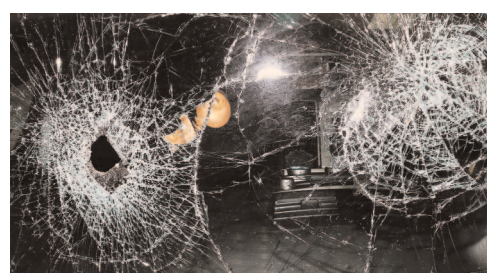


HUSBAND ON TRIAL



Todd Kendhammer claims a pipe fell from a passing truck, pierced the windshield, above, of the car he was driving, and killed his wife of 25 years, Barbara Kendhammer.

THE DEFENDANT

Todd Kendhammer, 47, of West Salem, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the September 2016 death of his wife of 25 years, Barbara. A La Crosse native, Kendhammer before his arrest worked at Crown Cork and Seal Co. in La Crosse and replaced windshields on the side. The couple have two adult children. Here he's shown during his December 2016 preliminary hearing in La Crosse County Circuit Court. He is free on a \$250,000 cash bond.



PETER THOMSON, TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

THE CASE

Did a freak accident kill Barbara Kendhammer? Or did Todd Kendhammer fatally beat her and concoct a bizarre story to explain his wife's death? The two-week trial begins Monday.

ANNE JUNGEN

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Prosecutors contend Todd Kendhammer fatally beat his wife of 25 years last year and tried to conceal her death by staging a freak car accident. Kendhammer says she died when an airborne pipe pierced his windshield

The forensics say Barbara Kendhammer's injuries were consistent with a beating. The defendant says they were caused by a pipe that flew through the windshield of a Toyota Camry.

and struck her in the head.

The West Salem man's 10-day trial for the intentional death of Barbara Kendhammer opens Monday in La Crosse County Circuit Court, when attorneys will narrow a pool of potential jurors to 12, plus at least one alternate, to decide the case.

Kendhammer told authorities the couple left their home at N6617 E. Scotch Coulee Road in West Salem between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. Sept. 16 for Holmen, where he planned to pick up a truck to replace its windshield.

GPS information retrieved from Google show the couple's cellphones at a neighbor's house from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m., according to a La Crosse

County Sheriff's Department report. The neighbor, who lives in Seattle, said Kendhammer cared for the 80-acre property that he planned to buy.

Barbara was scheduled to work at 8 a.m. at West Salem Middle School — the opposite direction from Holmen. The owner of the truck said he did not arrange for Kendhammer

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Todd Kendhammer had bloody knuckles and scratches on his neck and chest. He told police he sustained his injuries working with glass.

THE VICTIM



Barb Kendhammer, 46, mother of two, died of her injuries Sept. 17, 2016, six weeks after she and Todd Kendhammer celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. She worked in food service at West Salem Middle School.

Follow Todd Kendhammer's homicide trial live from the courtroom at lacrossetribune.com.

THE PROSECUTION



Gruenke

La Crosse County District Attorney **Tim Gruenke**, who is trying his sixth intentional homicide case, and assistant district attorney **Sue Donskey**.



Donskey



Hurley

Madison-based attorneys **Stephen Hurley** and **Jonas Bednarek**, who are trying their first homicide case in La Crosse County.



Bednarek

THE DEFENSE

THE JUDGE

La Crosse County Circuit Judge **Todd Bjerke**, who was first elected in 2007 and was a La Crosse County prosecutor from 1989 to 2007.

