

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

For immediate release –August 19, 2005

MAN CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL VEHICULAR OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE RESULTING IN GREAT BODILY HARM

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced that his office has charged William Thomas Mayer (d.o.b. 12/18/61) with three counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation which resulted in great bodily harm to Adam Charles Berglund (d.o.b. 12/28/80) on June 25, 2005, in Washington County.

The incident took place on the St. Croix River at the Stillwater lift bridge around 11:00 p.m. According to statements of witnesses and Mayer, the Washington County Sheriff's Office learned that Mayer was driving a fishing-style boat under the lowered bridge at a high rate of speed. Mayer's passenger, Adam Berglund, was standing up in the boat at that time and leaning over the windshield when his head struck the bridge. Several witnesses estimated the boat was traveling at approximately 30 miles an hour. The river was high at that time and according to one witness, even small fishing boats were not going under the bridge just prior to the accident. Several witnesses reported that just as the boat went under the bridge they heard someone yelling "yahoo" as though they were having a good time.

Mayer told Washington County Sheriff Deputy Majeski that he and Berglund had been on the river since 2:00 p.m. and that he had consumed 6-7 beers during that time. Mayer said he drank the last beer about an hour before the accident. A blood test revealed that Mayer had an alcohol concentration of .13 approximately 45 minutes after he drove under the bridge. Mayer stated that he knew Berglund was injured right away and that he went over to check on Berglund's pulse. He said it felt faint and he noticed a change in Berglund's color. Mayer then called 911 and drove his boat to the bar and grill know as P.D. Pappy's where he waited for help.

Berglund suffered a severe intracranial injury, subdural hematoma, depressed skull fracture and severe damage in the frontal lobes of his brain. He remains

hospitalized in serious condition.

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Susan Harris at the Washington County Attorney's Office, 651-430-6115.