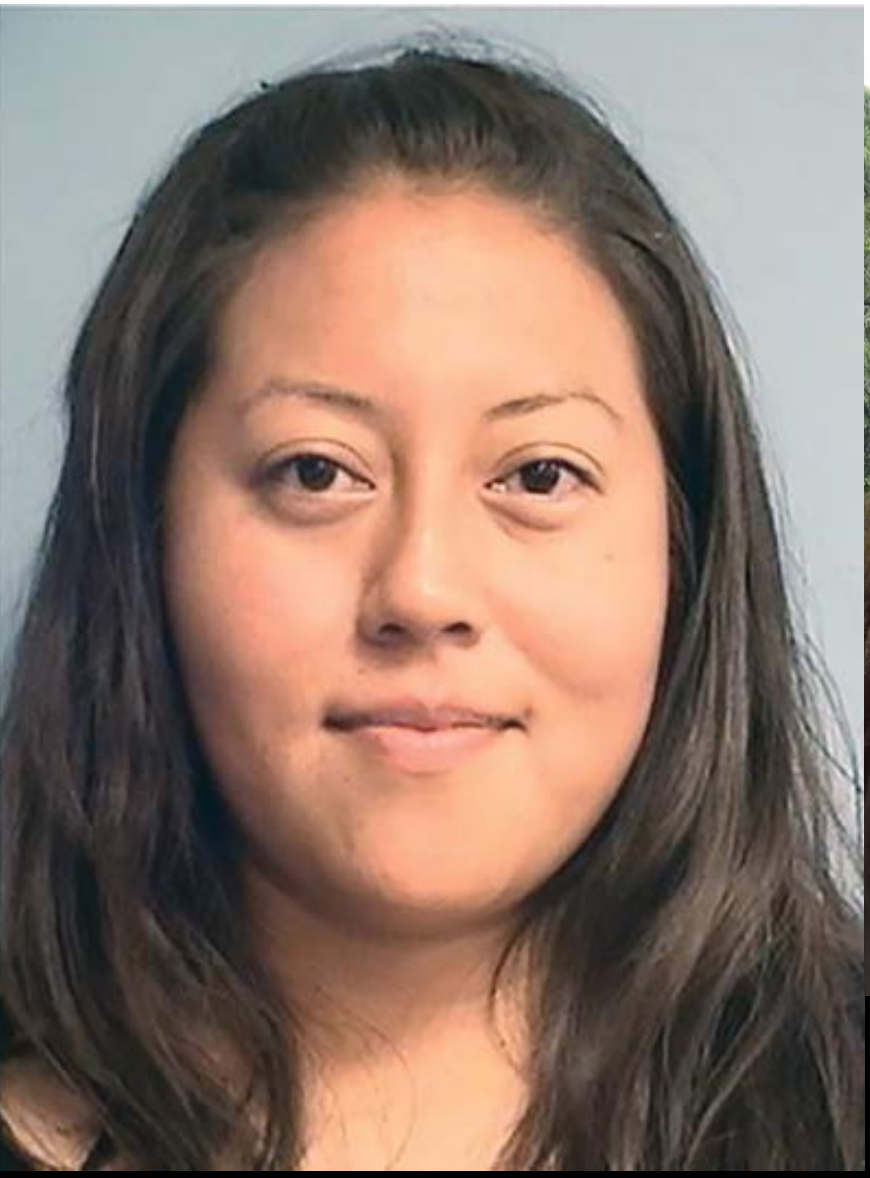
The Drum

July 31, 2019



HOMICIDES & *Mysterious Deaths*

IT HAPPENS...TOO OFTEN

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HOMIC IDES

and Mysterious Deaths

There are a lot of individuals not only on or near the Yakama Reservation that have been murdered, missing or are cases of mysterious deaths. Unfortunately, a lot of these cases are unsolved.

However, cases like Esther Wolfe are the few that escape those statistics.

Authorities say a man is behind bars in connection to the missing disappearance of Esther Wolfe a South Dakota woman who was recently found in Nebraska.

Thirty-three-year-old Jesse Myron Sierra was arrested Sunday and charged with first-degree sexual assault and first-degree assault, according to the Nebraska State Patrol.

Sierra's arrest came after 21-year-old Ester Wolfe was found at a Chadron, Neb. hospital.

Wolfe's sister told KOTA-TV that Sierra tried to bury Wolfe alive and strangle her with Christmas lights.

She is one of few that SURVIVED.

Source: https://www.ksfy.com/content/news/South-Dakota-authorities-looking-for-missing-woman-512861871.html

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you believe someone you know has gone missing, file a police report with local law enforcement. Provide the police with a photo of the missing person, along with any identifiers, such as scars, marks, tattoos, jewelry and/or a description of the clothing he/she was last seen wearing. Remember to write down the case number and the name of the officer who took the report. Also, contact us to assist you with the case. It is NEVER too early.

Contact friends and acquaintances, check hospitals and coroners in the area. Check the local county jail and social media sites. Also put up fliers with the missing persons photograph and description.

It is recommended you not list your phone number on public posters, as to ensure no hoaxes for reward money, or any other harassment occurs. The phone number to the police department should be used.

Remember to ask people to spread the word, alert the local media, and consider hiring a private investigator.

DNA

HOW IMPORTANT IS DNA WHEN A PERSON IS MISSING?

As of June 9, 2019, there are 12,777 individuals that are unidentified in the database. DNA has come so far and is now available, whereas some of these cases DNA was not available. It is important if you have a missing loved one to give your DNA so that it can be compared to the thousands of unidentified individuals. These individuals are waiting to be identified. They are waiting to go HOME!

ANGELA MCCONNELL

Angela was 26 years old when she and her boyfriend, 31 year old Michael Bingham, were found murdered in a wooded area in Shasta Lake, California on September 7th, 2018.

A $15,000 reward is being offered for information leading to an arrest in her case and Angela's murder remains unsolved.

If you have any information regarding the murder of Angela McConnell, you are encouraged to contact the Shasta County Sheriff's Office at (530) 245-6025.

Source: Justice for Native Women

MARIAH HIGH HAWK

Mariah was 20 years old when she was last seen running after her boyfriend on February 12th, 2016, after the two argued. She left the home without shoes or a coat and temperatures were below freezing. Tragically, Mariah's body was found on February 14th, 2016 under a utility trailer in Rapid City, South Dakota. An autopsy reportedly revealed no signs of trauma to Mariah. Mariah's family has vocally disagreed with this finding and released a post-mortem photo of Mariah's face that showed clear bruising an injury. Officials reported that the bruising was simply the effects of natural decomposition and were not indicative of homicide.

Mariah's cause of death was officially determined to be hypothermia caused by the low temperatures that night and prescription pain medication.

If you have any information regarding the death of Mariah High Hawk you are encouraged to contact the Rapid City Police Department at (605) 394-4131.

Source: Justice for Native Women

CI'LINA DELONEY

Ci'Lina was 21 years old when her remains were recovered by a passerby on a roadway on the Comanche reservation in Oklahoma on January 16th, 2017. Her death was ruled a homicide as her cause of death was determined to be 11 gunshot wounds. Her car was found at a local Wal*Mart. A man named Darnell McDaniel was named as a person of interest in her case but his arrest resulted in no charges. 50 people have been interviewed in connection with Ci'Lina's case and 3 have been asked to and passed polygraph tests. The case is open and active but Ci'Lina's murder remains unsolved.

If you have any information regarding the murder of Ci'Lina Deloney, you are encouraged to contact the Comanche County Sheriff at (580) 353-4280.

Source: Justice for Native Women

TJ LOOKINGHORSE

The body of a missing Eagle Butte man was found in California on July 22.

A pair of Victorville, Calif., residents found the remains of T.J. Shan Looking Horse, 30, in a dirt field beside their home on July 22. Looking Horse had been missing since July 15, 2019.

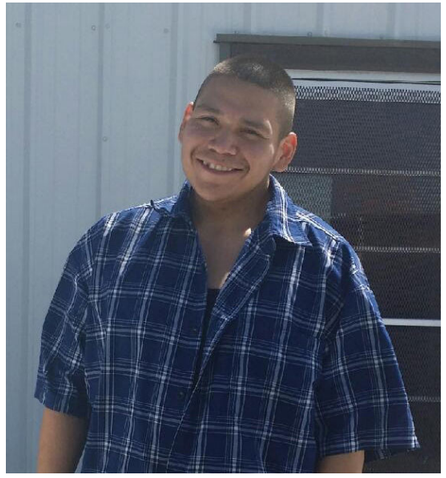
Authorities are investigating Looking Horse's death. A cause of death is unknown at this time, according to Victor Valley News.

The Facebook post noted that Looking Horse was dropped off at a Greyhound bus station in Victorville on July 15 with a boarding pass to return his home on the Cheyenne River Reservation. He was unable to secure a seat on the bus due to overbooking.

Source: https://www.aberdeennews.com/news/eagle-butte-man-s-body-found-in-california/article_b1c0c059-8d32-5d15-ad6d-7f8f1e78c5e7.html

WAYLON OWENS

Police say a 23-year-old man was found fatally shot at a home southeast of Yakima. The man, a Yakama Tribal member, was found in the 200 block of South Elm around 3:15 a.m. Wednesday July 19, 2017..



Toppenish Police say officers performed CPR on the man who later died at the scene. The Yakima County Coroner says 23-year-old Waylon Owens bled to death from a gunshot wound to the chest.

The Yakima County Sheriff's Office said responders found evidence of violence when they found Owens.

If you have any information regarding the murder of Wylon Owens, you are encouraged to contact the Yakama Tribal Police at (509) 865-2933.

Source: https://www.nbcrightnow.com/archives/fbi-investigating-after-finding-body-in-toppenish/article_e1623109-5485-5d53-8bf4-e25b422d655f.html

ANTHONY SANCHEY

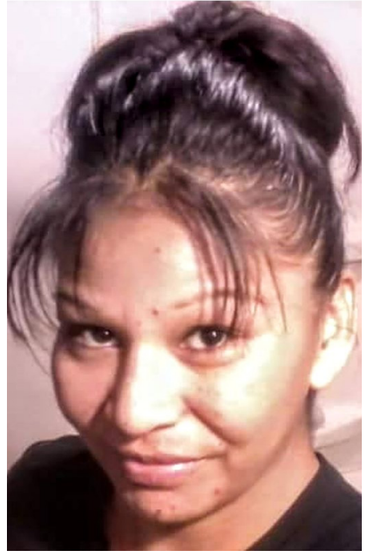
A Toppenish woman was sentenced to more than 29 years in federal prison for shooting two people, leaving one dead in November 2016. A federal judge also ordered her to pay more than $282,000 in restitution to the family of the victims. Jennifer Joyce Douglas, 37, pleaded guilty in February 2018 to charges of second-degree murder and discharging a firearm during a violent crime, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

On the day of the crime, Yakima Nation police and Yakima County sheriff's deputies responded to a home on Sumac Road outside Wapato. Anthony Sanchey, 74, was shot in the face from close range. He was found in a bedroom and pronounced dead at the scene.

Source: https://www.yaktrinews.com/news/toppenish-woman-sentenced-to-29-years-in-prison-for-murder/752654583

SOLVED

LINDA DAVE



Linda was 37 or 38 when she disappeared from White Swan, Washington in either 2016 or 2017.

Linda's case is being investigated as a homicide after authorities determined that she died as the result of a gunshot wound to the stomach. She is likely to have been dead for 6 weeks before she was found.

Source: Justice for Native Women

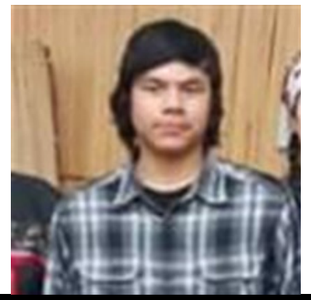
DALE BARR

Dec. 25: Dale Barr, 38, died after being shot multiple times and put in a shed which was set on fire at 481 Butler Road in Wapato. (FBI)

#29. 2017-635 H29 BARR, Dale; DOB 10/18/1979, 38-year-old Native American male was shot multiple times and placed in a shed. The shed was set on fire. This occurred at 481 Butler Road in Wapato. Dale was found December 25, 2017 at 0745 hours. This was the 7th Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation Police in 2017. December 26, 2017 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on John Doe, who was later identified as Dale BARR. There was no soot in the airway or lungs. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was: hypovolemic shock; possible CO (carbon monoxide) inhalation; multiple gunshot wounds to hip & shoulder; per mortem fire. Contributing conditions were: markedly displaced fracture of femur; fracture of acromion process (shoulder); recent (24 to 48 hours) prolonged heavy alcohol use. The Manner of Death was Homicide

Source: https://www.yakimacounty.us

JOSHUA OWENS



Aug. 12: Joshua Cristian Owens, 15, was shot in the 100 block of North A Street in Toppenish and died in a hospital the following day.

Source: https://www.yakimaherald.com

DESTINY LLOYD

Tragically Destiny's remains were found on December 29th on Marion Drain Road in Harrah, Washington. Authorities believe that Destiny was struck with a blunt object, causing her skull fracture and eventual death. If you have any information regarding the murder of Destiny Lloyd, you are encouraged to contact the Yakima County Sheriff at (509) 877-3161.

Source: Justice for Native Women

JEREMIAH WHITEFOOT II

All evidence into the death of Jeremiah John Whitefoot II — an enrolled Yakama Nation member — has been turned over to tribal police, who will now take over the investigation, said Washington State trooper Sarah Clasen. Jeremiah was killed in the early morning hours of Oct. 17 while walking in the 3500 block of South Wapato Road, about 4 miles west of Toppenish.

Tire marks found at the location indicate a semi-truck or some other similar commercial vehicle hit Jeremiah, said Clasen, who worked as a collision tech at the scene.

The State Patrol also believes Jeremiah died between midnight and 1 a.m. Tuesday, several hours before the driver of a second car hit the teenager's body. That driver stopped and immediately called 911 around 5:45 a.m., Clasen said.

Source: https://www.yakimaherald.com

WILSON WINTERS

Family members are offering a $1,000 reward for information in the hit-and-run death of 15-year-old Wilson Winters of White Swan. His body was found early on Dec. 11, 2017, at the west end of Coburn Loop, a rural road about a half-mile west of White Swan. He died of blunt force trauma. Those with information should call the Yakama Nation Police Department at 509-865-2933 or the FBI at 509-453-4859 or at tips.fbi.gov.

Source: https://www.yakimaherald.com

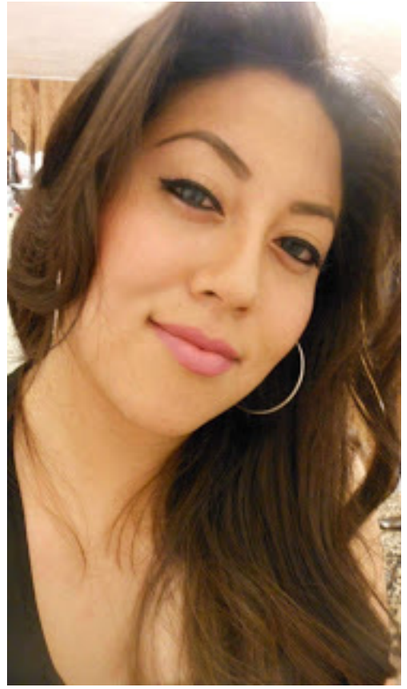
NATASHA COOPER

Natasha was 29 years old when her body was found along State Route 87 near Saint Road in Sacaton, Arizona on September 22nd, 2018. It's believed that Natasha was attempting to put up a sign on the road when she was struck by an unknown vehicle and killed. The vehicle immediately left the scene and the driver has never been identified. Natasha's murder remains unsolved and a $1000 reward is being offered for information in this case.

If you have any information regarding the murder of Natasha Cooper, you are encouraged to contact Silent Witness at 480-948-6377.

Source: Justice for Native Women

AMY HANSON



The FBI is reaching out to the public and asking for assistance in a five-year-old murder case they've been investigating.

The FBI say the body of 25-year-old Amy Lynn Hanson, who lived in Tohatchi, was found at State Road 602 and Blue Medicine Well Road, which is about eight miles south of Gallup, on Nov. 20, 2014.

They say the cause of death was a "blunt force trauma." Hanson was least seen alive two days before her alleged homicide.

They're offering a $1,000 reward for any information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death.

Anyone with any information is asked to call the FBI, at 505-889-1300, or their local enforcement agency.

Source: https://navajotimes.com/reznews/blotter/fbi-seeks-info-in-murder-of-young-navajo-woman/

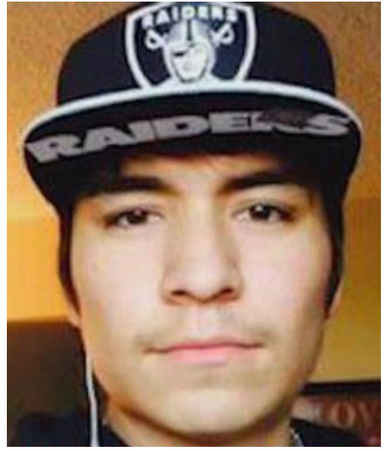
ROSENDA STRONG

Police have found the remains of Rosenda Strong, a Native American woman who was last seen leaving the Legends Casino in Toppenish, WA, in October 2018.

The Yakima County Coroner's Office identified the remains, which were found in a freezer in the Toppenish area on July 4 as those of Strong, a mother of four who would have turned 32 in April. The death has been classified as a homicide, but the cause of death is still under investigation.

Source: https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2019/07/237866/rosenda-strong-missing-native-american-woman-remains-found?fbclid=IwAR0KdRevInrAM8jyFv1uckctYUtk7gT_wsZXmbtLXQKfA3fTucXp5RTesMU

MATTHEW GRANT



The 21-year-old was reported missing in Browning on December 15, 2016 during a winter storm.

His body was found in an alley in the Glacier Homes community north of Browning on December 31, 2016.

Source: https://www.krtv.com

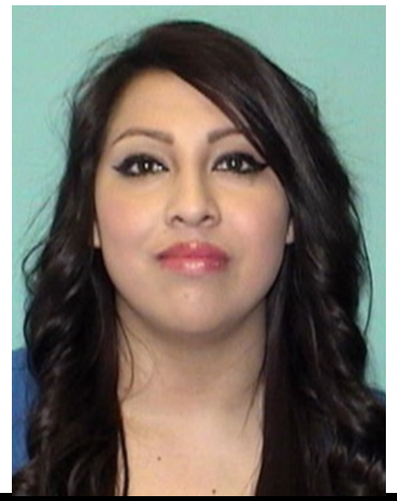
BRITNEY TIGER

On March 16, 2018 -- about a month after Britney disappeared, a local cattleman came upon Britney's body in a wooded area by Kullihoma Indian Stomp Grounds, 15 miles from Britney's house.

An autopsy report released later that month states that the cause and manner of Britney's death is unknown. The report also details how Britney was found lying on her back with her hands above her head.

Source: https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/cold-case-spotlight/sister-fights-justice-after-britney-tiger-s-body-found-remote-n974846

DESTINEE ATENCIO



The FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Tesuque Pueblo Tribal Police are seeking the public's assistance in determining what happened to a Santa Fe woman whose body was found near the Camel Rock formation in Tesuque, New Mexico, on June 22, 2019.

Destinee Alexis Atencio, 21, was last seen by a relative in Santa Fe sometime in May.

Atencio may have been dead for at least a couple of weeks before her body was found.

Source: https://www.justtherealnews.com/2019/07/05/womans-death-investigated-on-tesuque-pueblo-new-mexico-fbi/

LAKOTA RENVILLE

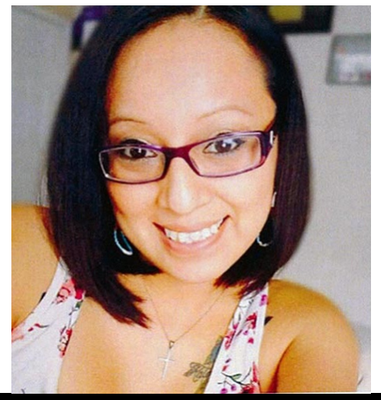
Police said it appeared Lakota was killed elsewhere and her body dumped in a gravel lot, in the 9200 block of Pitcher Road, which borders Kansas City, Missouri. The blanket in which she was found was distinctive and they hope it may trigger someone's memory. It was a southwestern themed blanket with a desert scene with a skeleton head of a steer with horns. Anyone with information about her murder is asked to call the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (474-8477).

Source: https://www.facebook.com/LakotaRenville/

ARIEL BEGAY

Ariel went missing in July 2017 and her body was discovered in October. There is not a lot of information regarding her case.

Source: https://theoutline.com



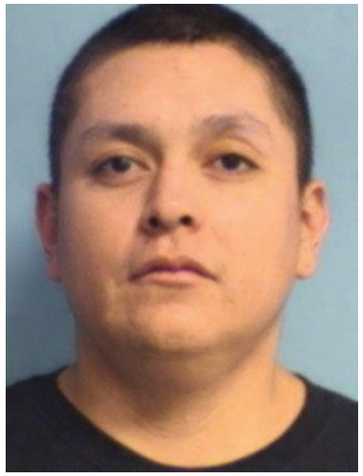
PATRICK BEGAY

On July 1, 2018, Begay's body was discovered by the side of Iyanbito Road in Iyanbito, New Mexico - approximately 100 yards from the Iyanbito Chapter House. His face was bruised and his body appeared to have been dragged to its final position.

Begay was last seen at approximately 11:00 p.m. on June 30, 2018, at a family member's house about a quarter mile from where his body was found.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Patrick T. Begay.

Source: https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/seeking-info/patrick-t-begay

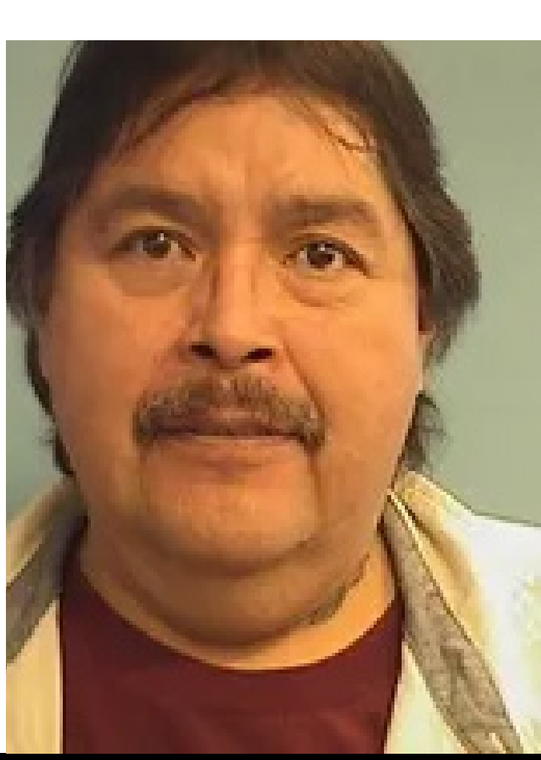


NASTACIO TRAVIS

The FBI said Nastacio Keith Travis, 51, of Zuni, N.M., was in the trunk of a light-colored Dodge Avenger SXT discovered on fire off Pipeline Road, in an isolated area north of Church Rock, on the Navajo Nation," the Albuquerque FBI Division's Public Affairs Office said July 19, 2019 in a brief press release.

"Anybody who had contact with Travis recently or who recalls seeing anything suspicious in the area on Monday between the hours of 6 and 7 a.m., is asked to call the FBI at (505) 889-1300 or online at tips.fbi.gov," the release stated.

Source: https://www.daily-times.com/story/news/crime/2019/07/20/fbi-identifies-man-found-burning-car-trunk-zuni-resident/1782965001/



WAYLON BULLCOMING

Bullcoming was killed when at least one vehicle hit him on a county road outside Seiling in May 2011. The impact was so great that the body was found in pieces. Deputies interviewed a driver who they say hit the body on accident, but that's just the beginning.

"The question then came in, was Mr. Bullcoming hit by a previous vehicle before that," Sander said.

White, who is in town from Montana, says her son's death was the product of an intentional hit-and-run collision. She believes Bullcoming was targeted.

The Dewey County Sheriff's Office is still investigating, even though the Medical Examiner's Office has ruled the death an accident. That ruling has led other law enforcement agencies to pull back.

Source: https://www.news9.com/story/22771006/mom-seeks-justice-for-son-killed-in-apparent-hit-and-run

MONICA STILL SMOKING WELLS

Monica was 8 years old when she was kidnapped from Napi Elementary School in Browning, Montana on December 17th, 1979. Her uncle discovered her body frozen in the snow near Glacier National Park about a week later.

Source: Justice for Native Women

REGINA CURTIS

Regina went missing in May of 2000. One month later, a skull was found near Lake Stanley Draper.

Police released a sketch connected to the skull, but the case was not connected to Regina's.

Police had DNA from the remains added to a national database twice. Regina's family also submitted their DNA to that database.

After 16 years, Regina was identified.

Police said they are looking into how Regina died and do consider this a homicide investigation.

Source: https://kfor.com/2016/02/09/remains-identified-as-missing-teen-after-16-years/

MYSTERIOUS DEATHS

Murdered, missing and mysterious deaths of Native girls and women on or near the Yakama Reservation and in urban areas: This list, compiled from Yakima Herald-Republic archives, law enforcement, online and social media sources, is not complete.•

• Alice Ida Looney, 39. She was reported missing on Aug. 16, 2004. A hunter found her body Nov. 30, 2005, wedged under a tree on a small island in Satus Creek, about 12 miles southwest of Toppenish.

• Teresa R. Stahi, 25. Her clothed body was pulled from a fish screen in a diversion canal off Toppenish Creek south of Granger on July 7, 1987. An autopsy concluded she drowned and had been in the water less than 12 hours. The Yakima County Sheriff's Office said it ruled out foul play. However, an FBI memo listed Stahi's case as a "mysterious death matter."

• Celestine Spencer, 21, of Wapato. Spencer went missing for about two weeks before her body was found Nov. 11, 1982, at the bottom of a gully in a field off McCullough Road along the north slope of Ahtanum Ridge.

• Lesora Yvette Eli, 19. A farmer found her fully clothed body face down in a drainage ditch along Parton Road near Toppenish on Feb. 2, 1982. While the Yakima County Coroner's Office listed the death as accidental drowning, FBI investigators in a memo that year described it as a possible homicide.

• Sheila Pearl Lewis, 33, of Yakima. Her battered body was found Aug. 3, 1980, near Parker Dam south of Union Gap. She died of massive internal injuries, possibly as a result of being hit by a car or truck. She had been living in Yakima and worked for the state Department of Social and Health Services.

UNSOLVED HOMICIDES

• Minnie Andy, 31, of Wapato. Andy died from blunt force trauma to the head in July 2017 after being assaulted at 70 Egan Road in Wapato.

• Charmaine Sanchey, 47; Toni Marie Green, 43, and Steve Alvarado, 52. Their beaten and stabbed bodies were found in a small trailer outside Toppenish on Jan. 16, 2003. Charmaine Sanchey's brother, Arthur Joseph Sanchey, was the primary suspect, but was acquitted of charges in July 2004.

• Barbara Celestine, 44. Celestine died Sept. 5, 2005, from blunt trauma to the head while at a house in the Apas Goudy housing project in Wapato.

• Shari Dee Sampson Elwell, 30, of Wapato. Her sexually mutilated body was found Dec. 30, 1992, by a group of hunters northwest of White Swan in the closed and remote area of the Yakama reservation. Autopsy reports indicate she had been strangled. Elwell's family reported not seeing her for weeks.

• JoAnne Betty (Wyman) John, 44, of Wapato. Her skull and bone fragments were found Feb. 2, 1991, near Mill Creek southwest of White Swan. She was identified through dental records. The mother of 11 children, she had been listed as missing since Aug. 1, 1988. Coroner's records list cause of death as "homicidal violence."

• Rozelia Lou (Tulee) Sohappy, 31, of Brownstown. Her partially clothed body was found March 13, 1989, in a remote ravine along the south slope of Ahtanum Ridge north of Brownstown. She was identified through dental records, and an autopsy concluded she had been strangled. She was last seen New Year's Eve 1988.

• Skeletal remains of an unidentified Native woman believed to be in her late 20s or early 30s. The remains were found Feb. 16, 1988, near Parker Dam. No cause of death has ever been determined, but the Yakima County Sheriff's Office considers it a homicide and has requested that her remains be exhumed for possible identification.

• Jenece Marie Wilson, 20, of Toppenish. Her partially clothed body was found Aug. 8, 1987, in a remote area near Cherry Hill. She died of a severe blow to the head. She was last seen four days earlier leaving a party near Granger to hitchhike to Sunnyside. Samuel Posada of Hermiston, Ore., was arrested in 2009 and was acquitted in late 2011.

• Babette Crystall Greene, 26, of Toppenish. A member of the Warm Springs tribe in Oregon, her skeletal remains were found during the summer of 1987 off North Track Road near Wapato. Coroner's records listed her death as "homicidal violence."

• Clydell Alice Sampson, 25, of Klickitat. Her skeletal remains were found by hunters Dec. 28, 1986, below Hambre Butte south of Granger. An autopsy conducted by the King County Medical Examiner's Office determined she died of a shotgun blast to the head. She was last seen two years earlier.

STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

If you answered 'yes' to even one of these questions, you may be in an unhealthy or abusive relationship. Find more information at www.strongheartshelpline.org

Domestic violence and dating violence are not Native American traditions, and neither is ever okay. Speak with a StrongHearts advocate at no cost by calling 1-844-7NATIVE (1-844-762-8483) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST when you are ready to reach out.

What is Domestic Violence? Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behavior within a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.
Does your partner ever...

- Call you names or put you down?
- Keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends?
- Push you, slap you, strangle you or hit you?
- Threaten to hurt or take away your children?
- Prevent you from honoring your beliefs?

Do you have any information on any of these (or other cases)? You can remain anonymous with any tips you want to give.

Do you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to talk with us about?

We always want to reach out to the families of any of missing persons, Homicide cases, etc. Please contact LMIC 325-247-3292 or email coyote130@yahoo.com.

No matter how **OLD** a case is, there is family who wonder what happened to their loved one.

They **NEED** answers. **SOMEONE** knows **SOMETHING**!! Please **SPEAK** up!!

Lost and Missing in Indian Country
www.lostandmissinginindiancountry.com