. The Warriors raided the meet with 11-athletes in tow counting alternates and stormed the awards stand collecting 6-state medals and were in the hunt for a team trophy sitting in 2nd place until the final event.

The Warriors sat in the top five most of the meet following a 3rd place finish in the shot put by senior thrower Chris Boyd before climbing into 2nd place following juniors Josiah Hortin and Jackson Barrett securing a pair of medals in the open 1600. Shelbyville and Newton scored in the final event of the meet edging the

Warriors by a mere point.

Boyd, a senior hit the sand at 55.68-feet on Thursday in the prelims entering the finals in 3rd place and that's where he would stay, securing the 3rd state medal of his high school career. The 3-sport athlete came up short of the finals in the discus landing in 14th overall.

Hortin was the next to score, breaking the school record in the 800 and taking 3rd in a very fast final, crossing the line in 1-minute and 54.89-seconds. Barrett and classmate Will were the next to add to the team totals and secure some precious medals. The duo ran shoulder to shoulder with the leaders the entire race ending the day in 3rd and 8th respectively in the 27-man race. Hortin and Barrett then added on more points in the 1600 finishing the race within a second of each other. When the dust settled Hortin occu-

ried 6th spot on the podium with a time of 4:25.8 while Barrett landed on the 8th spot finishing in 4:26.14.

Ben Hornaday and Allan Robello led the way in a pair of relays that qualified but came up short of the finals. The two

seniors joined with Bryce Graves and Kamden Flenner in the 4x200-relay clocking in with a 1:34. They then handed

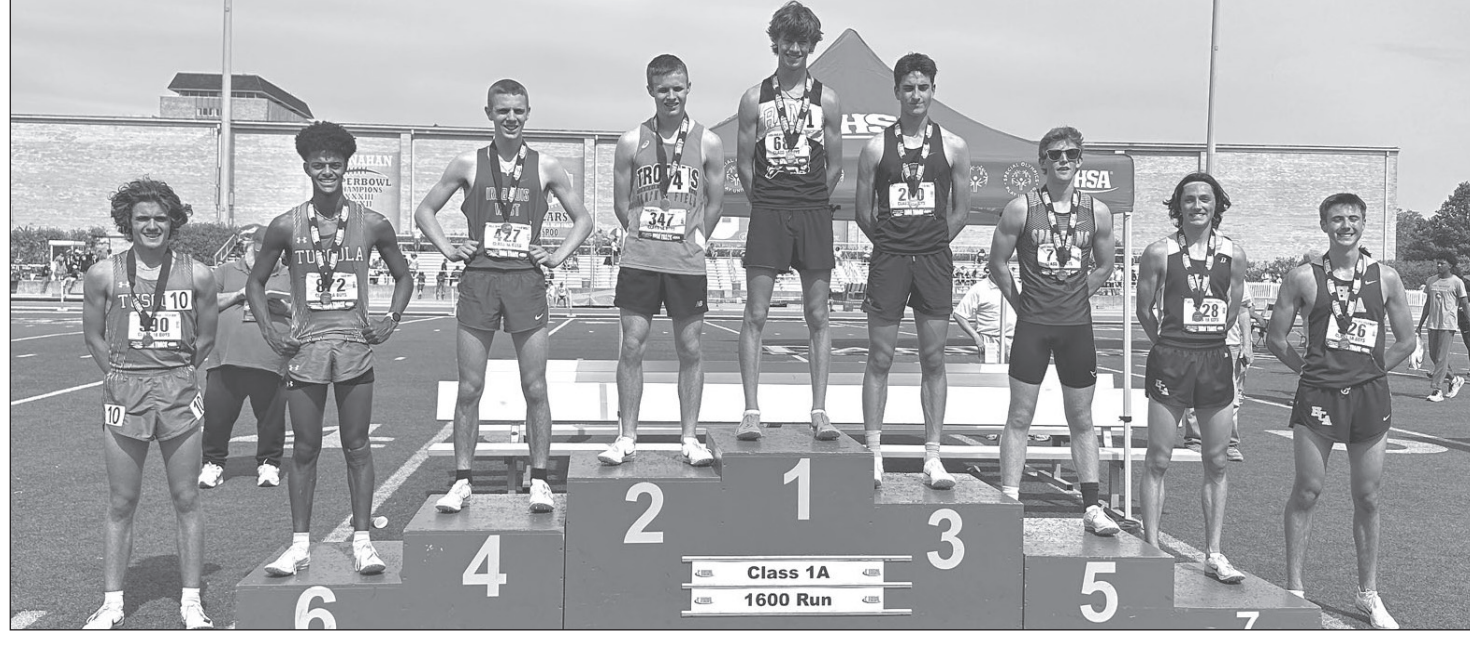
off to Graves again and Foltz in the 4x400 missing the finals by a few ticks of the second hand finishing in 3:32.



**JACKSON BARRETT (990) AND JOSIAH HORTIN (877) run down the blue track in the 1600 meter race at O'Brien Field during the IHSA state meet finals in Charleston. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.**



**CHRIS BOYD with the shot put ball in hand during the IHSA boys state meet final in Charleston on May 25. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.**



**JACKSON BARRETT (990) AND JOSIAH HORTIN (877) stand on the left of the podium with Josiah in 6th place for the Class 1A 1600 meter run. Photo by Tracy Hornaday.**



**JACKSON BARRETT runs the 3,200-meter run at the state finals on Saturday. Barrett competed in the IHSA Class 1A race at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Field. The three-class state finals was held over a three day period last week. Later in the meet, he returned to run the 1,600-meter run and earn all-state status in that race as well. Photo by Dan Chamness.**



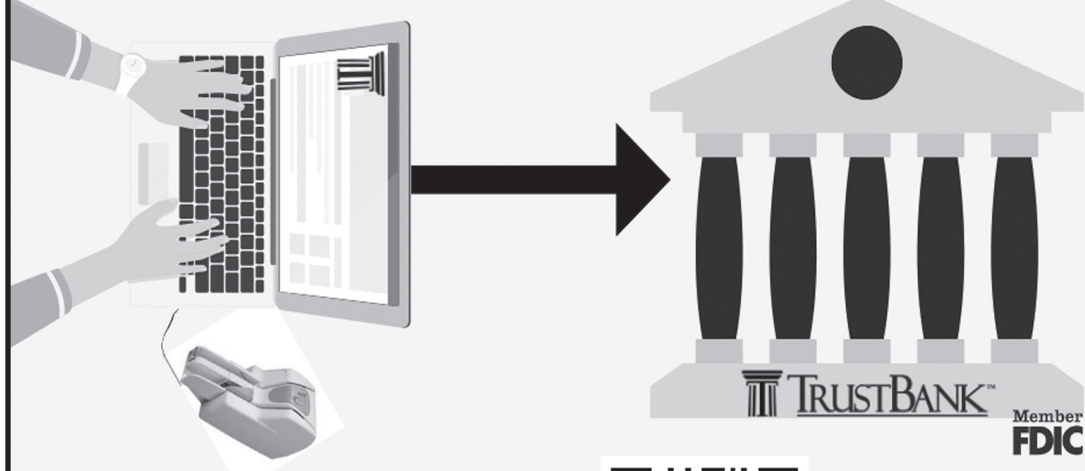
**WILL FOLTZ runs a lap of the 3,200-meter run at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Field. The all-state runner helped Tuscola take fourth as a team with 29 points. The Tuscola Warriors were only one point from getting third place as a team. The Newton Eagles took third with 30 points. Shelbyville was second with 30.5 points, while Catlin-based Salt Fork won the IHSA Class 1A team title with 45 points. Photo by Dan Chamness.**



**TUSCOLA JUNIOR JOSIAH HORTIN (#872) and St. Thomas More senior Ryan Hendrickson (#174) run stride for stride in the 800-meter run at the Illinois High School Association Class 1A State Championships on Saturday. Hortin took third in 1 minute, 54.89 seconds. He was one of three juniors to earn all state status in the 800-meter run. Photo by Dan Chamness.**

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## Rodeo

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event until the pandemic in 2020. Finally, he noted that there would not be a beer tent and bands this year for a number of reasons. He added that on Aug. 4, there would be a kid-friendly DJ dance party at the Main Street Plaza.

Alderman Tony Hooker was sworn in for his 4-year term.

City administrator Jacki Athey said she hopes to have the budget in place by July 1. A date of June 22 at 6 p.m. was selected for the council/department head budget meeting.

Police Chief Robert Rea then noted that he was reviewing candidates for filling the police officer openings on his staff. He also thanked Paul's Machine and Welding for their \$600 donation to the department.

Director Bethany Sorowka made her Parks and Rec report, noting that the spring soccer season had wrapped up and that the second and third-grade baseball season would be finishing in two or three weeks. She also noted that junior high seasons had just begun and would wrap up in late June or early July. She noted that the community center was progressing nicely.

Sorowka reminded July 15 is designated as "Unplug Illinois" day, a day where everyone is encouraged not to use electronic devices but to go out and enjoy our parks instead, and she is planning events for the statewide day.

Public Works director Mixell then noted that Harrison Park has four new lights installed. He also said that there was an electrical issue at Henson Park and that it was quickly resolved. He also said that he was obtaining

bids for updating the power source for the Henson Park restrooms.

Mayor Eversole Gunter then made a brief statement welcoming home all Villa Grove High School alumni for the celebrations and reunion events on May 27.

The council then turned its attention to new business, including the approval of Ordinance 2023-MC11, an ordinance authorizing the purchase of real estate, an ordinance pertaining to the purchase of the remaining farmland know as Pheasant Pointe phase 3.

The council also approved the purchase of a soil conditioner for the amount of \$12,426. They then approved payment for survey work done by Rankin Land Surveying in the amount of \$2,030 and they approved reimbursement to Mayor Eversole Gunter for plants for Main Street in the amount of \$363.