



Police News/Vancouver

Serial Killer Suspect Caught in River Chase

(AP) - "Cowboy Mike," a suspect in the disappearance of four women and the shooting of another, was captured Friday after a chase that ended with an attempted swim to freedom in the Snake River, along the Oregon-Idaho border, police said.

Michael John Braae, 41, a transient who favors cowboy hats and boots, was arrested by Payette County sheriff's deputies.

Braae was spotted earlier Friday by authorities at the Black Canyon Truck Stop on Interstate 84 about 13 miles east of the Oregon line, a po-



Michael John Braae

lice dispatcher said.

Idaho State Police troopers gave chase and pursued Braae

at high speeds on the interstate, onto some side roads in the Emmett area and back onto the freeway. The dispatcher said spike strips were placed on the westbound lanes and they succeeded in blowing out at least one of Braae's front tires.

The suspect stopped his vehicle on the bridge over the Snake River, which is on the Idaho-Oregon line, and jumped off the north side of the bridge into the river. Braae eluded officers for almost an hour, at least once going to shore and trying to hide in some bushes before getting back into the

water.

Officers from the Idaho State Police and Oregon State Police assisted the Payette County deputies at the scene.

In Washington, Yakima County Sheriff's Lt. Dan Garcia said sheriff's detectives did the paperwork on Thursday for an arrest warrant for Braae, "probably for attempted murder," in the shooting of Marchelle Morgan, 50, of Yelm, near Olympia.

Morgan was found shot in the head in the bushes by the side of a rural road on Sunday.

In the southern Puget Sound

city of Lacey, also near Olympia, Braae is a "person of interest" in the murder of Lori Jones, 44, who was killed July 7 and found dead under her bed at her apartment, said Lt. Tom Nelson.

Braae has not been charged with a crime in the Jones case or in three others where police say he was the last person seen talking to women who have either gone missing or been found dead.

Susan Ault, 39, a waitress from Cathlamet, vanished last month from Wahkiakum County

in southwestern Washington. She was last seen arguing with Braae on June 24, Nelson said.

Velina Larson, 37, of Gladstone, a Portland suburb, was reported missing in September 1997. Her remains were found in a nearby vacant lot in January 1998, said Angela Blanchard, a Clackamas County, Ore., sheriff's deputy.

Also missing is Deb VanLuven, 45, of the Lacey area, who disappeared in north-central Washington's Douglas County in 1997.

Prostitute Enters Plea in Murder Case

(AP) - A prostitute involved in the murder of Portland banker Wayne E. Olson has been sentenced to 17 years in prison.

Jessica C. Rydman, 32, pleaded guilty to robbery with a firearm, burglary with a firearm and kidnapping with a firearm.

Rydman had faced aggravated murder charges, but a plea agreement spared her a possible death sentence.

Rydman said Olson was a customer of her private escort service. Police believe she was called to Olson's home Aug. 20, the day after his wife left for a business trip.

Police suspect Rydman was later joined by her one-time boyfriend, Calvin S. Davis, 23, and friend, 18-year-old Medero Prince Moon.

Davis and Moon have been charged with aggravated murder in Olson's execution-style slaying. They and Rydman are accused of ransacking the house and stealing everything from Olson's wedding band to snake-skin cowboy boots and cigars.

Olson, a 53-year-old Bank of America vice president, was found by his wife Aug. 23. He was bound and gagged and shot in the head.

Olson's 1998 Jeep Cherokee and 1998 BMW were stolen but recovered the day after his body was found.

In the trunk of the BMW, police found numerous items stolen from Olson's home. They also found an issue of Exotic, an area magazine that advertises nude dancing establishments and private escort services, including Rydman's with her phone number.

A grand jury indicted Rydman on Aug. 28. Rydman went to California but returned to Portland and turned herself in Sept. 2. Two days later, police arrested

Davis at an apartment in North Portland. Moon turned himself in Sept. 25.

After negotiations between her attorneys and prosecutors, Rydman divulged details about the killing for the first time last week. Multnomah County Chief Deputy District Attorney Norm Frink would not discuss what Rydman told prosecutors about the night of the killing.

Prosecutors don't think Rydman pulled the trigger, he said. Rydman declined to speak before she was sentenced. Davis and Moon are scheduled to go to trial October 1.



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Grand Jury Clears Police in Store Shooting

A Multnomah County grand jury has cleared a Portland police officer who shot the wrong man during an assault at a convenience store on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Forty-year-old Bruce Browne of Vancouver was shot by police moments after he successfully defended himself from an attacker at the Fast Trip gas station.

Officer Kenneth Duilio arrived at the scene as Browne



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
A man was mistakenly shot by police during a disturbance at the Fast Trip gas station on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

was standing with the gun in his hand. Duilio shot Browne in the arm and leg after ordering him to drop the gun.

Browne has said he did not hear the command to drop the gun, although the officer's order was picked up and recorded on a police radio.

The jury did indict the man who allegedly first attacked Browne, LeMarr J. Harris. He is accused of attempted murder and assault.

Police Arrest Washington Park Rapist

Portland police say they have made an arrest in a rape case that has gone unsolved since January.

Police arrested 44-year-old David George Alden last week for allegedly raping a woman who was walking in Washington Park on January 15th.

The woman, who is in her thirties, was walking home from work around 10 p.m. when she was attacked.

Alden was arraigned on charges of rape, kidnapping, menacing, criminal mischief and



David George Alden

possession of child explicit material. He is being held in the Multnomah County Detention Center on \$510,000 bail.

Suspect Arrested on Murder Charge

Officers with the Vancouver Gang Task Force recognized a suspect wanted for homicide that took place in the City of Yakima. While on patrol July 13, an officer saw the suspect, Arnulfo C. Arias, 21, in the apartment complex at 1806 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.

As additional officers responded to the area, Arias ran into the complex and disappeared from sight. When a police canine unit was summoned, he was located hiding in an apartment.

Police said Arias came out the apartment and surrendered to officers waiting outside. He was later booked into the Clark County Jail on a no bail warrant.

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