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A blue light illuminates the Mainstream Bar and Grill, at 404 W. Main St., in downtown Waukesha on Sunday evening.



The House of Guinness, 354 W. Main St., lights its entrance with blue like dozens of other businesses along the street on Sunday evening.



A vigil for the victims of the tragedy on Nov. 21 is illuminated by the blue lights of a business along West Main Street on Nov. 28.

WAUKESHA — Exactly one week after more than 60 people were injured during a rampage at the Waukesha Christmas Parade and six lost their lives, dozens of businesses along West Main Street placed blue lights in their windows to show that they stand in solidarity with the victims of the tragedy on Nov. 21.

Businesses as well as residents are encouraged to keep their blue lights on throughout the holidays, and residents can pick up a free lamp at select stores in downtown Waukesha, or from their Common Council representatives, while supplies last.

Photos by Derek Johnson, Special to The Freeman



Blue lights shine from the front window of the Crush Wine Bar, 378 W. Main St.

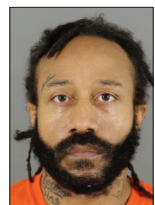


Members of the community gather at Veterans Park to take part in a vigil and moment of silence on Sunday evening. A few dozen people attended the event, during which community leaders offered advice about how to get through the coming weeks after the tragedy on Nov. 21.

Brooks charged with sixth homicide

Charge comes after child dies following Waukesha Christmas Parade rampage

By Jake Ekdahl
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Brooks

WAUKESHA — The man charged with killing six people and injuring more than sixty with a vehicle in the Waukesha Christmas Parade faces a new homicide charge.

Darrell Brooks Jr., 39, was charged Monday with his sixth count of homicide in the case. The new charge comes after the death of eight-year-old Jackson Sparks, who was a student in the Mukwonago Area School District and a member of the Waukesha Blazers Baseball

community. Sparks' 12-year-old brother, Tucker, was also hospitalized — he survived and is among the more than 60 injured.

It has been known for days a new homicide charge was coming. At Brooks' first appearance in court last Tuesday, Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper announced a sixth victim, a child, had died.

See **BROOKS**, PAGE 6A

Children's Hospital: Seven injured in parade continue treatment Monday

WAUKESHA — Children's Wisconsin announced Monday that seven children injured in the Waukesha Christmas Parade Nov. 21 continue to be cared for at the hospital.

Three children remain in serious condition, three are in fair condition and one is in good condition.

Children's Wisconsin plans to keep their Mental

and Behavioral Health Helpline open through the end of the week to support families seeking help with the emotional impact of the traumatic events. The helpline is 414-266-6500.

Over the weekend, Children's Wisconsin announced two children were able to return home, one on Saturday

See **CHILDREN**, PAGE 6A

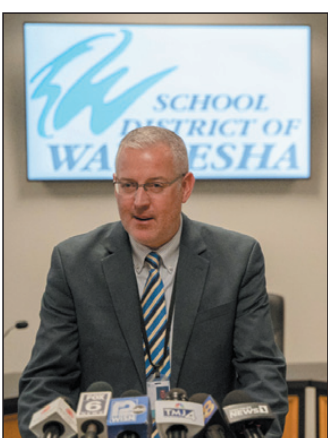
Waukesha Schools charts path forward

Resources available to students, staff affected by Christmas Parade tragedy

By Jake Ekdahl
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WAUKESHA — On the first day of school since the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, School District of Waukesha officials addressed the press and the public at the Lindholm Building Monday.

See **SCHOOLS**, PAGE 6A



Derek Johnson/Special to The Freeman
School District of Waukesha Superintendent Jim Sebert speaks during a press conference on Monday afternoon.

#NamelessBuilders modify homes for parade victims

Contractor: 'We're just getting stuff done'

By Jake Ekdahl
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WAUKESHA — Until recently, Brock Held had been looking for an injured veteran to build a ramp for so they could more easily come to and go from their home. Since the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, Held and others have been building several ramps

— not for those injured while serving overseas, but those injured at the parade.

Held is spearheading the #NamelessBuilders project, a group of community professionals with contracting experience seeking to build wheelchair ramps, remodel porches and otherwise modify homes of those injured following the parade so their residence can meet their needs

without their needing to pay. "We're just getting stuff done," Held said, estimating he'll be working on projects for three to four more weeks. "In my opinion (it's) the right thing to do... I want to do stuff for these people they might not even be able to afford themselves and try to offset some of the pain they're going through."

See **BUILDERS**, PAGE 6A

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WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy
High 48 / Low 38

See complete forecast on Page 6A

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Jan. 6 panel sets contempt vote for former DOJ official

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection will vote Wednesday to hold a former Justice Department official in contempt, demanding criminal charges against a defiant witness for a second time as lawmakers seek answers about the violent attack.

The committee on Monday scheduled a vote to pursue contempt charges against Jeffrey Clark, a former Justice Department lawyer who aligned with President Donald Trump as he tried to overturn his election defeat. If approved by the panel, the recommendation of criminal contempt charges would then go to the full House for a vote and then to the Justice Department.

Clark appeared for a deposition Nov. 5 but told lawmakers that he would not answer questions based partly on Trump's legal efforts to block the committee's investigation.

The vote will come as the panel is also considering contempt charges against former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, who was Trump's top aide the day that hundreds of his supporters broke into the U.S. Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
 Mostly Cloudy
27

TOMORROW
 Mostly Cloudy
48/38

THURSDAY
 Mostly Cloudy
50/32

FRIDAY
 Mostly Cloudy
43/27

SATURDAY
 Partly Cloudy
36/22

REGIONAL FORECAST



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

WIND CHILL TOMORROW
 A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body.
 8 a.m. 30
 Noon 39
 4 p.m. 40
 8 p.m. 37

HEATING DEGREE
 An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the day's mean temperature was below 65 degrees.
 Yesterday 32
 Month to date 717
 Season to date 938
 Normal season to date 1196

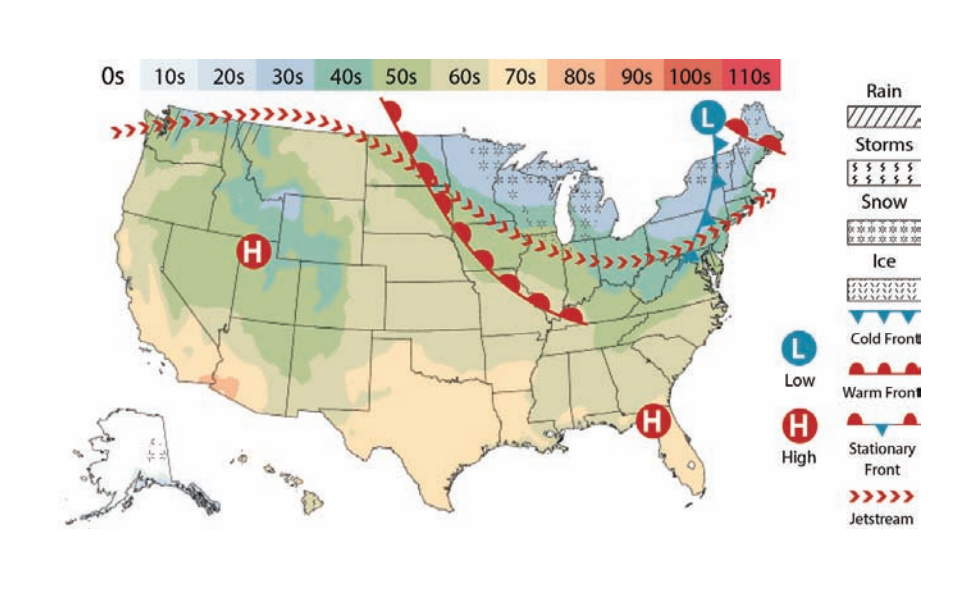
ALMANAC
 Statistics for Yesterday
 High/Low, Waukesha 36/18
 High/Low 41/24
 Normal High/Low 42/28
 Last year's high for date 51
 Last year's low for date 36
 Precipitation, Waukesha 0.00"
 Precipitation Trace
 Precip. month to date 0.42"
 Precip. year to date 21.70"
 Snowfall Yesterday Trace
 Snow season to date Trace

PRECIPITATION
 * Precipitation source: Gen. Mitchell International, Milwaukee. Precipitation is the liquid equivalent of snow, ice and rain.

Dec. 4	Dec. 10	Dec. 18	Dec. 26
New	First	Full	Last

Sunset today 4:19 p.m.
 Sunrise tomorrow 7:04 a.m.
 Moonrise tomorrow 3:33 a.m.
 Moonset tomorrow 2:41 p.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then changing to mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds up to 10 mph shifting to the southwest after midnight.
 Wednesday: Partly sunny.

MARINE FORECAST

Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
 Tonight: WNW wind 10 to 15 kt. Partly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less. Wednesday: SSW wind 15 to 20 kt. A chance of showers, mainly before noon. Waves 1 to 3 ft.
 Lake Michigan water temperature is 45 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.

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

ATLANTA High: 67 Low: 46	CHICAGO High: 50 Low: 42	DALLAS High: 76 Low: 55
DENVER High: 70 Low: 39	LOS ANGELES High: 80 Low: 53	MIAMI High: 77 Low: 69
MINNEAPOLIS High: 52 Low: 37	NEW YORK High: 47 Low: 39	PHOENIX High: 82 Low: 54
SEATTLE High: 56 Low: 46	ST. LOUIS High: 62 Low: 48	WASHINGTON High: 51 Low: 41



Submitted photo
 Brock Held with his dog, Athena, next to his set of Milwaukee Tool packout storage cases.

Builders

From Page 1A

One of the families Held and his team have helped so far is the Yourells, who have four children who were all injured in the parade. "We're kind of starting down the phase of recovery, mentally and physically," said their father Dylan Yourell. "We have to keep the prayers and support for the families that are still in the hospital." All of them will need to use the ramp the Nameless Builders constructed for them. Other families getting help from Nameless Builders include the Torres family, the Ties family, and more. Held, a lifelong Waukesha County resident, said he couldn't believe the feedback he's seen since the Nameless Builders got started — the group's name comes from a desire to keep their professional associations and companies private. Held did specifically give a shoutout to the Delafield Home Depot and Milwaukee Tool; the former

has donated materials for projects and the latter donated some tools. On Facebook, he's also thanked Neu's Hardware Gallery, Triple Crown Products, Inc., Colonial Insurance Agency, Jesse Daily and Kwik Trip. Held said he's grateful for the labor he's received. "I want to express thanks for the entire community of Waukesha for giving me an overwhelming response of free labor," Held said. "That was extremely encouraging. All the great words that they say on the Facebook post. Nobody's negative and they're looking for ways to help in any way possible." Looking ahead, Held said he wants to keep going with the project, and estimates \$50,000 would ensure all the projects could be completed. "I would hate to have to have me say I want to do more but we ran out of money," he said. To follow the progress of the Nameless Builders project, visit Waukesha Area Buy, Sell & Give Away on Facebook. Donation inquiries can be made by emailing Brockandathena@gmail.com.

Brooks

From Page 1A

If convicted, Brooks faces life in prison for each of the homicide counts currently filed. According to the amended criminal complaint filed Monday, detectives learned Nov. 23 of a sixth fatality, a child who had died at the hospital. The victim "suffered significant injuries as a result of being hit by the vehicle the defendant was driving," the complaint states, and an official from the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's office "performed an autopsy on Victim F and concluded the cause of death was cranio-cerebral injuries from blunt force trauma to the head." Brooks had his bail set at \$5 million last week by Court Commissioner Kevin Costello. 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. Brooks was out on bail in a separate case during the Waukesha Christmas Parade. If convicted, Brooks faces life in prison for each of the homicide counts currently filed. During the Tuesday hearing, Opper delved into Brooks' extensive criminal history. She 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 a similar nature were filed in Georgia and Nevada. According to the criminal complaint filed against Brooks in Waukesha County Circuit Court last week, a detective assigned to the intersection of White Rock Avenue and East Main Street Nov. 21 heard via police radio an officer was informed by a citizen "two people were fighting in the area of White Rock School." A few minutes later, the detective heard 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 the Waukesha County Medical Examiner's office officials for the five initially declared

deceased were all from multiple blunt force injuries. 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 states. "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 each time. One witness stated to law enforcement the vehicle moved in a "zigzag 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." 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. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office announced they are conducting an "internal review" on the bail decision for Brooks' case there. According to a statement issued by 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. According to court documents, Brooks will be represented in court by public defenders Jeremy Christian Perri and Anna Kees; Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Michael Bohren will preside over his case. Brooks is currently in custody and due for a preliminary hearing Jan. 14.

Contributing:
 Nikki Brahm, Conley Media

Schools

From Page 1A

With several students among those injured, and many students and staff having witnessed what Superintendent Jim Sebert described as something "human eyes shouldn't ever have to witness," there are resources available to help address any mental or emotional needs. There are about 75 counselors and psychologists onsite at Waukesha Schools to help — the district has 50 of its own. Sebert and Deputy Superintendent Joe Koch expressed voiced confidence in the counselors and psychologists at Waukesha Schools, and those from other districts temporarily offering their services here, which they said the district is grateful for. Koch specifically named Elmbrook, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee and Hamilton as districts loaning their staff to Waukesha, but said there are many others. Supportive centers are available and professionals are being directed to where they're needed at different schools, Koch said. Koch said much of the work will be handled on a case-by-case basis regarding what students may be experiencing and how they feel prepared to approach the end of

the semester. Koch said at about 1:30 p.m. Monday an estimated 250 students had used district services. He said a "substantial number" have done so overall so far, including the Waukesha South High School Band, one of the groups with injuries following the parade. A universal message was read to students Monday as classes resumed under a soft start Monday. The message acknowledged the parade tragedy itself and the emotional needs going forward. Over the weekend, a guest opinion piece by Sebert and School Board President Joe Como was printed in The Freeman. They said "it is fair to say that the unthinkable occurred on Sunday night in Waukesha. What

has always been a celebration leading up to the Christmas season turned into a tragic event." Citing the community's effort to rally around those affected and help, Sebert and Como ask how "we can harness the current momentum that is bringing us together to be Waukesha Strong?" Sebert said Monday the term "Waukesha Strong," which was coined to describe the community's recovery efforts following the parade, is appropriate considering what the district is seeking to do. The district has a Crisis Response Plan and was able to utilize that the night of the parade. Sebert said he

learned of what happened from Koch and described his immediate feeling as "complete shock." District officials met with principals at Lindholm on Nov. 21 in the same room as the press conference to determine next steps. Koch described the event as a "horror, and attack on innocents." Sebert said people have been reaching out about helping, and he'd recommend those looking to help to get in touch with Koch or himself. **Resources available** Some families may not feel they need professional help at this time, but want to make sure they approach discussions over the parade

the right way. The district has linked to a guide for parents and educators with tips on talking to children and youth after a traumatic event. That guide can be viewed here: <https://rb.gy/fbh2ox>. There's also a 24/7, year-round SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline which can be reached at 1-800-985-5990. Sebert said people have been reaching out about helping, and he'd recommend those looking to help to get in touch with Koch or himself.

Sparks, who was eight years old. To view daily updates on the conditions of the children, visit <https://bit.ly/3paen6C>. The hotline offers crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. Support in Spanish is available. For more on helping children and youth cope with disaster and traumatic events, visit online at <https://rb.gy/yohl8c>.

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