



JOHN SCHOENKNECHT
**Salen returns
to home, school
after war** ▶ Page 6A



**Antibiotics
or home
remedies?**
▶ Health 8B



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WAUKESHA

Fire severely damages half of Rivercrest Apartments

Initial investigation shows origin was careless smoking on balcony

By Hannah Weikel
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WAUKESHA — Preliminary police and fire investigators show the probable cause of a early-morning

structure fire at the Rivercrest Apartments in the 700 block of West St. Paul Avenue was due to careless smoking on a third-floor balcony, according to a statement from Waukesha Fire Battalion Chief Jim Haakenson.

The Waukesha Fire Department was called to the fire springing from the balcony and roof of the 20-unit apartment building several blocks from downtown around 12:17 a.m. Monday morning. Crews worked to

bring the fire under control for about an hour. Meanwhile, all residents were evacuated with help from the police department, according to the statement.

One resident was treated for smoke inhalation on scene, but no one else was injured or killed in the fire, Haakenson said.

By Monday afternoon, the apartment building was still off-limits to residents, many of whom had been assisted



Photo courtesy of Mari G. Colaiacomo

Flames spring skyward from the Rivercrest Apartments fire early Monday morning. A resident of the Riverwalk Apartments across St. Paul Avenue took the photo.

by the Waukesha Red Cross through the night. Property owner Bob Peterson was on scene with

his sons, several police and fire investigators and his See RIVERCREST, PAGE 8A

Starting early to prepare kids for school

Local child care programs adding three-year-old classes

By Ashley Haynes
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WAUKESHA — The jump start on making sure kids are prepared for the world of education is now beginning even sooner. Across the county, 4K programs have become popular options for parents who want their children to become accustomed to thriving in a learning environment. Now, some child care centers offer three-year-old kindergarten options as an expansion to their programming.

Fox Tale Preschool in Waukesha, also a 4K community partner with the Waukesha School District, is one center that has hopped aboard the 3K programming trend. Run through the Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, Fox Tales' three-year-old kindergarten program boasts a "developmentally appropriate program" that can help students grasp basic skills and concepts. Growth in areas like social skills and motor skills are emphasized.

While Fox Tales is a reliable option for some Waukesha parents, one local preschool has been in the 3K business for 45 years.

At the Kindergarten Preparatory School in Pewaukee, 3K has been offered since 1972 to provide a healthy range of child care options. Director Elizabeth Van



Submitted photo

Charlotte Werner, Emi Takahashi and Kacey Van Slett take some time for outdoor exploration at the Kindergarten Preparatory School in Pewaukee.

Slett, whose two daughters attend K-Prep, explained that kids who participate in a 3K program become both emotionally and socially prepared for schooling.

"Really, nowadays, education is starting out so young," said Van Slett. "4K is not required yet, but almost everyone is part of some

sort of government funded 4K program."

She explained that 3K provides a solid base of knowledge that young ones can use before they head into 4K. In addition to learning a few basics such as beginning numbers and a handful of letters, the three-year-olds get used to

being around adults and peers.

"I think the earlier they get into a program, the easier the transition [into school] is," said Van Slett. "If they show up to 4K and have no classroom experience, it can be difficult. We have goals for

See 3K, PAGE 8A

WAUKESHA WATER PROJECT

Water utility holds first of open house series at West High

WAUKESHA — Today, Waukesha West High School will host the first of three open houses this week. All are open to the public and are the first information sessions since Waukesha officials announced their water partnership with Milwaukee late last month.

Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak will be at all three meetings this week to answer questions about the latest updates to the water supply project, including the contract between Milwaukee and Waukesha that gained approval from committees in both cities and will be discussed by Milwaukee's full Common Council this morning and Waukesha's council on Dec. 5.

Members of the Great Water Alliance team, which has helped steer the Waukesha Water Utility and works to bring the public up to speed with the water deal, will offer a presentation and in-depth displays at all three open houses.

Waukesha's \$286.2 million water diversion project is expected to double or triple water rates in the coming years. About \$40 million was saved by choosing Milwaukee over Oak Creek for a water.

The meeting dates, locations and times are as follows:

■ **Today:** Waukesha West High School, Media Center, 3301 Saylesville Road from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

■ **Wednesday:** Waukesha South High School, Media Center, 401 E. Roberta Ave. from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

■ **Thursday:** Waukesha North High School, Media Center, 2222 Michigan Ave. from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

— Freeman Staff

Man shot during Town of Oconomowoc hunt

TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC — An unidentified man suffered non-life threatening injuries when he was shot while duck hunting in the town Sunday afternoon.

A call was placed to the Oconomowoc Police Department Monday, but the department said comments on the situation would be handled by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The state's Hunter Education Administrator Jon King said the duck hunter was floating in a kayak when he was struck in both legs by a bullet fired by an unidentified deer hunter. He said the duck hunter went to the hospital where he received stitches and was released soon after.

King said late Monday afternoon that he wasn't yet briefed on the

exact location on the incident, and there are details he cannot yet share. The state's website said the incident was on public land within the county.

The incident is still under investigation and the state DNR will share more details when it believes it is appropriate, said King.

The DNR says six other hunters were shot — none fatally — during

the nine-day gun deer season.

According to the DNR's website Monday, five hunters accidentally shot themselves during the season. The sixth was shot by someone in his own party during a deer drive in Ozaukee County on Wednesday. The seventh hunter was the man wounded in the Town of Oconomowoc.

— Freeman Staff and The Associated Press

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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly sunny
High 44 / Low 35

See complete forecast on Page 8A

From the Waukesha police blotter

1:42 a.m. **Saturday** — A woman was reportedly trying to start a fight in a Mexican restaurant in the 100 block of West Main Street. She accused several people of being racist, poured her drink on them and smashed a bottle. No complaint was made.

>> More of the weekend blotter on 7A

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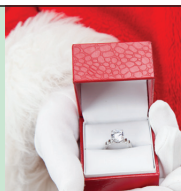
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