

**MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

P.O. Box 276  
Mariposa, CA 95338

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT  
DUPLICATION OR REISSUANCE  
CONTROLLED BY LAW

CA0220000

RECEIVED Tom Vacar Phone (209) 966-3615  
BY A13 DATE 12/13/21 Fax (209) 742-5090  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
08/17/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Primary NarrativeCASE NARRATIVE**Elements:**

Missing

**Synopsis:**

On 08/17/2021 I was dispatched to contact [REDACTED] via telephone regarding possible overdue subjects. I contacted [REDACTED] and she stated her clients, Jonathan Gerrish and Ellen Chung, have not been spoken to since 08/14/2021 and both have missed work on 08/16/2021. [REDACTED] said their babysitter arrived on the morning of 08/16/2021 to watch their child-in-common, [REDACTED] (1 Y/O), but no one was around the residence. [REDACTED] stated all of their personal effects were still at the residence including wallets and cell phones. [REDACTED] stated they frequently go hiking in the area but being gone this long is very unusual along with missing work. [REDACTED] also said their grey 2020 Ford F-150 was gone along with their dog. I responded to the residence and contacted the babysitter [REDACTED] and she showed me all of Jonathan and Ellen's personal belongings that were left behind. I noticed missed calls and messages from 2 days prior on their cell phones. I checked the end of Hites Cove Road where a local trailhead starts and observed the described vehicle parked with no one around. Search and Rescue was called out and team members were sent to the South Fork of the Merced River.

**Details:**

On 08/17/2021 at approx. 0016 hours, I was dispatched to contact [REDACTED] via telephone regarding possible overdue subjects.

I contacted [REDACTED] and she stated she is a manager for Jonathan Gerrish and Ellen Chung and she manages appointments and family affairs including scheduling their babysitter. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was scheduled to babysit [REDACTED] (1 Y/O) for Jonathan and Ellen on 08/16/2021 during the day while they worked. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] arrived at their residence and noticed all of their personal belongings were still there including their cell phones and wallets. [REDACTED] said the cell phones had missed calls and messages from 2 days prior. [REDACTED] said their 2020 Ford F-150 Raptor was gone as well as their dog. [REDACTED] said Jonathan and Ellen frequently go hiking in the area on the weekends. [REDACTED] said Jonathan missed some appointments at work which is highly unusual for him. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] was returning to the residence in an attempt to gather further information as to the whereabouts of Jonathan and Ellen.

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DATE 12/3/21

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I responded to [REDACTED] Hites Cove Road (Jonathan and Ellen's residence) and met with [REDACTED] and she showed me into the residence. I observed Jonathan's wallet with various credit cards and I.D.'s along with his cell phone. I also observed a diaper bag which [REDACTED] said they always take with them. Ellen's cell phone was also located with missed calls and text messages from 2 days prior on it. I checked the property and did not see anything suspicious or out of place. [REDACTED] said she arrived at the residence on 08/16/2021 at approx. 1100 hours to babysit and that is when she started to worry and called [REDACTED].

I checked the area including a local trailhead to Hites Cove and located Jonathan's vehicle parked. Search and Rescue was called out and the scene was turned over to Deputy [REDACTED]

On 08/17/2021 at approx. 1645 hours, I made contact with [REDACTED] who stated on 08/15/2021 at approx. 0745 hours she was walking her dogs on Hites Cove Road and observed a grey pickup pass her which matched the description of Jonathan's truck. [REDACTED] stated she reached the trailhead to Hites Cove and observed the vehicle parked on the hill but did not think anything of it. [REDACTED] said after hearing about this incident she called to report what she had seen.

**Recommendations:**

Remain active

**Follow-up:** **Attachments:**

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 08:49 PM

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[REDACTED]Supplement 01

On August 18, 2021 at approximately 1400 hours, I called and spoke with the original reporting party [REDACTED]. I informed [REDACTED] that I was trying to work on a timeline leading up to them calling us. [REDACTED] informed me that she had intermittent conversation with Johnathan leading up to the weekend. She said that she handles many of his affairs and is usually in almost constant communication with him. [REDACTED] said that she had not been able to reach Johnathan and he had not read any of her messages beyond Sunday morning. She said that he is usually busy and may not always respond but she can see when he reads her messages.

[REDACTED] said that she began to get a bad feeling on Sunday evening when she had not had any communication with him all day. [REDACTED] said that the babysitter, [REDACTED] arrived to watch [REDACTED] at 1100 am on Monday morning. [REDACTED] told her that she found it odd that they were gone with the truck but left all their belongings and diaper bag behind. They did not think too much of it at that time as they are a very active family.

[REDACTED] said that as the day progressed though she kept trying to find them and spoke with friend/employee [REDACTED] who told her that he was supposed to meet with Johnathan but had not been able to reach him. [REDACTED] said that she spoke with [REDACTED] again around 1 pm and [REDACTED] wanted to call law enforcement at that time but they decided to look for them themselves. [REDACTED] said that around 5 pm they began to drive around and physically look for them themselves. They checked known locations but did not think to go all the way to the Hite's Cove trailhead. [REDACTED] said that they finally gave up and called for our help late that night (11 pm is when we received the call).

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/18/2021 04:53 PM

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Fax (209) 742-5090**Case Number**  
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08/18/21**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]Supplement 02

On 8/18/2021, I authored a search warrant for Jonathan Gerrish and Ellen Chung's residence at [REDACTED] Hites Cove Road, Mariposa Ca. I met with Honorable Judge [REDACTED] who reviewed and granted the search warrant (S-1231).

Members of the Mariposa County Detective unit responded to [REDACTED] Hites Cove Road. Due to all the doors and windows locked, Units were able to gain entry through a small window on the laundry room door. Once inside the residence, photographs were taken of the interior prior to searching.

During a search of the residence, the following items were located:

1. Game Camera (Game Innovations model [REDACTED]) located in the driveway on a cedar tree.
2. Psilocybin mushrooms located in nightstand in the master bedroom.
3. Apple MacBook [REDACTED] located in the front room.
4. Black Smartphone located in the front room.
5. Black Smartphone located in the downstairs bedroom.
6. Apple Laptop [REDACTED] located in the downstairs bedroom.
7. MacBook Pro [REDACTED] located in the downstairs bedroom.
8. Indicia- Jonathan Gerrish located in the downstairs office.
9. Indicia- Ellen Chung located on the kitchen counter.

All items were logged and placed into evidence.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 11:56 AM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 03

On 8/18/2021, I authored a search warrant for Jonathan Gerrish and Ellen Chung's 2020 grey Ford Raptor [REDACTED] I met with Honorable Judge [REDACTED] who reviewed and granted the search warrant (S-1230).

On 8/19/2021, at approximately 0810 hours, I executed search warrant S-1230. I conducted a search of the Ford Raptor and nothing of evidentiary value was located during the search of the truck.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 11:56 AM

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**Date**  
08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 04

On 8/17/2021, at approximately 1100 hours, I received information Search and Rescue members located three (3) deceased subjects (two (2) adults and a child) and a dog on the Savage Lundy trail. Members of the Detective unit responded to the area. Upon arrival, Detective Sgt. [REDACTED], Detective [REDACTED], Detective [REDACTED] and Detective [REDACTED] made their way down to where the subjects were located (Please refer to Detective [REDACTED] Case #'s [REDACTED] for details) while I was tasked with keeping a crime scene log.

**Crime Scene log:**

At approximately 1250 hours, Captain [REDACTED], Sergeant [REDACTED] and Detective [REDACTED] entered the scene.

At approximately 1300 hours, Detective [REDACTED] and Detective [REDACTED] entered the scene.

At approximately 1445 hours, Law Enforcement Officer [REDACTED] with US Forest Service arrived on scene.

At approximately 1630 hours, Department of Justice (DOJ) Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) [REDACTED] arrived on scene.

At approximately 1715 hours, [REDACTED] arrived on scene.

[REDACTED] loaded the 2020 Ford Raptor [REDACTED] that is registered to both Jonathan Gerrish and Ellen Chung onto their tow truck. I followed them while they transported the truck to the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office evidence yard for evidence storage.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

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RECEIVED Tom VacarPhone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090BY A15 DATE 12/31/21

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 11:59 AM MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Case Number**  
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**Date**  
08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 05

On August 18, 2021 I met with the extraction team at the Jersydale fire station LZ. At approximately 1455 hours, I took position of the deceased K-9 and placed it in my ACO vehicle. The dog was tagged with a body tag.

Dr. [REDACTED] had previously made arrangements with California Animal Health and Food Safety Lab [REDACTED] for either delivery on this date or the following day for a necropsy on the dog. By time the dog remains were collected, it was too late in the day to deliver to the Lab on the August 18, 2021 date. The dog remains were secured in the ACO refrigerator at Animal Control.

On August 19, 2021 I delivered the dog remains directly to Pathologist [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] where Pathologist [REDACTED] took possession of the dog remains.

The dog is described as "Oski", a male 8 year old Aussie/Akita mix with golden long hair coat.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Attach to main for review.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 12:00 PM

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Fax (209) 742-5090**Case Number**  
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08/19/21**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]Supplement 06

On 08/17/2021, Deputy [REDACTED] request the Mariposa County Search and Rescue (SAR) team be called out to search for the missing subjects. I, Deputy [REDACTED], had dispatch personnel make the call out to the Search and Rescue team. While waiting for team members to respond, I contacted Cedar Lodge by telephone to see if the subjects may have hiked the Hites Cove trail down to Highway 140. I also contacted the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and requested a helicopter to assist with the search. I was informed by OES that the helicopter was not going to be able to until daylight and would not be airborne until 0800 hours.

I then responded to the Hite Cove trailhead (37° 36.285'N -119° 50.490'W) with Search and Rescue members. The team and I arrived at the trailhead at 0357 hours. I deployed a two-man team to search down Hites Cove Road at 0400 hours. Below is a timeline for the SAR team activities:

0400- Two-man team deployed down Hites Cove road in a Rhino utility task vehicle (UTV).

0413- The team radioed in that they found tracks on the road.

0449- The team radioed in that they made it to "marble point" and were still following tracks.

0640- I received information that the helicopter was going to be coming out of Fresno Air National Guard and would be airborne at 0930 hours.

0645- The team radioed in that they made it to the campground located at the river and were heading back, and there no sign of tracks at the campground.

0705- The team radioed in they located tracks heading out trail 20E01.4 and were going to follow the tracks on foot.

0755- The team radioed in that they were heading back to the trailhead.

0825- Two additional SAR members arrived at Hites Cove trailhead and were sent to the Savage Lundy trailhead (19E05)

0835- Three more SAR members arrived at the Hites Cove Trailhead.

0843- Those three team members go to the Savage Lundy Trailhead and then start down the trail with the first two SAR members at that trailhead.

0859- Helicopter took off from Fresno.

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0905-Team returns from Hites Cove Road to trailhead.

0923- Team on Savage Lundy trail call on the radio for a Deputy to meet at the following coordinates [REDACTED]

0933- Helicopter arrives overhead.

0934- I make contact with helicopter and advise them that two of the three subjects have been located and to start aerial search of the hillside.

0935- Sergeant [REDACTED] and I started down the Savage Lundy trail to make contact with the team that located the first two subjects.

1000- Contacted the team and the two deceased subjects, one adult male and one female child along with one dog. I also advised the helicopter that the one subject still missing was an adult female.

At that point, I photographed the deceased subjects and had two of the SAR team members stand by at the scene while the other three SAR members continued to search for the female down the trail.

I then started back up the trail to return to the trailhead and staging area. While heading back, I noticed some disturbed dirt on the uphill side of the trail that appeared that something or someone had tried to go up the hill. As I looked up the hill, I noticed a shoe and then saw the remains of an adult female [REDACTED] I discovered that remains at approximately 1020 hours. At that same time the team that was continuing down the trail located a Ford key fob on the trail [REDACTED]. I instructed the team to photograph the key where it was found and then collect the key. I then radioed into Sergeant [REDACTED] that the female subject had been located. I took photographs of the deceased before returning to the trailhead. At that point, I canceled the helicopter since all three subjects had been located. I had the SAR team stay in the area of the scene to protect the integrity of the scene.

At approximately 1200 hours, I started back down the trail to take some supplies to the team and collect the key that was found. I then left one SAR member down at the scene and had the other four SAR members return to the trailhead. Once I was at the trailhead, I turned the key over to Detective [REDACTED]

At approximately 1400 hours, the scene was turned over to the detective unit and all SAR personnel were released from the scene.

On 08/19/2021, I uploaded all the photographs I took at the scene to Evidence.com.

**Recommendations:**

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Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 12:09 PM

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08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 07

On 8/19/2021, I met with [REDACTED] in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office. Keys (Truck, SUV, and House) that were located at Jonathan and Eileen's residence ([REDACTED] Hites Cove Rd.) the day they were discovered were taken for safe keeping prior to the residence being secured. The keys were turned over to [REDACTED]

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/25/2021 07:32 AM

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**Date**  
08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 08

On 08/17/2021 at approximately 1130 hours, I was assigned to assist in this case as I was advised SAR personnel located three (3) deceased subjects and one (1) deceased dog, believed to be the missing subjects in this case. At approximately 1300 hours, I arrived at the Savage Lundy trailhead where I made my way down to where Jonathan, Ellen [REDACTED] and Oski had been located by SAR personnel (refer to SAR Response supplement for coordinates and further details). I left the scene at approximately 1600 hours; the scene was secured by Detective [REDACTED] and Captain [REDACTED] until the victim's were able to be safely recovered utilizing CHP H40.

On 08/18/2021 at approximately 1100 hours, I met with CHP H40 at the helipad located at the Jerseydale Fire Station to prepare for the recovery of Jonathan, Ellen, [REDACTED] and Oski (dog).

At approximately 1300 hours, Jonathan was recovered from Devil's Gulch by H40 and flown to the helipad. At approximately 1307 hours, I collected Jonathan from H40 and conducted a secondary examination of Jonathan. Jonathan was in a moderate to advanced state of decomposition, had sloughing of his skin, skin discolorations ranging from green to dark brown and black, and had drying of his hands. I did not observe any obvious signs of trauma on Jonathan. Jonathan's wedding band was removed from his left-hand ring finger and placed into an envelope for safekeeping. Jonathan's clothing was left on Jonathan to not further disturb his body pre-autopsy (refer to case number [REDACTED] for further details). An ID tag was placed on Jonathan's ankle and his coroner bag was secured with a zip tie and ID tag.

At approximately 1420 hours, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Oski (canine) was transported out of Devil's Gulch along with [REDACTED] I conducted a secondary examination of Oski and did not observe any signs of obvious trauma. Oski was in an advanced state of decomposition and had many maggots on his body. An ID tag was placed on Oski's ankle and an ID tag was placed on Oski's coroner bag. Oski was turned over to ACO [REDACTED] to be stored at ACO until Oski could be transported to Tulare for a necropsy.

At approximately 1440 hours, Ellen was recovered from Devil's Gulch by H40 and flown to the helipad. At approximately 1447 hours, I collected Ellen from H40 and conducted a secondary examination of Ellen. Ellen was in a moderate to advanced state of decomposition, had

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sloughing of her skin, skin discolorations ranging from green to dark brown and black, and had drying of her hands. I did not observe any obvious signs of trauma to Ellen. Ellen's wedding bands were removed from her left-hand ring finger and placed into an envelope for safekeeping (one white gold band, one white gold band with diamond). The backpack on Ellen was cut off of her at both shoulder straps, as it was difficult to remove due to Ellen's body positioning. Ellen's clothing was left on Ellen to not further disturb her body pre-autopsy (Refer to case number [REDACTED] for further details). I placed an ID tag on Ellen's ankle and Ellen's coroner bag was secured with a zip tie and ID tag.

At approximately 1458 hours, Jonathan and Ellen were turned over to [REDACTED] All subjects were transported by [REDACTED] to Stanislaus County Coroner's Office for full autopsies.

Ellen's backpack and [REDACTED] carrier were collected as evidence and later placed into the evidence system.

On 08/19/2021 at approximately 0830 hours, I attended Jonathan's autopsy, which was conducted by Dr. [REDACTED] of Stanislaus County Coroner's Office. Jonathan's clothing was removed and set aside to dry and be collected at a later date. Jonathan's underwear, a pair of Calvin Klein brand black boxer briefs, had a large hole/rip on the rear. I did not observe any hole in Jonathan's shorts or his other clothing. Jonathan's clothing consisted of one pair of tennis shoes, one pair of gray socks, one pair of underwear, dark colored shorts, and a yellow tee shirt.

Dr. [REDACTED] collected a blood sample from Jonathan's femoral artery and was able to collect a small amount of urine that was present in Jonathan's bladder. Dr. [REDACTED] stated Jonathan had very little contents in his stomach and nothing in his bowels. Dr. [REDACTED] stated he did not see any signs of trauma on Jonathan. Dr. [REDACTED] was unable to give a cause of death at this time.

At approximately 0930 hours, I attended Ellen's autopsy which was conducted by Dr. [REDACTED] of Stanislaus County Coroner's Office. Ellen's clothing was removed and set aside to dry and be collected at a later date. Ellen's clothing consisted of one pair of brown hiking boots, one pair of white socks, one pair of purple underwear, dark colored spandex shorts, and a yellow tank top. Ellen had on a pair of gold, ball stud earrings which were removed and placed into a container to be collected along with the clothing.

Dr. [REDACTED] collected a blood sample from Ellen's femoral artery. Dr. [REDACTED] stated Ellen had no contents in her stomach and nothing in her bowels. Dr. [REDACTED] stated he did not see any signs of trauma on Ellen. Dr. [REDACTED] was unable to give a cause of death at this time.

At approximately 1030 hours, I attended [REDACTED]

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**Recommendation:**

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Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/25/2021 06:20 AM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 09

On 08/18/2021, I assisted with the search warrant at the residence of Jonathan and Ellen. At approximately 1600 hours, [REDACTED] met us at the residence to allow us entry, as it had been relayed to detectives that she had the keys to the residence and vehicle. When [REDACTED] arrived, [REDACTED], assisted in translation as [REDACTED] is Spanish speaking. [REDACTED] was also accompanied by [REDACTED], who also assisted with some translation.

[REDACTED] stated she does not have keys to the residence, or vehicle, as Jonathan and Ellen usually leave the residence unlocked. [REDACTED] stated she was at the residence with Jonathan and Ellen on Friday 08/13/2021. [REDACTED] stated she cleaned the home Friday and left at approximately 1600 hours. [REDACTED] stated she received a video of [REDACTED] starting to walk via text message from Ellen that evening and that is the last time they spoke. [REDACTED] stated she returned Monday morning (08/16/2021) at approximately 1100 hours to clean the residence. [REDACTED] stated the doors were unlocked, which was normal, so she entered and cleaned the home as usual. [REDACTED] stated the only thing unusual she noticed was that there were three (3) wine glasses and three (3) cups of coffee on the counter, which she washed and then placed in the dishwasher. I asked if Ellen or Jonathan had mentioned having any visitors coming for the weekend, [REDACTED] stated they did not but stated it was also not unusual for them to have friends from San Francisco come visit on weekends. [REDACTED] and her family were very emotional during our contact and stated they were devastated by the news of the family's passing. [REDACTED] stated she could not think of anything further to add at this time.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/25/2021 06:22 AM

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Supplement 10

On 08/19/2021 at approximately 1732 hours, I made telephonic contact with [REDACTED] from the Sheriff's Office line 1. [REDACTED] had previously called into the dispatch center wishing to provide a statement regarding this case.

[REDACTED] stated he was at Jonathan's residence on Friday (08/13/2021) with the plumber, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated they were there from approximately 1230 – 1400 hours. [REDACTED] explained he and Jonathan have a professional friendship and [REDACTED] is managing the million-dollar renovation of Jonathan's other home located on Carleton Rd in Mariposa. [REDACTED] explained Jonathan owns four (4) houses in Mariposa County and [REDACTED] works with [REDACTED] construction company to complete work for Jonathan. [REDACTED] stated he received a text from Jonathan on Saturday at 2014 hours telling [REDACTED] that Onyx is amazing. [REDACTED] read me the text verbatim and also sent me a screenshot of the conversation where Jonathan tells [REDACTED], *"Mate! Onyx is amazing! Just been battling through the bush to find the property corners so much fun!"*

[REDACTED] stated Jonathan was looking for the property boundaries and was really excited about finding them. [REDACTED] stated Jonathan has made comments about how excited he was to buy the house and how Jonathan was excited to go hiking. [REDACTED] stated Jonathan and Ellen were very protective of [REDACTED] and had called [REDACTED] to their residence because they felt her bedroom was too stuffy. [REDACTED] stated he had to have [REDACTED] go to the residence to get the room cooler. [REDACTED] stated Jonathan and Ellen loved [REDACTED] and would never kill themselves or put her in harm's way on purpose.

[REDACTED] stated Jonathan and Ellen are "city folk" and stated Jonathan was even going to buy wood for their wood burning stove and he could not even see Jonathan trying to cut wood. [REDACTED] stated he could see Jonathan hiking beyond his abilities, if that were the case; however, he was surprised that Ellen and the baby would, and that the dog would be dead with them. [REDACTED] stated he and Jonathan would share stories of going to Burning Man and have shared things about their lives in the past.

[REDACTED] stated when he learned the family was missing, he went to their house to see if they could see any signs of a struggle but nothing out of the ordinary was observed. [REDACTED] stated he then went to the Savage-Lundy trailhead where he stated he met a Sergeant from the Sheriff's Office and left the scene after speaking to the sergeant and offering to help. [REDACTED] was provided my work cell phone number if he thinks of anything to add.

I uploaded the screenshot of the text message Jonathan sent to [REDACTED] to evidence.com.

**Recommendation:**

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CA0220000

RECEIVED Tom Vacar

Phone (209) 966-3615

BY A13 DATE 12/3/21

Fax (209) 742-5090

MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/25/2021 06:26 AM

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CA0220000

Phone (209) 966-3615  
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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 11

On 08/19/2021 hours at approximately 1100 hours, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The

following is a synopsis of the interview and the recording was uploaded to Evidence.com to this case. It should be noted the recording stopped without my knowledge approximately 5 minutes into the interview when a phone call came into the department issued cell phone that was recording the interview through the Axon Application.

[REDACTED] stated he had information regarding this incident. He estimated approximately one and a half weeks ago, he rode his Yamaha Banshee Racing Quad to the Merced River and got stuck near the bottom of "Hites Mine Road." [REDACTED] stated he "drank the God damn piss" out of one of the water access sources from the area near the Hites Cove Trail. [REDACTED] stated he did not become ill from drinking water.

[REDACTED] also mentioned he saw two suspicious vehicles in the Merced River Canyon. He described one of the vehicles as maroon 4-door sedan he thought may have been a newer Toyota Corolla. He observed the vehicle near the North Fork of the Merced River. He saw a "chubby female with dark hair and highlights" standing near the riverbank wearing a long white dress. He was not certain if she was related to the sedan, but stated she was standing with her arms crossed in front of her or holding something in her arms while he drove by her at approximately 2300 hours on Monday. He thought he saw another subject near the river edge walking towards the unknown female. He also saw a van that stopped near the one lane bridge closest to Yosemite National Park in the Ferguson Slide area off Highway 140. He said the van stopped in front of the gate leading to Incline Road and two subjects were in the van, but he was unable to identify them as male or female because they hid from him as he drove past. He thought he observed the van in the area on two occasions and on one of the occasions the subjects were looking into the Merced River. He reported the vehicle as having an Arizona license plate. He was unable to provide any collaborating evidence.

[REDACTED] stated she is an employee of [REDACTED] bar and grill and she believes she saw Jonathan, Ellen, and [REDACTED] on Monday evening. They ordered food to take out from the restaurant. She stated the female was wearing a long white dress and the male subject seemed angry. She described the male as having a serious face and not wanting to talk to her. She asked the subjects what they had been doing and they responded they had been out sightseeing. [REDACTED] did not believe they had been hiking due to the attire the woman was wearing. She estimated seeing the family between 1900 and 2000 hours and said they paid with their credit card. The restaurant closes around 2030 hours or when patrons are no longer coming in for service.

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I advised [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that I would follow-up on the information regarding [REDACTED] and document [REDACTED] statement of his consumption of river water in the area. I concluded the interview at approximately 1115 hours.

At approximately 1300 hours, I contacted [REDACTED] to inquire about credit card transactions on Monday evening between the hours of 1800 and closing. I was provided the name of [REDACTED] regarding obtaining such information. I contacted [REDACTED] at the phone number provided. [REDACTED] advised he would look into all credit card records for the [REDACTED] Restaurant and advise if Jonathan or Ellen's cards were used at the [REDACTED]. At approximately 1400 hours, [REDACTED] called back and advised no such records were located. [REDACTED] advised the cameras on the [REDACTED] property were not facing the restaurant so patrons would not be visible as they entered the restaurant.

I attempted to contact [REDACTED] at the phone number he provided to advise him of my findings. The phone went to voicemail and I left a message requesting him to return my call.

As of now, it does not appear information from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] provides significant relevance to the case.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 07:56 AM

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08/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 12

On 08/19/2021 I escorted two members from the local environmental health and two members from the state water board to trail 20E01.4 so that they could obtain water samples from the area. We walked in approximately one mile on the trail, not going all the way to where that trail ties into the Savage Lundy trail. The water board members took a sample from a small creek crossing and from the South Fork of the Merced River.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 12:10 PM

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08/20/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 13

On 8-17-21, I assisted Detectives with photographing the scene of where the three victims and dog were located in the Devil's Gulch area as well as where their vehicle was parked at the top of the Lundy trailhead.

On 8-18-21, I was stationed at the Jerseydale Heliport along with other Sheriff's Office personnel and photographed the victims and dog as they were transported by helicopter from the Devil's Gulch area to the heliport for transportation to the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office and Mariposa Sheriff's Office Animal Control.

On 8-19-21, I was assigned to photograph the autopsy of the three victims. Detective Sergeant [REDACTED], Detective [REDACTED] were present during the autopsy.

On 8-20-21, all photographs were downloaded to AXON Evidentce.com under this case number.

(Reference Coroner's Cases [REDACTED])

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main report.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 12:28 PM

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08/20/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 14

On 8/20/2021, I removed items #11 Black Google Pixel 4 smartphone, #4 Black Google smartphone, #5 Black Google smartphone, #7 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED] /Serial# [REDACTED], #3 Rose/Gold MacBook / [REDACTED] /Serial # [REDACTED], #6 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED] / Serial # [REDACTED], and #1 Green Wild Game Camera / Model [REDACTED] from evidence at the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office.

On 8/20/2021, I authored a search warrant for the cellphones and MacBook's collected during the execution of search warrant (S-1231), and the cellphone that was removed from Jonathan's person. At approximately 0955 hours, I met with Honorable Judge [REDACTED] who reviewed and granted the search warrant (S-1232).

Items 11, 4, 5, 7, 3, and 6 were delivered to [REDACTED] with Modesto Police Department who will be extracting the data from the cellphones and MacBook. Due to the amount of time it takes to extract the information from the cellphones and MacBook's, all the items were left in his [REDACTED] possession.

On 8/20/2021, a copy of search warrant (S-1232) was emailed to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised me Jonathan recently established an [REDACTED] account and she will be emailing me a copy of Jonathan's location data.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/22/2021 12:31 PM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 15

On Wednesday, August 18, 2021, I obtained the 2.5L/85oz, Osprey Hydraulics LT water bladder that was on Ellen. I took custody of the hydration pack at the Jerseydale Fire LZ when units processed the evidence shipped from the scene via H40. Later that evening I met with Mariposa County Environmental Health employee, [REDACTED], at the intersection of Jerseydale and Scott Roads. We obtained personal protective equipment including rubber gloves and I placed some of the remaining water from the pack into a bottle for testing at a later date. [REDACTED] took custody of the water sample at that time and I remained custody of the hydration pack.

At the time of booking the hydration pack into our evidence system, I cut one corner of the pack to obtain the few remaining drops of water from the pack into a sample bottle. I taped the corner back and placed the pack into a paper bag. I placed the hydration pack and the small amount of water collected into the evidence system.

**Recommendations:**

None

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/26/2021 10:44 AM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 16

On 08/24/2021, I received an email from Sergeant [REDACTED] containing an attachment of the water sample test findings conducted by Bend Genetics, LLC. Per the documents received, the findings are as follows:

Sample ID SWPCA210818-CB (Camel back sample) contained a moderate amount of indistinguishable detritus (possibly biofilm) and a moderately high amount of "very small" motile bacteria.

Sample ID SWPCA210819-10 (Creek 1 Sample) contained and indistinguishable detritus, a low amount of eukaryotic algae and no cyanobacteria.

Sample ID SWPCA210809-11 (Merced R SF Beach 1 sample) contained a high amount of Anabaena sp. That consisted with two different morphotypes (large and small cells), a moderate amount of Nostoc sp. And a low amount of Microcoleus sp.

I attached the reports to this case.

At approximately 1000 hours, Assistant Coroner [REDACTED] and I contacted [REDACTED] of CDPH to assist with understanding the water test results. We spoke to [REDACTED] on the Sheriff's Office line 3. [REDACTED] stated the Anabaena sp. and Nostoc sp. are anatoxin-a's which are considered a neurotoxin. [REDACTED] stated the level found in the sample being 11.8 ug/l is a low level but is significant in the fact it shows anatoxin-a's are in that body of water. [REDACTED] stated the level at the time the family may have been near that area may be different due to movement and because anatoxin-a is the least stable toxin, and it comes and goes. [REDACTED] stated this neurotoxin is known to kill dogs and livestock, which they have many reports of, but they have no known human deaths associated with anatoxin-a.

[REDACTED] stated dogs who ingest the neurotoxin succumb to it very quickly, within 30 minutes to an hour, as it is a fast-acting toxin. [REDACTED] stated the level of 11.8 ug/l to cause death would require the subject to drink "liters" of the fluid, as it is a low level. Again, [REDACTED] stated the level is subjective, as we do not know the anatoxin-a level exactly at the time the family may have been exposed to it. [REDACTED] stated Blue-Green Algae forms clumps and the algal mats can have a very high amount of anatoxin-a. [REDACTED] informed us that the effects of anatoxin-a are that it puts ion channels into the nervous system, which will cause the affected subject's respiratory system to fail. One would have difficulty breathing and may have seizures. [REDACTED] stated because there are no known human deaths related to anatoxin-a, but known animal deaths, anytime anatoxin-a is located in a body of water, even in small amounts, a "caution" is recommended in the area. [REDACTED] was asked about the large amount of bacteria in the Camelbak, [REDACTED] stated he doesn't have much knowledge on the bacteria located and recommended contacting [REDACTED], who

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is employed at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), or [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who is employed at the California State Water Resources Control Board.

Assistant Coroner [REDACTED] later contacted [REDACTED], a conference call was scheduled for Thursday (08/26/2021) at 0900 hours to go over the Camelbak Results.

At approximately 1015 hours, I received an email from Assistant Coroner [REDACTED] containing an attachment of the preliminary necropsy report for Oski (Canine).

The exam was conducted by Dr. [REDACTED] on 08/19/2021 and a secondary exam was conducted 08/20/2021. On the exam conducted 08/19/2021, Dr. [REDACTED] noted Oski's stomach and small intestines contained leaves, fern plants, and pine needles. Oski's rectum contained fecal matter which she stated was consistent with dog food. Dr. [REDACTED] stated dehydration could not be determined due to the postmortem condition of the dog. Dr. [REDACTED] noted she is working with her toxicologist for direction.

On the secondary exam conducted 08/20/2021, Dr. [REDACTED] stated she re-examined Oski for burn marks to determine if a lightning strike may have been the cause of death. No burn marks were observed on Oski, or around the metal of his collar. Dr. [REDACTED] stated Gastric emptying in dogs varies, usually taking 12-18 hours. Dr. [REDACTED] stated dehydration was unable to be determined; however, she stated depending on when Oski last drank, death in high heat can happen within a few hours. Dr. [REDACTED] stated some contents were being sent to their toxicologist for gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to look for toxic agents.

I attached the document received to this report.

It should be noted, I did not observe any burn marks in the area where the bodies were located when I arrived on scene.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/01/2021 08:03 AM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
08/25/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 17

On 08/24/2021, I received information that Jonathan and Ellen had a nanny by the name of [REDACTED] (unknown last) and there was "rumor" that [REDACTED] had fled after this incident and hasn't been heard from since. Per the information I received, there was speculation that [REDACTED] had gone to the residence, found the family missing, and had possibly stolen money and then left the Mariposa area. Further information received was that [REDACTED] is dating [REDACTED] and I could possibly locate [REDACTED] through [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] family.

At approximately 1510 hours, I contacted The Gerrish-Chung family manager, [REDACTED] and asked who the nanny for Jonathan and Ellen was. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was the nanny and the house cleaner. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] worked for her on the other vacation rentals Jonathan owned and at some point, Jonathan and Ellen wanted a Spanish speaking nanny for [REDACTED] so they asked [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] would be interested in being their nanny as well. [REDACTED] stated she believes they had a nanny in San Francisco that was from the Dominican Republic, but [REDACTED] stated she does not know what her name was.

I asked [REDACTED] if she knows a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated she does and she actually just got off the phone with him. I told [REDACTED] I would like to speak to him, as I noticed he has done a lot of media interviews and may have further information. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was on vacation in Croatia when this event took place so he would probably not be too helpful. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was close with Jonathan and is trying to assist Jonathan's family with getting here from the UK.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 07:59 AM

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Date  
08/25/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 18**

On 08/20/2021, I received an email from Sergeant [REDACTED] containing an attachment of a georeferenced map of mines in the area of Hites Cove received from [REDACTED] GIS Specialist with Mariposa County.

Based upon the map and scale provided, the bodies were located approximately ½ mile east of the middle green colored circle located near the bottom of the map. The Mineral Resource Data System has that spot labelled as "unknown".

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:01 AM

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**Case Number**  
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08/25/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 19

On 8/24/2021, I responded to Modesto Police Department and collected all mobile devices and MacBook's (#11 Black Google Pixel 4 smartphone, #4 Black Google smartphone, #5 Black Google smartphone, #7 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED], #3 Rose/Gold MacBook [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], #6 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]) from Detective [REDACTED] pertaining to search warrant [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Jon advised they were not able to extract any data from the devices do to the devices not being supported with CellBrite.

I contacted [REDACTED] with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and explained the circumstances of this case. [REDACTED] stated he can attempt to extract the data from the Google Pixel 4 smartphone (Found on Jonathan).

On 8/24/2021, I met with [REDACTED] at the FBI office in Fresno, California. The cellphone (Black Google Pixel 4 smartphone) along with a copy of search warrant [REDACTED] was turned over to him.

All other devices (#4 Black Google smartphone, #5 Black Google smartphone, #7 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED], #3 Rose/Gold MacBook / [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], #6 Silver MacBook Pro / [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and #1 Green Wild Game Camera / [REDACTED]) were placed back into Mariposa County Sheriff's Office evidence for safekeeping.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:09 AM

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08/25/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 20**

On 8/24/2021, I authored a search warrant for Jonathan Gerrish's cell phone provider [REDACTED] for cell number [REDACTED]. I met with Honorable Judge [REDACTED] who reviewed and granted search warrant [REDACTED].

On 8/25/2021, a copy of search warrant [REDACTED] was e-mailed to [REDACTED] to obtain records associated with Jonathan's account.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:09 AM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 21

On 8/20/2021, I received documents from [REDACTED] containing location data Jonathan used with their App [REDACTED] on 8/14/2021 and 8/15/2021. The markups from [REDACTED] are off Hites Cove/ Savage Lundy trail, along with markups on/near Jonathan and Ellens's property at [REDACTED] Hites Cove Road.

Per [REDACTED] she stated "Regarding the timestamps, any times/dates in the "Name" of the markups are pulled from the user's cellular device (populated automatically with a date/time and editable by the user) and the "created/updated/deleted timestamps" are in UTC time (from our server) - hence the difference in timestamps from the Name field. Any third "coordinate" on the lat/long listings is an elevation".

A copy of that email was forwarded to [REDACTED] with Madera DA's office who offered assistance in mapping out the coordinates

On 8/25/2021 I received an email from [REDACTED] stating he transferred the data from [REDACTED] to a spreadsheet. In addition, [REDACTED] manually entered all the GPS pings that were on the last line of the .txt and xls file. Per [REDACTED], based on time and dates (8/14/2021 @1841) he believes the coordinates are waypoints Jonathan created prior to hiking. The majority of the waypoints appear to be Hites Cove/ Savage Lundy trail.

A copy of the [REDACTED] documents and mapping [REDACTED] created have been attached to this case.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:11 AM

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**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 22

Upon reviewing the sim card from the Wild Game Innovations ( [REDACTED] ) device collected from the residence [REDACTED] Hites Cove) per search warrant [REDACTED] Nothing of evidentiary value was observed and game camera is believed to be left by the previous owners.

Game camera was placed back into evidence.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:11 AM

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08/25/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 23**

On 08/25/2021 at approximately 1030 hours, I picked up Jonathan, Ellen and [REDACTED] clothing that was left at the Stanislaus County Coroner's Office to dry. All of the clothing items were drying together in one of Stanislaus County's drying cabinets. I removed the items and bagged Jonathan's items in one brown paper bag, Ellen's items in one brown paper bag, and [REDACTED] items in one brown paper bag. I received an evidence release form from [REDACTED] which was attached to this report.

Upon return to the office, I observed the bag containing Jonathan's items to be moist on the exterior. I labeled the bag and placed it into the sally port for more breathability.

All bags were logged into the evidence system.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:11 AM

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MG2100896

**Date**  
08/26/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 24

On 08/25/2021 at approximately 1448 hours, I contacted [REDACTED], via telephone on the Sheriff's Office line 1. [REDACTED] had contacted dispatch offering assistance when the family went missing (08/17/2021, see CAD). [REDACTED] stated she was offering an emergency disclosure when she first hear of the family being missing, as Jonathan is their employee; however, due to the circumstances at this time, [REDACTED] stated a search warrant would be needed for Jonathan's records. [REDACTED] stated they will work with us to expedite the processing of the search warrant and provided me with the email address of [REDACTED] to send the warrant to. [REDACTED] stated to call her when I send the warrant and she will work on it as soon as possible.

On 08/26/2021, I authored a search warrant for Jonathan's [REDACTED] data. I presented the warrant to Judge [REDACTED] who reviewed and issued the warrant at approximately 0825 hours. The warrant was delivered to the Court Clerk's Office and was provided warrant number [REDACTED]. At approximately 0955 hours, I contacted [REDACTED] via telephone and emailed the warrant to [REDACTED].

At approximately 0818 hours, I contacted Google LERS via email at [REDACTED] asking if they have technology to open a Google brand phone, as the technology available to us has been unsuccessful.

At approximately 1110 hours, I received a call from [REDACTED] who stated an amendment to the search warrant was needed and stated Jonathan's username is JonathanGerrish (one word). I authored an amended search warrant correcting Jonathan's username, which was reviewed and issued by Judge [REDACTED] at 1119 hours. I provided the amendment to the Court Clerk's office and emailed the amended warrant to [REDACTED].

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:08 AM

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P.O. Box 276  
Mariposa, CA 95338

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RECEIVED Tom Vacar  
BY PA3 DATE 12/3/21  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

Case Number  
MG2100896

Date  
08/26/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 25**

On 08/26/2021 at approximately 0900 hours, Assistant Coroner [REDACTED] and I conducted a video conference with [REDACTED], who is employed at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and [REDACTED], who is employed at the California State Water Resources Control Board, regarding the water sample results from the camelback water bladder.

[REDACTED] explained that due to the high heat the water was kept in, they are unable to determine if cyanobacteria was present in the Camelbak bladder. Her and [REDACTED] interpretation of the water in the bladder was that the water that filled the bladder was not chlorinated water and was possibly from a well or stream, and because there was biofilm, that could be from the bacteria activity or from the bladder not being cleaned/treated before filling. [REDACTED] stated the lab was unable to do the testing required to determine the type of bacteria that was found in the water, which would give us a better understanding on what affects that bacteria may have had, if any, to the family. [REDACTED] stated they can send the sample to another lab to determine the type of bacteria and asked if we would like that done, I told her we would.

I asked if it would be helpful if we were able to obtain a fresh sample from the family's well.

[REDACTED] stated it would and stated it needs to be collected in a very specific way to not contaminate the sample. [REDACTED] stated she would detail exactly how to collect the sample and she would send me an email containing those details. [REDACTED] stated it may also be helpful to rehydrate the bladder to collect more samples from it. [REDACTED] stated that may also be helpful; however, she would like to contact another microbiologist before she directs us to do that for a second opinion. [REDACTED] stated after collecting the samples, they need to be cooled and transferred to the lab immediately, as testing needs to be done within 24 hours for the most accurate results.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:06 AM

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Tom Vacar

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BY A13

DATE 12/3/21

Phone (209) 966-3615  
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Case Number  
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Date  
08/26/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 26

On 8/26/2021, I received an email from [REDACTED] who is a Senior Investigator for Fresno County District Attorney's Office- Bureau of Investigations- FBI Cyber Task Force-DA Cyber/ Forensic Unit-CalWRAP. Per [REDACTED] he stated he took Jonathan's cell phone to Fresno HIS (Fresno ICAC) and with the help of the staff, attempted to unlock and examine the device with Cellbrite Premium. [REDACTED] stated Cellbrite Premium is the best option that he knows of for unlocking any given Android. [REDACTED] stated he attempted three (3) times which resulted in a "Not Supported" message. [REDACTED] stated the device may or may not be supported at a future date. [REDACTED] noted the device fully booted and had a numeric pin code rather than a swipe pattern. [REDACTED] stated there was no physical SIM card in the device. [REDACTED] stated he is reviewing other possible options for unlocking the cell phone with other FBI contacts for other options.

[REDACTED] stated he is going to take the phone out of airplane mode. This reason being if Jonathan attempted to send out any in-distress text messages in an area where he had no cell service. It is possible once Jonathans cell phone connects in a service area, those messages might re-send.

[REDACTED] stated he will keep me informed and updated on any new information he is able to obtain.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 08:04 AM

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Date  
08/26/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

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**Supplement 27**

On 08/26/2021 at approximately 1330 hours, I received the responsive data from [REDACTED] pursuant to SW [REDACTED]. Jonathan's associated email address for his account is [REDACTED]. Per the documentation received, Jonathan had not sent any messages or content since 08/13/2021. I was unable to locate any messages or images containing any evidentiary value.

I attached the documentation received to this report. I completed a search warrant return which was filed with the Court Clerk's Office.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] | Date : 08/31/2021 08:03 AM

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Case Number  
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Date  
08/30/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 28**

On 08-17-2021 I assisted with this case by responding to the residence, [REDACTED] Hites Cove Road, within Mariposa County. This is a late entry due to computer problems. Upon arrival at approximately 1315 hours, I secured the residence and confirmed that no one was there. I noted that the front door was closed, but unlocked and the blue Audi parked out front was unlocked. A short time later, I was advised to coroner seal the residence and secure the vehicle and house. Seals were placed on all doors to the residence and the residence was locked. The keys for the Audi were located and later turned over to Sgt. [REDACTED]. The shop had to be left unlocked and I could not place a coroner seal on it due to being out of seals.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main case.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] | Date : 08/31/2021 08:02 AM

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Date  
08/31/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 29

The Hites Cove Road/Trail (3S02) is described to be an unimproved dirt road from the intersection of USFS Road 3S02 and 3S02C. Jonathan and Ellen's truck was parked at this intersection. The intersection is approximately **3880 feet in elevation**. The Hites Cove road/trail is secured by a locked, white iron gate and a smaller green gate that is marked "closed for trail maintenance". The road/trail descends in a north, northeasterly direction. The first portion of the road is slightly improved, as there was an incident in 2018 that involved a CalFire Dozer during the Ferguson fire that needed the road to be cleared and widened. This first portion of the road is smooth with some small surface rocks on the road surface. The road descends steadily with water bars (leveled areas to remove water from road) every few hundred feet or so. The road steadily increases in degrees (steepness) the further down you go. At approximately the 1-mile mark, the road dramatically changes. It gets significantly narrower with larger rocks covering the road surface. As you continue, you are met with large in-ground rocks that makes traversing the road/trail more difficult and at times, more like stepping stones than a smooth road/trail surface. When you arrive at the trailhead that leaves Hites Cove road/trail for the Savage Lundy Trail, the elevation is approximately **1930 feet (2.2 miles)**. While traveling down the Hites Cove road/trail, you cannot help but notice the change of temperature (noticeably hotter) as you descend into the river canyon/drainage.

On the morning of **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, at approximately **0745 hours** witness, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], was walking her dogs on the Hites Cove Road and reportedly observed Gerrish-Chung family traveling in the direction of Hites Cove Road/Trailhead in the Ford truck. As [REDACTED] reached the trailhead approximately **0800 hours**, she observed the truck parked off of the road on the hill but did not think anything of it (3880ft elevation). Historical weather data obtained from Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) showed that the temperature was around **76 degrees at 0751 hours** (at 3762ft elevation). Given it takes an experienced hiker (without a dog or child in back pack) approximately **2.0 hours** to arrive at the trailhead on Hites Cove road/trail that leads to the Savage Lundy trail (1930 feet elevation). The total distance for this section is **2.2 miles**. The temperature change was significant. The historical temperature that was recorded at a similar elevation of the trailhead at **0951 was 92 degrees** and at **1051 hours was 99 degrees**.

The next portion of the trail from Hites Cove road/trail heading towards the Savage Lundy trail intersection and parallels the south fork of the Merced River heading in a southeasterly direction. There are many ascents and descents as it follows the terrain. The trail has areas of shade from dead/burnt trees and live trees. This portion of the trail for an experienced hiker takes approximately **1.5-2.0 hours** to arrive at the Savage Lundy Trail intersection (without stops). The total distance of this portion is approximately **1.9 miles**. The elevation of the intersection is approximately **1800 feet**. This would put the family at the bottom of the Savage Lundy Trail at approximately **1100-1130 hours**. The historical weather data shows that at **1051 hours was 99 degrees and at 1151 hours was 103 degrees**.

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As you leave the trail intersection up the Savage Lundy trail, some amounts of shade are still available for a short period. As you continue to traverse in a westerly direction, you come to and cross a dry drainage that leads down into Devils Gulch. From that point on, there is no shade (exposed) as a result of the Ferguson fire in 2018. As you ascend in elevation, the trail begins its switchbacks (15 in total). The elevation at the trail intersection at the bottom of the Savage Lundy trail is approximately **1800 feet**. When you start up the Savage Lundy trail, you immediately start climbing in elevation. There are many areas on the trail that are narrow with loose rock on the surface making footing uncertain at times. The family was located at approximately 2.0 miles up the Savage Lundy Trail, approximately 1.6 miles from their parked truck.

Historical temperature data was requested for the following times: **1251** hours it was **107 degrees**, at **1351** hours it was **108 degrees**, at **1451** hours it was **109 degrees**, at **1551** hours it was **107 degrees**, at **1651** hours it was **105 degrees**, at **1751** hours it was **101 degrees**, at **1851** hours it was **98 degrees**, at **1951** hours it was **94 degrees** and at **2051** hours it was **89 degrees**. The station that collected the weather data was in El Portal, which is similar in elevation and characteristics for the South Fork river drainage. Keeping in mind, the Savage Lundy trail is on a south/southeast facing slope so the temperatures could have easily been higher than that of the El Portal station. Ambient air temperature versus ground temperatures in the river canyon drainage can be significantly higher.

On August 23, 2021, I spoke to [REDACTED] who is currently employed by the United State Forest Service (USFS) as a Recreational Technician. [REDACTED] has been employed by the USFS since 1998 working mainly on trail crews for thirteen years in several different areas within the USFS jurisdiction. [REDACTED] has been assigned to the USFS Sierra District since 2011. [REDACTED] recently completed trail improvements of the approximate 2.5 miles ([REDACTED] recollection of mileage) of trail that leads from Hite Cove Road to the Savage Lundy trail. [REDACTED] spent time in the area doing brushing and trail maintenance with a California Conservation Crew (CCC) from April 15<sup>th</sup>-May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. [REDACTED] has hiked the Savage Lundy trail in and out multiple times during this time. I inquired with [REDACTED] if the USFS rates hiking trails and she stated that the USFS only rates difficulty on Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails and not hiking trails. I asked how many miles the Hites Cove Road to the trailhead was and [REDACTED] stated around 2.5 miles to the trailhead. I asked how many miles the "loop" would be if someone where to hike completely around. [REDACTED] estimated the hike to be just under 10 miles. I asked her to rate the difficulty of the hike and [REDACTED] stated that the hike was a "difficult" 10-mile hike. [REDACTED] then included that the hike is a "hard down" and a "hard up" hike (elevation). [REDACTED] went on to say that the Savage Lundy trail is "super exposed" with a big elevation gain. [REDACTED] informed me that hikers in the area know to "stay clear" of the Savage Lundy trail in summer months as it is "very exposed". I asked [REDACTED] if she were to hike the route how much water would she bring for herself. [REDACTED] replied, a gallon of water, then stated a very minimum of 64 ounces (1/2 gallon). I asked her professional opinion in regards to taking 85 ounces of water for two adults, one child and a dog for the trek. She asked if a water filter was found on their person and I informed her no. [REDACTED] then stated for the folks involved that was clearly not enough water to sustain them on the difficult hike. [REDACTED] recommended I speak to [REDACTED], who is a local resident who volunteers for the USFS and a very experienced hiker. [REDACTED]

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informed me that [REDACTED] has a vast knowledge of hiking in the area and is very familiar with the Savage Lundy trail in particular.

On the morning of August 24, 2021, I spoke to [REDACTED] on line 2, who is a local resident and an experienced hiker. [REDACTED] informed me that he has been hiking the majority of his life. [REDACTED] is a volunteer for the USFS and maintains hiking trails in the area. [REDACTED] has lived in Mariposa Since 1999 and been a steady volunteer for the USFS since 2017. [REDACTED] has been previously employed by the USFS in the Angeles National Forest for a couple seasons. During this time, [REDACTED] hiked and looked for different wild animals such as owls. [REDACTED] was a Search and Rescue Volunteer for approximately 5 years as well. [REDACTED] described himself to be an avid hiker and has hiked the Savage Lundy trail approximamly 15+ times. [REDACTED] has worked many hours on the Savage Lundy Trail doing maintenance. I explained to [REDACTED] that I would like to ask questions in regards to his experience/knowledge hiking the river canyon at Hites Cove and the Savage Lundy trail.

I first asked [REDACTED] about the Hites Cove road/trail. [REDACTED] said the hike is around **2.0 miles** from the gate to the trail that takes you to the Savage Lundy trail. [REDACTED] explained that heading down the Hites Cove road/trail would not be a bad hike as the surface is not that bad and it is downhill. [REDACTED] did follow-up by stating that the hike coming out of the canyon would "be rough". [REDACTED] said that he was referring to the steep incline from the bottom walking back up the Hites Cove road/trail. I asked [REDACTED] how long it would take for him to walk from the gate down Hites Cove road/trail to the trail that leads to the Savage Lundy trail. [REDACTED] stated it would take about **1.5-2.0 hours** with minimal stops.

We then spoke of the trail that parallels the south fork towards the Savage Lundy, Devils Gulch. [REDACTED] said the trek was around **2.0 miles** and had minor up and downs in the trail and that it was shaded. The trail mainly is about 800 feet above the river but at one point, it levels with the river. [REDACTED] said this portion of the hike isn't too bad as it follows the terrain and would probably take him around **1.0-1.5 hours** or so.

The Savage Lundy trail heads in a westerly direction from the trail intersection. [REDACTED] simply referred to the **3.0 mile** hike up the Savage Lundy as "rough". [REDACTED] explained further stating that the trail is strenuous, and three things make it that way. 1: Constant exposure to sunlight with no shade, 2: Continuously climbs uphill and 3: No water source at all (if you had a filter). When [REDACTED] works or hikes the trail in September/October the weather (heat) is extreme due to the continued exposure of not having any shade and being an east or southeast facing slope. [REDACTED] said that it is not uncommon for him to wait at the bottom of the canyon in the shade provided until the sun sets past the hillside to get shade on the slope to make the hike a little easier. I asked if there were times when [REDACTED] stays out of the canyon and does not hike the canyon or the Savage Lundy trail at all. [REDACTED] said that he commonly stays out of the canyon from June to the end of September. July and August were an "absolute not" for being in the canyon or on the Savage Lundy trail.

I asked [REDACTED] about consumption of water during the **7-8 mile** loop. [REDACTED] said it would be an all day hike but he personally does not like to carry a lot of water due to weight but he always has a water filter on him while hiking and knows where the water sources are. [REDACTED] stated he doesn't consume a lot of water while hiking. [REDACTED] said he would probably take **4 Pints (64oz)** of

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water and rely on a water source to refill, consuming **6-7 Pints (96-112oz)**. I asked what he would have recommended for the two adults, small child and dog. ■■■ stated he would recommend **10 pints (160oz) per adult, 1 pint for the child (16oz) and 1 pint (16oz) for the dog**. I then inquired about the dog being in the canyon/Savage Lundy. ■■■ stated he does not see dogs often in the canyon or on the Savage Lundy trail. ■■■ explained that the conditions for the dog on the Savage Lundy trail at the approximate traverse time would have been "horrific". ■■■ said that the heat in the canyon is incredible in the summer time and it "bakes like an oven".

I asked ■■■ (with his experience of hiking, hiking in the river canyon or the Hites Cove area, specifically the Savage Lundy trail) if he could provide me with his professional opinion. I asked ■■■, in regards to the two adults, a 1-year-old child and an 8-year-old dog. For them to make the decision to take a "day hike" down Hites Cove road/trail, parallel the river to the Savage Lundy and back up to the vehicle (with the weather recorded for the day) what he would think. ■■■ stated, "respectfully speaking", they were "uninformed and completely unaware of the dangers" of hiking the route without sufficient water.

I asked ■■■ about mines in the area of where the family was located. ■■■ stated that with his knowledge he knows of no mines along the Savage Lundy Trail. ■■■ said that he has heard of a mine at the bottom of the Skelton Drainage near Devils Gulch but he felt certain that the family would not have been able to traverse to the mine. Most information that I am receiving in regards to mine gasses are that usually speaking, people out of the mine can survive the gas exposure but people in the mine die pretty much instantly.

On the morning of **August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, I contacted ■■■ who employed by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite as a Special Agent in Charge (Law Enforcement). Ranger ■■■ has been employed in Yosemite National Park since 2001 and is part of the Search and Rescue team along with helicopter rescue. Ranger ■■■ has been involved in many heat related/hiker emergencies so I wanted to give him the basic information in regards to this case for review and ask him to give his professional opinion in regards to the hike. I asked Ranger ■■■ if he had hiked the Hites Cove road/trail. Ranger ■■■ stated he had hiked the Hites Cove road/trail but had not hiked the other trail leading to the Savage Lundy or the Savage Lundy trail.

I ran the timeframe of the family and the temperatures at the times of significance. Ranger ■■■ was first concerned about the amount of water taken by the family stating that the amount of water that they took was not sufficient for the hike. I asked if he were to do the hike in similar conditions how much water would he take. Ranger ■■■ stated he would take at minimum of 2-3 Liters for himself and have a water filter to filter water if needed. Ranger ■■■ stated that in his experience, people who do not consume enough fluids while hiking have a tendency to have heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke. These types of issues can lead to inability to think clearly, function appropriately and can effect balance. Ranger ■■■ also mentioned that young children ■■■ have a harder time regulating temperature than adults and tend to overheat faster than that of adults in the same situations. Ranger ■■■ explained that the dog being mix breed from two breeds that have a thick furry coat probably wouldn't deal well

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with heat. I explained John's ripped underwear and Ranger [REDACTED] stated that the underwear being ripped from a slip and fall could be a likely scenario.

Ranger [REDACTED] brought "Hyponatremia" to my attention. Ranger [REDACTED] explained that this is a lack of nutrients (mainly sodium) in the body while the body is exerting energy. Hyponatremia can lead to disorientation and possible death. I will follow up with Hyponatremia with Dr. [REDACTED] at a later date.

On August 26, 2021, I received a message from Ranger [REDACTED] sharing information in regards to a death that occurred in the Death Valley National Park. Ranger [REDACTED] stated he contacted Park Ranger [REDACTED], who has done Search and Rescue for 20+ years. Ranger [REDACTED] stated for that hike specifically, he would have taken at least a gallon of water for himself. Ranger [REDACTED] and Ranger [REDACTED] stated that they are both familiar with the child pack that [REDACTED] was in. Ranger [REDACTED] stated that they do not circulate air well and can be very warm for the baby inside. Ranger [REDACTED] added, regardless of being "avid" hikers, the one year old would have slowed their expected travel time. 2 MPH is an average pace for an adult with short breaks. Ranger [REDACTED] said that with kid care factored in, they could of easily been half the pace.

On August 25, 2021, I contacted Dr. [REDACTED], who is a Medical Doctor at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto. I was advised that Dr. [REDACTED] has a vast knowledge of hiking and the effects of environmental hazards (exposure to elements) to the human body. Dr. [REDACTED] has been a medical Doctor since 1982 and has worked at both Fresno and Modesto hospitals during his career. Dr. [REDACTED] has been employed by Doctors Hospital since 1997 and is assigned to Emergency Medicine in the emergency room. Since the mid 1990's, Dr. [REDACTED] has also worked as the Office of Emergency Services (OES), Search and Rescue (SAR), Medical Advisor and conducts trainings on the effects of Heat/Cold/Altitude on the body throughout the state. I inquired if I could speak to him in regards to this case and inquire his professional opinion. Dr. [REDACTED] agreed so I wrote a brief narrative that explained the possible chain of events leading up to where Jonathan, Ellen, [REDACTED] and Oski (K9) were found deceased. I scanned and attached the narrative provided to Dr. [REDACTED] to this case for further review.

On August 30, 2021, I contacted Dr. [REDACTED] on Line 1 at 0856 hours. Dr. [REDACTED] explained that there was a "compelling case of heat illness" with the family involved. Dr. [REDACTED] first explained that by no means does he practice veterinary medicine but he knows that large breed dogs are prone to heat related issues. Dr. [REDACTED] continued by stating that an Akita dog is a cold weather dog and with not enough water can have heat related issues fairly rapidly. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that you have to keep in mind the difference between air temperature versus ground temperature. Dr. [REDACTED] explained that hypothetically if the air temperature is 110 degrees the ground temperature could easily be 130 degrees, making conditions for a dog to be drastically different than that of adults standing and walking.

Dr. [REDACTED] stated that anyone of the family members could have experienced heat related illness (dehydration) on the strenuous hike with limited water. Dr. [REDACTED] explained that water (fluids in the body) acts as the coolant system for the human body. If there is not enough fluids in the body to keep the body cooler, dehydration sets in. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that with 85 ounces, 2.5 liters of water, anyone of the family could have certainly been dehydrated soon into

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the hike. During the dehydration phase, subjects start out by being thirsty, feeling worn out with "rubbery" legs. If dehydration continues, subjects can become nauseated and even if they attempt to rehydrate, they can't due to throwing up the water they consume. Dehydration can lead to subjects collapsing or falling down. Dehydration easily can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke if the body is not cooled and hydrated.

Dr. [REDACTED] then broke down heat exhaustion versus heat stroke. Dr. [REDACTED] informed me that 95-98 percent of heat related issues is heat exhaustion. If people cannot be removed from the heat exposure, it can lead right into heat stroke. In addition, heat stroke, if untreated is almost always fatal. He informed me that both exhaustion and stroke overlap quite a bit, heat stroke being more severe. Heat exhaustion can affect the basic mental function of a human being. This can lead to feeling "woozy", light headed, and subject can pass out. Dr. [REDACTED] then explained heat stroke. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that people having heat stroke appear "bad sick and they look bad sick". Dr. [REDACTED] informed me that heat stroke is when the internal temperature of the body is too great and due to the body temperature the brain begins to be basically "cooked". Subjects suffering from heat stroke do not have normal mental function.

Dr. [REDACTED] informed me that at some point, with dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, subjects will become immobile and collapse/fall down. Sometimes during heat exhaustion, people can slightly recover and crawl to shade and lower the temperature of their bodies and can recover. Keeping this in mind, if subjects are not able to get out of the heat or being exposed to the sun, the internal temperature of their body continues to rise. This leads to "hyperthermia" and the internal body temperature becomes too hot. Adult human's body temperature begins to have negative effect in the body and the heat can start killing brain cells at 103-105 degrees. A subject who remains exposed to the heat/sun can succumb to the heat illness and die quickly, in approximately 1-2 hours. Dr. [REDACTED] reiterated the information regarding air to ground temperature, explaining that the ground temperature on the slope would have been drastically hotter than that of the air temperature. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that from the start of the hike, the "clock was ticking" against the family as they left ill prepared (hydration) for the hike before them.

I asked Dr. [REDACTED] about Hyponatremia. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that Hyponatremia is the result of a lack of nutrients in the body, mainly salt or potassium. What occurs during Hyponatremia is a subject can have little to no nutrients in the body to use as the body burns its energy or a person can "over hydrate" and dilute the nutrients that are in the body. Sometimes hikers can be over motivated and consume too much water during or before a hike. Hyponatremia has the exact same signs as heat stroke. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that Hyponatremia is difficult to treat as a medical doctor without a test for nutrients. If a patient is showing signs of heat stroke and a doctor administers saline solution it can further dilute the nutrients in the victim's body.

On August 26, 2021, I spoke to [REDACTED], who is employed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Hanford California as Meteorologist in charge. I inquired with [REDACTED] if there was a scientific way to compare ambient temperature reading of an area and show that the temperature can actually vary in different situations

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(ground temperature Vs. ambient). [REDACTED] stated that he knew of no true/scientific way to actually make that comparison. [REDACTED] told me that generally speaking, in higher elevations, as you climb in elevation it technically is supposed to get cooler but in regards to UV exposure from higher elevations, it will actually feel hotter. [REDACTED] did tell me that reaching out to a forensic meteorologist may be able to assist further.

On August 29, 2021, I received a follow up email from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he talked with some of his colleagues and came up with something. [REDACTED] continued, there isn't anything definitive, but based on satellite data, the surface temperature is roughly a degree or two warmer in most cases compared to El Portal. However, during the afternoon hours, that difference can grow by several degrees. The most [REDACTED] observed over this weekend was five degrees. [REDACTED] added he will add the caveat that this isn't 100% accurate, but a couple of degrees warmer at the area of concern does make sense meteorologically.

On August 31, 2021, I made contact with Meteorologist [REDACTED], who is employed by NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), Climate Science and Services Division/Climate Information Services Branch/Customer Engagement Section. I inquired if there was a way to show ground temperatures versus air temperature for the area of Hites Cove Road/Trail, the Savage Lundy trail and Devils Gulch and the South Fork of the Merced River drainage. [REDACTED] informed me that the closest station was in Merced California and it does not show surface temperatures.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Sheriff [REDACTED] received an email from [REDACTED] and forwarded it to me for review. [REDACTED] is a professional wilderness survival and first aid instructor, and a former Firefighter/EMT. [REDACTED] is the owner/operator of Survival Training School of California, [REDACTED] Survival Schools. After researching [REDACTED] school and verifying his experience, I felt that speaking with [REDACTED] may be beneficial to this case. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I reached out to [REDACTED] to ascertain if he would be willing to act as an expert witness in regards to this case. [REDACTED] agreed, so on the morning of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I forwarded the exact same information that I sent to Dr. [REDACTED] (attached to this case) via email. There was only one addendum, the witness who observed the Gerrish/Chung truck driving returned my call and informed me that she arrived at the gate where the truck was parked at around 0800 hours. [REDACTED] informed me that he received the email and would respond via email and we would speak on the phone next week. Later that evening, I received a response email from [REDACTED] and following is copied from the email:

"Hello Sir,

*I have to say, this is exactly what I expected to read. I will begin with stating that my opinion would be exertional heat stress/stroke (hyperthermia), and I will explain why over the body of this email.*

*Hyponatremia is highly unlikely as there are several victims, all of which would have had to consume very large amounts of water (in the gallons), and sweat profusely and near constantly for it to occur in less than a day. Of course, insufficient electrolytes in a diet can harm hydration capabilities, but hyponatremia is different- as the victim cannot absorb water whatsoever unless they consume salts.*

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Considering the deadly trifecta of terrain, elevation, and temperatures present during the incident, exertional heat stress/hyperthermia could occur very quickly;

\*The majority of the terrain is exposed, with some seeming to be on a south aspect (the hottest aspect of a mountainside/hillside) where temperatures can be even hotter than other as the sun's rays are impacting it more directly (this is one reason why some areas simply feel hotter on the trail). There are also mid slope "inversion layers" of sorts in these types of steep and wet drainages in mountainous terrain, which tends to trap a heat layer in the upper and lower 1/3 slopes.

\*UV exposure increases with a rise in elevation (UV light from the sun converts to infra red on objects/people and converts to infra-red heat energy). At 3000' you are receiving significantly more UV than at sea level <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1011134496000188> FYI "erythermal effective irradiance" refers to the effects of UV on skin.

\*Steepness (both up and down) and walking on uneven/rocky ground creates much greater exertion and hence calorie burning and internal heat build up than walking on an improved and level walkway.

No matter your fitness level, if you are not acclimated to extreme temperatures they can still affect you very quickly. I would refer you to a case of a UFC champion dying of heat stress in southern California as an example: <https://bleacherreport.com/articles/55508-former-ufc-champion-evan-tanner-found-dead-at-37> In fact, exertional heat stress is most likely to kill athletes, soldiers, and firefighters, here is a link discussing it: <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/exertional-heat-illness-in-adolescents-and-adults-epidemiology-thermoregulation-risk-factors-and-diagnosis/print> You should also know that exertional heat stress can occur and escalate very rapidly, catching victims off guard. You can go from feeling dizzy and hot to unconsciousness before you know it. It is extremely deadly, and victims need immediate ice bath submersion, not just partial shade and some drinking water. It is not a matter of hydration at all, it is a matter of exertion creating heat at a rate that exceeds the body's capability to manage heat. Hence it affecting even well hydrated and healthy eating athletes. The position they were found in, under only partial shade with little water, would not have provided the rapid cooling they needed once they began to become severely affected.

This means that regardless of the family being fit or well hydrated, they could still quickly become victims. In fact, their faith in their physical abilities makes them more likely to overcommit in the heat (through exertion or distance travelled). It takes about a week of daily exercise in extreme temperatures to acclimate if you are very fit, which means the family would have had to regularly work out nearly an hour a day in 100F+ temps to be able to work in such temps without great physical impact- not at a home gym or with morning/evening runs. The very young and very old are much more susceptible, and it is likely the child showed symptoms first. This is conjecture- but the child losing responsiveness or becoming ill could have caused the parents to greatly quicken their pace, making the situation even worse.

I expected the report to read that the parents would be found separated. One to stay with and aid the infant, the other to seek rescue. The wife was younger and in the pics thinner, which means she may have "felt slightly better" than the father at the time they decided to split (this is simply the biomechanics of heat exposure). Considering their positions, it seems she tried to forge ahead toward the vehicle to get help, while the father looked after the infant and dog. Sadly, dogs are every bit as susceptible to heat illnesses as humans. I would not be surprised if there was evidence that the father was carrying the dog at one point.

Their clothing was not conducive to hiking in exposed terrain. In direct sun in hot/dry terrain: a long sleeved breathable shirt (white only) is best for reflecting the UV rays that convert to infrared and form heat. A large brimmed breathable hat is essential for protecting the face, head, and neck from the same UV rays. Long pants, breathable and very light colored should be worn as well, for the same reasons. The breathability allows for effective evaporative cooling when the individual sweats. Short sleeves and short pants leave the individual exposed to the deadly UV rays and should not be worn. They can wear sunblock, which will prevent a burn, but not prevent heat build up. This clothing set up is the current accepted standard practice in the field, and well known to desert experts, not as much to laypersons. Some may think it only necessary in extreme desert heats, but for exertion in anything 90's and up it should be employed.

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*The empty and near empty bladders, yet all drinking vessels being nearly empty or empty, suggests to me that they were sweating profusely, not just dehydrated. Severe dehydration would lead to hypovolemic shock, which may be more clear in an autopsy. As the case with hyperthermia/exertional heat stress, little would show in an autopsy (see previously provided links in prior emails on the pathology). Hypovolemia=low blood volume (bleeding to death or dehydration, they both kill through this mechanism). Exertional heat stress kills by basically shutting down the brain, which shuts down the remaining organs. The physical scene is how it is generally detected that heat caused the brain to stop working, as stated in previously provided links on this pathology.*

*It is odd if the father was the only one with the phone, but heat illness does severely affect decision making. He could have forgotten he had it if they did have reception, or if they did not, they could have assumed whoever went to the vehicle could drive for help, leaving the phone with the one staying behind for comfort, or in case they hike on.*

*As for drinking creek water, most wilderness waterborne illnesses take more than a day before they begin to sicken the victims. As for algae, it's not the algae themselves but their waste products that create the toxins in the water. It affects the brain, coordination, etc. If they were drinking it, it seems it would have shown up in the results of the analysis of the containers they were drinking from.*

*Sadly, I believe they were caught off guard, and once they realized their situation, they died trying to save their child and each other. It is likely the child began to succumb first, which hurried the parents' efforts up the hill. When one could no longer continue, they stayed behind to care for the child and pet, while the other tried to forge on and get help for their loved ones. It is a tragedy of the highest order.*

*I am including a link to a blog I wrote in 2016 (date is on the post) about a personal encounter I had with a couple in a similar situation; steep exposed terrain, partial shade, one left the other behind in the best bush he could find to forge on and get help (luckily he ran into me and my students). I am including it only to show you why I believe the scene was the way it was, not for any personal aggrandizement. <https://www.californiasurvivaltraining.com/blog-news/2016/9/9/that-time-our-field-course-saved-a-pct-hiker>*

*Feel free to contact me anytime in regards to this matter.*

■■■■■  
Soon after I received this email, ■■■■■ sent another with more information. The following is copied from that email:

*"One more thing, if it was high 70's when they started off that's a big temperature swing. The hike could have taken longer than they thought it would and they may have been caught off guard. The car being less than 2 miles away (if my approx is correct) at the end could have also made them "press on" and push harder than they should have- just keep going, almost to the car. This, with a possible sick baby on the final hard push up hill, could have been the impetus for pushing it hard up the final hill in the heat, and what led to the rapid escalation of deadly exertional heat stress."*

**On September 12, 2021, I received a follow up email from ■■■■■ in regards to this investigation. The following was copied from the email that I received:**

*"Hey sorry for the 3rd email, I just wanted to be sure I was clear on what I believe the chain of events were, considering the importance of the subject matter.*

*Considering what time they were seen at the beginning of their hike, and the distance of their route, they may have believed they would be finished before the heat of the day.*

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As infants are much more susceptible to heat stress, and the "sippy cups" were empty, it is my assumption that the infant started to succumb first. Infants become quite lethargic when heat stress strikes, which would be alarming to parents.

With a suffering and possibly unresponsive child, and "only a 2 mile hike" ahead of them (uphill however) they may have pushed much harder than a reasonable person would have otherwise in those high temperatures. As you will see in the link to the study on exertional heat stress, it is athletes, soldiers, etc that experience it most often. They are aggressive and are pushing their limits. A suffering infant would give two parents the drive to push through the extreme heat.

Once exertional heat stress becomes severe, the body loses the ability to regulate internal temperature, and external cooling is needed. This is why I say they required ice baths, as this is the standard treatment for this condition. Shade and sipping water would not have been enough at this point. Also, at this point their brains, and decision making, would have been greatly affected.

Heat affects everyone a bit differently, so I expected that you would have found them apart. One to stay with the infant and dog, the other to try to press on and get help. However, with the affects on the brain there is no telling their decision making process.

I hope this helps.

On September 20, 2021, I spoke to [REDACTED] by phone on line 1 at approximately 1339 hours. I informed [REDACTED] that I wished to go through his email responses that I had received and discuss them in more detail.

I first asked about the family possibly having hyponatremia issues. [REDACTED] stated that hyponatremia was highly unlikely. The family would have had to consume "gallons of water" to thin the sodium, potassium, and electrolytes in their bodies to the point of hyponatremia. Physical evidence on scene does not support this.

[REDACTED] spoke of the "deadly trifecta" meaning the terrain, elevation and temperatures. He stated that even subjects in great physical condition can get "in trouble" in these type of circumstances. Subjects in great physical condition can be over confident and get themselves too far into a bad scenario. [REDACTED] stated that maintaining core body temperatures takes more than great physical conditioning. [REDACTED] said that heat stress/hyperthermia can come on very quickly and catch people by surprise. In higher elevations the sun's UV exposure is higher. Not to mention the fact that the Savage Lundy trail is on a south-southeast facing slope. This meaning that the ground temperature is greater in those areas due to more direct sun exposure. A south-southeast facing slope has the highest sun exposure from the moment the sun rises.

[REDACTED] stated that the only way that you can combat UV exposure to the skin is wearing appropriate clothing for the environment. If you are higher in elevation, it is necessary to keep your skin covered by light colored clothing. Having your skin covered reduces the UV exposure therefore reducing the infrared light that heats the skin. This reduces heat transfer onto the skin that heats blood and other bodily fluids. Meaning, UV light heats the skin and the body's "cooling system". Blood and sweat act as the body's cooling system. If a person becomes dehydrated, there is less blood in the body to cool internal organs, including the brain. This being the reason subjects should wear a covering on their head while hiking. Direct sun

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exposure (UV light) to the scalp adds to the difficulty of cooling the organs through blood/sweat. In addition, dehydration leads to the inability to sweat. Sweating is the most functional way to cool the body. Keeping this in mind, an adult male needs to consume a minimum of 3.7 liters (females 2.7 liters) of water per day to simply stay hydrated. The inability to sweat therefore raises your internal body core temperature to unsafe levels. As the body reaches unsafe temperatures, it is very difficult to regulate that temperature. Eventually the only way to return from exertional heat stress is an ice bath to cool the body temperature drastically. Shade, water and taking a break simply cannot correct the exertional heat stress issue.

Exertional heat stress can affect people differently but once you start entering into heat stress, you can display signs of being in a "stupor". You begin to have a difficult time making small sensible decisions and simple tasks can become difficult. Young children can become lethargic due to heat exposure faster than that of adults. These affects progress rapidly as heat builds internally. When the body reaches approximaly 105 degrees, the brain loses its ability to function leading to unconsciousness. Once a person reaches this internal core temperature and is not submerged into an ice bath or something that drastically changes the core temperature, death can come as fast as approximately 30 minutes.

I asked [REDACTED], after reviewing the details of the incident, if he could give me his professional opinion in regards to the family and if the family could have succumbed to an exertional heat stress incident. [REDACTED] stated he was almost certain that this was in fact the case. [REDACTED] continued by saying, he felt "100 percent" and that the event seemed like an "obvious" case of exertional heat stress. [REDACTED] said that he felt that the child (not having the ability to manage heat as well) might have displayed heat related signs first. This could have caused the family to "push" hard (hike faster/less breaks) to reach the truck leading them into the exertional heat stress issues listed above. [REDACTED] stated that finding the family slightly separated was not uncommon. Often times, the youngest, most fit person in a group often attempts to hike out to get help/rescue for the others who are having issues. I thanked [REDACTED] for taking the time to present his professional opinion in regards to the matter.

[REDACTED] got started in survival training in 2008 and he taught his first course in 2009. [REDACTED] is the owner and lead instructor at [REDACTED] Survival Schools. [REDACTED] school provides real world wilderness/remote area survival and emergency medical training to both the general public and governmental organizations. The following list are agencies that [REDACTED] has provided professional survival training (including desert survival training for some units) to:

- \*US Navy EOD & Helicopter Rescue
- \*USMC Mountain Warfare Training Center
- \*USAF EOD
- \*US Department of Defense
- \*California Department of Justice
- \*Los Angeles Police Department
- \*Palm Springs Mounted Sheriff's Search & Rescue
- \*California State Guard

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██████████ is a former wildland firefighter and EMT. He served as both a primary crew EMT, and as a primary fire line EMT on large wildland incidents with over 300 firefighters present. He has also served as a fire crew squad leader. █████ has also guided and served as the safety advisor in the Danakil Desert of Ethiopia (the hottest inhabited desert on earth, with the highest average year round temperature on earth).

Having the information gained during this investigation, I felt it necessary to describe what equipment was available and on John, Ellen and █████.

Johnathan was wearing a yellow t-shirt, dark colored athletic shorts, boxer brief underwear, socks and low-rise tennis shoes. John had a cell phone in the front pocket of his shorts.

Ellen was wearing a yellow colored tank top/sports bra, high waste black spandex shorts, underwear, socks and ankle high hiking boots/shoes. Ellen was carrying a "mini educator" dog trainer controller unit in the front waistband of her spandex shorts. Ellen had a hydration pack/back pack on her back. Contained in the pack was a snake bite kit, knife, bug spray, "carry confidence" first aid kit for bikes and a 85 ounce, 2.5 liter Osprey Hydraulics LT water bladder that was mainly empty (below tube suction point).

██████████ was found strapped into an aluminum framed, well padded "Kid Comfort" backpack (dark blue and gray). █████ was wearing a short-sleeved onesie shorts with a diaper on with pink shoes. In the pack were extra diapers. An empty sippy cup with what appeared to be the remnants of a white colored formula. Another empty straw type sippy cup with what appeared to be a thicker type dried substance on the internal sides of the cup. An empty "Teethers" teething wafer wrapper.

**Recommendations:**

Remain active.

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Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 10/13/2021 07:18 AM

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 10/18/2021 12:43 PM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
08/31/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 30

On 08/27/2021, Sgt. [REDACTED] forwarded an email to me that he had received from [REDACTED] regarding this case and knowledge she had of Jonathan being interested in exploring mines. Below is a copy and paste of the email.

Hello,

*I just left a voicemail about this, but I have found some information on Jonathan Gerrish's public AllTrails account (<https://www.alltrails.com/members/jonathan-gerrish>) to suggest that he had an interest in exploring old mines.*

*Gerrish hiked two routes in April of 2021 to old mines that are not named or listed on any existing AllTrails route, as if he intentionally wanted to visit them (and in one case, he took pictures). They were called "Sweetwater Peak and Mine" and "Comet Mine + Skelton Creek." Again, neither Sweetwater Mine nor Comet Mine are not known or searchable destinations in the hiking community of AllTrails.*

*After learning of this, I explored a map of mines on the website [westernmininghistory.com](http://westernmininghistory.com) that reveals there were three mines on the route that the family was believed to have taken on the day they perished. Two were directly on the trail, whereas one would have been a short hike in from the trail. They are as follows, with GPS coordinates provided:*

- 1) Liberty Lode Manganese Property [REDACTED] - this is just off Hite Cove Road, right before the fork leading to either Marble Point or Savage-Lundy
- 2) Blossom #1 Gold Mine [REDACTED] right at Merced River along the trail that winds toward Savage-Lundy from Marble Point
- 3) Devils Gulch Gold Mine [REDACTED] at base of Savage-Lundy trail on which family was found

*An image showing all three mines is attached here.*

*I hope this info is helpful to your case, if it is not already known to you.*

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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On 08/31/2021, I reviewed Jonathan's public AllTrails account and found numerous postings of Jonathan's various hikes. It appeared Jonathan had hiked the Hites Mine trail in May of 2017 and posted a photo of the trail fork. I found documentation of hikes Jonathan took within the Mariposa area. I attached Jonathan's AllTrails account information to this report, along with images he has uploaded to AllTrails.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 12:44 PM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
08/31/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 31

On 8/31/2021, I contacted [REDACTED] with the FBI. [REDACTED] informed me he reached to FBI headquarters in Washington, DC. [REDACTED] stated their High Tech unit believes they will be able to extract the data from Jonathan's cellphone. [REDACTED] stated he already shipped the cellphone to FBI headquarters and will give me an update once he has one.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 08/31/2021 12:45 PM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/01/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 32

On 8-20-2021 at approximately 0950 hours Captain [REDACTED] and myself began hiking at the trail head of the Savage Lundy trail with GPS coordinates 37°36.456' N x - 119°50.173 W Elevation 3744. I was using a Garmin Fortrex 401 to capture and log our investigative hike along with being recorded by AXON body worn camera. See the thumbtack labeled as trailhead on the attached map from Google Earth outlining the entire route taken during the investigative hike conduct by Captain [REDACTED] and myself. We hiked the trail down to the location where all three decedents and their dog were located during the initial death investigation. On the map labeled as waypoint 3 with GPS coordinates of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] elevation 3146 is the location that the female decedent, Ellen, was originally located. From there we continued down the trail to the location that the father, Johnathan, the child [REDACTED], and dog, Oska, were located labeled as way point [REDACTED] Elevation 3133. We continued down the trail to the approximate location that a Search and Rescue (SAR) member located the key fob to the decedent's vehicle on the trail labeled as waypoint 5 with GPS Coordinates of [REDACTED] Elevation 2959. It should be noted that prior to the hike I was given the original GPS coordinates for the key fob by the SAR coordinator Sgt. [REDACTED]. At this location we did a thorough search of the area attempting to locate anything of evidence to determine how or why the key fob was at this location with negative results. We continued down the trail to the confluence of Schneider Gulch drainage and Devils Gulch drainage. At this location the trail gets fairly close to the confluence but there was no definitive trail leading to the water source. This location is labeled as waypoint 6 with GPS coordinates of [REDACTED] Elevation 1855. We were able to continually follow two sets of foot tracks with one set larger than the other set with periodic tracks consistent with dog tracks from waypoint 5. We continued on the trail going towards the location that the confluence of the two drainages flow into the South Fork of the Merced River. At this location labeled as waypoint 7 with GPS Coordinates of [REDACTED] Elevation 1848 the trail goes down to the confluence with easy access to the water source. It was difficult to locate any noticeable footprints due to multiple animal prints on the trail at this location. We continued on the trail to waypoint 8 with GPS coordinates of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Elevation 1876. At this location the trail goes across a rock outcropping that had a 30 to 45 degree angled slope downward with loose dirt that appeared to have been scrapped off consistent with a foot slip. In the same location a fresh layer of dirt with moss had been scrapped off of edges of the rock outcropping. There was no other evidence located at this point. We continued on the trail that began paralleling the South Fork of the Merced River to waypoint 9 with GPS Coordinates of [REDACTED] Elevation 1836. At this location the trail was within 10 yards of the South Fork and what appeared to be a fresh animal trail going down the bank towards the water source. We were unable to find any tracks other than the fresh dirt and plant displacement leading down to the water source. It should also be noted that on 8-24-2021 I escorted Environmental Health back to waypoints 7 and 9 to get water samples for further testing. The water source at waypoint 9 came back with high levels of anatoxin-a. From waypoint 9 we continued downstream paralleling the South Fork to way point

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P.O. Box 276  
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CONTINUITY NUMBER  
DUPLICATION OR REISSUANCE  
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RECEIVED

*Tom Varar*

CA0220000

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

BY *AB* DATE *09/01/21*  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

10 with GPS coordinates of [REDACTED] Elevation 1766 which is one of the locations that the State Water Board originally took a water sample from the South Fork on 8-19-2021. We continued from that point to the location that the trail ties back into the Forest Service road that goes down to the Hites Cove area on the South Fork. We were then transported back up the roadway to waypoint 11 with GPS coordinates of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Elevation 2287 where a pair of pants was located along side of the roadway. The pants were extremely weathered with appearance of having been there for a long period of time. The pants were small in size and were determined to be of no evidential value to this investigation. From this point we continued back to the point where the decedent's truck was originally located and marked on the attached map as truck. We then continued back to the starting point of the Savage Lundy trailhead.

Approved by : [REDACTED] Date : 09/01/2021 02:07 PM

Approved by : [REDACTED] Date : 09/30/2021 07:25 AM

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P.O. Box 276  
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DUPLICATION OR REISSUANCE  
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RECEIVED Tom Vacar  
by PA13 DATE 12/21/21  
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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

Case Number  
MG2100896

Date  
09/03/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 33

On 09/02/2021, I was cc'd in an email from [REDACTED] with the WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) Division of the FBI requesting a time to have a conference call with him and the FBI Lab unit. At approximately 1300 hours, Assistant Coroner [REDACTED] and I conducted a conference call with [REDACTED] and numerous members of the FBI's Scientific Response Unit. Lab personnel questioned if the family were foragers, we advised them that we did not know. The lab unit stated they were asking that because of the contents of the dog's stomach and the notation that a "fern like" plant was present. Lab personnel stated they would be interested in finding out if there is any Hemlock, Nightshade, or Oleander in the area of the hike. I advised them that there is a large amount of Bear Clover in the area, which does look like fern and could have been the material. I was advised they were not familiar with Bear Clover and would still like to know about other plants in the area. They asked if we ever had access to the home and the food contents. They were advised we did access the home and observed nothing of concern, and it appeared they ate fairly healthy. We were asked about the mushrooms located and asked if the subjects were tested for other mushroom toxins, the lab personnel were advised we were not sure and did not know what other toxins to test for, we were advised amanitin would be one. The lab asked if we had pictures of the mushrooms located at the home, they were advised we did. The lab asked I send the pictures to [REDACTED] so he can forward the images to the lab to identify the species of the mushrooms. We were advised the FBI would be interested in obtaining the clothing in this case, as they can conduct testing in an attempt to locate genetic signatures of toxins that may be present on the clothes that may have no longer been available on, or within, the bodies of the decedents. We were advised to work with [REDACTED] on the best way to get the clothing to the FBI lab.

At approximately 1408 hours, I emailed [REDACTED] the one image taken of the mushrooms during service of the search warrant. [REDACTED] asked if I could obtain closer photos for them to be able to identify the mushroom species. At approximately 1527 hours, I responded to the evidence room where Evidence Technician [REDACTED] provided me with the mushrooms. I opened the paper bag and removed the clear bag of mushrooms and took three (3) close-up photographs of the mushrooms. I resealed the bag and provided the mushrooms back to Evidence Technician [REDACTED]. I later emailed the photographs to [REDACTED] and uploaded the images to evidence.com.

At approximately 1409 hours, I received an email from [REDACTED] of the California State Water Board with information for the lab to test the Gerrish/Chung household water. I was advised to contact [REDACTED] at BSK Labs at [REDACTED]. At approximately 1421 hours, I contacted [REDACTED] from the Sheriff's Office line 1. I briefly explained that I was conducting a death investigation and would like to have water tested for bacteria and toxins. I provided a brief explanation of the camelback water and the results of the test we received with the water having a large number of motile bacteria. [REDACTED] stated they would subcontract that work out and suggested I contact the labs directly. [REDACTED] provided me with the number for IEH Labs in Fresno

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[REDACTED] and EMFL Lab [REDACTED] [REDACTED] . [REDACTED] suggested I try IEH labs first.

At approximately 1426 hours, I contacted IEH Labs via telephone from the Sheriff's Office line 1. I spoke to [REDACTED] and provided a brief explanation as to what I was looking to obtain from their lab. [REDACTED] stated she would have the lab director call me and requested my contact information.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/07/2021 11:56 AM

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P.O. Box 276  
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CONTROLLER/INVESTIGATOR  
DUPLICATION OR REISSUANCE  
CONTROLLED BY LAW

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BY PA3 DATE 12/3/21  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CA0220000

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/07/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 34

On 08/26/2021, I received additional test results for water samples taken at the confluence of Snyder/Devil's Ck (Sample ID – S1) and the confluence of Devil/Snyder S. fork (Sample ID S2). The microscopy results are as follows:

Sample S1 – This sample contained a moderate amount of Microcoleus sp; no other cyanobacteria were observed.

Sample S2 – This sample contained a moderately high amount of both Microcoleus sp. and Anabaena sp. and a moderate amount of Nostoc sp.

On 08/27/2021, I received an additional report for further testing of the above-mentioned samples. Per the email received with this report, the anatoxin-a level concentration after dilution was 42.49 ug/L ATX.

I attached the test results to this report.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/07/2021 11:57 AM

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/07/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 35

On 09/02/2021, I received an email containing the CVT results for Jonathan and Ellen, which are as follows:

Jonathan -

Blood Ethyl Alcohol - .06 grams%

Psilocin (metabolite of Psilocybin) by LCMS-TOF = Negative

No common acidic, neutral, or basic drugs detected.

Ellen -

Blood Ethyl Alcohol - .03 grams%

Psilocin (metabolite of Psilocybin) by LCMS-TOF = Negative

No common acidic, neutral, or basic drugs detected.

After speaking with Assistant Coroner [REDACTED], it was determined the blood alcohol content is consistent with decomposition. I attached the results to this report.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/07/2021 11:57 AM

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Tom Vacar

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Phone (209) 966-3615

Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**

MG2100896

**Date**

09/07/21

**Deputy**

[REDACTED]

Supplement 36

On 09/03/2021, I received an email containing additional preliminary results regarding K9 Oski. Additions to the report stated no toxic compounds were detected in the stomach content or liver; however, anatoxin-a testing on the stomach contents is still pending. I attached the report to this case.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/07/2021 11:57 AM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/07/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 37

On 9/7/2021, I received an email from T-Mobile containing documents requested with search warrant [REDACTED]. All documents were forward to Detective [REDACTED]

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/08/2021 03:40 PM

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RECEIVED Tom Vacar  
BY AB DATE RBP  
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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/07/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 38

On 09/07/2021 at approximately 1512 hours, I spoke to [REDACTED] on line 1. [REDACTED] is a local resident and an experienced hiker who is familiar with the Hites Cove and Savage Lundy trails. I advised [REDACTED] that I had a question about plants in the area and asked if he would have knowledge of some of the plant life in the trail areas. [REDACTED] stated he would. I asked [REDACTED] if he knew if there was Hemlock in the area, [REDACTED] stated there is not. I asked if there is Oleander in the area, [REDACTED] stated some people plant Oleander but there isn't any on the trails and it is bad for the deer. I asked [REDACTED] if he knows of any Nightshade in the area, [REDACTED] stated he was not sure about the Nightshade, but he has a botanist friend who is familiar with the area that he can reach out to and ask. [REDACTED] stated he doesn't think there is any but will call me back when he has an answer.

At approximately 1527 hours, [REDACTED] called back and stated he was able to consult with a botanist he knows that also hikes the area. [REDACTED] stated he was advised that it is rare; however, Black Nightshade has been seen in the area.

I forwarded the above info to [REDACTED] at the FBI to provide to their lab unit.

At approximately 1535 hours, [REDACTED] emailed me and asked if the Hemlock I referenced was Water Hemlock, or tree Hemlock. I advised him I was unaware of the different types of Hemlock but will attempt to get an answer as to water hemlock being in the area.

On 09/08/2021 at approximately 1356 hours, I attempted to contact [REDACTED] via telephone. I left a voicemail requesting a return call.

On 09/09/2021, I found [REDACTED] had left me a voicemail. [REDACTED] stated he looked on the California Native Plant Society webpage, <https://www.calscape.org>, and found Western Water Hemlock and Poisonous Hemlock may be present in the area. I visited the website and observed reference that Western Water Hemlock has been observed in the El Portal and Yosemite Valley area. I was able to search plants found in specific areas by clicking the map located on the website. I selected the Jerseydale area and Devil's Gulch where the family was located. I observed there to be Purple Nightshade and Blue Witch Nightshade on the lists of plants in the Jerseydale and Devil's Gulch areas. I relayed the information to [REDACTED].

**Recommendation:**

Remain Active

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
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Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/09/2021 01:26 PM

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COMMERCIAL DUPLICATION  
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RECEIVED

RE: A13

DATE 23/21

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Phone (209) 966-3615

Fax (209) 742-5090

Case Number  
MG2100896

Date  
09/09/21

Deputy  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 39**

On 09/08/2021, I received an email containing the final pathology report for Jonathan's Liver sample that was sent to CDC. The CDC report states that due to autolysis, optimal evaluation was precluded. The report states the finding do not point to an infectious etiology, but toxic hepatocellular injury cannot be ruled out. The report stated overt hepatocellular necrosis typically seen in microcystin toxicity in other species was not seen. I attached the document to this report, the document password is [REDACTED].

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/09/2021 01:26 PM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/09/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 40**

On 09/08/2021, I received an email containing the CVT results for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I attached the results to this report.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/09/2021 01:26 PM

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/09/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 41**

On 09/08/2021, [REDACTED] with the FBI contacted me and stated they needed an official request for assistance document from us to continue their assistance. I completed the request on our department letterhead, which was provided to Sergeant [REDACTED] for review and signature. Once signed, I emailed the request to [REDACTED].

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/09/2021 01:27 PM

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by AB DATE 12/3/21  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/09/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 42**

On 09/08/2021, [REDACTED] with IEH contacted me back regarding the lab request [REDACTED] stated they only do Coliform and E. Coli testing and suggested I contact [REDACTED] of JLA Lab in Modesto. I contacted [REDACTED] who stated they do not do the requested bacteria testing at his lab and suggested I contact the owner of IEH to see if the lab in Washington can do the requested testing. [REDACTED] provided me with the name of [REDACTED] with the phone number of [REDACTED]

I spoke to Sergeant [REDACTED] regarding the information, and it was decided that we would forego the well water testing at this time, as the well water at the Gerrish-Chung household had been recently tested and the results were sent to this office. Those results were attached to this report.

**Recommendation:**

Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/09/2021 01:28 PM

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BY M3 DATE 12/13/21  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/10/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 43**

On 9/10/2021, a request for Addendum and time Extension for search warrant [REDACTED] was presented to Honorable Judge [REDACTED] due to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations) requests (Employees of the FBI be authorized to assist any Peace Officer in the execution of search warrant [REDACTED]. Honorable Judge [REDACTED] reviewed and granted the Addendum and Extension.

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/13/2021 06:47 AM

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RECEIVED Tom Vacar  
BY APB DATE 12/3/21  
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CA0220000

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/13/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 44

On September 13, 2021, I received property numbers 03,04,05,06,07,18,19 and 20 from evidence. I transported these items to Merced and met with FBI Agent [REDACTED]. I exchanged custody of aforementioned evidence items and completed a property release/transfer form from our office. I scanned and attached the form to this report.

**Recommendations:**

None/Remain active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/14/2021 07:08 AM

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CA0220000

RECEIVED *Tom Vacca*  
AIB DATE *12/3/21*  
BY *Tom Vacca* MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/21/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 45

On September 21, 2021, I made contact with [REDACTED], for the purpose of returning the Ford truck and its key fob. The Sheriff's Office stored the truck at the outside evidence yard for the family after the execution of the search warrant that provided no evidentiary results. At 1330, I met [REDACTED] at the Sheriff's Office and led her to the evidence yard where I turned over the truck (property #22) and key fob (property #23) to her.

**Recommendations:**

Remain the same.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/21/2021 03:01 PM

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ON 10/13 DATE 12/3/21  
MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/21/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 46**

On 09/07/2021, I received an email from Detective [REDACTED] containing the T-Mobil results from Jonathan Gerrish's cell phone data. I reviewed the data, which was in UTC time, and located numerous text messages showing they were sent from Jonathan's phone after the time the family went missing. I provided the records to Detective [REDACTED] to assist with contacting the subjects showing to have received messages after the time the Gerrish-Chung family went missing. I was present when Detective [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED]. Both [REDACTED] stated those were actually the last time they had sent messages to Jonathan and it appeared the information from T-Mobil had the sender/receiver information reversed. Based upon that information, no further relevant information was gleaned from the T-Mobil results.

I attached the T-Mobil results to this report.

**Recommendation:**

Remain Active

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/27/2021 09:01 AM

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**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/22/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 47**

On 09/21/21 items #22 truck and #23 key fob were released to [REDACTED]  
from the Evidence yard.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/27/2021 09:01 AM

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By PA 1413 DATE 12/3/21  
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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
09/23/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 48

On 9/21/2021, I received the FBI report from [REDACTED] regarding his attempts to unlock Jonathan's cell phone (Google Pixel 4). Below is a synopsis of that report. Please refer to the attached report for full details.

On 8/24/2021, TFO [REDACTED] took possession of the Google Pixel 4 cell phone for forensic examination.

On 8/25/2021, TFO [REDACTED] took the Google Pixel 4 for to Fresno HIS (Fresno ICAC) and with the help of staff attempted to unlock the cell phone using Cellebrite Premium. TFO [REDACTED] and members of the ICAC team tried three (3) times and were unsuccessful. TFO [REDACTED] brought the cell phone back to Fresno FBI Headquarters for storage and next course of action. TFO [REDACTED] turned the cell phone out of airplane mode to see if any un-sent text would be sent out by the device which no message were generated. TFO [REDACTED] powered off the device and returned it to an evidence locker, where it was held until it was turned over to SA [REDACTED] (FBI headquarters in Washington, DC) on a later date.

TFO [REDACTED] lastly stated he heard about the cell phone was "They were working on it and making progress"

**Recommendations:**

Attach to main.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 09/27/2021 09:03 AM

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
10/14/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

**Supplement 49**

On October 14, 2021, I received a copy of the final report for K9 Oski. The report was attached to this report for review.

**Recommendations:**

None

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 10/14/2021 03:14 PM

**MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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Phone (209) 966-3615  
Fax (209) 742-5090

**Case Number**  
MG2100896

**Date**  
10/19/21

**Deputy**  
[REDACTED]

Supplement 50

I received a copy of the final Stanislaus County Coroner's report for Jonathan, Ellen and [REDACTED] The final findings from Doctor [REDACTED] are as follows:

**Jonathan Gerrish:** Cause of death, Hyperthermia and probable dehydration. Due to, Environmental exposure ([REDACTED]).

**Ellen Chung:** Cause of death, Hyperthermia and probable dehydration. Due to, Environmental exposure ([REDACTED]).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I scanned and attached the final reports to this case for review.

I also received a copy of DOJ Field Investigative Report, [REDACTED] This report was scanned and attached to this case for review.

**Recommendations:**

Obtain items from FBI, return items as necessary and then close case.

Approved by : SGT [REDACTED] Date : 10/25/2021 06:42 AM