



Borough of State College
"A Home Rule Municipality"



STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JOHN F. GARDNER
Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

January 25, 2019

Homicide investigation

SC1900914 and SC1900916

On January 24, 2019 at approximately 10:14 p.m. the State College Police Department was dispatched to a report of persons shot at the P.J. Harrigan's bar located at 1450 South Atherton Street. Officers arrived on scene at approximately 10:15 p.m. and found three gunshot victims in the bar area. Those victims were identified as: Nicole Abrino 21 years of age, Steven Beachy 19 years of age, and Dean Beachy 61 years of age. Nicole Abrino sustained a chest wound and was transported to Mount Nittany Medical Center. Steven Beachy was shot in the torso and was also transported to Mount Nittany Medical Center. They were later life-flighted to other medical facilities. Dean Beachy sustained a gunshot wound to the head and he died at the scene. There is no current update on the status of the injured victims Nicole Abrino and Steven Beachy. **UPDATE: At 1:00 P.M. we were notified that Steven Beachy passed away.**

The shooter was identified as Jordan Witmer, 21 years of age, of Benner Township. It was learned that Jordan Witmer and Nicole Abrino were at the bar together and were sitting at one side of the bar. Dean and Steven Beachy were sitting at the bar across from Witmer and Abrino. At one point, Witmer got up from his bar seat and walked to the other side of the bar near where the Beachy's were seated. Investigators are still trying to determine what led Witmer to pull out a

handgun and begin shooting. After shooting all three (3) victims, Witmer fled the bar.

While officers were attempting to locate Jordan Witmer, Centre County Emergency Communications Center reported a crash at the intersection of Waupelani Drive and Tussey Lane at approximately 10:46 p.m. Multiple officers responded to that location and found Jordan Witmer's crashed vehicle that was unoccupied. Officers began an immediate canvass of the area; attempting to locate Jordan Witmer. At approximately 11:09 pm the State College Police Department was dispatched to 748 Tussey Lane for a reported Burglary in progress with gunshots fired.

Officers responded to that location and entered at approximately 11:14 p.m. Officers found Jordan Witmer, deceased in the living room, with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head. Officers also found a resident of the home, identified as George McCormick 83 years of age, deceased with a gunshot wound to his head. Resident Joann McCormick, 80 years of age was unharmed. Subsequent investigation revealed that there was no relationship between the McCormick's and Jordan Witmer. It is believed at this time that he randomly chose their house after he crashed his vehicle.

The State College Police Department was assisted by the Centre County Coroner Scott Sayers, the Ferguson Township Police Department, Patton Township Police Department, Penn State Police Department and Centre Life Link Ambulance Services.

All first responders are deeply saddened by these tragic events. Our hearts go out to all the victims and their families.

This investigation continues and we are urging anyone who may have information regarding this incident to contact the State College Police Department at (814) 234-7150, by [email](#) or submit an [anonymous tip](#) through our website.

The State College Police Department is holding a Press Conference scheduled for 2:30 PM today in the State College Municipal Building Council Chambers.

Chief John F. Gardner # 3200
State College Police Department
1/25/19 12:00 AM

