

MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Case Number
MG1700802

Date
07/03/17

Deputy
S.HENDRICKS

Supplement 06

On July 1, 2017 I was contacted by Sergeant Land who stated Ronnie's body had been pulled from the water and that his family said they believed he was murdered. I was advised that due to Frank's frame of mind at this time that it would be better that I contact him tomorrow. I was also advised that Frank had been informed that there were witnesses from out of town that saw Ronnie jump in the water but he was in denial. From having previously reading this report I knew that SAR had made contact with someone but did not get a name or contact information. I checked Facebook and read any comments or posts related to this incident. I found that someone named Juliana Thomason had made a comment on the Sheriff's Office press release that stated "my friend literally saw the young man jump off the rock". I sent her a Facebook message but she did not respond. I was later able to obtain her contact information from the Modesto Police Department. I contacted Juliana and advised her the reason for my call. She said she was not at the river, but her friend Mandy (unknown last) was the one who had seen Ronnie jump in to the river. I asked if she knew if Mandy knew Ronnie and she said Mandy told her she did not know him. Juliana told me that she did not have Mandy's contact information but would be able to get it to me on Monday when she goes to work.

On July 2, 2017 I contacted Frank at his residence. I told Frank that it was my understanding he had been advised that I would be contacting him today. He said he was not told. I told him I was there to speak to him in regards to some comments he had made about not believing that Ronnie had drown. He wanted to know what I was told he was saying. I told him that I just explained that to him and asked if he had told anyone that he believed Ronnie's death was a homicide. Frank became defensive and asked what the Sheriff's Office thinks happened and who I believed. I again explained to him that I wanted to hear what he had to say.

Frank told me that Ronnie called him on the Friday he went missing and said he was coming over to his house. Frank said he never showed up and the next thing he knew he was missing in the river. Frank stated Luke Willie killed Ronnie and Brandi Willie was also involved. Frank said Ronnie had been "slinging dope" for Brandi for the past three months and did not want to do it anymore so Brandi was mad. Frank said Ronnie was also dating Brandi for a couple of weeks at some point and didn't want to be with her anymore. Frank said Brandi was not willing to let Ronnie go and that if she could not have him, no one could. Frank said Ronnie had been hiding from Brandi for three days and he told Frank he didn't want to see her anymore. Frank started talking about how Brandi would always come over and was not welcome there and would laugh at him when he would tell her to leave. He then became very agitated and said that Brandi did a "home invasion" on his house. I asked if he ever reported it and he said he did not. He began rambling about Luke and Brandi and they fight all of the time and that Luke threatens her and the beats her up. Frank said Luke was mad at Brandi for hanging out with Ronnie and did not like it. I asked Frank if he ever called to report Brandi being at his house of the home

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invasion incident and he said he did not. I told him that without documentation I have not history that shows this had been occurring.

Frank then started talking about how he knows exactly what happened. He said Brandi had someone chase Ronnie in a vehicle and run him off the road, causing him to wreck his car. Frank said it was previously arranged that once Ronnie's car was wrecked that someone would pick Ronnie up and take him to the river where Luke was waiting to kill him. I asked him how he knew this and he said Ronnie told him. I advised Frank that a CHP officer and stopped and spoke to Ronnie while he was waiting with his vehicle and he did not tell them anything about being ran off of the road or chased by anyone. I asked Frank why Ronnie would not have reported that and he laughed and said he was scared. I asked Frank what Ronnie called and told him about being chased and ran off the road. Frank said Ronnie never called him and that he just knows that is what happened. After then trying to tell me he knows someone that saw it happen, he admitted that he did not know of anyone who did.

I then spoke with Donna Cole, Frank's mother, who he had called to come talk to me. Donna told me that she was at the river when this happened. Frank told me he was there too. I told them I believed they were not there when it happened but arrived later after they were contacted and advised of the situation, Frank continually argued that he was there. Donna said she was the first family member to arrive. I asked both of them if they were actually there at the time Ronnie went in to the water and they agreed that they were not. Donna said when she arrived, she was approached by Debra. Donna said she saw some other people and she asked Debra who they were. Donna said Debra told her that it was Brandi and thought she said Luke but she could not remember. While she was speaking with me, it appeared that Frank was attempting to influence her to say Luke was there. Donna then told me that she thought Luke was there but did not know. I asked her if she knows Luke and she said she does not. She then said she thinks he was there but did not know if he was or not. She then said maybe he was there at some time but did not recall when. She said she recalled there being a man there and thought it might have been Luke. She said she thought she recalled Brandi state to her that her "ex" was coming and thought that she was talking about Luke but that might have been two days later. I asked Donna if she knows what Luke looks like and she said she does not. Donna then said she would not be able to pick him out if he was standing in front of her because she does not know him. Donna said she did not get a good look at the man she thought she had seen in the area. Donna said all of the things that she is hearing about what happened is third party information and she had heard nothing first hand.

Frank then said if anyone comes on his property uninvited that he will kill them. I advised Frank that was not a good idea and that if anyone showed to his residence that was not welcome, that he needed to contact the Sheriff's Office and let us handle it for him. Frank agreed that he did not need any trouble and he is just in fear for his safety. Frank would not elaborate and said he was just going to stay home. Frank asked me if I had ever seen Luke punch the machine at the Pizza Factory. I told him I had not. He said Luke punches very hard and he believes he punched Ronnie in the face with a very powerful punch, causing Ronnie to fall in to the water. Frank then said he might have even strangled him. Frank said he knows Luke was there but was nowhere to be found. He said he knows that Luke always camps at the River and was

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more than likely in the area. Frank told me that people need to go to jail for killing Ronnie. I advised Frank that I would request to be present at Ronnie's autopsy to see if he had any of the injuries that he thinks Luke inflicted on him. Frank told me that he no longer wanted assistance from the Sheriff's Office and was going to contact the FBI. He said he was going to request that the FBI attend the autopsy instead of me. I advised him that was not going to happen but he could call whoever he thought he needed to call. Frank told me he knows that they would investigate Ronnie's death because they investigated the Cary Stayner case. I explained to Frank that this was not the same and that the Stayner case was an actual murder case, not a possible drowning. I explained to Frank that it would be best that I re-contact him after the autopsy when I could provide him with what the pathologist finds to be the cause of death. Frank agreed that would be best and told me that I will find out that Ronnie had been punched in the face or strangled. I told Frank that I would be in contact with him tomorrow, per his request, regarding what day the autopsy might be. I provided him with my business card and thanked him for his time.

On July 3, 2017 I contacted Frank to advise him the autopsy would be sometime this week but I could not get confirmation of the actual day. I again told him I will be in contact with him after the autopsy had been completed. Frank told me he had information for me. He said that he has had several people coming to his house and telling him what actually happened. Frank said that I need to start arresting people and that I would then get the real story of what happened to Ronnie. Frank told me he has been told that Ronnie should be tied up or has bailing wire or rope around his neck because that was how he was killed. I asked who told him this and he said that it was someone who knows someone who was involved in the murder. I asked Frank why people are withholding information and not contacting law enforcement. I asked why this person would come to him and not the Sheriff's Office. Frank continued telling me that a guy named "Daryl" who is related to Toni Southwood is involved as well as Luke and Brandi. Frank said I needed to contact Toni Southwood because she is the one that provided him with this information. Frank said she had proof and an email conversation as well as a recorded voice conversation that speaks about Ronnie being murdered. He said Ronnie had also recently had a knife pulled on him by a guy named "Andrew" who dated Taylor Redding. Frank said Ronnie was dating Taylor also and Andrew didn't like it. Frank then said that one of the days he went to the river he saw four people sitting at "that" campsite while he was searching for Ronnie and they turned their heads when he walked by. Frank asked me if it was possible that he was going crazy and I told him that's always a possibility. I told him I understand he is upset right now and looking for answers. I told Frank that there were other people at the river that day that are not affiliated with Ronnie and do not live here, that witnessed Ronnie jump off of the rock and in to the river. Frank said that was not true and there was no one else there who would have seen anything. I told him I spoke with someone from out of the area and he said he was making that up. Frank told me that there is so much more to this than what I think happened and I need to arrest people to make other people safe. I advised Frank I could not arrest, nor can I falsely accuse people of murder without proof. I told Frank I would need time to conduct my investigation but was not going to continue any further until the autopsy is completed.

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I re-contacted Juliana and asked if she was able to get Mandy's last name. She said she does not go to school until 1300 hours and would contact me later. I asked if there was anyone else that would know Mandy's last name or contact information and she said she did not know who would. As of 1500 hours I have not yet heard back from Juliana.

Recommendations:

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT.SMITH Date : 07/04/2017 12:12 AM