



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Remains found in western Crawford County identified

CRAWFORD COUNTY – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), and the Crawford County Sheriff's Office have identified the skeletal remains of a man found on Aug. 10 north of K-126 on 80th Street in western Crawford County.

The deceased man has been identified as 19-year-old Joseph Ruttgen. On July 1, Ruttgen was reported missing by a family member to the Erie Police Department. He was last seen in Parsons, Kan.

Assisting in the identification of Ruttgen was forensic anthropologist, Dr. Alexandra Klaes, and forensic scientists from the KBI forensic science laboratory. Due to the condition of the remains, DNA was used to positively identify Ruttgen.

Ruttgen was the victim of a homicide. Anyone with information about the circumstances of his murder is asked to contact the KBI at 1-800-KS-CRIME, or the Parsons Police Department at 620-421-7060. Tips can also be submitted online at <https://www.kbi.ks.gov/sar>.

The investigation is ongoing.

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-Initial release included from Crawford County Sheriff's Office



SHERIFF

CRAWFORD COUNTY

MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Death Investigation
Date: August 11, 2020

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On August 10, 2020, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office received a call about possible decomposed human remains discovered by an individual out for a walk. Deputies and Detectives responded to the area north of K-126 on 80th Street, which is located in the western portion of Crawford County. It was confirmed that it was indeed human skeletal remains. Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) was notified and requested to assist with the case. Agents with the KBI as well members of their Crime Scene Response Team (CSRT) responded and processed the scene. The cause of death and identification are unknown at this time. The remains were collected and transported to Frontier Forensics in Kansas City for examination.

Sheriff Danny Smith