

# Community gathers for candlelight vigil

The recent deaths in the community, including two cases of alleged murder, brought the community together last Thursday evening for a candlelight and prayer vigil.

People gathered on the campus lawn, holding candles in the coolness of fall evening. Don Courtney and Lucinda Greene shared words and songs of inspira-



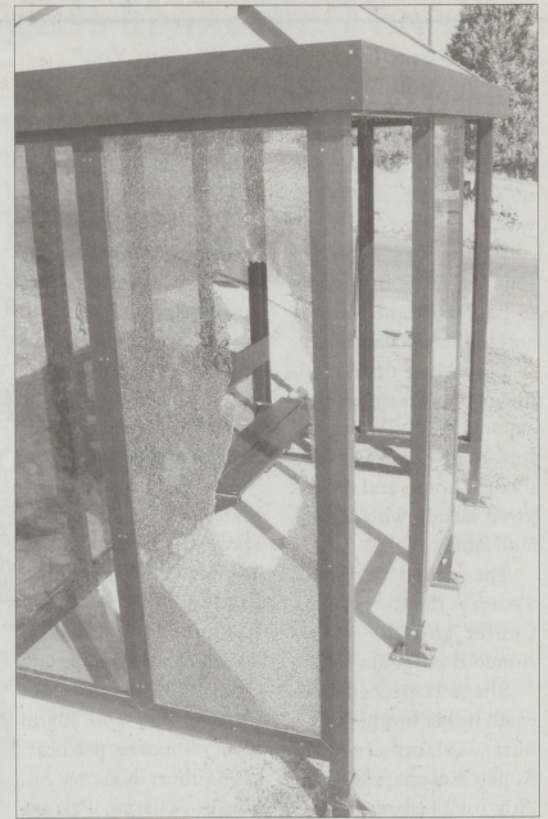
Candlelight vigil and community prayer.

tion. People were on hand from throughout the Warm Springs community, and some from Madras.

The death of Jonas Miller, 33, on September 23 was a shock to community.

Just days later, on September 29, the community learned of the death of Faron Lynn Kalama, who was 30.

# Vandals wreck bus stop



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The shelter was vandalized just as the rainy and cold weather is setting in.

Parents and school kids were discouraged to find the West Hills bus stop shelter had been vandalized.

Just as the rainy weather is setting in, one or more vandals smashed the window of the shelter.

The shelter had been paid for through a generous grant, rather than

through tribal dollars.

The repairs, though, will cost the tribes, said Donny Bagley, who reported the matter. That is money the tribes could clearly use for other purposes, Bagley said.

If anyone has information on who damaged the bus shelter, please contact the police at 541-553-3272.

# 2 indicted for murder, one as accessory

(AP) - A federal grand jury last week indicted two women accused of killing a Faron Kalama, 30, who was found deceased in a remote area of the reservation.

The U.S. Attorney's office says Tana Lawrence and Angeledith Smith have been charged with first-degree murder. There were arraigned in Portland last Friday afternoon.

The grand jury alleges Smith and Lawrence murdered Faron Kalama on Sept. 29 during the course of a burglary, a kidnapping



Tana Lawrence

and a sexual assault. Lawrence and Smith were arrested last week and have been held in tribal custody.



Angeledith Smith

The charge of murder in the first degree carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. The grand jury also in-

dicted Curtis Brown as an accessory to the murder. Brown allegedly aided the Lawrence and Smith after the murder, according to authorities.

The charge of accessory carries a 15-year maximum sentence.

Shortly before the arraignment, it was announced that Brown has been charged in the Sept. 23 murder of Jonas Miller on the reservation.

All three are in federal custody. A trial date was set for Dec. 18.

# Murder charge in shooting death

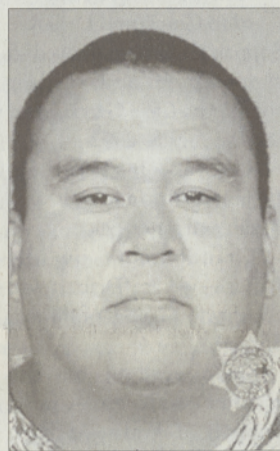
Curtis Brown, 38, was charged with second-degree murder and a firearms charge in the killing of Monas Miller, who was 33.

According to a federal criminal complaint, Brown confessed to shooting Miller in the back of the head with a firearm on September 23 in a remote area of the reservation.

The charges of murder in the second degree and discharging a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence both carry a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The judge ordered Brown detained on these charge pending his next court appearance on October 29.

In an affidavit supporting the charges, FBI special agent Daniel Baringer said Miller's body was found Sept. 30 on a dirt path about 250 yards



Curtis Brown

from County Line Road on the reservation.

Earlier on that day, Baringer said Warm Springs police received a missing person's report from Miller's mother, Sharon Miller, who said she had not seen him for a week. During a subsequent

interview, Sharon Miller said her son owned several rifles, including an assault rifle that was missing.

An Oct. 2 autopsy by the Medical Examiner determined Jonas Miller was killed by a gunshot wound to the head, and positively identified the victim, the FBI agent said.

The investigation determined the body had been at the spot where it was found for about a week.

In the affidavit, FBI agent Baringer said he interviewed a witness after several people told investigators he and the victim had been seen together on Sept. 23.

The witness told the FBI that Miller owned an assault rifle and that he and Miller had been at a home in the Miller Heights area of Warm Springs, and that Miller and Brown left the house together

in a car.

The FBI agent said he then interviewed Brown at the Warm Springs Police Station and that Brown talked about the incident "and eventually confessed to shooting Jonas Miller, as well as discarding evidence of the crime."

# Mont. Indians sue over lack of election services

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Fifteen Native Americans are suing state and county officials over a lack of election services on three Montana reservations, saying their inability to vote early or register late there is an unconstitutional denial of equal voting access.

The plaintiffs asked a federal judge in Billings to issue an emergency order requiring the state and counties to open satellite election offices on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap reservations.

They say they now must drive between 27 and 113 miles round trip to reach their county offices, the only places that allow in-person absentee voting and late registration, both of which began last week.

"Our position is the state has the duty to provide the same opportunities for absentee voting as non-Indians," said plaintiffs' attorney Terry Matt. "We have a system designed right now where non-

Indians can walk in and vote (absentee). So why can't Indians?"

Traveling can pose an especially heavy financial burden for residents of reservation communities where unemployment rates can top 70 percent and the poverty rate is as high as 39 percent, the lawsuit said.

Montanans can vote early by mail or by delivering absentee ballots in person to county offices. Late registration begins at county offices a month before Election Day.

Voting access on Election Day is not an issue in the lawsuit.

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch said she sympathizes with the plaintiffs and would support opening satellite offices. However, she added, a legal opinion from the state attorney general's office on the matter said the offices are discretionary and the state elections agency can't force the individual counties to open them.

Also, time is running short

before the Nov. 6 election.

"I think their claims have merit. I wish they would have started it a year or more ago," McCulloch said.

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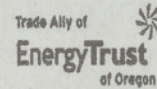
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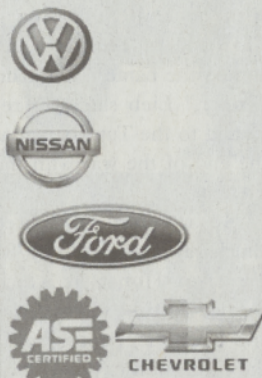


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