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Rumors not true: Sheriff No new leads in Wieneke murder

Dave Gosch

Gazette staff writer More than 100 people have been questioned in relation to the Corey Wieneke murder, and that has caused rumors to fly in the West Liberty area. Sgt. Greg Orr, investigator for the Muscatine County Sheriff's Department, said several people have been called in twice for questioning, but that doesn't mean they are suspects.

Orr said people are saying "so-and-so is a suspect because he's been interviewed twice."

Wieneke, 22, was found dead Oct. 13 in the bedroom of his rural West Liberty home by his fiancée, Jody Hotz.

Authorities determined that Wieneke was beaten to death by someone he knew. A softball bat was found a mile down the road from his house, and lab tests have confirmed it as the murder weapon.

Orr had nothing new to report in the investigation, other than that authorities thought they had a couple of ties to the murder. Further investigation revealed those weren't legitimate.

"There's really nothing that stands out," he said. "We have a puzzle here, and one or two pieces are missing."

When asked if anyone left town shortly after the murder, Orr said: "We haven't heard anything like that."

Orr confirmed that the bat was bought at a Wal-Mart, but he didn't indicate which one.

He also said bats with that kind of blue color were last shipped to the area a year ago. He said the bat could have been left over from last year's inventory.

The bat, a Power Flite Heavyweight, is relatively inexpensive. The murder weapon had a \$15 retail price and was bought on sale for \$13.

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