



USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN
James Lenk testifies during the 2007
murder trial of Steven Avery. N

Lenk, Colborn recognized for their work on Avery case

JOHN FERAK
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Two Manitowoc County detectives who were under scrutiny in Steven Avery's \$36 million lawsuit against Manitowoc County later received special recognition for their work on the Teresa Halbach murder investigation.

The appreciation letters, which were reviewed by USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, praised Lt. Detective James Lenk and Sgt. Andrew Colborn for their work at the Avery Salvage Yard in November 2005. They were thanked for showing: initiative, knowledge of responsibilities, performance of duties and interaction with other employees. Avery was charged and convicted of Halbach's murder and is serving life in prison.

"My personal observations, review of reports and feedback from other law enforcement agencies noted that you were one of the officers noted to be recognized for your

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Man charged in Neenah standoff seeks new attorney

DUKE BEHNKE
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

He feels that he needs another attorney appointed now so they can sufficiently prepare. Bradley told Judge Neenah County Circuit Court Judge John Jorgensen. "He doesn't want to be in a position where he's going to be losing time, so to speak."

The public defender's office will appoint a new attorney for Flatoff. As with previous court proceedings, Flatoff appeared by video conference from the

Winnebago County Jail, where he is being held on a \$500,000 cash bond. Flatoff faces 11 felony charges, including attempted first-degree intentional homicide and felony murder, in connection with the Dec. 5 shooting death of 66-year-old Michael L. Funk. Flatoff also faces five felony charges for the standoff.



Brian Flatoff appears on a video monitor in February when he waived his right to a preliminary hearing before Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge John Jorgensen. Flatoff was joined by his attorney, Colleen Bradley.

Michigan death after infection linked to Wisconsin outbreak

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich. — Health officials have confirmed that a western Michigan resident died after contracting a bloodstream infection matching the Wisconsin outbreak. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said Thursday that it was notified March 11 by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the match. The person was described as an older adult with underlying health conditions.

More Wisconsin deaths linked to infection
MADISON, Wis. — Additional deaths have been linked to an outbreak of a bloodstream infection in Wisconsin. The state Department of Health Services says 17 people died since the outbreak began in November. That's an increase from 14 deaths in the last week. The number of cases in 12 Wisconsin counties has also grown from 48 to 54.

Officials were trying to determine where the infection was contracted. Michigan health department spokeswoman Jennifer Eisner said in an email. In Wisconsin, 17 people died with infections caused by *Elizabethkinga* bacteria have died since November. The outbreak is the largest recorded in published literature, officials have said. Wisconsin health officials said that the total number of reported cases stood at 54. Infections were centered in the heavily populated southeastern quarter of the state, including the Milwaukee area and surrounding suburban counties. The bacterium is named for Elizabeth O. King, a CDC bacteriologist who studied meningitis in infants. The organism is common in the environment, including water and soil, but it rarely causes infections. The Michigan case was the "same genetic fingerprint" as the ones in Wisconsin, CDC spokeswoman Melissa Brower said Thursday. "We really don't know how this person in Michigan may have contracted it," Brower added. But "it is likely that this person has been in Wisconsin because it's the same geographic region." The majority of the Wisconsin patients infected are 65 or older and have a history of at least one underlying serious health condition said. Those who died all had pneumonia. Wisconsin health officials said that the total number of reported cases stood at 54. Infections were centered in the heavily populated southeastern quarter of the state, including the Milwaukee area and surrounding suburban counties. The bacterium is named for Elizabeth O. King, a CDC bacteriologist who studied meningitis in infants. The organism is common in the environment, including water and soil, but it rarely causes infections.

Avery

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efforts. It brings me great pride to have quality officers like your self (sic) as a member of Manitowish County Sheriff Department," current sheriff Greg Schetter wrote Lenk in a letter dated Jan. 23, 2006. In a letter of internal recognition awards, Lenk and Colborn both came under fire in the aftermath of the 2007 trial. Avery's lawyers Dean Starn, found Avery being accused the pair of Manitowish County of planting a spare key for Halbach's vehicle inside of Avery's bedroom and planting Avery's blood inside the victim's Toyota sports utility vehicle. In 2003, Lenk handled a box of an unsecured evidence storage door in the county courthouse building. The contents contained a vial of Steven Avery's blood. At the conclusion of the five-week murder trial, however, the jury found Avery guilty of killing Halbach. Avery's role in securing the evidence storage door also received knacks at his annual performance review. Lenk's Aug. 1, 2007, job evaluation was handed by newly deputy inspector Todd Herman, who is the younger brother of the current sheriff, Rob Herman. "During the past evaluation period, Lt. Lenk has been busy with a high profile conviction trial. The stressful environment created by the defense and the media during this trial was extensive," Todd Herman stated. "Lt. Lenk's duties (sic) and profes-

sionalism during this event was an example for other officers to follow. Lt. Lenk represented the department professionally. The outcome of the trial was positive with outside sources commenting on the level of integrity Lt. Lenk displayed." Besides Lenk and Colborn, fellow Manitowish County detective Dave Kemmer also received a special recognition report related to the Avery murder probe. Kemmer was the detective who responded to the manslaughter trial. Avery's lawyers Dean Starn, found Halbach's RAV4 during the morning of Nov. 3, 2005. Lenk, Colborn and Roemer remained on the Avery property for several hours that day, but, unlike his comrades, Lenk never argued the police log documenting when he arrived that day. He only signed his name when he left. Prior to Avery's arrest, all three sheriff's detectives contacted repeated searches of Avery's trailer and detached garage even though special prosecutor Ken Kratz had announced to the media that Manitowish County would not be involved. "The Manitowish County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement community was very sensitive to any appearance of all of conflict," Kratz announced at the time. However, the Jan. 23, 2006, recognition letter awarded to Lenk, Colborn and Kemmer by Schetter stated: "This investigation eventually became a homicide investigation and the reality of this investigation noted that certain assistance from

would be needed." About three weeks after the recognition letters were distributed, Avery settled his \$25 million lawsuit against Manitowish County for only \$400,000. At that time, Avery was broke and incarcerated facing a murder charge. Avery, who insisted he was innocent, named funds to hire skilled criminal lawyers to mount a vigorous defense. Back in 1985, Avery was the recipient of a wrongful rape conviction caused by the Manitowish County Sheriff's Office. He remained incarcerated for 18 years until September 2003 when DNA evidence proved Gregory Allen was the real rapist. By October 2005, Avery sued the county for reparations and to hold sheriff's officials accountable for their behavior. Then, on Nov. 3, 2005, the family of Halbach reported her missing to Calumet County Sheriff's Office. "And nobody has called Lieutenant Lenk," Starn argued after Avery's 2007 murder trial. "And nobody is cooperative." But the chief detective of Manitowish County said it upon himself, that he would later offer to get involved in the missing person investigation where one of the appointments that was to be kept was Steven Avery. Halbach, 25, a Hillcrest native, had been a regular visitor to the Avery Salvage Yard in rural Manitowish County as part of her freelance photography dates with *Aut to Trader* magazine. "And the next morning, Lt. Lenk does not

MAKING A MURDERER

USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN



It's not just the fact that he was innocent, named funds to hire skilled criminal lawyers to mount a vigorous defense. Back in 1985, Avery was the recipient of a wrongful rape conviction caused by the Manitowish County Sheriff's Office. He remained incarcerated for 18 years until September 2003 when DNA evidence proved Gregory Allen was the real rapist. By October 2005, Avery sued the county for reparations and to hold sheriff's officials accountable for their behavior. Then, on Nov. 3, 2005, the family of Halbach reported her missing to Calumet County Sheriff's Office. "And nobody has called Lieutenant Lenk," Starn argued after Avery's 2007 murder trial. "And nobody is cooperative." But the chief detective of Manitowish County said it upon himself, that he would later offer to get involved in the missing person investigation where one of the appointments that was to be kept was Steven Avery. Halbach, 25, a Hillcrest native, had been a regular visitor to the Avery Salvage Yard in rural Manitowish County as part of her freelance photography dates with *Aut to Trader* magazine. "And the next morning, Lt. Lenk does not

Puppies

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"Within minutes after a phone call, (Buckey Rezac) had someone on their way to pick up the puppies and get them to Fond Du Lac," Webb said. "They really are a link between all of us when an animal needs help." "Every time something like this happens, I just shake my head," Webb said. "With so many resources out there, no one has to throw puppies away like garbage."

Reach Sharon Reznick at sharon@reporter.com and at 920-987-7936. Follow her on Twitter: [@sharonreznick](https://twitter.com/sharonreznick).

Church Directory			
Ascension Lutheran Church 861 Co. M St • 922-3833 Pastor - Ben Kowen 920-4202 Sunday Service 10:30am Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202 Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202	Calvary Bible Church 70 E. Pioneer Road 922-4500 Pastor - Ben Kowen 920-4202 Sunday Service 10:30am Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202 Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202	Church of Our Saviour Ep. Lutheran - ELCA 1000 W. Lincoln St. • 922-3833 Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202 Sunday Service 10:30am Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202 Pastor: Robert Wilson 920-4202	Community Church N6717 Stebbins Drive Fond Du Lac • 922-1477 Sunday Worship: 9:00 am & 10:45 am www.cocfn.org
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