

Massachusetts Senate approves amendments enhancing New Bedford infrastructure and recreation

The Massachusetts Senate approved amendments to a transportation bond bill that provides an additional \$10,850,000 to enhance public infrastructure and recreation in Greater New Bedford.

S2989, An Act relative to Massachusetts transportation resources and climate provides over \$10 billion in state bonding authorizations to improve roadways, construct electric vehicle charging stations, implement rail improvements, enhance airports, and provide grants to improve municipal sidewalks, curbs, and streets.

Additional spending authorizations were secured for the following projects:

- \$3,000,000 to enhance outdoor dining and entertainment in New Bedford
- \$850,000 for emergency response along Southcoast Rail, led by the New Bedford Fire Department and fellow departments south of the Pilgrim Junction in Middleborough
- \$1,500,000 to improve Sassaquin Pond water quality
- \$1,000,000 to expand and maintain free parking access at Noah's Place Playground
- \$1,000,000 for roadway improvements along Bridge Street in Fairhaven
- \$3,500,000 for the South Coast Bikeway design and construction costs

"Improving public infrastructure is an important priority for our local communities, and today's action by the Senate will

put the necessary spending authorizations in place,” said Senator Montigny. “I am particularly pleased to secure additional support for New Bedford and regional efforts impacting Southcoast Rail and the creation of an ambitious public trail extending across the entire region.”

S2989 will be reconciled with a similar House bill approved last week. The final legislation can then proceed to Governor Baker for his consideration.

Fort Taber Flag to Honor SSGT David E. Allain – WWII Purple Heart Recipient, Combat Veteran

During the month of July, the 35th Lights for Peace flag to fly at the Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum honors the memory of PFC David E. Allain, a combat veteran from New Bedford who served in the United States Air Corps, participating in 11 combat missions during WWII.

David was born on November 3, 1919 to Thaddee Allain and Marie Rose LeBlanc, the oldest of eight children. He attended New Bedford public schools and at the age of 17 left school to work and help support his family. At the age of 22, David joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and was assigned to Columbia, S.C. where he attended Aerial Gunner school. He was then assigned to Buckley Field and Lowry Field, Colorado, where he trained as an AP Armorer or Aircraft Armory Specialist.

PFC Allain was assigned to the HQ 309th Bombardment Group AAF in the Bomb Crew Section. He flew on nine training missions beginning February 1944 on a B25H Bomber, flying from Columbia Air Base in SC. to Elgin Field in FL and Hunter Field in GA.

These training missions were to prepare him for his combat missions during WWII which started in June 1944. PFC Allain flew a total of 11 combat missions on a B25G Bomber for a total of 65 hours as a gunner in the tail position. He was a member of the 345th Bomb Group from 1942 to 1945, serving in the Bismarck Archipelagos, group of islands located off the northeastern coast of New Guinea as well as the Southern Philippines and New Guinea.

Allain was honorably discharged at the rank of SSGT on October 20, 1945, at Westover Field, MA and earned the following awards: The Good Conduct Medal, The Purple Heart Medal, The American Defense Asiatic Pacific Theatre Medal with Bronze Star, The WWII Victory Medal, as well as The Aerial Gunner Aviation Badge.

According to his family, SSGT Allain received a certificate stating that "David E. Allain was a member of the 345th Bomb Group between 1942 to 1945, along the bloody trail from Port Moresby, New Guinea to Tokyo, Japan and is deserving of all Honors and Courtesies extended to veterans who have served their country well. And furthermore, as a member of good standing of the 345th Bob Group Reunion Association, who has attended one of the past reunions of plans to attend a future one – shall be known as "A Great American."

Once retired from the military, Allain returned to New Bedford and married Doris (Lavoie) in 1947. They had three children: Bernard Allain, Ronald Allain and Doreen Wotton. David worked at Cherry & Webb department store selling shoes, working at three locations, two in Newport, RI and later in downtown New Bedford, MA. He also had a second job working at Wonder Bowl on Hathaway St. in New Bedford, working the control desk. His

last job was as a security guard at the Mammoth Mart in Dartmouth, MA.

David was the oldest of eight children and five of Allain's brothers proudly served in the military including Francois, Zoel, Rene, Arthur and Paul. He was also the brother of Cecile Silveira and Omer Allain. David's son, Ronald Allain, is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

David E. Allain passed away on May 14, 1995. He was the husband of the late Doris (Lavoie) Allain and was survived by his children, Bernard Allain and his wife Maureen of Dartmouth, Ronald Allain of Troy, NH, and Doreen Wotton and her husband Russell of Dartmouth; 5 grandchildren: Nicole Allain, Matthew Allain, David Allain, Brian Wotton and Jeffrey Wotton as well as 15 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his grandson Daniel Allain.

Linda Ferreira, of **Empire Ford of New Bedford**, researches the life histories of area residents. American flags are provided by Empire Ford of New Bedford. Flags are raised by the staff at Fort Taber – Fort Rodman Military Museum. Those who would like to honor a local veteran in the future can contact Ferreira at lferreira@buyempireautogroup.com.

Massachusetts Public Health Officials confirm 18 new Monkeypox cases

The number of health care providers and locations administering the JYNNEOS vaccine increases due to additional

federal allocation.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced 18 additional cases of monkeypox in adult males within the past seven days, bringing the total number of monkeypox cases in the Commonwealth to 49 residents since the state's first case was announced May 18. DPH provides public updates on monkeypox on a weekly basis each Thursday.

The 18 cases announced today had their diagnoses between July 7 and July 13 after testing was completed by the State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain. DPH is working with local health officials, the patients, and healthcare providers to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the patients while they were infectious. Individuals with monkeypox are advised to isolate and avoid contact with others until they are no longer infectious.

DPH received its initial allocation of 2,004 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine on July 5, and immediately distributed the vaccine to four health care providers that were seeing the highest volume of patients reporting exposure or likely exposure to monkeypox. The number of health care providers and locations offering vaccination across the state is expanding as federal allocation of the vaccine increases. The list of health care providers will be updated on a regular basis on the Commonwealth's monkeypox vaccine website. DPH is also adding a provider with mobile capacity to administer the vaccine.

Due to extremely limited national availability of vaccine, the JYNNEOS vaccine in Massachusetts remains severely limited at this time. Vaccination is available to individuals who meet the CDC's eligibility criteria and who live or work in Massachusetts. Vaccine is prioritized for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to someone with monkeypox. If an individual believes they qualify for a monkeypox vaccine, they should contact their healthcare provider.

See more information on monkeypox vaccination in Massachusetts, including eligibility [here](#).

Current data from CDC indicate that there have been 1,053 cases of monkeypox virus this year in US residents as of July 13. Regularly updated case counts can be obtained on the CDC's website: 2022 U.S. Map and Case Count. There have been no deaths reported in the US or globally related to this outbreak and patients generally recover fully in 2-4 weeks. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men continue to make up a large proportion of the cases identified to date. However, the risk is not limited to the LGBTQ community, and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

While the virus does not spread easily between people, people can spread the infection once they develop symptoms. Transmission occurs through direct contact with body fluids and monkeypox sores, by touching items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or less commonly, through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. In many of the recent cases, the locations of the rash lesions suggest transmission during sexual contact. Examples where monkeypox can spread and where it does not:

Monkeypox can spread through:

- Direct skin-to-skin contact with rash lesions. Sexual/intimate contact, including kissing while a person is infected.
- Living in a house and sharing a bed with someone. Sharing towels or unwashed clothing.
- Respiratory secretions through face-to-face interactions (the type that mainly happen when living with someone or caring for someone who has monkeypox)

Monkeypox does not spread through:

- Casual conversations. Walking by someone with monkeypox in a grocery store, for instance. Touching items like doorknobs.

Clinicians are asked to be alert to the possibility of monkeypox virus infection in individuals who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. Early symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes, but rash may be the first symptom. Rash lesions start flat, become raised, fill with clear fluid (vesicles), and then become pustules (filled with pus). A person with monkeypox can have many lesions or only a few. Learn more about how to recognize monkeypox [here](#).

Actions for people to consider if they want to reduce their risk from monkeypox include:

- Avoiding large gatherings like raves and dance parties where you may have lots of close body contact with others
- Asking any partner, especially new partners whose health status and recent travel history you are not familiar with, if they have any symptoms of monkeypox
- Staying informed by reading information available on the DPH and CDC websites.

As the CDC advises, if you believe you may have monkeypox, you should contact your health care provider. If you need to leave your home, wear a mask and cover your rash or lesions when around others. Those who live with or care for someone who may have monkeypox should wear a mask and disposable gloves if they need to have any direct contact with lesions and when handling any clothes or bedding if the person cannot do it themselves. They should also wash their hands regularly, especially after contact with the person who is infected or with their clothes, bed sheets, towels, and other items or surfaces they may have touched.

Clinicians should consult with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 to determine if testing is

indicated. Consultation is required before submitting specimens.

For more information about this virus, visit www.mass.gov/monkeypox and www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox.

Massachusetts Gov. increases visibility into workforce with expansion of diversity dashboard

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced updates to its state employee diversity dashboard that will increase visibility into the composition of the Commonwealth Executive Branch workforce and encourage further accountability as the Administration continues to prioritize efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.

The diversity dashboard, launched in October 2020, is an interactive, publicly available tool on mass.gov that visualizes data describing the Commonwealth's Executive Branch workforce. It was created to allow the public to better understand the employee demographics that make up the state government's various secretariats, agencies, and departments.

The first phase of the dashboard included the total number of employees, total employees over the previous 12 quarters, and geographic distribution, racial demographics, and gender breakdowns of the workforce. This data could then be filtered by Secretariat, Agency, fiscal quarter, job category, and/or full-time/part-time status. Data is updated in April, July,

October, and January, after the close of each fiscal quarter.

The upgrades rolled out today will triple the number of data fields displayed on the dashboard. The additional data will show Executive Branch employee promotions, hires, separations, salary bands, age bands, lengths of service, disability status, and veteran status. This data will also be able to be filtered by the fields listed above.

“We recognize the importance of a diverse workforce and continue to work towards reflecting the diversity of Massachusetts in all facets and levels of government,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are proud to expand the diversity dashboard, which will give the public a more comprehensive view into the makeup of the Executive Branch and hold us accountable to our workforce goals.”

“The enhancements to the dashboard we are announcing today reflect our administration’s continued commitment to transparency and diversity in hiring,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We will continue to strengthen our efforts to ensure the Commonwealth’s public workforce reflects the vibrant communities across the state.”

Since taking office, the Administration has made progress in diversifying the Executive Branch workforce. The overall net percentage of diverse employees has increased by 18%, with the percentage of women in the workforce increasing by a net 4.1% since 2015 and the percentage of People of Color in the workforce increasing by 5%.

“There have been measurable improvements in the diversity of the Executive Branch and we are proud of our accomplishments so far; however, we realize that more work is needed,” said Chief Diversity Officer Sandra Borders. “We remain focused on increasing diversity and inclusion in all aspects of hiring and employment.”

“The enhanced transparency that the updated diversity

dashboard offers will not only ensure accountability on this critical priority but also provide a fuller view of our workforce demographics for those looking to join public service at the state level,” said Chief Human Resources Officer, Jeff McCue.

“I would like to thank Governor Baker on the continued efforts to make data about the reality of our workforce available to our communities on a transparent, user friendly platform,” said State Representative Chynah Tyler (D – Boston), Chair of the Black and Latino Caucus. “The Black & Latino Caucus was proud to lead in discussions with the Administration that led to these recent platform upgrades and additions. This workforce dashboard will help to make progress on diversifying state personnel and ensure equitable hiring and promotions.”

“Today, Massachusetts moves forward with greater transparency that will lead to a better future for the state’s workforce overall,” said State Representative Russell Holmes (D – Mattapan). “It is imperative that the public see the diversity of the hiring, promotions, and terminations of the state’s workforce segmented by department and at every level of government. Aggregating the workforce and comparing the workforce to the state’s population can mask poor hiring and retention performance by department managers. Today’s update to the dashboard lives beyond this administration and will ensure that masking is prevented for years to come.”

View the updated diversity dashboard here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/state-employee-diversity-dashboard>.

New Bedford Police Department seizes “ghost gun,” arrests 39-year old city man

“New Bedford police have arrested a man for being in possession of a “ghost” gun.

On Tuesday, July 12, Ofc. Jonathan Miranda, assigned to the port security unit, received a tip that a man, identified as Nuno Pedrosa, 39, of 1586 Padanaram Avenue, was in possession of a firearm while working on his boat that is tied up to a post at his home.

After running his name, it was found that Pedrosa had six active warrants and was not licensed to carry a firearm. Ofc. Miranda, along with Ofc. Alan Kubik, responded to his residence where they observed Pedrosa on his boat where he was then taken into custody.

During a subsequent investigation, officers found a small open storage compartment with a firearm inside including 13 rounds of 9mm ammunition in it. It was later discovered that the firearm was a ghost gun, which is a privately made firearm that lacks commercially applied serial numbers.

Pedrosa was charged with 6 warrant arrests, carrying a loaded firearm, possessing ammunition, and carrying a large capacity feeding device without a license.” -New Bedford Police Department.

Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad detonate live Civil-War cannonball

"Last Thursday, July 7, at approximately 9:10 PM Troopers Scott Irish and Steve Sicard from the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad responded to a home on Charlene Drive in Mansfield after a suspicious spherical object was found by family members at the residence.

When Troopers arrived on scene they visually examined the object, which had been placed on the ground next to a Mansfield Police cruiser. The object was a spherical metallic ball, approximately 4 inches in diameter, and was severely corroded.

The Bomb Squad Troopers then took multiple x-rays of the object, which revealed inconsistencies within, indicating its interior was not homogenous matter. The x-ray image was consistent with cannonballs that have an interior void space filled with whatever explosive material was used by its manufacturer.

Based on that finding, as well the Troopers' experience and additional research, they determined that the item was a Civil War-era cannonball and that it could be live.

The Troopers determined the best and safest course of action was to conduct a disposal and render the cannonball safe. The Mansfield Police and Fire Departments chose a safe disposal site in their town and made the proper notifications.

The Bomb Squad Troopers safely countercharged the cannonball. The manner in which the ball exploded when countercharged confirmed the Troopers' suspicions that it was indeed live and still could have posed a threat."-Massachusetts State Police.

Massachusetts is “Bear Country”! Do you know what to do if you encounter one?

Black bears are found throughout much of state. Learn what to do if you see a bear and take steps around your home to prevent problems with black bears.

With the increasing number of black bears found in many areas of Massachusetts, it is important for all residents to know how to prevent problems. While people living in western Massachusetts have been coexisting with bears for years, others in the eastern part of the state may be surprised to learn that black bears likely live nearby as well. In the mid-1970s, the Massachusetts black bear population was estimated at under 100 individuals, and today the population is estimated to be over 4,500.

As the bear range expands eastward toward the most densely populated communities of Massachusetts, bear sightings are increasing, and many people are asking themselves, “How dangerous are bears? Is it normal to see a bear in a neighborhood? What do I do if I encounter one?”. Taking a few easy, precautionary measures will help you avoid negative encounters with bears and other wildlife.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife photo.

Prevent conflicts with bears

At home:

Bears often pass through residential areas where you may not expect to see them. Bears tend to spend more time in neighborhoods if there is food available.

- Remove all potential food for bears including bird feeders, unsecured garbage, and compost piles.
- Clean greasy barbecues after each use.
- Feed pets indoors. The presence of a barking dog can trigger a bear to become aggressive; always keep dogs leashed, check your yard for bears before letting your dog out, and never let dogs chase or interact with bears.

- Special note for backyard chicken owners and beekeepers: Black bears killing chickens and damaging coops is becoming the number one human-bear conflict in Massachusetts. Installing and maintaining electric fencing is the only way to keep bears out of coops and away from hives. Learn how to protect your bees and chickens here.

While hiking or camping:

While bears are generally not aggressive and usually wary of people, it's always important to respect bears and give them plenty of space if you encounter them in the woods.

- Always be aware of your surroundings. Normal trail noise will usually alert bears to your presence and prompt them to move without being noticed.
- Keep pets leashed and supervised.
- While camping, store food and cooking gear in bear-proof containers separate from your sleeping area. (Coolers are not bear-resistant!)
- What to do if you see a bear

In town:

- If a bear is sighted in town, leave the animal alone. In most situations, if left alone, the bear will return to the forest on its own.
- Keep dogs under control and clear the area.
- If a bear is in a densely populated area, contact the Environmental Police Radio Room at 1 (800) 632-8075 or the nearest MassWildlife District Office to report the sighting and get advice.

In the woods or in your backyard:

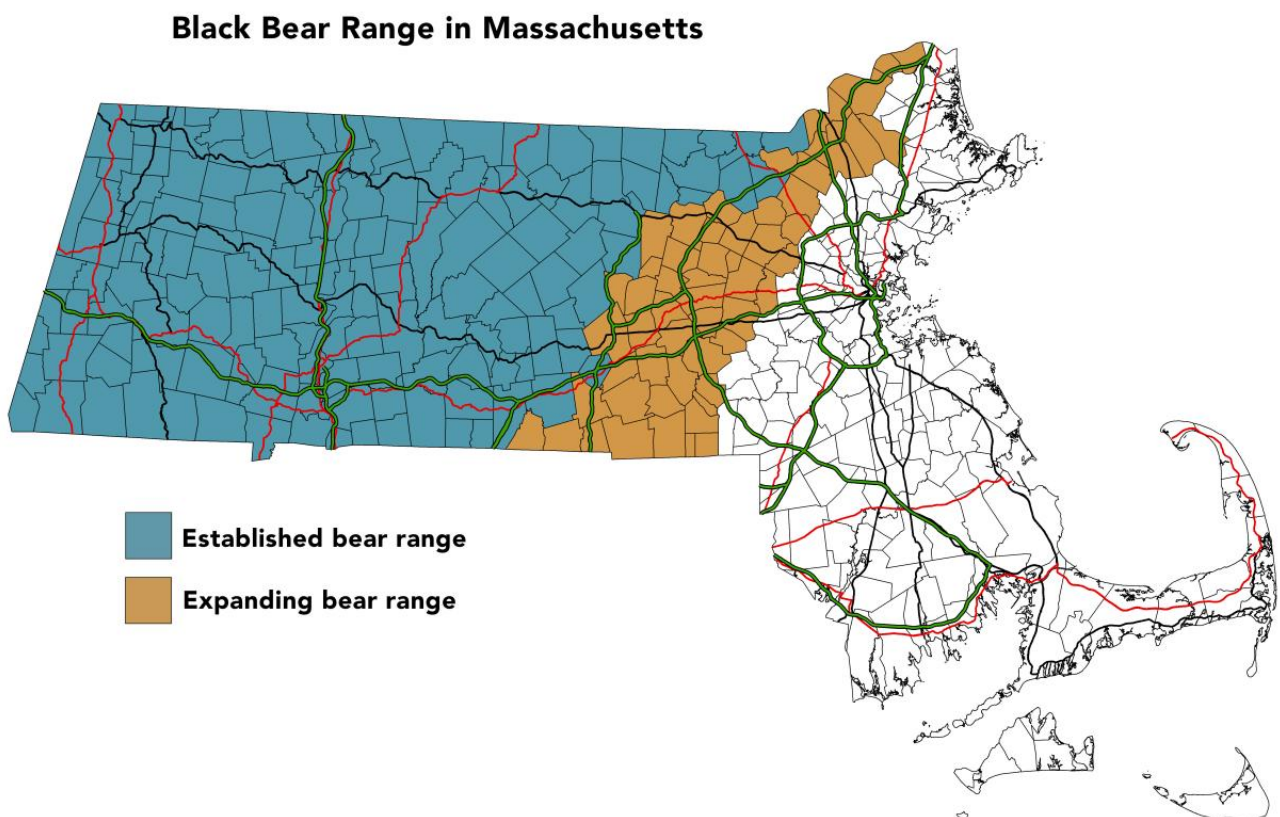
- Stay calm and back away slowly to give the bear plenty of room.
- Bears will sometimes "bluff charge" when cornered or threatened. Don't run from a charging bear; speak calmly and

slowly back away.

The best thing for people to do is educate themselves about bears and take action to prevent conflicts. Dave Wattles, MassWildlife's Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist said, "As our bear population increases, people need to understand what it means to really co-exist with bears. People need to change their behavior because bears aren't going to change theirs." For more tips on living with black bears in Massachusetts, please visit mass.gov/bears

Learn more:

MassWildlife's website contains a wealth of information about black bears in Massachusetts, including tips for residents, research projects, conservation and management efforts, and more.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife photo.

UPDATED: New Bedford Police investigating Cumberland Farms, 7-Eleven robberies at knifepoint

The New Bedford Police Department is investigating two overnight robberies just minutes apart.

The first robbery occurred at Cumberland Farms at 540 Dartmouth Street, in Dartmouth at approximately 2:00am. That specific Cumberland Farms is open 24 hours.

While police were investigating that robbery and talking to the clerk and eyewitnesses, a call came in from dispatch that the 7-Eleven at 1024 Cove Road.

Units arrived at the 7-Eleven and talked to the clerk and eyewitnesses to get a description of the robber to see if it matched that of the robber at Cumberland Farms. The clerk stated that the robber held him up at knifepoint. This 7-Eleven is a frequent target of robberies, the last one being in May when the clerk was assaulted and left bloodied. You can read that story, and see photos and video [here](#).

At this time, New Bedford Police Department has not released a description and confirmed that the two crimes were related. This is an ongoing story.



Carlos Pimental Felix photo.

UPDATE: "On Thursday, July 14, 2022 at approximately 1:59 a.m., members of the Dartmouth Police Department responded to a report of an unarmed robbery at the Cumberland Farms, located at #540 Dartmouth Street.

According to the clerk, a black male in this 30's or 40's with a thin build, wearing black jeans, a white t-shirt, and a black hat, reached over the counter and stole money from within the register. After taking the money, the male fled the store, and was last seen running towards New Bedford.

As a result of the incident, the clerk, who attempted to block the man from reaching into the register, was transported to the hospital, where they were treated for a hand injury.

Dartmouth Police detectives are currently in the process of reviewing video of the incident.

Anyone with information regarding the robbery is encouraged to contact the Dartmouth Police Department Investigative Services Unit at 508-910-1775." -Dartmouth Police Department.

Video by Carlos Pimental Felix:

Connecticut man pleads guilty to cyberstalking and threatening Massachusetts woman

“Defendant cyberstalked and sent death threats to ex-girlfriend and her family

BOSTON – A Connecticut man has agreed to plead guilty to threatening, harassing and intimidating a Massachusetts woman through social media and email.

Marshall Nicholas Fain, 31, of New Haven, Conn., has agreed to plead guilty to one count of cyberstalking and one count of transmitting threats through interstate commerce. Fain was arrested and charged on Feb. 2, 2022. A plea hearing has not yet been scheduled by the Court.

“The language used by this individual made his intent clear. Threats of violence, whether spoken, written, or transmitted over the internet, will not be tolerated. Domestic violence takes many forms. Verbal abuse and threats are one of them and can be precursors to escalated behaviors – like the stalking involved in this case – and, in some cases, physical abuse. Mr. Fain’s violent words landed him in this situation, and we will continue to prosecute threats of violence of any form,” said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins.

According to the charging documents, Fain was in a

relationship with the victim for approximately two years, until the relationship ended in August 2021. Soon after, in September 2021 and continuing through December 2021, Fain sent the victim multiple private messages through email and social media threatening to kill the victim and members of her family.

According to the charging documents, Fain created multiple social media and email accounts which he used to harass and threaten the victim anonymously. Specifically, Fain used anonymous Instagram and Facebook accounts to send the victim messages that said, among other things, "I'll kill you" and "You gonna get yours if it's the last thing I do." Fain also used anonymous email addresses to send the victim threatening messages that said, among other things, "I'm gonna find you and kill you if it's the last thing I do," "By now you know I don't give a f*** about my own life so I really don't mind taking yours," and "When the time is right you gonna be one of the girls going missing. Ima torture the f*** out of you when I catch you."

The charge of stalking by electronic means provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of transmitting threats through interstate commerce provides for a sentence of up to two years in prison, one year 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 statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

U.S. Attorney Rollins and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division, made the announcement today. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Haven Division, provided valuable assistance in the matter. Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Gotlob of Rollins Major Crimes Division 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.” -Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Fairhaven Police Department seeks public's help IDing alleged vandal

“He’s far from a Monet but this guy decided to vandalize the Fairhaven High School on the night of July 12th at approximately 9:45 p.m.

The only thing he did right was match the yellow sneakers to his pants. They certainly stand out, don’t they!?

Someone must know this person who decided to write and draw some terrible things on a new area of the football field. Send us an anonymous message or leave a message at the police department for Officer Tavares at 508-997-7421, ext; 1103.” - Fairhaven Police Department.



Fairhaven Police Department photo.



Fairhaven Police Department photo.

Fairhaven Police Department photo.