

SUICIDE ATTACKERS KILL 57 AT U.S.-BASED HOTELS IN JORDAN WORLD / PAGE A9

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House removes Arctic oil drilling plan from budget bill

There's a lot more sex on television Study: Shows watched by teens have most

SPORTS / C1
HAPPY FEET Highly touted freshman Joe Krabbenhoft hopes his foot injuries are a thing of the past

Wisconsin State Journal

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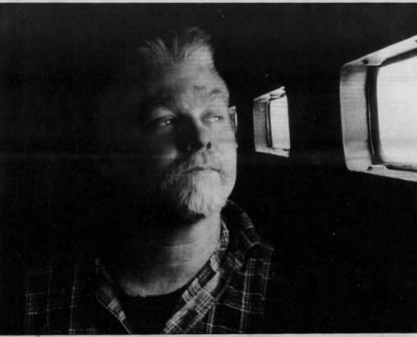


2003 Steven Avery hugs his cousin, Bill Sittman, after his release on Sept. 11, 2003, after spending 11 years in prison for a rape he did not commit.



2004 Avery listens during a Feb. 17, 2004, legislative hearing at the Capitol to the woman who wrongly accused him explains how sorry she is.

ANOTHER CLOUD OF SUSPICION



2005 Avery, shown at his family's business in Two Rivers in February, was arrested Wednesday on a weapons violation. He said Tuesday he thinks officials are trying to connect him with the disappearance of Teresa Halbach and the disappearance of a woman whose vehicle was found on property owned by the man's family.

WOMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATION

Avery arrested, charged with possession of firearm
By CARRIE ANTLINGER Associated Press
MILWAUKEE — A man who was wrongly convicted of rape 20 years ago was arrested Wednesday and charged with a weapons violation by a special prosecutor investigating the disappearance of a woman whose vehicle was found on property owned by the man's family.
Calumet County Sheriff Jerry Fugle, leading the investigation into the disappearance, said he expects evidence found in a search of the property included some that could be "human in nature."
Deputies found two guns in Steven Avery's trailer while searching for evidence in the disappearance of 25-year-old Teresa Marie Halbach, whose vehicle was found at the Manitowish County salvage

EVERY'S SAGA

After rape exoneration, he's in the spotlight again
By CARRIE ANTLINGER Associated Press
MILWAUKEE — Two years ago, Steven Avery left nearly two decades of prison behind when DNA evidence exonerated him of a rape.
Now, the 43-year-old is in the spotlight again after a missing woman's family found her green 1989 Toyota Rav4 in the Avery family's salvage lot in this rural area 90 miles north of Milwaukee.
Officers have said he is not a suspect more than anyone else in the disappearance of Teresa Marie Halbach.
Police say Avery was one of the last people who saw the 25-year-old Redwood phone-ringer before she vanished the afternoon of Halbach's disappearance.
Avery is scared
Avery said Tuesday that no one in his family could be re-

Blue River guide charged in illegal hunts

By ED TRELVEN etrelven@madison.com 608-251-6134
It was 2001 when a computer to a state conservation warden about a man leading hunters from Florida on questionable deer and turkey hunts from deer at a Blue River hunting guide.
The investigation that followed culminated Wednesday when state and federal prosecutors filed 186 charges against 46 people from 11 states — in charging the guide whom the hunters had paid to lead them on illegal hunts in Richland and Iowa counties.
Adam Lee Lawinger, 27, president of Blue River Outfitters, was charged Wednesday in U.S. District Court with conspiring to sell deer and turkeys that were illegally hunted and transported across state lines. A separate count charged him with selling two moose while-salted heads to hunters from California. Each of the charges carries up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.
Three out-of-state hunters each are charged with felony counts of buying and transporting illegally taken deer across state lines.
Lawinger could not be reached Wednesday in U.S. District Court with commenting.
Please see HUNTS, Page A11

Lessons of district echo through state

Crisis in Florence County stirs questions about state funding for schools.
By PHIL BRINKMAN philbrinkman@madison.com 608-252-6145
After what many thought was its last year, the Florence County School Board got a new lease on life this week, as a measure voted to die deeper into their pockets to keep school doors open.
But a state panel could still dissolve the district, and advocates for changing the way the state pays for its schools say lawmakers need to heed the lessons of what happened in Florence County or risk more damage to education, from the North Woods to Madison.
"We shouldn't have to run a public education system on the basis of repeated near catastrophes and last-minute, nightmarish appeals to voters," said Jack Norman, research director for the Institute for Democracy's Future. "We don't fund highways that way. We don't fund prisons that way, or courts. And schools are more important than any of those."
For only the second time in 11 attempts since 1995, voters Tuesday authorized the Florence County School Board to raise property taxes above the maximum allowed under state-imposed revenue caps.
The \$4.75 million increase over five years will "stabilize" the struggling district, Administrator Joe Doherty said Wednesday, allowing it to continue the same level of programs it provides today while policymakers hunt for a long-term solution to funding districts with similarly declining enrollments.
Although some said Tuesday shouldn't have to run a public education system on the

Madison poet, erstwhile B-actor Carl Thayer dies

He paid a "very high price" for his art.
By GEORGE WESSLER gwessler@madison.com 608-252-6145
One of Madison's most successful unknown poets, Carl Thayer, was found dead of natural causes Tuesday in his small apartment a few blocks off Park Street.
He was 72 and leaves family in California, several books of sometimes critical poetry and an unfinished desire to buy a candy apple and honey.
His poetry was published in several books and small jour-

Sunny to partly cloudy
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Arrest

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to Halbach's case is that deputies found them while searching for Halbach. He said he felt it was his duty to arrest Avery.

"I felt uncomfortable allowing that individual to remain on the street," said Krutz, who was appointed special prosecutor in the case because Avery is using Manitowish County over his wrongful conviction.

Page1 said deputies found significant evidence at the salvage yard, but he refused to say what evidence was found.

When asked whether investigators found human remains, Page1 said the crime lab is analyzing evidence its experts feel is "human in nature."

Krutz said authorities also ordered members of Avery's family to provide blood and saliva samples and palm and hand prints. They also were told to detail any wounds they may have.

Avery's attorney, Will Kelly, said he thought deputies took Avery into custody so they could interview him about the missing woman.

"I fear ... that they will try to use his words against him," Kelly said.

Avery was convicted of burglary twice in 1981 and 1982 in Manitowish County, according to the complaint. He also was convicted of cruelty to animals in 1982 and of endangering safety and being a felon in possession of a firearm in 1983. In the 1983 case, Avery was



Manitowish County District Attorney Ken Krutz, left, and Manitowish County Sheriff Jerry Page1 talk about the Teresa Halbach disappearance at a news conference Tuesday in Mukwonago.

account of running a deputy sheriff's wife off the road at gunpoint, according to the state Department of Justice.

Deputies searching for Halbach found the shell casing and gun — a .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle and a .30-caliber black-powder muzzleloader — Sunday, a day after Halbach's family found her green SUV at Avery's Auto Salvage, according to the complaint.

Halbach, a freelance photographer, was last seen Oct. 31 when she had three appointments for Auto Trader Magazine, taking pictures of cars for sale. One stop was at the Avery salvage yard near Mukwonago in Manitowish County.

Avery, 43, has said Halbach

took pictures of a minivan the family had for sale and left, apparently driving toward the Elmwood. Halbach's family didn't hear from her for days, became alarmed and reported her missing Nov. 3.

Since her car was found, investigators have searched the 40-acre lot and the family's residence, visiting Avery's car and the salvage yard's Babcock truck. More than 100 witnesses have helped in the search.

Avery, who lives in a trailer near the salvage yard, was imprisoned in 1986 after a jury convicted him of sexual assault and a judge sentenced him to 22 years. He was freed after a law school group convinced a judge to allow new DNA testing, which linked the crime to another man already in prison for another sexual assault.

Halbach's brother, Mike Halbach, said the family was disappointed and wanted to hear investigators may have found evidence of human remains.

"We are definitely hopeful it will," he said. "At the same time we understand the reality of the situation. As they find more evidence, our opinion of what happened is slowly changing."

He said his family considered Avery's arrest unrelated to his sister's disappearance and that pending DNA tests for the Avery family was helpful because her vehicle was found on their property.

About 60 people continued a search Wednesday. Halbach said Page1 told them to search within about a half mile of the Avery salvage yard.

Avery

Continued from Page A1

deputy," he said. "They are going to come and get me and arrest me."

A coincidence?

The Halbach family, including her four brothers and sisters, is going through an oven search, spending nearly every waking moment looking for her. The family and hundreds of others have put up miniature person files and the community of about 1,400 people. They've searched farms, fields, woods, ditches and caves.

Tina Lee Olson, who has coached girls volleyball with Halbach's brother, Steve, at Hoover School in Sherwood, describes her as a free spirit and always laughing someone with tears in her eyes every time you look at her.

Halbach worked with Green Bay photography studio and also as a florist. She was last seen doing three appointments for Auto Trader Magazine, taking pictures of cars for sale. It's possible that her last stop was at the Avery salvage yard.

Halbach's family didn't hear from her for days, became alarmed and reported her missing Nov. 3, and authorities began searching, soon joined by more than 100 witnesses.

Halbach's 23-year-old son, Mike, said he was with the conviction to Avery.

"It is a coincidence that happened on his property? Maybe there's more to do with this," Halbach said when interviewed at his sister's home in Mukwonago.

"We trust that the other officers will do a thorough search and investigation and eventually it will lead to an answer."

Avery, who lives in a trailer near the salvage yard, was imprisoned in 1986 after a jury convicted him of sexual assault and a judge sentenced him to 22 years. He was freed after a law school group convinced a judge to allow new DNA testing of a public near found on the scene. The testing linked the crime to a man serving a 60-year sentence for another sexual assault and ruled out Avery, who was freed

on Sept. 11, 2003.

Since then, Kelly "has been helping out at the yard, eight hours a day," he said. He is not paid, but his family helps him with food and gas. "I wish I had any other brother. It gives me something to do to use my law suit is settled," he said.

Lives on hold

Halbach's brother said that family is reassured for now that there's progress in the investigation.

"We don't plan on moving around with our cars, how help her move on with her life," he said. "Our father is 100 percent that she is alive. Used to be an optimist, but it's what we will continue to believe."

On Thursday, Avery said he can't move forward either.

"My life is still on hold," he said. "I can't do nothing, I don't know, I take it day by day."

— State Journal reporter Brenda Ingersoll contributed to this story.

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