

NATION | JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO BEGIN ITS SESSIONS WITH NOMINEE | USA TODAY, 5A

THE REPORTER

MONDAY MARCH 20, 2017 | FDLREPORTER.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK | K3 MOSTLY CLOUDY | HIGH 52 | LOW 31 | DETAILS, 5A

STILL MISSING

THE LOST PART 2 OF 2

ORIN ANDERSON, 16
LAST SEEN: AUG. 26, 1972

KATIA BERG, 15
LAST SEEN: AUG. 11, 2009

HICKY JEAN 'HEAVY' BRYANT, 4
LAST SEEN: DEC. 15, 1949

SARA BUSHLAND, 15
LAST SEEN: APRIL 5, 1996

MABELINE EDMAIR, 15
LAST SEEN: JULY 29, 2005

BOBBY JOE PRITZ, 5
LAST SEEN: MAY 14, 1983

EVELYN HARTLEY, 15
LAST SEEN: OCT. 24, 1983

DONTRAY MICHEL HUNTER, 1
LAST SEEN: AUG. 26, 1970

MACKENZIE SHARREN, 14
LAST SEEN: OCT. 11, 2015

ALEXIS PATTERSON, 7
LAST SEEN: MAY 2, 2002

CORY BURGESS, 17
LAST SEEN: JUNE 6, 1974

ALEXIS HANETTE CONLEY WARD, 15
LAST SEEN: JUNE 26, 2014

GEORGIA WICKLER, 8
LAST SEEN: MAY 1, 1947

A mix of hope and despair for families of missing kids

ABOUT THE SERIES

A USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin investigation of Wisconsin's missing and endangered children.

Yesterday: New hope emerges in a 24-year-old mystery.

Today: 13 children believed to have been abducted.

More inside

Read more about the investigations of the missing children pictured above, **Page 2A**

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10 years later: Avery verdict still in spotlight

Series causes many to doubt conviction

JOHN FERAK and ANDY THOMPSON
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

Ten years ago on Saturday, Steven Avery got the news he feared from a Manitowish County jury — guilty of first-degree intentional homicide in the gruesome 2005 murder of Teresa Halbach.

The jury of six women and six men delivered the ruling after more than 22 hours of deliberations over three days, bringing an end to a court case that had drawn statewide attention.

The verdict was read at about 6 p.m. Sunday, March 18, 2007, in a packed, emotionally-charged courtroom in the Calumet County community of Chillicothe. Avery "gently lowered his chin and shook his head," according to a

See **AVERY**, **Page 5A**

Hmong group rallies for social justice, hate crime charges

More than 100 march in Saturday's event

NATHAN WINE
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

STEVENS POINT A group of local Hmong youth on Saturday led a call for greater social justice along with more severe charges to be brought against a Junction City man accused of shooting near his Hmong neighbors earlier this month.

Sisterhood of Portage County hosted the event, called "A Hate Crime is a Crime," which led a diverse crowd of over 100 people on a march from Community Stadium at Goerke Park to the steps of the Portage County Courthouse.

The group has called on Portage County District Attorney Louis Molschke to bring hate crime charges against Henry Kaminski, 80. He is expected to

See **RALLY**, **Page 6A**

KEEPING TEACHING TALENT IN FOND DU LAC

School Board candidates discuss teacher quality and retention, **Page 3A**

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Avery

Continued from Page 1A

story published in The Post-Crescent. His conviction was the watershed moment in the one of Wisconsin's most notorious criminal cases. But it didn't end there. A Netflix documentary that hit the airwaves nearly nine years later has reignited interest and has taken on the story worldwide.

"Making a Murderer," a 10-part docuseries, has been viewed by millions across the world, and has focused considerable attention on Avery's conviction, as well as that of his nephew, Brendan Dassey.

It caused the trials and verdicts to be heavily scrutinized with some believing strongly that Avery and Dassey were framed. Others, meanwhile, remain steadfast in their belief that the jury got it right, calling the Netflix series inaccurate and unfair in its portrayal of Avery and Dassey and the investigation into the murder of the 25-year-old Halbach.

The defender's need to respect the Halbach family, Manitowish County Board Chairman Jim Frey said. "He was convicted by a court of law in Calumet County. I think justice was served with the Avery conviction."

Frey expects Avery's ongoing post-conviction bid for exoneration to fail.

"Based on everything I've seen, he will stay in prison," Frey said.

Aaron Mantlow, it's a topic people prefer to avoid, despite the attention the Netflix series has drawn.

"I don't think people talk about it on a daily basis anymore," Frey said. "Efforts to overturn the conviction and set Avery free from prison, where he is serving a life term, intensified in 2016 as Avery's new legal team launched a series of scientific tests of evidence from the investigation. Those tests are still being conducted."

The work by Zellner and her crew goes on while the cameras continue to roll. Netflix has asked a season two of "Making a Murderer" is being put together by filmmakers Moira Dumas and Lisa Ricciardi, all that guaranteeing the focus on this case won't be going away anytime soon. No launch date has been announced.

The 10-year anniversary of the Avery conviction arrives as several new books on the case have hit book stores, including those authored by former Avery defense attorney Jerry Buting and Avery



Steven Avery is escorted out of a Calumet County courtroom following his March 18, 2007, conviction for the murder of Teresa Halbach.

prosecutor Ken Kratz. The jury deliberations a decade ago were not without controversy. Juror Rick Mahler was dismissed during the first day of deliberations, a move that could have affected the outcome.

Mahler later said he felt threatened and upset that three of his fellow jurors threatened to discontinue the trial. He said Avery was guilty at the outset of deliberations. That night, Mahler was removed after Manitowish County Circuit Judge Patrick Willis and other court officials notified Mahler had to leave for a family emergency. An alternate was named to replace Mahler, and a unanimous verdict of guilty was reached.

"I think about it every day," Mahler told USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin on Friday. "I am hoping that Steven gets a new trial or is exonerated. I am hoping that Kathleen Zellner gets to the bottom of what really happened."

"Some people may say, why didn't I speak up in belief of his innocence earlier?" Mahler said. "The thing is I had spoken about it shortly after the trial to the filmmakers and to Jerry Buting and Dean Strang. Nothing happened. So, no blood, hair or any other physical evidence that Teresa took over in Steven's trailer, they thought and feelings are still the same after all these years. I still think the killer is out there. I believe that I had my suspicions about different things."

In January 2016, Zellner, one of the country's most successful wrongful conviction lawyers, took over Avery's post-conviction appeals.

"I don't think she would take the case if she didn't believe in his innocence," Mahler said. "Her track record of success has been phenomenal. Avery's guilty verdict 10 years ago came after 28 days of trial proceedings, including 19 days of testimony."

Police agencies are better-equipped today to properly investigate an abducted child — and alert the public to any clues that could help catch the unknown culprit.

Price pointed to February's double murder of two teenage girls in Indiana to illustrate how far technology has assisted investigators. Police were able quickly to distribute a photograph of a man seen along the Delphi Historic Trails at about the same time that Abigail Williams, 13 and Liberty German, 14, were last seen alive. Police also released an audio recording with the suspected killer's voice captured by one of the girls on her phone before she died.

"We didn't have that capability 20 years ago," Price said. "Law enforcement is putting the man's photo and his voice all over the media to see if anybody recognizes him." — Still, we need human intelligence to put those cases together."

John Frank of USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin: 920-993-7115 or jfrank@netnet.com, on Twitter @jfrankrkr

children as well as adults. "We are another resource," said Jennifer Price, director of the special operations bureau for Wisconsin's DOJ.

The state's criminal investigations analytical unit can be an important tool for local police agencies that find themselves dealing with an abducted child. "Even if we don't get a call, if we're aware of a case, we'll contact an agency," Price said.

Rally

Continued from Page 1A

face charges of first-degree recklessness endangering safety, operating a firearm while intoxicated and disorderly conduct after police say he fired a handgun toward his neighbor and made derogatory comments about Hmong people on March 6.

Police also found marijuana and child pornography after a search of Kaminski's home, Molepske said.

Kaminski was released from jail on a \$5,000 bond, the day after the incident. He is scheduled to be back in Waupesa County Circuit Court Branch 2.

Sisterhood of Portage County also called on the justice system to be inclusive and fair in prosecuting all citizens of Wisconsin. Attendees were encouraged to wear purple in solidarity with victims of hate crimes, and many carried signs and support of justice.

He and Dassey remain imprisoned in the case continues to draw attention across the country and around the world. Reports this week say Buting and Kratz will be appearing soon on TV's "Dr. Phil," marking the first time they've shared the same space since the verdict was delivered 10 years ago.

The coming weeks and months are expected to take the drama.

Zellner hoped to have the independent scientific testing completed in March, but it's unclear whether that testing remains on schedule. She also is at the mercy of potential bad luck: The testing order includes nine separate items of evidence including several blood stains located within Halbach's RAV4, a spare ignition key found after several days of searches inside Avery's bedroom by Manitowish sheriff's deputies and a snub from the hood latch of Halbach's vehicle that generated a DNA profile for Avery.

In January, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin reported the actions of Kratz, while serving as the prosecutor will likely be at the forefront of Zellner's case.

A decision on whether to overturn Avery's conviction is expected sometime this year.

aggression against them by speaking out.

For us as Hmong girls, we are conditioned by our community to stay silent. By staying silent we are allowing hate to be normalized," said Vansia Stevens Point Area Senior High student. "As Hmong girls, we are told to follow the lead of our brothers and fathers, but today we will lead you to march against hate."

Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wias attended the event and said he shared "moral beliefs" with those who were in attendance. He told the crowd that while he had not seen all of the evidence in the case, he was confident Molepske understood the gravity of the case and would prosecute it to the fullest extent of the law.

"We are not born hating, we have no genetic bias," Wias said. "These traits are learned and therefore can be unlearned, and each of us must take on that responsibility."

Rather than internalizing their frustrations, Wias said it was important for Hmong and other minorities to confront

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Protesters hold signs during a youth-led rally "A Hate Crime Is A Crime" on Saturday at the Courthouse in Stevens Point.

Kids

Continued from Page 2A

County Crime Stoppers, the last reported sighting of Mackenzie was on Oct. 16, 2015 near Moster's River Park and a short distance from the local high school property.

At no point has Mackenzie contacted any of her friends or family members to let them know she is safe. Her family and her siblings are hurting and wondering whether she's OK.

"We are still trying to locate her and bring her home safely," Goff said. "Tips from the public are crucial in hopes of solving the case, he said."

"I don't want people to be afraid to share information with us as any of these missing persons cases," Goff said. "People make assumptions what we know, but even with small amounts of information, you don't know what's important until you review it sometimes."

Technological advances
Until a decade ago, resources are available

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