

*I/V Andresano, Linda 2009 C36

On 10/27/09, at approximately 1625 hours, I interviewed Linda Andresano by phone. She provided detailed information regarding her participation in the 2009 James Ray Spiritual Warrior event at Angel Valley during the week of October 3rd through the 8th. Please see the transcript below and digital recording in evidence for further information of this interview.

On 11/13/09 I reviewed the below transcript and made some language and grammar changes. I also added the complete information in most of the areas where the transcriptionist noted inaudible.

Personal identification number.

Respondent: Hello.

Interviewer: Is this Linda Andresano?

Respondent: This is.

Interviewer: Linda, this is Detective Shonna Willingham of the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Respondent: How are you?

Interviewer: I am good, how are you?

Respondent: Good thank you.

Interviewer: Good. Is now a good time to be able to speak with you?

Respondent: I am driving and it would be better if I find a place to park and I should do.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you want to do that or rather you call you at another time?

Respondent: No, I can do that, just give me about little time to park.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So you represent the Sheriff's Department.

Interviewer: Yes, I am with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Respondent: Okay. Did you get any of my messages about some belongings that I have that that were down and I assume this is about the (Inaudible)?

Interviewer: Yes this is about the thing that happened at the Angel Valley retreat and I have not gotten any of your messages about, I mean your belongings.

Respondent: Yeah I left three messages, I talked to two humans and one message and I have never gotten a call back. And what I left was a journal, a file book about 7x6. And I am not sure it has my name in it, but I know it would be easily recognizable by where they are having it. And I was wondering if I could get copies of that or you make copies for your evidence and then get it back, is that possible?

Interviewer: It is possible as soon as I can identify it, was it left down by the lodge?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay I am sure it was picked up, I am sure it was gathered up. Once I locate it, what I can do is make copies of it for you first and foremost and then once the case is over, I can make sure that it's noted that that's returned to you.

Respondent: Sure.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Okay, so you want me to describe it.

Interviewer: Have you stopped driving?

Respondent: I am at stop light, I am (Inaudible 2.37) close.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Do you want me to describe that while I am driving?

Interviewer: I would rather you were safe and stopped.

Respondent: Okay. I have it (Inaudible 2.55)

Interviewer: So you had a good location now.

Respondent: I am just getting to a place where I can park. Okay I am parked.

Interviewer: Okay, all right. Well first, were you interviewed initially at the scene?

Respondent: No, I was interviewed in the hospital.

Interviewer: Interviewed in the hospital, okay. And do you recall who did your interview, was it a Deputy or was it a plain police detective?

Respondent: Deputy.

Interviewer: A Deputy, well then we want --

Respondent: Are you a plain clothes?

Interviewer: I am a plain clothes. I am a detective. And I am not saying that he didn't do a good job, I am just saying that it probably wasn't as in depth and if you were being treated in the hospital, he didn't want to in anyway interfere in your treatment. So I am going to ask you first to describe the events as you recall them and then I have some questions that I need to discuss with you, okay. And it's going to take a while, so are you in a comfortable location that we can be sure for a while?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Okay so you want me to start at the front page?

Interviewer: You might kind of start with the vision quest because to me, that's kind of important and you know the eating, the sleeping, the amount of fluids you know those are all important things that led up to the sweat lodge.

Respondent: Well I drink gobs and gobs and gobs of water before this (Inaudible 4:54) so I probably had two or three gallons of water the day before we went out, so I actually wasn't thirsty at all when I was out there, but hungry.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I slept while I was out there.

Interviewer: Good.

Respondent: And it was very safe, I could hear, it was not out in the _____5.25, I could hear things like car doors and things, so it was all right on the property. And I couldn't see anything because there were, those spots were chosen so that they were isolated, but they weren't really far away, at least in mine (Inaudible) I can't speak for everybody --

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So actually I was kind of surprised that they got there so early on Thursday morning, because I thought it was going to be about 9 o'clock. And I am trying to remember it was 6:30-7 I guess and I had everything up and went back to, I think I went back to my tent first and got all stuff for shower and then went up to the breakfast, to the kitchen area, had some juice and had some liquids and as the showers were occupied, and

I ate breakfast and went back to take shower. And this (Inaudible 6.41) again and I probably didn't drink three gallons that day, but at least, did you see those 32 ounce (overlapping)

Interviewer: The bottle.

Respondent: Yeah, I probably drank four or five of those.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Between breakfast and (Inaudible 7.07) went into the sweats. And I have been in many sweats before and I knew that it was going to be, I know what they are like, they are hot and I knew from the time I got there because I saw the sweat and since I have done them before I knew what the structure was. So I asked if there was going to be a sweat and somebody said, yeah, so they didn't say when, so whenever he said hydrate (Inaudible 7.35). You know it's because you are going to be sweating, so.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So yeah, I was still drinking out of my container when I went in there, I got in line to go in there. And it was very hot, I was sitting directly opposite the door and it was hotter than most sweats that I have been in, more rocks, more water, for steam and hotter steam. One time took a breath and it kind of was really hot in my throat, so next time I didn't take such deep breath and covered my mouth with my dress with my head on. And then it was just you know long and it was hot and you know I was crowded because there were lot of people in the back where I was. And people had to lay down, if you are hot, if you are really feeling hot, but I really couldn't, there was (Inaudible). And I couldn't besides, I really needed to but I didn't feel like I needed to as there was a person in front of me that I had lay back on me. So there is somebody in front of me most of the time, so that actually made it not quite as hard as it was when she laid down in front of me. And I remember the sixth round, I think and I remember somebody saying only two more, only two more and I remember saying, don't say, there is two more, we will do another one. And every time, I have been in the sweat you know the people that run this sweats are you know Native American are not you know they don't like to be told how to run the (Inaudible 9.37) sweat, so I remember thinking that. And then I guess remember getting really sleepy and leaning against the sweat space that was holding the structure up. And then the next thing I remember I was out of the tent, out of the sweat, so I don't remember getting out of sweat. And I am pretty sure, I got pulled out the back, so all those pictures that you see with the back of the sweat with it pulled up, that's right where I was sitting, so that was very helpful. People just could open that door. Opinion wise, I think that backdoor, there should have been a backdoor and I think that we should have been able to open that backdoor or at least get a little circulation because that building was so big. And I didn't really feel a lot of fresh air when the door opened and then that on every other sweat that I have been in you know you can feel the air coming and it's very refreshing.

Interviewer: And some of the ones that I have seen pictures of others, the door is bigger, is that common?

Respondent: No actually that was the biggest door I have ever seen, the whole object of the sweat, just to crawl into the womb of mother where it's supposed to be small, it's supposed to be cramped, you are supposed to be in a respectful and, what's the word, you are little _____ 11.28 motherhood, I don't mean that like badly I just --

Interviewer: No, no, but --

Respondent: Kind of being that suffocative position you know you kneel and you crawl in, you are not supposed to be able to stand up and walk around and you know be really clumpy. It's the Native Americans, at least the Lakotas and Apache sweats that I have done, it recreates the room of the earth, so that's why it's about a rebirth and about you know kind of being in cramped quarters and it's not easy to get born, so that's the whole idea.

Interviewer: Now is there usually that many people in one?

Respondent: No, I mean it had been much, much more crowded within a smaller sweat. I would say that sweat was bigger by about, I have been in a big sweat that you know I mean, it was weird because of this particular limit, something I know maybe you could actually stand up and be just hunkered down and I am 5'4' and I could stand up and just be bend over little bit and that was really too tall of a sweat. But that one, how big was this one, I mean in diameters like 30 feet then I have been in one that was probably 20, so not that much smaller. I have been in more that were smaller that I am probably 5'4', but I mean we were really cramped in there, so it's quite cozy.

Interviewer: What do you think made you feel so sleepy towards the end?

Respondent: I think I was dehydrated and I think I will tell you one thing, I think that I had an altered experience in there, because I had been in sweats before where other people have had experiences with these same visions though stuff and lots of stuff, I mean that is not an uncommon thing, that had never happened to me before.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I think that also I just kind of surrendered, I know that I was like, you know I can do this, I can do this, I can do this, I can do this, I surrendered. And so I don't know if that was like, I talked to other people from there about that and whether the people they have died, went kicking and screaming, whether they chose to leave, I don't know, of course I don't know and I don't ever until I see them again and I believe I will. But I don't know why I was unconscious but didn't die. And when I woke up, I definitely felt strange. Well I told the Deputy that it felt like I was drug-induced all this space, it felt like kind of like my body was, I can't describe it, it just felt like my body was like it's very strange, it's very, very odd. When I woke up, the people that were from Angel

Valley were just as sweetest could be and were helping me, finally you know, take some drink, said you know drink some of this, like do you like water and I couldn't speak for a while, I looked at my hands and they didn't look like my hands, you know it was very, very strange. And then, it's been no longer I was out there, and I am a nurse, so I was trying to get my shit together. It was very strange to be on the opposite side of the sheet, so I would not be able to help people.

Interviewer: How bad.

Respondent: But I mean I was like this is weird, this is strange, what the hell. And then I remember saying I am not going to die. And you know I will never know how much that decided whether I did or not, like you know.

Interviewer: To determine --

Respondent: Yeah and I don't know if other people were afraid because I heard that Jim Shore went in, came out of this sweat and went back in to help Kirby. And so I don't think he was afraid, I think he was honorable and afraid, you know it's wonderful. So I don't think you know so with that knowledge I don't know what happened, I don't know his body just couldn't tolerate it (Inaudible).

Interviewer: And are you having any symptoms or problems since then?

Respondent: No, unfortunately, like I said I am a nurse and I contracted hepatitis C about 30 years ago and wouldn't you know that I was suppose to start the treatment before I went and I thought, I think I am going to just wait till I get back, and I am really glad I did. But I came back, I mean that was on a Thursday and I started the treatment on Tuesday, so I had felt like crap based on hepatitis C treatment which is you know interferon and just antivirus, which is kind of a chemotherapy agent for some kinds of cancer like multiple myeloma, but it just makes you feel like you have the flu. I had a fever of 103 for the first three days then it took it almost 13th, 14th and 15th. So that was like right after that happened and so that medicine also causes dehydration. So I am really, I was like drinking like you know what and so I have some symptoms, yes but they are most likely related to the effects of treatment.

Interviewer: Okay. Linda, how did you learn about James Ray?

Respondent: A friend had, I was picked to a free event [REDACTED] and I don't think she went, she told me about it and I went. And then there was, I would tell you, it wasn't a free event, it was a movie that you could go see that was called Harmonic Wealth. And I think she and I did go to that together, but then there was a free event and I took my mom which I am really glad I did, because as you can imagine as with a lot of families, my brother doesn't know anything about James Ray, he is really (Inaudible) and thinks the guy is just horrible. And my mom because she saw him and was up there for a 2-hour free event, she kind of you know she is like, like he seems so nice and he seems

like he needs friends, it seemed like he was the responsible person which I think is all true, I think there was just something very really wrong happened and I don't think anything that he did was intentional. You know I think some choices could have been better, but I don't think, I don't think there was any (Inaudible 20.02). So yeah I heard about him, so I went to that free thing and then I find out to go to what they called Harmonic Wealth and I (Inaudible 20.12) it was three year and a half.

Interviewer: When was that that you first learned about it?

Respondent: Probably like two years ago, because my husband and I went to an event in Chicago in July and that has been, my husband signed up for two more events, one of which is in Las Vegas in November that we are going to. And then I signed up to this one. And everybody that I talked to knows that I went right from Harmonic Wealth to, this is like oh my gosh, really, this is more intense, more personal work and more, well kind of getting down to what is really holding you back and (Inaudible 20.58) seeing and doing what you want to do. So I felt like that because like I said I have done sweats and I have done stuff and seen people that were really together and people that were charlatan and they prayed for discernment and so I am not a real groupie, I am not a groupie kind of person, it's just takes everything at you know which is such you know that's the gospel (Inaudible 21.35) telling you the gospel, because I am old, you know I turned [REDACTED] on Monday a week ago.

Interviewer: Happy Birthday.

Respondent: Thank you. And you know I guess praying for discernment really helped because I have something now, and to my way, yeah that was, you know it always made me a little and I was really kind of, I am not sure if I really want to do this, I really want to go, I just kind of have some --

Interviewer: Reservations.

Respondent: Yeah because you know who wants to go to something that's really intense you know, it's really going to change your life, but it's going to like possibly turn you inside out, not that anyone said that (Inaudible 22:18) you know that usually means. [REDACTED]

Interviewer: Oh my gosh.

Respondent: Pretty sick. And so even though I have had therapy and I have been married for 4 years, but I have had four friends in relationship and all those kinds of stuff. I have never had children and I have never, you know kind of, there is a part of me that's always so kind of broken from that. So when I would talk to them about that, it's that Harmonic Wealth, they would kind of go, you know this is probably the best for you.

And sure enough, I mean there were so many great things that happened at that, during that week until Thursday which was tragic, even the person that spoke on CBS, her name is Beverly, she is from [REDACTED], I felt so bad when I heard that, because I just turned that yesterday and somebody said me that of course everybody in the (Inaudible 23:52) knows that I was there and it seems like they need to tell me stuff (Inaudible) and the saddest thing, very, very, very saddest thing was that, what I wanted to say first was that, the very first thing that we talked about when we talked about stuff that's in your way of you know being who you want to be, doing what you want to do, all that kind of stuff. It has to do with you know sexual stuff and that was like the first thing that we delve into which I thought was like man, dive into the deep end you know what the truth of the matter is, that is what you know and he said something that I thought was really-really interesting which was most women, it's not the exception, but women have been abused somewhere or another, it's more of rule, unfortunately. And I have never heard anybody say that before, but I'd tell you, in my experience and in my nursing experience and in my life seeing people and seeing people stuck in all these kinds of stuff, I am not a counselor or anything like that, but I would rate highest in my psych stuff in nursing, probably because I had my own psych issues. You know it helps, you recognize what you want or what you experience.

Interviewer: What you have experienced.

Respondent: Yeah, exactly. So anyway I mean I talked about jump right into the deep end of the core just for men and for women and not necessarily talk about it, talk about few (Inaudible) process things and right things and kind of write an hand journal and write, write, write of the experiences and all those kinds of stuff. So the saddest thing about what they really had to say on CBS was that that was exactly what her issue was when she got there and within four days, three days four days, she had a breakthrough about not needing to feel that way. You know and I remember that her stuff that you know, I have to be the one that does everything because I am the only responsible one, I have to. Men always disappoint. Men are never there for you. I have to be the one that's the strongest and does everything and is the most together. And that's basically what she said on CBS. He left us, he abandoned us. I said I am a doctor, I can help, I can do CPR, I can do this, I can take care of this. And I find it so sad that I think because we didn't have closure nor did we have continuing, I mean some people continue to stay on track and talk to people about not only Thursday's incident but you know what happened at the retreat and you know kind of things that you learned and breakthroughs that you had and I feel so bad for Beverly, because it's so like she just (Inaudible) that's the way when she got there.

Interviewer: You know someone else kind of said that too, kind of a common theme, some of them have said that they felt like you know he talks about you know it's better to die an honorable death than live a dishonorable life, he didn't even stick around to say good-bye or talk to anybody when everything went so bad.

Respondent: Well I see

Interviewer: I don't know.

Respondent: I know that he was asking, I know that didn't want to leave and I know that he left because his attorney said get the hell out of there. And it is unfortunate because you know it's left to the lawyers you know, oh my God, which way it will be. But you know and I don't know, I mean maybe his lawyer, it's a little less tow the line and maybe a little more open-minded, but can't imagine, because it's a multimillion dollar business, so it's probably a shark, probably a shark, it's that, get the hell out of here, don't talk to anybody, don't say anything, don't do anything, just leave, and I think that that he didn't want that to happen. But I started thinking about it later too you know. If he had stayed whatever he said would have been under the microscope and you know it's just a terrible-terrible-terrible thing. It doesn't matter, if he says something that's going to be wrong, if he doesn't say something it's going to be wrong because it's terrible you know it's a terrible thing and there will be people that will defend James Ray till their dying day and there will be people that would crucify James Ray till their dying day. And that's just the way it is and it doesn't have as much to do with James Ray as it has to do with person and what they bring to it. There is a saying that he has in things that it is not the ritual, it is what you bring to the ritual.

Interviewer: That has a lot of truth.

Respondent: Right.

Interviewer: Did you hear anyone talk or make assurances that the people that conducted or built this sweat lodge were specifically trained or experts and you said, you have seen others in this?

Respondent: Yeah he introduced us to the people, actually, the people that built this sweat, were the people that were around me when I was waking up. They were just the kindest, most loving, most sweet people that I have ever met. And he introduced us to them. Oh my gosh, I can't remember the names now. It was a husband and wife, and I think his name was Ted. Her name was Donna. And then another girl named Fern and they all lived on the property. They all had had training by Native American folks and they were very serious about their job and very serious about their (Inaudible 30.44). They were just so bad for them (overlapping), oh my gosh, they were just terrified and horrified.

Interviewer: Linda, did you feel prior to going into the sweat lodge that it was going to be safe?

Respondent: Yes, I did.

Interviewer: Why?

Respondent: I have been in them before. I know that the instructions were, you may leave, if you need to, you leave it's a sacred space, it's a church, a

sweat lodge is a church, native American church. You have respect and you may leave if you need to. So I really didn't think it was going to be any different than any other sweats that I have been in. When it started and it was so hot, I went Holy shit, here we go, it's going to be hot. And I have been in really hot ones before. And you know I mean I did everything that I was taught to do, which is you know dig your fingers into the dirt because the dirt is cool. And all those instructions were given.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I think the saddest thing that I have to say is that, some people did listen to their own bodies, I maybe one of them you know, I didn't feel like I was passing out, but I was. So I maybe one of those people that didn't listen, but I didn't feel like I was you know in trouble.

Interviewer: Okay. So you were told somewhat what to expect and how to respond?

Respondent: Well absolutely.

Interviewer: Can you tell me what was said?

Respondent: Just what I just said.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: This is a church, this is a sacred space and respect whatever it is, where it came from, you are in the womb of mother earth, the rocks be called the grandfathers and when they come in, we see Yahoo grandfathers. And if you need to leave, leave when the door is open.

Interviewer: Okay. And you couldn't leave any other time, right?

Respondent: Preferably not, yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Did anyone speak during the ceremony?

Respondent: Yeah, we all did, we prayed and talked and repeated prayers and stuff like that. And we all had big prayer bundles which I am sure you would have in evidence that are just a little piece of cloth with tobacco in it. And those words should be, the idea behind that is that your prayers go in them, in the bag and then your prayers go up with the smoke when you burn them at the end of the sweat. So when it was time to talk about those seven prayer ties that we made; you know it says what your intention was for each one, the direction, each direction has an input as far as change in your life or stuff like that. So we talked. I did not hear people say things that I have heard in the sense that people were saying you know I didn't hear people having trouble breathing. I feel absolutely horrible that I didn't hear that, because I absolutely without question would

have said, get the fuck out of here, I don't care who you are or what the fuck this is about, this woman is dangerously ill, she needs to get out of here. And I feel really bad that they didn't hear that.

Interviewer: And that may have been the altered state that you were in?

Respondent: I am afraid that is the issue because I remember somebody says the next morning you should have buddy system in the sweat like you know you should have partner and each one look after the other; and whoever the person that said that, a person said that and the other person said absolutely not, absolutely without question no, because you are both in an altered state. And so I have been in sweats that there are more questions about, is everybody okay you know. And the other thing that was different about sweats that I have been in, actually the Native American ones I have been in, I have never, I don't think people have ever left. But the other ones that I was in that were taken care of by white people but who had lived with Apache, their philosophy was if one goes out we all go out. That was interesting. Now that kind of gave people some feeling of you know oh my gosh, I am going to ruin it for everybody, but it was fine, I mean it was repeated numerous times and I have told people that that particular person who shall remain nameless, did things like this you know vision quest there in ceremony and all those kinds of stuff. And he had somebody actually walk off a cliff in a vision quest and die(Inaudible). So maybe that's why he was like anyway they need to get out, we all get out, it's not about staying in here long as they need to stay in here, this is church but it's also safety issues.

Interviewer: And that's why I am little concerned that maybe James Ray was the one facilitating, right, directing?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay. And how was he dealing with people that were in distress?

Respondent: I didn't hear him.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I mean I heard, the only thing that I heard was that somebody, two people next to me lifted up the back of the tent, the back of the sweat at one of the first door opening and of course that lets lighting because it's completely pitch black in there.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: And he wasn't really happy about that.

Interviewer: How did he address that?

Respondent: Is that a flashlight turned it off and I said you know they are just lifting the flaps to get some air, I remember saying that, it was right at the beginning actually. And he said you know it's disrespectful you know you need to, you need to close it.

Interviewer: Okay. Did anyone leave other than through the door?

Respondent: Not that I know of, but I later talked to someone who did squiggle out under the tarps and he doesn't remember doing that, but he is an [REDACTED] so he probably did it automatic pilot.

Interviewer: Automatic survival instincts.

Respondent: Exactly.

Interviewer: Okay. I was going to ask you if you remember anybody having a flash light or light coming in, but we already talked about that.

Respondent: Yeah. Because that you know that's a great thing to do, actually and at night, it is much easier to do that, because the light doesn't come. Like I said you know hindsight of 20/20 but you know I have never known of a sweat with two doors, but because of the size of the sweat, that would have been a really smart thing.

Interviewer: It would have been little air in both sides.

Respondent: And that's like --

Interviewer: I don't think you are going to remember this because you don't remember getting out, but was there anyone inside when you left?

Respondent: I have no idea.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear --?

Respondent: I have no idea, I just know that the person that pulled me out had burned his arm and needed to get to the ambulance and he didn't want to leave and so he saw me to make sure I was okay.

Interviewer: So, Lou was one of them that pulled you out?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone say anything about having a heart attack, I thought they were going to die?

Respondent: No, I heard people doing CPRs and that freaked me out (Inaudible 39.26)

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: And I also was thinking, when I came to and I looked around the ground, I was like what in the hell happened, it was there like it was light (Inaudible) I thought maybe the rocks have exploded, because it looked like a mass unit, I mean it just looked like a battlefield

Interviewer: So, many people were out lying.

Respondent: Lying around and there was one light and that was just the beginnings of ambulances getting there, I might have been out for, I have no idea, nobody knows, I never talked to anybody who knows how longer I was out or anything like that, I just know that I started to come to and went, get your shit together, do not die and since you are not dying, you better live. And when I came back, I said you know dying is easy.

Interviewer: The coming back was probably the hard part.

Respondent: No, actually dying is easy, living without being alive is the hard part.

Interviewer: Yeah, well that --

Respondent: Going back or coming back was also easy, I mean once I said I am not going to die and but I could definitely see why it's easy to die, it's hard to live and not just go through the emotions, just kind of whine along the all life because of xyz.

Interviewer: Oh, probably how that's true.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you happen to see how James Ray was responding to the people that were down and distressed?

Respondent: Yeah, I know that he came over and gave me a hug and I remember saying, thanks for the hug, and then I felt like a 5 year old, you know thanks for the hug.

Interviewer: Well that's all right, that's alright.

Respondent: But anyway, he was really shocked, I remember that he was just speechless. I think there were tears in his eyes, and I think that he was just freaked.

Interviewer: Okay. Was there a reason you didn't live sooner, Linda?

Respondent: No, I just thought I was okay. And I thought there are only two more rounds and I can do this.

Interviewer: Did you notice ?

Respondent: I had more than this.

Interviewer: That you are better that you can get there, is that what you ?

Respondent: What do you mean?

Interviewer: You fell like I can get there, I can accomplish that.

Respondent: I can do this, I can do this, yeah I did.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you notice if anyone was discouraged from helping anyone else that was in distress?

Respondent: I didn't personally hear that, I have heard stories of that, but I have no personal experience of that.

Interviewer: Okay, and at what point did you realize something had gone way wrong?

Respondent: When I was waking up.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: When I was waking up, and my hands looked funny and my body was going through and I woke up wet, because they spraying me with a hose and I just couldn't speak and couldn't quite get it together. And that's when, and I actually didn't say that what happened you know that's when I said was there an explosion, what happened, why did this happen you know and then I started asking soon after that, did anybody die, because I just, I remember saying this is not good.

Interviewer: Yeah. What do you think happened that actually resulted in three people dying?

Respondent: The only thing I can think of, like I told you when he said hydrated, the only thing I can think of is that there has been a this is going to sound really weird(Inaudible 43:44) there were a lot of groups there, I am a heavy person and I am Italian and I am a nurse and I am kind of grounded, there were couple of people who were kind of airy-fairy. James wasn't one of them, Kirby definitely was one of them, Sydney was definitely one of them. The only thing that I in my heart of heart think is that he said hydrate and he should have said why, because he said hydrate and they said oh, yeah, I drink enough and they (Inaudible 44:19) in that, because if I had those reactions and hydrate this shit out of my stuff, pardon my french you know there is little brains and hearts and organs could definitely have gone real bad. And you know once you get on that thermodynamic roller-coaster, it's real hard to come back from that. And you know that's only thing I can think of. I remember thinking when I saw Kirby going in there and

that she went in it with the bathing suit on, and I was always taught to wear cotton clothing and t-shirt and shorts or I still have the dress that I wear in every sweat, it's cotton and it's long. And you know I remember thinking, it helps to have your body to have something around it to hold fluid. So I remember seeing her walk down to the sweat in her bathing suit and just thinking oh boy, she's going to be really hot, that she can lose more fluid because she is almost naked on a two piece bathing suit. I know James was young, but you know I have taken care of more than one person that was older or younger and they had some underlying real terrible stuff happening with their organs and parts and I don't know why James died, I don't know if he had an MI or if he had you know heat issue but

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And Liz actually, Liz stumps me more than any one, because Liz had been to that event, I think six times.

Interviewer: I know a number of times, I am not sure of the number.

Respondent: But a lot of times. She wasn't on the vision quest, so she wasn't one of the people that didn't drink for 30 hours.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: She was somebody who knew what this was about and when he said hydrate she hydrated, I just don't, that one really stumps me. And that one I really, that one really bothers me because if there was a relationship to no food, no fluid and you know may be people coming back and they are already really thin people and they don't eat very much and anyway and they come back and it's breakfast and they ate you know like a strawberry, although I don't know if they did it, but you know I mean I know it sounds really terrible, it's sounds very opinionated or very

Interviewer: I asked you just that, I asked you what you thought happened?

Respondent: Yeah, I mean I just think that, for as many people as there are in this country, who overeat and abuse their body in those ways that I think there is as just as many people who abuse their bodies by not taking care and their whole thing is about being slender and being lyes and all that bullshit that can kill you, and that's kind of what I am taking away with that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: But now what's next to me on my left and she is not a really skinny person, I don't know, I mean clearly the location, location, location kind of a bad spot as far as getting air and --. It has a strange thing because it is still the most, I know it's going to sound really weird to say about, it was the most life changing event not just because I

almost died, but because of how I came out of there, how I came out of the vision quest, how I went into the sweat and how I came out of the sweat, how I feel today what stuff is happening to me about my life and what I do and I am just tired of wasting time about anymore.

Interviewer: So that part of it still is there?

Respondent: Oh, my gosh, more than ever and more the longer, I am away from it and the more I am getting used to this medicine you know the more I am processing and talking to people, certain couple of people that we have a group that we chat with and --

Interviewer: Oh, that's good.

Respondent: And then I have a counselor that I see and I am going to see her on Friday and there is some EMDR which is Eye Movement Desensitization, it's for PTSD, it was originally for PSTD. And I did a bunch of that with her last year, did some therapy that was all one thing has led to another. And so it's just so sad that that and what I said from the very beginning was it is really, the saddest thing is that everything turned into Thursday. You know it's nobody's business how much money I paid, it's certainly not my brothers and he like (Inaudible) like Mr. financial genius. And nobody wants to know how people are, they want to know how this hurts you rather than how this effected you and Beverly is the perfect example. And I feel bad for her because I know James was told by his attorney not to contact people and I know that that's probably why she feels left out to try. But by the same token, I think that the people that she did communicate with and that she did talk to based on how I had to separate myself from my brother's love and affection and caring and fear and terror that my sister almost died or my sister could have been one of those people that died, how I have to separate that from, but I didn't. And I am here and I am a better person because of it.

Interviewer: Embrace that.

Respondent: And he just, it was just hard and he is not a touchy feely kind of a guy, so he is like

Interviewer: He is left out trying to deal with the feeling.

Respondent: Yes, you need to sue this guy and you need to not talk anybody and you need to get your money back, you need to distance yourself and you need to sue him. You need to get him on back, you need to sue him, you need to blah-blah-blah, (Inaudible) I said but I don't feel like a victim. You are a victim but I am not a victim, I am okay, or you are not okay.

Interviewer: That's got to be a difficult one.

Respondent: I mean like for instance like with Liz you know I know that her family just didn't like James Ray from the get-go and stuff that you know some choices that Liz

made about her life, her family, still thinks that you know it's James' fault you know James' fault that our mom decided xyz, you know it's all his fault.

Interviewer: Yeah, well, you know what, I think somewhere between all your fault and partially mine is where the truth lies.

Respondent: Exactly.

Interviewer: Has anyone talked to you about what to say if you were talked to by law enforcement, Linda?

Respondent: No, tell the truth I take that back somebody did say.

Interviewer: Okay. Who said to tell the truth?

Respondent: I think it was the dream-team people like when we went the next morning or something.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Or maybe since then I don't know.

Interviewer: Did James Ray or anyone else tell you what his qualifications were for I mean the sweat lodge?

Respondent: He mentioned that he has done a lot of these and that he is trained with Shamans and that he has had experience in teaching. He didn't say I have a degree in sweat lodge, one-on-one.

Interviewer: Right, okay.

Respondent: And that he has been taught things.

Interviewer: Well, we have talked about a lot of things in a lot of detail. Is there anything important that you think I should know?

Respondent: I think that and I hope it doesn't sound like I am damming him to, but it's not my intention, but I think the difference between other sweats and this sweat was that some people did, I don't think some people felt like they could leave the space you know for whatever reasons and I may be one of them. But I think that some people and people are just people, I think some people felt like they would disappoint James or they would disappoint themselves or they would disappoint, if they took care of themselves, and I think that that should have been, because of the experience I had with the other sweats, with the person who has experience with somebody to come in and die in an event that they had, I think that's why that person always talked about safety so much, because they were like you know you don't get it. Some people, you can tell people 25 times, do not

get out of the circle in your sweat in your vision quest, do not get out of your circle, do not wander around, it's pitch black do not do that and some idiots, god bless them, god rest their souls, got out of his circle walked off a cliff. So I think that James should have thought more about people being people rather than

Interviewer: Trust your body, do what you need to do.

Respondent: Yeah, right. And this is not about, yes this is about pushing your limits, yes this is about breaking free, yes all of that is true and it is not about dying, that's not what this is about. So I guess the only other thing I wanted to say about it.

Interviewer: That's very important.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Alright. So I want to thank you very much for speaking with me and if you have any questions and I will make sure that that item is logged appropriately in evidence so that we can get that back to you.

Respondent: But do you know what it is? Because I don't think my name is in it.

Interviewer: There were a lot of journals and they looked real similar they were gray.

Respondent: Yeah, lots of journals, they are black or gray, circle on the front and then in the four directions.

Interviewer: Right, what was inside of it so I can identify it is yours?

Respondent: Mine, the first page is blank and I think it has Spiritual Warrior and the date and then the next page starts. I wrote in and my pen was hooked onto the spiral thing and it's a blue tip pen, one of those mechanical sort of. So it's got all kinds of different ink writing in it like green, blue, a regular pen and a green felt tip. That will probably help you find stuff more than anything.

Interviewer: That will help me to find it. If you have any questions call me.

Respondent: But this number is not the same number as I had or is this the number to call?

Interviewer: This is the number that's goes straight to my desk and that's [REDACTED].

Respondent: Okay, I have [REDACTED], so let me look on my (Inaudible 58:09).

Interviewer: Yeah, that will get you the general number to the office and if the office is closed it goes to our dispatch.

Respondent: Okay, I forgot, you are Shonna.

Interviewer: Shonna.

Respondent: Shonna Willingham and I have [REDACTED], is that what you said?

Interviewer: That's correct.

Respondent: It's the direct number? Okay, so that's number that I have.

Interviewer: Okay, very good. Again thank you.

Respondent: Well, thank you.

Interviewer: Alright.

Respondent: How are you?

Interviewer: Oh, I am fine.

Respondent: It's your job, I know.

Respondent: I have learned more about different things that I didn't know about in the last three weeks that I ever thought of possible.

Respondent: Yeah, I know I just also want to say that one thing to you too, I told you I am a nurse and I have been a nurse for [REDACTED] years and I have to tell you that there are more things under heaven and earth than just having the [REDACTED] than people can explain.

Interviewer: And if two people see them, it's you and I, nurses and law enforcement.

Respondent: Yeah, exactly, it's the good and the bad. I see some really crappy stuff than I know you do. But I guess what I want to say to you is because I know I felt bad too because when the ambulance drivers came, they were frightened and they had so much opinion about you know it was carbon monoxide and it was this and it was that, and they were just so, I know they were in fear, but you know they just wanted to attack and I hope that some of the things that you hear in your investigation kind of help you with your own life as far as possibilities out there and you know.

Interviewer: No, it does. It makes you take back and take a broader look.

Respondent: Yeah because you know like I said, I imagine a lot of people have said you know it wasn't all bad, there was a lot of good and

Interviewer: I have heard that.

Respondent: Yeah and you can't just you know judge this based on (Inaudible 1.00.25) not that I think I am going to see you at James Ray, but maybe something that you know kind of looking to your curiosity buttons too, a way to deal with that stuff, how long have you been a detective, if I may ask?

Interviewer: 18 years.

Respondent: Yeah, now you have seen it some stuff

Interviewer: Oh yeah.

Respondent: So anyway you take care.

Interviewer: You too.

Respondent: Now I am done right, I won't need to make any.

Interviewer: You shouldn't be contacted again and until way down the line unless there is something specific that comes out that I can't think of what that would be.

Respondent: Okay.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And how are people being notified from like the news organizations, how does that crap happening?

Interviewer: That I don't know. It is not, the information on who is there and stuff did not come from us, so I don't know.

Respondent: That's weird.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Okay, anyway well I haven't been contacted and I am really glad.

Interviewer: Hope it stays that way, if that's what you want, alright.

Respondent: It is what I want, okay thanks Shonna.

Interviewer: Bye, bye.

Respondent: Bye.

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