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UMass Boston fires Crystal Transport after failed federal safety probe



Passengers get off Crystal Transportation bus at the JFK/UMass MBTA station in Dorchester on March 20. *Credit: John Blanding/Globe Staff*

By Matt Rocheleau

Boston.com Staff

MARCH 31, 2014 11:37 AM

The University of Massachusetts Boston has dropped Boston charter bus company Crystal Transport Inc. and hired two other companies to provide local shuttle bus service following a [Globe report](#) about Crystal Transport failing a federal investigation due to alleged safety issues.

Paul Revere Transportation LLC and Academy Bus have taken over the role providing shuttle service on and around UMass Boston's campus, including to and from the JFK/UMass MBTA station. University officials said the change was made on Saturday.

"This was a necessary step to ensure that our campus community continues to feel safe and secure when traveling to and from campus," said a statement released Friday by UMass Boston vice chancellor for administration and finance Ellen O'Connor.



"We feel confident that Paul Revere Transportation LLC and Academy Bus are the best solutions to meet our campus transportation needs in a safe and secure manner," she added. "Both companies have extensive experience in the operation of safe bus transportation for a variety of clients and are licensed and in compliance with federal regulations."

Paul Revere Transportation's operations include running terminal shuttle buses at Logan Airport and around the Longwood Medical Area, officials said. Academy Bus, the country's largest privately owned and operated transportation company, provides shuttle service for Boston University,

Tufts University and Emerson College.

On March 19, federal regulators ordered Crystal Transport to cease interstate operations because the company had failed a recent three-month investigation, which found safety issues including operators continuing to drive buses after testing positive for drugs or alcohol, the [Globe reported earlier this month](#).

The company was allowed to continue operating locally until Saturday when it was ordered to be shut down completely, the [Globe reported today](#)

The president of Crystal Transport is scheduled to go before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities today to explain why the company should be allowed to resume operations, the [Globe](#) said.

The company's general manager Kevin Sheehan told the [Globe](#) previously that two safety consultants had been hired to help address the issues and that documents had been sent to regulators showing the problems have been corrected.

The revelation [prompted concern](#) at UMass Boston.

O'Connor's statement on Friday said the university "immediately began to explore alternate vendors to provide transportation services ... after we learned [this month] that our current vendor, Crystal Transport Inc., had been the subject of a negative review by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which would require them to cease operations as of [Saturday]."

While shuttle routes will not change and buses will continue to make the same stops, UMass Boston officials told riders in a statement "you can expect to experience some delays and should allow extra time when traveling to campus" during the transition to new vendors.

"There will be limitations on the capacity of buses at first, but we are working to build on and improve our bus fleet," the university added. "Our bus tracking system Transloc will also not be immediately available, but we are taking the necessary steps to bring it online as quickly as possible."

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).



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Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates Gets Unreal Housing Perks From NYU

Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

News 31 min ago Share

Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting

Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League

There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.



BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks

Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.

Entertainment 1 hour ago Share



US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner

A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

Health  2 hours ago  Share



Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

Life  3 hours ago  Share



10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season



Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

Obnoxious Boston Fan  3 hours ago  Share

Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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Broke Beats: F.Stokes – 'Liquor Sto' Diaries'



Broke Beats is BDCwire's open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven't quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

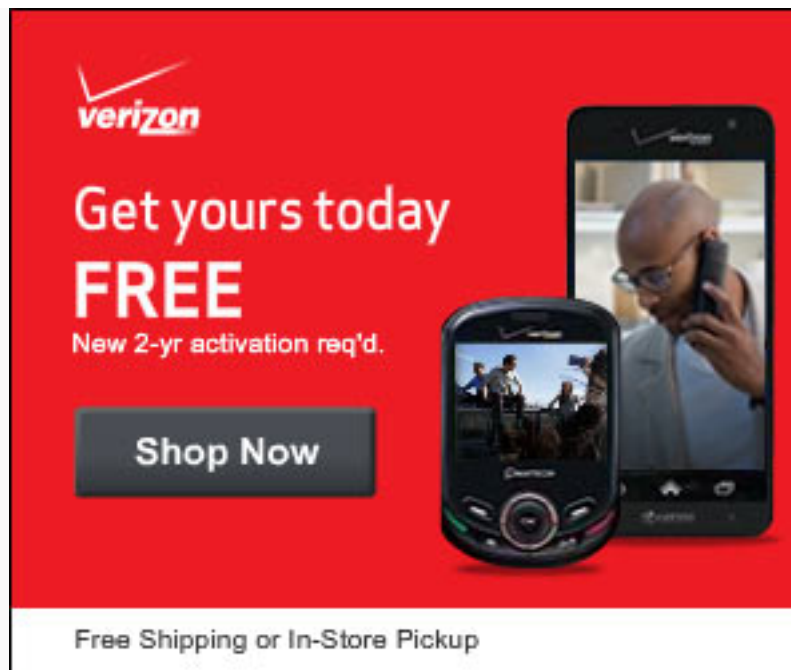
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Oprah's Network Postpones Sam Documentary

The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

Sports  4 hours ago  Share

A Verizon advertisement on a red background. The Verizon logo is in the top left. The text "Get yours today" is in white, followed by "FREE" in large white letters. Below that, in smaller white text, is "New 2-yr activation req'd.". A black button with "Shop Now" in white is in the center. To the right are two smartphones: a flip phone showing a group photo and a smartphone showing a man on a video call. At the bottom, in a white bar, is the text "Free Shipping or In-Store Pickup".

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Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

News  4 hours ago  Share



Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

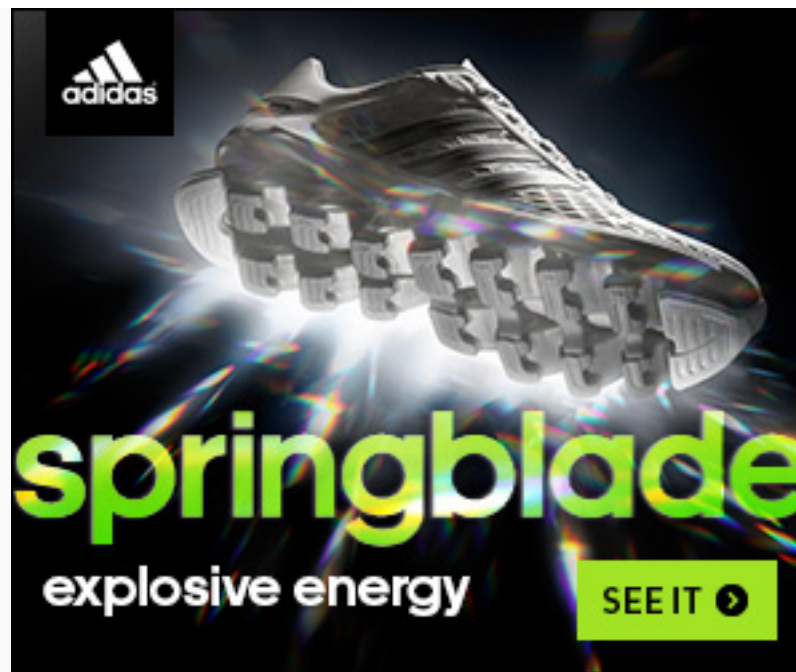
A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

Weather Wisdom  5 hours ago  Share



Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

Cars  12 hours ago  Share



Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident

Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

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Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500



The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases



12 hours ago



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North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant

Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

News



13 hours ago



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Feds Deny Tsarnaev Lawyers' Complaint About Leaks

Federal prosecutors say there's no need for a hearing on what defense attorneys have called leaks and improper comments in the case of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

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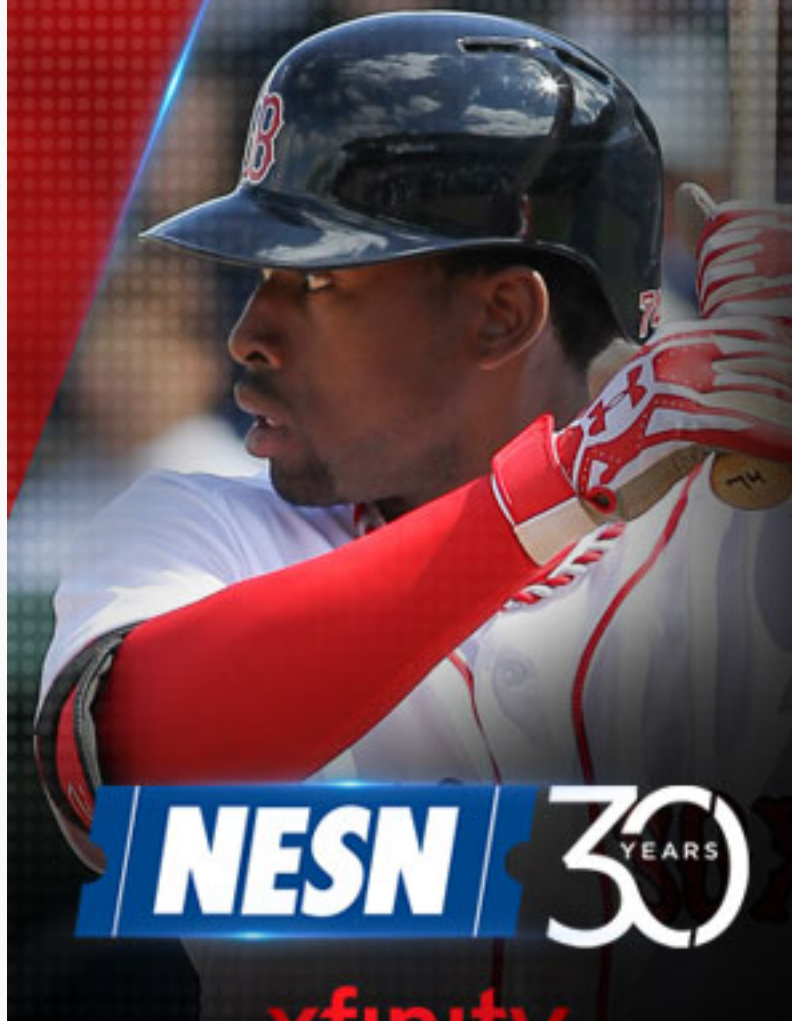


Celebrating 10 Year Marriage

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TIGERS AT RED SOX

TONIGHT 6^P_{ET}





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