

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
DISTRICT NINE  
1401 Lucerne Terrace  
Orlando, Florida 32806-2014**

**REPORT OF EXAMINATION**

**DECEDENT:** CAYLEE M. ANTHONY      **CASE NUMBER:** ME 2008-001567

**MANNER OF DEATH:** HOMICIDE

**IDENTIFIED BY:** BASED ON NUCLEAR DNA COMPARISON DONE BY THE FBI  
LABORATORY (SKELETAL SPECIMEN FOR IDENTIFICATION: RIGHT TIBIA)

**AGE:** AGE AT DISAPPEARANCE; 2 YEARS, 10 MONTHS

ANTHROPOLOGIC ESTIMATION OF AGE, 3 YEARS PLUS/MINUS 6 MONTHS

**SEX:** FEMALE      **RACE:** WHITE      **BIRTH DATE:** August 9, 2005

**DATE OF DEATH:** (FOUND) 12-11-08

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**DATE/TIME OF EXAMINATION:** December 11, 2008, through December 23, 2008

**EXAMINATION AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS PERFORMED BY:**

*Jan C. Garavaglia M.D.*  
Jan C. Garavaglia, MD, Chief Medical Examiner

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Initial examination: Gary Lee Utz, MD, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Osteological examination: John Schultz, Ph.D., and Michael Warren, Ph.D., D, ABFA

Scene dispersal examination: John Schultz, Ph.D.

Toxicology examination: Bruce A. Goldberger, Ph.D., DABFT

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**CAUSE OF DEATH:**      **Homicide by undetermined means**

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**FINDINGS**

- I. Homicide by undetermined means
  - A. Completely skeletonized, approximately 3 year old child found in a wooded overgrown area
    - 1. Reportedly last seen alive 06-16-08
    - 2. Reported missing to law enforcement 07-15-08
  - B. Portion of skeletal remains intermixed with two plastic trash bags and a canvas laundry type bag
    - 1. Postmortem scattering of skeleton
      - a. Vertebrae found clustered in an area away from skull and bags
      - b. Clustering of other anatomic units were found in other locations
    - 2. Skeleton completely disarticulated with no soft tissue attached, and minimal adipocere found on several bones
    - 3. Small roots adhered to and growing into vertebral bodies
  - C. Several overlapping pieces of duct tape, over the anterior portion of the lower skull, including mandible and a portion of the maxilla
    - 1. Duct tape still attached to scalp hairs
    - 2. Mandible still in approximate anatomic position with no visible attached soft tissue beneath the duct tape
  - D. No antemortem trauma evident on the skeleton
  - E. Toxicology testing detected no drugs
    - 1. Specimens used for examination
      - a. Bone from left femur
      - b. Cancellous bone scrapings taken from the medullary cavity of the left femur
      - c. Hair removed for toxicology testing included both tied strands of hair and cut squares of hair from the hair mat
      - d. Soil removed from the hair mat
      - e. Saline washings of cranial cavity

**TOXICOLOGY ANALYSIS:** See laboratory report.

**CONCLUSION/OPINION:** As often is the case with a skeletonized individual, the exact cause of death cannot be determined with certainty. The manner of death is an opinion based on available information, including circumstances

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surrounding the death, information from the scene, and examination of the skeletal remains.

The circumstances of death are that this toddler child, with no known medical history, was not reported missing to authorities for approximately 30 days. This child's remains were eventually found in a wooded, overgrown area, discarded with two trash bags and a laundry bag. Although there is no trauma evident on the skeleton, there is duct tape over the lower facial region still attached to head hair. This duct tape was clearly placed prior to decomposition, keeping the mandible in place.

The clustering of vertebrae at the scene separate from the location of the bags and skull indicate animal activity occurring at this location after decomposition started, but before complete disarticulation of the skeleton. This indicates the body was put in this location prior to complete skeletonization. The roots growing into the vertebrae and bags indicate that the body was placed there months prior to being found. There is nothing inconsistent with the body being placed there soon after the date of being last seen alive.

It is, thus, my opinion that, although the cause of death cannot be determined with certainty, the manner of death is homicide.

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The examination of the remains of Caylee M. Anthony is performed pursuant to Florida Statute 406.11 by Jan C. Garavaglia, MD, Chief Medical Examiner, District Nine at the Orange County Medical Examiner facility, Orlando, Florida, from December 11, 2008, to conclusion December 23, 2008.

**IDENTIFICATION:** The skeletal remains were identified by nuclear DNA comparison done by the FBI DNA laboratory in Quantico, Virginia. The DNA from the skeleton was taken from the tibia.

**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:**

Initial examination and separation of items which were received Thursday evening, 12-11-08, were done by Dr. Gary Utz, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, and Dr. John Schultz, anthropologist, at the District 9 Medical Examiners Office. (See attached reports by Dr. Utz and Dr. Schultz.)

On 12-11-08, at the request of Dr. Jan C. Garavaglia, Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. John Schultz was asked to help assist with the recovery process at the scene.

On 12-12-08, at the request of law enforcement, duct tape was released to the FBI for analysis.

In addition, received from the Orange County Sheriff's Office from the scene were an ulna, radius, humerus, two femurs, a fibula, 15 ribs, a scapula, an ilium, two clavicles, two teeth, and two vertebrae, as well as an epiphysis and miscellaneous bones.

On 12-13-08, Dr. Jan Garavaglia, while at the scene, identified additional human bones received from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. They were numerous small bones, as well as a piece of pubic bone, a tibia, three more teeth, as well as approximately 20 either intact or portions of vertebrae, as well as three ribs and a fragment of rib.

Subsequent examination of skeleton and clothing was done at the office by Dr. Jan Garavaglia, Chief Medical Examiner, with anthropologist Dr. John Schultz, and Dr. Michael Warren, examining the skeleton. (See attached osteologic analysis.)

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On 12-14-08, two more vertebrae and several miscellaneous bones and an ilium were received from the scene.

On 12-15-08, one rib was received.

On 12-16-08, small hand bones were received.

On 12-17-08, a rib bone and bone fragments were received.

On 12-18-08, small miscellaneous bones were recovered and received. Dr. Goldberger and Dr. Garavaglia removed specimens for toxicologic examination, including strands of head hair measuring approximately 6 inches in length which were tied at the proximal end. These were teased from the mat of head hair which was present initially underneath the skull. Also removed for toxicologic testing was a portion of the left femur, as well as, scrapings of cancellous bone from the medullary cavity of the left femur. Soil was taken from the hair mat and small rectangular sections of hair mat were removed. Saline washing of the cranial cavity was also collected.

#### **EXAMINATION:**

In summary, the initial examination was done by Dr. Gary Lee Utz and Dr. John Schultz and included separation of items present within a white body bag. Contained within a shroud was an intermingled mix of two black plastic large trash bags with yellow circular handles, a canvas style laundry bag, dirt, green and dried vegetative material, insects, pupae, multiple cloth letters, remnants of stitching with an attached garment tag, and a piece of stretchy synthetic paper/cloth, as well as human bones. Some of the bones were recovered intermixed with this material and some from within at least one of the black trash bags.

Vegetative material still present in the shroud upon my examination are leaves, roots, and vines, as well as other green and dried vegetative material, a slight amount of dried pupae, sandy dirt, spiders, and a few scattered silverfish.

Also found with the material are 10 gnarled, irregular fragments of black plastic consistent with coming from black plastic trash bags. There is also a piece of lighter gray synthetic material which is less than 1 inch in size. There is also a

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small piece of yellow, thin plastic consistent with coming from a yellow handle of one of the black plastic trash bags.

Cloth Letters:

The cloth letters initially found within the vegetative material consist of four separate sets of lettering. One set of letters are 2 inches in height. They have pink, glittery substance on the anterior side of the letters and a pink discoloration on the back of the letters. The three letters of this size are "B," "I," and "G."

The second set of letters found in the leaf litter debris consists of seven letters, each measuring 1-1/2 inches in height. They also have the glittery appearance on the front and a pink discoloration on the back. They appear to spell the word, "T-R-O-U-B-L-E." The letters are not connected to each other.

The third set of letters are connected and consist of the word, "COMES." These letters are 3/4 inch in height, and also have the glittery appearance on the front and the pink discoloration on the back.

The fourth set of letters are also attached and form the word, "SMALL." They are 3/4 inches in height and also have a similar appearance, with the glitter on the front and pink on the back.

Stitching and Garment Tag:

The stitching found appears to be from the seams and hems of a shirt. The stitching is pink in color. In the region that would consist of stitching near the collar seam is a garment tag which states, "3 Toddler, 100% cotton, Made in El Salvador."

Laundry Bag:

The laundry bag received intermixed with the plastic bags has the appearance of an off-white to tan color. It has a stained canvas-texture type material on the outside with a smooth, coated material on the inside. There is an open loop at the top of the laundry bag, keeping it round, with what appears to be due to a metal ring which is seen on x-ray. This ring has a diameter of 16-1/2 inches. The height (depth) of the laundry bag is 24 inches. Also attached to the top of the laundry bag are long canvas strap loops which are approximately 21 inches in length each. There is no appreciable deterioration of the bag, which is still

intact. Stated on a tag attached to the top portion of the bag is "100% polyester." This tag also states that the brand name is "Whitney Design from Whitney Design, Inc." Also on this tag is a statement, "Today's Home Essential." There is fine silt and sand present in the bag, as well as dirt. There are thin roots growing on the outside of the bag which are intimately attached to the surface fabric. Present inside this laundry bag are two fragments of black, gnarled plastic consistent with the black trash bags which were found entangled with this laundry bag.

Trash Bags:

The two plastic bags that were intertwined with the laundry bag and the other assorted leaf and vegetative material consist of a cinched trash bag at least 36 inches in length (bag was left cinched), while the other is an untied bag approximately 40 inches in length. Both bags have a yellow plastic attached cinch tie. The one that is tied is tied with a single loop and two loose ends. Both bags have large defects, with gnarled, fragmented tearing with missing pieces of plastic from both bags. There are multiple roots extending through portions of the plastic bag. At least one of the roots is 10 cm in length and completely extends through the bag. The bags have a woody, outdoor odor with no smell of decomposition.

Blanket:

The baby blanket found intermixed with the plastic bags is discolored. It has stitching around its edges. Although the blanket is discolored and faded, a print of Winnie the Pooh is evident with Piglet riding on his back. The design is present on both sides of the blanket. Multiple fine roots appear to be growing completely through the blanket.

Diaper/Pull-Up Type Material:

Also received in the body bag mixed with this debris is a flap of somewhat rectangular shaped synthetic, stretchy, paper type material, measuring 6 x 6 inches. It has a stretchy, almost corrugated appearance. It is stained gray with attached rootlets at one end. Also attached to one of the corners of this rectangular shaped material is a purple colored, thin, stretchy ribbon type material. It appears slightly stretchier than the rectangular shaped synthetic material. This thin ribbon measures 9-1/2 inches in length and has a width of

7/8 inch, and has a purplish color. Overall this piece of material has the appearance of coming from a diaper or pull-up type item.

Received in a separate bag labeled, "1429 by pink flag" is a piece of rectangular shaped, flat material measuring 15 inches in length and 6-1/2 inches in width. On one side is an irregular paper-like material and on the opposite side is a smoother, slightly shinier appearance. Along one long edge there appears to be a hem. On the paper-appearing irregular side are blotches of color which are green and yellow, which appears to be an unidentifiable printed pattern on this material. Also attached are long, thin roots.

Shorts:

Received in a paper bag are partially decomposed multi-colored shorts which have pink, green and orange thin stripes and a pink button on the front of the waistband. The clothing tag has the brand, "Circo Brand." The tag also states, "100% cotton-24 months." There is an elastic waistband in the back of the shorts and a flat front. There are two pockets in the front and two pockets in the back. All of the pockets are empty. The shorts have multiple, irregular defects consistent with decomposition. They are also stained with dirt and slight vegetative material attached.

Skeletal Remains:

The skull was initially received in a separate paper bag with duct tape over the lower portion of the face, with the tape still attached to some of the scalp hair. A large portion of the scalp hair was in a mat under the skull. The mandible was still in its approximate anatomic location in spite of complete skeletonization. (See attached reports by Dr. Utz and Dr. Schultz.)

The remains were completely skeletonized, with no soft tissue, ligaments or tendons evident on any of the bones. Examination of the skeleton reveals an almost complete skeleton of a young child with only multiple small bones missing. The missing bones include small bones from the wrists and hands, as well as fingers and ankle, hyoid and patella. (See anthropology report.)

Examination of the skull reveals no evidence of antemortem trauma. The inner aspect of the cranial cavity is examined with light and reveals sandy dirt and an attached small incisor which is adhered to the inside of the calvarium with dirt. The mandible still has nine lower teeth attached with four teeth still present in

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the maxilla. All of the teeth that were lost during decomposition were subsequently found at the scene, except for one incisor.

The mat of hair which was initially found beneath the skull with strands of hair extending across the calvarium and face consists of medium brown hair. Some strands of hair could be teased from the mat and were at least 6 to 7 inches in length. There are numerous small defects within this mat of hair, presumably from insect activity, and there are multiple small roots growing through the mat of hair.

Examination of the rest of the skeleton also reveals no evidence of antemortem trauma. X-rays also revealed no evidence of antemortem trauma. Several pieces of the skeleton have postmortem animal activity evident. There is no soft tissue present on any of the bones. There is a minimal amount of adipocere present and the bones have sandy, silty dirt on their surfaces, except for the skull.

A small rectangular piece of bone had been removed from the right tibia for the FBI for DNA analysis, and a fragment of bone was removed from the left femur for toxicology testing.

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**INITIAL EXAMINATION:**

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**INITIAL EXAMINATION PERFORMED BY:**

  
Gary Lee Utz, MD, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

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Received Thursday, December 11, 2008, from the recovery site are the following items:

- 1) Body bag and shroud which contained garbage bags, a laundry bag, skeletal remains and debris
- 2) Paper bag with skull, attached hair, tape, and debris
- 3) Paper bag with clothing
- 4) Paper bag with fabric and leaf litter
- 5) Paper bags (4), each containing one long bone
- 6) Paper bag with 2 small bones

Item #1 consists of a jumbled mass of two disrupted black garbage bags with yellow handle ties, a cylindrical fabric laundry bag, leaf litter, vines, soil and debris. This material is received in a white shroud within a white body bag. Upon opening the shroud, a long bone is noted resting on the surface of the garbage bags. The entire contents of the shroud are photographed. Radiographs are obtained. The bags and associated leaf litter and debris with remains are soaked. The garbage bags and fabric bag are separated from the plant material. Nine (9) separately identifiable bones are recovered (2 additional small bones are later recovered after drying of the plant material). Also recovered are multiple fabric letters, remains of an apparent shirt, a roughly rectangular fragment of fabric, and a blanket. Each of these items is examined, photographed and allowed to dry. Later examination follows. Also in the bag are multiple live insects and puparia. The remaining contents and the bags themselves are allowed to dry and are examined later.

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Item #2 consists of a paper bag containing a juvenile human skull, matted hair, tape and leaf litter. The skull is removed from the bag, photographed, and x-rays are obtained.

The calvarium is totally exposed and there is only a very small amount of adherent soil and leaf litter. No soft tissue remains. Multiple strands of medium brown straight hair extend over the calvarium in the sagittal and coronal planes. They are attached to a nest-like mass of matted hair which covers the basilar and lower posterior skull, including inferior portions of the mandible. Plant roots have grown into and over the surface of the hair mat. Attached to the hair and overlying the posterior mandible and maxilla are several pieces of overlapping gray tape. The tape has an open weave fabric backing and is delaminating. The tape is removed and allowed to dry. The matted hair is removed from the skull. Plant roots permeate the mat and there are multiple small roughly circular, irregular defects in the mat, suggestive of insect predation artifact. The hair is permitted to dry pending additional examination. Preliminary examination of the skull reveals no evidence of trauma.

Item #3 consists of a paper bag containing striped short pants. The attached tag indicates "Size 24 months." There is a small amount of soil and leaf litter attached to the pants. They are allowed to dry pending later examination.

Item #4 consists of a paper bag with a roughly rectangular paper-like fragment of fabric. There is a small amount of associated soil and leaf litter. The fabric is allowed to dry pending later examination.

Items #5 and #6 consist of 5 paper bags, 4 of which contain human long bones, and the 5<sup>th</sup> two small bones.

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