

Beloit family is all in on hemp farming

Adam and Kristina Aberle are raising hemp on 3 acres west of Beloit and plan to open a store in Janesville this month. **Page 3A**

Attorney general grades first year

Democrat Josh Kaul assesses his performance in his first year as being worthy of an A-minus. **Page 2A**



Taylor headed for NFL

Wisconsin's Jonathan Taylor ended the suspense early and announced that he will enter the 2020 NFL draft, forgoing his senior year of eligibility for the Badgers. **Page 1B**

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Killing upends Trump's own policy

Drone strike against Iranian general raises worries of a wider conflict

By **Aamer Madhani**
Associated Press

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- **Iran's reaction:** Iran vowed to get revenge for the killing of its top general by a U.S. drone. **/Page 7B**
- **Nation/World:** The world reacts to U.S. actions in Iran on Friday. **/Page 7B**
- **Profile:** Qassem Soleimani was known to Iranians as the face of its resilience against the U.S. **/Page 7B**

WASHINGTON

With a single drone strike, President Donald Trump did more than just take out an avowed enemy of the United States. He might have also upended a central element of his foreign policy.

The Friday strike that killed the most prominent Iranian general could have ended any chance Trump would get the United States out of the "endless wars" in the Middle East that he has railed against since taking office.

The killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad has the world bracing for a possible retaliation, with many fearing it could lead to a wider conflict.

"It is probably the most profound escalation that the United States could have

taken," said Ned Price, who served on the National Security Council under President Barack Obama.

Trump has been on a confrontational path with Iran since even before he took office, when he pledged to end the Iran nuclear deal signed by Obama. He insisted he doesn't want war and the killing of Soleimani wasn't meant to provoke the Islamic Republic.

"We took action last night to stop a war," Trump said. "We did not take action to start a war."

Turn to **IRAN** on Page 7A



Associated Press

President Donald Trump delivers remarks on Iran at his Mar-a-Lago property in Palm Beach, Fla., on Friday. "We took action to stop a war," Trump said, "We did not take action to start a war."

PFAS plight

Scope of Wisconsin's fight with perfluorinated chemicals still growing

By **Lee Bergquist**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Wisconsin is grappling with a growing number of pollution cases involving widely used, largely unregulated chemicals that are contaminating water across the state.

The Department of Natural Resources has ordered an assessment and cleanup of 31 sites for a vast assortment of compounds known as perfluorinated chemicals, or PFAS.

In the last two years alone, the DNR has mandated 19 new investigations.

Often called "forever" chemicals because they do not break down in the environment, the substances have been used for decades in such products as stain-resistant fabrics, nonstick cookware and fire-fighting foam. The chemicals have proven to be especially adept at smothering petroleum blazes and have been used extensively at airports and military bases.

In practice, PFAS compounds have highly desirable traits, including the ability to repel both water and oil.

"They can move freely in the environment, and that's why they end up everywhere," said Christy Remucal, an aquatic chemist at UW-Madison. "We are going to be dealing with them for a really long time."

They figure prominently in several pollution cases, including in Marinette, Madison and a cleanup project getting underway at Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee.

Epidemiology studies

suggest some PFAS compounds are associated with increased risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension, liver damage, thyroid disease, asthma, decreased fertility, some cancers and a decline in response to vaccines.

The Department of Health Services told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel last week it is considering conducting a cancer cluster assessment in the Marinette and Peshtigo areas after residents reported their stories of having cancer and other serious illnesses at a public meeting Dec. 18.

Hundreds of people attended afternoon and evening listening sessions in Marinette, and some questioned whether PFAS contamination in the soil and the water was the cause of their problems. Marinette has the largest PFAS contamination in the state.

The DNR has named Johnson Controls International and business unit Tyco Fire Products as responsible parties in the pollution case. Chemicals in Tyco's firefighting foam are contaminating soil, groundwater and ditches flowing to Lake Michigan.

At the meetings, a farmer stood and spoke solemnly of having to kill hundreds of his cattle that were mysteriously dying. A mother said her 32-year-old daughter was seriously ill from thyroid cancer.

Pam Goes had breast cancer in 2006 at the age of 44. Until the age of 20, she lived on property where her parents still reside and

Turn to **PFAS** on Page 7A

A pregame salute



Angela Major/amajor@gazettextra.com

Craig's Claudia Fieiras, left, salutes teammate Jessa Alderman before the Cougars' game against Middleton on Friday at Craig High School in Janesville. While Fieiras was able to score 19 points, Craig lost 73-54. **Full coverage, Page 1B.**

After 5 years, crash case ends with apology

Elkhorn man says he's 'so sorry,' then gets 5-year prison sentence

By **Jonah Beleckis**

jbeleckis@gazettextra.com

ELKHORN

When finally given his chance Friday, Aaron M. Gillett turned to the victim's side of the courtroom after waiting to do so for five years.

He was "so sorry" for the fatal crash in the town of Delavan that killed Clarence Watson, 86, of Elkhorn, and injured Watson's wife, Yuka, on Jan. 22, 2015.

The case dragged on through various appeals until both sides reached a deal Nov. 13 to have Gillett plead

guilty to homicide by negligent operation of a vehicle and operating with a restricted controlled substance in his system as a second offense.

The saga reached its conclusion Friday

with Gillett's sentencing, and when it was his turn to speak to the judge, Gillett took his chance to show the Watson family the remorse that his lawyer said was apparent every time the two spoke about the case.

"There is no excuse for what happened that day, and there never will be," he said. "And if I could trade places with him, I would. And if I could find a way to bring him back, I would bring him back."

"But I can't."



Watson



Gillett

Lawyers for both sides said they worked hard to reach a fair resolution to the case, which included a mutual recommendation for five years in prison and five more of extended supervision. Judge Kristine Drettwan accepted that sentence.

It all could have been avoided, however. Dennis Melowski, Gillett's lawyer, said his client was supposed to be receiving inpatient care through Veterans Affairs, but he was released six days before the crash because the facility where Gillett was staying didn't have enough beds to keep him.

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OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 6A

- Paul J. Morovits
- Carl S. "Steve" Osman

TODAY'S WEATHER

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Mostly cloudy
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