
TRIAL: Witnesses testify about crucial night

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Cannon's murder trial in Waterbury Superior Court.

Patrick Cannon reported his wife missing on May 7, 2010; her badly beaten and stabbed body was found on May 17 near an industrial park in Cheshire.

Waterbury Detective Peter Morgan, an investigator specializing in computer crime and data recovery, testified that police searched Cannon's computer business in Plantsville after he reported his wife missing.

While sifting through data on one of several seized hard drives, Morgan said a user had visited a website for a carpet cleaning service in Southington, in addition to searching for storage unit rentals and Dumpsters. Those searches took place in February and April, he said.

Detective Michael Mudry, a state trooper assigned to the Western District Major Crimes Squad, testified that investigators searched Patrick Cannon's Hyundai af-

ter it was seized by Wolcott police. Inside the trunk, police found garbage bags, 7-in-1 Professional Carpet Care, Mr. Clean and a package of nylon rope.

Police later found blood on the couch where Cynthia Cannon was known to sleep, as well as the carpet below it.

In the days before her body was discovered, authorities recovered a bloody sleeping bag belonging to Cynthia Cannon from a wooded patch near Woodtick Road. They also found a blood-soaked length of nylon rope near the bag.

Prosecutors called a methodical string of witnesses to the stand Friday; they gave a timeline of actions taken by Cannon after his wife went missing.

Some spotted him with his son and stepdaughter at a diner in Wolcott having breakfast on the same day his wife failed to show up for work, while others testified he took up residence in a hotel near the spot where his wife's body would eventually

be found.

In what could be key testimony, Melissa Tuma, a former Wolcott resident who lived on the same street as the Cannons, said she saw lights on in the couple's home at close to 2 a.m. the morning that Cynthia Cannon went missing.

Tuma, who works in the aircraft industry, had finished a late shift at her job and was returning home when she spotted Cynthia Cannon's Jeep pulling out of the driveway of the couple's home on Spindle Hill Road.

Patrick Cannon was behind the wheel, but stopped as her vehicle drove closer, she said. "He had slammed on his brakes," she said.

There were no passengers in the vehicle and Cannon pulled out behind her after she passed him, she said.

Anita Johnson, who was headed to work in Cheshire on May 7, testified she spotted a Jeep on Knotter Drive at about 4:30 a.m.

Its lights were off and it had pulled to the side of the

road, she said. Police would eventually find Cynthia Cannon's body near that spot; her Jeep was abandoned in Waterbury.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Cynthia Serafini said Friday that the Department of Correction had obtained copies of letters that Patrick Cannon wrote to a family friend while he was jailed, indicating that he may be suicidal.

Cannon's attorneys are expected to introduce a defense of "extreme emotional disturbance," which means they will have to prove that he was under extremely unusual or overwhelming stress when he allegedly killed his wife.

The defense entails proving that a defendant lost self-control and rational thought due to feelings of anger, passion or grief.

Witnesses have testified that the Cannons' home was in foreclosure and that Patrick Cannon suspected his wife was having an affair. Testimony in the case is expected to continue next week.