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Wind: SSE at 10 mph
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6-6-11 house fire-lightning strike may be to blame

A lightning strike may have started a car on fire that spread to a nearby house. Firefighters were called to the Heather and Jamie Connor residence at 426 Doty Street shortly after 10am Monday. Heather tells WFDL news on the scene she didn't know the house was on fire until a neighbor across the street alerted her. Connor says the fire caused considerable damage to the house. The Connors had lived at the residence for 13 years.

6-6-11 garage fire

Nobody was injured in a fire that damaged a garage at a Campbellsport area residence. Firefighters were called to the Dale and Kim Leisener residence Sunday afternoon. The garage received moderate damage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

6-6-11 capitol protests

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Those against Gov. Scott Walker's budget proposal are settling in for the long haul, pitching tents at Capitol Square. Protesters are calling their tent city "Walkerville," named after the "Hooverville" shantytowns set up during the Great Depression. Overnight camping is being allowed along parts of Carroll and Mifflin streets. The protesters will have access to portable toilets and hand washing stations, and several businesses sell food in the area. Protester Karen Tuerk says the budget is a war on working families and the middle class. Coopers Tavern owner Peter McElvanna says he's not worried about the protesters. He says it's important that people stand up for their rights. Organizers are planning to stay until a budget is passed. They estimate it will be 17 days.

6-6-11 recall election in 14th and 18th senate districts will be held next month

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — ADane County judge says election officials can have another week to review recall petitions against three Democratic senators, but should certify petitions against six GOP senators immediately. Judge John Markson says there is no need for state election officials to hold off calling elections for the GOP senators. Republicans argued that they made filing decisions based on the original timeline set by Markson and that an extension would unfairly disadvantage the senators. Markson dismissed that claim. Unless pending lawsuits delay elections, six recall elections targeting GOP senators will be held July 12. The primaries in contests targeting Democrats will likely occur July 19. The general elections against those Democrats would be Aug. 16. The senators are targeted for their positions on GOP Gov. Scott Walker's contentious collective bargaining bill.

6-6-11 traffic deaths

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MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The number of people dying on Wisconsin roads continued to decline in May. The state Department of Transportation says there were 47 deaths in May, matching 2008 as the lowest number of fatal crashes during May since World War II. The department says there have been 178 traffic fatalities this year through the end of May, compared to 196 at the same time last year. The five-year average for the first five months is 224. Five people died over Memorial Day weekend, compared to 12 in 2010.

6-6-11 dodge county motorcycle crashes

Two Dodge County motorcyclists were transported by Flight for Life helicopters after separate crashes less than an hour apart. Neither man was wearing a helmet. Stuart White was injured while operating his motorcycle as he failed to negotiate a curve on Canada Island road and he was ejected as the motorcycle overturned. White was flown to UW Hospital in Madison. Jason Stewart was injured when he lost control of his motorcycle on Cth ME and he was ejected as the motorcycle went into a ditch and overturned. Stewart was flown to Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee. Crashes remain under investigation by the Dodge County Crash Investigation Team.

6-6-11 birky challenge

More than 300 people turned out for a charity bike ride that honored a fallen Fond du Lac police officer. Officer Craig Birkholz was shot and killed by a sexual assault suspect on March 20th. The suspect committed suicide. Officer Ryan Williams was also shot and a police dog was wounded. Both Williams and the dog are back at work.

6-6-11 fdl man gets prison for sexually assaulting teen girl

A Fond du Lac man convicted of sexually assaulting a teenage girl is going to prison. At a sentencing hearing Friday in Fond du lac County Circuit Court, 46 year old Floyd Whipple was sentenced to six years in prison and 12 years extended supervision. The assistant district attorney had recommended 15 years in prison. Whipple earlier pleaded no contest to second degree sexual assault of a child.

6-6-11 cruckson bail reduced

Bail has been reduced for a Fond du lac woman who is charged with threatening the girlfriend of a man accused of gunning down a Fond du lac police officer. Hlee Cruckson is charged with reckless endangerment and pointing a firearm at another person. At a hearing Friday Fond du lac Judge, Robert Wirtz, agreed to reduce Cruckson's bail from \$35,000 to \$5,000 cash. She is the aunt of James Cruckson and was accused of threatening to kill Cruckson's girlfriend. According to a criminal complaint Hlee Cruckson was upset over the death of her nephew and blamed his girlfriend, Josephine Warner, for the police standoff March 20th. Police say Cruckson shot and killed officer Craig Birkholz before later turning the gun on himself.

6-6-11 judge asked to recuse himself from dennis case

A Fond du Lac judge has refused to recuse himself from the case of a former Fond du lac High School cross country and track coach accused of having a sexual relationship with a student. The District Attorney's Office asked Judge Gary Sharpe to remove himself from the case because Sharpe served on the Fond du lac School Board when Henry Dennis was hired by the Fond du lac School District. The 35 year old Dennis is charged with sexual assault of a student by school staff and four counts of child enticement. The District Attorney's office has offered Dennis a plea deal that would avoid a jury trial scheduled for June 20th. Dennis remains free on a \$25,000 signature bond. He is accused of having sexual contact with a 16 year old girl on multiple occasions between December of 2009 and this past April.

6-6-11 dodgeville man cited for speeding twice in two hour period

A Dodgeville teenager was cited for speeding...in excess of 100 miles an hour. A Sheriff's deputy clocked the vehicle at 85 miles an hour on Highway 151 northbound near Beaver Dam...but was unable to stop the vehicle because of traffic. About two hours later another sheriff's deputy observed the same vehicle on Highway 33 near Old Hickory speeding at 116 miles an hour. A 19 year old Dodgeville man received two speeding citations that will cost him nearly \$800 in fines and 12 points.

6-6-11 fdl man accused of attacking ex-girlfriend

Bail was set at \$10,000 cash for a Fond du lac man accused of attacking his ex-girlfriend. Jacob Pauliot faces multiple charges including domestic abuse battery, criminal damage to property, false imprisonment and trespass. According to a criminal complaint Pauliot entered the apartment through a window and repeatedly punched the woman. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 9th.

6-6-11 oregon man accused of exposing himself at fdl walmart store

An Oregon man is accused of exposing himself to a child at the Fond du lac Walmart store. According to a criminal complaint 30 year old, Aaron McGeorge, of Grants Pass, Oregon exposed himself to a girl who was in the toy aisle at Walmart. The incident happened April 20th on the girl's 7th birthday. The complaint says McGeorge was arrested by Grand Chute police last month for a similar incident at the JC Penney store at the Fox River Mall.

6-6-11 fdl man charged with child sex assault

A Fond du lac man is accused of sexually assaulting two girls. Thirty eight year old, Oscar Ramirez, made his initial Fond du lac court appearance this week on charges of first degree sexual assault of a child. He is free on a \$5000 signature bond.

6-6-11 sex offender community notification meeting

The Fond du lac County Sheriff's Office is holding a community notification meeting to inform residents that a convicted sex offender will be living in their community. Charles Buckarma will be living at a supervised living facility in Byron and will be closely monitored 24/7 by facility staff. In 2004 Buckarma sexually assaulted a 16 year old boy in Washington County and has an offending history that includes similar behaviors. The notification meeting will be held at 6pm Tuesday, June 7th at the Oakfield Community Center.

6-6-11 teen birth rate declining

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The teen birth rate is continuing to decline in Wisconsin. That's according to a new report released this week by the state Department of Health Services. The birth rate for Wisconsin girls ages 15 to 19 declined from about 35 per thousand women in 1999 to about 29 in 2009.

6-6-11 packer super bowl rings

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers will hold a private ceremony to distribute Super Bowl rings to players, coaches and members of the organization. The Green Bay Press-Gazette reports today the team event will be held June 16th at the Lambeau Field Atrium.

6-6-11 fdl county highway reconstruction project

The Fond du Lac County Highway department has started work to rehabilitate County Trunk Highway Q (CTH) from US Highway 151 to CTH W in the Town of Taycheedah. In general, the county will replace deteriorated culverts and extend culverts as necessary, regrade several ditches, pulverize the existing asphalt pavement, resurface the highway with asphalt pavement, and upgrade signs. In addition, the county will make safety improvements to several hills by cutting down three hills on the highway. A hill about 1/10 mile east of Lakeview Road will be cut down about 2 feet, a hill ¼ mile west of CTH QQ will be cut down about 3 feet, and a hill about ½ mile east of CTH QQ will require rock blasting to cut it down 10 feet. The county is awarding a construction contract for the rock excavation work on last hill to Denny Rahn, Inc. of Eden. As part of the project, several utilities will be relocated. In particular, Alliant Energy will be moving utility poles away from the road to near the right-of-way line to provide a greater "clear zone", a safety area that allows a driver of an errant vehicle to safely regain control or come to a safe stop. Earlier this year, the county removed several trees in this zone to also provide greater safety. The highway will be closed to thru traffic starting June 6 when work to pulverize the existing pavement begins. The highway will be open to local traffic only. A detour will be posted via USH 151 and CTH W. During construction of the hill cut east of CTH QQ, the road will be closed to all traffic at that hill. The county anticipates completing most of the paving work by early to mid July with those completed portions of highway reopened to traffic at that time. The rock excavation portion of the project is anticipated to start at the end of June or early July and is estimated to be completed by mid to late August depending on the timing of utility relocations and weather. For updates on this project or for information on other Fond du Lac County Highway projects, check out our highway construction webpage at www.fdlco.wi.gov/Index.aspx?page=1112.

6-6-11 fdl county 175th anniversary

The Fond du Lac County Board Chair and Executive's Office announces plans to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the 1836 establishment of Fond du Lac County, on June 21, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the City/County Government Center, 160 S. Macy Street, Fond du Lac. The celebration will begin with a re-enactment based upon the minutes of the first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners which was held on October 7, 1839. Following the re-enactment, a community reception with light refreshments will be held at the Historic Postilion, 220 Old Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac. The public is invited to attend. Anyone is welcome to come dressed in attire from that time period. The re-enactment will be broadcast on Charter Cable Channel 21. The Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 beginning at 5:45 p.m.

6-6-11 police warn residents about scam

The Fond du Lac Police Department is making citizens aware of a recent scam that took place in the City. The incident involved an elderly gentleman who allowed a white male posing as an electrical worker to enter his home. The supposed electrical worker preoccupied the homeowner in the basement, while it is believed a second individual entered the house and took a large amount of cash. Investigators have determined that similar cases have occurred in the Milwaukee area in the last few months. Investigators believe this is the work of transient groups who are posing as home repair, asphalt or electrical contractors and are targeting the elderly population. Citizens are cautioned in dealing with unsolicited contractors and are urged to use known reputable contractors.

6-6-11 community of unity

A Community of Unity. That's the theme of a fundraising luncheon this month in honor of a fallen Fond du Lac police officer. UW Fond du Lac Foundation Director, Amanda Kemmel, says all proceeds will benefit the Foundation and Fond du Lac Police Department K9 fund. Kemmel says the March 20th shooting incident that claimed the life of officer Craig Birkholz affected the lives of many in an instant. The fundraising luncheon will be held on Tuesday June 14th at the UW Fond du Lac Commons. Cost per person is \$35 or \$275 for a table of eight.

6-6-11 wfld, wtcx are wba award winners!

WFDL and WTCX captured 13 awards at the recent Wisconsin Association of Broadcasters Awards for Excellence Gala in Madison. The program is sponsored annually by the WBA to recognize outstanding achievement by Wisconsin broadcasters. The Sunny 97.7 WFDL morning show team of Nick Rusch and Heather Robins took home 3rd place for **Best Morning Show**. WFDL FM also received two awards in the **Significant Community Impact** category for the Relay for Life cancer fundraiser. Golden throat veteran WTCX announcer Gregg Owens captured first place for **Best Commercial** with the "Bob's 151 Wheel of Misfortune" commercial. Owens also won awards for **Best On-Site Broadcast Remote**... "Master Spas Wet Test" and **Most Entertaining Client Commercial**... "Its Cold." Owens is also a past winner in the **Best Morning Show** category. WFDL AM 1170 received awards for **Best Sports Play by Play**... the "Randolph Football Playoffs" and **Significant Community Impact**... "Cut the Calories, Count the Cash." WFDL news director, Greg Stensland, won first place in the **Best Continuing Coverage** category for his coverage of a Fond du lac woman who tried unsuccessfully to have several books removed from a middle school library. Stensland also received awards in **Hard News** for his coverage of a Fond du lac police officer and firefighter involved in a hit and run and attempted cover-up of the incident, **Spot News**... for the Last Stop Bar and Lanes arson fire, **News Writing**... for a feature story on a local woman in Haiti during the massive earthquake, and **Live On The Scene Reporting**, for his coverage of a house fire. Stensland and Owens also took home first place for their **Information Block Morning News** on WTCX. The WBA competition was established to encourage the highest standards of reporting, community service and production creativity.

6-6-11 wfld 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 recently 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.

6-6-11 fdl county sheriff's department law of the month

Slower traffic keep right - Drivers must allow faster traffic to pass in the left lane on divided highways Many divided highways in Wisconsin have signs that warn "slower traffic keep right." That advice is backed by state law - Wis. Stats. 346.05(3). Any vehicle traveling "at less than the normal speed of traffic" must be driven in the right lane (or as close as practicable) except when overtaking or passing another vehicle, according to Wisconsin law. A citation for violating this law costs \$213.10 with four demerit points assessed on the driver's license. Even when you're driving at the posted speed limit, you should not try to force faster drivers to slow down by blocking the left lane, which usually leads to more tailgating, road rage and other problems. It certainly doesn't slow down other drivers for long. We hope that drivers will leave enforcement of speed limits to our deputies and other law enforcement officers. If faster drivers want to waste gasoline and risk a speeding ticket, you should move to the right lane and get out of their way. The Sheriff's Office advises motorists to follow these guidelines to help maintain a safe flow of traffic on Interstate and other divided highways:

- * If you're not passing another vehicle, use the right lane as much as possible.
- * If you're in the right lane, allow other drivers to merge from the left lane into the right lane so that faster traffic can pass in the left lane. In addition, provide space for vehicles to merge into the right lane when they are entering a roadway from an on-ramp.
- * If you're in the left lane, don't tailgate or try to make a slower vehicle ahead of you move to the right lane. Be patient and courteous.

When slower moving vehicles use the right lane, traffic flows more smoothly with less congestion and road rage, which certainly helps make our highways safer and more efficient. Have a Safe Month,

Sheriff Mck Fink

6-6-11 fdl police department law of the month

For June, officers from the Fond du Lac Police Department will be paying particular attention to drivers who are texting. The new state law that took effect on December 1, 2010 falls under the inattentive driving statute. Research from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has shown drivers who send and receive text messages end up taking their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every 6 seconds while texting. Of all fatal traffic accidents in 2008, the U.S. DOT reported 16 percent involved distracted drivers and nearly 6,000 people were killed. Wisconsin state statute 346.89(3)(a) states that, no person may drive any motor vehicle while composing or sending an electronic text message or an electronic mail message. This does not include when the vehicle is stopped, including when a vehicle is stopped at a traffic light, stop sign or in traffic due to congestion. The texting ban is only enforceable when the vehicle is in motion. The fine for texting while driving starts at \$101.40. This does not apply to an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle. The use of any device whose primary function is transmitting and receiving emergency alert messages and messages related to the operation of the vehicle or an accessory that is included in the vehicle, including a global positioning system device. An amateur radio operator who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the federal communications commission, when he or she is using dedicated amateur radio two way radio communication equipment and observing proper amateur radio operating procedures. The use of a voice operated or hands free device, if the driver of the motor vehicle does not use his or her hands to operate the device, except to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the device. Texting while driving is a primary law, which means officers, can pull over drivers solely for texting without having to identify another violation first, such as speeding or a lane violation. Even though the law does not ban reading messages or using the internet while driving a motor vehicle, these activities can be just as dangerous and should be avoided while driving. So, even though it may only take a few seconds to send that text, remember that it can wait!

6-6-11 walleye weekend kickoff

Walleye Weekend is just around the corner and this year, the weekend starts on Thursday! Kick off a great weekend with a show from Oil Can Harry from 6:30-9:30 on Thursday, June 9. "We're really excited that the City of Fond du Lac has given us the opportunity to open on Thursday for Walleye Weekend this year," said Alexander Ullenberg, President of the Fond du Lac Festivals Board of Directors. "For those of us who work on the weekends, Thursday gives us a sampling of what the festival has to offer." Noon Kiwanis and Lakeside Evening Kiwanis concession tents will be open to serve up food and beverage for guests, so make sure to stop over and get a fish sandwich, brat or hamburger! As always, at Walleye Weekend a wristband must be worn to consume alcohol. Proceeds from the wristband booths and concession tents all benefit non-profit organizations within the community. All other activities and stages will open on Friday at 3 p.m. just like in the past. For a complete line up of all bands and events, visit walleyeweekend.com. Walleye Weekend is June 9, 10, 11 and 12 at Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac. Admission is free to the public, and all proceeds from this event go to benefit almost 200 non-profit organizations. Walleye Weekend is sponsored by Mercury Marine, Charter Communications, Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Miller Lite and Michels Corporation.





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