

# Police investigate death of E.L. man in Fla.

## Family mourning 27-year-old who cared about people

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KATHRYN PRATER • LANSING STATE JOURNAL • APRIL 19, 2008

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A Lansing-area family is mourning this week while police investigate the death of a former East Lansing man found last weekend in Miami.

James Bowerman, 27, was found in his Miami apartment about 7 p.m. Saturday when police entered through an unlocked back door. His death remains unclassified.

Officers were dispatched to Bowerman's home after getting a call from the man's co-workers, who were worried because they hadn't heard from him in a few days, said Lt. Neil Cuevas of North Miami police.

Bowerman, a waiter at Chili's in Aventura, Fla., grew up in East Lansing and left in 2004, said his aunt, Dixie Battin. He lived in Las Vegas and Los Angeles before moving to Miami about a year ago.

"He was just an excellent, wonderful guy, and it just breaks out hearts that this kind of thing would happen," said Battin, 57.

His aunt, a Charlotte resident who works at Grand Ledge City Hall, said the family was close-knit while Bowerman was growing up.

"We were always one big batch," she said. "We always went out to my mom's place. It seemed like every Sunday we were out there having dinner, the kids were playing. It was on 10 acres, so there was plenty of room for them to run and play."

Bowerman is survived by his mother, Joanne Lose; father, Bill Bowerman; and sister, Julie, 29, Battin said.

Her nephew still had many friends in East Lansing, Battin said.

“He was on the cell phone all the time with everybody,” Battin said. “He was just a very sweet person, cared about people, always good to people. He had many, many friends.”

She recalled Bowerman as an enthusiastic downhill skier, as well as a youngster who “was always on the skateboard.”

“That had been one of his goals when he was a kid, that he wanted to be a skier,” she said. “Once he got out of school, he was going to go to Colorado. He never did that, but he still continued to enjoy his skiing.”

The Miami Herald contributed to this report.  
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