

Herald Times Reporter

MANITOWOC COUNTY, WIS.

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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 said Thursday.

Halbach's SUV 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.

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER



A Wisconsin State Patrol officer above, moves barricades of Highway 42 northwest of Mishicot on Thursday. The road 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 Mishicot.

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 o'clock p.m.

See EXCERPTS, A2

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 Willis, 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.

See EXCERPTS, A2

Excerpts from Thursday's press conference

On the Web

A more complete transcript of the press conference can be found on the Web at www.htnews.com

See EXCERPTS, A2

Football frenzy sweeps Valders

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

By Steve Clark

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 (holding 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 Bachel, who played football at Valders in the 1960s.

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

See VALDERS, A1

Playoff preview
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

Saturday, November 19
7:30 p.m. ~ Capitol Civic Centre
"Three Tautonic Aces"
Featuring Bernard Zinck, Violin
and the Manitowoc Symphony Orchestra
Directed by Marlene Wagner-Hillman
6:45 p.m. Free Concert Preview

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

Halbach investigation

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See EXCERPTS, A2

Veterans Day

Inside today's HTR

Lakehurst soldiers who died during the Vietnam War are remembered on the floor at the World War Museum.

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

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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

Associated Press

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 Rotter and Assistant District Attorney Mike Grobbeck, the two prosecutors who handled Avery's release.

"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.

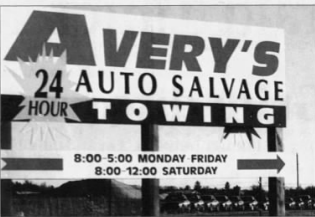
Strom Thurmond, director of the state Crime Laboratory in Madison, where the DNA testing was done, said DNA testing has reached the point of accuracy and sophistication that it's "almost impossible" for errors or wrongful conclusions. That's particularly true, he said, when testing includes someone from a piece of evidence, such as hairs 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. The error rate is 100 percent."

"For all practical purposes, it's 100 percent."

Avery, now 43, was convicted in 1985 of raping a woman in 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 A1

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

No charges have been filed in Manitowoc County, but Halbach, from Hilbert in Calumet County, was last seen Oct. 31 when she had three appointments for hair before missing, taking pictures of cars for sale. One stop was at the Avery salvage yard. Avery said Halbach took pictures of a minivan he had for sale and left.

Kevin Frady, director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Forensic Science Center, said DNA evidence that freed Avery last year is "conclusive" and "more than one test would confirm that he did not commit the crime in 1985."

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, if 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.

Page 1: That hair barre! In pertinent to the investigation.

Q: Although we aren't able to answer all of these investigative questions, I hope that for reasons that may be beyond the scope of this report, you can give us some insight into the investigation. We aren't going to try this case in the media at all.

Q: Have you identified one or more suspects?

Kratz: 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?

Kratz: Everybody remains a person of interest.

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

Kratz: I can't comment on that evidence.

TOMORROW

Saturday, November 12, 2005



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

Lottery

Thursday

MEGA PICK 5	3-14-10-20-28
PICK 4	1-2-12-22
SUPERDRAW	1-5-16-27-35-38

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EXCERPTS

From A1

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

Page 1: 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?

Page 1: 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?

Page 1: They were discovered on the Avery property near the residences of the Avery family and I will indicate they were discovered near Steven Avery's residence.

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

Need Info?
 E-mail your health-related questions to: askdoctor@htrnews.com

Holiday Open House
 Fri., Nov. 11th 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Sat., Nov. 12th 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 20% OFF
 Free gift with purchase over \$10
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