6-21-11 campbellsport man killed in farm accident

A Campbellsport man was killed in a farm accident Monday afternoon. Rescue personnel were called to the farm on Hilltop Drive shortly before 2 p.m. Monday to a report of a man trapped in a silo auger. Sheriff’s Sergeant Ryan Waldschmidt says four employees of the farm owned by Phil Majerus were working in the silo cleaning out old feed when a 49-year-old Campbellsport man lost his balance and fell feet first into the auger. After approximately 40 minutes rescuers were able to free the man and he was taken to a Flight for Life helicopter at the scene. A short time later the man died as a result of the traumatic injuries he sustained. The Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Office is investigation along with the medical examiner.

6-21-11 barn fire

No people or livestock were injured in a barn fire in the town of Eden. Volunteer firefighters were called to the Alan Hundertmark farm on county Highway K shortly after 1 p.m. Monday. A hot surface on a skid steer ignited material in the barn and started the fire.

6-21-11 domestic partnership registry

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Dane County judge has upheld Wisconsin’s domestic partnership registry, saying it does not violate the state’s ban on gay marriage. Members of the conservative group Wisconsin Family Action filed a lawsuit last summer arguing the registry was unconstitutional. The registry grants same-sex couples legal rights such as the right to make end-of-life decisions.

6-21-11 recall challenges

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Attorneys are looking to combine separate legal challenges that seek to invalidate efforts to recall nine Wisconsin state senators from office. Six Republicans have filed separate legal challenges. Three Democratic senators have filed a lawsuit. The attorney for the Republicans says he would support combining all the cases together so a single judge could determine the merits.

6-21-11 commerce secretary in fdl

Department of Commerce Secretary Paul Jadin Monday announced four Wisconsin recipients of a total $5 million in awards for 2011 under the HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce (Commerce). "An entire community can be adversely affected by an economically distressed neighborhood," Jadin said. "These grants will provide emergency assistance to communities faced with abandoned and foreclosed properties. These funds will stabilize at-risk communities."
neighborhoods during these tough economic times, and sees to help avoid the more serious consequences that afflict blighted neighborhoods. "Statewide recipients of the 2011 NSP3 funds include the City of Racine ($1.3 million), Rock County Consortium ($1.3 million), Prairie du Chien Downtown Revitalization Inc ($750,000) and the City of Milwaukee ($1.5 million). Jadin made the announcement following a tour of Fond du Lac homes built in partnership with the NSP and Wisconsin Fresh Start program, which provides on-site housing construction work experience and supportive services for at-risk young people. The projects are revitalizing a blighted neighborhood and stabilizing housing prices in a high-risk area of Fond du Lac as well as providing at-risk youth with work skills and experience. The 2011 NSP3 legislation will augment the NSP1 funds to municipalities, housing authorities and non-profit entities throughout Wisconsin that have received over $38 million through the federal 2008 Housing and Economic Recovery Act. These NSP1 funds have provided for the acquisition and rehabilitation of over 600 units statewide.

6-21-11 sheriff’s deputy discrimination lawsuit
WAUPACA, Wis. (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department has filed a lawsuit accusing Waupaca County of gender discrimination for failing to promote a female sheriff's deputy. Prosecutors say Julie Ann Thobaben, a 16-year veteran, was denied a promotion from patrol officer to detective sergeant in 2006 because she's a woman.

6-21-11 cat killer
OSH-KOSH, Wis. (AP) — An Omro man accused of killing his mother-in-law's two cats has been charged with mistreatment of animals in Winnebago County. Authorities allege Payne Kaddatz stuck the cats in the head with a wooden dowel after telling his mother-in-law he would take them to a rescue farm.

6-21-11 dodge county tornado
No injuries were reported when an apparent tornado touched down in Dodge County Sunday afternoon. National Weather Service meteorologist, Ashley Sears, tells WFDL news the tornado caused only minor property damage. The EF zero tornado was reported near Theresa. Meanwhile, Sears says there is a slight risk of severe weather this afternoon and evening and again Tuesday...including potentially heavy rain. She says there is a potential for up to two inches of rain over the next 48 hours.

6-21-11 fdl police swat team takes man into custody
The Fond du Lac Police SWAT team arrested a man accused of sending suicidal texts to his wife. Neighbors were evacuated on the 300 block of North Peters Avenue Sunday afternoon and the SWAT team set up a perimeter. The man exited the house about 45 minutes later and officers used a Taser after the subject did not follow commands. Police say the man had been involved in an argument with his wife prior to the incident.

6-21-11 domestic altercation ends peacefully
Nobody was injured and no arrests were made following a domestic incident near Waupun that possibly involved gunshots fired. Sheriff’s Captain, Dean Will, says a third party contacted the sheriff's department shortly after 7am Monday that a heated domestic incident had occurred much earlier in the morning. Captain Will says the man involved in the domestic had already left for work by the time deputies arrived.

6-21-11 fdl man arrested in janesville bonfire incident
JANESVILLE, Wis. (AP) — Four people were burned after one of them threw a bag with pyrotechnic material onto a bonfire, causing an explosion. The Rock County Sheriff's Office says the incident happened around 2 a.m. Sunday in Center Township. The victims were attending a party when a 41-year-old Fond du Lac man threw the material on the fire. The bag exploded, injuring the man and three others. The suspect refused treatment at a hospital for recklessly endangering safety. Twenty-four-year-old Tanner Hall of Janesville and 25-year-old Amy Brazinski of Janesville were taken to the University of Wisconsin Madison hospital for burns to their hands and faces. They are in stable condition. Twenty-five-year-old Kayln Schrep of Edgerton was treated in Stoughton and released. Officials believe alcohol was a factor.

6-21-11 traffic fatalities on record low pace in fdl county
Traffic fatalities are on another record low pace in Fond du Lac County. Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Captain, Dean Will, says through the first half of the year there have been three traffic fatalities on Fond du Lac County roads. Will says its hard to pinpoint an exact reason for the decline. "I think the trend has been that we have seen lower numbers and I contribute some of that...you have to give credit to our people. They're out there, they're visible. I think that sometimes gains compliance," Will said. He says a recent "Click it or Ticket" seatbelt enforcement campaign was somewhat discouraging. "I think we wrote over 60 tickets for seatbelt usage. There are still people that have that feel they just don't need to take the time to reach over and bring that belt across and click it in."

6-21-11 highway 151 information meeting
An open house public information meeting will be held today on a Highway 151 preservation plan. The Department of Transportation says the meeting will provide information on the preferred alternative and long-term vision for the Highway 151 corridor. Long-term plans call for converting 151 to a freeway. That would involve interchanges, overpasses, cul-de-sacs and new local road connections. Direct driveway access to 151 would be eliminated. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8pm tonight at the Oakfield Elementary School.

6-21-11 nfd farmers market
The village of North Fond du Lac is organizing a farmer’s market. The farmer’s market will be held Tuesdays at Village Park from 3-6pm starting June 23rd. There will be no cost to vendors, but an application is required and space is limited. Village officials say a community survey showed overwhelming support for quality of life issues and starting a farmer’s market was number one on the list.

6-21-11 johnson street bridge
The Department of Public Works would like to give notice that the south (east bound) traffic lane and sidewalk of the Johnson Street (STH 23) Bridge, between Military Road and Hickory Street, will be closed for about 2 weeks beginning June 27th. The lane closure is due to bridge painting. In about two weeks the
south lane will be re-opened and the north outside lane will be closed while that railing is repainted. The bridge will be open to traffic with two lanes open in one direction and one lane open in the other direction next to the painting operation. There will not be a detour route marked.

6-21-11 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 Taylor. In general, the county will replace deteriorated culverts and 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. All hill about 1/10 mile east of Lakeview Road will be cut down about 2 feet, a hill 1/4 mile west of CTH QQ will be cut down about 2 feet and a hill 1/3 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 an errant vehicle to safely regain control or come to a safe stop. Earlier this year, the county removed several trees in this area 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. Adetour will be posted via USH 151 and CTH W. During construction of the hill on the south lane of the highway, one lane will be closed to all traffic at that point. 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

6-21-11 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 begins at 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.

6-21-11 wfdl, 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 Robbins took home third 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 Greg 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… “Nester Spas Vet 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 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 run and attempted cover-up of the incident, Spot News… for the Last Stop Band Lanes series on bowling… 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.

6-21-11 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 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.

6-21-11 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, and then returning to the right lane. A violation for failing to comply can result in a fine of $213.10 with four demerit points assessed on the driver’s license. Even when you’re driving at the posted speed limit, you should try not 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 enough space between their vehicles to give 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.
* 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 Mick Fink

6-21-11  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!

6-21-11  Agnesian healthcare blood drive

Area residents are invited to join Agnesian HealthCare employees, volunteers and physicians and donate an hour of time on Wednesday, June 29 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. 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 Memoral Hospital, as well as 51 other Wisconsin hospitals. To donate, make an appointment by calling 926-4960. Walk-ins are also welcome.