

Police close in on missing girls

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SAN BERNARDINO — Steadily closing what was originally a 30-month gap in their search for two kidnapped sisters, police now know the young girls were alive as recently as four months ago.

Brandi Jondell Summers and Tiffani Wise were seen late last September in the Boise, Idaho, area, it was learned by San Bernardino detectives John McDonald and Don Meyer, who have been there about two weeks.

"We feel we're very close," homicide Lt. Don Levan said Thursday. "We're being very careful in the investigation."

He said McDonald and Meyer had interviewed about 175 persons on this trip.

Brandi, then 5, and Tiffani, then 2, disappeared on March 30, 1977, the day that their mother, Beverly Wise, was found murdered at their home.

Until last September, when the

police reopened the investigation, the girls had been feared dead. Roy Summers, 39 — Brandi's father — has been charged in the kidnapping and with the murder of Wise, one of his former wives.

He is currently in a Bend, Ore., jail on unrelated charges and is awaiting extradition to California in the the kidnap-murder case.

The detectives' latest trip to the Boise area was the second one in the last month. Their purpose was to verify reported sightings of the girls and to gather more background information on Summers especially in connection with the children.

During the last three years, the youngsters have been reportedly spotted in various areas, including Northern California; Virginia; Elko, Nev., and Boise and the surrounding area.

Here is a chronology of those verified sightings, beginning with

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