

A glimpse back at the Bangor Fire Department

Bangor firefighter and paramedic Chandler Corriveau unlocked and opened the door to the Hose 5 Fire Museum on State Street in Bangor, and I took a step inside.

Hulking fire engines filled the space, and firefighters battling flames filled the photos hanging on the walls. To the right a ticker tape machine sat enclosed in a glass case, and beside it two Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Boxes hung on the wall.



SHELBY HARTIN

An original Bangor ladder was suspended from the ceiling toward the back of the space. The ladder was created right here in Bangor, and in the late 1800s it was being used by cities such as Boston, Chicago and New York City. Incredibly, that design from so long ago is still in use today.

Upstairs, objects from years gone by filled every nook and cranny. Old breathing apparatuses sat in cases, leather buckets were enclosed behind glass and an entire room dedicated to the Great Fire of 1911 — which did millions of dollars in damage to downtown Bangor — featured enlarged copies of old editions of the Bangor Daily News plastered to the walls, their headlines screaming of a major blaze, their price at the time only 3 cents.

Corriveau walked around the rooms with a coffee cup in his hand, comfortable in the space he has come to know so well in the eight years since he has been on the Bangor Fire Department.

I never would have stepped foot in the museum, if it weren't for a presentation hosted by the Bangor Historical Society at the Isaac Farrar Mansion on Union Street in Bangor. The presentation featured public education officer Jason "Jake" Johnson of the Bangor Fire Department and Corriveau. As part of the Bangor Historical Society's Brown Bag Lunch Series, Johnson spoke about 201 years of Bangor Fire Department history. His presentation was the first in the summer series.

The next Brown Bag Lunch is scheduled to start at noon, July 12, at the Isaac Farrar Mansion. Liam Riordan will present "Understanding the Declaration of Independence." Others planned for the summer include talks on Maine at Gettysburg and the Bangor Police Department.

Johnson's presentation provided attendees with fun facts about the history of the city's fire department and important people, places and things, in a Jeopardy-like format, which I was told was unique to this presentation.

He told us, for instance, that in 1884 Bangor bought and installed 24 Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Boxes that would send a signal to the firehouse when pulled, indicating where a fire was. Today you can see where some of the old boxes used to hang on telephone poles. About 100 of them still exist and are in working order. Even today, the devices are quite useful. When pulled, a number is punched out on ticker tape at the fire stations, alerting firefighters as to where the blaze is. Even with today's technology, these are the fastest way to alert the fire stations about a fire, Johnson and Corriveau said. Unfortunately they're being phased out by the city because of the cost to maintain them.

I was able to see a few of these boxes in the museum, which Corriveau showed me after the presentation concluded.

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KATHLEEN PIERCE | BDN

Tiny furniture makers James Hastrich and Linda LaRoche hold one of James' pieces in their sunny, inviting home in Kennebunk, where the septugenarians live and work.

A little crafty

Couple bonds over making tiny furniture

BY KATHLEEN PIERCE
BDN STAFF

Tiny houses are trendy. But tiny furniture? To Linda LaRoche and James Hastrich, the craft has never died down.

Behind the facade of their inviting home, in a wooded enclave in Kennebunk, a world of tiny wonders unfolds. Both occupants make painstakingly accurate reproductions of historically significant furniture: 1- to 2-inch scale hand-painted Shaker boxes, intricate chests, ball-and-claw-foot tables and chairs are made in miniature.

Together for nearly 20 years, Hastrich and LaRoche share a love of clean lines, American furniture and dovetail joints.

"We hit it off pretty quickly because our lifestyles were so similar," said Hastrich, who fell in love with the details of her William and Mary chest he inspected at a furniture show in Boston nearly 40 years ago. "I thought, boy that girl sure does make some damn good dovetails."

Seating a few feet away in their comfortable, high-ceilinged sunroom, LaRoche, 70, lights up. "Isn't he cute?"

Uniting over this skilled, minute craft later in life, their enthusiasm for each other gathers strength from their shared passion. This exacting practice in an esoteric medium requires patience, watchmaker-like tools, tiny dividers with ivory handles



KATHLEEN PIERCE | BDN

Examples of the 1-and-2 inch scale furniture James Hastrich makes in his Kennebunk home, which he shares with fellow tiny maker Linda LaRoche.

and research that includes poring over history and design books to get styles right.

As mini reproduction furniture makers, their works are fit for dollhouses but are not sold as toys. They are collected across the country and endorsed by acclaimed institutions that include The American Folk Art Museum in New York City and Historic Deerfield.

The couple live and work under one roof, sharing meals, laughter, wine, the same discipline and tools. Unless they are collaborating on a piece — such as the Hadley chest he built, she carved and he painted — they

largely work alone.

"I really relish alone time, quiet time. I couldn't possibly work in the same space," she said.

Partners in life, they work apart in separate studios. He has a top loft in a former attic. She commands the wing off their bedroom. Like their past lives that led them to the discipline — Hastrich was a set designer, and LaRoche discovered a love of handwork while building model ships — their workspaces are individual. Hers is a more refined library, while his feels like a sawdusty workshop.

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MOFGA's celebration to teach, delight

Farm and Homestead Day this weekend

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

If you've ever wanted to learn how to mow with scythes, make herbal lip balms, construct a garden bed or try blacksmithing, this Saturday is your chance.

On June 11 at the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association at 294 Crosby Brook Road in Unity, Farm and Homestead Day will return to offer hands-on workshops for those interested in learning about farming and home-steading skills.

"Farm and Homestead Day is a free, family-friendly event featuring hands-on workshops in building skills for resiliency," Nancy Rosalie, a Unity resident and a founder of the event, said.

"Many years ago there was an event called Small Farm Field Day that was a collaboration between MOFGA and [the University of Maine] cooperative extension and about five, six years ago, they decided they weren't going to hold the event," she said.

Rosalie had hosted a workshop at that event that taught people how to team mow using scythes.

"I enjoyed that and wanted to make sure it would happen," Rosalie said.

So she and a small, dedicated group, including her friend Joe Dupere, who passed away in 2012, decided to strike out on their own to continue with a similar event. Now, Farm and Homestead Day draws between 300 and 400 people each year, Rosalie said.

"Joe Dupere, who was landscape coordinator at MOFGA and who had retired from an office job at the university in Orono, built his own home with his wife. He made a little homestead and always said, 'I learn so much from other people and it's my turn to pay,'" Rosalie remembered of her friend.

That is the idea behind this event — to teach others skills they may not otherwise have the chance to learn.

"From the start we knew that we wanted it to be an all-volunteer event," Rosalie said. "All the organizers volunteer their time and all the workshop leaders volunteer their time. The other thing we're adamant about is that all the workshops have some component of being hands-on — being participatory."

Workshops are planned in a variety of categories, including gardening, herbs, food preparation, fiber arts, construction and animals. Participants in the event

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Stephen King delivers scary finale to trilogy

BY JOHN WILWOL
NEWSDAY

Stephen King once confessed that there were times in his life when he thought "all the clamoring voices" in his head would make him insane. That may not have happened — yet — but this prolific author has never had any trouble making his characters insane, the most memorable of whom, at least in recent memory, might be Brady Hartsfield.

Readers first met Brady in King's 2014 crime thriller, "Mr. Mercedes," the critically acclaimed and Edgar Award-winning first installment in the Bill Hodges trilogy, which concludes this month with the series' out-

standing final novel, "End of Watch."

"End of Watch" unfolds six years after Brady killed eight and maimed several others in "Mr. Mercedes," where he drove a stolen Mercedes-Benz into a crowd outside a city job fair. Later in that book, he would've killed hundreds more with a bomb at a rock concert if it weren't for Hodges, a retired police detective, and his quirky sidekick, Holly Gibney.

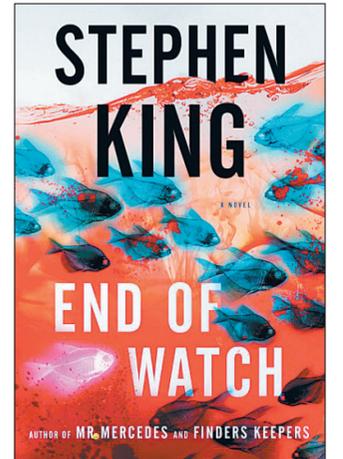
Before that bomb went off, Holly put Brady's lights out with Hodges' trusty weapon: a ball-bearing loaded sock called the Happy Slapper. Ever since the blow — and throughout the second novel in the trilogy, "Finders

Keepers" — Brady has appeared to dwell in a "twilight world" at a local brain injury clinic.

To most who meet him, the murderous invalid seems more likely to be found "poking himself in the eye with his fork" than plotting mass murder. But Hodges, a frequent and suspicious visitor who's now battling a nasty form of cancer, has never quite bought it.

"I was sure of it then and I'm sure of it now," he tells Holly early in "End of Watch." "He just sits there, but inside he's the same human wasp that killed those people at City Center and tried to kill a whole lot more at Mingo Auditorium."

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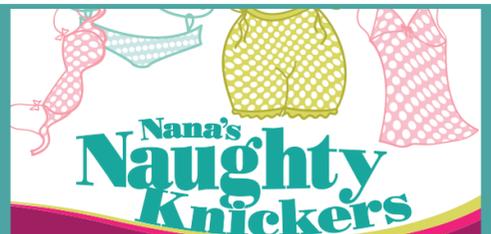


Colby College Museum of Art • Maine Film Center
Waterville Public Library • Common Street Arts
Waterville Opera House • Waterville Main Street

June 10, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM / *The Framemakers*, downtown Waterville
Extraordinary Maine Opening Reception Come see the Waterville Area Art Society's "Unusual Maine with Textures" collection at this lively event with food, drinks, and live music. Everyone is invited!

June 11, 10:00 AM / *Children's Book Cellar*, downtown Waterville
The Gnome Project: Meet the Author & Book Signing It's a book about creating a felted gnome every day for a year.... and much more.

June 13, 7:15 PM / *Railroad Square Cinema*
Gurukulam This film will immerse you in a remote forest ashram in India, exploring—by taking us into—the daily life of the followers of Swami Dayananda, one of the last teachers of Vedanta.



June 10, 11, 17, 18 at 7:30 PM; June 12, 19 at 2 PM

Bridget and her Grandmother are about to become roommates. However, what Bridget saw as a unique opportunity to stay with her favorite Nana in New York for the summer quickly turns into an experience she'll never forget! For tickets: 873-7000 or www.operahouse.org