

New Bedford teen to compete for 2024 Miss America's Teen title in Florida

"Emma Gibney, an eighteen-year-old senior at New Bedford High School, will travel to Orlando, FL to represent Massachusetts at the 18th annual Miss America's Teen Scholarship Competition.

From January 6 through January 14, fifty-one national candidates will be welcomed to Orlando for a week of press events, rehearsals, and community appearances leading up to the selection of Miss America's Teen 2024. Morgan Greco of Washington, Miss America's Teen 2023, will be crowning her successor on Saturday evening, January 13.

For the first time in the history of the Miss America competition, the Teen and the Miss Competitions will be held at the same time, and Miss America 2024 will be crowned on Sunday, January 14 at the Walt Disney Theater in Orlando. Chelsea Vuong of Cambridge is the current Miss Massachusetts 2023 and will be competing for the title of Miss America.



Miss Massachusetts' Teen 2023 Emma Gibney. Photo courtesy of Daniel Gagnon Photography.

For over 100 years, the Miss America Opportunity has been helping young women achieve their goals and dreams. 51 candidates, each representing their states along with the District of Columbia, will showcase their talents and compete for thousands of dollars in scholarship assistance and the opportunity to travel the United States promoting scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living, and community service for America's teens. Since its inception in 2005, the Miss America's Teen competition, known as "the little sister of the Miss America Organization" has become one of the top scholarship providers for teen girls in the United States. Each year, Miss America's Teen, along with its state and local organizations, has made available millions in cash and tuition assistance to young women across the country.

At New Bedford High School, Emma is in the Academy of Honors and takes all Advance Placement and Honors classes. She was the President of the National Junior Honor Society in 2019, has made the Principal's Honor Roll and has received a STEM award. She recently has interned in the office of Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn. A member of the Mayor's Youth Council, Emma has played #1 Singles on the Varsity Tennis team for 4 years, was the Southcoast Player of the Week, and a member of the Southcoast All Star team.

She is a member of the Key Club, Captains Club, Whaler Wave Club, Great Outdoors Club, Book Club, and is the announcer and score keeper for the unified basketball team. In her free time, she enjoys painting, going to concerts and volunteering for many organizations. Her future plans are to obtain a bachelor's degree in Political Science and minor in public policy on a Pre-Law track to become an attorney with the ultimate goal of public service. For the talent portion of the competition, she will perform an original HerStory™ entitled "Let's Talk About It".



Miss Massachusetts' Teen 2023 Emma Gibney. Photo courtesy of Daniel Gagnon Photography.

Gibney is dedicating her year of service to her personal Social Impact Initiative, "S.T.A.Y: Start the Awareness Young Suicide Prevention. In 2018, Emma's cousin Tyler lost his long battle with mental health and chose suicide. "He thought that taking his own life was the only solution to the pain and suffering that he was feeling at that moment. I chose Suicide

Prevention as my Social Impact Initiative because I want other young adults to know that suicide is not the answer". Emma has already received over \$4400 in scholarship assistance through her participation in the Miss Massachusetts' Organization.

She will also promote the Miss America's Teen's national fundraising platform, The Miss America's Scholarship Foundation which raises scholarship money for young women ages 13-28 who participate in local, state, and national competitions. A new partnership called #MissAmericaFit will have all 102 of the national delegates partner with their respective American Heart Association chapters and their "Go Red" campaign to promote heart health and fitness in women. Emma is the daughter of Timothy and Nicole Gibney of New Bedford.

About Miss Massachusetts' Teen

The Miss Massachusetts' Teen Program provides personal and professional opportunities for teens ages 13-18 and is a preliminary to the Miss America's Teen Program. Miss America Opportunity is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and encourages positive achievement by helping to nurture and build the scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living, and community involvement of our nation's young women.

MAO provides educational scholarships for deserving young people and has developed mentoring programs and community-based initiatives across the country. For more information on the state program, please visit www.mmaoteen.org or visit us on Facebook and Instagram."

28-year old Worcester man crushed under 90,000lb tractor-trailer in Westborough

On Wednesday the Westborough Police Department, Westborough EMS and Fire Department, Massachusetts State Police and Massachusetts State Police Detectives Assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office responded around 9:20 a.m to an unattended death that occurred in Westborough Wednesday morning at a business at 4400 Computer Drive.

Initial reports suggest that this was incident that involved a man working on a semi-trailer and that there was no threat to the general public.

After further investigation by police and the Worcester County District Attorney's Office it has been revealed that 28-year old Pablo Franciso Otano Aponte of Worcester was working on a semi-trailer filled with water bottles when it fell, killing him. At the current point in the investigation it appears to be a tragic accident and no foul play is suspected.

Chief Patrick Purcell of the Westborough Fire Department said, "We found the male trapped underneath a 53-foot trailer from a tractor-trailer. He appeared to be working on the landing gear when there was some issue with that."

Westborough paramedics performed emergency medical services on Mr. Aponte when they arrived, but recognized that the male was deceased with non-viable injuries, and he was pronounced dead on scene.

The matter remains under investigation and no other updates will be released at this time.



Westborough Police Department photo.



Westborough Police Department photo.



Westborough Police Department photo.

After serving 17 years as Bristol County's 1st Assistant, Deputy D.A., top prosecutor set to retire

"After serving for 17 years as the First Assistant and Deputy District Attorney in Bristol County, William McCauley will be retiring from state service at the end of the calendar year.

McCauley, who also worked as a prosecutor in Plymouth County for 11 years before joining the Bristol County District Attorney's office in 2007, was the lead prosecutor in the successful murder prosecution of former New England Patriot Aaron Hernandez.

During his tenure in Bristol County, McCauley headed up the Cold Case Unit and, with the assistance of a great team he helped to assemble, was responsible for helping to solve numerous previously unsolved homicides from prior district attorney administrations. Some of those cold case homicides that are now solved include the 1986 Dartmouth murder of 19-year-old Marni Larkin Roy, the 1988 Fall River murder of 32-year-old Gayle Botelho by serial killer Daniel Tavares, the 2002 New Bedford murder of Marlene Rose, the 1991 Attleboro murder of Ismael Rencinos-Garcia and the 2001 New Bedford murder of Rose Marie Moniz. In all, during his time leading the Cold Case Unit, McCauley helped to solve more than a dozen cold case homicides.

McCauley was also instrumental in instituting District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III's highly successful Untested Rape Kit Initiative, along with the office's new Unidentified Bodies and Missing Persons initiatives. The rape kit initiative alone resulted in at least three criminal prosecutions for previously unsolved violent rapes and the Unidentified Bodies Initiative has already resulted in the identification of two homicide victims from 2005 and 1981.

During the past several years. McCauley also oversaw the day to day work of District Attorney Quinn's Special Victims Unit and his work in tracking down serial cold case rapist Ivan Keith through the use of genealogical and Y-STR DNA resulted in a conviction and a 50 year prison term for the man responsible for multiple rapes in the 1990s.

In his final courtroom prosecution last month, McCauley successfully prosecuted Jonathan Niemic for the 2010 New Bedford stabbing death of Michael Correia.

As stated earlier, McCauley and co-First Assistant District Attorney Patrick O. Bomberg, both investigated, indicted and successfully prosecuted Aaron Hernandez for the 2013 shooting death of Odin Lloyd in North Attleboro.

"I've had the pleasure and privilege of working with Bill for 17 years. His work ethic and dedication to cases to bring justice to victims is second to none. I want to express my appreciation for all of his years of service in both Bristol and Plymouth County that involved significant personal sacrifices over the years," District Attorney Quinn said. "This was especially true during the successful murder prosecution of Aaron Hernandez. The citizens of both counties and the district attorney's offices owe him a debt of gratitude. I wish him the best in a well-deserved retirement."- Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

SILVER ALERT: Marion Police seek public's help locating missing 80-year old woman

*******ALERT!*******

Missing elderly female. 80 yr old female left home on upper Main St. Marion between hours of 10:30 PM on Wednesday 12/27/23 and 7:30 AM 12/28/23 Thursday. Unknown clothing but possibly in a nightgown or pajamas.

Please check any camera footage you may have between these hours and report any sightings to the Marion Police Department at 508-748-1212.

Please check any and all sheds/buildings/yards/vehicles."- Marion Police Department, Marion, MA.



Marion Police Department, Marion, MA photo.

New Bedford's 'Your Theatre Inc.' announces cast for Tony nominated 'A Doll's House Part 2'

"Your Theatre, Inc. director James Sanguinetti of New Bedford has cast four area actors in the drama A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2 by multi-award winning playwright Lucas Hnath.

This is the second major production for Your Theatre's 77th

Season. This production is generously backed by Production Sponsor Hawthorn Medical Associates and Production Supporter Bristol County Savings Bank.

The cast includes Lucy Bly of New Bedford, Caroline Paradis and Eric Paradis of Fairhaven, and Kayla Ribeiro of Cumberland, RI. The production is stage managed by Eva Watts-Pine of New Bedford, with costumes and set dressing by Mark P. Fuller of New Bedford, hair styles by Suzanne J. Houbre of New Bedford, lighting design by Timothy Helley of Dartmouth, sound design by James Sanguinetti of New Bedford and set design and technical direction from Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr. of New Bedford.

A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2, the 2017 Tony award nominated play, picks up 15 years after Henrik Ibsen's groundbreaking 1879 play (A DOLL'S HOUSE) about a strong woman who defiantly leaves her husband, left off. Nora, now a successful novelist, has returned to her house, husband, and children that she left behind when her new life is threatened by her past. Your Theatre produced A Doll's House play 15 years ago, with Caroline and Eric Paradis in the lead roles of Nora and Torvald.

Nominated for 8 Tony awards in its original Broadway run, including Best Play, A DOLL'S HOUSE PART 2 provides a modern spin on the Ibsen classic and is filled with suspense, humor, and intensity. The Hollywood reporter says that it "delivers explosive laughs while also posing thoughtful questions about marriage, gender inequality, and human rights" while Variety called it "a slam dunk."

Your Theatre is grateful for the generous support of Bank 5, sponsor of the theatre's current 77th season. This is their twelfth year of strongly supporting the arts at Your Theatre, Inc.

A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2 runs two weekends in 2024: Fridays and

Saturdays, January 19-20 and 26-27 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, May 20-21 and 27-28 at 2:00 p.m.

Performances are at the wheelchair accessible Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St. in downtown New Bedford. The accessible entrance is located on the east side of the building facing City Hall. Ample parking is available in the city lot at the corner of 6th and William, and metered street parking is free nights and weekends.

Tickets are General Admission \$25; Seniors, Students and Military \$22. Subscriptions tickets are available at \$20 per show with a three show minimum. Additional offers may apply. All seats are general admission; call 508-993-0772 or email boxoffice@yourtheatre.org.

Your Theatre is proud to participate in the Card to Culture program, a collaboration between the Mass Cultural Council and the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, and the Massachusetts Health Connector, by broadening accessibility to cultural programming. Admission for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders, is up to 2 tickets per eligible card for each Regular Production. Admission rate is \$5.00 per person.

ABOUT YOUR THEATRE INC

Your Theatre, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer, community theater group in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Founded by Mary A. Smith in 1946, the theater has been in continuous operation since, and produces four to seven shows each season. The artistic and leadership team of YTI strives to create and celebrate the arts with the Southcoast community in an inclusive theatre environment. We are committed to providing an accessible, community-oriented opportunity for anyone interested in theatre and embracing individuals from all walks of life.

We acknowledge, welcome and respect people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, religions, gender identities and sexual orientations and the invaluable gifts they bring to the theatre experience. Your Theatre, Inc. is a proud member of the League of Historic American Theatres.

ABOUT STEEPLE PLAYHOUSE

Steeple Playhouse is a community arts center with Your Theatre, Inc. as its resident community theater group and is located at 159 William St, New Bedford MA. A prominent downtown New Bedford landmark, the steeple appears on the city seal. Built in 1829 as the First Baptist Church, it came to be known as the "Birthplace of Robert's Rules of Order".

Purchased in 2017, Your Theatre, Inc worked with a local preservation organization, Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), to renovate the historic space and turn it into a fully functional community arts center called Steeple Playhouse. The facilities include a flexible theater which will seat up to 160 as well as a black box theater on the lower level.

Wheelchair accessible, Steeple Playhouse is open for outside rentals. We are another vital catalyst in New Bedford's continued cultural renaissance."

OPINION: South Coast man shocked at electric bill more than doubling in spite of no

change in usage

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.

"Subject: Concerns and Issues with National Grid's Services

Dear Editor,

I am writing to bring attention to ongoing issues I have experienced with National Grid. Despite residing in a small 500 sq/ft studio apartment in Fall River, MA, my electricity bills have been extraordinarily high. A recent bill for the period from 11/02 to 12/05 reached \$535.29, a significant spike from my usual \$200 range. This increase is alarming, especially considering the apartment's size and my usage pattern.

Furthermore, despite multiple visits from electricians and a National Grid technician, no thorough checks were conducted on the calibration or accuracy of my analog power meter, which dates back to 2004. This lack of detailed inspection raises concerns about the meter's accuracy and reliability.

I believe this situation may resonate with other residents facing similar issues with their utility providers. It's crucial to highlight these concerns for community awareness and to seek a resolution from National Grid.

Sincerely,
Ollie"

New Bedford Police charge man for allegedly robbing 82-year old woman at Market Basket

“NEW BEDFORD – Police officers have arrested a wanted man for purse-snatching.

On December 18th, at around 3 PM, an 82-year-old woman was in the Market Basket parking lot. As she was loading groceries into her vehicle, she was approached by a man who grabbed her pocketbook. The woman struggled but was nonetheless overpowered by the suspect who quickly fled on foot.

Detective Roberto Dacunha was assigned the case. Through his investigation, he discovered that the suspect had used one of the victim's stolen credit cards to attempt several transactions at north-end businesses. With retrieved surveillance footage, officers were able to identify the suspect as ISAIAS FERREIRA DACOSTA, 31. Det. Dacunha applied for an arrest warrant and advised all units to be on the lookout. On December 23rd, DACOSTA was located by Detectives Nathaniel Almeida and Jonathan Miranda in the area of Holly St. and Ashley Blvd. He was subsequently placed under arrest.

DACOSTA is charged with unarmed robbery of a victim over 60 years old, and five counts of attempting to use the victim's credit card. He also had three other warrants for his arrest.

“Officers try their best to solve all robberies, however, when the perpetrator is someone who targets the elderly, it strikes a particular chord with everyone involved. I'm grateful for the effort of all the officers involved, from the patrol officers who took the initial report and comforted the victim,

to the major crime detectives who tracked the surveillance video, and finally, the narcotics detectives who could locate him and place him under arrest. Great work"-Chief Paul Oliveira.

If you have any information you would like to share with the police, you can do so anonymously by visiting our website, newbedfordpd.com, or by calling 508-99-CRIME."-City of New Bedford Police Department.

City of New Bedford announces Christmas tree pickup schedule and drop-off locations

"The tree will have to come down eventually, and when you're ready, our pals at New Bedford Recycling have the details of when we'll pick it up, or where you can drop it off."-City of New Bedford.

REAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Week of January 8th-12th

This is the **ONLY WEEK** for curbside pickup of real Christmas trees.

The week of January 8th, place your real Christmas tree curbside by 7am on the weekday after your trash and recycle collection.

If your usual trash/recycling day is Friday, your Christmas tree will be collected on Monday, January 8th.



DO NOT BAG
NO STRING LIGHTS
ORNAMENTS
STANDS OR TINSEL



City of New Bedford photo.



City of New Bedford

Real Christmas Tree Drop -Off Locations

- 1 East Rodney French Blvd. beach parking lot**
Between Hudson Street & Seymour Street, December 26th to January 12th
- 2 Brooklawn Park, near Pony League Field**
Enter at Irvington Street, December 26th to January 12th
- 3 Recycling Center, 1103 Shawmut Avenue**
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, noon to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Open: Friday, December 22nd & 29th
Closed: 12/23, 12/25, 12/30, & 1/1/24

DO NOT BAG | NO STRING LIGHTS | NO TINSEL | NO ORNAMENTS | NO STANDS



City of New Bedford photo.

New Bedford Detectives charge two with allegedly running a drug delivery service in south end

"NEW BEDFORD – Narcotics detectives have placed two men under arrest following an investigation into a drug delivery service being operated out of a south-end residence.

On December 20th, at around 5 PM, detectives executed a search warrant at 98 Grinnell St. During this search, over 29 grams of cocaine and 38 grams of fentanyl were discovered along with digital scales, packaging materials, and cutting agents. In addition, \$12,676 in US currency was located and seized as illicit proceeds from drug distribution.

The two men arrested were identified as Mr. LARRY PINA, 32, who resides at the Grinnell St. address, and Mr. ANTONION MARQUES, 56, of 1519 Purchase St. Both were taken into custody and charged with trafficking more than 18 grams of cocaine, trafficking above 36 grams of fentanyl, and conspiracy to violate the controlled substance laws.

At the time of this arrest, LARRY PINA had two open cases in New Bedford District Court for possession with intent to distribute class B substance and possession with intent to distribute class A substance.

The investigating officer was Det. Nathaniel Almeida.

If you have any information you would like to share with the police, you can do so anonymously by visiting our website, newbedfordpd.com, or by calling 508-99-CRIME."-City of New Bedford Police Department.



City of New Bedford Police Department photo.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Center's

hours to change January through March

“New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park has announced winter hours of operation for the park’s visitor center.

The visitor center, located at 33 William Street, will be open to the public Wednesday – Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. This change in hours begins January 1 and remains in effect until March 31, 2024. The visitor center will be closed on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays, including New Year’s Day.

Established on November 12, 1996, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park serves as a model for community partnerships in the National Park Service. Located in the urban setting of downtown New Bedford that spans over 13 city blocks, the park and its partners preserve, protect, and interpret the cultural resources associated with the history of the American whaling industry.

The park is more than whaling as it includes stories of global immigration, Underground Railroad, women’s history, cultural diversity, architecture, art, and their relevance to current topics. The Visitor Center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford and is open every Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (April-December). Park Rangers offer orientation to visitors, maps, and brochures on the surrounding area. The building is wheelchair-accessible and is fee-free.

For more information, call 508-996-4095, visit nps.gov/NEBE or follow the park’s social media accounts on Facebook.com/NewBedfordNPS and Instagram.com/NewBedfordNPS.”