

“OPINION: “Donald Trump will never see the inside of a prison cell!”

The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.

Often people do not want their last names used or they prefer anonymity. The reason for this is that in this day and age of social media, people will insult and ridicule people, their spouses and children and even try to get people fired or their businesses boycotted. In extreme cases, threats are made and based on a person's profile, enough information is gathered to figure out where people live, work, eat, or play.

Do you have a counter opinion to this opinion? Have an opinion about something else? Email us at info@newbedfordguide.com.

“No matter the timing of additional criminal indictments against Trump, or trials , that may result in convictions, Donald Trump will never spend more than a few hours in a cell.

If the most provable and consequential federal law violations are the basis of convictions and he is sentenced to jail he will evade incarceration by appealing all sentences until they reach the Supreme Court.

As long as Trump finds willing attorneys to represent him and he can use each indictment, conviction and appeal to generate donations from his never deterred supporters to cover all his court costs, the trials and hearings will continue

indefinitely.

Like PBS serials there will be season after season episodes: his fate always in a threatened position but always rescued by unforeseen circumstances. His celebrity and notoriety will always be at the top of the news' cycles.

Should he win a second term his presidency will forestall all criminal legal matters, not having been litigated, and he will pardon himself of all convictions. Not having to rely on the generosity of his supporters he will now have all the necessary resources, willing appointees and legislators to mount the most vindictive crusade against every person who may have criticized him, voted for his impeachment or was associated with Biden, Clinton, and Obama.

He will find receptive prosecutors and judges to penalize the very people he accused of weaponizing the judicial systems.

Trump will also, as promised, pardon all those convicted of crimes for the January 6th insurrection. Having a willing cadre of insurrectionists, and new recruits, will act as a warning for the outcome of future elections.”-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.

Bishop Stang taps Fairhaven native Jacob Ashworth as new boys basketball head coach

“Bishop Stang High School is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacob Ashworth as the new Head Boys Basketball Coach.

Fairhaven native and current Assistant Coach at WPI, Coach Ashworth will bring experience as an outstanding player and coach to his new position. Having a standout career at Bourne High School and UMass Dartmouth, he was named All-Little East four times, achieved all-time leading scorer status at Bourne, and holds the title of all-time leading 3-point shooter at UMass Dartmouth. Ashworth helped lead the Corsairs to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Sectionals in 2022.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jacob into the Spartan family by way of our Boys Basketball program. Jacob is a basketball lifer who has been a fixture in the South Coast athletic community for years. Achieving great team success at Bourne High School, UMass Dartmouth in college, and WPI as an assistant coach, he has been a key ingredient in the success of those programs, leaving behind an important legacy. Jacob is one of the finest leaders I have ever witnessed in an athletic setting, and that leadership will serve him well as he takes over this program.

His level of preparation, tenacity, and complete commitment really came through as we discussed the position. He has a tangible and exciting vision for the future of our program," commented Nate Greene, Athletic Director for Bishop Stang.

Coach Ashworth shared: "I am extremely excited to take over the head coaching position at Bishop Stang High School. I look forward to continuing the success that Bishop Stang has endured. I have always wanted to lead a team of my own, and to be able to become a head coach on the south coast is a dream come true.

The south coast is my home, and I look forward to leading the basketball program here at Bishop Stang. I would like to thank President Benson and Mr. Greene for the opportunity for which I am extremely grateful. Go Spartans!"-Bishop Stang High School .



Bishop Stang High School photo.

Union: Arbitrator Ruling a Victory for Massachusetts Troopers Over “Tyranny”

Sam Doran
State House News Service

The president of the State Police union took a victory lap Monday morning after an arbitrator ruled in favor of seven troopers who had remained on unpaid leave after claiming a religious exemption from mandated COVID-19 vaccination two years ago.

Against a backdrop of the State House with the governor's office over his shoulder, State Police Association of Massachusetts President Patrick McNamara celebrated a win over "tyranny" and what he termed "Charlie Baker's Draconian executive order" requiring vaccinations for executive branch employees. Gov. Maura Healey rescinded Baker's vaccination policy for most state employees in May.

"Many of these brave men and women standing with us today were found to have sincerely held religious beliefs that were not only violated by Baker, but treated with disdain, ridicule, and ultimately suspended without pay," McNamara said.

Independent arbitrator Bonnie McSpiritt ruled Friday that the Department of State Police violated anti-discrimination sections of the union members' contract "when it denied the religious exemption requests of the eight State Police Association of Massachusetts members who [the department] determined had [a sincerely held religious belief], but then asserted it could not accommodate them because of undue hardship."

Seven troopers – Paul Aten, Jessie Barbosa, Christopher Dolan, David Hanafin, Joseph Hanafin, Patrick Irwin, and Lance Reed – now have a two-week window to decide whether they want to return to work at the agency, where McSpiritt directed they are able to return to their previous positions and receive full back pay. The SPAM president said the seven were "still contemplating" their decision. An eighth officer covered by the case, Trooper First Class Luke Bonin, had already returned to work, according to the arbitration ruling. McSpiritt found he is also eligible for back pay from his suspension period.

McNamara cited the cases of 13 union members who were “terminated and labeled with a dishonorable discharge” related to the vaccine mandate and said the union’s efforts around the vaccine mandates are “far from finished.” Their separate arbitration case is coming up this fall, and attorney Leah Barrault said she was “confident” that “the outcome is going to be the same” for them. McNamara said “some” of the affected troopers were present at the press conference, but that under State Police policy they were not able to speak to the press.

Fairhaven Firefighter Maggie Rocha raises \$7,000 for cancer research and treatment

“This year our Sister, Fairhaven Firefighter Maggie Rocha rode 186 miles as part of the 2023 Pan-Mass Challenge with Team Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts!

Maggie personally raised over \$7,000 for cancer research and treatment at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Maggie, we are so proud of you and all that you do for your community.

Thank you for always going above and beyond!

Your Police family ?”-Fairhaven Police Department K9 Unit.



Fairhaven Police Department K9 Unit photo.



Fairhaven Police Department K9 Unit photo.



Fairhaven Police Department K9 Unit photo.



Fairhaven Police Department K9 Unit photo.

City of New Bedford hard at work on planned improvements to Ashley Park

“The City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development and New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches are hard at work on planned improvements to Ashley Park.

After visioning sessions with neighborhood residents, landscape architect firm Crowley Cottrell developed the plan to transform this important public space in the heart of the Goulart Square neighborhood.

Pathways around and within the park are being re-worked, as well as site grading, circulation, lighting, and landscaping. New flexible multi-use spaces are being added for passive and active recreation.

Construction work is being undertaken by P.A. Landers, Inc., with the project receiving over \$1.7 million in U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The project is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year, with some additional plantings to come in Spring 2024. The playground, basketball courts, seating area at Bolton & Rivet, and splash pad remain available for public use at this time.

Keep an eye on our page for periodic project updates as the work continues!”-New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development.

All photos by the New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development:



**New Bedford, Massachusetts
State Police charge 20-year**

old with fatal Myles Standish shooting

“Massachusetts State Police and New Bedford Police have arrested a man wanted in connection with a fatal shooting in Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

At just before 4:00 p.m. Saturday, the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section located and arrested 20-year-old John Geovanni Pires Monteiro Macedo without incident, at an apartment in New Bedford. He is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow in Plymouth District Court in Plymouth on one count of Murder.

On July 12, at just before 2:45 p.m., Plymouth Police received several 911 calls for a report of a shooting at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and a man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Upon arrival, Plymouth Police and first responders located the male victim, and he was transported to Beth Israel Deaconess- Plymouth Hospital where he was pronounced dead of his injuries. He was identified as 25-year-old Robert Aponte-Flores of New Bedford.

Plymouth Police contacted Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney’s Office to begin the investigation. Multiple witnesses on scene described that an altercation took place in a picnic area of the park between the victim and Monteiro Macedo, prior to the shooting. As a result, Massachusetts State Police sought and obtained an arrest warrant for Monteiro Macedo.”

Amtrak introduces round trip bus service for New Bedford and Worcester to Providence

“Amtrak announced today the launch of its latest connecting bus service, linking New Bedford and Worcester to Providence Station. Customers can connect to Amtrak trains at Providence Station serving the Northeast Corridor, including Boston, New Haven, New York and more, as well as more than 500 destinations nationwide.

“Amtrak’s latest connecting bus service will bring a brand-new link from New Bedford and close an existing gap in Worcester with convenient, timed connections between trains and buses to Providence and our national network,” said Amtrak Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning Dennis Newman. “Customers can enjoy a comfortable journey from start to finish knowing Amtrak will get them to their final destination with ease.”

Schedules are optimized for connections on both weekdays and weekends, with a dedicated connecting bus available in the morning, afternoon and evening. All buses are ADA accessible and have modern amenities including electrical outlets, Wi-Fi and comfortable reclining seating. The Providence to New Bedford route will also include an intermediate stop in Fall River. Tickets can be purchased at [Amtrak.com](https://www.amtrak.com), the Amtrak app, or by calling 800-USA-RAIL. Service will be operated by DATTCO under an agreement with Amtrak.

“DATTCO is pleased to have been selected for the launch of this important new regional service being introduced by Amtrak,” stated Dennis Lyons, Vice President of DATTCO’s Coach & Tour Group. “As a long-time bus partner of Amtrak in New England, we look forward to putting our more than 20 years of

experience together to work in delivering connecting bus service between Central and South Coastal Massachusetts and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor."

Amtrak connecting bus services make coordinated connections with trains and enable passengers from cities without rail stations to connect with the national network. Amtrak has produced a short video about how simple it is to use the service.

Now until October 9, Providence customers can also take advantage of the station's connecting service with RIDOT and the Seastreak Ferry."-AMTRAK.

New Bedford Firefighters battle lithium-ion battery and tenement fires in separate incidents

"At 5:23pm, on Thursday, fire companies along with Command Unit 2 responded to Route 140 south between Route 195 and Kempton Street for a motor vehicle fire.

When crews arrived on scene, they reported a utility body truck with fire extending from one of the cabinets. The fire involved multiple lithium-ion batteries and was extinguished with one hose line.

The Department's Special Hazards trailer was transported to the scene. Firefighters removed the burned batteries and placed them in metal disposal containers and overpacked them

with CellBlockEX. They were transported to an appropriate disposal facility. Hazardous Materials Coordinator FF Travis Rebello assisted crews from Engine 1 & Ladder 1 with the battery removal.

The NBFD Fire Investigation Unit is investigating the cause of the fire.

At 6:52pm, a 911 call was received by the third floor tenant of 66 Durfee Street reporting smoke extending from a window on the second floor of this three-family dwelling. The tenant was able to exit the building prior to our arrival. Engine 7 reported a room and contents fire in a second floor bedroom and extinguished the fire with one hose line. They also rescued one cat and Ladder 4 rescued a dog from the second floor apartment.

The American Red Cross is assisting four adults who were displaced. The home was equipped with a working smoke alarm system. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the NBFD Fire Investigation Unit and is not considered malicious. No civilians or firefighters were injured.”-New Bedford Fire Department.

All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:



Waltham Police, Massachusetts State Police release sketch of Riverwalk assault suspect

"The Massachusetts State Police and Waltham Police continue to investigate an assault that took place along the Riverwalk on the night of Sunday, July 30, 2023.

Today State Police and Waltham Police are releasing a police artist's sketch of the assailant in the hope that a member of the public may recognize the suspect and contact us.

The assailant is believed to be a Hispanic male, approximately in his late 20s or his 30s, and approximately 5'7". He was wearing a baseball cap at the time of the assault.

The assault occurred in the area of Newton and Farwell Streets at approximately 8:45 PM on Sunday, July 30. The female victim, a young adult, heard footsteps behind her and then was grabbed from behind by the suspect, who tried to put his hand over her mouth.

The victim was able to scream and struggled to get free. The assailant then let go of her and ran off. The woman turned and saw the assailant fleeing. Units from Waltham Police and State Police responded and searched the area but were not able to locate the suspect.

Anyone who recognizes this suspect or has any information about the assault is urged to call Massachusetts State Police Troop H Detectives at 617-740-7544, the Waltham Police Department at 781-314-3600, or simply call 911.

We urge the public to be of their surroundings and the presence of other people around them when walking in any public space. People should carry a cell phone, don't wear

headphones, and may also consider carrying pepper spray. If you see anything our anyone suspicious call 911 immediately. If you are assaulted, if at all possible scream, make noise, and fight back.

We thank the Lincoln Police Department for their assistance in creating the sketch.”-Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

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Asteroid named for retired MassWildlife leader in recognition of 35 years of conservation work

“An asteroid measuring 2 to 5 kilometers in diameter was recently named after Dr. Thomas W. French, the founding leader and former Assistant Director of MassWildlife’s Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Unlike comets, which are usually named after their discoverers, asteroids are named for mythological figures and geographical places—or for renowned scientists, explorers, poets, composers, novelists, and other prominent figures.

The Paris-based International Astronomical Union (IAU) officially named minor planet 1991 PN2 as “(20010) Tomfrench”. The IAU’s 15-member Working Group for Small Bodies Nomenclature (WGSBN) is the sole scientific organization with the authority to assign names to small solar system bodies like asteroids, comets, and satellites of minor planets.

Imelda B. Joson and Edwin L. Aguirre, both former editors of Sky & Telescope magazine, have known Dr. French for 16 years and proposed the naming to the IAU. The couple first met French in 2007 in Lowell, where they volunteered monitoring peregrine falcons.

“This is a completely unexpected and humbling honor,” says Dr. French. “I hope that recognizing me with this honor is a validation of how important it is for all of us to help conserve the health and natural diversity of our world.”

The naming of the asteroid recognizes Dr. French's contributions to wildlife restoration, protection, and conservation. The citation, which was published in the IAU's WGSBN Bulletin on July 3, 2023 reads:

Thomas W. French (b. 1950), a biologist and former assistant director of MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, led the successful reintroduction of peregrine falcons and bald eagles in Massachusetts after their native populations were wiped out due to extensive use of the insecticide DDT from the 1940s to 1972.

"We are so happy that the international astronomical community has recognized Tom's contributions to advancing our knowledge of the natural world as well as informing the public on the importance of preserving our planet's biodiversity," says Aguirre.

"Tom is a true gentleman scientist, and his experience, passion, dedication, knowledge and professionalism are exceptional," added Joson. "We're glad to know that a huge chunk of real estate bearing Tom's name is now floating out there in space!"

Asteroids are small, rocky bodies left over from the birth of the solar system about 4.6 billion years ago. According to the WGSBN Bulletin, asteroid (20010) Tomfrench was discovered on August 2, 1991, by the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, Chile. Asteroid (20010) Tomfrench takes 3.9 years to complete one orbit around the Sun. It is currently about 480 million kilometers from Earth, shining very dimly in the constellation Taurus. One would need a fairly large telescope and sensitive CCD camera to record its faint, starlike image.

During his career with MassWildlife, Dr. French oversaw field research, habitat restoration and management, rare species restoration, permitting the possession of wildlife for research and education, data management, and regulatory

reviews of proposed projects under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. He has published 78 technical papers in peer-reviewed journals, given hundreds of lectures to universities, state agencies, ornithological societies, and conferences, and received numerous professional awards.”-
Mass.gov.