

Massachusetts family offers \$1,000 reward for locating missing teen

"I am offering a \$1000 reward to anyone who leads me to my daughter's whereabouts and I find her from your lead. No questions asked.

You can private message me and it will be held confidential by my family, on my word.

My daughter is still missing, I want to thank everyone for their prayers and assistance. I'm asking for anyone who knows Nikki's whereabouts to come forward, no questions asked.

This will be going into the media's hands soon. If anyone is holding her, you will be found and dealt with.

I want to thank the Hanover Police Department for caring so much and helping us through this ♥️. Places she is known to have been: Lawrence, Methuen, Brockton and Worcester **but she could be anywhere.**

Sincerely, Nichole's Family."

New Bedford landmark "Billy Boy Candies" to close its doors after 60 years of

delighting locals

"Billy Boy Candies has been a family business for over 60 years. With that today we announce that we will be retiring this year.

We will stay open through Easter to serve our community for one last holiday. The Retail and wholesale store will close just after Easter in April.

We are extremely thankful for all our customers and being part of the New Bedford community as well as all of Southern New England.

Sweet Jackie who founded the retail store in late '70s after taking over for her father set off on a vision to grow the business and has done it with great success. Her husband John took over the wholesale for his father in law and continued showing the community what personal touch meant to wholesale distribution. From there the entire family has contributed to the success of this business and everyone will truly miss being a part of this great family.

Once again we thank everyone and look forward to seeing all one last time for the Easter season.

Thank you,

signed

-Billy Boy Candies Family."

New Bedford mom fed up with

impatient drivers at crosswalks

Today it seems there are two types of bad drivers that we will surely run into on a daily basis: the distracted driver on their cell phone and the angry, impatient ticking time bomb that will eventually road rage.

Getting caught behind a school bus or entering a school zone where there are crosswalks or crossing guards is just a fact of daily life. It's best to accept this fact of life and learn to be patient about it. Taking your anger out on someone because they are crossing the road is immature and childish. At most, waiting for someone to cross the road will take a few seconds away from where you are going and every single one of us will eventually be that person trying to cross the road.

One mom shares her recent experience:

"Seems some people need to be reminded about the law for stopping for pedestrians in a crosswalk.

After dropping off my daughter at school today (an elementary school at that), some guy gets upset because he has to wait a few extra seconds at a stop sign while I walk across the street in a clearly marked crosswalk. Crosswalks that are not at lights the pedestrian has the right of way, and since there were even two stop signs on the two one way streets, this should not have even been an issue.

I worry about if there wasn't a stop sign there." -Cheryl P.

Have you run into an impatient driver when crossing the road? Did they honk, make obscene hand gestures, or yell something at you? Share your experience below.

Massachusetts State Police take polar plunge to raise money for Special Olympics

This weekend Lieutenant Robert Clements and Captain Leonard Coppenrath of the Massachusetts State Police joined officers from Hingham, Pembroke, and Hanover Police Departments to take a freezing dip for a great cause at the Nantasket Beach Polar Plunge in Hull.

Together they raised a combined amount of over \$4,000 and earned the "Top Law Enforcement Team" award. The Nantasket Beach Polar Plunge as a whole raised more than \$125,000. All of the funds raised will directly benefit the Special Olympics of Massachusetts!

Also in attendance was Senator Patrick O'Connor, representing Plymouth and Norfolk Districts.

Massachusetts State Police photos.



Up to \$150,000 from Southcoast Health available for Greater New Bedford not-for-profits

Southcoast Health announced today that it is now accepting grant proposals for the health system's 2020 Community Benefits Impact Opportunity Grant program.

The program will award a total of up to \$150,000 to not-for-profit organizations to help address public health needs across the region.

Grant proposals must align with the health priority areas identified in Southcoast Health's most recent Community Needs Assessment. Past grantees represent a variety of programs ranging from providing health screenings to the homeless to encouraging wellness through promoting healthy eating and physical activity opportunities. Additional projects have helped to build healthy families through positive youth development and provide socialization for elders experiencing memory issues and their caregivers.

The full list of criteria and more information about applying for the grant is available within the Grant Details tab of the online application, www.southcoast.org/community-benefits/programs/. The deadline for submission of a grant proposal is 11:59pm, on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

"It is well documented that many factors contribute to health status," said Keith Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health. "These include the social conditions that influence health, such as access to nutritious and affordable food, safe and healthy housing, educational and work opportunities, and safe neighborhoods and outdoor spaces for healthy activities."

The annual Community Benefits Impact Opportunity program is part of a larger Community Benefits initiative, which improves the health quality of life for hundreds of thousands of residents on the South Coast. In the most recent report, for fiscal year 2018, Southcoast Health announced it invested almost \$22.2 million in community benefits activities, including charity care, hospital and community-based programs, and collaboration with regional health centers and health and human service agencies.

"As a not-for-profit healthcare system, it is part of our mission to address our region's health and social needs," said Rachel Davis, Director of Community Benefits for Southcoast Health. "We are happy to provide this opportunity to support

the important work of our community partners.”

The Community Benefits Impact Opportunity Grant program has awarded 111 community impact grants totaling more than \$559,565 since it began in 2016. For more information, please visit <https://www.southcoast.org/community-benefits/>.

Buttonwood Park Zoo welcomes 3rd Bolivian Gray Titi Baby

It's official- the first baby born at the Buttonwood Park Zoo in 2020 is a Bolivian gray titi monkey! Born January 12, 2020, this is the third birth for 11 year-old mom, Madeira and 5 year-old father, Crumpet.

This Bolivian gray titi monkey family has been growing since 2017, with the initial birth of son Biscuit, who is now 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years old. In December of 2018, daughter Mila was born, evening out the family dynamics. For the first several months, the new baby will mostly remain on the back of its parents or siblings – Zoo staff will be able to determine gender once it spends more time off its family.

There are less than 55 Bolivian gray titi monkeys at 18 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institutions in North America. These tree dwelling monkeys weigh around two to three pounds as adults, have a lifespan of 20-25 years and are active during the day. Members of the group exhibit social bonding by sitting side by side and twining their tails. There is a strong bond between adult mating pairs; they stay close and carry out activities together, including infant care. The new baby will spend approximately 80% of the time on the back of dad, Crumpet.

In the wild, this species is found in the tropical forests throughout central Bolivia and into Rondônia in eastern Brazil. Although their population in the wild is decreasing and agricultural activities have resulted in considerable habitat loss, Bolivian gray titi monkeys are reasonably tolerant of habitat disturbance and are adaptable to a variety of environments throughout its relatively wide range.

Crumpet, Madeira, Biscuit, Mila and the new baby reside in the Zoo's innovative Rainforest, Rivers & Reefs exhibit. Opened in July 2017, Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs focuses on the conservation of endangered and threatened Neotropical forest species and the health of the world's oceans while connecting guests with small, endangered primates from regions of South America and ocean dwelling species from around the world. Interpretive signage and on-site education inspires visitors to take small, tangible actions to reduce their impact on habitats and oceans, furthering the Zoo's conservation mission to protect wildlife from extinction.

The Zoo is located at 425 Hawthorn Street in New Bedford and is open from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, with the last admission at 3:15 pm throughout the winter. Ticket prices for non-New Bedford Residents are \$10 for adults/\$6 for children 3-12; Ticket prices for New Bedford Residents are \$7.50 for adults/\$4.50 for children 3-12. For more information about the Zoo's programs, animals and exhibits, visit www.bpzoo.org.

New Bedford's Superintendent Thomas Anderson's statement

on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

"Dear New Bedford Public Schools community,

I have shared in previous communications that New Bedford Public Schools is monitoring the unfolding international health risk related to COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, in addition to the yearly impact the flu has on thousands of people across the country www.cdc.gov/flu.

The precautions regarding the flu can also be applied to how we address concerns related to COVID 19.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) currently classifies the immediate health risk posed by COVID 19 as low. However, the CDC is urging all schools, businesses, health care providers, and individuals to prepare for a possible increase in COVID 19 cases in the United States. An increase in cases could potentially require many steps including cancellation of public events and school closings.

We are in close collaboration with local agencies including Southcoast Health (including St. Luke's Hospital), the City of New Bedford Health Department and we are following guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission. I encourage you to visit their websites in addition to the CDC's website, for more information.

Our facilities team is spending additional time sanitizing classrooms and common spaces to help reduce the spread of germs. I would like to remind you that the most effective precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses are thorough frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands. If children or family members have a fever and symptoms of a respiratory illness (such as cough or shortness of breath), please keep them home and contact your doctor. This applies to

staff as well.

Please be assured that the health and well-being of our students and staff are our top priority. This time will be stressful for all and I ask that we all work to stay informed and be empathetic to individual challenges. I remain particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of this community."

Wareham Police Department releases opioid statistics for February

In an effort to keep the public informed as to the crisis surrounding opioids, Wareham police officers responded to 20 overdose incidents during the month of February. Two of the incidents proved to be fatal.

On many of these calls life-saving instructions were provided by our communications officers prior to the arrival of police officers on the scene. This is a snapshot of just some of the responses during the month.

- Officer Ryan Gomes and Peter Silvia administered Narcan and performed CPR in an effort to revive an individual. Communications Supervisor Edward Johnson performed Emergency Medical Dispatch procedures with a caller for several minutes in an effort to save a life.

- Officers Justin Silveira and Lorenzo Grosso successfully revived an individual with Narcan and CPR. Communications Officer Scott McDaniel gave CPR instructions on the phone to

the caller for five minutes during this incident.

- Officers Silveira and Scott Cowan administered Narcan on a recent call. On this particular incident Communications Officer Taylor Nelson had received a 911 hang-up at the station, called the person back, and began life-saving EMD instructions.
- Officers Grosso, Robert McLain, and Eric Machado administered Narcan at one incident resulting in another save.
- Officers Calib Larue and Stephen Harrison administered CPR and Narcan on one call; however the incident was fatal to the person. Communications Officer Christian Tobia had just begun EMD procedures when the officers arrived.
- Officers Zina Kelsch and Steve Joy administered Narcan and performed CPR resulting in a save. Communications Officer Sabina Flaherty had started the life-saving process prior to arrival of any emergency responders.
- Officers Grosso and Chris Corner used Narcan on a call after Communications Officer McDaniel had given EMD instructions to the caller. This incident resulted in yet another save.
- At one incident, there were two individuals who had overdosed and were both saved because of a combination of immediate action by Communications Officer Judith Holleran, and responding Officers Larue and Jennifer Braley administering Narcan.
- Communications Officer McDaniel along with Officers James White and Charles Pillsbury teamed up to assist in saving another life during a call late in the month.

Chief of Police John Walcek said, "We work seamlessly with our public safety partners, Wareham EMS, Wareham Fire, and Onset Fire on these calls. Our officers have a great working relationship with them which benefits Wareham."

16-year-old girl killed in Seekonk crash, several injured from New Bedford

More information has been released by police concerning yesterday's fatal crash.

According to Dave Procopio of Massachusetts State Police, the passenger of the Chrysler 300 who suffered fatal injuries in last night's crash on Route 195 in Seekonk was 16-year-old Gisella Carrier of New Bedford. She was transported to, and pronounced deceased at, Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, not Rhode Island Hospital as previously stated. Because she is a juvenile her name will not be released.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. Collision reconstruction generally takes several weeks to complete, according to Procopio.

Two other occupants of the Chrysler, a 40-year-old New Bedford woman who was driving and another passenger, a 14-year-old boy, were also injured. The driver was transported to Rhode Island Hospital in Providence with serious injuries, the passenger, to Hasbro Children's Hospital with minor injuries.

All four occupants of the Acura were transported to Rhode Island Hospital with minor injuries. The driver was a 24-year-old New Bedford man, and the three passengers were women, ages 22 and 24, and a man, 27, all of New Bedford.

The driver and sole occupant of the Lexus, a 34-year-old Providence man, was also transported to Rhode Island Hospital for evaluation of possible injury.

The Chevrolet pickup that, according to the preliminary investigation, began the chain reaction crash by striking the Chrysler was operated by a 43-year-old Johnston, R.I., man and was carrying a 17-year-old female passenger.

The investigation into the crash remains ongoing by Troop D of the Massachusetts State Police, the MSP Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, the MSP Crime Scene Services Section, and the State Police Detective Unit for Bristol County.

More details on the crash [here](#).

United Way is accepting proposals for Community Impact funding; available to all of Greater New Bedford

United Way of Greater New Bedford is accepting proposals for Community Impact funding beginning March 4, 2020. Community Impact grants are aimed to support the most effective existing programs and services in United Way's target areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs.

Nonprofit organizations and public entities are eligible to apply for \$10,000 – \$25,000 for operational support to continue, maintain, or expand already existing high-quality programs and services.

Proposals must directly align with UWGNB's priority areas and target issues and must have the existing infrastructure to track specific program indicators. Programs and services must

be available to residents in United Way of Greater New Bedford's service area: Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, and Wareham.

Organizations and public entities interested in applying for a Community Impact grant must submit a Letter of Intent between March 4 – 18 (at noon), to United Way of Greater New Bedford. Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be submitted electronically at unitedwayofgnb.communityforce.com. Organizations should describe how their programs align with United Way's priority areas, the expected outcomes of the program, etc.

LOIs will be reviewed and organizations selected to submit a full application will be notified and able to submit applications beginning March 30th and will be due by April 17th at noon.

"These grants have enabled local organizations to carry out such important work in the community. We look forward to further investing in high-quality programs that align with our priority areas and have a true impact," said Anne Connolly Nicholson, VP of Community Impact.

As with all United Way grants, Community Impact proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a Citizen Review Volunteer Committee made up of community members from Greater New Bedford.

Contact Anne Connolly Nicholson with any questions regarding the Community Impact grants at 508-994-9625 ext. 215. To learn more about Community Impact Grants and United Way at unitedwayofgnb.org.