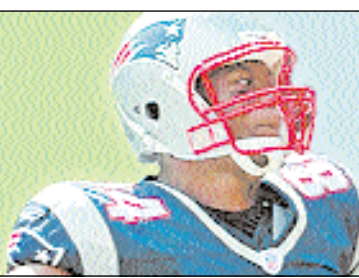




Frogs are princes of the day at Newport jumping races STATE B1



Patriots roll past Jets in season opener SPORTS C1



Bangor boys, girls soccer teams defeat Brewer SPORTS C1

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Jana Kenney

Dexter schoolgirl makes history

Senior kicks FG in football game

BY ERNIE CLARK
OF THE NEWS STAFF

DEXTER — For the Dexter High football team, it was a morale-boosting Saturday afternoon.

For the Tigers' Jana Kenney, it was a moment of history.

Dexter used a punishing ground game and a solid defense to earn its first win of the season, a 16-6 victory over Mount View of Thorndike in an LTC Class C matchup at Tiger Field.

And while no official records are kept on the subject in Maine, Kenney joined a select group of schoolgirl athletes nationwide to kick a field goal in a 11-player varsity football game, her 25-yarder with 3:58 left in the fourth quarter providing coach Tim Wilson's club some valuable insurance points.

"That was nice," said Kenney, a senior who also plays field hockey during the fall sports season at Dexter. "I've been working on it all summer because kicking isn't something you can just pick up, and to finally be able to pull something through felt good."

Kenney is one of a rare breed of schoolgirl football players in
See Football, Page A10

Passport crunch seen at an end

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The State Department says it has worked through a massive backlog in passport applications and that processing times are back to normal after months of major delays that disrupted summer travel plans for thousands of Americans.

The department said Friday that steps taken to deal with the crisis had brought the waiting period for a standard application back to six to eight weeks — and three weeks for expedited service.

Those steps included hiring hundreds of new adjudicators, temporary transfers of employees to passport centers, and the opening of a new facility to handle the deluge.

"We're very pleased that we've been able to get back to
See Passports, Page A2

Petraeus report finally at hand

BY DOYLE MCMANUS
AND JULIAN E. BARNES
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Ever since last spring, President Bush has publicly staked the future of his strategy in Iraq on a series of briefings that an Army general will deliver to Congress on Monday and Tuesday — the long-awaited report by Gen. David H. Petraeus on the state of the war: "Why don't you wait and see what [Petraeus] says?" Bush pleaded with Congress in May.

"Fund the troops, and let him come back and report to the American people."

Bush's reasoning, aides said, was simple: An assessment of the war from Petraeus, a widely admired officer, was likely to enjoy more credibility with Congress and the public than anything the



Petraeus

president could say. Aides knew, as well, that Petraeus was likely to support Bush's strategy in Iraq — because the general himself was one of the architects of the yearlong "surge" of additional troops to try to stabilize Baghdad and other areas.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the briefing room. Petraeus' report may not have as much impact as the White House hoped, because his message has already been widely anticipated — and even previewed by Petraeus himself.

"The surge will run its course," Petraeus told ABC News last week, forecasting a gradual drawdown of some of the estimated 162,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. "There are limits to what our military can provide, so my recommendations have to be informed ... by the strain we have put on our military services."

Officials have said they expect Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker to

make three major points: The surge is beginning to succeed, but it is too soon to withdraw significant numbers of troops; the central government in Baghdad has failed to meet the administration's political goals, but there are signs of progress at the local level; and, finally, the consequences of a too-hasty withdrawal would be catastrophic.

Administration officials expect Petraeus to report that the initial phase of the surge
See Petraeus, Page A2

Extreme Makeover: MILBRIDGE

The Ray-Smith family of five, led by two teachers with a pile of medical bills and a haunted house, chosen by ABC for new home



Ron Smith, his wife, Brittany Ray, and their children, Joseph, 3, Bayley, 11, and Thomas, 8, learned Sunday morning that they have been chosen by ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" to have a new home built for them.

BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY GABOR DEGRE

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'Extreme Makeover' schedule
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Designer DiMeo says families' stories keep his job fresh
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BY AIMEE DOLLOFF
OF THE NEWS STAFF

MILBRIDGE — The Ray-Smith family heard a voice Sunday morning that likely will change their lives.

It was "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" host Ty Pennington yelling into a bullhorn, announcing that their house was about to be replaced.

"You just don't expect that on

a Sunday morning," Ron Smith said.

The ABC show is in Milbridge for the week where crews will film an episode about Brittany Ray, her husband, Ron Smith, and their three children.

In keeping with "Extreme Makeover" tradition, many aspects of the Ray-Smith family could tug at a viewer's heartstrings, from medical problems and piles of bills to an unreliable

old home with a potential ghost.

The family also is expecting a new member soon with the addition of an adopted child from China.

"It's very hard to even put into words what I'm feeling," Brittany Ray said Sunday afternoon at a press conference.

Ray and Smith first met in nursery school. After attending separate colleges, they were married in 1994 and returned to their

hometown of Milbridge where both now work as teachers.

School loans and other bills began adding up, and the family moved into Ray's family home that has been passed down for generations and likely dates back to the early 1900s, according to Ray's aunt Drusilla Ray, 63, of Milbridge.

Largely because of its age, the home is in disrepair, including
See Home, Page A5

Travel Report

An aggressive construction schedule this week may cause serious delays.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 9, through Monday, Sept. 24:

The northbound travel lane on Interstate 95 from Broadway to Stillwater Avenue in Bangor will be closed. If circumstances permit, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 12, the northbound travel lane north of Stillwater Avenue may be closed.

8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, through 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11: The northbound Broadway on ramp will be closed.

8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, through 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12: The northbound Broadway offramp will be closed.

8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, to 5:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13: The northbound Broadway on ramp will be closed.

Starting 6 a.m. Monday, Sept. 10, and lasting about eight weeks:

The southbound lane of I-95 in Hampden will undergo repairs to the deck and wearing surface on the Souadabscook Center Bridge. Traffic will be reduced to one lane.

This regular traffic report detailing construction activity and traffic updates is provided by the Bangor Daily News and the Maine Department of Transportation.



Smith library marks 25 years; Snowe, Collins laud predecessor

BY SHARON KILEY MACK
OF THE NEWS STAFF

SKOWHEGAN — Maine's two U.S. senators praised the Northwood University Margaret Chase Smith Library and its work Saturday on its 25th anniversary, calling it "our nation's premier free-standing congressional library, a priceless archive and museum, and an invaluable educational center," as they reflected on Sen. Smith's legacy as it applies to today's issues.

Some Skowhegan residents took the opportunity to raise current issues as several protest signs were placed on the road outside the library. One said, "Wage peace," and the other, "Iraq: U.S. created terrorist state."

"Because of her bravery ... she inspired millions of young girls."

U.S. SEN. OLYMPIA SNOWE

U.S. Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe addressed a large crowd on the library's east lawn, speaking of their predecessor's influence on their own political lives.

"Whether or not Margaret Chase Smith was ever prepared to admit it, she blazed a trail many of us have tried — tried — to meet," Snowe said. "It is thus an even mixture of pride and humility for me

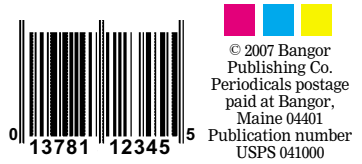
when I hear on the Senate floor the words, 'the senator from Maine is recognized' for I know that it is a phrase with an honorable and distinguished history. But because of her bravery, both in politics and in life itself, she inspired millions of young girls, and became a role model for countless more women across America who never before thought they could aspire to any kind of public office. Certainly she paved the way for Senator Collins and me."

Collins said she obtained her first copy of Smith's historic 1950 "Declaration of Conscience" speech when Collins visited Washington, D.C., while still in high school.
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