



GRAND TRAVERSE BAND TRIBAL POLICE

2605 N. West Bayshore Dr., Peshawbestown, MI 49682

Dispatch (231) 534-7777 · Fax (231) 534-7639



POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING MAN

The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police Department is providing an update regarding the human remains located on August 8, 2026, on Grand Traverse Band reservation property in Peshawbestown.

After an extensive investigation, on August 11, 2026, an autopsy and forensic examination was conducted. During that examination, the individual was positively identified as Samson Nisswih Raphael, who had previously been reported missing on May 31st of this year. The investigation showed no indication of foul play that was associated with Samson's death. Furthermore, there were no indications to suggest the public was ever at any risk.

Out of respect for his family, no additional information regarding the circumstances surrounding Samson's death is being released.

The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police Department recognizes the significant public interest surrounding this case. We ask that the public respect the privacy of Samson's family and rely on information released through official sources rather than speculation or unverified information.

The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police Department would like to thank the agencies that assisted with this investigation, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michigan State Police, Michigan State Police Crime Lab, and Grand Traverse Band Fire Department. Their assistance, professionalism, and cooperation throughout this investigation are greatly appreciated.

The Grand Traverse Band Tribal Police Department extends its condolences to Samson's family and friends during this difficult time.

No further information is being released at this time. If there is any information that the public would like to share involving this matter please call the GTBPD police department 231-534-7777