

Angry Woman Gets Revenge at McDonald's **Aug 14 10:05 PM US/Eastern**

ATHENS, Ga.

Police have been looking for a disgruntled McDonald's customer who ran into two other customers with her car after a dispute over who was next in line.

Melinda Ann Thomas, 34, and Linda Ann Thomas, 51, were standing in a crowded line around 8:30 a.m. Saturday as they waited to order breakfast, police said. A cashier opened a new line and they stepped to the front of it _ a move that angered another customer who was waiting to order.

According to the report, the unidentified woman started yelling at them and threatened to kill them.

The woman then left the restaurant before the Thomases and stayed in the parking lot, sitting in her dark blue Jeep Cherokee, witnesses told police. As the Thomases made their way to their car, witnesses said the woman pulled out of her parking space and sped toward the women, striking them both with the passenger side of the Jeep.

Neither woman was badly injured, the police report said.

The woman is being sought by police on charges of aggravated assault.

On May 23 at a McDonald's in Covington, about 30 miles southwest of Athens, a man ran over two women and their three children, killing a 2-year-old. A suspect is facing murder and aggravated assault charges in the attack, for which authorities have said they have no motive.

Information from: Athens Banner-Herald, <http://www.onlineathens.com>

Police say they have suspect in McDonald's hit-and-run **No charges yet**

By Joe Johnson | joe.johnson@onlineathens.com | Story updated at 12:01 AM on Tuesday, August 15, 2006

Police have a suspect in the case of a woman who intentionally ran down two other women in the parking lot of a McDonald's in southeastern Clarke County on Saturday morning after they fought about who was first in line inside the fast-food restaurant.

"We talked to the suspect in this case and we continue to investigate," Athens-Clarke police Lt. Mike McKeel said late Monday afternoon. "There are no charges at this point."

McKeel, who supervises the robbery/homicide squad, would only say the suspect is an Athens resident and has talked to detectives about the hit-and-run collision with the two pedestrians.

"She's not in custody, but we have talked to her and she is cooperating," McKeel said. "We are trying to talk to some more people to see if we can't get to the bottom of this thing."

Investigators were looking for a woman in her mid-20s who waited in the parking lot of Gaines School Road restaurant, then swerved into the women as they left the building, knocking them to the ground, according to police.

The Jeep never stopped, and drove away south on Gaines School Road, police said.

Neither victim - Melinda Ann Thomas, 34, and Linda Ann Thomas, 51 - was seriously injured or needed medical treatment, police said.

Outside surveillance cameras didn't capture the assault, but detectives were reviewing videotapes from cameras inside the store.

McKeel said the suspect faces charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats.

According to police, the woman was standing in line in front of the victims at about 8:30 a.m. when a cashier opened a new line. When the victims got there first, the suspect accused the women of cutting in front of her and threatened to kill them.

The angry woman left the restaurant and sat in her Jeep until the victims came out; as they walked to their car, she veered into the women, police said.

"The driver of the Jeep was making a conscious effort to hit the victims," McKeel said.

The Jeep, a dark blue Cherokee, didn't leave any debris as the scene, and several witnesses didn't notice the Jeep's tag number, police said.

The suspect, who was alone, was described as white, in her mid-20s, about 5-feet, 7-inches tall, weighing 150 pounds with brown hair and wearing a gray T-shirt and gray jogging pants.

Saturday's assault was "highly unusual," said McKeel, who couldn't recall a similar parking lot attack happening here.

But the assault is reminiscent of a tragic episode in Covington in May, when a man - later charged with murder - repeatedly ran over a family of five as they left a McDonald's, killing a 2-year-old girl.

Witnesses sought

Athens-Clarke police are asking anyone who witnessed the assault or has information about it to call Det. Jeff Clark at (706) 613-3888, extension 303.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 081506