

Family relives tragedy nearly 30 years later

Almost 30 years ago Margaret Still was brutally murdered with her boyfriend in an orchard field and shed, close to where she resided as a field worker in Live Oak, California.

The horrendous event was traumatic for the families, but in this case Margaret's family has had to relive the experience a number of times, most recently in February.

Margaret was a member of the Confederated Tribes, as are many of her family members. She lived in Warm Springs before moving to California. Her father was Paiute Chief Johnson. Margaret was killed in the 1987.

For many years police had no suspect and made no arrest, leaving the family without real closure. Then in 2002—fifteen years after the murder—a man turned himself in and confessed to the crime. David Castillo, by this time 32 years old, was convicted based on his con-

fession to police.

With the trial and sentencing, so many years after the loss of Margaret, the family relived the details of their loved one's murder. This was not the end of it, though, as Castillo came up for a hearing in 2012, and then for a parole hearing last month.

Margaret's sister Francina Stevenson lives in Sacramento, where she works for the Department of Justice. She describes the most recent parole proceeding:

"The hearing was quite extensive," Francina said. "We sat through five to six hours of testimony, from the beginning of his childhood to the time when he decided to take two lives, when he was 17 or 18 years old."

Castillo's story had changed from the one in the 2002 police report, Francina says. In the first report Castillo said he had been living in Mexico, then came to the

U.S. when he no longer had family there.

At the hearing last month, "He told a different story," Francina said. "He actually had been in the U.S. committing crimes during those 15 years."

While serving his prison sentence for the murders, Castillo committed assaults on correctional officers.

As the parole hearing Castillo was wearing protective medical gear reportedly for epileptic seizures. And it was reported at an earlier hearing that he was going insane, hearing voices, talking to himself, trying to hurt himself.

During the hearing Castillo told the story: how he had desired Margaret, stalked her, and then when she did not return his affections, killed her and her boyfriend Gabriel Ramos.

During his statement, Castillo talked about hearing voices, hurt-

ing himself, etc. Then it was the victim's family's turn to speak.

"I work at the Department of Justice," Francina was saying recently. "We learn to hold our cards close to our chests, to be professional, to try and show less emotion. But I'm sorry, I just went at him, and he had it coming. I said in very loud words, 'At no time during your statement have you ever apologized nor shown any remorse for killing my sister. In fact you claim you stalked her and wanted her, but when she didn't return your desires, you killed her, after she begged for her life. And you raped her, not once but twice.'"

The assaults on the corrections officers are also dishonorable, she said: "These men come here risking their lives to protect society and be with insane criminals like you. You have no regard for our judicial system, and your sexual attitude for women on staff here is

horrible."

Speaking for family members, Francina says, "Daniel Castillo made a personal choice to execute a kind, trusting and helpless young woman—our sister, a mother of three, a daughter of a tribal Chief, an aunt, and someone who was beloved by hundreds of people on the reservation."

The Parole Panel told Castillo he was denied for an additional ten years, and that the hearing had been among the worst they had seen in years.

The panel went further to say that in ten years, if he is paroled for the murders, then he will serve an additional 8 years for assaulting a correctional officer.

Castillo is housed in Corcoran Prison, where Charles Manson and John Albert Gardner (Chelsea's Law) are among the nearly 4,000 inmates.

CRITFC has new executive director

Jaime Pinkham is returning to the Columbia Basin to serve as the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Mr. Pinkham is a member of the Nez Perce Tribe with more than three decades of experience in American Indian governance, policy and natural resource management.

After assessing a field of impressive candidates, the leaders of CRITFC's member tribes—Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Percés—selected Pinkham as the tenth executive director in the commission's 40-year history.

He will take the reins at CRITFC on April 24.

"As a treaty fisher and hunter, I am humbled to work with the member tribes and CRITFC," Mr. Pinkham said.

"CRITFC plays an important role working at the intersection of each tribe's individual autonomy and their unified voice. Healthy and harvestable salmon runs are fundamental to the sovereign identities and cultures of the four member tribes."

Pinkham brings substantial Co-



Jaime Pinkham

lumbia Basin fisheries and natural resources experience, coupled with strong tribal governance policy credentials.

Pinkham has been serving the past eight years as vice president of the Bush Foundation in Minnesota. There he led the Native Nations program, working with tribes across North and South Dakota and Minnesota as they re-

designed their governing systems.

His work led to the creation of the Native Governance Center, a Native-led non-profit delivering technical support to tribes in government redesign.

Prior to that, Mr. Pinkham spent two decades in the Pacific Northwest advocating for tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and treaty rights.

He worked for CRITFC as Watershed Department manager from 2005 to 2008, supporting the commission in regional coordination and Congressional affairs.

After graduating with a Forestry degree from Oregon State University he worked for state and federal agencies before moving home to Nez Perce Country in 1990.

During his time there, Mr. Pinkham held a variety of positions including being elected twice to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. He led its natural resource programs engaging in salmon restoration, water rights negotiations, wolf recovery, and land acquisition.

"Jaime Pinkham's decades of work on tribal sovereignty and natural resources stood out amid

a strong field of candidates," said CRITFC Chair Leland Bill.

"We look forward to working with Jaime as we face a number of current issues that impact salmon and tribal treaty fishing rights including climate change, an altered federal government landscape, and the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty."

Pinkham succeeds Paul Lumley, who served for eight years in the position before leaving to lead the Native American Youth and Family Association in Portland. Rob Lothrop, interim executive director since Lumley's departure, will continue in that capacity until April 24.

CRITFC, based in Portland, is the technical support and coordinating agency for fishery management policies of the Columbia River Basin's four treaty tribes.

CRITFC, formed in 1977, employs biologists and other scientists, public information specialists, policy analysts and administrators who work in fisheries research and analyses, advocacy, planning and coordination, harvest control and law enforcement.

State bill to protect from rail oil spills

Oregon tribes and others spoke last week in support of two bills that aim to prevent, or at least mitigate, an ecological disaster like an oil spill into the Columbia River.

One bill would require railroads that own or operate high-hazard train routes to adopt oil-spill prevention and emergency-response planning.

Railroads would also have to carry adequate insurance to address a worst-case spill.

The other bill would prohibit the Legislature from funding new bulk coal or oil terminals.

Regarding oil transport by rail, especially along the Columbia, the Confederated Tribes have been against its expansion as a threat to treaty fishing rights.

Spring chinook estimate may be high

Fisheries managers have been predicting a slightly below-average run of spring chinook salmon on the Columbia River this year, but a newly published suggests that it may be worse.

According to researchers from Oregon State University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ocean conditions were historically bad in the spring

of 2015, when migrating yearling fish that will comprise the bulk of this spring's adult chinook salmon run first went out to sea.

In fact, Pacific Decadal Oscillation values—which reflect warm and cold sea surface temperatures—suggest it was one of the warmest nearshore oceans encountered by migrating chinook salmon dating back to at least 1900.

The lack of food for the salmon in 2015 may have resulted in significant mortality that will show in this year's run of Columbia River springers.

Results of the research, which

was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and NOAA, have just been published in the journal *Marine Ecology Progress Series*.

About 80 percent of a typical spring chinook run on the Columbia River come from fish that went out to sea as yearlings two years

earlier.

Two key statistics stand out from 2015. The California Current system off the West Coast was more than 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal, and the juvenile chinook were smaller and skinnier than during a cold-water year.

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