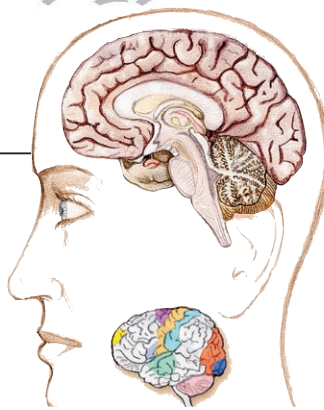




COASTIN'
Waterfront fest
Ethnic diversity this year's focus.

HEALTH - B1

Caregiver support
Help for those caring for brain-injured.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

New Bedford



Massachusetts

Newsstand: \$1.00

'YOU HEAR A LOT OF SCREECHES'

Study ranks region's most dangerous intersections

By **DAN McDONALD**
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NEW BEDFORD — Paren Padel finished pumping gas into a dark-colored sedan and assessed the midday queues of traffic at the lights where Routes 6 and 140 meet, a spot that has been determined to be the third most dangerous intersection in Southeastern Massachusetts.

"It's a busy road and people drive fast," said Padel, standing outside One Stop Gas Variety, a gas station and convenience store located at the intersection.

According to a report released this week by the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District, that intersection saw 85 crashes between 2006 and 2008.

The group studied crashes in 27 communities in that two-year span, ranging from Attleboro to Fall River to Middleboro to Wareham to Taunton. The most dangerous intersections are located in Fall River and Swansea, followed by the Route 6 spot.

"The problem at that intersection is congestion," said Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD's transportation planning manager. "There is extensive gridlock out there."

SRPEDD's list, culled from state data, features 100 trouble spots, including 13 intersections in New Bedford, five in Dartmouth, and other spots in Lakeville, Freetown, Wareham and Westport.

The severity of the crashes is factored into each location's ranking, Hadfield said.

Mike Russell, owner of Century 21 Hughes & Carey, which is located a block from

See **INTERSECTIONS** page 11

SOUTHCOAST'S 10 MOST PERILOUS JUNCTIONS

The 10 most dangerous SouthCoast intersections and number of accidents from 2006 to 2008, with number in parentheses reflecting ranking on SRPEDD list of region's top 100:



Photos by **PETER PEREIRA**/THE STANDARD-TIMES

47 crashes



New Bedford
Route 18/Union St.

2
(17)

39 crashes



3
(23)
Dartmouth
Route 6/Slocum Road

SouthCoast**TODAY**
.com

View the list of the 100 most dangerous crash locations in Southeastern Massachusetts with this story online at **SouthCoastToday.com**

1. New Bedford: Church Street Park Avenue, 41. (24)
2. New Bedford: Ashley Boulevard/JFK Highway SB (Route 18) Coggeshall Street, 41. (31)
3. Fairhaven: Bridge Street Alden Road, 37. (35)
4. Fairhaven: Huttleston Avenue (Route 6) Main Street, 47. (36)
5. Dartmouth: State Road (Route 6) Hathaway Road, 37. (41)
6. New Bedford Kings Highway Mount Pleasant Street, 28. (47)
7. New Bedford JFK Highway (Route 18) Potomska Street, 26. (52)

Police want you to clean out your medicine cabinet

National 'Take-Back' targets unneeded prescription drugs.

By **BRIAN FRAGA**
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NEW BEDFORD — Those expired or forgotten prescription drugs in the medicine cabinet can be abused by teenagers looking

to get high, or stolen by thieves looking to sell them on the streets, police warn.

So on Saturday, anyone willing to part with their unneeded medications can do so — no questions

asked — by surrendering them to selected law enforcement agencies as part of a national "Take-Back" initiative organized by the Drug

See **MEDICATIONS** page 11

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

■ Unneeded medications can be dropped off — no questions asked — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the headquarters of the New Bedford, Fall River and Wareham police departments.

INTEGRATION STILL AN ISSUE

"It's not really news that the ethnic makeup of New Bedford elementary schools varies widely by neighborhood." **A3**

'A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE BEING RIPPED OFF'

MassINC report on "Gateway Cities" finds low-income residents who lack bank accounts are paying extra in interest rates and fees by using check cashing services, pawnshops and other alternatives to traditional banking. **B7**



IN PERSON: DON LEWIS 'THE TURTLE GUY'

Q&A with executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts. **A2**

INSIDE TODAY



WEATHER
Cooler, windy;
high 72, low 62.
A2

LOTTERY Daily numbers: **5242, 2385**; more lottery, **A2**.

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