1,001 ways to celebrate National Fluffernutter Day, Oct. 08

Who didn't fall in love at first sight when they devoured their first Fluffernutter sandwich as a kid? Who, besides a communist, doesn't love one?

While the sandwich invented right here in Massachusetts has been around since it was branded "Fluffernutter" in 1960, its roots go back to Emma and Amory Curtis of Melrose, MA when they invented "Snowflake Marshmallow Creme" in 1913 — right in the middle of World War I. The couple published the first-known recipe for a sandwich idea using their creation which included peanut butter, of course.



4 years later a one Archibald Query — boy folks had some odd first names back then — came up with a spread he called "Marshmallow Creme", indubitably inspired by the Curtises. America's kids soon fell in love with the spread and the sandwich and for parents, it was a quick, affordable way to fill their bellies.

It wasn't until decades later, 1960 to be exact, in an attempt

to market the peanut butter and marshmallow creme sandwich that an advertising agency for Durkee-Mower coined the term Fluffernutter. For those, outside of New England: it's pronounced "Fluffahnuttah." We gave it to the world, we have the last say!

America being a melting pot, a land of foodies and creative folks, took the idea and ran with it. Don't get me wrong, the traditional Fluffernutter of peanut butter and "Fluff" on white bread is the gold standard, quintessential version but there are some variations that will get you salivating, even if you are a die-hard traditionalist.



Let's ease into some of the ideas so as not to turn your knees into marshmallow. Slight variants are the toasted version and the peanut butter, Fluff and banana sandwich. I personally never cared for a PB & J with banana but this variant has me considering.

Take that a step further there is the Banana Foster Fluffernutta and the Banana FluffaNutella Grilled Cheese.

The Fluffernutter Three-Ways features three kinds of peanut

butter — maple, chocolate, and cinnamon raisin swirl. For the "Team America" types there is the traditional Fluffernutter add bacon and the Fluffernutter battered and fried. Finally, there is the drool-inducing Fluffernutter cookie cups.

These ideas are just the tip of the iceberg and while there may be 1,001 ways to do something with the Fluffernutter, to celebrate National Fluffernutter Day, a good old-fashioned plain Fluffernutter will do. While enjoying one you are taking part in a slice of Americana!



U.S. Attorney Lelling renews opposition to drug injection sites in Massachusetts

The following is a statement from U.S. Attorney Lelling regarding drug injection sites in Massachusetts:

"Opioid overdose deaths are down 11% over this time last year, a substantial drop and the continuation of a multi-year trend. Now would not be the time to open a site for the purpose of making it easier to take heroin and fentanyl.

Despite the constant repetition by proponents of these sites, there are no reliable studies showing that they reduce overall numbers of overdose deaths or, more importantly, help addicts get clean. And, yes, people have died in drug injection facilities. Meanwhile, these sites are harmful to the communities that host them, as they attract high concentrations of drug users, followed by drug dealers, and so an increase in crime.

We're aware of the decision yesterday by a single district court judge in Philadelphia. We respectfully disagree with it, and it is only the first step in a long process of judicial review for this important issue. As the Deputy Attorney General said yesterday, efforts to open injection facilities, including here in Massachusetts, will be met with federal enforcement."

Mayor's Youth Council Hosts New Bedford Candidate Forum

The Mayor's Youth Council and the New Bedford Whaling Museum invite New Bedford voters to attend a candidates' forum on Thursday, October 10th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the New Bedford Whaling Museum Harbor View Gallery. The forum will include 3 events for candidates running for citywide offices. The forum for City Council- At -Large Candidates will be 5:00 to 6:30 PM, the School Committee forum will follow from 6:45 to 7:45 PM and the Mayoral forum from 7:50 -8:45 PM.

The format for the forum will include a series of questions presented by the Youth Council involving current issues related to New Bedford and the public schools. If time allows, there will also be an audience Question and Answer period for the candidates. Each participant will have the opportunity to share with voters who they are, why they are running for office, and what they hope to accomplish.

This forum will be conducted by members of the Mayor's Youth Council. The Mayor's Youth Council began hosting candidates' forums in 2007 and this is the seventh forum hosted by the Mayor's Youth Council as an opportunity for youth to participate and share their voice in the election process.

New Bedford's Mayor Jon Mitchell and UMass

Dartmouth's statements on the passing of MarDee Xifaras

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell released the following statement on the passing of Margaret D. "MarDee" Xifaras:

"I was saddened to learn this morning of the passing of my friend, MarDee Xifaras, who endured her illness for many years with remarkable grace. For decades, MarDee was a singularly effective Democratic operative at the local, state and federal levels, where she commanded the confidence of school board candidates and Presidential candidates alike.

She had a rare combination of infectious energy, organizational skill and tough-mindedness that made her better than anyone at grassroots campaigning. She inspired countless young people, especially women, to get involved in causes they believed in, while maintaining a busy law practice in New Bedford, serving on numerous nonprofit boards, and raising her children. I will be forever grateful for her support of me, and the City and region will sorely miss her myriad contributions.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her husband John, and their children and grandchildren during this difficult time."—Mayor Jon Mitchell.

UMass statements on the passing of MarDee Xifaras:

UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Robert E. Johnson:

"I am saddened by the loss of our alumna, former Trustee, and UMass Dartmouth champion MarDee Xifaras ('78 MBA). Her love for UMass Dartmouth and this region, most notably displayed in her unyielding support for the creation of UMass Law, will leave a legacy that endures for generations. As a distinguished attorney, a grassroots organizer for candidates

and causes at the national, statewide and local level, and benefactor of our university, MarDee lived a life in full pursuit of justice.

Her life of service has been an example for all of us to follow. On a personal note, I will cherish my conversations with MarDee. She was always ready and willing to listen, and then offer sound counsel rooted in her vast experience and enduring belief in the better angels of people. I will miss her. On behalf of the students, staff, and faculty of UMass Dartmouth, I offer condolences to MarDee's husband, Judge John Xifaras, her children, grandchildren, and countless friends and colleagues across the Commonwealth and nation."

UMass President Marty Meehan:

"The UMass community is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former UMass Trustee Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras. MarDee X was a phenomenal person who lived life with vigor, passion and perseverance. A pioneer for women in politics, she never wavered from her progressive values over the 40 years I knew her. As a UMass Trustee for five years, she advocated tirelessly on behalf of UMass and played a key role in establishing the UMass School of Law in Dartmouth.

Simply put, we would not have a public law school in Massachusetts without MarDee X, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her long-standing commitment to world-class public education in the Commonwealth. On behalf of the entire UMass community, I offer our condolences to John, her daughters, grandchildren, friends, colleagues and other loved ones."

New Bedford police arrest three on firearm, fentanyl trafficking charges

New Bedford Narcotics Detectives executed search warrants in New Bedford and Dartmouth and arrested two men and a woman on charges that range from trafficking fentanyl to unlawful possession of a firearm.

The following were arrested as a result of the investigations:

- Donald Hardy, 33, of 274 Harrison Street, Fall River, was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. Detective executed a search warrant at the Moby Dick Motel in Dartmouth, where they discovered a loaded .9mm handgun. The lead investigator was Detective Kevin Barbosa.
- Christopher James Francis, 58, of 50 Pierce Street, New Bedford, was arrested for trafficking fentanyl after detectives executed a search warrant at his residence and discovered just under 20 grams of fentanyl, three suboxone strips and \$1,700 in cash. The lead investigator was Detective Jean Lopez.
- Crystal M. Avellar, 40, of 280 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, was arrested for trafficking fentanyl after Detectives executed a search warrant at her residence and discovered just over 10 grams of fentanyl and \$1,800 in cash. The lead investigator was Detective Jordan DaSilva.

All three are due to be arraigned in New Bedford District Court on Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

New Bedford's Buttonwood Park Zoo is certified "Sensory Inclusive"

The Buttonwood Park Zoo partnered with KultureCity to make a visit to the Zoo an accommodating and positive experience for guests with sensory issues.

KultureCity certified the Buttonwood Park Zoo as sensory inclusive, through a process that entailed staff training led by leading medical professionals on how to recognize those guests with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation.

"Families on the Southcoast have been visiting the Zoo and making memories for over 125 years and we are continuously striving to make that experience accessible for all," said Carrie Hawthorne, the BPZoo's Education Curator. "Thanks to this certification, staff is now better prepared to assist guests with sensory sensitivities in having the most comfortable and accommodating experience possible while visiting the Zoo."

Beginning on September 25, 2019, "sensory bags", equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools and verbal cue cards will be available at the North Woods Gift Shop for guests who may feel overwhelmed by the environment.

Sensory sensitivities or challenges with sensory regulation are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions. One of the major barriers for these individuals is sensitivity to overstimulation and noise, which can be part of the environment at the Zoo.

"To know that you soon will be able to see families visit the Buttonwood Park Zoo with their loved ones who have a sensory challenge and who were not able to previously attend is truly a heartwarming moment. Our communities are what shapes our lives and to know that the Zoo is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that everyone, no matter their ability, is included in their community is amazing." Traci Johnson, Executive Director, KultureCity.

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for a Library Asst.

PAY: \$15.00/hr, 15 hours per week

Assists in the daily operations of the Circulation Desk, monitors the borrowing of materials and performs related public service duties as required. Must be available some nights and Saturdays.

Provides courteous public service at the circulation desk by responding promptly to patron requests according to established procedures. Promotes library service to the community by assisting in the planning and implementation of library programs. Makes the library collection accessible by following established circulation and cataloging procedures. This position performs a variety of clerical duties, which include: assistance in opening and closing department; typing and filing; assisting in maintaining appropriate security on ground floor when reporting inappropriate patrons' behavior to Librarian. May assist in collecting, recording and transferring all monies (cash or checks, in person or by mail) coming in, ordering supplies and calling repair services when necessary.

High school diploma or GED required. Two years of college or appropriate public library experience with an automated library system preferred. Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license and good driving record preferred. Ability to speak Spanish preferred. Must have a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, mandatory by MGL Chapter 6 Sec. 172C.

For application/complete job description, please visit www.newbedford-ma.gov. New Bedford has a residency requirement. EEO.

Zeiterion celebrates Halloween with three festive films, October 27-31

The Halloween spirit is alive at Zeiterion Performing Arts Center this October with three festive and affordable movies! The fun begins with The Phantom of the Opera silent movie and live soundtrack on Oct. 27, followed by The Witches of Eastwick starring Cher, Susan Sarandon, Michelle Pfeiffer and Jack Nicholson on Oct. 28, and culminates with The Rocky Horror Picture Show with a live shadowcast on Halloween night.

Tickets are available by calling 508-994-2900, online at https://zeiterion.org/, or at the Zeiterion Box Office at 684 Purchase Street in New Bedford. Group sales are available for 10 tickets or more, which can be purchased by calling 508-997-5664 x123.

Halloween happenings at the Zeiterion include:

The Phantom of The Opera (1925)

Sunday, October 27, 3:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$7.50, general admission

The 1925 picture stars Mary Philbin as Christine and Lon Chaney as the Phantom for a unique theater experience as The Z's Mighty Wurlitzer Organ provides the soundtrack to the timeless tale, thanks to the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society.

Movie Monday: The Witches of Eastwick

Monday, October 28, 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$3, general admission

The devil and his mistresses visit The Z this Halloween! The 1987 feature film follows three single women (Cher, Susan Sarandon and Michelle Pfeiffer) who yearn for "Mr. Right" in a picturesque New England town. Their wishes are granted — at a cost — when a mysterious and wealthy man (Jack Nicholson) arrives. Based on John Updike's bestseller, The Witches of Eastwick is a star-bright otherworldly delight.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Thursday, October 31, 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15, general admission

The cult classic with a twist returns! RKO Army performs a live shadowcast as the movie starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, and Barry Bostwick rolls on screen. Whether you've seen The Rocky Horror Picture Show 10 times or never before, you're in for a real treat this Halloween. This R-rated performance encourages participation from viewers 18 years and older.

The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to provide New Bedford and the

region with performing arts programming of excellence that inspires, educates, engages and entertains. Tickets are available for purchase at www.zeiterion.org, by calling 508-994-2900, or in person at the box office at 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford, Mass. Zeiterion Box Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and two hours before each performance.

Man arrested for assaulting woman and trying to drag her into woods on Massachusetts bike path

On Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at approximately 2:15 p.m. troopers responded to reports of an assault at the bike path at the Ryan Playground in Mattapan. Upon their arrival, they discovered a 47-year-old female with serious cuts and bruises to her head. She was quickly transported to an area hospital and an investigation into finding the person responsible for the attack ensued, conducted by Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to Troop H.

The victim of the assault was able to provide troopers with a detailed account of the event. She stated her attacker knocked her to the ground then got over her and struck her numerous times before attempting to drag her into the wood line. Investigators interviewed numerous people from the area, gathered evidence, and acted on several tips that came in from the public.

Through their efforts, MSP Troop H detectives developed a detailed description of the attacker, which was then disseminated to law enforcement agencies in the surrounding communities. Shortly after the description was disseminated a police officer from the Lincoln Police Department contacted MSP detectives and informed them he believed he had an encounter with a man matching the suspect's description on an earlier date. The officer was able to provide a name and identified the individual as DWYARRN BURTON, 26, of Boston.

Troopers began searching recent addresses on file for BURTON; however, he apparently moved around and his whereabouts were erratic. During the search for BURTON Troopers continued to gather video surveillance and physical evidence, which led them to believe that BURTON was responsible for the Mattapan assault.

On October 3 BURTON was scheduled for a court appearance for an unrelated case stemming from an Aug. 5, 2019 arrest for indecent assault and battery. On that same date Troopers began a search of areas BURTON was known to frequent and, at 2:25 p.m. on Oct. 3 they located him walking on a sidewalk. BURTON was arrested on the court warrant and transported to an MSP barracks, where he was interviewed about the September 17 Mattapan assault. During the interview, the MSP detectives gathered additional evidence. They subsequently charged BURTON with the Mattapan assault.

Information developed during the investigation indicates that BURTON and the victim did not know each other. Evidence indicates he approached and asked her for a cigarette, and when she did not give him one he attacked her.

Troopers charged BURTON with the following offenses for the September 17, 2019 incident:

- 1. Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon; and
- 2. Assault and Battery.

BURTON was arraigned today at Dorchester District Court where he was ordered held without bail pending his next court appearance on Nov. 5.

New Bedford High School Whaler Marching wins multiple awards

"The New Bedford High School Whaler Marching received an 80.0 and 1st place overall in Division 3 and earned caption awards for Best Music, Best Percussion and Best Colorguard at today's home band competition. Our score today improved 10 points from our last competition two weeks ago! Go Whalers! #creativity"-

Photos by E. Sirianos.

