

Phone Spoofing Scam Advisory

Dover – The Delaware State Police are issuing the following advisory in response to a recent phone scam involving a “spoofed phone number”.

The Delaware State Police were made aware of two incidents in which individuals received a phone call from a female claiming to be an Agent from Dover, Delaware. The caller identified herself as Agent Lisa Smith and provided a badge number #K4L14799. The caller advised the victims that an abandoned vehicle was found in Texas with their name and social security number. The caller then provided the victims with several addresses and asked them to confirm where they have resided in the past. The caller suggested to the victims to look up the phone number in which she was calling from so that the victims would see that it is in fact a Delaware State Police issued phone number. The caller advised the victims that if they did not provide her with the information she was seeking, she would send the police to their residence immediately.

Caller ID spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Spoofing is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally.

The Federal Communications Commissions has provided the following tips to avoid spoofing scams:

You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be extremely careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
- If you answer the phone and the caller – or a recording – asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.
- Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with “Yes” or “No.”
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legitimate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.
- Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.
- If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password.
- Talk to your phone company about call blocking tools they may have and check into apps that you can download to your mobile device to block unwanted calls. Information on available robocall blocking tools is available at [fcc.gov/robocalls](https://www.fcc.gov/robocalls).

This information was provided through the Federal Communications Commissions website located at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id>

Many of these scams are difficult to investigate. They will target persons of all age groups. The Delaware State Police is asking citizens to remember the tips previously mentioned in order to not become a victim of one of these scam artists.

If you suspect you have been a victim of this scam, please contact your local law enforcement agency. 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
Melissa Jaffe***

Released: 1217618 1407

-End-

***Update Name Released* Fatal Hit and Run Crash Involving a Pedestrian – Harrington**

Harrington- The Delaware State Police have identified the name of the pedestrian who was killed in a hit and run crash on Friday, December 14, 2018 on U.S. 13 (S. DuPont Hwy) south of Corn Crib Road as 53-year-old **Rickey D. Honeycutt** from Harrington, DE.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident or the fleeing vehicle are asked to contact Sgt. J. Wheatley of the Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit at 302-698-8518. 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>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2018/12/15/troopers-investigating-fatal-hit-run-crash-involving-pedestrian-harrington/>

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.

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Released: 121718 0843

-End-

Troopers Make Arrests in Rash of BB Gun Incidents – Lewes

Lewes – The Delaware State Police have arrested Steven Huey, 17, of Bridgeville and Collin Ritchie, 17, of Lewes in connection with a rash criminal mischief incidents in which vehicles and residences throughout the Lewes/Milton area were damaged by BB's.

Between Saturday, December 1 and Saturday, December 8, 2018 Troopers investigated 19 separate criminal mischief incidents that took place in the developments of Henlopen Landing, Edgewater Estates, Sussex West and Seawood Estates. The property damaged included both vehicles and residences, with a preliminary damage total in excess of \$10,000.00. The only investigative lead obtained from the initial investigations was that a small, black vehicle with tinted windows was involved.

During the course of the investigation Troopers were able to determine that a shoplifting incident, occurred on Friday, November 30, 2018 at the Walmart located at 18922 Rehoboth Mall Blvd., in which a BB gun had been stolen. This incident had gone undetected at the time of the original occurrence therefore it had not reported. Evidence obtained during the subsequent investigation was able to positively identified Huey as the suspect responsible for the shoplifting.

Through further investigation Troopers were able to positively link Huey to the criminal mischief incidents, as well as developing Ritchie as a second suspect. It was also determined

that the suspect vehicle involved in the incidents belonged to Ritchie. A subsequent search of Ritchie's vehicle produced assorted BB's along with a cylinder from a revolver style BB gun.

On Friday, December 14, 2018 both Huey and Ritchie were taken in to custody without incident at Troop 7 where they were each charged with 19 counts of Criminal Mischief and 19 counts of Conspiracy 3rd Degree.

Both subjects were arraigned in Sussex County Family Court and then released to their respective guardians pending a future court appearance.

In addition to the incidents that occurred in state police jurisdiction Huey and Ritchie were also positively linked to similar incidents that occurred in the development of Shipbuilders Village, which are being investigated by the Milton Police Department.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding these incidents are asked to call Troop 7 at 302-703-3290.

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:121618 1100

-End-

Trooper Named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by Delaware Crimestoppers

L-R: Delaware Crime Stoppers Exec. Dir. Robert Mooney (DSP Ret.), Maj. Melissa Zebley, Sgt. J. Paul Doherty, Michael Lawson (WPD Ret.)

Dover – Delaware State Police Sgt. J. Paul Doherty received the Robert J. Seinsoth Memorial Award as the 2018 Delaware Crimestoppers Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, at a Chiefs of Police Council ceremony held on Tuesday, December 11 at

Dover Downs.

Sgt. Doherty was nominated and subsequently chosen as the award recipient based on his investigation into a robbery/sexual assault while assigned as a detective in the Troop Robbery Unit, which ultimately led to the arrest of a serial rapist.

In May of 2017, then Detective Doherty, began investigating a robbery that took place at a New Castle area 7-Eleven convenience store, in which the victim was sexually assaulted. During the course of the investigation Detective Doherty obtained information regarding a similar incident that took place in W. Goshen Township, PA where a suspect by the name of Kwesi Hudson was apprehended.

In addition to his own investigation, and due to collaborative intra-agency information sharing, Detective Doherty was also aware of a serial kidnapping investigation being conducted by the New Castle County Police Department. This investigation was in regards to three kidnapping incidents that occurred in February and March of 2017 and involved the suspect kidnapping the female victims from northern New Castle County apartment complex's, sexually and physically assaulting them and then forcing them to withdraw money from ATM's.

Based on unique similarities between all three agencies investigations, Detective Doherty passed on the information about Kwesi Hudson to the New Castle County detectives, which ultimately resulted in Hudson being charged for all three kidnapping incidents.

Detective Sgt. Andrew Lloyd of the Troop 2 Robbery Unit, who was Detective Doherty's supervisor at the time of the investigation, included this statement in his award nomination letter:

"The rape and robbery of multiple women in New Castle County was a random, unique crime trend of exceptional nature, that

does not occur on a regular basis. Detective Doherty, as described above, was relentless in his pursuit of justice for his 7-Eleven victim. During the course of law enforcement's pursuit they were able to identify, implicate and ultimately bring to justice a serial rapist who greatly impacted the citizens of New Castle County during the winter of 2017"

Sgt. Doherty a 14 year veteran of the Delaware State Police, was a Detective with the rank of Corporal at the time of the investigation. He has since been promoted and now serves as a Patrol Supervisor assigned to Troop 2.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121618 1025


-End-

Homeless Sex Offender Notification

Dover– The following are not wanted. These are Homeless Sex Offender Public Notifications. If you have information that any of 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>.

Megan's Law Community Notice
 THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED FOR ADVISORY PURPOSES ONLY
 THIS IS NOT A WANTED PERSON

ROBERT L BELL

	Risk Level: Tier 2 (Moderate Risk) Verified On: December 10, 2018 Registered Since: February 18, 2004 In Prison: No Convicted Out of State: No Repeat Offender: No	Police Agency: DSP HEADQUARTERS Phone: (302) 856-2341 Address: PO BOX 430 Dover, DE 19903
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Date of Birth: February 08, 1967 (age 51)	Height: 5' 0"
Gender: Male	Weight: 180 LBS
Race: Black/African American	Hair Color: BROWN
Skin Tone: DARK BROWN	Eye Color: Brown

Aliases: ROBERT L BELLE, ROBERT BELL, ROBERT BELLE

Scars, Marks, & Tattoos: (no scars, marks, or tattoos on file)

Type	Address	County	Development/Employer
Home	ACE CENTER, BALMART REHOBOTH, DE 19971	Sussex	Homeless
Work	(no address on file)	Other	Unemployed
School	(no address on file)	Other	Not Attending School

Type	Make/Model/Color	State	Registration
Auto	FORD TAURUS Light Blue	DE	84376
Auto	Dodge JOURNEY Cream (very)	DE	83268

Adjudication Date	State	Statute	Description	Victim Age
February 18, 2004	DE	DE-11-0719-00A1-F-C	RAPE FOURTH DEGREE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE VICTIM LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD	12-15yr

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121518 1525

-End-

DSP S.O.A.R. Searching For Wanted Sex Offenders

Dover, DE- The Delaware State Police Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit (S.O.A.R) is currently looking for the following wanted sex offenders after they either failed to register or re-register their current address. If anyone knows the location of these subjects, 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/>



Delaware Sex Offender Central Registry



Delaware State Police » State Bureau of Identification » Delaware Sex Offender Central Registry

Any person who uses the information contained herein to threaten, intimidate, or harass the registrant or their family, or who otherwise misuses this information, may be subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability. Your use of this site constitutes acceptance of the [terms & conditions](#).

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.

BRANCH, JAMES L

[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:	September 17, 2018
Registered Since:	August 25, 2005
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:	May 20, 1977 (age 41)	Height:	5' 10"
Gender:	Male	Weight:	155 lbs.
Race:	Black/African American	Eye Color:	Brown
Skin Color:	MEDIUM BROWN	Hair Color:	BLACK

Scars, Marks, & Tattoos

(no scars, marks, or tattoos on file)

Aliases

BRANCH, JAMES

Addresses

Type	Address	County	Development/Employer
Home	SLEEPS@WILM PARKS/WILM LIBRARY WILMINGTON, DE 19805	NewCastle	Homeless
Work	(no address on file)	Other	Unemployed
School	(no address on file)	Other	Not Attending School

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal

Michael Austin

Released:121518 1525

-End-

Think, Stop, and Look – It could save your Life- Pedestrian Safety Tips

In light of several recent pedestrian crashes the Delaware State Police would like to offer these safety tips to help educate and encourage pedestrians to make smart and safe decisions when walking near roadways. By following these basic safety tips and laws it is our hope that no other pedestrians lose their lives.

- Do not walk under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Impaired walking is like impaired driving; it is illegal and can be deadly.
- Teach children not to run into the street after balls or other toys, and don't allow them to cross alone until you've practiced the basics with them.
- Carry a flashlight or other reflective item when walking at night. It's the law.
- Do not step into a cross walk if it will create a hazard to motorists. When it is clear to cross, continue to watch for traffic while crossing the street until you have safely reached the other side.

- Be sure to evaluate the distance and speed of oncoming traffic before you step out into the street to ensure that a vehicle has adequate distance in which to stop safely.
- Use sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far off the edge of the road as possible.
- Do not risk crossing outside of a cross walk or intersection just because it's more convenient, especially on high-speed roadways. Cars cannot stop in time for you.
- Cross only at cross walks or intersections with signals or traffic signs. Look left, right, and left again. Only start to cross when it's clear.
- Make eye contact with drivers when crossing busy streets and continue to watch out for traffic the entire time you are in the crosswalk. Your life may depend on it, regardless whether or not you have the right of way.
- If your vehicle breaks down on an interstate or busy roadway, don't leave your vehicle. Instead call #77 or 911 for assistance. Motorists can also call #77 to report a disabled vehicle they see on the roadways.
- If you are driving, be on the lookout for pedestrians near the roadway.
- We urge pedestrians and drivers to be more observant, cautious and safe.

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2018/12/15/troopers-investigating-fatal-hit-run-crash-involving-pedestrian-harrington/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2018/12/15/update-troopers-investigating-fatal-pedestrian-crash-philadelphia-pike-claymont/>

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2018/12/14/troopers-investigating-fatal-pedestrian-crash-claymont/>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121518 1425

-End-

Troopers Investigating Fatal Hit and Run Crash Involving a Pedestrian – Harrington

Harrington – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal hit and run crash involving a pedestrian that occurred Friday night.

The initial investigation has determined that a 53 year old Harrington man, who was a pedestrian, was crossing U.S. 13 (S. DuPont Hwy.) from west to east, just south of the intersection with Corn Crib Rd. The pedestrian successfully crossed the southbound lanes of U.S. 13 but while in the northbound right lane he was struck by an unknown vehicle which was traveling

northbound. The pedestrian was thrown to the pavement coming to rest on the shoulder of U.S. 13. The vehicle did not stop and fled the scene. A passing motorist not involved in the collision discovered the victim in the roadway.

The victim was transported to Milford Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. It was determined that he was not utilizing a crosswalk, was wearing dark clothing but was in possession of a small flashlight. Impairment on his behalf is unknown at this time. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

U.S. 13 northbound was closed for approximately 4 hours while the scene was investigated and cleared.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding the incident or the fleeing vehicle are asked to contact Sgt. J. Wheatley of the Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction Unit at 302-698-8518.

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@delaware.gov.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121518 1200

-End-

UPDATE Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash Philadelphia Pike – Claymont

Claymont – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing to investigate a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred late Friday afternoon.

The incident occurred at approximately 4:59 p.m., Friday, December 14, 2018 on northbound Philadelphia Pike, north of Wiltshire Rd., Claymont. The initial investigation has determined that a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee, being driven by a 56 year old Claymont man, was traveling northbound on Philadelphia Pike, proceeding through the intersection with

Wiltshire Rd. with a green light. A 59 year old Claymont man, who was a pedestrian, was crossing Philadelphia Pike in an undetermined direction when he was struck by the Jeep. After impact the pedestrian was thrown to the pavement, coming to rest in the left lane of Philadelphia Pike. The Jeep also came to a stop in the left lane.

The victim was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. It was determined that he was not utilizing a crosswalk, was not wearing reflective clothing and was not carrying a light. Impairment on his behalf is unknown at this time. Identification is pending notification of next of kin.

The driver of the Jeep who was wearing his seatbelt, was not injured. Neither speed nor impairment are factors on his behalf.

Northbound Philadelphia Pike was closed for approximately 2 hours while the scene was investigated and cleared.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Aube of the Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit at 302-365-8433.

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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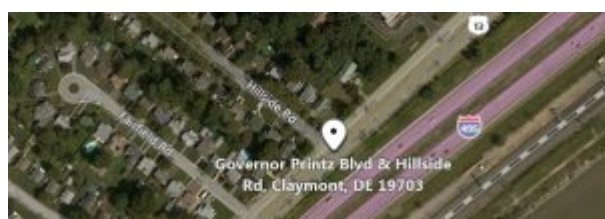
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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121518 1130

***UPDATE-Victim Identified* Troopers Investigating Fatal Pedestrian Crash – Claymont**



Claymont – The Delaware State Police have identified Nicholas Weaver, 38, of Wilmington as the pedestrian who was struck and killed, in a collision that occurred at approximately 12:44 a.m., Friday, December 14, 2018 on Governor Printz Blvd. in the area of Hillside Rd., Claymont.

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>

Click on the following link to view the original release:

<https://dsp.delaware.gov/2018/12/14/troopers-investigating-fatal-pedestrian-crash-claymont/>

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121518 0800

-End-

