



Everything Jersey

Authorities urging community to send Crime Stoppers tips on unsolved homicides

Loading Photo Gallery

Ashley Peskoe/NJ.com By Ashley Peskoe/NJ.com

Follow on Twitter

on September 12, 2013 at 4:13 PM

NEPTUNE CITY – Authorities are asking the public for information to help solve the homicide of a Red Bank middle school teacher that happened four years ago.

Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$5,000 cash for tips leading to an arrest in the case.

Jonelle Melton, 33, was killed September 14, 2009 and was found at around 9 a.m. by a family member in her Brighton Arms apartment. An autopsy determined that she was violently assaulted.

As a seventh grade teacher at Red Bank Middle School, she taught social studies, was a yearbook advisor, cheerleading and dance coach, and part of the School Improvement Team.

The day before she was killed, Melton attended church in the morning and had dinner at a girlfriends house

Neptune City Police Director Edward Kirschenbaum said it doesn't matter how insignificant the tip may seem anything could help.

"Someone knows out there who murdered Jonelle Melton," Kirschenbaum said. "Law enforcement alone cannot solve this crime."

Crime Stoppers board member Anthony Valente stressed the anonymity of Crime Stoppers. Callers will receive a pin number and if their tip pays out they pick up the money anonymously at the bank.

"Hopefully we'll solve this really horrific death of a beautiful person," Valente said. "There's no reason this should have happened."

This year there are six unsolved homicides in the county, Acting Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni said.

Gramiccioni said although the Melton case has gone cold, they continue to actively investigate it.

CONNECT WITH US

"We're putting a lot of resources into solving unsolved homicides," Gramiccioni said.

On Thursday, authorities were passing out flyers in Asbury Park, Neptune Township and Neptune City, encouraging members of the community to come forward to Crime Stoppers with any tips they may have about the Melton homicide, or any other crimes.

Tips can be called into Crime Stoppers at 1-800-671-4400 or text "MONMOUTH" and the tip to 274637 (CRIMES).

© 2013 NJ.com. All rights reserved.

● Follow us on
Twitter

● Like us on
Facebook

●
NJ.com/monmouth