

# Arias Gets Life Term In Prison

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD AND JOSH HOFFNER  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — The nearly seven-year legal saga of Jodi Arias ended Monday as a judge sentenced her to life in prison for killing her ex-boyfriend, and the victim's sisters unleashed their pain over the 2008 murder that captivated social media with its salacious details.

Three of Travis Alexander's sisters tearfully urged Judge Sherry Stephens to impose the harshest penalty available against Arias. They described Arias as "unrepentant" and "evil" and lashed out at her.

As Arias was leaving the courtroom, Alexander's younger sister, Tanisha Sorenson, said loudly, "Burn in hell," prompting her sister to try to quiet her down.

Samantha Alexander cried as she recalled walking into her brother's house after investigators had finished collecting evidence there. "He was there for five days," she said. "Five days he is there decomposing in the shower. I'm sure his soul was screaming for someone to find him."

Alexander's family and friends hugged each other with tears in their eyes but smiles on their faces after the judge imposed the most severe of two available sentences and denied Arias a chance to be eligible for release after serving 25 years. About a dozen jurors from the two trials were in the courtroom to witness the sentencing.

Before the sentence was handed down, Arias gave a rambling statement in which she stood by her testimony and accused police and prosecutors of changing their story during the investigation. She said she was sorry for the pain she caused Alexander's family and friends.

"I'm truly disgusted and I'm repulsed with myself," Arias said, recalling the moment she put a knife to Alexander's throat.

She has acknowledged killing Alexander but claimed it was self-defense after he attacked her. Prosecutors said Arias killed Alexander in a jealous rage after the victim wanted to end their affair.

## City

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nexation. It's all part of setting up the foundation of the Westbrook Estates proposed development."

Plans for the site include 140 apartment units, 28 single-family units, 28 twin-homes and 16 town-homes.

The commission also voted to initiate the rezoning process for that parcel of land.

"(This is) the city initiating the process, rather than having it owner-petitioned," Mingo said. "It's actually a down zoning to single-family residential and to multiple family residential in an area where we have some commercial and single-family residential also. The purpose for the commission initiating it rather than having it owner petitioned is the time savings when you're working on a project that's in line with the goals set forth in the comprehensive plan."

The next step for the rezoning initiative is to go before the Planning Commission and come back to the City Commission for a hearing in about six weeks' time.

Mayor David Carda was absent during Monday night's meeting, and David Knoff was elected to serve as mayor pro tem. Commissioner Chris Ferdig was also absent.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- \* Discussed a change order for screens on the Meridian Plaza. It was also announced that the project is one month behind schedule.

- \* Approved a new truck for the Wastewater Department.

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# Lincoln

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Foran became a teacher, won a grant to study Lincoln in Springfield, where her family has its roots, and returned to Nashua, New Hampshire, bent on passing on her enthusiasm.

When Foran heard that Springfield would re-enact Lincoln's funeral, she signed up along with her mother, father, brother and son — who will play the part of Lincoln's eldest son. And she recruited 10 Fairgrounds Middle School students, who started their own Lincoln Association, meeting after school to research the period so they could make an exact replica of Robert Todd Lincoln's frock coat.

"To me," Foran says, "it's about connection and it's about trying to understand people."

The Rev. Duncan Newcomer was so drawn to Lincoln that he wrote his divinity school thesis on the Illinoisan. At 23, he spent \$500 to commission a painting of Lincoln that still hangs next to his desk.

Leading congregations in Kentucky and Connecticut, Newcomer sermonized about Lincoln. Later, as a psychotherapist, Newcomer says he found Lincoln a prism for understanding people's struggles.

Today, 71 and living in Belfast, Maine, Newcomer says Lincoln remains present as a template for Americans still struggling with race relations and societal conflict.

"I do feel like he's been some kind of soul mate for me," Newcomer says.

**"There were no social lines, no boundaries between condition separating those who, in solemn pageant, moved past the coffin that held the mortal parts of Abraham Lincoln. The banker and merchant walked side by side with the laborer, the lad of fashion and estate with the lowly kitchen maid ..." — Cleveland, April 29, 1865, Cleveland Leader**

People have been carving and casting tributes to Lincoln ever since his death. But inside a mechanical workshop in the Chicago suburb of Elgin, Dave Kloke has found a decidedly different way to honor him.

Kloke, owner of a home construction business, became an admirer 20 years ago after watching a documentary about Lincoln's push to build the transcontinental railroad, even as the Civil War raged.

The initiative and the machinery intrigued him. So Kloke put his skills to use and built a working replica of a 1860s steam engine, completed about nine years ago. Looking for a follow-up, he took a friend's suggestion and began researching the custom-made train car that carried Lincoln's coffin. The original car was destroyed in a 1911 fire.

Over the past five years, Kloke has built a copy of the dark maroon car, with gold leaf and brass fittings. He had hoped to hook it to the locomotive and re-travel the funeral train's exact route, but couldn't find financial sponsors. In recent weeks,

though, he and other volunteers have scrambled to finish painting and upholstering, to get the car to Springfield by early May, before going on tour.

Of Lincoln, Kloke says, "I just think he lived like I try to live my life, just trying to be an honest person and going forward and doing the right thing."

**"Along the road the people appeared to the number of thousands, carrying torches and kindling bonfires to enable them clearly to see the funeral car, or as if to light it on its way." — April 30, 1865, between Columbus, Ohio and Indianapolis, New York Herald**

The night before Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg address, a crowd gathered under his hotel window to sing a welcome. After 150 years, though, their song — "We Are Coming Father Abraham" — had largely faded from memory.

Then Don Johnson, a former firefighter who now makes a living playing and teaching classical trumpet, got a call. Johnson, who lives near Lebanon, Kentucky, had played in Civil War bands but knew relatively little about the president, when he heard producers were searching for musicians to recreate period military tunes for the 2012 film, "Lincoln."

Johnson recruited the band for the film, then kept it together as "President Lincoln's Own." And watching modern audiences react to the tunes and the stories of turmoil behind them, he began to appreciate Lincoln in ways he hadn't considered.

One audience, clapping to an upbeat number, turned silent and a man wept when the band sounded the mournful "Home Sweet Home," which was played in unison by Union and Confederate troops encamped along the Rappahannock River. Another piece, from a favorite Lincoln opera about war and sacrifice, made Johnson consider that the president knew many he sent to battle would not return.

Those tunes will live again when Johnson's band marches in the re-enactment of Lincoln's funeral.

"All you need to do is just look at his face and you can see the kindness in him...," Johnson says. "I think we connect every time we have a concert."

**"But Illinois when she saw her Lincoln made President, and now, when she receives his cold ashes, contrasts (as) widely as heaven and hell. And yet she finds some balm for her grief in pride that he in whom they first saw virtue and greatness is now reckoned by the whole nation as greatest and most worthy." — Chicago, May 1, 1865, New York Tribune**

The first school bus arrives curbside just after 9, and soon the rotunda of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield echoes with fifth graders.

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