

# **Mark's Beverages in New Bedford victim of armed robbery by man with mask**

Mark's Beverages on 642 County Street in New Bedford was the victim of an armed robbery by a man with a mask at 9:41pm on Wednesday. The Tedeschi on 450 Ashley BLVD was also a victim of an armed robbery by a man with a mask at 11:48pm. Not sure if these robberies are related.

At least one retail location has been robbed in New Bedford since at least Saturday.

Video by Carlos Pimentel Felix.

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# **New Bedford police seize 50 grams of cocaine, two firearms and \$6,000 in cash**

Narcotics and gang detectives continued their targeted assault in the North Front Street area, which led to the seizure of more than 50 grams of cocaine, two firearms and more than \$6,000 in cash on Wednesday at 3:18 p.m.

Yamil C. Matos, 38, of 20 Holly St. Apt. 1, New Bedford, was arrested Wednesday on charges of trafficking in cocaine over 35 grams and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

The arrest was the result of an investigation into a cocaine distribution service from this address. Police recovered 58

grams of cocaine, crack cocaine, a digital scale, packaging material and \$6,394 in cash.

Police also recovered two loaded firearms, one in the area of 141 Coggeshall St. and the other at 7 Bonneau Court.

Earlier that same day, police arrested Ruben Madeira, 37, of 53 Washington St., for carrying a firearm without a license, possession of a large capacity firearm, carrying a loaded firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition and unlawful possession of a large capacity shotgun/rifle in connection with the Coggeshall Street seizure.

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## **New Bedford Police take 700 grams of cocaine, 95 grams of heroin, worth \$80,000 off the streets**

Members of the New Bedford Police Department narcotics unit took 700 grams of cocaine and 95 grams of heroin off the streets Tuesday with the arrest of four men for trafficking in cocaine and other charges.

Detectives estimate the value of the heroin and cocaine at \$80,000. The arrests were the result of an ongoing investigation into a drug delivery operation. The four men were arrested after two vehicles were stopped in the area of Route 18 and Potomska Street.

Those arrested were:

Eduardo Aguilar-Serrano, 30, of 177 Deane St. Apt. 1, New

Bedford. Charged with trafficking in cocaine over 200 grams, receiving a stolen motor vehicle, conspiracy to violate drug laws, trafficking in heroin, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

Kevin Rojas, 22, of 85 Rivet St. Apt. 1, New Bedford. Charged with trafficking in cocaine over 200 grams, trafficking in heroin, possession of cocaine, possession of heroin, receiving a stolen motor vehicle and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Jhonatan Francisco, 30, 75 Wayne St., Apt. 1st, Providence, R. I. Charged with trafficking in cocaine over 200 grams, possession of cocaine and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Carlos Cruzado, 40, of 336 Briden St. Apt. 1, Providence, R. I. Charged with Charged with trafficking in cocaine over 200 grams, conspiracy to violate drug laws.

The New Bedford narcotics unit continues to crack down on major drug dealers who are supplying the city with illegal narcotics. This case follows the seizure Saturday of a kilo of cocaine, which led to another arrest for drug trafficking.

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## **Two men rob JC's Corner Variety Store in New Bedford with a gun**

Police are investigating an armed robbery Tuesday night at JC's Corner Variety Store, 377 Cedar St.

Police were called to the store at 7:48 p.m. when a clerk reported that two men entered the store armed with a suspected firearm. The two men forced their way behind the counter, with

one of the men jumping over it.

The clerk said one of the men pointed the suspected firearm at him and demanded money.

The men stole cash, and cartons and packs of cigarettes and food from the counter, which they placed in a backpack. They fled on foot north on Cedar Street, followed by a blue Chevy Trailblazer that might have been involved.

The males were described as white males in their early 20s dressed in black clothing with black hooded sweatshirts.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police department at 508-991-6350 or the anonymous tip line at 508-992-7463 or e-mail [tip@newbedfordpd.com](mailto:tip@newbedfordpd.com).

Video by Carlos Pimentel Felix

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## **Dartmouth High School Student, Colby Lima, Collected Nearly 1,000 Books For The Boys & Girls Club Of Greater New Bedford**

Wow! Dartmouth High School senior, Colby Lima, recently visited the Boys & Girls Club in New Bedford to speak to Club members about why he decided to coordinate a book drive.

“I wanted to think of a way to help others and decided to organize a book drive due to my love of reading.” Colby shared

with the boys and girls, "Growing up I always enjoyed reading and wanted to share the experience with other kids who might not have that opportunity for various reasons. I decided to name the project "Wish Upon a Page – Give the Gift of Knowledge". Colby explained that he was overwhelmed by the generous support from his fellow Dartmouth High School students and also donors who recently dropped off books at Shaw's in Dartmouth.

"Starting out, I never expected to be able to collect so many great books and I was surprised that so many people came out to support my love of learning and goal of sharing with others," he said.

Colby, along with his mom and sister, hung out with Club members for over an hour answering questions and helping them to find an appropriate book to bring home. He said, "I hope my project will inspire other kids to reach out and to use their imaginations to find ways to help others too." Colby's future endeavors include going to college to pursue an English degree and eventually become a teacher.



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## **Habitual Drug Offender Involved in Chase and Crash Into Police Cruiser Sentenced to Prison**

A 37-year-old Fall River man indicted for striking a Massachusetts State Police Cruiser, fleeing the scene and distributing heroin was sentenced last week to serve five to six years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced today.

Eric Almeida pleaded guilty last Thursday in Fall River Superior Court to charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (habitual offender), operating a motor

vehicle to endanger (habitual offender), leaving the scene of property damage (habitual offender), possession with intent to distribute heroin (habitual offender) and possession of cocaine.

On November 20, 2015, while the defendant was driving in The City of New Bedford, an Environmental Police Officer attempted to stop the defendant's vehicle after the defendant was witnessed obstructing an intersection on South Front Street.

The defendant chose to flee and led Massachusetts State Police, Environmental Police and New Bedford Police on a chase through various sections of the city. During the chase, the defendant struck a police cruiser in an effort to get away. No one was injured in the crash.

The defendant eventually left his vehicle in a parking lot on South Street and fled on foot before being apprehended by Massachusetts State Police troopers.

The defendant was found to be in possession of 36 bags of heroin and a small amount of cocaine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Strojny and the sentence was handed down by Judge Raffi Yessayan.

"This defendant has a history of dealing drugs," said District Attorney Quinn. "This sentence will keep him off the streets for up to six years, which is necessary to protect the community and stop him from selling drugs."

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# Five overdoses in New Bedford on Monday

New Bedford police report five overdoses in New Bedford on Monday, January 16th, 2017; three heroin overdoses and two prescription medication overdoses. The heroin overdoses involved a 43-year old male, 66-year old male and a 31-year old female. The overdoses occurred on Union Street, New Plainville Road, Acushnet Ave, Tallman Street, and Linden Street.

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## New Bedford Police investigate three armed robberies, likely related, over weekend

Police are stepping up patrols after three armed robberies believed to be related, two at the same location, were reported at area convenience stores.

At 7:24 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, police received a report of armed robbery at XtraMart, 117 Durfee St. A clerk told police a white man wearing a black hoodie, grey sweatpants showed a stun gun-like device to the clerk, stole money and fled west on Durfee Street and south on Caroline Street, where he possibly got into a tan older vehicle.

At 9:26 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15 at the same location, police received a report of a black male, 20 to 30 years old and



about 5'6'' tall robbed the store, brandishing a stun gun-like device. The suspect was said to be wearing black pants, a black hooded jacket and a black bandana with purple markings. He stole cash and then may have fled on a bicycle, headed west on Durfee Street.

At 7:11 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, police responded to a report of an armed robbery at Bizarro Food Mart, 556 Kempton St. The clerk told police a suspect described as a male wearing black pants, black shirt and a winter hat with his face covered displayed a black cylindrical object. He stole cash and then left the store, headed north on Newton St.

New Bedford police are investigating. Anyone with information is asked to call the police department at 508-991-6350 or the anonymous tip line at 508-992-7463 or e-mail [tip@newbedfordpd.com](mailto:tip@newbedfordpd.com).

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## **45-year old Berkley man arrested for robbing gas station with hand saw**

Yesterday, at about 12:19 a.m., Troopers Kyle Duarte and Paul Minahan responded to the Mobil Gas Station on Route 24 South for an armed robbery investigation. The store clerk said he was held up by a male subject wearing a green jacket and dark hoodie brandishing a small hand saw. He stole \$82.00 from the register and eight packs of Marlboro cigarettes. The subject quickly fled the store in a dark gray vehicle.

During their investigation, troopers overheard radio transmissions that Brockton PD then West Bridgewater PD was in

pursuit of a gray vehicle. West Bridgewater Police stopped the vehicle on Route 24 North in West Bridgewater but the operator fled and ran across the highway toward the median and onto the southbound side toward the wood line. Troopers Duarte and Minihan responded to assist.

A female passenger, identified as JENNIFER MURPHY, 28 of Brockton was placed under arrest for possession of Class B, crack cocaine which was located on the front passenger seat. A search of her person recovered the 8 packs of Marlboro cigarettes stolen from the Mobil gas Station. MURPHY was transported to the State Police Barracks in Middleboro where she was booked and charged with possession of Class B Crack Cocaine and Receiving Stolen Property under \$250. West Bridgewater Police Sergeant Russell Regan assisted.

As a result of a search of the motor vehicle, a small hand saw, a green jacket and a \$10.00 bill was located and seized as evidence.

At approximately 1:46 a.m., Trooper Minihan and West Bridgewater Officer Flaherty and his K9 located the male operator, later identified as JAMES ELLIS, 45 of Berkley, in the area of Manley Street in West Bridgewater. A glass pipe believed to contain crack cocaine residue was found in ELLIS' pants pocket. ELLIS was transported to the State Police Barracks in Middleboro where he was booked and then transported to the Plymouth House of Correction where he will be held pending his arraignment in Brockton District Court on Tuesday.

JAMES ELLIS was charged with the following offenses:

1. Armed Robbery
2. Assault with a Dangerous Weapon to wit: Small Hand Saw
3. Threat to Commit a Crime

4. Intimidation of a Witness
  5. Possession of Class B (2 counts)
  6. Possession of a Dangerous Weapon
  7. Larceny Over \$250
  8. Larceny Under \$250
  9. Default Warrant
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## Current State of Gambling in the Bay State

Massachusetts is one of the most popular states for Tourism in the US, with the vibrant city of Boston, the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and historical sites like Plymouth Rock drawing millions of visitors from around the world each year. As tourism numbers continue to grow, state officials have spotted the potential and are looking to turn Massachusetts into a big name in gambling. The Expanded Gaming Act, passed in 2011, has allowed several casino licenses to be offered to the best tender. There is already one casino open and two others under construction, with voters being asked as part of the recent presidential election ballot whether another slot casino license should be granted.

Alongside the confirmed or completed casinos, there is also an expectation for a further resort to be built in South Eastern Massachusetts, although a large development plan fell through in the coastal city of New Bedford in 2015. The goal of expanding the number of casinos in the state follows on from projected growth in the gaming industry, as well as the desire to compete with Las Vegas as the United States' major gaming centre. The initial phase of casinos has already passed but more license grants should follow.

The MGM resort in Springfield is slated for a 2018 opening and will be the first big-name casino to open in the state. MGM are [taking a huge gamble](#) on Massachusetts becoming a successful gaming hub and have committed millions to the Springfield project. The Wynn Boston Harbour is also taking advantage of the relaxation of casino licenses in the state, breaking ground in 2014. This huge complex will not only feature a hotel and casino, but public amenities such as parks, boating docks and gardens.

Both of the federally recognised Native American tribes in Massachusetts have also applied for gaming licenses, with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe campaigning hard to open a Casino on an industrial site in Taunton. The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head also plan to open a casino in Aquinnah on the island of Martha's Vineyard, although full planning and sign off are still required.

One casino is already open to the public, offering modern slot gaming to the general public. Horse racing has been popular in Massachusetts for decades and the states only racetrack, Plainridge Park, is now home to a luxury casino which opened in 2015. The main gambling floor features slot machines, video poker and video blackjack. Make sure you brush up on your blackjack skills by reading a comprehensive blackjack guide before paying a visit.

It is clear that Massachusetts will continue to develop their gaming industry to benefit from an increasing interest in gambling and a more relaxed government outlook toward licensing and regulation. When president elect Donald Trump is sworn in in 2017, it will be interesting to see if the deals for big casino and resort brands will get better and possibly even become incentivised. Trump himself has invested heavily in resorts and casinos, so it may become more likely that the Massachusetts gaming regulators will continue to take steps to become more like Nevada.

The Plainridge Casino has not only shown what the state is capable of, but has also debunked the link between casinos and crime over a yearlong study. This should hopefully pave the way for more successful resorts to appear throughout the state and help Massachusetts develop into a world-class gambling destination.