

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL COMMUTER PLANE CRASH NEAR

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NOME, ALASKA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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* Accident No.: ANC25MA018

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Interview of: PAIGE GIEBEL

Partner (Fiancée) of Chad Antill

via telephone

Monday,
April 28, 2025

APPEARANCES:

DR. SABRINA WOODS, Human Performance Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DR. KATHERINE WILSON, Human Performance Investigator
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I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Paige Giebel:	
By Dr. Woods	5
By Dr. Wilson	32
By Dr. Woods	39

I N T E R V I E W

(9:38 a.m. ET)

DR. WOODS: Good morning. It is April 28th, 2025, and the time is 9:38 Eastern. My name is Sabrina Woods, and I am a human performance investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. I'm here with my fellow investigator, Katherine Wilson, and I'm conducting this interview for Accident Investigation Number ANC25MA018 involving Bering Air Flight 445 that occurred on February 6th of this year.

The NTSB is congressionally mandated with determining probable cause in transportation accidents and safety incidents and with promoting transportation safety.

We're here for you to share your insight and help us to get to know the pilot, Chad Antill, through you. To capture that insight, we'll be using a digital recorder. After the interview, we will send that recording out for transcription, and after I will review the transcription to correct for any typographical errors. I cannot change what was said. However, I will screen for sensitive personal information that is not pertinent to this investigation. Once we receive a copy of the transcript from the transcriber, it will go forward to be a matter of public record in the docket for this investigation.

Paige, please answer all the questions to the best of your recollection. If you don't understand a question, just say so. No worries with that. I will try to clarify the question. If you

1 don't know the answer, that is also all right. I don't know is a
2 perfectly acceptable answer. If you realize at any time you
3 misstated something or you want to add on or correct, whatever you
4 would like to do, please feel free to do so whenever you need to
5 throughout the course of the interview.

6 You are entitled to have any one person you would like
7 supporting you through this process. Right now there's no one on
8 the line with you. Is there a person that you would like to have
9 as your representative with you at this time?

10 MS. GIEBEL: No, not at this time.

11 DR. WOODS: Okay. All right. Thank you for that. So,
12 lastly, Paige, if at any time you need a break, please do not
13 hesitate to say so. We'll pause the recording. You'll hear me go
14 off the recording, and you can take the time you need.

15 So with that, do you have any questions?

16 MS. GIEBEL: Nope, not at this time.

17 DR. WOODS: Okay. Thank you. Well, then if everyone is
18 ready.

19 INTERVIEW OF PAIGE GIEBEL

20 BY DR. WOODS:

21 Q. If you would please to start off, state your full name and
22 spell your last name for us.

23 A. Paige Lynn Giebel, G-i-e-b-e-l.

24 Q. Thank you for that. And for the record, what is your
25 relationship to Chad Antill?

1 A. I am his partner, fiancée, girlfriend.

2 Q. Okay. And how long have you known Chad?

3 A. For just over a year. We met in March of 2024.

4 Q. And I believe at the time, you currently physical was
5 dislocated, correct?

6 A. I don't understand.

7 Q. So you -- where do you live?

8 A. I live in Minnesota.

9 Q. Okay. And he lives where?

10 A. He lives in his off time here in Minnesota with me.

11 Q. Okay. Although he worked out of Alaska?

12 A. Yes, correct. He would do 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off.

13 Q. So clarify, the 2 weeks on, he would spend where at his base
14 in Alaska?

15 A. In Nome, Alaska, at his company provided apartment.

16 Q. Okay. And in the 2 weeks off, he would be where?

17 A. He would be here at our home in North Branch, Minnesota.

18 Q. Okay. Can you provide an overview of Chad's aviation
19 background as you know it?

20 A. As I know it, he started flying in his early 20s with his
21 private license, and I believe he just kind of did it
22 recreationally until he went up to Nome where he was a mechanic
23 and then went on to become a pilot for Bering, and I believe he
24 had been doing that for a couple of years.

25 Q. Do you know about timeframe, year, that he started working in

1 Nome?

2 A. I'm not clear on the exact year that he started working in
3 Nome.

4 Q. Has he always worked in that position since you've been
5 together?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And do you happen to know if he holds any other positions
8 besides being a pilot for Bering Air?

9 A. Not to my knowledge.

10 Q. Do you know what certificate he holds?

11 A. I do not.

12 Q. Do you know what ratings he holds?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Okay. No worries. And apologies if you hear me pause. I'm
15 just typing. Do you know what his former title is at Bering Air?

16 A. I do not know the formal title, no.

17 Q. Okay. Do you know what types of airplanes he flies?

18 A. I was really only familiar with the Cessna Caravan.

19 Q. So you are not aware of any others that he might fly as well?

20 A. No.

21 Q. What about personally? Did he still fly personally outside
22 of work?

23 A. Not recently, no.

24 Q. Can you describe not recent? Within the last year, 2 years.

25 A. Yeah. Not since I have known him, since he moved to

1 Minnesota.

2 Q. I don't supposed you know how -- about how much total
3 piloting time he's had in hours?

4 A. I am unsure of that.

5 Q. Do you happen to know how he got interested in aviation?

6 A. He always just told me that he really thought it was cool
7 ever since he was young, and that's kind of just what he always
8 wanted to do. It was in his mind that he wanted to be a pilot.

9 Q. Is anyone else in his family also in aviation or interested
10 in aviation?

11 A. Not in his immediate family. I believe it's -- he has like a
12 great uncle that is a flight instructor I believe in Arizona. But
13 Chad had never met that uncle. So.

14 Q. How about yourself? Are you in aviation in any way?

15 A. My former father-in-law is a pilot or was a pilot. He's
16 recently retired. That's my only connection really to aviation.

17 Q. Do you happen to know where Chad got his pilot -- his initial
18 pilot training?

19 A. I do not know.

20 Q. Okay. So what, besides the fact that he thought it was cool
21 I guess, what did he express to you he enjoyed about flying?

22 A. I mean that's pretty much the gist of it. He just loved
23 being in the air. He loved everything about the airplanes, the
24 aircrafts and, yeah, he just really was -- really enjoyed it.

25 Q. What about specifically flying for Bering Air? What did he

1 enjoy about that?

2 A. He liked that it was a family owned company, and that it
3 wasn't very corporate, like it was an at home feel.

4 Q. And did he express anything that he particularly liked about
5 the Cessna Caravan?

6 A. Not particularly, no.

7 Q. Okay. So now on the flip side, what did he dislike about
8 flying?

9 A. He disliked being away from his kids and I but, yeah.
10 Otherwise, that's about it.

11 Q. Is there anything he expressed he disliked about being a
12 pilot for Bering Air?

13 A. He has had issues with them in the past where he had
14 complained about his flights being overweight and basically his
15 concerns were disregarded. So he would get annoyed with that on a
16 regular basis and complain to me about that. Obviously I don't
17 know the specifics or the technicals of it all, just what he would
18 complain to me about it throughout the day. But, yeah, it was
19 just mainly the overweight flights he would complain about, and he
20 -- they would want him to take more cargo than fuel, and he would
21 rather have more fuel than cargo because he would always say, you
22 can't fly without fuel. And, yeah, that's -- the majority of his
23 complaints were just that.

24 Q. And in what timeframe were those complaints happening?

25 A. The entirety of the year that I knew Chad.

1 Q. Okay. Was there anything he expressed he disliked about the
2 Cessna Caravan?

3 A. No. As far as I knew, he liked flying the Cessna because he
4 liked the smaller airplanes.

5 Q. Okay. What was Chad like personally in your point of view?

6 A. He was a good fella. Sorry. He was really practical and
7 down to earth. He was really, really smart. He was very self-
8 aware and just really in tune with everybody around him. Yeah, he
9 was one of a kind, just a really all around great guy that cared
10 deeply about everybody.

11 Q. Besides flying, what are some of the things he liked the
12 best?

13 A. He loved music. Every time he was home from work, he would
14 find a concert to go together. He liked riding his longboard,
15 just hanging out at home with me and the kids, always finding
16 something to do. He loved his friends and would always call
17 everybody all the time just to have them on the phone to check in
18 with them. And, he recently got a puppy that he was looking
19 forward to training and getting her into agility classes and
20 things like that, yeah.

21 Q. What are some of the things that he liked the least?

22 A. He wasn't a really negative person at all. He didn't
23 complain much. There wasn't nothing he -- he wasn't the type of
24 guy that did something that he didn't like to do. If he didn't
25 like something or wasn't happy with something, you could not get

1 Chad to do it.

2 Q. Are you aware of prior relationships and I guess any sort of
3 family dynamics prior to yourself?

4 A. Yeah, yeah, a little bit.

5 Q. Did Chad have -- I guess how many children did Chad have?

6 A. Three children, Ava, Owen and Jack.

7 Q. And are these children shared by you or are they the result
8 of a previous relationship?

9 A. They're from his marriage to his ex-wife, Katie.

10 Q. Do you happen to know what the level of interactions Chad
11 still had with his ex-wife and their children?

12 A. Chad would see the kids whenever he was back home on the
13 weekends. We would have them on holidays. Whenever the kids
14 didn't have school, he would also -- because they lived 2 hours
15 away from us. So he would drive out there in the morning and then
16 come home at night, you know, at least once a week, just to see
17 them. His relationship with Katie is pretty much, you know, like
18 you'd expect from any ex-wife/ex-husband dynamic, just speaking
19 when it involved the children.

20 Q. Do you happen to know when that divorce was final?

21 A. I believe in 2023. I'm not certain on the exact date, but I
22 believe it was 2023.

23 Q. So going back to when Chad was at his base in Nome, do you
24 happen to know what his living arrangements were?

25 A. He shared an apartment with his roommate, Luke Murkowski

1 (ph.). It was a two bedroom apartment there.

2 Q. Okay. So going to -- part of what we do is we try to
3 establish a 72 hour history, and I recognize that it was a little
4 bit of time ago now. So, to the best of your recollection, and I
5 also recognize that there's a 2 week off, 2 week on kind of duty
6 rhythm that Chad maintained. And so, the accident February 6th of
7 this year. So going backward from that, obviously he was on duty
8 during that time. So do you happen to know, was he on duty that
9 entire week or when does the typical week start and stop for him?

10 A. He got back Nome on the morning jet of that Tuesday which
11 would have been the 4th I believe.

12 Q. The 4th. Okay.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So did the typical week go from Wednesday to Wednesday or how
15 did that work?

16 A. He would work the 2 full weeks he was there. So whenever he
17 got there, he would be on for whatever predetermined amount of
18 days. It was kind of an all over the place. It wasn't a set
19 schedule really every month.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So he would have some months where he would do 15 or 16 days
22 or some months where he would -- like this stint, he was only
23 supposed to be up there for 8 days.

24 Q. Did that 8 days start on the 5th?

25 A. On the 4th.

1 Q. So it started the day he went back up?

2 A. Yes. He was supposed to get in on the 3rd, but his flights
3 were delayed. So he didn't get in until the morning of the 4th.

4 Q. Okay. And do you know, was he typically a daytime -- was
5 this a daytime only operation or did he also flight at nights?

6 A. He was normally home by 5 o'clock Nome time.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. 5 p.m.

9 Q. Okay. So I'm going to go backwards from the 6th. I know you
10 said he flew out on the 4th. So let's start with the 3rd. So the
11 day of the 3rd, which would have been that Monday, he was
12 scheduled to fly back from Minnesota to Nome, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. So if you could remember for that day, can you walk me
15 through I guess what time he would have gotten up? And when did
16 he usually fly back? What time of day?

17 A. He would usually leave from Minneapolis Airport on the early
18 morning flight. I don't know the exact time off the top of my
19 head. I can get it to you later if needed, but he would typically
20 leave here on the 7 a.m. flight. And then he would get to Seattle
21 for a layover, but his flight here in Minneapolis was delayed an
22 hour due to icing which then delayed his later flights and he got
23 stuck in Anchorage for that Monday night.

24 Q. Okay. So on a perfect schedule, on a perfect day, would that
25 -- if he had not been delayed, that would be the normal pattern

1 for flying back from Minnesota?

2 A. Yeah, on a perfect day during the winter with no direct
3 flights, he would leave here early in the morning, and he would
4 get back to Nome on the evening jet which I believe gets in at
5 like 5:56 p.m. Mountain Time.

6 Q. And then do you happen to know when he would start flying as
7 a pilot for Bering Air after arrival back in Nome?

8 A. It would either be the next day or the day after. It just
9 depended on when he was able to get flights back. So on this
10 round, he was supposed to go back to work first thing in the
11 morning that Tuesday.

12 Q. About what time in the morning would the first thing in the
13 morning be?

14 A. He would normally -- it really depended on when his first
15 flight was scheduled, but I want to say typically around 7:30, 8
16 a.m.

17 Q. Okay. Did you talk to him at all or -- via voice or text on
18 the 4th?

19 A. Yes, we spoke pretty much all day every day.

20 Q. Do you know about what times you talked to him on the 4th?

21 A. I do not know the exact times. We would text all day long,
22 and he would call whenever he would get a minute. So it's just --
23 it was pretty fun for us to speak throughout the day. But every
24 time he -- I think the first time I spoke to him on that day was
25 Tuesday morning because he would text me every time he would take

1 off, and he had -- I believe he texted me that morning telling me
2 that he was getting on the jet to go back to Nome.

3 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know if he had a scheduled flight
4 after his arrival back in Nome on that day?

5 A. I believe they were originally just going to give him the day
6 off but then he didn't have -- he got in early enough where he
7 didn't have a flight until in the day.

8 Q. Do you know when that flight was?

9 A. I do not know.

10 Q. Okay. But you said typically he would be done with his duty
11 day by about 5 p.m. Nome time.

12 A. Correct, yeah, because he would call me every night he got
13 home from work, and it would be about 8:30 p.m. Minnesota Time.

14 Q. Have you ever known him to fly or Bering Air to charter
15 flights past that point?

16 A. Maybe once or twice in the whole year I've known him did he
17 have a later flight, but it wasn't incredibly late.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I think the latest he had ever gotten back was like 7 p.m.

20 Q. For the 4th, is there any chance he could possibly check your
21 phone and just determine -- I don't need obviously the context of
22 what was said, just trying to get an idea of knowing you had
23 conversations to know when he might have started and terminated
24 his day?

25 A. Yeah. One second. I can check. So he got to Nome at noon

1 my time. So it would be 9 a.m. in Nome. Yeah. It looks like he
2 did not fly that day. So they may have had a weather day.

3 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know about what time he might have
4 gone to bed?

5 A. He went to bed at 6 p.m. Nome time.

6 Q. And was that for the night or was that a nap?

7 A. That was for the night. He liked to go to bed early and wake
8 up early to try and, you know, be well rested.

9 Q. Do you happen to know what time he got up then on the 5th?

10 A. 5:10 a.m. Nome time.

11 Q. Okay. And did he have a scheduled flight for that day or
12 flights?

13 A. I'm not sure what his scheduled flights were. I can see if
14 there is any flights. Yes, he took off for a flight at 12:50
15 Minnesota Time. So that's 9:50 Nome time, a.m.

16 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know when he was done for the day on
17 the 5th?

18 A. On the 5th, let's see. At 5:28 p.m. Nome time.

19 Q. And lastly, when he went to bed on the 5th?

20 A. At 6:46 Nome time.

21 Q. And then the morning of the accident, do you know when he got
22 up?

23 A. He got up at 4:30 a.m. Nome time.

24 Q. Okay. When is the last time you spoke with him on the 6th or
25 via text or otherwise?

1 A. I spoke --

2 Q. What was your answer for that? Paige, are you there?

3 A. I am here. Sorry.

4 Q. Oh, I apologize. It was on my end. Zoom just popped out for
5 a second.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I wasn't sure because we're having severe thunderstorms and
9 tornadoes here.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. So I wasn't sure if it was me.

12 Q. Yeah, I think it was on my end any way. Zoom just glitched.
13 So apologies for that. I had asked you when was the last time you
14 spoke on the 6th?

15 A. The last text I received from him on the 6th would have been
16 2:29 p.m. Nome time.

17 Q. Throughout the course of those 3 days, did he express to you
18 any of the concerns that you had mentioned earlier -- did he
19 express to you any concerns at all?

20 A. He was complaining the day of the 6th that he wanted to get
21 out of Unalakleet earlier, and he had told me that Bering would
22 not let him leave earlier because his passengers weren't all there
23 yet. But, he stated over the phone because he had called me, and
24 he had complaints that he wanted to get out due to weather. And
25 he had just been sitting around Unalakleet all day.

1 Q. Did he specify what his concerns -- what about the weather
2 concerned him?

3 A. That he didn't give me any specifics. He just said that, in
4 his words, weather is looking like it's going to get shitty.

5 Q. Do you how long after you had that conversation, was he
6 finally able to take off?

7 A. I do not know.

8 Q. Actually, let me back up. I'm sorry. When was that
9 conversation? Was that a part of that last text or earlier?

10 A. It was earlier in the afternoon on the 6th. I want to say he
11 had called me that day. Sorry, I'm just looking at my text
12 messages trying to --

13 Q. You're fine.

14 A. It was between like 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. my time. So it was 10
15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nome time.

16 Q. Okay. And how did he sound during that conversation?

17 A. He sounded pretty normal, just usual Chad's self.

18 Q. Okay. And do you happen to know after that conversation
19 about what time did those passengers show up?

20 A. I do not know.

21 Q. Okay. And then the other two days prior to February 6th, I
22 guess, how did he sound overall?

23 A. He sounded good. Actually he spent some time with his
24 friend, Mikey. They went to dinner together and I believe the day
25 before or the day of. I don't recall exactly what time, but he

1 seemed good. He was excited because he was only there for 8 days
2 that time. So he was looking forward to just a quick turnaround.

3 Q. And did he express any other concerns in the prior two days?

4 A. No, he did not.

5 Q. Okay. Pivoting to I guess general -- chat in general, you
6 said he liked to go to bed early and get up early. About how much
7 sleep did he need to feel like he was rested?

8 A. He didn't need -- it didn't take much for him. He -- that
9 man had an incredible ability to just be able to function through
10 life. He probably only required 5 hours, but he really enjoyed
11 his sleep. He, you know, whenever he would get a chance, he'd
12 like to take a nap or go to bed early.

13 Q. So you would call him a napper?

14 A. When he was at home, yeah.

15 Q. About how often would that be? A daily thing or just --
16 yeah, about how often?

17 A. Whenever. Not daily. Just whenever we'd actually have time
18 to just lay around at home.

19 Q. Did he have any difficulty sleeping?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Would you call him a morning or an evening person?

22 A. Both. Yeah, he definitely was bright eyed and bushy tailed
23 first thing in the morning, and then kind of remained the same
24 throughout the day and into the night.

25 Q. Would there -- what differences were there that you were

1 aware of between his off time and his duty time in how he
2 approached sleep and when he would get up?

3 A. He was definitely more strict with himself and his sleep when
4 he was at work. He recently over the last few months had tried to
5 be more healthy as far as like his diet's concerned and his
6 sleeping patterns. And so he was very strict with himself when he
7 was back in Nome with going to bed at the same time I did here and
8 waking up at the same time I did here. So that way he wouldn't be
9 over tired or anything like that.

10 Q. And about what time would you wake up when he was in his 2
11 weeks off?

12 A. In his 2 weeks off --

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. -- we would kind of maintain the same schedule, getting up
15 around 7 in the morning Minnesota time, going to bed around 10
16 o'clock at night.

17 Q. Okay. What was his general daily routine in the 2 weeks off
18 at home there?

19 A. He didn't really have too much of a routine. He would wake
20 up with me when I would get up and get ready for work, and he
21 would kind of do stuff around the house like picking up or doing
22 dishes or fixing something. And then he would kind of just -- he
23 really enjoyed Pokemon cards. So he would go to like Pokemon
24 stores and things like that trying to find new cool cards to
25 collect. He would go out to visit his kids, and then he would be

1 home by the time I would get home from work. And he'd either pick
2 up dinner for us or I would cook dinner, and we'd hang out at home
3 for the evening because I'd have my daughter Monday through
4 Friday. So, we'd try to stick to a pretty basic boring schedule
5 of being home and everybody in bed by 7:30.

6 Q. In the last 2 weeks right prior to when he went back on duty,
7 did you guys do anything remarkable? Was there anything unusual
8 about your day-to-day activities?

9 A. We went out of town for a little weekend getaway to a concert
10 over in Wisconsin the week before he went back, and then -- I
11 believe that was January 27th, that weekend. And then we drove to
12 western Iowa and picked up his puppy, and then came home and
13 pretty much since he had just gotten his puppy, he stayed home
14 that whole week until he went back to work except for going to
15 visit his kids.

16 Q. Okay. I'm going to shift a little bit to I guess overall
17 life habits for Chad. Had there been -- let's say in the last
18 year first and then maybe 3 years, had there been any major health
19 changes, good or bad?

20 A. No. Nope.

21 Q. Okay. How about any major changes with his financial
22 situation, again both good or bad?

23 A. Well, yeah. Ever since he started flying with Bering, he got
24 a significant raise in pay.

25 Q. And you said he had flown with Bering as long as you had

1 known him, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. To the routine, in tune with his financial status, we tried
5 to keep that quite separate from one another.

6 Q. Okay. Had there been any major changes in his personal life?
7 I know you said that he went through a divorce in about
8 approximately 2023. However, was there anything else? Like for
9 instance, the -- you know, the death of a loved one or change in
10 the health of an immediate family member or birth of a child, that
11 sort of thing?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. How would you describe his health in general?

14 A. He was a healthy guy. I mean he'd always made comments over
15 the last year that he had put on a little weight since meeting me
16 because I cook too much and make him eat too much but other than
17 that, he -- yeah, he was a healthy dude. He, you know, would get
18 the common cold once in a while but no health concerns.

19 Q. Any injuries or anything like that, wonky elbows thrown back,
20 that sort of thing?

21 A. No, not that I'm aware of.

22 Q. Okay. Did he exercise?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know, how was his vision?

25 A. He always bragged that he had perfect vision.

1 Q. Did he happen to wear glasses at all or contact lenses?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. How about his hearing?

4 A. And his hearing was great.

5 Q. Okay. Did he take any prescription medicines that you're
6 aware of?

7 A. No, he did not.

8 Q. What about nutritional supplements like vitamins or things of
9 that nature?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did Chad drink alcohol?

12 A. When he was home, yes. Not when he was at work though.

13 Q. Do you know about how often a week or how many times a week?

14 A. A couple beers a week.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Or, you know, if we were at a special event, maybe a couple
17 more but yeah, maybe, maybe just a few a week, a few beers.

18 Q. And you said to his knowledge, he didn't drink at all when he
19 was back on his 2 weeks on?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay. Did Chad use tobacco products to include vaping?

22 A. No.

23 Q. What about caffeine consumption in the form of coffee or
24 other?

25 A. He drank coffee when he was at work.

1 Q. Do you know about how many cups a day?

2 A. He would fill up this big Yeti tumbler and take with that in
3 the morning. So probably I'd say a pot of coffee a day or a
4 little less.

5 Q. Did he consume caffeine in any other form like those energy
6 drinks or anything like that?

7 A. He liked Red Bull but as far as I knew, he was really
8 drinking them when he was back in Nome. He only really did when
9 he was here.

10 Q. Okay. What about illicit drugs? Did he do the illicit drug
11 use?

12 A. Nope.

13 Q. Okay. How about meals or snacks? Was he a snacker?

14 A. Yes, he did like to snack, and so whenever he would go back
15 to work, I would always sneak a bunch of like trail mix or protein
16 bars in his bag for him to take on his flights.

17 Q. And what about meals? Was he a three square a day kind of
18 person or how did he like to take his meals?

19 A. Recently with him trying to be healthier, he would have
20 breakfast in the morning, and then if he had time for lunch, he
21 would stop somewhere and get lunch between flights, but that
22 wasn't guaranteed which is why he would always have like trail mix
23 or something with him. But then he would have dinner every night.

24 Q. Okay. Shifting a bit back again to flying for Bering, I
25 guess flying in general. Do you happen to know if Chad had ever

1 previously been involved in any sort of flight emergency or
2 aviation accident?

3 A. Not to my knowledge.

4 Q. What about things like speeding tickets or traffic incidents?

5 A. I believe he got one speeding ticket, and that's about all
6 I'm aware of.

7 Q. Was this in Minnesota or in Nome?

8 A. Minnesota.

9 Q. Okay. Do you know if he had ever been disciplined for his
10 performance as a pilot?

11 A. Not to my knowledge.

12 Q. What about accommodations? Had he ever received an award for
13 his performance as a pilot?

14 A. Not to my knowledge.

15 Q. Okay. I know we've already talked about some of his concerns
16 working for the company. Were there any other external pressures
17 that he received directly from the company on flying and how he
18 was to conduct his flights?

19 A. Not that I'm aware of. The only thing I knew of was he was
20 going to transfer to a different location out of Nome but that
21 ended up not happening, and he believed it was due to his tendency
22 to speak out against the company whenever they weren't, you know,
23 doing anything or doing something to the standard that he expected
24 them to. Chad is kind of known to speak his mind. He never
25 really minced words, and he believed that prevented him from

1 moving up in the company.

2 Q. Do you know about when or how long prior to the accident that
3 move was anticipated to happen?

4 A. It was in discussion back in I want to say August of 2024.

5 Q. Okay. So when you talk about speaking his mind, I know that
6 you said he spoke out about the aircraft and essentially fuel
7 versus cargo. Were there any other things that he would
8 continuously speak out about? And if so, to who was he speaking?

9 A. He -- yeah, it was pretty much just the weight that he would
10 complain to me about, and that he wasn't getting, you know, breaks
11 when other pilots were. He had run ins with other pilots
12 critiquing his loads and things like that, and he would directly
13 say, you know, speak his mind to the pilot that would have an
14 issue. And then later on, he would get called into the boss'
15 office and have a conversation with the boss, but --

16 Q. Do you know how often this happened, these conversations?

17 A. Not frequently. Maybe a handful of times over the past year.

18 Q. So during the time that you've known Chad and he's worked for
19 Bering Air, has this been a continuous concern? Or -- yeah, I
20 guess can you couch the timeframe for when he's had his concerns
21 about being overweight in the time you've known him?

22 A. He's had the concerns the entire time I've known him. I did
23 send a text message that he had sent me. I'm not sure if you
24 received that, but that was last year, one of his times
25 complaining about his weight on his flights. But, yeah, it was

1 kind of just a continuous thing throughout the past year I've
2 known him.

3 Q. I did receive that. Thank you.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. What about other challenges of flying in Alaska or for the
6 company? Did he mention if he had any?

7 A. No, no, he was pretty confident in his flying abilities and,
8 yeah, he didn't really have many other concerns.

9 Q. Did he ever mention anything about the weather conditions and
10 flying there?

11 A. Yeah. He said, you know, he'd always tell me that he had a
12 bad flight. I specifically told him I don't know want to know
13 about those ones because I panic a lot, and I worry about him. So
14 he tried to refrain from telling me about the weather and the bad
15 flights and things like that.

16 Q. Do you happen to know, I guess, what was his approach to
17 flying in those conditions?

18 A. Chad was overly cautious. He was very much always prepared.
19 He never wanted to put himself in danger let alone anybody else.
20 So he was always very self-aware of what he was and was not
21 capable of.

22 Q. Do you know what kind of tools he used to fly in those
23 conditions?

24 A. I do not.

25 Q. Okay. Did he ever talk with you about the training that he

1 had that Bering Air provided?

2 A. Sometimes. He did just complete training back in September.

3 It was a simulation training he did.

4 Q. Where was that training located?

5 A. Kansas City I want to say. I always get it mixed up, if it's

6 Kansas City or Kansas but --

7 Q. And I guess overall, did he express what he thought about
8 that training?

9 A. No, not really. He said he passed, and it was pretty simple.

10 Q. So did he ever discuss with you like the training's great, I
11 want more of it or that was kind of a waste of my time, anything
12 like that?

13 A. No, he never really said.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Testing and things like that came really easy to Chad. So
16 anything like that that he did he would pass with flying colors.
17 So to him it was always easy.

18 Q. What about what Bering Air provided to Chad? You said that
19 he, you know, he was safety conscious and using tools, but I guess
20 do you know more about what Bering Air provided to Chad to use for
21 his flights?

22 A. I do not know.

23 Q. Okay. Have you ever flown with Chad?

24 A. No, I have not.

25 Q. Okay. Do you remember the last time Chad specifically

1 mentioned a concern he had about being overweight for a flight?

2 A. I do not remember specifically.

3 Q. Okay. But to reiterate, you did say for the flight on the
4 6th, he just had a concern with being delayed for passengers
5 because of the incoming weather?

6 A. Yes, he wanted to get out as soon as possible.

7 Q. Did he -- but he didn't mention anything about weight at that
8 time?

9 A. No, he did not.

10 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know if any other pilots at Bering
11 Air had similar issues or complaints or concerns?

12 A. Some are concerned with being overweight and some are not
13 concerned with it. Not to go into like specific names or
14 anything, but some of them say it's easier to fly overweight
15 because the plane handles better whereas some obviously are like
16 Chad, they were overly cautious.

17 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea if the people who were concerned
18 also brought those concerns to Bering Air management?

19 A. I do not know.

20 Q. Okay. I know you talked about the potential move in the year
21 prior and that that might have been turned off because of
22 perceptions as to, you know, Chad expressing his concerns, but do
23 you happen to know of any other perceived ramifications or
24 repercussions of him speaking out?

25 A. Not really. Just, you know, when he would have issues and

1 then they would call him into the office and tell him he would to
2 take less fuel so he could take more cargo and things like that
3 but I don't have any specific dates.

4 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know who exactly he was talking to
5 during these conversations?

6 A. I do not.

7 Q. Okay. Do you think Chad was ever worried about his job?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. Do you or did he express to you ever having to weigh
10 the pressure of flying and being requested to fly over the safety
11 of the aircraft?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. And to your recollection, did he ever receive -- I'm
14 kind of asking this a bunch of different way -- any sort of
15 disciplinary action for being outspoken or being concerned or
16 expressing his concerns at Bering Air?

17 A. Not really aside from just, you know, having the
18 conversations with his boss or him feeling like he was passed up
19 for promotions due to his frequent complaints and being vocal.

20 Q. Do you happen to know if Chad's ever refused a flight?

21 A. I want to say, yes, he has.

22 Q. Do you know the circumstances surrounding that?

23 A. I don't remember the specifics. I do remember him just
24 saying before that he told them he was going to do a flight.

25 Q. And how was that met? How did that go?

1 A. He did not say.

2 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know how Chad maintained his
3 logbooks?

4 A. He had it all on his work iPad I believe, and he was in the
5 process of transferring them to a hard copy book.

6 Q. So the digital version wasn't kept on any personal devices?

7 A. I am not sure. I believe actually it should be on some of
8 the devices. I'm not sure. He had so many iPads. I don't know
9 which ones were work and personal.

10 Q. Okay. And I guess the paper copy, do you happen to know
11 where he typically kept that?

12 A. He had that with him in Nome. It is currently with his
13 parents. I took it from his apartment when I packed up his
14 apartment.

15 Q. Okay. That's good to know. Thank you. We do know that Chad
16 had an Apple watch and an iPad and, of course, a cell phone. Do
17 you happen to know the password/passcodes for those?

18 A. It normally would be 0182, but he did just recently get all
19 new devices and set new passcodes.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So if that's not what it is, I have no idea. I'm not really
22 the type to want to know people's passcodes.

23 Q. Okay. 0182.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Thank you. We're been going for about an hour now. How are

1 you feeling? I just want to check in with you and make sure
2 you're still okay and good to go.

3 A. Yeah, I'm good.

4 DR. WOODS: Okay. And, I guess before I continue on,
5 Katherine, do you have anything to add and ask?

6 DR. WILSON: I do.

7 DR. WOODS: Okay.

8 BY DR. WILSON:

9 Q. Thanks so much, Paige, for taking the time to talk to us
10 today and I just want to send my condolences for the loss of Chad.
11 The information you've shared has been really helpful so far. I'm
12 going to jump around a little bit because I just want to fill in
13 some of holes that I have. So I apologize for that. Okay. You
14 mentioned multiple iPads. Are there iPads that you currently have
15 of his that weren't on board?

16 A. Yes, I have two of his iPads here at home.

17 Q. And have you accessed those at all?

18 A. I have not. I don't know the passcodes to them.

19 Q. Okay. You mentioned he had a roommate, Luke, and they had
20 separate bedrooms, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Did he -- did Chad ever mention anything about what the
23 arrangements were like in terms of distractions or noise when he
24 was trying to sleep?

25 A. No. Luke was never really at the apartment when Chad was on.

1 Luke tends to be at his fiancée's place when Chad was back home.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Or back in Nome.

4 Q. And the apartment, you said it was company issued.

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Was that his apartment or when Chad was gone, there would be
7 another person who would be in that apartment?

8 A. No, it was only Chad and Luke.

9 Q. Okay. You gave some times to Sabrina of when Chad woke up on
10 Wednesday and Thursday. Were the times -- like the first time
11 that he text messaged you?

12 A. Yes, he would text me every morning right when he'd wake up.

13 Q. Okay. And would he typically use an alarm to wake up or did
14 he wake up on his own?

15 A. He would normally wake up on his own. He would always have
16 an alarm just in case he overslept, but he would normally wake up
17 on his own.

18 Q. All right. Sabrina asked you in general if he had any
19 difficulty sleeping, but I just want to be a little more specific
20 on that. Did he have any problems falling asleep?

21 A. No.

22 Q. How about any difficulty staying asleep at night?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Did he ever talk to anybody about any concerns with
25 his sleep or sleep disorders?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Did he snore?

3 A. Once in a while.

4 Q. Okay. Not regularly?

5 A. No, I was the snorer in the relationship. So.

6 Q. Did he ever talk about any issues that he had with the time
7 change going from Minnesota to Nome and adjusting to that?

8 A. He was pretty well adjusted to it by now, but that's kind of
9 why he tried to stay on the same sleep schedule.

10 Q. Okay. How about that new puppy? How did the puppy sleep?

11 A. She actually slept really great.

12 Q. Okay. So no issues with that causing him to wake up in the
13 middle of the night?

14 A. No, no, I'm just reading back in the messages to Chad, I was
15 complaining because she had decided to start waking up at 2 in the
16 morning the day after he went back to work.

17 Q. Okay. Are you aware of the type of FAA medical that he had?

18 A. All I know about that is he did just recently renew his
19 medical.

20 Q. Okay. Do you know if he had any limitations on that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. No, you don't know or no, he didn't have any limitations?

23 A. Not that I'm aware of. I don't know that he had any
24 limitations.

25 Q. Okay. When he would go to bed at night, would he read or be

1 on his phone or watch some TV or typically when you would go to
2 bed, he would go to bed right away?

3 A. We would watch. We put my daughter to bed at 7:30, and then
4 we did watch TV in our bedroom, and we would typically turn that
5 off around 9:30.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And then we'd talk for probably like a half an hour or so,
8 and then we both fall asleep.

9 Q. Okay. So just to be -- I just don't want to put words in
10 your mouth.

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. In bed sometime after 7:30, various activities and then you
13 would be asleep by -- I'm sorry. Did you say 10 or 10:30?

14 A. Normally we were asleep by 10 o'clock.

15 Q. By 10. Okay. You mentioned that he got home around 5:28 on
16 Tuesday of that week which would have been -- I think that was the
17 4th. Let me find the schedule. Yes, the 4th. And then you
18 mentioned he might have gone out to dinner with a friend. I think
19 you said Mikey.

20 A. Yeah, it was -- we had that conversation over the phone, not
21 over text. I believe it was Tuesday he went out to dinner with
22 Mikey.

23 Q. Okay. All right. And then I think you said that he messaged
24 you around 6:30 that he would be going to bed.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Okay. 6:46 she said. Okay. When he would go to Nome,
2 whether it was the 2 weeks or the 8 days, would he know what his
3 flying schedule was going to be before he got there?

4 A. He would know like his first day back, but he would check his
5 flight plans or his schedule every single morning.

6 Q. Okay. So it would vary --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. I wasn't clear on -- I think Sabrina had asked you if
9 he had ever turned down a flight before.

10 DR. WILSON: I think we're going to get bumped off this call
11 again, and we're going to have log back in, in just one minute.
12 So I apologize for that. The Zoom is being temperamental today
13 but it says we have 1 minute left of our call.

14 DR. WOODS: Yeah, I'm sorry about that. I don't -- it should
15 have been set up a longer time and for some reason, it keeps
16 wanting to kick me off, Paige. But I immediately, like I did
17 before, logged in and hopefully there's not a lot of time lost.
18 It's just -- it's already telling me I'm at the less than 1 minute
19 marker. So I'll do what I did last time. Just stay on the line,
20 and I'll let everybody back in.

21 MS. GIEBEL: Okay.

22 BY DR. WILSON:

23 Q. Oh, Okay. So you mentioned his concerns about weight, and
24 did he ever turn down a flight because he felt that it was
25 overweight?

1 A. I'm not sure if he --

2 Q. Okay. All right. I'll just ask the question again. Was
3 there ever a time that you know of that he turned down a flight
4 because it was overweight?

5 A. I don't believe he actually like turned one down, but I do
6 believe in the screenshot that I had sent, he had made them reduce
7 a load.

8 Q. Okay. So they accommodated based on the concerns that he
9 had?

10 A. Yes, as far as I know.

11 Q. Gotcha. Okay.

12 A. I believe the only ones he ever turned down were due to
13 weather.

14 Q. And when he would turn down a flight for weather, was there
15 pushback from the company that you're aware of?

16 A. I do not know.

17 Q. Okay. Commuting from Minnesota to Nome, did the company pay
18 for that or was that on his own dime?

19 A. That was his own dime.

20 Q. And was there a requirement for, you know, him needing to be
21 in place a certain amount of time prior to going on duty?

22 A. Not that I'm aware. All I know is that he had to be there
23 for his first flight back.

24 Q. Okay. When he was at home prior to departing, would he doing
25 any like preflighting or doing anything to prepare for his

1 upcoming 2 weeks that he would be in Nome?

2 A. Not that I'm aware of other than, you know, just looking at
3 weather forecasts and seeing if he had any from what his flight
4 plan was for his day back.

5 Q. And would he do that on his iPad?

6 A. I believe on the work iPad.

7 Q. Okay. Did he ever talk to you about what weather apps he
8 would use to track the weather?

9 A. No, he did not.

10 Q. And I apologize again. I believe Sabrina asked you this or
11 something similar, but he never -- did he ever take a flight that
12 he felt uncomfortable taking?

13 A. No. He was very outspoken on that matter.

14 Q. Sabrina had asked you about his alcohol use, and you had said
15 just a few beers. Do you know the last time that he had an
16 alcoholic beverage prior to the accident flight?

17 A. Prior to the accident, I have a note on my calendar because
18 we did when we were at the concert. I want to say it was probably
19 January 30th.

20 Q. Okay. Had he ever been involved in any previous accidents or
21 incidents that you're aware of?

22 A. Not to my knowledge.

23 Q. Okay. Do you know if he ever filed any complaints, anonymous
24 complaints or anything either the company, like a formal complaint
25 or with the FAA about the concerns that he had?

1 A. Not to my knowledge.

2 Q. Okay. Thank you, Paige.

3 DR. WILSON: Sabrina, I think that's all the questions that I
4 have for right now. Thank you.

5 DR. WOODS: Okay. Thank you.

6 BY DR. WOODS:

7 Q. Just following up again on Chad's general mood and what was
8 going on. Are there any other stressors that were going on in his
9 life, I mean with the job or outside of it?

10 A. No. He -- Chad was never really the type to get stressed.
11 He functioned really well, and he was definitely the calm one of
12 us two.

13 Q. And what about looking forward to or goals? Did he have any
14 -- let's break it down. First, did he have any goals that he
15 wanted for working with the company?

16 A. Not that I'm aware of as far as work related goals, no.

17 Q. Okay. What about goals outside the company, personal life
18 goals?

19 A. Yeah. We were actually planning on buying a house at the end
20 of this year. And he was supposed to be coming home in February,
21 and we were supposed to celebrate his daughter's 7th birthday.
22 And, he had just gotten his puppy. We were -- he wanted to get
23 another one when we bought a house. And he wanted to eventually
24 buy his own little personal airplane to keep here and be able to
25 fly in his off time. He had a lot of goals. He was very

1 ambitious.

2 Q. Do you know if he foresaw commuting back and forth and
3 working for Bering Air as a -- like that that was going to be a
4 part of his life for the foreseeable future?

5 A. Yes. He knew it was going to be a part of his life for at
6 least the next year or 2.

7 Q. Okay. Are you aware if he was looking for anything else,
8 maybe a little bit closer to your location to work?

9 A. When we had met, he was interviewing to work for larger
10 companies to be here, stationed here in Minnesota, but he then
11 decided that he preferred being at Bering and having his schedule
12 at Bering. He enjoyed having his 2 weeks home with the kids.

13 Q. By larger companies, do you mean still like Part 135 or
14 larger like the big airlines or what do you mean by that?

15 A. Yeah, bigger airlines. I believe -- I don't, I don't recall
16 exactly, like JetBlue or SkyWest are something he had interviewed
17 for back in I think in April of 2024.

18 Q. Okay. And do you know how that interview process went?

19 A. He did not get the job just because I believe he needed more
20 hours I want to say is what he told me.

21 Q. Okay. Apologies for the quiet. I'm just kind of reading
22 through my notes here.

23 A. No, you're fine.

24 Q. Is there any -- on the aircraft one more time. I know you
25 said he didn't necessarily have any complaints about it, but I

1 guess did he express to you anything about what it was like to fly
2 the Cessna Caravan, I guess either good or bad?

3 A. All I know is that he did enjoy it. He had talked about, you
4 know, if I were coming up to Nome again that he wanted to take me
5 out in it because he liked the plane.

6 Q. Did he ever talk to you about like quirks or, you know, the
7 things you have to know about flying that particular aircraft?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And I might have asked this before. Apologies if I did, but
10 do you happen to know how long he flew that aircraft?

11 A. I do not know.

12 Q. Okay. All right. I think that is all I have going back
13 through. I think we've covered almost everything, and again, I
14 really appreciate your time. I know you only have kind of one day
15 to dedicate this, and I'm taking up a lot of your day.

16 A. No, you're fine.

17 DR. WOODS: Going back to Katherine again. Is there anything
18 further that you have?

19 DR. WILSON: No. Just following up if there's anything that
20 we, you know, didn't ask that she thought we should have asked
21 about.

22 DR. WOODS: Yep, I have my two last questions that I was
23 going to --

24 DR. WILSON: Perfect. Then, nope, that's it.

25 DR. WOODS: Okey dokey.

1 BY DR. WOODS:

2 Q. So, yeah. Paige, as Katherine said, usually I kind of follow
3 up with two final questions. And the first is, is there anything
4 that we did not ask you that you thought for sure we were going to
5 ask you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. I'll give you a moment to think about it.

8 A. No, I think you guys covered it.

9 Q. Okay. And then the last question I usually ask is, if
10 there's one big takeaway you want Katherine and I and the rest of
11 the investigative team to know about Chad and his flying and
12 Bering Air, I guess -- kind of the elevator pitch, what is it that
13 you'd like us to know?

14 A. I guess mainly that if Chad felt unsafe doing the flight, he
15 would have said no. He cared a lot about, you know, himself and
16 the people around. So he would never have done anything to put
17 anybody in jeopardy. He was -- he had the biggest heart and was
18 just an all around great guy.

19 Q. All right. Well, thank you for that. And again, thank you,
20 Paige, for your time.

21 DR. WOODS: With that, I'm going to go off the record. We're
22 going off the record at 10:59 a.m. Eastern.

23 (Whereupon, 10:59 a.m. Eastern, the interview was concluded.)
24
25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

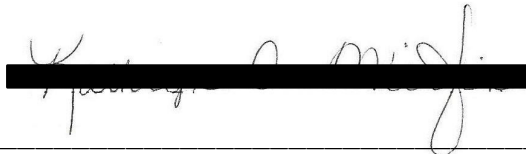
IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL COMMUTER PLANE CRASH NEAR
NOME, ALASKA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2025
Interview of Paige Giebel

ACCIDENT NO.: ANC25MA018

PLACE: via telephone

DATE: April 28, 2025

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathryn A. Mirfin', is written over a solid black rectangular redaction bar.

Kathryn A. Mirfin
Transcriber