

Young man dies in I-75 wreck

By Charles Shiver

A 20-year-old man died early Sunday morning, Oct. 23, in a single-vehicle wreck on Interstate 75.

Cook County Coroner Ron Lipsey identified the victim as James Stephens Crawford, of Hubert, N.C., a passenger in the van. The van's driver, Steven A. Smith III, 20, of Amherst, Mass., has been arrested and charged with homicide by vehicle, first degree, because he was allegedly driving under the influence of marijuana, according to the Georgia State Patrol, Tifton Post.

Smith also was charged with serious injury by vehicle (two counts) because two other passengers were hurt in the wreck. Additional charges against Smith are failure to maintain lane, driving too fast for conditions (construction zone), driving under the influence of marijuana, and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

At last report, Smith was being held in the Cook County Jail.

According to State Trooper D.L. Harnage, Smith was driving a 15-passenger, Ford E-350 van north on Interstate 75 about 3:50 a.m. Sunday. The van had five occupants.

Smith stated to the GSP that he fell asleep and drove off the edge of the road around Mile Marker 38 on I-75 (between the Adel Industrial Park Exit and main Adel Exit). Smith awoke and apparently oversteered. The rear of the van came around and the van crashed almost head-on into the concrete barrier. The van

started flipping down the barrier. Crawford, who was seated right behind the driver, was ejected and killed on impact, according to Harnage. Crawford was pronounced dead at the scene at 4:10 a.m. Sunday, Ron Lipsey said.

Harnage said he believes that two of the other passengers also were ejected. They were seriously injured. One passenger received a severe laceration of the scalp. At last report, the condition of the other ejected passenger was unknown, but that person reportedly was on a back board at South Georgia Medical Center. "Only the driver was wearing his seatbelt," Harnage said. Another passenger was treated at the Memorial Hospital of Adel and released.

According to warrants, less than 1 ounce of marijuana was found in a plastic container in the van. Smith submitted to a blood test, Harnage said.

The van had been accompanied by two other vehicles. The vehicles were carrying 18 young adults from Tampa, Fla., north to Columbus. The young people had planned to sell magazine subscriptions for Fidelity Readers Service Inc., said Trooper Harnage. The Naples, Fla.-based company offers young people travel opportunities across the U.S.

The GSP Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team (SCRT) is continuing its investigation into the case, with plans to do measurements at the accident scene. Thus, the charges against Smith may be revised or upgraded.

Cook Cub

Cub Scouts from across Central Georgia converge on Lakeland last weekend for annual Cub Scout Cub-O-1 Camp Patten.

The weekend, under the theme of "Survivor, Camp Patten," involved in excess of 1,200 Cub Scouts and their families together for fun, challenge and adventure.

Cub-O-1 is an event planned and organized for Cub Scouts and their families to come and experience the fun and adventure of Scouting. This year's event, Oct. 21-23, 2005, was called Survivor Camp Patten. "Tribes" of Cub Scouts competed in team and individual events including Archery, slingshot and much more. It had all the flavor of the currently popular reality show.

John Koebble, chairman of the event and Cubmaster of Pack 1000 in Valdosta, has been working



High value

These bales of hay are now being used in buildings in a field off Long Road. The value of hay in Cook County is \$209,000 for 4,000 tons.



Studebaker

From Front

his everyday activities. Hot Rod

It has taken about a year to