

Sublette County Sheriff's Office

Wayne "Bardy" Bardin, Sheriff

PO Box 701

35 ½ South Tyler

Pinedale, WY 82941

PRESS RELEASE

SHERIFF BARDIN

On or about June 21, 1984, the body of 25 year old, Elizabeth Miles Ehlers, a resident of Jackson Hole Wyoming, was found, in a traffic turnout, at the mouth of Hoback Canyon in Sublette County Wyoming.

After an autopsy, it was determined that Mrs. Ehlers had gunshot wounds to her hand, chest and head. A subsequent investigation determined that Mrs. Ehlers was enroute to Florida to join her husband when the homicide occurred.

The homicide was investigated by the Sublette County Sheriff's Department under Sheriff Bud Slater at the time without developing a suspect. In the mid 1990s the Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation, at the request of Sublette County Sheriff, Hank Ruland, re-opened the investigation. No arrests resulted from the DCI investigation.

Sheriff Bardin instructed then Sergeant Detective K.C. Lehr, in 2007, to again look into the case, but no progress was made at that time. In October of 2008, after the reorganization of the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Bardin requested newly promoted Captain Detective Brian Ketterhagen to re-open the investigation once again.

Captain Ketterhagen, in conjunction with the Sublette County and Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the team of Sublette County Detectives consisting of Sarah Brew, Lance Gehlhausen, Shane Templar and Investigator Randall Hanson of Sublette County Attorney's Office re-opened the case. After thousands of man-hours and extensive interviews of witnesses across four states, a suspect was developed.

At the end of February 2009, Detective Brew and Captain Ketterhagen traveled to Helena Montana to interview Troy Dean Willoughby. On March 1, 2009, Sublette County Sheriff's Detectives along with Sheriff Bardy Bardin met with Sublette County and Prosecuting Attorney, Lucky McMahan and Sublette County Attorney Investigator Randall Hanson to draft a warrant for the arrest of Troy Dean Willoughby for First Degree Murder.

Troy Dean Willoughby was arrested earlier today at Helena, Montana for the Murder of Elizabeth Miles Ehlers. Willoughby is a former resident of Daniel Wyoming and is currently being held in Helena, Montana on felony charges unrelated to the homicide.

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Sheriff Bardy Bardin: "This is a 25 year old Cold Case concerning the murder of Elizabeth Ehlers in Sublette County. Those involved with this case throughout the years have never forgotten this young woman."

"Since the reorganization of the Sheriff's Office, this is the seventh (7th) cold case solved by the Sublette County Detectives. I am very proud of the investigative unit and the amount of time and sacrifices that went into this investigation. And I'm very pleased with the amount of cooperation and assistance from the County Attorney's Office and from County Attorney, Lucky McMahon, and County Attorney Investigator Randall Hanson."

March 1, 2009


Sheriff "Bardy" Bardin


Lucky McMahon, County Attorney