

Herald Times Reporter

MANITOWOC COUNTY, WIS. www.htnews.com 50 cents

SATURDAY
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Lincoln's Becka, Roncalli's Gille going for title, BI



Iraq war threatens faith, CI

Is fur fake, or is it Fido?

WASHINGTON — That fur trim on your jacket that you think is fake? It is.

An animal advocacy group says its investigation has turned up coats — some with designer labels, some at high-end retailers — with fur from man's best friend.

The Humane Society of the United States said it purchased coats from reputable outlets, such as upscale Nordstrom, with designer labels — Andrew Marc, Tommy Hilf, for example — and found them trimmed with fur from domestic dogs, even though the fur was advertised as fake.

"It's an industry-wide deception," said Kristin Leppert, the head of the Humane Society's anti-fur campaign.

The investigation began after the society got a tip from someone who bought a coat with trim labeled as fake fur that felt real. Leppert and her team began buying coats from popular retailers and then had the coats tested by mass spectrometry, which measures the mass and sequence of proteins.

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A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

Halbach's sister helps establish evidence

Rivets from clothing found in burn barrel

BY ANDY NELESEN

CHILTON — Fifteen-year-old Katie Halbach testified Friday that she knew her sister, Teresa, owned a pair of Daisy Fuentes jeans because she had tossed her older sibling's old jeans.

The brand of jeans in Teresa Halbach's wardrobe are part of Steven Avery's murder trial because testimony Thursday revealed rivets from Daisy Fuentes jeans were found among debris in a burn barrel seized from Avery's property near Mishicot in Manitowoc County.

Special prosecutor Ken Kratz asked Katie Halbach how she remembered one specific pair of jeans out of her sister's wardrobe.

"One day she showed me a new pair of jeans she had and I noticed that the brand was Daisy Fuentes," Katie Halbach said. "I knew that Daisy Fuentes was an older person's old jeans."

"(For) those of us that are my age, you think Daisy Fuentes is an older person's old jeans. Is that what you told her?" Kratz asked.

"She's not old, but she's not young," Katie Halbach said, bringing a chuckle from the court gallery.

Fuentes, 46, is a former MTV personality who has owned a line of clothing.

Katie Halbach said that those jeans were missing from Teresa's belongings when her family went through her personal effects.

Halbach, reported missing Nov. 3, was last seen at Steven Avery's trailer on Halbach Avenue, 2005, photographing a minivan Avery wanted to sell through Auto Trader magazine. Halbach's vehicle was located on the Avery family's salvage yard property Nov. 5 and her charred remains were found in a burn pit there a few days later.

Avery, 44, is accused of killing Halbach and burning her body to hide the crime. Friday was the 10th day of testimony in Avery's homicide trial.

Katie Halbach, a high school sophomore, also helped prosecutors make a connection — in a brief scene — with a Toyota car key recovered inside Avery's bedroom.

Katie Halbach said that she picked up a blue Air National Guard lanyard at an aviation convention and gave the cord to her sister.

The nylon strap included a black plastic clasp and a key ring, she noted. Katie Halbach had an Air National Guard lanyard in

STEVEN AVERY TRIAL



Katie Halbach holds an Air National Guard lanyard identical to the one she gave to her sister, Teresa, after a visit to a local aviation convention during testimony in the Steven Avery murder trial on Friday at the Calumet County Courthouse in Chilton. The lanyard's connector was a match to the connector found attached to a Toyota key recovered in Avery's trailer on Nov. 8, 2005.

court Friday and the clasp fit the 60 attached to the Toyota key found during the Nov. 8 search of Avery's trailer.

"It was unclear, however, if the lanyard in court was a similar one owned by Katie Halbach, was the one owned by Teresa Halbach or was a sample obtained just for Friday's hearing. Prosecutors said to expect more testimony about the lanyard test next.

Avery's lawyers asked only a few questions on cross-examination.

Defense lawyer Jerome Bating said in a news conference after proceedings ended for the day that there was no reason to speculate on the testimony.

"We don't think that evidence is that compelling anyway," Bating said. "There was really no reason to challenge her memory on an item like that, that's in the bigger scheme of things, a relatively small part of this case."

"We got whatever information we needed out of her and let her go — it obviously wasn't going to be easy for her."

Andy Nelesen writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

Scouts cut trans fats from all cookies

Change reflects health concerns

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For much of the country, it's Girl Scout cookie time again. And this year, all these cookies, not just the Thin Mints and a few others, will come nearly free of harmful trans fats.

The Girl Scouts have marked their 90th year in the cookie business by getting most of the artificial fat out of all varieties of their famous treats, which had been under attack by a few health-focused consumer groups.

The change reflects a movement by the scouts in recent years to add an element of health consciousness to their annual bake sale.

This year, about half of all Girl Scout troops are also offering a sugar-free cookie called the Little Biscuits. A cookie with reduced saturated fat, the Carabao, was also introduced last year.

Talking with a popular recipe is something no cook does lightly, and Girl Scouts of the USA Vice President Denise J. Pessich said the changes were only made after the two commercial bakeries that make the cookies found transfat alternatives that didn't compromise flavor, texture or shelf life.

Pessich said she was confident fans would notice few differences. The recipe changes have also given troop leaders an opportunity to talk more about the importance of eating right, Pessich said.

"They know that, for one thing, you need to make informed choices. You need to read labels," she said.

In making the adjustments, the scouts are following other manufacturers who rid their products of trans fats after the Food and Drug Administration began requiring food labels to carry information on the substance last year. Scientific studies have linked trans fats to heart disease.

Cities around the country are also taking steps to ban trans fats at restaurants, New York became the first city to do so last year.

On the Web

www.girlscouts.org

Mini-courses expand world for Washington students

BY HELEN CLARKE

Manitowoc Reporter

MANITOWOC — Eddie Downing has already designed a tattoo for his mother, and on Friday the 14-year-old spent the morning doing the same for his classmates in the Washington Junior High School cafeteria.

But while his mother's ink is permanent, the eighth-grader used henna to draw freckle-like designs on his friends' arms, which will only last up to three weeks.

"I'm a really good artist, so my study hall teacher asked if I wanted to help," said Downing, an avid viewer of the popular tattoo parlor TV show "Miami Ink."

Downing was part of a henna tattoo class at Washington, where a mini-course day was held Friday. The purpose of the day was to get students involved in a different type of learning and teach them skills they could use outside the

"I still remember as a young man of 13 taking chess, juggling and photography. Those continue to be hobbies of mine today."

Social Studies teacher Dennis Larsen

walls of the school. And for at least one student, the plan was successful in opening his mind past standard education.

"I thought I wanted to be an architect, but now people are telling me I should do this," Downing said. "Maybe I'll do tattoos."

Social Studies teacher Dennis Larsen "planted the seed" for the mini-course day, which he previously introduced at L.B. Clarke Middle School in

Two Rivers.

"It was patterned after something that I did when I was a junior high student in Manitowoc a few decades ago," Larsen said. "I still remember as a young man of 13 taking chess, juggling and photography. Those continue to be hobbies of mine today."

The hope was that students would connect with others who share similar interests while learning new hobbies or activities, Larsen said. But the interaction wasn't intended to be solely among students.

Seventh-grader Robert Woxell took on the role of teacher for the day when he joined forces with Barb Hooper, assistant principal, to lead a class on balloon creations.

"I have virtually no talent," Hooper said, adding that she was almost completely dependent on Woxell to teach the students. "My fingers hurt from tying all the balloons."

See LEARNING, A5



Special education teacher Erin Isaacson applies a henna tattoo on the arm of Darion Maxwell during mini-course day Friday at Washington Junior High School.

HERALD TIMES REPORTER

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Saturday, February 24, 2007 A5

DNA analyst says blood from Avery and Halbach found in Halbach's SUV

BY ANDY NELSEN

Special Reporter

CHILTON — It is 410,000,000,000,000,000.

That's the odds — 1st question — that it was some one else's blood in the spots on the seats of Halbach's SUV, not Steven Avery's, the man accused of killing Halbach and burning her body in October 2005. State Crime Lab DNA analyst Barry Culhane testified Friday.

Culhane also said that DNA analysis statistically proved that blood from a different person found in the cargo area of the 1998 Toyota RAV4 belonged to Halbach. Culhane said the odds of that blood belonging to someone other than Halbach was 1 in 46 quadrillion.

That's 16 zeros. The population of the entire planet is estimated at 6 billion.

Culhane — the 31st prosecution witness — took the stand about 11:15 a.m. Friday and spent more than an hour identifying which swabs were used to collect specific samples inside the Toyota, and documenting each with a photograph.

Ironically, Culhane was the

DNA analyst who proved Avery wasn't involved in the 1985 rape for which he spent 19 years in prison.

Special prosecutor Norman Gahn said that speaks to Culhane's objectivity.

"I think that helps her credibility," he said.

Avery's lawyers think differently of Culhane's role in Avery's history. She also analyzed DNA in the case in 1985 and connected Avery to the victim, said defense attorney Jerome Buting.

"Mr. Culhane is also the one who put him in prison in 1985," Buting said. "And she waited a whole year after the DNA samples were submitted in 2002 before they were tested and finally exonerated him in 2003."

"She was part of the state's case which convicted Steven Avery in the face of 16 alibi witnesses," Buting explained, promising more details Monday.

"Her bias or lack of bias is not what is in play currently," Buting said.

Culhane's afternoon testimony brought the details of whose DNA — mostly in blood evidence — was found in various

places. Culhane testified that the crime lab handled 245 pieces of evidence from the Halbach murder investigation, 193 of which required DNA analysis, something she described as a "very large" number of submissions. She had never before seen so many submissions in one case, she said.

Halbach's blood was found in several places in the vehicle's cargo area and on a VW Chevy Pepsi can found in the SUV's console, Culhane said.

Culhane said she also analyzed DNA found on a burned fragment of bone and a toothbrush recovered at the Avery property with a cell sample that was part of a rap similar Halbach had in 2002.

Culhane noted the DNA in Halbach's blood was degraded by fire and yielded only a partial profile. The sample matched Halbach's DNA at all the markers available.

Culhane was the one who verified that a forensic key recovered in Avery's trailer worked on the Halbach's RAV4. She also swabbed the key for DNA and DNA contributors to the samples.

Avery's DNA marker points.

Culhane testified she also found Avery's DNA.

■ In a bloodstain on the fabric in the vehicle's driver's seat, evidence from the Halbach murder investigation, 193 of which required DNA analysis, something she described as a "very large" number of submissions. She had never before seen so many submissions in one case, she said.

■ In a blood smear on the deck, near the ignition.

■ In blood crust on the vehicle's center console.

■ In blood found on the rear passenger-side door frame.

Avery's lawyers contend that Avery's blood was planted on Halbach's vehicle by Manitowoc County Sheriff's deputies using a blood sample stored in a file at the Manitowoc County Clerk of Courts.

The unsealed vial of blood was unopened while Avery's homicide case was pending. It had been drawn in 1995 during Avery's post-conviction bid for freedom.

Avery was eventually cleared and released from prison using DNA from a different blood sample.

Culhane said DNA samples from others who lived on the Avery property, which she said allowed her to rule them out as DNA contributors to the samples, she tested.

Highlights from Friday's Avery trial testimony

Associated Press

Here are some highlights of testimony in the trial of Steven Avery, accused of murdering Teresa Halbach on Halloween 2005. He had been released from prison in 2003 after serving 18 years for a rape that DNA analysis proved another man committed.

Events and testimony Friday morning included:

■ Circuit Judge Patrick Willis excused a juror, without objection from prosecutors or defense attorneys, because one of the man's out-of-state relatives died.

■ Willis postponed a decision on a defense motion to suppress evidence investi-

gators seized in Avery's trailer, garage and property. Defense attorney Dean Strang led a motion to suppress the evidence last summer, but renewed this week, saying testimony thus far allowed investigators to find general searches and became more thorough as the week went on. He said that contradicted summer testimony from investigators who said they seized all the relevant items during each search.

Special Prosecutor Tom Fallon said there was no basis in fact or law to suppress the evidence.

"Each day each hour, additional information became available to the office that would justify continuing operations here," Fallon said. "Probable cause wasn't only ex-

hausted it was increased."

Willis said he needed to hear all the evidence before he ruled.

■ Ronald L. Groff, a forensic scientist at the State Crime Lab, testified he photographed what looked to be reddish-brown stains in Halbach's sports utility vehicle, including in the back cargo area and near the ignition. Those tested positive for blood, he said.

He also testified to a photo that showed the vehicle's battery cable disconnected from the battery.

On cross-examination by defense attorney Jerome Buting, Groff said some photographs were taken on Nov. 6 and some on Nov. 8.

LEARNING

From A1

Worried said he has been working with balloons since he was 10 years old and committed to educating his peers for three of the four minicourse periods available.

"I'd rather be doing this," he said of missing out on taking other classes.

And that opportunity to lead rather than follow made open the possibility of breaking down barriers between the two populations at the school.

"I have found there to be connections made between students and staff members," Larsen said. "Sometimes, when students learn that a staff member has a hidden talent or a similar interest, we can find great gains in the day-to-day teaching."

To spark and maintain the interest of all those involved, the staff at Washington came to with their own ideas for the courses they opted to lead.

Family and consumer education teacher Beverly Deem brought in Bernmark's Confidant Lynn Pauder to satisfy her students' sweet tooth.

"I love chocolate. It's just good," seventh-grader Jonah Hernandez said about his interest in Deem's chocolate-making course. "As soon as I heard about it, I knew I was definitely taking it."

Cindi Sprang, office secretary, worked out student schedules for the day to accommodate the 17 mini-course options. Choices ranged from basketball to Spanish singing to oxoidee arrival skills.

"We want it to be a fun day for the students, but also a day of alternative learning," Larsen

said. "I envision doing this again."

By the third class period, the students already seemed to echo his sentiments.

"I think it was a good idea," Dana Van Straten, an eighth grader, said. "We could all use a break."

"The always wanted a tattoo, but my mom wouldn't let me get a real one," eighth-grader

Joseph DiBisce said while a heart pattern was drawn onto her hand with henna.

And thanks to Friday, her mother won't have to worry about it. At least for now.

Herbie Clarke, 920-686-7157 or hclarke@htrnews.com

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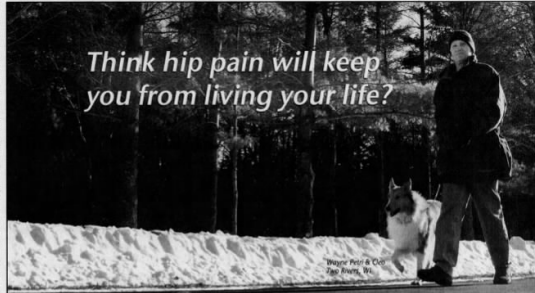
Stock Market Report

Closing prices from 2/23/07

DOW 12,647.41 (36.54) AMEX 2,362.47 (+2.77) NASDAQ 2,045.10 (14.04) NYSE 6,420.20 (12.86)

Table with columns for Stock Name, Price, Change, and Volume. Includes entries for Intel, Microsoft, Apple, and various mutual funds.

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Think hip pain will keep you from living your life?

Wayne Petri, an avid traveler and former long-distance runner, isn't quite ready for life to slow down. That's why he looked to Aurora Health Care when he was experiencing severe hip pain. Pain that kept him from doing the activities he loved most - walking his dog, going to football games and cutting wood.

He already had one successful hip replacement. And in October, Wayne underwent minimally invasive total joint replacement for his other hip. With access to the latest technology and tools like our Total Joint School, he was back home and back to his life after only two days.

Continually finding better ways to care for our community, Aurora Health Care's minimally invasive total joint replacement can help you reclaim life. Call (920) 794-5000 to schedule an orthopedic assessment to see if surgery is right for you, or ask your doctor to refer you to our Aurora Medical Center giving you access to the latest in technology and patient-centered care.

