

STEVEN AVERY TRIAL

TRIAL: Officers defend actions during search

Manitowish County sheriff's deputy Pete O'Connor said he was dispatched to the Avery property when dispatchers learned that two volunteer searchers had found Halbach's SUV about 125 yards from the salvage yard's car crusher. O'Connor testified that he never made it to the car because it was ordered to be removed to the property and to identify everyone leaving the area. O'Connor said three pickup trucks were leaving and were not stopped at the roadblock. "I was just getting set up when they went by," he said. The next officers at the scene were "flung down by volunteer searchers Pam and Nikole Sturm, who found what turned out to be Halbach's SUV covered in branches, debris and car parts. Manitowish County sheriff's Sgt. Jason Orth testified that when he looked inside the vehicle, he noted a small piece of paper with the name "Teresa" on it. He said he later learned that actually was a small memorial in the bathroom of Steven Avery's trailer. Bruta did not search near a barn where many remains were found because Avery's German shepherd was kept near by, Cramer said. During testimony Thursday, four sheriff's officers were asked about the massive police search that ensued after Halbach's vehicle was found, and defense attorneys look at how well evidence was secured.

JURY: 200 officers worked each day

Two hundred officers worked each day for the search, the second for five and the third for other evidence. The search also included search dogs and cadaver dogs, and the investigation that led to Avery's arrest has been called the largest-ever in Wisconsin.



Steven Avery

Sharp questions rankle officers

CHILTON — Despite the forced-friendly demeanor before the attorneys trying Steven Avery's case, there appears to be no love lost between the police and Avery's defense team. When attorney Jerome Bating questioned Manitowish County Sheriff's Sgt. Jason Orth about where he stood while taking breaks from guarding Halbach's SUV, things got snippy. "You were standing right next to Nikole and Pam Sturm when you would take those breaks," Bating asked. "When Orth's response was different from what he had said earlier, Bating looked to clarify. "Sir, didn't you just say that you stood in the exact location that Pam and Nikole Sturm stood in and could see the vehicle from that spot?" Bating asked. "I was in the same general area," Orth replied. "I did not stand in the exact spot."

Victim's mother a vision of grace

John Lee's trial blog... Kratz bristled at the family before court hearings, as he and Sheriff Jerry Pappert had them before details of the early investigation were released. But nothing can prepare a mother for what she will see, and it's going to get worse. Karen Halbach has worked her deep religious faith onto her children, and it may be working when someone like Milwaukee attorney Jerome Bating, and a lot of other people, go out of their way to tell how they sympathize with the family, and are impressed with the class they've shown. After the family opens the day in court, the pious home and the and Tom have chores on the farm, and they have two adolescent daughters who need them. Then she'll come back the next day and do it again. John Lee can be reached at 920-993-3300, or jlee@postcrescent.com.

Large advertisement for 'The Sale to Catch' featuring various seafood items like Icelandic Haddock Fillets, North Canadian Walleye Fillets, Farm-Raised Salmon Fillets, and Wild Pollock Fillets. Includes a 'ONE DAY ONLY! Sat., Feb. 17, 8am-4pm' banner and a 'Larry's Piggly Wiggly' logo at the bottom.

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