



BRAD THURMAN, SHERIFF

Leadership * Service * Excellence * Sacrifice

PRESS RELEASE

A26-17508 MISSING PERSON - RECOVERY

AUGUST 31, 2026

On August 28, 2026, a citizen located the vehicle belonging to missing person Brent Erickson, on Weyerhaeuser timberland near the 6402 line. Deputies responded to the scene and confirmed Erickson's vehicle appeared to be stuck in a ditch and was unoccupied. Deputies were unable to locate Erickson at this time, and due to hours of darkness, the scene was secured and a search and rescue mission was initiated the following morning. Cowlitz Search and Rescue searched the area on August 29, 2026, but was unable to locate Erickson.

On August 30, 2026, a Weyerhaeuser Woods Security employee located Erickson's body approximately ½ mile from his vehicle, in a steep area with thick underbrush. Deputies responded to the scene with the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office and recovered the body. Mr. Erickson's next of kin was notified of his passing.

An autopsy has been conducted by the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office. The cause and manner of death report is pending.

The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the citizens, staff and volunteers who assisted in the search for Mr. Erickson. Search efforts included over 800 miles of road searches in the St Helens Tree Farm, in addition to ground searches, Human Remains Detection K-9 searches, and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) searches. Searchers from Columbia County (OR) Search and Rescue, Clark County Search and Rescue, Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management Amateur Communication Services, Weyerhaeuser Woods Security, and the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office UAS Unit and Reserve Deputies assisted with this search.

Undersheriff Troy Brightbill
Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office