



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE

October 15, 2015

CONTACT: Mark Stodghill, County Attorney's Office
St. Louis County Courthouse
Duluth, MN 218-726-2323

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Duluth man charged with criminal vehicular homicide

A 30-year-old man was charged today with criminal vehicular homicide for causing the death of Susan Menz and leaving the scene after striking her near Twin Ponds Tuesday, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

Justin Paul Linskie, 30, of Superior, was arraigned before Senior Judge H. Peter Albrecht in State District Court.

Linskie is accused of driving his SUV off the road and into one of the Twin Ponds about 6 p.m. He climbed out of the water, but left Mrs. Menz, who was found unconscious in the water by assisting citizens. Witnesses said they saw the defendant flee the area. They pulled the victim out of the water and administered aid until the first responders could arrive.

Linskie admitted to Duluth police that he was driving the vehicle when it crashed and that he fled.

At the defendant's arraignment, Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Vicky Wanta, the assigned prosecutor in the case, informed the court that the defendant's state convictions include felony receiving stolen property, fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance, theft and two DWIs. His driver's license has been suspended six times for failing to appear in court or failing to pay fines. He is currently on probation for a federal drug conviction.

Senior Judge H. Peter Albrecht granted Wanta's request that bail be set at \$250,000. The defendant was being held in the St. Louis County Jail. His next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 4.

"Preliminary indications are that neither alcohol, nor drugs were factors in the driving conduct," Rubin said. "This is such a tragedy. Our condolences go out to Susan's husband, family, friends and co-workers."

###