

LAKEPORT, Calif. – The effort to solve the city of Lakeport's only missing person's case took a new turn this week, when the Lakeport Police Department released newly completed age progression images of a young Lakeport man who disappeared 20 years ago.

On Thursday, Lakeport Police Chief Brad Rasmussen released the sketches of Lakeport resident Steven William Branston, created by internationally acclaimed Canadian forensic artist Diana Trepkov.

Branston was 20 years old when he left his family's Lakeport home in August 1996 bound for Hawaii. He was last seen that same month in the Honolulu area.

In the years since, his family has made repeated trips to Hawaii to search for him, while Lakeport Police and law enforcement in Hawaii have carried out their own investigations.

This summer, Rasmussen said his agency received two possible leads about unidentified deceased men from other states – Washington and MISSISSIPPI – that had raised the possibility that Branston had been found. However, through fingerprints and DNA, both individuals were ruled out as being Branston.

