

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Highlights from Derek Chauvin Murder Trial



Heart Disease, Fentanyl Contributed to George Floyd’s Death But Were Not Main Cause, Medical Examiner Says

George Floyd’s heart disease and use of fentanyl were contributing factors to his death, but they were not the direct cause, the medical examiner who performed his autopsy testified on Friday in the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin.

Hennepin County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew Baker ruled Floyd’s death last May a homicide and identified the cause as "cardiopulmonary arrest" that occurred during "law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression" -- all findings he stood by in court on Friday.

Asked about the autopsy and Floyd’s death certificate, Baker described the "top line of the cause of death" as "what you think is the most important thing that precipitated the death."

"Other things that you think played a role in the death but were not direct causes get relegated to what’s known as the 'other significant conditions' part of the death certificate," he said. "For example, you know, Mr. Floyd’s use of fentanyl did not cause the subdual or neck restraint. His heart disease did not cause the subdual or the neck restraint."

Floyd had hypertensive heart disease, Baker said, "meaning his heart weighed more than it should." This meant Floyd’s heart needed more oxygen than a normal heart and was "limited in its ability" to provide more oxygen when there was a demand for it.

In the midst of an altercation and being held to the ground, adrenaline would pour into the body, Baker said, making the heart beat faster.

"In my opinion, the law enforcement subdual, restraint and the neck compression was just more than Mr. Floyd could take by virtue of those heart conditions," he said.

Chauvin’s defense attorney, Eric Nelson, has argued that Floyd died as a result of drugs and preexisting health conditions. And under cross examination, Baker said he believed those factors played a role.

"So in your opinion," Nelson asked, "both the heart disease as well as the history of hypertension and the drugs that were in his system played a role in Mr. Floyd’s death?" "In my opinion, yes," Baker said.

But Baker reiterated he stood by the cause of death he wrote on Floyd’s death certificate and his finding Floyd’s death was a homicide, which to a medical examiner means his death was caused by another person and does not necessarily indicate guilt.

"Yes, I would still classify it as homicide today," he said.



Former police officer Derek Chauvin faces murder charges in the killing of George Floyd.

BY: TERRY HUGHEY

Testimony continued in Derek Chauvin’s murder trial on Friday with two medical examiners discussing the cause of George Floyd’s death.

Hennepin County Medical Examiner, Dr. Andrew Baker, was last to testify and said the interaction with police was "was just more than Mr. Floyd could take."

Second week of testimony ends after medical examiner in Floyd’s death

A second full week of witness testimony ended Friday with the medical examiner who determined George Floyd’s cause of death and other medical experts testifying.

Dr. Andrew Baker, the medical examiner for Minnesota’s Hennepin County, said Friday that fentanyl and heart disease did not directly cause Floyd’s death.

"Mr. Floyd’s use of fentanyl did not cause the subdual or neck restraint, his heart disease did not cause the subdual or the neck restraint," Baker said.

The trial will resume on Monday, around 9:30 a.m. local time.

George Floyd medical examiner: Interaction with police 'was just more than Mr. Floyd could take'

The medical examiner who determined George Floyd’s cause of death testified Friday that fentanyl and heart disease did not directly cause his death.

"Mr. Floyd’s use of fentanyl did not cause the subdual or neck restraint, his heart

disease did not cause the subdual or the neck restraint," Dr. Andrew Baker, the medical examiner for Minnesota’s Hennepin County, said Friday afternoon.

Baker ruled George Floyd’s cause of death was "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." The manner of death was ruled a homicide.

Baker broke down his ruling of the cause of death Friday, saying "cardiopulmonary arrest" referred to the heart and lungs stopping and clarifying the term "complicating" meant "in the setting of."

Baker listed under "other significant conditions" that Floyd suffered from hypertensive heart disease, and listed fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use.

But he said Friday that other factors that are believed to have played a role in the death but "didn’t directly cause the death," get relegated to the "other significant conditions" section of a death certificate.

Baker said given the conditions of Floyd’s heart disease and condition on the day of his encounter with police:

"In my opinion, the law enforcement subdual, restraint and the neck compression was just more than Mr. Floyd could take by virtue of those heart conditions."

Unlike previous medical professionals who have testified, Baker did not directly attribute Floyd’s cause of death to lack of oxygen. (Continued on pg. 3)

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About the Foundation

Rising Up From Silence Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. RUFS Foundation is on a mission to open a facility that will give victims of abuse a long term permanent, transitional housing experience with assisted counseling, therapy, education, financial aid, and childcare. They are driven to do their part in putting a stop to Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault! And to assist those who either left or want to leave their abusers. Their passion is to assist victims and survivors of all spectrums of abuse, by encouraging them to come out of silence....and let their voices be heard!

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Highlights from Derek Chauvin Murder Trial (continued)



The defense has argued Floyd’s death was caused by a drug overdose and his health conditions such as heart disease, not by Chauvin’s restraint.

Someone in seat reserved for a family member of Derek Chauvin for first time since trial began

For the first time since the trial began, there is someone in the seat reserved for a family member of Derek Chauvin, according to a reporter in the courtroom, who described the person as a woman of Asian descent.

Seats are reserved in the back for just one Floyd family member and just one Chauvin family member because of the coronavirus pandemic. A member of George Floyd's family has been in the courtroom each day.

This week the seat for a member of Chauvin's family member was removed because it had not been used. A court official said at the time that it would be returned if need be.

Only two pool reporters are allowed in at a time, plus a member of the Court TV team that is providing the feed.



Autopsy photos shown to jurors, but not publicly

Dr. Lindsey Thomas, a forensic pathologist, explains to jurors what she sees in autopsy photos of George Floyd that are being shown to the jury, but not publicly.

Thomas said she helped train Dr. Andrew Baker, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner who performed an autopsy on Floyd. She said she is a friend of his.

Mary Moriarty, the former chief public defender of Hennepin County, where Chauvin's trial is being held, provides

context as to what jurors are likely being shown:

Forensic pathologist ruled out drug overdose as Floyd’s cause of death

Dr. Lindsey Thomas, a forensic pathologist, testified Friday that she ruled out a drug overdose as George Floyd’s cause of death.

Thomas said based on the extensive videos she had seen in the death of Floyd and what she knew about fentanyl deaths, this was “totally different than what is seen in Mr. Floyd.”

She added in regards to the level of methamphetamine found in his system, which she described as a low level, “looking from what I know about Mr. Floyd’s death, because it’s so well documented, that does not fit with a methamphetamine death.”

Thomas agreed with prosecutors that she ruled out drug overdose as the cause of Floyd’s death. The defense has argued Floyd’s death was caused by a drug overdose and health complications rather than Chauvin’s actions.

Forensic pathologist: 'This was not a sudden death'



Forensic pathologist Dr. Lindsey Thomas testified Friday that George Floyd's death was "not a sudden death," a conclusion she reached based on watching a plethora of surveillance, bystander and body-camera videos of Floyd's final moments.

Thomas said she agreed with earlier testimony that it was law enforcement officers' actions that led to his death — adding that there was not evidence from his autopsy or toxicology reports that he died of a heart attack or drugs.

"What I observed from all of these videos is this was not a sudden death," Thomas said, contrasting it to something like cardiac arrest induced by shoveling snow, in which "someone comes in and collapses, clutches their chest and falls over."

"There was nothing sudden about his death," she continued.

"It was not the type of death that has been reported in fentanyl overdoses, for example, where somebody becomes very sleepy, and then gradually, calmly, stops breathing." (Continued on pg. 4)

JUST MY OPINION

BY: TERRY HUGHEY



“American Justice”

After watching a week of the Derek Chauvin trial, it made me realize just how much our country is lacking in the prospect of real justice for all.

Even with the trial not yet at its conclusion. All it takes is for one juror to have a doubt in what caused the death of a man that was not only murdered but was being tortured during the process. This American Justice system needs an overhaul (Seriously).

Just the thought of a person being murdered, and the defense can say; well the person murdered had a heart problem or a drug addiction is absurd. In my opinion, that should not even be considered when it’s blatant Murder.

This trial is an educational piece for all of us and especially Law Enforcement. The very training they receive can be harmful to the lives that they are deemed to protect.

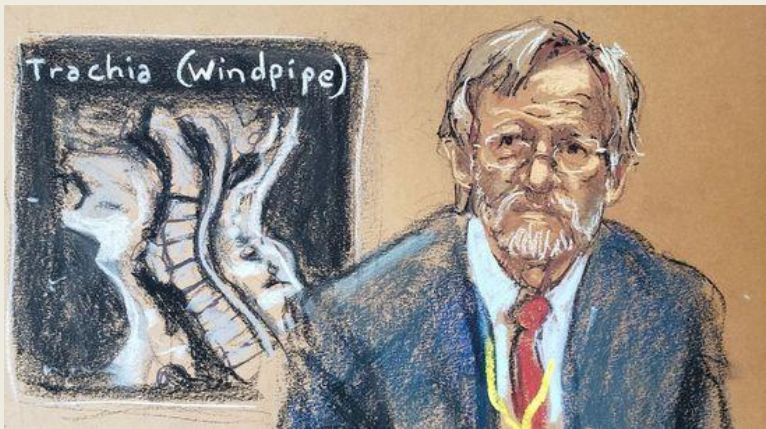
We were given a detailed analysis on how our respiratory system functions and being handcuffed can restrict our breathing abilities. America Justice in many areas needs reconstruction ASAP.

The thought of one system being in placed for centuries an never being improved upon or making adjustments as needed when it’s not properly serving the people is what elected officials are there for, again our Dysfunction government continues to fail in their duties.

Let me leave you with this. Out of clutter, finds simplicity. From discord, finds harmony. In the midst of difficulty lies opportunity in our “American Justice”



Highlights from Derek Chauvin Murder Trial (continued)



Fentanyl, an opioid, was found in Floyd's system, and an attorney for Derek Chauvin has argued that the fentanyl and an underlying heart condition may have contributed to his death.

Forensic pathologist agrees officers' actions 'resulted in Mr. Floyd's death'

A Minnesota forensic pathologist agreed Friday morning that law enforcement's activities in restraining George Floyd led to the man's death.

When asked how she interpreted the medical examiner's cause of death, Dr. Lindsey Thomas said it meant, the activities of officers resulted in Mr. Floyd's death.

"Specifically, those activities were the subdual, the restraint and the neck compression," she said.

Thomas added she agrees with that conclusion.

The Hennepin County medical examiner has ruled Floyd's cause of death was "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression.

Earlier in testimony Thomas said she believed that "the primary mechanism of death is asphyxia or low oxygen."

"The point is that it's due to law enforcement subdual, restraint and compression," she said.

Prosecutors call forensic pathologist to the stand

Prosecutors called a Minnesota forensic pathologist to the stand Friday morning.

Dr. Lindsey Thomas was the first witness to take the stand Friday in the Derek Chauvin murder trial ahead of other expected medical experts, including the county medical examiner.

In his opening statement, attorney Jerry Blackwell said Thomas helped train Dr. Andrew Baker, the Hennepin County medical examiner who ruled on George

Floyd's cause of death. Blackwell added that Thomas will testify that physical signs are not always present when someone dies from asphyxia or lack of oxygen.

The prosecutor also said Thomas will agree in part with Baker's findings, but she will disagree with other conclusions including his findings about the role that drugs may have played in Floyd's death.

Baker ruled George Floyd's cause of death was "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." Under "other significant conditions" it said Floyd suffered from hypertensive heart disease, and listed fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use.

The Derek Chauvin trial is 'opening old wounds' for police violence victims

Even though it has been nearly four years since a jury acquitted Tulsa, Oklahoma, Police Officer Betty Shelby in the killing of Terence Crutcher, a 40-year-old father of four, his twin remembers the trial like it was yesterday.

"What was mainly heart-wrenching was to hear her, see her, the person who killed my brother. She showed no remorse," Tiffany Crutcher recalled. (End)

Charleston daycare worker violently shook & hit infants, sheriff's affidavits show



BY: CHERYL HUGHEY



A woman is facing multiple charges related to child abuse after Charleston County Sheriff's Office investigators say she violently shook and hit three infants at a daycare center where she worked.

Tina Rose Nye, 55, was arrested Friday, April 9, after a joint investigation by the Sheriff's Office and the Charleston Police Department.

Affidavits provided by law enforcement say Nye was caught on video assaulting three infants earlier in the week at Carousel Early Childhood Center on Jenkins Road in the West Ashley area.

The infants ranged in ages from 3 months to 5 months old. Video showed Nye holding the children upside down while violently shaking them, and hitting them in the head, back and other parts of their bodies as they cried.

Nye is charged with two counts of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, one count of second degree assault and battery, and three counts of unlawful conduct toward a child.

Nye remains in jail at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. **

If you are concerned that a child is a victim of abuse, you may not be sure what to do or how to respond.

Please call the **Rising Up From Silence (RUFS) Foundation at (772) 200-5252** (you may choose to remain anonymous).

Child sexual abuse is a crime that often goes undetected. No matter what your role is—parent or other family member, coach, teacher, religious leader, babysitter—you have the power to make a positive difference in this child's life.

WEEKLY SPORTS

FORMER NFL PLAYER PHILLIP ADAMS KILLS FIVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA, THEN HIMSELF

BY: TERRY HUGHEY



Former NFL player Phillip Adams fatally shot five people, including a prominent doctor, his wife and their two grandchildren, before later killing himself, authorities said Thursday.

York County Sheriff Kevin Tolson told a news conference Thursday that investigators had not yet determined a motive in the mass shooting Wednesday.

"There's nothing right now that makes sense to any of us," Tolson said.

Dr. Robert Lesslie, 70, and his wife, Barbara, 69, were pronounced dead at the scene Wednesday, along with their grandchildren Adah Lesslie, 9, and Noah Lesslie, 5.

A man who had been working at the home, James Lewis, 38, from Gaston, was found shot to death outside. A sixth

victim, Robert Shook, 38, of Cherryville, North Carolina, was flown to a Charlotte hospital, where he was in critical condition "fighting hard for his life," said a cousin, Heather Smith Thompson.

At Thursday's news conference, Tolson played audio of two 911 calls related to the shooting, the first from an HVAC company that employed Lewis and the other person doing work at the Lesslie home. One of them, the caller said, had called him "screaming" and saying that he had been shot and that his co-worker was shot and "unresponsive."

"I think there's been a bad shooting," a different man said in a second 911 call, saying he was outside cutting his grass and heard "about 20" shots fired at the Lesslie home before seeing someone leave the house.

Tolson said evidence left at the scene of the shooting led them to Adams as a suspect. He said they went to Adams' parents' home, evacuated them and then tried to talk Adams out of the house. Eventually, they found him dead of a single gunshot wound to the head in a bedroom, he said. Adams was 32.

Tolson said both a .45 and a 9mm handgun were used in Wednesday's shooting. Tolson said both a .45 and a 9mm handgun were used in Wednesday's shooting.

Adams had been treated by Lesslie, who lived near his parents' home in Rock Hill, according to a person who was briefed about the investigation and who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

However, Tolson would not confirm that Adams had been the doctor's patient.

A biography page said he and his wife raised four children and were actively involved with their church, as well as with Camp Joy, which works with children with disabilities, and where Lesslie served as camp physician for a week each summer. On Thursday, Tolson said the family had asked that any memorials be made to the organization.

As a rookie late in the 2010 season, Adams suffered a severe ankle injury that required surgery that included several screws being inserted into the leg.

He never played for the 49ers again, getting released just before the 2011 season began. Later, with the Raiders, he had two concussions over three games in 2012.

Whether he suffered long-lasting concussion-related injuries wasn't immediately clear. Adams would not have been eligible for testing as part of a broad settlement between the league and its former players over such injuries, because he hadn't retired by 2014.

Adams' father told a Charlotte television station that he blamed football for problems that might have led his son to commit Wednesday's violence.

WEEKLY LOCAL NEWS

Two men suspected of cloning keys to steal cars arrested in Port St. Lucie



Two men suspected of cloning keys to steal cars are behind bars in Port St. Lucie.

Police arrested 55-year-old Ricardo Jimenez and 52-year-old Andres Aguila early Friday morning.

According to police, officers on patrol spotted a Cadillac Escalade going in and out of hotel parking lots along St. Lucie West. The registration on the SUV came back expired. When officers pulled it over during a traffic stop, the driver of the Escalade took off.

Police captured the fleeing driver and the passenger of the Escalade on NW Country Club Drive, with Aguila as the driver and Jimenez as

the passenger. However, investigators believe the two swapped places during their run from police.

According to police, both men also gave different stories. Jimenez, of Miami, told police they were hanging out. Aguila, of Cape Coral, said they were staying at a hotel.

Officers retrieved a backpack believed to have been tossed by the suspects. It contained a Smart Pro Advanced Diagnostics Device, key fobs to five different cars, and a cord that plugged into a vehicle's computer system. Police said the diagnostics device is used to capture the frequency of a key fob, which would allow someone to reencode a car key to match that car.

Police said it's the first time they've seen a device like this and plan to work with law enforcement partners to better understand the technology.

Aguila faces charges of possession of cocaine, resisting an officer without violence, and loitering or prowling.

Jimenez is being held on charges of fleeing and eluding police, resisting an officer without violence, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and loitering or prowling.

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