



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Margie Martinez
970-356-4015 x 2803 Office
970-381-0107 Cell
mmartinez@co.weld.co.us

JOHN B. COOKE
SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 1, 2009

ARREST MADE IN 1977 MURDER – 32 YEARS LATER

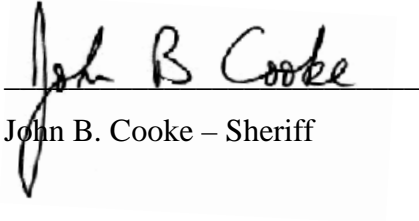
Greeley, Colo. – On December 1, 2009, Marcello Maldonado-Perez was arrested in Port Charlotte, Florida in the 1977 murder of Mary Pierce.

On August 25, 1977, 22 year old Mary Pierce was kidnapped from a 7-11 convenience store in 1100 block of 9th Street in Greeley where she worked as a store clerk. Mary Pierce's body was found two days later in a cornfield west of Greeley; what is now the 8300 block of 10th Street. The autopsy revealed she had been sexually assaulted and stabbed multiple times.

Officers from both the Greeley Police Department and the Weld County Sheriff's Office investigated the homicide for several years before the case was officially turned over to the Sheriff's Office. In 2003 and 2006 Weld County Investigators submitted evidence collected from the 1977 crime to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for DNA testing. The DNA originally was recovered from the body and clothing of Ms. Pierce. The results from the DNA testing were provided to the Weld County Sheriff's Office and placed into a nationwide database. In 2009 CBI received notification that a match from the database had been developed. The DNA from the crime scene matched DNA samples taken from 51 year old Marcello Maldonado-Perez of Port Charlotte, Florida. Maldonado-Perez had been serving time in a Texas prison and prior to his release in 2008 DNA samples were obtained and submitted to the national database.

In July 2009, the WCSO fugitive unit and the US Marshals Service located Maldonado-Perez living in Port Charlotte, Florida. On November 30, 2009, a warrant was issued for the arrest of Maldonado-Perez on charges of first degree murder.

Deputies from the Weld County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force comprised of US Marshals Service, Florida Department of Law, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office arrested Maldonado-Perez on December 1, 2009 at 7:58 a.m. at his residence in Port Charlotte, Florida. He is being held in the Charlotte County Jail without bond.


John B. Cooke – Sheriff

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