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Bondsteel's ex-wife says he confessed to crimes

Woman says unvetted letters delivered by attorney asked her to create alibi

3:33 AM, Apr. 28, 2011 | Comments

Written by

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"He told me he was hunting, heard two women coming up the trail and snuck up on them — that he was going to steal their diamond rings," she said.

Tami Bondsteel said he described the encounter "in his words." but when she heard one of the victim's accounts of the incident later, several details didn't match up. Additionally, the victim said James Bondsteel told her he was attacking them "because it's fun," Tami Bondsteel said, a line she called one of her thenhusband's "taglines."

James Bondsteel told his wife he buried the camouflage he was wearing, his knife, gloves and shoes on the side of the road Sept. 13 as he was driving down from his hunting campsite after the alleged attack before he reached a roadblock set up by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office.

During her testimony, Tami Bondsteel referenced a letter from her husband while he was in jail and described how in the letter, he told her how sorry he was for what he did and that he always admired how she does the right thing.

"This is what made me come here today," she told jurors.

Tami Bondsteel also said she received several letters from her husband while he was in jail that were delivered to her through his first lawyer, Diane Goldenstein. The letters didn't go through the prison mail system, she said. In one of those letters, her husband asked her to come up with an alibi for him, Tami Bondsteel said.

"He wrote a whole story here that's quite extreme of what we should say happened," she said. "It's quite a fairy tale."

Brinegar asked Tami Bondsteel why she didn't talk to police sooner than she did — months after her husband apparently told her about



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the attacks he made.

"Because I was scared of him," she said. "He would have hurt me."

Public defender Eric Vanatta asked Tami Bondsteel about letters she wrote to her husband after he was taken to jail in mid-September 2009.

Vanatta read parts of several letters from Tami Bondsteel that she wrote in September and October of 2009.

"I miss you so much," he read from one letter. From another: "I send love to you all day and give your picture a kiss every morning and every night.""

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