



Another quality win
Parker's boys basketball team followed up its win over Craig on Thursday with a 72-71 win over Sun Prairie powered by Tre Miller's 31 points. **Page 1B**

Wind aftermath
Hundreds of people in Rock County were left without power after winds of up to 55 mph swept through the area Wednesday. **Page 3A**



Weekend Gazette

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Group: 30 shops selling Delta-8 THC

Chemical derived from hemp becomes more widely available

By Neil Johnson

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JANESVILLE

Whether you realized it or not, Delta-8 THC—pot's Wisconsin-legal cousin—is now ubiquitous enough locally that people

can buy it at the local grocery store.

Local advocacy nonprofit Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change has found a growing proliferation of stores in the area that sell hemp flowers, oils, vapes, under-tongue drops and lotions infused with Delta-8 THC—the intoxicating cannabis chemical derived from hemp that is legal in Wisconsin under a loophole in a 2018 federal farm bill.

For instance, Janesville-based Woodman's Food Market sells

packaged, chewable gummies infused with Delta-8 THC from a locked case at the supermarket's service counter, Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change reported.

While Woodman's only sells one variety of the product, Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change Director Jane Golberg said 25 other local retailers in Rock County sell an overwhelming number of products marketed and labeled as D-8 that can be smoked, eaten, rubbed into the skin or dropped under the tongue.

Golberg's group, which advocates against drug and alcohol use by children, had intended this fall to conduct a survey of stores where D-8 is sold, and examine the marketing that producers and retailers use to sell the products. The group also wants to inventory the number of retailers in close proximity to schools or other places where children congregate.

Some sellers, such as Woodman's, have signs notifying customers they have to be 21 to buy

D-8 products, but Golberg said there are indications that some other shops may sell some D-8 products, such as multicolored gummies, to people 18 and up.

Golberg said her group plans a community "awareness" advertising campaign early in 2022 over D-8 THC.

Delta-8 has drawn controversy because of its psychoactive similarity to marijuana's active ingredient, Delta-9 THC—but

Turn to **DELTA-8** on Page 10A

Investigators say Beloit officer shot, injured a man

Department of Justice investigating, says man shot tried to disarm officer

By Austin Montgomery

Adams Publishing Group

BELOIT

A person was injured after being shot by a Beloit Police Department sergeant Wednesday night. There was a struggle, during which the subject attempted to take the officer's firearm, according to the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

At around 7:44 p.m., the sergeant, who has not yet been identified, was investigating a traffic crash near Prairie and Copeland avenues. While investigating the crash, a subject on foot reportedly attacked the sergeant and attempted to take the sergeant's gun, a DOJ news release states.

In response, the sergeant fired the weapon, injuring the subject. The person was taken to a local hospital. The extent of the subject's injuries is currently unknown. The involved officer was not injured in the incident, the news release said.

The involved officer has been placed on administrative assignment, per department policy.

On Thursday, Wisconsin DOJ Communications Director Gillian Drummond said, "DOJ is not providing any further comment on this incident while the investigation is ongoing."

Emergency dispatch audio reviewed by Adams Publishing Group shows an unidentified officer initially reporting a hit-and-run crash near Prairie and Copeland involving two vehicles, but later

Turn to **SHOOTING** on Page 10A



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

Janesville Fire Department Deputy Chief Bill Ruchti has retired from the Janesville Fire Department after 30 years as a firefighter.

End of shift

A firefighter for 30 years, Ruchti retires as Janesville deputy chief

By Scott Froehlich

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After 30 years of service in Rock County, Bill Ruchti recently decided to hang up his firefighter boots and fire helmet.

On Dec. 10, Ruchti retired as Janesville deputy fire chief after 18 years with the department. That

stint was preceded by more than a decade at the Brodhead Fire District.

He started his career in Brodhead as a volunteer firefighter in 1991, at the age of 18. Ruchti—whose father also fought fires as a volunteer in Brodhead—served in many roles there over the next 12 years, including as fire chief.

After transferring to the Janesville

Fire Department in 2003, the Brodhead native continued to volunteer in his hometown. He climbed the ladder, working as a paramedic driver, and transitioning captain shift commander before eventually ascending to the role of deputy fire chief.

Turn to **RUCHTI** on Page 8A

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 9A

- Norma J. Bluhm
- Diana Camacho
- Edmund Adlis Forslund
- Charlotte E. Horn
- Linda M. Hyne
- Robert R. Kane
- Sandra Kay Lewis
- Mary K. (Benish) Robbins
- Lynda Rae Short
- Gary Wagner

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 36 | Low 29
Sunshine giving way to clouds
More on 10A

Classified . . . 1C-4C, 6C Lotteries 9A Puzzles 10C-12C
Comics 10C-12C Nation/World . 9B-10B State 2A
Legals 9B Opinion 6A-7A Advice 10B

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