Woman recants Molalla rape report

By Wanda Cochran, The Oregonian
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Police say they plan to cite an 18-year-old woman who reported a bogus stranger-to-stranger rape, triggering a manhunt across the Portland area.

Officer Scott Douglas, Molalla police spokesman, said police plan to cite Joresa Diondra Jefferson for initiating a false police report when she returns from visiting relatives in California.

The charge is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum of 30 days in jail and a $1,250 fine.

Jefferson told police she was walking home from a party about 1:30 a.m. June 21, when she was attacked, then raped on a Molalla sidewalk. She provided police with a description and worked with a sketch artist to create a likeness of her attacker. The apparently random nature of the attack had everyone on edge.

However, medical tests performed on Jefferson turned up no physical evidence of an attack.

"Then, when we confronted her with it, she recanted her story," Douglas said.

"We put a lot of time into that case," Douglas said. "With a small department like ours, we had to take a patrol officer off the street to investigate. It costs the taxpayers a lot of money when we get these false reports."

"We got tips from detectives and parole officers from across the area," Douglas said. "And then, we had to investigate each and every tip."

Police also persuaded a man they had identified as "person of interest" to submit a DNA sample.
Douglas said police believe Jefferson had been drinking at the party and later lied to her friends about her sexual activities.

"It just snowballed from there," he said.

Last summer, another Molalla woman reported she had been raped. However, she also recanted her story, later admitting a sexual encounter with a man she knew had been consensual.

http://blog.oregonlive.com/breakingnews/2008/07/woman_recants_molalla_rape_rep.html