

Bangor to decide fees for nonemergency calls

BY NICK MCCREA
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — The Bangor City Council is expected to decide whether to institute new fees aimed at cutting down the number of repetitive, unnecessary calls for emergency help during a meeting Monday night.

Last year, one Bangor resident called for emergency assistance 171 times. Another person called first responders to their home only

to ask the firefighter to hand them an out-of-reach TV remote control. Those are just a couple examples Bangor fire Chief Tom Higgins has cited as part of a trend of growing numbers of unnecessary calls for emergency services.

Deploying an ambulance, firetruck or both to calls like this can be costly. When a person isn't transported to the hospital, the fire department can't bill an individual or their insurance for the ser-

vice, meaning they swallow the cost. In addition, these calls can tie up EMTs and prevent them from responding to a real emergency.

Under the proposed fee structure, individuals who call three or fewer times for a nonemergency in a one-year span won't be charged any

fee. Calling four to eight times in a year leads to a \$25 fee for each firetruck, ambulance or other emergency vehicle that responds. Nine or more requests in a year will result in a fee of \$125 per responding vehicle.

For businesses, the fees structures are more strict. The first three nonemergency calls would result in a \$25 fee for each vehicle. The fourth call and beyond would net \$125 fees for each responding vehicle.

Higgins has said the fees are meant to be preventative rather than punitive, and that he hopes he doesn't have to levy the penalties against anyone.

Some assisted living facilities have "no lift" policies, which bar employees from picking up people who have fallen or are struggling to move from one spot to another, usually for insurance reasons. That means when someone can't get up, those institutions call Bangor fire-

fighters for help.

The council could decide to adjust the fees, but the Government Operations Committee backed the concept during meetings in March and June, recommending the full council approve the fees.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. inside the 3rd Floor Council Chambers at Bangor City Hall.

Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter at @nmcrcrea213.



Higgins



A Maine Army National Guard Medevac team member is lowered to Pamola Peak during the rescue of a 29-year-old woman on Saturday.

NJ hiker rescued from Katahdin

BY NICK SAMBIDES JR.
BDN STAFF

BAXTER STATE PARK — A Maine Army National Guard Medevac helicopter rescued a New Jersey hiker from one of the park's highest peaks on Saturday after she fell ill, officials said Sunday.

The 29-year-old woman from Moorestown, New Jersey, was hiking with six others when a medical condition flared up atop Pamola Peak on Katahdin. Park rangers were alerted after a 911 call from the hiker's companions at 11:57

a.m., Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell said in a statement.

A park ranger who reached them atop the 4,919-foot peak at about 1:15 p.m. called the helicopter, which transported the woman to Millinocket Regional Hospital about three hours later, said Bissell, who declined to identify the woman. A report on her condition was not available Sunday.

Park officials were happy with the outcome of the rescue, but Chief Ranger Stewart Guay stressed that hikers should remember that evacuations by air can never be as-

sumed. Weather, crew availability and the location of the patient can eliminate the opportunity for air rescue, Bissell said.

In this case, if the cloud cover had been lower or the weather rainy, a litter evacuation from Pamola to the nearest road would have required 30 to 40

people and would have taken 24 to 36 hours, Bissell said.

At 5,268 feet, Katahdin is the tallest mountain in Maine. Baxter State Park is more than 200,000 acres of wilderness and public forest just northwest of Millinocket.

Man taken into custody after standoff

BY BETH BROGAN
BDN STAFF

BRUNSWICK — A 35-year-old Brunswick man was taken into custody early Sunday morning following a six-hour standoff at his home on Mere Point Road.

The man, whose name has not been released pending an evaluation at Mid Coast Hospital, was allegedly involved in a disturbance in Lewiston and threatened to kill himself at about 8:22 p.m. Saturday, according to a news release from Brunswick police Cmdr. Marc Hagan.

Lewiston police alerted area law

enforcement agencies to watch for the man's 2014 BMW. Just after 8:30 p.m., officers with the Topsham Police Department and Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office located the car and pursued it to a residence on Mere Point Road, where the man allegedly fled into his home.

Brunswick police went to the residence and learned the man had said he would kill himself if police entered the house in which there were at least two firearms, Hagan said.

Mere Point Road was closed to vehicles from Simpsons Point Road to Rossmore Road during the standoff. The Brunswick police

Special Response Team, as well as the Cumberland County Emergency Services Unit and Freeport Police Department's police dog responded to the standoff.

The man continued to refuse requests to leave the home, and he was taken into custody at 2:16 a.m. He was uncooperative, according to Hagan, and police found an AR-15 rifle and shotgun in the residence.

The man continues to be evaluated at Mid Coast Hospital, Hagan said. He also faces potential charges from Lisbon and Topsham police departments in connection to his alleged actions Saturday night.

Mother accused of driving drunk appears in court

BY STEPHEN BETTS
BDN STAFF

ROCKLAND — A Rockland woman accused of driving drunk with a child in the car and then causing a disturbance at a residence made her initial court appearance on related charges Friday.

Elizabeth H. Hyde, 30, was charged with felony operating under the influence, endangering the welfare of a child, criminal

misconduct and disorderly conduct.

Bail was set at \$1,000 cash during Friday's hearing in Knox County Unified Court in Rockland.

An affidavit filed by Rockland police with the court stated that the child's father told police that when Hyde drove over to his residence on Gurdy Street, he noticed she was intoxicated. The man said he found their 2-year-old child in the car. The man dumped what remained of wine in a bottle that was in the car and

then took the child and advised Hyde to stay at a friend's residence until she was sober, the affidavit stated.

About 15 minutes later, she was still outside, and when she found the door was locked to the residence, she allegedly took a large object — not identified in the police report — and smashed out a window to the residence. The occupants then called police.

Police said Hyde was uncooperative and had to be restrained.

Man faces 19 counts of sex crimes against minor

BY BETH BROGAN
BDN STAFF

BATH — A 60-year-old Bath man wanted on a warrant charging him with 19 counts of sex crimes against a minor surrendered to Bath police on June 3.

Kenneth Bailey remained at Two Bridges Regional Jail, held on \$50,000 bail, according to Sagadahoc County Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Liberman.

On April 10, a Sagadahoc County grand jury issued a 19-count indictment charging Bailey with six counts of unlawful sexual contact, 10 counts of visual sexual aggression against a child and three counts of unlawful sexual touching, Liberman said.

The crimes allegedly took place in Bath between 2011 and 2013, allegedly involving a single victim, Liberman said.

Two of the unlawful sexual contact charges are Class B felonies, alleging the victim was younger than 12 years old at the time, and four are Class C felonies, alleging she was younger than 14 years old.

Six of the visual sexual aggression against a child charges are Class C felonies, alleging the victim was younger than 12, and four are Class D misdemeanors, alleging the crimes took place when she was younger than 14 years old.

Bailey pleaded not guilty to all 19 charges at an initial appearance Monday in Sagadahoc County Superior Court, according to Liberman. He is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 3.



Bailey

CMP workers hailed as heroes after saving man

CBS 13

BRIDGTON — Two Central Maine Power workers are being hailed as heroes Friday after they rescued a man trapped inside a burning vehicle following a crash.

The charred remains of a fence and a brand new telephone pole mark the spot of Thursday's fiery crash.

The CMP employees that rescued the driver said they're not heroes, they were just in the right place at the right time.

"For us to be there within seconds, someone's watching out for that gentleman," Paul Reynolds, who rescued the trapped driver, said.

Flames erupted after a truck crashed through a telephone pole Thursday in Bridgton.

"We saw the wires bouncing in the road and the truck on its side on fire. It had just happened. The wires were still bouncing," Reynolds said.

Reynolds and Andrew Grant said they were just heading out on a job when they saw the truck tangled in the downed wires.

It's a scene they have seen doz-

ens of times before, but this one was different.

"I was just looking at it as another car-pole accident. But that's when Paul realized no one was walking around. Someone was still inside the vehicle," Grant said.

They knew immediately the driver was trapped, and without hesitation, the pair said they just jumped out of their truck, tools in hand, to free him.

"He couldn't get out of the rear window, so Paul kicked it out and then I smashed out the other window and Paul was right there to hoist him out that way," Grant said.

In less than a minute, they had the man out safely.

It was a quick rescue that the pair says was instinct.

"There wasn't a lot of thinking involved. It was more of just reaction. I focused on getting him out and Andrew got the power cut. We didn't even talk. It just happened," Reynolds said.

Investigators said they're still trying to figure out what caused that crash, but the two CMP employees said they are just happy the driver is safe and out of the hospital.

NY man gets 16 years on drug, weapons charges

BY RYAN MCLAUGHLIN
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — A man from Bronx, New York, was sentenced Tuesday to 16 years and four months behind bars on drug and gun charges, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Wayman Sparrow, 25, also was sentenced in U.S. District Court to three years of supervised release on charges of conspiring to distribute heroin and crack and firing a firearm while trafficking drugs.

He was sentenced to six years and four months on the drug charge and the mandatory minimum consecutive sentence of 10 years for using the gun.

Sparrow pleaded guilty to the charges in December 2015.

Sparrow was one in a group of New York men who came to Maine

in 2011 with the purpose of distributing heroin and crack from various locations in Portland, the U.S. attorney's office said Wednesday in a press release.

In late 2012, Sparrow had a falling out with the group and started distributing the drugs on his own. He was confronted by the leader of the conspiracy at a Portland apartment in March of 2013, and a subsequent shootout occurred.

Sparrow was arrested in June of 2013 in South Portland.

Sparrow was found in possession of heroin and the firearm used in the shootout when he was arrested.

He faced up to 20 years and a fine of up to \$1 million on the drug charge. Sparrow faced a sentence of between 10 years and life on the gun charge and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Gunshot wound deemed accidental

BY DAWN GAGNON
BDN STAFF

WATERBORO — The York County Sheriff's Office and York and Waterboro emergency rescue personnel were called to a Lake Arrowhead home Sunday afternoon for a report of a gunshot wound, Sheriff William King Jr. said early Sunday evening in a news release.

The incident happened around 2 p.m., King said.

Deputies determined that the

gunshot victim was an adult male who accidentally discharged his weapon and shot himself in the hip/buttock area. The victim was drawing his pistol from a waistband holster when the firearm discharged, King said, adding that the projectile went through the holster.

The victim, whose name was not immediately released, was taken to a local hospital for treatment of injuries that were not considered life-threatening. No charges are pending in connection with the mishap.