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People walk under a digital screen displaying an ad promoting contract military service in the Russian army's unmanned systems forces on Jan. 26 in St. Petersburg, Russia. ANTON VAGANOV/REUTERS FILE

DNA links Bundy to murder of Utah teen

Amanda Lee Myers
USA TODAY

Newly tested DNA evidence has connected notorious serial killer Ted Bundy to the 1974 murder of a 17-year-old girl whose body was found naked, beaten, bound and dumped along a state highway in Utah.

Utah County Sheriff Mike Smith announced on April 1 that new testing found – “without a doubt” – that DNA recovered from Laura Ann Aime’s body more than 50 years ago is Bundy’s.



Aime

“This case is now officially closed,” Smith said during a news conference. “Most importantly, we bring closure, hopefully, to the Aime family who have endured over 50 years the loss of their loved one.”

Aime was last seen leaving a Halloween party on Oct. 31, 1974, when she left to go to a convenience store.



Bundy

Nearly a month later on Nov. 27, 1974, two college students on a hike came across her battered body, dumped several feet from State Route 92 in the American Fork Canyon.

The break came after cold case detectives reviewing the case found that it appeared to be solvable because of the advancement of forensic science, the sheriff’s office said.

Detectives submitted evidence to the Utah Bureau of Forensic Services, and “the results were magnificent,” the sheriff’s office said. “They confirmed irrefutably that DNA evidence recovered from Laura’s body verified the existence of DNA belonging to Bundy,” the office said.

Bundy confessed to about 30 murders, including Aime’s, but wasn’t convicted of many of them because he declined to provide any details and authorities suspected he was lying to gain more infamy.

He was convicted of three of the murders and executed using the electric chair in Florida in 1989.

Utah County Sheriff Mike Smith announced that new testing found that DNA recovered from Laura Ann Aime’s body more than 50 years ago is Bundy’s.

Students offered incentives to join Russian drone forces

Large financial packages offered as a way to entice

Andrew Osborn
REUTERS

MOSCOW – Students across Russia are being offered large financial incentives to join drone units fighting in Ukraine as operators and engineers, while companies in Russia’s central Ryazan region have been given quotas to sign up workers for the army, documents show.

The recruitment effort, which comes as Russian forces continue to grind forward on the battlefield in Ukraine and as U.S.-brokered peace talks are on ice due to the Iran war, suggests Moscow is diversifying its push to replenish its army’s ranks in the fifth year of its war.

But it is not part of a general mobilization drive, something the Kremlin said in recent days was not on the agenda. Nor, say top officials, is Russia running short of recruits despite Ukrainian claims – dismissed by Moscow – that Kyiv is eliminating Russian troops faster than they can be recruited.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Security Council, told state media



Pedestrians walk past a billboard glorifying a Russian service member in Moscow on April 1. RAMIL SITDIKOV/REUTERS

on March 27 that Russia’s recruitment system, which offers substantial financial packages to volunteers, continues to deliver. More than 400,000 people had signed up last year and over 80,000 so far this year, he said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on April 2 he had not seen official documents concerning student recruit-

ment and corporate recruitment quotas in Ryazan but confirmed that students were being encouraged to join Russia’s drone forces, a new division of the armed forces set up at the end of last year at the behest of President Vladimir Putin.

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