

# Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash-Smyrna

**Smyrna-** The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal crash involving a pedestrian that occurred in the limits of Smyrna.

The incident occurred on December 3, 2019 at approximately 5:23 p.m., when a 2004 Hyundai Sonata was traveling northbound on Dupont Boulevard (US 13) in the left lane, north of East Glenwood Avenue. A pedestrian was walking in the middle of the left lane, facing southbound, near the south entrance to Smarty Pants Academy. The operator of the Sonata observed the pedestrian within the roadway and attempted to brake but was unable to avoid the collision. The front of the Sonata struck the pedestrian causing the pedestrian to land within the southbound travel lanes. Following impact, the Sonata came to a controlled stop and remained on scene.

The pedestrian, 67-year-old **Carole Anne Kasson** of Smyrna, DE, was not wearing any reflective clothing or carrying a light, and crossing the highway not utilizing a crosswalk. She was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The operator of the Sonata, a 37-year-old female of Clayton, DE, was properly restrained and transported to the Smyrna Bayhealth Medical Center where she was treated for minor injuries and released. There were three juveniles also in the vehicle who were properly restrained and uninjured.

The roadway was closed for approximately 4.5 hours while the investigation was completed and the roadway was cleared.

The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit.

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  
Melissa Jaffe*

Released:120419 0927

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# Police Receive Reports of

# Bear Sighting – North Wilmington

*Wilmington* – The Delaware State Police have received reports of a bear sighting in the North Wilmington area.

Between the early morning hours of approximately 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 the Delaware State Police received three reports of a bear sighting. The locations reported, from earliest to latest, were I-95 in the area of the I-495 split, Manor Avenue at Philadelphia Pike, and I-95 in the area of Concord Pike. These reported incidents have been sightings only and there have been no direct encounters nor injuries.

The Delaware State Police are working in conjunction with the Delaware Fish and Wildlife Natural Resources Police regarding the sightings.

If you observe what appears to be a bear or any other wild animal, do not approach it, alert and shelter others near you and immediately call 911.

For further information on what to do when encountering a bear click on the following links. While the majority of this information is specific to a bear encounter in the wild, the information is still applicable for an urban or suburban environment.

<https://bearwise.org/bear-safety-tips/bear-encounter/>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bears/safety.htm>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:120419 0752

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## **\*DATE CHANGED\* Delaware State Police Troop 4 to Host Community Café- Frankford**

*Frankford* – The Delaware State Police Troop 4 will be holding a Community Café on **Thursday, December 5, 2019** and not December 6, 2019 as originally released. The event will be held from **10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** at the Frankford Public Library located at 8 Main Street, Frankford, DE. The Community Café will have Troop 4 Administration and the Community Outreach Officer in attendance to meet and interact with members of the public. This Community Café is often referred to as “Coffee with a Cop” in other police agencies and is being held in an effort to build a stronger relationship between the Delaware State Police and the communities that we so proudly serve.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 120319 1601

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# Troopers Investigating Armed Robbery – New Castle

**New Castle** – The Delaware State Police are investigating an armed robbery that took place at a New Castle area gas station Monday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 10:25 p.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 at the Dash Inn-Shell gas station located at 288 Christiana Rd., New Castle. Two suspects, one of which had his face covered and was in possession of a handgun, confronted two employees at the sales counter and demanded cash from the register. The employees complied with the demand and turned over an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspects, who were last seen on foot towards the Georgetown Manor Apartment complex. Neither employee was injured as a result of the incident.

**Suspect #1** was described as a black male, 20-30 years of age, 6'1" tall, wearing all dark clothing, to include a cloth fabric covering his face, and was in possession of a handgun.

**Suspect #2** was described as a black male, 30-40 years of age, 5'9" tall, also wearing all dark clothing.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective T. Dukes of the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8412.

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:120319 1525

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# **\*UPDATE #2-Victim Identified\***

## **Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Rt. 7 – Stanton**

*Stanton* – The Delaware State Police have identified Jaiwon J. Pollard, 23, of Wilmington, as the driver of a Hyundai Elantra who was killed in a motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 6:01 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 on Stanton-Christiana Rd. (Rt. 7) at the intersection with Old Rt. 7.

Click on the following links to view related releases:

[\\*TRAFFIC ADVISORY STANTON\\* Troopers Investigating Serious Crash Rt. 4 at Rt. 7 Closed](#)

[\\*UPDATE\\* Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Rt. 7 – Stanton](#)

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Breen 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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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released: 120319 1210

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# Troopers Offer Holiday Safety Tips

With the holiday shopping season upon us, the Delaware State Police would like to remind you to make safety a priority to avoid being vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. By taking a few extra precautions you can help ensure your holiday is a happy and safe one. We would like to provide these few safety reminders to help keep you safe this holiday season.

- Try to shop during the day, but if you shop at night, do not do it alone.
- Parking lots are an easy place to fall victim to a crime. Always park in a safe, well lit location.
- Remember to lock your car doors and secure your valuables in a place where they aren't visible from outside the vehicle.
- When walking to and from your vehicle, stay alert to

your surroundings and be aware of possible suspicious persons, vehicles or situations. Always remember, if you see something to say something.

- Use caution if carrying a wallet or purse. They are prime targets for criminals in crowded locations.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying large amounts of cash. Beware of strangers approaching. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you, including working in teams, with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Avoid being preoccupied with your cellphone and other electronic devices.

The Delaware State Police wishes everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Senior Corporal Heather Pepper

Released:120319 1200

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# Troopers Investigating Strong Arm Robbery – Newark

**Newark** – The Delaware State Police are investigating a strong arm robbery that took place in the parking lot of a Newark area shopping center, just before noon on Monday.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:47 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 in the parking lot of the Four Seasons Shopping Center, just outside the Walgreen's Pharmacy. The 21 year old male victim had just exited the Walgreen's and was preceded by another subject who had been inside the business at the same time. Once in the parking lot the subject confronted the victim and demanded the contents of his pockets. The victim refused at which time the subject began striking him multiple times with a closed fist. The subject then proceeded to remove cash from the victim's pockets before fleeing in a gray unknown make and model vehicle. The victim refused medical treatment.

The suspect was described as a black male, 18-25 years of age, wearing a black knit cap, gray hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Dempsey at Troop 2 by calling 302-834-2620.

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

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released:120319 1130

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# Delaware State Police Troop 4 to Host Community Café- Frankford

*Frankford* – The Delaware State Police Troop 4 will be holding a Community Café on Friday, **December 6, 2019**. The event will be held from **10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.** at the Frankford Public Library located at 8 Main Street, Frankford, DE. The Community Café will have Troop 4 Administration and the Community Outreach Officer in attendance to meet and interact with members of the public. This Community Café is often referred to as “Coffee with a Cop” in other police agencies and is being held in an effort to build a stronger relationship between the Delaware State Police and the communities that we so proudly serve.

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*Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe*

Released: 120219 1415

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## **\*UPDATE\*** **Troopers** **Investigating Fatal Crash Rt.** **7 – Stanton**

**Stanton** – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing to investigate a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 6:01 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 on Stanton-Christiana Rd. (Rt. 7) at the intersection with Old Rt. 7.

The initial investigation has determined that a 2014 Mercedes E350, operated by a 63 year old Bear woman, was traveling northbound on Stanton-Christiana Rd. in the left lane, approaching the intersection with Old Rt. 7. A 2001 Hyundai Elantra, operated by a 23 year old Wilmington man, was traveling southbound on Stanton-Christiana Rd. and

attempted to turn left onto Old Rt. 7. The Hyundai turned directly into the path of the Mercedes, with the front of the Mercedes striking the passenger side of the Hyundai. After impact the Hyundai came to rest in the northeast corner of the intersection and the Mercedes came to a stop just north of the intersection.

The driver of the Hyundai, who was not properly restrained, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Impairment on his behalf is undetermined at this time. Identification is pending the notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Mercedes, who was properly restrained, was transported to the Christiana Hospital with minor injuries. Neither excessive speed nor impairment are deemed as contributing factors on her behalf.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident are asked to contact Cpl. J. Breen 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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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released:120219 1340

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## **\*TRAFFIC ADVISORY STANTON\***

# **Troopers Investigating Serious Crash Rt. 4 at Rt. 7 Closed**

*Stanton* – The Delaware State Police are on scene of a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 6:01 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2019 on Stanton-Christiana Rd. (Rt. 7) in the area of Rt.4.

As a result of the crash Rt. 7 is closed in both directions. Motorists are advised to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel. The road closure is anticipated to be lengthy with no estimated time for a re-opening.

For updated road closure information and traffic conditions log on to:

[http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel\\_advisory/index.shtml#advisories](http://www.deldot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories)

The investigation is in the early stages with further details being released as they become available.

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released:120219 0642

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