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renewal in Montevideo

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# MONTICELLO Times

Thursday,  
Sept. 16, 2021

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

## Wisconsin men beat, rob man after smoking pot *Monticello man left bloodied on Kevin Longley Drive at 4 a.m.*

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

A robbery that left a Monticello man beaten and bloodied has resulted in felony robbery charges against two Wisconsin men.

Devon S. Bernstein, 22 of Cameron, Wisconsin, and Lucas E. Lewis, 33 of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, remained in the Wright County Jail in Buffalo following the September 3 incident. Both men were charged September 7 with first degree aggravated robbery.

Deputies were called to a residence on Kevin Longley Drive shortly before 4 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 3 on a report of an assault and burglary. Deputies arrived

on scene to find a victim in front of the house and covered in blood from facial injuries sustained in the alleged assault. The victim was bleeding from the mouth, nose, and eyes, deputies reported.

The victim explained that he had been beaten and robbed by two men who fled the scene in a pick-up truck with Wisconsin license plates. According to the victim, the men, later identified as Bernstein and Lewis, took the victim's cellular telephone and \$1,000 cash from his wallet.

With assistance from the Minnesota State Patrol, Wright County authorities took Bernstein and Lewis into custody a short time later.

According to a criminal complain filed

in Wright County District Court, Bernstein had fresh blood on his hands, arms, and clothing. The victim's cell phone, wallet, and cash were found in the suspect vehicle.

In a statement made to investigators at the hospital in Monticello, the victim stated that he met Bernstein and Lewis at about 2 a.m. on September 3 while on break at a Monticello gas station where the victim works.

Court records show that Bernstein and Lewis invited the victim to smoke marijuana with them. The victim was told to meet Bernstein and Lewis at the intersection of Kevin Longley Drive and Prairie Road on his next break.

The three met up, with the victim get-

ting into Bernstein and Lewis' vehicle, the criminal complaint states.

With the victim in the back seat of the vehicle, Bernstein and Lewis began to assault the victim, the complaint states. The victim stated he was punched in the face 45 to 50 times before breaking free and running to a nearby home where he pounded on a door until the occupant of the home answered the door. The occupant of the home called 911.

Bernstein and Lewis fled the scene.

They were seen by a state trooper at Highway 25 and Broadway Street a short time later.

The men were apprehended and booked into the Wright County Jail.



Photo by Jeremy Lagos / Monticello Times

"The Gathering," a sculpture by Alan and Dr. Nicole Mary Milligan's Milligan Studio, is installed in Monticello's East Bridge Park on the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 13.

## 'The Gathering' brings beauty of sculpture, community to Monticello's East Bridge Park

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

Think of the Monticello community as if it is a school of fish.

That's what Alan and Dr. Nicole Mary Milligan did when they designed Monticello's latest piece of public art.

"A school of fish works together to make a community," Dr. Nicole Mary Milligan said.

The Milligans' latest masterpiece called "The Gathering" was installed in Monticello's East Bridge Park on Monday, Sept. 13.

The 15-foot tall sculpture incorporates glass and steel to capture the Monticello community.

Through "The Gathering," East Bridge Park can be a place for the gathering of the hearts and minds of the community, Dr. Nicole Mary Milligan suggested.

That's because in creating the sculpture, the Milligans worked closely with MontiArts Director Sue Seeger and Parks and Recreation Director Tom Pawelk to get a sense of the community. The couple also got a strong sense of the community by making visits to Monticello from their home base in St. Paul.

During normal times, community workshops would have got the community more involved in the project,

the Milligans said. But a need to social distance kept the public process to a minimum.

Alan Milligan, the sculptor, said his themes, or motifs, generally center around flora and fauna, often focusing on water and community.

The couple takes that into consideration when responding to requests for proposals (RFPs) for their commissioned community art projects.

Alan Milligan said that even though creating the sculpture was an industrial process he kept an eye on its aesthetic beauty.

He did that by coming up to the installation site in East Bridge Park and taking in the beauty of the location.

"I saw the site and reacted to the site. It's beautiful," he said.

Alan and Nicole Mary Milligan walked up and down the pathways of the park. They noted how the natural light worked with the location. The light was incorporated into the placing of four architectural-grade glass fish.

The steel of the sculpture represents reeds in the river. The fish are swimming amongst the reeds.

Sculpture / See page 7

## Driver four times over limit- with open bottle of vodka in the car

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

A man who the State Patrol says was driving while his blood-alcohol content was more than four times the legal limit was arrested on Interstate 94 in Monticello on Friday, Sept. 3 after causing an injury accident on the highway.

Mark A. Boedigheimer, 55 of St. Michael, is facing a gross misdemeanor count of criminal vehicular operation causing bodily harm while under the influence and a gross misdemeanor DWI charge following the Sept. 3 incident.

Court records show that Boedigheimer had a blood alcohol content of .325 following the I-94 crash, reported at 11:32 a.m. in the westbound lane of the interstate just west of Highway 25 in Monticello.

According to a criminal complaint filed in Wright County District Court, state troopers arrived on scene to find two vehicles in construction lanes that were closed to traffic.

Boedigheimer had hit a vehicle, causing heaving rear-end damage to the vehicle.

Troopers noted that Boedigheimer was lethargic and not responding appropriately to questions. Boedigheimer denied being involved in the crash despite his vehicle having significant damage and smoking coming from it.

An open bottle of vodka was in Boedigheimer's vehicle, according to the criminal complaint.

The victim in the vehicle allegedly hit by Boedigheimer suffered bodily harm as a result of the crash, including neck and back injuries.

Boedigheimer has two prior DWI convictions, according to court records.

## Man dies in I-94 semi crash

A Wisconsin man was killed in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 94 west of Monticello Monday, Sept. 13.

The crash occurred at 8:50 p.m. at mile post 186-about three miles west of Monticello in Silver Creek Township.

The Minnesota State Patrol reports that Ronald W. Biggerstaff, 53 of Antigo, Wisconsin, was the victim in the crash.

Biggerstaff was driving a 1999 Peterbilt semi eastbound on I-94 and hauling a pick-up truck when his vehicle left the roadway and rolled into the ditch, according to the Minnesota State Patrol.

Biggerstaff was not wearing a seat belt or seat restraint at the time of the crash, the State Patrol states. Biggerstaff was pronounced dead at the scene.

I-94 was wet due to a rain passing through the area at the time of the crash.

- Jeff Hage, Monticello Times

CLAYTONS APPLIANCE REPAIR  
CLAYTON'S HEATING & AIR  
1164288  
5 x 2 in

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# 9/11...Never forget



Photo by Christopher Hage / For the Monticello Times

The Monticello Fire Department commemorated the 20th anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 by placing an American flag atop the ladder of its ladder truck on Saturday, September 11 in the parking lot of the municipal liquor store.

## Sculpture: "The Gathering" created for Monticello

Continued from page 1

Reaching 15 feet into the air, the sculpture makes you look at the river, located immediately north of East Bridge Park.

"It's good and satisfying to see how what I envisioned blended with the landscape," Alan Milligan said.

The sculpture was funded through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board (CMAB) and a \$10,000 donation from the Monticello Lions Club, said Sue Seeger, director of the Monticello Arts Initiative known as MontiArts.

There were 38 artists from a nationwide calling that returned RFPs for the project. From the 38, five finalists were selected by a selection committee comprised of city staff, PARC commission members, artists, city council members, Lions members, and citizens at large, Seeger said.

As the Milligans emerged as the finalists for the project, there were common

themes among members of the selection committee that steered them towards the Milligans.

"They liked the colored glass and the clean lines," Seeger said.

Former local sculptor Parker McDonald was a close second, and huge sentimental favorite, Seeger said.

"With many expressing that they really hoped we could get something from him installed as well at some point, we've applied for another grant to get a piece from him installed at Ellison Park," Seeger said.

This sculpture is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Reach Jeff Hage at [jeff.hage@ecm-inc.com](mailto:jeff.hage@ecm-inc.com)

CIRCULATION DEPT.  
MT Sept. 21 '21  
1163303  
3 x 10 in

HEINENS  
Suzuki  
1166346  
3 x 10.5 in

OSSEO HOUSE ACCOUNT  
Business Spotlight  
1168089  
6 x 6 in