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TUESDAY
April 17, 2007

Dassey trial takes different tack than Avery's

BY JOHN LEE
Special Times Staff Reporter



Roncalli, Kiel play to tie, B1
Lutheran's Brooke Schramm is in the Spotlight, B1

MANTOWOC — Attorneys quickly signaled Monday that Brendan Dassey's trial will not be much like the one that ended last month in his uncle Steven Avery's murder conviction. Dassey will contest on his admissions, whereas prosecutors received months of evidence, much of it highly technical, to tie Avery to Halbach's death. Dassey and Avery both were charged in the Oct. 31, 2005, slaying of Teresa Halbach, a 25-year-old freelance photographer from Calumet County. Dassey, though, actually

On the Web

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survive after what Teresa Halbach had done to her," said Calumet County Dist. Atty. Ken Krutz, special prosecutor in the case. That difference — Dassey's statements to police and Avery's denials — is the key to the difference in the trial. "I believe it will tell you how much Brendan is manipulated and was manipulated," defense attorney Mark Frenzen said. The difference is striking. Opening arguments in Dassey's case took just the morning versus days in his uncle's case. And instead of protracted fighting over evidence between attorneys that

sometimes took days in Avery's trial, already 80 items were admitted in Monday afternoon session. Dassey's attorney, Frenzen and Ray Edstein of Oshkosh, decided early to make the case mostly about the veracity of Dassey's statement, or acknowledge the truth and agreed to stipulate to, or acknowledge the truth of in the court record, many pieces of evidence not related to Dassey's statement. In any case, there is little physical evidence to support much of what Dassey told police in nearly eight hours of statements in the



Brendan Dassey is led from the Manitowoc County Jail to the Manitowoc County Courthouse Monday morning, the first day of his homicide trial. Dassey, 17, is charged in connection with the slaying of Teresa Halbach, a 25-year-old freelance photographer from Calumet County. See DASSEY, A2



Volunteers are an integral part of hospice care, C1

Longtime Aldermen anything but common

Kopetsky, Stokes are proud of time on council

BY KEVIN BRALEY
Herald Times Reporter

MANTOWOC — Manitowoc aldermen Gordon Kopetsky and Dolly Stokes have enjoyed the years they spent on the Manitowoc Common Council, but say it's time to move on. On Monday, Kopetsky, a 20-year veteran of the council, and Stokes, with 18 years of experience, attended their final Common Council meeting as elected officials.



On Monday — after 20 years as the District 7 alderman — Gordon Kopetsky attended his last Common Council meeting as an elected official. Kopetsky plans to spend his free time gardening, wood working and operating his model trains.

"I never thought I would do this for this long," Stokes, 71, said. "It's time to do something else." Kopetsky, 79, represented District 7 and Stokes represented District 1. Both had announced last fall that they would not seek reelection. Rick Stracki was the District 7 seat in the April 3 election and Christopher Able captured the District 3 opening. At Monday's meeting, Mayor Kevin Crawford thanked Kopetsky and Stokes for their years of service. "I'm very proud to have served with Gordy and Dolly," Crawford said. "They have been supporters of every progressive project and issue that has come before them and the council. "As far as filling their shoes, reentering the standing committees of the Common Council will be a much more difficult task with the leaving of two productive, senior aldermen." Gordon Kopetsky

Kopetsky first ran for what was the District 4 alderman's seat in 1987. He was elected and served for 18 years. Stokes was elected in 1989 and served for 18 years.

Hatchery-raised fish get tiny fin snipped

Associated Press

NETARTS, Ore. — When a salmon reared at the Whiskey Creek Fish Hatchery grows up, fishermen will be able to distinguish it from a wild chumby by the absence of a tiny fin. More than 350 volunteers turned out over the weekend for the hatchery's annual fin-flipping day, teaming up to give about 100,000 young salmon a telltale nip. "Once you get the hang of it, it gets pretty easy," said Avalon Reynolds-Brice, a sixth-grader from Portland who volunteered with her sister, Haave. The salmon get a dose of anesthesia before the scissors-wielding volunteers clip off the tiny adipose fin, located on the fish's back just in front of the tail. "They wake up and have no idea what's happened to them," said Jerry Dove, 68, president of Tillamook Anglers, which organized the gathering. The hatchery raises 200,000 salmon a year and places them in the Wilson and Trask rivers.

Gunman kills 32 in Va. Tech shooting spree

Attack deadliest in U.S. history

BY SUE LINDSEY
Special Times Staff Reporter

BLACKSBURG, Va. — A gunman massacred 32 people at Virginia Tech in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history Monday, cutting down his victims in two attacks two hours apart before the university could grasp what was happening and warn students. The bloodbath ended with the gunman committing suicide by bringing the death toll to 33 and stamping the campus in pictures. Blue Ridge Mountains with un-speakable tragedy, perpetrators gave no motive for the attack. The gunman's name was not



Police SWAT teams assemble outside Norris Hall on the Virginia Tech campus Monday in Blacksburg, Va. A gunman opened fire in a Virginia Tech dorm and then, two hours later, in a classroom across campus Monday, killing at least 30 people. The killer opened fire in the classroom building at about 7:15 a.m. on the fourth floor of West Arm, a high-rise, high-speed dormitory, then campus. Some of the

Steven Avery's attorneys file appeal

He was convicted of killing Halbach

BY JOHN LEE
Special Times Staff Reporter

MANTOWOC — Steven Avery's attorneys filed an appeal Monday in Manitowoc County Circuit Court of his conviction for killing Teresa Halbach. A Manitowoc County jury found Avery guilty on March 19 of killing Halbach, a 25-year-old freelance photographer, Oct. 31, 2005. He also was found guilty of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Avery's attorney, Dean Strang of Madison and Jerome Baring of Brookfield, filed the appeal, citing denial of a judicial motion to strike a juror who had served on a jury of a civil case in which a Manitowoc County sheriff's detective was awarded damages. The appeal also claims inconsistent verdicts, since Avery was acquitted of a mutilation of a corpse charge. "These verdicts are inconsistent and irreconcilable," Strang wrote in the appeal. "There was no rational basis on which to find that Avery killed Teresa Halbach, but did not mutilate her body by gunshot wounds to the head or by burning."

In all, Strang and Baring base Avery's appeal on seven contentions. Avery faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison plus 10 years in prison when he is sentenced June 1, although Judge Patrick Wilks can set a parole eligibility date if he wishes. Avery is being held in the Manitowoc County Jail without bond since his conviction. His nephew, Brendan Dassey, 17, is being tried now on charges of assault, homicide and mutilation of a corpse in connection with Halbach's death. Testimony began Monday and his trial is expected to conclude April 23. Judge Patrick Wilks, who presides over Avery's trial, will hear arguments in the Calumet County District Attorney Ken Krutz, who prosecuted Avery as a special prosecutor, said he had not seen the prosecution motion and declined to comment. John Lee: 920-993-1000, Ext. 362, or je@htrnews.com



Avery

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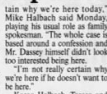
HERALD TIMES REPORTER

DASSEY

From A1
late winter of 2006.
Kratz said Dassey's case will be "markedly different" and "180 degrees different" from the Avery case. "We are dealing with a statement of a criminal defendant."
Kratz said Dassey's confession is "compelling," and "graphic and disturbing," but said it will still need corroboration.
"I think the emotional aspect of this case can't be overestimated," he said.
In a 90-minute opening statement, Kratz told jurors Dassey "stood ready and willing to assist" and Avery "lacked of Brendan's willingness" in the rape, murder and mutilation of Halbach.
The Dane County jury of 12 women and four men that is hearing the case will have just two questions to answer, Kratz told them.
"Was (Dassey) there and did he help?"
A day after Halbach's sport utility vehicle was found at the Avery family property west of Manitowoc, Dassey denied knowledge of Halbach's death, although he said he had seen Avery talking to Halbach on Oct. 31, 2005.
"The investigators decided that because it wasn't consistent with the timeline," Kratz said, "he was someone's suspect. He was a witness."
"That changed when he was interviewed again Feb. 27, 2006, and said he saw Avery near the fire, and saw body parts in the fire. He also told police he saw clothing in a bag in the garage."
Investigators found inconsistencies in his statement, and talked to him again March 1, 2006.
Kratz explained confessions and techniques the investigators used during nearly eight hours of statements Dassey gave police, most of which the jury will see here.
Eventually, he told police he did more than help after the fact. Dassey told police he and Avery slashed and stabbed Halbach, then carried her to the garage where Avery shot her.
Avery put the key to Halbach's vehicle in his bedroom after that, and police later found the key, as well as a bullet fragment in the garage with Halbach's DNA on it, he said.
Dassey told police Avery's cut finger was bleeding and her cell phone and camera were thrown in a fire, two statements supported by evidence found by police, and his account included details "only the murderer and the murderer's accomplice could know."
Dassey was charged shortly after the statements in March 2006.
But Fremgen, in his 23-minute opening, said Dassey "is at the time... is shy, withdrawn and has low cognitive ability." "It's about a 16-year-old boy at the time with low cognitive ability, fourth-grade reading levels, vulnerable to suggestion, (with a) low IQ, socially inept."
"You'll learn that this shy, socially inept, suggestible individual meets two highly intelligent, well-trained investigators."
"In the end there will be only one conclusion you can write for this chapter and this story, and that will be not guilty."
Fremgen told the jury a work "near evidence of Brendan Dassey's DNA. There wasn't any DNA, no blood, no saliva, no hair, no fingerprints. No science that is going to point you to Brendan Dassey."
Kratz started testimony by calling Halbach's mother, Karen, and sister, Katie, to talk about Teresa.
Tom Flashbecker, a special agent with the state Division of Criminal Investigation, and a colleague in the investigation, testified most of the afternoon on the search for Halbach, and the investigation into her death after her vehicle was found.

Halbachs keep Teresa's memory alive at Dassey trial

By ANDY NELESEN
Manitowoc Herald-Times Reporter
MANITOWOC — When Mike Halbach got up Monday and got ready to head to the Manitowoc County Courthouse, a full lot of family members were there.
"When I woke up this morning, I came here like it was normal for me to do this and I don't like that feeling," Halbach said after spending the day with his family in the front row at the Brendan Dassey homicide trial.
Dassey, 17, is accused of raping Halbach's sister, Teresa, on Oct. 31, 2005, and then helping Steven Avery kill her and burn her body to cover up the crime. Monday was the opening day of testimony in Dassey's case.
A jury last month found Avery, 44, guilty of Halbach's murder, and the Halbach family spent every day of that trial in the front row.
"Frankly I'm not really certain why we're here today," Mike Halbach said Monday, playing his usual role as family spokesman. "The whole case is based around a confession and Mr. Dassey himself didn't look too interested being here."
"I'm not really certain why we're here if he doesn't want to be here."
Karen Halbach, Teresa and Mike's mother, took the first turn on the witness stand. It was the job Mike held during the Avery case.
With a giant photo of Teresa projected onto nearby plasma TVs and video screens, Karen Halbach described her daughter — the second-oldest among her five children — as "a very caring, loving young woman."
"She was dedicated to her family, a hard worker," Karen Halbach testified.
"She had a great sense of humor and was always the life of the party — and had an abili-



HALBACH
Sixteen jurors from Dane County are hearing the case of first-degree sexual assault, first-degree intentional homicide and mutilation of a corpse.

ty to make people smile."
Karen Halbach said, noting that the last trial came in handy in her daughter's job as a freelance photographer, who "We don't want the jury to only know Teresa by her DNA profile," he said.
Karen Halbach testified calmly about how her family figured out Teresa was missing and the lengths they went to look for her Nov. 3 and 4, 2005.
"Volunteer searchers ultimately found Halbach's Toyota RAV4 on the Avery's Aunty Salvage property on Nov. 5, 2005. It was corroborated by debris around the other scrapped cars near a car crusher on the northeast portion of the 40-acre Avery plot."
Investigators found what turned out to be her charred remains three days later.
Katie Halbach, Teresa's now-16-year-old sister, testified Monday that she enjoyed hanging out with her big sister and spent time watching movies and shopping — most often for clothes.
Katie Halbach recalled seeing that her sister crossed a pair of Daisy Fuentes brand jeans, a factor that will come into play later in the trial when investigators discuss finding scorched rivets from Daisy Fuentes jeans in the burn pit where prosecutors allege Halbach's body was burned.
"It's still difficult and it still hurts," Mike Halbach said.

Andy Nelesen writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

Two Avery jurors attend Dassey trial in search of answers

By JOHN LEE
Green Bay Press-Gazette
MANITOWOC — Julie Dorn and Rick Mahler want answers.
The two members of the Manitowoc County jury that listened to five weeks of testimony in Steven Avery's case last month, were back in court Monday for Dassey's trial.
Mahler was a member of the original panel, but was excused after a half day of deliberations after his daughter was in a motor vehicle crash. He was replaced by an alternate as deliberations started over with the new juror. His daughter, he said, is fine.
Mahler said prosecutors didn't show the hood of a vehicle that was used to conceal Teresa Halbach's vehicle in the Avery

firearm by a felon, but not guilty of mutilation of a corpse in the death of Teresa Halbach.
Avery, 44, is being held in the Manitowoc County Jail without bond pending a June 1 sentencing.
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