

Body found in North Umpqua River may be student missing in November crash

by Cheryl McDermott

Oregon State Police and Douglas County Sheriff's deputies are investigating the recovery of an unidentified body found this afternoon in the North Umpqua River near milepost 47 on Highway 138E. Troopers said that pending identification, they are unable to confirm if the body is that of an OSU student missing since a November traffic accident where the vehicle was found in the river nearby.

Police were notified about 1:15 p.m. March 1 that a body was sighted, and responded to the scene about one and one-half miles downstream from the Dry Creek store to investigate and recover the body. At this time, troopers reported, it is unknown if the deceased is male or female.

Investigators will be working with the Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office to positively identify the body, and say there is no data yet available to confirm or deny if it is that of missing Oregon State University student Jeffrey Bernard Schmidt.

Schmidt, 22, of Medford, was involved in a fatal traffic accident in the area on November 19 of last year when his 1997 Jeep Wrangler went over a steep embankment and into the river.

In that accident, 20-year old Quinn Do Truong of Tigard was found deceased in the vehicle two days later after a Douglas County Sheriff's deputy found skidmarks and broken branches leading to the river. The two students were reported missing when they failed to return from a sorority and fraternity function held at Diamond Lake Lodge, about 32 miles east of the accident scene.

Troopers declined to release further details pending positive identification of the body

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