

Seventh grader dies after being struck by pickup

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A teddy bear and a picture of Jewell Hardin hang where the 12-year-old was struck by a pickup truck last week.

The pupil at Lake Ridge Middle School died over the weekend, less than a week after she was hit while walking on the shoulder of Old Bridge Road, from injuries sustained in the accident, Prince William County police said Monday.

A roadside memorial with balloons and a T-shirt signed by people who knew the girl was set up at the site of the accident.

Her parents asked police not to release the time of her death or their address, said Erika Hernandez, police spokeswoman.

Irene Cromer, a spokeswoman for the Prince William County Public Schools, said that counseling services are available to help pupils cope.

"We understand children will have to sort out their feelings and need the help of professionals," Cromer said, adding that students are encouraged to let a teacher, guidance counselor or other school employee know if they need someone to talk to.

"It's a terribly tragic and sad thing to happen," Cromer said. "The school division is saddened and grieving."

The seventh-grader, who lived in the 12400 block of Everest Peak Lane, was walking home around 3:45 p.m. on Oct. 16 when a Chevrolet Silverado drove off the road near Cricket Lane and hit her.

The driver of the truck, Freddy Herrera, 44, of 13154 Quade Lane in Dale City, was charged with reckless driving. No other charges will be filed against Herrera, said Hernandez.



A memorial by the side of Old Bridge Road marks the spot where 12-year-old Jewell Hardin was struck by a vehicle on Wednesday, October 17, sustaining injuries which eventually proved fatal. (Dylan Moore/Staff Photo).



Jasmina Meyer/News & Messenger

Karla Garcia consoles her daughter Maria Zaldivar, 14, while they pay their respects to her best friend Jewell Hardin at a memorial on Monday in Lake Ridge. Maria said they had been best friends for five years, "We always would have a fun time, she was really funny and would always be smiling. She was always fun to be around."

JEWELL HARDIN

HARDIN JEWELL IMANI ANN HARDIN On Wednesday, October 17, 2007. She is survived by her parents, Pamela M. and George Williams one sister, Tierra Hardin; four brothers, Marc Moaland, Joseph Hardin, Henry Williams and Javon Mason; grandmother, Lydia Moaland; devoted aunt and uncle, Patricia and Anthony Moaland. She is also survived by a host of other aunts, uncles, relatives and friends. Friends are invited to call at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Rd., Alexandria, VA on Friday, October 26 from 6 to 9 p.m., where funeral services will be held Saturday, 11 a.m. Interment Mount Comfort Cemetery. Services entrusted to LEWIS FUNERAL HOME.