

# Troopers Arrest Man Following String of Bank Robberies

**\*\*Update Suspect Arrested\*\***

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

***Wilmington, DE-*** Delaware State Police Robbery Unit Detectives have arrested a Newark man following a string of robberies he committed in the past two days.

On Saturday, June 16, 2016 Troopers arrested Donald M. West, 34 of Newark, after a vehicle pursuit and charged him in connection with three robberies. The apprehension of West came after a pursuit that initiated in the city of Wilmington and ended in the area of Lark Avenue in Bear. During the pursuit West operated a black 2001 Toyota Corolla which had been previously reported stolen by the New Castle County Police Department.

In each bank robbery case listed below, Donald M. West approached a bank teller and presented a demand note for cash. The teller complied with his demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to him. The suspect then exited the bank and fled in an unknown direction. The tellers were not injured. Troopers ultimately linked West to the below bank robberies through interviews and physical evidence collected during follow-up investigations:

July 14, 2016: TD Bank robbery located at 82 Christiana Road New Castle, De.

July 14, 2016: TD Bank robbery located at 1001 E. Songsmith Drive Bear, De.

July 15, 2016: TD Bank robbery located at 2035 Limestone Road

Wilmington, De.

West was charged with three counts of Robbery 2nd degree, Felony Resisting Arrest first degree and Disregarding a Police Officer Signal. West was also charged with multiple traffic-related offenses which included Aggressive Driving stemming from this vehicle pursuit in addition to outstanding stolen vehicle warrant from the New Castle County Police Department. Court and bail information is unavailable at this time. (Mug shot attached)



**Released: 071616 1541**

**\*Original Release\***

### **Troopers Seek the Public's Assistance in Locating Robbery Suspect**

**New Castle, DE-** The Delaware State Police have positively identified the male suspect who robbed a bank yesterday afternoon west of New Castle.

The preliminary investigation determined the incident occurred at approximately 2:32 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016 as the suspect entered a TD Bank located at 82 Christiana Road, New Castle, DE. The suspect approached a bank teller and presented a demand note for cash. The teller complied with the

suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to him. The suspect then exited the bank and fled in an unknown direction. The teller was not injured.

Acting on tips from several sources and through further investigative means, robbery unit detectives have positively identified Donald M. West, 34 of Newark, as the man who robbed the TD Bank. The suspect is described as a white male approximately 5'09" tall and 190 lbs. Detectives have obtained warrants charging West with Robbery 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. He is also wanted by New Castle County Police Department for an unrelated unauthorized use of a motor vehicle after he stole a dark grey or black 2001 Toyota Corolla on July 11, 2016. **(2010 Mug shot and similar suspect vehicle attached)**

Anyone who may know the location of Donald M. West is asked to contact the robbery unit at Troop 2 at 302-365-8566 or Detective J. Paul Doherty at 302-365-8438. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](https://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](https://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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**Released: 071516 2301**

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# Investigation Leads to Drug Arrests

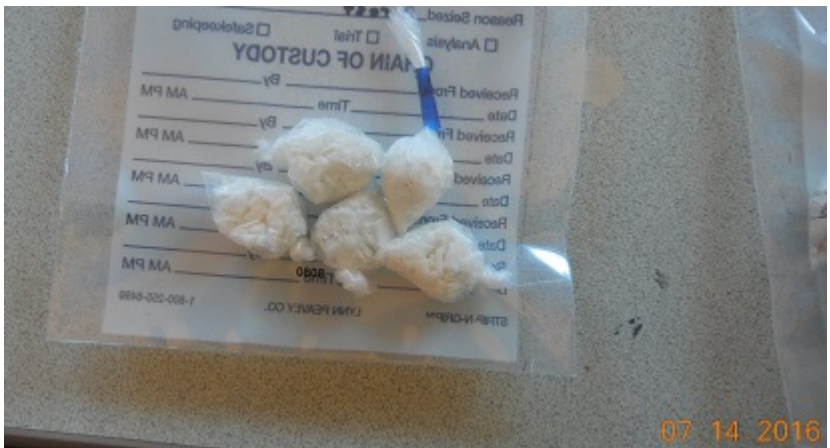
Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

*Wilmington, De.*-The FBI Task Force have arrested a Wilmington man following the discovery of drugs during the execution of a search warrant. The warrant stemmed from an investigation which began two months ago.

On Thursday July 14, 2016, at 10:02 a.m. the FBI Task Force, which is made up of officers from the Delaware State Police, New Castle County Police Department, Wilmington Police Department and Probation and Parole with the assistance of Elsmere Police Department executed a search warrant in the unit block of Scarborough Park Drive, Wilmington. During the search over \$17,000.00 of drug proceeds, drugs and drug paraphernalia were discovered. The search also revealed 43 grams of heroin (150 bags) and 17 grams of crack cocaine.

The FBI Task Force arrested and charged Juan Ruiz-Espinosa, 57 of Wilmington, with two counts Tier 5 Possession of Heroin, two counts Tier 4 Drug Dealing, one count Tier 3 Possession of Cocaine, one count tier 2 Drug Dealing, Resisting Arrest, Tampering with Physical Evidence, one count Possession of Heroin and one count Drug Dealing.

Juan Ruiz-Espinosa was arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court 11 and committed to the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in default of \$143,100.00 cash bail. (Mug shot, pictures of seized drug proceeds and drug evidence are attached)



Released: 071616 1221

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# Troopers Investigating Motorcycle Crash

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

**\*\*Traffic Advisory\*\***

*Smyrna, De.*- Delaware State Police are currently investigating a motorcycle crash that occurred this morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 9:34 a.m. today, Saturday July 16, 2016 on SR 1 near the South Smyrna exit 114.

The southbound lanes of SR 1 are currently closed at this time. Motorists should expect delays and are asked to find alternate routes of travel.

More details will be released at the conclusion of the investigation.

Released: 071616 0951

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TIP-3333, via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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Released: 071516 2301

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Released: 071516 2301

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# **\*\*Update –Arrest Made in Robberies\*\* Troopers Make Arrest in Two Kent County Robberies**

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary Fournier

**Canterbury/Cheswold-** The Delaware State Police have arrested a Dover man in connection with two robberies that occurred this past week.

Around 12:40 a.m. this morning, Friday July 15, 2016, a trooper was performing business checks in the area of East Lebanon Road (SR10) and South State Street when he observed a male subject in the parking lot of Calvary Church located at 1141 East Lebanon Road. The trooper made contact with **Jeremy T. Lobaccaro**, 38 of Dover, and immediately observed what appeared to be a black handgun near him. Lobaccaro was placed in custody and transported back to Troop 3 where detectives assumed the investigation.

The timeline of the incidents began on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at approximately 3:20 a.m., as a male suspect entered the Canterbury Shore Stop, located at 8953 S. DuPont Highway, Felton. The suspect, who was armed with an unknown make and model handgun, confronted a male clerk who was standing behind the sales counter. The suspect then demanded money from the store's cash register. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect then exited the store and was last seen fleeing on foot in a northbound direction.

On Thursday July 14, 2016 around 3:21 a.m., a white male entered the Walmart located at 36 Jerome Drive, Dover, and

unscrewed a cabinet which contained several BB Guns. The subject removed three BB guns with a total value of \$146.69 and then left the store without paying for the items. He then entered a white in color caravan and fled the area.

On Thursday July 14, 2016, at approximately 3:40 a.m., a male suspect entered the Royal Farms located 47 Fast Landing Road and confronted a 24-year-old male employee armed with a handgun and demanded money from the cash register. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect then fled from the store out of the rear door and fled towards Fast Landing Road.

Through surveillance photos and an anonymous tip, detectives with the Major Crimes Unit were able to link Jeremy Lobaccaro to the pair of robberies and the shoplifting. He was charged with two counts of Robbery 1<sup>st</sup>, two counts of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, two counts of Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony, and Shoplifting. He was committed to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center on \$110,500.00 cash bond.

Released: 071516 0915

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\*\*Original Releases\*\*

### **Troopers Investigate Robbery of Cheswold Royal Farms**

**Cheswold-** The Delaware State Police are currently investigating a robbery of a Cheswold area convenience store that occurred early this morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident occurred Thursday July 14, 2016, at approximately 3:40 a.m., as a male suspect entered the Royal Farms located 47 Fast Landing Road. The suspect confronted a 24-year-old male employee armed with a handgun and demanded money from the cash

register. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect then fled from the store out of the rear door and fled towards Fast Landing Road. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as white male, 30-40 years of age, 5'10"-5'11" tall and weighed approximately 170-190 lbs. He was last seen wearing a white T-shirt, khaki shorts, and black sneakers (No further physical or clothing description available). Armed with an unknown type handgun.

No video surveillance footage is available at this time.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Troop 3 Major Crimes Unit at 302-698-8434. Information can also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 071416 0930

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### **Troopers Seek Public's Help in Identifying Robbery Suspect**

**Felton, DE-** Delaware State Police are currently investigating the armed robbery of a Felton area gas station and are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspect.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident occurred this morning, Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at approximately 3:20 a.m., as a male suspect (pictured) entered the Canterbury Shore Stop, located at 8953 S. DuPont Highway, Felton. The suspect, who was armed with an unknown make and model handgun, confronted a male clerk who was standing behind the sales counter. The suspect then demanded money from the store's cash register. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to him. The suspect

then exited the store and was last seen fleeing on foot in a northbound direction. The clerk was not injured.

The suspect was described as a white male. He was 5'08"-5'11" tall, weighed 155-175 lbs., had an average build, and a bald head. He was last seen wearing a grey t-shirt, black shorts, dark colored sneakers, and had what appeared to be a t-shirt wrapped around his head.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident or knows the identity of the suspect, they are asked to contact Detective Matthew Addonizio at 302- 697-4454. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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Released: 071216 1025

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# **Troopers Investigate Pizza Shop Robbery – New Castle**

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

***New Castle, DE-*** Delaware State Police are currently

investigating the armed robbery of a New Castle area pizza shop that occurred yesterday afternoon.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident occurred at approximately 4:25 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016, as a male suspect entered the Papa John's, located at 531 E. Basin Road, New Castle. The suspect, who was armed with an unknown make and model knife, confronted a female employee of the business and demanded money from the cash registers. The employee complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to him. The suspect then exited the pizza shop and was last seen fleeing on foot toward the William Penn Village Apartments. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as a white male. He was 5'06"-5'07" tall, weighed approximately 135 lbs., had brown hair and brown eyes, and was last seen wearing a black hooded zip up jacket, black pants, black shoes, and had a mask covering his face. There is no further physical or clothing description available.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact the Robbery Unit at Troop 2, 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](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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Released: 071516 0845

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# Troopers Investigating Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash – Millsboro

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary Fournier

**Millsboro-** The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash that occurred north of Millsboro early Thursday evening.

The incident occurred around 5:50 p.m., Thursday July 14, 2016, as Bradford L. Grimm, 70 of Millsboro, was operating a 1996 Honda Accord southbound on Bethesda Road approaching the intersection with Avenue of Honor which is controlled by a stop sign. Stacey A. Hastings, 32 of Bridgeville, was operating a 2003 Chevy Trailblazer westbound on Avenue of Honor approaching the intersection with Bethesda Road with the right of way. For unknown reasons, the Accord failed to stop at the stop sign and entered the intersection in front of the Trailblazer. As a result, the front of the Trailblazer struck the left side of the Accord causing it to rotate counter-clockwise and exited the south side of the road where it struck a sign post and utility pole before coming to a stop.

The Trailblazer rotated counter-clockwise as it exited the south west corner of the intersection and came to a stop in a field.

Bradford Grimm was properly restrained and transported to Beebe Healthcare where he was pronounced dead.

Stacey Hastings and her 1-year-old son were properly restrained. They were removed from the scene by EMS and

transported to Nanticoke Memorial Hospital where they were treated and released with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. Alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in this case. Avenue of Honor at Bethesda Road was closed for approximately two and a half hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

Released: 071516 0800

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## Lewes Woman Arrested After Leaving Child in Car

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary Fournier

**Lewes, DE-** Delaware State Police have arrested a 34-year-old Lewes woman after she left her 2-year-old child in a parked car.

Troopers were called to the Dollar General located at 1549 Savannah Road, Friday July 8, 2016 around 4:45 p.m. to check the welfare of a small child alone in a parked car. Upon their arrival, two people that called 9-1-1 had already removed the 2-year-old boy from the unlocked car after he was observed belted in his car seat with the windows shut and the engine off. Once removed, EMS arrived and checked the boy for any injuries he was transported to Beebe Healthcare where he was treated for dehydration and released to a family member. The

temperature that day reached a high of 94 degrees.

**Nicole J. Eames**, 34 of Lewes, was located inside the store and it was determined through the investigation that she had been operating her vehicle under the influence of a prescription drug and may have left the young child in the car for more than an hour. She was transported back to Troop 7 where she was charged with Reckless Endangering 1<sup>st</sup> and Driving Under the Influence of a Drug. She was arraigned at JP2 before being released on a \$3,000.00 unsecured bond with a stipulation of no unsupervised contact with her son.

Released: 071416 1435

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## Troopers Investigate Robbery of Ellendale Dollar General

Presented by Public Information Officer Master Corporal Gary E. Fournier



**Ellendale, DE** – Troopers are investigating a robbery of the

Ellendale Dollar General store that occurred late Wednesday evening.

The incident occurred around 10:50 p.m. Wednesday July 13, 2016, when a male suspect entered the Dollar General store, located at 18036 Beach Highway, armed with an unknown type handgun. He approached two male employees as they were closing the business, forcing them back inside, and demanded cash. The clerks complied and turned over an undisclosed amount of currency. The subject then fled the business in an unknown direction. The employees were uninjured in this incident.

The suspect was described as a male, 5'10"-6'02" tall, average build, wearing all dark colored clothing with a mask over his face (No further physical or clothing description available). Armed with an unknown type handgun.

Surveillance photo attached.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Detective D. Cathell at 302-752-3793. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at [www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com), or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 071416 1055

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