Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

SIG SAUER expands ammunition manufacturing facility in Arkansas, creating 625 new jobs in state

JACKSONVILLE, Ark. – SIG SAUER, a global leader in the firearms and ammunition industry, has announced plans to expand its ammunition manufacturing facility in Jacksonville. This expansion is expected to create 625 new jobs over the next five years.

"We are incredibly excited about expanding our ammunition operations here in Jacksonville and building upon years of success in Arkansas. This opportunity has proven itself essential to the growth and sustainment of our ammunition business, and further enforces our commitment to the Arkansas community and workforce," said Ron Cohen, President and CEO, SIG SAUER, Inc.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders

SIG SAUER Inc. will invest $150 million to expand the Jacksonville facility. The company will be investing in component hybrid case manufacturing, primer manufacturing, and load/pack operations to support multiple contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense. As part of the expansion, SIG SAUER will be developing a new 250,000-square-foot building to house parts of its manufacturing processes.

"Here in Arkansas, we love welcoming business expansions almost as much as we love defending the Second Amendment. SIG SAUER's expansion to their facility in Jacksonville does both, creating jobs and reaffirming Arkansans' right to keep and bear arms," said Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "I'm proud this company chose Arkansas to plant its roots, and I'll keep cutting taxes, investing in education, and growing our workforce to invite even more jobs and businesses to the Natural State."

"SIG SAUER is a major part of our state's firearms and ammunition industry, and we are proud that this global leader continues to expand in Jacksonville," said Clint O'Neal, executive director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. "SIG's success in Arkansas is a testament to the state's experienced workforce and the business-friendly climate that fosters companies' growth."

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In 2016, SIG SAUER announced that it would be locating its new ammunition manufacturing facility in Jacksonville, creating 50 new jobs. Today, the Elite Performance Ammunition manufacturing facility employs 348 employees.

"SIG Sauer has a wonderful growth story and has become a regional employer of choice since they first invested in Jacksonville in 2016," said Jay Chesshir, President and CEO of the Little Rock Regional Chamber. "This significant expansion further solidifies Metro Little Rock as a nationwide leader in the ammunition and shooting sports industries."

SIG SAUER manufactures ammunition and ammunition components for the U.S. Department of Defense, global defense and law enforcement, and consumers, in addition to pistol night sights at the Jacksonville facility.

"I am excited for what this expansion will bring to Jacksonville and the region of central Arkansas," said Jacksonville Mayor Jeff Elmore. "Their footprint in Jacksonville and impact on our city and state is something that we are extremely grateful for. We look forward to many more successful years of SIG SAUER in Jacksonville and the State of Arkansas."

The company is an ISO 9001-certified company with more than 1,200 employees worldwide.

"I am very excited that SIG SAUER is expanding their existing manufacturing operations and bringing more job opportunities to Jacksonville," said Logan Perry, chairman of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. "SIG SAUER has been a vital part of this community since they first located operations here as part of the initial ammunition relocation phase, and I am very honored they chose Jacksonville. Not only does this bring job opportunities to our community, it also boosts real estate sales, along with heightened revenue to local businesses because of these additional jobs. The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continuing to support SIG SAUER and enhance their footprint in Central Arkansas."

Nominate a local hero as the 2023 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The National Rifle Association of America's Law Enforcement Division is currently accepting nominations for the 2023 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Established in 1993, the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award recognizes and honors an exceptional act or service by a law enforcement officer. There are three possible categories that eligible officers may be nominated under: valor, public service, or dedication to the principals of our constitutional heritage. The deadline for submitting nominations this year is November 15th.

"For over 60 years, the NRA has been supporting the law enforcement community with programs designed to maintain readiness through training and competition, while at the same time honoring those officers who go above and beyond the call of duty," said NRA President Charles L. Cotton. "The NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award is one way NRA members show our appreciation to the brave men and women who keep our streets and communities safe."

The officer chosen for this award will be recognized at a future meeting of the NRA Board of Directors, receives an engraved firearm from GLOCK, and has their story told in the NRA Official Journals. For further information about the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, and to complete the nomination form, please visit https://awards.nra.org/awards/nra-officer-of-the-year-award/.

This past spring, at the 152nd NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Indianapolis, Indiana, the NRA honored Deputy Mark Johns of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office as the 2022 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. In August of 2022, Deputy Johns and other deputies of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office were serving a court order at a residence in their jurisdiction. While trying to communicate with the subject they were attempting to serve, the suspect, without warning, began firing rifle rounds through the door. Deputy Johns pulled a fellow deputy who had been hit to a safer area to render medical aid and then relocated to a more defensible position to locate the suspect and inform other deputies of the suspect's location.

The suspect exited the house and began to fire on Deputy Johns, who returned fire. During the ex-

Please see sports page 4

Josh Chrenko flexes his smallmouth muscle to win the Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series event powered by Tourney X on the Susquehanna River

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Josh Chrenko said earlier this week that the Susquehanna River is as good as any smallmouth bass river he's ever fished.

Then he went out and proved it.

Chrenko, 38, won the Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series powered by TourneyX on Sunday in the center of the Keystone State. He took the Day 1 lead with a five-bass limit that measured 96.25 inches and delivered again on the second and final day of the derby with another limit, this one measuring 97.75 inches.

That gave the Greenwood, Ind., resident a total of 194 inches, which was more than enough to claim the tournament's $8,500 first prize. The Top 15 anglers and Big Bass Award winner split a cash purse of $30,200.

Josh Chrenko of Greenwood, Ind., has won the Yamaha Rightwaters Bassmaster Kayak Series powered by TourneyX on Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River with a two-day total of 194 inches. ***(Photo by Mark Cisneros/B.A.S.S.)***

> *"I'm from Indiana and we don't have anything like this at home. So, if I get a chance to fish here, I'm gonna go ... And to be standing up here now (after winning the tournament), it's just surreal."*

"I'm not a national tournament guy," Chrenko said, shortly after receiving the championship trophy.

"I'm from Indiana and we don't have anything like this at home. So, if I get a chance to fish here, I'm gonna go ... And to be standing up here now (after winning the tournament), it's just surreal."

Chrenko fished an isolated spot of the river — a gamble, he said, because it was an effort to reach. But the chunky smallmouth bass feeding there, alongside big muskie and flatheads, made it worth the risk.

"I went there on Thursday for my first practice day and in 45 minutes, I had two 20s and two 19s," Chrenko said. "So, I knew that was my spot. But (if the bite changed) there was nothing else I could fish around it. I would pretty much be stuck."

Fortunately for Chrenko, no one was on his spot Saturday morning. He caught only eight fish, but they were the ones he needed.

"I only had four fish until about 1:30 that afternoon," he said. "I had only one Bull Shad in my swimbait box, and I caught my first four keepers on that."

After a giant muskie broke his bait off, Chrenko threw a Megabass Magslowl swimbait to finish his limit. He loaded up on swimbaits Saturday night, figuring he might need them after the front pushed through fully overnight.

"The water was like chocolate milk today," he said. "But I put on a Z-Man JackHammer and I wound up catching nine fish. I only had 17 fish in two days, but they were the right ones."

Rus Snyders of Pegram, Tenn., stormed from fifth place on Saturday into second on Sunday, courtesy of a limit that measured 97.25. That gave him a 191.25-inch total over the weekend — good enough not only for the second-place bounty of $3,800, but also to earn him the 2023 Dakota Lithium Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year title.

Snyders pocketed an additional $5,000 prize for winning the year's points race.

"This is the best week of smallmouth fishing I've had in my life," he said. "Every day they were just chewing ... I saw what the forecast was doing over the weekend, and I found a few baits that were working. But over 50% of my time, I was on that Torqeedo and I would zig-zag back and forth all over the place.

"I marked everything I could — a shoal, a big boulder, a rockpile, a laydown."

With more than 300 waypoints charted, Snyders was able to find fish despite the water dirtying following the front. His best bites on Saturday came on Neko rigs. On Sunday, he leaned on a variety of Megabass Magdraft swimbaits.

Snyders' second-place finish this weekend capped a spectacular year, in which he won the Kayak Series Championship on Chickamauga Lake in his home state in March. He also had a second-place showing on the Mississippi River in Wisconsin, finished third at Alabama's Lake Guntersville and 15th at Lake Hartwell in South Carolina.

"Everything this year has gone so smoothly," Snyders said. "Not just with my fishing, but everything in general."

Rounding out the Top 5 this weekend on the Susquehanna are Pennsylvania's Jordan Welliver, third, 190.5, $2,700; Pennsylvania's Jake Harshman, fourth, 187, $1,950; and West Virginia's Mark Edwards, fifth, 186.75, $1,800.

Welliver also won the $500 Big Bass Award for the 21.5-inch smallmouth he caught Sunday.

A total of 146 anglers from across the U.S. competed in the derby.

The tournament was sponsored by the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau.

Bassmaster Kayak Series Title Sponsor: Yamaha Rightwaters

Bassmaster Kayak Series Partner: MotorGuide

Bassmaster Kayak Series Angler of the Year Sponsor: Dakota Lithium

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Bassmaster is headquartered in Birmingham, Ala. For more information, visit Bassmaster.com

Email sports news to MSTsports@prodigy.net

Statement from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on the passing of Dick Butkus

N.Y., N.Y. , Oct. 5, 2023 -Dick Butkus was a fierce and passionate competitor who helped define the linebacker position as one of the NFL's all-time greats. Dick's intuition, toughness and athleticism made him the model linebacker whose name will forever be linked to the position and the Chicago Bears.

We also remember Dick as a long-time advocate for former players, and players at all levels of the game. The Dick Butkus Award and his foundation honored achievement on the field and service to the community among high school, college and NFL linebackers. Dick was a champion of clean sports as his "I Play Clean" campaign helped raise awareness about the dangers of steroid use among high school athletes.

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We send our deepest condolences to the Butkus family, the Bears organization and the many fans and people he impacted throughout his life.

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