

# Troopers Arrest Man for DUI and Attempted Vehicle Theft

The Delaware State Police have arrested 27-year-old **Richard Mullins** of Millsboro, Delaware after he crashed his car and attempted to steal another in the Lewes area early this morning.

On January 11, 2023, at approximately 12:19 a.m., troopers responded to John J. Williams Highway east of Dorman Road for a vehicle collision. Troopers arrived and learned that the driver of a red 2007 Cadillac Escalade had fled from the scene on foot after he struck the back of an unoccupied construction truck that was parked on the shoulder. As he fled from the area, the driver, later identified as Richard Mullins, attempted to steal another work truck, but a worker was able to remove the keys from the ignition before he could leave. Mullins then continued fleeing the scene.

Troopers began looking for Mullins in the surrounding area. Troopers found him running away westbound on John J. Williams Highway. Mullins ignored commands to stop, but a trooper was able to take him into custody after a short foot chase and taser deployment.

Mullins displayed signs of impairment. He was taken from the scene to Troop 7 and charged with the following crimes:

- Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle (Felony)
- Resisting Arrest (Felony)
- Failure to Comply With Taking of Photographs and Fingerprints
- Driving a Vehicle Under the Influence
- Numerous traffic charges

Mullins was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on \$6,400 cash

bond.

No injuries were reported in the accident or in this incident.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Leonard DeMalto

Released: 011123 1254

-End-

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# **Delaware State Police Investigate Shot Fired at William Penn High School**

Delaware State Police are investigating a gunshot fired inside the William Penn High School that occurred late Tuesday morning.

On January 10, 2023, at approximately 11:40 a.m., the School Resource Officer of William Penn High School located at 713 East Basin Road, New Castle, was alerted of a potential gunshot inside of a second-floor bathroom at the school. The School Resource Officer responded to the location and observed signs that a round struck the interior of the bathroom. There were no injuries reported.

Further investigation revealed a suspect ran from the rear of the school towards the football stadium. A search of the area led to the discovery of a Glock handgun. This remains an active investigation. The number of suspects and their involvement is still being determined.

The school will be closed for the remainder of the week to

allow time for the investigation to be completed.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Criminal Investigation Unit continues to investigate this case. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this incident to please contact Detective R. Strecker by calling 302-834-8413. Information may also be provided by contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at [www.delawarecrimestoppers.com](http://www.delawarecrimestoppers.com).

[Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation at William Penn High School](#)

[\\*Update\\* Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation at William Penn High School](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit / [Delaware Victim Center](#) is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit

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# **\*Update\* Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation at William Penn High School**

Delaware State Police are investigating a gunshot fired inside William Penn High School located at 713 E. Basin Road, New Castle, DE. No injuries were reported, and there is no active

threat to the school. While conducting the investigation, troopers searched the exterior of the school and discovered a handgun on the property. The investigation remains active and ongoing, and updates will be provided when made available.

[Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation at William Penn High School](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit / [Delaware Victim Center](#) is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at [DSP\\_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov](mailto:DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov).

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# Delaware State Police Conducting Criminal Investigation at William Penn High School

Delaware State Police are currently conducting a criminal investigation at William Penn High School located at 713 E. Basin Road, New Castle, DE. As a result, there is an increased police presence in the area. There are **no** injuries and there is **no** active threat to the school. We ask the public to please avoid the area. Parents do not respond to the school.

It is anticipated that there will be a regular dismissal of the students.

At this time, there is an active and ongoing investigation. Additional information will be released once made available.

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# **Delaware State Police and Delaware Office of Highway Safety Announce “Operation Braking Point”**

With the support of the OHS and DelDOT, DSP is initiating “Operation Braking Point,” a zero-tolerance high-visibility campaign enforcement in response to the alarming increase of traffic fatalities that occurred on Delaware roadways in 2022. This campaign will run from January 9, 2023, through January 23, 2023. This short-term high-visibility enforcement will take place along I -95, I-495, and SR 1, where 27 traffic fatalities occurred last year; of those fatalities, 37% were speed-related. DelDOT will provide public education with variable/overhead message boards. This campaign will also carry directly into the kick-off of a seatbelt and distracted driving campaign.

In 2022, speeding contributed to one-third of all fatal traffic crashes. Every fatality is a tragedy and has lasting impacts on the community, first responders, and loved ones of all involved. Speeding is unacceptable and dramatically increases the risk of serious injury or death of all roadway users.

On a daily basis, the Delaware State Police and all Delaware law enforcement agencies conduct statewide enforcement of all moving violations on Delaware roadways, and we will continue to do so beyond this specialized campaign. DSP, OHS, and DelDOT are all collectively dedicated to the sacred mission of highway safety. We are hoping “Operation Braking Point” will

proactively influence driving behavior, thereby reducing the number of crashes on our roadways.

This is a reminder for all drivers to keep their eyes and minds on the road, slow down, buckle up, follow posted speed limits, and obey all rules of the road, so we all arrive alive in 2023.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Sergeant India Sturgis

Released: 010923 1445

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# **\*Update – Victim Identified\* State Police Investigating Two-Vehicle Fatal Accident**

The Delaware State Police have identified the victim who died in a fatal accident that occurred in Harrington on January 7, 2023, as **Andrew Smith**, 1, of Denton, Maryland.



Delaware State Police   
@DEStatePolice



 Traffic Alert, Harrington 

Southbound S. Dupont Highway (US 13) at Tower Hill Road will be closed for an extended time due to a fatal accident.

4:03 PM · Jan 7, 2023

The Delaware State Police Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this incident. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Sergeant J. Wheatley by calling 302-698-8518. Information may

also be provided by contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at [www.delawarecrimestoppers.com](http://www.delawarecrimestoppers.com).

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit / [Delaware Victim Center](#) is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at [DSP\\_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov](mailto:DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov).

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# Troopers Arrest Man For Threatening Coworkers With a Gun

The Delaware State Police have arrested 28-year-old **Ryan Book** of Newark, Delaware for threatening his coworkers with a handgun during an argument that occurred yesterday morning.

On January 7, 2023, at approximately 11:38 a.m., troopers responded to the Furniture Barn located at 791 South Dupont Highway in New Castle regarding a dispute involving a weapon. Troopers arrived and learned that Ryan Book, an employee of the business, had been involved in a heated argument with a 50-year-old man who also worked at Furniture Barn. A 24-year-old male coworker tried to intervene, but Book became angry with him and threatened to kill him. The dispute continued outside of the business, where Book retrieved a handgun from his pickup truck and pointed the gun at both victims. Soon afterwards, Book went back to his truck and left the area. Troopers contacted Book at the Wawa located at 3601 Wrangle Hill Road in Bear and took him into custody without incident.

A search of Book's pickup truck led to the discovery of a Glock handgun, ammunition, approximately 0.20 grams of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Book was taken to Troop 2 and charged with the following crimes:

- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Firearm While Possessing a Controlled Substance (Felony)
- Aggravated Menacing (Felony) – 2 counts
- Terroristic Threatening
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Possession of Marijuana

Book was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 11 and was released after posting \$41,600 secured bond.

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## Troopers Arrest Woman for 5th Offense DUI

The Delaware State Police have arrested 47-year-old **Stacy Collins** of Dover, Delaware for felony DUI and other charges following a traffic stop that occurred yesterday in Magnolia.

On January 7, 2023, at approximately 3:32 p.m., a trooper patrolling the Magnolia area observed a 2006 blue Hyundai Sonata stopped at the stop sign on Millchop Lane at Walnut

Shade Road. The trooper noticed that the car's registration had expired, and a traffic stop was conducted on Walnut Shade Road. The trooper contacted the driver of the Sonata, identified as Stacy Collins, and noticed signs of impairment. The trooper conducted a DUI investigation and Collins was subsequently taken into custody without incident. A search of Collins and the vehicle led to the discovery of approximately 0.40 grams of crack cocaine and approximately 1.82 grams of marijuana. Computer checks of Collins also showed that she had four prior convictions for DUI.

Collins was taken to Troop 3 and charged with the following offenses:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense DUI (Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Possession of Marijuana
- Numerous traffic charges

Collins was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 7 and released on \$6,553 unsecured bond.

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## State Police Investigating Two-Vehicle Fatal Accident

The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred yesterday afternoon just south of Harrington.

On January 7, 2023, at approximately 2:44 p.m., a 2019 Ford Fiesta was traveling southbound in the right lane of South Dupont Highway south of Raceway Boulevard. At the same time, a

2022 Toyota Tacoma was traveling southbound in the left lane of South Dupont Highway south of Raceway Boulevard. The driver of the Fiesta attempted to change lanes and move from the right lane into the left lane. However, when she did so the left rear of her car struck the right front of the Tacoma next to her. The Fiesta driver lost control of her car, which led to her oversteering and exiting the western (right) edge of the roadway. The Fiesta then collided with a tree and overturned onto its hood. The Tacoma came to a stop on the shoulder and sustained minor damage to its bumper.

The passenger of the Fiesta, a 1-year-old boy from Denton, Maryland, was in a front-facing car seat that was secured in the rear-passenger seat. He sustained serious injuries and was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased. Identification of the victim is pending notification to his family and relatives. The driver of the Fiesta, a 27-year-old woman from Denton, Maryland, was admitted to an area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Neither the driver of the Tacoma, a 49-year-old woman from Milford, Delaware, nor the passenger, a 50-year-old man from Milford, Delaware, reported any injuries.

No other vehicles were involved in this collision. The roadway was closed for approximately six hours while the scene was investigated and cleared.



Delaware State Police   
@DEStatePolice



 Traffic Alert, Harrington 

Southbound S. Dupont Highway (US 13) at Tower Hill Road will be closed for an extended time due to a fatal accident.

4:03 PM · Jan 7, 2023

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Delaware State Police Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this incident. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Sergeant J. Wheatley by calling 302-698-8518. Information may also be provided by contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at [www.delawarecrimestoppers.com](http://www.delawarecrimestoppers.com).

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## Troopers Arrest Man on Drug Dealing Charges Following Pursuit

The Delaware State Police have arrested 50-year-old **Martin Lagasse** of Millsboro, Delaware on felony drug charges and other offenses following a vehicle pursuit that occurred early this morning.

On January 7, 2023, at approximately 2:18 a.m., a trooper patrolling the Millsboro area observed a 2016 blue Kia Forte traveling southbound at a high rate of speed on Gravel Hill Road south of Zoar Road. The trooper attempted to stop the Forte, but the driver did not comply and instead fled eastbound on Mount Joy Road. As the car approached John J. Williams Highway, another trooper deployed Stop Sticks on Mount Joy Road, which deflated one of the Forte's tires. The

car continued eastbound onto Oak Orchard Road at a high rate of speed and eventually stopped on Delaware Avenue. The driver exited the car and began running away, but the trooper was able to take him into custody after a short foot chase and taser deployment.

The driver, identified as Martin Lagasse, was found to be driving while impaired and in possession of approximately 28.46 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 0.014 grams of heroin, approximately 0.76 grams of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. Lagasse was taken to Troop 4 and charged with the following crimes:

- Possession With Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance in a Tier 3 Quantity (Felony)
- Disregarding a Police Officer Signal (Felony)
- Resisting Arrest
- Possession of a Controlled Substance
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Driving Under the Influence
- Possession of Marijuana
- Numerous traffic chares

Lagasse was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on \$66,610 cash bond.

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