

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2015

Long, **strange** trip comes to an end



From left, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, Bob Weir and Mickey Hart perform at Grateful Dead Fare Thee Well Show at Levi's Stadium on June 27 in Santa Clara, California. The Dead will give its final performances this weekend in Chicago.

Local Deadheads remember the night Grateful Dead rocked Cornell's Barton Hall

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Some may remember May 8, 1977 as a hell of a party. Some may remember it as the time a riot almost broke out on Cornell University's campus. The world will remember it as the night the Grateful Dead played one of the greatest rock shows of all time.

After five decades together, two without leader Jerry Garcia, the Grateful Dead are calling it quits, a half-century after Ken Kesey and the Haight-Ashbury acid tests brought them to the forefront of popular culture in the San Francisco Bay area.

All will come to an end in a three-day run at Chicago's Soldier Field beginning Friday, capping a brief run of five shows that started with a two-night stand in Santa Clara, California, on June 27 and 28. Tickets for these final shows have reached \$350 to \$800 each, but one of the most memorable performances the Dead ever put on was a \$6.50 show in Barton Hall, nearly 40 years ago, a night so legendary that May 8 is now celebrated in the City of Ithaca as "Grateful Dead Day."

On that day in 1977, the crowd stretched from the front door and around the building, wind whipping around the hundreds waiting to pack into the on-campus concert hall. The day started out sunny and 70, but rain began to fall shortly before showtime, and those in waiting held blankets above their heads to shield themselves from the downpour.

"I don't know how we managed to get in on time," said R. Cooper, of Ithaca, leader of local band Go-Gone. "It was a beautiful day, so we didn't mind waiting. I lost the concept of time that day."

The band was at their peak then, their album "Terrapin Station" a few months from pressing, when

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A sign for the Grateful Dead Fare Thee Well Show at Levi's Stadium on June 27 in Santa Clara, California.

Hancock housing funds get OK

Northside project comes under fire

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Northside residents continued to voice concerns about a mixed-income housing project proposed for 210 Hancock St. during an Ithaca Common Council meeting Wednesday.

The council approved \$100,000 in funding for the project by a vote of 7-2 at the meeting. Council members George McGonigal and Cynthia Brock, both of the First Ward, where the project is located, voted against the funding.

The ninth round of funding — \$200,000 split by the city and Cornell University — was met with support and dissent by area residents based on the scale of the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services project, the upcoming construction and the perceived exclusion of the neighborhood in developing the project.

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Andrew Thayer/Staff Photo
Tioga Downs owner Jeff Gural spoke to the media on Thursday at Tioga Downs.

Gural confident in Tioga Downs' bid

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NICHOLS — Standing in front of dozens of boxes loaded into a yellow rental truck bound for Schenectady, Tioga Downs owner Jeff Gural spoke confidently Thursday about what he called "the beginning of a real uptick for the area."

His words came as the Nichols racino's application for a full casino license was shipped to the state gaming commission ahead of Monday's deadline. The commission issued a call for applications in March, following the awarding of three licenses late last year.

The decision to give the "Southern Tier" region's license to a site north of the state Thruway — bypassing bids

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