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Tuesday, November 23, 2021

gmtoday.com

“Waukesha has held what could be described as a Norman Rockwell-type of Christmas parade for almost six decades. Last night our wonderful Waukesha parade became the scene of a horrific tragedy.”

— Mayor Shawn Reilly

Heartbreaking



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Kambrie Frizzell and Alderman Cory Payne joined many gathered on Monday at Cutler Park for a vigil honoring those killed and wounded during the Waukesha Christmas parade on Sunday.

Police identify five who died after man drove through crowds at Waukesha Christmas parade

By Nikki Brahm and Jake Ekdahl
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — The five victims who died after a man drove through crowds at the Waukesha Christmas parade at 4:39 p.m. Sunday have been identified.

The names are Virginia Sorenson, 79, LeAnna Owen, 71, Tamara Durand, 52, Jane Kulich, 52, and Wilhelm Hospel, 81.

Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson announced the names of the five killed during a press conference at 1 p.m. Monday. An additional 48 victims are injured, a number which may increase as more information is gathered, he said.

Two of the 48 injured are children in critical condition, Thompson said. Alan Johnson, vice president of



Inside

Editorial: Healing Waukesha's wounded heart. 4A

critical care and specialty services with ProHealth Care said among the 48 victims, 29 arrived at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Eleven of those victims were transported to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Johnson said.

See PARADE, PAGE 8A

'God will be with us as we heal'

Hundreds gather at vigil for those killed and injured in parade tragedy

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Amid the coldest temperatures of the season thus far, there were tears, hugs and the overwhelming illumination of candlelight as the sun dipped beneath the sky.

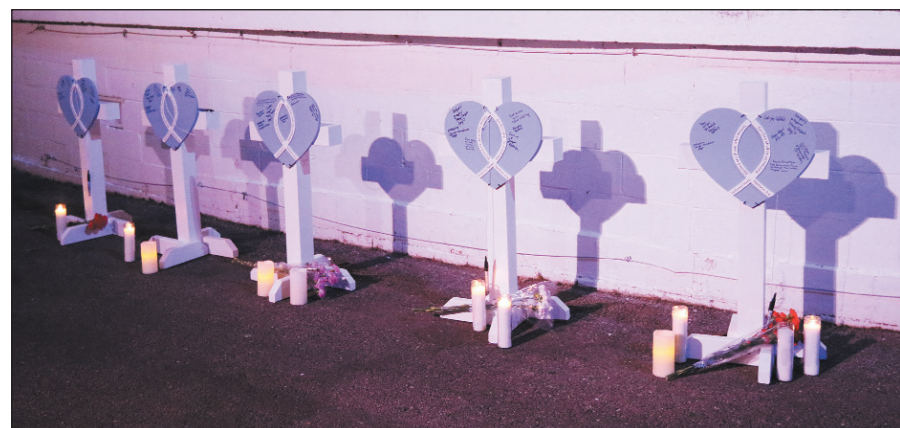
Hundreds of mourners and supporters huddled together at Cutler Park on Monday to commemorate the five people killed and the nearly 50 others injured when a man drove through the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.

Local officials and members of the faith community spoke to the crowd before the candle-lighting vigil that was augmented with a somber instrumental rendition of “Amazing Grace.” The names of the people killed in the parade also were read aloud.

See VIGIL, PAGE 3A



Jessica Lahner keeps the flame from burning out as her daughter, Britton, holds the candle during a vigil for those killed and injured in the Waukesha Christmas parade at Cutler Park on Monday.



Five crosses representing those killed during the Waukesha Christmas parade.

Waukesha parade suspect allegedly ran over victim in previous incident

Milwaukee County DA: Conducting 'internal review' over bail decision

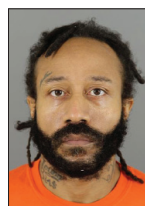
By Nikki Brahm
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262-513-2651

WAUKESHA — The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office announced they are conducting an “internal review” of the bail decision for a prior case involving the suspect who allegedly drove through crowds at the Waukesha Christmas parade on Sunday, resulting in five fatalities.

The suspect has been identified as Darrell Brooks, 39, from Milwaukee.

In a previous case from earlier this month, Brooks allegedly ran over a victim with his vehicle, according to a criminal complaint.

According to a statement issued by the Office of Milwaukee County District



Brooks

Attorney John Chisholm, they are currently conducting an internal review of the recent bail recommendation for Brooks, which resulted in his being released from custody on Nov. 11.

Brooks has two open cases out of Milwaukee County.

According to online court records, in Milwaukee County, on Nov. 5, 2021, charges of resisting or obstructing an officer, 2nd-degree recklessly endangering safety, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery were filed against Brooks.

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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly cloudy
High 50 / Low 32

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Rogers trauma recovery director offers guidance to community on how to process events and speak with children ▶ Page 6A

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WEEKEND EDITION



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SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

20 years later



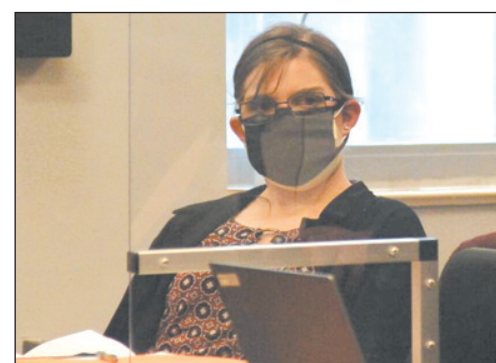
Alexandre Fuchs/AP Photo

The remains of the World Trade Center stand amid the debris in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Cameron Marx, a freshman at Mukwonago High School, nails a flag into the ground before the school in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.



Freeman file photo

Anissa Weier, 19, was ordered to be placed on conditional release from the state mental institution where she's been nearly since the case began.

Woman in Slender Man case released to live at home

Weier will leave mental institution Monday

By Brian Huber
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WAUKESHA — Anissa Weier, one of the women accused in the 2014 attack on a classmate to appease the fictional internet character Slender Man, was ordered to be placed on conditional release from the state mental institution where she's been nearly since the case began.

Weier, now 19, was 12 when she and Morgan Geyser, also then 12, attacked classmate Payton Leutner in May 2014, stabbing her repeatedly. Weier was found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect on a charge of second-degree attempted homicide, and is under state supervision for 25 years. Geyser was found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect of a count of attempted homicide and is serving a 40-year commitment to the state Department of Health Services.

Weier petitioned the court for conditional release — meaning she'd be released from the Winnebago Mental Health Institute but still monitored for the remainder of the 25-year period — last November. After three doctors examined her, Circuit Court Judge Michael O. Bohren granted her conditional release July 1, saying she's shown no other signs of major mental illness or psychotic disorder since the incident, but she remained at the WMHI until a release plan was drawn up. On Friday, Bohren approved that plan, which calls for Weier to reside with her father.

After the sides reviewed the plan, they made amendments to it in court Friday, including allowing for her records to be transferred to treatment providers at Waukesha County Health and Human Services.

See WEIER, PAGE 8A

Flags and first-hand accounts

Mukwonago High School commemorates 9/11

By Jake Ekdahl
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MUKWONAGO — Although no student in K-12 schools today was alive during the September 11, 2001 attacks, Mukwonago High School is utilizing the first-hand accounts of others to give them a deeper understanding.

The high school social studies department is compiling memories and remembrances from others, locals and non-locals alike, to share their first-hand experiences. The submissions are being taken via a Google form and are still being accepted.

To submit a first-hand experience of what you experienced on September 11, 2001, visit <https://rb.gy/mluunp>.

"We hope that we can help them understand more of the event through this," said social studies teacher Maura Frenn. "Anyone (can) tell us what they remember about that day and we can use that in our classroom."

See 9/11, PAGE 8A

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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly cloudy
High 79 / Low 65

See complete forecast on Page 8A



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Fall fun guide

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WAUKESHA COUNTY



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Thursday, February 3, 2022

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OCON Luv2Give

Oconomowoc High School's
free clothing store has a big heart



Rebecca Seymour/Special to The Freeman

OHS 18-21 Transition Program students CJ Jones, 20 (left) and Fabian Garay, 19, team up to organize a rack of clothing in the OCON Luv2Give store located on the OHS East Campus. Students participating in the vocational skills and experiences class help launder, sort, and inventory all donations, and are responsible for organizing and staffing the store.

By Rebecca Seymour
Special to The Freeman

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc High School has opened a new thrift store called OCON Luv2Give that offers free, gently-used clothing and accessories of all types and sizes to anyone who stops by.

The store's colorful and eclectic inventory includes unclaimed items from the school district's lost and found, as well as donated clothing from OASD staff. Looking beyond

the racks of clothing, guests will soon discover that the OCON Luv2Give shop offers so much more.

Kristi Staus is a learning strategist in the OHS 18-21 Transition Program that helps students with learning vocational and independent living skills at East Campus and in community settings.

She and her team of paraprofessionals and young adults participating in the program work together to run the store, which opened in September.

"OCON Luv2Give is a valuable community and district resource that also offers vocational experiences for our learners in the 18-21 Transition Program. Our students help launder, sort, and inventory all donations, and are responsible for organizing and staffing the store," she explained.

Fabian Garay, 19, helps in the shop as part of the vocational skills and experiences class.

See CLOTHES, PAGE 8A

Bail set at
\$50,000 for
Brooks in
Milwaukee
County case

Attorney: 'He's not
going anywhere'

By Brian Huber
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262-513-2674

MILWAUKEE — The man charged with dozens of felonies following the Waukesha Christmas Parade incident appeared virtually in a Milwaukee courtroom on Wednesday, where he was ordered held on a \$50,000 cash bail in a case alleging victim intimidation.

Darrell Brooks, 39, was charged with six counts of intentional homicide, 61

counts of recklessly endangering safety using a dangerous weapon, six counts of hit-and-run causing death, two counts of bail jumping and two counts of battery-domestic abuse after he allegedly drove his car through the route of the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Nov. 21. He is held on \$5 million cash bond in that case, and is due in a Waukesha court for an arraignment Feb. 11.

See BROOKS, PAGE 8A

Flash-bangs, gas used
to arrest axe-wielding
Hartland man

Charged in case where
shelter-in-place order issued

By Dan Colton
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HARTLAND — Village police used at least two flash-bang grenades and a gas irritant to apprehend an axe-wielding man inside a Hartland Drive home early Sunday morning.

According to a criminal complaint filed Wednesday in Waukesha County Circuit Court, Victor Lucero, 33, has been charged with stalking while armed with a dangerous weapon, misdemeanor battery, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct

while armed with a dangerous weapon, criminal trespass and failure to comply with officers.

All the charges carry domestic abuse modifiers.

Court documents indicate Lucero allegedly broke into the home around 2:30 a.m. after arguing with a woman who lived there. She and several other residents hid in a locked room and contacted police, authorities said.

When police arrived, they said it was unclear whether Lucero remained inside the house or if he had taken to

See INCIDENT, PAGE 8A

Su Casa Grande to hold fundraiser
for Milwaukee deputy

Business to give 30 percent of sales to GoFundMe

MENOMONEE FALLS — Following the shooting of a Milwaukee County sheriff's deputy last week, Su Casa Grande in Menomonee Falls will be donating 30% of its sales to the deputy's GoFundMe on Feb. 9.

On Jan. 26, Deputy Christian Almonte, who graduated from Menomonee Falls High School according to a post on the school's Facebook page, was involved in a police search in Milwaukee when he was shot multiple times.

He was struck in both of his arms and his torso, the Associated Press reported, and the person who allegedly shot Almonte took his own life.

Almonte was released from the hospital the following day.

Su Casa Grande will holding a fundraiser for the deputy next Wednesday.

The restaurant, at N84-W15842 Appleton Ave., will donate 30% of its sales between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. to the

GoFundMe of the deputy who played football at Menomonee Falls High School and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

For the most up-to-date information about the event, visit www.facebook.com/SuCasaGrande.

Anyone who would like to donate directly to the fundraiser can do so at <https://bit.ly/3rkmq2O>.

Contributing:
The Associated Press

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Fun Things To Do This Weekend

Annual Pink Zone Fundraiser, Friday beginning at 5 p.m. at Waukesha West, 3301 Saylesville Road, as part of the Waukesha West girls basketball program. The event will raise money to fight breast cancer and include over 60 raffle items including an autographed bat, baseball and photo from Jarred Kelenic, who is currently the Seattle Mariners centerfielder and a former Waukesha West alumnus; two hours of private field time valued at \$1,000 from Stiks Training Facility; Milwaukee Bucks tickets; and a 55-inch smart TV.

19th Annual Delafield Sons of American Legion Ice Fishing Tournament, Saturday,

sponsored by the Delafield Sons of the American Legion, Post #196, 333 N. Lapham Peak Road, Delafield. The fish weigh-in will take place by 4:30 p.m. sharp. The entry fee is \$10.00 (with cash prizes for the heaviest fish, 100% payback). Any area lake qualifies. There will also be door prizes, raffle prizes and complimentary meal registration.

Wee Walkers Hike, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Nixon Park in Hartland. The Hartland Walking Club is inviting "wee walkers" to take part in this month's hike.

Milwaukee County Zoo free day, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Advance reservations

not required to enjoy a free day at the zoo — which includes entry. Parking not included.

Elm Grove Winterfest, Sunday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Village Park, 13600 Juneau Boulevard. The free event includes a candy cane hunt; ice fishing derby; open ice skating on the pond; hot chocolate and snacks; and more.

Lake Geneva 27th Annual Winterfest, kicked off Wednesday and will continue Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m.-11 p.m. The event will wrap up on Sunday, Feb. 6. The national snow sculpting competition will take place. The ice castles will also be open.

WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly
cloudy
High 20
Low 2

See complete forecast on 8A



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