

Compromise Talks Stall With Ebola Nurse

BY ROBERT F. BUKATY
Associated Press

FORT KENT, Maine — Insisting she is perfectly healthy, nurse Kaci Hickox again defied the state's Ebola quarantine Thursday by taking a bike ride with her boyfriend, and Maine health authorities struggled to reach a compromise that would limit her contact with others.

Hickox, 33, stepped out of her home on the remote northern edge of Maine for the second day in a row, practically daring authorities to make good on their threat to go to court to have her confined against her will. On Wednesday evening, she went outside for an impromptu news conference and shook a reporter's outstretched hand.

By evening, it was unclear whether the state had gone to court or whether there had been any progress toward ending the standoff that has become the nation's most closely watched clash between personal freedom and fear of Ebola. The governor's office and Hickox's lawyers would not comment.

Hickox, who returned to the U.S. last week from treating Ebola victims in West Africa as a volunteer with Doctors Without Borders, has been under what Maine is calling a voluntary quarantine at her home in this town of 4,300 people.

She has rebelled against the restrictions, saying that her rights are being violated and that she is no threat to others because she has no symptoms. She tested negative last weekend for Ebola, though it can take days for the virus to reach detectable levels.

Her 21-day quarantine — the incubation period for the



A nurse in Fort Kent, Maine, who treated Ebola patients, defied the state's quarantine.

Ebola virus — is scheduled to end on Nov. 10. Gov. Paul LePage said state attorneys and Hickox's lawyers had discussed a scaled-down quarantine that would have allowed her to go for walks, runs and bicycle rides while preventing her from venturing into populated public places or coming within 3 feet of others.

Around midday, however, LePage said that the hours of negotiations had gone nowhere, and that he was prepared to use the full extent of his authority to protect the public.

"I was ready and willing — and remain ready and willing — to reasonably address the needs of health care workers meeting guidelines to assure the public health is protected," he said.

Hickox stepped into the media glare when she returned from Sierra Leone to become subject to a mandatory quarantine in New Jersey. After an uproar, she was released and traveled more than

600 miles to the small town on the Canadian border where she lives with her boyfriend.

She said she is following the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation of daily monitoring for fever and other signs of the disease.

An unmarked state police cruiser followed Hickox on her hour-long morning bike ride on trails near her home, but police could not take action to detain her without a court order signed by a judge.

"I really hope that we can work things out amicably and continue to negotiate," she said.

Her boyfriend, Ted Wilbur, met with reporters Thursday evening to tell them she was staying inside.

Addressing the bicycle ride, Wilbur said they purposefully rode away from town to avoid coming into contact with people. "We're not trying to push any limits here. We're members of this community, too, and we want to make people comfortable," he said.

Maine law allows a judge to confine someone if health officials demonstrate "a clear and immediate public health threat."

States have broad authority under long-established law to quarantine people to prevent the spread of disease. But legal experts said there are differences here that could work in Hickox's favor in court: People infected with Ebola are not contagious until they have symptoms, and the virus is not spread through casual contact.

Word made its way quickly around the town about Hickox.

Priscilla Staples said that some are fearful of Hickox's presence, but Hickox "has

done nothing wrong, and she has every right in the world to go for a bike ride."

Some states like Maine, New York and New Jersey are going above and beyond the CDC guidelines to require automatic quarantines. So is the U.S. military.

President Barack Obama, the nation's top infectious-disease expert and humanitarian groups have warned that such measures could cripple the fight against the disease at its source by discouraging volunteers like Hickox from going to West Africa, where the outbreak has sickened more than 13,000 people and killed nearly 5,000 of them.

"The volunteers are heroes to the people they help, and they are heroes to our own countries. They should be treated like heroes when they return," Samantha Power, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in Brussels.

In other developments: — Ebola fears infected a medical conference on the subject. Louisiana state health officials told thousands of doctors planning to attend a tropical-diseases meeting this weekend in New Orleans to stay away if they have been to certain African countries or have had contact with an Ebola patient in the last 21 days.

— Liberia is making some progress in containing the outbreak, while Sierra Leone is "in a crisis situation which is going to get worse," the top anti-Ebola officials in the two countries said.

— The World Bank announced it will give an additional \$100 million to help bring in more foreign health workers. That raises the money it has given to the fight to \$500 million.

Economy, Health Care Are High Priorities

DENVER (AP) — As a season of campaigning enters its final, intense weekend, a new Associated Press-GfK poll illustrates the challenge ahead for candidates and their allies trying to rally voters around traditional wedge issues such as abortion and gay marriage. This fall, voters just have other matters on their minds.

Social issues are eclipsed by concerns about the economy, health care, the Islamic State group and Ebola, the poll finds. And hovering over each of these individual issues is a broad dissatisfaction with President Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress.

Only 32 percent of likely voters called gay marriage an important issue, compared with 91 percent ranking the economy important, 78 percent with similar concerns about health care and 74 percent naming Ebola important. The issue that some Democrats have emphasized most of all — abortion rights — also has been a relatively low priority, with only 43 percent of likely voters in a September poll ranking it important.

Yet women's health and reproductive rights have been at the center of campaigns for U.S. Senate in Alaska, Iowa, North Carolina and especially Colorado. There, half of the ads aired by Democratic Sen. Mark Udall and those backing his re-election have criticized his GOP opponent, Rep. Cory Gardner, on women's health issues. They include a contention the 40-year-old congressman from eastern Colorado wants to ban some forms of birth control.

"Democrats this year clearly think that all that you need is that silver bullet of social issues," said Katy Atkinson, a GOP political official in Denver. "It's not. You need more."

No Room On The Tube For Late Ads

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — A Democratic super PAC wanted to run a 30-second ad during a Friday evening newscast on New Hampshire's one network station — and was even willing to shell out the \$10,000 that the station demanded.

Hours before it was set to run, however, WMUR-TV had to revise its contract with Senate Majority PAC and credit the group's account. The reason: "Oversold inventory."

Such is the life of even a deep-pocketed political action committee at this late stage of the 2014 campaign. Many of these groups want to keep spending in a final push before next Tuesday's elections, as Democrats defend their Senate majority and Republicans drive for the six seats required to command it.

But often there's simply no ad time left. "Campaigns and third-party groups are finding it difficult to even find spots to purchase," said Isaac Baker, who was a top official on the advertising team for President Barack Obama's re-election bid and now advises some of the Democrats' heaviest spenders. "And they're seeing rates climb from where they were last year or even earlier this year."

Israel Closes Jerusalem Holy Site

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel closed all access to Jerusalem's most sensitive religious site on Thursday, a rare move that ratcheted up already heightened tensions following the attempted assassination of a prominent Jewish religious activist and the killing of his suspected Palestinian assailant by police.

The Palestinians accused Israel of a "declaration of war," deepening a crisis fueled by failed peace efforts, continued Israeli settlement construction and months of simmering violence in the holy city. While Israel said it would reopen the site on Friday, the increasingly religious nature of the unrest risked igniting further violence.

Both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders blamed each other for the tensions. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has called for banning Jews from the hilltop holy site, of inciting the violence.

"The international community must stop its hypocrisy and act against the inciters," Netanyahu said.

Abbas, meanwhile, said Jerusalem is a "red line that must not be touched." The decision to close access to the Al Aqsa Mosque compound was "a declaration of war" that "will lead to further escalation and instability," his spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, said. Abbas made no mention of the attempted killing of the Jewish activist.

Dog Leads Police To Owner In Chase

PRATTVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Police in central Alabama say a man's own dog helped officers bust him on a drug charge.

Prattville Police spokeswoman Paula Barlow says the pooch named Bo followed his fleeing master, who was being pursued by officers. When the dog stopped and wagged his tail in tall grass, she says, officers found and arrested Edwin Henderson.

Barlow says the chase began when two drug officers arrived Wednesday with a search warrant and Henderson took off running.

After an investigator pointed at Henderson and told the dog "go get him," that's what Bo did.

At Least Two Dead In Wichita Plane Crash

BY CHRISTINE MAI-DUC
Los Angeles Times (MCT)

WITCHITA, Kansas — At least two people are dead, four are seriously injured, and five others are unaccounted for after a small plane crashed into a building at Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita, Kan., officials said Thursday.

Emergency responders were still working to account for all of the building occupants after a "horrific fire fight" after the plane struck the top of the building, officials said.

The two dead were inside the building, said Van Williams, Wichita city spokesman.

Fire officials at the scene said they believe the pilot was the only person on board the plane.

The aircraft had just taken off from the Wichita airport around 10 a.m. local time when the pilot reported losing engine power, said Elizabeth Isham Cory, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The pilot attempted to return to the runway, but crashed into the building on the airport property, Isham Cory said. The impact caused an explosion and a fire, sending a plume of smoke that could be seen for miles.



Smoke billows from a building at at Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita, Kan., Thursday, shortly after a Beechcraft King Air B200 crashed into the building, killing several people, including the pilot.

Jason Podkanowicz said he was working near the airport when he heard a "loud banging noise."

"It sounded like something fell off the back of a truck," Podkanowicz said. "There was the plane. It was crushed. It caught fire almost instantly." Standing

about 500 yards away, he said, he could feel the heat from the fire.

Podkanowicz said the plane crashed into the roof of the airport's flight safety building, which contains flight simulators where pilots train.

Survivalist Wanted In Pennsylvania Trooper Ambushes Captured

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

BLOOMING GROVE, Pa. — A survivalist accused of ambushing two state troopers, killing one and seriously wounding the other, was captured on Thursday by U.S. marshals in an abandoned airplane hangar, ending a seven-week manhunt that had rattled the nerves of area residents, authorities said.

The apparently quiet take-down of Eric Frein ended weeks of tension and turmoil in the area, as authorities at times closed schools, canceled outdoor events and blocked roads to pursue him. Residents grew weary of hearing helicopters overhead, while small businesses suffered mounting losses and town supervisors canceled a popular Halloween parade.

State police confirmed Frein was taken into custody Thursday but released no details.

Two law enforcement officials said Frein was captured in the hangar. They weren't

authorized to discuss the circumstances of Frein's arrest and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. A federal law enforcement official in Washington said Frein was armed when he was captured.

Frein is charged with opening fire outside the Blooming Grove barracks on Sept. 12, killing Cpl. Bryon Dickson and seriously wounding another trooper.

Police said they linked him to the ambush after a man walking his dog discovered his partly submerged SUV three days later in a swamp a few miles from the shooting scene. Inside, investigators found shell casings matching those found at the barracks as well as Frein's driver's license, camouflage face paint, two empty rifle cases and military gear.

Officials, saying Frein was armed and extremely dangerous, had urged residents to be alert and cautious. Using dogs, thermal imaging technology and other tools, law enforcement officials combed miles of

forest as they hunted for Frein, whom they called an experienced survivalist at home in the woods.

They pursued countless tips and closed in on an area around Frein's parents' home in Canadensis after he used his cellphone to try contacting them and the signal was traced to a location about 3 miles away. At times police ordered nearby residents to stay inside or prevented them from returning home.

Trackers found items they believe Frein hid or abandoned in the woods — including soiled diapers, empty packs of Serbian cigarettes, an AK-47-style assault rifle and ammunition and two pipe bombs that were functional and capable of causing significant damage. They also discovered a journal, allegedly kept by Frein and found in a bag of trash at a hastily abandoned campsite, that offered a chilling account of the ambush and his subsequent escape into the woods. The journal's author described Dickson as falling "still and

quiet" after being shot twice.

Police spotted a man they believed to be Frein at several points during the manhunt, but it was always from a distance, with the rugged terrain allowing him to keep them at bay. Police said he appeared to be treating the manhunt as a game.

Frein had expressed anti-law enforcement views online and to people who knew him. His criminal record appeared limited to a decade-old misdemeanor case involving items stolen from a World War II reenactors event in upstate New York, for which he spent 109

days in jail.

Police found a U.S. Army manual called "Sniper Training and Employment" in his bedroom at his parents' house, and his father, a retired Army major, told authorities that his son is an excellent marksman who "doesn't miss," according to a police affidavit. Authorities believe Frein had been planning a confrontation with police for years, citing information they found on a computer used by him.

A man and a woman believed to be Frein's parents,

reached separately by telephone on Thursday, declined to comment.

The manhunt for Frein in northeastern Pennsylvania had scrapped some plans for trick-or-treating. The chairman of Barrett Township's board of supervisors planned to meet with other town officials to try to salvage Halloween.

"No police were hurt. Nobody else was hurt. He didn't take any more lives. He didn't shoot anybody else, from what I understand," chairman Ralph Megliola said. "That's the best scenario."

A Yankton County Auditor Needs To Comprehend Computer Technology

Taxpayers improperly taxed
Source: South Dakota Legislative Audits

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