

Nevada man arrested by Dartmouth Police while allegedly driving stolen vehicle

"DARTMOUTH, MA – On Saturday, December 23, 2023 at approximately 4:33 a.m., members of the Dartmouth Police Department located a stolen Toyota SUV in the parking lot of the Best Western Dartmouth – New Bedford, located at #737 State Road.

While monitoring the vehicle, detectives assigned to the Community Impact Unit observed a male, later identified as Blake DICKENS, 39, of #6368 Canyon Dawn Avenue, Las Vegas, NV enter the vehicle and start it with a key.

After detectives had DICKENS turn the vehicle off, he was detained pending the outcome of their investigation.

As a result of the investigation, DICKENS was placed under arrest and charged with receiving a stolen motor vehicle, uttering, possession of a false/stolen registry document (2 counts), and possession of a Class E drug."-Dartmouth Police Department.



Dartmouth Police Department photo.

**Taunton Police charge New
Bedford man with home
invasion, intent to murder,**

victim shot

“Chief Edward J. Walsh reports that the Taunton Police Department arrested a New Bedford man after a resident was shot during an armed home invasion late Friday evening.

JOSHUA MANUEL DELEON, AGE 22, OF NEW BEDFORD was arrested and charged with:

- Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon
- Assault and Battery
- Assault with a Dangerous Weapon
- Armed Assault with Intent to Murder
- Possession of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony
- Home Invasion
- Possession of Ammunition without a FID Card
- Use of Body Armor in the Commission of a Felony
- Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number
- Discharge of a Firearm within 500 Feet of a Dwelling

On Friday, Dec. 22, at 10 p.m., Taunton Police responded to a home on Newcomb Place after 911 dispatches received a call from a cellphone around that location with a person screaming on the line. As two police officers arrived at a multi-unit house, dispatchers informed them that they had received reports of a firearm involved in an ongoing disturbance. Additional backup units were dispatched to the scene.

Officers announced their presence outside the home in question and a woman answered the door and allowed the officers to enter a second floor apartment. Inside, they found two men struggling on the ground, with one man on top of the other. Noting the report of the presence of a firearm, and fearing for their own safety and the safety of those around them, the officers unholstered their firearms and pointed them at the two men, ordering them to cease their struggle on the ground.

The men complied, and officers immediately noted that one of

the two was suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the leg. The officers called for an emergency medical response.

The suspect, identified as DELEON, was also injured, suffering head trauma and other injuries during the altercation. A firearm was found near his person, and officers noted that he was wearing body armor. Officers later found two additional firearms as well as three bullet casings from the floor.

Police noted that, based on apparent bullet holes, an apartment above, on the third floor, may have been fired into during the struggle. Officers met with a woman who lives on the third floor and ascertained that she – and her four children inside the apartment – were frightened but not injured.

DELEON was transported to a local hospital before being transferred by medical helicopter to a Boston Hospital, where he is being treated, in police custody, for serious injuries sustained in the altercation. The other male, who was shot, was taken to a different hospital where he was being treated overnight and is expected to recover.

The two men are known to each other and that this incident was not a random act of violence. It is believed that the conflict originated in a different community and spilled over to Taunton.

The Taunton Fire Department responded to the scene and provided emergency medical services.

These are allegations. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty.”-Taunton Police Department.

New Bedford Police Department responds to shots-fired early Friday night

At approximately 8:00pm, Friday night, the New Bedford Police Department received several reports of “shots fired” in the city’s North End.

Upon arrival to Worcester Street not far from the Burger King and railroad tracks, police officers and New Bedford EMS discovered one adult male suffering from a gunshot wound.

It is early in the investigation so at this point police are unsure what led up to the shooting.

Lt. Scott Carola said the adult male has non-life threatening injuries.

This is an ongoing story and we will update this article with more details as they come in.

West Bridgewater Man Who Rented A Room at a Day Care Arrested for Child Pornography

A West Bridgewater man was arrested yesterday for allegedly receiving child pornography from an online communication application.

Juan Levano, 23, was charged by criminal complaint with one count of receipt of child pornography. Levano was arrested yesterday morning and, following an initial appearance in federal court in Boston, remains in federal custody.

According to the charging documents, an investigation into an internet-based communications application used for the trafficking of child pornography identified Levano as a likely user of the platform who participated in at least two groups where child pornography was disseminated.

Search warrants were executed yesterday at the residence where Levano resides and seized various electronic devices. According to the charging documents, Levano rented a room at the residence, which is registered as a residential daycare. Both Levano and the owner of the residence denied that Levano worked at the residential daycare and denied that Levano had any contact with the children who attend it.

It is alleged that Levano admitted to being a member of several groups on the chat application and obtaining child pornography from those groups – estimating that his collection included imagery of children ranging from infancy to 13 years old. A preliminary review of Levano's phone allegedly revealed that Levano was a member of several active groups on the platform that included the exchange of child pornography. It is further alleged that more than 100 video and image files were identified, most of which appear to depict child pornography, and stored in a photo application on Levano's phone. Forensic analysis of the seized devices is ongoing.

The charge of receipt of child pornography provides for a sentence of at least five 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 court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Members of the public who have questions, concerns or information regarding this case should call 617-748-3274.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the West Bridgewater Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica L. Soto of the Office's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. 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 <https://www.justice.gov/psc>.

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.

42-year-old New Bedford man caught cooking crack-cocaine sentenced to state prison

"A 42-year-old New Bedford man was convicted of cocaine trafficking recently after a four-day jury trial in Fall River

Superior Court, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Wilson Andino was subsequently sentenced last week by Judge Daniel O'Shea to serve three-and-a-half to five-and-a-half years in state prison.

On February 4, 2022, New Bedford Police detectives executed a search warrant at a Carpo Street address. When officers got inside, they found the defendant essentially cooking crack-cocaine for distribution on a kitchen stove. He was observed in the kitchen with a measuring cup, filled with 99 grams of cocaine, spoons, knives, baking soda and two pots of boiling water in front of him.

The defendant has previously served jail or prison time for at least four other drug distribution cases dating all the way back to the late 1990s.

The trial was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Danielle Pixley.

"This defendant was caught in the act of processing crack cocaine for street sale. He has a history replete with drug distribution offenses and needs to be kept off the streets to stop him from continuing to profit off the addictions of others," District Attorney Quinn said."-District Attorney Quinn's Office.

29-Year Old New Bedford Man Convicted of Repeatedly

Raping 12-Year Old Girl

A 29-year-old New Bedford man was convicted by a jury of his peers recently of repeatedly raping and molesting a 12-year-old girl, who viewed him as a father, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Christopher Baez-Rivera was convicted after a two-week long jury trial in Fall River Superior Court. He was sentenced last Thursday by Judge Thomas McGuire to serve 12 to 15 years in state prison, to be followed by five years of supervised probation. The trial was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Canan Yesilcimen.

The defendant's mother became the guardian of the young victim when she was four years old. The rapes and molestation occurred in New Bedford while the defendant was living in the same home with the victim in 2020 and 2021.

The jury deliberated for just under four hours before convicting the defendant.

"The defendant took advantage of his relationship with and access to the victim. She was only 12 years old when he repeatedly raped her. I commend the victim for coming forward and persevering through this very difficult ordeal. I hope she can move forward with her life," District Attorney Quinn said.

Dominican woman living in Massachusetts sentenced for

Fentanyl trafficking for Mexican Sinaloa Cartel

"BOSTON – A Dominican woman has been sentenced for possessing seven kilograms of fentanyl as well as one kilogram of fentanyl and fentanyl analogue intended for distribution.

Ana Checo, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani on Dec. 7, 2023 to 135 months in prison and five years of supervised release. On Sept. 6, 2023, Checo pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl and 100 grams or more of valeryl fentanyl and one count of money laundering conspiracy.

"The devastating impact fentanyl continues to have on our communities cannot be overstated," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. "This sentence underscores our unwavering determination to identify and bring to justice those responsible for putting deadly fentanyl on our streets. Our office will continue to use every resource at our disposal to dismantle criminal enterprises that seek to profit off of addiction and misery."

"Fentanyl is causing tremendous damage to the state of Massachusetts," said Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Division. "Let this sentence be a warning to those traffickers who are distributing this poison in order to profit and destroy people's lives. DEA's top priority is combatting the opioid epidemic by working with our local, county, state and federal partners to bring to justice anyone who distributes this deadly drug."

In June 2019, Checo was identified as a member of a large-scale drug trafficking and money laundering organization

working with drug suppliers based in Sinaloa, Mexico. Specifically, Checo was responsible for receiving narcotics – namely fentanyl – from the drug suppliers for distribution in Massachusetts, as well as delivering drug proceeds in bulk cash to money launderers who laundered the proceeds back to the suppliers in Mexico.

In June 2019, Checo delivered \$58,510 in drug proceeds to an undercover officer for laundering. In July 2019, a search of Checo's residence resulted in the recovery of approximately over 12 kilograms of narcotics – including seven kilograms of fentanyl, four kilograms of tramadol, one kilogram of a fentanyl and fentanyl analogue mixture and half a kilogram of a hallucinogen. The drugs were found stored in bags inside Checo's bedroom closet as well as her daughter's bedroom closet. Also seized was \$18,325 in cash as well as several notebooks that detailed drug transactions dating back to 2017.

In April 2020, Checo arranged to deliver \$250,000 in bulk cash to an undercover agent posing as a money launderer who had accepted a contract to launder the money from a money broker. Similarly, in April and May 2021, Checo arranged to deliver \$100,000 to undercover agents posing as money launderers who had accepted contracts to launder the money from money brokers.

In April 2020, nearly \$250,000 in bundled cash was seized from Checo as she was traveling to deliver the money to an undercover officer for laundering. Similarly, over two separate occasions in April and May 2021, Checo delivered a total of \$200,000 to undercover agents for laundering. On May 26, 2021, in Peabody, Mass., Checo met with a tractor trailer driver and received a suitcase that contained 55 kilograms of fentanyl – worth over \$1 million. The fentanyl was ultimately seized later that day.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy and DEA SAC Boyle made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Katherine Ferguson of

the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case.”-
Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Dartmouth woman arrested, charged with a scheme to embezzle \$280,000 from her employer

“A former employee of a Bristol County industrial company was arrested and charged today in connection with a scheme to embezzle more than \$280,000 from her employer.

Jasmyne Botelho, 41, was charged with one count of wire fraud. Botelho was arrested this morning and, following an initial appearance in federal court in Boston today, was released on conditions.

According to the charging documents, between September 2017 and April 2020, Botelho stole at least \$280,000 from her employer. Botelho allegedly directed payments purportedly intended for the company’s vendors to bank accounts she controlled and used company funds to make payments on personal credit cards and auto loans. To hide her scheme, Botelho allegedly falsified her employer’s books and records to make it appear as though the payments had in fact been sent to legitimate vendors rather than to Botelho.

The charge of wire fraud provides a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes

which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristen A. Kearney of the Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging document are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in the court of law.”-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Texas man pleads guilty to threatening doctor at Massachusetts LGBTQIA+ health center

“BOSTON – A Texas man pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to threatening a Boston doctor who provided care for members of the transgender community.

Matthew Jordan Lindner, 39, of Comfort, Texas, pleaded guilty to one count of interstate transmission of threatening communication. Senior U.S. District Judge William G. Young scheduled sentencing for Feb. 6, 2024. Lindner was arrested in Texas and charged on Dec. 2, 2022. He was subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston on Dec. 15, 2022.

In August 2022, inaccurate information spread online regarding

procedures doctors at Boston Children's Hospital were performing for gender nonconforming children. On Aug. 31, 2022, in the midst of social media vitriol directed at health care providers who serve transgender patients, Lindner called the Boston-based National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center and left a threatening voicemail targeting one of the Center's affiliated doctors. In that voicemail, Lindner said: "You sick motherf*****s, you're all gonna burn. There's a group of people on their way to handle [victim]. You signed your own warrant, lady. Castrating our children. You've woken up enough people. And upset enough of us. And you signed your own ticket. Sleep well, you f***** c***."

"Doctors who serve pediatric patients, including the victim in this case and staff at Boston Children's Hospital, have dedicated their professional lives to treating children. They should be celebrated for their contributions to so many in their time of need. Instead, this defendant threatened a doctor with violence just for doing her job. This conduct is deplorable and sends a chill through the medical community," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. "Hate and bigotry have no place in Massachusetts. Our office will stop at no end to protect the safety of all members of our community. We will continue to do all that we can to ensure individuals who engage in such behavior are identified, prosecuted and held accountable."

"There is no way to undo the damage Matthew Lindner did to this physician, with his hateful, repulsive, and threatening behavior," said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. "No one should have to live in fear of violence because of who they are, what kind of work they do, or what they believe. This case, sadly, is just one example of the FBI's ongoing commitment to bring to justice anyone who violates federal law, including those who threaten violence."

After leaving the threatening voicemail, Lindner continued to

try to contact the victim. To that end, he called the victim's former medical practice and a university where the victim was a faculty member.

The charge of interstate transmission of threatening communication provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Brian A. Fogerty and K. Nathaniel Yeager of the Criminal Division are prosecuting the case." - Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Massachusetts State Police seek public help IDing erratic, speeding driver who caused fatal rollover

"At approximately 8:40 AM Massachusetts State Troopers responded to a rollover crash on Route 93 north in Stoneham that resulted in the death of a 34-year-old woman.

The victim was driving a 2015 Nissan Rogue sport utility vehicle northbound on Route 93. For reasons still under

investigation, the vehicle rolled over south of Exit 26. The driver was ejected and was determined to be deceased on scene. Her name is not being released at this time.

The State Police are seeking to identify another vehicle that was in the area at the time of the crash, which is believed to be a dark-colored small SUV similar to a Subaru Crosstrek or a Nissan Rogue. That vehicle was being operated erratically and at a high rate of speed on Route 93 north in Medford and Stoneham between 8:25 and 8:40 AM. Anyone who may have seen this vehicle or has information about it is asked to call Trooper CJ Murgo at the State Police Detective Unit for Middlesex County at 781-897-6609 or the State Police-Medford Barracks at 781-396-0100.

The ongoing crash investigation is being conducted by the State Police-Medford Barracks, the State Police Detective Unit for Middlesex County, the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, and the State Police Crime Scene Services Section."- Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.