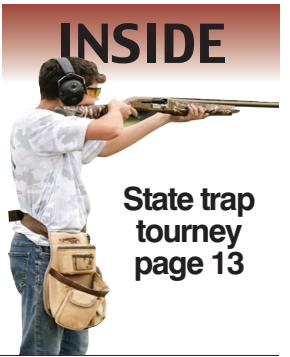


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Ayon killer found guilty

By Kevin O'Brien

A 42-year-old Mosinee man has been found guilty by a Clark County jury of stalking and murdering Cassandra Ayon of Loyal and then hiding her corpse in 2020.

It took the 12-person jury about seven hours last Friday to convict Jesus Contreras-Perez of first-degree intentional homicide, hiding a corpse and stalking. The verdict came at the end of a one-week trial in which jurors heard testimony from a wide variety of witnesses, including police, friends, family and data experts.



Jesus Contreras-Perez

Contreras-Perez was arrested and charged in 2021 after Ayon, 27, went missing on Oct. 3, 2020, having last being seen at a trailer park in Unity. Her body has never been found, and neither has the car she was driving.

At one point on Friday, the jury sent a message to Judge Daniel Diehn indicating that a juror was having trouble finding Contreras-Perez guilty without a body having been found. The judge sent a message back urging the jurors to continue deliberating, and eventually, the jury reached a unanimous guilty verdict on all three counts.

No DNA or other physical evidence was ever found connecting Contreras-Perez to Ayon's disappearance, so assistant attorney general Annie Jay and

See **GUILTY VERDICT**/ Page 2



American hero

World War II veteran and longtime Unity American Legion member Otis Kath is draped with a quilt made for him by a member of the legion. Kath, along with other members of the post, celebrated the post's 100th anniversary on June 11. More from that celebration can be found on page 3.

STAFF PHOTO/BRANDON LEA

Missing man found in Florida

An investigation by the Colby-Abby Police Department, Marathon County Sheriff's Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation has resulted in a warrant for the arrest of a 39-year-old Florida man.

According to the Colby-Abbotsford Police Department, an apparent abduction occurred in the parking lot of Abbyland Foods during the afternoon of June 9.

The victim has since been located in Florida, and two suspects were taken into custody for federal crimes, according to a press release from the CAPD.

Court records showed that the victim had been smuggled from Mexico, across the U.S. border, in 2021, where he was put to work in Kissimmee, Fla., to pay off a debt related to the smuggling.

The alleged smugglers forced the victim to work in construction while garnering most of his wages to pay off this debt, according to reports.

Police say the victim became desperate as he skipped meals he could not afford and contacted a family member in Wisconsin who picked him up in Florida and took him to Abbotsford.

According to court records, Felipe Engracia-Gonzalez, also labeled as one of the man's "employers", drove to Abbotsford to pick him up after sending the man and his mother threatening messages.

The victim, a 29-year-old male, was first reported missing by his family on June 10 after he did not return home from his job at Abbyland Foods. The victim did not respond to any phone calls or social media messages during this time.

Police reviewed surveillance footage from Abbyland, which showed the missing person exiting the building in Abbotsford at 2:55 p.m. on June 9. The person was confronted by two individuals who had been sitting in a silver 2015 Cadillac Escalade parked next to the missing person's vehicle.

"One of the occupants exited the Escalade, quickly walked around the

See **SCHULZ-JUEDES**/ Page 2

See **MISSING MAN**/ Page 11

Schulz-Juedes sentenced to life

By Neal Hogden

The widow of a Unity man who was killed in 2006 will face life in prison without the possibility of extended supervision after a sentencing hearing concluded on June 8 at the Marathon County Courthouse.

Judge Michael Moran ordered Cindy Schulz-Juedes, 67, to serve the rest of her life in prison after she was found guilty of 1st Degree Intentional Homicide in the killing of her husband, Ken Juedes.

Ken was shot to death on Aug. 30, 2006. He was 58 years old.

Schulz-Juedes told two sets of neighbors the morning of, that her husband was found lying on the bed, covered in blood. An autopsy revealed Juedes had been shot in the chest twice with a 20-gauge shotgun.



Cindy Schulz-Juedes

A 13-year investigation ensued as investigators tried to piece together stories and details to find the killer. The culmination of the investigations led to an Oct. 24, 2019, interview.

Two detectives from the Marathon County Sheriff's Department went to Schulz-Juedes' home in Chippewa Falls where they interviewed her about her husband's death. Schulz-Juedes had denied any wrongdoing in the incident but the officers left



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