



BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN BENNETT

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition host Ty Pennington races past the crowd gathered on the Wyman Road in Milbridge, slapping hands and whipping the crowd into a frenzy before the Ray-Smith family arrives via limousine to view their new home.

Home

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ABC still had cameras rolling for "Extreme Makeover," the Ray-Smiths' smiles said it all as the bus rolled out of the way.

"I'm pleased we were able to get it done," Mike Wight, owner of Broughman Builders Inc. of Ellsworth, said Sunday after the house was revealed.

Throughout the week, Wight was responsible for the entire build and making sure everything stayed on schedule, but more than four days of rain made the task difficult.

"To keep everything on schedule was impossible," he said. "Halfway through the build, we didn't know if we would even get it done."

But with a lot of help from volunteers and local businesses, the job was completed on time.

"The house was really nice," Ashten Smith, 21, a student at the University of Maine at Machias, said Sunday.

Smith and her friend Amber Reed, 19, members of the UMM volleyball team, said several of the fall sports teams came to the site to volunteer.

"It's amazing," Smith said of the house. She said her favorite

part was the jungle room that was designed for one of the Ray-Smith children.

More than 600 people turned out throughout the week to help complete the Ray-Smith home on time and give the family a fresh start.

In addition to the struggles the Ray-Smiths faced with their aging home, medical bills have piled up and keep coming.

Thomas Ray-Smith, 8, has autism, and doctors say that, although it's too early to tell for sure, Joseph "Jo-Jo" Ray-Smith, 3, likely is autistic as well.

Representative of the impact autism has on the family, the building project has been named "Actions Speak Louder." Ribbons covered in puzzle pieces, a symbol for autism awareness, were handed out Sunday to spectators.

Brittany Ray's mother, Paula Ray, listed several of the organizations and community activities the Ray-Smith family is involved with. She said her daughter is an active member of the Autism Society of Maine.

Paula Ray said she hadn't spoken to her daughter since ABC sent the family on vacation Tuesday, but she said the whole family was excited to see the new building.

Tearing down the Ray-

Smiths' former home was somewhat bittersweet as it was built by Brittany Ray's great-great-grandparents, Gus and Nana.

"We were able to take some great pictures," Paula Ray said. "Brittany and Ron [also] were able to designate some favorite mementos, and I saw that stuff being carried in this morning."

Some of the designers reportedly used wood from the original home in special projects they created for the family.

"Extreme Makeover" episodes typically have multiple story lines about the featured family and their home, and this one was no different.

The Ray homestead was built in the early 1900s and is believed to be haunted by Gus and Nana. But contrary to what author Marcus LiBrizzi wrote in his recent book, which contains a chapter about the house, the resident spirits didn't have a strained relationship and aren't trying to hurt anyone with their ghostly behavior, according to family members.

Members of the Ray-Smith family reportedly have returned home to find scissors standing upright on a counter and shirt pins or a threaded needle balanced on their points. Brittany Ray once was awakened in the night to find the thermostat ne-

dle on high, the furnace racing out of control.

Family members who believe in the Ray ghosts say they view Gus and Nana as protectors.

"Everybody in the world is open to their own interpretation of a story or whatever research they've done. On the other hand, we view them as guardian angels," Jeremy Ray, Brittany Ray's brother, said in a recent interview. "That was a sign of Nana's fear of sharp objects around children. She was looking out for their safety."

In looking through a box of old books this week, Paula Ray said she found one of Brittany's childhood favorites — "Gus Was a Friendly Ghost."

"It was a childhood book that she used to read," Paula Ray said.

The Ray-Smith family won't be able to stay in the new house for a few days while ABC wraps up its work at the site, but they received a full tour upon arrival Sunday afternoon.

The show is expected to air early in 2008.

Ex-Pakistani leader warns of protests

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan's exiled former leader Benazir Bhutto warned Sunday that her party might join other opposition groups in resigning from parliament and taking to the streets to press for an end to military rule.

Bhutto spoke with The Associated Press as an alliance of opposition parties vowed to block President Gen. Pervez Musharraf from seeking another term in upcoming presidential elections. Bhutto and others have demanded he give up his role as army chief if he runs again.

The opposition alliance has said its members would resign from parliament if Musharraf asked them to vote for a president before parliamentary elections are held.

"We will blockade his election as president of Pakistan because he is not eligible to be elected and the present assemblies are not eligible to elect anybody like him," said Raja Zafarul Haq, a senior figure in the 32-party All Parties Democratic Movement.

The president is chosen by an electoral college of all national and provincial lawmakers. Leaders of the ruling party have advised Musharraf, whose term expires Nov. 15, to seek re-election from the current assemblies where he enjoys a majority. The next parliament may be less supportive.

Bhutto, 54, plans to come back to Pakistan on Oct. 18 after eight years in self-exile in Dubai and London.

Her liberal party has shunned the alliance, which includes the conservatives of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and pro-Taliban religious parties. But in a telephone interview she said it was "very much an option" for it to follow suit.

While the courts would decide the legality of Musharraf's move, mass resignations would deny him legitimacy and would likely trigger a broader movement, including street protests, Bhutto said.

Bhutto said the prospect of demonstrations over a contested election "worries me because Pakistan is a nuclear-armed country that can ill afford internal instability at a time when its own armed forces are being attacked by militant groups."

Musharraf's government, which the U.S. considers a key regional ally, has struggled to counter Taliban and al-Qaida militants who have mounted a string of deadly attacks in recent months.

About 50,000 people gathered Sunday for the funeral of a pro-Taliban cleric who was shot dead a day earlier in northwestern Pakistan, police said. Maulana Hassan Jan was killed Saturday evening when assailants opened fire on a car taking him to evening prayers in a mosque in Peshawar, the capital of North West Frontier Province.

Both Bhutto and Sharif, whom Musharraf ousted in a 1999 coup, have called for an end to direct military involvement in politics. Envoys of Bhutto and Musharraf have also been in negotiations that could see them share power after parliamentary elections due by January.

But Musharraf's supporters — who could be sidelined by a Bhutto comeback — are resisting her calls for the general to give up much of his sweeping powers, and for the lifting of a constitutional bar on her serving a third term as prime minister.

Bhutto declined to forecast whether the talks would succeed, but said her party was girding for a failure which could deepen political confrontation.

Bhutto said Musharraf's allies preferred to "create a crisis rather than have a smooth transition to democracy" and warned that "Pakistan can ill afford confrontation and anarchy."

Officials have said Bhutto will not be deported if she returns, unlike Sharif, who was sent back to exile in Saudi Arabia last week. However, they warn that she has to face corruption cases dating back to her two terms as prime minister between 1988 and 1996.

Miami officers offered assault rifles

Chief: Department can't afford new weapons, individuals must foot the bill

BY JESSICA GRESKO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Patrol officers will have the option of carrying assault rifles as police try to combat the rise in the use of similar weapons by criminals, the police chief said Sunday.

Police Chief John Timoney approved the new policy last week, before a Miami-Dade police officer was killed in a shootout with an assault rifle-wielding suspect on Thursday.

"This is something we do not do with any relish. We do this reluctantly," Timoney said.

The policy had been under review for about a year due to officers seeing an increase in the weapons, Timoney said.

Officers interested in the guns will have to undergo two days of training and be certified to use the weapons. The police department doesn't yet have money to purchase the guns, and if officers want to use them now, they will have to pay for them, Timoney said.

Years ago, law enforcement specialists like SWAT teams were the only officers to carry assault weapons, but now even small town police agencies are expanding access to the AR-15, a civilian version of the military M-16 rifle.

Patrol officers in Danbury, Conn., have been allowed to carry the weapons since 2003. Police departments in Merced, Calif., and Waterloo, Iowa, have deployed them in all patrol vehicles for several years. In Stillwater, Okla., about 70 miles west of Tulsa, every police patrol officer is issued an AR-15.

Officers in Los Angeles have been equipped with the weapons even longer, soon after a 1997 gunfight outside a bank where police faced a man armed with an AK-47. Officers in that situation had to go to a nearby gun store to get high-velocity weapons.

Timoney said it has become apparent over the last year that Miami officers need the option of more powerful weapons.

The Miami Police Department said 15 of its 79 homicides last year

Years ago, law enforcement specialists like SWAT teams were the only officers to carry assault weapons

involved assault weapons. This year, 12 of the 60 homicides have involved the high-power guns.

On Thursday, a gunman

opened fire on four Miami-Dade County police officers with an assault rifle during a traffic stop, killing one and injuring the other three. Police killed the suspect hours later.

Officers using the weapons in Miami will shoot "frangible" bullets, which shatter after they've hit something to avoid striking bystanders or other unintended targets.

Not all officers may choose to carry the new weapon. But, said Timoney: "If I was a police officer out there in a tough neighborhood, I would want to have that in the car."

ARDEANA HAMLIN
BY HANID

Wailing about welts

In Tuesday's Lifestyle Section

Bangor Daily News

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