

Body found in N. Umpqua River IDâ€™d as missing student

by Cheryl McDermott

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office has positively identified the body found Thursday afternoon in the North Umpqua River as Jeffrey Schmidt, a 22-year old Oregon State University student from Medford who has been missing since a traffic crash in that area on November 19th.

Oregon State Police and Douglas County Sheriffâ€™s deputies were notified about 1:15 p.m. March 1 that a body was sighted in the North Umpqua River near milepost 47 on Highway 138E, and responded to the scene about one and one-half miles downstream from the Dry Creek store to investigate and recover the body.

Investigators worked with the Douglas County Medical Examinerâ€™s Office to positively identify the body, which was unknown at time of recovery to be male or female.

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 Sheriffâ€™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.

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