

Time to register Janesville pets

Plus, a reporter ranks the best pet names found among registrations from 2018. **Page 3A**



On target

Ax-throwing range in Madison invites visitors to test their skills. **kicks, inside**

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: DAY SIX

Sides still entrenched

Trump, Dems seem content with status quo

By John T. Bennett
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON

A partial government shutdown entered its fifth day Wednesday with no end in sight as one key ingredient is missing on both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue: any sense of urgency to end the standoff.

President Donald Trump and Democratic leaders traded barbs—but few proposals that would fund nine Cabinet agencies and a handful of smaller federal offices—over the long Christmas weekend. And as Americans were celebrating the holiday with their families, the president only muddied the waters and dug in on his demand for \$5 billion in border barrier funds.

“I can’t tell you when the government is going to re-open,” he told reporters Tuesday, adding he will not sign any spending bill to end the dispute until “we have a wall, a fence, whatever they’d like to call it.”

“I’ll call it whatever they want. But it’s all the same thing,” he said of Democrats’ preference to give him federal monies for border “fencing” rather than the concrete and steel wall on

Turn to **SHUTDOWN** on Page 7A

Man tells city he has another idea to build on

After chapel project, he wants next job to help homeless people

By Neil Johnson
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JANESVILLE

A local artisan who led the revamp of the once-threatened Oak Hill Cemetery chapel is turning his focus to a new idea: tiny homes that could offer temporary housing for local homeless people.

Richard Snyder of Janesville said he has reached out to the city with a plan to build several 200-square-foot tiny homes on a vacant city lot.

Under Snyder’s plans, a cluster of five to seven tiny homes on a single lot could offer homeless people low-maintenance shelter and a sense of community as they try to find a path out of homelessness.

Snyder is a custom equipment designer and manufacturer and stained-glass artist who helped lead a community fundraising drive and a volunteer effort that would have cost \$1.5 million in labor, one city official estimated, to rehabilitate the Oak Hill chapel, which the city planned to demolish.

The revamped chapel had a grand opening this summer after several years of work.

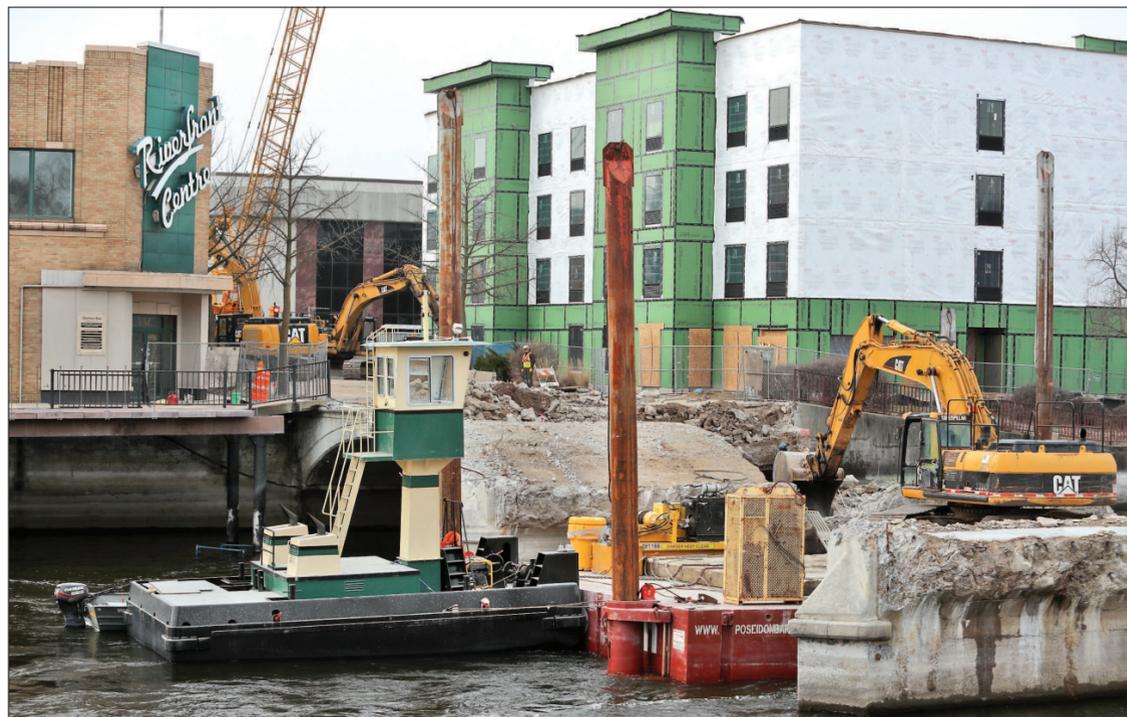
Snyder said he became interested in the idea of tiny homes after he read about a homeless military veteran who was found dead in the Rock River near downtown Janesville in August. Snyder said he also read about the city working with local nonprofit groups on a homelessness task force that would look at new housing options.

Snyder said he read other reports of a group of tiny homes built in Racine to help house homeless veterans.

Snyder drafted floor and exterior plans for a prototype home that would have a kitchen, a

Turn to **BUILD** on Page 7A

Out with the old, up with the new



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazetteextra.com

Demolition of the Milwaukee Street bridge continued Wednesday with crews working to remove the section of bridge closest to the west shoreline in downtown Janesville. The east side span will be removed later this week or early next week. After that, crews will install coffer dams so they can begin working on piers. High water flow on the Rock River earlier this year delayed work by several weeks, and the schedule is still running behind. Crews are working longer shifts and Saturdays to make up lost time, said Alex Bromley, the DOT’s construction management engineer for the project. The green and white building in the background is the future Cobblestone Hotel and Wissota Chophouse restaurant.

Trump surprises US soldiers in Iraq with first visit to combat zone

He defends troop withdrawals planned in Syria, Afghanistan

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

AL-ASAD AIRBASE, IRAQ

In an unannounced trip to Iraq on Wednesday, President Donald Trump staunchly defended his decision to withdraw U.S. forces from neighboring Syria

despite a drumbeat of criticism from military officials and allies who don’t think the job fighting Islamic State militants there is over.

Trump, making his first presidential visit to troops in a troubled region, said it’s because the U.S. military had all but eliminated IS-controlled territory in both Iraq and Syria that he decided to withdraw 2,000 personnel from Syria. He said the decision to leave Syria showed America’s

Turn to **IRAQ** on Page 7A



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump visit Al-Asad Air Base in Iraq on Wednesday. The Trumps’ visit was a surprise for the troops there.

Associated Press

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 6A

- Richard “Dick” Ambrose
- George “Bill” Babcock
- Robert W. Duesterbeck
- Bonnie S. Myers
- Albert L. Rogge
- Dolores “Dee” Schupbach
- Harold “Skip” Schuren
- Wilma Van Dyken
- Betty K. West
- Gerald Herbert Wescott
- Lorraine C. Wuttke

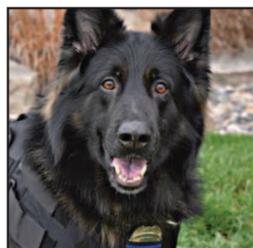
TODAY’S WEATHER

High 48 | Low 40
Breezy and mild with rain
More on 7A

Classified7B-8B Lotteries6A Puzzles8B
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