

Wisconsin updates for February 2009.....notes of some interesting cases handled by death investigators in the Badger State.

- In Clark County, a 43-year-old man died two days after being punched in the head and then falling to the floor during a tavern dispute. The attacker was charged with homicide.
- In Portage County, the November 2008 shooting death of a man by a Stevens Point police officer was justified, according to the Portage County Sheriff's Department, who conducted an independent investigation. The man reportedly attacked the officer despite verbal commands, two Taser bursts and a can of pepper spray. The man originally was stopped for suspected auto theft and had escaped earlier, where he was being held at gunpoint by another officer.
- In Marathon County, a jail inmate told jurors that a man accused of killing a woman in 1999 admitted to knowing her and hitting her with a brick. The man was convicted of homicide.
- In Vernon County, a 13-year-old boy died after losing control of his mother's car and striking a tree.
- In Milwaukee County, a 44-year-old man died in an industrial accident when a steel plate fell on him.
- In Columbia County, a 38-year-old man was struck and killed by a car while riding his snowmobile across a highway.
- Fond du Lac County authorities arrested a 53-year-old Ashwaubenon man, charging him with the 1976 murder of a 19-year-old Milwaukee woman who had arrived in Fond du Lac only a day earlier, working as a go-go dancer. Her body was found at the side of the road, with her throat slit and multiple stab wounds. The man was convicted of felony child abuse in Brown County in 2008. He provided a DNA sample at that time, which linked him to the unsolved homicide in Fond du Lac.
- In Chippewa County, a judge ruled that a 50-year-old woman would not serve jail time after she pled guilty to second-degree reckless homicide after shooting her live-in boyfriend to death in June 2007. The man was asleep at the time of the shooting. The woman's lawyers portrayed her as a battered woman.
- In Milwaukee County, a 50-year-old man who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis died while an inmate at the county jail. Officials said he had been in isolation the entire time he was confined.
- In Winnebago County, a 54-year-old woman confined to a wheel chair was killed when a car struck her while she was crossing an Oshkosh street. She was in the crosswalk when she was hit.
- In Outagamie County, a 54-year-old man shot and killed himself in the parking lot of an Appleton funeral home.
- In Portage County, the death of a five-week-old child was ruled a homicide. The boy's father said at the time the child arrived at a hospital that he had been tossing the child in the air when he "missed" catching him, causing his head to strike the floor.
- In Portage County, a 19-year-old UW-Stevens Point student was found dead in the stairwell of his dorm. He had been drinking before being discovered.

- In Outagamie County, a 48-year-old man convicted of killing a 19-year-old woman while she jogged in Kaukauna in June 2000 has filed yet another appeal regarding the case. The district attorney who originally prosecuted the case was quoted as saying, “He continues to peddle the fantasy that officers from four different agencies conspired on a Sunday afternoon in June of 2000 to coax him into a 15-mile high-speed chase from Kaukauna to Greenville to smear the blood of the decedent on him and the hunting knife in his truck.”
- In Outagamie County, the 63-year-old fire chief of the Clayton-Winchester Fire Department died after suffering a heart attack while attending a Northeast Wisconsin Safety League meeting, just after he was elected vice-president of the Safety League during the meeting. He had been a member of CWFD for more than 40 years and chief more than 20.
- In Milwaukee County, a 48-year-old child care worker charged in a case of leaving an infant inside a vehicle last July twice lied to authorities investigating the case before telling them, “It was a mistake; it was just one of those days.” An autopsy found the child died from hyperthermia; outside temperatures were 80F.
- A Eau Claire County jury will hear the trial of a Brown County woman who is charged with two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle. The woman allegedly was driving a car at a high rate of speed in Green Bay when she struck another vehicle, killing two teenage girls in June.
- In Sauk County, a student convicted of killing the principal of Weston High School in September 2006 is planning an appeal. The student is serving a term for first-degree homicide.
- In Adams County, a 31-year-old man with four prior drunken-driving convictions was sentenced to seven years in prison for the 2006 ATV accident that killed his girlfriend, who fell off the ATV when the man rounded a curve. His blood-alcohol content was 0.214%.
- In Calumet County, on Valentine’s Day, a father (44) and daughter (10) died when the vehicle they were riding in on Lake Winnebago fell through a crack in the ice. An 8-year-old girl was resuscitated and remains hospitalized.
- Also on Valentine’s Day, a 37 year-old man died when his vehicle fell through a frozen river near Superior, in Douglas County.
- In Waukesha County, two people were charged with homicide in a case where a 46-year-old woman died of a methadone overdose. Authorities believe that one of the people charged sold methadone to the woman that he had received as part of a methadone treatment program. One of those charged is also a suspect in another drug-related death case.
- In Milwaukee County, a 38-year-old daycare worker was fatally shot as she observed her cousin being robbed after selling marijuana to some teenagers. The robbers got \$4 in cash and two bags of dope, valued at \$5 each. An 18-year-old man was taken into custody.
- In Milwaukee County, a 30-year-old man drowned in a hot tub.
- In Trempeleau County, three people died in an apartment fire above The Hotel Tap.

- In Manitowoc County, a wrongful death suit was filed against two drivers related to a 2006 case in which a 32-year-old mother of four children died after the vehicle she was riding in collided with another car.
- In Lincoln County, a 40-year-old woman died in an apartment fire.
- In Wood County, a 52-year-old man employed by the county died when he fell off of a dam he was working on. His body was found in the water.
- In Kenosha County, a 24-year-old special education teacher died after being punched outside a bar. The decedent had gone to assist a woman who was being harassed by the man who allegedly punched him.
- In Washington County, the State Court of Appeals says a man accused in the beating death of his infant daughter cannot present to a jury the theory that the girl's death was caused when hospital staff removed her from life support. The 31-year-old male is charged with first-degree reckless homicide. He is accused of holding the two-month-old child by the legs and banging her head against a wooden changing table.
- In Milwaukee County, a judge dismissed a lawsuit stemming from the 2007 death of a man who died in a rooming house for the mentally ill. The 46-year-old man's death "was sudden and there was no reasonable expectation that it could have caught and there could have been a life-saving intervention" according to the judge.
- In Kenosha County, a 51-year-old man was found dead in a park.
- In Milwaukee County, a 32-year-old man was charged in the 1999 execution-style murder during a robbery.
- In Fond du Lac County, a 45-year-old man died in a North Fond du Lac fire. This is the third fire-related death there this winter.
- In Oneida County, one person died in a house fire.
- In Marathon County, a 70-year-old man died while felling a tree.
- In Milwaukee County, a 26-year-old man died after allegedly being stabbed by a 21-year-old man during a domestic dispute.
- In Fond du Lac County, a motorcyclist was killed when he collided with another vehicle, on February 25th.
- In Milwaukee County, a man who reneged on a promise to testify against the suspected shooter in a fatal tavern robbery after they were put in the same jail cell was sentenced to 46 years in prison to be followed by 14 years of extended supervision. As a result of the man refusing to testify, homicide charges against another man were dropped in a case that occurred in January 2007. The man who reneged was concerned his family may be hurt as revenge for his testimony.
- In Racine County, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported, "An investigation into an alleged sexual abuse case took Racine police back 10 years as they took a closer look at the suspect and determined that he might have also been responsible for the 1999 death of his infant daughter." The 32-year-old man was arrested, charged with reckless homicide. His five-month-old daughter died of Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- In Eau Claire County, an 18-year-old man who crashed his car while driving drunk, leading to the death of two passengers, aged 19 and 23, pleaded guilty to

two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle. The single-vehicle crash occurred last August.

And from Minnesota.....Former professional wrestler Verne Gagne, 82, is being investigated for his role in the death of a 97-year-old man. Both men lived at an assisted living facility. Gagne suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. He reportedly body slammed the other man to the floor, fracturing the man's hip. He died a few weeks later.