

Public's Assistance Sought in Ongoing Somerset Fatal Crash Probe

Massachusetts State Police are actively seeking the public's assistance in the ongoing investigation into a fatal crash, which occurred Friday morning on Route 195 West in Somerset.

Investigators are asking anyone who was in the area of exits 3 and 4 on Route 195 west Friday morning around 10:15 a.m. who may have seen a blue pick up truck with file cabinets in the truck bed to contact State Police at 508-993-8373. Witnesses have reported seeing the blue pick up truck and two caucasian men stopped near exit 3 shortly after the crash that claimed the life of Philip Imprescia, 55, of Fall River.

The preliminary investigation into the crash has revealed that the victim was driving westbound in a Ford Explorer, when he struck a file cabinet that was in the roadway and subsequently lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle rolled over and the victim was ejected. He was declared deceased at the scene.

Shortly after the crash, a blue pick up truck was seen stopped on the shoulder of the highway near exit 3. Two caucasian men were seen outside the truck, which was carrying file cabinets in its bed.

If anyone saw the blue pickup truck, knows who was operating the pick up truck or has any information about this case, they are urged to contact Massachusetts State Police at 508-993-8373.

New Bedford man shot at Golden Greek Restaurant Saturday morning

According to the New Bedford Police, a 28 year old New Bedford man was shot in ribs inside the Golden Greek around 3am. He is stable at Rhode Island hospital. He was involved in a fight at the restaurant.

15 minutes later a car was shot on Church Street. Police are not sure if the shootings are related.

Reports from witnesses:

"I just witnessed a horrible scene, I left a downtown bar and went to Golden Greek... I was sitting down .. And all of a sudden a fight broke out .. And every is still sitting and just shocked (looking) and then shots fired!!!! Everyone screamed and left immediately pushing everyone out (it was Crazy) and the guys run out to and run after the other and to shot at them ... one already shot inside of GG. This was an horrifying experience... I'm lost for words now."

"Does anyone know what happened near the Golden Greek this morning? There were police everywhere and it was all taped off around 4:30am."

"The police were on Church Street. I think someone shot someone's car because they said the hole was from a 45 and found bullets."

New Bedford's Route 140, Route 6 intersection ranked 12th on Mass DOT crash list

The Route 140/Route 6 intersection in New Bedford finished 12th on the Mass DOT's **"2013 Top Crash Locations Report"**. It was the only intersection in New Bedford to make the list. Between 2011-2013, there were 75 crashes with 30 of those crashes causing injuries at the Route 140/Route 6 intersection. Fortunately there were no deaths at the intersection. There is an interactive map of hot spots throughout Massachusetts [**here**](#).

Per the report, the MassDOT Highway Division obtains crash data from the MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV). The RMV obtains crash data from State and local police.

Of note, Fall River had 8 intersections listed on the top crash report. Two of those were in the top 20; Plymouth Ave/Rodman Street and Broadway/Bradford Ave.

The Alden Road/Bridge Street intersection in Fairhaven ranked 74th on the list with 73 crashes, 14 of them causing injury. There were no deaths at the intersection.

Senate Passes Montigny Bill Forcing Insurance Companies

to Pay for Compassionate HIV Care

Photo from <http://saude.umcomo.com.br/>

Disfigured survivors of early prescription drug “cocktails” to receive treatment.

Today the Massachusetts Senate passed legislation to improve the lives of HIV positive residents who have been afflicted with the debilitating condition of lipodystrophy. The condition is a result of side effects from HIV medication which causes abnormal fat accumulation around the head and neck or excessive fat loss in the face and limbs. The bill, sponsored by Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) requires insurers to provide coverage for treatment of this condition.

“This bill provides insurance coverage for individuals who have been afflicted with a serious side effect

from HIV medication. Insurance companies, without this legislation, will continue to deny coverage based on nonsense claims that treatment for lipodystrophy is a so called “cosmetic” procedure. This is disingenuous and insulting for those who suffer from this condition,” said Senator Mark Montigny, Assistant Majority Leader and Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. “These patients deserve basic human dignity and today’s legislation will help ensure that they no longer have to suffer from this devastating condition.”

“More than 30 years after the start of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic, passing this common sense fix to our insurance laws to cover treatment for this terrible side effect of early HIV/ AIDS drugs will make a huge difference in the lives of those who are affected. I commend Senator Montigny for his work on this bill,” said Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst).

Fat accumulations from lipodystrophy can cause serious head and neck pain, inability to sleep, posture issues, and result in a poor quality of life. Excessive fat loss can result in “facial wasting” and serve as a Scarlet Letter for people with HIV.

“For years GLAD has represented people with lipodystrophy who could only get medical treatment if they lawyered up and threatened to sue their insurer,” said Bennett Klein, AIDS Law Project Director for GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD). “We’re grateful to the Senate for its leadership ensuring that all people with HIV can get the health care they need and hope that today’s vote is a big step forward towards ending this injustice.”

Current treatment for lipodystrophy includes liposuction to remove excess fat accumulations or injectable facial fillers to prevent facial wasting. Insurance companies routinely deny claims for treatment saying these remedies are cosmetic.

“We are deeply grateful to Senate President Stan Rosenberg and the bill’s sponsor, Senator Mark Montigny for their leadership on this important issue,” said Arline Isaacson Co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. “This legislation will allow those suffering from this debilitating disease to receive the medical care they so desperately need, but cannot afford on their own.”

New Bedford Homeless Service

Provider Network institutes single point of entry for shelter services

In preparation of the new shelter opening in the coming weeks, the New Bedford Homeless Service Provider Network (HSPN) has instituted a single point of entry for shelter services. All people seeking shelter should contact 1-800-HOMELESS to reserve a bed. People may also visit the shelter office at 72 Eighth Street for assistance. Intakes end at 8pm.

“By centralizing intake, we will better serve those in need by having a simple way to access the system. Catholic Social Services, PAACA and other members of the HSPN are collaborating to coordinate efforts to reduce waste and improve quality. This is the first step in expanding access to shelter on daily basis as well as in extreme weather conditions.” – Carl J. Alves, CEO, PAACA

Fatal Crash on Route 195 in Somerset

Today at approximately 10:18 a.m., troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Dartmouth Barracks responded to reports of a single vehicle crash on Route 195 west bound between exits 4B and 4A in Somerset that resulted in a fatality.

Preliminary investigation by Trooper Fernando DaSilva indicates that the operator of a 2001 Ford Explorer swerved to

avoid debris in the right travel lane, and rolled over. The driver and sole occupant, a 55-year-old male from Fall River was determined deceased at the scene. His name is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

The facts and circumstances remain under investigation with the assistance of troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, Crime Scene Services Section, and troopers assigned to the Dartmouth Barracks.

Troopers were assisted at the scene by personnel from the Somerset Fire and EMS and MassDOT.

A second crash occurred at approximately 10:20 a.m., on the west bound side of Route 195 east of exit 4B. This crash involved two vehicles and was unrelated to the fatality. One person was transported for non-life threatening injuries sustained in the crash and was transported to Rhode Island Hospital.

No further information is available at this time. Please do not call the barracks directly.

New Bedford Cousins Sentenced to Prison for Heroin Distribution

Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced today that a pair of cousins from New Bedford who were distributing heroin in the city were convicted yesterday in Fall River Superior Court.

Travis Mendes, 34, and Paul Mendes, 50, were arrested last July during an undercover drug sting conducted by Massachusetts State Police Detectives and New Bedford Police Detectives. On July 23, 2015, a state trooper who was working undercover on a drug operation investigation with New Bedford Police approached Paul Mendes and asked for drugs. Paul Mendes told the undercover trooper that he would call his cousin, which he did in the presence of the trooper.

The cousin, later identified as Travis Mendes, called back, and Paul Mendes directed the trooper to a nearby store. Within a few minutes, Travis Mendes arrived on a scooter. Paul Mendes was given marked money, and went to meet with Travis Mendes. After a short conversation and a hand to hand exchange, Paul Mendes returned to the trooper's car with a small bag of heroin. Travis Mendes left the scene, but was stopped by police a short distance away. During booking police found an additional 10 grams of heroin on Travis Mendes.

Travis Mendes, who has an extensive criminal record, was indicted on charges of distribution of a class A substance-subsequent offense and possession with intent to distribute heroin. Paul Mendes, who has a less extensive criminal record, was indicted on a charge of distribution of a class A substance-subsequent offense.

Judge Gregg Pasquale sentenced Travis Mendes to serve four to six years in state prison and placed him on probation for two years after his release from prison. Judge Pasquale sentenced Paul Mendes to serve one-and-a-half to three years in state prison.

The case was prosecuted Stephen Nadeau.

"This is an example of street level drug dealers who are contributing to the very serious opiate problem that is affecting our county and our country," said District Attorney Quinn. "I'm glad these defendant have been taken off the

street with state prison sentences. They are both repeat offender.”

New Bedford police arrest two men, recover heroin, opioids and \$3,395 in cash

Last night at approximately 6pm members of the Organized Crime and Intelligence Bureau executed a search warrant at 190 Davis St. apt. 2N after receiving numerous complaints from neighbors regarding excessive foot traffic in and out of the residence.

An investigation conducted by Detective Sasha Vicente showed that Edwin Davis and Richard Ribeiro were involved in illegal narcotic activity out of the second floor, north apartment.

Mr. Davis was taken into custody without incident as he left the home and walked down the street. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Ribeiro left the home and he too was taken into custody.

As a result of the search, 42 grams of Heroin, 3 Percocet tablets, 64 Tramadol tablets, (opiod pain medication) and \$3,395 in cash was recovered. The drugs have a street value of approximately \$5,000.

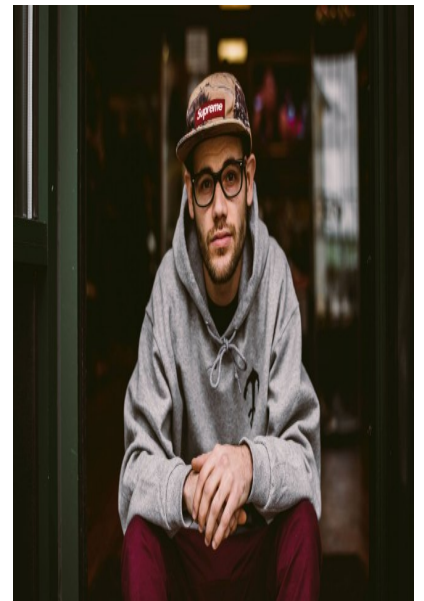
Mr. Ribeiro is being charged as a subsequent offender for a prior drug conviction. Scheduled to be arraigned this morning in New Bedford district court on drug trafficking charges:

- Edwin Davis age 49 of New Bedford
- Richard Ribeiro age 41 of New Bedford



Faces Of New Bedford – #39: Paulo Duarte

Meet Paulo Duarte, 23-year-old store manager of U7 and co-brand owner at Longevity Co.



Paulo has had a deep love for sneakers since he graduated high school, where he really started to get into the streetwear culture. From there he began collecting sneakers, learning the value in reselling exclusive sneaker releases, at the time

Retro Air Jordans. The urban culture and sneaker heads in New Bedford really inspired Paulo to get involved, frequenting stores such as Carters and Expressions to check out the latest gear.

Delving into this passion he started buying and selling sneakers on Facebook groups and Kixify, which is an online resource that allows users to sell sneakers, unlocking the ability to sell more sneakers at a time depending on how well your business is. In a once in a lifetime opportunity, he sold a pair to the owner of the website, who was so pleased in the way Paulo handled the transaction, gave him the ability to sell unlimited sneakers on their platform.

It was around that time that Shop U7 had opened in the south end of New Bedford, where his friends had told the owners about Paulo and his knowledge of sneakers. He stopped in during the opening week and the owners tested his knowledge of pricing and they were impressed by the young man's prowess. He quit his job of delivering pizza, where he was extremely unhappy, and was hired on and started as an assistant in the shop.

As time went on and the owner's trust in him grew, they promoted him to store manager. During his time working there, he also came alongside his close friends to start LongevityCo, a local streetwear clothing company, which has grown immensely in popularity over the past few years. He's grown to learn that he needs to love what he does and he is finally in the position to do that.

Paulo is highly encouraged by the young and ambitious people around him. He sees so many people who are working on their craft and they encourage him to get better. For him to see a business open in New Bedford, he thinks about the fact that they had an idea and made it a reality, in an environment where you are guaranteed to succeed.

"If you put time and effort into something you are passionate about everyday, it will pay off. Trust your ideas & don't let anybody tell you, you can't do what you want."

Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the series email all inquiries to colton@coltonsimmons.com

Follow Colton on Instagram:
<https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Alma del Mar Celebrates Five-Year Charter Renewal

On Tuesday, February 23rd, Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester approved a renewal of Alma del Mar Charter School's five year charter. The renewal came without conditions. Alma, whose lottery next week will see 520 families apply for approximately 40 open seats, was also recognized for exceeding the state's expectations in the area of parent engagement.

"We're excited to pass this important milestone," said Will Gardner, Founder and Executive Director of Alma del Mar. "Our charter renewal is a testament to the hard work of our scholars and teachers over the past five years. We can't wait to see what our scholars achieve in the next five years!"

This was the first charter renewal process for Alma del Mar. All charter schools in Massachusetts are required to go through an extensive review process by the state's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education before they can be renewed for another five years. Charter schools that fail to meet the

state's high accountability standards may be put on probation or have their charter revoked.

The state's review of Alma del Mar was overwhelmingly positive. Alma was commended for providing a full range of supports to meet the academic needs of all Alma scholars. Nine percent of Alma scholars are English Language Learners and 14 percent receive special education services in a fully inclusive environment. The school provides supports such as behavior plans, sensory breaks, and regular check-ins by paraprofessionals and ELA and math interventionists.

The state also noted Alma's low attrition rate, which currently sits around 3 percent. Commissioner Chester noted that Alma "has had consistently low attrition rates relative to its comparison schools."

In 2014, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recognized Alma del Mar as exemplary among Massachusetts charter schools in the areas of Access and Equity, and Culture and Family Engagement.

Alma del Mar was founded in 2011 with the mission of putting all scholars on the path to college and challenging them to be service-minded leaders. Since the school has opened, enrollment has more than doubled in size to serve 284 scholars in grades K-6. In only five years, Alma has become the most successful and sought after school of choice in the area.

Alma del Mar has gained a reputation as a model for "Charter 2.0" – a high performing urban charter that provides an even greater degree of support for special populations, including English language learners and scholars with disabilities. Alma's High Support and High Demand model balances the need for the school to go above and beyond in meeting Alma scholars' individual needs while unapologetically maintaining the highest possible expectations for their achievement.

Construction of a two-story, 43,000 square foot school

building is underway at Alma del Mar's site in the north end of New Bedford. The new building will allow Alma del Mar to expand their enrollment to their full K-8 grade span, serving 360 scholars per year – that's thousands of future Alma del Mar graduates who will go on to serve and succeed in college and beyond.
