

# **Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School students win big at SkillsUSA competition**

“Please join us in congratulating our students’ successes and recognition at the 2024 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference! In addition to numerous medals, the SkillsUSA GNB Voc-Tech Chapter also earned the Gold Chapter of Distinction Award, a recognition of the achievement of the school as it relates to the integration of the SkillsUSA Framework in the chapter’s Program of Work activities. The GNB Voc-Tech Chapter was also recognized as 1 of only 24 nationwide chapters that earned the Models of Excellence Award and 2 GNB Voc-Tech students will represent Team Massachusetts at the National Leadership Conference.

**Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School’s results are following:**

## **Gold Medalists:**

- Michael Silva (Dartmouth) – Cabinetmaking – Advisor: Joseph Arruda
- Keira-Lyn Dextraze (New Bedford) – Early Childhood Education -Advisors: Deborah Brightman and Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent
- Ava Silva (New Bedford) – Extemporaneous Speech – Advisor: Ronald Quintin
- Jacob Reimels (Dartmouth) – Marine Service Technology – Advisor: Michael McConnell

## **Silver Medalists:**

- Samantha Barboza (New Bedford) – Community Service – Advisor: Stacey Martin
- Christopher Cecil (New Bedford) – Community Service –

Advisor: Stacey Martin

- Nia Rodrigues (New Bedford) – Community Service – Advisor: Stacey Martin
- Ella DeMelo (New Bedford) – Costello Family Service Award – Advisor: Stacey Martin
- Ryan Fernandes (New Bedford) – Costello Family Service Award – Advisor: Stacey Martin
- Denisse Reyes Garcia (New Bedford) – Costello Family Service Award – Advisor: Stacey Martin
- Cameron Stapleton (Fairhaven) – Cabinetmaking – Advisor: Joseph Arruda
- Braden Duarte (Dartmouth) – Marine Service Technology – Advisor: Michael McConnell
- Sophia DeAlmeida (New Bedford) – Outstanding Chapter – Advisor: Lori Russell – Pelsue & Lauren Aubertine
- Jaelynn Sustache (New Bedford) – Outstanding Chapter – Advisor: Lori Russell – Pelsue & Lauren Aubertine
- Kylie Gagne (Dartmouth) – Outstanding Chapter – Advisor: Lori Russell – Pelsue & Lauren Aubertine
- Matthew Prezner (New Bedford) – Power Equipment Technology – Advisor: Paul Estrella
- Austin Hooda (New Bedford) – Robotics and Automation Technology – Advisor: Anthony Cabral
- Kylie Lourenco (New Bedford) – Robotics and Automation Technology – Advisor: Anthony Cabral

**Bronze Medalists:**

- Jesse Petitpas (New Bedford) – Automotive Service Technology – Advisor: Matt Talbot
- Evelyn Cardoza-Coj (New Bedford) – Career Choice Commentary – Advisor: Ron Quintin
- Sarah Barbosa (New Bedford) – Career Pathways Showcase – Advisor: Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent
- Angele Semedo (New Bedford) – Career Pathways Showcase – Advisor: Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent
- Kaelyn Medeiros (Dartmouth) – Career Pathways Showcase – Advisor: Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent

- Luis Pinto (New Bedford) – Cybersecurity – Advisor: Charles Glover
- Noah Cabral (New Bedford) – Cybersecurity – Advisor: Charles Glover
- Cody Amaral (New Bedford) – Engineering Technology – Advisor: Robert Southerland
- Jacob Duclos (New Bedford) – Engineering Technology – Advisor: Robert Southerland
- Jackson Simmons (Dartmouth) – Engineering Technology – Advisor: Robert Southerland
- Lileigh Sharples (New Bedford) – Related Technical Math – Advisor: Micaela Shea
- Elizabeth Santos (Dartmouth) – Diesel Equipment Technology – Advisor: Neil Sinclair
- Ayva Gouveia-Furtado (Dartmouth) – Sticker Design – Advisor: Ron Quintin

**Recognition:**

- Jada Sanchez (Fairhaven) – State Officer Elect – Advisor: Meghan Lacasse
- Sophia DeAlmeida (New Bedford) – Janine Baker Scholarship Winner

**Presidential Service Award Winners:**

- Jordan Melo (New Bedford) – Bronze.”-Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech High School.

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# Fairhaven Firefighters raise funds for the American Lung

# Association with “Fight For Air Climb”

“Awesome work FF Heather Lopes! She completed the Fight for Air Climb this morning in full gear.

Fight for air climb took her up 23 floors and 348 stairs at 5:33.9, a respectable time of under 6 minutes! She completed this event with partner Navy Veteran Peter Kendrick. This raised money for American Lung Association.

Great work!”-Fairhaven Call Firefighters Association.



*Fairhaven Call Firefighters Association photo.*





*Fairhaven Call Firefighters Association photo.*

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## **Westport Police Department's 'Barry' the Dog becomes official Comfort Dog**

"The Westport Police Department is excited to announce Barry the Dog has joined the rank and file as our Comfort Dog. Officer Kyle Fernandes (Barry's Hooman) will be his handler.

We would like to thank Eric Letendre's Dog Training School for working with Officer Fernandes and Barry the Dog in preparing them to take and pass the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Test. Eric was gracious enough to provide all the training free of charge!!!

Barry the Dog will be out and about at community events, the Council on Aging, and visiting the Westport Community Schools. If you see them out and about, be sure to stop by and say hello. Barry LOVES belly rubs!"-Westport Police Department.

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## **UPDATED: New Bedford woman seeks public's help finding missing father who is deaf,**

# memory impaired

**UPDATED at 6:00pm Wednesday, May 1:** "He has been found and he is safe! Thank you to everyone who has helped us in any way to get him home safe ♥️"

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Original Story:

"Good Morning family, friends we need your help!! My dad is MISSING and a police report has been filed!

His last whereabouts were in New Bedford and he may be trying to make his way to Wareham.

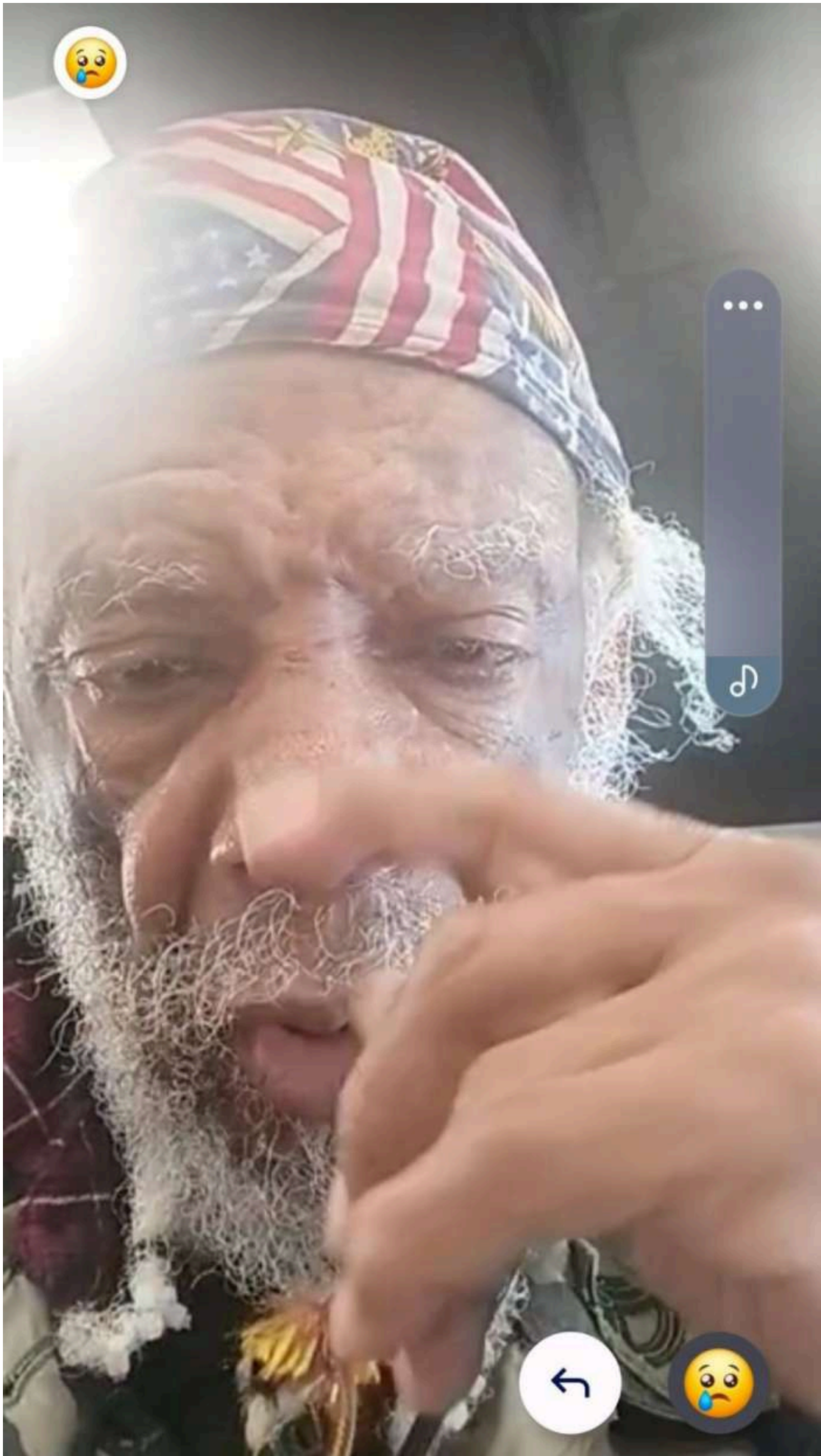
If you see him please contact the New Bedford Police Department. His memory has declined over the years.

His name is William Monteiro. For those that know him he goes by 'Billy.' He is deaf and elderly! He has been missing over 24 hours now."-Starlene Gonsalves.





*Starlene Gonsalves photo.*



*Starlene Gonsalves photo.*

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# **City of New Bedford reminds residents of Adopt-a-Tree program**

“The City of New Bedford would like to remind residents of its Adopt-a-Tree program. The program, which kicked off in 2014 under Mayor Mitchell’s administration, invites residents to make a \$150 contribution to the City of New Bedford which enables the Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI) to plant a tree on their street. Residents may select the species of their choice from a pre-approved list of tree types which DPI then plants per the resident’s direction.

Any resident interested in the Adopt-a-Tree Program may contact DPI at (508) 979-1550. The list can be found here: <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/special-announcements/adopt-a-tree-program/>. If residents are interested in picking out a street tree, the City purchases shade trees through Sylvan Nursery, Inc. Any selection is subject to approval by DPI.”- City of New Bedford.



## The Small & Flowery



### Kwanzan Cherry

Grows to 25ft. Its vibrant pink flowers are a sure sign of spring, making it a homeowner favorite.



### Hawthorn

Grows to 30ft. The attractive red berries catch the attention of many species of birds, with white flowers that display in the spring.



### Purple leaf Plum

Grows to 25ft, producing pink flowers in the spring and an edible fruit in the summer.



### Lilac

Grows to 30ft, with flowers resembling hydrangeas. Adapts to many different soils.

## Facts about the planting crews

We plant trees using ANSI (American National Standards Institute) A300 tree care standards. This ensure all decision-making and work is consistent with best practices.

Continuing education is a must for anyone in the tree business, and this includes the City Arborist. He and his crews participate in ongoing training to ensure they have the most current understanding of forestry best practices to ensure the health and longevity of New Bedford's urban forest.

Please join us and help make a difference by invigorating New Bedford's urban forest for many years to come.

## Adopt your tree today!



**Department of  
Public  
Infrastructure**

1105 Shawmut Avenue  
New Bedford, MA  
02745  
Phone: 508-979-1550 Ext  
67350

*City of New Bedford photo.*

## Did you know?

New Bedford has always loved trees. In 1913 the New Bedford Branch of the Massachusetts Forestry Association was founded, and for decades after, the branch planted thousands of young trees funded by public subscription. It's time to fully revive this spirit of citizen-driven forestation through our Adopt-a-Tree program.

In three simple steps you can do your part to ensure that our urban forest will continue to provide all of the wonderful benefits we enjoy.

1. Contact the Department of Public Infrastructure at 508-979-1550 ext. 67350 to arrange a site inspection with the City Arborist. The purpose of this is to discuss the feasibility of planting and what tree species is most favorable for the site.
2. After the site inspection you can select a tree from the City Approved Tree Species list found within this pamphlet.\*
3. Write a check to the City of New Bedford in the amount of \$150 and label the check "Adopt-a-Tree." You can drop it off in the white drop boxes in front of 1105 Shawmut Avenue and City Hall, or on Elm Street by the SRTA terminal. You can also mail the check to the address provided on the front of this brochure. The tree will then be picked up from the nursery and planted at no extra charge.

\*Trees are planted in the Spring and Fall\*

## The Tall and Mighty



### Elm

Can grow 70 to 100ft. Perfect for casting shade and blocking wind.



### Tulip

Can grow 70 to 100ft and are perfect in wet areas and produce a beautiful tulip flower.



### Tupelo

Can grow 60 to 100ft and are also perfect in wet/soaked areas. An added benefit is the spectacular fall color.



### Sweetgum

Can grow 60 to 75ft. This tree is very adaptable to any soil type thus making it an ideal urban street tree.



### Princeton

Ginkgo  
Can grow up to 50ft. This variety of Ginkgo does not drop fruit and is pest-free.

## The Medium and Bold



### Hop Hornbeam

Can grow up to 40ft and do well in wet areas. The unique seeds resemble beer hops.



### Sourwood

Can grow 25 to 40ft. Also known as Sorrel trees, they offer delight in every season, with flowers in summer, brilliant color in fall.



### Linden(greenspire)

Can grow 40 to 50ft. Its green leaves cast excellent shade in the summer and turn golden yellow in the fall.



### Honey locust

Can grow 20 to 50ft. An open rounded tree with slightly arching branches, it provides dappled shade.

*City of New Bedford photo.*

# Southcoast Health to hold hiring events at hospital locations in New Bedford, Fall River, Wareham

“Southcoast Health is hosting three open house hiring events for Registered Nurses, CNAs, ED Technicians and Nursing Students on April 30, May 2 and May 3, 2024.

There will be one event at each hospital location next week.



Prospective candidates are invited to participate in on-the-spot interviews, hospital tours, and engage in conversation with managers and staff.

Register at [www.southcoast.org/be-more/](http://www.southcoast.org/be-more/) to attend the events below, or reach out to [recruit@southcoast.org](mailto:recruit@southcoast.org) to learn more.

**Tobey Hospital**

*Tuesday, April 30*

*8-11am and 2-5pm*

*124 Main Street*

*Wareham, MA*

**St. Luke's Hospital**

*Thursday, May 2*

*8-11am and 2-5pm*

*101 Page Street*

*New Bedford, MA*

**Charlton Memorial Hospital**

*Friday, May 3*

*8-11am and 2-5pm*

*363 Highland Ave*

*Fall River, MA*

Careers at Southcoast Health offer professional growth opportunities and a highly supportive and respectful culture. Sign-on bonuses of up to \$15,000 are available for some positions along with benefits, tuition assistance and federal loan forgiveness programs.


To learn more about all open positions at Southcoast Health, visit [www.southcoast.org/careers/](http://www.southcoast.org/careers/).

## 3-DAY HIRING EVENT!

TOBEY	ST. LUKE'S	CHARLTON
APRIL	MAY	MAY
30	2	3

FOR NURSES, CNAs, ED TECHS  
& NURSING STUDENTS

You deserve  
**More**

 Southcoast® Health

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### About Southcoast Health

*Founded in 1996, Southcoast Health serves communities across southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region. The not-for-profit, charitable system includes three acute care hospitals – Charlton Memorial in Fall River, St. Luke's in New Bedford (a Level II Trauma Center), and Tobey in Wareham, Massachusetts with a physician network of more than 675 providers.*

The system has established more than 55 service locations across the South Coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including six urgent care locations, a Visiting Nurse Association, the Southcoast Health Cancer Center, the region's only Level II Adult Trauma Center and numerous ancillary facilities.

Southcoast Health has been recognized consecutively for six years in a row as a Newsweek's World's Best Hospital from 2019-2024 and named a Maternity Care Access Hospital for 2023-2024 by U.S. News & World Report. The organization was recognized as the best place to work for the sixth consecutive year by Southcoast Media Group's community choice awards.

With upward of 7,500 employees, Southcoast Health is the largest employer in southeastern Massachusetts, and one of the largest employers in the Commonwealth, according to the Boston Business Journal. More information is available online at [www.southcoast.org](http://www.southcoast.org).

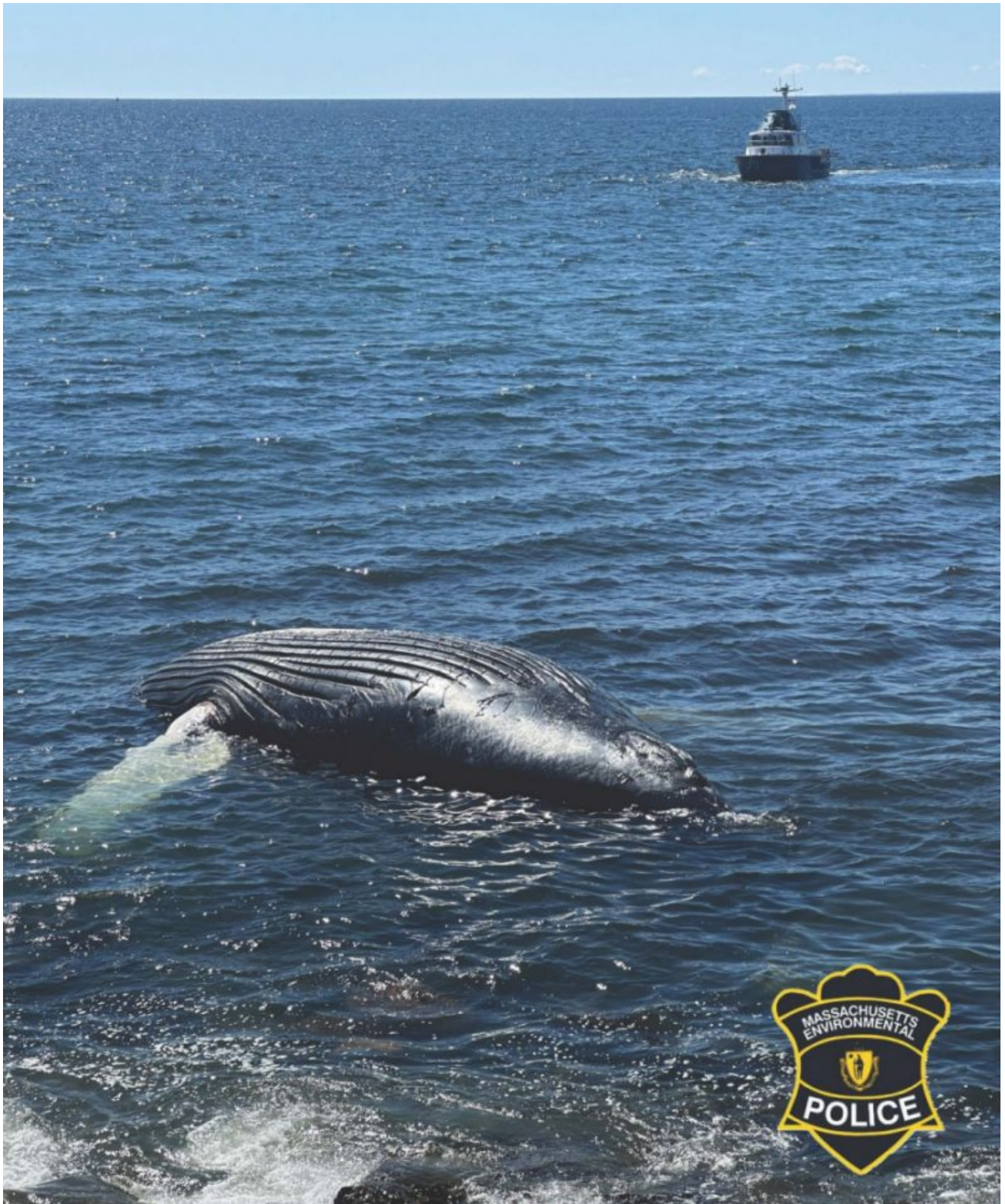
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## **Massachusetts Environmental Police discover deceased 42' Humpback Whale in Marblehead**

"Massachusetts Environmental Police Boat on scene assisting IFAW and Marblehead Harbormaster with a deceased 42' Humpback Whale off Prescott Beach Marblehead.

The whale will be brought ashore for the IFAW team to perform a necropsy to determine the cause of death."-Massachusetts Environmental Police.





*Massachusetts Environmental Police photo.*

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# **New Bedford Firefighters participate in Hazmat ammonia emergency response training, live drills**

“On Thursday, Hazmat Technicians from the New Bedford Fire Department took part in an Ammonia Emergency Response Training & Live-Release Drill in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

The training program consisted of classroom instruction and practical evolutions where the Hazmat Technicians practiced leak mitigation techniques with actual anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia is used extensively within the City of New Bedford by the seafood industry for cold storage of seafood.

The Nbfd extends its thanks to Transcaer, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the North Kingstown Fire Department for this excellent training opportunity.

The Nbfd currently employs over twenty firefighters who are trained and certified to the Hazardous Materials Technician level.”-New Bedford Fire Department.





*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*



*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*





*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*



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*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*





*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*

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# Massachusetts tick season has arrived: first confirmed case of deadly Powassan virus reported

Massachusetts has its first reported and confirmed case of the potentially deadly Powassan virus in Sharon. State officials are warning warns residents to take precautions against the tick-borne disease.

Mass.gov explains the virus, "Powassan virus causes a rare, but often serious disease, and is spread by the bite of tiny, infected black-legged (deer) ticks. There are two types of Powassan virus in the United States. One type is found in ticks that normally feed on woodchucks (groundhogs); the second type is carried by black-legged ticks, the same ticks that can also carry the germs that cause Lyme disease,



babesiosis and anaplasmosis.”

Powassan virus is spread by the bite of an infected tick and can spread from the tick into a person after only a short time of attachment, so it’s crucial to check yourself frequently when walking, on hikes, gardening, etc. You may not notice symptoms since they take minimum of a week to manifest and in some cases, up to a month.

Symptoms/signs include confusion, fever, headache, loss of coordination, seizures, speech difficulties, vomiting, and weakness. In severe cases, one may experience encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, or meningitis, an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. 10% of those who contract the severe form of the disease will die and survivors may have long-term health problems.

Unfortunately, there is no treatment once infected and one can only drink lots of fluids to prevent dehydration and get plenty of rest.

The CDC tracks cases and provides data and maps. You can visit their page and see current data here

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## **New Bedford Police Department to host anonymous drug takeback day**

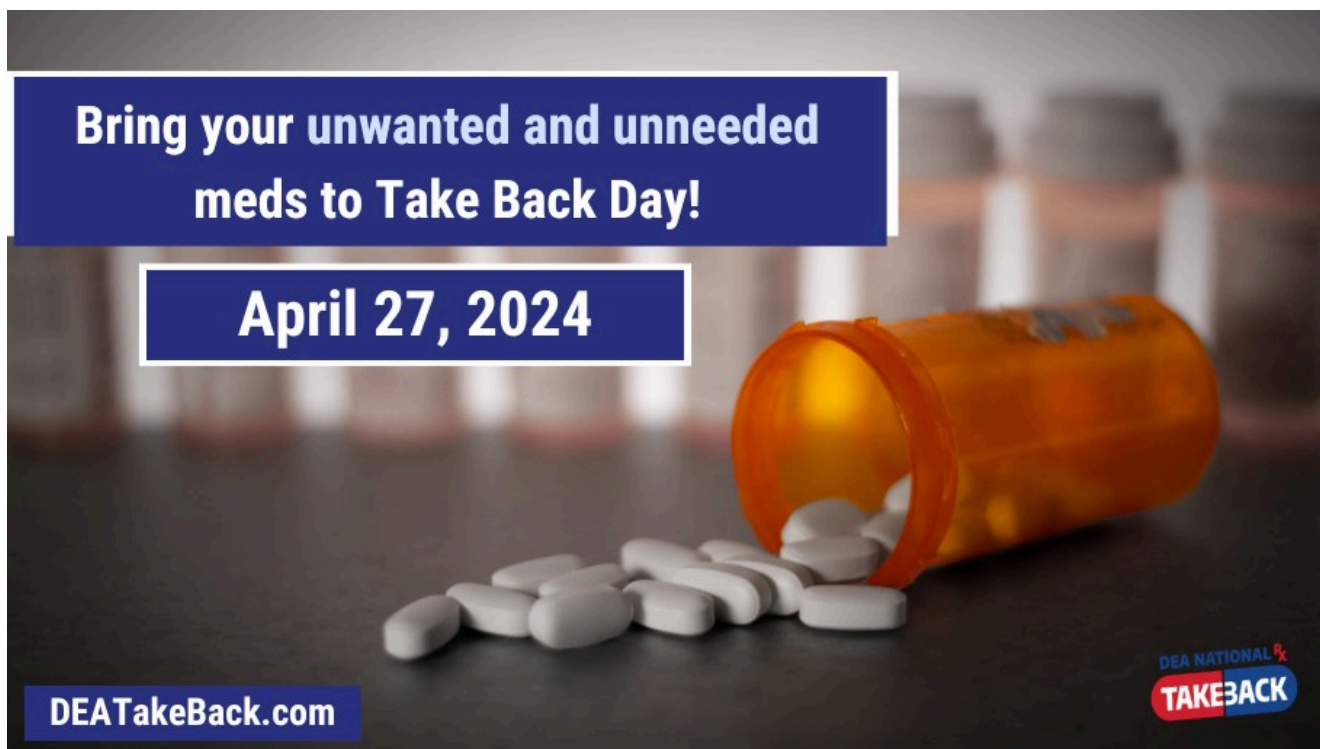
“△ 0000-0000-0000 0000000000 △”

Do you have any expired or unused medications you want to get rid of? Look no further! This Saturday, April 27, the New

Bedford Police Department will have a manned collection site set up in the parking lot of our headquarters (871 Rockdale Avenue) from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Drug Enforcement Administration – DEA has coordinated the 26th nationwide one-day collaborative prescription drug-take-back initiative event. This event is a nationwide effort to help reduce the amount of unused prescription drugs in circulation. It is a safe and convenient way to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. The event is held in a secure and controlled environment. The event is free of charge. The event is open to the public. The event is held on a Saturday. The event is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Since 2010, this initiative has resulted in over 1.7 million pounds of pharmaceutical waste collected over twenty-five drug-take-back events in New England.”-City of New Bedford Police Department.



*City of New Bedford Police Department photo.*