

1 humble home near where he grew up and they built that
2 together with the help of family and friends. Right
3 here (indicating) is where Chad Swedberg lived. Right
4 across the street on Little White Earth Lake is where
5 his brother, Ken Swedberg, lives.

6 Now, although Chad Swedberg and Leslie Fain
7 didn't have any children together, they had children in
8 their home, and if I may, ladies and gentlemen, I am
9 going to flip over here a chart which I have made
10 because of the number of witnesses that we have in this
11 case, and I haven't included all of them, but when I
12 make reference to people you will have -- at least you
13 can look up at a few of them here and have an idea and
14 reminder of who they are.

15 Now, as I said, Chad and Leslie didn't have
16 any children in common but they had children in the
17 home. They had Leslie's adult son, Jesse Fain, and his
18 wife, Ann Fain, and their three children, Jsi, Maddy
19 and Gwen, and they were ages seven, five, and three.
20 Also living in the home with Chad and Leslie was
21 Leslie's sister, Morningstar Belcourt and Morningstar's
22 son, Thomas Covington, who was 17 years old.

23 Now, ladies and gentlemen, April 13th, 2007,
24 Chad Swedberg woke around 6:30 that morning. The
25 morning activities of the house were not unlike that of

1 most households in Becker County. The adults were
2 preparing for work. The older children were preparing
3 to go to school. Chad's plan for that day was to make
4 maple syrup, just as he had done the last few days. He
5 loved homemade maple syrup. He would put it on pancakes
6 and on the venison sausage that they made, and he always
7 worried that this year's harvest wouldn't be enough
8 maple syrup to carry him until the next year. There was
9 a morning show on the television that morning and the
10 show that he was watching said that there was going to
11 be a story about wolves and Chad was interested in that
12 then and he wanted to see that but he didn't wait around
13 to watch the program. He left his house shortly after
14 7:45 A.M. and headed for his maple syrup camp. He asked
15 his wife, Leslie, to watch the program for him and tell
16 him what it was about at the end of the day or later.
17 Just after he left his house the story came on and
18 Leslie hollered out the window to him the story was on
19 but he was already down the trail to his maple syrup
20 camp.

21 Chad Swedberg left his house that morning
22 wearing boots and had on a pair of jeans, and like most
23 people that time of year, April 13th, 2007, or in the
24 spring time like most people, he dressed in layers. As
25 we expect, the mornings are colder and afternoons would

1 warm up. For an overcoat he had on a brown Carhart type
2 of jacket with a hood. He had his favorite baseball cap
3 on and a pair of worn work gloves in his pocket.

4 Now he stepped out that morning to a
5 beautiful, crisp, spring day. The sun was shining.
6 There was a slight breeze in the air and the ground was
7 not completely covered in snow, but you will see there
8 are still snow patches in the woods or areas of patches
9 of snow. The low that day, ladies and gentlemen, was 28
10 and the high was 46.

11 Now, his camp was close enough for him to
12 walk. It was approximately half a mile from his house.
13 I will show you here (indicating) and you can see this
14 outline, his home was right here. This outline of a
15 road was what they called the old Boy Scout camp road.
16 It is no longer a public road. It comes to a dead end
17 up there and it's blocked off and no vehicle traffic and
18 it is grown over in parts. And, as I said before, it is
19 not a public road. Chad walked down that road to a
20 point here where he turned up to enter his maple syrup
21 camp which was right -- approximately right there
22 (indicating) and there was a trail that lead from right
23 here to that point.

24 As it was spring time and we all know what it
25 is like in northern Minnesota in spring time on roads

1 that are not always used it becomes muddy, and there was
2 patches that were quite muddy. In fact, earlier that
3 week Chad had gotten one of his vehicles stuck, buried
4 his vehicle in the mud on the path to his maple syrup
5 camp. Chad set up his camp in the trees he was tapping.
6 That (indicating) is a picture of his maple syrup camp.
7 As you can see, ladies and gentlemen, maybe if you don't
8 know, you see those blue bags in the photos. The
9 evidence will show that those blue bags are used for
10 maple syruping. In order to tap a maple tree somebody
11 drills a whole approximately three feet high off the
12 ground and they insert a tap, and those bags there
13 collect the maple syrup sap. The maple syrup sap then
14 is brought up the steps and is put in this holding
15 container there. And basically what happens is he
16 releases it down into here, and this (indicating) is a
17 wood stove that heats the maple syrup. It runs through
18 a series of channels. And the end product, ladies and
19 gentlemen, is maple syrup. That is his camp that he
20 gathered and built and set up out there in the woods.
21 He also used a device that was called a hydrometer. A
22 hydrometer is used -- it is a glass device that is used
23 to measure the sugar content of the maple syrup.

24 He was never able to make maple syrup that
25 day. While preparing the site shortly after 8 A.M. two