

N. Kingstown woman, 13-year-old girl die in crash blamed on drunken driver

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It was supposed to be just a Friday night trip to the mall.

But it became a nightmare - a woman and a child dead and another child seriously injured — after a driver who police say was drunk slammed into the back of their car and sent it careening across Route 4.

Marsha W. Bowman, 44; her 14-year-old daughter, Rebecca, and Rebecca's friend, Kaitlyn DeCubellis, 13, were less than 10 minutes from Warwick Mall at about 8:15 Friday night.

Marsha Bowman, of 35 Wakerobin Trail, Saundertown, was driving north, near the Route 95 merge in East Greenwich, when her green 1999 Honda Accord was struck from behind by a Toyota Camry driven by Stephen Reise, 39, of 25 Sea View Ave., Jamestown, said state police Lt. William Lacautury.

Bowman's car was propelled across the grassy median into southbound traffic and was then broad-sided by a 1998 Toyota Avalon, driven

by Robert Sylvestre, 62, of North Kingstown, that was traveling in the southbound lanes.

The impact split Bowman's car in half — the front end, with Bowman inside, landing more than 50 feet from where it was struck. The back end, with Becky Bowman and Kaitlyn DeCubellis, landed somewhere behind, Lacautury said.

Marsha Bowman and DeCubellis, of 27 Leann Drive, Narragansett, were pronounced dead at a local hospital shortly afterward, Lacautury said.

Becky Bowman is in satisfactory condition with a broken jaw at Hasbro Children's Hospital, Providence.

DeCubellis and Becky Bowman are part of a tight-knit group of five girls in the eighth grade at the Pier School in Narragansett. Athletic and smart, both girls made the district's honor roll last year.

Leslie Improta, assistant principal at the school, called DeCubellis a "model student" who was not only popular, but also a runner-up in last year's school spelling bee.

"Katie was a wonderful, wonderful student . . . she was beautiful and I don't just mean the way she looked. There could be nothing worse [than this accident] as far as I'm concerned," Improta said.

Chris Iannucci, co-president of the school's Parent-Teacher Organization, called DeCubellis a leader whom friends and peers alike looked up to.

"I told the girls that Katie would be sad not to be here organizing everything today. She was a planner. That's just how she was known," Iannucci said. Her daughter, Lauren, was supposed to go with the girls to the mall Friday, but changed her mind at the last minute.

Marsha Bowman was also well-known at the Pier School.

A mother of two, she was a hairdresser at a Wakefield shop, an active member of the Parent-Teacher Organization and a regular at her daughter's soccer games.

Bowman was always eager to volunteer and "very instrumental" in forming a girls soccer team for the Pier School earlier this year, Iannucci said.

"She was a very happy, funny person who loved her family dearly," Iannucci said.

News of the deaths rocked the tight-knit Narragansett community, where DeCubellis's father, John, serves as a municipal court judge.

Students gathered yesterday at one another's homes to comfort each other and pray with a local priest.

"They all just basically want to be together right now," Iannucci said.

With that in mind, counselors and staff members will be available at the Narragansett Pier School from 1 to 3 p.m. today for

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anyone seeking professional support or the opportunity to spend time with others affected by the deaths.

Tomorrow, staff members plan to be available before school starts for counseling and support, Improta said.

She said arrangements have been made for support services in both the high school and elementary school.

"We really want to provide the community with the opportunity to support each other," Improta said.

Reise is being held at the Adult Correctional Institutions, in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail. He is charged with two counts of driving while intoxicated, death resulting; four counts of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, resulting in personal injury; and two counts of driving to endanger, resulting in death. His bail review hearing will be tomorrow at 9 a.m. in District Court, Warwick.

Two passengers in Reise's car were not seriously injured in the accident. Sylvestre, and his wife, Janice, received minor injuries and were treated and released. A fourth car, driven by Heidi D. Faust, 24, of Westerly, struck Sylvestre's car from behind, but neither she nor her passenger was injured.

With staff reports by Michael Smith.