

Salvadoran National Charged with Failing to Register as a Sex Offender

A previously deported Salvadoran national appeared in federal court in Boston today to face the charge of failure to register as a sex offender.

Oscar Alfaro, 46, is in state custody in connection with sexual assault charges stemming from a 2016 incident in Newbury. On Dec. 21, 2017, Alfaro was indicted in federal court on one count of failure to register as a sex offender.

In 2008, Alfaro was convicted in Virginia state court for taking indecent liberties with a child. As a result, Alfaro was required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction where he lives or works. Following his 2008 conviction, Alfaro was deported.

In March 2016, Alfaro committed an indecent assault and battery in Massachusetts, which qualified as a sex offense under Massachusetts state law. After the assault, Alfaro left Massachusetts. The U.S. Marshals Service located and apprehended Alfaro in Virginia in November 2017 and returned him to Massachusetts to face the state sexual assault charges.

Failing to register as a sex offender provides for a sentence of no greater than 10 years in prison, a minimum of five years and up to lifetime supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000. Alfaro will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and John Gibbons, United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts, made

the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Paruti, Lelling's Project Safe Childhood Coordinator and a member of the 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/.

Wareham-New Bedford bus line starts running Monday-Friday on Jan 2.

Starting on January 2, 2018 the Wareham-New Bedford will now be running Monday-Friday.

Travel between Wareham and New Bedford using the Wareham-New Bedford Connection. The route originates at the New Bedford Terminal and travels along Route 6 between Fairhaven and Wareham.

This route is a flag route. You can wave the bus down anywhere along the route and the bus will stop as long as it is safe to do so.

HOURS

Monday – Friday

7:30AM-11:30AM

2:00PM-6:00PM

Full Fare.....\$1.50

Reduced Fare*.....\$0.75

Children under 6 years old...Free

*Reduced fare for senior citizens (ages 60+), children 6-11 years old, registered disabled, Medicare recipients

CASH ONLY

EXACT FARE REQUIRED

Transfers are not available to/from this service

Wareham-New-Bedford-Connection-Schedule-final-2

VIDEO: Mass. State Police Air Wing locates suicidal man in woods during frigid temperature

On December 29, just before 10:00 p.m., Troopers Kevin Doyle and Eric Fairchild, who are assigned to the State Police Air Wing, were monitoring a search in Hatfield, where Hatfield Police and troopers assigned to the State Police Northampton Barracks were searching for a man who had made threats against himself, then fled a residence into the woods. It was also learned that the man also had felony warrants for his arrest. The man was not dressed for the zero degree weather.

Troopers Fairchild and Doyle, located the man in the woods

using the helicopters FLIR, and guided ground officers and troopers to the man. When they located the man on the ground, he had covered himself with snow and was laying on the bank of a ice covered pond.

The man was guided out of the woods and transported to a local hospital and treated for exposure. Hatfield Police will handle the arrest once he is released from the hospital.

Fairhaven police report gift card scam that targets the elderly

From the Fairhaven Police Department:

“It has been reported to our department that an elder has been scammed with the gift card scam. An unknown male made contact with the female and told her she needed to go to a local retailer and purchase large sum gift cards. She did so as many times as she was asked and gave them the gift card numbers on the cards she purchased. If you work in retail, have elders in your family, or anyone for that matter, please pass on that no one will offer to reimburse you over the phone using gift cards. No agency or utility company will call for payment over the phone.

If you get a call like this, call the police when in doubt. If someone comes into a store where you work looking to purchase large sum gift cards it is okay to call the police while they are there in order for us to talk to them. Often, the callers tell them to say it's a gift and threaten them if they don't follow directions.”

Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge in Fairhaven postponed to later date TBD

From the organizers:

“Due to the forecast of extreme frigid temperatures and the utmost concern for our volunteers (registration crew,DJ, EMT’s/fire department/police) and, most of all for our courageous participants, the committee has decided to postpone the 2018 Ft. Phoenix Polar Plunge scheduled for New Year’s day to a later, warmer date.

Our event is free but we raise funds for our FDS Scholarships by the sale of event t-shirts. We will still be at Days Health & Sports on Saturday, Dec 30th from 2-4 p.m. – selling event shirts and accepting donations to benefit: Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars Scholarships in memory of Fairhaven’s domestic violence victims. Or, you can mail a check made out to: FDS Polar Plunge Scholarship, c/o 100 Cedar Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Please check this site for the rescheduled date to be posted after confirmation with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Our apologies for the delay in making the decision, we were hoping that maybe the forecast would change!”

Fire fighters from five towns battle Acushnet fire on Gammons Road

At 3:24am this morning a fire was reported at a residence on Gammons Road. Upon the arrival of emergency personnel it was determined that the occupants of the building had evacuated without injury. Firefighters observed fire in the front, rear and through the roof of the building at the time of their arrival.

The fire was fought from outside the building due to structural concerns. It took firefighters 45 minutes, in single digit temperatures, to extinguish the blaze.

Mutual aid was received from the Fairhaven (ladder truck), Mattapoisett (engine), Rochester (tanker) and Freetown (station coverage) Fire Departments.

"We are very thankful that the occupants are safe and that there were no injuries to first responders," stated Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin A. Gallagher. "There was a tremendous amount of fire and ice".

Investigators from the State Fire Marshal's office are presently on scene conducting an investigation. The Red Cross is providing assistance.



Raid by State Police and Taunton Police Nets Two Arrests, Guns, Cocaine, Crystal Meth and Other Drugs

Massachusetts State Police and Taunton Police, along with members of a regional gang task force, yesterday executed a search warrant at Taunton home that resulted in arrests of two suspected drug dealers and the seizure of two illegally possessed guns, assorted narcotics including suspected cocaine and crystal methamphetamine, ammunition and US currency.

As a result of an investigation, the State Police Gang Unit and Taunton Police obtained a search warrant for 152 Dunbar St. The State Police Special Tactical Operations (STOP) Team made entry into the residence early yesterday morning. The units were assisted by the State Police Troop D Community Action Team and the Southeastern Massachusetts Gang Task Force.

Seized pursuant to the search warrant were a Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter semi-automatic firearm believed to have been stolen; a Colt .38 caliber revolver; 13 rounds of 9 millimeter ammunition and 12 rounds of .38 caliber ammunition; four clear plastic bags of a substance believed to be cocaine; 585 assorted pills; approximately 100 suboxone strips; two clear plastic bags of a substance believed to be crystal methamphetamine; a bag of mushrooms; a quantity of marijuana greater than what is legally permitted; and \$1,950 in US currency.

Troopers and officers arrested JOHN JEFFREYS, 43, and KAYLA M. MALAGUTI, 29, both of that address. They are charged with unlawful possession of the firearms and ammunition;

trafficking in cocaine; unlawful possession with intent to distribute of Class B crystal methamphetamine; unlawful possession of Class B, C, and D pills; unlawful possession of Class C mushrooms; unlawful possession with intent to distribute of Class D marijuana; and unlawful possession with intent to distribute of Class B suboxone.

JEFFREYS and MALAGUTI were expected to be arraigned in Taunton District Court.

New Bedford Emergency Overflow Shelter Open Tonight, Dec. 29

he overflow will be opened again tonight due to the frigid temperatures. All inquiries can be forwarded to Sister Rose House and 1-800-homeless.

Hyannis Pet Smart employee suffers serious injuries from dog attack

On Wednesday, December 27, at approximately 11:15am, the Barnstable Police received a report of a dog bite at Pet Smart in Hyannis. Upon arrival, Patrolman Doug Palmer found a trail

of blood leading from the grooming area, through the customer aisle and training area, around the corner and into the employee lounge. In the lounge, officers found a 22 year old Pet Smart employee being treated by co-workers for multiple bite wounds. As a result of the severity of the injuries – described as bite wounds to her upper torso, wrist and hand, as well as extensive tearing of the flesh, possible broken bones and a suspected dislocated shoulder – Hyannis Fire Department Rescue also responded to the scene.

The victim stated that the owner of the dog, a Pit Bull mix, brought him in wearing a muzzle, requesting that he be groomed. When asked about the muzzle, the owner simply told the employees that the dog had previously attacked another dog, and stated that the dog was “sweet as can be,” while failing to disclose that he had also attacked a person, which Pet Smart states would have resulted in services being declined. The victim stated that store policy required that the muzzle be removed in the grooming area, and that the owner was informed.

During the grooming process, while the dog was being moved, for no apparent reason and without warning, the dog attacked the victim and would not let go of her arm. Co-workers utilized an air horn and special spray, but were not able to deter the dog, until they were able to physically extract the victim’s arm from the jaws of the dog. They secured the dog in a kennel cage and brought the victim to the employee lounge.

Due to the severity of the victim’s injuries, Hyannis Fire Department Rescue stabilized her at the scene, transported her to Cape Cod Hospital, and she was later flown to Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston for treatment. Her condition at this time is not known.

Following this incident, the dog, per state policy, was released to the owner and ordered to be kept under in-house quarantine for ten (10) days, and the Town of Sandwich Police

and Animal Control were notified.

Massachusetts New Year's Holiday Travel Advisory

- All MBTA service free after 8 p.m., Sunday, December 31
- Free coffee at 18 MassDOT service plazas Sunday night, December 31
- Scheduled road work shutting down at 12 p.m., Friday, December 29
- Registry of Motor Vehicles service centers closed Monday, January 1

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, MBTA, and Massachusetts State Police remind travelers to plan ahead for the New Year's holiday, take public transportation if possible, and drive sober and limit distractions if behind the wheel of a vehicle.

"We encourage everyone who is traveling or celebrating this New Year's Eve to make smart decisions in order to safely enjoy the holiday with family and friends," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "The MBTA will provide free service for all forms of transportation after 8 p.m., and drivers should minimize distractions, remain sober or use a designated driver, and exercise safe driving habits at all times."

"Travelers should monitor weather and road conditions, try out our online resources such as mass511.com or our GoTime travel app, and make the appropriate decisions on route and timing of travel," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Our first priority is safety, and we advise the public to make

travel plans or accommodations before they head out and celebrate in order to ensure this is a safe and happy New Year.”

“Troopers will be on the lookout for any signs of impairment by motorists, and for any other dangerous driving behaviors,” said Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin, superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police. “Please make smart decisions about getting behind the wheel so everyone can have a safe and happy new year.”

MassDOT is taking steps to ensure safe and reliable travel for all citizens who utilize transportation systems across the Commonwealth and will be shutting down scheduled roadway construction for the New Year’s holiday travel period effective at 12 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017. Normal scheduled construction operations will resume at the start of business on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

For traffic and road conditions, drivers may use the following options to make decisions:

- Download MassDOT’s GoTime mobile app and view real-time traffic conditions before setting out on the road.
- Download Waze, the real-time traffic navigation app that provides motorists with real-time traffic conditions across Massachusetts.
- Visit mass511.com to view travel times, road construction, traffic alerts or crashes along a route. Incidents, road closures, lane closures, real-time live traffic cameras, and weather alerts/forecasts, can all be viewed on the interactive live Traffic Map.
- Dial 511 from a landline or cell phone to hear information on current conditions on major roadways.
- Register for a Mass511 account to create and personalize routes and alerts to be notified of events on those routes ahead of time.
- Check MassDOT Highway Traffic and Travel Resources.

-Follow MassDOT on Twitter @MassDOT as incidents that impact traffic flow are generally mentioned in tweets if they occur on the state's major highways.

The MBTA has also announced the following schedule information:

- All MBTA services will be free after 8 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2017, until the end of service.
- All subway lines will operate a Sunday schedule on Sunday, December 31, 2017, with additional trains operating at rush-hour levels of service from 3 p.m., until approximately 2 a.m. On Monday, January 1, 2018, all subway lines will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- On Sunday, December 31, 2017, the Commuter Rail will operate a modified Sunday schedule with additional outbound service on some lines beginning at 1 a.m. Trains will make all stops en route to their destinations and customers must arrive prior to the departure times. Bicycles are also prohibited on all inbound Commuter Rail trains between 10 a.m., and 6 p.m., and all outbound trains from 4 p.m., through the end of service on New Year's Eve.
- Buses will operate on a regular Sunday schedule on Sunday, December 31, 2017, and Monday, January 1, 2018.
- On Sunday, December 31, 2017, Charlestown ferry service will operate on a weekend schedule, and there will be no Hingham or Hull ferry service.
- On Monday, January 1, 2018, there will be no Hingham, Hull, or Charlestown ferry service.
- The RIDE will operate on a Sunday schedule on Sunday, December 31, 2017, and will offer late-night service until 2 a.m. On Monday, January 1, 2018, The RIDE will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- More information can be found by viewing the full MBTA holiday schedule.

Free coffee will be served at the 18 MassDOT service plazas

from 10 p.m., Sunday, December 31, 2017, through 5 a.m., Monday, January 1, 2018. The plazas serving free coffee include 11 service plazas along I-90 plus plazas along Route 3 in Plymouth, Route 128 in Beverly, Route 128/I-95 in Newton and Lexington, Route 6 in Barnstable, and the Route 24 northbound and southbound plazas.

The High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on I-93 between Boston and Quincy will have normal morning hours this week and will extend its afternoon hours to be open from 2 p.m., to 8 p.m., on Thursday, December 28, 2017, and from 1 p.m., to 8 p.m., on Friday, December 29, 2018. The HOV lane will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018, and will resume normal operations on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports that all travel lanes on the Cape Cod Canal's Sagamore and Bourne bridges will be open Thursday, December 28, 2017, through Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

For anyone traveling by air during the New Year's holiday, you may continue to use any documents you have used recently to board airplanes. Massachusetts residents will not need a REAL ID credential for air travel until October 2020. In addition, Massachusetts residents with a valid U.S. passport or passport card never need a REAL ID. For more information please visit REAL ID online.

Customers are also advised that the Registry of Motor Vehicles offices are closed for the designated state holiday of New Year's Day on Monday, January 1, 2018. Please visit at any hour of the day, the RMV website: www.massrmv.com . In addition, AAA members now have the opportunity to conduct many RMV services at 33 AAA branch office locations in Massachusetts during AAA normal business hours.

At Boston Logan Airport, travelers should monitor www.massport.com for updated airline and airport information

and Transportation Security Administration carry-on luggage regulations, The Massport website allows travelers to check flight status, parking conditions and public transportation options from smartphones or tablets. Massport also encourages travelers to check with their airlines before heading to the airport for the most updated flight status and travel information.

Drivers are reminded to avoid littering on roadways. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$5,500 for the first offense.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation wishes all members of the public a safe and enjoyable holiday.