

BLANCHARDVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**208 Mason St
Blanchardville, WI 53516
608-523-4320**

*****NEWS RELEASE***
December 21, 2009**

Today at 3:23 A.M., Blanchardville Police observed smoke and fire coming from the building housing the Silver Dollar Saloon, which is located on Main Street in the Village. Police immediately requested that the Blanchardville Fire Dept. to be alerted to the location.

Firefighters from Argyle, Hollandale, New Glarus and Monroe were also alerted to assist in fighting the fire. Ambulance personnel from Blanchardville, Argyle and Monroe also responded. Lafayette County Sheriff's Deputies were also requested to come to the scene.

The structure is a three (3) story brick building and the fire engulfed the upper two stories. It took several hours to completely extinguish the blaze.

Firefighters have recovered four (4) victims fatally injured in the fire. They are identified as follows:

- Daniel Hardekopf , age 45
- Jelayne L. Hughes, age 44
- Cody D. Olson, age 23
- Brian K. Monte, age 34

Mr. Hardekopf and Ms. Hughes were the proprietors of the Silver Dollar Saloon. Cody Olson and Brian Monte were apparently guests visiting the second floor apartment area at the time the fire started.

The fire continues to be under investigation by Blanchardville Police, Lafayette County Sheriff's Detectives, the WI Dept. of Justice-Fire Marshall, the Lafayette County Coroner, Blanchardville Fire Dept. and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) enforcement.

Further media inquiries are being referred to Mr. Bill Cosh at the WI. Dept. of Justice at: (608) 266-1671.

Walter R. Fischer
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Blanchardville Police