

# The murder of Adrian Cross

**CASE FILE: Adrian Cross**

**Case ID: HV-26-0417**

**Classification: Homicide**

*-Question*

# Case Summary

- On April 17, 2026, the body of Adrian Cross was discovered in a roadside drainage ditch on the outskirts of Havenridge. Initial observations suggest the body may have been deliberately positioned; however, due to scene contamination, the original arrangement cannot be confirmed.
- Responding officer (Probationary Constable) deviated from standard protocol by attempting resuscitation and moving the body from its original location prior to forensic documentation. This action has compromised key physical evidence.

# The Midnight Chronical

22 APR 2026

## Beloved Citizen Found Dead? Is this an accident or a murder

By THE QUESTION

Haveridge The quiet of Havenridge was broken late Tuesday night when the body of a well-known local resident, Adrian Cross, was discovered in his home under circumstances authorities have described as "suspicious."

Cross, 38, was widely regarded as a model citizen. A volunteer at community shelters and a frequent donor to local causes, he was known to many as a dependable presence—someone who showed up when it mattered. Neighbors recall a man who kept to himself, yet never hesitated to offer help.

"He was the kind of person you don't question," said one resident, who asked not to be named. "That's why this feels so wrong."

Police have not yet released the exact cause of death, but confirmed that an investigation is underway. Officials declined to comment on whether there were signs of forced entry or if Cross had reported any prior threats.

Despite the outward normalcy of his life, investigators are now working to piece together his final hours. Sources close to the inquiry suggest that certain details may complicate the narrative many had come to accept.

"There's always more beneath the surface," one officer remarked. "We're looking at everything."

Friends and acquaintances have expressed shock at the news, describing Cross as "steady," "kind," and "without enemies." Yet, as the investigation unfolds, some are beginning to question how well anyone can truly

know another person.

For now, Haveridge mourns a man it believed it understood. Whether that belief holds true remains to be seen.

Authorities urge anyone with information to come forward as the case develops.



Reuters

## International Moose Count Underway

By BOB O'BOBSTON

The UN-sponsored International Moose Census got off to a flying start today with hopes for an increase in the worldwide moose population compared to last year's disappointing figures. Among the traditional early reporters were Egypt, returning figures of six moose, a twenty percent increase on 2011's figures of five, and Uruguay whose moose population remains stable at eleven.

According to Robbie McRobson, head of the UN Moose Preservation Council, worldwide moose numbers are expected to grow markedly on last year due to the traditional moose strongholds of Canada and the United States, with the larger developing moose ecologies also poised to make gains. The largest percentage increase in moose will likely come from China", says McRobson,

The Chinese government has invested heavily in moose infrastructure over the past decade, and their commitment to macrofauna is beginning to pay dividends". Since 2004 China has expanded moose pasture from 1.5% of arable land to nearly 3.648% and moose numbers are expected to rise to 60,000 making China a net moose exporter for the first time. This is good news for neighbouring Mongolia, a barren moose-wasteland whose inhabitants nonetheless have an insatiable desire for the creatures. The increase in Beijing-Ulaanbaatar trade is anticipated to relieve pressure on the relatively strained Russian suppliers, but increase Mongolia's imbalance of trade with its larger neighbour.

Historically the only competitor to China in the far eastern moose markets has been Singapore but the tiny island nation is set to report a net loss, expecting a decrease of more than five percent on last year's 50,000 moose counted. The head of Singapore's Agency for Agriculture, Jing-Feng Lau, explained to an incredulous Singaporean parliament yesterday that bad weather had contributed to this season's poor showing, most notably when a cargo of 150 moose were swept out into the Indian ocean in a monsoon.

Yet again the global demand for moose will be met largely by the US and Canada. The recession-hit States is taking comfort in its moose growth figures with gross production expected to break 700,000 and net exports to grow by 2%. The worldwide dominance of Canada shows no signs of abating though with this year's moose population expected to match last year's record figures of one hundred million billion.

Europe's rise as an international moose power will slow slightly this year as a response to the European Union's move towards standardising the European moose. Stringent quality controls are holding back the development of the eastern European populations compared to last year

when they contributed significantly to Europe's strong growth figures. Norway, which is not an EU member but has observer status, strengthened in numbers relative to the Euro area with numbers of Norwegian moose, known locally as elk, expected to rise for the tenth consecutive year, particularly thanks to a strong showing in the last quarter.

As moose season reaches its close, researchers world wide are turning to science in an attempt to boost next year's figures. NASA stunned the scientific community today with the announcement of their discovery that the moon is significantly smaller than previously believed. This conclusion, which is the conclusion of a ten-year collaborative project, will have profound implications for the moose community as the gravitational field is now known to be of the right strength to support moose in orbit.

According to John Johnson, head of the NASA Moon Sizing Experiment the first delivery of moose into low moon orbit could be achieved as early as the third quarter of next year. The technology to nurture moose in space is available now, he said, "all that is needed is political will".

## Granny wins World Wrestling Championship

By ROY MCROYSTON

Records were smashed in Nicaragua's World Wrestling Championship last night as 78-year-old Maud Johnson, grandmother of five,

became the first woman for fifty-six years, and the oldest competitor ever, to claim the gold medal. She walked away with her million dollar share of the prize money, runner up Tommy Thompson from Nigeria taking half a million, and third place New Zealander John Smith receiving a warm handshake from the umpire.

Having started the tournament a rank outsider she began to impress in her second match when she took US number three Ron Ronson by surprise and subdued him in twenty seconds with her unique move that has been dubbed "Maud's Death Grip". The injection of a new wrestling style into the tournament was welcomed by spectators and Johnson's pre- and post-match breakdances have proved entertaining to fans. However, she was still not expected to win in round three last Wednesday, facing off against title-holder Paulo "Spine-snapper" Lutti, of Vatican City. Underdog Johnson was soon showing her worth with stamina and agility easily matching last year's winner. Lutti's experience paid off initially as he took the first two rounds, but as Johnson became more confident her superior strength came to the fore and she clawed back two rounds to take the contest into a decider. By this time Lutti's body language indicated that he already felt overawed by the pretender to his crown, and the newcomer took advantage of this to engage a mutual headlock which she held for three hours until the Vatican man retired from exhaustion.

The next seven matches were barely a contest as the news of Johnson's supremacy overawed all her opponents who became too intimidated to fight properly.

Nigerian Tommy Thompson is also a relative newcomer to the wrestling scene, but with his 210lb frame he was expected to fare well against Johnson who weighs in at only 90lb. However Johnson's lithe and slender, some would say scrawny, figure belies her agility and strength which she demonstrated by holding Thompson above her head several times during the bout and throwing him into the crowd once. With the scores tied at 2-2 time ran out and the contest went to a panel of judges to be assessed. They awarded Thompson a C grade whilst Johnson received an A, becoming the first grandmother to ever win the title.

The new champion explained her success as the result of a strict training regimen instituted by her coach and grandson five-year-old Sammy Johnson. "I've been drinking ten raw eggs for breakfast every morning, sprinting fifty miles a day and carrying my daughter's car to the end of the road and back whenever I felt my arthritis was OK" she said. Sammy added "I always knew she could do it. She's my grandma." The youngster is also her manager and has reportedly arranged sponsorship deals which will dwarf her one million dollar prize fund. Her new contract with headband designer Nike alone is set to earn her fourteen billion dollars over the next year. She will also be promoting Tupperware, Halliburton, the Republic of Macedonia, and Gala Bingo. Her continued participation in the sport is not assured as she wants to spend more time on her bungee-jumping business, and knitting. Everyone here at the World Championships, however, hopes for her return.

# Condition of the Scene

- Body located in shallow roadside ditch
- Signs indicate *possible staging or symbolic placement*
- No confirmed drag marks due to scene disturbance
- Environmental conditions: dry ground, low visibility at time of discovery

*Note-* Original body position unknown due to officer interference.

# Cause of Death (Preliminary)

- Gunshot wounds to lower extremities (12-gauge shotgun)
- Injuries consistent with intent to incapacitate rather than immediately kill
- High concentration of Sodium Pentothal present in bloodstream

# Witness & Reporting Notes

- Initial caller has been placed under a **non-disclosure agreement (NDA)** pending investigation
- Caller statement withheld from general record

# Victim Background (Restricted Access)

Adrian Cross is identified as a **classified government operative**.

This information is restricted to high-ranking law enforcement and authorized personnel only.

# Suspects

- Mariana Cross (Adrian's wife)
- Alex Cross (Adrian's brother)
- Marcus Vale (Accountant)
- Christian Dépêche (Local bartender)

# Mariana Cross

- Neighbors' reported shouting and fighting between the couple but this is yet to be confirmed
- During interrogation, she accidentally said that she suspected Adrian was cheating on her. There are no records or evidence proving this claim
- Neighbors' said tensions began between the couple recently.
- Landline records show repeated late-night calls to an unidentified number. The identity of the caller and the receiver remain unknown.

# Alex Cross

- He is a forensics analyst, though he is not allowed to work on this case
- They have not talked for years over a family dispute
- An anonymous tip suggests that it was regarding money and honor.
- Mariana was his ex girlfriend

# Marcus Vale

- An investigative journalist and an accountant
- He said he saw weird money transactions in Adrian's account
- He did attempt to trace them, though if something of relevance was found, it is unknown
- He owns an hunting rifle

# Christian Dépêche

- A local bartender
- His family owns a chemist and weapon shop
- He does not drink or do drugs or any kind
- He had a fight with Adrian when he punched another customer. An Incident report was made for both of them
- They decided to end the fight outside of court. Their decision remains unknown
- He is known for his morals and strict values against corruption

# Evidence

- Marcus often goes to shooting ranges and takes gun for multiple days. The owner of the range knows him.
- Alex says Christian knew Adrian from school but they separated after Adrian started drugs. He is not sure though.
- Mariana is a real estate agent and works with the company that leased the firing range to the owner
- Mariana often visits Christian's bar and stays for hours. Says Christian is like a brother to her
- Marcus is known to use psychedelics
- Adrian is a teacher by profession (He is a classified government official but this is his cover up job)