

MICHIGAN: Pastor Arrested For Murder Has Violent Past

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ISABELLA COUNTY, Mich. (NEWSCHANNEL 3) - A church pastor arrested Thursday for a brutal murder in Isabella County also apparently has a violent past here in West Michigan.

55-year-old John Douglas White was arrested Thursday morning in connection to the murder of a 24-year-old woman in Mount Pleasant.

He's been charged with first-degree murder, after her body was dumped in a wooded area on the side of the road.

Police say 24-year-old Rebekah Gay was hit over the head with a mallet several times before being wrapped in plastic and dumped along the side of the road Wednesday.

White, a pastor at a church in Mount Pleasant, lived down the street.

Years ago, White lived in Galesburg, and was convicted of killing another woman.

Five years after his release from prison for that crime, investigators say White has killed again.

White was released from prison in 2007 after serving 12 years for manslaughter.

He was convicted of killing 26-year-old Vicki Wall in 1995. Her body was also discovered in a wooded area about two miles away from a Comstock grocery store.

At the time, Wall's mother told Newschannel 3 that the two dated.

According to state records, White was found guilty of assault with intent to murder in 1981 in Calhoun County.

In 1995, he was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Kalamazoo County, and now he's facing murder charges in Isabella County.

During the investigation into Gay's murder, police say White admitted to fantasizing about the 24-year-old, and that he was very attracted to her.

We're also learning that after White allegedly killed Gay, he dressed her 3-year-old son in his Halloween costume before the boy's father picked him up.

White apparently would look after the boy while Gay was at work.



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