

## **February 2010.....Interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators....**

- In Iowa County, a 27-year-old male who had co-starred in the ABC show "Boston Legal" was found dead outside of his wrecked Jeep; the vehicle had left the roadway, went down a steep embankment and hit some trees. Justin Mentell was not wearing a seatbelt.
- The DOT reported that January 2010 recorded only 21 traffic fatalities statewide, the lowest since 1943.
- In Milwaukee County, a 18-year-old male was sentenced to 8 years in prison for homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle. The man hit and killed a 16-year-old pedestrian and struck another person, causing injury.
- In Calumet County, a 60-year-old man died when his pick-up truck left an icy roadway and struck a tree.
- In Outagamie County, a 17-year-old female was killed when another vehicle lost control on icy roads, striking her vehicle. She was dead at the scene.
- In Sheboygan County, a 25-year-old man has been charged with stealing the ashes of his stillborn child during an argument with the child's mother.
- In Lincoln County, a 19-year-old male who was convicted of killing a 25-year-old female who was working at a convenience store in 2008 has now asked a judge to withdraw his guilty plea. The man had been convicted of first-degree intentional homicide and armed robbery.
- In Rock County, a now 51-year-old man who had been convicted as a sex offender was found guilty of strangling and stabbing three people in January 2007. The man killed a 38-year-old woman, her 17-year-old daughter and her 14-year-old son.
- In Dane County, a 22-year-old female UW student died of bacterial meningitis.
- In Milwaukee County, a 39-year-old man was shot to death, allegedly by his cousin as they argued over money.
- In Milwaukee County, an 18-year-old man went to trial in the homicide death of a 21-year-old male college student; he was shot when he told the shooter that he didn't have any money during a robbery attempt. The 18-year-old shot another person 12 hours later; that person survived.
- The Wisconsin Appeals Court ruled that the dying words of a gunshot victim can be used to prosecute the man accused of shooting him in 2006 in Milwaukee. The dying man told responders that "Marvin" had shot him.
- In Milwaukee County, a 19-year-old man was shot to death in an alley; two suspects were taken into custody.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 21-year-old man died when the car he was driving went out of control on a patch of ice and he hit another vehicle.
- In Marathon County, a 44-year-old man was charged with heroin distribution after a woman died of an overdose at a domestic abuse shelter.
- In Eau Claire County, a 44-year-old man pled not guilty to killing his 43-year-old girlfriend; she was missing for several days before her body was found in the woods in Adams County.

- In Forest County, a 65-year-old man died when his snowmobile crashed into a tree.
- In Vilas County, a 26-year-old man was killed after his snowmobile struck a tree.
- In Milwaukee, police were investigating a double homicide involving a man and a woman, allegedly shot to death by their son, 34.
- In Green Lake County, a 45-year-old man died when the truck he was driving broke through the ice on the Fox River.
- In Oconto County, a 44-year-old man died when he lost control of his vehicle; he was ejected when the vehicle rolled over.
- In Washington County, a 60-year-old man died in a three-vehicle crash. The car he was driving crossed the center line and hit an SUV.
- In Madison, Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink has introduced a bill that would limit public access to recordings made on 911 calls. She drafted the measure at the request of the family of a UW-Madison student who was murdered in 2008. That case drew attention when the media learned that a dispatcher hung up on the student and never sent police despite sound of a struggle when the call was placed.
- In Washington County, a 78-year-old man was killed when he became pinned between a building and the front-end loader he was using to plow snow.
- In Franklin, a 50-year-old man was found dead in a house fire.
- In Dane County, a 40-year-old woman was sentenced to 3 years in prison for child neglect; her 3-year-old granddaughter died after ingesting OxyContin.
- In Milwaukee County, a 3-month-old girl died; the child was co-sleeping with her mother and a two-year-old sibling.
- In Marinette County, a 40-year-old man pled guilty to five counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He struck another vehicle, killing a 44-year-old man and his four children, ages 19, 16, 15 and 12.
- In Washington County, a 37-year-old man accused of strangling his stepson with a necktie in a WalMart parking lot pled insanity. Police believe the man killed the boy as payback to the boy's mother, who called police after the man attacked her with a hammer.
- In Milwaukee County, a 73-year-old man collapsed and died after shoveling snow.
- In Brown County, a 37-year-old man who returned to Mexico after a 1993 murder in Green Bay was sentenced to 22 years in prison for his role in the homicide of a 26-year-old male, who was stabbed to death. The man, who was 20 at the time of the killing, was arrested in Mississippi after a traffic stop; he'd returned to the United States.
- In Marathon County, a 31-year-old man died a few days after being scalded by hot liquid which was being used to strip paint in a factory.
- In Milwaukee, a clump of hair yanked from a man accused of killing two men outside a tavern is being analyzed for D.N.A.. The men were 47 and 20.
- In Sauk County, a 50-year-old man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a two-hour police standoff, but shot another man, 29, in the head, critically wounded him, before taking his own life.

- In Rock County, a 13-year-old boy died of an overdose of OxyContin, apparently given to him by a friend at school.
- In Manitowoc County, a 46-year-old woman was taken into custody after a man of the same age was found dead after using Fentanyl patches, likely chewing them. The woman allegedly provided the patches to the man.
- In Calumet County, an 85-year-old man died after falling into Lake Winnebago on the opening day of sturgeon spearing season. The death was ruled due to drowning. On the same day, a man speared the largest sturgeon ever taken in Wisconsin, weighing 212 pounds and measuring 84" long.
- In Milwaukee County, a 79-year-old woman died after being struck by a car in Greenfield.
- In Milwaukee County, a 22-year-old man who was shot by a security guard while robbing a check-cashing business last year was convicted of felony murder in connection with the death of his cousin, who also was shot by the security guard during the robbery. Prosecutors determined the guard's actions were justified and did not file charges against him.
- In Milwaukee County, a 21-year-old man who fired shots at a day care when his girlfriend works and later shot his girlfriend's sister killed himself as police tried to arrest him. The woman was critically injured.
- In Dane County, a 16-year-old girl died of bacterial meningitis.
- In LaCrosse, a 21-year-old college student drowned after falling into the Mississippi River, again fueling rumors of a serial killer who preys on intoxicated men. The death was the 9<sup>th</sup> since July 1997. The blood-alcohol levels on those people ranged from 0.20-0.42; this man's was reported to be 0.28.
- In Washington County, a 47-year-old man died after he went around two vehicles stopped at a railroad crossing and his van was struck by a train. The death was ruled a suicide.
- In Milwaukee County, a 61-year-old worker died when an 8x10' piece of steel, weighing two tons, fell from an overhead lift hoist and struck him.
- In Green Lake County, a 31-year-old man died after the snowmobile he was driving hit an ice shanty. He was the 19<sup>th</sup> snowmobile fatality this season in Wisconsin.
- In Winnebago County, a 16-year-old girl died after the Jeep she was riding in lost control, crossed the median and struck another vehicle.
- In Oneida County, a 26-year-old man died when the snowmobile he was operating left the trail and hit a tree.
- In Langlade County, a 3-year-old boy died when he was run over by a truck in his driveway.
- In Milwaukee County, the bodies of a 24-year-old woman and her two sons, ages 3 and 4, were found dead following a suspicious fire in their home. A 19-year-old woman, whom police felt was a "person of interest" in the case, was also found dead.
- In Brown County, a 47-year-old woman died and another woman was critically injured in a multi-vehicle crash near Green Bay.

- In Calumet County, a 24-year-old woman died when a van driven by a 21-year-old man ran a stop sign and struck her vehicle. The man then fled from the scene, but was captured later. He is charged with felony hit-and-run driving, with prior convictions of driving after revocation, driving while suspended and underage drinking.
- In Chippewa Falls, police say the body of a 17-year-old boy found on the bank of the Chippewa River was slain. A 30-year-old man was taken into custody.
- In 2008, 737 people committed suicide in Wisconsin, the highest level in at least 20 years. A total of 6513 people killed themselves from 1999-2008 in the state. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Wisconsin.
- In Dane County, police tried to stop a vehicle heading the wrong way down a street. The man driving the vehicle fled, then struck a light pole and a building. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. He was 51.
- In Dane County, the operator of an ATV died after losing control of his machine on Lake Waubesa.
- In LaCrosse County, a man believed to be in his mid-30's died in a house fire.
- In Milwaukee County, a 59-year-old man was murdered; robbery may have been a motive.