



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release    January 30, 2005**

### **Fatal Motorcycle Wreck on I-516**

SCMPD Traffic officers are investigating the death of a Savannah man Sunday afternoon in a motorcycle wreck on eastbound I-516 in west Chatham County.

At approximately 3:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Bay Street overpass on I-516 on the report of a wreck involving a 2003 Suzuki motorcycle. Arriving officers found the driver of the motorcycle, Daniel Bruner, age 28, of a Budreau Drive address, lying prone in the road. Arriving officers and emergency medical personnel determined Bruner had already expired due to the severity of his injuries from the wreck.

No other vehicles were involved in the wreck.

Traffic Investigators have determined that Bruner was traveling eastbound from Garden City on I-516 when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle and slid across the road, striking the guardrail.

While the investigation into the fatal wreck is on-going, traffic investigators have determined that excessive speed was at least one contributing factor in the wreck.

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**For Immediate Release Monday, February 14, 2005**

### **Savannah Man Dies in Fatal Crash**

The driver of a 1999 Plymouth Breeze died Sunday night after he rear-ended a stopped vehicle at the intersection of Victory Drive and Habersham Street; and then attempted to flee the scene. He unfortunately lost control of his vehicle and slammed into a tree at the corner of Victory Drive and Harmon Street, only blocks away.

SCMPD traffic investigators responded to the scene of the deadly crash shortly after 10:00 last night. When the officers arrived, they discovered the injured driver and notified emergency medical personnel. The driver was taken to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he later died from his injuries. His name is being withheld until the next of kin is notified.

The investigation has revealed that the victim was eastbound on Victory Drive when he failed to stop in time, slamming into the rear of a Chevy Silverado, driven by Oliver Williams of Savannah. Williams was stopped in the right hand lane of Victory Drive waiting for the traffic light to cycle when his vehicle was struck. He was not injured in the crash. After the impact, the victim went around Williams' vehicle on the left and traveled only blocks before he crashed into the tree.

An autopsy will be performed on Monday to officially determine the cause of death. Investigators reported no indication of the presence of alcohol, but have cited speed as a contributing factor.

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**For Immediate Release March 8, 2005**

## **Car Strikes School Bus at 57<sup>th</sup> and Paulsen Street**

A wreck at 57<sup>th</sup> and Paulsen Street Tuesday afternoon sent a student riding a school bus and the driver of a passenger vehicle that collided with the bus to area hospitals.

Just after 3 p.m. this afternoon, a Toyota Camry, driven by an elderly black male, ran the stop sign as he traveled east on 57<sup>th</sup> Street and struck a Laidlaw School Bus as it traveled south on Paulsen Street. The Camry struck the very front of the bus, was spun southward on Paulsen and careened off the road and through a residential fence. The bus came to a stop just south of the intersection.

The driver of the Camry had to be removed with the use of the Jaws of Life. He was conscious and alert and telling medical personnel of his injuries as he left the scene. He was transported to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment. The driver has been identified but officers are still attempting to contact his family.

There were nineteen occupants on the bus at the time of the accident, 18 middle school students from Oglethorpe Academy and the female bus driver. One student complained of a minor head injury and was transported to Candler Hospital for observation. Another student complained of a sore arm and the driver of the bus received a contusion to the leg. Both were treated at the scene by emergency medical personnel but did not require hospitalization.

Traffic investigators were called to the scene. While additional charges could follow the outcome of the investigation, at the minimum, the driver of the Camry faces a charge of Failure to Yield the Right-of-Way.

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**For Immediate Release March 30, 2005**

## **Diamond Causeway Wreck Kills One, Injures Two**

A wreck on Diamond Causeway, near the Moon River Bridge, killed an elderly man and injured two people late this afternoon.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., a Dodge Dakota Pick-up, driven by Lot Saengthong, 61, was traveling south on Diamond Causeway when he made an illegal left turn into the boat landing at the Moon River Bridge. Vehicles narrowly missed him, but a large "box type" truck also traveling southbound veered to miss the turning vehicle and overturned onto a northbound '94 Nissan Sentra. Investigators have determined that while the Dodge Dakota Pick-up was not actually involved in the wreck, his actions did serve to cause the wreck. The driver of the Sentra, Sherry Freeman, age 49, and her male passenger, were trapped in the vehicle and the "Jaws of Life" had to be used to free them.

The driver of the large truck, Jody Cauley, age 44, was immediately transported to Memorial Health University where he was treated and released. When freed, Freeman was transported to Memorial as well and at the time of this press release was in surgery. The male passenger in the Sentra was pronounced dead at the scene. He has been positively identified and Traffic Investigators, along with a Police Chaplain, are attempting to contact his family.

While Traffic Investigators have charged Saengthong with an Illegal Left Turn, investigators will be meeting with prosecutors to discuss additional, more serious charges. Witnesses told Traffic Investigators that Saengthong continued to the boat ramp after the accident and proceeded to go fishing without reporting the accident or rendering aid to the crash victims.

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**For Immediate Release April 16, 2005**

### **Fatal Motorcycle Wreck at I-516 & Veteran's Parkway**

SCMPD Traffic officers are investigating the death of a west Savannah man Saturday afternoon in a motorcycle wreck at the I-516 and Veteran's Parkway interchange.

Just minutes after 7 p.m., officers were dispatched to the southbound side of I-516, at the exit to Veteran's Parkway on the report of a wreck involving a Suzuki motorcycle. Arriving officers found the driver of the motorcycle, James Johnson, age 33, of a Clairmont Avenue address, lying prone near the guardrail. Officers and emergency medical personnel determined Johnson had already expired due to the severity of his injuries from the wreck.

No other vehicles were involved in the wreck. A police chaplain accompanied Traffic Officers to provide a measure of comfort to the family when they were officially notified of Johnson's death.

Traffic Investigators have determined that Johnson was traveling southbound on I-516, attempting to take the right turn exit onto Veteran's Parkway when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle, slid across the road, and struck the guardrail.

While the investigation into the fatal wreck is on-going, traffic investigators have determined that excessive speed was at least one contributing factor in the wreck.

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**For Immediate Release April 16, 2005**

## **Truman Parkway Wreck Kills One**

A wreck on Truman Parkway, at the Delesseps Avenue off-ramp, killed a young man this evening.

At approximately 9:55 p.m., a '95 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera, driven by a young adult white male, was traveling south on Truman Parkway when it left the roadway just past the Delesseps Avenue exit, struck the guard rail and flipped over. The driver of the vehicle was killed upon impact. Witnesses to the wreck indicated the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed, changing lanes repeatedly and flashing his lights just prior to the wreck. The driver appeared to have lost control of his vehicle and veered sharply to the right, off the road, striking the guardrail.

Patrol Officers, Traffic Investigators, and Savannah Fire personnel responded to the scene and worked to remove the body of the driver from the overturned vehicle which was found lying on its side after the wreck. Traffic Investigators have determined that high speed was at least one of the contributing causes. They have also determined that the driver was not wearing his seatbelt which allowed him to be partially thrown from the vehicle. The driver was the lone occupant of the vehicle and no other vehicles were involved in the wreck.

Traffic officers have tentatively identified the driver and will make every attempt to contact his family overnight accompanied by a police chaplain.

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**For Immediate Release Monday, April 18, 2005**

### **Savannah Man Dies in Motorcycle Accident on GA. 204**

A Savannah man died shortly before 11:p.m. last night on Chatham County's Westside after loosing control of his motorcycle on GA. 204. The victim has been identified as 35 year-old Lonnie Ernest Norton of Buckhalter Road.

Traffic investigators responded to the scene where they say the victim was traveling east on GA. 204 when he lost control of his motorcycle and left the roadway, crashing in to a ditch. The driver was ejected and died at the scene.

The crash occurred in a sharp curve located approximately 1.5 miles west of I-95. Investigators have cited "Too fast For Conditions," as a contributing factor.

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**For Immediate Release May 1, 2005**

### **DeRenne Head-On Collision Proves Fatal**

A wreck on DeRenne Avenue this morning claimed the life of a Savannah man and left another woman in the hospital.

At approximately 9:47 a.m., a 2000 Honda Civic, driven by Jim Henry Henderson, age 58, of a Betty Drive address was traveling westbound on DeRenne Avenue when he veered into on-coming eastbound traffic, striking head-on a 1994 Oldsmobile Silhouette driven by Rosalie Edwards, age 64, of a Pine Valley Drive address.

Patrol officers immediately responded and emergency medical workers transported Henderson to Candler Hospital while Edwards was transported to Memorial Health University. Edwards was still being treated for what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries at the time of this press release. Henderson died a short while after arriving at Candler.

Edwards told Traffic Investigators that she credited her seatbelt for saving her life in the crash. While the airbags deployed in Henderson's Honda, it has not yet been determined if he was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.

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**For Immediate Release Thursday, May 05, 2005**

### **Waters Avenue Fatal Collision**

A traffic collision that occurred in the 7400 block of Waters Avenue shortly before 11 o'clock this morning has claimed the life of a Savannah woman.

The collision occurred after the driver of a 2001 Ford Windstar, driven by Jolana Bradshaw, age 52, exited the Enmark station and failed to yield the right of way to a 1996 Honda Accord driven by 75-year-old Donice McNamara of Savannah. The southbound Honda slammed into the passenger side of Bradshaw's vehicle, causing it to careen out of control across Waters Avenue, and collide with two unattended vehicles parked at a nearby business complex.

Emergency medical crews arrived on the scene moments after the collision and rushed Bradshaw to Memorial Health University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead shortly after arrival. The driver of the Honda suffered no apparent injuries in the crash.

Investigators have determined that the fatal crash resulted due to driver error. Both drivers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash.

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**For Immediate Release May 15, 2005**

### **Serious Abercorn Wreck Turns Fatal**

A wreck on Abercorn Street involving four cars killed one man and sent five others to local hospitals.

At approximately 8:18 p.m. Saturday night, an Eagle Talon, driven by Brian Epting was traveling south on Abercorn between Lee Blvd and Jackson Blvd when it swerved from the center lane into the left lane striking a Lexus driven by Robert Joseph Duffy. The Lexus veered out of control across the median into oncoming traffic striking a Nissan Altima driven by Pamela Freeman head-on. The Altima spun out of control striking a Suzuki Esteem.

In all, six people were transported to local hospitals. The driver of the Eagle Talon, Brian Epting, age 20, did not require hospitalization. From the Lexus, Robert Duffy, age 82, and his passenger, Betty Shore, age 76, were transported to Memorial Health University along with Pamela Freeman, age 45, and Whitney Hall, age 11, from the Nissan Altima. Robert Duffy died later at Memorial from his injuries. Betty Shore and Pamela Freeman's injuries were not described as serious however, Whitney Hall is listed in critical but stable condition in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Both occupants from the Suzuki Esteem were taken to Candler Hospital but their injuries were not described as serious.

Patrol Officers, and Traffic Investigators responded to the scene which left Abercorn tied up for more than two hours. Traffic Investigators are investigating Brian Epting's actions prior to the wreck and his reasons for swerving into another lane of traffic, causing the fatal wreck. Charges are pending the outcome of the investigation.

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**For Immediate Release Tuesday, May 17, 2005**

### **Falling Tree Kills Elderly Rincon Woman**

Strong winds, and heavy rain during a mid-afternoon storm have claimed the life of a 71- year-old Rincon woman and sent her 73-year old husband to the hospital with complaints of chest pains. The incident occurred shortly before 4:30 today as a storm moved swiftly through the south side of Savannah.

The couple was just leaving the doctor's office in Central Park located at 340 Eisenhower Drive where they sat in their parked 2005 Cadillac waiting for the winds and storm to subside. Within minutes of waiting out the storm, a large oak tree fell and crushed the couples' car, leaving the husband and wife trapped inside.

Police, fire and emergency medical crews responded to the scene within minutes of the report. Fire crews used the "jaws of life," to free the couple from the wreckage but medical personnel were unable to detect any pulse on the elderly woman.

Police have identified the couple as Glyness and James Lockhart, of Rincon, Georgia. While Mr. Lockhart escaped the incident with only minor injuries, doctors admitted him in to Memorial Health University Medical Center for observation.

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### **For Immediate Release May 23, 2005**

### **Traffic Investigators Seeking More Information on Fatal Abercorn Wreck**

Traffic Investigators are seeking additional information from the public concerning the fatal wreck on Abercorn Street a little more than a week ago.

At approximately 8:18 p.m. May 14<sup>th</sup>, an Eagle Talon, driven by Brian Epting, age 20, was traveling south on Abercorn between Lee Blvd and Jackson Blvd when it swerved from the center lane into the left lane striking a Lexus driven by Robert Joseph Duffy. The Lexus veered out of control across the median and into oncoming traffic striking a Nissan Altima. A Suzuki Esteem sustained minor damage from striking a curb while braking to avoid the wreck.

Police have received information from witnesses that the Eagle Talon that caused the fatal wreck was racing a red Mustang at the time. Witnesses at the scene told officers that a red Mustang was seen leaving the scene at a high rate of speed. Investigators are seeking information from the public on the red Mustang and possible identification of its driver.

In all, six people were transported to local hospitals. Brian Epting did not require hospitalization. From the Lexus, Robert Duffy, age 82, died as a result of his injuries. The remaining victims have all been released from local hospitals.

The investigation continues into Brian Epting's actions prior to the wreck and his reasons for swerving into another lane of traffic, resulting in the fatal wreck. Charges against Epting are pending the outcome of the investigation.

If anyone has information concerning this red Mustang, they are encouraged to contact Traffic Investigators at 652-6650 or CrimeStoppers, anonymously at 234-2020. A reward of up to \$2500 is available from CrimeStoppers for critical information in this case.

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**For Immediate Release    Saturday, July 02, 2005**

### **Fatal Single-vehicle Collision**

A Wilmington Island man has died following a single-vehicle crash that occurred on South Cromwell road shortly after 2:30 this morning.

SCMPD traffic fatality investigators responded to the scene following the deadly crash and discovered the driver of an overturned 1993 Chevy Pick-up partially ejected from the wreckage. An emergency medical crew arrived on the scene within minutes of the collision but was unable to revive the victim, declaring him dead at the scene.

Investigators say that 26-year-old John Martin Schuster III, of Savannah was traveling south on S. Cromwell when he collided with a brick mailbox situated at #12 S. Cromwell Road. The impact caused the vehicle to rotate and overturn, partially ejecting the driver, killing him instantly.

Evidence found at the scene suggested that alcohol was likely a contributing factor. Police are continuing their investigation to determine the blood alcohol concentration level of the victim, as well any other contributors in this fatal crash.

The July Fourth holiday weekend began yesterday at 6 p.m. and ends Monday at midnight. An estimated fourteen people will die on Georgia's Highways during this 78-hour period; sadly, one our own in Chatham County is now amongst those statistics. Please, if you must drink, do not drive; have a designated driver. Obey the speed limits and buckle up, the life you save may well be your own.

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**For Immediate Release    Saturday, July 09, 2005**

### **Motorcyclist Dies in Traffic Crash**

A motorcyclist died this morning after slamming into a guardrail while traveling in the westbound lane of I-516 near the West Lathrop Avenue exit.

SCMPD traffic investigators and emergency medical personnel responded to the scene shortly after eight this morning. They arrived to find a 34-year-old motorcyclist identified as Aaron Rauch, of Savannah, dead from injuries suffered in the crash.

The investigation revealed Rauch lost control of his 1984 BMW motorcycle as he negotiated a curve along the stretch of highway and struck a guardrail. Upon impact, he was ejected and killed.

Investigators have attributed roadway conditions and speed as factors in the deadly crash. Police rerouted traffic for approximately two hours as they investigated the scene and cleared the wreckage.

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**For Immediate Release July 18, 2005**

## **Bicyclist Killed on Chevis Road**

A wreck on Chevis Road, at the Sylvania Road intersection, killed a Hispanic bicyclist last night.

Just before 9:30 p.m. Sunday night, a Hispanic male was riding a red bicycle without lights on Chevis Road when he was struck by a Jeep Cherokee driven by Robert Carl Maner. The bike and vehicle were traveling the same eastbound direction, away from nearby Highway 17. The driver of the bicycle was thrown suffering very serious injuries. Police and emergency medical personnel were called to the scene. The bicyclist was immediately transported to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment. He died shortly after arrival from his injuries.

Traffic Investigators have determined that the bike was not equipped for riding on the highway at night and the intersection is not equipped with street lights. While the investigation into the wreck is on-going, officers do not anticipate charges against the driver of the Jeep Cherokee.

Traffic officers have tentatively identified the driver, who was carrying an ID, but neither his age nor his address were listed. He is described as an adult Hispanic male, believed to be in his mid-to-late 20's or early 30's. Officers are working to make contact with any family members he may have in the area. Anyone with information on a possible family contact is encouraged to contact Traffic Officers at 912-652-6650 or CrimeStoppers, anonymously, at 234-2020.

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**For Immediate Release July 18, 2005**

### **18-Year-Old Motorcycle Driver Killed on Lehigh Avenue**

A wreck on Lehigh Ave this evening killed the driver of a motorcycle when he ran off the road and struck a church.

Just after 7 p.m. Monday night, officers were called to 9630 Lehigh Avenue, just off Ferguson Avenue in the Pinpoint community, on the report of a serious wreck involving a motorcycle. Officers arrived to find an unresponsive teenager lying near his Honda motorcycle, wedged against the ramp walkway leading into the front of the Sweet Field of Eden Baptist Church. The young man was immediately transported to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment. He died from his grievous injuries a short time later.

The driver has been positively identified and traffic investigators are working to contact his family. The Wilshire neighborhood teenager was 18 years of age.

Traffic Investigators have determined that the motorcycle was heading north on Lehigh Avenue, attempting to round the curve in front of the church when he failed to successfully negotiate the curve. The bike skidded off the road, eventually striking the ramp leading to the church. Traffic investigators have indicated that speed was at least one of the factors that contributed to this fatal wreck. The paper tag on the rear of the motorcycle indicated the bike had been obtained two days ago. A further check of the victim's license indicated he had a regular Class C driver's license but not a motorcycle license.

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**For Immediate Release July 24, 2005**

## **Early Morning I-95 Crash Kills Four Motorists**

An early morning wreck on I-95, just south of the I-16 interchange, killed four people and sent six to the hospital for treatment, slowing traffic for more than 5 hours.

At approximately 6:40 a.m. Sunday morning, an RV, pulling a U-Haul trailer, was traveling southbound on I-95 when it collided with a Chevrolet Malibu that was reported to be parked in the right side emergency lane. The force of the impact carried all three vehicles off the road, down the embankment and into the tree line. Four occupants of the Chevrolet Malibu were killed. A fifth occupant, a juvenile Hispanic male, was airlifted to Memorial Health University via LifeStar helicopter along with an adult female from the RV. There were five occupants in the RV, three adults and two juveniles. The other four occupants of the RV were transported to Memorial for treatment as well.

SCMPD officers were joined by emergency responders from Pooler Police, Pooler Fire, Southside Fire and GA Department of Transportation. Working in concert, southbound traffic was reduced to two lanes as emergency personnel worked to provide medical treatment for the injured and began the task of removing the bodies of those victims killed in the crash. A police chaplain was summoned to the scene and followed the survivors to the hospital to provide some measure of comfort and support.

For the moment, the deceased are only identified as two adult Hispanic females and two juvenile Hispanic males. Their names and ages will be released after officers have made contact with their families. The deceased are believed to be Florida residents. At last report, the surviving juvenile from the Malibu was being taken into surgery, having suffered very serious injuries. An adult male and adult female from the RV are said to have also sustained serious injuries. Two teenagers and an adult male from the RV were said to have suffered only minor injuries. The occupants of the RV are believed to be residents of Virginia.

Traffic Investigators are working to determine the exact causes of the fatal crash. Charges are pending the results of the investigation.

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**For Immediate Release July 25, 2005**

## **Fatal I-95 Crash Update**

Three people remain hospitalized this morning from yesterday's I-95 crash that killed four people.

At approximately 6:40 a.m. Sunday morning, an RV, pulling a U-Haul trailer, was traveling southbound on I-95 when it collided with a Chevrolet Malibu that officers determined was parked in the right side emergency lane near mile marker #98. The force of the impact carried all three vehicles off the road, down the embankment and into the tree line. Four occupants of the Chevrolet Malibu were killed. A fifth occupant, a juvenile Hispanic male, was airlifted to Memorial Health University via LifeStar helicopter along with an adult female from the RV. There were a total of five occupants in the RV, three adults and two juveniles, all of which were transported to Memorial for treatment.

Monday morning, three crash victims remain hospitalized. From the Chevrolet Malibu, Joshua Feliciano, 12, is listed in critical condition in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. From the RV, Nancy Briggs, age 54, is listed in critical condition and Stanley Dixon, age 66, is listed in Fair condition. Robert Briggs, age 47, and his two teenage children, Cody Briggs, age 13, and Ashley Briggs, age 16, were treated and released.

The driver of the RV, Robert Briggs has been charged with four counts of Vehicular Homicide (2<sup>nd</sup> degree) and Failure to Maintain Lane. Additional charges could result from the continuing investigation.

The deceased from the Chevrolet Malibu are identified as follows; Aurea Feliciano, age 33, Yahira Sanchez, age 25, Xavier Acevado, age 14, and House Sanchez, age 10. The Feliciano family is from Tampa, FL. The Sanchez family members lived with the Feliciano's in Tampa but were residents of Puerto Rico. Xavier Acevado, a nephew, was from Connecticut. The Briggs Family is from Gaithersburg, MD. The RV they rented was from Manassas, VA.

SCMPD officers were joined by emergency responders from Pooler Police, Pooler Fire, Southside Fire and the GA Department of Transportation. It was determined late yesterday that the wreck actually is within the Pooler city limits and jurisdiction. SCMPD Traffic Investigators will continue to work with Pooler Police as this investigation proceeds. All further information concerning this fatal crash will be released by Pooler Police authorities.

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**For Immediate Release July 25, 2005**

### **Elderly Savannah Man Dies in Victory Drive Crash**

An elderly Savannah man died late Saturday night at Memorial Health University from injuries he sustained earlier in the day in a crash on Victory Drive.

At approximately 10:20 a.m. Saturday morning, a 2004 GMC Sierra, driven by Henry Williams, age 84, of a W 47<sup>th</sup> Street address was traveling eastbound on Victory Drive at the Barnard Street intersection when he was struck from the side by a 1993 Mazda 626 driven by Carey R. Salter of a Quacco Road address. Officers determined that Salter ran the red-light, colliding with Williams.

Patrol officers immediately responded and emergency medical workers transported Williams to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment. He died later Saturday night as a result of the injuries he sustained in the crash.

While Patrol officers have charged Salter with Failure to Stop at a Red Light and Driving Unlicensed, the investigation into the crash continues and additional charges could follow as the investigation goes forward.

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**For Immediate Release August 12, 2005**

### **Car-Jacking Suspect Vehicle Crashes at Ash and Anderson**

Two suspects are being treated at Memorial Health University after they crashed their stolen vehicle in east Savannah late Thursday night.

While on normal patrol Thursday night near Wheaton Street and Hitch Drive, Downtown Precinct Patrol Officer David Leonard spotted a red Honda that he had taken a report on two days earlier in which it had been stolen during a car-jacking. Officer Leonard attempted a routine traffic stop but the vehicle refused to stop and fled. As the suspect vehicle fled south on Ash Street, it blew through the stop sign at Henry and continued to Anderson where it blew through the stop sign once again, striking a green Ford Explorer traveling east bound on Anderson. The two vehicles continued their momentum off the street and into a grassy area on the southeast corner of the intersection.

Emergency medical crews and Savannah Firefighters were immediately called to the scene. An adult female and a child exited the Ford Explorer but the adult male driver had to be assisted from the wrecked vehicle. All three were conscious and alert and conversing with officers and medical technicians before being transported to Memorial Health University for evaluation. Initial reports from officers indicated the two suspects from the red Honda suffered injuries that were described as serious. Both were removed from the Honda by police and firefighters and taken to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment where, at last report, one was already in ICU and the other was still being treated in the Trauma Unit.

Officers at the scene recovered a handgun and crack cocaine from the stolen vehicle.

Traffic Investigators were called to the scene and will fully investigate the incident. Charges against the two suspects are pending their recovery.

Officers are working to identify the three occupants of the Ford Explorer and the two suspects from the red Honda.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release Tuesday, August 16, 2005**

### **Child Struck by Two Vehicles**

A young boy was listed in critical condition at Memorial Health University Medical Center around 7:00 this evening, after he was struck by two vehicles, at Victory Drive and Live Oak Street on Savannah's east side.

The child, identified as Ayccari Ellison, age seven, of Savannah was attempting to cross the four lanes of traffic while riding his bicycle north from Daffin Park to Live Oak. The child traveled in to the path of an eastbound Nissan Maxima driven by 22-year-old Theresa Campbell, of Savannah. The force of the impact ejected the boy from the bike and onto the pavement. Campbell pulled over, but not before the child jumped up and began running across the westbound lanes of Victory, where a Ford Taurus subsequently struck him. The driver of the Ford, Faith Quarterman, age 28, of Savannah also stopped to render aid.

Police arrived on the scene within minutes of the accident where they re-routed traffic until emergency medical personnel transported the child to the hospital.

During the initial investigation, police could not determine the identity or address of the child who was initially listed in the hospital as "unknown."

The identity of the child was revealed after police responded to a residence only blocks away from the accident scene to take a report of a missing child shortly after 9:30 tonight.

Neither driver was cited in the accident. The investigation remains open.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release August 28, 2005**

## **Veterans Parkway Wreck Kills One**

Early Sunday morning a wreck on Veterans Parkway killed a Hispanic male when the car he was driving rolled over numerous times.

Just after 1 a.m., a witness called police saying a very serious wreck had just occurred on the southbound side of Veteran's Parkway, approximately 1 mile south of the Chatham Parkway exit. The witness told police the Isuzu Rodeo was traveling at a high rate of speed when the driver apparently lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle rolled over a number of times before coming to rest on the shoulder of the southbound side of the highway. Police and emergency crews were immediately dispatched but the driver of the vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene.

Traffic Investigators have concluded from the evidence at the scene and witness testimony that speed was at least one of the contributing causes. The driver was the lone occupant of the vehicle and no other vehicles were involved in the wreck.

Traffic officers have tentatively identified the driver as an adult Hispanic male and will make every attempt to contact his family, accompanied by a police chaplain, prior to releasing his identity.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

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**For Immediate Release Sunday, September 04, 2005**

### **Alhambra Apartments Fatal Motorcycle Collision**

A motorcycle accident has claimed the life of a man who lost control of his bike while riding in the parking lot of the Alhambra Apartments located at 2200 E. Victory Drive.

SCMPD traffic investigators responded to the scene around 6:30 p.m. where witnesses reported the operator of a Suzuki motorcycle “stunt-riding and popping wheelies,” in the parking lot before losing control and crashing the bike.

When police and emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene, they found several residents of the complex administering CPR to the victim. Emergency medical crews rushed him to Memorial Health University Medical Center where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Investigators say that the victim, identified as 22-year-old Robert Hebert was traveling east in the rear parking lot of the complex when he struck a curb and crashed into a brick wall. He was not wearing head protection at the time of the crash.

Robert Hebert was a resident of the apartment complex, and native of Beaufort, South Carolina. He was in Savannah attending college at Savannah State University.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

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**For Immediate Release Tuesday, September 20, 2005**

### **Gulf Stream Road Fatal Motorcycle Collision**

A motorcycle collision has claimed the life of a man who lost control of his bike while traveling west on Gulf Stream Road. The driver was killed after his bike struck a guardrail just west of the airport's terminal service entrance near Gulf Stream Court.

Airport police initially responded to the scene and called for emergency medical personnel and SCMPD traffic fatality investigators. Emergency medical personnel responded and declared the driver dead at the scene

Investigators of SCMPD traffic unit responded to the scene around 2:30 p.m. where witnesses reported the operator of the motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed, "weaving in and out" of traffic before crashing.

According to investigators, the victim was traveling west along the stretch of roadway passing several cars on the double yellow line. As the driver attempted to negotiate a curve while passing, he was met by oncoming traffic in the eastbound lane. Attempts to change back into the westbound lane proved fatal. The Suzuki-1000 traveled onto the grassy shoulder where the driver ejected and struck several of the guardrail support beams.

The victim has been identified as 39-year-old Kenneth James Key of Savannah man. Mr. Key was an employee at Gulf Stream Aerospace.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
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**For Immediate Release Friday, September 23, 2005**

### **Whitefield & Truman Parkway Fatal Collision**

A two-car collision has claimed the life of a man and sent the passenger of his vehicle to the hospital with serious injuries. The collision occurred this morning shortly after 11:30 on Whitefield Avenue just north of the Truman parkway.

According to traffic investigators, a Mitsubishi Galant traveling north on Whitefield Avenue struck the rear of a Jeep Liberty Sport just north of the Truman Parkway. Upon impact, the Galant continued to travel north on Whitefield approximately .1mile and crash in to a tree in front of Hess School.

The impact caused the Jeep to spin out of control and come to rest at the intersection of Whitefield Avenue and Old Montgomery Road. The driver of the Jeep, identified as Joseph Michael Rector, age 35 escaped the deadly crash unharmed.

Emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene within minutes of the crash, rushing the both occupants of the Galant to Memorial Health University Medical Center. The driver, Samuel B. Rountree, age 42 of Savannah died shortly after arrival. His passenger, 49-year-old Dorris Smith suffered serious injury and had to be admitted.

The cause of the deadly crash remains under investigation. An autopsy of the deceased has been scheduled to aid in determining the exact cause of death. Additional details will be released as they are made available.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release September 29, 2005**

### **Fatal Crash on I-516 Claims One Life**

A wreck on I-516 near the Tremont Road on-ramp proved fatal this morning for one of the motorists and a second was seriously injured. Northbound traffic on the major thoroughfare was tied up for hours as officers worked to disentangle all the vehicles and accumulate sufficient evidence to fully investigate the crash.

At approximately 5:36 a.m., a 1987 Mazda Pick-up truck was struck from behind by a 1994 Nissan Sentra driven by Emerson Blauvelt Quaile causing excessive damage to the truck and scattering the truck bed's contents into the highway. A toolbox from the truck landed in the road and was struck by a third vehicle, a 1990 Jeep Cherokee driven by Jeffrey Jermaine Cummings. Cummings, age 32, was not seriously injured in the wreck.

Patrol officers immediately responded and emergency medical workers transported the driver of the Mazda pickup and Quaile to Memorial Health University's Trauma Unit for treatment. The driver of the Mazda Pickup died in surgery as a result of his grievous injuries. Quaile, age 48, is listed in serious condition.

Traffic officers have tentatively identified the driver of the Mazda Pick-Up and are working to contact his family before releasing his identity. He is described as an adult black male in his early 50's.

Traffic investigators are working to determine the dynamics of the wreck. Charges are pending the results of their on-going investigation.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN

*Chief Dan Flynn*

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**For Immediate Release October 8, 2005**

### **Pedestrian Killed on Highway 204**

A pedestrian was struck and killed this morning on Highway 204.

At approximately 6:25 a.m., an adult white male was struck by at least two vehicles on Highway 204, just east of the Highway 17 interchange. The man died instantly. The pedestrian was in the passing lane on the eastbound side of Hwy 204 at the time he was hit. Two vehicles, a Toyota Camry and Ford Van used for medical transport struck him. The occupants of the vehicles were not injured physically.

At the time of the wreck it was still dark and there was a light fog in the area.

Patrol officers immediately responded along with emergency medical personnel but they determined that the victim had died upon impact.

Officers could not find identification on the victim so they are working with forensics and the medical examiner to make positive identification. The man appeared to have been in his 30's or 40's.

Traffic investigators are conducting a complete investigation into the fatal incident. Charges, if any, will follow the conclusion of the investigation.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

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**For Immediate Release    Saturday, October 15, 2005**

### **Fatal Collision Dean Forest Road & Highway 80**

Chadwick Lee Salyer age 24, of Kingsport, TN died this evening at Memorial Health University Medical Center from injuries suffered in an early morning two-vehicle collision on Dean Forest Road just south of Highway 80.

The rear-end collision, which claimed the life of Salyer, also sent the driver of the other vehicle to the hospital.

Dan Warren Jr., age 52 of Savannah, was identified as the other driver who was treated for minor injuries at Memorial and released.

According to traffic investigators, Salyer was critically injured shortly before 3 a.m. after crashing his Mitsubishi Eclipse into the rear of Warren's semi tractor-trailer. Both vehicles were moving southbound on Dean Forest Road, and had just cleared the intersection when the collision occurred.

Emergency medical and fire personnel arrived on the scene within minutes of the crash, where they had to extricate Salyer from the wreckage.

Investigators have cited alcohol as a contributing factor on the part of Salyer.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release    Saturday, October 15, 2005**

### **Pedestrian Seriously Injured in Traffic Collision**

In a chain of events that sent a pedestrian to the hospital and landed the driver of a vehicle in jail, police found that alcohol was the common denominator in both events.

The pedestrian suffered serious injuries shortly before 11:30 last night after he walked into the path of a vehicle while crossing Whitefield Avenue. Police identified him as 29-year-old Damion Ballard, of Savannah.

Emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene within minutes of the crash and rushed him to Memorial Health University Medical Center.

SCMPD traffic investigators identified John Dunn, of Savannah, as the driver of the Toyota 4-Runner that struck the pedestrian. Dunn was traveling south on Whitefield Avenue, but had little time to react when Ballard walked in front of his vehicle at the intersection of Whitefield and Old Whitefield Avenue.

Upon impact, Dunn stopped immediately to check on the pedestrian and call for help, according to investigators.

Within moments of checking the pedestrian, Dunn narrowly escaped injury himself, when an impaired driver of a Honda Accord crashed into the rear of his vehicle.

Officers arrived at the scene and located the driver of the Honda, as he walked away from the scene with no injuries. They later identified him as James Vincent Kalinke, 22, of Savannah. The officers arrested him for driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident.

The investigation remains open but no charges are expected to be filed against the driver of the Toyota that struck the pedestrian. Investigators did indicate that alcohol consumption on the part of the pedestrian was apparent at the scene and blood alcohol results are pending.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

## METROPOLITAN

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**For Immediate Release Monday, November 14, 2005**

### **East 38<sup>th</sup> Street Fatal Motorcycle Crash**

SCMPD traffic officers are investigating a motorcycle crash that has left one man dead.

Officers responded to the end of East 38th Street, approximately 500 feet east of Loyola Drive around 7:00 this morning, where the body of a man and his motorcycle was discovered. The man was completely clothed in motorcycle gear, including his helmet, and lay dead next to the Honda VTX-1300S.

A nearby resident called to report the scene to police this morning after observing the motorcycle and its driver lying motionless in the open field. Residents in the neighborhood reported seeing the headlights from the motorcycle sometime last night between 7 and 10:30, but thought nothing of it until this morning when the discovery was made.

Based on the evidence at the scene, investigators have determined that the motorcyclist was traveling east on an unpaved grassy portion of 38th Street when the driver struck a raised manhole cover and lost control of the bike. The driver was subsequently ejected and died at the scene. Investigators have identified the driver as 46-year-old David Silas of Savannah.

The victim's body has been taken to the GBI Crime where an autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death. A preliminary examination of the victim at the scene revealed injuries consistent with this type of crash.

Investigators are continuing their investigation to determine the exact time of the fatal crash. Anyone with information about this incident should call the SCMPD Traffic Unit at 652-6651.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **News Release**

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**For Immediate Release Thursday, December 22, 2005**

### **Fatal Two-Vehicle Collision**

SCMPD traffic officers are investigating an early morning collision that has claimed the life of a man on Chatham County's Westside. The collision occurred shortly before 6a.m. today at the intersection of Quacco Road and Berwick Lakes Boulevard.

The victim died from injuries suffered in the crash shortly after his arrival at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Investigators have learned that the victim was traveling west on Quacco Road, operating a 1983 BMW motorcycle, when he crashed into the side of a GMC pickup. The driver of the GMC, Justin Fisher, 28, was exiting the Berwick Lakes subdivision, turning east onto Quacco Road when the two vehicles collided.

The investigation is ongoing and no charges have been filed. The name of the victim, who is a U.S. Coastguardsman, stationed in Savannah, is being withheld, pending notification of his family.

Additional details and charges, if any, will be released when the investigation is complete.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

## **News Release**

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**For Immediate Release Thursday, December 22, 2005**

### **White Bluff Road Fatal Two-Car Collision**

One of the drivers involved in a two-car collision on White Bluff Road shortly after 9 p.m. last night has died. Robert Legette, 49, of Savannah died shortly after arriving at Memorial Health University Medical Center from injuries suffered during the crash. He was within blocks of his Daveitta Drive home when the crash occurred.

Nikea D. McQueen, 27, of Savannah, was the driver of the second vehicle involved in the crash. She too was taken to the hospital, where she remains in critical condition.

The two Honda passenger cars collided head-on at the intersection of White Bluff Road and Davidson Avenue as Legette tried to pass traffic while traveling south in the northbound lane of White Bluff Road. McQueen was traveling north on White Bluff, but was unable to avoid the collision.

The investigation remains open and no charges have been filed. Further details and factors contributing to the crash will be released when the investigation is complete.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

**METROPOLITAN**  
*Chief Dan Flynn*

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**For Immediate Release    Friday, December 23, 2005**

### **Redgate Farms Death Investigation**

SCMPD detectives are investigating the death of a man whose body was found floating in a pond behind his, Red Gate Farms home on Chatham County's Westside this afternoon.

Police responded to the 100 block of Red Gate Farms Road shortly after 1:30 p.m. today after receiving the report. The body of John Smith, 51 had been pulled from the pond and lie motionless on the bank when police arrived.

Detectives have learned that the victim was last seen around 9:30 last night in his car, parked behind the home. Family members began searching for him this afternoon when his son made the discovery.

The victim's 2004 Chevy Malibu was also found submerged in the pond with the driver's side door open with the gear engaged in "Drive." There were no obvious signs of foul play, but detectives did find evidence of alcohol in the vehicle.

The body has been sent to the GBI Crime Lab for an autopsy, where the cause of death will be determined. In the meantime, the investigation will remain open, pending the outcome of the results from the autopsy.

###



# SAVANNAH CHATHAM POLICE

METROPOLITAN  
*Interim Chief Willie Lovett*

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**For Immediate Release    Saturday, December 24, 2005**

### **Fatal Collision on Interstate 95**

SCMPD traffic officers are investigating a traffic crash that claimed the life of a man on Interstate 95 shortly before 3:00 this morning. Wesley Williams, 37 of Pooler, Ga., was rushed to Memorial Health University Medical Center to be treated for injuries he suffered from the crash but died within hours of his arrival.

Williams was driving north along the interstate near milepost 106 when his GMC pickup veered off the left shoulder of the roadway. The vehicle struck the guardrail and slammed in to a metal post.

The victim, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle upon impact, according to investigators. The officers could find no signs of alcohol, but are still investigating to determine if speed or fatigue played a part in the deadly crash.

Williams' death is the first in Chatham County since the start of the Christmas holiday travel period, which ends at midnight December 26.

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