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TOWN OF WAUKESHA

Marek not seeking re-election

Doerr, Fischer planning runs at town chairman post

By **Cara Spoto**
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TOWN OF WAUKESHA —
The Waukesha Town Board

appears to be in for a shake-up. With candidates already pulling papers to run for three seats on the board, Town Chairman John

Marek announced Monday that he will not be seeking re-election. On the same day, fellow board members Michael Doerr and Brian Fischer

said they planned to run for the post themselves. "I believe in term limits, and I am going to step down and let someone take the reins," Marek said of his

decision. First elected to the board in 2013, Marek said he didn't have plans to run for any other position on it. Three seats in total are up

for election this spring: Town Chairman, Supervisor 2, and Supervisor 4. The election for

See **MAREK**, PAGE 8A



Marek Doerr Fischer

SEASONAL SPECTACLE



WAUKESHA — Rob "Wacky Wheeler" Summerbell rode over his daughter, Lilah, and friend John Komp during the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday. After 18 years of performances, this is his last year of participating in parades.



Waukesha Firefighter Jeff Byer passes out candy at the start of the Waukesha Christmas Parade.



Reindeer joined the parade.



Performers with the Aspire Dance Center dance along the Waukesha Christmas Parade route Sunday.



Floats and flames made their way along the parade route during the Waukesha Christmas Parade.

Photos by Mary Catanese, Special to The Freeman

Waukesha sewer, return flow rates slated to increase

Total water and sewer bills could go up by 12 percent

By **Cara Spoto**
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WAUKESHA — Water and sewer customers in the city of Waukesha could see their quarterly bills increase by roughly 12 percent next year as a result of sewer and "return flow" rate increases slated to take effect on Jan. 1.

Aldermen will be asked to approve the new rates, which are being put forward to pay for costs related to various sewer upgrades and the Lake Michigan diversion project, when they meet at 6:30 p.m. this evening at City Hall, 201 Delafield St.

If the Common Council approves the rate hikes, residents should first see the impact of the increases on their March water and sewer bills.

Sewer rate

Residential sewer rates are currently \$6.62 per 1,000 gallons of use, with the average homeowner paying about \$94 a quarter for the usage, according to utility data.

If the sewer rate increase is approved, homeowners would see that rate increase to \$7.25 per 1,000 gallons of use on Jan. 1, bringing the sewer portion of their quarterly bill to about \$103.

A presentation made to the Board of Public Works earlier this month noted a number of factors prompting the proposed increase, including projected operating increases of 2.13 percent, and plans to issue \$5.4 million in debt to pay for system projects in 2019.

Return flow rate

New to bills this year, the residential "return flow" rate is currently 62 cents per 1,000 gallons of use, with the average homeowner paying about \$7.50 per quarter for that usage.

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SOUND OFF

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Volume 160, No. 168



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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Partly sunny
High 32 / Low 24

See complete forecast on Page 8A



JOHN SCHOENKNECHT
Waukesha State Bank column continues ▶ 5A

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Wednesday - Friday 10-6; Saturday 10-3

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
 Mostly cloudy
25

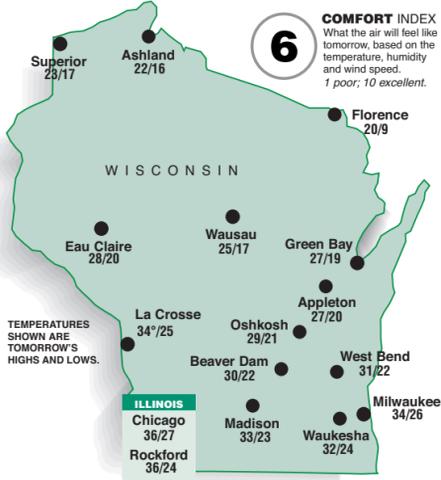
TOMORROW
 Partly sunny
32/24

THURSDAY
 Partly cloudy
35/30

FRIDAY
 Rain showers developing
44/35

SATURDAY
 Chance of rain showers
44/32

REGIONAL FORECAST



ALMANAC
 Statistics for yesterday

High/Low, Waukesha	30/23
High/Low, Chicago	34/24
Normal High / Low	44/31
Last year's high for date	36
Last year's low for date	26
Precipitation, Waukesha	0.00"
Precip. month to date	1.65"
Normal month to date	1.73"
Precip. year to date	42.19"
Normal year to date	31.74"

WIND CHILL TOMORROW
 A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body.

8 a.m.	20
Noon	24
4 p.m.	25
8 p.m.	16

HEATING DEGREE
 An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the day's mean temperature was above 65 degrees.

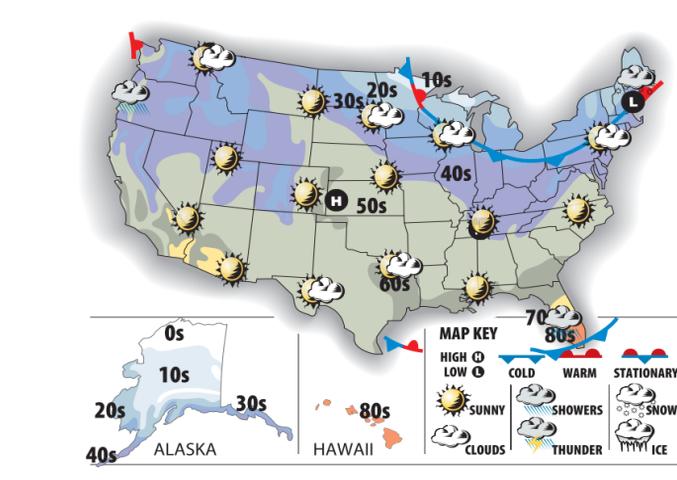
Yesterday	36
Month to date	562
Season to date	1074
Normal season to date	1029

Nov. 23 Nov. 29 Dec. 7 Dec. 15
 Full Last Q New First Q

Sunset today 4:24 p.m.
 Sunrise tomorrow 6:53 a.m.

Moonrise tomorrow 3:25 p.m.
 Moonset tomorrow 4:46 a.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid-20s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s. North winds 5 to 10 mph.

MARINE FORECAST

Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
 Tonight: Southwest wind 15 to 20 knots with gusts to around 30 knots veering west with gusts to around 30 knots late in the evening, then becoming west 15 to 20 knots with gusts to around 25 knots. Lake Michigan water temperature is 44 degrees.

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX FORECAST

The UVI forecast for Wednesday is 0
 UV scale and warnings on possible skin damage: 0-2 low risk, 3-5 moderate risk, 6-7 high risk, 8-10 very high risk, 11-over extreme risk.

All maps, forecasts and data provided by
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TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

ATLANTA High: 55 Low: 34	CHICAGO High: 36 Low: 27	DALLAS High: 60 Low: 42
DENVER High: 59 Low: 28	LOS ANGELES High: 66 Low: 58	MIAMI High: 82 Low: 69
MINNEAPOLIS High: 30 Low: 23	NEW YORK High: 41 Low: 20	PHOENIX High: 75 Low: 53
SEATTLE High: 52 Low: 43	ST. LOUIS High: 54 Low: 33	WASHINGTON High: 48 Low: 31

Water

From Page 1A

If the "return flow" rate increase is approved, homeowners would see that rate increase to \$1.85 per 1,000 gallons of use on Jan. 1, bringing that portion of their quarterly bill to about \$22.

The "return flow" rate was added to water and sewer bills in June to help finance preliminary costs associated with a \$125.6 million pipeline that will return treated water back to Lake Michigan as part of the diversion project.

Although construction on the 15-mile pipeline is not expected to begin until 2020, utility officials were in the early stages of designing and permitting the return-flow infrastructure when the new charge was approved, and had just taken out \$16.6 million in anticipation notes to fund the improvements.

Gradual increases

Utility staffers have said their intent is to implement rate increases in a series of gradual steps so users are not met with a sizable wallop all at once. Based on current projections, average quarterly bills for water, sewer and return flow charges, are expected to total \$324 by the year 2023.

"The Waukesha Water Commission wanted staff to review rates overall (water, sewer and return flow) with the goal of limiting increases to a maximum of 15 percent overall in any one year, therefore, we have been working with the sewer utility to review their rates to obtain that goal," Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak added Monday.

Chicago hospital shooting claims three lives; gunman also dead

CHICAGO (AP) — A gunman opened fire Monday at a Chicago hospital, killing a police officer and two hospital employees in an attack that began with a domestic dispute and exploded into a firefight with law enforcement inside the medical center. The suspect was also dead, authorities said.

It was not clear if the attacker took his own life or was killed by police at Mercy Hospital on the city's South Side, the police chief said.

"This just tears at the soul of our city. It is the face and a consequence of evil," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said, fighting back tears.

The chain of events that led to the shooting began with an argument in the hospital parking lot involving the gunman and a woman with whom he was in a domestic relationship, police said.

When a friend of the woman's tried to intervene, "the offender lifted up his shirt and displayed a handgun," Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said.

The woman's friend ran into the hospital to call for help, and the gunfire began seconds later, with the attacker killing the woman he was arguing with. Johnson described her only as a hospital employee.

When officers arrived, the suspect fired at their squad car and then ran inside the hospital. The police gave chase.



Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, left, comforts Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson on Monday during a news conference at the University of Chicago Medical Center after a gunman opened fire at Mercy Hospital.

Inside the medical center, the gunman exchanged fire with officers and "shot a poor woman who just came off the elevator" before he was killed, Johnson said.

The slain officer was identified as Samuel Jimenez, who joined the department in February 2017 and had recently completed his probationary period, Johnson said.

The identities of the other victims, and the gunman, were not immediately released.

Mercy began in 1852, when the Sisters of Mercy religious group converted a rooming house. During the Civil War, the hospital treated both Union soldiers and Confederate prisoners of war, according to its website.

Sheriff: California wildfire death toll rises to 79

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — A Northern California sheriff says two more sets of human remains were found Monday, bringing the total number killed in a devastating California wildfire to 79.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea

says the list of those unaccounted for after a deadly wildfire has dropped to around 700.

He says that's about 300 fewer than what was posted at the start of Monday.

Authorities stressed that many of the people on the list may be safe and unaware they have been reported missing.

The so-called Camp Fire swept through the rural town of Paradise on Nov. 8. It has destroyed nearly 12,000 homes.

TODAY'S BRIEFING



Christopher Watts sits in court for his sentencing hearing at the Weld County Courthouse on Monday in Greeley, Colo. Watts received three consecutive life sentences without a chance at parole on Monday, nearly two weeks after pleading guilty to avoid the death penalty.

NATION/WORLD

Man who strangled wife, killed his two girls sentenced to life

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — A man who strangled his pregnant wife and suffocated their two young daughters wanted to escape his marriage and growing family, prosecutors said Monday as a judge imposed a sentence of life without parole as part of a plea deal that kept the killer from facing the death penalty.

Christopher Watts, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago, did not speak during the hearing. One of his attorneys said Watts was "sincerely sorry."

Watts, 33, was formally sentenced to consecutive life sentences for the murders. He also received a 48-year sentence for unlawful termination of a pregnancy and 12 years each for tampering with a human body.

The girls' bodies were found submerged in an oil tank on property owned by the company Watts worked for. His wife's body was found in a shallow grave nearby.

Democratic senators sue over Whitaker's appointment as AG

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three Senate Democrats filed a lawsuit Monday arguing that Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker's appointment is unconstitutional and asking a federal judge to remove him.

The suit, filed by Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, argues that Whitaker's appointment violates the Constitution



Whitaker

because he has not been confirmed by the Senate.

Whitaker was chief of staff to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and was elevated to the top job after Sessions was ousted by President Donald Trump on Nov. 7.

The Justice Department released a legal opinion last week that said Whitaker's appointment would not violate the clause because he is serving in an acting capacity.

The Justice Department issued a statement Monday defending Whitaker's appointment as "lawful" and said it comports with the Appointments Clause, the Federal Vacancies Reform Act and legal precedent.

Trump uncertain on pledge to keep chief of staff Kelly

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump isn't committing to a previous pledge to keep chief of staff John Kelly for the remainder of his term, part of widespread speculation about staffing changes that could soon sweep through his administration.

Trump, on "Fox News Sunday," praised Kelly's work ethic and much of what he brings to the position but added, "There are certain things that I don't like that he does."

"There are a couple of things where it's just not his strength. It's not his fault. It's not his strength," said Trump, who added that Kelly himself might want to depart.

White House to restore Acosta's pass — with a warning

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration said Monday that it will fully restore CNN reporter Jim Acosta's White House credentials, but warned that he must follow a series of rules at future press conferences.

White House officials Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Bill Shine sent Acosta a letter explaining his status. His press pass had been



Acosta

revoked after a dust-up at a press conference with President Donald Trump.

On Twitter, CNN declared victory, saying: "Today the @WhiteHouse fully restored @Acosta's press pass. As a result, our lawsuit is no longer necessary."

The White House officials said that at future press conferences, each reporter would be limited to a single question, with follow-up questions permitted at the discretion of the president or staff. It adds that "Yielding the floor" includes ... physically surrendering the microphone to White House staff."

The letter said failure to abide by the rules "may result in suspension or revocation of the journalist's hard pass."

WISCONSIN

Man stabbed several times, then run over with vehicle

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A 20-year-old man is in serious condition in Milwaukee after authorities say he was stabbed multiple times and then run over with a vehicle.

Police say the victim and another man got into a fight Sunday night, and when the victim fell in the street after being repeatedly stabbed the other man intentionally ran him over.

The victim was taken to a hospital. Police are searching for the suspect.

Deer license sales down from 2017

MADISON (AP) — Hunters purchased slightly fewer deer licenses heading into opening day of Wisconsin traditional nine-day gun season.

The nine-day season began Saturday. Department of Natural Resources data shows hunters had

Marek

From Page 1A

the at-large posts will take place on April 2, unless a primary is required on Feb. 19.

Doerr, who currently serves as Supervisor 3, was first elected to the post in April 2014. Fischer was first elected to his current post of Supervisor 4 in 2011.

Doerr

An operations area manager for AT&T and a former Town of Waukesha firefighter, Doerr said he is running for the chairman's post to help restore a "level of civility" to the board, which has been plagued by infighting over the last year.

Doerr said that he thinks his background working in a union environment, which he said can be "acrimonious at times," would help in that effort.

"I think I have a good stake for the chairman's position with the work I have done in the town for 15 years. I was on the town fire department for 10 years. I took a couple of years off, and now I have been on the Town Board for five years," he added.

Fischer

Fischer said he is running for the post because he is concerned about what he sees as a lack of openness in Waukesha town government lately. He mentioned closed-session discussions regarding the creation of the town administrator position and the proposed merger of the town of Waukesha's and Vernon's public works departments as examples of that lack of openness.

"There are a lot of people who are turned off by town government, because they see how a lot of these things are done," said Fischer, a registered architect and professional engineer.

As chairman, Fischer said, he would work to ensure that more town residents are allowed to participate in their local government.

"I think they have been shut out of it," he added.

Process

Doerr and Fischer can begin gathering signatures to run for chairman on Dec. 1. Whoever wins the April 2 election would be sworn into the post on April 17, said Kathy Nickolaus, the town's clerk/treasurer and administrator.

Marek's last day in the position would be April 16, Nickolaus said.

Doerr has filed his declaration of candidacy form saying he plans to run for chairman.

Fischer has not, but has until Jan. 2 to do so. He has already filed non-candidacy paperwork stating he will not be running for his Supervisor 4 position.

Attempts to reach Supervisor 2 Larry Wolf to see if he is planning to run for re-election were unsuccessful Monday.

purchased 774,332 deer licenses as of midnight Friday, down 2.5 percent from 2017.

The DNR sold dramatically fewer gun-only licenses. Hunters had purchased 442,820 gun licenses as of midnight Friday compared with 488,826 in 2017.

Pocan says GOP leader Vos needs to 'be better'

MADISON (AP) — Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan says Republican Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos "needs to be better" and drop thoughts of moving the date of the 2020 presidential primary and weakening the governor's powers.

Vos and Republican leaders are looking at making a number of changes in a lame duck legislative session before Democrat Tony Evers replaces Republican Gov. Scott Walker on Jan. 7.

Pocan became close friends with Vos when they were both in the Assembly. Vos did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Pocan, Kind undecided on backing Pelosi

MADISON (AP) — Two of Wisconsin's three Democrats in the U.S. House aren't saying yet whether they will back Nancy Pelosi as speaker.

Rep. Mark Pocan, of Black Earth, told reporters Monday that he hopes to make a decision after he has a chance to meet privately with Pelosi. But Pocan says the odds are Pelosi will be elected as leader.

Rep. Ron Kind, of La Crosse, opposed Pelosi as minority leader two years ago. Kind spokesman Aaron White said Monday that Kind was undecided and is scheduled to meet with her later this month.

In a statement on Monday, 16 House Democrats said they will vote for "new leadership" in January.