

Herald Times Reporter

MANITOWOC COUNTY, WIS.

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50 cents

Thursday
November 17, 2005

Winter whips back into Wisconsin



A Manitowoc police officer takes down information at the scene of a one-car accident late Wednesday afternoon along Calumet Avenue. The driver lost control on icy roads and ran into the ATM machine at Wells Fargo Bank. Blowing snow and freezing temperatures caused many accidents across the county.

First snow leads to road woes

From staff and wire reports

The Lakeshore's first snowfall of the season may have been light, but it caused plenty of havoc Wednesday on area roads. The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department reported more than a dozen accidents due to snowy weather as of 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. City of Manitowoc police reported a dozen accidents, one involving personal injury while Two Rivers police reported four accidents because of weather, but no injuries.

The cold facts

Temperatures reported at Manitowoc County Airport
42° 8 p.m. Tuesday
33° 8 a.m. Wednesday
19° 11 p.m. Wednesday



Jim Duval of Manitowoc pushes his bike uphill on the sidewalk along South 21st Street late Wednesday afternoon. He could not ride up the hill due to the icy conditions caused by Wednesday's snowfall.

Avery kept from other prisoners in county jail

Calumet County sheriff says the measure is precautionary

BY KEVIN BRALEY

News-Times Reporter



AVERY

Steven A. Avery, a man authorities say killed a 25-year-old St. John woman and mutilated her corpse, is isolated from other prisoners at the Calumet County Jail, Sheriff Jerry Pajal said. Avery, 41, has his cell for his protection and the protection of others, Pajal said. Avery hasn't made threats against anyone or said he would harm himself, but the measure is precautionary, according to Pajal.

He hasn't been proven guilty and needs an attorney. The last time he was in jail was for a crime he didn't commit. He was charged with the 2003 murder of a woman and a child. He was charged Tuesday with first-degree intentional homicide and mutilating a corpse after investigators said they found human bones and teeth at Avery's Auto Salvage, three miles west of Manitowoc. Avery has lived in a mobile home and worked for the salvage yard owned by his brother, Earl, when he was exonerated by DNA evidence and released after spending 18 years in prison for a sexual assault he didn't commit. The human remains are believed to be those of Teresa Halbach.

See AVERY, A2

Local views: Was Steven Avery framed for the murder of Teresa Halbach?

BY KEVIN BRALEY

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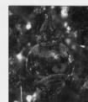
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News-Times Reporter



Bucks hold off Golden State Warriors, B1



Christmas in the Mansion returns to Ruhr-West, CI

Miss America pageant says goodbye to Boardwalk, hello to Vegas

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS - After 84 years of crowning beauties on the Boardwalk, the Miss America pageant is moving to the Las Vegas Strip, organizers announced Wednesday.

It will be the first time the contest has been staged outside Atlantic City, N.J. The Atlantic City board will host the pageant, scheduled for Jan. 21 on cable channel Country Music. Television organizers said The Associated Press.

"What we wanted to do is find a new host city that has all glitz and glamour Miss America is known for," said Art McMaster, chief executive of the Miss America Organization, the nonprofit charitable group that runs the annual event. "Obviously Las Vegas is right at the top of this list." The pageant has been dogged by financial troubles and slipping viewership in recent years.

Index table with categories like Classified, Comics, Crossword, Horoscope, Local, Lottery, Obituaries, Opinion, Scoreboard, Sports, Stocks, TV/Advice, Weather.

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Manitowoc County gets mixed reviews in state health survey

Good access to health care among the positives

BY KRISTOPHER WENN

News-Times Reporter

A low number of motor vehicle deaths.

Manitowoc is in a group of counties where determinants for good health like access to health care, health behaviors and socioeconomic factors are strong, so future health outcomes could be expected to improve, Remington said.

But Remington said there is room for improvement. County residents have a higher level of physical inactivity and smoking than the statewide average. Manitowoc has high income levels along the Lake Michigan shoreline and many homes built prior to 1950, which are prone to high lead levels.

"You can boil it down to two factors," he said. "Counties need to provide residents with a healthy environment and individuals need to make the right choices."

Dr. David E. Augustine, a family practice physician at Holy Family

See HEALTH, A7

Areas that need improvement

Manitowoc County is ranked 41st in health of 72 counties in health outcomes, compared to a ranking of 40th in 2004. The following figures are from the 2005 Wisconsin County Health Rankings.

County residents have a high level of physical inactivity, 66 percent, compared to 54.4 percent on average statewide.

The level of county residents who smoke during pregnancy is 21 percent, compared to the Wisconsin average of 18.3 percent.

The county has one of the highest cancer levels at 88 percent, versus the 75.3 percent average for the state.

Forty-two percent of housing in the county was built before 1960, compared to 25.2 percent on average for Wisconsin.

To view the 2005 Wisconsin County Health Rankings, go to <http://www.dhs.gov/health/wisconsin/healthrankings2005.htm>.

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

Judge: Kowach's statements are allowed at trial

Man accused of killing stepdaughter was properly 'Mirandized' by police

BY KEVIN BRALEY

News-Times Reporter

ing to Two Rivers police investigating the girl's death.

According to a criminal complaint, Kowach told Two Rivers Detective Peter McKinley on May 29 that he became frustrated with Van Abel because she would not clean her room.

Kowach, 21, proper notice of his rights before questioning him about the death of Donajay Marie Van Abel in May.

"I didn't find anything improper about how the Miranda warnings were given," Willis said.

Miranda rights are given to suspects or potential suspects, advising them of their Fifth Amendment right to remain silent.

While the girl was on the floor, Kowach stomped the floor, Kowach stomped on the girl three times in

See KOWACH, A7

Advertisement for Heilman Photography. Text: "It's time for your family's portrait and you have a choice. You can accept the ordinary packaged as a 'special' OR you can expect the extraordinary from the portrait artists at Heilman Photography. 686-7434"

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HERALD TIMES REPORTER

Local Aging Resource Center offers Medicare help

From staff reports

MANTOWOC - The Manitowoc County Aging Resource Center is scheduling one-on-one appointments to help individuals, using the computer, to narrow their Medicare prescription plan choices. People can make an appointment at the listed phone numbers below, which are all in area code 920. Please bring your Social Security card, printed prescription drug list with doses and your health insurance card.

- Two Rivers Senior Center, Nov. 16, 2, 30, call 793-5399
- Manitowoc Senior Center, Dec. 13, 16, 22, call 683-4509
- North End Drug, Manitowoc, Dec. 6, call 686-3400
- North End Drug, Two Rivers, Dec. 8, call 793-5229
- Nature's Nutrition Site, Dec. 7, call 775-5446
- Residence Manor Apartments, Dec. 4, call 754-4101
- Killbuckville Community Center, Dec. 15, call 712-3131
- Kid Nutrition Site, Dec. 20, call 684-7861
- Mishicot Nutrition Site, Venetia, Dec. 20, call 755-1416



Salt trucks hit the streets in Manitowoc on Wednesday afternoon after snow and freezing temperatures combined to cause slippery driving conditions. This truck was salting Washington Street.

SNOW

From A1

Across the state, Wednesday's snow knocked out power to more than 15,000 Wisconsin Public Service Corp. customers as strong winds and tree limbs downed power lines in northern Wisconsin. A few

school districts in northern Wisconsin, including Astoria, canceled classes Wednesday. Michael Sie said his auto group received 54 percent more calls for help than on a typical November day by noon Wednesday. Most of the 534 calls were for trees or cars in ditches, fender benders or dead batteries, he said.

"As is typical for the first few winter storms, folks have momentarily forgotten how to drive in such conditions," he said. "They should remember to drive at a speed that's appropriate for the conditions, not necessarily at the speed limit."

About 13 inches of snow fell in Lenoir in Forest County, where Whitehall Inn owner Ron Fritsch said a few people got stuck in their driveways.

"One of my customers said he found what he thought were gas gauges off, but it turned out to be trees that had snapped because of the snow," Fritsch said.

"Ten inches of snow fell in Maple in Douglas County Wednesday afternoon.

"It's actually really pretty. The trees are full of snow," said Judy Hill, a waitress at the Souders Cafe.

AVERY

From A1

The homicide charge carries a mandatory life prison sentence while a mutilation of a corpse conviction carries up to 1 1/2 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines. Wisconsin does not have the death penalty. Authorities say their linked Avery to the disappearance of Halbach through DNA found in her Toyota RAV4.

The state Crime Lab said in the criminal complaint DNA from Avery was found in Halbach's vehicle and on the ignition key found in Avery's bedroom. DNA from blood found in the rear cargo area of the sports utility vehicle also matched DNA from a Wild Cherry Pepsi can found in the RAV4, according to the complaint. DNA from the cans also matched DNA of charcoal remains in a burn pit near Avery's residence on the Avery property, the complaint says.

Page1 said Wednesday he is certain the charred remains are Halbach's.

"I don't think we have a doubt" he said about the remains.

Page1 said there is an inconclusive chance the DNA is from someone else. Page1 said the Halbach family is also confident the remains are Teresa's and have made funeral arrangements. Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at St. John-Sacred Heart School in Sherwood and Mass will be celebrated Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in St. John.

Page1 said the investigation is continuing and a "lot of evidence" was sent to the crime lab for analysis. Page1 would not comment on the likelihood anyone else was involved in the murder of Halbach.

Halbach, a photographer, was working for an automotive magazine on Oct. 31 and had an appointment to take pictures for cars at Avery's Auto Salvage according to the complaint. On Nov. 1, her mother, Karen Halbach, reported her daughter missing, according to the complaint.

Volunteers found Halbach's partially hidden vehicle Nov. 5 at Avery's Auto Salvage after receiving a call from Ernest Earl Avery, Steven's brother, to search the land, the complaint says.

Investigators found blood in Steven Avery's home and in a nearby, detached garage, the complaint says.

Steven Avery was arrested Nov. 9 and charged with felony possession of a firearm after investigators found two guns in Avery's home. Avery faces up to 10 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines if convicted. Avery is scheduled to appear in Manitowoc County Court on Dec. 6 for a preliminary hearing on the homicide and mutilation of a corpse charge.

Special prosecutor and Chautauque County District Attorney Ken Kratz is prosecuting the case because of Avery's \$38 million civil suit against Manitowoc County officials involved in his wrongful conviction in 1985.

Karin Bratley: 920-645-7053 or kbratley@htrnews.com

VIEW

From A1

"I don't think he was framed. There has been research for over 10 years in prison for the crime where he wasn't guilty."

Ma Bai Yang, Manitowoc

"No, the evidence is overwhelming. My impression is to believe what he didn't do. The evidence is overwhelming and he is innocent. My thinking that he did it is stronger than my thinking he was framed."

Matt Singer, Two Rivers

"I hope they have their facts right and don't get in jail for something they didn't do. The evidence is overwhelming and he is innocent and innocent guilty."

Donna Taylor, Manitowoc

"My opinion is he was framed. He was going for the big bucks from the state and county and the employment was framing him so they wouldn't have to make the payroll. Then, sometimes I think they might have done it. The fact he was in prison for 18 years, he might have engaged... and the DNA points to him."

Steven Kmetz, Cleveland

"No, he wasn't framed, not with the evidence they found. The DNA got out of the car, well it

"I'm back in prison."

Ivan Konek, Mishicot

"I think he's guilty based on the evidence they have. He was the last person to see her alive. I think there may have been other accomplices."

Kevin Lamat, Two Rivers

"I don't know I can't believe a guy would spend 18 years in prison for something he didn't do and then get out and do this. I feel sorry for the girl who she was

"I was innocent, wouldn't he look innocent?" The police that had been through this before. If he's being framed, the person who had them get out and do this. I feel sorry for the girl who she was

Clarence Kohbeck, Manitowoc

"Not framed, not with his past record like buying the car, trying to hide the vehicle, and the pile of ashes."

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Friday, November 18, 2005



GRIS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PREVIEW
Special section will run in Friday's HTR

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WISCONSIN 4	2-2-2-2-2-2
WISCONSIN 3	2-2-2-2-2-2
POWERBALL	5-18-20-34-44
	Power Play 5

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