

Hesperia man pleads to drugged driving causing death

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A former Hesperia man has pleaded no contest to drugged driving causing death for a Sept. 24 accident in Newaygo County that killed a motorcyclist.

Bruce Lee Willis Jr., 33, of Helotes, Texas, pleaded May 5 to operating under the influence of drugs causing death. Newaygo County 27th Circuit Judge Terrence R. Thomas scheduled sentencing for 9:30 a.m. June 24.

Willis left Michigan after the Sept. 24 accident that caused the death of Greg Rasmussen, a 29-year-old Fremont resident. He was arrested Feb. 20 at his mother's house in Texas and extradited to Michigan.

Rasmussen died several days after the 8 p.m. accident on Maple Island Road south of 48th Street in Newaygo County's Sheridan Township. The vehicle driven by Willis collided with the motorcycle Rasmussen was driving, police said.

Authorities determined Willis had been drinking prior to the crash, but the level of alcohol in his system did not exceed the legal limit to drive, so Willis was free to leave the state.

But weeks later authorities received results from Willis' toxicology test indicating he had drugs in his system at the time of the accident, police said.

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