Troopers Searching for Wanted Subject – Townsend



Edward Benson III

Townsend – The Delaware State Police are searching for Edward Benson III, 37, of Townsend, after he failed to appear in New Castle County Superior Court on Violation of Probation charges.

Benson, who was on probation for an Assault 1st Degree conviction, violated his probation on November 14, 2018, when he was arrested on multiple weapons and drug related offenses. He was scheduled to appear for his probation hearing at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, December 13, 2018, however it was determined that prior to the hearing Benson cut off his ankle bracelet monitoring system and failed to appear at court. He was last seen leaving his residence in the 100 block of Esch St. in Townsend in a silver, 2004 Range Rover bearing DE tag PC28310. Benson is described as a black male, 6'00", 150 lbs.

Anyone with information regarding Benson's whereabouts are asked to contact the Delaware State Police Governor's Task Force at Troop 2 by calling 302-834-2620 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:121318 1145

-End-

Troopers Arrest New Castle Man after Pursuit – North Wilmington

Wilmington – The Delaware State Police have charged a New Castle man with multiple offenses after he led them on a pursuit while driving under the influence of drugs.

The incident occurred at approximately 1:45 p.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2018 when a Trooper observed a white Kia Spectra, displaying a fictitious PA registration, traveling US 202 northbound, south of Florence Ave., in Wilmington. The Trooper then activated his emergency lights and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. The operator failed to comply, accelerated and proceeded through a red light at the intersection with Florence Ave., before proceeding onto the southbound right shoulder of US 202 while still traveling northbound. The operator then ran a red light at the intersection of US 202 and Prospect Avenue before turning onto Mt. Lebanon Rd., westbound. Once on Mt. Lebanon Rd. the vehicle accelerated at a high rate of speed and failed to negotiate a turn at the intersection with Rockland and in turn struck a stone wall head on. Upon impact, the engine compartment of the vehicle briefly caught fire. The Trooper immediately approached the Kia and removed the operator from the vehicle. The driver, who would later be identified as Justin R. Eckenroad, 33 of New Castle, was then transported to the Christiana Hospital by Delaware State Police helicopter Trooper 4, where he was admitted with serious injuries.

Warrants are currently on file charging Eckenroad with the below listed offenses. The warrants will be executed upon his discharge from the hospital.

- Disregarding a Police Officers Signal
- Driving While Suspended
- Reckless Driving
- DUI Drugs
- Failure to have Insurance
- Fictitious Registration
- Unregistered Motor Vehicle
- Failure to Signal
- Driving the Wrong Way
- Failure to Stop at Red Light
- Failure to Stop at Stop Sign

- Speeding

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released:121318 0745

-End-

Troopers Investigating Knifepoint Robbery – North Wilmington



Wilmington (19803) – The Delaware State Police are investigating a knifepoint robbery that took place at a North Wilmington motel, Tuesday evening.

The incident occurred at approximately 6:57 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the Days Inn, located at 5209 Concord Pike, Wilmington. The suspect entered the business and confronted a female behind the counter while brandishing a knife and then proceeded to ransack the desk area, searching for money. The female employee became alarmed and screamed for help at which time a male employee exited an adjacent office and confronted the suspect. As a result of the encounter the male employee fell to the ground, which caused an injury to his wrist. The suspect was able to obtain an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing on foot.

The suspect is described as a black male, 40-45 years of age, 5’8”-5’9”, wearing all dark clothing and armed with a knife.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding the 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@delaware.gov.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 121218 1430

-End-

Troopers Seek Public's Assistance Locating Suspect Wanted for Assault-New Castle

New Castle– The Delaware State Police are seeking the public's assistance in attempting to locate a suspect who is wanted in connection with an assault.

The incident occurred on November 30, 2018 at approximately 11:09 p.m. when Troopers were dispatched to the El Mariachi restaurant located at 519 E. Basin Road for an assault complaint. Further investigation revealed that a fight broke out between a 25-year-old male victim from Wilmington, his 35-year-old male friend and three subjects. All of the subjects exited the restaurant and continued to argue in the parking lot. The three subjects entered a white Dodge Ram and the driver intentionally struck the 25-year-old victim who was standing on the sidewalk.

The victim was transported to the Christiana Hospital in serious condition.

Through investigative measures, the driver of the Dodge Ram has been identified as 28-year-old **Elias Bustos-Mendoza** of Wilmington. Troopers have been unable to locate Bustos-Mendoza who is currently wanted for the following:

- Assault First Degree
- Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony
- Reckless Endanger First Degree
- Criminal Mischief

Anyone with information in reference the whereabouts of Bustos-Mendoza is asked to please contact Troop 2, Detective Biddle at 302-365-8475. 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 Melissa Jaffe

Released: 121218 1412

-End-

Troopers Investigating Knifepoint Robbery – Newark



Newark – The Delaware State Police are investigating the robbery of a Newark area gas station in which the suspect brandished a knife.

The incident occurred at approximately 8:44 p.m., Monday, December 10, 2018 at the Shell gas station located at 668 Paper Mill Rd., Newark. A suspect with his face concealed approached an employee at the sales counter, threatened him with a knife and demanded money from the register. The employee was unable to access the register at which time the suspect fled without obtaining any property or money. He was last seen on foot, southbound towards Possum Park Rd. The employee was not injured as a result of the incident.

The suspect is described as a white male, 20-28 years of age, wearing a dark hooded jacket, dark cloth covering his face and in possession of a knife.

No surveillance images are available at this time.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Det. B. McDerby of the Troop 2 Robbery Unit at 302-365-8436.

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:121218 1230

-End-

Delaware State Police Troop 6

to Host Community Cafe



Wilmington – Delaware State Police Troop 6 will be holding a Community Café on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018, from 7:00–8:30 p.m., at the Kirkwood Public Library, located at 6000 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington.

Troop Commander Captain Matthew Cox, accompanied by his deputy commanders and the Community Outreach Trooper, will be in attendance to answer questions and address concerns from community members, specific to State Police jurisdiction in the Troop 6 patrol area.

In addition to the general discussion Captain Cox will present and discuss crime and traffic data for the troop area. Community members will also be instructed on how to access the crime mapping feature on the DSP website.

These Café's are held in an effort to build a stronger relationship between the Delaware State Police and the communities that we so proudly serve.

We look forward to meeting you.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 111618 0950

-End-

Troopers Investigating Serious Crash – Middletown

Middletown, Delaware– The Delaware State Police are investigating a serious crash that occurred yesterday during the early morning hours.

The incident occurred on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at approximately 3:04 a.m., when troopers responded to Summit Bridge Road (SR 301) north of Victoria Drive, Middletown for a report of a motor vehicle collision. A 2006 Pontiac GTO, operated by a 23 year old man of Middletown was traveling southbound in the right lane on Summit Bridge Road. A 2013 GMC Pickup, operated by 30 year-old man of Newark, was traveling northbound on Summit Bridge Road (301) and for unknown reasons he lost control causing the truck to rotate 45 degrees counter clockwise and veered over the median for approx 300 feet. The pick-up truck then went across both southbound lanes and over-corrected and veered back across the lanes in a northeast

direction. At this time the Pontiac was traveling in the left lane southbound on Summit Bridge Road (301) and the front bumper of sedan struck the driver side of the pick-up. The pick-up truck's rear axle drove over the Pontiac which caused the rear axle of the truck to completely break off and continue southbound until it stopped on the westbound shoulder. The pick-up truck then rotated in the air until it landed on its driver side and skidded across the road until it stopped on westbound shoulder. The Pontiac GTO rotated almost 360 degrees until it stopped off on the westbound shoulder on the southbound side.

The pick-up driver, who was seatbelted, was transported to the Christiana Hospital with minor injuries. He was cited Failure to have Insurance Identification and Careless Driving.

The driver of the Pontiac GTO, who was seatbelted, was flown to the Christiana Hospital with serious injuries.

The crash continues to remain under investigation by the Delaware State Police. Summit Bridge Road in the area of the crash was closed for 2.5 hours while the crash was investigated and 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

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

Released: 120918 1310

-End-

Verizon Scam Alert Advisory

The Delaware State Police is providing a Scam Alert Advisory. This is a general alert which covers any part of the State of Delaware.

The Delaware State Police have recently received a complaint from a citizen in Kent County concerning a phone call from an individual stating they are with Verizon. The person claiming to be from Verizon said the network was switching from 4G to 5G and the service would experience issues in the next few days. The caller claimed, in order to avoid issues with service, an account reset is needed. The victim received a password reset email and provided the confirmation code to the caller to reset the account. The caller then instructed the victim to turn off the cell phone to complete the account reset and network update. The victim turned the cell phone on and moments later received another email from Verizon confirming his order for an Apple Ipad tablet. The order was made in the victim's name and was set to be shipped. Verizon was notified of the incident.

Taking steps to prevent identity theft can greatly reduce the

chances of becoming a victim. Below are a few suggestions for protecting yourself online and offline.

- Shred all documents containing Personally Identifying Information such as your Social Security Number, your credit card or account numbers, even your middle name. This can include bank or credit card statements, pre-approval letters, or utility bills. If you aren't sure, shred it before discarding it. Use locked filing cabinet or a document safe for important documents that you want to keep.
- Protect all of your online passwords. Don't store them on paper or in unsecured files.
- Be cautious when showing personally identifying information on social media sites.
- Be wary of callers that are providing you information on your account and then ask you to provide basic account information.
- Validate promotional offers with the company before logging into your online account to accept them. For example, if you get an email promising a $30 bill credit of your wireless bill, do some research online to see if it's a scam. When in doubt, contact the company directly to validate the offer.
- Secure your internet connection. Using public wifi connections may place you at risk for a fraudster to obtain the information stored on your computer or smartphone.
- Regularly monitor your credit report for unusual or unauthorized activity. Many sites offer a free credit report for a promise to subscribe to additional services. Under the Fair Credit Act, you are entitled to a free credit report from the reporting agencies.

Information provided through the Verizon website located at: https://www.verizonwireless.com/fraud/
For more information on identity theft, please visit

www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/privacy-identity

Anyone with information in reference to this incident is asked to please contact Troop 4, Detective Powell at 302-856-5850. 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

Many of these scams are difficult to investigate. They will target persons of all age groups. 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.

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

Released: 120818 2255

-End-

Troopers Make Annual Holiday

Visits

This week the Delaware State Police, with the support of the Delaware State Troopers Association (DSTA), made their annual holiday visits to schools and hospitals throughout the state.

Troopers had the honor of escorting Santa and Mrs. Claus, Miss Delaware 2018 Joanna Wicks, along with other beloved characters, as they interacted with the children, in the hopes of spreading some holiday cheer.

In New Castle County, a visit was made to the Nemours/Alfred I. du Pont Hospital for Children, where lunch was provided to the children and their families, courtesy of the DSTA. During the luncheon, the children were able to play games and make holiday crafts, provided by the hospital's Child Life Department, as well as having the opportunity to visit with Santa.

Troopers then escorted Santa and his friends, as he delivered gifts to patients in their rooms, who were unable to attend the luncheon. In all, over 200 patients received an early Christmas present, also provided by the Child Life Department. This marks the 21st year, that the Delaware State Troopers Association has sponsored the Troopers visit to the hospital.

In Kent County, Troopers escorted Santa and his friends to the Secret Garden Day Care, the Kent County Community School and the Charlton School.

In Sussex County, visits were made to Morris Elementary School in Lincoln, as well as the Howard T. Ennis School and the Stockley Center, both in Georgetown.

While these visits are intended to bring smiles to the faces of the children, there is no denying that the Troopers who participate, receive an equal amount of joy in return.

These visits are just another way that the Delaware State Police strives to accomplish their intended mission of: ***"Enhancing the quality of life for all Delaware Citizens and visitors by providing professional, competent and compassionate law enforcement services."***



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Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 120818 1625

-End-

Update Name Released Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash with Bicyclist – Bridgeville

Bridgeville, Delaware- The Delaware State Police have identified the name of the individual who was killed in a crash on Monday, December 3, 2018 on Conrail Road south of Cannon Road west of Bridgeville as Charles Shockley, 16 of Bridgeville, Delaware.

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

Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash with Bicyclist – Bridgeville

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 the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 120818 1410

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