

6 Thousand Dollar Reward Now Offered in Search for Missing McCleary Girl

Local News

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Posted on : July 22, 2009 at 5:41 am

A \$6,000 reward is being offered for information about last month's disappearance of an 11-year-old McCleary girl. Investigators hope someone knows something that will help authorities find Lindsey Baum. The girl vanished while walking home from a friend's house on June 26. She's described as 4-foot-9, 80 pounds, with brown hair and eyes. Grays Harbor County Undersheriff Rick Scott tells us that the Department has from 6 to 10 officers including FBI agents involved in the search daily, Scott said that the amount of tips have tapered since the initial reports of Lindsey's disappearance "We're finding stuff that we need to do to clarify or expand on information that already came in." Scott also said that surveillance video footage from nearby stores has yet to turn up anything, adding that officers have identified some people in the footage and contacted them, not as much as person's of interest, as persons who were in the area at the time of the disappearance. Lindsey's mother said recently that they have established a couple of websites to promote the search efforts, www.lindseybaum.com and www.findlindseybaum.com

Lindsey turned 11 years old on Tuesday July 7th, and is described as 4 foot-9, 80 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing a grey pullover hoodie with blue jeans and black shoes.



Anyone with any information is urged to contact the Grays Harbor Emergency 911 Center at 360-533-8765, toll free at 866-915-8299, or the McCleary Police Department at 360-495-3107.

The Grays Harbor County Sheriff's department moved the base of operations for the search to the County Sheriff's offices earlier this month. Grays Harbor County Undersheriff Rick Scott tells KBKW that the McCleary Bear Festival required the parking and rooms that were being used to accommodate the investigators in the case. "We'll work out of here, go to McCleary as needed, and be able to follow up on leads outside of McCleary in a more organized fashion." Officials also began tearing down the extensive interagency efforts in McCleary, and releasing some of the 15 to 10 officers per day that have been assisting in the investigation. "We're going to have to accept that this is going to be a case that's assigned to a smaller team of officers" said Scott.

Investigators would still like to talk to anyone who may have seen anything in McCleary between 9 and 10 pm Friday - June 26th when the little girl failed to return to her home on Mommsen Road from a friend's house on Maple street a few blocks away. Police are also asking that people get their facts from the police or local media, and to not flood tip lines with rumors heard second hand, or online. Investigators looking for the missing McCleary girl say it's unlikely she ran away or is playing a prank on her family, FBI investigators have said it is also unlikely that she was abducted by a stranger, and more likely someone she knew. Police are following up on several leads in the case,

Scott tells us that the Forensic Investigation on Lindsey's home computer has turned up little more, and that they have expanded the computer level search to other computers that Lindsey may have used to access her internet profiles, including the local public library's computer. Scott said that video footage taken from a nearby Shell station yielded no stand-out leads, some leads are still being investigated from the video. Scott added that the footage is now being investigated by forensics teams, in hopes of enhancing some of the video. Grays Harbor County Sheriff Mike Whelan says that, early in the investigation, investigators have received many tips, and that so far the investigation has yielded no primary suspects. "We've been sending teams of detectives out to follow up on those tips" "as far as suspects are concerned, we don't have anyone that we can say is *the* suspect" "I just need my daughter home," Melissa Baum, the girl's mother told The Aberdeen Daily World. She said she's afraid someone has taken her daughter and away from McCleary, a town of about 1,500. Lindsey's mother reported her missing Friday night. Chief George Crumb of the McCleary Police Department said that weekend that friends and family are assisting the search, and that while his department hopes Baum just ran off on her own, "she's been gone far too long." Melissa Baum said she is afraid someone has taken her daughter, and taken her away from McCleary.

"If anyone does have her, bring her back home or take her to a pay phone where she can call home," Baum said.

No Amber Alert was initiated because no one had seen anyone take her. Lindsey Baum was reported as a missing child.

"It did not meet any of the criteria for an Amber Alert," Crumb said.

McCleary Police set up the initial search, but called in the Sheriff's Office at 4 a.m., Patrick said.

Thurston County sheriff's deputies, FBI Officials, and the Washington State Patrol are also assisting.