

Chatham woman, 77, charged with manslaughter in motorcyclist's death in Florida



A 77-year-old Chatham woman is accused of being drunk Saturday when the van she was driving in Florida veered into oncoming traffic and collided with a motorcycle driven by a North Carolina man who later died, authorities said.

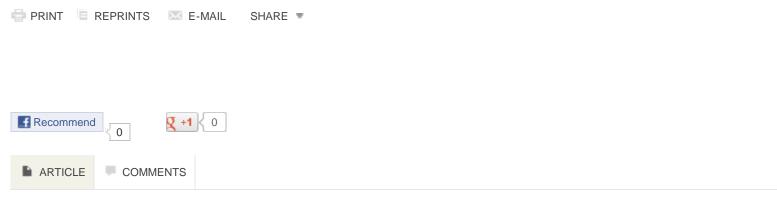
Barbara Dunn was arrested on charges of DUI manslaughter, DUI and DUI with property damage and booked at Volusia County Jail, according to a statement from Florida Highway Patrol.

At about 9 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, Dunn was driving north on Ocean Shore Boulevard in Ormond Beach when her 2012 Chevrolet van crossed into the southbound lanes, where a group of motorcyclists were traveling, the statement said.

Two of the motorcycles braked and veered right to avoid the oncoming van, officials said. A third motorcycle, driven by Charles Bixler, 64, of Concord, N.C., who was wearing a helmet, collided with the van, according to police.

The other two motorcyclists suffered minor injuries authorities said. Results of blood alcohol level testing performed on Dunn should be available within eight to 10 weeks, said Sergeant Kim Montes, a spokeswoman for Florida Highway Patrol.

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Spell of dry weather may be broken by Isaac's rains

Beach bums, take note: Labor Day could be the last chance to bask in the sun before clouds and classes set in.

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Dolphins herded away from bayside beach

Small boats herded 39 common dolphins out of shallow water near Thumpertown Beach in Eastham Saturday evening.

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Charlotte offers promise, pitfalls for Democrats

The Democratic Convention will be held in North Carolina's largest city this week, but the state will pose a challenge for President Obama in his reelection race.

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Governor's Council still in eye of storm

Despite a recent state Senate bid to abolish the obscure but important body, 27 people are vying for one of eight seats on the council in Thursday's primaries.

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Interim police chief in Newton seeks stability

Howard Mintz, who took over last week, has sought a more professional atmosphere in the wake of his predecessor's sudden dismissal for "boorish" and inappropriate behavior.

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Boston police identify man, 21, shot to death in Dorchester Friday

A man who was shot to death near Southern Avenue in Dorchester early Friday was identified as Deandre Townsend, 21, of Boston, police said in a statement. Officers found Townsend suffering from an apparent gunshot wound shortly after 1 a.m. Friday, according to Boston police. He was pronounced dead at Boston Medical Center.

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Boston schools pushing to keep buses on time

Much is riding on the School Department's ability to have things running smoothly well before month's end.

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Six-legged robot project takes shape in Somerville

Unlike most of the machines churned from the more than 80 robotics companies in Greater Boston, this creature has no purpose other than awe.

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Suffolk casino plan needs cities' support

Responding to complaints about plans for a phased development, Suffolk Downs acknowledged the host cities control when the resort could open.

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Boston uses two high-tech tools to combat crime

Police made nine arrests in the past year by comparing data from a system that tracks gunfire and another that tracks parolees.

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Fatal crashes mar Labor Day weekend in N.E.

Four Massachusetts residents and a New Hampshire woman died in car crashes across the region over the Labor Day weekend.

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Death still follows some Mass. laborers to work

Once a week, on average, a Massachusetts worker dies on the job, according to a state report. Death comes from falls and vehicle crashes and even homicides.

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Canadian biker killed in collision with moose

DENNISTOWN, Maine — Police say a Canadian motorcycle rider was killed when he crashed into a moose, The Bangor Daily News reported.

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Connecticut to give city hospital \$10 million

The state of Connecticut is contributing \$10 million toward the expansion of a medical training facility at Hartford Hospital. The 30,000-square-foot expansion of the hospital's Center for Education, Simulation, and Innovation is part of a larger \$100 million capital improvement plan. The facility allows students and medical professionals to simulate different types of acute medical crises in a setting that's similar to their actual work environments.

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Drop in prices helps boost home sales in state

Home sales in Vermont have grown 14.5 percent from last year, with lower prices playing a role in luring buyers back into the market. The Northern New England Real Estate Network, which tracks multiple-listing sales of homes in Vermont and New Hampshire, says that through July, 2,493 homes were sold in Vermont compared with 2,177 for the same period last year. Sales of condominiums also posted gains, with an 11 percent increase. Part of the appeal is lower prices: the median price for houses has fallen \$10,000 from a year ago, from \$212,000 to \$202,000.

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