



The Buzz

Rockland Metro Magazine

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The Old School Fellowship Education

Rockland Public Library Re-opens Display Cases to Exhibitors

The Rockland Public Library is seeking applications from local non-profit civic and cultural groups, clubs, and individuals, to display artwork, collections and other small items and/or information about their group in the display case(s) in the Winter Garden corridor. Two display cases on the main floor are available for such promotional displays. These two lockable glass-enclosed display cabinets are approximately 5ft. 4in. tall on the interior with three adjustable and removable shelves. The cabinets are 24 in. wide and 14.5 in. deep. One or both display cases may be reserved. Displays are generally kept up for one month. Exhibitors are responsible for the creation, set up, and removal of the display in a timely manner. Organizations providing materials for displays will be acknowledged with a sign "Materials in this display are provided by..." No items may be sold nor may prices be posted.

Those wishing to display in the Library's display case(s) must complete and submit an "Application for Use" of the Rockland Public Library Display Case(s). Please email Jessica Blanchard, jblanchard@rocklandmaine.gov or call the Library at 594-0310 for an application or with any questions.



Is Your dog left or right-pawed?

By Chris Wolf

Just as a human is left and right-handed, so can your dog, or cat be left or right-pawed. Humans are 90% right-handed and 10% left while research from the American Kennel Club indicates dogs are pretty much 50/50. Research shows cats to be 50% right and 40% left with 10% being ambidextrous. How do you tell? Here are some simple tests from the Animal Health Foundation.

Dangle a toy in front of your pet and see which paw they use to bat at it.

Put a treat in a toy and see which paw they use to hold it.

Place a treat under a piece of furniture just out of reach and see which paw they use to try and get it.

When you ask your pet to shake or high-five which paw do, they use?

Simple, no. You need to do the tests about a hundred times and keep the score to determine the dominant paw. Horses are another factor in hoof preference. Racehorses mostly only need to lean left but show horses need to be ambidextrous to perform better. Then there are gorillas and chimpanzees. And what about elephants? Not really a subject to dwell on here, but could make for an interesting intellectual argument if you are so inclined.

Now let's get back to dogs. Research published in the Journal of Veterinary Behavior suggests that dogs that are ambidextrous make better guard and guide dogs and that could be life-saving. It also suggests that there is a link between left paw preference and aggression toward people they've never met before. Factors that could determine breeding.

Dr. Stefanie Schwartz of the Veterinary Neurology Center in Tustin, California says that determining paw preference won't make your pet a better pet or more human-like, but the curiosity factor of it all makes it worthwhile. Now if you want to kill some real-time, look for your pet's belly button. The short answer is, "yes." they have one. All placental mammals will have belly buttons, but in dogs and cats, they fade and turn into a thin scar that heals over time. There are no innies and outies like humans, but it might be fun to try and find them.

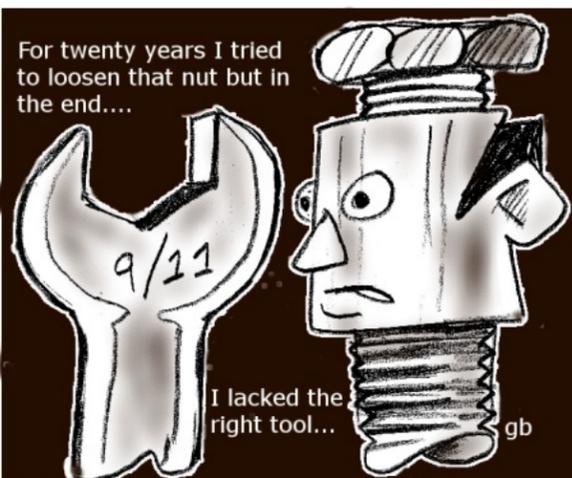
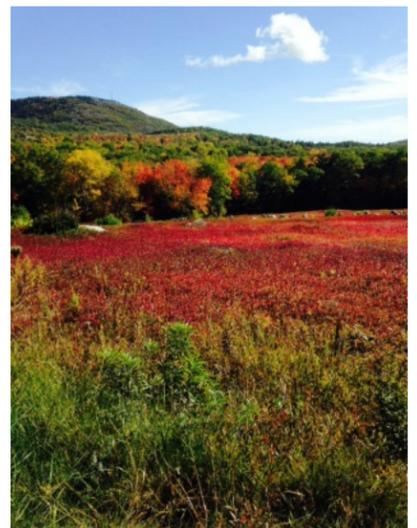
Savoring September

by Steve Carroll

As each year sweeps by, our memories of September seem to linger just a little longer. That fleeting moment spanning the gap between seasons when we can kiss summer one last time and gently slide into fall's embrace. Apple picking and pumpkins, the bright orange and yellow flowers, warm days and cool crisp nights. Enjoying the frolic of the many fall festivals, the Blue Hill Fair and Common Ground. It's back to school, off to college and the roar of weekend football.

September travels by so fast we always seem to wonder why it couldn't stay a little bit longer. As we busy ourselves with the many fall chores, getting in the wood, closing up camp or winterizing the house. Making that last weekend getaway before the weather changes. It seems as though if you live in New England you are always hurrying to keep ahead of the seasons, a day at the beach, planting, pruning, preparing for winter. Not enough time to enjoy each day before it's over. Summer fun, the thrill of fall, the chill of winter and the anticipation of spring. It

all seems to go by so fast. Sit back and savor all the splendor of September - go apple picking, take a hike, get out on the water, for soon October will come knocking, the days will be shorter and the sweet warmth of September will be gone with the wind. Savor September while you can, it won't be back until next year.



Local Talk Radio (and TV)
With Hosts Joe Steinberger and Steve Carrroll
Wednesdays, 5-6 pm on WRFR 93.3 and MCTV Ch. 7

Reader comments and other contributions are always welcome at the Buzz: email steinberger@gwi.net - or on the Metro Show: call 593-0013



WHN will no longer be allowed

by Glen Birbeck

The board of our organization, the Society for Open Transparency and Fairness, has without any dissenters, removed our chairman from his position. His name has been removed from the SOTF's masthead and membership rolls. We are not using WHN's name as we feel that would only continue the damage caused by his transgressions which have recently come to light thanks to diligent researchers on the internet. Their finding was reported to the board which acted quickly. WHN (our former leader) is documented to have disparaged an important agricultural product. In so doing WHN threatened the livelihood of that backbone of our republic, the American Farmer. In 2006 his own mother on her Facebook page described his diatribe against....spinach. According to her he called it "horrible" and "awful". Way back then this sort of youthful outburst might have been tolerated, but not in these enlightened times. How many spinach farmers were injured by his careless slander? impossible to say. What we can say is that the SOTF will end our association with WHN. When we informed his employer of his removal from our board WHN was immediately fired. Then his wife left him. When confronted by these revelations his mother's garden club gave her the choice of disowning her son or resigning from the club. She, being an avid gardener, chose the former. It is reported that her vegetable patch contains a Hearty variety of....spinach. a food I personally can't get enough of.

WRFR is community radio in Rockland

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WEEK SEVENTY-EIGHT COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

By Phyllis Merriam

Labor Day begins with thick fluffy grey fog moving rapidly over Owls Head into Rockland. After the fog moves offshore, the sunshine is welcomed.

New corona virus cases of unvaccinated Mainers keep increasing daily, at levels not seen since last winter. Cases now include unvaccinated front line medical staffs, which have an October 1st deadline to get vaccinated. The Labor Day holiday seems likely to increase cases even more. Whatever happened to personal responsibility to our greater community, especially toward precious children who are too young for vaccinations?

I have noticed more mask wearers in grocery stores, which is somewhat reassuring. However, not enough people are complying, including many tourists. Our Maine congressional delegation could be vocal on this topic and do PSA's, pressers, etc. to encourage compliance. They're silence is deafening.

Reading stories around the country of the unvaccinated assaulting masked teachers, students, airline stewardesses and others, makes me think certain politicians, with authoritarian postures, are having more negative influence than I naively thought possible.

I find nature in its local forms a helpful way to see some semblance of normalcy in these abnormal times. Crows that come for their daily breakfast I provide are an unending source of amusement and amazement. Ospreys that nest every year at The Head of the Bay are wise flight instructors for their fledglings. Adult ospreys have amazing wing power and flying abilities to hover over the water as they search out fish. Squirrels can be funny acrobats as they chase one another round and round tree trunks and wrestle one another rolling on the ground. They also can be annoying when they dig in my patio plant pots to bury their food. My neighbor's flower gardens are unending pleasurable changes in species and colors as the growing season progresses. An abundance of sunflowers now dip their golden heads heavy with seeds. A chipmunk scurries away, tail up, barely visible in my peripheral vision. Domestic dogs of any number of breeds, with their leashed owners, command the Harbor Trail. A Morning Glory's fading life span leaves it's unique blue color in my memory.

In my mind, endurance seems to be the background theme of this pandemic. How long will it last? How much uncertainty can people tolerate? How strong will we all be? How many have suffered and died of Covid in our Mid-Coast communities and how do their survivors manage their loss and grief? How much longer will I be writing these Random Notes?



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