

Holiday Train is returning to Hartland

▶ 3A



INSIDE

Home & garden tips in Home section

WAUKESHA COUNTY



The FREEMAN

A Trusted News Source Since 1859

\$2

Saturday, October 15, 2022

gmtoday.com

Brooks appeared 'almost happy' as he drove through parade, witness says

Police officer testifies about shooting at SUV

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

WAUKESHA — An off-duty Franklin police official at the Waukesha Christmas Parade last fall said Friday morning that based on the sounds he was hearing of an engine revving at high speed and seeing it travel through the parade at high speeds, he initially thought someone may be having a medical emergency.

But Assistant Police Chief Craig Liermann testified that notion quickly dissipated.

"He stuck his head and upper portion of his body out the window and looked back ... to the point I briefly it crossed my mind he actually may fall out. ... At that point when he looked back and he kind of turned towards the front, based on his body language, my heart kind of sank because I felt like what I thought could be a medical emergency or something like that, I felt like it was an intentional act so that upset me a little bit."

Liermann said he got a good look at the driver, who then "cranked" the SUV to the right, directly into the Catholic Community of Waukesha group where he was watching near Maple Avenue and Main Street.

"Based on the body language that the driver exhibited as he passed me ... I would describe him as being in an excited state, not in a state of panic, more excited or being almost happy about what was going on. Not panicked or scared."

Liermann testified after the SUV went through, he saw about a dozen or more people to both his left and right lying in the street. He helped tend to victims and get them into vehicles, riding with one to a hospital.

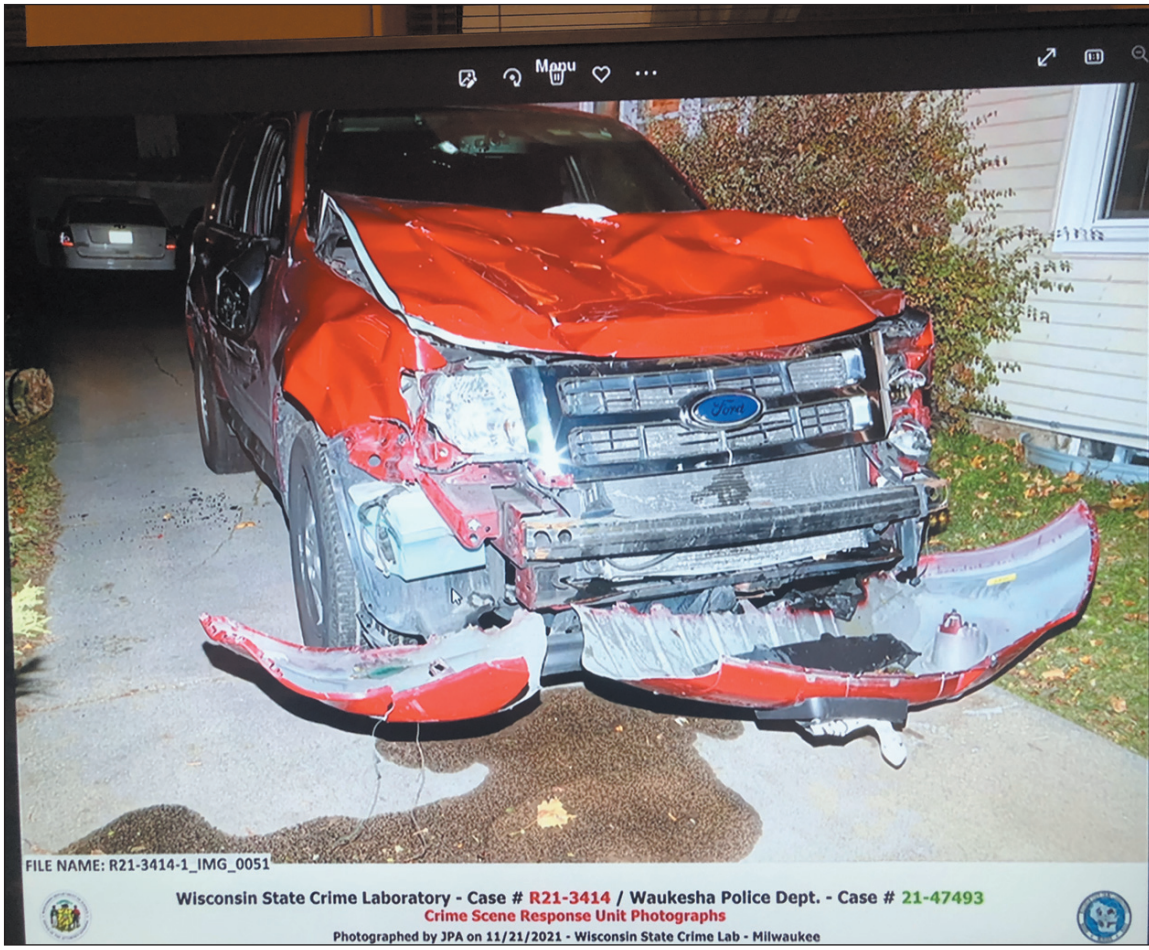
The testimony came during the 10th day of the trial against Darrell Brooks Jr., 40, who is charged with 76 crimes including six counts of homicide by the use of a dangerous weapon, 61 counts of recklessly endangering safety, six counts of hit-and-run causing death, and more after authorities say he drove his mother's red Ford Escape through the Christmas Parade.

See TRIAL, PAGE 6A



Angela Peterson/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Franklin Assistant Police Chief Craig Liermann views video of the Waukesha Christmas Parade, in which he identified Darrell Brooks driving a red SUV through the parade, during Brooks' trial on Friday.



Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory - Case # R21-3414 / Waukesha Police Dept. - Case # 21-47493  
Crime Scene Response Unit Photographs  
Photographed by JPA on 11/21/2021 - Wisconsin State Crime Lab - Milwaukee

Brian Huber/Freeman Staff

This screenshot of an image broadcast over the live feed for the trial of Darrell Brooks shows the vehicle Brooks allegedly drove through the Waukesha Christmas Parade route as it was seen by police afterward at a Maple Avenue residence on Nov. 21. A garment can be seen wedged between the hood and the windshield; a headband worn by a parade participant also hung from the driver's side mirror.



Angela Peterson/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

After several heated exchanges between Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dorow and defendant Darrell Brooks, Dorow orders a break for the entire courtroom during Brooks' trial on Friday.



Angela Peterson/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Darrell Brooks cross-examines Franklin Assistant Police Chief Craig Liermann, a witness for the prosecution, on Friday during his trial at the Waukesha County Courthouse. Brooks, who is acting as his own defense in the trial, is facing homicide and reckless endangerment charges for the 2021 Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy. Liermann testified about seeing the red SUV drive through the parade.

WAUKESHA WATER PLAN

Water bill projections on target, Great Water Alliance says

Water supply will transition to Lake Michigan water next year

WAUKESHA — The Great Water Alliance announced that future water rates are on target with past projections as the alliance expects to transition Waukesha's water supply from groundwater to Lake Michigan water next year, according to a statement shared with The Freeman.

"Despite a number of major challenges, including current shortages of supplies and labor, water rates at the end of the project will be in line with the estimates we gave to residents at the start of the project," Waukesha Water Utility general manager Dan Duchniak said in the release.

Average total water bills in 2027, when the ongoing costs of the new water supply are fully reflected in rates, will be about \$149 per month. This is up from the current average of \$95, but lower than the \$155 estimated in 2018, the alliance says.

Water supply and return flow costs will make up \$96 of the \$149 bill.

The infrastructure project to bring water from Milwaukee that began in 2020 is known as the Great Water Alliance. Overall, construction is 72% complete, including 29 of the 36 miles of pipeline needed. After being treated, water will be returned to the Root River, a Lake Michigan tributary.

Long-term use of Waukesha's current groundwater supply is environmentally unsustainable and, additionally, the current supply is contaminated with radium, the alliance says, necessitating a transition to a different source.

"Every community needs a healthy water supply," Mayor Shawn Reilly said in the release. "...There was no do-nothing option. Our alternatives were thoroughly explored and the switch to Lake Michigan water was the most affordable alternative."

According to the statement, bills for a family using about 4,000 gallons of water per month are expected to increase on the following schedule:

- 2023: \$100
- 2024: \$114
- 2025: \$134
- 2026: \$147
- 2027: \$149

In the release, Duchniak said that rates will increase most in 2024 and 2025 as construction costs are accounted for.

Lake Michigan water is softer than groundwater, which could save families as much as \$300 per year by reducing or eliminating the need for water softening, according to the release.

The Waukesha Water Utility will give a presentation to the Common Council on Tuesday. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 201 Delafield St.

Volume 164 No. 145



7 97883 00075 2

INDEX

Business.....8B	Lottery.....3A
Classified.....6B	Obituaries.....7A
Commentary.....4A	Sports.....1B
Community.....7B	Stocks.....8B
Crossword.....5B	Weather.....8A

WEATHER



Evers, Michels square off in debate ▶ 5A

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



Attorney  
Pat Schott

**Personal Injury ♦ Business Litigation**



**SCHOTT, BUBLITZ & ENGEL s.c.**

**The Right Legal Team – Right Here in Waukesha**

**262.827.1700** 640 W. MORELAND BLVD. • WAUKESHA • www.sbe-law.com



Attorney  
Kevin Bublitz



Celebrating our 25th year in Waukesha County

# Trial

From Page 1A

Another off-duty police officer, Ralph Salyers III of the Wauwatosa Police Department, said he went to the parade to watch his daughter perform with the Liberty Dance group near Maple and Main as well. He took a vehicle separately to the parade to surprise family members, and afterward walked back to his car with one of his daughters. He said he was on Maple Avenue and saw an SUV driving behind houses across the street, heard a crash, and then saw a damaged SUV pull into a driveway, and saw a man get out to look at the damaged front end. That man went back and got items out of the car and ran southbound, appearing to be in a panic, he said. He identified Brooks as that man.

## Shots fired

Waukesha Police Specialist Bryce Scholten then testified about the events of that day. Scholten was stationed at Main Street and Wisconsin Avenue to control traffic. He said he heard a report of a domestic disturbance at Frame Park, then minutes later heard more reports of people being hit on the parade route, at various locations but headed his way. Once the red SUV turned left at the end of Main Street, he testified given the vehicle's speed, the "extreme vehicle damage" to the front end, "I knew that this vehicle had likely and based on the speed of the vehicle that the vehicle had ran through the entire parade route and likely severely injured people or killed people and at that point I thought it was a terror attack," he said.

Scholten said it accelerated toward him and he decided deadly force was needed to stop the threat. He waited for the vehicle to pass him — with a few feet on his right — so he was aiming away from the parade route when he fired three shots at the vehicle as it crashed through the barricades at Wisconsin Avenue. On cross-examination, when Brooks asked how a driver could leave the parade route if all the cross streets were barricaded, Scholten told him he could have obeyed lawful commands he was given by police who could have directed him off the route safely, he could have simply stopped at any point, or he could have simply driven through the barricades, as he did at West Avenue. He bluntly told Brooks he was aiming to shoot him, saying, "I am trained to stop the threat. You were the threat. The vehicle was the weapon which you used. So that is why I shot at you."



Angela Peterson/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Wauwatosa Police Officer Ralph Salyers points to Darrell Brooks as the person he saw exiting a red SUV on Nov. 21, 2021 during the Waukesha Christmas Parade. Salyers was testifying for the prosecution during Brooks' trial on Friday.

## Vehicle found

Waukesha Police Officer Christopher Moss testified he led the parade as part of a police honor guard and completed the parade route without incident. He went back to the department to change into a duty uniform for his shift that night when calls began coming in about the incident. He went to the scene, described it as "absolute chaos," and moved his car onto Main Street, where a young man flagged him down and said he knew where the suspect vehicle was — in the driveway of a Maple Avenue residence. He guided the officer there, where the officer first made sure the "heavily damaged" SUV was safe, then looked inside and found papers with Brooks' identifying information on it. The car listed to Brooks' mother.

Moss said he found a garment wedged between the hood of the SUV and the windshield, and a headband like those worn by parade participants dangling from the driver's side mirror. He taped off the area, took pictures of the car and a few minutes later learned Brooks had been arrested a few blocks away on Elizabeth Street. He was dispatched to pick up District Attorney Susan Opper from the parade route, and they returned to the police station to draft a search warrant, subsequently approved by Dorow who was the on-call judge that day.



Angela Peterson/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Darrell Brooks in court during his trial on Friday at the Waukesha County Courthouse.

Carlos Arichega Nolasco testified he was home in the upper flat of the residence when he heard a scraping sound and saw the SUV had pulled into his driveway pretty well "beat up." He said he saw a man in a gray or white hoodie exit the vehicle and leave the area, walking down Main Street. He checked with his downstairs neighbors who did not recognize the vehicle, and then called police when they said they did not recognize it. He said a hat found in the

yard was not claimed by any residents in the house. He added he did not know at first about the parade incident but then saw people walking away from the downtown area, some of them appearing frightened, and later pieced things together.

## More sparring

Friday's session was delayed when within moments of starting when Brooks asked Dorow about paperwork he'd filed. He has

requested certified copies of the three criminal complaints against him, and Dorow told him he'd have to get them from the records custodian, Clerk of Courts Monica Paz, and that Dorow would not address it. The jury was sent out as Brooks again brought up "subject matter jurisdiction" as they came in, and more verbal sparring ensued. Dorow warned Brooks that he needed to stop interrupting proceedings and cease bringing up "irrelevant matters" in front of the jury, threatening that Brooks would be removed to the alternate courtroom where he found himself at times last week.

"The jury is coming out. We are continuing with this trial despite your repeated efforts to disrupt. Yesterday alone, sir, 17 interruptions, not including the opportunity I gave you spending 50 minutes discussing what were primarily either irrelevant or baseless accusations and requests not based in law or fact," she said as Brooks again raised jurisdictional questions. "Your belief that that's the law doesn't make it so."

During a break in the afternoon, Dorow signed an order denying Brooks' various oral motions to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction, pointing to state statutes establishing courts' authority over all matters civil and criminal and empowering them to apply the law and declare punishment. She wrote that it is "clear" the court has jurisdiction over the case and found Brooks' arguments "without merit."

Also Friday, copies were made public of sheriff's deputies' reports about an Oct. 6 incident where Brooks was removed from Dorow's courtroom into an adjacent one after outbursts. As deputies tried to get him there, Brooks resisted, stiffening his legs to prevent being shackled to a tether connected to a court table, took off a shoe and raised it in a threatening manner toward deputies, and did the same with a water bottle. He removed his shirt, flexed his muscles and challenged deputies to fight him, the reports said. Brooks said in court he sustained a cut to a finger and bruises that left him a little "tender," but the cut was addressed in a break. The reports also indicated Brooks had an injury to a "sensitive area" that necessitated photos being taken by male deputies. Dorow told Brooks at that point if he desired he could file a use-of-force complaint against deputies to be investigated.

The trial is to resume Monday, with the state's case now expected to wrap Tuesday.

# Take your money further.

**NEW HIGHER RATE!**

# Earn 3.00%\*

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD

## on a 12 month CD

**OFFER AVAILABLE IN-BRANCH ONLY!**

Open yours today at  
**13925 W. North Ave., Brookfield, WI**  
**(262) 789-1011**

**BY** Byline Bank®  
 Build yours.®

\*Rates are effective as of 10/4/2022. Limited time offer only available when opening in the Byline Bank Brookfield branch. \$5000 minimum deposit required to open account and earn Annual Percentage Yield (APY). Certificate of Deposit (CD) offering a 3.00% APY has a term of 12 months. Interest is compounded and paid quarterly. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Withdrawals will reduce earnings. Fees may reduce earnings on the account. Rates are set at the bank's discretion and may change at any time. We reserve the right to cancel or change the promotion at any time. Promotional CDs may renew into a different term. We send you a maturity notice prior to renewal. Please read it carefully. ©2022 Byline Bank. Member FDIC.

## GIVE & WIN SWEEPSTAKES

Give a new or increased gift of **\$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100** to United Way's Community Fund by 5:00 P.M. CST Friday, November 11, 2022 and be automatically entered to win.

**GIVE \$100 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING**

# \$10,000 CASH

Sponsor by Johnson Controls

**GIVE \$75 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING**

## BREWERS SPRING TRAINING PACKAGE

Sponsored by: Brewers Community Foundation & Ixonia Bank

**GIVE \$50 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING**

### GREEN BAY PACKERS GAME DAY EXPERIENCE

Sponsored by Green Bay Packers

### COCOA BEACHDREAM VACATION

Sponsored by Zilber LTD. & Linda Gorens-Levey

**GIVE \$25 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING**

### GRAND GENEVA RESORT & SPA GETAWAY

Sponsored by Marcus Hotels & Resorts

**VERLO V3 BED** Sponsored by Verlo

**BUCKS FAN PACKAGE** Sponsored by Milwaukee Bucks

Donate at [UnitedWayGMWC.org/Sweepstakes](https://UnitedWayGMWC.org/Sweepstakes).

Thank you to our ad sponsor:

**Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County**

**Reinhart**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW