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Packers vs. Eagles

Green Bay travels to Philadelphia to take on the Eagles at 7:30 p.m. Coverage at packersnews.com and app, available on iOS and Android, 4C



STRONG FOUNDATION
Whatever Green Bay's problems, Mark Murphy, ownership hierarchy provide building blocks for smooth transitions, 1C

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GREEN BAY CITY COUNCIL

CITY LOOKS AT GAS STATION LIQUOR BAN



A customer pulls beer from the cooler at Terry's E-Z-Go gas station and convenience store, 481 Heather St. The business sells beer and wine, but was recently denied a license by the City Council to also sell hard liquor.

Proposals in front of City Council would ban convenience stores from selling hard liquor, make it easier for city to revoke licenses

ADAM RODEWALD
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY — Hard liquor sales would be banned at convenience stores and city leaders would be given greater authority to revoke liquor licenses under two proposals working their way through the City Council.
Aldermen Randy Scannell and Joe Moore brought the measures forward in response to a movement on the council to block any new licenses from being issued.

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I'd like a study done to see what alcohol problems we have in the city and see best ways to address it. If having convenience stores not sell liquor would help, then I'm all for it. But I'm not sure that's the problem."

ALDERMAN RANDY SCANNELL

MAKING A MURDERER

Avery conspiracy theories abound

Many on internet doubt evidence of Teresa Halbach case

JOHN FERAK
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

There's no shortage of alternative theories when it comes to the 2005 murder of Teresa Halbach.

Thousands of people across the globe who watched the Netflix docu-series "Making a Murderer" have gone online to critique the Halbach case and the plight of the two men convicted in her death.

Steven Avery and Brendan Dassey. Many of these online deaths have raised questions about witness statements and evidence.

Meanwhile, there's another group of "Making a Murderer" fans whose commentary and research has also generated considerable discussion — they're the conspiracy theorists.

They've taken to blogs, social media outlets and YouTube to dish up some of the craziest conspiracy theories on the planet about Avery's case.

To be sure, most Avery and Dassey supporters do not give credence to these conspiracy theories. Nonetheless, based on the enormous popularity of fake Internet news sites, it's hardly shocking that these con-

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INSIDE Today's Take

Awarding Colburn pool bids, liquor ban. Community, 3A

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HUNTING

2016 gun-deer season yields mixed results

DUKE BENHKE
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

APPLETON — Scott Base of Hartness shot an eight-point buck on the opening Sunday of Wisconsin's nine-day gun-deer season and then shot a doe on Friday.
"Everybody's kind of fat and happy with deer meat," Base told USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisc-



NEW PAGES: USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN
Hunters Eric Muth, left, and Kevin Amey move a deer to the shade on the opening weekend of gun-deer season near Shiocton.

festival ...it's the little things
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Theories

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apiracies have gained some traction.

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin has estimated six of the most outrageous conspiracy theories that have provided discussion since "Making a Murderer" came out last December.

Conspiracy theory No. 1: Traveling serial killer Edward Wayne Edwards murdered Halbach and set up Avery.

Background: Shortly after the release of the series, Montana resident John Cameron contacted USA TODAY NETWORK and other media outlets, proclaiming that the late serial killer, Edward Wayne Edwards, was responsible for Halbach's death. Cameron urged media outlets to publicize his website and his 2014 book, "It's Me! Edward Wayne Edwards: The Serial Killer You Never Heard Of."

In 2009, at the age of 76, Edwards was arrested in connection with a string of cold-case murders. Two of his victims came from Jefferson County, Wisconsin: Theresa Hack and his girlfriend Kelly Dene. In 1980, Hack was fatally stabbed and his girlfriend was sexually assaulted and strangled. The 19-year-olds were slain after attending a wedding reception in the town of Silesville. Their bodies were discovered in a remote wooded area. (Edwards had been a handyman at a nearby campground site.) Edwards was linked to the grisly double murder through DNA evidence.

In 2011, two months shy of turning 78, Edwards died of natural causes while awaiting lethal injection on Ohio's death row. At the time of his death, Edwards had been formally charged or convicted of five murders: the two 1980 Wisconsin murders, a 1977 double murder of an Ohio couple and the 1966 murder of his foster child as part of a scheme to collect an insurance payment.

Basis for conspiracy: Conspiracy buffs claim Edwards was a devil worshiper, and that's why Halbach was killed on Halloween, a date associated with the occult. They speculate that Edwards wanted to make Avery, a high-profile, wrongfully convicted man, the scapegoat for a homicide. They speculate that Edwards brought her body out to a wooded area and used explosives to detonate Halbach's body. Then in the coming days, Edwards waited for the right moment to sneak onto Avery's property to plant several clues such as Halbach's RAV4, the spare key located on Avery's bedroom floor and the charred bones that turned



Frank Brown of Manitowish County participates in a January rally in support of convicted killers Steven Avery and Brendan Dassey at the Manitowish County Courthouse.



July Wilson of Manitowish County stands with a photograph of her daughter, Carmen Boutwell, who died of a drug overdose in November 2005.

up at Avery's burn pile pit. They also thought that Edwards discreetly made an appearance in one of the "Blazing a Murderer" episodes that was filmed the time of his death. Edwards had been formally charged or convicted of five murders: the two 1980 Wisconsin murders, a 1977 double murder of an Ohio couple and the 1966 murder of his foster child as part of a scheme to collect an insurance payment.

Flaws with conspiracy: At the time of Halbach's disappearance, Edwards was 72. He weighed over 300 pounds, was in deteriorating health and needed an oxygen tank. It seems implausible that he was sneaking around Manitowish County in broad daylight and then managing to sneak onto the Avery property under the cover of darkness to stage the crime scene. Also, there is no proof Edwards was in Manitowish County—or elsewhere in Wisconsin—around the time of Halbach's disappearance. (Prior to his 2009 arrest, Edwards was living near Louisville, Ky.) Additionally, many of the author's claims about Edwards border on the absurd. Cameron claims that Edwards committed a murder as a 500-year-old man over the span of several decades. He makes unsubstantiated claims that Edwards was the infamously



Mauder suspect Edward Wayne Edwards is shown in August 2009 on a fugitive warrant in Louisville. Edwards is accused of killing two Wisconsin teenagers nearly 30 years ago.

escalated about six months before her death, her mother said during a 2015 interview. "Here this beautiful, beautiful woman who never had anyone had this addiction," her mother Judy Wilson said. "She abused drugs. She had a disease."

Basis for conspiracy: Boutwell's body was found about eight hours before the Calumet County Sheriff's Department in Chilton was notified that Halbach had been missing for four days. Conspiracy theorists suggest that Boutwell did not die from a drug overdose, but was murdered as part of a scheme by law enforcement to frame Avery. Conspiracy theorists speculated that during Boutwell's cremation, some of her bones were preserved so they could be dispersed at Avery's property to incriminate him for Halbach's disappearance. There was even online speculation that Manitowish County offered to pay for Boutwell's funeral services. On the day of Boutwell's funeral service, Nov. 8, 2005, Manitowish County Sheriff's Sgt. Jason Jost recovered two charred human bones near the edge of Avery's burn pile pit.

Flaws with conspiracy: There's no apparent credibility to suggest that Boutwell was murdered or that the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department managed to find some of Boutwell's bones out of the Pfeiffer Funeral Home and Crematory in Manitowish as part of an elaborate and deliberate plan to frame Avery for the missing photographer's disappearance. Moreover, Boutwell's overdose death was investigated by the Manitowish County Police Department, not the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department.

The city's police investigative file, obtained by USA TODAY NETWORK through a public records request, makes no mention of any sheriff's deputies probing Boutwell's case or responding to the scene. Boutwell's body was found by one of her friends, Jessica A. Miller, then 26, on the living room floor of Boutwell's apartment. Miller told detectives that she had stayed the night at Boutwell's apartment after the two friends frequented at least four local bars with other women in their group. Based on statements from these witnesses, city police learned Boutwell "had been popped pills" prior to her death and that during her night of heavy drinking, one of her friends saw her "rolling towards the top of her head — this had happened approximately three to four times — and the longest time lasting at least 10 seconds."

Conspiracy theory No. 2: Gene Kusche, police sketch artist for the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department, faked his own death to avoid being available to testify at Avery's murder trial.

Background: A month after turning 61, Kusche apparently died of a heart attack. It happened on Feb. 4, 2007 — which happened to be the day before the start of Steven Avery's long jury trial. Leaving up to the event, Avery's attorney's Dean Strang and Jerry Buting informed the court that the brochure of their defense was that the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department framed their client for Halbach's murder by planting blood, bones and other clues on Avery's property to ensure his guilt. The sheriff's department was motivated by revenge, the lawyers argued. Avery was seeking \$36 million from the county as reparation for being 18 years to an unjust rape conviction.

Basis for conspiracy: The suggestion that Kusche managed to fake his own death to go into hiding became a hot theory earlier this year on the popular social media website of Reddit. During the late 1960s, Kusche was stationed in Saigon during the Vietnam War. The timing of Kusche's apparent death — and the timing of his sworn deposition as part of Avery's federal civil rights lawsuit — both helped stoke the flames of the far-fetched conspiracy.

Two days before Halbach vanished, on Oct. 26, 2005, Kusche gave his sworn testimony as part of Avery's \$36 million federal civil rights lawsuit against Manitowish County and Kusche's former long-time boss, ex-sheriff Tom Focaccia. Kusche's work as a sketch artist played a significant role in Avery's 1985 wrongful conviction. Then, on the eve of Avery's murder trial, Kusche apparently died of a heart attack. Conspiracy theorists suggesting that Kusche faked his own death point to the fact that there were no funeral announcements for Kusche in any newspapers or with any funeral homes. Online conspiracy theorists also note a photo of a former Manitowish County man who died last year in Florida as perhaps being that of Kusche. They speculated that because Kusche had served overseas in the U.S. military, perhaps he had connections through counterintelligence to plan out a way to go into hiding and avoid facing scrutiny from Strang and Buting.

Flaws with conspiracy: There is no credible evidence to justify speculation Kusche took on an assumed identity and fled Wisconsin to avoid being questioned at Avery's murder trial. In fact, the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department said Kusche was on the radar of the Manitowish County Sheriff's Department at the time of Halbach's disappearance. He retired in 2003, the same year of Avery's exoneration. In addition, a public website lists Kusche as deceased and his date of death as being Feb. 4, 2007. Months ago USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin spoke with an employee who handled Manitowish County's death certificates. The employee checked her computer records and said that her

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