

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
2 CARROLL COUNTY)

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5 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS at the
6 Inquest into the manner and cause of death of
7 JACKSON KRADLE, Deceased, held at the Carroll
8 County Courthouse, Mount Carroll, Illinois, on
9 the 14th day of January 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

10

11 APPEARANCES

12

13 MICHAEL R. JONES, Coroner for Carroll County

14

15 JOHN LeCOMTE, Attorney

16

17 JOSEPH E. NACK, Attorney, appearing only during
18 the testimony of Matthew Herpstreith and
19 Amy Hubble

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Reporter: Christal A. Hansen Ruda, CSR-IA/IL

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EXHIBITS

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12 (Exhibit Numbers 1 - 17 were marked for
13 identification during Day 1 of the Inquest; Jury
14 Foreman retained originals.)

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1 MR. JONES: Ladies and gentlemen
2 of the jury and members of our community, today
3 we gather to seek the information regarding the
4 unfortunate incident involving Jackson Kradle's
5 death.

6 This is an inquest into the
7 manner and cause of the death of Jackson Kradle,
8 a white male, single, age 18 years, residing at
9 208 South Benton Street, Mount Carroll, who was
10 reported at 3:33 a.m. on Sunday, July 28, 2024
11 to be facedown in the roadway about one-quarter
12 mile south of Lowden Road on Route 78 north of
13 Mount Carroll.

14 He was reportedly found injured
15 and taking his final agonal breath by
16 Matthew Herpstreith and Amy Hubble. They both
17 reported this accident as a passerby; meaning,
18 someone who has just come upon the body.

19 Matthew Herpstreith was a
20 Carroll County sheriff's deputy off duty at the
21 time of the incident who lives in Savanna,
22 Illinois. Amy Hubble was a Carroll County
23 dispatcher with the Carroll County Sheriff's
24 Department and Savanna Ambulance EMT off duty at
25 the time of the incident who lives in Savanna,

1 Illinois.

2 This is neither a civil nor a
3 criminal trial procedure; merely an inquest into
4 the manner and cause of this man's death. As we
5 embark on this process, it is important to
6 remember that we are not just examining facts;
7 we are searching for the information and the
8 circumstances surrounding Jackson Kradle's
9 death.

10 It's vital that we handle this
11 process with the utmost care, respect, and due
12 consideration. As coroner of Carroll County, I
13 will be your first witness.

14 I've got a coroner's report along
15 with some other reports labeled Exhibit Group 1.
16 This report was finalized November 8, 2024, and
17 this report began July 31, 2024. It's a coroner
18 report on the Jackson Kradle case, Coroner's
19 Case Number 2024-21; Sheriff's Case Number
20 2024-00009153.

21 The original time of the call
22 from the coroner's answering service was 5:18,
23 Sunday, July 28, 2024. Responding to the call
24 was Matthew Jones, Coroner, and Jake Casey,
25 Deputy Coroner. The time on scene was 5:56

1 a.m., Highway 78 north of Mount Carroll
2 approximately one-quarter mile to the south of
3 intersection with Lowden Road.

4 After analysis of the scene by
5 Crime Scene Investigator Jeff Thew, the body was
6 transferred by the coroner's office to the
7 Savanna morgue location for further inspection
8 and fingerprinting; then securely sealed by the
9 crime scene investigator until autopsy was
10 performed.

11 Information relayed from
12 Sheriff Ryan Kloepping at the scene at 5:57
13 a.m., Sunday, July 28, included that two
14 passerbys, a driver, off-duty sheriff's deputy,
15 and passenger, an EMT, called in the report of
16 finding a body in the roadway.

17 It was reported that the off-duty
18 deputy and EMT passenger, they rolled the body
19 over from the face-down position to the face-up
20 position in order to check for signs of life.
21 There was report of agonal breathing.

22 The passerby was identified as
23 Mr. Matt Herpstreich; his passenger has been
24 identified as Amy Hubble. The on-duty officer
25 first responding to the scene was reported as

1 Officer Scott Marth. For further details of the
2 scene, see the public announcement from
3 Sheriff Ryan Kloepping and the Illinois State
4 Police crime scene investigator's scene report
5 and photos by CSI Jeff Thew.

6 The deceased is identified as
7 Jackson Kradle. His date of birth is June 23,
8 2006. His father is Joshua Sisler and mother,
9 Diana Kradle. Coroner Matthew Jones spoke with
10 his father. Jackson's identification was
11 assisted with pictures of his face along with
12 confirmation through Facebook pictures of
13 Jackson.

14 His father, Joshua, reported to
15 Coroner Matthew Jones that he last saw Jackson
16 between midnight and 12:30, Sunday, July 28.
17 Jackson was reported leaving the family home in
18 Mount Carroll wearing swim trunks only.

19 At the scene it was reported that
20 the driver of the vehicle, Matt Herpstreith,
21 called in the incident as a passerby. It was
22 reported later that day by the Illinois State
23 Police investigative team that driver
24 Matt Herpstreith may have actually driven over
25 the body.

1 This report immediately changed
2 the direction of the investigation, realizing
3 that deception in the report as a passerby was
4 involved by Matt Herpstreith.

5 Once this fact became known to
6 Sheriff Ryan Kloepping, Sheriff Kloepping turned
7 the investigation over to the Illinois State
8 Police investigative unit. The lead
9 investigator with the Illinois State Police is
10 Special Agent Matt Kipping. The process of
11 transitioning this investigation seems to have
12 gone well from the coroner's perspective and
13 multiple investigators, along with crime scene
14 investigator, are working the case. It is
15 agreed that the Illinois State Police will
16 handle all media releases.

17 The vehicle driven by
18 Matt Herpstreith was inspected by CSI Jeff Thew,
19 a pickup truck, and found to have fabric
20 matching the color of the deceased's shorts,
21 along with multiple instances of biological
22 material hanging from or stuck to the
23 undercarriage of the vehicle.

24 The swim shorts and underwear are
25 in the possession of Illinois State Police. The

1 tissue has undergone a presumptive test showing
2 it is possible human tissue. Since this time,
3 Illinois State Police reported that the tissue
4 has been positively identified as coming from
5 the body of Jackson Kradle.

6 It was reported that the vehicle
7 in question, a pickup truck, had been washed at
8 the Savanna Carwash and traveled to the
9 Quad Cities between the time of the incident and
10 the inspection by CSI Jeff Thew. The driver of
11 the vehicle on this subsequent trip was reported
12 as Matt Herpstreith's wife. Illinois State
13 Police is in possession of the video evidence
14 showing the vehicle at the car wash.

15 An autopsy with toxicology
16 samples was performed between 1:00 and 2:15
17 p.m., Monday, July 29, 2024, at the Winnebago
18 County coroner's suite in Rockford. Toxicology
19 testing is requested to be expedited through NMS
20 Labs. The autopsy was performed by
21 Dr. Mark Peters. Preliminary results of the
22 autopsy support that all massive injury occurred
23 in the same time frame of moments just prior to
24 death.

25 Visually the most substantial

1 injury occurred to the back/buttocks region
2 along with two points of injury on the skull
3 opposite of each other. Fracture 1 is at the
4 left base of the skull; Fracture 2 is located
5 approximately opposite on the skull near the
6 upper right side of skull. Bleeding was
7 identified by Dr. Peters within the brain.

8 There was also a puncture wound
9 behind the right shoulder. Please see the final
10 autopsy report attached and the toxicology
11 report attached to further study specifics.

12 Due to the nature of injury,
13 preliminary reporting by Dr. Peters and the fact
14 that agonal breathing was reported, the coroner
15 believes it is unlikely that another vehicle
16 would have struck Jackson earlier and unlikely
17 that Jackson was beaten and placed in the
18 highway.

19 See autopsy report for complete
20 reporting of injuries and cause of death as
21 determined by Dr. Peters. Autopsy report was
22 received August 15, 2024, and states that the
23 cause of death is blunt trauma to the head due
24 to a motor vehicle/pedestrian crash. The
25 autopsy report is attached. This was updated on

1 August 16, 2024, and all reports were emailed to
2 Investigator Matt Kipping.

3 Toxicology results on
4 Jackson Kradle show the following highlights;
5 the full report is attached. Jackson's blood
6 alcohol concentration was .192. This level of
7 impairment is significant and would show up as
8 diminished motor skills and slow reflex time.
9 THC was also detected. See the attached
10 toxicology report for a complete toxicology
11 reading.

12 As a sidenote to this
13 investigation, the coroner's office received a
14 suspected bone fragment that was found by
15 Illinois State Police investigators in the drain
16 area of the car wash referred to earlier. The
17 bone fragment measuring approximately 1 1/4
18 length, 1/4 wide, 1/8 thick. The fragment,
19 along with Jackson's body, was transported to
20 Dr. Peters for analysis.

21 Dr. Peters performed a comparison
22 test with the injuries on Jackson's body.
23 Results of the comparison testing were negative
24 for a match. The suspected bone fragment did
25 show positive in the x-ray test for bone-like

1 density, and there's no more information on this
2 suspected bone fragment.

3 Toxicology summary opinion with a
4 further description of likely levels of
5 impairment. Researched by the Carroll County
6 Coroner Matthew Jones.

7 With a blood alcohol
8 concentration of .192, Jackson Kradle would
9 likely exhibit significant impairment, including
10 poor judgment, reduced reaction time, impaired
11 coordination, and slurred speech. There's also
12 an increased risk of nausea, vomiting, and
13 potential blackouts.

14 The presence of Delta-9 THC of
15 2.8 nanograms per milliliter indicates recent
16 cannabis use, one to three hours estimated.
17 While the effects of THC vary based on
18 individual tolerance, it can impair motor
19 coordination, alter judgment, and slow reaction
20 times, especially when combined with alcohol.
21 Together, these substances can have a
22 synergistic effect, significantly increasing the
23 level of impairment.

24 The individual would likely have
25 severely compromised motor skills, perception,

1 and judgment, posing a danger to themselves and
2 others, particularly if they were to operate a
3 vehicle or perform tasks requiring concentration
4 and coordination.

5 With Jackson Kradle's blood
6 alcohol concentration of .192 and 2.8 nanograms
7 per milliliter of Delta-9 THC in his system, he
8 could experience significant impairment while
9 walking on or near the roadway. Here's how it
10 would likely have affected him:

11 Motor Coordination: Alcohol and
12 THC both impair motor skills. The person might
13 have difficulty with balance and coordination
14 leading to an unsteady gait, stumbling, or even
15 falling.

16 Judgment and Decision-Making:
17 Impaired judgment could lead to risky behavior
18 such as walking in the middle of the road or not
19 paying attention to oncoming traffic.

20 Perception and Reaction Time:
21 Both substances can alter perception and slow
22 reaction times. The individual might misjudge
23 distances or speeds making it challenging to
24 navigate traffic.

25 Fatigue and Physical Stamina:

1 Alcohol can cause fatigue, and the combination
2 with THC might reduce physical stamina making it
3 more strenuous to walk long distances.

4 Mood and Behavior: Alcohol and
5 THC can affect mood leading to erratic behavior,
6 which could range from overconfidence to anxiety
7 or paranoia. This could impact his ability to
8 make sound decisions while walking near traffic.

9 In summary, Jackson Kradle would
10 be at a high risk of accident or injury while
11 walking on the roadway due to significant
12 impairment of motor skills, judgment,
13 perception-reaction time, and physical stamina.
14 His ability to navigate traffic safely would be
15 greatly compromised making him vulnerable to
16 dangerous situations.

17 Due to the investigation
18 requiring multiple interviews by the Illinois
19 State Police investigative unit, information in
20 this case is developing. In the likelihood of
21 holding a coroner's inquest into the death of
22 Jackson Kradle, below are some unanswered
23 questions that the coroner's office would like
24 to further investigate and gather information:

25 One: Does the passenger in

1 Matt Herpstreith's vehicle, Amy Hubble, have an
2 account of what she saw during this incident?
3 Is there a statement of events made by the
4 passenger?

5 Two: Did Matt Herpstreith or his
6 passenger have any previous interactions with
7 the deceased, Jackson Kradle? What was the
8 nature of this interaction?

9 Three: Is there any evidence of
10 impaired driving on the part of
11 Matt Herpstreith, including blood sample, urine,
12 or verbal interviews with himself or
13 acquaintances, including witness accounts of
14 intoxication during the hours prior to the
15 incident?

16 Four: How did Jackson Kradle
17 arrive at the spot of the incident? What is the
18 timeline for his whereabouts prior to the
19 incident?

20 Five: Is there a statement of
21 events made by Matt Herpstreith?

22 Six: Reportedly Jackson's
23 girlfriend saw him last at about 2:00 a.m. the
24 morning of the incident. What was the nature of
25 this visit and where was this visit? Is there a

1 statement of events made by the girlfriend?

2 Seven: Is there a recording of
3 the initial call reporting the incident?

4 This concludes the preliminary
5 report of this case by the Carroll County
6 coroner.

7 This report, along with the
8 toxicology report and along with the autopsy
9 report are part of Group Exhibit Number 1. And
10 also along with that report is an addendum
11 questionnaire that I had sent to the
12 pathologist, Dr. Mark Peters. I'd like to take
13 a moment and read through that addendum.

14 Questions for Dr. Mark Peters.

15 Section 1: Cause and Manner of
16 Death. Can you confirm the official cause of
17 death and explain how the injuries led to
18 Jackson's death?

19 Answer: Jackson Kradle died of
20 blunt trauma of the head caused by a motor
21 vehicle/pedestrian crash. His fatal injuries
22 were skull fractures, hemorrhage over the brain,
23 and brain swelling.

24 Question 2: What specifically
25 about the head trauma indicates it was caused by

1 a motor vehicle?

2 Answer: Nothing. Because he was
3 found on a road with injuries consistent with
4 motor vehicle/pedestrian crashes rather than in
5 a different setting led me to conclude his
6 injuries were caused by a motor vehicle.

7 Injury Pattern. Question 3: Can
8 you describe the injuries in detail and explain
9 how they are consistent with a motor
10 vehicle/pedestrian crash?

11 Answer: Injuries are described
12 verbally and with body diagramming in the
13 autopsy report. They are also documented with
14 photographs. They are consistent with being
15 caused by a motor vehicle because I have seen
16 hundreds of cases like this, and he was found on
17 a road rather than in a different setting.

18 Question 4: Are the injuries
19 consistent with Jackson being in a face-down
20 position at the time of impact?

21 Answer: Yes.

22 Question 5: You noted the
23 injuries were in a toe-to-head direction in the
24 autopsy report. What does that suggest about
25 Jackson's orientation relative to the vehicle?

1 Answer: The motor vehicle would
2 have rolled over his feet first and head last.
3 His body would have been parallel to traffic
4 flow.

5 Question 6: Were there any
6 injuries inconsistent with this pattern that
7 might suggest other contributing factors or
8 events?

9 Answer: No.

10 Question 7: Based on the
11 injuries, does it appear Jackson was already on
12 the ground when he was struck?

13 Answer: Yes.

14 Question 8: Could the pattern
15 and nature of injuries rule out the possibility
16 that he was standing or moving when impacted?

17 Answer: There was no evidence of
18 impact injury. If he was moving, he would have
19 been crawling.

20 Question 9: Is there evidence
21 that Jackson was dragged, rolled, or moved by
22 the vehicle after impact?

23 Answer: Yes. The various
24 abrasions on his body are from contact with the
25 ground and/or underside of the vehicle while

1 being dragged or rolled.

2 Question 10: Could the injuries
3 indicate whether he was struck at high or low
4 speed?

5 Answer: He was struck at a high
6 enough speed to cause the lacerating and
7 avulsion injuries of his scalp and buttocks,
8 along with skull fractures and brain hemorrhage.

9 Question 11: Jackson's blood
10 alcohol concentration was reported as .19. How
11 would this level of intoxication likely have
12 affected his coordination, decision-making, and
13 ability to navigate safely on foot?

14 Answer: A person of that age
15 usually does not have a lot of tolerance to the
16 effects of alcohol. He would be experiencing
17 all the effects/behaviors in the yellow box and
18 a good chance some or all of the effects in the
19 red box.

20 The yellow box includes euphoria,
21 increased self-confidence, consistent impairment
22 of reaction responses, and attention, increasing
23 impairment of reaction and responses. The
24 individual has increased impairment of
25 sensory-motor activities, reaction times,

1 attention, visual acuity, and judgment.
2 Progressive increase in drowsiness,
3 disorientation, and emotional lability,
4 staggering, grossly impaired and drunk, may be
5 lethargic and sleepy and hostile and aggressive.
6 Many individuals fall asleep or pass out.

7 Question 12: Could this blood
8 alcohol level have made him more likely to trip
9 or fall potentially ending up in the roadway?

10 Answer: Yes.

11 Question 13: THC was also
12 present in his system. How might this have
13 interacted with the alcohol to impact his
14 behavior or physical state?

15 Answer: THC has some similar
16 effects as ethanol and would likely add to the
17 effects of ethanol.

18 Question 14: Is there evidence
19 to suggest how recently Jackson might have used
20 THC before the incident?

21 Answer from Dr. Peters: No.

22 Question 15: Were there any
23 injuries or signs on Jackson's body that suggest
24 he might have been involved in a struggle before
25 the incident?

1 Answer: No.

2 Question 16: Could his injuries
3 be consistent with someone placing him in the
4 roadway rather than him lying down or falling on
5 his own?

6 Answer: Yes.

7 Question 17. Is it possible to
8 determine how long Jackson might have been lying
9 in the roadway before the vehicle struck him?

10 Answer: Only by circumstantial
11 evidence between the time he was last seen alive
12 to when he was found.

13 Question 18: Are there injuries
14 or evidence that could suggest whether he was
15 conscious or unconscious before impact?

16 Answer: No.

17 Question 19: Could the injuries
18 sustained happen over a period of time, or is it
19 more likely that they occurred at the same time?

20 Answer: Other than some healing
21 abrasions that are unrelated to this incident,
22 there is nothing to suggest that injuries
23 occurred over a period of time.

24 Question 20: Are there any
25 details in the autopsy that warrant further

1 investigation into the possibility of foul play?

2 Answer: No.

3 Question 21: Are there any
4 findings from the autopsy that might provide
5 insight into Jackson's physical state, actions,
6 or circumstances leading up to the crash?

7 Answer: No.

8 Question 22: Are any of the
9 injuries consistent with Jackson committing
10 suicide by placing himself in front of a
11 vehicle?

12 Answer: No.

13 That concludes the addendum to
14 Dr. Mark Peters, which is addended onto the
15 autopsy report and in Group 1 exhibit. I
16 present Group 1 exhibit to the foreman of the
17 jury.

18 I wish to present Exhibit 2 to
19 the jury, which is a visual image of the scene
20 after I had arrived, after Jeff Thew, the crime
21 scene investigator had arrived, after the
22 sheriff and his command team was on the scene.

23 And those are the vehicles that
24 were all there to investigate and to manage the
25 same. At the far ends traffic is stopped at the

1 south end, which would be in this direction
2 toward Mount Carroll, and traffic is stopped up
3 at Lowden Road, which is to the north.

4 Here you can see the image of
5 Jackson's body. There is a red marker here,
6 which all the measurements that we refer to
7 throughout this inquest used that marker, which
8 matches the highway number and stamp. And those
9 will be further revealed to you in further
10 reports. At this time, I submit to you
11 Exhibit Number 2.

12 The jury in this case has a
13 responsibility to piece together and understand
14 the evidence in this case. And so I, as
15 coroner, have put together a timeline of events.
16 This timeline begins on July 27th at 5:00 p.m.
17 It goes through July 28th and July 29th.

18 And I read as follows:

19 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., July 27th:
20 Jackson Kradle is attending a the Cindy Sisler
21 retirement party at Copper Cow Restaurant and
22 Bar.

23 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.: Matthew
24 Herpstreich is attending the Sisler retirement
25 party at the Copper Cow.

1 7:00 p.m.: Jackson Kradle leaves
2 the retirement party to join friends at a family
3 cabin approximately one mile north of Mount
4 Carroll.

5 8:30 p.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
6 goes to Shaw's Grocery and then to the
7 after-party at the Jason Sisler home.

8 11:22 p.m.: Amy Hubble calls
9 Carroll County Sheriff's dispatcher to check
10 where the cops are.

11 1:30 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
12 leaves the after-party to drop his daughter off
13 at home and head to the Sandburr Bar with his
14 wife.

15 11:55 p.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
16 and the friend group are at the Sandburr Bar.

17 12:30 a.m., July 28th: Matthew
18 Herpstreith leaves the Sandburr Bar to drop his
19 wife off at home and heads to the Sippi-Side
20 Bar.

21 12:43 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
22 arrives at Sippi-Side Bar, meets up with the
23 same group.

24 1:45 a.m.: Jackson Kradle and
25 Madeline Stephens are driven by David Young from

1 their gathering at the family cabin back into
2 the town of Mount Carroll to their home with
3 Joshua Sisler, Jackson's dad.

4 2:13 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
5 leaves the Sippi-Side Bar headed to Amy Hubble's
6 home to pick up Amy Hubble and Kayla Russell in
7 order to take Kayla home in Mount Carroll.

8 2:21 a.m.: Amy Hubble is at
9 Casey's in Savanna to purchase cigarettes.

10 2:30 a.m.: Jackson Kradle leaves
11 home walking headed back to the family cabin
12 north of Mount Carroll.

13 2:35 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith,
14 Kayla Russell, and Amy Hubble stop at
15 Matt Herpstreith's camper on Three Mile Road,
16 approximately a 10-minute stop.

17 3:05 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
18 and Amy Hubble drop Kayla Russell at her home in
19 Mount Carroll, approximately a 15-minute stop.

20 3:20 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
21 and Amy Hubble leave Kayla Russell's headed
22 north on Route 78.

23 3:33 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
24 calls Carroll County Sheriff's Office to report
25 a body in the roadway north of Mount Carroll on

1 Route 78. He speaks to Rebecca Frederick, the
2 dispatcher.

3 3:34 a.m.: Dispatcher Rebecca
4 Frederick contacts Carroll County Deputy
5 Josi Anderson and Mount Carroll Officer
6 Scott Marth.

7 3:35 a.m.: Dispatcher Rebecca
8 Frederick contacts the on-command staff, Carroll
9 County Sheriff Ryan Kloepping and Ryan Lambert.
10 Ryan Lambert answers the call.

11 3:36 a.m.: Mount Carroll Officer
12 Scott Marth arrives at the scene and speaks to
13 Matthew Herpstreith and Amy Hubble.

14 3:40 a.m.: Officer Ryan Lambert
15 calls Sheriff Ryan Kloepping.

16 3:45 a.m.: Dispatcher Rebecca
17 Frederick speaks with the Illinois State Police.
18 The Illinois State Police are sending two
19 troopers for assistance en route.

20 3:46 a.m.: Carroll County Deputy
21 Josi Anderson arrives at the scene.

22 3:49 a.m.: Sheriff Ryan
23 Kloepping calls Carroll County Investigator
24 Dave Mercado.

25 3:57 a.m.: Carroll County Deputy

1 Josi Anderson receives a call from the Illinois
2 State Police Crime Scene Investigator Jeff Thew,
3 who is en route.

4 4:05 a.m.: Carroll County
5 Sheriff's Office called Sheriff Ryan Kloepping.

6 4:03 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
7 on video at the Savanna Carwash spraying his
8 truck.

9 4:29 a.m.: Carroll County
10 Sheriff Ryan Kloepping tried calling Officer
11 Scott Marth twice.

12 4:31 a.m.: Mount Carroll Officer
13 Scott Marth called Sheriff Ryan Kloepping to
14 discuss a possible identification.

15 4:43 a.m.: Sheriff Ryan
16 Kloepping calls the Carroll County Sheriff's
17 Office.

18 5:00 a.m.: Illinois State Police
19 Crime Scene Investigator Jeff Thew arrives on
20 scene.

21 5:04 a.m.: Mount Carroll Officer
22 Scott Marth calls Sheriff Kloepping.

23 5:14 a.m.: Coroner Matthew Jones
24 notified through the answering service.

25 5:21 a.m.: Coroner Matthew Jones

1 called Sheriff Ryan Kloepping.

2 5:47 a.m.: Carroll County Deputy
3 Josi Anderson calls Sheriff Ryan Kloepping.

4 5:56 a.m.: Coroner Matthew Jones
5 and Deputy Jacob Casey arrive on scene.

6 6:11 a.m.: Sheriff Kloepping
7 talks with Matthew Herpstreith

8 6:41 a.m.: Matthew Herpstreith
9 goes to the Carroll County Sheriff's Office to
10 write out a voluntary statement and leaves it in
11 Sheriff Kloepping's mailbox.

12 7:05 a.m.: Coroner Matthew Jones
13 arrives at the Carroll County morgue in Savanna
14 with Jackson Kradle's body.

15 11:25 a.m.: Illinois State
16 Police contacted to take over the investigation.

17 1:20 p.m.: The Illinois State
18 Police have their first interview with
19 Amy Hubble.

20 1:44 p.m.: Illinois State Police
21 have their first interview with
22 Matthew Herpstreith.

23 6:47 p.m.: Illinois State Police
24 Crime Scene Investigator Jeff Thew has an
25 inspection of Matthew Herpstreith's Dodge Ram

1 truck.

2 9:11 p.m.: Illinois State Police
3 Crime Scene Investigator Jeff Thew tests the
4 biological material from the truck for human
5 tissue.

6 12:30 p.m. on July 29th: The
7 autopsy is in Rockford at the Public Safety
8 Building.

9 12:42 p.m. on July 29th: The
10 Illinois State Police have their second
11 interview with Matthew Herpstreith.

12 12:54 p.m.: The Illinois State
13 Police have their second interview with
14 Amy Hubble.

15 This is the timeline presented
16 which carries the case through July 27th, 28th,
17 and 29th listed as Exhibit Number 3. I have a
18 copy for each juror to have.

19 Does anyone need a five-minute
20 break?

21 You're welcome to write on this
22 one. We have to preserve the original exhibit.

23 At this time, I call Jackson
24 Kradle's girlfriend, Madeline Stephens, to
25 testify.

1 Hi, Madeline.

2 MS. STEPHENS: Hi.

3 MR. JONES: As we speak together,
4 I'd just ask you to speak the best you can into
5 the microphone, okay?

6 MR. LeCOMTE: Excuse me. I can't
7 hear. You have to speak up.

8 MR. JONES: Does this help?

9 MR. LeCOMTE: No. It's just
10 recording for the transcript. Just speak loud.

11 MR. JONES: This microphone?

12 MR. LeCOMTE: No. You have to
13 speak very loud.

14 MR. JONES: We'd like you to
15 speak as loud as you can.

16 MS. STEPHENS: Okay.

17 MR. JONES: Okay? All right.

18 Thank you, John.

19 MADELINE STEPHENS,
20 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
21 was examined and testified as follows:

22 EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. JONES:

24 Q. I do ask you to speak up in the best of
25 your ability. I'm going to be here near you.

1 And I know this is really a difficult situation.

2 Can you tell us just a little bit
3 about yourself. I know a little bit. I know
4 you're a student, and I know you're 18 years
5 old, but can you tell us just a little bit more
6 about yourself.

7 Where do you live?

8 A. Savanna.

9 Q. You live in Savanna, Illinois?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. At the time of this accident back in
12 July 27 of 2024, where did you live at that
13 time?

14 A. At Joshua's house.

15 Q. At the Josh Sisler home in
16 Mount Carroll?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. And you lived with Jackson also?

19 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

20 Q. And you have been a girlfriend of
21 Jackson, as I understand it?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. How long were you two together?

24 A. Eight months.

25 Q. An eight-month relationship, so you got

1 to know each other pretty well?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you tell me, on July 27th, what
4 your day was like during the daytime with
5 Jackson?

6 A. We kind of just sat in the room all day
7 other than going to the shop and him doing the
8 work at the shop and then we came home.

9 Q. When you talk about "the shop" that he
10 worked at, what shop is that?

11 A. Joshua's shop is the construction shop.

12 Q. His dad's construction shop?

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And was he doing any other kind of work
15 on that day?

16 A. He mowed.

17 Q. He mowed?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. So throughout the day he's working?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What are you doing throughout the day?

22 A. I just sit with him while he goes to
23 work and does it.

24 Q. So you stick with him?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Throughout the day?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. During that daytime with him was he
4 consuming any alcohol during the day?

5 A. Not until we were about to go to the
6 retirement party.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Well, it would have been in the morning
9 but nothing crazy because he had stuff to get
10 done.

11 Q. Okay. And so you were going to attend
12 the retirement party.

13 Is that the same retirement party
14 for Cindy Sisler at the Copper Cow?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And what time did you go to that
17 retirement party with Jackson?

18 A. When it started. Like, 30 minutes
19 after it started. Just, like, 5:00. I don't
20 know what time it started really, but...

21 Q. So in the 5 o'clock range --

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. -- is when you and Jackson went to
24 that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then how long did you stay at that
2 party?

3 A. Maybe an hour or two.

4 Q. Okay. And then where did you go after
5 that?

6 A. Back to the house to get stuff for the
7 party, and then we went to the farm.

8 Q. Okay. And so you went back to the
9 house to get stuff for the party and then to the
10 farm.

11 Where is the farm located?

12 A. I don't know the exact address but in
13 Mount Carroll.

14 Q. And you're also welcome to point this
15 way when you speak.

16 MR. LeCOMTE: Matt, can I make a
17 suggestion? You come back here. You're too
18 close. She doesn't have to project her voice.
19 She will if you're back here.

20 MR. JONES: Okay.

21 MR. LeCOMTE: And everyone will
22 be able to hear, so please stay back.

23 Q. Madeline, is this comfortable?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So this would be the Sisler farm?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. North of Mount Carroll?

3 A. Yes. Yes. Sorry.

4 Q. Okay. And is that Sisler farm, is that
5 near the concert venue?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Okay. So you had -- you had
8 gone to the Copper Cow Restaurant about 5:00 to
9 6:30 or 7 o'clock, it sounds like?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. With Jackson?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. During that time at the party can you
14 tell me if he ate any food? Did he have a meal?

15 A. Yes. We always cooked out there.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. We had hamburgers and hot dogs.

18 Q. Okay. Okay. And did he have anything
19 to drink at the party?

20 A. Like, alcohol or regular, like, drinks?

21 Q. Yeah. Any alcohol.

22 A. Yeah, we were all drinking.

23 Q. Okay. Can you tell me a bit about
24 that? Can you tell me how many drinks he may
25 have had at the party?

1 A. He had, like, a few cups of jungle
2 juice.

3 Q. And this would be at the Copper Cow?

4 A. At the farm.

5 Q. Okay. Let's go back to the Copper Cow.

6 A. No, he didn't have no drinks at the
7 Copper Cow.

8 Q. No drinks at the Copper Cow?

9 A. No.

10 Q. But he did eat food there?

11 A. Uh-huh. Yes. We ordered food.

12 Q. And then you and he left about 6:30,
13 7 o'clock?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you were headed to the farm.

16 And can you tell me what was
17 taking place at the farm?

18 A. We were all setting up, getting ready.
19 People started showing up. We just kind of all
20 partied.

21 Q. Okay. And how many people showed up at
22 the farm?

23 A. Like 20, maybe 25.

24 Q. Okay. And are all these young people
25 like yourself?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. So you'd say in the 18-,
3 19-year-old range?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Any older than that?

6 A. Maybe 24 at the oldest.

7 Q. Okay. And the youngest would have
8 been?

9 A. 16.

10 Q. 16. Okay.

11 And so the party there at the
12 farm, can you tell me what that's like?

13 Is there a building there on the
14 farm?

15 A. There's a little farm, like a little
16 shed thing.

17 Q. Okay. And do you use the shed when
18 you're there?

19 A. Uh-huh. We play pong in there.

20 Q. You play pong?

21 A. (Witness nods.)

22 Q. And what other activities do you do
23 when you're out there with your friends?

24 A. They fish. We have fires. We kind of
25 just sit there and talk. We play music.

1 Q. Okay. So music and fires and talking
2 and fishing?

3 A. (Witness nods.)

4 Q. Okay. Can you tell me a little bit
5 about the events that night at the farm?

6 Was there anything out of the
7 ordinary that took place while you were there?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. And can you tell me about
10 Jackson at that time?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Was he drinking alcohol during that
13 period of time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And can you tell me about the
16 alcohol that he drank?

17 A. We had Twisted Tea, vodka, and I'm
18 pretty sure jungle juice, like...

19 Q. Twisted Tea?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. And the second one you mentioned?

22 A. Vodka. Vodka. Vodka.

23 Q. Vodka. Okay.

24 And then jungle juice?

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. What is jungle juice?

2 A. It's a mixture of all types of alcohol.

3 Q. A mixture of all types of alcohol?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. So I imagine that all of the kids
6 are -- all the young adults are out there and
7 drinking?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Do you have any safety
10 procedures, or do you take care of each other in
11 any way?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you tell me about that?

14 A. If we were drinking, we would not be
15 allowed to leave. We would have to stay there.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. There was no leaving allowed. If you
18 were not --

19 Q. So if you were drinking, you could not
20 leave?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And what was the next thing you said?

23 A. If you didn't drink, then you could go
24 home.

25 Q. You can go home if you didn't drink?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. Okay. So you didn't worry about people
3 leaving if they were not drinking?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Who's in charge of that oversight?

6 A. Jackson, Ethan, Chloe at the time.
7 Like, they all made sure no one was leaving.

8 Q. So Jackson takes a part in --

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. -- managing that and Ethan?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Is Ethan a friend?

13 A. Of Jackson's, yeah.

14 Q. What's his last name?

15 A. Knapp.

16 Q. Ethan Knapp?

17 A. Ethan Knapp.

18 Q. Did Ethan Knapp have a special
19 responsibility that he always took care of?

20 A. Just making sure everybody was okay and
21 no problems were started.

22 Q. So I can imagine when young people are
23 drinking and they have driven out there, they
24 might have keys with them?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How do you care for the keys?

2 A. Sometimes, with certain people, they
3 would get their keys taken. And other people
4 we'd know that they weren't trying to drive home
5 because they would always stay.

6 Q. Did Jackson get his keys taken?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. So his keys were taken from him
9 so that he wouldn't drive?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Can you tell me how the night
12 progressed?

13 Was there any altercations out
14 there at the party?

15 A. Nathan Timm, he kind of started a
16 little argument with everybody, and then he got
17 sent home.

18 Q. You mentioned that was?

19 A. Nathan Timm.

20 Q. Nathan Timm.

21 And he started an argument?

22 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

23 Q. Who did he have an argument with?

24 A. Jackson. Because he was going around
25 and kicking the speakers and the coolers.

1 Q. Okay. So Nathan was kicking the
2 speakers?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Would you consider Nathan to be
5 pretty intoxicated at that time?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So his level of intoxication, in your
8 mind, was causing him to kick the speakers
9 and --

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. -- take those actions?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And so what was the outcome of that?

14 A. He got sent home. He had someone come
15 pick him up, and then he didn't come back the
16 rest of the night.

17 Q. So Nathan got sent home, had someone
18 pick him up and did not come back?

19 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

20 Q. Throughout the evening would you
21 consider Jackson to have been heavily
22 intoxicated?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And how would you tell that?
25 How would you know that?

1 A. Because I was with him.

2 Q. Because you were with him?

3 A. (Witness nods.)

4 Q. And what were the things that you saw
5 that would lead you to believe he was heavily
6 intoxicated?

7 A. That he was drinking and that he was
8 stumbling and --

9 Q. He was stumbling?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what's that look like when he does
12 that?

13 A. He just can't walk in a straight line.

14 Q. Can't walk in a straight line. Okay.

15 Did he have any falls?

16 A. I think one by his truck.

17 Q. He fell once by his truck?

18 A. Uh-huh.

19 Q. And did that injure him at that time?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. So what transpired? Did
22 you stay there? Did you and Jackson stay there
23 at the party?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Can you tell me, did everybody stay at

1 the party?

2 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

3 Q. Everybody stayed at the party, but you
4 and Jackson did not?

5 A. I'm pretty sure everyone stayed. I'm
6 not a hundred percent sure.

7 Q. Okay. And what would cause you and
8 Jackson to leave?

9 A. That I didn't want to stay in his
10 truck, sleep in the truck, and that David was
11 sober and that he could give us a ride home.

12 Q. Okay. You didn't want to sleep in the
13 truck?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. David was sober. Who's David?

16 A. David Young.

17 Q. David Young. Okay.

18 And he would give you a ride
19 home?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you and Jackson have any difficulty
22 deciding to go home? Was Jackson fighting that
23 idea?

24 A. A little bit. He did not want to leave
25 his truck.

1 Q. He didn't want to leave his truck?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. Okay. What time was it that
4 David Young took you and Jackson home?

5 A. Like, 1:30, maybe 2:00 a.m.

6 Q. 1:30 to 2:00 a.m.

7 Okay. And the home is at
8 208 South Mill Street?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And at the Joshua Sisler home?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Once you arrived there at home, can you
13 tell me about that?

14 A. I was upstairs making us food. He went
15 downstairs. He walked in the house, he slammed
16 the door, and he stormed downstairs. He took
17 off all -- like, his pants, his shirt, his
18 boots, everything. Left his phone on the
19 dresser and walked upstairs, slammed the door.
20 I opened the door; I asked him where he was
21 going. He said to leave him alone.

22 Q. So you come into the house and you go
23 to make food?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. Is that food for yourself and Jackson?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And Jackson comes in, and it
3 sounds like he's -- the intoxication is
4 exhibiting itself in the way he's acting.

5 Can you repeat that again, what
6 he did?

7 A. He slammed the door and walked
8 downstairs.

9 Q. He slammed the door and walked
10 downstairs?

11 A. Took off, like, his jeans, his boots,
12 his shirt, his hat.

13 Q. Took off his --

14 A. Clothing.

15 Q. Most of his clothing?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Okay. And then he was downstairs and
18 you were upstairs?

19 A. Uh-huh. Yes. Sorry.

20 Q. And then what was the next thing that
21 happened with Jackson?

22 A. He came upstairs. He walked out the
23 front door. I went after -- like, I walked
24 outside after him, asked him where he was going.
25 He told me to leave him alone. And so I just

1 figured he was going just on a little walk
2 because that's what he usually does.

3 Q. So he came upstairs.

4 And did he have shoes on at that
5 time?

6 A. Uh-uh. No.

7 Q. What was he wearing when he came
8 upstairs and was going outside?

9 A. His swim trunks.

10 Q. Just his swim trunks. Okay.

11 And did you say anything to him
12 at that time?

13 A. Yeah. I asked him where he was going.

14 Q. And what did he tell you about where he
15 was going?

16 A. He didn't tell me where he was going.

17 Q. He didn't tell you?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Okay. Did he seem angry at that time?

20 A. Yeah. Yes.

21 Q. Do you have an idea what he would have
22 been angry about?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Okay. And how long was he gone?

25 A. Like, 30 minutes, maybe 40 minutes.

1 Q. Did he ever come back?

2 A. No.

3 Q. He did not come back?

4 A. No.

5 Q. And did you look for him?

6 A. I went downstairs and I tried to wake
7 up Josh, and he told me to go to sleep, so I
8 went to sleep. And then we woke up, and then
9 Jackson wasn't there when any of us woke up.

10 Q. Where did you think that Jackson may
11 have gone?

12 A. I thought he went to his grandma's.
13 She lives right across the street.

14 Q. You thought he went to his grandma's?

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. And so you thought he was probably
17 safe?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then you went to sleep?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. Was there any indication that
22 Jackson may have headed back toward the farm?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Was no indication of that?

25 A. No. Not until we realized where he was

1 and that he was trying to walk to the farm.

2 Q. Can you repeat that for me.

3 A. Not until we went -- we found out where
4 Jackson was, and we realized that he was trying
5 to go back to the farm.

6 Q. How did you find out where Jackson was,
7 where he ended up?

8 A. When the police showed up at the door.

9 Q. When the police showed up at the door,
10 was that in the morning?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What time was that?

13 A. Like, 8:00 a.m.

14 Q. 8:00 a.m.

15 A. It was early.

16 Q. Okay. Is that the first notification
17 to the family?

18 A. I'm pretty sure.

19 Q. Okay. And there you found out that
20 Jackson's body was found on Route 78?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Toward the farm?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is that where the memorial is situated?

25 A. Yes. Yes.

1 Q. And how far is that from the farm?

2 A. Maybe like five minutes, seven minutes.

3 Q. Five minutes. Okay. Okay.

4 Would you have any estimation of
5 the time it would take -- has he walked to the
6 farm before?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Okay. Have you ever walked that
9 distance?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Okay. Do you have anything else
12 to share with us at this time?

13 A. No.

14 MR. JONES: Okay. I appreciate
15 you being here. And you're a strong young lady
16 for being here and sharing that story. And I
17 can tell that the words you say are truthful.
18 Thank you. You're dismissed.

19 MR. LeCOMTE: Ask the jury.

20 MR. JONES: May I ask you to sit
21 one last time. That was my mistake.

22 Jurors, do you have any questions
23 that would be pertinent to this witness?
24 Anything unclear?

25 JURY FOREMAN: How far is it from

1 where he left the house to the farm in miles?

2 MR. JONES: That's a great
3 question. I do not have that exact answer in
4 terms of miles, but let me ask a couple
5 questions that might help us in that.

6 JURY FOREMAN: Or how long would
7 it take to walk that distance?

8 MR. JONES: That's a great
9 question. And we've had similar questions.

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. JONES: (Continued.)

12 Q. So, Madeline, I just want to ask you a
13 couple questions to help clarify.

14 The jury is wondering how long it
15 might take to walk that distance.

16 A. Like, 30, 40 minutes.

17 Q. 30 to 40 minutes?

18 A. Depending on who you have -- like,
19 depending how fast you walk.

20 Q. Okay. And how are you gauging that
21 time?

22 A. Because one of Jackson's friend's
23 family walked that before and they told us.

24 Q. His friends and family have walked that
25 before?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. And that's about how long it took them
3 to walk it?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. And you said 30 to 40 minutes?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay.

8 MR. JONES: Any other questions,
9 Jurors?

10 Thank you, Madeline.

11 The Court would like to take a
12 five-minute break to allow jurors -- if you need
13 a drink of water, use the restroom. We'll
14 reconvene in five minutes, okay?

15 (Break taken from 11:10 a.m. to
16 11:27 a.m.)

17 MR. JONES: The inquest would
18 like to call Matthew Herpstreith to testify.

19 MATTHEW HERPSTREITH,
20 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
21 was examined and testified as follows:

22 MR. JONES: I just want you to
23 know your rights, as other witnesses also need
24 to know, but you have the right to remain
25 silent. Anything you say can and will be used

1 against you in a court of law. You have the
2 right to an attorney. And if you cannot afford
3 one, one will be appointed for you.

4 Do you understand?

5 MR. HERPSTREITH: Yes.

6 MR. JONES: Okay. At this time,
7 I introduce John LeComte, who will be leading
8 the questions and testimony.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. LeCOMTE:

11 Q. Thank you, Matt.

12 Would you please state your name
13 and address for the record.

14 A. Matthew Herpstreith. 2300 Wacker Road,
15 Savanna, Illinois.

16 Q. Okay. How old are you, Matt?

17 A. 44.

18 Q. And are you married?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you have a family?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. NACK: So the record is
23 clear, I'm Joe Nack, Attorney. And I'm here
24 representing Matt Herpstreith, just so that's in
25 your record, so you've got that.

1 MR. LeCOMTE: Thank you,
2 Attorney Nack.

3 Q. You're able to see your attorney,
4 aren't you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. I think my last question was, do you
7 have a family?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what does your family consist of?

10 A. A wife and three children.

11 Q. Okay. And they all live with you on
12 Wacker Road?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How long have you been married?

15 A. A little over 10 years.

16 Q. I'm sorry?

17 A. A little over 10 years.

18 Q. A little over 10. Okay.

19 Now I'd like to draw your
20 attention to the date of July 27, 2024.

21 Were you employed at that time?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And who was your employer?

24 A. Carroll County Sheriff's Office.

25 Q. Okay. And what was the nature of your

1 employment with the Carroll County Sheriff's
2 Office?

3 A. I was a deputy.

4 Q. Okay. And I presume you have some
5 training to become a deputy?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. What training have you taken?

8 A. Like, since the beginning or --

9 Q. Well, yeah.

10 I'm sorry. I'm going to back up.
11 Give me your job history.

12 A. For the sheriff's office?

13 Q. Let's start after high school.

14 Did you graduate high school?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you remember the year?

17 A. 1998.

18 Q. '98. Okay.

19 Did you get a job after high
20 school?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. And what was that?

23 A. During and right out of high school I
24 worked at a small-town restaurant where I grew
25 up. After that, I worked for an architecture

1 firm in Chicago. I worked for Toys R Us. I
2 worked for Steak 'n Shake. I've worked for
3 Claire's. And then I worked for Savanna PD to
4 the best of my recollection going back that many
5 years.

6 Q. Then Savanna Police Department?

7 A. Was the first -- I started there in
8 December of 2017, I believe.

9 Q. December of 2017.

10 So that's your first law
11 enforcement job?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Okay. Did you receive special training
14 for your work in law enforcement? What special
15 training did you have?

16 A. The basic academies was the first
17 training.

18 Q. Academy.

19 Is this the Police Training
20 Institute?

21 A. Yep.

22 Q. In Champaign?

23 A. I went to SLEA in DuPage County.

24 Q. DuPage County.

25 Okay. So that was -- when did

1 you first get into law enforcement?

2 A. I believe it was, like, December of
3 2017. It was the later months of 2017. I don't
4 remember.

5 Q. 2017.

6 Okay. Now, when did you come on
7 duty with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office?

8 A. June of 2018.

9 Q. Just almost a year -- oh, less than a
10 year later?

11 A. Approximately, yeah.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. Let's go to July 27,
13 2024. I have -- I'll tell you what. I'll hand
14 you an exhibit, and I think that's going to be
15 Exhibit 4.

16 MR. NACK: John, can I see that?

17 (Attorney LeComte hands

18 Attorney Nack document.)

19 Q. I'll hand you what has been marked as
20 Exhibit 4 for the purposes of identification.
21 I'd ask if you can identify that document.

22 A. Yes, I can.

23 Q. And what is that?

24 A. It's a statement form.

25 Q. And is that your statement?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Okay. And that's your handwriting, is
3 it not?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Okay. And this was made when, the
6 morning of July 28, 2024?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. Now we'll go through it here.

9 It says, "I was driving north on
10 Route 78 near Lowden Road when I saw something
11 in the road. I went around it thinking it was a
12 deer, but something told me it wasn't a deer, so
13 I turned around and came back and realized it
14 was a body. Amy Hubble, who was with me, got
15 out and rolled..."

16 I'm sorry. Could you tell me
17 what that word is. "Amy Hubble got out and..."

18 MR. NACK: At this point, I'm
19 going to enter an objection. My client will
20 exercise his Fifth Amendment right not to answer
21 any questions regarding the incident that took
22 place on July 27, 2024. You have a written
23 statement that speaks for itself.

24 Q. Are you going to answer the question
25 or -- I'm sorry -- are you invoking the Fifth

1 Amendment?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Did you make a phone call to the
4 Carroll County Sheriff's Office reporting the
5 finding of a body north of Mount Carroll on
6 Route 78 in the morning hours of July 28, 2024?

7 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

8 Q. Yes, you did. Okay.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: I would like to
10 have that phone call recording played and we'll
11 mark that -- we'll call that Exhibit 5.

12 MR. NACK: I guess at this point
13 I'm not sure what the rules of evidence are, but
14 I'm going to object to the playing of any
15 audiotape with no foundation laid for the tape,
16 which would be required at this point.

17 And, in addition, at this point,
18 just to make it simple, my client will exercise
19 his Fifth Amendment right not to answer any
20 questions in regards to the incident that took
21 place on July 27, 2024.

22 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. I'll play
23 the phone call, please.

24 MR. NACK: If it could just be
25 noted that this is over our objection.

1 (Audio recording played.)

2 Q. Okay. I'll ask, Matthew, if that is
3 your voice in that recording.

4 MR. NACK: I'd object at this
5 point. He's going to exercise his Fifth
6 Amendment right not to answer any questions in
7 regards to this incident.

8 MR. LeCOMTE: You're having your
9 client invoke the Fifth?

10 MR. NACK: Yes.

11 Q. Matthew, you don't have any
12 disabilities, do you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. No.

15 Okay. Vision? Do you wear
16 glasses?

17 MR. NACK: Again, I'm going to --
18 at this point, John, he's going to invoke his
19 Fifth Amendment right not to answer any
20 questions in regards to this incident on
21 July 27, 2024. No questions.

22 Q. Okay. I'll ask you if you're
23 colorblind.

24 MR. NACK: Again, we'll invoke
25 the same right.

1 MR. LeCOMTE: You're invoking the
2 Fifth Amendment on whether or not --

3 MR. NACK: Yes.

4 Q. Okay. Matthew, did you make a
5 voluntary statement to the Illinois State Police
6 on the afternoon of July 28, 2024?

7 MR. NACK: Again, we're going to
8 invoke his Fifth Amendment right.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: Fifth Amendment
10 right?

11 MR. NACK: Yes.

12 Q. Did you make a voluntary statement in
13 the later afternoon of July 28, 2024?

14 MR. NACK: We're going to invoke
15 the same objection. Fifth Amendment.

16 Q. Can you tell me what time you woke up
17 on July 27, 2024?

18 MR. NACK: We're going to invoke
19 the same objection, the Fifth Amendment right.

20 MR. LeCOMTE: Fifth Amendment.
21 Okay.

22 Q. Can you tell me if you attended a
23 retirement party for a Cindy Sisler on
24 July 27, 2024?

25 MR. NACK: I'm going to invoke

1 the same right, Fifth Amendment.

2 Q. Can you tell me if you attended an
3 after-party at the home of Cindy Sisler after
4 the party at the Copper Cow?

5 MR. NACK: We'll invoke the same
6 Fifth Amendment.

7 Q. Will you discuss anything that you did
8 after -- I'm sorry -- before or after the
9 incident -- the call that you made to the
10 Carroll County Sheriff's Office?

11 MR. NACK: First, I'll object
12 that's really not a question. It's more of a
13 dialogue.

14 But the answer to your question
15 is, my client is going to invoke the Fifth
16 Amendment right pertaining to any question
17 pertaining to the day of July 27, 2024, or to
18 any question pertaining to the incident that's
19 before this tribunal.

20 Q. Matthew, I'll ask you if you were at
21 the Sippi-Side Bar in Savanna, Illinois, in the
22 early morning hours of July 28, 2024?

23 MR. NACK: I'll invoke his Fifth
24 Amendment right and refuse to answer any
25 questions.

1 Q. Playing right now is Exhibit 6
2 time-stamped July 28, 2024, at 2:11 a.m.

3 (Video recording played.)

4 Q. Did you recognize yourself in that
5 video?

6 MR. NACK: Objection. He's not
7 going to answer any questions and exercise his
8 Fifth Amendment.

9 Q. Did you see Amy Hubble in that video?

10 MR. NACK: Objection. He's going
11 to exercise his Fifth Amendment right not to
12 answer any questions.

13 Q. Do you have an opinion as to the level
14 of intoxication of Amy Hubble at that time?

15 MR. NACK: I'm going to object.
16 He'll exercise his Fifth Amendment right and
17 refuse to answer that question.

18 Q. Did you leave Sippi-Side -- I'm sorry.

19 After the call to the Carroll
20 County Sheriff's Office in the morning hours of
21 July 28, 2024, did you proceed to the Savanna
22 Carwash in Savanna, Illinois?

23 MR. NACK: Again, I'm going to
24 object. He's going to exercise his Fifth
25 Amendment right and refuse to answer the

1 question.

2 MR. LeCOMTE: Play the video,
3 please. This will be Exhibit Number 7.
4 Actually, a Group 7.

5 MR. NACK: Again, we will object
6 to the playing of the video, that there's no
7 foundation laid, no basis for it.

8 (Video recording played.)

9 Q. This is a video at the Savanna Carwash
10 time-stamped July 28, 2024, at 4:03 a.m. It's
11 showing a truck going into a stall.

12 (Video recording played.)

13 MR. LeCOMTE: Will you please
14 play the next video. This is a video
15 time-stamped July 28, 2024, 4:03 a.m.

16 (Video recording played.)

17 MR. LeCOMTE: Can you pause the
18 video. Pause the video.

19 Q. We're pausing the video at time-stamp
20 4:04:13.

21 Matthew, do you recognize
22 yourself in that video?

23 MR. NACK: Objection. He's going
24 to exercise his Fifth Amendment right and not
25 answer that question.

1 (Video recording played.)

2 Q. The video is continuing.

3 Matthew, is that a video that we
4 just witnessed of you washing off your truck at
5 approximately 4:00 a.m. the morning of
6 July 28, 2024?

7 MR. NACK: Object. He's going to
8 exercise his Fifth Amendment right and not
9 answer that question.

10 Q. Okay. Matthew, at approximately 6:47
11 p.m. on July 28, 2024, did an Illinois State
12 Police crime scene investigator come to your
13 home and examine your truck?

14 MR. NACK: Again, we're going to
15 object to any questions on a Fifth Amendment
16 basis.

17 Q. Matthew, I'm going to show you what has
18 been marked as Exhibit 8 for the purposes of
19 identification and ask if you can identify the
20 truck that's displayed in that photo.

21 MR. NACK: I object. Fifth
22 Amendment basis.

23 MR. LeCOMTE: Objection?

24 MR. NACK: Yes.

25 Q. Matthew, I'm going to hand you

1 Exhibit 9 and ask if you can identify the
2 vehicle in Exhibit 9.

3 MR. NACK: Again, we'll exercise
4 our Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
5 the question.

6 MR. LeCOMTE: Fifth Amendment
7 right is invoked.

8 Q. Okay. I'll hand you what has been
9 marked as Exhibit Number 10 for the purposes of
10 identifying it and ask if you can identify that
11 as being part of your truck.

12 MR. NACK: Again, we'll exercise
13 the Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
14 the question.

15 Q. Matthew, Exhibit Number 9 and 10, if
16 they are your truck, do not seem to show a
17 license plate on the front side of that vehicle.

18 Can you tell me if your truck had
19 a license plate on its front?

20 MR. NACK: I'll object on the
21 Fifth Amendment basis and refuse to answer that
22 question.

23 Q. You're invoking the Fifth Amendment on
24 that also?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. LeCOMTE: I have no further
2 questions. Thank you very much. Excuse me.
3 The jury might have questions for you.

4 MR. JONES: Any questions or
5 concerns or inquiry by the jury?

6 You'll be excused at this time.
7 Off the record.

8 (Off-the-record discussion.)

9 MR. JONES: On the record.

10 AMY HUBBLE,
11 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
12 was examined and testified as follows:

13 MR. JONES: I also want you to be
14 aware of your right to remain silent. You have
15 the right to remain silent. Anything you say
16 can and will be used against you in a court of
17 law. You have the right to an attorney. And if
18 you cannot afford an attorney, one will be
19 appointed for you.

20 Do you understand?

21 MS. HUBBLE: I do.

22 MR. JONES: At this time, I'll
23 introduce John LeComte.

24 EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. LeCOMTE:

1 Q. Well, it's now afternoon. Good
2 afternoon.

3 Could you please state your name
4 and address for the record.

5 A. Amy Michelle Hubble. 432 Bowen Street,
6 Savanna, Illinois 61704.

7 Q. Okay. Thank you.

8 Amy, did you at one time work for
9 the Carroll County sheriff in Carroll County,
10 Illinois?

11 A. Yes. Yes.

12 Q. And when did you start working for the
13 Carroll County sheriff?

14 A. I'm not sure of that date. I worked
15 part-time for four years, and then I went
16 full-time for almost two years.

17 Q. Almost?

18 A. Almost two.

19 Q. Two years.

20 And did you know a Cindy Sisler
21 as a co-worker?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Did you know Matt Herpstreith as
24 a co-worker?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. What was your job at the
2 Carroll County Sheriff's Office?

3 A. I was a dispatcher.

4 Q. A dispatcher?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. Okay. And what does a dispatcher do?
7 What are the responsibilities of a dispatcher?

8 A. Dispatch fire, police, and EMS to
9 calls.

10 Q. Okay. Fire, police, and ambulance.

11 And do you have a need to be in
12 contact with the deputies that might be out on
13 the road?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And are you pretty much their
16 only contact or a principal contact, point of
17 contact for those deputies?

18 A. Initially, yes.

19 Q. Okay. And if any event requiring
20 police intervention, are you the one that would
21 be coordinating the event for the deputies in
22 the field?

23 A. I don't understand your question.

24 Q. Don't understand.

25 Okay. If a deputy calls -- makes

1 a call, Oh, I have a burning car out on the
2 highway, would you be the one to call the fire
3 department?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. If a deputy were to say, Okay,
6 the car is burning and we have an injured person
7 here, would you be the one to call perhaps
8 emergency medical services?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. The job for being a dispatcher
11 sounds like it has a lot of responsibility;
12 would you agree?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. In fact, I'm thinking perhaps
15 all of law enforcement might, whether a deputy
16 or dispatcher, have a lot of people -- people
17 feel a lot of responsibility for the safety of
18 others and the protection of other deputies in
19 case of possible harm that might come to them.

20 Is that your -- a fair
21 assessment?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Yes?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. Okay. Have you ever been in charge of

1 coordinating law enforcement resources and
2 perhaps emergency medical services for a major
3 traffic accident?

4 A. As a dispatcher?

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. Oh, I'm sure I did.

7 Q. Sure you did. Okay.

8 A. I'm sure I dispatched the units and
9 stuff, yeah.

10 Q. Okay. So if a deputy, a single deputy
11 should come upon an accident where he feels the
12 road needs to be blocked off, that's not
13 something that he could handle on his own, is
14 it?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No.

17 In fact, would you believe that
18 it would take several people, several deputies
19 or law enforcement personnel to respond to a
20 situation where there might be a major accident
21 with injury requiring a road to be blocked off?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You'd agree with that. Okay.

24 Now, you're in good health,
25 aren't you?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You're not colorblind?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. Did you have any advanced
5 education beyond high school?

6 A. I took a paramedic course.

7 Q. Paramedic course. Okay.

8 So as a result of this paramedic
9 course did you have any certifications?

10 A. Yes. I'm a licensed paramedic.

11 Q. Licensed --

12 A. Paramedic.

13 Q. -- paramedic.

14 And you're licensed by what, the
15 State of Illinois?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Is that Department of Public Health?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. So you know how to, I presume,
20 give CPR?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Are you knowledgeable in reading
23 vital statistics?

24 A. Yes. Somewhat, yes.

25 Q. Okay. Then what I'd like to do is get

1 into the events of July 28, 2024.

2 Can you tell me what time you
3 might have woke up that day?

4 MR. NACK: I'm going to object at
5 this point, same ones.

6 Q. Are you not going to answer that
7 question?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Matt informed me that the
10 important date is July 27, 2024.

11 Can you tell me what time you
12 woke up that day?

13 MR. NACK: Again, she's going to
14 invoke her Fifth Amendment right to remain
15 silent.

16 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. Taking the
17 Fifth Amendment.

18 Q. Did you go to a retirement party for a
19 Cindy Sisler?

20 MR. NACK: Again, she's going to
21 invoke her Fifth Amendment right to remain
22 silent.

23 MR. LeCOMTE: Fifth Amendment
24 right.

25 Q. After leaving the retirement party, did

1 you go to the home of Josh Sisler in
2 Mount Carroll to attend an after-party on
3 July 27, 2024?

4 MR. NACK: She's going to invoke
5 her Fifth Amendment right to remain silent.

6 Q. Okay. Were you intoxicated when you
7 left the retirement party of -- I'm sorry -- the
8 after-party at Josh Sisler's in Mount Carroll?

9 MR. NACK: She'll invoke her
10 Fifth Amendment right to remain silent and not
11 answer the question.

12 MR. LeCOMTE: At this time, I'm
13 going to ask to have an audiotape played.

14 MR. NACK: I'll object, for the
15 record, to the interjection of the video or the
16 audio, whatever this is, on the basis there's
17 been no foundation laid for its admission.

18 (Audio recording played.)

19 Q. Amy, do you recognize your voice on
20 that recording?

21 MR. NACK: She'll exercise her
22 Fifth Amendment right to refuse to answer the
23 question.

24 Q. Amy, did you go to the Sandburr Bar
25 from the home of Josh Sisler in the evening

1 hours of July 27, 2024?

2 MR. NACK: She's going to invoke
3 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
4 the question.

5 Q. Okay. Amy, did you go to the
6 Sippi-Side Bar?

7 MR. NACK: Again, we'll object to
8 the question and exercise her Fifth Amendment
9 right.

10 Q. After going to Sippi-Side --

11 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. Play that
12 video again, Matt. That would be Exhibit 6.

13 MR. NACK: Is this the same one
14 that was just played?

15 MR. LeCOMTE: Yes. This is
16 Exhibit 6.

17 MR. NACK: Just for
18 clarification --

19 MR. LeCOMTE: A video
20 time-stamped July 28, 2024, at 2:11.

21 MR. NACK: You had said this was
22 the same audio that was played before.

23 What was the exhibit number on
24 that one?

25 MR. LeCOMTE: This is Video 6.

1 MR. NACK: What was the one prior
2 to that?

3 MR. LeCOMTE: On the screen.

4 Q. Okay. We're showing Exhibit 6, a video
5 time-stamped July 28, 2024, at 2:11:25 a.m.

6 MR. LeCOMTE: Please play it.

7 (Video recording played.)

8 MR. LeCOMTE: Please pause it.

9 Q. Did you recognize yourself in that
10 video?

11 MR. NACK: Objection. She'll
12 exercise her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to
13 answer the question.

14 Q. Did you recognize Matt Herpstreith in
15 that video?

16 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
17 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
18 that question.

19 Q. Did you recognize yourself carrying a
20 beer out of the -- a beer bottle out of the
21 Sippi-Side?

22 MR. NACK: Again, we'll exercise
23 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
24 the question.

25 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. Now, you can

1 turn that off.

2 Q. I'm going to ask: After leaving the
3 Sippi-Side in Savanna, did you go to a property
4 on which a camper owned by -- Matt Herpstreith
5 has between Savanna and Thomson?

6 MR. NACK: Again, I'm going to
7 object. One, I'll object to the form of the
8 question. There's no evidence she ever left the
9 Sippi-Side. But, two, she'll exercise her Fifth
10 Amendment right and not answer the question.

11 Q. Did you have a co-worker in -- I'm
12 sorry.

13 Did you ride with
14 Matt Herpstreith from the camper to a
15 co-worker's home in Mount Carroll?

16 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
17 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
18 the question.

19 Q. Did you leave the co-worker's home in
20 Mount Carroll and drive north out of
21 Mount Carroll in the vehicle owned by
22 Matt Herpstreith at about 3:30 a.m. on July 28,
23 2024?

24 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
25 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer

1 the question.

2 Q. Did you see on that trip north out of
3 Mount Carroll what appeared to be something in
4 the roadway that was blue in color?

5 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
6 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
7 the question.

8 Q. Did you have your window down and loud
9 music playing as you drove north out of
10 Mount Carroll with Matt Herpstreith at that
11 time?

12 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
13 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
14 the question.

15 Q. Did you see -- did you and
16 Matt Herpstreith see a body in the roadway north
17 of Mount Carroll?

18 MR. NACK: Again, she'll exercise
19 her Fifth Amendment right and refuse to answer
20 the question.

21 Q. Okay. And did you believe that you
22 found a pulse on that body in the roadway when
23 you first came upon it?

24 MR. NACK: Again, we'll object.
25 She'll exercise her Fifth Amendment right and

1 refuse to answer the question.

2 Q. Okay. Have you been interviewed by the
3 Illinois State Police regarding the incident in
4 the early morning hours of July 28, 2024?

5 MR. NACK: Again, we'll object.
6 She'll exercise her Fifth Amendment right and
7 refuse to answer the question.

8 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. I have no
9 further questions.

10 MR. JONES: Jury, do you have any
11 inquiry at all, any questions at all?

12 You're excused.

13 MR. NACK: I would ask the
14 coroner and the attorney that -- and this is
15 Joe Nack talking -- that Witnesses
16 Matt Herpstreith and Amy Hubble are, at this
17 point, relieved of their subpoenas and no longer
18 required to, at this stage, attend any further
19 proceedings of the coroner's inquest unless
20 re-subpoenaed.

21 MR. JONES: That is correct.

22 MR. LeCOMTE: Thank you.

23 MR. JONES: At this time, we'll
24 break for one hour and be back here at 1:25.
25 Please try to be here early as we will begin at

1 1:25.

2 (Break taken from 12:24 p.m.
3 until 1:27 p.m.)

4 MR. JONES: On the record.
5 Jurors, we're ready to begin. We'd like to
6 begin in a timely fashion. And we need to
7 resubmit some exhibits here, so I want to ask
8 John to come up and do that for us.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: Well, okay. This
10 is for the record. We're giving Exhibit 4, 8, 9
11 and 10 to the foreman. Thank you very much.

12 And, for the record, we played an
13 audiotape of Amy Hubble calling to the
14 Carroll County sheriff's dispatcher in the
15 evening hours of July 27, 2024, and that audio
16 is Exhibit Number 11, and that will be provided
17 to the foreman in digital form.

18 MR. JONES: Next we'll be
19 entering four other audio exhibits. And both
20 Matthew Herpstreith and Amy Hubble were
21 interviewed on July 28th, and I've got those
22 audio exhibits for you. And then also on
23 July 29th, and I've got those audio exhibits for
24 you. So I'd like to go ahead and play those.
25 This will be Exhibit Number 12.

1 MR. LeCOMTE: Excuse me. The
2 first audio will be 12, so that will be 12-A.

3 MR. JONES: This will be Audio
4 Exhibit 12-A. This is a transcript of
5 Matthew Herpstreith's first interview with the
6 Illinois State Police, and I'll hand those out
7 for you.

8 MR. LeCOMTE: Those are working
9 copies for the jury.

10 (Audio recording played.)

11 MR. JONES: Just a comment to the
12 jury that this would have been about 10 hours,
13 10 1/2 hours past the time of the exhibit.

14 Agonal breathing was mentioned.
15 And agonal breathing refers to the final breaths
16 that someone is taking before they pass. And
17 often it is at times where the rest of the body
18 is shutting down and the body still wants to
19 work, still wants to breathe.

20 And it can last from seconds to
21 minutes. Maybe five minutes. Maybe even a bit
22 longer depending completely on the situation and
23 the circumstances.

24 JUROR NUMBER 2: That was my
25 question. How long can that last, that type of

1 breathing?

2 MR. JONES: Anywhere from seconds
3 to minutes.

4 JUROR NUMBER 2: Okay.

5 MR. JONES: Any other questions?
6 Just a moment. We'll be playing another audio
7 recording, and that will be Amy Hubble's first
8 interview with the Illinois State Police
9 investigators.

10 It will just take me a minute to
11 cue that up. And it's right at about the same
12 time frame on your timeline. Unfortunately, we
13 do not have a transcript for that recording.

14 (Audio recording played.)

15 MR. JONES: The recording that
16 you just heard is Exhibit 12-A, and this is the
17 transcript. This next recording was recorded at
18 1:20 p.m. on July 28th and is the first
19 interview with Amy Hubble.

20 (Audio recording played.)

21 MR. JONES: Any questions at all
22 from the jury?

23 JUROR NUMBER 1: How long -- do
24 you guys make any judgment how long he could
25 have lived after his injuries happened? Like,

1 what -- how long his lifespan would have been
2 after he was hit?

3 MR. JONES: Just moments. Just
4 from seconds to --

5 JUROR NUMBER 1: I mean, his
6 injuries were that bad. How long could it last?
7 How long could he have survived his injuries?

8 MR. JONES: Anywhere from seconds
9 to moments.

10 JURY FOREMAN: Was there any
11 evidence that more than one vehicle hit the
12 body?

13 MR. JONES: No, there was not.
14 We specifically focused on that at autopsy and
15 the pathologist stated -- and I believe he
16 stated in the exhibits you have, too, that he
17 thought all the injury occurred just prior to
18 death, at the same time.

19 Any other inquiries?

20 We'd like to take a five-minute
21 break. You're welcome to stay here or use the
22 restroom. Let's say we come back at 2:45.

23 (Break taken from 2:40 p.m. to
24 2:53 p.m.)

25 MR. JONES: We are on the record.

1 Welcome back, jurors. I appreciate your time.

2 And I know this is a long day and a lot to
3 listen to.

4 Matthew Herpstreith was
5 interviewed a second time by the Illinois State
6 Police and that interview occurred at 12:42 p.m.
7 on July 29th, just about 24 hours after the
8 first interview. I'd like to admit
9 Exhibit 14-A.

10 It is a transcript of that entire
11 interview. That interview lasts about an hour
12 and a half. And much of that interview is
13 centered around getting the permission for
14 Matthew to give his phone up so that the police
15 can investigate and confirm and so forth.

16 And so we'd like to skip that
17 portion. And we'd like to skip a couple other
18 portions that don't include a lot of substance
19 for us and also so that we can narrow down the
20 time for you to consider the evidence, although
21 you do have the full, complete transcript in
22 front of you.

23 So I do apologize that it won't
24 follow along easily when we skip to the next
25 section. I can certainly give you -- we can

1 give you the --

2 MR. LeCOMTE: Time-stamps.

3 MR. JONES: -- time-stamps of
4 where it is and then you can kind of gauge and
5 try to find it back or simply listen, but you'll
6 have the entire transcript. We'll begin at the
7 very beginning and we'll be going to time-stamp
8 at 2:55.

9 (Audio recording played.)

10 MR. JONES: Now we'll move to
11 time-stamp 5:10 and play until 7:55. So much of
12 this portion that we're moving through for
13 expediency is the investigator speaking and
14 maybe laying out some scenarios and talking and
15 trying to befriend him and also keep him
16 talking.

17 (Audio recording played.)

18 MR. JONES: Next we'll move on to
19 time-stamp at 46:25, and we'll be playing this
20 for approximately 20 minutes.

21 (Audio recording played.)

22 MR. JONES: We will now take you
23 to time-stamp 1:11:13 and that will last just
24 for four minutes.

25 (Audio recording played.)

1 MR. JONES: We'll now go to
2 time-stamp 1:19 and that will be about two
3 minutes and 40 seconds.

4 (Audio recording played.)

5 MR. JONES: And the last portion
6 of this will be time-stamp 1:25 until the end.

7 (Audio recording played.)

8 MR. JONES: We're going to go
9 right into the second interview with Amy Hubble,
10 which is happening about the same time as this
11 interview. It happened at 12:54 p.m. on
12 July 29, 2024.

13 (Audio recording played.)

14 MR. JONES: At the discretion of
15 the coroner, we're going to click ahead 30
16 seconds. I thought it was important that you
17 understand how the State police looked into
18 everything and even took their phones and looked
19 into those items also.

20 (Audio recording played.)

21 MR. JONES: Any questions or any
22 inquiries about that? I know that it's been a
23 long time. Thank you for sitting through that
24 evidence and absorbing it the best you can.

25 Let's take a three-minute break

1 just to use the facilities, maybe get a drink of
2 water, and then please come right back. We'd
3 like to finish in about 45 or 50 minutes.

4 (Break taken from 4:26 p.m. until
5 4:34 p.m.)

6 MR. JONES: Our next witness will
7 be Kayla Russell.

8 KAYLA RUSSELL,
9 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
10 was examined and testified as follows:

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. JONES:

13 Q. Could you give the jurors your full
14 name and spell it for them, please.

15 A. Kayla Russell. K-A-Y-L-A
16 R-U-S-S-E-L-L.

17 Q. Great.

18 Can you explain what your current
19 occupation is.

20 A. I'm currently employed at the Carroll
21 County Sheriff's Office as a telecommunicator.

22 Q. And let me pause just one moment.

23 MR. JONES: Are you able to hear
24 it?

25 MR. LeCOMTE: No.

1 Q. I guess their microphones don't expand
2 the volume.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Would you be able to speak up.

5 MR. LeCOMTE: She has to speak
6 up.

7 A. Sure.

8 Q. I'd appreciate that.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: You're talking to
10 the back of the room.

11 MR. JONES: Thank you, John.

12 Q. So let me ask that question again.

13 Could you please explain to the
14 jurors about your occupation.

15 What do you do on a daily basis?

16 A. I answer nonemergency and emergency
17 calls for police, fire, and EMS in all of
18 Carroll County.

19 Q. And do you happen to work with
20 Amy Hubble?

21 A. I no longer work with Amy, no.

22 Q. And before July 27th or July 28th, did
23 you work with her at that time?

24 A. I did, yes.

25 Q. Okay. And what shift do you work?

1 A. I'm on days. I work day shift,
2 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

3 Q. And when does Amy work?

4 A. Amy works at night, 6P to 6A, so we
5 typically didn't work together.

6 Q. I imagine you know the same stresses
7 that she knows --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- in her work and that there's a
10 comradery within the organization, within the
11 dispatch unit.

12 Can you tell us about that and
13 describe that for us.

14 A. Typically we're all just pretty close.
15 All of us are friends. I mean, more like family
16 depending on who we are. We all get along
17 really well for the most part.

18 Q. Would you consider being a dispatcher a
19 stressful job?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How do you deal with that stress?

22 A. Typically you just leave it at the
23 door. I mean, talk to friends about it if you
24 need to.

25 Q. Okay. Do you see other associates that

1 you work with dealing with that stress?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And how did you see Amy deal with that
4 stress?

5 A. I typically didn't work with her, so I
6 don't know how she handled her stress when she
7 was at work.

8 Q. Okay. Okay. That's fair.

9 I do want to get in -- for the
10 time that we have here, I want to get right to
11 the point on a few items.

12 And can you tell us, on July 27,
13 2024, what you did on that day.

14 A. I worked that day, and then I attended
15 a retirement party at the Copper Cow.

16 Q. Okay. And that was the Cindy Sisler
17 retirement party?

18 A. It was, yes.

19 Q. And did you see Matthew Herpstreith at
20 that party?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. Okay. What time did you arrive at the
23 party?

24 A. Around 7 o'clock.

25 Q. Around 7 o'clock?

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. You saw Matthew at that party?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And did you see him drinking alcohol at
5 that party?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Can you describe that for the jurors,
8 please.

9 A. I describe -- I mean, he was just
10 casually drinking as normal, I would say, yeah.

11 Q. Do you know what type of alcohol --

12 A. I don't know what he was drinking, no.

13 Q. Did you see him drink more than one
14 drink?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. What would you consider the
17 number of drinks you saw him drink?

18 A. I can't say for sure how many I saw him
19 drink. At least two.

20 Q. Okay. Okay. I appreciate that.

21 Did you see Amy at the same
22 party?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Do you recall if you saw her drinking
25 alcohol?

1 A. Yes, she was.

2 Q. Okay. What type of alcohol was she
3 drinking; do you recall that?

4 A. I don't recall, no.

5 Q. Okay. And did you see her drinking
6 more than one drink?

7 A. I can't say for sure. I don't know.

8 Q. Okay. What time did you leave that
9 party?

10 A. Around 8:00 or 8:30, I believe.

11 Q. Okay. So an hour to an hour and a
12 half --

13 A. Uh-huh.

14 Q. -- you had attended?

15 And where did you go from there?

16 A. From there we went to Jason Houston's
17 house.

18 Q. So that was the after-party, as I
19 understand?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And how long did you stay there? When
22 did you leave?

23 A. We were there for a couple hours. I
24 think we left around 10:30, 11:00.

25 Q. And you said you had gotten there 8:00

1 to 8:30?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. Can you tell me the activity that was
4 going on there at the Jason Houston after-party.

5 A. We were just hanging out having some
6 drinks, playing bags, Karaoke. Nothing out of
7 the ordinary.

8 Q. And did you witness Matthew Herpstreith
9 drinking at that party?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. What type of drinks did you
12 notice there at the after-party?

13 A. I know there was tequila. There was an
14 assortment of drinks. There was tequila. There
15 was Tito's, Malibu. I don't think Matt was
16 drinking all of that, but that's what was there.

17 Q. What did you see Matthew drink?

18 A. I believe he was drinking the tequila.

19 Q. Okay. And is that tequila, like, in a
20 mixed drink?

21 A. He was mixing it, yeah, with some sort
22 of fruit punch.

23 Q. Okay. And do you recall how many
24 drinks you saw him take?

25 A. I don't recall.

1 Q. Okay. More than one?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Did he take any shots of alcohol
4 at that party?

5 A. I remember one shot that he took, yeah.

6 Q. Okay. And was he carrying around a
7 bottle of tequila?

8 A. I don't recall if he was carrying it
9 around or not, but there was one there.

10 Q. Okay. Very good.

11 How about Amy Hubble, did you see
12 her drinking at that party?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you notice what type of drinks?

15 A. I don't recall what she was drinking,
16 no.

17 Q. Did you notice if she had more than
18 one?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. Okay. Okay. Very fair.

21 And then after that party, can
22 you tell me where you went.

23 A. I went to the Sandburr.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. In Thomson.

1 Q. That would be the bar between Savanna
2 and Thomson?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And same line of questioning. I'm
5 interested in how much Matthew Herpstreith and
6 Amy Hubble had to drink, but let's talk about
7 Matthew first.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. Or let's talk about the group, because
10 were you with a group?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And so the group that left the
13 Copper Cow, many of them went to the
14 Jason Houston after-party?

15 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

16 Q. And then was it a smaller group that
17 went to the Sandburr?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. About how many in that group?

20 A. Six of us.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. And so you're a
22 close-knit group?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. And when you get to the Sandburr Bar,
25 can you tell me about the drinking activity

1 there.

2 A. We each had one drink and one shot at
3 that bar.

4 Q. Okay. And what type of drink did you
5 each have? Was everybody the same?

6 A. No. Everyone had a different drink,
7 but we each had the same shot, and it was a
8 McGillicuddy and Red Bull.

9 Q. Okay. So very good. I appreciate
10 that.

11 And so Amy and Matt both had
12 McGillicuddy/Red Bull plus another drink?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And then where did you go from the
15 Sandburr?

16 A. From the Sandburr we went to Sippi-Side
17 in Savanna.

18 Q. And I want to make it clear. Were you
19 driving at all?

20 A. I was not driving, no.

21 Q. You were not, so you were always
22 catching a ride?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And I think we heard in previous
25 testimony that you had been riding with Shea?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And how did you get to Sippi-Side?

3 A. I rode with Shea.

4 Q. And then was it the same group of
5 people at Sippi-Side?

6 A. It was. The only person that wasn't
7 there was Matt's wife did not come to
8 Sippi-Side.

9 Q. And at Sippi-Side I imagine there were
10 more drinks that everyone had.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. What other activities were going on?

13 A. We played bags outside. I know Matt
14 and Shea were gambling at one point.

15 Q. So the gambling is downstairs?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And those would be slot machines?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And then upstairs would be the bags
20 game?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Okay. Did you happen to see
23 Matthew Herpstreith drinking downstairs?

24 A. Yes, he was.

25 Q. Do you know how long he was downstairs,

1 an estimate of time?

2 A. I don't recall, no.

3 Q. And then when you were playing bags
4 upstairs, did you happen to see Matt drinking
5 upstairs?

6 A. Yeah, we were still drinking.

7 Q. Okay. Do you know if that was the same
8 drink all throughout or a different --

9 A. I don't know.

10 Q. -- another round?

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. Okay. Okay. And then after the
13 Sippi-Side, can you tell us what your journey
14 was.

15 A. From the Sippi-Side we went to -- Shea
16 brought me to Amy Hubble's house. Amy brought
17 her vehicle to her house. Matt picked us up
18 there. Amy got in the driver's seat, and I got
19 in the back seat of Matt's vehicle, and then we
20 went to his camper.

21 Q. Okay. So you left Sippi-Side and you
22 meet up with Matthew and he takes you in his
23 truck?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. Amy Hubble also meets up there and also

1 gets in the truck?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And where are you positioned in the
4 truck?

5 A. I'm the back passenger.

6 Q. Okay. So you're all three in the truck
7 and you're traveling and you go to Matt's --

8 A. Camper.

9 Q. -- camper?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. Do you know the purpose of that visit?

12 A. I don't know the purpose, no. Once we
13 got there, Matt and Amy got out of the vehicle.
14 I stayed in the vehicle. We were there maybe 10
15 minutes. I'm not sure what they did while they
16 were out of the vehicle, but I stayed in the
17 vehicle the entire time.

18 Q. And how long of a period of time were
19 they --

20 A. About 10 minutes.

21 Q. About 10 minutes?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Throughout this traveling from
24 Mount Carroll to Savanna to near Thomson and up
25 to Savanna and back down near Thomson, did you

1 recognize or see any drinking in the vehicle?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Can you tell me about that.

4 A. I just know that Matt and Amy both had
5 a drink on our way to Mount Carroll.

6 Q. Okay. From the camper?

7 A. Yes. I don't know if they got it from
8 the camper or if it came from Sippi-Side. I'm
9 not sure.

10 Q. Okay. So they were drinking in the
11 vehicle?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. When you were back in Mount Carroll at
14 the -- at the Jason Houston home, did you see
15 Matthew carrying a bottle out of the
16 Jason Houston home and taking it into his
17 vehicle?

18 A. I didn't watch Matt leave, so I can't
19 say for sure.

20 Q. You didn't --

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Very good.

23 And then from the camper, where
24 did you go after that?

25 A. Then they took me home to my house in

1 Mount Carroll.

2 Q. Okay. And do you feel like you were
3 pretty intoxicated? Like, on a level of 1 to
4 10, what would you say?

5 A. I was intoxicated, but I was still
6 aware of my surroundings and what was going on.

7 Q. You were aware of your surroundings,
8 having fun, it was a party, an evening.

9 Would you consider yourself to be
10 somewhat equally as intoxicated as the others
11 that you were hanging with or --

12 A. I would say comparable, yeah.

13 Q. I heard some earlier testimony about
14 Matthew Herpstreith, and there was a mention of
15 the -- Amy had seen him worse -- or had seen him
16 better but also had seen him worse.

17 And so is there any indication of
18 where you would put him in that scale of 1 to 10
19 in terms of intoxication?

20 A. I've seen him more drunk than he was
21 that night in the past, but I would say 7. I
22 mean, I can't say for sure what his tolerance
23 was.

24 Q. 7. That's fair.

25 How about Amy, would you give

1 her -- on a scale of 1 to 10, where would you
2 put that?

3 A. Probably the same, 7 or 8.

4 Q. So Matthew and Amy were similar in
5 their intoxication?

6 A. I would say yes.

7 Q. Okay. In earlier testimony and in
8 audio testimony that we heard, Amy had testimony
9 that loud music was part of the trip in the
10 truck.

11 A. Uh-huh. Yes.

12 Q. And was that part of your experience,
13 too?

14 A. Yeah. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. She also mentioned that road
16 popping was something that is kind of her thing
17 and that Matthew and she would go road popping,
18 which I assume is drinking alcohol in a vehicle
19 going through the country.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Had you ever been with them on trips
22 like that before?

23 A. Them two, I don't believe I have with
24 them two, but I know that they have gone
25 together before.

1 Q. It was a regular occurrence?

2 A. I wouldn't say "regular," but, I mean,
3 they have a couple other times together.

4 Q. So them drinking in a vehicle is not an
5 abnormal occurrence?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. Were they playing loud music?

8 Were you listening to loud music
9 from the camper to your home?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. From Savanna to the camper?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. From Mount Carroll to the Sandburr?

14 A. I wasn't with them then. I was with
15 Shea.

16 Q. Very good. Very good. Thanks for
17 correcting me on that.

18 How loud on a scale of 1 to 10?

19 A. I mean, if they were having
20 conversation in the front seat, I probably
21 wouldn't have heard them in the back seat.

22 Q. You would not have heard them?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. How long did they -- well, from what I
25 understand, they dropped you off at your home?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Can you tell me about the activity at
3 your home.

4 What took place when you arrived?

5 A. Sure.

6 Q. And maybe what transpired while they
7 were there and about how long of a stay was
8 that.

9 A. They arrived at my house around 3:00.
10 We sat on my deck for just a few minutes
11 together. We went inside my residence. I
12 changed my clothes, got into my pajamas, and
13 then they left. I would say it was a total of
14 15 minutes that they were there.

15 Q. We heard earlier testimony that there
16 was smoking out on the deck?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Was there any drinking at your home?

19 A. I didn't drink any. I don't know if
20 they had a drink with them or not.

21 Q. Okay. Okay. When they left your home,
22 did you have a good idea where they were headed?

23 A. I thought they were going home
24 themselves.

25 Q. Okay. Did you know what direction they

1 were going?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. Okay. As a dispatcher, I know
4 you rely on each other. You rely on your
5 deputies; they rely on you.

6 A. Right.

7 Q. And it's a real team effort, I do know
8 that.

9 Have you worked with Matt before?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. How would you describe him in
12 the field while you're a dispatcher and
13 something is happening where there's pressure?

14 Maybe it's an accident, a road
15 accident.

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. Something along those lines.

18 How would you describe his work
19 and his attitude toward that?

20 A. I would say he's always professional
21 and keeps his composure pretty well when he's
22 handling a serious call.

23 Q. Okay. Does he put a lot into it, like
24 trying to figure it out?

25 A. Yes. Yes, he does.

1 Q. Has he ever stayed over past his shift?

2 A. Yes. Many times.

3 Q. Many times?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. And why do you think that?

6 A. I think he has passion for the job that
7 he did.

8 Q. And so he would stay to assist others?

9 A. Assist others or -- yeah. Or if he had
10 an investigation to work on, stay over for that.

11 Q. Okay. Had you ever witnessed, if
12 something was happening in the field, on the
13 road, an accident of some type, that he would
14 stay beyond his shift to assist anyone?

15 A. Yes, he would.

16 Q. Okay. Okay. I appreciate that.

17 MR. JONES: Jurors, do you have
18 any questions for Kayla?

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. JONES: (Continued.)

21 Q. To finish that thought, for the
22 incident that took place, I'm assuming you
23 understand more about the incident today than
24 back on that day?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. In your mind, for that incident, does
2 it seem strange to you that Matt left within
3 moments --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- of that incident?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. What would you have expected
8 Matt to do?

9 A. I assumed he would stay there until, I
10 guess, he was released, which he was released
11 from the scene, but until he spoke to everyone
12 that he needed to.

13 Q. Okay. How many people, manpower -- how
14 much manpower does it take on an accident scene
15 like that where you have road traffic on a
16 highway and some other crossroads?

17 How many officers would be
18 included in something like that?

19 A. I would say multiple. I mean, first
20 responding officer, and then you're going to
21 have detectives that are responding,
22 investigators, and then the bosses always go to
23 incidents like that.

24 Q. Just for traffic control, what would
25 you expect?

1 A. At least two, minimum.

2 Q. And if there was only one available,
3 would you consider that to be dangerous?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. JONES: Okay. All right. I
6 don't have any further questions.

7 MS. RUSSELL: Okay.

8 MR. JONES: Thank you. Off the
9 record.

10 (Off-the-record discussion.)

11 MR. JONES: On the record. I
12 call Scott Marth, Mount Carroll police officer.

13 SCOTT MARTH,
14 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
15 was examined and testified as follows:

16 EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. JONES:

18 Q. Thank you for being here. I do -- just
19 to let you know, we've had a little trouble with
20 the volume and these mics don't increase it.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. So if you can talk to the back of the
23 room, we'd appreciate it in a way.

24 I want to -- we want to -- I've
25 listened to your interview with the Illinois

1 State Police. And can you verify that you had
2 that interview with the Illinois State Police.

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. JONES: And, John, do you
6 have a date on that? I'm going to -- John here
7 is going to help and assist us.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. LeCOMTE:

10 Q. Hi, Scott. I'll be doing the
11 questioning.

12 For the record, since we're
13 making a transcript, please state your name and
14 address for the record.

15 A. Scott Marth. And I live in
16 Mount Carroll.

17 Q. Once again, that's not a microphone.
18 These people -- at least to that young lady at
19 the end of the jury box, she has to be able to
20 hear and she's about my age.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. And I'm talking loud because I think
23 I'm talking normal.

24 A. I have to apologize. My voice is a
25 little weak today. I just woke up that way.

1 Q. Got to scream. Thank you.

2 Okay. Name and address, please.

3 A. Scott Marth. I live in the city of
4 Mount Carroll.

5 Q. Mount Carroll.

6 Okay. Scott, you're, I presume,
7 a Mount Carroll police officer?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. How long have you been doing that?

10 A. I've worked for Mount Carroll for six
11 years.

12 Q. Six years.

13 Okay. Now we're going to draw
14 your attention to the early morning hours, about
15 3:30, July 28, 2024.

16 What, if anything, unusual
17 happened?

18 A. I was dispatched a report of a body in
19 the roadway, Route 78 and Lowden Road.

20 Q. Where?

21 A. 78 and Lowden Road.

22 Q. Lowden Road.

23 Okay. And you made -- you were
24 interviewed by the Illinois State Police?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. If we play that, I think it's about 20
2 minutes, I'll have a couple of questions at the
3 end.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. Do you mind?

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. Okay.

8 MR. LeCOMTE: Start that, please.

9 (Audio recording played.)

10 Q. Thanks for sitting through that.

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. Is that audio that we just listened to
13 accurate in your recollection --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- as being your voice portraying what
16 actually took place?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. Okay. Matt, the scene -- you're called
19 to the scene, dispatched.

20 And was this your accident scene?

21 A. No, it was not.

22 Q. It was not yours.

23 Which jurisdiction had authority
24 for that accident scene?

25 A. It would be the sheriff's department.

1 Q. Sheriff's department.

2 Okay. Now, if it's not your
3 accident scene, did you think you had authority
4 to dismiss Matt and Amy from the scene?

5 A. When he asked me the question, I just
6 didn't really process it.

7 Q. I'm sorry. You what?

8 A. I didn't process jurisdiction. I
9 just -- I said, no, I didn't need him there.

10 Q. You just told him, no, you didn't need
11 him?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Okay. I want to back up just a little
14 bit.

15 You said that Matt and Amy seemed
16 to be in shock; they weren't talking much?

17 A. They were quiet, yeah.

18 Q. Very quiet.

19 Okay. So you've been an
20 officer -- what? -- seven years, and have you
21 made any DUI arrests?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. And I need to -- I've been an officer
25 since 1993.

1 Q. '93?

2 A. So I've worked for the City of
3 Mount Carroll for six years.

4 Q. Excuse me.

5 So you've had quite a bit of
6 experience then?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you ever noticed, when people are
9 intoxicated, they might not want to talk because
10 they'd display their lack of mental acuity?

11 A. Sometimes that is the case, yes.

12 Q. Sometimes.

13 And sometimes they just blabber,
14 I presume?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. When Matt and Amy are dismissed,
17 you're by yourself and there's a body in the
18 road.

19 Doesn't that put you pretty much
20 in peril at that point?

21 A. I'm sorry?

22 Q. Makes you sort of vulnerable as an
23 officer trying to protect a crime scene?

24 A. Well, I had my lights on. I had the
25 road blocked as best I could. Just sometimes

1 you don't have two.

2 Q. Sometimes you don't what?

3 A. You don't have two officers for quite
4 some time.

5 Q. So you're not too worried about being
6 there by yourself and --

7 A. I was worried about the traffic
8 situation, but, like I said, Route 78 is not
9 heavily trafficked at night.

10 Q. Okay. When Matt and Amy left, I
11 believe in the tape it said that they were about
12 75 feet away or 25 yards, was it?

13 A. Approximately, yes.

14 Q. Okay. 25 yards, 75 feet away from
15 where the body was parked in the northbound
16 lane, headlights, I presume, illuminating the
17 body?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And you were able to see the organic
20 matter presumably from the victim on the
21 roadway?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Is that right?

24 Okay. And it was sort of a
25 debris field around the body?

1 A. I wouldn't describe it that way. The
2 tissue on the roadway was pretty much directly
3 to the west of the body and in line. It
4 wasn't --

5 Q. In line with the lane?

6 A. Yeah. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. Okay.

8 A. I didn't -- I actually walked the south
9 lane there along the guardrail. I didn't notice
10 anything in that particular lane.

11 Q. Didn't notice anything there.

12 And then when Matt drove towards
13 the north, west and then north on 78, he didn't
14 go in that northbound lane; he was in the
15 opposite lane?

16 A. I have to correct that because I can't
17 recall if he actually pulled ahead and backed up
18 and went south or -- I just don't remember.

19 Q. Okay. You don't recall him driving
20 through this --

21 A. No. I never saw him drive through
22 that. Now, maybe I saw the lights up ahead. I
23 just -- I can't recall now.

24 Q. Okay. Matt -- I'm sorry.

25 Scott, I'd like to talk to you a

1 little bit about the relationship between
2 officers, the dispatchers, the deputies, the
3 Mount Carroll city police.

4 Do they all work together often?

5 A. We assist each other from time to time.
6 I don't know that I'd say we work together. If
7 I'm short-handed, I might have a deputy show up.
8 If they're short-handed, vice versa.

9 Q. Okay. Do you ever have occasion to
10 socialize with one another?

11 A. The only time I've seen Matt outside of
12 work is at a visitation.

13 Q. At a visitation?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay. What about Amy?

16 A. I've never socialized with her.

17 Q. Okay. And you don't get involved, I
18 presume, with their social lives or talk of
19 their social lives?

20 A. I didn't really know them that way, no.

21 Q. Didn't know them that well.

22 Okay. Okay. Procedure-wise, at
23 the scene you were talking about blood
24 coagulating rather quickly after coming out of a
25 body and you have an automobile and -- I'm

1 sorry -- a truck, two people that report the
2 accident. You heard of agonal breathing by
3 Amy -- from Amy.

4 Did you not suspect that they
5 might have been the ones that hit the body?

6 A. At that time, no, I had no indication
7 they were involved.

8 Q. No idea that they might be involved?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. If you look back on it now,
11 given your experience, would you possibly have
12 done anything differently?

13 A. I would say so.

14 Q. What would that be?

15 A. Knowing the facts I know today. Not at
16 that time.

17 Q. I know the facts you know today.

18 What would you have done
19 differently?

20 A. I would have just asked them to stick
21 around until the responding deputy got there.

22 Q. Okay. And obviously you didn't request
23 any breath analysis of either one of them?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. We had testimony earlier of --

1 between a level of -- what? -- 1 and 10, levels
2 of intoxication as extreme as this witness had
3 seen them. The levels of intoxication were
4 described as a 7 for Matt and an 8 for Amy.

5 Was there anything about their
6 behavior that led you to believe that they could
7 be intoxicated other than in shock?

8 A. I did not notice any impairment.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: Okay. Okay. Then
10 I have no questions.

11 The jury, by all means.

12 JURY FOREMAN: On the inspection
13 of the truck, did you notice, was there a front
14 license plate on the truck?

15 A. I can't say that I did notice that.

16 JURY FOREMAN: Would that be
17 something that you would take notice of?

18 A. If I was doing a close inspection,
19 sure. I -- I looked. I saw the lights were
20 both intact. I didn't see any damage on the
21 grill. That's where I would have expected to
22 see damage with a vehicle versus pedestrian.

23 JUROR NUMBER 2: I'm a little
24 confused. To me, the highway out here runs
25 north-south even though there is a curve in it.

1 So for conversation purposes of that being the
2 case, in the northbound lane, the right lane is
3 where the body was.

4 Did you ever see any, I guess,
5 brain matter or anything else from the body in
6 the left lane, the southbound lane?

7 A. No, I didn't.

8 JUROR NUMBER 2: And when you got
9 there, their vehicle was north of the body?

10 A. No. It was -- it would have been south
11 if we're using --

12 JUROR NUMBER 2: Their vehicle
13 was south of the body?

14 A. Correct.

15 JUROR NUMBER 2: And their lights
16 were shining on the body?

17 A. Correct.

18 JUROR NUMBER 2: And when they
19 left, they left and went around the body in the
20 southbound lane and continued north?

21 A. I can't say for sure now. I remember
22 them pulling ahead. I turned to do something on
23 my computer, and I just -- I can't say if they
24 went straight ahead or maybe they backed up and
25 went to the south.

1 JUROR NUMBER 2: So you don't
2 know, when they left the scene for the last
3 time, if they went north or if they turned
4 around and went south?

5 A. Correct.

6 JURY FOREMAN: Could you clarify
7 and give more definition of how long it takes
8 blood to coagulate, speak to that issue.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. LeCOMTE: (Continued.)

11 Q. Officer, you gave an opinion of how
12 long the body had been there based on the blood
13 that you believe had coagulated.

14 Can you tell me, do you have any
15 training in accident reconstruction based on,
16 you know, body fluids and their changed state?

17 A. That would be blood analysis, and
18 I've -- I've never had any training on that.

19 Q. Okay. No training, but your
20 understanding then and where you might have
21 gotten that understanding.

22 A. In my experience, I've attended recent
23 deaths where there's pooling of blood. Within
24 probably 10 to 15 minutes I was on scene, and I
25 did not make that observation. The blood was

1 still glassy, smooth. I didn't see coagulation
2 in it.

3 Q. Okay. And do you have any opinion --
4 I'm sorry.

5 Do you have any experience as to
6 coagulation given temperature?

7 Now, this is on a roadway, and
8 this is July 27th, and we know of at least one
9 person that was walking around in just a
10 swimsuit.

11 Was it warm or hot that evening?

12 A. Can I look at my report? I can tell
13 you what the temperature was.

14 Q. Sure. By all means.

15 A. I didn't think it was overly warm,
16 but -- temperature is 69 degrees.

17 Q. Okay. And I presume some sunlight
18 would have been beating on the road that day.

19 And would the road retain the
20 heat that it acquired during the day?

21 A. I think that's a general assumption,
22 yes.

23 Q. General assumption.

24 Okay. So you really don't have
25 training in the coagulation of times for blood

1 at different temperatures?

2 A. No. There are experts that can testify
3 to that. I cannot.

4 Q. Sure.

5 JUROR NUMBER 2: Matt, can you --
6 do you have any information on the coagulation
7 time?

8 MR. JONES: I sure do. It's
9 dependent on heat and humidity. And more heat
10 will -- the blood will coagulate quicker. And
11 so I think it's a good point that the road was
12 warm, I imagine, at that time, warmer than the
13 air.

14 And it was moist. By the
15 testimony, it had rained a bit. And so those
16 things can assist in coagulation.

17 MR. LeCOMTE: Any other
18 questions?

19 JUROR NUMBER 1: On the
20 geofencing, could you determine how long the
21 vehicles were there and what actual other
22 vehicles came through for the geofencing that
23 was supposed to have been done?

24 MR. JONES: I do not know that.
25 I would have to ask the State police.

1 JUROR NUMBER 1: I mean, I think
2 that's kind of a big one, how long cars were
3 there, if you'd be able to tell how long the
4 cars were through there and how many went
5 through there.

6 MR. JONES: I'll ask the
7 question, and I'll bring that information to you
8 Thursday.

9 MR. LeCOMTE: Any other
10 questions?

11 Okay. You're free to go.

12 MR. MARTH: Thank you.

13 MR. JONES: Thank you, Scott.

14 If you're able to, I'd like one
15 more witness to appear. I believe it would be a
16 rather short time period. Josi Anderson,
17 please.

18 JOSI ANDERSON,
19 being first duly sworn by Coroner Matthew Jones,
20 was examined and testified as follows:

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. JONES:

23 Q. Josi, can you pronounce your name and
24 spell it for the jurors, please.

25 A. Josi Anderson. J-O-S-I Anderson,

1 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

2 Q. Great. Thank you.

3 Can you explain your current
4 occupation.

5 A. I am a sheriff's deputy.

6 Q. With the Carroll County Sheriff's
7 Department?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And what shifts do you work?

10 A. Currently I am on the day shift, which
11 is 6A to 6P.

12 Q. This past summer on July 27th and 28th
13 what shift were you working at that time?

14 A. At that time I was on night shift so I
15 would have been 6P to 6A.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Yep.

18 Q. And can you tell us about the call that
19 came in from your perspective, where you were
20 located?

21 A. So I was on a -- I was on stationary
22 patrol. I was down in Argo Fay area at the FS
23 gas station, is where I was just radaring basic
24 traffic.

25 Q. And what time of the day was that?

1 What day was it? Are you talking about the
2 28th?

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. So the 28th of July, about what time
5 did you receive the call?

6 A. The dispatch? It was at 3:33, is, I
7 believe, when they sent out the initial
8 dispatch.

9 Q. Does that come over the radio?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Does it also come over your computer?

12 A. When they start a call and when they
13 assign an officer, you can hear on the radio
14 that you were dispatched. It will say -- I'm
15 S-810, and it will say "dispatched," but that's
16 all that says. And then they get on the radio
17 and say "S-810" and then dispatch the call.

18 Q. So the time that you received the
19 call -- let me -- let me put this into evidence,
20 okay? This is a statement that you had made at
21 that time.

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. Can you take a look at it.

24 And does that look like the
25 statement you had made?

1 A. Yes. This looks like my narrative
2 report.

3 Q. Do you need to look it over at all?

4 A. No, I don't believe so.

5 MR. JONES: Okay. I'd like to
6 put this into evidence. It's the statement that
7 Josi Anderson made, Exhibit Number 17. Thank
8 you.

9 Q. So your statement mentions that the
10 call came in approximately 3:33 a.m.?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And how quickly did you get on the road
13 to head that direction?

14 A. Once the call came out, I immediately
15 started towards the call.

16 Q. Okay. And how long did it take you to
17 get to the scene?

18 A. Approximate, I'm going to guess about
19 10 minutes. I don't know the actual exact times
20 it took me to get there from when I left where I
21 was until I got on scene.

22 Q. Okay. So about 3:43?

23 A. Yes. That would sound about right,
24 yep.

25 Q. Can you tell us the interaction you had

1 with anyone when you came on scene and the
2 things that you did?

3 A. When I first arrived on scene,
4 Officer Marth was standing there waiting for me
5 essentially. So I got out of the car, and I
6 asked where the complainant had went. He said
7 he released them from the scene.

8 I asked him to give a basic
9 rundown of what was going on. He gave me, like,
10 a basic rundown. And then he went and directed
11 traffic.

12 Q. Where was Officer Marth's car parked at
13 the time?

14 A. I don't recall where his vehicle was
15 parked at the time.

16 Q. Okay. Would he have been standing near
17 his vehicle?

18 A. Now that I'm thinking about it, I don't
19 know where he was parked. He was just parked --
20 or standing in the road just to the east of --
21 east of the scene. So I'm trying to think where
22 he was parked.

23 I don't know where he was parked.
24 I don't know where he directly parked his squad
25 car. He was just standing east of the scene,

1 because that's where I -- I remember pulling up
2 next to him.

3 Q. When you say "east of the scene," would
4 you say toward Mount Carroll?

5 A. Yes. Closer to Mount Carroll, yes.

6 Q. So maybe southeast?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And he was standing on the southeast
9 side?

10 A. Yes. He was standing in the road
11 because I just pulled up next to him and got out
12 and we spoke, like, right next to my car.

13 Q. Did you ask him any questions when you
14 arrived?

15 A. When I arrived, I first asked him where
16 the complainant had went. And he said that he
17 had released them from the scene. And then I
18 asked him basically what had happened or what we
19 have, and he just said they came across the
20 body. They rolled to assess life essentially.
21 And he -- I just said, "Okay," and then held the
22 scene essentially until command staff arrived on
23 scene.

24 Q. When you say "complainant," you mean
25 Matthew Herpstreith?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And he's called that because he made
3 the call, the reporting call to the dispatcher?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And did you know anything about the
6 situation prior to arriving?

7 A. No. No. I knew he was the complainant
8 on the call. That's all I had. Essentially
9 they dispatched a body in the road and that he
10 was the complainant. That's all I had.

11 Q. What was your initial reaction to the
12 answer that Scott Marth gave you?

13 A. The initial reaction as to why they
14 were released?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. I kind of, at the moment, kind of just
17 said, "Okay," and just kept going with it just
18 because, I mean, we had command staff, we had
19 crime scene, we had people we had to get to the
20 scene, so...

21 Q. Did you think that was normal?

22 A. Typically on a scene like that, no,
23 just because of it's in our jurisdiction, so
24 that would have been my call to make,
25 essentially who gets released and gets to go

1 until somebody higher up than me gets there.

2 I didn't question it at the time
3 just because, like I said, there's a lot running
4 through my head at the time, so I did not
5 question it at all.

6 Q. How long have you been a deputy with
7 Carroll County Sheriff's Department?

8 A. Three years.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Yep.

11 Q. How many accident scenes have you been
12 to?

13 A. I guess I'm not entirely sure how many
14 accident scenes.

15 Q. Do you have, like, a ballpark feeling?
16 If you had to give us an answer, what would you
17 say?

18 A. I'm not going to say I've been on 50
19 scenes, but it's been more than 10 for sure.
20 But not a terrible amount. Not severe. I can
21 say, like, fatal accidents, a few. Not a lot
22 fatal-wise, no.

23 Q. Car accidents and so forth maybe
24 increases the number of it?

25 A. Yeah. Car accidents, those are normal,

1 but as far as severity of car accidents, not a
2 lot. Under 10.

3 Q. When you arrive on the scene or when
4 any officer arrives on the scene, if they're the
5 only officer there, is that considered a
6 vulnerable situation?

7 A. It can be because you're the officer in
8 charge if you're the only one there. I mean,
9 you have a lot of variables. Like, you have
10 to -- you're just in charge of everything there
11 until you get more people there, so it can be,
12 yeah.

13 Q. With a body in the road, does that
14 raise the level of vulnerability?

15 A. Yeah. Yeah.

16 Q. Is that something at three years of
17 experience with the sheriff's department that
18 you should know?

19 A. No. That's definitely a
20 once-in-a-lifetime or once-in-a-career kind of
21 call, yeah. I would say that's probably once in
22 a career. Definitely something you don't see.

23 Q. But it sounds like you knew -- you had
24 that feeling that more manpower would be
25 important?

1 A. Yes. I had more manpower going before
2 I even saw the scene.

3 Q. Okay. So you knew on the way to the
4 scene --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- that manpower was needed?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you did not know that Officer
9 Scott Marth was on his own?

10 A. I knew he was the only officer on the
11 scene at the time before I got there.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. With the complainant being
15 Matthew Herpstreith, who's an off-duty officer,
16 would you assume that Matthew may be assisting
17 at the scene before you got there?

18 A. Assisting? To an extent, I could see
19 him trying to -- I mean, figuring out what's
20 going on, but assisting, no, not with, like,
21 traffic or the basics of a crime scene, no,
22 because he's off duty, so...

23 Q. Okay. If you were at a scene off duty
24 much like what was found, would you stick around
25 and maybe walk down the road and put your hand

1 up to halt traffic that might come down the
2 road?

3 A. Probably. I probably would.

4 Q. Okay. Would that be considered
5 assisting?

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. Okay. Would that be the thing that you
8 would expect Matthew Herpstreith to have done
9 until more manpower arrived?

10 A. Potentially. If an officer on scene is
11 asking for help -- I guess, if he'd asked him,
12 Hey, do you need any help or whatnot, yes, but
13 if I ask that officer, Hey, do you need anything
14 else and they say no, then at that point I would
15 feel free to leave.

16 I probably would have asked that
17 officer if they need help or what they need
18 before just going and doing something because
19 I'm not -- if I'm an off-duty officer, I'm not
20 in charge of that scene. So if I'm not in
21 charge of that scene, I'm going to ask who is in
22 charge of that scene if they need help. So I
23 probably would have asked before interfering
24 essentially.

25 Q. If you were the only officer on a scene

1 and an off-duty officer asked if he could leave
2 the scene and you were left alone, would you
3 feel vulnerable? Would you feel like, Hey,
4 what's going on? Can you stick around?

5 A. Yeah. If I asked him to stick around,
6 I would expect him to stick around, yeah.

7 Q. Have you ever witnessed
8 Matthew Herpstreith to stick around on a scene
9 when he's been off duty?

10 A. I guess I don't recall an incidence of
11 him being on a scene off duty that he wasn't
12 specifically called to. I guess, like, there's
13 times we've called him in off duty technically,
14 but I guess I don't recall a scene that he would
15 have just already been at that he was off duty.

16 Q. Another subject altogether.
17 When you arrive on a scene and
18 you know that one of your fellow employees,
19 another officer off duty or on duty, doesn't
20 matter, --

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. -- has provided information about the
23 scene, do you put stock in that or do you
24 question that?

25 A. I probably wouldn't question it. It's

1 hard to -- it's hard to say because you don't
2 understand state of mind at the time. If it's
3 somebody who I know is off duty, everything is
4 completely normal and fine, I probably wouldn't
5 question anything they told me unless something
6 about their behavior or something was odd.

7 But if it's completely normal
8 circumstances and an off-duty officer told me
9 something, I probably wouldn't question it.
10 It's hard to say. It's going to be case by case
11 and depending on who the person is and how much
12 I trust them.

13 I mean, there's certain officers
14 who just started the job, got out of academy,
15 like, their stories or their recollections are
16 going to be different than somebody who's worked
17 20 years on the job, if that makes sense.

18 Q. You mentioned if you arrived on the
19 scene, it would be your scene because you're the
20 first from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office
21 to arrive?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. What were the actions you took coming
24 to the scene knowing that you're going to be the
25 first to arrive so that's going to be your

1 scene?

2 A. Uh-huh. Yes, sir.

3 Q. What were the actions once you were on
4 the scene that would kind of manage the scene to
5 take control of it?

6 A. Yes, sir. So while en route to the
7 call, I asked Officer Marth, because I knew he
8 was on scene, I asked over the radio, "Is this a
9 scene where we need crime scene and command
10 staff?"

11 He said, "Yes."

12 I told dispatch, "Contact
13 Illinois State Police crime scene and command
14 staff."

15 Once I got there, I spoke with
16 Marth briefly. It was not that long of a
17 conversation. He went up to Lowden/78 to direct
18 traffic. Savanna unit was en route. I had him
19 cut off traffic at State Street and 78 so we're
20 not having anybody coming on the scene.

21 And then at that point I made a
22 couple phone calls. Crime scene had called me.
23 They always call asking for a scene update
24 anytime we call crime scene.

25 I contacted our chief deputy

1 because he was our on-call boss at the time and
2 just gave him a rundown of what was going on.
3 And then you just kind of wait until command
4 staff gets there.

5 Make sure there's nothing
6 altering the scene, nobody is there altering the
7 scene. Kind of just hold the scene to preserve
8 it best you can for crime scene.

9 Q. Very good.

10 When you arrived, what did you
11 understand about the condition of
12 Jackson Kradle?

13 I know you didn't know who it was
14 at that time, but I'd like to call him by his
15 name since we know that.

16 What did you understand about his
17 condition?

18 A. I guess --

19 Q. Were you given any information about
20 his medical condition?

21 A. I was told that they had rolled him to
22 kind of indicate to see if he was still
23 breathing or not. But, otherwise, that's all I
24 was really told.

25 Q. Okay. Were you involved in your -- in

1 any decision about dispatching EMS?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Can you talk to us about that.

4 A. So they asked -- dispatch had asked me
5 if we needed EMS. I don't know how long I was
6 on the scene at that time, 10, 20 minutes. We
7 told them, no, we did not need EMS.

8 It was obvious at that point EMS
9 was not needed. With my training as a law
10 enforcement officer through lead homicide
11 investigations, stuff like that, more personnel
12 on the scene, all's it do is essentially add to
13 a scene, and they kind of alter the scene.

14 So at that point it was very
15 obvious that EMS was not needed, so we did not
16 contact the EMS because that's more people on
17 the scene to mess up any kind of evidence, to
18 alter any part of the scene.

19 So they did ask me, because ISP
20 was asking dispatch if we needed EMS. At that
21 point, it was obvious. And we didn't want
22 more -- three, four, five people walking through
23 the scene to add to a crime scene that we needed
24 them to process.

25 Q. Okay. Great. Thank you for that

1 explanation.

2 MR. JONES: Jurors, do any of you
3 have any questions for Josi?

4 JUROR NUMBER 2: Did you know who
5 had made the original call reporting the body on
6 your way to the scene?

7 A. On the way to the scene is when I found
8 out who -- what the complainant was.

9 JUROR NUMBER 2: Did that come
10 across the radio?

11 A. It was on my computer. So when the
12 call came out, while I was en route, I just
13 checked the computer real quick of what we had
14 and see -- because we have a blotter,
15 essentially, and they can type what's in the
16 blotter, like a narrative of: Is it just that
17 body in the road or the caller, the nature, what
18 they typed in, the complainant.

19 I looked to see who called in,
20 who essentially I was going to be meeting at the
21 scene or who I thought I would be meeting. So
22 that's how I knew who the complainant was.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. JONES:

25 Q. Did you expect to be meeting

1 Matthew Herpstreith at the scene?

2 A. Yes. I was expecting him to be there
3 when I got there.

4 Q. So that would have been a surprise not
5 to see him when you arrived?

6 A. It was probably the first question I
7 asked Marth, is, "Where's Matt and Amy?" is what
8 I think I said to him.

9 And he said, "I released them."

10 He told me why. He said, "They
11 were walking around the scene. I didn't want
12 them stepping in or moving or altering anything.
13 We know where to find them, and that's why I
14 released them from the scene."

15 MR. JONES: Any other questions?

16 We appreciate your time here.

17 And it's great to see a young officer with your
18 capability. Thank you, Josi.

19 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

20 MR. JONES: We're adjourning for
21 the day, and we'll be back at 10:00 a.m. on
22 Thursday. When we convene at 10:00 a.m. on
23 Thursday, the jurors will take a trip to the
24 scene.

25 The traffic will be controlled by

1 the Illinois State Police and only the jurors
2 will be allowed to go into that area. Okay? So
3 I just want to let you know that. We're only
4 going to be there for about 15 minutes and then
5 we'll be back.

6 That gives an opportunity for the
7 jurors to put their eyes on the lay of the land.
8 So we would expect you to be here by 10 o'clock
9 and we'll convene and start, and then they'll
10 take their leave and be back.

11 Off the record.

12 (Inquest Day 1 adjourning at
13 6 o'clock p.m.)

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24 C E R T I F I C A T E

25 I, the undersigned, a Certified

1 Shorthand Reporter of the State of Illinois, do
2 hereby certify that I was called in the capacity
3 of a Certified Shorthand Reporter to report the
4 foregoing proceedings in the above-captioned
5 matter and that same was taken down by me in
6 stenotypy and later reduced to Computer-Aided
7 Transcription under my supervision and
8 direction, and that the foregoing Transcript of
9 Proceedings is a true and accurate record
10 thereof.

11 I further certify that I am
12 neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to
13 or employed by any of the parties to the action
14 in which these proceedings were had, and
15 further, that I am not a relative or employee of
16 any attorney or counsel employed by the parties
17 hereto or financially interested in the action.

18 Dated this 28th day of January,
19 2025.

20

21

CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

22

23

24

25

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