

Man charged with murder of wife who disappeared 22 years ago.

23-year-old Bonnie Haim disappeared in January 1993, declared dead in 1999.

By Marques White, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter

Updated: August 25, 2015, 6:43:36 PM EDT

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office investigators needed one more piece of the puzzle to solve the 1993 disappearance of 23-year-old Bonnie Haim. They got it with the December 2014 discovery of her remains in the backyard of the home where she lived with her husband and son 22 years ago.

Her husband is now charged with her murder.

Michael Haim was arrested Monday in Waynesville, North Carolina, where he has been living with family, police said.

"That was the piece of the puzzle that we really felt we were missing," JSO Director Mike Bruno said of identifying Bonnie Haim's remains. "There are so many unsolved or cold cases that are in this same situation of we just need that one clue, that one tip, that one piece. Here, we were able to get it, and to start that piece of closure."

Bonnie Haim's son, Aaron Haim, was 3 years old when she disappeared. Police said he was the primary witness in the case. In April 2005, Aaron Haim, who now goes by Aaron Fraser, won a \$26.3 million wrongful death lawsuit against his father. At the time, his mother's remains had not been found.

That changed in December 2014 when workers digging out an old pool in the backyard of the Dolphin Avenue home where Haim lived 22 years ago found what appeared to be a skull. Investigators spent at least two days sifting through the dirt for more evidence.

The man who now lives in the couple's former home said he became curious when his dog would always bark in one part of the yard.

Weeks later, **the remains were confirmed to be human. This month, they were confirmed to be Bonnie Haim.**

"We'd love to have (the DNA confirmation) faster, but we definitely want to have it right," Bruno said.

An arrest warrant was issued for Michael Haim on Aug. 21, and he was arrested with the help of the U.S. Marshals Service on Aug. 24. He will be extradited back to Jacksonville to face the murder charge.

"We are now at the point where we believe we can seek justice with a murder charge and we intend to

proceed on what -- as you are probably aware -- will be circumstantial case, but one that we will work diligently to prosecute in court," State Attorney Angela Corey said Tuesday. "I think this shows that our cold case unit is just a vital part of what we do in law enforcement and they will always have the support of the State Attorney's Office."

Corey said it was gratifying to have a cold case that she had been part of for more than 20 years solved. She said she worked the case with former JSO Detective Robert Hinson, who is now an investigator with the State Attorney's Office.

She said when leads would run out, Hinson would put notes in her office, encouraging her not to forget the case.

"I'm very thankful to be able to be here and see this come to a conclusion," Hinson said Tuesday. "We used every resource we could to try to bring it to conclusion. I've always been proud to be part of the Sheriff's Office, and I'm just very thankful and grateful that the good Lord let me see this to its fruition."

On Jan. 6, 1993, Bonnie Haim was supposed to meet her husband's aunt at her home. She called to say she would not be coming. Neither Bonnie nor Michael showed up for work the next day. Bonnie Haim was never seen again.

Michael Haim said his wife had driven away after the couple had an argument the previous night. He said he did not know her whereabouts, but he had searched for her in vain.

On Jan. 7, 1993, the missing woman's purse was found behind the Red Roof Inn near Jacksonville International Airport, about 5 miles from her residence. Her car was discovered in a long-term parking lot of the airport. She was declared dead in 1999.

Michael Haim was a person of interest in his wife's disappearance from the beginning, but he was never charged until Aug. 21. Police seized the Dolphin Avenue home from him as part of a civil judgment and it was sold at auction years later.

Michael Haim has maintained his innocence, but he was found liable for Bonnie's death in a civil suit and he was ordered to pay \$15.3 million to Aaron Haim and \$11 million to Bonnie Haim's estate.

In the final civil judgment, Circuit Judge Brad Stetson wrote: "There is clear and convincing evidence Michael Haim murdered his wife."

Michael Haim also lost custody of Aaron in 1999.

Despite being 3 years old at the time his mother disappeared, Aaron Haim's story about what happened has never changed.

His aunt, Elizabeth Peak, who is Bonnie Haim's older sister, said that from the beginning, Aaron said that Michael Haim "shot mommy."

Investigators said that Aaron Haim told police where

Detectives found Michael Haim's shoe print in Bonnie Haim's abandoned car. They found unexplained sand and plant mix on Michael Haim's shoes and found a shotgun in a nearby river, after Aaron Haim told them where to look.

"This case involved just hundreds of individual circumstances, spanning over the last 20 something years that we will put together and put in front of a jury to seek justice for Bonnie Haim and for her son, Aaron," Corey said.

It's unclear how quickly Michael Haim will be extradited to Duval County. Corey said the murder trial could get underway within a year.

Source:

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/man-whose-wife-disappeared-22-years-ago-arrested/34903264>

Man whose wife disappeared 22 years charged with murder.

23-year-old Bonnie Haim disappeared in January 1993, declared dead in 1999.

By Marques White, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter

Updated: 8-25-2015, 11:13 am EST

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Michael Haim, the husband of a woman who disappeared in 1993, was arrested in North Carolina by the U.S. Marshals Service and charged with murder.

Police confirmed that remains found last December in the backyard of a home were human remains. That home is where Bonnie Haim lived with her husband and son when she disappeared 22 years ago.

The sister of the then 23-year-old woman said at the time she hoped the find would give police evidence they need to file charges against Bonnie's husband. It appears that that has happened.

In December 2014, workers digging out an old pool in the backyard of the Dolphin Avenue home where Haim lived 22 years ago found what appeared to be a skull. Investigators spent at least two days sifting through the dirt for more evidence.

Weeks later, the skull was confirmed to be human.

Michael Haim was a person of interest in his wife's disappearance, but was never charged. Police seized the home from him as part of a civil judgment and it was sold at auction years later.

On Jan. 6, 1993, Bonnie Haim was supposed to meet her husband's aunt at her home. She called to say she would not be coming. Neither Bonnie nor Michael showed up for work the next day. Bonnie Haim was never seen again.

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On Jan. 7, 1993, the missing woman's purse was found behind the Red Roof Inn near Jacksonville International Airport, about 5 miles from her residence. Her car was discovered in a long-term parking lot of the airport. She was declared dead in 1999.

Michael Haim has maintained his innocence. In September 2004, he was found liable for Bonnie's death in a civil suit and he was ordered to pay \$15.3 million to the couple's son, Aaron, who was 3 years old at the time, and \$11 million to Bonnie Haim's estate.

In the final civil judgement, Circuit Judge Brad Stetson wrote: "There is clear and convincing evidence Michael Haim murdered his wife."

Michael Haim also lost custody of Aaron in 1999. He later moved to Tennessee. He has not returned a message left for him to comment.

The son is now in his mid-20s and lives in Jacksonville and his aunt said he's grown up to be a great young man. He is aware of the developments of the case but won't comment unless the remains are confirmed to be his mother's.

Peak said the family knew there were major problems in the marriage.

"We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Mike did it," Peak said. "There were a log of problems. He was very abusive."

Back in 1993, then Sheriff Jim McMillian confirmed that Michael Haim was the prime suspect.

"We have witness information that indicates him. We have some physical evidence," McMillian said.

After two decades of hoping for closure every time bones were found in the area, Peak hopes this will finally be the break investigators need to close the case.

Source:

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/man-whose-wife-disappeared-22-years-ago-arrested/34903264>

Remains found at missing woman's home are human.

23-year-old Bonnie Haim disappeared in January 1993, declared dead in 1999.

By Adrienne Moore

Updated: December 30, 2014, 11:51:19 PM EST

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- A woman vanished 21 years ago and her body has never been found. There was a possible break Tuesday in the highly publicized cold case of missing 23-year-old Bonnie Haim.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office confirmed the remains found in the backyard of Haim's former home are in fact human remains.

It will take significantly longer to confirm the identity of the remains, if it is even possible.

The sister of the woman last seen in January 1993 hopes it is eventually determined to be Bonnie's remains so the family can get some closure and it might give police evidence they need to file charges against Bonnie's husband.

"I think it is all going to be all better soon," said Elizabeth Peak. "We will have closure."

Workers on Sunday digging out an old pool in the backyard of a home where 23-year-old Haim lived 21 years ago found what appeared to be a skull. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detectives were dispatched to the home on Dolphin Avenue on Dec. 14 after the workers called 911.

Investigators spent at least two days sifting through the dirt for more evidence.

"The (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) is going to compare what they have to the records of Bonnie Haim, and if they have any form of dental records or something was saved of hers from the time period," said local attorney Gene Nichols.

Michael Haim was a person of interest in his wife's disappearance but never charged. Police seized the home from him as part of a civil judgment and it was sold at auction years later.

On Jan. 6, 1993, Bonnie Haim was supposed to meet her husband's aunt at her home. She called to say she would not be coming. Neither Bonnie nor Michael showed up for work the next day. Bonnie Haim was never seen again.

Michael Haim said his wife had driven away after the couple had an argument the previous night. He said he did not know her whereabouts, but he had searched for her in vain.

On Jan. 7, 1993, the missing woman's purse was found behind the Red Roof Inn near Jacksonville International Airport, about 5 miles from her residence. Bonnie Haim's car was discovered in a long-term parking lot of the airport. She was declared dead in 1999.

Michael Haim has maintained his innocence. In September 2004, he was found liable for Bonnie's death in a civil suit and he was ordered to pay \$15.3 million to the couple's son, Aaron, who was 3 years old at the time, and \$11 million to Bonnie Haim's estate.

In the final civil judgement, Circuit Judge Brad Stetson wrote: "There is clear and convincing evidence Michael Haim murdered his wife."

Michael Haim also lost custody of Aaron in 1999. He later moved to Tennessee. He has not returned a message left for him to comment.

The son is now in his mid 20s. He still lives in Jacksonville and his aunt said he's grown up to be a great young man. He is aware of the developments of the case but won't comment unless the remains are confirmed to be his mother's.

Peak said the family knew there were major problems in the marriage.

"We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Mike did it," Peak said. "There were a log of problems. He was very abusive."

Back in 1993, then Sheriff Jim McMillian confirmed that Michael Haim was the prime suspect.

"We have witness information that indicates him. We have some physical evidence," McMillian said.

After two decades of hoping for closure every time bones were found in the area, Peaks hopes this will finally be the break investigators need to close the case.

"If it is Bonnie's body, then yes, I think that Angela Corey will certainly prosecute to the fullest extent," Peak said. "We want to see closure; we want to see an end. The fact that her murderer is out there running around free doesn't sit well. We want this done."

Nichols said if the remains are in fact Bonnie Haim's, the State Attorney's Office will likely move fast in prosecuting the case. He said the bigger question is whether police searched the backyard during the initial investigation, and if not, why?

"I'd be surprised if we find out that a warrant was overlooked," Nichols said. "My guess is it never rose to the level of being able to get a warrant to get in the backyard or it was never looked at in the first place."

Nichols said if the remains are human, one key will be determining how the person died.

"If they can make that determination, some blunt-force trauma or something to lead us all to

believe that the person died from some kind of unnatural cause, then it should give Ms. Corey enough to at least take the case to the grand jury," Nichols said.

News4Jax followed up with Joey Jenrette, who rented the Haims' home for a few years in the late 90s. He said his dog, Bandit, constantly barked and clawed at the area around the pool deck and shed in the backyard. Jenrette told News4Jax that this new information shows him that bandit was trying to send him a message.

"They say that dogs got like a sense. They can sense when people are supposed to have a stroke, or a seizure. I just wish I would have acted on it now. I just always had that gut feeling," said Jenrette.

With a hurry-up-and-wait game for results from forensic experts, Jenrette said he has a wish for the Haim family.

"I hope that they'll have peace and closure," he said.

Nichols said it's unlikely that Michael Haim has been detained at this point, but that doesn't mean he isn't being watched by the State Attorney's Office. He said Angela Corey's office is in touch with local law enforcement and is tracking his whereabouts.

Source:

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/remains-found-at-missing-woman-home-are-human/30464092>



Missing woman cold case in Florida has ties to East Tennessee.

By Casey Wheelless

Updated: 6:13 PM, December 17, 2014

SEYMOUR, TN -- It's a cold case out of Florida with ties to East Tennessee.

22 years-ago a Jacksonville woman went missing.

Now, police have found possible remains and the number one suspect has been living in Seymour.

Bonnie Haim disappeared in 1993. At the time, police considered her husband, Michael Haim a top suspect.

But, he has never been charged with anything.

Court documents showed he had an address in Seymour, so we went there to find out more.

Someone was at the home Wednesday afternoon, but didn't want to come to the door.

Neighbors tell us it is his parents home.

"I asked if Michael was married. They said yes his wife was missing and they never found her body," Starla Moulton said.

Moulton has lived across the street from the family for more than a decade.

"I didn't ask a lot of questions but it's in the back of your mind, if they moved here and never found a body, but yet he's still married is he not curious where his wife is or why is he not looking for her?" asked Moulton.

She says the Haim's have been nothing but good neighbors.

"He will be the first one to help you and that kind of thing. The whole family is just sweethearts."

This week there was a break in the cold case after construction workers found a fragment of a skull in a backyard. The same house Bonnie lived in before she disappeared, which is why her family believes she's been found.

"Our first thought is, is it her?" says her sister Liz Peak.

Police have sent the remains off to be identified

"It's creepy, when they told me that about his wife. I lock my door at night but who doesn't these days," says Moulton.

So why did the Haim family move from Florida to East Tennessee after Bonnie's disappearance?

"They said they wanted a fresh start. They liked the mountains."

Bonnie's sister hopes investigators give her the answers.

"That's our hope. We want to close out this chapter and move on. There have been quite a few bones and bodies found over the past 22 years? this one. It fits," says Peak.

And until authorities find Bonnie, we won't know if anyone will face charges.

Our CBS affiliate in Jacksonville tells us Bonnie and Michael had a three-year-old son when she disappeared, he is not in contact with his father and we couldn't locate him either.

Neighbors believe he has moved out of the state.

Source:

<http://www.local8now.com/news/headlines/Missing-woman-in-Florida-has-ties-to-East-Tennessee-286134041.html>



Remains of long-missing Florida woman found amid excavation?

By Crimesider Staff

December 16, 2014, 9:13 AM

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Possible remains have been discovered at the former Jacksonville home of a mother who vanished in 1993, according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and CBS affiliate WJAX.

WJAX reports excavation workers uncovered what appeared to be a piece of a human skull. It hasn't been determined whether the remains are human or what kind of bone was uncovered, and a medical examiner is being called in to investigate, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office spokesman Chris Hancock told 48 Hours' Crimesider.

WJAX reported the discovery was made in the backyard of the former home of Bonnie Haim,

who disappeared at age 23 on Jan. 6, 1993.

Police responded to the now-vacant home about 12:30 p.m. Sunday, where workers excavating a pool made the discovery, reports the Florida Times-Union. Haim reportedly lived there with her husband Michael Haim and the couple's son, who was 3 at the time of the disappearance.

Haim's car was discovered at the Jacksonville International Airport the day she disappeared, and her purse containing money and credit cards was found in the trash at a Northside motel, reports the paper.

Husband Michael Haim was called a suspect in the case, but never charged, according to the paper. The man told police his wife had been depressed and talking about leaving for several days, and vanished after the two had an argument, reports the paper.

In 2004, a judge reportedly ruled Michael Haim liable in her death.

Bonnie Haim's father, Robert Pasciuto, told the paper he thought it was unlikely the bone, if human, belonged to his daughter.

"That swimming pool was there for several years before my daughter disappeared," Pasciuto told the paper. "So, if the bones or whatever, were found underneath the pool when they were removing the pool, deconstructing it today, then the body of the animal or person that it came from was put in there before the pool was built."

Source:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/remains-of-long-missing-florida-woman-bonnie-haim-found-amid-excavation/>

Possible skull found at home where missing woman lived.

23-year-old Bonnie Haim disappeared in January 1993; declared dead in 1999.

By Francesca Amiker, Reporter

Updated: December 15, 2014, 4:37:20 AM EST

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Police will continue to dig up the backyard of a home on the Northside after construction workers, doing renovation work on Sunday afternoon, found what appeared to be a skull at a home where a woman who disappeared 21 years ago lived.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detectives have been at the home on Dolphin Avenue since about 1 p.m., when the workers called 911.

Homicide Sgt. Dan Janson said forensics experts are on their way to Jacksonville to determine if the bone is human or animal. He said that process could take up to three days.

Neighbors told News4Jax the house was once the home of Bonnie Haim, a 23-year-old mother last seen on Jan. 7, 1993. Police would not confirm if it was the former Haim home, but the Duval County Property Appraiser's website shows it was owned by her husband, Michael Haim.

JSO did say Michael Haim was a person of interest in his wife's disappearance, but never charged. He no longer owns the home.

Janson said investigators would likely be at the house for the next few days.

"We don't want to miss anything," said Janson. "It takes some time. It may take us up to two or three days because we're very methodical about going across the surface of the ground. Then we'll go another inch down at another inch down just to make sure we don't miss anything if this is a burial site."

Neighbors say they've seen construction crews for a few days.

"Never know what takes place with the old homeowners. If it's a murder, police will figure it out," said Delano Brown.

Rhonda Delozier lived just four houses down from Bonnie Haim and said she remembers the day she went missing.

"(It was) very scary," she said. "They dug up the ditch behind us. (They) found some clothing."

After Bonnie Haim's disappearance, her family said she planned to leave her husband, and even opened a separate banking account. Family members say when Michael found out he was furious and forced her to close the account, which she did.

On Jan. 6, 1993, Bonnie was suppose to meet Michael's aunt at her home. She called to say she would not be coming. Neither Bonnie nor Michael showed up for work the next day. Bonnie Haim was never seen again.

Michael Haim told his wife she had driven away after the couple had an argument the previous night. He said he did not know her whereabouts, but he had searched for her in vain.

On Jan. 7, 1993, the missing woman's purse was found behind the Red Roof Inn near Jacksonville International Airport, about 5 miles from her residence. Bonnie Haim's car was discovered in a long-term parking lot of the airport. She was declared dead in 1999.

Michael Haim has maintained his innocence. In September 2004, he was found liable for Bonnie's death in a civil suit and he was ordered to pay \$15.3 million to the couple's son, Aaron, who was 3 years old at the time, and \$1 million to Bonnie Haim's estate. Michael did not appear in court to defend himself

against the lawsuit. He also lost custody of Aaron in 1999.

Police said State Attorney Angela Corey went by the scene Sunday afternoon. They said they will not contact Bonnie's family until they have the definite results from the forensic anthropologist.

Source:

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/police-investigation-at-the-home-of-a-missing-person-case-from-the-90s/30230154>

Doe Network Case 776DFFL