

Victim of last week's Westport Hit and Run has passed away

The victim of last week's hit and run incident in Westport has died at Rhode Island Hospital as a result of the injuries she sustained. Stephanie Tripp, of Fall River, was 30-years-old.

Investigators today are renewing their call for public assistance in their efforts to locate and apprehend the driver of the car that struck Ms. Tripp last Tuesday on Old Bedford Road in Westport.

Police and prosecutors have been able to discern the type of vehicle likely involved in the fatal hit and run.

It is now believed the vehicle that struck the pedestrian was a gray BMW 3 Series vehicle. The vehicle is likely a model from 1999 through 2005, and should have sustained minor damage to its hood, front end and/or front passenger side.

Police are actively seeking the public's assistance in locating witnesses to a hit and run.

Westport Police received a 911 call at 8:15 pm last Tuesday evening to report a crash and a severely injured woman in the area of 288 Old Bedford Road. When first responders arrived, they located the victim, Stephanie Tripp face down in the breakdown lane suffering from major injuries. The victim was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, where she remained in critical condition until her death this morning.

A preliminary investigation has revealed the victim was walking along the side of the roadway when she was struck by a BMW. The male operator of the vehicle exited the car and apparently told a witness he was sorry and didn't mean to hit

the victim. A witness told the driver to stay on the scene, but as the witness was providing aid to the victim, the driver sped off in an easterly direction on Old Bedford Road. Another witness attempted to follow the suspect's vehicle, which, according to the witness, was traveling at high rates of speed and passing vehicles by passing into the opposite travel lane. The witness lost the suspect's vehicle in the area of Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth.

The vehicle's last known location was at the corner of Old Fall River Road and Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth. The vehicle may have sustained minor front end damage.

Although officers spoke with several witnesses who remained on scene, there is reason to believe that other witnesses may have seen the crash, the vehicle that struck the victim or may have information about the driver.

If anyone was in the area and saw anything, or has information about this case, they are urged to contact Massachusetts State Police Trooper Phil Giardino at 508-961-1928 or Westport Police detectives at 508-636-1122. Residents can also submit a tip about this case anonymously by utilizing our anonymous text a tip program. To anonymously text a tip to us, text the word "Bristol" to the phone number CRIMES (274637). Then just text us your tip. You can also submit a web-based anonymous tip [by going to https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/create-report/anonymous/da.bristol.ma.us](https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/create-report/anonymous/da.bristol.ma.us)

Three New Bedford men

arrested for Fentanyl distribution

On Tuesday, May 14, around 6pm, New Bedford police officers arrested three men on Fentanyl and other charges. Fentanyl was responsible for 89% of all overdose deaths in Massachusetts in 2018.

According to New Bedford Police Department arrest logs, Anthony Pina, Jerom Souza, and Paul Sheehan were arrested at 114 Mill Street, Apartment #7. All three men live in the 114 Mill Street 10-unit apartment complex, but apartment #7 is registered under Paul Sheehan and Anthony Pina. Jerom Souza lives in apartment #3.

29-year old Jerom Souza is being charged with distribution of fentanyl, possession to distribute a Class A drug – second offense (8/6/2016 – Guilty) and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

33-year old Anthony Pina and 53-year old Paul Sheehan are being charged with distribution of a class A drug and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

The apartment complex at 114 Mill Street is owned by:

GLENN A RAPOZA "TRUSTEE"
MATTAPAN, MA 02739

Two drivers charged with OUI

in New Bedford on Sunday

New Bedford police are charging two drivers for OUI-Liquor on Sunday, May 12.

At 5:29am, New Bedford police arrested Miguel Caraballo of New Bedford in the area of 1000 Ashley BLVD. He is being charged with OUI-Liquor.

At 10:30pm, New Bedford police responded to reports of a car accident with the driver leaving the scene. Police located the driver in the area of 172 Belleville Ave. and determined the operator was driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was transported to St. Luke's Hospital and will be summoned to court for OUI-Liquor, leaving the scene of property damage and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

New Bedford shooter sentenced to state prison

A 23-year-old New Bedford man who shot and seriously injured another New Bedford man in March 2016 was sentenced this week to serve up to eight years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Josiahi Matos pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to indictments charging him with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, armed assault in a dwelling, carrying an illegal fire and carrying a loaded illegal firearm. He was sentenced by Judge Gregg Pasquale to serve five to eight years in state prison, followed by four years of supervised probation.

On Sunday, March 13, 2016, at approximately 11:23 am, New Bedford Police received several 911 calls regarding gunshots fired, as well as a male shot at 204 Sawyer Street. Uniformed police responded to the scene and upon their arrival, they located the victim lying on the floor within his attic apartment. As they approached the male, they observed him lying face down in a pool of blood. Officers as well as the paramedics on scene determined that the victim, who appeared to have suffered from bullet wounds, needed to be transported to Rhode Island Hospital where he was further tended to as a result of the severity of his injuries.

Police learned through their investigation that the defendant entered the victim's apartment uninvited, and after a brief verbal confrontation, he began firing his gun at the victim, striking him in the leg.

On March 14, 2016, police arrested the defendant, who was hiding in a locked room of the basement at 5 Bonneau Court, which is adjacent to the address where the shooting occurred.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Digiantomaso.

"This is another example of senseless violence that could have killed the victim and endangered the public on a quiet Sunday morning," District Attorney Quinn said. "This is lawlessness and the defendant has clearly demonstrated that he is a danger and doesn't belong on the streets."

Man charged with stabbing two

people at Rosewood Motel in Wareham

At 2:00 pm on Monday, May 13, Wareham Police responded to the Rosewood Motel for a report of two people who had been stabbed. After investigating, Officer Richard Robidoux determined that the incident had actually occurred around midnight.

Detectives further determined that the suspect, armed with a knife, had entered the first victim's motel room looking for a specific individual. After shoving that first victim, the suspect left the room and confronted the person he was looking for in the lot and began to stab him, the second victim. The first victim attempted to intervene and was slashed several times before the suspect fled the area.

Once officers were able to identify the suspect, they located him at his place of employment at 4:30 p.m. and arrested him. Samuel J. Hackett III, 34, of Buzzards Bay is charged with:

Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (2 counts), Assault and battery (2 counts), and Armed assault in a dwelling.

This was not a random attack and the victims were treated at Tobey Hospital.

Massachusetts State Troopers

share example of how not to load a truck

“Troopers with the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section – the Truck Team, as we call it informally – came across this little example of safe vehicle operation earlier this month.

The truck, which was observed by Troopers in heavy “stop and go” traffic on the Expressway northbound in Quincy, was carrying a pole that extended eight feet beyond the bed with no flag attached to warn other motorists. The driver’s license was also revoked.

The driver and truck, who were headed to Maine, were taken off the road. Tragedy averted.” – Massachusetts State Police

65-year old Massachusetts man sentenced for motor vehicle theft scheme

An Avon man has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to one year in state prison in connection with allegedly running a motor vehicle theft scheme, followed by three years of probation including one year of house arrest.

Jose Sostre, age 65, pleaded guilty on May 7 in Norfolk Superior Court to the charges of Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle (six counts), Removal or Alteration of Motor Vehicle Identification Numbers (28 counts), Possession of a

Burglary Tool (one count), Misleading a Police Officer (one count), Forging Certificates of Title and Related Documents (ten counts), and Counterfeit Inspection Stickers (two counts).

Police Officer (one count), Forging Certificates of Title and Related Documents (ten counts), and Counterfeit Inspection Stickers (two counts). After the plea was entered, Judge Peter Krupp sentenced Sostre to serve one year to one year and a day in state prison, followed by three years of probation including one year of house arrest. The state prison sentence will begin once Sostre finishes serving a sentence related to a probation violation.

"This defendant orchestrated a sophisticated scheme to defraud our state motor vehicle registration system and mask the identity of stolen cars," AG Healey said. "We thank our state partners for working with us to investigate and prosecute this defendant."

Sostre was arrested and indicted on the charges by a Statewide Grand Jury in August 2017. The case was referred to the AG's Office by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office due to the multi-county nature of the investigation. Sostre was previously prosecuted by the AG's Office in connection with running a counterfeit motor vehicle inspection sticker scheme. He pleaded guilty to those charges in August 2015, served 90 days of a one-year sentence, and is currently serving nine months in jail for violating probation related to that conviction.

The AG's subsequent investigation began in January 2016, when a vehicle from Lawrence was reported stolen to the Massachusetts State Police. State Police troopers tracked a LoJack signal from the vehicle, locating and stopping it in Brockton. Sostre was the driver of that stolen vehicle. Upon further examination of the vehicle, troopers discovered that, in an attempt to disguise it, the vehicle had all manufacturer

identifying numbers removed and replaced with those from a salvage vehicle. Troopers also found a forged application for a duplicate certificate of title for the salvage vehicle. The duplicate title was used to further hide the true identity of the stolen vehicle.

Through the course of the investigation, authorities found an additional five stolen cars that followed a similar criminal scheme, as well as additional criminal activity, including forged RMV documents, misleading statements to police officers, possession of burglarious tools, removal or alteration of vehicle identification numbers, and counterfeit motor vehicle inspection stickers.

Two of the motor vehicles recovered in the investigation had counterfeit motor vehicle inspection stickers placed on them. The state's motor vehicle inspection program, a joint program with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), requires yearly safety tests for all motor vehicles. Passenger vehicles that are less than 15 years old are subject to yearly safety and emission inspections, which can only be conducted at facilities licensed by the RMV. Inspection tests can only be conducted by people licensed by the RMV. The program is designed to ensure only safe and clean vehicles operate on the state's roads.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Gabriel Thornton, through AG Healey's Environmental Crimes Strike Force, with assistance from Victim Witness Advocate Amber Anderson of AG Healey's Victim Witness & Assistance Division, Massachusetts State Police, detectives of the Massachusetts Environmental Police assigned to the AG's Office, Boston Police, National Insurance Crime Bureau, MassDOT, RMV, and the AG's Digital Evidence Lab.

Massachusetts Troopers arrest three for trafficking narcotics

On Wednesday May 8t Trooper Michael Leslie was patrolling Route 91 in Bernardston when he observed a Hyundai Elantra with a defective license plate light and passenger side taillight. He caught up to the vehicle and activated his blue lights and siren but noted it was very slow to pull over.

When the vehicle came to a full stop Trooper Leslie approached the driver's side window and identified the operator as AMANDA STACEY, 35, of East Hardwick, Vermont. He also observed two other occupants in the vehicle. While speaking to STACEY Trooper Leslie observed paraphernalia commonly used in conjunction with crack cocaine along with an axe style weapon at her side. For his safety STACEY was removed from the vehicle and separated from the weapon while he investigated.

After removing STACEY from the vehicle a small amount of crack and powder cocaine was located on her person. The front seat passenger, identified as ANGELA LIMOGES, 34, of Hyde Park, Vermont, and rear seat passenger, identified as RICARDO ROMERO, 43, of Jamaica, New York, were then removed from the vehicle in order to conduct a search.

During the search Trooper Leslie located a total of 125 grams of cocaine, 71 grams of heroin, and a small amount of prescription medication. All three occupants were placed under arrest and transported to the Shelburne Falls barracks for booking. They were arraigned at Greenfield DC the next day on the following charges.

AMANDA STACEY:

- Trafficking in Heroin;
- Trafficking in Cocaine;
- Possession of a Class A Drug;
- Possession of a Class B Drug;
- Possession of a Class E Drug;
- Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
- Tampering with Evidence;
- Equipment Violation; and
- Motor Vehicle Light Violation.

RICARDO ROMERO:

- Trafficking in Heroin;
- Trafficking in Cocaine;
- Possession of a Class A Drug;
- Possession of a Class B Drug;
- Possession of a Class E Drug; and
- Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law.

ANGELA LIMOGES:

- Trafficking in Heroin;
 - Trafficking in Cocaine;
 - Possession of a Class A Drug;
 - Possession of a Class B Drug;
 - Possession of a Class E Drug;
 - Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
 - Tampering with Evidence.
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Update on Westport Hit and Run Investigation

After further investigation this week, investigators have been

able to discern the type of vehicle likely involved in a near-fatal hit and run, which occurred Tuesday evening in Westport.

It is now believed the vehicle that struck the pedestrian was a gray BMW 3 Series vehicle. The vehicle is likely a model from 1999 through 2005, and should have sustained minor damage to its hood, front end and/or front passenger side.

Police are actively seeking the public's assistance in locating witnesses to a hit and run which occurred Tuesday evening on Old Bedford Road in Westport and left a 30-year-old Fall River woman in critical condition.

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The vehicle's last known location was at the corner of Old Fall River Road and Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth. The vehicle may have sustained minor front end damage.

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Massachusetts Man Charged with illegally Operating a Helicopter from Backyard

An East Brookfield man was arrested Thursday, May 9 and charged in federal court in Worcester in connection with unlawfully operating an aircraft and making false statements to federal investigators.

Antonio Santonastaso, 59, was charged by criminal complaint with one count of serving as an airman without an airman certificate and one count of making false statements to federal agents. Santonastaso will appear in federal court in Worcester this afternoon.

According to the charging document, the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA) revoked Santonastaso's license to pilot an aircraft in 2000, after he participated in the theft of a helicopter from Norwood Memorial Airport. Despite being aware of that revocation, Santonastaso operated a Robinson R-22 helicopter – taking off and landing from his backyard – more than 50 times between April 28, 2018 and Nov. 11, 2018. FAA inspectors reviewed the path Santonastaso used when taking off and landing from his backyard, and concluded that it was extremely hazardous.

When questioned by the FAA and federal agents, Santonastaso repeatedly made false statements regarding his eligibility to pilot the helicopter. Among other things, Santonastaso falsely claimed to have not learned that the FAA had revoked his license, and made false statements regarding his applications for a medical certificate, which is required in order to operate an aircraft.

The charging statutes provide for a sentence of no greater than five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000. 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 and Douglas Shoemaker, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General, made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Panich of Lelling's Office is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.