

Body identified as San Diego man

DNA to be used to identify other body in burned car

Spokesman Review, By John Craig

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Colville, Wash. —A dental examination confirmed Monday that one of two bodies found Sept. 24 in a burned-out car in northern Stevens County belongs to 21-year-old Josh Schaefer of San Diego.

Genetic testing of skeletal remains separately will be necessary to confirm the identity of the other homicide victim, Sheriff Craig Thayer said.

Thayer said the second victim is believed to be a man Schaefer accompanied to the Northport Barter Faire on July 10. A hunter found their animal-scattered bones in and around a burned out vehicle on a logging road in the Flatcreek area southwest of Northport, 15 miles north of Colville.

Thayer declined to release the suspected identity of the second victim because officers have been unable to notify the man's relatives.

When Schaefer failed to get in touch as expected with his wife, Kimberly Kerpan, she reported he had planned to attend to Barter Faire with a man whose criminal connections may have placed him in danger.

"We're looking at what contacts the other victim may have had that involved a grudge," Thayer said, noting a Pierce County sheriff's detective came to Colville on Monday to confer about the case.

Also Monday, officers searched a cabin near the burned vehicle, where the victims may have stayed.

"Potentially, they had permission (to use the cabin) from absentee landowners or associates of the absence landowners," Thayer said, declining to elaborate.

So far, he said, detectives have no suspects.