

New Bedford Police spotlight clinician during National Social Work Month, International Women's Day

"Isabel has been a calm, steady presence and resource for not only our officers, but also for our community.

She has been able to connect with so many people to help get them the care they need," said Assistant Deputy Chief Belong.

"Isabel continues to be a key member of our team here at the NBPD and has never asked for or sought out public recognition for her work. We are very proud of her and fortunate to have her working as a co-response clinician with our officers."

We appreciate you, Isabel, as well as all of our other co-response clinicians! We will be highlighting all of the great work they do during #NationalSocialWorkMonth."-City of New Bedford Police Department.

"In honor of National Social Work Month, we would like to recognize our lead co-response clinician Isabel. Isabel has been doing police co-response with NBPD since September of 2021.

Isabel does not often get the recognition she deserves as a social work. She goes above and beyond the call of duty not only as a co-response clinician but trains all new co-response clinicians and also has completed the Co-Response Certificate program through William James College.

Isabel thank you for all you do for our program and especially for the patients we service!"-CFS Community Behavioral Health Center.

Southcoast Health Heart & Vascular performs 600 watchman procedures to treat atrial fibrillation

“FALL RIVER, Mass. – Dr. Adam Saltzman, Medical Director of the Structural Heart Disease Program at Southcoast Health with Dr. Ramin Davoudi, Medical Director of Electrophysiology, Dr. Nitesh Sood, Director of Southcoast Health’s Atrial Fibrillation Wellness Program, and the outstanding team at Southcoast Heart & Vascular have completed over 600 WATCHMAN procedures to treat patients with Atrial Fibrillation.

Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) is an abnormal heart rhythm characterized by a rapid and irregular heartbeat, called an arrhythmia. According to the American Heart Association, untreated AFib doubles the risk of heart-related deaths, and patients with AFib are five times more likely to suffer a stroke than individuals with a normal heart rhythm.



Southcoast Health photo.

“As the region’s leading heart and vascular hospital, we are proud to have been offering this innovative procedure to those with Atrial Fibrillation for over eight years,” Saltzman said. “Atrial Fibrillation greatly increases a patient’s risk of stroke, a leading cause of death and disability. The Watchman device mitigates stroke risk similarly to blood thinners. This milestone represents the team’s dedication to treating this common arrhythmia and I am so proud of the region leading program we have built here at Southcoast Health.”

This procedure provides a one-time treatment option for patients with Atrial Fibrillation that is a permanent alternative to taking oral blood thinners every day for the rest of their lives. Charlton Memorial Hospital first implemented Boston Scientific’s WATCHMAN device to treat patients with Atrial Fibrillation (A-Fib) on August 24, 2015.

Today, AFib is one of the most common heart arrhythmias and the CDC estimates that 12.1 million people in the United States will have AFib in 2030.



Southcoast Health photo.

Congratulations to our amazing team on reaching this impressive milestone!

For more information about Southcoast Health's Heart & Vascular services visit [Top Cardiologist Southeast MA | Southcoast Health](#).

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."

New Bedford Police searching for woman who damaged cruisers, almost striking detectives, in chase

On Wednesday, at approximately 5:00pm New Bedford Police made a traffic stop on 64-year-old Clifford Colby, of Bourne. As police approached her window, for reasons unknown, she slammed on the gas and sped away.

While leaving the scene, police officers had to jump out of the way of her vehicle to avoid being struck. A car pursuit ensued and in the process she ended up striking two unmarked police vehicles before police decided to terminate the chase

When found and arrested Colby will be charged with failing to stop for police, leaving the scene of property damage, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Freetown, New Bedford Firefighters battle basement fire at town line

Shortly after 10:00 am on Thursday Freetown Dispatch was notified of Smoke in the house at 1A County Rd.

Stations 2 and 3 were dispatched, New Bedford Fire Department also responded with Engine 5 and a District Chief due to the proximity to the Town Line. Freetown Car 1 arrived first, on sizeup the Chief found a fire in the basement of the residence. The Chief was able to keep the fire in check with a water extinguisher while the Duty crew on Engine 2 advanced a hose line to fully extinguish the Fire.

New Bedford E5 assisted with Ventilation on the First and Second floors.

There are no reported injuries however a cat is missing. The cat is not believed to be harmed. The cause of the fire remains under investigation at this time.”-Freetown Fire Department.

Somerset man who lured underage teen through

SnapChat sentenced for rape of a child by force

"A 27-year-old Somerset man was sentenced to serve eight to 12 years in state prison on Tuesday after pleading guilty to child rape charges just as his Fall River Superior Court trial was set to begin, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Ian Anderson pleaded guilty to indictments charging him with Rape of a Child By Force and Rape of a Child.

On or about November 17, 2022 the parents of the 15-year-old victim noticed that she had not been acting like herself for the past two days. They described her as depressed and withdrawn. As a result, they went through her phone and found concerning snapchat messages, which indicated that she had engaged in intercourse with a person later identified as the defendant. The parents took screen shots of the messages and called the police.

The communications between the child and the defendant occurred on Snapchat. The defendant was communicating using the user name "Nacho_Medeiros."

The messages showed that the defendant had engaged in sex with the underage girl and acknowledged knowing she was underage.

The child sat for a forensic interview on November 29, 2022. The child revealed that she met the defendant via a quick add feature on Snapchat, and the two began conversing and made plans to hang out. Before they met they exchanged photos and their ages. After she knew his age the victim was less keen on meeting the defendant but he insisted. The defendant picked the child up from her friend's house and brought her back to his house. Once at his home the defendant quickly ushered the child into his bedroom and commented that he didn't want

anyone in the house to see them together, and that if anyone asks, she should tell them that she is 19 years old.

Once inside the defendant's bedroom, the defendant asked the child if she was into older men. He then pushed her down on the bed and tried pulling off her pants. The child told him no, and told him she was uncomfortable. She struggled to keep her pants up as he pulled them down. He ultimately grabbed her wrist so hard that she was forced to let go of the waistband of her pants.

She told him he was hurting her. When he was successful in getting her pants down, he raped her. He covered her mouth with his hand and told her to be quiet. The child was crying and again told him to stop and that he was hurting her. The child reported she was hyperventilating but the defendant didn't seem to care. The child asked him to take her home and he warned her not to tell anyone about this because he could get into serious trouble because of the age difference. The car ride back to her house was silent. When she got to her house she tried to pretend like nothing happened.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Casey Smith and the initial investigation was conducted by Somerset Police Detective Mike Demoranville, who did a tremendous job assisting in the case in the lead up to the potential trial.

The state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Raffi Yessayan.

"This cases highlights the extreme danger of meeting a stranger online. It eventually led to the defendant committing a violent sexual assault against the victim. Fortunately her family obtained her messages which led to the defendant being arrested," District Attorney Quinn said. "As jury selection was underway, the defendant even tried to get a witness to lie on his behalf. The sentence was well-deserved and I hope the victim can move forward with her life.""

61-year-old Dorchester man sentenced for tracking two underage girls, raping one

“A 61-year-old Dorchester man convicted at trial of tracking two underage girls and raping one of them was sentenced last Friday to serve 60 to 80 years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

The jury took less than an hour—after a two-week long trial in Fall River Superior Court—to convict Troy Footman of indictments charging him with two counts of Human Trafficking of a Child, one count of Rape of a Child-Subsequent Offense, two counts of Rape of a Child-Aggravated by Age Difference, one count of Rape of a Child by Use of Force, one count of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, one count of Assault and Battery, one count of Threats to Harm and one count of Posing a Child in the State of Nudity.

The defendant trafficked the two girls and raped one of them in Seekonk motels in 2013 and 2014. He also violently assaulted the girl he raped on at least one occasion. His modus operandi was to have the girls work long shifts at a now defunct club in Providence, RI called “Cheaters.” The girls would dance and engage in sex in back rooms of the club for money. He was able to get them jobs at the club in Providence by falsifying identification documents.

The defendant would routinely transport the girls from Seekonk to Providence and then pick them up at the end of their shifts. When he picked the girls up, he would take all their money. If the girls did not make at least \$1,000 per day, he

would then prostitute them out of the Seekonk motels. The defendant would advertise the underage girls on the now-closed website, backpage.com.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Silvia Rudman and Casey Smith, and the lengthy state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Raffi Yessayan.

The multi-jurisdiction investigation was conducted by Seekonk Police, Boston Police, the Department of Homeland Security, Massachusetts State Police and Providence Police.

“I am very pleased with the jury verdict and the lengthy sentence imposed by the court, which was well deserved. This defendant has a lengthy history of trafficking and sexually assaulting girls and young women. I commend the victim for her perseverance and resiliency during the past decade,” District Attorney Quinn said. “It is great to know that the main victim, despite the terrible circumstances of this case, has turned her life around and has a bright future. Based on his criminal history and the facts of this case, this defendant should never be released from prison. I want to commend Silvia Rudman and Casey Smith for their efforts in this case, which led to the defendant’s conviction.”-Bristol County District Attorney’s Office.

**Massachusetts coach sentenced
for sextortion,
cyberstalking, cyber fraud**

against 128 women

Defendant targeted at least 128 women and continued to engage in conduct after indictment

“BOSTON – A former college track and field coach was sentenced today in federal court in Boston in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain thousands of explicit photos from over 100 women across the country through the use of nearly two dozen sham social media and email accounts. The defendant cyberstalked one female student-athlete and orchestrated another scheme to gain unauthorized access to other victims’ Snapchat accounts.

The defendant previously worked as a track and field coach at several academic institutions, including Northeastern University, Penn State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Tennessee and Concordia University Chicago.

Steve Waithe, 31, formerly of Chicago, Ill., and Somerville, Mass., was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to five years in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Among the terms of his supervised release conditions, Waithe will be prohibited from taking any jobs in which he could serve as a coach, teacher, mentor, or any similar role involving women or girls and his internet usage will be strictly monitored by probation. In November 2023, Waithe pleaded guilty to 12 counts of wire fraud; one count of cyberstalking; one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud; and one count of computer fraud, aiding and abetting. Waithe was arrested and charged by criminal complaint in April 2021 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in December 2021.

“This defendant’s conduct is deplorable. He exploited his trusted role as a coach to college athletes to engage in a

sextortion campaign that has left a trail of emotional devastation in its wake. We stand by the courageous victims who came forward and help this Office hold Mr. Waithe accountable. The array of on-line threats is striking, and this Office will be vigilant in investigating and prosecuting those who sexually exploit victims,” said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy.

“The depth of deceit demonstrated by Steve Waithe in this case is deeply disturbing. This predator readily betrayed the trust of over 50 women, tricking them into sending him explicit photos which he then used to exploit and extort them. His reprehensible actions inflicted significant anguish on these victims who were living in fear of being so personally exposed,” said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. “Today’s sentence shows that cyberstalking and sextortion is not some sick game, they’re serious crimes, and the FBI will continue to unmask and hold accountable anyone who uses today’s technology in such a vile way.”

While a track coach at Northeastern University, Waithe requested the cell phones of female student-athletes under the pretense of “filming their form” at practices and meets and then covertly sending himself explicit photos of the victims that had previously been saved on their phones.

Approximately one year later in February 2020, and after he no longer worked at Northeastern University, Waithe began perpetrating an evolving series of schemes to deceive women into sending him nude or semi-nude photos of themselves.

In total, Waithe victimized at least 56 women and attempted to victimize 72 more. Waithe used anonymized social media accounts with usernames like “anon.4887” and variations of the phrase “Privacy Protector” to contact prospective victims, including some of the same student-athletes from the Northeastern University track and field team, claiming that he

had “found” compromising photos of them online and offering to “help” get the photos removed from the internet. Waithe also requested additional nude or semi-nude photos from victims that he could purportedly use for “reverse image searches.” Notably, none of the Northeastern University student-athletes were tricked by this scheme, though Waithe continued to try it on new prospective victims.

Further, Waithe fabricated at least two female personas, “Katie Janovich” and “Kathryn Svoboda,” in an effort to obtain additional nude and/or semi-nude photos of women. Under the purported premise of an “athlete research” or “body development” study, Waithe emailed prospective victims pretending to be “Katie” or “Kathryn” with email accounts in their names. The emails described a phony study for athletes and requested information relating to height, weight, body fat and diet habits. The emails also included a request for the victims to send photos of themselves in order to “track their progress” and recommended that the photos show the women in a “uniform or bathing suit to show as much skin as possible.” The emails often included attachments of sample nude and semi-nude images to illustrate the types of photos that victims should send.

Investigators identified 22 sham online accounts across at least seven different platforms used by Waithe and hundreds of photos sent by dozens of victims who thought they were emailing someone conducting a legitimate research study.

Waithe also cyberstalked one victim, from at least June 2020 to October 2020, through text messages and direct messages sent via social media, as well as by hacking into her Snapchat account. He texted and sent nude photos of the victim to the victim’s boyfriend, stating, “I wanted to make you aware that someone hacked your girlfriend’s snapchat account and will leak it soon. I need your help to assure this does not happen.” Over the course of five months, Waithe sent harassing and intimidating messages to the victim and her boyfriend. The

messages included explicit photos that Waithe had stolen from the victim's phone when she was on the track and field team at Northeastern.

In October 2020, Waithe conspired with another individual to hack into Snapchat accounts, ultimately gaining access to at least one account and its private "My Eyes Only" folder that contained nude and/or semi-nude photos. Additionally, Waithe provided his co-conspirator with the usernames and phone numbers for the Snapchat accounts of at least 15 women. Waithe and his co-conspirator then used this information to craft and send text messages purporting to be from the "Snapchat Support Team" and requesting security information, through which they gained access to at least one account.

The investigation revealed that Waithe's internet browsing history included visits to webpages with titles like, "Can anyone trace my fake Instagram account back to me?" and "How to Hack Someones Snapchat the Easy Way." Waithe's search history also included searches for, among other things, "how to hack snapchat with a username and phone number."

Waithe distributed some of the stolen images on websites where stolen and so-called "leaked" photos are posted, shared, and traded. In one post, Waithe wrote, "Does anyone want to trade nudes? I'm talking girls you actually know. Could be exes or whatever. I have quite a few and [am] down to trade over snap[chat] or something." In total, Waithe posted or otherwise offered to trade images of victims on no fewer than 55 occasions.

After being released on conditions following his arrest in April 2021, Waithe continued to engage in virtually identical conduct while under pre-trial supervision. Specifically, Waithe accessed his Instagram account on more than a hundred occasions, soliciting new prospective victims and requesting that they send him photos of themselves via direct messages. In one Instagram conversation in late May and early June 2022

– approximately one year after his initial charge and arrest in this case, and months after being indicted by a federal grand jury – Waithe complimented a young woman via Instagram direct message and offered to pay her in exchange for allowing him to make “drawings” using photos of her. In another Instagram conversation with a separate prospective victim in June 2022, Waithe told a young woman that she is in “such great shape” and offered her \$50 to participate in a “study.”

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy and FBI SAC Cohen made the announcement today. The Northeastern University Police Department provided substantial assistance with the investigation. The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office and the Chicago Police Department also provided valuable assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam W. Deitch of the Criminal Division prosecuted the case.”-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Massachusetts conference empowered future female leaders in the maritime industry

Three-day event empowers future female leaders in the maritime industry.

“BUZZARDS BAY, MA, ISSUED MARCH 7, 2024... The 12th annual Women on the Water (WOW) Conference, this year hosted by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) in partnership with U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD), provided an opportunity for undergraduates from maritime

academies from across the country to learn from female industry leaders and experts in the maritime industry, meet peers on the same career path, and facilitate networking.

With more than 50 panelists and moderators, the three-day event held February 29 through March 2 at the Academy featured panel discussions on topics including work-life balance, clean energy, deep sea, and shore-side opportunities.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips, U.S. Navy (Ret.) Administrator.

Maritime Administration/MARAD, Vice Admiral Joanna M. Nunan, Superintendent of The United States Merchant Marine Academy, Jennifer Downing, Executive Director of New Bedford Ocean Cluster, and Mary Regina Thomann, Vice Chair Massachusetts Maritime Academy Board of Trustees.

Other highlights of the well-attended conference included an interactive panel session discussing allyship and mentoring, networking events designed to prepare students for the ever-evolving maritime industry, a guided ferry harbor tour of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and New Bedford Commerce Terminal sponsored by Vineyard Offshore, and a performance by the New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus.

"This inspiring conference not only served to showcase the remarkable achievements of women in the maritime industry and highlight their essential contributions to the nation's maritime workforce, but it also provided an intergenerational platform for seasoned, novice and promising mariners to share experiences, knowledge, viewpoints, and aspirations," said Rear Admiral Francis X. McDonald, USMS, president of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. "The entire MMA community thanks all who participated, making the 12th annual Women on the Water conference one to remember for years to come."

OPINION: “Presidential immunity case ruling in Trump’s favor will be death knell for democracy!”

The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not 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.

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

The presidential immunity case is the last opportunity for the Supreme Court to save democracy.

One can hope that the Supreme Court decision denying individual state’s ability to disqualify Donald Trump from the ballot, will be timely followed by a ruling that there is no such right as absolute presidential immunity. The ballot decision, though disappointing to some, was not unexpected and the unanimity of the court supports the position that an opposite ruling would produce great chaos. Legal scholars, as well as legislators from both parties predicted the outcome and were hoping for this ruling.

The presidential immunity case, however, is perhaps the weightiest case to come before the court during this divisive period in American history. It could be argued that democracy

versus autocracy is the real underlying issue and that the justices understand the full import of their decision. If the court ruling is unjustifiably delayed until after the election or decided in Trump's favor it will assuredly be the death knell for democracy."-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.

38-year old New Bedford man arrested by Dartmouth Police after multi-week investigation

"DARTMOUTH, MA – On Thursday, February 29, 2024, at approximately 9:35 a.m., detectives assigned to the Dartmouth Police Department Community Impact Unit arrested Jermaine TIRADO, 38, of New Bedford on a warrant associated with a multi-week investigation conducted by Detective Sergeant Frank OLIVEIRA. The investigation was related to an argument that resulted in TIRADO allegedly discharging a firearm in a residential neighborhood in South Dartmouth.

Subsequent to his arrest, detectives secured search warrants for TIRADO's house and vehicle, during which time they located a 9mm Ruger handgun, ammunition, suspected cocaine, and drug paraphernalia consistent with distribution.



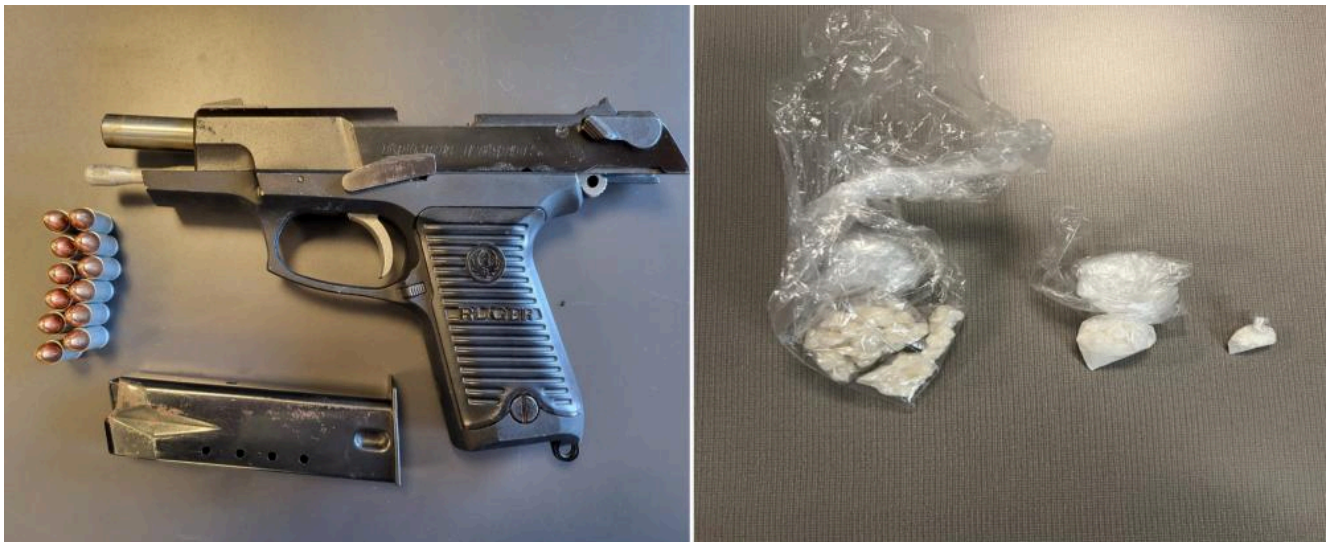
Dartmouth Police Department photo.

Based on the collective facts associated with the investigation, TIRADO was charged with discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, possession of a large capacity feeding device (handgun magazine), possession of ammunition without a firearms identification card, receiving stolen property under \$1,200, improper storage of large capacity firearm near a minor, improper storage of a large capacity firearm, possession of a large capacity firearm, reckless endangerment of a child, possession with the intent to distribute a Class B drug (cocaine), possession with intent to distribute a Class B drug (crack cocaine), and possession

of a firearm without a firearms identification card.”

As a result of a dangerousness hearing held on Wednesday, March 6th, TIRADO is being held without bail for 120 days.

According to Dartmouth Chief of Police Brian P. LEVESQUE, “In a society currently inundated with violence and illegal drug activity, this arrest is the perfect example of this department’s commitment to removing guns, illegal drugs, and dangerous individuals, such as TIRADO, from the streets.”- Dartmouth Police Department.



Dartmouth Police Department photo.