

The Gazette

Monday, September 30, 2024

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Stop and smell the roses

Janesville motel owner's garden brings joy to passersby

MARCIA NELESEN
For The Gazette

JANESVILLE — A woman recently walked into Indu Patel's motel office.

"I don't need a room," she said. "But I'd like to know what you're doing with the flowers."

It is what many who travel the busy Racine Street corridor doubtless wonder as well.

Motorists and walkers shout to Patel from the nearby stoplight or sidewalk. "They say they like my roses," he said. "Nice flowers," they'll yell. I get lots of comments."

Patel is happy he can give others enjoyment but roses also make him happy.

More ROSES | A3



MARCIA NELESEN
FOR THE GAZETTE

Roses outside Indu Patel's motel office on Racine Street in Janesville.



ANTHONY WANK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting was held outside the main entrance of KANDU Industries' new facility in Milton during the grand opening event Saturday, Sept. 28. The facility, located at 15 Plumb St., was previously the Blackhawk Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, which KANDU acquired in 2023.

All together now

KANDU Industries celebrates new, larger site in Milton

RYAN SPOEHR
ryan.spoehr@gpp-sw.com

MILTON — KANDU Industries celebrated bringing its operations under one roof on Saturday with a grand opening and ribbon cutting at its new location in Milton.

KANDU has been at the new building, 15 Plumb St., in Milton, since the end of January. The building previously was the manufacturing

center for Blackhawk Technical College. KANDU bought the facility from the college last year.

Blackhawk recently completed construction on a building that houses manufacturing education classes on its Central Campus, allowing for a move.

KANDU is a nonprofit organization that provides people with disabilities and disadvantages with opportunities of work and social interaction. It has a staff of over a 100 people and 200 clients, and partners

with businesses to provide that work.

Operations gradually moved over. KANDU's previous main production facility on Barberry Drive in Janesville

was leased; staff and clients moved into the new building in Milton as soon as that was available.

More KANDU | A2

LOCAL

Milton Homecoming, Wall of Honor festivities

PAGE A3



SPORTS

Cougars retake Monterey Rock trophy

PAGE A16

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW

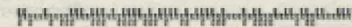
81 | 58

Partly sunny and very warm
More on A20

LOCAL	A2, A3
CALENDAR	A4
OBITUARIES	A5-A6
WHEELS	A7
NATION/WORLD	A8
CLASSIFIEDS	A10-A12
ADVICE	A13-A15
COMICS/PUZZLES	A13-A15
SPORTS	A16-A20
WEATHER	A20

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PHOTOS BY ANTHONY NAHL/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Sarah Whitcomb poses for a portrait near a large photo of herself in the lobby of KANDU Industries' new facility in Milton, on Saturday. KANDU held a grand opening event at the facility, located at 15 Plumb St., which was formerly the Blackhawk Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, acquired by KANDU in 2023.



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KANDU/ from A1

KANDU also operated out of a building on Adel Street, which is now up for sale. It mostly had day services and increased support program services, with a small amount of production. Executive Director Kathy Hansen said.

"A lot of these people were working together and then they get put into a program, then their challenges get increasingly worse. They have to come to a program, and they can meet their friends. Well now, everybody is together so they don't have to leave their friends," Hansen said.

KANDU welcomed the community on Saturday with tours of the building, live music from the band Nauti-Nauti and food trucks.

Features of the building include a large warehouse-type room used for work for Generac that has an old classroom attached to it. In that old classroom is a light table donated by Rhino Tool. An old welding lab site is being used for a candy job for the Valentine's Day season.

Those who went on tours also saw a large room that is used for clients' work such as packing and building caps for companies.

There is also a movie theater room paid for from funds raised through KANDU's annual Grapes and Hops event. During the grand opening, the football game played between the Wisconsin Badgers and the University of Southern California. Visitors also saw rooms devoted to KANDU's increased support program.

Tina Oesterle, a KANDU client, remarked that the new building is large.

"I finally know my way around," Oesterle said, adding, "I was a little scared at first. It was a big building. There was a lot of people here. I'm used to it now. I like it."

Oesterle went on to say, "I've got good friends here," adding that the large building helped him make even more friends.

There are also two courtyards that can be used throughout the day.



Jimmy Nelson gives a tour of KANDU Industries' new facility in Milton to friends and family during the grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 28.



Morghan Carney, program manager for KANDU Industries' Livin' and Learnin' Program, speaks with visitors at the grand opening of their new facility in Milton on Saturday, September 28.



KANDU executive director Kathy Hansen speaks with visitors during a grand opening event for KANDU Industries at their new facility in Milton on Saturday, Sept. 28.

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