

Gleanings

10 years ago

From the Journal Tribune: "On Tuesday at 11 a.m., 14 communities that previously received emergency dispatch services from York County Communications saw their service switched to a regional communications center in Gray, operated by the communications bureau of the state Department of Public Safety. Despite a few procedural glitches and modulation issues, system users and state communications bureau personnel Thursday said the switch-over is going well, in the three days since the change."

50 years ago

From the Biddeford-Saco Journal: "Two Old Orchard Beach youths pleaded guilty in York County this morning to charges of arson in connection with the destruction by fire of the Federal School in Old Orchard Beach on Sept. 13, 1966. Justice Lincoln Spencer continued sentencing on David M. Marcotte and Larry M. Savoy on a day-to-day basis."

100 years ago

From the Biddeford Daily Journal: "An unknown man, believed to be a burglar, entered the house of Hon. Edward W. Wheeler at Brunswick Friday night, and escaped after a struggle with Fred A. Wheeler, Mr. Wheeler's brother, who found him in the room occupied by Dean Kenneth C.M. Sills of Bowdoin College. Early in the evening a man wearing a dark overcoat and a brown hat called at the door of the Wheeler residence asked to see Dean Sills. When told that the dean was out, he wanted to come in and wait for him, but was told that he would not return until a late hour."

— Ryder Schumacher

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2017. There are 345 days left in the year.

ON THIS DATE:

- In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.
- In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.
- In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.
- In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office for an unprecedented fourth term.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

TEN YEARS AGO

Twenty-five U.S. troops were killed in Iraq, including 12 in a helicopter crash in Baghdad and five in a sophisticated sneak attack in Karbala. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., launched her first campaign for the White House, saying in a videotaped message on her website: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas began a long-shot bid for the Republican presidential nomination (he withdrew in Oct. 2007).

FIVE YEARS AGO

France threatened to withdraw early from Afghanistan after an Afghan soldier killed four French troops and wounded 15 in a setback for the U.S.-led coalition's efforts to build a national army and allow foreign troops to go home. Singer Etta James, 73, died in Riverside, California.

ONE YEAR AGO

President Barack Obama hailed the revival of the nation's auto industry during a visit to Detroit while acknowledging the water crisis in nearby Flint, Michigan. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and NASA announced that 2015 was by far the hottest year in 136 years of record keeping. Kathryn Smith was promoted by the Buffalo Bills to take over as special teams quality control coach, making her the NFL's first full-time female coach.

— By The Associated Press

Quote of the day:

"America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."
— Alexis de Tocqueville, French author (1805-1859)

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Review

No doubt about it, latest Portsmouth play is a good one

By GREG MORRELL

Columnist

The tiny capsule of a theater, The Players' Ring, is currently presenting a provocative intimate drama of Catholic suspicion and intrigue. "Doubt, A Parable" was written by John Patrick Shanley and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in addition to the Tony award for Best Play in 2005.

The theater experience at the Portsmouth Players' Ring is unique. The confines of this tiny brick playhouse place the actors at arm's length from the audience. The low-ceilinged, former marine workshop creaks with age and barely manages to squeeze a stage out of its tight confinement. Yet, within its humble architecture theater thrives.

What succeeds so well within this exposed brick edifice is small cast dramas. "Doubt, A Parable" was an excellent choice. For 90 minutes of absorbing Catholic intrigue, we are taken back in time to the Saint Nicolas School in the Bronx section of New York City. The year is 1964, months after the assassination of JFK.

The play opens with a sermon by Father Flynn, a young beloved parish priest, new to Saint Nicolas. His progressive ideas and demeanor have become suspect to the hard-edged and rigidly conservative Sister Aloysius, the aged and crusty principal of the elementary school. She rules the school with an iron hand. She is feared by students and tries to instill the teachers with her cold-hearted moralistic discipline that includes a disdain for art, music, dance, basketball and ball point pens.

It is obvious from the get-go that a power struggle between the young and warm-hearted Father Flynn and the steely and oppressive Head Mistress Sister Aloysius will ensue.

The suspicions and menace of Sister Aloysius are fueled when news of alcohol



Pictured is a scene from "Doubt, A Parable" which is currently playing at The Players' Ring in Portsmouth.

consumption by one of the altar boys after a private meeting with Father Flynn is revealed.

The scourge of sexual misconduct of a dreaded homosexual nature is suspected.

The play touches on a series of sensitive issues that include gender inequality, sexuality, ethics, carnal shame and salacious behavior, leaving the audience much room for doubt. The ethical dilemma of right and wrong is wrestled with and tested by the proceedings.

Despite its size limitations, the set design is smartly conceived and very well executed. The exposed brick of the theater serves as a perfect background for the school. The creative use of space, two faux stained glass windows and a very clever use of props, takes us successfully to the pulpit, the principal's office, the basketball court and the outdoor garden on the periphery of the church property.

Special notice is well deserved by the sound design and sound production of music that underscores the action from beginning to end. Denise Gordon served as production coordinator, prop mistress, stage manager and sound designer. Her efforts greatly contributed to

the success of this play.

In this very intimate theatrical environment, where every bead of sweat and facial expression is under close scrutiny, the acting becomes paramount. In this production all four roles are competently portrayed. A special challenge is the role of Sister Aloysius. Trying to make her credible and able to impart to an audience the validity of her suspicions requires difficult maneuvering. Her ability to justify her malicious actions in an effort of moral rectitude is a lynchpin of the plot.

The production is ably directed by Kim Starling and features Matthew Schofield as Father Flynn, Haley DeValliere as the sweetly innocent Sister James, Sandi Clark as parental parent Mrs. Muller, and Donna M. Goldfarb as Sister Aloysius.

A 2008 film version of "Doubt, A Parable" starred Meryl Streep as Sister Aloysius, Phillip Seymour Hoffman as Father Flynn and Viola Davis as Mrs. Muller.

Admission to all productions at the Players' Ring is a very affordable \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. The current run of "Doubt, A Parable" will continue through Jan. 22. For reservations and more information call 603-436-8123.

The theater is located at 105 Marcy St. in the Strawberry Bank historic district of Portsmouth in Prescott Park. The Players' Ring is celebrating its 25th season this year. Fifteen productions make up the current season. Next up is Jean Genet's eerie play of exploitation and revolt, "The Maids" which opens on Jan. 27 and runs through Feb. 12. A pre-show cocktail or dinner is available directly across the street at MAMBO. For dinner reservations call 603-433-2340.

The Ring has been in active operation since 1992. Its lifeblood is a unique fraternity of actors, writers, technicians and theater generalists using the organization as their springboard of artistic endeavor. Each February the theater hosts an evening of production proposals for the following season. Directors and producers present a brief capsule of their production to the theater's artistic committee for a slot in next season's schedule. The theater welcomes new plays, improvisational comedy, or new interpretations of classics. For more information on submitting a proposal for review, call 603-436-8123.

— Greg Morell can be contacted at Morell.gregory@gmail.com.

Briefly

UNE dental students heading to externships

BIDDEFORD — Students in the inaugural graduating class at the University of New England College of Dental Medicine have begun the final component of their program: participation in the college's first community-based externships around New England.

Spanning the final year of dental school, the Community-Based Education program introduces students to clinical practice in areas with limited access to healthcare.

This year, 59 students are participating in up to three 12-week rotations at 36 designated sites across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Deerfield Valley Dental Care of Wilmington, Vermont has been selected as a community-based externship site.

Russell O'Connell (CDM '17) will be completing his training at Deerfield Valley Dental Care, where he will be supervised by Robert Ruhl, D.M.D, FICD, adjunct assistant professor in the College of Dental Medicine.

Students benefit from this unique opportunity in several ways, as they learn

how to provide care for diverse patient populations, attain real-world experience, witness firsthand the need for greater access to oral health care in Northern New England and experience the importance of social responsibility and leadership as a dental professional.

"Deerfield Valley Dental Care is honored to contribute to the education of our next generation of dentists," said Ruhl. "I look forward to working with Russell as he completes his training and gains thereal-life experience that many students do not receive in a traditional dental school education."

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, an innovative educational community with two distinctive coastal Maine campuses, a vibrant new campus in Tangier, Morocco, and a robust offering of degree and certificate programs online.

UNE is home to Maine's only medical and dental schools—part of a comprehensive health education mission built on a pioneering interprofessional approach that includes pharmacy, nursing and an array of allied health professions.

To learn more about the College of Dental Medicine, visit une.edu/dentalmedicine

Goodall Library workshops

Be calm: Color

Coloring Calm, Goodall Library's coloring workshop for adults is held from 6-7:30 p.m. on the following Mondays: Jan. 30, Feb. 27, and March 27. Coloring sheets and supplies will be provided (or folks can bring their own). Color in a relaxing group setting with music and refreshments provided.

Organizers say adult coloring, a focused and meditative activity, has been shown to have many positive benefits, mental and physical.

Meditate, relax

Whether you're a beginner or looking to deepen your practice, meditation workshops, led by Cindy Simon, are held from 4-5 p.m. on the following Mondays: Jan. 23, Feb. 13, and March 20.

Organizers urge folks to meditate to relieve anxiety, anger and depression by learning to live in the present moment. Enjoy deep stillness and quiet, and rid your mind of negative chatter. Live with more acceptance, happiness, and gratitude. Learn how to bring meditation into your everyday life.

For more information contact Deidre or Jean @ 324-4714 or visit lbgoodall.org. The Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library is at 952 Main St., Sanford.

Lotteries

MASSACHUSETTS

Numbers – 1-2-8-7 (day)/0-4-0-7 (evening)
Lucky for Life – 04-07-15-24-27, Lucky Ball: 07

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Pick 3 – 0-4-0 (day)/9-6-4 (evening)
Pick 4 – 0-8-6-0 (day)/8-1-7-9 (evening)