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NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Standard-Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 | SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM

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UMass Dartmouth student Mason Cabral strings together over 32,000 nip bottles into a dragon sculpture by sustainability artist in residence Rebecca McGee Tuck. "Sculpture Monster: Creature from the Plasticine Era," which features over 32,000 discarded nip bottle, will be marched by students in the upcoming AHA! Earth Eve Procession in downtown New Bedford. PHOTOS BY PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES

'Performative sculpture'

UMD's 'monster' made up of over 32K nips to promote bottle bill updates

Matthew Ferreira
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

DARTMOUTH — There's a certain irony to the "performative sculpture" being worked on at UMass Dartmouth's main campus, to be featured during this month's AHA! Night in downtown New Bedford. As much pride and effort as the project's many artists and volunteers are putting into making the 60-foot long "monster" look its best, everyone involved would agree it's a piece of art that shouldn't exist.

Incorporating 32,885 plastic alcohol "nip" bottles found littered throughout local beaches, parks and other sites, the piece, titled "Sculpture Monster: Creature from the Plasticine Era," will make its debut as part of the "Earth Eve" parade during the "Sustainable South Coast" themed AHA! Night scheduled for April 11.

"It's going to be about 60-feet long

See **SCULPTURE**, Page 4A



UMass Dartmouth students, Katie Erwin, Kayleigh Williams, and Maddie Gonzales, work on covering the framework of the head of the dragon with pill bottles and discarded nips.

Female forklift operator denied job wins claim

Frank Mulligan
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

BOSTON — The state Appeals Court last week upheld a woman's claim that she was discriminated against by a longshoremen's union because it didn't select her to work a forklift on the New Bedford waterfront.

April L. Robar's complaint that she had been excluded from full union rights based on gender was also upheld.

Counting the Appeals Court decision, it's the fourth time that her complaint — lodged in 2009 against the International Longshoremen Association Local 1413-1465 — has been upheld.

Robar started working at the freight terminal in New Bedford Harbor operated by Maritime International as a

See **COURT**, Page 2A

Bird flu outbreak 'evolving situation'

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

Many Americans are brimming with questions after officials in Texas last week announced the state's first case of bird flu in a human.

Texas health officials said a person became infected with bird flu, or avian influenza A (H5N1) virus, after close contact with infected cows. Last week, sick dairy cattle in Texas and Kansas tested positive for bird flu. Bird flu was later reported in a Michigan dairy herd that included cows transported from Texas. Cattle in New Mexico and Idaho are also presumed to be positive for the

See **BIRD FLU**, Page 2A

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