



SOUTHCOAST

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IN BRIEF

Lakeville teen arrested in stabbing, theft of pot

LAKEVILLE — A Lakeville teen was arrested at his Long Point Road home Sunday, charged with stabbing another teen during the theft of a small amount of marijuana, police said.

Benjamin P. Richard, 18, is charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, attempted murder, armed robbery and possession of ammunition without a license, Lakeville police said in a press release.

Lakeville police received a call about 2:25 p.m. Saturday from Freetown police to report a 19-year-old male had called 911 and claimed to have just been stabbed while in Lakeville. Police later learned the incident took place on Long Point Road, a short distance from the suspect's home.

According to Lakeville police, the robbery involved the theft of marijuana from the victim, which Police Chief Frank Alvilhiera described as "a small amount."

Alleged Latin King gang member sentenced to 15 years in jail

BOSTON — An alleged Latin King gang member was sentenced to 15 years in prison in U.S. District Court after pleading guilty to federal drug and gun possession charges, officials said.

Luis Lopez, 31, of New Bedford was sentenced on Jan. 10 by U.S. District Court Judge Rickard G. Stearns to 15 years in prison and three years of supervised release, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The police sought and received a search warrant for Lopez's residence in New Bedford, where approximately \$2,000, cell phones, a digital scale, packaging materials, heroin and a Glock 9mm handgun with 16 rounds of ammunition were recovered, officials said.

Lopez has previously been convicted of drug dealing and committing violent crimes, according to federal prosecutors. He is also an alleged Latin King gang leader, which, among other things, is evidenced by tattoos that adorn his face, including a Latin Kings crown and "shoot to kill."

— Curt Brown

New rules for New England shrimp fishing might go to public

PORTLAND, Maine — The public might soon have a chance to comment on potential new fishing rules that could help bring New England's shrimp back into markets.

Northern shrimp were once a popular seafood item, but the commercial fishing industry for them has been shut down since the stock collapsed in 2013.

Interstate regulators are working on new rules about how to manage the fishery if it does eventually reopen.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission says options include state-by-state allocations and the mandatory use of certain kinds of gear to prevent harvest of young shrimp.

The commission's shrimp panel will meet on March 16 to decide whether to approve a draft of new rules for public comment. The new rules could come up for a vote at a later date.

— The Associated Press

CORRECTION

The Standard-Times strives for accuracy and fairness. To report an error or to seek a correction or clarification in print, please call the newsroom at 508-979-4440.

TRUMP TRANSITION

Change is afoot at the EPA

By Jennette Barnes
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Spalding

NEW BEDFORD — When President Obama leaves office, so does Curt Spalding, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator who has overseen the cleanup of New Bedford Harbor since 2010.

In a farewell visit to New Bedford on Thursday, Spalding said his biggest concern about the agency under President-elect Donald Trump is money. New England has done good work on climate change but needs continued funding for cleanups and water infrastructure, he said.

The departure of political appointees leaves the future of many government projects in doubt. Although settlement money from AVX Corp. will allow the harbor work to continue, it will probably run "somewhat short" of money, according to EPA spokeswoman Kelsey O'Neil.

She said the agency is

confident it can get enough federal Superfund money to finish the job, and work should take another five to seven years.

In a meeting with The Standard-Times editorial board, Spalding said he thinks no other region has gotten as much attention from the New England EPA office, and he had high praise for city leaders, saying they have done well working with the state and the EPA.

"I think the competency level is higher. New Bedford has a capacity that others don't," he said.

Spalding cited New Bedford's installation of more than 16 megawatts of solar power, making it a trailblazer for a city its size and saving the city an estimated \$22 million over the next 20 years.

"This is a very sophisticated community," he said.

Local environmentalists, however, have warned that the harbor cleanup could cost far more than the value of the settlement and won't make the lower Acushnet River or New Bedford Harbor as clean as people might hope — at least not right away.

"It won't be fishable or swimmable under any standard," Buzzards Bay Coalition Executive Director Mark Rasmussen said in September.

Members of a community action group, Hands Across the River Coalition, have decried the cleanup plan, because it involves burying sediment contaminated with carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in unlined containment holes beneath the floor of the Acushnet River.

Still, work in the river and harbor has accelerated dramatically since 2012, when the federal and state governments reached a settlement with AVX, formerly Aerovox,

in which the company agreed to pay \$366.25 million and end its liability for the site.

The federal and state governments reached a previous settlement with the company for more than \$100 million in 1992, but reserved the right to seek supplemental money. Exercising that right led to the bigger settlement in 2012.

Until that infusion of cash, the project was expected to take at least 40 years.

The conclusion of the harbor cleanup will put New Bedford in a "very positive place" that was not expected to come so soon, Spalding said.

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell said Spalding has been deeply involved in planning the use of settlement funds and hired the cleanup manager.

Spalding was also instrumental in securing final approval of the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal, the mayor said.

Before joining the EPA,

Spalding spent nearly 20 years as director of Rhode Island's Save the Bay, an education and advocacy group focused on Narragansett Bay.

Topher Hamblett, director of advocacy for Save the Bay, said Spalding was politically savvy.

He said Spalding worked with the jewelry industry and government to effectively reform the way the industry handles toxic waste that was dumped into the bay. He also oversaw Save the Bay's move to an office overlooking the Providence River, where the waterfront is open to the public from sunup to sundown, in an area with little public access to the water.

"The results have been spectacular," he said. "I think of Curt every day when I look out into the river and see how it's been transformed."

Spalding lives in Rhode Island. Asked about his future plans, he said he will look for a job between Connecticut and Cape Cod.

NEW BEDFORD

Learning to make a difference

By Wesley Sykes
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NEW BEDFORD — More than 150 SouthCoast students, each one holding signs and chanting songs of hope, marched through the North End and across the river into Acushnet on Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

They ended their one-mile journey at the GiftsToGive factory, an organization that helps out roughly 9,000 children in need annually.

Youth from around the region began their journey at Normandin Middle School as a part of GiftsToGive's seventh annual MLK Day of Service. And while their march to realizing their power ended at 1 Titleist Drive, the students' commitment to service is just starting.

"This is only the beginning," said Erin Cook, a wraparound coordinator for Normandin who helps bridge the gap between students and their communities. "We're hoping these kids take what they learned today back to their schools and communities and start making a difference there."

The students had gathered at Normandin, a scheduled day-off for schools, to participate in a three-hour "teach-in," where students discussed and learned about social issues that are affecting them and how to bring change to these issues in their communities.

With the 1963 Birmingham Children's March as the backdrop of their discussion, the local students learned they, too, have a voice that can be heard and wield the power for change. Normandin principal Stephen Farrell said that the student-led "teach-in" was informative, but more importantly, inspirational.

"I think the big thing (the students) took from this is that they can make a difference. A lot of the issues that they are concerned about are not just



Erik Andrade speaks to the students about service, responsibility and being a role model for others. PHOTOS BY DAVID W. OLIVEIRA/STANDARD-TIMES SPECIAL/SCMG

equal rights and civil rights. It's also poverty, environmental issues and substance abuse," he said. "What we also saw today was unity and mutual support from all of our students."

While more than 20 adults ranging from teachers, parents and volunteers were in attendance, the "teach-in" was conducted by the students. They drove discussions as the adults guided them in identifying 10 crucial global issues, such as poverty or hunger, or outlining the social boundaries of their schools and communities like anti-bullying and equal education.

"It was a day that was pretty much run by the students," founder and CEO of Gifts2Give Jim Stevens said. "For me this day was about connection. If we can create a chain of college students mentoring high school students that mentor middle school students who mentor elementary school students then we're building

a pathway. Today helps us build a pathway to service."

Upon arriving at the GiftsToGive factory, the students were given a tour of the facilities and, hopefully, a launching point for a commitment to servicing their communities. GiftsToGive benefits from 1,000 children volunteers a month and 4,000 adult volunteers annually.

"This is the age that is critical," Steven said. "If you don't connect middle school kids these days to something more than themselves, they become disconnected."

It was with that thinking that Stevens invoked the help of Sophia Rogers, an eight-year-old enrolled at Pulaski Elementary School in New Bedford. Stevens said he could have asked an elected official to address the students, but felt the message would sink more if it came from a fellow child.

"The more you give, the more happy you become," Rogers said addressing the room. "We've been fooled into thinking that receiving makes us happy. Try giving more and see how you feel."

Rogers has volunteered at GiftsToGive for the past year and hopes to inspire others, like Normandin student Yelmari Rofsoalias, to get in the giving spirit.

"Sophia inspired me today. I want to help out here now too."

Upon completion of the day, students were handed a copy of the Birmingham Pledge, outlining a daily commitment to eliminate racial prejudice from their thoughts and to treat all people with dignity and respect.

"Our intention from this point forward is to not lose this momentum, but to continue our philanthropy and our outreach," Farrell said.

NEW BEDFORD COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Morad heads Finance, Coelho keeps Public Safety

By Curt Brown
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NEW BEDFORD — Outgoing City Council President Linda M. Morad will return to head the City Council Committee on Finances and Debora Coelho will keep her public safety chairmanship, after Council President Joseph P. Lopes made his committee appointments.

Lopes, in an interview with The Standard-Times, said he drew upon his experience four years ago as council president in making his appointments on Friday. He said he gave "considerate thought" before making them and he was looking for "a good fit" and "what worked."

"I tried putting people in places where they can work," he said.

Lopes reappointed Councilor at-large Coelho as the chairwoman of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods. Morad had appointed Coelho to the chairmanship in 2016, replacing the longtime chairman Councilor at-large Brian K. Gomes. Councilor Gomes will continue as the committee's vice chair, a position he also held last year.

Gomes will serve as the chairman of the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, which handles nearly all council business, at the request of Lopes, Gomes said. But he would have preferred to return

to being chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods.

The new council president has also created a new, special committee to be chaired by Councilor at-large Ian Abreu — Licensing and Zoning for Cannabis, which will review issues relating to recreational and medical marijuana issues in New Bedford. "We have to have a pinpoint accuracy approach for the industry to grow in New Bedford," he said.

He also said Ward 1 Councilor James Oliveira will take over Ward 3 Councilor Henry G. Bousquet's chairmanship of the Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Youth, Health and Housing and Disability Issues. "He is the last veteran

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

City Council Committee
APPOINTMENTS AND BRIEFINGS
CITY PROPERTY
FINANCE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
LABOR AND INDUSTRY
ORDINANCES
PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOODS
VA, ELDERLY, YOUTH, HEALING AND HOUSING
& DISABILITIES ISSUES
AUDIT
FISHERIES

2017 chair
Brian K. Gomes
James Oliveira
Linda M. Morad
Dana Rebelro
Ian Abreu
Steven Martins
Debora Coelho

James Oliveira
James Oliveira
Kerry Winterson

SPECIAL COMMITTEES
AIRPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS
BUDGET REVIEW
DOG PARK
LICENSING AND ZONING FOR CANNIBIS

James Oliveira
Dana Rebelro
Naomi R.A. Carney
James Oliveira
Naomi R.A. Carney
Ian Abreu

2016 chair
Henry G. Bousquet
James Oliveira
Joseph P. Lopes
Brian K. Gomes
Steven Martins
Steven Martins
Debora Coelho

Henry G. Bousquet
Joseph P. Lopes
Kerry Winterson

James Oliveira
Naomi R.A. Carney
Kerry Winterson
James Oliveira
Naomi R.A. Carney

COMMITTEES ON SOCCER FIELDS (Gomes, 2016) and CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION (Martins, 2016) have been eliminated.

Source: New Bedford City Council

on the council and it is important to have a veteran as chairman of the committee," Lopes said.

Bousquet is stepping down from the Council, effective Feb. 1.