

Gun found, linked to anchorwoman's death

MARSHALL, Mich. (AP) — The gun used to kill a television anchorwoman was found and the investigation has narrowed to one suspect, a sheriff's spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Diane Newton King of WUHQ-TV in Battle Creek was shot twice Saturday night as she turned to get her two young children out of her car in the

driveway of her farmhouse.

"At this time, the investigation is starting to focus on an individual suspect," said Rob-in Ivey, administrative assistant for Calhoun County Sheriff Jon Olson.

Ivey said the suspect is male, but would not say if he is an anonymous admirer who harassed Newton King last year with repeated telephone calls

and a threatening letter.

"We have not really connected nor have we eliminated (the letter and phone calls) to the crime," Ivey said.

The rifle was found late Monday on the property of Newton King's home.

Newton King, 34, lived at the farmhouse with her husband, former police officer Bradford King, and their 3-year-old son

and 3-month-old daughter.

Ballistic tests conducted Tuesday confirmed the gun was the murder weapon, but fingerprint test results are not expected until next week, Ivey said.

Newton King told authorities last October she had received repeated harassing telephone calls from an anonymous admirer.

Michigan law would outlaw aided suicide

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A bill to outlaw assisted suicide in Michigan began its trek Tuesday through the Legislature with supporters saying two highly publicized cases could turn the state into a suicide haven.

However, the central figure in one of those cases, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, said the legislation is an irrational approach that ignores reality.

"That bill the way it is written is not going to solve any problems. It's going to compound the problem.... It ignores what the public wants," Kevorkian said in a telephone interview from his Royal Oak home.

On June 4, Kevorkian helped Janet Adkins, 54, of Portland use his "suicide machine" to inject herself with a fatal dose of drugs. Adkins suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

Kevorkian was charged with first-degree murder, but District Judge Gerald McNally dismissed the charge, saying Michigan has no law against assisted suicide. Last week, an Oakland County circuit judge made permanent an order that bans Kevorkian from helping anyone seeking to die.

A Loomis, Calif., man, Bertram Harper, 79, still faces trial in Wayne County on charges of open murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of his wife, Virginia, 69. Harper told police he pulled a plastic bag over her head after she took some sleeping pills on Aug. 19 in a motel near Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The couple, who had seen news accounts of Adkins' suicide and believed assisted suicide was legal in Michigan, came to Detroit so Virginia Harper, who had cancer, could kill herself.

The sponsor of the assisted suicide bill, Sen. Fred Dillingham, contends that unless the Legislature acts quickly, the state will become the nation's suicide capital.

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