

****Traffic Advisory** Troopers Investigating Fatal Crash Southeast of Laurel**

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Laurel – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is currently investigating a fatal crash involving a tractor trailer and pick up truck at the intersection of Old Stage Road and Whitesville Road (SR30) that occurred around 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. One person has died as a result of this crash.

Whitesville Road at Old Stage Road is currently closed. Commuters are advised to seek alternate routes of travel.

Further details will be released upon the conclusion of the investigation.

Released: 102116 1450

###

Troopers Investigating a Drive-By Shooting in Cool Springs

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Milton – The Delaware State Police are investigating a drive-by shooting that occurred in the Cool Spring area last night.

The incident occurred around 9:50 p.m., Thursday October 20, 2016 as a 33-year-old male, a 34-year-old female, and a 22-year-old male, were all walking westbound on West Springside Drive in the Cool Spring Farms Mobile Home Park. A dark colored Chrysler 200 was traveling eastbound on West Springside Drive approaching the three pedestrians, when a front seat passenger began to fire a handgun into the air through the front passenger window. One of the rounds struck the 33-year-old male victim in the lower extremity, and he was eventually transported to Beebe Medical Center by EMS where he was being treated for the non-life-threatening injury. The other two pedestrians were uninjured. The vehicle fled the development in an unknown direction.

The driver and passenger were both described as black males. The driver of the vehicle was possibly wearing a gray in color hooded sweatshirt and had a large "chinstrap" style beard (no further physical or clothing description). There was no further physical or clothing description for the passenger.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident, they are asked to contact Detective R. Truitt at 302-752-3813. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 102116 0720

###

State Police Investigating Bomb Threat

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Wilmington, DE- The Delaware State Police are currently investigating a bomb threat that was found written on a wall at a local high school this morning.

The incident occurred around 10:43 a.m. this morning, Thursday, October 20, 2016, when a bomb threat was located written on a wall in a second floor bathroom of St. Mark's High School, located at 2501 Pike Creek Road, Wilmington. The threat advised that there were several bombs inside of the building. The school was evacuated and students were placed in a pre-determined location while K-9 units from the Delaware State Police, Wilmington Police Department, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control conducted a sweep of the building. Nothing out of the ordinary or suspicious was located and staff and students were allowed back to resume their daily activities.

This incident remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police at this time.

If anyone has any information in reference to this bomb threat, they are asked to contact the Troop 2 Youth Aid Division at 302-834-2620. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DSPNewsroom/> or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DEStatePolice>. To find out more about how to get your community involved in the Nextdoor application, please click on the following link: <https://nextdoor.com/>.

Released: 102016 1607

-End-

Troop 3 to Host Dedication Ceremony and Open House



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Camden, DE –The Delaware State Police Troop 3 will host a dedication ceremony of the community room on Saturday November 12, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. honoring Corporal David B. Pulling (1956-1987). On November 18, 1987 Corporal David Pulling, 31, a six-year veteran of the Delaware State Police, was killed when an explosive device detonated at the F.B.I. Bomb Data Training Center, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama.

Corporal Pulling joined the State Police on September 8, 1981 and during his career was assigned to the K-9 unit, SORT Unit, and the Traffic Division at Troop 3, Camden. David Pulling was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on January 22, 1956. He moved to Dover in 1968 with his parents, Richard and Jacqueline, and his brother, Richard, Jr. Corporal Pulling attended Dover High School and the University of Delaware.

After graduation David worked with his brother, for four years, at the Petersburg, Virginia Police Department. He moved back to Delaware in 1981, joining the Delaware State Police. Corporal Pulling was married to his wife Elizabeth in 1981 and was the father of two boys, George, his step son, and Jonathan. The boys were very important to Dave. Funeral Services were held at the Odds Fellows Cemetery, Camden, Delaware.

An open house of the facility will be held immediately following the ceremony and will last until 3:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and troopers will be on-hand to provide guided tours to community members.

Troop 3 is located at 3759 South State Street, Camden. Designed by the architectural firm of Becker Morgan Group of Dover, Delaware, the complex is situated on 20 acres. The 31,000 square foot facility was constructed by Commonwealth Construction Company of Wilmington and Site work by A-Del Construction of Newark, Delaware at a project cost of \$16.9 million.

The facility consists of office space, 8 interview rooms, 6 temporary holding cells, 3 temporary detention rooms, a

fingerprint facility, evidence processing and storage area, a large community room, a patrol officer resource room, a patrol officer roll call room, a fitness room, and a 7,000 square foot maintenance facility/evidence storage which includes a 4 bay garage with 2 vehicle lifts.

Troop 3 houses approximately 100 troopers including administrative personnel, 50 patrol officers, and 50 detectives (including members of the special investigations section).

We would like to thank our community sponsors for the open house:

- Schagrin Gas
- Delaware Electric Cooperative
- Chick-Fil-A
- Wawa
- Mission BBQ

Delaware State Police will also have various units on hand:

- Mounted Patrol Unit
- Motorcycle Unit
- Aviation
- SCUBA
- Explosive Ordinance Disposal
- Pipe and Drums Unit
- Recruiters
- Community Outreach Unit
- Magnolia Fire Company
- Canine Demonstration

Released: 102016 0800

###

State Police Investigating a Fatal Motorcycle Crash East of Smyrna

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Smyrna – Troopers are investigating a fatal motorcycle crash that occurred earlier this evening east of Smyrna.

The incident occurred around 6:00 p.m. Wednesday October 19, as a 54-year-old male from Dover, was operating a 2012 Triumph motorcycle eastbound on Smyrna-Leipsic Road west of Big Oak Road. For undetermined reasons, as the motorcycle entered into a moderate left curve, it drove off the south side of the road and struck a ditch before striking a vinyl fence.

The operator was ejected from the motorcycle upon impact and was pronounced dead at the scene. It is unknown if he was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. His name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident and are seeking information on a white mid-sized passenger car that may have been in the area prior to the crash. If anyone has any information in reference to this crash or the white vehicle, they are asked to contact Sergeant M. Groce at 302-698-8518. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Smyrna-Leipsic Road was closed for approximately three and a half hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

Released: 101916 2245

###

****Traffic Advisory** Troopers Investigating Crash Involving School Bus – Update**

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Newark, De- Delaware State Troopers are investigating a crash between a passenger car and a school bus occupied with students from a local school.

The incident occurred around 6:55 a.m. Wednesday October 19, 2016 as Ahmad J. Abdullah, 49, of Wilmington, was operating a 1999 Toyota Corolla eastbound on Old Baltimore Pike preparing to make a left hand turn onto Salem Church Road, Newark. As Ahmad approached the intersection, he failed to stop on a solid red traffic signal.

John Ewasko, 55 of Wilmington, was operating a 2013 International School bus and was traveling westbound on Old Baltimore Pike. He attempted to avoid the Toyota Corolla by taking evasive action and swerving, however the vehicles collided. After the collision, both vehicles were able to come to a controlled stop on the shoulder of Old Baltimore Pike.

Abdullah was properly restrained and was treated by New Castle

County Paramedics at the scene of the collision before being transported to Christiana Hospital by ambulance for non-life threatening injuries. He was cited for Failure to Stop at a Red Light by Delaware State Police.

A 13-year-old female passenger of the Toyota Corolla was treated at the scene by New Castle County Paramedics and transported to Christiana Hospital by ambulance where she was treated for her non-life threatening injuries.

John Ewasko was also properly restrained and treated at the scene by New Castle County Paramedics before being transported to Christiana Hospital by ambulance for non-life threatening injuries.

All 37 students from Newark Charter School were uninjured in the collision.

The roadway was closed for approximately One hour while being investigated and cleared.

Released: 101916 1230

###

****Original Release****

Newark, DE- Delaware State Police are currently investigating a two vehicle crash involving a school bus which occurred this morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash happened at approximately 6:56 a.m. this morning, Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road, Newark, and involves a passenger car and a school bus with several children on board. There were injuries in the crash, however, the exact number of injured subjects and the extent of their injuries is unknown at this time.

The intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road has been closed to traffic and commuters are asked to find alternate routes of travel.

The investigation into this crash is in its early stages. More information will be released as it becomes available.

Released: 101916 0725

-End-

****Update #2** Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash Involving a Pedestrian**

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Smyrna, DE- The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit has identified the 64 year old male who was struck and killed on SR1 at Paddock Road, Smyrna, on Monday, October 17, 2016, as John Torlish, 64, of Laurel, DE.

This crash remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police.

Released: 101916 1150

-End-

****Original Releases****

Smyrna, DE- The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing to investigate a fatal motor vehicle crash which occurred early this afternoon in Smyrna.

The investigation has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 12:31 p.m. today, Monday, October 17, 2016, as James Leggett, 66, of Yeadon, PA, was operating a 2016 Kenworth tractor and flatbed trailer and was traveling in a southbound direction on Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway (SR1) at Paddock Road, Smyrna. For an unknown reason, the tractor trailer drifted slightly onto the right hand shoulder of the roadway where it then struck a 64 year old Laurel, DE man, who had just exited the driver's seat of a 2002 Ford F-150, and was walking toward the front of the car. The tractor trailer then struck the left hand side of the Ford before stopping just south of the crash. The male pedestrian landed in the right hand southbound lane of SR1 where he came to rest.

The male victim was declared dead at the scene. His name is being withheld pending the notification of his next of kin. James Leggett, who was properly restrained at the time of the crash, was not injured.

This crash remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit. Neither speed nor alcohol use appear to be a factor in the crash.

The southbound lanes of SR1 were closed for approximately 2 hours as the crash was investigated and cleared.

Released: 101716 1920

-End-

****Original Release****

Smyrna, DE- Delaware State Police are currently investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash in which a male pedestrian has

been killed that occurred early this afternoon.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash occurred today, Monday, October 17, 2016, at approximately 12:31 p.m., on southbound SR1 at Paddock Road, Smyrna, and involves a single vehicle which struck a male pedestrian. As a result of the crash the pedestrian has been pronounced dead. The operator of the vehicle did remain at the scene.

The southbound lanes of SR1 are currently closed in the area of the crash and commuters are asked to find alternate routes of travel.

The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is responding to the crash scene and will assume the investigation. Further details will be released at the conclusion of the investigation.

Released: 101716 1313

-End-

****Traffic Advisory** Troopers Investigating Crash Involving School Bus**

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Newark, DE- Delaware State Police are currently investigating a two vehicle crash involving a school bus which occurred this morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash happened at approximately 6:56 a.m. this morning, Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road, Newark, and involves a passenger car and a school bus with several children on board. There were injuries in the crash, however, the exact number of injured subjects and the extent of their injuries is unknown at this time.

The intersection of Old Baltimore Pike and Salem Church Road has been closed to traffic and commuters are asked to find alternate routes of travel.

The investigation into this crash is in its early stages. More information will be released as it becomes available.

Released: 101916 0725

-End-

Troopers Arrest Three for Organized Retail Theft-New Castle

Presented by Public Information Officer Corporal James O'Neil

New Castle, DE- The Delaware State Police Retail Theft Unit have arrested three women and charged them in connection with a string of thefts from home improvement stores which occurred

throughout New Castle County since mid- September.

The initial investigation began on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at around 9:46 a.m., after troopers were called to the Lowe's Home Improvement Store located at 1030 East Songsmith Drive, Bear for thefts of faucets. During the investigation it was discovered three unknown black female suspects had stolen high-end kitchen and bathroom faucets with a total value of over \$20,000.00 in merchandise.

After detectives continued to look into the rash of thefts, information was obtained through investigative measures; examination of evidence and multiple interviews which identified three suspects working together in the thefts as Lakiesha S. Hargrow, 35 of Wilmington, Deerna Johnson, 27 of Pennsylvania and Geneara Shovall, 24 of Wilmington.

Detectives were able to link the suspects to the following thefts:

- Lowe's 1030 East Songsmith Drive Bear, De.
- Lowe's 2000 Ogletown Road Newark, De.
- Lowe's 3100 Brandywine Parkway Wilmington, De.
- Lowe's 2225 Hessler Boulevard New Castle, De.
- The Home Depot 2000 Peoples Plaza Newark, De.
- The Home Depot 1301 Churchmans Road Newark, De.
- The Home Depot 601 Naamans Road Claymont, De.

On Friday, October 14, 2016, as troopers responded to a residence located on Polk Road Wilmington to execute a warrant. The three suspects were seen preparing to leave the property and were taken into custody without incident.

Lakiesha S. Hargrow transported to Troop 2 where she was formally charged with two counts of Felony Theft, two counts of Organized Retail Crime, two counts of Conspiracy, and Felony Selling Stolen Property. She was also charged with

Burglary, Criminal Mischief and Assault stemming from a warrant out of Wilmington Police Department. Hargrow was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 11 and committed to the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in default of \$12,000.00 secured bond. (mug shots attached)

Deerna Johnson was transported to Troop 2 where she was formally charged with two counts of Felony Theft, two counts of Organized Retail Crime, two counts of Conspiracy, and Felony Selling Stolen Property. Johnson was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 11 and committed to the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in default of \$10,000.00 secured bond. (mug shots attached)

Geneara Shovall was transported to Troop 2 where she was formally charged with two counts of Organized Retail Crime, Conspiracy, and Felony Selling Stolen Property. Shovall was arraigned before the Justice of the Peace Court 11 and committed to the Delores J. Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in default of \$8,000.00 secured bond. (mug shots attached)

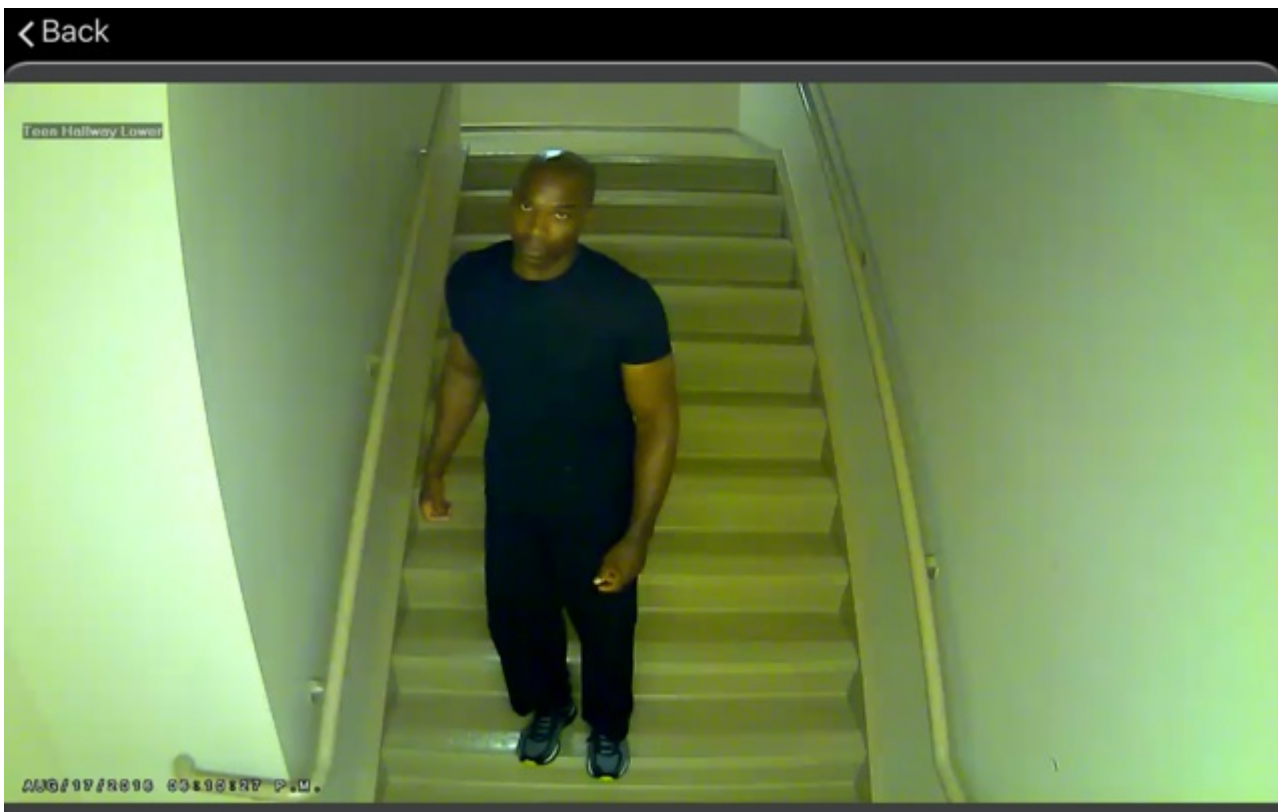
This is an active and ongoing investigation and if anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Cpl. B. McDerby at 302 365-8533. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DSPNewsroom/> or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DEStatePolice>. To find out more about how to get your community involved in the Nextdoor application, please click on the following link: <https://nextdoor.com/>

Released: 101816 1051

-End-

Troopers Investigate Theft from Christian Center



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Newark, DE- The Delaware State Police are currently investigating the theft of audio equipment from a Newark area Christian Center and are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspect.

The investigation began on Thursday, August 18, 2016, after troopers were called to respond to the Word of Life Christian Center located at 854 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark. It was at this time that troopers were advised that sometime between

6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, a male suspect (pictured) had entered the auditorium of the Christian Center and had proceeded to remove several pieces of audio equipment valued at over \$2400.00. The suspect then exited the building and fled in an unknown direction.

The pictured suspect is described as a black male 20-35 years of age. He was 5'10"-6'00" tall, had a muscular build, and was last seen wearing black sweatpants, a black short sleeve t-shirt and black and blue sneakers.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Detective Christian Hevelow at 302-365-8471. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DSPNewsroom/> or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DEStatePolice>. To find out more about how to get your community involved in the Nextdoor application, please click on the following link: <https://nextdoor.com/>.

Released: 101816 1035

-End-