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Ayon killer sentenced to life in prison

By Dean Lesar, The Tribune Record Gleaner

Calling police investigators and prosecutors "crooked rats" who violated his rights, an emotional Jesus Contreras Perez on Monday said he did not kill Cassandra Ayon of Loyal in October 2020 and that he will appeal his June conviction on a first-degree intentional homicide charge. He'll have to deal with that appeal from a state prison cell, as the judge in the case a short while later sentenced him to life behind bars without the possibility of parole.



Cassandra Ayon

Contreras Perez, 42, of Mosinee, was in Clark County Circuit Court Monday morning for his sentencing hearing on convictions for first-degree intentional homicide-domestic abuse/as party to a crime, hiding a corpse/as party to a crime, and stalking-domestic abuse. A Clark County jury convicted him on all three felony counts after a week-long trial in early June, and Jackson County Judge Daniel Diehn set the sentencing for Monday.

Given the chance to address the court before sentencing, Contreras Perez said he is innocent of the charges and vowed to his young son that he will one day prove it and be free.



Jesus Contreras Perez

Contreras Perez was a suspect early in the investigation after Ayon's family informed police in early October 2020 that she was missing. She was last seen at 3:45 a.m. on Oct. 3, 2020, as she was leaving a friend's house in Unity, and she did not show up

for work at Marathon Cheese the following day. Neither her remains nor her vehicle have been found.

When investigators first sought to

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New store to provide pantry service

By Neal Hogden



SECOND CHANCES - The team at Second Chance Gift and Thrift and Food Pantry are helping people through their toughest times. From left to right: Kathie Fifield, Christina Sessions, Greg Fifield and Sherry Schneider. Not pictured: Maxwell Meier.

STAFF PHOTO/NEAL HOGDEN

A new resource for those in need has placed its roots in Abbotsford as Second Chance Gift and Thrift and the Abby Pantry have officially opened to the public.

Both the thrift store and food pantry are in the East Town Mall in Suite #4 (where Ben Franklin used to be).

The Christian-based store has anything from second-chance jewelry, to furniture, games, clothes, books, crafts, electronics and much more.

Christina's story

The face behind the store and food pantry is one that is all too familiar with living paycheck to paycheck. Christina Sessions is the director of the operation and said she has been a frequent at pantries throughout Marathon County during her life. During some of the most strenuous times in her life, she turned to volunteer organizations and food pantries to find her and her family's next meal.

"Normally on Thursdays, I went to AA and then I went to the different pantries because we were a low-income family and that's how we'd eat," Sessions said.

Sessions noted that Bridge Street Mission in Wausau played an important role

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Town of Colby wins lawsuit vs. Green Grove

By Neal Hogden

On Aug. 13, a Clark County judge ruled in favor of the Town of Colby in a lawsuit that dates back to June of 2021.

Judge Lindsey Boon Brunette's decision on a motion by Green Grove for summary judgement said that Colby would not be charged over \$25,000 for the reconstruction of a bridge that borders the two townships.

Negotiations for settlement

The bridge in question is located on Meridian Ave., about two miles south of Curtiss and was replaced in 2020. According to a notice sent by Green Grove to Colby, the bridge project cost \$52,776.85.

Under normal circumstances, the townships would split the cost of the bridge project based on each town's equalized valuations. In 2020, Green Grove had \$45,788,400 in equalized valuation and Colby had \$45,719,100

meaning Colby would be on the hook for 48 percent of the bridge construction project which came out to \$25,332.89.

Wisconsin state statute 82.23 states: "Unless otherwise provided by statute or agreement, every highway bridge on a city, village or town boundary shall be repaired and maintained by any adjoining municipality in which the bridge is located. The cost of repairs and maintenance shall be paid by the adjoining municipalities in proportion to the last equalized valuation of the property in the adjoining municipalities."

The statute was cited by Green Grove attorney Lee D. Turonie of Dempsey Law when the town sent a notice to Colby officials that they would need to be paid for Colby's half of the bridge.

On Dec. 10, 2020, Colby sent Green Grove a letter notifying the town that their "claim" against Colby had been disallowed. By state stat-

ute, this meant no legal action could be brought on the claim after six months. Town of Colby Chairman Larry Oehmichen said this was to



Larry Oehmichen

ensure the process of a lawsuit wouldn't be dragged out over a lengthy period of time.

Turonie said the opportunity to settle the matter was made more difficult because of the time constraint that was levied against Green Grove and said Colby's unwillingness to settle caused the lawsuit.

"Colby resorted to attorneys because they simply did not want to pay half," Turonie said. "Green Grove's claim is for over \$27,000 yet they made a final offer to settle for \$20,000 after negotiations back and forth. Colby

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