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Girlfriend may have killed Cheektowaga man, sources say

Sources say girlfriend is primary suspect

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Authorities now believe that a woman killed her 56-year-old boyfriend using blunt-force trauma inside his Cheektowaga home over the weekend, sources close to the investigation revealed Tuesday.

Peter Wiepert, who lived alone, may have been trying to break up with the woman, a source familiar with the case added.

Wiepert was found dead in his Princess Drive home, off Union Road, after police were called at about 6 p.m. Saturday to check on his welfare. Wiepert was vice president of Tri-Star Auto Repairs on Genesee Street in Cheektowaga.

"We are confident that we know who did it," Cheektowaga Assistant Police Chief James J. Speyer said Tuesday. "We have located the person of interest. If we want to arrest this person, we know where the individual is."

Speyer wouldn't explain where that "person of interest" is, but other sources said the woman has been hospitalized, apparently with self-inflicted injuries that occurred hours after the attack on Wiepert.

While he hopes that an arrest will be made soon, Speyer couldn't say when.

"Neighbors don't have to worry," the assistant chief said. "It was somebody known to the victim. It's not a random attack."

Speyer refused to comment on any of the circumstances surrounding the killing, including the claim that Wiepert's girlfriend attacked him.

Investigators have been trying to determine how Wiepert, a physically strong man who remained fit in his mid-50s, could have been killed.

"They believe he was asleep when he was attacked," said Wiepert's brother, Paul. "Hopefully, he went fast. Hopefully, he didn't suffer. And I hope they get the person who did it."

Paul Wiepert is especially concerned about the effect of the tragedy on his brother's daughters, Jennifer and Michele. Both are medical professionals.

"I'm still freaked out about it," he said. "My main thing is to get closure. Then I'll deal with it. I'd like to see the case closed, especially for the girls. It was a brutal murder."

The Wiepert brothers, two of seven siblings, owned Tri-Star Auto Repairs for almost three decades.

"He's been my partner now for 29 years," Paul Wiepert said. "He was a great businessman, a great mechanic, and everybody just loved him. He didn't have any enemies."

A graduate of Cleveland Hill High School, Peter Wiepert was mechanically inclined and loved cars, particularly the 1966 GTO that he kept in mint condition until selling it about a year and a half ago. He didn't have any other hobbies, other than helping other people.

"Everyone loved him," his brother said. "He would do anything for anybody. That was his passion. He'd pull over and help somebody with a flat tire. That's the kind of person he was. That was his hobby."

Among Wiepert's survivors, besides his two daughters, are three brothers, Thomas, James and Paul; three sisters, Kathy Lanning, Mary Holdner and Janet; and two grandchildren.

Paul Wiepert wants people to remember his brother for the way he reached out to others, not for the

violent way he died.

“He wouldn’t hurt a fly,” he said. “He was a mellow type of dude.

“He didn’t deserve this at all.”

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