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Peshtigo Tavern Owner Faces Criminal Charges Following Investigation

Beverly Monnette of Peshtigo has been criminally charged in Marinette County Circuit Court with one count of possession of refilled liquor bottles and one count of purchasing beer from an unlicensed wholesaler. Monnette was charged by the Marinette County District Attorney's Office following an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Unit.

Monnette is the owner of a tavern called The Spot located at W5703 County Highway B in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. The Department of Revenue (DOR) received complaints that the tavern was refilling their liquor bottles with lesser brands and buying alcohol from improper sources. Refilling liquor bottles can pose health and safety risks, including situations in which customers may not be aware of what they are being served.

According to the criminal complaint, agents found bottles of Captain Morgan rum which showed signs of being refilled inside the bar. The complaint alleges that Monnette admitted to refilling the bottles of Captain Morgan with Admiral Nelson brand rum. DOR agents seized 12 bottles of liquor from the business and subsequent testing of the liquor bottles indicated that the Captain Morgan bottle contents were not consistent with authentic Captain Morgan rum.

The complaint also alleges that the alcohol Monnette was selling in the bar was not purchased from proper wholesale sources, and DOR agents seized 194 bottles of beer which had been improperly obtained. Buying alcohol for resale from unlicensed sources violates Wisconsin's three-tier distribution system which requires alcohol pass from a manufacturer to a wholesaler, and then to a retailer prior to ultimately being sold to the public.

Monnette was charged with one count of possession of refilled liquor bottles, and if convicted, could face fines up to \$500 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment. In addition, Monnette was also charged with one count of purchasing beer from an unlicensed wholesaler, and if convicted, could face fines up to \$10,000 and/or up to 9 months imprisonment. Combined, Monnette faces a possible total of \$10,500 in fines and 14 months in prison.

Contact DOR's Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Unit to report a possible violation of Wisconsin's alcohol, tobacco or cigarette laws at ates@revenue.wi.gov or 608-266-2772.

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