

Gun and drug charge

A MAN has been charged with possessing drugs and a firearm.

Gavin Cammidge, 37, of Saxon Gardens, Shoebury, has been charged with possessing a firearm and possessing drugs with intent to supply.

He was allegedly in possession of 5.8 grams of cocaine, 170 grams of cannabis, 10 grams of amphetamines and 133 grams of cannabis resin.

He has been bailed until August 29, when he will appear in Southend Magistrates' Court.

Riding the mini railway

FAMILIES can enjoy rides on Canvey's miniature railway this weekend.

With a choice of two railways, steam and electric, families are welcome to the railway by Waterside Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey.

The railway is open between 10.30am and 4pm, weather permitting, on Sunday.

Adults and children ride for £1 each.

To find out more email info@cramec.org or call 07943 369896.

'Dealer' is arrested

A MAN from Kent was arrested after allegedly drug dealing in Southend.

Police arrested the 21-year-old in Canewdon Road, Westcliff, on Saturday.

He was searched by police. The man, from Canterbury, was bailed until November 17 pending further inquiries.

MEMBERS of Westborough Community Association and councillor Kevin Robinson will clear rubbish from an alley between Northview Drive and Westcliff Park Drive, Westcliff, between 9.30am and 10.45am today.

Come and see the **Echo** in carnival parade

THOUSANDS of people are expected to turn out for Southend Carnival tomorrow.

The procession will leave Southchurch Park, at 7.45pm, and travel along the seafront past the pier at 8.30pm and finish at Chalkwell Park, Westcliff, at 10.30pm.

The Echo has a float in the carnival, and we will be joined by dozens of other attractions, including dancers, characters and musicians, during the parade.

Representatives from the floats will be collecting charity cash for their chosen good causes.

James Harrison, marketing and media trustee at Southend Carnival, said: "This year we are allowing each entry into the procession to

independently collect money for their own chosen charity. Many of the entries are excited about this as it means they can directly raise money for a charity they support.

"So, if you like a float, act or entry, please put some change in their buckets, as it all goes to great worthy causes."

Road closures will be in place across Southend's seafront area between 4pm and 9pm tomorrow to allow the carnival to take place.

This will include some seafront car parks.

Tweet your carnival news and pictures using #SouthendCarnival and visit echo-news.co.uk for the latest updates.

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■ Scream queens – carnival princess Bethany Gray, queen Lauren Green and princess Courtney Cook at the fair in Chalkwell Park, Westcliff
Picture: AL UNDERWOOD BA97620_003

Firefighters cut wood to release boy's foot from the planks

Lad saved as tide gushes over jetty

By HELEN BARNETT
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FIREFIGHTERS used a power saw to cut through a wooden jetty to free a boy trapped as the tide rose in Southend.

The eight-year-old was saved by crews after getting his foot trapped in the jetty belonging to Alexandra Yacht Club, in Western Esplanade.

Onlookers called for help after spotting the youngster in trouble and with the incoming tide just 2m away, crews rushed to save him.

His distraught parents looked on in horror as the water threatened to reach him.

Assistant divisional officer Martyn Hodder, Southend station commander, said: "On arrival, the tide was coming in quickly and lapped around the trapped child's feet.

"The boy was becoming distressed, as were his worried parents, as they watched the fire-



■ Rescue – the boy had to be cut free from the Alexandra Yacht Club's jetty

fighters work swiftly to rescue their son.

"Crews had to work quickly, a section of the jetty had to be cut away and removed using electric saws before the water covered the jetty completely. This allowed them to manipulate the

child's foot and free him.

"As the boy was carried up the beach to be reunited with his parents, and checked over by a paramedic, crews looked back and saw the area where the lad had been trapped was totally submerged.

"Crews did an excellent job releasing him quickly."

The rescue was carried out by fire crews from Southend and Leigh at about 12.15pm on Wednesday. Paramedics treated the boy for grazes. He didn't need hospital treatment.

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Fire service 'too quick to pay'

ESSEX Fire Authority has denied it has jumped the gun in deciding to pay a £15million debt.

Earlier this week, the authority announced it owed the Government the cash as it had miscalculated injured firefighter pensions since 2006.

It decided to use all of its reserves to pay off the debt, which it had not known it had owed until the Department for Communities and Local Government wrote pointing out

the shortfall. A spokesman for the Department for Communities and Local Government had said it was too early to say what the full impact of the mistake would be.

He said: "This is a very technical issue about an auditing procedure and the rules on pension administration.

"Essex has jumped the gun, given absolutely no decision has been made on this issue, and it is something that the department will be discussing

with the fire authority in more detail in due course."

Accounts have been submitted to the Audit Commission and the department each year but both also failed to pick up on the liability.

An Essex County Fire and Rescue spokesman said the authority had previously told the authority how it planned to pay off the debt and also, that it would be announcing it, prior to the Government department's response.