



Wood County

WISCONSIN

SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT

Shawn Becker
SHERIFF

Attention: WLECHA Awards Committee

On October 6, 2023 The Marathon County Sheriff's Department received a call reporting a shooting on U.S. 51 North in the Marathon County Village of Maine. The victims reported a person had fired shots at them from a vehicle while traveling on U.S. 51 North injuring them with non-life-threatening injuries. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department located the suspect vehicle and a pursuit ensued, with the pursuit working its way back into Marathon County. Eventually the suspect was stopped and taken into custody. Charges of attempted Homicide, 1st Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Operating While Intoxicated (2nd) were referred.

Four days later, on October 10th, Sergeant Brandon Christianson was contacted by Marathon County Sheriff's Department Detectives to assist in locating evidence related to this incident. Through the investigation, Detectives received information that a firearm had been thrown from the suspect's vehicle, specifically thrown from the vehicle on a curve of a county highway during the pursuit. Sergeant Christianson deployed K9 Bingo and the two of them searched several bends and curves of this specific county highway. Over an hour of searching had taken place when Sergeant Christianson and K9 Bingo began searching a stretch of the highway that overpassed a river.

Sergeant Christianson deployed Bingo, and began walking down towards the wooded area near the river. Immediately as they left the roadway, Sergeant Christianson observed K9 Bingo had stopped and was seated in overgrown grass near a driveway. Sergeant Christianson walked over and observed K9 Bingo had located a firearm. Marathon County Detectives were on scene and recovered the firearm. When the firearm was removed, it was observed not to have a magazine inserted. Sergeant Christianson offered to continue searching the area with K9 Bingo. Moments passed and K-9 Bingo changed his behavior and indicated in tall overgrown grass in the ditch. Buried beneath this grass was one magazine, and this magazine was determined to be from the firearm.

Sergeant Christianson answered the call on October 10th, and without hesitation assisted the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. Knowing several days had passed with changing weather since the incident, Sergeant Christianson was confident in K9 Bingo's abilities to locate the evidence needed to connect the very important and key dots in this case.

On behalf of the Wood County Sheriff's Department K9 Unit, I request that you consider Sergeant Brandon Christianson and K9 Bingo for the Meritorious K-9 Article Find Award. I have attached a letter from Marathon County Sheriff Chad Billeb forwarded to the Wood County Sheriff's Department outlining the appreciation of both Sergeant Christianson and K9 Bingo.

Respectfully,

Lt. Nathan Dean

Chad D. Billeb
Sheriff



William B. Millhausen
Chief Deputy

Marathon County Sheriff's Office

500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Non-Emergency Phone: 715.261.1200 • www.MarathonCountySheriff.org

October 26, 2023

Shawn Becker
Sheriff
Wood County Sheriff's Office
400 Market St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494

Dear Sheriff Becker,

I am writing this letter to express my heartfelt appreciation for the invaluable assistance and support your agency provided during our recent road rage/shooting/pursuit incident on U.S. Hwy 51. The professionalism and tireless efforts of your staff were instrumental in bringing about a successful resolution to the case.

From the very beginning, your team exhibited a high level of skill in performing their duties, significantly aiding our deputies. It is clear to me that the members of your agency are not only well-trained professionals but also individuals who exhibited a high level of courage in the performance of said duties.

I was particularly impressed by the dedication of Deputy Brandon Christianson and his K9 partner "Bingo", who played a pivotal role in this investigation. Their tireless efforts and expertise led to the recovery of the handgun and magazine that the suspect threw out of his window while attempting to elude law enforcement. Deputy Christianson and Bingo exhibited the utmost professionalism and went above and beyond their duty to ensure that crucial evidence was recovered which will be invaluable in the prosecution of this crime.

The successful resolution of this case has not only provided closure but also restored my faith in the criminal justice system. Your agency's commitment to upholding the law and protecting the community is truly commendable and greatly appreciated.

Please extend my gratitude and appreciation to all the members of your agency who contributed to this case. Your hard work and dedication have made a significant impact on the lives of those affected, and I am sincerely grateful for your service to our community.



Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment to justice and your invaluable assistance during this investigation. Your dedication to upholding the law is a source of inspiration to us all, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to witness it firsthand.

Sincerely,

Chad D. Billeb
Marathon County Sheriff

