

## *Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office*

### **Cold Case Unit**

406-869-3530

[coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov)

*Information may be submitted anonymously.*

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## **Cold Cases**

The Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Unit is requesting your help in solving the following cases. If you have any information you think may be helpful in these investigations, please contact us by phone 406-869-3530, email [coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov), or call Crimestoppers at 406-245-6660. A \$1000 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these crimes (other rewards may also apply). All information will remain confidential.

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### **Benjamin Burns**



3/11/86 - This 20 year old victim was found shot to death on Pryor Creek Road just south of the Huntley interchange on Interstate 94. He was last seen hitchhiking from Western Montana to Forsyth.

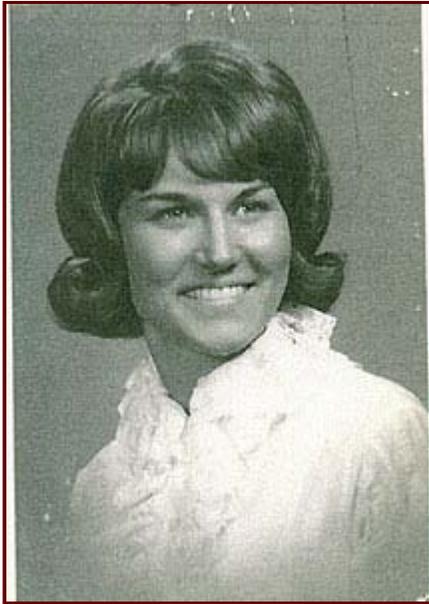
[Click for larger image](#)

### Clifford & Linda Bernhardt



11/6/73 - A young Billings couple was murdered in their new home on Dorothy Lane in Billings Heights in 1973.

[Click for larger image](#)



[Click for larger image](#)

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### **Corina Contrerez**

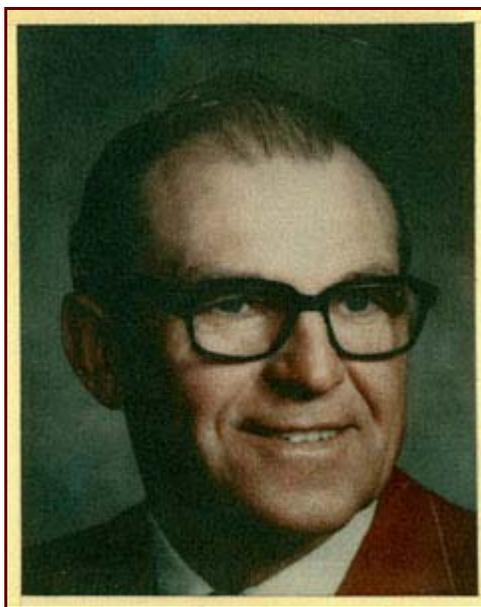


12/22/78 - This 16 year old Billings Senior High School drop-out was found stabbed to death near Interstate 90 on the Pryor Creek Interchange.

[Click for larger image](#)

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### George Heinrich & Marlene Mazzola



9/21/80 - This Billings couple was found bound with electrical tape and strangled to death in George Heinrich's home near Billings on Highway 312.

[Click for larger image](#)



[Click for larger image](#)

### **Jeannette Atwater**



1/16/00 - This 34 year old Billings woman was found dead in the trunk of her burning 1987 Oldsmobile Cutlass in the pre-dawn hours of January 16, 2000 near the intersection of Bench Blvd. and Lincoln Lane in Billings Heights.

[Click for larger image](#)

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### **Marsha Helgeson**

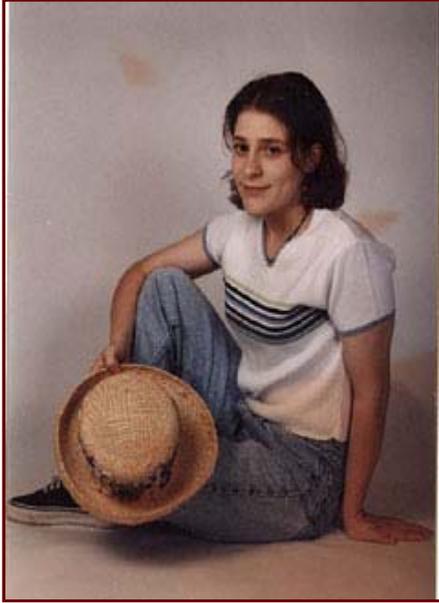


9/9/78 - This 21 year old Lockwood woman died of multiple stab wounds and was found near a driveway on Alkali Creek Road.

[Click for larger image](#)

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### **Miranda Fenner**



11/15/98 - This young Laurel store clerk was found murdered at the Movie Store in Laurel.

[Click for larger image](#)

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### **Ruth Lori Ballew**



2/5/77 - This 21 year old Billings woman was found shot to death on Jellison Road near the Billings landfill.

[Click for larger image](#)

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Investigators know that most homicide cases are closed within the first 24-48 hours. However, when this critical window of opportunity slides shut and no lead has developed, investigators must often rely on the public coming forward with information that will reestablish a direction in a case. This is why the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Unit is providing information on cold cases to the general public. Our investigators hope that someone reading about these cases will recognize and come forward with critical information. Criminologists estimate that in 84 percent of cold cases, the killer's name is already written down somewhere in the case file within the first 30 days. New information may draw a link to that name. If you have information pertaining to any of these cases, please contact us today at 406-869-3530 or by email at [coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov](mailto:coldcaseunit@co.yellowstone.mt.gov) or by contacting Crimestoppers at 406-245-6660. Your tip could be the key to solve one of these cases.