

Strong foundation



Superior talent, depth helped the Packers withstand the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night. **Page 1B**

Changed tune

Republicans don't want to change too much when it comes to new legislative maps, but they had no issue with making drastic alterations last time. **Page 2A**

Police seek help

Janesville police have asked for the public's help in a recent car break-in and ensuing fraud when the thieves tried to cash stolen checks. **Page 3A**



The Gazette

NO ONE DELIVERS Local LIKE WE DO

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 • \$1.50

City wheel tax bumped to \$40

Increase a stopgap measure as other models for road funding are considered: Staff

By Neil Johnson

njohnson@gazettextra.com

JANESVILLE

Although some members of the Janesville City Council said they know the decision to approve a fee hike will be unpopular with residents, the council unanimously approved a doubling of the city's wheel tax starting in 2022.

After a public hearing Monday night, the

council on a 7-0 vote approved an increase to the annual wheel tax for Janesville residents from \$20 per vehicle to \$40 per vehicle as a way to decrease the amount of money the city borrows to complete 12 miles of road repairs each year.

The vote came after a handful of residents asked during the hearing whether the city could cut expenses or grow revenue in other ways, including having the city address fewer miles of road each year. One resident proposed selling corporate naming rights for certain streets and parks to drum up funding for utility projects—something



Marklein

past city of Janesville administrations have looked into.

City council President Douglas Marklein said he has had one major theme brought to him in the years he has been on the city council: people telling him the council's main priority should be to "fix the damn roads" and to not "keep kicking the problem down the road."

City street repair costs are expected to climb from \$7 million this year to \$7.7 million in 2022, the city estimates. Under the current funding structure, the city would borrow \$5 million for roadwork next year. The new plan would help the city draw down on borrowing to the tune of about

Turn to WHEEL on Page 8A

Busy week in Congress starts with Senate GOP voting not to raise debt ceiling



Above left: The rising sun shines on the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Monday. A week of consequential congressional action is expected as lawmakers head toward votes on the country's debt limit, a resolution to keep the government funded and President Joe Biden's domestic agenda. **Above right:** Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell walks through the halls of the Capitol on Monday. McConnell's party shut down a first attempt to pass a bill in the Senate that would've kept the government funded past a Thursday deadline and raised the debt limit. **Left:** The inside of the U.S. Capitol rotunda is shown Monday. **More on Congress' maneuverings on Page 4B.**

Associated Press photos

State nonprofits try to meet 'staggering' needs of Afghans at Fort McCoy

By Hope Kirwan

Wisconsin Public Radio

MADISON

In a garage behind the Catholic Diocese of La Crosse, volunteers sort through donations for the thousands of evacuees from Afghanistan now staying at Fort McCoy in Monroe County.

Much of the work involves opening a mountain of Amazon and Target packages. The group set up online registries of needed items so people could send donations directly to the diocese. They've been

collecting items like clothing, toiletries, backpacks, diapers and baby formula.

Karen Becker, marketing director for Catholic Charities, said the generosity of the community has been overwhelming at times, with more donations coming in than they can sort.

But the need of the people arriving at Fort McCoy has been just as staggering.

"The first few flights (of evacuees) I think came with maybe a suitcase for the family. A lot of them now, by the time they get here, have nothing. They just are getting on the planes and coming someplace

safe, and I feel it's our mission now to help them with what they need," Becker said.

A spokesperson for Task Force McCoy-Operation Allies Welcome, the task force hosting the evacuees on the base, said there are around 12,500 people from Afghanistan staying there.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore has raised concerns about reports of inadequate care and staff speaking to refugees "in a rude condescending manner." The task force spokesperson said officials

Turn to MCCOY on Page 8A

“ ”

The first few flights (of evacuees) I think came with maybe a suitcase for the family. A lot of them now, by the time they get here, have nothing. They just are getting on the planes and coming someplace safe, and I feel it's our mission now to help them with what they need.

Karen Becker, marketing director for Catholic Charities

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 7A

- Jeffrey A. Brink
- Janine A. Calkins
- Marie Wainwright Hammond
- Thomas "Tom" Hume
- Carolyn S. Lasch
- Bernhard W. Verhoeven
- Lorna Sue Weiffenbach
- Kathleen Rose "Kathy" Wendler

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 81 | Low 51
Mostly sunny and very warm
More on 8A

Classified..... 5B-8B Lotteries..... 7A Puzzles..... 8B
Comics..... 5A Nation/World 4B State..... 2A
Legals..... 2A Opinion..... 6A Advice..... 5B

©2021 Adams Publishing Group. All rights reserved.



GazetteXtra.com