

LAW & JUSTICE

Chief Foxworth Presents Heroism Award

Principal honored for breaking up violent gang fight

When Kate Barker came across a vicious gang fight involving a stabbing at her school, she didn't flee in fear. She heroically stepped in, stopped the fighting and stood by the victims, despite the possible danger she faced.

Portland Police Chief Derrick Foxworth presented Barker, the principal of Mill Park Elementary, with a heroism medal for her actions during a Friday ceremony at her Southeast 117th Avenue school.

Police said when she saw the fight last November, she took all steps necessary to ensure the safety of the students and staff of

her school by instructing a staff member to call 9-1-1 and to initiate lockout procedures.

Barker and Richard Smith, a fourth grade teacher, then ran out to help two juveniles who were being assaulted by several suspects. As Barker approached the scene, she began yelling at the suspects, but they ignored her and continued to kick the victims in the head and body. When she got close, some of the suspects ran away while others remained circled around her.

Police said Barker assessed the injuries to discover that one of the victims was bleeding profusely from a stab wound in the back, and the other had serious head trauma from being kicked repeatedly. She began first aid and instructed an alleged gang member how to apply



Kate Barker

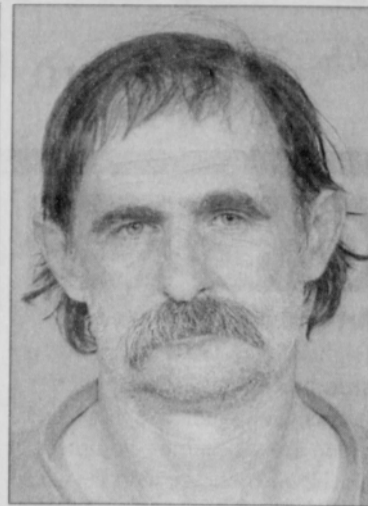
direct pressure on a stab wound.

When she heard police sirens closing in, Barker realized the suspects who ran away were now run-

Barker refused to retreat and stood by the fallen victims. ... Her quick and selfless actions quite possibly saved the life of the stabbing victim.

ning back toward her in an attempt to elude capture. She found herself in a perilous situation: protecting two injured juveniles with a small group of suspects — probably still armed with stabbing weapons — running toward her. Barker was surrounded by a group of agitated participants who became more nervous as the alleged rival gang members and police quickly got closer.

Barker refused to retreat and stood by the fallen victims. Once officers arrived, she provided accurate, timely, and detailed descriptions of the suspects, which ultimately led to their arrest. Her quick and selfless actions quite possibly saved the life of the stabbing victim and definitely prevented further and more serious injury, if not death, to both victims.



Luke Mitchell

Burglary, Assault and Kidnapping Suspect Sought

The Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, need help in locating and apprehending a man wanted for robbery and kidnapping.

Luke Duane Mitchell, 50, along with three other suspects, are accused of a March 20 armed robbery in which they bound, gagged and assaulted residents of a home in the 7900 block of Southwest 19th Avenue around midnight.

Mitchell is wanted in Multnomah County for robbery, burglary, kidnapping and assault, with bail set at \$1.21 million.

Detectives believe the robbery was drug related. Mitchell should not be approached as he is dangerous and may be armed, police said.

He is about 5 feet, 9 inches tall and weighs about 160 pounds. He has medium length brown hair, a brown and gray mustache, and blue eyes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony. Calls can remain anonymous at 503-823-4357.

Reporting Crime Goes Online in Vancouver

Vancouver residents can now report low level crimes online, 24 hours a day, at www.vanpolice.org.

Officials said the goal is to improve timely access to police services for citizens and to make use of police resources in a more effective and efficient manner.

Online reporting allows citizens with access to the internet the option of reporting crimes such as theft or malicious mischief (involving damages of \$1,500 or less), vehicle prowls and lost property at a time that is convenient for them, utilizing technology that they may have access to at their home or workplace.

It also provides the Vancouver Police Department an automated way to inform the person making the report the status of their report as soon as information becomes available.

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Shooting Suspect At Large

The Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, need help solving a homicide.

On Jan. 21, 2005 at about 7:15 p.m. police responded to a shooting at a house in the 5900 block of Northeast 9th Avenue. When they arrived, they found 25-year-old Tameka Renee Hartley on the porch of her house suffering from a gunshot wound to her chest. She was transported to a hospital, but died later that night.

Detectives believe Hartley was

on the porch, possibly with other people, at the time of the shooting. Multiple shots were fired from a vehicle driving by the house. Nobody else reported being injured.

Detectives are looking for information about a vehicle seen leaving the area. It was described as a small to medium sized dark colored sedan with tinted windows.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information. Calls may remain anonymous at 503-823-4357.

Women Caught in Drug Law Net

Many families hurt by mandatory sentences

You're in apartment with your boyfriend. He's dealing drugs, you're not. You're raided by the police, and you both get arrested.

Several formerly incarcerated women, a child of an incarcerated woman and national experts on

Current laws disproportionately hurt those whose only crime was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time - mainly women.

Jesselyn McCurdy, ACLU Legislative Counsel

drug sentencing laws have on women and families and urged reform.

Under current drug laws, even those with little involvement in drug trafficking operations - often women in relationships with men involved in drug-related activities - are held liable for the entire quantity of drugs charged in connection with the conspiracy.

This little known side effect is often called the "girlfriend problem" - the propensity of arrest and prosecution of low-level, minimally or unknowingly involved individuals for crimes associated with drug trafficking operations.

"In the war on drugs, an unintended causality are women and their families," said Jesselyn McCurdy, an ACLU Legislative Counsel. "Current laws disproportionately hurt those whose only crime was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time - mainly women. The 1.5 million children they've left behind so far are left with overburdened friends and family

ing millions of children into foster care or other unstable situations, according to Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Panelists at the briefing urged lawmakers to oppose legislation that would expand or create new mandatory minimums drug sentences, which fuel the alarming rate of increase in women's incarceration.

Panelists also urged Congress to maintain and expand sentencing procedures such as the so-called "safety valve," a federal sentencing guideline provision that allows for reduced sentences for low-level, first time drug offenders. Judges have frequently applied this provision in cases involving wives or girlfriends who minimally assisted a husband or boyfriend's drug dealing, such as by answering the phone or passing packages of drugs to customers.

For more information about the "Girlfriend Problem, visit www.fairlaws4families.org.

Race Riot Survivors Recount Violence Challenges to repair past explored

Survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riots gave a first-hand account of their stories to members of the Congressional Black Caucus during a recent briefing on Capitol Hill.

The session examined the challenges survivors face in their pursuit of legal redress, as well as explored approaches and strategies to secure justice for the victims, some over 100 years old. Survivors were joined by prominent civil rights historians, attorneys and activists.

"This briefing was particularly important, because it allowed survivors to give a first-hand account of one of this nation's worst incidents of racial violence," said Rep. Mel

Watt, D-N.C., CBC chair.

After being silenced for more than half a century, survivors Otis Clark, Dr. Olivia Hooker and Wess Young recounted how the race riots impacted their lives and the African American community in Tulsa.

"Being able to give a public account of what happened to our community in May of 1921 is critical," said Dr. Hooker, who was 6 years old when the riots occurred. "Children today have no idea of what we went through and how it disillusions you. I believed every word of the Constitution, but after the riots happened I realized that the Constitution did not include me."

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