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Latest Local News

4-25-11 body recovered from lake butte des morts

The body of a snowmobiler missing for more than a month has been recovered from Lake Butte des Morts. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Department says the body of the Sullivan, Wisconsin man was recovered Saturday night. The victim has been indentified as 44 year old, Shawn Talbot, of Sullivan. Talbot went missing March 13th when a witness reported a snowmobile go into open water on the lake. Search teams found the snowmobile but were unable to find Talbot at that time.

4-25-11 shooting investigation could still be a month away from completion

An investigation to the March 20th shooting incident in Fond du lac that claimed the life of a Fond du lac police officer is still not completed. Aspokesman for the state Attorney General's Office says it could still be another three to four weeks before the report is turned over to The Fond du lac County District Attorney's Office. Bill Cosh told WFDL news last week that the Division of Criminal Investigation is still waiting for toxicology test results and reports from the State Patrol. A gunman opened fire shortly after police arrived at the scene on South Lincoln Avenue March 20th. Officer Craig Birkholz was shot and killed and officer Ryan Williams was critically wounded. Williams was released from the hospital less than a week after he was shot twice and is continuing his recovery at home. Police say the shooter, James Cruckson, shot and killed himself.

4-25-11 fdl police chief memo to council on shooting incident

Fond du Lac Police Chief Tony Barthuly issued a memo to the Fond du Lac city council regarding the March 20th shooting incident that claimed the life of police officer, Craig Birkholz. Birkholz was shot and killed while responding to a "high-risk" incident on South Lincoln Avenue. Another officer was shot and critically wounded before the gunman eventually turned the gun on himself. The memo summarizes the actions taken by the police department following the incident:

Policy & Procedures:

-Completed draft of the Regional Shooting Response team's standardized policy and memorandum of understanding. Copies were sent out to collaborating agencies for their review. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future for edits.

-Extensively researched and attended meetings regarding a proposed change to the drug evidence collection, storage and disposal protocol. A meeting will be held with the Chief's Policy Committee in the future to discuss policy changes.

Officer-Involved Shooting Incident:

* Initial involvement in the incident was focused on policy review and ensuring proper protocols were being followed. I was also tasked with establishing incident command which included unified command with the DCI supervisor.

* Assisted DCI in locating shooting evidence including officer firearms and ballistic vests.

* Worked with the patrol captains as well as Fond du Lac County and State Patrol to ensure there was

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patrol coverage for the first two operational periods.

* Helped coordinate the deactivation of officers on-scene by making sure they were available to speak with DCI investigators, had a chance to speak with EAP representatives and attended a diffusing session before leaving for the day.

* Participated in debriefing session for command staff. Helped facilitate debriefing sessions for the parents of officers, the children of officers and county dispatch.

* Conducted one-on-one debriefing sessions with all officers involved in the incident to check on their return-to-duty status as well as refer to EAP counselors as necessary.

* Coordinated scheduling with patrol captains based on officer status and return-to-duty.

* Continued with periodic phone calls and personal meetings with officers to remain in contact and to update return-to-duty status.

* Assisted HR with updates on officer status, administrative leave and workers compensation claims. Completed injury reports for all officers on leave due to the incident.

* Coordinated internal investigations regarding the shooting incident. Contacted Oshkosh PD and worked closely with Capt. Kelly Kent from their department as he conducted one aspect of the internal investigations. Attended numerous meetings and had continual dialog with Capt. Kent. Assisted with setting up interviews and obtaining witness contact information.

* Contacted Appleton PD and began initial internal investigation preparation with their department for review of the shooting. Provided pertinent department policies for their review prior to the investigation. Liaison set up with Capt. Todd Olm.

* Completed the FBI Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted documents for both Officer Craig Birkholz and Officer Ryan Williams.

* Began work on survivor benefit packages for Ashley Birkholz including:

- o Obtaining copies of the death certificate
- o Coordinating efforts with DCI for a detailed summary of the incident
- o Contacting the medical examiners office for copies of the autopsy and toxicology report.
- o Worked with FDL County Probate on financial issues for Ashley Birkholz
- o Completed the application for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits – Death Benefits Program
- o Completed the application for the National Law Enforcement Memorial
- o Completed the application for the IACP Fallen Officer Tribute
- o Completed the application for the TASER Foundation Fund
- o Completed the application for the WPPA Officer Death Benefit
- o Researched the application for an IACP student scholarship
- o Working with HR and the comptrollers office on other city benefits and claims

4-25-11 dodge county sheriff s department cracks down on smokeban violations

The Dodge County sheriff says a lack of voluntary compliance with the statewide smokeban leaves him no choice but to have his office begin unannounced bar checks. Sheriff Todd Nehls says he has received several written complaints from the State Department of Health concerning violations, some for repeat offenders. Nehls says bar checks this week resulted in two violations in the town of Rubicon where patrons were openly smoking and several violations in the Horicon and Lomira area.

4-25-11 waldo volunteer firefighter charged with arson

WALDO, Wis. (AP)—A 17-year-old member of the Waldo Volunteer Fire Department is accused of setting two fires in the Town of Lima earlier this year. According to the complaint, the teen told investigators he wanted to get a fire call so he could be a hero. The complaint also says he had not had a fire call lately and thought it would be "cool" to go on one. The teen told investigators he and a friend set fire to a barn in January. In a second case, the defendant said he and another friend set fire to a shed in March. The teen responded to both fires. No one was hurt, and neither building housed animals. The teen now faces two counts of arson and one count of manufacturing Mlotov cocktails.

4-25-11 nfdl man charged in domestic incident

A North Fond du Lac man has been charged in connection with a domestic incident. Fifty-five year old Richard Gaston, faces multiple charges including reckless endangerment, strangulation and false imprisonment. Police were called to the Mockingbird Lane residence Thursday evening. The female caller said her husband had assaulted her, and threatened her with a kitchen knife. The woman received minor injuries and refused medical treatment.

4-25-11 waupun woman accused of dealing heroin

A Waupun woman is accused of dealing heroin. Twenty-six year old, Jessica Moede, is charged in Dodge County Circuit Court with two counts of manufacture and delivery of heroin. She is accused of selling heroin to an undercover informant in Waupun last summer.

4-25-11 district attorney layoff notices

The Fond du Lac County District Attorney says he believes statewide layoff notices issued to prosecutors are in violation of the law. The State Office of Employment Relations sent layoff notices Friday to prosecutors statewide. The layoffs come after threats by OSER that unless assistant prosecutors agreed to additional furlough days the layoffs would come. Fond du Lac County DA, Dan Kaminsky, says the layoffs are in violation of the law and in violation of the Association of State Prosecutors contract which covers assistant prosecutors. He says cutting prosecutors for an already understaffed office will only cause additional problems.

4-25-11 fdl school board organizational meeting

Newly elected Fond du Lac School Board members will be sworn into office at Monday night's meeting. Incumbents Julie Nett and Mark Strand and newcomer Mark Jurgella will be administered the oath of office by Fond du Lac County Circuit Court Judge, Peter Grimm. The board will also elect officers for the 2011-12 school year. The board will also consider how much they should be paid. The board president is currently paid \$1800 annually and \$1600 for all other members.

4-25-11 supreme court recount

The Fond du Lac county clerk says she doesn't anticipate any major changes following a state Supreme Court vote recount. The recount is scheduled to begin next week and County Clerk Lisa Freiberg says she hopes locally the recount can be completed in ten days or less. Freiberg says the cost locally will be right around \$5000. Canvassing of votes last week showed incumbent Supreme Court Justice, David Prosser

was leading assistant attorney general JoAnne Kloppenburg by more than 7300 votes.

4-25-11 poll-collective bargaining

MADISON, Wis. (AP) —A new poll finds skepticism around Gov. Scott Walker's stated reason for trying to remove collective-bargaining rights for most public employees. Walker has said the law will help balance the state budget and help local governments absorb deep cuts in state aid. Wisconsin Public Radio released its poll results Friday. It finds that 57 percent of respondents think the issue was more about decreasing the power of public-sector unions, while 31 percent say it's about decreasing the budget deficit. A majority, 59 percent, also disapproved of state Senate Democrats leaving the state to delay action on the measure. The telephone poll of 400 respondents was commissioned by WPR and performed by St. Norbert College. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points and was conducted between April 5 and Monday.

4-25-11 poll shows strong support for wind energy

MADISON, Wis. (AP) —A poll of Wisconsin residents finds strong support for increasing the use of wind energy, even if doing so would raise electricity bills several dollars per month. The Wisconsin Public Radio poll was released Friday. It shows that 77 percent of respondents want to see the state invest more in wind energy. Reasons included decreasing the nation's reliance on foreign oil and helping the environment. A majority, 69 percent, wouldn't mind eight to 10 wind-energy machines being placed close to where they live, and 79 percent favor placing the machines offshore in Lake Michigan. The telephone poll of 400 respondents was commissioned by WPR and performed by St. Norbert College. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points and was conducted between April 5 and Monday.

4-25-11 highway g closure

CTH G from CTH HH to CTH HHH in unincorporated Marytown and the Town of Calumet will be closed for construction starting April 25. Construction is expected to last two months, weather permitting. The Fond du Lac County Highway Commission will reconstruct the highway segment in Marytown installing storm sewer and curb and gutter. The rural highway segment will be pulverized and resurfaced. Culverts and guardrail will be upgraded. Repairs to the bridge will be completed. CTH G will be closed to through traffic, but open to local traffic. A detour route will be posted using CTH HH, USH 151, and CTH HHH.

4-25-11 earn a buck ban

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — State lawmakers are considering a bill that would all but end Wisconsin wildlife officials' contentious earn-a-buck requirements. Hunters in areas where earn-a-buck is in effect must kill an antlerless deer before they can take a buck. Wildlife officials use the requirements as a herd control technique, but hunters generally hate them because they have to pass up prize bucks. Under the bill, the Department of Natural Resources would be prohibited from requiring anyone kill an antlerless deer before taking their first buck. The measure also generally prohibits gun hunts ahead of the traditional 9-day November hunt. The bill's author, Republican Rep. Tom Tiffany, says he's responding to hunters' concerns. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation says the bill will make it more difficult for the DNR to manage the deer herd.

4-25-11 nfdl drug drop

North Fond du Lac residents can drop off their outdated or unwanted prescription drugs at an event this month. Police Captain Darren Pautsch says village police and the Drug Enforcement Administration are hosting the free Drug Drop on Saturday April 30th in the PDQ grocery store parking lot. Pautsch says medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. The event in North Fond du Lac will be from 9am to 11am Saturday April 30th at the PDQ parking lot. Pautsch says the service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

4-25-11 wfdl news wins big at associated press awards banquet

Sunny 97.7 WFDL news has won more awards this year for excellence in broadcast journalism than any other radio station in the state. News Director, Greg Stensland, received eight first place awards at the Wisconsin Associated Press Broadcast Journalism Excellence Awards Banquet. The awards dinner was held this month at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. For the fourth year in a row Stensland took home first place for **Best Newscast**. Stensland also received first place in the **Hard News** category for his coverage of the Fond du Lac police officer and firefighter involved in a hit and run crash and subsequent cover up. Stensland received first place for **Spot News** for his stories on the fire that destroyed a Fond du Lac bowling alley, first place in the **Best Enterprise Reporting** category for his investigative reporting of the Fond du Lac police officer accused of using excessive force on a handcuffed prisoner, first place for **Best Continuing Coverage** for overall coverage of the Fond du Lac Management Information Systems embezzlement scandal, first place in **Best Series Reporting** for a Sunny 97.7 series on drunken driving, first place for **Best Feature** for a story on the Iraq war, and first place for **Best Audio** for a feature story on grease fires. Over the years Stensland has received more than 80 awards from the AP and Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, plus numerous local awards.

4-25-11 wisconsin deer hunt

Department of Natural Resources wildlife management officials will propose a 2011 deer season structure that promises a return to a more traditional hunting framework by eliminating the October antlerless hunt and allowing the first deer to be either sex in the Chronic Wasting Disease management zone. "We hope hunters will see we've been listening to their concerns and that we are taking steps toward the kind of deer season they want to see in Wisconsin," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "We need the cooperation of our partners, the landowners and the hunters to help manage this deer herd. That is why we've decided to implement herd control tools more acceptable to hunters in 2011," she said. Specific 2011 deer season framework recommendations that will be presented to the state Natural Resources Board for review on April 26-27 include:

* In Deer Management Units where deer populations are below goals, limiting or eliminating antlerless harvest.

* In 95 units outside the CWD zone where deer populations are substantially above goals, unlimited \$2 antlerless tags but no October firearm season. CWD management zone

* In the CWD disease management zone, hunters' first deer can be either sex, with Earn-a-buck requirements kicking in after that. CWD management zone buck stickers earned in 2010 will be honored in 2011 and hunters can obtain up to four free CWD antlerless tags per day. These tags can only be used in

the CWD zone. There will be October and Holiday hunts in the CWD zone.

Last year, 18 below-population goal deer management units in northern Wisconsin were designated as "zero quota" units meaning that neither gun deer hunters nor archery deer hunters could shoot an antlerless deer. The herd has rebounded in a number of these units, but in eight where the population continues below goal (Units 3, 7, 29B, 34, 35, 39, 44, and 45), DNR will recommend continued "zero antlerless quotas." Over the past year in response to hunter reports of seeing fewer deer on the landscape, DNR has held meetings with hunters and solicited deer sighting feedback through its website and other means. "National experts say we have one of the best population estimate systems in the nation – but no system is perfect. We are taking efforts to make our population estimates better and to figure out how the uneven distribution of deer on public versus private land is impacting those numbers. "We want to work with hunters. We want to come to agreement on numbers and goals and harvest antlerless deer where needed. Accordingly, we've initiated deer research in northwest and east-central Wisconsin to answer hunter questions about predators and buck harvest rates to further improve our system," said Stepp. Deer hunting is a strong tradition in the state and an important economic driver. Deer hunting in Wisconsin creates more than \$1 billion of economic activity annually, and supports 16,000 jobs. Wisconsin has one of the top three deer harvests per square mile of any state in the country, one of the highest buck harvests per square mile, and the highest number of trophy bucks registered with Boone and Crockett (gun) and Pope and Young (archery).

4-25-11 wmh emergency entrance rerouted

As the City of Waupun completes Jefferson Street reconstruction work, individuals and families traveling to the Waupun Memorial Hospital (WMH) Emergency Department from Main Street to Beaver Dam Street will instead need to travel on Elm Avenue to West Brown Street to Beaver Dam Street. The reconstruction is forcing the closing - tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 2 (previously set for Monday, April 18) for two to three days – of the WMH Emergency Department driveway from Main Street. Access to the two Fond du Lac Regional Clinic offices on Beaver Dam Street and Waupun Area Dialysis Center will remain open from Main Street. "We are working with city officials to make this time of transition as easy as possible for those patients and families that we serve in our Emergency department," says DeAnn Thurmer, WMH chief operating officer. "We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience during this brief time. We will have good signage to help direct individuals to our life-saving emergency services."

4-25-11 samaritan raffle house tickets on sale

Tickets for the 16th annual Samaritan Health Clinic House Raffle, sponsored by the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation, are now on sale, with the drawing slated at noon on Tuesday, May 17 at the raffle house. Tickets will cost \$50 each or \$150 for four. State raffle regulations mandate that ticket sales need to occur on a face-to-face basis, which means tickets are unable to be sold through the mail or by phone. Beginning April 30, the house will be open to the public for viewing each weekend until the drawing. Public open houses are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 30 & May 1, May 7 & 8 and May 15; from 4 to 8 p.m. on May 13 & 16; and from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on May 17. Tickets are available for sale at each open house. In addition to open houses, tickets will be on sale on Saturday, April 23 at Festival Foods, 1125 E. Johnson Street, Fond du Lac, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets will also be available to purchase at either Agnesian HealthCare Information Desk, Jet Stream Car Wash, Partners by Design, Fox Valley Saving Bank and the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation. Tickets can also be picked up at other locations in the area. Gruenewaldt Construction is building the raffle's grand prize - a 2,272-square-foot upscale, one-story home at 605 Whispering Springs Drive in The Highlands subdivision in the city of Fond du Lac. The three-bedroom house with oversized three-car garage features natural stone exterior; a deck with access from the dining area; a spacious master suite with large walk-in closet and custom-tiled walk-in shower; vaulted ceilings, bookcases and shelving in the great room; an advanced security alarm system and surround sound system donated by Shea Electric & Communications; central air; and a central vac system and active radon system donated by Cutter Vac. Partners by Design coordinates the furnishings and decoration of the house for the open houses. This year's raffle house has been tested and designed a Wisconsin Energy Star home which places it in the top five percent of all homes built in Wisconsin for energy efficiency and air tightness. It incorporates products and construction methods that contribute to the safety, energy efficiency, durability, indoor air quality (including radon control) and comfort of the occupants. The grand-prize winner can choose to keep or sell the \$290,000 house, or accept \$145,000 in cash. Raffle ticket purchasers can also win three \$1,000 cash prizes; Area Rug donated by Twohig Flooring America (valued at \$1,000); 32" Sony TV donated by Advanced Audio & Video (valued at \$550); \$500 gift certificate donated by Partners by Design & Fine Furnishings, Inc.; Golf Foursome w/ Cart & Dinner for Four donated by South Hills Golf & Country Club (valued at \$400); Seasons by Linstrom's \$200 gift certificate donated by Dave and Heather Linstrom; and Culver's gift certificates donated by Rick & Pat Miller, Culver's of Fond du Lac & Oshkosh (valued at \$200). The Samaritan Health Clinic's annual house raffle is the main source of funding for the Samaritan Health Clinic's operations. All proceeds help provide patients with important diagnostic tests, medications and health services. These patients may not be eligible for medical assistance or have limited or no insurance. For more information, call the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation at (920) 926-4959.

4-25-11 agnesian health care blood drive

Area residents are invited to join Agnesian HealthCare employees, volunteers and physicians and donate an hour of time on Wednesday, April 27 to give blood to The BloodCenter of Wisconsin. Blood donations will be accepted from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Agnesian HealthCare's Plaza Level Conference Center, 430 E. Division Street, Fond du Lac. In addition, there will also be a Donate Life Booth at the blood drive for individuals to learn more about organ, tissue and eye donations. Interested individuals will also have the opportunity to sign up on the Wisconsin Donor Registry if they wish to become a donor. Giving blood is easy and takes about an hour. The process includes registering, giving a brief medical history, and having temperature, blood pressure and hemoglobin checked. Blood that is donated remains local, as the BloodCenter of Wisconsin is the sole supplier of blood to St. Agnes Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital, as well as 51 other Wisconsin hospitals. To donate, make an appointment by calling 926-4960. Walk-ins are also welcome.

4-25-11 fdl county sheriff's department law of the month

With the arrival of spring, many young people will be celebrating at proms, graduations, weddings, and other festivities. While they're partying, young drivers may be tempted to get behind the wheel after drinking. However, they must resist this temptation because Wisconsin law requires drivers under the age of 21 to maintain absolute sobriety—not even a drop of alcohol allowed—when operating a motor vehicle. Drivers under age 21 who are convicted of violating Wisconsin's Absolute Sobriety Law will have their

license suspended for three months and must pay a \$389.50 citation with four demerit points assessed on their license. If a passenger under the age of 16 is in the vehicle, the forfeiture cost and period of suspension are doubled. Good decision-making and driving skills are easily impaired with just a small amount of alcohol at any age. But young people, who tend to take more risks and generally have less driving experience, are especially susceptible to traffic crashes after drinking. In Wisconsin, traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for young people. And as warmer weather arrives and the party season begins, we don't want to lose them because of a disastrous decision, like drinking and driving.

Have Safe Month,

Sheriff Mck Fink

4-25-11 fdl police department law of the month

The law of the month for April will be School Zone Violations, including Failure to Stop For or Obey an Adult Crossing Guard. Our children are our most valuable asset in the community. The crossing guards are committed to keeping our children safe by patrolling several of the busiest intersections in the city. We need help from the people in our community to work with our crossing guards to keep our children safe. We ask when you are driving and see a school zone that you slow down. When you see a crossing guard, please pay special attention and obey their instructions. Remember, when the crossing guards are in the roadway, with their hand held stop sign extended, you must stop for the entire time they are in the roadway. Only after the crossing guard puts their stop sign down and they step out of the roadway should you proceed to drive.

Wisconsin State Statute 346.46(2m) reads: Every operator of a motor vehicle approaching a school crossing, which is controlled by an adult school crossing guard, shall follow the directions of the school crossing guard. If directed by the school crossing guard to stop, the operator shall stop the vehicle not less than 10 feet nor more than 30 feet from the school crossing and shall remain stopped until the school crossing guard directs the operator to proceed.

Wisconsin State Statute 346.57(4)(b): No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of fifteen miles per hour when passing an intersection or other location properly marked with a "school crossing" sign of a type approved by the department when any of the following conditions exist:

1. Any child is present.
 2. A school crossing guard is within a crosswalk at the intersection or the other location or, if no crosswalk exists, is in the roadway at the intersection or the other location.
 3. A school crossing guard is placing in or removing from the roadway at or near the intersection or other location a temporary sign or device that guides, warns, or regulates traffic.
- (c) Fifteen miles per hour when passing a safety zone occupied by pedestrians and at which a public passenger vehicle has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers.

Thank you for assisting us with keeping our children safe.

4-25-11 police bike auction

The Fond du Lac Police Department will be holding its annual spring bike auction on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 starting at 4:30 pm. The auction will be held at the Police Department at 126 North Main Street. Citizens will be able to view the bikes beginning at 4:00 pm the day of the auction. Citizens can enter the auction area on the west side of the police department via the west garage doors. It is estimated there will be more than 100 bikes up for auction.



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