

MIDDLETOWN

Cops: Homeless man stole donations

By **BEN FINLEY**
STAFF WRITER

An 18-year-old homeless man stole \$180 from a donation jar for the memorial fund of fallen Middletown Detective Chris Jones, who died last month in the line of duty, police said.

The theft occurred Wednesday at a McDonald's restaurant on Old Lincoln Highway near I-95 in Middletown, according to court documents.

Justin Nicholas White, who has no fixed address and who used to work at that McDonald's, stole the money from a jar set out on the counter, police said.

White came into the store about 8:40 p.m., ordered some food and asked the woman working the cash register, whom he knew, to check in the back crew room for a coat he may have left there, police said. When the employee went into the back, a video camera captured White making a few glances around the store before taking the money, police said.

Court documents did not state whether the money was recovered. White was arrested Thursday and charged with one count of theft and one count of receiving stolen property, both second-degree misdemeanors punishable by to two years in prison, according to court documents.

District Judge Frank Peranteau sent White to Bucks County prison in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Jones died Jan. 29 after giving a speeding motorist a traffic ticket on the Route 1 Superhighway in Middletown. While walking back to his car, a car slammed into his police cruiser, which was pushed on top of him.

Jones is survived by his wife and three school-age children.

Anyone interested in donating money to Jones' family can do so by making checks payable to the Philadelphia Police and Fire Credit Union, with Jones' name on the memo line, and mailing to the credit union at 901 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Ben Finley can be reached at 215-949-4203 or .