

NATION | PARIS MARKS YEAR SINCE ATTACKS WITH MOMENT OF SILENCE | USA TODAY, 28

THE REPORTER

MONDAY

NOVEMBER 14, 2016 | FOLREPORTER.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

PARTLY SUNNY | HIGH 57 | LOW 37 | DETAILS 68

Did 'superficial' questioning affect Halbach case?

JOHN FERAK
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN



The last year of Teresa Halbach's life had its share of drama, and much of it stemmed from her relationship with old boyfriend, acquaintances, former business clients and co-workers.

However, little was done to probe the key people in Halbach's life when she disappeared on Oct. 11, 2005, according to an extensive review of Calumet County investigative reports by USA TODAY NETWORK Wisconsin. Instead, the neighboring Manitowish County

Sheriff's Department omitted Calumet County early on that Halbach was killed by a random stranger — Steven Avery. At the time of Halbach's reported disappearance, Halbach lived in rural Calumet County near Hilbert, and Avery lived in rural Manitowish County.

Manitowish County's case against Avery came together in a series of events, prompting investigators from Calumet County to focus intently on Avery, the investigative documents revealed. The Clinton-based department failed to conduct a substantive investigation of several people in Halbach's life, critics contend.

In 2007, a jury convicted Avery of murdering Halbach, and he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. From the start of the investigation, Avery proclaimed his innocence in the death of the 25-year-old photographer who had visited the Avery salvage business multiple times in the months preceding her death.

Avery's post-conviction lawyer, Kathleen Zellner, has said she will uncover evidence that exonerates Avery and points to someone else as Halbach's killer. It's likely that Zellner is researching a number of people who were investigated early in the case.

Will Calumet County's underwhelming investigation of Halbach's acquaintances jeopardize Avery's conviction? "From an investigative standpoint, it can be a huge undertaking, but you have to include all others," said Joseph Giacalone, a retired New York City Police Department detective sergeant and an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "There should have been an all-out effort from the beginning."

About 75 percent of all homicide victims are killed by someone they know, Giacalone said, which makes it even more troubling that Calumet County expended little effort to examine others who either knew or were involved with Halbach.

Giacalone interpreted many of the police interviews done during the Halbach missing person's case as being "suspect-focused."

See SUSPECTS, Page 68

WHEN THE PAST AFFECTS THE PRESENT

Community talks stress, traumatic experiences

MADLINE ZUKOWSKI
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC - What is considered to be the most under-addressed public health crisis in the nation today was discovered about 30 years ago in San Diego.

Dr. Vincent Felitti was running an obesity clinic in the city. He realized many of his patients gained weight abruptly at points throughout their childhood, instead of gaining a little weight at a time. In speaking with his patients about their past, he realized over half of them experienced traumatic events as a child. In fact, 85 percent of his patients had been sexually abused.

Were these traumatic experiences linked to their obesity?

The Comprehensive Service Integration of Fond du Lac, an organization that works with community partners to support children as they grow into healthy adults, hosted a screening of "Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope," as well as a panel of local trauma-informed experts to teach members of the professional community about ACEs, or adverse childhood experiences, and toxic stress on today's adults.

"Our goal is to make 'toxic stress' and 'ACEs' household terms, so that individuals and communities are

See TRAUMA, Page 48



US 45 at US 151 opens Wednesday

SHARON ROZNIK
USA TODAY NETWORK WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC - Road openings will take place this week as the U.S. 151 Bypass project moves closer to completion.

The U.S. 45 at U.S. 151 in Fond du Lac County will be open to traffic on Wednesday morning, according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The road reconstruction removed the big handle ramps, reworked the U.S. 45 bridge approaches over U.S. 151 and redesigned the intersection with the new frontage road connecting U.S. 45 and County Highway V/U.S. 151 intersection.

The new frontage road connecting U.S. 45 to U.S. 151/County V interchange opens Friday evening.

The interchange will fully open Friday evening, along with County Highway T over U.S. 151 and the park and ride located at Oak County V.

About \$17.3 million has been spent to rework the bypass that runs through Fond du Lac County. Projects that began last year included replacing the at-grade U.S. 151 and County V intersection with a partial cloverleaf interchange, and replacing the existing at-grade U.S. 151 and County V intersection with an overpass with no direct access to U.S. 151.

See US 45, Page 48



VEHICLES ENTER AND EXIT STATE HIGHWAY 151 AT THE HIGHWAY 45 INTERCHANGE. THE INTERCHANGE FOR U.S. 45 AND U.S. 151 OPENS FULLY FRIDAY EVENING.

BUY A NEW PELLET STOVE and get

FREE Venting & Pad Kit
(\$250 value) For \$299.99

FREE 50 Bags of Pellets
(\$100 value) For \$299.99

FREE STOVE ACCESSORIES

Call 920.933.8263

EARTH SENSE
ENERGY SYSTEMS INC.

Call 920.933.8263 Now!

Oshkosh: 2283 State Hwy. 44
Date: WPT15 State Rd. 36
Mon-Fri: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Closed Sun.

Call Now! 920.933.8263

PAGE B6 | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016

FOLDSPOURER.COM | THE REPORTER

Suspects

Continued from Page 1B

perflial." "This is basic investigation 101," he said. "You will ask everyone what's their alibi in so many words. That's the whole point of doing these interviews, the exclusion of all others. You can't pass down experience when there is very little of it. Gladstone told USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, "It looks very odd when you have people asking questions years later...you get only one chance to get it right the first time."

USA TODAY NETWORK revisited law enforcement's handling of its interviews with a number of people who were a part of Halbach's life at the time of her disappearance.

Name: Bradley Czech, ex-boyfriend of Halbach. **Occupation:** Self-employed DJ. Czech identified himself as being an executive producer who worked overnight at a Green Bay television station.

Interview: At Czech's mobile home near the Town of Wrightstown the day after Halbach was reported missing.

Highlights: Czech identified Halbach as one of his best friends. Czech also confirmed he had a business relationship with Halbach. He said he worked as the DJ at a number of wedding receptions where Halbach was the obnoxious guest. Czech acknowledged he and Halbach "were not romantically involved."

He has no answer to why the relationship was not pursued other than that they were both busy. Calumet investigator John Dedera

couple of hours before she vanished, Calumet reports offer no indication that investigators followed up on the contents of Czech's text message or other text messages involving Halbach, nothing was ever shared with Avery's criminal defense lawyers. Investigators also declined to explain whether Czech made any harassing phone calls to Halbach as her friend, Dedera said.

Highlights: Czech identified Halbach as one of his best friends. Czech also confirmed he had a business relationship with Halbach. He said he worked as the DJ at a number of wedding receptions where Halbach was the obnoxious guest. Czech acknowledged he and Halbach "were not romantically involved."

He has no answer to why the relationship was not pursued other than that they were both busy. Calumet investigator John Dedera

ing stated. According to Czech, he last saw Halbach about two weeks before her disappearance, meeting her for lunch at the mall in Ashwaubenton. He also indicated he sent Halbach a text message around 12:45 p.m. on Oct. 31, just a couple of hours before she vanished. Czech's trailer home was about 20 miles from Avery salvage, which was the last confirmed sighting of Halbach that Monday afternoon in Hallowsen.

Overlooked details: Although investigators pressed Czech for an alibi, reports suggest it was not corroborated. Czech maintained he was at his trailer off Wisconsin 57 near the Town of Wrightstown pretty much sleeping throughout the day. "He stated he got a voice mail message about 2 p.m. and at that time, got up, did a couple of chores, and was back to bed shortly thereafter," Dedera wrote. Investigators noticed Czech's phone showed he had missed three incoming calls on the day of Halbach's disappearance, at 5:55 p.m., 7:53 p.m. and 7:54 p.m. Again, no follow-up was done to use cell tower technology to confirm that Czech's cell phone was at his trailer.

Although Czech confirmed sending a text message to Halbach



Police vehicles line up outside the Avery property on Nov. 10, 2005, near Mishicot. Investigators searching for Teresa Halbach, who had been missing since Oct. 31, found burned human remains at a salvage yard owned by the Avery family.

worked out of Green Bay, (she) did normally commute and stay at (their) residence. Scott said it was unusual for Teresa to be gone like this without letting anyone know.

Name: Ryan Hillegas, former boyfriend of Halbach. **Interview:** Nov. 4, 2005.

Highlights: During interviews with Wiegert, Hillegas revealed he and Halbach dated for five years, ending their romance in 2001. They had known each other since their high school freshman year at Hillert. At the time of Halbach's disappearance, Hillegas was unemployed and living at his parents' home in Hillert. He and Bloodred were also long-time friends. Hillegas reportedly visited the house to see Bloodred or Halbach about once per week. Hillegas said he stopped over at the farmhouse and saw Halbach sitting at her computer on Sunday, Oct. 30, the day before she vanished. "Ryan stated Teresa seemed completely normal and they had talked about wedding plans," Wiegert stated.

Overlooked details: Calumet made a few inroads trying to determine the true relationship with Halbach, including the substance of his communications with her. Authorities did not ask Hillegas to explain his whereabouts on the day Halbach went missing. And while authorities had learned from Bloodred that Halbach attended a Halloween party in Green Bay two days before her death, investigators downplayed the significance of the party during their questioning of Hillegas. The investigative reports do not mention whether Hillegas was asked whether he attended the same Halloween party in Green Bay.

Overlooked details: During Avery's murder trial, Avery's defense raised the scenario that Halbach went to the Green Bay Halloween party and that she didn't tell Hillegas about it because she was becoming her shadow. Also, investigators didn't find it strange that Hillegas immediately moved into look for empty boxes of Halbach's camera equipment or her dry clothes to use for DNA testing. Hillegas directed authorities where to find the items.

Name: Tom Pearce, whereabouts of his missing daughter. After her 2005, Pearce reported Halbach was missing. Bloodred told Calumet County Cpl. Leslie Lemieux, "Teresa made no mention of any plans to go out of town and although she

Highlights: During the interview with Dedera and Wiegert, Pearce described his relationship with Halbach as "good friends." He indicated that he was not aware of Teresa dating anyone. He stated that she has three or four male friends who are motorcycle racers and she would occasionally accompany them to events in America to watch motorcycle races.

Name: Mark Herrick, Green Bay resident. **Interview:** Nov. 20, 2005.

Highlights: Herrick called investigators out of the blue in an online chat room, around 9:30 or 10 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, when Halbach did not come into the office on Wednesday, Nov. 2, knowing that she had a regular business class lunch. He stated that when she did not appear at the studio or go to the business, he was marking meetings on Wednesday, he became concerned for her. Dedera stated, "Pearce suggested to investigators that Halbach encountered a number of disturbing incidents as part of her normal routine for Auto Trader magazine such as flirtatious males offering her drinks and other guys encouraging her to come inside their homes. Pearce also raised the possibility that Halbach had an unknown phone number. "This began in early to mid summer. There was a break in this routine and then approximately three weeks ago, this started (again)," Dedera stated.

Overlooked details: If authorities confirmed Pearce's tip regarding a phone stalker, it may have led the investigation toward an alternative suspect. On the other hand, if Halbach's phone records proved otherwise, it could cause other records that Pearce's answers to standard questions during their Nov. 4 interview caught Dedera's attention. "I did not notice that Thomas Pearce from time to time would speak about Teresa in the past tense," Nevertheless, Pearce was not asked to explain his activities on the day Halbach vanished. Herrick also didn't question Pearce about possible inconsistencies in his statements. Pearce had said he became concerned about Halbach's welfare when she didn't attend a business luncheon on Nov. 2, yet investigator didn't ask him to explain how he learned about the meeting and why Pearce did not try to contact Halbach on her phone until the next day, Nov. 3, after she didn't show up at their office for a third straight day.

Name: Mark Herrick, Green Bay resident. **Interview:** Nov. 20, 2005.

Highlights: Herrick called investigators out of the blue in an online chat room, around 9:30 or 10 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, when Halbach did not come into the office on Wednesday, Nov. 2, knowing that she had a regular business class lunch. He stated that when she did not appear at the studio or go to the business, he was marking meetings on Wednesday, he became concerned for her. Dedera stated, "Pearce suggested to investigators that Halbach encountered a number of disturbing incidents as part of her normal routine for Auto Trader magazine such as flirtatious males offering her drinks and other guys encouraging her to come inside their homes. Pearce also raised the possibility that Halbach had an unknown phone number. "This began in early to mid summer. There was a break in this routine and then approximately three weeks ago, this started (again)," Dedera stated.

Overlooked details: If authorities confirmed Pearce's tip regarding a phone stalker, it may have led the investigation toward an alternative suspect. On the other hand, if Halbach's phone records proved otherwise, it could cause other records that Pearce's answers to standard questions during their Nov. 4 interview caught Dedera's attention. "I did not notice that Thomas Pearce from time to time would speak about Teresa in the past tense," Nevertheless, Pearce was not asked to explain his activities on the day Halbach vanished. Herrick also didn't question Pearce about possible inconsistencies in his statements. Pearce had said he became concerned about Halbach's welfare when she didn't attend a business luncheon on Nov. 2, yet investigator didn't ask him to explain how he learned about the meeting and why Pearce did not try to contact Halbach on her phone until the next day, Nov. 3, after she didn't show up at their office for a third straight day.

Name: Christopher McKenna, non-convicted. **Interview:** Nov. 20, 2005.

Overlooked details: On Halbach's last weekend alive, she made at least two phone calls to McKenna shortly before midnight on Oct. 29, phone records show. McKenna, who was a couple years older than Halbach, apparently went to high school with her. He was living in the Menasha area at the time of her disappearance. If Halbach and McKenna were talking on the phone on the Saturday before she disappeared, that would be a significant detail.

Overlooked details: McKenna was nowhere to be mentioned within Calumet County's roughly 1,100 page investigative file. McKenna was arrested last December after his father, an Arizona found evidence he was involved in a sexual relationship with an underage female high school student. McKenna taught physical education at the Scottsdale Unified School District, cross-country. He had been working in Arizona since 2008. In August, McKenna pleaded guilty to sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. The sentencing judge told McKenna, "There is a need to protect our community from you."

Overlooked details: McKenna was nowhere to be mentioned within Calumet County's roughly 1,100 page investigative file. McKenna was arrested last December after his father, an Arizona found evidence he was involved in a sexual relationship with an underage female high school student. McKenna taught physical education at the Scottsdale Unified School District, cross-country. He had been working in Arizona since 2008. In August, McKenna pleaded guilty to sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. The sentencing judge told McKenna, "There is a need to protect our community from you."

Overlooked details: McKenna was nowhere to be mentioned within Calumet County's roughly 1,100 page investigative file. McKenna was arrested last December after his father, an Arizona found evidence he was involved in a sexual relationship with an underage female high school student. McKenna taught physical education at the Scottsdale Unified School District, cross-country. He had been working in Arizona since 2008. In August, McKenna pleaded guilty to sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. The sentencing judge told McKenna, "There is a need to protect our community from you."

Overlooked details: McKenna was nowhere to be mentioned within Calumet County's roughly 1,100 page investigative file. McKenna was arrested last December after his father, an Arizona found evidence he was involved in a sexual relationship with an underage female high school student. McKenna taught physical education at the Scottsdale Unified School District, cross-country. He had been working in Arizona since 2008. In August, McKenna pleaded guilty to sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. The sentencing judge told McKenna, "There is a need to protect our community from you."

Overlooked details: McKenna was nowhere to be mentioned within Calumet County's roughly 1,100 page investigative file. McKenna was arrested last December after his father, an Arizona found evidence he was involved in a sexual relationship with an underage female high school student. McKenna taught physical education at the Scottsdale Unified School District, cross-country. He had been working in Arizona since 2008. In August, McKenna pleaded guilty to sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 18 years in prison. The sentencing judge told McKenna, "There is a need to protect our community from you."

ACCUWEATHER FOND DU LAC FORECAST Wisconsin Weather. Includes a 5-day forecast table and a map of Wisconsin with weather icons for various locations like Superior, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Madison, and Kaukaun.

Almanac: Fond du Lac as of 9 p.m. past. Includes temperature, high, low, normal high, normal low, and 24-hour rainfall data.



PHOTO PROVIDED TO USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN: Bradley Czech with Teresa Halbach



PHOTO PROVIDED TO USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN: Tom Pearce



PHOTO PROVIDED TO USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN: Ryan Hillegas



PHOTO PROVIDED TO USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN: Mark Herrick



PHOTO PROVIDED TO USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN: Christopher McKenna