



POLICE / VANCOUVER

REWARD \$10,000

For information leading to the arrest and conviction in the murder of Melissa Bittler.



Murder Suspect

black male
33-50 years of age
5'9" to 6'
medium build, receding hairline

On December 13th, 14-year-old Melissa Bittler was murdered near her home at the 4500 block of Northeast 35th Avenue in Northeast Portland. The Portland Police Bureau has released this sketch to help find Melissa's killer, and a local chapter of CrimeStoppers is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his capture and conviction. If you have seen this man or have information that could help lead to his arrest, please call CrimeStoppers or the Portland Police Department's Tips Hotline. Callers do not have to give their names, and rewards are paid in cash with no questions asked.

CrimeStoppers 503-823-4357
Tips Hotline 503-823-4731

Breakdowns Cited in Prison Escape

(AP) — A security review following the Christmas Eve prison escape of a convicted rapist found several lapses by officials at the Oregon State Correctional Institution.

Leighton Bates hid in the back of a delivery truck and slipped away from a kitchen loading dock. Before he was captured Dec. 26, he allegedly assaulted a 46-year-old woman in the laundry room of her apartment building.

The internal report released last Wednesday recommended several security improvements, including installation of more security cameras and rigorous inspections of delivery trucks.

The morning that Bates fled, he and other inmates assigned to the loading dock were left unsupervised by a kitchen security officer as they stacked milk cartons on a pallet.

Officials believe at least two inmates helped Bates conceal himself inside piles of empty milk crates, which were stacked and wrapped in shrink wrap to prevent the pallets from bouncing in the truck. Shrink wrap is no longer used at the loading dock.

At the prisons inspection gate, a corporal failed to follow written orders regarding the inspection of vehicles, the report said. Orders require all items — packages, boxes and containers — to be thoroughly searched before passing through the gate.

Local Landmarks on Terrorists' Computer



A picture of Seattle's Space Needle and documents about Grande Coulee Dam on the Columbia River were found at an abandoned al-Qaida terrorist holdout in Afghanistan. (AP Photo)

(AP) — A tourist-type photograph of the top half of the Space Needle was among documents discovered in a computer system in Afghanistan, but there is no evidence of any plan for terrorism in the state, Gov. Gary Locke says.

"Federal officials assured us that Washington state is not under any credible threat of any attack," Locke said.

Washington National Guard Gen. Tim Lowenberg said the picture was taken from some distance away and had little intelligence value.

Public officials did not say where the picture was found. The Seattle Times reported Thursday that it was among a large amount of documents material in a cave at the former al-Qaida stronghold in Tora Bora.

NBC News reported earlier that

the Space Needle was a possible al-Qaida target. The network also reported that evidence indicated large hydroelectric dams in the state, such as the Grand Coulee Dam, might be targets.

The news raised concerns in the state where Algerian Ahmed Ressay was arrested with a car trunk full of explosives as he arrived at Port Angeles by ferry from British Columbia in December 1999.

Ressay, who trained in Osama bin Laden-financed terrorist camps in Afghanistan, was convicted of plotting to blow up Los Angeles International Airport.

Ressay had a reservation at a motel near the Space Needle, and after he was arrested the city canceled New Year's Eve celebrations that had been planned at the 605-foot tower for Dec. 31, 1999.

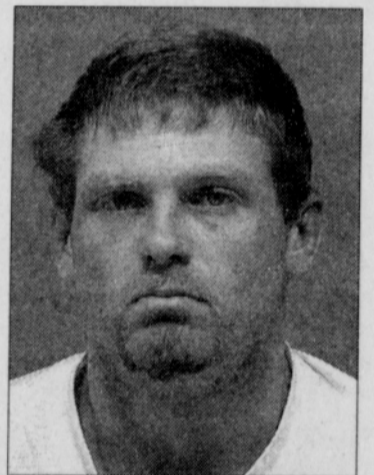
Reward Offered in Theft, Forgery Case

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Dwight Christopher Dehaven.

Arrest warrants are on file charging Dehaven with possession of a controlled substance, forgery, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, theft, and driving while suspended. In addition, investigators would like to speak with him regarding several stolen vehicles in the Clackamas County area.

Dwight Christopher Dehaven is a 27-year-old white male with a date of birth of Feb. 8, 1974. He is described as 6 foot tall, weighing 175 pounds, with green eyes, brown hair, and a tattoo of an eagle on his right shoulder.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.



Dwight Dehaven

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