

Birthday

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Most parents try to make the day unique for their kids, apart from holiday festivities. For Ryan Cole, a Bangor resident who will turn 23 on Christmas Eve, it used to be both him, but it doesn't much anymore.

"I always used to be jealous of kids that had birthdays in the summer, because they'd get presents twice a year, all spread out, and I had to wait a whole year," said Cole, a recent graduate of the University of Maine. "But now, it doesn't bother me. You just have to step aside and make it special for everyone else. And my family has always been really great about it."

Though her birthday actually falls on a day that's a few weeks before Christmas, Kailee Soucia, 12, of Orrington, decided that this year she'd combine Christmas and birthday into one special day that benefits others — she opted to collect donations from family and friends and buy gifts from the Angel Tree at the Brewer Walmart.

In total, Kailee raised \$280 for her Christmas/birthday effort, and with a friend went to Walmart and was able to buy gifts and food requests for 12 children.

"The store was super helpful at check out and Tonya, a Walmart employee, was very helpful

when we went to the service desk with the Angel Tree presents," said her mother, Laura George, who is a Bangor Daily News employee. "She was pleasantly surprised when we informed her the whole cart was for the Angel Tree... She immediately gave Kailee a hug and praised both girls for being so kind-hearted."

As the years progress, birthdays become less important, and the sting of a Christmas birthday is lessened — though it's still hard to find something to do, since most businesses are closed. Davitt makes a point of spending time with loved ones and making sure it's a special day for everybody. McCarthy takes himself out to a fancy dinner at the Lucerne Inn in Dedham, since it's one of the only places in the area that's open on Christmas Eve, and, of course, he spends time with family and friends.

"There were two really nice things for me. One, my grandmother McCarthy's birthday was on Christmas Day, so she would always go out of her way to call me and say happy birthday, because she knew the deal," recalled McCarthy. "And, one of my best friends growing up had a birthday on the 26th, so on Christmas night we would always go out to a movie and celebrate together... there ends up being a lot of nice things about it. Even if you kind of grumble about it when you're a kid."

New 'Ghosts of Bangor' calendar is a window into the City's past

BY NOK-NOI RICKER OF THE BDN STAFF

Have you ever wondered where in Bangor the historic fire of 1911 started and what it looks like today?

To see such an image, all you have to do is go to the month of April in Bangor Historical Society's new "Ghosts of Bangor" calendar, done in collaboration with local photographer Rick Haney, who superimposed historic pictures on ones taken more recently.

"They're fantastic," Melissa Gerety, Bangor Historical Society's executive director, said Friday. "April is Frank Green's hayshed, which is where the fire of 1911 started. You can see the address and everything."

Bangor Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 772, sponsored the April calendar page.

Bangor has changed a lot in the last century, with fires, redevelopment and urban renewal demolitions in the 1960s and 70s that removed a lot of buildings in downtown Bangor and along the Kenduskeag Stream.

"You can only learn so much about history in a book," Haney said Friday. "People who like history would rather see what it looks like."

To remind people about Bangor's history, last year Haney started a photo project called "Ghosts of Bangor" by using Photoshop to lay histori-



Frank Green's Hayshed
A bronze plaque on the edge of Gomez Park at Broad and Washington Streets marks the site of the start of an event that would dramatically change Bangor's landscape. It was here on April 30, 1911 that the first sparks caught fire and erupted into a devastating conflagration that burned for 15 hours destroying 267 buildings, charring 55 acres and resulting in an estimated \$3 million in damages.

PHOTO COURTESY BANGOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
An image of where the 1911 fire started and destroyed much of downtown Bangor, is superimposed over an image taken of Gomez Park by Bangor photographer Rick Haney, who created the Ghost of Bangor calendar in partnership with the Bangor Historical Society.

cal images on top of present-day photos to give viewers a sense of what the city was like back then.

"Once I did the first one, people started donating all their own personal photographs," Haney said.

"I grew up right after [Bangor's] urban renewal, and I always wondered: Why does this neighborhood end here? Why is this old and the next thing new?" Haney said later. "I always imagined what used to be there. 'Ghost of Bangor' is my imagination coming to fruition, I guess."

The local history buff said the Queen City has lost a lot of its history, and his goal is to preserve everything he can. He approached the city's historical society about doing the calendar so others can get a glimpse into the past.

"Rick took the images and superimposed them. We went ahead and did the research so there is four or five sentences about what it was and what it is now," Gerety said.

The "Ghost of Bangor" calendars cost \$19.99 plus tax and are available at the An-

tique Marketplace & Cafe, The Briar Patch, Chapel Hill Floral, Rebecca's, State Street Wine Cellar, Epic Sports and the Historical Society's Thomas A. Hill House Museum, at 159 Union St.

The calendar proceeds benefit the Bangor Historical Society.

Orders for the calendars are coming in from all over the country, from people who have connections to Bangor. One was sent to Tennessee Friday.

"There is a lot of interest, not just locally," Gerety said.

UMaine Museum of Art to again offer free admission in 2016

The University of Maine Museum of Art, located on Harlow Street in downtown Bangor, will extend its free admission policy for the public in 2016 and 2017 as the result of a gift from Deighan Wealth Advisors.

George Kinghorn, museum director and curator, expressed appreciation for this philanthrop-

ic gift to the University and community. Deighan Wealth Advisors, a well-known wealth management firm, has a history of supporting the arts in the region and state of Maine. It is a longtime sponsor of the Museum of Art's education and exhibition programs as a member of UMMA's Community Partners Program.

"As a community outreach resource for the University of Maine, the Museum's ability to offer

free admission to the public is vital in our efforts to remove barriers that may prevent all citizens from enjoying the Museum's collections and changing exhibitions," Kinghorn said. "We are very grateful for Deighan Wealth Advisors' support of free admission. Because of its generous sponsorship, individuals, school children, special needs groups and others can visit often, view original works of art and have a significant museum ex-

perience."

"Deighan Wealth Advisors is delighted to sponsor free UMMA admission for the community at large. Living richly is as much about the size of your life as it is about the size of your wallet. We hope UMMA will be a "must see" stop on everyone's next lunch date," said Jean Deighan, CEO and founder of Deighan Wealth Advisors.

The University of Maine Museum of Art is located in Norumbega

Hall in downtown Bangor and is open year-round, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the galleries close periodically for exhibition installations. UMMA offers an array of changing exhibitions featuring regional and nationally recognized contemporary artists in conjunction with integrative educational programs, gallery talks and workshops. Visit the Museum's website (umma.umaine.edu) for more information.

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