

Westport Police charge Attleboro woman with drug distribution offenses

“Early this morning, Westport Police arrested a woman on drug distribution charges after a traffic stop.

According to Detective Sergeant Christopher Dunn, at approximately 12:26 a.m., Officer Turner Ryan initiated a motor vehicle stop on Route 88 in the area of Briggs Road for a marked lanes violation. The vehicle, a black 2005 Toyota Matrix, was being operated by 25-year-old Alissa Mercer of 901 Pleasant Street, Attleboro.

While approaching the vehicle from the passenger’s side, Officer Ryan was overwhelmed with the odor of unburnt marijuana. The officer stated that Mercer, the lone occupant, attempted to shield approximately 3/4 of a pound of high grade marijuana and several bags of THC edibles. In addition to the seizure of the marijuana and edibles, Officer Ryan seized \$2,132 in cash located near the marijuana.

Mercer was issued a MA Uniform Citation and will be summoned to court on the charge of Possession with the Intent to Distribute Class D. Attached is a photograph of the items seized.

Dunn stated that the U.S. Attorney’s Office has previously issued a public safety warning after authorities intercepted a package of edibles.

“Although they noted that the candy did have a warning on it, they pointed out that its deceptive labels could cause confusion. An unaware child could come across a package and naively eat it without realizing the potency of the THC infused product.”

“Whale’s Tail Clam Bar” to open in New Bedford in June

By the end of June, the New Bedford waterfront will see a new eatery open its doors, the “Whale’s Tail Clam Bar.”

The New Bedford Port Authority was accepting proposals for the Wharfinger Building and Waterfront Visitors Center and Stephen Silverstein, owner of The Black Whale and Cisco New Bedford was the sole bidder with an offer of \$2,500 a month and a 5-year lease.

The seasonal clam shack will open in the Wharfinger building, offer takeout and outdoor seating in picnic tables and serve alcohol. As for the Wharfinger Building, Silverstein hopes to eventually utilize the site as a cafe offering breakfast and lunch with coffee, muffins, pastries, and a variety of sandwiches.

The cafe is not a certainty yet and is only in its planning stages. Perhaps, the success of the clam shack will play a role in whether the cafe happens or not.

Silverstein is also the founder of the “Not Your Average Joe’s” restaurant chain now with 20 restaurants in five states, and if his success there is any indication for the future of both sites, it will be a smashing success.

If you are cook, server, host or busser you can apply for a job at the coming “Whale’s Tail Clam Bar” here.

Acushnet Fire Chief Gallagher issues statement on positive COVID-19 tests results in town

“At the close of this week, 78 Acushnet residents have tested positive for Covid-19.

“This number comes as a result of a person being tested, the test coming back positive, the state being notified by the testing facility then calling the Acushnet Health Agent who passes the addresses (not the names) to public safety officials so our 9-1-1- database can be updated for the protection of our first responders. That is an awful lot of steps over an awful lot of time.

“As a town, we agreed that providing these numbers is important to keep the community updated as we are updated. In the mid-afternoon of each day, seven days per week, I send an email to the Standard-Times so they can update their running tally which is then shared in both their print and online editions. The goal is to be transparent in order for the public to stay informed.

“We have been reporting no deaths in the town of Acushnet because the state has not told us of any. However, when asked by a reporter to update our earlier response we learned of a glitch that deserves to be explained. When a person dies, the “place of occurrence” is formally notified. So, if a person living in New Bedford but walking in Acushnet suddenly dies, Acushnet officials are informed of the death, not officials from the person’s hometown.

“What we discovered is that, since the pandemic started, four residents of Acushnet have died of Covid-19 while in New

Bedford, two at a nursing home and two at the hospital. These deaths were reported, per the procedure, to New Bedford officials. The death certificates slowly make their way to the Town Clerk in Acushnet for appropriate record keeping. New Bedford, in turn, would add these deaths to the number they share to the local newspaper. Based on this process, a death is not double reported (by New Bedford and by Acushnet) which would be misleading to all involved.

"The point of all of this, four Acushnet residents have died as a result of a virus that traveled from China with breakneck speed and took root in our area with devastating results. We did not fail to report these deaths, we were simply not connecting all the dots and for that I apologize. I'm sorry if previous numbers shared now seem misleading. Residents have a right to know everything that is going on so you can decide for yourself how to respond in real time to the events swirling around you.

"I am also sorry to the families, loved ones and friends of the four members of this community who have suffered a Covid-19 related death. While we do not know their names, chances are we crossed their path in this small little town. They were part of the fabric of this community and we mourn their loss.

"Seventy-eight cases and four deaths, as of today Acushnet! It doesn't take a genius to know that number can't go down. It only takes common sense to know it will only go up."

Kevin A. Gallagher
Fire Chief."

Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association issues statement on the death of George Floyd

"The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, representing Police Chiefs in all 351 cities and towns and most college campuses, denounces the egregious actions taken by four members of the Minneapolis Police Department, whether by action or inaction, that resulted in the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020.

Our Massachusetts Police Officers have thoroughly embraced the six pillars of the principles embodied in the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and remain committed to professional conduct, democratic policing and procedural justice for all people."

Taunton man charged with illegal firearm and drug offenses while out on bail found dangerous

An 18-year-old Taunton man arrested this month on illegal firearm and drug-related offenses while already out on bail on a pending vandalism case was found dangerous and had his bail revoked by a Taunton District Court Judge last week, Bristol

County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Davonrence Lucas was charged by Taunton Police on May 20th with defacing the serial number of a firearm, carrying an illegal firearm, and two counts of possessing class B drugs.

On that evening, Taunton Police observed an individual known to have a suspended license driving a motor vehicle. The motor vehicle was pulled over and it contained three other passengers, along with the driver. The defendant was identified as one of the two rear seat passengers. During the stop police observed the defendant bending over towards what appeared to be the floor board of the seat in front of them. The defendant specifically was seen reaching under his seat then looking back at the officer. A subsequent search of the area the defendant reached towards revealed seven blue pills of what appeared to be Oxycodone in a small glassine bag, and eight suboxone strips wrapped in tissue paper and a small wad of cash. Police also seized a shoebox from the backseat which contained a Jimenez Arms 32 caliber firearm. The serial number had been defaced.

The defendant was arraigned on the charges telephonically through the Taunton District Court on May 21. A dangerousness hearing and a bail revocation hearing was also conducted telephonically on that date. The dangerousness hearing and bail revocation hearing was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bryan Thompson. Judge Neil Hourihan found the defendant to be a danger to the community and ordered him held without bail for up to 120 days. The judge also revoked the bail on the defendant's pending vandalism case, which was also out of Taunton District Court.

"This defendant was up to no good while possessing an illegal firearm and narcotics. In addition, he was out on bail at the time of his arrest. He is a danger to the community and does not belong out on the streets," District Attorney Quinn said.

Massachusetts State Police arrest Oklahoma man in Sturbridge for possession of illegal narcotics and firearms

On Monday at approximately 7:42 a.m., Trooper William Pothier, who is assigned to State Police-Sturbridge, conducted a check of the rest area on I-84 westbound in Sturbridge. While conducting this check, Trooper Pothier spoke with the occupants of a GMC Denali which was parked in the rest area, with an expired temporary Missouri registration.

After a brief investigation, the vehicle's owner, JUSTIN G. BARRON, 39, of Heavener, Oklahoma, was found to be in illegal possession of a .40 caliber Springfield XD pistol and a Smith & Wesson M&P rifle, both with ammunition, and a smoking pipe containing methamphetamine as well as other miscellaneous drug paraphernalia. BARRON is not licensed to carry firearms in Massachusetts.

A female passenger was released with no charges. BARRON was placed under arrest and charged with the following:

1. Possession/carrying a firearm;
2. Assault weapon, sell/possess;
3. Improper storage of a firearm;
4. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
5. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
6. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
7. Possession of ammunition without FID card;

8. Possession of Class B drug; and
9. Unregistered motor vehicle.

BARRON was transported to State Police-Sturbridge for booking. BARRON was held on \$15,040 bail, pending arraignment in Dudley District Court.

Town of Fairhaven to honor this year's graduating seniors with a graduation procession

"The Fairhaven High School Class of 2020 is graduating this Sunday, May 31st. With their traditional graduation on hold, the Fairhaven Public Schools, Town of Fairhaven, Acushnet Public Schools and Town of Acushnet will honor this year's graduating seniors with a Graduation Procession on Sunday.

The Procession will start in Acushnet at the Elementary and Middle Schools at 10AM and proceed through Acushnet and into Fairhaven. It will go to Fort Phoenix before heading to Leroy L. Wood Elementary and then East Fairhaven Elementary. From there, the Procession will wind up at Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School where students and their families will wait in their cars until they're called in small groups to drive to the high school to receive diplomas. (Please do not show up at Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School as ALL of the parking space will be utilized for graduates and their families.)

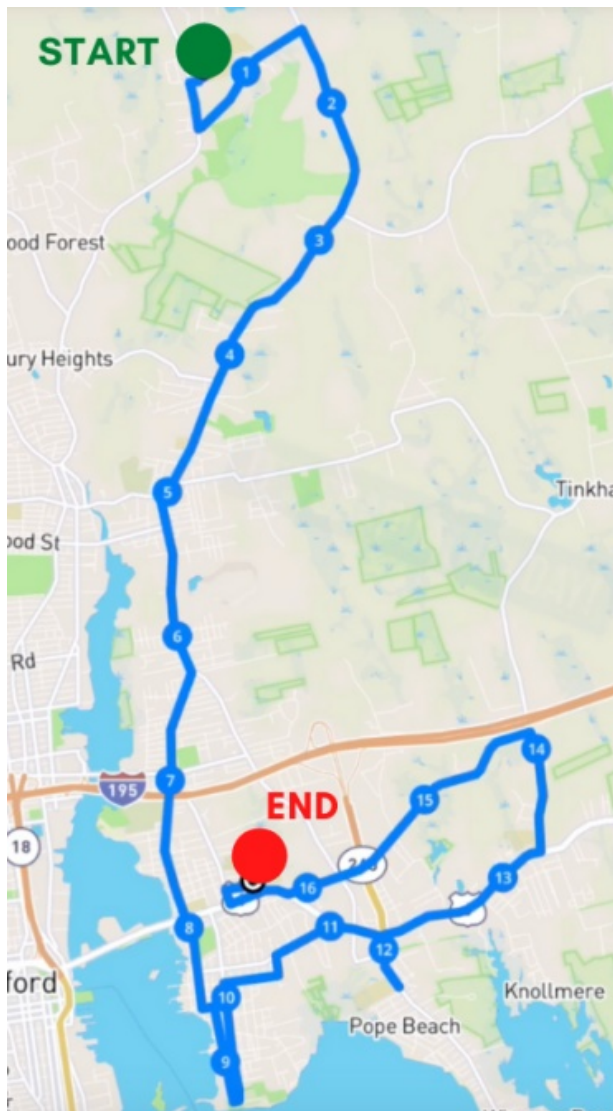
We encourage residents to show support on their lawns if the Procession goes by your house. We are also asking that

spectators follow Department of Public Health guidelines at all times.

Use the link below for more information, including specific route details and other ways to tune into the Graduation remotely.

http://fairhavenhs.ss16.sharpschool.com/family___students/graduation_2020

Help us honor the Class of 2020 in a classy yet memorable way. Congratulations seniors!!"-Fairhaven Police Department.



**FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2020**

GRADUATION PROCESSION

May 31, 2020

Starting at 10AM from Acushnet Elementary

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra FREE live-stream performance “Welcoming Summer with Dvořák”

LIVE STREAM on Sunday, May 31, 4pm.

Tune in on our website or on Facebook for a LIVE STREAM of Welcoming Summer with Dvořák when NBSO violinist Emmy Holmes-Hicks is joined once again by her downstairs neighbors, good friends, and wonderful musicians Adrienne Taylor (cello) and Andrei Baumann (piano).

Emmy, Adrienne, and Andrei will be back for another afternoon of chamber music for piano and strings. In these strange times, we can find hope and comfort in the natural world and the changing of the seasons. We bring you this program of Dvořák’s brooding, romantic, and folksy music to help welcome in the summer. We’re keeping Andrei busy with a program that includes the Dumky Trio, which means literally a song or lament of captive people; Silent Woods for cello and piano, which takes us on a tour of southwestern Bohemia; and Four Romantic Pieces for violin and piano, a charming collection of miniatures.

You have two options to view this live stream. The live videos will not appear until very close to 4pm, and it is possible that the performance may start a bit late.

Option 1: If you have a Facebook account, go to the NBSO Facebook Live Videos page where you will see current and past live videos. Click on Welcoming Summer with Dvořák to open the post so that you can comment and see others’ comments.

Option 2: Go to our website and look for the Events tab, then

Upcoming Events, and click on Welcoming Summer with Dvořák. Simply scroll down to find the video.

All of our live stream performances can be viewed afterward in either place.

New Bedford's Buttonwood Park Zoo to welcome public back

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell announced last week that the Buttonwood Park Zoo would be opening under the first phase of the plan to reopen Massachusetts.

BPZ00 will welcome back the public on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 after 12 weeks of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

BPZ00 will be open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, with last admission at 4:00 pm, from Wednesday through Sunday until further notice. The Zoo will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays for deep cleaning. Timed-based admission will be utilized to limit capacity and all tickets, for members and non-members, must be reserved online at bpzoo.org/purchase-tickets. There will be no cash handling on site. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines, protective face coverings are required for all guests over the age of 2.

"We are very excited to reopen the Zoo for the community," said Buttonwood Park Zoo Director, Keith Lovett. "During our closure, Zoo staff have been diligently working to make modifications to our grounds and our operating policies to allow guests the ability to socially distance during their visit."

The visitor experience at BPZ00 has been reconfigured to meet current public health guidelines. BPZ00 has implemented measures to encourage social distancing among guests and staff and to protect our animals. Additionally, indoor areas will be temporarily closed during Phase One of reopening. This includes Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs, Buttonwood Farm barn and the North Wood Gift Store. A limited number of gift store items will be available for sale at an outdoor kiosk during your visit. The Wildlife Carousel, Baycoast Bank Black Bear Express and Charlie's Nature Play area will be temporarily closed per State guidelines. For a complete look at what to expect, visit www.bpzoo.org/reopening/

“Although the experience may be a little different during our Phase One reopening, we are confident that a Zoo visit will continue to be an enjoyable, family-oriented activity that allows guests to gain a better appreciation of wildlife and the importance of endangered species conservation, “ Lovett went on to say.

The Zoo is located at 425 Hawthorn Street in New Bedford and is open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, with admissions allowed every half hour. Ticket prices for non-New Bedford Residents are \$10 for adults/\$6 for children 3-12; Ticket prices for New Bedford Residents are \$7.50 for adults/\$4.50 for children 3-12 and must be reserved online in advance and brought to the Zoo for admission. There will be no monetary transactions at the admissions gate. For more information about the Zoo's programs, animals and exhibits, visit www.bpzoo.org.

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of June 1, 2020 –June 5, 2020

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of June 1, 2020 –June 5, 2020 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

Eversource will replace the gas mains at the following locations:

- Tarkiln Hill Rd. and Park Ave. from Tarkiln Hill Rd. to Church St.
- Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St.
- Johnathan St. from Arnold St. to 57-59 Johnathan St.
- Hill St. from Hillman St. to Mill St.
- Hillman St. from County St. to Pleasant St.

Eversource will be doing final street and sidewalk restoration at various locations city-wide.

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at MassDOT Project #606709, New Bedford- Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work (including signals) along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Road, Construction to take place during regular working hours (Tuesday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes on a continuous basis throughout the city.
- Department of Public Infrastructure conducting its annual street sweeping program city-wide.
- The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and installation of

the site utilities at the Front St./ Elm St. site. Elm St, between JFK Memorial Highway (RTE 18) and Macarthur Dr. will be closed to westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured via MacArthur Drive. There will be detour signage and traffic controls in place.

- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.

*** Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.*

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office staff is available to assist by email and telephone.