WI vs. Taylor Schabusiness Day 2

07 December 2025 15:09

Day 2 - 25 July 2023

Key pre-testimony events:

Outside the jury's presence:

The defence sought to broaden the scope of a witness that should be testifying soon called Dr. O'Donnel; a pharmacologist who they wish to have him testify to the fact that the long term use of Meth can cause chronic brain damage and this use worsened Taylor's psychiatric conditions. They also argued that use of Marijuana as an adolescent can cause some issues with brain development and Taylor was not taking her bipolar medications which can contribute to her mental state. They continued the deliberation on the bench. [36:45-49:57]

Today's witnesses:

- 1. Continuation Witness #11 State Witness #11 Philip Scanlon Detective at GBPD
- Witness #12 State Witness #12 Dr. Vincent Tranchida Chief Medical Examiner Dane County [1:23:00]
- 3. Witness #13 State Witness #13 Bryce Haynes Patrol Deputy [3:00:16]
- 4. Witness #14 State Witness #14 Garth Russell Police Officer GBPD [3:09:09]
- 5. Witness #15 State Witness #15 Leut. Tom Bachmann Police officer GBPD [3:34:14]
- 6. Witness #15 State Witness #15 Tim Kenny Patrol Officer GBPD [5:11:55]
- 7. Witness #16 State Witness #16 Leo Whitman Patrol Officer GBPD [5:21:56]
- 8. Witness #17 State Witness #17 Kevin Scott DNA Analyst [5:34:12]
- 9. Witness #18 State Witness #18 Olivia Sassman Evidence Specialist DCI [6:32:24]
- 10. Witness #19 State Witness #19 Alexander Gannon, prefers to be called AJ Friend of Shad Thyrian [6:49:50]
- 11. Witness #20 State Witness #20 Craig Pakkala Detective [7:25:26]
- 12. Witness #20 State Witness #21 Nathan Kolinski Evidence Tech GBPD [7:55:58]
- 13. Witness #21 State Witness #21 Jean Rakers Evidence technician [08:05:06]
- 14. Witness #22 State Witness #22 Kendall Danowski Computer Forensic Examiner GBPD
- 15. Witness #23 State Witness #23 Roberta Luberda Detective [8:30:23]

Testimonies:

1. Continuation - Witness #11 - State Witness #11 - Philip Scanlon - Detective at GBPD

- a. Cross exam [53:28]
 - The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam; . No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- b. No redirect exam was conducted

Witness Function

Advance the state timeline

Witness #12 - State Witness #12 - Dr. Vincent Tranchida - Chief Medical Examiner -Dane County [1:23:00]

- a. Direct exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2
 - Vincent Tranchida being a deputy medical county examiner and provided his work history, qualifications; educational background which includes forensic neuropathology, and his duties as a deputy medical examiner. [1:24:00-1:26:40]

- ii. Vincent Tranchida testifies to Petra Schwab being the lead investigator in the medical examiners officers who notified the office about the case. [1:28:50-1:30:00]
 - 1. He testifies to what he did when they attended to the scene and the PPE utilised when collecting evidence.
- iii. Vincent Tranchida testifies further about what he is primarily looking for when he undergoes his duties. [1:34:00-1:34:45]
- iv. Vincent Tranchida testifies to recovering body parts from the scene; right femur, a portion of the left thigh and left lef from about the knee level to the ankle; recovered from the van. [1:37:17- 1:38:45]
 - 1. He testifies to a crockpot being used to recover the body parts.

Outside the jury's presence:

Arguments were made outside of the jury's presence regarding the use of the photographs were defence objected its not necessary as Dr. Vincent can determine the manner and cause of death without the use of the pictures. The judge ruled that the pictures can be shown to the jury citing it can be useful for the jury in understanding the testimony better and its more probative than prejudicial. [1:47:29-2:06:04]

- 5. Vincent Tranchida testifies to the cause of death of Shad Tyrion and manner of death is homicide and goes on to detail the meanings of both classifications.[2:12:55-2:30:20]
 - a. He testifies to how he determined the strangulation cause of death from his autopsy examination.
 - i. He testifies to there a cyanosis to the head and upper neck; a deep purplish discoloration or congestion to the head.
 - ii. He testifies to there being deep skin cuts and haemorraghes that are consistent with dismemberment.
 - iii. He testifies to there being coloration that indicates that the strangulation also occurred post mortem. [2:23:45]
 - iv. He testifies to there being contusions or bruises to his left chest
- 6. Vincent Tranchida testifies to the dismemberment of the victim and how the indicators of the dismemberment [2:30:30-2:39:10]
 - a. He testifies to the dismemberment of the lower neck area, the torso, amputations at the right shoulder, stab wounds of the extremities at the abdomen, skin removal at the right thigh; left foot was recovered from within the left chest cavity placed there; femur was largely DE fleshed and the right knee to the right foot was still intact.
 - i. He testifies to the torso being eviscerated through various cuts both at the abdomen and between the ribs where the victims organs has been removed, largely one by one.
 - 1. He testifies that the decendent has been castrated as well.
 - ii. He testifies to there being skeletal dismemberment.
 - 1. He testifies to the pelvis has been cut right at the pubic bone, so has the neck and head.
 - 2. He testifies to sharp force trauma that's a distal right arm.
 - 3. He testifies to the severing of the left femur; both at the hip and distal left femur.
 - 4. He testifies to the separation of the left kneecap and left lower leg separated at the distal tibia and fibula.
 - 5. He testifies to the right hip socket being opened and separated.
 - 6. He testifies to the attempted dismemberment or amputation of limber.
- 7. Vincent Tranchida testifies to the difficulties faced when conducting the toxicology of the autopsy due to disruption of the vascular system but were able to extract other fluids for the toxicology testing. [2:39:10-2:44:10]
 - a. He testifies to finding cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, delta 9; active component in the marijuana drug, and nicotine.
- 2. Cross exam [2:44:55]
 - a. Vincent Tranchida testifies to only being able to approximate a time of death but they listed the time of death as the time examined by a medical professional. [2:45:00-2:45:20] Time of death
 - b. Cross exam reasserts testimony from direct exam (a): ii [2:45:20-2:46:40]

- c. Vincent Tranchida testifies to the severed head and other body parts found in buckets and in other containers are not a common occurrence in his line of work. [2:46:40-2:48:55] Uniqueness
- d. Cross exam reasserts testimony from direct exam (a): iii [2:48:55-2:51:00] Reasserts duties
- e. Vincent Tranchida testifies to the victim not overdosing in this case. [2:55:20-2:56:20]
- 3. No redirect exam was conducted.

Advance the state timeline

3. Witness #13 - State Witness #13 - Bryce Haynes - Patrol Deputy [3:00:16]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - i. Bryce Haynes testifies to being dispatched to the scene and located the van in the vicinity. [3:01:10-3:02:40]
 - ii. Bryce Haynes testifies to being at the scene for 10 or 15 minutes and was only assisting the officers from Green Bay Police Officer. [3:05:10-3:05:20] Involvement
- b. Cross exam [3:05:20]
 - i. Bryce Haynes testifies to being released by the Green Bay Police officer around 5am.
 - ii. The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam; . No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. No redirect exam was conducted.

Witness Function

Advance the state timeline

4. Witness #14 - State Witness #14 - Garth Russell - Police Officer GBPD [3:09:09]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - . Garth Russell testifies to being tasked to assist in locating a gold Chrysler van and the person associated with the van. [3:10:50-3:13:20]
 - 1. He testifies to being with other officers and were inspecting if there was anything suspicious about the van.
 - a. He testifies to the marking lights on the van blinked twice indicating that someone was manipulating with the van and someone came out of the apartment complex
 - He testifies to identifying the person as Taylor Schabusiness.
 - He testifies to making contact with Taylor and noticed dried blood on her sweatshirt and noticed smeared blood on her hands.
 - ii. Garth Russell testifies to the bodycam footage he wore that night and 4 minutes of the footage was played with audio for the jury, timestamped 5:12am, 23 February 2022. [3:14:38-3:19:52]
 - 1. Officer Garth Russell is seen reacting to seeing blood on the floor to which he decribes as bloody footprints. [3:17:01]
 - 2. Taylor is seen coming out of the apartment, was told there is a warrant for her arrest and she acknowledges there is blood on her hands. [3:17:28]
 - 3. Taylor is heard saying "no body is armed I am sure". [3:19:05]
 - iii. Garth Russell testifies to the observations he made on the scene saying it was a couple of drops of blood on the floor and some bloody footprints. [3:20:00-3:20:40]
 - iv. Garth Russell testifies to the removal of Taylor's clothing for evidence collection and there being other officers that gave her temporary clothing. [3:21:40-3:22:33]

- v. Garth Russell testifies to Taylor being cooperative and responsive to his questions. [3:23:10-3:23:45]
- b. Cross Exam [3:23:45]
 - The cross examination primarily focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
 - ii. Garth Russell testifies to not believing Taylor to being under the influence of drugs and he never asked if she was under the influence of drugs. [3:28:45-3:30:00]
 - 1. He testifies to noticing a cut on her fingers after they processed her at the police department.
 - 2. He testifies to not remembering if she had knives on her but she had no guns.
- c. No redirect exam was performed.

Establish the timeline and account of events.

5. Witness #15 - State Witness #15 - Leut. Tom Bachmann - Police officer GBPD [3:34:14]

- a. Direct exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2
 - Tom Bachmann testifies to the registered owner of the minivan being Thoms and learnt that the van was associated with Taylor Schabusiness. [3:36:40-3:40:53]
 - He testifies to surveilling the van and were informed that at the point of the surveillance, they didn't know if Taylor was a suspect or victims but to try and make contact and find out the relationship with Taylor and the van.
 - 2. He testifies to not seeing footprints in the snow as they were looking around the van and a few moments later the passenger door unlocked and the lights flashed.
 - a. He testifies to Taylor coming out and they arrested her on the spot acting on their warrant.
 - ii. Tom Bachmann testifies to Taylor looking shocked as she came out of the house, "equate it to a deer in the headlights kind of look or a child caught with their hand in the cookie jar". [3:41:00-3:43:58]
 - iii. Tom Bachmann testifies to seeing a tissue that looked like blood and cigarette near it and he pointed to the officers to collect this and instructed officer Whitman to secure the scene with crime scene tapes. [3:44:14-3:44:55]
- b. Cross Exam [3:45:15]
 - Tom Bachmann testifies to going there because they determined that Taylor had a relationship with the victim [3:48:35-3:51:25] relationship with van
- c. No redirect exam was conducted

Witness Function

Establish the timeline and account of events.

6. Witness #15 - State Witness #15 - Tim Kenny - Patrol Officer GBPD [5:11:55]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - Tim Kenny testifies to officer Russell having Taylor in custody and he was tasked with photographing Taylor and documenting the bloody clothing she adorned herself with. [5:12:50-5:18:25]
- b. Cross Exam [5:17:52]
 - i. Tim Kenny testifies to not being part of the arrest and only assisted with the documenting. [5:20:12]
- c. No redirect exam was conducted.

Witness Function

Establish the timeline and account of events.

7. Witness #16 - State Witness #16 - Leo Whitman - Patrol Officer GBPD [5:21:56]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - i. Leo Whitman testifies to blocking the entrance of the apartment complex, put up the crime scene tape and began creating a crime scene log. [5:22:40-5:23:50]
 - ii. Leo Whitman testifies to assisting with collecting the items of clothing that Taylor Schabusiness was wearing and packaging the clothing in a brown paper bag. [5:24:10-5:26:20]
- b. Cross exam [5:26:25]
 - The cross examination primarily focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
 - Leo Whitman testifies to Taylor Schabusiness being cooperative, not seeing her fight with the officers and complaint with them. [5:30:00-5:30:40]
- c. No redirect exam was conducted.

Witness Function

Establish the timeline and account of events.

8. Witness #17 - State Witness #17 - Kevin Scott - DNA Analyst [5:34:12]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2
 - i. Kevin Scott testifies to the DNA report he authored on 1 April 2022 of the items received from law enforcement. [5:42:26-5:47:55]
 - 1. He testifies to receiving and conducting presumptive testing for blood that was positive for blood:
 - a. Item A: a Buckle swab recovered from Taylor Schabusiness
 - b. Item B: Right hand swabs recovered from Taylor Schabusiness
 - c. Item C: Left hand swabs recovered from Taylor Schabusiness
 - d. Item D: Oral Swabs recovered from Shad Thyrion
 - e. Item E: Swab recovered from a blade
 - f. Item F: Swab recovered from a red substance inside of a box
 - g. Item G: Swab recovered from a red substance on a bedroom light switch
 - h. Item H: Sweatpants,
 - i. H1 right leg of sweat pants
 - ii. H2 left leg of sweat pants
 - iii. H3 second swab of left leg of sweat pants
 - iv. H4 second swab of right leg of sweat pants
 - i. Item I: Penile swabs recovered from Shad Thyrion
 - j. Item J: Swab recovered from a dildo
 - i. J1 ystr tesing for saliva
 - ii. Kevin Scott testifies to conducting sperm testing on the penile swabs and confirmed that no sperm cells was found. [5:49:56-5:50:30]
 - iii. Kevin Scott testifies to Item A and D being a single source profile. [5:56:25-5:58:00]
 - iv. Kevin Scott testifies to Item B analysis results where a 3 person mixture with Taylor Schabusiness being one of the contributor as its her hand and Shad Tyrion being the 2nd profile and an unknown individual making up the 3rd. [5:58:05-6:03:00]
 - 1. He testifies there is a 4 quadrillion chance of other profiles being in the mixture than a random business individual and the testing was capped at 1 quadrillion for this testing.
 - v. Kevin Scott testifies to Item C analysis results with 2 contributors and observed that Taylor and Shad Thyrion are the contributing DNA profiles with there being at least being a 1 quadrillion likelihood of mixture. [6:03:10-6:04:41]

- vi. Kevin testifies to Item E analysis results with there being a DNA profile from one male individual and then compared to the profiles developed in the case and concluded the profile was from Shad Thyrion. [6:04:48-6:06:13]
- vii. Kevin Scott testifies to doing a presumptive test for blood and DNA analysis for Item F and developed a two-person mixture and one of the DNA profile contributors from the mixture was male concluded to be Shad Thyrion. [6:06:20-6:07:00]
 - 1. He testifies to the other contributor being a minor contributor with the profile being very low and not suitable for comparison as there was small amounts of DNA in the mixture.
- viii. Kevin Scott testifies to analysing Item H1, H2, H3, and H4 [6:12:00-6:16:50]
 - He testifies to item H1 being two-person mixture, 2 of the profiles were male and female contributors; and concluded that Taylor Schabusiness was the major contributor and Shad Thyrion was the minor contributor.
 - 2. He testifies to Item H2 being a two-person mixture; one of the contributors were male and the other female and concluded that the major contributor of the mixture was Taylor Schabusiness and the minor was Shad Thyrion.
 - He testifies it was at least one quadrillion times more likely resulting with Taylor Schabusiness than another individual.
 - 3. He testifies to item H3 analysis not being a clear difference with each other with the two-person mixture that was developed in terms of determining the major and minor contributors yielding the same results as others
 - 4. He testifies to item H4 was a single source DNA concluding that Shad Thyrion is the source of the DNA.
- ix. Kevin Scott testifies to analysing item I1 and item J and Item J1[6:17:50-6:20:00]
 - 1. He testifies that Item I1 had a single source DNA belonging to Shad Thyrion.
 - 2. He testifies that Item J developed a three-person mixture.
 - a. One mixture was a male contributor and was uninformative for Shad Thyrion
 - One mixture was a female concluded as Taylor Schabusiness with at least one quadrillion times more likely to observe a DNA mixture compared to any other person.
 - c. One mixture was unknown.
 - 3. He testifies that Item J1 developed a two-person mixture.
 - a. One mixture was a DNA profile concluded as belonging to Shad Tyrion
 - b. One mixture was a DNA profile used for exclusionary purposes.
- b. Cross exam [6:22:22]
 - i. The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. Redirect exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2 [6:29:52]
 - i. Kevin Scott testifies to not swabbing item F and only received the swab from Law enforcement. [6:29:55]
- d. No recross exam was conducted

Established in this testimony

No signs of life from Shad during the oral performance by Taylor as there ejaculation from Shad Tyrion based on the results of the semen testing of the penile swab.

Witness Function

Provide specialised knowledge of the DNA testing conducted

9. Witness #18 - State Witness #18 - Olivia Sassman - Evidence Specialist DCI [6:32:24]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - Olivia Sassman testifies to being an evidence specialist at the division of criminal investigations; a DOJ division and provides the receipts when they pass over evidence to them for verification and would note anything wrong with the evidence packaging [6:32:35-6:34:10]
- b. Cross Exam [6:39:19]
 - i. Olivia Sassman testifies to the tracking of evidence process once she has received the evidence and where they store the evidence they had received. [6:40:00-6:41:50]
 - ii. The cross examination primarily focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. No redirect exam was conducted

Witness Function

Advance the state timeline

10. Witness #19 - State Witness #19 - Alexander Gannon, prefers to be called AJ - Friend of Shad Thyrian [6:49:50]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - i. AJ testifies to knowing Shad and Taylor Schabusiness from middle school and remained friendly with both of them. [6:50:20-6:51:45]
 - ii. AJ testifies to becoming aware of Shad's death when he was on vacation seeing his parents a week after the 22nd February but hesitates and says he has mental problems that makes it hard to catalogue memories. [6:52:18-6:54:10]
 - iii. AJ testifies to an event he informed law enforcement about a time he spent with Shad and Taylor at Meadowview Eastman. [6:54:22-6:56:15]
 - iv. AJ testifies to taking a minivan to pick up Shad driven by Taylor. He says he does not know who owned the minivan, just that she was driving it. [6:59:09] Minivan
- b. Cross exam [6:59:50]
 - The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1) Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
 - ii. AJ testifies to not seeing Taylor act in a bizarre manner when he had seen her. [7:07:50]
- 3. No redirect exam was conducted

Witness Function

Establish the defendant's character context.

Establish the timeline and account of events.

11. Witness #20 - State Witness #20 - Craig Pakkala - Detective [7:25:26]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - i. Craig Pakkala testifies to being dispatched to the Eastman Avenue apartment after learning that there is a suspect who was driving the vehicle of interest. [7:25:30-7:27:30] Duties
 - ii. Craig Pakkala testifies to the officers who had secured the scene with crime scene tape had noticed a red substance near the van and applied a search warrant for the building to be searched for potential evidence at Apartment 1. [7:27:48-7:29:10]
 - iii. Craig Pakkala testifies of the photos he took of the apartment when the search warrant was executed and the items he collected including swabs and it was transferred to the evidence department. [7:36:30-7:42:00]
- b. Cross Exam [7:42:57]

- The cross examination primarily focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- ii. Craig Pakkala testifies that he had no contact with Taylor Schabusiness and never spoke Taylor Schabusiness. [7:49:00-7:49:40]
- c. No redirect exam was conducted

Establish the timeline and account of events.

12. Witness #20 - State Witness #21 - Nathan Kolinski - Evidence Tech - GBPD [7:55:58]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - i. Nathan Kolinski testifies to the swabs that were taken of Taylor Schabusiness, Shad Thyrion and the red substances that he had transmitted to the crime lab. [7:58:40-8:00:40].
 - 1. He testifies to swabs belonging to Taylor Schabusiness:
 - a. Right hand
 - b. Left hand
 - 2. He testifies to swabs belonging to Shad Thyrion:
 - a. Oral swab from the autopsy
 - 3. He testifies to a swab of a blade of exhibit 543033
 - 4. He testifies to the origin of the swabs of the red substance of exhibit 543072:
 - a. Light switch swab
 - b. Sweatpants from Taylor's room of exhibit 543072
 - 5. He testifies to a penile swab of exhibit 543038
- b. Cross exam
 - i. The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1) Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. No redirect exam

Witness Function

Establish the timeline and account of events.

13. Witness #21 - State Witness #21 - Jean Rakers - Evidence technician [08:05:06]

- a. Direct Exam conducted by Caleb Saunders
 - Jean Rakers testifies to being in the same role as Mr. Kolinski and receiving items returned to them from the state's crime lab on 22nd April 2022. [8:06:15-8:07:40] Confirmation of transfer
- b. Cross exam
 - i. The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. No redirect exam

Witness Function

Advance the state timeline

14. Witness #22 - State Witness #22 - Kendall Danowski - Computer Forensic Examiner GBPD [8:11:34]

- a. Direct exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2
 - Kendall Danowski testifies to the extraction process of Taylor's device which extracted and captured screenshots of communications and browser history. [8:16:40-8:22:40]
- b. Cross exam

- The cross examination focused on reiterating points already covered in the direct exam. No new evidentiary claims, contradictions or timeline changes were introduced.
 - 1. Key observations: no new exhibits, no new impeachment attempts, arguments stayed within previously established testimony.
- c. No redirect exam was conducted

Advance the state timeline

15. Witness #23 - State Witness #23 - Roberta Luberda - Detective [8:30:23]

- a. Direct exam conducted by Caucasian Male 2
 - Roberta Luberda testifies to being dispatched to secure the warrant for the van belonging to Scott Thoms and towed the van to the storage facility at GBPD. [8:32:40-8:34:50].
 - 1. She testifies to knowing there were body parts in the van and had to get a pathologist to inspect it.
 - ii. Roberta Luberda testifies to google searches by Taylor for "Jeffrey Dahmer" "Flaming Pentagram" "KKK" a day shortly before the homicide. [8:37:00-8:37:50]
 - iii. Roberta Luberda testifies further on searches made on 12th February and 13th February 2022. [8:40:30-8:45:20]
 - 1. She testifies to Taylor searching:
 - a. "Jeffrey Dahmer"
 - b. "Cadaver definition"
 - c. "Chef Boyardee blowup doll customized face"
 - 2. She testifies to locating photographs of Jeffrey Dahmer that were found on Taylor's phone.
 - iv. Testimony continues on Day 3

Court adjourned for the day!

Timestamps based on Law & Court Network channel, see sources!

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