

YESTERDAY

YESTERDAY ...
10 years ago - Aug. 4, 2006
(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

BANGOR — The Bangor Museum and Center for History received a \$7,500 grant from a component fund of the Maine Community Foundation. The funds will be used to update and revise the tour format for the Thomas A. Hill House and to research artifacts, period landscaping and interior design. Museum Treasurer Ed Clift said the historic landmark built “represents Bangor architecture at its zenith.” Richard Upjohn designed the Greek Revival structure in 1835. “We are delighted that the Maine Community Foundation is willing to invest in the public’s enjoyment of the Thomas A. Hill House,” the treasurer said.

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EDDINGTON — Two dozen residents crammed into the town hall on Tuesday to continue a discussion about whether to construct a new addition to the building that the town and Fire Department have shared for 32 years, Town Manager Russell Smith said Thursday.

“Everybody knows we need space,” he said. “And we can do it without raising taxes.”

Tuesday’s meeting was the second of two public hearings held to discuss the issue before residents vote on the expansion during a special town meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 15.

The projected debt service for the \$950,000 project runs between \$62,000 annually for a 30-year repayment plan and \$76,000 annually for a 20-year loan term. If approved by residents, the project’s costs would be offset by several items in this year’s budget that have or will expire at the end of the year, Russell stressed.

The town manager said at a previous meeting that the town has about \$63,000 to put towards the payment.

The expansion design plans, created by A.E. Hodsdon of Waterville, include an added structure on both the right and left sides of the current 3,500-square-foot municipal building that would add a total of 6,500 square feet of new space. The addition also would solve code violations and make the building Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

The additions would create a new town hall on the left side of the current building and a three-fire truck bay on the right.

The municipal addition includes a meeting room, three offices, a records vault and kitchen.

In addition to the new bay, the old town office space would be renovated into offices, a laundry and bunk rooms for the Fire Department, while retaining the existing bays for the brush truck and rescue vehicle.

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BANGOR — Beers and tears and lots of laughter in between.

Pat’s Cafe, Bangor’s last neighborhood beer joint, officially closed its doors after last call early Sunday morning.

The doors briefly reopened Thursday for a private party that owner Del Merritt threw to thank some of the people who have supported his bar through the years.

The midpoint of Merritt’s five-hour “went-out-of-business” bash found a crowd of about 40 people, all of whom dropped by to say goodbye to a place they say will always hold a special place in their hearts.


“This was the last ‘beer bar’ around. There’s no other place like it,” said Shirley Philbrick, who tends bar at nearby Judy’s Restaurant, also owned by Merritt. Famous for its hearty breakfasts, Judy’s is staying open.

“It’s just a neighborhood bar that everybody comes to. Everybody’s family here,” Philbrick said about Pat’s.

As beer joints go, Pat’s was about as authentic as you can get. No cocktails, no food, no fancy umbrella drinks - just cold beer and pool.

“It really sucks. I’ve been coming here since I was 16, and here I am almost 50 now,” said Donnie Lahaye, one of three Bangor brothers who have come to think of the crowd at Pat’s as ex-

PICTURE FROM THE PAST



BANGOR DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO BY SPIKE WEBB

A hectic campaign has been waged this week at Husson College on behalf of candidates for the offices of “Chief for a Day” and “Secretary for a Day.” The winners will reign over the annual clean-up dday activities following their election this morning, Friday, May 15, 1953. Among the likely candidates are (from left) John Leavey, Liberty; Gerald Castonguay.

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tended family.

“This is where we met,” his younger brother, Timothy Lahaye, said as he draped an arm around his wife, Marta.

“My whole family has been here,” Timothy Lahaye said, adding that he, Marta and the rest of the clan likely would divide their time among nearby Judy’s and the Waverly and The Tavern downtown.

Another brother, Gene Lahaye, was a bartender at Pat’s. He was pressed into service pouring beers during Thursday’s party and was too busy to chat.

Pat’s Cafe has stood at 115 State St. since 1965, when its original owner, Jim Furlong, moved it to “The Hill” from Exchange Street, according to Merritt, who has owned the business for the last 17 years.

Merritt said the bar was named after Furlong’s wife. Although it changed hands a few times before Merritt bought it, the bar has always kept the same name.

Pat’s experienced some notoriety in 1988, when it was the scene of an argument that triggered the fatal shooting of Peter Bassett, a 39-year-old postal worker. The shooting, which occurred outside of nearby Judy’s, remains among Bangor’s unsolved murders.

Merritt blames the neighborhood bar’s demise on a two-year-old state law banning smoking in bars and taverns. At the time, he predicted that the ban would kill his business.

“It happened just as I said it would,” Merritt said Thursday, adding that since the law took effect, his staff at Pat’s has gone from three full-timers to two part-timers.

“We’re being run by communists in this country. It’s crazy,” he said.

Merritt has heard reports that former patrons who used to drop \$30 a night at his bar had started frequenting the Eagles Club in Brewer, which, because of its private status, allows smoking.

Because Thursday’s gathering was a private one, attendees were free to light up inside, and for the first time in two years, the air was thick with cigarette smoke.

Among those who lost their job at Pat’s was long-time bartender Noreen Goss, who worked for the former owner and stayed on when Merritt bought the bar.

“I came with the business,” she said while pouring beers for the crowd clustered around the bar.

“And she’s going with the business,” Merritt quipped.

“Hey, anybody want to buy Noreen?” he boomed across the bar, drawing chuckles all around.

“She’s a classy lady,” Jerry Breen, a professional karaoke singer from Bangor, said of Goss.

Merritt plans to turn the bar into apartments, Debbie Merritt, the owner’s daughter and employee, said.

The individually painted ceiling tiles, sponsored for \$5 each by patrons, business associates, friends and others, will have to be taken down, but they just might find a new home in her house, Debbie Merritt, who works at Judy’s, said.

Del Merritt said now that he’s running only one business on The Hill, he no lon-

ger has to “compete against myself,” so he can offer \$2 beers at Judy’s without worrying about hurting the bottom line at Pat’s.

“I’m just going to be more competitive all around,” he said.

25 years ago - Aug. 4, 1991

BANGOR — While a carnival atmosphere prevailed outside in the hot August sun, inside the sauna-like Bangor Auditorium a different spirit emerged, as a couple of thousand fans left the Bangor State Fair and entered the quieter world of Mary-Chapin Carpenter.

Carpenter, who blends country, rock, folk and blues, has a reputation for detailing the travails of those thirtysomething and single in her music. As she said in the introduction to the ballad “When She’s Gone”: “I’ve heard it said that I only sing sad songs. I’m not sure why I got that reputation, but here’s another one.”

Many of Carpenter’s songs in her hour-long set Saturday afternoon did have a melancholic, rueful tinge to them, including “Goin’ Out Tonight,” the hit “You Win Again,” “This Shirt,” “She Gives Her Heart to You,” “I’ve Never Had It So Bad,” and “After I’m Gone.” A ballad with a less mournful slant was the Eudora Welty-inspired “Halley Came to Jackson.”

But Carpenter and her four-member band knew how to rev up the near-capacity crowd as well, performing such uptempo numbers as “Right Now,” “I Feel Lucky,” “Read My Lips,” the Cajun-spiced single “Down at the Twist and Shout,” and the finale “Quittin’ Time,” her breakthrough single.

Carpenter’s performance was as stripped down as some of her songs, with straightforward quality musicianship and few theatrics.

During upbeat guitar and keyboard solos, Carpenter, dressed in a blue vest, white shirt and jeans, would dance energetically around the stage, her short blonde hair bouncing.

Carpenter held her own against the flashy lights and noise of the midway outside, as her emotional honesty kept those in attendance in their seats right until “Quittin’ Time.” She proved that feelings can take the place of glitz anytime.

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The Bangor Armory Family Group and 262nd Engineer Battalion Sunday officially welcomed home 22 local Maine Army National Guard members from Operation Desert Storm and related duty.

Most of these Guard members returned home singly or in small groups, and until Sunday, had not been welcomed home formally.

Maj. Stephen Frost of Hampden, executive officer for the 262nd Engineer Battalion, and others from the battalion staff and family group organized the awards ceremony and luncheon for the Guardsmen.

Frost said that not all of those recognized went to Saudi Arabia. Some were assigned to stateside units, while others were sent to training bases in prepara-

tion for deployment to the war zone. In a speech during the ceremony, Frost offered these soldiers our “deepest respect and gratitude for those who sacrificed so much and asked so little.” He also noted that “these soldiers have a true sense of patriotic obligation for duty, honor and country.”

Brig. Gen. Donald H. Mardin of Water, Maine’s deputy adjutant general, presented individual awards. Seven soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service performed while assigned to the 142nd Medical Company in a field of constantly changing combat conditions to support the 1st Infantry Division during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Saber. The 142nd Medical Company was activated from the Connecticut Army National Guard as was Maine’s 112th Medical Company of Bangor.

All of those receiving the Army Commendation Medal were originally activated with the 112th and reassigned to fill out the Connecticut unit. This unit was ultimately sent to support Desert Storm and saw action at locations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

The seven are: Spec. Jeffrey J. Curtis of Owls Head, Spec. Michelle M. Comeau of East Waterboro, Staff Sgt. Edward W. Noyes III of Patten, Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. Parker of Pembroke, Sgt. Dennis A. Patten of Stockton Springs, Spec. William J. Six II of Gray and Sgt. Melzer F. Thurlow of Dexter.

These soldiers also received the National Defense Service Medal along with the following Maine Guard members: Sgt. George L. Ash of Belmont, Spec. Alton E. Chesley of Norway, Sgt. Lori J. Costello of Orono, Spec. Robert L. Davis of Norway, Sgt. Frank B. George of Busksport, Spec. Raymond E. Jackson of Harmony, Sgt. Paulette R. Landrey of Camden, Spec. David A. Paine of South Paris, Staff Sgt. Deborah R. Quimby of Milo, Spec. Dominick M. Riitano of Sangerville, Sgt. Francis L. Sargent of Norway, Spec. Raymie D. Scanlon of Machias, 2nd Lt. Steven F. Scott of Brewer, Capt. John W. Skidgell of Brewer and Staff Sgt. Robert P. Sutton Jr. of Winterport.

Most of these Guard members were volunteers to active duty during the war with Iraq while others were activated along with their units, but separated before deployment overseas. Some were assigned to stateside duty with active duty units at

Fort Devens, Mass., and Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington.

Others were sent to training and were awaiting assignment at Fort Leonardwood, Mo., and Fort Gordon, Ga., when the ceasefire was announced.

Others were assigned to the Maine Army National Guard’s Saudi-bound units, the 286th Supply and Service Battalion of Gardiner, and the 3620 Transportation Detachment from Augusta. A few were sent to Fort Jackson, S.C., and then assigned to units deployed to Saudi Arabia such as the 475th Transportation Company from Farrah, Pa., and the 1133rd Transportation Company from Mason City, Iowa.

In addition to the two federal awards presented at the ceremony, the 262nd Engineer Battalion Impact Coin and a special coin designed by the Bangor Armory Family Group for volunteers to Desert Storm and Desert Shield were presented to the 22 volunteers who were recognized.

Others at the ceremony were 240th Engineer Group Commander Co. Norman R. Giroux of Waterville, 262nd Engineer Battalion Commander Maj. Donald J. Doyan of Fairfield, and 262nd Engineer Battalion Administrative Officers Capt. John M. Branscom of Hallowell and 2nd Lt. Allysa A. Knopp of Old Town.

50 years ago - Aug. 4, 1966

BANGOR — A Bangor Public Works Department crew was out in force Wednesday repaving a 500-foot section of Harlow Street. According to Roger Merrill, department director, the resurfacing job is part of Bangor’s State Aid Road Building Program. Work crews closed off sections of the thoroughfare between State and Court streets during the day, causing a good sized traffic jam around 1 p.m. Merrill said that work on the Harlow Street project will be stopped at noon today and will be resumed next Monday. Following completion of the Harlow Street resurfacing, the Public Works Department will repave Hammond Street Hill. Merrill stated that the road crews generally do not close off downtown streets on Thursday or Friday — heavy traffic days — and indicated that he felt traffic Wednesday was no heavier than usual, despite the Bangor Fair.

BANGOR — “One of Maine’s finest fairs” was the way Governor John H. Reed described the Bangor State Fair during his stop here Wednesday. Making his customary visit appropriately enough on Governor’s Day, Maine’s chief executive said a few words to the grandstand audience before taking his seat to await the time when he was to present a cup to the winner of the Governor’s Pace.

Prior to making his appearance at the race track, the governor attended a barbecue held on the fairgrounds. Among the guests at the barbecue, besides the governor and his wife, were Allan M. Mollison, president and treasurer of the Bangor State Fair, and Mrs. Mollison; Miss Susan Sederquist, who is Miss Bangor State Fair; Miss Linda Nickless, who is Miss Dairy Queen; State Commissioner of Agriculture and Mrs. Maynard Dolloff; Dr. Neal Watson, president of the 4-H Penobscot County baby Beef Club, and Mrs. Watson, of Dexter; and Fair General Manager and Mrs. Roger Smith.

A bouquet of roses was presented to pretty Miss Linda Nickless of Unity, officially making her Miss Dairy Queen for 1966 at the Fair.

Other top events of the day included livestock judging, a parade of dairy cows, and a Guernsey Futurity judging.

100 years ago - Aug. 4, 1916

Five members of President Wilson’s cabinet and several congressmen will speak during the coming campaign in Maine, according to a partial list issued tonight by Chairman Cummings of the speakers’ bureau of the Democratic national committee. The list comprises Secretary of War Baker, Attorney General Gregory, Secretary of Commerce Redfield, Secretary of Labor Wilson, Secretary of the Navy Daniels; William M. Ingraham, assistant secretary of war; Frank D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the Navy; A.M. Dockery, third assistant postmaster general; Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture; Senator Hollis, New Hampshire; Representatives O’Shaughnessy of Rhode Island and Richard Olney Jr. of Massachusetts; Dudley F. Malone, collector of the port of New York, and Thomas L. Reilly, former congressman from Connecticut.

Compiled by Ardeana Hamlin & Aimee Thibodeau

Death Notices

BOYCE, Raymond William, 71, East Holden & Pawnee, OK., July 20, 2016.

CAMMACK, Michael A., 60, Holden; at Bangor, July 24, 2016. Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor.

CARON, Paul C., Bangor, July 24, 2016.

CHAISON, Paul D., 77, Sebastian, Fla. and Bangor, July 23, 2016.

CHALOUX, Al, 91, Bradley, July 21, 2016. Brookings-Smith, 133 Center Street, Bangor.

COOPER, Samuel J., Bangor; at Bangor, July 17, 2016.

EBBESON, Richard A., 58, Pembroke; at Brewer, July 30, 2016. Washington County Cremation Center.

FOLSOM, Lyman ‘Bud’ P., 91, Brewer and Bangor; at Brewer, July 30, 2016. Service 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor.

GOULD, Michael Lee, Bangor, 66, July 27, 2016. Brookings-Smith, Bangor.

LOUNSBURY, Geraldine N., 91, Hampden and Springhill, Fla., July 25, 2016. Hampden-Gilpatrick Chapel of Brookings-Smith, 45 Western Ave., Hampden.

MAYHEW, Julia E., 79, Carmel, July 21, 2016. Brookings-Smith, 133 Center Street, Bangor.

PETERSON, Bryant, 74, Orono, July 23, 2016.

TWEEDIE, Gary V., 56, Winterport, July 25, 2016.

WADE, Donald ‘Uncle Don,’ 80, Orrington; at Orrington, July 29, 2016. Brewer Chapel of Brookings-Smith, 55 South Main St., Brewer.

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