

2010 Domestic Violence Fatality Report Incidents by County

** These summaries are based on newspaper reports available as of 10/1/11.

Adams

March 21

A 62-year-old York Springs woman and her 33-year-old son were fatally shot in their home. Their 69-year-old husband and father was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He testified that he fired at his son after years of threats and then shot his wife accidentally. He said he was trying to sleep but was interrupted by his son repeatedly slamming the front door and running up and down the stairs. So he got his revolver and went looking for his son. "I saw him in the dining room, and he turned around, and I shot him. I thought he may have had his bat." He shot his son three times and his wife twice. She could be heard screaming in a taped 911 call she made. He told police that "as a result of my rotten son, I lost my best friend tonight. She kept protecting (him), and tonight she drove me nuts." When he was convicted the judge told him "you didn't lose your best friend. You deliberately killed her."

October 3

A 23-year-old Hanover man was stabbed in the heart in his kitchen. His 19-year-old wife was convicted of third-degree murder and possession of an instrument of crime. She claimed she had been cutting cheese with a knife for a burrito when he came up behind her, and she spun around and accidentally stabbed him. Authorities responding to the scene said she was screaming, "It's all my fault. I stabbed him." The judge ruled that evidence of involuntary manslaughter was not present. At the sentencing her attorney told the judge that she suffers from emotional problems, and the marital relationship was "mutually abusive." She was sentenced to 10 to 40 years in prison. At her sentencing she apologized and called her husband's death a "terrible accident."

Allegheny

January 1

A 29-year-old Beechview woman was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat wielded by her 38-year-old boyfriend. The boyfriend's mother called 911 and reported that her son was beating his girlfriend in the mother's Beechview home. When officers arrived the mother said

her son had killed his girlfriend, cut himself with a kitchen knife and left in his car. Paramedics pronounced the victim dead at the scene. The perpetrator drove to his home in Baldwin. Family members warned police that he owned guns, so SWAT teams were called. Police found him slumped in his car in the garage. He was pronounced dead at the scene of self-inflicted knife wounds.

January 6

A 23-year-old Clairton woman, the mother of two sons ages 2 and 4, was stabbed more than 70 times. Police found her body outside her home. The 44-year-old father of her sons was charged with murder, burglary, child endangerment, simple assault, fleeing and eluding police and resisting arrest after leaving the scene with the children. The children were found in the back seat of the perpetrator's vehicle, their sleepwear covered in blood. The victim's mother said the relationship had been abusive from the start, and her daughter broke it off two years ago. At least twice since 2005 he faced charges of assaulting her that were dismissed. After an incident in 2007 she obtained a protection order against him, and she and the children moved into a shelter for battered women. She rented her own apartment about two months before her death. On the night of her death the perpetrator, a long-haul trucker who had just returned from several months on the road, arrived at her apartment and attacked her new boyfriend. He was able to jump out a second-floor window before the stabbing.

February 17

A 46-year-old Penn Hills woman was found dead in her home of a gunshot wound to the head and multiple stab wounds to the torso. Her 49-year-old husband also was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Police believe he killed her and then killed himself. The couple's 17-year-old son told police that his parents recently had discussed divorce and were planning to separate.

March 7

A 41-year-old Windgap woman was stabbed 29 times, her 13-year-old daughter was brutally beaten and her 7-year-old son was nearly strangled in their home. The woman's 41-year-old husband was charged with her murder and the attacks on their children. Police said on the day of the murder he ordered the children to the basement. When the 13-year-old heard a bloodcurdling scream from her mother, she ran upstairs and saw her father repeatedly stab her mother. He chased her back to the basement,

where he choked her and repeatedly hit her on the head with a claw hammer until she lost consciousness. When she regained consciousness, she went back upstairs. Her father saw her, chased her and caught her. She grabbed the bloody knife from him, wrestled free by twisting out of her shirt and ran half-naked, crying and bleeding outside where a neighbor washing his car saw her and took her inside his home. She kept asking if her little brother was OK. The perpetrator also had tried to strangle his 7-year-old son with a cord. The boy called 911 and ran out the garage door when police arrived. They found the woman in critical condition and the perpetrator with a self-inflicted knife wound to his throat, which he survived. The woman died later that day in a hospital after identifying her husband as her attacker. The prosecutor said there was a history of domestic violence in the marriage, and the victim was planning to leave the perpetrator. He pleaded guilty to third-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and two counts of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to 34 to 80 years in prison and ordered to have no contact with his children. The boy wrote to the judge: "I am sad about what my dad did to my mom, my sister and me. I will never see my mom again. I miss my mom." The daughter told the judge: "I don't like to do the things I used to love to do. I feel lonely, even when I am surrounded by people. I really miss my mom. It will never be the same without her." She also wrote that her mother had once asked her if she'd be able to testify if her father killed the mother: "So, Mom, here's the answer to your question."

March 19 A 46-year-old Collier man hung himself in Allegheny County jail. He was imprisoned on attempted homicide and aggravated assault charges for an incident 17 days earlier when he had shot his mother in the hip. He had returned home after midnight and argued with her because she did not have dinner waiting for him. She complained that he had been drinking. He retrieved a shotgun from the attic and threatened to shoot himself. She went into her bedroom and closed the door to hide. He fired a shot through the door, which hit her. She was taken to the hospital in critical condition, and he was arrested.

March 19

April 23

A 44-year-old woman was bludgeoned with a hammer and stabbed to death in her South Fayette home, and then the house was set on fire. Police charged her 40-year-old

husband with homicide, arson, abuse of a corpse and two counts of reckless endangerment. Police allege the husband struck his wife 10 times in the head with a hammer, stabbed her in the chest multiple times and then, after she died, started a fire and jumped out a window to try to cover up the killing. Police said the couple had been arguing because the perpetrator stayed up late to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins playoff hockey game, which went into three overtimes.

July 20

A 57-year-old Hampton woman was wounded in the face by her 53-year-old live-in boyfriend, who then killed himself. Police said the perpetrator tried to shoot his girlfriend, but the round was defective. Neighbors said she then ran out of the house screaming for help. The perpetrator shot himself after she left the house. They had been arguing because he was behind on the rent. A neighbor said the victim was trying to get him to move out.

August 9

A 21-year-old West Oakland woman was shot in the head in her apartment. According to witnesses, she and her boyfriend, also 21, had been arguing for a few minutes when she told him to leave. She said “bye,” and he turned around, pulled out a revolver and pointed it at her. She started to laugh and ask “you really gonna shoot” when he opened fire. He fled the apartment but soon returned to tell the dying victim “I didn’t mean it,” before fleeing again. He was charged with homicide and carrying a firearm without a license. The homicide charge was dropped two months later when a witness failed to show for a court hearing. Prosecutors asked for the public’s help in locating the witness so the homicide charge can be refiled.

August 31

A 61-year-old Baldwin man was fatally shot by police after they arrived at his home in response to a 911 call. His wife had called police to say they had been arguing, he threatened her, and he was “heavily armed.” He was standing on the porch holding a rifle when police arrived. He threatened to shoot the officers in the head and refused to put his gun down. When he raised the rifle and began moving toward one officer, another officer shot him in the head.

September 8

A 53-year-old woman was fatally stabbed, and her 57-year-old aunt was wounded in a brutal attack in their Troy Hill home. Her 54-year-old husband of 30 years was charged with homicide, attempted homicide of the aunt, aggravated assault and child endangerment. The aunt,

who lived with the couple, testified that she found her nephew-in-law in a drunken rage after their young son's screams awakened her the night of the murder. The perpetrator dragged her by her hair from her bedroom, stabbed her about the head, kicked her and flung her down a flight of stairs. He then followed her down the stairs, continued stabbing her on the legs, shouted profanities and yelled that he hated her. She escaped the house when he heard his wife gasping upstairs and went to her. The aunt staggered across the street and hid on a neighbor's porch until police arrived. The couple's 9-year-old adopted son also was waiting outside for police, holding a bloody knife. He told police he saw his father stabbing his mother, screamed at him to stop and sprained his ankle trying to help her. His mother told him to leave her bedroom, and he heard her say she was going to die. Police found the perpetrator in the home, intoxicated, holding a bottle of brandy, bleeding from stab wounds that may have been self-inflicted and saying that his wife "got what she deserved."

- September 9 A 47-year-old Larimer man was fatally shot while confronting the cook at a restaurant where he was buying food about rumors the cook had been hitting his girlfriend. They argued through a delivery window after the victim saw the cook's girlfriend looking upset. The perpetrator testified that he fired his gun after the victim pushed through the delivery window and punched him in the face. Police said the window was too small for the victim to get through, and it was intact and securely installed when they arrived at the scene. The perpetrator was convicted of third-degree murder.
- September 10 A 19-year-old woman was fatally shot inside her home. The victim's sister, who is 12, testified that she returned home and heard the victim, her ex-boyfriend, and the father of her child arguing. Half an hour later, she saw the ex-boyfriend pull out a black gun and shoot at the apartment window where the victim and the other man were. Six shots were fired. The man ran out of the apartment screaming that his baby's mother had been shot. The ex-boyfriend is accused of her murder. He pleaded not guilty at the preliminary hearing.
- October 24 A 26-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 28-year-old live-in boyfriend during an argument in their Plum home. He told police she broke his nose and went after him with

a knife. So he grabbed a handgun from the dining room table and fired one shot into her chest. When police arrived the victim was propped up against a sofa with a large knife in her hand. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to six to 15 years in prison.

November 13 A 40-year-old Homewood woman was stabbed to death in her apartment. Her 55-year-old roommate, whom she had taken in when the woman was kicked out of her apartment, was charged with homicide. The perpetrator told police that the two women had fought after the victim brought a man home and walked in on her roommate having a sexual encounter with him. The victim began breaking things on the coffee table, including a vase that the perpetrator's dead son had given her. The fight turned physical, and the perpetrator grabbed a knife she had kept in the vase and stabbed the victim.

December 13 A 21-year-old Pittsburgh man was shot to death with his own gun in his ex-girlfriend's Sharpsburg home after assaulting her new boyfriend. He showed up at the home unexpectedly, got into an argument with the new boyfriend and assaulted him with a handgun, police said. The new boyfriend fended off the attack, took possession of the gun and shot the ex-boyfriend. The girlfriend and her 2-year-old child had gone into another room. She reported hearing one shot and then four more in rapid succession. The ex-boyfriend was shot once in the head and four times in the torso. He died at a hospital. The perpetrator fled the scene but was picked up by police on the street a short time later. He was charged with tampering with evidence and a gun violation.

Armstrong

April 1

A 51-year-old Templeton man shot himself in the chest with a .38-caliber revolver during an argument with his wife. She ran to a neighbor's house to report the shooting.

Beaver

March 12

An 82-year-old Center Township woman was shot in the head as she lay in bed. Her 82-year-old husband was found dead in a front room, also from a gunshot wound to the head. He was holding a gun. The coroner ruled it a murder-suicide. A neighbor said the wife had been ill, and her husband took care of her.

- May 17 A 45-year-old Ambridge man was shot multiple times by a 25-year-old Aliquippa man during an argument outside a woman's Ambridge apartment. Police found the victim dead on the sidewalk. Police said both men had a relationship with the woman. She said the victim had been abusing her, and she was afraid of him. The perpetrator was repairing a door lock when the victim arrived and attempted to enter the apartment. The perpetrator told police the victim kicked a door, and he felt threatened. The perpetrator, an Iraq War veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress syndrome, pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and was sentenced to 12 to 30 years in prison.
- October 7 A 47-year-old Aliquippa man was stabbed in the neck and abdomen near an Aliquippa convenience store. He was found inside the store bleeding from his wounds. Police said he told them at the scene that his 16-year-old nephew stabbed him. He was flown to a Pittsburgh hospital where he died. His nephew was charged as an adult with manslaughter. The case was later moved to juvenile court.

Bedford

- March 30 A 67-year-old Hopewell Township man was fatally shot in the chest by a state police sharpshooter after a 90-minute standoff at his home. Police said he pointed a loaded handgun, one of two weapons he had, at officers. About a dozen officers responded to the home after the man threatened to kill himself and anyone who tried to stop him. His wife was home at the time, and his daughter and her family were next door. Police told neighbors to go to their basements or the rear of their homes during the standoff. The perpetrator slipped out of the house and wandered between two homes with a gun in his hands. Police said it appeared there may have been domestic incidents in the past at the home without police response.

Berks

- August 15 A 37-year-old Exeter Township artist, whose artwork sometimes focused on domestic abuse, was fatally shot several times in the head and chest by her estranged husband as she sat in a chair in her sister's Reading living room. She had agreed to meet him there to talk after leaving him days earlier. The 64-year-old perpetrator, an English professor at Kutztown University, then shot

himself in the head. The couple had four school-age children. In 2006 the victim told the local newspaper that she had been a victim of domestic violence before she married her current husband. Her ex-husband killed her boyfriend in 1998.

November 24 A 19-year-old Reading High School student, who was going to marry the mother of his 6-month-old baby in two days, was fatally shot near the heart as he walked home from school with a friend. A 20-year-old fellow student is accused of approaching the victim, saying “what’s up now,” and firing two bullets at him. The two men had an ongoing dispute. According to the victim’s best friend, the perpetrator had threatened them after they tried to stop him from hitting a girl at school. The perpetrator was charged with first-degree murder.

Bradford

September 15 A 65-year-old Canton woman was found dead at the bottom of steps outside her home. Ten months later her husband’s ex-girlfriend, a 54-year-old Florida woman, was charged with homicide, criminal trespass, burglary and tampering with evidence. Police said the Florida woman came to the victim’s home to visit the son she shared with the victim’s husband, the result of an affair 11 years ago. She entered the home through the garage, knowing that her ex-boyfriend was not home and believing that the victim was asleep. The victim confronted her in a hallway in the home and told her she didn’t have a right to be there. The two women struggled. The fight continued into a bedroom where the perpetrator pushed the victim, and she fell into a dresser, hitting her head. The women continued struggling onto the bed and then the floor. Police allege that when the perpetrator was certain the victim was dead she dragged her body outside, across a deck, down the steps and cleaned up evidence of the fight inside. The coroner said the victim died of blood loss from blunt force head trauma.

December 15 A 41-year-old Litchfield Township woman was fatally shot in the torso with a hunting rifle in her home. Her 39-year-old husband was charged with the homicide. Police testified that when they arrived at the home the perpetrator was shouting “I can’t believe I shot my wife. I don’t want the guns in my house. Take them. Get them out. I was cleaning the gun. I turned around to put it away. It went off.” The victim later died at a hospital. Police

allege the perpetrator made several contradictory and false statements about the shooting. His first wife, who was married to him for 13 years, told police he had harassed her after their separation and threatened to hunt down and shoot her, her family and a male friend. He subsequently pleaded guilty to aggravated harassment in New York and was placed on probation in that case.

Bucks

- October 3 A 58-year-old Hilltown woman was beaten to death with a hammer by her 65-year-old boyfriend, who then shot himself with a 12-gauge shotgun. Police found their bodies in their apartment after family members were unable to contact them. The woman, who had been struck with the hammer multiple times, was found on the bed in the master bedroom and the man was found in the bathroom.
- October 3 A 47-year-old Springfield man, an airline pilot, was shot multiple times during an argument with his estranged wife in their home. His 49-year-old wife is charged with shooting him five times in the back, reloading her .38-caliber revolver and shooting him three more times. She then called 911, summoned the police and directed them to the revolver in the kitchen and his body upstairs. The couple's 18-year-old son was home at the time but did not witness the killing. The couple reportedly had had marital problems for some time. As she awaits trial on a first-degree murder charge, a legal battle has erupted between the victim's brother and the couple's son, who wants to use part of his father's life insurance policy to pay for his mother's defense attorney. The victim's brother contends that plan would violate a Pennsylvania law that prohibits murderers from financially benefitting from their victim's death.
- October 17 A 44-year-old homeless woman died after crawling out of her burning wooden shack in a Bristol Township "tent city" and screaming for help. As she writhed on the ground, her skull crushed and her clothes on fire, she told a firefighter: "My daughter is trying to kill me." Prosecutors said her 25-year-old daughter, who lived in the hut with her, hit her in the back of the head with a baseball bat at least 10 times, poured kerosene on her, lit a match, locked her inside the hut and then fled to Tennessee to start a new life with a new boyfriend. She was convicted of first-degree murder and faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without

- the possibility of parole.
- November 8 A 30-year-old Upper Southampton nail salon owner was found strangled to death in the locked bathroom of her business. Her 31-year-old boyfriend, a Philadelphia man who police described as “closely involved with the victim’s business as well as her personal life” and who had been in “serious arguments” with her in the days before her death, was charged with first- degree murder. Police said he had withdrawn thousands of dollars from the victim’s bank account the day before she was killed. When police arrived at his home to question him, they found that he had tried to commit suicide by taking 50 Benadryl capsules. He survived and is awaiting trial.
- December 19 A 57-year-old Falls woman has been missing since Dec. 19, when her ex-boyfriend allegedly kidnapped her, and is presumed dead. The 48-year-old boyfriend is facing first-degree murder, kidnapping, assault, burglary and other charges. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. They say he forced his way into her apartment, beat her with a metal pipe, forced her and a friend into his car and drove toward Philadelphia. The friend, who was released a short time later, reported that he said to the victim: “I told you, Diane, that I would kill you. I will kill you.” He was arrested the next day in a New Jersey motel. His clothes were bloody, and there was blood and a bloody knife in his vehicle. Police searched extensively for her body but were unable to find it.

Butler

- September 29 A 43-year-old Fairview man was shot in the hip and lower torso by his 83-year-old father as they were doing target practice on tin cans with a .380-caliber handgun outside the son’s home. Moments before the perpetrator suddenly made suicidal comments and told his son he would “take you with me.” The son wrestled the gun away from his father and called 911. He returned to find his father bleeding from the neck. The father had used a refill blade for a box cutter to slit his throat. He died at the scene. Police found his body near his walker. The son survived his wounds.

Cambria

- August 3 A 32-year-old Johnstown woman was stabbed to death in a violent attack in her mother’s apartment by her ex-

boyfriend, with whom she had had an on- again, off-again relationship for two years. Her mother witnessed the murder. Neighbors said the woman and her young son had moved into her mother's home about two weeks earlier because she was a victim of domestic violence. Her mother testified that her daughter was sitting in the living room with a friend when the door "exploded" and the perpetrator came rushing in armed with a knife. He repeatedly pulled the victim's hair and slapped and stabbed her while saying "I told you, Tammy, that I'd do this to you. I told you I was coming," according to her mother. The victim begged: "Stop it, Shawn. I'm bleeding. It hurts." Finally, she went limp. Her mother had called 911, and the perpetrator sat waiting for police to arrive. He pleaded guilty to third- degree murder and two counts of burglary and was sentenced to 40 to 80 years in prison. At his sentencing the victim's mother said: "I just got out of the hospital, and the doctors don't know what's wrong with me. But I do. I'm dying of a broken heart." The perpetrator said "justice has been served" as he left the courthouse. The victim's mother said: "Justice, that would be having my daughter still alive."

October 29

A 50-year-old Cresson Township woman, who worked as a nurse for the Penn Cambria School District, was gunned down in her home. Her 23-year-old son is charged with the murder. Prosecutors said that hours after the son was involved in an alleged drunk driving crash he shot up the family home and then shot his mother when she came home and confronted him about the damage in the home. Authorities said he shot her in the neck and then began to watch TV. He shot her two more times in the head when she moaned. When his father and a neighbor entered the home later they saw him come around the corner with a shotgun. His father disarmed him and then spotted his wife lying on the floor in a pool of blood. "What did you do to your mother," the father asked. The son fled and was later apprehended by police at an acquaintance's home.

Carbon

June 29

A 58-year-old Parryville man was fatally shot in the stomach with a shotgun by his twin brother, who then killed himself with a handgun in a car wash stall at a local gas station. The brothers had lived together for years and had a criminal history of drunkenness and fighting. Police discovered the homicide when they went to the twins'

apartment to notify the one brother of the other's suicide. Instead, they found the brother dead on the kitchen floor.

Chester

- January 29 A 49-year-old Lower Oxford woman was stabbed to death with a screwdriver in her home by her 28-year-old son. The son appeared at a neighbor's house covered in blood and holding a screwdriver, saying there had been an "incident" at his house involving his mother. When police arrived at the victim's home, they found the son with bloody hands and clothing and the mother lying in a pool of blood in the master bathroom. A bloody screwdriver was found on the street outside. An autopsy revealed that the victim had been stabbed with the screwdriver at least 29 times and strangled. The son later told police that he and his mother had argued. She had tried to lock herself in the bathroom, but he had broken down the door. The son had been released from a psychiatric hospital in Maryland the day before the murder. He had been having auditory and visual hallucinations and abusing prescription drugs. He pleaded guilty but mentally ill to third-degree murder.
- June 8 A 41-year-old Coatesville woman was shot in the head in her car. She had driven to her in-laws' home in East Brandywine to take her 11-year-old son to dinner when her estranged husband, who was living in the home, came outside to talk to her. Family members reported that they heard a bang. They found the perpetrator holding a gun and "in an upset state of mind." He then ran to the rear of the property and shot himself. Police found him dead. The victim was flown to a hospital where she was later pronounced dead.
- June 17 A 33-year-old West Goshen man was bludgeoned in the back of the head with a shovel. Police said his wife confessed that her lover killed her husband after their attempt to poison him with a Snapple spiked with liquid nicotine failed. He then buried the victim near his old high school. Initially, the wife told police that her husband was away "clearing his head." The victim's mother had reported him missing after not hearing from him for several days. Both the wife and her lover were charged with first-degree murder and abuse of a corpse and are awaiting trial.
- November 1 A 20-year-old woman was shot five times by her 22-year-

old boyfriend in the boyfriend's Downingtown home. He then shot himself in the head. The victim's father called to report that she had not returned home from visiting her boyfriend the night before. Police checked the boyfriend's home but found the doors locked and the windows covered. No one answered the door. They returned about 30 minutes later when someone contacted them to report that a body was observed lying on the floor of the home. The couple was pronounced dead at the scene.

Crawford

October 5

A 63-year-old Conneautville man was fatally shot in the chest with a 12-gauge shotgun in the bedroom of the home he shared with his 53-year-old wife. She was charged with homicide. Police said she admitted ending an argument with her husband by shooting him. She then dialed 911. She told police that she had been napping when she was awakened by her husband cursing as he paid bills in the kitchen. He came into the bedroom, yelled that he was going to "teach her a lesson" and called her a derogatory name. She rolled away from him off the opposite side of the bed, grabbed the shotgun from under the bed, sat up and fired at him.

December 19

A 23-year-old Titusville woman died of asphyxiation due to blunt force trauma to her throat. She was found buried in the snow behind her apartment complex. Her 35-year-old boyfriend confessed to police that he killed her after a fight at her apartment. He died of liver failure five days after he was charged with the murder. He had ingested 200 Tylenol pills in a suicide attempt before being jailed on the murder charge.

Cumberland

December 28

A 27-year-old attorney, who worked for legal aid services representing low-income people and victims of domestic violence, was found strangled and covered with a blanket in the basement of her Silver Spring Township home. Her 27-year-old fiance called 911 to report her death 18 hours after police believe he killed her. He allegedly told police, "You guys can go ahead and take me in. I killed her." He also allegedly said he strangled her the previous evening after they fought, and he "panicked." Police said he appeared "emotionally distressed" and intoxicated. He was charged with criminal homicide. He has pleaded not

guilty and is awaiting trial.

Dauphin

April 17

A 43-year-old Palmyra man and his 36-year-old sister were shot to death in her Harrisburg home by her ex-husband. He then took the divorced couple's 2-year-old son, who was in the house, to another home and returned to within a block of the shooting. Police, who were already on the scene, heard people scream. They found the perpetrator dead in a car of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police had been called to the home earlier in the day because the two victims and the perpetrator were involved in a fight. The woman told police she had gone after her ex-husband with a baseball bat, but he told police he was unhurt. Police left the scene only to be called back a short while later for reports of shots fired.

July 26

A 40-year-old Susquehanna Township woman was fatally shot in the head as she lay sleeping in bed in the home she shared with her parents. Her father came home from work to find his wife bleeding in the driveway from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to her upper torso. She survived but is paralyzed from the waist down. She was charged with homicide. Police said she told them she shot herself after killing her daughter, who was battling health problems that caused her legs to swell and limited her mobility. A family friend said the mother had been hospitalized for depression about a month earlier and was on medication. He said the mother and daughter had been taking care of each other for years.

December 23

A 19-year-old woman was fatally shot in her Harrisburg apartment, and her 44-year-old mother was shot several times as she tried to go to her daughter's aid. The mother, who watched her daughter die, survived by playing dead. The daughter's 23-year-old boyfriend was charged with murder, attempted murder and illegally possessing a firearm. He also shot and wounded himself. The mother may be permanently paralyzed because of her wounds. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Delaware

June 9

A 7-month-old baby was asphyxiated by his mother and discovered by his grandmother lying in a blood-soaked bed with his mother, who had slit one of his wrists and both of her wrists. Pillows and a bloody knife were found

nearby. The mother left a note on the baby's changing table saying she intended to kill the baby and then commit suicide. The mother, who reportedly was suffering from postpartum depression, survived and pleaded guilty to third-degree murder. The plea included a sentence of 15 to 30 years in prison.

June 21

A 32-year-old decorated Army sergeant, who served two tours of duty in Iraq, was brutally stabbed to death in the parking lot of a Springfield Township shopping center by a 42-year-old Newark, Del., man. The perpetrator was the estranged husband of the victim's girlfriend. He stabbed the victim more than 70 times with an eight-inch butcher knife. Days before the killing the perpetrator secretly attached a GPS device to the victim's vehicle so he could stalk him. A jury convicted the perpetrator of first-degree murder, with a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

August 29

An 87-year-old Springfield woman was stabbed in her bedroom by her 88-year-old husband. They had been married for 63 years. He had cared for her for 15 years because she had dementia. In the weeks before her death she had become violent and was seen hitting her husband. He hid the beatings from family, but told police later that he "had enough" and "couldn't take it anymore." According to police, on the morning of the shooting she became agitated when he asked her if she wanted breakfast. He went into the kitchen, took a knife out of the drawer and returned to the bedroom where he stabbed her several times in the chest. He then called his daughter, who called police. Police found him kneeling over her body, which he had covered with a blanket. He was initially charged with first-degree murder and held in prison without bail for three months. Then he pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was released on bail to the custody of his son. He died two days before he was to be sentenced.

December 11

A 45-year-old Chester woman was found dead under a mattress and furniture in a bedroom of the home she shared with her 49-year-old boyfriend and her 14-year-old daughter. The daughter found her mother's body. She had been stabbed 54 times but died of asphyxiation which, according to the coroner, means she was alive when the items were placed on top of her. The boyfriend pleaded guilty to first-degree murder to avoid the death penalty. He

was sentenced to life in prison.

Erie

- July 25 A 28-year-old Erie woman was fatally shot in her vehicle by her 35-year-old boyfriend after they had been out drinking for hours and then argued in the driveway of their home. He fled the scene but later told police the gun went off as they struggled over it. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 18 months to five years in state prison.
- November 13 A 28-year-old woman, her 7-year-old daughter and her 4-year-old daughter were fatally shot by the children's 28-year-old father in their Erie apartment. A 2-year-old son also was shot but the bullet only grazed his earlobe. The perpetrator then killed himself. The mother, who had left the perpetrator the week before, was picking up the children to take them to Chuck E. Cheese when the shootings occurred. The perpetrator had checked himself into a hospital for mental health treatment over the breakup but was released five days before the shootings.

Fayette

- February 10 A 30-year-old Bitner woman was found strangled, stabbed and brutally beaten in the head and face with a spade shovel in the basement of the home she shared with her 29-year-old boyfriend. He was found walking along Route 51 acting erratically, with a cut on his right hand and with what appeared to be blood on his headband, rings and watch. When police asked him why he had hurt his girlfriend, he said "demons were coming between them." He had just been released from jail on bond a few days before the murder for an incident at a casino where he allegedly refused to pay for a beer he took from the bar and then threw it at the bartender. He was charged with criminal homicide in his girlfriend's murder.
- September 16 A 17-year-old Uniontown girl was shot in the abdomen and bled to death. Her "on-again, off-again" 16-year-old boyfriend was charged as an adult with criminal homicide and carrying a firearm without a license. Police said he told them he accidentally shot her as he was dismantling a semiautomatic handgun in a Uniontown apartment. A woman in a neighboring apartment testified that the perpetrator knocked on her back door and, as he was holding the victim, asked for her help. He then laid the

- victim on a sofa inside the neighbor's home, briefly caressed her face and fled. Police said the perpetrator hid the gun in the attic of the apartment where the shooting occurred before moving the victim to the other apartment.
- December 2 A 69-year-old Uniontown man died of head injuries in a hospital six days after his 49-year-old stepson punched him in the face, causing him to fall and hit his head on a concrete walkway outside a Redstone diner. Police testified that the stepson said the two men were arguing over why the stepfather had removed flowers on at least two occasions that the stepson had placed on his mother's grave. A paramedic testified that when he told the perpetrator at the scene that his stepfather was in critical condition, the stepson said, "Oh my God, I killed my dad." The son was initially charged with aggravated assault, simple assault and reckless endangerment. After his stepfather died those charges were withdrawn, and he was instead charged with criminal homicide and released on \$40,000 bail to await trial.
- December 15 A 54-year-old Waynesburg woman was fatally shot in the head by her 31-year-old son, who then killed himself. They were moving into an apartment when the victim's daughter called 911 to report that her mother and brother were having an altercation, and a weapon was involved. The son then took his mother hostage. Police had been negotiating with him by phone for about three hours when they heard gunshots. They entered the apartment and found mother and son critically wounded. They both later died in the hospital.

Franklin

- February 8 A 70-year-old Hamilton Township woman died two months after police allege her son broke into her home and beat her in the head and face so hard it depressed her skull. Her 38-year-old son was charged with first and second-degree murder, aggravated assault, burglary, criminal trespass and criminal mischief in the case. His trial likely won't take place until 2012.
- February 25 A 27-year-old St. Thomas woman was shot to death in the home she shared with her 31-year-old husband. He pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to a minimum of six years in state prison. He told police he shot her because he thought she was an intruder in the 5 a.m. darkness. Her family told the judge

that he was angry because she wanted a divorce. “On Valentine’s Day in 2009, we gave (him) her hand in marriage. In February, one year later, he gave her back to me in a body bag,” her mother said.

April 3

A 29-year-old Hagerstown, Md., woman, the mother of three children, was stabbed to death and then dumped in woods off a Waynesboro, Pa., street. State Police said a 46-year-old State Line man, who was on a bridge overlooking Interstate 81 threatening to jump, confessed to killing the victim a few days earlier. He was taken into custody and then led police to her body. She had multiple stab wounds to her neck and torso. The suspect also allegedly told his son and an acquaintance that he had killed a woman and needed help disposing of her body and other evidence. His son called police. The acquaintance was being interviewed by police when they received the call that the perpetrator was on the bridge threatening suicide. The victim and perpetrator had known each other for at least a year, according to a friend of the victim. He pleaded not guilty to criminal homicide and is awaiting trial in 2012. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty on the grounds that torture was involved, the homicide occurred during the course of a felony drug delivery, and the victim was a police informant. Defense attorneys said there is no proof he knew the victim was an informant. Later the same day as the victim’s body was found, the skeletal remains of a 17-year-old girl, missing since 1995, were discovered on a farm outside Waynesboro as a result of the same investigation. No charges have been filed in this second case, and police have not said how the two cases are connected.

September 25

A 42-year-old Montgomery Township woman was shot by her 43-year-old husband in their home. He then killed himself. Police said the woman, who survived, was a victim of domestic violence.

October 16

A 27-year-old Chambersburg man was found fatally shot outside the home where he lived with his parents. Police had been called to the home for reports of a fight. They found several people arguing on the front lawn and the victim’s father on the front porch pointing a handgun to his head and threatening to commit suicide. An hour-long standoff ensued, during which police evacuated people, including several children, from the home. Police allege the father told them he and his son were in a verbal

argument when the son shoved his mother. So the father retrieved a loaded 9 mm semiautomatic handgun from under his mattress and shot at the son, although he told police he wasn't sure if he hit him. The father was charged with criminal homicide and released on \$150,000 bail. He has pleaded not guilty.

October 31 A 5-year-old girl, an 8-month-old girl, and their 24-year-old father, all residents of Chambersburg, were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in a car along a remote mountain road in Letterkenny Township. Police found the bodies after a family member tipped them off that the father might be suicidal. The coroner ruled that the girls' deaths were homicides and the man's death was a suicide.

Juniata

September 15 A 36-year-old Mifflintown man was shot in the side of the head with a pistol in his home. His 55-year-old mother-in-law was charged with the homicide. She called 911 and reported that they had argued, he beat her with a TV tray and she left. But then she heard a gunshot and returned to find him dead on the floor. Investigators determined that it was not a suicide, and someone had tampered with the scene. She is awaiting trial.

Lancaster

April 7 A 26-year-old Manheim Township man was shot six times on a Lancaster street by a 22-year-old Lancaster man with whom he was fighting over a woman. The victim died at the hospital a short time later. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in prison.

April 17 A 4-year-old Denver, Pa., girl was pronounced dead at Lancaster General Hospital after she was found unresponsive. A forensic pathologist concluded the death was a homicide because she had fatal levels of methadone and Xanax in her system. Her father admitted giving the girl two doses of the medication four hours apart. He was authorized to have the drugs for his own use. About a month after her death he was charged with criminal homicide, drug delivery and endangering the welfare of a child. Shortly after being taken to prison he collapsed and was transported to the hospital where he died, apparently of natural causes.

Lebanon

- February 15 A 40-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman were found fatally shot in their North Londonderry Township home. The coroner said the woman shot her live-in boyfriend, then herself with a handgun. The couple kept to themselves, according to neighbors. Police said that because no note was left, it's difficult to know what happened and why.
- July 28 A 36-year-old man was fatally stabbed in the chest with a kitchen knife by his 29-year-old girlfriend during an argument and physical altercation in their Lebanon apartment. The woman's two children, aged 3 and 10, were home at the time. The girlfriend pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and aggravated assault and was sentenced to 3 1/2 to 7 years in prison.

Lehigh

- March 12 A 19-year-old Allentown woman, who was studying to become a dental hygienist, was found dead by her boyfriend in an old coal receiving room in the basement of her home. A neighbor had heard a struggle and a woman yelling for help earlier that morning. Her 24-year-old brother-in-law, who was covered with fresh scratches, claimed in a police interview to have been with his friend Elvis at the time of the murder, but police were unable to locate anyone with that name. He later admitted to forcing his way into the victim's home, arguing with her and strangling her because he thought she was interfering with his marriage to her sister. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole.
- June 4 A 20-year-old Emmaus woman and Cedar Crest College student, whose family had emigrated from war-torn Iraq five years earlier to start a new life, was found dead in the woods along a walking trail near her home. She had been strangled and beaten. Her facial bones were broken, and she had other injuries consistent with forced sex. A 21-year-old Emmaus man, who worked with the victim at a grocery store, claimed he and the victim had dated and made a suicide pact. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and no contest to rape charges. He was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. Her family denied that the victim and perpetrator were in a

relationship.
June 19 A 25-year-old Salisbury Township woman was shot in the back as she fled her home through a second-story window as her 43-year-old live-in boyfriend fired at her. She survived. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Neighbors said the couple had a tumultuous relationship.

Luzerne

June 9 A 32-year-old Sweet Valley man hanged himself inside his parents' home, where he had been living, as investigators drove to a district judge's office to file an arrest warrant against him for killing his wife almost a year earlier. Prosecutors do not believe he was tipped off to his impending arrest, but that perhaps the upcoming one-year anniversary of the murder was "weighing on his mind." Police alleged he shot his estranged wife in the head and tried to stage it to look like a suicide. He then stole her rental car and took a cross-country trip. He was picked up a week later in Nevada. He claimed he traveled west to mine for gold. He served six months in jail for auto theft.

June 20 A 62-year-old Wilkes-Barre woman was killed, her 28-year-old son was stabbed in the chest and stomach and her 3-year-old grandson was cut on his legs in their home the night before Father's Day. Police, responding to a call of a father and son fighting, found the injured son collapsed on the first floor and the woman's 65-year-old husband, who has a history of domestic violence, covered in blood standing over her in their second-floor bedroom. She also was covered in blood from her multiple stab wounds. Their grandson was bleeding on the bed. The murder weapon, a long pole with a knife attached, was lying on the floor by the bed. The son told police he was on the third floor watching television with his son, who was not injured in the incident, when he heard his mother scream for his help and say, "He's killing the baby. He's killing me." He grabbed a metal bar from a music stand and kicked in his parents' bedroom door. He told police that as he made his way across the dark bedroom to get his nephew, his father stabbed him. The perpetrator was charged with homicide, simple assault and two counts of aggravated assault. Police said the assault began as the couple argued over whether to go to a casino for Father's Day. In December 2007, the perpetrator was charged with

chasing his wife and son through the house with a similar weapon, a steak knife fastened to a three-foot metal pole. He was sentenced to six months' probation and mental health treatment in that case. And in February 2007, he was arrested for assaulting his wife and son with a hammer and garden tool. The wife had had at least one protection order against him in the past. The son told police he had wanted to move out of the house but stayed at his mother's request because she feared his father.

October 24

A 37-year-old Kingston woman was bludgeoned to death in her ex-boyfriend's Shickshinny home. She was attacked from behind and struck about a dozen times with a 13-inch hatchet, even after she fell to the floor. The couple had broken up but remained friends. The victim was visiting the perpetrator when she asked him to take her home, and an argument ensued. He killed her and then jumped into the Susquehanna River, intending to kill himself. Instead he got out, put his wet clothes in the dryer, went to a neighbor's house and revealed what he had done. A jury convicted him of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

November 13

A 20-year-old Hazleton woman was shot multiple times on a dirt road in Foster Township two weeks before her 21st birthday. A 21-year-old Hazleton man was charged with her homicide. Police allege that the victim, who was employed as an exotic dancer, was a prostitute, the perpetrator was her pimp, and they were arguing about money when she was killed. Family members denied that she was a prostitute. Her sister said the perpetrator had dated the victim. "He was our friend. She trusted him," the sister said.

November 30

A 59-year-old Plymouth Township man was stabbed twice in the chest in his home. His 42-year-old live-in girlfriend was charged with third-degree murder and voluntary manslaughter. Authorities said she stabbed him during an argument. He fled to a neighbor's house and was later pronounced dead at the hospital. She told police he grabbed her by the neck and wouldn't let go, so she stabbed him in self-defense. She is awaiting trial in 2012.

McKean

March 19

A 24-year-old woman and her 3-week-old baby were drowned in a bathtub in their Bradford home. A

housemate was charged with two counts of homicide. Police said the 38-year-old housemate confessed that he killed the woman after she chastised him during a confrontation in the bathroom. He told police he left the bathroom, deliberated for a minute in the living room and then returned to the bathroom where the woman was holding her baby. He pushed her over the edge of the bathtub, turned on the water and held her down as the tub filled with water. He told police the woman, still clutching her baby, tried to fight him off and kick him. The baby died first, “drifted free” from her mother and “floated to the end of the bathtub.” When police arrived he initially claimed he found the bodies, and the woman had a seizure and fell into the tub. They found the infant clad in pajamas and “ice cold wet” lying on a clothes dryer in the kitchen and the woman lying on the bathroom floor. The coroner found that both victims drowned, and the woman also suffered blunt force trauma, lacerations and abrasions. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Mercer

January 27

A 21-year-old Sharon woman, the mother of a 2-year-old girl, was shot in the head by her ex-boyfriend after he showed up at her home and became enraged when he found another man in the house. He also pistol-whipped the victim’s 49-year-old mother and a 19-year-old Uniontown woman. He was arrested at another home after a four-hour standoff with police, during which he stabbed himself twice in the throat. He pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and aggravated assault and was sentenced to 27 to 54 years in prison. He must serve 27 years before he will be eligible for parole.

Montgomery

January 6

A 75-year-old woman was strangled in the kitchen of the Souderton apartment she shared with her husband of 59 years. He was charged with her murder. The 80-year-old husband suspected his wife was having an affair because she returned late from a walk with mussed hair. When she laughed at him for suspecting an affair he told police he “lost it” and choked her until she “didn’t move anymore.” He then folded her arms across her chest, put a pillow under her head and covered her with a blanket. Later he called police and confessed to the killing. Medical

evaluations found that he does not suffer from dementia or diminished capacity. He pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and was sentenced to 7 1/2 to 15 years in state prison.

February 9

A 53-year-old Horsham man was beaten to death with a baseball bat by his friend's jealous 51-year-old ex-boyfriend. The two men met outside the ex-girlfriend's Horsham home. According to a witness, the victim was struck with a "wood chopping" style overhead blow while he was on the ground. The victim died of blunt force trauma to the head two days later at a hospital. The ex-girlfriend told police she had been trying to distance herself from her ex-boyfriend for a month, and he was jealous of her friendship with the victim. The night of the killing she had dinner with the victim at her home and ignored calls from her ex-boyfriend during the evening. He left a voice message saying, "You're a disrespectful person the way you treated me. And now it's my turn to disrespect you. And that's what I'm going to do." At some point the two men talked on the phone, after which the victim told his girlfriend he kept a baseball bat in his pickup truck and would use it to defend himself. Later the ex-boyfriend drove to her home and waited outside in his vehicle to confront the victim. In that confrontation the ex-boyfriend was able to get the victim's bat away from him and use it against him. The ex-boyfriend pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter, making terroristic threats and possessing an instrument of crime. He was sentenced to 51 months to 12 years in prison.

April 9

A 32-year-old Collingdale man was beaten to death with an ornamental landscaping brick as he knelt at gunpoint. Police say the victim's 27-year-old wife hired a 21-year-old co-worker, with whom she had had coerced sex, to kill her husband. He then recruited his 26-year-old brother to help. The two men allegedly kidnapped the victim from his home at gunpoint, forced him into a covered pickup truck bed and drove him to the garage of their King of Prussia home where they killed him as he pleaded for his life. The victim's last words were "Oh, God, what did I do to deserve this?" The two brothers and the victim's wife have been charged with first-degree murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for the two brothers but not for the wife because investigators say she was abused by her husband. All three have pleaded not guilty.

- May 30 A 78-year-old Marlborough woman and her 45-year-old son were found dead of gunshot wounds in their home. Autopsies confirmed that the son shot his mother multiple times and then turned the .22-caliber handgun on himself. Police said his finger was still on the trigger when the bodies were found by a relative.
- August 13 A 28-year-old Norristown man was found wrapped in a bloody sheet and comforter in a bed in an apartment where he had been staying. He had been stabbed six times. His 40-year-old girlfriend, a transgendered woman, told police the couple had been arguing, and the victim struck her in the face. She said she “blacked out” and awoke to see the victim lying on the floor, bleeding from his mouth. Then she realized she was holding a knife. She put it down, placed the victim on the bed, covered him with a blanket and took a shower because she “felt dirty.” She pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and possessing the instrument of a crime.
- October 31 A 50-year-old Worcester man was shot in the arm and abdomen during an argument with his girlfriend in their home. He called 911 to report that his girlfriend had just shot him. When police arrived they encountered the 47-year-old girlfriend, who was armed with a handgun. She raised the gun in the direction of the troopers, but then turned the gun on herself. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The victim survived.

Northampton

- March 13 A 22-year-old Easton man, the father of two children, was gunned down on a city street after fighting with his girlfriend’s ex-boyfriend. The 24-year-old perpetrator was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to six to 12 years in state prison. According to testimony at the trial, the perpetrator had a fling with the victim’s girlfriend when she and the victim were having relationship problems. The perpetrator said the victim had repeatedly threatened his life, prompting him to illegally buy a gun for protection. A fight earlier in the night at a bar led to a meeting on the street of the victim, perpetrator and other people. The victim was killed in an exchange of gunfire.
- May 17 A 39-year-old Bushkill Township woman was fatally shot in her home by her 43-year-old husband, who then killed himself. The couple, parents to three teenaged daughters, had financial problems and were about to lose their home

June 26 at a sheriff's sale. Police had responded to the home three times in the previous five years for domestic calls. A 39-year-old Northampton woman, the mother of a 14-year-old and 10-year-old; her 62-year-old father; her 87-year-old deaf, blind and wheelchair-bound grandfather; and a 53-year-old neighbor, who responded to their cries for help, were all stabbed to death by the woman's 36-year-old ex-boyfriend in her home. He wrote in blood on a wall near where the bodies were found that his ex-girlfriend was a "whore." He was living in a halfway house at the time and on parole for killing an Allentown man in 1991. When an off-duty state trooper found the perpetrator in a crashed car later the day of the murders and asked what had happened, he said, "It's obvious. I just killed everyone." He pleaded guilty to four counts of first-degree murder. The district attorney called the killings "a slaughter," a "rampage" and a "massacre." A jury sentenced him to death.

September 22 A 22-year-old woman and her 36-year-old boyfriend, both of Lehigh Township, were gunned down with a high-powered rifle at point-blank range outside a friend's home. Her 38-year-old ex-boyfriend was charged with two counts of homicide. Prosecutors say the perpetrator acted out of jealousy. The couple was visiting a mutual friend of the perpetrator's when he showed up, yelled that he couldn't believe they were hanging out there and began arguing with them. The couple and perpetrator went outside and continued the argument. A witness testified that the perpetrator briefly came back inside and said he had a machine gun and was going to shoot the couple. He then went back outside and moments later she heard 10 shots. The male victim was found "blown to pieces" in his vehicle, with the motor running, lights on and windshield wipers going. The female victim's body was found 50 yards away in a field. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty but are in plea negotiations with the defense.

Northumberland

March 20

A 38-year-old Sunbury woman was shot three times outside her home by her 37-year-old husband, a corporal in the Sunbury Police Department, who then shot himself in the head. Police found the woman dead. Her husband was taken to the hospital where he later died. Friends and relatives reported that the couple had a tumultuous

relationship and had separated several times. The victim sent a text message on her cell phone a few minutes before the shooting saying that her husband had been out drinking and was arriving home. Two of the couple's daughters were home at the time of the shooting.

Philadelphia

- January 12 A 28-year-old South Philadelphia woman was found partially clothed and dead in her bedroom closet by police responding to a report of someone screaming in the apartment. She had sustained three knife wounds to her torso and had strangulation marks around her neck. Police charged her 23-year-old live-in boyfriend with murder, possession of an instrument of crime and abuse of a corpse. Homicide detective cited domestic issues as the motive for the killing.
- January 21 A 22-year-old high school teacher was being picked up by a coworker shortly before 7 a.m. in the Rhawnhurst section of the city when her 34-year-old ex-boyfriend approached the car, pulled her out of it, chased her down the street and shot her. He then killed himself. She survived. She had sought a protection order against him that week.
- February 4 A 63-year-old Philadelphia man was stabbed and strangled in his apartment. His 21-year-old grandson was charged with murder and related offenses. Police said the grandson killed his grandfather during an argument over money. When two employees of the apartment building heard screams and came to investigate, they were attacked as well. One of the men was bitten and cut multiple times. The other man sustained scalp wounds. They were both treated and released from a local hospital. A neighbor called 911, and responding police officers arrested the grandson as he was trying to leave the building.
- February 14 A 41-year-old Port Richmond woman was shot on Valentine's Day in the home she shared with her 63-year-old father. Police said her father shot her twice for talking too loudly. The victim was rushed to the hospital and died there a few hours later. The father is charged with homicide and related charges. Neighbors said the father and daughter were recluses.
- February 15 A 40-year-old Philadelphia woman was found fatally shot in the chest in her boyfriend's Northeast Philadelphia

- home. He is charged with killing her. Police said he called a coworker and confessed that he shot his girlfriend because he suspected her of cheating on him.
- March 19 A 45-year-old woman was killed in the city. A 50-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information on the case was available.
- March 23 A 42-year-old man was shot to death in the city. A 30-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- March 27 A 29-year-old man was shot to death in the city. Police classified the killing as a domestic violence-related murder. No further information was available.
- April 28 A 25-year-old Liberian man was stabbed to death in his Northeast Philadelphia apartment. A family member said he was stabbed twice in the legs and once in the chest. His 36-year-old wife was arrested. One source said the stabbing occurred when his wife tried to seize his car keys because he wanted to go out for the second night in a row to socialize. Another source said his wife became enraged because he was on the telephone with another woman. A friend said the victim had been stabbed in the shoulder by his wife a year earlier, but he did not call police or seek medical attention then because of fears about his immigration status. Instead, he self-medicated the wound until it healed.
- May 2 A 22-year-old Philadelphia man was shot with a policeman's service weapon during a neighborhood water-gun fight. His 26-year-old brother-in-law, an off-duty city police officer at the time, was charged with first-degree murder and with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and other charges for also injuring two other people. He was fired from the police force the next day. Witnesses said he and his girlfriend arrived in his truck to pick up his son from his estranged wife's house. They were caught in the middle of a block-wide water fight that involved at least 10 adults and 10 children squirting each other with "super soaker" water guns. Someone splashed the perpetrator's girlfriend. She got out of the truck and began to fight with the victim's niece. The perpetrator grabbed the niece, and an argument ensued between the brothers-in-law. The perpetrator retrieved his department-issued gun from his truck, pointed it at the

crowd and told everyone to get back. “Everyone told him to put it down, there are kids out here,” one of the victims said. “He screamed he didn’t care.” The perpetrator then shot his brother-in-law in the neck and twice in the chest. Witnesses said he fired even as his brother-in-law fell on his back. His defense attorney argued he was protecting his girlfriend who was being attacked by the crowd. He is awaiting trial.

- May 7 An 82-year-old Philadelphia woman was tortured and beaten to death in her son’s Germantown home. Her 63-year-old son was charged with murder and possession of an instrument of crime. Police allege he abused and beat his mother with an electric cord over an extended period of time. An assistant medical examiner found 273 wounds all over the victim’s 98-pound, 5-foot-2-inch body, all less than 24 hours old. An assistant district attorney said the victim’s death was “one of the most brutal I’ve ever seen.”
- June 2 A 21-year-old man was stabbed and bludgeoned in a Kensington house. Firefighters, responding to an emergency medical call, found him dead in a bed. Two weeks later a 36-year-old Trenton man and another man were caught by police after trying to rob two men in the same house. Police arrested the Trenton man for the murder and for the sexual assault of the murder victim’s girlfriend. No information was available on how the victim and perpetrator knew each other, but police classified it as a domestic violence homicide.
- June 19 A 23-year-old man was killed in the city. Police classified it as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- July 6 A 22-year-old college student was punched in the face at least 10 times and stabbed 59 times with a switchblade in the Kensington apartment she had shared with her 23-year-old boyfriend for only about 10 days. On the morning she was killed she sent a text message to friends telling them “don’t text me back unless it is important and involves getting me away from him because he is looking at me suspicious.” The boyfriend killed her after they argued, then bought a trash can for the body and dumped it behind an abandoned home in New Jersey that his parents used to own. She was reported missing and found nearly a week later. The boyfriend claimed he was high on drugs during the killing. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 46 to 92 years in prison for the murder and

- for assaulting two men in an earlier incident.
- July 10 A 33-year-old Philadelphia man was shot in the head in the 3000 block of Coral Street. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A 37-year-old man was charged with the murder and related offenses. The police determined that the motive was a domestic dispute. No further information was available.
- July 13 A 25-year-old Bristol woman died of multiple impact trauma to the torso. Her 31-year-old boyfriend was charged with first-degree murder. No further information was available.
- July 25 A 66-year-old woman was fatally stabbed in the neck in her daughter's Port Richmond row home as her two grandsons, 9 and 11, slept on the second floor. Her body was found in the basement. Police said her 34-year-old son-in-law confessed to repeatedly stabbing her with scissors after they argued about her yelling at his children, and she smacked him in the face. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to third-degree murder, theft, receiving stolen property, possession of an instrument of crime and filing false reports and was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison.
- August 1 A 54-year-old "good samaritan," known for opening her large home in the city's Frankford neighborhood to people in need, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in one of the bedrooms. Her 25-year-old son, who also had been shot several times, was found in the living room. Her 38-year-old boyfriend, who lived in the house, was charged with both murders. Police said he shot the mother and son after an argument.
- August 3 A 45-year-old man was stabbed in the city. A 35-year-old woman was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- August 4 A 71-year-old woman was beaten to death in the city. A 47-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- August 6 A 24-year-old man was beaten to death in the city. A 32-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- August 30 A 45-year-old Philadelphia woman, a security guard and the mother of three children, was brutally stabbed multiple

- times in the face, chest and back. Her mutilated body was left on a sidewalk. Police followed a blood trail from her body to the nearby home of a 37-year-old Southwest Philadelphia man, who neighbors said liked to dress in wigs and costumes and who would howl like a coyote at night. He was charged with her murder. The victim's mother said the perpetrator had been stalking her daughter, and she had filed three police reports about him.
- September 3 A 40-year-old man was stabbed to death in the city. A 23-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- September 9 A 34-year-old man was killed in the city. A 27-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- September 18 The decomposing body of a 42-year-old Germantown woman was found in a second-floor bedroom of her home. She had been stabbed and strangled. Her 39-year-old live-in boyfriend, the father of her 12-year-old son, was charged in her murder. Neighbors said their relationship was physically and emotionally abusive.
- October 12 A 49-year-old Point Breeze woman was found with multiple stab wounds to her neck and body in the back doorway of a first-floor Allegheny apartment. She was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead 33 minutes later. A 60-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence homicide. No further information was available.
- October 30 A 49-year-old Chester County man was found beaten and strangled in a Center City hotel room that also had been set ablaze. A 23-year-old transgender prostitute, who identifies as a woman, was charged with murder, arson and related charges in the case. Photographs from the hotel lobby show the victim and perpetrator entering the hotel together. The perpetrator's defense attorney said his client had been carrying on a seven-month relationship with the victim, who was married and had a 9-year-old daughter. The attorney also said his client was high on PCP that night and can't remember what happened. The beating was so brutal that the details of it were not read in open court. The victim suffered broken ribs, a fractured larynx, a lacerated penis and bruised organs. Some of his muscles had turned to pulp because of the severity of the

- beating.
- November 18 A 52-year-old man was killed in the city. A 49-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- November 18 A 32-year-old man was fatally shot in the city. A 29-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- November 29 A 37-year-old South Philadelphia woman was brutally beaten to death by her 16-year-old son the day after Thanksgiving because she took away his Play Station after he was accused of stealing a laptop from his school. According to his confession, after they argued for 90 minutes he paced the floor for three hours mulling what to do while his mother slept. Then he killed her. "I couldn't stand the arguing," he told police. He hit her 20 times with a claw hammer, tried to "cremate" her in the oven and repeatedly smashed her head with a chair leg. He then dragged her bloody corpse into an alley and covered it with a dresser without drawers, a flower pot and other debris. Family members who visited the home over the weekend suspected something was wrong and called police. Police served a search warrant on the house and found a bloody trail leading to the body. He was charged as an adult with murder, abuse of a corpse and related charges. He told police: "If I could, I would not do it again. I really miss my mom. ... She was the only person who cared for me."
- December 18 A 50-year-old man was killed in the city. Police have classified the death as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.
- December 20 A 34-year-old man was fatally shot in the city. A 41-year-old man was arrested for what police have classified as a domestic violence-related homicide. No further information was available.

Schuylkill

- January 14 A 44-year-old New Ringgold man was shot in the heart outside his home by his 50-year-old wife, who then shot herself in the head. Police said the two had been having marital problems. The coroner ruled that the wife fired both fatal shots.

Snyder

June 18

A 45-year-old Middlecreek Township man was killed by police when he came outside of his home armed and refused to surrender after a 14-hour standoff. While driving with his father to Sunbury, the perpetrator decided he did not want to go and pulled a gun on his father. The men struggled and a shot rang out, but the father was able to escape. The son then drove the car back to the home he shared with his parents and took his mother, a minister and the minister's wife hostage. Police negotiated with the man, but after giving him "every opportunity to surrender peacefully" they shot him to protect the lives of the hostages.

Somerset

January 8

A 56-year-old woman was stabbed multiple times by her 45-year-old sister during an argument at the Jennerstown motel where they both lived. The victim survived, but the perpetrator was found dead along Route 30 of self-inflicted stab wounds.

Venango

January 13

A 40-year-old state police trooper and a 53-year-old Cranberry Township woman were fatally shot by the woman's 44-year-old husband, who then killed himself. The trooper had volunteered to respond to the domestic violence call at the home because he knew the perpetrator from his previous disputes with neighbors. When he and another trooper arrived at the home they heard the perpetrator yell that they should return to their vehicle. The perpetrator then shot the trooper, hitting him in the neck above his bulletproof vest. Police called it an ambush because the perpetrator had pushed tables against the windows in a way that allowed him to cover multiple vantage points. Folded and stacked blankets and towels allowed the shooter to steady his rifle and take aim. He was wearing an ammunition belt holding rounds for a rifle with a scope. When officers entered the home more than six hours later, they found the perpetrator and his wife dead in the bedroom. The wife was slumped in a chair with a gunshot wound to the head. The husband lay near the foot of the bed, holding a rifle, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head. The rifle was confiscated in 1997 when he went to his wife's workplace and

threatened to kill her, police officers and himself with it. In that incident he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years probation, after which the judge ordered the rifle returned to him for hunting purposes. Police recovered two rifles and a shotgun from the bedroom.

Washington

May 13

A 25-year-old Ellsworth woman made a frantic call to 911 and reported she was being attacked by an intruder. When police arrived they saw blood throughout the home. The woman's nude and badly beaten body and the body of her 31-year-old date were found early the next morning in her ex-boyfriend's abandoned car. They both had been shot. According to friends, the victims were going on a first date the night they were killed. The victim and perpetrator were locked in a custody dispute over their 4-year-old son. There had been previous assault and harassment arrests and several protection orders in the relationship. The perpetrator was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole for the murders and six-to-12 months each for the two lesser charges.

November 29

A 47-year-old Chartiers man killed himself in his home during a 12-hour standoff with police. On Thanksgiving day he threatened his wife's life with a rifle. She escaped the home and, about an hour later, so did their 15-year-old son. The perpetrator told police he was going to kill himself because of mental health issues and his inability to get work. After not hearing from him for nearly an hour, police stormed the home and found him dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

December 11

A 40-year-old Cecil Township woman was brutally attacked in her home and stabbed multiple times all over her body. She also had defensive wounds on her hands and clusters of abrasions that may have been caused by a Taser gun. Her 56-year-old estranged husband was charged with the homicide. He pleaded not guilty. The victim had called 911 and said her husband was attacking her and that he had a gun. The dispatcher told her to go somewhere safe in the house. The victim let out a sob, and then the line disconnected. The dispatcher called the home and reached the victim, who said she was now in a locked bedroom. The dispatcher told her to stay calm, that

someone was on the way. The victim screamed, and the line disconnected again. Three police officers, who arrived minutes after that call, heard a woman screaming loudly inside the home. One of the officers testified that “I’ve never heard a scream like that.” The officers kicked in the door and found blood and spent casings on the second-floor landing. Both bedroom doors showed signs of forced entry. An ax was laying near the perpetrator, who was slumped and bleeding from stab wounds to his abdomen. The victim’s body was lying a short distance away. Police said the couple were going through a divorce.

Wayne

May 1

A 40-year-old Honesdale man died of carbon dioxide poisoning from smoke inhalation when his 45-year-old girlfriend set fire to the couple’s home. After she started two earlier fires inside the home that he extinguished, she wrapped herself in a fleece blanket and lit it on fire. He removed the blanket and threw it. It landed on a stairwell, which then ignited. She escaped from a second-floor bedroom window with burns and smoke inhalation, but he was not able to get out. He was found clutching an open cell phone. Police said she set the fires out of anger that her boyfriend was still in phone contact with his ex-wife, the mother of his three children. She pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and two counts of felony arson and was sentenced to 15-30 years in prison. She told the court: “I didn’t want to hurt him. I didn’t want my Timmy to die. I’m begging this court for leniency.” The judge, noting that the couple had a complex and tumultuous relationship in which alcohol played a part, told her: “I do believe you have a history of being abused and violated.”

Westmoreland

February 10

A 30-year-old Mount Pleasant woman with developmental disabilities was lured to a Greensburg apartment, held captive for 36 hours, beaten, raped, tortured and then stabbed multiple times. Her body was found bound in Christmas lights and garland and stuffed into a trash can in a middle school parking lot. Family members said she had the mental capacity of an adolescent and was very trusting. Three men and three women between the ages of 17 and 36, who the victim considered friends, were charged with her murder. According to testimony, the

victim had resisted the sexual advances of one of the male perpetrators, but he would “force her to do things with him.” His 17-year-old girlfriend, who also was charged with the murder, became jealous of the victim and convinced the others to attack her. The victim’s head was shaved, and she was forced to drink human waste, bleach, detergent and other toxic substances before being killed. All six perpetrators were charged with first-degree murder. The 17-year-old perpetrator was convicted of first-degree murder, kidnapping and conspiracy and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. She was too young to face the death penalty. The others are awaiting trial. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against three of the perpetrators who they say also were ringleaders in the attack.

June 1

A 42-year-old Mount Pleasant Township woman was fatally shot after she stopped her car to rescue a woman frantically fleeing from her husband, who had just shot her in the face and their daughter in the neck. The 37-year-old wife and 16-year-old daughter survived. The injured and bleeding wife had flagged down the good samaritan, who was a nurse, as her car was passing. The driver was talking on her cell phone with her husband when she suddenly said, “I have to go! I have to go! Oh my God, she’s bleeding.” The perpetrator walked up to the vehicle, opened the driver’s door and fired one round at point blank range. The bullet struck the driver in the head. She was pronounced dead at the scene. After shooting her the perpetrator walked back inside his home and then came back out a short time later as flames shot out of the home. He was charged with homicide, attempted homicide, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and discharging a firearm in an occupied structure. His wife told police they had been talking about renewing their wedding vows when he suddenly went into a rage. She also said she had tried unsuccessfully to have him committed to the hospital a month earlier because he had heard voices and threatened to jump off the roof of their Calumet home. Neighbors described him as a tyrant.

July 11

A 39-year-old South Greensburg man was chased through his house and shot by a 54-year-old Indiana County man after the perpetrator found sexually explicit emails between his wife and the victim from a year earlier when they were having an affair. The perpetrator fired one shot

as the victim dove out an upstairs window, hitting him in the leg. The victim fell to the ground. The perpetrator then walked to where the victim lay on the ground, ignored his pleas to spare his life, and fired two more times. The perpetrator had driven more than 30 miles to the victim's home to kill him, a fact prosecutors used to convince the jury that it was a premeditated murder. He kicked in the door of the home and, according to witnesses, shouted "You'll never sleep with another man's wife," before shooting the victim. The defense attorney argued the shooting was committed in the heat of passion. A jury convicted the perpetrator of first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence. The judge further sentenced him to five to 10 years in prison for a weapons offense. The perpetrator is appealing his conviction.

August 8

A 39-year-old woman and a 42-year-old wheelchair-bound man were fatally shot by the woman's estranged husband outside a high-rise complex for elderly and disabled residents in Monessen. The perpetrator, who fired about 10 shots, then turned the gun on himself. The perpetrator and his wife had what police called an unusual relationship. They were estranged but remained living in the same duplex. The perpetrator and his girlfriend had moved to one side of the duplex. The perpetrator was walking with his girlfriend when he spotted his wife, the male victim and others gathered in a pavilion. Police said he pulled out a pistol without warning and shot them. Family members said the wife was planning to file for divorce and had a platonic relationship with the male victim. Police suspect the perpetrator was jealous. The male victim had been paralyzed from the waist down in a car accident a year earlier but was a regular volunteer at the Monessen Food Pantry.

December 1

A 43-year-old Latrobe man was shot once in the chest with his own handgun during an argument with his 46-year-old live-in girlfriend as they played the "Mafia Wars" game on the Internet. Police said the girlfriend admitted shooting him but denied it was intentional. She said they argued after she found a photo of another woman on his cell phone, and the fight became physical when he grabbed her and threw her to the floor. Police said she told them she then went to the bedroom and retrieved his .45-caliber handgun to stop the attack. She told police the gun accidentally fired when he tried to take it from her on

a stairway. Police alleged she shot him because he told her he wanted to leave. After the shooting she called 911 three times, frantically asking for help and telling dispatchers she had shot her boyfriend. The prosecutor said a plea-bargain deal on voluntary manslaughter was reached because it would be difficult to prove a specific intent to kill or malice. She was sentenced to four to eight years in prison and 10 years on probation.

Westmoreland

December 24 A 51-year-old Hempfield man was fatally shot on Christmas Eve by police responding to a domestic dispute call. The perpetrator and his wife fought on their porch for about an hour before state troopers were called to the house. Police say the perpetrator physically confronted the first trooper who arrived, forcing him over a porch railing and onto the ground several feet below. The perpetrator then ran back into his house. He returned to the porch holding a handgun with a large barrel and threatened to kill the officers. When the perpetrator pointed his gun at a trooper and refused to drop it, the trooper fired his AK-15 rifle and struck the perpetrator in the chest and abdomen.

York

August 4 A 23-year-old man was shot in the head and chest, and his 22-year-old brother was charged with the murder. Police said both men were armed as they argued outside their Fawn Grove home. The perpetrator's defense attorney claims he shot his brother in self-defense after years of bullying. The perpetrator has already pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence for cutting off his brother's fingertips and one leg and attempting to burn his body. He told the judge he was trying to dispose of the evidence of the shooting. The judge ruled that photographs showing the victim's gruesome wounds will be barred from the murder trial in October 2011 after the defense argued they would be "inflammatory."

October 12 A 59-year-old York man was shot six times in the home he shared with his 49-year-old girlfriend. She was charged with homicide. Police said she initially told them that she mistook him for an intruder. Neighbors said the couple had a violent relationship.