

FILED
07-30-2021
Clerk of Circuit Court
Brown County, WI
2021CF001280
Honorable Timothy A
Hinkfuss
Branch 7

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	BROWN COUNTY
STATE OF WISCONSIN Plaintiff,	DA Case No.: 2021BR005140 Assigned ADA: Jessica R Petras Agency Case No.: 21-023248 Court Case No.: 2021CF____ ATN:	
vs.		
JAMES THEODORE AMBROSIUS 829 South Overland Road Hobart, WI 54115 DOB: 11/12/1996 Sex/Race: M/W Eye Color: Brown Hair Color: Brown Height: 5 ft 6 in Weight: 120 lbs Defendant.	CRIMINAL COMPLAINT	
		<i>For Official Use</i>

Complainant, Jessica R. Petras, a Special Prosecutor, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that:

Count 1: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about May 23, 2018, in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of Dedicated Repairs, without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 2: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about August 7, 2018, in the City of De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of M.A. and L.A., without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 3: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about September 10, 2019, in the City of De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of D.L., without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

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Count 4: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about September 21, 2020, in the Village of Oneida, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of J.A., without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 5: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about November 3, 2020, in the City of De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of R.D., without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 6: ARSON OF PROPERTY OTHER THAN BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about March 19, 2021, in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the property (other than a building) of Dedicated Repairs, valued at \$100 or more, without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.03 Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 7: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about July 20, 2021, in the City of De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of Lazy S Farm, without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 8: ARSON OF BUILDING

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, July 25, 2021, in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the building of Dedicated Repairs, without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.02(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 9: OBSTRUCTING AN OFFICER

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, July 25, 2021, in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, Wisconsin, did knowingly obstruct an officer, while such officer was doing an act in an official capacity and with lawful authority, contrary to sec. 946.41(1) Wis. Stats., a Class A Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

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Count 10: MISDEMEANOR THEFT

The above-named defendant on or about September 10, 2019, in the City of De Pere, Brown County, Wisconsin, did intentionally take and carry away the movable property of D.L., without consent and with intent to permanently deprive the owner of possession of the property, contrary to sec. 943.20(1)(a)&(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

Count 11: MISDEMEANOR THEFT

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, July 25, 2021, in the Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, Wisconsin, did intentionally take and carry away the movable property of Dedicated Repairs, without consent and with intent to permanently deprive the owner of possession of the property, contrary to sec. 943.20(1)(a)&(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

Complainant is a Special Prosecutor with the Brown County District Attorney's Office and knows of the above offense(s) on information and belief based upon:

PROBABLE CAUSE:

The complainant, being duly sworn on oath, swears that she has had the opportunity to review the police reports from Sgt. Zach Holschbach of the Brown County Sheriff's Department, and other documents supporting this complaint referenced herein, which are the types of reports and documents kept in the ordinary course of business, which complainant believes to be truthful and reliable because they have proven to be truthful and reliable on numerous occasions in the past.

The complainant further asserts that based upon her review of the referenced reports and/or supporting documents, the incidents alleged occurred in Brown County, Wisconsin.

1. Your complainant's review of the reports of Sgt. Zach Holschbach of the Brown County Sheriff's Office, which state:

On Monday, July 27, 2021, around 11 AM, Lt. Valley requested that I, Detective Sergeant Zak Holschbach, of the Brown County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), respond to Elmview Road in the Village of Ledgeview to assist on a fire scene. Members of the Brown County Arson Task Force and Special Agents (SA) with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) were already on scene investigating the fire. This location is a business, Dedicated Repair Inc. Law Enforcement and fire personnel had been dispatched to the fire the previous day at about 10:35 PM and had been continuously on scene prior to my arrival. All times are approximate.

While travelling to the scene I spoke with SA / Deputy State Fire Marshal Ryan Windorff from DCI. He advised me that he was headed to interview a male employee of the company, later determined to be James T Ambrosius, DOB: 11/12/1996, and that Ambrosius had been

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observed at the scene of the fire. SA Windorff advised me that Ambrosius ultimately admitted to being in the parking lot around the time of the fire and using cocaine in his vehicle in the parking lot, but claimed he had nothing to do with the fire. Ambrosius consented to a download/review of his cell phone.

Upon arrival on scene, I checked in with SA / Deputy State Fire Marshal Kevin Heimerl. Heimerl provided me with some preliminary observations and a rough timeline of what needed to occur moving forward. Another employee was identified as being at the scene of the fire and inside the building prior to the fire starting. That employee, Bernabe F Segovia, AKA "Ben", was currently driving a route and thought to be arriving back later that evening after a run to Minnesota.

I then met with Operations / Safety Manager, Scott A Conklin. Conklin explained to me that each truck, including the truck that Segovia was operating is equipped with a fleet management system from a company called Samsara. Conklin explained some of the capabilities of the system which including live monitoring of location of the truck and live and historical viewing, remotely, of the audio and video from the front facing camera system. The Samsara system also controlled the surveillance cameras at the actual business and could also be accessed remotely. The DVR / base unit for that system was turned over to the BCSO on consent from the business so Computer Forensic Analyst (CFA) Tyler Behling could attempt to start downloading video from the events surrounding the time of the fire. CFA Behling would later advise me that the video was cloud based and he could not retrieve the video directly from the unit. During this same period, Conklin was starting to review the surveillance video from the business remotely from his laptop and cell phone.

I reviewed the reports by responding BCSO deputies Gawlik and Desmond, and then reviewed the written statement provided by Segovia to Gawlik. SA Windorff started reviewing the business surveillance video from before, during, and after the actual start of the fire to start a timeline of Segovia's movements in and out of the building as we knew that he went in and out before the fire. I then started reviewing all of dash camera video from the responding officers to the fire which included the interview of Segovia by Deputy Gawlik.

SA Eric Beine travelled to the Shell Gas Station right across the highway from the fire scene. This Shell Gas Station is located at 3285 Cedar Hedge Lane in the Village of Ledgeview. SA Beine was able to start securing surveillance video from before and after the fire. I would later secure a 16 GB USB from the business on July 27, 2021 after the video was all done downloading onto the USB. The manager of the gas station turned over the 16 GB USB and confirmed that he as the manager had provided SA Beine permission to select the video needed for this investigation. I later travelled to the BCSO and secured that USB (Item 286002) into evidence after making a local copy that could be reviewed and turned over to DCI.

After some preliminary review of the video from the business and Segovia's in truck camera system, it was determined that we wanted to speak with Segovia and recover the camera system. Conklin advised that if we had the camera and gateway from the truck there was a way to download the entire video, however it had a max storage of about 40 hours, Conklin believed.

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SA Windorff and I travelled to 301 Elderberry Road, Abbotsford, Wisconsin to contact Segovia and to recover the camera system. Conklin granted consent for us to seize the camera system and to download the video. This location is a truck stop/Kwik Trip, and it was believed that Segovia was likely parked at the stop and sleeping as he was over his driving hours. We ultimately contacted Segovia, who was sleeping in his truck at this location. He was cooperative and provided consent to download and review his cell phone. SA Windorff and I interviewed Segovia in detail about what he did the day of the fire before and after the fire. This interview was audio recorded. I seized the camera system (Item 286001) and later turned it over to CFA Behling.

On Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at about noon, I first reviewed surveillance video from within the business. CFA Behling advised that he was currently unable to download any of the video and was working with Samsara for a fix that they said they could do. CFA Behling was able to access the cloud to view the videos, but currently could not download them yet and Samsara was trying to fix something on their end to allow that access. I started remote viewing the surveillance video as well. SA Windorff had also been remote viewing the numerous cameras within the business. Conklin had provided consent and login for law enforcement to access the Samsara online account that Dedicated has.

At about 10:13 PM on Sunday, July 26, 2021 between two different camera angles titled "Shop" and "Shop Door," you can see movement in and out of the parts / service area that has a counter facing an entry / exit door to the outside of the building. For a few seconds you see a person behind the counter wearing gloves and their face covered. James T Ambrosius, DOB: 11/26/1996 AKA "Vern" would later admit that it was him in the video. I showed him a clip of the video and he admitted in detail what he did and would later admit to where he hid the clothing and gloves worn in the video during the crime. The concealment of the items worn to commit the crime and conceal his identity occurred on Monday afternoon (July 26, 2021) after SA Windorff first interviewed Ambrosius and Ambrosius admitted to being at the business around the time of the fire but denying being involved in the fire.

While reviewing the video from the "Shop Door" camera, I saw Ambrosius' shadow first appear at time stamp "10:13:30" behind the counter under the sign that says, "Service". Between "10:13:30" and "10:13:50" you see Ambrosius moving behind the counter. He would later admit, and the victims would confirm that this area contained a cash register with money in it. I continued to watch this same camera and within about a minute you can see the reflecting flashes of the fire starting off camera, and ultimately see the fire develop until the recording stops.

I then switched back to the recording from the "Shop" camera. Directly in the middle of this view is a white semi-tractor number 55805 with Dedicated Systems Inc on the door. Off the passenger side window reflection, I saw the movement into the room also covered by the "Shop Door" camera. Ambrosius would later admit that he knew exactly where all the cameras were and that he had been inside the business travelling the same route the day before the crime on Saturday, and that he entered the business twice on Saturday, so he knew the exact layout. Ambrosius is an employee of the business and the owners advised me, just like Ambrosius told me, that Ambrosius knows what the cameras all capture.

At about "10:12:16" on the "Shop" camera I can see the reflection off the truck window of Ambrosius opening the door into the tool / parts room. At about "10:14:18" on the "Shop"

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camera I observed the reflection of the window of the truck of a fire starting. It starts to grow, and the smoke starts to appear in view of this camera angle. At "10:14:08" I can quickly see the movement of Ambrosius exiting the area where he starts the fire and taking the same route back out of the building that is obstructed from the camera view. Ambrosius would later admit to all this and draw a map explaining his route in and out of the building. I can see on the video the fire continues to grow until this recording stops.

Within minutes of viewing these videos on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at about 12:19 PM, I contacted SA Windorff to advise him of what I saw on the videos. SA Windorff was in West Bend and said he would contact SA Heimerl and they would head back to the Elmview Road fire scene. I also contacted Deputy Dhuey of the Brown County Arson Task Force to update him. I then responded to the fire scene and contacted the owners / victims and Conklin. Deputy Buresh stood by to assure nobody entered the fire scene. I also spoke with Jeffrey Kubitz of Kubitz and Associates who does fire investigations for the private sector to include insurance companies. Kubitz was starting his investigation prior to my arrival.

Conklin advised me that Ambrosius' vehicle was broken down at the Shell gas station on the corner of G and GV and that Ambrosius walked to work this morning. At about 1:30 PM Sgt. Shield, Sgt. Omdahl, and Sgt. Nelson responded to that gas station on Monroe Road, and impounded Ambrosius' vehicle (Item 298001) for transport back to the BCSO. Ambrosius would later provide me with consent to search his vehicle.

At about 1:40 PM, James Ambrosius arrived back at the scene of the fire. At about 1:45 PM I activated my digital audio recorder and contacted Ambrosius.

When I contacted Ambrosius he had just gotten out of the passenger seat of a semi-truck that had backed a trailer up to some storage containers (old semi-trailers with wheels removed). Conklin advised me that the driver of the truck is a guy named Chad and that "Vern" (Ambrosius) was the guy in the passenger seat when the truck pulled into the business lot. Chad and Vern were currently moving stuff from the trailer storage area to the new business location on CTH R. I approached the males and told them that nobody could access the business at all right now and Ambrosius asked if they could still move stuff out of the trailers since they were not inside the business.

I then asked Ambrosius if he had the keys to his car that was broken down at the Shell gas station. He confirmed that was indeed his car and that it should be unlocked with the keys in the center console. I would later locate the vehicle keys in the pocket of Ambrosius. I told Ambrosius that the vehicle had been called in as an abandoned vehicle. He told me that he walked to work today when it broke down.

Ambrosius advised me that the cops searched his vehicle Monday night and that he was at the scene of the fire Monday night. I asked him if we wanted to search his car again if that was something, he would allow us to do, and he said yes. I communicated to my team that Ambrosius provided consent to search the car. They advised me that the car was locked.

At about 1:49 PM as I was requesting additional assistance at my location a fatal crash was dispatched which pulled resources away from assisting me.

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I again asked Ambrosius if his car was unlocked, and he said he was sure it was unlocked, and he was sure he did not have the keys and that they were in the center console of the vehicle.

I then confirmed with Ambrosius that we had never met and that he had been cooperative when speaking with the other investigators on Monday. He agreed to both. I told Ambrosius he could call me Zak instead of Sergeant Holschbach and he explained that his real name was James, but most people called him "Vern". I then said, "you are not under arrest, you work here, if you don't want to talk to me you can walk away." Ambrosius advised me that he understood. He advised that he knew we were investigating a fire and that he was at the fire before and after it started. I then asked him to explain what he told the other investigators that he spoke to on Monday. He explained what he told them, where he parked, and what he was wearing that night. I then asked about the car being locked and the keys again and told him my guys that were with the car told me it was locked. Ambrosius said we could just pop it open. It was ultimately transported back to the BCSO and later searched on consent after being opened with the keys.

I then asked Ambrosius if the boots he had on were still the same boots he was wearing during the fire. He explained that they were and that he only had the boots he was wearing and some slippers. I then asked him how tall he was. I could see that he was very nervous. I pointed out the nervousness I was observing to Ambrosius. He replied, "I am telling the truth man." I then asked why he originally lied on Monday about being at the business and he claimed it was because he did not want the cops to know he was doing "drugs" (cocaine). He then explained that he relapsed after rehab and he felt bad he was using again.

I asked Ambrosius about the other fires at the business in the past before the most recent fire this Sunday. I started talking about "the restaurant fire" and I asked who found that fire and he responded, "everybody." I then asked who the first person was to find the fire and he said, "me, Chad, and everybody standing outside there."

I then asked about a truck fire and he said, "yeah." He then admitted that he was the last person to move that truck before it lit on fire. I then summarized all three fires back to him and how suspicious it was that he was present for all three, even finding or being the last person at the source of the first two fires and now for the third fire he just happened to be in the parking lot doing coke. He said, "yeah I guess." I said, "you guess, or you were here." He admitted to being in the parking lot doing cocaine but leaving having never seen a fire. I told him that I could tell he was lying. He again denied it and said, "what are you getting at?" I said, "I am not getting at anything, I am telling you I have done a lot of homework since Monday."

I then started explaining all the video surveillance, phone data, and science that goes into investigations. I told him a lot of that homework was now done two days later and it wasn't done when the other investigators talked to him on Monday. I told him I wanted to understand why he did this, and he immediately said, "I didn't do it." I asked if he was trying to hurt somebody, and he responded right away, "no." I continued to explain that I wanted to understand if he wanted to kill somebody or what the reason was, such as just liking to start fires. He responded, "I didn't do it intentionally, I didn't do it at all."

At about 13:44 into the recoding (approximately 1:59 PM) Ambrosius admitted to being inside the building stealing money at the time of the fire. He explained that he had relapsed and need

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the money to pay for cocaine that was fronted to him and he did not have the money to repay the drug debt. He explained that the fire was an accident.

At this point, approximately 2 PM, I placed him in handcuffs behind his back and told him he was no longer free to go. He was worried about the other employees seeing him in handcuffs. I told him I would request another detective in an unmarked car come around and pick us up so nobody saw him getting walked out in cuffs. A short time later Sgt. Loppnow arrived in an unmarked police vehicle. Deputy Dhuey also arrived, and the scene was turned over to him at 2:15 PM.

Before I talked to Ambrosius any further I pulled out a BCSO rights form and read him his rights off the form. He explained to me verbally where the line was demonstrating he could read and write and agreed to waive his rights.

Ambrosius explained that he got fronted the cocaine at the Seymour fair on Saturday night and that on Sunday when he needed to repay the drug debt, he decided to burglarize the business. He initially would say he only took eighty dollars and that the fire was accidental starting after an outlet sparked when he plugged in some battery packs.

While waiting for Sgt. Loppnow to arrive I provided Ambrosius a cigarette at his request. I would continue to provide him with cigarettes during his custody and provided him bathroom breaks and two different sodas during the interview.

Once Sgt. Loppnow arrived, he removed all the items from Ambrosius' person and placed them into a paper bag. Ambrosius was then transported to the BCSO by Sgt. Loppnow while I followed directly behind the entire way in my vehicle. Once at the BCSO, Ambrosius was placed into interview room #4 and I removed his handcuffs. I offered him a beverage from a few options, and he requested a mountain dew. The audio video recording was then started for room #4. I shut the digital pocket recorder off and later downloaded the recording entering it into GERP and onto a DVD (Item 286004) and placed the DVD into evidence. Total length of the recording was 42:25. The audio video recording of the interview at BCSO in room 4 will be maintained within the GERP system. The length of the video in the BCSO interview room is 02:41:44 (two hours, forty-one minutes, and forty-four seconds). I noted later upon review of the video that the system time stamp in the upper left corner of the video is not accurate. It shows the correct date, but the time of 7:04 PM (1904 military time) is not correct.

At about 04:25 into the recording I walk into the interview room. I go through the entire BCSO rights form again with Ambrosius. This time he was not in handcuffs and was able to sign the line demonstrating he could read and write and signed the bottom line waiving his rights and agreeing to speak with me.

Ambrosius started explaining to me how he entered the building on Sunday night. I then took a piece of notebook paper out so he could draw it all out. That sheet of paper (hand drawn sketch by Ambrosius) was later scanned into the case file.

Ambrosius continued to lie stating he only took eighty bucks and that the fire was accidental. He ultimately admitted that he took all the money and was not sure how much it was, he thought maybe around 140.

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He described the clothing he was wearing during the crime. A black Carhart type barn jacket, khaki type pants, his current boots, work gloves, a camo hunting mask, and a disposable covid type mask. He claimed at first to have dumped some of the clothes into a dumpster at the business but that the dumpster had already been dumped. He then changed his story to having burnt the clothing in a field behind his aunt L.A.'s farm. He showed me on a map where this was, and I sent Sgt. Shield and Sgt. Nelson to the location. They obtained consent to search from L.A. and she provided them assistance with a farm truck to get way back into the field where Ambrosius was describing having burned the clothing. They ultimately did not locate the burn location because it never happened. SA Windorff and I would later travel to this location with Ambrosius and he would finally admit he didn't burn anything in this location. He took SA Windorff and me to a corn field on the property behind *** Orlando Drive at L.A.'s farm and I recovered the camo mask (Item 286005), one Forester brand black and green work glove (Item 286006), a blue and white disposable medical mask (Item 286007).

About 25 minutes into the video of the interview at BCSO, Ambrosius admits to lighting the fire on purpose to cover up the burglary. He described taking a propane torch and lighting a box of orange latex gloves on fire that caught some other items on fire. He confirmed that he did this on purpose, without permission from anyone (to burn the place or steal money), and knew the fire was still going when he fled, and he did not report the fire. He would go into very specific details throughout the next couple hours.

At about 32 minutes into the interview, I ask him about the truck fire. He again denies it and eventually admits to starting that truck on fire too. He said the driver of that truck has a large all white German Shepard dog and that the entire truck is covered in hair. He said it is gross and he did not like working on that truck. He described putting a lit cigarette into a large pile of dog hair in a vent to get the fire going. He would later admit that he had to relight the area with a lighter when the cigarette did not keep the fire going. The area he lit he described as a vent that comes off the APU (auxiliary power unit).

At about 33 minutes I tell him that I can tell he likes to "burn shit" after talking to him for a while and that he likely has been starting fires since a young age. He denies that but would later admit to attempting to burn his mom's house down at age 12 or 13, but the fire didn't go. He described putting paper in the rafters of the basement and lighting it, but it burned out.

I then asked about any times he found a fire. He said there was three times. He said the restaurant fire at Dedicated (he admitted in specific detail during this interview how he started this fire, but at first denied it). Then he started explaining the time he found a barn fire at R.D.'s farm but claimed he was not the first one at the fire. He would later admit to starting this fire in very specific detail.

At about 40 minutes into the interview, Ambrosius and I shook hands and he promised me that he would never light another fire. He gave me his word and told me that his word and a handshake mean everything to him. I then asked that he tell me about the R.D. fire. He then described starting the fire on purpose with a cigarette butt in a straw pile. He estimated this was last summer, the summer of 2020. He again confirmed that he went to the barn with the intent to burn it down, he did so without permission and did so because "the kids are ass holes, and nobody like them." He confirmed this was a working farm and cattle for sure died in the fire.

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At about 42 minutes into the interview, I asked him what the first fire was that he remembered lighting. He then talked about the time he tried burning his mom's house down when he was about 12 or 13.

At about 46 minutes, Ambrosius starts talking about the "lazy ass" fire. This is the Lazy S Farm located at **** S Overland Road. He described jamming paper towel into hay and starting it with a lighter. This was up in the hay loft of the barn. The motivation for this fire was because the owner owed Ambrosius \$3,000 and never paid him back. He described the owner having goats and that he "sold them to the Hmong's."

Just after 49 minutes into the interview SA Windorff enters the room and shakes Ambrosius' hand greeting him again. I summarize what we have talked about so far. SA Windorff and I then proceeded with the interview.

SA Windorff produced a diagram of the Dedicated Repair business and Ambrosius drew his path into the business on that diagram while again explaining in detail the facts of that arson / burglary. I would later scan that diagram with Ambrosius' added drawing into the case file.

As we continued to talk with Ambrosius he was provided a bathroom break, another soda (orange Sunkist) and a cigarette.

At about 5:10 PM I started a digital audio pocket recorder so SA Windorff and I could transport Ambrosius to his aunt's property, *** Orlando Drive, where Sgt. Nelson and Sgt. Shield were with Aunt L.A. trying to locate the clothing or the area the clothing was reportedly burned on the property. We also were going to have Ambrosius show us the specific location and describe the other barn fires he admitted to starting.

Upon arrival at *** Orlando Drive, Sgt. Nelson and Sgt. Shield advised me that they had not located the burn area or any remaining evidence after Ambrosius explained it to them on speaker phone during the interview at BCSO. They also confirmed that Aunt L.A. was still providing consent for us to search more with James Ambrosius on her property, she just did not want to see James as this was all too difficult for her. Her husband, M.A., the uncle of James, had a heart attack when James burned the barn down at *** Orlando Drive. M.A. survived the heart attack that night but died a short time later.

After attempting to locate the burned clothing worn during the July 25, 2021 fire, Ambrosius ultimately admitted he threw the camo mask and gloves in a corn field nearby, but two fields over from the area we were searching, and the other detectives had searched. He led SA Windorff and I to an old deer stand in a tree line between two corn fields. He then pointed to exactly where he threw the items. I located the items described previously in this report. Prior to collecting the items, I recorded their location, and later uploaded that recording into the case file and downloaded the recording to a DVD (Item 286008) that I logged into evidence.

Ambrosius continued to claim he burned the coat but would later admit that the coat was his dad's coat and was hanging in the basement of his dad's house at 7** Fernando Drive. Both SA Windorff and I attempted to call his dad, J.A. We later determined that he went into work early. We also attempted contact at the house, but nobody was home. James Ambrosius told us he or we could just go inside to recover the coat, but we wanted consent from the father first. The father, J.A., ultimately later provided consent after speaking with his son on speaker

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phone in front of SA Windorff and me. This consent was during the second audio recording and occurred in the parking lot of 3030 Curry Lane, Brown County Jail. I explained to J.A. if he wanted to revoke his consent all he needed to do was call me back and tell me he changed his mind. SA Windorff later travelled to the 7** Fernando Drive address and collected the coat, along with SA Heimerl.

Prior to leaving the *** Orlando property, Ambrosius again explained on video (recorded by SA Windorff) the arson at this location. Ambrosius would do the same at the other two barn fires he admitted to giving us turn by turn directions to each location. Again, SA Windorff recorded Ambrosius describing the fires at each location, 5** Fernando Drive, " R.D. Farm" and **** S Overland Road, "Lazy S Farm". I later entered those three recordings into evidence (Item 286009).

After visiting the locations of each fire that Ambrosius had admitted he was transported to the Brown County Jail. While transporting him, both SA Windorff and I told him we flat out knew there were more fires and that now was the time to admit to them. He denied any additional fires. Prior to booking him into jail I shut off the digital recorder as SA Windorff walked him into the jail intake area. I later downloaded that recording to a DVD (Item 286011).

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, I was able to locate the specific dates for all six fires that Ambrosius confessed to the night before. They are listed below:

- May 23, 2018, "Restaurant Fire" at Dedicated Repair Inc.
- August 7, 2018, *** Orlando Drive, M.A. / L.A. Farm
- July 20, 2021, **** S Overland Road, Lazy S Farm (Thomas Xiong)
- November 3, 2020, 5** Fernando Drive, R.D. Farm
- March 19, 2021, Truck Fire at Dedicated Repair Inc (Insurance Payment of \$47,047.61).
- July 25, 2021, Dedicated Repair Inc Fire for this incident.

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, at about 10:55 AM, CFA Behling provided me with a USB flash drive containing some surveillance video from the business during the fire. More specifically the camera angle previously mentioned, "Shop" and "Shop Door". I requested CFA Behling create these videos in case Samsara was unable to fix our ability to download directly from the cloud. I entered this USB (Item 286010) into evidence. CFA Behling also created some video clips from the in-truck camera system of Segovia, and those were also placed on a USB (286003) and logged into evidence.

I am starting to research additional fires that could involve Ambrosius. This investigation remains active and ongoing.

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, at about 3:26 PM I, Detective Sergeant Zak Holschbach of the Brown County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) met with Special Agent (SA) / Deputy State Fire Marshal Ryan Windorff at the BCSO in preparation for another interview of James T Ambrosius, DOB: 11/12/1996 AKA "Vern." We identified some additional fires that we wanted to speak to him about outside of the six he admitted to the day before. SA Windorff also turned over the jacket seized from 7** Fernando Drive the day before and referenced in previous reports. It is the jacket worn by Ambrosius during the most recent Arson at Dedicated Repair Inc on July 25, 2021. I placed the jacket (Item 286012) into evidence locker #39. All times are approximate.

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We arrived at the jail at about 5 PM, however the jail was in lock down status so we had to wait a bit to get into the visiting interview room. Also, the computer at the visiting desk did not have access to GERP on the desktop, so I was unable to start the camera system at the jail. Sgt. Wilson advised that he could start the camera for me. At 5:10 PM, Sgt. Wilson advised me the camera was running. Just over a half hour into the interview he was trying to get ahold of me and ultimately got ahold of SA Windorff. Sgt. Wilson had started the camera at the jail in the intake / booking area not the room behind jail visiting that SA Windorff and I were interviewing Ambrosius in. I would later review all the recordings in the GERP system and located a total of 3. The first recording in the system is listed as Jail Booking starting at 5:10:16 PM and ending at 5:42:30 PM listed as a duration of 00:32:14. I later downloaded this recording which is likely a blank room off the jail booking / intake area (I have not reviewed the recording in full at the time of this report). The recording downloaded as file "2802." I then located the second recording which is listed as Jail Visiting starting at 5:40:16 PM and ending at 5:41:18 PM. This recording downloaded as file "2803." The final recording is also listed as Jail Visiting starting at 5:41:25 PM and ending at 6:09:59 PM. This file downloaded as "2804." I quickly reviewed the 2803 and 2804 files and they both appear to be in the correct room and Sgt. Wilson later explained he must have started the wrong room first and then when he learned it was the wrong room, he started the correct room twice in the system so the middle recording (2803) is simply that one minute clip. All these original recordings will be kept in the GERP system.

When Ambrosius first entered the interview room at about 5:10 PM, he sat down and we all greeted again. I then read him his rights from a standard BCSO rights form. He located the line demonstrating he can read and write. He then signed the bottom of the form agreeing to answer questions. That form was later scanned into the case file under attachments.

Without prompting he immediately admitted to a fire he described as being by County VV and County U. He said this was the farm of D.L., again without any prompting. He would later identify the location on google maps using SA Windorff's Cell Phone and that location was identified as *** Triangle Drive in Brown County Wisconsin. Ambrosius described this fire being around the end of bear hunting or during bear hunting season last year, in 2020. He said he was in the bear hunting truck, it ran out of gas, and then he went to the D.L. farm with a five-gallon gas tank and stole some gasoline from the farm tank. He described being at this property a few times with his dad in the past but that he had never been inside the barn. He explained that he walked down the center aisle of the barn and in an area where the second floor had fallen through, he lit some hay until it started burning. He said he was not one hundred percent sure it was going to keep burning when he left, but a few days later when he drove by, the barn was down. He confirmed he did not have permission from anyone to lit this fire or to steal the gasoline and he knew it was wrong. He did not provide a motive for this Arson like he did for the other six he admitted to yesterday. This one he said he did not know why he did it other than to just do it. He had no issues with D.L. Prior to coming to this interview, I had located a call, BCSO #20-030231 from September 21, 2020 where the D.L. had a total loss to his barn from a barn fire where police and fire responded. Ambrosius advised the barn was vacant, unlike the three prior barn fires he had admitted to yesterday. I have not contacted D.L. at the time of this report.

Ambrosius claimed there were no more fires, but when I asked about the fire at his dad's house at 7** Fernando Drive, he denied it at first but ultimately admitted to doing it intentionally. I confronted him about being the only one home, that he put it out, and called it in. At first, he claimed the sump pump lit on fire, but later explained how he did it and why he did

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it. He said he and his dad had been fighting for a few weeks and he was angry, so after his dad left for work he lit insulation in the southeast corner of the basement. There is still fire and smoke damage at the residence, according to Ambrosius. He said after he lit it and called it in, he had second thoughts and put it out with a fire extinguisher. He described the fire extinguisher as being a chemical extinguisher. Prior to coming to this interview, I had located a fire call for 7** Fernando Drive on September 10, 2019, Hobart Lawrence #HL1906107. The call notes showed that Ambrosius called the fire in and that he had mostly put it out before the fire department arrived.

I next brought up an entirely fake fire that did not occur. I asked him about the fire at Crystal Springs golf course in Seymour Wisconsin. He advised me that he had never even heard about this fire and that he even knew the owner of the place because it is the same owner that owned the Seymour Hotel and that he just saw him the other day when he was eating at the Seymour Hotel. I pressed him about this fire and he never changed his story.

Prior to the interview, Deputy Bilgo advised me about some fires in Outagamie County, but he could not locate the dates or addresses. He described one as being the Lee Sprangers farm and the other being a milk truck driver that picks up at the Sprangers farm.

When I pressed Ambrosius about additional fires he said he was getting tired of making shit up and that I probably had fires between here and Denmark that I was going to blame him for. We would later clarify that he did not "make anything up" or "lie" about any of the fires he confessed to. I told Ambrosius I just wanted the truth and asked him what fire haunted him the most. He explained again, just like yesterday that the fire at his Uncle M.A. and Aunt L.A.'s farm which he called "my farm" haunted him the most and he felt bad that Uncle M.A. died of that heart attack. This fire was the *** Orlando Barn Fire referenced in previous reports.

I pressed Ambrosius about any more fires and any fires that someone died in. He denied up and down and said these eight fires that he confessed to now are the only fires he ever lit. Upon reviewing the recording, I noted that I reread Miranda at about 5:45 PM with Ambrosius confirming that it was his signature in both locations. SA Windorff then summarized what we previously talked about and Ambrosius agreed making no corrections or additions. Ambrosius exited the interview room and a few seconds behind him SA Windorff and I exit the interview room. Sgt. Wilson then shuts off the recording.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
07/30/21

Electronically Signed By:

J. Foss Davis

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1105914

Electronically Signed By:

Jessica R. Petras

Complainant