

*Sup and IVs Julie Min, Sean Ronan:

On 10/09/09, at approximately 0715 hours, I was given preliminary information regarding this case. I assisted Detective Poling with the search warrant information from Detectives Parkison and Diskin. County Attorney Steve Young reviewed the search warrant and recommended adding the names of the victims who had died during the sweat lodge. Detective Poling met me at the Sheriff's Office and then obtained a signed search warrant from Judge Bluff at the Yavapai County Superior Court. The search warrant and affidavit were taken to the Yavapai County Clerks Office and assigned a number.

I then responded to the scene at the Angel Valley Retreat to assist with the search warrant. I was assigned to scribe and collect items marked as evidence. I listed each item seized on the search warrant supplement and each item was either placed into a bag or tagged. Each item was photographed prior to being seized.

All items were then transported to the Camp Verde Sheriff's Office Evidence and secured.

On 10/13/09, I invoiced and sealed each item and turned them over to Evidence Tech Sharon Boyle. I also appeared before Judge Bluff and completed the Search Warrant Return. I then returned the original Search Warrant, Search Warrant Return, Search Warrant Supplements and court order sealing the Search Warrant to the Yavapai County Clerks Office.

I had been directed to conduct follow up interviews with those who had additional information or had minimal interviews.

On 10/14/09, at approximately 0820, I called and left a message for Beverly Bunn, sweat lodge participant to call me. I had been told she was next to Kirby Brown during the ceremony. I did not receive a call back.

On 10/14/09 at approximately 0950 hours, I called Julie Min, a sweat lodge participant. I audio taped the conversation and will place a CD containing the recording into YCSO evidence.

I introduced myself and explained that I was following up on what occurred at the Angel Valley retreat and asked if now was a good time to speak with Julie. Julie Min asked if she could put me on hold and she would be right back. I told her that was fine. In a very short time Julie returned to the phone. I asked how she was feeling. Julie told me today she is feeling all right. She said yesterday and the day before she was very tired.

Julie told me she learned about James Ray from his part in the DVD "The Secret". She said she has attended 6 James Ray events. She said she had never been in a sweat lodge before, but has spent time in a sauna. Julie described the differences between the sauna and sweat lodge as the sauna was very moist heat and the sweat lodge was very dry. She

said that during the times she was in a sauna she controlled the time she was in the sauna and did not stay very long. Julie said her intention was to stay through the entire sweat lodge event. Her position in the sweat lodge was three people from James Ray and in front and left of Stephen Ray, she was between the east and south gate. Julie told me her first focus was on herself to experience the ceremony and then to encouraged others.

I asked what she heard James Ray say. Julie described the ceremony as both structured and unstructured. The structure was focusing on the pouches they brought into the lodge with them. Julie told me Gabriella was on her right, Brent was on her left and Taylor and Megan (Part of James staff) were next to her. Marta another staff member was also near her. Julie said she spent most of her time laying down and did not move from her position. Julie thought they did 8 rounds, then said either 7 or 8. She said that one round was repeated in the beginning. She said during the later rounds she felt she was in an altered mental state. She told me part of the experience was to reach that altered state and she believes she reached that in the 5th round.

When asked what she ate or drank. Julie said during the Vision Quest that fasted for 36 hours. Julie said that morning she ate eggs, cheese and lots of fruit. She said she hydrated before the Vision Quest and after, plus she took the recommended salt.

I asked if she knew what to expect for the Vision Quest. Julie said she only had a vague idea, but put two and two together from the packing list. She said it was a very peaceful experience for her.

I asked if she knew what to expect from the Sweat Lodge. She said she had no idea. She said that it was recommended that those who participated in the Sweat Lodge in previous years not share that with the new comers. Julie told me that just prior to the event James Ray told them some of what to expect. I asked what he told her. She said that he told her the area was very small and short, that they would be shoulder to shoulder and knee to knee and it would be very hot. The rocks would be brought in at the beginning of each session and the door would be open and that would be the time to leave. When the rocks were brought in everyone was to say oh grandfather to honor the ancestors and they would reach an altered state. At the end they would be helped out to the tarp and hosed down with very cold water and the reason was to wash off the toxins and close off their pours. The people outside would give them towels and fluids and they would be taken care of by people who had gone through this prior.

I asked if there were any safety procedures discussed prior. Julie said that we were told if we did not feel well to leave. If you needed help you would be helped out. I asked if it was explained that you might lose consciousness. Julie said she was a little fuzzy on that, but it might have been mentioned. She said so much of what happened was a blur. I asked if it was ever mentioned what to do if someone else became distressed. She said that mostly you were to take care of yourself, but if you saw something speak up and they would get help from the dream team or bigger men inside.

Julie told me that James Ray led the ceremony and as a group they would chant and say their proclamation. Julie told me James Ray would talk about each pouch and what they represent. Julie said the rounds seemed to get shorter as they went on.

I asked if anyone left the lodge other than through the door. Julie told me that she found that after the fact when she learned Kirby and James were taken out the back. Julie told me toward the beginning of the ceremony round 3 or so there appeared to be people lifting the flags up in the back of the lodge. James asked "what are you people doing please close the flap" and it occurred 2 or 3 times from the direct opposite of the door where Kirby and James were.

I asked if anyone ever said someone was having problems. Julie said that it was said so and so has passed out. Julie said that was when people were directed to take or drag a person out. She said that Amy and Sydney and Lou were all drug/assisted out. Julie said there may have been one other person helped out.

I asked what if any symptoms she experienced. Julie said that during round 5 she became nauseous, but decided she would stay in. She said she was aware of the feeling, but ignored it. She said when she left she was extremely dizzy, had a headache, very weak and eventually threw up. She was then given electrolytes and oranges and immediately felt better except for a slight headache. Julie said she has experienced heat exhaustion from hiking and felt she recovered much faster from the sweat lodge than from the heat exhaustion. Julie said she was very happy with the way she had come through the event.

I asked Julie to describe the atmosphere inside the Sweat Lodge. Julie hesitated and said she was not sure what I was asking. I then asked on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being warm and 10 being super heated what the Lodge was like. Julie said it was up there between 8 and 10. I asked about ventilation. During the first few rounds she said she was close enough to the door she felt air flow. After that it did not matter and she could no longer tell a difference when the door was open. She said the heat was non stop after that.

I asked if there were people still inside when she left. She said there were. The inner circle were allowed to leave first. Julie was part of the first out from the outer circle. Julie said Aaron (Bennet) was in charge of the rocks and from his position might have been one of the last ones to leave.

I asked Julie if she noticed anyone in distress at the end when she was leaving. Julie said at that point she was getting anxious to leave and it took all she had to not panic and get herself out. Julie said she never heard someone say they were having a heart attack or going to die inside. She said after getting outside she heard people saying those things. I asked about hearing someone say today is a good day to die. She said after the fact in the spirit of the whole warrior attitude someone may have said that. She said it was about would you have been proud of yourself, your performance.

I asked Julie to tell me what she heard when outside. Julie told me that she heard people saying they thought they were going to die. Julie said she reacted to that with shock and

asked them you really thought you were going to die. Julie felt people were experiencing both feeling fine and others being very sick.

I asked if she heard James Ray say, you think you are going to die, but you won't die. Julie said maybe, but she was fuzzy during that time.

I asked Julie to tell me what she remembered about the people around her that had come out of the lodge. Julie said Tess was beside her on the tarp. Julie remembers Tess on her side moaning and thought it was Tess's way of dealing with the ordeal she had just gone through. When Tess would not respond they rolled her on her back and saw she was foaming at the mouth. People then began pouring water on her to cool her down, massaging her to try and get her back into her body. Tess was rolled from her back onto her side so if she threw up her airway would stay clear. Julie said at that point she left to go be sick herself. She felt the people with knowledge were called into action and were doing everything they knew how to do.

I asked about Kirby, James or Liz. Julie said that she had no information about them until later when she learned two people were pulled out of the lodge without a pulse and it was Kirby and James.

I then asked about Sydney Spencer and Stephen Ray. Julie told me she learned about Stephen Ray after the fact and spoke with him at the hospital. Stephen told her that he got sick once he got outside and passed out.

Julie told me "they" were helping Sydney leave the lodge either the last or next to last round. That was when she heard her making noises and believed she was breathing, but they could not get a verbal response. Julie remembered others talking about how best to help her from the lodge.

I asked Julie if anyone was discouraged from helping anyone in distress. Julie said the participants were and it was left up to those outside the lodge to provide aid. Julie said the very first time she knew there was a problem was when she saw Tess in trouble.

I asked Julie what she thought happened. Julie told me she has a very spiritual reason, but she is also not sure if it was temperature or air quality. I asked if anyone has spoken with her about what to say. She said she was told to just tell the truth.

I asked if there is anything else that would be important for me to know that I have not asked her. Again Julie answered that she has a very spiritual belief about what happened and that there were many who did not get sick as well as many who did.

I then concluded the interview.

I called Sean Ronan on 10/14/09, at approximately 1515 hours, and spoke with him by phone. I audio taped the conversation and the following is a summary.

Sean told me he learned of James Ray through a friend and began attending all of the seminars in April of 2006. Sean explained that there are a series of events Harmonic Wealth, Absolute Wealth, Quantum Leap, Modern Magic and Spiritual Warrior. Sean explained he has completed two of the 4 Modern Magic events and was a participant this time in Spiritual Warrior. Sean explained that he would also volunteer to produce events with James Ray.

I asked Sean to tell me if he had ever been in a Sweat Lodge or Sauna before. He said not a sweat lodge, but he has been in a sauna before. He said he also has participated in Bikram Yoga. I asked Sean to tell me what that is. He explained that he performs yoga while in a location where the temperature is 104 degrees. I asked what the differences were between those activities and the sweat lodge. He said the sweat lodge was a lot hotter and you are in the dirt, it is totally different.

I asked who was talking during the sweat lodge. Sean said James Ray was leading a prayer and telling them they are more than their fears and they can do this. Sean also said others were talking and supporting one another.

I asked Sean if he felt it was safe prior to entering the sweat lodge. Sean said yes. I asked him to tell me why he felt that. Sean said that because he is somewhat familiar with sweat lodges through his friends and he has done some extreme things with James Ray and felt safe.

I asked Sean where he was seated in the lodge. Sean said he was exact north or opposite the door. Sean said Mark Rock was in front, James Shore was on his left and on the right was Christine and next to Christine was Tess.

I asked Sean if he could tell if anyone around him was in distress. He said not really because during the last half he was on his back or belly. I asked why he was in that position. Sean said because it was hot and he wanted to get air. He couldn't remember who told him that it would be cooler with more air if you lay down closer to the ground.

I asked how long Sean stayed inside the sweat lodge. He said he was one of the last one out and he was drug out because he was unconscious. He told me he was transported to the hospital in the same ambulance with Lou Caci.

I asked Sean if he knew what to expect from the sweat lodge. He said he did not, but knew it was going to be extreme and would really test and challenge him. I asked how he knew that. Sean said because of what he knew from his friends Joe and Alan who do sweat lodges. Sean explained that from what he knew all sweat lodges are like that because they are your opportunity to find God.

I asked what safety procedures were given for the sweat lodge should there be a problem. It was if you get too hot switch from front to back and to lie down. Sean could not recall anyone sounding like they were in distress. I asked if Sean knew of anyone leaving the lodge through other than the door. Sean said he learned afterwards that he, Kirby and

James were drug out the back. I asked if Sean filled out any medical form or answer any medical questions prior to the sweat lodge. He told me no. I asked what symptoms he experienced while inside and afterwards. Sean told me he was disorientated and hot. Sean thought the number of rounds were seven.

I asked Sean if there was any reason he did not leave the lodge sooner. He told me because he wanted to get the most out of the experience and he wanted to achieve what he wanted to achieve. He further trusted that everything would be fine. I asked how he is feeling now. He told me he has a sinus infection, a prostate infection and a slight fever. He further said he is feeling sluggish and tired.

I asked if there was a problem or anything went wrong in the sweat lodge. Sean said he felt it went how it was suppose to be. I asked how he feels about it now. He stated that is for him to contemplate. I asked what he thought caused it to go so wrong. Sean said he felt people engaged their egos and really wanted to stay in to get the most benefit from the ceremony. Sean told me no one has told him what to say.

I concluded the interview after providing Sean with my name and phone number.

Date, Time, Reporting Officer:
Wed Oct 21 08:49:52 MST 2009
Detective Shonna Willingham #6813

Thu Oct 22 07:01:20 MST 2009
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