

Sheriff Joe DiSalvo Pitkin County Sheriff's Office 506 East Main Street, Aspen, CO 81611 970-920-5300



Press Release

For Immediate Release

1979 Lenado Homicide Victim Identified

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office recently identified the victim of a cold-case homicide that occurred 33 years ago near Lenado, Colorado, in unincorporated Pitkin County.

The victim, now known to be Donald Allison, was about one month short of his fiftieth birthday when his body was discovered in August of 1979. Allison's identity has been confirmed by fingerprint analysts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The homicide has been under investigation by the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office since Allison's body was discovered. Over the years, Pitkin County Sheriff's Office investigators have continued to reexamine the case. Technologies have made huge advances since the homicide occurred, and the sheriff's office is now taking every advantage of those increased forensic abilities, sifting through the evidence left at the scene to determine what old evidence may provide new clues.

The Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, working in collaboration with the Pitkin County Coroner's Department, has already developed new and productive leads through a connection from a national missing-persons database. Information put into the database by investigators matched several elements of those entered by a law enforcement agency outside of Colorado in relation to Allison's disappearance, ultimately leading to the identification of the remains as Allison's.

If anyone knew Allison, or has any information regarding the homicide, please call the sheriff's office at 970-920-5300, or send an e-mail to sheriff@pitkinsheriff.com. Even the smallest piece of information has the potential to solve this cold-case homicide.

The sheriff's office will not be releasing any further information about this cold-case homicide at this time. Since 1979 local newspapers in Aspen have run several articles regarding this homicide. Those interested in more information should look to those archived stories.

Any press questions should be directed to Sheriff Joe DiSalvo at 970-920-5300.

Our Mission: Guided by constitutional, community, and professional standards, the mission of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office is to respect human dignity and provide the highest level of service to all. We are committed to the preservation of a peaceful, safe, and healthy environment in the spirit of openness, fairness and tolerance.