

# UPDATED: New Bedford family seeks public's help in recovering stolen support dog

UPDATE: The dog is back home! Thanks to everyone who shared the story!

"Stolen dog! My baby is in pain and in need this dog for emotional support.

He was stolen from 238 County St. New Bedford. I told my son that the dog is at the doctors for now ? This is from my doorbell surveillance camera:



*Yanira Hernandez photo.*



*Yanira Hernandez photo.*  
Here is the car he got into:



*Yanira Hernandez photo.*  
Here is a bigger picture of the dog:



*Yanira Hernandez photo.*

The person goes to this church every Sunday for the morning service:



*Yanira Hernandez photo.*

If found call the New Bedford Police Department or my cellphone which is 774-360-4687."

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## **Massachusetts State Police K9 officer and K9 "Roxy" locate distraught, armed teenage boy**

"Critically important mission undertaken by Massachusetts State Police K9 Unit Trooper Jack Doherty and his K9 partner Roxy (pictured), along with Troopers Gonzalez and Lyons of the Brookfield Barracks and Troopers Jones and Pingitore, both recent graduates of the 86th RTT, located a distraught, armed teenage boy early this morning at the edge of a dam. They joined a Barre Police Officer and were able to reach the boy then pull him to safety.



MSP patrols were assisting Barre Police units with a search for the boy, who was in crisis and was armed with several edged weapons and who had fled into the woods. Trooper Doherty deployed Roxy on a nighttime track at approximately 3:25 a.m. Roxy pulled down one side of Worcester Road then abruptly pulled to the other side of the road.



*Massachusetts State Police photo.*

Eventually, Roxy pulled right onto a trail leading to the Ware River, tracked along the river towards the Barre Falls Dam, and reached the top of the dam. Roxy pulled right, toward the falls, stopped at the wall overlooking the falls, and

displayed a change in behavior. Trooper Doherty looked over the wall and located the boy lying on the metal walkway attached to the building along the water level. Troopers and the local Officer then descended to where he was and assisted him up the ladder and away from the dam. EMS responded and transported him to the hospital.

Of all the missions our K9s are asked to perform, the most rewarding are when they are able to help someone who is distraught and prevent self-inflicted harm, giving them the chance to get help.

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, please call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

<https://www.mass.gov/.../suicide-prevention-crisis-hotlines>

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## **Massachusetts woman pleads guilty to stealing Veterans Affairs funds**

A Brockton woman pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to stealing veteran affairs benefits.

Robin Calef, 63, pleaded guilty to one count of theft of public funds. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock scheduled sentencing for March 1, 2022.

In December 2006, Calef's sister, who was receiving monthly benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), passed away. Calef failed to inform the VA of her sister's death, and the VA continued to deposit monthly benefits into a bank

account held by Calef and her sister. From Dec. 1, 2006 to Sept. 20, 2017, Calef stole approximately \$102,289 in VA funds from that bank account.

The charge of theft of government funds provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, 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.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell and Christopher Algieri, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Field Office made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Suzanne Sullivan Jacobus of Mendell's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

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## **Bristol County graduates new apprehension, tracking K9 officer and his partner "Xeus"**

Family comes first for Bristol County K9 Officer Ryan Isherwood. Family members on two and four legs that is.

Officer Isherwood, a Marine Corps. veteran and longtime corrections and K9 officer at the BCSO, stood at a podium in a function room on Friday. Family, friends, co-workers and others in law enforcement gathered for a graduation ceremony to honor Officer Isherwood and his new K9 partner Xeus (pronounced Zeus).

It marked the end of an emotional road for Officer Isherwood, whose first K9 partner Xiro (pronounced Zero) was forced to retire last year due to a medical condition at only 3 years old.



*Bristol County K9 Officer Ryan Isherwood and his partner Xeus recently graduated from the apprehension and tracking academy. Over the last 16 weeks, the pair trained across the area in*



*different environments and on different surfaces, including Battleship Cove in Fall River. Photo courtesy of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office.*

"Having a dog that's sick at home is a lot," Officer Isherwood said before stopping to compose himself while looking at his wife, Ali, and two of his children in the first row. "She's my rock and I wouldn't be here without her."

Officer Isherwood spent the last 16 weeks starting over from square one with Zeus, a 16-month-old Belgian Malinois who weighs around 80 pounds. Starting with bonding and communication, the pair worked toward certification in tracking and apprehension over the last few months.

"It was extremely tough for Ryan to retire his first partner," Supt. Steven Souza said at the graduation ceremony. "Xeus is a great patrol dog and will be an amazing addition to our K9 unit."

Xiro is now a retired dog and fills the role of Isherwood family pet perfectly. He plays with the ball and the children, goes for walks and lounges in the yard as part of the family.

The tracking and apprehension academy was headed by Sgt. William Dillingham, who said Officers Xeus and Isherwood are more than ready to serve and protect the people of Bristol County.

"They've both put a lot of work in," Sgt. Dillingham said. "Zeus is a great dog and Ryan is a true professional. This team will hit the ground running and help keep people safe across Bristol County."

The BCSO has two K9 graduations scheduled for next month. Officer Filipe DaSilva and his partner, K9 Robika, are completing the drug detection program, and the town of Fairhaven will welcome its first law enforcement K9 team when Officer Jill Jodoin and her partner, K9 Blue, finish the drug detection academy.

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# Former Boston Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Overtime Fraud Scheme

A former Boston Police officer pleaded guilty Thursday in connection with an ongoing investigation of overtime fraud at the Boston Police Department's (BPD) evidence warehouse.

Thomas Nee, 64, of Quincy, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds and one count of embezzlement from an agency receiving federal funds. U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns scheduled sentencing for May 17, 2022. Nee was charged on Oct. 4, 2021.

From at least February 2015 through February 2018, Nee submitted false and fraudulent overtime slips for overtime hours that he did not work at the evidence warehouse. The "purge" overtime, was a 4 – 8 p.m. weekday shift intended to dispose of old, unneeded evidence. "Kiosk" overtime involved driving to each police district in Boston one Saturday a month to collect old prescription drugs to be burned.

For the "purge" shift, Nee claimed to have worked from 4 – 8 p.m., but he and, allegedly, other members of the unit, routinely left at 6 p.m., or earlier. For the "kiosk" shift, Nee submitted overtime slips claiming to have worked eight-and-one-half hours, when in fact he and, allegedly, other members of the unit, only worked three-to-four hours of those shifts. As a result, between February 2015 and February 2018, Nee personally collected approximately \$16,642 for overtime hours he did not work.

To date, 15 Boston Police officers have been charged in connection with committing overtime fraud at the Boston Police Department's evidence warehouse. Nee is the ninth officer to plead guilty.

From 2015 through 2019, BPD received annual benefits from the U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Justice in excess of \$10,000, which were funded pursuant to numerous federal grants.

The charge of embezzlement from an agency receiving federal funds provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss. The charge of conspiracy provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, 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.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Russell W. Cunningham, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, Washington Field Office; and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division made the announcement today. Assistance was provided by the Boston Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Grady, Deputy Chief of Mendell's Major Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case.

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## **48-year old New Bedford man sentenced for cocaine**

# conspiracy

A New Bedford man was sentenced today for conspiring to distribute large quantities of cocaine.

Jaime Torres, 48, was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock to 78 months in prison and five years of supervised release. On June 16, 2021, Torres pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, 100 grams or more of heroin, 40 grams or more of fentanyl and five grams or more of methamphetamine.

From at least February 2019 through December 2019, Torres conspired with others to distribute large quantities of cocaine. Investigators intercepted a number of communications between Torres and co-conspirators, including communications on or about June 17, 2019, in which Torres and various co-conspirators agreed to distribute two kilograms of cocaine or more. Later that day, investigators seized approximately two kilograms of cocaine from Torres's storage unit as well as 117 grams of a mixture and substance containing heroin, 55 grams of a mixture and substance containing fentanyl and over 43 grams of methamphetamine.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; Ketty Larco-Ward, Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Inspector Service, Boston Division; and New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Estes of Mendell's Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts



and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

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## **New Bedford Police Department take part in 2021 Police Unity Tour**

“Last month on October 9, members of the New Bedford Police Union Cycle Team participated in the 2021 Police Unity Tour, where they biked from Parsippany, New Jersey to the National Police Memorial in Washington, DC totaling 320 miles.

The Unity Tour’s purpose is to honor our brothers and sisters in blue who made the ultimate sacrifice. ??”



*New Bedford Police Department photo.*

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# Massachusetts receives 10 dogs rescued from inhumane conditions, to go up for adoption

Ten dogs are now safe at Northeast Animal Shelter after being rescued from a “humane” society in Arkansas that was shut down following a police raid that uncovered dead and emaciated dogs, rat colonies and mountains of trash.

With your support, they’ll get the urgent care they need and deserve, so please make an emergency gift right away.

These poor pups were among a total of 240 dogs found living in filthy conditions. After being evacuated from the Humane Society of the Delta, they were transported to a shelter in

Tennessee, where members of our staff then relocated them up to Massachusetts.

Amazingly enough, the dogs in our care are friendly despite all the trauma they've endured, and will be placed in loving adoptive homes after completing a mandatory 48-hour quarantine and undergoing medical and behavior evaluations.

Help ensure we have the food and supplies needed to care for these unexpected arrivals, in addition to any medical treatment they may need, by making a gift today. See how here.

Let's show these abused and neglected dogs, who may have never known love, that humans can be trusted." -Northeast Animal Shelter.



*Northeast Animal Shelter photo.*





*Northeast Animal Shelter photo.*





# Upcoming New Bedford vaccination clinics; pediatric vaccines arriving

*Pediatric Vaccines Arriving in City; McCoy Rec Center a “One-Stop Shop” for Vaccinations and Boosters; Start Vaccinations Now to Have Safe and Healthy Holidays in December.*

COVID-19 vaccination clinics are planned for the next several days in New Bedford. No appointment is needed at these walk-up clinics. Available vaccines can change according to supplies. Clinics now are offering CDC-approved booster shots for eligible recipients, in addition to first- and second-dose vaccines and, at some locations, pediatric vaccines. Details on boosters and pediatric vaccines are below.

## **Friday, November 5:**

- PAACA (360 Coggeshall St.) – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., J&J, Pfizer and Moderna; pediatric vaccines for children 5 – 11 years old

## **Saturday, November 6:**

- Riverside Park (Belleville Ave., North End) – 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Pfizer and J&J

## **Monday, Nov. 8:**

- Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (181 Hillman St.) – 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., Pfizer, Moderna, J&J; pediatric vaccines for children 5 – 11 years old

## **Tuesday, Nov. 9:**

- Greater New Bedford Community Health Center (874 Purchase St.) – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pfizer, Moderna, J&J
- Former Fire Station 11 (754 Brock Ave.) – 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., J&J, Pfizer and Moderna

## **Thursday, Nov. 11:**

- Greater New Bedford Community Health Center (874 Purchase St.) – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Pfizer, Moderna, J&J

**Pediatric Vaccines Available:** COVID-19 vaccines for children 5 to 11 years old are arriving in New Bedford and will be available at upcoming clinics, including Friday, Nov. 5, at PAACA on Coggeshall Street and Monday, Nov. 8, at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center.

**“Mondays at McCoy” are One-Stop Shop for Vaccines:** With the arrival of pediatric vaccines at Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, the center’s Monday clinics from 2 to 7 p.m. – upcoming dates include Nov. 8, 15, and 22 – are now “one-stop shops” for families and people of all ages seeking COVID-19 protection, whether it be first or second doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines, boosters, or pediatric vaccines.

**In-Home Vaccination Available by Appointment:** The city and state are offering in-home COVID-19 vaccinations, particularly for elderly residents or those not able to travel to a clinic. To schedule an in-home vaccination (Moderna or J&J) with the New Bedford Health Department, call the department’s main line, 508-991-6199, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

To schedule an in-home vaccination (Moderna, Pfizer or J&J) through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, call the In-Home Vaccination Central Intake Line at (833) 983-0485, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For more information:  
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-in-home-vaccination-program>

**Booster Shots Approved for Eligible Recipients:** The CDC has approved booster recommendations for Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines. Booster shots are available at local vaccine clinics, for people who are eligible under the following criteria.

For people who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

*\*\*\*Moderna boosters now available at Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, Fire Station 11, and PAACA clinics\*\*\**

For anyone 18 and older who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, a booster shot is recommended two or more months after their initial shot.

**Mixing & Matching:** The CDC also has approved mixing and matching of vaccine types for the booster dose. When first getting vaccinated, people should still get two doses of the same vaccine type, but for the booster, a different vaccine from the initial series can be used, following the criteria above.

More info:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html>

**Reminder on the importance of vaccinations, especially ahead of the holidays:** Vaccination levels in the region remain low,

and daily case rates remain high. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 is not only about protecting yourself – it's also about protecting your family, friends, and community. Vaccination is critically important ahead of the holiday season, when large family gatherings could lead to super-spreader events among people who are unvaccinated.

**\*\*Start vaccinations now to be fully vaccinated by late December and the New Year\*\***

City leaders and health officials are urging unvaccinated residents to get their first shot and begin vaccination as soon as possible, in order to have safe and healthy holidays.

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## **New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of November 8, 2021 – November 12, 2021**

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of November 8, 2021 – November 12, 2021 and they are as follows:

**ALL CONSTRUCTION CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY, THURSDAY NOV. 11th:**

**Eversource will be working on the gas main relays and services at:**

- Paving temporary trench repair on Phillips Rd from Heritage Ct to Holly Tree Ln
- Replacing gas services on Elizabeth St, Bedford St and Taber St



- Abandoning gas main on Waldo St and Vernon St
- Tie in gas main and replacing gas services on Phillips Rd starting from Birchwood Dr to Hillcrest Dr
- Working on the regulators on Holly St at Belleville Ave
- Relaying gas main on Church St at Tarkiln Hill Rd

#### **Other:**

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be on Cottage St (Parker St to Sycamore St) for various sidewalk restoration areas. No Parking zone signs will be posted in areas as necessary.
- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue sidewalk roadway improvements on Weld St from Summer St to Myrtle St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be conducting test pits on Cedar St (Maxfield St to Hillman St) for upcoming sewer main installation.
- Contactor (AGS) will be replacing sidewalk panels at various utility pole locations throughout the city.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be repairing various roadway and sidewalks citywide.
- Contractor (JH Lynch) to continue work at MassDOT Project #608536, intersection improvements at Rockdale Ave X Allen St. Detours during working hours will be required for installation of new drainage throughout the project site. Signage will be posted for detour routes.
- Contractor (K.R. Rezendes, Inc.) to continue work at MassDOT Project #606718, roadway reconstruction and related work (including traffic signal installation) along a section of Hathaway Rd, Nauset St and Mt Pleasant St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue work at MassDOT Project #606709 with roadway and sidewalk reconstruction and utility install related work along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Rd.
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future South Coast Rail station platform locations in the City. (Church St at Carlisle St and Wamsutta St at Acushnet Ave.) Contractor will be performing test pits in Wamsutta St.

Street closure from Acushnet Ave to N Front St. Detour signage and police details will be in place. If you have questions, please email the project team at [SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us)

- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water runs clear.

Hydrant Flushing:

- The City will be flushing hydrants Saturday and Sundays between November 13th and November 27th. Industrial Park (along Braley Rd, Church St, Phillips Rd, Duchaine Blvd, Samuel Barnet Blvd and John Vertente Blvd.), the Fish Houses (along Coggeshall St and North Front St, Herman Melville Blvd, MacArthur Drive from Front St to Cove St), Pier 2, Pier 4, State Pier and Downtown (between Maxfield St and Walnut St and from County St to the Waterfront)

Union St. Phase II Sewer Separation Project:

- Contractor (C. Naughton Corp.) will begin installing storm drain structures along Union St between Sixth St and County St. During working hours, Union St will be closed between Eighth St and Sixth St. Westbound traffic on Union St will be detoured via Pleasant St, Elm St and County St. Eastbound traffic on Union St will be detoured via Spring St and Pleasant St. Construction/detour signage will be posted and police details will be on-site to assist with traffic management.

*\*\* Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.*