

Police arrest son for murder

Portland Police Detectives charged Harrison Bletson, black male, DOB May 6, 1957 with Murder, in connection with the death of his mother, 63 year old Dannella Bletson.

On Tuesday, April 15, 1997, at approximately 1:30 pm a family

friend traveled to the home of Dannella Bletson to check on her welfare. She had not been heard from since Monday morning. Entering the home the friend discovered the deceased body of Mrs Bletson.

Pending the results of the medical

Examiners Office, it appears that death is the result of stab wounds.

Vancouver, Washington Police Officers, at the request of Portland Police Detectives arrested Harrison Bletson just prior to Midnight Tuesday April 15, 1997 at a friends house.

Arson Fire

Portland Fire Bureau and Portland Police Bureau Arson Investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the person or persons responsible for intentionally setting fire to an occupied apartment building.

On Sunday, March 9, 1997, at approximately 3:00 in the morning, the Portland Fire Bureau responded to the San Marco Apartments, 810 NE Couch Street, on a report of a fire.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you do not have to give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Drive-by homicide arrest

At 6:45 pm, Saturday, April 12, 1997, Portland Police officers arrested Keith Betha and charged him with Murder. Betha, a black male, DOB 02-09-61, was arrested in connection with a homicide that occurred earlier this date.

At approximately 5:00 PM, Saturday, April 12, 1997, Portland Police were called to the area of NE 33rd Avenue and NE Alberta Court on reports of a shooting. Police arrived to find a black Mazda RX-7 resting in the side yard of a residence in the 3300 block of NE Alberta Court. The driver had been shot and died at the scene.

Investigators believe that Betha was driving his Chevrolet Blazer southbound on 33rd avenue when he was overtaken by the decedent driv-

ing his Mazda, also southbound on NE 33rd Avenue. When the Mazda pulled up next to the Blazer, the suspect fired several rounds at the decedent. The decedent lost control of his vehicle after being shot and traveled eastbound on Alberta court from 33rd Avenue before coming to rest midblock between NE 33rd and NE 34th.

Police arrested Betha in the 4000 Block of NE 13th Avenue and charged him with the crime. Investigators believe that the victim and suspect knew each other. It does not appear to be gang related.

A photograph will be available in the Identification Division, 12th floor, Justice Center. Investigative Sergeants D. Anderson and W. Sivilar are the investigators.



Children's Defense Fund President and Stand For Children founder Marian Wright Edelman pictured here (left) with Stand for Children 1997 honorary co-chairs Mrs. Rosa Parks, mother of the modern civil rights movement and grandmother of the children's movement, and national talk show host Rosie O'Donnell at the first Stand For Children awards presentation during the annual Children's Defense Fund Conference. Following on the heels of the historic Stand For Children rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC on June 1st last year, the 1997 mobilization will include hundreds of local efforts to ensure that every child gets a healthy start in life - with the health coverage children need to grow and thrive, and healthy communities that allow children to breathe clean air, walk safely to school, and learn unimpaired by violence or untreated health problems. There will not be a rally in Washington, DC, this year, however nearly 200 events are planned in every state on June 1st, as Americans from all walks of life Stand for Healthy Children in their home towns.

Photo by Jay Mallin

Washington County man steals jobless benefits

A Washington County man has pled guilty to stealing more than \$4,100 of unemployment insurance benefits. Darin Alan Bouska was convicted of felony theft charges, and sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Nancy Campbell to 24 months probation and ordered to pay \$4,176 in restitution to the Oregon Employment Department.

Illegally collecting unemployment benefits is a class C felony, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Bouska's conviction was the result of an investigation by the Employment Department. The department uses a computer system to match records of those receiving

unemployment benefits with employer quarterly payroll records.

The department routinely scans active claims for irregularities and aggressively prosecutes individuals found unlawfully collecting unemployment benefits.

To receive unemployment benefits, individuals must be out of work through no fault of their own

and able, available, and actively seeking work. Oregon law requires those claiming benefits to report any earnings during the period they are claiming. Individuals may earn up to one-third of their weekly benefit amounts or ten times the minimum wage, whichever is greater, before unemployment benefits are deducted dollar for dollar.

Observing Vancouver Home Ownership Programs

The Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA), Columbia Non-Profit Housing (CNPH), and the Community Housing Resource Center (CHRC) are community partners in the provision of affordable home ownership opportunities for the people of Clark County.

For each of these programs, down payment assistance is provided through a second mortgage loan that has no payments of principal or interest for the term of the first mortgage, up to 30 years, as long as the home remains the borrower's principal residence. There are equity sharing provisions and other restrictions in lieu of amortized payments on the second mortgage. All programs require home buyer education that is provided by or through the Community Housing Resource Center at no charge.

Community Housing Resource Center - CHRC offers personal home buyer counseling, sponsors and coordinates home buyer education seminars. The CHRC is sponsored and supported by the City of Vancouver, Clark County, the Vancouver Housing Authority, numerous non-profit foundations, and financial institutions. Its goal is to promote home ownership. Community Housing Resource Center services are free. Their first-time homebuyer classes have been an invaluable asset to many people who needed information on what it takes to buy a home of their own.

First-Time Home Ownership Programs - VHA and CNPH offer several home ownership opportunities to low income Clark County residents, who have household incomes at or below 80% of area median. The Vancouver Housing Authority is the largest provider of low-income housing in Clark County. Columbia Non-Profit Housing contracts with the VHA for staff services. This arrangement provides common access for information about assisted home ownership opportunities in Clark County.

Infill Home Ownership Program - The Infill program is an ongoing strategy to build new homes in downtown Vancouver neighborhoods. The goal of this program is to increase home ownership and promote revitalization in these neighborhoods. The homes were designed with the cooperation of

the Hough Neighborhood Association to be consistent with architectural features found throughout the neighborhood. A down payment of only \$2,200 is required to purchase a three-bedroom, two-bath, 1,200 sq. ft. home. Down payment assistance up to \$30,000 is available to qualified buyers.

CNPH First Home Loan Program - This program offers a second mortgage assistance plan of up to 20 percent of the purchase price for a home located anywhere in Clark County (purchase price cannot exceed \$119,000. First Home is a market driven program with which prospective homeowners work with the realtor of their choice to find a home. Over twenty local lenders currently participate in this program. Borrowers must contribute a minimum of 3 percent of the purchase price or closing costs, which ever is greater. The Community Housing Resource Center coordinates education requirements, provides free counseling and assist buyers with preparation of application.

Columbia Homes - CNPH sponsors this program in a manufactured home subdivision located in the East Park Meadows subdivision at 144th Avenue and 52nd Street. Up to \$15,000 is available in the form of a deferred payment second mortgage for down payment assistance. Manufactured homes are chosen by the borrower and financed, together with the lot, just like a site-built home. CNPH has secured twelve lots in the subdivision for this project. The borrower is required to contribute \$3,500 or closing costs, which ever is greater.

Hampton Downs - This is a condominium project currently under construction. These homes will be available in July and August 1997. The homes in the Hampton Downs condominium community include two bedrooms, two baths, and attached garages. They are 1,200 sq. ft. and will sell for under \$90,000.

It is our desire to aggressively market all home ownership opportunities to all members of the community. For additional information, please contact Frank L'Ame, VHA Housing Development Specialist, at (360) 694-2501 or (503) 289-5593 or Carol Keljo at (360) 690-4496.

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