

Hills teen charged in August auto mishap death

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Joseph Norman Novell, 17, of Farmington Hills was arraigned Monday in 18th District Court on charges of negligent homicide in the death of a pregnant woman, 18-year-old Julia Margaret Serda.

Novell's bond was set at \$50,000 by Judge Gail McKnight. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

Serda died Aug. 1 of internal injuries when the 1990 Ford Tempo in which she was a front-

seat passenger collided with Novell's 1990 Chevrolet Beretta at the intersection of Middlebelt and Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Serda was 7 1/2 months pregnant at the time. Doctors at Garden City Hospital, where she was declared dead about 45 minutes after the 5:48 p.m. accident, delivered a baby girl by Cesarean section. The baby was airlifted to University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, where she is doing well, according to Westland Police Officer Cathy Gilliam.

Sgt. Steve Frazier, who responded to the accident with Gilliam, reported that Serda was wearing an over-the-shoulder safety belt but hadn't fastened her lap belt.

The Tempo was driven by Serda's roommate, 19-year-old Margaret Louise Bargowski, who suffered a fractured sternum in the accident. The back-seat passenger, 19-year-old Joshua Daniel Krause of Livonia, was not injured.

Both drivers apparently entered the intersection during an amber light. The two young

■ 'We all make the turn on that amber light. Both assumed the other was going to stop and wait. They both assumed wrong.'

Cathy Gilliam
—Westland police officer

women were driving west on Ann Arbor Trail. Novell and front-seat passenger Jonathon Wood, 21, of Westland, were turning north onto Middlebelt from eastbound Ann Arbor Trail. Police estimated the Tempo's speed at 34 miles per hour.

Gilliam said that Novell was driving at "a very slow speed" and was starting to make a left turn from a complete stop. "We all make the turn on that amber light," Gilliam said. "Both assumed the other was going to stop and wait. They both

assumed wrong."

Police took Novell, who graduated this year as valedictorian from Clarenceville High School in Livonia, into custody after the accident but released him several hours later.

Negligent homicide could result in a maximum two-year prison sentence, a \$2,000 fine and licensing consequences.

Novell has no prior police record. He also has a clean driving record, as does Bargowski.

Robert Chalfoux, Julia Serda's grandfather, asked McKnight for permission to speak to the court on behalf of his daughter and Julia's mother, Lori Serda. "What they say is true. It is a parent's worst nightmare, from which you don't awaken. We ask the person responsible for Julia's death receive the full consequence of the law."

Police to buy mobile unit

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a federal grant, Farmington Hills police will put its operations into drive.

The department intends to buy a mobile community police vehicle. The vehicle, which will likely be 30-feet in length, will allow Hills police to set up in neighborhoods.

■ The mobile unit is expected to cost \$25,000.

The unit can also be used for special events or serve as an operations base during emergencies, Chief Bill Dwyer said.

Combined with a 10-percent match from the city, Farmington Hills police will receive \$68,550 as part of a U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance law enforcement block grant. Money is awarded to cities — partially based on crime statistics — to buy and upgrade equipment and technology.

The department will spend \$15,000 on crime prevention efforts, \$10,000 on narcotics reinforcement, \$10,000 training and \$5,000 for guns and other protective gear for officers. The mobile unit is expected to cost \$25,000.

"If we see an area that is having an increase in larcenies, vandalism and those types of complaints, we could move in," Dwyer said. "We'd also use it for special events like the fireworks."

"I don't know of any other department in the state that has one."

While parked in a subdivision, the mobile unit would serve as a base for the department's bicycle patrol. Crime prevention technicians will pass out information from the unit.

Dwyer expects the mobile unit to be in parks and neighborhoods by the spring. Last year, the department won both state and national honors for its community policing programs.

BARGAIN DAYS GOING ON NOW!

SALE ENDS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

30% OFF

PARISIAN SIGNATURE FLANNEL CAREER SEPARATES FOR MISSES, PETITES & PARISIAN WOMAN

SALE 59.99-89.99

WOMEN'S TIMBERLAND SHOES AND BOOTS

SALE 29.99 Cotton long-sleeve cable turtleneck in oatmeal, gray, brown, paprika, butterscotch or periwinkle. Sizes S-M-L. Reg. 44.00. **IN STORE ONLY**

SAVE 25% On Nine West "Lites" and "Liz Claiborne" "Gold Medal" collections. Reg. 38.00-98.00, sale 28.50-73.50. **IN STORE ONLY**

SAVE 25% On Preswick & Moore accessories. Choose from wallets, billfolds, pen cases, tie clips, cuff links, money clips and more. Reg. 15.00-65.00, sale 10.50-45.50. **IN STORE ONLY**

SALE 24.99 Architect all-cotton plaid sport shirts. Choose from an assortment of ready-for-fall plaids. Reg. 34.00. **IN STORE ONLY**

PARISIAN

CALL 1-800-424-8183 TO ORDER ANYTIME. STORE HOURS: Laurel Park Place open Sun. 12-6, Mon.-Sat. 10-9. FOR INFORMATION call 953-7500. CHARGE (M) Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express® Card or Discover®. LOCATED AT LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, ON THE CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD (TAKE THE SIX MILE ROAD EXIT OFF INTERSTATE 275).

KING CRAB FIESTA
Monday Only

All You Can Eat **\$25.95** Giant Crab Legs

With Coupon & Expires September 30, 1998

7 DAYS A WEEK

FULL MAINE LOBSTER DINNER

All You Can Eat **\$12.95**

Expires September 30

Steamers

On W. 12 Mile at Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills

(248) 442-2531