
Lake James

HOMICIDE

June 23, 2021

Matt Collins

Polygraph Examiner

Indiana State Police



**INDIANA
STATE
POLICE**

The background features a large, semi-transparent badge for the Indiana State Police. The badge is shield-shaped with a gold border and contains the text 'INDIANA STATE POLICE' in large, bold, grey letters. To the left of the badge is a portion of the United States flag, and to the right is a portion of the Indiana state flag, which is blue with a yellow sun and stars.

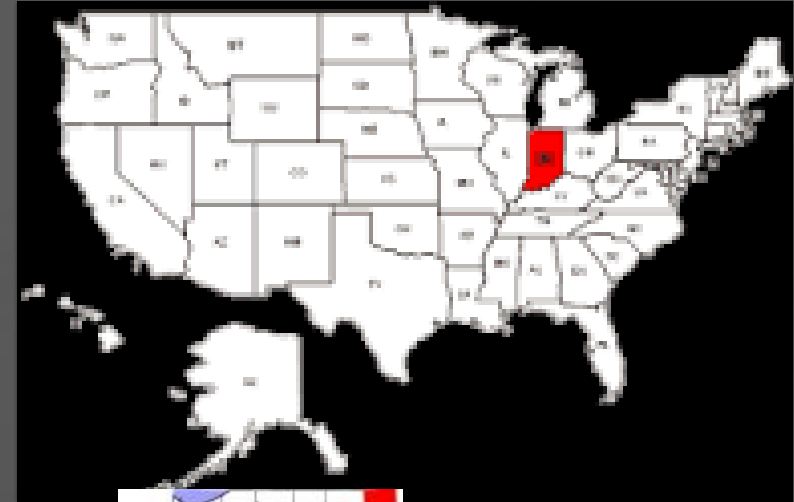


Chris Emerick

Detective 1st Sgt

Steuben County Sheriff's
Office

Where is Indiana?



Where is Steuben
County WITHIN
INDIANA?



What is Indiana known for?



These too...



And a couple more...

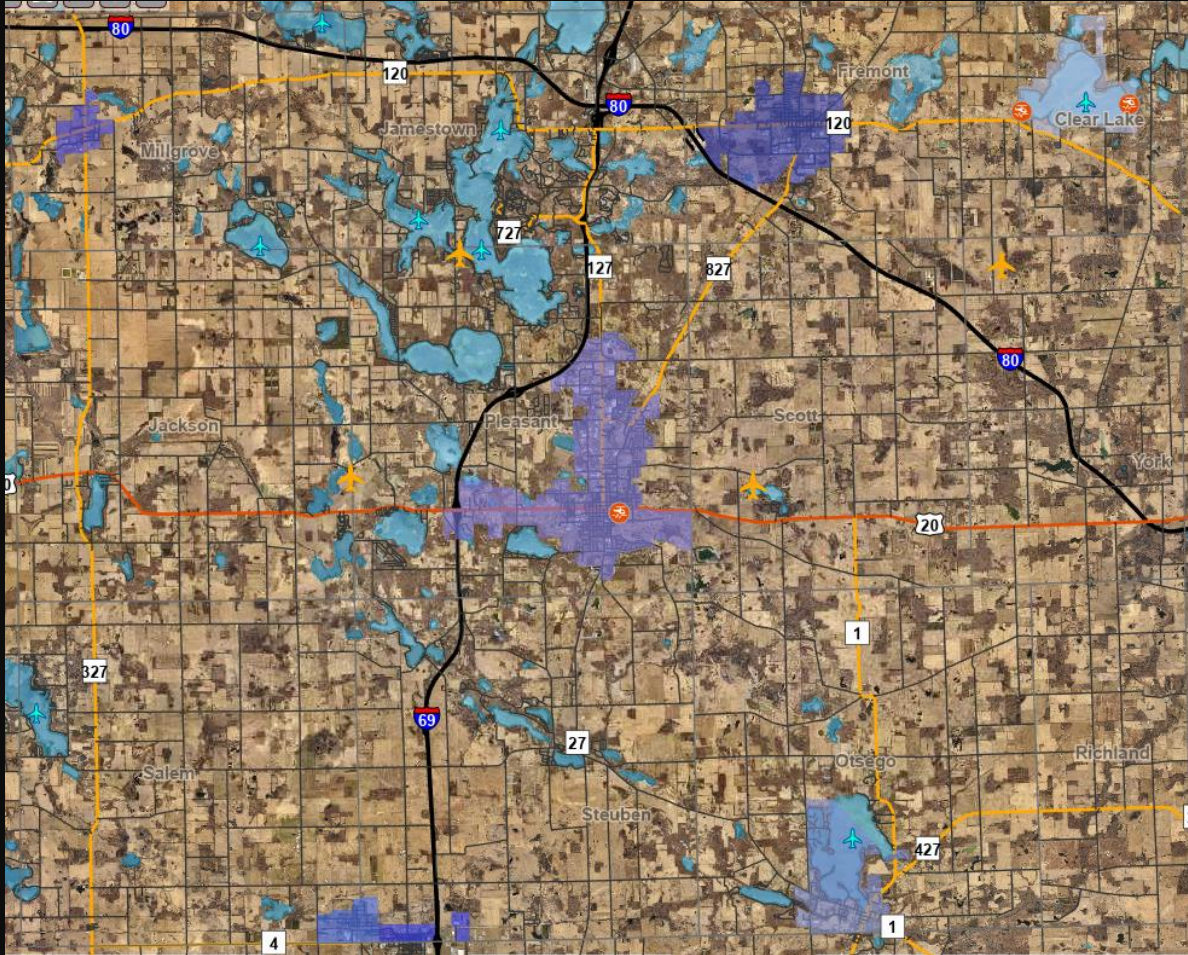


Famous singer
frequents
Lake James

Can you feel the Bieber Fever??



Steuben County, IN



- Northeast corner of the state
 - Borders Michigan and Ohio
 - Population: 35,000
 - Summer Population: >100,000
 - 101 Lakes
 - Indiana Toll Road and Interstate-69
-

Fun in Steuben County



Lake James Chain

- Made up of:
 - Lake James
 - Jimmerson Lake
 - Snow Lake
 - Big Otter Lake
 - Little Otter Lake



Red Sand Beach Area



395 Ln
200E

Lake James



Wilma Ball Case Study

◆ Investigation and evidence

◆ Polygraphs

◆ Interview

◆ Court adjudication

NEW TONIGHT

kittle's
FURNITURE

* CHINA'S DEFENSE MINISTRY WARNED THE UNITED STATES

FOX
55
WFFT.COM

10:02
75°



Wilma Ball

- 82-year-old
- Widowed (approx 1 year prior)
- Lived Alone
- Physically Active
 - Avid cyclist
 - Competitive bridge player
 - Enjoyed playing pickleball, golf, and tennis
- Two Children and Two Step-Children











911 CALL



SCENE INVESTIGATION





Front Entrance





































95 CALS

Miller

ULTRA

SUPERIOR LIGHT BEER



















AUTOPSY

INJURIES

Two stab wounds to the neck – fatal

Fractured nose

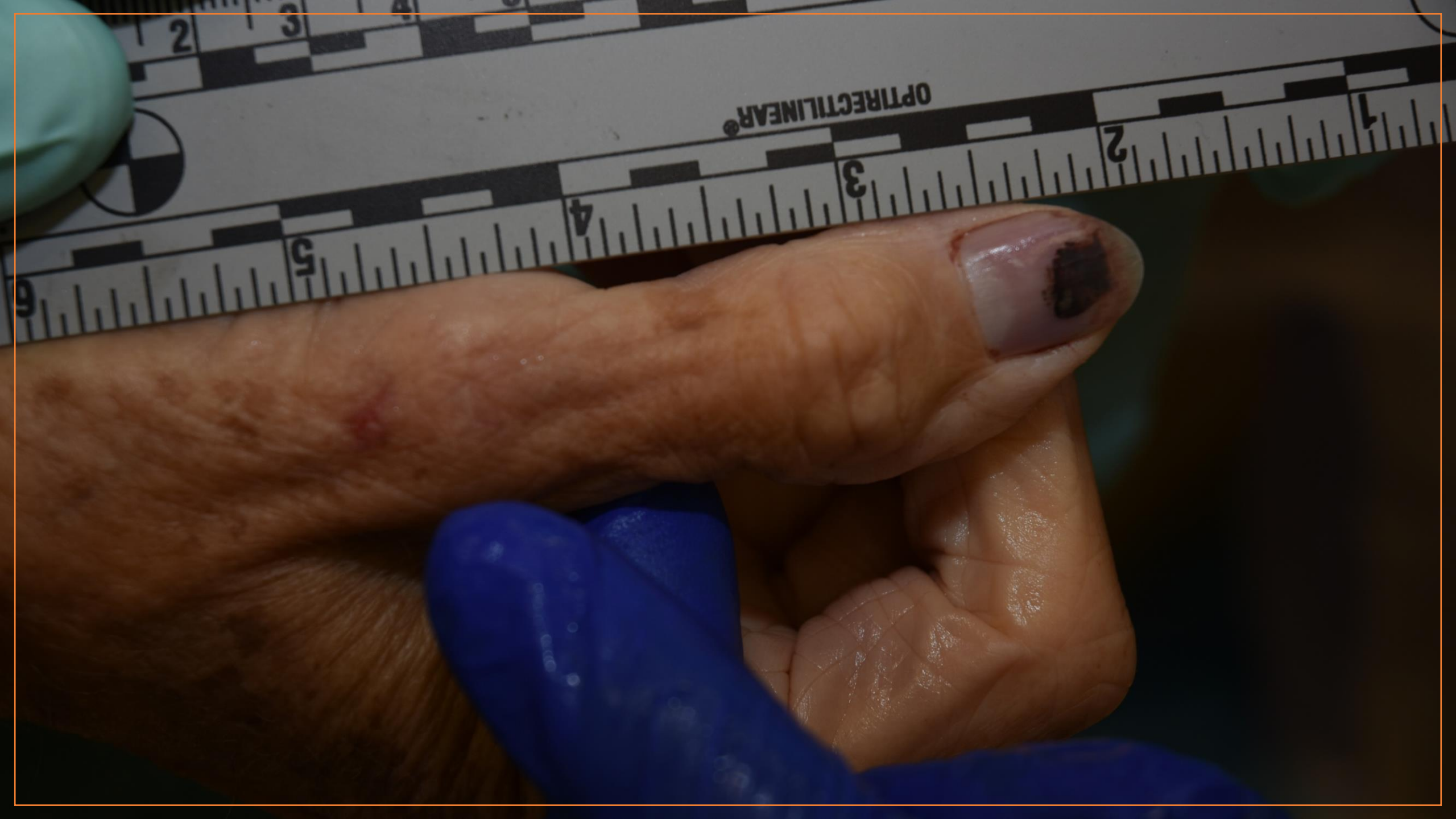
Contusions to the left side of face, left chest area,
left ear, right ear, posterior head and lower lip

Abrasion to the right thumb













SEXUAL ASSAULT

Position of
body

Removal of
clothing

INVESTIGATION

Family Dynamics

First husband passed away

- Two Children from first marriage
 - one lives approx. 2 hours away
 - other lives in North Carolina

Second husband passed away approx. one year prior

- Two step-children
 - both live nearby

Lake property

- In a family trust from second husband
- Estate worth over 5 million

Victim lived in Florida during the winter months

- November thru March
-

Interviews

Family – 10 immediate members to include a Federal Judge

Friends – 7 included the two who found the victim

Neighbors – 47 from immediate area

Other – Fitness Instructors, Financial Advisor and Attorney in Florida

Security Cameras

Numerous neighbors

Various systems

Majority were motion activated

Problems

- Owners not familiar with system
- Unable to download or save video
- Storage duration
- Motion activated
- Manpower to review

Amazon
Alexa



POLYGRAPH

- Contacted for assistance the Monday after Wilma was found
- By the end of the day, I had talked with one of the Detectives
- Agreed I could do the exams at the Sheriff's Office
- Told them I would need a room that was video recorded, quiet, two chairs, and a table
- Plan was for me to be there the next day and they would have someone for me to test a 9:00 am.

- Tuesday met with Chris and Austin at the Sheriff's Office
- They told me Wilma was stabbed twice, pulled across her bed, and left in a position that suggested she was sexually assaulted
- Was also told they believed entry to the home was made through a garage window
- Two miss-matched socks were found with animal hair on them
- Some empty beer cans were also found in the house

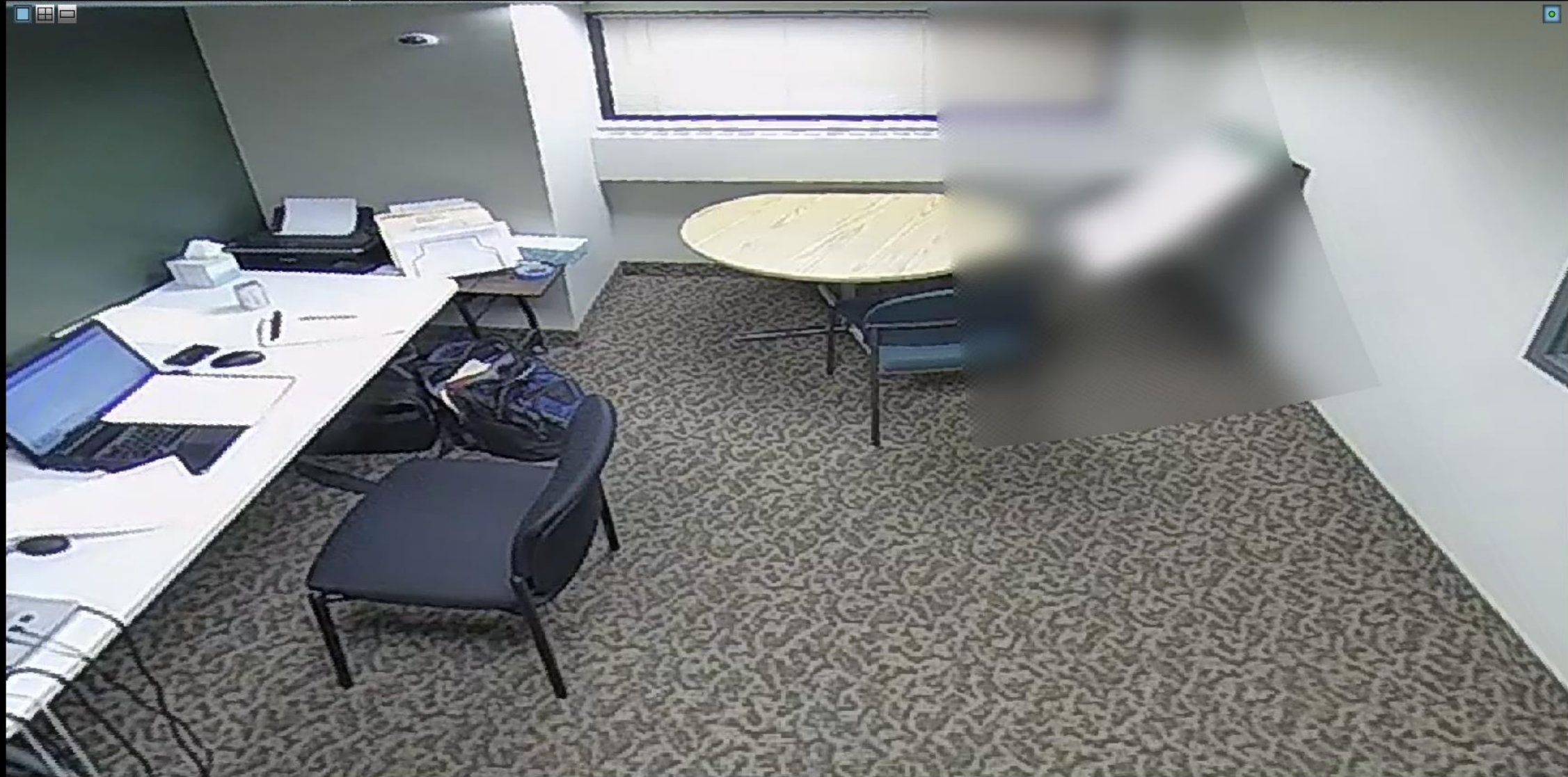
- Austin asked me about the possibility of a false positive result
- Discussed that it was a possibility if testing random individuals that have been interviewed instead of narrowing it down to a specific suspect
- Was told they did not have anyone identified as a suspect and they were willing to accept all possible results

Off Site testing



Interview SW (Interview 360 Camera)
FPS: 30 Resolution: 2048x1536 Frame: 2912/453887 Compression: H.264 Watermark: Valid

- Time selection
- Timeline
- Motion search
- Thumbnails
- Media exporting
- Print
- Image filters



7/1/2021 1:01:40 PM 1x

1 Minute(s)

Choose the desired interval for video playback

Customized

Restrict the video to a determined time interval:

Initial Date:	Final Date:	Initial Time:	Final Time:
12/29/1899	12/29/1899	00:00:00	00:00:00

Next

Polygraphs

Offered to family members

- Stepson – refused the one offered by Indiana State Police
 - Agreed to take one given by a private examiner
- Stepdaughter – refused to take one
- Son – agreed to take one given by a LE agency in North Carolina
- Daughter – Agreed to take one
- Son-in-law – Agreed to take one

Offered to neighbors

- Based on interviews and circumstances – two neighbors/painter
-

First Polygraph

Tuesday 6/29/21

- ◇ Charles Lampe
- ◇ 70-year-old retired neighbor
- ◇ Lived three houses away from Wilma
- ◇ Had known her for 20 years, but not that well
- ◇ Saw her outside the night before she was found deceased and helped her hang a plant
- ◇ Had heard Wilma was stabbed

Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you Stab that woman?
- ◆ Did you stab that woman in her home?
- ◆ Are you the one that stabbed that woman?

Stated he understood “that woman” referred to Wilma

First Polygraph Results

(Charles Lampe)

- ◆ 5 charts were collected
- ◆ ESS scoring
- ◆ +9
- ◆ No deception indicated

Second Polygraph Sgt Sample

Wednesday 6/30/21

- ◇ Lora Hostetler
- ◇ 61-year-old daughter
- ◇ Retired schoolteacher
- ◇ Lives in Kokomo, IN
- ◇ Her and her husband, Tim, had visited Wilma June 20th – June 22nd
 - ◇ Left Wilma's residence morning of June 22nd
- ◇ Was contacted June 23rd by Det. Rowlands and notified her mother had died

Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you stab that woman?
- ◆ Did you stab that woman in that bedroom?
- ◆ Did you participate in any way in the stabbing of that woman?

Discussed the meaning of “that woman” with Lora prior to the test

Second Polygraph Results

(Lora Hostetler)

- ◆ 5 charts were collected
- ◆ ESS scoring
- ◆ -3
- ◆ Deception indicated
- ◆ Post test denied being involved in her mother's murder
- ◆ Said she wanted to speak with her attorney, ending the interview

Third Polygraph Sgt Sample

Wednesday 6/30/21

- ◇ Tim Hostetler
- ◇ 61-year-old
- ◇ Retired husband of Lora
- ◇ Provided same information in pre-test as Lora
- ◇ Mistake: we allowed Tim and Lora to talk in between their tests
- ◇ Can you guess what Tim's attitude was?



Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you stab that woman?
- ◆ Did you stab that woman in that bedroom?
- ◆ Did you participate in any way in the stabbing of that woman?

Discussed the meaning of “that woman” with Tim prior to the test

Third Polygraph Results

(Tim Hostetler)

- ◆ 5 charts were collected
- ◆ ESS scoring
- ◆ +6
- ◆ No deception indicated

Fourth Polygraph

Thursday 7/1/21

- ◇ Kenneth Sharpenberg
- ◇ 73-year-old neighbor who lived two houses from Wilma
- ◇ Had been painting Wilma's house
- ◇ Painted until 5:00 pm the day before Wilma was found
 - ◇ Talked with her for about ½ hour
- ◇ Next morning started painting again around 9:45 until 11:00
- ◇ Left residence and went to town to get supplies
- ◇ When he returned Wilma's friends were there and had found her
- ◇ Was told Wilma had been stabbed

Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you stab that woman?
- ◆ Are you the one who stabbed that woman?
- ◆ Did you participate in any way in the stabbing of that woman?

Discussed the meaning of “that woman” with Kenneth prior to the test

Fourth Polygraph Results

(Kenneth Sharpenberg)

- ◆ 3 charts were collected
- ◆ ESS scoring
- ◆ +17
- ◆ No deception indicated

Investigation Cont'd

- Neighbor across the street
 - Interviews conducted with most of the household within two days
 - One adult son (Noah Hoover) was unavailable when Detectives were conducting initial interviews
 - Contact made was finally made with Noah at his place of employment
 - Injury to face was observed by the Detective and Noah seemed evasive in his answers
 - Formal interview was scheduled along with a polygraph for July 1st

Fifth Polygraph

Thursday 7/1/21

- ◇ Noah Hoover
- ◇ 19-year-old male neighbor who lived across the street from Wilma
- ◇ Was told before he arrived that he was not very smart – became concerned if he capable of taking the test
- ◇ High school graduate with aspirations of going to college to work in animation
- ◇ Had already been accepted to local community college
- ◇ Working at a factory making windows
- ◇ Wearing Power Ranger t-shirt and Adidas zip-up, covered in white animal hair

Pre-Test Interview – Noah Hoover

- Tuesday 06/22/21, had worked 2nd shift and got home 10:40 pm – 11:00 pm
- Stayed up until 2:00 am – 3:00 am on 6/23/21, playing video games
- Did not notice anything out of the ordinary in the neighborhood that night
- Woke up at 12:58 pm on 6/23/21 and saw firetrucks, police cars, and an ambulance outside
- Didn't know Wilma personally and had never been in her house
- Had heard Wilma had been stabbed

Time selection

Timeline

Motion search

Thumbnails

Media exporting

Print

Image filters



7/1/2021 1:09:50 PM 1x

1 Minute(s)

Choose the desired interval for video playback:

Customized

Restrict the video to a determined time interval:

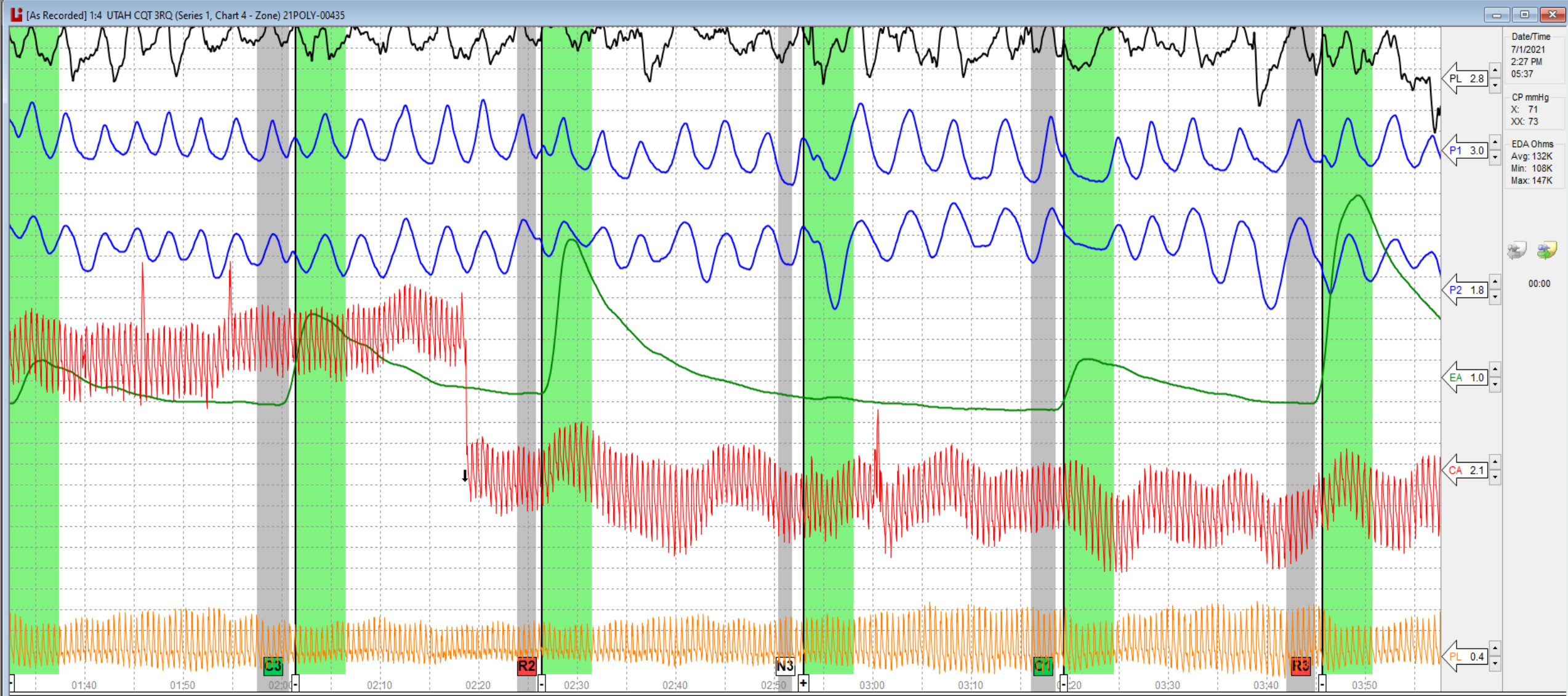
Initial Date:	Final Date:	Initial Time:	Final Time:
12/29/1899	12/29/1899	00:00:00	00:00:00

Next

Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you stab that woman?
- ◆ Are you the one who stabbed that woman?
- ◆ Did you participate in any way in stabbing that woman?

Discussed the meaning of “that woman” with Noah prior to the test



No Question Selected.

← I1 SR N2 C3 R2 N3 C1 R3 N1 C2 R1 →

OTH OS EI EE PW WRQ MI TI AI BI WU CA MV T DB C CT SW SNF Y SZ LGH SLP B

Fifth Polygraph Results

(Noah Hoover)

- ◆ 3 charts were collected
- ◆ ESS scoring
- ◆ -27
- ◆ Deception indicated

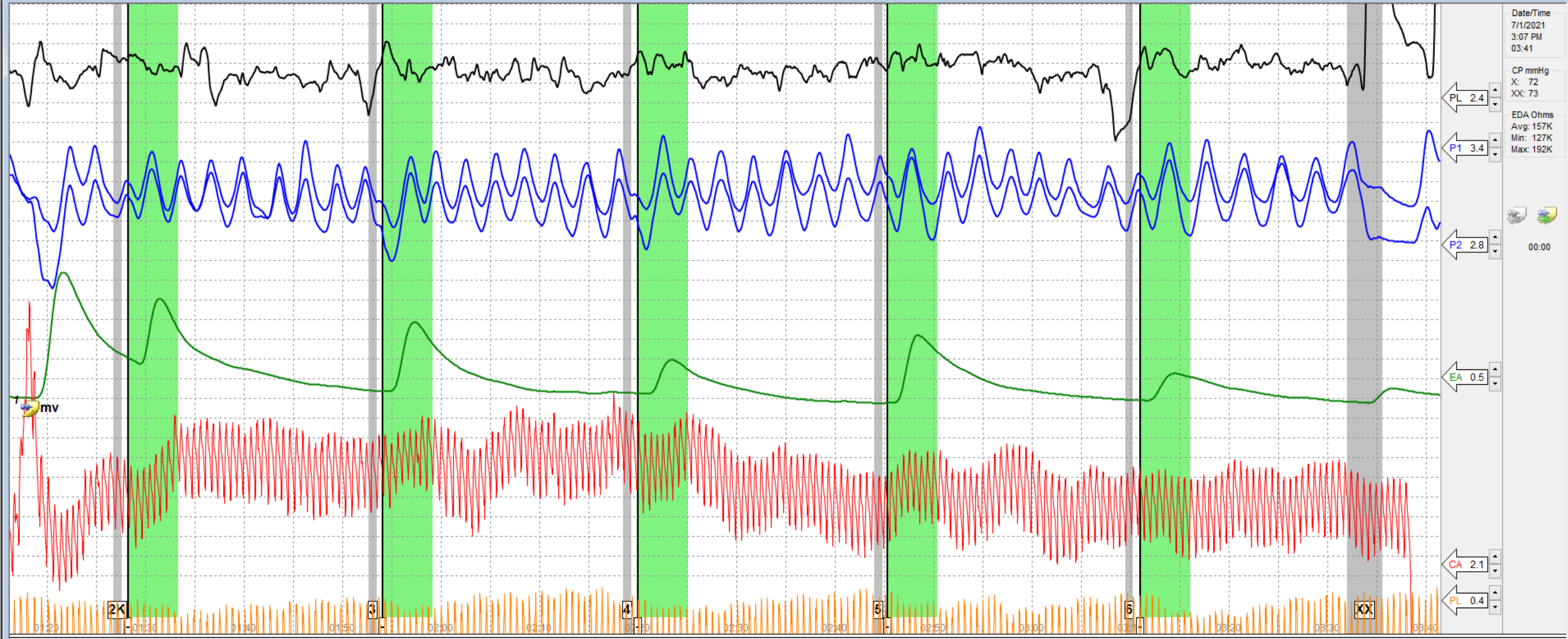


CONCEALED INFORMATION TEST

- ◆ If you stabbed that woman, you would know if an article of clothing was left at her house:
 - ◆ Hat
 - ◆ Shirt
 - ◆ Pants
 - ◆ Sock
 - ◆ Underwear
 - ◆ Shoe



[As Recorded] 1:6 CIT-POT-GKT - known solution (Series 1, Chart 6 - CIT) 21POLY-00435



Date/Time
7/1/2021
3:07 PM
03:41

CP mmHg
X: 72
XX: 73

EDA Ohms
Avg: 157K
Min: 127K
Max: 192K

00:00

PL 2.4

P1 3.4

P2 2.8

EA 0.5

CA 2.1

PL 0.4

No Question Selected.

0 1 2K 3 4 5 6 <

OTH OS EI EE PW WRQ MI TI AI BI WU CA MV T DB C CT SW SNF Y SZ LGH SLP B

- After data collection, I gave Noah a break
- Walked him up to the lobby, offered him a soda, which he accepted
- Went back to exam room and packed up polygraph equipment
- Talked to the detectives

Interview SW (Interview 360 Camera)
FPS: 30 Resolution: 2048x1536 Frame: 286031/453887 Compression: H.264 Watermark: Valid

- Time selection
- Timeline
- Motion search
- Thumbnails
- Media exporting
- Print
- Image filters



7/1/2021 3:38:57 PM 1x

1 Minute(s)

Choose the desired interval for video playback:

Customized Next

Restrict the video to a determined time interval:

Initial Date:	Final Date:	Initial Time:	Final Time:
12/29/1899	12/29/1899	00:00:00	00:00:00

Post-Test Interview

- ◆ Confident he was involved
- ◆ Spent 40-45 minutes using all of my best stuff
- ◆ He told me nothing
- ◆ Continued to deny being involved or knowing what happened
- ◆ Transition to Detectives Chris and Austin

Interview SW (Interview 360 Camera)
FPS: 30 Resolution: 2048x1536 Frame: 393369/453887 Compression: H.264 Watermark: Valid

- Time selection
- Timeline
- Motion search
- Thumbnails
- Media exporting
- Print
- Image filters



7/1/2021 4:38:35 PM 1x

Control buttons: Play/Pause, Previous, Next, Stop.

1 Minute(s)

Choose the desired interval for video playback:

Customized [Dropdown] Next

Restrict the video to a determined time interval:

Initial Date:	Final Date:	Initial Time:	Final Time:
12/29/1899	12/29/1899	00:00:00	00:00:00

- Chris and Austin entered the room
- They said about two sentences to Noah, and he started talking
 - Day after murder, brother (Matt Hoover) abruptly quit his job
 - Matt stole mom's truck and went to step-dad's house
 - Hid the truck at step-dad's house (Yorktown, IN)
 - Walked to dad's house (Anderson, IN)
- Matt was an alcoholic and might become violent when he drinks
- Who the hell is Matt???



- **Matthew Hoover**

- Neighbor
- 28 Years of age
- CNA - worked at a nursing home
- Left the area the morning the victim was found
- Located about 1.5 hours south of Steuben County on July 1st
- Interviewed and denied involvement
- Voluntarily gave a DNA sample
- Agreed to a polygraph – July 3rd

Sixth Polygraph F/Sgt Hansard

Saturday 7/3/21

- ◇ Matt Hoover
- ◇ 28-year-old male who lived across the street from Wilma, Noah's brother
- ◇ Night before Wilma was found, he was up most of the night talking to friends on Facebook, playing video games, and drinking
- ◇ Said he started to go to work the night of Wilma's murder, but decided to go to his family's house in Muncie
- ◇ Next day left truck in Muncie and walked to dad's house in Anderson approximately 18 miles

Pre-Test Interview

Sixth Polygraph

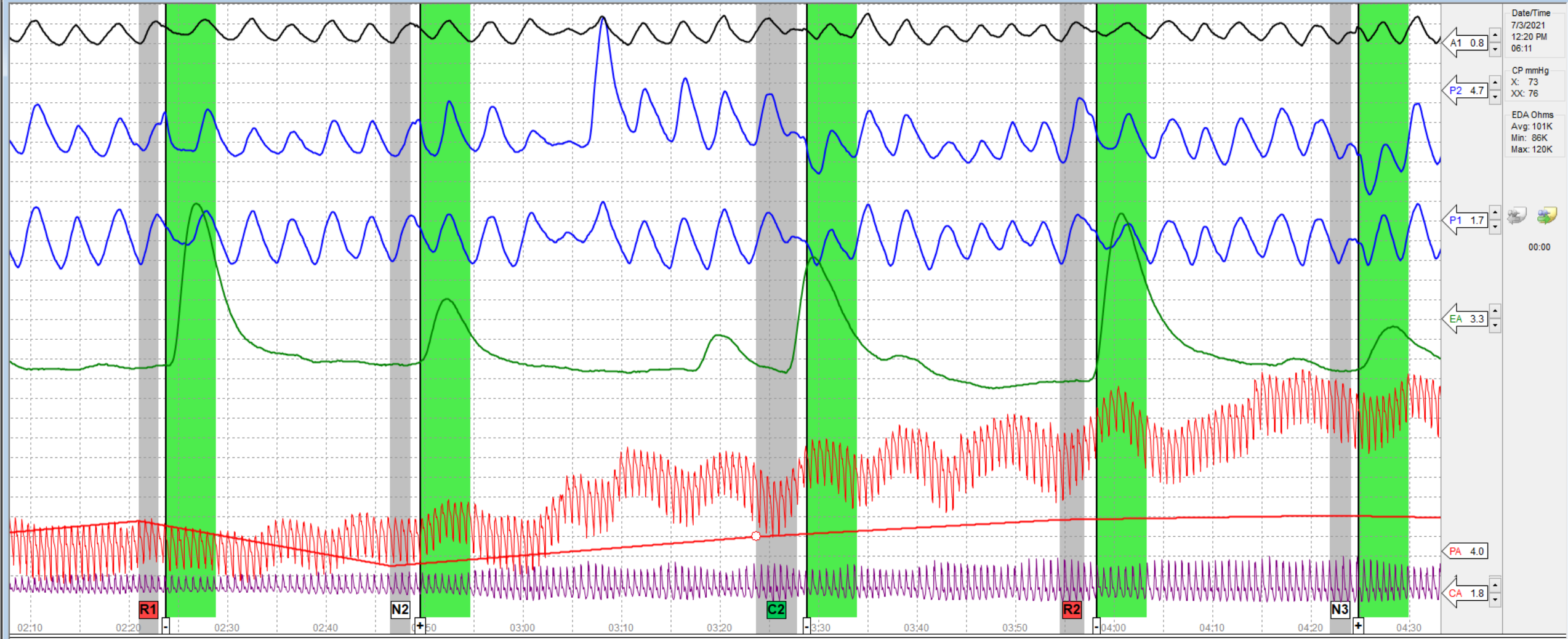
- ◇ Quit his job around the time of the murder because tired of being picked on at work
- ◇ Heard Wilma was stabbed but didn't know with what
- ◇ Heard police found boots in Wilma's house
- ◇ Asked how he would do on the test:
 - ◇ "I should be okay, but I can feel my heart quickening"

Utah 3 Question Probable Lie

- ◆ Did you stab that woman?
- ◆ Are you the one who stabbed that woman?
- ◆ Did you participate in that woman's death in any way?



[Examiner] 3:1 Series 2, Chart 1 - Zone - 21POLY-00437



Date/Time
7/3/2021
12:20 PM
06:11

CP mmHg
X: 73
XX: 76

EDA Ohms
Avg: 101K
Min: 86K
Max: 120K

00:00

A1 0.8

P2 4.7

P1 1.7

EA 3.3

PA 4.0

CA 1.8

No Question Selected.

X I1 SR N1 C1 R1 N2 C2 R2 N3 C3 R3 XX

OTH OS EI EE PW WRQ MI TI AI BI WU CA MV T DB C CT SW SNF Y SZ LGH SLP B

Sixth Polygraph Results

(Matt Hoover)

◆ ESS scoring

◆ -12

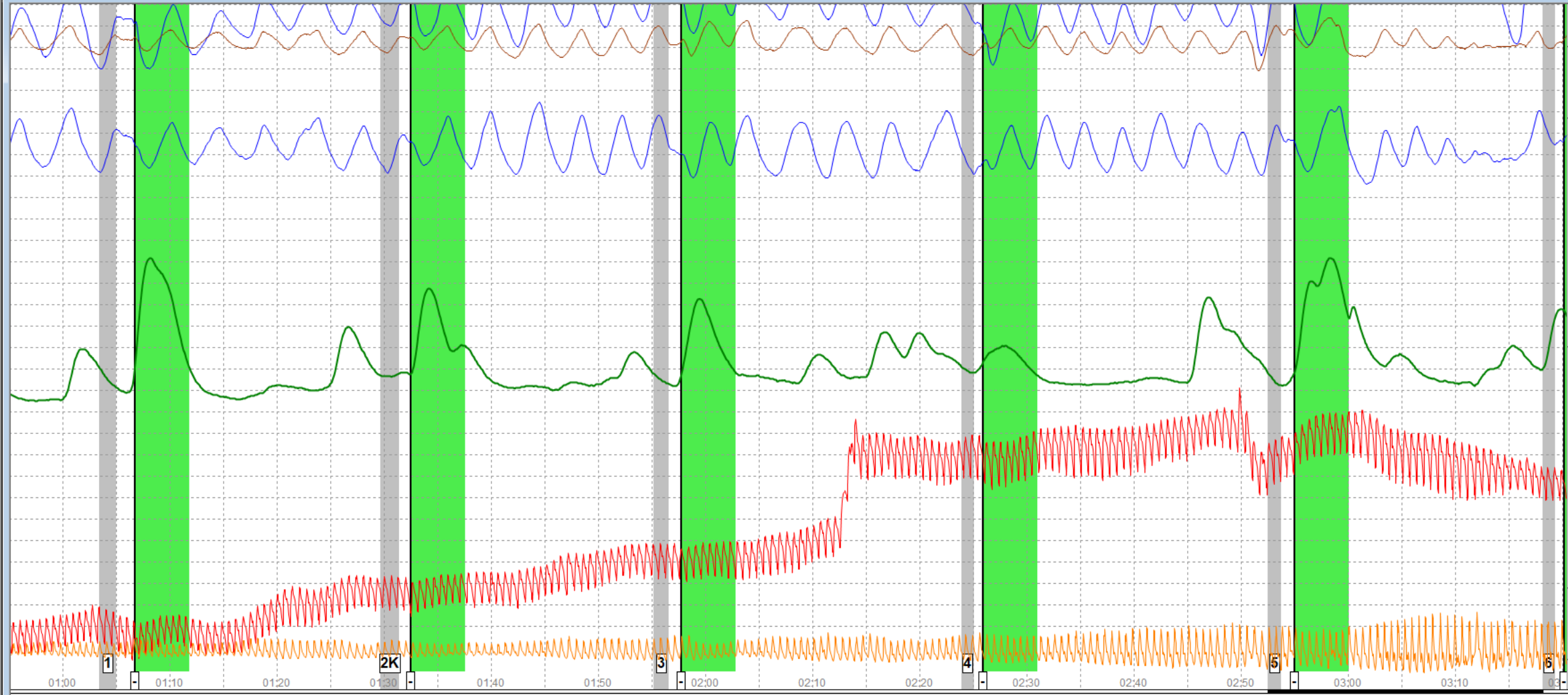
◆ Deception indicated

CONCEALED INFORMATION TEST

- ◆ If you stabbed that woman, you know the article of clothing that was left at her residence:
 - ◆ Hat
 - ◆ Socks
 - ◆ Shirt
 - ◆ Pants
 - ◆ Underwear
 - ◆ T-shirt



[As Recorded] 4:1 Series 3, Chart 1 - CIT - 21POLY-00437



Date/Time
7/3/2021
12:51 PM
03:49

CP mmHg
X: 73
XX: 80

EDA Ohms
Avg: 81K
Min: 74K
Max: 86K

00:00

A1 0.8

P2 3.5

EA 3.3

CA 1.4

PL 0.1

5 (N) Underwear

X O 1 2K 3 4 5 6 XX

OTH OS EI EE PW WRQ MI TI AI BI WU CA MV T DB C CT SW SNF Y SZ LGH SLP B

For Help, press F1

100%

No DAS

Post-Test Interview

- ◇ Matt continued to deny stabbing Wilma
- ◇ Voices in his head were making him question whether or not he could have done it
- ◇ Regarding DNA, Matt told investigators that if they can put him at the scene, he'll tell them what happened

Physical Evidence

Beer Can

Blood on
doorknob

Hair by
windowsill

Sexual Assault
Examination

Socks

Biological Results

- Beer Can: The DNA profile is at least 1 trillion times more likely if it originated from Matthew Hoover than if it originated from an unknown, unrelated individual.
- Hair by windowsill: Hair demonstrating characteristics of human hair with the potential for nuclear DNA - insufficient quantity of DNA for further analysis.
- Black sock: The DNA profile is at least 1 trillion times more likely if it originated from Matthew Hoover, Noah Hoover and an unknown individual than if it originated from three unknown, unrelated individual.
- Blue sock: The DNA profile is at least 1 trillion times more likely if it originated from Matthew Hoover than if it originated from an unknown, unrelated individual.
- Swab-bedroom doorknob: The DNA profile is at least 1 trillion times more likely if it originated from Matthew Hoover than if it originated from an unknown, unrelated individual.
- Sexual Assault Exam: The DNA profile is at least 1 trillion times more likely if it originated from Matthew Hoover than if it originated from an unknown, unrelated individual.

Search Warrant Results



Confession



Confession



Plea

- Murder • Plea by Agreement
- Rape committed while armed w/Deadly Weapon (Attempt to Commit) • Dismissed
- Burglary: Armed with a deadly weapon • Plea by Agreement
- Abuse of a Corpse (Attempt to Commit) • Dismissed
- Sentenced
- Murder - Term: 65 Yr
- Burglary: Armed with a deadly weapon - Term: 30 Yr Consecutive
- 95 years total sentence

POLYGRAPH EXAMINER
MATT COLLINS
INDIANA STATE POLICE
mcollins@isp.in.gov

DETECTIVE F/SGT.
CHRIS EMERICK
STEUBEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
cemerick@co.steuben.in.us