



Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media

### National Peace Officers Memorial Day

BROOKFIELD — Chief Daniel Tushaus, left, and Honor Guard member Luke Switalski salute as the piper plays "Amazing Grace" during the Memorial Wreath presentation Monday at the Brookfield Civic Plaza.



Color Team flag raiser Police Officer Julie Stubblefield opens the National Peace Officers Memorial Day Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Brookfield Civic Plaza on Monday.



Piper Capt. Anders Rhode plays "Amazing Grace" during the National Peace Officers Memorial Day Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Brookfield Civic Plaza on Monday.



The Brookfield Police Honor Guard stands at attention as Bugler Staff Sgt. Zexin Zhang of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy plays "To the Colors."

## Falls liquor theft mentioned on 'Saturday Night Live'

WAUKESHA — A Milwaukee man's alleged theft of Hennessy cognac from a Menomonee Falls Costco store earlier this month got national attention over the weekend when it was mentioned on "Saturday Night Live."

Jerry Richardson, 40, was charged last week in Waukesha County Circuit Court with a felony count of retail theft after he allegedly stole 24 bottles of Hennessy VS cognac and a home security system.

A criminal complaint said Richardson went to the Costco store on Pershing Drive on May 3, telling a greeter he had no membership card as his wife was already in the store. Twenty minutes later, Richardson went through a checkout lane that had no attendant, and told a worker checking receipts at the door he was unable to return the merchandise without a receipt. The employee followed Richardson out of the store, got the license plate number off the Dodge Caravan he was driving, and called police, who sent out an alert for the suspect in the case.

Two days later, on May 5,



Richardson

Menomonee Falls police learned from Glendale police they had Richardson in custody, wearing the same clothes he wore at the time of the Menomonee Falls incident.

The alcohol Richardson allegedly stole was worth \$791.76; the home security system was worth \$790, the complaint said.

At the time of the incident, Richardson was on bond for a retail theft case out of Milwaukee County, where he is charged as a habitual criminal.

The caper drew a brief mention on the "Weekend Update" segment of "SNL."

When asked if he was surprised that the case received such attention, Menomonee Falls Police Capt. Jeff Knop said Monday, "I don't know that we were surprised. There are certain stories that through social media or otherwise are broadcast far and wide these days. I guess it's just unusual enough that other media outlets have taken some notice of it."

## Local legislators introduce proposal to lower water bills for ratepayers

WAUKESHA — A bill brought forward this week by area legislators could save city of Waukesha residents money in the long run when it comes to the city's switch to using Lake Michigan water.

According to a news release sent out by state Senator Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield, Rep. Adam Neylon, R-Pewaukee and Rep. Scott Allen, R-Waukesha have joined him in introducing a bill that would authorize the Wisconsin Department of Administration to allow repayment of federal Safe Drinking Water Loans over a maximum of 30 years, instead of the current 20-year maximum.

"Due to recent changes in federal law, the state has the opportunity to grant more flexibility in how it funds water infrastructure projects to the benefit of ratepayers," said Allen in the release.

The federal Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) helps local governments finance drinking water infrastructure projects needed to meet federal drinking water standards. Waukesha is facing an expensive project to switch from its depleted and naturally contaminated groundwater supply to Lake Michigan water. It is estimated that a change from a 20-year to a 30-year repayment could save the average Waukesha ratepayer



Kapenga



Neylon

up to \$56 a year.

"Water infrastructure has a useful life spanning generations. Sharing the costs of these projects over more years lessens the impact on current ratepayers and more fairly allocates costs," said Neylon.

During the last budget, Kapenga, Neylon and Allen successfully championed a similar provision that extended allowable loan periods to 30 years for wastewater projects. This move was projected to save the average Waukesha ratepayer up to \$84 per year.

"Between these two actions, the average Waukesha household water bill will be up to \$140 lower per year than if this measure wasn't passed," said Kapenga. "This is a way to help lessen the impact of switching to Lake Michigan water."



Allen

## Inmate allegedly set off fire alarm to get sleep

By Brandon Anderegg  
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WAUKESHA — A Waukesha County jail inmate has been charged after he allegedly blew dust into a vent, causing the fire alarms to go off — so he could get some sleep.

Dionate R. Burkhalter, 20, was charged with misdemeanor intentionally give false alarm, according to a Waukesha County Cir-

cuit Court criminal complaint.

Burkhalter allegedly pulled the fire alarm on Saturday to attract the attention of jail staff after they denied his request to be transferred to another cell, according to a criminal complaint. Burkhalter told jail staff that he could not get any sleep because of a neighbor who was pounding on a desk and singing loudly.

He also demanded that

jail staff call a supervisor, but was told to be patient. Burkhalter was complaining about the noise to an inmate in another cell when he said "If they won't call backup, I'll make the lieutenant respond. Watch this."

A few minutes later, the fire alarm was activated, according to the complaint.

Burkhalter believed he would be moved to a new cell after the incident and told another inmate, "I'll

get written up and a new charge but I don't care. I will get some sleep," according to the complaint. However, jail staff did not change his cell following the incident.

The criminal complaint indicates Burkhalter set off the fire alarm on at least six occasions, according to the complaint.

Burkhalter could receive up to an additional 9 months of jail time if convicted.

### IN BRIEF

#### North Prairie man allegedly causes head-on collision while drunk

WAUKESHA — A North Prairie man was allegedly responsible for a head-on crash that occurred in the Town of Genesee May 11.

Matthew D. Bonk, age 23, could face six years in prison on a charge of operating while intoxicated causing injury - second offense.

According to the criminal complaint, officers were dispatched to Hwy 83, just north of Hwy 59, for a report of a crash involving a vehicle traveling in the wrong lane of traffic.

The complaint says the victim in the crash was headed northbound on Hwy 83 when they were struck by Bonk, who was driving the wrong way.

Bonk allegedly told officers that he was coming from Cahootz bar and didn't really know what happened as "it was all a blur."

Bonk allegedly fell asleep in the back of a deputy's squad car and had extremely slow speech.

The complaint says Bonk had preliminary breath test results of .219 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath and was placed under arrest.

The victim in the crash was transported to Waukesha Memorial Hospital with a sore neck and swollen nose.

#### Eagle man charged with OWI, hit-and-run

WAUKESHA — An Eagle man has been charged after he allegedly struck a man with his truck as he left an Eagle tavern and drove away Sunday morning.

David Hansen, 34, was charged Monday in Waukesha County Circuit Court with hit-and-run causing injury, operating while intoxicated causing injury, and OWI — second offense, and faces five days to 7.25 years in prison, as well as a possible lifetime loss of driving

privileges.

A criminal complaint said Hansen was at Rustix Bar in Eagle around midnight Sunday when an incident occurred where he allegedly pushed his girlfriend to the floor when she wouldn't surrender his keys. A man chased Hansen from the bar to his truck and tried to stop Hansen from driving away, but Hansen put his truck in reverse and struck the man with the open driver's side door, knocking him to the ground, where he suffered scrapes to an arm and a leg. Hansen also reportedly struck three other vehicles, a fence and a tree, the complaint said.

Hansen, who was found at his home after witnesses got the truck's license number, had his vehicle in his garage, with damage matching what had been reported, the complaint said. Hansen said he drove away after the man attempted to punch him and may have struck the man with the door as he backed up, but wasn't sure, the complaint said.

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