



GABOR DEGRE | BDN

Liam Reading moves a ladder before continuing to work on a mural in the future home of Studio Linear on Dec. 30, 2015, in Bangor. The studio is located in a newly renovated warehouse on the Bangor Waterfront.

### Bangor studio builds on history

### Building renovators look to the past for inspiration

BY SHELBY HARTIN

iam Reading straps a mask to his face and picks up a can of spray paint, eyeing the wall in front of him. After giving the can a shake, he positions it in his hand before pointing it at the wall and pressing gently on the actuator.

On the concrete expanse inside an old Bangor building is the result of hours of labor: a mural of dazzling colors depicting the Joshua Chamberlain Bridge, the Penobscot River rushing beneath it and an incredible sun just on the horizon.

This mural is part of a space that is being renovated at 60 May St. in downtown Bangor.

Andrea Beaulieu watches as Reading works, a smile on her face. Reading, a student at Rhode Island School of Design and resident of Bangor, was exactly who she was looking for to create an eye-catching piece in the space where her graphic design business, Studio Linear, will live. She wanted to move her business into a space that would be unique and far from traditional — something that would support an urban design. But her first impression of the old building and the 1,000-square-foot area that sat vacant for 12 years wasn't a good one.

"When I first saw this place, I was like, 'No way,'" Beaulieu said.

When she first toured the space with Louie Morrison, it was covered in signs of the 1970s, with old carpet, wood paneling and drop ceilings.

But Morrison changed Beaulieu's



This newly renovated warehouse is the future home of Studio Linear in Bangor.

In June 2015, Telford Allen of Hampden purchased 60 May St. His asset manager, Morrison, has since been handling the renovations, preparing for Studio Linear to move into one space and for a hub for Allen's downtown real estate properties

to occupy the other. Morrison, who has worked on other renovations for several of Bangor's historic spaces, including 40 Columbia St., knew that underneath it all there was something there that was perfect for

Beaulieu's business. "He said, 'Just wait,'" Beaulieu said. The building at 60 May St. was built in 1912 and is made of reinforced concrete. Morrison and his team have worked to reclaim the original industrial appearance,

which was covered in years of outdated

"We love the idea of taking something that looks really ugly and making it look nice," Morrison said.

Murray Brothers Co. wholesale grocers was the building's first owner. As an importer and dealer in American and foreign products, it gained a reputation in Bangor as a "progressive and up-to-date spirit of modern times." The Chamber of Commerce Journal of Maine praised the enterprise for its service to Bangor residents in an article a few years later.

Through upright transactions, fair prices and just treatment it has annually increased its patronage and added to its See Studio, Page C2

## Helen Keller on stage in Orono

'Miracle Worker' is physical, start to end

BY SHELBY HARTIN **BDN STAFF** 

Sophia Mullins walks tentatively across the stage of the Cyrus Pavilion Theatre, her hands outstretched, groping for a surface to cling to. Her eyes appear unseeing,

staring ahead, unfocused.

Mullins is not blind, but for the upcoming production of "The Miracle Worker" by Orono Community Theatre, she will act as though

Mullins, a 12-year-old resident of Bangor, will play a young Helen Keller, who became blind and deaf at 19 months old after contracting an illness. Keller became one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians and educators. She also was among the founders of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The role is an entirely physical one with no lines, a challenge Mullins has risen to undertake.

As a young girl, Keller would kick and scream when angry. She had raging tantrums, and many of her relatives felt she should be institutionalized. Mullins will depict this role with the help of her castmate Jasmine Ireland, who portrays Anne Sullivan, Keller's educator and lifelong companion, and director Angela Bonacasa, who holds a certified teacher of stage combat status with the Society of American Fight Directors.

The production is a three-act play by William Gibson and takes place in Tuscumbia, Alabama, chronicling portions of Keller's childhood. It specifically recounts the development of the relationship between Keller and Sullivan as student and educator.

"It's not a historical account," Bonacasa said. "But a lot of the descriptions in the play are actually things that happened in terms of Helen's relationship with Annie and Annie and Helen's background."

The production presented unique challenges for the cast. In order to immerse those who auditioned for the role of Helen Keller, Bonacasa had prospective actresses audition with eyes closed.

"This is your primary sense," Bonacasa said, pointing to her eyes. "Until you are forced to not have that, it's very hard to open yourself up to other ways of interpreting information."

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#### Bangor native's fanciful kaleidoscopes | Martin still writing next attract international attention

BY KATHLEEN PIERCE **BDN STAFF** 

KENNEBUNK — Deep in the heart of winter, inside Sue Rioux's studio, bright flowers bloom, green frogs swim, yellow chicks appear, even lobsters frisk about. Holding her kaleidoscopes to one's eye, worlds of color and magic unfolds.

Light-years beyond gimcrackery, her medium, kaleidoscopes, are as intricate as epic stainedglass windows in the storied cathedrals of the world.

"In my mind I see a sunset, light off the water or sea smoke,' said the Bangor native, who dreams in color and sees reflections in snowbanks. "I can see it finished and I make it.'

In her compact studio in Ken-



TROY R. BENNETT | BDN

A multicolored stained-glass drum provides the color in one of Sue Rioux's handmade kaleidoscopes at her home and studio in Kennebunk.

nebunk's Lower Village, a kiln and trays of dichroic glass, beads, cutters and stacked mirrors await her next optical dreamscape.

Her craft is a fusion of art and

science. The precision of angles, light rays and components all come together in these objets

d'art. "I know what colors to use See Color, Page C2

# 'Game of Thrones' book

BY TRE'VELL ANDERSON LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

Winter isn't coming after all -

at least for a while. Fans of "Game of Thrones" who had eagerly hoped George R.R. Martin, whose book series "A Song of Ice and Fire" is the basis for the HBO drama, would finish the latest installment by early this year, have just gotten a cold shoulder from the author -

he's not done. "You wanted an update. Here's the update. You won't like it," he wrote in a lengthy blog post Saturday. "'The Winds of Winter' is not finished."

This means that when the HBO production returns in April, fans won't have a heads up of what may happen, prompting fears of

spoilers for readers.

Martin planned to finish the book by the start of this year in



time for a March publication date. But just like devotees of the books and the series, he is upset. "Believe me, it

gave me no pleasure to type those words," he wrote. "You're disap-

pointed, and you're not alone. My editors and publishers are disappointed, HBO is disappointed, my agents and foreign publishers and translators are disappointed ... but no one could possibly be more disappointed than me.'

But progress is being made, he See Book, Page C2

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