

CALGARY HERALD

Dad pays tribute to Lindsay: Calgary man charged after hit and run

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Byline: Gwendolyn Richards, with files from Sherri Zickefoose, Calgary Herald.
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Photos of Lindsay **Giacomelli** flickered on a screen at a memorial service for the young woman as the man suspected of claiming her life in a hit and run arrived back in Calgary, escorted in handcuffs.

Friends and family crowded into Southwood United Church on Wednesday, spilling into the foyer, to remember the 20-year-old University of Calgary student known for her love of dance and Disney.

They assembled to the strains of a piano playing a medley of the young woman's favourite tunes, from Phantom of the Opera to a Kenny Loggins song about Winnie the Pooh, her favourite Disney character.

"The Peanuts music, the Winnie the Pooh music, that's Lindsay to a T," her father, Gerald, told mourners, bolstered by the support of his son, the woman's younger brother, Nick.

He peppered his eulogy with funny stories, allowing laughter to briefly perforate the muffled sounds of grieving that filled the church.

He told of the time the family -- Lindsay, her parents, younger brother and sister -- visited the Eiffel Tower and she suggested they take the stairs, despite her almost incapacitating fear of heights.

About 75 steps up, she collapsed, squeezed her eyes shut and had to be helped down, sitting on the stairs and making it back to the ground one step at a time, he recalled, smiling.

Giacomelli was struck by a car last Thursday night as she used a crosswalk on Bonaventure Drive S.E. near Fairmount Drive.

Surrounded by her family, she died the next day.

"We were with Lindsay all night long," said Gerald. "I know she heard us."

Wednesday night, police charged Colin Jones, 48, of Calgary with failing to remain at the scene of an accident in connection with the case.

Peel Regional Police arrested Jones just before midnight on Monday at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

He was trying to board a flight to the United Kingdom.

Calgary police officers escorted the curly-haired, bespectacled Jones off a WestJet flight from Toronto in handcuffs, past a throng of media Wednesday afternoon.

He was stone-faced and dressed for a day in the mountains, sporting hiking boots and pants, and a grey-and-red fleece jacket zipped up to the chin.

Jones walked with his head down for the first few steps, then raised his chin as he was escorted from the Calgary International Airport to a waiting police van.

IMAGES



Grant Black, Calgary Herald
Police escort Colin Jones, centre, from the airport on Wednesday. He was later charged in the fatal hit-and-run accident.



Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald
The casket of Lindsay Giacomelli is carried from Southwood United Church on Wednesday during her funeral.

Police waited to collect his baggage, a light backpack, from the luggage carousel, before leading him out of the airport.

He was taken to the District 5 station for questioning.

Back at the funeral, **Giacomelli**'s devotion to dance was recognized through a series of pictures of her in various tutus and costumes. A pair of worn-out ballet toe shoes sat near the edge of a table in the church hall.

Later, members of the Corps Bara Dance Theatre flitted across the stage, flowing their bodies to the sounds of Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Giacomelli was not devoutly religious but believed deeply in God, her father said. The service included readings of atypical verses she had underlined in the small Bible she often carried and read at night.

"For her, she's in the best place possible," said Gerald.

"All the crying and the wailing is more for us, just feeling for ourselves."

Mostly, she was remembered as a happy, willing-to-please woman.

"She would just help in an instant," said Gerald.

Family friend David Brooks echoed that sentiment.

"She brought brightness to everyone she had contact (with)," he said.

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Illustration:

- Colour Photo: Grant Black, Calgary Herald / Police escort Colin Jones, centre, from the airport on Wednesday. He was later charged in the fatal hit-and-run accident.
- Photo: Lindsay **Giacomelli** Colour Photo: Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald / The casket of Lindsay **Giacomelli** is carried from Southwood United Church on Wednesday during her funeral.

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