

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

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CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7 \*

ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI, \* Accident No.: DCA18MM028

JULY 19, 2018 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: [REDACTED]

Passenger

Cox Medical Center  
Branson, Missouri

Friday,  
July 20, 2018

## APPEARANCES:

SGT. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

LEETA BIGBEE  
(Aunt of [REDACTED] [REDACTED])

CHRIS MARTIN  
(Cousin of [REDACTED] [REDACTED])

ALLISON ROBERTSON, Manager, Case Management  
Cox Medical Center

CHANTSEE JONES, OB Tech  
Cox Medical Center

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

By Sgt. [REDACTED]

5

I N T E R V I E W

(6:55 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 SGT. [REDACTED] This is Sergeant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the  
4 Missouri State Highway Patrol. It is July the 20th, 2018 at 1855  
5 hours. I'm here with -- could you say your name for me, please?

6 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

7 SGT. [REDACTED] And spell it. [REDACTED] --

8 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

9 SGT. [REDACTED] What's your middle name, [REDACTED]

10 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. What's your birthday?

12 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

13 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay.

14 MS. ROBERTSON: That's cool.

15 SGT. [REDACTED] And we're here with -- would you say your  
16 name for me, please?

17 MS. BIGBEE: Leeta Bigbee.

18 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And could you spell that for me?

19 MS. BIGBEE: L-E-E-T-A, B-I-G-B-E-E.

20 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And your relationship with [REDACTED]  
21 would be --

22 MS. BIGBEE: [REDACTED]'s my nephew.

23 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. Very good. And sir, can you --  
24 what's your name?

25 MR. MARTIN: Chris Martin.

1 SGT. [REDACTED] Chris. Chris Martin, you said?

2 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, yeah.

3 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And your relationship to [REDACTED]  
4 is --

5 MS. BIGBEE: He would technically be cousins, because that's  
6 my nephew.

7 SGT. [REDACTED] Cousins. Okay. Oh, okay, very good. Well,  
8 I just have to -- for the family, I just want to make sure that  
9 I've got everybody recorded in here.

10 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

11 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

12 Q. So [REDACTED] can you tell me what happened yesterday?

13 A. Okay, so it's probably like how a normal routine for how they  
14 do working at the ducks. They would pick up the people at the  
15 station. The transportation would go down to the bus, to the  
16 water, and then we just take off and go into the water. Then we'd  
17 just be on the water. And like because we had saw one of the  
18 boats when we were -- before we had gotten on, fully on the water,  
19 we had saw a boat.

20 So we -- but we were ready for it, but there were big clouds  
21 before, like 5 minutes before we were even on the water. Everyone  
22 was a little worried, which is normal, because -- and the captain,  
23 who was usually talking and stuff, he was, like, oh, yeah, it's  
24 nothing to worry about; it's just, it's just the clouds. We'll  
25 just be a little humid and stuff. But we weren't really worrying

1 about the humidity and stuff. We were worrying about our safety.  
2 So but he kept on going with it. And we, and we were on the  
3 water. We listened to some music. He let some of the kids go up  
4 to the driver's seat and take some pictures. My cousin and me  
5 were also one of those kids who did it.

6 I think when it started going downhill for us is when my  
7 little -- my middle cousin [REDACTED] he had -- when he was getting his  
8 picture taken, he was starting -- we were starting to go the way  
9 of where the storm was going. And then next thing you know, he  
10 couldn't turn us around away from the storm. He kept -- we kept  
11 going through. For me, it looks like he didn't even try to turn.  
12 He just kept going through with it. You know, I was all like,  
13 okay, if you are trying to take us toward shore, but he was just  
14 taking us through the storm. And I was a little worried, and  
15 everyone was. One kid was screaming, I don't want to be in the  
16 Titanic.

17 Next thing you know, we were tilting over right side. I was  
18 on the left side of the boat. My mom and my grandmother, my aunt  
19 Tia, who is in the hospital right now, and my cousin [REDACTED] they  
20 were both on the right side. And next thing you know, we're  
21 tilted right side. And then we were finally able to stabilize the  
22 boat, and the next thing you know it, I turn back, a whole bunch  
23 of water is right behind us. And the last thing I hear my mom say  
24 before she had passed away is, get the baby. And my brother was  
25 seated right next to me during the incident of the boat. It came

1 so sudden to where the point to where I was able to -- I wasn't  
2 even able to gasp for air. And with that, it was just -- just  
3 came out of nowhere. I didn't even notice it happened. It came  
4 -- it just happened.

5 So I was probably under water for maybe about half a minute.  
6 I did breathe in some water, but not to the point to where I had  
7 to suck it out. It was just not that much water, but I was able  
8 to get out. The waves did hit me pretty hard, but I was able to  
9 get out from under water. I'd say I was about -- when I, when I  
10 -- I was not the first person to get out of the water, but I did  
11 see some people get out. Not all of them were alive. I did see a  
12 couple people who were alive and moving. I saw some people who  
13 couldn't make it out in time.

14 And with that, we -- there was a showboat. I made my way  
15 over to the wheel of the showboat. So when I walked over to it --  
16 well, I didn't walk over. When I swam over to it, I see people  
17 over there pushing other people down, trying -- because freaking  
18 out. Pushing me down, I'm pushing them down. We're all just  
19 trying to get to safety. I'm holding on to the showboat, one of  
20 the big wheels of it. I don't see anyone for maybe about 5  
21 minutes. I'm weak. I can barely lift myself up. I was able to  
22 get out of the water. The next thing I know it, when I looked  
23 down at the water, I see my cousin face down in the water.  
24 Wishing I was able to save him, but I wasn't due to my weakness.  
25 But if -- I knew that if I went back down into the water trying to

1 save him, neither of us would have come back up.

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. So yeah, so eventually this man had come up and saved me and  
4 this girl who were both just sitting on the wheel. We were just  
5 sitting there. He had come and saved us. We were both on the  
6 showboat. The employees from the showboat gave us some water. I  
7 didn't really drink that water, but I was very lightheaded. There  
8 was no severe injuries with me. I was -- there was nothing other  
9 than, other than the little wounded on my right side of my head  
10 right there.

11 And after that, we had -- I did not see anyone else from my  
12 family for a while, until they were able to take us off of the  
13 showboat. And then, when I was walking through -- off the bridge  
14 of the showboat to the front, to the land, I'm walking through. I  
15 see on one of the benches is my, is my aunt nearly passed out,  
16 barely half -- looks like she's half-conscious. Her eyes are  
17 barely open. I see officers looking in her eyes, checking her out  
18 and everything. And I didn't see anyone else. The only person I  
19 did manage to see was [REDACTED] and her. Those were the last two  
20 people I saw after the incident.

21 And after that, people -- some of the officers and people  
22 were taking names. I did talk to a couple other survivors,  
23 because one of the survivor's, we had like talked because he was  
24 one of the kids who got the pictures taken with it. I'm blessed  
25 that they did make it out alive because they were sitting in the



1 very back and so the water got them first before I did.

2 So with that, we were able to make our way down to the  
3 hospital. I knew she was probably in shock, is what the people  
4 were saying and stuff. I rode with her to the hospital. They  
5 wrapped me up in about maybe three or four blankets, because I was  
6 really cold and lightheaded. But her -- it was like a whole other  
7 thing, because she had gotten a whole lot more water than I did.  
8 She was probably maybe in the water for about a minute, I was  
9 maybe in there for half a minute. I was under for a while. I  
10 didn't see anyone from my family that I saw.

11 And then, and then we just, we just got settled in the  
12 hospital. It wasn't -- it was kind of hard for me to eat  
13 anything. I was hungry. I was starving. I tried eating  
14 something, then my stomach just rejected it. So I had to, so I  
15 had to go through that during -- for a whole night of my pain of  
16 not being able to eat when I want to eat. And then when I was  
17 finally able to get some digestion and we're all settled in, her  
18 -- our family comes in from her side, and next -- and just, next  
19 thing I know it, when we -- when the officers came up, they came  
20 up to tell us that we were the only ones who survived. And my two  
21 babies, two kids, our grandparents, both our uncles and my mom  
22 didn't make it out.

23 Q. I know. I'm sorry, buddy.

24 A. It's okay.

25 Q. I got a couple questions for you, okay?

1 A. Okay.

2 Q. Is that all right?

3 A. Yeah, I'm fine.

4 Q. You mentioned about the storm. You guys saw a storm coming  
5 before you ever got in the water?

6 A. Yes, we did. Yes, we did. Everyone saw a storm. We were  
7 all worried about the storm, and that captain was like, don't  
8 worry about it. We were all worried about it.

9 Q. Where were you seated in the, in that vehicle, in that boat?

10 A. I was seated maybe about -- let's see. On the front row,  
11 second to the front, to the -- sit here. I was on the window  
12 side. I was sitting on the, I was sitting on the window side. My  
13 little brother right next to me. He had sensitive ears, so he was  
14 laying next to me covering up his ears because he has sensitive  
15 ears.

16 Q. Okay. So you're, you're -- if you were facing forward, you  
17 were on the left side of the boat; is that what you're saying?

18 A. Yeah, like the second --

19 Q. Right behind the driver?

20 A. Yeah. I was like right behind it, but there was like one row  
21 in front of me.

22 Q. And who was in that row in front of you?

23 A. That was my, that was my uncle and my, and my middle cousin  
24 [REDACTED] who was the one who -- where when it started turning into  
25 the storm --

1 Q. Who was in charge of the boat?

2 A. Well, we had a driver before the captain took over. He drove  
3 us through from the land, and then before we got onto the water,  
4 he -- they switched seats, and then he had gotten into the water.

5 Q. Can you describe -- do you know the names of the guys who  
6 were --

7 A. The driver, the driver who drove us on land was named Bob,  
8 and the other one -- I think his name was Scott. Captain Scott.  
9 He was like, he was like this talker. He would talk about some  
10 funny stuff. He'd say, yell at the people at the golf; they  
11 sometimes notice, or they try to run inside real quick. And he  
12 was just making, and he was making sure we were having a nice  
13 time. He was a really nice guy. But whenever we mentioned that  
14 storm, he'd be all like, don't worry about it. And I was all  
15 like, okay. And it didn't really help me out that much, because  
16 I'm already afraid of boats.

17 Q. Oh, yeah.

18 A. So it made it so -- that didn't really help me out that much.

19 Q. When you guys went from land to water, you know that big  
20 paddle boat that was out there?

21 A. Yeah. Yeah, there --

22 Q. Was that boat on your right or on your left when you first  
23 went in the water?

24 A. The other duck boat?

25 Q. No, your -- when you were in your duck boat and you guys

1 first went into the water, was that great big paddleboat -- was it  
2 on the right or was it on the left? Do you remember?

3 A. Oh, the showboat?

4 Q. Um-hum.

5 A. It was on the right.

6 Q. It was on your right.

7 A. Yeah, there was a, there was a showboat that was on the  
8 right, and then there was that other -- there was another duck  
9 boat on the water when it happened. It was on --

10 Q. And which way?

11 A. It was on like -- let's see, if you head that way, then there  
12 was one like that way.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And then the showboat was like right there next to the land.

15 Q. Okay. And so when you guys got in the water, did you go left  
16 or did you go right?

17 A. We were starting to go -- start curving over to the right.  
18 It didn't seem any sign of us even trying to --

19 Q. Toward the boat? Toward the big boat?

20 A. Yeah, we -- which was near the storm. And they would have  
21 been fine. They were perfectly secure with how all their stuff  
22 was connected to land. There was no chance of them going  
23 anywhere. And so they were fine, but us, it's a different story  
24 because they're not -- the way they got on the -- closing the  
25 water, a bunch of water was still getting in.

1 Q. Okay, so you're saying water was getting in.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Tell me, tell me at what point -- so let me back up. So some  
4 of the guys were driving, right? Some of the kids got to drive?

5 A. Yes, some of the little kids got to drive, including me and  
6 my middle cousin [REDACTED]

7 Q. Okay. And that was at the first, right?

8 A. He was not the first. There was a couple people who came in  
9 from New Mexico who had drove and got some pictures in, that --  
10 two of them. They were doing fine.

11 Q. Sure.

12 A. They were doing fine. They weren't going sideways. But  
13 then --

14 Q. So they actually sat in the driver's seat and the captain  
15 would --

16 A. Yeah. Yeah.

17 Q. -- like -- stood next to them or something?

18 A. Yeah, he would -- yeah, they were -- yeah, he had just sat  
19 right -- there was a chair right here and there was a chair here  
20 at the driver. They would sit there, they'd get their pictures  
21 taken. And then as soon as it was our family's turn, [REDACTED] had  
22 went up there. And as soon as he got getting up, he started  
23 turning right, and then the next thing you know it, I went up  
24 there. I tried turning us left, but then he just didn't really  
25 fix what I was trying to do. But we just kept going through, and

1 next thing I know it --

2 Q. Why were you, why were you trying to turn left?

3 A. I was trying to turn left to get away from the storm. And  
4 like, his way -- I know how my aunt kind of thinks that he was  
5 trying to get us to the land, which is understandable, because  
6 it's like right there. But it sort of feels like he was just  
7 taking us just through the storm. I don't know why he was doing  
8 it.

9 Q. How loud was it in there? Was the motor and everything  
10 pretty loud? Could you hear each other talking? I mean, could  
11 you talk to like your aunt and your uncle?

12 A. Yeah, I was able to, I was able to talk to my relatives.

13 Q. Okay. And what about the captain? So you said Bob was the  
14 driver guy on land.

15 A. Yeah, he drove us on the, on the way of land, and then as  
16 soon as we were like right next to our -- before we drove into the  
17 water, they switched seats.

18 Q. So once you got on the water, were those guys talking to you  
19 guys at all?

20 A. Yeah, they did talk to us still a little bit.

21 Q. And what did they say?

22 A. But like, Bob didn't really talk. He was mostly -- he was  
23 just the driver, so he didn't really say anything.

24 Q. So who was, who was driving the boat in the water, then?

25 A. Scott was driving the boat. Bob, he was -- his job was to

1 just drive in the, in -- throughout the ways --

2 Q. On the land?

3 A. All the way over to I guess is what supposed to happen. And  
4 then as soon as they had gotten onto the, on right like -- there  
5 was like a parking lot right there. And before they switched out  
6 seats, they parked at the parking lot and then they drove into the  
7 water. And next thing you know it, we were in.

8 Q. Okay. So --

9 MS. ROBERTSON: Can I ask him a question?

10 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay.

11 MS. ROBERTSON: Did you have on a life jacket?

12 MR. [REDACTED] The life jackets were -- they were above us. He  
13 had told -- he had, he had this -- let's see. He demonstrated us  
14 how to put it on. They were above us. I knew that if I -- if  
15 there was something that did happen to happen, bad should happen,  
16 I was where I probably wouldn't get out alive because the ones  
17 that were above me were under 90 pounds, and the only person who  
18 weighed under 90 pounds was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Meaning that  
19 me, my uncle, my other uncle, and my granddad would not have made  
20 it out, because the -- because those were the kid life jackets.  
21 The adult life jackets were on the other side.

22 BY SGT. [REDACTED]

23 Q. Okay. So let's back up just a minute. So when you first go  
24 in the water, you said that the captain and Bob were talking to  
25 you guys?

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. Okay. What kind of things were they saying when you first  
3 went in the water?

4 A. They were saying like don't worry about it. We're going to  
5 have some fun. The water's going to hit you and -- nice. It's  
6 going to get a little humid. But other than that, we'll be fine,  
7 and stuff. Just telling us not to worry about it when a lot of  
8 kids were worried about it. Now that -- my uncle Ray, he was, he  
9 was a little worried regardless, but -- because he's not on boats  
10 like that. But with that boat, he was worried.

11 Q. Who talked to you about life jackets?

12 A. Captain Scott.

13 Q. Okay. When did he talk to you about life jackets? At what  
14 point?

15 A. He probably talked about it when we were in the parking lot  
16 before they switched seats.

17 Q. Okay. So before you ever got in the water --

18 A. Yes, he did. Yes, he did.

19 Q. -- he talked about it. Tell me specifically what he said  
20 about life jackets.

21 A. He said to put them over your head. And there's like,  
22 regardless of which side it is, it always is -- like I think it's  
23 like -- I think he called it like a reverse jacket. So you put it  
24 over your head, then you put this thing around it, and then you  
25 just clip it onto the side so the string would be around your



1 body. And then you clip it onto the middle, and you'd be fine.  
2 You'd be set. It was that easy.

3 Q. Did he show -- was he standing up or --

4 A. Yeah. Yeah. No, yeah -- no, he demonstrated it to us. He  
5 demonstrated how to put it in, clip it around and stuff. We  
6 didn't have to do it ourselves, but he told us how to do it,  
7 but --

8 Q. Did he say anything else about wearing life jackets that day?

9 A. Did he say anything about what?

10 Q. Did he ever say you should put your life jacket on or you  
11 should, you know --

12 A. No. He didn't mention anything about the life jackets after  
13 that.

14 Q. Okay. Once you were on the water, did he or Bob tell you  
15 guys anything or say anything about the life jackets?

16 A. No, he didn't.

17 Q. Did anybody ask them? Did anybody in the crowd ask any  
18 questions about the life jackets?

19 A. Uh-uh. They were -- they wanted us to trust them, so we  
20 trusted them. Because since they -- by how old Bob was, he was  
21 really old, you could tell that they've been doing that for a  
22 while. So I was like, okay, I can trust them. They've probably  
23 had to deal with a storm maybe once or twice, maybe -- I'm sure  
24 they can do this again. But that time, they weren't able to do  
25 it. I don't know if that storm was bigger than they thought or if

1 they just weren't cautious enough of it.

2 Q. Okay. Let me ask you -- I'm going to draw a little bit of  
3 something here. I want to get an idea of where you were. Okay?  
4 If you'll look at this for me. This is your little -- this is  
5 your boat, okay?

6 A. Um-hum.

7 Q. This is that big paddleboat, right?

8 A. Yeah, that showboat.

9 Q. The big one. You guys came in the water on this side of it?

10 A. Yeah. And then there was another, there was another boat  
11 like that was like a little upwards. It was another Ride the Duck  
12 boat.

13 Q. Another duck boat?

14 A. Um-hum.

15 Q. And which way was it headed?

16 A. It was like that way. Away --

17 Q. Like this way?

18 A. Yeah. Away --

19 Q. That direction?

20 A. Yeah, away from the storm. And the storm was coming in that  
21 way.

22 Q. Okay. Well, then what happened? Which direction did you go  
23 from here?

24 A. So it was doing fine. He was doing fine. And then he just  
25 made a joke like oh, yeah, I'm just not going to do it anymore,

1 but then he --

2 Q. Did he go this way?

3 A. Yeah. No, we were -- so see, we were going fine. We were  
4 going straight. Maybe going a little bit that way. And then we  
5 were doing fine. And then once my middle cousin came in, we  
6 started heading that way. Sorry. I'm a little -- I'm still a  
7 little tired.

8 Q. And where did this other duck boat go?

9 A. I did not see the duck boat for the remainder of the time  
10 being after we had turned that way. I did not see that boat  
11 anymore. I know, I know that for a fact that duck boat is safe.  
12 I know that that survived, because I know how that said that we  
13 were the second -- that's the second time that's happened. And  
14 they would have said, that's the third time, because a boat just  
15 crashed some -- they would, they would have said that that other  
16 boat got caught.

17 Q. Sure. So water -- when did water start coming into the boat?

18 A. Water started to --

19 Q. Where were you at in this when it started coming in?

20 A. Well, the water -- yeah, the water did get us a little bit  
21 from just getting sprayed --

22 Q. Sure.

23 A. -- the impact of the water. But then when the storm started  
24 coming in, when it started raining harder and the waves were  
25 getting bigger, we were getting hit hard. Half of my -- I got

1 wetter than I expected, everyone thought we would get, to where  
2 like my whole half right here was just soaking wet.

3 Q. Where were you at in here when it really started getting bad?

4 A. Huh?

5 Q. Where were you at? Were you -- had you made this turn  
6 already or were you going like this when the waves started hitting  
7 you?

8 A. When the waves started hitting was when we were like maybe a  
9 -- maybe like a little bit past the boat. Maybe a little bit past  
10 it.

11 Q. And when which direction did he go?

12 A. And then, like -- I can't even fully remember which way,  
13 which direction we went. I know that, I know that he tried to get  
14 us like to go that way, but really, we just kept going that way.

15 Q. Okay. And where did you drive? When did you get to drive?

16 A. I got to drive like in the -- like right there.

17 Q. Right here?

18 A. Uh-huh. That's when my middle cousin had started driving,  
19 and then that's when we started heading into the storm. And then  
20 when it was my turn, I tried to turn back, but I don't know what  
21 he was doing. He kept fixing the wheel. I was like, okay.

22 Q. Were you the last kid to drive?

23 A. I was the last kid to drive.

24 Q. Okay. And you were about right there?

25 A. Um-hum. And my -- and it started happening when we were

1 right there.

2 Q. Okay. And you mentioned something about water coming in  
3 behind you.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you, did you say that?

6 A. Yes. That's when we started getting too much water in to the  
7 point where we were sinking.

8 Q. Did you, did you look behind and --

9 A. I did look behind. I saw that, and I saw that --

10 Q. How deep was it back there compared to where you were?

11 A. It was covering up about the whole back row of it. So I  
12 was --

13 Q. Like above the seats or --

14 A. So I -- yes, the seat, I think, to where you can't even see  
15 them. So say that like that's the front row, and that's how much  
16 water was covering up.

17 Q. Got it. Okay.

18 A. Yeah, it was just those two rows. I couldn't even see my  
19 grandparents anymore.

20 Q. Okay. So it was like this?

21 A. It was, it was high up. It took up the whole thing.

22 Q. Do you remember which window you went out?

23 A. Do I remember which -- what?

24 Q. How you went out. Did you go out the front? Did you go out  
25 the side you were sitting or --

1 A. No, because those windows were still rolled down. I might --

2 Q. Which windows were rolled down?

3 A. I probably -- so they had these windows. They have those  
4 really not secure; I was really worried about those. Because they  
5 rolled those windows down, they were just made of plastic. They  
6 weren't like one of those things where you could just roll up and  
7 then you'd be fine. No, it was actual stuff -- it was actual  
8 plastic just dangling up, and water was coming up from it because  
9 the waves were so big. And then he did have a window where he  
10 could roll down on the -- in front where you look and drive at.  
11 He had windows on that. He rolled that up.

12 What I'm assuming happened, how I got out of the boat, is how  
13 I think -- I'm pretty sure I -- I'm pretty sure he took that one  
14 -- I'm pretty -- he took down the window, and I'm pretty sure I  
15 dived out of it and swam up.

16 Q. The front?

17 A. Yeah, the front window where -- like the driver window.

18 Q. Did you see -- you said you saw other people get out of the  
19 boat. Who did you see get out?

20 A. I did see a couple people get out. Some people that like  
21 were not my family. I did not see any of my family other than my  
22 cousin [REDACTED] when -- and that was when I was on the wheel. That's  
23 the only person I saw. But I did see a couple people, some kids  
24 crying and stuff. I see some parents freaking out.

25 Q. Did you see the driver get out?

1 A. I did not see the driver or Bob. I did not see him or her --  
2 I mean, not her. I didn't see either of them.

3 Q. Was that front window down?

4 A. I do not remember fully, because it just happened so fast.

5 Q. Sure. Yeah.

6 A. Yeah, it just blacked me out. I don't remember if that  
7 window was open or not, because it was kind of hard, because he  
8 would roll it up and then he'd roll it down every now and then. I  
9 was like, oh. So I don't, I don't really remember. But all I --  
10 but I do remember me swimming out that front way, and I do  
11 remember me swimming up. I was under water for about maybe half a  
12 minute.

13 Q. Did Bob or the captain say anything while the boat was  
14 filling up with water? Do you remember --

15 A. Uh-uh. I didn't hear, I didn't hear a word about them. I  
16 didn't hear a word from them. They were probably the most calmest  
17 in the place.

18 Q. Was anybody -- were there any people there trying to get life  
19 jackets or --

20 A. Yes, I did see a couple people try to get life jackets, but  
21 the water just came in too fast. I know I tried to. I tried to  
22 get a life jacket. I was going to put it on my brother, because  
23 he, because he is skinny. He's tall and skinny. He could have --  
24 I could -- and then he would, he would have made it out. But me,  
25 the life jackets were -- life jackets for me were like on the

1 other side. I don't like -- then they, if they was going to be  
2 like that, they might as well just have the rows categorized or  
3 have us on it before we get on.

4 Q. Whenever the captain was talking or Bob was talking, did they  
5 have a, did they --

6 A. Well, Bob never talked. It was just Captain Scott.

7 Q. Okay. And did he have something to help him talk with? Was  
8 there like a -- did he have a microphone or something?

9 A. Yeah, he had like a -- he had like one of those microphones  
10 where you don't have to talk too loud or you have to hold it. You  
11 just put -- connect it to your ear and then you just talk.

12 Q. And you could hear everything he said pretty clearly, then?

13 A. Yeah, yeah. We heard everything. He'd joke around and said,  
14 this girl who was talking to her boyfriend, apparently.

15 Q. Oh, no. Yeah.

16 A. So yeah. And then --

17 Q. Were you able to hear him talking the whole time?

18 A. I was able to hear him talking, but he's -- they both got  
19 quiet when the storm came in. I didn't hear either of them say  
20 anything.

21 Q. Tell me, tell me at what point did you stop hearing them  
22 talk? Where were you guys?

23 A. Let's see here.

24 Q. Was it after you drove --

25 A. It was --



1 Q. -- or before you drove, or where in the --

2 A. It was a little after we drove. So maybe, like -- let's see  
3 here. So we started, got into the water right there. We started  
4 really getting into the storm right there. And then that's when  
5 he started taking over. He stopped talking maybe like this way,  
6 like at this point. Not too long after I was on the boat.

7 Q. Okay. Did Bob -- did you hear anything said between Bob and  
8 the captain guy?

9 A. I know -- they didn't really talk together that much. They  
10 did, maybe did one or two jokes before we got into the  
11 transportation. But after that, they didn't really talk that  
12 much.

13 Q. After you drove, did you hear them talk about anything when  
14 -- after you drove?

15 A. No, I didn't -- no, they didn't say a word to each other. I  
16 know that Bob was talking -- there was like this little mini row  
17 for him to sit in, but he -- but that wasn't really a row for  
18 other people to sit in. He just sat there. He was, he was  
19 talking to my uncle.

20 Q. Do you --

21 A. I don't know what they were talking about, but -- because I  
22 was in the row behind them so I know they were talking together.

23 Q. Okay. Okay. Is there anything that I haven't asked you  
24 that's on your mind or that you think I need to know?

25 A. Nothing --

1 Q. Do you have any questions for me?

2 A. The only thing I just don't know is I don't know why he kept  
3 taking us towards the storm. Because he saw me trying to take it  
4 that way.

5 Q. Did you tell him? Did you guys talk?

6 A. Yeah. Yeah, I was like, I'm trying to fix this. He was  
7 like, no, don't worry about it. Because I could tell, because I  
8 could tell -- I was trying to fix the mistake that my cousin had  
9 did. I was just trying to turn us away to the sunshine and away  
10 from that dark, cloudiness storm, because all that rain and all  
11 those heavy waves, because it was less crazy over there. We were  
12 perfectly fine, and then when we started turning right into the  
13 storm, next thing you know it, everything went downhill.

14 Q. Okay. When you first started out, your boat was going --

15 A. Yeah, everything was --

16 Q. -- a certain speed, right?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. So did it slow down or did it speed up at any time?

19 A. It felt to me as if they speeded up after I, after I had  
20 gotten off of it. It felt, it felt that way to me. I know that,  
21 when we were on the -- when we had first gotten on the boat,  
22 everything was calm, cool. I did bring goggles to wear in case I  
23 get hit in the face because my eyes aren't always the best. But  
24 they were the best that day, because I didn't -- my eyes weren't  
25 burning at all, and I opened my eyes a lot underwater.

1 Q. The plastic windows on the side, do you remember those  
2 windows, did they stay there or did they fall away?

3 A. That I do not remember. I apologize for that. But I do  
4 remember when -- if he rolled down those windows or not. I think  
5 he kept those up. I think those windows were still rolled up. So  
6 if someone tried to get out from that side, they were going to  
7 have a problem, because those windows were still rolled down. But  
8 you were able to push out and --

9 Q. Which sides were rolled down still?

10 A. Both sides of the, of the boat. So you were able -- but it  
11 wasn't as if like, oh, my goodness, you're never going to get out.  
12 You just had to push out, and then you would just get it. Because  
13 that's how all the water was getting in. It was just like getting  
14 in there. It wasn't even like fully connected to the bottom half  
15 of it. It was just rolled down, and then that's it; that's your  
16 window. And that, and that did -- that did somewhat stop water,  
17 but then with those heavy waves, all that water was coming from  
18 under it. And next --

19 Q. Coming up underneath the window?

20 A. Yeah. And like from a little crack from the person above me,  
21 which is my uncle and my cousin. That's when it --

22 SGT. [REDACTED] Thank you for talking to me, [REDACTED]

23 MR. [REDACTED] That's (indiscernible).

24 SGT. [REDACTED] I'm sorry. And you know what? You're a,  
25 you're a brave young man, you know.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Thank you.

2 SGT. [REDACTED] And you're absolutely right. That was a  
3 difficult, difficult -- I mean, I'm a good swimmer. I couldn't  
4 have done that.

5 MR. [REDACTED] I'm surprised -- I mean, I'm surprised at myself.  
6 Probably those 2 years didn't help -- those 2 years at the YMCA  
7 didn't help me get specialized and swimming that 30-foot water.  
8 Probably the deepest I've gone is 10 feet.

9 SGT. [REDACTED] Yeah.

10 I am going to have to get your names too, as witnesses.  
11 What's your name, ma'am?

12 MS. ROBERTSON: Allison Robertson.

13 SGT. [REDACTED] Can you spell that for me, please?

14 MS. ROBERTSON: Yes. A-L-L-I-S-O-N. Last name Robertson,  
15 traditional spelling.

16 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And you're --

17 MS. ROBERTSON: The manager of case management. So I have  
18 all the social workers, case managers.

19 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And your name is?

20 MS. JONES: My name is Chantsee Jones, C-H-A-N-T-S-E-E,  
21 Jones. And I am an OB tech. So I'm a staff member here tonight  
22 for support.

23 SGT. [REDACTED] Okay. And I'll end the recording.

24 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7  
                                  ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI,  
                                  JULY 19, 2018  
                                  Interview of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ACCIDENT NO.:               DCA18MM028

PLACE:                        Branson, Missouri

DATE:                         July 20, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

[REDACTED]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Gonzalez  
Transcriber