

69 °F
Sunny
Feels Like: 69°F
Humidity: 68%
Wind: SW at 5 mph
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Latest Local News

6-24-11 nfdl man accused of videotaping naked girlfriend bound over for trial

A North Fond du Lac man accused of secretly videotaping his girlfriend 15 years ago has been bound over for trial. Probable cause was found at a preliminary hearing Friday for 32 year old Jonathon Gurath. According to a criminal complaint when Gurath was 18 years old he videotaped his naked 17 year old girlfriend without her knowledge. Gurath faces multiple charges in two other separate cases including sexually assaulting a 13 year old girl and window peeping on a neighbor.

6-24-11 sheboygan county traffic fatality

The state patrol is investigating a fatal accident in Sheboygan County. The accident happened shortly after 6pm Thursday on State Highway 23 near Sheboygan Falls. The state patrol says a car on Highway TT pulled out in front of a pick-up truck. The car driver was killed. An infant in a child safety seat was not injured. The pick-up driver also escaped injury.

6-24-11 aaa predicts fewer travelers for 4th of july holiday

AAA forecasts 39 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during the July 4th holiday... a 2.5 percent decline from a year ago. State Triple A spokesperson Pam Mben says in Wisconsin 826,000 people are expected to travel during the holiday a 2.8 percent decrease. Mben says the survey found that 56 percent of residents said high gas prices would not impact their travel plans. Mben says while the average travel distance is down, the median spending is projected to be up. Travelers in Wisconsin will find gas prices averaging \$3.65 a gallon or 89 cents more than a year ago.

6-24-11 governor walker to sign budget bill this weekend

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker plans to sign his budget cutting bill into law this weekend in Green Bay. His office says the signing will take place Sunday at 2 p.m. at Badger Sheet Metal Works. The event is open only to the press.

6-24-11 sustainability program

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A new report finds a pilot sustainability program helped small and medium Wisconsin manufacturers realize financial savings as well as environmental benefits. The state Profitable Sustainability Initiative was launched last year with a \$1.75 million stimulus-funded grant awarded by the administration of then-Gov. Jim Doyle. The grant enabled the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership to tap the expertise of consultants to help factories implement projects designed to reduce

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waste and energy use. A report released Thursday says manufacturers participating in the program are projected to achieve \$54 million in financial savings while reducing waste and emissions. The program was launched with 45 companies. Some of the projects are continuing, but there is no state funding to continue the program at this time.

6-24-11 domestic stabbing case in fdl court

A Fond du Lac man who was stabbed by a 9 year old girl as he allegedly threatened to kill the girl's mother has been bound over for trial. Twenty seven year old Jason Fields is charged with first degree recklessly endangering safety, strangulation and disorderly conduct. Deputy Police Chief Kevin Lemke says the incident happened following an argument between Fields and the woman. Lemke says Fields was treated at the hospital for a minor stab wound. He says the nine year old is being treated as a victim in this case.

6-24-11 kewaskum man convicted of 7th owi

A Kewaskum man convicted of his 7th drunken driving offense is going to prison. Fond du Lac judge, Peter Grimm, sentenced 49 year old Theodore Chier to three years in prison followed by five years extended supervision. Chier pleaded no contest to the owi charge.

6-24-11 nfdl police chief search

The village of North Fond du Lac is advertising for the police chief's position. Village Administrator, Chuck Hornung, told AM 1170 WFDL's Between the Lines program the position will be advertised on the internet. The application deadline will be July 24th with the hope of making a hiring decision by the middle of August. North Fond du Lac Police Chief Bill Lamb is taking over as Fond du Lac Police Chief starting July first. Police Captain Darren Pautsch has been named acting chief until a permanent replacement is hired.

6-24-11 illinois governor stands by opposition to concealed carry

CHICAGO (AP) — Governor Pat Quinn has no problem with Illinois being the only state where it's illegal to carry a concealed weapon. The Democrat stood by his opposition to concealed weapons today — just days after the GOP-led legislature in neighboring Wisconsin passed a law to lift that state's ban. Wisconsin's Republican governor Scott Walker is expected to sign it soon.

6-24-11 jobless benefits

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A state panel has recommended legislators tweak Wisconsin statutes to allow jobless people to collect an additional 13 weeks of federal unemployment benefits. Extended federal unemployment benefits are designed to serve as a last-ditch safety net for an unemployed person who has exhausted all other benefits. The changes would mean \$363 per week for every jobless Wisconsin resident.

6-24-11 little known recall candidate dies unexpectedly

A memorial service was held Thursday for a Waupun man who was a candidate for next month's Democratic primary recall election. Fifty three year old, John Curry, died unexpectedly June 4th at his Rock River apartment. Curry had taken out nomination papers last month to challenge Democrat Jessica King in the July 12th recall primary for the 18th Senate District seat.

6-24-11 wisconsin rapids cell phone ban

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. (AP) — People driving in Wisconsin Rapids will soon no longer be able to use cell phones. The city council approved the ban Tuesday and the ordinance goes into effect October 1st. Hands-free devices will be allowed, and the ordinance will not apply to police, emergency workers and members of the military driving government vehicles while on official business.

6-24-11 dpi reaches deal with google

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has reached a deal with Google Inc. to allow the state's public schools to use the Google Apps for Education software. The education department said today using the software will allow districts to reduce costs associated with maintaining their existing software. The state signed a contract with Google but the software is being provided for free.

6-24-11 operation dry water

The Wisconsin DNR is joining other groups and local law enforcement in sending a message that alcohol and boating don't mix. The DNR in conjunction with local authorities, the U.S. Coast Guard and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators will be on the water this weekend for Operation Dry Water. DNR Section Chief of Recreation Enforcement and Education, Todd Schaller, says boating under the influence is a primary contributing factor in nearly 1 in 5 boating fatalities nationwide. Schaller says intoxicated boating is just as dangerous if not more dangerous than drinking and driving a car. This weekend boaters will see more officers on duty distributing public education and arresting those who are operating a boat while legally intoxicated.

6-24-11 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.

6-24-11 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 1/4 mile west of CTH QQ will be cut down about 3 feet, and a hill about 1/2 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.

6-24-11 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 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.

6-24-11 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.

6-24-11 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

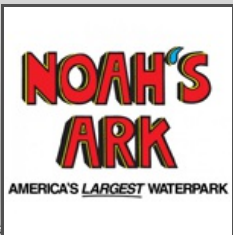
6-24-11 fdl police department law of the month

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!

6-24-11 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 Memorial Hospital, as well as 51 other Wisconsin hospitals. To donate, make an appointment by calling 926-4960. Walk-ins are also welcome.



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