

Class of 1965 graduates and older to reunite at Brewer reunion

BY JODI HERSEY
SPECIAL TO THE WEEKLY

It's been decades since Carolyn Thompson and Loretta Libbey graduated from Brewer High School but that doesn't mean the two alumni from the class of 1963 don't know how to have a good time. The duo is part of this year's Brewer High School Senior Alumni Association and they've got a big gathering planned next month for their annual high school reunion. It's an event where anyone who attended or graduated from the school 50 or more years ago is welcome.

"We send out approximately 900 invitations and there's usually 280 to 300 who attend," said Thomp-

son. "It's always the third Friday in August so people can plan their vacations [around it] because there are whole families that come. We already have reservations for a family of 11 people."

The reunion is a time to reconnect, reminisce and have fun with some former classmates but it's also a huge fundraiser that benefits current Brewer High School students.

"We give away six \$1,000 scholarships [to eligible students]. And they get it during their second semester of school," said Thompson.

"Last year only one of the six recipients was going to a Maine school but this year all of the recipients are going to college in Maine,"

explained Libbey.

Every scholarship dollar raised by the Brewer High School Senior Alumni Association is collected through donations from Brewer alumni or through craft and gift card raffles held the night of the reunion.

"We added a raffle because one of the graduates, who now lives in Florida has a craft business and made a witch [the school's mascot] that really got people interested in the event," explained Thompson.

There will also be a memorabilia table for attendees to look over, the school fight song to sing, dinner and dancing to some oldies from Rockin' Ron and the New Society Band.

"I just love the stuff that happens at the reunion," said Libbey. "At our 50th, one of the guys from our class that was always a nice looking guy was there and there was this one woman who was telling him, 'I had such a crush on you in high school.' When she had walked away he said to me, 'I didn't know so and so ever had a crush on me.' And I said, 'She probably didn't. That wasn't who that was.' It's stuff like that, that happens that is so funny."

The reunion will take place at Jeff's Catering in Brewer on August 19 from 4:30-10pm. Those wishing to attend must RSVP Carolyn Thompson by August 1 at cammie04412@yahoo.com or 989-4575.

Early American living history re-enactment draws crowd to Orrington Old Home Days



DAWN GAGNON/BDN

Billy and Rachel Nichols of Orono and their daughter, Audrey, stopped by the Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous encampment being held in Orrington as part of the town's Old Home Days celebration.

BY DAWN GAGNON
BDN STAFF

ORRINGTON, Maine — The Wiswell Farm on River Road this week has taken on the sights, sounds and tastes of pre-1840 America as it serves as the gathering spot for the Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous, one of the featured activities during this year's Old Home Week celebration in Orrington.

Presented by the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation, the Orrington rendezvous has drawn people from around the United States — as well as a few people from Canada and Europe — who are living in canvas tents and cooking over campfires as they re-enact the 1640 to 1840 rendezvous lives of the mountain men, fur traders, Indian tribes and others who used to gather once a year for trade and revelry.

Keith Bowden, an Orrington selectman and a member of the Old Home Week planning committee, said between 300 and 350 "settlers" were staying at the farm, which has been in the Wiswell family for eight generations and likely will remain for a ninth.

A visit to their encampment Sunday yielded the sharp crack of muskets being fired at a range at the edge of the temporary settlement and the thud of tomahawks and knives being thrown at another area. Meanwhile, ham and venison and other main courses were roasting over fires and coals throughout the encampment in anticipation of supper.

Settlers sold wares rang-

ing from clothing and kitchen goods to moccasins, wooden shoes, beads and bags, to name a few.

For some, it really was Old Home Week. Peggy Chubbuck of Plainville, Connecticut, grew up in the area, though she noted she has lived outside of Maine more than in it. She and her husband are portraying camp followers, or early American traveling salesmen.

Bowden estimated that 450 people from the community and beyond turned out Saturday and that at least 150 more dropped by as of about 2 p.m. on Sunday, though numbers were down because of the heavy downpour that morning.

Rachel Nichols said she and her husband, Billy, found the encampment by luck while heading to visit her family in Bucksport.

"We just drove by and saw it," Billy Nichols said.

Rachel Nichols said the family thought it would be fun to visit because they are fans of the Living History Days at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum at Leonard's Mills in Bradley.

In keeping with the group's mission, signs of modern times like cellphones, TVs and radios are not permitted during the times when the gates are closed to visitors.

The town was supposed to be named for Orangetown, Maryland, but because of a spelling error in the act of incorporation, the name became Orrington, according to a history of Orrington on the town's website. To that end, an Orangetown Road runs around the encampment.

RALLY TIME

UMaine student conducting Bangor communication survey

BANGOR — The way Bangor chooses to communicate with its residents is vital when it comes to keeping residents well-informed. But what is the best way for the city to reach out to its residents? One survey hopes to reveal the answer.

Jaymi Thibault, a fourth-year honors student majoring in Political Science at the University of Maine, is conducting a survey in collaboration with the city of Bangor. The goal of the survey is to determine which methods of communication Bangor residents prefer when it comes to hearing from the city, as well as what types of information residents want to know.

With this information, decision makers in Bangor will be able to hone their community outreach methods to ensure that residents are getting the information they need.

All residents of Bangor are encouraged to take the survey, which will likely take participants between 10-15 minutes to complete. All responses will be anonymous.

As a thank you for your participation, respondents will have the option of entering a drawing to win one of multiple \$25 gift cards to a local restaurant or business within Bangor at the end of the survey.

A later phase of the research will involve focus groups conducted with renters and elderly residents of Bangor. All participants who complete these one-hour focus groups will receive a \$10 gift card to spend at a local restaurant or business. Survey respondents are under no obligation to participate in these focus groups.

The survey can be taken online at BangorSurvey.com. For those who are interested in the upcoming focus groups or who would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact Jaymi Thibault at 207-402-0135 or jaymi.thibault@maine.edu.

Bangor extends ARTober submissions deadline to Aug. 12

BANGOR — The City of Bangor's Commission on Cultural Development announced in May the second annual ARTober: The City of Bangor's Month of the



ASHLEY L. CONTI/BDN

Darlyn Scruton (left) reacts after nearly making a ring toss while Dwayne Scruton drives during the 2016 Maine Harley Owners Group Rally bike field events at the Cross Insurance Center parking lot in Bangor Saturday, July 16.

Arts, set this year for Oct. 1-31, in locations throughout Bangor.

The deadline to submit an arts or cultural event happening in Bangor during the month of October to be included in the celebration has been extended to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12. A submission form is available online and via bangor-maine.gov. Organizations and individuals that submit events will be contacted at a later date for more complete information on their event.

Last year's inaugural ARTober hosted more than 90 events drawing thousands of participants, from organizations and individuals ranging from the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and the Penobscot Theatre Company to the Maine Writers and Publisher's Alliance and River City Cinema, as well as individual artists and musicians. All events were featured in a one-of-a-kind, full-color event guide featuring a full-page, original illustration from local artist Chris Peary, and graphic design from local designers Pat Shaw and Heather Magee. Nearly 10,000 of these were distrib-

uted throughout Bangor and the region. "We hope to replicate the successes of the first year to heighten awareness and enjoyment of Bangor's rich arts and cultural resources," said Commission Chairwoman Kierie Piccininni.

ARTober coincides with the National Arts & Humanities Month, a coast-to-coast collective recognition of the importance of culture in America. It is designed to encourage people to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives, and to begin a lifelong habit of active participation in the arts.

For more information, contact City of Bangor Cultural Liaison Zeth Lundy at culturalcommission@bangor-maine.gov or (207) 992-4234.

Recent graduates send message: "Arrive Alive!"

BANGOR — Five recent high school graduates won first place in the 12th annual Arrive Alive Creative Contest sponsored by the law offices of Joe Bornstein. The contest asks stu-

dents to come up with a creative message about the dangers of drinking and/or distracted driving.

Three of the top five winners were honored at the contest's award ceremony in Bangor on June 21, including Katherine Higgins of John Bapst Memorial High School, Rebecca Mahar of Washington Academy and Ramirez Robinson of Southern Aroostook Community School.

The Arrive Alive Creative Contest is open to graduating high school seniors in Maine who may enter a creative project of their choice. First place winners receive a new laptop computer, second and third place winners receive new iPads, and every student who enters receives prizes from the firm.

A complete set of rules and all past winning entries may be viewed online at arrivealivecreativecontest.com or on Facebook. In the past 12 years, the law offices of Joe Bornstein has given away more than \$110,000 in prizes to educate teenagers on the dangers of driving.

For information, visit joebornstein.com.

HOW TO REACH US 207-990-8000 or 1-800-432-7964

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