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Girl Killed, Teen Friend Charged



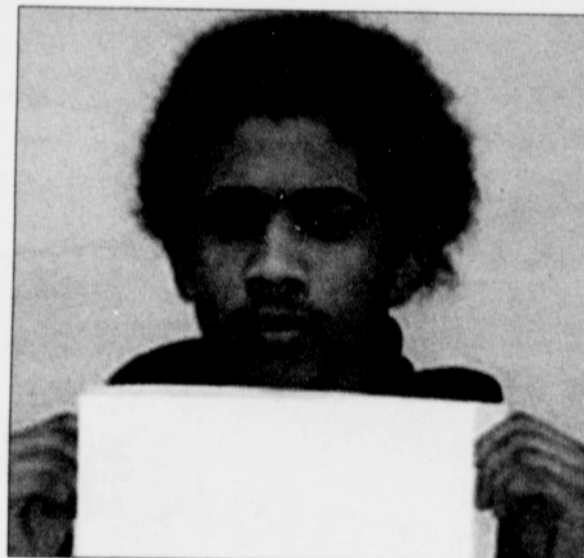
Yashanee Vaughn

Massive search fails to find body

Flags were lowered at city of Portland buildings Monday in memory of Yashanee Vaughn, the missing 14-year-old girl that police believe was killed by her teenage boyfriend.

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman invited Vaughn's family and friends to attend Wednesday's city council meeting where he will take a moment to remember the victim's life. The council lowers the city's flag in honor of children who died from abuse, neglect or homicide violence.

Parrish Bennette, 16, was arrested on a murder charge last week in connection with Vaughn's disappearance, but a juvenile court judge later reduced the charge to manslaughter.



Parrish Bennette

The judge's choice to lower the charge may indicate Bennette didn't intend to kill Yashanee but some sort of reckless or negligent behavior led to her death, according to Bruce McClain, a former Multnomah County Sheriff's captain and current lawyer who speculated on the prosecution in an interview with KATU.

Prosecutors believe Vaughn was killed by Bennette on March 19 at his father's northeast Portland home. Authorities said they found blood and DNA evidence that linked the male teen to Vaughn's death. She was reported missing by her family on March 21.

A grand jury was taking testimony this week in a review of the case and new charges were possible. Investigators were also exploring whether others were involved in Vaughn's killing, and

where her body was taken.

A large scale search of Rocky Butte for Vaughn's

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Smoking Ban Lands Butts on Neighbors

PCC's tobacco policy has unintended consequences

BY CARI HATCHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Cigarette smokers at Portland Community College must take responsibility for their cigarette butt or face greater fines.

Since a tobacco-use ban on all PCC campuses went into effect last school year, smokers have been pushed to the edge of campus boundaries, where they can light up off-site, often in surrounding neighborhoods in order to avoid facing school fines.

Neighbors of the PCC Sylvania campus in southwest Portland complained to college officials that migrating smokers were tossing their cigarette butt litter within the vicinity of their homes and in natural areas.

College officials responded last month

with a modification to their tobacco policy that allows for "Good Neighbor Zones" where students and staff can smoke in dedicated, well marked places on the periphery of school properties.

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A smoker lights up and used cigarette butts pile up in the street and along the edge of Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland. Litter from cigarettes has accumulated on the edges of PCC's campuses and into neighboring yards one year after the college district went smoke free.

PHOTO BY CARI HATCHMANN/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

