

Official Death Toll Reaches 200 — Cause Still Undefined

By *H. Stensvard, Editor-in-Chief*

Unified Command confirmed this morning that 200 residents have died since containment began.

The number was delivered in a tightly controlled press briefing. No questions allowed.

Cause of death was listed as:

“Complications following systemic collapse.”

Not infection.

Not organ failure.

Not contamination.

Complications.

Medical examiners privately confirm the same pattern in all 200 cases:

- Severe pain episode
- Sudden loss of consciousness
- Rapid onset internal stress markers
- External botanical rupture
- Cardiac arrest within hours

Autopsy results are deeply unsettling.

Internal organs show no disease.

No pathogens.

No structural abnormalities.

The body appears medically viable — except for the rupture sites.

One pathologist reportedly stated:

“If I removed the growth, I’d call them healthy.”

The growth cannot be removed.

The Pain Phase — “It Feels Like Something Is Pushing Through My Bones”

By *Marla Keene*

Survivors of pre-emergence episodes describe a pattern that has now become terrifyingly familiar:

The pain begins deep.

Not surface-level.

Not muscular.

Deep.

Patients describe it as:

- Pressure building beneath ribs
- Heat running along veins
- A sensation of something expanding inside marrow

Many collapse within minutes.

Some never regain consciousness before rupture.

Those who survive the rupture often stabilize.

Those who do not — deteriorate rapidly.

Doctors confirm the 200 deaths share one trait:

The pain spike was longer.

More intense.

As if something failed to break through properly.

Morgue Capacity Reached — Temporary Storage Activated

By *Marla Keene*

With 200 confirmed deaths, morgue capacity at St. Agnes has been exceeded.

Temporary refrigeration units now operate behind the hospital under armed guard.

Families are not permitted to view remains.

Official explanation: contamination control.

Unofficially, several staff members report visible post-mortem growth continuing for hours after death.

In three cases, fungal caps reportedly expanded even after cardiac cessation.

This has not been confirmed by Unified Command.

“Healthy Until the End” — Diagnostic Breakdown Continues

By *DeeDee Robertson*

All 200 deceased individuals passed standard metabolic panels before death.

Normal white blood cell counts.

Normal oxygen saturation.

Normal blood chemistry.

Normal brain scans.

Even during collapse, many displayed stable vitals until moments before cardiac arrest.

No bacterial growth in tissue samples.

No viral markers.

No toxins.

No radiation exposure.

No genetic anomaly.

One ICU nurse described the final moments of a patient:

“He was screaming, then he went quiet. His heart just... stopped. There was nothing medically wrong.”

Machines say healthy.

Bodies disagree.

Military Presence Intensifies Near High-Mortality Zones

By Marla Keene

Mapping data shows death clusters concentrated near:

- Warehouse 9C corridor
- Elm district
- Southern lake perimeter

Military patrol density in these zones has doubled. Residents report armored transport vehicles moving at night without lights. One witness stated:

“They’re not just guarding. They’re collecting.”

Collecting what remains unclear.

Public Panic Rising — Pharmacies Cleared Out

By DeeDee Robertson

Painkillers, sedatives, and sleep aids have vanished from shelves.

Residents fear the pain phase more than the death itself.

Emergency hotlines report record call volume from citizens experiencing phantom muscle twitches. Doctors warn stress does not cause rupture. But fear is amplifying symptoms.

The psychological strain is compounding physical danger.

Checkpoint Soldier Confirmed Dead

By Staff Reporter

The National Guard soldier who collapsed at Elm checkpoint has died. Official cause: cardiac arrest following systemic stress.

Internal sources confirm he experienced severe rupture along both arms prior to death.

Military morale is deteriorating. Several units have requested reassignment.

Requests denied

Editorial — Two Hundred

By H. Stensvard

Two hundred is not a statistic.

Two hundred is names.

Families.

Voicemails left unanswered.

Medical charts stamped “normal.”

Two hundred people whose bodies failed without failing.

The government does not have a pathogen.

They do not have a diagnosis.

They do not have a cure.

They have a perimeter.

And the perimeter is holding a city that is dying in ways medicine cannot detect.

We do not have a word for this.

But we have a number now.

Two hundred.

Lake Dimond — Bodies Discovered Rooted to Shore

By DeeDee Robertson

Four deceased individuals were found along Lake Dimond shoreline.

All had experienced rupture along lower limbs.

Vine structures extended into soil beneath their feet.

Autopsy revealed no drowning.

No infection.

No internal cause.

Just rupture and cardiac failure.

The lake perimeter is now restricted.

Citizens Attempt Prayer Vigils — Dispersed

By Marla Keene

Small public gatherings for candlelight vigils were dispersed by military units citing containment violation.

Two organizers reportedly collapsed during dispersal. Both survived.

Growth occurred later that evening.

Staff Reporter Detained — Conflicting Reports Emerge DeeDee Robertson Arrested Amid Curfew Enforcement Seen Around Town — Officials Deny Release

By H. Stensvard, Editor-in-Chief

Late Tuesday evening, staff reporter DeeDee Robertson was taken into custody by Gate City Police and military personnel after allegedly violating curfew and interfering with an active containment zone investigation.

The arrest occurred near the southern rail corridor shortly after 9:30 PM — more than two hours past the newly enforced 7:00 PM citywide lockdown.

Multiple witnesses confirm Robertson was documenting activity near Warehouse 9C when she was approached by uniformed officers. According to those present, she refused to leave, stating:

“If no one is allowed to ask questions, then this isn’t containment — it’s silence.”

Video of the interaction briefly appeared online before being removed.

Charges Unknown — Bail Denied

As of this publication, formal charges against Robertson have not been publicly disclosed.

A Unified Command spokesperson released the following statement:

“An individual was detained for repeated curfew violations and obstruction of authorized operations. The individual remains under confinement pending review.”

Court records do not list a filed charge.

Public defender requests have reportedly been delayed under emergency jurisdiction rules.

Multiple legal analysts contacted by Goosebumps confirm that under full martial law authority, civilians may be held without immediate bail hearing if deemed a “containment disruption risk.”

Robertson has not been permitted outside contact.

Her family has not been allowed visitation.

The Sightings

And yet.

Since her detention, at least seven independent reports have surfaced claiming DeeDee Robertson has been seen around Gate City.

Sightings include:

- Outside St. Agnes Memorial late Wednesday night
- Walking along Broadview just before curfew siren
- Standing near a sidewalk fracture on Maple Street
- Speaking briefly with residents near Lake Dimond

One witness, who asked not to be named, stated:

“She asked if I’d heard the humming. Then she just walked off.”

Another resident claims they saw her near an emergency transport vehicle shortly after midnight.

Each report has one detail in common:

She appeared calm.

No restraints.

No escort.

No visible injury.

Official Denial

Unified Command has categorically denied all reports of her release.

In a rare follow-up clarification, military officials stated:

“Ms. Robertson has been under continuous confinement since her detainment. She has not been released, transferred, or transported without supervision.”

When asked whether body cam footage could verify her confinement status, the spokesperson declined comment.

Police and military officials insist any sightings are misidentifications or stress-induced confusion. No explanation was provided for how multiple independent sightings describe the same clothing she wore at the time of arrest.

Escalating Pressure on the Press

Robertson had been one of the most persistent investigative voices covering:

- Mortality clusters
- Military relocation activity
- Hospital inconsistencies
- Warehouse 9C

Sources confirm she had filed three unpublished pieces prior to arrest.

Those drafts are currently inaccessible.

The newsroom has received no warrant documentation for seizure of her materials.

A Pattern?

This is not the first time a public figure has been “seen” after official containment.

But it is the first involving a member of the press.

If she is confined — who is being seen?

If she is being seen — who is confined?

Officials urge residents not to circulate “destabilizing rumors.”

Residents continue to report sightings.

Editor’s Note

As Editor-in-Chief, I can confirm the following:

DeeDee Robertson was detained.

We have not been granted access to her.

Court records still show no formal charges filed.

However —

Since her confinement, this paper has received seven separate article drafts submitted through our encrypted drop system.

Each is written in DeeDee’s voice.

Each references details not publicly reported.

Each was timestamped after her official arrest.

Metadata traces show local origin.

Unified Command insists she has remained under confinement the entire time.

We have verified at least two details within the submitted drafts that were not published anywhere else.

We cannot confirm whether DeeDee Robertson authored these pieces.

We cannot confirm how they were transmitted.

We can confirm this:

The articles are continuing.

And they are asking harder questions than before.

— **H.S.**

An Unusual Detail — The Cat

Adding to the confusion surrounding the reported sightings, multiple residents have described a small brown cat appearing near several of the alleged DeeDee Robertson locations.

The animal has been described consistently:

- Medium build
- Torn left ear tip
- Green eyes
- Moving calmly through restricted zones

What makes the reports unusual is not the cat itself — strays are common — but what it is reportedly wearing.

At least four witnesses independently describe the cat carrying what appears to be a miniature backpack.

One resident near Maple Street stated:

“It was tiny. Like doll-sized. But it had straps. And there was something sticking out of it.”

Another witness outside St. Agnes claimed the cat paused near the hospital barricade before sitting and grooming itself. Attached to the backpack was what appeared to be a small spiral-bound notepad secured under a thin elastic band.

The notepad, according to the witness, looked “almost identical” to the one DeeDee Robertson routinely carried during field reporting.

Gate City Police declined to comment when asked whether any confiscated personal belongings had gone missing from evidence storage.

Military personnel have not acknowledged the animal’s presence.

Curiously, surveillance cameras positioned near three of the reported cat sightings show brief signal interference at the moment the animal crosses frame.

In each clip, the footage pixelates for approximately half a second.

Animal control has not reported capturing any cat matching the description.

Surge Hours Identified — Clergy Called to Hospitals in Dusk to Midnight By H. Stensvard

Data analysis reveals fatal cases peak between 7:00 PM and 12:30 AM. Curfew was moved to 7:00 PM three days prior to the largest mortality spike. Officials refuse to confirm connection.

Clergy Called to Hospitals in Increasing Numbers By Marla Keene

Hospital chaplains report unprecedented demand. Families are not permitted bedside access in final hours. Last words are often spoken to medical staff. Common reported phrase before death: “It hurts less now.”

Structural Growth Accelerates After Fatalities

By DeeDee Robertson

In three districts, significant pavement rupture occurred within hours of confirmed deaths nearby. Engineers note timing correlation but deny causation. Mapping overlays are beginning to show pattern convergence toward rail corridor.

Arena Owner Shows Visible Growth — Remains Standing Field Hospital Director Displays Vines Without Collapse Nikolaos Zenaos Appears Physically Stronger Despite Infection

By DeeDee Robertson

When Gate City Arena was converted into a field hospital three weeks ago, its owner, Olympic gold medalist *Nikolaos Zenaos*, became one of the most visible figures in the city's containment effort. With St. Agnes Memorial operating beyond capacity and morgue overflow units deployed, the Arena was transformed into a triage and stabilization center for patients awaiting transport, monitoring, or isolation.

Zenaos has been present daily.
And now, visibly, he is affected.

Visible Growth — No Recorded Collapse

Multiple medical volunteers confirmed this week that vine-like structures are emerging along Zenaos's forearms and across the left side of his torso.

Unlike the 200 confirmed fatalities — and hundreds of collapse cases — Zenaos has never experienced a documented pain episode.

No public collapse.

No loss of consciousness.

No ambulance transport.

Instead, the growth appears stabilized.

Thin, green filament structures trace beneath and through his skin, visible even beneath rolled sleeves. In several photographs taken from inside the Arena, small fibrous tendrils can be seen emerging near his collarbone.

Yet medical monitoring shows:

- Normal heart rate
- Normal oxygen levels
- Normal inflammatory markers
- No detectable internal abnormality

One field medic stated:

"By every machine we have, he's fine."

A Different Presentation

Witnesses inside the Arena describe a clear difference between Zenaos and most infected patients. Those who collapse report excruciating pain prior to rupture.

Zenaos does not appear to experience visible agony.

Instead, those working closely with him describe something else.

He looks exhausted.

Not physically.

Emotionally.

"He doesn't sleep much," said one volunteer nurse. "But he doesn't look weak. He looks... heavier."

He has personally assisted in moving stretchers, lifting patients, and reinforcing supply barricades.

Multiple volunteers confirm that he appears stronger than expected — even accounting for his athletic history.

One orderly commented:

"I've seen him carry two adult patients at once. That shouldn't be possible."

There are no performance-enhancing indicators in his bloodwork.

No muscle inflammation.

No abnormal hormone levels.

And yet, he does not appear diminished.

Arena as Sanctuary — And Site of Loss

Since conversion to a field hospital, Gate City Arena has processed over 600 patients.

Many stabilized.

Many transferred.

Some did not survive.

Of the 200 confirmed deaths citywide, 47 passed through the Arena facility before cardiac arrest. Several staff members report that Zenaos insists on being present during final moments whenever possible.

One volunteer described the scene:

“He stays with them. Holds their hand. Even after.”

He reportedly remains in the ward long after staff rotations change.

Witnesses describe him standing silently near the rows of cots after lights dim.

Not humming.

Not speaking.

Just watching.

Stronger, But Not Unaffected

Despite the absence of visible collapse symptoms, those close to him insist he is not untouched by the crisis.

He appears withdrawn.

Speaks less.

Maintains eye contact longer than before.

A volunteer who has worked three consecutive weeks at the Arena stated:

“He looks like he’s carrying something that isn’t physical.”

When asked directly about his condition during a brief hallway encounter, Zenaos reportedly responded:

“I’m still standing.”

He declined further comment.

Officials Remain Silent

Unified Command has not commented on Zenaos’s condition.

When asked whether his case represents a variant presentation of the phenomenon, a spokesperson replied:

“Individual cases vary.”

No additional clarification was offered.

Medical staff privately acknowledge that his presentation does not match the known fatality pattern.

He has visible growth.

No collapse.

No escalating pain.

No organ stress.

The vines remain.

He remains upright.

A Pattern — Or Anomaly?

Data analysts inside the Arena confirm at least three additional patients have shown reduced pain during emergence.

All three had been present at the Arena facility for extended periods prior to rupture.

None have died.

No explanation exists.

The Question No One Is Asking Publicly

If 200 residents have died following pain-induced collapse...

If machines read healthy until the moment of failure...

If most infected grow weaker...

Why does one of the most visible infected individuals appear stronger?

And why is he still on his feet while others fall?

Outside the Arena

Last night, as the 11:11 siren sounded across Gate City, Zenaos was seen standing at the Arena's main entrance.

He did not move when the tone began.

Several volunteers reported feeling an unusual stillness settle across the field hospital floor.

He remained there until the siren ended.

Then returned inside.

The vines along his forearms were visible under the floodlights.

They did not move.

He did.

Internal Government Memo Leaks — "We Are Not Containing It" By Staff Investigation

A redacted internal memo obtained by Goosebumps includes the following line: "Mortality increase suggests systemic spread independent of contact vector."

Translation:

It is spreading.

They do not know how.

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