

Vaughn Family Tragedy on June 14, 2007
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August and September 2012

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#ChristopherVaughn trial starts this afternoon.
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20 Aug Jon Seidel @SeidelContent

After long wait, #ChristopherVaughn on trial in deaths of wife, 3 kids: <http://bit.ly/RbCLiw>
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Kimberly Vaughn's mother expected to testify following opening statements later.
#ChristopherVaughn
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Prosecutors said #ChristopherVaughn wanted to move to Canada and get rid of his "obligations", killing his wife and children.
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Defense: Kimberly Vaughn's medicine made her suicidal, causing her to murder her three children and shoot her husband, #ChristopherVaughn.
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Police officers give testimony about finding #ChristopherVaughn children and wife dead in 2007. It was obvious they were gone, officers said
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Jury will get 30 min break after first witnesses testify in #ChristopherVaughn trial.
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Jurors shown graphic photos of Kimberly Vaughn and her three children as they lay dead in the family's SUV. #ChristopherVaughn
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#ChristopherVaughn has shown little emotion as prosecutors lay out the case against him. The mood in the courtroom is a solemn one.
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Oct. 2006 email to friend: Kimberly Vaughn referred to herself as "Monster Mommy." "We do have a little bit of animal in us that can snap"

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Jurors head back into courtroom to hear next witness in #ChristopherVaughn trial. Next up, another Channahon Police officer.

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"Keep in mind that he's on trial for killing his family, not with wanting to move to Canada," #ChristopherVaughn attorney tells jurors.

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#ChristopherVaughn attorney tries to poke holes in first responders' handling of crime scene. Did they touch the bodies and taint the scene?

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Officers said lack of blood on uniforms is proof they never touched the bodies of Kimberly Vaughn and her 3 children. #ChristopherVaughn

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Paramedic Matt Skole describes finding Blake Vaughn dead in back seat of family's SUV. His father #ChristopherVaughn is charged with murder.

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#ChristopherVaughn **daughter found holding stuffed animal and Harry Potter book** as she was shot to death in the back of her family's SUV.

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"She was still warm to the touch," paramedic said of how he found #ChristopherVaughn daughter dead in back seat.

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First responders still testifying about conditions of the victims' bodies when they arrived at the family SUV in 2007. #ChristopherVaughn

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Fifteen minute break, and then Kimberly Vaughn's mother is expected to testify according to the witness list. #ChristopherVaughn

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Judge allows jury to see four photographs of Kimberly and children happy and alive, against the defense objection. #ChristopherVaughn.

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Susan Phillips, Kimberly's mother talks about finding out her daughter and grandchildren were dead... #ChristopherVaughn

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"When I saw their Ford Expedition on Fox News and I could see Kimberly in the car," Phillips said from the stand. #Christopher Vaughn.

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The family had plans to visit the Wisconsin Dells the weekend following the murders to celebrate Kimberly's graduation. #ChristopherVaughn

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Jury leaves courtroom- judge decides whether they will hear about Kimberly seeing a clinical psychologist in high school. #ChristopherVaughn

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"Kimberly is the same person in 2007 as she was in high school," the defense said, justifying the admission.

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"Her state of mind is what's at issue in this case," defense attorneys said. They argue that Kimberly was having similar issues in 2007.

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Judge rules that Kimberly seeking help from counselor in high school is irrelevant. The evidence should be more current, he said.

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Was #ChristopherVaughn a loving father? "Actually, I would say I don't really know," Susan Phillips, Kimberly's mother said.

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#ChristopherVaughn trial breaks for the evening. Jurors instructed to return at 8 a.m. Susan Phillips done testifying.

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Neighbors, boss, dad and sisters of Kimberly to testify today. #ChristopherVaughn

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Jurors being brought in for second day of #ChristopherVaughn murder trial. First to testify is Del Phillips, Kimberly's father.

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"She was always very protective of her children," Kimberly's father said of his daughter. He described #ChristopherVaughn as "bland".

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The last time he saw Kim, "She was exuberant, excited about graduating. She just wanted to celebrate," her father said.

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June 7-11, 2007: "There were no headaches that I recall between those dates...we were all in euphoria basically," Kim's dad said.

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#ChristopherVaughn claims Kim had a migraine, so he pulled over on a frontage road where the

family was eventually shot to death.

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Jurors hear about morning of Kim's graduation. She and #ChristopherVaughn fought because he did not make breakfast. State objects to ?s.

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"They want to give the jury the impression that Kim was upset to the point where it eventually leads her to...do away with kids and herself"

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Elizabeth "Nikki" Isemann, Kim's sister, takes stand. Barely gets through spelling of her name before she breaks down in tears.

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"Kim is my best friend, and she's my baby sister," Nikki Isemann said of Kim. #ChristopherVaughn

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Short recess as Kim's sister collects her composure and prosecutors direct her how to better answer lines of questioning.

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Sister of Kimberly snarled, glared and pointed at #ChristopherVaughn during his identification.

"That's him," she said angrily.

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Nikki discusses school work Kim sent to her at 8:55 p.m. the day before she was allegedly murdered. This was the last time she spoke to Kim.

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"Kim was looking forward to going to law school," Nikki Isemann said of her sister, who was allegedly murdered by husband #ChristopherVaughn

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Sister: In May, Kim discussed issues she had in the marriage. "She felt they were falling apart in someway?" defense asked "That is true."

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Judge allows defense to bring up allegation that Kim thought she contracted AIDs, and was distraught over that at the time of the murders.

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Sister: Kim never said she was depressed or suicidal. "She was a bubbly gregarious woman who made friends with everyone she walked into."

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"Kim was unhappy with Chris' behavior in May," Nikki Isemann, Kim's sister, said.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Jennifer Ledbetter, Kim's twin sister, takes the stand to testify in the #ChristopherVaughn murder trial.

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"She sounded fine, excited about having completed college and what the kids were all doing and their future plans," Jennifer said of Kim.

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Kim's boss, Russ Romanelli, takes stand to testify. "Kimberly seemed mature, responsible, intelligent...someone I felt I could depend on."

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Boss: Kim and kids went swimming the afternoon before they were killed. Kim also sent him an email late that evening related to work.

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Jury breaks for lunch in #ChristopherVaughn trial. Up next, neighbors the couple had dinner with the night before the murder will testify.

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Todd Andriik, #ChristopherVaughn neighbor: "They were our closest friends in the neighborhood," he said.

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"This was a family we trusted with our garage code...we were in and out of each others homes frequently," #ChristopherVaughn neighbor said.

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"(Cassandra) was very excited about a camp that week, ecstatic that she was going to be going to camp," the week she was killed, he said.

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Neighbor describes typical night with the #ChristopherVaughn family just prior to the murders. Said there was no mention of water park trip.

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#ChristopherVaughn trial comes to a close for the day. Resumes at 8:30 a.m.

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Man who found #ChristopherVaughn shot is first to testify today. **John Speer** was stopped by a wounded Vaughn.

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911 call is being played for jurors in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. "He said the kids are in the car with his wife...she took off"

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"I believe my wife just shot me," #ChristopherVaughn allegedly told Speer, who found Vaughn wounded on the side of the road.

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Channahon Police Officer Michael Lazzari talks about his first encounter with a wounded #ChristopherVaughn.

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"I asked him what had happened. He wouldn't reply back," Lazzari said. Vaughn only said he was going to a water park.

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Paramedic said #ChristopherVaughn was "adamant that I didn't mess up his boots in anyway" while he was being treated.

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"He had a cloudy look to his eyes...he seemed to look right through me," paramedic treating #ChristopherVaughn said.

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The scene was "eerily clam. It had an early morning smell to it. There wasn't much sound at all," **paramedic Derek Ellenberger** said.

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15 min break in #ChristopherVaughn trial. Prosecutors reiterate the fact that Vaughn mentioned boots, but not wounded family to paramedics.

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Firefighters wake at 5:18 a.m. for call of victim with multiple gunshot wounds possible stabbing.

"We were sound asleep" **Brandon Wright** said

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Paramedic in charge of scene, Brandon Wright, said that #ChristopherVaughn was not crying, moaning or showing emotion during treatment.

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"I asked where his family was at, he said he didn't know," Wright said. "After that (#ChristopherVaughn) stopped answering questions."

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"He wouldn't look at you when you talked...it was just a fixed stare," Wright said of #ChristopherVaughn demeanor after being shot.

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#ChristopherVaughn wounds described as "superficial and clean" by paramedic Brandon Wright. There wasn't much blood at all, he said.

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Paramedic Kurt Liebermann said #ChristopherVaughn never mentioned his three children, or his wife, who were shot and killed down the road.

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Liebermann called #ChristopherVaughn "very oddly calm" after being shot.

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Sixth witness of the day, Corey Burket, investigator with the Will Co. Sheriff's Department, takes the stand in the #ChristopherVaughn trial

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"He asked me if anyone had notified his wife of his whereabouts..." Burket said of his conversation with Vaughn while at the hospital.

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"He said (Kim) always wonders where he's at," Burket said. He said #ChristopherVaughn never inquired about the condition of his children.

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"He seemed kind of...staring off into space. (No emotion) at all," Burket said of his first conversation with #ChristopherVaughn at hospital.

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"He was angry because the firemen ruined his coat. He said it was from the Yukon," Burket recalled #ChristopherVaughn saying from hospital.

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Former Will Co. Investigator Dennis Carey is next up on the stand. He was the second man to interview #ChristopherVaughn at the hospital.

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"He said he looked down and saw blood on his leg. He told his wife that he was hurt and he was going to help," Carey said.

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"I asked him if he knew how them injuries happened, he replied he did not hear a gunshot or see a gun," Carey said. Never asked about kids.

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#ChristopherVaughn told Carey that he pulled over on the frontage road because his wife said she was going to be sick.

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Two hour lunch break...see ya real soon. #ChristopherVaughn

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Court resumes with witness Robin Rabiner, who worked at the University of Phoenix, where Kimberly Vaughn graduated from in 2007.

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According to online course work, Kimberly was excited and looking forward to working with classmates in early June, prior to her death.

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Online course work shows Kimberly was doing homework as of 7:51 p.m. the day before the

shootings. She was up late working on an assignment.

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As of 11:08 p.m. Kim was working on a research paper. They allegedly left at 5 a.m. the next morning for the water park. #ChristopherVaughn

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Trial closes for the day. #ChristopherVaughn.

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@dcrmt Trust me when I say that #ChristopherVaughn trial is moving WAY faster than #DrewPeterson

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Good morning from the #ChristopherVaughn trial. **Testifying today are several Illinois State Police officers, and the gun range owner.**

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Prosecutors look to prove that #ChristopherVaughn was at the gun range, shooting the murder weapon, a day before the killings.

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@LaFord3 It's my pleasure. I'm fortunate to get to sit in on this trial. I've been waiting five years for it to get underway.

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Flying through witnesses in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Nothing substantial going on so far. Nurse to testify this afternoon.

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Update: Just got back from an hour break. Hoping things heat up. When I say nothing is happening, I mean it. Slow day so far.

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Yeah! **Owner of gun range, Mark Daniels, is on the stand now to testify** in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Should be important testimony.

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Sign in sheets and video from range on June 6 and June 13 2007 introduced into evidence in #ChristopherVaughn trial.

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Evidence shows #ChristopherVaughn was at the Mega Sports shooting range at around 5:30 p.m. the day before the murders took place.

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Earlier testimony shows that Kimberly Vaughn was at home cooking dinner while #ChristopherVaughn was at range shooting murder weapon.

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Daniels does not recall how many targets #ChristopherVaughn purchased, or how close he placed the targets during shooting practice.

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Several of Kim's emails are being introduced to jury.

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It takes a lot of work to maintain a relationship, but our kids are healthy and it's worth it in the long run, Kimberly wrote.

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I'm very dramatic and he is not. He loves to hunt and I love wild animals, Kim wrote.

#ChristopherVaughn

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In an email for school, Kim calls sister and husband, #ChristopherVaughn, heroes "because of the strength and support they give me."

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Kim talks about going to volunteer and get into career as a way to reduce stress of her personal life. Moving 2x in 1 year was hard she said

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Lunch break. Most of the emails portray Kim as an ambitious, hard working student. They discuss conflict, stress and how she handles both.

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Some very interesting witnesses are supposed to be called shortly...Stay tuned!

#ChristopherVaughn

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Secret's out. **The stripper is testifying. Chrystal Miller takes stand** in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. She says she doesn't remember much.

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#ChristopherVaughn allegedly met with Miller in June 2007 before the murders. She was hesitant to testify.

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She described #ChristopherVaughn as shy, timid and uncomfortable when he entered the club. "He was such a gentleman" she recalled saying.

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#ChristopherVaughn visited the club twice. Once was June 11. "I remember his specifically saying he did not have a family life."

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#Christopher Vaughn told Miller that he had been single for 5 years and had no children. He gave Miller his card, said to get a hold of him.

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"I remember a comment he made was strange. I remember him referencing the future, about knowing about the future," Miller said.

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#ChristopherVaughn spent 1 1/2 hours in private room with Miller. She said he didn't make her dance. "It was really appreciated," she said.

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Miller said she and #ChristopherVaughn were drinking together in a private room.

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Lisa Hinds, manager of Scores gentleman's club, is on stand testifying now.

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June 5, June 6, June 11 and June 12 credit card purchases made by #ChristopherVaughn at Scores are now being introduced by Hinds.

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#ChristopherVaughn card was swiped after midnight, so it appears he was there two days in a row...he wasn't.

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#ChristopherVaughn spent thousands of dollars on dances and drinks at Scores on June11/June12.

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On June 6, 2007, #ChristopherVaughn spent a similar amount. The total for the two nights was \$4,788

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Manager said a half hour dance could cost a min. of \$500/half hour. She said #ChristopherVaughn could have easily spent \$4,000 in two nights

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Nurse Natalie Wallin, who treated #ChristopherVaughn for gunshot wounds in the St. Joe's emergency room, is now testifying.

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Nurse: #ChristopherVaughn was oriented and obeying commands during treatment for gunshot wounds--described as "stable" while in her care.

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Jurors excused for the evening. Short, but eventful day at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. See everyone bright and early tomorrow.

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Welcome back! #ChristopherVaughn trial getting underway. I'll be in and out of courtroom today, so if tweets are slow, I'm sorry.

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First on the stand, ER doc Surander Singhal. Bob Deel should be the big witness today. Lots of drama surrounding his testimony.

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No arteries, blood vessels or bone struck on #ChristopherVaughn leg or wrist when he turned up at St. Joe's ER. Alert and stable.

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About 5/6 stitches on #ChristopherVaughn wrist wound. Leg wound just packed and bandaged. Wrist wound about 3 centimeters.

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Doctor: No alcohol or substance in #ChristopherVaughn system at time of hospital admittance.

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Sgt. Ron Caves with the Illinois State Police is the next witness in #ChristopherVaughn trial.

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Caves was officer who followed SUV being towed to the morgue around 11 a.m. Large tarp placed over vehicle. #ChristopherVaughn

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Flying through witnesses again in #ChristopherVaughn trial. Up next, **Deel--the Crime Scene Investigator on the scene.**

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Defense asks to allow Deel to testify that ISP had "tunnel vision", and that when he told them to "keep an open mind" he was taken off case.

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Deel said state's attorney said: "Kimberly Vaughn was an angel, there's no way she could have ever had a gun in her hands." Jury not in room

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"Their mind was made up, as far as I'm concerned, hours after the scene had been found," Deel said. Judge will decide if jury hears this.

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Defense: "This means nothing right here...this is position of crime lab and testing they're going to do...Jim Glassgow has already made mind up."

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State: 6/15 email contradicts what Deel said. Email said ISP to investigate whether incident domestic homicide, or domestic hom/suicide.

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Jude: "I don't see anything to change my ruling made yesterday." Deel not allowed to testify about opinions/feelings about "tunnel vision"

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@dcrmt Matt Hanley will be covering the trial next week. I'll be sure to post his handle as soon as I know it.

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Judge took a break for 9:30 court call...should be returning soon for #ChristopherVaughn trial

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State want to introduce picture with Mickey Mouse Kleenex box found in back seat of SUV.

Defense objects...states "emotional factor"

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Key **CSI investigator at scene, Bob Deel, takes the stand**--this time in front of the jury. Deel's testimony has created some controversy.

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Deel has processed 100s of crime scenes involving fire arms. He was dispatched to the scene and arrived around 8 a.m. #ChristopherVaughn

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Took a break to head into the courtroom to look at photos of the #ChristopherVaughn crime scene. Graphic photos of Kimberly's body shown.

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Gun shown on floor board between Kimberly's feet...but purse if found slightly on top of the gun.

Two cell phones seen in photos of SUV

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Blood shown on clasp of Kimberly's seat belt, which she was not wearing when investigators showed up on the scene. #ChristopherVaughn

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#ChristopherVaughn looks through paperwork, fiddles with notepad as pictures of the crime scene and his dead wife are shown to jurors.

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Now infamous towel found on Kimberly's lap was washed in the morgue and not processed by CSIs. Deel admits it was a mistake.

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"Looking back on things, probably not a bad idea to take (the towel) at that time," Deel said of processing #ChristopherVaughn scene.

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More blood stains found on retracted part of Kimberly's seat belt. She was found without the strap on when investigators processed scene.

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"It would have been great if me or someone else would have grabbed the towel in the first place," Deel said. #ChristopherVaughn

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"Out of respect for the victims, we decided not to parade them in front of the media," Deel said of why SUV was not processed fully at scene

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Headed back into see the rest of the photos...be back soon. #ChristopherVaughn.

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Physical evidence to be shown to jurors following 1 hour lunch break. #ChristopherVaughn

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Former CSI Rob Deel shows jurors the silver gun used in the shooting deaths of Kimberly and her three children. #ChristopherVaughn

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Ten spent bullet casings found in car were also presented to jurors, along with swabs of blood evidence #ChristopherVaughn

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Packaged brown bags and envelopes litter a table in front of jurors containing critical evidence located in SUV. #ChristopherVaughn

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Bullets found in vehicle, and in bodies of children during autopsies shown to jurors in #ChristopherVaughn trial.

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Clothing worn by victims now being shown to jurors...I want to see this live. Be back in a bit with more. #ChristopherVaughn

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#ChristopherVaughn appears to show emotion for the first time, taking big gulps, as Kimberly's clothes are shown to jurors.

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Kim was wearing shorts and a tank that June day, #ChristopherVaughn was wearing long sleeves, a fleece jacket, blue jeans...and cowboy boots

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One more witness, another ISP CSI to testify today. Should take about an hour or so, then things will close for the day. I'll be back Monday

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Jurors see autopsy photos of Kim showing her left hand, with gold wedding band, dripping with blood stains. Blake's armpit wound shown, also

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And that's a wrap for the day...see you on Monday at 11 a.m. for continuation of #ChristopherVaughn trial. What a week!

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Back at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. First witness isn't up until 1 p.m. We "MIGHT" be seeing Vaughn's videotaped statements. "MIGHT"

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#Judge deciding which exhibits the jurors will be allowed to back with them when they deliberate. Should take some time...

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Here is the #ChristopherVaughn line-up for the day. We have an officer who searched the unit with his K-9, a CSI who assisted at the scene.

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A co-worker of #ChristopherVaughn who took a trip to Utah with him before murders, and trooper will introduce videotaped statements.

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There are at least 11 hours of statements made by #ChristopherVaughn following the murders. Should be a telling part of this tale.

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@NicelcePrincess I know, five years goes by so fast. Been waiting on this trial since day one.

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Things about to get underway in #ChristopherVaughn trial. Stay tuned. Heading into the courtroom now.

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Vaughn co-worker, Allan Hsu, talks about night out with #ChristopherVaughn in Utah on June 2. He headed back to hotel at 1 a.m.-Vaughn didn't

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"You went back out?" Hsu wrote in an email to #ChristopherVaughn. "You can't tell me something like that and leave me hanging."

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Vaughn wrote that what occurred was "Nothing that I can mention by email," but that it "Got interesting." Said he got back to hotel at 5am.

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Hsu said he never found out what #ChristopherVaughn had done that night in Utah. Vaughn's family was shot and killed less than 2 weeks later

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#ChristopherVaughn videotaped statements should take the rest of the afternoon and into tomorrow morning. Things should get going here soon.

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28 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Good Morning! Back at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. We continue with statements made by

Vaughn following the murders. I'll update all day.

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Gary Lawson continues to interrogate #ChristopherVaughn: The answers you want to find aren't going to be on that table with your eyes closed.

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"I think it's an eye for an eye," #ChristopherVaughn said. "Whatever they did, they deserve back...I don't know who 'they' are."

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"Divorce isn't an option," #ChristopherVaughn told investigators. "I think once you're married, you're married."

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"You find someone you love, have kids you love, and that's your life," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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"I have nothing to go home to, I don't know how to face my parents, her parents. I couldn't have done this. Kimberly couldn't have done this"

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Lawson: "Say it, say my wife and kids are dead. They're not gone. Gone is going to the store. They're not gone. They're dead."

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Lawson: "You can shake your head, cover your eyes. The answers not in the palm of your hands."

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#ChristopherVaughn: I have no one to go home to. No one to take to soccer. No reason to do anything...this wasn't some master plan.

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#ChristopherVaughn told detectives that his dragon tattoo is "supposed to be a protector"

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#ChristopherVaughn: My leg was bleeding. I didn't know why or how or what was going on. Lawson: This is where you're confusing us.

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Lawson: Don't you have a cell phone. "It would have been a better idea...I don't know what I was thinking.

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Why did he say his wife shot him? #ChristopherVaughn: I don't know why I said that cause it's not possible. She wouldn't have done that."

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Lawson: Did the kids ask where they were going? #ChristopherVaughn: I decided not to tell them. I told them it was a surprise.

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#ChristopherVaughn tells officers about strip clubs and affair. "I'm ashamed enough with what I told you so far," he said.

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#ChristopherVaughn said he wasn't seeing anyone local, though. "I told (Kim) that she's more than enough trouble..."

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28 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn to cops: 'I couldn't have done this.': <http://bit.ly/OtgkEX>

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About three more hours of videotaped interviews expected to be shown this afternoon in the #ChristopherVaughn trial.

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#ChristopherVaughn refuses to eat in interview room. "It doesn't matter," he said. "They're gone. There's nothing to go back to."

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@dcrmt be back at 1:30. I'm in and out of the actual courtroom because it is hard to hear in overflow room, hence the continuity

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Things are getting intense during #ChristopherVaughn interview. Good cop bad cop routine gets heated.

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Detective brings out pictures of #ChristopherVaughn children in interview room, places them on table in front of Vaughn.

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Detective: "Look at these kids here. Look, look at these (expletive) pictures. You can't look at it? This is your blood, right?"

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#ChristopherVaughn "I lost everything. Anything that means anything to me is gone, like that."

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Detective: "This is your reaction? If it was my kids, I'd be (expletive) crying." #ChristopherVaughn: "Good for you."

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#ChristopherVaughn pushes pictures of kids away from him. Detective: Don't touch my pictures.

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Detective: What do you think happened. #ChristopherVaughn: She shot me. She shot the kids.

Detective: You think your wife shot your kids?

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#ChristopherVaughn: I was just guessing. You said they're all gone. Detective: I said they're all dead.

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"Put them close to your heart," Detective said, thrusting photos of kids at #ChristopherVaughn. "...Keep them with you."

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@BGDad15 they all seem focused

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Detective Cornelious Monroe interviewing #ChristopherVaughn brings out magazine we've heard about for some time now.

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In the magazine found in the #ChristopherVaughn home is an article about how to make a homicide look like a suicide. He says he never read it

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Monroe: What you did this morning is in detail to what's in this magazine.

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Female detective, no name yet: Did you check on your wife and kids before you jumped out and left them? #ChristopherVaughn: I don't think so

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Female Det.: Your kids are slaughtered...Look at their faces, look at their eyes. That's your flesh and blood and you left them slaughtered.

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In reaction to Vaughn not being able to remember what happened. Female Det.: "I'd think this day would be burned into your memory forever."

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#ChristopherVaughn has followed along with his transcript carefully, and is attentively watching himself on screen.

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Female Det: "You let them die. You're responsible for them. You're responsible for their death....you killed them, yes you did."

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What an emotional day! Officially exhausted! See you all bright and early for tomorrow's #ChristopherVaughn drama.

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Good Morning! Back at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Court is now in session :)

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28 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Cop to #ChristopherVaughn: 'Not a soul on this Earth that believes you': <http://bit.ly/O1pcyL>

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29 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Jurors to hear more from cops who grilled #ChristopherVaughn: <http://bit.ly/PszbBJ>

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A couple more segments of #ChristopherVaughn interrogation will be played this morning, followed by testimony from the special agents.

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Special Agent Payonk: You are not in custody. You are free to leave at anytime. I want you to know that. #ChristopherVaughn: I want to help.

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#ChristopherVaughn: I can't spend another 12 hours in this room, in a nightgown. He is offered a taxi, and given back his wallet.

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#ChristopherVaughn: If I could get my wallet and a taxi...maybe find a hotel. I have nowhere to go.

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#ChristopherVaughn: I don't understand the process...what can I do? Payonk: Well, you need to take care of your family, for one thing...

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Sgt. Lawson said the pictures of his children were brought in to "illicit some type of response" from #ChristopherVaughn.

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Lawson: Said that he was interviewing #ChristopherVaughn, not interrogating him. Defense disagrees.

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Lawson: Did we have theory before we spoke to defendant? No. #ChristopherVaughn

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Lawson said that he didn't see cameras at cellphone tower near murder scene, but that he never officially checked to see if there were.

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Defense: Grilling Lawson, who admits that he never checked to see if any employees come to cell tower at 5 a.m., or how many work there.

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During one of breaks in #ChristopherVaughn interview, there was search warrant executed at the Vaughn residence...

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Defense: Is it fair to say only time Christopher really got upset was when Sgt. Monroe really got in his face?

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When he was pushing these pictures in front of him of these kids? #ChristopherVaughn

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Defense: That's when Christopher got upset, Lawson: That's when he had a different emotional reaction. #ChristopherVaughn

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Lawson:#ChrisopherVaughn interactions with medics was more lucid, his tone of voice would be elevated, He was joking around.

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Defense: How many of those paramedics accused him of killing his children, accused him of killing his wife, called him a piece of shit?

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Lawson finally gets to leave the stand after more than two days of testimony, which was mostly interrogation tapes of #ChristopherVaughn

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Now up, Special Agent Cornelious Monroe, who was probably the most abrasive during the interrogation of #ChristopherVaughn

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Every time I hear the phrase "quadruple homicide" I get the willies. I don't think it will ever lose it's shock value. #ChristopherVaughn

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Monroe said he thought #ChristopherVaughn was given some medication that made his demeanor placid. He brought in pic of kids to get reaction

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Monroe: "When I put the pictures out, Mr. Vaughn immediately dropped his head. I advised him no, take a look at the pictures."

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Monroe was sent to morgue to get bloody towel that was on Kimberly's lap when she was shot. "I found out that the towel had been washed,"

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Towel was collected anyway, and has just been introduced into evidence at the #ChristopherVaughn trial.

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Prior to being told that that his children were killed, did #ChristopherVaughn ever ask about his children? Monroe: "Not at all."

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Evidence: Seven page itemized list of pieces of evidence taken from #ChristopherVaughn vehicle.

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Defense starts cross of Special Agent Monroe...this should get interesting. They're already digging into him. #ChristopherVaughn

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Monroe: Was not told it was murder-suicide initially, was told it was a quadruple homicide at 7:30 a.m. on June 14.

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Monroe: "We interviewed him, and then it led to an interrogation" Interview is letting individual express himself, tell his side of story.

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During an interview Monroe looks "at it as book, with a beginning, middle and end." Interrogation involves more police tactics.

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Monroe said he's notified many next of kin; picked up mothers off the floor, been accused of lying. "With Chris I didn't get any of that"

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Monroe: Doesn't remember calling Vaughn a pussy...which he did many, many times during #ChristopherVaughn interrogation.

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Defense: Brings up transcript of interrogation for Monroe to identify and recollect. #ChristopherVaughn

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Monroe said that asking #ChristopherVaughn if Kim was "a good lay" was an investigative tactic to see if Vaughn would say no.

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Monroe said he never read magazine article about "how to make a homicide look like a suicide" before bringing up accusation to Vaughn

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Monroe said he was told it included information about going to the gun range and wearing the same clothes as an alibi.

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Defense: Fair to say that the only time #ChristopherVaughn appeared upset with anyone is when those papers were crumpled up? Monroe agrees.

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Funny: Special Agent Eileen Payonk is supposed to testify in the #ChristopherVaughn trial

next...but she is on the stand at #DrewPeterson
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Instead, **Sgt. Joseph Stavola of the ISP is now on the stand.** #ChristopherVaughn
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Stavola was assigned to apply for search warrant of SUV and #ChristopherVaughn residence at 2 p.m. He didn't search SUV, but searched home
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Stavola going over evidence taken during execution of search warrant of #ChristopherVaughn home. First piece, Dell laptop taken from den.
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Also taken: External hard drive, first floor den Compact laptop computer, kitchen Compact tower, basement
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Taken: Private investigator magazine, found in kitchen
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Thumbing through it there was an article in there that was very interesting to us. It was why would people make homicides look like suicides
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Taken: Poem from Blake Vaughn with handprint, kitchen Indicia, newspaper article Mobile blackberry, kitchen Passwords for computers, den
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Date calendar taken from kitchen, 9mm luger rounds taken from master bedroom of #ChristopherVaughn home.
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Misc. Private Investigator material, duffle bag, gun case and #ChristopherVaughn passport taken during search of #Oswego home.
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Lunch break! Thank goodness. See you soon for the continuation of the #ChristopherVaughn trial. I know you're all on the edge of your seats.
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After lunch, additional video of #ChristopherVaughn interview is expected to be played. If I heard that right, it's about 3 hours long.
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Remain seated, court is back in session #ChristopherVaughn.
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Stavola takes the stand again. He was assigned to interview #ChristopherVaughn on June 15, and June 17 with Sgt. Lawson.

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Stavola: I was going to attempt to befriend Mr. Vaughn and sympathize with him and show him my life and his life were very similar.

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Most of that, he said, was a lie: "I told him that I'm divorced, that I beat my wife, that I had children similar to him...to gain his trust."

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"The key difference is you still have somebody to see, and mine are gone," #ChristopherVaughn told Stavola.

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#ChristopherVaughn said he got home from range, put gun in padded case without bullets, covered it with white towel and put in his closet.

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Taken in the search warrant of the #ChristopherVaughn home was that padded case, the duffel bag...but not the gun. That was found in SUV.

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Stavola: "Did you take a quick shower?" when you got home from the range? Vaughn said no, he got ready to cook steaks for the neighbors.

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#ChristopherVaughn doesn't give in to Stavola's tactics. He says that he loved Kim, their opposite ways attracted them to each other.

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June 15 interview, #ChristopherVaughn wears khaki shorts and a blue, short sleeved shirt. Markedly different from his outfit the day before.

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#ChristopherVaughn appears attentive, and ready to answer questions in June 15 interview.

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"What I don't want to do is 12 hours of yelling sessions and slamming pictures on the table," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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June 15: #ChristopherVaughn "I don't think I've taken a shower yet...I was in here for 18 hours yesterday...last night I kinda crashed."

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29 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Cop: #ChristopherVaughn never asked about his kids: <http://bit.ly/QzcAmS>

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So far, #ChristopherVaughn recollection of June 13 and early hours on June 14 mirrors what he's

previously said. We'll see if things change.

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@dcrmt we are watching video which i cant hear from the overflow room where my laptop is...i am in and out of courtroom updating.

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29 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

If my tweets are taking longer, it's because we are watching video, which is hard to hear from the overflow room where my laptop is.

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29 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

I'm hopping in and out as often as I can, trying not to get scowled at by the #ChristopherVaughn judge. Last thing I want is to get the boot.

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Stavola: "There were only 5 people there, and four of them I can't ask right now, that's why I'm asking you these questions."

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Stavola moves seats in interview room to mimic the SUV, Makes #ChristopherVaughn run through events of the morning.

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#ChristopherVaughn: Said in hospital he needed to call kim to tell her what was going on. "All they'd tell me is we're going to call her."

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"What made you tell this guy on the road, 'I think my wife shot me?'" #ChristopherVaughn. "I don't know."

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#ChristopherVaughn gets quiet as Stavola asks, "What's the last thing you remember Abby ever saying to you?"

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"I'm pretty sure it was 'Do I have to comb by hair?'" #ChristopherVaughn said.

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Stavola asks the same question about Cassandra and Blake. #ChristopherVaughn doesn't remember.

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"If I had known it was the last time she'd say anything to me, I'd do things differently," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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@BGDad15 I'm pretty sure there were two casings found on the driver's seat, one on the driver's side floor...I can double check.

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@BGDad15 They did talk about where all of the casings were located, though.

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Wow! #ChristopherVaughn breaks, said he looked at Kim and she had a gun in his face. "I look over at Kim, and I think she had a gun."

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"I put my hand up...There's no way she'd ever hurt the kids," #ChristopherVaughn. Never heard anymore shots. "It's like my head shut off,"

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#ChristopherVaughn after being shot: "It was loud, and then everything was quiet."

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Investigators were pressuring Vaughn to give up details, to not worry about tarnishing Kim's reputation. That's when he broke with the story

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Stavola: "You're the only one that can tell us what happened. Fill in the gaps for your children...tell us what you saw, what you did."

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Okay, I have GOT to get back in there...just wanted to drop this bomb in the #ChristopherVaughn case.

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"I should have stayed. I should have done something. I didn't think it was real. It wasn't possible," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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"I saw Kim and I froze and looked down and my leg was bleeding and that's when I knew I needed to get out of there," #ChristopherVaughn

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"When I was answering the same questions yesterday, I think I was trying to forget pieces," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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"I thought as soon as police got there they'd go back and take it away from her and they'd be fine," #ChristopherVaughn said.

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Investigators are playing a very sympathetic role now, rubbing #ChristopherVaughn back and telling him they appreciate what he has said.

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"It takes a man to tell the truth, okay," Sgt. Stavola tells #ChristopherVaughn They apologize for getting in his face the day before.

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29 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

We are breaking for the evening now. See everyone tomorrow morning. I should have a witness list soon. #ChristopherVaughn
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29 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn tells cops of wife 'I think she had a gun': <http://tinyurl.com/8uydgsp>
Retweeted by Erika Wurst
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30 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Good morning from the #ChristopherVaughn trial. I'm running this show solo today, so I'm sorry for not tweeting much. Will do best I can.

30 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

I can say that three ISP crime lab employees will be testifying today, which finally get's into the meat and potatoes of this case.
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30 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Meanwhile, no tears from #ChristopherVaughn on first Fathers Day after family's death:
<http://tinyurl.com/cfp9rdk>
Retweeted by Erika Wurst
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31 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Mary Wong, forensic scientist with ISP, found gunshot residue on Vaughn's jacket, Vaughn's jacket and Kimberly's hands.
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Wong said that powder on Kim's hand doesn't mean she shot the gun, but could have been in contact with or the vicinity of a weapon.
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31 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Correction: GS residue found on Vaughn's underwear waist band, his jacket sleeves, holes in jacket, and Kim's hands. #ChristopherVaughn
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31 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

#ChristopherVaughn atty: The clothes were bundled up together before being tested. Powder could have easily transferred at that point.
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No gunshot residue tests were performed on #ChristopherVaughn undershirt, towels, red purse of Kimberly, or the car's rooftop carrier.
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31 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Hopefully we will hear from Stephen Willott later. He is the guy #ChristopherVaughn was exchanging emails with before the murders.
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In the emails to Willott, of Canada, #ChristopherVaughn talks about escaping into the wilderness for a long time. He wrote under a pseudonym
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Here is what happened yesterday at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Sorry I didn't get much tweeting done. Busy day. <http://bit.ly/Q7xbNt>

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31 Aug Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Stephen Willott is indeed up next. Should be very interesting. Woohoo. #ChristopherVaughn

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Friend: #ChristopherVaughn friend wanted simple life away from government, people:

<http://tinyurl.com/8hopr3h>

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn attaches his photo in one email. "If you see it at the post office keep in mind it was all just a big misunderstanding."

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn also referred to his wife in an email as "the lady I live with."

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Willott said #ChristopherVaughn never mentioned his children in the emails.

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn : "For me it's to live a simple peaceful life away from government, big cities and obviously ignorant people."

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn told Willott in emails he was planning his own disappearance. He wanted police to believe he'd been killed.

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn : If police think he'd been killed, his wife would get the life insurance money.

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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31 Aug Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

#ChristopherVaughn : "Without following through with the plan I can't go with a clear conscience."

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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5 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Sorry for the lack of #ChristopherVaughn updates. Been covering the trial solo, which makes it hard to tweet. Here is today's witness list..

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Dr. Larry Blum, a forensic pathologist, several friends of Kim's, ISP Special Agent Covey, and Alex Peterson, a friend of the Vaughn kids.

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Oh, and did I mention, Alex Peterson is the nephew of #DrewPeterson, who has trial going on next

door to #ChristopherVaughn. Small world.

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5 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Keep in mind you can always check the Sun Times website, which is updated throughout the day. New story posts around 1 p.m.

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6 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@seidelcontent will be tweeting from the #ChristopherVaughn trial today...follow along!

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7 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Kim's blood found on #ChristopherVaughn jacket...utoh. This just got interesting.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

We're back in action with two on the #ChristopherVaughn trial, so I will be tweeting all day. Yeah! State supposed to rest tomorrow.

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Up today, a ballistics expert. Tomorrow, blood expert should testify. Defense is hoping things should wrap up next week. #ChristopherVaughn

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

This morning, we are just entering exhibits. Jurors won't be here until 1 p.m. when trial actually starts. #ChristopherVaughn

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@ledbette Hi Wade, I'm back on Twitter today...sorry things have been so crazy. Thank goodness Peterson is over.

View conversation

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@dcrmt Hi Donna, we are on for today, and I will be tweeting. Jurors here at 1 p.m. But, we're going over exhibits now.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Breaking until 1 p.m. See you then. #ChristopherVaughn

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Pam Glueck of Navigant Consulting Chicago, where #ChristopherVaughn worked at the time of the murders, is first up on the stand.

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Jury is out of the courtroom already, before she gets to say a word...They are arguing over the admission of work emails about travel.

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Time #ChristopherVaughn spent in Canada in May 07 on alleged scouting trip was logged as vacation time.

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Reallllly anticlimactic witnesses up today so far. **Oswego attorney with offices in Aurora and**

Oswego testifies in #ChristopherVaughn trial

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Atty. Charles David Ward said that he never had contact with either #ChristopherVaughn or Kimberly regarding divorce or money issues.

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Mary Halvorson, a legal analyst, is now up on the stand. I expect she will testify about life insurance policies taken out on the Vaughns.

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Application, policy records, account history and insurance annuity death claim statement on Kimberly Vaughn policy introduced.

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Kim's 2004 \$1 mill policy had suicide exclusion: Suicide by insured, whether sane insane, within 2 years by date not insured by this policy.

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Basically, by Feb. 2006, if Kim committed suicide, #ChristopherVaughn (beneficiary) would be eligible to receive the \$1 million.

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#ChristopherVaughn tried to collect on Kim's policy on June 22, 2007, less than two weeks after his wife's death.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@ledbette No, the cards they found were from Chris' old company, Stonebridge Security.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@ledbette Not sure why they put Ward on the stand. They never introduced phone records or anything. Kind of confusing...

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Now testifying: **Erik Lawrenz, St. Charles, MO police department.** The arresting officer of #ChristopherVaughn at the funeral home in MO.

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Welp, that didn't last long. He answered one question. Did you arrest #ChristopherVaughn

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Matthew Noedel, the state's ballistics expert, is now on the stand in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Also talk about blood spatter evidence.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Short break in the #ChristopherVaughn trial

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We're back. Noedel has testified for the defense and the prosecution. About 50/50.

#ChristopherVaughn He was contacted by state in June 2010

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He was hired to the tune of \$175/hour to do shooting scene reconstruction in the #ChristopherVaughn murder trial.

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Aug 2010, Noedel came to Will County and examined the SUV, fired bullets, the pistol, #ChristopherVaughn jacket and blue jeans.

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Noedel shows jurors a map of vehicle showing where spent bullet cases were found in the SUV. #ChristopherVaughn

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Gun found with safety off, an unfired round in the chamber, one bullet in the chamber ready to go, hammer fully cocked after last shot.

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Noedel testifies that he did not see typical backspatter associated with suicide shootings. Defense objects. #ChristopherVaughn

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Noedel: The gun cycle was fully recycled after last shot, which allegedly proves it was well supported, not common with head shot suicides.

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Noedel: Hands are an "important part of any assessment of a shooting scene." State preps him to testify about stains on Kim's hands.

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Defense continues to object to Noedel's blood spatter testimony. They REALLY don't seem to want him to get into the stains on Kim's hands.

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Back spatter: Lots of small droplets of blood ejected from injury wound toward direction of fire. Noedel: not much back spatter in this case

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Stains on Kim's hands were larger in size and volume, not typical of back spatter related to known suicides. #ChristopherVaughn

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Noedel: Left shoulder of front passenger seat is where shots to Cassandra were likely originated. She was shot in head and torso.

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Noedel: Stippling found on head wounds of all three children, meaning they were close shots. #ChristopherVaughn

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Abby's shots likely originated from left upper edge of front passenger seat as well, Noedel said.

#ChristopherVaughn

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8 of fired bullets found, 2 missing. Bullets may have caused driver window to shatter...glass found in pocket jacket and on pants of CV.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Bullet found in driver's side door had fibers on it that matched clothing #ChristopherVaughn was wearing at time of murders.

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Noedel: Missing 2 bullets to account for 2 holes in #Christopher Vaughn jacket, wound to wrist and window shattering.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Kind of confusing to explain this when I'm not looking at the Power Point presentation. Hopefully @SeidelContent will have better info.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Noedel: Blake and Abby were leaning back into seats when their torso shots were fired. Shots to 3 kids' heads were made within 3-12 inches

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Noedel: Mystery holes on #ChristopherVaughn jacket were made by close contact gun shots, probably with jacket pushed against Vaughn's skin.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Noedel: #ChristopherVaughn left thigh and wrist wounds occurred from bullets traveling from right to left.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Breaking for the evening #ChristopherVaughn. Check out the Sun Times later for the complete story with insider info from @SeidelContent

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10 Sep Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Testimony ended today with Noedel telling jurors two cartridges landed in #ChristopherVaughn 's seat BEFORE he was shot.

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10 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

I have a doc appt and won't be tweeting until after lunch...follow @SeidelContent for updates until then.

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10 Sep Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Ballistics expert disputes #ChristopherVaughn's version of family shootings: <http://bit.ly/NlutVa>

Retweeted by Erika Wurst

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11 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Back in the overflow room at #ChristopherVaughn trial. I will be handling updates for the rest of the

afternoon. **Now, blood expert Paul Kish**

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Kish examined: Crime scene images, autopsy images, police reports, statements of Vaughn, Taurus gun, clothing evidence, lap reports.

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Kish shows jurors a Power Point presentation on blood spatter analysis. I can't see it from here, but will do my best to explain.

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11 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Kish will discuss passive, transfer and altered stains to help reconstruct the scene in the SUV where #ChristopherVaughn family was shot.

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Kish: Blood stain analysis is "not like watching a movie where see from beginning to end," but he will be able to give jurors clips.

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Blood from Kim's left nostril and mouth/chin were flow (gravity) patterns--head was in same position (tilted left) following her shot.

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Drip stains on center console: source of blood were from #ChristopherVaughn. No blood spatter found on Kim's shirt.

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Kish: Drip stains on floor btw. Kim's feet was #ChristopherVaughn blood.

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Kish: #ChristopherVaughn blood came in contact with Kim's seatbelt. Had to have been bleeding when his blood was deposited there.

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Close up of center console: Small stains were wiped through while still wet... within seconds or min after deposited, not by Kimberly Vaughn.

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Kish: #ChristopherVaughn jacket had to have been in contact with source of Kim's blood for her blood stains to end up on his jacket.

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Kim shirt: Kish identified drip-type stain located where seat belt would cross her lap. Blood on that lower portion was consistent with CV.

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Kish: Stains on KV shorts were drip stains created by CV. To create that stain, a source of CV blood had to be over that area and drip down.

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Kish: CV statement to cops does not account for his blood on KV seatbelt, drip stains on console, KV shorts, on floor, KV blood on his coat

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Kish: Kim was shot before Chris was shot. She was immobile when his blood was dripped onto her.

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Kish: CV statement to police "simply does not give an adequate explanation for those pieces of physical evidence"

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Defense ask for mistrial over Kish statements.

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Kish said Kim was shot before Chris...that is what the defense objection was over...

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11 Sep Jon Seidel ?@SeidelContent

Lenard: "The words are the words. The jury heard the words." #ChristopherVaughn

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11 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

We are still on break as judge entertains defense request for a mistrial in the midst of blood expert Paul Kish testimony.#ChristopherVaughn

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Judge denies defense request for mistrial in #ChristopherVaughn trial. **Blood expert back on stand again.**

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Kish: There was no evidence in blood pattern analysis that there was ever a struggle btw/ Kim and #ChristopherVaughn.

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Kish: No indication of any movement by Kim after she was in final resting position.

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Lenard said he was also objecting b/c Kish used the words, "and the facts of the case indicate ..."
#ChristopherVaughn

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Kish: "Based upon information provided to me I identified no back spatter" on Kim.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Kish said blood stains on Kim's belt were contact stains made by #ChristopherVaughn...meaning he was bleeding and in contact with the belt.

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Kish: possible that CV blood could have been on Kim right hand, transferred from her hand onto her

seatbelt buck where CV blood was found.

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Kish: The sig of the towel is that we obv don't have it to look at. Whether Kimberly blood or Chris blood we simply do not know.

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Kish: Had we had towel to look at, may have been able to take reconstruction further....

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Defense drills home the fact that the towel found on Kimberly's lap at time of shooting was washed, and evidence is now gone.

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Defense: Would you have liked to know whos blood that was on Kimberly's right hand? Kish: I would have had it tested, yes.

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Defense: Blood stain reconstruction is "kind of like trying to put a puzzle together without having picture on the box, right?" Kish:Correct

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Kish said that in less than 32 percent of suicide cases he sees is back spatter found.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Redirect of Kish now. #ChristopherVaughn No spatter on right or left sleeve of CV jacket.

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Kish said that it is very rare to have back spatter in homicide OR suicide cases.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Defense: Could it be possible that after #ChristopherVaughn was shot, he reached over and touched KV belt without a struggle?

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Kish: It's possible. Do I believe that it's probably or likely, no?

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Defense argues that Kish is being non-objective and argumentative toward their line of questioning about how CV blood got on KV seatbelt

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Kish is done now...**next witness Carl Dobrich ISP**

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Dobrich said Gary Lawson taken off the case as case agent simply because he was transferred to a different unit. He saw Lawson as an asset.

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11 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Annnnd...we're breaking for the evening in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. We'll have a full story up soon on the Sun Times site :)

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11 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@dcrmt Check the Beacon News site. It will definitely be posted there.

<http://www.beaconnewsonline.com>

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Good morning from the #ChristopherVaughn trial. State has 2 witnesses to call this morning before they rest.

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Forensic biologist, Tanis Wildhaber Pfoser, is first on stand. She examined blood evidence in the #ChristopherVaughn case.

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Pfoser is just going over how she obtained blood stains for DNA analysis. She isn't introducing anything new right now. #ChristopherVaughn

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Defense asks why a Luminol (sp?) test, looking for blood, wasn't performed on Kim's shirt. Pfoser said she hasn't done that test in 12 years

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I don't think I've had the experience of using it on clothing, she said #ChristopherVaughn

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Telephone and financial records of #ChristopherVaughn and Kimberly are now being introduced to jurors by investigator.

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No record of call to Oswego attorney. His number was found in the Vaughn SUV. Ward testified earlier that he had no contact with family.

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About 15 photographs of Kimberly, #ChristopherVaughn, their children and extended family members found in Kimberly's purse.

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Kim to CV before his Canada trip in May 07: I will not be able to sleep anyway till I know you're safe and sound. I love you dearly.

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#ChristopherVaughn: I'm always find you should know that about me by now. KV: Talk to you later, love you.

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State reads jurors stipulations as to cause of death of Kim, Abby, Cassandra and Blake Vaughn. #ChristopherVaughn

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Coroner: Kim died of contact range single gun shot wound under chin. #ChristopherVaughn

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Abby: Died as result of multiple gunshot wound striking head chest and multiple vital organs

#ChristopherVaughn

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Cassandra: Died as result of multiple gun shot wounds striking head and chest

#ChristopherVaughn

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Blake: Died as a result of mult gun shot wounds, one striking head causing damage to brain, one striking left chest striking lung.

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Lots of stipulations read regarding the admittance of email addresses and phone records. Nothing Earth-shattering. Jurors out now.

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Lots of stipulations read regarding the admittance of email addresses and phone records. Nothing Earth-shattering. State rests.

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State: evidence shows there were 4 ppl shot to death in that vehicle...also shows that the only person to walk away from that scene was cv.

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Defense first witness: Lucien Haag, a criminalist and forensic firearms examiner out of Arizona.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Haag: "Sometimes it's possible to determine the sequence of shots...that was one of the central issues in this case." #ChristopherVaughn

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Haag asked to determine if Kim was shot first, last or somewhere in between-to determine if her injury was self inflicted.#ChristopherVaughn

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Haag: Especially interested in jeans, jacket worn by #ChristopherVaughn...also the bullet found in the driver's side door.

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Case should go to the jury for deliberations late next week...#ChristopherVaughn

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

@dcrmt it is directed verdict..typo. Basically the defense asks the judge to decide that the state hasn't met its burden of proof.

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12 Sep Erika Wurst ?@ErikaBeacon

Back from lunch at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. We continue with the defense ballistics expert, Lucien Haag, from Arizona.

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Haag also inspected the two "mystery" holes made in #ChristopherVaughn jacket to determine who they were made. Used infrared photography.

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Haag confirms that in his opinion, the bullet found in driver's side door was the bullet that went through #ChristopherVaughn leg.

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Haag: "Mr. Vaughn was basically in drivers seat when that bullet goes into pant leg, through his leg" and into the door. #ChristopherVaughn

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Haag said he can not determine whether "mystery" holes in #ChristopherVaughn coat were made as a result of one or two shooting events.

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Haag: SUV window shattered by one of 2 lost bullets "It went out into the brush or countryside. It's one of the two missing bullets."

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Haag: It is possible that some of the broken glass, or most of the glass, could be in tact and later fall if the door was opened or closed.

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Haag said that the entire inside of the gun barrel should have been swabbed or "patched" for biological material. #ChristopherVaughn

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Only 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches of barrel of gun was swabbed by ISP forensic scientists. No biological material was found in that swab

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@SeidelContent will be tweeting for the last couple of hours...follow along with him. :) See you tomorrow morning.

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Defense attorneys begin their case for #ChristopherVaughn: <http://bit.ly/Np3uI9>

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13 Sep Erika Wurst @ErikaBeacon

Back in action on the #ChristopherVaughn case. I'll be tweeting all day. Defense is ready to call its second day of witnesses. Starting soon

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Defense will try to impeach 2 witnesses about statements they made to troopers in 2007 about Chris as a dad, Kim's feeling about in-laws.

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Short delay--already--as defense preps witnesses. Court resumes at 9:30.

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Yeah! Lawyers are FINALLY headed back into the courtroom. And I hear the ching-ching of #ChristopherVaughn shackles. Must be starting soon.

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I could have REALLLY used this hour and a half to sleep in today. Sick as a dog :(No bueno. Here we goooo....

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Defense to Investigator: Do you recall (Kim's sister) telling you that she described CV as wonderful and supportive with the kids? "Yes."

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Kim's sister, Susan Ledbetter, said on the stand that she didn't remember saying this. Hence them bringing up the investigator to testify.

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Sgt. Gary Lawson back on the stand in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. He is testifying about statements made by former dancer Maya Drake.

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Defense objects to crossquestion of Lawson about limitations CV may have put on interviews following the shootings. Judge sustains.

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Defense said they are unaware of any limitations placed on interviews by #ChristopherVaughn, asks state to produce that discovery evidence.

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Defense asks for ANOTHER mistrial, based on questioning of Lawson that was outside the scope of questioning.

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Motion is denied. I heard that wrong initially. My heart skipped a beat. Jury is being brought back in. #ChristopherVaughn

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Basically, state brought up other interviews where CV allegedly put limitations on ?ing. Judge sustains defense objection Defense still upset

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Defense: "It's not fair to ask a question and all of a sudden the court sustains it and everything's fine."

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Judge doesn't strike state's question. New witness on stand. **Frank Myers, who works in Channahon. Turned on Bluff Road early that June 14.**

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Myer: A vehicle resembling the SUV cut him off that morning and blew through a stop sign near the frontage road where shooting occurred.

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Myers: "I would have struck him had I not swerved left to miss him"

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Rachel Vaughn, Kim's sister-in-law, now testifying for the #ChristopherVaughn defense about May 30, 2007 phone conversation the two had.

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Rachel said that Kim told her that she was stressing out over little things, and described an incident where Kim "freaked out" over school.

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Rachel: "She said she had a lot of trouble with anxiety. Part of reason she was telling me that story, she was embarrassed by her reaction."

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Rachel: Kim said that her blood pressure meds and migraine meds could be part of the prob and she was working with doc to get off them.

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Conversation occurred on May 30, 2007--two weeks before the fatal shootings, after attending a Jeep Jamboree in MO with #ChristopherVaughn

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Rachel: "She told me that they could be aggravating her anxiety...that's why he was trying to get her off of BP medication."

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Rachel: Kim said doc told her to try Vitamin B "to balance her mood. To even it out."

#ChristopherVaughn

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Cross: Fair to say in meeting KV that she was a bubbly open person? Rachel: Yes.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Cross: Would you say that was who Kim was, an open and bubbly person? Rachel: Yes.

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Rachel Vaughn said that was the ONLY conversation the two had ever had on the phone. She called to tell KV the sex of her baby.

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"Freak out" happened bc she was at Jeep Jamboree with #ChristopherVaughn, had no internet access so she couldn't send a school assignment.

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Kim made #ChristopherVaughn drive from MO to Springfield so she could turn in her online homework assignment. That caused anxiety.

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State: Did she ever mention that she was suicidal? Rachel: No State: Ever indicate to you she was depressed? Rachel: No

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State:Did she ever mention feeling that wanted to harm self, children, husband? Rach:No.

State:She indicated she had anxiety? Rach:Yes.

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Okay...I am sick and out of it. Defense expects to rest Tues. State rebuttal Wed. Closing arguments after that...#ChristopherVaughn

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Should be very "stop and go" at the #ChristopherVaughn trial today Defense expects to call one witness (doc?) this morn and 2 in afternoon.

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Deborah Mogle, Cassandra's 5th grade teacher, first up on the stand. #ChristopherVaughn

She testified about a convo with Kim on June 13 07

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She testified that Kim told her about a situation her mother had at the school she teaches where children brought in a gun.She was concerned

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Mogle said Kim was a very involved parent, very concerned about well being of her child.

#ChristopherVaughn

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Teacher: Kim was upset during a conversation shortly before her death about Cassandra not being able to get her homework in on time.

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"I've been crying about this all day," Mogle said Kim told her. #ChristopherVaughn trial breaking until 10 a.m. Told you it would drag...

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Okay...should be going at 10:30 a.m. now. Or so says the defense. #ChristopherVaughn

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Starting up again at the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Video of search warrant being executed on the

Vaughn home expected to be shown.
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The video is a search for camping equipment in the home. They take two book bags from the home. Nothing found in basement. #ChristopherVaughn
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Monroe: Camping gear found at house was limited: a flashlight, poncho, etc. Nothing to the extent of what was found in the storage unit.
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Back at 1:30 p.m.
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We're baaaaack! #ChristopherVaughn
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On the stand now: Pradeep Bhatia, physician testifying for the defense. Works at Rush-Copley in Aurora as a neurologist.
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Bhatia was meeting with Kimberly for headaches. She began meeting with him in Nov. 2005. Had about 8 appointments with him before death.
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Kim said she experienced nausea, vomiting and sweating, sensitive to light and sound when experiencing migraines. #ChristopherVaughn
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Doc: It appeared she had tension headaches as a result of stress, and also had migraine headaches...once every couple of weeks.
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He prescribed Kim Topmax for her headaches in Sept. 2006. Defense said the drug had suicidal side-effects. #ChristopherVaughn.
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Doc said in April 2007 he told Kim he was going to ween her off the drugs over the course of the next three months. That was their last apt.
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Doc: She came across as a very cheerful nice young lady, always pleaseant to talk to. She looked happy to me.
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Doc said he is trained to look for signs of depression when prescribing meds that could effect mood.
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Doc: "I Never had any reason to believe she was depressed," he said about Kimberly. He met with

her over the course of 17 months.

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Doc said Kimberly "did not appear to have any psychiatric issues." She was always smiling, cheerful when he met with her. #ChristopherVaughn

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Doc said Kim would talk about side effects—like finger tingling from Topamax—which was tolerable. Never about depression.

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Stressors Kim would discuss with doc: Moving to IL, closing on home, family member had illness in 06, holidays. All normal things, doc said

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Defense suggest that based on emails and talks with family members, Kim was going through personality changes and never told doc.

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Doc: Depending on what kind of personality change, I would have taken her off of appropriate medication.

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Doc said he saw her w/in 3 months of her death, and she exhibited no signs of depression. "Major depression doesn't happen right of the bat"

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Doc: "If it's major depression, which would lead patient to commit suicide, it would be very apparent..."

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@dcmoore9 He just got off...one last witness today.

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@dcmoore9 Both, I should have been more specific. He seemed more like a witness for the state anyway. Lol. Lenard was pretty peeved.

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@dcmoore9 He really was a defense witness...but, like I said, his answers seemed to help the state.

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Last witness, Family Practice Doc, Richard Steslow D.O. is up on the stand. First started seeing Kim in Sept. 06.

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Saw doc from Sep. 2006 through May 2007 for high blood pressure.

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May 24, 2007: Kim visit for RX refill, check, and onset of increased anxiety esp around menstrual

cycle.

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What doc remembers about Kim: She "didn't seem to have any problems other than trying to be as healthy as possible."

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Doc said notes mention onset of increased anxiety, not depression. "Depression means sad. Anxiety is good ol' I'm just stressed out."

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Breaking for the day...see you Tuesday. Off to write :) #ChristopherVaughn

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Good morning from the #ChristopherVaughn trial. Things are winding to a close this week. Defense expected to rest today. Stay tuned!

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Defense expert Tom Bevel testifies that Chris or Kim were in positions where they could have shot kids.

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Bevel is a blood stain pattern analyst and crime scene reconstruction expert. He examined physical evidence, lab reports and autopsy reports

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Bevel tells jurors that the towel found on Kim's lap (which was washed) would have been a big factor in this case. #ChristopherVaughn

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Bevel testifies about amendment he made to his original finding that #ChristopherVaughn removed the seatbelt from Kimberly. Jurors taken out

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Bevel will testify now that there are other reasons Chris' blood could have ended up on Kim's belt without having to take it off himself.

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On break until 10:30 a.m. for judge's morning court call. Bevel will be back on the stand when we return. #ChristopherVaughn

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@MandyMcGlothlin He sounds knowledgeable, but hasn't said anything really compelling yet...starting up again in 10.

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#ChristopherVaughn murder trial in final stages: <http://bit.ly/S2rOMv>

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In his initial report, Bevel said that the evidence was consistent with #ChristopherVaughn being shot, then taking off Kim's belt.

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After meeting with #ChristopherVaughn defense attorneys, Bevel concluded that the blood transfer could have been made another way.

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Bevel on belt blood transfer: (Lenard) challenged me to articulate a foundation that allows me to eliminate that that could have occurred

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Bevel: "I could not prove that he did," unbuckle Kim's seat belt, he said. #ChristopherVaughn

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Bevel said Kim's blood found on #ChristopherVaughn jacket could have been placed there before June 14, 2007 when the murders occurred.

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Bevel said that blood found on Kimberly's shirt should have been tested to better help him gauge what happened in the SUV when she was shot.

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Picture Bevel created, shows areas where you would look if you had any back spatter that was resulting from that self inflicted wound.

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Bevel uses fake gun to show where back spatter would have occurred on Kimberly if she had shot herself under the chin with the pistol.

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Blood spot that was not tested on Kim's left thumb can not be ruled out as back spatter, Bevel said.

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State objects to opinions Bevel is giving about blood stains that he did not disclose in his initial reports. Judge breaks to ponder...

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Judge overrules objection by state. Bevel will be allowed to testify about his opinions regarding blood stain patterns in pictures.

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Defense has brought up several blood stains that were not tested that Bevel claims would be good to have known about in this case.

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Blood stains on Kim's hands, shirt, shoes and the gun were not tested and should have been, Bevel testifies. #ChristopherVaughn

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Knowing whose blood it is "would give you a direction or fork in the possible scenario" Bevel said. "I would consider it to be important."

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Bevel has also said that the inside of the gun barrel should have been more thoroughly tested for blood or human matter.

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Bevel: If Kim's blood found inside barrel of gun, it was likely that the shot killing her was the last shot fired. #ChristopherVaughn

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Inside of barrel was tested, about 1-1.5 inches in, and no blood or human matter was found. #ChristopherVaughn

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State cross examines Bevel- pokes holes in his testimony, including the fact that he misspoke about where Kim's blood was found on CV jacket

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How Kim's blood got on CV's driver seat: "I agree that the best explanation that it is associated with this incident."

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State asks Bevel to show in his report where he discusses details about Kim's plaid blouse that he talked about on the stand today.

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Bevel: "It is not in my report"

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You issued two reports in this case, and nothing about the plaid blouse but today when you're asked about it you're a fountain of knowledge?

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Bevel: Like all cases there will be questions that will be asked by the attorneys and I'm trying to be responsive to those questions.

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Bevel admits that evidence does not "jive" with #ChristopherVaughn statement to police about being out of the vehicle when Kim was shot.

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Bevel maintains under cross that the best explanation for CV's blood on KV's belt buckle was that it was made when he unbuckled it.

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Bevel said he can not, however, out rule a theory given by the defense... " I'm not able to eliminate the theory that's been presented."

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State is really going to town on Bevel. His case is getting trampled on. #ChristopherVaughn
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@ledbette it was over ruled :)
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State: Fact that towel is not in evidence does not negate the fact that #ChristopherVaughn blood was found all over Kim's side of SUV.
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Redirect: Bevel: "Not uncommon in most cases" to change prior conclusions based on theories provided by others that could be plausible.
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Bevel: I'm going to listen to any person that might have thoughts or explanations or theories (that I can not dismiss). #ChristopherVaughn
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Will know after lunch if #ChristopherVaughn will take the stand in his own defense...any bets?
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Back from lunch. One last witness, should take literally one minute...then we will find out if #ChristopherVaughn will testify.
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Stipulation: #ChristopherVaughn had a \$3.5 million life insurance policy out on himself with Kim as beneficiary. Taken out in Feb. 2004
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Kim says in email that she believes her sister suffers from bipolar disorder--manic side. Offered as to Kim's state of mind, not as proof.
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#ChristopherVaughn will not testify.
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"I do not wish to testify," #ChristopherVaughn
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State asks to call doctor to testify about how the FDA warnings regarding Kim's medications are created.
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Defense says state's doc was going to be called as rebuttal witness to a doctor the defense was going to call...they never called that doc.
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Judge allows State's rebuttal witness to testify about FDA warnings about Topamax, which KV was taking for migraines at time of her death.

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Here we go! Last witness takes the stand in the #ChristopherVaughn trial. I can't hardly believe it's coming to an end..oh wait, yes I can.

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Michael Schrift, Neuro Psychiatrist, takes the stand as the State's only rebuttal witness.
#ChristopherVaughn

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Nortriptyline (antidepressant) and Topamax (anti-seizure) are both prescribed as standard practice to treat migraines, Schrift said.

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Schrift on FDA warnings linking meds to suicide risk: Patients with prior suicide attempts were not disclosed from random controlled trials.

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Black Box warning for nortrip does not apply to someone Kimberly's age.

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Schrift says murder-suicide is a "very rare" phenomenon. Much more rare than suicide and homicide. #ChristopherVaughn

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Schrift continues to undermine FDA warnings...."too many factors that can effect the validity of the study"

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Schrift: Not aware of any data that shows risk of increased suicidality when combining those two drugs Topamax and Nortriptyline

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Breaking until Thursday morning at 8 a.m. for closing arguments....See you all then!

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Lenard makes last attempt for directed verdict...motion denied.

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Closing arguments today! #ChristopherVaughn

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20 Sep NapervilleSun @NapervilleSun

Closing arguments to begin in Christopher Vaughn's murder trial: Christopher Vaughn has been wait... <http://bit.ly/PCWTrX>

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Kimberly's family is here for closing. Her mother, father, and sisters are all in the front row. #ChristopherVaughn family is here, too.

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Media is here in the masses, as per usual whenever closing arguments occur. Courtroom is packed! #ChristopherVaughn

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