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Woman in critical condition after being mauled by dogs

By THE HERALD

A 68-year-old Tilden woman is in critical condition after receiving multiple bites and torn skin throughout her entire body following an attack by four dogs.

Kathleen Benish was mauled by four labrador/German shepherd mix dogs in the town of Tilden Friday afternoon, according to a press release from the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department

She had been walking along 115th Street near her home when the dogs, each weighing 60-80 pounds, knocked Benish to the ground and dragged her into a ditch. They then ripped her clothing off, while they bit her and dragged her through the snow.

The owner of the dogs, Matthew Mikula, 12776 115th St., Tilden, then came out of his residence and was able to stop the attack.

He reported the attack to authorities at 1:41 p.m.

Tilden first responders arrived on scene to find Benish had suffered multiple severe bites and torn skin over her entire body.

She was transported to Bloomer Hospital and then to Luther Hospital in Eau Claire. She underwent surgery at Luther on Friday afternoon.

Benish was in critical condition as of Saturday afternoon, a spokesperson for the hospital said.

Mikula has been cooperative with law enforcement. His four dogs have been quarantined at a local veterinarian.

The sheriff's department is working with the county's corporation counsel to determine the fate of the dogs after the quarantine and observation period is over.

The department is conducting an investigation and will send the case to the district attorney's office to be reviewed for possible charges against the owner of the dogs.

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