

*I/V Hamilton, Michael Transcript 10-26-09 Diskin C23

On October 26, 2009 Detectives Disken, Detective Sergeant Dan Winslow, and I interviewed Michael Hamilton at his residence located on the Angel Valley Property. The interview was recorded and the following is a transcription of the interview. For complete details see DSS.file entered into evidence.

Det. Diskin: But you're not under investigation criminally, okay

M. Hamilton: Yea, I heard that. Put that on the wall. It was a question that he had. I'm not sure what we would do that we would be under that but anyway it's good to be clear. Where do we stand so far on the autopsy and the cause of death, how close are we to that?

Det. Diskin: Not real close yet, we're still waiting on the toxicology. Uhm, you know and then the Medical Examiner's office has to look at the totality of circumstances cause they have to issue a manner of death. Whether it's homicide, accidental, you know whatever, and, and they, in order for them to complete their report they have to look at everything and see what we're doing, see who we've talked to

M. Hamilton: Okay, so you're looking at days, weeks, months?

Det. Diskin: We're looking at probably weeks.

M. Hamilton: Weeks, okay

Det. Diskin: And probably not months.

Sgt. Winslow: Along those lines let me volunteer for you that uh you may want to ask Michael and probably Amayra more so about the alcohol and the pill bottle that she found; uhm just so you have that information, I'm sure toxicology would be interested in that information.

M. Hamilton: There was a couple things, I don't know what the relevancy of it but it's good to bring it up. There was a couple things that happened that occurred on the night before the (Inaudible) but anyway, we'll come back to that

Det. Diskin: Yea remind me; remember that I just want to start from the beginning. When did you guys become involved with Angel Valley? When did you guys take over here?

M. Hamilton: We found Angel Valley in 2002

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: And uhm actually started hosting retreats here in 2003

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: And James Ray was one of the first ones. That is was either, Amayra has more details so I'll be, certain things I'll be very clear on because I was involved in; the other one she had to go back and do some research to find out when it was but it was in the either August, September, October of 2003 was the first time James actually came to Angel Valley.

Det. Diskin: Okay, Okay, and how did you get in touch with

M. Hamilton: There was a person that came to us that was actually in with like a agent that they were out looking for a place. This person came to us, the contact was made and he was actually staying at the Enchantment Resort for the bulk of his retreat that year. And all he did out here was a sweat lodge and a Vision Quest. Everything else was done at the Enchantment.

Det. Diskin: Okay, and who, how did this sweat lodge come about? Had you guys, had you guys set the initial sweat lodge when you first got here? Did you guys build that? How did it, how did it

M. Hamilton: When we first got here there were a number of people connected with the Native American energy so there was a small sweat lodge that was built back when we, shortly after we got here and I'm not sure who actually constructed it. It was with staff, the people that were at Angel Valley constructed a small lodge

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: So we actually had a lodge you know at that moment before James even got here, but it was a smaller one. Amayra might know more of the details than I do.

Det. Diskin: Okay

Det. Poling: Was it before you got here and took over?

M. Hamilton: No,

Det. Poling: Or after

M. Hamilton: It was after. We got here in 2002

Det. Poling: Right

M. Hamilton: Sometime in that next year the staff that we attracted did Vision Quest and did sweat lodges so they were already doing that, the staff. I'm not, I guess I participated in a sweat lodge and I've done my own Vision Quest. So we had a familiarity with the concept of it.

Det. Diskin: Okay and, but you don't know who built the first one?

M. Hamilton: Not, it was the staff, it was someone on the staff that we had. You know I myself have never gone down there and actually found the tree, built the thing, because it's not my

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: It's not my lineage. How some of the people in the staff were and once again Amayra will have more clarity on who or what

Det. Diskin: Okay. Okay. Uhm that first year with uh, in 2003 James Ray did the Vision Quest and the sweat lodge here?

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Diskin: How many people did he have here?

M. Hamilton: Amayra would tell, I do not

Det. Diskin: Okay. Uhm, and then, then the following year, did that sweat lodge stay built in, in the same place?

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Diskin: Year after year

M. Hamilton: When it comes to the actual building of the lodges Amayra knows more about the timeframe than I do

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: For me it's you know, I know we had one there and then in 2004 I believe we had a flood, took it out, then we moved it but Amayra has all those details on when the first one, etc. But she will give you more of those details than what I know.

Det. Diskin: Okay

Det. Poling: Ross, do you, and I'll let you go through the whole thing and just take notes if you want or at least if you touch base on something, do you want us to touch base now or you want us to wait til the end?

Det. Diskin: No, if you have questions

Det. Poling: Well I don't want to interrupt you know what I'm saying and I don't want to be rude and stuff like that but when you asked him that question about something, if I

had more like the materials, did you purchase any of the materials personally? Did they give you a list of things to purchase is what I'm trying to say? And did you make a purchase for

M. Hamilton: We basically, the first lodges were done by just gathering blankets that we had, you know, old blankets.

Det. Poling: On staff or?

M. Hamilton: On staff

Det. Poling: Okay. Where would those be, I mean where do you keep blankets?

M. Hamilton: Where did we get them? There was nothing bought to my knowledge in those first years. It was like people would bring blankets, old, it all started off we had somebody that had old uhm drapes, drapery. So it was basically the old; sweat lodges are normally constructed out of used blankets, used draperies, used something that has a uhm let's say uh the ability to keep things warm. That would be blankets were the main thing.

Det. Poling: Okay

Sgt. Winslow: When you guys asked about the construction and whether things stayed up I think you need to be careful and distinguish between the actual structure itself and the blankets. My understanding is you guys usually take down the blankets after

M. Hamilton: And we're talking about two different timeframes because the original 2003 lodge that was built, anything we did up until two thousand and I want to say eight, had a different, the lock, the two things. Pre this lodge, (Inaudible) a number of different things that happened. This lodge becomes very clear in what the time sequence was on this particular lodge.

Det. Poling: So 2009 lodge is different than 2008 and pre?

M. Hamilton: 2008 and 2009 were exactly the same materials, exactly the same physical structure

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Because in 2007 we had a lodge but that got taken down. It was built, it was too high, James Ray complained that he couldn't get it hot enough in there so in 2008 we had a general manager at that time and the general manager which you'll hear his name, and Amarya has his address, his name is Gary Palisch, P-a-l-i-s-c-h. He was the one that was actually tending the fire ceremony and the sweat lodge in 2007 and then again in 2008. I was not part of that in either of those two years.

Det. Diskin: Okay were you or Amayra directly involved with building either the frame or putting the blankets on the sweat lodge?

M. Hamilton: Pre, Amayra just told me now that she was involved in 2003.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: I did not know this up until just now. It wasn't something that I would do myself. We had either staff or volunteers that would come in and do it.

Det. Diskin: Okay. And have you ever done any kind of research prior to the sweat lodge being there as far as what needs to be done to build a sweat lodge?

M. Hamilton: Every time I was involved in it we got a Native American that understood it. I didn't try to educate myself, I didn't go out oh well I'm an expert on this. I would hire or attract some Native American that understood sweat lodges, understood that concept which I did not.

Det. Diskin: Okay, so you never really wondered how to

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Diskin: and that was never your job anyway to do that

M. Hamilton: No, no, no

Det. Diskin: Okay, uhm the Native American, what was his name?

M. Hamilton: Amayra has the list of the different people that were involved and the last, the one, their was a man by the name of David Singing Bear. He was a man that actually oversaw, designed the lodge that was currently used in this event. And then his uh nephew or relative was hired to come in and actually build it. And that was done uh back in September 2008. So the new lodge that was here when the incident occurred was actually constructed in 2008

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: At the direction of Gary Palisch cause he also has Native American blood in him. And he attracted, found that David Singing Bear; he's a man that has actually designed and built he said over hundreds of them. And some of them had capacities of up to 100 people so it's not the lodge I am relatively confident it had nothing wrong inherently with the lodge itself, it was the way in which it was conducted.

Det. Diskin: Okay so Gary Palisch, he was kind of in charge of

M. Hamilton: He was in charge, yea

Det. Diskin: Okay. And then David Singing Bear designed and built it and (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: He designed it, and oversaw the construction of it. It was his nephew or somebody that came in from California to actually build it. And it was done in the Native American tradition. You know where they do prayer beads and they do prayer ties and they, they go out and they find the right willows to build it so it was done in alignment with the Native American tradition. And that's something nobody is talking about yet so we somewhere we want to get that out

Det. Diskin: okay

M. Hamilton: how the lodge was actually built cause right now they're saying makeshift. Everytime I say makeshift I cringe because it was anything but makeshift. It was done in alignment with what Native American sweat lodges ought to be.

Det. Diskin: Mmm Hmm. Have you, since this happened have you done any kind of internet searches or anything to determine how a sweat lodge should have been built?

M. Hamilton: Not other than what I'm just sharing with you right now. Knowing the people that built it.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: No I did not go out, I did not research this particular one. Knowing David Singing Bear and knowing what I do and knowing that it was sturdy. It was a sturdy lodge.

Det. Diskin: Mmm Hmm. Okay.

M. Hamilton: From my perspective, but I'm not an expert on it.

Det. Diskin: Me neither but I did do some internet searches and I found five sites that explain how to build sweat lodges and three of the five sites explain it just like that one was built with plastic tarps. Uhm but

M. Hamilton: I didn't

Det. Diskin: so I, I understand what you're saying with everybody saying it's makeshift but it wasn't. You know it appears to me if anybody who didn't know how to build a sweat lodge went and did the research they would build it similar to the one that was built.

M. Hamilton: Well and that for me, knowing I didn't have the; to build a sweat lodge it'd have to come from within a person to build it. For me it would be from up here; that's why I never got involved in it because it wasn't emanating from within. When you've got

a Native American who lives with them, grew up with them, they know what they're doing. So that lodge was built with intent and built with purpose.

Det. Diskin: Okay so James Ray would do his retreat here from 2003 until 2009 every year, is that correct?

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Diskin: And every year there'd be a sweat lodge

M. Hamilton: Correct

Det. Diskin: When's the first time you noticed that there's any kind of problem with one of his sweat lodges?

M. Hamilton: 2005, I'll let Amayra talk to you about that because she was the one that was, Amayra's more hands on. Going out there and looking. So she was actually down there when the incident happened. She will fill you in on what she knows occurred and how James' reaction to her cause everything I'm saying right now is hearsay. I was not there, I did not hear it. I heard it via Amayra and Jame; well she'll have her own story on how that unfolded and then what she did to remedy it for 2006. To make sure that it did not happen again.

Det. Diskin: Okay, what, what, what happened in 2005?

M. Hamilton: One individual got sick, came out of the lodge and here; is it okay to share hearsay?

Sgt. Winslow: Just as long as you make it clear that you don't have first hand knowledge

M. Hamilton: I was not there

Sgt. Winslow: Yea. Are we all clear on that?

M. Hamilton: I'm just going by hearsay. She, Amayra was there when this evidently large person came out of the lodge and was; large I don't know this way or this way but anyway, he was very incoherent. And the, his wife was also there and supposedly that when they got him finally settled down and laying down on the ground she says honey I love you, I love you. If you can understand, or at least be exposed to the fact that when people have what they call out of body experiences, that's occurred in many different lodges, many different ceremonies where they actually leave, their spirit kinda leaves the body. Have you, is this all strange to you all?

Det. Poling: No

Det. Diskin: I've heard of that, I've never experienced it

M. Hamilton: Well it happens

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Where people actually disconnect, they're not, they're not present. If you ever investigate any rape victim, generally speaking they leave their body when the rape is occurring.

Det. Poling: The disassociate

M. Hamilton: Disassociate, that's another term. Disassociate. They're just not there. It's like they're above it, hovering, looking and watching all this going on but they do not; they can't do anything about it. That's what disassociation, good term. This individual had a disassociation. He just was not there and his wife being there holding his hand, rubbing his hand and talking him back; not here again I wasn't there, this is what I'm hearing, talking him back into his body, he came back and they then, Amayra called the ambulance so they took him to the uhm, the uhm, to uhm Cottonwood. When he came back the next day he said wow was that a wild experience of being out of my body. So he described what it felt like to not be present. To be watching this and only when he associated his wife and his kids, ooh, I can't go, I gotta come back, did he actually return.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: So that was what happened. Here again, Amayra was there; she'll give you exact, I'm just

Det. Diskin: That was the first time that there had been any kind of medical distress

M. Hamilton: Yea, that we were aware of

Det. Diskin: at your sweat lodge

M. Hamilton: yea, yea

Det. Diskin: When's the next time something happened? If there was a next time?

M. Hamilton: The only thing I heard later was in 2008 where people came out and there were 20 people sick. Did not know anything about that until last week.

Det. Poling: How about Barbara Waters, was she one of those persons in 2008 that were sick because from what I understand she was the only one that was sick. Is that true or it's not true?

M. Hamilton: I don't know. Gary Palisch and we got, we just contacted him, he moved back to New Jersey and we just got an email today from him that actually shared some of his story about what he recollects but he was the one that in 2007, 2008 Amayra and I

were not involved in the day to day operation of Angel Valley. He was the General Manager and the Operations Director on everything that occurred. And when I heard last week through probably the internet or Ted and Debbie that yea there were people ill in 2008 we never knew it. The only thing I remember is Gary saying yea he was there, he was signing songs for the uhm when James was doing a, one of his last rounds and James reached out and they held hands and gave strength to one another. That was all I knew until last week when they say there were a number of people that were sick so I don't know, I wasn't out there.

Det. Diskin: Okay. And you had mentioned that Amayra had done something in 2005 after the first incident

M. Hamilton: Told them, told James directly we don't ever want to ever have this happen again. And to our knowledge

Det. Poling: Who didn't want to have this happen again?

M. Hamilton: Amayra, my wife

Sgt. Winslow: His wife

M. Hamilton: Yea where she said to James because James was just livid at her for calling the 911.

Det. Poling: That's important

Det. Diskin: That is important

M. Hamilton: He was just, he called her names, yelled at her and she said, she went down to the uhm to the uhm, his room and James or somebody needs help! Don't bother me I'm taking a shower. Basically the essence of what he shared. And then when he did come down there, he evidently called her names, I never heard what the names were but he was so pissed that she took it upon herself to then call 911 before he left he then apologized to her and said I'm sorry, you did the right thing.

Det. Poling: You weren't there then in 2008 during this?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: Were you here in 2009?

M. Hamilton: I was up here in my house. Amayra called me, she, when she first saw that there was distress going on she called and said we have to do it again, we have to call 911. So she called 911 and I did not, well Amayra did not seem that panicky at that moment so I was like, I kept doing what I was doing and then when I saw the helicopter

fly in that's when I went down there. Cause at that moment I thought oh shit, all hell broke loose.

Det. Diskin: Okay. So and we'll confirm this and talk to her in more detail about it but basically in 2005 somebody was sick, got transported, Amayra tells James Ray we don't want this to ever happen again, he's upset with her initially but later apologizes. He got upset because she called 911. Uhm 2006, was there any problem that you know of?

M. Hamilton: No, Amayra has been there basically ever year I want to say except 2007, 2008. We just weren't so, weren't there.

Det. Diskin: Okay. So the past two years, you (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: To our knowledge, there was nothing that we had any reason to be alarmed about. Now what I did find out later is Ted, Ted Mercer, I guess you interview him, that he made a statement and this happened when we interviewed, when I talked to Fawn last week. She, Ted said to her are you sure you want to be part of this? And Fawn said well yea why? Well last year it was really hairy or it was really something, which he never said a word to us about that. You know a couple weeks ago, actually a month and a half ago I called and I said hey Ted, are you interested in doing the fire ceremony for the fire tending for James Ray? Well yea I may be around, I may not. I said well when I get the actual date I'll call you. I called him and he goes oh by the way it's gonna be another \$100 and I said okay, for what? He says well it just takes longer with James than anyone else. That was it, that was all he said. So we agreed at a \$400 fee for him to do the blankets and the all that was involved in that creation of that lodge. The frame was already there, all he had to do was get the same blankets, the same everything that was there the year before. And then when Fawn told me that he knew that and never said a word to us, had we had any inkling that there was something that was out of alignment, we would have done something different than what we did.

Det. Diskin: And it may you know have been that people didn't really know something was going in cause they thought that they were just having an out of body experience and not in medical distress.

M. Hamilton: No last year they were having medical distress when they come out of that tent from what we gathered.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: People throwing up and vomiting. Everyone I've every been in, I've been in probably half a dozen lodges in my life, never has anybody gotten ill.

Det. Poling: Have you ever been in a James Ray lodge?

M. Hamilton: No never, he would never invited; there was never an event that he did here that he invited us or any staff to ever be part of. It was all, we almost considered it

secretive, he didn't want anybody else involved in it so we were never a party to any of it. But what happened for us was when people, even in 2008, when people left everybody was euphoric. Wow it was the greatest experience you know so they left leaving us under the assumption that everything was perfect.

Det. Diskin: They probably thought it was perfect.

Sgt. Winslow: They didn't die

Det. Diskin: They didn't know that they were close to death

(Inaudible) Yea but they were

Sgt. Winslow: Yea

Det. Diskin: Uhm now you had had several other groups do sweat lodges here besides James Ray, is that correct?

M. Hamilton: Correct, yep

Det. Diskin: About how many do you think?

M. Hamilton: Amayra has all that. She has who did them, when they were done and how many people were in them

Det. Diskin: Are you aware of anybody having any problem other than with James Ray

M. Hamilton: Nope. Every lodge, and I would say there could, since the beginning when we bought the property there could have been 20 lodges maybe, 15, 20, never has there ever been any hiccup with anyone except with James Ray.

Det. Diskin: Okay and I don't know if you'll know this but does James Ray, does he want to inspect the lodge before he does his sweat lodges? Does he go down there and take a look at it or make sure everything is how it's supposed to be?

M. Hamilton: I'm assuming he does but I can't attest to that.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Who would know that

M. Hamilton: James Ray

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Because at no point did he ever say Michael I want to go look. It's, let me say that every single thing, you know, there was a complete uhm breakdown on what they did every minute and every building we had they came to us and said no we want

this done, we want this done, we want this done. Everything to the degree no I need two extra tables, I need ten extra chairs, I need four books for one of his things, so everything that he did he had staff that looked at everything. You know when you look at how many things we needed to do we thought we had it right; no I want this, I want these moved. An example: we have a stage set up in the Crystal Hall for him. They came from the, the rental place, put the stage up. I get a phone call from Melinda who was the main coordinator, have you met, talked to her yet?

Det. Diskin: We've talked to everybody. Some will talk, some won't

M. Hamilton: Have you talked to Melinda?

Det. Diskin: I'm sure, I don't remember what she told us but I'm sure somebody's talked to her

Sgt. Winslow: Pam did

M. Hamilton: Are you sure? Cause she wasn't here, she took off very shortly after this incident, went up to the (Inaudible)

Sgt. Winslow: Melissa, Melissa or Melinda?

Det. Poling: I think it's Melinda that she's talked to that's the one she was telling you about today

Sgt. Winslow: Melinda's part of his staff?

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Poling: Yes, it's Melinda

M. Hamilton: She was the one that was in charge of basically making sure all of the details got worked out. Anyway the stage got built, I get a phone call from her, I need the steps moved from the right side to the left side. Okay, I went down, took the steps up and moved them over. So every little thing they did, they were scrutinizing everything.

Det. Poling: Well did they give you a game plan or were you just guessing? Cause they have a set plan.

M. Hamilton: They have a set plan that says every minute at 2:03 here's what we're doing, every minute of every day was allocated. And we were told here's what we want. We want this in there, they gave us a whole list of the, of all their criteria. Do you wanna, you know

Det. Diskin: If we could get a copy of that, that would be good

M. Hamilton: What we'll do is run it through Mark and he'll get you a copy

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Because it had we want this and this and this and this. You know we want a tent by the sweat lodge so you can have the food in there. So basically they were telling us what they wanted and didn't want.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

M. Hamilton: And had there been anything wrong with that, trust me they would have said it had they well

Det. Diskin: that

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: so if, if he looked at the sweat lodge and thought that (Inaudible) this isn't going to work for us, it's too small or something, what would happen? Would he tell you or would he tell somebody and you wouldn't even know it?

M. Hamilton: He would tell his staff and his staff would get ahold of one of us.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: This year I was involved as if anything needed to be done they would buzz me or buzz Ingrid in the office and then we would take care of it with some staff member to go do it.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Was there any kind of uhm falling out with you or Amayra and James Ray or the staff; any kind of bad blood, anything happen that

M. Hamilton: No, there was a, a realization that we had outgrown each other. That was an internal realization. Cause what Angel Valley is about from our perspective has more to do with the spirituality. And people really getting in touch with themselves and where James was going was more toward the guru aspect. You know he wanted a space, a space that could accommodate more people. He wanted to get up to 100 or 150 people in these, (Inaudible). And we just couldn't go there. Financially we couldn't build a facility to do it. So we heard probably two months prior that he was out looking for another location.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: For the next one

Det. Poling: Prior to?

M. Hamilton: coming here

Det. Poling: the lodge? This year?

M. Hamilton: Yep

Det. Diskin: Did they tell you that or what?

M. Hamilton: It came kinda accidentally. Where we were told they were out looking at the Dawn Center or out at uh Mago Retreat Center. Somebody told us that was told from one of the people that work there that yea, James Ray is coming here and we thought it was this year. So we called Megan, and I said, "Megan, I hear you're going to the Mago." "No, we're not doing that yet so don't, I don't know where you heard that but we're not doing that yet. We're looking." And that's as far as it went.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Uhm

M. Hamilton: Does that answer your questions?

Det. Diskin: Yea, now we knew that on Wednesday during the, or this year during the Vision Quest that James Ray and Megan had gone to Mago and asked them about future events. So we were wondering if something might had happened or, but, uhm

Sgt. Winslow: Is Mago the same as Dawn Hawksin?

M. Hamilton: Yep

Sgt. Winslow: Okay

M. Hamilton: Yep. And we knew that because Megan visited back in uh I wanna say August, July or August she flew over here and we were gonna meet that day and we did not because she's well I'm not sure my schedule; I said I'd love to meet with you and then she came and had time, she called at like 11:00 and left it on my cell phone. And I (Inaudible) good cell phone coverage here and by the time I got it she was already gone so we never did meet.

Det. Diskin: Okay. And we were told that there was a Native American that used to work here and set up the sweat lodge but now we're told (Inaudible) at Mago

M. Hamilton: To my knowledge we've never actually employed on staff any Native American.

Det. Poling: How about someone who would attend the fire pit?

M. Hamilton: The only people that I'm aware of was one, in the earlier days was John Campbell who was a person that worked with us. And uh, and then uh Ted and Debby, but I'm not aware of any

Det. Diskin: What about David Singing Bear

M. Hamilton: I never met the man. Gary met him, knew him, he came in and built it and even to this day I've never talked to him. Amayra talked to him for the first time last week on the phone.

Det. Diskin: Okay so he, maybe he's the one that works at Mago

Det. Poling: John Campbell, was he doing that with Ted in 2008?

M. Hamilton: No, no, no, no, no, I'm talking earlier.

Det. Poling: No I'm talking about the fire pit

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Poling: 2009 (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) 2008, Ted and Debby. 2009 Ted and Debby.

Det. Poling: How about the year before that?

M. Hamilton: 2007?

Det. Diskin: Mmm Hmm

Det. Poling: I guess. Cause Ted and Debby learned this from somebody.

M. Hamilton: Gary was the one that I guess taught them; I can't, I don't know, I can't answer that.

Det. Diskin: Okay

Det. Poling: That's okay. I just heard from people

M. Hamilton: I don't know

Det. Poling: I talked to people that said when they came out of the tent there were two Native Americans tending the fire and I'm just trying to coordinate who that was.

M. Hamilton: If they were here, they were not part of my staff.

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: cause I don't know. You know there was a woman that wound up coming here that Ted and Debby invited. You know, have you seen her on the Shanna or someone on the news?

Det. Diskin: Oh, Bowan?

M. Hamilton: Bowan.

Det. Diskin: Yea

M. Hamilton: I never met the woman but she was evidently here and helping people and I never knew she was here because she supposedly was invited here by Ted and Debby Mercer.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Yea, we've, we've talked to her. She got here kinda, I mean she wasn't here for the whole event

M. Hamilton: No, I don't know when she got here. First time I knew she was here was when it was on the news. How'd she get in?

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) my ignorance. Ted and Debby, are they hired by you or are they someone hired by James Ray?

M. Hamilton: They were contracted by us to do it. They live in the building, they live in, a year ago Ted used to work for us when Gary was still here. When Gary left Ted resigned. We no longer needed him on a full time basis but he still was living here at the time. So Ted was an employee last year; this year only subcontractors when we had, we had a lodge I want to say in May? That we called him and he came in and did the fire tending for it.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Sgt. Winslow: He lives in a house that's owned by you?

M. Hamilton: No, owned by somebody else.

Sgt. Winslow: Okay

M. Hamilton: It's a two story log home.

Sgt. Winslow: It's off of the property (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: It's right there. You, you, when you were going in the kitchen, you were, its right there. It's a two story log house.

Sgt. Winslow: Okay

M. Hamilton: Yea. They moved in last year in uhm October I believe, October or November of last year.

Det. Poling: That's kinda confusing. Is this your property or is this; there's houses that don't belong to you

M. Hamilton: There's two houses here that are not part of the 70 acres that we own.

Det. Poling: Okay, they own their own parcel then?

M. Hamilton: They own a little parcel. Theirs is about an 1/8 of an acre and there's another one about 1/4 of an acre. The other people we get along very well with. That owner we're not let's say on the uh best of speaking terms. They did not want a spiritual retreat center here from the beginning. And it's been in the family since, both of them have been in the family since 1970 when they first bought them.

Det. Diskin: So the, the house that Ted and Debby are renting, the owners of that house don't really get along with

M. Hamilton: They don't appreciate spirituality is probably the best way of putting it

Det. Diskin: Okay. Okay. Uhm we can get back to some of the other stuff if we need to, but before I forget; we were told that there was some chanting that was done here the next day. Uhm I believe this would have been either Friday or Saturday.

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) on I think it was, maybe you, one of you, I'm not sure who said we now release this site to us.

Det. Diskin: Yes, we told you that

M. Hamilton: Was it you?

Det. Diskin: Yes

M. Hamilton: Then the next day we still had people that were here that were part of the Vision Quest and we brought some other people in that would help us energetically clear up the place. You know what, if you know anything; how's the best way of putting it? If you've been in a building where people died, there's an energy that lingers there until there's something energetically done with it. And that's what we had here on the property and we had some people that we know that energetically heal. It's not something you can prove, I can't; I just know that there was energetic work done because we had other retreats that were scheduled to come in. We had one that was scheduled last weekend of 50 people that was due here. We had another one that they just left today of 50 people, and when you have death and trauma and the lights and the sirens and all that when on it

was literally hell on earth, not heaven on earth, so you were all here, you saw the chaos and that leaves an imprint from our perspective. On that Saturday we have two, actually Friday we had two people that came down to work with us because we, Amayra and I were traumatized. So here we have this beautiful place, we're trying to do the best work we can to have people have an experience of nature and all of a sudden we have death. And then all the media, my God it was traumatic. So we had friends that we know that we trust that do energy work that came over to help us. And then on Saturday the moment your department, and I, cause I'm not gonna say who cause I don't know who said it was available, the site has been cleared. The next day I was ready to go in with a chain saw. I had a guy, the chain saw was waiting all Friday cause I was so hurt, irritated, angry, frustrated, I was gonna go in with a chain saw, cut it down and burn it. Well as it turned out, fortunately that wasn't the way it went. We actually had enough people that wanted to do a ceremony around it. So we took the logs, or took the timbers apart one by one with a knife, cutting the ropes that tied them together, and did a sacred cleansing ceremony is what we would call it, allowing the spirits to go on and to say hey, we're sorry.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Det. Poling: Who was at, I'm sorry

M. Hamilton: Pardon?

Det. Poling: Who was at that ceremony?

M. Hamilton: The one that was probably the most outspoken on it was Ted. I did a little talking on it and Ted was the one that actually went around with cornmeal and gave everybody a pinch of cornmeal that you can offer up for the, for what occurred.

Det. Diskin: Okay and was there somebody here though was uh, uh, channeling spirits?

M. Hamilton: There was an individual that was not, no one could actually connect with the spirits that went. Cause they were not, not being metaphysical I'm not sure how to put this. Uhm certain people, and especially in a room like this, how many people actual believe you can connect with spirits beyond?

Det. Poling: I don't know

M. Hamilton: And I'm not about to ask you

Det. Poling: Yea don't cause I might have to go up for an evaluation

M. Hamilton: Yea exactly. But in that process we do believe. And let me share something. We have, a number of years ago my wife's son died and three days after he died, four day, it might have been a week afterward, she was in Holland at the time and she was actually in the home of her son. He was 28 years, died unexpectedly and I went

to a channel to actually get some information. What can you share with me? When death occurs in the world I live in, there is no earthly answer that settles any inner peace. There just isn't. (Inaudible) that doesn't help any. But what's the larger vision, what's the larger purpose of it all? That's where went, to find out what is this, we believe that everything happens for a reason. Everything has a purpose, even though we don't always know what it is. And I would have consciously chosen another reason for this to happen and why it did, and I still don't know why. But anyway, I went and had a channeling done. Well what we call a channeling. And that individual said a message from her son; go to the jewelry box and there's a ring in there that I want you to have. Well, talk about a strange thing? I knew nothing about a ring. Amayra knew nothing about a ring because she was in Holland and I called her on the phone minutes after I had this channeling and I said to her Chef said there's a box that has a ring in it, he wants you to make that part of the ceremony. And Amayra didn't know anything and uh it, it was a, his boyfriend said we were just told there's a box with a ring and the boyfriend said well if there was it would be over there in that drawer. Sure enough they went over, found the ring and the ring was the ring that his, his father gave to Amayra when they got married. So he wanted her father to be part of it. I mean his father to be part of it. So see it, don't believe it, it's up to you. So that evening we had an individual that we knew that can do that and all she said is there is no communication at all from them because they were not; there's a period of time before their actually able to even have a clue what they were doing or what's happening.

Det. Diskin: Okay let me, I'll be more specific on what I'm looking for. Somebody who was a part of that ceremony and (Inaudible), has stated that, that somebody came in and did a channeling here and that the person doing the channeling had contacted the spirits and the spirits of uhm James and Kirby had left the body during the sweat ceremony, they were having so much fun they decided not to go back to their bodies and that (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: That was not direct communication from the people, it was an, if you know anything about psychics at all other than they're hokey

Det. Diskin: I don't, no

Det. Poling: No worries, just talk, it's cool

M. Hamilton: They have the ability to see things that we cannot see. I know that to be true. I know things that were shared with me that there is impossible anybody else knew but it's there. They saw two spirits, not in communication, but just two spirits that appeared at that moment to be, if we go back in time and you take the testimony of the man that was injured in 2005, talk to him and find out what he saw when he was in that between here and there state; he said had there not been something to bring him back, he would have gone. And there's enough documentation on people that are caught in this limbo state, it's euphoric when you're in that limbo state.

Det. Diskin: Do you think it could be hypothermia?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: Do it be prior to death

M. Hamilton: Yea, yea

Det. Poling: Well here's what I'm saying. When, when certain things happen to your body, let's say hypothermia that's what I'm thinking, it gets very hot. That is transversible. Once you cool down, you come back. You, you know what I mean? This is where we're gonna get science versus you know this other stuff.

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Poling: But when you're in this state your body shuts down and you are about to die. It, it was reversible if you get oxygen and stuff in time.

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Poling: So this man could have been on his way out and this role was reversing because he's now getting oxygen and giving things to his body and he comes alive. Now in that time from near death to the time he came back, that might be euphoric, there may be illusions, there may be a lot of stuff, who knows?

M. Hamilton: I've never been there

Det. Poling: I know, I know

M. Hamilton: Yea (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: We haven't so we can't say. But I'm just saying, do you know what I'm saying? It's

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: reversible if he gets oxygen, maybe something happened to where he did get oxygen, now he's coming back. It's not because you know, it may not be because someone said you know it's not your time yet, but it could be because he is alive again. His body was dying

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Poling: and now it's alive.

M. Hamilton: well and I that particular case, his wife because of what she was doing was pulling him from this other realm. Wherever that realm is, do I believe that had the attention been given when it was acknowledged that people fainted and there's no pulse?

Do I believe there could have been something else done? Absolutely! And that's my pain. I wasn't there, I didn't hear it. The one, and when you talk to Fawn, she heard this and then the comment no, we'll take care of them when (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: Okay and that will be important for us to talk to her about. But what I was getting at is I didn't, I didn't know if the person claiming that these spirits had been channeled was just saying that to try and comfort those who were involved (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: No, this individual does not do that to appease anybody. I know the person well enough that there was an energy that she felt she saw

Det. Diskin: Okay so she felt that there was an energy or she could somehow sense the spirits of James and Kirby?

M. Hamilton: The best I can say is in that altered space where they were not here and weren't there, they were deciding. Here again, what I'm about to say you can never prove. I believe we choose the time we die and I believe we choose the time we're born. That's me, doesn't mean anything. So they were deciding, do they stay or do they not? According to my own feeling, but I wasn't there. I didn't, I didn't envision this.

Det. Poling: But did the channeler say they said this?

Det. Diskin: Yea

Det. Poling: Was there any communication? (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: No, no there was no communication between because she said

Det. Poling: the living and the dead

M. Hamilton: No there was none, there was only a feeling or a sensing

Det. Poling: Or an assumption

M. Hamilton: Assumption, exactly

Det. Diskin: The reason is the family, they've heard this now. This is public record, it's all, you know read about this channeling, so the family, you know, James, James Shores' kids are hearing that oh my dad left and, and he decided not to come back to us. And so it upsets them

M. Hamilton: No, if the story, if the true story will come out, and it will, it's just a matter of time. If, do I believe, okay how do I put this? Uh my feeling is that Kirby and James, they were so far in, what was that term you used? Uhm hypothermia? They were so far gone in that by the time anything happened they were already gone. Had they been given

the proper attention, right when they fainted, I don't think we'd be having this discussion. In that altered state, because there was a choice at some point, conscious or unconscious to go and that's the part that, I can't prove a thing it's only just feeling. Conjecture, but I feel that the moment somebody felt them faint, and there's no pulse, had that been addressed at that moment, it would have been different than what we're currently dealing with now.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Does that answer your

Det. Diskin: That does

M. Hamilton: There was absolutely no contact that I'm aware of, and I was party to it.

Det. Diskin: Mmm Hmm

M. Hamilton: Directly connecting with those spirits before they went

Det. Diskin: Okay I need to tell the families that

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Diskin: cause that (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: no there was not. There was a sensing and only later, when I went down and I saw Fawn and I've never in my life seen anybody as emotional as what she was when she said this is just not righteous. Didn't know what she meant and only later when we, when you were up and we talked, did I really find out what she heard when somebody is fainting and the message is don't worry about that, they'll take care of themselves, we'll deal with it next round.

Det. Diskin: Mmm Hmm

M. Hamilton: That for me is, I don't know how to deal with that yet.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: And that was the moment, in my opinion, in that 15 minutes or 20 minutes, whatever that round was, that was the moment that all this shit hit the an and they just could not reconnect with their body again.

(Inaudible) Just, just to give you some background, Fawn was providing water and Gatorade and things when the participants would come out, so she was outside of the sweat lodge

Det. Poling: So Fawn was working with Christine, Christine Jobe and Barbara Waters closely then

M. Hamilton: She was there before they came

Det. Poling: We need to talk to her

M. Hamilton: Because she was the one who was there through the whole thing and she heard what was going on inside that lodge

Det. Diskin: Does she, does Fawn have access to internet? I mean does she live with internet, has she watched this on the news at all?

M. Hamilton: You'll have to ask her. All I know, pardon?

Det. Poling: Follower of James Ray?

M. Hamilton: No she works for us.

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: She is, if she could, she'd of killed James Ray that night.

(Inaudible) She a Native American, right?

M. Hamilton: She had blood, Native American blood in her

(Inaudible) She has herself participated in sweat lodge ceremonies

M. Hamilton: Yea, yea

Sgt. Winslow: Different from James Ray

Det. Diskin: So she knows

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: She knows what's right and isn't right so you get ahold of her, because there is absolutely no love for James Ray. No hatred because she's beyond that but you talk about somebody

Det. Poling: No respect

M. Hamilton: Pardon?

Det. Poling: No respect

Det. Poling: No. She will give you exactly what she heard and that for me, well anyway, had I heard it that evening, had she said Michael, I have done something! But it wasn't until later.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Alright, uhm, I only have one more question. When we did that search warrant, search warrant in California on the James Ray International Business, uhm we found a letter that was from, from you guys to James Ray that basically said it was, it was, you'll find an enclosed check for \$35,000, we'll give you the rest of it later; why were you guys paying him money?

M. Hamilton: Last year, he was always booked a year in advance, and in that booking there'd be anywhere from \$35,000 or \$25,000 or whatever that he would pay in advance payments. Last year Gary, which I didn't know until later, Gary the General Manager (Inaudible) an additional from him, of I think it was \$25,000. So that \$25,000 went in as a payment for 2009 (Inaudible) 2009 contract. Then the, at that moment, from the preceding year, Gary then went ahead and collected the payment, the participants paid us directly. So there was an additional \$45,000 that was paid to Angel Valley that should have gone to James Ray last year. It did not so at the end of last year we had approximately a \$70,000 balance owing James Ray, which was no big deal. You know cause in the previous year there's always a balance carried over to the next year, to the next year, to the next year. And then my letter back said based on all the facts that if we had the \$107,000 we will pay you the \$70,000 that we've owed from before. Well as it turned out \$35,000, we got payments in but it wasn't appearing like it was going to go with the full number that they originally contracted for. They guaranteed us 50 people this, this and you know, you saw the contract and

Det. Diskin: No I haven't yet

M. Hamilton: Okay well the contract says we guarantee you this, and this and this so in order to help pay part of that 70 back I said okay here's \$35,000 of that because we collected this money. I wanted it to be clean at the end of this year. That we didn't owe him any money, they didn't owe us any money.

Det. Diskin: So the money that the participants paid to stay here, that is supposed to go to James Ray?

M. Hamilton: No. No it was payment for us.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: The fee for each person was \$1,600 for their food, their lodging and being here.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: And that \$1,600 was established over the years where the first year it might have been, I don't know, \$1,000, and then maybe \$1200 because every year he wanted more, and more, and more things done. And only last year did we start collecting from the participants ourselves. Up until that he didn't want us being anywhere near the participants. But last year we started collecting the money. Prior to that we would get an invoice, he would pay us for what (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: Okay

Sgt. Winslow: You only collected for the \$1,600, you didn't collect for the seminar fees, correct?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: But he overpaid you for your participants to lodge here and then you sent him money that they weren't here?

M. Hamilton: No, no

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: I didn't understand it fully either I don't think

M. Hamilton: Prior to last year, we never got money from participants. So at the end of each year they would roll whatever it was, \$25,000 or \$30,000 into the contract for the next year. So we would have an amount owing that would be allocated for the next event. Last year we started collecting money from the participants directly. So we never got any more money, so I thought, until January of last year where Gary got a \$25,000 check from James Ray. Now how he even got that I don't know but he got it and it was applied to 2009 so they said we want to book 2009 dates now. He said okay if you want to do that then we need \$25,000 more for 2009. (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Uhm, when people are

(Inaudible) Why don't we do this, why don't you start at the end of 2007 after James Ray had completed his uh seminar here, did he owe you money?

M. Hamilton: He owed us money for 2007, 2008

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: That was the deposit in order to have a 2008 contract. We would have a payment. Our payments were set up originally at 22%, 33%, 33 and then the balance when they come. But with James Ray, every year oh I want this, I want this, so every

year we bump the price up based on what he wanted to add to (Inaudible). So it wound up getting us \$1,500 per person and that's where it was in 2008 and we kept the same price for 2009. Anyway, and up until then it was very clear. They wrote us a check, we gave them an invoice. There was no money coming into Angel Valley in any other way other than a check directly from James R, James Ray to us.

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) to be there.

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Poling: Gotcha.

M. Hamilton: 2008 they wanted us to handle the reservations where the people would bug us on the phone and not bug them.

Det. Poling: For the \$1,600 and you'd be collecting from the (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Well it started out, well we want you to do this. Well my gosh it takes extra labor. So we're gonna charge you \$100 a person for us to handle the labor. And another \$100 for a credit card payment cause we gotta pay 4, 5%. So that's how it got up to the \$1,600.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Are you with me so far? So in 2008 they collected more money than we should have actually collected and it's money should have been given back to James Ray.

Det. Diskin: Why did it go back to James Ray instead of the people that paid? I don't understand.

M. Hamilton: Because James Ray already gave us the deposit.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: James Ray already paid for deposits for that year.

Det. Diskin: Okay

Det. Poling: And you collected all the peoples' too yea so the deposit

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Yea, we doubled up and that should have gone back.

Det. Poling: Gotcha now

Det. Diskin: But you didn't know that there was an issue there

M. Hamilton: No because that, Gary was the one dealing with that in 2008. I didn't know anything about the finances until he actually left in December 2008.

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: That's when all this other shit, we owe them \$70,000, huh

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Yea because it was \$170,000 contract and we thought, oh okay, that would help us. You need to use the restroom?

Sgt. Winslow: No I need to make a

M. Hamilton: So anyway does that give more clarity?

Det. Poling: Yea we understand now

Det. Diskin: Yea

Sgt. Winslow: There's a door right there

M. Hamilton: There's a place right there. So that was how we wound up in that predicament. And my letter to them was I wanna pay you off, I wanna make a clean ending. The last two months I basically gave up any idea of them being back here. I wanted to bring this to a loving closure and that's, my letter was if we do this, here's what is going to happen. You'll get your \$70,000, we'll pay you, anyway

Det. Diskin: Yea, we were just curious why money would be going that direction instead of this direction. But that makes sense

M. Hamilton: Okay

Det. Diskin: I understand

Det. Poling: I got some questions. Who, who came over here to do the channeling? Do you know, have a name?

M. Hamilton: Cynthia Williams

Det. Poling: Is she from Sedona? Well that makes it easy for us. Okay, uhm, Ted is the one that helped with that? Okay uhm with the cornmeal offering. Who do you have on staff here medically?

M. Hamilton: At that moment in time we had

Det. Poling: 2009 did you have someone on staff?

M. Hamilton: We had, she was more a volunteer, Sue Ellen

Det. Poling: Sue Ellen?

M. Hamilton: She was a nurse but she wasn't here in any capacity like we never hired a nurse for any events that we've ever had. She just happens to be a nurse and happens to be here supporting us.

Det. Poling: What is she, what was she doing in 2009 at the Spiritual Warrior? What was she doing here? Was she

M. Hamilton: She works, she was actually living here

Det. Poling: Right, she lives here?

M. Hamilton: She lived here at that time

Det. Poling: Okay, is she on call? She's supposed to go treat people that are ill?

M. Hamilton: No, no

Det. Poling: She just lives here, (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: She has a history of nursing, period

Det. Poling: Right but she isn't contracted, you didn't ask her to be here for this event?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: James Ray didn't say you're here, you're a nurse, you're gonna be (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: No, there was absolutely zero connection. It just happens to be this person is a nurse.

Det. Poling: You didn't say before the event, hey James, we have a nurse here

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: in the, on the grounds, and if you need something she's available.

M. Hamilton: Nobody even knew it other than us

Det. Poling: Okay. What did James Ray have as far as a nurse

M. Hamilton: Nothing

Det. Poling: or a, on his staff

M. Hamilton: to our knowledge, nothing

Det. Poling: Okay. (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) doctors or a doctor in the participant

Det. Poling: Right

M. Hamilton: But there was nobody that he, to our knowledge, there was not one person that was part of his staff that anybody indicated was a nurse or had any medical knowledge at all.

Det. Poling: So he did have participants that had the term doctor. Cause it could a chiropractor

M. Hamilton: One was a dentist

Det. Poling: it could be an OBGYN, they could be dentists

M. Hamilton: and one I think was a medical doctor I think but I don't know

Det. Poling: Now in your opinion, you've been to sweat lodges, you're a doctor, you're a nurse yourself and you're in the sweat lodge, you're feeling the effects of this, how effective are you at, at being, doing your job when you're in a sweat lodge?

M. Hamilton: I personally feel that the dehydration led to no one in that lodge, James included, having full control of their faculties.

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: That's just a gut feeling, I wasn't there.

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) James Ray. You, you guys do the food?

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Poling: Okay. James Ray was here for how many days out of the week? Okay, I'll even break it down better than that. Uhm, what did uhm, what do you call that?

Sgt. Winslow: Vision Quest

Det. Poling: The Vision Quest was going on, where was James Ray?

(Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Was he eating? Did he eat the same food that the others ate?

M. Hamilton: Nobody ate during that time, they were out at the Vision Quest

Det. Poling: Okay how about after the Vision Quest? Did James (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) you have to check with the actual staff on what was prepared because he always had meals that were a little bit different and he ate it separately

Det. Poling: That's interesting

M. Hamilton: The meals were kinda taken to him

Det. Poling: Who made the meals? Do you have a cook on staff?

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Poling: So the cook on staff would have had to make something special for him

M. Hamilton: Yea, yea

Det. Poling: if he wanted

M. Hamilton: And

Det. Poling: And who would that person be?

M. Hamilton: Uh Kirstin, K-i-r-s-t-i-n

Det. Poling: Kirstin would be, okay she's the cook?

M. Hamilton: Yea, the head chef. So she would know what was done special for him because to my knowledge, and here again, hearsay, I wasn't part of it, I've not looked at a menu

Det. Poling: Alright

M. Hamilton: but he definitely had his own way of doing things.

Det. Poling: He was special wasn't he, compared to the rest of the people at the lodge? I mean he got a special meal, I'm sure. And he had special requests or special habits

M. Hamilton: Yes

Det. Poling: I mean he's a body builder, you know? People don't starve themselves and these people on a Vision Quest. I'm just wondering if, if you saw him eating the same food

M. Hamilton: I never caught him eating anything

Det. Poling: Never ate with the group?

M. Hamilton: I was never there myself

Det. Poling: Oh even with the group during dinner?

M. Hamilton: No, no because James had always been hands off on his participants. Don't talk to them, their focused. So it's always like stay back.

Det. Poling: Right

M. Hamilton: And that's what we did. You know we had uhm one of the things which I do want to bring up because it is an important aspect at least for one of the deaths.

(Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: (Inaudible) probably stuff I've missed so

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) comment to you though, (Inaudible) James Ray made a comment that this isn't hot enough and I want to find out where that came from

Det. Diskin: That came from Amayra

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: Amayra heard that from James (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: James drinks wine. Is that his wine?

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) one of the people that had volunteered here, she is part of, she was sitting there when this all occurred. It happened the evening (Inaudible) people went on the sweat lodge, I mean the Vision Quest on Tuesday night, James was out doing his

thing, evidently had a massage, had dinner out, did different things during the day. I saw him come back maybe 5:00 cause I was just happened to be (Inaudible) that evening, according, again hearsay according to Esther, they had 5 bottles, I don't know where the other bottle went but anyway, the staff, the Dream Team and the staff were there drinking. Liz Neuman was one of the people that was drinking the night before the Vision Quest. James Ray came out one time

Det. Poling: So before the Vision Quest

M. Hamilton: I'm sorry, before the sweat lodge

Det. Poling: Thank you

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Before the sweat lodge. James Ray came out and yelled at the people because they woke him up. They were partying in the dining hall. He came out, made some comment that you woke me up. Esther will tell you more than that. I don't know exactly what was shared. He then went back in the room. He came back out one more time and made some comment. (Inaudible) this is not respectful for the people that are out there. Then came back out a third time and said I want us out of here now. That was the third time that he actually talked to them. But there was a bottle of wine that they were consuming, there was another bottle (Inaudible)

Det. Diskin: Was this Wednesday night?

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: And if you know anything about Vision Quest, I myself had done, had one person here one time where I did a Vision Quest with, it was a three day one, he had plenty of water and every morning I went out, I checked with him every evening. Everything's okay. I held a space for this individual being out there and that's really what the Dream Team's supposed to do. Hold a space in a sacred, meditative, holding the energy but something went terribly wrong. Now what, I don't know.

Det. Diskin: Who was drinking? Was is it the Dream Team and his staff, just his staff, who, who was?

M. Hamilton: You'll have to get that from Esther, I don't know

Det. Diskin: Okay

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

Sgt. Winslow: They were in the dining hall?

M. Hamilton: They were in the dining room. And they have a no drinking policy.

Det. Poling: Now the Dream Team from what I understand participates in the program. They're volunteers but they participate and so if some of the Dream Team members weren't participating in the Vision Quest, they were in the dining hall with the staff drinking.

M. Hamilton: Nobody, none of the staff

Det. Poling: (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: or drinking was part of the Vision Quest. It was strictly participants, period

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: and the other ones were supposed to hold a space. A number of them went in town and went shopping.

Det. Poling: When you say hold a space, you mean be there for (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Energetically

Det. Poling: Energetically

M. Hamilton: You can't, you don't go out to them. (Inaudible) meditation, you understand the concept? You meditate and you hold a space. You hold a container for people to have what they need to have, for them to feel what they need to feel, to experience what they need, it's a meditative

Det. Poling: It's a meditative support group and their out drinking, goofing off not doing what their supposed to be doing.

M. Hamilton: Yep

Det. Poling: Gotcha

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Now I hear

Det. Poling: Hearsay

M. Hamilton: Esther was there, I was not. She was there talking to the Dream Team while they were doing this and she was the one witnessing what James was doing coming out. He said I, something like these people trust me to maintain an energy for them. So what that was, she'll be able to share more.

Det. Poling: Well we hear things that, that you know, you guys had a nurse on staff or you guys had, you had a nurse living here, that was it. And that was

M. Hamilton: period. And she was never contracted, she was never, I never said go down there because in all (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Right

M. Hamilton: everybody we had went down there to see what they could do

Det. Poling: And the last (Inaudible) haven't answered is the pill bottle.

M. Hamilton: And Amayra will go over that.

Det. Poling: Okay. And the last one that I have, just make sure that (Inaudible) you said that in 2005 one person got sick but you made the comment that James Ray's comment was that it's not hot enough. You know anything about that comment?

M. Hamilton: Amayra had, there was a, a couple of (Inaudible) now which one I don't know because he never said that to me. At the lodge, we had a lodge in 2007 that would hire; it was physically a hire lodge and I know that based on what Amayra said he complains to someone that he couldn't get it hot enough.

Det. Poling: Okay, (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: No I do not

Det. Poling: Okay. Do you know the different between, do you know what hypothermia is?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: Do you know what the effects of hypothermia are?

M. Hamilton: I think (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: No, I'm not

Det. Poling: The sweat lodges you've been to, the ceremonial type, ever have 60 people in there?

M. Hamilton: None that I've ever been in

Det. Poling: What's the most people you've ever been in?

M. Hamilton: Probably 20

Det. Poling: When they did, in between sessions during those 20, did they ever stop, you know they do their session, 15 minutes or whatever, do they check you? Does the leader, does the facilitator ask you questions?

M. Hamilton: Not in the ones I've done

Det. Diskin: Can you go outside in between rounds?

M. Hamilton: There were a couple I did go out

Det. Diskin: Was that discouraged? Like, like

M. Hamilton: No, no

Det. Diskin: well you should really try and stick it out

M. Hamilton: I've never been in one where there's ever been any mention of (Inaudible) that's not my reality. You know every one I've ever been in, it was true and inner guidance on if I was done I could go out and I could sit out. There was absolutely zero pressure for me to do anything other than what I was guided to do.

Det. Poling: If before uh, before this happened would you have gone into one of his sweat lodges knowing what happened in 2007 or you know what I mean, just knowing the type of

M. Hamilton: I probably would have, if I'd been invited I probably would have but I was never invited. Because I had no, no awareness that; one of the things that you know maybe is nice to share, Angel Valley is truly has been since we began about self empowerment. Listen to your own heart, listen to what you're being told, not somebody else. You know, nobody knows what's best for anyone else. I got a tough enough time knowing what's best for me so I would not be the type of person that would stay in when somebody says hey tough it out. Bullshit, I'm out. There, let me share one you may or may not know this, Carl Nelson, he was one of the participants.

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: He was here the night, he actually was gonna stay a few more nights, he was here Friday evening. And he was getting on the shuttle and I was down, just happened to be standing there (Inaudible) on a Friday night and we got talking. And he said earlier in the week when they first came and invited everybody to shave their head, he said, when he and his wife were standing there side by side he said we're not doing that. No, we're not going to. I said wow, good. And then he was saying that he went in and had one round; he came out and he said to his wife, he said this is not a religious experience at all. And then his wife made a comment, the, we, we challenge ourselves all the time. So it's not about not challenging ourselves but it was something beyond that that was occurring in that lodge. And I said to him thank you, thank you, thank you for listening to your own heart. Had everybody done that, we'd have a different event but they didn't.

Det. Poling: Well it seems to be, well it's just my opinion, it's gone beyond spiritual.

M. Hamilton: Trust me, it's beyond anything spiritual I'm aware of. And that's what for me was the heartbreaking thing that my God why don't people listen to themselves.

Det. Poling: Were you down there when 911 was called?

M. Hamilton: No

Det. Poling: Okay

M. Hamilton: I was up here. Amayra was there, both her and Debby ran to the phone at the same time because Amayra called me first to let me know what was happening. Debby's call went in second right before hers did.

Det. Poling: What did you hear, when you heard about the 911 call, what did you here, and I know this is hearsay so I don't care about that, what did you hear about James' reaction when this was happening, what was he doing or what were you hearing that he was doing?

M. Hamilton: I didn't hear anything.

Det. Poling: Was he helping? Was he going back to his room? Was he taking a shower? Was he, what did you hear? And it's hearsay, that's fine

M. Hamilton: I know that I was down there as they were pulling people on helicopter and I would say probably after the first helicopter, one of the officers wanted to talk to James that's, I keep thinking that was you

Det. Diskin: I wasn't there, I came early the next morning

M. Hamilton: There was someone there that night and I said he's in his room. I said you want me to take you there? Yes. So I took the officer down to the room and I said I ain't

knocking on the door, I said you knock on it. (Inaudible) Anyway he knocked on the door and James said Yes. And he said I'm taking a shower. And uh the officer, either taking a shower or still getting dressed or something and the officer said I'd like to talk to you. I'm busy! The officer said I need to talk to you now. So then we, he got on the cart with us and we took him down and he spent the rest of the evening

Det. Poling: So there's still people being attended to down there and he's in his room taking a shower?

M. Hamilton: Yep

Det. Poling: (Inaudible) need to know

Det. Diskin: So helicopters were still (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: There's still activity going on

Det. Diskin: Okay

M. Hamilton: Not all the ambulances had gone

Det. Poling: Okay

Sgt. Winslow: Do you remember what the officer looked like?

M. Hamilton: If I saw him I'd know

Det. Diskin: Was he in uniform?

M. Hamilton: Yea

Det. Diskin: Okay

Sgt. Winslow: Stripes, no stripes? (Inaudible) Big tall guy, little guy? Spiked hair, (Inaudible) hair, old like me? Good looking like me? Mannerisms? Just wondering who that was that might have talked to him initially and got him up out of

(Inaudible) (Inaudible) uniform

(Inaudible)

Det. Poling: That's one thing we've got to do is get them to write their reports

Sgt. Winslow: That's hard to do

M. Hamilton: It was one of those that rode down with me and then we rode back together

Sgt. Winslow: Okay, (Inaudible) back down to where the police cars and (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Yea we do and I've asked all the questions I need

Det. Diskin: Uhm let me just real quick, if something comes up and we got a quick questions, can I call him? Give him the question and he can get with you and (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Absolutely, absolutely

Det. Diskin: So in the future if I have a question I'll call you, tell you what the question I was looking for and then you can get with your attorney before you answer.

M. Hamilton: What do you want to do with the bottle?

(Inaudible)

Sgt. Winslow: They were in the kitchen

(Inaudible) They were just there

Det. Poling: Can we collect them? You guys have no problem with that?

(Inaudible) You don't want them here

Det. Poling: We'll collect them

Det. Diskin: We'll collect them just cause we're collecting everything but

Sgt. Winslow: (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Now I don't drink wine so I have no clue if any of this is potent or not but I do know enough from the people I talk to if you drink you have a higher likelihood your gonna have more problems with dehydration

Det. Poling: Right

Det. Diskin: Yea (Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: (Inaudible) Esther would be the person that would know that

Det. Poling: Okay, we appreciate that

(Inaudible)

Det. Poling: And that you for talking (Inaudible)

(Inaudible)

M. Hamilton: Well I wish we were talking about something more joyful

(Inaudible)

Sgt. Winslow: Maybe something like this won't ever happen again

(Inaudible)

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