

INSIDE Old Town: Police get break in 90 car burglaries B3

Bangor Daily News

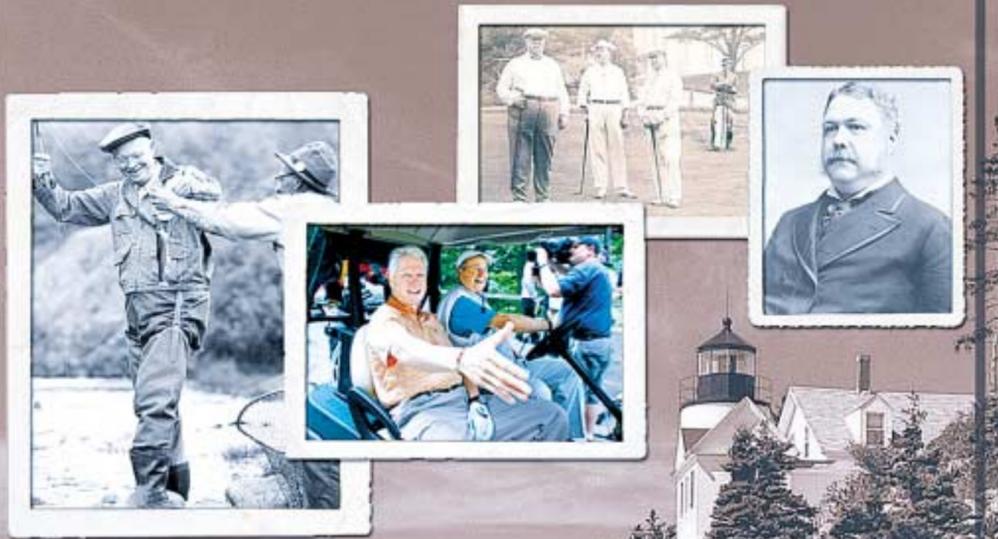
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75 cents

128 years of Presidents in Vacationland



Maine's woods and waters have drawn US leaders from Arthur to Bush

BY KEVIN MILLER OF THE NEWS STAFF

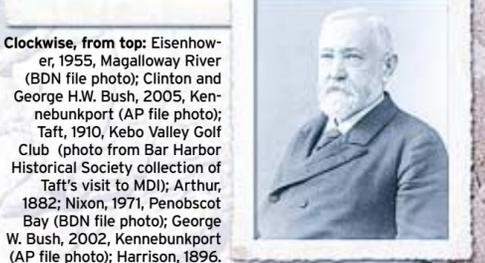
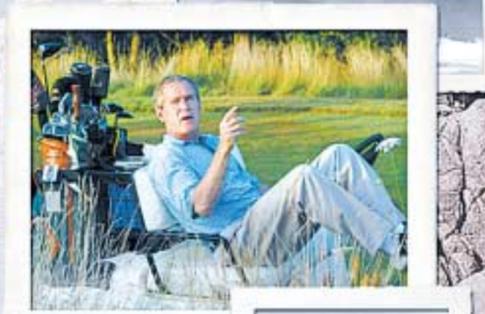
Taft sailed the presidential yacht around Mount Desert Island and sipped tea at the Jordan Pond House while enjoying Maine summer air that he likened to "champagne in a Prohibition state."

Nixon ordered up 40 lobsters for himself and other guests and went sailing during a weekend-long retreat on a tiny Penobscot Bay island.

And Eisenhower cast for trout in western Maine before attending a cookout thrown by Skowhegan's own Margaret Chase Smith.

While presidential visits to Maine are not unusual, relatively few sitting presidents — with the obvious exception of seasonal Kennebunkport resident George H.W. Bush and his son George W. Bush — have chosen to vacation in the Pine Tree State.

So President Barack Obama's choice of Bar Harbor for a weekend getaway with the family is understandably big. See Presidents, Page A2



Clockwise, from top: Eisenhower, 1955, Magalloway River (BDN file photo); Clinton and George H.W. Bush, 2005, Kennebunkport (AP file photo); Taft, 1910, Kebo Valley Golf Club (photo from Bar Harbor Historical Society collection of Taft's visit to MDI); Arthur, 1882; Nixon, 1971, Penobscot Bay (BDN file photo); George W. Bush, 2002, Kennebunkport (AP file photo); Harrison, 1896.

MDI welcomes Obama family visit



BY BILL TROTTER OF THE NEWS STAFF

BAR HARBOR — The president of the United States and his family? Dozens of White House staff and Secret Service agents and scores of other public safety personnel? Thousands of people hoping to catch a glimpse of the first family and millions more

keeping track of the spectacle through newspapers, television and online?

Local merchants and officials say bring it on.

President Barack Obama and his family are expected to arrive early this afternoon for a two-day private vacation on Mount Desert Island, and the eyes of the nation. See Obama, Page A2

75-ton cap chokes off BP oil spill

Relief, skepticism greet news as monitors watch for leaks

BY COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — BP finally choked off the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday — 85 days and up to 184 million gallons after the crisis unfolded — then began a tense 48 hours of watching to see whether the capped-off well would hold or blow a new leak.

To the relief of millions of people along the Gulf Coast, the big, billowing brown cloud of crude at the bottom of the sea disappeared from the underwater video feed for the first time since the disaster began in April, as BP

closed the last of three openings in the 75-ton cap lowered onto the well earlier this week.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something sooner, though."

But the company stopped far short of declaring victory over the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history and one of the nation's worst environmental disasters, a catastrophe that has killed wildlife and threatened the livelihoods of fishermen, restaurateurs and oil industry workers from Texas to Florida. See Oil, Page A4

Senate passes bill reining in banks, Street predators

Snowe, Collins back legislation

BY JIM KUHNHENN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Congress on Thursday passed the stiffest restrictions on banks and Wall Street since the Great Depression, clamping down on lending practices and expanding consumer protections to prevent a repeat of the 2008 meltdown that knocked the economy to its knees.

A year in the making and 22 months after the collapse of Lehman Bros. triggered a worldwide panic in credit and other markets, the bill cleared its final hurdle with a 60-39 Senate vote. It now goes to the White House



Snowe Collins

for President Barack Obama's signature, expected as early as Wednesday.

The law will give the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy, create a new agency to guard consumers in their financial. See Bill, Page A4

Bus driver charged with RI bank robbery

BY JUDY HARRISON OF THE NEWS STAFF

BANGOR — Police in Rhode Island on Thursday charged the Greyhound bus driver who allegedly robbed an Orono bank earlier this week with a May bank robbery in that state.

A detective with the Warwick, R.I., police said a warrant has been issued for Robert Ferguson, 47, of Lowell, Mass., in connection with the May 27 robbery of the Pawtucket Federal Credit Union in Warwick. Detective Capt. Robert S. Nelson told the



Ferguson

Providence Journal on Thursday that information about Ferguson's arrest in Maine led to the charge in state court in Rhode Island.

The robbery at the Pawtucket Federal Credit Union and another the same day at the Rockland Federal Credit Union in North Attleboro, Mass., appeared to be similar to the one. See Robbery, Page A8

DEP approves decommissioning of Veazie Dam

BY DIANA BOWLEY OF THE NEWS STAFF

DOVER-FOXCROFT — The Department of Environmental Protection on Thursday granted one of three permits requested by the Penobscot River Restoration Trust in its effort to restore native sea-run fish, including Atlantic salmon, to the Penobscot River watershed.

The trust was given the go-head Thursday to decommission the Veazie

Dam in Veazie and Eddington, Dana Murch, the DEP's dams and hydropower supervisor, confirmed Thursday. A decision on permits requested for two companion projects — the decommissioning of the Great Works Dam in Old Town and Bradley, and the construction of a fish bypass channel at the existing Howland Dam — is expected to be made within a week, he said.

The department's decisions on the matter may be appealed to the Board of Environmental Protection or to the Maine Superior Court, according to Murch. See Dam, Page A8



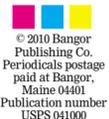
AP FILE PHOTO

An Atlantic salmon leaps in a farm pen near Eastport in 2008. The Penobscot River Restoration Trust is trying to restore native sea-run fish, including Atlantic salmon, to the Penobscot River watershed.

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Did you know?

The Other Europeans are an international gathering of 14 leading klezmer (Yiddish) and lautari (Roma) musicians.

42 days to go!

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