

From the first time we heard about Aron Christensen and Buzzo's death last August, the narrative from the Lewis County Sheriff's Office did not make any logical sense. They told Aron's family that he died of a heart attack on his solo hike with his puppy. If that was so, how did Buzzo die? He couldn't have starved to death or succumbed to the elements in that area, at that time of year, in that time frame between Friday morning and Saturday afternoon. Police insisted that Aron had a "widow-maker's heart" and offered no explanation for Buzzo's death. We were left to wonder what had really happened.

Piecemeal, the real events came to light. The pathologist's report showed that Aron died of a gunshot wound, just as the hikers who found and reported Aron and Buzzo's bodies had thought. Why had the first officer on the scene, Scrivner, said that it was a heart attack? Hikers with no forensic or police training had clearly identified the gunshot wound in the left side of his chest. But Scrivner declined the help of detectives. He said that there was no gunshot but that there was a puncture wound. He took a few photos and some notes. The next officer to arrive was the on-duty supervisor, Sergeant Jeff Humphrey. Scrivner briefed him. Humphrey neglected to even hike up to the scene. Then Scrivner utilized the help from some campers, a U.S. Forest Service officer, and a WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife officer, to transport Aron and Buzzo away from where they died.

Meanwhile, Ethan and his girlfriend had purportedly spent the rest of Friday night lost in the woods. On Saturday morning, they hiked past Aron and Buzzo's bodies. They went home to wait for Ethan's dad. They did not contact the authorities. On Sunday, the day after Aron and Buzzo were found, Michael Robert Asbach, Ethan's dad, called LCSO regarding the "incident" on Walupt Trail. Ethan Asbach and his unnamed minor girlfriend were interviewed. Ethan's dad turned over the gun that he had given Ethan specifically for protection from wild animals. Ethan reported that he had gotten very scared on his Friday night hike by what he thought might be a mountain lion or a wolf. He was so scared that he shouted, took the gun out of his backpack, loaded it, and shot into the dark when the growling didn't stop.

Aron was killed by a bullet from Ethan's gun. Somehow Buzzo was killed too. Ethan and his girlfriend reported that they found Aron shortly after Ethan fired the gun. They said they thought he looked like he had been dead before being shot.

Scrivner's decisions at the scene and Brown's misinterpretation of the pathologist's report support Ethan's narrative. Scrivner thought it looked like a heart attack despite the visible gunshot wound. Brown claimed that Dr Quinn, the pathologist, had told him that Aron had fatal heart disease. However, the pathologist's report does not support this story. In fact, Dr Quinn addressed the fact that Brown must have "misunderstood" her and that Aron did, in fact, die of a gunshot wound, not a heart attack. There was no indication or reason to believe that Aron suffered a heart attack before getting shot. He did not die of a heart attack. He was alive when shot. The cause of death is a gunshot wound and the manner of death is homicide.

In a case where none of the authorities responded to Aron and Buzzo's deaths in a reasonable or logical manner, why did they ignore the most obvious explanation, as supported by the pathologist's report? It almost seemed like they were all reading from the same script. It made us wonder what kind of connection there might be between Ethan, his girlfriend, or their families, and the Lewis County officials. Now we know.

Ethan has a close relationship with a young man named Conner Kelcher. They worked together for Ethan's step-grandfather. Conner is Rick Van Wyck's nephew. (Rick's only sibling is Conner's mother.) Rick is a captain under Lewis County Sheriff Rob Snaza. It is apparent from Facebook posts that Rick and

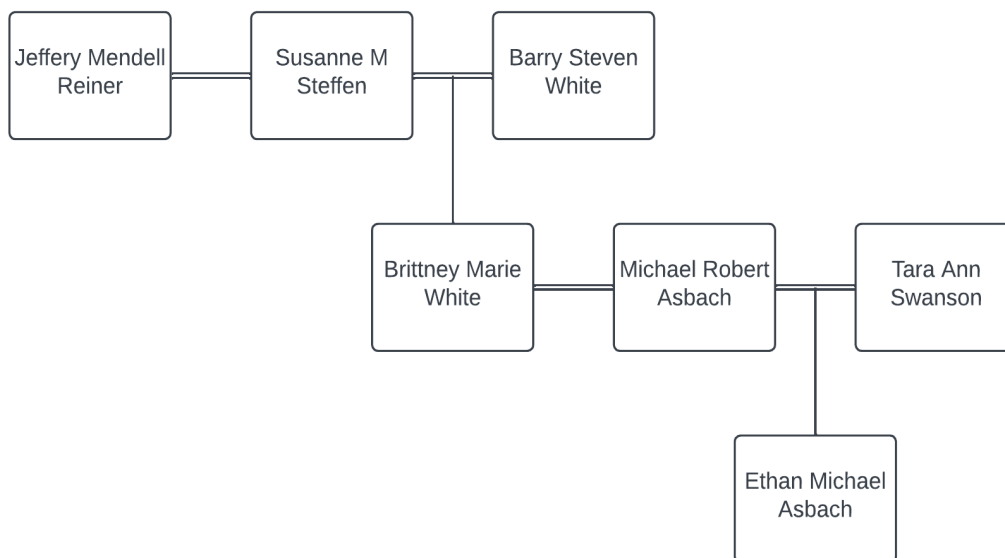
his wife Kellie are good friends with Rob and his wife Jennie. Rick provided essential help for Rob's reelection campaign. Despite years of mismanagement, negligence, and corruption, Rob was reelected this last November.

In the days and weeks after Aron and Buzzo's deaths, Deputy Chief Dusty Breen told Aron's family not to contact or speak to the media. This would be expected in an investigation where the family might know minute details of a case that, if shared with the public, could enable an unknown suspect to cover their crime or prompt them to flee. They already had suspect. They had interviewed them. Did the Sheriff's office want to avoid media coverage because Snaza was fighting for reelection in November? Perhaps they did not want voters to know about any of this. Hopefully, voters will know for future elections that Snaza, Van Wyck, Breen, etc. are all part of the same good ole boy's club and that they are looking out for their career advancement and their families and friends; no one else.

Why did the Sheriff's Office avoid publicly disclosing the close, avuncular relationship between Ethan, a suspect in a homicide investigation, and a member of the office investigating that same homicide? Their behavior makes it easy to conclude that they are covering for Ethan and his girlfriend, who they refer to as "good kids." Good kids could possibly get scared and make bad decisions. Good kids absolutely do not leave a man and his puppy to die alone in the woods as a result of their mistakes. Good law enforcement officers do not cover the mistakes for those kids just because they like or even love them; they do not lie and mislead the grieving family of the victim of those kids; they do not prevent justice from being served. No one who committed or covered these crimes behaved like good people.

#### ETHAN'S CONNECTION TO LCSO

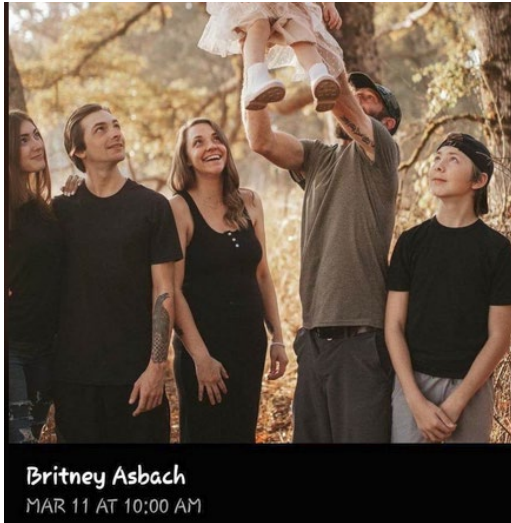
Jeffery Mendell Reiner is the owner of South Sound Honda Suzuki Polaris, a company that sold ATVs to LCSO. He married Susanne (Steffen) White in 2023, according to the Washington State Digital Archives (<https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/8502E82034AB4780C640570C9A84DA19>). From her first marriage, Susanne is the mother of Brittney White, who married Michael Robert Asbach in 2018. <https://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/46C5257BF7E3C113E5CA6503940F3683> Ethan is Michael's son from a previous relationship.



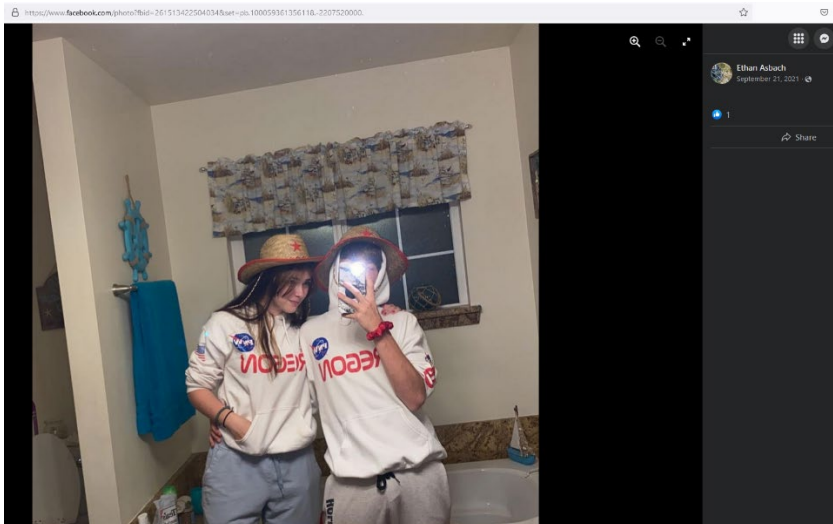
Brittney (White) Asbach's Facebook page demonstrates how close she is with her stepson Ethan. Below is Brittney's profile picture, posted 11 Mar 2023. Michael and Brittney are with their young daughter, two (step)sons, and Ethan's girlfriend. Ethan (second from left) has been dating the same young woman (far left) for some time. The second picture was posted by Ethan on 21 Sep 2021. It's a picture of himself with the same young woman from the Asbach family photo. It has since been deleted from Facebook (but we have screenshots).

Brittney's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brittney.white.338>

Ethan and Michael have scrubbed their Facebook profiles.



Left to right: Ethan's unnamed girlfriend, Ethan, Brittney, (toddler), Michael, Julian

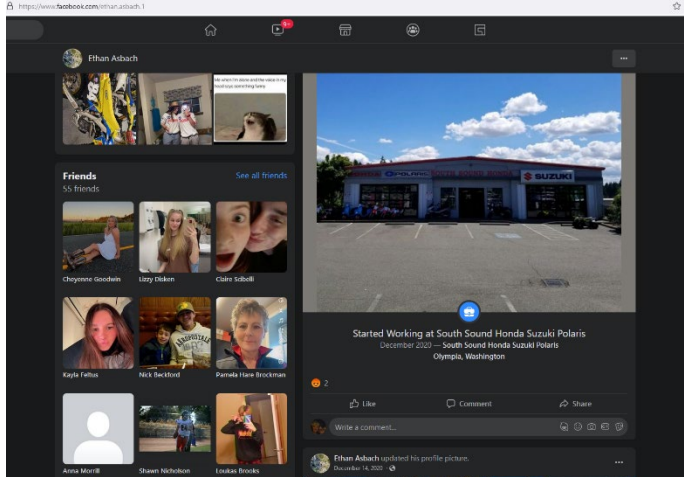


Left to right: Ethan's unnamed girlfriend, Ethan (posted 21 Sep 2021)

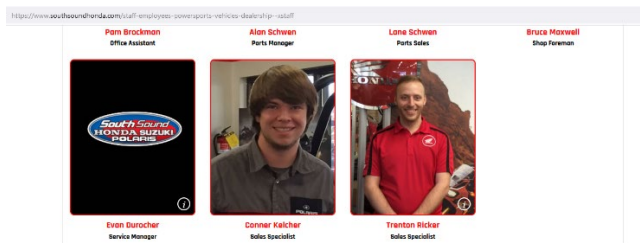


Left to right: Ethan, Brittney, Julian

Ethan's step-grandfather, Jeff Reiner, owns South Sound Honda Suzuki Polaris. LCSO purchased ATVs from there. Ethan indicated on Facebook that he started working there in December 2020. His employment there ended in August.



On their business webpage listing employees, SSHSP lists Conner Kelcher as a sales specialist.  
<https://www.southsoundhonda.com/staff-employees-powersports-vehicles-dealership--xstaff>



Conner has worked there since at least 5 Nov 2019, when he posted to Instagram about a bike @sshondasuzukipolaris lent to him for the weekend. The post also shows some familiarity with Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

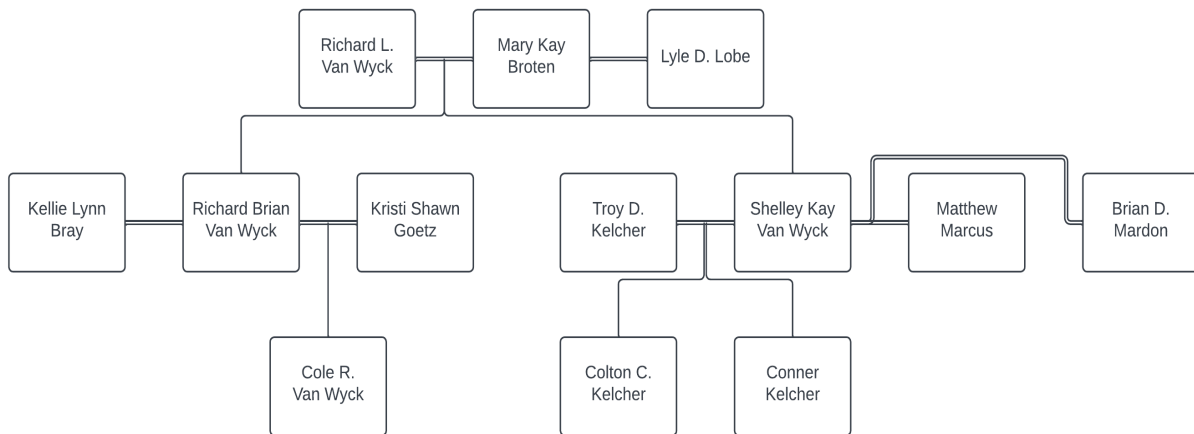


Conner is the nephew of Captain Rick Van Wyck. In the chart on the next page, at least three people were active in Sheriff Rob Snaza's reelection campaign. Captain Rick Van Wyck, his wife Kellie (Bray) Van Wyck, and his sister Shelley (Van Wyck) Kelcher Mardon Marcus, all helped with facilitating campaign events, hanging signs, fundraising, etc. Captain Van Wyck's wife, Kellie, is also an employee in the Sheriff's office.

(Please note that The Silver Agency, owned by Coralee and Chad Taylor, was contracted with Snaza to aid in his campaign. They helped in other aspects, like social media, signs, mailings, etc. The Taylors also own the local paper, The Chronicle. <https://www.chronline.com/> )

Below is a photo of Rick and Rob posing with a Snaza for Sheriff sign.

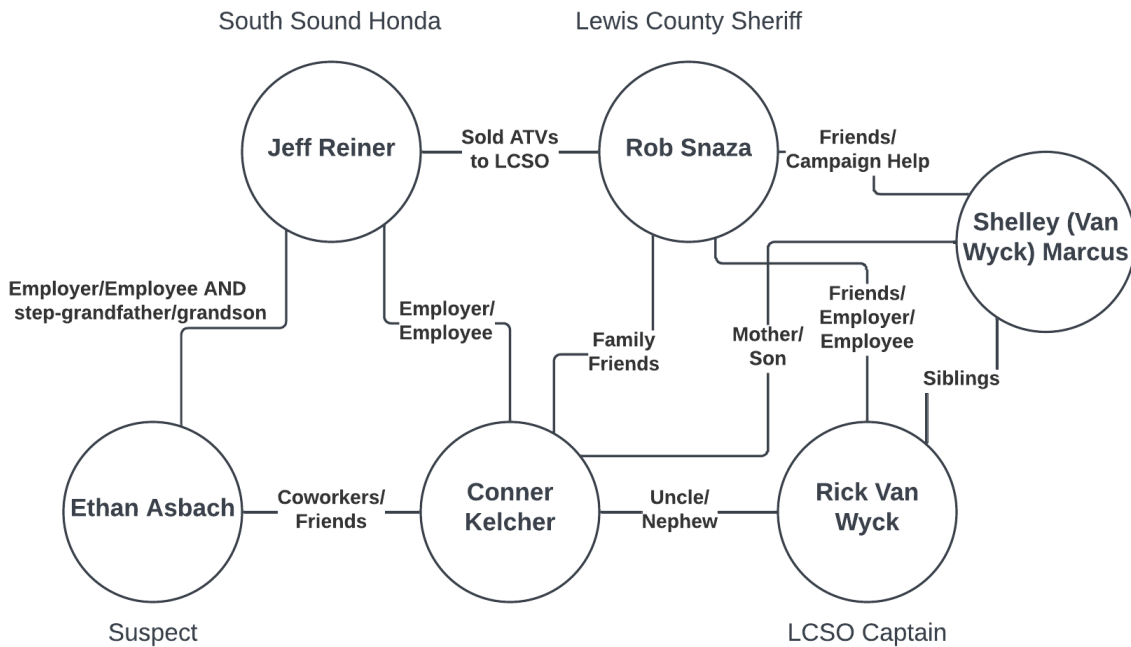




Conner’s grandmother, Mary Kay (Brotten) Van Wyck Lobe, posts pictures of her grandsons to Facebook. One of those pictures, from 2020, is below. Conner is in the middle. Note that in this screenshot, Jennie Snaza’s comment, “great picture,” is visible. Jennie (Cadena) Snaza is Rob Snaza’s wife. Note that Mary Kay is also Facebook friends with Rob Snaza’s daughter.



Rob Snaza commented about how proud he was of Conner’s cousin, Cole Van Wyck, upon becoming a flight instructor a couple weeks ago. The Snazas and the VanWycks/Kelchers are well-acquainted. Like family.



We know now how close and connected Ethan is to people Snaza treats like family. What would Snaza and Van Wyck do for family? It seems we have our answer. It's been playing out ever since Van Wyck's nephew's good friend shot and killed our friend and his puppy.

So what do we do now? We've known there was a connection all along. We contacted the Prosecuting Attorney, the State Attorney General, the Governor, the FBI, media outlets, and on and on, hoping that an outside agency would investigate this case and the Sheriff's Office. Now that we know exactly how Snaza is connected to Ethan through Van Wyck, and why their entire office is covering for him, will the proper authorities finally listen? Will the residents of Lewis County continue to be left unprotected and disserved by these contemptible law enforcement officials? Will the Lewis County Sheriff's Office continue to believe they are entitled to act as judge and jury? Will Aron, Buzzo, their friends, and their family ever see justice?