

Rhode Island Man Sentnced to prison for Attleboro Armed Robbery

District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced that a Pawtucket, RI man convicted of robbing an Attleboro gas stations attendant has been sentenced to serve no less than five years in state prison.

Jimmy Honeycutt, 32, pleaded guilty Monday afternoon in Fall River Superior Court to a one count indictment charging him with armed robbery while masked.

On October 12, 2010 at 8 p.m., Attleboro Police responded to the Getty gas station on a report of an armed robbery. The male clerk told police that a white male wearing a ski mask and armed with a black semiautomatic handgun ran into the gas stations and yelled, "give me the f####ing money!" After robbing the station of cash and cigarettes, the suspect, later identified as Mr. Honeycutt, drove away in a white Mercedes. More than \$2,000 in cash was stolen during the robbery.

At around the same time, Pawtucket police were investigating five very similar robberies in their jurisdiction. A joint investigation eventually led police to the owner of the Mercedes, which resulted in the identification of Mr. Honeycutt as the primary suspect. During a police interview, the defendant confessed to the robbery.

The defendant is a career criminal who belongs off the street as long as possible," District Attorney Quinn said. "While I wish the sentence was longer I am pleased he is serving a lengthy sentence concurrently in Rhode Island."

State Police Investigating Damage to Car Window on Route 290 (UPDATED)

State Police units are investigating an incident that occurred on Route 290 in Auburn that caused damage to the rear window of a motor vehicle. At approximately 7:25 a.m., the car was traveling westbound near the Auburn Mall/Turnpike Overpass when the driver heard something impact the rear window. She pulled into a nearby gas station and notified police. Troopers from the Holden Barracks, along with troopers from the Crime Scene Services Section and Ballistics Section are responding as well.

Preliminary investigation revealed a hole in the window and spider-cracked shattering of glass around it. The driver was not injured. We are not releasing her identity.

State and local police performed an immediate search of the area where the vehicle was struck but did not locate anyone.

At this point the investigation is ongoing as to what struck the window. It is not clear at this time whether the window was struck by a projectile fired from a weapon or a piece of debris that came off the roadway or a bridge.

The State Police Media Relations Unit will update will more information is available.

UPDATE:

An investigation of vehicle by Ballistics Section and Crime Scene Services has determined that the damage to the vehicle's rear window is not consistent with entry caused by a bullet, and did not locate any projectile in the vehicle. MSP units are clearing the scene.

United Way to Host Tom Lopes Documentary Screenings

For decades, Tom Lopes was dedicated to making life in New Bedford better for all residents. As the first Cape Verdean elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Tom, who was already well known to the community for his activism, fought for the residents on the SouthCoast.

To honor his legacy, a team of students worked with Reel Serious to produce a documentary about his life. With a number of interviews from friends, families and other politicians, they tell the story about his accomplishments and the impact he made on New Bedford. The creation of the documentary was funded in part with a grant from United Way of Greater New Bedford. The documentary was first screened in October.

"My brother always used to say, If you can believe it, you can achieve it," said Deborah Ramos, Tom Lopes' sister. "We hope this documentary inspires residents to take pride in our community."

United Way of Greater New Bedford will be hosting three screenings of the documentary in the South End of New Bedford for residents. As part of the documentary screenings, United Way will also be hosting an open forum to discuss the progress of their work with the Working Cities Challenge grant and to

get input from South End residents on the upcoming work in their community. The event is free. Dinner and child care will be provided as well as raffles for those in attendance.

Tom Lopes: Bringing Community Together Events will take place: March 22nd 5:30- 8pm at Dennison Memorial Community Center (755 So. First St.), March 29th 5:30- 8pm at Our Lady of Assumption Church (47 So. 6th St.), and April 5th at the Cape Verdean American Veterans Hall (561 Purchase St.).

If you are interested in attending one of the events, please contact United Way at 508-994-9625 ext. 19 or email sellis@unitedwayofgnb.org.

“We hope residents in the South End take these events as opportunities to give their input and help guide our Working Cities team as we continue our work in the community,” said Allison Yates-Berg, Vice President of Community Impact and Operations at United Way. “We truly value the support and input of neighborhood residents in this process.”

In November, United Way of Greater New Bedford was one of ten cities in Massachusetts to receive a \$15,000 Working Cities Challenge planning grant to improve the quality of life of residents in the South End. Later this spring, United Way and the New Bedford Team will have the opportunity to apply for a three year, implementation grant of \$475,000 to continue with this work.

School on Wheels of Massachusetts is seeking one-on-one tutors/mentors

School on Wheels of Massachusetts (SOWMA) is seeking one-on-one tutors/mentors to work with children in grades K-12 in Fall River. Tutoring takes place on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Each SOWMA tutor is matched with a student for one or two hours a week. Tutors work with students on homework and school projects. Tutoring sessions are designed to fill in the layers of learning that may be missing due to frequent moves and school absences. Each SOWMA tutor is expected to serve as a mentor and positive role model. Teens and adults aged 18 and older are needed. High school students may tutor with a parent or other adult that they know. No prior experience is required.

Every SOWMA volunteer must attend a three-hour Tutoring Training before beginning to tutor. We currently have one tutor training scheduled:

- Saturday, March 19, 9:30am-12:30pm, Fall River YMCA, 4th floor learning center, 199 North Main St., Fall River

To sign up for training, please contact Operations Director Robin Gilbert at robin@sowma.org, or 508-587-9091, X107.

Forever Paws Animal Shelter presents Spring Fling



Statement of MSP Colonel
Richard McKeon on the Line-

of-Duty Death of Sheriff's Deputy John R. Kotfila Jr.

"It is with great sadness that the Massachusetts State Police today learned of the tragic death of Hillsborough County, Fla., Deputy Sheriff John R. Kotfila Jr., the son of MSP Sergeant John R. Kotfila.

"Deputy Kotfila, 30, was killed early this morning in the line of duty when his cruiser was struck by a wrong-way driver on the Selmon Expressway in Tampa. Shortly before his cruiser was struck, the deputy had left Tampa General Hospital, where he had responded to gather information pertaining to a motor vehicle crash he was investigating. Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalized.

"Sergeant Kotfila, the Deputy's father, is a veteran member of the Massachusetts State Police currently assigned to the Bourne Barracks. He is a highly-respected member of the law enforcement community. Our prayers tonight are with him, his wife, and their two surviving children – one of whom is a Falmouth Police officer. It is clear that Sergeant Kotfila instilled in his children the same sense of duty, dedication, and service to others that he himself has embraced throughout his career.

"Tonight, with heavy hearts, we grieve the loss of a hero who was a member of our extended Massachusetts State Family. May God Bless him and the loved ones he leaves behind."

Two New Bedford men arrested with 110 grams of heroin in Wareham

During an investigation into the distribution of heroin in the Wareham area, WPD detectives arrested two New Bedford, MA residents who were in the process of delivering a large quantity of the drug intended for the streets of Wareham on March 2, 2016.

After receiving information regarding the activities of the males from New Bedford, WPD detectives conducted an investigation that led to the males being approached by detectives while they were parked at 5 Guys Restaurant on Rte. 28 at approximately 8:00 pm on March 2, 2016.

During a search of the 2003 BMW occupied by the operator, 33 year old Hector Montilla-Segura, and his passenger, 27 year old Gilberto Baret-Ramirez, detectives located approximately 110 grams of heroin. Both males were placed under arrest without incident.

Both males were charged with Trafficking Heroin Over 100 Grams and have pending court dates after being arraigned at Wareham District Court.

Chief Kevin Walsh praised the actions of the WPD Detective Division in their efforts to stem the tide of heroin intended for dealers and users in the Wareham area.

New Bedford's resurgence starts with a click

By Craig DeMelo

In the 1850s Herman Melville wrote endearingly about the beauty and opulence of a quaint port town in Massachusetts. It was in a small chapel where he was inspired to pen the classic novel that would make him a household name. The chapel was the Seaman's Bethel. The novel was Moby Dick. The place was New Bedford.

The affluence of historical New Bedford is well documented. Twice this fishing village has been a pinnacle of wealth and prosperity, once for its legendary whaling industry and once for textiles. Images of the former pervade the small city in the form of statues, murals, harpoon-decked logos, and mascots. The latter's colossal factories – many now apartments – loom large over the harbor. The majesty and grandiosity of this 30 square-mile sliver were captured eloquently in the early chapters of Melville's epic. For centuries New Bedford was much more than an obscure location in the Northeast.

Today, its fame has changed to infamy, its principle commodities of oil and cloth have metamorphosed into the nefarious trifecta of drugs, crime, and violence. The past few decades have seen New Bedford appear on more than a few ignominious lists, with staggering per capita numbers of criminals, addicts, and diseases. The days of resting on 18th and 19th century laurels are over.

Despite this fall from grace, the Whaling City does still possess a certain richness that is unheralded. The art scene here is robust with the prodigious efforts of painters, graffiti artists, singers, songwriters, amateur filmmakers, and photographers. The downtown area is a wellspring of

creativity, a place where food for the eyes and ears and mind can be found around seemingly every corner. There are local art galleries and shows featuring the refulgence of the city's finest budding artisans. The circuit of unique restaurants and bars feature a slate of bands and musicians that can only be referred to collectively as an embarrassment of riches. Hang around New Bedford long enough and you're likely to hear or see something you will never forget.

The city does its best to shed light on this assemblage of innovation; there are a bevy of festivals and functions throughout the year, featuring this mass of talent. Unfortunately, however, outside of the scant few privy to this local renaissance, the vast majority of New Bedford's population appears to be oblivious. Most people choose instead to focus on the aforementioned dirt that defames this city. The stories and links that get the most shares, posts, and comments are rarely the tales of the aspiring geniuses. Unlike moths, it appears that many people are drawn to the darkest things this city has to offer.

It is undoubtedly important to know what's going on in your city, and that includes the bad news. But one way to stop the decay, to clean up the mess, to shift the narrative is to discuss the awful, but to take to the rooftops and holler about the wonderful. Next time you read the paper and think that New Bedford is rough, just remember there are diamonds here, too, if you know where to find them.

Troopers Arrest Man impersonating Police Officer in Holyoke

Yesterday, March 10 at approximately 3:00pm, Trooper Czepiel was on patrol in Holyoke when he stopped a white Nissan 350Z on Homestead Ave., for motor vehicle infractions. Following a subsequent investigation, the operator, TYRUS MARTIN, 26 of Springfield, was found to be in possession of a Hampden County Sheriff's Department jacket and Sheriff's badge, as well as a correctional officer's Identification card. Further investigation revealed that MARTIN was in possession of a Hi-Point C9 9MM handgun as well as 5 rounds of ammunition in the magazine. MARTIN was placed under arrest and taken to the State Police Northampton Barracks for booking.

MARTIN was charged with the following offenses:

- Firearm, Unlawful possession without a license;
- Ammunition, Possession without FID card;
- Operating a vehicle with a revoked registration
- Operating an uninsured vehicle
- Operating an unregistered vehicle; and
- Impersonating a Public Official

Further investigation into the Hampden County Sheriff's Department items continues.

Free Legal and Financial Workshop for Alzheimer's Caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association is hosting a free legal and financial workshop that is open to the public on Wednesday, March 30 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., at the Buttonwood Senior Center, 1 Oneida Street, New Bedford.

Presented by an Elder Law Attorney, Legal and Financial Issues and Answers is designed to acquaint families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias with the legal and financial issues associated with planning for the long-term care of their relative. Important topics such as power of attorney, protection of assets and what Medicare and Medicaid do and do not cover will be covered. For more information on the workshop or to register call 800.272.3900 or visit alz.org/MANH.

The Alzheimer's Association, with headquarters in Watertown, has regional offices in Springfield, Raynham, and Worcester, MA and Bedford, NH. The Alzheimer Association provides services and programs for those with Alzheimer's, family and professional caregivers in the form of support groups, a 24/7 Helpline, care consultation, advocacy efforts, research funding and education programs. For more information about Alzheimer programs, visit alz.org/MANH or call 800-272-3900.
