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BREAKING NEWS**Bomb threats made against Nashua businesses**

Testimony concludes, jury begins deliberations in Morris assault trial

NASHUA – Testimony wrapped up early Thursday afternoon in the felony assault trial of Massachusetts resident Cyrinus Morris, paving the way for the lawyers’ closing arguments and the start of jury deliberations.

Morris, 49, is accused of “*knowingly*” and “*recklessly*” causing serious injuries to a former girlfriend by allegedly beating and kicking her in her South Nashua apartment in August 2017.

The charges – three counts of first-degree assault and two counts of second-degree assault – allege Morris inflicted “*serious, life-threatening injuries*” upon the woman, who, according to a firefighter-EMT, stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated during the ambulance ride to the hospital.

The most serious of the charges Morris initially faced – attempted murder – was dropped ahead of the start of trial.

The testimony phase of the trial began Wednesday morning with the lawyers’ opening statements, followed by several witnesses, including the alleged victim, taking the stand through the course of the day.

Dr. Patrick Lee, who treated the alleged victim in the Southern New Hampshire Medical Center emergency department when she came in the night of Aug. 27, 2017, took the stand when testimony resumed Thursday morning.

The jury of 10 men and three women, including one alternate, went into deliberations late Thursday afternoon. They are expected to return today to resume deliberations.

Called by the prosecutor, First Assistant County Attorney Kent Smith, Lee was cross-examined at length by defense attorney Theodore Lothstein, who has sought all along to convince the jury the alleged victim's condition, as depicted in police and hospital photographs, stemmed more from her ongoing medical issues than from any injuries Morris may have allegedly inflicted upon her that night.

Those issues, according to Lothstein, include a liver ailment that causes the woman to bruise more easily than the average person, and a blood condition that slows the coagulation, or clotting, process.

In response to Lothstein's questions, Lee said his report included no mention of any defensive injuries to the woman's hands, nor did he note any fractures or any signs of injuries on her neck, internal organs or evidence of internal bleeding, according to his testimony.

Lee did find a "*small laceration*" on the woman's head, which he said didn't need stitched to close. She also had a subdural hematoma – bleeding in her head outside of her brain, he said.

Lothstein pointed out that not long after she arrived at the Nashua hospital, the woman was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. However, doctors "*determined she did not need (brain) surgery,*" to which Lee agreed.

Later moved to an acute rehabilitation facility, the woman at some point became "*lethargic,*" Lee said in response to Lothstein's questions, adding that she was then taken to Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts for emergency brain surgery.

Indications were, Lee said, that "*her condition deteriorated*" while she was in the rehabilitation facility.

"*Could she have suffered a brain injury at the facility?*" Lothstein asked Lee.

“She could have, yes,” Lee responded.

Dean Shalhoup can be reached at 594-1256,
dshalhoup@nashuatelegraph.com, or @Telegraph_DeanS.
