

Case Number
MG1700802

Date
11/27/17

Deputy
S.HENDRICKS

Supplement 12

On November 22, 2017 at about 0720 hours I received a phone call from Mandy Kitzberger. I asked Mandy if she was aware why I needed to speak with her and she said it was in regards to being at Briceburg. I asked her to tell me what she remembered about that day. Mandy said she and her friend Janae were at Cable Beach by the water. She said a Yukon type vehicle drove up and she recognized one of the people. She said she recognized the driver as someone she knew. She said there was also a younger girl and "that kid". She said she did not know them but did recognize the driver to be "Brandi". She said she met Brandi about six years ago through other friends. She said they did not hang out or anything and weren't actually friends. She said Brandi came down to where she was and they were talking. Mandy said her friend Janae was watching the boy while Mandy and Brandi were talking. She said she had not seen Brandi in six years and were "catching up". Mandy said he, referring to Ronnie, wanted Brandi to go over there to where he was. She said Brandi said something like "No, I don't want to have to jump in and get you". She said the other girl was already over by him. I asked who the other girl was and she said she was confused because she thought Brandi said Ronnie was her boyfriend, but she had later looked on Ronnie's Facebook page and saw a blond girl in pictures with him so she did not know if that was his girlfriend. Mandy said the girl at the river didn't have make up on but the girl with Ronnie on his Facebook page had a lot of make up on. Mandy said Ronnie threw his shirt to either Brandi or the other girl and then jumped in the water. Mandy said they could see him and then they could no longer see him because the big rocks were in the way. She said she didn't think much of it and was still talking to Brandi. Mandy estimated that maybe 30 seconds had passed when the other girl said "should we go check on him?" Mandy said she and Brandi and the others walked around the rocks and saw him but then he was gone. Mandy said Brandi and the other girl got in the truck and headed down the road to look for Ronnie. Mandy said she and Janae stayed behind. Mandy said a short time later, Brandi and the other girl came back and said they didn't see him. Mandy said that was when Brandi called the Sheriff's Office. (Looking at other supplements, the third person is believed to be Debi Jean Congdon)

I asked Mandy where Ronnie jumped from and she said he did not jump from the big rock but he jumped from some rocks that were further to the left. I asked where she was in relation to where Ronnie jumped from. Mandy said she and Brandi were on the sandy part of the beach to the left of the big rock. Mandy described having walked down the steps from the road and was in the middle of the sandy area. She said Ronnie was on top of the rocks to the left of them. Mandy said Ronnie jumped on top of the "white part" and described it as right on top of the rapids. I asked her where Janae was. Mandy said Janae was on the beach area also. She said Janae was actually watching him more than she was because she was busy talking to Brandi. Mandy said after it happened, Brandi was crying and saying that Ronnie's truck had broken down and they were not even planning on getting in the water. I asked if there were any other guys with Brandi and Ronnie and she said no. She said it was only the three from the

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vehicle, her and Janae. Mandy said there were some "hippie people" in the corner doing their own thing but she did not know if they saw him jump in or not. She said they may have been looking at him wondering what he was doing. I asked Mandy if anyone else was swimming in that area and she said no because the "water was too crazy". Mandy said she and Janae got in but they could only go in so far before you could feel not to go in any further. Mandy said the "hippie people" got in the water too but only as much as she and her friend did because the water was going so fast. I asked Mandy if Search and Rescue spoke to Janae and she said she did not think so.

Mandy was already at the river when Brandi drove up. I asked if she observed any one from Brandy's vehicle arguing and she said no. Mandy said she was confused because she thought she said Ronnie was her boyfriend. She said Brandi told her that she had known Ronnie forever. Mandy then said she thought the other girl was Ronnie's girlfriend. She said it was confusing. Mandy said the girl that was with Brandi and Ronnie looked young and had a tattoo. She guessed she may have been between the age of 16-20 years old and had a tattoo of Pooh Bear on her neck or a "trampstamp". I asked if there was anything else she remembered about the incident and she said no. She again said Ronnie did not jump from the big rocks on the right and that he jumped from some smaller ones to the left of the beach area. Mandy said the rocks were not very tall. I again asked Mandy if there was anyone else in the area and she no. I again asked when the last time she saw Brandi was prior to that day at the river and she said about 6 years. Mandy said she knew her from some parties she had been to. She said she probably had only seen Brandi on two different occasions. Mandy said she never hung out with Brandi but recognized her because she is good with faces. I asked Mandy if Brandi was married or had a boyfriend when she met her 6 years ago. She said she did not know. She said she was with a guy but she did not know his name or if he and Brandi were married.

Mandy said the incident happened quickly. She said she did not know Ronnie so she didn't think much about it. She said people don't usually jump in to the rapids like that. I asked what he was wearing when he got in. She said he took his shirt off but did not take his shoes off. Mandy said that made her think he had planned on getting back out or maybe he left them on because of the rocks. She could not remember if he was wearing shorts or pants and guessed he may have been wearing shorts because it was summer time. I asked if she saw anyone doing anything to him prior to him jumping in the water and she said no. I asked if he was pushed or thrown in and she said "no, he jumped in the water." She said she did not see anyone arguing while they were there. I thanked Mandy for her time and ended the phone call. It should be noted that the phone call was digitally recorded without Mandy's knowledge. I did have to change the batteries during the conversation and there were about 15-20 seconds that did not get recorded. The recorder was restarted once the new batteries were in. Both recordings are attached to this case.

At about 1730 hours, I attempted contact with Janae via the phone number Mandy provided. I left a message requesting she return my call. At about 1807 hours I received a call from Janae Elmasia. Janae said Mandy called her earlier in the day and advised her I would be calling to talk to her about the incident at Briceburg. I asked her to explain to me what she saw. Janae said she and Mandy were in a little cove area and that water was running very fast. She said a

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large SUV stopped and two ladies and a man got out. Janae said she did not know his name, but "the man who passed away" (Ronnie), went to the side away from them. She said Mandy started talking to one of the girls because she knew her and they were having a conversation. She said she did not recall what the other girl was doing and said she thought she may have been getting wet in the water. Janae said Ronnie was looking in to the water and went over and handed his shirt to the girl (Brandi) that Mandy was talking to. Janae said she was watching Ronnie the entire time wondering why he was going to jump in the water. She said she is not from the area and they were locals. Janae said Ronnie dove in. She said he came up one time and did not look or yell for help or anything. She said Ronnie did a couple of strokes like he was swimming and went back under water and that was that last time she saw him. Janae said it was a cove area and she couldn't see down the river. She said Mandy and Brandi were still talking and after a while, the other girl said they should go check for Ronnie because they had not seen him. Janae said she was just thinking he was going to swim further down and come back but he never did. Janae said the other girl and Brandi went to the top of the rocks where it was higher up and was looking for him. Janae said the two girls left in the vehicle to go look for him and then went to the Rangers station to report him missing. I asked Janae to describe where Ronnie jumped in the water from. Janae said it was a little cove area and he was standing to the left of the cove and said there were not tall rocks. Janae said the rocks were probably about three feet out of the water. Janae said Ronnie dove in with his hands over his head. I asked if she recalled what he was wearing and she said he was wearing jeans. Janae could not recall if Ronnie took off his shoes or not but she thought it was weird that he would swim with pants on. Janae said she knows for sure that Ronnie took his shirt off because he gave it to the other girl and she made a comment like "don't make me have to get in there and save you". Janae said she was not sure if the girl he handed his shirt to was his mom or his girlfriend due to their age difference. I asked her if Ronnie talked to anyone and she said he did not. I asked if he was upset and she said she didn't think so. Janae said she figured he was just being quiet because the girls were just doing girl talk.

I asked Janae if there was anyone else in the area. She said when her and Mandy got there, there were other people there but when Brandi showed up those people were no longer there. I asked if she saw any other men with Brandi or the other girl at any time and she said no. I asked Janae to describe the water at the time. She said there were rapids and a sign posted about not getting in the water without a life vest. She said the water was "really bad" and you could tell there was a strong current. Janae said that was why she was so surprised that Ronnie was going to get in. I asked if anyone else was swimming and she said no. I asked if there was anyone standing with Ronnie or encouraging him to jump in and she said no. Janae said he was by himself when he decided to get in the water. Janae said she wished she would have said something to him about not getting in the water but she figured he was a young guy and wasn't going to listen to her. Janae said she heard somehow that Ronnie lived there and she said it made it seem like Ronnie was familiar with the area. I asked if she knew the person that Mandy was talking to and she said she did not know any of them.

I asked Janae if there was anything else she could remember and she said no. She said she was curious why I was contacting her and that if it was because someone may have thought it was something other than him jumping in the water then that is not correct because he jumped

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in the water on his own. I asked if she had heard anything about Ronnie's death since that day and she said no. She said she Googled it later and read that he had been found later in Lake Mc Swain. I asked if she had heard anything about any type of foul play and she said she had not. I told her that it was being suggested by someone that Ronnie did not drown. She said Ronnie jumped in and she never saw him again once he passed the large rock. She again said when he jumped in, he came back up before he passed the large rocks, took a couple strokes and went back under. She said she saw his face and he did not look alarmed like he was scared and that he did not yell out to them. Janae said it was her understanding he and the girls did not plan on going swimming and were just going to get wet before they had to go to where ever they were going next. Janae said the most that she got in the water was only as deep as just below her knees and then was just getting her feet wet. She said she did not get in the water where Ronnie did because he was actually where the current was. She said the water in the cove was shallow and calmer. Janae said again that where Ronnie went in was the top of the U on the left hand side of the cove where the water was going fast. I asked how far she thought Ronnie was from where everyone else was and she estimated it to be about 20 feet. Janae said he was pretty sure of himself, and that was why she remembered that Ronnie had dived in. She said she figured Ronnie knew what he was doing. I thanked Janae for her time and ended the conversation. The conversation was digitally recorded without Janae's knowledge and attached to this case.

Approved by : J.BOBMAN Date : 11/28/2017 10:44 AM