

Redacted

**STEVEN BRASHEAR**

19-3540

AUTOPSY REPORT

PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE # 191230167

JANUARY 2, 2020

19-3540

Re: STEVEN BRASHEAR

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**FINAL DIAGNOSES:**

- I. [REDACTED] skeletal remains recovered in a desert area
- II. Postmortem animal predation, see accompanying Forensic Anthropology Report
- III. [REDACTED] recovered from mountain lion scat, see accompanying Forensic Anthropology Report
- IV. [REDACTED] liver and cardiac muscle recovered from mountain lion stomach contents following lion necropsies

**OPINION:**

In consideration of the known circumstances surrounding this death, the available medical history, and the examination of the remains, the cause of death is ascribed to [REDACTED]

The manner of death [REDACTED]

Digitally signed by Gregory L. Hess, M.D. Forensic Pathologist

Date: 2020.02.05 14:55:08 -07'00'

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**DATE OF DEATH:** December 30, 2019    **TIME OF DEATH:** 1622 Hours

**DATE OF AUTOPSY:** January 2, 2020    **TIME OF AUTOPSY:** 0830 Hours

**PLACE OF AUTOPSY:** Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner  
2825 E District Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85714

**PERFORMED BY:** Gregory L. Hess, M.D.  
Forensic Pathologist

**WITNESSED BY:** Louie Goad, Kayla Hare  
Forensic Autopsy Technicians

Caitlin Vogelsberg, Ph.D.  
Forensic Anthropologist

Detectives Johnson and Dabb  
Pima County Sheriff's Office

Crime Scene Technician Brooks  
Pima County Sheriff's Office

Mark Frieberg  
Arizona Game & Fish

**HISTORY**

This initially unidentified, 66-year-old man, was found along a hiking trail in Pima Canyon by cadaver dogs.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs are taken during the autopsy by Gregory L. Hess, M.D., Forensic Pathologist and Crime Scene Technician Brooks, Pima County Sheriff's Office.

**IDENTIFICATION**

The body is identified by fingerprint comparison, dental comparison, surgical hardware and circumstantial information.

**CLOTHING**

No clothing accompanies the remains.

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**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION**

There is no evidence of medical intervention.

**POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION**

The remains are received in a series of white body bags with the outermost bag sealed with Pima County seal numbered 12330. The remains consist of various skeletal elements of an apparent adult human male and fragments of decomposed residual soft tissue such as skin and adipose tissue. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] dental implant is recovered on the surface. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A section of skin, likely from the back and buttocks is received with the remains. Some residual adipose, likely intestinal tissue and distal phalanx of a thumb are also received. The skin, adipose and intestinal tissues weigh 4940 grams in aggregate. There is significant postmortem animal activity. Evidence of postmortem insect activity includes fly larvae. See the accompanying Forensic Anthropology report for further information.

**MOUNTAIN LION STOMACH CONTENTS**

On January 3, 2020 Arizona Game and Fish representatives transported the stomach contents of three mountain lions obtained during the course of postmortem examinations performed on the lions in Phoenix on January 2, 2020. The stomach contents were examined at the PCOME on January 6, 2020 at approximately 0900 hours. Witnessing the examination were Detectives Johnson and Dabb, and Crime Scene Technician Brooks. Participating in the examination was Dr. Vogelsberg and myself. The stomach contents were separated into three bags labeled adult female – 01, sub-adult male – 02, and sub-adult male – 03. 01 bag contained [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and unidentifiable debris. 02 bag contained scant unidentifiable debris. 03 bag [REDACTED] including a portion of thumb, non-human skeletal remains and unidentifiable debris. A portion of [REDACTED] from 01 was sent for toxicology testing.

**TOXICOLOGY**

See separate toxicology report.



FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

Testing Report
Web: www.axisfortox.com
Phone: (317) 759-4TOX

Laboratory Case Number: 3185500
Subject's Name: NOT INDICATED, UNIDENTIFIED
Client Account: 13398 / FSC01-HESS
Agency Case #: 19-3540
Date of Death: 12/30/2019
Report To: Forensic Science Center
ATTN: EMR
2825 E. District Street
Tucson, AZ 85714
FX: 520-724-8610
Test Reason: Not given
Investigator: TH
Date Received: 01/07/2020
Date Reported: 01/23/2020

Laboratory Specimen No: 40834315
Date Collected: 01/06/2020 10:00
Container(s): 01:TISSUE Tissue,LIVER
Test(s): 70530T Drugs of Abuse Panel, Tissue

Table with 7 columns: Analyte Name, Qualitative Result, Quantitative Result, Reporting Limit, Reference Range, Units, Note. Rows include VOLATILES, Methanol, Ethanol, Acetone, Isopropanol, AMPHETAMINES, BARBITURATES, BENZODIAZEPINES, CANNABINOIDS, HALLUCINOGENS, MUSCLE RELAXANTS, OPIOID ANALGESICS, Oxycodone, and STIMULANTS.

Specimens will be kept for at least one year from the date of initial report.

The Specimen identified by the Laboratory Specimen Number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Laboratory Director

NOT INDICATED, UNIDENTIFIED

Case Reviewer

George S. Behonick, Ph.D., F-ABFT

Laboratory Case #:3185500

Print Date/Time:01/23/2020, 08:45

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Handwritten signature of George S. Behonick

This individual may not have performed any of the analytical work.

# FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY REPORT

PCOME case #: 19-3540  
PCOME Pathologist: Dr. Greg Hess  
Agency: Pima County Sheriff's Office  
Agency case #: 191230167

On December 30, 2019, human remains were located in a desert area off the Pima Canyon Trail near Oro Valley, AZ by Pima County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Search and Rescue Officers. Due to animal activity, mountain lions, only the trailhead was secured until the morning of December 31, 2019. At that time, Dr. Vollner and I were asked to respond to the scene of 19-3540 and assist in the continued search and recovery of the remains of the unidentified individual.

We arrived at the Pima Canyon Trailhead at approximately 0900 and were greeted by representatives from PCSO and Arizona Game and Fish. At approximately 0915 we followed the trail with an Arizona Game and Fish Officer and were met by another PCSO Officer at the junction to the scene, which was located off trail. At the scene were representatives from Oro Valley PD, PCSO, AZ Game and Fish, and PCSO Search and Rescue. PCSO Sgt. Jill Isley briefed us on the approximate timeline of when the presumed decedent was last seen and what directed them to this area. We were also given a brief overview of the scene, which was in the process of being documented by PCSO forensic technicians.

We assisted in locating additional fragments of human remains, identifying and documenting previously flagged remains, and surveying the scene for any further evidence pertinent to the recovery. During this process, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Most of the remains exhibited evidence of carnivore damage and exposure to the environmental conditions.

[REDACTED]

We departed the scene at approximately 1330 and PCSO coordinated transportation of the remains to the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) that same day.

At the PCOME, Dr. Greg Hess conducted a postmortem examination on January 2, 2020 and requested a more in-depth anthropological examination. From January 2 to 14, I examined the case with the primary purposes of aiding in the identification of the decedent, analyzing evidence of taphonomic processes, and assessing the remains for perimortem trauma.

Skeletal radiographs were taken by PCOME morgue staff and reviewed by me with no notable findings. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DEXIS digital radiographs and

photographs of the decedent's dentition were taken by me, as well as photographs pertaining to the anthropological analysis. Two osseous samples from the [REDACTED] were resected for potential DNA testing, with one released to PCSO Det. Johnson and one retained at the PCOME.

### **Recovery Overview of 19-3540**

#### ***Scene Recovery Inventory***

The majority of the remains associated with 19-3540 were recovered from the scene (see Skeletal Diagram). These elements included the [REDACTED] partial thumb. A fragment of the left scapula was later recovered by OVPD and transported to our office on January 3, 2020. Not present nor well represented were [REDACTED]. The thumb was processed and printed by morgue staff to aid in potential fingerprint analysis.

Also recovered from the scene were fragments of human remains from several mountain lion scat piles. The contents of the scat were examined at the scene with only pertinent materials collected for laboratory analysis. In total, 62 [REDACTED] were recovered from the scat, including both discernable and non-discernable boney elements. [REDACTED]

#### ***Mountain Lion Necropsy Recovery Inventory***

Arizona Game and Fish retained the stomach and upper gastrointestinal (GI) tract contents of the three mountain lions believed to be associated with the postmortem damage observed on this case during their necropsy procedures. The evidence was delivered to the PCOME on January 3, 2020 for our review.

#### ***Adult female***

The stomach contents of the adult female contained 38 boney fragments. Most appear to be nonhuman due to size, morphology, and the presence of large pieces of tissue containing nonhuman fur amongst the contents. Several of the rib fragments were possibly from an adult human, but due to fragmentation and plastic deformation it is difficult to determine.

#### ***Juvenile #1***

The stomach and upper GI contents from one of the juveniles contained [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Other fragments, including a possible nonhuman rib, were observed but not identifiable.

*Juvenile #2*

The material provided by AZ Game and Fish for the second juvenile did not contain any discernable human materials.

**Postmortem Damage Analysis of 19-3540**

*Taphonomic Alterations*

Extensive taphonomic damage in the form of animal scavenging was observed on the remains, consistent with a large carnivore. Every element exhibited some degree of damage, ranging from isolated puncture marks, to complete boney feature destruction or epiphyseal loss, to [REDACTED] Most of the damage was present on the epiphyseal ends of the long bones at joint articulations and in the thoracic region. Two large spiral fractures and three smaller associated fractures were present on the left [REDACTED] and resulted in five fragments of bone. Other elements present in multiple fragments included the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The dental enamel of teeth # 8, 9, 10, & 15 also exhibited probable postmortem breakage and loss; while portions of the porcelain-fused-to-metal crown on



tooth # 31 were potentially lost postmortem. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mandibular portions recovered were the [REDACTED]

#### **Dental Examination of 19-3540**

At the dental examination of 19-3540 (see Dental Chart), 17 teeth were present for observation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Teeth # 16, 29, and 30 were absent antemortem and tooth # 1 and 32 were present but impacted. The crowns of teeth # 8 – 10, and 15 had postmortem damage and loss. Composite restorations were present on several teeth including #'s (with surfaces): 2 (MO), 3 (O, MO), 14 (O, MO), and 31 (O). A porcelain-fused-to-metal crown (with some porcelain damage and loss) was also present on tooth # 31 in addition to a three-rooted endodontic treatment. While tooth # 29 was missing antemortem, a cylindrical, threaded, straight dental implant fixture was in its place.

#### **Comparative Dental Analysis**

On January 2, 2020, I received the antemortem dental records and panoramic dental radiograph for “Brashear, Steven” dated 11-08-19 from Dr. Craig Cochran of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. On January 3, I received digital DEXIS radiographs for “Brashear, Steve M” dated 9/10/19 from Dr. Brecheisen of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

On January 17, I compared these antemortem records of Mr. **Steven Brashear** to postmortem dental radiographs taken by me of 19-3540. The Comparison Table below highlights the consistencies and inconsistencies of my examination.

## COMPARISON TABLE

Tooth #	Antemortem Records of Steven Brashear	Consistency	Postmortem Exam of 19-3540
1	* Impacted	Yes	Present and impacted
2	+ Indiscernible	/	MO composite restoration
3	+ Possible restorations	Yes	O, MO composite restorations
4	Indiscernible	/	Natural
5	Indiscernible	/	Natural
6	Indiscernible	/	Natural
7	Indiscernible	/	Natural
8	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
9	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
10	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
11	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
12	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
13	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
14	+ 2 restorations	Yes	O, MO composite restoration
15	+ Natural	Yes	Natural
16	* Missing AM	Yes	Missing AM
17	*Impacted	/	N/A
18	*Crown	/	N/A
19	*Missing AM	/	N/A
20	*Implanted post	/	N/A
21	Indiscernible	/	N/A
22	Indiscernible	/	N/A
23	+ Natural	/	N/A
24	+ Natural	/	N/A
25	+ Natural	/	N/A
26	+ Natural	/	N/A
27	Indiscernible	/	N/A
28	* Implanted post	/	N/A
29	* Implanted post	Yes	Implanted post
30	+ Missing AM	Yes	Missing AM
31	+ Crown and endodontic treatments	/	PFM crown, 3 endodontic treatments, composite restoration (O)
32	* Impacted	Yes	Impacted

\* denotes panoramic radiograph used

+ denotes DEXIS radiographs used



Forensic Anthropology Report

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Dr. Hess

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**Skeletal Diagram**



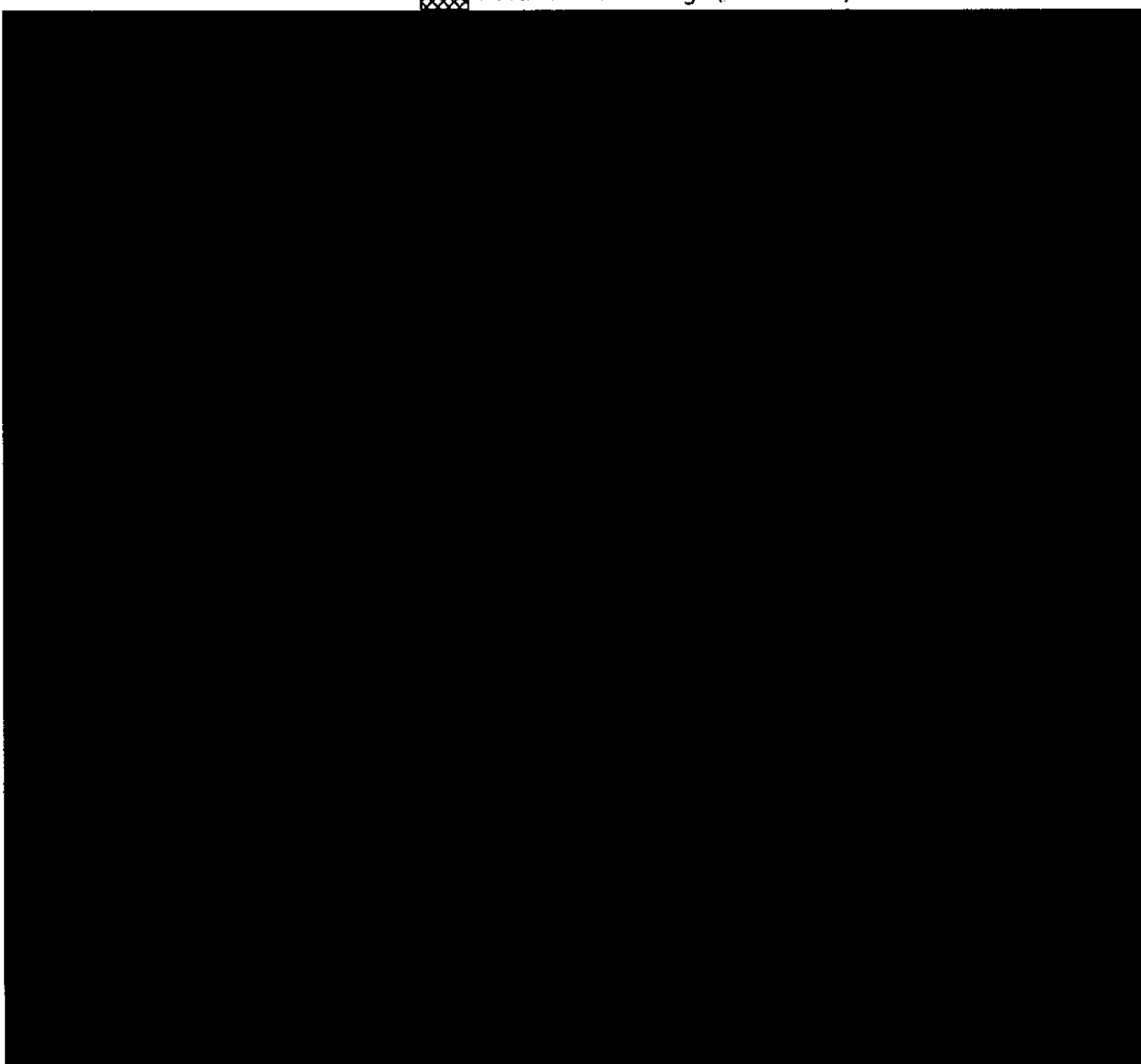
WH BIRKBY FORENSIC  
ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY  
PIMA COUNTY OFFICE  
OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER  
2825 E. DISTRICT ST  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85714

CASE: 19-3540

DATE: 10 January 2020

 Scene Recovered Elements

 Postmortem Damage (But Present)



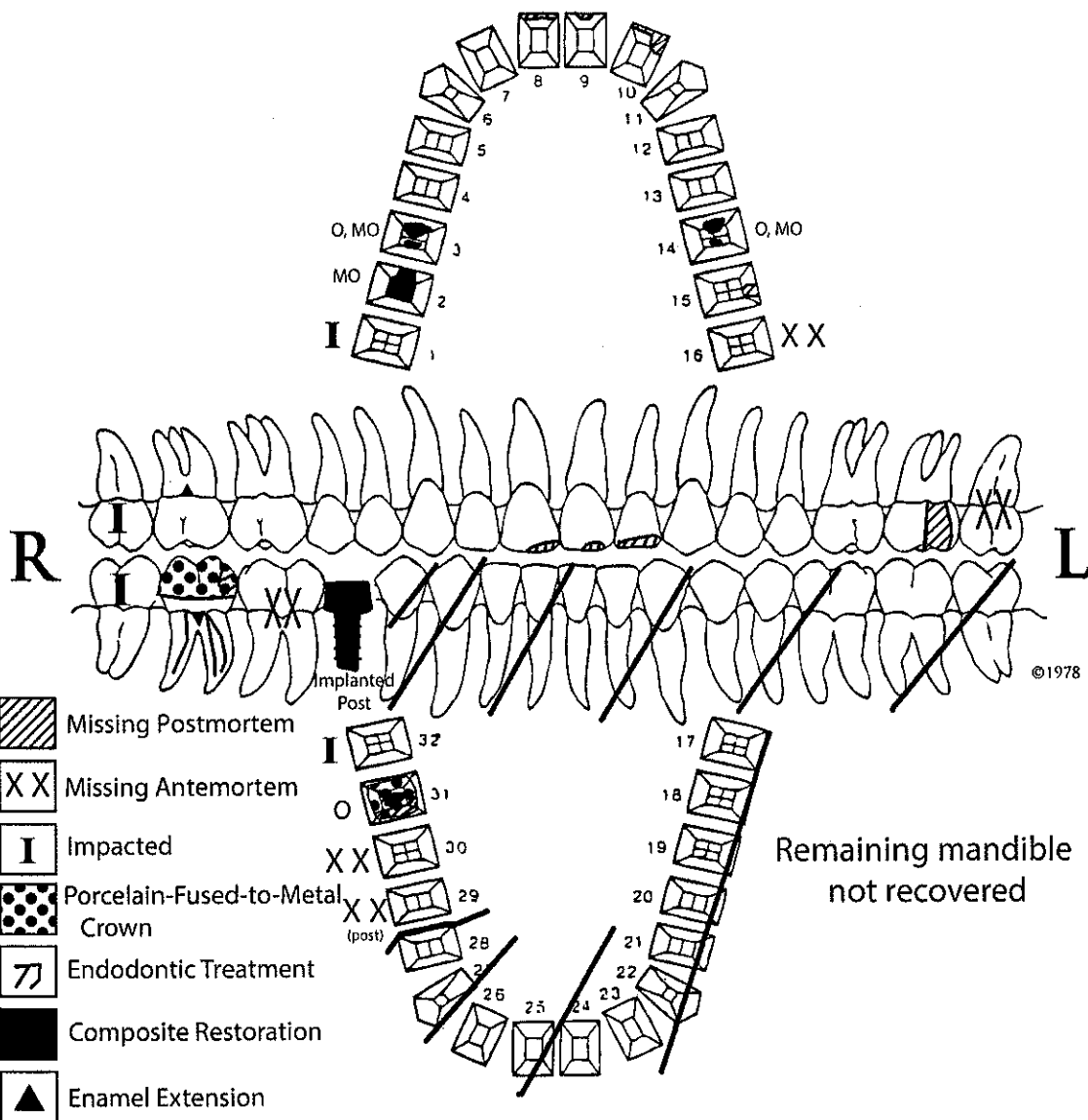
**Dental Diagram**



WH BIRKBY FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY  
 PIMA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
 FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER  
 2825 E. DISTRICT ST  
 TUCSON, ARIZONA 85714

CASE: 19-3540

DATE: 7 January 2020



Forensic Anthropology Report

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Dr. Hess

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CASE: 19-3540

DATE: 22 January 2020

Missing Postmortem

