



TODAY 64°/42° An afternoon t-storm; warmer



TUESDAY 49°/32° Cooler with rain tapering off

# The Gazette

SERVING JANESVILLE, ROCK AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

Monday, April 22, 2013 • Our 168th Year • 75¢

A Ryan Braun homer helped the Milwaukee Brewers finish a sweep of the Chicago Cubs



## Challenge Program gets third hearing

New board member, amended proposal may change outcome

By Frank Schultz

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### JANESVILLE

A third attempt to expand the Challenge Program for gifted students in the Janesville public schools goes before the school board Tuesday.

The board rejected two previous attempts this spring. The first time was on a tie vote when one member was absent. The board voted 5-4 against the expansion at a subsequent meeting.

The third attempt is different and will put less pressure on next year's budget, said board member Kristin Hesselbacher, who asked that the proposal be added to Tuesday's agenda.

Another change will be to the board itself. A new board member, Cathy Myers, will cast her first votes at Tuesday's meeting.

Myers replaces Peter D. Severson, who had voted against the expansion.

"The need to serve these students hasn't gone away," Hesselbacher said Friday.

Hesselbacher said she noted that some board members expressed budgetary concerns, so her proposal is to hire one new teacher to start a third-grade Challenge Program class next September at Madison Elementary School.

The earlier proposals sought two new teachers, one for both the third and fourth grades.

Turn to CHALLENGE on Page 10A

## Ring it up

Janesville businesses help chip in for local charity causes



Dan Lassiter/dlassiter@gazettextra.com

Chris Zhe, right, a Milton East Elementary School special education teacher, visits with Easton Clevensine, the 1-year-old son of co-worker Emily Clevensine, who is a reading teacher at the school, during a charity fundraising event at the Culver's on Milton Avenue in Janesville. Zhe had just delivered food to the table. Several businesses in Janesville allow groups to use their facilities during off hours to help raise money for charitable purposes.

By Jim Leute

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### JANESVILLE

Pancakes and sausage aren't on the menu at Applebee's, and lattes and cappuccinos aren't served on Sundays at Mocha Moment.

They are, however, when the two businesses open during off hours to help local groups raise money for charitable purposes.

They are among several businesses in Janesville that go above and beyond to help their community.

The businesses also have found that their support of various causes pays other dividends.

"There's no question, it does help our sales, particularly on slow nights in January," said Bryan Mallon, who operates Culver's restaurants on West Court Street and Milton Avenue in Janesville.

From the start of last September through the end of this May, Mallon's restaurants will host 250 Scoopie Nights when 10 percent of all sales are donated to the charitable cause of the evening.

"More than sales, though, it's important to all of my managers and me that we are the type of business that's recognized as being part of the community," Mallon said. "We want that top-of-mind awareness."

### Coffee for a cause

Sundays are typically a day of rest for Steve and Kathy Dean and their staff at the popular Mocha Moment at 1121 Center Ave.

Years ago, however, a customer asked Steve about

We're not open on Sunday, and I always want to help out causes that I believe in. We wouldn't lose any normal revenue that I count on to run my business, and my only real cost in doing it is my cost of food.

Steve Dean of Mocha Moment

opening on a Sunday morning for a benefit.

"It dawned on me that I could easily do it on Sundays for several reasons," Dean said. "We're not open on Sunday, and I always want to help out causes that I believe in."

"We wouldn't lose any normal revenue that I count on to run my business, and my only real cost in doing it is my cost of food."

Running benefits on Sundays is a perk the Deans offer their employees who have specific causes they want to support. The employees donate their time and do the heavy lifting during the four-hour benefits.

One hundred percent of sales and all donations go to the designated beneficiary.

In addition, regular customers love the fact that they can stop in on a day when the shop is normally off limits.

Turn to CHARITY on Page 10A

## Hormone-disrupting chemicals in water prompt concerns

Wisconsin lags behind Minnesota in testing

By Kate Golden

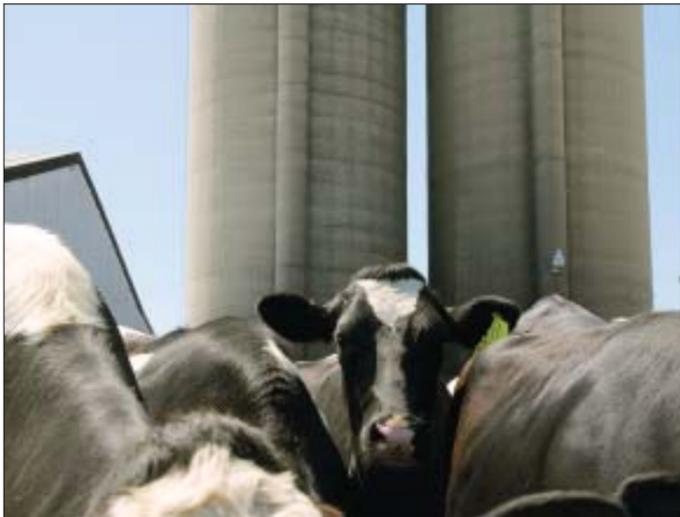
Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

In America's Dairyland, steroid hormones from livestock have been found in the snowmelt runoff from large cattle-feeding operations.

In the Shenandoah River, researchers investigating recurring fish kills found something in the polluted waters had feminized 80 to 100 percent of the male small-mouth bass, causing them to produce immature eggs in their testes.

And in Minnesota, three weeks after researchers put male min-

Turn to HORMONES on Page 9A



Kate Golden/Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

An Iowa State University study has estimated that land applications of livestock manure accounts for more than 90 percent of the total estrogen in the environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is concerned about the potential impact of those hormones on fish populations.

### ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

This is the first in a two-day series of stories about endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the Wisconsin environment. The United Nations recently called the chemicals a "global threat" to wildlife and humans.

**Today:** Despite growing evidence of risks, state and federal governments have issued little guidance on how much of these suspected endocrine disruptors in our lakes, streams and groundwater constitute danger for fish, wildlife or people.

**Tuesday:** None of the experts interviewed recommended people abstain from well water or swimming to avoid endocrine-disrupting chemicals, but many said they had begun trying to limit their own and their children's exposures.

## Heat burn Bucks in opener



Associated Press

Monta Ellis of the Milwaukee Bucks launches a jump shot over Chris Bosh of the Miami Heat in the opening game of the first-round NBA playoff series between the teams in Miami on Sunday. Miami scored a 110-87 win to take a 1-0 lead. The series will resume Tuesday. Story, photo on Page 1B.

## Gazette at a Glance

LOCAL • 2A-3A

### Rabies vaccinations offered

Approximately 60 percent of dogs and 35 percent of cats that live in Rock County are vaccinated for rabies, according to the Rock County Health Department. In an effort to address that danger, from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, pet owners will have a chance to participate in a low-cost vaccination clinic at the Rock County 4-H Fairgrounds in Janesville.

STATE • 5A

### Law may protect online privacy

A Wisconsin state lawmaker is pushing legislation that would prevent employers from requiring employees or job applicants to provide access to their personal social media accounts. The proposal, introduced by freshman Rep. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, has quickly gained bipartisan support in the Legislature. Rep. Garey Bies, a Republican from Sister Bay who's co-sponsoring the bill, said social media access should be protected and people shouldn't be expected to give it to employers or potential employers.

SPORTS • 1B-4B

### Kenseth wins again in Kansas

Matt Kenseth knew that he had a front-running car Sunday in the Sprint Cup Series race at Kansas Speedway. It was simply a matter of getting there. Kenseth won the race off pit road after taking two tires under caution, and a No. 20 Toyota that had been strong all day slowly pulled away. It was Kenseth's second consecutive win in the race.



Kenseth

DEATH NOTICES • 8A

- Kenneth R. Cunningham/Janesville
- Romayne A. Gregoire/Lake Geneva
- Jerod W. Guell/Janesville
- Marion E. Marsh/Janesville

OBITUARIES • 8A

- Margaret M. "Marnie" Cash/Whitewater
- Jerod William Guell/Janesville and West Bend
- Master Sgt. Richard Dee Krueger (Ret.)/San Fernando Valley, Calif., and Janesville
- Gary R. Seidel/Beloit

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# Challenge/Program has third opportunity before board

Continued from 1A

The cost of one new teacher plus added hours for music, art, physical education and Chinese teachers is estimated at \$89,280.

Hesselbacher said her hope would be that starting the program in third grade would lead to expansion to the fourth grade in September 2014.

"We wouldn't want to get it started and then pull it out," she said.

Madison School had a fourth-grade Challenge Program class this year. That class will become fifth-grade Challenge class next fall.

Challenge Program classes in grades 3-5 already exist at Roosevelt Elementary School, but officials have said that for years the district has not served all the students who qualify for the program.

Officials have argued that the Challenge Program keeps some students involved in school.

"Many gifted students may be so far ahead of their same-age peers that they know more than half of the grade-level curriculum before the school year begins," according to an administration memo included in the agenda packet for Tuesday. "Their resulting boredom and frustration can lead to low achievement, despondency or unhealthy work habits."

Hesselbacher noted that the district is evaluating its programs that serve gifted students, which includes more than just the Challenge Program.

Recommendations from that study will be presented to

**ON THE AGENDA**

The Janesville School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Educational Services Center, 527 S. Franklin St.

Agenda items include:

- Possible action on a proposal to increase pay for non-union employees. The board already has approved an 'incentivized' pay system for administrators in the coming year. The new proposal would likewise encourage quality performance for managers (excluding kitchen managers), comptroller, assistant food service manager, employee benefits specialist, financial analyst, assistant board clerk, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists and youth advocates/mentors/outreach specialists.
- Another group would get a flat-rate increase in the coming year but would be converted to an incentivized system in fall 2014. This group comprises kitchen managers, nurses, computer services, interpreters, confidential staff, physical and occupational therapy assistants, the truancy center, family resource centers, graduation coaches, translator, special education parent liaison and tutors.
- These employees "are being considered at this time over other employee groups" because they had their pay frozen in three of the past four years, began paying into their pension fund in 2011 while other employees did not and "continued outstanding service to the School District of Janesville without complaint while the majority of other employees were receiving raises," according to a memo by personnel director Steve Sperry.
- The annual reorganization, including election of the board president. Bill Sodemann is stepping down from that post. Greg Ardrey is the only known candidate to replace Sodemann.
- Possible discussions of proposed information technology and capital improvement spending plans and district budget process for 2012-14.

The board also meets in closed session at 6 p.m. That agenda includes discussion of negotiations with the district's three employee unions.



Ardrey

the board in May.

The district knows, however, that the best way to serve students who are the most gifted in the core academic subjects is in the Challenge Program, Hesselbacher said.

Hesselbacher said creating the third-grade Challenge class will mean that teachers around the district will not have to provide

specialized lessons for those children's needs in their mixed-ability classrooms.

"I think it's a more efficient way to appropriately serve students who qualify for the Challenge Program," Hesselbacher said.

Hesselbacher indicated this is the last attempt to get the board to change its decision.

# Charity/Businesses help out

Continued from 1A

In five Sundays, the Mocha Moment community raised \$7,381 for Jackie Jackson, a Katrina victim in Mississippi. In addition, a local construction team took shape to go and rebuild her home.

Over three other Sundays, visitors donated more than \$2,200 to benefit a Hufcor supervisor with extreme medical needs.

On a single Sunday in March, about \$3,200 was raised for Lori Burns, a Janesville principal battling cancer. That was a single-day record in terms of fundraising, Dean said.

"The average is \$800 to \$900," he said. "What was done for Lori was amazing, and it was all because of her, who she is."

The Deans also run other consecutive benefits in the fall that support HealthNet and a variety of parks and trails programs.

"I get plenty back from it," Dean said. "It generates a certain amount of goodwill in the community, and I think the organizations realize that."

"That's the way life is: Generosity is reciprocated."

### Special of the day

Applebee's, 3024 Milton Ave., normally opens at 11 a.m. on Saturdays.

But on just about every Saturday for the last year, it's opened its doors from 8 to 10 a.m. for charitable breakfasts.

The organizations—schools, churches, scouting groups—sell \$5 tickets for a pancake and sausage breakfast. Applebee's staff cook and keep \$1 per ticket sold to cover the food costs.

"We probably lose money or about break even, but that's



Bill Olmsted/bolmsted@gazettextra.com  
Milton East Elementary School health aide Mary Clay carries a tray of food to a table at Culver's. The restaurant is one of several in Janesville that helps groups raise money for charitable causes.

not the point," General Manager Tim Krause said of the Flapjack Fundraisers. "If the group sells 300 tickets, it makes \$1,200 in two hours. It can be very profitable for them."

Organization volunteers serve the cakes, and they collect tips that also pad the day's fundraising.

Not all Applebee's offer Flapjack Fundraisers. Krause said he started promoting them heavily when he took over management of the Janesville restaurant about a year ago.

"It's a sign of goodwill," he said. "It's not designed to make money for Applebee's, but I think it does have a positive effect on how we are perceived."

"For example, we recently had one for a local church, and they thanked us in front of 700 people."

### Scooping for schools

Almost everyone with a child, grandchild or distant relative enrolled in an area school has been invited at one

time or another to a Scoopie Night.

Between 4 and 8 p.m. on the designated evening, Culver's donates 10 percent of all sales to the designated organization.

"We do it for any local groups, nonprofits, that need some help," Mallon said. "Scouts, Special Olympics and, of course, schools are the really big ones for us."

The organizations promote their nights, and Culver's mascot Scoopie typically visits schools to fire up the kids. Volunteers help serve orders, and the class with the best representation at Scoopie Night enjoys free custard.

Depending on their size, groups typically take home between \$200 and \$600, Mallon said.

"We are a family-oriented business, and we do other things to help in the community," he said. "But 'Scoopie Night' is our big deal, and we really enjoy being able to help area schools."

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