

The wait is over
The storied basketball career of Mistie Bass, a three-time state player of the year while at Parker High School, will be honored by the Janesville Sports Hall of Fame. **Page 1B**



New location
A COVID-19 vaccine clinic is moving from Blackhawk Tech to the former Rock County Job Center site. **Page 3A**



Weekend Gazette

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City's only auto salvage expands

LKQ to ramp up its salvage and part distributorship with warehousing addition



By Neil Johnson
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JANESVILLE

For his entire adult life, Mark Sievert has managed the business of stripping auto parts, smashing junked metal auto bodies and consequently seen the steady growth of LKQ Star Auto Parts's 63-acre auto yard on Janesville's south side.

Sievert has been with LKQ since the early 1970s, when a former owner launched Janesville's first (and only) auto salvage business on 3 acres off Beloit Avenue.

Today, the fenced-off salvage yard sprawls across a nearly mile-long swath of former manufacturing land in a kaleidoscopic spread of auto body color and chrome—more than 4,500 vehicles awaiting LKQ's parts pickers and car crushing crews.

When LKQ started in Janesville, the city decided to favor an auto salvage yard over a large chicken farm that had once operated on the same spot. Now, 47 years and more than 20,000 salvaged vehicles later, Sievert and his 70-some employees are poised to see one of the region's largest



Above: Ryan Strommen works to remove a door from a vehicle at LKQ Star Auto Parts in Janesville on Thursday. LKQ Corporation has plans to expand its Janesville operations with a 70,000-square-foot warehouse and shipping expansion that company officials say will allow the local facility to function more as a distribution hub for the Midwest. **Top:** Plant manager Mark Sievert gives a tour of LKQ Corporation's Janesville salvage yard which sells recycled auto parts from automobiles and other vehicles.

Turn to **SALVAGE** on Page 8A

Hispanic Heritage Month underway

Hedberg library helps in commemorations

By Scott Froehlich
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To recognize the independence of several Latin American countries, the city of Janesville is marking Hispanic Heritage Month through Oct. 15. The five-week celebration that started Sept. 15 honors the rich culture and traditions of an historic and diverse people.

Sept. 15 marked the recognition of liberation for nations including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile commemorated their respective milestones on Sept. 16 and 18.

Hedberg Public Library partnered with YWCA Rock County and UW-Madison's Rock County Extension Services to host a Sept. 18 event kicking off the celebration. During the event, attendees made crafts, etc traditional Latin American food and played loteria, a traditional Mexican game similar to bingo.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month "is a way to recognize the contributions that people from Latin America have had in our community and all around the United States," said Rene Bue, programming and outreach coordinator at the library.

Bue said the occasion provides an opportunity for members of the Latino community to share their culture and expose non-Latinos to traditions which they might otherwise be unaware.

"Most non-Latinos don't know we have people in Rock County from every country in Latin America," she said.

The library currently has on display books and other materials to help bring awareness to Hispanic traditions and iconic figures in the Latino community, such as civil rights leader Cesar Chavez and Sonia Sotomayor, the country's first Hispanic American U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Program director Ginna Isunza, who works in the Immigration Outreach and Racial Justice program at YWCA Rock County, helped organize the celebration at

Turn to **HERITAGE** on Page 8A

Tour of Fort McCoy reveals thankful, bored Afghans

Reporters given glimpse of life on Army post

By Todd Richmond
Associated Press

FORT MCCOY

Reporters were given a glimpse Thursday of Afghan refugees' lives on a Wisconsin Army post, getting to see the new arrivals playing soccer with soldiers and toting groceries to the barracks where they're being housed as they wait for their new lives in America to really begin.

The U.S. Army and the Department of State led a group of journalists on a tightly controlled tour of Fort McCoy, a training post about 40 miles east of La Crosse.

The fort is one of eight military installations across the country that are temporarily housing the tens of thousands of Afghans who were forced to flee their homeland in August after the U.S. withdrew its forces from Afghanistan and the Taliban took control.



Barbara Davidson/pool photo via AP
U.S. Military Police walk past Afghan refugees Thursday at the Village at the Fort McCoy U.S. Army base. The fort is one of eight military installations across the country that are temporarily housing the tens of thousands of Afghans who were forced to flee their homeland in August after the U.S. withdrew its forces from Afghanistan and the Taliban took control.

Nearly 13,000 were sent to Fort McCoy, where they've been acclimating to the U.S. and undergoing background checks before

federal officials help them relocate to more permanent homes. Questions about conditions at the post have come to the forefront

Officials on Thursday took turns telling reporters that all was well at the post. They walked reporters between the rows of barracks housing the evacuees, stopping to watch a pickup soccer game between Afghans and soldiers.

in recent weeks, with Democratic U.S. Reps. Gwen Moore and Ilhan Omar calling for an investigation after the Wisconsin State Journal reported that many Afghans hadn't received new clothes and had to endure long lines for food. Some Republicans, meanwhile, questioned whether the refugees were being properly vetted after one of them was charged with having sexual contact with a minor and another was charged with assaulting his wife.

Officials on Thursday took turns telling reporters that all was well at the post. They walked

Turn to **TOUR** on Page 8A

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 7A

- Patricia "Pat" (Stein) Babcock
- Glenwood R. "Glen" Bender
- Robert Chapin
- Gary R. Farrington
- Robert "Bob" Gilley
- John M. "Mike" Keller
- Jeanette Logterman
- Charlotte McWilliams
- Bonnie Jean (Stoughton) Mayer
- Lonnie Carl "Rip" Ripley
- Beverly Jane Roehl
- Julie (Hassinger) Schmitz
- Shannon L. Schultz
- Bernice Mae Stone
- Kathleen "Peachy" (Hawver) Warfield
- Richard Winchell

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 89 | Low 64
Very warm with clouds and sun
More on 8A

- Classified 1C-5C
- Comics 12C-14C
- Legals 3A
- Lotteries 7A
- Nation/World 7B-8B
- Opinion 4A-5A
- Puzzles 12C-14C
- State 2A
- Advice 8B

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