

# **\*Traffic Advisory\* Concord Pike Closed at Silverside Rd. Due to Downed Utility Poles – North Wilmington**

*Wilmington* – The southbound lanes of Concord Pike ( Rt. 202) are closed at Silverside Rd. due to a tractor trailer colliding with a utility pole in the area of Garden of Eden Rd. The collision, which occurred at approximately 8:41 p.m., Tuesday, August 6, has downed multiple poles in the area and has caused a power outage. The southbound lanes are totally closed with all traffic being diverted onto Silverside Rd. The northbound lanes are being intermittently effected but remain open at this time. The closure is anticipated to be lengthy and motorists are being advised to avoid the area. There are no reported injuries associated with the collision.

For updated road closure and traffic information log onto:

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

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal

Michael Austin

Released:080619 2135

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# Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash – Houston



**Houston, Delaware** – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred last month northwest of Houston.

The incident occurred at approximately 3:12 p.m., Monday, July 29, 2019, as the operator of a 2002 Jeep Liberty was traveling westbound on Milford-Harrington Highway (SR14) approaching Bloomfield Drive. The driver failed to negotiate a moderate

left curve in the roadway and exited the north edge of the roadway and struck a mailbox with the right, rear portion of the vehicle. The driver then overcorrected and turned abruptly back to the left and re-entered the Milford-Harrington Highway in the westbound lane. As the driver turned abruptly back to the right it caused the vehicle to go into a steering induced yaw as it exited the north edge of the roadway. Upon exiting the north edge of roadway the vehicle continued to rotate in a clockwise direction as it traveled northbound into a cornfield. The left tires of the vehicle gouged into the ground causing the vehicle to overturn on the driver's side. The vehicle came to rest upside down with the front of the vehicle facing in an easterly direction.

The driver, Chelsea A. Wooters, 30 of Harrington, sustained serious injuries and was removed from the scene by EMS and transported to the Bay Health Sussex Campus. She was later flown to the Christiana Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries on Tuesday, August 5, 2019.

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

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@delaware.gov](mailto:debra.reed@delaware.gov).

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***Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz***

Released:080619 2105

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# **State Police Conducting Death Investigation Relating to Vehicle Accident – Laurel**

***Laurel, Delaware*** – The Delaware State Police are currently conducting a death investigation relating to a vehicle accident that occurred this morning north of Laurel.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at approximately 11:07 a.m., when troopers were dispatched to a private residence on Fire Tower Road, Laurel in reference to a death investigation as a result of a vehicle accident. A 2012 Ford Escape, operated by a 77-year-old female, was initially traveling northbound on private property before coming to a complete stop in front of a private dumpster. After coming to a complete stop, the operator exited her vehicle and walked to the rear of the SUV in order to retrieve some garbage that she intended to throw into the dumpster. As she exited the vehicle, the vehicle was not placed in park. Upon reaching the

rear of the vehicle, the SUV began to roll backward and knocked her onto the ground where she was subsequently overrun by the left side tires. There were no passengers inside the vehicle when this incident occurred.

The victim, 77 of Seaford, was located by family members. She was pronounced deceased at the scene and was transported to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science. This incident occurred on private property, and no roadways were closed during the investigation.

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@delaware.gov](mailto:debra.reed@delaware.gov)

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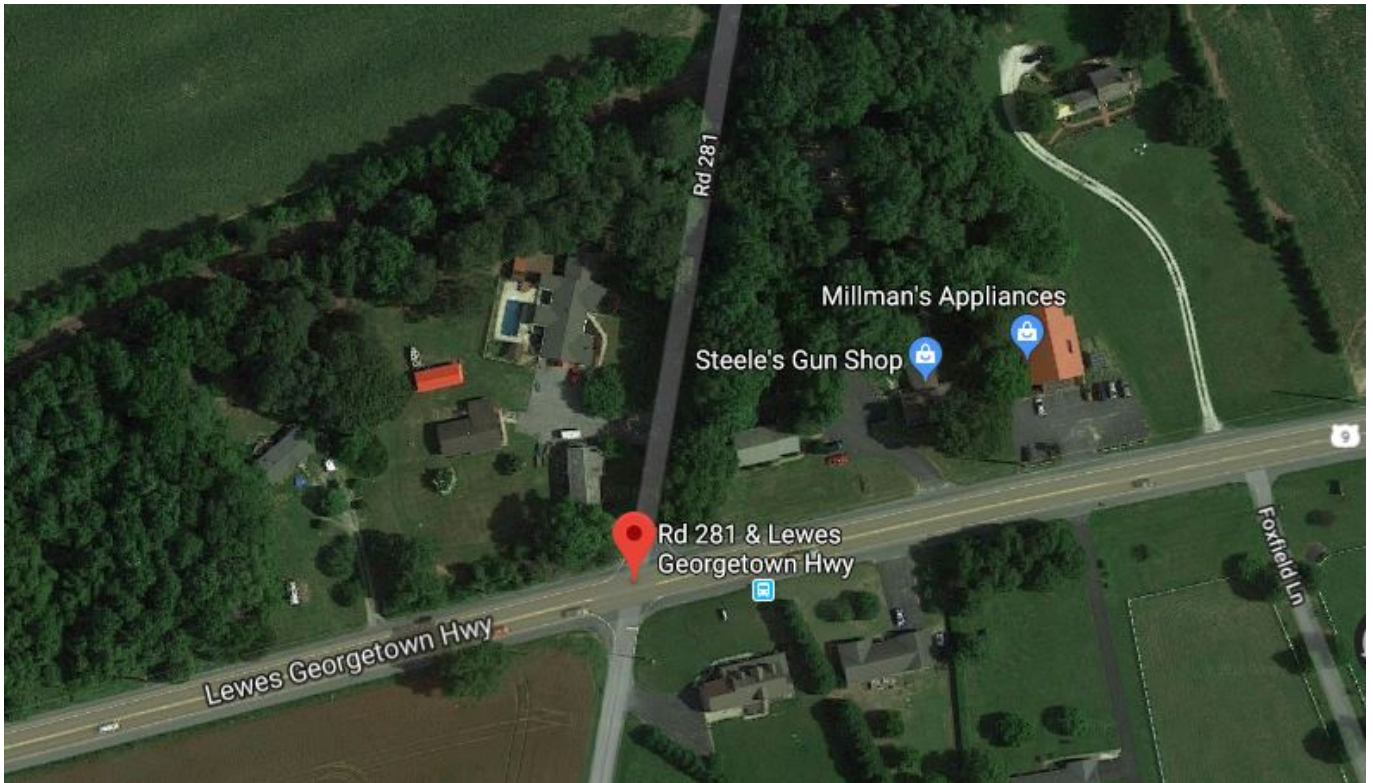
***Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz***

Released:080619 1957

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# Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash – Harbeson



***Harbeson, Delaware*** – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal vehicle crash that occurred earlier this morning.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at approximately 7:52 a.m., as a 2016 Ford Transit work van, operated by a 50-year-old male of Milton, was traveling eastbound on US 9 just east of Josephs Road. At the same time, a 2015 Isuzu six-wheel box truck, operated by a 56-year-old male of Milford, was traveling westbound on US 9 in the same area approaching the work van. For unknown reasons, the Ford Transit work van crossed the center line and entered the westbound travel lane in front of the box truck. The driver of the box truck attempted to swerve his vehicle to the right to

avoid the impact but was unsuccessful. As a result, the left side front of the Ford Transit van struck the left side of the Isuzu Box Truck for impact within the westbound travel lane. After the collision, the box truck continued westbound a short distance as it rotated counter-clockwise and rolled onto its right side. The box truck came to rest on its right side on the westbound shoulder of US 9. The Ford Transit Van was forced to rotate approximately 180 degrees and came to rest, upright, in the westbound travel lane, facing west.

The driver of the Ford Transit Van was transported by ambulance to the Beebe Hospital where he was pronounced deceased as a result of the injuries he sustained in the collision. It is unknown at this time if his seat belt was worn at the time of the collision. His name is being withheld at this time pending the notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Isuzu Box Truck was properly restrained. He was transported by ambulance to the Beebe Hospital where he was treated and released for minor non-life threatening injuries.

Speed and impairment do not appear to be factors for either operator in this collision.

(U.S. 9) Lewes-Georgetown Highway was closed for approximately four hours during the investigation and the cleanup efforts. The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit.

The Delaware State Police Reconstruction Unit is asking anyone that has information in reference to this crash or anyone who may have witnessed this collision to please contact **Cpl/3 J. Burns** of Troop 7, Lewes at **(302)-703-3266**.

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@delaware.gov](mailto:debra.reed@delaware.gov).

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***Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz***

Released:080619 1835

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# **Troopers Investigating Knifepoint Robbery – New Castle**

***New Castle (19720)*** – The Delaware State Police are investigating the knifepoint robbery of a Christiana Rd. food trailer that occurred Monday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 8:06 p.m., Monday, August 5,

2019 at the Rivera Taco Express food trailer, located at 243 Christiana Rd., New Castle. A male suspect with his face concealed and brandishing a knife, approached a 35 year old female employee as she was standing outside the trailer. The suspect pointed the knife at the employee and ordered back into the trailer where there was a second female employee. Once inside the trailer the victims were ordered to fill a bag with money. The victim's complied with the demand and then returned the bag to the suspect, who fled on foot towards the Georgetown Manor Apartment complex. The victims were not injured as a result of the incident.

The suspect was described as a white male, 5'5"-5'7", thin build, wearing a light colored shirt, dark pants and a cloth concealing his face.

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:080619 1700

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## Troopers Attempting to Locate Burglary Suspect – Dover

**Dover** – The Delaware State Police are attempting to locate 50 year old, Terry Jones, of Georgetown, who is wanted in connection with multiple burglaries that have taken place in the Dover/Felton area during the months of May and June 2019.



Through a variety of investigative leads and measures detectives were able to positively link Jones to a burglary that occurred on May 23, at American Rides, located at 3985

DuPont Hwy. Dover, as well as a second burglary that occurred on June 9, at Sunrise Auto Sales, located at 8864 DuPont Hwy., in Felton.

Warrants are currently on file at Troop 3 charging Jones with the following:

- Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree (2 counts)
- Possession of Burglary Tools (2 counts)
- Wearing a Disguise during the Commission of a Felony
- Theft of a Motor Vehicle
- Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle
- Criminal Mischief (2 counts)

In addition to the Troop 3 warrants, Jones is also wanted out of Troop 9 for Receiving Stolen Property and Dover P.D. for multiple burglary related charges.

***Anyone with information regarding Jones' whereabouts are asked to contact Detective B. Beck at Troop 3 by calling 302-698-8527 or by calling 911.***

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>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal

Michael Austin

Released:080619 1430

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## **\*UPDATE #2-Reward Offered\* Bank Robbery Suspect Identified-Still at Large**

Wilmington – Wells Fargo Bank is offering a cash reward of up to \$1000.00 for information that leads to the arrest and successful prosecution of 39 year old Michael J. Wheeler, of Wilmington, who is responsible for three bank robberies that occurred between August 2-5, 2019, one of which was at the Wells Fargo branch, located at 814 Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington.

This an active and ongoing joint investigation between the F.B.I, Delaware State Police and Middletown Police Department.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Wheeler are asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery UNit by calling 302-365-8566 or by calling 911.

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

Click on the following links to view related releases:

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/05/update-bank-robbery-suspect-identified-still-at-large/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/05/troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-north-wilmington/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/05/update-suspect-photos-released-troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-felton/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/03/troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-felton/>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal  
Michael Austin

Released:080619 1300

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## **\*UPDATE\* Bank Robbery Suspect Identified-Still at Large**

A joint investigation involving the F.B.I., Delaware State Police and Middletown Police Department has resulted in the positive identification of 39 year old Michael J. Wheeler, of Wilmington, as the suspect responsible for committing three bank robberies over the course of the last four days.

Through a variety of investigative leads and measures detectives were able to positively link Wheeler to the below

listed bank robberies:

- August 2, 2019, WSFS, 105 Irish Hill Rd., Felton (DSP investigation)
- August 5, 2019, M&T Bank, 399 E. Main St., Middletown (MPD investigation)
- August 5, 2019, Wells Fargo, 814 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington (DSP investigation)

Warrants are currently on file charging Wheeler with one count each of Robbery 1st Degree and Wearing a Disguise during the Commission of a Felony as well as two counts of Robbery 2nd Degree.

Anyone with information regarding Wheeler's whereabouts are asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery Unit by calling 302-365-8566 or by calling 911.

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

Click on the following links to view related releases:

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/05/troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-north-wilmington/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/05/update-suspect-photos-released-troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-felton/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2019/08/03/troopers-investigating-bank-robbery-felton/>

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Michael Austin

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## **Troopers Investigating Bank Robbery – North Wilmington**

*– The Delaware State Police are investigating the robbery of a north Wilmington Wells Fargo Bank that occurred just after noon today.*

The incident occurred at approximately 12:22 p.m., Monday, August 5, 2019 at the Wells Fargo Bank, located at 814 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, when a male suspect approached a teller and produced a note demanding cash. The teller complied with the demand and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to the suspect, who was last seen fleeing on foot, northbound on Philadelphia Pike. The teller was not injured as a result of the incident.

No surveillance images are available at this time.