

**Case Number**  
MG1700802

**Date**  
10/30/17

**Deputy**  
J.LOBAUGH

**Supplement 08**

On 10/30/2017, Debi-Jean Congdon arrived at the Mariposa County Sheriff's Dispatch Lobby to provide information regarding Ronnie Cole's death. I met with Debi-Jean at the lobby at approximately 1114 hours; my contact with Debi-Jean was recorded and has been attached to this report. The following is a synopsis of our conversation; for full details, please refer to the full recording.

Debi-Jean reported to me that there are some things which were left out of the reports. Debi-Jean stated that she was with Ronnie the day he jumped into the river. Debi stated Ronnie, Brandi Willey and she were driving through town when Ronnie saw Daryl Hutchins. Debi-Jean stated Ronnie was selling methamphetamines and Daryl owed him money.

Ronnie saw Daryl at Grizzly Gas so he turned around and parked at YARTS to confront Daryl. Daryl left the scene and started driving eastbound on Highway 140. Ronnie believed Daryl was heading to the river (Briceburg) so they drove there so Ronnie could confront Daryl. Deb-Jean stated Ronnie's words were "I'm gonna go scrap him real quick". Which she explained Ronnie meant he was going to beat Daryl up and get his money.

Debi-Jean stated they could not find Daryl so they started to leave the river. Brandi then asked if they could stop at cable rock. Deb-Jean stated Ronnie was reluctant to stop there due to needing to meet a tow truck driver to repair his vehicle which had an issue with the tire. Debi-Jean stated Brandi kept asking until Ronnie did stop.

Debi-Jean stated Brandi went down into the water and was conversing with 2 female subjects while Debbi-Jean sat at cable rock. Debi-Jean stated Ronnie was on a smaller rock near cable rock and started yelling to get Debi-Jean and Brandi's attention. Debi-Jean stated Ronnie removed his shirt and threw it toward Brandi. Debi-Jean stated she and Brandi yelled at Ronnie not to jump into the river but he did anyway. Debi-Jean stated after Ronnie jumped in, he surfaced and was almost celebrating and acting excited as if he was showing off.

Debi-Jean then saw Ronnie swim around the rock as if he were going to return to shore but she then lost sight of him. Debi-Jean waited a few moments and when Ronnie did not return out of the water, she and Brandi got into the vehicle and started to search the area for Ronnie. Debi-Jean stated they eventually ran into a ranger and relayed what happened and the ranger assisted with the search.

Debi-Jean stated Ronnie had a black lockbox like a safe in the vehicle which Brandi removed and hid in the bushes next to cable rock. Debi-Jean stated the lockbox was in a Pizza Factory bag. Debi-Jean stated she does not know what the box contained but Frank Cole was later asking where "Ronnie's box" was.

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Debi-Jean stated Ronnie and Brandi were both utilizing methamphetamines when the incident occurred. Debi-Jean stated she does not know if Ronnie may have used more than he was used to as she would never be around him while he was ingesting the methamphetamine.

Debi-Jean stated Ronnie was unusually happy that day and seemed over-confident. Debi-Jean stated she did not see anyone near Ronnie nor did anyone push Ronnie into the river.

A supplement was also added in coroner case number MG1700827.

**Recommendation:**

Attach to main

Approved by : SGT.WILLIAMS Date : 10/30/2017 08:30 PM