D.C. Man Linked to Theft of Car Tires



Ernest S. Covington

Bridgeville – The Delaware State Police have arrested a tire thief after he abandoned his car at the dealership and was found walking along the road.

Troopers responded to The Car Store, located at 9335 Beach Highway, around 4:56 a.m. Sunday September 10, 2017 after a

suspicious subject wearing dark clothing and a ski mask was reported to the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center (9-1-1) in the parking lot. Upon the troopers arrival, the suspect was no where to be found, but a tan in color Chevrolet Tahoe with District of Columbia registration was located in the parking lot with two sets of truck tires resting on the ground next to it. A search of the area revealed two pick up trucks had all of their tires removed and were sitting on bricks, causing damage to the brake rotors. A third pickup truck was located on the lot with the lug nuts removed but the tire had not yet been removed.

Surveillance video was reviewed with the business owner which captured the suspect fleeing in a westerly direction as the initial trooper arrived on scene. A computer check of the registration revealed the owner of the Tahoe to be a **Ernest S. Covington**, 49 of Washington, DC. Troopers began searching the area for the fleeing subject and were able to make contact with a witness around 7:00 a.m. who saw a person near the intersection of Seashore Highway and Scotts Store Road wearing dark colored clothing. At approximately 8:00 a.m. a trooper located a subject walking in a westerly direction on Seashore Highway, just west of Farmer Genes Market (4213 Seashore Highway) with a bag of chips and sodas in his hands. A traffic stop was conducted on the adult male, and upon questioning his identity, he gave a false name. A pat-down search was conducted on the man, who was found to be in possession of traffic camera citation that contained a photo of the Tahoe and registration as well as a key for the same vehicle that was located at The Car Store.

While Covington was positively identified and being transported back to Troop 5, a burglary was being reported from Farmer Genes Market. The investigation revealed a subject had forced entry into the building by forcibly removing an A/C unit and once inside, the suspect removed change from a tip jar as well as an undisclosed amount of cash

from the register, which was later located outside the same window with damage to the till. Also stolen was a bag of chips, soda, and some slim jims, all which was located on Covington upon his arrest.

Ernest Covington was charged with Burglary 3rd, Theft over $1500, Theft under $1500, Attempted Theft under $1500, two counts of Criminal Mischief, Criminal Impersonation, Possession of Burglary Tools, Hindering Prosecution, and Criminal Trespass 3rd. He was arraigned at JP3 and committed to Sussex Correctional Institution on $15,100.00 cash bond.

The investigations into the thefts of automobile tires in the Kent and Sussex county areas are continuing by detectives and more charges may be forthcoming for Covington.

Click to view: Detectives Seek Publics Assistance in Identifying Theft Suspect(s)

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Released: 091117 1520

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Name Released Single Vehicle Fatal Crash Investigated East of Newark

Newark – The Delaware State Police are releasing the name of the 25-year-old Smyrna man that was killed in the early Sunday morning crash as Peter V. Bonsignore.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident.

Troopers Investigating Single Vehicle Fatal Crash – Newark

Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091117 1301

-End-

Kent County Drug Unit Arrest Six in Heroin and Cocaine Investigation

Magnolia – The Delaware State Police Kent County Drug Unit has arrested six people after the culmination of a month long investigation into illegal drug sales from a residence.

On Thursday, September 7, 2017 members of Kent County Drug Unit, with the assistance of the Kent County Governor's Task Force and the Delaware State Police Special Operations Response Team executed a search warrant in the 100 block of Woodville Road, Magnolia, Kent County, Delaware. SORT members contacted **Dennise Neill**, **23 of Viola**, **Eric Huffstutler**, **37 of Frederica** and **Eric Garrison**, **36 of Frederica** in the area of a black Dodge Caliber which was parked in the driveway. They were taken into custody without incident. **Sonia Griffin, 52 of Magnolia** was taken into custody on the back deck without incident. **Frank Ramos, 56 of Magnolia** was located in the area and returned him to the residence. Upon arrival, an unknown subject, later identified as **Christopher L. Jones, 47 of Dover**

fled on foot. Troopers and a K9 unit later apprehended the suspect after locating him hiding at a nearby trailer.

A search of the vehicle revealed approximately 1.23 grams of marijuana and a crack pipe. A search of **Neill** revealed over $1,400.00 in suspected drug proceeds. A search of **Huffstutler** revealed four bags of heroin (.028 grams) and .93 grams of crack cocaine. A search of **Garrison** initially revealed over $2,400.00 in suspected drug proceeds and 8- Oxycodone 15 mg pills. A search of the residence revealed an additional 67 bags of heroin (.469 grams), 123.72 grams of marijuana, .14 grams of crack cocaine, 2- Suboxone 12 mg strips, digital scales, packaging materials, and a ledger.

All six subjects were transported back to Troop 3 where they were charged with the following:

Frank Ramos and **Sonia Griffin** were charged with Maintaining a Drug Property, three counts of Drug Dealing (heroin, crack, marijuana), Conspiracy 2nd Degree, two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Possession of Paraphernalia. They were out on bond from previous Drug Dealing/Weapons charges stemming from a search warrant executed on August 10, 2017. Both were arraigned before Justice of the Peace Court 2 and were both issued a $37,000.00 cash bond and their bond from the previous charges were revoked. Ramos was committed to the James T. Vaugh Correctional Center and Griffin was committed to the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Center.

Dennise C. Neill was charged with Possession of Paraphernalia and later released.

Eric S. Huffstutler was charged with Possession of Crack, Possession of Heroin, and Possession of Paraphernalia. He was arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court 2 and later released on a $3,000.00 unsecured bond.

Eric V. Garrison was charged with Drug Dealing (pills) and arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court 2, later released on a

$4,000.00 unsecured bond.

Christopher L. Jones will be charged with Felony Resisting, Tampering with Evidence, Resisting Arrest, Possession of Marijuana, Criminal Trespass 3rd Degree, and is currently wanted on a capias for Child Support. These warrants are currently pending and will be executed on Monday, September 11, 2017. Jones was treated at Bayhealth Kent General Hospital for the dog bite. He was arraigned by a magistrate at the hospital and committed to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in default of $9,000.00 cash bond for the capias. Department of Corrections personnel responded to the hospital and took custody of Jones.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091017 2231

-End-

Troopers Investigate Hotel Robbery-Bear



Bear – Delaware State Police are currently investigating the armed robbery of a Bear area hotel that occurred this past week.

The preliminary investigation has determined the incident occurred on Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 3:00 a.m. as a male suspect entered the Best Western Hotel located at 875 Pulaski Highway, Bear. The suspect approached the clerk at the counter and displayed an unknown make and model handgun and demanded money from the register. The suspect then grabbed an undisclosed amount of money and fled the hotel in an unknown direction. The clerk was not injured.

The suspect was described as a black male in his 20’s wearing dark clothing with his head covered armed with an unknown

handgun.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact the Robbery Unit at Troop 2, Glasgow, 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 D. Bratz

Released: 091017 2121

-End-

Delaware State Police Explorers-Open House Invitation

Delaware– What are the Delaware State Police Explorers and what do they do?

Our program consists of young men and women who have an interest in Law Enforcement. We participate in fingerprinting young children at community events; work the missing children's area at the State Fair, and many more community events. We also offer opportunities for the National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference and the Federal Leadership Academies as well as the Delaware State Police Cadet Program.

The Explorers are aged from 14-20 years old and at least in 9th grade. This program consists of high school and college students.

While in the program, Explorers are taught a variety of police procedures including fingerprinting, evidence collection, and patrol procedures. We strive to lead them down the right path and stand as positive role models. We also plan to instill leadership, responsibility, integrity, and commitment. We also show the importance of serving our community. Every Explorer Post is overseen and run by Delaware State Police Troopers.

We have the following minimum qualifications: mature, clean cut, clean shaven, 2.0 and above GPA, and no criminal convictions. This is not a discipline program.

Hope to see you at our Open House so we can explain more about our program and how to become a Delaware State Police Explorer.

OPEN HOUSE DATES:

Troop 1 (Wilmington): Tuesday, September 19th & Wednesday, October 4th, at 7pm at Concord High School
Troop 2 TBA.

Troop 3 (Camden): Thursday, September 14th, at 6:00 p.m. at

Troop 3.

Troop 4 (Georgetown): Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 pm at Emergency Operations Center (Suscom).

Troop 5 (Bridgeville): Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 at Seaford High School
Troop 6 (Wilmington): Tuesday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m. at Troop 6.

Troop 7 (Lewes): Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m. at Emergency Operations Center (Suscom), Georgetown.
Troop 9 (Odessa): TBA.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE OPEN HOUSE:

All interested students should be prepared to submit a $50 program registration fee at the Open House. Checks or cash is accepted. You will also need a copy of last year's grades. If you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign the registration.

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Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091017 2041

-End-

Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Identifying Shoplifting Suspect

Wilmington – State Police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a shoplifting suspect who has stolen approximately $2,000.00 worth of clothing and other related merchandise this past Friday.

This incident occurred on Friday, September 8, 2017 at approximately 9:09 p.m., at the Old Navy Store located at 3020 Brandywine Parkway, Wilmington. The suspect entered the store and proceeded to remove assorted clothing. The suspect then exited the business without rendering payment.

The suspect is described as a black female, 30-40 years of age, 5'06" tall, 140 lbs., (Surveillance photos attached)

If anyone has any information in reference to the identity of this individual, they are asked to contact Master Corporal R. Deskis at 302-761-6677. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

Presented by the Director Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

[wpvideo yPf60sAy]

Released: 091017 1051

-End-

Troopers Investigating Single Vehicle Fatal Crash – Newark



Newark – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a single vehicle fatal crash that claimed the life of a man early this morning.

The preliminary investigation determined the crash occurred at approximately 3:58 a.m., Sunday, September 10, 2017 as the driver of a 2008 Mercedes E350 was traveling northbound in the southbound lanes of SR 1 from the area of DE Rt. 72. The vehicle drifted into the grass median and continued in a northerly direction until it struck a cement wall where SR 1

crosses over SR 273. The Mercedes rebounded a short distance off of the wall and came to a stop in the median. The vehicle subsequently caught fire and was extinguished by rescue personnel.

The driver who was not wearing his seatbelt and sustained serious injuries and was transported to Christiana Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. The victim's name is being withheld pending the notification of next of kin. It is unknown if alcohol or drug use on the part of the victim was a factor in the crash.

The left lane of DE Rt. 1 southbound was closed for approximately one hour while the crash was investigated and cleared.

[**Traffic Advisory** – Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash-Newark]

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 D. Bratz

Released: 091017 0741

-End-

Troopers Investigating Single Vehicle Fatal Crash – Farmington



Farmington – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a single vehicle fatal crash that claimed the life of a Milford man early this

morning.

The preliminary investigation determined the crash occurred at approximately 1:15 a.m., Sunday, September 10, 2017 as Harry D. Ulhorn, 46 of Milford, was operating a 1987 Chevrolet El Camino. He was traveling southbound on Farmington Road approaching the intersection at Main Street within the town limits of Farmington. The El Camino drove through the stop sign without braking and traveled off the south edge of the roadway. The vehicle traveled through a grass area before striking a large tree with the center of its front bumper.

Harry D. Ulhorn was not wearing a seatbelt and was pronounced dead at the scene. The right front passenger was wearing his seatbelt and was flown from the scene by Delaware State Police Aviation to the Christiana Hospital where he was admitted in critical condition.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. Speed may have been a contributing factor although it is unknown if alcohol or drugs were factors in this crash.

Farmington Road at Main Street was shut down for approximately 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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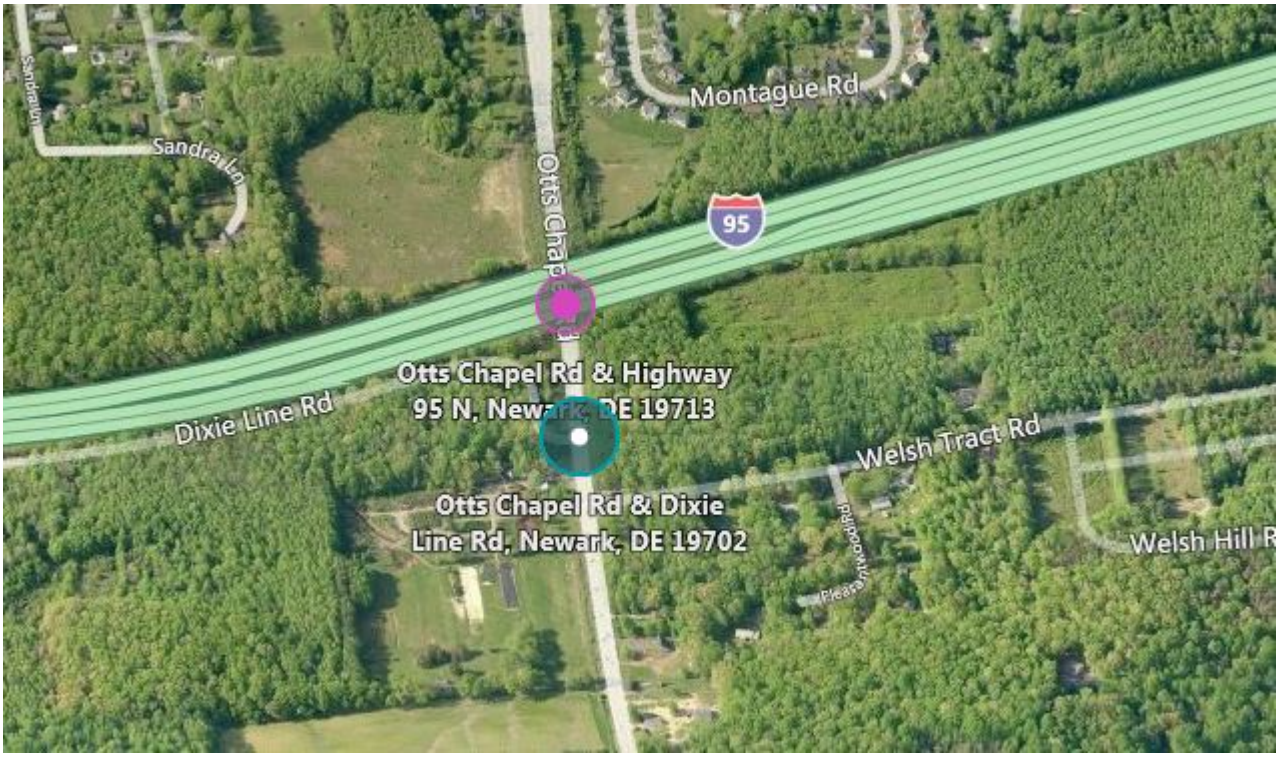
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Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091017 0641

-End-

Traffic Advisory – Troopers Investigating Serious Motor Vehicle Crash-Newark



Newark- The Delaware State Police are currently investigating a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred early this morning.

The initial investigation has determined the crash occurred at approximately 4:03 a.m., Sunday, September 10, 2017, on Otts Chapel Road at I95 and involves two vehicles. At this time it is unknown how many people are injured and the extent of their injuries.

Otts Chapel Road in the area of the crash is closed and traffic is being diverted from the crash scene. Commuters are asked to find alternate routes of travel and should expect lengthy delays in the area.

Please follow the Real Time Travel Advisories through DelDOT to get updates on the road opening by clicking: http://deldot.gov/information/travel_advisory/#trafficBox1

Presented by the Director Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091017 0541

-End-

Traffic Advisory – Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash-Newark



Newark- The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit are currently investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash that occurred early this morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 4:01 a.m., Sunday, September 10, 2017, on SR 1 at SR 273 and involves one vehicle traveling southbound on SR 1 in the northbound lanes at an apparent high rate of speed. The vehicle struck an unknown object and caught fire. As a result of the crash the driver of the vehicle has been declared dead.

The southbound lanes of SR 1 are closed in the area of the crash and traffic is being diverted from the crash scene. Commuters are asked to find alternate routes of travel and should expect lengthy delays in

the area.

Please follow the Real Time Travel Advisories through DelDOT to get updates on the road opening by clicking: http://deldot.gov/information/travel_advisory/#trafficBox1

Presented by the Director Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Released: 091017 0501

-End-