



Poll: Americans say grocery prices will affect voting in November ▶ 3B



Packers grab ugly win in overtime ▶ 1B

WAUKESHA COUNTY



The FREEMAN

A Trusted News Source Since 1859

\$1.50

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

gmtoday.com

DARRELL BROOKS TRIAL

Brooks moved to another courtroom for first day

At least five potential jurors struck for cause

By Brian Huber
bhuber@conley.net.com
262-513-2674

WAUKESHA — The trial against Waukesha Christmas Parade suspect Darrell Brooks got off to a rocky start on Monday, with repeated interruptions by the defendant that eventually got him moved to an adjacent courtroom to watch proceedings by video with his microphone muted.

Although jury selection was delayed until the afternoon because of the repeated interruptions by Brooks, with Circuit Judge Jennifer Dorow warning him he'd be removed from the courtroom, and his subsequent removal, at least five of the first 41 of more than 300 people called to jury duty in the case were struck for cause, with the judge, the state and Brooks finding reasons they should not serve on the jury.



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dorow addresses Darrell Brooks as he appears in a Waukesha County Circuit Court before jury selection in Waukesha on Monday. Brooks, who is representing himself during the trial, is charged with driving into the Waukesha Christmas Parade last year, killing six people and injuring dozens more. He faces six counts of first-degree intentional homicide and 71 other counts.

Brooks, 40, is charged with 76 crimes after he allegedly plowed a sport utility vehicle through the route of the Waukesha Christmas Parade last Nov. 21 — six counts of homicide by the use of a dangerous weapon, 61 counts of recklessly endangering safety by use of a dangerous weapon, six counts of hit-and-run causing death, two counts of felony bail jumping, and one count of misdemeanor battery. The state last week asked to drop one misdemeanor battery count against Brooks, which Dorow granted without a hearing.

It was a contentious morning Monday, starting with Brooks not recognizing himself when addressed by his own name, and with Brooks several times asking questions of Dorow that she took as interruptions. There

were multiple breaks in the morning after he interrupted proceedings. Dorow repeatedly warned Brooks that his right to represent himself is not absolute — a court can order an attorney to represent him or refer him to the public defender and he can be removed from the courtroom for a time although Dorow said she preferred he'd be present.

"Is that constitutional?" he asked.

"You cannot keep interrupting me. You wanted to do this on your own," Dorow told Brooks. "This is not a debate on the constitutionality of anything."

Brooks pressed onward, though, asking the judge whether they were proceeding under common law, admiralty law governing nautical matters, or other. He repeatedly asked the judge to tell him her name

and for a copy of her judicial oath. He asked for leave to appeal the matter and was denied. He asked to stay the trial and was denied, with the judge telling him his motions were not properly made and were baseless.

"Are you or are you not a public servant? You're not required to tell me your name?" Brooks said. "Do you have a claim against me, your honor? ... Can anyone here make a more superior claim against this straw party than me?"

Dorow did not respond, ordering that copies of the judicial oath be given to him.

Brooks was given copies of the judicial oath, then asked to have certified copies, and was told he could get them from the secretary of State's office.

When Dorow ordered

breaks in the morning session, Brooks said he did not consent to the proceedings and asked for the matter to be dismissed and said he would not participate.

"That's not your call to make," Dorow told Brooks, warning that he could be found in contempt. Brooks asked if it was civil contempt or criminal. Dorow replied it was civil; Brooks then asked to see what contract he was accused of violating.

"You're making silly nonsensical arguments that this court has no jurisdiction over ... under doctrines frankly (rejected) by other courts," the judge said.

Brooks watches from another courtroom

But the trial resumed, with Brooks continually

See **BROOKS**, PAGE 6A



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

Darrell Brooks looks up during jury selection as he appears via video from an adjacent courtroom due to him continually interrupting Judge Jennifer Dorow in a Waukesha County Circuit Court during jury selection in Waukesha on Monday.

J.J. Watt thankful to be playing after atrial fibrillation

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — J.J. Watt and his wife Kealia have spent the past few months looking at ultrasounds of their unborn son and wishing for the best.

They never thought they'd be looking at pictures of Watt's own heart.

"It's been a week. I'm happy to be here. Happy to..." an emotional Watt said as his voice trailed off and he took a moment to gain control of his emotions.

The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and Pewaukee native helped the Cardinals beat the Carolina Panthers 26-16 on Sunday, just three days after having his heart shocked into rhythm after going into atrial fibrillation.

"I talked to cardiologists and

electrophysiologists from all over the country," Watt said. "I was assured multiple times from multiple people that there was nothing else you could do. I could play like normal and something could happen the next day or never again in 20 years. So I was assured and I went back to practice on Friday and here we are."

"Obviously it's been a very emotional week for me and my family — for my wife and for myself," he added.

Watt found out Sunday that a media outlet planned to break the story about his medical condition, which upset him.

To get ahead of the news Watt tweeted just hours before kickoff that "I was just told somebody leaked some personal information about me and it's going to be

reported on today. I went into A-Fib on Wednesday, had my heart shocked back into rhythm on Thursday and I'm playing today. That's it."

After the game Watt said he felt betrayed that someone shared his private medical information with the media.

"The only people that knew were my family and people in the building," Watt said.

Watt added: "Injuries, I don't care. You leak injuries. That's football. But this one was very emotional for me, so it was upsetting."

Watt had a key fourth quarter deflection of Baker Mayfield's pass at the line of scrimmage that led to Dennis Gardeck's interception and helped the Cardinals take a 20-10 lead in the

fourth quarter. He finished with three tackles and two pass breakups.

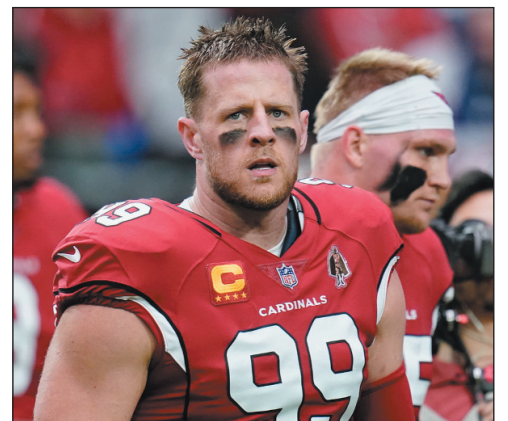
"It shows you what kind of a person and competitor and human being he is. He's special," Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "We're all obviously worried when he wasn't around for a couple of days handling that. I think it was definitely inspiring for all of us."

Added Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray: "It was big time having him out there — and I'm glad he's OK."

Defining A-Fib

Atrial fibrillation is defined as a "an irregular and often very rapid heart rhythm that can lead

See **WATT**, PAGE 6A



AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin, File

Arizona Cardinals defensive end J.J. Watt (99) is shown before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams on Sept. 25 in Glendale, Ariz. Watt says he had his heart shocked into rhythm after going into atrial fibrillation.

Volume 164 No.136



7 97883 00027 1

INDEX

Business.....	3B	Lottery.....	2A
Classified.....	4B	Obituaries.....	5A
Commentary.....	4A	Sports.....	1B
Community.....	5B	Stocks.....	3B
Crossword.....	5B	Weather.....	6A

WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Mostly cloudy
High 70 / Low 46

See complete forecast on Page 6A

FREEMAN ONLINE:

Subscribers get free access to the full e-edition of the newspaper at:

gmtoday.com/freeman

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



\$750 OFF

the Purchase of a
New Furnace & AC!

10 YEAR WARRANTY

Exp. 11/15/2022



The Professional's Choice

YODERS

HEATING & COOLING

(262) 468-6683



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

LIVE MUSIC
FRIDAY NIGHTS
STARTING AT
8:00 PM
OPEN BOWLING



OPEN BOWLING!
FALL LEAGUE
SIGN-UP UNDER WAY!
BOTH LOCATIONS
MIDNIGHT BOWLING \$11.00
Every FRIDAY and SATURDAY
All you can bowl for 2 hours, includes shoe rental.

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

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
Mostly Cloudy
45


TOMORROW
Mostly Cloudy
70/46

THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy
69/37

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
49/31

SATURDAY
Sunny
53/35

REGIONAL FORECAST



COMFORT INDEX
10
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: 64/37
High/Low: 65/45
Normal High/Low: 67/50
Last year's high for date: 76
Last year's low for date: 65
Precipitation, Waukesha: 0.00"
Precipitation: 0.00"
Precip. month to date: 0.00"
Normal month to date: 0.30"
Precip. year to date: 29.61"
Normal year to date: 27.97"

HEAT INDEX TOMORROW
A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body
8 a.m.: 56
Noon: 68
4 p.m.: 68
8 p.m.: 64

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: 936
Normal season to date: 772

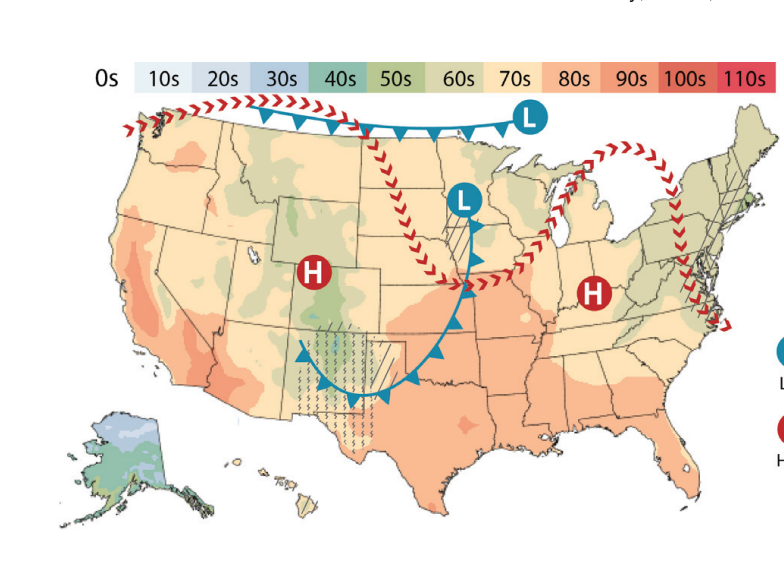
ILLINOIS
Chicago: 73/51
Rockford: 71/45
Madison: 70/47
Waukesha: 69/45

TEMPERATURES SHOWN ARE TOMORROW'S HIGHS AND LOWS.

SUNSET TODAY 6:28 p.m.
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:54 a.m.

MOONRISE TOMORROW 4:53 p.m.
MOONSET TOMORROW 1:31 a.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds up to 5 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds up to 10 mph.

MARINE FORECAST
Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
Tonight: S wind around 10 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less.
Wednesday: SW wind around 10 kt. Partly sunny. Waves 1 ft or less.

Lake Michigan water temperature is 66 degrees.

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX FORECAST
The UVI forecast for Wednesday is **3**
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: 79 Low: 49	CHICAGO High: 73 Low: 51	DALLAS High: 88 Low: 60
DENVER High: 69 Low: 45	LOS ANGELES High: 85 Low: 64	MIAMI High: 83 Low: 74
MINNEAPOLIS High: 71 Low: 59	NEW YORK High: 64 Low: 52	PHOENIX High: 95 Low: 74
SEATTLE High: 70 Low: 55	ST. LOUIS High: 80 Low: 47	WASHINGTON High: 63 Low: 50

U.S. warns about foreign efforts to sway American voters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials are warning ahead of the November midterms that Russia is working to amplify doubts about the integrity of U.S. elections while China is interested in undermining American politicians it sees as threats to Beijing's interests.

An unclassified intelligence advisory, newly obtained by The Associated Press, says China is probably seeking to influence select races to "hinder candidates perceived to be particularly adversarial to Beijing." In the advisory, sent to state and local officials in mid-September, intelligence officials said they believe Beijing sees a lower risk in meddling in the midterms versus a presidential election.

While officials said they've not identified any credible threats to election infrastructure in the U.S., the latest intelligence warning comes amid the peak of a midterm campaign in which a rising number of candidates and voters openly express a lack of confidence in the nation's democratic processes.

Foreign countries have long sought to sway public opinion in America, perhaps most notably in a covert Russian campaign that used social media to sow discord on hot-button social issues ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The U.S. government has been on high alert since, warning about efforts by Russia, China and Iran to meddle in American politics and shape how voters think.

The U.S. faces foreign influence campaigns while still dealing with growing threats to election workers domestically and the systematic spread of unverified claims about voter fraud. Former President Donald Trump and many of his supporters — including candidates running to oversee elections in several states — continue to assert that the 2020 presidential election was "stolen" even as no evidence has emerged of significant voter fraud.

"The current environment is pretty complex, arguably much more complex than it was in 2020," Jen Easterly, director of the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity arm, told reporters Monday.

Brooks

From Page 1A

mounting objections, prompting further breaks. At one point, District Attorney Susan Opper asked Dorow to research a Supreme Court case involving when defendants may be restrained in court, saying, "I think we're getting to the point Mr. Brooks is so disruptive the court may be warranted in gagging his mouth."

As the first jury pool was brought in around 10 a.m., Brooks harangued the judge, telling her she was being biased against him and unfair, which caused the judge to send the jurors back to a waiting room for another court break.

Dorow warned Brooks that he would be moved to an adjacent courtroom for the proceedings, where he was able to hear and see what was going on in court, and could be seen in court with the judge having his microphone muted. That occurred by late morning, and Brooks could be seen throughout the day gesticulating wildly and talking to a bailiff off-camera.

When court resumed, Brooks complained he should be allowed to be present for all aspects of his trial and asked if it was constitutional. Dorow said it was legal for him to be put in another courtroom, noting he had been "anything but" respectful.

The morning also saw Brooks complain he was "behind the 8 ball" in terms of his inability to prepare for the trial, given the three boxes of papers and a hard drive containing other evidence on Thursday last week, a day after Dorow allowed Brooks' attorneys to withdraw. But one of them, Jeremy Perri, appeared by audio Monday, informing the court that his office turned over all its case materials to the jail to be delivered to Brooks.

That led to an hourlong hearing with jail Administrator Angela Wollenhaupt, who testified that Brooks has the paper files in his cell, she ordered staff to give Brooks access to a conference room to prepare, and although tablets are limited in cells, she authorized Brooks to have one. A jailer noted to her Brooks had not made a request as of Friday to view the hard drive containing evidence. Brooks has never had a request for access to such materials denied, she testified. Brooks asked her about inmate communication forms she may not have received, and asked to have two jailers on duty Friday testify; that matter was left open to determine their schedules.

After a lunch period, Brooks was allowed back in the courtroom, where Dorow told Brooks he'd shown at times he can behave appropriately, but warned again that repeated disruptions could not be tolerated. When Brooks asked how it was constitutional for him to be put into another

er courtroom, Dorow replied it constitutes presence under the law. When he said, "I won't abide by that," Dorow again ordered Brooks into the adjacent courtroom.

Dorow, consulting the Supreme Court case, said misbehaving defendants can be bound and gagged as a "last resort," or cited for contempt, or removed from the courtroom until they behave properly. But Dorow said the technology available today to allow for virtual presence in a courtroom was a preferable alternative to gagging Brooks or delaying the trial that so many for the courts, sheriff's departments, state and defense have worked for and which the victims in the case have a right to see completed.

Jury selection

Jury selection began again just before 3 p.m., with Brooks still gesticulating wildly and speaking to someone off camera. When the judge introduced the parties, Brooks covered his face with papers. A few minutes later, he pulled his jacket over his head and rested his head on the table in front of him, where it remained for most of the rest of the afternoon.

Later in the day, after the jury pool was dismissed, Brooks was asked if he wanted to return to the courtroom. He declined, saying, "I'm fine here."

During jury selection, several potential jurors said they'd known about the case through the media; all said they felt they could disregard prior knowledge and decide the case based solely on the evidence presented and what the law instructs them.

At least five jurors were struck for cause — reasons they should not be deemed jurors. One man appeared to have difficulty understanding the questions being asked in court. One woman, a nurse, was dismissed after reporting she was on duty at Waukesha Memorial Hospital providing medical care to victims. Another reported he'd watched a livestream of proceedings last week despite a warning not to. A woman was struck because of some of her answers to questions. Another woman, a former employee of the District Attorney's Office, was struck, too, although she hadn't worked there in over a decade.

When asked if there were questions he had of individual jury candidates, Brooks said, "I don't understand which questions I need to ask. I want to strike everybody. Strike them all. ... There are ample reasons why none of the people in there should sit on this jury."

But Brooks later said he did not have objections to the four specifically struck by the state or the one nurse who was excused.

A number of others cited financial hardship or needing to tend to the health of loved ones as reasons they couldn't sit on the jury for



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Darrell Brooks argues with Judge Jennifer Dorow in court on Monday.



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper walks in court as Darrell Brooks appears in a Waukesha County Circuit Court during jury selection in Waukesha on Monday.



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Waukesha County Jail Administrator Angela Wollenhaupt testifies in court on Monday.



Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Darrell Brooks covers his face during jury selection on Monday.

the month the trial is scheduled. Dorow said she will address those concerns today after researching the matter and instructed the remaining jurors to return this afternoon.

Only the first 41 jurors of the day's pool of 105 were questioned Monday, with the remainder sent home to undergo jury selection today. The 105 slated to appear today, Dorow said,

Watt

From Page 1A

to blood clots in the heart," according to the Mayo Clinic. That can increase the risk of stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications if not properly addressed.

The 33-year-old Watt said his wife was by his side the entire time, even as he had to be under anesthesia to have the heart shocked.

He doesn't know what caused the irregular heartbeat, but admitted the experience frightened him.

"I've had, obviously, surgeries before and injuries before," Watt said. "And I've never been nervous for any of them. I've never been scared of anesthesia. I've never been scared of pain. But when they told me they were going to put me out and shock my heart, I was scared."

Watt said he was thankful to be healthy enough to play.

And now he's looking forward to seeing his son, who is due in two weeks.

"I'm glad it all worked out," Watt said. "I'm glad I had good people taking care of me. And I'm glad I'm here today."

N. Korea sends missile soaring over Japan in escalation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Tuesday fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan for the first time in five years, forcing Japan to issue evacuation notices and suspend trains during the flight of the weapon that is capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam.

The launch was the most provocative weapons demonstration by North Korea this year as it ramps up missile tests to a record pace. Two intercontinental ballistic missiles tested earlier this year were launched at high angles and short of their full range and so didn't fly over other nations' territories.

Tuesday's test, the North's fifth round of missile launches in 10 days, comes as North Korea uses a diplomatic standstill with the U.S. to build up a full-fledged nuclear weapons program that viably threatens regional U.S. allies and the American homeland.

The Japanese prime minister's office said at least one missile fired from North Korea flew over Japan and was believed to have landed into the Pacific Ocean.

Japanese authorities alerted residents in northeastern regions to evacuate to shelters, in the first "J-alert" alert since 2017, when North Korea fired an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile twice over Japan in a span of weeks during its previous torrid

run of weapons tests.

Trains were suspended in the Hokkaido and Amori regions until the government issued a subsequent notice that the North Korean missile appeared to have landed into the Pacific.

The United States condemned the launch as "dangerous and reckless" and said national security adviser Jake Sullivan had consulted with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts on their appropriate and robust responses.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that "the firing, which followed a recent series of launches by North Korea, is a reckless act and I strongly condemn it." Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said no damage was immediately reported from the missile that flew 22 minutes.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it detected the missile being fired from the inland north in North Korea. It warned the North's repeated missile launches would only deepen its international isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to bolster their deterrence capacities.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol also said the North's "reckless nuclear provocations" would meet the stern response of the South and the broader international community.