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To our Arapahoe County citizens,

Attached is the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office summary Investigative Report related to the murder of Claire Esther Davis, and the attempted murder of two other persons, at Arapahoe High School on December 13, 2013.

The person responsible for the murder, and attempted murders, was Karl Halverson Pierson.

The summary is supported by approximately 4,000 pages of documents, over 200 interviews, 13 search warrants, 3 production of records requests, processing of numerous crime scenes, over 200 items of evidence, the analysis of collected evidence, over 3,000 images and photos, review of 9-1-1 calls, review of recorded radio traffic, review of Arapahoe High School surveillance video, review of school records and follow-ups on numerous tips made to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

The vast majority of the investigation was done months ago, but there were two specific items of evidence that needed to be analyzed by other organizations. Both were critical to the thoroughness and completeness of the investigation.

On January 2, 2014, we requested the Colorado Bureau of Investigation do an analysis of the shotgun that was recovered in the library. CBI requested additional evidence from us as part of that analysis, which was provided to them. On September 4, 2014, we received the report from CBI which indicated:

- the shotgun was capable of firing
- all of the shotgun shell rounds that were recovered on scene were fired from the shotgun recovered
- The shotgun shell shot size, trajectories and patterns of impact are consistent with the processing of the scene and witness statements

Inasmuch as there was no video from the library, this is critical to establish that no one else was involved in the planning and execution of the shooting and there was no other firearm used.

The other item of evidence that needed to be examined by another organization was an Asus tablet that was recovered from the Pierson residence through a search warrant affidavit. The tablet was submitted to the Rocky Mountain Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory for forensic analysis in December. Their efforts to see what was on that tablet were unsuccessful, and the tablet was sent to the FBI's Cryptologic and Electronic Analysis Unit in Quantico, Virginia for examination. We did request a "rush" on the processing



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of the tablet but that request was denied due to the fact that the “suspect” was deceased and there was no indication of anyone else’s involvement at that time. On September 9, 2014, we received a report detailing the analysis of the tablet. Relevant information from the tablet included several photographs taken on December 13, 2013 to include photos of Pierson, taken by himself, wearing the same clothes that he was wearing when he was found in the library, along with photos of his gun, machete and ammunition.

Related to both of these items, the shotgun and the tablet, I decided not to disclose the items and the reason for the delay in processing these items as it could have been detrimental to our investigation if anyone else was identified as being involved in the planning or execution of the shooting. As it turned out, it is clear that no one else was involved.

We fully understand that many people will want to review additional documents related to this investigation. For the most part, any documents related to this investigation are considered criminal justice records and we have a responsibility to thoroughly review those records before release. As I have stated, the records associated with this investigation are voluminous; however, our Records staff and Attorney’s Office are actively engaged in this process and we intend to make available any records that can be released once that review is complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Walcher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David C. Walcher, Sheriff
Arapahoe County

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
ARAPAHOE HIGH SCHOOL
CASE # CT13-44545**



REPORT BY: Investigator Kristin McCauley #03077

CASE TYPE: Homicide

ACTION: Closed by Exception

David C. Walcher, Sheriff

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I. Summary

On December 13, 2013, at approximately 12:33pm, Karl Halverson Pierson entered Arapahoe High School (AHS), located at 2201 East Dry Creek Road, through an unsecured north entrance door leading to the Trophy Hallway. He was carrying a Savage Arms Stevens Model 320 pump-action shotgun, a large hunting knife, several shotgun rounds in bandoliers (one that was over his shoulder and another around his waist), three (3) Molotov cocktails and a backpack full of shotgun ammunition. Immediately upon entering the school, Karl shot one round directly at two female students who were sitting on a bench in the Trophy Hallway near the entry door. Karl fired a second round, which hit one of the girls in the head, causing her to fall forward. The victim was later identified as 17-year-old Claire Esther Davis. Karl fired a third round, which hit the brick wall behind Claire. The ricochet from the third shot hit Claire in the back. Karl then ran through the North Hallway and entered the library. As Karl entered the library he was yelling, "Where the fuck is Murphy?" and then fired two rounds toward the head librarian, Tracy Murphy, as he (Tracy) ran out a door leading outside the school. Tracy was not injured. Karl then put down the shotgun on a table, lit and threw a Molotov cocktail, setting a bookcase and books on fire. Students and staff in the library were able to run into the hallway or hide in a closet.

Prior to entering the school, Karl was observed carrying a gun and running toward the north doors by a school janitor. The janitor notified the school administration, via the school's two-way radio system, that they needed to go on lockdown. Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) School Resource Officer (SRO) Deputy James Englert heard the lockdown transmission and notified ACSO Communications Center via radio. Within seconds of Deputy Englert airing the school was going on lockdown, he aired that there were shots fired in the school. Several 911 calls were made to ACSO regarding the shooting. Deputy Englert and assisting ACSO deputies responded to the area of the library. Once inside the library, Karl was found deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Claire was carried to the south end of the Trophy Hallway to exit doors by Assistant Principal Darrell Meredith and Littleton Public Schools Security Officer Rod Mauler. Claire was then transported by Littleton Fire Rescue to Littleton Adventist Hospital, where she succumbed to injuries eight days later on December 21, 2013.

The school was searched for other suspects, possible explosives and other incendiary devices with help from several responding law enforcement agencies. The school was cleared and evacuated with no other suspects or devices located and without further incident.

II. Assisting Agencies

The following agencies responded to assist ACSO with the initial response, evacuation of the school and investigation into the shooting that occurred at AHS:

18th Judicial District Attorney's Office
Arapahoe County Coroner's Office
Aurora Probation Office
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
Castle Rock Police Department
Cherry Hills Village Police Department
Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado State Patrol
Denver Police Department
Denver Public Schools
Denver Sheriff Department
Department of Homeland Security
Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Englewood Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Golden Police Department
Greenwood Village Police Department
Jefferson County Public Schools
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Littleton Fire Rescue
Littleton Police Department
Littleton Public Schools
Lone Tree Police Department
Parker Police Department
Sheridan Police Department
South Metro Fire Rescue Authority

III. Background

The suspect was identified as 18-year-old AHS senior:

Karl Halverson Pierson
[REDACTED]

Karl lived with his mother:

Barbara Pierson
[REDACTED]

and sister:

[REDACTED]

at [REDACTED], Highlands Ranch, Douglas County, Colorado. Karl's father is:

Charles "Mark" Pierson
[REDACTED]

Karl's parents divorced when he was a junior in high school.

Karl was a member of the Speech and Debate Team at AHS. Karl was captain of the Extemporaneous Team (subset of the Speech and Debate Team) during his junior year. Karl was removed as captain of the team on September 3, 2013, by:

Tracy Murphy
[REDACTED]

Tracy was the coach for the Speech and Debate Team. During the interview with Tracy, he gave the following information:

He is the head librarian at AHS and head coach of the Speech and Debate Team. As head coach, Tracy is responsible for recruiting, prepping the students for events, and helping students take on leadership roles as well as officer positions within the team. The leadership roles within the team are never assigned; the students volunteer for them. The students are held responsible if they sign up for events or for the leadership positions.

According to Tracy, the head coach position for the Speech and Debate Team has similar duties to that of any head coach position for any other sport. There are higher expectations for officers such as they must attend most meetings, practices, and competitions; there is clearly more commitment involved.

In the spring of 2013, Tracy had reservations about Karl being promoted to the captain of the Extemporaneous Team. Tracy described Karl as "nerdy, socially inept and clunky." Tracy was hoping that Karl would "grow and develop self-confidence" through participation in speech and debate. Tracy saw things in Karl last year regarding Karl's leadership and felt that he was not

suit for the position. Karl was not running the Extemporaneous Team practices as Tracy would have liked. They discussed it and Karl was argumentative about it. Karl displayed poor decision-making at the tournaments.

During the 2012/2013 school year, Karl participated in a competition that Tracy did not see. Tracy heard other members of the team talking about Karl's opening statement, but no one would talk to him about what Karl said. Tracy asked Karl what he said and Karl responded, "I'll show you." Karl positioned himself in the front of the room and said, "I woke up this morning and realized my penis had fallen off." Tracy told Karl that was inappropriate and he "crossed the line." Karl acknowledged he made a mistake, but dismissed the incident as being over.

In April of 2013, Karl qualified to compete in the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Karl saw his personal achievements and his qualification in the national tournament as more important than being a good teacher and a role model for his teammates.

On the second day of the 2013/2014 school year, Tracy was approached by another teacher:

Jeff Corson
[REDACTED]

who is a social studies teacher. Jeff wanted to know how to deal with Karl because Karl was telling other kids they were stupid. Jeff was concerned because Karl is associated with the Speech and Debate Team and he is being seen as "a verbal bully."

A few days later at the Back to School Night, the Speech and Debate Team participated in a fundraiser in which they sold bottled water to the parents in attendance. Karl had signed up to participate in the event, but was a "no call/no show." Tracy felt this was irresponsible. When Tracy spoke to Karl about it, Karl stated that his phone was not working so that is why he did not call.

Shortly after Back to School Night, Tracy decided Karl needed to be removed as captain of the Extemporaneous Team. Tracy sent a text message to Karl and Karl's mom, Barbara, requesting a meeting with them later in the day. The meeting was held in the Speech and Debate room (C15). Tracy expressed his concerns about Karl's behavior and advised Karl that he was being removed as captain. (It was later determined that this meeting occurred on Tuesday, September 3, 2013.) Tracy advised Karl that he was still on the team and wanted him to participate. Karl was "livid and threatening." Karl referred to what the principal would think about removing the only member of the team who qualified for the national tournament. Tracy told Karl that his decision to remove him as captain was not about competitive success.

After Tracy told Karl that he had been removed as captain, Karl just looked at him. Tracy never had a kid look at him with the look of hatred that Karl did that day. It was "haunting" how Karl looked at him. After Karl and Barbara left the meeting, Tracy saw and heard Karl yelling at Barbara. Tracy could not tell what Karl was saying. Tracy never filled the Extemporaneous Captain position because he worried that Karl would be mean to the successor.

Tracy had a bad feeling about Karl and decided the next day to do some follow-up regarding the incident with Karl. Tracy spoke with school counselor:

Astrid Katzer-Thurnau
[REDACTED]

Tracy told Astrid that he had a bad “gut” feeling about Karl. Astrid told Tracy he had to go with his “gut.” That afternoon, while at a faculty meeting, another teacher:

Mark Loptien
[REDACTED]

pulled Tracy aside. Mark told him that the day before he was out in the parking lot when he heard someone screaming. Mark looked over and saw a male juvenile, a woman and a female juvenile, who he later determined to be Barbara, [REDACTED] and Karl. Mark heard Karl state something to the effect of, “I’m going to kill that Murphy!”

Tracy then spoke with the principal:

Natalie Pramenko
[REDACTED]

who referred Tracy to assistant principal:

Kevin Kolasa
[REDACTED]

Kevin called Barbara that night and Barbara held Karl out of school for the rest of the week (Wednesday through Friday). Kevin wanted to have a “re-entry meeting” with Karl prior to him coming back to school, although Karl was never formally suspended for his actions.

Tracy stated he was not aware of any direct threats; however, he was concerned about Karl “snapping.” Tracy spoke with the school psychologist:

Esther Song
[REDACTED]

When Karl returned to school, Kevin made the administrative decision to support the removal of Karl as captain of the Extemporaneous Team. It was Tracy’s decision to allow Karl to still participate in speech and debate, against the wishes of the administration. Karl was open enrolled and he lived in Douglas County. Tracy was told by an unknown school administrator the district would not support removing Karl from AHS and sending him back to Douglas County because Karl was a senior and was near the end of his school career. Prior to Karl returning to school, he had a re-entry meeting with Kevin and Esther. (It was later determined that this meeting occurred on Monday, September 9, 2013.)

Kevin decided a two-to-three week cooling off period would be appropriate; therefore, Karl would not be allowed to attend the speech and debate practices or events during that time. After the re-entry meeting, it further confirmed Esther’s belief that Karl was a narcissist.

Tracy recalled speaking with Kevin about the possibility of obtaining surveillance video of Karl’s actions that occurred on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 (when Karl was in the hallway

yelling at Barbara and in the parking lot, where he made the indirect threat). Tracy felt the surveillance video should be pulled to give an idea of what had happened. Two or three days after that discussion, Tracy spoke with Kevin again and the surveillance had not been pulled. Tracy got the impression that it was not going to be done.

Tracy spoke with the secretary for assistant principal:

Darrell Meredith
[REDACTED]

about the video and she said she would look into it, but by then it was two weeks after the incident. Tracy was told by Darrell's secretary that the video had been written over.

On Tuesday, September 10, 2013, Karl went to the speech and debate practice, even though he was told he could not participate in practices. Tracy told Karl he needed to leave. Tracy informed Kevin that Karl had attended the practice.

Tracy relayed his concerns about Karl to Kevin and Esther. Tracy seriously thought about resigning from his position at AHS because he wanted to take himself out of the school as a target. Tracy believed it would be safer for him and it would protect others Karl might hurt trying to get to him. Tracy believed even if Karl's open enrollment was removed, Karl could still come back to the school. Tracy's feeling that Karl was "trouble" never went away.

On an unknown date during the 2013/2014 school year, Tracy spoke with Esther. Esther told Tracy that Karl requested an I.Q. test. During that interaction, Karl's behavior solidified Esther's feeling that Karl was a narcissist.

During the fall semester of 2013, Tracy checked Karl's grades and realized Karl was ineligible to participate on the Speech and Debate Team. Karl was failing two or three classes and had D's in a couple of others. Karl had a B average the previous semester. Tracy felt that Karl changed with his status as team captain.

During an interview with Assistant Principal Kevin Kolasa, he provided the following information:

Kevin is the assistant principal in charge of the seniors. Kevin has dealt with Karl for the last two years. Karl has had outbursts in school. Karl was suspended once, but on other occasions he was sent home.

In September 2013, Kevin was pulled aside by Mark Loptein and Tracy Murphy. Mark told Kevin he heard Karl yelling that he was going to "kill that guy." Mark believed Karl was talking about Tracy. Kevin called Barbara who advised that Karl was upset about Tracy demoting him. Barbara verified Karl had said he was going to kill Tracy. Barbara held Karl out of school for the rest of the week, which was three days. Prior to returning to school, a threat assessment was done on Karl by Esther.

After the threat assessment was completed, there was a meeting with Karl, his parents, Esther and Kevin. (It was later determined that this meeting was held on Monday, September 9, 2013.) Esther advised that it was safe for Karl to come back to school. Tracy spoke with Kevin about his concerns and the fear for his safety. Kevin felt that Tracy seemed less concerned about the

threat as time went on. Kevin took the threat against Tracy seriously. Tracy did tell Kevin that he thought about resigning. Kevin advised ACSO Deputy James Englert of the threat made toward Tracy by Karl. (It was later determined that Deputy Englert documented this information on September 5, 2013, the same day that he received this information, in report CT13-32292.)

After the re-entry meeting, Kevin decided that Karl could be part of the Speech and Debate Team by going to the tournaments but he could not go to the practices. Kevin told Karl that the decision was his and not Tracy's.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Karl was kicked out of Spanish class by teacher:

Vicki Lombardi

Kevin was told that another student in Spanish class locked Karl out when he went to go get a drink of water. When Karl could not get back into the classroom, he started banging very loudly on the door. Vicki opened the door and asked Karl if he was serious. Karl told her he was "serious as a heart attack." Vicki then told Karl to leave the classroom. Kevin found Karl in the cafeteria and he seemed calm. Karl told Kevin what happened. Kevin called Barbara and it was decided that Karl would go home for the rest of the day.

During an interview with Astrid Katzer-Thurnau, she provided the following information:

She retired from AHS, but was working there from August 19, 2013 to October 25, 2013, while the regular counselor was on leave. Astrid knew Karl when he was a freshman. Astrid was the assistant speech coach for the Speech and Debate Team. Astrid did not have much interaction with Karl on the team because he was on the debate side. Astrid stated Karl was quiet, but always dressed well (in a suit and tie) for the debates. Astrid saw Karl at the beginning of the 2013 school year and she had a brief conversation with him. Karl talked to her about making it to the national tournament and seemed upset that he did not get more recognition from the Littleton Public Schools for doing so.

On Thursday, September 26, 2013, Astrid was asked to sit in on a meeting regarding Karl. Others in the meeting were Esther, Kevin and Tracy. The meeting was about Karl returning to the Speech and Debate Team. During the meeting Astrid believed Karl was supposed to apologize to Tracy, but he did not. Karl was quiet, agreeable and pleasant during the meeting.

During an interview with Barbara Pierson, Karl's mother, she provided the following information:

On Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Barbara had a meeting with Tracy and Karl. During the meeting Tracy told Karl that he was no longer the captain of the debate team. Karl was very angry and when they got outside of the building, Karl said he was going to kill Tracy. Barbara kept Karl out of school for the next three days. Barbara was aware that Karl's grades were not good and he was disrespectful in Spanish class.

On Monday, September 9, 2013, Barbara had Karl assessed at Highlands Behavioral Health, after the incident where he threatened Tracy. Karl was seeing a therapist. Barbara was told that Karl was not a threat to himself or others. According to Barbara, Karl did not do drugs. Karl did get suspended in April of 2013 for "going off" on a teacher. Karl totaled his car in August of

2013 after leaving work angry. Barbara does not believe that Karl could have planned the shooting at AHS.

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, Barbara received a text message from Karl stating he took \$800.00 out of his bank account to give to his friend [REDACTED] for flying lessons. Barbara told Karl that he needed to put the money back.

During an interview with Karl's sister, [REDACTED], she provided the following information:

Karl was always kind toward her. He was a very compassionate person and would never intentionally hurt anyone. He was always good to her and he was a good brother.

During an interview with AHS teacher:

Dan Swomley
[REDACTED]

he provided the following information:

Dan had Karl in his math class in the spring semester of 2013. Dan thought he gave a math test in March. Dan was unable to give the test back to the class due to some students that had not yet taken the test. Dan told the students that he would give them their grade, and that it was up to each student how he told them (out loud, come up and look, or wait until the test was handed back). Dan read Karl's grade out loud and Karl said, "Fuck." Another student said something that Dan did not hear. Karl said, "Fuck you," to the other student. Dan pulled Karl out of class, and the school administration took over. Dan was told by the administration that they did not need anything further from him. Dan believes that Karl was suspended for one day.

Mark Pierson, Karl's father, advised that he did not want to be interviewed; however, he did provide the following information:

As far as Mark knew, Karl did not own any weapons and he did not believe that Karl was old enough to legally purchase a shotgun. Mark stated Karl participated in the Venture Crew Program, which runs a program in the summer called RAMS (Rifle Archer Muzzleloader and Shotgun). Those who participate in RAMS get together one time a year to shoot guns. The participants camp out at Chatfield Reservoir, and shoot at a Lockheed Martin facility. Mark believed that Karl had become a proficient shooter.

The following individuals were interviewed, all of whom stated they had no prior knowledge of Karl's plan:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

They provided the following information:

[REDACTED] He [REDACTED] was not in school on Friday, December 13, 2013, because he went to the Broncos game the night before and did not feel well. He did not know about Karl's plan. Karl was the type of person who blamed others for everything. Karl was angry about being kicked off the debate team. Karl did have anger problems. Karl did show him a picture of a gun he bought. Karl told him that he (Karl) named his gun "Kurt Cobain." Karl said he had a girlfriend named [REDACTED], but [REDACTED] did not think she was real. On Thursday, December 12, 2013, he saw Karl pacing near the library which he thought was weird behavior for Karl.

[REDACTED] He hung out with Karl sometimes during their free periods. Karl showed him a picture of his gun and a machete he bought. Karl did not tell him about what he was planning to do. He would have told someone if he knew what Karl was going to do. He was very shocked that Karl was the one who entered the school and shot people.

██████████ Karl told him that he (Karl) was going to buy a shotgun. Karl also told him about the machete, and showed him a picture of it on Thursday, December 12, 2013. Karl said he bought the machete at Sports Authority.

██████████ Karl was a sweet kid. Karl told her that he was going to get Tracy Murphy fired. Karl hated Tracy. Karl did have a short temper.

██████████ He knew Karl from the Speech and Debate Team. He was friends with Karl at school, but did not associate with Karl outside of school. Karl began to withdraw about three to four months ago. In hindsight, he believed Karl may have been thinking about conducting a school shooting before it occurred. He and Karl had a conversation about school shootings and he told Karl it was unlikely to occur because it was a small school and the shooter would be stopped in ninety seconds to four minutes. Karl showed him a picture of a shotgun. Karl never told him specifically about his (Karl's) plan regarding a school shooting.

██████████ Karl told him that he (Karl) should kill Tracy. He did not take Karl's threat seriously. Karl was quick to anger. He was aware that Karl purchased his shotgun from Cabela's around Saturday, December 7, 2013. He believed Karl was seeing a therapist.

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, he had lunch with Karl and Karl was happy and joking around. He was shocked that the shooter was Karl. He now realizes all the separate little events make sense. Karl did seem more aggressive the last couple of weeks.

██████████: Karl was intelligent and liked to get his point across. Karl thought of himself as a liberal; Karl wore a CCCP (Central Committee of the Communist Party) shirt to be ironic.

██████████ He described Karl as intelligent. Karl liked to shock people to see their reactions. Karl could be verbally aggressive but was never physically aggressive.

██████████ Karl was an aggressive, outspoken, atheist, liberal, impulsive, self-serving narcissist. Karl threatened to burn down ██████████ church because ██████████ is Catholic. Karl would often "blow a gasket." He heard Karl say, "I'm going to kill Mr. Murphy; he is now on my list." He heard Karl call the list "the hit list." Karl had problems with teachers because he did not like authority. Karl read *The Anarchist Cookbook* and *Communist Manifesto*.

██████████ She was ██████████ on the Speech and Debate Team with Karl. One time Karl said he should kill Tracy for kicking him off the team. Karl "had it in" for Tracy.

██████████: She met Karl at a speech and debate competition. She attends ██████████ School in Douglas County. Karl was socially inept, quirky, kind of funny and very sweet. Karl told her once through text message that he was bullied in elementary and middle school. Karl also told her that he was kicked off the debate team for indirectly threatening to kill the coach. Karl told her that he becomes a monster when he is mad.

██████████: He was in Spanish class with Karl. He locked Karl out of the classroom on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. Karl was very angry about being locked out. Karl scared him. He text messaged with a friend of his, ██████████ (no further information), and stated Karl was crazy. ██████████ responded that Karl was insane. He responded Karl was "honestly scary,

like he is going to hurt us, I'm a little nervous. He obviously has the potential to be a threat if little stuff like that makes him crazy."

██████████ Karl had anger issues. Karl was going to snap one day, but she did not think it would be of this magnitude.

██████████: Karl seemed to become angry after his parents' divorce. She had known Karl since he was a freshman. Karl was not the same person as he was when she first met him as a freshman. She thought Karl had some kind of mental health problem. She saw Karl on Thursday, December 12, 2013, and he seemed happier than normal.

Several students, not specifically mentioned in this investigative report, stated that Karl had shown them pictures of a shotgun that he bought. Some of the students believed that Karl bought the shotgun because he could, since he recently turned 18 years old.

During this investigation, a girl who Karl had claimed to be his girlfriend was identified as:

██████████

██████████ provided the following information:

██████████ went on three dates with Karl. ██████████ and Karl had discussed firearms as a common interest. On the third date, Karl showed her a shotgun. The shotgun was in the trunk of Karl's car. Karl told her that he kept a journal, but it comes off more like poetry.

AHS teacher Jeff Corson provided the following information:

Karl was in his international relations class during the fall semester of the 2013/2014 school year. During a class at the beginning of the year, Karl loudly said, "That was stupid," when another student asked a question. Jeff briefly spoke with Tracy about Karl's behavior because Tracy was the Speech and Debate Team coach. Jeff also spoke with Barbara Pierson about Karl's behavior, who told him that Karl had been difficult to deal with for an extended period of time.

AHS teacher:

Michelle Crookham
██████████

provided the following information:

Michelle was Karl's trigonometry teacher. The only issue Michelle had with Karl was when he wrote the letters KMFDm on the top of a test. KMFDm is a band from Germany that translates to "no pity for the majority." Michelle went to Kevin Kolasa about it and he said it was probably nothing. Karl told her he thought she might like the band.

AHS teacher Vicki Lombardi provided the following information:

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Karl got locked out of Vicki's classroom. By the time someone opened the door for Karl, he was yelling and pounding on the door. Karl was very angry over the incident and Vicki asked him to leave the classroom. Vicki called for assistance from administration and Kevin responded. Vicki told Kevin that Karl scared her. Kevin told Vicki he was sending Karl home for the rest of the day and she was fine with that. Vicki did not think that Karl's behavior warranted a suspension.

AHS psychologist, Esther Song, provided the following information:

Esther did the threat assessment for Karl after he made the threat toward Tracy. (It was later confirmed that this threat assessment occurred on Monday, September 9, 2013). Esther did not provide any further information regarding Karl.

AHS student:

[REDACTED]

provided investigators with a Lexar USB drive and provided the following information:

During AP Economics class Karl was talking about *The Anarchist Cookbook*. [REDACTED] told Karl he did not know what *The Anarchist Cookbook* was and Karl told him he could give [REDACTED] a copy on a USB drive. [REDACTED] looked at the USB drive and it contained a copy of *The Anarchist Cookbook* along with a copy of another book that was similar. [REDACTED] did look at the book and remembers seeing instructions on how to make Molotov cocktails. [REDACTED] does not remember when this conversation took place.

During interviews with:

Michael Davis

[REDACTED]

Desiree Davis

[REDACTED]

it was learned that the victim:

Claire Esther Davis

[REDACTED]

had known Karl since their freshman year. Claire did not have much interaction with Karl until their senior year when they had one class together. Claire had recently commented to her parents that Karl was being disrespectful in class, and that the teacher was not doing anything about Karl's behavior.

IV. Friday, December 13, 2013 – Day of the Shooting

ACSO Deputy James Englert was at AHS when the shooting occurred. Deputy Englert is the School Resource Officer (SRO) for AHS. Deputy Englert gave a verbal account as to what occurred:

He was eating lunch in the staff dining area with:

Rodney “Rod” Mauler
School Security Officer

[REDACTED]

Steve Sisler
Assistant Principal

[REDACTED]

Brian Jesse
Assistant Principal

[REDACTED]

and Assistant Principal Darrell Meredith. They heard over the school radio system an excited voice speaking in Spanish. They kept talking and then Deputy Englert heard a voice yell, “Lockdown!” Deputy Englert ran out of the dining area and saw people running. Deputy Englert got on his ACSO radio and requested assistance. Deputy Englert stated he still did not know what was going on at that time.

Deputy Englert advised he somehow received information that he needed to go down the North Hallway toward the library. Deputy Englert believed he saw haziness, almost like smoke, in the hallway. As he was running down the hallway, Deputy Englert updated the ACSO Communications Center.

Deputy Englert unholstered his gun and ran toward the library. Deputy Englert said it was very hectic in the school. Deputy Englert was listening for shots. Rod was running down the hall with Deputy Englert. Rod told Deputy Englert that he heard a “pop” sound and asked if Deputy Englert heard it. Deputy Englert was looking for an active shooter. He looked into the library and remembers seeing two little fires and a lot of smoke. He aird there was a fire in the library.

As Deputy Englert got to the end of the North Hallway, which is near the library entrance, he saw a female lying there with severe injuries. He asked Rod to stay with the female and then Darrell came up the hallway. Deputy Englert then saw Kevin go into the library. Deputy Englert saw shotgun shells on the floor near the injured female. Deputy Englert did not know who the victim was, but later learned the female was Claire Davis.

Deputy Englert was still trying to locate the threat. He directed Rod to take Claire out the south doors by the Study Center. Rod and Darrell carried Claire down the hall to responders from Littleton Fire Rescue.

ACSO Deputies Rob Bratsch and James Mason arrived on scene. As deputies continued to listen for gunshots, Deputy Englert noticed the fire alarms had been activated. Deputy Englert heard over the school radio system that the fires were out in the library. Deputy Englert decided they

needed to go into the library. They started toward the library. Deputy Englert stepped into the library, saw a person's legs and ordered the person out. The person complied and Deputy Englert patted him down (the person was determined to be a victim/witness).

Deputy Englert saw Kevin and the Assistant Librarian:

Karla Brachtenbach
[REDACTED]

open a door from a room inside the library. They advised the suspect was Karl Pierson. Deputy Englert knew Karl and aired a description of him over ACSO radios.

The deputies began clearing the library and found Karl lying on the ground in between two rows of bookshelves. Deputy Englert recognized the person on the ground as Karl Pierson. Karl appeared to be dead from a gunshot wound to the head. Deputy Englert moved the shotgun out of Karl's reach for safety purposes.

Deputy Englert knew that Karl did not like the librarian, Tracy Murphy. He got on the school radio system and asked if anyone knew Tracy's location. Deputy Englert was advised that Tracy was okay. Deputy Englert smelled gasoline in the library. Members of the ACSO Bomb Squad were requested to respond to the library to search for incendiary devices.

Deputy Englert exited the library and went to Karl's locker. Deputy Englert knew that Karl was a smart kid and was concerned Karl could do a lot of damage if he put his mind to it. Deputy Englert remembered writing a report in September of 2013 regarding an incident between Karl and Tracy. He did not remember exactly what occurred during the incident, but it is documented in his report (later determined to be CT13-32292).

Deputy Englert did remember that Kevin wanted to tell him something, but Kevin advised it was "no big deal." Kevin told him that Karl got kicked off the Speech and Debate Team and made comments to Tracy. Deputy Englert spoke with Tracy regarding his safety. He told Tracy that if something happened, Tracy should exit the school through the exterior library door. Tracy told Deputy Englert that Karl gave him a weird feeling. Deputy Englert told Tracy that if anything happened, Tracy needed to report it to him.

After this, Deputy Englert would speak to Karl from time to time. Karl would always make a point to say hello to Deputy Englert. The last time he saw Karl was within the last week, prior to Friday, December 13, 2013. When he last saw Karl, Deputy Englert made a point to say hello to him. Karl did not say anything back or acknowledge him, which Deputy Englert thought was unusual. Deputy Englert advised that Karl was always hanging out with friends. Karl seemed smart, and Deputy Englert never heard of Karl being bullied.

Deputy Rob Bratsch provided a verbal account of his response to the school as follows:

He heard Deputy Englert air over the ACSO radio system the school was going into lockdown and Deputy Englert did not know why. Deputy Bratsch started toward Deputy Englert's location from Newton Middle School. He arrived on scene and met with Deputy Mason. Deputy Englert opened the north entrance door leading to the Trophy Hallway to allow them to enter the school. Deputy Bratsch listened for shots fired, but did not hear anything. They went toward the library.

Deputy Englert and Deputy Mason entered the library while he stayed outside the library to cover the hallway.

Deputy James Mason provided a verbal statement as follows:

He heard Deputy Englert air over the ACSO radio system the school was on lockdown but Deputy Englert did not know why. Deputy Englert advised that there was a fire in the library. He arrived on scene with Deputy Bratsch and they entered the school. Upon entering, he could smell a strong odor of gun powder and saw a heavy haze. They started down the North Hallway and Deputies Mason and Englert made entry into the library. Deputy Englert came across some students. While they were searching the students, a male poked his head out of a door and said the shooter was Karl Pierson.

Deputy Mason observed an area of carpet and the first row of a bookshelf had been burned. While they were clearing the right side of the library, near the bookshelves, they could see a male on the ground with an apparent head wound. There was a large pool of blood underneath his head and the male was not moving. Deputy Englert got on the ACSO radio system and advised that the shooter was "down" in the library. After being in the library for a while, the smell of gunpowder changed to gasoline. They then began to clear the students out of the library so that the ACSO Bomb Squad could search for incendiary devices.

ACSO Bomb Technician/Investigator Craig Clark searched Karl's body and the remainder of the library to check for any incendiary devices and observed the following:

Upon arrival in the library, Investigator Clark observed a black shotgun lying on the ground to the south of the suspect, approximately 20 feet away. (It should be noted that Deputy Englert moved the shotgun away from Karl when he first found him.) Investigator Clark observed Karl lying on his back with a backpack still attached to his body. Investigator Clark saw a gunshot wound to the left side of Karl's face. ACSO Deputy Troy Waller arrived and assisted with the search for incendiary devices.

Investigator Clark observed a blackened area on the north wall of the library that continued to the east on the floor to a bookcase. Books in the bookcase had burn marks and there were pieces of a broken green glass bottle scattered around the burned area. There was a very strong odor of gasoline. Investigator Clark found a bottle next to Karl's left shoulder, which was similar to the broken bottle found by the bookcase. The bottle next to Karl's body contained a small amount of what appeared to be gasoline. The bottle had a white cloth/paper wick.

Investigator Clark observed an additional bottle next to Karl (against his left side) and near a bookcase. The bottle appeared to be empty and did not contain a wick. Investigator Clark cut open Karl's zipped sweatshirt and observed two separate shotgun belts (bandoliers) around Karl's body. One belt was around Karl's waist and the other was around his shoulder. The belts contained shotgun ammunition. Karl also had a large knife in a sheath on his belt. Investigator Clark searched the body for any other devices; none were located.

School Security Officer Rod Mauler was interviewed at ACSO Headquarters. Rod stated that:

He was in the staff dining area eating lunch with Deputy Englert, Darrell and Steve Sisler. The staff dining area is in the east end of the school. Rod heard something on the school radio system

about a shooter. Rod started toward the library. On his way there, he heard a pop. The pop sounded like it was coming from the library. Rod looked in the library and saw a fire. The fire appeared to be in the back of the library. Rod yelled into the library and asked if anyone was there. Rod did not get a response.

Rod then went down to the Trophy Hallway with Deputy Englert. There was a student injured on the floor of the hallway. Deputy Englert directed him to stay with the student, later identified as Claire. Rod and Darrell carried Claire down to the south end of the hallway to the doors and waited for paramedics from Littleton Fire Rescue.

Rod advised that school security knew of Karl and he had a reputation of being troubled.

Assistant Principal Darrell Meredith was interviewed at ACSO Headquarters and stated that:

On Friday, December 13, 2013, he was having lunch when he heard someone speaking Spanish on the school radio system. Darrell believes it was:

Fabian Vidrio Llerenas
Custodian

because when Fabian gets “rattled” he starts speaking in Spanish. He believes sometime between 12:20pm and 12:30pm, he heard on the school radio system, “shooter, shooter, lockdown,” from two different voices. He heard Fabian say there was a shooter in the building. Darrell heard School Security Officer:

Cameron Rust

say, “Lockdown.” All the information was coming over the school radio system.

Darrell, Rod and Steve ran out of the staff dining area on the east side of the building. Rod and Darrell were running down the North Hallway. Darrell saw smoke and could smell something that wasn’t quite right. Deputy Englert was directly in front of him and Rod. Darrell saw Deputy Englert stop at the library with his gun drawn. Rod was in front of Darrell and Darrell went to the left. Kevin was on the left and stopped at the language art class. Darrell went to the South Hallway. Darrell was pulling doors shut as he was trying to get to the Trophy Hallway. Rod and Deputy Englert were saying on the school radio system, “Where is the shooter? Where is the shooter?” Someone said in the library. Darrell started working back toward the north and saw Rod helping the injured student, later identified as Claire.

When he got to Rod and Claire, Rod said they needed to move her. Darrell was thinking that they needed to get Claire into a bathroom because it could be locked from the inside. Rod said they needed to get Claire out of the building. He said to take her out through the Study Center Entrance (located on the south side of the school). Darrell asked Deputy Englert if he knew who the shooter was. Tracy got on the school radio system and said it was Karl Pierson.

School Security Officers Cameron Rust and:

Christina Kolk
[REDACTED]

were both interviewed at Shepherd of the Hills Church and later at ACSO Headquarters on Friday, December 13, 2013. Christina advised that:

Christina knew of the threats Karl made to Tracy. She saw Karl looking at gun websites in the lunchroom and informed her co-workers. She is aware that Karl got kicked out of Spanish class a couple of days ago (it should be noted that Deputy Englert was not advised about Karl looking at gun websites).

Prior to the shooting, she was heating up her lunch when she heard a loud pop. Cameron was with her. Christina and Cameron both went running out of the security office, which is in the cafeteria. They went running down the North Hallway, saw smoke and kept hearing pops. Christina knew the pops were gunshots. Christina looked down the hallway and saw students running out of a classroom. She and Cameron were running toward the students when they saw smoke. Christina and Cameron turned when they got to the library. Cameron went to open the door and that is when Karl turned toward them. Karl was standing about 15 to 20 feet away with his rifle and a bandanna wrapped around his face. Karl just looked at them. Christina and Cameron ran down a central hallway and locked down with the students in the PACE room. She heard one pop after she left the library.

Christina reiterated that Karl just looked at them but could have easily shot them. Karl did not point the gun at them; he just looked at them.

During Cameron's interview he gave the following information:

On Friday, December 13, 2013, he and Christina were eating lunch in the security office. Cameron propped the door open to the office because it gets hot in the room. Cameron heard a loud bang and then a couple more bangs. Cameron and Christina left the office and saw students running north out of the cafeteria. Cameron yelled, "Lockdown," on his school radio. Cameron and Christina started running down the North Hallway and could see and smell smoke.

As they got to the library doors, he told Christina to stop because they did not see the shooter yet. They looked into the library and saw the shooter, who was wearing a black "Air Force" hoodie; so he knew it was Karl. Karl saw them and raised the gun at them. Christina and Cameron ran down the hallway and locked themselves in the room with the PACE students. Cameron heard one more gunshot after he locked down.

Custodian Fabian Vidrio Llerenas was interviewed, and provided the following information:

Fabian first saw Karl when he (Fabian) was near the boiler room, outside of the school. Karl was running toward the building on the north side by the science area. Fabian saw Karl enter the doors on the north side of the building by the gymnasium. These doors are supposed to be locked. Fabian noticed that Karl was carrying a gun, so he aired on the school radio system what he had seen. Fabian then heard two shots, followed by a third shot from inside the school. Fabian

got into his truck and called 911. As Fabian was leaving the parking lot, he was waived down by Tracy, who told him that Karl took a shot at him (Tracy).

Tracy Murphy gave the following information as to what happened after Karl entered the library:

On Friday, December 13, 2013, shortly after fifth period started, he grabbed the newspaper and went into the work area of the library to eat. He heard two loud bangs. He and his coworker, Karla Brachtenbach, walked toward the main door to the library. Karla was in front of him and began to peek through the doors. The doors burst open and a male voice yelled, "Where's Murphy?" Tracy knew it was Karl.

At that point, all Tracy could see was a gun. He turned around and started running as fast as he could, back toward the work area when he heard a gunshot. Tracy felt something blow past his head, over his left shoulder, and he ducked. Tracy thought if he could get out of the library, and if Karl followed him, he could play hide-and-seek in the parking lot until the cops got there. He exited the exterior library door and hid between cars. He waved Fabian down as Fabian was driving through the parking lot.

During the interview with Karla Brachtenbach, she provided the following information:

On Friday, December 13, 2013, Karla heard two loud bangs and went to the main library entrance. Karl walked into the library. She knew who Karl was from the Speech and Debate Team. Karl was holding a gun in a downward position. He was approximately four to five feet from her. Karl said, "Where's Murphy?" Karl then cocked the gun and shot toward Tracy's desk. Karl was about ten feet from Tracy's desk.

After the first shot in the library, Karla went down to her knees and crawled into the editing room. Prior to Karl entering the library, Tracy was eating his lunch. After the first shot in the library, Karl walked in the direction of the work room where Tracy had been. Karl appeared to be angrier at this time and asked again, "Where's Murphy?" Karla then heard another shot. When Karla was being evacuated from the library, she saw a shell on the ground where the first shot in the library was fired.

Assistant Principal Kevin Kolasa provided the following additional information during his interview:

On Friday, December 13, 2013, Kevin heard on the school radio system what he thought was someone speaking Spanish. Kevin heard someone say, "Lockdown," three times. Kevin went down the hallway behind Rod and Deputy Englert. Kevin could see Deputy Englert looking at something in the corner by the trophy area. Kevin saw smoke in the library and he went into the library, where he observed two fires.

Once Kevin was in the library, he saw a shotgun shell in front of the desk. He noticed the desk and a box on the desk had been shot. Kevin started filling vases with water to put the fires out. Kevin saw a Molotov cocktail and kicked it away from the bookshelf. Kevin dumped water on the bookcase and put a vase over the Molotov cocktail to suffocate the flame. Karla opened the computer lab door and said that Karl came after Tracy and she didn't know where Tracy was. Kevin looked for Tracy, but could not find him. He thought Tracy may have gone out the back door. He went over to the back door and looked outside. He decided not to go out the door

because he did not want to get shot by responding officers. He saw three students huddled under the desk in the back corner. He told the students to stay there and not to move. Kevin stayed with the kids in the computer lab until they were evacuated. He never saw Karl in the library.

The female sitting with Claire Davis on the bench was taken to Swedish Medical Center and was identified as:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] provided the following information:

She was sitting with Claire on a bench in the Trophy Hallway near the north entrance door. During fifth period, she and Claire would get cookies and sit on the bench. A male, later identified as Karl, came through the door by the science area. [REDACTED] did not recognize Karl. Karl shot down the hallway and Claire yelled, "Karl, what are you doing?" Karl turned toward them and shot Claire. Claire slumped over on [REDACTED]. Karl never said anything to them. [REDACTED] ran down the hallway to the cardio room.

Students who were in the library at the time of the shooting were interviewed. All students in the library stated they heard three loud bangs and then a male subject ran into the library yelling, "Where the fuck is Murphy?" The majority of the students ran out of the library at this time through a connecting classroom that led out into the Trophy Hallway. All of the students that ran out of the library stated they saw a female (Claire) lying on the ground and bleeding. Some of the students ran to nearby houses. Others flagged down people in vehicles and got rides away from the school.

The following students had further information as to what occurred in the library:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

██████████ She heard shots and then the shooter burst through the library doors. When the shooter burst through the doors, she heard more shots. The shooter took something out of his backpack. After that she saw liquid dripping from the table onto her backpack. The shooter fired two shots before putting the gun down.

██████████: A guy (Karl) stormed in the library asking, “Where is Murphy?” Karl fired two more shots after entering the library. ██████████ then ran out of the library.

██████████ He heard the shooter, Karl, yell, “Where is Murphy?” two times. ██████████ then crawled under a desk. Karl walked by him, and he heard two more shots. He thought he heard what sounded like reloading before the two shots. He also remembers smelling gas, but does not remember seeing smoke or flames.

██████████: He hid when the shooter came into library. ██████████ could see the shooter’s legs and feet. The shooter kept walking and went behind the librarian’s desk. The person shot into the ceiling and then shot once more. ██████████ heard the person reload the gun.

██████████: She heard three shots. She turned and recognized Karl as the person with the gun. Karl yelled, “Where the fuck is Murphy?” She heard another shot but did not see it because she was hiding. She heard footsteps and then another shot. She ran out into the parking lot. She advised that Karl could have easily shot them in the library. She described Karl as verbally aggressive and that he did not like to be wrong. She said that Karl’s friends described him as a sweet, nice person, but she never saw that side of him.

██████████: When the male came into the library, she crawled under a table. She heard three gunshots in the library. Two of the shots were close together. The third gunshot was seconds later.

██████████: He saw the shooter enter the library but could not understand what the shooter was saying. The shooter fired two shots. ██████████ ran to a bookcase, saw smoke and locked eyes with the shooter. ██████████ ran out of the library with an unknown girl.

The following information was provided by student and teacher witnesses:

██████████

Andrea Bradley

██████████

Stuart Lienemann

██████████

Karen Gerlich

██████████

Stacy Cornils

██████████

██████████: She was in the science room near where Claire was shot, when she heard a loud bang. She looked out the window and saw a girl leaning over. She heard and saw one girl fall on top of another girl. The two girls were on the hallway bench.

Andrea: She was in the cardio room when ██████ ran in. She stated that ██████ ran in the class and said, “My friend has been shot!” ██████ was hysterical and hyperventilating. ██████ left side was covered in blood. ██████ appeared to be going into shock. ██████ was evacuated by a SWAT Team to receive medical attention.

Stuart: He was in classroom S14, which is a classroom off the Trophy Hallway. Stuart heard a student yelling, “Someone’s been shot!” He never saw the shooter, but did see Claire on the ground in the hallway. He heard a shot, jumped back into the room and locked the door. He felt debris after the shot. He decided to leave the classroom because he was concerned about Claire.

As he was going toward Claire, he saw Christina and Cameron running in the South Hallway (it was later determined by ACSO that Stuart saw Christina and Cameron running away from the library to the PACE Room). He then saw Deputy Englert look around the corner. Deputy Englert yelled, “Where is he?” Stuart told Deputy Englert that he did not know. Deputy Englert was near Claire, so Stuart went back into the classroom and locked down. He could hear Rod telling officers arriving on scene where to go.

Karen: She saw a white male carrying a gun and believes the male went into the library. She heard a single shot followed by two more shots in succession.

Stacy: She was in the hall when she saw a white male with a gray hoodie carrying a long gun. She heard two shots and saw the male subject level the gun and shoot.

The following individuals were in the Study Center, at the opposite end of the hallway from where Karl entered the school:

██████████

██████████

Charlene Brock

██████████

██████████

██████████

██████████: She looked down the hallway and saw a male with blonde hair holding a gun with two hands. She saw the male fire the gun in the direction of the bench. She heard one of the shots and saw the subject fire the second and third shots.

█: While in the Study Center, he heard a loud noise and saw a male running with a gun. █ ran out of the school through the gym.

Charlene: She heard a shot and glass breaking. She told everyone to lockdown. The second shot that she heard sounded a lot closer than the first shot.

█: He heard a shot and got hit in the shoulder with shrapnel, but he was not injured. He recognized the shooter as Karl because they used to be friends.

█ He was between the gym and classrooms in the west hallway (down by the Study Center) when he heard a gunshot and pellets hitting the wall.

V. Crime Scene

The crime scene was processed by Criminalists from the ACSO Crime Lab with assistance from the FBI and CBI. The crime scene was split into four sections: the Trophy Hallway/North Hallway; Northeast Library Area; Central Library Area; and Library Media Room.

A. Trophy Hallway/North Hallway

This area was processed by Team 4, which was led by ACSO Criminalist Steve Adams, with assistance from the FBI. This area includes the main north/south hallway on the west side of the school. The entrance is on the west side of the Library/Media Center. At the south end of the hall is the Study Center. There is another set of exit doors on the east side of the Study Center. There are numerous wall-mounted trophy/display cases on the east side of the hallway. Along the east wall are several benches. The west side of the hallway has built-in display cabinets as well as some wall-mounted cases.

There was a metal bench on the east wall just south of the doors to the library hallway (also referred to as the North Hallway) and a wall-mounted trophy case was at the south end of the bench. On the bench was a black backpack, a bottle of water, a cell phone with a pink cover and a folded piece of paper. A part of the bench seat was covered with blood. The floor under the bench was also bloodstained. On the floor in front of the bench was a black and pink backpack, notebook papers and a fired shotgun shell. A couple of feet from the bench was a pool of blood. On the floor under the trophy case, next to the bench, was a cell phone and a substantial amount of brown hair. The brick wall behind the bench showed projectile impact areas; one just north of the center of the bench and one at the edge of the trophy case.

Criminalist Adams summarized the following based on the scene reconstruction:

Three shots were fired from a shotgun from the north end of the hallway toward the bench where the victim (Claire) was seated. One shot hit the trophy case. One shot hit the brick wall at the north edge of the case. One shot hit the brick wall above the back of the bench.

The pellets found scattered down the length of the hallway and into the Study Center most likely ricocheted from the shots into the wall and trophy case at the north end of the hall.

One shot shell apparently was the result of a misfeed, causing damage to the shell, and was discarded/ejected in the hallway.

The blood stains indicate the victim bled over the north end of the bench before her position changed and her head was on the floor west of the bench.

B. Northeast Library Area

This area was processed by Team 1, which was led by ACSO Criminalist Erinn Dominguez, with assistance from the FBI. This is the area of the library where the suspect was found deceased. All of the items belonging to the suspect were taken as evidence.

Criminalist Dominguez, along with ACSO Supervising Criminalist Andrea Stephen, took photographs of the suspect's right index finger for identification purposes. Criminalist Dominguez compared the photographs they took of the suspect's right index finger to that of the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) dossier of Karl Pierson. The fingerprints were examined by both Criminalist Dominguez and Supervising Criminalist Stephen and they concurred that the deceased suspect was:

Karl Halverson Pierson
[REDACTED]

Arapahoe County Coroner's Office Investigator Cherry Goodman arrived on scene at 12:00am on Saturday, December 14, 2013. Investigator Goodman noted a gunshot entrance wound on the lower left side of Karl's jaw. Investigator Goodman did not observe an exit wound.

C. Central Library Area

This area was processed by Team 3, which was led by ACSO Criminalist Ewelina Bajda, with assistance from CBI. Included in this area was the main library entrance, the area west of the front desk, the area west of first bookshelf in the center of the room and the west computer lab.

It was noted that there was a burn pattern on the corner of the north wall between a set of bookshelves, opposite the entrance to the library. Burn patterns were also noted on the carpet in the area of the burned bookshelf. There was a piece of burned white cloth in the center of the burn pattern on the carpet. There were blackened pieces of a green glass bottle at the bottom of the burned bookshelf. There was also a blackened green glass Mountain Dew bottle, which was broken at its neck and was standing up near the burned bookshelves. There was a strong odor of gasoline in the library.

D. Library Media Room

This area was processed by Team 2, which was led by ACSO Criminalist Erick Bryant, with assistance from CBI. The Media Room is to the right after passing through the main doors to the library. A curved circulation desk separated an office area from the rest of the media room.

The room was in a disorderly state with books and backpacks on the floor of the study area. Paper debris and other items were on the floor throughout the media area. A shotgun shell was located on the floor adjacent to the edge of the circulation desk. A large area of what appeared to be shotgun pellet ricochet marks was located on the eastern most edge of the circulation desk. The trajectory marks appeared to align with the holes in a metal book cart and a nearby chair. A printer paper box with shotgun pellet damage was on the floor adjacent to the book cart. A spent shotgun shell was on the floor at the base of the dividing wall. A plastic water bottle with a large hole was on the floor in the circulation area. A series of four printer boxes stacked together with holes that appeared to be from shotgun pellets were located on a table in the media shelf area. There was shot pattern on the north portion of the upper east wall of the media room.

VI. Follow-up Investigation

A. Gun Information

The Savage Arms Stevens Model 320 pump-action shotgun, bearing serial number 134200P, was purchased on Friday, December 6, 2013, from Cabela's, located at 10670 Cabela Drive in Lone Tree, Colorado. The gun was purchased for \$229.99. A background check was completed on Karl prior to the purchase of the gun. Cabela's provided video surveillance of the purchase made by Karl. The gun and the spent casings were sent to CBI for analysis.

The gun was analyzed by CBI Examiner Alicia Vallario. Examiner Vallario found that the shotgun was capable of firing when examined. It was also determined that the Winchester shotgun shells contained 122 steel pellets and consistent with #1 shot size. The Royal Buck rounds contained 21 lead pellets and were most consistent with either #3 or #4 buckshot size. The spent shells found at the crime scene were found to be fired from the Savage Arms Stevens Model 320 pump-action shotgun, bearing serial number 134200P.

B. Search Warrants and Production of Records

1. A search warrant was obtained for Karl's residence:

[REDACTED]
Highlands Ranch
Unincorporated Douglas County, Colorado

Prior to the issuance of the search warrant, ATF agents, along with Douglas County Sheriff's Office deputies, responded to Karl's residence on [REDACTED]. The ATF agents stated that there was a strong odor of gasoline coming from the house. The agents, along with Douglas County deputies, forced entry into the residence to render the house safe.

ATF agents observed several live shotgun rounds, a box of shotgun rounds and a wrapper that said "Savage Arms" on the floor in an upstairs bedroom. A search warrant was obtained later that day to search the house.

The search warrant was served on Friday, December 13, 2013, and the following items were taken as evidence:

- Torn white t-shirt
- Gas can containing possible gasoline
- Treatment plan for Karl from appointment at Advanced Integrative Medicine
- Mountain Dew bottle cap
- RAMS (Rifle Archery Muzzle Loading Shotgun) ID badge for Karl Pierson
- Miscellaneous ID's for Karl Pierson
- NRA qualification certificates for Karl Pierson
- Toshiba external hard drive
- 3 loose USB drives
- Dell Inspiron 530 computer tower

- Walmart receipt for ammo
- Packaging for a Butler Creek long gun sling
- Instruction manual for Savage Arms Stevens Model 320 pump shotgun
- Torn Royal Buck shot shell box, 25 rounds, empty
- Grovtec sling swivels packaging
- Cabela's brand shotgun shell belt packaging and stock shell holder band packaging
- Remington shotgun slugs box of 5, empty
- Altoid box containing Cabela's receipt for Savage Shotgun and background check dated 12/06/13 (no time noted on the receipt)
- Winchester shotgun shells box of 25, empty
- Receipt from Brunswick Zone for bowling on 12/13/13 at 9:11am
- Target receipt for a Mountain Dew four pack from 12/13/13 at 9:44am
- Nexus tablet
- Sony 16GB USB drive
- Sling swivel attachment accessory
- Samsung laptop
- Green Cabela's bag

Barbara Pierson provided ACSO with the following items which were not taken during the search warrant:

- The book *Columbine: A True Crime Story*
- Cabela's receipt dated 12/12/13, for the purchase of two shotgun shell belts, a shotgun shell band, a one inch locking swivel, an Alaskan magazine rifle sling, a 12 gauge 2/4" rifles item, and two boxes of 12 gauge, 25 rounds, 4 buckshot
- A document titled "Acceptance of Referral/Recommendations for Service" from the Highlands Behavioral Health System for Karl, dated 09/09/13. The document advised that Karl was not recommended for inpatient care.
- An Arapahoe High School Daily Planner

The daily planner contained the following information:

- The first page had Karl's name and phone number, along with a notation of "Saguntum88." On October 27, 2013, the number "47" is handwritten on the bottom left corner. The page for each subsequent day has a handwritten number one number less than the previous day, which appears to be a countdown. Handwritten on the bottom left corner on December 12, 2013, is "1."
- On December 13, 2013, is a handwritten notation, "Get Pumped."
- The pages for the week of December 5, 2013 through December 11, 2013 were missing.

2. Karl's vehicle, a beige Toyota Corolla, bearing Colorado license plate [REDACTED], was located parked in the fire lane on the north side of the school near the pool area. The vehicle was rendered safe by the ACSO Bomb Squad and turned over to ACSO Deputy James Wightman. Deputy Wightman had the vehicle towed by 1st Class Towing to ACSO Headquarters. The vehicle was sealed and secured in the ACSO Crime Lab for further processing once a warrant was obtained. A search warrant was served on the

vehicle on Thursday, December 19, 2013. The following items were taken from the vehicle:

- Mountain Dew four pack with one sealed Mountain Dew
- Two Mountain Dew caps
- Bellco Credit Union withdrawal receipt for \$800.00

3. A search warrant was obtained to search Littleton Public Schools for:

- All records pertaining to Karl Pierson
- All records pertaining to Tracy Murphy
- School rosters to include student and faculty information
- Records of what teachers were in classrooms [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on Friday, December 13, 2013

A review of these records revealed the following:

- Karl was suspended from school in March of 2013.
- There were behavioral reports for the incidents with Tracy, as well as when Karl was removed from Spanish class on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.
- Karl's threat assessment, which was completed by Dr. Esther Song, indicated Karl was a low level of concern. A follow-up meeting was to be conducted two weeks after the threat assessment. This corresponds to the meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2013. The threat assessment documents that Karl would see a psychologist once a week, and he would discuss with them strategies on anger management. Under early warning signs there is a check mark in the box next to "Significant History" with a handwritten notation, "Mom reports 'deep seeded' anger & Karl agrees that he's had anger mgmt issues for a while." Under the At-Risk factors the following boxes were checked:

- History of school discipline: Oppositional/Misconduct
- Difficulty controlling impulses or emotions
- Staff is fearful of the student
- Anger reactions are extreme or disproportionate to the situation
- Student currently reports or appears: angry
- Student's relationships at school: average
- Reacts to discipline: calmly

4. Search warrants for the following items were obtained and the items were sent to the FBI's Rocky Mountain Regional Computer Forensics Lab (RMRCFL), located in Centennial, Colorado, for evaluation:

- Karl's cell phone (found on his person) had pictures of a gun and machete. The cell phone did not provide any other evidence to the crime.
- The Lexar USB drive (obtained from an AHS student) was examined and found to contain two documents: "A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching, 3rd edition.pdf" and "The Anarchist Cookbook by William Powell (1971).pdf."

The following items were obtained through the search warrant of the residence at [REDACTED]:

- The Dell Inspiron 530 computer tower was examined and appeared to be used mostly by Barbara and [REDACTED]. Several emails were found in Barbara's account regarding Karl's anger problems and getting him help. Barbara also had emails on the computer that she had sent to the school. One email, sent to Esther Song, asked if they could get Karl on an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). Esther replied stating that in order to be placed on an IEP there had to be a learning disability that would warrant the IEP. Esther advised she would be willing to work with them to determine if Karl needed to be on an IEP.
- The Samsung laptop was examined and showed to have one user-configured profile name "Grand exalted leader" and listed the user name as "Karl Pierson." The browser history was searched and webpages related to "rampage" and "school massacre" incidents, to include Columbine and Sandy Hook, were located. There were also pictures of Columbine and Sandy Hook on his computer.
- The Toshiba external hard drive was examined and did not contain any information relevant to this investigation.
- All three loose USB drives were examined and did not contain any information relevant to the investigation.
- A Sony 16GB USB drive was examined and contained pornography, political articles, miscellaneous documents for school, and a photograph which depicts what appears to be a father, mother and three daughters at Fenway Park. The photograph is titled "4 targets." It also contained a password document titled, "A diary of a madman.doc." The password was retrieved and the document was a diary which appeared to have been written by Karl. The diary started on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 and ended on Friday, December 13, 2013. A copy of the diary is on the RMRCFL findings DVD which was placed into ACSO evidence.

The following excerpts from Karl's diary contain specific information relevant to this investigation (the complete diary is not documented in this report):

"Tuesday September 17, 2013, enter project saguntum, a 10 year subconscious project for me to exact revenge, not on the individuals who perpetrated wrong, but instead by those I believe have done me wrong. I will shoot up my school, Arapahoe high school before the year is over. I hope to choose a date with the following criterion. Finals week- everyone is at school, and it will be winter during finals week, I hope I can find a day it is actually snowing, or just incredibly cold. I am a psychopath with a superiority complex.

I intend on going as follows: I walk through the asshole in the north side of the trophy hall, waltz in shooting everyone in my way to the [REDACTED] (shouldn't be too many, it's not far, I go to the [REDACTED], to kill [REDACTED]. From there, there are classrooms in the [REDACTED] where I will do something I have wanted to do for a while-mass murder and be in a place of power where I and I alone are judge, jury and executioner"

“Sunday, September 22, 2013, I am filled with hate, I love it. The serotonin supplements I am taking don’t do jack shit, I am still ready to start a riot, I feel like a bomb, ready to let the world feel and experience my hatred for all things of pleasure. Nothing makes me happy. When I do commit my atrocities, I want the conversation to be about elementary school teasing. Words hurt, can mold a sociopath, and will lead someone a decade later to kill.”

“Monday, September 30, 2013, I feel like a bomb. My head has happy, anger and confusion hormones. I feel like an aneurism could happen at any second. Besides constantly being pissed off, I doubt the medication is working. I need a real doctor, one who doesn’t give medication that has the disclaimer not approved by the FDA. The serotonin is a joke, it makes my bowels upset, doesn’t effusively make me happy, and I hate taking them. It is important to note I rarely take my meds for this reason.”

“Tuesday, October 1, 2013, Saguntum is the project to shoot up (and maybe bomb) Arapahoe High School. No date has been set, but I would like it before new years. Finals week would do nicely, but a date with snow should be sooner. I also imagine the idea of what I hope will happen. I take [REDACTED] to school, drop her off, ditch the whole day until [REDACTED] (I’ve thought about it and I like [REDACTED] the most). I would also love to burn [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], so much destruction.”

“Thursday, October 3, 2013, Since day 1, my job has been to conspire to shoot up the school. Every semester, I had a class I despised, and it was on the list. Now, I have means to achieve this diabolical end, and I am excited. The date is set for mid-November, I need time to build my arsenal.”

“Friday, October 11, 2013, I had a shrink appointment at 4, which was a massive waste of time. She doesn’t know about saguntum, nobody does.”

“Monday, October 15, 2013, I had an interesting idea today. In first hour, I thought about shooting up the asylum or whatever the fuck it was that my mother took me for that psych evaluation. Let the records show I lied through my teeth through the test.”

“Saturday, October 26, 2013, the 13th of December is a great date, as the 347th (47 is a great number) date of the year, there are 18 (my age) days left. It is a day of gore, filled with murder, suicide.”

“Wednesday, November 6, 2013, I am estatic right now. That December 13 date I chose is perfect, it is 38 days after the fifth of November. I love that date, that number, everything about it.”

“Sunday, November 24, 2013, It’s weird going through life knowing that in 19 days, I’m going to be dead. That makes school more boring, work torture and everything I love to do, a little less fun. The hardest part is not being able

to tell anyone. I can't just say fuck it, I'm going to shoot up my school soon. I need to make sure that kind of stuff doesn't show up."

"Friday, November 26, 2013, I can't believe in a fortnight, I'll be dead. I went to the library to see if they had NBK. They didn't, but [REDACTED] had highly recommended Perks of being a wallflower. I HATED it. Personally, I saw me, freshman year. No, I had never been sexually abused, but I had no friends at Arapahoe, and I was trying to fit in."

"Sunday, December 8, 2013, it was productive weekend. I bought my Stevens 320. It was not the initial gun I was expecting, but I think it will work better. I like the pistol grip. It was quite the process to buy, it was waiting, and waiting, but I loved it. Mom does not know about it."

"Thursday, December 12, 2013, I went to Cabela's and I bought a sling, ammo belts, and of course, ammo. It included 5 sabot slugs! I think I'll need more. Luckily, I'll take off tomorrow."

"Friday, December 13, 2013, today is going to be fun. I dropped [REDACTED] off at school today, and went to Walmart, bought some ammo. I then dressed my weapons, loaded my belts, got my backpack ready. I then went to Brunswick, bowled, got some mountain dew (I bought it for the glass bottles). I'm going to make some Molotov cocktails-shaken, not stirred. Update 45 minutes I built my Molotov cocktails, and I think they look great. I only had oil for three, but I think 3 will be more than enough. I am dressed to kill, long underwear, then cargo pants, under armor shirt, CCCP shirt. I have my machete on my belt, but I may re-attach that in the car."

"The plan:

5th hours starts at 1214. I would want to strike 15 minutes into the hours, everyone is settled in.

1230: Initial strike on [REDACTED]. Enter through the trophy hallway, waltz into [REDACTED]. Shoot up [REDACTED], toss a Molotov cocktail, reload.

1235: Assault [REDACTED]

1240: Assault [REDACTED]

1245: Assault [REDACTED]

1250: Assault on [REDACTED]

(End of Diary)

- The Nexus tablet was originally sent to RMRCFL for examination on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. RMRCFL was unable to examine the tablet due to it being password protected, and they did not have the ability to unlock the tablet. RMRCFL contacted the FBI Lab in Quantico, Virginia, who advised they possibly had the ability to unlock the password at their lab. The tablet was sent to the FBI in Quantico shortly thereafter. A rush examination was requested by RMRCFL; however, due to other higher priorities, the FBI was not able to unlock

the tablet until August of 2014. RMRCFL received the tablet on Monday, August 25, 2014. RMRCFL examined the tablet and a report was received by ACSO on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. The tablet contained photographs of Karl taken on the morning of Friday, December 13, 2013. The photographs show Karl dressed in the same clothing he was wearing when he was found deceased. There were also photographs of the gun, ammunition and machete taken on the morning of Friday, December 13, 2013. The tablet did not contain any further information relevant to this investigation.

5. A production of records was served on CenturyLink for the records relating to phone number [REDACTED] for outgoing and incoming phone calls. The phone number listed back as the residential phone for the Pierson's at [REDACTED]. CenturyLink responded that they do not track local calls to and from landlines.
6. A production of records was served on Verizon Wireless for the records relating to phone number [REDACTED]. The phone number was known to be Karl's cell phone. The records indicate that there were no text messages sent on Friday, December 13, 2013. The last outgoing call made was on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 and the last incoming call was on Thursday, December 12, 2013.
7. Surveillance video from the Cabela's, located at 10670 Cabela Drive, Lone Tree, Colorado, was obtained through consent. The video confirmed Karl was in the store purchasing the shotgun on Friday, December 6, 2013. No one else was observed to be accompanying Karl during this purchase.
8. Surveillance video from the Walmart, located at 6675 Business Center Drive, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, was obtained through consent. The video confirmed Karl purchased ammunition on Friday, December 13, 2013, at 7:24am. No one else was observed to be accompanying Karl during this purchase.
9. Surveillance video from the Brunswick Zone, located at 9255 Kimmer Drive, Lone Tree, Colorado, was obtained through consent. The video confirmed Karl was at Brunswick Zone on the date and time printed on the receipt (12/13/13, 9:11am), which was recovered from the search warrant at [REDACTED]. No one else was observed to be accompanying Karl during this time.

C. Video Surveillance – Arapahoe High School

When reviewing the surveillance video of this incident, it was noted that each camera system had conflicting time stamps. It should be further noted that none of the camera systems were synchronized with real time. The best possible time approximations are listed below and are as accurate as possible after all systems were analyzed.

The video surveillance showed at approximately 12:33pm (time obtained from ACSO Communications Center radio transmissions), on Friday, December 13, 2013, Karl entered AHS through the exterior entrance doors of the Trophy Hallway. Karl was observed opening these doors, which appeared to be unsecured. Within seconds of entering the second set of doors in the Trophy Hallway, Karl fired three shots at Claire and [REDACTED], who were sitting on the first bench on the east side of the hallway. The second shot appeared to have hit Claire.

Karl entered the library approximately 19 seconds after opening the first set of doors to the Trophy Hallway. The School Security Officers are seen running down the North Hallway approximately 59 seconds after Karl entered the school. Deputy Englert is seen in the North Hallway approximately 103 seconds after Karl entered the school.

D. ACSO Radio Traffic and 911 Calls

After review of the ACSO radio traffic, the following is heard (ending at the time Karl is located deceased in the library):

- 12:33pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** School is going into lockdown, not sure why
 Reports of shots fired, not sure where
 Going to library
 There's smoke north side of school, athletic hall
 Fire in library – come to forum
- 12:34pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** North side student down in athletic hall, student bleeding
 Heavy smoke, no shots heard
 Rescue to south side
 Shotgun shell on floor
- 12:37pm 1A11 (Deputy Mason):** On scene
1P36 (Deputy Bratsch): On scene
1P31 (Deputy Englert): One student down, 3 shotgun shells on ground
 Rescue respond to south side of Dry Creek to study center, glass area
 Fire is out in library
- 12:40pm T82 (Deputy Finley):** On scene with fire
W21 (Deputy Stokes): With fire bringing them in
1A31 (Deputy Daley): Bring fire to rescue to glass doors
- 12:41pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** Going to library last place shots heard
 Coordinate people coming in on south side
- 12:42pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** Student is Karl Pierson, blonde hair about 509
 Get with Littleton school to get picture
- 12:43pm 1A21 (Deputy Dilmore):** Going with rescue, transporting severely wounded
- 12:44pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** With Karl in library looks like shotgun wound to the head
- 12:45pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** Adam 11 and I have Karl in library north side of school
 Keeping him covered has a shotgun

- 12:49pm 1P31 (Deputy Englert):** Karl has big black backpack with shotgun shells under him
- H50 (Sergeant Anselmi):** Verify subject is down and doesn't need rescue he needs to be searched by a bomb tech

The ACSO Communications Center 911 calls were reviewed. The first call regarding this incident was received at 12:34pm. Several calls were being received simultaneously by the ACSO Communications Center. Most callers were not identified and they could not provide specific information pertaining to the identity of the suspect. There were several calls received where a deputy responded to their location to take their information. Several of the calls were from students who ran from the school.

The following calls received by the ACSO Communications Center provided specific information related to the suspect:

At 12:37pm, a call was received from Cameron Rust, who advised the suspect was last seen in the library and the fire alarms had been pulled. Cameron saw the suspect but he did not know his identity. Cameron turned, ran and locked down in a classroom. Cameron stated the suspect was wearing a black hoodie with Air Force blue on it and had a black rifle.

At 12:39pm, a call was received from AHS student [REDACTED], who advised he saw the suspect and the suspect had what looked like a hunter shotgun. He heard gunshots and said a student was shot.

E. Autopsy – Karl Halverson Pierson

The autopsy of Karl was conducted by the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office, located at 13101 East Broncos Parkway, Centennial, Colorado, on Monday, December 16, 2013. Dr. Dobersen performed the autopsy and was assisted by D. Wiggs and C. Catterall. ACSO Supervising Criminalist Stephen and ACSO Investigator Bruce Isaacson were present during the autopsy. Criminalist Stephen collected all of Karl's clothing and personal items as they were removed from Karl's body. Karl was wearing the following items:

- Green/gray cargo pants
- Black nylon belt with machete and flashlight
- Black nylon belt with twenty-one (21) live rounds of Royal Buck 2 ¾ white shotgun ammunition
- Black nylon bandolier on right shoulder across the body with twenty (20) rounds of Winchester shotgun ammunition
- Gray in color West Point hooded sweatshirt
- Short sleeved red t-shirt with "CCCP" across chest
- Short sleeved gray t-shirt under described red shirt
- Black watch on right wrist
- Two pair of black socks
- Blue underwear
- A red disposable lighter recovered from the right leg lower pants pocket

All items were collected and placed into ACSO evidence.

Karl's hands were bagged prior to his body being removed from AHS. The bags were removed and placed into ACSO evidence.

Karl had the following handwritten information on his left inner forearm:

- Faintly written was "*Alea Iacta Est*"
- Written in black marker was [REDACTED] The letter number combinations correspond to room numbers located inside AHS.

According to an internet search conducted by Investigator Isaacson, "*Alea Iacta Est*" translates from Latin to English as "*The die has been cast.*" The phrase is still used today in Italy to mean events have passed a point of no return; that something inevitably will happen.

According to the Opinion in the Autopsy Report by Dr. Dobersen:

"This 18 year-old man sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound after entering a high school, armed with multiple weapons. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

At autopsy, there were no other injuries which could be considered a contributing cause of death. His death is attributed to severe craniocerebral trauma due to a penetrating near contact/close range shotgun wound to the head.

Toxicological analyses of body fluids obtained at the time of autopsy were essentially negative.

In view of the scene and circumstances surrounding the death and autopsy findings, the manner of death is classified as suicide."

F. Medical Records/Autopsy – Claire Esther Davis

Claire was transported to Littleton Adventist Hospital, located at 7700 South Broadway, Littleton, Colorado, by Littleton Fire Rescue Medic 15. When Littleton Fire Rescue arrived on scene at AHS, Claire was found lying supine on the floor, unconscious and unresponsive. Claire was found to have a gunshot wound to the head and had active bleeding from above the right eye and from unknown wounds to the back of the head.

Claire was admitted to Littleton Adventist Hospital and underwent immediate decompressive craniotomy with removal of subdural hematoma on Friday, December 13, 2013. Claire went back to surgery on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, for uncontrolled intracranial pressure and a left craniectomy performed for decompression. Claire failed to improve from a neurological standpoint.

On Saturday, December 21, 2013, it was noted that Claire had flexure posturing seen in the left upper extremity and extensor posturing seen in the left lower extremity, which was consistent with decorticate posturing consistent with a right hemispheric CVA. Claire succumbed to her injuries at approximately 3:30pm.

On Monday, December 23, 2013, an autopsy was performed on Claire by Dr. Lear-Kaul from the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office. According to the Opinion in the Autopsy Report by Dr. Lear-Kaul:

“This 17 year-old girl, Claire Davis, died of complications of a penetrating shotgun wound of the head.

Per reports, the decedent was shot by a gunman at her high school (ref: ACCO case 2013-2531). She was transported to a local hospital where she underwent multiple therapeutic procedures; she ultimately expired 8 days after the initial injury.

Autopsy examination revealed a penetrating shotgun wound of the head with multiple separate pellet wounds involving her scalp. Based on the separation of pellets with no soot or gunpowder stippling, the wound does not appear to be intermediate or close range of fire. Several pellets perforated her skull and entered her brain with associated brain injury. She developed marked cerebral edema with hypoxic-ischemic injury. No additional preexisting natural disease or injuries were noted. Toxicologic analyses of body fluids obtained at the time of hospital admission were negative for alcohol, drugs of abuse and significant medications.

The manner of death is homicide.”

VII. Case Disposition

After thorough review of all evidence and information obtained during this investigation, it has been determined that Karl Halverson Pierson entered Arapahoe High School with the intent to shoot and kill teachers and students. Karl Halverson Pierson murdered one student and attempted to murder another student and teacher before committing suicide. It was further determined that Karl Halverson Pierson acted alone and no other person(s) participated in the planning and execution of the shooting at Arapahoe High School. Karl Halverson Pierson is solely responsible for the murder of Claire Esther Davis, and the attempted murder of [REDACTED] and Tracy Murphy.

The case will be exceptionally cleared due to the death of the offender.

END OF REPORT