

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

- In Iowa County, a 47-year-old truck driver died of a “medical emergency” after his vehicle left the roadway and stopped in a ditch, causing only minor damage to the truck; no other vehicles were involved.
- In Marathon County, an 83-year-old woman died after the car she was riding in after it pulled out into the path of another vehicle; that vehicle was driven by a woman who had been drinking. The lady who died was on her way to celebrate her birthday at a local restaurant.
- In Brown County, a 15-year-old boy died after a dirt-bike accident which occurred on private property.
- In Green Lake County, one person died and two others injured after a six-wheel all-terrain vehicle crashed, falling on top of the rider who died.
- In Waukesha County, a 21-year-old woman was found stabbed to death in a vehicle parked at a city intersection. She was stabbed 36 times.
- In Milwaukee County, authorities charged a 49-year-old man suspected in the killings of as many as nine women over the past 21 years in Milwaukee. Many of the women were prostitutes. DNA evidence helped police to find the man.
- In Dane County, a man was convicted of second-degree reckless homicide in the beating death last November in a park on Madison's east side. The murder victim reportedly had a relationship with the killer's ex-girlfriend; she suffered head injuries, 15 broken ribs and tracheal bruises during the attack.
- In Vernon County, a 51-year-old man died after the SUV he was driving struck the back of a school bus which was stopped on a highway with its warning lights flashing. Nine students and the bus driver were not injured.
- In Jefferson County, a 30-year-old man is accused of throwing his 4-month-old infant son against a wall, causing his death. Prosecutors say the man threw his son so hard he left cracks in the wall.
- In Fond du Lac County, a jury found a man guilty of killing a 19-year-old go-go dancer in 1976. The victim's throat was cut; she was found lying on a country road. DNA evidence played a key role in the conviction; the man's ex-wife also testified the man told her he met the woman at the strip club and “things went horribly wrong.”
- In Winnebago County, authorities have re-opened the investigation of the 1984 shooting death of the wife of a Neenah industrialist. The woman was shot to death in the driveway of their home after an intruder allegedly broke into their home, taking the woman hostage and binding her hands behind her back with a rope.
- In Brown County, a 41-year-old woman was killed after she was struck by another car. Her vehicle had broken down and was parked on the side of the highway, awaiting a tow truck.
- Jorge Dimas, a 23-year-old Wisconsin State Trooper who died in June after injuries suffered in a crash in Polk County in May, was one of 21 troopers honored at the State Capitol on Sept. 9. Dimas received a posthumous Purple

Heart. He is the first trooper to die in the line of duty since 1993, and only the fifth trooper to die while in the line of duty.

- In Winnebago County, a 56-year-old woman was killed as she exited a Wal-Mart store in Neenah by a hit-and-run driver. Her body was dragged more than 200 feet.
- In Waukesha County, a 34-year-old woman was found guilty of two counts of first-degree reckless homicide in connection with providing methadone on separate occasions to two people who overdosed and died.
- In Lafayette County, two men (29, 32) were struck by a car and killed. They had been riding in a car when they began to argue; the driver, who was found to be intoxicated, stopped the vehicle and the men got out to fight. They were hit by a woman who had two children in her car.
- In LaCrosse County, a 17-year-old girl died of injuries sustained in a fall at Grandad Bluff. Authorities said she was on a trail outside a fenced area. The last fatal fall at the Bluff was in 2007.
- In Dane County, a 42-year-old male home intruder was shot and killed by the homeowner.
- In Outagamie County, a 50-year-old woman jumped to her death from the Skyline Bridge. The woman had survived a jump from the College Avenue Bridge in 2001, when she landed in the Fox River.
- In Outagamie County, a man shot himself to death in a grocery store parking lot.
- In Marathon County, a 57-year-old man died when he was cut off in traffic, swerving his motorcycle onto the sidewalk, causing him to crash.
- In Marathon County, a wrongful death suit was filed against landlords of a building that caught fire in 2008, killing three children, ages 9, 8 and 2. The state fire marshal said the cause of the fire was undetermined.
- In Taylor County, authorities ruled a man found at the bottom of a tree stand died of cardiac causes. The man was 65 years old.
- In Marathon County, a nurse was found dead in the back of an ambulance when it returned to its base after transferring a patient to a Madison hospital.
- In Milwaukee County, two men have been charged with the July shooting death of a UWM student. One of the men told authorities they shot the student during a robbery attempt when they found he carried no money.
- In Milwaukee County, authorities found a 54-year-old man dead in Mitchell Park.
- In Dane County, a 51-year-old motorcyclist died after striking another vehicle; the driver of the car was cited for failure to yield the right-of-way.
- In Sheboygan County, a 43-year-old woman who was the passenger on a motorcycle driven by her boyfriend died after a van driven by a 72-year-old woman pulled into their path on Hy. 57. The driver of the cycle was critically injured.
- In Kenosha County, a 24-year-old man died of drowning in a retention pond; the co-workers had been drinking beer when they decided to go for a swim.
- In Dane County, a 36-year-old man drowned after jumping from a boat to go for a swim in Lake Monona. The operator of the boat was cited for operating a boat while intoxicated.

- In Pierce County, a 75-year-old man died after being trapped inside a corn storage bin while it was being loaded.
- In Portage County, a 48-year-old deputy sheriff died of medical issues. He had been hired in 1990 and was the senior deputy sheriff in the patrol division.
- In Milwaukee County, two males, ages 17 and 23, were charged in connection with the homicide of a 27-year-old man who was shot during a drug robbery in May.
- In Dane County, a 39-year-old man died of drowning after the boat he was operating made an abrupt turn on Lake Monona, causing his wife, 4-year-old twin sons and himself to fall overboard. The others were rescued.
- In Lafayette County, two people died in a house fire.
- In Washington County, two women died as a result of injuries suffered in a two-vehicle crash. One of the victims, 34, was a middle-school teacher.
- In Milwaukee County, a 27-year-old woman was sentenced to one year of prison and then supervision after she was convicted of feeding her infant daughter “methadone-laced formula,” which caused the death of the child.
- For the second month in a row, WCMEA members mourn the loss of one of our own. John Stanley, 63, the Dane County coroner since 2001 (he had been a deputy coroner since 1991), died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on September 12. John had been a longtime, active member of the WCMEA. In August, Sawyer County coroner John Ryan, 73, died in a boating accident in Canada.
- Ray Wosepka was appointed to fill the remainder of John Stanley’s term.
- In Marathon County, a 49-year-old man was charged with negligent homicide regarding the August crash of a vehicle the man was driving when it hit an Amish buggy, killing an infant.
- In Waukesha County, a 27-year-old man was sentenced to four years in prison for the shaking death of his infant daughter in 2007. He was found guilty of second-degree reckless homicide.
- In Winnebago County, a 58-year-old man was electrocuted while erecting a portable garage on private property. The victim struck a live power line while inserting a metal anchoring rod into the ground.
- In Winnebago County, a 55-year-old man died of injuries sustained after falling from a tree stand several days earlier.
- In Lafayette County, a 38-year-old man and his 8-year-old daughter died in a house fire.
- In Waukesha County, the body of a 69-year-old man was found in Pewaukee Lake.
- In Cedarburg, a 59-year-old man was charged with homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle and hit-and-run driving after a crash that killed a 37-year-old motorcyclist. The intoxicated man turned his vehicle into the path of the cyclist.
- In Dane County, the family of a man who was electrocuted two years ago by a downed power line as he tried to help others has filed a wrongful death suit against Madison Gas and Electric, alleging that the utility failed to properly maintain its equipment. The 22-year-old man was killed after he left a Madison

Metro bus to help others who had been electrocuted by the power line. Three people died in the incident, including a 28-year-old woman and her 2-year-old daughter.

- Near Delafield, a 78-year-old woman died after a car driven by her 20-year-old grandson rolled over. The woman was thrown from the car.
- In Marathon County, a 14-year-old boy died after collapsing on the track at D.C. Everest's Stiehm Stadium during cross country practice. The death was due to cardiac causes.
- In Dodge County, authorities ruled a couple found dead inside their home was a murder-suicide. A 59-year-old man killed his wife, 61, before shooting himself.
- In Elm Grove, a 22-year-old man died as he accelerated away from a police squad car. The vehicle was traveling in excess of 80 mph before it left the roadway, hit a culvert and then several trees.
- In Brown County, a Green Bay Press-Gazette analysis showed that methadone was a component in 31 of the 113 overdose deaths recorded since 2004. The next most common drug was Xanax, which was present in 20 cases during that same time period.
- In Brown County, a 46-year-old woman has been charged with reckless homicide after allegedly giving her 28-year-old niece methadone pills, but telling her they were morphine. The niece died; her body was found on a couch holding her 4-year-old son, who was asleep.
- In Dane County, a 28-year-old woman died when her vehicle was hit head-on by a vehicle driven by a 17-year-old boy who was intoxicated; he was charged with homicide.
- In Clark County, an 83-year-old man died of injuries suffered after an ATV he was driving rolled over.
- In Green Lake County, two women died on the same day in different accidents. An 86-year-old woman died after she was struck by a pickup truck while crossing the street in Green Lake, and an elderly woman died in a two-vehicle crash.
- In Outagamie, two 18-year-old men died after being ejected from their vehicle as it left the roadway and rolled over. A third occupant of the vehicle, who was wearing a seatbelt, survived.
- In Franklin, a 59-year-old man died after bringing his vehicle to a repair shop for service. He was crushed between his vehicle and another.
- In Oconto County, a 28-year-old woman who was intoxicated was driving in the wrong lane on a highway when she struck an oncoming vehicle, killing the 46-year-old driver.
- In Portage County, a judge ruled that dog hair can be used as evidence in a homicide case from 2003 where a man was charged with shooting another man inside a semi-cab. The shooter thought the truck driver was involved with his girlfriend; but the truck driver was a substitute and not who the shooter thought he was. The shooter had taken his girlfriend's dogs the night before the homicide, then sexually assaulted her and held her against her will before the fatal shooting.