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LOCAL, 3A

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Worcester man sentenced to life

Fatal stabbing on Cutler St.

Craig S. Semon
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – Benjamin Willie, the Worcester man who called 911 to report he had fatally stabbed another man

near his home in June 2020, was sentenced to life in prison, with eligibility for parole after 15 years, on Thursday, Aug. 13, in Worcester Superior Court.

Willie was convicted of second-degree murder in July.

Willie fatally stabbed 29-year-old Josue Rios, who had confronted Willie as he was slashing Rios’ girlfriend’s tires

around 1 a.m. June 30, 2020, on Cutler Street.

Willie called police hours later and admitted to stabbing a man; he was arrested and later indicted on charges of vandalism and second-degree murder.

The defense, led by attorney David L. Larsen, tried to argue that Willie had been experiencing mental health issues

and was provoked when Rios approached him with a stick.

Larsen portrayed Rios, who struggled with drugs and died with several in his system, as the aggressor, telling jurors that he should have called police rather than confront Willie.

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Children swim as ships are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz on Aug. 10 off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran. Transit through the strait appeared to grind to a near standstill on Aug. 14 after two more ships were attacked there.

ALI SAEEDI/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. tells Iran it will step up pressure

2 more vessels attacked in Strait of Hormuz

Jonathan Saul, Phil Stewart and Idrees Ali
REUTERS

LONDON – Transit through the Strait of Hormuz appeared to grind to a near standstill on Aug. 14 after two more ships were attacked there and the United States said it could maintain a naval blockade of Iran indefinitely.

A senior Iranian source said on Aug. 12 that there had been no progress in talks to build on a June agreement to end the war. As a ceasefire re-

newed then broke down, Iran has resumed attacks on ships it accuses of trying to transit the strait without its permission.

Two vessels from the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company were attacked transiting the strait on the evening of Aug. 13, UAE state news agency WAM reported. The United Arab Emirates government blamed Iran, which made no immediate comment.

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Mangione pleads guilty to charges of stalking

Christopher Cann and Amethyst Martinez
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – Luigi Mangione pleaded guilty to federal stalking charges in a surprise decision that allows the 28-year-old to avoid a federal trial and could affect a separate murder case against him in connection with the fatal shooting of a health care executive.

Mangione made the announcement during a federal court hearing in New York City on Aug. 14. After answering a series of questions about his decision, Mangione pleaded guilty to a pair of stalking charges resulting in death. The charges carry a maximum

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Fox attacks jolt neighborhood

Craig S. Semon
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – The backyard of a Granite Street three-decker was the location of a scary “nature gone wild” incident in which a woman got bitten by an aggressive fox that was possibly rabid.

Zena Bottom was bitten by the fox Thursday morning, Aug. 13, in the Vernon Hill neighborhood. Officers responded around 9:45 a.m. to the back of a three-decker on Granite Street.

“My grandkids went outside to ride their scooters and my little cousin and my daughter. And I was just getting up. And he [9-year-old Colby] came in

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