

Janesville might update water meters

The city's utility director says the change would allow the city to spots water leaks and other problems faster than it can right now. **Page 3A**

Officials ousted

Two officials in the Trump administration who testified against the president in impeachment hearings were removed from their jobs. **Page 6B**



Craig upsets Sun Prairie

The Cougars rallied from a nine-point deficit in the first half to defeat the eighth-ranked Cardinals 70-65 in Big Eight conference play at Craig on Friday night. **Page 1B**

The Gazette

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Wreaking havoc

The Great Lakes, at record-high levels, threaten shorelines

By John Flesher

AP Environmental Writer

MANISTEE, MICH.

Rita Alton has an unusual morning routine these days: Wake up. Get dressed. Go outside to see if her house is closer to tumbling down an 80-foot cliff into Lake Michigan.

When her father built the 1,000-square-foot, brick bungalow in the early 1950s near Manistee, Michigan, more than an acre of land lay between it and the drop-off overlooking the giant freshwater sea. But erosion has accelerated dramatically as the lake approaches its highest levels in recorded history, hurling powerful waves into the mostly clay bluff.

Now, the jagged cliff top is about eight feet from Alton's back deck.

"It's never been like this, never," she said on a recent morning, peering down the snow-dusted hillside as bitter gusts churned surf along the shoreline below. "The destruction is just incredible."

On New Year's Eve, an unoccupied cottage near Muskegon, Michigan, plunged from an embankment to the water's edge. Another down the coast was dismantled a month earlier to prevent the same fate.

High water is wreaking havoc across the Great Lakes, which are bursting at the seams less than a decade after bottoming

Turn to **LAKES** on Page 7A

DA calls shooting lawful



Above: Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary speaks to reporters Friday at the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville.

Right: Juanita Jenkins, the girlfriend of the man who was fatally shot by Beloit police, speaks to reporters Friday after Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary's announcement that the officers would not be charged.

Photos by Angela Major/
amajor@gazettextra.com



O'Leary says investigation prompted his decision not to charge Beloit officers

By Austin Montgomery

Adams Publishing Group

JANESVILLE

Before police opened fire and killed him, Montay Penning's last move was to raise a stolen, 9mm handgun and point it at officers who had pursued him through yards on Beloit's east side, District Attorney David O'Leary said Friday.

O'Leary pointed to evidence gleaned through a state investigation in his decision Friday not to file criminal charges against the three Beloit police officers involved in the Dec. 10 shooting death of Penning, a 23-year-old man investigators say was homeless.

In a press conference Friday, O'Leary said an investigation shows Penning pointed a firearm at officers before officers warned Penning to drop the gun. They then fired 22 shots at Penning. Penning was hit twice in the chest and once in the left arm before he fell to the ground, still clutching the gun he had pointed at police, O'Leary said.

The conduct of patrol officer John McMahon, Sgt. Ryan Flanagan and detective Nathan Adams was "lawful and reasonable" based on the circumstances outlined in an investigation by the state Division of Criminal Investigation,



Penning

Turn to **PENNING** on Page 6A

Father of man killed: 'I don't blame them'

By Hillary Gavan

Adams Publishing Group

BELOIT

While his heart aches from the loss of his son and he wrestles with unanswered questions, the father of the 23-year-old man killed by police also has empathy for those who choose a life protecting others.

In an interview after Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary's announcement

clearing police officers of any wrongdoing, the father of Montay S. Penning shared his reaction.

U.S. Army Ranger Steven Penning said he understands what his son did, and that his son's actions brought on the situation.

While Penning said he will always question why it took three officers to take one person down and feels that wasn't OK, his life in the military has given him perspective. He knows firsthand what it means to put one's life on the

line to protect others and the unexpected ramifications of such sacrifices.

"It's not easy taking a life, and that's something they have to live with whether right or wrong. My heart goes out to those guys because of the job they have to do and the job they did," Penning said. "Unfortunately, I've been in that before."

Penning, who lives in Chesterton, Indiana,

Turn to **FAMILY** on Page 6A

Healthy US job market: How big a political edge does it provide Trump?

By Christopher Rugaber

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON

U.S. hiring jumped last month, and many more people were encouraged to look for work, showing that the economy remains robust despite threats from China's viral outbreak, an ongoing trade war

and struggles at Boeing.

The strong job growth gives President Donald Trump more evidence for his assertion that the economy is flourishing under his watch. It may also complicate the argument his Democratic presidential rivals are making that the economy isn't benefiting everyday Americans.

The Labor Department said Friday that

employers added a robust 225,000 jobs in January. At the same time, a half-million Americans, feeling better about their job prospects, streamed into the job market. Most found jobs. But those that didn't were newly counted as unemployed, and their numbers raised the jobless rate to 3.6% from December's half-century low of 3.5%.

Seven Democratic presidential

candidates debated Friday in New Hampshire. Leading contenders, notably Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, have built campaigns around the argument that the middle class has been mostly left out of an economic expansion that has disproportionately served the wealthy.

Turn to **JOBS** on Page 7A

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 6A

• J.W. Davis
• Diana J. Deuel
• Theodore D. Kinnaman

• Robert W. Larson
• David A. Sullivan
• Patrick Thomas Sullivan Sr.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 32 | Low 21
Morning snow showers; cloudy
More on 7A

Classified7B-8B Nation/World ..6B-7B State.....2A
Comics.....5B Opinion.....4A Support groups....5A
Lotteries.....6A Puzzles.....8B TV/Advice.....8A

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