

The FBI has confirmed that the remains found in Cass County in April were those of Kara Kopetsky. Kopetsky disappeared in 2007. The then 17-year-old was last seen leaving Belton High School the morning of May 4, 2007. She would have just finished her junior year in high school. Her disappearance was one of the most high-profile missing persons cases in the Kansas City area. Belton is located about 20 miles south of Kansas City. The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office received laboratory analysis, which was conducted by the FBI. "I have received both the mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA reports from the FBI for the unidentified skeleton recovered in Cass County. Both reports indicate the remains are that of Kara Elise Kopetsky." Diane C. Peterson, MD Jackson County Chief Medical Examiner. The news Thursday comes about four months after investigators discovered remains from two humans in the same rural area of western Missouri. A mushroom hunter found remains in an area south of Belton, and a second skull was found nearby the following day. The mother of Kara Kopetsky, Rhonda Beckford, along with the family of 21-year-old Jessica Runions were notified about the remains. With the discovery of the remains, the Kansas City Police Department classified her case as a homicide. A medical examiner identified one set of remains as Runions, who was last seen on Sept. 8 leaving a gathering in south Kansas City. Her burned vehicle was found two days later. Runions was last seen in September with Kylr Yust, 27, who was later charged with burning Runions' vehicle. A judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf. Yust also has been questioned in Kopetsky's disappearance. Court records indicated Kopetsky filed for a protection order against Yust in April 2007. A hearing was scheduled for May 10, 2007, but Kopetsky went missing six days before the hearing. Yust has not been charged in the disappearance of either Runions or Kopetsky. This is a developing story. Stay tuned to KCTV5