



Spilyay Tymoc

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Suspect confesses to 1987 murder

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

Margaret Lorraine Still died 15 years ago, at the age of 23. She and a friend, Gabriel Sanchez Ramos, were murdered while traveling in California as farm workers.

During all these years, the murders went unsolved. But last week a man turned himself in to the police in Arizona. He confessed to the murders in 1987 of Margaret Still and Gabriel Sanchez.

Margaret Still was a Warm Springs tribal member, the youngest of 13 children. The news that a suspect was finally in custody for her murder came as a shock to her family members.

Danny Martinez, an older brother of Margaret, received word of the arrest on the Friday afternoon of the employee picnic.

It was an emotionally draining experience, he said, because suddenly you re-live the worst of times, such as when he had to travel to California with relatives to identify the body of his sister.

Since receiving news of the arrest, the surviving family members of Margaret Still have gotten together and talked about it. Martinez said he and others have considered participating in the sentencing against the suspect, whose name is Daniel Hernandez Castillo.

"But for now," he said, "I don't think I could sit in the same room with him."

Over the years, family members of Margaret Still have kept in touch with the California detective who has been in charge of the case. There were no arrests until unexpectedly, on Monday, Aug. 5, Castillo, 34, turned himself in to the Nogales, Ariz. police.

According to police, he confessed to killing Margaret Still and Gabriel Sanchez Ramos in Sutter County, Calif., in early December of 1987.

The victims had been bludgeoned to death.

The Interesting Case of Thomas Jim

Old land transactions at Hood River spark interest among tribal officials

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

The story is an old one, and time has obscured some of the details.

But the old facts have now become of interest, and of possible importance to tribal leaders.

The case involves large events, such as the construction in the 1910s and '20s of the Columbia River Highway.

Much more obscure events are

also under scrutiny. These include land transactions that happened 80 or so years ago.

The parties to these land sales are the State of Oregon and an Indian by the name of Thomas Jim, who was of Wasco ancestry.

Thomas Jim used to own the 40-acre Hood River property where the Confederated Tribes are planning to build a casino.

Jim acquired the property as a gov-

ernment allotment in the early 1920s. He lived there for several years, fishing on the Columbia, and working as a woodcutter.

He had a house on the property. A daughter was born there to Thomas Jim and his wife.

The daughter was Adeline Symentire Morrison, grandmother of Dora Goudy, who works as the development coordinator at The Museum at Warm Springs.

Some time ago, Dora and her grandmother used to travel on occasion between The Dalles and Portland, as they had relatives in each location.

On some of these trips, "My grandmother would point to a hillside, and she would say that is where she was born," said Dora.

The hillside is near the town of Hood River

Please THOMAS JIM on 10

Season for huckleberries



Shannon Keaveny/Spilyay

The traditions of the huckleberry have endured, having passed from generation to generation since time immemorial.

Today as always, the hope for the future of these traditions is with the young people of the tribes.

The Warm Springs Branch of the Boys and Girls Club provides one example of older people sharing their knowledge of the huckleberries with younger tribal members, helping ensure that the traditions live on. Others are also helping.

See page 6 for more on the huckleberries, and the people who gather and care for the berries.



At left, Marena Flores, of the Boys and Girls Club, picks huckleberries during a recent field trip.

Warm Springs Library opens

The Warm Springs Library celebrated its grand opening on Wednesday of this week, Aug. 21.

The library is in the Family Resource Center building

Along with the library, the Family Resource Center also marked an official grand opening on Wednesday.

On hand for the event were over 60 interested and supportive members of the community.

The Family Resource Center, which used to be the old clinic, was remodeled last year. The building now houses the Community Health Education Team (CHET), Adult and Family Services (AFS), and Early Headstart.

Central Oregon Community College also has an office in the remodeled building.

The newest addition to the Family Resource, the Warm Springs Library was several years in the planning and preparation phase.

Julie Quaid, director of Essential Education, worked on grant proposals for the library.

She worked with the Jefferson County Library District, and Oregon State University on the grant applications.

Coordinating the work toward the grand opening has been Shawnele Shaw, who has served as the library development assistant.

The library has an initial inventory of over 2,200 books.

Tribes exploring wind power generation

Warm Springs Power Enterprises has received a grant in the amount of \$460,000 to study the possibility of developing wind power generation facilities.

The grant, to last two to three years, will fund the placement of wind-monitoring towers at various sites around the reservation.

The towers, between 60 and 150 feet high, may be up by the end of the year, said Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

The grant will also fund engineering services, and an economic analysis, said Manion.

You cannot get funding for development of wind generation facilities without the necessary marketing information, he said.

The \$460,000 grant comes from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The wind-monitoring towers will have computer systems that will record the relevant data.

As new school year begins, district faces uncertain budget

Jefferson County School District 509-J will see some budget cuts for the 2002-2003 school year.

The good news this week is that the cuts for the upcoming school year will not be nearly as large as they might have been.

"This is not the best case scenario, but it is far from the worst case," said Jim Manion, school district board member.

Of its \$25 million annual budget, school district 509-J was facing a potential cut of nearly \$2 million.

However, the \$2 million was reduced earlier this week, when the Oregon Legislature overrode a key budget veto by Gov. Kitzhaber.

The veto would have cut \$267 million statewide from the 2002-2003 schools budget.

For district 509-J, the veto would have reduced the 2002-2003 school budget by over \$1.3 million.

The Legislature did not override the governor's veto of a bill that would have allowed bonding of future tobacco settlement money.

This veto could result in a fairly significant reduction in the upcoming school year budget, "but we did dodge the big bullet," said Phil Riley, 509-J district superintendent.

Riley said that the school year is

"There are many factors that are not yet clear."

Phil Riley
School district superintendent

beginning for 509-J with quite a bit of uncertainty as to the district budget.

For instance, voters in the state on Sept. 17 will consider a ballot measure that would provide immediate funding to schools from a reserve fund.

It is possible that the Legislature may again meet in special session and decide to refer a new funding proposal to voters in November.

So for now, Riley said, the district board may want to wait and see how these future matters are resolved, before initiating serious budget cuts.

"There are many factors that are not yet clear," said Riley.

He also said that state schools budget will present a serious challenge for the state legislators who are elected in November.

While the present year budget is not going to see as serious a reduction as might have been, the same cannot be said for the following year. The next Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 26.

Government to appeal McQuinn timber award

The federal government has indicated that it will appeal the \$13.8 million judgment in the McQuinn Strip blow-down case.

A federal trial court judge earlier this summer handed down the judgment in favor of the Confederated Tribes against the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The government's notice of intent to appeal the judgement was not unexpected, said Dennis Karnopp, tribal attorney.

He said also that the parties to the case - the Confederated Tribes and the U.S. Justice Department, representing the BIA - still possibly could reach a settlement.

The government's notice of appeal was filed August 16. The Justice Department has 60 days from that date to file its legal brief with the appellate court.

The \$13.8 million judgment is intended to compensate the tribes for BIA mismanagement of the sale of timber harvested from the McQuinn Strip in 1990.

The judge in the case, Judge Robert Hodges, awarded the \$13.8 million in June of this year after the tribes appealed his 1999 judgment of \$225,000.

In the 1999 decision, Hodges agreed with the tribes that the BIA had breached its trust responsibility in the handling of the 1990 McQuinn Strip blow-down sale.

However, he also concluded that the tribes' request for compensation - \$18 million - was speculative, and he awarded the tribes the \$225,000.

The tribes appealed Hodges' decision to the Court of Appeals of the federal circuit in Washington, D.C.

The appeals court agreed with the Confederated Tribes that the request for higher damages from the federal government was justified, and not overly speculative.

The case was sent back to Judge Hodges for a determination of damages. Hodges then handed down a new judgment in favor of the tribes totaling \$13,805,607.

The federal government has now indicated that it will appeal the new judgment, which in part read as follows:

"The government failed to use proper procedures in practically every phase of this sale..."

And, "The BIA has not cooperated with the court or with the Confederated Tribes in resolving this case, despite many opportunities to do so."