

Minner

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“Pretty shortly after the mill closed I started to see that the closing of the mill was such a serious thing that people jumped into action,” said Minner. “The mill provided so much tax base for the town, that when that left people had to do something. There was no other option. And I think that presents an amazing opportunity.”

Prior to joining NHF, Minner worked at the Blue Hill Public Library and then at the Northeast Harbor Library. Her background in library science translates well to the kind of archiving work that NHF does — as does her love of history.

“I’ve always had a love for hyper local history, like the history of a neighborhood, or a street,” said Minner. “NHF is all about capturing that kind of history, family history and community history, so it’s a very natural thing for me.”

That emphasis on hyper-local community identity extends beyond her work with the archive, into using the Alamo Theatre as a place for more than just movies — though their weekend first-run movies have become the most popular source of entertainment in town, made possible by the 2014 purchase of a digital projector. The Alamo now hosts several Pecha Kucha presentation events per year — including one featuring local makers and artisans, happening at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3 — as well as performing arts events such as Alamo Superstar and storytelling nights, community events such as candidate forums and

workshops, and a variety of rentals.

“We want the Alamo to become that third place — not home, not work, but a community hub,” said Minner. “We’re really lucky that we have a resource like this right here in town.”

Through Main Street Bucksport, which was founded by Minner and her husband, Mark Eastman, as well as Roxanne Jobe and John Paul LaLonde, there’s once again pop-up shops in Bucksport for the month of December, after a successful inaugural run in 2014. The Town Council in October authorized \$6,600 to help local artisans and self-employed makers to take over four empty storefronts. The pop-up shops include a number of Maine jewelers, potters, food artisans and other makers, affording Bucksport shoppers the opportunity to buy local this holiday season.

Growing a community in the wake of major change is not easy, and it’s a slow process built on small but important progress, rather than a magic bullet. Minner looks to Maine towns that have successfully reinvented themselves after industry left, like Belfast post-chicken processing plant or Biddeford post-textile mills, as inspirations for what Bucksport could be.

“We have a beautiful waterfront, incredibly affordable housing, we’re really close to both Bangor and Ellsworth, and we have a downtown with a ton of potential,” said Minner. “But we also have our own unique community identity and flavor, that we have to retain as we move forward. That’s the big challenge for any town, keeping its identity.”

Brewer man’s metal detection unearths former athlete’s cherished possession

BY JOE MCLAUGHLIN OF THE BDN STAFF

Brian Fogg of Brewer has swept his metal detector over parks, beaches and farm land in Maine over the last 50 years and has made some unusual finds, such as a large one-cent piece from 1801, a silver dollar, and coins from Cuba and France.

It wasn’t until over a week ago, however, that he found something of significant value at Broadway Park in Bangor, which prompted the metal-detecting protocol of turning over the item to local police if the owner couldn’t be found.

But Fogg was able to identify the owner because his name was inscribed inside the item, a ring given to former University of Maine basketball star Skip Chappelle from his hometown of Old Town after he was named a first-team All-American in 1961 after his junior season.

On the outside, the ring also had “University of Maine” and “All-American” inscribed on it.

“I was happy to see a name in there. I knew I could find him through you [the BDN] or the university to get his ring back to him,” Fogg said.

Fogg returned the ring to Chappelle on Thursday when they met at Broadway Park. Chappelle said he and his wife were excited to hear the ring had been found when Fogg contacted him on Wednesday. The ring and many other possessions were stolen when they were victims of a home invasion at their Veazie residence about 18 months ago.

“The ring, in the whole scheme of things, was one



ASHLEY CONTI/BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Skip Chappelle (left) and Brian Fogg of Brewer met Thursday, Nov. 19 at Broadway Park in Bangor where Fogg returned a ring that was stolen from Chappelle’s home and recently recovered by Fogg when he was metal detecting at the park.

of the main things we really cherished,” said the 76-year-old Chappelle, explaining the ring provides a bond to his college teammates and what he describes as a special era of UMaine basketball, a program he went on to coach from 1971 to 1988.

The Chappelles were in their home sleeping at the time of the robbery. Several other homes in the Bangor area were hit by the same robbers, who were eventually caught and prosecuted.

Some items have been returned to the Chappelles and they are receiving a small quarterly sum of restitution, but Chappelle’s preference was always the ring’s return.

“They asked me to place a value on it, but my point was please get my ring back and forget about restitution,” he said, adding that

he believes the robbers may have discarded the ring in panic or because of its identifying features.

Several circumstances fell into place that led Fogg, whose passion is detecting for relics, to finding the ring. He is 66 and recently retired after a 44-year career with the Maine Department of Transportation, but still works part time at his massage therapy business at Stillwater Professional Park, a few miles from Broadway Park. On Nov. 9, he had a little extra time and said the warm day and damp soil enabled ideal conditions for metal detecting because conductivity increases.

“I do [the detecting] mostly for recreation. It’s a way of unwinding and it’s nice to be out there when the weather is nice,” he said.

He was going to check out the areas near the swings and slides but

didn’t do so because several children were playing, so he detected the areas around the walking paths until picking up a signal embedded four inches into the ground.

“I could tell it was a ring because of its size and the strength of the signal,” he said.

He then cut out a circle of sod around the ring, removed the sod — which he later returned — and used a smaller device to pinpoint the ring so he could get it without damaging it. A woman was watching him work and when he cleaned the dirt off the ring, they both confirmed Chappelle’s name inside the ring.

“It’s in excellent shape,” Fogg said.

Chappelle said it’s an incredible gesture by Fogg to return the ring.

“It says a lot about Mainers and how we operate,” he said.

Bangor Area Children’s Choir holiday concert slated for Dec. 11

The Bangor Area Children’s Choir will present their 2015 Winter Concert, “Make the Season Bright,” at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm at St. John’s Episcopal Church on French Street in Bangor. The Treble Choir and Youth Chorale will present a program of classics, appealing arrangements of familiar favorites, and new treasures. An arrangement of the famous Advent hymn, Veni Emmanuel, by the 20th century Hungarian compos-

er, Zoltan Kodaly, will begin the program, followed by the infectiously rhythmic Riu, Riu Chiu, composed in 16th century Spain. There will be classics by Bach and Mozart as well as an arrangement of Pentatonix’s White Winter Hymnal — originally by the indie folk band Fleet Foxes, and complete with body percussion. Seasonal selections include The Christmas Song, Christmas is Coming, and a pairing of the 16th century German carol — Lo, How a Rose — with Amanda McBroom’s The Rose, made famous by Bette Midler. Bangor Area Children’s Choir is con-

ducted by artistic director Robert Ludwig, and involves singers from fourteen different communities in the region.

15th century arr. Zoltán Kodály: Veni Emmanuel
Spanish Villancico, Mateo Flecha the Elder: Riu, Riu Chiu

Johann Sebastian Bach: Prepare Thyself Zion

W. A. Mozart: Ave verum corpus

American Folk Song, arr. Philip Silvey: Nine Hundred Miles

Robin Pecknold: White Winter Hymnal

Michael McGlynn: Pie Jesu

Traditional Irish, arr. Michael McGlynn: Siúil a Rúin

John Rutter: Mary’s Lullaby

Michael Praetorius and Amanda McBroom: Lo How a Rose/The Rose

Arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b 1962)

Mel Torme, arr. Mark Hayes: The Christmas Song
Traditional English Carol, arr. Mack Wilberg: Christmas is Coming

Allan Naplan: Al Shlosha D’varim

Bangor Band Christmas concert set for Dec. 13

The Bangor Band will present their annual Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, at Peakes Auditorium at Bangor High School, lo-

cated at 855 Broadway in Bangor.

The concert will be a family-friendly event, complete with a visit from Santa! Under the direction of Curvin “Chip” Farnham, the band will perform many holiday favorites, such as the beautiful “Coventry Carol”, and many other seasonal pieces. There will also be a carol sing-a-long with the audience.

Admission is free, although donations will be welcomed. Contact President Lori Wingo, 944-4193, for questions or visit the band’s website at bangor-band.org

Founded in 1859, the

Bangor Band is one of the nation’s oldest continuous community bands. The Bangor Band is also grateful for the perennial co-sponsorship and support by the Bangor Parks and Rec Department.

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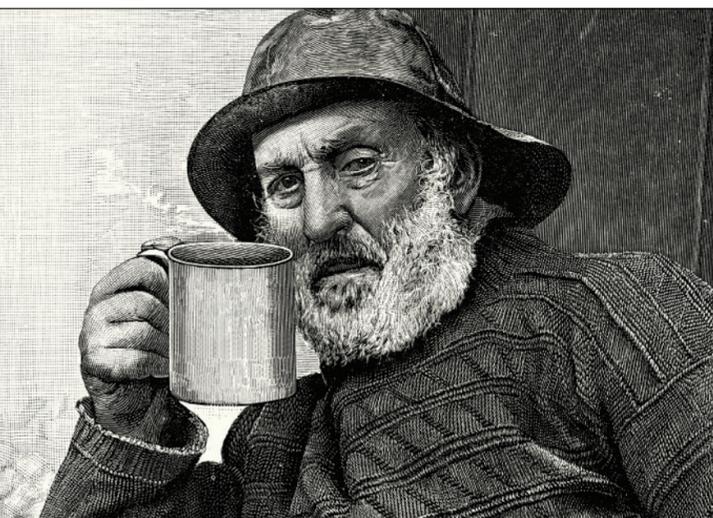
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