

Auto crash fatal to teen

By Judith Doner Berne
staff writer

Criminal charges are being considered in the traffic death of Andover High School sophomore Joseph Philip Shouneyia, who was killed Memorial Day when he was thrown from his car after swerving into a ditch following a collision.

The Bloomfield Township teen, who celebrated his 16th birthday Jan. 2, allegedly ran off the road when a 1980 Lincoln Continental, driven by Glenn Russell Johnson of Bloomfield Hills, pulled out from Lane Pine, then stopped in the middle of Inkster, West Bloomfield police said.

Shouneyia was driving his 1983 Chevrolet Camaro north on Inkster, approaching Lane Pine, in West Bloomfield.

Johnson, 60, allegedly had been drinking, West Bloomfield police said. He took a Breathalyzer test, was arrested and taken to Oakland County Jail. He later was released. Police refused to give results of the Breathalyzer test.

Shouneyia was pronounced dead at the scene. Death was caused by a head injury, according to preliminary autopsy reports by an Oakland County medical examiner.

Monday's accident was West Bloomfield Township's first fatal accident of 1983.

THE OAKLAND COUNTY Prosecutor's Office said it has requested further information, including a full autopsy report and photographs, as it considers charges against Johnson. Charges which could be filed include manslaughter, negligent homicide or drunk driving, the prosecutor's office said.

A traffic accident-reconstruction expert will join a team of West Bloomfield police still investigating the accident, said West Bloomfield police Sgt. Mike Madigan.

"We are trying to determine what Shouneyia's speed was and whether it attributed to the accident," Madigan said.

Johnson allegedly pulled out and stopped, Madigan said. "The impact between the cars was very minor."

The posted speed on Inkster is 35 m.p.h.

THE TWO CARS reportedly collided shortly after 2 p.m. Monday, with Shouneyia's car swerving off the opposite side of the road. The car struck a culvert in a drainage ditch and flipped, throwing Shouneyia out of the car approximately 50 feet, police said.

Shouneyia was not wearing a seat belt.

The car's engine caught fire as the car landed, Madigan said.

Johnson, an architectural engineer, was not injured and had only minor damage to his car.

SHOUNEYIA WAS a popular student, according to Bloomfield Hills Andover High School counselor Jan King. "He had a lot of friends. His friends are deeply shocked and saddened."

"I'm sure it will have a lasting effect on them. When you're young, death is something you never think about. I'm sure the students will rally around and do what they can to help each other and the family."

Shouneyia is survived by his father Phillip; mother Nahida; and five younger brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at the Mother of God Church, Southfield. Burial is at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

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hensive medical program including 18 months of clinical training.

While at the university, Wronski held several offices in student government including class president. She was also a member of Sigma Phi National Honor Society.

Wronski is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Zegen, Farmington Hills.

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