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Livonia man, adult education student, dies in motorcycle accident

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
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A 19-year-old Livonia man died from injuries sustained after the motorcycle he was taking for a test ride crashed into a shopping center wall Saturday.

Shortly after 12:35 p.m., William Clark started to operate a Honda motorcycle he considered buying in a parking lot outside Value City at Livonia Mall on Middlebelt and Seven Mile, witnesses said.

Clark appeared to lose control of the bike, which hit a curb before crashing into a brick wall that faces Middlebelt. The motorcycle struck a post before hitting the wall, knocking Clark from the bike, reports said.

The victim was wearing a helmet, which had come off during the crash, police said. Clark was taken to Sotoford Hospital where he died three hours later.

It was the third motorcycle fatality in the city this year. The latest accident remains under investigation.

"It looks like he lost control after starting the

motorcycle," said Sgt. Wes McKee, Livonia police traffic bureau supervisor.

"Perhaps he gave it too much gas or he didn't know its power, maybe."

Clark worked at Verizon Wireless inside the mall, a family member said. He recently started adult education classes in Farmington.

He wanted to buy the motorcycle, which was owned by another shopping center employee.

Family members described the victim as fun-loving and friendly.

"There was not a person my brother did not know," said Clark's sister, Lori Keech.

"He could bring the saddest person out of their drought and make them smile."

He is survived by his mother, Deborah (James) Sutton; father, Roger Clark; brothers, Edward of Livonia and Russell of Novi; and grandparents, William James and Dolores Smith.

The Rev. Herb Wilson will conduct a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile, west of Farmington Road. Visitation is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cremation was planned.

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