

# Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash, Rt. 13 at Port Penn Rd. – Middletown

**Middletown** – The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 7:25 p.m., Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the intersection of U.S. Rt. 13 (DuPont Pkwy.) and Port Penn Rd., Middletown.

The investigation has determined that a 2007 Toyota Corolla, operated by a 56 year old New Castle woman, was stopped at a red light on westbound Port Penn Rd., intending to turn left onto southbound Rt. 13. A 2004 Jeep Cherokee, driven by a 79 year old New Castle man, was traveling Rt. 13 northbound approaching the intersection with Port Penn Rd. The traffic signal turned green for Port Penn Rd. traffic and the Toyota proceeded through the intersection. The traffic signal for Rt. 13 had changed to red, however the driver of the Jeep failed to stop and proceeded through the intersection, with the front of his vehicle striking the driver's side of the Toyota. After the initial impact the Jeep then struck a 2017 Chevy Cruz, operated by a 22 year old Port Penn woman, which was stopped in the Rt. 13 southbound left turn lane for Port Penn Rd. All vehicles came to rest in the intersection.

The driver of the Toyota, who was not properly restrained, was transported to the Christiana Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Jeep, who was properly restrained, was transported to the Christiana Hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the Chevy, who was properly restrained was not injured as a result of the crash.

Impairment is not deemed as a contributing factor on behalf of any of the drivers.

The intersection of Rt. 13 and Port Penn Rd. was closed for approximately 1 hour while the scene was investigated and cleared.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Breen of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8486.

Information may also be provided by calling Delaware crime stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at [debra.reed@state.de.us](mailto:debra.reed@state.de.us).

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:012620 1032

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# Troopers Investigating Shooting – Magnolia

**Magnolia**– The Delaware State Police are investigating a shooting that took place at a Magnolia area residence early Sunday morning.

At approximately 2:55 a.m., Sunday, January 26, 2020, Troopers responded to the 100 block of Terry Dr. in Magnolia in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival they located a 46 year old male inside the residence who had sustained a single gunshot wound to his torso. He was subsequently transported to an area hospital where he was treated for the gunshot wound which was deemed non-life threatening. Two juveniles, who were also inside the residence at the time of the shooting were not injured.

The initial investigation has determined that the male victim was standing in the kitchen when he was struck one time by a round fired from outside the residence. Multiple spent shell casings were located in close proximity to the residence.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Detective R. Wright of the Troop 3 Criminal Investigations Unit by calling 302-698-8429.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

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Michael Austin

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## Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash – Middletown

**Middletown** – The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 1:13 a.m., Sunday, January 26, 2020 on State Route 1, just north of Fieldsboro Rd. in Middletown.

The initial investigation has determined that a 2012 Nissan Altima, driven by 34 year old Esteban Pantoja-Gordillo of Marydel, MD, was traveling southbound on SR 1, south of Middletown, when for an undetermined reason the vehicle left the east side of the roadway and struck a guardrail in the center median. After striking the guardrail

the Nissan continued on to the right shoulder of southbound SR 1 where it became disabled.

Pantoja-Gordillo exited his vehicle and began walking southbound on SR 1 in the right lane of travel, just south of mile marker 82, when he was struck by a 2018 Nissan Altima, driven by a 41 year old Smyrna woman. After impact Pantoja-Gordillo was thrown in to the SR 1 southbound left lane of travel where he came to rest. The Altima came to a controlled stop and remained at the scene.

Pantoja-Gordillo, who was wearing all dark, non-reflective clothing and not carrying a light, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time.

The female driver of the 2018 Nissan and three juvenile passengers in her vehicle, were all properly restrained and were not injured. Impairment is not deemed a contributing factor on her behalf.

Southbound SR 1 was closed for approximately 3 hours while the scene was investigated and cleared.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Breen of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8486.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at [debra.reed@state.de.us](mailto:debra.reed@state.de.us).

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# Troopers Investigating Home Invasion – Townsend

**Townsend** – The Delaware State Police are investigating a home invasion that took place at a Townsend area residence on Friday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:16 p.m., Friday, January 24, 2020, at a residence located in the 100 block of Massey's Church Rd. Three suspects, with their faces concealed and in possession of baseball bats, made forcible entry to the residence and then assaulted a 48 year old male resident by striking him in the arm with a bat. The male victim was able to flee to secured room and avoided any further injury. As the suspects fled they damaged property inside the residence as well as smashing out a window of the victim's vehicle. The victim declined medical treatment.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Detective M. Conway of the Troop 2 Criminal Investigations Unit by calling 302-365-8427.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at [debra.reed@state.de.us](mailto:debra.reed@state.de.us).

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# **Troopers Investigating Armed Robbery of Newark Area Gas**

# Station

**Newark** – The Delaware State Police are investigating an armed robbery that took place at a Newark area gas station early Saturday morning.

The incident occurred at approximately 2:07 a.m., Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Shell Gas Station located at 1184 Christiana Rd. A male suspect approached an employee at the sales counter and threatened to shoot him while implying that he had a weapon. The suspect then removed cash from the register and fled on foot in an unknown direction. The employee was not injured as a result of the incident.

The suspect was described as a black male, 40 years of age, wearing a dark jacket and light colored pants. No weapon was displayed only implied.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8566.

<http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at [debra.reed@state.de.us](mailto:debra.reed@state.de.us).

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released:012520 1120

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## **DSP S.O.A.R. Searching For Wanted Sex Offender**

**Dover** – The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R) is currently looking for the following wanted sex offender after they either failed to register or re-register their current address. If anyone knows the location of this subject, they are asked to call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com/>

This offender is currently wanted for charges that may or may not be related to sex offenses.  
If you have any information concerning this offender, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

COURTNEY, JOHN A

[Return to Search Results](#)



**WANTED**

[Download full-size mugshot](#)  
[Submit a tip about this offender](#)  
[View printable version of this data](#)

#### Registration Information (Homeless)

Risk Level:	Tier 2 (Moderate Risk)
Verified On:	December 6, 2019
Registered Since:	January 18, 2014
In Prison:	No
Convicted Out of State:	No
Repeat Offender:	No

#### Police Agency of Jurisdiction

Police Agency:	DSP HEADQUARTERS
Address:	PO BOX 430 Dover, DE 19903
Phone:	3026592341

#### Identification Information

Birth Date:	September 13, 1986 (age 33)	Height:	5' 9"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	190 lbs.
Race:	WHITE	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	FAIR	Hair Color:	BROWN

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin*

Released: 012520 1010

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# Homeless Sex Offender Notification

*Dover*– The following subjects are not wanted. This is a Homeless Sex Offender Public Notification. If you have information that the listed subjects are occupying a residence, please call 302-672-5306. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

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Released: 012520 1000

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**\*\*Reminder\*\* Delaware State**

# **Police Accepting Applications for the 94th Recruiting Campaign**

*Delaware – The Delaware State Police is now accepting applications for the 94th Delaware State Police Recruiting Campaign.*

Applications submitted by the deadline will be considered for a recruit class in September 2020 and a potential recruit class in March 2021.

*The closing date for the applications will be Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.* The last round of testing for this class will occur in early March 2020.

Questions concerning this information can be directed to the Recruitment Office of the Delaware State Police by email at [dsprecruiting@delaware.gov](mailto:dsprecruiting@delaware.gov) or telephone 302.739.5980. Information regarding minimum qualifications and the application process can be found on the Delaware State Police website at [www.becomeatrooper.com](http://www.becomeatrooper.com).

The Delaware State Police is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Released: 012520 0900

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## **Applications Being Accepted**

# for Position of Cadet- Application Deadline February 23, 2020

The Delaware State Police is currently seeking qualified applicants for the 2020 Cadet Process.

The Cadet Program was established in 1998 under House Bill #478 during the 139<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, and enables eligible persons to obtain training and limited enforcement powers while being exposed to the various sections of the Delaware State Police. Since the inception of the program, several Cadets have gone on to be hired as Delaware State Troopers.

An individual applying should have the following qualifications, knowledge and abilities:

- Must be 18 to 21 years of age to apply and enter the Cadet program
- Must be a citizen of the United States and a Delaware Resident
- Must be currently enrolled in a Delaware accredited university or college in an undergraduate program (full-time or part-time).
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Must maintain a good personal appearance and physical condition
- Must have a sincere interest in the position and a continuing interest in the law enforcement profession
- May remain employed with the Division as a Cadet while actively pursuing an undergraduate degree, either full or part time, up until their 24th birthday

- Cadets completing their undergraduate degree with an active application for Trooper on file with Human Resources prior to their graduation may remain a cadet until they complete that Cadet SOP one applicant process.

The primary function of the Cadet Program, under enabling legislation of House Bill 478, is:

- Enforcement of Handicapped Parking under Title 21, Chapter 41, Section 4183.
- Enforcement of Fire Lane Parking under Title 21, Chapter 70, Section 7004.
- Assisting with targeted enforcement efforts (i.e., red light enforcement).
- Assisting with traffic control at Division-sponsored events. (i.e., Delaware State Police graduations, promotional ceremonies, etc.)
- Assignment of various administrative tasks at troop/section level.

***Cadets earn \$13.04/hour.***

Interested persons should apply online via: [www.jobapscloud.com/DSP](http://www.jobapscloud.com/DSP). The deadline to apply is ***Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.*** Any questions should be directed to the Recruitment Office at (302) 739-5980 or via email at [dsprecruiting@delaware.gov](mailto:dsprecruiting@delaware.gov).

Important Notice – Cadets are NOT Troopers, and are limited in the scope of enforcement as contained herein. Cadets are considered to be casual seasonal employees of the Division and thus are not entitled to benefits. Cadets will receive forty (40) hours of training at the Delaware State Police Training Academy prior to being assigned to a Troop.

*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin*

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# **Southern New Castle County Crime Blitz Results in Mass Arrests**

*Southern New Castle County* – A multi-agency operation conducted on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at targeted locations throughout southern New Castle County and the north Smyrna area has resulted in the arrest of 52 individuals on criminal charges. The operation was conducted in specific targeted areas throughout this region to address criminal activity as well as ongoing quality of life issues.

During the eight-hour enforcement blitz, police arrested 52 individuals for either a criminal charge or outstanding capias resulting in the clearance of 71 active warrants. In total there were 57 criminal arrests (16 felony, 41 misdemeanor) which included charges for weapons, drugs, prostitution and probation violations, along with 135 traffic arrests. Items and contraband seized as a result of the operation included 8 firearms, 39 baggies (.273 grams) of Heroin, 606.7 grams of marijuana, 1.93 grams of crack cocaine, .1 grams of methamphetamine, along with an assortment of drug paraphernalia.

**This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Delaware State Police, Middletown Police Department, Smyrna Police Department, Newport Police Department, Newark Police Department, Delaware City Police Department, Probation and**

**Parole, Department of Corrections, and Justice of the Peace Court 11.**

This combined effort highlights how the cooperation of multiple law enforcement agencies combat crime which in turn increases quality of life for the communities we serve.

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