



MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE



CASE NUMBER: ME26-0514 **DECEDENT:** Nolan Xavier Wells
AGE: 18 YOA **SEX:** Male
Received from: JACKSON COUNTY
Date of Examination: 07/07/2026

REPORT OF POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION

I. History that the decedent was found face down in the water at Horn Island.

II. Subcutaneous scalp contusions, bilateral superior nuchal line area.

III. No other external or internal injuries.

IV. No internal organ abnormalities contributing to death.

V. Toxicology (chest decomposition fluid):

- A. Ethanol 270 mg/dL.
- B. Cannabinoids presumptive positive *.
- C. Nicotine and cotinine presumptive positive.
- D. Caffeine presumptive positive.

* Comment: Confirmatory testing did not reveal cannabinoids in the decomposition fluid.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Undetermined

MANNER OF DEATH: Undetermined

The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Staci Turner, MD
State Medical Examiner

08/17/2026

Date:

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DECEDENT: Nolan Xavier Wells

A postmortem examination was performed on the body of Nolan Wells at the Mississippi State Medical Examiner's Office in Biloxi, Mississippi on 07/07/2026 by Staci Turner, MD, State Medical Examiner

Length:	75 inches
Weight:	200 pounds
Appearance:	Decomposed with diffuse skin slippage, bloating, and gray-green skin discoloration
Rigor:	Absent
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Cloudy
Ears:	Normally formed
Nose/Mouth:	Atraumatic
Teeth:	Natural
Facial Hair:	None
Abdomen:	Flat, firm
Back:	Atraumatic
Extremities:	Well-Developed
Genitalia:	Adult male
Clothing:	Swim trunks, underwear
Identified by:	Dental
Postmortem Radiographs:	X-rays of the head and neck reveal no visible injuries of the skull or cervical spine. X-rays of the hyoid bone show unfused greater horns without fractures.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

Two dark red-purple subcutaneous scalp contusions overlie the superior nuchal line area of the posterior skull. Each measures approximately 2 inches. There are no external scalp injuries. No fractures are in the skull. No hemorrhages overlie the brain. No hemorrhages are within the partially liquified brain parenchyma.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

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Brain: 1,342 grams Markedly softened and partially liquified.

Neck: The larynx and hyoid bone are without hemorrhages or fractures. The anterior cervical spine is unremarkable.

Heart: 268 grams

Lungs:

Right: 402 grams

Left: 353 grams No fluid or debris is within the airways.

GI Tract: Unremarkable. The stomach is empty.

Liver: 835 grams

Spleen: 92 grams

Kidneys:

Right: 110 grams

Left: 111 grams

Pancreas: Unremarkable.

Appendix: Present

Body Cavities: Each chest cavity contains approximately 100 mL of red-brown decomposition fluid.

The internal organs (unless otherwise specified) are free of injury and significant natural disease or pathologic change.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

This 18 year old male was found face down in the water at Horn Island. Because the circumstances surrounding this death are unknown, the cause and manner of death are best classified as undetermined.