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Crime fighters hope \$60,000 helps solve girl's murder

By STACEY MULICK April 11, 2006 Publication: News Tribune, The (Tacoma, WA)

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The \$60,000 figure is eye-catching but the increased award in the death of Adre-Anna Jackson might not help uncover what happened to the 10-year-old girl.

Money isn't the reason some tipsters come forward, and large rewards often bring false leads from people just looking to snatch the money, experts say. "There is fine line there," said Elaine Cloyd, president of Crime Stoppers USA. "You have to determine whether it will have great value to help solve a case or is a hindrance." Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers, the FBI and several private donors are offering up to \$60,000 for information leading to an arrest, charges filed and a conviction in Adre-Anna's death. Crime Stoppers will pay out the first \$10,000 after an arrest is made and charges are filed. Supporters of Crime Stoppers say offering a financial incentive and anonymity helps motivate people who might be fearful of coming forward with information they have about a crime. The Tacoma-Pierce County chapter has existed for two decades and has helped solve hundreds of cases. "A lot of times people are close to the crime and they are afraid to come forward and are afraid for their own well-being," Cloyd said. "They have to have something to prompt them." But not everyone who calls Crime Stoppers with valuable information takes the reward. "People generally interested in helping out are not interested in the money," said Ron Conlin, president of the Crime Stoppers Association of Washington and of Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound. Lakewood police and Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers officials hope the reward in the Adre-Anna case will generate new information and "spark people to tell us what they didn't before," police Lt. Bret Farrar said. "Let us make that decision" about whether the information is key to the investigation, he added. A reward of \$11,000 sparked a flurry of tips in the slaying of Snap-On Tools salesman Bob Shapel in 2004 and led to charges filed against two men. Other high-

profile unsolved cases with large rewards are: * The Ear Piece Bandit, who is suspected of robbing nine banks in the Puyallup-area since December 2000. Up to \$31,000 is being offered to find the bandit, named after an ear piece he wore. * The slayings of Kimberly Riley, 19, and 5-year-old Jeremy Britt Bayinthavong, who were killed Nov. 28, 2002. A gunman walked up to a house in the 1000 block of South 75th Street in Tacoma and fired several shots inside as a family gathered for Thanksgiving. A \$25,000 reward is being offered for information. * The disappearance of Teekah Lewis, age 2 1/2. on Jan. 23, 1999, from a Tacoma bowling alley. Up to \$27,000 is being offered. - - - Stacey Mulick: 253-597-8268

stacey.mulick@thenewstribune.com - - - SIDEBAR: Sought by police Lakewood police are searching for Spencer Douglas Grant, also known as Spence, as a potential witness in the Adre-Anna Jackson case. He is Native American, 44 years old, 5 feet 10, 165 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call Tacoma-Pierce County Crime Stoppers at 253-591-5959. - - - SIDEBAR: Remembering Adre-Anna A candlelight service will begin at 7 p.m. tonight in front of Tillicum Elementary School, 8514 Maple St. S.W. Friends and community members are asked to bring a song, a poem or just "what's in your heart" about Adre-Anna. The public also is invited to the family's memorial service for Adre-Anna. It starts at 4 p.m. Friday at Tillicum Elementary School.

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