

Former Waynesboro man murdered

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By Richard F. Belisle / Staff Writer, Waynesboro

WAYNESBORO, Pa. - Authorities in northeastern Washington State Wednesday confirmed that one of the badly burned bodies found on a remote logging road near the state's border with British Columbia was that of Nicholas Dewayne Kaiser, 21, a graduate of Waynesboro Area Senior High School.

The case is being investigated as a double murder, said Deputy Gilbert Geer of Stevens County, Wash., Sheriff's Department.

The skeletal remains were found on Sept. 24 near a burned-out 1986 Ford Bronco registered to Kaiser. They were discovered by a hunter near a remote logging road northeast of Colville, Wash., police said.

Geer said police have not released a cause of death, the kinds of weapons, if any, that were used in the murders or a motive in the case. He said the case has priority in the department.

Kaiser was identified from dental records, police said. Authorities announced his identity on Oct. 3. Kaiser's obituary ran in the Herald-Mail newspapers on Oct. 6. A memorial service was held on Oct. 9.

He was the son of Wayne J. and Judy Kaiser. The family declined to comment Wednesday.

Kaiser's photo and name, but no record of any school or extracurricular activities appear in the 1997 Waynesboro Senior High School yearbook. He also attended the Franklin County Vocational Technical School where he studied carpentry. He earned his GED from Portland Community College, according to his obituary. He worked as a telemarketer.

According to King County, Wash., Superior Court records, Kaiser pleaded guilty in November 1998 to possession of the illegal hallucinogenic drug psilocybin, a mushroom derivative.

Geer said it will be two to three weeks before the identity of the second victim is confirmed through genetic testing.

Authorities believe it might be that of Joshua Schafer, also 21, of San Diego, Calif.

According to the Statesman Examiner, a newspaper in Colville, Wash., Kimberly Kerpan, Schafer's common-law wife, called newspapers last spring to report that Schafer was missing and was believed to have been in the Stevens County area. Kerpan told the paper that the last time she heard from Schafer was June 10, one day before police think the murders occurred.

Kaiser and Schafer are believed to have been among the thousands of people who attended a semi-annual barter fair near Northport, Wash. At one time it was popular among organic farmers and crafters who came to the fair to barter goods, Geer said. Today it's more like a flea market, he said.

Stevens County is the fifth largest in the state of Washington with a population of about 40,000 people, Geer said. It covers more than 2,400 square miles.

