

Massachusetts State Police hosts another successful, “Coffee, community, and cops” session

“Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police and Officers from the Sturbridge Police Department enjoyed coffee and conversation with members of the community at yesterday’s Coffee With A Cop event at the Sturbridge Coffee House.

Visitors not only got to meet some of the Officers and Troopers who keep their communities safe, but also got to shake paws with MSP Crisis Response K9 Luna and MSP Explosives Detection K9 Pippen.

Among those who participated were Sturbridge Police Chief Earl Dessert, School Resource Officer Garrett Danna and Officers Paul Janson and David Fortier and Dispatcher Barbara Boiteau, and from MSP, Sgt. Scott Shea, Trooper Farah Gray (the community liaison officer for Troop C), Trooper Aaron Richardson, Trooper Chad Luna, who is Luna’s handler, and Trooper Scott Irish, who is Pippen’s handler. We had a blast, and look forward to doing more of these events in the coming year.”-Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Massachusetts State Police arrest two for trafficking Heroin, Cocaine

“Last Friday Trooper George D’Amelio, assigned to State Police-Concord, was patrolling Route 495 northbound in Littleton. While he was traveling in the center lane prior to

Exit 31 he observed a gray Ram pickup truck approach his cruiser from the rear at a high rate of speed. The truck passed Trooper D'Amelio in the left lane and, while doing so, he noticed very dark tint on the front windows. Trooper D'Amelio active his cruiser's blue lights and initiated a traffic stop.

After the vehicle came to a full stop Trooper D'Amelio approached it and identified the operator as NATHANIEL JONES, 35, of Springfield. He informed JONES why he was stopped and proceeded to confirm the window tint level at 4% transparency, the legal limit is 35%. While speaking to JONES Trooper D'Amelio began to observe signs of impairment and requested he submit to Standardized Field Sobriety Testing in order to determine if he was safe to continue operating the vehicle. Additional cruisers, including a Sergeant who is also a Drug Recognition Expert with the Littleton Police Department, arrived on scene to assist.

After further questioning and investigation on scene Trooper D'Amelio had suspicions there were narcotics in the vehicle and requested a K-9 to respond. While waiting for the arrival of the K-9 Troopers learned the female passenger, identified as GINA BARRETTE, 27, of Agawam, had a small amount of heroin and needles in her purse, which were removed from the vehicle for the safety of the K-9. Troopers also observed a bottle of Gabapentin medication fall from the vehicle onto the pavement. The name on the bottle was not either of the vehicle's occupants. Upon the arrival of Trooper McDevitt and his K-9 partner Dax a sweep of the vehicle was conducted, during which Dax showed interest in the back seat area.

Both JONES and BARRETTE were placed under arrest for possession of the Gabapentin and Heroin and placed in the rear of cruisers on scene. Troopers then requested a tow truck to respond and conducted an inventory of the vehicle's contents prior to it being removed. During the inventory they located an area in the center console that showed signs of tampering,

which was indicative of a possible narcotics hide. After a search of that area Troopers located additional narcotics and paraphernalia for the use and sale of illegal narcotics. In total Troopers located approximately 65 grams of suspected heroin, approximately 88 grams of suspected cocaine, and 25 Gabapentin pills.

Both occupants were transported to the Concord Barracks for booking. A bail commissioner was contacted and set bail at \$10,000 for JONES and \$2,500 for BARRETTE, which they were able to post. They were scheduled for arraignment at Ayer District Court on the following charges.

NATHANIEL JONES:

1. Trafficking in Heroin;
2. Trafficking in Cocaine;
3. Possession of a Class E Drug;
4. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
5. Possession of a Class B Substance, subsequent offense;
6. Illegal Window Tint; and
7. Speeding.

GINA BARRETTE:

1. Trafficking in Heroin;
 2. Trafficking in Cocaine;
 3. Possession of a Class E Drug;
 4. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
 5. Possession of a Class B Drug; and
 6. Possession of a Class A Drug.”-Massachusetts State Police.
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47th Corrections Officer Academy graduates from Bristol County Sheriff's Office

"Congratulations to the graduates of the 47th Corrections Officer Academy at the Bristol County Sheriff's Office.

The class was small in numbers due to COVID restrictions, but there was enough excitement, enthusiasm and celebration for a full auditorium.

Here are some of our favorite pictures – check back tomorrow for more from the big night. Again, congrats to the newest Bristol County Corrections Officers." -Bristol County Sheriff's Office.

All photos by Bristol County Sheriff's Office:



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife begins spring trout stocking

“SPRING TROUT STOCKING is now underway!

- Half a million trout will be stocked this spring.
 - More than 75% of the trout will be over 12 inches.
 - More than 45% of the trout will be over 14 inches.
 - Over 170 lakes and ponds, and over 170 rivers and streams will be stocked in more than 220 cities and towns across Massachusetts.
 - Stocking will begin in our southeast region, with other regions scheduled to start soon after as conditions improve.
- Have a great spring fishing season!

Get daily stocking updates at mass.gov/trout.

Dartmouth's beloved Parson's Reserve Daffodil Field CLOSED for 2021 season

"Based on current levels of COVID-19 and guidance from health officials, DNRT is sorry to announce that the Parsons Reserve will again be closed for the daffodil season (end of March through early May).

During this time, daffodil fields will not be maintained, the entrances to the Parsons Reserve will be blocked, and DNRT will be monitoring the property to enforce the closure. While COVID-19 cases recently have been dropping in Bristol County, they are still near the peak levels experienced back in May 2020 and the county is considered "high risk."

Inviting thousands of visitors into a relatively small outdoor area with very narrow trails is contrary to all public health guidance.

Thank you for your understanding."

New Hampshire Man Sentenced to Prison for Taunton Bank Robbery

A 37-year-old New Hampshire man who committed an armed bank robbery in Taunton last January was sentenced to serve four to six years in state prison last week, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Adam Howard pleaded guilty on January 29, 2021 in Fall River superior Court to an indictment charging him with armed robbery. He was sentenced last week by Judge Sharon Donatelle to the state prison term.

On Thursday, January 13, 2020, at 12:28pm, Taunton Police were dispatched to Santander Bank at 188 Broadway for a robbery. The victim, a female bank teller, told police that a male with a short beard wearing a red sweatshirt and beanie type hat walked up to her station and handed her a hand written note. The note said "I have a gun keep calm 20's, 50's, 100's. No dye packs no one gets hurt." After reading the note, the victim looked at the suspect and the suspect said "I'm serious." The victim then handed the suspect money from her drawer and the suspect exited the bank. The suspect fled with \$755.

Surveillance video showed the suspect had a short scruffy beard and was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt and a black, gray and white striped winter hat with a pom pom on top. Police posted about the robbery on social media looking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspect. Police received tips the suspect was this defendant, and learned he had been staying with a relative in Taunton.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Morrisette.

"The defendant has a long history of committing crimes including a prior robbery conviction. He is a danger to the community and the public needs to be protected from him," District Attorney Quinn said.

Attleboro Child Molester Sentenced to Prison

A 30-year-old Attleboro man who molested a teenaged female relative for about a year was sentenced last month to serve five to seven years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Jeremy Rocha pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to indictments charging him with two counts of indecent assault and battery on a person under 14 years of age, one count of indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or older and one counts of trafficking of a person under 18 for sexual servitude.

During a period of time between September of 2019 and July of 2020 defendant would molest the victim by rubbing his front pelvic area against her backside and would also touch her breasts. When the victim, who was 13 and 14 years old at the times of the molestation incidents, expressed displeasure with these acts, the defendant would give her money, buy her things and let her use his Amazon account to make purchases. The defendant admitted to the actions and acknowledged spending in excess of \$5,000.00 on victim.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Natasha Azevedo and the state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Raffi Yessayan. In addition to the state prison sentence, the

defendant was also placed on supervised probation for an additional five years. The terms of his probation include registering as a sex offender, sex offender counseling and no unsupervised contact with children.

“The defendant betrayed the trust the victim placed in him by repeatedly molesting her. He even gave her money and gifts so she would not reveal the abuse. Fortunately she did. The sentence holds the defendant accountable for this very disturbing and offensive conduct,” District Attorney Quinn said.

Massachusetts Environmental Police: “DO NOT DUMP Zebra Mussels from your aquarium!”

“ATTENTION HOME AQUARIUM OWNERS:

Invasive zebra mussels were recently found in “moss balls,” an aquarium plant product sold at aquarium and pet supply stores. Zebra mussels are one of the most destructive invasive species in North America.

If you recently purchased moss balls, DO NOT DUMP THEM. Immediately destroy them using one of these methods:

- **Freeze:** Place the moss ball into a sealable plastic bag and freeze for at least 24 hours.
- **Boil:** Place the moss ball in boiling water for at least 1 minute.
- **Bleach/vinegar:** Submerge the moss ball in undiluted white vinegar or chlorine bleach for 20 minutes (use one cup of

bleach to one gallon of water).

DISPOSE of the moss ball and its packaging in a sealed plastic bag in the trash. Do NOT dispose of moss balls in drains, waterways, or gardens.

If moss balls were placed in your aquarium, DISINFECT the tank and all of its contents. Aquatic plants may harbor zebra mussels and should also be destroyed with the moss balls. Find more information and specific instructions on how you should clean your aquarium at: www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html."



Massachusetts Environmental Police photo.

Massachusetts State Police present \$5,000 check high school hockey team to benefit “AJ’s Army”

“Earlier today Lieutenant Colonel Scott Warmington, Detective Lieutenant Brian Anderson, Sergeant Steve Godfrey, and Trooper Mike Close of the Massachusetts State Police, joined Troopers Steve Valair and Philip Giardino, organizers of the Massachusetts State Police Memorial Foundation, and Officer John O’Toole of the Boston Police Hockey Team to present a \$5,000 check to members of Bishop Feehan High School’s Hockey Team.

The donation will benefit “AJ’s Army”, which was formed to provide long-term support to the Quetta Family after AJ Quetta, a senior at BFHS, suffered a severe spinal cord injury on the ice during a game in January.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

The proceeds came in from the sale of custom-made gaiter-style facemasks with the logos of both the Massachusetts State Police and Boston Police printed on them.

Troopers Valair and Giardino volunteer their time to run the MSP Memorial Fund after assuming control of it from Trooper Mike Close and Lieutenant Sean Newman three years ago. The Memorial Fund would normally have held its 15th annual Memorial Foundation Hockey tournament just last Friday. At the annual event more than 130 active and retired members of the MSP would have played in a tournament in the name of all of their fallen brothers and sisters.

At the conclusion of the tournament a dinner where money is raised through raffles and auctions. The highlight of the night, however, is when the foundation awards ten \$1,000 scholarships to children of the members of the Massachusetts State Police. Due to the pandemic the Memorial Foundation was unable to hold their only money raising event of the year and in turn foundation created an online store via Instagram with

the purpose of selling MSP Hockey apparel. Since the launch of the Instagram page the Memorial Foundation was able to donate thousands of dollars to local charities.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

The online store is currently closed, however, this Saturday starting at 10am the Memorial Foundation will be holding a “Pop up” shop at the State Police Barracks in South Boston. All gear will be available for purchase.

To learn more about the Memorial Foundation, or to check out the gear, find them on Instagram at @msp_hockey.”

Massachusetts State Police and partner agencies seize

cocaine, “ghost” guns, charge Randolph target as armed career criminal

“Members of the Massachusetts State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction and Enforcement Team’s south unit (MSP CINRET), the State Police Gang Unit, and other state, federal and local police units culminated a lengthy investigation yesterday afternoon by arresting a suspected cocaine trafficker. Troopers and Officers charged STEVEN FONTES, 39, as an armed career criminal and executed warrants at his home on Green Street in Randolph.

The investigation began in the summer of 2020 based on information developed following a motor vehicle stop made by a member of the Massachusetts State Police Troop D Community Action Team. The investigation ultimately involved several undercover purchases of cocaine, leading up to the final purchase yesterday and the subsequent arrest of FONTES without incident.

During the search warrant execution, police seized the following evidence:

01. Approximately 30 grams of cocaine;
02. A 9mm “ghost gun” with a silencer;
03. A .22 caliber “ghost gun”;
04. Approximately 250 rounds of 9mm and .22 caliber ammunition; and
05. A small quantity of US currency suspected to be proceeds of drug sales.

A “ghost gun” is a firearm assembled from various parts acquired from third party sellers and which has no serial number and thus cannot be traced.

FONTES will be arraigned in Quincy District Court and Brockton District Court on the following offenses:

01. Trafficking in cocaine;
02. Distribution of a Class B narcotic, subsequent offense;
03. Possession of a firearm without a Firearm Identification Card (2 counts);
04. Possession of ammunition without a Firearm Identification Card (3 counts);
05. Possession of a large capacity feeding device (2 counts);
06. Possession of a silencer;
07. Being an armed career criminal; and
08. Outstanding warrant.

The investigation and arrest are a credit to the dedication among and teamwork between the various agencies and units involved in the operation. MSP CINRET's south unit and the Gang Unit was assisted in the investigation and arrest by the State Police Special Tactical Operations Team, State Police Troop D Community Action Team, State Police Detective Unit for Norfolk County, agents from the federal Department of Homeland Security Investigations, and the Randolph, Brockton and East Bridgewater Police Departments. The MSP deploys three regional CINRET teams – task forces comprised of Troopers, HIS agents, and local police officers – across the state as part of its narcotics enforcement operations.

