



SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

Chief Dan Flynn

Press Release

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For Immediate Release: Monday, January 9, 2006

Man Dies in Single-Car Collision

West Chatham County, GA. ---The passenger of a 2004 Cadillac traveling south bound on Interstate 95 has died as a result of injuries suffered in a single vehicle accident this morning. The incident occurred shortly after 11 a.m. while the vehicle was traveling south bound at approximately one half mile north of the Highway 204 exit.

The accident reduced traffic flow to one lane for approximately two hours while investigators worked to clear the scene.

Emergency medical personnel responded to the scene and transported both the driver and the passenger to Memorial Health University Medical Center. The passenger later died of his injuries. The driver of the vehicle remains in critical condition.

The names of the victims are not being released pending notification of next of kin. Traffic investigators indicate that the victims are not from this area.

The cause of the accident is under investigation and additional details will be released when available.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Sunday, January 29, 2006

Tybee Road Traffic Fatality

A woman who was involved in a 1-car rollover early Sunday morning on Highway 80 (Tybee Road) has died.

The driver, Mary Patricia Crowley, 47, of Savannah died during surgery at Memorial Health University Medical Center from injuries suffered in that crash.

The crash occurred shortly before 1:30 a.m. on Highway 80 just east of the Bull River Bridge near mile marker #29. A passerby called in to report the wreck.

When officers arrived on the scene a short time later, they found the victim lying on the ground near the marsh not far from the wrecked BMW convertible. Paramedics responded and rushed her to the hospital where she died several hours later.

The car was traveling west on Highway 80 when the driver lost control of it in the curve just east of the Bull River Bridge. The vehicle left the roadway, rolled over, and ejected the driver before coming to rest in the marsh, according to investigators.

The cause of the wreck is under investigation. More details will be released, as they become available.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN
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Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release Friday, February 03, 2006

White Bluff Road Traffic Fatality

Savannah, GA. - Shortly before 11 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2006, SCMPD officers were called to a single vehicle accident at the intersection of White Bluff Road and Douglas Street. Although the investigation is in its early stages, it has been determined that a black Chevrolet Monte Carlo traveling South on White Bluff Road, left the roadway near Douglas Street and struck a tree. No further details on the cause of the accident are available at this time.

At the time of the accident, there were two male occupants inside the vehicle. One of the two was pronounced dead at the scene. The second individual was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he remains in critical condition.

The identities of the individuals and the specifics of the accident will be released as the information becomes available.

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Media Advisory

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Investigative Update

For Immediate Release Friday, February 03, 2006

White Bluff Road Traffic Fatality

Traffic investigators have identified the occupants of the vehicle involved in last night's single car accident on White Bluff Road and Douglas Street. The passenger, Hugo Hernandez, 20, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, Bernabe Ortega-Alvarez, 26, was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he remains in critical condition.

Shortly before 11 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2006, SCMPD officers were called to a single vehicle accident at the intersection of White Bluff Road and Douglas Street. It has been determined that a black Chevrolet Monte Carlo traveling South on White Bluff Road, left the roadway near Douglas Street and struck a tree.

While the investigation is ongoing, environmental conditions and speed are suspected as contributing factors in this accident.

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For Immediate Release Saturday, February 04, 2006

Man Dies After Being Struck By Vehicle

A man struck by a vehicle on Skidaway Island on Friday has died today. Thomas Reese, 86, was struck by the 2000 Jaguar S-type shortly after 6 p.m. and was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries this morning.

The driver of the Jaguar, Maurice Winger, 88, was attempting to back out of a parking space at 95 Skidaway Island Park Road when he struck Reese. Winger was initially only charged with Improper Backing. Additional charges are pending the results of an investigation by SCMPD Traffic investigators.

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For Immediate Release Friday, February 10, 2006

Pedestrian Dies After Being Struck By Vehicle

A man struck by a vehicle on Ferguson Avenue on Thursday, February 9, 2006, has died today. Howard Ricks, 84, was struck shortly after 7:30 p.m. and was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center.

The driver of the vehicle, a 16 year old juvenile, was traveling north on Ferguson Avenue just west of Whitfield Avenue when he struck Ricks. Charges are pending the results of an investigation by SCMPD traffic investigators.

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METROPOLITAN

Interim Chief Willie Lovett

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For Immediate Release: Sunday, February 12, 2006

2-Car Fatality-Bay Street and General McIntosh Boulevard

East Savannah, GA. ---An early morning 2-car collision at Bay Street near General McIntosh Boulevard has claimed the lives of two men and sent another to the hospital. Bret Howell Andrews 22, of Savannah and his passenger, Christopher Scott Stahl, 30, of Bloomingdale, died in the collision.

The incident occurred shortly before 6 a.m. Sunday morning when Andrews lost control of the Mercedes he was driving, while taking a sharp curve from Bay Street onto General McIntosh Boulevard in the eastbound lane. Andrews was traveling too fast for conditions when the vehicle spun out of control and flipped into the westbound lane of General McIntosh Boulevard, according to investigators. Both Andrews and his passenger were ejected during the crash and died at the scene.

Rodney Bryant, 49, of Savannah, was the driver of the second vehicle. He was headed to work at the Long Shoremans Hall, in the westbound lane of General McIntosh when Andrews' vehicle flipped and slammed into his Honda Accord. Bryant was seriously injured in the crash and was rushed to Memorial Health University Medical, where he remains in critical condition.

Additional details surrounding the crash will be released as they become available.

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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Waters Avenue Single-vehicle traffic fatality

A female passenger who was killed in a single-car crash on Waters Avenue Monday night has been identified as Patricia Marie Ragan, 33, of Savannah. The driver of the vehicle was 42-year-old Dana Paiva, also of Savannah.

Investigators have determined that the vehicle in which they traveled was southbound on Waters Avenue at a high rate of speed, when the driver lost control and struck the curb on the Westside of the roadway. After striking the curb, the vehicle vaulted in to the air and landed between two trees.

The driver, Paiva, remains in serious, but stable condition. The investigation has revealed that speed and alcohol were contributing factors to the deadly crash, and charges are pending.

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For Immediate Release Thursday, March 02, 2006

Veterans Parkway Single-Vehicle Fatality

A single-vehicle crash on Veterans Parkway, 2.5 miles north of Chatham Parkway, has claimed the life of one man and sent another to the hospital.

The crash occurred shortly before 10 p.m. Wednesday night when the driver of a Ford F-150 pickup, headed south on the parkway, lost control of the vehicle and struck a guardrail. The impact caused the truck to flip over in to the northbound traffic lane and burst into flames.

Southside fire crews responded to the scene with paramedics and police. The blaze was brought under control as EMTs rushed the driver of the vehicle to Memorial Health University Medical Center.

The passenger died at the scene. The driver was treated and later released from the hospital.

Traffic investigators have determined that alcohol and speed contributed to the deadly crash and arrested the driver upon his release from the hospital. They have identified him as Alejandro Mora, 22 of Savannah.

Mora was taken to the Chatham County jail, charged with first-degree vehicular homicide, and driving under the influence. He is scheduled for an arraignment Thursday at 1 p.m. in Chatham County Recorder's Court.

The passenger who was killed in the crash has been identified but the name is being withheld while family members are notified. An autopsy has been scheduled for Thursday to determine the cause of death.

Traffic along the highway was closed for several hours during the investigation and removal of the wreckage. The roadway was re-opened around 2 a.m. Thursday.

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For Immediate Release Sunday, January 29, 2006

Abercorn Street Traffic Fatality

A pedestrian died Saturday at Memorial Health University Medical Center after being struck by a truck. Tarun C. Patel, 46, of Port Wentworth, was attempting to cross Abercorn Street just north of Eisenhower Drive when he was struck.

Paramedics arrived on the scene where they found the victim lying in the northbound lane of the busy street. Patel was rushed to the hospital, and pronounced dead upon arrival.

SCMPD traffic officers arrived on the scene and spoke with witnesses. Patel was the driver of a vehicle that had been involved in a rear-end crash in the southbound lane of Abercorn at Eisenhower Drive shortly after 7 p.m.

Patel had just spoken with the driver of the car, which he had struck, when he turned and began walking across the highway, according to witnesses. He walked into the path of a Ford F-150 pickup, driven by James Briglia, 38, of Savannah.

Briglia had just pulled off from the stop light at Abercorn Street and Eisenhower Drive in the southbound left lane of traffic. Patel stepped off the median and into the path of the truck, according to investigators.

Traffic officers found signs of alcohol in Patel's car. No charges have been filed against the driver of the pickup and the investigation remains ongoing.

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For Immediate Release – Monday, April 10, 2006

Barnard and Duffy Accident Claims One Life

A Hinesville Man is dead after a Sunday afternoon accident. Deyamain Dellon James, 25, was traveling east on Duffy Street driving a Yamaha motorcycle approaching Barnard Street when he failed to comply with the stop sign at the intersection.

He entered the intersection and struck a Dodge Caravan that was traveling North on Barnard. He was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center. He later died because of the injuries that he had sustained.

This accident remains under investigation by the SCMPD Traffic Unit. No charges are expected to be filed.

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For Immediate Release Sunday, April 23, 2006

President Street Hit & Run Collision

SCMPD traffic investigators are looking for a 1990 Champagne or gold-colored Jeep Grand Cherokee. The vehicle is being sought in connection to an early morning hit and run collision involving a bicyclist on President Street near Riverview Drive. It was last seen traveling east towards Tybee Island on highway 80 shortly after the report.

Police responded to the scene after a newspaper courier found the cyclist lying on President Street shortly after 5:a.m. Sunday. Paramedics responded and rushed the victim to Memorial Health University Medical Center. He is listed in serious but stable condition.

A witness reported seeing the jeep at a Chu's Market on Highway 80 occupied by a white male and a white female. The jeep has wheels that match the color of the vehicle, according to the witness.

Investigators have identified the victim as Patrick Rudolph Bailey, 26, of Wilmington, NC. They have learned that Bailey was riding his bike east on President Street when a vehicle struck him and left the scene.

Anyone with information about this jeep, or its whereabouts, should call the SCMPD traffic office at 652.6650, or CrimeStoppers.

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For Immediate Release

Man Killed in Early Morning Hit and Run Accident

A man in a wheelchair was killed this morning as he attempted to cross a downtown street. Around 2:30 a.m., Curtis L. Jenkins, 38, was in the 400 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard when a vehicle that was traveling north struck him. The vehicle then sped away from the scene.

The victim was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead.

Investigators are seeking information on a suspect vehicle described as a light colored Ford, possibly a Taurus, with front-end damage. Anyone with information regarding this vehicle should contact traffic investigators at 651-6650 or CrimeStoppers at 2345-2020.

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For Immediate Release Friday, May 5, 2006

Gwinnett Street Traffic Fatality

SCMPD is investigating a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Gwinnett and West Boundary streets that claimed the life of man shortly after 10:30 p.m. Friday. Julius Lee Dempsey, 39 of Savannah, died shortly after arriving at Memorial Health University Medical Center from injuries suffered in the crash.

Dempsey was traveling west on Gwinnett Street at a high rate of speed when his motorcycle slammed into the side of a Honda Accord. The Honda, driven by Torrae Smith, 29, of Savannah, was turning north onto Boundary Street from the eastbound lane of Gwinnett, when it entered the path of the motorcycle.

The passenger of the Honda was taken to Candler Hospital for minor injuries. The driver of the Honda was not injured.

SCMPD traffic officers are investigating the crash to determine if speed was the only contributing factor. Traffic along Gwinnett Street at I-16 was closed for several hours while police investigated and cleared the scene.

More details about the cause of the crash will be released as they become available.

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, May 18, 2006

Man Dies in Diamond Causeway Single-Car Collision

Shortly before 1 a.m. this morning, officers were called to the Diamond Causeway near the Skidaway River Bridge on the report of an accident. The victim, who had been ejected from the vehicle, was immediately transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he was pronounced dead early this morning.

Investigators have determined that the vehicle, a 2001 Mercedes, was traveling west and had just crossed the bridge when the driver, William Clark Twibell, 20, lost control of the vehicle and left the roadway causing the vehicle to roll. The victim was the only occupant in the vehicle.

The exact cause of the accident is under investigation and additional details will be released when available.

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For Immediate Release **Friday, May 26, 2006**

11-year-old dies in skateboarding collision with jeep

SCMPD traffic officers are investigating a collision that claimed the life of boy on Chatham County's Westside shortly before 4:00 p.m. Friday. Matthew Gallops, 11, of Savannah, was attempting to cross a road on his skateboard when a jeep struck him.

The crash occurred in a neighborhood that runs off Quacco Road, just west of the Pooler city limits.

John Christopher Horn, 29, of Savannah, was the driver of the Jeep Cherokee. He had just turned south onto Kersey Road from Hideaway Point when the jeep made contact with the child, knocking him to the ground.

Police and paramedics arrived on the scene within minutes of the crash. The boy was rushed to Memorial Health University Medical Center but doctors were unable to save him.

Police are investigating the cause of the fatal crash. No charges have been filed. More details will be released when they are available.

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For Immediate Release: Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Update-Fatal Collision at I-95 & Jimmy Deloach Parkway

The driver of the tanker truck who died in this morning's crash on interstate 95 shortly before noon Tuesday has been identified as Elijah Mack, 57, of Ridgeland, South Carolina. Mack died at the scene of the crash.

He was traveling south on the interstate when a 1998 Lincoln Mark VIII sideswiped his truck and caused him to lose control. The truck traveled into the median and overturned.

The driver of the car is Susan Horton, 55, of The Villages, Florida. Horton was traveling in the center lane when she swerved into the right lane and made contact with the tanker, according to investigators.

She was airlifted from the scene, taken to Memorial Health University Medical Center, and admitted with injuries suffered in the crash. Police charged her with failure to maintain lane and 2nd degree vehicular homicide.

The driver's husband, Tim Horton, 57, was identified as the passenger in the car. He also was taken to the hospital by ambulance with minor injuries.

Only one of the southbound lanes remains open. Normal traffic flow is expected to resume within 2-3 hours.

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, June 08, 2006

Update-Truman Parkway Traffic Fatality

The driver who died in a 1996 Chevy pick-up truck on Truman Parkway shortly before 4:00 a.m. has been identified. Troy Stephens, 22, of Savannah died at the scene after he lost control of the truck that overturned and ejected a passenger.

The passenger, Anastasia Collins, 18, of Savannah was rushed to the Memorial Health University Medical Center with injuries suffered from the crash.

The southbound lanes along Truman Parkway, from Derenne to Eisenhower were closed after the wreck. They re-opened shortly after 8:00 a.m.

The crash occurred approximately one half mile north of the Eisenhower Drive exit on the Parkway. The truck was traveling south when the driver lost control and swerved off the road onto the shoulder.

The driver overcorrected as the vehicle came back onto the road, but never regained control before overturning, according to investigators. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

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For Immediate Release Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Dean Forest Road Traffic Crash

SCMPD is investigating a traffic crash that closed down a portion of Dean Forrest road and sent two people to the hospital. The crash occurred shortly after 10:00 p.m. Tuesday at the intersection of Dean Forrest and Old Louisville roads.

A Kia Rio with two people crashed into the rear of a tractor-trailer while traveling south on Dean Forest Road. The tractor-trailer was traveling in the southbound lane when the crash occurred.

Both of the people in the Kia were entrapped. Emergency rescue workers had to use the "Jaws of Life" to free them from the wreckage.

The male passenger was airlifted to Memorial Health University Medical Center. The female driver was taken by ambulance. The driver of the tractor-trailer Johnny Coplin, 45, 35, of Guyton was not injured.

The driver of the Kia has been identified as Cynthia Putnam, 47, of Whatley, AL. The identity of the passenger was not available at the time of this release.

SCMPD traffic investigators shut down Dean Forrest Road between Highway 80 and Old Louisville Road. The road will remain closed until the on scene investigation is completed.

More details will be released as they become available.

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For Immediate Release **Tuesday, July 11, 2006**

Single-car crash causes power outage

An early morning traffic crash on Highway 80 between Fort Pulaski and the Bull River Bridge caused a major power outage for Tybee residents. The crash occurred shortly after 8:30 Tuesday.

SCMPD was called to the scene to investigate. They have found that alcohol and speed were contributing factors in the crash.

The driver of the single-car collision, Joshua Lange, 35, of Tybee Island is charged with DUI, traveling too fast for conditions and passing in a no-passing zone. He had to be taken to Memorial Health University Medical Center after losing control of his 1974 Corvette.

Lange lost control of his car when he tried to overtake a slower moving vehicle while traveling east on Highway 80. He was near milepost 29 when he drove into the westbound lane to make the pass.

The car spun out of control and ended up on the north side of the road, where it struck the guide wire of a utility pole. Lange managed to get out of the car before it burst into flames.

Two passersby stopped and rendered aid to Lange, keeping him away from the flames, until fire and medical personnel arrived. The fire was extinguished and paramedics took Lange to the hospital.

The crossarms at the top of the pole broke upon impact, causing residents at Tybee to lose power. Officials at Georgia Power spent several hours working to restore electricity.

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For Immediate Release **Tuesday, July 11, 2006**

Holiday traffic crash claims life of Savannah man

The driver of a GMC Yukon, who was involved in a single-vehicle traffic crash on June 30, has died. Clarence Williams, 24, of Savannah was pronounced dead at Memorial Health University Medical Center Monday night.

He died from injuries he suffered only five hours into the July 4 holiday travel period. The travel period began at 6 p.m. on June 30 and ran thru the fourth until midnight.

The vehicle was southbound on Liberty Parkway shortly before midnight when the crash occurred. Williams was trying to pass another car at a high rate of speed when he lost control of the vehicle and crashed.

As the SUV approached Toomer Street, it overturned and rolled several times. Both Williams and his passenger were ejected.

Paramedics rushed them both to the hospital where the passenger remains in critical condition. He has been identified as Sam Childs Jr., 22, of Savannah.

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Interim Chief Willie Lovett

News Release

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For Immediate Release **Saturday, August 05, 2006**

Woman dies in one-car crash

SCMPD is investigating a one-car crash that claimed the life of a 41-year-old Landings resident.

Margaret Torras Moore was driving north on McWhorter Road shortly after 1a.m. Saturday when she veered off the roadway near the intersection of OSCA Road. The car spun out of control and slammed into two pine trees. One of the trees snapped in half.

Moore's 2006 BMW750LI then burst into flames. A passerby saw the flames and called police.

When police and Southside Fire/EMS arrived, the car was fully engulfed. Moore and her dog were found dead inside the wreckage.

The cause of the crash is under investigation. More details will be released when they become available.

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For Immediate Release Thursday, August 31, 2006

Tractor-trailer overturned near Talmadge Bridge

Shortly before 9:00 a.m. this morning, a tractor-trailer collided into a guardrail on the Back River Bridge while striking another vehicle in the process. The tractor-trailer then overturned on the embankment of the Back River Bridge near the foot of the Talmadge Memorial Bridge. Minor injuries have been reported.

Hazmat, DOT, and the U.S. Coast Guard has responded to the scene for a diesel fuel leak, which resulted from the accident.

Motorists are being advised to use alternative routes traveling into Savannah via the Talmadge Memorial Bridge from South Carolina. Traffic is being rerouted traveling northbound into South Carolina along with traffic traveling southbound into Savannah.

Northbound traffic traveling from Savannah may exit onto Hutchinson Island.

The lanes are expected to reopen within the next four hours or until further notice.

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For Immediate Release **Saturday, September 16, 2006**

Robbery suspect dies in car crash

A Garden City man died after he hijacked a car and crashed into a utility pole on Savannah's westside.

The incident occurred shortly after 2 a.m. Saturday when 23-year-old Fledell Edwards-now deceased - robbed a man of his car. The victim reportedly was getting into his silver Ford Crown Victoria at Broughton Lane and Whitaker Street when Edwards approached him with a gun.

The suspect forced him to strip down to his boxer shorts and demanded the keys to his car. Edwards then fled from the scene with all of the victim's belongings.

Members of the Robbery Intervention Detail, saturating the downtown area, saw the victim and the car as it sped off. One officer spoke with the victim as another member of R.I.D. intercepted the car heading west on Bay Street.

Within two minutes of the call, the suspect struck four other cars before slamming into a utility pole at Bay and Hudson streets. Upon impact, the pole snapped in half. The transformer and live wires landed on the car. The damage and live wires prevented police and paramedics from freeing the deceased from the wreckage.

Georgia Power crews responded to the scene and shut off the power to the downed wires. Only a small section of Bay Street was affected by the brief outage.

Paramedics declared Edwards dead at the scene. The "Jaws of Life" had to be used to remove him from the car. Police recovered a 9-mm handgun and the victim's clothing.

An autopsy has been scheduled for Monday to determine the cause of death. Traffic investigators say speed contributed to the crash.

Traffic along Bay Street remain closed from Carolan to Hudson streets, as emergency crews worked to clear debris, and restore the power lines. Neither the robbery victim nor the drivers of the other cars were injured.

Police re-opened Bay Street shortly after 6:30 a.m.



MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release Monday, September 18, 2006

Highway 17 pedestrian fatality

A pedestrian was struck and killed this evening on Highway 17.

Around 8:45, a Chevy Tahoe traveling northbound on Highway 17 struck Sarah Brodman, 41, of Savannah while she was attempting to cross over the highway from North Gamble Road.

Patrol officers immediately responded along with emergency medical personnel but they determined that she was killed on impact.

The driver of the vehicle, Michael Grant, 40, was not injured.

Traffic investigators are conducting a complete investigation into the fatal accident. No charges have been filed at this time.

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For Immediate Release Sunday, September 24, 2006

One-car crash claims life of Ft. Stewart soldier

An alcohol and speed related traffic crash claimed the life of one Fort Stewart soldier and sent another to jail for DUI shortly after 3:30 a.m. Sunday in midtown Savannah. The driver of the car suffered only minor injuries but now faces charges in connection with the crash.

The driver of the Ford Mustang, Kent William East, 21, was headed south on Abercorn Street when he lost control of the car and struck an oak tree in the median at 61st Street. Both of the soldiers had to be rushed to the hospital with injuries suffered in the crash.

The passenger of the car died a short time after arrival to Memorial Health University Medical Center. When SCMPD officers arrived on the scene to investigate, they found signs of alcohol use and indications of excessive speed.

East was booked in to the Chatham County jail for DUI upon his release from the hospital. More charges are pending.

Investigators have identified the passenger and made contact with officials at the base. The name of the deceased will be released after his family is notified.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

Interim Chief Willie Lovett

News Release

Contact: Sergeant Mike Wilson
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For Immediate Release Monday, October 02, 2006

Police search for fatal hit and run driver

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is searching for the driver of a car involved in a fatal crash at 37th and Atlantic streets. The crash occurred shortly after 4p.m. Monday when a man driving a stolen Toyota Camry collided with a Chevy pick up and left the scene.

The driver of the pick up, Malcolm Frazier, 91, and his wife Pearl, 72, had to be rushed to Memorial Health University Medical Center where Mr. Frazier died.

Witnesses tell investigators that the Camry was speeding east on 37th Street when it collided with the pick up. The truck was attempting to cross the intersection, traveling north on Atlantic.

The Camry traveled a short distance after the impact and ended up in a front-yard three houses east of the intersection. A black male, wearing dark short pants with a white T-shirt and black hat left the car, and ran south behind a house on 37th Street.

Police later found the owner of the Camry. He was unaware that his car had been involved in a crash and reported it stolen when notified.

Anyone with information about the driver of the Toyota, who fled the scene, is urged to call police at 232-4141; or call CrimeStoppers.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

Interim Chief Willie Lovett

News Release

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For Immediate Release Saturday, October 07, 2006

Investigative Updates

One-car crash claims life of NY man

The driver of a 2004 Dodge Caravan was killed shortly before 9 p.m. Friday on I-516 just west of the W. Lathrop Avenue off ramp. He was 81-year-old Herman A. Zwick Jr, of Holbrook, NY.

Zwick was ejected from the van after it struck a guardrail and careened nearly 500 feet in the westbound lanes of the highway before coming to rest. He died at the scene.

Witnesses told investigators that the van was traveling at an excessive rate of speed before it entered the curve just before the Bay Street overpass. That is where the driver reportedly lost control and struck the first guardrail, which sent the van spinning out of control.

Traffic along I-516 had to be detoured down the Augusta Avenue exit for several hours after the crash. No other injuries were reported and the roadway reopened shortly after midnight.

Death Investigation-Savannah River

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is still investigating the death of a man whose body was pulled from the Savannah River on Oct. 5. An autopsy has revealed no obvious signs of foul play, although toxicology results are pending.

Police have tentatively identified the victim, but are still in the process of notifying family in another state. The name will be released when that process is complete.



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Monday, October 30, 2006

One man killed in a single-vehicle crash

One man has died following a single-vehicle crash on Abercorn Street.

Savannah-Chatham Police traffic investigators responded to the corner of Abercorn and Douglas Streets shortly after 1:30 this afternoon where they found William Washington, 73, of Savannah dead after crashing into a utility pole.

According to investigators, Washington was traveling in the northbound lane on Abercorn Street when his vehicle drifted into the next lane and crashed into a utility pole at the corner of Douglas Street. No other vehicles were involved in the accident.

Details surrounding the accident are under investigation. Additional information will be released when available.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN
Interim Chief Willie Lovett

News Release

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For Immediate Release Friday, November 03, 2006

Fatal crash on Coffee Bluff Road

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is investigating a 2-car crash that killed one woman and sent another to the hospital. The wreck occurred during rush-hour traffic on Savannah's southside shortly before 8 a.m. Friday.

Diane Salveta, 25, of Hilton Head, SC died after her 1997 Honda collided with a van at the intersection of Coffee Bluff and Honey Bee roads. The passenger in the car, 21-year-old Karen Kendrick of Savannah, suffered minor injuries from the crash.

Paramedics rushed her to Memorial Health University Medical Center. Salveta died at the scene.

Melinda Byck, 45, of Savannah was operating the 2006 Honda Odyssey van headed north on Coffee Bluff when the car, heading west on Honey Bee Road, entered her path.

The van struck the driver's side door of the car. The impact caused the car to spin out of control across the southbound lane of Coffee Bluff Road. Byck was not injured.

Traffic on Coffee Bluff had to be rerouted for three hours while police investigated the crash and removed the debris. The cause of the crash remains under investigation and no charges have been filed.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

Interim Chief Willie Lovett

News Release

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For Immediate Release Sunday November 12, 2006

Police investigate vehicle/pedestrian crash on Bay Street

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department's traffic unit is investigating a crash that sent a Hardeeville, SC man to the hospital Sunday morning. Bruce Fender, 44, had to be rushed to Memorial Health University Medical Center after walking into the path of an SCMPD police cruiser near the intersection of Bay and Jefferson streets.

Traffic investigators and medical crews responded to the scene shortly before 1a.m. When they arrived, police learned that the marked cruiser struck Fender as he attempted to cross Bay Street, heading north between Jefferson and Barnard streets.

Officer Lorenzo Baker was patrolling the entertainment corridor on Bay Street, headed east when Fender walked out in front of his patrol car, according to witnesses. Paramedics rushed Fender to the hospital where he remains in serious condition.

No charges have been filed as police continue with their investigation. More details will be released as they become available.

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For Immediate Release Thursday, December 14, 2006

Grease Spill Forces shut-down of I-516 and 3-car crash

A grease spill has caused a three-car pile up and forced several road closures on Savannah's Westside. The roads include I-516 west to Garden City including the Bay street connector to Main Street and Burnside Boulevard.

The mishap occurred shortly before 1 p.m. when a truck hauling containers of grease began spewing the substance from an unsecured hose valve onto the highway. As the 1993, Kenworth Tanker neared the Bay Street exit, that's where a motorcycle driver lost control and slammed to the pavement. The operator, David McClard suffered minor abrasions but declined medical attention. The driver of a Dump truck lost control and slide into the side a tele-ride passenger van with no passengers aboard. Both drivers escaped injury, but the tele-ride van sustained extensive damage.

SCMPD responded to control and reroute motorists while Savannah and Garden City fire teams assessed the substance of the spill. Moran Environmental Clean-up responded to clear the affected roads. The clean up is expected to last several hours, and will likely run into the rush-hour traffic. The driver of the container truck, Jesse Britt, 61, of St. George, SC faces charges for failing to secure his load.

Motorists are urged to avoid the areas affected and take alternate routes. An advisory will be sent when the roads re-open.

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SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Dean Forest Road fatality

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is investigating a 2-vehicle crash at the intersection of Dean Forest and Wings roads shortly before 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. The crash involved a loaded dump truck and a 2001 Chevy S-10 pickup.

The driver of the S-10 suffered injuries and had to be rushed to Memorial Health University Medical Center, where he later died. Police have identified him as Northern Anderson, 40, of Reidsville, GA.

Investigators have learned that the S-10 pickup was headed south on Dean Forest Road when the dump truck turning west onto Wings Road, entered its path. The vehicles collided in the intersection where police and emergency medical crews responded.

The driver of the dump truck, 74-year-old Vernon Knowles of Springfield, was not injured. No charges have been filed.

Traffic along Dean Forest was reduced to a crawl following the crash, with only one lane open for southbound motorists. Normal traffic-flow was expected to resume by noon, as police continued with their on-scene investigation.

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Monday, December 18, 2006

SCMPD investigating 2-vehicle crash on I-16

Interstate-16 has been reduced to one lane on each side, for both east and westbound traffic near Chatham Parkway. Police shut down portions of the interstate following a two-vehicle collision shortly after 9 a.m. Monday. Traffic investigators estimate that it will be several hours before traffic is completely restored.

Police responded to the scene where a semi-tractor trailer and passenger car had crashed. Both vehicles were reportedly traveling east on I-16 when they collided and somehow traveled across the highway, according to witnesses. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

The car is reportedly crushed beneath the tractor-trailer. The number of occupants or extent of injury has not been determined. The driver of the truck suffered only minor injuries. Emergency medical crews are standing by to make an official assessment of the occupant(s) in the crushed car.

Motorists traveling along the interstate should avoid the area between Dean Forest Road and Chatham Parkway until further notice. More details will be released as they become available.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release Thursday, November 30, 2006

A.M. School Bus crash at Montgomery Cross Roads

Twelve of thirteen students escaped injury this morning after a car collided in to the rear of their school bus on Montgomery Cross Roads near Waters Avenue shortly after 7 a.m. Thursday.

One of the students, age 15, complained of injury, and was taken by ambulance to Memorial Health University Medical Center. However the complaint was not life threatening.

The driver of the car suffered non-life threatening injuries as well, and had to be taken to Candler Hospital. She has been identified as 53-year-old Josephine Coleman of Savannah.

Both vehicles were headed east on Montgomery Cross Roads with Coleman trailing in a 2001 Chevy Malibu. Coleman changed lanes improperly, moving from right to left, according to investigators. The car crashed into the rear of the bus, and had to be towed from the scene.

Police cited Coleman for following too close. The traffic flow along the road was reduced to a crawl for a little more than an hour.

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Monday, December 18, 2006

Eden woman dies in I-16 traffic crash

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is investigating a two-vehicle crash that resulted in the death of a woman and forced the closure of several lanes along Interstate 16. The crash occurred shortly after 9 a.m. Monday when a tractor-trailer and a small passenger car heading east on I-16 collided about a quarter mile west of the Chatham Parkway exit.

The tractor-trailer was in the right lane. The Ford Escort was in the left. Claudis Jackson, 36, of Savannah, lost control of his tractor-trailer and veered into the left-hand lane.

As a result, Melissa Phillips' Escort was forced off the road and across all four lanes of the interstate, where it was pinned between a tree and the semi. Phillips, 36, of Eden, died at the scene. Jackson suffered minor injuries, but did not require medical treatment.

Interstate 16 between Dean Forest Road and Chatham Parkway exit was reduced to one lane for both east and westbound traffic until about 1:30 p.m. No charges have been filed.

Police are still investigating the cause of the crash. More details will be released as they become available.

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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Wednesday, December 20, 2006

SCMPD Officer dies in Abercorn Street crash

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department is investigating a fatal traffic accident that has claimed the life of one of its own. SCMPD Patrolman John Wayne Allen, who was off-duty at the time of the crash, was headed south on Abercorn Street riding a motorcycle shortly after 12:30 p.m. Wednesday when the accident occurred.

He reportedly struck an SUV just south of Mercy Boulevard near St. Joseph's Hospital, heading in the same direction. The officer was thrown from the motorcycle and critically injured.

Paramedics rushed him to Memorial Health University Medical Center, where he died shortly after his arrival. No one else was injured in the crash.

The southbound lanes of Abercorn Street from Largo Road to Dutchtown Road were closed while police conducted their investigation. Motorists are asked to avoid this stretch of roadway until the on-scene investigation is completed.

More information about the officer will be released by Chief Michael Berkow at a press conference scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today in front of the main entrance to the hospital. More details about the wreck will be released as they become available.

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