

MONDAY

The Oregonian



SUNRISE EDITION
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PORTLAND, OREGON
35 CENTS



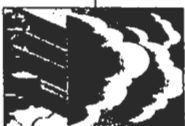
▶ **TERROR IN THE WITCH HOUSE:** You can help determine how this horror story will turn out/ **LIVING, C1**



▶ **LAST-SECOND SHOT:** Michael Jordan wins Game 1 for Chicago/ **SPORTS, D1**



▶ **YOUNG INVESTORS:** Children share their economic smarts in a national essay contest/ **MONEY, B12**



WEATHER
Cloudy with rain arriving late in the day.
High 70, low 56.
BACK OF SPORTS

Hit-and-run driver kills two girls near Oregon City

■ The students are struck about midnight and left in a ditch after celebrating their graduation from Ackerman Middle School

BY ALISA RIVERA
of The Oregonian staff

OREGON CITY — Two eighth-graders who attended a dance and party celebrating graduation from their Canby middle school were left for dead early Sunday by a hit-and-run driver south of Oregon City.

A passer-by found the girls' bodies in a ditch along Oregon 213 shortly before 6 a.m., more than six hours after they left the party. Tracy Thompson, 13, and Triffina DeAngelo, 14, were walking along the dangerous highway near Leland Road when a driver traveling in the opposite direction struck them.

"It's just so sad that somebody in this world could do that and not stop," said Triffina's father, Rick DeAngelo.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Department is taking the unusual step of offering a \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to the ar-

rest of a suspect.

"It's a case that we believe warrants it," said Deputy Damon Coates, a department spokesman. "There's a vehicle out there with front-end damage someplace."

The girls, who lived around the corner from each other in a rural neighborhood south of Oregon City and east of Canby, attended a graduation dance Saturday night at Ackerman Middle School in Canby.

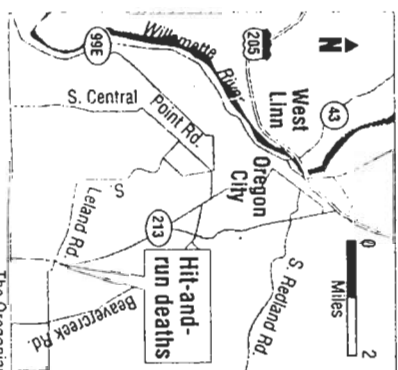
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TRACY THOMPSON



TRIFFINA DEANGELO



The Oregonian

At first, Tracy's father wouldn't speak to me. But I stuck around and knocked on neighbors' doors. After an hour, he waved me into his home. I was the only

Girls: Lifelong friends loved rap music, soccer

■ Continued from Page One

They left the dance shortly after 9:30 p.m. when school officials confirmed that the girls had a ride from a relative. They were headed to a party at a friend's house, school officials said.

The girls did not arrive at that party until nearly 11 p.m., then left soon afterward, Coates said. The party on South Spangler Road was supervised by parents and did not involve alcohol, he said.

Triffina's older sister drove to the house to pick the girls up at 2:30 a.m., but they had left, Rick DeAngelo said.

Sometime after midnight, the girls were walking north along the west shoulder of Oregon 213, just south of Leland Road, when a vehicle traveling south struck them, Coates said.

The girls probably were killed on impact, Coates said.

The vehicle drove into a ditch and continued 100 feet before getting back on the highway and leaving, Coates said.

A passing motorist spotted the bodies just before 6 a.m. and asked a neighbor to call police.

Family members of both girls were looking for them and came upon the accident scene, Coates said.

Rick DeAngelo said he didn't realize his daughter was missing because he thought she was sleeping at a friend's house. He didn't know his older daughter had gone to pick up the girls.

Investigators late Sunday said they have not found any witnesses and have no suspects.

Family and friends gathered Sunday to mourn the girls, who were inseparable. They shared a love of soccer, rap music and baggy clothing.

"They were friends ever since they were born," Rick DeAngelo said. "(Triffina) was a typical teen-ager. There were times when I had to scream about her doing homework."

Triffina's uncle, Jeff Miller, said she was quiet, "but she liked to hang out with her friends."

Tracy's father, Bruce Thompson, paced in his living room, weeping as he tried to talk about his daughter.

"It's tearing me apart," he said. "I don't know what I'm supposed to say."

Tracy enjoyed traveling to Eastern Oregon, Thompson said, and the entire family had taken a trip there two weeks ago.

Diane Lang, a family friend, said that in March the girls joined a Canby soccer team to prepare for playing in high school.

"They talked last week about going to college and what to tell their counselor their first year of high school," Lang said.

The girls lived just off Leland Road near Oregon 213. The highway between Molalla and Oregon City is known among locals as "Blood Alley" and ranks among the state's worst for highway fatalities.

Triffina's mother, Chris DeAngelo, said, "We told them many times not to go on that highway."

And Rick DeAngelo said, "It's dangerous just trying to get across it in your car, much less trying to walk."

On Friday, Ackerman Middle School students celebrated their success in prompting the creation of a safety corridor from Oregon City to Canby because of dangers on Oregon 99E. Principal Mike Zagya said the deaths on Oregon 213 might inspire a similar effort for that highway.

Counselors will be available today at Ackerman and at Carus Elementary and Canby High schools.

"There is going to be some frustration, some concern, some anger," Zagya said. "The big question is going to be, 'Why?' The kids don't understand, and they'll be looking for answers."

Bruce Thompson at first was reluctant to talk about his daughter Sunday. But he said he wanted to "try and see there's some form of justice."

"What justice is there in killing two girls and leaving them on the side of the road?" he said.

The Oregonian's Michelle Mandel and Lisa Daniels contributed to this story.