



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A police car blocks access to Northeast Rocky Butte Road where the body of teenager Yashanee Vaughn was found.

Closer to Closure

continued ▲ *from front*

bedroom floor and wall that matched Vaughn's DNA.

He was charged with murder and ordered held without bail despite his lawyer's attempts to argue the death of Vaughn was an accident.

Prosecutors, however, said the blood splatters showed evidence of a beating and intentional shooting.

"A gun in the hands of a very young man is dangerous," said Pastor J.W. Friday at a vigil held in Vaughn's memory in front of Rocky Butte Road on Friday that drew nearly a hundred people.

"I'm just glad we can close another chapter," said Elder Elmer

Yarborough of the Trinity Full Gospel Church.

Although the crime scene was closed to the public, cars passing by the butte on 92nd Avenue observed the strong community support from family and friends, who began filling the sidewalks throughout the day and into the evening.

Residents of the neighborhood surrounding the butte reached out, giving water and offering their houses as bathrooms to those gathering in Vaughn's honor.

Friday said the collective effort of Yashanee's mother, friends and family is something to be noted and appreciated.

"The healing and continuous

prayers are very important," he said. "Four months ago, a beautiful young lady came up missing and no one had the answers," he said. "Four months ago, this community was shook by senseless violence."

A funeral service for Yashanee Vaughn has been scheduled for Saturday, July 30, followed by a reception hosted at the City Bible Church on the Rocky Butte campus at 9200 N.E. Fremont St.

"The family is moving forward on planning a Celebration of Life Funeral Service for our beautiful girl," said Hayes.

The public is invited to attend the service, which will begin at 1 p.m.

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