

Three wanted by Dartmouth police for stealing \$2,500 worth of items from Best Buy

Dartmouth police are looking for the public's help to identify three suspects who recently stole about \$2,500 worth of items from Best Buy.

Anyone with information that can help identify the individuals are encouraged to call Detective Kyle Costa at 508-910-1755.

New Bedford police arrest four on drug charges on Thursday

On March 21, at 12:09 pm, New Bedford police officers arrested two people on drug charges in the area of 1701 Acushnet Ave.

39-year old Felix Lebron of 200 Riverside Ave. APT #321 was arrested on charges of possession of a Class B drug and conspiracy to violate drug laws. 31-year old Alicia Lacombe of 15 Covell Street APT 1W was arrested on charges of possession of a Class B drug, conspiracy to violate drug laws and on an outstanding warrant.

At 12:24 pm, New Bedford police officers arrested two men on drug charges in the area of 1042 County Street.

25-year old Christopher Westgate-Landry of 70 Earl Street – Apartment #3 on drug charges is being charged with possession

of a Class A drug (Fentanyl) and conspiracy to violate drug laws. 24-year old Wayne Bevacqua of 949 County Street APT 1ST is being charged with distribution of a Class A drug (Fentanyl), Fentanyl trafficking of more than 10 grams, possession to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to violate drug laws, possession to distribute a Class A (second offense: 12/06/2016), possession to distribute a Class B (second offense: 12/06/2016).

Wareham police seize suspected fentanyl in drug raid

On Wednesday, March 20, at about 2:00 p.m., Wareham and Bourne Police detectives conducted a drug raid at 42 Choctaw Drive, Indian Mound Beach, after a joint investigation. At the location detectives confiscated suspected fentanyl, pills, and over \$500.00 cash.

Placed under arrest at the scene was Michael Mello, 55, of 42 Choctaw Drive. Mello is charged with, possession with intent to distribute a class A substance (fentanyl), and illegal possession of a class C drug. Mello was transported to police headquarters where he was processed and expected to appear in Wareham District Court on Thursday morning.

Assisting in the search at the home was a Yarmouth Police detective and his K-9 "Gauge", a drug dog.

Rhode Island State Police arrest 62 people for public assistance fraud

Colonel James M. Manni, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police and Director of the Department of Public Safety, announces that 62 people wanted on outstanding court warrants for felony charges have been arrested and charged with fraudulently obtaining public assistance. State Police are currently searching for 26 other individuals wanted on similar charges.

The 88 suspects allegedly collected approximately \$469,000 in public assistance over the past several years after failing to disclose that they had outstanding felony warrants against them at the time they applied for public assistance, which would have precluded them from obtaining benefits. The outstanding felony warrants included a variety of criminal charges for violent and non-violent crimes, ranging from attempted murder and first-degree robbery to felony shoplifting and narcotics violations.

Colonel Manni said these arrests send a simple message to all Rhode Islanders: "We are cracking down on public assistance fraud. ... Public assistance, the SNAP program and other state benefits are there for those who need and deserve them. We cannot and will not tolerate abuse of this system."

"I would like to thank the State Police and the Attorney General for their continued collaboration to help us combat fraud," said Dorothy Pascale, Chief of the Office of Internal Audit. "I also want to extend my appreciation to my team, who

have worked with investigators to mine, match and analyze benefits data. This office serves a critical oversight function to ensure taxpayer dollars are protected from fraud, waste and abuse. Efforts like this help move our mission forward and enhance benefits program integrity.”

The arrests announced yesterday stemmed from an investigation by members of the Rhode Island State Police Financial Crimes Unit, working with investigators from the Department of Administration Office of Internal Audit – Fraud, Detection and Prevention Unit, into allegations of filing false documents to public officials, perjury and fraudulently obtaining public assistance.

Their investigation was based on an analysis of data by analysts at the Department of Administration, who determined that these 88 individuals allegedly applied for and received public assistance while they were sought on active felony warrants issued by the Rhode Island Superior and District Courts and/or by courts in other states.

According to DOA records, these individuals never reported the outstanding warrants at the time they filed applications for benefits, under penalties of perjury. Federal regulations require all outstanding warrants to be reported on applications for public assistance.

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Over the past two months, members of the Rhode Island State Police Financial Crimes Unit arrested the 62 individuals for allegedly fraudulently applying for and obtaining public assistance. At the time they applied for public assistance, all 62 had active outstanding warrants. However, prior to the Financial Crimes Unit executing the arrest warrants on the new charges, some of these individuals had already appeared in court on their outstanding warrants. Their appearance before the courts on their outstanding warrants did not change the fact that they failed to disclose those warrants when they applied for and obtained public assistance.

Warrants have been issued for the additional 26 subjects.

Four Individuals Arrested for Armed Robbery at Residence Inn in Dartmouth

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at approximately 10:44 p.m., members of the Dartmouth Police Department responded to a report of an armed robbery of the Residence Inn, located at #181 Faunce Corner Road.

According to information gathered from the female victim, four individuals, two males and two females, entered her room. Once inside, the victim stated that the females physically assaulted her, while the males ransacked the room.

The female victim stated that the suspects made away with \$7,800 in cash and a Rolex watch valued at \$14,500.

As the victim was familiar with one of the female suspects, officers were able to positively identify her, as well as the other suspects. With additional information that officers later received, a regional broadcast was sent out with information associated with the vehicle that the suspects were operating (a Hyundai Elantra).

At approximately 1:43 a.m. officers from the Westport Police Department stopped the vehicle on State Road, identified its occupants, and contacted Dartmouth Police.

As a result of the incident, Dartmouth Police arrested Jadelynn GIBBONS, 24, of Nash Road, New Bedford; Shantel MEDEIROS, 22, of Salisbury Street, New Bedford; Hakeem LOPES, 25, of Adams Street, New Bedford; and Manny ANDREWS, 25, of Bannister Street, New Bedford.

All four (4) suspects were charged with armed robbery, assault and battery, larceny over \$1,200, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The victim was not seriously injured, and the investigation is ongoing.

29-year old Bourne man arrested for “Wreckless Hobbies” break in

The Wareham Police Department announced that the suspect in the “Wreckless Hobbies” shop burglary has been arrested. **On Thursday, February 21st, at 3:20 a.m. a male suspect smashed his way into the shop and stole multiple items valued at over \$3,500.**

Wareham Police detectives noted that on Saturday, March 16th, Foxborough had a similar type incident occur at a store in their community. Wareham detectives contacted Foxborough detectives and on March 19th, Foxborough Police received a tip on a possible suspect. It was determined after investigation that the suspect was living in Bourne. Wareham Police detectives continued the follow-up and were granted a search warrant for the suspect’s home.

At approximately 3:40 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20th, detectives and officers from Wareham, Bourne, and Foxborough, raided the home and placed the suspect under arrest. During the raid two loaded firearms were located, one being in a jacket pocket of the suspect. Inside the home, detectives confiscated several previously stolen items. The suspect was transported to the Wareham Police Department where he was held on \$10,000 cash bail. He is due in Wareham District Court on Wednesday morning.

Andrew Darby, 29, of Bourne is charged with;

- Break and entering into a building in the night with intent to commit a felony.
- Larceny from a building.
- Vandalizing property.
- In addition, he will be facing multiple charges in both

Bourne and Foxborough.

Acting Police Chief John Walcek, said, "The cooperation among the multiple police agencies resulted in this suspect being taken off of the streets. The detectives involved did a tremendous job in following-up and bringing this case to a successful conclusion."

Middleborough Police determine woman's attempted van abduction story to be a hoax

On Monday, March 18, the Middleborough Police Department determined that a woman's story about being the victim of an attempted abduction to be untrue.

"Chief Joseph Perkins reports that the Middleborough Police Department has determined that a woman's story about an attempted abduction was untrue following an investigation and there is currently no reason to believe there is any danger to the public."

The woman told police Monday afternoon that a man tried to abduct her and force her into his van on Clay Street. Through a thorough investigation into the alleged incident, police have determined that the attempted abduction did not occur.

The incident remains under active investigation."

At approximately 12:45 p.m. on Monday, a 27-year old Middleborough woman called the police and reported that a man

attempted to abduct her on Clay Street in Middleborough, MA. She told them that she was walking down Clay Street when a man driving a rust red colored utility van drove up to her and asked her for directions. A short time later, the man got out of the van and walked up behind the woman and grabbed her by her face and began pulling her toward his van. She claimed that she was able to free herself and flee from the man then ran into the woods and called the police.

The victim claimed that the attacker was a white male, in his 40s or 50s, wearing a baseball cap backwards and sunglasses. The man had light-colored facial hair.

Police quickly determined that her story was a hoax. No word on if charges are going to be filed against her.

Massachusetts State Troopers Investigating Vandalism to WWII Memorial

At approximately 11:30 a.m. today, a caller reported that the World War Two Memorial at Castle Island in South Boston had been vandalized. Troopers responded and discovered a substance – believed to be some type of oil – splashed or poured onto the granite memorial, which is located at the beginning of the causeway heading out to Castle Island.

Troop H of the Massachusetts State Police is investigating. The exact time of the vandalism remains part of the ongoing investigation. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which oversees Castle Island, was notified and responded in attempt to clean the memorial. Anyone with

information about who may be responsible is urged to call State Police-South Boston at 617-740-7710.

Massachusetts State Troopers Arrest Woman Wanted for Parental Kidnapping

At approximately 1:30 p.m. today the Massachusetts State Police Troop A Communications center dispatched a "Be On the Lookout" notification for BRITTANY BOHAN, 28 of Sanford, Maine. BOHAN was wanted by police in Maine for the parental kidnapping of her two children.

Troopers assigned to the State Police Danvers Barracks received information that BOHAN could possibly have been in a residence located in Beverly. Multiple State Police cruisers, along with Beverly Police cruisers, traveled to the address and eventually located BOHAN along with the two children.

The children were unharmed and will be returned to the custody of Maine Child Protective Services.

BOHAN was placed under arrest without incident and transported to the Danvers Barracks for booking. She was charged with being a Fugitive from Justice on a Court Warrant and will be arraigned tomorrow morning at Salem District Court. After BOHAN's arraignment, arrangements will be made to transport her to the custody of the Sanford, Maine Police Department.

Wareham police seeking armed robbery suspect

On Friday, March 15, at 9:48 p.m., Wareham Police officers responded to the Wareham Country Market on Marion Road for an armed robbery. The suspect was described as a black male, wearing a black sweatshirt, bandana mask, and brandishing a handgun. Furthermore, the male was described as being between 5'6"-5'8" tall and approximately 160-170 pounds, with a medium build.

In addition to Officer Nate Aronson and detectives, the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department supplied a K-9 to search the area, however, no suspect was located. An undetermined amount of cash was stolen and there were no injuries. This case remains an active investigation by members of the Detective Division. If anyone has any information on this robbery please contact the Wareham Police Department.