



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

March 26, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Driver Rescued by UD Students as Train Strikes Car

On Wednesday March 25, 2009 at 9:02 p.m. a passenger car was driven onto the CSX railroad tracks near the intersection of West Main Street and New London Road, Newark. The car's driver was northbound on New London Road, but realized she was not on the street she should be. The driver turned right onto the tracks, mistakenly thinking it was a roadway. Her car became lodged on the train tracks.

Four passers-by noticed the car stuck on the tracks, and tried to free it by lifting and pushing while the operator remained inside. As the group was attempting to move the car, the train crossing signals activated, indicating an approaching train. The group assisted the driver from the car and walked her a safe distance away.

Shortly thereafter, the eastbound train entered the crossing and struck the car. The car was pushed approximately 100 feet before being thrown from the tracks behind the Deer Park Tavern. The train came to a stop before reaching the North College Avenue crossing.

No one was injured. CSX train traffic was halted for three hours while the crash was investigated.

Driver:

-Anne J. Griffith, 60 years of age, first block of Regent Drive, Newark. She was driving a 1999 white Pontiac Grand Am.

Rescuers:

-Alex Crespo, University of Delaware student, member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. Mr. Crespo is available for media contact at 410-336-4453.

-Frank DiPietrapaul, University of Delaware student, member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. Mr. DiPietrapaul has consented to the release of his name, but has requested not be contacted by the media.

The identities of the remaining two rescuers are not being released at this time because they have not yet been interviewed by the crash investigator.

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