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## Possible break in 70-year-old Weckler disappearance

# Suspect's 'hideout' found?

By Jennifer Eisenbart  
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OAKLAND — The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office believes it might have a break in the 70-year-old kidnapping case of Georgia Jean Weckler.

Weckler was 8 years old when she disappeared on May 1, 1947, after being dropped off by a neighbor at the end of the half-mile lane leading to her family's Town of Oakland farm.

Numerous leads have been pursued during the past seven decades, but no suspect formally was arrested and no remains ever have been found.

Weckler's case is one of four open missing persons cases in Jefferson County, and is being handled by Detective Leah Meyer of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Meyer said Friday that she received a tip in April from an area resident who grew up in

Richland County and who led Meyer to a former classmate who now lives in California.

That took Meyer back to the late Buford Sennett, whom she believes is the most likely suspect in the case.

The tipster to what potentially is Sennett's hideout in Richland County. There were references in the original investigation to the hideout; however, the area was not well labeled from the

1940s. Meyer had to research to pinpoint the exact location, using plat maps placed on a current map.

Meyer called the hideout "essentially a giant foxhole."

"When people think of hideout, they think of something more like a cave," Meyer said. "This is more of a hole in the ground."

The original hole, she said, was described to be about 6-by- (Continued on A3)



**BURIED EVIDENCE?** — Shown above is the possible former hideout of Buford Sennett, the prime suspect in the 70-year-old cold missing person case of Georgia Jean Weckler. A new tip led Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Detective Leah Meyer to the Richland County site that she describes as "essentially a giant foxhole" that gradually filled in over the years. — Photo by Meyer.



**DOGGED DETERMINATION** — A monument honoring the connection between a military K-9 officer and his or her handler was dedicated in Fort Atkinson's McCoy Park Sunday. Above left, sculptor Mark Dziewior shows Connie Beck Wald of Texas, whose brother, Terry, and his K-9 were killed in action in Vietnam, details on the statue. Shown above right, the back of the granite portion of the memorial shows the War Dogs logo and a quote from Barbara Snow. Directly at right, violinist Jessica Kelman performs the "Star-Spangled Banner." Pictured below right, Perry C. Money, of North Carolina, president of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, and below center, Barbara Snow, of Florida, executive director of the Southern Chapter of the United States War Dogs Association, give keynote speeches. Below left, Mabel Schumacher, who spearheaded creation of the memorial, embraces the statue. Related photos appear on pages A5 and A7. — Daily Union photos by Ryan Whisner.



## K-9 Veterans Memorial dedicated

By Ryan Whisner  
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A memorial honoring the military K-9 officers and their handlers was dedicated in Fort Atkinson's McCoy Park Sunday.

The monument consists of a one-of-a-kind bronze dog statue, a three-sided polished black granite backdrop and lighting on a cement foundation.

The vision of Mabel Schumacher, the memorial was inspired by the memory of Terrence (Terry) Beck, a fallen Fort Atkinson Marine Corps K-9 handler and his German Shepherd scout dog, Seatoo, who were killed in action in Vietnam on Dec. 20, 1967.

"The story of the memorial began in 2011 when my late husband and I talked about the dream of some day having some type of statue honoring military and working dogs on the Glacial River Trail," Schumacher said during the ceremony Sunday.

At the time, the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson had just finished installing a small memorial with a drinking fountain for both dogs and their owners along the bicycle and hiking trail.

"We thought it would be good as a next step to honor working dogs," Schumacher said, noting that the club approved the concept of that memorial.

From that point on, the idea took on a life of its own.

Wisconsin proclaimed March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day in 2015.

"Then (came) the change from a generic dog statue along the bike trail to a full-blown memorial in McCoy Park," she said, crediting sculptor Mark Dziewior for taking the club's diverse ideas and melding them into a meaningful tribute that was revealed to the public in March 2016.

"Mark gives careful attention to each (Continued on A5)



## Fort murder-try suspect to receive new attorney

By Ryan Whisner  
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JEFFERSON — The trial for a 24-year-old Fort Atkinson man accused of attempting to murder a woman in 2016 has been delayed due to his request for a new attorney.

Trevor Ahrens is charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide, strangulation, substantial battery and false imprisonment in connection with the alleged assault of

the mother of a Daily Jefferson County Union carrier in the newspaper's pick-up area on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016.

He has entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

Appearing before Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Randy Koschnick Friday, Ahrens' attorney, Jeffrey De La Rosa of the State Public Defender's Office, sought to withdraw from the case upon his

(Continued on A3)

## Fifth death from Didion blast injuries

JOHNSON CREEK — A fifth employee has died of injuries suffered in the May 31 explosion at the Didion Milling Plant in Cambria.

On Friday evening, Didion officials announced, "with sadness and sympathy," the peaceful passing of Carlos "Charly" Nunez (Continued on A3)

## Sullivan man to prison 10 years for two January armed robberies

By Ryan Whisner  
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JEFFERSON — A heroin addict suffering from withdrawal who committed multiple area robberies in January was sentenced to 10 years in prison Friday.

Brett Carlin, 30, of Sullivan, was convicted of armed robbery and armed robbery with threat of force in connection with January robberies at Ron's Market in Helenville and the Bajwa

Gas Station in Watertown and an attempted robbery at Clark Oil and Refining in Watertown.

He reportedly told Jefferson County Sheriff's Office investigators that he robbed Ron's Market because he was having heroin withdrawals and the gas station was close to his residence in Sullivan.

While talking to Watertown police, Carlin reportedly noted that he had taken heroin earlier in the day on Jan. 30 and was starting to get sick in the af-

ternoon. He described it as the dope taking over and his head telling him to "get money any way you can" to buy more drugs.

Carlin originally was charged with armed robbery, armed robbery with threat of force, possession of an illegally obtained prescription, possession of narcotic drugs and attempted theft.

He pleaded guilty to the armed robbery charges and the remaining counts were read in to the record and dismissed.

(Continued on A3)



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**WAR DOGS** — More than 200 people from around the country attended the unveiling Sunday at Fort Atkinson's McCoy Park of a memorial recognizing military K-9 officers and their handlers. The monument consists of a one-of-a-kind bronze dog statue, a three-sided polished black granite backdrop and lighting on a cement foundation. Creation of the memorial was inspired by the memory of Terrence (Terry) Beck, a fallen Fort Atkinson Marine Corps K-9 handler, and his German Shepherd scout dog, Seato, who were killed in action in Vietnam on Dec. 20, 1967. Shown above left, friends of Terry Beck are asked to stand during the program. Pictured above right, Barbara Snow, executive director of the Southern Chapter of the United States War Dogs Association, presents certificates and pins to Beck's siblings, Ted Beck of Colorado and Connie Beck Wald of Texas. At right, the Fort Atkinson Community Band opens the ceremony with patriotic music. Shown below right, standing before the monument, are sculptor Mark Dziewior, Snow and organizers Mabel Schumacher and Dan Juday. Pictured below center, Cody Crangle of Menomonee Falls and his K-9 partner, Flo, are honored with a medal and certificate for their service in Afghanistan. Shown below left, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Gukich is recognized for the loss of his partner, Mink, who was put to sleep Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016, after an attempt to surgically address a bladder tumor failed to improve his quality of life. Related photos and a story appear on pages A1 and A7. View all photos at [www.dailyunion.com](http://www.dailyunion.com). — Daily Union photos by Ryan Whisner.



# K-9 Vets Memorial dedicated

(Continued from A1) detail," Schumacher said. "He is clearly inspired by a passionate connection to the animals he portrays so knowledgeably." Eighty-four persons, businesses and organizations contributed toward the K-9 Veterans Memorial. The Fort Atkinson Community Foundation provided a \$12,600 4:1 challenge grant and an anonymous donor gave \$28,000. Dziewior is selling small signed and numbered bronze models of the memorial for \$595 each, with \$200 of that donated to the fund. The memorial project has received overwhelming support from people throughout the United States. "The hard work and generosity of many people brought us to this day," Schumacher said. Among the honored guests in attendance for the dedication were Beck's siblings, Ted Beck of Colorado and Connie Beck Wald of Texas. Both agreed that it was a great honor for the family to

have this recognition for their brother. "Having this happen 50 years later, thanks to the Fort Atkinson Kennel Club and War Dog Association and, really, to Mabel Schumacher," Ted said, "it is really a credit to the town that they pulled all this off and it is something our family is just really thankful for." His son, Christopher Beck, whose middle name is Terrence, is enlisted in the U.S. Navy. "Having my uncle be a piece of it is wonderful, but the larger memorial to the incredible work and sacrifices that military dog handlers have demonstrated through the years is a massively important thing," he said. "It is one of the pieces of military history that not enough light is on. There are still people working in these professions. Military working dogs are still very much a part of the military, along with the people that train and deploy with them. It is great to see those pieces of military history be recognized in a very public

and very meaningful way." Beck's sister, Connie, agreed. "It is a real testament to what a wonderful place Fort Atkinson is," she said. "They honored him when he was killed and they are honoring him today in a very special way." The oldest of the three Beck siblings, she noted that she knew how proud their parents would be. Connie added that what was truly being recognized by the memorial is the bond between the dog and soldier. "The fact that they are giving honors to the dogs who are heroes is, I think, very special," she said. Beck's friends from the Fort Atkinson area and beyond were asked to stand to be recognized, and a large portion of the audience did so. "You have come here to honor or the memory of your friend," Schumacher said. "Thank you for being here today to honor Terry and Seato's memory. We pray this place will provide you, in your future, where you can come for quiet reflection and warm memories." Other honored guests included Robert Kollar of Rhode Island, a K-9 handler and creator of the War Dogs logo; Rudy Debolt, Ohio, past recipient of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association (VDHA) President's Award; members of War Dogs Milwaukee; Cody Crangle of Menomonee Falls, and K-9 Flo, handler and K-9 veterans flag-bearer; Andy Jorgensen, retired state Assembly representative; and state Sen. Steve Nass. Several veteran K-9 handlers and their partners were called out by name during the ceremony, and Schumacher named one final veteran K-9 handler in particular.

"He is most definitely here in spirit," she said of Terry Beck. "He smiles down as we remember him and the bond he had with his K-9 partner, Seato." Vietnam veteran, Jefferson County Supervisor and past Fort Atkinson City Council President Dick Schultz read a tribute to Beck. He noted that U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Terrence Daniel Beck was born on July 13, 1949, in Dubuque, Iowa. The family moved to Fort Atkinson in 1963. Schultz said initially attended a military academy in Lake Geneva, but transferred to Fort Atkinson for the remainder of his high school years. A football player, Beck was known as a drummer in his popular band called the "Sessions." "Terry had a life-long love of the military," Schultz said. "He planned to make it his career. As a child, he constantly played army, as many of us did, with his friends, running around the neighborhood with helmets and toy guns." Beck joined the U.S. Marines in 1966. He told his friends he wanted to be in a special program and selected special force K-9 training, where he partnered with Seato.

"In communication with his friends back home, Terry shared how much he enjoyed working with Seato," Schultz said. "Together, they would walk point in front of the troops. When it rained, they would take shelter together under Terry's poncho. They would lie together at night and Seato would keep him warm." "Bottom line, Terry described Seato as his best friend over there," Schultz said. Beck was only 18 years old when he began his tour of duty as a rifleman in the 1st Scout Dog Platoon on Oct. 5, 1967. Not even three months later, on Dec. 20, 1967, Terry and Seato were killed by small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province of Vietnam. "Today we honor Terry, Seato and the unbreakable bond they shared," Schultz said. Keynoting the dedication were Perry C. Money, of North Carolina, president of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, and Barbara Snow, of Florida, executive director of the Southern Chapter of the United States War Dogs Association. The Vietnam Dog Handlers Association represents the 10,000 dog handlers who served in Thailand and Vietnam.

Money is a Vietnam veteran K-9 handler, having served with his mine- and boobytrap-detection dog, Missy. He recognized Dziewior and Schumacher's contributions to the memorial with plaques made from the black walnut trees of North Carolina. Money then began his remarks by promising not to talk about his dog, because if he did, he would never stop. "My dog meant that much to me," Money told those gathered before sharing some war dog history. "In 1937, war in Europe was on the horizon. The commanding generals and senior officers of the U.S. Marine Corps got together in Washington, planning for a battle in Europe. Most of the senior officers were veterans of World War I and were familiar with the territory and they sat down to try and figure out how to address the battle plans against the Germans for Europe in World War II," he said. Money said much to the surprise of the senior officials, intelligence reports showed that the German army had 200,000 trained military working dogs. "At that time, the U.S. mili-

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# K-9 vets

(Continued from A5)  
 tary had zero working dogs," he said.

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military asked pet owners to donate their dogs to the war effort as part of the Dogs for Defense program. The dogs were trained and used for guard and patrol.

"Over a period of a few months, almost 40,000 dogs were donated to the U.S. military effort," Money said. "Most of them were rejected and sent back to their original owners."

However, he noted that those dogs that did serve prevented injuries to countless American soldiers.

Fast-forwarding to the Vietnam War, he said that the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association has the names of 4,342 dogs that served in Vietnam and Thailand.

Just within the U.S. Army alone, it is estimated that deployment of the dogs saved the lives of 10,000 U.S. soldiers.

Adding in other divisions of the military, Money suggested that it is reasonable to estimate perhaps 20,000 U.S. service members did not lose their lives thanks to service dogs.

Money noted that if the Vietnam memorial in Washington D.C. were to add all the names of those who would have been lost had it not been for the dogs, "the wall" would be 200 feet longer.

Acknowledging that some of those numbers are estimates, Money said one number is solid: That of Top Dog: A group of dogs and handlers that set up defense positions around the Air Force bases in Thailand and South Vietnam.

"From the day the Air Force sentry dogs were deployed to the end of the war, there was not a single loss of military life or single piece of military equipment that was damaged by a saboteur getting past a sentry dog," Money said.

Concluding his remarks, he encouraged all to never miss an opportunity to welcome a veteran home, shake his or her hand and thank him or her for serving America.

Snow, meanwhile, has a long history of advocacy and support for military working dogs. She provided the quotation on the memorial that states "As we pause to remember our heroes, let us also pause to remember our heroes with paws."

She said she was honored to be present.

"I love to be in a room or outside with all these people here that recognize all our heroes: the military, the law enforcement and, in particular, the heroes on both ends of the leash," Snow said before sharing a poem she wrote about K-9 partners from a handler's point of view.

Within Wisconsin, Snow said, 335 dogs have died in service and gave their life in the line of duty.

She presented medals and certificates of honor to Ted Beck and Connie Beck Wald in honor of Terry Beck and his K-9 partner, Seato.

In addition, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott



**REMEMBERING** — Spearheaded by Mabel Schumacher and Dan Juday, a memorial honoring military K-9 officers and their handlers was dedicated in Fort Atkinson's McCoy Park Sunday. It was inspired by the memory of Terrence (Terry) Beck, a fallen Fort Atkinson Marine Corps K-9 handler and his German Shepherd scout dog, Seato, who were killed in action in Vietnam on Dec. 20, 1967. An etched photo of Terry and Seato appear on the monument. Above right, sculptor Mark Dziejewicz added a personal touch for the Beck family underneath one of the dog statue's legs, inscribing Terry and Seato's names. Below, Beck's family members — from left, nephew Christopher Terrence Beck and his wife, Adrienne; niece Katherine Beck; sister Connie Beck Wald, and brother Ted Beck — pose with the monument. Pictured above left, the family members examine the statue to view the special inscription. Related photos and a story appear on pages A1 and A5. View all photos at [www.dailyunion.com](http://www.dailyunion.com). — Union photos by Ryan Whisner.



Gukich was recognized for the loss of his partner Mink, who was put to sleep Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016, after an attempt to surgically address a bladder tumor failed to improve his quality of life.

Cody Crangle and his K-9 partner, Flo, were honored with a medal and certificate for their service in Afghanistan.

Looking ahead, Snow said that with Schumacher's involvement, they might be able

to get even more done to recognize the importance of working dogs, such as get a federal designation for K-9 Veterans Day on March 13.

Additional acknowledgments were given by Donna Ingham, president of the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson, recognizing: Mark Dziejewicz, sculptor and memorial designer; John Block and Chuck Block, Block Memorial Company; Daniel Atkinson, granite etcher; Mary

Hill-Roth, Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson; Scott Lastusky, director of the Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department; Rudy Bushcott, assistant

city engineer; and the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation.

K-9 Veterans Memorial Committee members included Dziejewicz, Hill-Roth, Juday, Lastusky, Schumacher, Ingham, Jan Holeywinski, Mary Juday, Marleen LaPlant and Margaret Majors.

## Pakistan raises death toll from fuel tanker truck blaze to 157

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's prime minister cut short a trip abroad to rush to the side of victims of a massive fuel tanker fire as authorities on Monday raised the death toll from the blaze to 157.

The truck, carrying some 25,000 liters (6,600 gallons) of gasoline, was traveling from the southern port city of Karachi to Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital, when the driver lost control and crashed on a highway outside the town of Bahawalpur early on Sunday.

Alerted by an announcement over a mosque loudspeaker that an overturned tanker truck was leaking fuel, scores of villagers rushed to the scene to collect the spilled fuel when the blaze ignited. The wreck had exploded, engulfing people in flames as they screamed in terror.

Dr. Nahid Ahmed at the Nishtar Hospital in the city of Multan, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) away from the site of the fire, said four of the victims that were brought from Bahawalpur had died overnight, bringing the death toll to 157. Ahmed said 50 more severely burned victims were being treated at his hospital.

Rescue official Mohammad Baqar at the Bahawalpur hos-

pital said 20 more victims were transported on Monday by a military C-130 plane to Lahore for better medical care.

Prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who visited the Victoria Hospital in Bahawalpur on Monday, ordered that more of those most critically hurt be transferred to bigger hospitals in the area, Baqar said.

Sharif cut short his trip abroad and rushed back home, reaching Bahawalpur on Monday to visit the victims and console the affected families. Sharif also announced 2 million rupees — almost \$20,000 — as financial assistance for each family that had lost a family member in the highway inferno. Sharif also handed over checks of 1 million rupees (\$10,000) for each burned victim being treated at the hospital in Bahawalpur.

"This is not compensation, no compensation is possible for precious human life, but it is to help the affected families in distress," Sharif said, expressing his prayers for those killed and for a speedy recovery of the burned victims.

Many of the bodies were buried beyond recognition and will have to be identified through DNA testing, said

Baqar.

"I have never seen anything like it in my life. Victims trapped in the fireball. They were screaming for help," said Abdul Malik, a police officer who was among the first to arrive on the scene of horror in Pakistan's Punjab province.

When the flames subsided, he said, "we saw bodies everywhere. So many were just skeletons. The people who were alive were in really bad shape."

Some of the most badly burned were immediately evacuated by army helicopters to Multan. The dead included men, women and children.

The disaster struck on the eve of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr that follows the month of Ramadan. While Saudi Arabia and most other Muslim countries started celebrating the holiday Sunday, Pakistanis are marking it on Monday.

The scope of Sunday's tragedy was a first in Pakistan but in cases of massive oil leaks in impoverished countries, many of the poorest and least educated often rush to the scene to collect the spilled fuel, unaware of the grave danger they face. In recent years, such incidents have been reported in Nigeria and Sudan.

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