

OCTOBER 2009.....interesting cases handled by Wisconsin's death investigators

- In Fond du Lac County, a 31-year-old man committed suicide in his vehicle in the Eldorado Marsh.
- In Manitowoc County, a 24-year-old man was charged in connection with the heroin death of a 19-year-old male.
- In LaCrosse County, a 20-year-old woman charged with 2nd degree reckless homicide was sentenced to six months in jail. The woman hid the live body of her newborn in a plastic cooler, then put the cooler between two garages, and eventually into the trash.
- In Madison, an 81-year-old man died in the lobby of UW-Witte Hall.
- The DOT reported that traffic deaths in September 2009 (54 died in 52 crashes) were the second-lowest of any month since World War II. The lowest month was September 2008 (50).
- In Bayfield County, a 25-year-old woman was charged with second-degree reckless homicide after her 7-month-old daughter drowned in her mother's bathtub. The woman allegedly set the child in a infant seat and put it in the bathtub, along with a two-year-old sibling, then went to a friend's apartment to watch TV. The child was found unresponsive and was pronounced dead at the hospital.
- A Rock County resident with an underlying medical condition became the first person in Wisconsin to die of the swine (H1N1) flu.
- A former chairman of the Public Service Commission died after a rollover crash in Waupaca County. The man, 45, resigned in 2003 shortly before his term was to expire.
- In Milwaukee, a 19-year-old woman died after she was shot in the face.
- In Portage County, a 24-year-old man pleaded guilty to second-degree reckless homicide from an incident in January where he claimed he was tossing his infant son into the air when he dropped him, striking his head against the floor.
- In Fond du Lac County, an 18-year old man died when an RV pulled out from a stop sign, into the path of his motorcycle. The man was on his way to a class at a local college.
- In Shawano County, a 48-year-old man pleaded no contest to amended charges of first-degree reckless homicide for intentionally setting a fire that killed his 49-year-old wife and injured her 18-year-old son in August 2008.
- In Ozaukee County, one person was killed and 7 injured in a crash on I-43; a semi driver became distracted due to lane closures. The man who died was 78-years-old. An 80-year-old woman died several days later as a result of injuries suffered in the crash.
- In Whitefish Bay, a 70-year-old man who was "gravely ill" shot and killed himself outside the Village Hall.
- In Milwaukee, a 22-year-old man was shot and killed after going to a gas station at 1:30 a.m. to buy a fuse for a car.
- In Dane County, a Madison police officer shot and killed a man who was a suspect in a robbery of a Cousins restaurant. The man was armed.

- In Sauk County, a woman died after the vehicle she was driving crossed the center line and hit a semi.
- In Brown County, a 21-year-old male inmate died while a prisoner in the Brown County Jail; another inmate, 19, has been accused of giving him an “8-ball” of cocaine shortly before a cell block search. The 21-year-old was found seizing and later died; he died of acute cocaine toxicity and a plastic bag was found in his stomach at autopsy.
- In Grant County, a man, now 54, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing a prostitute nearly 30 years ago. The woman was age 23 at the time of her death. The man was linked to her death by DNA; he is already serving a life sentence in the murder of another woman in 1981.
- In Oconto County, a 24-year-old man died when he lost control of his pickup truck on an icy overpass and rolled down an embankment on a state highway.
- The NTSB blamed a June 2007 crash over Lake Michigan on mistakes by the pilot and first officer and oversight problems by the charter company that operated the jet and the FAA. The crash killed the pilot, co-pilot and four members of a University of Michigan organ transplant team. The crew had just harvested organs in Milwaukee, which were also lost. The jet had taken off minutes earlier from Mitchell International airport. The report noted that the pilot was known by other pilots as “cutting corners” The report also noted that the co-pilot may have accidentally set the autopilot on the plane. The patient who was waiting for the double-lung transplant at the time of the crash did receive a transplant from another donor two days later.
- In Kenosha County, a 50-year-old man was killed shortly after a female called 911 from the residence, stating that “men with guns” had entered the home.
- In Black River Falls, a man who pretended to help hundreds of searchers look for his missing ex-wife was sentenced to life in prison. He pleaded guilty in August to first-degree intentional homicide in the death of his wife, 27. He shot her in the face at their home then dumped her body in a rural area last November. Eight days later, he admitted to investigators that he killed his wife, the mother of twins.
- In Marathon County, a 74-year-old woman was found dead in a rural campground more than 18 hours after she was seen leaving a tavern. Investigators think she crashed her truck at a low speed at the campground, then got out and collapsed a few hundred feet from the truck. Alcohol is considered to have played a factor.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 36-year-old man accused of murdering his girlfriend, putting her body into a cooler before burning it in a barrel and then disposing of the ashes through holes cut in the ice of Lake Winnebago pleaded not guilty to a variety of charges. The man’s mother allegedly assisted him in moving the body.
- In Chippewa County, a 74-year-old woman crossing a street in Bloomer was struck by a car and killed. The woman was carrying groceries home when she was struck on a busy street; it was snowing at the time.
- In Racine, two brothers have been convicted of killing a man in a 2006 gunfight. Prosecutors said the man who died was sitting in the driver’s seat of a parked car when the brothers, ages 32 and 26, pulled up alongside and opened fire.

- In West Bend, authorities believe a 50-year-old man shot and killed his 52-year-old ex- in the driveway of her home before shooting himself in the head in a murder-suicide case.
- In Monroe County, a one-year-old child reportedly died of the “swine flu”.
- In Manitowoc County, a 14-year-old boy died of injuries suffered when an ATV he was operating rolled over on top of him.
- In Milwaukee County, a 28-year-old man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after police stopped his vehicle to question him about a report of a sexual assault. Officers did not fire any shots in the incident.
- In Columbia County, a 47-year-old man died at a manufacturing plant after a grinder he was using ignited fumes, causing an explosion.
- In Marathon County, two people were killed when the vehicle they were riding in lost control and rolled over multiple times. A 40-year-old woman and her 12-year-old daughter died. The driver, the husband and father of those killed, was charged with homicide by drunken driving. He is a member of the Mosinee School Board.
- In Milwaukee, officials recovered a body found floating in Lake Michigan.
- In Winnebago County, a 24-year-old man was sentenced to 5 years in prison for the drunken-driving death that killed a 14-year-old girl in January.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 37-year-old woman died after taking ill at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution.
- In U.S. District Court in Milwaukee, an attorney filed suit on behalf of a 18-year-old mentally ill woman who died after strangling herself with a ripped seam from a pillow at Taycheedah in 2005 while in an observation cell of a segregated unit.
- In Washington County, the body of a 39-year-old woman was found in the Milwaukee River. Her car had been found hours earlier, partially submerged in the river. She was last seen leaving a tavern at 2:00 a.m., and did make a cell phone call shortly thereafter.
- In Waukesha County, a former physician who was sentenced to 30 years in prison for a crash that killed three and hurt two more in April 2008 has settled two civil lawsuits filed against him for \$3,670,000 plus unspecified punitive damages.
- In Manitowoc County, the County Board is in the process of examining the elected coroner position, weighing it against the benefits of restructuring the office to a medical examiner.
- In Shawano County, police ruled the deaths of a married couple, 87 and 82, a murder-suicide.
- In Dane County, a 52-year-old male Justice Department worker used his service weapon to commit suicide in a parking ramp.
- In Brown County, a 21-year-old man was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide in the death of his 4-month-old son. The man slammed his son’s head against the bathroom door when he wouldn’t stop crying during a bath.
- In Dane County, a 47-year-old man was sentenced to nine years in prison and 10 years of supervision in the beating death of his friend in a drunken brawl in a park last November.

- In Ozaukee County, a 19-year-old man after the pick up truck he was driving struck a manure spreader being pulled by a tractor on a highway.
- In Sawyer County, authorities recovered the body of a man from a lake; he had been missing since April.
- In Waukesha County, the DNA of a 26-year-old California man was found on evidence recovered in connection with the stabbing death of a 39-year-old woman in her home. Her 4-year-old son was home at the time, but apparently didn't witness the death.
- In Sheboygan County, a 42-year-old woman was found not guilty in the stabbing death of her husband on New Year's Day. They found the woman acted in self-defense after years of physical and sexual abuse by the man.
- In Milwaukee, a 21-year-old man died after being shot in the chest; police are investigating if the death was drug-related.
- In Milwaukee, one man died in a "gun battle" that also injured another man. Several homes and cars in the area were struck by gunfire.
- In Columbia County, the body of an adult male was found near a road north of Lodi. Authorities are investigating.
- The Stevens Point Journal, the Wisconsin Rapids Tribune and the Marshfield News Herald are encouraging their readers to take a pledge to change their behaviors; to vow to never drink and drive. More information is available at their websites.
-