

Massachusetts man arrested after throwing burning American flag onto Boston Prisoner Transport

"At about 7:10 PM on Sunday May 24, 2020, officers assigned to District A-1 (Downtown) arrested Daniel Lucey, 40, of Boston on multiple charges while on patrol in the area of the Boston Common. Officers were approached by several concerned citizens who stated that they had observed the suspect lighting fire to an American Flag and throwing it onto the roof of an unoccupied Boston Police prisoner transport wagon which was parked near the fountain inside the park.

Officers quickly responded and stopped the suspect who stated that he had burned the flag and thrown it atop the police vehicle as a form of protest. Officers noted that the suspect was in possession of several other flags which appeared to be similar to the ones which are planted in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument over Memorial Day weekend to commemorate the Massachusetts service members who have given their lives in defense of the United States of America. While speaking to the officers, the suspect then proceeded to spit at one of them, with saliva striking the officer's shoe. The suspect was then placed in custody on scene.

Daniel Lucey will appear in Boston Municipal Court on charges of Disorderly Conduct, Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Malicious Destruction of Property and Malicious Destruction of Historical Monuments."-Boston Police Department.

Outdoor high school graduations in Massachusetts possible in July

Katie Lannan
State House News Service

New state guidance allows for high schools to hold in-person, outdoor graduation ceremonies starting July 19, with certain safety precautions in place and as long as public health data around COVID-19 allows the state to continue along its reopening plan.

Graduation ceremonies held between now and July 18 are to “be held virtually or in extremely limited other circumstances following safety protocols (e.g., car parades),” according to the guidelines. Schools have been physically closed since March and will remain so throughout the rest of the school year, which has resulted in cancellation or postponement of many events associated with high school graduations.

The minimum standards for in-person graduations later in the summer include limiting attendance to graduates and their immediate family members, with pre-registration required, and prohibiting hugging or hand-shaking during a ceremony that “should be kept as brief as possible.” Venues must be cleaned prior to the ceremony, which can only be held in an unconfined outdoor space. All attendees would be required to wear masks, except for children under the age of 2 and people with medical conditions, though speakers could remove their masks during their remarks.

Gov. Charlie Baker’s office on Friday announced plans for a

June 9 virtual high school commencement ceremony that will feature remarks from Baker, members of the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox and Celtics, actor Steve Carell and others, plus a Boston Pops Orchestra performance. In a message to school and district leaders, Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeff Riley also highlighted additional ways to celebrate the class of 2020, including a rotating display of photos on his department's website.

"As graduation time approaches, please encourage your high school community, particularly teachers, to share highlights about the graduating class on social media with the hashtag #ThatsMyStudentMA and tag the DESE account at @MASchoolsK12 on Twitter or @MassachusettsDESE on Facebook," Riley wrote.

Warren: Trump Admin "Has Cost People Lives"

Michael P. Norton
State House News Service

Responding to a Columbia University disease model suggesting tens of thousands of lives could have been saved if social distancing had been implemented a week or two earlier, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren said that data show that "government matters" and ripped the Trump administration's leadership during the COVID-19 crisis and the weeks leading up to it.

Warren, who is under consideration as Joe Biden's running mate, said the Trump administration had done a poor job of stockpiling personal protective equipment.

"If the Trump administration had started planning for this

crisis back in January, we wouldn't be in this mess today, and lives would have been saved and our economy would be in better shape," Warren, who lost her brother to the coronavirus, told Jon Keller of WBZ-TV on Sunday morning. "But it takes planning, and it takes a smart, thoughtful, science-informed, aggressive response. Back in January, the Trump administration was ordering masks for themselves, but not for anybody else around the country ... When people were calling and saying, 'This crisis is coming. Can we help?' The answer was no. And that has been the position of the Trump administration all along. It has been to deny the problem, and not have effective leadership, and I think every time we go back and analyze where we've come from to this point, we see that what the Trump administration has done has cost people lives, and has cost our economy – a lot of, a lot of, a lot of harm to people."

Trump has defended his administration's virus response and called for economic reopenings to bring back jobs. Warren declined to weigh in on whether Gov. Charlie Baker was moving too quickly to reopen the state's economy. Reopening, she said, is going to be "totally based" on COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and personal protective equipment availability. "And then every step we take, you just have to keep collecting the numbers," she said. "And we're going to, you know, going have to learn as we go along in this. But the point is to make an informed decision."

Massachusetts State Police

Air Wing fights Deerfield forest fire

“Last Thursday we reported on our Air Wing’s assistance, by making numerous water drops, in suppressing a forest fire that was encroaching on some houses in the town of Deerfield. But for two of our flight crews, the work wasn’t done after that.

Around 5:25 p.m. Thursday, as MSP helicopters Air 1 and Air 2 were en route from western Massachusetts to their Plymouth base after assuring in the Bambi bucket operations in Deerfield, the crews observed another forest fire in Norton, close to the Mansfield Municipal Airport. Thick smoke and flames were visible.

The MSP Air Wing established communications with Norton Police and Fire. By that time firefighters had been working at the scene for more than an hour.

Air Wing Troopers offered assistance and began procedures for aerial firefighting operations (seen the accompanying photos). By 6:40 p.m. the MSP flight crews began dropping water on the fire. The water drops continued for approximately one hour, at which point the fire was under control and nearly extinguished. Both crews returned safely to Plymouth following the day’s second successful cooperative firefighting effort between multiple agencies.”



Massachusetts State Trooper rescues baby ducklings that fell through storm drain

It's a State Trooper's most fundamental mission: to help others in a time of crisis and danger. Sometimes those in danger can not speak for themselves. And sometimes they are a different species.

So when Massachusetts State Trooper Jim Maloney came across some baby ducks who had fallen through the grate of a storm drain in the parking lot at Nahant Beach Saturday morning, he fulfilled that mission to help others with some assistance from our state and local partners.

It was about 9:20 a.m. when Trooper Maloney, who was on a dedicated patrol, observed eight ducklings trapped in the water under the heavy grate. The ducklings' mother and one of their siblings – the only baby who had not fallen through the grate – were standing off at a short distance, because Momma would not leave her trapped babies.



Trooper Maloney called the Department of Conservation and Recreation, which runs the beach, and asked them to send someone with a crowbar. Eventually workers from DCR, Nahant's Department of Public Works, and Lynn Animal Control arrived on scene. Trooper Tim Benedetto also arrived on scene.

Nahant DPW pried open the grate, and the Lynn Animal Control Officer fished the ducklings out the drain with a net. By this time their mother had moved into a grassy area near the drain to wait. The ducklings were placed in a cardboard box and Trooper Maloney put the box in his cruiser, with the heat on, to wait for the mother duck to come out of the brush to take

her babies back.

At 10 a.m. Momma and the other baby emerged from the grass and brush and the babies were taken from the box and placed at the edge of the grass. The mother immediately went to them, and together she and her nine babies – the family fully reunited – walked back into the grass.

A small act amid the enormity of the ongoing health crisis, perhaps, but for one mother duck and her tiny babies, it made all the difference in the world.



Dominican National Pleads Guilty to Fentanyl Distribution, Firearm Possession and Social Security Fraud

A Dominican national previously residing in Haverhill pleaded guilty today to fentanyl distribution and illegal firearm possession, among other charges.

Domingo Garcia Suero, 55, pleaded guilty during a videoconference to five counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of a controlled substance, specifically fentanyl, unlawful possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number, two counts of Social Security fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. U.S. Senior District Court Judge George A. O'Toole Jr. scheduled sentencing for Sept. 22, 2020. Garcia Suero was arrested and charged in December 2017.

Garcia Suero filed applications with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles to renew his driver's license and with MassHealth to receive benefits. In both applications, Garcia Suero provided a name and Social Security number belonging to a United States citizen from Puerto Rico. On five occasions in 2017, Garcia Suero sold and possessed fentanyl for sale. During a search of Garcia Suero's apartment following his arrest, law enforcement recovered a Colt, model Police Positive .38 caliber revolver with an obliterated serial number and six rounds of .38 caliber ammunition. Garcia Suero has two prior drug trafficking convictions and is therefore prohibited from possessing a firearm and ammunition.

The charge of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of fentanyl in excess of 40 grams provides for a minimum sentence of eight years and up to life in prison, at least four years of supervised release and a fine of \$8 million. The charge of felon in possession of a firearm provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of Social Security fraud provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of aggravated identity theft provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of two years to run consecutive to any other imposed sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Michael Shea, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Phillip Coyne, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations; Brian Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; Scott Antolik, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, Boston Field Office; Christina Scaringi, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Regional Office; Michael Mikulka, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations; William B. Gannon, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, Boston Field Office; Joseph W. Cronin, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; and Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Marshals Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant

U.S. Attorney Rachel Hemani of Lelling's Criminal Division is prosecuting the case.

New Bedford officials report three COVID-19 related deaths for second consecutive day

New Bedford officials reported three additional COVID-19 related deaths on Saturday bringing the total to 59. This is the second day in a row New Bedford reported three COVID-19 related days.

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 23 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Saturday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,673, **up from 1,650 on Friday.**

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the City of New Bedford will follow and implement the first phase of Governor Charlie Baker's reopening plan, with adjustments warranted by the current risk level of disease transmission in the city and region. Full details **here.**

16 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to the Mayor's Office. This brings the total in Fall River to 1,123. The death toll from the coronavirus in Fall River remains at 26. Full details **here.**

Duxbury man pleads guilty to possessing 617 child pornography videos and images

A Duxbury man pleaded guilty Friday to a child pornography offense.

Louis Ackerman Jr., 46, pleaded guilty during a videoconference hearing to possession of child pornography. U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV scheduled sentencing for Sept. 21, 2020. Ackerman was arrested and charged in November 2019.

On Nov. 15, 2019, federal agents executed a federal search warrant at Ackerman Jr.'s home and located an iMac computer and two hard drives belonging to him. An onsite forensic review revealed images and videos of child pornography on that computer. From under Ackerman Jr.'s bed, agents also recovered DVDs and printed material, which depicted child pornography. Further review of the computer and other materials seized from the residence revealed approximately 295 videos of child pornography and approximately 322 images of child pornography, including prepubescent minors under the age of 12.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, a minimum of 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 other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz; Joseph W. Cronin, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Field Division; Barnstable Police Chief Matthew Sonnabend; and Duxbury Police Chief Stephen McDonald made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Suzanne Sullivan Jacobus of

Lelling's 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/.

Massachusetts State Police and K9 "Lennox" locate missing woman

"Shortly before 10 p.m. last night Massachusetts State Troopers from the State Police-Cheshire Barracks responded to the area of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail to assist Cheshire Police search for a missing and distraught woman. The State Police K9 Unit also responded to assist.

MSP K9 Trooper Jason Gallup responded with his partner Lennox to assist in the search for the woman, who had been missing from her home for more than two hours and was described as being in a state of crisis.

Troopers and Officers reviewed footage from a residential camera and determined that the woman had been walking on a street that ended in a densely wooded area. Police obtained a pillowcase belonging to the missing person to establish an

odor signature and placed it at the point on the street where the woman was last seen.

Trooper Gallup deployed Lennox (pictured) at the pillowcase and the dog began tracking into the woods. Trooper Gallup and Lennox tracked approximately 100 yards into the woods, passing over several open trails, and Lennox then displayed a proximity alert.

The Trooper illuminated a tree line at that location and the Trooper located the missing woman lying on the ground within a tree line. Cheshire Firefighters and EMS administered emergency first aid and the woman was transported out of the woods by ATV to a waiting ambulance, which then transported her to an area hospital. We wish her a full return to health.”-Massachusetts State Police.



**R/V Kommandor Susan strikes
New Bedford-Fairhaven**

Hurricane Barrier

At around 7:00am Saturday morning the 272-foot research vessel Kommandor Susan had a minor collision with the New Bedford/Fairhaven Hurricane Barrier. Many residents from both Fairhaven and New Bedford reported hearing the horn blasts and the Fairhaven Police received numerous phone calls.

The captain of the research vessel reported the collision to the U.S. Coast Guard and turned the ship around to return to the harbor where the extent of the damage could be inspected. Initial visual inspections show the damage to be minor and superficial in nature and the damage to the vessel and damage to the hurricane barrier itself was limited to the Fairhaven side's bumper boards on the gates.

The barrier has had some minor scrapes throughout its history and this particular incident is actually not the first one since it was built in 1966. In 2013, a 154-foot barge carrying gravel struck the barrier causing significant damage to the timber fender protection system.

Before that, in 1977 another large ship collided with the barrier causing considerable damage to the concrete control abutment.

According to the marinetraffic.com website the R/V Kommandor Susan "...is a Research/Survey Vessel that was built in 1999 and is sailing under the flag of United Kingdom."



R/V Kommandor Susan. Vesselfinder.com photo.