



The Buzz

Rockland Metro Journal

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On cable channel 1301, MaineCoast.tv & Roku.

The Old School

Rockland

Birbeck to Catalonia

The city of Barcelona was founded just this side of the year zero by the Romans. It was a good place to retire old soldiers of the Roman Legion. Great climate and a short sail to Rome. Eighty three years ago an English writer named George Orwell (Animal Farm, 1984) was in the city. He had that sense of adventure that infects many mostly young writers. In that year of 1937 if you wanted adventure and cared about politics, Spain and in particular Barcelona was a magnet. He thought he'd write for newspapers about the civil war Spain was falling into. The protagonists were, on the left, the new Spanish Republic attempting to tear down the old order. On the right, the church, the nobility, land owners - the people who had always been in control in Spain. An enterprising young army officer named Francisco Franco took up the right's cause and with units of the army moved to overthrow the government. Hitler and Mussolini helped Franco. Moscow encouraged the left. The Spanish civil war is often called a rehearsal for WW2. The left had no army. It had a collection of peasants and volunteers from outside the country. When Orwell arrived in Barcelona in December of 1937 he encountered a city in revolutionary fervor. Half a dozen organizations, Communists of several flavors and anarchists were attempting to arm themselves to defend the Republic. Orwell joined one of these groups, the POUM, the Workers' Party of Marxist Unification, a group opposed to Stalin's vision of a Communist state. Orwell thus went from being an observer to being an active participant - he served six months on the front lines of the war. His brief military career ended when he was injured and returned to Barcelona. He recorded his experiences in a book called, "An Homage to Catalonia". In the book he describes fighting in the city. The amazing thing is all the buildings and streets and places are still there! The city recognized Orwell's visit by naming a plaza after him.

The Ramblas is Barcelona's iconic and pedestrian friendly avenue. In "Homage" Orwell describes dodging bullets and hiding in buildings along the Ramblas. The POUM HQ is now a hotel. He describes the nearly empty food market, the "Boqueria" which is still there, but now not so empty. I'll be staying not far from that market for the first two weeks of December. I've visited Barcelona several times. I was first there half a century ago. That was before I'd paid much attention to George Orwell. The streets he described are physically the same but the mood is very different. Instead of factions of leftists fighting each other there are tourists, many, many, tourists. Twenty million a year. now, long after Orwell's time there is still anger in Barcelona's streets. Many in Catalonia want independence from Spain. The recent arrest and conviction of the Provence's government for sedition touched off massive protests. The highway from France was briefly shut down. The airport was nearly closed by tens of thousands of protesters. Dumpsters burned around Plaza Catalonia blocks from where I'll be staying. That plaza marks one end of the Ramblas. At the other, at the port, is a statue of Christopher Columbus, hand outstretched toward the new world. History connects people across time just as streets and roads connect places. History's links connecting ages in the life of Catalonia's capital are many. The Spanish civil war ended in Barcelona. There and then the Spanish Republic ended and four decades of dictatorship began. Like rust, history never sleeps. Next month I will stand on the Ramblas and think of Orwell dodging bullets. If the current unrest flares up again I might be dodging tear gas canisters.



Glen Birbeck is a regular contributor to The Buzz, We hope soon to have his report from Calalonia.

Contribute yourself to WRFR and The Buzz

We are all volunteers, and you are invited to join us. email steinberger@gwi.net or call Joe at 596-0731



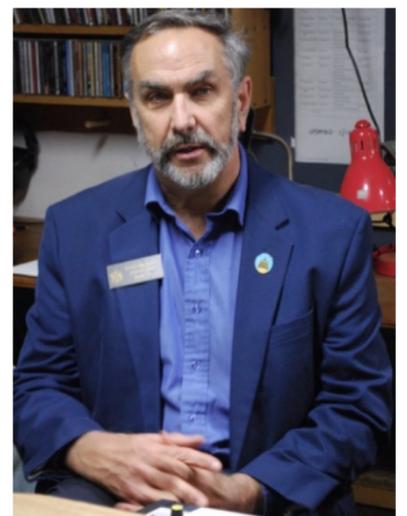
WRFR's Rockland Metro hosts Ananur on the Cell Phone Tower Proposed for Camden Street

The 120 foot cell phone tower proposed to be built on Camden Street next to Shore Village Apartments and abutting Pen Bay Acres has generated considerable opposition from neighbors, not least from long-time WRFR volunteer Ananur Forma. She was joined on the Metro Show by Nate Davis, newly elected member of the City Council, and by our State Senator, Dave Miramont.

We had a lively discussion about the potential effect of the tower on the local environment, on real estate values, and on the health of those living nearby. As usual on the show, views ranged widely, much information was shared, and we all determined to inform ourselves more in light of the gaps we discovered in our knowledge.

The tower application has been accepted as complete by the Planning Board and will be taken up at their meeting on December 3 at 5:15 pm. The public is invited.

Next Wednesday from 5-6 pm on the Metro Show we will be discussing the Midcoast School of Technology's proposed fence, also before the Planning Board. If you care about this issue, come join us on the show - call Joe at 596-0731.



Photos from the Metro show by Ron Tesler



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22:

- Grown-Up Story Hour at Camden Public Library, 11 a.m. to noon. Volunteers read stories for 30 to 60 minutes. Readers are needed: 236-3440. Also at the library on Friday, the Chess Club meets from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome to show up and learn new strategies.
- Democratic Senate Candidates Forum in Rockport, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Camden Hills Regional High School's Strom Auditorium. Maine Teen Advocacy Coalition and Knox County Democrats offer the free, student-led forum featuring all Maine Democratic Party candidates for U.S. Senate: Sara Gideon, Bre Kidman and Betsy Sweet. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to meet the candidates following the forum.
- "Evening of Mindfulness" at Lincolnville Community Library, Friday, at 6 p.m. Ning Sawangjaeng presents the free program that will include guided meditation. She will discuss her own experiences with the practice and describe how it can strengthen the mind's focus and help to develop self-compassion. Suitable for beginners and those with experience in practicing mindfulness and meditation.
- "Murder at the Gallop," 6:30 p.m. in Thomaston Public Library's Friday Night Films. Margaret Rutherford returns as amateur detective Miss Marple in a whodunit based on Agatha Christie's "After the Funeral." This time she's joined by a partner, the droll Robert Morley, as they pursue an ingenious killer who thinks a world without Miss Marple would be a far better place. Free; donations accepted.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

- Annual Ski Sale at Camden Hills Regional High School, Rockport, on November 23 and 24. Saturday hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Used gear for sale will include ice skates, Nordic and Alpine skis, boots, poles, snowboards, helmets and more. Members of the public who wish to sell items can register their equipment online: sites.google.com/site/chrhsskisale. Breakfast items will be sold on Saturday morning starting at 8 a.m. to benefit a student exchange between an Australian high school and CHRHS. More info: 542-7571.
- Annual Owls Head Garden Club Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Owls Head Community Building, 224 Ash Point Drive. Local crafters sell handmade mittens, hats, rugs, placemats, sea-glass jewelry, wooden bowls, boxes, jewelry, knitted toys and more. Club members will serve coffee, cider and baked goods.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24:

- Meditation in Camden, is offered at The Start Center, 37 Start Road, on Sundays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Beginners welcome. And at Meetingbrook Hermitage, 64 Barnestown Road, on Sundays, 6 p.m.
- Sunday Jams in Rockland, Sail, Power, & Steam Museum, 75 Mechanic Street, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25:

- Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m.
- United Healthcare Community Medicare Meeting at Camden Public Library, 10 a.m. to noon. Get help navigating the world of Medicare in the free information session. Also at the library on Monday, the Puzzle Club meets at 4 p.m. The new group invites people to gather, socialize, and work on puzzle projects.
- Monday Jams at St. George Grange, at Wiley's Corner, 7 to 9 p.m. through October. Country, gospel, folk, bluegrass.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26:

- Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27:

- Wellness Wednesdays, every Wednesday, 4:15 to 5:30 p.m., Bok Medical Building, 22 White Street. Reiki, chair massage, ear acupuncture and more. All welcome. 921-6993.
- Warren Free Public Library, offers adult coloring Wednesdays at noon, and knitting every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and first Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28:

- Thanksgiving Dinner in Thomaston, Thursday, November 28, at The Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street. Doors open at 11 a.m. and at noon dinner is served: roast turkey, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, squash, onions, peas, cranberry sauce and homemade desserts. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to call the town office at 354-6107 to help with planning, but reservations aren't required. The meal is offered by Thomaston Random Acts of Kindness.
- Thursday Jams in Warren, Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street, 6 p.m. and Friday Open Mics, second and fourth Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29:

- Pop Singer Holly Clough in Warren, Friday, November 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street. The Rockland native who's recorded in Nashville and been a nominated act at the New England Music Awards.
- Dyado in Camden Opera House's Blue Café Series, on the third floor, Friday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m. The folk-rock duo plays in the free series (donations go to the Community Arts Fund). Cash bar.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30:

- Annual Free Family Movie: "The Polar Express," at Rockland's Strand Theatre, at 3 p.m. Late on Christmas Eve, after the town has gone to sleep, a boy boards a mysterious train to the North Pole.
- "Short & Sweet – An Evening of Short Comedic Plays," Saturday, November 30, at 7 p.m. at Watts Hall, 231 Main Street, Thomaston. The family-friendly performance by Watts Hall Community Players will feature three short plays by David Ives and two by other writers. Admission is free; donations toward the upkeep of Watts Hall will be taken.

Around Town is compiled each week by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr.

An expanded listing is online at wrfr.org

Please submit Around Town items to gowrfr@gmail.com

Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.

Per-spec-tive

by Steve Carroll

From Latin *to look through* or *to perceive*, a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something: a point of view.

Through what lens do you view the world you live in? Do you live in a million-dollar Oceanfront home, or a trailer in the woods? Do you drive a new BMW, or a 10-year-old Ford? Do you live paycheck to paycheck, or do you ponder where you will vacation this winter?

All these shape your view, your perspective on life. The realities of my life can be far different than yours.

People with a great deal of wealth have far less to worry about than people struggling to just get by, or so it seems to me. Inequality in America has never been more pronounced than it is today. The ruling elite dictates what all the working class gets or does not get: healthcare, a living wage, a college education.

This is why so many have been inspired by candidates like JFK, AOC, Bernie Sanders and yes even Donald Trump. He's a millionaire with a hot wife, but he's rude, crude and hates the establishment, so is viewed by many in America as "one of us." Workers see him as someone who can get things done, someone who can "make America great again." They want to return to the time when they were Union workers at the local factory making good money and living well. Many see Bernie Sanders as a political outsider, someone who will work for them and not take money from large corporate donors.

From my perspective, I see a return to the struggle between the upper and lower class. Rich vs. poor, the lords and the serfs. You are seeing ever increasing hostility towards representatives like Susan Collins who are viewed as being disconnected from those she represents and playing more to large corporate donors. Nationally homelessness is growing, children and families are going hungry and many can not find a job that pays a living wage, while the Walmart family, Elon Musk (Tesla) and Jeff Bezos (Amazon) pay no taxes and flaunt their wealth. The landscape in this country is changing and changing quickly and this is good or bad, depending on your perspective.

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