



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
Raleigh, North Carolina 27899-3026

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY MEDICAL EXAMINER

OCME USE ONLY
19-00468
Case Number
JAN 07 2019
Date Received
<input type="checkbox"/> Res <input type="checkbox"/> NR

DECEDENT: Alexandra M Black
First Middle Last Suffix

RESIDENCE: New Palestine, IN Hancock
Number and Street City, State County

AGE: 22 SEX: Male Female Unknown

RACE: Asian Black Native American White Other

HISPANIC ORIGIN: Yes No Unknown

INFORMATION ABOUT OCCURRENCE				
	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS OR FACILITY	COUNTY
ONSET OF INJURY OR ILLNESS	12-30-18	11:15	676 E. Hughes Mill Rd. Burlington, N.C.	Caswell
DEATH	12-30-18	13:30	676 E. Hughes Mill Rd. Burlington, N.C.	Caswell
VIEW OF BODY	12-30-18	14:15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scene of Death <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Home <input type="checkbox"/> Morgue <input type="checkbox"/> Not Viewed <small>Facility Name</small>	
ME NOTIFIED	12-30-18	14:00	LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY: <u>Caswell Sheriff Department</u>	
LAST KNOWN TO BE ALIVE	12-30-18	11:15	OFFICER: <u>Lt. Eugene Riddick</u> TELEPHONE: <u>336-514-6056</u>	

AUTOPSY: None M.E. Authorized Non-M.E./Private-Facility Name: _____

BLOOD SAMPLE : Mailed by: ME after External Pathologist after Autopsy Reason not obtained: _____

IF CLINICAL ALCOHOL PERFORMED, RESULT: _____ Where: _____

PROBABLE CAUSE OF DEATH: Pending

1. Mauling By Animal
DUE TO _____
2. _____
DUE TO _____
3. _____
DUE TO _____
4. _____
DUE TO _____

This Section "OCME REVIEW ONLY"		SDC
1. _____ DUE TO _____		None
2. _____ DUE TO _____		AL
3. _____ DUE TO _____		Dictated
4. _____ DUE TO _____		COG
CONTRIBUTING CONDITIONS		
MANNER OF DEATH: Natural Accident Homicide Suicide Undetermined		
Reviewer: <u>dc</u>	Date: <u>2/9/19</u>	
Information in this block supersedes that contained in space at left.		

CONTRIBUTING CONDITIONS
MANNER OF DEATH:
 Natural Accident Homicide Suicide Pending

I hereby certify that after receiving notice of the death described herein I took charge of the body and made inquiries regarding the cause of death in accordance with Article 18 of Chapter 130A of the N.C. General Statutes and the information contained herein regarding such death is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kenneth W. Clanton Digitally signed by Kenneth W. Clanton
Date: 2018.03.15 09:51:59 -0400
Signature of Medical Examiner
Kenneth W. Clanton, N.C. Medical Examiner
Print Name of Medical Examiner

1/6/2019
Date

Alamance / Caswell
County of Appointment

M Black

MEDICAL HISTORY

- Alcoholism, Cancer, Depression, Diabetes, Hypertension, Ischemic Heart Disease, Seizure Disorder, Smoking, Substance Abuse, Other Physician City

MEANS OF DEATH

- VEHICLE: Type of vehicle associated with this decedent: ATV, Bicycle, Farm Equipment, Moped, Motorcycle, Passenger Car, Pickup Truck, Truck - more than 2 axle, SUV, Other
Position: Driver, Passenger, Pedestrian, Unknown
Devices: Seat Restraints, Air Bag, Helmet, Child Restraint, None, Unknown
Number of Units Involved:
GUN: Rifle-Caliber, Handgun-Caliber, Shotgun-Gauge, Unknown
INSTRUMENT: Asphyxial, Blunt, Sharp, Description
TOXIC AGENT(S) SUSPECTED: Alcohol, Others, Noted in Summary on Page 4
DROWNING: Bath tub, Lake, Ocean, Pond, Pool, River, Other
Life Preserver: Yes, No, Unknown Able to swim: Yes, No, Unknown
Activity
FIRE: Suspected Cause, Smoke Detector: Yes, No, Unknown
FALL: From: Sitting, Standing, Other, Approximate Distance (Feet)

ACTIVITY OF DECEDENT AND PREMISES

Work Related: Fatal Injury or Illness Occurred on a Job?: Yes, No, Unknown
If Yes, was employment: Primary Job, Secondary, Volunteer Work, Unknown
Name of this employing firm or agency: Conservators Center
Type of business or industry: Animal Sanctuary Decedent's occupation: Intern
*Activity on a job that is income generating regardless of age of decedent including farming or part time work, also include non-income generating volunteer or charity work.

Non-Work Related: (See Examples Below)
FATAL INJURY OR ILLNESS: Activity: Cleaning a Lion enclosure Unknown
Type of place: Specific location:
Examples-Activity: Running, filling hay bales, setting, typing letter, driving commercial truck, sleeping, bathing, watching television, fight, etc.
Type of place: House, apartment, trailer, school, jail, bar or tavern, hotel, restaurant, store, street, hospital, farm, highway, factory, etc.
Specific location: Bathroom, assembly line, kitchen, front yard, office, parking lot, emergency room, roadside, ambulance, etc.

DEATH: Type of place: Workplace/ Conservatory Center Specific location: Lion Enclosure
Death occurred while in custody: Yes, No, Unknown
If yes, was in: County Jail, State Prison, Federal Prison, Police Presence
Death occurred in State Operated Facility: Yes, No

DESCRIPTION OF BODY

CONDITION: Intact, Decomposed, Fragmented, Skeletonized, Embalmed, Charred, Prolonged Immersion
RIGOR: None, 1+, 2+, 3+
LIVOR: None, Anterior, Posterior, Lateral Color: None
LENGTH: 65 Estimate WEIGHT: 170 Estimate
BODY TEMPERATURE: Warm, Cool, Cold HAIR: Color: Dark, Facial
EYES: Color: dark Abnormalities: N/A
TEETH: LOWER: Natural, Dentures, None UPPER: Natural, Dentures, None
PHOTOGRAPHS: Yes, No RADIOGRAPHS: Yes, No
CLOTHING: Dark pull over, Green shirt, Black bra, Brown belt, Dark underwear, Dark Pants, Light sock, Brown boots Not Clothed
VALUABLES: Pocket Knife, 1 Key, 1 Watch No Valuables

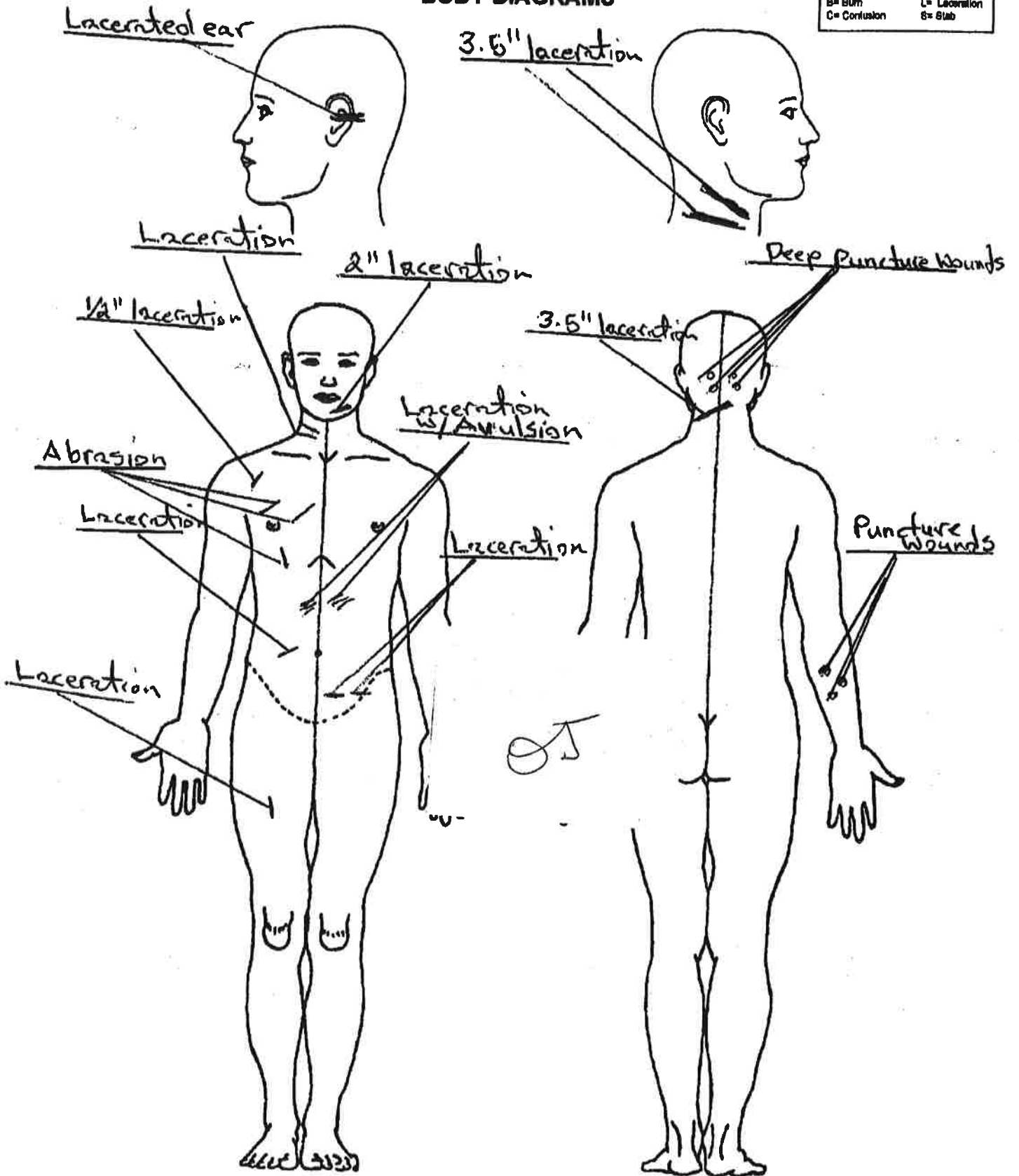
Alexandra

M

Black

BODY DIAGRAMS

Legend:	
A= Abrasion	G= Gunshot
B= Burn	L= Laceration
C= Contusion	S= Stab



Indicate nature, location and measurements of wounds and other lesions (scars, tattoos, medical therapy, etc.) on these diagrams (Not to Scale)

MEDICAL EXAMINER PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH*

On 30 Dec. 2018, I received a death notification from Captain Gaither Clayton - Caswell County EMS. Cpt. Clayton advised that a Lion attack had occurred at the Conservators Center. I responded to the scene and was greeted by detectives with the Caswell Co. Sheriff's Department. Lt. Eugene Riddick - Caswell Co. Sheriff's Department advised that earlier in the day that _____, and the decedent who was also an intern were in the lion enclosure at the Conservators Center for the purpose of cleaning the enclosure. Lt. Riddick advised that _____ reported that she separated the lion (name: Matthai) into a lock-out section of the enclosure, however _____ reported that a large play ball obstructed the gate that secures the lock-out section and that the lion was able to enter the lock-out section of the enclosure that _____, and the decedent were in. Lt. Riddick advised that _____ reported that the lion attacked the decedent in the lock-out section of the enclosure. Lt. Riddick advised that _____ reported that she tried to separate the lion from the decedent, but that the lion's foot struck the decedent's foot when the lion was leaving the lock-out section entering the enclosure, however before _____ could close the gate to the lock-out section the lion was able to bite the decedent's ankle and pull her into the enclosure where the lion continued to attack the decedent. Lt. Riddick advised fire department personnel attempted to use a firehose to spray water in an attempt to separate the lion from the decedent, but those attempts were unsuccessful. Lt. Riddick advised that the lion dragged the decedent around the enclosure by her neck for an extended amount of time. Lt. Riddick advised that multiple attempts to dart the lion to sedate him failed and his deputies had to shoot the lion 8 times with shotguns to euthanize the lion to ensure that the decedent's body could be safely recovered.

Upon my arrival, I entered the lion enclosure and noted the decedent's body was located on the left side of the enclosure and the lion's body was located approx. 30 ft away from the decedent on the right side of the enclosure. Initial assessment of the decedent revealed she died from multi-traumatic deep lacerations to the neck with significant blood loss.

I called OCME and reported the incident and was informed to secure the decedent's body and have it held in the morgue at Alamance Regional Medical Center (ARMC) until pathologist could meet the following morning to determine a case disposition. I authorized Caswell Co. EMS to transport the decedent to the morgue at ARMC.

****REPORT NARRATIVE CONTINUED TO FOLLOWING PAGE****

PURPOSE: To document the findings of a Medical Examiner investigation. *This is not an autopsy report. When completed, this form constitutes a report to the Chief Medical Examiner as required by G.S. 130A-385(a); within fourteen (14) days of Medical Examiner's examination.

PREPARATION: The investigating Medical Examiner completes all appropriate information, and signs the certification statement on the front of the form.

DISTRIBUTION: Mail original copy to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 3025 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-3025

DISPOSITION: This form is maintained by the Chief Medical Examiner in accordance with the current records disposition schedule published by the N.C. Division of Archives and History.

COPIES: Additional copies may be ordered from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Raleigh, NC 27699-3025

Electronic Investigation Report can be emailed to ocme.eIR@dhhs.nc.gov . You do not need to send via postal mail

MEDICAL EXAMINER PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH*******REPORT CONTINUED******

While on-scene, I examined the lion and his upper cuspid canine teeth measured 2.5 inches while his bottom cuspid canine teeth measured 1.5 inches. The lion's front claws when expressed measured 1.5 inches. The lion died from multiple shotgun wound to his upper torso.

After leaving the scene, I reported to the morgue at ARMC and completed my ME exam of the decedent. The traumatic injuries are list as follows:

- Decedent sustained puncture wounds to the right forearm indicative of defensive wounds/bites
- The decedent had numerous lacerations to her shoulders, torso, abdomen, and upper right thigh that matched claw wounds.
- There were no injuries to the lower extremities.
- The decedent sustained numerous deep puncture wounds to the occipital bone of the skull indicative of bite wounds.
- The decedent sustained a deep laceration to her right shoulder that was indicative of a bite wound.
- The decedent sustained a deep laceration to the anterior of her neck that upon examination lacerated the trachea and esophagus.
- The decedent sustained a deep laceration to the right lateral side of her neck that upon examination lacerated the external jugular vein and carotid artery.
- The decedent sustained a deep laceration to the posterior of her neck that fractured the spinal cord and upon palpation crepitus of the spinal cord was noted.

I later received a notification from OCME and was informed this case will be an ME External case. A complete ME exam of the decedent was completed, I obtained photos, and obtains blood and vitreous from the eyes and mailed same to OCME in Raleigh, NC. I signed the death certificate, and released the body for funeral services. Nothing follows.....

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