'ONLY ANOTHER BIRTHDAY'



PHOTO COURTESY SUNBURY VILLAGE

Sunbury Village resident Leonard Page celebrated his 101st birthday on Saturday, Feb. 13. He is the last living member of the 1931 Orono football team, the only year that the team went undefeated with no opposing team scores. In 1934 he attended Husson University when it was known as Maine School of Commerce. After graduation Leonard was offered a teaching position in Presque Isle teaching Business Math. In 1938 he married Elizabeth Hopkins-Sharp from Presque Isle. In 1942 he entered the Navy, stationed in Newport RI. He was discharged in 1946 and went back to Presque Isle to continue his teaching career. His daugher Martha was born in 1948, the same year he left teaching to work as a public accountant. In 1953, he and the family moved to Boston. Leonard also claims that he is the "New England Cribbage Champion." Leonard retired at the age of 70 and moved back to his beloved Maine; he lived in Brewer until he decided to move to assisted living community Sunbury Village in Bangor in 2007, where he still resides. When asked the secret of his long life, Leonard just looked around at his daughter, her husband and friends and said, "It is nice that everyone is celebrating, but it is only another birthday, now next year I'll be 102.'

Bangor City Council approves lease for new employer Wayfair, renaming of BIA terminal

BY NICK MCCREA OF THE BDN STAFF

Online home furnishings retailer Wayfair has been cleared to move into Bangor with 450 jobs after the City Council approved unanimously a lease agreement last week.

The Boston-based company is planning an August move to the call center occupied by L.L. Bean at the corner of Maine Avenue and Godfrey Boulevard, where it expects to place 450 customer service specialists. It also plans to set up another call center with 500

employees in Brunswick.
L.L. Bean announced plans to close its Bangor call center in 2014, and city staff immediately began trying to find someone to replace it.

"450 full-time jobs with good pay is the definition of a success," said Councilor Joe Baldacci.

Under the terms of the seven-year lease, Wayfair will pay \$16,250 per month in rent, increasing to \$17,725 after 60 months. The lease includes two options for five-year extensions.

Wayfair offers entry-level

tives medical and dental insurance, a 401k match, tuition reimbursement and other benefits, according to its website. Wayfair will be offering "competitive" wages, spokeswoman Jane Carpenter said. She declined to disclose a wage range because the company is "assessing the market" to determine what those

wages will be.
Officials at L.L. Bean confirmed in January that they had been asked to vacate the building a month earlier than expected in order to accommodate a new tenant. L.L. Bean had about 200 year-round employees, with higher

counts around the holiday s.
In other business, Bangor
International Airport's domestic passenger terminal
will be renamed in honor of
its longest serving director,
Peter D'Errico. The council
unanimously approved the
change during the Monday

night meeting.
D'Errico held the role for 20 years, starting in 1970, two years after the city purchased the former Dow Air Force

Base when it closed. The terminal's first floor is in the midst of a \$14.4 million gage handling and passenger flow and modernize its appearance. That work is scheduled to wrap up later this year. With the new look, the city wanted to recognize the man who helped set it on the path for the future after the devastating news of the base closure, according to BIA di-

rector Anthony Caruso.
Councilors took turns crediting D'Errico for his years of hard work in the community.

"The city of Bangor owes you a great debt," Council Chairman Sean Faircloth said.

D'Errico is credited with bringing more than 50 companies to the airport during his time and fostering a partnership with the Maine Air National Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing. He also served twice on Bangor's City Council, including one brief stint from 1969 to 1970 and a two-

term tenure from 2003 to 2009.

The former director attended Monday night's meeting alongside his daughter and thanked the councilors for their consideration. City officials and audience members thanked D'Errico with a

standing ovation and a cake. D'Errico's 85th birthday

Sober home for women in recovery now open in Brewer

BY NOK-NOI RICKER

OF THE BDN STAFF

Robert Thompson started using opiates illegally when he was a teenager, he said. When he hit 30 and was in the middle of losing everything -- his children, his job, his apartment -- all doors

apartment -- all doors seemed closed to him. Then, one opened at the Oxford House Penobscot in Bangor, a drug- and alcohol-free, democratically run, self-supporting home

for men in recovery with a

zero-tolerance policy.

"That is where I advanced my recovery through work, and learned how to have healthy relationships with other men. We had to work together to have a functional house," said Thompson, who had gone through Manna Ministries' Derek House recovery program to get sober.

The need for a similar facility for women in the area is why Holyoke Haven, a new chartered Oxford House, opened March 1 in Brewer.

"The biggest obstacle for people in recovery is finding safe, affordable housing," said Bruce Campbell, chairman of Bangor Area Recovery Network's board of directors. "[They need] a safe environment that is

clean and sober."

The first Oxford House was established in 1975 in Silver Spring, Maryland. There are now 2,000 others across the county, including 12 in Maine. Oxford House Penobscot and Oxford House Bangor are two sober homes for men in Bangor. There also is one in Biddeford and the other nine are located in

for women.

"If there is any drug or alcohol use, you're gone immediately," Campbell said of the Oxford House rules.
"I think that is one of the reasons why it works."

Portland, including six

If a resident falls off the wagon, they must move out of the home, but they can reapply after 30 days of sobriety, he said. "Recovery is a process," and sometimes it takes more than one attempt, Campbell said.

There are four basic rules. Each person has to work, go to school or volunteer at least 20 hours a week, they must pay rent and help with household chores, and maintain sobriety, Campbell said. Chores include mowing the grass, shoveling snow, cleaning bathrooms and doing the dishes.

ooms and doing the dishes. Campbell described Holyoke Haven as a dry sorority

house for women in recovery.

A group of local woman started talking about opening an Oxford House and "this place fell into our lap," Campbell said of the home, which

was foreclosed by a bank.

Bangor Area Recovery Network was able to purchase and renovate the building with \$157,000 in donations from Next Generation, which supplied the original funding, and backing from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and Penobscot Community Foundation.

"The purpose of this open house and reception is to thank the community for the incredible support we have received to make this dream a reality," Jenn Morin, treasurer of BARN's board of directors, said in a news release about the open house.

The green, corner-lot house with dark green trim and purple doors and shutters is one block from State Street and two blocks from BARN's community recovery center at 142 Center St.

"Oxford House aligns well with the values and principles of recovery at the BARN - recovery is a process, there are many routes to recovery, recovery overcomes shame and stigma and recovery is a community responsibility," Campbell said.

The house is also near grocery stores, a convenience store and a city bus stop. Campbell said the organization plans to add vinyl siding this summer, but "we just don't know where the money is coming from yet."

The large house has room for up to a dozen people, but the number of housemates will be determined by the people who live there, Campbell said, adding that the BARN's only role is as landlord. Four women are scheduled to move in after March 1.

"If you had nine people here, rent and utilities would be about \$117 a week," he said.

While Holyoke Haven is designated as a sober house for women only, there is a good probability that some of the residents will have children who will be able to visit but not stay for long periods of time.

"I could have my kids on the weekend, but that was, again, with everyone else's OK," said Thompson, who moved out of the Oxford House Penobscot more than two years ago and recently celebrated five years of sobriety. He lived in the home for two six-month stretches in 2012 and 2014.

He said the sober house gave him more than just a

roof over his head. It gave him a place to learn to be an adult and a parent, learn responsibility and to learn to like himself again, which he said is a key to finding happiness.

"We beat ourselves up as addicts. We have no self-esteem. We have been hearing how bad we are [for drinking and using drugs] for so long we believe it," said Thompson, who is now working as an integration specialist for Wellspring Inc., a substance abuse and mental health service provider in Bangor. "It's a whole process learning that we can give back and be a contributing member of society."



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