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**INSIDE TODAY**  
**Prosecutor Ken Kratz** walks by a computer screen displaying a photo of Teresa Halbach after his closing arguments Wednesday at the Calumet County Courthouse.

## "Sometimes the truth comes out in little drips and drabs when no one is expecting it."

JEROME BUTING, Avery attorney

# Defense calls for 'justice'

Prosecutor Ken Kratz walks by a computer screen displaying a photo of Teresa Halbach after his closing arguments Wednesday at the Calumet County Courthouse.

**Jury deliberations expected to begin today**  
By Andy Nelson  
General Reporter

**CHILTON** — Jurors hearing the evidence against Steven Avery are hearing the short form today of longer closing arguments they heard Wednesday.

Manitowish County Circuit Judge Patrick Willis curtailed closing arguments Wednesday after the lawyers' remarks advanced late into the day. Defense attorney Dean Strang took over this morning from his co-counsel, Jerome Buting, and gently explained what jurors could and couldn't do.

"Unfortunately, you are going to be unable to solve a murder here," Strang told the jurors who heard four weeks of testimony in the Avery homicide trial. Avery, 44, is accused of killing photographer Teresa Halbach on Halloween 2005 and burning her body to conceal the crime.

Despite human urge to figure out what happened, the jurors are not investigators and don't run a police department, Strang said.

Neither does the defense team, he noted.

"You can agree with the state, you can agree with the defense, but at some level you're not going to be able to solve the murder," Strang said.

"If Steven Avery didn't do it, we can't tell you who did."

A guilty verdict "is not going to be able to bring Teresa Halbach back through that door," Strang said, pointing to the courtroom door. "Better yet, bring her back through the door to her mom's house."

"Convicting someone won't bring closure either, he said.

"We can't provide closure here in any real or meaningful way," Strang said. "You'd like to be able to do that for the Teresa Halbach family, you'd like to be able to do that for the Steven Avery family, you'd like to do that for (Avery), for crying out loud."

Strang told the jurors that his client has "never in the broader public been presumed innocent."

"Justice and closure are two different things," Strang said.

**Righting a wrong**  
Strang said that jurors have a

**The Steven Avery trial**  
On the Web  
Four coverage is updated at [www.postcrescent.com/avery-trial](http://www.postcrescent.com/avery-trial) site. We offer:  
■ Four updates.  
■ Stories as they develop.  
■ Jim Lutz's blog.  
■ A photo gallery.  
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**Live video**  
Four closing arguments this morning, and the verdict, will be available at [www.postcrescent.com](http://www.postcrescent.com). We'll also post a story two hours before the verdict is read.

**On the Web**  
Financial de-Sanctimonizing  
Avery file very specific [www.safesite.org](http://www.safesite.org) support we've received, but the demand continues. "We need a lot more work, just the bare necessities."  
High-tech items include: canned soups, boxed dinners, canned meats and stews, juice in plastic containers, canned sauces, pasta, hot and cold cereals, baking goods, peanut butter, jelly, and macaroni and cheese.  
Businesses and organizations, including Church weight-loss centers, TheCares, Guardian Life Insurance, Secura Insurance Co. and M&I Support Services, are stepping forward.  
The agency received 4,813 pounds of food Wednesday from Festival Foods, 73195 Van Roy Road, through an ongoing "Food for Neighbors" program. The program offers customers an opportunity to purchase \$5 or \$10 packaged bags of groceries that the pantry will receive on a quarterly basis.  
Community First Credit unions are collecting food and cash donations through March 22.  
Kara Patterson can be reached at 920-993-1005, ext. 215, or [kpatterson@postcrescent.com](mailto:kpatterson@postcrescent.com).

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**P-C check: Doyle's office slow on records requests**  
Governor's office says staff shifts were a factor

By Ron Jones  
Post-Crescent Business Editor

**MADISON** — People seeking public records from the state's highest office last year were in for a wait. Gov. Jim Doyle's response to open-records requests slowed considerably in 2006, an election year, compared with 2005, according to a review of the documents by *The Post-Crescent*.

The newspaper's third annual audit found that 16 percent of people who made requests under the state Open Records Law either got their documents or learned that the records did not exist within two weeks. In 2005, about two-thirds of requests received do-

substantial increase in the number of requests.

The governor believes strongly in our open-records laws and demands that our office do the best we can to make information available without delay," Carter said. "That's what we try to do."

Bill Lunders, president of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, a group that advocates transition following the November election, and a

**Part 5 in series**  
**Sunday:** School district wants public in dark about legal bills.  
**Monday:** Most watchdog complaints to the state Justice Department go unaddressed.  
**Tuesday:** Many state agencies try on the first steps to open government.  
**Wednesday:** Local women fight for records about her son's death.  
**TOOK:** Public records habits of Gov. Jim Doyle's office.

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**SUNSHINE WEEK**  
**YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW**  
ments within that timeframe. The mark was above half in 2004.

Doyle spokesman Matt Carter attributed the slower response times last year to staffing changes in Doyle's legal office, a transition following the November election, and a

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Green Bay Press-Gazette

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Kratz and defense counsel Jerome Buting each talked to

**"Sometimes the truth comes out in little drips and drabs when no one is expecting it."**

JEROME BUTING, Avery attorney

## Attorneys put spin on Avery case

By Kara Patterson  
The Crescent and other

APPLETON — Community and community food drives, plus individual donations, have yielded about 8 tons of groceries in one week for the Salvation Army-Fox Cities' food pantry.

Because the pantry distributes 18 tons of food on average each month to income-qualified families, the grocery shortage that the faith-based social service agency announced last week isn't over yet, said Robby Waag, director of the Web Financial de-Sanation and Community Support Center. We're glad to see you're receiving, but the demand continues," Waag said Wednesday. "We need a lot more food, just the bare necessities."

High-end items include canned soups, boxed dinners, canned meats and stews, juice in plastic containers, canned sauces, pasta, hot and cold cereals, baking goods, peanut butter, jelly, and instant noodle dishes.

Businesses and organizations, including Carz weight-loss centers, Theodora's Guardian Life Insurance, Secura Insurance Co. and Mail Support Services, are stepping forward.

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**YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW**

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See RECORDS, A-7

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**Monday:** More watching complaints to the state Justice Department go unheeded.

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**Wednesday:** Local women fight for records about her son's death.

**THURSDAY:** Public-records habits of Gov. Jim Doyle's office.

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