### **Dispensary proposed**

The village of Richmond, Illinois, across the state line from Genoa City, is considering plans to build a marijuana dispensary off Highway 12. Page 2A

## A stormy opening night



Craig had to settle for a lightning-shortened 14-14 tie with Oshkosh North to open its football season.

Page 1B

#### **Other Friday scores**

Parker Burlington	
Fort Atkinson Milton	

East Troy......0 **Full coverage inside** 

Beloit Turner ...... 48

## **Global economy strained**

Six months into Russia's war with Ukraine, its economic effects are starting to affect people in Europe and beyond.

Page 8B



Monday, August 22, 2022 • \$1.50

## 'It's all in the dirt.

# It's nothing'

## What remains of Hufcor now in receivership

By Neil Johnson

njohnson@gazettextra.com

#### **JANESVILLE**

What's left of Hufcor, a 122-year-old Janesville firm that was once a global model for niche manufacturing and a local beacon of equity and friendship among owners and union workers, is officially on a bankruptcy auction block.

Hufcor last week was placed under court-appointed receivership, a legal bankruptcy action that gives the public and any interested, invested parties a view and a possible claim to what remains of the now insolvent company.

The move is likely the final death blow for what was the nation's longest-operating manufacturer of moveable wall

Turn to **HUFCOR** on Page **10A** 



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

A single trailer bearing the Hufcor logo sits in a loading dock at the Hufcor building on Kennedy Road in Janesville on Thursday.

## Loser in **GOP House** primary petitions for recount

## Barry: Problems with mail ballots affected count

By Harm Venhuizen

Associated Press/ Report for America

### **MADISON**

Candidates in a close Wisconsin Republican congressional primary are battling over whether there will be a recount after results showed them a mere 74 votes apart.

Charity Barry filed a petition for a recount Thursday after running second to attorney Erik Olsen in Wisconsin's 2nd District primary on Aug. 9. The official canvass showed Olsen's small margin over Barry, a landscaping supervisor, came in a race with more than 43,000 ballots cast.

Barry's petition, submitted to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, requested a hand recount, which was scheduled to begin Saturday morning. Rock County Clerk Lisa Tollefson on Thursday posted an agenda for a meeting of the board of canvassers to recount the

Turn to **BARRY** on Page **9A** 

#### U.S. House

■ 2nd District Erik Olsen ..... 21,770 Charity Barry...... 21,697

## **Dancing into a second century at Riverside Park**



Rainbow Bridge guitarist Jeff Arnold plays as several couples dance to a song at the music festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of Janesville's Riverside Park on Saturday.



The annual Janesville Lions Club chicken roast coincided with the Riverside Park Music Festival and the celebration of the park's 100th anniversary on Saturday.



Don Allison and Alissa Pryne play a round of shuffleboard during the 100th anniversary celebration of Janesville's Riverside Park on Saturday.

Photos by Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

## **Brownfield** landowner to conduct open house

'Intermodal center' plans for GM site to be presented

By Neil Johnson

njohnson@gazettextra.com

#### JANESVILLE

Commercial Development Company, the owner of the 250-acre former General Motors site, plans to speak in public for the first time in years about its plans to redevelop at least part of the giant, sleeping industrial property.

St. Louis brownfield redevelopment firm Commercial Development plans an open house alongside local architects Angus Young Associates and RH Batterman on Aug. 31 to lay out what it calls "preliminary" plans and a timeline for an intermodal freight shipping development that could come to the southern half of the vacant property.

Commercial Development has owned the 115acre main GM plant site, along with the 127-acre JATCO vehicle haul-away yard just to the south, since 2018, when the company took ownership of the defunct former auto plant site, which had been GM's oldest.

Commercial Development has mostly cleared of millions of square feet of factory buildings from the property. But much of the post-industrial land

Turn to GM on Page 8A

#### **OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 9A**

- · James M. "Jim" Cullen · LeRoy F. Day • Maurice Francis "Moe"
- Fraunfelder Jr.
- Mary Ann Strand
- · Leanna L. Lambert Duane W. Simmons
- Gwendolyn Alice Sunby
- · Catharine R. Trace
- •Georgiana P. Trendt · Walter H. Zweifel Jr.

### **TODAY'S WEATHER**

High 80 | Low 57 Mostly sunny and nice More on 10A

#### Classified ..... 9B-10B Lotteries ........ 9A Puzzles ......... 10B

©2022 Adams Publishing Group. All rights reserved.



#### PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES WNAXLP

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES WNAXLP

CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 6, 2022; VOL. 73; NO. 7 **APPROVED 7-25-22** 

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Janesville held at City Hall on July 6, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Council President Benson at 3:00 PM. Present: Councilmembers Benson, Burdick, Marklein, Marshick, Miller, Williams, Absent: Jackson,

Williams. Absent: Jackson.

<u>Discussion of 2022 Strategic Plan tasks and their status</u>. City Manager Mark Freitag provided Council a mid-year status report of the 2022 Strategic Plan. Erin Davis, Assistant to the City Manager, led a review of 2022 task status. Council had no questions or comments. No Council action was taken.

<u>Discussion of 2023-2027 Strategic Plan</u>. Erin Davis, Assistant to the City Manager, led a review of the 2023-2027 plan. Two changes to the plan were discussed: the addition of a DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) goal; and the deletion of the RRC (Rock River Corridor) goal. Council discussion ensued. No Council action was taken.

Councilmember Jackson arrived at 3:23 PM.

Strategic Plan Brainstorming.

Strategic Plan Brainstorming.

Staff requested feedback and direction from the Council on the 2023 - 2027 strategic plan. Council discussion ensued. Individual Councilmembers discussed how to prioritize tasks within the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Motion to Adjourn. Councilmember Williams moved to adjouseconded by Councilmember Benson and passed unanimously. There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 4:32 PM. These minutes are not official until approved by City Council. Lorena Rae Stottler Councilmember Williams moved to adjourn.

City Clerk-Treasurer August 22, 2022

WNAXLP

CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

**APPROVED 7-25-22** 

**REGULAR MEETING, JULY 11, 2022; VOL. 73; NO. 8** A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Janesville held at City Hall on July 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Council President Benson at 6:00 p.m. Council President Benson led the pledge of allogings.

of allegiance.

Present: Councilmembers Benson, Burdick, Jackson, Marklein, Marshick, Miller, Williams. Absent: None.

Public comments on items on the agenda not requiring a public hearing and on matters which can be affected by Council action. Ty Bollerud, 4608 Pendleton Ct., discussed housing and grants. There were no written comments submitted.

City Manager Update. Deputy City Manager Ryan McCue delivered the update. City email addresses will have a new extension: "@janesvillewi.gov"; the City is accepting donations of peanut butter and jelly, which will be distributed by the ECHO, Inc. food pantry, visit www.janesvillewi.gov/PBandJ; Janesville Transit System is conducting an online survey, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTS-Community-Survey; improvements at Fourth Ward Park include a steel pavilion, new basketball court, improved playground, and "Born Learning" trail; the City has received GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 28th consecutive year and the GFOA's the City has received GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 28th consecutive year and the GFOA's Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award for the 3rd consecutive year, visit <a href="www.janesvillewi.gov/departments-services/finance-office">www.janesvillewi.gov/departments-services/finance-office</a>; the City will consolidate to five polling places for every primary election, including the upcoming August 9th Partisan Primary, with an informational flyer included in your upcoming Janesville utility bill, and visit <a href="www.myvote.wi.gov">www.myvote.wi.gov</a> for detailed information; and, upcoming events.

events.
Council President Benson read consent agenda Items 5-13.
He stated there was an objection to item 8 and asked if there were other objections. There were none. Items 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were approved under consent.
Regular City Council Meeting minutes of June 13
Licenses and Recommendations (Refer to license agenda)
Financial statements for the month of May
Action to adopt revised Council Policy Statement No. 63 (Special Assessments for Public Works Improvements).
Action on a proposed resolution to release an 8-foot utility easement along the west side of property located at 2422 Bond Place.

(File Resolution No. 2022-2027)

along the west side of property located at 2422 Bond Place.
(File Resolution No. 2022-2027)
Action on a proposed resolution authorizing the purchase of a new fire apparatus.
(File Resolution No. 2022-2034)
Action authorizing the Administration to settle Rockstep Janesville, LLC's (Uptown Janesville 2500 Milton Avenue) objection to the 2022

Action on a proposed resolution in commendation of Barbara M. Ford

Action on a proposed resolution in commendation of Barbara M. For for her more than ten years of service to the City of Janesville.

(File Resolution No. 2022-2029)
Item 8. Action on proposed Council Policy Statement No. 100 providing the City Council with procedures and guidelines for the use of Affordable Housing Funds. Councilmember Williams moved to approve, seconded by Councilmember Jackson, and passed unanimously.

WNAXLP

CITY OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 15, 2022; VOL. 73; NO. 9

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Janesville held at City Hall on July 15, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Council President Benson at 1:00 p.m. Council President Benson led the pledge of allegiance.
Present: Councilmembers Benson, Burdick, Jackson, Marklein,

Present: Councilmembers Benson, Burdick, Jackson, Marklein, Marshick, Miller, Williams. Absent: None.

Presentation and discussion of traffic management and standards within the City of Janesville. City Engineer Brad Reents led the study session. Main points of discussion included:

session. Main points of discussion included:

1. In-street Pedestrian Crossing and Speed Limit Signs on West Milwaukee Street

2. "No Turn on Red" signs at the East Five Points Intersection

3. Multi-Way Stop (i.e., All Way Stop) Control at the intersections of River Street and West Milwaukee Street and Jackson Street and West Milwaukee Street and Jackson Street and Street and West Milwaukee Street.

The Engineering Division evaluates traffic control based on criteria established in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Council brought forward questions on ways to improve and modify particular points in the city. City Engineer Brad Reents and Public Works Director Mike Payne offered information and ideas in regard to future plans, including the possibility of a meeting with the Downtown Janesville BID Board.

There were no Common Council announcements.

There were no Common Council announcements.

Councilmember Williams moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Benson, and passed unanimously. There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 2:07 p.m. These minutes are not official until approved by City Council.

Lorena Rae Stottler, City Clerk-Treasurer August 22, 2022 WNAXLP

Notice of Hearing
The City of Milton Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 710 S. Janesville Street, to consider a request received from Whitewater Housing Services to rezone the following parcel located on located on Arthur Drive (Parcel Number V-23-890.2A), from B-2 (Large Scale Commercial District) to R-4(Residential District Four).

A map of all affected property may be obtained from the Common Council through the office of the Clerk for the City of Milton.
All interested persons or their agents will be heard at said hearing after

All interested persons or their agents will be heard at said hearing after which final determinations will be made. This notice is given under Section 78 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances. Jenny Salvo, City Clerk
Request received in office: 08/02/2022
Published in the Janesville Gazette: 08/15/2022 and 08/22/2022

Copies mailed to the following properties located within 250 feet (as shown on the map): 08/11/2022

August 15, 22, 2022

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST BIDS FOR MATERIALS AND SERVICES

Community Action, Inc. will be issuing a Request for Bids for the supply and installation of refrigerators, freezers and washing machines used in energy conservation work performed on existing residences in Rock and Walworth counties.

Community Action weatherizes approximately 250 residences per year under contract to the State of Wisconsin's Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources. The bids will be for a one year contract commencing on the date that the bid is awarded. The contracts may be extended for up to 2 additional years upon mutual agreement between contractor and agency.

The RFB packet will be released by mail or email on 9/2/2022. A bidder's meeting will not be held for this RFB.

Women, minority owned, and small businesses are encouraged to

Requests to participate in the bid process must be received no later than 9/1/2022. Requests must include name of bid requested, full mailing address, and the contact name/info of person requesting the bid. Using "Request to Participate in 2022-REFER RFB" as the subject line, submit requests by e-mail to:

Kaleena Kirkpatrick Community Action Inc Weatherization Program e-mail: kkirkpatrick@community-action.org August 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022

**PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES** WNAXLP

22SC001122
SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
CASE NO.: 22SC001122
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

96 EAST LLC, DBA 96 EAST APARTMENTS, Plaintiff,

ABNER RIVERA 1601 N RANDALL AVE, APT 77 Janesville WI 53545 Defendant(s).

You are being sued by 96 EAST LLC, DBA 96 EAST APARTMENTS in the Small Claims Court for Rock County, Wisconsin, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545.

A hearing will be held on November 16, 2022 at 9:00 am

If you do not appear, a judgment may be given to the person suing you. (A copy of the claim has been mailed to you at the address above). Plaintiff File No.:288218

Deborah Krusche Bruck Bar Code: 01010658 BRUCK LAW OFFICES, S.C. August 22, 2022

NOTICE SETTING TIME TO HEAR APPLICATION AND DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS (Informal Administration)
Case No. 22 PR 294
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TRUDY L. MORTON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
 2. The decedent, with date of birth June 2, 1944 and date of death April 11, 2022, was domiciled in Rock County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2450 N. Burr Rd, Evansville, WI 53536 3. The application will be heard at the Rock County Courthouse, 51

Burr Rd, Evansville, Wi 535.6
3. The application will be heard at the Rock County Courthouse, 51
S. Main St., Janesville, Wisconsin before Commissioner Jodi Timmerman, Probate Registrar, on September 22, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. The hearing will be conducted on zoom video conferencing. The meeting ID is 625 003 2501. You may also contact the Probate Office at 608-757-5635 for instructions on how to appear You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
4. The deadline for filling a claim against the decedent's estate is November 10, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main

County Courthouse, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, Wisconsin, Probate Office 6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-757-5635 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Jodi Timmerman

Court Commissioner

August 10, 2022

Attorney Walter E. Shannon Attorney water E. Snannon Shannon Law Office, LLC 104 W. Main Street Evansville, WI 53536 (608) 882-5944 Bar No. 1055751 August 14, 22, 29, 2022 WNAXLP

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING CASE NO. 22 CV 605 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: TRINITY SAYLES WISZ.

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From Trinity Sayles Wisz, To: Trinity Rosalie Sayles, Birth Certificate:

Trinity Sayles Wisz.

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Rock County, State of Wisconsin: Judge Karl R. Hanson, Courthouse, Courtroom F, 51 S.

Main St. Langeville, WI 57545 cm.

Main St., Janesville, WI 53545 on October 6, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-743-2200 prior to the school of the

prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Janesville Gazette a newspaper published in Rock County, State

f Wisconsin. Y THE COURT: July 29, 2022 Karl R. Hanson

Circuit Court Judge August 15, 22, 29, 2022 WNAXLP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INFORMAL ADMINISTRATION) CASE NO. 22 PR 289 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Lloyd Stewart Herbert Grippen DOD: May 11, 2022

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth September 19, 1951 and date of death May 11, 2022 was domiciled in Rock County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1704 S. Van Allen Road, Janesville, WI 53546.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is

against the decedent's estate is November 10, 2022. 5. A claim may be filed at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545, Probate Office.

Jodi Timmerman Court Commissioner August 10, 2022

Daniel T. Kohls Kohls & Associates, LLC 6041 Monona Dr., Suite 100 Monona, WI 53716 608-221-8000 Bar No. 10 608-221-8000 Bar No. 1026980 August 15, 22, 29, 2022 WNAXLP

PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES WNAXLP

CONTINUED

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING CASE NO. 22 CV 601 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: ASHLEY LORAE GANDY.

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Ashley Lorae Gandy, To: Loki Ashley Lorae Gandy, Birth Certificate: Ashley Lorae Davis. IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Rock County, State of Wisconsin before Judge John M. Wood,

Rock County, State of Wisconsin before Judge John M. Wood, Courthouse, Courtroom, B, 3rd Floor - North Courtroom, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545 on October 6, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-743-2200 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Janesville Gazette a newspaper published in Rock County State of Wisconnin.

a newspaper published in Rock County, State of Wisconsin. BY THE COURT: July 25, 2022 John M. Wood Circuit Court Judge August 22, 29, 2022 September 6, 2022

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING CASE NO. 22 CV 631 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: NOAH RYAN MCDEARMON.

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Noah Ryan McDearmon, To: Autumn Jade McDearmon, Birth Certificate: Noah Ryan

McDearmon MCDearmon.
IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Rock County, State of Wisconsin: Judge John Wood, Courthouse, Courtroom B, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545 on

Street, Janesville, WI 53545 on October 6, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-743-2200 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Janesville Gazette a newspaper published in Rock County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT: August 10, 2022 John Wood John Wood

Circuit Court Judge August 22, 29, 2022 September 6, 2022

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING CASE NO. 22 CV 181 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: BRITTANY LATRICE HARDY.

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Brittany Latrice Hardy, To: Breontae Latrell Hardy, Birth Certificate: Brittany Latrice Hardy. IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Rock County, State of Wisconsin: Judge Ashley J. Morse, Courthouse, via Zoom 725 215 0735, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545 on September 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-743-2200 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition

Please note that the court does

Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Janesville Gazette a newspaper published in Rock County, State of Wisconsin. BY THE COURT: August 8, 2022 Ashley J. Morse Circuit Court Judge August 22, 29, 2022 September 6, 2022 WNAXLP

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING CASE NO. 22 CV 420 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ROCK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF: SHANNA JO MORRIS. NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was

of the person listed above: From: Shanna Jo Morris, To: Avery Jo Inkwell, Birth Certificate: Shanna Jo Morris. Morris.
IS ORDERED: This petition
I be heard in the Circuit

IT IS ORDERED: This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Rock County, State of Wisconsin: Judge Ashley J. Morse, Courthouse, Branch 4, Courtroom F, Floor 3-R, 51 South Main St., Janesville, WI 53545 on September 12, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. If you require reasonable accommodations due to disability to participate in the court process, please call 608-743-2200 process, please call 608-743-2200
prior to the scheduled court date.
Please note that the court does
not provide transportation.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice

of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Janesville Gazette a newspaper published in Rock County, State of Wisconsin of Wisconsin.
BY THE COURT: July 19, 2022
Ashley J. Morse
Circuit Court Judge
August 22, 29, 2022
September 6, 2022
WNAXLP

eral Motors site owner Commercial Development Company to unveil "preliminary" plans for After the outbreak of redevelopment of the 127-acre JATCO site south of the main, former GM plant on the Janesville's south side. Anyone from the public is encouraged to attend. **When:** 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31. Where: Rock County Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Commercial Resource Center, 1717 Center Ave., Beckman Mill room.

include a requirement that Commercial Development to either leave dozens of acres of concrete "cap" in place over designated contamination on-site or to seek further remediation measures if the cap would be disturbed during any future development or other activities on site.

Local economic development officials have said over the last two years that the JATCO site, which saw far less heavy industrial use than the main GM plant site, would likely be the first of the two main properties to see redevelopment.

The announcement was surprise because until Friday, Commercial Development's plans for the site have been largely a mystery. Prior to this summer, city of Janesville officials for months had said they had heard no word from Commercial Development on what it intends to do with either the JATCO site or the main GM plant site.

In fact, the city earlier this year was levying fines to Commercial Development for what it said was the company's failure to fully clean up remaining concrete from the site or to pay property taxes and city utility bills.

The city and Commercial Development had hosted a set of private talks earlier this summer over future developments at the JATCO site, one city economic development official indicated.

It's not clear if the city has changed its stance on the apparent ongoing inactivity at the former GM site, but under the property demolition and cleanup rules, the city requires property owners to remove old concrete from the ground and cover the site with soil fill and plantings.

In addition to the lack of observable progress at the site, there had been little in the way of real estate transactions. In late 2021, a local contractor bought from Commercial Development an ancillary property that is on the east side of the main plant site. That site is now used for storage, but it is just a sliver of the overall 250 acres.





Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

IF YOU GO

by former Janesville Gen-

What: An open house

An entry to the cleared former General Motors property on Janesville's south side is blocked by barriers and gates in a 2021 Gazette file photo. Site owner Commercial Development Company announced Friday it plans an Aug. 31 junket to give the public details of a plan to redevelop the 127-acre JATCO site for use in intermodal freight transportation.

## **GM/**Company says plans for JATCO land in preliminary stage

Continued from 1A

there remains covered with concrete and is subject to environmental remediation plans from the state Department of Natural Resources.

the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, Commercial Development in tandem waited to hear whether the DNR would sign off on the owner's cleanup of the massive property and has remained publicly silent over its intended next steps.

Now, Development officials said in an announcement Friday the company seeks to unveil some details about how it might redevelop the JATCO site. The Aug. 31 public junket will be at Rock County's human services and job center at 1717 Center Ave., just across a strip of woods from the former GM and JATCO sites.

The JATCO site has been cleared for redevelopment since 2020. Both parcelsthe main plant site and JATCO-are adjacent to massive rail infrastructure that two private railroad companies have said they would beef up even more to accommodate redevelopment for light industry or an intermodal transportation hub.

Stephen Collins, an executive vice president at Commercial Development Company, said the open house is to give updates on redevelopment of the JATCO site as a "rail intermodal center," a plan he calls "consistent" with earlier plans to revitalize and redevelop the whole 250 acre site as a business park. The two local archi-

tectural and engineering firms, Angus Young Associates and RH Batterman, will join Commercial Development company officials at the open house to show preliminary plans they've worked up on contract for the potential redevelopment of JATCO.

It's not clear how long the potential development has been in the works, and Commercial Development on Friday gave no specific details about what type of intermodal operations might come to the site. Along with the local con-

sultants, an official from a global intermodal consultant, JAG Transport, will be at the open house. Commercial Development Company did not provide more details about JAG's involvement in the open house, and a Gazette reporter was unable to reach a company spokesperson on Friday afternoon.

Commercial Development's announcement Friday did not include details about the main GM plant site to the north of JATCO.

The DNR in June officially closed its environmental review of the main plant site, leaving it with ongoing remediation orders. The orders

#### James M "Jim" Cullen

February 21, 1956 - August 16, 2022

Milton, WI - James M. Cullen, 66 of Milton, passed away at home Tuesday, August 16, 2022. Jim was born February 21, 1956, to Malcolm and Betty (O'Leary) Cullen. Jim lived his



whole life in Milton, where he graduated from Milton High School in 1974, then went on to complete the UW-Madison Ag Short course in 1975. Jim loved working the family farm and dedicated his life to it. He also enjoyed playing softball and being an EMT in his younger years. In addition to farming, Jim was on the Board of Directors for Badgerland Farm Credit Services for 18 years. After selling the cows in 2001, Jim worked as an insurance agent and crop insurance adjuster for several years.

Jim was always a big supporter of Milton FFA Alumni, along with the Wisconsin Badgers, Green Bay Packers, and Milton High School football and wrestling programs. Jim could always put a smile on your face with his quick wit and charm. He never ceased to amaze with his knowledge of local and family farm history. Jim was a proud Irishman and looked forward to the annual O'Leary Reunion and Cullen Camp. It is "Kind of a Big

Jim is survived by his children Dan (Stephanie) Cullen, Kellie (Scott) Kahle, Shawn (Jessica) Cullen; grandchildren Diezel and Nash Cullen, Chesney and Harper Grahn, Brittany and Conner Kahle and Norah and Rowan Cullen; siblings John (Debbie) Cullen, Carole (DeWayne) Fibrow, Bob (Marci) Cullen and Greg (Jennifer) Cullen, along with numerous nieces and nephews. Jim is preceded in death by his parents Malcom and Betty Cullen, the love of his life Mimi Crawford and his great nephew Henry Fitzpatrick.

Funeral services will be held at St. Mary Catholic Parish, Milton, Friday, August 26, 2022, at 11:00 A.M. Visitation will be Thursday August 25, 2022, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Albrecht Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Milton, and at 10:00 A.M. on Friday August 26, 2022, until time of service at

In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to establish a memorial in Jim's name. The Albrecht Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Milton is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### LeRoy F Day

February 26, 1936 - August 15, 2022

Fort Atkinson, WI - LeRoy F. Day age 86 , passed away peacefully on Monday, August 15, 2022 at Rainbow Hospice in Johnson Creek, WI.



Leroy was born on February 26, 1936 to Francis and Genevieve (Byerly) Day in Cherokee, Iowa. He married Jean Day in 1975. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Fort Atkinson. He worked on the assembly line for Beatrice Foods Co. LeRoy enjoyed camping and fishing. He was an avid bowler and liked traveling. He enjoyed the company of his pets; dogs

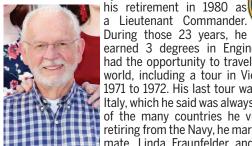
LeRoy is survived by his daughter Katherine (Gregory) Tollefson of Fort Atkinson and son David (Joleen) Day of Illinois; brothers Jay Day of Arkansas, and James Day of Delavan, WI.; Grandchildren Jacob, Jason Victoria, and Danielle; greatgrandchildren Elgin and Chloe. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Jean, daughter Christine, brothers Donald and Richard Day.

Per his wishes there will be no services at this time. The Albrecht Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Milton is assisting the family with arrangements. He will be laid to rest in Otter Creek Cemetery in Milton, WI.

#### Maurice Francis "Moe" Fraunfelder, Jr.

November 2, 1940 - August 13, 2022

Lewes, DE - Maurice "Moe" Fraunfelder left Janesville HS class of '59 midway through his junior year to enlist in the U.S. Navy, where he remained until



a Lieutenant Commander. During those 23 years, he earned 3 degrees in Engineering, and had the opportunity to travel around the world, including a tour in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972. His last tour was in Naples, Italy, which he said was always his favorite of the many countries he visited. After retiring from the Navy, he married his soul mate, Linda Fraunfelder and they lived

in the same house in Alexandria, Virginia until her death in 2019. His son, Chet Fraunfelder pre-deceased him earlier this year.

He is survived by his daughter, Karen Fraunfelder Cantwell and son, Drew Fraunfelder, both residing in Virginia; as well as a brother and 2 sisters, all from Janesville; 9 grandchildren whom he doted on; and many nieces and nephews. Family was important to Moe--he was loving and loyal. He also loved Janesville. He often said that his frequent trips back there were his "going home."

## **DEATH NOTICES**

Mary Ann Strand, 63, Janesville, died Saturday, Aug. 20, in Janesville. Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, Beloit. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until the time of services Aug. 27 at the funeral home.

Catharine R. Trace, 86, Janesville, died Sunday, Aug. 21, at Huntington Place, Janesville. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, at St. William Catholic Church, Janesville. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of services Aug. 25 at the church. Schneider Funeral Home & Crematory, Janesville, is assisting the

**Georgiana P. Trendt**, 75, Janesville, died Friday, Aug. 19, at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center, Janesville. Celebration of life will be at a later date. Schneider Funeral Home & Crematory, Janesville, is assisting the family.

Walter H. Zweifel Jr., 92, Evansville, died Thursday, Aug. 18, at Sienna Crest Assisted Living, Oregon. Private services will be held. Ward-Hurtley Funeral Home, Evansville, is assisting the

## **OBITUARIES**

#### Leanna L. Lambert

August 18, 1940 - August 16, 2022

Janesville, WI - Leanna L. Lambert, age 81, of Janesville passed away on August 16, 2022 at Mercyhealth Hospital, Janesville. She was born on August 18, 1940 in Chicago, IL, the daughter of Alfred and Leopoldine



Leanna Lambert is survived by her husband of over 62 years, Leonard Lambert Sr; daughter-in-law Terry Lambert; children, Steve Lambert, Leonard (Margie) Lambert Jr., Antoinette Lambert; grandchildren, Heather (Rodger) Crisp, Aaron (Jacqueline) Lambert, Kristen Lambert, Jillian (Andrew) Cruz, Shannon Lambert, Danielle (Cody) Vierck; great-grandchildren, Collin, Reilly, Connor, Keegan, Madison, Jackson, Grayson, Jamie and

Leanna was preceded in death by son, John Lambert, her parents and her in-laws.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, August 27, 2022 at HENKE-CLARSON FUNERAL HOME, 1010 N. Wright Road, Janesville. A memorial service will follow at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, August 27th at HENKE-CLARSON FUNERAL HOME. Online condolences may be sent to www.henkeclarson.com.

#### **Duane W. Simmons**

December 16, 1968 - August 17, 2022

Manitowoc, WI - Duane W. Simmons, age 53, of Manitowoc, died unexpectedly, of natural causes, on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at home.



Duane was born in Madison, WI, a son of William and Carol (Meingast) Simmons, and grew up in Janesville, WI. Following high school, he graduated from Marquette University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, earned his Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling at UW-Stout, and later went on to complete a second Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. On May 15, 1993, he married Stephanie Ann Lesko, his college sweetheart, at Gesu Church

in Milwaukee. Duane was a guidance counselor with the Manitowoc Public School District at both the elementary and high school levels before becoming the Principal at Jackson Elementary School. He loved his Jackson Family and the opportunity to serve as the principal of Jackson Elementary School. He felt a great sense of pride in the students and staff and all they accomplished together as a team.

Duane dedicated both his professional and personal life to the betterment of others, always there to listen, guide, and give the biggest and best hugs. He touched the lives of so very many with his positive spirit and abounding cheerfulness. A man of deep faith, he loved the church and devoted much of his time to strengthening his own personal faith as well as enriching the lives of others.

His family was his first love. He enjoyed taking them on adventures he dubbed as "Mandatory Simmons Fun Days." Duane enjoyed time with friends, hunting, fishing, camping, playing poker and card games, quoting movie lines and going for adventurous drives. He loved to cook and perfect his many recipes, including pad thai, smoked ribs, southwest egg rolls, and more.

Survivors include his wife: Stephanie Simmons of Manitowoc; three sons: Zackary Simmons, Joey Simmons and Matthew Simmons, all of Madison; his parents: Bill and Carol Simmons of Janesville; his brother: Russ (Sarah) Simmons of La Crosse; his in-laws: Scott Lesko (partner, Amber), Danielle o and Nicole Lesko, all of Anchorage, Alaska, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and many friends. He was preceded in death by maternal and paternal grandparents as well as his father-in-law and mother-in-law: Steve and

A memorial service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, 3201 Mishicot Rd., Two Rivers. Officiating at the Mass of Christian Burial will be the Rev. Dave Pleier.

The family will greet relatives and friends at the church on Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 5:45 p.m.

The memorial service will be live streamed on the St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church website or St. Peter the Fisherman Facebook page.

Memorials in Duane's name will be used to establish a scholarship in his memory.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.dejamartin.com.

Deja & Martin Funeral Chapels, 1506 18th St., Two Rivers, is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.

#### Wisconsin Pick 3

(Midday Thursday, Aug. 18) 5-7-5 (Evening Thursday, Aug. 18) 4-5-1 (Midday Friday, Aug. 19) 8-4-8 (Evening Friday, Aug. 19) 7-2-5 (Midday Saturday, Aug. 20) 4-9-0 (Evening Saturday, Aug. 20) 4-6-7

(Midday Thursday, Aug. 18) 3-2-8-9 (Evening Thursday, Aug. 18) 1-8-5-5 (Midday Friday, Aug. 19) 7-8-6-6 (Evening Friday, Aug. 19) 9-7-4-7 (Midday Saturday, Aug. 20) 1-5-7-6 (Evening Saturday, Aug. 20) 6-5-2-8 Badger 5

(Thursday, Aug. 18) 9-15-23-28-29 (Friday, Aug. 19) 14-24-27-30-31 (Saturday, Aug. 20) 7-8-9-17-24

All or Nothing (Midday Thursday, Aug. 18) 3-4-8-9-11-12-14-15-16-19-21 (Evening Thursday, Aug. 18) 1-2-4-5-6-13-15-17-19-20-21 (Midday Friday, Aug. 19) 2-3-4-6-7-9-10-12-13-18-19 (Evening Friday, Aug. 19) 1-2-4-5-8-9-15-16-17-18-19

(Midday Saturday, Aug. 20) 4-5-6-9-10-11-13-14-15-16-21 (Evening Saturday, Aug. 20) 1-3-4-6-7-10-14-17-20-21-22 SuperCash

Doubler: No (Friday, Aug. 19) 3-14-17-21-23-36 Doubler: Yes (Saturday, Aug. 20) 7-12-13-16-25-37 Doubler: No

(Thursday, Aug. 18) 4-19-25-26-35-37

(Saturday, Aug. 20) 6-14-19-37-42-45 Wednesday's cash prize: \$5.3 million Wednesday's annuity prize: \$7.7 million **Powerball** 

Megabucks

(Saturday, Aug. 20) 5-9-11-16-66 Powerball: 7 Power play: 2X Today's cash prize: \$51 million Today's annuity prize: \$90 million

Mega Millions (Friday, Aug. 19) 12-18-24-46-65 Mega Ball: 3 Megaplier: 4X Tuesday's cash prize: \$65.6 million Tuesday's annuity prize: \$116 million

### **Gwendolyn Alice Sunby**

August 17, 2022

Janesville, WI - Gwendolyn Alice Sunby, 94, Green Bay, passed away Wednesday, August 17, 2022. She was born September 22, 1927, in Janesville, WI to Howard and Alice (Pfeiffer) Holliday.



Gwendolyn graduated from Milton Union High School in 1944 and attended Milton College before joining the war effort of WWII. She worked for the military at Wright-Patterson Army Air Force Base in Springfield, Ohio, and studied electronics and developing early radio technology at Wittenburg College.

Gwendolyn married Carl Sunby on June 15, 1948. Carl and Gwen enjoyed traveling to many foreign countries. Gwen

especially loved Paris, France and the Islands of Hawaii. Upon Carl's retirement in 1987, they purchased their beloved winter home in Surprise, Arizona. True "Snowbirds", they loved the warmth and sunshine during the winter months. Gwen worked at Bellin Hospital and as an order editor for many years at KI. She was a member of the Green Bay Women's Club. She enjoyed playing bridge and creating ceramics. Gwendolyn was active for many years at First Methodist Church.

She is survived by her children, Gail (Frank) Smith, Rand (Sue) Sunby, Carl (Lauren) Sunby; grandchildren, Erica (Brad) Deines, Marc (Lainee) Sunby, Amy (Andy) Goike, Jon (Kelley) Sunby, Alexa Sunby, Lauren Sunby; great-grandchildren, Taylor Deines, Darren Deines, Brett Deines, Veronica Sunby; Ellie Goike, Landon Goike, Sadie Sunby and Lucas Sunby; brotherin-law, Richard Arnold; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Gwendolyn was preceded in death by her husband, Carl; parents, Howard and Alice; brother, Rolland (Elaine) Holliday; sisters, Geraldine (Terry) Thornton, Patricia Arnold; sister-inlaw, Mary Lee (Wayne) Astin.

Friends and family will gather at the chapel at Shrine of the Good Shepherd Mausoleum, 2770 Bay Settlement Rd., Green Bay from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 26; Funeral Service to follow at 1:30. Entombment will be in Shrine of the Good Shepherd Cemetery. To send online condolences, please go to www.BlaneyFuneralHome.com.

## **Barry/**Race's winner would face Pocan in November election

Continued from 1A

votes cast in the 2nd District, which covers the western half of the county, including part of the city of

In response, Olsen filed three motions with WEC Friday afternoon, each raising a separate issue intended to either slow or stop the process altogether. Barry told The Associ-

ated Press on Friday evening that she had not yet heard about Olsen's petitions and declined to comment at the time.

Olsen asked WEC to order county canvassing boards to schedule their recounts in a staggered order so that he can be present at each of themhis right under state law.

He also contends that Barry failed to specify the basis for a recount. In her petition, Barry expressed concerns that a mistake or fraud affected the race, specifically citing her belief that mail-in and walk-in ballots "were defective and/ or illegally cast and that the tabulated results are inaccurate." Olsen claims this doesn't fulfill the state's requirement for a "verified petition."

"Their petition has no specificity and that's—we think that's a violation of the Wisconsin statues and also constitutional law," Olsen said in an interview.

In his third petition, Olsen took issue with Barry's demand for a hand recount. Wisconsin statutes require candidates petitioning for a recount to establish "clear and convincing evidence" that some sort of mistake or irregularity would justify not using tabulating machines.

WEC spokesman John Smalley said Friday evening that the commission had returned Olsen's

Charity Barry filed a petition for a recount Thursday after running second to attorney Erik Olsen in Wisconsin's 2nd District primary on Aug. 9. The official canvass showed Olsen's small margin over

Barry, a landscaping supervisor, came in a race with more than 43.000 ballots cast.

petitions to him, as WEC does not have the jurisdic tion to consider them, and he expects the recount to continue as planned.

It's unclear whether the counties themselves or a court would have jurisdiction over Olsen's requests, Smalley said.

In addition to its Rock County portion, the liberal-leaning 2nd District covers a swath of southern Wisconsin that includes the city of Madison and Dane County as well as all or portions of four more counties. The GOP winner will face Democratic Rep. Mark Pocan in November.

Separately, Republican Adam Steen said Thursday he would mount a write-in challenge to Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. Steen, a political newcomer, narrowly lost to Vos after Steen was endorsed by Donald Trump over Vos' refusal to pursue decertification of the 2020 election.

Harm Venhuizen is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Venhuizen on TwitAccuWeather | Go to AccuWeather.com

### REGIONAL FORECAST

#### JANESVILLE ALMANAC Sunday's high ..... Average high ...... Sunday's low ..... Average low....

.....Trace

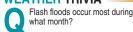
Low a year ago today ......59 **STATE FORECAST** 

Precipitation...

Mostly sunny today; pleasant. Mainly clear tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. A thundershower in spots in northwestern parts;

High a year ago today ...... 86

#### **WEATHER TRIVIA™**



## IN THE SKY

The Cocoon Nebula, a glowing cloud of gas and dust in Cygnus, the swan, is halfway up the northeastern sky at nightfall. It's below Deneb, the star that marks the swan's tail. It's part of a larger complex of gas and dust that is giving birth to many new stars. Source: UT McDonald Observatory

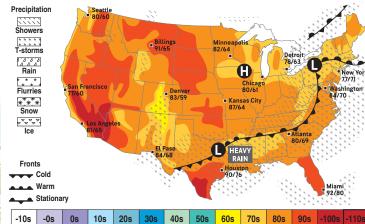
<b>SUN A</b>	ND MO	ON				
Sunrise too	day		6:10 a.m.			
Sunset tod			7:47 p.m.			
Moonrise t			1:15 a.m.			
Moonset to	day		5:31 p.m.			
New	First	Full	Last			
Aug 27	Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17			
Forecasts and graphics provided by						

AccuWeather, Inc. ©2022 **Road Conditions** By phone: 1-800-ROAD WIS On the Internet: http://www.dot.state.wi.us

#### **ACCU WEATHER 5-DAY FORECAST FOR JANESVILLE** TODAY **TUESDAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY** FRIDAY Mostly sunny and nice Partly sunny and Humid with a stray Mostly sunny with a Partly sunny and 60° 82° 63° 61 Winds N 4-8 Winds W 3-6 Winds SE 3-6 Winds N 4-8 Winds ENE 6-12 Shown is today's weather 80/56 highs and tonight's lows. 76/56 81/62 78/56 79/53 81/58 Eau Claire Marinette Marshfield 82/58 78/59 82/64 79/58 **Traverse City** Green Bay 79/57 81/58 77/58 75/59 82/61 Grand Rapids 80/57 80/57 78/56 77/61 Janesville 77/54 82/58 Kalamazoo 81/57 80/56 79/59 Cedar Rapids 82/58 80/58 80/58 80/61 South Bend La Salle 82/63 79/59 79/57 75/58 W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

#### **NATIONAL FORECAST**

Monday, August 22, 2022 Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high



Drenching and locally gusty thunderstorms will affect the Northeast today. However, the most intense rain capable of producing flooding on a more regional basis will extend from northern Texas and southern Oklahoma to northern Louisiana and central Mississippi. Parts of the Southwest will get a break from

#### National extremes vesterday for the 48 contiguous states Low: Bodie State Park Calif at 37°

nigh: China Lake, Calli. at 108 Low: Bot				die State Park,	Caiii. at 3	57 -		
NATION	AL CIT	IES				WORLD	CITIE	S
City	Today <b>Hi/Lo/W</b>	Tuesday Hi/Lo/W	City	Today <b>Hi/Lo/W</b>	Tuesday Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Tuesday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	80/69/t	84/69/t	Milwaukee	77/61/s	78/63/pc	Athens	88/75/pc	85/73/pc
Boston	74/68/sh	81/68/t	Minneapolis	82/64/pc	83/66/s	Baghdad	110/80/s	110/82/pc
Chicago	80/61/s	80/63/s	Nashville	86/66/c	87/67/s	Beijing	92/62/pc	81/65/pc
Cincinnati	80/62/t	82/64/s	New Orleans	86/77/t	83/75/t	Berlin	75/59/pc	76/57/pc
Cleveland	77/66/t	79/61/pc	New York	77/71/t	84/70/t	Buenos Aires	59/51/c	65/55/s
Dallas	80/72/t	86/72/t	Orlando	94/76/t	92/76/t	Cairo	98/80/s	100/82/s
Denver	83/59/pc	86/62/pc	Philadelphia	83/72/t	86/71/t	Johannesburg	64/44/s	65/44/s
Detroit	78/63/pc	82/64/pc	Phoenix	99/84/t	101/81/s	Kabul	74/64/c	67/64/r
Dubuque	79/59/s	81/59/pc	Reno	96/60/s	97/60/s	London	74/63/c	77/65/pc
Honolulu	88/74/s	88/76/sh	Salt Lake City	94/70/s	97/73/s	Mexico City	74/57/pc	74/58/sh
Indianapolis	82/59/pc	82/63/pc	San Diego	78/68/pc	79/70/pc	Paris	79/65/pc	84/66/pc
Las Vegas	103/85/s	106/84/s	San Francisco	77/60/pc	71/58/pc	Rome	86/67/pc	87/67/s
Los Angeles	81/65/pc	87/68/s	Seattle	80/60/s	79/62/s	Sydney	72/56/pc	67/47/sh
Marquette	76/56/pc	74/58/sh	St. Louis	85/68/s	86/69/pc	Tokyo	86/79/c	88/80/pc
Memphis	85/72/t	86/71/c	Washington, D	C 84/70/t	86/72/t	Toronto	75/65/t	79/62/pc



Try it. Buy it.

## JOHNSON TRACTOR

Join us at: Harvard, IL Juda, WI Janesville, WI Rochelle, IL August 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>



## Hufcor/Remnants of Janesville firm in receivership

Continued from 1A

and door partitions.

Founded in Janesville in 1900 as a commercial awning manufacturer, Hufcor's accordion-style wall partitions were once the standard for subdividing offices, convention centers and megachurches. The company spiraled into bankruptcy over the last vear after OpenGate Capital, a Los Angeles-baed private equity firm that bought the company, fully outsourced all its Janesville factory operations to Monterrey, Mexico.

The decline appears to have started sometime after Hufcor was sold from family ownership in 2017 and bought as an asset to be owned and operated by OpenGate.

OpenGate has a long record of court fights over abrupt bankruptcies and closures of companies it has bought. One such company, Golden Guernsey Dairy in Waukesha, was abruptly shuttered in 2013 by OpenGate—illegally, the state of Wisconsin argued in court—just a few years after its acquisition.

#### Former workers

Now, some of the union workers in Janesville who were cut loose by Open-Gate cite problems, including what they say was the abrupt and premature cutoff of insurance benefits that were part of a severance agreement.

Other papers filed in civil court and approved late last week by a Dane County judge mark the start of a corporate bankruptcy receivership that is aimed at sifting through Hufcor's leftover assets and unpaid bills. More battles over remaining pieces of Hufcor will roll out in Dane County court in September, when civil court proceedings kick off in ear-

The receivership is segmented into dozens of sub-filings, related lawsuits and legal notices of claim by creditors, suppliers, customers, corporate lawyers and former Hufcor employees. These include individuals and companies who allege they were



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com A single trailer bearing the Hufcor name sits by a shipping container as a grass field is moved behind the former Hufcor building in Janesville on Thursday.

charged for products Huf- on their products. But that cor never sent them. Some was before," Bailey said. say they were never paid for materials they sold and shipped to Hufcor.

Details of the emerging bankruptcy receivership, buried in omnibus court filings now managed by a Wisconsin law firm, only hint at how and why Hufcor's fortunes soured as OpenGate rushed to move its manufacturing operation to Mexico.

On the human end, 166 mostly union workers who once built and shipped out products sold worldwide had a ringside seat to their away, they (OpenGate) employer's rapid decline that left a vacant shell of a factory in Janesville.

Mark Bailey, 62, worked at Hufcor for 33 years as welder and later as an operator of computerized machines that milled everything from tiny bolts to long sway arms. They were all parts used in Hufcor's moveable partitions.

Bailey was laid off earlier this year during Open-Gate's final shutdown of the Janesville plant.

He can tell anybody who still cares all about the 2,000 or so parts he said went into just one set of moveable walls.

He was a younger worker when a former family ownership held huge holiday raffles and picnics. It was an era, Bailey said, when there was "no divide" between rank-and-file union shop workers and the company's in-house suits, sales staff and prod-

uct designers. "The bosses showed empathy. They used to show how much they cared cians, and representatives

Bailey was still there after 2017, when he said OpenGate's managers prohibited local workers from having clocks or listening to transistor radios they had been allowed for years at their work stations. He said employees from different divisions suddenly become siloed and standoffish when before the buyout engineers and sales workers often stepped over to the factory floor to mingle with line workers.

"It seemed like right weren't trying to make any friends. Like they didn't really want friendships between people who'd been there together a long time," Bailey said.

Bailey was still working at Hufcor in June 2021 when its union shop, the Industrial Division of the Communication Workers of America Local 84811, mounted a public fight against OpenGate.

The union howled against Hufcor's then-nascent plans to move manufacturing from Janesville to a plug-and-play factory building in a sprawling industrial park in Monterrey, Mexico, near dozens of other outsourced manufacturing operations.

union's The included public confabs with U.S. senators, fullpage shame ads in The Los Angeles Times and union demonstrations outside the Janesville plant last summer. The demonstrations drew hundreds of union activists, dozens of politiabout the people working of other local labor unions.

#### Little explanation

OpenGate's only public explanation for the Janesville shutdown has been a note from a thirdparty spokeswoman last summer. She wrote that the move to Mexico was a response to market vagaries linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and part of a phasing out of an aging, 40-year-old plant in Janesville.

Bailey stayed on at the Janesville plant through last winter, continuing the work of manufacturing parts for Hufcor products alongside a dwindling number of co-workers. By late last fall, he said, all the parts still being produced in Janesville were loaded in trucks and shipped out for full assembly in Mexico.

The same trucks moved out crate after crate of the Janesville plant's machinery to be used at the new factory south of the border, he said. That was the point when some workers walked away and others remaining gradually stopped caring about the future of the company.

"Hufcor was a worldwide name. It was worldwide, but it ran out of here, too. I was kind of proud of that, living here, and being part of the world's leading partition manufacturer," Bailey said. "Now, it's all in the dirt. It's nothing."

Ultimately, Bailey said, he and about two dozen other union workers were let go in April with severance packages. He said he believes the final layoffs in Janesville coincided with OpenGate's apparent shutdown of its plant in Mexico, which he said he only ever heard snippets about.

Some former co-workers, he said, have since taken jobs at other local companies, thanks in part to job fair program Hufcor was obligated to run to aid dislocated workers.

Bailey believes his union's fight might have pressed OpenGate to continue running some operations at the Janesville plant as it moved toward a full exit to Mexico, but he said he and the last workers were let go months earlier than they were told would

be the case.

As part of their severance, some workers got a health insurance package that Bailey said was supposed to be good for a full year. But he said his and some others' policies were abruptly cut off just a month or two after the final layoffs. One of his former co-workers, he said, now has "\$150,000" in medical bills not covered by insur-

The workers' legal claim, if they have any, would be part of a raft of legal machinations tied to the pending receivership.

#### Legal web

Much in the Hufcor bankruptcy action still remains in limbo.

OpenGate-or somebody-could owe about \$5 million over the next half decade to the local landlords who own the empty Janesville Hufcor plant at 2101 Kennedy Road, based on now-disputed lease agreements laid out in a court inventory of related lawsuits.

The company's ill-fated Mexican operation also appears mired in what could be years of rent agreements that could go unpaid, according to court papers.

A Texas attorney claims to have rendered legal services vis-à-vis Hufcor under an "executive employment agreement" with Open-Gate. It's \$420,000 worth of legal work, according to court papers.

Further down a long list of legal claims is a Lake Worth, Florida, church that said in court papers it never received 47 moveable wall panels it ordered and paid a \$75,000 deposit for.

Local suppliers and satellite operators from Janesville, Green Bay and Muskego, to name just a few, also have sued Hufcor for tens of thousands of dollars in various breaches of contract, according to lawsuits tied to the bankruptcy.

#### **Remaining local office**

Remaining parts of Hufcor's local operations had been moved to two tiny office suites on Woodlane Drive near a residential

area, a few miles east of the shuttered Kennedy Road plant.

One afternoon last week, visible through a window in one of the suites was a small front desk with a Kleenex box perched on top. On a metal sign holder in front, somebody had stuck a computer print-off that read "Welcome to Huf-

The doors were locked, the lights were off and no one was around.

#### **Empty factory**

Also last week, the loading bays at the Kennedy Road factory were idle. The big blue building stood silent, a shell stripped of all machinery and people.

Along the loading dock doors and in the grassy terrace of the plant's back lot, an old chocolate milk carton lay on the ground, its bottom blown out after being stomped by the discarder. The carton's sell-by date read June 2021, around the time Hufcor took a sharp turn south to Mexico.

The ground was further littered with long, black feathers and dozens of small, sun-whitened bones-evidence that Hufcor has been defunct long enough that turkey vultures now use site as a landing pad to dine on carcasses in solitude.

Circling above in the August sky were more than a dozen buzzardsthe same breed of bird that had picked clean the bones of animals and left them in the factory lot.

And in the back corner of the property, a lone semitrailer stood in terminal repose on its front support posts. It was emblazoned with the Hufcor logo, an image of an eagle's head above an American flag that's frozen in mid-ripple.

The logo was once a display of national and corporate pride. If it were an epitaph, it might read: "Everyone knows what happened here. But does anybody care?'

In Janesville, that unanswered question might be about all that remains of Hufcor.