



Salisbury Police Department

699 W. Salisbury Pkwy
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Tel: 410-548-3113 Fax: 410-548-3129



MEDIA RELEASE

November 5, 2024

(Arrests -Assault/Hate Crime Investigation)

Page 1 of 3

Seven suspects are in custody as a result of an assault that occurred in mid-October.

On October 31, 2024 the Salisbury Police Department was contacted by members of the Salisbury University Police Department regarding an assault that was alleged to have occurred in an off-campus apartment complex for college-aged students. Detectives met with witnesses and were able to observe cellular phone video of an adult male victim being assaulted by several college-aged men.

During the course of the investigation, detectives were able to identify and meet with the victim from the video. Detectives discovered that on October 15, 2024 a group of men utilized a social media account and invited the victim to a residence within the 1400 block of University Terrace under false pretenses. When the victim responded to and entered the residence, numerous college-aged men surrounded the victim and forced him to sit in a chair isolated in the middle of the living room. After being forcefully seated, the victim was kicked, punched, and spit on while the men called the victim derogatory names. The victim conveyed to detectives that he attempted to leave the apartment multiple times; however, he was thrown to the floor during every initial attempt to flee. The assault lasted for several minutes until he was eventually allowed to leave. Due to the assault, the victim sought medical assistance and learned that he had sustained bruising throughout his body as well as a broken rib.

The investigation revealed that the victim was targeted due to his sexual preferences. As detectives continued the investigation, they were able to identify the following seven men as those who allegedly took part in the assault and were also determined to be members and or associates of a fraternity of Salisbury University:

- 20-year-old Ryder Baker of Olney, MD
- 18-year-old Bennan Aird of Milton, DE
- 20-year-old Riley Brister of Davidsonville, MD
- 19-year-old Cruz Cespedes of Jarrettsville, MD
- 20-year-old Dylan Earp of Gambrills, MD
- 19-year-old Elijah Johnson of Crofton, MD
- 18-year-old Zachary Leinemann of Crofton, MD

For up-to-date information follow us: Instagram @joinsbypd_ and Facebook.com/SalisburysFinest
CASE # 202400039802
Captain Ryan Koerner



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All the below pictured individuals have been charged with Assault First Degree, False Imprisonment, Reckless Endangerment, and the associated Hate Crime charges. Each person was brought to the Salisbury Police Department for processing and later released to the Wicomico County Detention Center to be seen by a District Court Commission.

Elijah Thomas Johnson



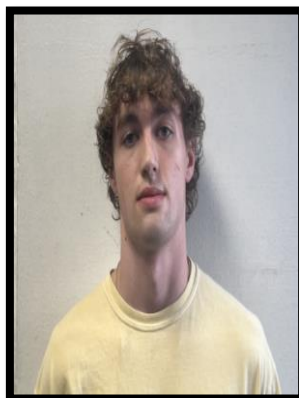
Riley Keagan Brister



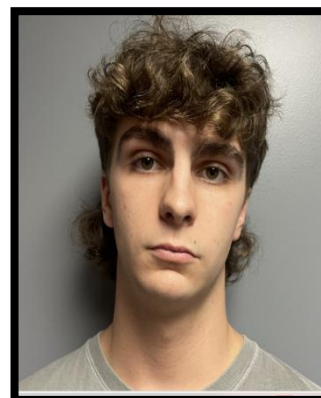
Zachary James Leineman



Bennan Aird



Dylan Earp



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Cruz Cespedes



Ryder Baker



This investigation is ongoing and the Salisbury Police Department is requesting anyone with information regarding this incident, or incidents similar in nature, to contact the Salisbury Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at (410) 548-3165. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Solvers at (410) 548-1776.

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