

# Two OUI crashes in New Bedford early Friday morning

There were two OUI related car accidents in New Bedford that sent both drivers to the hospital early Friday morning.

Around 1am, New Bedford police officers observed a vehicle traveling the wrong way north on Route 18 at a slow rate of speed. Officers observed damage and smoke coming from the vehicle.

After police officers spoke with the operator it was determined she had been operating under the influence of alcohol and charges. She was transported to St. Luke's hospital and will face the following charges:

- OUI Liquor
- Negligent operation of a motor vehicle
- Leaving the scene of property damage
- driving wrong way

At 2am, New Bedford police officers responded to a single-vehicle crash that struck a tree and crashed through a fence. Based on observations and further investigation, it was determined the male driver was under the influence of alcohol. The driver was transported to St. Luke's Hospital and faces the following charges:

- OUI Liquor
- Negligent operation of a motor vehicle

Video by Alex Lima.

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# **New Bedford Man Twice Arrested for Carrying Illegal Firearms Sentenced to Prison**

A 31-year-old New Bedford man arrested twice in Fall River during the past three years on various illegal firearm charges was sentenced to three to four years in state prison earlier this week, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Eric Espinal pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to indictments charging him with two counts of carrying an illegal firearm and one count each of carrying a loaded illegal firearm, carrying a large capacity illegal firearm and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

On May 7, 2016, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Fall River Police Officer William Platt was working his assigned uniform patrol shift. On that day, while operating a marked police cruiser, Platt saw the defendant, Eric Espinal walking on Middle Street. Due to a flyer distributed during roll call, Platt knew Espinal was a person of interest in a shooting. Further, the flyer advised that Espinal was possibly armed and that Espinal was prohibited from possessing a firearm. Platt attempted to speak with Espinal on Middle Street but Espinal turned on to Whipple Street. Platt turned his vehicle around and drove past Espinal who had ducked down behind a parked pickup truck. In his side-view mirror, Platt saw Espinal stopped in the driveway of 255 Whipple Street and stopped his cruiser.

Upon getting out of his cruiser, Officer Platt immediately saw Espinal had a black pistol in his right hand. Officer Platt yelled to Espinal to drop the gun, but Espinal refused and fled. Officer Platt immediately advised his fellow officers of

his observations and gave chase until Espinal climbed over a six-foot fence and continued to flee. Officers received information from neighbors about Espinal's path of flight, and Sergeant Jason Pacheco arrested Espinal on Osborne Street.

Officers searched the surrounding area for approximately two hours and recovered a black .380 caliber firearm, loaded with 13 rounds of ammunition.

While out on bail for the 2016 case, the defendant was arrested again on July 30, 2017. On that day, at approximately 5:20 PM, officers were dispatched to the area of 451 Fourth Street in Fall River for a report of shots fired from a motor vehicle. Officers spoke with two residents of 453 Fourth Street who described being on their front porch when they saw an older black Hyundai in front of their residence. The driver, a light skinned male, possibly Hispanic, with braided hair yelled, "I will fucking kill you", and then fired a silver handgun three times. The car then fled North on Fourth Street.

At approximately 6:30 PM, Officer Marc Corriea was stopped in a marked cruiser at the intersection of Rodman Street and Plymouth Avenue when he saw a car matching the description from the shots fired call travelling north on Plymouth Avenue. As the car turned onto Rodman Street, OfficerCorreia saw the operator was a light-skinned Hispanic male with braided hair. Officer Correia performed a three-point turn and attempted to stop the car when it rapidly accelerated through the parking lot of Hartwell Commons onto Hartwell Street. The driver lost control of the car and crashed into a pole. The driver attempted to keep driving north on Hartwell Street but the car had three flat tires. At this point, Officer Correia saw the driver (Espinal) reaching under the passenger seat. Officer Correia drew his firearm and trained it on Espinal, who finally exited the car. A search of the area under the passenger seat revealed an unloaded S&W model 36 revolver.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Cahillane and the three to four year state prison sentence was imposed by Judge Joseph Leighton. The defendant was also placed on probation for an additional year.

“The defendant was out on bail for one gun case that was connected to a shooting where the defendant was carrying a fully loaded illegal firearm and was then arrested with a second illegal gun,” District Attorney Quinn said. “This defendant is a danger to the community and is contributing to the lawlessness that afflicts our cities.”

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## **Spotlight: The Donut Factory – amazing shakes in New Bedford**

Want an amazing shake? Here’s a look at some of the delicious shakes at The Donut Factory at 102 Rockdale Ave. in New Bedford. Strawberry shortcake, cookies and cream and many more!

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## **New Bedford Operator from Crash in Taunton Succumbs to**

# Her Injuries

At approximately 1:30 p.m. yesterday, February 13, 2019, Troopers from the State Police Middleboro Barracks, along with members of the Taunton Fire Department, responded to reports of a single vehicle crash on Route 140 Southbound prior to Exit 10 in Taunton. Upon arriving on scene Troopers discovered the vehicle down an embankment to the side of the roadway.

Initially, Troopers and EMS personnel were able to speak with the operator, identified as Breanne L. Cabral, 27 of New Bedford, however, while on scene her condition worsened and the decision was made to call MedFlight to respond to the scene. The 27-year-old female passenger was uninjured in the crash. Cabral was transported to Rhode Island Hospital by MedFlight.

Earlier today we were made aware that Cabral succumbed to her injuries while in the hospital. The remaining facts and circumstances of the crash are currently under investigation by Troopers from the Middleboro Barracks and Bristol County State Police Detective Unit.

No further information is currently available. Please do not contact the barracks directly.

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## **Faces Of New Bedford #193: Monica Melo**

Meet Monica Melo, 33-year-old owner and hairstylist of Salon Gigi. Monica was born in Portugal and moved to New Bedford with her parents when she was one. Growing up, she always had a passion for making people look and feel good.



When it came time for college she attended Bristol Community College, although she knew that she didn't want to go to college. After a year of school, she dropped out and enrolled in LaBaron Hair Dressing school, where she knew she could pursue her passion. After graduating, she worked for a few years in a handful of salons before taking time off to be home with her newborn children.

Once her children were a little older, she knew she wanted to return to hairdressing but didn't want to work for someone else. It was in 2014 that she open Salon Gigi, where she has been ever since. For her, it's not about just doing her clients' hair, but building a relationship with them and empowering them to be confident and love themselves.

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*Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the series email all inquiries to [colton@coltonsimmons.com](mailto:colton@coltonsimmons.com). Follow Colton on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>*

Read more of the Faces of New Bedford series [here](#).

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# **State Police Investigating Flying Ice That Injured Girl in Car on Route 495**

This afternoon, at approximately 1:45 p.m. Troopers from the State Police-Andover Barracks received several cell calls reporting a large piece of ice coming off a tractor-trailer on Route 495 northbound in Andover and smashing the windshield of a 2018 Toyota.

A female juvenile passenger of the Toyota was transported to Lawrence General Hospital with minor injuries.

A witness to the incident called the State Police-Andover Barracks with the license plate of the tractor-trailer. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

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# **DA Quinn announces Most Wanted Fugitives Website and New Anonymous Tip Program**

During a press conference held at White's of Westport this morning, DA Quinn unveiled a new website that will routinely update the public about the violent fugitives still on the loose in our communities. In conjunction with this website, DA Quinn also announced a new anonymous tip program designed

specifically to give the general public the opportunity to assist us in locating and apprehending these fugitives from justice.

The Bristol County Most Wanted Fugitives webpage, which can be found on both Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bristoldafugitives](http://www.facebook.com/bristoldafugitives) and via our website [www.bristolda.com/fugitives](http://www.bristolda.com/fugitives) will be updated regularly and will highlight specific fugitives from justice. The list of fugitives will include information about the criminal cases, information about the defendant's ties to the community and any other connections to the area. The webpage will also include information on how to provide an anonymous tip to assist us in locating and apprehending these fugitives.

Members of the public will be able to either anonymously send in a tip via text message or anonymously submit a tip via the web at <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/create-report/anonymous/da.bristol.ma.us>. To text in a tip, all a citizen has to do is text the keyword "Bristol" to the phone number CRIMES (274637). After typing in the word "Bristol," the citizen can then type in the tip they want to provide. The text will be received by a member of our state police unit and the state trooper will have the ability to respond to the text to seek more information or get a clarification about the tip. No state trooper or anyone from our office will have access to the tipster's actual phone number because when the tip is sent by the citizen it is first routed to Canada and then assigned a random non-existent phone number. This assures complete anonymity for the tipster.

Since internally beginning this initiative in August, we have already located and captured 10 fugitives who defaulted on serious Superior Court cases.

"Massachusetts is drowning in hundreds of thousands of open warrants. While many of the cases involve minor offenses,



there are, however, many violent and serious offenders with open arrest and default warrants who are walking the streets of our communities every day. This has been an issue I have taken very seriously during my 20-year career as a prosecutor.

While we have aggressively tracked down fugitives during my tenure as the district attorney and first assistant district attorney, this initiative will bring added attention and resources to this important public safety issue," District Attorney Quinn said. "With the public's assistance and the media shining its spotlight on this growing problem, it is our hope that we can track down violent offenders who skip court and never show up to face the charges. The message here today should be clear: You simply will not get a pass when you skip court and try to evade prosecution."

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## **30 year old New Bedford man faces 14 firearm, 8 drug charges**

A New Bedford man is facing 24 criminal charges to include 14 firearm/ammunition and eight drug charges after being arrested on Wednesday.

30-year old Dean Ferreira of 46 Scott Street in New Bedford was arrested with three firearms to include a Glock 21, which is considered a large capacity firearm in Massachusetts. Police are also charging him for trafficking more than 36 grams of Oxycodone, possession and distributing of crack cocaine and other drugs. He was also driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license.

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# **Fall River man wanted for warrant arrested in New Bedford with 20 suboxone strips**

On Monday, 11 February at 6:13pm, New Bedford police gang units observed a male walk to the rear of 15 Bullard Street in the north end of New Bedford and re-appear minutes later. Police believed the man was involved in drug activity. Police searched the man and located 20 suboxone strips on his possession.

43-year old Christopher Hayes of 542 Spencer Street in Fall River was arrested and charged with:

- Resisting arrest
- Possession of a class B drug
- Warrant

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# **New Bedford sees four overdoses in a 20 hour period on Sunday/Monday**

In a 20 hour period between 10-11 February, there were four overdoses in New Bedford according to the New Bedford Police

Department. All survived and received treatment.

- At 5:57am on Sunday, 51-year old woman on South Street apartment
- At 11:25am on Sunday, 50-year old man on Elm Street
- At 7pm on Sunday, 32-year old man Richmond Street apartment
- At 1:35am on Monday, 36-year old man Philips Road (Southcoast condos)

In January, [New Bedford saw four overdoses in less than 24 hours.](#)

According to New Bedford police data, [New Bedford saw a slight increase in overdoses, but a 15% decrease in overdose-related deaths in 2018.](#)