

Delaware State Police Troop 4 to Host Community Café - Bethany



Bethany – Delaware State Police Troop 4 will be holding a Community Café on **Thursday, June 14, 2018**. The event will held from **10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.** at the South Inlet Restaurant: **Big Chill Beach Club, located at 27099 Coastal Highway, Bethany**. The Community Café will have Troop 4 Administration, as well as the Superintendent of the Indian River School District, Mr. Mark Steel, 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.

Please be advised that the location of this event is on State Park grounds and entry fees will apply:

Delaware Resident.....\$5.00

Non-Resident.....\$10.00

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

Released: 060818 1158

-End-

Joint Investigation Leads to Multiple Burglary Arrest

Kent/Sussex Counties- Delaware State Police with the assistance of multiple agencies have arrested two suspects in connection with numerous burglaries.

The investigation began in April 2018, when agencies primarily in Kent and Sussex Counties began experiencing a rash of commercial glass break burglaries. During these burglaries, the suspect(s) typically forced entry by throwing a brick or rock against a glass door or window and then primarily removing the cash registers from the businesses.

Through investigative measures, detectives identified a suspect vehicle as a silver 2007 Saturn Aura. **James D. Green-Surman**, 28-year-old of Dover, was identified as the operator and primary suspect of the burglary incidents.

On May 23, 2018, detectives observed James Green-Surman attempt to force entry into the Pete's Steak House located at 19287 Miller Road, Rehoboth Beach, by throwing a brick against a glass door. Green-Surman was subsequently taken into custody and arrested. He was charged in connection with crimes occurring at 36 businesses, by Troop 3 CIU, Troop 4 CIU, the Dover Police Department, the Milford Police Department, and the Middletown Police Department for 133 charges consisting of Burglary 3rd, Attempted Burglary 3rd, Wearing a Disguise, Possession of Burglar Tools, Theft Over \$1500, Theft Under \$1500, Attempted Theft Under \$1500, Conspiracy 2nd, Criminal Mischief Over \$5000, Criminal Mischief \$1000-\$5000, and Criminal Mischief Under \$1000. He was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 3 and issued a \$130,050.00 secured bond, and later released after posting bail.

Through investigative measures, Green-Surman's co-conspirator in some of the burglaries was identified as 33-year-old, **Tony A. Cobb** of Dover. On June 5, 2018, Cobb was located and apprehended by the US Marshall's Task Force, the Dover Police Department, and Probation and Parole in Dover. Cobb was wanted in reference to active Violation Of Probation (VOP) warrants and burglary warrants. Cobb was charged in connection with crimes occurring at 13 businesses by Troop 3, Troop 4, the Dover Police Department, and the Milford Police Department for 62 charges consisting of Burglary 3rd, Attempted Burglary 3rd, Wearing a Disguise, Possession of Burglar Tools, Theft Over \$1500, Theft Under \$1500, Attempted Theft Under \$1500, Conspiracy 2nd, Criminal Mischief Over \$5000, Criminal Mischief \$1000-\$5000, and Criminal Mischief Under \$1000. Cobb was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 7 and committed to the James T. Vaughn Correctional Institute on \$9,675.00 cash only bond for his VOP warrants and \$132,250.00 secured bond in reference to his burglary warrants.

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

Released: 060718 1703

-End-

Troopers Arrest Millsboro Man on Multiple Burglary Charges

Millsboro- Delaware State Police have arrested a Millsboro man in connection with multiple burglaries and other related offenses.

On Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at approximately 5:32 a.m., troopers were dispatched to the 36000 block of Pine Drive, Mariner's Cove development, for a report of a domestic. Upon arrival contact was made with the homeowner, who advised that he was awoken by loud noises outside. As he went outside to investigate, he discovered a plethora of stolen property surrounding his residence. Additionally, he discovered his son, 48-year-old **Timothy R. Elliott Jr.** across the street inside a neighbor's boat attempting to remove a seat.

Upon arrival, troopers observed this plethora of property which included but not limited to; numerous large appliances, heavy landscaping stones, copper piping, furniture, lumber, an HVAC, toilets, and a kitchen sink and countertop. The investigation revealed that Elliott had dismantled and removed the interior contents of 5 neighboring, seasonal residences.

Prior to the troopers arrival, Elliott had fled on foot. With

the assistance of Troop 7 K-9 Fifo, Elliott was discovered hiding in the crawlspace to his residence. Elliott was subsequently taken into custody and transported to Troop 7 where he was charged with 3 counts of Burglary 3rd (Felony), 2 counts of Possession of Burglary Tools (Felony), 3 counts of Theft (Felony), 2 counts of Criminal Mischief, 2 counts of Theft, Resisting Arrest, and 2 counts of Criminal Trespass. He was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 2 and committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$13,002.00 secured bond.

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

Released: 060618 1408

-End-

Troopers Arrest Georgetown Man for Child Abuse



Georgetown— The Delaware State Police have arrested a Georgetown man after an investigation revealed he physically abused his 3-month old daughter.

The investigation began on May 27, 2018 at approximately 12:03 p.m. when troopers were dispatched to the Nanticoke Memorial Hospital for a possible child abuse case. 24-year-old, **Eduar E. Guzman-Cruz**, brought his daughter to the emergency room as she was acting abnormal. It was determined that the child

suffered a serious brain injury and was subsequently transported to the Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital.

On May 31, 2018, Detectives were advised that the injuries to the baby were catastrophic and significant to the extent that they were life threatening. It was determined that the baby suffered an acute injury consistent with abusive head trauma and child physical abuse immediately prior to her admission to the hospital.

Through investigative measures, a warrant was obtained and Guzman-Cruz was arrested on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at approximately 8:44 p.m. for Child Abuse 1st Recklessly/Intentionally Causes Serious Physical Injury to a Child. He was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 2 and committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$10,000.00 cash only bond. Guzman-Cruz was also issued a no contact order for the victim and his 2 year old daughter.

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

Released: 060618 0958

-End-

Troopers Arrest Suspect for Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer-Seafood

Seafood-Delaware State Police have arrested a Seafood man after a traffic stop led to an Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at approximately 5:24 p.m. when a Trooper initiated a traffic stop on a 2002 Dodge Durango, on German Road for failure to stop at a stop sign. The Trooper made contact with the driver, who initially provided a false name. The driver attempted to place the vehicle in drive at which time the Trooper's arm became entangled in the steering wheel and the driver accelerated forward. As the Trooper was being drug on the side of the vehicle, he attempted to deploy his TASER. The vehicle then came to a sudden stop and a struggle ensued over the TASER. The Trooper at this point was able to free himself from the side of the vehicle.

The driver, later identified as 29-year-old **Brandon T. Showell**, then exited the vehicle and a foot pursuit ensued. Showell was subsequently apprehended and taken into custody. A computer check revealed that Showell was wanted for a Sussex County Superior Court Rule 9 Robbery 1st warrant along with several Violation of Probation and court capiases. He was transported back to Troop 5 where he was charged with Assault 2nd on a Law Enforcement Officer, Removing a Deadly Weapon from Law Enforcement, Resisting Arrest with Force, Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Impersonation, Driving While Revoked, and 2

counts of Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign. He was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 3 and committed to the Sussex Correctional Institution on \$10,000 cash only bond.

The Trooper was transported to the Nanticoke Memorial Hospital where he was treated and released.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Released: 060618 0844

-End-

UPDATE-ALL LANES RE-OPENED
Crash Involving Overturned

Dump Truck Causes Closure of SR 1 at DE 273 – Newark

Newark – Delaware State Police are continuing to investigate a two vehicle crash involving an overturned dump truck that occurred at approximately 3:17 a.m., Tuesday June 5, 2018 on SR 1 northbound, just north of DE 273, Newark.

The initial investigation has determined that a 1999 Honda Civic being driven by a 18 year old Port Deposit, Maryland woman, was travelling SR 1 northbound in the left lane approaching DE 273, when a deer ran into her path. The driver swerved to avoid the deer at which time she lost control and traveled off the right side of the road, striking a guardrail. After impacting the guardrail the Honda re-entered the SR 1 northbound lanes, coming to rest in the left lane facing southbound.

A 2016 Kenworth dump truck, operated by a 61 year old New Castle man, was traveling SR 1 northbound in the left lane and did not see the disabled Honda due to it's headlights being inoperable as a result of the initial crash. The dump truck driver braked at the last moment but could not avoid striking the Honda. After impact the dump truck overturned on to it's left side before coming to rest off the right side of the SR 1 northbound lanes. The dump truck was hauling ash which was spread across all SR 1 northbound lanes after the vehicle overturned.

The operator of the Honda as well as the dump truck, who were both properly restrained, were transported to the Christiana Hospital with minor injuries.

As of 10:25 a.m. all lanes of SR 1 have been re-opened.

The SR 1 southbound lanes were closed for approximately 2 hours and the northbound lanes were closed for approximately 7

hours as the crash was investigated and cleared.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

Released: 060518 1030

-End-

***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* Lane Closed on N. Dupont Highway at Hatchery Road Due to Overturned Dump Truck-Dover**

Dover – Delaware State Police are investigating a crash involving an overturned dump truck that occurred at approximately 7:58 a.m., Tuesday June 5, 2018 on northbound N. Dupont Highway (Rt. 13) at Hatchery Road. The northbound right lane on Rt. 13 at Hatchery Road is closed at this time.

Motorist should expect delays in this area and are advised to

seek alternate routes of travel.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information click on the following link:

[http://www.del.dot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories.](http://www.del.dot.gov/Traffic/travel_advisory/index.shtml#advisories)

The investigation is ongoing and there is no reports of injuries.

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

Released: 060518 0924

-End-

Claymont Man Arrested For Multiple Construction Site

Thefts

Wilmington – Delaware State Police detectives have arrested Eugene Smallwood, 50, of Claymont, in connection with multiple thefts from a Wawa construction site that took place over a two week period in January 2018.

The investigation began on January 17, 2018 when Troopers responded to the Wawa construction site located at 1702 Rocky Run Parkway, Wilmington, for a theft of building materials. Over the course of the next twelve days, ending on January 29, Troopers investigated four additional thefts from this same location.

Over the course of the next four months, through various investigative leads and measures, detectives were able to develop a red Ford pick-up truck as a possible suspect vehicle. Further investigation linked the truck to Smallwood who was then positively identified as the suspect responsible for all five thefts, in which a total of \$7,290.00 in building materials had been stolen.

Smallwood was taken in to custody on May 25, 2018 without incident and transported to Delaware State Police Troop 2 where he was charged with the following:

- Theft Greater than \$1500.00, felony (2 counts)
- Conspiracy 2nd Degree, felony (2 counts)
- Theft Less than \$1500.00, misdemeanor (3 counts)
- Conspiracy 3rd Degree, misdemeanor (2 counts)
- Criminal Trespass 3rd Degree, misdemeanor (8 counts)

Smallwood was arraigned in Justice of the Peace Court #2 and then committed to the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in lieu of \$9,500.00 secured bail.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents are asked to

contact Detective B. Harris at Troop 2 by calling 302-365-8410.

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: 060518 0840

-End-

***TRAFFIC ADVISORY* SR 1
Closed in Both Directions at
DE Rt. 273 Due to Overturned**

Dump Truck

Newark – Delaware State Police are investigating a two vehicle crash involving an overturned dump truck that occurred at approximately 3:17 a.m., Tuesday June 5, 2018 on SR 1 northbound, just north of DE 273, Newark. The dump truck has spilled ash on to the roadway which has caused the closure of all lanes of both north and southbound SR 1, with all traffic being diverted on to DE 273.

Emergency crews are on scene and have initiated a cleanup operation however there is no estimated time for the re-opening of the roadway. Motorists are advised to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel.

For updated traffic conditions and road closure information click on the following link:

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

The investigation is ongoing with further details being released as they become available.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Michael Austin

-End-

State Partnerships Drive Progress for “Secure Your Load Day”

Delaware – From 2014 to 2017, Delaware has seen an increase of 250% in crashes on our roads attributed to cargo loss or shift. The Delaware State Police, Delaware Department of Transportation, Delaware Office of Highway Safety and AAA-Mid Atlantic have partnered to educate the motoring public on the importance of load securement. This year’s annual “Secure Your Load Day” is recognized on June 6th and is a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the dangers of unsecured loads and road debris on our nation’s highways.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) includes the day on its calendar and the addition of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) approved Secure Your Load language in the manual for all non-commercial drivers nationwide.

“Unsecured loads and road debris crashes are preventable with just a few minutes of time. All items need to be securely fastened to the vehicle,” says **Sergeant Richard Bratz, Public Information Director for the Delaware State Police**. “If we see you hauling an improperly secured load, you could receive a heavy fine.”

“It’s never safe to use the weight of the load or the

placement of the load to haul or transport cargo safely. All items must be safely fastened to the vehicle. Ironically, as I was driving to work this morning and thinking about this statement, I nearly hit a large construction pail that was rolling along in the center of Delaware highway 1," says **Mitch Topal, Public Information Officer and Marketing Specialist for the Office of Highway Safety**. "All puns aside, that really drove the message home for me."

Secretary of Transportation Jennifer Cohan added, "The statistics show that this has become a serious problem in Delaware, and everyone needs to do their part to prevent unnecessary accidents and injuries as a result of unsecured cargo. Taking a few extra minutes to ensure your load is properly secured makes our roads safer for everyone."

"According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, two in three debris-related crashes result from items falling from a vehicle due to improper maintenance or an unsecured load, says **Ken Grant, Manager, Public and Government Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic**. "As with most road situations, proper planning and precautions can prevent tragedies."

Here are some recommendations to properly secure your load in six easy steps:

1. Tie down load with rope, netting or straps
 2. Tie large objects directly to the vehicle or trailer
 3. Cover the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting
 4. Don't overload the vehicle
 5. Always double check load to make sure a load is secure
 6. Secure Your Load as if your loved ones driving in the car behind you
- For more information, go to www.secureyourload.com.

Presented by the Director of Public Information, Sergeant Richard Bratz

Released: 060418 1431

-End-