

POLICE

Officer Returns Home From Hospital

(AP) — Clackamas County sheriff's Sgt. Damon Coates has been home for short visits. Now it looks like he's home for good.

Coates, 42, was shot in the face Jan. 9 by Nick Teixeira, 15, whose parents had called police for help taking the youth to a mental facility for treatment, according to police.

Officials Thursday said Coates can work on his rehabilitation at home.

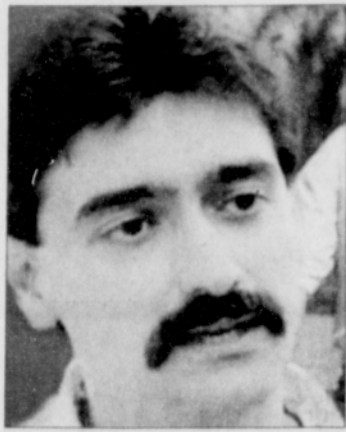
Coates will still receive round-the-clock nursing care, said Deputy Andrew McVey, Coates' brother-

in-law. The officer cannot walk or stand on his own. He remains unable to swallow and is fed through a tube.

In two to three weeks, Coates will undergo another surgery to implant a bone in his skull, McVey said. For now, he wears a bicycle helmet to protect his head.

Coates' wife, Tammy, released a statement saying she and the couple's four children are "excited, yet nervous" about the transition. She said she hopes people will respect the family's privacy.

Teixeira has pleaded innocent to



Sgt. Damon Coates

charges of attempted aggravated murder and first-degree assault with a firearm. He is being held at a Multnomah County juvenile detention center.

Fireman Moonlighted as Arsonist

Official sentenced to prison for lighting Gorge fires

(AP)—A volunteer firefighter who set seven fires in the Columbia River Gorge last summer pleaded guilty to arson charges and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Peter David Traxler, 26, could have spent 23 years in jail and paid a fine of \$415,000, but under a plea agreement he will be eligible for boot camp after serving two years in prison.

Traxler admitted setting the fires in the Corbett area from July through September 2002. One of

the fires burned a building owned by a church, causing \$25,000 damage, said prosecutor Rod Underhill.

Under the plea, Traxler must repay the church and its insurance company.

Underhill said Wednesday that investigators began looking at Traxler as a suspect in a rash of building and brush fires because he was always the first firefighter to arrive. All the fires had a similar origin, a lighted cigar or a match.

"He told investigators that he had a lot of stresses in his life,

relationship and family stress," Underhill said. "He had his reasons, but they don't make any sense."

Underhill said Traxler wanted to become a full-time firefighter, and may have used the fires to display his skill. No one was hurt in the fires.

Investigators confronted Traxler about the fires last fall and he admitted setting them. Since November, Traxler has been living in his parent's home in Corbett under close supervision.

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Would-Be Kidnapper Wanted

Police search for man scared off by child's mother

Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying a man who attempted to kidnap a 3-year-old boy from his front yard during the afternoon of May 22.

Police said the man crossed a fence to gain access to the yard in the 11800 block of East Burnside where the boy was playing. When confronted by the child's mother, the suspect jumped back over the fence and fled in a two-tone gray



A police sketch of an attempted kidnapping suspect.

utility van.

The suspect is described as a white male in his mid-30's, 6 feet 1 inch to 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing

240 to 260 pounds with a stocky build, short brown hair curled up in the back, and brown eyes. At the time, he was wearing a black T-shirt and jeans.

The van is described as an older, possibly mid-80s, cargo van with light gray on the top and dark gray on the bottom. The rear windows were covered with a brownish-gold opaque film. The rear license plate appeared to have yellow/orange across the top and a green cactus in the center.

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 need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503 823-HELP (4357).

Teens Arrested for Vancouver Arson

The Vancouver Fire Department and Vancouver Police Arson Unit have determined that a structure fire on East 18th Street was intentionally set.

Two 15-year-old boys were arrested for arson after neighbors reported seeing two suspicious teenagers on the property just prior to the fire.

Authorities said the juveniles ignited the fire by lighting card-

board and clothing being stored in the carport outside the home. No one was injured, but damages are estimated at \$80,000. The juveniles are also being investigated for acts of malicious mischief in the same neighborhood.

Tree Burglars Rob Vancouver Nursery

Vancouver Police are asking for the public's help in solving a series of tree thefts from a local nursery.

Burglars have hit the Cascade Greenhouse on 112th Avenue at least three times, taking over \$1,700 worth of young trees.

Police suspect the burglaries may be related to a similar crime pattern in 2000 and 2001. In those cases, the thieves sold the trees to nurs-

eries within a few days after the thefts.

Vancouver Police Detective Carole Boswell is asking that nursery owners and the community be aware of people attempting to sell Lace Leaf Maples, Junipers or other exotic landscaping trees. Authorities ask that residents report suspicious activity to 911 and take down license plates or other available suspect information.

Vancouver Police Boost Public Outreach

Department hopes to open up dialogue with community

The Vancouver Police Department would like to invite the public to spend "An Evening with the Vancouver Police Department" on Wednesday, June 11 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Water Resource Education Center located at 4600 S.E. Columbia Way in Vancouver.

This public forum will allow members of the department command staff to introduce themselves to community members, to discuss several important issues the Police Department is undertaking and to hear from citizens and an-

swer their questions.

The goal of this forum is to open up the Vancouver Police Department to the citizens of Vancouver through dialogue and displays. Several units from the department will have interactive displays and staff will be on hand to answer questions and receive comments and suggestions for improving working relationships between police and the public they serve.

"I see the expansion of communication with our citizens as a high priority for our agency and believe very strongly in the profession of law enforcement being one of service to others," Vancouver Police Chief Brian Martinek said.

For more information, contact Sgt. George Delgado at 360-619-4188.

City Clamps Down on Disabled Vehicles

Cars on private property can be tagged for removal

The disabled vehicle complaint response program, which was temporarily suspended in December due to budget and staff cutbacks, has been reinstated.

Neighborhood inspections will investigate complaints of vehicles stored on private property for seven days or more that are not in a garage or carport and have visible

signs of inoperability. Visibly disabled vehicles that meet these criteria may be tagged for removal. Indications of a disabled vehicle may include missing or flat tires, missing engine or battery, broken windows, body damage or overgrowth surrounding the vehicle.


Those wishing to file a complaint regarding disabled vehicles at a property may contact the Neighborhood Inspections intake line at 503-823-7306. Please know the property address, description of the vehicle, license plate information and description of any indications that the vehicle is disabled.



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