



ATF

# News Release

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
New Baltimore Police Department



NBPD

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For Immediate Release  
April 27, 2007

## ATF, NBPD RECOGNIZE CITIZENS' EFFORTS

### *ATF Reward Paid to Four Individuals Who Assisted in Catching Killers*

NEW BALTIMORE, Mich. — Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and New Baltimore Police Chief John J. Bolgar announced today that reward money is being paid to four individuals whose information were crucial in the identification, arrest and subsequent convictions of Patrick Selepak and Samantha Bachynski, who murdered New Baltimore couple Scott and Melissa Berels, and Clio resident Winfield Johnston.

The coordinated effort among the New Baltimore Police Department, the Flint Township Police Department, the Owosso Police Department, the Genesee and Shiawassee County Sheriff's Departments, the Michigan State Police and ATF included a request for community assistance along with that of the media in publicizing ATF's \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the alleged suspects.

"We respond and begin an immediate investigation of all gun shop robberies. Part of that response is to post reward money for information that leads to the recovery of the stolen firearms – before they become crime guns. As in most gun store robberies, these two defendants had a definite plan to use these guns in violent crimes that included armed robberies and multiple homicides," said Goddard. "I commend the four citizens who made the decision to help by calling ATF and police. Without their assistance, the violence would have continued and most likely resulted in the additional loss of life. The public owes them a debt of gratitude and those of us in law enforcement hope that others will follow their lead," she added.

"Information in ATF's case identified Selepak and Bachynski as being armed with stolen, high-powered assault rifles. Without the full cooperation of the four citizens, and the united investigative efforts of ATF and other investigating agencies, this case would have been much more difficult to solve, linking their crimes together," stated Bolgar.

Between Jan. 27 and Feb. 21, 2006, Selepak and Bachynski went on a violent crime spree that included the theft of firearms, armed robberies, a home invasion and multiple homicides throughout the State of Michigan.

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