



**His niche is carved**  
Janesville woodworker returning for another year at the Tallman Arts Festival next month. **kicks, inside**

**Comeback winners**  
Ryan Braun hit a two-run home run and Yasmani Grandal had a go-ahead two-run single to help the Brewers salvage a win against the Reds. **Page 1B**



# The Gazette

WISCONSIN'S BEST NEWSPAPER

Thursday, July 25, 2019 • Our 173rd year • \$1.50

## 'Trading cash for lives'

Men seeking recovery from addiction died of overdoses in Florida

By Ashley McCallum

amccallum@gazettextra.com

Two Rock County families who lost children to overdose deaths after traveling to Florida for treatment warn others of the risks addicts face in the Sunshine State.

Janesville resident Mark Stricklin's son Seth Stricklin died July 14 in West Palm Beach, Florida. His body was found a day later, lying outside with a needle in his hand and another needle in his pocket. He was 23 years old.



S. Stricklin

Brooke McKearn of Beloit understands Mark's pain.



Graves

Her son Nikolas Graves died Dec. 22, 2018, in West Palm Beach, blocks away from where Seth died, Brooke said. He overdosed on fentanyl, which he thought was heroin. He also was 23 years old.

Seth's and Nikolas' stories fall in line with reports of addicts and their families falling victim to an insurance fraud mill in Florida.

According to The New York Times, drug treatment centers in Florida have been illegally paying sober homes money from patients' insurance carriers. Sober home operators pocket some of the cash and give addicts money, housing, gym memberships and other perks to stay there and recruit others.

The New York Times in 2017 reported Midwesterners have gone in droves to Palm Beach County, Florida, seeking treatment for addiction.

Palm Beach County officials responded to 5,000 overdoses and 596 opioid deaths in 2016, according to the Times.

A Palm Beach County grand jury in 2016 found unregulated treatment facilities and sober homes "endangered the health, public safety and welfare of the public and persons suffering from substance abuse disorders."

According to the Times, drug treatment centers have been illegally paying sober homes money from patients'

Turn to **LIVES** on Page 5A

## Ball in electorate's court?

Impeachment groundswell unlikely after hearings, leaving Trump's fate to voters

By Lisa Mascaro

AP Congressional Correspondent



Associated Press

Former special counsel Robert Mueller returns to the witness table following a break in his testimony before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

WASHINGTON

Robert Mueller's testimony Wednesday sent the clearest signal yet that impeachment might be slipping out of reach for Democrats and that the ultimate verdict on President Donald Trump will be rendered by voters in the 2020 election.

Democrats had hoped the former special counsel's appearance would be a turning point. A Marine who served in Vietnam, Mueller is the kind of

square-jawed federal prosecutor to whom Americans might have once listened as a trusted source of authority. But in this era of stark political polarization, galvanizing the public is a difficult task even if Mueller wanted to produce a viral moment, which he never seemed inclined to do. Rather than swoop in to give voice to the 448-page report, Mueller said very few words.

What Mueller did say was striking: Trump was not exonerated of potential crimes. His report found Russia interfered in the 2016 election in "sweeping and systematic" fashion. Accepting foreign campaign

assistance is wrong, he agreed. But Mueller's reluctance to engage, and his one-word answers, deprived the country of a where-were-you-when moment that could bring decisive conclusion to the probe and Trump's role in trying to obstruct the investigation.

"It was not a hoax," Mueller testified of Russian election

Turn to **HEARINGS** on Page 9A

RELATED

• **More from Capitol Hill:** In his testimony, Mueller dismissed President Trump's claims of "total exoneration" and gave a fresh warning about the dangers Russia poses to U.S. electoral integrity. **/7B**



**ROCK COUNTY 4-H FAIR: DAY TWO**

## Time for work, time for rest

**Top:** Hunter Day of Plymouth 4-H tries to move one of his cow's legs so he can clean out the animal's bedding at the Rock County 4-H Fair in Janesville on Wednesday.

**Bottom:** Dakota Day, Hunter Day's twin brother who is also in Plymouth 4-H, takes a break from chores and drapes himself over another cow's back.

**For more photos from the fair this week, go to gazettextra.com/galleries. For more fair coverage, turn to Page 3A and Page 10A.**

Photos by Anthony Wahl  
awahl@gazettextra.com

## Fairground neighbors embrace the weeklong block party

By Frank Schultz

fschultz@gazettextra.com

JANESVILLE

Kyle Tanner sits in his driveway behind an upright Wurlitzer piano that he converted into a bar, serving drinks and smiles.

It's his fourth year living across the street from the Rock County 4-H Fair, the third year he and wife Tally Bennett have thrown a party to celebrate.

"Yay! It's fair week! I'm so happy," said Bennett, who grew up in Janesville but moved away her senior year in high

school.

Somehow, the fun happening across the street seeps into the neighborhood of modest houses and well-maintained yards and gardens.

Turn to **NEIGHBORS** on Page 10A

### OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 8A

• Lori J. (Starks) Coplien  
• Clyde R. Johnson  
• James "Jim" Roehl

### TODAY'S WEATHER

High 84 | Low 64  
Pleasant with sunshine  
More on 9A

Classified . . . . . 9B-10B   Lotteries . . . . . 8A   Puzzles . . . . . 10B  
Comics . . . . . 5B   Nation/World . . . 7B-8B   State . . . . . 2A  
Legals . . . . . 4B   Opinion . . . . . 6A-7A   TV/Advice . . . . . 6B

©2019 Adams Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

GazetteXtra.com



6 12307 56789 8