

State Police Arrest Two Men for Gun and Drug Charges Following Pursuit in Bridgeville

Delaware State Police have arrested 28-year-old **Tracey Johnson** of Harrington, Delaware, and 26-year-old **Joseph Davis** of Georgetown, Delaware, for gun and drug offenses following a pursuit in Bridgeville.

On July 30, 2025, at approximately 3:05 p.m., members of the Sussex County Governor's Task Force saw a black Dodge Charger with a registration violation traveling northbound on Coverdale Road near Seashore Highway. Detectives initiated a traffic stop on the Dodge, which was occupied by a black male driver, and a black male passenger. The Dodge failed to stop and sped away on Seashore Highway. Due to the Dodge traveling in a reckless manner, the pursuit was discontinued for the safety of other motorists. In the ensuing investigation, members of the Kent County Governor's Task Force responded to the registered owner of the Dodge's residence on Genesis Lane in Harrington. When detectives arrived, they saw two men, identified as the driver Tracey Johnson, and passenger Joseph Davis, attempting to cover the Dodge with a tarp. As detectives made contact with them, they saw Davis place an item under a landscaping trailer. Johnson and Davis were detained without incident. During a search of Davis, detectives found approximately 1.95 grams of heroin. During a search of Johnson, detectives found the key for the Dodge. Subsequently, detectives conducted a search of the Dodge, and the area under the landscaping trailer, which led to the discovery of the following items:

- Loaded 9mm handgun with an extended magazine

- Sawed off .12-gauge shotgun
- Several rounds of .12-gauge ammunition
- AR-15 upper receiver
- AR-15 magazine
- Several rounds of 5.56 caliber ammunition
- Several rounds of .38 caliber ammunition
- Approximately 27.67 grams of acetaminophen
- Approximately 10.70 grams of a combination xylazine/acetaminophen mixture
- Digital scales

Johnson and Davis were arrested, and taken to Troop 3, where they were each charged with multiple crimes.

Johnson, who is a person prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition, was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on an \$89,500 cash bond.



- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Firearm or Destructive Weapon if Previously Convicted of a Violent Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Person Prohibited who also Possesses a Controlled Substance (Felony)
- Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Prohibited Prior Violent Crime or Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Destructive Weapon – Sawed Off Shotgun (Felony)
- Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Felony) – 2 counts
- Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 3 (Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 1 (Felony)
- Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)
- Disregarding a Police Officer's Signal (Felony)
- Resisting Arrest
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Reckless Driving
- Driving While Suspended or Revoked
- Expired or Invalid Temporary Registration
- Multiple Traffic Violations

Davis, who is a person prohibited from possessing a firearm or

ammunition, was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and committed to Susses Correctional Institution on a \$109,500 cash bond.



- Possession of a Large Capacity Magazine During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)
- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony)

- Possession of a Deadly Weapon Semi Auto or Auto by a Person Prohibited Who Also Possesses Controlled Substance (Felony)
 - Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Prohibited Prior Conviction of Use, Possession, or Sale of Drugs (Felony)
 - Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Person Prohibited Prior Violent Crime or Felony (Felony)
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Felony) – 2 counts
 - Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 1 (Felony)
 - Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 3 (Felony)
 - Tampering with Physical Evidence (Felony)
 - Hindering Prosecution, the Acts Delayed Prevented or Hindered Discovery (Felony)
 - Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
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Operation Troopers Have Your BACKpack

The Delaware State Police Community Engagement Unit's annual program to assist elementary school-aged children in need with the necessities for school is back! Troopers are asking for help with donations to fill each child's backpack with school supplies.

Operation Troopers Have Your BACKpack works with local communities and organizations to collect and donate school supplies for children in need. Donations can be taken to Troop

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9, or Delaware State Police Federal Credit Union locations by anyone wishing to help. Each location will have a box for supplies to be dropped off. The donations will be collected from August 4, 2025 until August 15, 2025, and will be distributed at the start of the school year. The supplies needed for the students are:

Backpacks	No. 2 Pencils
24-Count Crayons	Spiral Notebooks
Large Pink Erasers	Colored Pencils
Washable Markers	Highlighters
3-Ring Binders	Loose Leaf Wide Ruled Paper
Composition Books	Box of Tissues
Plastic Pocket Folders	Hand Sanitizer

Delaware State Police is thankful for the generosity from the public with this program in the past years. Please help us give the students these essential supplies for another successful school year!

Search Warrant in Rehoboth

Beach Leads to Arrest for Gun and Drug Offenses

Delaware State Police have arrested a 47-year-old **Steve Pagan** from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for felony gun and drug charges following a search warrant in Rehoboth Beach this morning.

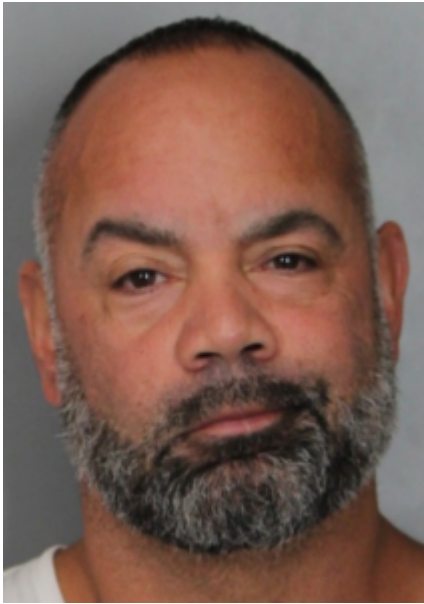
On July 31, 2025, members of the Sussex County Drug Unit, Sussex County Governor's Task Force, Delaware State Police Special Operations Response Team, and the Rehoboth Beach Police Department, executed a search warrant at a residence on Baltimore Avenue in Rehoboth Beach. The search warrant was obtained following an investigation of Steve Pagan for the distribution of illegal narcotics from the residence. During the search warrant, Pagan was detained in the residence. Two children were also in the residence at the time of the search warrant.

A search of the residence and vehicles led to the discovery of the following items:

- Approximately 22.21 grams of cocaine
- Approximately 28 grams of psilocybin mushrooms
- Approximately 56 dosage units of Dihydrotestosterone
- Approximately 4.1 grams of Testosterone
- Approximately 3 grams of Trenbolone
- Approximately 1.5 grams of Nandrolone
- ,45 caliber handgun and ammunition
- 9mm handgun and ammunition
- Drug paraphernalia
- \$3,104 in suspected drug proceeds

Pagan, who is a person prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition, was taken to Troop 4 where he was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court

2, and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on an \$85,100 cash bond.



- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony (Felony) – 2 counts
- Possession of a Firearm/Destructive Weapon within 10 years of a Felony Conviction (Felony) – 2 counts
- Possession of a Firearm/Ammunition by a Person

- Prohibited (Felony) – 2 counts
 - Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, Tier 2 (Felony)
 - Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 3 (Felony)
 - Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 2 (Felony)
 - Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 1 (Felony) – 3 counts
 - Possession of a Controlled or Counterfeit Substance except Human Growth Hormone without a Prescription (Felony)
 - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
 - Unsafe Storage of a Firearm
 - Endangering the Welfare of a Child – 2 counts
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Search Warrant in Georgetown Leads to Multiple Arrests for Drug Offenses

Delaware State Police have arrested 52-year-old **Gary Jefferson** of Georgetown, Delaware, 26-year-old **Jamie Reed** of Milford, Delaware, and 54-year-old **Paul Sample** of Georgetown, Delaware, for felony drug and related charges following a search warrant in Georgetown yesterday.

On July 29, 2025, members of the Sussex County Drug Unit, Sussex County Governor's Task Force, and the Georgetown Police Department, executed a search warrant at a property on the 20000 block of Savannah Road in Georgetown. The search warrant was obtained following an investigation of Gary Jefferson and Paul Sample for the distribution of illegal narcotics from the property. During the search warrant, 18 people were detained including Jefferson, Reed, and Sample.

A search of the people detained, vehicles, and the property led to the discovery of the following items:

- \$723.00 in suspected drug proceeds
- Approximately .19 grams of crack cocaine
- Approximately 26 pills of medroxyprogesterone
- Approximately 6 pills of valacyclovir
- Approximately 69 pills of bupropion
- Approximately 12 pills of gabapentin
- Approximately 22 pills of tadalafil
- Approximately 17 pills of olanzapine
- Approximately 30 pills of spironolactone
- Digital scale
- Drug paraphernalia

After the search, 5 of the 18 people detained were arrested for misdemeanor offenses and capias warrants, the others were released without incident. Jefferson, Reed, and Sample were all taken to Troop 4 where they were charged with multiple crimes.

Jefferson was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and released on a \$1,500 unsecured bond.



- Maintaining a Drug Property (Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Reed was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$24,500 secured bond.



- Possession with Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance (Felony) – 7 counts
- Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 1 (Felony)
- Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tier 2 (Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Sample was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 2, and released on a \$3,500 unsecured bond.



- Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance (Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

State Police Arrest Two People from Maryland Following Pursuit Near Angola

Delaware State Police have arrested 21-year-old **Jeremy Rodriguez Sepulveda** of Salisbury, Maryland, and 19-year-old **Tina Berry** of Delmar, Maryland for felony offenses following a pursuit near Angola.

On July 27, 2025, at approximately 9:14 p.m., a trooper on patrol saw a Toyota GR86 traveling eastbound on John J. Williams Highway near Banks Road, east of Long Neck, at a high rate of speed. The trooper initiated a traffic stop as the Toyota turned southbound on Sloan Road. The driver failed to stop and turned off the Toyota's headlights. As the Toyota continued southbound on Sloan Road, it failed to negotiate a curve and overturned. Troopers contacted the occupants of the vehicle, identified as Jeremy Rodriguez Sepulveda and Tina Berry. Both were taken to an area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. In the ensuing investigation, Berry told troopers that she was driving the Toyota, but it was later determined that Rodriguez Sepulveda was driving during the pursuit.

After being released from the hospital, Rodriguez Sepulveda and Berry were arrested and taken to Troop 7, where they were each charged with multiple offenses.

Rodriguez Sepulveda was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 7, and released on his own recognizance.



- Provide False Statement to Law Enforcement with Intent to Delay/Hinder Investigation of a Felony (Felony)
- Disregard a Police Officer Signal (Felony)
- Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)
- Reckless Driving
- Driving without a Valid License
- Multiple Traffic Violations

Berry was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 7, and released on her own recognizance.



- Provide False Statement to Law Enforcement with Intent to Delay/Hinder Investigation of a Felony (Felony)

- Conspiracy 2nd Degree (Felony)
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Detectives Investigating Home Invasion in Newark

The Delaware State Police are investigating a home invasion that occurred last night in Newark.

On July 28, 2025, at approximately 10:15 p.m., troopers responded to a residence on Salem Church Road in Newark, for a report of a home invasion. The preliminary investigation revealed that 2 unknown black male suspects entered the residence, and approached the victim in the family room. The suspects, both armed with firearms, demanded property from the victim, and inquired about an unknown male. The suspects then tied the victim's hands, and ransacked his room. The suspects fled from the house with an undisclosed amount of money and property.

The victim was not injured. The suspects are described as black males, wearing dark-colored clothing, and armed with firearms. There is no surveillance footage available at this time.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Robbery Unit continues to investigate this incident. Detectives are asking anyone with information about this case to contact Detective J. Dempsey by calling (302) 365-8472. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime

or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need 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 at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov.

State Police Investigating Single-Vehicle Fatal Crash in Middletown

The Delaware State Police are investigating a single-vehicle fatal crash that occurred yesterday evening in Middletown that left one woman dead.

On July 28, 2025, at approximately 6:08 p.m., a black 2018 Toyota Highlander was traveling in the left lane on State Route 301 northbound, approaching the DE-71 overpass. For unknown reasons, the Toyota traveled into the grass median, where it went up an embankment, and went airborne. The Toyota ultimately landed in the right lane of DE-71 northbound, rolled over, and struck the jersey barrier before it came to rest in the right shoulder of DE-71.

The rear passenger of the Toyota was pronounced dead at the scene. Her name is being withheld until her family and relatives are notified.

The driver of the Toyota, a 62-year-old man, and the front passenger, a 55-year-old woman, both from Bronx, New York, were taken to an area hospital for serious injuries.

The [roadway was closed for approximately 6 hours](#) while the investigators examined the scene and cleared the roadway.

The Delaware State Police Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this incident. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Master Corporal R. Kunicki by calling 302-365-8417. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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***Update – Suspect Arrested* State Police Investigating Home Invasion in Smyrna**

The Delaware State Police arrested 33-year-old **Steven Mauthe** of Smyrna, Delaware, for multiple felony offenses stemming from a home invasion that occurred in April in Smyrna.

[On April 15, 2025, at approximately 8:39 p.m.](#), troopers responded to a residence on Ivy Ridge Court in Smyrna, for a report of a home invasion and assault. The preliminary investigation revealed that Steven Mauthe entered the residence, which was occupied by the homeowner and a 76-year-

old man, both of whom are acquaintances of Mauthe. Mauthe proceeded to get into an argument with the 76-year-old victim, during which he punched the victim's face multiple times. Mauthe fled from the home; however, returned a couple minutes later, repeatedly punched the victim in the face, and then fled on foot in an unknown direction.

On July 27, 2025, troopers made contact with Mauthe on an unrelated complaint in Townsend, and took him into custody without incident. Mauthe was taken to Troop 9, where he was charged with the crimes listed below, arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 7, and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on a \$60,000 cash bond.

- Home Invasion Burglary 1st Degree (Felony)
- Assault 1st Degree (Felony)

Detectives Investigating Shots Fired in Claymont

The Delaware State Police are investigating a shots fired incident that occurred in the area of Claymont Elementary School in Claymont last night.

On July 27, 2025, at approximately 10:53 p.m., troopers responded to the area of Claymont Elementary School, located at 3401 Green Street, Claymont, for a report of shots fired. Troopers, with the assistance of New Castle County Police Department, searched the area for any victims, suspects, or property damaged. During the search, New Castle County Police Department Officers located an abandoned white Hyundai Sonata on Green Street. The vehicle was still in drive, and appeared

to have been struck by a projectile. The preliminary investigation revealed that after the shots fired were heard, several vehicles drove away at a high rate of speed, and the Hyundai was abandoned, still in motion, by 3-4 unknown subjects, who fled in various directions.

There are no reported injuries or other property damage at this time. There is no further information available for the suspect(s). Surveillance video and images are not available.

The Troop 2 Criminal Investigations Unit continues to investigate this incident. Detectives are asking anyone who witnessed this incident or has information regarding this case to contact Detective J. Lucyk by calling 302-365-8446. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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Update – Victim Identified
State Police Arrest Man for
Vehicular Homicide in Fatal

Hit-and-Run Collision in Milton

Delaware State Police have identified 67-year-old **Sylvester Person** of Milford, Delaware, as the [man who died in a fatal hit-and-run collision on Saturday morning in Milton](#).

The Delaware State Police Troop 7 Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this incident. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Senior Corporal J. Smith by calling 302-703-3267. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the [Delaware State Police](#) or contacting [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-847-3333.

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