

## No new leads in case of the missing Oregon City girls

**SALENA DE LA CRUZ**  
Design Editor

May 8 and 9 marked the anniversaries of the disappearances of Oregon City girls, Ashley Pond and Miranda Gaddis, who disappeared under very similar circumstances, but the anniversaries have not curbed the determination and high hopes of bringing these girls home.

The FBI warned Oregon City authorities and the community to be on heightened alert for May 8 and 9, the two and four-month anniversaries since Pond and Gaddis disappeared. Investigators believed the same person abducted both girls and did not wish for a repeat.

Though investigators had no specific information on a third child being targeted, they did issue the warning as a precaution. Officers have been assigned to the Gardiner Middle School, which is where the girls attended, for at least part of the week, though no extra patrols have been scheduled.

These cautions and anniversaries have not swayed the volunteers who are indomitable in finding these girls. Volunteer searches are still being conducted. On May 4, volunteers met once again at Dale's Auto Wrecking Yard, located at 19203 S. Molalla Avenue in Oregon City, and began their search at 9 a.m. and continued until 1 p.m. with another search scheduled for May 18. Searches are sched-

uled for every other Saturday.

During the May 4 search, volunteers came across a backpack, knife, sleeping bag and notebook, according to reports on [findmiranda.com](http://findmiranda.com)'s web site. Though it has yet to be established whether or not these items are directly linked to the case, they have been forwarded to the authorities. Volunteers are always needed, but if people cannot attend donations of sup-



plies are being accepted. Log onto [findmiranda.com](http://findmiranda.com) or [findashley.com](http://findashley.com) to get more information.

In continuing efforts, volunteers continue to organize and try to raise funds to help the families. On May 11, a benefit concert was held at the New Hope Community Church, off of Sunnyside Road, featuring some area Christian bands.

As the days and months progress efforts are unwavering with many combining their efforts from on and off the web sites to bring these girls home.

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## It is about the crimefighters

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Clackamas, may be able to count those credits towards their AAS. Current public safety employees who have undergone training programs through the workplace will be allowed to use those courses for credits as well.

"Education can stop that fast, or we can provide opportunities for people to improve their own personal and professional growth," Machado said.

The Clackamas County Community Safety Local Option Tax will be voted on May 21. If approved, the levy will provide approximately \$41.6 million over the next three years to continue to provide current public safety services for Clackamas County.

"(The tax levy) does not increase services. It will fill the vacancies that are currently

existing (in the public safety offices of Clackamas County), and that's it. It doesn't allow us to go up and over the top. It is bare minimum," Commander Machado said.

The need for the tax levy is derived from the increased cost of maintaining such departments as the District Attorney's office, Community Corrections, Juvenile Department and the Sheriff's Office.

Two requirements are needed for the passage of the levy, one of which is a double majority of registered voters to vote either "yes" or "no" on the tax. The other prerequisite is that the majority of voters must pass the addendum.

"I can guarantee you that if the levy fails, the Sheriff's Office will lose approximately 32 department members. That includes road deputies, corrections deputies, and non-sworn support staff. It will cause demotions," Machado said.

Without the passage of the levy,

into jeopardy. One example of the sacrifices that would be instigated if the levy is not approved, would be the lack of room in the county jail.

"If somebody in your community has committed a crime, they may not end up going to jail. Which means they'd get cited and they would be right back on the street," Machado said.

The ability of current public safety officers to obtain their associate's degrees with the new customized training program would make them more marketable and harder to dispose of. Current services provided by the Sheriff's Office would be put

At a time in which some peace officers in Clackamas County might be feeling the threat of cutbacks, this program offers a chance to ensure their employment.

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