



The Buzz

The View from Here

Issue 218, May 28, 2021, Rockland, Maine



The Old School Fellowship Education

For many families Memorial Day is everyday.

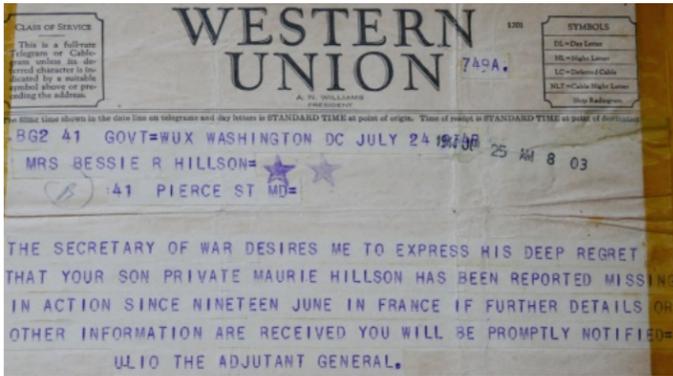
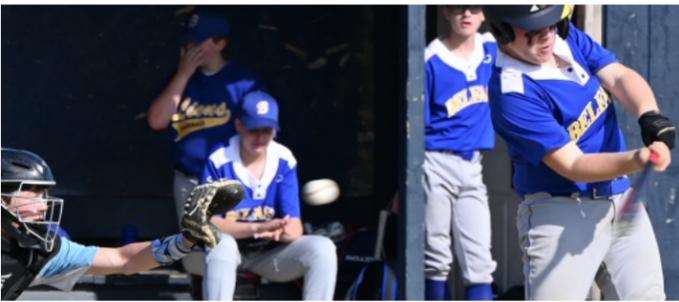


Photo by Ronald Hillson Tesler

Oceanside Middle School Plays Belfast (and Glen Birbeck has a new camera)



INCREASED SCHOOL AND CITY BUDGETS CONFRONT TAXPAYERS



Next Wednesday on the Rockland Metro show, your host Steve Carroll will question school and City representatives on their recently approved budgets which are now being presented to Rockland taxpayers. RSU#13's budget approved by the board will face voters in the polls Tuesday June 8th. Rockland's budget received preliminary approval of the \$14.6 million spending package at last Monday's meeting. Final approval is scheduled for June 21st. Rockland's approved budget represents a 1.4% increase. If time permits State senator and house representative Dave Miramant & Valli Geiger will join the conversation. Please join us next Wednesday June 2nd from 5 to 6 PM for a lively discussion of all things budget. The Metro show is broadcast live on WRFR Radio and Maine Coast TV.

fun burger fact

by Chris Wolf

With Memorial Day Weekend approaching, we ask; How do Americans like their burgers? _ From well-done to ultra-rare, with ketchup or strictly just tomato — there are endless ways to enjoy the classic burger. A recent poll discovered (again) how Americans actually like their burgers. 40% of American adults prefer their burgers well-done, with only 17% preferring them medium. And only 2% like theirs cooked rare. The poll also found that women are much more likely to enjoy a well-done burger than men. As for toppings, a not surprising 74% of Americans want a slice or two of cheese, followed by ketchup, which is preferred by 65% of people. Lettuce, tomatoes and onions are big hits too, each with over 50% of the votes. Fifty-four percent of folks prefer pickles and 52% percent squirt some mustard on top. At least one in five poll takers said they like bacon and 43% like either mayonnaise or some type of aioli, while only 23% opt for mushrooms.

A Letter From Rome

Sergio Iavarone and Joe Steinberger

The Buzz is very local, very Rockland-centric. That does not mean that we are not connected to the world around us. I have known Sergio Iavarone since I visited him 40 years ago as a traveller with Servas, an international peace organization. Sergio was my host in Rome.

We regularly invite our readers, Sergio among them, to contribute their thoughts and art to The Buzz. This week we received an email from Sergio, which begins as follows:



Dear Joe,

I accept your invitation to write something for your weekly Buzz. Since I understand that my writing is far too long, but I could've written even more, you can cut or publish it in two or more weeks, if you like. I attached a photo.

Some considerations on the situation in Israel and Palestine

Let's start by remembering a generous girl, a courageous young woman, an unrecognized, unarmed heroine: Rachel Aliene Corrie.

On March 16, 2003, she lost her life in Rafah, a Palestinian city, in Gaza. She was 23, a US citizen, born in Olympia, Washington.

She was a pacifist who went to Palestine for her ideals of justice and solidarity. Her death was not caused by an accident. She died while trying barehanded to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian doctor's home. She was mercilessly crushed by an armored bulldozer operated by an Israeli soldier. No one has paid for this crime. The US government failed to condemn Israel for her assassination.

If a person can die under those circumstances without any consequences, moreover a person coming from a country that helps Israel more than any other in the world and under all aspects, you can imagine what may happen to Palestinians.

I'm not able to justify the way Israelis are acting. Jewish people have suffered so much and not only because of the Shoah. Let's not forget the pogroms and persecutions they had to bear for centuries. They were discriminated and segregated into the ghettos all over Europe. It seems they apparently forgot what experienced and are discriminating and segregating the Palestinian Arabs, at their turn.

When I take a position in a dispute, I always try to be with the oppressed not with the oppressors, no matter who the latter can be.

Criticizing the Israeli government doesn't mean being against Jewish people or being an anti-Semite. Authorities and people are altogether two different things. Criticizing the Israeli government doesn't mean questioning about the Holocaust or denying what happened in the concentration camps. I am Italian, but this doesn't refrain me to fiercely criticize and condemn Mussolini's deeds just because he was Italian like me.....

Sergio goes on to question the justice of displacing the Palestinian people from the lands on which they have lived and farmed for hundreds of years on the basis of a belief in a 4000 year old God-given right of the Jews to occupy that land. He chronicles the destruction of Palestinian olive orchards, the grossly unequal distribution of water resources, the institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in Israel and in the occupied territories, the use of excessive force by law enforcement, administrative detention without charge, the ill-treatment of detainees, the punitive demolitions of Palestinian homes and businesses, the confiscation of property, and in general the grossly unequal, apartheid-like, treatment of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories. What he has written is much too long to fit in our little broadsheet, but I will try to post the entire letter online. To see if I have succeeded, click on "The Buzz" at the wrfr.org homepage.

Sergio's letter was inspired by the recent violence between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, violence that killed many more Palestinians than Israelis. His concern at the state of affairs in this part of the world, 72 years after the establishment of the Jewish state, is shared by many Americans, myself included.

My father was a Jew. He came to the US in 1934 as a child refugee from Nazi Germany. He had a long and productive life here, Germany's loss and America's gain. His attitude toward Israel was mixed. He had friends there, but he felt that the establishment of the Jewish state was based on a falsehood. He remembered for me the Zionist slogan: "A land without people for a people without land." But there were people on that land, many people.

I remember also a conversation a few years ago with Sylvain Cypel, a French journalist for many years the US correspondent of Le Monde, frequent visitor to Israel, author of a book about the establishment of the Jewish state, and a Jew himself. He pointed out also that the official story of Israel's origin represses the sad reality that the Palestinians were dispossessed and forced into exile.

My personal view is that this legacy, and this ongoing process of exclusion, is the genesis of the conflict. It is hard to see a just resolution in this direction, hard to see a way forward to a peace that could last. However well intended, the idea of a Jewish state, like the idea of a Christian state, Islamic state or Hindu state, is divisive, and incompatible with the freedom, equality, and inclusion that are humanity's only clear path to a peaceful and happy future.

Please note that The Buzz and WRFR have no views, but serve as forums for the diverse views and tastes of our community; local and around the world. We often disagree with each other, but we respect each other, we learn from each other, and we have fun together. Please join us. Your view, standing in your shoes and seeing with your eyes, is welcome here.

Mid-Coast Recovery Coalition's First Annual Community Barbecue and Fundraiser

The Mid-Coast Recovery Coalition will be holding its first annual Summer Community Barbecue and Fundraiser event on Saturday, June 5th. The open-to-all event starts at 11:00 at the Friends House on 22 Brewster Street in Rockland and will be filled with food, fun and raffles!

The event will help to raise additional funding to provide repairs and renovations to The Friends House as part of our capital campaign. Some of the repairs include the addition of a first-floor bathroom and extensive renovations to the parking area. The Friends House provides a healing environment in which the residents spend time together for support, while establishing employment and connections to other local resources in the community that assist their recoveries. The repairs will provide for an even safer and a more effective place for those committed to recovery from addiction.

If you are not able to attend and would like to help with a financial contribution, please visit www.midcoastrecovery.org or contact us via email at info@midcoastrecovery.org

Mid-Coast Recovery Coalition, established in 2016, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support to individuals and families seeking help and healing to address the challenge of addiction.

Yoga and Tai Chi in the Camden Amphitheatre

On Tuesdays and Thursdays in June, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, Denyse Robinson will guide participants through a sequence of yoga poses. All levels are welcome. Contact Denyse at 207-975-5325 or denyserobinson@gmail.com.

On Mondays and Wednesdays in June, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, Anna Dembska will be offering beginner tai chi classes in the Amphitheatre. Contact Anna Dembska at camdentaiji@gmail.com.

Pre-registration is recommended so participants can be reached if classes are canceled or moved to a different location. The classes are free, but donations are accepted.



WRFR is community radio in Rockland.

We have been broadcasting 24/7 since 2002.

At WRFR we are all volunteers - now more than 60 strong. We play the music and host the talk shows - and we play what we like and say what we like, subject only to the fcc rules against profanity and our own principle that we must treat all members of our community with respect. We serve also as our own administrators and our own technicians.

We would very much like to have your help! We are open to everyone.

To learn more, go to wrfr.org, or tune in to 99.3 fm in Rockland, or 99.3 fm in Camden

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

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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
The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com

WEEK SIXTY-THREE

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

Just when Rockland's home and property owners thought the city was satisfied with last year's re-assessments, KRT (Kryptonite Realty Taxation) has been re-hired by the city for a do-over of property assessments. We tax payers fund KRT's fees, which the city has not disclosed. A Village Soup article says, "For most properties in the city, it has been since 2005 that this information was last verified." Say what?! Then what was KRT doing last year when they roved our neighborhoods and citywide properties were re-evaluated, as evidenced by our tax bills? Now the city is asking property owners to cooperate and allow KRT inside our properties. There is no legal way owners must cooperate. Looks like the city wants to crank up the taxes on the many lots and properties being built or re-habbed by out-of-staters with bags of cash and all the rest of us. When the temporary Covid real estate bubble bursts, we'll all be stuck with inflated property values and few buyers. Insanity. I guess we old timey Rocklanders will all have to move to trailers in Warren.

The State Dept. has issued its highest travel advisory warning Americans not to travel to Japan for the Tokyo Olympics. IOC is still pressing on despite spikes in Covid-19 cases. Many Japanese are demonstrating against the Olympics. This must be crushingly disappointing to our American athletes. But athletes' safety first.

Most mid-coast area stores are still requiring customers to be masked. If more Americans don't get vaccinated, a fall or winter surge is predicted among the unvaccinated. Since I and my husband are vaccinated, we are protected. I just need to get used to not wearing a mask where they're not required. I do trust the Covid vaccines, having a long history of arm jabs growing up as an Army Brat. Maine CDC reports all the Maine people hospitalized with Covid were never vaccinated.

Day after day of glorious weather just reinforces how lovely a Maine spring can be. My neighbor's red and white tulips wave their cheerful colors in the wind off the water. They look like peppermint candies or Christmas candy canes. They remind me of the colors of female Candy Striper hospital volunteers' uniforms in bygone days. Now hospital volunteers wear drab green smocks or their street clothes.

Snow Shipyard has an immense ship on the ways for repairs. It is so huge it looms over Mechanic Street. Maybe it's a Maine state ferry? Capt. Israel Snow, whose home at 9 Water Street houses the Friends of Maine Coastal Islands Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, founded the shipyard in the 19th Century where his seven sons worked. The shipyard is now Rockland Marine but will always be called, "Snow's" by locals.

My neighbors walk year-round on Dick's Beach, across our harbor in Owls Head. Yesterday they showed me their findings: A tiny white porcelain hand from a doll and six stems from clay smoking pipes, one of which had some indecipherable markings on it. Clay pipes were first introduced during Queen Elizabeth I's reign when tobacco was discovered and continue to be manufactured. The pipe bowls were small because tobacco was so expensive and the stems long to provide a cool smoke. How did these broken pipe stems end up in Owls Head, Maine? Did 19th C. shipbuilders on Mechanic Street discard broken stems overboard?

Looked out my kitchen window this morning to see one random yellow tulip in my backyard. I've never planted tulips, so how did this lone flower bloom? Maybe a squirrel dug up the bulb from a neighbor's garden and stored it in my yard for winter foraging? Another serendipity from Mother Nature.

