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Expert: Avery's DNA found in Halbach's car

CALLUMET COUNTY SHERIFF'S DETECTIVE Mark Wegert delivers DNA evidence to Sherry Culhane, a DNA analyst for the State Crime Lab, during the Steven Avery trial Friday at the Callumet County Courthouse in Chilton. Avery is accused of killing Tessa Halbach, 25, after she went to the family's rural salvage lot to photograph a minivan that was for sale.

INSIDE
Culhane's sister testified about clothing style / A-3
Notes from the courthouse / A-3

INSIDE
Culhane said the odds of that blood belonging to someone other than Halbach was 1 in 416 quadrillion.

INSIDE
That's 16 zeros. The population of the entire planet is estimated at 6.5 billion.

INSIDE
Culhane 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.

INSIDE
and documenting each with a photograph.

INSIDE
Ironically, Culhane was the DNA analyst who proved Avery wasn't involved in the 1985 rape for which he spent 18 years in prison.

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

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

INSIDE
Avery's attorneys think differently of Culhane's role in Avery's history. She also ambushed him in the case in 1983 and connected Avery to the victim, said defense attorney Jerome Buting.

See AVERV, A-3

Significant snowfall will start tonight

From 6 to 10 inches expected; winter storm watch issued for Valley

By Dan Wilson
Post-Crescent staff writer

The snowstorm headed in our direction won't really make its presence felt until after the dinner hour tonight, a weather expert says.

All of northeastern Wisconsin is under a winter storm watch through Sunday night, by which time 6 to 10 inches of snow could be on the ground.

What little snow will arrive today is a prelude to the main event tonight, as the moisture slowly moves up from the south.

"You will see maybe an inch or two Saturday in the Appleton area," said Tim Kieckheaf, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Green Bay.

That will dissipate and there will be a lull until mid-evening when the significant snowfall will start," he said.

People driving in that time period will find visibility a problem, as winds are expected to remain a steady 15 to 25 miles per hour.

"And those strong winds will continue into Sunday," Kieckheaf said.

The storm will primarily make life difficult for churchgoers on Sunday.

Temperatures will start to rise with the storm, making that Sunday snow much heavier with more moisture content than the fluffier stuff arriving today, said Kieckheaf.

See WILSON on the weather at 920-983-1000, ext. 304, or dan@postcrescent.com

Septic problems being reported

Cold weather with little snow creates havoc with systems / B-1

Have a story?

Need help getting your news in the paper? E-mail the Reader Help Desk at readerhelp@postcrescent.com or call 920-986-7222.

Setting it Straight

THURSDAY, FEB. 22, PAGE A-1
A 1.4 million under a piece of Lawrence University's Hiett Hall incorrectly stated that Spawey and Clara Hiett donated \$8 million to the university. The donation was from Ken Hiett Jordan, in honor of her parents.

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Chilton school board cuts police liaison officer position

Move will trim \$40,000 annually from budget

By Jim Oiler
Post-Crescent staff writer

The board voted to cut the program to save \$40,000. The move, which will take effect for the 2007-08 school year, is part of the board's effort to trim \$347,000 from its budget.

Nathan Schneider, a school district resident, said the community and parents should have had more of an opportunity to express their views before the school board voted this week to eliminate the program.

Lisow said the liaison officer program is valuable, though it had to be viewed as expendable given the school district's financial situation. The board would consider bringing back the position should state grant money become available to fund it, he said.

"By doing this, we can definitely afford to keep on a teacher," Lisow said.

Larry Seipel couldn't be reached for comment on the school board's decision.

Lisow said budget cutting is always difficult, and the board also felt strongly about the importance of having a police liaison officer available.

"It wasn't a popular move, but it was one we had to make," he said.

See OILER on the school board at 920-983-1000, ext. 314, or jim@postcrescent.com

The Steven Avery trial

On the Web
Coverage of the Steven Avery trial is updated continuously when court is in session at www.postcrescent.com/avery/

Use streaming video of the trial and press conferences is available on the site, as well as video reports from reporters at the courthouse.

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STEVEN AVERY TRIAL

The Post-Crescent, Appleton-Fox Cities, Wis. ■ A-3

Halbach's sister aids prosecutors

Evidence relation made with items found on property

By Andy Nelson
Special to the Post-Crescent

CHILTON — Fifteen-year-old Katie Halbach testified Friday that she knew her sister, Teresa, owned a pair of Daisy Fuentes jeans because she had teased her older sibling about wearing "old person" 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 barn barrel seized from Avery's property near Mishicot in Manitowish County.

Special prosecutor Ken Kratz asked Katie Halbach how she remembered a 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 so I told Teresa that she had old person jeans."

"[For] these of us that are my age, you think Daisy Fuentes is an older person? 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, 40, is a court gallery personality with Teresa Halbach on a summer

her own line of clothing. Katie Halbach said those jeans were missing from Teresa's belongings when her family were through her personal effects.

Halbach, reported missing Nov. 3, 2005, was last seen at Steven Avery's trailer on Highway 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 barn 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 trial.

Katie Halbach, a high school sophomore, also helped prosecutors make a connection — in a literal sense — with a forensic kit recovered inside Avery's bedroom.

Katie Halbach said that she picked up a blue Air National Guard lanyard at an aviation store and gave the cord to her sister. The lanyard strap included a black plastic clasp and a key. The key was found in the SUV's trunk during the Nov. 3 search of Avery's trailer.

It was unclear, however, if the lanyard in court was a sample one owned by Katie Halbach, was the one owned by Teresa Halbach or was a sample



KATIE HALBACH holds an Air National Guard lanyard identical to the one she gave to her sister, Teresa Halbach, during testimony 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 Steven Avery's trailer on Nov. 8, 2005.

pit obtained just for Friday's hearing. Prosecutors said to expect more testimony about the lanyard next week.

Avery's attorneys asked only a few questions on cross-examination. Defense attorney Jerome Buring said in a news conference after proceedings ended for the day that there was no reason to aggressively question the teenage girl.

"We don't think that evidence is that compelling anyway," Buring said. "There 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 she got it very easy for her," Andy Nelson writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

Tests showed blood was in Halbach's SUV

Forensic specialist used chemical process on stains

By Andy Nelson
Special to the Post-Crescent

CHILTON — Ron Greff, a forensic imaging specialist for the State Crime Lab, testified Friday that he photographed Teresa Halbach's Toyota Rav4 inside and out after it was brought to the State Crime Lab.

The vehicle was found on the Avery family's property Nov. 5, 2005, two days after Halbach was reported missing and five days after she was last seen photographing a minivan in Avery's yard, for Auto Trader magazine.

Greff said he saw what he thought were bloodstains all over the vehicle and used a chemical test to determine if they were blood. He found blood before DNA analysis. Sherry Cullhane started her work Friday.

Greff said the doors of the Rav4 were open when he arrived to document the vehicle. It remains unclear how the bloodstains got on the vehicle, but it was found at the scene. Volunteer searcher Niko Sturm said the vehicle was locked when she used a tissue to try the door handle on Nov. 5.

The security of the vehicle is at issue because Avery's lawyers

assert that Manitowish County sheriff's officials planted Avery's blood in the vehicle to frame him for Halbach's murder.

For those keeping track of the trial, Friday was the 10th day of testimony in what is expected to be a week-long trial. Prosecutors have called 33 witnesses, and four of those have testified across two days. DNA analyst Sherry Cullhane will become the fifth witness to testify with open days when she resumes her place in the witness box on Monday.

The attorneys have used more than 300 exhibits so far. There are 370 pieces of evidence at their disposal.

Greff said he expected to resume Monday unless a predicted weekend snowstorm makes it too treacherous to get folks safely to and from the Calumet County Courthouse.

Manitowish County Circuit Judge Patrick Willis said the court's jury check will notify the 15 remaining jurors by 8 p.m. Sunday if Monday is expected to be a snow day. Jurors are being bused daily from Manitowish County.

As he did last weekend, Willis said — an encouragement for jurors not to peek — he would provide them with a DVD of the trial's TV news coverage after the proceedings are handed on Nov. 5.

Andy Nelson writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

AVERY: Defendant's DNA found multiple places inside vehicle, analyst testifies

From A-1

many submissions in a case, she said.

Halbach's blood was found in several places in the vehicle's cargo area and a Wild Cherry Popo can found in the SUV's trunk, Cullhane said.

Cullhane said she also matched DNA found on a burned fragment of bone and tissue recovered at the Avery property with a cell sample that was part of a Pup smear Halbach had in 2002. Cullhane noted the DNA in the fragment was degraded by fire and yielded only a partial profile. The DNA matched Halbach's.

Cullhane was the one who verified that a Forensic key recovered in Avery's trailer worked in Halbach's Rav4. She also swabbed the key for DNA and found a profile that matched Avery's DNA.

Cullhane testified she also found Avery's DNA in a bloodstain on the floor of the vehicle's driver's seat.

"In a blood found on a CD case in the front seat," Cullhane testified, "I found a blood sample stored on the floor of the vehicle's driver's seat."

Cullhane admitted Friday there was a contamination issue in the current case when she introduced a DNA profile from a bullet fragment found in Avery's garage in early March.

Cullhane washed the bullet and found Halbach's DNA had been on the fragment. However, a "negative control" sample processed at the same time turned up Cullhane's own DNA. The sample it suppose to be void of any DNA and is used as a control factor in the DNA typing process.

"That means that during the extraction procedure, I inadvertently introduced my own DNA into the negative control," Cullhane said.

She said it did not affect the evidence sample because her DNA profile was not found in the results.

Cullhane said she has a handle on how her DNA got into the control sample.

"I believe it was introduced during the extraction procedure while I was talking to Cullhane, adding that she was tracing fingerprinted DNA analysis on the procedure used to

extraction procedure. I inadvertently introduced my own DNA into the negative control," Cullhane said.

She said it did not affect the evidence sample because her DNA profile was not found in the results.

Cullhane said she has a handle on how her DNA got into the control sample.

"I believe it was introduced during the extraction procedure while I was talking to Cullhane, adding that she was tracing fingerprinted DNA analysis on the procedure used to

"wash" the bullet fragment. Cullhane testified that she thinks Halbach is the source of the DNA on the bullet and the contamination is not an issue for the evidence.

Prosecutors declined to discuss the contamination issue in court. Buring said the issue is paramount.

"It's a big problem for us," Buring said after Friday's hearing. "We don't like it and I don't think it should be part of the trial."

Andy Nelson writes for the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

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