

Missing Seattle Teenager Victim of The Green River Killer

(AP) — Remains found at a wooded site in western Washington have been identified as those of a 16-year-old girl who has been listed as a victim of the Green River killer since she disappeared in October 1983.

The skeletal remains of Pammy Annette Avent of Seattle were found last weekend near Enumclaw, about 35 miles from Seattle, by detectives on the Green River Task Force.

The cause and manner of death were pending, the King County medical examiner's office said in releasing her name Monday.

The remains were identified through dental records. Avent's records were already on file with the Washington State Patrol missing persons unit, allowing expedited confirmation.

She was last seen Oct. 26, 1983, after leaving her home in Seattle. Avent's mother, Velma Harris, reported her missing four days later.

She had been listed as a missing person on the task force's official



Pammy Avent

Green River list.

At least 49 women are believed to have died in the 1980s Green River serial killings. Avent's body was one of seven that had not been located.

"Today is important for Pammy Avent's family," King County Sheriff Dave Reichert said in a statement. "What the Green River Task Force has set out to do from the beginning is to bring a measure of closure to the families and justice for the victims."

"A young girl lost her life and today we were able to tell her family

that she will finally be coming home."

Sheriff's Detective Kathleen Larson said the department will continue to pursue all of the Green River cases. The case takes its name from the south King County river where the first victims were found.

Larson would not say whether Gary Ridgway, who is charged with aggravated first-degree murder in the deaths of seven Green River victims, directed authorities to look where they found Avent's remains last Saturday.

EL OBSERVADOR

Mexico Accused of Police Abuse

Rights group says officers use torture and false evidence

(AP) — Mexican police used falsified evidence and torture in investigating a decade of sexually motivated killings in the rough border city of Ciudad Juarez, according to a report by Amnesty International.

The report said police in the northern state of Chihuahua have been slow to investigate 137 killings of young women since 1993, mishandled evidence and failed to catch the

real killers, the London-based human rights group said.

"The killers are still roaming free," Amnesty International Secretary-General Irene Kahn told a Mexico City news conference.

"The federal government has

failed to live up to its responsibilities under Mexican and international law. We are seeing (killings of) young, poor women with no power, whose deaths have no political cost for the authorities."

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—Amnesty International Secretary-General Irene Kahn

mony of former investigators and activists.

"In many cases, police arrest people, torture them, get confessions, and then build a case around that instead of investigating," Kahn said.

Prosecutors offer slightly different numbers on the slayings, saying there have been 108 unexplained homicides since 1993, 93 of them apparently involving a similar

pattern of sexual abuse or mutilation.

Chihuahua state prosecutors have denied the torture allegations and promised to investigate other accusations of mistreatment or mishandling of evidence.

Do Not Call Deadline Approaching

Stopping unwanted telemarketing calls requires action

State Attorney General Hardy Myers is reminding local residents about the approaching Aug. 31 deadline to register on the National Do Not Call list.

In signing up, consumers should see a reduction in the number of unwanted telemarketing calls into their homes and on their cell phones. Myers also announced the filing of 15 lawsuits against violator of Oregon's current No Call Law.

Oregon's No Call law has been in effect for two and one-half years with more than 179,000 residents in its database. The National Do Not Call Registry, modeled on states programs, began registering consumer in July.

In October, the Federal Trade Commission will begin enforcing the National Do Not Call Registry for five years unless the number is earlier disconnected or is deleted by consumers. After five years, consumers may review registrations.

Right now, the Oregon No Call list and the federal registry are separately maintained records. Consequently, Oregonians are required to sign up for both lists should they want full protection of both state and federal laws.

However, House Bill 3329, which

is still awaiting final legislative action, would automatically put Oregon no call subscribers on the national registry and those on the national list on the state list.

Under the plan, Oregonians would enjoy the protection of both laws for free.

"Without this measure, our program will perish and my office will not have the resources to enforce the new federal program," Myers said.

Oregonians wanting to register for the national Do Not Call list may call 1-888-382-1222, or register online at DONOTCALL.GOV.

For more information about Oregon's no call, the Attorney General's consumer hotline at 503-229-5576, toll-free at 1-877-877-9392 or at www.doj.state.or.us.



Singers Without Clothes, Oh My!

Demonstrators march in front of City Hall in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico protesting the cancellation of the play "Naked Boys Singing" at the city-run Tapia Theatre. The musical was cancelled twice after the board of the theatre said the show could compromise the theatre's good name and prestige. The performance was moved to the private El Josco Theatre. (AP photo)

Girl Spends 2 Days in Seized SUV

(AP) — A 13-year-old Mexican girl who attempted to sneak into the United States in a secret compartment of an SUV spent nearly two days in the vehicle after it was seized by U.S. immigration authorities at a border crossing.

Floriberta Jimenez Torres of the Mexican state of Oaxaca was discovered in the vehicle Monday morning by a worker at the federal storage facility where the SUV was stored. She spent 42 hours in the

vehicle alone, without food or water on one of the summer's hottest weekends, with temperatures in the 90s.

"It's a miracle that she's alive and well," said Alberto Lozano, spokesman for the Mexican consulate in San Diego.

The girl was put into the SUV on Aug. 9 in Tijuana, Mexico, along with a Mexican woman who slipped into another secret compartment.

About an hour later, the vehicle was stopped as it crossed the San Ysidro Port of Entry and the woman was discovered. Authorities detained the woman and the vehicle's driver, but neither of them alerted officials to Floriberta.

The girl freed herself from the compartment but remained in the vehicle. After being discovered, she was taken to a hospital and found to be in good health.

Cuba Sentences Hijackers to 7-10 Years

(AP) — Six men sent back to Cuba by U.S. authorities were convicted and sentenced to 7 to 10 years in prison for hijacking a government boat and trying to reach Florida.

Cuban exiles had criticized the Bush administration's decision to return the men to the communist country because previous hijackers had been executed.

The Bush administration agreed to the repatriation after Havana promised that those who stole the boat would serve no longer than 10 years in prison. The sentences of between 7 and 10 years were handed down Aug. 12, the court official said.

The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted the six as they made their way through the Florida Straits on

July 16. The United States also returned three security guards from the boat and six other men who were on board, but Cuban authorities released them.

Under U.S. policy, most Cuban migrants intercepted at sea are repatriated, while those who reach land are generally allowed to stay and apply for American residency after a year.

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