

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007



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NEWS: East Volusia

August 18, 2007

I-4 work zone crash kills teen

By ANNE GEGGIS
Staff Writer

Eighteen-year-old Farshad K. Babazadeh of Daytona Beach Shores was supposed to move into his University of Central Florida dorm Friday, but instead relatives are sending his body to his parents in Iran.

The Father Lopez Catholic High School graduate was killed instantly on Interstate 4 early Thursday when a tractor-trailer driven by an Orlando man ran over his car as it sat in eastbound construction traffic, authorities said.

The Florida Highway Patrol identified Babazadeh on Friday as the victim in the crash that closed I-4 for several hours. Charges are pending against the truck's driver, Christopher Ofeldt, 27, investigators said. Ofeldt was driving the truck east on I-4 at 2:20 a.m. when he failed to slow for traffic in front of him in a construction zone, FHP spokeswoman Trooper Kim Miller said.

Mori Hosseini, a local construction mogul, recalled Babazadeh, his second cousin by marriage, as "the nicest kid" who had spent the past summer working as an intern at an engineering firm that Hosseini's sister runs. He was enrolled in UCF's engineering program.

"He was looking forward to going to UCF and playing football," Hosseini said.

When the crash happened, the teenager was returning from a visit to the Orlando home of friends from high school, who are also beginning college classes this month. The group had been hanging out and talking excitedly about their new lives just beginning.

Conrad Stout, 18, said he met Babazadeh within minutes of driving onto the Father Lopez campus. He was having trouble with the roof of his convertible, and Babazadeh jumped right in to help.

"He was the first person you would call if you ran out of gas," Stout said. "He would drop everything."

Survivors include his parents, Mansour and Simin Babazadeh, Daytona Beach Shores and Iran; a brother, Farhad, Ormond Beach; and a sister, Lili Gholami, San Francisco. Lohman Ormond is in charge.

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