

# Jail administrator suspended following crash

ASHLAND DAILY PRESS

The Ashland County Jail leader involved in a recent late-night crash has been placed on paid administrative leave.

Ashland County Sheriff Brian Zupke suspended Kyle Cadotte



Cadotte

Monday, more than a week after his crash but immediately following publication of a Daily Press story about the incident.

Ashland County Administrator Dan Grady said the sheriff's department is investigating the matter and Cadotte, who earns about \$31 an hour, will remain on leave until that investigation is complete.

Cadotte, contacted via phone, declined to comment on the matter Monday, though he said he may do so at a future date. Zupke did not return calls seeking comment.

Cadotte is alleged to have crashed his truck at about 3 a.m. Sunday, April 16 on Mountain Road in the Bayfield County town of Bell.

Bayfield County deputies determined that Cadotte's truck drifted off the road, hit a mailbox and then jumped over a driveway before coming to a stop in a ditch.

They found an empty can of White Claw, an alcoholic seltzer, at the scene.

The crash report listed alcohol as a suspected factor in the crash.

A deputy phoned Cadotte from the scene, but Cadotte refused to return to the site, according to police reports. He was issued citations for inattentive driving and speeding after he told the deputy he crashed while using his phone, the report said.

Grady on Monday told the Daily Press that Zupke had suspended Cadotte earlier in the day. He said the sheriff's department is doing an internal investigation of the crash, though he did not know what investigators hoped to learn.

Cadotte was promoted from deputy to the jail's top position earlier this year — though he had no experience in administration — when Zupke fired former Jail Lt. Kim Lavoisier.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BAYFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
Ashland County Jail Administrator Kyle Cadotte's truck at the scene of his crash.

Lavoisier has contended that Zupke promoted Cadotte in part because Cadotte is related to Zupke.

She is fighting her termination with the county.

Prior to joining the Ashland County Sheriff's Department, Cadotte was chief of the Red Cliff Police Department where he was one of the officers who

investigated in 2020 the 2003 death of Jody Richard, director of a tribal education center.

Richard was beaten to death but her murder went unsolved for 17 years until Michael LaGrew was charged and sentenced in 2022 to life in prison.



BILL THORNLEY

# 3 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND

ASHLAND DAILY PRESS

### • VAPPU: FINNISH MAY DAY

When: Sunday from noon-3 p.m.  
Where: White Winter Meadery, Cidery & Distillery: 68323 Lea St., Iron River

What to expect: May Day celebrates the victory of spring over winter and darkness, making the way to warmth and sunshine. To celebrate spring, White Winter has made Sima, a Finnish-style spring mead. The Oulu Cultural & Heritage Center will also be there.

### • ROLY-POLY CONTEST AND DINNER

When: All day Saturday  
Where: Morse Town Hall: 402 Second Ave., Mellen  
What to expect: Constants make roly poly dishes

More 3 THINGS | A5

# To be or not to be — in Minneapolis

Ashland High School students took a field trip to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis April 18th to see "Hamlet."

Students got to see a matinee of the Shakespeare play and then spent the afternoon at the Mall of America. One student told a teacher, "This trip is the highlight of my junior year."

Donations from the Chequamegon Theatre Association, the Ashland Education Fund and numerous parents made the trip possible. District staff members Anna Speltz, Drew Emmert, Katie Kacvinsky and Sheva Ables-Allison chaperoned the trip.

Information provided by Ashland School District.



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