Cold case summaries

Case 1: 1973 — Two game commission officers found the partially decomposed remains of a female near Fort Indiantown Gap, Union Township, Lebanon County. The victim was nude and covered with green plastic tarps and leaves. She is estimated to be a white female between 13 to 19 years of age. A facial reconstruction and chemical isotope testing have been completed.

Case 2: 2013 — A tree-trimming crew discovered a human skull near the West Manchester Mall in West Manchester Township, York County. This led to the discovery of additional skeletonized remains. It is estimated that the remains are that of a white, Hispanic or Asian male, between 30 to 50 years of age. It is estimated that he had been at that location approximately 3 to 10 years prior. A facial reconstruction and chemical isotope analysis have been completed.

Case 3: 1994 — Workers doing a mine reclamation project discovered a human skull in a wooded area in Sugarloaf Township, Luzerne County. Additional skeletonized remains were then found. The victim is believed to be a white female between 34 to 47 years of age. A facial reconstruction and chemical isotope analysis have been completed.

Case 4: 1976 — A teenage boy who was playing along the banks of the Lehigh River in East Side Boro, Carbon County, found the remains of a pregnant female. The victim had been sexually assaulted, dismembered, placed in three suitcases and thrown off of an Interstate 80 bridge. The victim is a white female, estimated to be 17 to 21 years of age. A facial reconstruction and chemical isotope testing have been completed.

Case 5: 2011 — A citizen walking along Route 191 in Paradise Township, Monroe County, discovered the torso of a man wrapped inside four black garbage bags. It was estimated that the victim was killed within two months of being discovered on Dec. 26. The man was likely white, between 50 to 60 years of age, and had open heart surgery several years prior (possibly as much as 10 years earlier). The victim also likely suffered from an auto-immune disorder such as rheumatoid arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis. Chemical isotope testing has been completed to help estimate where this victim may have come from. The carbon isotopes are relatively heavier than a typical American corn-based diet, and are indicative of a diet possibly involving a wheat or rice based products. This is more common in European or Asian cultures. Therefore, a possible place of origin/residence for the last several years for the victim was coastal California. Overall, the combination strontium, oxygen, and carbon isotopes suggest possible places of origin in the south to southwest region of the USA from Pennsylvania to Kentucky and Tennessee or the coastal areas of California.