

# NORTHWEST HERALD

## Cellphone videos presented at Huntley murder trial

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WOODSTOCK – A series of short, grainy videos retrieved from Robert Signorile's cell phone were some of the last pieces of evidence presented by the State before resting its first-degree murder case against the Huntley man.

The videos were recorded a month before Michelle Mathieu's death on March 24, 2012.

In the clips, Signorile, 44, can be heard asking Mathieu how she got injured, saying "all those bruises are from alcohol, aren't they?"

"No, because you beat the s--t outta me," she responded.

Prosecutors also presented pictures pulled from Signorile's phone. The photos were taken hours before authorities were called to their Sun City Huntley home.

In one, Mathieu was face down on the floor and covered in a robe. It was the same position paramedics previously testified that they found her in.

An autopsy revealed that Mathieu died from a closed head injury caused by blunt force trauma. She had bruising on her body, fractured ribs, broken back, and a head trauma required emergency brain surgery.

Assistant Public Defender Angelo Mourelatos has said Mathieu was an alcoholic who suffered from seizures and delirium tremens, or shaking as a result of alcohol withdrawal. Her injuries could have been caused by a fall, he said.

Nichole LaVanway treated Mathieu in the emergency room at Sherman Hospital on March 18, 2012. She was the third doctor who testified that Mathieu's injuries were too severe as to be caused by a fall.

In earlier testimony, pathologist Dr. Larry Blum said that had Mathieu fallen, she would have had scrapes or injuries to her hands or knees. She did not.

Blum also said that Mathieu had fatty liver disease, which can affect reaction time, balance and

coordination.

The defense rested before calling a single witness. First attorneys agreed on certain facts, including an earlier trip Mathieu made to the emergency room. She was treated at Sherman Hospital on Oct. 29, 2011 when her blood alcohol level was recorded at a "critical" level, Mourelatos said.

The trial before McHenry County Judge Sharon Prather will continue this morning at 9 a.m. with closing arguments.