

Guilty plea in murder case

Curtis L. Brown, 39, pleaded guilty to second degree murder last week.

Brown was charged in the September, 2012, murder of Jonas Miller, 33, of Warm Springs.

At the same hearing last week, in an unrelated case, Brown also pleaded guilty to accessory after the fact in the first-degree murder of Faron Kalama, who was 30.

The two suspects charged in her death are Tana C. Lawrence and Angeledith S. Smith. Their trial in the case is set for February 2014.

Sentencing for Curtis Brown in the second-degree murder, and acces-

sory-after-the-fact charges is set for February 19. He faces from 20 years to life for the crimes.

The prosecutor in the case gave a narrative of the events of September 23, 2012:

On that day, Brown was driving through the Elliott Heights neighborhood, when Jonas Miller flagged him down to ask for a ride.

Mr. Miller offered to sell Brown a Norinco SKS military rifle and he agreed to buy it, according to the narrative.

"The two men drove off to test fire the weapon. Brown was drinking heavily when he took the rifle from Miller and pointed it at the

back of Miller's head. He wasn't sure whether the rifle was loaded, Gabriel said, but he pulled the trigger anyway," according to the narrative.

Mr. Miller was killed at the scene. His body was found a few days later.

A week later, Brown assisted Tana C. Lawrence and Angeledith S. Smith in covering up the alleged murder of Faron Kalama, who was beaten to death. Brown, Lawrence and Smith were arrested for these crimes in October 2012, and have been in federal custody since that time.

Refund

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The ordinance and agreement provide for a refund to the tribe of the pre-collected state tax on cigarettes sold to Indians on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The state cigarette tax is "pre-collected" because it is paid by the off-reservation cigarette wholesalers who place a tax stamp on each cigarette package, and then sell them to reservation cigarette retailers. The retailers then include the tax in the price of cigarettes sold to their customers.

The inter-governmental agreement is how the tribes recover the state tax included in the tax exempt cigarette sales to Indians on the reservation.

The tribes' cigarette refund is based on a formula that takes the average annual per capita consumption of cigarettes in Oregon multiplied by the number of enrolled Warm Springs tribal members multiplied by the Oregon cigarette tax rate per package. For 2012 the Tribes refund was \$282,901.

This funding became of great importance to the tribe during the financing of the Warm Springs k-8 Academy.

Due to the lack of a tax base on the reservation, and because the Tribal Constitution does not allow assets of the tribes to be pledged as collateral on loans, a steady tax revenue such as the cigarette tax refund is one of the very few income streams of the tribe that is flexible and can be used against tribal borrowing. The tribes used the cigarette tax refund as security and source of repayment for the tribes' share of the school construction project.

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Honoring Traditions of Health



Health Care

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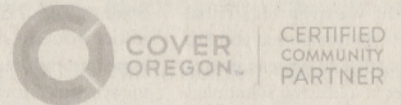
The tribal Managed Care program would be able to bill out more costs, resulting in significant savings to the tribes.

This would lead to improved services at the clinic, as more resources will be available for expanded health care procedures.

The goal for the tribes is to sign up all eligible individuals between the ages of 0 and 65.

Visit the clinic or the Family Resource Center for more information, and for help with the sign-up process. A toll-free number is also available for information: 1-855-268-3767.

Cover Oregon is a marketplace for Tribal communities to find health insurance and financial help to pay for it.



Ask for free assistance

Name of Organization

Address Line 1
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Website Address
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