

# The Gazette

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## Under Pressure

Suicides hit record level in the US, with white men driving the wave

**MIKE SUNNUCKS**  
APG National Enterprise Editor

A record number of Americans killed themselves last year, according to new suicide numbers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Who is driving the contemporary surge in suicides?

“Middle-age white males,” said Dr. Caroline Fenkel, chief clinical officer and co-founder of Charlie Health Inc., a Bozeman, Montana-based mental and behavioral health provider specializing in virtual and outpatient care for kids, teens and young adults.

Men made up 79.4% of the record 49,449 suicides committed nationally last year, according to the CDC. White men make up 30% of the U.S. population. They accounted for 60% (29,847) of the suicides last year, according to the CDC.

Fenkel said men, especially white men, can feel the pressures of societal and throwback gender role expectations — and still not show stigmatized weaknesses of their mental health.

Gender roles associated with career expectations in a market-based economy also play a role, Fenkel said, pointing

More **SUICIDE** | A6



Life Dance Academy dancers during a recent mini jazz competition camp.

COURTESY OF THE LIFE DANCE ACADEMY

# Dancing to Fight Cancer

Parker senior finds countywide benefit event

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JANESVILLE — Parker High School senior Hallie Cowne has been dancing since she was 3. This week, she’s tapping her love of creative movement to benefit the greater Rock County community.

Cowne, 17, created a cancer fundraiser through the Life Dance Academy, in Janesville. Cowne has studied at Life Dance Academy since moving to Janesville in middle school.

In coordination with No Limits LDA and the Rock County Cancer Coalition, her event “Dancing to Fight Cancer” will be this Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Janesville Performing Arts Center.



Competition auditions at the Life Dance Academy studio.

COURTESY OF THE LIFE DANCE ACADEMY

No Limits LDA is offered through the dance studio, for students with special needs, to allow them “to experience the same thing we get to experience as dancers and to be included,” Cowne said.

Wednesday’s show will feature more than two dozen performances, including by Cowne, showcasing dancers of a variety of ages and

More **DANCING** | A2

## LOCAL

Hendricks CareerTek in Beloit expands, sets grand re-opening

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## LOCAL

Kids triathlon is Saturday in Janesville

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## SPORTS

Parker, Craig, Milton open football season with big wins

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW  
**86** | **63**

Partly sunny and less humid  
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# Runners step up in race to benefit homeless teens

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JANESVILLE — An annual race to benefit local homeless teens has gained a lot of traction, it was evident Saturday.

Nearly 140 people participated in the third-annual Race

for a Place to Call Home at Riverside Park in Janesville, raising money for local non-profit Project 16:49.

Sheryl Hooker, a member of the board of directors for Project 16:49, created the event in 2021 as a way to safely hold a benefit during the COVID-19

pandemic. She continues to coordinate it.

Project 16:49’s name has special significance: it’s the 16 hours and 49 minutes between when school ends one day in Janesville and starts the next day. In those hours, homeless teens are on their own and are

the most vulnerable.

Project 16:49 Executive Director Tammy DeGarmo said the event is “an opportunity to raise awareness. We’re growing it and getting the word out to more people about what we do.”

The cause has resonated,

DeGarmo said.

“Everybody feels good about helping get a kid off the street or out of an unsafe situation and into a safe, supportive environment.”

Trophies were

More **RACE** | A2