



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

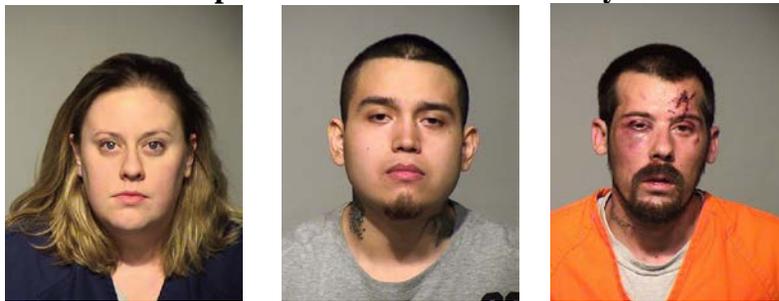


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Deputies Arrest 6 in Weekend Operation Drive Sober Initiative One Wrong-way Driver, Another in Rollover Crash 1532 Repeat Offenders Since January 2010



Casey Lewis- 2nd Jacob Valdez- wrong-way DUI Alex Laird – DUI-2nd, Rollover injury crash

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. has ordered a continued aggressive weekend Driving Under the Influence (DUI) initiative to rid the Milwaukee County freeway system of drunken drivers. This weekend's Operation Drive Sober initiative, from Friday at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday at 6:00 a.m., resulted in the arrest of six drunken drivers. The average PBT result was .15.

Repeat offenders, both for DUI-2nd, were Casey Lewis, age 28, of West Allis, and Alex Laird, age 31, of West Bend.

First-time offenders were Milwaukee residents James Cain, age 35; Valerie Lueck, age 21; Jacob Valdez, age 25; and Gabrielle Valdez, age 23

Subject: Wrong Way Driver

This morning at about 2:40 a.m., dispatch received a call reporting a wrong way driver westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-94 35th Street. The witness followed as the vehicle turned around and exited the freeway. The car stopped, and the follower saw the driver and passenger switch places and drive to 12th and Michigan streets.

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Deputies arrived and arrested both drivers for drunken driving. Jacob Valdez said he switched driving with his wife because he felt he should not be driving. He tested a .22 on the PBT, and his wife, Gabrielle Valdez, tested a .17. Jacob Valdez admitted to drinking several whiskey drinks at multiple bars on Water Street.

Jacob Valdez faces charges of 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, a Class G Felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and citations for OWI-1st, Refusal to submit to chemical tests, driving wrong way on divided highway, driver possession of open intoxicants in vehicle, and possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Subject: DUI-Cause Injury

This morning, at about 1:50 a.m., deputies responded to a one-car rollover crash near I43 eastbound south of 27th Street. The vehicle was in a ditch and both the driver and passenger were trapped in the vehicle and needed to be extricated by fire department personnel.

Alex J. Laird's driver's license had been revoked, and he was attempting to crawl into the back seat to hide the fact that he was the driver. The passenger and Laird were both transported to Froedtert Hospital for lacerations. They both denied driving the vehicle, and said the driver, whose name they did not know, fled the scene. The fire department had to cut off the roof and windshield to extricate the subjects from the car.

Laird was arrested for DUI-2nd, and DUI-2nd Causing Injury, and cited for Operating while Revoked-DUI-related, Refusal to Submit to Chemical Tests, and Unreasonable and Imprudent Speed. If convicted of the felony and misdemeanor charges, he faces up to 6 ½ years in prison. The vehicle was towed and the case remains under investigation.

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