



STRAND ON THE AIR WINDS UP SUMMER WITH CARNIVAL OF LAUGHS

Grab your fried dough, your frozen slushie, and your big cardboard bowl full of french fries and head to the radio for STRAND ON THE AIR's August broadcast! The "All's Fair Special" can be heard on Sunday, August 28 at 5pm by tuning in to WRFR at 93.3 in Rockland or by streaming at WRFR.org. Following their broadcasts, these radio variety shows are made available to stream on the Strand Theatre website at RocklandStrand.com, and as podcasts.

Liz McLeod and the Strand Family Players will promenade down the midway with original comedy sketches, as Brittany Parker and Friends holding forth in the music tent along with selected highlights from the Midcoast Music Academy's recent summer recital. All Things Rescinded explores the wonders of Beano, the perils of the "Back To Preschool" season, and "Every Reason To Love September," while down in Abysmal Point, Mrs. Grunden, Gertie Crummet, Edith Menhaden, and Lilita wonder if they'll ever get down from the top of a stalled Ferris Wheel. It's end-of-the-summer radio fun at its funnest!

Join the WRFR/Buzz team

Radio station WRFR and our magazine the Buzz are all-volunteer efforts. We are open to everyone, and we need your help.

Do you have skills that could help us give voice to our Rockland community? Go wrfr.org



Glen Birbeck's back yard as seen by his new drone camera. Can you find Glen in the photo?

The Big Lose

by Fred Bloom

The most terrible experience of my young life, and what would torment my inner life for years thereafter was something that I didn't even suffer myself, and barely even witnessed. It was on the playground of Hanley Junior High School in St. Louis. There was a boy lying on the asphalt with a group of boys standing around him. He had just lost a fight with the school bully and he was moaning plaintively, "He didn't have to squeeze my balls. He didn't have to squeeze my balls"- over and over.

I felt his situation in the depths of my young adolescent soul. It was something far worse than the pain of traumatized testicles. I had come upon a vision of the most terrible thing- to be broken in spirit.

Had he simply lain on the ground and suffered in silence he would just have been a kid who lost a fight. But, I couldn't imagine, after his plaintive crying in front of those other boys, how he could ever stand up and go on with his life.

This morning, sixty-some years after the event, that boy comes to mind as I read that Liz Cheney, as expected, was defeated in the primary for her seat in Congress, and I am pondering, why now that memory would come up. It's not because Cheney was humiliated by her loss- quite the opposite. She is ennobled by it. Rather, it's the winners- those who say the election was stolen- who bring to mind that poor guy on the asphalt that day long ago.

What is the Big Lie which seems to be so much a necessary part of every fascist movement. The crucial thing is not that the Great Bully makes his followers believe the lie. It's that he makes them SAY they believe it. The people who actually believe the big lie are only duped. It's those who know that it's a lie, and yet say it- they are the true disciples of the Big Bully. They are the one's who have been broken, like we break horses.

There was, at one time, this idea of honor. If a man lost his honor, he became a nothing. No one could look on him with anything but contempt. A man would die before he would lose his honor. We don't use that word anymore. It would sound so... old fashioned. But, whether we use the word or not, it's honor that the Big Bully demands from his followers. It's what they have to lose in order to be on his team.

They know he lost the election. And he knows that they know. That is the point. They have become what he needs them to be. To have the power that he wants, he has to be the truth, and there shall be no other truth before him. If someone were to say, I don't believe that Trump won the election, but I support Trump anyway because of I agree with his ideas and his policies, it would not be enough. Trump would still destroy that person. That's the significance of the Big Lie in a fascist movement. It demands that it's lieutenants accept that corruption of themselves to be considered then trustworthy.

These people have always been among us. They are not a modern phenomenon. What is lost is a language with which to name them. The writers of the New York Times and the Washington Post can no longer say that these men and women have lost their honor. It would sound old fashioned. The word no longer carries any weight, as they say.

Blacksmithing, Militia Training, and More at the Camden-Rockport Historical Society

On August 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Troops at Camden, a Maine living history group will be on the grounds of the 1770s Thorndike Homestead in Camden. - an opportunity to learn what life was like in Maine during the Revolutionary War period.

This entrance to the Homestead is on Route 1, next to Hannaford on the Camden-Rockport town line.

Children will have an opportunity to take part in a "basic training for new soldiers", based on a Revolutionary War manual. The new recruits will receive enlistment papers, which they can sign using a quill and ink. The sessions last 20-30 minutes, and will be offered at 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Interested families should visit the "recruiting officer" for more information about participation.

The historic Thorndike house will also be open to the public. Visitors can learn about 18th century daily living through demonstrations and participatory activities. On the surrounding grounds, there will be soldier campfire cooking with recipes from the period, as well as a weaving demonstration. Camden militia reenactors will show the arms and accoutrements of a local soldier, and a variety of Colonial games and toys.

Special guest Hannes Moll will demonstrate blacksmithing techniques in the Homestead's Blacksmith Shop.

Please contact the Camden-Rockport Historical Society at CRHSME@myfairpoint.net, and follow on Facebook.



Watts Hall News



Watts Hall Community Arts was chartered by the town of Thomaston late last year to take charge of the building's second floor performance space. WHCA is looking forward to offering its first season of activities in the downtown Watts Hall and wants the local community to help shape it.

"We're here for you, and we want to know what you want to see in this wonderful community space," said WHCA board member Charlie Grover.

A daytime performance by the Children's Theater of Maine is planned for the beginning of September, and a gala season-opening later in the month. Right now, the board wants to know what kind of programming Thomaston residents, and those in neighboring communities, would like to see in this historic space.

New board member Kendray Rodriguez has put together an online survey to help WHCA gauge interest in the many options Watts Hall can host. The public is urged to make its voice heard.

Visit wattshallthomaston.com for a calendar of events, contact information, and a link to the survey.

Don't Forget Coastal Mountain's Thrill of the Hill Relay Race Saturday, August 20 starting at 9 am. To register, go coastalmountains.org

Sunday, August 21, 4:30pm:

Breakers Jazz Band under the tent.

A free concert on the shores of Rockland's working waterfront.

Breakers Jazz Band plays popular standards and Make-You-Want-To-Dance classics of pop and rock.



CELEBRATE Capt. JIM SHARP's 89 YEAR MARITIME LEGACY AT THE SAIL, POWER & STEAM MUSEUM

Jim's birthday celebration and museum open house on Monday, August 22 from 10 am to 2 pm is free and open to all.

And join us on WRFR's Metro show at 5 pm next Wednesday, August 24 when Capt. Jim Sharp will be our guest.



The Rockland Metro Show
Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm
on WRFR and MaineCoast.tv

On the Metro Show we try to have the conversation America needs today, Co-hosted by Steve Carroll and Joe Steinberger, the show features lively, friendly and constructive conversations between people from different backgrounds and political perspectives. Listen or watch, and call 593-0013 with your questions and comments.

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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 ONE HUNDRED-TWENTY-SEVEN

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

GOP's full-blown hysteria over the FBI court approved raid at Trump's Palm Beach domicile likely won't dim even as reports emerge some of the federal government documents contain classified nuclear information sitting in Donald's basement. Trump sheds new light on the art of palming it.

Friday night's sky will feature the last super moon of 2022 and Perseid showers. I may not be able to stay up so late when the meteor showers appear. The Sturgeon Moon will be brighter than a usual full moon and will mostly obscure the meteors.

Once when I was observing meteor showers, I had my head back so far I almost fell over.

Trump's cult is staging armed protests at a few FBI offices; so far, no overt aggression. Media reports increasing national threats of violence toward the FBI. Initially Trump made claims the FBI planted the documents and now he's saying he declassified them. Or he's saying he has executive privilege. Or he says the docs have lawyer/client privilege. By next week, he should have another twenty rationales.

Very confusing new Covid CDC guidelines seem to me to be politically designed for the midterms. Our country is fed-up with protections from the virus; keeping in mind we've had the most covid deaths than any other developed country. Votes v. the virus come November. Meanwhile, I remain in the masked territory minority.

Up early to see the mauve and pink sky with Venus like a jewel perfectly aligned atop the moon. Morning sunrise beauty is beyond any words I know.

Chicken Little: "The sky is falling!" A piece of metal that may have been from a passenger jet's wing fell from the sky narrowly missing a Capitol Police officer at the State House.

A Ken Kesey almost-look-alike school bus, with "Wonder Bus" painted on its side, was observed driving around the South End.

Putin is running short of combat troops and is now conscripting convicts.

Ukraine has successfully targeted Russian planes, ammo depots and Crimea. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, is under the control of Putin's army and poses a catastrophic threat. It is feared any "accident" will be a Russian false flag blaming Ukraine.

My favorite Republican, Liz Cheney, lost her primary as the price for standing for the Constitution and unmasking Trump.



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