

## The unsolved Jamie Kamai murder

It's amazing how crimes get solved in an hour on television - two if the crime was part of a two-parter. Even cold cases involving crimes committed a decade or more earlier can be solved in that hour.

But in the real world where Jerry Bruckheimer and Dick Wolf don't have all the answers, solutions can be frustratingly slow to evolve. That doesn't mean that anyone has given up trying, it just means that sometimes answers don't come between commercials.

If ever a crime seems that it should be solvable, the murder of Jamie Kamai on June 21, 2001 is one. He was shot three times by a person in an identifiable vehicle, near a very busy intersection during what is rush hour in other communities. Nearby was a construction crew and adjacent was a convenience store and fireworks stand.

So much focus was given by law enforcement on a stupid "Rave" to be held at the Terry Bison Ranch that this murder may not have gotten the attention it deserved at the time. And, obviously, solving a cold case is much more difficult than solving a cold-blooded murder when it happens.

The primary "person of interest" drove a pickup similar to the one described by the best and most dependable eye witness to the murder and events leading up to the incident that took Jamie Kamai's life.

That person of interest pulled up stakes and left town within, according to the lead detective on the case and others, hours of the murder. He left behind a business for which he was current on rent and a rented house which showed evidence of a hasty departure. He also left behind a black pickup that matched the description of the killer's vehicle. Pictures of that pickup, that I have now seen, are remarkably consistent to the description first circulated. A black pickup with "grey primer spots," was said to have been driven by the killer that morning of June 21, 2001.

The person of interest's pickup was retrieved by his brother at a later date and was visited by law enforcement subsequent to it being found in South Dakota. Time enough had elapsed for DNA to have been removed or worn away.

Plates for this pickup were issued from a Wyoming county other than Laramie County. I will not disclose the county by name or number in case someone does come forward who knows that - that can be helpful in validating a person's credibility. That pickup bears the markings described that morning. It is a match in color and markings, in my opinion.

The person of interest had also recently purchased a number of guns in Laramie County. Do any of those guns match the one used in the killing - by caliber? That is information that I have promised to

withhold and I will honor that commitment.

The person of interest, I have been reliably told, was operating a mobile tattoo shop that was not properly licensed by the City of Cheyenne. That vehicle was not searched as his shop downtown and his rented house on the Southside were.

He was found in North Carolina and two local members of law enforcement traveled down there to interview him. He (the person of interest) allegedly told an acquaintance here that he had nothing to do with the murder and was leaving town because he was being harassed by "the cops." He also allegedly stayed in contact with a neighbor for several months after he had left town, supposedly asking about the status of the case.

I cannot confirm or refute all of what I am being told. I have heard the same thing from more than one source and that adds to its reliability. For example, I have been told by his business neighbor, his landlord at the shop, others who knew him or of him, and the Sheriff's Department, that he left Cheyenne almost immediately after the murder and left behind the equipment in his tattoo shop.

He may be able to eliminate suspicion - that he was the killer or that his pickup was used by someone else who had something to do with the murder - by simply presenting himself for an extensive interview, presenting himself for a line-up, and/or presenting himself for a polygraph by a qualified examiner unaffiliated with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department.

This person of interest may be innocent. He may have had absolutely nothing to do with that callous murder in June of 2001. But he is uncooperative.

And his behavior has been suspicious from the first day.

I know that some of the people to whom I have been pointed have been interviewed by the Sheriff's Department. I do not know what they said or how the SO accepted their responses. My objective is to ascertain independently credible leads and at some point discuss what I have learned (or been told) with the lead investigator and leave the ultimate responsibility for solving this crime to them.

Some people may be willing to talk with me who are unwilling to talk with law enforcement. That seems to be the case to this point. That is fine. I do not want to be put in the position of withholding information from the SO but I believe it is more important to gather information at this point. I will figure out a way to provide all

that I learn to law enforcement and/or the DA's office without betraying confidences. My pursuit is for information. Particularly information about this person of interest until he is either charged or cleared.

I have told the Sheriff and lead investigator in this case, Lt. Linda Gessell, that as eager as I am to see a resolution in this unsolved murder, I do not want a rush to judgment like there was with the Wyatt Johnson false confession. Incarcerating an innocent man until a jury acquits or a judge releases holds no appeal to me.

Jamie Kamai left a devoted family who will not rest until this case is solved. His young daughter, 11 months at his death, will never know her father. His girlfriend and her young son were deprived of his love, affection and support by a ruthless person with no regard for what his action would do to this family.

To deliberately shoot another human being three times, including once in the back, is beneath contempt. To do it with the guy's children sitting just feet away when the trigger was pulled three times, is despicable, cowardly and showed a total disregard for human decency. And to do it in broad daylight on a busy street shows a disregard for authority and a brazenness found in psychopaths.

Now that person believes he has gotten away with it. He's gotten away with murder. His disdain for law enforcement in Laramie County and the State of Wyoming is probably complete. He does not believe our law enforcement is a match for his cunning, guile, cleverness and elusiveness. He is probably convinced that he will never answer for the crime. He may have committed others since on that same assumption. No one can catch me, he may believe. Well, think again.

People of Laramie County may be able to help prove him wrong. Prove that he cannot journey into town, shoot one of our own, then escape anywhere in the nation.

If the person of interest is the one who shot Jamie Kamai, he retreated to the safe haven of his father in North Carolina. A father who "lawyered up" his son so he would not have to answer questions and would not be allowed by his lawyer to submit to a polygraph examination to clear himself as he proclaimed his innocence.

One person in Cheyenne told me that the POI had told an acquaintance the reason he was leaving Cheyenne in haste was that "he had shot the guy on So. Greeley." Did he say that? That I am in the process of confirming. Does that fit with his abrupt departure from town - leaving behind valuable professional equipment and clothing? You be the judge.

If anything comes to you - anything at all that might help solve this murder, please call Lt. Linda Gessell at the Laramie County Sheriff's Office at 633-4735 or call me (Dave Featherly) at 637-2879. Please do not imagine or make things up. Now is not the time to bear false witness. Thanks.

*Dave Featherly*

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## PUBLICATION DATE TO CHANGE!!

**Beginning with the first September issue of the Cheyenne Herald, Thursday will become our "on street" day. The papers will be available in the morning on Thursday, as opposed to Monday afternoon or Tuesday, as has been the case since the Herald was started. A schedule for the balance of 2007 on page 5.**

**E-MAIL ... CHEYENNEHERALD@BRESNAN.NET**