

# **Massachusetts man arrested after allegedly stabbing a man to steal his cell phone**

“At about 2:46 AM, on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, officers assigned to District C-6 (South Boston), responded to a radio call for a fight in the area of 525 East Second Street in South Boston.

Upon arrival, officers were waved down by the victim who stated after a verbal altercation his cell phone was stolen and he was stabbed in the leg by an unknown male, later identified as Thomas Digaetano, 38, of South Boston.

Additional officers responding to the scene located Digaetano in the area of 452 East Eighth Street. Officers observed blood on Digaetano’s shoes and he was also in possession of a knife and the victim’s cell phone.

Boston EMS arrived on the scene, treated the victim for minor lacerations and transported him to a local area hospital.

Mr. Digaetano will be charged with Armed Robbery and Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon (Knife). He expected to be arraigned in South Boston District Court.”

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# **Massachusetts State Police mourn the loss of Melrose**

# native Joseph J. Milligan

"On January 4, 2020, the ATF unexpectedly lost one of their own. Joseph J. Milligan, a Melrose native, was the Resident Agent in Charge for the ATF in their Albany, New York, Field Office at the time of his premature death.

Special Agent Milligan was a beloved member of the ATF. His obituary read, in part, "Methodical, fearless and mentally strong, Joe was a consummate professional in his work as an ATF Agent. With a strong work ethic, Joe pushed himself to excel in everything he did. Most recently, he took genuine pride in mentoring newer Agents, and pushed others to grow in their careers. Fiercely loyal and a good judge of character, Joe was a man of honor who built unbreakable lifelong bonds with fellow agents and freely shared his wisdom and experience with others."

Following S.A. Milligan's death, ATF Special Agent John Paolillo contacted Major Deborah Ryan, Commander of Troop A, and asked her if the MSP could help his department during their time of need by assisting them with S.A. Milligan's funeral arrangements. The Major offered the MSP's support and assigned Sgt. Byron Rizos to do what he has done numerous times during the course of his forty-year career – step in and flawlessly coordinate a law enforcement funeral.

S.A. Paolillo later contacted Major Ryan to let her know how grateful the ATF was for the MSP's help and support, and to express his earnest appreciation for the spectacular job done by Sgt. Byron Rizos.

On February 25, 2020, S.A. Paolillo and Assistant Special Agent in Charge Lawrence J. Panetta came to A Troop Headquarters to present Sgt. Byron Rizos with a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Special Agents Paolillo and Panetta also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Tpr. Sean Lewis, assigned to SP-Logan, for the assistance he rendered during this same unfortunate event. Tpr. Lewis was not present during the presentation at AHQ.”

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## **New Bedford's Public Safety Committee pushing to require landlords to criminally screen future tenants**

The New Bedford City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods researching the legality of requiring “all landlords to conduct criminal background checks on potential tenants prior to entering into rental/lease agreements with them.”

The following will be taken up this Thursday at the New Bedford City Council session:

REPORT, Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, recommending that the City Council request that Legislative Counsel Attorney David Gerwatowski look into whether or not the City can require all landlords to conduct criminal background checks on potential tenants prior to entering into rental/lease agreements with them; and furthermore, if it is legal to do so, that he submit recommendations for amending the Problem Properties Ordinance accordingly.

02.27.2020\_REPORT\_-\_CRIMINAL\_BACKGROUND\_CHECKS\_-\_TENANTS

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# **Free hands-on astronomy family event to be held at Fort Taber on Feb. 28**

The New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and New Bedford Science Cafe will offer an evening of stargazing – a free, hands-on astronomy event to be hosted at the Low Tide Yacht Club at Fort Taber Park.

The event will be held Friday, February 28 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Low Tide Yacht Club, 1000 South Rodney French Boulevard. The event is free and no pre-registration is required. (Rain date is Saturday, February 29 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

The program is a New Bedford Science Cafe Kids event, and will explore the far reaches of the solar system and beyond, with NASA Solar System Ambassador Joe Cote and young scientists from the NASA Solar System Explorers at Ford Middle School in Acushnet.

The event will feature indoor learning stations on planets outside our solar system, moon phases and craters, telescopes, and constellations. Then take a short walk over to our astronomy observing area where the Astronomical Society of Southern New England (ASSNE) will have telescopes set up to view the Moon, the Orion Nebula, star clusters, and other astronomical objects. Ask questions and try hands-on activities. Learn from fellow students, local amateur astronomers, and from a NASA Ambassador who has visited nearly every NASA facility in the U.S. Free cookies and hot chocolate will also be provided by New Bedford Parks, Recreation &

Beaches.

New Bedford Science Cafe Kids is a youth-focused offshoot of New Bedford Science Cafe (NBSC) and a partnership formed between NBSC and New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches. They coordinate the New Bedford Science Cafe Kids events with various organizations which are hosted at sites throughout New Bedford.

The goal of this program is to connect students in New Bedford to scientists and their research. Events feature scientists, researchers, and local students sharing their research and provide time for hands-on activities and Q&A with the presenters.

For more information and updates on rain date rescheduling, follow New Bedford Science Cafe and New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches on Facebook or call the office at 508-961-3015.

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## **New Bedford Public Schools Parent & Community Engagement Forum set for Feb. 27**

The 'NBPS Parent and Community Engagement' Public Forum is being held on Feb. 27 to solicit community feedback regarding Strategic Plan and Student Opportunity Act funding.

**WHAT:** 'NBPS Parent and Community Engagement' Public Forum

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Keith Middle School Community Room 225 Hathaway Blvd.  
New Bedford, MA 02740, please use KMS Community Room North

Entrance across from Hetland Memorial Rink

About: Join NBPS students, staff and families at a Parent and Community Engagement Public Forum. NBPS and the New Bedford Educators Association (NBEA) are partnering to collect input to incorporate into the Strategic Plan update and to solicit feedback regarding increased funding from the Massachusetts Student Opportunity Act. Community input is critical in understanding what all stakeholders envision for NBPS.

Surveys will be available for community feedback. Sign language will be available. Interpreters will be present (Spanish/Portuguese/K'iche). Child care will be provided (movie, games, coloring, etc.)

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## **Will New Bedford ever know the truth about what happened to Malcolm Gracia?**

The City of New Bedford has reached a settlement agreement with the family of Malcolm Gracia. You can read the City of New Bedford's response **here**.

The following was submitted by attorney Donald A Brisson and attorney Kerry Garde Souza:

"Will New Bedford ever know the truth about what happened to Malcolm Gracia?

Yes, they will.

Today the Superior Court lifted the protective order that kept us silent.

We are silent no more. The City of New Bedford has settled with the family of 15-year- old Malcolm Gracia.

Malcolm's family agreed to this settlement because it allows them to publicly present the evidence that shows that Malcolm did not thrust a hooked knife into Detective Barnes. The City of New Bedford and the former Bristol County District Attorney, Clifford "Sam" Sutter, fed the public a distorted view of the evidence. We intend to correct that distortion by presenting the public with the factual, physical, forensic, video and photographic evidence of what actually happened to Malcolm. The City of New Bedford and the late Chief of Police, David Provencher, enabled, empowered and encouraged the kind of conduct that lead to the shooting death of Malcolm, by it's "High Energy Patrol Initiative" and "Meet and Greet" directives. They were the grand architects of the events that led to the death of Malcolm and the false narrative that followed.

Malcolm was targeted by the Gang Unit solely because they did not know him and that he engaged in an elaborate handshake. He committed no crime. Malcolm is first encountered by Detective Brown, when Brown attempts to "guide" him to a car, Malcolm runs away. Malcolm has not committed a crime, nor is he suspected of committing a crime. Detective Barnes ran Malcolm down. Barnes "immediately grabbed his shoulders and drove him back into like ... the building area," according to his partner Brown. Barnes had no legal right to grab Malcolm and no legal right to drive him into a building. A Superior Court judge ruled that "even on the defendants' version of the facts, the stop would be unlawful."

Barnes arrived at Rhode Island Hospital at 9:31 p.m. on May 17th and approximately seven hours later his discharge orders were written. The evidence will dispute the narrative that Detective Barnes was stabbed. The evidence will dispute the narrative that Malcolm was advancing on Detective Silvia when he was shot three times in the back. Silvia alleges that he

was within five to seven feet of him when he shot him. Silvia's shell casings were found 45', 35' and 19' from where Malcolm was shot. The evidence will dispute the narrative that Malcolm was tazed before he was shot three times in the back. Detective Fonseca's tazer indicated that it was deployed between the 3rd and 4th shots fired at Malcolm. After Malcolm is tazed he is then shot one time in the side of his head, during the 4th, 5th or 6th shots fired at him.

All of the detectives were interviewed, with their attorney present, between four and eight days after the death of Malcolm. Malcolm's sister, Christina, was interviewed by law enforcement on the same evening of his death at St. Luke's Hospital hours after giving birth to her daughter. While Malcolm laid downstairs in the same hospital, her request to see and identify her brother was denied.

On May 16, 2020, the eve of the eight-year-anniversary of Malcolm's death, a presentation of the evidence will be displayed at a location and time to be determined. Malcolm's family welcomes the public, the media, the Mayor of New Bedford, the Chief of Police, any member of the New Bedford police department, the Mass. State Police, and the Bristol County District Attorney's Office to the presentation of the evidence. The truth still exists; the truth still matters, and the truth will be told."

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## **Brockton man pleads guilty to being a felon in possession**



# of a firearm

A Brockton man pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Anibal Pires, 29, pleaded guilty to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition before U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs, who scheduled sentencing for June 16, 2020.

On Nov. 29, 2018, Pires was found in Brockton in possession of a Taurus PT111, 9mm pistol and 10 rounds of 9 mm ammunition. Due to a prior felony conviction punishable by more than one-year incarceration, Pires is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$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 and Kelly Brady, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Brockton Police Department and the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney William B. Brady of Lelling's Criminal Division is prosecuting the case.

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# **Massachusetts State Officials Remind Public of the Dangers of Walking on Ice Covered Water Bodies**

With recent warmer temperatures across much of Massachusetts, state officials are warning the public of the dangers associated with walking on ice over bodies of water, including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, streams, and rivers.

Public safety and recreation officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) remind residents and visitors to be conscious of the risks associated with walking on ice, particularly after warm weather, and ask that the public refrain from doing so.

The winter season offers unique outdoor recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy, including ice fishing, ice skating, and snowmobiling; unfortunately, year after year state and local officials receive and respond to reports of individuals falling through thin ice. In a short period of time, an individual who falls into icy waters can experience hypothermia like symptoms, which can become fatal if not treated immediately. Hypothermia symptoms include shivering, dizziness, hunger, nausea, accelerated breathing, difficulty speaking, lack of coordination, fatigue, and an increase in heart rate.

**Ice safety tips the public should follow when near bodies of water during the winter months include:**

- Parents should supervise their children;

- Never go onto ice alone;
- Always keep your pets on a leash, and do not let them out off-leash near bodies of water that are covered by ice;
- Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it from freezing. It can also hide cracks as well as other weak spots;
- Ice formed overflowing water (including springs under the surface) is generally weaker than ice over still water;
- Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be a foot thick in one spot or an inch thick in another;
- If a companion falls through the ice and you are unable to reach that person from shore, throw something to them (a rope, tree branch, even jumper cables from a car, etc.). If this does not work, go or phone for help. Get medical assistance for the victim immediately;
- If you fall in, try not to panic. Turn toward the direction you came from, and place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface, working forward by kicking your feet. Once the ice is solid enough to hold you, and you can pull yourself out, remain lying on the ice (do not stand; lying down spreads your weight across a wider area, lessening your weight on any one spot) and roll away from the hole. Crawl back the way you came, keeping your weight distributed, until you return to solid ice or ground; and,
- As the season progresses, plan accordingly and use caution, as the conditions of older ice greatly varies and is subject to rapid changes.

For further information regarding ice and winter safety tips, please visit the DFS and the MassWildlife websites. The Massachusetts State Police reminds individuals to call 911 in the event of an emergency, such as an individual falling through thin ice. Additionally, several state parks and facilities provide outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the winter season, some of which have DCR rangers and/or staff facilitating many programs. Please visit the DCR's website for details.

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# **43-Year old New Bedford woman charged with OUI after car accident early Saturday morning**

At 1:33 am on Saturday, New Bedford police report responding to a call for a motor vehicle accident on Nash Road in the north end of New Bedford.

Officers arrested 43-year old Jodi Fernandes of New Bedford and charged her with negligent operation of a motor vehicle and OUI-liquor.

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# **Coronavirus Vaccine Shipped From Massachusetts to National Institute of Infectious Disease**

By Michael P. Norton, State House News Service

A Cambridge-based company has shipped vials of its novel coronavirus vaccine, which were manufactured at a plant in Norwood, to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) for further research.

Moderna Inc. announced the news late Monday, saying its first batch of mRNA-1273 vaccine was funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and will be used by government researchers in what's known as a Phase 1 Study at the National Institutes of Health.

"I want to thank the entire Moderna team for their extraordinary effort in responding to this global health emergency with record speed. The collaboration across Moderna, with NIAID, and with CEPI has allowed us to deliver a clinical batch in 42 days from sequence identification," Juan Andres, chief technical operations and quality officer at Moderna, said in a statement. "This would not have been possible without our Norwood manufacturing site, which uses leading-edge technology to enable flexible operations and ensure high-quality standards are met for clinical-grade material."

To date, Moderna has manufactured and released more than 100 batches of vaccines and therapeutics from its Norwood site for human clinical trials. The company described mRNA-1273 as part of its "core prophylactic vaccines modality, which has had six positive Phase 1 clinical readouts across six different vaccines over the past four years."

A novel coronavirus was identified early this year in Wuhan, Hubei Province, in China. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control now says the virus has been detected in 32 locations internationally, including the United States. The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19, as this coronavirus is known, is "not fully understood," according to the CDC, with reported illnesses ranging from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death.

The World Health Organization on Monday estimated 2,595 deaths to date in China, and 23 COVID-19 deaths in 29 countries outside of China.

As of Feb. 24, there has been one confirmed case of this novel

coronavirus in Massachusetts, and the Department of Public Health says the risk to residents of Massachusetts remains low. Mass. DPH has not issued an update on the single confirmed coronavirus patient in the state since announcing the confirmed case February 1.

“While person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected with this virus, at this time this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States,” according to the DPH.

Moderna currently has strategic alliances for development programs with AstraZeneca, Merck Inc. and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).