

**WITNESS INTERVIEWS
EXTRACTED FROM THE
CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT**

NATHAN SPEER

Speer was heading southbound on 15th St. in Hawley. He was at the stop sign at 15 St. and Hwy. 10, on the north side of Hwy. 10, attempting to head southbound to Dollar General. While checking the traffic, he saw what he thought was a drone. He said it was not "not awfully high" in the air, and was going "straight down" towards the earth. Leaving Dollar General, he saw black smoke in the area where he saw what he thought was a drone.

ANTHONY SKAVLEM

Skavlem stated he was traveling westbound on Highway 10 approximately the 21000 block when he saw something yellow or orange out of the corner of his eye. He then saw a helicopter nosediving into the ground. The helicopter hit the ground and started on fire. He said the fire was slow at first, but got bigger. He ran to the crash site and saw a male (pilot) lying face down in the wreckage. He grabbed the pilot by the arm and pulled him away from the fire. As he was pulling the pilot out, the fire became too hot, causing him to retreat. He did not see any other people in the helicopter. He was treated on scene by Hawley HURT and released.

TIFFANY BROWN

Brown had called 911 after witnessing the crash. She said she was westbound on Highway 10, driving past the Hawley Airport, when something caught her eye. At first, she thought it was a cropduster but then saw the helicopter going straight down "at a 90-degree angle." She saw pilot in the cockpit and he looked as if he was "tensing before the impact." As she drove to the crash site, she called 911. She saw Skavlem run up to the crash and pull the body out of the wreckage. When the body was pulled out, she knew he was deceased, "no question." Two men walked up to the crash site, one of whom had a fire extinguisher, and began extinguishing the flames.

BARBARA HORN

Horn was travelling westbound in the 21000 block of Highway 10. She said something orange caught her eye and she saw the helicopter hit the ground and "burst into flame." She added that she did not see any flames on the helicopter when it was in flight.

MICHAEL HELM

Helm coming out of Hawley on Highway10, travelling westbound, when he saw the helicopter flying southbound over the highway. The helicopter “veered” around to travel north back towards the airport. He noted the helicopter was flying “very fast”. When the helicopter turned, the rotors on the top of the helicopter looked as if they were perpendicular to their original position., describing it as if they were “fan blades that were facing him.” The helicopter disappeared behind a hill and he did not see the crash.

MELISSA HALVERSON

Halverson called the helicopter crash into 911. She said she was travelling eastbound in the 21000 block of Highway10 when she saw the helicopter flying. Eastbound. The helicopter spun approximately 3 times before crashing into the ground. She said she never saw the helicopter fly south over Highway10.

JERROD WAMRE

Wamre stated that he did not hear the crash, but heard the aircraft taking off at approximately 1130 or 1200 hours. He said the aircraft had been making circles around the area for the past couple of weeks. He said the helicopter normally takes off and flies north from the airport, makes a circle, and returns from the south.

ZACHARY NELSON

Nelson stated that he heard a sound that sounded like an engine cutting in and out before hearing a loud thud or crash. Less than a minute later his rural fire pager went off, advising of the crash. Nelson looked out his window and saw black smoke coming from the field, southwest of his residence. Nelson believed that the aircraft was returning to the airport because he did not hear the engine winding up like he normally hears when an aircraft leaves the airport.