

Suspect arrested, youth recovering after being shot in chest

Tribal member Luke Miller, 24, was arrested recently on allegations of assault with intent to commit murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Miller was arrested the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 23, at a residence off Highway 26 northwest of Warm Springs.

Miller has been accused of shooting a 17-year-old on the morning of Feb. 23.

The 17-year-old was recovering and in good condition within a week after being shot.

The bullet struck him in the chest area, according to Warm Springs police.

That same morning, Miller also fired at a vehicle driven by Sterling Kalama, who was on his way to work, according to a report from the Warm Springs police.

Miller and the 17-year-old apparently were involved in a dispute sometime before the shooting, according to police.

Kalama, on the other hand,

Officers searched the residence and recovered evidence related to the shooting incidents, according to police.

had not been in contact with the suspect prior to the shooting.

Instead, Kalama apparently was driving a vehicle that looked similar to the one that the 17-year-old shooting victim had been driving.

Miller apparently fired at the vehicle thinking that the 17-year-old was driving. The bullet struck the car, but fortunately Kalama was not injured.

Miller then went to a residence located off Highway 26 to the northwest of Warm Springs.

Police were able to learn of his whereabouts, and attempted to make contact with Miller by knocking on the

door of the residence.

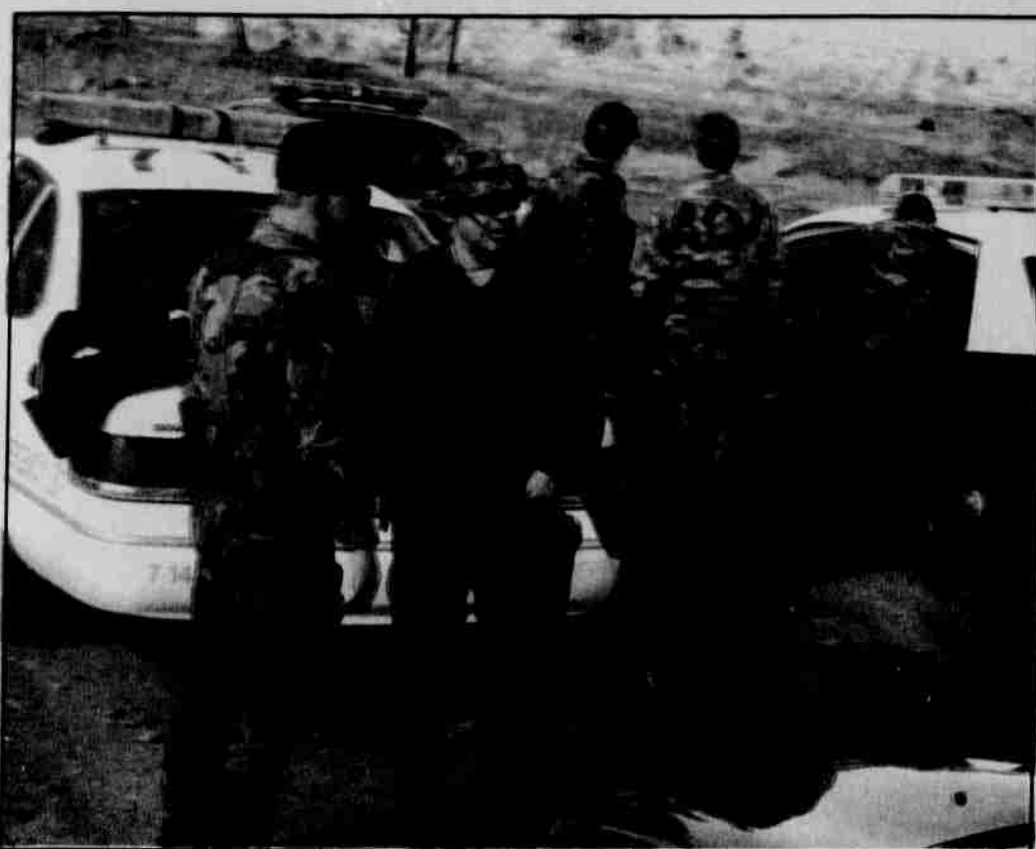
After knocking several times with no response, the officers used a loudspeaker to ask everyone inside the residence to come out, according to the police report.

This request also went ignored by the people in the house, so the police established a security perimeter around the residence.

Because the suspect was believed to be armed with a rifle, and because he allegedly had just shot one person and nearly shot another, the decision was made to call in the regional Emergency Response Team.

The team, representing officers from several law enforcement jurisdictions in the region, uses special weapons and tactics in potentially dangerous situations, such as when an armed suspect is barricaded in a building.

Several hours passed while Miller remained in the residence. The road to the house meanwhile was blocked off to



Members of the regional SWAT team gather near the scene of the shooting.

regular traffic.

In the afternoon, a relative of Miller contacted him by phone, and a short time later

Miller and other came out of the house. Miller was arrested and taken into federal custody. Later, by authority of a search

warrant, officers searched the residence and recovered evidence related to the shooting incidents, according to police.



Highway 3 tragedy

An Oregon State Police accident reconstruction specialist inspects a vehicle involved in a wreck this past weekend that claimed the life of tribal member Eunice Wolfe Esquiro.

The passenger in the vehicle was seriously injured in the accident. The driver of the other vehicle was not seriously injured. The matter was under investigation earlier this week.

Casino: opponents have lobbied against Gorge plan

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A casino at the Gorge – a proposal being considered by the Confederated Tribes of

Warm Springs – would be closer to Portland than any other tribal casino.

For this reason, a Gorge ca-

sino would be a very profitable venture for the Confederated Tribes, said Clements.

Conservative estimates are that a casino at Hood River would generate between \$13.3 million and \$15.5 million in net profit to the tribes.

The \$15.5 million figure is more than three times the amount generated by Indian Head at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The Grand Ronde and Cow Creek tribes have been lobbying against the Gorge casino plan, said Clements.

The lobbying effort has been toward state and federal officials, including an attempt to hinder a fee-to-trust transfer at the proposed Hood River casino site, said Clements.

"They're lobbying the governor's office, and any legislative person who will listen," said Clements. "And they're lobbying aggressively."

In contrast, other tribes in the state have indicated a willingness to write letters in support of the Gorge casino proposal, said Clements.

Besides Grand Ronde and

Cow Creek, "I've heard from no other tribes who are opposed to what we're doing," he said.

Also, Clements said, the opposition from Grand Ronde and Cow Creek does not appear to be popular with all members of those tribes.

"I think within their own community there is disagreement," he said.

The opposition to the Gorge casino plan seems to come largely from younger members rather than the elder members, Clements said.

Grand Ronde and Cow Creek were two of the tribes terminated by the federal government. The tribes were later reinstated.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs offered support during the reinstatement effort.

The support that Warm Springs gave Grand Ronde and Cow Creek during reinstatement makes their opposition especially hard to accept, said Clements.

He said that the people who are being lobbied on this issue by Grand Ronde and Cow Creek need to understand fully the situation at hand.

A key point, Clements said, is that the Confederated Tribes' Gorge casino proposal involves property that is part of the tribes' ceded lands.

By right of treaty, and in the spirit of free enterprise, the tribes are pursuing the development of a Gorge casino, said Clements.

The land at Hood River on which the casino would be built is land that is held in trust by the federal government for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes.

This land was in trust status prior to the enactment of the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

That act makes the land eligible for a casino by Congressional law, Clements said, and the governor cannot override a law passed by Congress.

Jobs: program to meet benchmarks

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The benchmarks were set during the updating of the long-range and comprehensive planning document of the Confederated Tribes, The People's Plan, published in 1999.

The plan was the culmination of three years work, including extensive participation by many tribal members. During the planning update process, many tribal members spoke of the need for more employment opportunities for tribal members.

Last year, in order to meet this priority, a group of tribal officials from various departments worked on a list of pro-

grams that have the potential for creating new tribal employment opportunities.

The group – including economic development, planning and education representatives – came up with fairly long and diverse list of potential projects, from a new resort to a recycling operation.

The list was narrowed down, based on factors such as funding that would be needed, the number of potential new jobs, and the likelihood of success of the enterprise.

The final list consisted of two projects: Environmental Services, and an enterprise in the field of construction, which may begin later this year.

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