Vineland woman lied about reported rape, police say
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By Stephen Smith/ The News of Cumberland County

BRIDGETON – A Vineland woman who a newspaper carrier found running naked on Washington Street in the early morning hours of May 7 made up a subsequent story about being raped at gunpoint, Detective Lt. Michael Gaimari of the Bridgeton police department said Tuesday.

Nicole M. Lockhart, 34, of Pine Street in Vineland, was charged with making false reports to police and lewdness on Monday. She was already in the Cumberland County Jail for an unrelated matter and was served with the charges there. Her bail was set at $1,000 for the new charges.

"Through investigation it was determined the victim was not sexually assaulted at gunpoint and had not provided the initial officers with any truthful information at the time the incident was reported," Gaimari said.

"There is a lot of time and effort put into these investigations in addition to the possibility of falsely questioning and/or incriminating possible suspects. It's a matter of accountability for those actions."

Lockhart had told the newspaper carrier that she had been raped by two men, one who brandished a handgun at her and another who hit her.

In her initial statement to police, Lockhart said she had been approached by a 5-foot 8-inch light-skinned black male who was wearing a Phillies cap, as she cut through an alleyway between Bank Street and North Pearl Street.

She said she had taken a bus from Vineland and arrived in Bridgeton just before 5 a.m.

She said the man pointed a silver handgun at her, ordering her to remove her clothes, and that he had fled on foot after he had raped her.

Gaimari did not indicate what had led police to believe that Lockhart was lying.
Chief Mark Ott said Lockhart had confessed to detectives that she was lying. She remained in the Cumberland County Jail Tuesday.

https://www.nj.com/cumberland/2011/05/vineland_woman_lied_about_may.html