

## **IN BRIEF**

### **OWI charge would be man's sixth**

WAUKESHA — A New Berlin man has been held on a \$7,500 bail after he was arrested for operating while intoxicated on Sunday, while a similar charge is pending in Milwaukee County.

Johnny Coulter, 52, was charged Tuesday in Waukesha County Circuit Court with OWI as a fifth or sixth offense. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted, as well as a count of bail jumping.

A criminal complaint said a caller reported a vehicle driving erratically on Cleveland Avenue between New Berlin and Waukesha at about 3:25 Sunday afternoon.

The caller followed the car until it pulled behind a tavern on The Strand. There, a police officer saw the car drive toward the exit of the lot and then went back to a parking stall when the officer tried to flag the driver, identified as Coulter, the complaint said. Coulter denied driving the car, saying he'd been parked in the lot for about half an hour, drinking in his car while waiting to meet a friend at the tavern, which was not open at the time, the complaint said. The officer smelled the odor of intoxicants and Coulter failed field sobriety tests, and had blood drawn at a hospital for testing, the complaint said.

Coulter has been charged with the same felony OWI in Milwaukee County, the complaint said, and was to maintain absolute sobriety while that case is pending.

### **Waukesha library to present Leonardo da Vinci documentary**

WAUKESHA — On June 14 at 10 a.m., the Waukesha Public Library will show the documentary "Leonardo: The Man Who Saved Science."

The documentary examines the work of Leonardo da Vinci, using excerpts from his notebooks along with other material from the time period. Was he a genius who anticipated the modern age by 500 years? Or was he a copycat who recycled the ideas and inventions of others?

An informal discussion will follow, with coffee and doughnuts provided by Friends of Waukesha Public Library.

For more information, call 262-524-3682, ask at the Reference Desk or check online at [waukeshapubliclibrary.org](http://waukeshapubliclibrary.org). The Waukesha Public Library is located at 321 Wisconsin Ave.

## **'The Good Doctor'**

### **Former Carroll prof writes novel about David Roberts scandal**

**By Andrea Fencel**

Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — Former Waukesha resident and Carroll University professor Michael Kula is visiting the Waukesha Public Library on Wednesday to discuss his recent novel, "The Good Doctor."

About the well-known and fateful love triangle between Waukesha veterinarian David Roberts, his mistress Grace Lusk and his wife Mary Roberts, Kula's book approaches the historical event from a literary perspective.

Although a writer can take a lot of liberties when it comes to historical fiction, Kula wanted to remain faithful to approaching Roberts' career and the events going on in Waukesha during the time period.

"I learned I love research," Kula said. "I hadn't read a lot of historical fiction, but I've realized if there was anything I'd been more wired for—I don't know what that'd be."

Kula said the project had influenced the way he wrote creatively as well. While working on creating a book combining Kula's short stories, he came across the historical event. Being Kula's first novel, it was heavily revised and drafted multiple times during the eight-plus years it took to write.

"It's probably the second book I've written in how I recapped it," Kula said.

From 2010 to 2011, Kula finished several drafts and signed with a literary agent in New York. Kula's agent recommended he rewrite the last third of his book, and in the process he rewrote the whole book. After the rewrite, Kula said the book became more literary and dark, much less commercial. Following the change, Kula and his literary agent realized they had different visions for the book and amicably terminated the contract.

"I'm a much better person, better writer, better artist, better everything in the process of writing this book," Kula said.

Kula rewrote the book again after moving to Tacoma, Washington which proved beneficial for developing the story line, he said. While living in Waukesha, Kula could

in the introduction, "I don't know whether to be proud, complimented or ashamed to say that many women were in love with me."

"This man lost his wife at the hands of his mistress; he has a right to feel ashamed but he has vanity that makes him feel proud and complimented," Kula said.

Kula is suggesting his book be read by adult fans of literary fiction who are interested in human nature and the period of 1917 to 1918, when the events took place.

"In the novel, Waukesha is in the last days of this empire feel and people are realizing that it's starting to lose its luster," Kula said. "Waukesha is a character in my book as much as the three protagonists are, as well as cattle and the agriculture industry."

Kula said the book is not like that of British author James Herriot, who wrote the "All Creatures Great and Small" series.

"The novel doesn't romanticize the life of being a veterinarian; it's certainly darker," Kula said. "At the end of the day the book I've written is a prototypical Greek tragedy."

### **Back to the Midwest**

Kula's visit to the Waukesha Public Library is part of a mini-release tour that began in the Twin Cities and includes about five stops.

"I'm looking forward to seeing readers face to face," Kula said. "When you work on something for so long, you have this expectation that people will care about your writing."

Native to the Midwest, Kula looks forward to returning.

"I'm looking forward to being in that space with familiar lands, agriculture, people," Kula said. "What I miss is proximity to agriculture. I always thought of myself as a city person. I'm excited to be back in that space."

Published by Urban Farmhouse Press in Detroit, "The Good Doctor" was put on the market in April and is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [urbanfarmhousepress.com](http://urbanfarmhousepress.com). The cover art was painted by Waukesha-based artist Tom Nachreiner.

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revisit the historical documents in person whenever he wanted to.

"But to resume out here I had to access from memory," Kula said. "When you write about something in front of you, you take for granted the small details. Out here I had to think about what's missing."

And by embracing the literary version of the novel, the storyline darkened again.

### **Taking liberties, with intent**

For readers aware of the historical record of the murder, Kula said the book may come as a surprise.

"There are some liberties I've taken, not out of sloppiness, but with intent," Kula said. "The historical record paints these people in a caricature and extreme way."

Kula said the records portrayed the people as twodimensional by describing Roberts as a scoundrel, Grace Lusk as an unbalanced love interest and Mary Roberts as the victim.

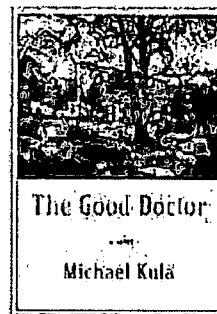
"This was the core I was working from, but in reality literary fiction is about realism and understanding people different from ourselves," Kula said. "The intent of the book is to paint a complex portrait of how people can make mistakes without villainizing them. There's not a clear-cut bad person and not a clear-cut saint. I wanted it to be messy like that. I wanted to look for that quiet place where things go wrong."

When Kula found Roberts' memoir, he was inspired to change the book's perspective. Kula said Roberts wrote



Former Waukesha resident and Carroll University professor Michael Kula has written "The Good Doctor," a novel describing the deadly love affair of veterinarian David Roberts.

Submitted photo



## Library book return working, but not fully

### Library

WAUKESHA

#### \$190,000 equipment still not sorting books

By Katherine Michalets

Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — When listening to Waukesha Public Library Interim Executive Director John Klima explain how the library book return is working, you can hear the fatigue in his voice from dealing with a \$190,000 purchase that has never gone quite right for the library, but which has improved with time and after countless hours of additional work.

Klima said it is currently working “really well for what the public needs,” but said the sorter that is intended to check books in and create efficiencies for staff has never really been utilized.

A common theme among comments posted on The Freeman’s Facebook readers by people who use the exterior book return is that it is convenient but slow.

“It has never worked as smoothly as we wanted it to be,” Klima said during a Thursday interview.

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The drive-up station of the Waukesha Public Library’s book return on Friday evening.

Katherine Michalets/Freeman Staff

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## Library book return working, but not fully

### Library

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The \$190,000 material sorting system installed in late 2015 includes both an indoor and drive-up return station, which feed into a unit that checks in and sorts materials.

It replaced the former aging book drop and was intended to alleviate backlogs in the circulation department and allow books to be put back on the proper shelves faster, while also reducing the amount of physical strain on employees.

But the outdoor sorting system encountered several issues including temperature-induced problems, a problematic incline of the system's conveyor belt and errors from patrons placing too many items on the belt at once.

Klima said the system is running steadily and is doing OK. It is not with regularity that Klima is called about the book return malfunctioning, although there was a time he had to reboot the system and another time when a book became stuck and a staff member had to push the emergency button to stop the system.

The mindset of patrons using the book return can be compared to that associated with fast food diners who use the drive-thru option for convenience and speed and don't want to spend a lot of time getting their food. The same, Klima said, is true for those who use the library return: they want convenience and speed.

Rosanna Balistreri said on Facebook that the system is convenient but slow.

"And when the sun hits just right you can't see what color the light is then the door closes ... lol I will take it, if I can return books after hours or when I don't

have time to haul kids in," she wrote.

Ann Stone wrote on Facebook that the book return is "WAY TOO SLOW. It shouldn't take 5 minutes to return a bag of books. When I'm tempted to haul the kids out of the car and into the library to drop them (the books, not the kids) in the alternate drop inside, you know it's got to be bad."

For Wesley Hoffmann, it's a great feature at the library.

"Yes! I love it, I always use it before work before the library opens," Hoffmann wrote on Facebook.

Angelo LaFratta chimed in that "Just like at if you're at a drive-thru. If you have a large order you should go in."

Former Library Executive Director Grant Lynch had told The Freeman in January that some of the more common issues then were related to patrons feeding multiple materials into the machine at once.

Lynch worked with the staff of the system's manufacturer, Germany-based mk Solutions, Inc., for months to correct many of the issues plaguing the system. And for about the last year, Lynch said, the machine has been functioning better than ever.

Klima said he will continue working with the manufacturer to make sure the system is fully operational.

Right now, the sorter is only working when the bins are full, he said. In the future, the books will be roughly sorted into categories which will allow them to be returned to the shelves faster after being checked in.

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