

Massachusetts State Troopers arrest wanted man with stolen firearm, Fentanyl

Shortly before 1 a.m. on Saturday Trooper John Hagerty, assigned to State Police-Middleboro, was stationary observing traffic at a gas station on Pleasant Street in Brockton. At that time he observed a red Mitsubishi SUV being operated on the roadway with no headlights or taillights active. Trooper Hagerty entered traffic and stopped the vehicle at the intersection of Troy Street.

Upon the Mitsubishi coming to a full stop Trooper Hagerty approached it and identified the operator as MIGUEL SANTIAGO, 33, of Whitman. Trooper Hagerty informed SANTIAGO why he was stopped then returned to his cruiser with SANTIAGO's information in order to conduct an electronic RMV inquiry. The results of the inquiry revealed SANTIAGO's driver's license was suspended. It also revealed SANTIAGO had an active warrant for his arrest issued by Brockton District Court. Trooper Jared Hebert then arrived on scene to assist.

Trooper Hagerty removed SANTIAGO from his vehicle and placed him under arrest. A tow truck was requested to respond to the scene at which point Troopers conducted an inventory of the vehicle's contents. They quickly observed over \$4000 in cash along with multiple cell phones and other items they suspected could have been used in the sale or transport of illegal narcotics. Both Troopers then noticed multiple areas within the interior of the vehicle that appeared to have been modified and tampered with. After a closer inspection of these areas Troopers located a large amount of pills suspected to contain fentanyl.

The pills had a combined weight of 112 grams. They also

located a loaded Glock 9mm firearm with a large capacity magazine capable of holding 26 rounds of ammunition. An electronic inquiry of the firearm's serial number revealed it was reported stolen in Rhode Island approximately five years ago. SANTIAGO does not possess a license to carry firearms.

SANTIAGO was transported to the Middleboro Barracks for booking. A bail commissioner was contacted who set bail at \$2,600. SANTIAGO was able to post bail and was later released. He was scheduled to appear at Brockton District Court for charges stemming from his arrest warrant along with arraignment on the following offenses:

01. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
02. Possession of a Firearm without FID Card;
03. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
04. Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device;
05. Improper Storage of a Firearm;
06. Receiving Stolen Property -\$1200;
07. Trafficking in Fentanyl;
08. Possession of a Firearm while in Commission of a Felony;
09. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License; and
10. Motor Vehicle Equipment Violation.

Activists relieved to get Campus Assault Bill to Governor Baker

By Katie Lannan
State House News Service

College students would be anonymously surveyed about their

experiences with sexual misconduct on campus and would have access to new, confidential resources in the event of sexual assault, under a bill that's now on Gov. Charlie Baker's desk after a last-minute flurry of activity in the Legislature this week.

In a state rich with college campuses, versions of the bill have been filed since 2015, driven by student advocates and recent graduates who have been sharing their stories with lawmakers.

Supporters gathered on a Zoom call Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning as they watched the bill bounce back and forth between the House and the Senate in the final hours of the 2019-2020 legislative session, while the two branches exchanged amendments tweaking its wording.

"This literally started with eight of us sitting in a basement, and it's hard to believe that we've come this far, to the point where it's the words that we wrote and the ideas that we spoke will change the law in our state for generations to come," said Every Voice Coalition founder and co-chair John Gabrieli.

Gabrieli said the coalition formed to create more transparency around the presence of sexual violence on college campuses and to bring student and survivor voices to table in policy discussions.

Passage of the bill is "incredibly validating" for the students and advocates who have made phone calls, rallied their communities and written to lawmakers, and those people will now be watching to see how Baker acts, Gabrieli said.

The House and Senate's final votes sending Baker the bill (S 2979) after 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday, and a 10-day review period would mean that he has until Saturday, Jan. 16 to act on it.

Jane Doe Inc., a coalition focused on addressing sexual and domestic violence, urged Baker to “swiftly sign the bill into law.”

“We know how difficult it can be for survivors of sexual assault to come forward and speak to anyone about what they experienced, and that when they do, they are often met with disbelief and limited resources for support,” JDI policy director Hema Sarang-Sieminski said in a statement. “This new law would address both of these concerns as well as put an emphasis on prevention.”

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu signed a similar bill backed by the Every Voice Coalition into law last July.

According to Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, who with Rep. Lori Ehrlich sponsored the original House versions of the Massachusetts bill, the legislation would require each campus to appoint a confidential resource advisor to help students access support after a sexual misconduct incident, and institutions that do not have their own sexual assault crisis centers would need to enter into an agreement with a local center to provide services to students.

“Rape culture is alive and well on our campuses. Twenty percent, or one in five, young women are sexually assaulted at college, the great majority between Labor Day and Thanksgiving of their freshman or sophomore year,” sad Farley-Bouvier, a Pittsfield Democrat. “This bill, led by young people themselves, will go a long way in changing the culture, preventing sexual assault, and bringing justice for those impacted.”

A task force would be created to develop questions for a sexual misconduct climate survey, which after review by state higher education officials, would be distributed to colleges and universities. Schools could also write their own surveys, and both public and independent higher education institutions

would need to survey their students at least once every four years, and post a summary of the anonymous responses online.

Farley-Bouvier and Ehrlich did not discuss the bill on the floor when the House acted on it Tuesday. Ehrlich said on her website that the two decided not to make speeches “so the bill didn’t run out of time” in the final hours of the session, calling it the right decision as the bill “barely made it over the line in time.”

Ehrlich, a Marblehead Democrat, posted the speech she would have given online. “From a consumer standpoint, climate surveys provide a means of transparency for parents and prospective students to make informed decisions about their safety during what is typically a student’s first time living independently,” she wrote.

Additionally, the bill requires colleges and universities to adopt sexual misconduct policies and post them online. The policies would need to include procedures for reporting misconduct, information on receiving emergency assistance, the rights of students and employees, and a summary of procedures for resolving complaints.

Sen. Michael Moore, a Millbury Democrat who filed an initial Senate version of the bill, said it would ensure that students are trained on sexual violence prevention and bystander strategies, and that they are made aware of the rights of the reporting party and the accused during the disciplinary process, as well as any sanctions that may be imposed by the school.

Part of suspected human skull discovered on Little Beach in Dartmouth

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, Dartmouth Police responded to Little Beach on Horseneck Road, after a passerby discovered what appeared to be a sizeable fragment of an aged human skull in the sand.

As of this time, it is suspected that the fragment washed ashore, and was not placed there.

The fragment was subsequently collected by Dartmouth Police, and is being transferred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for further analysis.

New Bedford first responders receive first coronavirus doses on Monday

First responders in New Bedford received the first dose of Moderna's vaccine for COVID-19 Monday morning.

A vaccine clinic at the New Bedford Health Department will vaccinate at least 40 first responders today, including the staff of New Bedford EMS, the New Bedford Police Department, and the New Bedford Fire Department, along with public health nurses.

Vaccinations of first responders began Monday across

Massachusetts. Hundreds of first responders are slated to be vaccinated in the coming weeks in New Bedford.

OPINION: SouthCoast dad: “You cant say you want politics kept out of the lessons and expect your child to have a ‘full education.’”

“Something to think about:

If parents want to keep politics out of schools how do we explain things like the branches of government, the different types of governments, the constitution, the declaration of independence, the bill of rights, the civil war, the revolutionary war?

You cant say you want politics kept out of the lessons and expect your child to have a ‘full education.’

- Learning about our founding fathers...POLITICS!
- Learning about your rights as an American...POLITICS!
- Learning about the past presidents of our nation...POLITICS!

And finally when your kid comes home asking you why they have classmates who dont get to eat at lunch like everyone else, explain to them about there being no room in the federal budget for school lunch programs and tell me that school isnt all about politics.

Thanks for coming to my Ted Talk!

You can agree or disagree I don't care one way or the other, but as a parent myself I want my son to learn about politics and understand that everyone has their own opinion and he needs to form his own. Because politics can be a very dangerous thing.

How many of you remember being taught that Hitler had won a democratic election before he and the nazi party took over Germany?"-Timm Gardiner.

City of New Bedford schedules Christmas Tree collection

ABC Disposal will collect real Christmas trees from Monday, January 11 through Friday, January 15.

During this week only, residents may place trees at the curb by 7:00 a.m. the weekday after their usual trash and recycling collection. For residents whose trash collection is on Fridays, Christmas trees will only be collected on Monday, January 11.

If a resident's trash is collected on Mondays, Christmas trees will be collected on Tuesday, January 12, and so on.

Christmas trees will not be collected curbside at any other time. Please remove all ornaments, stands, lights, and tinsel. Do not place trees in plastic bags.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the East Beach parking lot on East Rodney French Boulevard between Hudson Street and Seymour Street until January 15; or Brooklawn Park by the Pony League Field (enter at Irvington Street) until

January 15.

The Shawmut Avenue Transfer Station at 1103 Shawmut Avenue is also open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod effect medevac of 62-year old off of Nantucket

Bravo Zulu to Air Station Cape Cod MH-60 Jayhawk crew for their successful medevac over 65 miles off Nantucket yesterday morning.

A 62-year-old man reportedly experiencing abdominal issues was hoisted from the fishing vessel Alison Rose and brought to Rhode Island Hospital in stable condition.

#SearchandRescue #medevac #USCG.

Attorney General Healey issues guidance on stimulus for long-term care residents

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

Attorney General Maura Healey wants all long-term care residents and staff to know: stimulus checks directed toward residents are for their own use, not for the facility to grab as payment. Saying her office had heard reports of some facilities taking CARES Act checks issued to residents, Healey issued an advisory on Friday clarifying that individuals who receive checks under the latest round of stimulus are entitled to use the money however they see fit.

“Nursing home residents and their families have faced enormous challenges and hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic and my office is committed to protecting them however we can,” Healey said in a statement. “Long-term care residents are entitled to receive their stimulus checks, in full and in a timely manner, for their own use.”

Anyone with a concern about facilities taking residents’ stimulus checks can report it to the AG’s Medicaid Fraud Division by calling (617) 963-2360. –

Wareham Police arrest man after he allegedly throws stake at car, kicking at officers, threatening to kill them

On Thursday at about 7:30 p.m. Wareham Police Officer James White observed a male throw a wooden stake at vehicle on

Cranberry Highway near the entrance to Mogan's Trailer Park. Officer White stopped to investigate, along with Officer Pillsbury.

The male was placed in custody, however he threatened to assault the officers. Upon arrival at the station, the male began kicking at Officer Pillsbury, when he tried to remove him from the cruiser. With the assistance of Sergeant Kevin Reilly, the man was subdued and brought inside the building. During the booking process, the man continued to be unruly and threatened to kill Sergeant Reilly and Officer John Iacobucci.

Jeffrey Picard (50), of East Wareham, was charged with disorderly conduct, assault with a dangerous weapon, and threats to commit a crime.

Town of Marion swears in new police chief

The Marion Police Department is pleased to announce that Richard B. Nighelli has officially begun in his new role as Chief.

Chief Nighelli, a 17-year veteran of the department, was sworn in during a private ceremony at the Marion Police station on Thursday, Jan. 7.

"As a member of the Marion Police Department for a majority of my career, it is an honor for me to step into this position," Chief Nighelli said. "I'd like to thank the men and women of the Marion Police Department who come to work each and every day, night, weekend and holiday to ensure Marion is a safe place to live. Your efforts do not go unnoticed."



Marion Police Department photo.

Chief Nighelli began his career as a police officer with the Department of Mental Health in Boston in 1999. He became a patrolman with the Nantucket Police Department in 2002 before being hired as a patrolman with the Marion Police Department in 2003. He was promoted to sergeant in 2007 and promoted to lieutenant in January 2018. He was named Chief in May 2020 and has served as Acting Chief since Dec. 12, 2020.

In his new role, Chief Nighelli hopes to continue to foster the department's relationship with the community through transparency and open communication.

"Our department is fortunate to be part of a wonderful and supportive community," Chief Nighelli said. "Since being named Chief of Police, I have been overwhelmed by the support that I have received from the community, which means a lot to myself, my family and the department. As Chief, I will continue to ensure that the Marion Police Department provides professional, courteous and exceptional service to our residents."

Chief Nighelli served as the accreditation manager during Marion's state re-accreditation process in 2018 and previously served as Operations Commander for the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC) SWAT team.

Chief Nighelli attended the New England Law Enforcement FBI Executive Development Seminar in 2018 and successfully completed a two-week comprehensive training program for police supervisory personnel at Roger Williams University. He has also assumed leadership roles and assisted with security planning for multiple town events. In 2014, he assisted in the on-site planning and search for the Boston Marathon bombing suspects in Watertown. He has also received commendations for an attempted murder investigation in 2006 and a fugitive from justice arrest in 2004.



Marion Police Department photo.

He holds a bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Western New England University. He is a certified field training officer and Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission State Assessor, and has trained in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Command Systems, SWAT operations, emergency medical dispatch and 911 telecommunications.

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Nighelli on this new step in his career," Town Administrator James McGrail said. "I have no doubt that his wealth of knowledge and experience will serve him well as Chief of Police, and I look forward to seeing how

the department continues to grow and evolve under his leadership.”

Chief Nighelli is a member of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, Southeastern Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police and Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.

He is married to his wife Holly and they have two children together.

“Holly has supported all of my career advancements while putting her career on hold to raise our kids,” Chief Nighelli said. “I am confident that without her support of my career and its often irregular schedule, achieving the position of Chief of Police would not have been possible.”

Chief Nighelli took over his new role following the retirement of Chief John Garcia, who officially retired on Jan. 2 after a 36-year career in law enforcement.