

★★

\$1.80
Wednesday,
September 18, 2019

Portland Press Herald

WEATHER:
Plenty of sun,
but cooler
High 62
Details, B6

pressherald.com

Man pleads guilty to shooting in Bayside

Pleading to a lesser charge of manslaughter, Tyrese Collins, 20, says he was acting in self-defense during a fatal confrontation in 2018.

By MEGAN GRAY
Staff Writer

A Portland man has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in a fatal Bayside shooting last summer.

Tyrese Collins, now 20, was initially charged with murder in the death of Jack Wilson. Police said Collins shot Wilson, 45, during a June 2018 argument at an intersection near the Oxford Street Shelter in Portland. The incident was one of several violent crimes in the neighborhood that summer that prompted increased police patrols.

Collins, who was 19 at the time, pleaded not guilty in September 2018 and has been held in the Cumberland County Jail without bail for more than a year. He appeared at the Cumberland County Courthouse on Tuesday afternoon to plead guilty to the lesser charge. The benches of the courtroom were nearly empty.

The hearing on Tuesday also provided some of the first public details about the fatal confrontation, which took place after Collins intervened in an argument between Wilson and a different man whom Collins said he was trying to protect. Collins retrieved a gun from his car as the

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Gregory Rec/Staff Photographer

Accompanied by his attorney William Maselli, left, Tuesday in a Portland courtroom, Tyrese Collins, 20, pleads guilty to manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Jack Wilson, 45, in Bayside in June 2018.



Andy Molloy/Kennebec Journal

Law enforcement officials salute during a procession Tuesday that includes the remains of Fire Rescue Capt. Michael Bell, 68, who was killed in an explosion in Farmington on Monday.

EXPLOSION'S AFTERMATH

Deadly blast's cause remains undetermined



Michael G. Seamans/Morning Sentinel

Firefighters from Farmington arrive at the scene of Monday's deadly explosion to retrieve the helmet of fellow firefighter Capt. Michael Bell on Tuesday. Seven other people, including firefighters and a maintenance supervisor, were injured in the blast.

State investigators describe 'a slow, methodical process,' but hope to pinpoint this week what triggered the explosion that killed a Farmington firefighter.

By DONNA M. PERRY
Sun Journal

FARMINGTON — State and federal investigators said Tuesday that they have begun the slow, methodical process required to pinpoint the cause of an explosion that killed a firefighter and injured six firefighters and a maintenance supervisor at a recently constructed building.

Firefighters responded to a report of an odor of propane at the building at 313 Farmington Falls Road, which is Route 2, at 8:07 a.m. Monday. Right after firefighters arrived, the two-story structure exploded, killing Capt. Michael Bell, a 30-year member of the Farmington Fire Rescue Department.

The blast leveled the building that housed LEAP — a nonprofit that serves people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities — damaged or destroyed more than a dozen nearby residences, and blanketed the surrounding area with in-

sulation, paper and shredded lumber.

During a news conference Tuesday, Sgt. Ken Grimes of the Office of the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office said state fire officials and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigators are hoping to have answers this week to what caused the explosion.

"It is a slow, methodical process," he said. Grimes confirmed that a white firefighter's helmet recovered from the debris belonged to Bell, who was 68. His brother, Fire Chief Terry Bell, 62, was among the injured.

Five of the injured firefighters were being treated at Maine Medical Center. Terry Bell, Capt. Scott Baxter and his father, firefighter Theodore Baxter, were listed in critical condition Tuesday night, the hospital said. Firefighter Joseph Hastings and Capt. Timothy Hardy, the

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MORE INSIDE

DOZENS LEFT HOMELESS: Monday's deadly explosion destroyed 11 units in an adjacent mobile home park / **A5**

PREPARING FOR PROPANE: While Maine firefighters do train to deal with leaks, there is no statewide protocol / **A5**

MAINE ISLANDS AT RISK AS OCEAN LEVELS RISE

Change means challenges for each of these coastal micro-economies, where resilient communities are already planning for the 'what-ifs.'



This story is part of *Covering Climate Now*, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets to strengthen coverage of climate change.

By KEVIN MILLER
Staff Writer

Living on a rocky speck of greenery about 10 miles offshore, residents of Monhegan Island rely on the mainland for food, fuel and many of the necessities of daily existence, with one notable exception — water.

Most of the seasonal homes and businesses across the 500-acre Maine island known for its artist colonies and rich history tap into a freshwater aquifer protected from the salty Atlantic by a narrow seam of bedrock.

But as a warming climate changes the Gulf of Maine around Monhegan, this tiny island community is coming to grips with the fact that the island's "sole source" aquifer could be compromised.

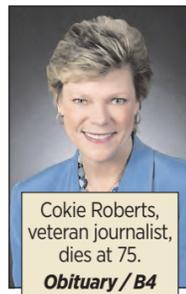
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Ben McCanna/Staff Photographer

The Margaret Chase Smith ferry arrives at the dock at the Grindle Point on Islesboro in Penobscot Bay. The town has hired an engineering firm to recommend options — with estimated price tags — for addressing vulnerabilities from storm surges and astronomical high tides made worse by rising seas.

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Cokie Roberts, veteran journalist, dies at 75.
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EPA moves to revoke California's ability to regulate emissions

Maine is among the 13 states that adopted the stricter standards for new vehicles.



GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM
California will not "roll over"

By JULIET EILPERIN and BRADY DENNIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to revoke California's right to set stricter air pollution standards for cars and light trucks, according to two senior administration officials, as part of a larger effort to weaken an Obama-era climate policy aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's auto fleet.

The move sets up another legal clash between the federal government and the nation's most populous state, which for decades under administrations of both major political parties exercised authority to put in place more stringent fuel economy standards. Thirteen states, including Maine, and the District of Columbia have vowed

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