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### Officials await lab tests for leads on murder of Iowa City woman

*Gazette Johnson County Bureau*

IOWA CITY - Authorities investigating Laura Van Wyhe's death are still waiting for lab tests to be completed on some evidence. "We're doing little things, but we're mainly waiting on evidence," said deputy Bill Conger of the Clark County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

A truck driver found Van Wyhe, 21, around 2 a.m. Oct. 26 along U.S. Highway 136 near the northeast Missouri town of Kahoka. She died a few hours later at a hospital in Quincy, Ill.

The jury at a coroner's inquest held in Quincy in December determined Van Wyhe died of brain trauma, massive blood loss and blunt force trauma to the head and legs. The death was not accidental, the jury determined.

Conger, who took over when the state trooper handling the case was transferred, said lab work usually takes six to eight months but will likely be finished sooner in a case of this priority.

The evidence is processed at a lab in Jefferson City, Missouri's capital.

"Hopefully there is evidence of somebody else there or somebody else involved or something - I don't know," Conger said. "Then we'd have a lead."

Custody of Samson Knight, the son Van Wyhe had with Donald Knight III of Bonaparte, was awarded to Van Wyhe's mother in January.

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