

POLICE CHECK OUT MANY TIPS IN SEARCH BUT BOY IS STILL MISSING

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Author: BRENDA J. GILCHRIST, JOHN CASTINE , AND DENNIS NIEMIEC Free Press Staff Writers, Staff Writer JACQUELYNN BOYLE contributed to this report.

The search for **D'Wan Sims** intensified Thursday as police sifted through about 200 tips and used all-terrain vehicles and horses to comb areas of Rouge Park.

The 4-year-old Detroit boy has been missing since Sunday. His mother, Dwanna Harris, 25, reported that she and **D'Wan** got separated at Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

In the days that followed, a massive search, intense questioning of Harris and other witnesses, reviewing of mall surveillance tapes and extensive news media coverage have yielded few clues about **D'Wan**'s whereabouts.

Police said they are frustrated but "we hold out hope against hope that we can recover **D'Wan**, find out where he is," said Livonia Detective Lt. Pete Kunst.

Police are considering a cash life insurance policy that **D'Wan**'s grandmother, Beverly Harris, took out on **D'Wan**. She said she couldn't remember whether it is worth \$25,000 or \$50,000 or exactly when she took it out, but planned to examine it for those specifics. She had hoped to use the money to send **D'Wan** to college.

She is paying for it with payroll deduction through her job as a Detroit fire inspector. "Dwanna didn't know about it because it was no big deal," Beverly Harris said.

She said she's also planning to take out policies on Dwanna Harris and her other daughter. She has one on herself so her family will not be burdened with her debts if something happens to her. But, she said, "you start with the one that's the cheapest, you start with the baby's policy." Dwanna Harris said she felt encouraged when she heard about one of two false sightings of **D'Wan** on Thursday morning. She hopes other people will continue to report possible sightings. One little boy was spotted at a Christmas tree lot on 8 Mile Road. Another was at a gas station.

"It made me feel better," Dwanna Harris said. "It made me feel like he was OK, but I just was concerned at that time what state of mind was he in."

The gas station tip led authorities to the home of Ellen Brownheim in west Detroit. Brownheim, 33, had stopped at a gas station en route to taking her grandson, Timothy Hobson, to a Head Start program.

Timothy, known as T, had no trouble answering questions from police.

"I told them my name," he said. "And I told them I'm 3."

Also Thursday, Livonia police released a photo of the red 1991 Ford Thunderbird that Harris drove to Wonderland Mall and a map of where the car was parked. Kunst said there's a possibility **D'Wan** wandered back to the car after getting separated from his mother.

When police responded on Sunday to the missing child report, the car was in the lot's northwest section, parked in the last space toward Plymouth Road. A traffic light controls entering and exiting traffic for that portion of the lot, which also has a White Castle restaurant and a Michigan National Bank branch to the east.

D'Wan reportedly had on a dark blue or black coat with a multicolored hood and black jogging pants.

Meanwhile, 16th District Judge Robert Brzezinski denied a Free Press request to review search warrants and the supporting affidavits for those warrants.

CUTLINE:

Detroit Officer Gary Krupinski searches the Rouge River near Joy and Spinoza on Thursday. Three Detroit officers and three Wayne County deputies used horses. Livonia officers used all-terrain vehicles.

Dwanna Harris, mother of the missing **D'Wan Sims**, runs outside to ask journalists about a TV report that someone had seen her son. The sighting was false. She later told the Free Press of her agony. Page 7B.

The search goes on for **D'Wan Sims**, left, missing since Sunday. On Thursday, police answered a reported sighting of **D'Wan**, but it turned out to be another child, Timothy Hobson, 3, right.

Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE: DAYMON J. HARTLEY

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