

Vaughn's Family Nightmare

Lack of information from law enforcement upsets grandmother

By Brian Stimson

A Multnomah County grand jury today indicted Parrish Bennette Jr. on one count of murder with a firearm and one count of manslaughter in the first degree with a firearm, and the teen was set to be arraigned by this afternoon.

The indictment documents reveal nothing about the evidence against Bennette, only listing the people who testified before the grand jury including his father, Vaughn's mother Shaquita Louis, and nine other people.

In an exclusive, joint interview with The Skanner News and KOIN News 6, the

not giving us anything to say that she is."

Much of the information she holds comes from media reports. She says the police and prosecutors at the Multnomah County District Attorney's office have not been particularly forthcoming with information about the pace of the investigation.

"Right now we're just sitting in limbo, we don't know anything, the questions we've asked we don't get a response," she said.

In the weeks following Vaughn's disappearance, Hayes said the outpouring of community support has been tremendously helpful. The pain of the tragedy is still affecting everyone in the family.

"We're just ... it's just a strain on everybody," she said. "Still in shock. But we're coping... Nights are sleepless, days are busy monitoring my emails and all the stuff that the community has been doing for the search"

The help also comes with headaches, as there are people who claim to speak for the family, while they in fact do not. During a city council meeting Wednesday, after Dan Saltzman held a moment of silence for Vaughn, a woman came up to speak "for" Vaughn.

Her name was Linda McKinney, purportedly from an organization called "Christians Against Racism." No one in the immediate

family had met McKinney before her testimony.

Hayes said that to her knowledge, Parrish Bennette, 16, and Vaughn were only friends at the time of her disappearance. Bennette has been charged but not yet indicted for manslaughter in the death and is being held at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home.

The two had dated about a year ago, but that had ended. She was not aware of any times that Bennette had been violent with Vaughn.

When asked about Bennette's gang involvement, Hayes said Vaughn never talked about it at Hayes' house, where she lived, nor did she ever talk about the gang involvement of anyone she knew.

The most important part of the case moving forward for Hayes is to have Vaughn returned home. She encouraged people to come forward with any information that leads to the discovery of Vaughn.

"If you don't want to say anything, at least tell us where she is," she said. "You can be anonymous, don't give details, just tell us where she is, so we can get her so she can

Have You Seen Me?
CRIME STOPPERS \$1,000 REWARD



Yashanee Laface Vaughn

DOB: December 4, 1996 *Scissors: Right Long Broom & in Chinnet Arming*
 Age Now: 14 *Marking: Left side of nose, belly button-Mole over left eye*
 Missing: March 19, 2011
 Sex: Female *Last seen wearing yellow sweat suit with (Victoria Secret) PINK on leg or bottom, 36 in green on the leg, white v-neck t-shirt, black leather jacket, red/black fitted beanie hat.*
 Height: 5'3"
 Weight: 110 lbs
 Race: African American *She was last seen waiting for bus #72 on NE 82nd Ave. in Portland, Oregon at 7pm on March 19th*
 Hair: Black

If you have information on this case or the whereabouts of Yashanee please call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP
<http://www.crimestoppersoregon.com/>
 Case # 11-22589



come back home."

Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward to any significant information that helps the investigation. Those providing information can remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers can be reached at 503-823-HELP.

The family has also established the Yashanee Vaughn Search Fund at US Bank to help with search costs not handled by police.

grandmother of Yashanee Vaughn said she's still holding out hope that the 14-year-old will be found alive.

"I have no reason to believe that she's dead," Reynelda Hayes said. "I don't have any proof for sure ... If she is supposed to be dead, how can they prove that? They're



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