

Massachusetts State Police K9 "Cairo" leads troopers on safely locates woman with dementia

Earlier today Massachusetts State Troopers patrolling the area of the Sturbridge Barracks were notified of a woman in her late 50's suffering from dementia who had gone missing. Trooper Scott Davis, with his K9 partner Cairo, responded to her last known location where her husband was able to provide some bedding as scent articles for K9 Cairo to begin a track.

Trooper Davis and K9 Cairo were assisted by Trooper Ryan as they began a track from the backyard of the residence that led to a path. Several intersections were navigated along the path, then, further along the track the wind picked up changing directions. This created momentary scent confusion for K9 Cairo causing him to make large circles. The troopers paused and, once the wind settled, continued on entering thick brush distancing themselves from the trail.

As they entered deeper into the brush they heard a faint voice just ahead yelling for help. They continued and were able to safely locate the missing woman. Through the confusing trail and thick brush, the troopers lost their location and were unable to find a direct path out of the wooded area. The State Police Air Wing was overhead, however, and assisted the troopers in locating a path out of the woods. Upon their egress from the woods, the woman was returned to her family at home.

Taunton Man Sentenced to 20 years to Life for 2016 Murder

A 23-year-old Taunton man was sentenced to serve 20 years to life in prison this morning in Fall River Superior Court after being convicted last week of the Second Degree Murder of Gordon Weekes, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

The jury returned its verdict last Thursday after a week-long trial. The defendant, Miguel Marrero, was convicted of Second Degree Murder, Carrying an Illegal Firearm and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

This morning, Superior Court Judge Karen Green sentenced the defendant to a life prison sentence, with the first possibility for parole after 20 years.

Marrero was convicted of firing six shots at the victim during an altercation in front of the Fifth Avenue Apartments on the morning of March 24, 2016. The victim, a Taunton resident, was struck once in the chest, once in the buttocks and twice in the back as he tried to run away. Friends of the victim rushed him to Morton Hospital in a private vehicle, where he was pronounced deceased upon arrival.

The defendant was arrested on the day after the slaying in Roxbury.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Karen O'Sullivan and Assistant District Attorney Jeanne Veenstra.

"This is a brazen act of violence in broad daylight that undermines people's sense of security in our communities, especially in our cities. The defendant had an utter disregard for the safety of anybody in the immediate area. The sentence

imposed by the court is fair, based on all of the circumstances. ” District Attorney Quinn said.

Massachusetts State Police K9 “Boomah” tracks suspect who fled from motor vehicle after nearly striking officer

Early Thursday morning Rutland Police requested a Massachusetts State Police K9 unit to assist in the search for a suspect who fled on foot from a motor vehicle crash. The suspect, a male teenager, crashed at the intersection of Pleasantdale Road and Main Street around 2:40 a.m., a short time after nearly striking a Rutland cruiser with the motor vehicle he was driving.

MSP K9 Section Trooper Kyle Kilimonis and his partner Boomah responded to assist. Trooper Kilimonis deployed Boomah from the crashed vehicle. Boomah acquired a scent and tracked to the rear of a Main Street house, where he, Trooper Kilimonis, and a Rutland Officer came up to a fenced-in goat farm.

The search team negotiated its way past the goats and tracked an approximate half-mile into woods behind the house. After the team found a discarded sweatshirt with fresh blood on it, Boomah circled around thick woods and a swamp.

The track eventually led back out to Main Street, east of the crash site, and Boomah eventually led the Trooper and Officer into the backyard of a house on Kenwood Drive, near the intersection with Main, where the dog exhibited an alert. In

the backyard was a shed; Trooper Kilimonis noticed the shed door was open a crack.

Trooper Kilimonis announced the presence of the K9, and then the team entered the shed. Once inside, Boomah continued to alert and bark, and Trooper Kilimonis again announced their presence.

Boomah made his way to a far corner of the shed and located and apprehended the suspect, who was curled up in a ball on the floor. The suspect, a 17-year-old male, was taken into custody and transported to UMass-Lakeside Hospital in Worcester for examination. He will face charges to include using a motor vehicle without authority, failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of a crash, and breaking and entering.

Middleborough Police looking for New Bedford man who allegedly raped disabled student

Chief Joseph Perkins reports that the Middleborough Police Department has charged an employee at the Chamberlain International School with raping and sexually assaulting an adult student who is cognitively disabled.

Police have applied for and received an arrest warrant, charging Phillip Houtman, 28, of New Bedford with:

- Indecent Assault and Battery on a Person with an

Intellectual -Disability (Two Counts)

- Rape
- Assault to Rape
- Open and Gross Lewdness

Chief Perkins is strongly suggesting that Houtman turn himself in to police, and the Middleborough Police Department is asking anyone who may see Houtman or have knowledge of his whereabouts to call the police department as soon as possible.

On Sept. 30, Middleborough Police were notified of an allegation about Houtman, who allegedly sexually assaulted a 19-year-old student at the school.

The Chamberlain International School is a private boarding and day school that serves students ages 11-22 who have cognitive and developmental disorders and disabilities.

Houtman is an overnight staff member at the school and has worked there for less than a year, according to school administrators.

Anyone with information about Houtman's whereabouts is asked to call the Middleborough Police at 508-947-1212.

41-year old New Bedford man charged in viral animal cruelty case

The following information has been released by the New Bedford Police Department:

Dogs do not appear injured, according to Tufts VETS; Police

urge residents to contact 9-1-1 in any emergency situation

NEW BEDFORD – Miguel A. Martinez, 41, has been charged with animal cruelty in accordance with Massachusetts general laws Chapter 272, Section 77, after alleged cruelty to a dog in New Bedford.

Martinez was charged after police responded to his residence, 472 Cottage Street, on Wednesday, October 9, in response to reports of cruelty to an animal.

Dogs involved appear 'un-injured' according to Tuft VETS

An adult female dog and three puppies were seized and transported to Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment & Specialties (VETS) in Walpole. According to Tufts, the adult female appears to be physically uninjured although radiology reports are pending, and the puppies also appear to be physically uninjured.

Police seek further information from individual who recorded video evidence of animal cruelty allegations

On Wednesday afternoon, an individual arrived at the downtown New Bedford Police Station stating that he had video evidence of animal cruelty. The individual stated that he did not record the video and that it was sent to him anonymously. The individual shared the video with police, which shows an individual (allegedly Martinez) committing acts of animal cruelty. The video did not have a date or timestamp. The Animal Control Division contacted the Boston Animal Rescue League, which was working on a separate case in Bristol County, for assistance. The Animal Control Division contacted the Boston Animal Rescue League, and the downtown station was informed that Animal Control was investigating.

At approximately 5:02 p.m., New Bedford Police were dispatched to 472 Cottage Street to meet Animal Control officers

regarding the report animal cruelty. Police had also received calls after the video had been posted to social media. When police arrived at the address, an individual at the address stated that she had arrived after seeing the video on Facebook and had driven there in order to confront the suspect. The individual stated she had parked in front of the address's driveway in order to prevent the suspect from leaving the premises.

The individual who recorded the video has not been identified. That individual was not the individual who shared the video with police and has not come forward to police.

New Bedford Police ask that the individual who recorded the video, and anyone who may have further information on this case, contact Detective Division at 508-991-6300 ext. 79519 in order to assist in the investigation.

Police urge residents to contact 9-1-1 in any emergency, never to wait

New Bedford Police urge residents to contact 9-1-1 the event of any emergency, including animal cruelty as it is happening. While recording a video can certainly help provide valuable evidence to the police, calling 9-1-1 during a suspected crime as soon as possible is the best way to ensure police are able to respond and to ensure public safety.

Man arrested after assaulting Massachusetts State Trooper

Just after 2 p.m. today Massachusetts State Troopers responded to reports of a disabled vehicle on Route 91 Northbound blocking part of the right travel lane and ramp to Exit 3 in

Springfield.

Upon the arrival of a Trooper assigned to State Police-Springfield, it was determined the vehicle would need to be removed expeditiously as it was impacting traffic. After a tow truck was dispatched to the scene the operator of the disabled vehicle began arguing with the Trooper and then assaulted the Trooper.

The Trooper requested backup, resulting in multiple State Police and Springfield Police cruisers responding. Traffic was severely impacted in the area for approximately one hour.

The operator of the vehicle, identified as ELIJAH HENDERSON, 27, of Bloomfield Ct., was eventually placed under arrest and transported to the Springfield Barracks for booking. The Trooper was transported to an area hospital with minor injuries.

HENDERSON will be arraigned tomorrow at Springfield District Court. He was charged with:

1. Assault and Battery on a Police Officer;
2. Disorderly Conduct; and
3. Resisting Arrest.

Natick Man Pleads Guilty to Possessing Child Pornography

A Natick man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court in Boston to possessing child pornography.

Joshua Bemis, 28, pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and one count of receipt of child

pornography. U.S. District Court Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton scheduled sentencing for Jan. 8, 2020. Bemis was arrested and charged in November 2018.

Federal authorities received information from law enforcement in the United Kingdom about an individual whose IP address was traced to Bemis' Natick residence, who had posted child pornography on a photo sharing website. Law enforcement subsequently executed a search warrant where they seized a laptop computer and separate hard drive, both of which contained numerous videos of children, including some that depict the rape of children as young as seven-years-old.

Bemis faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 40 years in prison, a minimum of five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Jason Molina, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; and Natick Police Chief James G. Hicks made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney David G. Tobin is prosecuting the case.

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

New Bedford man charged with intent to distribute near a school

Rory Barrows Jr., 20, of New Bedford, was arrested by Juvenile Detective Karl Baptiste in the area of Viking Drive near the High School. Mr. Barrows is charged with possession with intent to distribute a Class "B" drug and possession with intent to distribute near a school.

The arrest follows a report of a suspicious person in the area. Juvenile Detective Baptiste investigated and found suspected crack cocaine on the male and placed him under arrest.

Massachusetts State Police K9 "Neko" locates driver who fled a crash

"On Sunday, October 6th around 4:20 a.m., troopers from the State Police Danvers Barracks responded to a crash where a vehicle struck a utility pole on Route 1 in Saugus.

The crash caused a widespread power outage. When troopers arrived on scene, witnesses reported that the lone occupant and operator had fled on foot. Troopers requested K9

assistance and Trooper Dan Purtell of the K9 Unit responded.

On arrival, Trooper Purtell deployed K9 Neko using the vehicle's driver's side floor mat as a scent article. K9 Neko quickly acquired a scent and tracked for approximately a quarter-mile along Route 1 when he located the suspect lying prone and hiding in high grass along the highway.

The suspect was detained and after a brief investigation was placed under arrest by Trooper Louis Williams of the Danvers Barracks. The suspect was transported to the Danvers Barracks where he was booked for OUI alcohol and leaving the scene of a property damage crash. Troopers on scene were also assisted by Saugus Fire and Saugus Police Department."



U.S. Attorney Lelling renews opposition to drug injection sites in Massachusetts

The following is a statement from U.S. Attorney Lelling regarding **drug injection sites in Massachusetts**:

“Opioid overdose deaths are down 11% over this time last year, a substantial drop and the continuation of a multi-year trend. Now would not be the time to open a site for the purpose of making it easier to take heroin and fentanyl.

Despite the constant repetition by proponents of these sites, there are no reliable studies showing that they reduce overall numbers of overdose deaths or, more importantly, help addicts get clean. And, yes, people have died in drug injection facilities. Meanwhile, these sites are harmful to the communities that host them, as they attract high concentrations of drug users, followed by drug dealers, and so an increase in crime.

We’re aware of the decision yesterday by a single district court judge in Philadelphia. We respectfully disagree with it, and it is only the first step in a long process of judicial review for this important issue. As the Deputy Attorney General said yesterday, efforts to open injection facilities, including here in Massachusetts, will be met with federal enforcement.”