

A-2 • Thursday, February 15, 2007 Green Bay Press-Gazette www.greenbaypressgazette.com

Local/Slate

Hunter/Lawyers plan not-guilty plea

► From A-1

moved with his family to Green Bay in 2004 and was trying to learn English. Nichols' family members said they were confident of their case, said Marinette County District Attorney Brent Deibel.

"We filed the charges. That speaks for itself," he said. He has not ruled out adding a hate-crime penalty enhancer. "We're looking into case law on that," he said.

Vang and Nichols both were in the Peabody area hunting on Jan. 5 when a chance encounter turned deadly, prosecutors say.

Vang died of multiple stab wounds and a shotgun blast to the head, neck and abdomen, according to Dr. Mark Wittek, the pathologist who conducted the autopsy.

Vang, 30, was hunting with friends on Jan. 5 and was reported missing after he failed to return to the car at the scheduled time.

Nichols, meanwhile, later showed up at a Marinette hospital. Jan. 5 with gunshot wounds to both hands. He said at first that he was hunting in rural Alabama — about 50 miles away — and was shot by an unknown person.

Sgt. Jason Duncan of the Marinette County Sheriff's Department testified he told Nichols the explanation sounded untrue. Nichols said he knew Nichols was a convicted felon who shouldn't possess firearms and gave him a few minutes to reconsider.

A short time later, Nichols allegedly asked the investiga-



Defense lawyer Henry Schultz, right, holds up the hands of his client, James Nichols, to show them wounds when he was treated at a hospital, during a preliminary hearing Wednesday in the Marinette County Circuit Court in Marinette. **Even Siegle/Press-Gazette**

He said he had no choice to do what he did, because he had been shot at."

Nichols told police that he was trying to tell the other hunter do something else when the other hunter started speaking gibberish and shot him in the hand. Nichols said he was charged a second time as charged the other man.

Nichols said he was on the man before a third shot was fired and the other hunter choked him and tried to gouge

his eyes out.

In a later interview with Detective Anthony O'Neill, Nichols allegedly said he had tried and killed a squirrel when he was approached by a hunting hunter Nichols said.

Nichols said the other hunter pointed a .22-caliber

rifle at him and shot him in the right hand.

Nichols told O'Neill that he ran about 40 feet and hid behind a tree before firing a "wild shot" in the direction of the other hunter before being shot in the other hand.

Nichols said the man's gun was pointed at him, so he charged at the shooter and wrestled the gun away from him.

Nichols told detectives that he stabbed the other hunter twice in the neck and then covered the body and kicked the rifle under a bush, the complaint said.

Nichols indicated the spot where Vang's body could be found.

Vang's body was found early Jan. 6.

The autopsy showed Vang was stabbed five times in the front of the neck and once in the chest. One of the knife wounds severed Vang's jugular vein. Tissue wounds from the shotgun were found on Vang's right arm, chest, neck, hand and face, and caused damage to the carotid artery in the neck.

School district may file complaint against area group

Political committee failed to file campaign finance reports

BY KELLY MCGRIDE
kmcgride@greenbaypressgazette.com

The Green Bay School District may file a complaint with the district attorney against a political committee that failed to file campaign finance reports with the district, despite spending more than \$200 on advertising.

No decision had been made as of Wednesday afternoon, but Nersis said it appears there may have been a violation of campaign finance law.

The group filed two contrasting reports — standard reports for July 2006 and January 2007 advertising inserts that ran in issue copies of Wednesday's Green Bay Press-Gazette.

The group paid \$20 for the inserts, bright orange flyers that urge citizens to sign an anti-Tuesday's referendum that asks voters to support a \$90 million, fifth high school. The flyers were delivered to homes on the city's west side.

They other political committees, one supporting and one opposing the referendum, have registered with the district as required.

According to the state Election Board, political committees are required to register if they intend to financially support or oppose a referendum.

Registrations must be filed for committees receiving or disbursing \$25 or more for political purposes.

But the treasurer of the Concerned Taxpayers Committee said he was unaware of that requirement. Since the organization already existed — it was formed in 2001 — group treasurer Rod Goldblum thought there

was no need to register with the school district.

"We're registered with (Brown) county," Goldblum said. "We were under the impression that we're registered."

The organization is registered with the Brown County Clerk's office, but not claimed exemption from filing campaign finance reports, said county Clerk Debrae Marlette.

The group filed two contrasting reports — standard reports for July 2006 and January 2007 advertising inserts that ran in issue copies of Wednesday's Green Bay Press-Gazette.

The group paid \$20 for the inserts, bright orange flyers that urge citizens to sign an anti-Tuesday's referendum that asks voters to support a \$90 million, fifth high school. The flyers were delivered to homes on the city's west side.

They other political committees, one supporting and one opposing the referendum, have registered with the district as required.

According to the state Election Board, political committees are required to register if they intend to financially support or oppose a referendum.

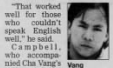
Registrations must be filed for committees receiving or disbursing \$25 or more for political purposes.

But the treasurer of the Concerned Taxpayers Committee said he was unaware of that requirement. Since the organization already existed — it was formed in 2001 — group treasurer Rod Goldblum thought there

Testimony hard on family, spokesman says

BY MIKE HOYT
mhoyt@greenbaypressgazette.com

MARINETTE — Cha Vang's widow and several family members found it difficult to listen Wednesday to testimony that was at times graphic, said Dan Campbell of Deibel County's family spokesman. "It caused some sadness but they were prepared for hearing it," Campbell said outside court. The Marinette County District Attorney's Office arranged for ongoing intervention for spectators.



Cha Vang's widow and several family members found it difficult to listen Wednesday to testimony that was at times graphic, said Dan Campbell of Deibel County's family spokesman.

"That shocked well for those who couldn't speak English well," he said. C.A. m.p.b.1.

Cha Vang's widow and her family to Wednesday's hearing in Marinette, and the community will be patient in letting justice run its course.

"They have a great deal of respect for the justice system," he said.

Vang's death set the spotlight on possible tensions between Hmong and other hunters for a second time. It came two years after a Hmong hunter shot and killed six white hunters in northeastern Wisconsin.

We Yia Thun, president of the United Hmong Community Center, which helped support the Vang family, said the Hmong and mainstream communities are making strides for better understanding.

"We are moving in a very positive way," said Thun. He said he would like to see Hmong organizations to work with the state Department of Natural Resources and state Department of Justice about basic hunting rules and improving cultural understanding, he said.

"We want to make sure we are on the same page and work together," he said. Hoang and Cacciatore can both be contacted," said Thun, who did not attend Wednesday's hearing.

Question 1

Shall the following Initial Resolution be approved? Be it enacted by the School Board of the Green Bay Area Public School District, Brown County, Wisconsin that there shall be issued pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$69,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of constructing and equipping a new high school facility, and expanding, remodeling, repairing, renovating, improving, and equipping District school facilities, acquiring school sites, and paying related costs.

Question 2

Shall the following Resolution be approved? Be it enacted by the School Board of the Green Bay Area Public School District, Brown County, Wisconsin that the revenue included in the School District budget for a three-year period beginning with the 2009-2010 school year be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.04, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,160,000, for nonrecurrent purposes.

Surprises expected in high-profile cases, Avery lawyer says

Defense set to question Dassey this morning

BY JOHN LEE
jlee@greenbaypressgazette.com

CHILTON — Perhaps no one was as surprised as Steven Avery's attorneys when Bobby Dassey, the defendant's nephew, said that Avery had asked for help disposing of a body shortly after Teresa Halbach disappeared.

Then again, said defense attorney Dean Strang, the fact that he was surprised at a high-profile trial isn't surprising.

"Trials are reality and when they are on TV they become reality TV," Strang said at a news conference after court ended for the day Wednesday.

Even though Dassey, whose brother Brendan Dassey, 17, also is charged in the slaying of Halbach, said it seemed like Avery was kidding when he asked about disposing of a



Steven Avery sits Wednesday during the third day of his trial in the Calumet County Courthouse in Chilton. Avery is accused of killing Teresa Halbach of St. John in 2005. **Bruce Halmo/AP — The Sheboygan Press**

same date that Halbach's family reported her missing — or Nov. 10, 2005, as police report of Dassey originally told them.

They will cross-examine Bobby Dassey this morning. At issue is whether Avery asked Dassey and his friend for help on Nov. 2, 2005 — the date Dassey testified he and the

other testimony Wednesday in Steven Avery's homicide trial. Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper Tim Austin testified he used a laser beam to plot thousands of measurements around Avery's A-16 Salvage to create computerized models of the 40-ton pit. The two- and three-dimensional diagrams and models are expected to be used when other witnesses testify about what they found on Avery's property.

Nicole Sturm told jurors that she, along with her mother, would do this," Strang said. "This is a surprise. It happened, and everybody has to react to it."

Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz said at his post-court news conference that Strang should not have been surprised because the police reports provided to defense attorneys months ago included Bobby Dassey's

account of Avery's alleged request. "I don't know who could be involved in this case and not know about the 'joke,'" he told reporters.

After Kratz was asked repeatedly if he was surprised by Dassey's statement, he didn't answer directly though he took a shot at Strang. "I talk to my witnesses as

"This is a surprise. It happened, and everybody has to react to it."

— Dean Strang, lawyer for Steven Avery

Kratz said he hopes jurors remember the two main reasons he called Dassey to testify. Dassey said he saw Halbach arrive at Avery's home about 2:30 p.m. Oct. 31, 2006, and that he saw her walking toward Avery's trailer later. He then took a shower and went hunting, and never saw Halbach or her vehicle again.

"It was important to establish the timeline and that Steven Avery was the last person to see Teresa Halbach," Kratz said.

Kratz said he would work now to put Dassey's testimony "in context."

"I had no reason to expect this at all because I have no reason to think this (question by Avery) even occurred," he said.

— John Lee writes for the Post-Crescent in Appleton

SATURN OF GREEN BAY | 1.800.877.9147 | www.saturnofgreenbay.com

0% for 60 mos.

2007 Saturn Vue starting at \$17,995