

**Drugs, alcohol blamed in fatal Route 4 crash**

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**\* As a Jamestown man faces charges, a 14-year-old who was injured in the accident that claimed her mother and a friend returns to school to the support of her classmates.**

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**A man called "a walking pharmacy" by the attorney general's office had his cash bail increased yesterday from \$25,000 to \$500,000 in connection with the Route 4 accident that killed a 13-year-old girl and a 44-year-old mother of three on Friday.**

**District Court Judge Stephen P. Erickson ordered the higher bail for Stephen Reise, 39, of Jamestown, after hearing evidence that Reise had used marijuana, taken codeine, and had a blood-alcohol level nearly twice the legal limit when he headed north on Route 4, traveling to a nightclub at speeds of 85 to 90 miles per hour.**

**It was then, the police allege, that he rear-ended a Honda Accord driven by Marsha Bowman, of Narragansett. The collision sent the Accord across the median where it was hit broadside by a car heading south. Bowman and 13-year-old Kaitlyn DeCubellis were killed. Bowman's 14-year-old daughter, Rebecca, was injured, as were three other people.**

**"I've never hurt anyone else in my life to this point," Reise, handcuffed, wearing a blue hospital-style scrub gown and flanked by sheriffs and marshals, told the judge yesterday.**

**In a hushed courtroom, Judge Erickson cautioned Reise not to comment further. "You are facing some extremely serious charges here," he said.**

**The high bail set by Erickson virtually guarantees that Reise will remain at the ACI until he is able to face the eight felony counts — 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 — filed in connection with the accident.**

**Also injured in the accident were Reise's girlfriend, Amy Palmer, 32, of 170 Frigate St., Jamestown, and Robert Sylvestre, 62, of 472 Wickford Point Rd., North Kingstown, the driver of the car that broadsided the Bowman vehicle after it crossed the median. Both were treated at Kent County Memorial Hospital and later released. Sylvestre's wife, Janice, 57, was reported in satisfactory condition yesterday at Rhode Island Hospital.**

**REBECCA BOWMAN, who suffered a broken jaw, was released from Hasbro Children's Hospital yesterday morning. She was back at Narragansett Pier School yesterday to have lunch with about 20 friends in a closed conference room.**

**Meanwhile, students signed a memorial banner for DeCubellis, an eighth-grade honor student described as both "an idol" and "an angel."**

**"You were my role model and I will try my best to live up to you. An angel among the mortals, I will never forget you," one student wrote.**

**DeCubellis was also mourned with armbands and memorial ribbons in her favorite shade of blue.**

**One group of eighth graders, concerned that the accident may be alcohol-related, decided to start a petition and write letters to Atty. Gen. Sheldon Whitehouse, urging stronger drunken-driving laws to help prevent such tragedies.**

**"We figure none of this is ever going to happen to us, until it does," said Patrick McSally, a petition organizer and classmate of DeCubellis.**

**"We want to do something so this doesn't happen to any other friends or relatives," added eighth grader Rainer Hienerwadel.**

**Counselors have been on hand at the school since Sunday afternoon, when hundreds of students and parents converged on the school's library for consolation and support. Though scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m., the session —**

which DeCubellis's parents attended — went well past 4 on Sunday, said principal Jeffrey Sincoski.

"It was a celebration for Katie and a needed opportunity for us to speak out and console each other," he said.

Assistant principal Leslie Improta said that administrators tried to keep the school day yesterday "as normal as possible" to provide students with a sense of stability.

But much of the conversation in hallways and on buses returned to the same unanswerable question, Sincoski said. "When you lose such a perfect human being, it's difficult to grasp what the message is. You can't stop asking, why?"

**IN COURT YESTERDAY**, Asst. Atty. Gen. Stephen J. Ryan disclosed that this isn't the first time Reise has been in trouble.

In 1985, he was convicted of driving while intoxicated, fined and given six months' probation. In 1989, he was charged in Maryland with possession of a controlled substance and eluding police, but the details of that case were not available yesterday. Two years ago, Jamestown police charged him with marijuana possession and eluding police; he pleaded no contest, received six months' probation and was ordered to undergo drug counseling.

In arguing for higher bail for Reise, a maintenance worker at Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina, Ryan said Reise's girlfriend told the police that he had been drinking all Friday and had been traveling 85 to 90 miles per hour when he collided with Bowman's green Honda Accord. The posted speed limit on the state highway is 55.

Ryan said Reise told the police that he had taken some medicine with codeine that day around 3 p.m. and consumed "four or five" Icehouse beers between 4 and 8 p.m. that day. The brand has a higher-than-average alcohol content.

Ryan also revealed that blood tests at Rhode Island Hospital showed evidence of recent marijuana use and an alcohol level of 0.174. The state limit is 0.10 and drunken-driving activists have lobbied unsuccessfully to have the General Assembly tighten it to 0.08.

The police found open containers of beer, wine and Kahlua in Reise's Toyota Camry, which is registered to his mother.

"This defendant is a walking pharmacy," Ryan said. "He drinks, he takes drugs, then he gets in a car. It's the state's contention that this defendant is going to jail for a very, very long time."

Further drug tests are being done by the Health Department, Ryan said.

Reise has until Nov. 8 to find a lawyer. He is due back in court Nov. 15 for screening.

A funeral service for DeCubellis is scheduled for today at 10 a.m. at Christ the King Church on Old North Road in Kingston.

Sincoski, the principal, said that while many students and staff are sure to attend the funeral, school will be held as usual.

Counselors continue to be available at the school for students and parents dealing with the loss of DeCubellis and Mrs. Bowman. A scholarship fund is being organized in DeCubellis's memory and students also plan to work on memorial events to keep their friend's memory alive.

"We just want to remember Katie and help the families out and let them know we care for them," eighth grader Hienerwadel said.