



INTERVIEW WITH SHAWN REILLY

Waukesha Mayor: Community will “help their neighbors,” healing will take time ▶ Page 6A



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\$5 million bail set for suspect in parade deaths

Man charged with five counts of first-degree intentional homicide

By Nikki Brahm and Jake Ekdahl
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — The man charged with five counts of first-degree intentional homicide after allegedly driving into crowds at the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Sunday will have a sixth such count filed after District Attorney Susan Opper announced at his initial appearance Tuesday that a child injured in the incident has died.

At his initial appearance at 4 p.m. Tuesday, a \$5 million bail was set for Darrell E. Brooks Jr., 39. A criminal complaint filed prior to the hearing also revealed that 62 people had been injured Sunday night. Prior to that, the number was estimated to be 48.

The \$5 million bail amount Court Commissioner Kevin Costello ordered was the number Opper requested. Costello said Brooks had been out on “smallish” bails prior to this. Costello said that in his entire career, he has not seen anything like this.

If convicted, Brooks faces life in prison for each of the five homicide counts currently filed.

During the hearing, Opper delved into Brooks’ extensive criminal history. Opper discussed cases where he was found guilty of resisting/obstructing an officer, substantial battery — intend bodily harm, strangulation/suffocation and more throughout Wisconsin. Other cases of similar nature were filed in Georgia and Nevada.

In other cases still open in Milwaukee County,



Photo by Mark Hoffman/Pool photographer

Darrell Brooks appears Tuesday at the Waukesha County Courthouse in Waukesha. He is charged with killing five people and injuring scores of others after plowing through the Waukesha Christmas Parade with his sport utility vehicle on Sunday.

Brooks allegedly ran over a victim prior to Sunday night. He also was allegedly involved in a physical altercation where he shot at a family member.

After outlining Brooks’ criminal history, Opper said the sixth count of first-degree intentional homicide will be filed. Opper said other charges may be filed, however, they decided to file the most serious charges first.

Opper said everything was done to simply get Brooks to stop, however, he simply continued down the roadway.



Photo by Mark Hoffman/Pool photographer

Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper leaves court after Darrell Brooks appeared Tuesday at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

See PARADE, PAGE 10A

Sixth person dies following Waukesha Christmas parade

Victim was an eight-year-old boy

By Jake Ekdahl
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WAUKESHA — A sixth fatality has been announced following the Waukesha Christmas Parade Sunday, when a man allegedly drove an SUV into a crowd, killing and injuring them.

The five previously confirmed victims were all adults. The sixth victim is a child.

One of the verified GoFundMe pages set up to assist victims announced Tuesday that Jackson Sparks, 8, “succumbed to his injuries and passed away.” He apparently died Tuesday afternoon.

The GoFundMe states Jackson Sparks underwent brain surgery Sunday evening and doctors would subsequently test for brain function and brainstem activity Monday.

Sparks and his brother Tucker, 12, were attending the parade and are two of the more than 60 victims.

In update on the GoFundMe Tuesday, the organizer Alyssa Albro stated Tucker Sparks is still recovering from his injuries — road rash and a fractured skull — and will be discharged to go home.

“Please know that they appreciate your continued prayers and tremendous outpouring of support for their family,” the post said. “They do however ask for privacy at this time to allow Tucker to continue to heal physically and their family to heal and mourn the tremendous loss of their sweet little boy who is now under the care of Jesus.”

In a statement, the Mukwonago Area School District confirmed Tuesday evening Jackson Sparks was a district student. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and our community,” they said.

Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper noted in court Tuesday the death toll was now six, rather than five as filed, and said a sixth homicide charge will be coming.

The current charges are filed against Darrell Brooks, 39, who is in custody and faces a life sentence if convicted.

Parade victims’ memories honored, community rallies to aid injured

By Jake Ekdahl
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and Darryl Enriquez
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — After a man allegedly rammed an SUV into the Waukesha Christmas Parade Sunday, a total of six people have died and 62 were injured.

The identified fatalities (to date) are Tamara Durand, 52; Wilhelm Hospel, 81; Jane Kulich, 52; LeAnna Owen, 71; and Virginia Sorenson, 79. There is now a sixth victim: Jackson Sparks, 8.

Kulich was a longtime employee of Waukesha’s popular Dave’s Restaurant. Dave’s owner Jose Angel Suarez said she was with them for four or five

years, but still came in and helped out at times and regularly visited; she last stopped in last Friday and was excited about going on college visits with her kids, he said.

“She was very socialized with the customers,” Suarez said, noting her smile, talkative nature and that she never missed work.

“She was kind, like she thought of everybody,” said Dave’s server Sherry Moede. “She was just a great mom and she was always positive.”

Taylor Smith, Kulich’s daughter, described her mother as “a beautiful soul. She lit up everyone’s lives... My mom was just such a wonderful human that positively impacted everyone she met. We will miss her so

much. She was taken from us way too soon.”

A photo of Kulich honoring her memory was posted on the door to Dave’s Tuesday. Suarez said they learned of her death Monday. When visiting the restaurant, her go-to order was a patty melt with fries and a side of tartar sauce.

A verified GoFundMe dedicated to her describes Kulich as a “loving, beautiful and charismatic mother, grandmother and friend to so many. The world is a much darker place without a woman like this in the world.” The GoFundMe will help cover costs of saying final goodbyes.

See VICTIMS, PAGE 2A



A poster honors the memory of Jane Kulich on the counter at Dave’s Restaurant in Waukesha on Tuesday. Another identical print hangs on the front door.

Jake Ekdahl / Freeman Staff

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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
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See complete forecast on Page 10A

To our readers

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Don't fear calling 911

The Women's Center encourages victims to call for help when needed, even in aftermath of Sunday's tragedy

By Brian Huber
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WAUKESHA – The Women's Center is encouraging people in dangerous situations to call for help whenever needed and not worry about straining emergency services in the aftermath of Sunday's tragedy at the Waukesha Christmas Parade that killed six and left dozens injured.

The Women's Center said in a Facebook post Monday, "We are currently receiving a higher number of calls from victims experiencing high lethality scenarios who are reluctant to call 911 because they don't want to be a strain on Waukesha emergency response teams. There is no hierarchy to crisis, to pain or to trauma."

Executive Director Angela Mancuso said it wasn't that there have been more incidents of domestic violence situations where victims were immediately in fear for their lives since Sunday's events, but people may have reservations about calling 911 while authorities are addressing immediate needs related to the parade casualties.

"We were getting calls (Monday) from individuals who are known to us who we are working with who are still experiencing high levels of domestic violence. Not everybody can leave their abuser, so I think it's a very kind of an important message here that there are lots of individuals in our community and surrounding communities, victims, who are exposed to and at high risk of being fatally harmed by an abuser," she said. "(Monday) we were getting clients and victims calling saying they weren't sure what to do but they didn't want to add more burden to police. We just said if you are being injured call 911 and that's the message. Our volume has been pretty consistent, which is already a lot."

"We wanted to do that post to make sure any victims, those that are experiencing highly lethal situations, to know they can call 911."

Reports indicate that Sunday's incident was immediately preceded by police being called to a domestic incident. Mancuso said she could not discuss whether the suspect in Sunday's carnage, Darrell Brooks Jr., or anyone associated with him was a client of the agency, citing confidentiality.

Mancuso said it is possible that stresses from events like Sunday can affect domestic violence incidence, particularly in relationships that were already experiencing abusive or violent dynamics. But, she added, abusers will continue to seek to exercise control or power over their victims regardless of circumstances.

"Abusers don't care what's going on around them, what's going on in the community. What they care about is power and control and hurting their victims," Mancuso said. "That's why I think any type of stress that is going on, really COVID in 2020-21 did cause a spike in domestic violence. The danger levels and violence levels during COVID for people that were already in abusive relationships, that really went through the roof."

People in need at any time should call 911 or The Women's Center's 24-hour hotline at 262-542-3828.

Victims

From Page 1A

Kulich isn't the only person affiliated with Dave's affected. Romelia Perez, a former Dave's employee, and her daughter Camila Perez are both among the injured. Romelia has had three surgeries and is currently on a breathing tube, her verified GoFundMe page states. Camila has fractures and has undergone surgery; she's currently stable.

Multiple members of the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies were among those killed.

On Facebook, the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies said they were among the groups with deaths and injuries in the parade. "Those who died were extremely passionate Grannies," the group posted. "Their eyes gleamed... joy of being a Grannie. They were the glue... held us together."

The group said as more information and updates become available, they'll be posted. "Please keep them, their families, friends, the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies and everyone (whose) lives have forever changed in your thoughts and prayers," they said.

According to the Beaver Dam Daily Citizen, Tamara Durand (then Tamara Frinak) rescued a man from the Wisconsin River in Wausau in 2009.

One of the people hit was also Erick Tiegs, the son of a Caledonia firefighter, Don Tiegs. "Very little is known at this time about the long road to recovery," his fundraiser, which is run by the local firefighters' union, states. "Currently Erick is awake, but heavily medicated. He has a broken femur, skull fracture, broken ribs, C4 vertebrae fracture, a bruised lung, and a pneumothorax (collapsed lung)."

After the deaths and injuries at the parade Sunday, GoFundMe mobilized a crisis team to ensure donated dollars go to the right place and into the hands of those in need. A page of verified GoFundMe fundraisers related to the Waukesha Christmas Parade is now active.

Dance team decimated in parade

A competitive dance team of local girls was psyched for its upcoming season. At a kickoff competition on Saturday, the team captured second and third places finishes.

The next day, their optimism vanished at the tragic Waukesha Christmas Parade. Five young dancers are under intensive hospital care.

A red SUV drove through the Xtreme Dance Team on West Main Street at the Five Points, injuring many of its young performers.

As a result, the troupe needs help, financially and emotionally, according to a statement issued late Tuesday by the dance team.

The mother of a 10-year-old dancer spoke on Tuesday about the horrors they experienced at the Sunday parade and the psychological trauma that now clouds their future.

Sarah Sallman, 32, a lifelong Waukesha resident, spoke to The Freeman after arriving home with her daughter from school counseling. Louella Sallman is a 4th grader.

Sallman told her story to encourage community support for the battered Waukesha dance team.

"We were excited because this was the start of competition season," Sallman said. "Not really sure where we go from here."

Sallman recounted that she and another mom were carrying the troupe's banner in front of the group's pickup truck. The dancers were behind the pickup.

"I heard the SUV, turned around and saw it take out many of the girls," she said. "One of the girls at the rear of group flew in front of me. That's how hard they were hit."

Louella Sallman was not in



Photo courtesy of Xtreme Dance Team

The Xtreme Dance team poses for a photo while in the staging area on White Rock Avenue prior to the Waukesha Christmas parade.



Submitted photo

Jessalyn Torres smiles over a birthday cake. She's one of dozens of people injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade.

the SUV's line of travel.

In the aftermath, Sallman said she saw bodies, poms, shoes and other clothing in the road.

The number of dancers injured in the incident was unavailable Tuesday. Media reports have placed it between 10 and 20. Many girls were hospitalized, including the five now in ICU, according to sources.

One of the dance team members who was injured is 11-year-old Jessalyn Torres. "The red SUV blew through the barricade," said her uncle, Ryan Kohnke, of what he witnessed Sunday. "He stopped for a moment, a police officer tried to stop him. He hesitated for a moment and then it was if, I don't know, that he decided he was going to do what he was going to do, and he gunned it."

Torres was in the path of the SUV and Kohnke saw her after. "She was injured badly," he said. Those injuries include a broken pelvis, dislodged kidney, lacerations on her lungs and remaining kidney, internal bleeding, bruising, an skull fracture.

Kohnke said Torres woke up briefly yesterday afternoon and said "tell them to glue me back together," which he said shows who she is, "a stubborn, resilient

child, who's got some sass to her."

The growing list of injured on Tuesday swelled to 62, all struck by the SUV that plowed through the crowded downtown parade route.

The eight-year-old who died was not a dancer, Sallman said.

A statement issued Tuesday by Xtreme Dance said in part: "Our dancers have a multitude of serious physical injuries, of those, five dancers are currently in the ICU."

"Additionally, we are only beginning to understand the mental trauma. We need time to heal and understand. We are truly grateful to have the support and the love from everyone in our community and beyond."

The team is comprised of three troupes from 8th graders to preschool. Their dance routines include jazz, poms and hip hop, Sallman said. The team performs in Waukesha parades and local sporting events.

"It's a very serious dance team that rehearses three to four nights a week for two to three hours a night," she said. "It's a second family because we're there constantly."

Louella and her mom spent some time at school with the school counselor, psychologist and principal.

"They allowed kids to come back, color, play in the gym, see their classmates," Sallman said.

Will it be enough? "It's going to be difficult, but

Louella knows she is surrounded by people she knows."

How to help

Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County have joined to create a "United for Waukesha Community Fund." The fund will support the needs of families impacted by the parade tragedy. To donate, visit: <https://waukeshafoundation.org/parade>. Checks and cash donations are accepted at any Landmark Credit Union branch and checks should be made out to the United for Waukesha Community Fund.

For a page with all verified Waukesha Christmas Parade GoFundMe fundraisers, visit <https://rb.gy/lrzajs>.

To donate to Erick Tiegs, visit <https://rb.gy/hcm2sa>.

Bridge Church has set up two accounts, one for families impacted by the parade tragedy, and the second to meet community needs. To donate there, visit <https://rb.gy/ge6fouh>.

A GoFundMe page is accepting donations for the Xtreme Dance Team as well.

"These donations will help the families towards their medical bills, loss of work, new costumes and any other items that were lost," the page says.

To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/f/helping-the-waukesha-xtreme-dance-team-dancers.



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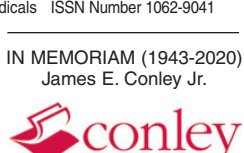
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• IN MEMORIAM (1943-2020) •
James E. Conley Jr.



Pope after Waukesha Christmas parade crash: May good overcome evil

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis sent his condolences Tuesday to the victims of the Christmas parade crash in Waukesha that killed five people and said he was praying for "spiritual strength which triumphs over violence and overcomes evil with good."

The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, sent the telegram of condolences on behalf of Francis to the archbishop of Milwaukee, Jerome Listecki.

Francis asked that those affected by the "tragic incident" know he is spiritually close to them, and called on "the Lord to bestow upon everyone the spiritual strength which triumphs over violence and overcomes evil with good."

Police say Darrell Brooks Jr., 39, was behind the wheel of the SUV that sped through the parade route in Waukesha on Sunday, killing five and injuring at least 50 others. Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson said Brooks was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier. A sixth victim was reported to have died on Tuesday.

One of the pending legal cases against Brooks at the time was that he had deliberately hit a woman with his car in early November after a fight.

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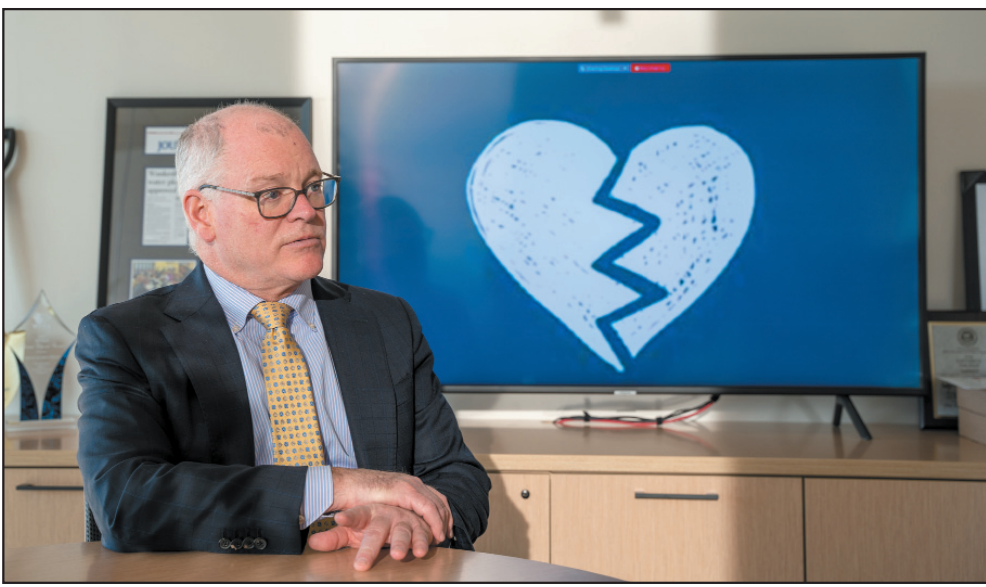
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Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly speaks about the Waukesha Christmas Parade on Tuesday.

Reilly: Community will 'help their neighbors;' healing will take time

Mayor reflects on tragedy at Christmas Parade

By Nikki Brahm
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WAUKESHA — Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly told The Freeman Tuesday that the community of Waukesha is the type to “help their neighbors,” which will continue after the tragedy that unfolded Sunday at the city’s Christmas Parade.

“It will take time,” Reilly said. “I mean, if you’ve lost your mother, a year later it’s there. If you have an injured child, it’s there.”

There will be a time for funerals, he said, which will allow for more grieving and healing. The city will be a part of the healing; however, Reilly said healing will come from the churches, community organizations, neighbors and friends.

At the vigil on Monday night to honor those killed and wounded during the parade, Reilly said, he saw an outpouring of support from people of many walks of life. While the city helped facilitate the Monday vigil, Reilly said it was truly the community that arranged it.

“That’s what we’re going to need — is the community to continue reaching out to provide support for the people that were injured by death in the family, by injury to someone in their family or all the people who experienced mental trauma,” he said.

Reilly said to anyone who experienced Sunday’s traumatic events: “I feel your pain and I’m sorry that this is happening to you and (I) just want you to know that you have my sympathies.”

Reilly said he wants Nov. 21, 2021, to be a symbol of how Waukesha was forced to endure a tragedy, live through it and come out as an even stronger community.

“One thing that all of us can do is contribute to the (United for Waukesha Community Fund), which is a joint project by both the Waukesha County Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County.”

Reilly said he was happy to hear that a fund was set up by local organizations that have experience organizing funds such as this one.

“I know that they will help the people that really need help,” he said. “The money

that’s donated will go solely to help these people.”

Waukesha

Reilly, who was born in Waukesha, later left the city for law school in Portland. He lived in the Waukesha County area when he moved back, then returned to Waukesha and has lived here continuously since 2005. He started to work at his father’s law firm in 1989, specializing in municipal law.

“I was a kid in the 60s, then in the 70s I was in high school,” he said. “(Waukesha) was a place (that was) overrun by children, I think was the best way to describe it ... it’s a larger community with a small town feeling. In fact, people act like it’s a small town too. You know your neighbors, you work with your neighbors (including) when your neighbors need some help.”

Reilly said if a neighbor is mowing their front lawn, they would also mow their neighbor’s lawn.

“(People) are involved in the community, and that includes their churches and baseball teams and high schools,” Reilly said. “They know each other, they don’t just go into their houses and cocoon in there, they’re out and about with each other.”

Reilly said this extends to attending community events, including Friday Night Live, Tribute Tuesday, Oktoberfest, Waukesha Jan-boree and more.

“People want to be together, they want to celebrate,” he said.

Tragedy

On Sunday, Reilly was walking at the front of the Waukesha Christmas Parade wearing a tuxedo and a top hat, and the parade was taking place as it typically does. Reilly said all he saw was joy — parents behind children and many adults without children attending the parade because they love the parade.

“(There were) lots of kids on the curb, lots of kids waiting for candy,” he said.

At the end of the parade route, Reilly said every year he typically circles back downtown to watch the parade with his mother. On Sunday, due to the weather, he decided to go home, two blocks away from the end of the route, to change into something warmer.

Reilly was home for only 10 minutes before he heard sirens. Shortly after, he received a call from Rebecca Pederson, assistant to the mayor and city administrator, informing him of what happened.

Reilly said staff reported to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at City Hall, the first time the new room was utilized for a real-time emergency at the building since it opened in 2021.

“The complexity of trying to manage this is, unless you see it, you don’t really understand it ... remember this was also a police investigation of probably about eight blocks, which is enormous,” Reilly said.

Reilly’s mother was sitting inside The Avalon on Sunday and was uninjured, he said.

Calls

During Reilly’s interview with The Freeman, it had been nearly 48 hours since the incident had occurred. Since then Reilly’s heard from an enormous amount of people, including Pope Francis, he said.

“I’ve received phone calls, texts, emails from every single local government leader expressing their support and well wishes,” Reilly said. “The county has been instrumental in this, they’ve provided a ton of help (including) (Waukesha County Executive) Paul Farrow (and his staff).”

Many have commented on Waukesha and prayed for healing.

“I don’t know anyone who was injured,” Reilly said. “I know way too many people who saw the incident. Quite a few of the business owners and their patrons were witness to this. (They) were helping try to save people. They saw what no one wants to see.”

Brooks

Darrell Brooks, 39, who allegedly drove through crowds Sunday at the Waukesha Christmas Parade, is facing five charges of first-degree intentional homicide. Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper announced a sixth such count will be filed.

Reilly said his focus is not on Brooks.

“My focus is on bringing Waukesha together, not creating issues that may tear it apart,” Reilly said. “What we need to do now is heal. The judicial system will take care of the individual who drove that car. A bunch of people trying to let their positions be known as to what should happen to him isn’t going to change what the judicial system is going to do anyway.”

Reilly added that the man responsible will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Christmas parade incident vigils and resources

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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today 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

FOOD PANTRY SERVING WAUKESHA COUNTY

The FOOD Pantry Serving Waukesha County is organizing efforts to assist families that have been impacted by the Sunday parade tragedy with groceries, including Thanksgiving food. To help call Michael at 262-362-0630 or Karen at 262-522-2370.

ALL 3 WAUKESHA CULVER’S TO DONATE A PORTION OF WEDNESDAY SALES

All 3 Culver’s locations in Waukesha will be donating 50 percent of sales today to victims and their families. The Sunset Drive location, 840 W. Sunset Drive, and Main Street location, 1650 E. Main St., will be donating to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. The Grandview Boulevard location, 2600 N. Grandview Blvd., will be donating to the Waukesha Xtreme Dance.

WAUKESHA STRONG FUNDRAISER AT THE COOP

The Coop, 350 Delafield St., is holding a charity event on Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The restaurant will donate 100 percent of sales for the day to the United for Waukesha Community Fund.

BREWERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

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

VINTAGE GROUNDS COFFEE IN MUSKEGO COFFEE FOR A CAUSE

Vintage Grounds Coffee House, S74-W16825 W. Janesville Road, Muskego, is accepting donations for the Salvation Army of Waukesha now through Thanksgiving Day. Those who donate in store or at the drive-through will receive a free coffee courtesy of Vintage Grounds.

CAFE DE ARTS ROASTERY

Starting Monday, Nov. 29 through Friday, Dec. 3, the coffee shop, 830 W. St. Paul Ave., Waukesha, Cafe de Arts will be donating 50% of every sale to United for Waukesha Community Fund.

RAISED GRAIN TO DONATE BLACK FRIDAY PROCEEDS

Beer lovers can support the United for Waukesha Community Fund by purchasing Raised Grain’s Paradoxs Red or Paradoxs Red Barrel-Aged on Nov. 26. Ten percent of sales of these beers will be donated to the fund.

WAUKESHA COUNTY SHERIFF K9 PLUSH DOGS

The Waukesha County Sheriff’s Department is selling K9 plush dogs with 100 percent of net sales going to the United for Waukesha Community Fund. Each dog costs \$20 and can be purchased at Door #8 at the courthouse, 515 W. Moreland Blvd. The department is accepting cash only at this time.

GOFUNDME DRIVES

GoFundMe has created a page of verified drives you can contribute to by visiting GoFundMe.com and looking for the “Waukesha Christmas Parade: How to Help” link.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Blood donation sites near Waukesha have been busy since Sunday. In response to the number of appointment requests, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, 2111 Springdale Road, has announced expanded hours. You can find the Waukesha location’s hours and schedule an appointment at versiti.org. Red Cross is also accepting donations at various sites. An appointment can be made at redcross.org.

UWM AT WAUKESHA CAMPUS COUNSELING CENTER

The Campus Counseling Center at UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha 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.

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.



Rabbi Levi Brook, from the Chabad Lubavitch of Waukesha County, speaks about the importance of giving at The Rotunda in Waukesha while holding an item designed to encourage people to collect change then donate it on Tuesday night.

Shining light

WAUKESHA — At right: A ceremonial menorah is lit at The Rotunda following a ceremony held by members of the Chabad Jewish Center on Tuesday night.

A press release about the event said, “We believe that One Community, One Heart and lighting a menorah will bring a message of hope and light the crosses of denominational lines. As a community, it is so important that OUR Collective light is rekindled to show that we will not be dragged into darkness because of the senseless acts of one. We will unite in our love of mankind, and show our support proudly by gathering together and shining a light.”

Photos by Derek Johnson,
Special to The Freeman



Oconomowoc updates safety plan to market, parade in wake of Waukesha tragedy

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc safety officials have made updates to their plans on how they handle the German Christmas Market and the Christmas Parade in wake of the Waukesha mass casualty event on Sunday, according to a press release from the city.

In a press release sent out Tuesday afternoon, the city gave an update to the operation of both events.

For the Market, people attending may not be able to park in the locations they have in previous years and the city is asking people to be cooperative with public safe-

ty and event staff.

In addition, there will be an increased presence of law enforcement and fire and EMS service throughout the event, the release states. There will also be a secure perimeter installed to “improve the overall safety and security of the event area.”

The market begins today at 5 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m., is off for Thanksgiving, and runs from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For the Christmas Parade on Dec. 4, the city will have

increased protection put in place to control any vehicles from entering the parade area, the release states.

Similar to the Market, participants and spectators attending the parade may not be able to park in the spots they previously did as road closures will be in place.

“As with any plan, we will have layers of protection in place for the events,” the release states. “The items listed above are the visible ones in place that the community and visitors will see as a result of the City’s commitment to safety.”



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha strong

WAUKESHA — Items placed to remember the victims of Sunday's mass casualty event sit at Veterans Park on Tuesday afternoon.

Main Street business owners share stories of parade tragedy, aftermath

Many shops that were open helped spectators, participants to safety

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Echoing the sentiments of many on Sunday afternoon, Norm Bruce was looking forward to the jubilant return of the Waukesha Christmas Parade, which was making its grand resumption after a break last year due to the pandemic.

But running a local business — Martha Merrell's Books — with a front-row glimpse into the parade took on a whole new meaning as terror and chaos erupted.

"All of a sudden, I heard all of the commotion, and I thought, 'The parade can't be over quite yet,'" Bruce said in an interview with The Freeman. "Then I noticed the vehicle come down the street and saw band members laying in the street."

Bruce, who runs his venerable bookshop with wife Eve, said he quickly felt the need to open his doors and bring people into safety, particularly once shots were fired. During those split-second moments, Bruce said chaos rang out on the streets, and he tried preventing a stampede into his store.

"I was saying, 'We have a lot of room in here. You can come in, but I said, 'You've got to quit pushing.'" Bruce recounted. "I was at the door to try and slow them down and prevent that from happening."

At one point, as people settled in and tried wrapping their minds around what was happening, Bruce said he took a moment of solace, witnessing young children be themselves, hoping they were unscathed by the frightening situation outside.

"(Families) came in and went over into the corner where we have some of our stuffed animals," Bruce said. "The kids started playing with them and weren't really trauma-



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman

Flowers rest on a traffic pole next to a sign at Smart Asset Realty in downtown Waukesha on Tuesday afternoon where words of support have been written on the business's windows.



A message of hope is painted on the windows of The Clarke Hotel following a mass casualty event that occurred near the bar on Sunday in downtown Waukesha.

tized."

A number of other local shops at or near the site of the tragedy shared similar recounts of the aftermath on social media and reacted in similar fashion.

Seeing the car hit 'at least 12 people'

"I saw this event happen and witnessed at least 12 people in front of our store get hit by this car," an employee at Vinyl Vault Records wrote on the retailer's official Facebook page. "I opened the door to the store and herded as many people in as I could." The post later stated, "We all hid under my

record racks."

Staffers at Divino Gelato Café also took to social media on Monday morning, recounting what transpired during the parade.

"We are glad we were able to provide shelter and help families," the Facebook post read. "We are keeping everyone in our thoughts and prayers, including those who have helped so many and responded with such bravery, including our law enforcement in the area, who so quickly responded."

In the immediate days after the tragedy, Bruce said there has been an

undeniable stillness up and down Main Street.

"It's been somewhat reserved," he said. "I think people are trying to process what took place."

While the gravity of the situation is undeniable, Bruce said he is optimistic about the resiliency of Waukesha's downtown — and the city as a whole — pointing to past tragedies that have galvanized the community.

"The community has got to keep the dialogue going," he said. "We will continue to move on because we're not going to live our life in fear. You have to move forward."

It's not just Manchin: Dems' \$2T bill faces Senate gauntlet

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took half a year but Democrats have driven President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion package of social and climate initiatives through the House. It gets no easier in the Senate, where painful Republican amendments, restrictive rules and Joe Manchin lurk.

Facing unbroken GOP opposition, Democrats finally reached agreement among themselves and eased the compromise through the House on Nov. 19. One Democrat voted no in a chamber they control by just three votes.

They're negotiating further changes for a final version they hope will win approval by Christmas in the 50-50 Senate, where they'll need every Democratic vote. House passage of the altered bill would still be needed.

The gauntlet they face:

BRIGHT SIDE FOR DEMOCRATS

Yes, just weeks ago the bill's price tag was \$3.5 trillion over 10 years. It passed the House at around \$2 trillion and will likely fall further in the Senate.

And yes, Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., have already forced their party to constrain the measure's size and ambition. Manchin, at least, wants to cut still further.

But while they've enraged progressives wanting a more robust measure, neither moderate senator has signaled a desire to blow up the party's top legislative priority. Both have held months of talks with party leaders, suggesting each wants an agreement, though one reflecting their views.

Things can still implode in the Senate, where debate will begin no earlier than the week of Dec. 6. But Democrats retain a strong chance of enacting their plans for spending increases and tax cuts making education and housing more affordable and slowing global warming, largely financed with higher levies on the rich and big companies.

GOP AMENDMENTS

Here's one place where Republicans could cause real problems for Democrats.

After debating the legislation for up to 20 hours, senators can introduce limitless numbers of amendments and force votes with little debate. The so-called vote-a-rama can drag through the night.

GOP goals will be twofold. They can force changes weakening the bill by winning over just one Democrat. And they can offer amendments that lose but gain ammunition for next year's midterm elections by putting Democrats on record against popular-sounding ideas.

The 2,100-page bill offers

plenty of targets.

Want to accuse Democrats of driving up gasoline and home-heating prices? Dare them to oppose an amendment blocking new fees on petroleum and natural gas facilities with excessive emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas contributor.

SENATE RULES, PESKY BUT DANGEROUS

Democrats are using a special process that would let them approve the bill by simple majority, not the usual 60 votes that would otherwise let Republicans kill the legislation.

But there's a price: Its provisions must be driven chiefly by budgetary considerations, not sweeping policy changes. Opponents can ask the chamber's non-partisan parliamentarian, Elizabeth MacDonough, to decide if a section violates that requirement, and if it does it nearly always falls from the bill.

Democrats' most imperiled priority may be immigration.

The House bill would let millions of migrants in the U.S. since before 2011 without permanent legal status get permits to live and work in the U.S. for up to 10 years. MacDonough has recently said two previous Democratic immigration proposals violated Senate rules.

Republicans might also challenge some provisions letting the government curb prescription drug prices.

THE MANCHIN FACTOR

Senate changes to the bill seem inevitable, largely thanks to Manchin, one of Congress' more conservative Democrats.

He's already helped force Biden to drop initial plans to create free community college, provide new dental and vision Medicare benefits and to fine energy producers that don't wean themselves off carbon-heavy fuels. That was the pillar of Biden's blueprint for combating climate change.

Now Manchin seems poised to force removal of the bill's four weeks annually of paid, required leave for family and medical reasons. That \$200 billion item is prized by progressives.

Manchin, whose state is a top coal producer, frowns on some remaining provisions aimed at spurring a switch to green energy.

THE SINEMA ENIGMA

Sinema helped whittle the package's costs. She's blocked Democrats from raising tax rates on wealthy Americans and corporations, proposals many like as potent revenue raisers and symbols of class equity. Democrats found other ways to boost levies on those groups.

But the Arizonan seldom details her demands publicly, making it hard to read her goals moving forward.

Five million viewers see Carlson's Rittenhouse chat

NEW YORK (AP) — Tucker Carlson reached 5.05 million viewers for his Kyle Rittenhouse interview on Monday, the Fox News Channel opinion host's largest audience since the night of the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Rittenhouse was acquitted on murder charges last week and Carlson was given the chance for the post-trial interview because of the support he had shown him, according to the 18-year-old's family.

Carlson has averaged 3.16 million viewers on a typical night this year, the Nielsen company said.

ABC News and Diane Sawyer had strong ratings for her Friday night interview with members of a California family held captive for many years by their parents. That "20/20"

episode reached more than 7.4 million viewers.

Fox broadcasting was the top-rated network in prime time last week, averaging 5.4 million viewers. NBC had 4.8 million, CBS had 4.5 million, ABC had 4.1 million, Univision had 1.5 million, Telemundo had 1 million and Ion Television had 880,000.

Fox News Channel was the most-watched cable news channel in prime time, averaging 2.89 million viewers. ESPN had 2.31 million, Hallmark had 1.58 million, MSNBC had 1.18 million and HGTV had 893,000.

ABC's "World News Tonight" won the evening news ratings race with an average of 8.3 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 7.2 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.4 million.

Wisconsin man ordered to lifetime of state supervision

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Wisconsin judge has ordered a lifetime of state supervision for a man who was found guilty of murdering a friend but was also suffering from a mental disease.

Dane County Circuit Judge Mario White on Friday ordered that Ted J. Bruno, 53, be placed in a

state mental institution indefinitely, Wisconsin State Journal reported. A jury last month found Bruno guilty of first-degree intentional homicide for stabbing a friend, Kim Gaida, to death in 2017, but the jury also found Bruno was suffering from a mental disease at the time. Psychiatrists who

testified during the trial said Bruno had unspecified schizophrenic spectrum disorder causing psychotic symptoms.

The judge ordered that if Bruno is ever released from the state mental institution, he must remain under the supervision of the state Department of Health Services.

Bruno is allowed to petition for release from institutional care, but he would have to demonstrate that he is not a danger to himself or others.

He would also have to show that he will take prescribed medications, something he resisted doing unless ordered by the court.

Wisconsin insurance commissioner quitting after 3 years

MADISON (AP) — Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Mark Afable is stepping down next month, Gov. Tony Evers said Tuesday.

Evers appointed Afable to the post in December 2018.

Afable had previously worked for American Family Insurance and served as the company's chief legal officer before joining the Evers administration.

"Mark has been a part of

our administration from the very beginning, and his dedication to expanding health insurance access, protecting a competitive insurance marketplace, and building insurance awareness has

made a huge difference in our state," Evers said.

Deputy Insurance Commissioner Nathan Houdek will serve as interim commissioner upon Afable's departure.

UN nuclear watchdog chief seeks more access in Iran

Iran says program is peaceful; Israel warns it won't allow Tehran to build a nuclear weapon

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog met Tuesday with Iranian officials to press for greater access in the Islamic Republic ahead of diplomatic talks restarting over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency yet again faces tightrope-style talks with Iranian officials as his inspectors remain unable to access surveillance footage and face greater challenges in trying to monitor Tehran's rapidly growing uranium stockpile.

The Islamic Republic now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60% purity — its highest ever and close to weapons-grade levels of 90%.

While Iran maintains its program is peaceful, regional rival Israel has repeatedly warned it won't allow Tehran to build a nuclear weapon and is suspected of launching attacks targeting its program as part of a wider regional shadow war playing across the Mideast in recent years.

The U.S. under President Joe Biden, meanwhile, has said it's willing to return to the deal, but has warned time is running out.

On Tuesday, Grossi went to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, the country's civilian nuclear agency, for his third-such visit since February. He spoke with Mohammad Eslami, the new head of the organization. The U.N. in 2008 sanctioned Eslami for "being engaged in, directly associated with or providing support for Iran's proliferation sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems."

After their talk, Eslami described the ongoing issues as "technical" and not governed by the "political issues and conspiracies" of Iran's enemies.

"Some parts are yet to be answered and some parts have to do with issues that have already been closed in the past," he said. "They have been addressed in the nuclear deal and have been closed. Today, we agreed to put an end to them."

Eslami did not elaborate. Grossi for his part described the talks as "intense."

"We are continuing at this point our negotiations with a view to finding common ground," Grossi said.

Meanwhile in Israel, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett described Iran's nuclear program as being in a "very advanced stage," without providing details. Ahead of the resumption of nuclear talks between global powers and Iran, Bennett said he expects "disagreement with our greatest of friends."

"Either way, even with the return to an agreement, Israel is of course not part of the agreement. Israel is not bound by it," he told a security conference in Herzliya. "We will maintain our freedom to act."

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
Cloudy
34

TOMORROW
Mostly Cloudy
37/17

FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
31/22

SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
39/26

SUNDAY
Mostly Cloudy
38/24

REGIONAL FORECAST

COMFORT INDEX
4
What the air will feel like tomorrow, based on the temperature, humidity and wind speed. 1 poor; 10 excellent.

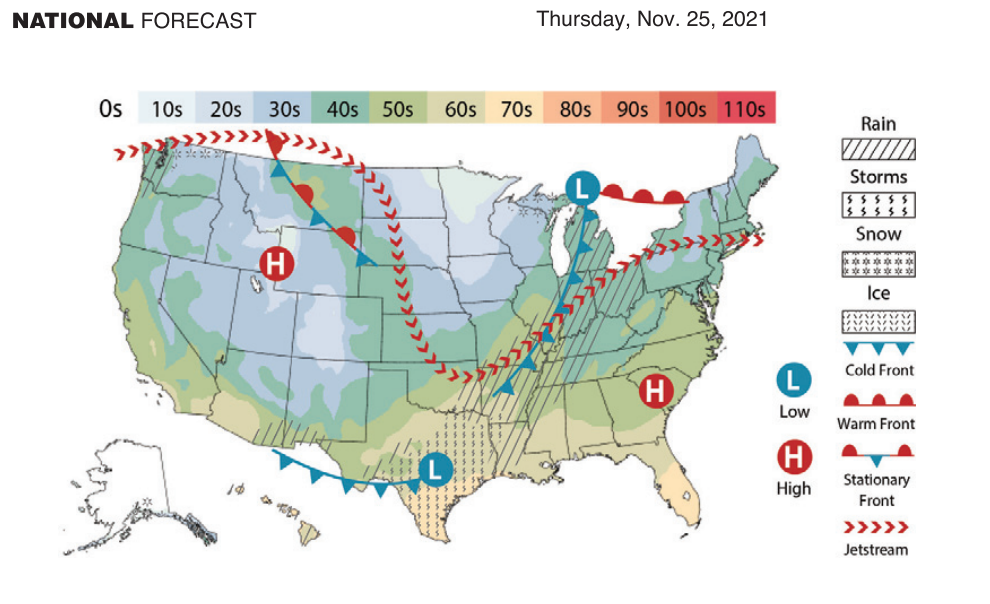
ALMANAC
Statistics for Yesterday
High/Low, Waukesha 41/18
Normal High/Low 44/30
Last year's high for date 46
Last year's low for date 33
Precipitation, Waukesha 0.00"
Precip. month to date 0.39"
Normal month to date 1.74"
Precip. year to date 21.67"
Normal year to date 32.19"
* Precipitation sources: 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. 26
Noon 25
4 p.m. 24
8 p.m. 16

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 1075
Season to date 1075
Normal season to date 780

Sunset today 4:22 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:57 a.m.

Moonrise tomorrow 9:41 p.m.
Moonset tomorrow 12:08 p.m.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
Tonight: Cloudy. A 20 percent chance of light rain showers late in the evening. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight.
Thursday: Colder. Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s.

MARINE FORECAST
Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
Tonight: SSW wind around 15 kt. A slight chance of showers between 9pm and midnight. Waves 2 to 3 ft. Thursday: NW wind 15 to 20 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 2 to 3 ft.
Lake Michigan water temperature is 54 degrees.

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX FORECAST
The UVi forecast for Thursday 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.

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

ATLANTA High: 63 Low: 38	CHICAGO High: 41 Low: 22	DALLAS High: 59 Low: 35
DENVER High: 55 Low: 32	LOS ANGELES High: 78 Low: 49	MIAMI High: 77 Low: 68
MINNEAPOLIS High: 26 Low: 17	NEW YORK High: 54 Low: 42	PHOENIX High: 77 Low: 52
SEATTLE High: 51 Low: 47	ST. LOUIS High: 43 Low: 24	WASHINGTON High: 57 Low: 40

Parade

From Page 1A

Attorney Jeremy Perri, public defender, said Brooks qualifies for public defender representation, which should be taken into consideration regarding Brooks' bail.

Brooks appeared in custody Tuesday, with his head bowed throughout the hearing. At one point, Brooks could be heard audibly crying. When he was escorted out of the room, he looked at some of the public gathered in the courtroom.

Costello said the nature of the offenses are shocking and that he was not expecting the detail, with two detectives coming to the opinion that the act was intentional, according to the criminal complaint.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for Jan. 14 at 9:15 a.m.

Complaint

According to the criminal complaint filed against Brooks in Waukesha County Circuit Court on Tuesday, a detective assigned to the intersection of White Rock Avenue and East Main Street on Sunday heard via police radio an officer was informed by a citizen "two people were fighting in the area of White Rock School." Squads were sent to investigate.

A few minutes later, the detective noticed honking north of his location and observed people near White Rock and East Main spreading apart and "people jumping out of the way of the red Ford Escape." The detective stepped in front of the SUV and pounded on the hood yelling "stop" but the vehicle continued westbound on East Main.

The driver was subsequently identified as Brooks. "A few seconds later (the detective) heard on police radio that the vehicle was striking people and was continuing westbound," the complaint said.

Causes of death from Waukesha County Medical Examiner's office officials for the five initially declared deceased were all from multiple blunt force injuries.

An officer in his report estimated the vehicle to have been traveling at about 25 miles per hour. "The vehicle was initially sticking to the north side of the road, in the open lane between the parade participants and spectators. (An officer)



Darrell Brooks appears Tuesday at the Waukesha County Courthouse in Waukesha.

Photo by Mark Hoffman/Pool photographer

observed the driver looking straight ahead, directly at him, and it appeared he had no emotion on his face. As the vehicle passed his location, (the officer) continually yelled for the vehicle to stop. The vehicle continued traveling westbound on East Main Street, and passed through the intersection of East Main Street and Buckley Street. (The officer) concluded that if the driver was lost and attempting to get out of the parade, this would have been a reasonable location for him to stop and exit the parade route." Instead, the vehicle continued on East Main while honking, allegedly increasing speed at around Martin Street and getting closer to spectators, allegedly nearly striking a small juvenile standing in one of the parking stalls.

At one point, the vehicle appeared to have brakes activated at the intersection of East Main and NW Barstow streets and an officer believed the driver would come to a stop and turn right out of the parade route. "However, the vehicle then appeared to rapidly accelerate," the complaint sates. "The vehicle took an abrupt

left turn into a crowd of parade participants. At this point it was clear to (the officer) that this was an intentional act to strike and hurt as many people as possible."

An officer shot at the vehicle three times, striking it three times.

One witness stated to law enforcement the vehicle moved in a "zig zag motion" and looked like it was "trying to avoid vehicles, not people. There was no attempt made by the vehicle to stop, much less slow down."

Open cases

According to Opper, Brooks had an active warrant out for his arrest in Washoe County, Nevada. According to KOLO8, a news organization based out of Reno, Nevada, Brooks was charged in 2006 with statutory sexual seduction after impregnating a 15-year-old girl. He was registered as a sex offender. In 2016, he was arrested for failing to comply with sex offender registration requirements. He paid his bail and never appeared in court, KOLO reported.

Brooks has two open cases out of Milwaukee County. According to a criminal

complaint out of Milwaukee County, on Nov. 5, 2021, charges of resisting or obstructing an officer, second-degree recklessly endangering safety, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery were filed.

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 her to a gas station and striking her 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 second-degree recklessly endangering safety — use of a dangerous weapon, and felon in possession of a firearm 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 who was trying to drive away.

The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office

announced they are conducting an "internal review" on the bail decision for the Nov. 5 case.

According to a statement issued by the Office of Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, 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.

At the hearing Tuesday, Opper also revealed that Brooks had been in Waukesha County Court last week for a paternity case before Commissioner David Herring. At that hearing, Opper said Brooks had explained he didn't pay child support due to serving a sentence in Georgia. According to online court records, Brooks was released from custody at the Nov. 16 hearing.

WHO Europe warns of possible surge in COVID deaths ahead

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization's Europe office says projections show its 53-country region could face another 700,000 deaths in the coronavirus pandemic by next spring, topping 2 million in total.

WHO Europe, which is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, also cited growing evidence of a decline in protection against infection and mild disease through vaccines, and said a "booster dose" should be given as a priority to the most vulnerable populations — includ-

ing people with weakened immune systems — as well as people over age 60 and health care workers.

The U.N. health agency's international headquarters in Geneva, however, has repeatedly called for a moratorium on the use of boosters through year-end so that doses can be made available for many developing countries that have faced a severe lack of the COVID-19 vaccines compared to the rich world.

WHO Europe called on people to get vaccinated and respect proper

hygiene and practice social distancing to help stop the spread of the virus.

"Today, the COVID-19 situation across Europe and Central Asia is very serious. We face a challenging winter ahead, but we should not be without hope, because all of us — governments, health authorities, individuals — can take decisive action to stabilize the pandemic," said Dr. Kluge, the regional director for WHO Europe, in a statement.

The European region, which

stretches deep into central Asia, reported that deaths due to COVID-19 rose to nearly 4,200 per day last week — a doubling of levels recorded at the end of September. Cumulative deaths have now reached 1.5 million in the region.

The three factors driving the increase are the highly transmissible delta variant of the virus, an easing of restrictive measures like requirements for mask-wearing and physical distancing in places, and large swaths of the European population that remain unvac-

inated, WHO Europe said. "We can expect that there will be high or extreme stress on hospital beds in 25 countries, and high or extreme stress in intensive care units (ICUs) in 49 out of 53 countries between now and 1 March 2022," a WHO Europe statement said. "Cumulative reported deaths are projected to reach over 2.2 million by spring next year, based on current trends."

It said the region could face a cumulative 2 million deaths due to the pandemic by March 1.