

## Pre-Easter collision claims five near Klamath

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — A collision east of here that claimed five lives of a family from Beatty was a tragic end to a willing volunteer's trip to Klamath Falls to pick up Easter supplies for her church.

It ended on Oregon 140 east of Klamath Falls Saturday evening in a collision that killed Cleora Godowa, 60, a daughter Marilyn, 25, granddaughters Vifune Arnett, 18, and Jamie Smith, 2, and great-granddaughter Tierra Wilson, 3.

Residents said Godowa readily volunteered for the 90-mile round trip.

"That was just Cleora," said Madeline Hutchinson, a pastor of the town's Assembly of God church. "If she wasn't heading out to help this person, it was to help that one."

The right rear tire on Godowa's car blew out at 4:50 p.m., sending it into the path of an oncoming pickup. All five were ejected and pronounced dead at the scene, state police said.

Oregon State trooper Phil Browder said what he saw when he got there 90 minutes later will stick with him forever.

"Stuffed Easter bunnies, chocolates and diapers strewn all over the road," said Browder, who said it was the worst he had seen in more than 20 years on the job.

"I got up this morning to put Easter eggs out for my own kids before I left for work. I couldn't help but think, here's a family that won't get to do this today. Just horrific."

Trooper Mark Moore said Kevin Newman, 41, of Bly, the driver of the pickup, had no time to take evasive action. "He did everything he could to avoid this, but he really had no chance," Moore said.

Moore and passenger James Amberg, 44, also of Bly, were treated at the scene.

Browder said there were "very distinct marks on the pavement from a tire failing."

Witnesses in another vehicle reported seeing a plume of smoke near the tire about the time it veered across the center line and was broadsided by the pickup.

Moore said investigation is continuing but that it appears none of the five was wearing a seatbelt.

About 800 people live in the unincorporated Beatty area. Most are members of the Klamath tribe, as were the five victims.

Word spread quickly through the town.

"They call this place the Indian Triangle," said Brittany Baldwin, 18, Godowa's great-niece who grew up with Arnett and graduated with her last spring from Bonanza High School.

"Native Americans live by each other every day. We know all about each other and are always helping one another out."

Pastor Hutchinson said Godowa's volunteerism, from driving neighbors to doctor's visits to cooking meals at the community center, was well known.

"You never know what's going to happen," she said. "This was a day that everyone thought they'd be happy on Easter. It just didn't end that way."

Godowa is survived by her husband, James, three sons, a daughter and grandchildren. Plans for a memorial service are pending.

## Researchers eye Sacagawea's illness

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Sacagawea's near-fatal illness during the Lewis and Clark Expedition may have been the result of a miscarriage from a second pregnancy, two St. Louis scholars believe.

History professors Peter Kastor and Conevery Bolton Valencius of Washington University have been scrutinizing the explorers' journals from their 1804-06 westward expedition. The journals, they said, offer clues — through euphemisms common at the time but since largely forgotten — indicating that Sacagawea may have become ill while carrying a second child.

"We can't tell for sure, we'll probably never really know," Valencius said Friday. "What we're trying to do is raise this as a possibility. There's a lot that these journals have to say about how a woman's body was understood."

Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian teenager when she, her husband, French-Canadian fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau, and their infant son

joined Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's expedition in what is now North Dakota during the winter of 1804-05.

She was the only female on the expedition and served as an interpreter as Lewis and Clark explored territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. Her presence also provided proof to other American Indians of the expedition's friendly intentions.

Lewis and Clark maintained extensive diaries that provided a glimpse of the time, helped define boundaries, even offered detailed descriptions and drawings of previously unrecorded species.

But Kastor said scholars have failed to recognize the literary conventions taken by the explorers, including the use of euphemisms, borne partly out of modesty, in describing issues related to women's health.

The journals noted that Sacagawea became extremely ill when her son, Jean Baptiste, was about 6 months old. "If she dies, it will be the fault of

her husband as I am now convinced," Clark wrote.

Lewis wrote that Sacagawea suffered from "an obstruction of the mensis (sic) in consequence of taking could (sic)," or "taking a cold." Sacagawea eventually recovered.

Kastor and Valencius deemed it odd that the explorers blamed Charbonneau for Sacagawea's illness.

"Her menstrual periods may have been out of order in some way that's not related to reproduction, because that was a possibility at that time," Valencius said. "But we think it's more likely that they were using 'taking a cold' as a euphemism for pregnancy, as was commonly done. She may have had a miscarriage."

Another pregnancy so soon after the birth of Jean Baptiste would explain why Clark blamed Charbonneau for Sacagawea's illness, Valencius said, noting that the explorers apparently thought Charbonneau "should be ex-

ercising proper husbandly restraint so as not to get her pregnant again so quickly."

Amy Mossett of New Town, N.D., a national scholar on Sacagawea, doubts that the teenager was pregnant again so soon after her first child's birth.

"I think she was just suffering complications from her first childbirth, which was real common then," Mossett said. "I guess all we can do is speculate."

But David Borlaug, president of the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation in Washburn, N.D., noted another journal reference to Sacagawea's pelvic inflammation.

"I would say that if not pregnancy, something of a female health issue was going on," Borlaug said. "It's certainly possible. Probable? Who knows?"

Kastor and Valencius plan to present their findings at a conference on "Health and Medicine in the Lewis & Clark Era."

## FBI releases agency documents

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The FBI has released nearly 800 pages of material sought by attorneys for Leonard Peltier, the American Indian activist serving two life sentences in the 1975 slayings of two FBI agents on a reservation in South Dakota.

The documents outline agents' work as they checked with informants, including sources within the Seneca Indian Nation, and followed up on suspected Peltier sightings before his arrest, attorney Michael Kuzma said.

Under a Freedom of Information Act request, the FBI turned over 797 of the 812 pages collected by the Buffalo field office in the Peltier case. It withheld 15 pages, citing exemptions for national security concerns and to protect the privacy of agents, according to court documents.

Peltier's attorneys said Monday they would fight to see the withheld mate-

rial. "We're going to argue that the exemptions are being improperly invoked," Kuzma said.

Peltier supporters are seeking tens of thousands of pages of FBI documents from field offices nationwide as they fight to overturn his conviction.

"I believe the sheer volume of material that wasn't released or turned over to Leonard's defense attorneys warrants Leonard's immediate release from prison," Kuzma said. "Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way."

A Nov. 14, 1975, memo outlines an unidentified source's claim that he saw Peltier at an Indian convention at a Buffalo hotel in October 1975, four months after the shooting. Another source believed he spotted Peltier in Steamburg, near the Senecas' Allegany reservation, teaching Indian dances, Kuzma said.

Paul Moskal, an FBI spokesman in Buffalo, said he was unfamiliar with the content of the documents, released through the agency's Washington headquarters March 16, and could not comment.

Peltier, 59, was convicted in 1977 of killing the two FBI agents during a standoff on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Both agents, who the FBI said were searching for robbery suspects, were shot in the head.

Peltier was charged with taking part in the slayings, but whether he fired the fatal shots was never proved.

The case has become a rallying point for American Indian and human rights activists, who believe Peltier is a political prisoner. He was the subject of several documentary films and the best-selling novel "In the Spirit of Crazy Horse" by Peter Matthiessen.

### Community club offers support

## Navajo boxer will jab at Olympics

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Sixteen-year-old Lowell Bahe jabs at the air, his feet dancing around the threadbare ring in the tiny Navajo outpost of Chinle.

He turns up the CD of OutKast's "I Like the Way You Move" to help him concentrate as he does his evening workout.

"Any day I don't practice, I feel an emptiness," Lowell said. "If I didn't box, I'd be bigger, fatter. I'd talk back, have no respect."

"I'd just be an ordinary person." Lowell hopes boxing will take him to college and to the Olympics in 2008.

For hundreds of kids, a humble gym built by Lowell's father, Cal, has been the center of their struggle to stay away from smoking, drinking and gangs, to learn discipline and respect, to break past ordinary to extraordinary.

The gym, home of the Damon-Bahe Boxing Club, recently served as the set for an independent film, "Black Cloud," produced by former child star Rick Schroeder, who was in the boxing movie "The Champ" in 1978.

"I was inspired by what I heard about this man helping kids overcome alcoholism and gang violence through the sport of boxing," Schroeder said. "I drove up to meet him, watched boxing tapes of Lowell, his other sons and other boxers he's trained."

"I asked if I could use their story as a launching point for a dramatic movie. Their boxing club was the genesis for it."

The foundation of the gym was poured where the corral of the family's sheep camp used to stand.

"I spent everything I had on it," Cal said.

Boxing was the ticket out of trouble for Cal, who at 13 had been arrested in nearby Holbrook.

"I was in and out of jail, arrested for breaking and entering, and about to go to reform school," Cal said.

The judge released him if he promised to leave town.

He and his mother went to Fort Defiance and lived with his grandfather, Lee Damon, a Marine who won all-service championships, had qualified

for the Olympic trials and was running a boxing gym. He put Cal into the ring.

"Boxing pulled me out of trouble," Cal said. "It gave me something to do. It showed me I wasn't bad. It was the key thing that changed me."

In 1978, when Damon died of alcoholism, Cal took over the boxing club, moving it to Ganado. In 1985, he moved it to Chinle. About 10 years later, he built the gym next to his house.

"When a kid has poor grades, I try to find out why he is having problems," Judy said. "They feel more secure here than anywhere else."

When kids join the boxing team, they must adhere to strict rules, one of the reasons the club has produced 24 national boxing champions.

Lowell has won the All-Indian Nationals six times and National in his wins," Cal said. "He started boxing at 7 and was at his first tournament at 9."

Smith, of the Native American Sports Council, said this year is pivotal because Lowell turns 17 and can compete at the adult level.

## Judge adds payback to jail sentence

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A judge has ruled that a man sentenced to 14 years in prison for stealing geoducks should return \$1.1 million he stole from the state and Indian tribes.

Pierce County Superior Court Judge John McCarthy on Friday ruled Douglas Tobin should pay back \$879,408.40 for 196,412 pounds of geoduck he took, and \$247,803.20 for 72,905 pounds of crab he took between 2000 and 2002.

Those amounts include \$164,500 the government spent on the investigation.

Deputy prosecutor Tom Moore said it's unlikely Tobin will be able to pay back any money.

If he does, money for the crab would be distributed between the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nisqually Indian tribe. The geoduck money would be distributed among the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Nisqually, Squaxin Island and Puyallup tribes.

Prosecutors say Tobin, who owned Toulouk Seafoods processing plant in Fife, harvested geoduck and crab in the South Puget Sound area at times and places closed under state and tribal law, then sold his catch to buyers in Canada, California and a local man who paid cash.

Tobin had been charged with 160 crimes, including leading organized crime. He pleaded guilty last April to reduced charges.

Tobin was sentenced in December for theft, unlawful possession of a firearm and 35 felony and misdemeanor fishing violations for taking geoduck and crab in South Puget Sound.

## Casino money pays for education

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California Indian tribes that have raked in millions of dollars from their casinos are funneling some of that money to various universities for the study of Native American issues.

Tribal representatives said their donations are an extension of generous philanthropy that totals an estimated \$70 million annually.

The tribes have been one of the largest political contributors over the past five years, spending more than \$120 million on local and statewide campaigns.

Some critics believe that academic integrity is at risk when special inter-

ests influence higher education. But some experts said the tribes are following the example set by other companies that have funded school projects.

"It's almost like the tribes are coming of age," said Sheldon Krinsky, a Tufts University professor who studies conflicts of interest that arise when private money funds scientific research. "Drug companies and chemical companies have long given professorships or funded graduate education to help shape the agenda of higher education."

Tribal representatives said university programs addressing the Native American culture have long gone underfunded and now money is avail-

able to make them stronger.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, who operate a casino in San Bernardino County, gave \$4 million to the University of California, Los Angeles Law School.

The money will be used to establish a new center that will develop courses on California native issues and provide tribal internships for students.

Carole Goldberg, a UCLA law professor who heads the advisory board of the law school's Native Nations Law and Policy Center, said the tribe's gift would not affect the way existing courses are taught.

"It's not as if those topics are taught

now and the tribes want them taught differently," she said. "It's more like they are not taught at all."

The San Manuel and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians will fund a UCLA Law School conference next week on media coverage of tribal issues.

San Manuel also gave \$3 million to California State University, San Bernardino, which named its student union for a historic leader of the tribe.

"We're trying to build relationships," said San Manuel Chairman Deron Marquez. "It's another way for Indian people to get the population educated about our issues."

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