



**NEWS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
of Public Safety  
Watch Commander  
(269) 329-4567

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 6, 2012  
Case No. 12-14595

**UPDATE ON MISSING PERSON**

On Saturday, October 6, 2012, at 7:58 a.m., the Portage Department of Public safety received a report that hunters had located a body in a swampy area of the State game area near the 3400 block of Vanderbilt Road. The body was badly decomposed.

Based on clothing still on the body and a purse found next to the body, investigators believe the body is that of the missing female, Bonnie Merckley. Merckley was reported missing from an adult care home located approximately a mile from where the body was found. Family members will be contacted and notified today. A forensic autopsy is scheduled for Sunday morning, October 7. The investigation remains open until final confirmation of identity by DNA.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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