

# School bus-SUV crash kills mom

Her fetus also dies, and 23 injuries include 18 campers

Tuesday, July 27, 2004

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A pregnant 31-year-old Butler woman was killed and 18 children and five adults were taken to the hospital yesterday when a full-size school bus crashed into a sport utility vehicle on southbound Route 23 in Riverdale, authorities said.

The woman, Cheryl Angulo, was thrown from her 1990 Ford Bronco when the bus collided with her vehicle just north of the entrance to Route 287 at about 4:30 p.m., Morris County Prosecutor Michael M. Rubbinaccio said.

The Bronco flipped repeatedly on impact, throwing Angulo to the roadway, Lt. James MacIntosh of Riverdale said.

Officers attempted first aid, but she and the baby she carried, which appears to have been 8 months along, were declared dead at Chilton Memorial Hospital, he said.

The woman's 5-year-old daughter suffered minor injuries, he said.

Eighteen children ages 6 to 12, along with four counselors and a nurse riding with them on the school bus, were treated for minor injuries at Chilton Memorial Hospital in Pequannock and released, the prosecutor said. The youths were all wearing seat belts, hospital spokeswoman Alexandra Nolan said.

The aftermath of the crash left passersby shaken.

"I saw a car upside down, crushed, children's toys strewn about the highway, broken glass," said Mayor William Budesheim, who arrived at the scene as rescue workers tried to save Angulo's life. "They were working on her," he said of Angulo, "immobilizing her when I got there. They were doing CPR on her, trying to keep her heart beating."

The school bus had been taking children from the Montclair YMCA Summer Day Camp in West Milford back to the group's base in Montclair.

"All the children have been released (from the hospital) and they are safe," Tom Boyton, the group's president, said last night. "The staff all went to the hospital with the children, that was our first concern."

More than 200 Montclair campers make the daily trip to West Milford on school buses, he said.

Bianca Tubiana, 9, of Montclair was riding in the second row of the school bus when she felt it swerve from side to side before the crash.

"All I could hear was a screech and I heard a big bang, and the car in front of us flipped over," she said yesterday, as she left the emergency room with her mother and her 6-year-old brother Cooper, who was with her on the bus.

The impact caused children to smash into the seats in front of them and sent toys flying out of the bus, the 9-year-old said. "People had head and knee injuries," she said.

The girl's mother, Patricia, said she arrived in Montclair to pick up the two children at about 4:45 p.m., and a counselor on another bus told her about the crash.

"I just wanted to know facts -- that they were not hurt, where they were and when to expect them back," she said.

The crash was Riverdale's worst traffic accident in years, Budesheim said.

The impact caused the Bronco to flip onto its roof. The mangled, light brown vehicle was still on the roadway several hours after the crash, its rear axle broken off and shattered glass all around it. A single line of cars slipped past in the far right lane at about 7 p.m. as workers in the two blocked-off lanes prepared to remove the vehicle from the scene.

The accident blocked all three highway lanes for 30 minutes, causing significant delays, MacIntosh of the Riverdale police said.

The highway was cleared by 9:15 p.m., according to the prosecutor.

Police and rescue workers from Riverdale, Butler, Kinnelon, Pompton Lakes, Pequannock and the Passaic County Sheriff's Office, along with investigators with the Morris County prosecutor's vehicular homicide unit and the Morris County sheriff's criminal investigation unit, responded to the crash scene.

The prosecutor's office and Riverdale police are looking into the circumstances of the crash and whether Angulo was wearing a seat belt.

Investigators believe speed may have been a factor in the crash, MacIntosh said. The Bronco appears to have entered the left hand lane in front of the bus, but since police could find no witnesses, an accident reconstruction team must try to determine how the collision occurred, he said.

The school bus is owned by Eagle Rock Bus Co. in West Orange, Rubinnaccio said. The driver was Elhassan Elmeigi, 51, of Belleville, who was taken to Chilton with chest pains, MacIntosh said.

No one at the company could be reached yesterday.

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