

Man charged with attempted murder in Roberts Alley stabbing

BY TASHA CARVELL
The Forum

FARGO — A 63-year-old Arizona man has been charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault in Cass County for a stabbing that allegedly took place in Roberts Alley last month.

The case against Calvin Phillips was filed June 23, 15 days after the stabbing took place in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 8. A warrant for Phillips' arrest was issued; jail records show he transferred out of Maricopa County custody in Phoenix on July 14 and was arraigned in Cass County on Wednesday, July 16.

Court documents in the case show Fargo officers responded to a call for a stabbing victim in an apartment on Roberts Street downtown just before 3 a.m. on June 8. There, the victim, Marcus Polk, told them a man he did not know had stabbed him in Roberts Alley.

Polk identified friends who were at the scene and might have knowledge of the man, and officers were able to find and interview Leroy and Machell Brackins, who witnessed the incident.

Downtown surveillance video detailed in the court documents initially showed Phillips arguing with an unknown man on First Avenue North, near Roberts Alley, at 2:25 a.m., and Phillips can be heard on the video threatening to kill someone two

minutes later. Machell Brackins told officers Phillips was holding a knife and threatening the unknown man with it during that initial altercation.

At 2:31 a.m., the video showed Polk and Leroy Brackins talking in Roberts Alley and Phillips walking up to the pair. Brackins introduced Polk and Phillips, and when Polk reached out his hand to shake hands, Phillips can be heard saying "you better watch yourself," the court documents said, to which Brackins responded "Marcus is good," in an apparent attempt to calm Phillips down.

A minute later, the video showed Phillips pulling a knife out of his pocket and telling Polk "I'm gonna gut you," the court documents allege. Phillips swung the knife at Polk multiple times, attempting to stab him, and Polk can be heard on the video calling for Brackins "in a panicked voice" and screaming "stop" several times. Phillips stabbed Polk in the arm while Polk was trying to protect himself from being stabbed in the head and torso, the court documents said.

The incident report said video showed Polk was eventually able to flee the scene toward his apartment. He needed to get a blood transfusion at Sanford due to the amount of blood he lost from the stabbing, investigators said.

Phillips is being held in the Cass County Jail on \$100,000 cash bond. His next hearing is scheduled for Aug. 27.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Tasha Carvell at tcarvell@forumcomm.com.

MN BRIEFS

Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith discharged from hospital

MINNEAPOLIS — Sen. Tina Smith was discharged Thursday, July 17, after being hospitalized Wednesday, July 16. Smith's staff said she was discharged Thursday afternoon following a clean bill of health and expected to be back to work Thursday.

In a Wednesday afternoon X post, Smith's staff said that while at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Smith started to "not feel well" and saw the Capitol physician, who recommended that she undergo a more thorough examination at the George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Smith was kept overnight "out of an abundance of caution." Her staff said Smith is grateful to the staff at the hospital, is looking forward to getting back to work, and thanks everyone for their well wishes.

Body found on tower after vehicle linked to missing man located near Sebeka

WADENA, Minn. — The body of a man was found Wednesday, July 16, on a tower in Rockford Township after the Wadena County Sheriff's

Office received a report of a vehicle matching the description of the vehicle of Samuel Waln, a missing 30-year-old man.

According to a news release, authorities received a report that a vehicle matching the description of the white 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee, last seen driving Saturday, July 12, eastbound on Highway 10 in Wadena, was located near Sebeka.

Upon arrival, authorities searched the area of Section 28 in Rockwood Township and located a deceased male 240 feet above ground on a tower. Due to the height of the tower, the Wadena County Sheriff's Department requested the assistance of the Urban Search and Rescue Team.

Minnesota Task Force 1 responded to the scene and recovered a deceased male from the tower. The body was transported to the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy and identification.

According to the release, the sheriff's office believes this was an isolated incident and there is no danger to the public or foul play suspected.

Forum News Service

Street Fair fun begins



Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

Sam Malcolm juggles knives at the Downtown Fargo Street Fair on Thursday along Broadway. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Former North Dakota National Guard member found guilty of sex crimes

BY BRAD NYGAARD
The Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK — A former North Dakota National Guard member was found guilty on Wednesday, July 16, of sexually assaulting two soldiers he outranked.

Daniel Carpenter was charged with felony gross sexual imposition where the person is unaware, and misdemeanor sexual assault, which carry up to 20 years in prison and nearly a year in jail, respectively, after incidents in June 2023. He was convicted on both counts.

Two women accused him of sexual assault at a Bismarck hotel party after the soldiers returned from training in Montana. Carpenter was accused of engaging in sexual activity with one woman while she was drunk, and groping another woman while she was in bed and unaware because she was reportedly sleeping. Testimony introduced at trial revealed all three had been drinking.

Defense attorney Tyler Morrow told jurors earlier in the trial that Carpenter's presence was at the request of one of the women involved, and that Carpenter believed the sexual activity was consensual. Assistant Burleigh County State's Attorney



Photos by Brad Nygaard / The Bismarck Tribune

Daniel Carpenter enters a Burleigh County courtroom Wednesday shortly before a jury found him guilty of two sexual assault charges.



Daniel Carpenter is escorted from a courtroom by Burleigh County sheriff's deputies Wednesday, July 16, 2025, after a jury found him guilty of two charges relating to sexual assaults in June 2023.

Isaac Lees told jurors that one woman was too drunk to engage in consensual sexual activity, and that the other woman went to bed only

to be awakened by Carpenter sexually assaulting her.

Carpenter was serving as staff sergeant and readiness officer of the

LOCAL BRIEF

West Fargo man accused of sexually abusing child

WEST FARGO — A West Fargo man has been arrested on suspicion of sexually abusing a child, according to police.

The West Fargo Police Department said it



Wika

Jail on a felony count of

arrested 30-year-old Nicolas Colin Wika on Thursday, July 17. He's being held at the Cass County

gross sexual imposition.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison. Prosecutors had not filed charges as of late Thursday afternoon.

The police department gave few details of the allegation when it announced the arrest on

its Facebook page. The child is less than 15 years old, the post said.

"This remains an open investigation and no further information will be released at this time," the West Fargo Police Department said.

Forum staff report

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