

# The Gazette

[www.GazetteXtra.com](http://www.GazetteXtra.com) | \$2.50

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

NO ONE DELIVERS

Local **LIKE WE DO**

## Historic business burns

### Lake House Inn destroyed by blaze

KYLIE BALK-YAATENEN

kylie.balkyaatenen@apg-sw.com

TOWN OF MILTON—A fire Sunday night destroyed the Historic Lake House Inn, a nearly 200-year-old landmark along Lake Koshkonong with deep roots in Rock County history.

According to the Rock County Sheriff's Office, deputies and fire personnel were dispatched at approximately 8:30 p.m. to 1612 E. Hotel Drive in the Town of Milton for a reported structure fire. When emergency responders arrived, they found the business fully engulfed in flames.

"The restaurant and bar had already closed for the day," Lakeside Fire District Chief Randy Pickering said. "The manager was the last one out around 6 p.m. A neighbor noticed the fire around 8:30 and called 911."

Lakeside Fire was joined by numerous surrounding fire departments in battling the blaze. The Wisconsin State Patrol, Edgerton Police Department and Milton Police Department also responded to assist at the scene.

Pickering said the investigators with the Rock County Sheriff's Office and the Fire Marshal have confirmed the fire originated in the kitchen area at the far west end of the building. Video provided by a neighbor helped establish the point of origin.



SUBMITTED BY TAYLOR STEWART

More **BLAZE** | A6 A photo of the Lake House Inn from Saturday night.

## Data center opponents reach goal

### Petition to be presented to city clerk

KYLIE BALK-YAATENEN

kylie.balkyaatenen@apg-sw.com

JANESVILLE—Community groups seeking to place a proposed ordinance on the ballot that would require voter approval for large-scale development projects in Janesville say they collected the 4,000 signatures needed ahead of the Jan. 8 deadline.

The ordinance would require the Janesville

City Council to get voter approval for any development project at the former General Motors/JATCO site with a total cost exceeding \$450 million. Petition organizers say the goal is not to advocate for or against a data center, but to focus on how decisions about major developments are made.

The petition drive comes amid public discussion surrounding a proposed data center

at the former GM site on Janesville's south side. Supporters say if approved, the ordinance would apply broadly to future projects that could significantly reshape the city.

Cassandra Pope, who runs the No Janesville Data Center Facebook page, said the next step is submitting the signatures to the city clerk. City officials then have 15 days to review the petition and notify organizers of any issues, followed by a 10-day

window for corrections.

After that process, the ordinance goes to the City Council, which has 30 days to either adopt

or reject it. If the council approves the ordinance, it would be added to the

More **DATA** | A2



### NATION

Vaccine rules are changing

PAGE A9



### SPORTS

Packers, Bears each seek momentum

PAGE A13

### TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW

**41 | 29**

Morning mist; mostly cloudy  
More on A16

Local	A2
Calendar	A5
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	A6
Nation/World	A9
Advice	A11, A12
Comics, Puzzles	A10 - A12
Sports	A13 - A16
Weather	A16
Classifieds	A8
Legals	A7

Adams MultiMedia  
©2026. All rights reserved.



(MAILING LABEL ONLY)