

LAW & JUSTICE

Terrell Brandon Foils Extortion Attempt

Man arrested after confrontation

(AP) -- The families of former NFL defensive back Anthony Newman and former NBA guard Terrell Brandon were the victims of an extortion attempt, the Portland Police Bureau said.

Bobby Hayes, 41, was charged with theft by extortion and attempted theft by extortion. Police suspect he wrote threatening letters demanding \$10,000 from the families of Newman and Brandon.

One of the letters arrived at the home of Newman's 65-year-old mother. It was addressed to "NFL Mom."

"I don't know me, but I know U," it read. "I want 10K in cash in a black bag set next to your garage door Friday night. If you tell the police

and try to be a hero you will be responsible for the murder of your whole family."

Brandon, meanwhile, took matters into his own hands. He and a friend, Timothy Upshaw, followed the instructions in a similar letter and placed a black bag outside.

Upshaw told police he saw a man arrive alone by car and grab the bag out of the bushes. When the stranger opened the bag and saw a \$1 bill on top of a stack of plain paper, Upshaw told police he overheard him say, "What the (expletive) is this?"

Police say Upshaw confronted the man, who ran. A northeast Portland resident later called 9-1-1, say-



Bobby Hayes

ing he heard some men on the street "talking about killing" someone.

When officers arrived, Upshaw and Brandon were with Hayes. Officers handcuffed everyone before learning about the alleged extor-

tion, Portland police spokesman Sgt. Brian Schmautz said.

Hayes was taken into custody, but later released after posting 10 percent of his \$25,000 bail. The court ordered him to have no contact with the Newman and Brandon families.

Brandon, 37, retired from the NBA in 2004 and operates a barber shop in northeast Portland. Newman, 42, played 12 seasons in the NFL and now operates Anthony Newman Extreme Sports Camps for youth.

"It was terrible for my mother, and my wife and kids," Newman told The Oregonian on Thursday. "Everyday I had to look over my shoulder and worry if someone is going to do something. It's been a tough week for my family."

NAACP Celebrates 99 Years of Advocacy

Fighting for justice, social equality

The NAACP was founded 99 years ago this month from an initial group of about 60 diverse progressive thinkers and multi-racial activists.

Formed in response to the Springfield, Ill. race riot of 1908, the horrific practice of lynching and other harsh treatment of African Americans, the NAACP has since continued to be a driving force for racial tolerance, social change, justice and equality in America.

Down through the years, the role of the NAACP has remained constant under its mission to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination.

Over time, NAACP leaders and members have been threatened and killed for their



NAACP members hold a poster to recruit activists against racial bias in 1956.

beliefs and actions. Yet the nation's oldest and largest civil-rights organization perseveres. Its historic lawsuits

and peaceful demonstrations to force change in America are world renown.

As disparities in education,

healthcare, criminal justice, housing and discrimination in all its forms persists, the NAACP remains vigilant.

Arrests Follow Spectator Brawl at Benson

Fight in grandstands captured on video

(AP) — A video shot by a spectator has led police to 10 suspects in a brawl at a basketball game last month at Benson High School.

Seven of the 10 youths, none students at Benson, have been arrested by Portland police. They were expected to be charged with inciting a riot, a felony.

The Jan. 8 fight during a game between

Benson and Grant apparently started in the bleachers and spread to the court at halftime. One youth shoved a coach, and the game was stopped.

Police identified the suspects using a video of the mayhem taken by a spectator.

"If we didn't have the video, we wouldn't have had a lot to go on," said Lt. Mike Leloff of the gang enforcement team. "We're trying to prove a point that you're not going to get away with that kind of behavior."

The video shows a fight that erupts in the

bleachers behind the band. School security director Dennis Tune said a teenager from a one gang was hiding behind the band when he was spotted by rivals.

"There was nothing that really set that thing off," Tune said. "It was more of 'Let's go get him because of who he is.'"

Northeast Precinct officer Grant Shirahama was trying to quell the brawl when he fell from the bleachers, fracturing a rib, police said. He was on light duty because of the injury.

'Free the 8' Forum

Eight former Black Panthers were arrested early last year on charges related to the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer.

The original charges were thrown out after it was revealed that police used torture to extract confessions. Now, over 35 years after the initial charges were made, and with no new evidence, they are being re-tried.

Hank Jones, one of the San Francisco 8, will be in Portland to discuss the case. He will be joined by Claude Marks and Maisha Quint of the Committee to Free the Eight, as well as Kent Ford, the former leader of the Portland chapter of the Black Panther Party.

This free event will take place at 1 pm on Saturday, March 9, at Liberty Hall, 311 N. Ivy.

For more information about the event, contact circlearadio@gmail.com. For more information about the case, visit freethes8.org.



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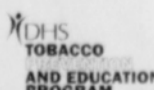
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