

Mountain Misbehavior

Strong men charged with drug trafficking

By Laura Dunham
Special to the Irregular

WESTERN MOUNTAINS — The following are summaries of some of the local law enforcement agencies' and fire departments' activities last week.

Carrabassett Valley Police

At the Carrabassett Valley Police Department Police Chief Scott Nichols said that his officers had responded to 139 requests for service. Officers answered 18 burglary alarms, 16 residential unlocks, five parking complaints, seven citizen assists and 22 low temperature alarms.

Officer Gaudet responded to a 911 hang up, three loud party complaints and a report of underage drinking.

Cpl. Small conducted a welfare check and investigated a theft complaint.

Officer Leet investigated two theft complaints, a loud party complaint, a report of an intoxicated pedestrian in the road, investigated a shoplifting complaint where the owner of the store chased the suspect out of the store at the resort causing the suspect to loose one of his shoes during the escape.

Officer Nile responded to a report of a fight, a 911 hang up call, a missing person complaint, a report of an unidentified intoxicated guest who had passed out and a loud party complaint.

Officer Burnell investigated two dog complaints where one dog owner was given two summons for allowing a dog to run at large multiple times. One owner was warned. Burnell also investigated a criminal mischief complaint.

Officers also investigated six traffic accidents during a recent storm and assisted five motorists that had run off the road.

Franklin County Sheriff Department

The Franklin County Sheriff Department dispatchers had a busy week responding to some 432 calls for assistance. Twenty-four of those calls were for local fire departments. The corrections officers had an average of 25 inmates at their facility. Fourteen people were arrested.

In Kingfield Cpl. Steve Charles was sent to Ira Mountain for a welfare check, Deputy Heidi Gould was dispatched to an alarm on Main Street, Deputy Ken Charles was dispatched to a property-vehicle accident on Riverside Street, Cpl. Charles also handled three different property damage accidents on Main Street, Deputy Sandy Burke was dispatched to an alarm going off on Main Street, Deputy Michelle St. Clair gave a motorist a written warning on a traffic violation. Deputy St. Clair also handled a burglary alarm on Cove Lane. Deputy Burke was assigned to a criminal mischief complaint on High Street. Deputy Gould was dispatched to a property damage accident on Route 27 and Deputy St. Clair was sent to the Lexington Road for a criminal trespass complaint.

Rangeley: Cpl. Charles investigated a property damage accident on Main Street, Deputy Brian Ross gave a motorist a written warning on Main Street for a traffic violation, Deputy St. Clair was given a complaint of an intoxicated driver on Main Street, Deputy Gould was assigned to a property damage accident on Main Street, Cpl. Nate Bean gave a motorist a written warning for a traffic violation and Deputy Gould was assigned to an accident on Main Street.

Eustis/Coburn Gore: Deputy Gould handled a car/deer accident on the Perry Road, Detective Dave St. Laurent was assigned a criminal case on Main Street, Cpl. Charles was assigned a personal identify theft case on Main Street, Deputy Gould also summoned a motorist on a traffic violation on Route 27 and Deputy St. Clair investigated a narcotic case at the U.S. Customs Border in Coburn Gore.

Phillips/Avon/Madrid: Sgt. Steve Lowell was assigned to a car roll over accident on Route 4 in Madrid. Sgt. Lowell also investigated an assault on Bridge Street in Phillips, Cpl. Charles was given a complaint of harassment on Brookside Terrace in Madrid, Deputy Dave Rackliff was assigned a telephone harassment case on River Road in Madrid, Deputy Rackliff handled a disorderly person on Bridge Street and a terrorizing complaint on Bridge Street, Cpl. Charles investigated a roll

over accident on Route 4 in Avon and Sgt. Lowell received a complaint of gunshots in the area of Toothaker Pond Road.

Strong/New Vineyard: Cpl. Charles checked on the well being of a person on Main Street, Cpl. Bean was assigned to a domestic complaint on the Mill Pond Road and arrested one of the parties.

On Dec. 26 deputies gave out a written warning on the Blake Hill Road in Phillips, responded to an accident on Main Street in Kingfield, an accident on Route 4 in Sandy River Plantation, gave out two written warnings on Main Street in Kingfield, a written warning on Route 27 in Carrabassett Valley and investigated a possible OUI on Main Street in Rangeley.

On Dec. 27 deputies responded to drug possession at Coburn Gore, a criminal trespass on the Lexington Road in Kingfield, responded to an accident on Route 4 in Rangeley, gave out a written warning on Route 27 in New Vineyard, responded to an alarm at the Snow Valley Road in Wyman Township, investigated a car accident on Main Street in Rangeley, a car accident on Route 27 in Kingfield and gave out a summons on a traffic violation on Route 27 in Eustis.

On Dec. 28 deputies responded to a structure fire on Route 27 in Eustis, answered a call of a burglar alarm in Kingfield and investigated a tree on the lines on the Manor Road in Rangeley.

On Dec. 29 deputies responded to trees on a line on High Street in New Vineyard, investigated a dumpster fire in Rangeley, gave out a written warning on Main Street in Rangeley, responded to a complaint of harassment on the Neuman Road in Strong, responded to a domestic complaint in New Vineyard and responded with mutual aid on the Carrabassett Road in Carrabassett Valley.

On Dec. 30 deputies gave out a written warning on Route 145 in Strong and gave out a defect card on Route 27 in Eustis.

On Dec. 31 deputies issued a summons on Route 27 in New Vineyard.

Kingfield Fire Department

Kingfield Fire Department Captain Fred Nichols said that members of the department assisted with a motor vehicle accident on Route 27 on Dec. 17.

On Dec. 20 the department had three reports of smoke which all turned out to be false alarms.

On Dec. 28 about seven fire fighters responded to mutual aide to Eustis for a structure fire at the Porter House Restaurant.

On Jan. 1 firefighters had to set up a helicopter landing zone at the fire station for a skiing accident at Sugarloaf. This will be a primary landing zone from now on, said Nichols, instead of at the Kingfield Elementary School because the fire station has a much larger parking lot.

Maine State Police

The Maine State Police last week responded to 35 calls for service including:

Carrabassett Valley: Trooper Aaron Turcotte charged two men with possession of scheduled drugs. Eustis: Trooper Josh Birmingham handled a criminal mischief complaint. Freeman Township: One person was charged with operating after suspension.

Industry: Trooper Matt Casavant continued investigation of a burglary on the West Mills Road, this resulted in pending burglary charges for two Waterville men. Kingfield: Trooper Turcotte investigated a criminal mischief complaint. Madrid: Trooper Birmingham handled a telephone harassment complaint.

New Portland: Trooper Scott Stevens assisted the Franklin County Sheriff's Department with a criminal trespass complaint. New Vineyard: Trooper Scott Dalton arrested a person on a bench warrant on Lake Street.

Perkins Township: Trooper Stevens assisted Franklin County Deputies with a search warrant on Spike Lane. Strong: Trooper Cassavant worked with Maine Drug Enforcement and Franklin County officers on two search warrants on North Main Street which resulted in the seizure of several pounds of processed marijuana. Two Strong men were charged with Aggravated Trafficking in Marijuana, a Class B Crime. The proximity of the location to the Strong Elementary School was a factor in the charges. Trooper Stevens and Trooper Dalton assist-

ed the Sheriff's Department with a search warrant on Main Street regarding a probation violation.

New Portland Fire Department

In New Portland Assistant Fire Chief Brian Rundlett said that six fire fighters on Dec. 27 were called to a rollover on Route 27 to help with traffic control.

On Jan. 2 two fire fighters from that department responded to a call from NorthStar Ambulance Service to assist with a snowmobile accident in Lexington.

NorthStar Ambulance

It was also a busy week for NorthStar Ambulance service according to Operations Manager Mike Senecal. Ambulance officials responded to one call in Adamstown ship, 13 in Carrabassett Valley, three in Chesterville, one in Coplin Plantation, one in Eustis, 41 in Farmington, one in Freeman Township, one in Industry, 10 in Jay, three in Kingfield, four in Livermore, eight in Livermore Falls, one in New Portland, three in New Sharon, two in New Vineyard, three in Phillips, six in Rangeley, one in Rumford, five in Sandy River Plantation, one in Stratton, three in Strong, one in Vienna, two in Weld and 11 in Wilton.

United States Customs and Border Protection

Officials at the United States Border and Customs at Coburn Gore had a relatively quiet week according to officials there. There were over 600 vehicles a day that came across the border from Canada with only about 36 commercial trucks from the ever present lime trucks; this is due, said officials, to the fact that the paper companies and the recovery industry still requests a lot of lime at their facilities.

The exchange rate still favors the Americans so this is the time said the U.S. Custom officials to head north and shop in Canada as long as you declare your purchases when you head into the United States.



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