



PRESS RELEASE UPDATE - ARREST

Incident #: 24-1553

Type: Double Homicide

Date: February 16, 2024

Released by: Chief Joel Christensen

Contact Person: Captain Alvin Brandl

Narrative

Thomas Allen Routt, Jr., 57-years old, Elkhorn, has been arrested in connection with the early morning shooting on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the Sports Page Barr in downtown Elkhorn, which claimed the lives of Emerson and Gina Weingart.

Initial investigation focused on eyewitness evidence, including an eyewitness that was inside the bar at the time of the shooting. That eyewitness said a male, now believed by law enforcement to be Routt, came into the bar and began playing the gaming machines. After approximately 30 minutes, the eyewitness said it was just the eyewitness, Emerson, Gina, and Routt in the bar. The eyewitness said Routt brandished a handgun and pointed it at Gina, the bartender, and ordered them not to move. The eyewitness said they instinctively got up off their barstool and Routt pointed the gun at the eyewitness and ordered the eyewitness not to move. The eyewitness said they sat back down and said Routt subsequently fired the gun at Gina and the eyewitness immediately fled out the door, calling 9-1-1 after distancing themselves from the scene.

Routt was taken into custody without incident by the Walworth County Sheriff's Office on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at 3:40 AM on a Department of Corrections hold as Routt was on parole for arson.

Routt subsequently admitted to shooting both Emerson and Gina Weingart and following the eyewitness out the back door and shooting at the eyewitness as they fled. Routt indicated that his motive was robbery and said after chasing and shooting at the eyewitness, he returned to the bar and took \$120 - \$140 from the open cash drawer and fled in his vehicle to his residence in Elkhorn. Routt said the next morning he discarded the weapon and ammunition in a trash receptacle at the Handi-



Mart in Lake Como. Officers subsequently retrieved a 9mm handgun and ammunition from the trash at the Handi-Mart.

Routt has been charged with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide by use of a dangerous weapon, one count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide by use of a dangerous weapon, armed robbery, and felon in possession of a firearm.

The investigation is on-going, however there is no indication that anyone other than Routt was directly involved in the crime.

The Elkhorn Police Department was assisted by the Walworth County Sheriff's Office, Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office, Delavan Police Department, Town of Delavan Police Department, Lake Geneva Police Department, Town of Geneva Police Department, Kenosha Police Department, Milwaukee Police Department, Wauwatosa Police Department, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation, Wisconsin State Patrol, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3.6, Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.