

## Parrish

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anything? Did a witness really identify Parrish near The Grotto carrying something heavy in a garbage bag? Why did investigators fail to contact the witness? What about the anonymous caller who painted a chilling scenario involving four people and rape? Were those messages a cruel hoax? Why didn't investigators follow up on those tapes?

Each of these questions deserves an answer, but until more information is made public the family can only wait.

Other questions may never be easily answered. Could this tragedy have been prevented? What should justice look like?

People who knew Parrish before he ever picked up a gun, are asking different questions. They just can't square the boy they know with the crime he's accused of.

Take Kara Geraty. A medical assistant, whose son played basketball with Parrish when both boys were attending Mt. Tabor Middle School in 2006-8, her reaction to news that he'd been arrested was disbelief.

"Whatever happened to that sweet boy?" she asked.

Geraty says he was a likeable kid. Sure, he could be aggressive at times, but not more so than plenty of other 12-year-old boys.

Rob Ingram, former director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, also knew Parrish. Before his death last year, he said he was fond of the boy and shocked by his



Parrish Bennette Jr.

The Skanner News has created a timeline of events in the case. Find it at [Dipity.com/A Portland Tragedy](http://Dipity.com/A-Portland-Tragedy). The timeline is incomplete. If you have verifiable information to contribute, email it to [Helen@theSkanner.com](mailto:Helen@theSkanner.com)

arrest.

Two other women have told The Skanner News a disturbing story. Yet, because of concerns for their families, neither of those moms is willing to speak out publicly. We agreed to shield their identities because other sources have confirmed key elements in their accounts.

According to both women, Parrish was a kind and loving boy who was abused and abandoned by the adults in his life. Time after time he sought refuge with their families. Time after time he was sent back to abuse.

"DHS has known for years, but they won't do anything about it," said the woman we're naming Pat Curtis. "I've seen a busted cheek and bruises

around his neck," she said. "He was crying and he had a busted lip, a black eye, and his cheek was the size of a softball. His hands were sweating because he was so nervous. He's scared to death of (his father).

The other woman, who we're calling Madeline Stone, said when Parrish arrived at her home with choke marks on his neck she emailed a cell phone photo of the bruising to his case worker. If any action was taken, she didn't see it, she says.

"He told on his dad. He asked for help. He asked the system to help him like we tell our children to do, and it didn't help him."

The Skanner News has been unable, so far, to reach Parrish Bennette Sr. for comment on the allegations. Gene Evans, a spokesperson for Oregon Department of Human Services, said state and federal law forbids the release of abuse reports and children's case records.

That Parrish was a troubled child was common knowledge. Years before his arrest, he was bouncing from school to



**Endangered Missing Juvenile**

**YASHANEE "SHAWNEE" VAUGHN**

Age: 14 yrs    Hair: Black  
 Gender: Female    Race: Black  
 Height: 5' 2"    Date of Birth: Oct 4, 1996  
 Weight: 115 lbs    Last seen: March 15, 2011  
 Eyes: Brown    Missing from: Portland, Oregon

Yashanee was last seen wearing yellow overalls, a black leather jacket, and carry blue overalls. She was last seen at a bus stop on March 15, 2011 and was on her way to visit with a close friend, but failed to show up.

Yashanee may be using the nicknames "Lulu" or "Shawnee B".

If you have information on the whereabouts of Yashanee, please contact the Detective Arjay Doss at the Portland Police Bureau 1.503.423.1001.

Portland Police Bureau (Oregon) 1-503-423-1001

Child Quest International toll free at (888) 815-1806

Yashanee's family and friends distributed flyers all over the city, spending hundreds of hours searching for her.

school – and home to home. When he was 8, his parents split up. His mother moved away from Oregon taking at least one other child, but leaving Parrish with his father. That loss hurt him, Stone says.

Stone also says that over a two-year period from 2006, Parrish spent weeks on end living with her.

"He was in my house for two months before I got a call to make sure he was with me," she says. "His dad didn't want the responsibility."

Parrish spent holidays with her family, she says. She even attended teacher parent conferences for him at Mt. Tabor.

Stone says Parrish was, "a skinny little

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