

## Suspicious Death Ruled a Homicide

Wednesday, 21 September 2016 18:16 -

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The Suspicious Death investigation in Columbia County is now a homicide investigation. Investigators working on the case have identified Apache Rose Hightower, 24, Portland, as the victim of homicidal violence following the autopsy held this afternoon in Portland.

Hightower's body was discovered yesterday afternoon a little before 4:30 p.m. by a passerby who did not have a cellular telephone with him, but notified other drivers who called 9-1-1. Deputies responding to the scene discovered her body down an embankment off of Pittsburg Rd. in the 30000 block.

Investigators used fingerprint records to make a positive identification of Hightower's body. Investigators were also able to notify Hightower's next of kin this evening, leading to the release of this information.

The investigation continues with the help of the Columbia County Major Crimes Team, the State Medical Examiner, and the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. Investigators are encouraging anyone having information in regard to this case to call our recorded tip line at [\(503\) 366-4698](tel:5033664698)