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Komisarjevsky attorney argues at Ct. Supreme Court for trial

Lawyer claims Cheshire home invasion killer didn't get fair hearing

By Dave Altimari

An attorney for Cheshire home invasion killer Joshua Komisarjevsky told the state Supreme Court Thursday that his client's trial for murdering Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her two daughters in July 2007 should not have been held in New

Haven because the jury selection process was a "circus" and ruined any chance of a fair trial.

Komisarjevsky and Steven Hayes were convicted of murder in the slayings of Hawke-Petit and her daughters, Hayley Petit, 17, and Mikaela Petit, 11. Both men were originally sentenced to death, but they were resented to life in prison without parole after the legislature abolished the death penalty. They are now being held in Pennsylvania prisons.

"The New Haven community was so badly infected with anger, fear, trauma and terror that the voir dire was a circus," attorney John Holdridge said. "People were losing it, crying in the courtroom, and to try the case in New Haven really put a stain on the criminal justice system in Connecticut."

Holdridge and attorney Moira Buckley filed an appeal in 2017 that was based mostly on new evidence

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Convicted home invasion killer Joshua Komisarjevsky is seeking a new trial in light of undisclosed police calls. He is now being held in a Pennsylvania prison.

US hails Syria pause

Deal requires Kurds to vacate border area

By Robert Burns and Zeke Miller
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — The U.S. and Turkey agreed Thursday to a cease-fire in the Turks' deadly attacks on Kurdish fighters in northern Syria, requiring the Kurds to vacate the area in an arrangement that largely solidifies Turkey's position and aims in the weeklong conflict. The deal includes a conditional halt to American economic sanctions.

After negotiations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence hailed the five-day cease-fire as the way to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey's invasion. He remained silent on whether it amounted to a second abandonment of America's former Kurdish allies in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Turkish troops and Turkish-backed Syrian fighters launched their offensive against Kurdish forces in northern Syria a week ago, two days after President Donald Trump suddenly announced he was withdrawing the U.S. military from the area. Trump was widely criticized for turning on the Kurds, who had taken heavy casualties as partners with the U.S. in fighting IS since 2016.

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A member of the Connecticut Army National Guard Funeral Military Honors Program, right, presents American Legion Department of Connecticut Senior Vice Commander Jeffrey A. DeClerck, left, and American Legion District 4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre, center, with a memorial flag in honor of veteran Matthew Williams at New Willimantic Cemetery Thursday afternoon.

'NO VETERAN GOES FORGOTTEN'

WILLIMANTIC — More than 200 people who never met Private First Class Matthew Lawrence Williams attended his graveside service with military honors at the New Willimantic Cemetery Thursday.

"Your presence here exceeds our wildest expectations," said the Rev. Jim Beesley, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Windham, who led the service. "We are here, appropriately, to respect and honor a man

Hundreds of strangers gather at a cemetery to pay tribute to a Connecticut soldier who died with no family

By Amanda Blanco

who served our country, [who has] now passed."

Word of the service spread after the American Legion and television stations shared an obituary from Potter Family Funeral Home published Wednesday that said Williams, who died in July at age 63, had no family and asked the public to come.

Within 24 hours, the American

Turn to **Veteran**, Page A4

Fiancee releases children's book 10 years after Howard's death

Ja'Miya Howard is a happy and active kid, almost always smiling. Yet in occasional times of sadness she talks about missing her father.

Yes, missing him.

"Now, she's never met him," said Ja'Miya's mother, Daneisha Freeman.

"It's just the relationship she longs for." **MIKE ANTHONY**
manthony@courant.com

No, Ja'Miya has never actually seen or touched or her dad, slain UConn football player Jasper Howard. Freeman was four months pregnant with Ja'Miya when Howard was stabbed to death outside the student union on campus in the early hours of Oct. 18, 2009.

But there is magic in the right kind of parenting. There is power and joy in imagination.

Jasper and Ja'Miya Howard share a father-daughter bond built on a sustainable emotional strength, one fostered by Freeman's ability, creativity, and even more so her love for both. Howard is very much a part of his daughter's everyday life, so much so that Ja'Miya's sad times do become about missing him instead of wondering about him.

It is inspiring. It is a mother's gift to her daughter, her fiancé and his legacy.

Now, she is sharing it. Friday marks the 10th anniversary of

Turn to **Anthony**, Page A4

Power outages

Almost 20,000 Connecticut customers remained in the dark Thursday night while crews worked late to restore power across the state, a full day after a powerful nor'easter battered the Northeast with gusting winds and heavy downpours.

Connecticut, Page B1

More PFAS in river

An unknown amount of toxic PFAS firefighting chemicals used to put out the fire from the deadly Oct. 2 crash of a World War II bomber at Bradley International Airport reached the Farmington River, according to state tests.

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A fallen oak tree could be seen in front of a home on Spinners Run in South Windsor Thursday morning. Wednesday night's storms brought down many trees and power lines in the area.

Mayoral candidate

With poverty, drug addiction and homelessness much too common across New Britain, the city needs a leader willing to publicly talk about what's wrong, Democratic mayoral candidate Chris Porcher said.

Connecticut, Page B1

New look

The languishing Connecticut Tennis Center in New Haven, which lost its sanction for the Connecticut Open earlier this year, may soon get an injection of new energy through a proposal to transform it into an outdoor music and comedy venue.

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