

FILED
03-05-2026
Clerk of Circuit Court
Polk County, Wisconsin
2026CF000087
Honorable Daniel J. Tolan
Branch 1

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT POLK COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

vs.

Gregory J Tougas
507 Milltown Ave N
Milltown, WI 54858
DOB: 09/21/1981
Sex/Race: M/W

DA Case No.: 2026PL000236
DA/ADA: Holly D. Wood Webster
Agency Case No.: 2026-00002542
CT CM CF
ATN:

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Christopher M Weinmeyer
105 3rd Avenue
Osceola, WI 54020
DOB: 05/27/1977
Sex/Race: M/W

Defendant.

For Official Use

Mandatory Fingerprinting

Pursuant to sec.970.02(7), Wis. Stats., at the Initial Appearance the Judge is required by law to determine at your first appearance in Court if your (the defendant's) fingerprints, photographs and other identifying data have been taken and if not, the Judge shall direct that this information be obtained;

- Identifying information has been obtained at the time of arrest
- Identifying information has not been obtained.

The undersigned complainant, on information and belief, being first sworn, on oath, states:

Count 1: CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MANUFACTURE/INTOXICAT.LIQUOR W/O PERMIT (As to defendant Gregory J Tougas)

The above-named defendant on or between January 1, 2026 to March 4, 2026, Polk County, Wisconsin, conspired to manufacture or rectify intoxicating liquor without holding appropriate permits, contrary to sec. 125.66(3), 939.31 Wis. Stats., a Class F Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 2: CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MANUFACTURE/INTOXICAT.LIQUOR W/O PERMIT (As to defendant Christopher M Weinmeyer)

The above-named defendant on or between January 1, 2026 to March 4, 2026, Polk County, Wisconsin, conspired to manufacture or rectify intoxicating liquor without holding appropriate permits, contrary to sec. 125.66(3), 939.31 Wis. Stats., a Class F Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

And prays that said defendant be dealt with according to law; and that the basis for complainant's charge of such offense is:

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PROBABLE CAUSE

The undersigned has reviewed the reports of the law enforcement officers referenced below and believes them to be true and correct as these reports were created by law enforcement officers while they were acting in their official capacity.

The undersigned bases this complaint upon the following excerpts from the reports of Special Agent Buck Robertson and Special Agent Travis Borkenhagen, of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue-Division of Alcohol Beverages Bureau of Enforcement.

[SA ROBERTSON]

Initial Information:

On Friday February 27, 2026, I received a phone call from Chief Shaun Thayer of the Milltown Police Department in Polk County, Wisconsin. Chief Thayer told me he received a phone call from [MAG], a local business owner. [MAG] owns a building at 84 Main Street West in the Village of Milltown, Polk County, WI where she operates, "Your Place Two", a smoke shop. [MAG] leases out the back half of the building to **Christopher Michale Weinmeyer** (DOB: 5-27-1977), who operates a tattoo shop called "That Place Tattoo & Piercing". [MAG] reported to Chief Thayer that in the past week she went into a storage/utility, which is shared space between [MAG] and the tenant, she saw **Gregory James Tougas** (DOB: 9-21-1981) in the garage area. This portion of the shared area is leased by Weinmeyer, and [MAG] saw Tougas next to what she thought was a copper still used to make intoxicating liquor. [MAG] reported to Chief Thayer that Tougas waved his arms in the air and said something similar to, "you did not see anything here" and, "I have a license to make this". [MAG] was asking Chief Thayer about the legality of the liquor production equipment. Chief Thayer contacted me to inquire about the legality. I told Chief Thayer that the Division of Alcohol Beverages would be interested in this case. I told Chief Thayer I needed to make some calls and would get back to him.

I contacted Enforcement Bureau Director Quam and informed him about the above information. It was determined that I and other DAB agents would investigate this on March 3rd and 4th 2026.

Interview of [MAG]

On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, Special Agents Dorn, Borkenhagen and I met with Chief Thayer at the Milltown PD. Chief Thayer was able to contact [MAG] and asked her to come to the PD for an interview with us. We met with [MAG] at 11:45am. I asked [MAG] about her association to 84 Main St West. [MAG] said she owns the building and runs a smoke shop in the storefront. [MAG] said she leases out the rear of the building and an attached garage stall to Weinmeyer who owns and runs a tattoo shop. I asked [MAG] if she could tell me about her recent interaction with Tougas and the alleged intoxicating liquor still. [MAG] believed that sometime between February 16, 2026 and February 21, 2026, she went to the utility room of her building, this is near a garage stall within the building that Weinmeyer leases from her. [MAG] said she saw a copper device which she believed is used for making moonshine or intoxicating liquor. [MAG] said there was a hose running from the utility sink to the copper containers. [MAG] described the copper containers as small, medium, and large with the large container being about eighteen inches tall. Next to the still

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or copper containers was Tougas who was waving his arms and made a comment of, "you didn't see anything here" and a comment of, "I have a license to make liquor". [MAG] said that Tougas had a glass jar with a clear liquid he asked her to try. [MAG] held the jar to her nose, and she said it had an extreme alcohol smell to the point she did not try the liquid.

[MAG] further said that in January of 2026, Tougas came into her smoke shop and offered her some liquid from a glass jar. [MAG] described it as a cinnamon waffle smell and taste. I asked [MAG] if she believed that Weinmeyer was involved in manufacturing liquor and she said she did not think so. [MAG] said the Tougas is known around the town and area as "Moonshine". [MAG] said that her and her husband had done some research and did not want liquor distilling or manufacturing within her building. They were going to tell Tougas to remove the equipment as soon as possible. [MAG] said that in the past, Tougas had commented to her that he would take over her space and open a distillery when her smoke shop failed and that he was seeking \$150,000 to start this distillery.

[MAG] said she went to the utility garage area today and no longer saw the suspected still set up, [MAG] said she saw pieces in a clear tote that she took photos of and sent them to Chief Thayer who sent the photos to me and will be attached to this case.

Records Check

A search of DOR software systems revealed no alcohol beverage permits or licenses were issued to Gregory J. Tougas, Christopher M Weinmeyer, nor to 84 Main Street West, in the Village of Milltown, Polk County, Wisconsin.

A search of online Federal Tobacco Tax and Trade Records (TTB) yielded no alcohol beverage permits or licenses issued to Gregory J. Tougas, Christopher M Weinmeyer, nor to 84 Main Street West, Village of Milltown, County of Polk, Wisconsin.

Search Warrant application and Signing by the Judge

A search warrant was applied for at the address of 84 Main Street West, Milltown, Polk County Wisconsin with ADA Wood Webster reviewing the warrant. The warrant application was sent to Judge Tolan, on March 3rd. I met with Judge Tolan on March 4th at 9:20am, where Judge Tolan signed the warrant.

Warrant service at 84 Main Street West, Milltown, Polk County WI.

The warrant was served at 84 Main Street West, Milltown, Polk County, Wisconsin, at approximately 10:00 am. assistance was provided by Milltown PD and the Polk County Sheriff's Office. During this time, SA Dorn was observing Tougas's residence at 507 Milltown Ave, Milltown, Wisconsin. SA Dorn reported that Tougas had left his residence and was at the "Circle K" gas station next to address of the property subject to the search warrant. Chief Thayer and another officer detained Tougas until the warrant was served on the property. The Smoke shop was open for business with one employee. The tattoo shop was not yet open for business. A copy of the warrant was left at the property with the lone male employee of the smoke shop.

SA Anderson, SA Borkenhagen, and I went to the garage/storage where the copper still was last observed by [MAG]. We did find the copper still, disassembled and in sections, in the clear plastic tote. This was similar to the picture that [MAG] sent Chief Thayer. The

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copper sections, along with the silver vessels, indicated to me that this was a column still which would be assembled on top of the silver vessels in order to distill the alcohol vapor after heating a fermented mash. Other observations I made in the garage included: quart glass jars filled with clear and colored liquid that had numbers written on the top of the jars. One 50-gallon blue plastic barrel that appeared to previously have a substance in it but was now empty. Propane burners, water hoses, and hydrometer kits. There was a keg and two stainless steel vats/vessels in the utility room. In the storage room across from the kitchen area, there were five, five-gallon wood barrels, large empty bags of corn, more stainless-steel vats/vessels, and three additional 50-gallon blue plastic barrels; two of them filled with liquid and one empty.

Based on my observations of the aforementioned items, my training and experience in observing liquor manufacturing and rectifying equipment, and [MAG]'s statements, I requested Polk County deputies to take Tougas into custody. Tougas was taken to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Interview of Gregory James Tougas (AKA Wrecker or Moonshine)

Gregory James Tougas(DOB: 9-21-1981; 507 Milltown Ave, Milltown, WI; 715-557-1484)

Tougas was taken to a recorded interview room at the Polk County Sheriff's Office. I read the statement of constitutional rights (Miranda Warnings) to Tougas. Tougas said he understood his rights and was willing to waive his rights and speak with us. I asked Tougas to explain his involvement with "That Place Tattoo & Piercing". Tougas said he does maintenance, cleans up after the artists, and just hangs out there. I asked Tougas who is all employed at the tattoo shop, and he said that "Minion" owns the shop. "Minion" refers to Christopher Weinmeyer. Tougas also said that his brother, [RS], and [SG] also work there as tattoo artists. Tougas said he has been working at the shop for about two months. When Tougas was taken into custody and searched there was over ten thousand dollars in cash located in his wallet. I asked Tougas how he got this money. Tougas said he sells skid loaders and other similar equipment. Tougas was often referring to a TV show called Moonshiners and that he has attended a moonshine festival in Louisiana. When Tougas was taken into custody he had a copper distilling device attached to his key chain which is commonly referred to as a "coon pecker". I asked Tougas about this device and how it used. Tougas explained it's used to help in getting the moonshine from the still to the container without spilling or losing product. Tougas said he is at the shop two to five days per week from four to eight hours per day.

When I asked Tougas why he thought the Division of Alcohol Beverages would obtain a search warrant for the property and what we would have found, Tougas denied anything about any illegal liquor or liquor manufacturing equipment on the property.

I asked Tougas about [MAG] and his relationship with her. Tougas said she is a nice, upstanding person who has no reason to lie to anyone. I informed Tougas about the statements [MAG] made to us. This did refresh Tougas' memory, and he said he did make a blend in Montana that was made with Everclear, vanilla bean, cinnamon sticks, water, and maple syrup. Tougas had [MAG] try this drink he referred to as French toast. Tougas told us about some vanilla extract that he is making with a friend and some bourbon flavored maple syrup.

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I told Tougas I do not believe he is being honest and truthful with me. Tougas requested a smoke break and then he would be more honest. He also wanted to talk off record, which was denied, we did not stop the recording. Tougas was given water, coffee, smoke, and restroom breaks.

After coming back from the break. Tougas was much more honest about knowing about the manufacturing and rectifying equipment at 84 Main Street West in Milltown, Wisconsin.

Tougas told us that he traded a copper still to Weinmeyer for a leg tattoo and that Tougas was teaching Weinmeyer how to distill, make, and manufacture liquor. Tougas said when [MAG] saw the copper still set up he was showing Weinmeyer how to clean the still with vinegar and they were not distilling liquor at that time. Tougas said the two filled blue, 50-gallon barrels in the storage room; one with a sour mash and one with a sweet mash. Tougas described the sweet mash as the start of manufacturing of the liquor and the sour mash as closer to a finish of a manufacturing of liquor. Tougas said that a 50-gallon barrel will produce about 5 gallons of liquor, which will be about 20-quart jars. Tougas said he was telling Weinmeyer how to make and produce this liquor but did not directly make the product himself. In the back storage room, there were 5, five-gallon bourbon barrels, four were empty and one Tougas said he and Weinmeyer filled with Everclear and water to attempt to extract the bourbon flavor that was in the used barrel. In a 40-gallon stainless steel container, Tougas said he and Weinmeyer mixed 6 gallons of Everclear, water, apple cider/juice/concentrate, and cinnamon sticks in an attempt to rectify an apple cinnamon liquor. Tougas said he and Weinmeyer made this on or about January 11th, 2026, and it needed a few more months to sit. They planned to use it for parties, floating down the river, and campfires. Tougas said he never sells the product he manufactures or rectifies. Tougas admitted to manufacturing and rectifying because he thought it was legal if he used legally purchased Everclear. Tougas admitted that he manufactured the liquor in the wood five-gallon barrel and in the 40-gallon stainless steel container. Tougas said he came up with the recipes and taught Weinmeyer how to manufacture the liquor. Tougas said he was present when Weinmeyer was manufacturing but did not have a direct hand in the production and thought it would be legal to do this as a teacher.

Tougas would not admit to manufacturing the moonshine found in the jars in the garage and said that it was from Weinmeyers' first run of manufacturing liquor.

Interview of Christopher Weinmeyer (AKA Minion)

Christopher Michael Weinmeyer (DOB: 5-27-1977; 103 3rd Ave, Osceola, WI; 715-808-5502)

Weinmeyer arrived at the Polk County Sheriff's Office on his own. Weinmeyer was brought back to the recorded interview room. Weinmeyer was seated closest to the door. It was established that Weinmeyer was there on his own free will, not under arrest, was never in handcuffs, and that he was free to leave at any time.

Weinmeyer said he does lease space at 84 Main St West in Milltown, Polk County, Wisconsin. Weinmeyer said he has a written lease for the building space and a verbal lease for the garage unit.

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Weinmeyer initially did not appear to be telling us the truth. After confronting him about truthfulness and statements that Tougas made, Weinmeyer verified that it was best for him to tell us the truth. Weinmeyer admitted to manufacturing and rectifying liquor and that Tougas was teaching him how to do this. Weinmeyer said he was present when Tougas put the Everclear and water into the five-gallon wood bourbon barrel to attempt to make whiskey. Weinmeyer said he bought corn and sugar and that he and Tougas filled the two, 50-gallon barrel drums with the corn, sugar, and water. Weinmeyer was adamant that he believed this was to make beer. Weinmeyer said he watched the TV show, "Moonshiners", and that he thought it would be fun to start a distillery with Tougas. I informed Weinmeyer several times that the process they used with the corn and sugar was a process for liquor not for beer.

Weinmeyer said he did not make the liquor found in the glass jars. Weinmeyer said Tougas was experimenting with jolly ranchers and liquor. Weinmeyer said he was not present when the 40-gallon stainless steel container was filled. Weinmeyer did admit that what he was doing was manufacturing and/or rectifying intoxicating liquor.

[SA BORGENTHAGEN]

On March 4, 2026, I, S/A Travis Borkenhagen of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Division of Alcohol Beverages – Bureau of Enforcement arrived at the Milltown Police Department located in the Village of Milltown, County of Polk, State of Wisconsin to assist S/A Buck Robertson in the execution of a search warrant related to the manufacturing/rectifying of intoxicating liquor without a permit.

Upon arriving at the police department, I met with S/A Dorn and it was decided that we would conduct pre-operation surveillance of the suspects, Gregory J. Tougas (DOB 09/21/1981), residence. The residence was located at 507 Milltown Ave., in the village of Milltown. While driving by and observing the residence, I was able to capture several photographs of the exterior of the residence. The exterior of the residence appeared to have a large amount of various items in an unkempt manner. Of note on the exterior of the residence, located in the front yard area, were several silver in color kegs.

A short while later, S/A Dorn and I returned to the Milltown Police Department. S/A Robertson informed S/A Dorn to go to the area of Tougas' residence in the event that he were to leave. After S/A Robertson and S/A Diana Anderson arrived at the police department, S/A Dorn notified me that Tougas had left his residence and was parked at the Circle K gas station. Circle K has an address of 101 State Hwy 35, in the Village of Milltown. This gas station is also directly across the street from the Milltown Police Department. I informed both Chief Thayer of the Milltown Police Department as well as Chief Jorgensen of the Centuria Police Department of Tougas' location. S/A Robertson requested that Tougas be detained at that time.

At approximately 10:10 am, I, S/A Borkenhagen, S/A Robertson, S/A Anderson along with several Polk County Sheriff's Office Deputies entered 84 Main St. W in the Village of Milltown, County of Polk, State of Wisconsin to execute the search warrant. At the time of the execution, we entered through the open main entrance of Your Place 2 tobacco shop. S/A Robertson issued a copy of the search warrant to an employee.

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Upon issuing the search warrant, we made our way through the building into the garage area. After walking in a northerly fashion through the garage area, we entered the northern most garage stall. Inside of that garage stall, I was able to locate numerous items that appeared to be consistent with the manufacturing/rectifying of intoxicating liquor. Located on a shelf within this garage space, which was verified was leased to Christopher M. Weinmeyer (DOB 05/27/1977), there was a clear in color plastic tote. This tote contained various parts and pieces that appeared to be copper and silver in color with soldered joints. There were several gauges on the pieces. These parts and pieces appeared to be a part of a Column Still. A Column Still is an instrument used to manufacture/rectify intoxicating liquor.

Located both on the same shelf as well as on the garage stall floor were two (2) propane burners. These types of burners have numerous uses including to heat ingredients in the attempt to manufacture/rectify intoxicating liquor. S/A Anderson informed me that she located numerous mason jars within the refrigerator inside of the garage stall. These mason jars contained various color liquids inside and some of the lids contained writing on them. Mason jars, such as those found, are often used to store and transport homemade manufactured/rectified intoxicating liquor. Also located within the garage stall was a five (5) gallon pail containing other parts and pieces and that appeared to be copper and silver in color and were consistent with some of the parts and pieces found in the tote on the shelf.

Also located within the garage stall was a brown in color cardboard box. This box contained two (2) blue in color boxes with the words "Kosoeur Hydrometer Kit." I know through my training and experience that a hydrometer is a device that is used to measure the specific gravity of liquids. This is often used to be able to measure the Alcohol by Volume (ABV) concentration of alcohol beverages including intoxicating liquors.

I also located a five (5) gallon pail that contained a one (1) gallon, partially used, container of Muriatic Acid along with various hoses. I also located an empty, large capacity, blue in color plastic drum that had a sticky, brown in color substance on the inside as well as outside of the drum. This drum is denoted as item #2 on the property log. At the time of locating item #2, it was empty.

After having completed the search of the garage stall, I walked west through the stall and entered what appeared to be a mechanical room which contained various construction items. Continuing to walk west through the mechanical room and through a closed door, I entered a room which is located in the northeast portion of That Place Tattoo & Piercing which is located within the same building of 84 Main St. W., Milltown. This was verified by Polk County GIS mapping information.

Upon entering the room located in the northeast portion of the tattoo shop, I witnessed a large stainless-steel vessel with a sealed lid on top. Next to that vessel on the right, was a silver in color keg with blue in color lettering on it. This keg appeared to be consistent with the other kegs located in the front yard of Tougas' residence. Next to the large vessel on the left was another stainless-steel vessel that had a cover, not sealed, and appeared to be empty.

I was able to remove the lid of the large vessel, which is denoted as item #10 on the evidence log. Upon opening the lid of item #10, I was able to see that the vessel appeared to be full and contained a brown in color liquid inside. The liquid had an odor consistent with alcohol, cinnamon and apples. There appeared to also be a cinnamon stick floating on the top of this liquid. Based upon my training and experience, this liquid appeared to be

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consistent with "apple pie." "Apple Pie" is often times a homemade rectified intoxicating liquor which contains various ingredients including, cinnamon, apple flavoring and intoxicating liquors.

Later, I attempted to move item #10 but was unable to do so due to the weight of the contents inside. While attempting to move item #10 it appeared that the legs of the vessel were breaking and it was feared that the contents of the vessel would spill causing unnecessary damage. It was determined that the contents of the vessel would be emptied as much as possible utilizing a five (5) gallon pail and dumping those contents into item #2. After emptying most of the contents of item #10 I was able to see that there was a large quantity of cinnamon sticks at the bottom of the vessel. I also discovered after the contents were removed, there were markings on the inside of the vessel which were graduation marks for capacity of the vessel. The graduation marks went to the number forty (40). Next to each of the numerical graduation marks were the letters "gal" which denotes that the graduation marks were measuring gallons inside of the vessel with a maximum capacity of forty (40).

Continuing into the tattoo shop while walking west/southwest, I saw what appeared to be a kitchen area. Located within the kitchen area were numerous bottles of what appeared to be wine and various intoxicating liquors. I also witnessed a clear in color glass mason jar like the other found inside of the garage stall. This mason jar contained a partially consumed clear in color liquid and was located above a cabinet in the kitchen next to other alcohol beverages. It was later learned from Weinmeyer that this jar was given to him as a gift from a friend who had passed away several years prior.

To the north of the kitchen area was another storage/utility type room. Inside of that room were numerous glass containers which were empty (item #12 of the evidence log.) Also located in the room were several wooden casks. These wooden casks were located on the left (west) side of the room and appeared to be empty. Located on a shelf was another cask that appeared to have been tapped. Upon picking this cask up, I was able to hear an unknown liquid inside.

On the west side of the storage room was an empty fifty (50) pound bag of "cracked corn" grains. Based on my training and experience, I know that corn is often used as an ingredient in the manufacturing/rectifying of intoxicating liquor.

Along the northern wall of this same storage room was either a green and white or black and white in color tarp that appeared to be covering items. Upon removing the tarp, I was able to see that there were three (3) large blue in color plastic drums, similar to the one located inside of the garage stall. The middle drum contained a stainless steel vessel which was also empty. The drums located on the left and right had their lids sealed and appeared to be full of an unknown liquid. These two full drums were later moved to be loaded for evidentiary purposes. As these drums were moved utilizing a hand dolly, they were tipped back to facilitate the movement with the dolly. As these drums were tipped backwards, a clear/cloudy liquid escaped out of a small hole on the lid of the drums. This liquid had an odor of alcohol. While the liquid was spilling from the hole in the lid, there were also several, small, yellow in color pieces of material that spilled out as well. Upon closer examination, these yellow pieces appeared to be pieces of kernels of corn.

I assisted in closing the various doors of the tattoo shop, which was not open at the time of the search warrant execution and returned to the Milltown Police Department. Chief Thayer made phone contact with Weinmeyer and asked if he would be able to go to the Polk

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County Sheriff's Office. Weinmeyer agreed to go to the Sheriff's Office and stated that he would arrive around 2:00 pm.

S/A Robertson and S/A Dorn were at the Polk County Sheriff's Office at this time interviewing Tougas. S/A Anderson and I left the Milltown Police Department and went to the Polk County Sheriff's Office to assist. Ultimately, Tougas was booked into the Polk County jail.

A short time later, Weinmeyer arrived at the Polk County Sheriff's Office. I assisted S/A Robertson with interviewing Weinmeyer. Weinmeyer was escorted into the recorded interview room. Weinmeyer was seated on a couch next to the door of the interview room. The door to the interview was then closed. S/A Robertson confirmed with Weinmeyer that he drove himself, freely, willingly and voluntarily to the Sheriff's Office. S/A Robertson also confirmed with Weinmeyer that at no point was he ever placed under arrest. Weinmeyer asked if he was under arrest and S/A Robertson advised him that he was not. S/A Robertson advised Weinmeyer that he could get up and leave at any point during the interview which Weinmeyer understood.

See S/A Robertson's report for details related to the interview of Weinmeyer.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 03/05/26

Electronically Signed By:

Holly D. Wood Webster

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1063967

Electronically Signed By:

Cheryl Vitalis

Complainant