

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | October 16, 2023

Vehicle vs Pedestrian Fatal Crash – Wahpeton
*****Updated Release*****

What: Vehicle struck a pedestrian and the vehicle fled the crash scene

Where: 400 block of 11th Ave S in Wahpeton, on the north side of the Wahpeton Airport

When: October 12th, 2023 @ approximately 7:40 pm

Road Conditions: Dry, dark, limited lighting

Type of Crash: Vehicle struck a pedestrian

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Wahpeton PD, NDSCS PD, Richland County SO, Wahpeton FD, Breckenridge/Wahpeton Ambulance, Sanford Life Flight

Vehicle No. 1: 2018 Chevrolet Silverado

Driver No. 1: Chad Olson, 52 YOA, Wahpeton, ND – not injured

Restraints: Unknown

Charges: Original charges - Criminal Vehicular Injury and Leaving the Scene of an Injury Crash – both felony violations – charges will be amended

Pedestrian: Bailey Bernstein, 20 YOA female, Wahpeton, ND – deceased

NARRATIVE:

On October 12th, 2023 at approximately 7:40 pm, two adult females were walking eastbound on 11th Avenue South in Wahpeton, in the 400 block. The two pedestrians were walking along the south shoulder of the roadway.

A 2018 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Chad Olson was also eastbound on 11th Avenue South. Olson struck one of the pedestrians, Bailey Bernstein, causing her to be thrown into the south

ditch. After striking Bernstein, Olson did not stop, but continued eastbound on 11th Avenue South and fled from the crash scene.

The second pedestrian was able to give a general description of the striking vehicle and direction of travel. Wahpeton PD canvassed the area and located several videos of the possible suspect vehicle, which provided additional information about the type of vehicle involved in the crash.

This information was provided to surrounding law enforcement agencies and to local media. The local media was able to place the information into the public realm quickly. Because of this, a tip was received by the Wahpeton PD which lead the Wahpeton PD to locate the Chevrolet parked in the driveway at a residence in Wahpeton. The vehicle had obvious damage and the driver of the vehicle was located at a nearby residence.

That driver, Chad Olson, was originally arrested for felony leaving the scene of an injury crash and felony criminal vehicular injury, which is an enhanced DUI charge. Olson was not injured in the crash.

The pedestrian, **Bailey Bernstein**, 20 YOA female from Wahpeton, suffered life threatening injuries. She was transported by ambulance from the crash scene to St. Francis Hospital in Breckenridge, and then transported by Sanford Life Flight to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. **On Saturday, October 14th, Bernstein died in Sanford Hospital.**

This crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol and we are being assisted by the Wahpeton PD, NDSCS PD and Richland SO.

The NDHP would like to thank our local media partners for quickly disseminating the information about the crash and for the public that provided tips that lead to law enforcement locating the vehicle involved in the crash, which lead to locating the suspect as well.

For More Information Contact:

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