

# State Police Arrest Man for Vehicular Assault and DUI Following Newark Crash

Delaware State Police arrested 32-year-old **Tristan Proffitt**, of Hockessin, Delaware, for vehicular assault, DUI, and related charges following a crash that occurred Saturday night in Newark.

On October 11, 2025, at approximately 10:00 p.m., troopers responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Paper Mill Road and Polly Drummond Hill Road. The preliminary investigation revealed that a Kia Sportage was traveling northbound on Polly Drummond Hill Road, approaching Paper Mill Road. At the same time, a Kia Forte was traveling southbound on Paper Mill Road, approaching Polly Drummond Hill Road. The Sportage drove through a red light, entered the intersection, and was struck by the Forte.

Troopers contacted Tristan Proffitt, identified as the driver of the Sportage. While speaking to him, troopers observed several signs of impairment and began a DUI investigation. After completing Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, Proffitt was found to be impaired. He was subsequently taken into custody without incident.

The driver of the Forte, a 40-year-old man from Middletown, Delaware, and his passenger, a 21-year-old man from Newark, Delaware, were both taken to an area hospital with serious injuries.

Proffitt was taken to Troop 6, where he was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 11, and released on a \$2,500 unsecured bond.

- Vehicular Assault 1st Degree (Felony) – 2 counts

- Driving a Vehicle Under the Influence of a Combination of Alcohol and Any Drug
  - Failure to Stop at a Red Light
- 

## **\*Update – Victim Identified\***

# **State Police Investigating Single-Vehicle Fatal Crash in Middletown**

Delaware State Police have identified 27-year-old **Savion Lea**, of Middletown, Delaware, as the man who died in the [fatal crash](#) in Middletown on Friday.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this crash. Troopers ask anyone who witnessed the crash or has relevant information to contact Corporal K. Oakes at (302) 365-8483. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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).

---

# State Police Arrest Georgetown Woman for Weapon Offenses Following Road Rage Incident

Delaware State Police arrested 20-year-old **Melleca Butler** of Georgetown, Delaware, for multiple weapon-related felonies following a road rage incident in Georgetown yesterday morning.

On October 10, 2025, at approximately 11:30 a.m., troopers responded to the area of Dupont Boulevard and Shortly Road for a report of a road rage incident involving a firearm. The investigation revealed that a GMC Yukon with Delaware registration pulled alongside the victim, a 49-year-old man from Houston, Delaware, while both vehicles were traveling southbound on Dupont Boulevard. Some type of road rage incident occurred, during which the driver of the Yukon displayed a handgun before continuing southbound. The suspect was described as black and wearing a blue hoodie and glasses.

Troopers, assisted by officers from the Millsboro Police Department, patrolled the area and located the suspect vehicle near the intersection of Laurel Road and Dupont Boulevard in Millsboro. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver, who matched the description provided, was identified as Melleca Butler. She was taken into custody without incident.

A consent search of the vehicle revealed an unloaded handgun concealed between the driver's seat and the center console. A computer inquiry revealed that Butler does not have a permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon.

Butler was transported to Troop 4, where she was charged with the following crimes:

- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon (Felony)
- Aggravated Menacing (Felony)

She was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2 and committed to Baylor Women's Correctional Institution on a \$23,500 cash bond.

---

## **State Police Arrest Three Teens for Robbery at Odessa High School**

Delaware State Police have arrested three 17-year-old male Odessa High School students in connection with a robbery that occurred Wednesday.

On October 8, 2025, a School Resource Officer (SRO) was notified of a robbery that occurred in one of the schools' restrooms. The investigation revealed that at approximately 11:45 a.m., the three teenagers approached another 17-year-old male student while in the restroom. The suspects pinned the victim against a wall, removed his personal property, then fled. The victim was not injured during the incident.

As of October 10, 2025, all three teenagers, who are from Townsend, Delaware, were identified, arrested, and charged with the following crimes:

- Robbery 2nd Degree (Felony)

- Conspiracy Second Degree (Felony)

They were arraigned by the New Castle County Family Court where one was released on a \$5,000 unsecured bond and two were released on \$8,000 unsecured bonds.

---

## **State Police Arrest Man on Gun and Drug Charges Following Traffic Stop in Laurel**

Delaware State Police have arrested 36-year-old **Jeremy Cooper** of Laurel, Delaware, for gun and drug charges following a traffic last night in Laurel.

On October 9, 2025, at approximately 10:12 p.m., a trooper on patrol saw a Dodge Dakota traveling on Georgetown Road near Sussex Highway in Laurel with a registration violation. The trooper pulled the truck over in the parking lot of Hardee's, located at 30759 Sussex Highway, and spoke to the driver, identified as Jeremy Cooper. While talking to Cooper, he did not provide registration or insurance information for the truck. After another computer check, troopers spoke to Cooper again and learned there was a sawed-off shotgun in the truck. He was detained without incident.

During a search of the Dodge, troopers located the following items:

- Sawed-off .410-gauge shotgun
- .410-gauge, 12-gauge, and 20-gauge shotgun ammunition
- Various rifle ammunition

- 2 .556 caliber magazines
- Approximately 0.1 grams of methamphetamines
- Drug paraphernalia

---

Cooper was arrested and taken to Troop 5, where he was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 7, and released on a \$10,100 unsecured bond.



- Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon – Firearm (Felony)
  - Possession of a Destructive Weapon – Sawed-Off Shotgun (Felony)
  - Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Person Prohibited Who Also Possesses a Controlled Substance (Felony)
  - Possession of a Controlled or Counterfeit Substance Except Human Growth Hormone Without a Prescription
  - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
  - Failure to Have Required Insurance
  - Operation of an Unregistered Motor Vehicle
  - Fictitious or Canceled Registration
- 

# **State Police Investigating Single-Vehicle Fatal Crash in Middletown**

Delaware State Police are investigating a single-vehicle fatal crash that occurred today in Middletown.

On October 10, 2025, at approximately 7:19 a.m., a Buick LaCrosse was traveling northbound on Summit Bridge Road, approaching Old Summit Bridge Road. For reasons still under investigation, the Buick left the east side of the roadway and struck a telephone pole.

The driver, a 27-year-old man from Middletown, Delaware, was pronounced dead at the scene. His name is being withheld until his family is notified.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this crash. Troopers ask anyone who witnessed the crash or has relevant information to contact

Corporal K. Oakes at (302) 365-8483. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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).

---

## **State Police Investigate Organized Retail Theft at Wilmington Target**

Delaware State Police have arrested 25-year-old **Daylast Deshields** of Wilmington, Delaware, and obtained an arrest warrant for 34-year-old **Brendan Davis** of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for organized retail crime and related offenses that occurred last month at Target in Wilmington.

On October 2, 2025, detectives were notified of a high-dollar theft that occurred on September 28, 2025, at Target, located at 1050 Brandywine Parkway in Wilmington.

The investigation revealed that at approximately 9:00 a.m. on September 28, an unknown suspect loaded a shopping cart with over \$900 worth of clothing and electronics. The suspect pushed the shopping cart out of the store to a waiting vehicle where his coconspirator assisted with loading the stolen

merchandise.

Minutes later, the suspect returned to the Target and loaded another shopping cart with over \$900 worth of similar merchandise. This time he was stopped by Target's Asset Protection, so he abandoned the cart of merchandise and fled with his accomplice.

Through investigative means, Brendan Davis was identified as the suspect loading the carts and Daylast Deshields as the coconspirator.

---

On October 7, 2025, Deshields was arrested and taken to Troop 1, where he was charged with the below listed offenses, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 11, and released on a \$1000 unsecured bond.



- Theft – Organized Retail Crime Over \$1500 (Felony)
- Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)

---

Davis is currently in custody at a correctional facility in West Chester, Pennsylvania, awaiting extradition to Delaware. Upon his return, Davis will be charged with the crimes listed

below:



- Theft – Organized Retail Crime Over \$1500 (Felony)
- Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)

---

## **\*Update – Victim Identified\* State Police Investigating Single-Vehicle Fatal Crash in Seaford**

Delaware State Police have identified 63-year-old **Jorge Ruiz**, of Seaford, Delaware, as the man who died in the [fatal crash](#) in Seaford on Wednesday.

The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this crash. Troopers ask anyone who witnessed the crash or has relevant information to contact Corporal Grade One K. Marvel at (302) 232-3435. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to

the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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).

---

## State Police Investigating Single-Vehicle Fatal Crash in Seaford

Delaware State Police are investigating a single-vehicle fatal crash that occurred in Seaford today.

On October 8, 2025, at approximately 2:54 p.m., a Buick Enclave was traveling northbound on Seaford Road approaching O'Neal's Road. For reasons still under investigation, the Buick left the east side of the roadway and as a result, struck a tree.

The driver, a 63-year-old man from Seaford, Delaware, was taken to an area hospital where he died. His name is being withheld until his family is notified.

Seaford Road was [closed](#) for an extended time while the scene was investigated and cleared.

The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this crash. Troopers ask anyone who

witnessed the crash or has relevant information to contact Corporal Grade One K. Marvel at (302) 232-3435. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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).

---

# State Police Arrest Wilmington Man for Newark Robbery

Delaware State Police have arrested 45-year-old **Tony Hammond** of Wilmington, Delaware for a robbery in Newark.

On October 4, 2025, at approximately 11:50 p.m. troopers responded to Royal Farms, located at 457 Stanton Christiana Road in Newark, for a report of a robbery. When troopers arrived, they learned that the suspect approached a woman while she was sitting outside of the business, assaulted her, stole her property, and ran away. Further investigation revealed that the suspect, identified as Tony Hammond, was known by the victim. Detectives obtained a warrant for his arrest.

On October 7, 2025, Hammond was arrested and taken to Troop 2,

where he was charged with the crime listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and released on his own recognizance.

- Robbery 2nd Degree (Felony)