

HOUCK

FROM PAGE A1

Brooks Houck’s brother — sold in Louisville in May 2016.

Benjamin (via pre-recorded Zoom session) testified his dog, “Ranger,” is trained to detect human remains. When he performed a “double-blind” search of the vehicle, Ranger alerted to the car’s trunk.

Barbara Coulter, mother of Steve Lawson and grandmother of Joey
Coulter told the jury that Steve and Joey had a “toxic” relationship.

In 2022, Joey came to her house. He was high, she said, and he told her there was something she needed to know.

Joey told his grandmother that she “needed to know that Steve killed Crystal.”

Nelson Circuit Judge Charles Simms III reminded the jury that Coulter’s testimony only applied to Joey, and to disregard it when considering Brooks’ guilt or innocence.

Rebecca Greer, ex-wife of Steve Lawson

Greer testified to hearing a conversation in 2019 between Joey and his girlfriend at the time about receiving \$50,000 for “moving a car.” She said she later confronted him about it.

She also testified that Steve and Joey were usually broke, but when she first started dating Steve “had money all the time.”

She also related a vicious fist fight between Steve and Joey one time. During that fight, Joey said in a fit of rage: “I’m going to let everybody know about this car and just how involved he was.”

Joshua Hickman, cell phone forensic expert

Hickman analyzed the phone logs of Rogers’ phone and used those to provide details down to the millisecond of its use on July 3, including what apps she was using (a couple games, Facebook Messenger) and other usage information.

Hickman said Rogers’ phone battery ran out of charge at 9:23:10 p.m. on July 3. It started to boot back up at 11:57 p.m. that night. That process lasted only three-tenths of a second before it was manually shut down.

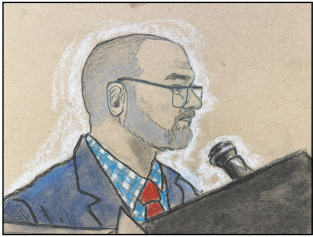
The phone did not boot back up until police had it on July 6.

Lon Spalding, property owner on Thompson Hill Road

Spalding was a neighbor of Jeremy and David Thompson on what has been called Thompson Ridge, the site of a major search by the FBI in recent years. Steve Lawson described the farm as a “chop shop” for stolen cars and other criminal activity. It was also an area that Steve and Joey spent a large amount of time on July 4, 2015.

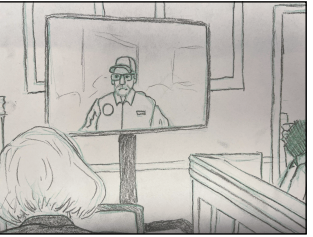
Spalding testified David’s farm had long been used as an illegal dump, and Jeremy would often burn garbage and furniture landlords paid him to collect from vacated apartments.

On the night of July 3 and into July 4, Spalding noted



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Joshua Hickman, a cell phone forensic expert, testified Tuesday in the trial over the disappearance and presumed death of Crystal Rogers in 2015.



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Terry Benjamin testified Friday via video in the trial over the disappearance and presumed death of Crystal Rogers in 2015. Benjamin is a cadaver dog handler who was called in to help with the case, and is depicted in a courtroom sketch.

that Jeremy had dug a large burn pit, about 10-feet wide, on his own property and was burning an unusual amount of garbage. He said he “Found it very odd” because usually Jeremy burned the garbage on David’s farm.

Stacie Cranmer, former Houck subcontractor

Cranmer repeated the same testimony she gave at Steve Lawson’s trial a month ago. She said on late June 2015 she saw Brooks and Steve driving around to different houses and spending time in Brooks’ truck, which she said was unusual.

When she asked Steve what they had been discussing, Steve said he was “talking about a girl he had to take care of” who “had five kids.” Rogers had five children.

Cranmer called police to report the conversation after she learned Rogers had gone missing, but did not hear back from them. When she went in October to report it in person, she said police “laughed” at her and made her angry.

She agreed to wear a wire for the FBI in 2023 and try to get Steve to repeat what he had said that day, but at that point Steve said he had probably been referring to Joey’s ex-girlfriend.

Tim O’Daniel, Louisville Metro Police detective and forensic expert

O’Daniel took the stand for the second time, this time to specifically address the lack of call records from Joey Lawson. The detective has testified extensively about Houck’s phone calls and geolocation, as well as Steve Lawson’s.

O’Daniel said Joey was using a Q-Link phone that



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Tim O’Daniel, a detective and forensics expert with the Louisville Metro Police, testified Tuesday in the Crystal Rogers case in his second time on the stand. Rogers disappeared in July 2015, and her ex-boyfriend, Brooks Houck, is accused of killing her.



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Jamie Brooks, a detective with the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, testified Tuesday in the Crystal Rogers case in his second time on the stand. Brooks aided Nelson County Sheriff’s Det. Jon Snow in investigating Rogers’ disappearance in 2016. Rogers’ ex-boyfriend, Brooks Houck, is accused of killing her.

used T-Mobile’s antennas. Defense attorneys had previously pointed out that Joey’s phone never appeared in “tower dumps,” which are bulk logs of what phones hit a tower. O’Daniel said those records could have been purged by the time police requested them.

Jamie Brooks, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office detective

Brooks was another repeat witness. He was called to the stand to testify about recordings that were previously introduced of various Houck family members secretly recording grand jury testimony (which is illegal), their meetings with their own lawyer and conversations with police.

Kim Edelen, neighbor of Rosemary Houck

Edelen is a neighbor of the Houck family farm on Paschal Ballard Lane. She was out of town on July 3, 2015, and questions revolved around whether she had a wi-fi extender on her home.

Edelen spent about five minutes on the stand, and Judge Simms called a break. When court resumed, she was dismissed and her wi-fi was never mentioned again.



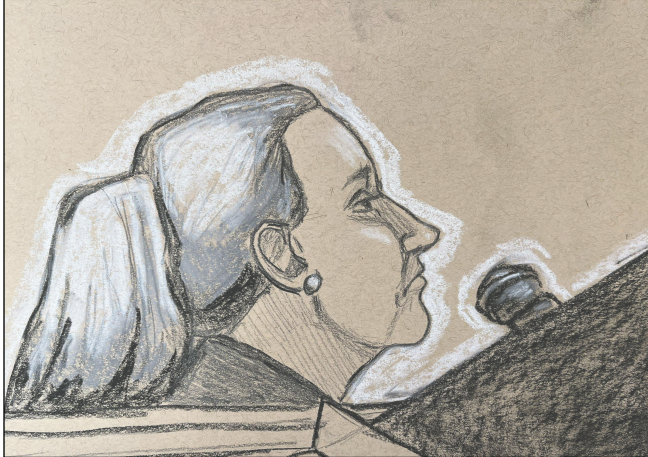
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Kim Edelen testified Tuesday in Warren Circuit Court in the Brooks Houck murder trial of Houck’s ex-girlfriend, Crystal Rogers, in 2015.



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Lon Spalding testified Tuesday in Warren Circuit Court in the Brooks Houck murder trial of Houck’s ex-girlfriend, Crystal Rogers, in 2015.



SYDNEY YOUNG/Special to The Standard

Stacie Cranmer, depicted here in a courtroom sketch, testifies Tuesday in Warren Circuit Court on her recollections of interactions with Steve Lawson and Brooks Houck in 2015 leading up to the time Houck’s girlfriend, Crystal Rogers, disappeared on July 4 weekend that year. Lawson and his son, Joseph, is accused of aiding Houck in the disappearance and suspected killing of Houck’s ex-girlfriend, Crystal Rogers, in 2015. Steve Lawson was convicted in May as an accomplice to Houck.

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