



The Buzz

Bringing Hope to Knox County

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On cable channel 1301, MaineCoast.tv & Roku.

The Old School

Rockland

A Small Pip of Hope

by Glen Birbeck

The invisible editor called me into his office on the top floor of the Buzz building. The view was incredible. "What do you see down there?" he asked. "People, houses," I responded. "What else?" he prompted. "Well," I began, "Trees, streets, cars, cats and dogs." I couldn't actually see cats or dogs, but I assumed they were there. "You see hope!" he said firmly. "Hope" he repeated turning from the view to face me. "Hope" I echoed without much enthusiasm. I enjoy a metaphor as much as the next hack writer, but just what was he getting at? "All of that came from a seed, the people, the cats and dogs, the trees." "How about the houses and cars?" I ask. His metaphor didn't waver, "The seed of an idea," he said. He reached down and from a silver tray and from the remains of his lunch he picked up an orange pip. He squeezed the seed between thumb and forefinger, holding it up to make the point. "How," I pressed him, "is a seed hope?" He responded saying, "Because it embodies hope in function and design - Nothing in it imagines failure. The acorn knows it will one day be a mighty oak and dominate the forest." He saw my interest flag, my lunch making me drowsy. "Here is the point," he said pressing the orange pip into my palm.

"Great," I thought, "he's getting to the point." I pocketed the pip and looked attentive. "You must have written in one of your dark screeds about the plight of the great hard wood forests of North America." I must have, I thought. "Well, imagine how it would have been if one of the acorns littering the Forest floor had preached hopelessness? If the light of hope had been dimmed even a little in the more impressionable acorns? One thing leading to another there might have been even fewer trees." He stomped a shoe on the oak floor of his office. "This might have been linoleum!" he said, recoiling from the very thought. "How much worse is it to tell people down there that things are hopeless?" He swept a hand across the view on the other side of the glass. "Suggesting they give up now and avoid the rush? Negative thinking has power just as positive thinking does. Do we want to hitch our wagon to a team of animals who expect to stumble over the edge of a cliff at any moment? Or would we be better advised to harness optimistic steeds?, noble animals who hope that around the next bend are fields of tender grass and not a single fly." He glanced at his watch and with a smile ushered me out the door.

Alone again in the hall waiting for the express elevator to the lobby I had an epiphany. He was right. Planting the seed of hope, encouraging it to sprout, nurturing it - that would be my mission. I thought about the thousand and one discouraging facts, the endless number of reports and findings warning of bad ends for humanity. The extinctions, pollution and wars. All that was on one side of the scale, heavy stuff. On the other side the seed, the pip in my pocket, hope. The seed weighed almost nothing yet little by little the beam was shifting toward balance. Hope had tipped the scale. There was a way forward. Every problem had a solution. Every challenge could be met. Humanity had in the past pulled its keester out of the fire of fate, it would again. At last the elevator slowed, stopped and opened its doors. I looked out onto the vast lobby, its polished marble floors reflecting a golden sunset. I strode toward toward the huge turnstile door and onto the side walk.

Outside the homeless parted, pulling back to let me pass. Their cardboard encampment pitched against the marble base of the building. A particularly disheveled old man shoved a tin cup toward me and grunted something. "I will not further corrupt you by giving money," I said, "but I will give you hope" His eyes widened at the prospect. In a frail, faltering voice he repeated, "Hope?" I reached into my pocket. He smiled broadly as my hand opened over the outstretched cup, "clink!" He raised the cup to his eye and peered into it. He shook the cup. Something rattled. He looked into it a second time then raised his eyes to look at me. "Hey, what the hell is this!" he said.



I smiled gently and said, "it is hope my friend, the seed of hope" His face crunched into a contorted expression of gratitude, he turned away, his words of thanks lost in a gust of cold wind.

Tulsi & Yang 2020 Party

at The Waterworks Pub Oct. 17

People interested in 2020 Presidential candidates Andrew Yang and Tulsi Gabbard are invited to an informal gathering in the East Room at the Waterworks Pub in Rockland, starting at 5 pm on Thursday, October 17. The event will begin as a cocktail party with drinks available from the bar. At 6 pm those who wish to stay for dinner will sit around a common table and order from the pub's menu.

"This is not an official campaign event for either Tulsi or Yang," says organizer Joe Steinberger, "it is just a chance for those of us who have been attracted to their candidacy to meet each other and talk about our best hopes for the future. Maybe something more will come of it, but we have no agenda except to have fun getting to know each other."

Candidates Yang and Gabbard are among the 12 candidates in the October Democratic primary debate. Gabbard has been emphasizing her combat experience in Iraq which has led her to pledge to end "regime change" wars and develop a constructive relationship with Russia and China to end the new cold war that threatens to end in nuclear annihilation. Yang has focused on domestic policy and has proposed to stir the pot of income distribution with a monthly \$1000 "freedom dividend" to every adult citizen, financed by a 10% value added tax.

"Yang and Gabbard have very different emphases," says Steinberger, "but their views are entirely compatible - peace and social justice. And both are young, dynamic, and independent of the tribal politics that is tearing our country apart." For more information, email joe@interhuman.org

The October 17 gathering is free and open to everyone.

The Waterworks Pub is located at 7 Lindsey Street in Rockland.



"There's Gold in them thar Wars"

By Steve Carroll

President Trump recently announced a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria: "It's time for us to get out" as a step towards fulfilling his campaign promise to get us out of overseas wars. Trump said: "our involvement had largely been a waste of lives and money".

Of course, all of this is true. Our invasion of Iraq in 2003 ended up costing \$2 trillion, the lives of 4,500 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraq civilians. In Iraq today, the economy is in shambles, there is widespread corruption, unemployment, and poor public services. The vacuum in leadership brought on by our ultimate departure resulted in the country's takeover by a new enemy, "ISIS". It would be difficult to argue that the United States' involvement in the Middle East has been anything but destabilizing to the region.

Most Americans would hail Trump's decision as a positive first step to stop these endless wars, but not so once you enter the beltway. The President's decision was immediately met with a firestorm of protests from leading members of Congress. Mitch McConnell, Lindsey Graham and Senator Marco Rubio to name just a few. Unfortunately, the part of this story you will not hear or read about in the national media is the significant, ongoing big-dollar contributions that are made to all of these people annually by giant corporations supplying the military-industrial complex. Companies like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, General Dynamics and Northrup Grumman making billions of dollars in weapon sales. According to C.A.A.T. a U.K. advocacy group: "the arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security and damages economic development. Large scale military procurement and arms exports only reinforce a militaristic approach to international problems". From jet fighters to advanced missile systems, these and other American companies profit highly from our continued involvement in conflicts around the world. Senators and high ranking officials are paid handsomely for their on-going support. President Eisenhower in his farewell address to the nation warned us to "guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

So when you see Senators approving an \$8.1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia and voting their continued support for overseas wars it's import to question their motivation. Those dollars could be spent on universal healthcare, free college tuition, improved infrastructure, a high-speed rail system, and other necessary installments to strengthen our economy. Remember these officials are elected to represent your needs, not theirs. Most of these Senators and Congressmen are millionaires and their money did not come from book sales. So when you listen to the nightly news or read the New York Times just remember what they are trying to sell you.



David Long

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11:

- “The Body Snatcher,” 6:30 p.m., Friday Night Film Series at Thomaston Public Library. October’s “Creepy & Chilling” films continue with the story of a doctor who needs cadavers and enlists the help of a taxi driver (Boris Karloff) and his assistant (Bela Lugosi) to unearth bodies from the cemetery.
- End of Season Open House at The Apprenticeshop, 655 Main Street in Rockland, at 4 p.m. Take a sail and bring a dish for the potluck and your apples and a container for cider pressing.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12:

- AIO Food Pantry Holds Public Ground-Breaking Ceremony, at 10 a.m., for a new facility at 1A Gordon Drive, Rockland, next to the current pantry at 70 Thomaston Street. The new building will open next summer.
- Harvest Festival at Knox Museum in Thomaston, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. With traditional lawn games, craft activities including pumpkin painting and cookie decorating, and apple cider and fall treats on the lawn at Montpelier. Free.
- “The Steamy Side of Lobster,” 1 p.m. at Friendship United Methodist Church, 24 Main Street. Dr. Diane Cowan of the Lobster Conservancy describes the lobster life cycle and tells what she learned during her research into lobster pheromones, molting and courtship.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13:

- “The Work,” 2 p.m. at Rockland’s Strand Theatre. Set inside a single room in Folsom Prison, it follows three men from outside as they participate in a four-day group therapy retreat with level-4 inmates. A panel discussion led by the Jericho Circle Project will follow.
- “Coastal Maine in Words and Art” at Camden Public Library, 2 p.m. Solon Center for Research and Publishing presents readings from the book, which features photographs by Yohaku Yorozuya and Ramona du Houx. Solon Center invited writers to choose a photo depicting Rockland and the coast and write a story based on the image; selected submissions are in the book, copies of which will be available for signing and purchase.
- Sunday Jams in Rockland, Sail, Power, & Steam Museum, 75 Mechanic Street, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14:

- Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m. Catinka Knoth leads the free Monday classes – with a focus on drawing in color – open to all, with materials provided. “October in Maine” will teach students how to draw fall leaves, autumn landscapes, and Halloween pumpkins.
- Monday Jams at St. George Grange, at Wiley’s Corner, 7 to 9 p.m. through October. Country, gospel, folk, bluegrass.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15:

- Virtual Tours of National Refuges, from Tuesday to Friday, October 15 to 18, at 2 p.m. each day at Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge’s Visitor Center, 9 Water Street. See films showing wildlife refuges around the country.
- “Covering the Casualties of War: Witnessing the Seeds of Revolt,” 7 p.m. at Camden Public Library. Foreign correspondent Robin Lloyd looks back at his days covering social upheaval and war in the world’s most dangerous hotspots during the 1980s and ’90s.
- Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16:

- Rockland Tree Warden Leads Wednesday Walk, October 16, at 10:30 a.m. Meet at Rockland Public Library’s checkout desk. Licensed arborist Richard Schneller will point out trees transitioning into winter dormancy!
- Children’s Halloween Party at Rockland Public Library, Wednesday from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. Miss Katie will share three silly Halloween stories and some “monster-ous” crafts. Costumes are encouraged.
- “Adventures in the High Arctic,” 6:30 p.m. at Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 9 Water Street, Rockland. Rupert Pilkington, Carla Skinder and Judy Hengerer on their recent trips to Svalbard, Norway, and on wildlife near the Arctic Circle.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17:

- “A Family for ME” Foster Care and Adoption Info Meetings, about the process of becoming a foster or adoptive parent. For the location and time of the next meeting: 615-6011 or AFamilyForMEMaine.org.

- Tulsi Gabbard and Andrew Yang 2020 Party, 5 pm at the Waterworks Pub, 7 Lindsey Street, Rockland. No agenda, just a chance to meet each other and talk about our best hopes for the future. Those of us who wish to stay for dinner will sit around a common table at 6 pm and order from the menu.
- 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, OCTOBER 18:

- 2020 Maine Lobster Festival Poster Contest, with a \$1,000 prize. Email samples of your work – preferably lobster images – and a bio by Friday, November 1, to jbrickel@midcoast.com.
- 15th Annual Belfast Poetry Festival, opens at 7 p.m. at Left Bank Books, 109 Church Street, with Maine Poet Laureate Stuart Kestenbaum. Reservations: 338-9009, leftbank@myfairpoint.net.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19:

- 15th Annual Belfast Poetry Festival Events include a poetry walk, a Zine Fair and More (with Maine zines, comics, bookmaking, paper arts), a ploughman’s lunch, an open mic, and a reception and multimedia performance. Visit BelfastPoetry.com for details.
- Fall Craft Fair in Warren, Saturday, October 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Masonic Hall, Route 90 (105 Camden Road). Crafters, baskets, knitted items, raffles, baked foods, Victory ice cream, Miller Farm custom laser engraving, and lunch for sale. Details: 236-4585.

Around Town is compiled each week by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr.
Please submit calendar items to gowrfr@gmail.com
Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.

Oh Boy, 5G is Coming

by Richard King

5G is coming soon to a light pole near you—VERY near you.

We will have “smart” homes, “smart” businesses, “smart” highways, “smart” cities and self-driving cars. Virtually everything we own and buy, from refrigerators and washing machines to milk cartons, hairbrushes and infants’ diapers, will contain antennas and microchips and will be connected wirelessly to the Internet. Every person on Earth will have instant access to super-high-speed wireless communications from any point on the planet. That’s good! Right?

No, that’s bad—very bad. We need to acknowledged is that this will result in unprecedented environmental change on a global scale. The planned density of radio frequency transmitters is unimaginable—the numbers are staggering. In addition to millions of new 5G base stations on Earth and 20,000 new satellites in space, and an estimated 200 billion transmitting objects will be part of the Internet of Things (IoT) according to estimates. In order to transmit the enormous amounts of data required for the IoT, 5G technology, when fully deployed, will use millimeter waves, which are poorly transmitted through solid material—and are very close to those that heat your food in your microwave oven. This will require base stations be installed every 350 feet!

If the telecommunications industry’s plans for 5G come to fruition, no person, no animal, no bird, no insect, and no plant will be able to avoid exposure to levels of RF radiation that are many times greater than what exists today. 5G threatens to provoke serious, irreversible effects on humans and permanent damage to all of ecosystems. Despite widespread denial, the evidence that radio frequency radiation is harmful to life is accumulating. The experimental evidence of damage to DNA, cells, and organ systems is available in well over 10,000 peer-reviewed studies. 5G will result in a massive increase in inescapable, involuntary exposure to wireless radiation.

While we live in houses that somewhat protect us from the barrage of electromagnetic energy associated with 5G, the plants, animals, and insects that we depend on for our existence have nowhere to hide—24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Is this worth being able to download a feature film in two seconds? We must demand absolute proof that there will be no harm done—something that the telecommunications industry has no interest in providing.

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[email joe@interhuman.org](mailto:joe@interhuman.org)

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