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TAYLOR SCHABUSINESS TRIAL

FIT TO STAND TRIAL



Taylor Schabusiness, who is charged with first-degree intentional homicide, third-degree sexual assault and mutilating a corpse, is brought into the courtroom for a competency hearing on Jan. 6 in Green Bay.

SARAH KLOEPPING/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Judge rules Schabusiness can aid in her defense; jurors selected

Doug Schneider

Green Bay Press-Gazette USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY - Nine men and seven women will serve on the jury next week as Taylor Schabusiness is tried in Brown County Circuit Court in the February 2022 killing and dismemberment of her friend Shad Thyron, 24.

Defense attorney Christopher Froelich along with Brown County Assistant District Attorney Caleb Saunders and District Attorney David Lasee selected the jury after slightly more than three hours of questioning. Four jurors will be chosen as alternates after the trial begins.

Much of questioning of potential jurors involved asking if they believe that the defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence. They were also asked if they could be fair to the defendant if there was testimony about the defendant suffering potential mental illness.

Schabusiness, 25, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide,



Taylor Schabusiness attacks her attorney on Feb. 14 in the Brown County Courthouse in Green Bay. She is charged with killing and decapitating her friend in February 2022. The image is from a video feed in the courtroom.

PROVIDED BY THE BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

third-degree sexual abuse, and mutilating a corpse in the basement of the west-side house in Green Bay where Thyron had lived with his mother.

Brown County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Walsh told jurors to be back in the courthouse by 8:30 a.m. Monday. The trial is expected to last a week, Walsh said before the jury was selected.

Judge rules Schabusiness to be competent

Earlier Friday, Walsh ruled Schabusiness is fit to assist in her own defense.

Walsh issued that ruling after hearing about 45 minutes of testimony from

See TRIAL, Page 2A

Ex-Green Bay teacher sentenced for assaulting students

Villareal gets 50 years for sexually abusing four second-graders

Danielle DuClos

Green Bay Press-Gazette USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY — Former Green Bay School District teacher David Villareal was sentenced to 50 years in prison Friday for sexually abusing four of his former second-grade students between 2015 and 2016.

Given Villareal is 48 years old, it's effectively a life sentence, according to Brown County Circuit Court Judge Donald Zuidmulder.

Villareal was a second-grade teacher at Baird Elementary School, and the girls were about 7 or 8 years old at the time of the abuse.

He was convicted in April of four counts of felony child sexual assault, but still maintains his innocence. Zuidmulder said in court that Villareal has previously indicated that he might appeal the ruling.

Because Villareal maintains his innocence, that likely means he'd offend again, Zuidmulder said.

"If I let you walk out of my courtroom tomorrow, you'd do the same thing. That's what that points to," he said. "I consider you to be very dangerous."

One of the victims and her family were at the sentencing. Villareal had touched the girl's buttocks every day at Baird Elementary's running club during the 2015-16 school year.

"My daughter had been permanently impacted by the actions of someone she was supposed to trust," the mother said in court. "We will never know what (she) was going to be and the type of person she would be in her future because David took that from her."

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David Villareal, a former Green Bay School District teacher, speaks to his defense attorney after his sentencing for four counts of felony child sexual assault in the Brown County Courthouse on Friday in Green Bay.

SEEGER GRAY/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

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Two killed, four injured in Friday night crash in Allouez

Peter Frank

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

ALLOUEZ - Two people were killed and four others injured in a two-vehicle crash Friday night at Allouez Avenue and South Webster Avenue, according to the Brown County Sheriff's Office.

At 11:41 p.m. Friday, the sheriff's office and Green Bay Metro Fire responded to a vehicle crash reported at the Kwik Trip at 2203 S. Webster Ave.

A 2013 Mercedes driven by a 21-year-old Green Bay man was northbound on South Webster when it struck a 2012 Toyota driven by a 28-year-old Green Bay-area man who was turning east on-

to Allouez Avenue from Webster, the sheriff's office said.

The Mercedes ended up in the Kwik Trip parking lot, while the Toyota came to a rest in the middle of Webster Avenue.

The driver of the Toyota and a passenger in the Mercedes were pronounced dead at the scene, the sheriff's

office said. Their identities are being withheld pending family notification. Four people were taken to area hospitals with one person in critical condition.

A power pole broke off during the crash, causing a power outage in the area.

Trial

Continued from Page 1A

Matthew Seipel, a psychologist with the Wisconsin Forensic Unit who was a witness for the prosecution.

"It's clear that Ms. Schabusiness is quite competent" to assist in her own defense, Lasee said after Seipel's testimony. Lasee served as the prosecutor Friday, seated next to Saunders, who has been prosecuting the case.

Schabusiness' attorney disagreed, saying he shares the opinion of Diane Lytton, a forensic psychologist who evaluated his client and testified earlier this month that Schabusiness was not competent to assist in her own defense.

"Dr. Seipel feels that Taylor Schabusiness is competent," Froelich said. "I beg to differ with Dr. Seipel."

Schabusiness has been held in the Brown County Jail since March 1, 2022. She is being held in lieu of \$2 million bail.

Green Bay police have said Schabusiness and Thyryon used drugs and engaged in sex the night Thyryon was slain.

Grisly crime scene

Note: The Green Bay Press-Gazette has chosen not to publish many of the graphic details of this crime. However, readers may find material in this report disturbing.

Green Bay police were called to the

800 block of Stony Brook Lane at 3:25 a.m. Feb. 23, 2022, where they found Thyryon's head in a bucket and dried blood on a nearby mattress. Schabusiness was taken into custody in the 2300 block of Eastman Avenue in Green Bay.

Thyryon and Schabusiness were friends who were involved in a sexual relationship, according to statements Schabusiness made to investigators. Schabusiness is accused of strangling Thyryon with a chain before decapitating him and dismembering. Some of his body parts were discovered in a van and some in shopping bags in the basement, according to the criminal complaint.

Thyryon's mother discovered the bucket with her son's head in it, the complaint says.

Schabusiness and Thyryon had been smoking methamphetamine, the complaint says.

Since her arrest, Schabusiness had not guilty pleas entered on her behalf by a judge and a not guilty by reason of insanity entered by her former attorney. Much of the court hearings have centered around whether Schabusiness was competent to aid in her own defense.

She attacked her former attorney, Quinn Jolly, on Feb. 14 during a court hearing. Jolly asked to be removed from the case, and he was replaced by Froelich.

Email Doug Schneider at DSchneid@Gannett.com, call him at (630) 373-0799 and follow him on Twitter @PGDougSchneider

Sentenced

Continued from Page 1A

He stole her innocence. He made her more anxious and negative and shattered her ability to trust others."

Probation agents who spoke with Villareal during the presentencing investigation wrote in the report that Villareal was taking no responsibility for the abuse, according to Brown County Deputy District Attorney Wendy Lemkuil.

"This is an individual who is not facing what he's done, not facing that he's wrong," she said in court.

Villareal did not speak at the sentencing. He walked out of the courtroom in handcuffs with a blank expression.

More about the April trial and charges

In April's jury trial, Lemkuil called 18 witnesses, including the four victims. The defense only called Villareal.

During his testimony, Villareal denied inappropriately touching any of his students, saying there is a conspiracy against him.

Originally charged with five counts, Lemkuil dropped one of the charges shortly before trial because one victim couldn't be present to testify.

The trial had been delayed multiple times, partly due to Villareal's struggle to secure and maintain counsel.

Villareal was a bilingual teacher at Baird, where he mainly taught second grade from 2014 until April 2021 when he was arrested for sexually assaulting

three of his former students.

In March 2021, he was accused of pinching and squeezing one of his student's buttocks every day between September 2015 and May 2016.

In that same school year, Villareal also touched the genitals of another second-grade student on the outside of her pants when she went up to ask him a question at his desk.

After Villareal's arrest in 2021, two more students came forward saying he sexually assaulted them during the 2015-16 school year.

One of these students said that he cornered her in a classroom closet, pushed her up against a wall and rubbed his groin against her chest. When she tried to leave, Villareal pushed her back into the closet multiple times.

The other student who came forward

after Villareal's arrest told police that he would grab her buttocks every day at the after-school running club at Baird Elementary.

Villareal resigned from the district in April 2021, shortly after his arrest.

Danielle DuClos is a Report for America corps member who covers K-12 education for the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Contact her at dduclos@gannett.com. Follow on Twitter @danielle_duclos. You can directly support her work with a tax-deductible donation at GreenBayPressGazette.com/RFA or by check made out to The GroundTruth Project with subject line Report for America Green Bay Press Gazette Campaign. Address: The GroundTruth Project, Lockbox Services, 9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB 46837, Beaverton, Oregon 97008-7105.

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