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#### POLICE, FIRE AND COURTS BRIEFS

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Article Text:

b>CAMDEN / Former Linwood woman admits tax fraud

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A former Linwood resident has admitted to filing 30 fraudulent tax returns -- including 28 for deceased New Jersey residents -- totaling more than \$120,000.

Candy L. Atohi, 37, of Warne, N.C., said she was living in Linwood when she filed tax returns Jan. 14, 2003, for herself and her sister, claiming refunds of \$9,272 and \$2,214, respectively. She also admitted that in 2002 she prepared tax returns using the names and Social Security numbers of 28 deceased people who were at one time New Jersey residents. The total claims were about \$108,694, according to U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie. As a result of those filings, the IRS electronically transferred about \$33,265 into an account in the name of Atohi's mother.

Atohi pleaded guilty Thursday in Camden to one count of making a false claim for a refund of taxes from the IRS and one count of knowingly transferring without legal authority the identity of a deceased individual.

U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler set bail at \$100,000 bond and set sentencing for Jan. 30. The false claim charge carries a maximum prison sentence of five years and a fine of \$250,000. The charge for using a deceased individual's identity carries a maximum term of 15 years in prison and \$250,000.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system, so defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP / Woman assaulted while jogging near mall

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Police said Thursday they are looking for a man who assaulted a woman jogging on the bicycle path behind the Shore Mall.

The victim was running back toward her vehicle, which was parked near the mall, at about 6 p.m. Tuesday, when a man on a bicycle knocked her to the ground and started grabbing her, police said. The victim, whose name was not released, kicked and struck at her attacker, and he got back on his bike and fled north toward the Black Horse Pike. The victim drove directly to the police station to report the incident.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, about 30 to 35 years old, with a light freckled complexion, a scraggly moustache and short, dark hair, police said. He was wearing a bright-orange T-shirt, blue jeans and white-and-black sneakers. The bicycle is described as a dark, sport-type.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call the Egg Harbor Township police Detective Division at (609) 926-4051.

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP / English Creek Avenue crash hurts two

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Two people suffered minor injuries and traffic was detoured for about an hour after a three-vehicle accident on English Creek Avenue, police said.

Francis Cahill, 45, of Egg Harbor Township, was driving south on English Creek Avenue at 6:56 p.m. Tuesday when northbound driver Paul Sparano, 38, of Egg Harbor Township, crossed his path in an attempt to turn left onto Gravelbend Road, police said. Cahill's pickup hit the passenger side of Sparano's sport utility vehicle, pushing it into a motorcycle ridden by Harry Yue, 25 also of Egg Harbor Township.

Yue complained of pain and was taken to Shore Memorial Hospital in Somers Point, police said. Paul Sparano Jr., 3, who was in a car seat, suffered minor cuts from broken glass and was taken to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, City Campus. A 12-year-old boy in Sparano's car was not hurt.

Traffic was detoured for about an hour while the scene was cleared, police said. No summonses have been issued, pending completion of the investigation by Officer Al Maiorano.

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP / Driver killed in stolen car was Newark man

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The driver of a stolen car killed in a crash Wednesday morning has been identified as David Hicks, 26, of Newark, according to a spokesman for the Camden County Prosecutor's Office. Hicks struck a telephone pole and tree on Route 30 after a high-speed chase with police, Jason Laughlin said. A female passenger was still listed in critical condition at Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

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Gloucester County Times, The (NJ)

October 24, 2007

Stolen car driver dies following police chase

Article Text:

WINSLOW TWP. - A man driving a car stolen from an area dealership died Tuesday when he lost control of the vehicle during a police pursuit along the White Horse Pike and it struck a utility pole and a tree, Acting Camden County Prosecutor Joshua M. Ottenberg said.

The driver of a stolen silver 2004 Honda CRV - whose name was not released - reached speeds up to 100 mph while attempting to elude police, Ottenberg said.

Pursuing Waterford Township police officers decided it was too risky to continue chasing the Honda and terminated their pursuit, but the Honda's driver sped on for approximately three more miles.

Just past the Wiltseys Mill Road intersection with Route 30, he lost control of his car and ran into a telephone pole and a tree. The impacts killed him.

A 22-year-old female passenger from Newark was injured in the crash and was in critical condition at the Cooper University Hospital in Camden.

The chase began about 1:15 a.m. when Waterford officers on Route 30, near the intersection with Route 73 and the White Horse Pike, noticed a suspicious vehicle and ran the vehicle's plates.

It had been reported stolen from a woman shopping for a car at Stratford Echelon Ford Monday evening.

Police tried to pull the vehicle over and the Honda's driver sped away. The pursuit tracked along Route 30 through Waterford, through Chesilhurst and ended in Winslow. The two Waterford patrol vehicles chasing the Honda broke off at 1:21 a.m. after traveling about seven miles.

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