



NEWS RELEASE

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS EXHUMED **State Police Seeking Assistance from Public**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2021

BERRIEN COUNTY, MICH: The Michigan State Police (MSP) Niles Post, in coordination with New Buffalo Police Department, are again reaching out to their southern Lake Michigan coastal partners and residents requesting assistance to help with the identification of a recovered body. Thirty-three years ago, an unidentified body washed ashore on the New Buffalo breakwater of Lake Michigan on April 8, 1988.

The body is described as a middle-aged female, 40 to 60 years old, approximately 5 feet, 5 inches, 175 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. She is thought to have been wearing a wig or extensions (braided), which had been pulled from the scalp.

Clothing worn was described as a pair men's size 38 denim blue jeans with a wide double-ring type, striped cloth belt. Underneath the jeans, she was wearing red, white, and blue shorts with full-length panty hose. She was not wearing a top but did have on a sandy colored front-clasped, heavy-duty brassiere. She also was wearing black zippered, top ankle boots. There was no mention of socks or underwear present.

During the autopsy it was discovered this individual underwent a hysterectomy as she was missing her uterus, bilateral tubes, and ovaries. There's also a singular scar stretching from her pelvis to naval. No other scars, marks, or tattoos were present.

A forensic examination dental health indicated the overall presence of excellent dentistry. The examining doctor noted that this individual likely did not smoke nor drink alcohol excessively due to the lack of staining observed. This same doctor also believed this individual may have come from an upper socio-economic group based on the porcelain bridge replacing a front tooth. He indicated this type of work was considered experimental at the time and was probably performed within the preceding five years of her death.

An exhumation took place on November 9, 2021, to collect a DNA sample for CODIS entry and forensic genetic genealogy. Dental records are on file for comparison to known missing persons. Please disseminate this information to anyone who may be able to help identify this individual, as there is little known information about her.

During the exhumation, authorities were assisted by Western Michigan University WMed Anthropology Department, Hannah Friedlander, MSP Human Remains Analyst, and MSP Bomb Squad.

State and National Missing Persons References:

Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network – NIC# U298164075

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System – NAMUS# UP8228

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EX-201 (11/08)
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

If you have any information that could help identify this individual, please contact MSP Niles Post at 269.683.4411 or the New Buffalo Police Department 269.469.1500.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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