

Police find unidentified body inside Jeep linked to NW deaths

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Photos courtesy Appeal-Democrat / David Bitton

PORTLAND, OR (KPTV) -

Oregon State Police confirmed late Saturday afternoon they have found a body inside the black Jeep Patriot associated with a murder investigation in Everett, Wash.

The Jeep has been linked to the murders of Oregon teen Cody Myers and a Washington woman.

Troopers said the Jeep was found in rural Linn County outside Sweet Home early Friday afternoon.

Officials have not identified the man inside the Jeep but said he was an adult white male. The body was taken to the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office in Clackamas where an autopsy will be done Monday to positively identify the man and determine the manner and cause of death, officials said.

Detectives said the Jeep belongs to David Pedersen's father, who police consider a missing endangered person.

David Pedersen and Holly Grigsby are suspected of killing Pedersen's stepmother, Leslie, who was found murdered last Thursday in Everett, Washington.

Troopers said the Jeep was discovered over an embankment on a logging road in the vicinity of Yellowbottom Campground north of Green Peter Lake. Officials said the Jeep was not visible from the road.

Search and rescue teams from Marion, Benton, Linn, and Crook counties were assembled and eventually recovered the vehicle.

The Everett Police Department said the Jeep will be returned to Everett to a secure location for evidence processing.

Police said they believe the two suspects drove to Oregon in the Jeep, then abandoned it in the Willamette Valley and got behind the wheel of Myers' car.

Myers disappeared Saturday, on his way to the Newport Jazz Festival. His body was found Tuesday in Benton County; an autopsy showed he died of gunshot wounds, according to police.

Pedersen and Grigsby had been traveling in Myers' car in California when they were arrested by a Highway Patrol Officer, north of Sacramento.