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Murder charge in fatal chase

Driver who fled police accused of killing woman

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Article Text:

Murder and vehicular homicide charges have been lodged against a South Carolina man accused of killing an elderly Winder woman while fleeing from police.

Carson Chandler Bolt, 35, of Greenville, S.C., was charged Friday with first-degree vehicular homicide and on Monday with felony murder in the Jan. 19 death of Mattie Lou Hix, according to Piedmont Judicial Circuit District Attorney Tim Madison.

Bolt had been fleeing Jackson County deputies south on U.S. Highway 441 near Interstate 85 at Banks Crossing the afternoon of Jan. 19 when his car plowed into the side of a car driven by William Franklin Hix, 71. Hix was seriously injured, and his only passenger, his wife, Mattie, died on impact.

The prosecutor said 70-year-old Mattie Hix's death was caused by Bolt in his attempt to elude authorities because of outstanding warrants for his arrest in his home state and elsewhere. At the time, Madison said, Bolt also had in his possession nearly four dozen credit cards that had been either stolen or fraudulently obtained.

The vehicular homicide charge stems from Bolt's reckless behavior while fleeing from authorities, Madison said, and the murder charge was lodged because Hix's death occurred while Bolt was committing the felony crime of fleeing/attempting to elude.

Bolt remains in custody at the Jackson County Jail and faces possible indictment when a Banks County grand jury convenes the first week of April, Madison said.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office filed numerous charges two days after the incident, including felony fleeing and eluding and reckless conduct.

Jackson deputies began their chase of Bolt after Gwinnett County police notified them that Bolt had sped off after being stopped on I-85 on suspicion of drunk driving. Gwinnett police did not pursue Bolt since that department has a no-pursuit policy.

Jackson County Sheriff Stan Evans said his office was reviewing whether its deputies had acted properly.

Jackson County's pursuit policy authorizes deputies to end a chase when risks to the public outweigh capturing a violator or when road conditions, such as traffic or weather, inhibit the pursuit.

Bolt was wanted in both Carolinas on fraud charges and traffic violations, Madison said, and he was on probation in Louisville, Ga., for convictions on theft charges.

In addition to 47 stolen or fraudulent credit cards, several laptop computers were found in Bolt's vehicle, and they are being analyzed to determine if they'd been used in an identity theft operation, according to Evans.

Gwinnett County police have also charged Bolt with fleeing and attempting to elude and first-degree forgery, saying he had given officers a false license.

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Caption:

Photo: news

Carson Chandler Bolt has been charged with felony murder and vehicular homicide in the Jan. 19 crash that killed a 70-year-old woman.

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