

CRIME REPORT: Deer hunter charged with reckless endangerment

By Staff Reports

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

A deer hunter who accidentally shot a man near Bartlett Monday afternoon has been charged with reckless endangerment.

Brunswick resident Robert Ocampo, 19, was deer hunting with a friend near some TVA power lines along Germantown Road just east of Old Brownsville Road about 5:30 p.m.

Ocampo told the Shelby County Sheriff's Department that he heard a rustling noise in the woods and fired his 30.06 rifle, thinking an animal was about to charge him. The shot traveled about 20 yards, hitting Jay Wahlig in the shoulder. Wahlig, 45, had gone to the area to set raccoon traps near the banks of Buck Head Creek.

At the time of the shooting, Wahlig and Ocampo were separated by a thicket and could not see each other. Wahlig was also wearing dark clothing.

After Wahlig yelled, investigators said Ocampo and his partner immediately went to Wahlig's aid and called 911. Wahlig was taken to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, where he remains in stable condition.

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency officers said Ocampo has a valid hunting license.

— Jody Callahan

Police evict nuisance guest

A man who police say has become a habitual squatter in a Midtown hotel has been charged with vandalism and criminal trespass.

Owner Mounir Moukadam told officers he's been renovating the Artisan Hotel, 1837 Union, and closed the seventh floor to remodel each room.

But six times, workers have found Jason Tucker sleeping in seventh-floor rooms without checking into the hotel first, according to a police affidavit.

He's ignored repeated requests to stay away, police said.

Officers were called to the hotel at 11:43 a.m. Monday and detained Tucker inside room 722, which had been ransacked.

A king-size mattress valued at \$275 had several cigarette burns, and a pullout couch valued at \$350 had also been burned.

Tucker, 29, was being held in the Shelby County Jail on \$3,000 bond.

— Hank Dudding

Driver hits pedestrian, leaves scene

Deputies are searching for a hit-and-run driver who struck an Atoka woman who was walking near Rosemark Road late Monday.

Crystal Banks, 38, was in critical condition Tuesday at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis.

A small, dark pickup struck Banks just before midnight on Rosemark near Tracy. A passerby found her and called 911.

The front of the truck may be damaged on the right side near the headlight, deputies said.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Traffic Bureau at (901) 867-1420 or Crime Stoppers at (901) 528-CASH.

— *Hank Dudding*

Suspect rises from wheelchair, flees with beer

A man who appeared to be wheelchair-bound stood and ran from a store Monday night after he was accused of shoplifting a beer.

Officers responded at 4:46 p.m. to the Shell at 221 E. McLemore, where a worker told them Joseph Gigger, 45, had entered the store, despite previous orders to stay away.

The employee told officers Gigger left the scene, but then came back and got a 32-ounce Miller beer without paying, according to a police affidavit.

When he was confronted, Gigger rose from his wheelchair, hauled it onto a MATA bus and plopped down in it, but his escape was short-lived when the driver refused to depart with him aboard.

Officers took him into custody, but he began to yell at them and passing cars, and a crowd gathered, according to police.

Gigger was transported to 201 Poplar, where he was charged with theft, disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and public intoxication.

He's being held on \$100 bond.

Gigger's rise from his wheelchair was hardly a miracle, according to court records.

Officers have seen him on foot during previous encounters, and he once was accused of ramming a squad car twice with the chair.

— *Hank Dudding*

