

AUGUST 2009 UPDATES....interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators.....

- In Ozaukee County, authorities have reported that equipment failure most likely led to the drowning death of a 48-year-old man in June. The man was diving in 300 feet of water nine miles southeast of Port Washington in Lake Michigan.
- In Brown County, a 21-year-old died after jumping from the roof of the 8-story Cofrin Library on the campus of UW-Green Bay. The man was both a student and employee at the school,
- In Waukesha County, a 29-year-old man suspected of providing and injecting morphine into a man who died from an overdose has been charged with first-degree reckless homicide.
- In Jackson County, a man who helped hundreds of searchers look for his missing ex-wife has pleaded guilty to killing her. He shot her in the face at their home, then dumped her body in a rural area.
- In Waukesha County, a 56-year-old former surgeon was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 2008 crash which killed a high school principal, her unborn child and her 10-year-old daughter, as well as injuring two more children. Toxicology results showed the man had Ambien, Xanax and Oxycodone in his system at the time of the crash, which occurred in April 2008.
- In Milwaukee County, a 41-year-old man died two days after he drank rubbing alcohol at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, where he had been incarcerated. He had a history of attempting suicide by drinking cleaning fluids.
- In Waukesha County, a man who had been identified a suspect since the start was charged with two counts of homicide in a case where the bodies of two 25-year-old men were found chained at the bottom of a lake. The men had also been shot multiple times and their necks had been cut. The incident happened in 2002.
- In Milwaukee County, a man who is now 37 was charged with first-degree reckless homicide in a case from 1990. The 26-year-old woman died of a gunshot wound to her face; her body found outside a Milwaukee apartment complex. The couple had met at a club, used drugs and had sex; the man feared being charged with rape when he wouldn't give the woman more cocaine.
- A 76-year-old man who was living in Kentucky has been charged in the killings of 19-year-old high school sweethearts in Jefferson County. The couple disappeared from a wedding reception and their bodies were found 76 days later.
- In Washington County, a 49-year-old man was charged in the 1999 stabbing death of a 22-year-old woman outside her workplace. She had been stabbed 45 times.
- Near Three Lakes, divers recovered the body of an 18-year-old camp counselor from Long Lake. The man was from Illinois.
- In Manitowoc County, a man committed suicide by jumping from a boat into a lake; he had attached boat anchors to both legs.
- A Wisconsin appeals court says a 31-year-old Green Bay truck driver sentenced to 45 years in prison for fatally stabbing a man and wounding his ex-girlfriend in 2004 after finding the two in bed cannot withdraw his pleas. The woman died of a drug overdose in 2007.

- In Richland County, three sheriff's deputies who were forced to open fire on a 51-year-old drunken man who challenged them to a gunfight from horseback in July have been cleared of any wrongdoing in the case.
- In Jefferson County, an 18-year-old man died in a fiery crash that seriously injured another person.
- In LaCrosse County, a 54-year-old man died when he lost control of the ATV he was operating and it rolled on top of him.
- In Washington County, a 4-year-old boy drowned in a private pond.
- In Winnebago County, a 43-year-old woman died while competing in the swimming portion of a triathlon; the third to die in Wisconsin triathlons this year. The others were a 33-year-old male and a 54-year-old female. USA Triathlon estimate 23 people nationwide have died in events sanctioned by their agency since 2004; all but 5 died during swims.
- In Dane County, a 38-year-old woman died while training for a triathlon after being pulled unresponsive from Lake Monona, Wisconsin's fourth triathlon-related death this summer. The woman was an experienced triathlete.
- In Shawano County, a 69-year-old man died of medical issues before crashing his vehicle into the Cecil post office.
- In Chippewa County, a 28-year-old man is dead after he was struck by a vehicle while apparently lying in the middle of a highway. A passerby noticed the man and drove a short distance away to get cell phone service to call 911; another driver, who was charged with drunken driving, struck the man before the passerby could return.
- In Milwaukee County, a 13-year-old girl stabbed her 41-year-old step-grandfather in the neck, severing his carotid artery, after the two argued and the man refused to give her milk for her cereal.
- In Oconto County, an 18-year-old man died when the ATV he was driving hit a tree.
- In Marathon County, a 47-year-old man was found guilty of second-degree reckless homicide in the death of his 11-year-old daughter, who died of untreated diabetes. The man's 41-year-old wife, the girl's mother, had been convicted of the same charges previously. The couple prayed for the girl's recovery instead of seeking medical attention.
- In Shawano County, a 79-year-old man and his wife, 78, died when they failed to stop at an intersection crossing Hy. 29. A 72-year-old male hit their vehicle; he was not hurt.
- In Fond du Lac County, the body of a 55-year-old man was found in the Fond du Lac River, the second body found in that river within just a few weeks. Foul play was not suspected.
- In Ozaukee County, a 43-year-old man died when his car crossed the centerline and hit a semi.
- In Florence County, a three-year-old boy died after he fell from a utility trailer and was run over by an ATV.

- In Kenosha County, a 37-year-old woman died after being stabbed several times; a male has found at the same location with multiple stab wounds with critical injuries.
- In Dane County, police do not suspect foul play after the “mostly mummified” remains of an elderly woman were found inside a Madison residence. The body was found after authorities were contacted with concerns that the woman hadn’t been seen recently.
- In Milwaukee County, a store employee was shot and later died during a robbery.
- In Marathon County, a 54-year-old man who shot and killed his ex-girlfriend last January was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide.
- In Waushara County, a 31-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman drowned in Kusel Lake. The two jumped into the lake when they noticed the man’s 7-year-old son struggling in the water; the boy made it to shore safely.
- In Marathon County, a 6-week-old girl died after the Amish buggy she was riding in was stuck from behind by a suspected drunken-driver on a Marshfield street.
- In Outagamie County, a 25-year-old man was taken into custody in connection with the death of a 2-month-old boy in May.
- In Dunn County, three brothers ranging in age from 13 – 32 were shot and killed at a birthday party; the shooter later died of self-inflicted injuries. Police say the shooter was a guest of a female relative of the slain men.
- In Brown County, authorities ruled suicide after a man’s body was found in a DePere park.
- In Milwaukee County, a 34-year-old man being chased for shoplifting drowned after jumping in the Milwaukee River.
- In Kenosha County, three men have been arrested in connection with the shooting death of an 18-year-old employee of a drive-in during a robbery. Another employee was also shot but survived.
- In Milwaukee County, a 17-year-old boy was shot and killed by the boyfriend of a woman he and another man were attempting to hold up.
- In Marinette County, a 50-year-old intoxicated man died when the ATV he was driving on the roadway crossed the center line and he was struck by a semi.
- In Milwaukee County, two masked gunmen who tried to rob a local food mart were shot and killed by a customer.
- In Fond du Lac County, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has created a Facebook page for “Jane Doe.” Three deer hunters found the still unidentified body of the woman in a wooded area in November 2008. Neal Haskell, a forensic entomologist believes the woman died between mid-summer and Labor Day 2008, based on bugs found at the scene.
- In Marathon County, a judge vacated the first-degree reckless homicide conviction of a 28-year-old man in a 2005 shaken baby case. He had been convicted of killing his 4-month-old daughter. An autopsy showed injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome and the man had confessed to police.
- In Dane County, two physicians have accepted discipline for “botching” a procedure that led to the death of a patient in 2005. The physicians were

attempting to obtain bone marrow from the man's sternum using an improper device; his aorta was punctured and the man died.

- In Grant County, a 45-year-old man died when the lawnmower he was using rolled on top of him. He was using a riding mower on an incline.
- In Rock County, two people died when their vehicle struck another, then rolled over.
- In Milwaukee County, a 33-year-old man died in a house fire that authorities believe was intentionally set by a 31-year-old man with a "history of fire fascination". The men were friends previously.
- In Dane County, a 50-year-old man drowned in Lake Monona; alcohol played a significant factor.
- In Sheboygan County, a man accused of crashing a minivan into a convenience store and killing an 18-year-old clerk pleaded not guilty of negligent homicide. Authorities say the 32-year-old man was driving the van while sitting in the passenger seat.
- In Milwaukee County, a 31-year-old man died two weeks after another man pushed him during an argument, causing him to fall and strike his head against a cement wall. A 28-year-old man, described as a friend, has been charged with first-degree reckless homicide.
- In Kenosha County, a 28-year-old man charged with killing his 15-month-old nephew died after a relative found him hanging in a house. The man was due in court the day after he was found; the child died of multiple trauma in April 2007.
- In Winnebago County, a 67-year-old man died after colliding with a school bus on a county road. Authorities have charged the driver of the bus, 64, with failure to yield the right-of-way at a stop sign.
- In Clark County, a 64-year-old man died after the truck he was driving left the roadway; authorities think the man spun the tires until they started the truck on fire, engulfing it and killing the man.
- In Clark County, a 19-year-old Amish man with little driving experience and no license lost control of a vehicle, sliding into a ditch and hitting a culvert. The impact caused his 21-year-old passenger to be ejected, killing him.
- In Brown County, two men were killed when their vehicle left the roadway, rolled over and ejected them.
- In Marathon County, a 34-year-old man fleeing police was killed when his vehicle sideswiped another, then left the roadway and hit a tree.
- In Green County, a 33-year-old man was sentenced to 40 years in prison without parole for the death of one of his two-month-old twin sons. The child was found to have died from traumatic injuries attributed to shaking; the man claimed the child choked while feeding.
- In Milwaukee County, a 47-year-old man has been charged with the strangulation death of a 45-year-old woman in 1990. The man was linked to the crime by DNA evidence; he is already in prison, serving time for another homicide.
- In Brown County, a 48-year-old woman shot and killed her estranged 34-year-old-husband, then drove to a nearby parking lot, where she died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. The couple had been expected in court that day for divorce proceedings.

- In Manitowoc County, a 31-year-old woman was accused of first-degree reckless homicide for her role in allegedly supplying methadone to a man who died of an overdose in 2007.
- In Dane County, the family of a UW student who was murdered in 2008 has offered to settle a lawsuit against the county. The student dialed 911 and the dispatcher did not send an officer to check on the situation when the call was disconnected. The woman's boyfriend found her dead when he arrived at her apartment later. The case is unsolved.
- In Milwaukee County, a 26-year-old man was convicted on four counts of first-degree intentional homicide for killing four people, and injuring two more, in an assault-rifle attack on a street party last year. Police called the attack retaliation for an earlier beating and robbery the shooter had claimed. It took a jury less than three hours...including their lunch break...to convict the man.
- In Grant County, two UW-Platteville employees were killed when their motorcycle struck a tractor which turned in front of them on a highway. A 59-year-old man drove the cycle; his passenger was a 54-year-old woman. They were both wearing helmets.
- In Dane County, a 38-year-old man who was driving a scooter that crossed the center line while passing another vehicle died when he was struck by an oncoming SUV. The SUV driver was citing for his second DUI. The scooter driver also had two prior drunken-driving convictions and was currently facing a charge of operation after revocation due to drunken driving.
- In Milwaukee County, a two-month-old girl died after her father apparently fell asleep on a couch while lying next to her. This is the 6th infant co-sleeping death in the Milwaukee area since March. Ages of the children range from 6 days old to 3 months old.
- In Brown County, former Green Bay police chief Bob Langan died at the age of 69. He was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in April.
- In Waushara County, a 14-year-old boy died of a gunshot wound to the chest from a rifle. Authorities found several young people at the residence. Their investigation continues but the shooting is believed to be accidental.
- In Pierce County, a 19-year-old man died after his vehicle hit a bull that was on the roadway. The man was ejected from his vehicle; the bull also was killed.
- In Waukesha County, the father of a 38-year-old woman who never regained consciousness after she was given too much propofol during a surgical procedure in Florida in 2003 wants the medical examiner to change the ruling from "accidental" to "homicide." The plastic surgeon lost his license as a result of the case, in which he tried to function as both surgeon and anesthesiologist.
- A Dane County man in late August after he was injured in a fight in a parking lot of a gas station. Authorities expected to file homicide charges; five men have been arrested in connection to the case.
- In Walworth County, a 41-year-old man was found not guilty of first-degree homicide charges; his wife's body was found weighted and chained in July 2003 in Geneva Lake.
- In Monroe County, a 24-year-old man died in a tree-cutting accident.

- In Dane County, a male pedestrian was killed after being struck by a 34-year-old woman who was charged with being intoxicated.
- In Brown County, a 66-year-old woman died in a house fire.
- Through August, the state Department of Transportation reported that 347 people have died in traffic accidents – 55 fewer than at the same time last year, a 14% drop. Compared with the five-year average of 475 traffic deaths by the end of August, the number of fatalities this year is down 27%.
- WCMEA members mourn the death after a boating accident of Dr. John Ryan, 73. Dr. Ryan was the Sawyer County Coroner. He died near Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.