

Mercy student victim

Police pursuing murder suspect

By CRAIG PIERCHURA
Pervinkler of Redford Township but now know that his car was abandoned near Lake City, Mich., approximately 3 p.m. New Year's Day.

Police are still several steps behind the trail of murder suspect Gary W. Pervinkler, 19, is sought for murder and kidnapping in the strangulation and stomping death of 16-year old Judy Lynn Ferro of Redford Township. The Mercy High School junior was abducted while babysitting and killed in Lola Valley Park in Redford Township in the first few hours of the new year.

Pervinkler's father's car, a green 1972 Plymouth Satellite, was found by three snowmobilers on Saturday, Jan. 12. Police estimated the car was abandoned 11 days before.

MISSAUKKEE County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Helmholdt said two teenagers in the area on Jan. 1 saw a single set of footprints leading from the car to Route 66.

The county sheriff's department is working in conjunction with the state police from the Cadillac post and Redford Township Delta Gerald Schornack and James Fleming.

Schornack, contacted in Cadillac Tuesday, said police were searching small cabins in a 10-mile radius from the spot where the car was found "in the hope that he's holed up in one of them."

"WHY WOULD he still be around here?" said Schornack. "Well why would he be anywhere? As long as the car was found here we've got to check the area to see if he's still around. We're going to try to get the state police helicopter out here tomorrow (Wednesday) to fly over the area and look for footprints around these hunting cabins."

"We tried to get the helicopter from Grand Haven out here today but it was too overcast. The weather report said there's supposed to be snow tomorrow so we might not be able to fly. We'll pack up here and head back home."

Schornack said police questioned people in a nearby lodge and a farmhouse but no one recalled seeing anyone leaving the car or hitchhiking on Route 66.

The car was apparently abandoned because it had a flat tire. The license plates and an insurance statement identified ownership of the vehicle. A first aid kit was in the car and the battery was missing from under the hood. There were no traces of blood in the car, police said.

The road on which the car was left is a little-traveled maintenance road along Hopkins Creek.

Schornack said Pervinkler has a grandmother living in nearby Marquette. "but we've checked with her and she hasn't seen him." An uncle of Pervinkler living in northern Michigan was also contacted by police.

Schornack said he doesn't see any reason to suspect Pervinkler also abducted Penny Smogolski, 19, of Ludington.

Mason County Undersheriff Walter Sprenger speculated that Pervinkler was also involved in the Jan. 7 disappearance of Miss Smogolski.

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Clarenceville seeks millage renewal

Clarenceville School District voters in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford Township will go to the polls next Monday, Jan. 19, to decide the renewal of an 11-mill property tax levy.

The school board and administration mailed newsletters to residents last week saying that the failure of voters to renew the tax "would be disastrous to the education programs for the children of this district."

If approved, the levy would be continued for another 10 years. The administration stressed that the Monday proposal is only a continuation of existing taxes and not an increase in rate.

Clarenceville voters have regularly supported financial issues. The last time a money issue was defeated was in 1962 and then the margin was by fewer than 25 votes.

THE LEVY represents \$1 million in revenues, or about 20 per cent of the district's \$4.7 million operating budget for the current year.

The administration stressed that the school board in past years has usually levied less than the maximum millage rate allowed by voters.

The current tax rate is 33.9 mills, or \$33.90 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.

There are an estimated 6,000 registered voters in the district. Supt. David McDowell said last week that the defeat of Monday's millage issue would create another related money problem.

The state has promised to pay 100 per cent of the 1976-77 school year state aid formula to help make up for other state money cuts.

A REQUIREMENT for getting the full state payment is levying at least the same millage next year as this year.

In addition, the state aid formula is based in part on districts levying 22 mills or more. If Monday's proposal is rejected, Clarenceville would be under that minimum and would penalized through lower state aid payments.

McDowell said persons interested in more information about the millage issue may contact his office in the central board office, 28800 Eight Mile, Farmington Hills.

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