

**Farewell to the queen** Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch in Great Britain's history, died Thursday at age 96, Buckingham Palace said. Page 7B





Friday/Saturday/Sunday, September 9-11, 2022 • \$2.50

# **Rock County Board member says he's not an Oath Keeper**

### By Ryan Spoehr

Adams Publishing Group

A member of the Rock County Board has denied being a member of a farright extremist group with ties to the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Wednesday listed Rock County Board member Rick Richard as on a leaked list of Oath Keepers members, one of six from Wisconsin.

Richard serves portions of the towns of Janesville, Rock and Beloit on the

committee. He is also a member of the Southern involved in these media Wisconsin Regional Airport Board and a variety of other county board committees.

statement Thursday after- nity that the statements county board and is the noon, without naming and actions of the Oath

county board supervisor reports has publicly denied being a member of the Oath Keepers."

'We want to make it per-The county issued a fectly clear to our commu-

reports on chair of the public works Richard, saying that "the Keepers are inconsistent with Rock County's values and vision for diversity, equity and inclusion," the statement continued. "Rock County takes pride in being a leader in creating an inclusive environment where all

Turn to BOARD on Page 3A

#### RELATED

#### City asks county

for help: Janesville City Man-ager Mark Freitag appealed to the Rock County Board on Thursday for \$2.5 million to go toward the proposed Woodman's Sports and Convention Center./Page 4A

# A mural menagerie

## New batch of works takes shape as Art Infusion returns

#### **By Kimberly Wethal** kwethal@apg-wi.com

#### JANESVILLE

A zoo is moving into Janesville's downtownand they're here to stay.

An Italian sparrow now overlooks the Rock River from its cream yellow perch alongside the outdoor porch of Genisa Wine Bar, 11 N. Main St.

Two blocks to the northeast, animals including a sloth, butterflies and a platypus were taking shape Thursday along a playground retaining wall at St. Mary School, 307 E. Wall St. The murals are part of Janesville's annual Art Infusion series which aims Turn to **INFUSION** on Page **3A** 



**Contractor** abruptly ends Beloit's **Bird scooter** program

> **By Neil Johnson** njohnson@gazettextra.com

#### **BELOIT**

Beloit's Bird scooter program has been shut down, not by the city, but by the vendor who worked for Bird as a contractor for the program.

But if the future of the phone app-driven electric scooter program in Beloit is now in limbo, Bird still has a short-term foothold in Janesville via a program launched earlier this month by a different vendor.

But Janesville's program, just

Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

Artist Chris Silva, right, is assisted by Erik C. Harris on a mural located in the outdoor dining area of Genisa Wine Bar in downtown Janesville on Thursday.

# The Gazette's new look debuts next week

#### **Gazette staff**

Next week, we will bring you a new look for your local paper. The Gazette has been rede-

signed to be in sync with the world around us. It will now be a single product in a convenient size and easy-to-read format.

We have combined the sports and A sections into one. News as you read from the front, sports from the back. Everything else in between.

When you see the first edition, take a few minutes to look think you will be pleasantly surprised.

ness model led us to be creative and bold with a redesign that kept the meat of the paper today and gave us flexibility for the paper in the future. We looked at sample variations and settled on what you will see next week. It has been exciting for us to redesign, and we hope the new look will be a positive experience for you, as well.

As you look at the new edition of your paper, several things will be obvious.

Not only is it a single-sec- story behind the story: through it front to back-we tion, it's also shorter in height.

A review of our current busi- photography. It also has more manage inflationary pressure. pages.

> But there is more to the story. We assembled a cross-functional team and worked for several months with other Adams Publishing Group papers that had made a similar change. We compared formats and outlines to see what could be a cleaner version our readers would approve of. We settled on a final version knowing it can grow and change in the future.

Allow us to share a bit of the

The design changes help with The paper has a new font and efficiency, costs and our prothe front is more focused on duction workflow. This helps us

Our pages are shorter, taking advantage of some newsprint efficiencies, but our page count is higher, since we did not cut out critical content. Think of it as going from the hardback version of a book to the paperbacksame content, more pages.

The shorter size was created as a more efficient way to handle our newsprint consumption. Newsprint has had 11 price increases in 13 months, with more looming.

Our aluminum plate consumption will improve, offsetting the price increases driven

Turn to **GAZETTE** on Page **8A** 

three weeks into a three-month pilot OK'd by the city, has drawn fire from downtown business operators over a ridership they say is predominately underage.

#### **Beloit**

Nick Yoss, a South Beloit, Illinois, paving operator who contracted through Bird to make the electric rental scooters available in downtown Beloit, said Thursday he nixed his agreement with the California tech company after a year. He said Bird was "non-responsive" to problems and made progressive cuts to his pay agreement as a Bird scooter fleet manager.

Yoss said he is not sure if Bird will relaunch a scooter program in Beloit, but he said that last week he returned all of Bird's scooters, erased his contractor's account with the firm and severed his relationship as an independent fleet manager, effectively curtailing the program in Beloit.

"Bird is non-responsive. They

#### Turn to **BIRD** on Page **2A**

#### **OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 7A-8A**

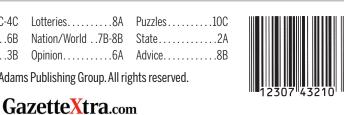
 Susan Marie Doubleday Dennis L. Dutcher Robert L. Emerson Travis Eugene Fairchild • Orlene G. (Pellmann) Gardiner • Roger B. Lewis

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**TODAY'S WEAT** High 83 | Low Mostly sunn and warm More on 8A

<b>FHER</b>	Classified	1C-4C
<b>5</b> 8	Comics	6B
ıy	Legals	3B
A	©20	)22 Adams



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