

Deadly start mars holiday

Crashes kill 3; two drown

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The holiday weekend got off to a deadly start in Maine with a pair of drownings and three people killed in separate highway crashes, authorities said.

In Van Buren, warden divers on Saturday recovered the body of a 15-year-old boy who jumped into the Saint John River and struggled in the cold water, said Mark Latti, spokesman for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Even though it was a warm evening, the water temperature was about 50 degrees when Lucas R. Lavoie jumped from the town dock into 15 feet of water; a friend tried to pull Lavoie ashore but was unsuccessful, Latti said.

In Islesboro, the body of a 6-year-old girl was recovered Friday night from a manmade pond behind her home, authorities said.

Wardens and troopers went to the island after the girl, Ainslee Bell, was reported missing by her parents. She was found when the pond was partially drained and was pronounced dead after being flown to a hospital in Bangor, authorities said.

The Maine Warden Service warned people to be especially careful around lakes and ponds during the Memorial Day weekend.

While outdoor temperatures were surging, inland lakes, streams and rivers remained extremely cold and potentially deadly, said Lt. Pat Dorian of the Maine Warden Service. Even brief exposure to the cold water can be dangerous, he said.

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Retracing footsteps on Iwo Jima

County man honors dad's WWII service

BY RACHEL RICE
OF THE NEWS STAFF

PRESQUE ISLE — The sand from Iwo Jima is black and gritty. Flecks of obsidian catch the light when you hold a pinch of it in your hand. Except for its weightless quality, it could be mistaken for finely crushed gravel.

But this sand holds much more significance. It serves as a tangible reminder of what happened 62 years ago when thousands of U.S. soldiers lost their lives on an island in the Pacific.

That's why Presque Isle resident Andy Giles brought some sand home after visiting the Japanese island this spring. The local art professor who has spent the last two decades researching World War II battles in the Pacific recently led his first tour of the island.

The trip was one of many opportunities Giles takes to document on film and tape and in pictures the physical remnants of WWII and the stories of veterans who served in those conflicts. He's one of many people working to save those memories before they're gone.

There could be no better way to observe Memorial Day, Giles and other self-made historians believe, than to take the opportunity not just to remember what these soldiers did, but to make sure that their sacrifices are not forgotten.

It's not easy to get to Iwo Jima, the small island the U.S. needed during WWII to support bombing missions against mainland Japan. The Japanese government doesn't often allow visits to the spot, which is considered sacred ground.

About 7,000 U.S. soldiers lost their lives there and so did almost 20,000 Japanese soldiers.

Giles has visited three times, including the observance in 1995 of the 50th anniversary of the battle. He said he feels compelled to visit the place where his father once fought.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY GILES

One of two Iwo Jima beaches soldiers landed on at the start of the battle in 1945 is shown. Mount Suribachi is in the background.

H.A. Giles Jr., a member of the 4th Marine Division, was killed in combat during the Korean War when Andy Giles was 4.

During this trip, Giles led the "Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor" tour to mark the battle's 62nd anniversary. He previously conducted tours of the Mariana Islands, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Guadalcanal and Peleliu.

This tour, he knew, would be emotionally draining. He led a small group, but more than 250 people — including a large contingent from Japan — visited the island on March 14.

"To walk in a place where it all happened with the veterans, it's kind of like a revelation," Giles said. "You realize the sacrifices they made ... you realize you don't have any troubles at all, compared to what these guys had to deal with."

He led the tour up Mount Suribachi where the U.S. flag was raised and into some of the

underground tunnels. He also interviewed James Ware, a veteran with the 4th Marine Division who now lives in Texas, about storming one of the beaches.

Ware told him that there were many footsteps where soldiers would struggle to get their boots out of the black sand. On the way up the beach, a piece of shrapnel the size of his hand blew off the heel of his boot.

"The hardest thing I did that day was go to another dead Marine and take his shoes off," Ware told him. "I couldn't walk in my shot-up boot, so I needed one ... I felt terrible about this long afterwards — bad dreams that haunted me for years."

Jim Moran, an author and authority on the history of the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, also went on the tour. Moran has been to many other Pacific battle sites.

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY RACHEL RICE

Andy Giles holds black sand from Iwo Jima's Yellow Beach after leading a tour of the Japanese island this spring. The sand is especially significant for Giles, because his father landed on Yellow Beach when he fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Giles' father, H.A. Giles Jr., is standing in the foreground of the photo behind his son.

Firefighters cheer animal oxygen masks

Brewer, Bangor keeping new devices on hand

BY NOK-NOI HAUGER
OF THE NEWS STAFF

BREWER — For many people, pets are beloved members of the family.

Brewer fire Capt. Gary Parent and Jake Johnson, public education officer for Bangor's Fire Department, say it's true in their own homes, which is one reason why they are glad that their departments have acquired SurgiVet Animal Oxygen Masks.

"It's an oxygen mask just like the ones used on a person, but they're differently shaped," Parent said. "They're longer and have a rubber membrane" to hold them in place.

Brewer Fire Department purchased the pet oxygen mask kit about a month ago for \$75, and Bangor Fire Department got their set donated this week by the sister of a firefighter, Johnson said Friday.

Firefighter Bruce Johnson's sister, Debbie Doucette of Florida, is an animal lover who, when hearing the Bangor department didn't have the lifesaving devices, sent up three sets, a \$180 value, Johnson said.



BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY BRIDGET BROWN

The Brewer Fire Department recently received a set of animal oxygen masks to help resuscitate pets. The masks (from left) are designed to fit small canines, large canines and felines. The Bangor Fire Department also recently received three donated sets.

In Brewer, "We got it because one of the [city] councilors saw a thing in the paper about animal resuscitation," Parent said.

An employee of the Bangor department is sewing pouches to hold the devices that will be placed on the firetrucks.

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'Spin Skater' in EMMC suffering heart failure

Maine man denied place on transplant list

BY SHARON KILEY MACK
OF THE NEWS STAFF

BANGOR — Joshua Barker, 24, the "Spin Skater" of Pinpoint Pond in Trescott, was airlifted from Machias on Thursday to Eastern Maine Medical Center in heart failure. Just a week earlier, Barker was denied a place on a transplant list at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

It was the second denial for Barker and, short of a miracle, he likely will not recover from the damage his heart has suffered.

Barker remains in the critical care unit at EMMC suffering from the effects of cardiomyopathy, an enlargement of his heart.

Talking with difficulty this

weekend, his mother, Brenda Gay-Barker, vowed, "I have not given up hope."

But Gay-Barker knows the transplant was her son's last chance.

"They decided not to put him on the list for a variety of complicated reasons," she said. "But we can still hope and pray."

After a stay in Boston earlier this month, Barker came home to Whiting for a brief 24 hours. His condition deteriorated and he was airlifted from Down East Community Hospital in Machias to Bangor on Thursday.

"I don't even know what to say to you," Gay-Barker said, choking up. "He is very, very sick."

Joshua Barker was introduced to Bangor Daily News

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Second PTSD symposium slated at USM in Portland

BY MEG HASKELL
OF THE NEWS STAFF

Combat veterans and their families, as well as others concerned about the psychological impacts of warfare, are being invited to attend next weekend's symposium on post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

The event, sponsored by the Maine chapter of Veterans for Peace, will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2, in the Abramson Center on the Portland Campus of the University of Southern Maine.

PTSD is a psychological disorder that affects people who

have witnessed or participated in profoundly disturbing events. It was formally recognized by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980.

It is thought to affect many veterans of the Vietnam War, and the United States military estimates that as many as 25 percent of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have symptoms of PTSD or other mental health disorders.

A person with PTSD may relive a traumatic experience over and over and may lose touch with reality. Intense feel-

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Mitchell addresses Maine Law School graduates

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — Former Senate leader George Mitchell told law school graduates Saturday that the nation was great before it became an economic and military power because of the nation's founding principles of equal justice under the law.

"What you do in the practice of law," Mitchell, himself a lawyer, told 85 University of Maine Law School graduates, "will be important."

The commencement was one of several around the state over the holiday weekend. Also on Saturday, more than 400 students received degrees at Bowdoin College. On Sunday, Bates

Future lawyers told that their practice will be important

and Colby colleges were holding their commencements.

In Brunswick, Anthony DiNicola of Malden, Mass., and Haley Bridger of Hamilton, Mass., delivered the commencement address at Bowdoin in keeping with a tradition of letting students select one or more of their own to speak.

Past speakers included poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1825, House Speaker Thomas

Brackett Reed in 1860 and Arctic explorer Robert E. Peary in 1877.

Mitchell, a Bowdoin graduate, was 25 miles to the south at Portland's Merrill Auditorium for the University of Maine Law School graduation.

He reminded graduates that what makes the United States special is its founding principles, regardless of the nation's status as a superpower.

"You must never forget that the United States was a great nation long before it was a great economic and military power," Mitchell said.

In Lewiston the inventor of the Segway Personal Transporter told Bates College graduates Sunday that a world in trouble needs

"new people with new ideas."

"If you want to solve all the problems that we're facing in this world, it's unlikely that the people and ideas that got us to where we are will be the ones that are going to get us to a different place," Dean Kamen told the liberal arts college's 465 graduates.

"It's going to require new people with new ideas. And that would be you," he said.

Kamen, whose company is based in Bedford, N.H., was one of four honorary degree recipients. The others were children's book illustrator-author Eric Carle, actress-writer Anna Devere Smith and roots musician Corey Harris.