

Search for hit-and-run driver at a standstill

By Bill Casper
Staff writer

Redford Township traffic police investigators say their search for a hit-and-run driver, whose car struck and seriously injured a 14-year-old girl on Christmas Eve, is again at a standstill.

Investigators said Tuesday that they checked out a few leads but found no suspect.

"We were receiving about two calls a day for a while but the calls have stopped coming and we're back to square one, waiting for something

Clarenceville

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

to develop," Redford traffic police Lt. Eric Plater said.

"We've had about seven calls from people providing information on cars that possibly were involved in the accident."

"Four of the cars we checked had front end damage to the grille. One even had a missing hubcap that was

the same type we found at the accident scene and one of the windshield wipers was missing."

"We thought we had the driver, but the grille damage on his car did not match up with the section of grille we found at the accident scene," Plater said.

"The other car grilles didn't

match either, so the drivers were ruled out as suspects."

"The other three cars were not even close to the type of car we're looking for."

INVESTIGATORS ARE looking for a car with front-end damage, including a broken grille, most of which should be missing, Plater said.

Officers found about 90 percent of a broken, plastic grille on Grand River east of Inkster, where Emily Eichstadt was hit shortly after 9 p.m. near her northeast Redford home on Negaunee, he said.

Investigators think the grille is

from a late 1970s or early 1980s Dodge Omni, Plater said. They also think that the front windshield of the car may have been broken by the impact of the girl's body after she was lifted onto the car before rolling off onto Grand River, he said.

Investigators notified representatives of about 10 Redford collision shops, asking them to contact police if they see that make and vintage of car needing front-end repairs, particularly one in need of a new grille. But officers haven't heard from any of them, Plater said.

Anyone who has information about

the car or its driver should call Redford police at 537-4320 on weekdays or 537-3030 any time, Plater said.

EICHSTADT, A ninth-grader at Clarenceville High, was hit while crossing Grand River at Negaunee with two girlfriends, just minutes before her mother, Deborah, happened upon the accident.

She suffered broken bones in her right leg and spent part of Christmas day in surgery on her leg in Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, her mother said.

Walled Lake school officials mull tax increase plan

By Darrell Clem
Staff writer

Walled Lake school officials may ask for a tax increase or cut programs for the next school year.

Officials expect to decide what to do as early as February, Superintendent James Geisler said.

The school district, which includes northwest Farmington Hills, may need additional money for several reasons:

- A new elementary school will open this fall, bringing with it an annual operating cost projected at \$1.8 million.
- Contract talks affecting school

support staff, such as cooks and custodians, will be held in hopes of reaching an agreement by June 30.

• A negotiated settlement for 7-percent teacher pay raises has been reached, though school officials have not determined the cost to the district. Teachers also received an additional 1-percent pay increase to

compensate for salary freezes several years ago.

• The district is expected to lose \$1.3 million in 1990-91 in money diverted to Commerce Township's Downtown Development Authority.

• The Headlee amendment to the state constitution limits the district tax increase to the cost of living, even though property values increased 18 percent.

"Headlee has affected us quite severely," said Linda Moskalik, assistant superintendent for finance and operations.

In recent years, the school district

Walled Lake School District

has carried over from one year to the next about 8 percent of its annual general fund budget, which this year reached \$47 million, Geisler said.

But it might not be able to next year, school officials said.

SOME CONSIDERATION had been given to asking for a tax increase as part of a construction pro-

gram aimed at building three schools and renovating existing ones, school officials said.

Under a committee's advice, however, the tax increase proposal was not placed on the ballot. However, the district did win voter approval of a \$47.8 million bond issue for the building program, district spokeswoman Lois Lange said.

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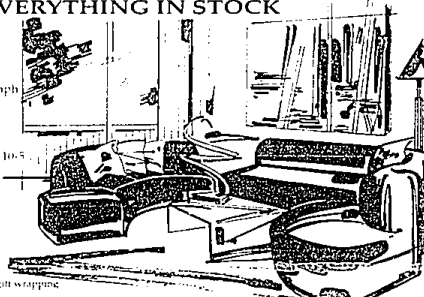
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