

National Park's Story Hour April Themes

Toddlers love to go places and have fun, and so do their parents and caregivers. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park offers engaging activities each week at Whales, Tales and Sails. This free, one-hour story hour takes place each Friday morning beginning at 10:00 AM. The event features professional storyteller Jackson Gillman and includes stories, fingerplay, songs, and crafts at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park's Corson Maritime Learning Center. Whales, Tales and Sails is geared for children ages 0-5. The park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford.

Upcoming themes are:

April 1 – Fools

April 8 – Showers

April 15 – Boats

April 22 – Wings

April 29 – Trees

2-vehicle accident in New

Bedford leads to DUI arrest

There was a major 2-vehicle accident on Route 18 and Coggeshall Street today around 2am. Police suspected the accident involved driving under the influence. This video shows the aftermath of two vehicles with major damage and the MA State police conducting a field sobriety test then placing the driver under arrest.

Video by Carlos Pimentel Felix.

State Police Investigate a Fatal Crash in Plymouth

At 9:44 a.m. this morning troopers assigned to the State Police Barracks in Bourne responded to reports of a two car crash on Route 3 northbound in Plymouth. Preliminary investigation indicates that a 73-year-old Bourne man was driving a 2007 Ford Freestar when it struck a 2002 Chrysler PT Cruiser operated by a 46-year-old Taunton man. The Ford swerved off the roadway after the impact and struck a tree. The driver of the Ford was transported to Beth Israel Hospital in Plymouth where he was pronounced deceased. The driver has been identified as Frank A. Valas. The initial investigation by Trooper Kurt Bourdon indicates the crash was caused by medical issues. Assisting with the crash and investigation are troopers from the State Police Barracks in Bourne, the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and the Crime Scene Services Section. The Plymouth Fire Department and EMS rendered medical assistance and transported Mr. Valas to the hospital.

Southcoast Wellness Van announces April schedule for community screenings and vaccinations

The Southcoast Wellness Van announces its April schedule for community screenings and vaccinations.

The Southcoast Wellness Van upholds Southcoast Health's mission to promote the optimal health and well-being of individuals in the communities it serves. Southcoast Health focuses its attention on increasing access to services and caring for the entire population through wellness initiatives and disease management that are designed to limit – and preferably prevent – the patient's need for acute care.

The Southcoast Wellness Van travels across the region bringing health screenings into the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. Free mobile health services available by the staff include:

- Cancer screenings and education.
- Blood pressure screening.
- Cholesterol screening
- Teen resource information
- Glucose (diabetes) screenings.
- Nutritional information and education.
- Health education services.
- Medical physician referral.

•Vaccinations.

Please note that screenings sponsored by the Southcoast Wellness Van are sometimes held at community locations and not always on the van. Look for signs when arriving at a location if you do not see the van outside.

For more information and to schedule free screenings, please call Susan Oliveira, RN, at 508-973-8740 or email oliveiras@southcoast.org. You can also check the schedule online at www.southcoast.org/van/ or subscribe to daily notices on Twitter, Facebook and RSS feeds.

LAKEVILLE

Sunday, April 3
Apponequet High School
100 Howland Rd., Lakeville
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Tuesday, April 5
Bay Village/ Boa Vista Housing
134 South Second St., New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Thursday, April 7
Ben Rose Gardens
679 Delano Street, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MARION

Saturday, April 9
Sippican School
16 Spring Street, Marion
Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SWANSEA

Monday, April 11

Big Lots

207 Swansea Mall Dr., Swansea

Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Tuesday, April 12

Oral Cancer Screenings Clinic

114 McArthur Drive, New Bedford

Oral Cancer Screenings

12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FALL RIVER

Friday, April 15

Walmart

638 Quequechan St., Fall River

Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FALL RIVER

Saturday, April 16

Fall River Fitness Challenge

Kuss Middle School, Fall River

Health Screenings & Vaccines

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Sunday, April 17

Boys And Girls Club of New Bedford

166 Jenny Street, New Bedford

Health Screenings & Vaccines

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Tuesday, April 19
Brickenwood
Harvard St, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ONSET

Wednesday, April 20
Onset Foursquare Church
301 Onset Ave., Onset
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Thursday, April 21
Presidential Heights
Community Room Filmore Street, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WESTPORT

Friday, April 22
Lees Market
796 Main Rd, Westport
Health Screenings & Vaccines
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Faces Of New Bedford – #43:

Stacey Mendonca

Meet Stacey Mendonca, 42-year-old certified occupational therapist assistant for the New Bedford Public Schools.



Stacey had lived a normal life that most in her position would, as an employee, wife, mother, and grandmother until an event that took place during the Summer of 2015 turned her life upside down. On August 2nd, she received the news that no mother ever wants to hear, her 24 year old son, Jeffery Sylvia, Jr. was found murdered in the city's South End.

In the wake of this tragic event, her family was at a total loss. Although she knows that her son may have not always made the best decisions, nobody should ever be able to choose whether someone lives or dies.

She owes her ability to be able to make it through each day with support from family and friends, grief crisis counseling, which was established by the Victim Advocacy Program days after her son's death and support from the POMC (Parents of Murdered Children) groups she attends with her daughter.

Having come along way since her son's death, she wants to impact the community and raise awareness to the Youth about the cause and effects of senseless acts of violence. She has started the J.E.F.F. (Just Envision Future First) campaign in memory of her son to do just that. She is currently raising

funds to start a scholarship for a NBHS graduate and to donate a new baseball scoreboard to the GNBYSBL, where he played as a child and is hosting the Spare the Pain Bowl-A-Thon to do so. With J.E.F.F. she hopes to be able to stop another family from facing the pain and challenges that she and her family has had to endure in the aftermath of her son's traumatic passing.

"We have been taught to not put our hand in fire because we know we will be burned. However because the consequence is delayed we don't think of the severity of our actions. It's time to get our youth to envision a future self before making a choice that could crush their hopes and dreams for a better future."

Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the series email all inquiries to colton@coltonsimmons.com

Follow Colton on Instagram:
<https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Fugitive Child Rapist Captured in Florida

A joint investigation by Fall River Police, the United States Marshals Service, a Regional Fugitive Task Force based in Orlando, Fla., and the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section (VFAS) this morning culminated in the capture of fugitive child rapist JOHN MUNROE.

MUNROE, 75, was located hiding out at a residence in Deland, Fla. He was taken into custody and transported to the Volusia

County Jail and charged as a fugitive from justice. A Massachusetts State Police VFAS trooper who had been involved in the Munroe investigation, by coincidence, was vacationing in Florida and drove across the state to assist with the arrest.

MUNROE had been sought by local, state and federal authorities since October 23, when he cut off a court-ordered GPS monitoring bracelet and fled. The previous month, he had been arrested by Fall River Police for the alleged sexual assault in their city of a child under age 10. On Dec. 14, the Massachusetts State Police put MUNROE on its Most Wanted list.

Over the next few months police conducted an exhaustive multi-state investigation. Investigators today developed intelligence that MUNROE was renting an apartment in a home at 1771 West Parkway in Deland, Fla. US Marshals and Volusia County officers from the Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force set up a surveillance on the residence this morning; at approximately 10:45 a.m. he was located and taken into custody.

MUNROE will be rendited to Massachusetts to face charges of rape of a child with force; indecent assault and battery on a child under 14; aggravated rape of a child; enticing a child under age 16; posing or exhibiting a child in a nude or lascivious manner; and possession of child pornography.

New Bedford man arrested on

heroin charges

Fairhaven Police Detectives, working with the Bristol County Sheriffs Office South Coast Anti Crime Task Force and New Bedford Police Detectives executed a search warrant just after 12pm Wednesday afternoon at a third floor apartment located on Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford. The search took place after 32 year old Henry Catanho was arrested after he completed a drug transaction not far from that location.

Investigators took Catanho into custody without incident and returned him to his Acushnet Avenue apartment where they conducted a search of the premises. During the search, police seized a digital scale, drug packaging material, a small amount of heroin and over \$2,000.00 in cash. A Massachusetts Environmental Police K-9 unit was utilized to assist in the search.

Catanho was charged with distribution of heroin and possession of heroin. Prior to this arrest, Catanhao already had open cases for trafficking heroin, distribution of heroin and possession with intent to distribute heroin, subsequent offense. He was out on \$10,000.00 bail at the time of his arrest Wednesday afternoon.

New Bedford Heroin Dealer Sentenced to up to 6 years in Prison

Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced today that a 31-year-old New Bedford heroin dealer was sentenced to serve three-and-a-half years to six years in state prison yesterday.



Patrick Parent pleaded guilty yesterday in Fall River Superior Court to charges of trafficking in excess of 36 grams of heroin, possession with intent to distribute oxycodone-subsequent offense and possession of methadone with intent to distribute. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jeanne Veenstra and the sentence was handed down by Judge Gregg Pasquale.

On August 26, 2014, New Bedford Police executed a search warrant at the defendant's apartment, located at 49 Roosevelt Street, after a lengthy investigation into a heroin delivery service. Inside the apartment, police seized several bags of heroin, 516 tablets of methadone, 162 tablets of oxycodone, \$4,058 in cash, digital scales and other items associated with the drug distribution trade.

"I'm happy that this drug dealer, who was found with large amounts of heroin, will be off the street for up to six years," District Attorney Quinn said. "He is another example of the drug dealers who are fueling the opiate epidemic and profiting financially from the pain they are inflicting."

13 Things to do this Weekend (March 25 – March 27)

Spring has officially arrived in spite of the fact that we got snowfall. Overnight temperatures are typical for early spring and will be a bit chilly. The days however will warm up and hit the 50s throughout the weekend. While we'll start the weekend out with rain, the rest of the weekend will be dry – it will be either partly sunny or sunny. Certainly nothing to stop us from having some fun!



As always, click on the title for more or detailed information on the event. Most of the events were pulled from our [event calendar](#) where you can find hundreds of local area events each month. The event calendar is FREE, so if you are a local business, and not taking advantage of FREE publicity, shame on you! Are you a local business and want to sponsor this high traffic, weekend guide? Contact info@newbedfordguide.com for more details. Have an event to add? Add it [here](#). Know of another event this weekend? Post a reply!

Friday, March 25th

Soapbox Social (7:00pm-9:00pm)

Soapbox Social is a live story telling event. The theme of the night will be "It's a Sign!" Sign up now to tell a 10 minute story based on a true story tied to this theme. Email shelleycardoos@gmail.com if you're interested in telling a story. Or just come and have a good time. Groundwork, 1213 Purchase St., New Bedford.

Saturday, March 26th

Breakfast with Paw Patrol and the Easter Bunny (9:00am-12:00pm)

Join us Saturday morning on March 26th from 9am-12pm to enjoy Breakfast with The Easter Bunny! This interactive and entertaining morning will delight and dazzle both young and young at heart. A delicious breakfast buffet awaits you! We expect it to be full to capacity. We have two reservation spots open, 9am & 10:30am. Please make your reservation by calling (508) 676-7369. Price is \$15.95 for Adults and \$10.95 for Children 10 and under. Jerry Remy's Sorts Bar & Grill, 1082 Davol St., Fall River.



*Meet the Easter Bunny
& Paw Patrol at Jerry
Remy's this Saturday!*

Family Volunteering w/ Gifts To Give (9:00am-2:00pm)

GiftsToGive™ is a magical place. Thousands of local children visit to engage in giving and service in what is called

Tangible Philanthropy and Big Citizenship. Kids donate their “gently-used” clothes, toys, books and things they no longer need or use and volunteer at our huge re-purposing center to process, organize and package tons of donations, transforming them into thousands of individual gift packages. Hundreds of local agencies and care givers go on-line and order customized gift-packages for homeless and at-risk children in their care. All this is made possible through the skill sets and commitment of our volunteer management team.

Fall River Library Chess Club (10:00am)

All ages and skill levels are welcome to join the library’s Chess Club. The club will meet weekly on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fell Reading Room at the Main Library. Teens and adult players are welcome to show up and join in the fun. Chess sets will be provided, thanks to a generous donation. Fall River Public Library, 104 N Main St. Fall River, MA.

Loon Pond Horseshoe Leagues Sign Up (10:00am-12:00pm)

Summer horseshoe leagues in the Loon Pond Horseshoe Club begin the end of April in Lakeville, MA at the former Ted Williams Camp. First sign up is today. Singles horseshoe league plays on Monday evenings and Doubles horseshoe league plays on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer, beginning April 25th. Other sign-ups follow, 4/6, and 4/13 at 5 P.M. – 7 P.M. and on 4/9 from 10 A. – 12 noon For more information call 508-345-5671 or 508-822-9610. Loon Pond Horseshoe Club, 246 Bedford St., Lakeville.

Fall River Seal Tours (11:00am-1:30pm)

Enjoy a 75-minute scenic boat ride down the Taunton River into beautiful Mt. Hope Bay on the lookout for visiting winter harbor seals and early spring wildlife. Expert guides will help you spot our winter visitors and discuss the rich history and environmental issues of the region. Borden Light Marina, 1 Ferry Street, Fall River.



*Who knows? Maybe
you'll spot some seals
and pups on Seal Tour
this Saturday.*

GNB Writers Block Poetry Reading at Gallery X (1:00pm-3:00pm)

Catherine McLaughlin will be reading from her new book *Under a Circus Moon*. Raised in New Bedford, McLaughlin is residing and working on her next book in South Dartmouth. Book will be available for purchase and signing. Open mic prior to feature. Gallery X, 169 William Street, New Bedford.

Clam Chowder and Tuna Roll Dinner (5:00pm)

The Marion Fire Fighters Association is having a Clam Chowder and Tuna Roll Dinner Saturday March 26th 2016, 5:00 pm at the Marion VFW Hall on Route 6. Raffles, cash bar and dessert will be available. For tickets call Ron at 774-263-2589 or Brooks at 508-728-0840. Advanced ticket sales only! The VFW Hall, 465 Mill Street, Marion.

Adult BYOB Paint Night (5:30pm-7:00pm)

Come join us this March for our Adult Paint Night. It's a BYOB! YES you read that right! BYOB. Come drink(waiver must be signed), laugh, spend time with your friends and family, and meet new people! Great night for a girl's night out, maybe a guys night out, date night, bachelorette party or birthday party! Dream Land Arts & Crafts, 358 Main Street, Fairhaven.

Rebecca Correia feat. Jake Moses & Adam Hanson (11:30pm)

Head to the Sail Loft at 246 Elm Street, South Dartmouth for a celebration of friendship, life & music!

Sunday, March 27th

Easter Bunny at The Swansea Mall (12:00pm-6:00pm)

The Bunny will arrive at Swansea Mall on at 11 a.m. and will be in his springtime garden meeting with children. get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Every child visiting the Easter Bunny will receive a free gift.

Metaphysical Fair (10:00am-5:00pm)

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life and Pharmacy Flamingos team invite you to their Wellness/Psychic Fair to raise money for American Cancer Society. Available Divination Practitioners include: Angel Card Reader, Medium, Runes Reader, Tarot Card Reader, Chair Massage, Assorted Vendors, a great RAFFLE and more. Readings are \$20 for 15 minutes. Please call Marcio at 508-858-6817 to make an advance appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome! Proceeds from each reading goes to the ACS 2016 Relay for Life. Please stop by to say "hi" and support our ACS Relay for Life team at this fund raiser! Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street, New Bedford.

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Want to sponsor this weekend guide? Contact info@newbedfordguide.com for more details.

Students from kindergarten to college are learning about the fishing industry Curriculum materials under development

Phil Mello of Bergies Seafood speaks with with a group of international graduate students from the Fisheries Program at the University of Rhode Island on an industry tour organized by the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. Photo by Laura Orleans.

The New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center is providing a variety of educational opportunities for students of all ages. In late March, the Center will present insider tours of the seafood industry for international fisheries students from the University of Rhode Island and agri-science students from Cumberland Valley High School in Pennsylvania. In addition to taking a guided walking tour of the waterfront, students will tour the Whaling City Seafood Display Auction, Bergie's Seafood, and a dockside scallop vessel at Eastern Fisheries. Later this summer a similar tour will be offered for a group of biology students from UMass Dartmouth.

In April the Center will present a program for kindergarten students at New Bedford's Gomes Elementary School. Following their in-class reading of Chris Demarest's book Mayday! Mayday! about a Coast Guard rescue, students will participate in an assembly program of maritime music and storytelling presented by Essex based performers Daisy Nell and Stan Collinson. The following week, safety instructors Rodney Avila and Ted Williams of Hercules will offer a presentation about safety at sea. This program is funded through a grant from the New Bedford Education Association.

Additionally, the Center has been working with local teachers to develop a variety of curriculum materials that fulfill grade-appropriate standards. The activities are designed to use the fishing industry as a topic for exploration while strengthening skills in math, ELA, history, science and the arts. The curricula will be available to teachers free of charge from the Center's website (www.fishingheritagecenter.org) in mid-April.

The Center plans to offer teacher workshops and site-based programs for students beginning in the fall of 2016 using their exhibits and archives as a springboard for learning about the fishing industry.

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, Inc. (FHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the fishing industry past, present and future through exhibits, programs, and archives. The Center will open to the public in June of 2016. For more information visit www.fishingheritagecenter.org