Troopers Investigating Abduction-Smyrna



Smyrna– The Delaware State Police are investigating an abduction that occurred in the Holly Hill Mobile Home Park.

On Thursday, August 16, 2018, Troopers responded to Laurel Lane to check on the welfare of a 28-year-old female who lived at that residence. The victim's boyfriend had received a call from her requesting help. He believed the victim had been abducted by her estranged husband, 26-year-old **Steven Smith** of Smyrna.

Upon arrival at the residence, Troopers located a damaged front door and immediately checked the interior, and did not locate the victim. It was learned that the victim and Smith had an extensive domestic history and he recently threatened to kill her.

Smith's rental car was located in Holly Hills Mobile Home

Park. It was learned that the victim and Smith were traveling in the victim's vehicle, in the West Virginia area. The vehicle was located traveling in West Virginia, where a traffic stop was initiated, and a pursuit ensued. During the pursuit, Smith drove over stop sticks and struck two patrol vehicles. The vehicle eventually exited the roadway and became disabled.

Smith was found deceased in the vehicle with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The victim, also located in the vehicle, indicated that Smith had abducted and assaulted her, and indicated that he was going to kill her and then kill himself.

The victim was transported to a local area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

For further information regarding the incident in West Virginia, please contact Sergeant W. M. Roden of the West Virginia State Police at waylon.m.roden@wvsp.gov

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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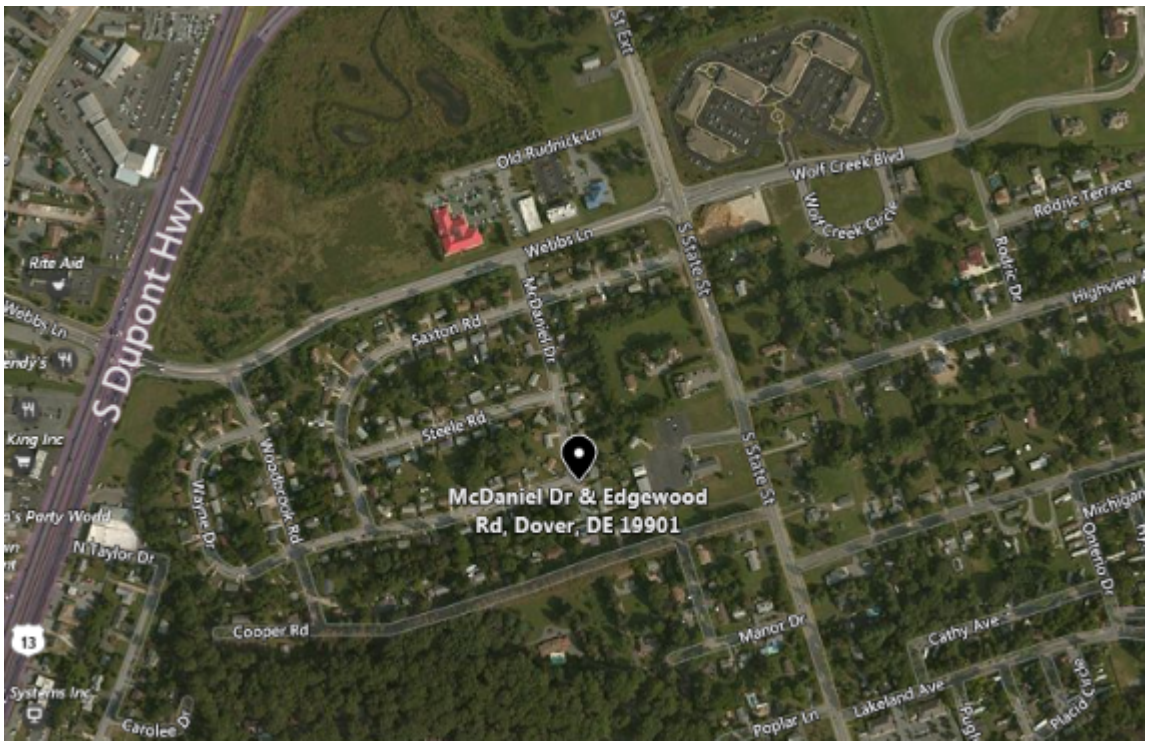
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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Released: 081718 0651

-End-

Troopers Investigating Robbery-Dover



Dover (19901)- The Delaware State Police are investigating the

robbery of a juvenile that occurred last evening in Kent Acres.

On Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at approximately 9:00 p.m., a 17-year-old was walking home by the basketball courts at Dover Park, on White Oak Road. He was approached by two subjects that were in a white, older model, four door passenger vehicle. The subjects asked the victim if he needed a ride, at which time the victim agreed and entered the vehicle. The subjects proceeded to drive the victim around the Dover area. When the victim asked to be driven home, the suspects refused, and proceeded to drive to the Kent Acres area. The suspects stopped the vehicle on McDaniel Drive, north of Edgewood Road and forced the victim out. Once outside the vehicle, the suspects forcibly removed a cell phone and an undisclosed amount of cash from the victim's pockets. Both suspects then fled the area in the vehicle.

The suspects were described as two black males, between the ages of 17-20.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to please contact Troop 3, TFC. C. Solda at 302-697-4454.

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: 081518 1709

-End-

Troopers Investigating Attempted Robbery – Hockessin



Hockessin– Delaware State Police are investigating the attempted robbery of a local area convenience store that took place early this morning.

The preliminary investigation has determined the incident occurred at approximately 4:37 a.m., Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at the Wawa convenience store, located at 605 Yorklyn Road, Hockessin. A armed black male suspect entered the business and then confronted an employee working behind the cash register who was processing another customer. As the suspect demanded money, another employee activated an audible alarm to sound which caused the suspect to flee the store without obtaining any money or property. The employees nor the customer were injured in this incident.

The suspect is described as a black male with a thin build, 25-30 years of age, approximately 5’07” tall with his face covered armed with an unknown make and model handgun. No surveillance images are available at this time.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Troop 2

Robbery Unit at 302-365-8566.

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 the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 081418 2341

-End-

Suspect Sought in Purse Snatching – Claymont



Claymont, DE – Troopers are investigating a purse snatching that occurred yesterday in the parking lot of the Tri-State Mall, Claymont.

The preliminary investigation has determined the incident occurred at approximately 4:29 p.m. on Monday August 13, 2018, when a 92-year-old female victim was walking through the parking lot of the Save-A-Lot Grocery Store located at 401 Naamans Road, Claymont. A male suspect approached her from behind and shoved her. The suspect grabbed her purse and the victim was able to maintain her balance and did not fall to the ground. The victim observed the suspect running northbound through the parking lot. The victim was not injured in this incident.

The suspect was described as a black male wearing a blue shirt and dark colored shorts running through the parking lot. The

suspect was seen entering a white vehicle which exited the parking lot from the northeast side entrance. (No further physical or clothing description available). The suspect was not reported to be armed.

There are no surveillance photos available.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Trooper J. Lucyk at Troop 1 (302-660-4274) or Troop 2 Robbery Unit at (302-365-8566). Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at 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 the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 081418 2131

-End-

Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Burglary Suspect

Kent County- The Delaware State Police is asking for the public's assistance in locating the female suspect who is wanted in connection with multiple burglaries that have occurred in the Hartly, Clayton, and Dover areas.

The Troop 3 Property Crimes Unit have been investigating numerous burglaries and through investigative measures they were able to identify the suspects, 25-year-old **Destiny Thomas** and her brother, 32-year-old **George Thomas 3rd,** both of Millington, MD.

The investigation began in June 6, 2018, when the suspects gained entry into a residence on Arthursville Road, Hartly, removed metal parts from a 1965 Rambler American Model 235, and fled the scene. On June 10, 2018, Troopers responded to Sudlersville Road, Clayton, in which the suspects entered the residence through a window and removed two shotguns and a television, prior to fleeing the scene. On June 23, 2018, Troopers responded to Central Church Road, Dover, in which the suspects forced entry through a rear door and once inside they removed numerous electronics, power tools and jewelry prior to fleeing the scene.

Destiny Thomas and **George Thomas 3rd,** currently have active warrants out of Troop 3 for the following charges:

- Burglary Second Degree (2 counts)
- Burglary Third Degree
- Theft of a Firearm (2 counts)

- Theft $1500 or Greater
- Theft Under $1500 Where a Victim is 62 Years of Age or Older
- Theft Under $1500
- Criminal Mischief (2 counts)

George Thomas 3rd was taken into custody today by Queen Anne's County, MD and is awaiting extradition back to Delaware.

Attempts to locate Destiny have been unsuccessful. She is believed to have ties to the Millington, MD, Church Hill MD, Clayton DE, and Dover DE areas. Anyone with information in reference to her whereabouts is asked to please contact Troop 3 Property Crimes, Dectective Campbell at 302-698-8504. 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: 081418 1318

-End-

Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Wanted Suspect

Millsboro- The Delaware State Police are asking for the public's assistance in locating the pictured suspect who is wanted in connection with a kidnapping, strangulation, and other related charges.

On Monday, August 13, 2018, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Troopers were made aware that a female victim had responded to a local area hospital, with injuries she had sustained in a physical domestic. Further investigation revealed that the 40-year-old female and her boyfriend, 28-year-old-**Phillippa Vann** of Millsboro had engaged in a physical domestic the day prior. Vann had physically assaulted, strangled, and attempted to sexually assault the victim. The victim attempted several times to get away from Vann. Vann and the victim later responded to the Walmart store, where the victim was able to leave Vann and drive herself to the hospital.

The 40-year-old victim sustained multiple injuries and was later transported to another hospital due to the severity of her injuries.

Troopers have been unable to locate Vann, who currently has active warrants out of Troop 4 for Attempted Rape First Degree, Kidnapping First Degree, Strangulation, Assault Second

Degree, Malicious Interference with Emergency Communications, and Criminal Mischief.

If anyone has information on the whereabouts of Vann, they are asked to please contact Troop 4, Detective Simpson at 302-752-3855. 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: 081418 0806

-End-

Crash Victim Succumbs To Injuries

Newark – On Friday, June 22, 2018 at approximately 11:23 a.m., Troopers responded to the area of Capitol Trail (SR 2) in the area of Old Harmony Rd., Newark for the report of a single

vehicle crash. The initial investigation determined that a 2006 Ford Taurus, operated by Patricia J. Coates, 61, of Wilmington was traveling in the right lane of eastbound Capitol Trail, east of Old Harmony Rd., when for an undetermined reason her vehicle drifted off the right side of the road. After entering onto a grassy area the vehicle struck a tree and other shrubbery before striking a guardrail, where it came to rest. Initial assessment determined that Patricia suffered minor injuries as a result of the crash and an medical event was being suspected as a contributing factor.

Patricia was admitted to the Christiana Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries, and was pronounced deceased on Sunday, June 24, 2018.

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 Michael Austin

Released: 081218 1800

-End-

UPDATE-Victim Identified

Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash – Laurel

Laurel – The Delaware State Police have identified Miranda A. Daugherty, 18, of Laurel as the operator of a Kia Optima, who was killed in a single vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 2:53 a.m., Sunday, August 12, 2018, on Fire Tower Rd., approximately .4 miles north of U.S. 9 (County Seat Highway), Laurel.

Click on the following link to view the original release:

Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash – Laurel

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Cpl. J. Burns of the Troop7 Collision Reconstruction Unit at 302-644-5020.

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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Released: 081318 1100

-End-

Update #4-Victim Identified Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving Overturned Tractor Trailer – I-495 Claymont

Claymont- The Delaware State Police have identified Michael L. Kent, 53, of Newark as the operator of a Volvo tanker truck who was killed in a crash that occurred at approximately 3:02 a.m., Saturday, August 11, 2018 on I-495 northbound just south of the Philadelphia Pike in Claymont.

Click on the following links to view related releases:

Traffic Advisory I-495 Closed in Both Directions Due to Fatal Crash Involving Overturned Tractor Trailer

UPDATE-Traffic Advisory I-495 Closed in Both Directions Due to Fatal Crash Involving Overturned Tractor Trailer

UPDATE #2 – Traffic Advisory I-495 Open in Both Directions – Investigation Into Fatal Crash Involving Tractor Trailer Continues

Update #3 Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Involving Overturned Tractor Trailer – I-495 Claymont

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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Released: 081318 1000

-End-

Troopers Arrest Rehoboth Beach Man for Burglary – Rehoboth Beach

Rehoboth Beach – Delaware State Police have arrested ***Alan J. Stoltzfus***, 26, of Rehoboth Beach for a burglary that took place in the Edgewater Estates development of Rehoboth Beach, Saturday evening.

The investigation began at approximately 6:40 p.m., Saturday, August 11, 2018 when Troopers from Troop 7 responded to the unit block of Lighthouse Dr., in Edgewater Estates, for the report of a male suspect attempting to break in to a residence.

Prior to arriving on scene Troopers received updated information advising that the suspect, who would later be identified as Stoltzfus, had just fled the scene on a bicycle. Responding Troopers located Stoltzfus on Lighthouse Dr. on the bicycle at which time he was stopped. As he was being taken in to custody a brief struggle ensued which resulted in one of the Troopers being kicked by Stoltzfus. The Trooper did not sustain any injuries as a result of the altercation. Stoltzfus was ultimately secured and then transported to Troop 7.

Further investigation determined that Stoltzfus made forcible entry into an enclosed rear patio, and then broke a glass door window allowing access into the main portion of the residence. It was determined however, that Stoltzfus fled the scene prior to entering the main portion of the residence.

Once at Troop 7 Stoltzfus was charged with one count each of Burglary 2nd Degree, Possession of Burglar Tools, Offensive Touching of a Law Enforcement Officer, Resisting Arrest and Criminal Mischief Under $1000.00.

Stoltzfus was arraigned in Justice of the Peace Court #3 and then committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution in lieu of $12,500.00 secured bail.

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Released: 081218 1320

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