

Bones identified as missing West Allis woman

[Chris Mueller](#), USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 5:13 p.m. CDT April 25, 2016



(Photo: Photo courtesy Portage County Sheriff's Department)

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STEVENS POINT - Human bones found 18 years ago in a river in rural Portage County belong to a West Allis woman who had been missing since July 1995.

DNA testing confirmed the remains belong to 36-year-old Susan M. Glaser, the Portage County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Monday morning. The new positive test results came nearly two decades after human bones were found in the town of Amherst's Tomorrow River.

The remains were found May 11, 1998, and after an extensive search of the area, officers recovered a pelvis, two lumbar vertebrae and numerous pieces of clothing. Glaser had already been missing for nearly three years by then. DNA testing at the time determined the bones were human, but failed to identify the victim. The case went cold once leads in the investigation were exhausted.

In February 2014, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office in Minnesota requested a copy of the DNA profile from the remains to check if it matched a 1997 missing person, the release said. The remains did not match, but a new DNA test was done with newer, more advanced procedures.

Portage County detectives routinely review cold cases, but weren't aware of the more advanced testing at the time, Portage County Sheriff Mike Lukas said.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension sent the remains to a National Missing Person DNA Database. On July 7, 2014, the Minnesota agency identified the remains as belonging to Glaser.

The West Allis Police Department asked Portage County to keep the identity of the remains confidential to assist with the investigation. The identity was released as police in West Allis continue to look for evidence in the case — a challenge after so many years, Lukas said.

"The evidence is harder to gather as time goes on," he said.

As of Monday, no suspects had been arrested in connection with Glaser's death. The case remains under investigation by the West Allis Police Department, Portage County Sheriff's Office and Portage County Coroner's Office.

Anyone who may have information about the case is asked to contact Detective Jason Vanderwerff of the West Allis Police Department at 414-302-8079, or the West Allis Crime Stoppers at 414-476-2274. They also can contact the Portage County Sheriff's Office at 715-346-1400, or Portage County Crime Stoppers at 888-346-6600.

Source: <http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/story/news/local/2016/04/25/dna-testing-susan-m-glaser-identified-portage-county-west-allis-amherst-tomorrow-river/83488172/>

Doe Network Cases: 875UFWI and 3231DFWI