

OBITUARIES



DONNA JEAN (THAYER) GAGNON

LEVANT - Donna Jean Gagnon, 65, died Tuesday, May 17, 2016, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born January 28, 1951, in Bangor, the daughter of Charles and Wilma (Wilcox) Thayer.

She was a strong, loving woman who enjoyed crafting, couponing and chocolate. She loved to travel, whether visiting family and friends or exploring new places. An avid fan of NASCAR, she loved going to races with her sisters and friends.

Donna was predeceased by her son, Earl "Bubba" Keith, Jr.; her first husband, Earl "Bub" Keith, Sr.; her father, Charles Thayer; her mother and stepfather Wilma and George Coates; her brother Doug Thayer; her nephew, Matthew House; her father-in-law, Albert Gagnon; her brother-in-law Greg Gagnon; and a special friend, Allen Langley. She is survived by her beloved husband, Thomas Gagnon. She is also survived by her daughter, Kelly Keith and husband Dustin Coston, as well as their children Kelsey and Alex; her son, Aaron Keith and wife Kristen, as well as their children Logan and Kelsey; her granddaughter Hillary Piotrowski and her husband Chris, and their daughter Harper; her sister Debbie Bessine and husband Gene, as well as their children Todd and Kim House and Dustin and Lauren House; her sister Darlene Barba and husband John; her brother Maury Thayer and wife Mary; her brother Keith Estes and wife Lynn; her chosen sister, Vicki St. Thomas; her mother-in-law Jeannette Gagnon; and her special niece Shelby Thayer and her daughter Avery.

Relatives and friends are welcome to call 6-8pm Friday, May 20, 2016, at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor, where a funeral service will be held 10am Saturday, May 21, with Pastor Stan Griffin, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Exeter, officiating. The family invites relatives and friends to share conversation and refreshments at Machias Savings Bank, 581 Wilson St., Brewer after the service. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com

In Memoriam...
Honor the memory of a loved one with an ad in the Bangor Daily News
1-800-432-7964 Ext. 8128

BDN



JEAN (SIMPSON) BROWN

HERMON - Jean Marie (Simpson) Brown, 80, died May 17, 2016, at a Bangor hospital after a brief illness surrounded by her loving family and friends. She was born December 1, 1935, in Bangor, daughter of Charles A. and Alice M. (Shaw) Simpson.

Jean was a graduate of Hermon Schools and married her high school sweetheart, Guy Alden Brown, five days following her graduation. She and her late husband operated a dairy farm in Hermon. After the sale of their farm, Jean was a school bus driver for the Town of Hermon for 15 years. She was employed in the Dietary Dept. at the Phillips-Strickland House in Bangor before she retired to care for her husband. She was a member of East Orrington Congregational Church, a founding member of the Hermon Rescue Squad, an active Girl Scout Leader and will be remembered for the beautiful quilts she made for her family and friends.

Surviving are three children, Alden Guy Brown and his partner, Patty Dunbar, Terri-Lee Brown and her partner, Mark Hayden, all of Hermon and John J. Brown and his wife, Evelyn of Lexington, KY; five grandchildren, Michael Brown, Nicole Wald, Amber Gamez, Kaitlyn Brown and Meaghan Brown; one sister, Harriett Bowden of Ellsworth; nieces and nephews, and her loyal four legged companion, Lily; special friends, Robert and Patricia Duran, Carolyn and Kristina Duran and their families, Sal Smart and Barbara Simpson. In addition to her husband, Guy, she was predeceased by four brothers and two sisters.

A graveside service will be held 1pm Monday, May 23, 2016, at Snow's Corner Cemetery, Fuller Road, Hermon, with the Rev. Carl Schreiber, pastor of the East Orrington Congregational Church presiding. Following the graveside service all are invited to a reception at the Hermon Rescue Squad Building, Billings Road, Hermon.

Those who wish to remember Jean in a special way may make gifts in her memory to the memorial fund of the East Orrington Congregational Church, 38 Johnson Mill Road, Orrington, ME 04474. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.

CHARLES L. WATTERS

EDDINGTON - Charles L. Watters, 66, died May 17, 2016, at his residence in Edgington. A complete obituary notice with service information will be published in the Friday, May 20, edition of the Bangor Daily News. A service of Brookings-Smith.



LYNETT MARI KENDALL

BENTON - Lynett Mari Kendall, 60, of Benton, passed away on May 14, 2016, with her family by her side. Lynett was born on October 30, 1955, in Hartford, Connecticut, the daughter of Bernard and Lois (Clark) MacDonald.

Lynett had a big heart and loved to help others, as she touched so many people's lives throughout the years. She was an Ed Tech at the Benton and Winslow school districts, along with being the Band Booster President at Lawrence High School for several years. Lynett not only had a passion for working with children; she loved working with the elderly just as much. In her free time, Lynett enjoyed to bake and cook delicious meals and treats for friends and family.

She will always be remembered as being a warm hearted caregiver to many, as she not only took care of her family, but also her parents, in-laws, and her granddaughter, Isabella.

Lynett was predeceased by her brother, Clark MacDonald.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jeffrey D. Kendall of Benton; her granddaughter, Isabella E. Kendall; her son, Jeffrey D. Kendall Jr. of Benton, and Erin E. Desrochers (Mother of Isabella) of Waldoboro; Stacey B. (Kendall) Parise and her husband, Alex C. Parise of Derry, New Hampshire; brother, David MacDonald of Penobscot; her niece, Jennifer McNamara of Penobscot, and nephew, Justin MacDonald of Houlton. She is also survived by several cousins, aunts, and an uncle.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2016, from 2-5 p.m. at Lawry Brothers Funeral Home, 107 Main Street, Fairfield. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2016, at 2 p.m. at Lawry Brothers Funeral Home. Burial will immediately follow the service at Falls Cemetery in Benton.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation at gofund.me/23q9pwk

Arrangements are by Lawry Brothers, 107 Main Street, Fairfield.

An online guestbook may be signed and memories shared at www.lawrybrothers.com

**CORRECTION NOTICE
HONORENE A.
RICHARDSON**

MILO - The memorial mass for Honorene A. Richardson, who passed away on May 11, 2016, has been changed to 11am Saturday, June 18, 2016, at Sts. Francis Xavier and Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Milo. Arrangements are in the care of the Lary Funeral Home, Milo.



ROBERT WILLIAM "NICK" NICKERSON

BANGOR - Robert William Nickerson, "Nick", a beautiful soul, left us on May 15, 2016 in much the same way that he lived his life, with a quiet, selfless, unassuming love for all of us he left behind.

Nick was born on January 16, 1951 to Rita Lee (Elwell) Nickerson in Gloucester, Mass. He attended schools in Gloucester and excelled at baseball thru Little League and played men's softball for many years. Baseball was a lifetime love along with hockey. He faithfully followed the Red Sox, the Bruins and the Patriots. He was a great pool player, and thru his father-in-law, developed a love of harness racing. Nick lived in California and Florida before moving to Maine when he was 23. It was here that he met and eventually married the love of his life, Linda. And it was here that his life happened. He worked for the City of Bangor for over 30 years and developed lifetime friendships thru work. Nick loved music and concerts, he was an avid reader, a history buff, a great yard-saler and discovered he had a real talent for buying old stereo components. He had the greatest smile, the biggest heart and always could make you laugh. Nick's greatest joy was giving to others, taking care of those he loved and to see everyone around him happy. That is what made him such a great man who will forever be missed.

Nick leaves behind his loving wife of 39 years Linda and their son Eric Curry; two grandsons, Bo and Nicholas; sisters, Peggy Meade and partner, Don of California, and Carlene Gaspar and husband, Buddy of Gloucester; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harry "Bub" and Peggy Curry of Stetson; and sister-in-law, Edith Curry of Bangor; nieces and nephews, Susan, Karen, Kelley, Jamie, Nicole, Scott, John, Kevin, Jason, Kevin and many great nieces and nephews as well as his two cats, Otis & Eddie. He was predeceased by his mother, two brothers, his in-laws and a brother-in-law. He will miss his morning coffee with Jud and watching Just for Laughs with Jim.

The family would like to thank Dr. Gary Ross and staff, Brewer Nursing & Rehab and especially Beacon Hospice, without whom we could not have kept him at home thru his illness.

A celebration of Nick's life will be announced later in August. Donations in his name can be made to Bangor Humane Society, 693 Mount Hope Ave, Bangor, ME 04401 or Old Town Animal Orphanage, 71 Airport Rd, Old Town, ME 04468. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.



MARILYN COMEAU HARDY

ORONO - Marilyn Comeau Hardy, 89, passed away peacefully, May 14th, 2016. The cause of death was Alzheimer's Disease. Born in Portland, Mrs. Hardy was the daughter of Claude J. Comeau and Louise Dyer Comeau.

Mrs. Hardy graduated from Bangor schools in 1944. Later, she was employed by the Bangor Savings Bank and The Map Store, in Old Town. Her marriage to Malcolm Hardy ended in divorce.

She is survived by three sons, David of Hampden, Timothy of Hampden, and Jonathan of Brooklyn, NY. Marilyn is also survived by daughters-in-law, Cathy of Hampden, Judy of Hampden and Jennifer of Brooklyn, NY. Marilyn has five grandchildren, Todd, Brent, Tim, Elsa and Jeremy. She also has five great-grandchildren, Zachary, Brooke, Logan, Kolby and James.

Marilyn's Christian walk and life influenced and touched many lives. She was first involved in the ministry of Faith At Work, and later became a member of Abundant Life Church in Bangor, where, until her illness, she was actively involved in the prayer ministry. Marilyn will also be remembered as a wonderful cook, a great teacher, a faithful friend, a spiritual mother and a devoted servant of the Lord.

Those wishing to remember her in a special way, may donate in Marilyn's name to The Good Shepherd Food Bank, Northeast Distribution Center, 11 Penobscot Meadow Drive, Hampden, ME 04444.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of
EUGENE WEBSTER BOWDEN

May 19, 1935 - Sept. 3, 2011



We love you and miss you more than words can say. Your wife, Esther; children, Stephen and Juanita, Mark and Delores, Craig and Corinne, Jeanna and Pret; and your grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Author of 'Buy the World a Coke' dies

BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS AND FRED BARBASH
WASHINGTON POST

Coca-Cola's television ad featuring the infectious "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke" and considered by many to be "the world's most famous ad," first took America by storm in 1971. Last May, it filled American homes once more as the finale scene in AMC's long-running "Mad Men." But, popular as the show was, Don Draper didn't write that jingle. Its true author was Bill Backer, who died Friday in Warrenton, Virginia, at 89.

In the commercial, a camera pans across faces of all shapes, colors and ethnicities, as they sing from a hilltop in Manzanara, Italy, "I'd like to buy the world a Coke." When the ad was produced in 1971, it cost \$250,000, making it the world's most expensive commercial at the time, the Daily Beast reported. Which makes it all the more astounding that Backer came up with the idea while sitting in an airport cafe in Shannon, Ireland, after his plane was forced to land due to a blanket of fog smothering London.

Instead of writing in a studio, though, Backer found himself among Brits and tourists, frustrated and angry at their delay. He was forced to spend the night in Shannon. In the light of morning, some of those passengers appeared happier. Heck, some were even sitting in the airport's cafe and laughing at their shared misfortune, between gulps of bubbly Coca-Cola straight from the bottle. He later wrote of the scene:

"In that moment [I] saw a bottle of Coke in a whole new light ... [I] began to see a bottle of Coca-Cola as more than a drink that refreshed a hundred million people a day in almost every corner of the globe. So [I] began to see the familiar words, 'Let's have a Coke,' as more than an invitation to pause for refreshment. They were actually a subtle way of saying, 'Let's keep each other company for a little while.' And [I] knew they were being said all over the world as [I] sat there in Ireland. So that was the basic idea: to see Coke not as it was originally designed to be — a liquid refresher — but as a tiny bit of commonality between all peoples, a universally liked formula that would help to keep them company for a few minutes."

The song hit radio stations on Feb. 12, 1971, and it gained immediate popularity. DJs immediately began receiving calls asking them to play the jingle, as if it were a song by The Doors or the Jackson 5. It was so popular, it began to affect the pop charts. The Hillside Singers had recorded the original vocals, and that version peaked at number 13. Backer had the New Seekers record a slightly different version of the song, titled "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)," which peaked at number 7 on the Billboard Hot 100, according to Billboard.

"It's generally considered the world's most popular commercial," Backer said.

Forum

Continued from Page C1

The surveys are completed quarterly, and local organizations and the commission are in the process of distributing and collecting surveys for the second quarter.

According to the Americans for the Arts documentation, the fee to participate in the study is \$5,500 per study region, though discounts are available. It wasn't immediately clear how much Bangor's participation cost; however, the Maine Arts Commission subsidized 50 percent of the fee and local nonprofits also helped to pay some of the fee. Further details weren't immediately available.

Discussion about the study and Bangor's involvement happened during a public forum hosted by the city of Bangor's Commission on Cultural Development on Tuesday at the Bangor Opera House, where they addressed arts and culture in the city. The forum drew between 30 and 40 people.

Bangor's cultural commission is hoping the data will help encourage the Bangor City Council to increase funding for the arts. Funding for the commission is \$10,000 per year, according to Budd. She encouraged attendees to lobby City Council to increase funding for the commission so they could expand their services and offer more to the community in the form of grants and programming.

"Just as an update, the council is considering the commission for a larger budget allocation this year, and that's because in the last year and a half we moved from just being a grant making body to doing a lot more," Kierie Piccininni, chair of the commission, said.

"We funded Bangor Ballet, supporting underprivileged students at DOWNEAST SCHOOL. We also helped publish a publication by a local artist, and he not only ended up being able to distribute it statewide but also regionally, nationally and internationally. We've also recently given a grant out to

Maine Science Festival for their general funding," Piccininni said.

Piccininni encouraged attendees to drop in at the commission's monthly meetings, which take place the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in City Hall council chambers.

Another point of discussion included last year's ARTober event, a monthlong celebration of the arts held for the first time last October.

There was some confusion among attendees who were under the impression that ARTober was meant to be an event in and of itself with specifically designated events instead of just a marketing initiative.

"The inspiration for ARTober was to continue the momentum that Bangor enjoys at the height of its tourist season with the [American] Folk Festival. Bangor has really put itself on the map as a place where a vibrant music scene unfolds at the end of August, and yet we know we have a thriving arts and culture scene year-round. ... The

hope was to spotlight those efforts really through a marketing initiative, not to necessarily gin up events, especially for this occasion, but to encourage partnerships and foster creative works that are already in the works here in Bangor," Budd said.

A second ARTober is being planned again for this year, and attendees suggested a greater collaboration and increased communication between the commission, local businesses and arts and culture programs about the event.

Also discussed was the creation of a new website by the commission, which will be a "one-stop shop" for Bangor's arts and culture events, according to commission member and marketing director for Waterfront Concerts, Elisabeth Young.

The forum concluded with a presentation by Bangor City Council chairman Sean Faircloth on a new program he announced called "Innovative Neighborhoods," which is still in an early planning phase.

"Innovative Neighbor-

hoods" aims to encourage lighthearted competition among Bangor's neighborhoods to enhance their livability and expand volunteer service. There are also plans to create a "laboratory of democracy" to encourage citizens to come up with new ideas to improve Bangor.

Faircloth said the commission was one example of an important organization the helps generate new ideas to improve the city.

"Change doesn't necessarily and shouldn't necessarily come from our just elected officials — just from your government. I think we need to look at ways of opening up the government to new ideas. ... Sometimes I think there's a little less oxygen in our government for 'what are we going to do that's great, that's going to make us the best city in the United States? How are we going to get there? How are we going to accomplish that?' So the city council unanimously passed this Innovative Neighborhoods initiative," Faircloth said.

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