

Repeat Massachusetts offender pleads guilty to child pornography offense

Defendant has two prior federal convictions for child pornography offenses.

A former Hyde Park man pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to accessing child pornography while on federal supervised release for a similar offense.

David Ladeau, 66, pleaded guilty to access with intent to view child pornography. U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor scheduled sentencing for June 9, 2022. Ladeau was charged in Oct. 13, 2021.

Ladeau was previously convicted of federal charges in Massachusetts in 2010 for possession of child pornography. Later, in 2015, Ladeau was convicted of conspiracy to possess child pornography in the Middle District of Tennessee. While on federal supervised release for those convictions, law enforcement identified images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct on Ladeau's court-monitored computer. A subsequent investigation determined that in January and February 2021, Ladeau had been using the computer to access child pornography saved on a thumb drive.

Based on Ladeau's prior convictions, the charge of access with intent to view child pornography provides for a sentence of at least 10 years and up to 20 years in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Matthew B.

Millhollin, Special Agent in Charge of the Homeland Security Investigations in Boston made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Dell'Anno of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The case is brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Massachusetts Gov. Baker expected to sign Nero's Law this week

Bill creates new protections for law enforcement K9 officers.

Today, the Massachusetts State Legislature enacted legislation to create new protections for K9 law enforcement officers. The bill was filed in response to the tragic event on April 12, 2018, that took the life of New Bedford-native Sergeant Sean Gannon. His fearless K9 partner Nero was also severely injured, requiring significant medical attention.

Despite the multiple empty ambulances on site, Nero had to be rushed to the animal hospital in the back of a police cruiser. Fortunately, Nero was able to survive his injuries, but the

inability to transport him shows callousness in our laws towards working dogs who risk their lives every day to serve our commonwealth.

S2573, An Act allowing humane transportation of K9 partners aka Nero's law, authorizes emergency medical service personnel to provide emergency treatment and transport K9 officers. This includes basic first aid, CPR, and administering life-saving interventions such as naloxone. The Senate passed the bill in November 2021, and the House similarly engrossed earlier today. This sets the stage for final legislative enactment that can occur as early as Monday.

"K9 officers like Nero are selfless heroes who endure extreme danger in order to keep us safe. We must honor their loyalty and service by ensuring EMS personnel can provide basic treatment and transport should they sustain serious injuries. As a native son of New Bedford, Sergeant Gannon, and by extension his K9 partner Nero, is forever a beloved part of our community. The Gannon family has been a tremendous force in ensuring this bill got done, inspiring myself and others to fight for this legislation every day. We hope this law helps honor their son's legacy," said Senator Mark Montigny, lead sponsor of the bill.

S2573 was originally filed by Montigny in 2019 and received favorable reports this session from the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, Chaired by Senator Walter Timilty, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means , Chaired by Senator Michael Rodrigues. First-term Representative Steven Xiarhos also filed Montigny's language this session in the House. Governor Baker is expected to sign the bill into law later this week.

Scituate first responders rescue 3 Massachusetts fishermen from waters of sunken scalloping vessel

“At 1436 yesterday Scituate Public Safety Dispatch received a call from a Marshfield resident that lived near Humarock. The caller reported seeing a 40-50’ fishing vessel approximately one mile off of Humarock beach. The witness stated that the boat overturned and quickly sank. This was the only call received by dispatch.

Scituate Police and Fire units were dispatched to the area. Simultaneously boats got underway from the SPD Marine Unit, Scituate Harbormaster’s office, and Marshfield Harbormaster’s office.

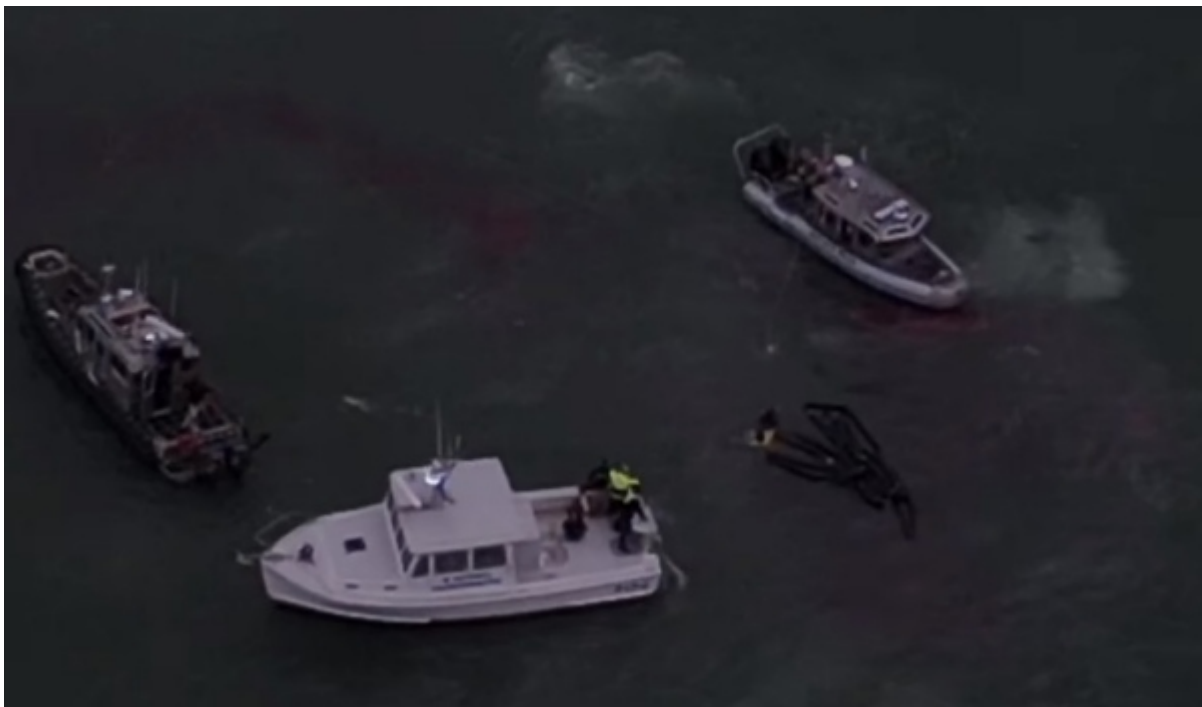


Scituate Police Department photo.

With assistance from personnel on the land, the rescue boats located three men in the water approximately 1/2 mile offshore. All three men were clinging to fishing gear in a slick of diesel fuel. A 55' fishing vessel had sunk beneath them. The fishermen were not wearing life jackets or survival suits and had been in the freezing water for close to an hour.

As you can see in the video, numerous attempts were made to throw rescue rings to the fishermen while they were battling dangerous sea conditions. All three men were pulled out of the water, suffering from severe hypothermia.

All three survivors were transported to the Harbormaster's office where they were quickly offloaded and transported to the hospital.



Scituate Police Department photo.

More specific information will not be released pending notifications of family members.

A great team effort and a great turnout. Nice job SPD Officer Brendan McAuley, SPD Officer Craig Keefe, Scituate Fire Dept, Fire Chief John Murphy, Harbormaster Stephen Mone, Asst Harbormasters Mike Bearce, Joe Guarino, and Harbormaster Mike

Dimeo, Marshfield Detective Greg Davis.

Drone footage credit to Lieutenant Eric Norlin, SFD." - Scituate Police Department.

After two decades in New Bedford, Arthur Moniz Gallery set to close doors for good

After 20 years in business in downtown New Bedford, Arthur Moniz Gallery will be closing their doors permanently.

The name Arthur Moniz is synonymous with painted historic maritime coastal paintings. For 35 years the prolific artist prodigiously churned out creations that are familiar to anyone who has spent time in the city. Many city establishments and residents have his artwork hanging on their walls, and there are permanent collections at Fairhaven's Millicent Library, Tosashimizu City and Tokyo in Japan. There is even a New Bedford High School Scholarship Fund for aspiring artists in his name.

Born in New Bedford in 1945, Moniz would graduate from New Bedford High School in 1962 before going on to study at the Museum School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Massachusetts College of Art, both in Boston. According to the gallery's website, Moniz's style of painting was "...a combination of graphite drawing with transparent watercolor washes over the highly detailed renderings...depicting a wide range of interests, from Florida to Japan and of course the New England area."

The family-operated gallery opened its doors in 2001 across from The Whaling Museum as a way to showcase Moniz's artwork to residents living in New Bedford residents and beyond. Wife and business partner Cheryl, along with son and manager Brett, her daughter Kerran Soares who was in charge of bookkeeping and framing, all operated the business together until Arthur passed away in 2018. In November of 2021, the gallery celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Sadly, Cheryl Moniz shared the bad news with customers in a Jan. 18 Facebook post declaring that they were going to close their doors on February 28, though the website and Etsy page will continue to stay active for those looking for his artwork.

75-year old Cheryl cited her age, a financial hit in 2020 in which the pandemic forced them to close for many months, and a need to simplify her life a little more, as the reason for the decision.



Cheryl and Arthur Moniz. Facebook photo.

**60-year old New Bedford
repeat offender charged with
narcotics trafficking, two**

from Fairhaven face conspiracy charges

"On January 22, at approximately noon, narcotics detectives were conducting surveillance in the south-end sector when they observed a suspected drug transaction take place within a vehicle in the Cove St., S. Front St. area.

The involved parties were subsequently stopped. It was learned that DOUGLAS BARRETT, 60, of 412 Middle St., had sold cocaine to co-defendants NICOLE PETRONELLI, 35 and MICHAEL ST. JEAN, 38, both of 10 Lafayette St. in Fairhaven.

\$180 in cash was seized from BARRETT as a result of the nature of his charges.

Barrett was charged with Distribution Class B, Distribution Class B Subsq. Offense, Drug Possession to Distribute Class B. Petronelli and St. Jean were charged with Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws." -New Bedford Police Department.

Massachusetts Gov. Baker files for \$200 Million in Chapter 90 transportation funding, highlights FY 2023 local aid

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced plans to file legislation next week seeking \$200 million in Chapter 90

funding to help all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts improve transportation infrastructure and address needs within their local communities. Governor Charlie Baker made the announcement at the Massachusetts Municipal Association's (MMA) Annual Meeting today.

This funding request complements the \$31.5 million increase in unrestricted local aid that will be included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget proposal, as announced by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito at the MMA meeting this past week. Keeping a commitment made by the Governor and Lt. Governor in 2014, the Administration's budget proposals over the course of their time in office have increased local aid consistent with tax revenue growth. The Administration's full FY23 budget proposal will be released in the coming days.

"As former local officials, Lt. Governor Polito and I pledged to be strong partners with cities and towns throughout our administration, and with these proposed investments in our cities and towns and local infrastructure, we are proud to sustain that commitment," said Governor Charlie Baker. "The budget proposals we have filed throughout our time in office kept our promise to cities and towns to increase local aid funding consistent with the growth in state tax revenue, and we have consistently filed for additional Chapter 90 funds to make critical improvements for local roads and bridges."

"Our commitment to cities and towns has remained a vital part of our Administration's approach, and we are proud to once again increase support for local aid through our FY23 budget proposal," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "We look forward to partnering with our legislative colleagues to ensure our municipalities get the support they need to serve their residents and improve their local infrastructure."

This \$200 million in Chapter 90 funding would be available to local cities and towns for FY23. After taking office in 2015, Governor Baker quickly directed MassDOT to release \$100

million in Chapter 90 funds that had been promised the previous year, fulfilling a commitment made to cities and towns. The Baker-Polito Administration has released a total of \$1.56 billion in funding through the Chapter 90 formula, and if approved by the Legislature, this most recent request would bring the total to \$1.76 billion.

“The Baker-Polito Administration continues to focus on supporting cities and towns by providing critical resources through the Chapter 90 program and through increases in local aid,” said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan. “We are proud to once again request these important resources which give municipalities the tools they need to effectively improve their communities.”

In her remarks to the MMA yesterday, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also announced that the Administration’s FY23 budget proposal will include \$1.2 billion for unrestricted general government aid (UGGA), a \$31.5 million increase over Fiscal Year 2022, and equal to a projected 2.7% increase in tax revenue in the FY23 consensus revenue estimate. Including the FY23 budget proposal, the Administration has increased the total annual UGGA distribution by \$253.9 million since taking office.

“The Chapter 90 funding program is a lifeline for municipalities as they manage and maintain their roadways and bridges.” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. “Additionally, the Baker/Polito Administration has created and funded municipal programs like the Complete Streets Funding Program, Shared Streets and Spaces, Municipal Small Bridge, Municipal Pavement and Local Bottleneck Reduction, which have not only provided a generational investment directly to communities but helped repair and modernize the transportation network of the Commonwealth.”

Through the Chapter 90 program, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) reimburses cities and towns for costs incurred for eligible transportation projects. Funding

is awarded by municipality and is predetermined by a formula that includes factors such as population, road miles, and employment.

More information about the Chapter 90 program is available [here](#).

Michigan man arrested for fraud, identity theft that allowed him to receive Massachusetts PUA

A Michigan man was arrested yesterday in Michigan in connection with his alleged involvement in a fraudulent scheme to obtain COVID-19-related unemployment assistance.

Devin Smith, 30, was charged with one count of wire fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. Smith was released on conditions following an initial appearance in federal court in Michigan yesterday afternoon. He will appear in federal court in Boston at a later date.

In March 2020, in response to the global coronavirus pandemic, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act provided funding to existing state unemployment insurance programs and created a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). The PUA program, which in Massachusetts was administered by the Department of Unemployment Assistance, provided unemployment insurance benefits for individuals who are not eligible for other types of unemployment benefits.

According to the charging document, Smith participated in a scheme to obtain proceeds from fraudulent unemployment and PUA claims submitted in nine different states, including Massachusetts, between March and May 2020. Smith allegedly used stolen identities, including the identities of Massachusetts residents, to submit fraudulent unemployment and PUA claims and to purchase various commercial goods. Additionally, it is alleged that Smith filed multiple fraudulent unemployment and PUA claims in his own name in six different states, including in Massachusetts.

The charge of wire fraud provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss, whichever is greater, and forfeiture. The charge of aggravated identity theft provides for a mandatory sentence of two years in prison to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins and Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent in Charge of Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations made the announcement today. Valuable assistance in the investigation was provided by the U.S. Postal Service and the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Markham of Rollins' Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit is prosecuting the case.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering

relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Massachusetts State Police Air Wing reunites with hunter they rescued last month

"Shortly before 9 p.m. on December 22, Troopers assigned to the State Police Air Wing scrambled in Air 3 to assist in the search for a missing hunter in a forest in Petersham. The helicopter's flight crew was able to locate the missing individual by the light on his cell phone while he was deep in the woods.

The Troopers established contact with him by using the PA system installed on Air 3, then lit up the area with their "Midnight Sun" spotlight to lead ground units to the man's location to complete the rescue.

Earlier today, the man, Herbert Moody, and his wife, Elizabeth Bassett, visited the Air Wing to express their gratitude.

"Thanks to all of you for being there, it went unbelievably smooth," Mr. Moody said. His wife added that her husband's rescue was the most wonderful Christmas gift the family could have received. The couple is seen in the photo with Lt. Kevin Kaupp (left), commander of the Air Wing, and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wilcox, commander of the Division of Homeland Security." -Massachusetts State Police.

Marion, Mattapoissett, Rochester Fire Departments respond to structure fire on Wareham Road

"Marion Fire/EMS responded to a reported structure on Wareham Rd.

On arrival crew's were met with heavy smoke from the rear of the building. Engine -1 made an aggressive interior attack and fire was knocked down quickly minimizing the damage.

Thank you to our mutual aid partners Mattapoissett Fire Rescue Wareham Fire Department Rochester Fire.

Responding Marion units:

- C-1
- A-3
- Engine 1
- Engine -2
- Ladder -1

Mutual Aid

- Wareham Fire
- Mattapoisett fire
- Rochester Fire
- Marion police” -Marion Fire/EMS.



Marion Fire/EMS photo.



Marion Fire/EMS photo.



Marion Fire/EMS photo.



Marion Fire/EMS photo.

Guatemalan national living in Massachusetts pleads guilty to illegal reentry

A Guatemalan national pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to illegally reentering the United States after deportation.

Darwin Geovani Herrera Orellana, 31, pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien. U.S. District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock scheduled sentencing for May 5, 2022. Herrera Orellana was indicted in September 2021.

Herrera Orellana was initially encountered in Arizona in 2009,

determined to be illegally present in the United States and subsequently deported. Sometime thereafter his removal, Herrera Orellana illegally reentered the United States and was arrested in Texas in 2012. Herrera Orellana was again placed into removal proceedings and deported.

In December 2020, Herrera Orellana was arrested in Waltham and charged with, among other things, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. In June 2021, he was convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and sentenced to 14 months in prison. In July 2021, while serving this sentence in the Middlesex County House of Correction, agents determined that Herrera Orellana was illegally present in the United States after the fingerprints from his Waltham arrest and noncitizen records were determined to be a positive match. Upon completion of his prison sentence, Herrera Orellana was subsequently transferred into federal custody where he remains detained.

The charge of unlawful reentry of a deported alien provides for a sentence of up to two years in prison, one year of supervised released and a fine of up to \$250,000. Herrera Orellana will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell and Todd M. Lyons, Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations in Boston made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth G. Shine of Mendell's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.