



Five Below

A new retailer is coming to Monticello.

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1,000 points

Hornets Caela Tighe nets career milestone

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MONTICELLO Times

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Covering the cities of Monticello and Big Lake, and Wright and Sherburne counties \$1



Jeffrey Hage / Monticello Times

Teacher Amanda Danek leads circle time with kindergarten students in her nature-based classroom at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park in Monticello. Students use a curriculum that is adapted to the outdoors.

Nature becomes the classroom at Bertram

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

On a cold January morning, students in Amanda Danek's kindergarten class practice learning the alphabet during circle time.

Set to song, the students sang about how "E" was for elephant, "F" is for fish, "G" is for goat and "H" is for "House."

When the students got to the letter "I," their song couldn't be more fitting on a morning where the temperature stood at 8 degrees during circle time.

"I is for igloo, ig-ig-igloo," the students sang.

Welcome to a day at one of the Monticello School District's outdoor classrooms at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park, where in the dog days of winter, learning is done in snow pants, parkas, hats, mittens and warm boots.

The Monticello School District expanded its nature-based learning programs for the 2020-21 school year to put students in an outdoor learning environment in a year where concerns with COVID-19 have been forcing many students

into hybrid learning programs where classrooms have often been left behind for learning from home of iPads and other forms of technology.

But with the nature based program, that has Monticello students learning at the Bertram Chain of Lakes chalet, the YMCA camp at Bertram or a short distance from Bertram at the Laestadian Lutheran Church on County Road 39.

The nature-based learning environments are a perfect place for exploring the great outdoors, playing, and most importantly, learning.

"Students get to explore and dig deeper into learning about the environment around them as they play and learn," said Danek, a first year teacher in the nature-based kindergarten program.

"They learn so much just by being out there," Danek said of her students.

The students in pre-school and kindergarten use the same learning curriculum as their fellow students at Eastview Education Center, said Principal Joe Dock-

Nature-based school/ See page 15



Jeffrey Hage / Monticello Times

Monticello pre-school students Clara and Violet play outdoors in their "snow kitchen" during playtime at the nature-based school at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

Report: Multiple people shot Tuesday at Buffalo Clinic

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

Five people were critically injured in a mass shooting Tuesday, Feb. 9 at a medical clinic in Buffalo.

Wright County Sheriff Sean Derringer called the carnage at Allina Health Clinic - Buffalo Crossroads a "horrible looking scene" in a Tuesday afternoon press conference.

The identity of the shooting victims or the extent of their injuries was not revealed by Derringer or Buffalo Police Chief Pat Budke during the 3 p.m. Tuesday press conference.



Gregory Ulrich

A man with an 18-year history with the Wright County Sheriff's Department and Buffalo Police Department was taken into custody Tuesday morning following the shooting.

Derringer identified the shooting suspect as 67-year-old Gregory Ulrich of Buffalo. Ulrich was being held in the Wright County Jail late Tuesday.

Ulrich has a history of being unhappy with his health care, Budke said. For that reason, Ulrich likely targeted the clinic or a clinic employee, Budke suggested.

However, Budke was unaware of Ulrich speaking to anyone at the clinic, he said.

In addition, there was nothing in Ulrich's history that led Budke to believe Tuesday's incident would occur, he said.

Buffalo Police officers were called to the clinic at 10:54 a.m. on Feb. 9 on a report that shots had been fired, Budke said.

Officers arrived on scene to find several injured people inside the clinic. Officers also located Ulrich.

Immediately upon taking Ulrich into custody, officers began rendering aid to the victims, Budke said. Wright County deputies on scene also tended to the injured.

"I'm very proud of the men and women of law enforcement who responded to assist and put themselves in harms way," Budke said.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz addressed the situation prior to his daily COVID press conference.

"I'd like to thank the Buffalo Police Department and the Wright County Sheriff's Office. They were very much on it," the Governor said of the situation.

There were early reports that a bomb exploded 30 minutes after the shooting. That was not the case, authorities said.

However, during a search of the clinic, a suspicious package was found in the corner of the lobby, Derringer confirmed.

At that point, the team of law enforcement officials were evacuated from the clinic, he said.

Additional suspicious devices were found at the Super 8 hotel in Buffalo, where Ulrich was believed to be staying,

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CLAYTONS APPLIANCE REPAIR
CLAYTON'S HEATING & AIR
1112874
5 x 2 in

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Shooting: Five people shot Tuesday at the Allina clinic in Buffalo

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Derringer said.

The St. Paul office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Minneapolis Bomb Squad were called in to assist with processing the scene.

At the time of the 3 p.m. news conference, both the clinic and hotel remained evacuated.

"We'll wait for the ATF and Minneapolis Bom Squad to tell us when its clear," Derringer said.

Ulrich is believed to have acted alone, Derringer said.

"We are not looking at any other suspects," he added.

The first ambulance on scene was directed to a northwest corner of the clinic where reportedly there were four to five people with gunshot wounds. There were also victims in the front entry where it was

reported that one was critical and shot in the abdomen. An ambulance went to the front of the clinic to assist the wounded there.

One was transported to North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale with three gunshot wounds, dispatch audio stated. In all, four victims were transported to North Memorial Hospital. One victim was transported to Hennepin County Medical Center in downtown Minneapolis, authorities said.

Buffalo area schools were put on lockdown due to the threat to student and staff safety. Area businesses were also put on lockdown.

State Representative Marion O'Neill, R-Maple Lake, released the following statement after news broke of the shooting.

"I have been in contact with

Wright County Sheriff Deringer and Buffalo Police Chief Budke offering my support for anything they may need to help our community through this unimaginable tragedy,"

"My friends, my children and grandchildren live and work in Buffalo and while we do not yet know who the injured are, we are all connected. My heart breaks for these victims, their families and our community," O'Neill said.

"I want to thank the Buffalo police officers, Wright County Sheriff's deputies and first responders who ran toward danger instead of away from it, and the medical personnel who made sure that those injured had the best care possible. My prayers are with those who were hurt as they begin down the difficult road to recovery."



Allina Health via allinahealth.org
Allina Health Clinic in Buffalo at 755 Crossroads Campus Drive in Buffalo.

HOUSE ADS FOR CONTESTS
Ice Fishing Contest
1108668
3 x 7 in

HOUSE ADS FOR CONTESTS
TAX QUIZ/ MUST RUN
1104421
3 x 7 in

OSSEO HOUSE ACCOUNT
Business Spotlight
1114631
6 x 10 in