

# Herald Times Reporter

MANITOWOC COUNTY, WIS.

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50 cents

Friday  
November 11, 2005

## HALBACH INVESTIGATION Grim discoveries emerge

### Burned human remains, key to Halbach's SUV found on Avery land

#### Sheriff says investigation now focused on homicide

BY AMY WEAVER

MISHKOT — The bones of an adult woman, human teeth, blood and signs of a failed attempt to burn a body have been found during the search for Teresa Marie Halbach. The veteran sheriff who announced the discovery said the evidence reflects a crime that defies description.

You can probably still find a little shock up today with the evidence that we've discovered and I think I have a right to say it. — Calumet County Sheriff Jerry Papig

#### Manitowoc policeman stabbed; expected to be OK

Helicopter, K-9 unit used to search for suspect in assault

From staff reports

A Manitowoc police officer was stabbed while on duty late Thursday, and police were searching for the male suspect as of press time early today.

Manitowoc Police Chief Perry Kingbury said the officer was wounded in the neck and hand, but would recover. The officer, who was not identified, was going to statements to investigate the search for the suspect began shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday and remained underway at 1:30 a.m. today.

Kingbury said officers responded to a report of a suspicious person pointing a rifle into the woods along Rapids Road near Corne Street. They found an individual matching the description, but he did not have firearms in his hands.

Officers asked the individual, a white male, to come talk with them, but he ran across Rapids Road. The officers pursued and tackled the man, which is when the stabbing occurred, Kingbury said. The suspect fled the scene.

Manitowoc police, the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department and Two Rivers police were involved in the search for the suspect, described as about 170 to 190 pounds with curly blond or brown hair and wire-rimmed glasses.

K-9 units used a helicopter with thermal imaging technology were being used in the search.

For updates on this story later today, look on the Web at [www.htnews.com](http://www.htnews.com).

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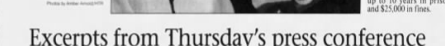


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A Wisconsin State Patrol officer above a burned SUV on a highway.

Halbach's SUV was blocked for nearly a week as investigators searched the adjacent Avery property for evidence in the disappearance of Teresa Marie Halbach. Calumet County Sheriff Jerry Papig, right, and Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kutz, far right, announced Thursday that human remains were found on the Avery property.



Calumet County Sheriff Jerry Papig and Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kutz hold a news conference Thursday in Manitowoc.

Papig: It appears that an attempt was made to dispose of a body by an incendiary means. However, that attempt was not completely successful. Pieces of human teeth were found on the Avery property, and the bone has been determined to be that of an adult female.

A significant amount of blood was also discovered in Teresa Halbach's vehicle and samples of blood also were found on the Avery property and in buildings on the Avery property. (and) the key that was used to start Teresa Halbach's vehicle was found in Steven Avery's bedrooms.

You can probably still find a little shock up today with the evidence that we've discovered and I think I have a right to be. I've been involved in this business for 31 years and I've seen a lot of bad things in my investigations, but I think this tops the cake. To know that one human being can do this to another human being is beyond belief.

Kutz: Mr. Avery's initial appearance on that date in possession of a weapon charge had been scheduled in Manitowoc County Circuit Court in Judge Wiley courtroom for Thursday the 15th of November at 2:00 clock p.m.

Steven Avery, 41, of rural Two Rivers, will appear in person, according to Michelle Mochizuki of the Calumet County district attorney's office. She said bail is typically set at such a hearing.

Avery will be in Calumet County Jail until the hearing, which is open to the public, Mochizuki said.

According to a criminal complaint, investigators found two firearms and 11 spent 22-caliber shell casings in a search of Avery's residence Sunday, and he was arrested Wednesday. Investigators were searching the home after the vehicle of photographer Teresa Halbach was found on the Avery property.

According to court records, Avery has been convicted of three felonies, including two counts of burglary, endangering safety and an earlier charge of possession of a firearm by a felon. If convicted, Avery faces up to 10 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines.

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#### Steven Avery due in court on Tuesday

From staff reports

MANITOWOC — Steven Avery's initial court appearance on a charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, before Manitowoc County Circuit Judge Patrick Wiley, according to special prosecutor and Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kutz.

Avery, 41, of rural Two Rivers, will appear in person, according to Michelle Mochizuki of the Calumet County district attorney's office. She said bail is typically set at such a hearing.

Avery will be in Calumet County Jail until the hearing, which is open to the public, Mochizuki said.

According to a criminal complaint, investigators found two firearms and 11 spent 22-caliber shell casings in a search of Avery's residence Sunday, and he was arrested Wednesday. Investigators were searching the home after the vehicle of photographer Teresa Halbach was found on the Avery property.

According to court records, Avery has been convicted of three felonies, including two counts of burglary, endangering safety and an earlier charge of possession of a firearm by a felon. If convicted, Avery faces up to 10 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines.

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## Excerpts from Thursday's press conference

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## Football frenzy sweeps Valders

### Village plastered with signs in support of state semifinal-bound Vikings squad

BY STEVE CLARK  
Special to the Reporter

VALDERS — The signs are everywhere. Some are professionally printed with the words "Go Vikings" Others are hand-made, but all sport the same sentiment: Vikings are decorated with messages of support. The signs read at Halbach's Fresh Creamery Main Inn) including the current special: instead, "Good Luck Valders Football" is posted.

Valders has been waiting for this for a long time and it's great for the whole community. It's brought everybody a lot closer," said Jeff Hanchel, who played football at Valders in the 1960s. "Valders has always had strong community support for all of its athletic teams. It's just not jumping on the bandwagon because we're at Level 4 in football. It's been like that the whole time."

Valders, a village of about 1,000 people, is firmly behind a "Viking spirit" that has made Valders football a state semifinal.

For details on Saturday's state semifinal football match between Valders and Lancaster, see Page B1.

Valders football fans cheer for the Vikings during last Saturday's WAAA playoff game at Kenosha St. Joseph. The town is going all-out to support the team after the Vikings shut out St. Joseph to reach the state semifinals.

See VALDERS, A1

Valders football fans cheer for the Vikings during last Saturday's WAAA playoff game at Kenosha St. Joseph. The town is going all-out to support the team after the Vikings shut out St. Joseph to reach the state semifinals.

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## VETERANS DAY



### Inside today's HTR

Lakehurst soldiers who died during the Vietnam War are remembered on the town at the annual walk. Page A5.

Of the 2 million Americans who served in World War I, just a handful are alive today. One surviving WWI veteran recalls American Day in 1918. Page A7.

### On the Web

Find a listing of local Veterans Day events, along with archived Veterans Day coverage from Thursday's Herald Times Reporter on the Web at [www.htnews.com](http://www.htnews.com).

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HERALD TIMES REPORTER

# Prosecutors: DNA 'absolutely' cleared Avery in 1985 rape case

### District attorneys say there is no doubt about release in light of recent events

MANITOWOC — Although a man who was wrongly convicted of rape 20 years ago is under scrutiny in the disappearance of a woman, there is no question of his innocence in the 1985 crime, prosecutors said Thursday.

The DNA evidence used to free Steven Avery was irrefutable, said Manitowoc County District Attorney Mark Rotner and Assistant District Attorney Mike Grunbach, the two prosecutors who handled Avery's retrial.

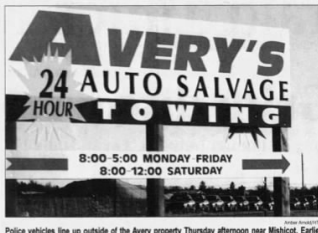
"We filed a motion for his release because there is absolutely no doubt that Steven Avery did not commit that particular assault," they said in a statement.

Strom Thurmond, director of the state Crime Laboratory in Madison, where the DNA testing was done, said DNA testing has reached the point of accuracy and sophistication that it is "almost impossible" for errors or wrongful conclusions. That is, when testing includes someone from a piece of evidence, such as hair or blood, like happened in Avery's case.

"We have never found two people with the same DNA profile unless they are identical twins," he said.

The testing for cases like Avery's are accurate, he said. "For all practical purposes, it is 100 percent."

Avery, now 43, was convicted in 1985 of raping a woman on a Manitowoc County beach and sentenced to 12 years in prison. He was freed in September 2003 after a law



Police vehicles line up outside of the Avery property Thursday afternoon near Mishicot. Earlier Thursday, officials investigating the disappearance of Teresa Halbach announced that human remains were found on the Avery property.

## HALBACH

From At

ROBER and charged with a felon in possession of a firearm, after two guns were found in his residence during the search for photographer Teresa Halbach, 25. She vanished the afternoon of Oct. 31.

No charges have been filed in Halbach's disappearance. Halbach, from Hilbert in Calumet County, was last seen Oct. 31 when she had three appointments for hair before she was taken to the scene.

One stop was at the Avery salvage yard. Avery said Halbach took pictures of a minivan he had for sale and left.

More than one test was done. "There is absolutely no question that he did not commit the crime in 1985,"

"We know God was with Teresa her whole life and Teresa is with God now. We have long after-lives. We will see Teresa again."

Michelle Halbach, brother of Teresa Halbach

Several members of the Avery family who reside at the site of the salvage yard on Avery Road were ordered to submit to DNA testing Wednesday, including Steven's older brother, Charles, 51. Their nephew, Bryan Dasey, 20, went for the test Thursday.

"The way I look at it now is, they found evidence. It was planted," Charles Avery said in a phone interview.

No one in the family has talked to Steven Avery since his arrest, he said.

"The way I look at it, either I'm next or my brother Earl is," Charles Avery said.

Dasey said the latest request from authorities is another form of harassment. He was with his brother, Brendan, 15, in Marinette County on Sunday when law enforcement impounded their uncle Steve's car. He said he felt stalked and trapped.

## TOMORROW

Saturday, November 12, 2005



BELFUS Churches can play a role in supporting victims of domestic violence

## Lottery

Thursday 3-14-05-20  
DAILY PICK 3 1-2-4  
DAILY PICK 4 1-2-4-5-7  
SUPERDRAW 1-16-27-35-38

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## EXCERPTS

From At

Q: Was Steven Avery questioned yesterday and if so were any of the interrogations recorded?

P: He was interviewed and yes they were recorded. I believe it was both video and audio.

Q: To preserve the integrity of the investigation I do not wish to divulge exactly what was said.

Q: Are your investigators finding evidence of other crimes out there at the same time they are investigating the disappearance?

P: I do not wish to divulge that information at this time.

Q: Can you tell more about where the human items were found or how?

P: They were discovered on the Avery property near the residences of the Averys and I will indicate they were discovered near Steven Avery's residence.

Q: (Interpreting) Was this evidence found in a burn barrel?

Page: That burn barrel is pertinent to the investigation.

K: Although we aren't able to answer all of these investigative questions, I hope that for reasons that may be helpful to you. We aren't going to populate this investigation. We aren't going to try this case in the media at all.

Q: Have you identified one or more suspects?

K: We remain open to any number of suspects in this case as certain evidence leads to certain individuals we're following up on. At this time no body has been identified to the extent that a criminal complaint is appropriate.

Q: You had mentioned that about seven or eight of the Avery family members were persons of interest. Is that still the case today?

K: Everybody remains a person of interest.

Q: Any matches from Steven Avery or family members in regards to the DNA?

K: I can't comment on that evidence.

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Pain Management  
Heart Health  
ENT/Allergies  
Spine/Neurology  
Oncology  
Dermatology  
Psychiatry

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Sat., Nov. 12th 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
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