

*I/V Randy Potter and William Leversee 10-08-09 Surak,

On 10/08/09 I responded to Angel Valley Retreat and reported to Sgt D. Winslow who showed me to the dinning hall area to assist with interviews. I started off by interviewing Randy Potter and William Leversee.

They stated that the event started on 10/03/09 at about 1800 hrs. Most people were checked in at about 1600 hrs and it all started with a dinner. Both stated that they had participated in the "vision quest", when asked what a "vision quest" was they stated that on 10/06/09 at about 2230-2300 hrs they were taken throughout the Angel Valley Ranch property and left there. They stated that they had to make a "medicine wheel" and stay inside the "wheel" the entire time. They said that they had nothing to eat or drink while out there. They said at the beginning of the retreat they were given salt and were told to take a tea spoon of salt a day to help retain water for the "vision quest".

They stated that on 10/08/09 at about 0600 hrs they were brought back to the main ranch area and ate a breakfast that consisted of eggs, fruit, cereal, etc. They said they had another session after breakfast and then were given some instructions about the sweat lodge, mostly how to enter and exit and that they had to go in and come out clockwise. There was only one door and they were told that it was preferred they only go out or come in to the lodge in between sessions. They stated each session was about 15-20 minutes long and they were given little pouches of tobacco and were to hang them up in the lodge as a symbol of letting something that disrupted their lives go.

I asked what it was like in the lodge. They stated that there was a fire outside with rocks in it and they were told to throw the list of troubles in their lives in the fire and then went into the lodge. They said once inside, there were two rows and they brought 12 rocks into the lodge, called "grandfathers", and put them in a pit in the lodge and poured water on then which created steam. They said it was "extreme" and very hot and that they sweated a lot. They stated that when you came out of the lodge they would hose you down to cool you off and wash you off. They stated that Ray also put sandalwood on the rocks and it would burn, but the smoke was not over bearing. When asked about people complaining, they said that there was complaining, but people would encourage those that where complaining, telling them they could do it. Potter told me about how Lou Caci was crawling toward the rock pit and he (Potter) said he was yelling at him to stop, but Caci was burned and then he realized what had happened.

I asked them if they knew either of the two that had died; they said that they had just met Kirby and James for the first time that weekend. I asked them if there was anything else they could tell me and Potter stated that in a sweat lodge the closer you are to the ground the better, because it's less hot and there is more clean air.

End of interview.

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