



**Meet the leader**  
New BJSO Executive Director Sara Lemen has been an opera singer, given voice and piano lessons, and worked in accounting. **kicks, inside**



**Vikings have 'great, positive attitude'**  
The Parker girls basketball team is learning a new system under a new coach with a small number of players. **Page 1B**

# The Gazette

NO ONE DELIVERS *Local* LIKE WE DO

Thursday, November 11, 2021 • \$1.50

## Small sliver sold

GM site owner sells off portion of 250-acre property

By Neil Johnson

njohnson@gazetteextra.com

**JANESVILLE**

As bids are set to close Thursday on a fire sale auction of both major pieces of the 250-acre former General Motors plant in Janesville, property records show the property's St. Louis-based owners already have quietly closed on the sale of a small sliver of the massive site.

State Department of

Revenue real estate transfer records show that Commercial Development Company on Nov. 2 sold off a key-shaped, 5-acre outlot that once housed GM's wastewater plant. According to state records, the site at 1210 S. Academy St. sold for \$170,000 to Center Construction of Evansville.

That transaction is dwarfed by the pending auction a private broker is facilitating for both the 115-acre former GM plant

site and the former JATCO haul-away yard just south. The two sites are cleared of all buildings, but heavy concrete and pavement spans almost the entire empty gulf of property.

The two big parcels initially were marked for sale earlier this year at an opening, minimum bid of \$750,000 apiece, with bidding to end today.

Commercial

Turn to **GM** on Page 10A



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazetteextra.com

A 5-acre piece of land that was once used as the location for General Motors' wastewater plant has been sold to an Evansville construction company.

## Happy girl, lucky dog and a mound of leaves



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazetteextra.com

Kinsley Hendrickson, 7, plays a game of tug with her golden retriever named Jack in a pile of leaves in Janesville on Wednesday.

## Torkilson gets probation in child sex assault case

Former Clinton village trustee pleads guilty as part of plea agreement

By Austin Montgomery  
Adams Publishing Group

**JANESVILLE**

A former Clinton village trustee has pleaded guilty in a child sex assault case as part of a plea agreement with the Rock County District Attorney's Office.

Ronald E. Torkilson, 70, pleaded guilty to third-degree sexual assault and was sentenced by Judge John Wood to four years of probation and is required to register

as a sex offender after an investigation regarding two sexual assaults of a 14-year-old boy and 17-year-old boy in 1997.

He was originally charged with two counts of repeated sexual assault of a child. As part of the plea agreement, the charges were amended with a single count of repeated sexual assault of a child being dismissed but read into the court record.



Torkilson

Turn to **CASE** on Page 10A

## TRIAL OF KYLE RITTENHOUSE: DAY 8

## Rittenhouse: 'I defended myself'

Illinois teen takes stand in his murder trial; defense calls for mistrial

By Michael Tarm, Scott Bauer  
and Kathleen Foody  
Associated Press

**KENOSHA**

Kyle Rittenhouse testified Wednesday he was under attack when he killed two men and wounded a third with his rifle during a chaotic night of protests in Kenosha, saying: "I didn't do anything wrong. I defended myself."

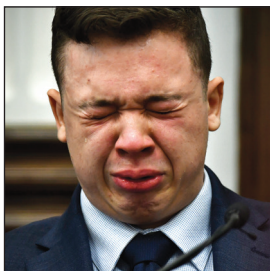
In a high-stakes gamble, the

18-year-old took the stand at his murder trial to tell his side of what happened on the streets that day in the summer of 2020, sobbing so hard at one point that the judge called a break.

In an account largely corroborated by video and the prosecution's own witnesses, Rittenhouse said that the first man cornered him and put his hand on the barrel of Rittenhouse's rifle, the second man hit him with a skateboard, and the third man came at him with a gun of his own.

His nearly all-day testimony was interrupted by an angry exchange in which his lawyers demanded a mistrial over what they argued were

Turn to **RITTENHOUSE** on Page 9A



The Kenosha News via AP

During testimony at his trial at the Kenosha County Courthouse in Kenosha on Wednesday, Kyle Rittenhouse said he 'didn't want to have to shoot' Joseph Rosenbaum during an encounter that left Rosenbaum dead.

## Did state's own witnesses hurt its case against Rittenhouse?

By Michael Tarm  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

**KENOSHA**

Prosecutors wrapped up more than a week of testimony at Kyle Rittenhouse's homicide trial after calling more than a dozen witnesses—some appearing to help the defense more than the prosecution.

The onus was on prosecutors to counter Rittenhouse's self-defense claim in shooting dead two men and wounding a third at a protest in Kenosha last year after the shooting of Jacob Blake, who is Black, by a white

police officer. The defense team began its case Tuesday.

Rittenhouse, then 17, fatally shot Joseph Rosenbaum. After running from that scene, he shot and killed Anthony Huber and wounded Gaige Grosskreutz.

A look at the state's presentation to jurors:

**Q:** How do legal experts think it went?

**A:** Legal experts agreed prosecutors had the bigger challenge going in, and some said they didn't come close to

Turn to **WITNESSES** on Page 9A

**OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 9A**

- David Ainger
- Wilma Charlene Brandsey
- Richard O. Brewer
- Richard I. Howes
- Ralph A. Moehrke
- Lester Paul Oldenburg Sr.
- Darlene Joyce Varnes

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

High 53 | Low 36  
A.M. rain, then breezy; cooler  
More on 10A

- Classified . . . . . 8B-10B
- Comics . . . . . 5A, 5B
- Legals . . . . . 3B
- Lotteries . . . . . 9A
- Nation/World . . . 6B-7B
- Opinion . . . . . 6A-7A
- Puzzles . . . . . 10B
- State . . . . . 2A
- Advice . . . . . 7B

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