



The FREEMAN

A Trusted Tradition since 1859

\$1

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.

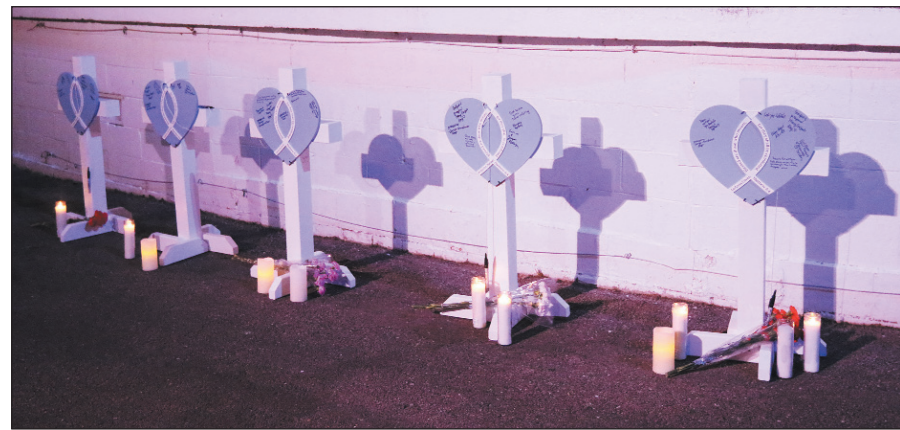
Hundreds of mourners and supporters huddled together at Cutler Park on Monday to commemorate the five people killed and the nearly 50 others injured when a man drove through the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.

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

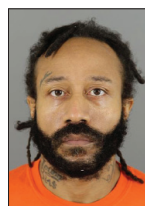
By Nikki Brahm
nbrahm@conlynet.com
262-513-2651

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.

See **BROOKS**, PAGE 6A

Volume 163 No. 167



7 97883 00027 1

INDEX

Business.....4B Health.....8B
Classified.....6B Lottery.....2A
Commentary.....4A Obituaries.....7A
Community.....5B Sports.....1B
Crossword.....5B Weather.....8A

WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly cloudy
High 50 / Low 32

See complete forecast on Page 8A

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

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREEMAN, call 262-542-2500 or go online at: gmtoday.com/subscribe

Sparkle More This Holiday Season!



Shop our unique store for the largest selection of new and pre-owned fine jewelry at affordable prices.

Celebrating Our 40th Year!

We pay top prices for gold, silver, jewelry, flatware and coins.

DAN'S L&L FINE JEWELRY

615 N. Barstow St.
Waukesha
262.549.5512

Wed.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-3

Hospitals continue treating patients after tragedy

Patients brought to multiple area hospitals

By Alex Nemece
anemec@conley.net.com
262-513-2661

WAUKESHA — Children's Hospital of Wisconsin was still performing surgeries on injured children Monday after the mass casualty event at the Christmas parade in Waukesha Sunday, officials said in a press conference Monday morning.

Children's Wisconsin Emergency Department and Trauma Center medical director Dr. Amy Drendel said law enforcement notified Children's shortly after the event and she initiated the hospital's trauma surge plan to call in nurses, doctors, surgeons and other employees to help care for the children.

Drendel said the first patient was brought to Children's Hospital at 5:30 p.m. and that 18 total were brought in for emergency care — ranging in age from 3 years old to 16 years old, including three sets of siblings.

She said the last mass trauma patient to be admitted

was around 9:30 p.m. while medical professionals worked well into the night treating children.

Drendel said the injuries sustained included facial abrasions, broken bones and "serious" head injuries.

Six of the patients were sent to the operating room Sunday night, Drendel said, while two more were undergoing surgery on Monday.

In total, 18 children were admitted into Children's Hospital as a result of the tragedy including 10 into the intensive care unit. As of the press conference Monday morning, of the 10 patients in the ICU, six patients were in critical condition, three were in serious condition and one was in fair condition in the intensive care unit. The remaining eight patients were in fair condition not in the ICU.

Two children have been discharged.

Children's Wisconsin Pediatric Intensive Care Unit medical director Dr. Michael Meyer said mental health support has been activated for families, the children

involved and staff.

"Social work, mental health teams and our chaplain teams are all actively rounding the intensive care unit as well as the other units in the hospital," Meyer said. "It is amazing to watch them work as a single team to help our families and children."

ProHealth Care Strategic Communications Director Susan Rasmussen said 29 people were seen at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Twelve people were seen in their emergency department and released along with 11 children being assessed and transferred to Children's, Rasmussen said.

Furthermore, four people, adults and children, were admitted to Waukesha Memorial and were in stable condition on Monday, Rasmussen said.

One person did arrive deceased at Waukesha Memorial, she said.

"The people of ProHealth Care extend our sympathy to all those were impacted by this tragedy," Rasmussen said. "We also wish to thank

all of the first responders who performed so admirably in the crisis."

Additionally, according to a statement from Advocate Aurora Health Public Affairs Manager Cheri Mantz, Aurora Medical Center—Summit treated 13 patients from Sunday's tragedy. Three of the 13 patients remain at the hospital with two in critical condition and one in serious condition.

"Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by this tragedy," Mantz said.

Children's Wisconsin Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael Gutzeit said Children's has appreciation and gratitude for the first responders and other hospitals that provided "tremendous support and excellent stabilization of patients."

"We all must continue to lean on each other and to encourage those impacted to reach out and use the resources available to them," Gutzeit said.

Children's Wisconsin has established a mental and behavioral health support line for families who need emotional support. The number to call is 414-266-6500.



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Jessica Madriaga writes a message on one of five crosses representing those killed during the Waukesha Christmas parade. Many gathered for a vigil at Cutler Park on Monday.

Vigil

From Page 1A

Tragedy is a familiar concept to Pardeep Singh Kaleka, executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. Kaleka, who spoke at Monday's vigil, lost his father nearly a decade ago at the Sikh temple shooting in Oak Creek.

"Tonight, we are blessed to be surrounded by our sacred faith families and amazing faith readers who stand united to support each of us in the richness of their religions and spiritualities," Kaleka said.

The Rev. Kris Androsky of the Brookfield-Elm Grove Interfaith Network also was on hand.

"We come to you, seeking peace where there seems to be no peace and healing where there only seems to be brokenness," Androsky said in her prayer. "Tonight, we seek peace and healing with you for our children, for every family and household impacted by this tragedy, for our service providers, for our leaders."

The human desire to try making sense out of a senseless event was a theme interwoven throughout the vigil. But a number of speakers, including Waukesha Fire Chief Steve Howard, said the acts of heroism were on prominent display in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

"As I talked with people, as I observed first responders and community members last night and throughout the day today, we do have a lot to be thankful for," Howard said. "I'm very thankful for the people that stepped up and set aside their family to treat the wounded."

Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson echoed similar sentiments. "Yesterday's tragic event demonstrated the character of this community," Thompson said. "When tragedy struck this great city, the community responded."

While an incident as horrific as this can provoke challenging faith questions, Deacon Mike Finley of St. Vincent de Paul's Waukesha location said he believed God was present in the face of it.

"Despite all the tragedy, we saw evidence of good, of people — not even knowing what was going on — they rushed in to help," Finley said. "God will be with us as we heal — and, unfortunately, the toughest part, perhaps, of this healing process will be forgiveness."

Looking to the future, Finley said he believes Waukesha will move forward in the difficult road ahead because of its resiliency and strong sense of community.

"I hope and I pray that God will be with us next year at the 2022 Waukesha Christmas parade where we can all celebrate again as a community," Finley said.

Resources, fundraisers for those affected by the parade tragedy

UWM AT WAUKESHA CAMPUS COUNSELING CENTER

The Campus Counseling Center is available for campus community members with concerns. Contact wak-counseling@uwm.edu or call 262-521-5480.

HELPLINE

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services said people can call or text 800-985-5990 to be connected to a trained, caring counselor — 24/7.

CULVER'S SALES TO SUPPORT WAUKESHA XTREME DANCE TEAM

Culver's on Silvermail is supporting Waukesha Xtreme Dance team from 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday. 50% of profits from that day will be given to the team to help their families.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The public is invited to find numerous resources from government and nonprofit agencies at a Friends and Family Resource Center 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at Carroll University, 100 N. East Ave., Waukesha. The Friends and Family Resource Center will provide mental health services, lunch and other resources for victims and some members of the community. The Waukesha County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program will be onsite, along with staff from the

Department of Justice Crime Victim Compensation Program, as well as the American Red Cross and other community organizations.

The Friends and Family Resource Center will open in partnership with Carroll University, the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Waukesha Victim Assistance, Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs, the city of Waukesha, Waukesha County, and other community organizations.

UNITED FOR WAUKESHA COMMUNITY FUND

Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County have joined together to create the "United for Waukesha Community Fund." This fund will support the needs of the families impacted from the tragic

incident at the annual Waukesha Christmas Parade.

Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way will be coordinating a unified effort to provide resources for these impacted families.

Anyone who wishes to show their support can do so by visiting the donation page at www.waukeshafoundation.org/parade

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT LINE

A mental and behavioral health support phone line has been established by Children's Wisconsin—Milwaukee Hospital for families that need emotional support. The line can be reached at 414-266-6500.

WAUKESHA STRONG FUNDRAISER AT THE COOP

The Coop, 350 Delafield St., is holding a charity event on Fri-

day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The restaurant will donate 100 percent of sales for the day to the Waukesha County Community Foundation.

BREWERS TO HOLD SUPPORT EVENTS

From 7:30-9 a.m. today, the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club is holding "Join Milwaukee Brewers for Coffee" at The Back Room at Colectivo Coffee, 2211 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee.

Fans are encouraged to bring a donation (cash or check) to the Brewers Community Foundation. Donations will be matched personally by David Stearns and all funds will be directed to the United for Waukesha Community Fund.

From Wednesday to Friday, the Brewers will donate \$10 from every ticket sold for their Magic of Lights light show, up to \$10,000.



Snow blower not exactly as pictured

Enter to WIN a TORO SNOWTHROWER

Gas powered, electric start, throws snow 25 feet

ENTER AT ANY OF THESE FRIENDS OF NATURE STORES

DRAWING HELD 12/17/21. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

On Wednesday, November 24th Culver's of Waukesha will donate 50% of sales to the victims and their families of the tragic events that occurred at the Waukesha Christmas Parade.



Please come enjoy a delicious meal and help support our friends and neighbors.



840 W Sunset Drive
Waukesha, WI 53189

1650 E Main Street
Waukesha, WI 53186

2600 N Grandview BLVD
Waukesha, WI 53188

A Wisconsin Based Company!



30# - 33# Fromm Gold Dog Food Senior, Adult & Large Breed Adult

\$5 OFF

Per Bag

Limited Supplies, Sale Prices Valid Until 12/24/21 or Until Sold Out. No additional coupons or discounts



"Feed & Pet Supply Stores"

Visit us online: www.fonfeed.com

OCONOMOWOC

W359 N5920 Brown St.

567-2699

M-F 8-8, SAT 8-5, SUN 9-3

GENESEE DEPOT

Hwy 59 west of Hwy 83

968-3333

M-F 8-8, SAT 8-5, SUN 9-3

SUSSEX

N64 W24340 Main St.

246-9700

M-F 9-8, SAT 9-5, SUN 10-3

Black Friday Sale 11/26-28

State of the Art Facility Open to the Public | 12 Shooting Lanes | Retail Store

NEW LIBERTY SAFES in stock for Christmas Shopping

ALL SAFES ON SALE!
NO waiting, NO unclear ship dates
Financing available

RANGE DEALS

Receive a \$50 Gift Card with any Firearm Purchase

Springfield Saint AR-15
Reg. \$1,009.99 SALE \$899.99

10% OFF All Memberships (when paid in full)



Watch Our Facebook Page for Holiday Deals!

THERANGEWI.COM

3026 Helsan Dr., Richfield | (262) 674-1550 | Across from Cabela's at the Hwy 45/145 Split

Safety changes sweep region after Waukesha tragedy

Menomonee Falls cancels parade

By Conley Media Staff
262-542-2501
news@conley.net

WAUKESHA — Area municipalities are updating their safety precautions for their holiday events and parades in the wake of the mass casualty event that took place at the Waukesha Christmas parade Sunday night.

Menomonee Falls

Menomonee Falls has decided to cancel its parade scheduled for this weekend because of the tragedy in Waukesha, an alert said on the village website.

On his Facebook page, Menomonee Falls Village President Dave Glasgow said although he has every confidence in the police department to take the appropriate actions to ensure a safe parade, the desire to stand with the people of Waukesha is weighing heavily on the hearts of those in the village.

"In Waukesha County the community parades share some of the same participants," Glasgow said in his post. "One group in particular lost several of their dear members who were planning to be in our parade this weekend. We also realize that some of our residents may be apprehensive about attending with this hitting so close to home. And there were Falls residents in Waukesha yesterday who witnessed firsthand this horrific, senseless event."

Glasgow said he had seen some talk of saying the decision was made out of fear and he wanted to let residents know that was not the case.

"No fear was involved in this decision," he said. "It's a demonstration of compassion, empathy and respect for the Waukesha community, victims and families."

Glasgow said the decision was not an easy one to make.

"But we believe under the circumstances it is the right one to make," Glasgow said in his post. "I'm reminded time and time again that Christmas, among other things, is an opportunity for healing, to give up one's self and self-interests, to think of others, and to put their needs before ours."

West Bend

In West Bend, the police department sent out a press release announcing that there will be additional precautions for the city's Christmas parade.

"In light of that event, organizers from the West Bend Christmas Parade and staff from the



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

A fire truck responds to the scene of the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.

West Bend Police Department met today (Monday) to review and discuss security and logistics for the West Bend Christmas Parade scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 28 at 5 p.m.," reads the release. "In order to ensure all participants and spectators are safe, we will be putting additional security measures in place for Sunday's parade in West Bend."

Participants and spectators attending the parade may not be able to park in spots they did in the past as additional road closures will be in place. Highway 33 at 7th Avenue will be closed to through traffic during the parade. There are detour routes marked on Highway 33 eastbound at North 18th Avenue and on Highway 33 westbound on Indiana Avenue. Drivers not attending the parade should follow the detour signs as police will have the road closed at 7th Avenue until the end of the parade. No vehicles will be allowed to cross 7th Avenue.

Parade organizers and West Bend police are asking spectators to allow more time to get to the parade, and to be cooperative with police and volunteers that are staffing the intersections and parade route.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims, their families, and the entire Waukesha community from yesterday's tragic event during their Christmas Parade," officials said in the press release.

Oconomowoc

With the Oconomowoc German Christmas Market kicking off Wednesday and its holiday parade happening on Dec. 4, city officials including Western Lakes Fire Chief Brad Bowen, Oconomowoc Police Chief Jim Pfister and Mayor Bob Magnus met today to discuss the safety plan.

Newly-named City Administrator Mark Frye said in an email to Conley Media Monday that a press release will be sent out by noon today to outline the plan the city has in place.

"As a group we will expand this process to include all the wonderful events that are held in the City throughout the year but prioritized these two due to when they are scheduled to occur," Frye said in the email.

State Rep. Barbara Ditttrich, R-Oconomowoc, said she was in contact with Bowen, who told her additional safety plans and security measures are in place.

"The safety of our celebrants is of the utmost importance," Ditttrich said in her release.

Grafton

In Grafton, the Grafton Chamber of Commerce is working to determine how/if to move forward with the 41st annual Grafton Christmas parade scheduled for Saturday.

"The safety of all our parade participants, volunteers and spectators is our utmost importance and are all at the top of our priori-

ty list," according to a statement from the chamber on Facebook. "We want to ensure a safe community gathering."

Pam King, executive director of the Grafton Chamber of Commerce, said she met with the Grafton Police Department and village officials Monday morning and they have developed a plan "that is focused on the safety and security of our participants and spectators."

"We have always had a very strong police presence at our parade, but we will definitely be adding many new precautionary measures," King said.

Police Chief Jeff Caponera issued a letter to the community Monday afternoon.

"Obviously we want to be respectful of the victims, their families and the Waukesha community," he said. "At the same time, we believe that we cannot allow this tragedy to drive us into fear and keep us from celebrating the holiday season - there has been enough fear-mongering as of late and we don't need anything to divide us."

Caponera there will be a final decision at 3 p.m. today on whether to continue the parade.

"We appreciate your patience as we navigate this unfortunate situation," he said. "Rest assured, should the parade continue as planned, we are confident that our added measures will result in a safe and enjoyable event for all."

Statements regarding Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy

"I'm struggling to find words to explain the horror of yesterday. I ask that you join me in praying for those killed and injured, as well as their families. Thank you to those who jumped into action immediately to help.

"No explanation will ever help us understand the evil that took the lives of innocent people. Like most of you, I'm extremely angry at the person who did this, but for now, we let law enforcement do their work and grieve together as a community over what just happened."

— Wisconsin Senate President
Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield

"My sympathies and prayers go out to all affected by the horrifying disaster at the Waukesha Christmas Parade. So many of our families in the 38th Assembly District take part in the parade in numerous ways in this joyous kickoff of the holiday season. While a tragedy like this is always beyond comprehension, it is particularly painful and devastating when it takes place right around the holidays at a family event.

"Western Lakes Fire Chief Brad Bowen has informed me that our emergency response teams have contributed resources and manpower to offer mutual aid in addition to area hospitals ready to receive patients. Additional plans and increased security measures are being discussed for Oconomowoc's upcoming German Christmas Market and December Christmas Parade. The safety of celebrants is the utmost importance."

— State Rep. Barbara Ditttrich,
R-Oconomowoc

"What happened last night at the Waukesha Christmas Parade was an incomprehensible tragedy. In a time when so many traditions and activities have changed or been put on hold, the Waukesha Christmas Parade was an opportunity for our community to celebrate together. My heart aches for all of the families that are forever impacted by this senseless act.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and everyone who witnessed the tragedy that happened last night in downtown Waukesha. I am grateful for the first responders in Waukesha and the surrounding communities that so quickly came to the scene. I am grateful for the bystanders that helped their fellow community members who were injured. I pray that our community does not experience anything like this ever again."

"Our community is strong. We will grieve together and we will come together to support the victims of this terrible tragedy."

— State Rep. Adam Neylon,
R-Pewaukee

"Today we experienced a horrible, senseless tragedy. I walked in the parade in the beginning. I saw all the happy children sitting on the curb. I saw the happy parents behind their children. I can still see the smiling faces. A parade is a celebration for our community. Today our community faced horror and tragedy in what should have been a community celebration. I'm deeply saddened to know that so many in our community went to a parade but ended up dealing with injuries and heartache. My heart goes out to all of those affected by this senseless act. My heart goes out to those injured as well as their families. My heart goes out to those who are witness to these events. My heart goes out to those who have lost a loved one tonight."

— Waukesha Mayor
Shaun Reilly

"No criminal punishment can heal the hearts of the families whose loved ones have been so cruelly taken from them.

"Policymakers have a duty to provide a set of laws and systems that provide for swift and fair justice while protecting the safety of the public. A system that has a bent for 'fairness' at the expense of public safety is a system that allows for too many victims. This appears to be the case with the senseless crime that occurred in Waukesha at the Holiday Parade.

"A day after a horrific crime that killed five and injured an additional 48 people, we've learned that the suspect had a lengthy criminal record ...

"We have seen time and again people released on bail in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties who have gone on to kill and injure innocent people. When will it end? What human toll has to be paid before we say 'ENOUGH!'?"

— State Rep. Scott Allen, R-Waukesha

"On behalf of the City of New Berlin's Common Council, staff and all of the residents of New Berlin we send our prayers out to the victims and the families of the tragic events during the City of Waukesha Christmas Parade. I can't help wonder how some have decided it is OK to perpetrate such a savage attack on innocent people at a time when so many gather to enjoy friends, neighbors and family and join the City of Waukesha to celebrate the Christmas season.

"May God bless the victims and the families of all who are affected by this senseless tragedy!"

— New Berlin Mayor
Dave Ament

Versiti extends blood donation center hours following Waukesha Parade tragedy

MILWAUKEE — Responding to overwhelming community support in the wake of the tragic events in Waukesha on Sunday evening, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin is extending hours at its metro-Milwaukee donation centers. Today, Wednesday and Friday, seven area locations will open additional hours to accommodate those in our community who are rolling up their sleeves to answer the call for lifesaving blood donations.

All blood types are needed, with type O positive and O negative most in demand. O positive is the most common blood type, while O negative blood is the universal type that can be received safely by all patients in emergencies when the blood type is not known.

Donors are encouraged to visit a Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin donor facility nearest to them and make an appointment today:

- Greenfield, 7210 W. Edgerton Ave.
- Kenosha, 8064 39th Ave.
- Milwaukee, 638 North 18th St.
- Racine, 1120 S. Sunnyslope Drive
- Waukesha, 2111 Springdale Road
- West Bend, 130 Valley Ave.
- Wauwatosa: 8733 Watertown Plank Road

To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 1-877-BE-A-HERO or visit Versiti online at versiti.org/WI. As center staff serves donors responding to this need, wait times may increase.

Donating blood takes about an hour. Anyone age 17 or older in good health who meets eligibility requirements is encouraged to give. Parental consent is required for donors age 16 to donate blood. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes their birth date.

Waukesha Schools providing meals today

WAUKESHA —The district provided meals on Monday despite class being canceled and is doing so again today from noon to 1 p.m.

- The meal pickup locations are:
- Butler Middle School - Main Entrance
 - Horning Middle School - Main Entrance
 - Les Paul Middle School - Main Entrance
 - North High School - Main Entrance
 - South High School - Field House Entrance
 - West High School - Main Entrance

Catholic Memorial High School hosts community Mass

Archdiocese members injured, CMH students reflect on experience

By Jake Ekdahl
jekdahl@conley.net
262-513-2657

WAUKESHA — Classes were not held at Catholic Memorial High School Monday, but students, parents and members of the community flowed into its halls all the same. They gathered for a Mass scheduled after a man drove an SUV into the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday, killing at least five and injuring at least four dozen.

CMH students took part in the parade. They were not among those injured, but only narrowly avoided the SUV.

Rory Fox and Morgan McKnight, both CMH seniors, were in the parade. Each apparently helped the other avoid serious injury or worse Sunday. McKnight said he didn't hear the vehicle approaching but when Fox turned around so did he — he then pushed Fox out of the way and got grazed by the vehicle himself but only sustained a scratch and bruises.

Multiple students said they felt the truck driven by art teacher Daniel Burau in the parade shielded them from harm.

"It was really instant," said Braydon Cooper, another CMH senior, of when he realized something was wrong. "At first I was kind of in shock... it was completely quiet."

He said people began clearing objects from the road to make a clear path for ambu-



Jake Ekdahl/Freeman Staff

Catholic Memorial President Donna Bembenek speaks during a Mass on Monday following multiple deaths and injuries at the Waukesha Christmas Parade Sunday.

lances, his mother Angela Cooper was with him and when he saw bodies "I did have one freakout moment because I didn't know where she was."

Angela Cooper said the group they were with took refuge at Realty Executives. They eventually sheltered at a nearby church until they were able to return to their vehicles.

"It was pretty horrible," CMH senior Cassie Smith said of her own experience Sunday. "I'm just happy everybody I know was OK, but my heart goes out to everybody that was affected because I know I won't forget it."

Attendees Monday embraced each other tearfully before the service began.

"We join together today to pray for those who can't be here today because of the events yesterday," said CMH President Donna Bembenek.

In a video, Milwaukee Roman Catholic Archbishop

Jerome Listeck encouraged others to join in prayer for all those involved, their families and those traumatized from witnessing the scene.

"As the shepherd of the community of southeastern Wisconsin, I feel compelled to stand in solidarity with those who have been affected by this senseless act," Listeck said. "Our prayers are with the people who have been injured and killed during the tragic incident in Waukesha. Among the injured are one of our Catholic priests, as well as multiple parishioners, and Waukesha Catholic schoolchildren."

CMH announced Monday it will be going forward with its annual dedication of the day before Thanksgiving to service.

"The event must go on because of the importance it carries to help bring the community healing," said CMH Marketing and Communications Associate Kris Hartung in a statement.

Rogers trauma recovery director offers guidance after Christmas parade tragedy

Provides advice to community on how to process events, speak with children

By Nikki Brahm
nbrahm@conleynet.com
262-513-2651

WAUKESHA — The clinical director of trauma recovery services at Rogers Behavioral Health based in Oconomowoc is providing insight to the Waukesha community on how to process the traumatic events that unfolded downtown on Sunday.

Chad Wetterneck, Ph.D., said community members are likely experiencing a range of emotions, and that's normal. It likely doesn't look the same for everyone — some may be in a state of shock, where they are not feeling much of anything. Others may be experiencing emotions where they are shaken or crying when they think about the event, he said.

"We are going to feel differently and potentially strongly about something like this, especially happening so close to where we live or if you were there — that's normal to feel," he said. "So let's make sure that we're not looking at this like 'Is there something wrong with me?' If I couldn't sleep or sleep well, if I'm thinking about it a lot, if I'm replaying it in my head."

Wetterneck said it's also common for individuals at such events to feel survivors' guilt. Wetterneck said some people may also be reminded of other traumatic experiences in their lives, so it's best not to share videos of the incident with others, whether you were there or not.

"You can't un-watch something ... you can decide for yourself whether or not you can decide psychologically if you're in a place to see something like that," he said.

Children

Wetterneck said parents need to consider what they want to say to their children and plan how they want to communicate those things — even if it means writing down bullet points or practicing some of the conversation aloud to themselves.

"There's never a real right time and place to have conversations, but there's definitely some times and places that are less functional to do them," he said.

Wetterneck suggested avoiding times when distractions are around, such as if kids are in the middle of playing video games, and opting to instead talk about the traumatic incident in a quiet place such as during a walk.

"Make sure you ask them 'What do you know?' about what happened," he said. "They might hear something that's incorrect or they might already know more than you think they know, but I think it's really important to find out what they know that's factual."

It's important to share with children the facts of what happened, so they are not operating on an inaccurate narrative, Wetterneck said. If adults don't know what happened, that's a decent answer, and they can look into it and provide more information later, Wetterneck said.

"This is scary enough as it is, so let's not make it scarier by making up things that are not true," he said.

Wetterneck said it's also important to reassure kids that they will be OK no matter what happens in the future.

Adults

Wetterneck said much of the advice he has for adults also applies to kids.

"You need to identify people that you feel like you can trust and are caring that you can talk about it with," he said.

Reaching out to friends and family is important, he said — letting them know you're available to talk to them if they need to talk about it. Establishing a pattern of checking in with loved ones is also important, which makes it easier when it's needed the most.

Wetterneck said everyone also wants to know what happened, as new information is provided frequently. He suggests people maintain balance with other things they need to do in their life, and many should recognize when they need a break from it.

"It might be too early to talk about needing a break from this but I do know that some people are probably searching all news sources and refreshing screens, or whatever else, trying to find out (more) information in real time," he said. "All of that information does become available (even) if you space it out hours or even a day."

Regular self-care activities are important as well, Wetterneck said — including eating, sleeping and relaxing activities before bed.

Being helpful and proactive also can assist community members through the process, including volunteering at events, getting involved with local agencies and making community donations.

Recognizing that you or someone you love may need professional help is also important.

"I would encourage people to consider whether or not they want to seek out professional help," he said. "(If you are looking for professional help) I would specifically look for people that say they specialize in working in trauma."



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

First responders and civilians help the wounded at the scene of the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.



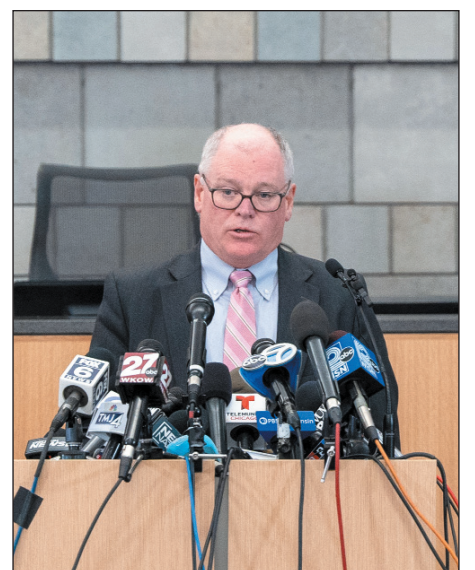
A group of bystanders and first responders help a wounded person immediately after a vehicle drove through the crowds during the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.

Derek Johnson, Special to The Freeman



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Law enforcement officers rush to the scene of the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday on Main Street where musical instruments lay alongside the road.



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Mayor Shawn Reilly offers reporters information during a press conference on Monday afternoon.



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Part of a child's Christmas costume and blankets lay abandoned on West Main Street following the abrupt end to the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Flowers placed at Veterans Park on Monday after people were killed and injured during the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday.

Help bring joy to those who are in the hospital this Holiday Season



You can sponsor a 12" plush holiday bear to be delivered to area hospitals this December

Sponsorship is \$65 per bear. Every bear will be accompanied with a custom tag that lets the recipient know who is brightening their day with this bear. You will also get a color 3.48" x 2.5" ad in the Waukesha Freeman and Oconomowoc Enterprise on December 16th.

Contact
Sarah 262-306-5030 or Mary 262-306-5008
sjerdee@conleynet.com mdolezal@conleynet.com

by Wednesday December 1st to reserve yours today.

MAKE A BIG IMPACT Shop Small



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY® NOVEMBER 27th, 2021

 Check out the Small Business Saturday special section for featured local merchants and special events.

Inside the November 24th Waukesha Freeman and Oconomowoc Enterprise.

OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE **The FREEMAN**
A LAKE COUNTRY TRADITION SINCE 1888 A Trusted Tradition since 1859

Brooks

From Page 1A

According to a criminal complaint, Brooks allegedly was involved in an incident with a victim with whom he shares a child in Milwaukee at a hotel. He allegedly "ran (the victim) over" after following the victim to a gas station and striking the victim in the face with a closed fist, according to the complaint. Officers allegedly observed the victim in this instance had tire tracks on her left pants leg.

Prior to that, on July 28, 2020, two counts of 2nd-degree recklessly endangering safety - use of a dangerous weapon and possession of a firearm - convicted as a felon were filed, also in Milwaukee County. In this instance, Brooks allegedly was involved in a physical altercation with a family member, according to the complaint. Brooks allegedly fired a shot at the family member when they were trying to drive away.

According to a statement issued by Chisholm's office, in the 2020 case, cash bail was originally set at \$10,000 and subsequently reduced to \$7,500. The demand by Brooks for a speedy jury trial could not be met and the case was adjourned and his bail was reduced to \$500, which Brooks posted on Feb. 21, 2021.

After the charges were filed on Nov. 5 in the 2021 case, a cash bail request of \$1,000 was set by the court. Brooks posted his bail on Nov. 11 and he was released from custody.

"The state's bail recommendation in this case was inappropriately low in light of the nature of the recent charges and the pending charges against Mr. Brooks," the statement said. "The bail recommendation in this case is not consistent with the approach of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office toward matters involving violent crime, nor was it consistent with the risk assessment of the defendant prior to setting of bail. The office is currently conducting an internal review of the decision to make the recent bail recommendation in this matter in order to determine the appropriate next steps."

Parade

From Page 1A

One of the victims brought to Waukesha Memorial Hospital was pronounced dead on arrival.

"The hospital is just blocks away from the parade route, and victims started arriving very quickly after the incident, in fact many of Pro-Health Care's staff were attending the parade, witnessed this tragedy and provided immediate first aid to the victims," Johnson said.

Thompson said prior to the incident, the suspect, Darrell Brooks, 39, from Milwaukee, was allegedly involved in a domestic incident at another location. Thompson said upon the police department's arrival to the scene of the domestic disturbance, Brooks was already gone. The department did not have the chance to respond to the domestic disturbance due to the alleged action of Brooks at the parade immediately after.

At this time, the Waukesha Police Department announced they are referring five counts of 1st-degree intentional homicide to the District Attorney's office with additional charges to come.

A firearm was discharged by an officer at the suspect with the intention of stopping the suspect, Thompson said. Due to the amount of people, that officer stopped and did not fire any additional shots. That officer is on administrative leave as a part of department protocol and no one was injured as a result of the officer shooting his weapon, according to Thompson.

Police Capt. Dan Baumann said the parade route started at the intersection of North Hartwell Avenue and East Main Street. The vehicle traveled down Main Street where crowds were walking in the parade. The area the vehicle took off from was near Veterans Park, traveling to the area of Wisconsin and Maple avenues.

Thompson said Brooks allegedly drove right through the barricades, although officers attempted to stop him. Thompson said it is uncertain what Brooks' intent was and if Brooks knew anyone walking in the parade.

A MABAS box alarm for mutual aid was issued immediately after the incident, according to Waukesha Fire Chief Steven Howard. The department received resources from 12 area fire departments. They were also aided greatly by off-duty firefighters and EMS personnel, medical personnel and civilians, Howard said.

Emergency response was further complicated due to power outages in the city related to strong winds at the parade on Sunday.

Those with video footage they captured themselves of the suspect fleeing are asked to provide contact information at <https://bit.ly/30QY0DK>.

Brooks is expected in court at 4 p.m. today, according to a statement from Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper's office. At that time, criminal charges are also expected to be filed.

'Evil is real,' witnesses share stories at scene

After the suspect drove through the crowds, panicked people were heard calling for family members — a man was shouting a girl's name from the historic courthouse building's steps.

Multiple Waukesha South High School Band members were struck by the vehicle on West Main Street. Instruments were also seen scattered on the street, among victims.

Dance Team members were struck too.

"I was right there, I saw bodies flying," said Waukesha School Board member Corey Montiho. "I ran down the parade route to find my girls. Addison, my daughter, heard someone yell 'car' and ran away. The girls right next to her were hit. I was there. It was little kids and families...evil is real, fight it every chance you get."

Minutes after the incident, David Monfre told The Freeman he saw a red vehicle "come barreling through" Main Street.

"My son just passed with his band, which is Waukesha South, and a truck (came) barreling through, almost hit the back of a float truck... he ended up hitting a bunch of band members and it went all the way up the road."

Monfre was collecting some of the instruments for South, he said. He said he got in contact with his son, who wasn't one of the ones that got hit, but almost was.

"I was calling for my son but I was also helping others

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY NIGHTS
STARTING AT 8:00 PM

Foxx View LANES

2440 W. SUNSET DR. • WAUKESHA • 262-544-2010 Open Daily 11am • foxxviewlanes.com

Enjoy the same bands as you did during Wednesday shows!

OPEN BOWLING!

OPEN BOWLING!

CALL FOR AVAILABILITY

333 W. SUNSET DR. • WAUKESHA • 262-542-9191 • Open Daily 11am • sunset-bowl.com

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
Partly Cloudy
31

TOMORROW
Mostly Cloudy
50/32

THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy
35/17

FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
31/21

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
39/25

REGIONAL FORECAST

COMFORT INDEX
7
What the air will feel like tomorrow, based on the temperature, humidity and wind speed.
1 poor; 10 excellent.

ALMANAC
Statistics for Yesterday
High/Low, Waukesha 28/19
High/Low 36/23
Normal High/Low 45/31
Precip. month to date 1.67"
Last year's high for date 47
Last year's low for date 36
Precipitation, Waukesha 0.00"
Precip. month to date 0.39"
Normal month to date 1.67"
Precip. year to date 21.67"
Normal year to date 32.12"
* Precipitation source, Gen. Mitchell International, Milwaukee. Precipitation is the liquid equivalent of snow, ice and rain.

HEAT INDEX TOMORROW
A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body
8 a.m. 33
Noon 42
4 p.m. 44
8 p.m. 41

COOLING DEGREE
An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the day's mean temperature was above 65 degrees.
Yesterday 0
Month to date 0
Season to date 1075
Normal season to date 780

HEAT INDEX TOMORROW
A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body
8 a.m. 33
Noon 42
4 p.m. 44
8 p.m. 41

MOONRISE TOMORROW 8:36 p.m.
MOONSET TOMORROW 11:33 a.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021

0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

Legend:
Rain (diagonal lines), Storms (cross-hatch), Snow (dotted), Ice (horizontal lines), Cold Front (blue line with triangles), Warm Front (red line with semicircles), Stationary Front (red and blue lines), Jetstream (red arrows).

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows around 15. West winds up to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Not as cold. Sunny. Highs in the lower 40s. Southwest winds up to 10 mph shifting to the south in the afternoon.

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

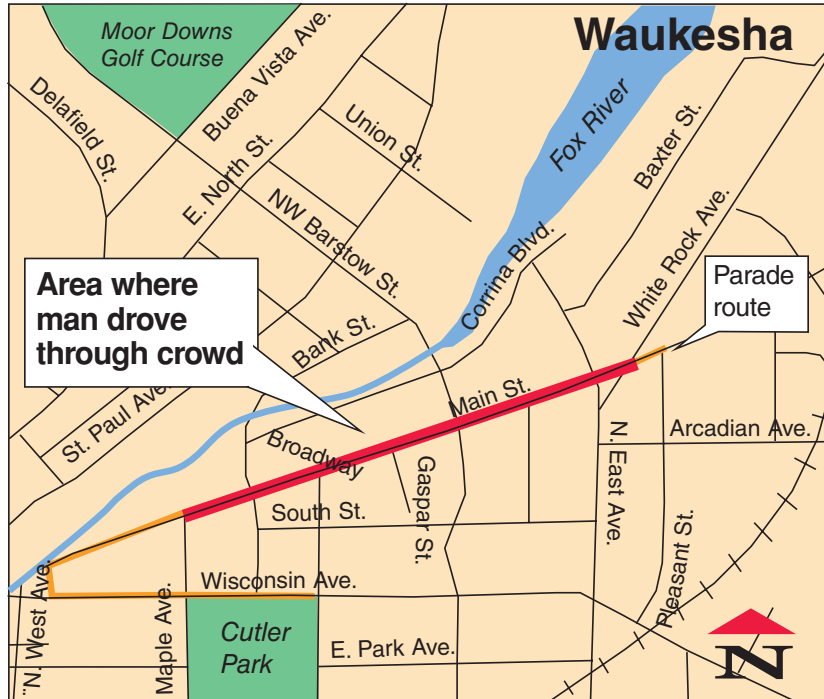
ATLANTA High: 56 Low: 34	CHICAGO High: 52 Low: 39	DALLAS High: 72 Low: 50
DENVER High: 45 Low: 21	LOS ANGELES High: 74 Low: 49	MIAMI High: 74 Low: 69
MINNEAPOLIS High: 43 Low: 18	NEW YORK High: 47 Low: 36	PHOENIX High: 76 Low: 53
SEATTLE High: 48 Low: 43	ST. LOUIS High: 59 Low: 38	WASHINGTON High: 48 Low: 32

MARINE FORECAST
Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
Tonight: SSW wind 20 to 25 kt. Partly cloudy. Waves 4 to 5 ft.
Wednesday: SSW wind 15 to 25 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 6 ft subsiding to 3 ft.
Lake Michigan water temperature is 43 degrees.

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX FORECAST
The UVI forecast for Wednesday is 1
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.



Waukesha School District Superintendent Jim Sebert speaks at a Monday press conference about the Waukesha Christmas Parade and the effect on the schools, while flanked by Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly, left, and Waukesha Fire Department Chief Steven Howard.



that were injured, making sure that they were stable, talking to some of them, just making sure that (they) could hear a comforting voice."

Brendan Davis said he saw a red SUV-type vehicle traveling down Main Street.

"Unfortunately my two younger siblings are in the South band and we went over here to try to see if we could find them ... my siblings are OK as well, but there's just unconscious people everywhere. From the corner here and down there's just blocks of people on the ground ... that's literally all we saw is a red (vehicle) come smashing into one vehicle, flying by, hitting a lot of people in the process."

Allen Kind, a Horning Middle School Tech Education teacher attending with the school district, said he was in



Waukesha Police Department Chief Dan Thompson speaks at a press conference held at Waukesha City Hall on Monday.

Schram, a Waukesha native who lives in Darien.

Inside Martha Merrell's immediately after the incident, a boy was seen with a bandaged head and a bleeding face. He was conscious and exited the business with others escorting him. Others inside the business were heard speaking or making panicked calls to family.

Inside Martha Merrell's, Tyson Apfelbeck said he saw the suspect "literally just running people (over) and swerving pretty erratically." He estimated the vehicle to have been traveling at about 20 miles per hour.

Victims
On Facebook, the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies said they were among the groups with deaths and injuries in the parade. "Those who died

lives. "Minutes after the incident occurred, I responded to the scene and what I saw out of chaos and tragedy was heroes. First responders and the community coming together and working together on triaging victims," he said.

Thompson recounted the moment a nurse walked up to him, requesting assistance in helping a nurse's mother.

Mayor Shawn Reilly, who had been walking in the parade, said many community members were also participants and witnessed the horrific events. He said he knows the community will come together to help Waukesha heal.

He said at the press conference: "For those of you who do not live in Waukesha, you need to know that Waukesha is a community that helps their neighbors. Waukesha is a community that takes pride in their identity and has a wonderful spirit. Waukesha looks after each other. Waukesha enjoys its celebrations and the entire community joins in those celebrations. We are a close community. Waukesha is a community where many of its residents have lived for generations. Waukesha is also the type of community where new residents tell their friends to move here because it is so special. 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."

Waukesha Schools close for the week

School District of Waukesha schools will be closed for the rest of this week and reopen Monday.

Waukesha students were among those injured Sunday. As of 2:30 p.m. Monday, there were no confirmed deaths of students, staff or others directly affiliated with the district.

Deputy Superintendent Joe Koch said there's "no definitive information at this time" on the status of those injured, but it's known there are students who were injured to varying degrees.

Koch said the district is preparing for a return to classes Monday and is aware students and staff will have "varying needs on that day... people will grieve and process this at varying rates." The district will have supportive services for students and staff available for the foreseeable future to aid in the healing process going forward, he said.

A GoFundMe has been set up to assist the South High School Band, which was one of the groups with members hit by the SUV Sunday. To donate or learn more, visit <https://rb.gy/16sxdid>.

For official up-to-date communications from the School District of Waukesha regarding the Christmas Parade, visit <https://rb.gy/hymupd>.