

# Woman robbed after leaving south end New Bedford day care

On Friday, January 29, 2016, a woman was the victim of an unarmed robbery that took place around 8:30am. She had just left a day care on Crapo Street in New Bedford when a man came up from behind her, demanded her money and robbed her of a bank deposit. He then ran in the direction of Demellos Market. Police went inside Demellos looking for evidence/footage. The woman was not harmed.

Video by Carlos Pimentel Felix.

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## Rock & Roll is Dying

*by Marilyn Watts*

We lost another one today. I just heard the news that Paul Kantner of the iconic Jefferson Airplane band has died. Airplane was at the heart of the Summer of Love in San Francisco. Listening to the album Surrealistic Pillow, released in 1967, and remembering their greatness. The song, "Today" is hauntingly beautiful! The lyric, "Today, you look into my eyes; I'm just not the same" is exactly how I am feeling since hearing that another one of our beloved rock stars has left this earth. It's as if our youth is dying with them.

The list is growing way too long. Many were shocked when David Bowie died on January 10, 2016 from liver cancer, two days

after his 69th birthday. He kept it very private so the news was unexpected. Bowie, with his artistic flair, timed his last album, "Blackstar", and the subsequent video to be released in his last days. The album reached No. 1 status on the Billboard charts 2 days after his death. He left his indelible artistic mark on all of us.

Then, on January 18, 2016, we lost Glenn Frey, founder of the Eagles. Glenn was only 67 years old. He taught us to "Take it Easy" and left a legacy of great American music. He was inducted in the Songwriters Hall of Fame for such memorable songs like "Hotel California" and "Desperado".

On January 17, 2016, Mic Gillette, a founding member and horn player with Tower of Power, died of a sudden heart attack at 64 years of age. While the Airplane was the psychedelic sound of San Francisco, Tower of Power came out of the EastBay with a funky sound and horn section that got everyone dancing. Band leader, Emilio Castillo was quoted as saying "Mic was the greatest brass player he had ever known".

Scott Weiland of Stone Temple Pilots and Velvet Revolver died this past December of a drug overdose at 48 years of age. I saw him with Velvet Revolver in a small club in Boston years ago. What a showman!

Sadly added to the list were Natalie Cole, BB King, Dale Griffin, Dallas Taylor and in the previous year we lost Joe Cocker, Bobby Keys, Johnny Winter and many, many more.

My fascination with music goes way back. I'm sure a pivotal point was watching the Beatles when they first appeared on the Ed Sullivan show, witnessing the beginning of something wonderful. We just did not know how wonderful our musical journey would be! The 60's was such an inspirational time in music. There will never be another time such as this, a time that produced such a variety of songs that set the scene for our youth and grew up right along with us. The sadness that I

feel with all these musical icons is palpable. These are bands that spanned decades. Our lives are scored with music of the Airplane, Bowie, and Frey. It brings us back to a time when we were young, free, and unfettered. Visiting the record store, buying the latest album, listening with friends while checking out the great art work & reading the liner notes... good times.

When I moved to California in the 70's, I settled in Marin County which happened to be the home for many of these great artists like the Airplane, Grateful Dead, Doobie Brothers, Crosby, Stills & Nash & many more. It was always fun to see Grace Slick shopping in the same clothing store, Marty Balin or Bob Weir in the local pharmacy or Stephen Stills riding into the 7-Eleven store parking lot on his motorcycle! The music scene was rich in Marin and you never knew who would show up at Sweetwater, a great small local club.

I will be forever grateful that I was born into this era of great music. Thankfully, the music will live on for future generations. But growing up with this music, today I am feeling like I lost a childhood friend, like losing something that helped to shape who I am today.

So, they have joined the ranks of Hendrix, Lennon, Jim, Janis and all the rest. As they say, Heaven must have the best damn rock & roll band. May they all rest in peace.

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# United Way of Greater New

# Bedford Community Mini-Grant Orientations

Have an innovative community project that could enrich your town, school, neighborhood or all of Greater New Bedford? If you are working as a volunteer with a local all-volunteer group then consider applying for a United Way of Greater New Bedford Community Building Mini-Grant. Grants of up to \$2,500 can help put your ideas into action. Learn more about the Mini-Grant program including how to apply online and the types of projects and programs that qualify by attending an orientation session.

Groups with budgets of \$40,000 or less are strongly encouraged to attend one of two orientations that will be held at United Way, located at 105 William St. 2nd floor on Wednesday, March 2nd from 10 am – 11:30 am or Tuesday, March 8th from 6 pm – 7:30 pm. These sessions will discuss the program, eligibility and the application process. Registration is required for the sessions. To register for an orientation session please call 508-994-9625 ext. 19 or email [minigrants@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:minigrants@unitedwayofgnb.org).

Applications will be available March 1st at [www.unitedwayofgnb.org](http://www.unitedwayofgnb.org) and will only be accepted electronically. Grants must be submitted by April 22, 2016.

In 2015, 37 all-volunteer groups made an impact throughout Great New Bedford with projects funded by United Way's Mini-Grant Program. These projects range from garden projects and healthier living programs to outreach campaigns and family engagement opportunities. Be the change in Greater New Bedford, visit [www.unitedwayofgnb.org](http://www.unitedwayofgnb.org) to learn more about the Mini-Grants Program.

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# Man wanted in unlawful bank transaction

Det. Scott Brown is looking to identify this male from an unlawful bank transaction where the victim's account was compromised. Anyone with information is asked to contact him at 508-991-6300 ext. 79508 or leave an anonymous tip at 508-961-4584.

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## New Bedford Maintains Favorable Bond Rating

Standard & Poor's Rating Service (S&P) has reaffirmed New Bedford's AA- bond rating and the City has maintained the highest bond rating it has achieved in at least the last four decades. The AA- rating was first awarded to New Bedford in January 2014 and the reaffirmation of the rating puts New Bedford again among the top half of all issuers of municipal debt in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In its report, S&P cited a number of factors supporting the strong rating, including:

- Increased development throughout the city that has spurred improved market values and led to a stronger New Bedford economy.

- S&P raised the classification of the City's financial management from "strong" to "very strong"- the highest rating attainable for the category. In its rating, the agency cited the City's financial policies and practices in place and the development of a five-year long-term financial plan as the basis for the upgrade.
- Adequate budgetary performance and flexibility coupled with strong liquidity.

The AA- rating has had an ongoing positive effect on City finances. Investors reacted very favorably on Thursday to the sale of \$14,262,000 in General Obligation Bonds; accepting lower interest rates than forecast, and saving New Bedford approximately \$1 million in financing costs over the life-time of the debt, meaning that the City will save more than \$3.6 million in financing costs over the lifetime of bonds issued since last year's upgrade.

Credit agency ratings are utilized by investors to gauge a municipality's financial strength and the desirability of its debt. The "AA-" rating, the fourth highest rating on S&P's scale, is the highest rating the City of New Bedford has received since at least 1970, and will continue to result in significant reductions to the City's future debt service expenditures.

Mayor Mitchell explained the importance of maintaining the City's bond rating and recent bond sale, "The reaffirmation of New Bedford's bond rating is a clear vote of confidence in all of the hard work we've done to properly manage the City's finances. I am very pleased that our strong financial policies and practices were a key factor that helped to maintain New Bedford's favorable rating."

The City's Chief Financial Officer, Ari Sky, noted the impact of the S&P rating on the City's finances and overall reputation: "To secure and maintain a AA- rating is a

significant achievement for the City, and is indicative of New Bedford's positive standing in the financial markets. Our favorable rating has yielded positive results, both in terms of favorable interest rates, and the City's marketability for economic development."

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## **National Park Offers Frederick Douglass film on AHA! Night**

Did you know New Bedford was the first free home of Frederick Douglass? This coming AHA! Night, Thursday, February 11th, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will be hosting 15 minute viewings of The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass in New Bedford. In this short film, park rangers Lauren Barber and Frank Barrows tell the story that explains why New Bedford was the ideal place for the 300-700 escaped slaves who called New Bedford home between 1840 and 1860. Among them was Frederick Douglass who escaped slavery and made his first home in freedom in New Bedford. Screenings will start at 6:00 pm, with additional screenings on each half hour and on the hour, and with the last showing at 8:00 pm.

This free event will take place at Corson Maritime Learning Center, at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St., downtown New Bedford. AHA! (Art, History, & Architecture) is New Bedford's free downtown cultural night and collaborative cultural organization with over 60 downtown venue partners. For more information about AHA!, go to [www.ahanewbedford.org](http://www.ahanewbedford.org).

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# **New Bedford man robbed of cell phone on Purchase Street**

Yesterday morning at approximately 9:30am a 22 yr. old New Bedford man was robbed of his cell phone in the 800 block of Purchase St. He was not harmed.

The suspect approached him and asked to use his phone. After using it, the suspect asked the victim if he had ever been robbed before. The suspect then threatened to stab the victim but a knife was never displayed. The suspect then took off and was last seen walking easterly on Union St. from Purchase St.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Michael Carrier at 508-991-6300 ext. 79512 or leave an anonymous tip at 508-961-4584

## **Description:**

- White male wearing a white and gray sweatshirt
  - Blue jeans and black boots
  - A tattoo of a cross between his eyebrows
  - A tattoo of the letter "C" on his left cheek
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# **Norton Murder Suspect Held**



# Without Bail

Martin McDonald was formally arraigned this afternoon in Attleboro District Court. Mr. McDonald, 35, of Weymouth, is charged with murdering his estranged wife in Norton last night.

The defendant was ordered held without bail after today's arraignment and will be transported to Bridgewater State Hospital for a criminal responsibility competency mental health evaluation. He is due back in court for a pretrial hearing on March 2.

The Bristol County District Attorney's Office, Norton Police and Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to this office continue to actively investigate the homicide.

At 7:25 p.m. Wednesday, Norton Police received a 911 call from an individual in an apartment at 2 Holmes Street regarding a woman being stabbed. When police and fire personnel entered the apartment, they located the victim unresponsive. She was immediately transported to Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, where she was pronounced dead. The victim has been identified as Julie A. Meede, 34, of 2 Holmes Street, Norton.

About a minute after the 911 call, a state police radio dispatch was received regarding a two car crash on Route 495 in Norton just south of the Route 123 interchange. Preliminary investigation by Trooper Christopher Roy indicates a Dodge Ram pickup traveling on Route 495 southbound crossed the grass median and entered the northbound side of the highway, where it collided with a Nissan.

The operator of the Nissan, Kathryn Degnan, 30, of Smithfield, RI, was transported to Rhode Island Hospital, but has since been treated and released.

The operator of the Dodge Ram was identified as Mr. McDonald,

35, who currently resides in Weymouth.

Mr. McDonald, the estranged husband of the Holmes Street victim, Julie A. Meede, was charged late last night with murder.

The crash on Route 495 remains under investigation those involved in the homicide investigation, along with Troop H of the Massachusetts State Police with assistance from the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and the State Police Crime Scene Services Section.

The investigation is being coordinated by Assistant District Attorney Stephen Nadeau, who also handled today's arraignment.

District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III urged the victims of any crime, including domestic violence, to call 911 in an emergency. SafeLink, a statewide Domestic Violence Hotline, can be reached at 877-785-2020. SafeLink is answered by trained advocates 24 hours a day in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, as well as TTY at 877-521-2601. It also has the capacity to provide multilingual translation in more than 140 languages.

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## **11 Things to do this Weekend (Jan 29 – Jan 31)**

This has certainly been an odd winter so far. Above average warm temperatures, rain, snow followed by virtually a complete melting within a day. Not that I'm complaining – while snow is a nature beauty when it first falls, it's not fun to shovel

and quickly because disgusting exhaust and grim collectors. This weekend will have a high of 46 – virtually t-shirt weather. Outside of Friday's mix of rain and snow, there will be nothing holding us back from enjoying all the good and fun things to do across the South Coast and beyond.



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](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com) for more details. Have an event to add? Add it [here](#). Know of another event this weekend? Post a reply!

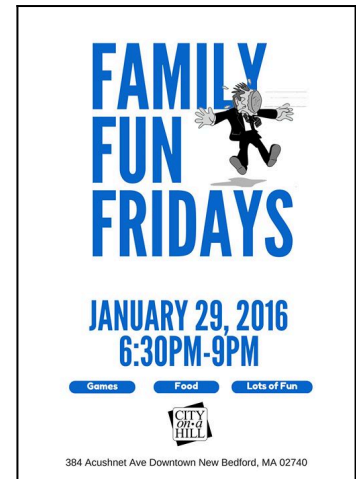
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## Friday, January 29th

### Community Family Movie Night (6:30pm)

Join us for our first Community Family Movie Night on Friday January 29th at 6:30 pm. The movie will be in the Sanctuary (please use Rock St entrance). Our first movie will be Disney's "Inside Out". Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Admission is FREE but please do support our food drive for the Fall River Community Food Pantry with your donation. First Congregational Church of Fall River, 282 Rock

St., Fall River.



*Come join CoaH families for a free, fun, and safe night of games, laughter, and food!*

**Family Fun Fridays (6:30pm-9:00pm)**

Come join CoaH families for a free, fun, and safe night of games, laughter, and food! City on a Hill Charter Public School, 384 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford.

**“NOTHING without EVERYTHING” Exhibition & Mural Reception at Groundwork! (7:00pm-9:00pm)**

“NOTHING without EVERYTHING,” a body of work including a free-hand mural, hand-painted surfboards, mixed media installations, paintings and prints at GROUNDWORK!, remains up through March 20. Located at 1213 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA.

**Memory Lane: Old School 80s 90s Night at Incognito (10:00pm-2:00am)**

Take a trip down Memory Lane spinning nothing but 80s & 90s music. Sounds By Jamn 94.5 DJ Jules Flava. Limited capacity, get there early! 21+ event: proper ID required, dress to impress. 1606-1610 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford.

# **Saturday, January 30th**

## **Saturdays at the Sawmill: Paper Snowflakes and Snow Sculptures (9:00am-12:00pm)**

At the edge of New Bedford's urban North End sits The Sawmill, a 19-acre former lumber yard on the Acushnet River. The Sawmill has been transformed into a public park that protects the river's health and offers local residents a beautiful place to enjoy the outdoors. Join us for Saturdays at The Sawmill every Saturday morning this winter. Explore inside the Hawes Family Learning Center from 9am-noon. At 10am, take part in a free family-friendly activity that you and your kids will love.

## **Yard and Clothing Sale (9:00am-2:00pm)**

Huge indoor yard and clothing sale. Held in the church hall rain or shine. Clothing will be \$3.50 for a small bag and \$5 for a large bag. Snacks and drinks by donation. Revival Thrift Shop will be open. (508) 636-5829. Westport United Congregational Church, 500 American Legion Highway, Westport.

## **Rug Hooking – "Hook-In" (10:00am)**

Loop by Loop Studio is pleased to host our first Rug Hooking "Hook In!" This event will be a meet and greet for experienced rug hookers as well as people who are interested in learning this primitive craft. Feel free to bring past or current projects to work on during this two hour long meeting or simply come by to chat and share ideas. For those who are new to rug hooking, we have multiple kits for purchase and would love to teach any "newbies" this simple, easy art form. Fall River Public Library, 104 N Main St. Fall River. More information on rug hooking can be found at <http://www.loopbyloopstudio.com>.



*Paper Snowflakes and  
Snow Sculptures at the  
Sawmill on Saturday.  
([darrp.noaa.gov](http://darrp.noaa.gov))*

### **Warhammer 40k 1000pt Tournament (12:00pm)**

The Armoury is hosting its very first warhammer 40k tournament. Due to the influx of new players we are going to keep this one casual and fun at a lower point level so everyone can participate! Here are the details: Sign ups: 12pm-1pm, Dice Roll: 1pm, 3 round event using 3 of the core rule book scenarios! Entry: \$15. Prizes: Best painted model, Best sportsman, 1st, 2nd, and other door prizes based on participation. The Armoury Wargames and Hobbies, 58 Conduit St. New Bedford.

### **2016 Rhode Island Brew Fest! (1:00pm-8:00pm)**

What cheer?! A celebration of American craft breweries, featuring the best brews the Ocean State has to offer! 55+ breweries with more than 175 beers to sample from. The event will have two, three-hour sampling sessions from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m and 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Each session will feature local vendors and a food court. The Rhode Island Brew Fest is a 21+ event. No one under the legal age will be admitted, including minors, children, infants and babies. No pets. Pawtucket Armory Arts Center, 172 Exchange St  
Pawtucket, RI.

### **Texas Holdem Tournament (5:00pm)**

Texas Holdem Tournament \$60.00 buy in with 1 add on at the 1st break. Pay out is 60% to players 40% to the cause. FREE Buffet (while food lasts) 50/50 raffle, cash bar. pay out 1-5 top 3

get \$\$\$ 4 & 5 getting restaurant gift cards. Going to a great cause! Check in time is 5pm. Knuckle Heads Bar & Grill, 85 MacArthur Dr. New Bedford.

**Theatre One presents Bruce Graham's Outrageous Dark Comedy "Any Given Monday" (7:00pm-9:00pm)**

Theatre One Productions is still presenting Bruce Graham's Outrageous Dark Comedy, "Any Given Monday," for mature audiences. Don't miss one last chance to experience an evening of live theatre with talented actors, a great script with laugh out loud lines. Alley Theatre, 133 Centre Street, Middleboro.

*Want to sponsor this weekend guide? Contact [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com) for more details.*

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## **Two Arrested after Fleeing and Illegally Possessing Firearm**

Yesterday afternoon at approximately 3:30 p.m., Trooper Jason Trout of the Troop D Community Action Team (D-CAT), was on patrol on Route 24 in the town of West Bridgewater. Trooper Trout observed a Chrysler Sebring commit a motor vehicle violation. Trooper Trout stopped the vehicle as it exited Route 24 onto Route 123.

Trooper Trout spoke to the driver, identified as KEVIN A. GREEN, 23, of North Randolph, and the passenger, identified as ATIYANA C. PHILLIPS-LAWSON, 19, of Dorchester. Trooper Trout returned to his cruiser to process the paperwork. The vehicle then fled at a high rate of speed down Manley Street in

Brockton. At times, the fleeing vehicle passed vehicles in the opposite lane, forcing other motorists off the roadway.

While Trooper Trout attempted to catch up to the fleeing vehicle, Trooper Edward Blackwell observed the vehicle cross Route 106 into a Lowe's parking lot. As Troopers Trout and Blackwell converged in the area, the vehicle fled out of a gated area, through the Chili's Restaurant parking lot, then became disabled on a snow bank.

Both GREEN and PHILLIPS-LAWSON were placed in custody. A search revealed both occupants were in possession of a loaded 9mm handgun and approximately 233 grams of marijuana, packaged for distribution.

GREEN and PHILLIPS-LAWSON were placed under arrest and brought to the State Police Middleboro Barracks for booking.

GREEN was charged with the following offenses:

- Firearm, Unlawful possession without a license;
- Ammunition, Possession without FID card;
- Drug, Possession to distribute Class D (Marijuana);
- Operating after suspension;
- Negligent operation of a motor vehicle;
- Use motor vehicle without authority;
- Marked lanes violation;
- Fail to stop at stop sign;
- Fail to signal; and
- Speeding

PHILLIPS-LAWSON was charged with the following offenses:

- Firearm, Unlawful possession without a license;
- Firearm, Possess large capacity; and
- Drug, Possession to distribute Class D (Marijuana).

Both GREEN and PHILLIPS-LAWSON were held without bail, pending their arraignment in Brockton District Court.



No further information is available. Please do not contact the barracks directly.