



Crime Stories

A Crime Stoppers USA Newsletter

June 2023—Issue 12



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Yakima County Crime Stoppers and Yakima Police Work Together Solving Murder

Yakima Herald-Republic by: Donald M. Meyers

Yakima police arrested a man they say shot another man in front of his sleeping children in April. Charles Henry Reedy, 33, was identified as a suspect in the death of Ramiro Sanchez-Cruz following a tip called into Yakima County Crime Stoppers. He was arrested on a warrant charging him with second-degree murder in Sanchez-Cruz's death, as well as first-degree unlawful possession of a firearm and two counts of first-degree assault for the children in the van.

Sanchez-Cruz, 53, was found shot in a van parked in an alley in the seven hundred block of South Seventh Street. He died at MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital from a gunshot wound to the head, according to the Yakima County Coroner's Office.

A resident in the area told police he saw two vehicles drive into the alley, and three men got out of the vehicles and started yelling at Sanchez-Cruz, according to a probable cause affidavit. One of the men was carrying a bat, the witness told police, and he heard a gunshot as the van tried to drive off, the affidavit said, and the two other vehicles left the alley.

Another witness who spoke with Sanchez-Cruz a couple of hours before the shooting said he was waiting there with his 7- and 4-year-old children for their mother to come pick them up, the affidavit said. The witness said Sanchez-Cruz had been staying in the van at that spot for three days.

The witness told police that the children's mother and Sanchez-Cruz were not on good terms, and that Sanchez-Cruz and the mother's boyfriend had a "beef," the affidavit said.

Yakima Polic Department detectives compared video from the scene of the shooting with the Flock camera system to identify one of the cars as belonging to Sanchez-Cruz's ex-girlfriend, the affidavit said. Detectives later found the car, which appeared to have blood on the driver's side front fender and on a sheet of paper in a rear seat in the car, the affidavit said.

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Yakima County Crime Stoppers and Yakima Police Work Together Solving Murder

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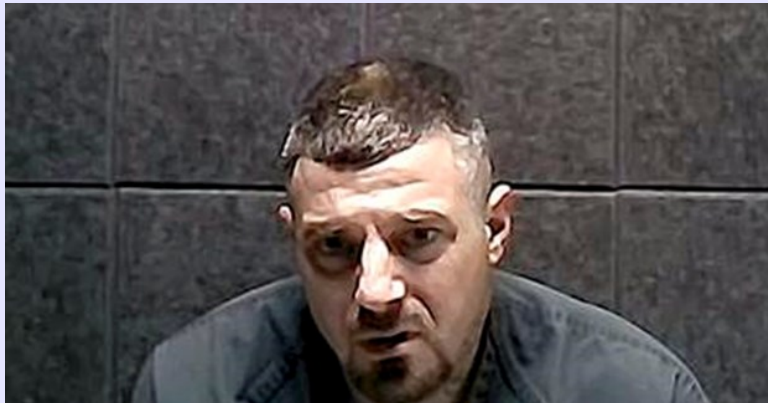
Yakima Police Department received tips from the Crime Stoppers tip line implicating Reedy in the shooting. Police also found evidence that the children were in the van at the time of the shooting, the affidavit said.

Yakima Police Department officers and Yakima County sheriff's deputies arrested Reedy early Wednesday morning on the warrant, and he made his preliminary appearance in Yakima County Superior Court that afternoon.

Deputy Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney David Soukup argued for maintaining the \$1 million bail set in the warrant, pointing out Reedy's previous 11 felony convictions, including three escapes and three protection order violations. "This crime was committed, and the victim's two young children were in the car, apparently sleeping when it occurred," Soukup said.

Defense attorney Beth Wehrkamp said the state's allegations against Reedy appear based on an anonymous tip and information from someone she described as deceptive and unreliable who might have also been an accomplice. She said many of Reedy's prior convictions go back more than a decade.

Judge Kevin Naught maintained the \$1 million bail, citing the fact that Reedy had prior convictions for escape and the fact that Sanchez-Cruz was shot in front of his children. "It is the type of conduct that shocks the conscience," Naught said.



Crime Stoppers USA Stats as of 6/30/2023

Arrests Made	780,200
Homicides Solved	14,800
Cases Cleared	1,144,000
Rewards Paid	\$117,230,400
Property Recovered	\$1,241,843,000
Drugs Seized	\$2,978,048,000
Total Recovered	\$4,219,891,000

** Source: Crime Stoppers Information Management Database*



CRIME STOPPERS USA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Crime Stoppers USA is a tax-exempt, charitable organization that is organized, governed and operated by a volunteer board of directors. These volunteer board members are representatives from local Crime Stoppers programs throughout the United States that provide administrative support, networking, training and guidance to the over 325 local membership programs. This requires time, talent and resources.

Since Crime Stoppers USA came into existence in 2001, it has subsisted primarily on membership dues from the local Crime Stoppers programs. Lately, Crime Stoppers USA has taken on a new online training strategy, seeking to improve our interactive website and enhance our communication tools with membership, as well as ongoing operational expenses in the fight against crime throughout the United States.

May we count on your support in meeting our financial obligations as we work to make our communities more safe and secure for all? *Please click on the link below to make a sponsorship or donation to Crime Stoppers USA.* We need your support to continue our mission, which is:

To provide Best Practices and Training for the anonymous tip-taking programs in the United States while assisting in creating the meaningful partnerships at the national, state and local levels.

Please consider providing a tax-deductible donation in support of Crime Stoppers USA today!

[Click Here to Donate to Crime Stoppers USA](http://www.crimestoppersusa.org)



Central Alabama Crime Stoppers Anonymous Tips Solve Murder Case

On Sunday, May 13, 2023, at about 5:23 p.m., police responded to the four hundred block of Finley Avenue in reference to shots fired in the area. Upon arrival, units located an adult female who sustained a life-threatening gunshot wound. The victim was pronounced deceased on the scene. The victim was identified as Deontae Vickers, 34, of Montgomery.

Investigators requested assistance from Crime Stoppers on May 15, 2023, and a \$1,000.00 cash reward was offered for information regarding the investigation.

CrimeStoppers received a number of tips, and the original press release received a heavy amount of engagement from the media and our local community. As a result of this overwhelming response, investigators say a tipster provided information that identified the suspect. The tipster's information was crucial in the investigation. As a result of this anonymous tipster's information, the suspect was identified and charged.

Investigators say Nyeiasha Lykes, 23, of Montgomery, was identified as the suspect and charged with murder on May 17, 2023, and placed into police custody. Lykes is currently being held at Montgomery County Detention Facility under no bond.

Central Alabama Crimestoppers will be providing a \$1,000.00 cash reward to the anonymous tipster that led to the identification and arrest of the suspect.

**Crime Stoppers USA Annual Meeting
and Training Conference
November 3-6, 2023
Denver, CO**

**All the details, registration forms and
hotel information can be found on the
Crime Stoppers USA website:
www.CrimeStoppersUSA.org**



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Orlando Police Arrest Teen In Army Veteran's Shooting Death

Angela Washington, 60, was fatally shot in February

ORLANDO, Fla. – A 15-year-old boy has been arrested and faces a charge of first-degree murder with a firearm, accused in the fatal shooting of a U.S. Army veteran earlier this year in Signal Hill, according to the Orlando Police Department.

Police identified Samuel Stevens as a suspect in the death of 60-year-old Angela Washington, who was shot the evening of Feb. 7 as she passed through a group of young men outside of an Orlando shopping plaza. The shooter, after leaving Washington lying on the sidewalk, drove off in a sedan.

First responders were called to the 5100 block of North Lane around 7 p.m., locating Washington with a gunshot wound. Orlando firefighters worked to save her life, but she would later die from her injuries. Investigators do not believe Washington was the intended target of the shooting, as was corroborated by people known to her who News 6 spoke with.

“She was just an innocent bystander coming to the store and that happened,” said one man who lives near the shopping plaza. “It could’ve been me; it could’ve been anybody. I am just glad I followed my senses.” Investigators contacted and interviewed several of the people who were outside of the store during the shooting, yet still urged the public to come forward with information. In March, a reward of up to \$10,000 was broadcast for tips leading to an arrest in the shooting.

In addition to being an Army veteran who served in Operation Desert Storm, Washington was also a mother and grandmother.

Her son, Fernando Washington, told News 6 that he thinks about his mother more and more each day. “I’m relieved that he’s been arrested, and they found him, but it doesn’t bring me any closure,” he said. “At the end of the day, I lost my mom, I lost a parent, and no arrest, no future judgment is going to bring her back. I am thankful for the work that the detectives put in, because they did put in a lot of work.”



Angela Washington — a military veteran in Operation Desert Storm — was fatally shot Feb. 7 in the 5100 block of North Lane, police said.



First Coast Crime Stoppers Solves Homicide and Hit and Run Cases

On January 24th, 2023, a tip came in to First Coast Crime Stoppers that identified three suspects in the August 2022, double homicide in Baker County, Florida. All three suspects were arrested and charged in the double homicide. The Baker County Detective advised that the First Coast Crime Stoppers tip provided pertinent information about the suspects involved in the August 2022 double homicide. Detectives stated, "The Crime Stoppers tip directly led to the identification of all three suspects." The Florida Sheriff's Association gave \$5,000 to enhance the reward in this case. The tipster received an \$8,000 reward.

In another case, on February 23rd, 2023, a tip came in to First Coast Crime Stoppers that gave the location as well as the tag number of a vehicle that was being sought in a fatal hit and run that occurred on Feb. 15th, on Avenue B at W.45th St. in Jacksonville, Florida. Shortly after receiving the tip, the suspect was interviewed and released at that time. The Traffic Homicide Detective built his case and applied for an arrest warrant. On April 26, 2023, the suspect was arrested for one count of Leaving the Scene/Fatality and one count of Leaving the Scene/Serious Bodily Injury.

Great work First Coast Crime Stoppers!

Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa and Tangipahoa Sheriff's Office Work Together To Solve Murder

On June 30, 2021, the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office began an investigation into the discovery of a body that was located in a wooded area in Ponchatoula, LA. The body of 14-year-old Taysia Lynn Folse of Houma, LA. was found in a secluded area east of Ponchatoula. The case remained active as the cause of death was unknown at the time.

On July 2, 2021, Chief Jimmy Travis stated the body of Taysia Folse, a runaway from the New Orleans area, was reported by a driver who was passing the area and noticed what appeared to be a lifeless body lying in a grassy area. Taysia's cause of death is undetermined at this time, however, there were no signs of physical trauma to the body.

On August 12, 2021, after several weeks of looking into Folse's untimely death, detectives officially ruled it a homicide.

On September 20, 2021, an anonymous tip submitted to Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa identified two suspects in the murder case.

On Friday February 18, 2022, the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office arrested 20-year-old Elijah Williams of Hammond, LA. for First Degree Murder and issued a warrant for the arrest of 20 year-old Hammond resident Travon Washington, putting closure to an 8-month long homicide investigation. "The dedication, commitment, and hard work put forth by our deputies, assisting agencies, and our community throughout this investigation is nothing but commendable." says Chief Jimmy Travis. "After countless investigative hours, dozens of interviews, and numerous Crime Stopper's tips, it was made possible to bring this case to justice."

Crime Stoppers Programs At Work in Their Communities



Virginia Beach Crime Solvers Pig Pickin' Fundraiser

Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa Hosts Women's Self Defense

The Virginia Beach Crime Solvers raised thousands of dollars in the 16th annual Pig Pickin' fundraiser this June. More than two hundred people attended the Saturday afternoon event at the Virginia Beach Military Aviation Museum.

In partnership with DiBenedetto Karate, Crime Stoppers hosted a free Women's Self Defense Class at Ponchatoula Area Recreation Gym on May 13th. Twenty seven women and girls attended the two hour class. Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa locked down the location and promoted the class on social media. Frank DiBenedetto, an Isshinryu Karate Black Belt instructor for over 20 years, educated these ladies how to defend themselves when in dangerous situations.

Board members sold sponsorships and tickets to net a total profit of \$15,500. That money will go directly to helping fund the Crime Line, which aided police last year in solving 183 cases and making 76 arrests.

"With crime on the rise, it's important for women to know how to defend themselves and their children, Crime Stoppers wants to be a part of the solution when it comes to fighting crime", states executive director, Michelle Gallo.

Board members will now turn their attention to planning their fall fundraiser, a golf tournament.

Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa will host quarterly self-defense classes for all Tangipahoa Parish females.



CARJACKING Prevention Tips

How you can avoid being carjacked

While there is no guaranteed way of avoiding being carjacked, there are some common-sense precautions you can take to put the odds in your favor.

Armed theft of automobiles from their drivers – the newest twist in auto theft.

Imagine having someone walk up to you while you're sitting in your car obeying a traffic signal, thrusting a gun in your face, and taking your car from you. Imagine having your vehicle stolen while you are parked (even in your own driveway), or getting gas. This is the new crime called CARJACKING. It can happen anywhere, not just in traditional "high crime" neighborhoods, and it is just as likely to occur during the daylight as it is after dark.

Why is carjacking on the increase?

Statistics indicate CARJACKING continues to be a high growth crime area. Parked cars, especially luxury models, equipped with sophisticated, built-in alarm systems and theft deterrent devices, are becoming harder to steal. Car thieves find it much easier to steal a car while the owner is there, with the keys in the ignition, than it is to break in a locked car, especially if the car is alarmed.

Anyone can be a target

While most carjackers look for sleek, powerful luxury model cars to steal and sell, others will go after any easy target of opportunity, sometimes just stealing on an impulse for a joy ride.

How you can avoid being carjacked

While there is no guaranteed way of avoiding being carjacked, there are some common-sense precautions you can take to put the odds in your favor.

Before you enter your car. . .

- Be alert to any activity near your car. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- When approaching your car to enter it, have your key in your hand, and check the handles, locks and back seat before entering.
- If there is someone loitering near your unoccupied car as you approach it, keep walking until they leave.

Once in your car. . .

- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Stay out of high crime areas, especially after dark.
- Be suspicious of people approaching your car asking for directions or change, or giving out flyers.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your car and the one in front of you, so you can pull away quickly if necessary.
- If a suspicious looking person approaches your car, drive away carefully – even if you must go through a traffic light.
- If you're driving home, and there's somebody walking down the street that you don't recognize, drive around the block and come back after that person has left.
- If another driver bumps your car, or your tire goes flat, keep your doors and windows closed and wait for the Police to arrive – or drive slowly to the nearest Police station.
- Be alert when using drive-up automated teller (ATM) machines.
- If you have a cellular phone, call for help.
- If you are confronted, don't resist.

Source: UCLA Police Department

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