

Farmington Observer

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Arraignment set in hit-run death

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

A date has been set for the Oakland County Circuit Court arraignment of a man accused of the Sept. 25 drunken driving killing of a 13-year-old Farmington Hills boy.

Christopher Phillip Smith Jr., 22, will be arraigned before Judge Rudy Nichols at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 20 on charges of drunken driving, leaving the scene of a fatal accident and manslaughter. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

In Smith's preliminary examination Wednesday, his attorney, Elias Escobedo asked that Smith's bail be lowered, but 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris ruled that it be kept at \$1 million.

"He (Smith) is taking it real hard," said Lori Henry of her fiancé's ordeal. "I didn't really know what to expect (Wednesday)."

Henry said Smith had not been able to see his 4-month-old son since his arrest on the night of the accident, which killed David Klenke.

A woman who had been jogging at the time near the accident scene on 10 Mile had testified that a black car with fresh damage had been driving from the



David Klenke



Christopher Smith

scene at more than 100 mph. Another woman, who had been returning with her husband from the grocery store, identified Smith in court as the driver of a black Ford Thunderbird later identified as the car driven that night by Smith at the time (7:22 p.m.) of the accident. The car is registered to Henry, who was working that day and had not seen her fiancé.

The boy was run into in front of his 11-year-old brother Stephen and died from the injuries. The two had been riding their bikes

home on the south shoulder of 10 Mile.

The car was found at Nine Mile east of Inster near where police arrested Smith at about 10 p.m. on the night of the accident. He had a blood alcohol level of .17 percent, according to testimony. A level of .1 percent is considered too drunk to drive in Michigan.

Smith's friend Mark Clifton testified that the two had driven from Farmington to Okemos that afternoon so that Smith could give blood for a paternity determi-

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nation. On the return trip, Smith began drinking beer, Clifton said.

The two went to a party in Farmington Hills and played cards with some other friends, Clifton said. Smith drank more beer and a half of a fifth of Jack Daniel's whiskey before getting into a fight and passing out on the lawn.

Clifton said that at about 7 p.m. Smith "squealed his tires" as he left the party in anger.

Smith remains in custody in the Oakland County Jail.

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author of
Everyday Sacred

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 - 7:30 P.M.

Artist, family therapist and teacher, Sue Bender will be with us to sign copies of her exciting new book *Everyday Sacred: A Woman's Journey Home* (Harper San Francisco, \$20) with an emotional and revealing look at her world. The lessons along the path of doubt and the end, that we can seek everywhere—in our homes, in our daily activities and, hardest to see, in ourselves. Come hear what she has to share with all of us about her life experiences as she signs her book.

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In Germany they call it Oktoberfest.
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we call it

FALL FESTIVO!

Beef Chimichangas \$6.99

Two fresh flour tortillas filled with seasoned, shredded beef and real Monterey Jack cheese, then lightly fried to a golden brown and topped with Chilo con Queso. Served with Spanish rice and Charro beans.

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Fresh green peppers, onions and tomatoes roasted over a wood-fired grill. Wrapped inside steaming hot tortillas filled with refried beans and cheese, topped with Chilo con Queso. Served with cilantro rice and refried beans.

Offer ends 11/20/95.

No matter what you call it, we're celebrating the change of the season everyday by offering our New Beef Chimichangas and Roasted Vegetable Burritos for just \$6.99. Now you can come in anytime to enjoy these fabulous fall specialties with family, friends or even your comrades at work. Fall Festivo at Cantina del Rio, grande dinners at prices that won't break your pifata.

CANTINA
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7 Mile & I-275, Livonia (313) 591-8300