

On The Record

Skeletal remains found in Gardiner in 2016 identified

After nearly four years, DNA science has identified the remains of a Eugene woman

On Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016, at 6:20 p.m., a subject's boat broke down while fishing on the Umpqua River in the area of the former International Paper Mill in Gardiner.

The fisherman was able to get his boat to shore. While gathering wood for a fire, the fisherman found what he believed to be human bones along the riverbank.

In November 2016, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office released the preliminary findings of an examination of the remains by Oregon State Medical Examiner Forensic Anthropologist, Dr. Nici Vance, who determined the remains to be that of a Caucasian female, likely between the ages of 30 to 55 at the time of her death.

Due to the advanced state of decomposition of



Genelle McDaniel

the partial remains, physical characteristics such as height, weight, hair color, eye color and ethnicity were unknown at the time. It was determined that the female had been deceased between one to three years.

The Medical Examiner's investigation continued and included attempts to make identification through the use of DNA and dental records.

In 2018, an extensive two-part news story was

conducted by KMTR, but no viable tips were generated as a result of that story.

In November 2019, a private laboratory DNA Solutions, produced a new type of DNA profile and compared it to the public family genealogy website, GEDMatch. Subsequently, a probable familial DNA match was identified.

The Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office followed up on the newly obtained information and contacted the family member of the unidentified person.

Through the investigation, the remains were identified as those belonging to Genelle McDaniel, a resident of Eugene, Ore., who was born in 1954. McDaniel had not been previously reported to law enforcement as a missing person.

The follow-up investigation revealed circumstantial information which leads investigators to believe McDaniel's death was likely the result of suicide.

This case involved an extensive amount of work on behalf of several organizations.

"Being able to identify Genelle and provide her family with some answers is the goal we have been working toward," said Craig Kinney, Douglas County's Chief Medicolegal Death Investigator.

Dr. Nici Vance added that it was the agency's hope to "...bring resolution to families in these cases. With new DNA technology and collaboration, the efforts of many people finally gave this mystery woman a name. Our condolences go out to the family of Genelle McDaniel."

BIRTHS

COSTA—Jameson Edward Costa, a male weighing 7 lbs. 1.9 ozs. and measuring 19.75 inches, was born to Cynthia and Nick Costa of Florence on June 3, 2020.

ENGLISH—Lenon Thomas English, a male weighing 8 lbs. 6 ozs. and measuring 21.25 inches, was born to Terra Shoemaker and Stefan English of Florence on June 4, 2020.

WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
June 2	65	40	0.00
June 3	62	42	0.00
June 4	64	41	0.00
June 5	59	45	0.00
June 6	53	46	1.33
June 7	56	42	0.18
June 8	60	43	0.05

Rainfall Week: 1.56" Month: 1.56" Year: 40.64"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

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SIUSLAW NEWS

LCPH reports first case of bat rabies in Lane County for 2020

Lane County Public Health (LCPH) was notified of a positive case of rabies in a bat.

A South Eugene resident was in their yard around 9 p.m. when a bat flew directly into that person. The bat was stunned by the impact and fell to the ground. The individual gathered the bat and reported the incident to LCPH.

The bat was sent to the Oregon State Veterinary Lab for testing where the presence of rabies was detected.

"This is the first case of bat rabies in 2020 and a good reminder to stay away

from bats," said Emilio DeBess, DVM, state public health veterinarian at the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division. "Also, it is a good reminder to keep your pets vaccinated for rabies to protect them and your family."

The individual who had contact with the bat received the rabies post-exposure prophylaxis treatment as a preventative measure.

Rabies in bats has been documented in 49 states and is endemic in Oregon's bat population.

Recent data suggest that transmission of the rabies

virus can occur from minor, seemingly unimportant or unrecognized bites from bats.

In all instances of potential human exposures involving bats, the bat in question should be safely collected (if possible) and submitted for rabies diagnosis. Safe collection means not actually handling the bat, but rather using a utensil to pick the bat up and place it in a safe container which cannot be punctured, then immediately report it to LCPH.

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended for all persons with a

bite, scratch or mucous membrane exposure to a bat, unless the bat is available for testing and is negative for evidence of rabies.

It is important to note that bats are a critical part of the ecosystem and should not be targeted or proactively killed.

To prevent exposure to bats in both humans and animals, LCPH recommends being aware that bats' primary feeding time is at dusk.

Raccoons, skunks and foxes are particularly susceptible as carriers, although any mammal can get and carry rabies.

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