

Reviews of two musicals



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Enough staff at suburban stores? 'We are confident'

Despite labor shortages, retailers say they're ready for Black Friday

BY ELENA FERRARIN
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In light of the current labor shortage, shoppers may wonder what the situation will be like in stores on Black Friday.

Retail businesses across the suburbs, both part of national chains and independently owned, say they have been working hard to attract new employees and are confident

they'll have the staffing they need for one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

"With the (COVID-19) pandemic, hiring has changed in nature and was at times difficult, but lately, we've been able to get more candidates and applications," said Jon Abt, co-president of Abt Electronics in Glenview.

The electronics store will not be short-staffed this holiday season,

after doing things like upping its pay to \$18 an hour and diversifying its advertisement via billboards, website and email, he said.

Sheri McGown, owner of Cocoon gift shop in Geneva, said she's had no trouble keeping the store staffed with her customary 10 employees, none of whom were let go during the pandemic.

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Sales personnel help customers Friday at Abt Electronics in Glenview. While many businesses nationwide are facing labor shortages, the store and others across the suburbs expect enough staffing on hand to handle Black Friday.

'We are Waukesha strong'

Community unites after 5 killed, dozens injured by SUV at parade; charges coming

BY SCOTT BAUER, MICHAEL BALSAMO AND MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

WAUKESHA, Wis. — Hundreds gathered at a downtown park Monday night for a candlelight vigil to honor those lost and hurt after an SUV plowed into a Christmas parade in this Milwaukee suburb, killing at least five people and injuring 48.

Volunteers handed out sandwiches, hot chocolate and candles at the vigil, which was attended by interfaith leaders and elected officials.

"We are parents. We are neighbors. We are hurting. We are angry. We are sad. We are confused. We are thankful. We are all in this together. We are Waukesha Strong," said a tearful Amanda Medina Roddy, with the Waukesha school district.



Darrell Brooks Jr.

The SUV's driver was leaving the scene of a domestic dispute that had taken place just minutes earlier, Police Chief Dan Thompson said. There was no evidence the bloodshed Sunday was a terrorist attack or that the suspect, Darrell Brooks Jr., 39, of Milwaukee, knew anyone in the parade, Thompson said, and he acted alone.

Brooks had left the site of the domestic disturbance before officers arrived and was not being chased by police at the time of the

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A child is among those taking part in a candlelight vigil Monday in downtown Waukesha, Wis., a day after an SUV plowed into a Sunday Christmas parade, killing five and injuring dozens.



A woman puts up a sign saying "Waukesha weeps" outside City Hall in Waukesha.

Social media director for DuPage Dems out

• Downers Grove woman likened Waukesha deaths to "karma" over Rittenhouse verdict. Page 4

Student from Grayslake witnesses panic and horror

BY DOUG T. GRAHAM
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Chaos, screaming and crying were what Kaylee Stal saw after a man drove his SUV through the Waukesha Christmas parade Sunday, killing five people and injuring many more.

Stal, who grew up in Grayslake and moved to Waukesha over the summer, attended the parade with her family as a way to connect with their new community. But the festivities came to a tragic halt late in the afternoon. By evening, Stal — an intern for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and a journalism major at Marquette University — was part of the unfolding national story.



Kaylee Stal

"In that moment there's this fear and I'm thinking, 'What can I do?'" Stal on Monday recalled of the scene.

Stal quickly began to chronicle it.

She posted on Twitter: "UPDATE: A car just ran through the middle of a downtown Waukesha. I parade. Multiple people on the ground injured," becoming one of the first to report on the tragedy.

"I was not on assignment. I just

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Arbery's death soon goes to jury

Prosecutors say he was killed because he was Black; defense claims slaying was self-defense

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — Attorneys made a final push Monday to persuade the jury in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, with the prosecution saying three white men chased him solely "because he was a Black man running down the street" and defense attorneys repeatedly blaming Arbery for his own death.

In closing arguments, a defense attorney for the man who fired the fatal gunshots said the 25-year-old Arbery was killed as he violently resisted a legal effort to detain him to answer questions about burglaries in a neighborhood just outside the port city of Brunswick, Georgia. "It is absolutely, horrifically tragic that this has happened," attorney Jason Sheffield said. "This is where the law is intertwined with heartache and tragedy. You are allowed to defend yourself."

The attorneys made their appeals to the disproportionately white jury after 10 days of testimony that concluded last week. Closing arguments were to resume today. Prosecutors will get the final word because they carry the burden of proving their case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Arbery's killing in 2020 became part of a larger national reckoning on racial injustice after a graphic video of his death leaked online two months later. Though prosecutors did not argue that racism motivated the killing, federal authorities have charged all three men with hate crimes, alleging that they chased and killed Arbery because he was Black.

Father and son Greg and Travis McMichael grabbed guns and pursued Arbery in a pickup

See ARBERY on PAGE 2



Ahmaud Arbery

Officially his hometown's police chief

BY KATLYN SMITH
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Glendale Heights has a new police chief, though he's certainly not new to Glendale Heights.

George Pappas is now officially at the helm of his hometown police department.

Village trustees appointed Pappas, who had been acting chief, to the permanent post, making him only the second top cop born and raised in Glendale Heights, officials say.

Glendale Hts. trustees appoint Pappas

His roots there run deep. Pappas went to Reskin Elementary, Marquardt Middle and Glenbard North High schools. His mother, Beverly, is still a school crossing guard.

"Just being from this community, I believe in Glendale Heights," Pappas said Monday as he started his first full week as permanent chief. "I believe in the residents here. I believe in the businesses and

the schools here."

He's focused on community interaction and developing relationships in Glendale Heights, a diverse suburb where nearly 32% of the population is Hispanic or Latino and 21% is Asian, the most recent census figures showed.

"People talk about community policing a lot, but they don't always follow through on it," Pappas said. "That's what I

want to do, make sure we actually get out there and we are involved with our community."

Pappas was drawn to law enforcement growing up with coaches who were police officers. He started his career in Glendale Heights nearly 30 years ago as a community service officer in 1992 before being sworn in as an officer in 1996.

But his employment with the village goes back even

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George Pappas has been sworn in as the new police chief in Glendale Heights, his lifelong hometown.

Weather

A little warmer

Into the 40s.

See the back of Section 2.



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DuPage Democrat tweets that tragedy was 'karma' for Rittenhouse

Social media manager resigns; party disavows 'insensitive' remark

BY SUSAN SARKAUSKAS
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A Downers Grove woman has resigned from her position as social media director for the Democratic Party of DuPage County after coming under fire for a tweet she wrote after the Christmas parade tragedy in Wisconsin.

The local party announced Monday afternoon that it had cut ties with Mary Lemanski and denounced her remarks.

In a now-deleted tweet, Lemanski posted that the crash that killed at least five people and injured more than 40 others was "karma" for the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse.

On Monday, she posted another tweet announcing her resignation as the social media director of the Democratic Party of DuPage County.

"I unfortunately made some remarks that were not in good taste regarding the Waukesha tragedy yesterday," she wrote. "I am accepting the consequences of my free speech."

Ken Mejia-Beal, the chairman of the Democratic Party of DuPage County, issued a statement saying the organization immediately severed all ties with Lemanski after it "became aware of her callous and reprehensible posts."

"She does not speak for us and we unequivocally reject her statements about the tragic events that occurred yesterday in Waukesha," Mejia-Beal said in the statement. "We as a party denounce violence of any kind. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted by this heinous act, which shocked and saddened us all."

Mejia-Beal's statement expanded on a tweet the organization made Monday morning, in which it said it found Lemanski's statements to be "incredibly insensitive and not in alignment of who we are as an organization."

According to Fox News, Lemanski on Sunday posted: "I'm sad anytime anyone dies. I just believe in Karma and this came around quick on the citizens of Wisconsin. You reap what you sow. It's sad people died, but when you open the door to vigilante justice, everyone seems threatening."

She also wrote, "Living in Wisconsin he (the driver) probably felt threatened."

"Why do people all of a sudden care about a stupid remark? I can't believe my 15 minutes of shame is for this (expletive)," she posted Monday morning.

And in replies to comments by other Twitter users, she wrote on Monday, "The blood of Kyle Rittenhouse's victims is on the hands of Wisconsin citizens, even the children."

Lemanski's remarks drew a response from Greg Hart, a Republican county board member running for county board chairman.

"On a day when parents and children were murdered and severely injured, I am utterly disgusted that a leader of the DuPage Democratic Party — Mary Lemanski — would have so little compassion and decency to make light of the tragedy and to say 'Wisconsin citizens, even the children' in some way deserved what happened to them. Shame on her," Hart said in a statement. "What kind of values are we demonstrating for our children? Sickening."

Lemanski ran for Downers Grove Township clerk in April but lost. She is a precinct committeeman with a term ending in 2022.

She could not be reached for comment. By Monday afternoon, all her tweets were removed from her page.



A crowd attends a candlelight vigil for victims of the Christmas Parade tragedy on Monday in Cutler Park in Waukesha, Wis. Four women ages 52 to 79 and an 81-year-old man were killed after an SUV rammed into paradegoers.

Parade: Suspect was out on bail in charge he ran over woman

Continued from Page 1

crash, according to the chief, who gave no further details on the dispute. The Washington Post reported that authorities said Brooks was leaving a knife fight.

Police said they were drawing up five charges of intentional homicide against Brooks.

He has been charged with crimes 16 times since 1999 and had two outstanding cases against him at the time of the parade disaster — including one in which he was accused of deliberately running down a woman with his vehicle.

On Sunday, the joyous scene of marching bands and children dancing in Santa hats and waving pom-poms gave way in an instant to screams and the sight of crumpled bodies as the SUV sped through barricades and struck dancers, musicians and others in the community of 72,000.

The dead were identified as four women ages 52 to 79 and an 81-year-old man. Members of a Dancing Grannies club were among those killed, as was a bank employee.

Mayor Shawn Reilly described the parade as a "Norman Rockwell-type" event that "became a nightmare."

"It looked like dummies being thrown in the air," said Nicole Schneider, who was there with her children and grandchildren. "It took a



People gather in Waukesha's Cutler Park for a candlelight vigil on Monday, the day after an SUV driver who police say was fleeing a domestic dispute crashed into a Christmas Parade and killed 5 people. More than a dozen children were injured.

second to register, like, 'Is that what we really just saw?' And then you looked in the road and there were just people laying in the road."

At least nine patients, most of them children, were listed in critical condition at two hospitals, and seven others were reported in serious condition.

The chief said that while police were not pursuing Brooks before he entered the parade route, an officer did fire a shot to try to stop him but ceased shooting because of the danger to others. Brooks was not injured.

Brooks has two open criminal cases in Milwaukee County. In one case, filed Nov. 5, he is charged with resisting or obstructing an officer, reckless endangering, disorderly conduct, bail jumping

and battery. Records show his \$1,000 cash bail was posted Friday.

In that case, a woman told police that Brooks deliberately ran her over with his vehicle in a gas station parking lot after a fight, records show. She was hospitalized for her injuries.

In the other case, filed in July 2020, Brooks is charged with reckless endangering and illegal possession of a firearm. His attorney in those cases, Joseph Domask, said he was not representing him in the parade crash.

The Milwaukee County district attorney's office said prosecutors' \$1,000 bail recommendation for Brooks was "inappropriately low," given the charges. The DA's office said it is investigating the matter.



A song is played as messages on a cross are seen during a candlelight vigil Monday in downtown Waukesha, Wis.

Republican Rebecca Kleefisch, a former Wisconsin lieutenant governor who is running for governor in 2022, called the killings "yet another avoidable tragedy that occurred because a violent career criminal was allowed to walk free and terrorize our community."

Police identified those killed as Virginia Sorenson, 79; LeAnna Owen, 71; Tamara Durand, 52; Jane Kulich, 52; and Wilhelm Hospel, 81.

Eighteen children ages 3 to 16 were brought to Children's Wisconsin Hospital, including three sets of siblings, said Dr. Amy Drendel, medical director of the emergency department.

They suffered injuries ranging from scrapes on their faces to broken bones and serious head injuries, she said.

Witness: Student 1st to report on scene

Continued from Page 1

happened to be in the wrong place at the right time," Stalal said.

The parade kicked off around 4 p.m. With COVID-19 having pushed off many events last year, Stalal said the atmosphere was especially joyous, and children and families were everywhere.

Then the red SUV sped past around 4:35 p.m. and started to strike people down the road from where Stalal and her family sat. Stalal wrote in a piece for the Journal Sentinel that she could hear thuds as people were hit by the SUV.

She wrote that four people were injured near where she was on the parade route. One of those struck was a 14-year-old girl who suffered a leg injury and called for her mom. A man carried the teen into a nearby store, where many people were running to get off the street.

Police officers ran past soon after the crash, and Stalal heard one of them say that 30 people were down and that shots had been fired.

"When they said that, that causes more fear and even more panic, so I think a lot of people just booked it at that point, as did I," Stalal said earlier Monday during a CNN interview with anchor John Berman.

The CNN interview was one of many Stalal did after the parade. She said the advice she got from Journal Sentinel colleagues was not to overstate anything.

"I didn't want to spread any rumors, just say what you know and keep it at that," Stalal said.

Authorities on Monday said Darrell E. Brooks is being charged with five counts of homicide for "intentionally" driving into the crowd.

The day after the tragedy, Stalal said she hadn't had time to fully process what happened. She said her heart goes out to the people who were injured.



A broken children's stroller lies on West Main Street in Waukesha, Wis., on Sunday after an SUV drove into a parade of Christmas marchers.

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