



Rockland Buzz

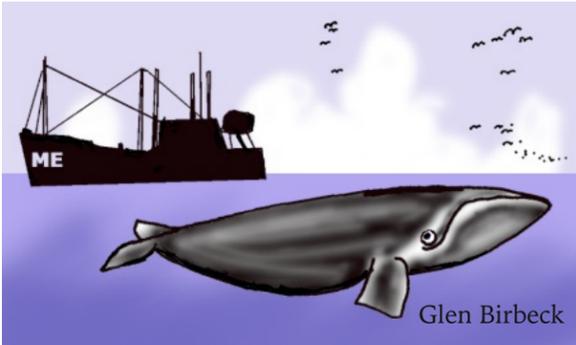
By the Sea

Issue 210, April 26, 2021, Rockland, Maine

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The Old School
Fellowship Education

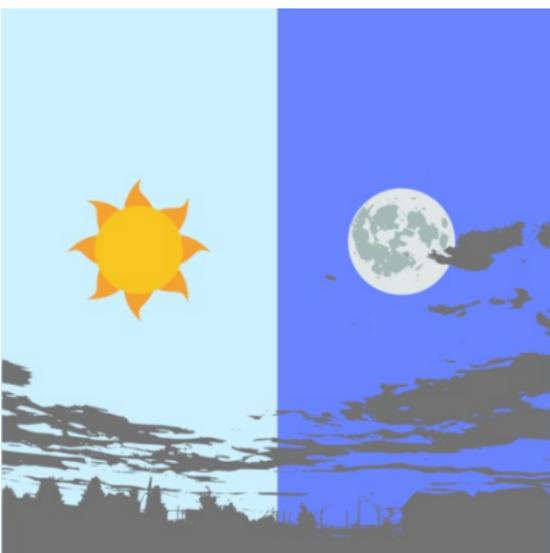


Glen Birbeck

Right Whales Wrong Time

Join us next Wednesday at 5 on the Rockland Metro show as we present a discussion of how potential changes being proposed by the Federal Department of Marine resources may impact the local Lobster Fishing industry. Dave Miramant Chairman of the Marine resources committee along with area fisherman will talk about what changes have already occurred and those proposed and how these new rulings will affect our fisheries. For many years now local fisherman have worked with Federal and State agencies to help protect the Right Whale and as a result only one known entanglement of a right whale occurred in 2002 involving Maine Lobster gear. Due to last years COVID restrictions Maine Lobsterman lost thousands and the coming season is uncertain. New costs and restrictions on Lobster fishing could further impact this already struggling industry. We hope you will join us next Wednesday, April 7th from 5 to 6 PM on the Metro broadcast live over WRFR-fm 93.3 and over Maine coast TV local channel 7. We will once again feature our program live on the "zoom" online platform. Also if time permits, local representatives will discuss the recently enacted Maine budget.

Your host for next week's Metro show, Steve Carroll.



Are You a Morning Person?

We are seeking DJs to provide Midcoast commuters some original radio between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. You have a choice of producing your show live in the studio or remotely from home. For more information, email programming@wrfr.org or a Night Owl?

We could use overnight (Midnight - 6 a.m.) programming as well! Please note that overnight programming must be pre-recorded out of respect for our residential neighbors. Email programming@wrfr.org for details.

Joe

The devil has found work for my idle hands...again. The tablet is working out great. More spot illustrations made with said tablet if you need them. --glen

Another Suez Crisis

The world looked on with shock, this past week, as in Egypt, home of the pyramids, a giant rubber duck got stuck. The stuck duck, possibly the worlds largest, had been driven by a Ghibli (sand storm) into the mud on either side of the Suez canal. The situation dragged on day after day with the yellow leviathan refusing to budge in spite of the best efforts of a fleet of giant tugs. The canal extends 120 miles from the Red Sea in the south to the Mediterranean in the north. The 150 year old watery cut thru the desert is constantly dredged to allow passage of as many as 50 ducks a day, every day of the year. Hundreds of other, albeit smaller, yellow ducks treaded water at either end of the canal - waiting out the blockage. One onlooker was heard to say, "it looks like bath day at a foundling home!" What makes the situation serious is that these ducks carry the vast majority of the world's trade. The stuck duck, named "Ever Given Trouble" carried a crew of 25 and 20,000 containers between China, Europe and North America. Its 900 foot length is nearly matched by its height. Its weight is 200,000 tons or four million pounds. Anyway you measure it that's a lot of flat screen TVs, lingerie and lipstick.

The powerful tugs and the dredgers proved unable to budge the rubber ducky so something more powerful was called in. Just as the ancient priests of the pharaohs had - modern salvors put their faith in celestial intervention. They called on the Earth's moon to use her influence. What is being called the "worm" moon managed to do what men could not. As the worm turned the duck moved, the waters rose and the monster refloated.

Students of astronomy might ask, what does the phase of the moon have to do with refloating gargantuan yellow ducks? Wouldn't a waxing crescent have done the job as well as a waning gibbous? For refloating and unsticking the world's cargo carriers is a moon in its first or last quarter best? And another question, what's this of late with these names of phases of Luna, Terra's dance partner in its waltz around the sun? The worm moon? really? In addition to the worm moon there is January's wolf moon. February has the snow moon. Hosting the Pink moon, March. The rest of the year has Flower, Strawberry, corn and even Sturgeon moons. Before the invention of fire and then the flashlight, moonlight was about all we had in the wee hours. In homage to this night light a quarter million miles away we gave names to the face facing us when it was totally illuminated.

No the Wormy moon and the freeing of the "Ever Get'n Stuck" were just a coincidence. There are no coincidences you say, just unknown connections. It might be so. If the Stuck Duck had sailed a few days later than it did and arrived at the canal a few days later the moon that freed it would have been a waning one. If on the other hand it had left Asia days earlier a waxing moon would be receiving the credit. There is no doubt a full ration of moon light helped the tugs see what they were doing. But we should consider the possibility that moonlight caused human error which contributed to the incident. How? thru Lunacy of course! Lunatics', Loony behavior, these results of that satellite's influence have been known since man first looked up and said...."is that worm or wolf?"

Glen Birbeck



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Strand on the Air: Light at the End of the Tunnel Sunday, April 25th 5-6pm

At long last, there's light at the end of the tunnel - and if you don't think so, we'll set you straight in April's STRAND ON THE AIR broadcast, coming your way Sunday April 25th at 5PM over WRFR 93.3/99.3! Our "Light At The End Of The Tunnel Edition" features more laughs with Liz McLeod and the Strand Family Players, more music from Brittany Parker - and even a few surprises! Join the intrepid journalists of All Things Rescinded for a look at what hoarders are doing now that there's no need to hoard, and an interview with a lifestyle blogger whose whole lifestyle took a 180 in the wake of the pandemic. And get the exclusive word from Mrs. Grunden on the vaccination experience! There'll be another excursion into the poetic from the good Professor Dan Bookham, and down in Abysmal Point you'll thrill to a real old-fashioned outdoor home talent show, as the whole gang gets together to sing, argue, and juggle tomatoes while riding a unicycle! If all that doesn't get you hyped for the imminent arrival of the New New Normal, then listen again when the show goes up on our website and we'll fix you up for sure!





Beau Lisy, Mark Tipton, Ryan Blotnick, photo by Keri Kimura

Tipton jazz for SoundCheck

Camden Opera House's SoundCheck series of audience-free livestreams continues Friday, April 9, with a 7:30 p.m. concert by the Mark Tipton Trio. The show will be streamed live from the opera house stage to its Facebook page and is free to enjoy, no tickets or RSVP necessary.

Composer, performer, producer and educator Mark Tipton and his multi-genre quintet Les Sorciers Perdus take a contemporary, creative and cross-disciplinary approach to jazz and more. The trio features LSP's Tipton on trumpet, Ryan Blotnick on guitar and Beau Lisy on drums. Tipton has written 14 full-length silent film scores; works for orchestra and various chamber ensembles; jazz works for small groups and big band; brass ensemble and solo trumpet pieces; a ballet; and performance art installations. He is the development director and guest show host for WERU-FM.

This show, rescheduled from November, is sponsored by Camden Maine Stay Inn. Hour-long livestreams continue every Friday night at 7:30 p.m., and are archived on Facebook and the Camden Opera House YouTube Channel thereafter. Next up on April 16 is multi-genre pop artist Natále with her trio. For the full lineup, and to donate to the Community Arts Fund that makes it possible, visit www.camdenoperahouse.com.

Late March days begin and end with heavy fog like huge gray curtains descending. The earth seems to end at the ocean's shoreline. In between, I can barely see across the Head of the Bay to Owls Head. My husband remembers a Rockland summer when every day in that long ago July and August were nonstop fog. These days, cold March mists leech into every bone. Still, winter is behind us. What a weak winter it was. Covid-refugees have the impression Maine winters are over rated.

I just read that climate change is making winters shorter and warming climates will make some countries too hot for habitation. With the wind off the water, we've never needed AC here on the coast of Rockland. Maybe that will change.

Friday night's lengthy tremendous thunder and lightning called to mind Bob Dylan's titled concerts, "Rolling Thunder Review", one of which I attended at the Augusta Civic Center back in the day. Joni Mitchell sang and I was amazed at how petite she was. I also saw Joan Baez in concert and was equally impressed with her small stature. Our icons loom large in our imaginations. I once saw Charles De Gaulle in Paris. His great height towered over the masses of Parisians on Bastille Day. I saw Jimi Hendrix in Lewiston and was almost trampled in the surging crowd. Hendrix started playing his first song, broke his guitar strings and stormed off stage. Why am I musing about long ago concerts or famous people? Maybe because going to any large venue is so out of reach for me for who knows how long. Sheltering for a year makes me leery of crowds. One other person in grocery aisles causes anxiety.

How long will I be wearing sweat pants, other comfortable elastic waist pants while sheltering? I've read that employees meeting on Zoom just dress up their torsos, while wearing anything below the waist. One guy on Zoom got up to do something and his coworkers saw he was just wearing boxers below his suit jacket and tie. More and more folks are moving to Maine to feel safe and work via Zoom. Who really cares what they wear.

As I waited for the light to change at the intersection of Union & Park Streets, I noticed a new Mercedes-Benz G-Class SUV in front of me and a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Van behind me. My eleven-year-old Toyota Camry cringed. She shouldn't be embarrassed; she's an economically dependable workhorse of which I'm satisfied.

Rockland's annual Lobster Festival has been cancelled for the second year in a row.

This is a wise decision as thousands show up and would create high covid risks for everyone. Maybe by August 2022 the 75th Annual Lobster Festival will take place?

A local lobsterman has lost his life at sea. His brother also drowned some years ago. The last brother survives. How can one family absorb these unimaginable losses? Commercial fishermen are employed in one of the most dangerous occupations.

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To learn more, email Amie Daniels: sponsorwfrf@gmail.com.

WFRF is local community radio in Rockland, Maine. We have been broadcasting on 93.3 fm in Rockland and 99.3 fm in Camden for almost 20 years.

We are all volunteers, proving that people can work together if the spirit is right. We are open to everyone and invite you to join us in giving voice to the life and creativity of our Rockland-Camden area.



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Get The Buzz at these Rockland locations: Good Tern Co-op • Dunkin' Donuts • Jensen's Pharmacy • Rock City Cafe • Southend Grocery

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