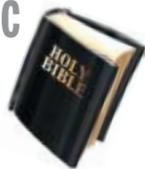




Faith • Religion, academics blend in Christian preschools — 3C



Gazette at a Glance

TOP OF THE NEWS • 3A

The Janesville Gazette

Wednesday, August 24, 2005 • Our 161st Year • 50¢

1923 1939 1946 1957

S W E E T

16

2005

This 2005 GMC Denali represents the 16 millionth car off the production line at Janesville's GM plant.

By Jim Leute
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JANESVILLE
With a nod and an apology to Mark Twain, Gary Malkus offered his perspective on the state of the General Motors assembly plant that he manages in Janesville.

"The reporting of the demise of Janesville Assembly was greatly exaggerated," Malkus said Tuesday as the plant celebrated the production of its 16 millionth vehicle since GM started making vehicles here in 1923.

In GM's world, Janesville's accomplishment trails only that of a plant in Lansing, Mich., that has built more than 20 million vehicles since opening its doors in 1897.

The Janesville plant—one of GM's oldest—often has been rumored to be on GM's short list for closure. Speculation surfaced again as recently as June, when GM's chief executive said the world's largest automaker would close assembly

RELATED

- **Worth 1,000 words:** GM plant worker's sketches of vehicles are a blast from the past. /1B
- **Giving back:** GM, UAW Local 95 donate van to United Way of North Rock County. /1B

plants and trim thousands of jobs by 2008 to revive its struggling North American operations.

Sluggish sales and high dealer inventories—fueled in large part by higher gas prices and a product at the end of its cycle—have stung GM's sport utility plants in Janesville, Arlington, Texas, and Silao, Mexico. Workers at the Janesville plant have been idled for nine weeks this year.

But with a corporate investment of \$175 million, the plant and its 3,800 employees are aggressively preparing for the January launch of GM's next generation of full-size SUVs.

Malkus said the two-day celebration will be held on Tuesday. Turn to **GM** on Page 7A

Janesville's GM plant—one of the company's oldest—celebrates the production of its 16,000,000th vehicle

1968 1977 1986 1999

School board wants high school vote sooner

Some members suggest vote in November 2006

By Frank Schultz

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JANESVILLE

Nobody said "Git 'er done," but that was the sentiment of most

Janesville School Board members Tuesday.

The "er" is a multimillion-dollar expansion and renovation project for Craig and Parker high schools.

Janesville Superintendent Tom Evert presented his recommendations for the high schools at Tuesday's board meeting. He called for more study of the high schools' needs, leading to a referendum in February 2007.

Most board members said they want a referendum sooner than that.

Board member DuWayne Severson said he's seen enough study. He suggested a referendum as soon as February or April. Most board members, however, seemed to like the date of the next general election, Nov. 7, 2006.

Board President Nancy Sonntag was the only board member to register concerns about that date. She noted after the meeting that she has been involved in referendums both as a citizens committee member and

Turn to **SCHOOLS** on Page 8A

Bush proposes new mileage standards

Prompted by complaints about skyrocketing gas prices and troubles in the U.S. auto industry, the Bush administration Tuesday proposed slightly harsher gas mileage standards for minivans, SUVs and light trucks. The new standards, which would take effect by 2011, would increase average mileage for light trucks from 21 miles per gallon to about 24 mpg. The new rules would divide light trucks into six categories, which means one-quarter of the vehicles wouldn't have to average more than 21.7 mpg.

Comments dismissed as 'inappropriate'

The Bush administration quickly distanced itself from a suggestion made by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson that the United States should assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, calling the remarks "inappropriate." "This is not the policy of the United States government," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack. "We do not share his views." The Bush administration does share many of the religious leader's views on other matters, including stem cell research.



Beloit College releases Mindset List

Incoming college freshmen don't remember Jimmy Carter or the Challenger disaster, but they have lived with Starbucks, voice mail and pay-per-view all of their lives. Beloit College today released its Mindset List, an annual compilation that offers a glimpse of the worldview of each incoming class. Beloit professor Tom McBride says the list reminds the older generation what's happened the past 18 years and helps educate professors about the lives of their young students.

LOCAL/STATE • 1B

Towns bill would ease farmers' depreciation

A bill proposed by state Rep. Debi Towns, R-Janesville, could make it easier for farmers to depreciate equipment. Current law allows farmers to write off no more than \$25,000 in additional first-year state depreciation on farm equipment and assets. Towns' bill would keep the state's depreciation rate in line with the federal standard starting in 2006. The bill also prevents farmers from applying the current federal depreciation schedule to existing assets.

Walworth County unit almost ready to roll

Walworth County law enforcement officials will soon have a new weapon in the fight against crime at their disposal. The county acquired a new vehicle—called the Crime Scene Unit—in July, and it's almost ready for deployment. The 24-foot truck will carry all necessary items to help police investigate crime and accident scenes, including video equipment and fingerprinting supplies. The county purchased the \$239,848 unit with grant money from the Department of Homeland Security.

OPINION • 4B

State should put priority on I-90/39 work



City leaders in Janesville and Beloit are pushing to expand Interstate 90/39 in Rock County, and it's about time the state listened. Traffic backups and overcrowded lanes make it unsafe for drivers, a fact reinforced by accident and death numbers. Sure, the state budget is still under construction, but with traffic funneling into the county north from Chicago and south from areas like Madison and Wisconsin Dells, there can't be too many highway projects that need more attention.

WORLD • 6A

Iraq president: Constitution must help all

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said today his country's new constitution needs to cover the interests of all people, including Iraq's Sunni Arab population. Talabani accused "some elements" in the Shiite-controlled Interior Ministry of preventing Sunni Arabs from registering to vote in the constitutional referendum in October. Also today, deputy justice minister Awshoo Ibrahim escaped a second assassination attempt in two days when gunmen fired at his convoy, killing four of his bodyguards and wounding five, police said.

Group claims responsibility for rocket attack

Tuesday, the terrorist group al-Qaida in Iraq claimed it had carried out the weekend rocket attack that narrowly missed a U.S. warship in the Jordanian port of Aqaba. After capturing a Syrian who was labeled a prime suspect in the attack, authorities said it appeared a number of others had fled to Iraq. The Internet statement by al-Qaida in Iraq, lead by Jordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was the group's second claim of responsibility.

SPORTS • 1D

Packers give Sherman two-year extension

Green Bay Packers coach Mike Sherman received a two-year contract extension Tuesday to keep him in his current role through 2007. Sherman has led the Packers to division titles the past three seasons. Ted Thompson, who took over for Sherman as general manager in January, said he never had any doubts about Sherman's coaching prowess. Sherman has a winning percentage of .640 (55-31) in his first five years as Green Bay's coach, fourth best among current coaches in the NFL.



Sherman

INSIDE

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Lotteries	3A
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Nation	4A
Obituaries	2B
Opinion	4B-5B
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Coming Attractions

THURSDAY

Get set to 'Rock Around the Block'

From noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, music lovers will have the chance to dance—or simply listen to—18 bands on six stages in the first "Rock Around the Block" party.

Blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll, country, bluegrass and Christian bands are all part of the lineup.

"It's our own little Summerfest," said Tim Markus, who is helping organize the event.

The event, which is sponsored by Downtown Janesville will replace Rendezvous on the River, the end-of-summer party that's been held the past four years at Janesville's bus terminal. /kicks



FRIDAY

Good medicine or media hype?

The United States and New Zealand are the only industrialized countries that allow drug makers to pitch their name-brand drugs directly to consumers.

The drug industry says ads inform people about the latest medications and save lives.

"Consumer advertising empowers patients to learn about diseases and medicines that treat them;

Yet many experts insist otherwise. The ads can turn healthy patients into the worried well, one expert said. /Pulse



SUNDAY

Dorm décor expands beyond bedding

Decorating the dorm room used to be easier than bonehead math. Just pick up a new bedspread, sheets and pillowcases and let the rest fall in place.

Not anymore. It seems everyone is competing for the college student's dollar these days. Sears, Target, Kmart and many other stores are offering decorating ideas.

It's as much about style and making a statement as it is about the living quarters. /Market-place



DEATH NOTICES • 2B

- Charles D. "Charley" Brown/Janesville, Sharon and El Paso, Texas
- Sandra June (Zuehlke) Hare /Beloit
- Ivy Clifford Olin/Janesville
- Florence Parker/Janesville
- Carl Simonetto/Lake Geneva
- Robert M. Torstenson/Twin Lakes

OBITUARIES • 2B

- Rudolf Francis "Rudy" Frank/Janesville
- Charlotte E. Glander/Jefferson
- David "Dave" Heilmeier/Whitewater
- Claire Elizabeth Hockerman/West Lafayette, Ind., and Madison
- Nathan Gregory Hockerman/ West Lafayette, Ind.
- George G. Keyzer/Port St. Louis, Fla., Sharon and Delavan
- Thomas J. Manogue/Janesville
- Harold Norman "Harry" Sime/Milton

OUTSIDE • 8A



THURSDAY

80°/58°
Intervals of clouds and sun



FRIDAY

80°/62°
A thunderstorm possible



SATURDAY

82°/62°
A shower early; some sunshine

