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PRESS RELEASE

Incident: Human Remains Located
Case Number: VC-16-00286
Date: 04-27-16
Author: Chief Fred J. Thompson

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On 04-15-16 the Valley City Police Department transported the recovered remains and transported them to the Grand Forks Medical Examiner's Office for examination by their office. The bone was examined by Dr. Walter Kemp, MD, PhD. The bone was then positively identified as that of a raccoon and not a human as originally believed. The original determination was made from photographs sent from the location of discovery while the final determination was made by a physical examination. All of the appropriate authorities in this investigation have been notified of this determination. This case is now closed.

On 04-12-16, at approximately 1416 hours, the Valley City Police Department received a call that possible human remains had been located. Officers then responded to the 300 block of Wintershow Road, Valley City, ND, and met with the reporting party.

The reporting party, a member of a KLJ survey crew, observed what they believed to be a human bone on the ground near one of the trees planted alongside Wintershow Road. The survey crew was in the area Upon arrival officers photographed the bone and sent the pictures to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Grand Forks. The Medical Examiner's Office advised that the bone was a radius bone, one of the two bones between your elbow and hand.

Due to the fact that the area in which the bone was located was near known Indian burial grounds, the State of North Dakota Historical Society and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office was also contacted and advised of the find. Both parties stated they would send representatives to Valley City to work with the police on this situation.

On 04-14-16, Chief Thompson met with representatives of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the State Historical Society at the site. After a discussion of the course of events the decision was made to transport the bone to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Grand Forks where it can be examined and any additional information about its

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origin might be determined. Once that work is completed a decision will be made as to whether or not the bone will be submitted for DNA testing in an effort to eliminate it from any listed missing persons.

While a ground area search resulted in the finding of two additional small bone fragments it is unknown at this time as to whether or not these fragments are related to the first bone found or if they are human. These two fragments will also be transported to the Medical Examiner's Office for investigation.

This investigation is continuing and the Valley City Police Department is requesting that anyone with any information on this case to contact us at (701) 845-3110.