

the Hippo

MARCH 26 - APRIL 1, 2020

KEEP THE KIDS
BUSY P. 14

COMFORT OF
FAMILIAR BEERS P. 21

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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GRANITE VIEWS **ROBIN MILNES**

Uncertain times



Each month when the due date for this column rolls around, I wonder what to write about. Then, invariably, that particular week there is a lot going on, with this week being no exception. COVID-19. Pandemic. State of emergency. Social distancing.

As we have grappled with how to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become clear that as a country and a state, we are learning as we go and building the systems in the trenches. We have realized as a society how very mobile, or on the move, we are, and for better or worse we are re-learning what it's like to be more restricted. From schools shutting down to restaurant closings, to grocery stores with empty shelves and the cancellation of hundreds of events, this is a new "new" for all of us. We are fortunate to live in a country where freedom is at our fingertips and supplies are plentiful. For many of us this is the first time we have been tested in this fashion.

It is time for all of us to heed the advice being given over and over and over again. Social distancing is one of the most important things we can do right now to stop the spread of the contamination. We are dealing with a health crisis right now and also an economic crisis. The economic crisis will not get under control until we contain the health crisis. That is only going to happen if we do what is being asked of us. Please stay home unless going out for essential items such as food, groceries or prescriptions. And, please, do not hoard essential items. We are all in this together, and it is a time to extend kindness to your fellow mankind, many of whom have been laid off, have high-risk family members or are connected to somebody with a positive diagnosis.

In a state where our motto is "Live free or die," there is a line being walked of maintaining that freedom and keeping the public safe. Gov. Sununu is leading us through these uncharted waters with nimbleness and fortitude, issuing new emergency declarations almost daily. Some say he is moving too slowly; others feel he is doing too much. I say he is doing the best he can and am grateful for his leadership. In his words, "When Granite Staters come together, we set an example for the rest of the world." Agreed. Do the right thing. Stay home. Stay healthy. Stay safe.

Robin Milnes is a small business owner and advocate with more than 30 years of experience in real estate acquisitions, property management, sales, leasing, budgeting, fiscal oversight, human resources and administration. She can be reached at rmilnes@inex.com.

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ON THE COVER

17 KEEP CALM & CARRY OUT Some local restaurants have turned to carryout and delivery during the ban on dine-in services. Find out more about what they're doing to stay afloat, how it's affected them so far, and what they're hoping for the future.

ALSO ON THE COVER,

find fun indoors and outside in Kiddie Pool, p. 14. Adults can take comfort in brews recommended by our beer columnist (p. 21), and keep busy with crossword puzzles and sudoku (p. 27-30).


**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
OUT**

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First COVID-19 death

One person in New Hampshire has died from COVID-19, health officials announced at a press conference on Monday, March 23. According to WMUR, the Hillsborough County patient was a man over the age of 60 with multiple existing health conditions. As of the morning of March 24, health officials had reported that there were 23 new cases of COVID-19 in the state, bringing the total number of cases to 101. Of those cases, 11 people are currently hospitalized. Health officials also said that New Hampshire should be prepared to see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the coming weeks.

No new restrictions

As a growing number of states issue “shelter in place” orders, Gov. Sununu did not order any new restrictions at the press conference held Monday, March 23. According to WMUR, he has limited public gatherings to no more than 10 people, in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and continues urging residents to stay home as much as possible and practice social distancing. He did acknowledge at the press conference, however, that he may have no choice but to implement more extreme measures in the future, depending on how the COVID-19 situation in New Hampshire develops.

Emergency orders

Numerous emergency orders have been issued in the past week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 18, Gov. Sununu issued three Emergency Orders: No. 6 grants temporary authorization for all establishments in the state holding both a restaurant license and an on-premise license from the New Hampshire Liquor Commission to offer takeout or delivery of beer or wine. Emergency Order No. 7 gives school districts greater flexibility in developing remote learning software tools. Emergency Order No. 8 provides temporary expansion of access to telehealth services to ensure that residents can receive qual-

ity health care without putting themselves, health care providers and the public at greater risk.

On March 19, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 9, to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Healthcare System Relief Fund to ensure that hospitals continue to operate and individuals can get the health care they need.

On March 21, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 10, requiring all grocers and retail stores to temporarily transition to the use of single-use paper or plastic bags as reusable bags pose the risk of increasing community transmission of the coronavirus.

On March 23, Sununu issued Emergency Orders No. 11 through 15. The orders include temporary authority to perform secure remote online notarizations; temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A, which will allow government bodies to conduct meetings through electronic means while preserving the public’s right to access the content of those meetings; temporary allowance for pharmacists and pharmacies in the state to compound and sell hand sanitizer over the counter, and for pharmacy technicians to perform non-dispensing tasks remotely; temporary authorization for out-of-state pharmacies to act as licensed mail-order facilities within New Hampshire; and temporary authorization for out-of-state medical providers to provide medically necessary services and services through telehealth.

And on March 24, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 16, temporarily prohibiting scheduled gatherings of 10 or more people.

Details of all Emergency Orders can be found at governor.nh.gov.

Aggressive actions

According to a March 24 press release from the Office of the Governor, a recent WalletHub report ranked New Hampshire as the fourth most aggressive state for taking action to stop the spread of COVID-19. WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez elaborated on the ranking, stating that New Hampshire has administered one

of the largest numbers of tests, yet has a very low share of confirmed cases. The state has also restricted travel, closed schools and restaurants and bars and has permitted a freeze on evictions, foreclosures and utility bill collections. See the full report at wallethub.com/edu/most-aggressive-states-against-coronavirus/72307.

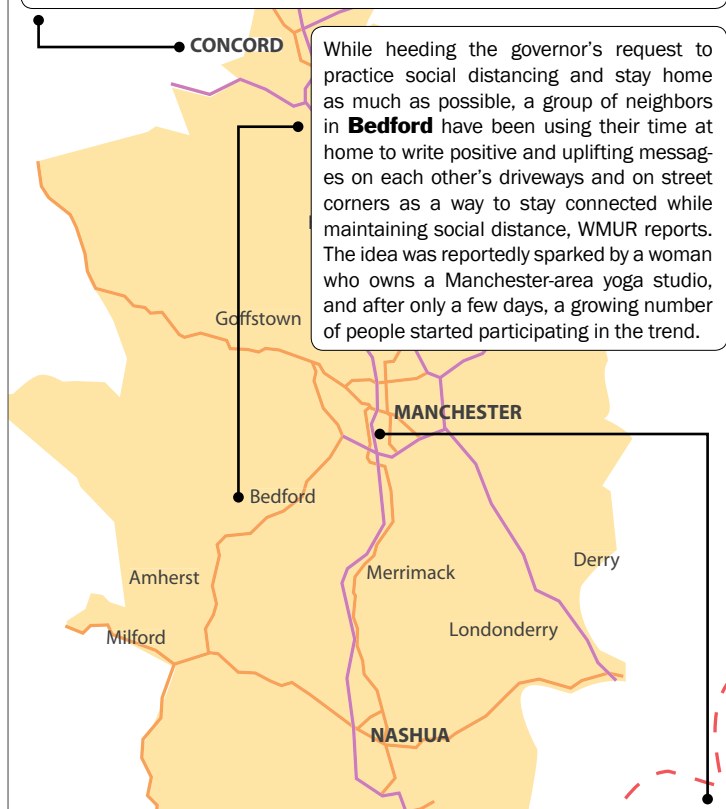
Disaster loans

New Hampshire’s application for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans has been approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Gov. Sununu announced on March 18. The loans provide up to \$2 million to help small businesses overcome the revenue they have lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that the businesses are struggling to pay. The SBA announced on March 12 that it would make the loans available upon request from a state’s governor. New Hampshire became one of the first states in the country to be approved for the loans. The SBA praised Gov. Sununu and his team at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs for prioritizing small businesses in New Hampshire and submitting the request during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on New Hampshire communities. New Hampshire small businesses can apply for disaster assistance at sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance.

DMV adjustments

The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles announced in a March 18 press release that, due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, it would transition to providing services online and by phone, which went into effect on March 23. Online services include driver’s license renewal, I.D. renewals and online ticket paying. Driver’s license road exams are canceled until April 3. Limited walk-in services are available by appointment only and consolidated to Concord, Dover, Manchester, Newport and Twin Mountain. Additionally, NH DMV 20-day plates and

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, which operates out of **Concord**, announced in a March 23 press release the launch of the #OneThing4Earth Video Challenge to recognize the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The challenge invites people to record a short video or take photos of themselves doing something that is good for Earth, then encourage their family and friends to do the same. Participants should post their videos or photos on any or all social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, using the #OneThing4Earth hashtag and tagging NHDES.



NH authorized dealer 20-day plates issued on or after Feb. 26 have been granted an extension through April 30 (does not apply to vehicle registration renewals), and NH DMV non-commercial driver’s licenses and non-driver I.D. cards that are expired or set to expire between March 1 and April 30 are eligible for a six-month extension. As of March 24, the DMV said there are no special exceptions or extensions for inspections.

COVID-19 testing

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced in a March 20 press release some new recommendations to help health care providers determine who should be tested for COVID-19. The recommendations state that testing every person with mild symptoms is “impractical” and “does not change how a person’s illness

is managed.” Testing priority should be given to people who are at the most risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19, including people age 60 and over and people with chronic medical problems who are experiencing symptoms. People who do not fall into that vulnerable demographic who are experiencing mild symptoms should stay home for at least seven days after symptoms appear and at least 72 hours after symptoms have subsided without the use of fever-reducing medications. People who do not experience symptoms but have been or may have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for or is presumed to be infected with COVID-19 should self-quarantine for 14 days from the time of possible exposure and follow all other recommendations if symptoms develop. The recommendations are pro-

NEWS SHORTS CONTINUED ON PG 7 ▶

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Home school

Education shifts to virtual classrooms

On March 15, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Sununu issued an Executive Order that, effective Monday, March 16, all K-12 public schools in New Hampshire close and begin developing a remote instruction program to be fully implemented no later than Monday, March 23, and to continue through at least Friday, April 3. Frank Edelblut, commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Education, talks more about how educators, families and students are making the shift to the new education model.

Q: *What is the current state of New Hampshire's education system?*

We did not 'close' our schools. We've transitioned our model over to remote instruction. ... We started working on this well in advance of the [governor's] order coming out. Many schools had already done the legwork and were ready to transition to this model, but other schools needed more time to get up to speed, so we wanted to make sure they had a preparatory period. ... None of us have the expectation that it will execute perfectly on Day 1, but we're going to work with each other and adapt and move forward. It's a learning experience, but it's not a bad thing to learn and stretch ourselves, and I think it can continue to get better and improve. We're proud of how students, families and educators have been embracing the challenges that we are facing here, and I encourage [them] to be flexible as we go on this adventure together and learn some new things.



Frank Edelblut. Courtesy photo.

as well and implementing it just like the public schools. Our mission is to support all educators and learners in the state, both public and private schools.

What guidelines must educators and families follow for this new learning model?

The guidelines are the same; we have just changed the instruction model. There is no change in terms of our minimum standards of education. We've just changed the tool we use to bring our students to brighter futures. Our objective hasn't changed. ... Students aren't required to put in an eight-hour day. They are required to demonstrate their mastery and competency. ... There will be a variety of schedules across the state, some very structured and others very flexible. We may have students with younger siblings who are helping their younger siblings with their work and then engaging with their own material later in the day. There are all kinds of approaches, but the one thing that seems fairly consistent is that there are a lot of structured check-ins [from educators] with students.

How is remote instruction being put into practice?

We are supporting students in a number of ways: remote support for remote instruction, food service programs, and support for special education students who need special support. We have virtual resources, like video calls ... [and] webinars for teachers and school leaders to help them get a handle on this. ... We've held training sessions on Google Hangouts that had 800 [educators participate]. There are a lot of resources available, but it's really up to the districts. Different districts have different attributes that are unique to their communities, and it's important that that be reflected in their model. In urban areas, like Manchester, we've redeployed buses to do food deliveries. In rural districts, we've reached out to the sheriffs' departments. Each district has to assess its capacity as far as connectivity and access to computer resources. We recently sent out close to 1,000 computers to students across the Manchester School District.

How are private schools responding to the order?

The order only applies to public schools, but many private schools are following suit and adopting the remote instruction approach

Is the remote instruction model different for different grades?

Instruction is obviously quite different depending on the age of the students. For students in high school, there is more digital engagement. For younger students, you'll find a combination of digital engagement and [physical] materials and books that they can use at home, because we don't want them sitting in front of a computer all the time. It doesn't always mean one-student-one-computer, either. We can create communities online where [students and educators] can engage with one another, so it's very dynamic. ... Educators may be able to provide video content in a stand-and-deliver model, then students 'go home' and do their homework, and, after they engage with that content, maybe they bring it back to a Google Hangouts [session] or Zoom room where the students can engage with one another. ... There is a lot of online collaboration and two-way engagement. Folks can see one another and talk to one another, and they have chat boxes and can present content and share content with one another. It's a virtual classroom.

HOME SCHOOL CONTINUED ON PG 7 ►

Are educators continuing with their current curriculum despite the change in their teaching format?

Most educators are not abandoning or walking away from their syllabi. ... We don't want to turn that upside down. They've just had to get creative in finding ways to execute their syllabi as they shift their instruction model from a classroom to a virtual classroom. ... Most importantly, we want to make sure [educators'] communication with students stays consistent.

How will remote instruction affect student testing?

There are all kinds of assessment options. [Educators] can still pass out [tests] electronically, but I think what we'll see more of is project-based assessments — having the students actually do something, then present it digitally, or take a video of [themselves] making something, then show that video to an educator. It won't be too different from the assessments in our current classrooms, but it will be a different way of presenting it.

What kind of feedback have you received from schools that have already begun to practice remote instruction?

We've heard a lot of stories and a lot of positive feedback. ... Everyone has been really positively engaged. We started the hashtag #NHLearnsRemotely and asked

people to post about the work that they have been doing, and there are a lot of good stories about how our educators and school leaders and families are adjusting their lives to these current circumstances.

What can parents and guardians do to facilitate remote instruction?

We have put some resources out for parents ... [like] webinars where they can get some specific advice about helping students in this environment. One piece of advice I would offer to parents is that they should embrace the opportunity and find a chance to be present with their children. They don't have to rush them out the door to the bus anymore. They can spend time with them and enjoy [having them home].

What has been the biggest challenge of shifting to remote instruction?

The biggest challenge is keeping everyone on the same page as far as our goals and how we're going to [reach them], and understanding that we're making this shift in an environment where people have broader concerns to cope with, like coronavirus itself. This isn't just about the shift of students to a remote [learning] environment. That's just one of many moving parts for families, and I think families are doing a great job at moving with all those moving parts.

— Angie Sykeny

vided in response to the nationwide lack of testing equipment and are designed to help health care providers conserve testing equipment for people in the high-risk demographic. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center announced in a March 23 press release that it is now able to provide COVID-19 testing, and that the number of tests that can be performed daily could be as many as 1,000, but, in alliance with the NHDHHS recommendations, is limiting testing to hospitalized patients and to health care workers and first responders who have had direct contact with infected patients.

Keep on running

In a March 23 press release, Millennium Running announced the launch of a free, motivational fitness program that participants can do from home while practicing social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The "Training in Progress Challenge" is an 8-week program that provides daily and weekly coaching for novice, recreational and competitive runners and walkers, and challenges participants to run or walk a "themed virtual 5k" each week in their own neighborhoods and upload their times to log their progress. More than 1,000 people have already registered for the program. Millennium Running,

based out of Bedford, promotes and produces 26 signature events each year, but has canceled or postponed all of its scheduled events until further notice. Visit millenniumrunning.com.

Watch your ash

New Hampshire forestry and local fire officials are urging people to exercise extreme caution when disposing of the ashes from their woodstoves and outdoor wood boilers. According to a press release from the New Hampshire Forest Protection Bureau's Division of Forests & Lands, careless disposal of hot wood ashes combined with the dry spring conditions resulted in small brush fires reported in several communities in the southern part of the state. Wood ash is particularly dangerous because of its ability to insulate live embers, which can easily come into contact with and ignite dry leaves and grasses and possibly cause a wildfire. Fire officials said the safest way to dispose of the ashes is to store them in a metal container with a secured lid, place the container outside and away from other combustible materials, and leave it there for several days. Visit nh.gov/nhdfl/community/daily-fire-danger.htm for daily updates on fire danger conditions and information about fire laws, administrative rules and open burning permit requirements.

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With Diane Davidson

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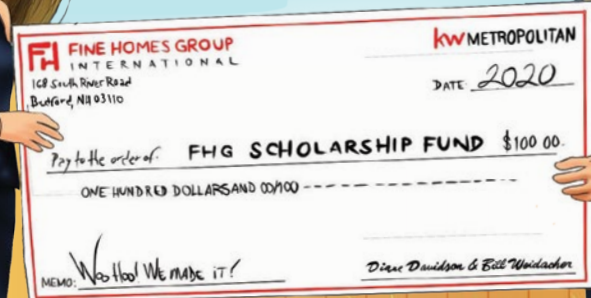
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Looney week sends TB to TB



Not that it really matters amid the astonishing impact the coronavirus menace is having on us all, but last week was still a crazy time for sports in New England.

As seems always to be the case, a huge story broke as we were going to press. So I had to wait a full week to say what I had to say about **Tom Brady** leaving the nest at 43, which I will do in two parts over the next two weeks.

Admittedly that makes me a partner in driving this story so far into the ground it's threatening to open a new channel to China. I know with no games going on the five-days-a-week sports media folks have a tough row to hoe. But it's now gone beyond the football stories of losing the best player in franchise history, how will the Pats re-tool, what do they have in **Jarrett Stidham** — or is it actually Jared Stidham and how often will I misremember that in Year 1? — at 43 can Brady still play on a level approaching his GOAT game, and was that last question why his free agent market was so slim.

Instead it's become a full-blown soap opera. Tom hates Bill. Or is it, Tom just hates *playing* for Bill? Did he leave for the money? A desire to call his own plays? Better weather? Did he really demand a uniform redesign so he won't look like a doofus in those awful Tampa Bay duds? Where do the desires of Super G fit into the defection? Ditto for background yapping from agent **Don Yee**, looney TB-12 business partner **Alex Guerrero** and others in the inner circle. Meanwhile you've got the New York papers wallowing in their glee over Coach B's PR and probable on-field predicament after, with two notable exceptions, having it shoved down their throats by its archrival city to the north for 20 long years.

As all of the noise swirls around the story, it once again highlights the biggest difference between sports fans in NYC and those in Boston. No matter how dumb they look, New Yawkas think they know everything about everything and no one can tell them different. Here it's just blame, blame, blame, which I happen to hate. It's Brady's fault. Bill blew it. **Bob Kraft** could have stopped it by forcing Bill to give Brady what he wanted no matter what. After doing that over Jimmy G., not doing so here is the tell that the owner was OK with Tom leaving. But since the glory-hound owner knows full well what it's like around here, he didn't want to be tagged with the blame. So he subtly laid it all on Bill with a bizarre analogy about things going bad between a husband and wife. Gee, who was Tom married to football-wise?

But craziest of all is that few seem to realize that even with former Coach B's ex-assistants pillaging his highly ranked defense, the Patriots didn't even have the worst week among local sports teams. That would be the Red Sox, who capped a frightful off-season by losing **Chris Sale** to **Tommy John** surgery for up to two seasons, which means the first \$60 million of his new \$150 million deal is flushed down the toilet. The contract was signed last spring while Sale was coming off an injury-riddled second half to 2018 that limited him to a few shaky post-season starts and two one-inning relief stints. Lucky for them the full Monty of the harangue was muted by the Brady soap opera.

If you need a scorecard for those stories, allow me. It has the brass from both teams getting pounded for doing the opposite in the exact same situation. Coach B is getting it for exhibiting the same frugal contractual approach that's been an essential component to 20 years of NFL dominance by refusing to give his 43-year-old icon QB coming off an

awful year the two-year commitment he wanted. Meanwhile **John Henry** is hearing it for opening the vault to please those who equate good ownership with spending wildly even when it's done unwisely. That is until it goes bad as it did with Sale, **Pablo Sandoval** and **Hanley Ramirez**, et al. Then it's "how could you do that?" All of which makes me wonder: If the teams had just swapped GM's would everybody be happy? Because there's no way Coach B gives Sale that deal under those circumstances, while Henry would have given TB-12 all he wanted. Anyone out there not see the irony in that?

As for Tom leaving. I'm fine with it because it was going to end sometime anyway. Now it's just a little sooner. Plus, like him, I'm ready for something new after 20 years. Especially since I know the salary cap issues couldn't stop the defections on defense let alone put enough new talent around an aging QB to beat **Pat Mahomes** in KC or **Lamar Jackson** after what Baltimore just added to their D.

But don't think for a second I don't appreciate what he did during his phenomenal run that gave us far more sports joy than anyone deserves. If you read this column you know what I admire about Brady — competitive, tough, smart, cool under pressure, a great teammate and leader, as clutch as anyone I've ever seen — and what I always liked best — the fight it took to be by far the best quarterback sneaker ever. How many times in 20 years when they needed a yard for a big first down or important TD did he not get it? I can think of one, but he then got it on the next down. In other words he delivered.

So bon voyage, Tom. You were class personified. For your sake I hope the grass in those hideous uniforms actually is greener on the other side.

Thanks for the memories.
Email Dave Long at dlong@hippo-press.com.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

You can sew masks for hospital staff and patients

As many hospitals struggle with a shortage of critical personal protective equipment, particularly masks, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, based in Lebanon, is now preparing kits with fabric and elastic for local pickup and has created a page on its website (dartmouth-hitchcock.org) with written and video instruction on how to sew the masks, according to a press release from the hospital. "Our volunteers ... and other community volunteers have been asking how to contribute during this time of need," Kristin Roth, director of volunteer services at DHMC, said in the press release. "Sewing masks gives them ... the opportunity to band together as a community to serve something bigger than ourselves." The donated fabric masks will be sanitized by DHMC environmental services and distributed to staff, patients and visitors across the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health system.

Comment: Other New Hampshire hospitals are also turning to the community for donations of personal protective equipment. Concord Hospital is "urgently requesting" new N95 masks and hand sanitizer, which community members can drop off at the hospital's visitor entrance, according to the hospital's website. Catholic Medical Center in Manchester is also asking for community donations of face masks, N95 masks, splash guards, non-latex gloves, disposable gowns, protective suits, disinfecting wipes and disposable stethoscopes, according to its website. Donors can deliver their donations to the hospital in person or email cmc.marketing@cmc-nh.org to coordinate a drop-off.

SleepOut fundraiser goes virtual

Waypoint's annual SleepOut fundraiser brought in over \$342,000 this year to aid homeless youth, according to a press release from Waypoint. Traditionally, the SleepOut involves participants spending the night gathered together under open air tents in downtown Manchester and Exeter to raise awareness about homelessness among youth, but in response to the coronavirus, the format for this year's SleepOut was changed to a virtual sleep-out. Around 120 participants "slept out" at home, sharing photos on social media using the hashtag #NoRestUntil while their fundraising campaigns continued online. Waypoint provides services to young people experiencing homelessness, including street outreach, supplying basic needs, crisis care and transitional housing. Borja Alvarez de Toledo, president and CEO of Waypoint, said that the coronavirus pandemic puts homeless youth at a greater risk than ever. "While we have modified the way in which we are delivering services, in accordance with best prevention practices, we are still serving as a lifeline to them, and to all the populations we serve in their time of need," he said in the press release.

Comment: Gov. Chris Sununu, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, Congressman Chris Pappas and Sen. Maggie Hassan were among those who participated in the virtual sleep-out.

Market scenes: Hooksett Target, evening of March 23



Comment: Not a roll of toilet paper or paper towels to be had, but at least there were some bread options, and, more importantly, plenty of jelly beans and chocolate.

QOL score: 63 (the score is temporarily suspended, but QOL will still be keeping tabs on New Hampshire's well-being each week)

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.



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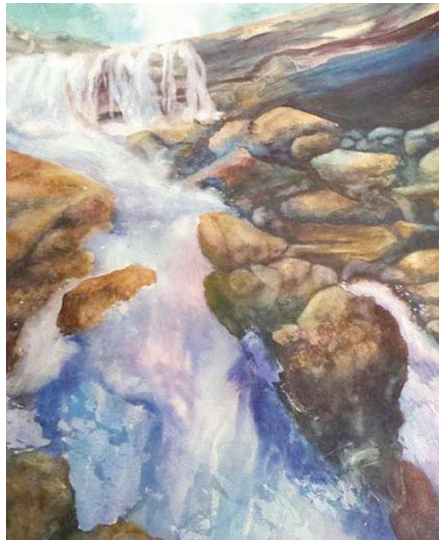
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Walls of their own

Manchester Artists Association waits to open new North End gallery



Art by Daniella Digiovanni. Courtesy photo.



Art by Sharon E. Allen. Courtesy photo.



Art by Howard Muscott. Courtesy photo.

By Angie Sykeny
 asykeny@hippopress.com

The Manchester Artists Association, the oldest active artists association in the city, is opening an art gallery in the Rines Center, located on Elm Street in the North End. The grand opening of North End Fine Art Gallery, originally scheduled for April 2, has been put on hold until June in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but MAA president Jim O'Donnell said members are looking forward to having "a place to call home."

"We have some very talented artists who are dedicated members and have been members for quite a while," O'Donnell said. "We really wanted to be able to provide them with a venue to showcase their work, and a way to get our name out there, because a lot of people don't know about us."

MAA was formed in 1967 to "provide fellowship, learning and inspiration" for artists, O'Donnell said. It currently has around 60 members and welcomes new members. Members work in a variety of media, including oil, watercolor, acrylic, pen and ink,

colored pencil, photography, mixed media and more.

Members meet on the first Monday of the month, September through June, at the Rines Center. At every meeting, the Association features a guest speaker, a local or regional artist, to discuss and demonstrate his or her art. Also at the meetings, members are welcome to share their art, and a group vote on the art determines eight members who will be named "Artist of the Month." Artists of the Month are awarded the opportunity to exhibit their art at eight local businesses that partner with MAA to hang MAA art on their walls.

MAA also has a monthly rotating exhibit at the Bedford Public Library, and has exhibited at Manchester City Hall, the New Hampshire Audubon and many other community venues over the years.

Having its own gallery, however, has always been the Association's "ideal," gallery board member Sharon Allen said.

"When we're showing our work at another gallery or space, it's usually juried by them, and we have to pay upfront. It's basically just renting wall space. We try to encourage

[members] to get out there and show their work to the public, but having to pay to do that can be prohibitive," she said. "That's why it's always nice for an association to have its own gallery. It gives members an opportunity to get their work out there, and it gives people more of a reason to become a member."

O'Donnell described the gallery as "a large and beautiful space" with "lots of light," on street level and freshly painted. Allen said she estimates the gallery to be around 800 square feet, with molding for hanging paintings, two moveable partitions and a few pedestals to showcase 3D art. There is also a small bench for people to sit, and a bookcase

to house the Association's "lending library" of art-related books and videos.

Exhibits at the gallery will be rotated every two months. Some will have a theme while others will be open to any kind of art. The gallery's premiere exhibition, "Art for Art's Sake," is the latter, featuring more than 50 works of art by 20 MAA members, ranging from abstract paintings to landscapes and seascapes.

"We wanted this first exhibit to be simply about the beauty of art, not any kind of seasonal or social or political theme," O'Donnell said. "The message of this show is that art is a beautiful thing, and to enjoy art — nothing more." 🌿

North End Fine Art Gallery

The Manchester Artists Association's new gallery is at street level inside the Rines Center (1528 Elm St., Manchester). The grand opening of the gallery and its premiere exhibition, "Art For Art's Sake," has been tentatively rescheduled for the first weekend in June. Regular gallery hours will be Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Membership applications for MAA are available on the MAA website and at MAA meetings, which are open to prospective members. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m., September through June, at the Rines Center. Membership is open to any person age 18 or over who enjoys art. The yearly membership fee is \$35. Visit manchesterartists.com.

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ART NEWS

The latest from NH's theater, arts and literary communities

• **The literary latest:** The sixth annual **Derry Author Fest**, originally scheduled for Saturday, April 11, at the Derry Public Library (64 E. Broadway, Derry), has been postponed, according to the event website, with a new date TBA. The all-day writing conference will feature talks and panels, book signings and books for sale, networking with local and regional authors and industry professionals and more, centered around this year's theme "Adventures in Writing." Visit derryauthorfest.wordpress.com or call the library at 432-6140.

The seventh annual **Catholic Literature Conference**, presented by The Center for the Restoration of Christian Culture at Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, was going to take place on April 25 in Manchester but has been canceled, according to the event's Facebook page. Ticket purchases will be refunded. Visit facebook.com/ctkliteratureconference.

Independent Bookstore Day, originally set for April 25, has been rescheduled for Aug. 29. The annual national event is a celebration of independent bookstores and the book-lovers who frequent them. Participating bookstores sell merchandise released exclusively for that day, which may include special-edition books, signed art prints and covers and literary-themed novelty items. Some bookstores may host additional festivities, such as author visits, readings and book signings, live music, food, activities for kids, contests and giveaways and more. Visit indiebookstoreaday.com.

• **March Madness with superheroes:** Double Midnight Comics, a comic book store with locations in Manchester and Concord, presents "Double Midnight Madness 2020," a March Madness-like tournament on Facebook that invites people to vote for their favorite superhero to win in a fictional fight and move up the bracket towards the championship title. Check it out at facebook.com/dmcomics.

• **Free comics coming this summer:** Speaking of comics, Free Comic Book Day, originally set for May 2, has been postponed until "a date later in the summer," according to its website. FCBD is an annual worldwide event during which participating comic book shops hand out free comic books created specially for that day and host comic-related fun like cosplay contests, door prizes, special guests and more. "The safety of our retailer partners and comic book fans is too important to risk," Steve Geppi, founder and CEO of Diamond Comic Distributors, which sponsors the event, said in a statement on the website. "As always, we appreciate your enthu-

siasm for and support of the comic industry's best event and look forward to celebrating with you later in the summer." In the meantime, you can check out the list of this year's 47 titles on the website, many of which provide a preview of a few pages of the comic. Visit freecomickbookday.com.

• **Antiquing from home:**

According to a statement on its website, the New Hampshire Antique Co-op (323 Elm St., Milford) encourages buyers to browse its online shop as well as its Facebook page, where photos and videos of new items are being posted daily. Delivery and curbside pickup services are offered. Visit nhantiquecoop.com or facebook.com/nhantiquecoop, or call 673-8499.

• **Send a smile:** The residents at Merrimack County Nursing Home are not currently permitted to have visitors due to COVID-19 concerns, but they are accepting letters, pictures and artwork, which will be pinned on the community bulletin board for all of the residents to see and enjoy. You can drop off your contribution in the box located outside of Twiggs Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen), and the gallery will make sure that they are delivered to the nursing home, according to a post on the gallery's Facebook page. Visit twigsgallery.wordpress.com.

• **Workshop to go:** AR Workshop (875 Elm St., Manchester) is closed for now but is offering curbside pickup for Take & Make DIY-To-Go Kits. There are three packages to choose from: 4x8 mini wooden signs in sets of three (\$25) and five (\$45) and a 12x16 plank sign (\$35). You can also customize your kit by choosing from a wide selection of designs, paints and stains. Place your order online at arworkshop.com/diyto.go.

• **Choral concerts put on hold:** The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus spring concert series "Let Me Be the Music" has been postponed "until further notice," according to the chorus' website. The series included concerts on May 2 in Nashua, May 3 in Manchester, May 16 in Concord, and May 17 in Portsmouth. In the meantime, you can check out the chorus' newly released 20th Anniversary CD, available now on iTunes and Spotify. The CD features NHGMC's most popular songs, such as "Old New Hampshire" (John F. Hollmes, Maurice Hoffman), "I Sing Out" (Mark Hayes), "I'm Yours" (Jason Mraz), and "Over the Rainbow" (Harold Arlen), professionally recorded, mixed and mastered in a professional studio. Visit nhgmc.com.

• **Concord City Audi shows canceled:** The Walker Lecture Series, held at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord), previously announced that it canceled all March events, but a new announcement sent in an email stated that the series has now canceled its entire spring season, which included the Silent Film Clowns on April 1, Introduction Band on April 8, Neil Diamond Tribute on April 15, and Buskers' Night In on April 22. Visit walkerlecture.org.

— Angie Sykeny 🍀



Drop-off box at Twiggs Gallery for letters, pictures and artwork to be delivered to the residents at Merrimack County Nursing Home. Courtesy photo.

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Stay cheerful

How to make a spring wreath

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

The world seems to be in turmoil. Recent news is disconcerting at best. But I stay cheerful, and you can too, by being creative and/or by enjoying the outdoors. Being outside always perks me up. I love looking at my snowdrops, winter aconite and crocus. For creativity, I recently went out to collect materials for a spring wreath, then made one. I'm happy every time I look at it.

The wreath I made recently uses material from just three plants, though others can also be used. Here is what you need:

Several lengths of freshly cut grape vines, each piece five to 15 feet long and a quarter to a half an inch in diameter. Thicker vines are hard to work with. It is important to use living, not dead, vines; those I cut were a greenish white inside and flexible, so I knew they were alive. Dead vines are brittle and not suitable.

About 50 stems of red-twigged dogwood. Young stems 18 to 24 inches long with bright color are best. Branching stems are good, too.

About 25 stems of pussywillow. If the pussywillows are not fully open, place the stems in a vase in a warm place for a day to two and they will open up, getting fuzzier.

Begin by forming a vine circle 14 to 16 inches in diameter by overlapping (or twisting) one half of the vine over the other half — the same way you would start tying your shoelaces. Then grasp one of the sections of vine and weave it around the vine circle in loops, over and under, pulling it tight as you go. After each piece of vine is in place, squeeze the circle to make it a nice circle.

When you run out of vine, tuck the end into the circle and repeat the maneuver with the other part of the vine. Then use shorter, thinner pieces of vine — say six to eight feet long and pencil-thick — and weave them around the wreath base until you have a cir-



Wreath base ready for twigs. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

cle about two inches thick.

The great thing about this grapevine wreath is that you don't have to tie the decorative stems with wire, the way you do an evergreen Christmas wreath. You can just slide stems of pussywillows in between the vines and natural tension will hold them in place. In fact, I had to use a screwdriver to lift the vines at times in order to slide the stems into place.

I went around first with the red dogwood stems, poking them into the grape vine wreath every couple or inches, and almost parallel to the grape vines (not perpendicular). I wanted about 12 inches of stem coming out of the wreath and six inches woven into the grape vines and other stems. Both willows and dogwoods are flexible and easy to work with. I snipped the ends to a point with pruners to make it easier to insert them between the vines.

Then I added stems of pussywillow, poking them into open spaces in the grapevines, or using a screwdriver to open a space for my stems. When it was nearly done I hung the wreath up where I could work on it and was better able to see where there were gaps



Finished wreath looks great on a wall. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

that needed twigs, and added a few more.

Where can you source the material for your wreath? If you don't grow domestic grapes, look in your woods. Wild grapes climb trees in hardwood forests. You can pull them down and cut them up without guilt — they can choke out nice trees if they get big enough.

Red-twigged dogwood grows wild, often along roadside ditches and wet places. If the town road crew mows them down in mid-summer, they will be perfect — young and bright red. Older stems are a grayish red and not as interesting.

I use a cut-and-hold pole pruner for collecting anything that grows in a swamp (dogwoods, pussywillows and, later, winter-berry). The pruner will grab the stem at the same time it cuts it, so I don't get wet retrieving the stems (and even the most obedient Labrador retriever will not bring the stems to you). I got mine from The Wildflower Seed & Tool Co. (wildflower-seed.com or 800-456-3359).

Everyone should grow pussywillows. They are good for the soul at this time of year. The type I used in my wreath is called

Japanese fantail or dragon willow. It is hardy to Zone 4, surviving temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees. It and 150 other varieties are available from Vermont Willow Nursery (willowsvermont.com). By the way, the nursery is for sale, along with 50 acres and a farm house, if you're interested.

Fantail willow grows to be 10 to 15 feet tall and wide. They are fast-growing and I've read that, like most willows, they are weak-wooded and prone to breakage. I have not had any breakage on mine, however. The bark is a nice reddish-brown and quite handsome. They produce huge numbers of those fuzzy blossoms we love.

My finished wreath was about 36 inches in diameter, for placement on a wall, not a door. If you want a wreath for the door, you should use shorter stems. So go pick materials for a wreath. They're quite easy to make and sweet to the eye.

Henry has been a UNH Master Gardener for over 20 years and is the author of four gardening books. Reach him at P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🍌

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

My father had this old drum that he used when he was a Cub Scout in New York/New Jersey in the 1940s. He said that it was old when he got it, and it was used when they marched in parades. Thank you for any [information] that you can share.

Darrell

Dear Darrell,

Your drum (a snare drum) may have been used in a parade at one time or other but it is from the Civil War era. That

makes it better than just a parade drum.

If you could provide any more history to it, like who it belonged to in that era and whether he was someone well-known, then the value would be much higher! In the condition it is in it would still run anywhere from \$600 to possibly \$1,000 depending on how you market it. The drum appears to be in good shape with no damage.

It probably has had some repairs along the way but everything you want to see on a drum from that era is there and in good shape. Nice piece of history!

Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing, and recently closed the physical location of From Out Of The Woods Antique Center (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com) but is still doing some buying and selling. She is a member of The New Hampshire Antiques Dealer Association. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550 or 624-8668. 🍌



INSIDE/OUTSIDE KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Usually, Kiddie Pool focuses on kid and family fun taking place during the weekend. But now that the need for stuff to do is constant (and most of the usual venues to do things at are closed), we're taking a look at stuff that can be done either in the great outdoors, with lots of social distance, or online whenever extra activities are needed.

Hang with the author

- Looking for more interesting printables? Check out author **Marty Kelley's** website (martykelley.com). In addition to information about his books (the page for the delightful *Almost Everybody Farts* features some of the illustrations that didn't make it into the book), the "Fun and Games" page features three printables with illustration prompts, including one that has a series of comic strip boxes.

- **Mo Willems**, author of children's books including the *Elephant & Piggie* books and the *Pigeon* books, has a video series called "Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems." The 20-ish-minute videos, released weekdays, feature Willems doodling, teaching how to draw some of his characters and showing off items in his studio, including various drafts of drawings from his books. Find the videos at kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems.

- **Marek Bennett**, New Hampshire-based musician, cartoonist and educator, has videos on his website that could appeal to comics creators of all ages. One posted on March 23 is "Diary Comics How To: 'When I Feel...'" and explains how to make a four-panel comic about what you're feeling and what to do with those feelings. Other videos include "Cartooning Basics: Shapes & Faces" and "Set Up a Blank Mini-Comic" and more. Find the videos and more on Bennett's website, marekbennett.com, and then go to "Teaching" and "@ Home and Beyond." Patreon memberships offer supporters extras.

Staying active

- The **Granite YMCA** (graniteymca.org) has a link to YMCA 360 which features videos for barre, yoga, bootcamp, tai chi, fitness for older adults, weightlifting and more. Kid-specific offerings include youth soccer, with drills that you can recreate at home, and youth sports performance. The YMCA videos are free and accessible to all for the foreseeable future, according to the Granite YMCA.

- The **Boys & Girls Club of Manchester** (mbgcnh.org) has a page of club activities to do at home on its website. As of March 23, offerings include videos featuring a STEM drawing activity and a short dance class as well as PDFs of at-home activities with one packet each geared to older and younger kids. Find it all at begreatmanchester.org/activities.



The Andres Institute of Art. Courtesy photo.

The page will be updated each weekday, the older content will be available for a week or so and the page will be available to the public, according to the club.

More ideas for hands-on fun

- **The Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org, 742-2002) is closed but is producing videos of storytimes (such as the one posted March 18 on the museum's Facebook page) and STEAM projects, like the "two ingredient snow dough" posted on March 19 on the museum's blog.

Scouting

- **Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains** (girlscoutsgwm.org) is offering virtual programs where Girl Scouts can learn about a new subject and work toward earning a badge. Cost of programs, which are open to different age groups, varies. Subjects include animals, coding, comics, cooking, painting, science and more. Call 1-888-474-9686 for information about registration for non-members, the website said.

Outdoors

- **The Andres Institute of Art Sculpture Park** (98 Route 13 in Brookline; andresinstitute.org), which has wooded hiking trails with more than 80 outdoor sculptures, spread across 140 acres, remains open daily, according to Michael Boyle of the Institute. He said the park has put out donation boxes to help raise money for the institute.

- **Beaver Brook Nature Center** (117 Ridge Road in Hollis; beaverbrook.org, 467-7787) has 35 miles of trails, according to its website, where you can find maps to the different trails and a guide to early spring flowers, those that are blooming April through mid-May. The trails are open daily from dawn to dusk.

- The **NH Audubon's** nature sanctuary trails remain open (nature centers have been closed and all indoor programming suspended). According to the website, "NH Audubon owns and manages 39 wildlife sanctuaries throughout all 10 counties of New Hampshire. In addition, there are several other properties on which NH Audubon has a management agreement." Find a list of locations at nhaudubon.org, where you can find maps to sanctuary trails. 🐾



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Gasoline is not the lubricant Honda was looking for



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I own a 2014 Honda Accord LX, and it has been a very good car. So good that I am thinking about buying a new Accord. At least I was thinking about a new Accord until I started seeing stories about the engine oil being diluted by gasoline.

This does not sound like a good situation, but I am wondering how bad it really is. I would love to hear your take on this. Thanks! — Joseph

While Honda's engineering is generally excellent, they seem to have stumbled with their 1.5 liter turbo engine, Joseph.

There are a number of complaints about gasoline diluting the oil. That's not a good situation. Gasoline is not nearly as good a lubricant as oil is, so this has the potential to shorten the life of the engine. Not to mention, it'll cause your car to smell like the corner Exxon station.

The gasoline fumes that mix with the oil are supposed to evaporate and be expunged from the crankcase. And apparently, in cold weather — or if the car is rarely driven long enough to really heat up — the gasoline condenses and builds up in the crankcase until your dipstick reads: "Whoa! Drain out a quart."

Honda says the problem is limited to 2016-2018 Civics and 2017-2018 CR-Vs with that

1.5L engine. They also say that it's limited to cold weather states. And they've offered a fix and an extra year of limited warranty coverage to buyers in 21 states.

But we've certainly seen similar complaints from owners of late model Accords with the 1.5L engine. And Consumer Reports says they received complaints of oil dilution in summer conditions from California and Texas.

So we'd urge caution. If you really want another Accord, Joseph, one option would be to get the 2.0 liter engine instead. It's a pricey option, but we haven't seen complaints of oil dilution for that engine.

And as you know, other than the fact that you'd have to join OPEC as an oil producer if you have the 1.5L engine, the Accord is an excellent car.

Dear Car Talk:
I taught auto mechanics for over 30 years to high school students. In the 1980s, when I was explaining how the resistors in the fan blower worked, I compared it to a hair dryer.

That gave me an idea. Why not add a hair dryer type of heating element in the car's ductwork for instant heat to the passenger compartment? It could reduce or turn off as engine heat increased until it was no longer needed.

I didn't pursue this idea because batteries back then were overworked beyond their capaci-

ty and heating elements draw a lot of power from the battery.

Fast-forward almost 30 years to today, and you have remote starting devices that are installed for hefty prices. These wear out engines, pollute, use gasoline so reduce gas mileage and have too many parts that can fail.

Today you have heated seats, heated rearview mirrors and mega sound systems guzzling up power from our batteries, so they can't use "the battery can't handle it" anymore as an excuse.

I would guess that installing my system in the air duct would cost less than \$20 at the factory and cost little to operate.

Can it be done? — Raymond
Anything can be done, Raymond. I mean, look — they let me write a newspaper column. That doesn't mean it should be done.

A typical hair dryer uses about 1,200 watts. And realistically, you'd need at least a pair of them. So you're talking about 200 amps at 12 volts. That's a pretty significant load on the battery.

It wouldn't kill the battery in 10 or 15 minutes, but if your battery were old or marginal, and it was a cold day (which it obviously would be), you could weaken it to the point that you'd have trouble starting the car. And wouldn't that stink?

Of course, once the car is running, you could pull 200 amps from the alternator and the battery combined, and that wouldn't be a problem. So it

could be a way to get some heat right away, once you start the car, but before the engine is producing usable heat.

The larger issue is that heating the air is the least efficient way to keep the driver warm.

Take a typical sedan. Say it has about 20 cubic feet of interior volume. You're taking up about 4 of those cubic feet, and yet you're wasting a ton of energy heating up the other 16 cubic feet to 70 degrees.

In contrast, radiant heating (seat heaters, steering wheel heaters, rear window defroster) use far less power, and deliver the heat precisely where it's needed: to your tuchus and key surrounding areas.

But here's the good news, Raymond: Your idea actually makes more sense for electric cars, which are getting more popular every day. Here's why. Electric cars don't have internal combustion engines, which give off heat. So they already use electric heating elements to heat up the cabin.

And on a cold day, with a simple remote control, you could run the heating element while the car is still plugged into its charger. That would preheat the cabin without eating into the car's battery reserve and driving range.

So it's a great idea, Raymond. You were just 35 years ahead of your time and working on the wrong propulsion technology.

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Keep calm & carry out

How some local restaurants are dealing with the coronavirus crisis

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

New Hampshire's restaurants remain closed for dining in through at least April 7 due to COVID-19 concerns, but many eateries have shifted operations to curbside pickups and delivery services in an effort to stay afloat and continue serving customers.

In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus in New Hampshire, Gov. Sununu issued an emergency order on March 16 limiting all restaurants and bars in the state to takeout, delivery and drive-thru only. Two days later, another emergency order was issued to temporarily authorize those with a liquor license to sell bottled or canned beer and wine with takeout orders.

The unprecedented orders have thrown the future of the state's restaurant industry in limbo, forcing owners and managers to make difficult staffing decisions. In 2019 there were about 69,500 restaurant and food service jobs in New Hampshire, representing roughly 10 percent of the state's workforce, according to data from the National Restaurant Association.

Many New Hampshire restaurants have already felt the economic effects — state-wide sales at Fratello's Italian Grille and The Homestead Restaurant have been down 80 percent since the governor's orders, according to co-owner Chris McDonough. As of March 24, McDonough said 202 of the company's 250 employees have been laid off.

Fratello's has pivoted to offering a limited menu for takeout, curbside pickup and delivery from each of its restaurant in Manchester, Nashua and Laconia, as well as The Homestead at its Merrimack location. But its most northern and rural restaurant, The Homestead in Bristol, had to discontinue them.

"Takeout is only about 20 percent of our normal sales, so we can only do so much," McDonough said. "We're going to continue to provide it as long as we're allowed and able to. This came so suddenly. No one in this business is prepared for it."

Tom Boucher, CEO of Great New Hampshire Restaurants, which includes every T-Bones Great American Eatery, CJ's Great West Grill and Copper Door Restaurant in the Granite State, said combined revenue across each location is down 85 percent from this time last year, forcing the company to furlough 550 of its 650 employees until at least April 7.

"It's unthinkable. In 32 years, I've never experienced anything like this in my life," Boucher said. "If this goes on for too long, it's going to absolutely crush the industry, and restaurants won't be able to reopen."

For now, limited takeout menus are available daily at all T-Bones, CJ's and Copper Door locations. But Boucher said those sales, which

normally make up only about 6 to 8 percent of the company's overall revenue, are just barely enough to keep its salaried employees working.

"We've tried to pick items that people wouldn't normally or aren't able to cook at home, so a lot of broiled, grilled and fried foods," he said. "Our customers have been amazing on multiple levels. Last week alone, we collectively received over \$25,000 in tips alone, and our intention is to distribute that to our hourly employees over the next days and weeks."

Republic Cafe and Campo Enoteca in downtown Manchester last week began offering a special menu for takeout and delivery, but the decision was made Friday to shut down for the remaining duration of the governor's dine-in ban, general manager Peter Macone said.

"Objectively stepping back, we decided it made more sense to just hunker down, ride it out and come back full force," Macone said. "We were pushing tips and pooling them for our hourly employees, and the entire week we saw over 50 percent in gratuity, which was humbling."

The Crown Tavern on Hanover Street also suspended takeout operations on Friday, while its sister location, the Hanover Street Chop-house, sold raw steaks through Saturday.

New menus

For those that remain open, the changes have been an ongoing adjustment, especially for some local restaurants like Revival Kitchen & Bar in Concord, which is known more for its in-house fine dining experience than for takeout.

Revival recently featured takeout specials like a burger and beer combo (with New Hampshire-raised grass-fed beef your choice of a local canned or bottled beer), as well as soup specials like chicken vegetable rice soup and seafood tomato stew. Takeout is available Tuesday through Saturday, from 4 to 8 p.m.

"[Takeout only] is definitely not something that we're used to, but you need to have the ability to make accurate decisions on the fly in this industry, so luckily we've been doing that well," Revival owner and chef Corey Fletcher said.

Greenleaf in Milford has introduced a new takeout menu of sandwiches, soups, small plates, larger-portioned meals and select bottles of beer and wine. Many of the options are brand new, as they are previews of what's to come when Greenleaf's sister restaurant, Culture Bread & Sandwich, opens later this year.

Co-owner and chef Keith Sarasin said the menu was created not only for Greenleaf to continue supporting its local farm partners but for customers to be able to feed their families. Takeout is offered Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Take and bake dinners from Presto Craft Kitchen in Manchester. Courtesy photo.

Firefly American Bistro & Bar, according to event coordinator Rachael Jones, is offering a special menu for takeout, curbside pickup and local delivery within about eight miles, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m., additional options are available in the form of multi-course family-sized meals that include soup, salad, an entree and an individually portioned dessert.

"We've had a very good response so far. Our sales increased almost every day throughout the weekend, so hopefully it continues in that direction," Jones said, adding that all cash transactions have been temporarily eliminated for orders.

Curbside eats and more

Not only are new takeout menus being rolled out, but extra measures at many Granite State eateries are being taken to make sure you receive your food safely.

Curbside pickup is now available at The Red Arrow Diner's Concord and Manchester locations, while the Londonderry location is utilizing its drive-through window for takeout. To limit surface contact, you can provide credit card information over the phone when you order. The diner has slightly modified its hours of operation for the time being — instead of being open 24 hours a day, all three locations will be temporarily closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. — but the entire menu is currently available for takeout. Delivery is also available for the first time, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, within a five-mile radius from each location.

"It's much better and steadier than we thought it was going to be," Red Arrow Diner chief operations officer Amanda Wihby said. "Things are changing every day, but so far it's pretty much on target with what we hoped."

Presto Craft Kitchen on Manchester's West



News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **King Kone opens for the season:** Soft-serve ice cream stand **King Kone** (336 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack) officially opened for the season on March 21, owner George Soffron confirmed, with a lineup of flavors that include blackberry, strawberry and coffee in addition to the usual chocolate, vanilla and twist. Around 30 flavors of soft-serve are featured over the course of each season, more than a half dozen of which are available at a given time — Soffron said a few are normally rotated out each week. In response to the ongoing pandemic, all surfaces are repeatedly sterilized and all employees are wearing gloves that are frequently changed out. "Whoever is at the window handling money does not handle product at all," Soffron said. King Kone is currently open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Its North Hampton location, Soffron said, is expected to open Memorial Day weekend.

• **Schoodacs to host porch sale:** Although Schoodacs Coffee House (1 E. Main St., Warner) is closed indefinitely due to COVID-19 concerns, a **porch sale** is planned for Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, when you'll be able to buy roasted coffee, tea and other products. Schoodacs owner Darryl Parker told the Hippo the sale will be held in an open-air, grocery shopping-like environment out in front of the shop where customers can buy retail-priced packages of fresh roasted coffee and tea. Parker said a couple of weeks' worth of supply will be for sale; perishable items were all donated to the Warner Area Food Pantry. Find them on Facebook @schoodacs or call 456-3400.

• **Local hand sanitizer:** Several spirits producers across the state have been making their own hand sanitizer using a mixture of water, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide and glycerin. **Djinn Spirits** (2 Townsend W, Suite 9, Nashua), which is open noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, has begun offering up to eight ounces of hand sanitizer per person free of charge, after owner Andy Harthcock consulted a World Health Organization-issued guide on producing it. All he asks is that you bring your own container to fill it with — a jelly or mason jar works great. **Steakfast Spirits Distilling Co.** (134 Hall St., Suite H, Concord) has also been producing hand sanitizer for free, giving out four ounces of it per person per day, according to owner Charles "CJ" Lundergan. The distillery is temporarily open every day to minimize crowds. Both Harthcock and Lundergan have been donating their product to local first responders in need. **Live Free Distillery** (1000 E. Industrial Park Drive, No. 4, Manchester), **Doire Distilling** (1½ E. Broadway, Derry) and **Flag Hill Distillery & Winery** (297 N. River Road, Lee) are some of the other local distillers making hand sanitizer. 🍷

CARRY OUT CONTINUED ON PG 18 ▶

Side, already primarily a takeout restaurant, is also inviting customers to prepay over the phone and receive their orders without getting out of the car. Free lunches are also available for kids from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the purchase of any sandwich, salad or pasta.

“We know it’s tough for parents with kids, especially with the school closures, and we want to work with young families and help those who have been impacted,” co-owner and chef Joe Grella said. “This is not about increasing sales for us. It’s about increasing the stability of our community and coming together.”

Tucker’s is open for curbside pickup and is selling free-range eggs at all of its locations, from LaValley Farms in Hooksett and Trail-bend Farm in Belmont.

New meal services

Several New Hampshire companies, like LaBelle Winery in Amherst, are taking responses to the coronavirus pandemic a step further. For the first time, LaBelle now has a daily meal service program of special ready-to-serve family meals, available for curbside pickup only.

With servings of three to four people, the meals can be ordered online for pickup at LaBelle. Everything is fully prepared and cooked from scratch — all you have to do is follow the heating instructions that are provided. Each week, the meal includes a soup, a salad, dinner rolls, and an entree like pasta or chicken pot pie (gluten-free items are also

available upon request). Wine suggestions are paired with every menu.

“When we launched this program, we tried to think about what people’s needs were. We thought about how kids are home from school and parents may still be out working. Well, they need prepared meals and can’t always get the food that they want in the grocery store right now,” said Michelle Thornton, director of marketing and business development at LaBelle. “We didn’t want to make people measure anything or mix anything up. It needed to be both convenient and good-quality prepared food.”

The response to the service so far, she said, has been “outstanding,” with a steady increase in orders in just its second week. More accessible options for kids have also been added to the meals, like chicken tenders and children’s cheese pizza.

“The other thing too is that if you prefer to just get a sandwich or a soup and not a full meal, you can get that off of the Bistro menu,” Thornton said.

Celebrations Catering in Manchester has introduced rotating menus of both family-sized and individually packaged meals. Options will change weekly, with a different menu available every day, like chicken piccata, herb-roasted pork loin, cheese lasagna, chicken Parmesan and more. You can add a family-sized salad, extra sides or a cookie tray to any order.

The individually packaged meals are designed for people who don’t have the ability to work from home. Those options have included a cold boxed lunch (with a wrap or

sandwich, fruit or pasta salad, kettle chips and a cookie) or a hot boxed meal (with options like baked manicotti, barbecue pulled pork or chicken Parmesan and penne marinara).

Local Baskit in Concord has expanded its meal services to help seniors and people with compromised immune systems, owner Beth Richards said, in collaboration with Revival Kitchen & Bar and with Ann Petersson, a registered dietitian with Nutrition Works! in Concord. Online ordering is available at shop.localbaskit.com/products/longevity-baskit.

New meals are posted to that link on Thursdays at 9 a.m., and you’ll have from then until the following Monday at 9 a.m. to order online or over the phone. They are being delivered homes across Merrimack County, with hopes to expand, Richards said.

“I see it as ... a partnership to fill a community need,” said Fletcher, whose staff at Revival is preparing the meals. “There is a demographic of people that can’t or don’t want to go out and don’t have the means of getting prepared foods brought to them, so [we are] filling that niche.”

Brews and booze to go

New Hampshire breweries have felt the economic impacts of the coronavirus, as a result of closing their tasting rooms to the public, temporarily suspending used growler refills, and moving all beer sales to takeout, curbside pickups and online ordering.

“Needless to say, it’s been difficult,” said Ali

Leleszi of Rockingham Brewing Co. in Derry, which has changed its hours to Monday through Friday, from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 p.m., for to-go beer sales only. “We do have an incredibly supportive industry and community here, so we feel lucky in that we know that we’re not in this alone.”

Leleszi said the brewery had to quickly pivot its operations following the governor’s executive orders. Online ordering for beer is now available for the first time via a link on Rockingham’s website, as well as new merchandise like branded T-shirts.

“We’re also doing a growler exchange, so we’re not filling any growlers right now that people are bringing in,” she said. “We’re giving them a brand new replacement sanitized growler instead. We’ve pre-filled a bunch of them.”

For the time being, the brewery has halted all food operations.

“Right now we’re really pushing can and growler sales,” Leleszi said. “Luckily we had a pretty good amount of cans in stock already.”

To Share Brewing Co. in Manchester has also modified its hours for takeout of its beers. Most of them come in 32-ounce growlers, but they also have 750-milliliter bottles of barleywine and 16-ounce four-packs of the Intro American cream ale, co-owner Jenni Share said. Delivery is available within a 10-mile radius of the taproom.

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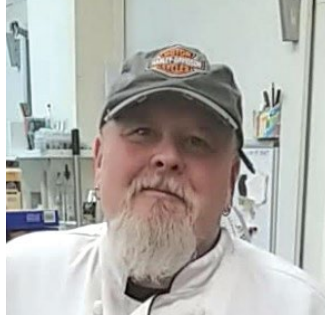
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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH DAN PARKER



As the chef at Lull Farm (65 Broad St., Hollis, 465-7079, livefreeandfarm.com), Dan Parker of Milford experiments with creating all kinds of prepared and ready-to-eat comfort foods using local meat and produce. He's especially known for his chicken and turkey pot pies — selling more than 200 of them a week — but he also makes a variety of savory American, Italian and Asian-inspired dishes, from Chinese stuffed cabbage rolls to cheese manicotti and eggplant Parmesan. Several soups are always available; recent options have included carrot and ginger, chicken and wild rice and corn chowder.

- What is your must-have kitchen item?**
A French knife.
- What would you have for your last meal?**
My last meal would be coq au vin. It's a French chicken dish with brandy and herbs, and it's usually served on rice and potatoes. I'd have that with a really nice glass of white wine.
- What is your favorite local restaurant?**
It would be Grill 603 in Milford. I like to get their garden salad, and their seafood platters are fantastic.
- What celebrity would you like to see trying something you've cooked?**
Robert Plant.
- What is your personal favorite thing that you cook at Lull Farm?**
I would probably say my corn chowder. We do a lot of home-cooked comfort meals. I'm a firm believer in really good comfort food.
- What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?**
Probably tapas. It seems that there are a lot more restaurants around that are doing tapas-style dishes.
- What is your favorite thing to cook at home?**
Shepherd's pie with lamb and beef. I like to make that for my kids. They love it.
— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Chinese cabbage rolls
Courtesy of Dan Parker of Lull Farm in Hollis

- ¾ pound ground lamb
- 1 ½ teaspoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon garlic
- 1 tablespoon Chinese cooking wine
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- ¼ cup diced shiitake mushrooms
- ½ cup scallion
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 12 pieces Napa cabbage leaves, blanched for 25 seconds
- Salt to taste

Combine ingredients and mix well. Take a cabbage roll and place one tablespoon-sized mix in the middle of the cabbage leaf. Roll tightly, folding in the ends to close the cabbage. Repeat until all leaves are filled. Place finished cabbage rolls in a steamer and steam for five minutes. Take out and let rest.

- For the sauce:*
- 2 teaspoons cooking oil
 - 2 teaspoons garlic
 - 1 tablespoon diced cilantro stem
 - 2 tablespoons diced red pepper
 - 1 tablespoon oyster sauce
 - 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 - ¼ teaspoon sugar
 - ⅛ teaspoon salt
 - 1 ½ tablespoons cornstarch
 - White pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients except for the cornstarch. Slowly bring to a simmer for 10 minutes. Take off heat and strain. Place back on heat and bring to a light boil. Take cornstarch and mix with ¼ cup of cold water. Add to boiling sauce to thicken. Pour over cabbage rolls and enjoy.

◀ CARRY OUT CONTINUED FROM PG 18

“It’s definitely been slower, but we’re just taking it one day at a time,” Share said. “Take-out and delivery has been going a little better than we thought, so that’s been good.”

In Merrimack, Able Ebenezer Brewing Co. launched Able Distro Direct last week, an all new online ordering and delivery service that’s available daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for customers within town and in surrounding communities like Nashua, Bedford and Amherst. You can build your own beer orders by choosing any one of the brewery’s canned products. The order packages include three, four or a full case of four-packs (order online at ableebenezer.com/order).

As of March 20, all 77 New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet stores are still open for business, according to a post on their official Facebook page, while extra precautions have been taken to clean and disinfect each location. The hours of each store have been modified to 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. 🍷

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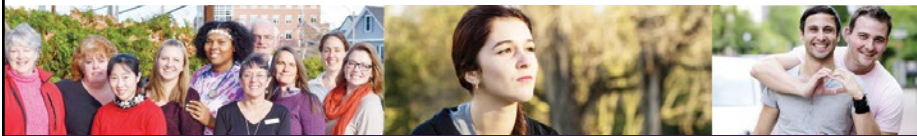
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FOOD



TRY THIS AT HOME

Goopy pecan & bourbon blondies

Unlike last week's dessert recipe, these bars can be shared with the kids. Yes, these blondies have bourbon in them, but there are only two tablespoons in the entire batch. Plus, the bars are baked in the oven, so the amount in a single serving is almost immeasurable. Basically it's enough to give a hint of bourbon flavor without any of the bourbon kick.

With this small amount of bourbon, you don't have to worry about using the best bourbon in your liquor cabinet. On the flip side, I wouldn't go with really inexpensive bourbon either. You don't want the lingering sensation to be burning.

As for the pecans, you may think that you'll skip the toasting step and save 10 minutes. Don't do it! Toasting the pecans deepens their flavor and adds more crunch to their texture. These mere minutes will intensify flavors greatly. Toasting the pecans transforms the bars from slightly crunchy to full crunchiness.

Finally, you may look at this recipe and think it's pretty simple. You might even ponder adding a glaze. Again, my answer is, "Don't do it!" These bars are delicious, decadent and indulgent. They truly are goopy with a butter- and sugar-forward presence. One bar should



Pecan & bourbon blondies. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

sate your sweet tooth. My thinking is that if you add a sugar-based glaze to the top, you're going to overwhelm your palate. These will go from indulgently sweet to insanely sweet.

Now, with all this recipe advice in hand, go make a batch and wow your friends and family!

Michele Pesula Kuegler has been thinking about food her entire life. Since 2007, the Manchester resident has been sharing these food thoughts and recipes at her blog, Think Tasty. Please visit thinktasty.com to find more of her recipes.

Goopy Pecan & Bourbon Blondies

Makes 24 bars

1 ¼ cups pecans
1 cup butter
2 cups brown sugar
2 eggs
2 tablespoons bourbon
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Butter and flour the sides and bottom of a 13" x 9" pan.
Place pecans on a baking sheet, and bake for 8 minutes in oven.
While pecans bake, melt butter in a small pot over medium heat.
When butter is melted, remove pot from heat to cool.
Remove pecans from oven and allow to cool; leave oven on.
Chop pecans once they are cool.
In the bowl of a stand

mixer, combine melted butter and brown sugar, mixing on speed 2 with paddle attachment until combined.
Add eggs, one at a time, mixing until fully incorporated.
Add bourbon, mixing briefly.
Add flour, baking powder and salt, and stir just until combined.
Add pecans, stirring briefly.
Transfer blondie dough to prepared pan, spreading evenly.
Bake for 25 minutes or until baked through and edges are golden brown.
Cool before serving.



Lean on your staples

Find comfort in familiar brews

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippopress.com

Beer in hand, I took a seat in a plastic green Adirondack chair and surveyed my front lawn on a brisk but sunny Saturday afternoon. Toys and kids' bikes littered the lawn and driveway. Our dog, Sadie, took a brief seat in the adjacent chair before moving off to stretch out in the grass.

It had been a good day — we took a family hike on some nearby trails and the kids played outside for the bulk of the afternoon. The kids laughed and played and it was normal and nice.

But these are strange, dark times. Our usually bustling neighborhood was quiet and remarkably still.

We're all finding a way to get used to our new normal, and amid the steady stream of social media posts and breathless news reports, I found comfort in the mundane act of enjoying a beer on a Saturday afternoon.

In these challenging times, I do find myself leaning on staple beers, I think because I want something predictable that I don't have to think about. Perhaps that's why I chose a Sierra Nevada Torpedo Extra IPA. There is nothing mundane about the particular brew — it's bursting with big citrusy and pine flavor — but this is one that I find myself turning to over and over because its familiarity brings comfort.

The Torpedo, the Harpoon IPA, Guinness, and Wachusett Country Ale are beers I seek out in good times and bad. These are beers that just "are what they are" and I'm thankful for that.

In the evolving world of craft beer, brewers are constantly experimenting and pumping out limited-release brews — it can be challenging to find the next generation of staples. But when I think about craft beer in New Hampshire, the following four staples immediately come to mind.

Old Brown Dog by Smuttynose Brewing Co. (Hampton)

I've written about this one previously as it carries quite a bit of nostalgia for me, but the brew features a nice toasted malt character that isn't too overpowering. It's easy to drink, flavorful and consistent. For me this is the epitome of a comforting brew at any time of the year.

Victory Nor Defeat Double IPA by Able Ebenezer Brewing Co. (Merrimack)

Big, bold citrusy flavor in a well-balanced brew that doesn't overpower with bitterness — just a tremendous all-around IPA. This is definitely a brew you can turn to over and over again. At 8.0 ABV, it's a big IPA but it's not too big. A good choice after a long day



Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.

of working from home and somehow keeping the kids entertained.

Robust Vanilla Porter (RVP) by Great North Aleworks (Manchester)

Several years ago my wife and I each ordered this brew and she immediately remarked, "This is the best beer I've ever had." I can't argue with her. It's rich and smooth, but not over-the-top heavy. In fact, I think it's extremely easy to drink and an excellent choice to give to someone who isn't totally sure about stouts or porters. You'll want to carve out some space for this one in your fridge at all times, if you haven't already.

Hop Slinger IPA by Henniker Brewing Co. (Henniker)

So much of the craft beer movement has centered on pushing IPAs to the extreme: extreme hops, extreme bitterness, extreme flavor. I'm not complaining but sometimes it goes too far. The Hop Slinger is just a great all-around beer, not super hoppy or bitter, but it still packs plenty of flavor. A great choice when you just want to enjoy an IPA and not spend much time thinking about it.

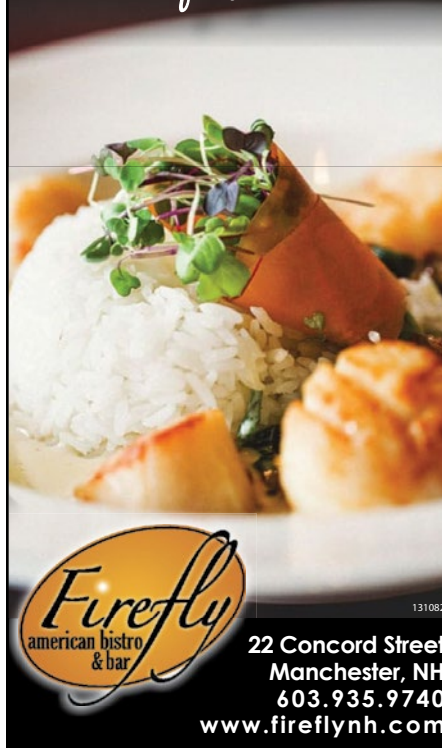
Jeff Mucciarone is a senior account manager with Montagne Communications, where he provides communications support to the New Hampshire wine and spirits industry.

What's in My Fridge

Sculpin IPA by Ballast Point Brewing Co. (San Diego). *This is one I hadn't had in a long time but my taste buds appreciated that I turned back to Ballast Point's flagship IPA. This brew has a little sweetness to it, along with big notes of citrus, peach and mango. Consistently excellent. Cheers!*

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Matt Wilson, *When I Was a Writer* (Pravda Records)

CDs pg22

• Matt Wilson, *When I Was a Writer* A+• Welicoruss, *Siberian**Heathen Horse* A-

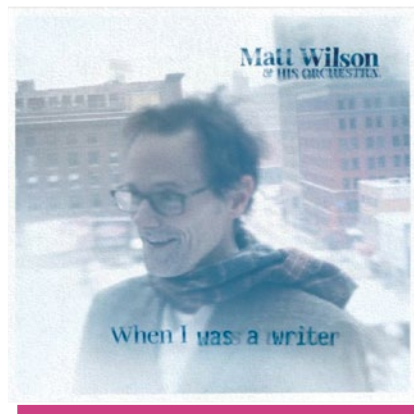
BOOKS pg23

• *Recipe for the Perfect Wife* A-

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events.

To let us know about your book or event, email asykeny@hippopress.com.To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

FILM pg24

• *Bloodshot* B-• *Spenser Confidential* C+• *21 Bridges* B-

If the fate of this record is doomed, it's only because it's so great in too many senses. It's the debut solo LP from Wilson, who served as frontman for the criminally overlooked Minnesota band Trip Shakespeare, a band noted as having been born at the wrong time, since during the early 1990s they were hawking complex melodies, lush vocal arrangements and pure *study* just as the grunge movement was beginning to take over. Given that the music of today is such an a la carte medium geared toward stubbornly personal tastes, you could view this as a sort of Revenge of

the Music Nerds, or at least I see it that way, what with collaborators like harp (as in angels, not harmonica) geek Phala Tracey gladly playing supporting roles. There's never a dull or uninspired moment to be found within this relentlessly captivating set of hayloft-pop tunes, which largely combine Bela Fleck with The Mamas and The Papas and latter-day Nick Cave. Truly jaw-dropping. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger*

Welicoruss, *Siberian Heathen Horde* (El Puerto Records)

There's really nothing more adorable than a non-sucky euro-metal band that lives literally nowhere most people would ever want to visit yet still takes its trip seriously, and these guys are definitely that. They're from Siberia, a gigantic area that's basically the Russian version of our own Midwest, home to 23 percent of the country's population, the dictionary definition of "the middle of nowhere." It's frickin' freezing there, and weird zillion-year-old animals are often found perfectly preserved, frozen in ice, like mammoths and woolly rhinoceros. The fact that

there's not, or so I'd assume, a lot of competition in the symphonic black metal space in Siberia hasn't helped them evolve much past Cradle of Filth without a chick singer; much of the content here is like Trans Siberian Orchestra with a government-issue death metal singer; in other words if you want *real* symphonic black metal (pay attention, this is important), you're probably best served buying a Dimmu Borgir album instead of this, for the Quorthon rasp-demon singing alone. But this is from *Siberia*, man, party up. A- — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• March 27 is a Friday, meaning that there will be new album announcements in your spam folders that day. No power on earth can stop these albums from coming, so they will come, and people will listen to them, like **Pearl Jam's** 11th full-length, *Gigaton!* You remember their 10th album, I'm sure, called *Lightning Bolt*. You remember, right? No? Come on, it had a song called "Mind Your Manners" on it, a speed-punk tune that was sort of reminiscent of Metallica's \$5.98 *EP*, only because it was fast. It was OK, but not the greatest speed-punk song of all time (that's Black Flag's "TV Party"). Whatever, while you were listening to other bands, *Lightning Bolt* hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, which you, along with all the other Gen Xers, missed, because for years now you've only been listening to music your kids like, like the soundtrack to *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel* or Imagine Dragons and so on, which means this is all news to you, all this *Gigaton* business. As with the punk on their last album, I wasn't expecting the new single, the throwback Redd Kross-ish "Superblood Wolfmoon," because it's almost as bad (in a good way) as they used to sound when they were the band Mother Love Bone. I remember getting those old grunge records for review back when I was as hot-looking as you, and I'd literally throw them in the trash unopened. Do I regret doing that? Well, yes, yes I do.

• I'm sure everyone reading this newspaper is wondering what I think of the new **Lady Gaga** single "Stupid Love." I am too, so I'm going to see what old '90s song this tune rips off, for your entertainment, because what's more fun than watching me suffer? So the video starts off with some cockamamie Kumbaya pandering about Wakandans vs. Pink Leather People or some such nonsense, but nobody fights, and then it turns into a tuneless Dinty Moore can of old Madonna vibe, but with an asphalt-topped Ed Banger beat from 2009. I'll be deleting my link to the Pink Panda remix, unless one of you guys wants it.

• I could talk about the new **Sufjan Stevens** LP *Aporia*, but since I could easily guess what it sounds like and have no interest in bothering, I'll mention that London-based freak-IDM soundsystem **The Orb** have a new album coming out in five minutes or so, titled *Abolition of the Royal Familia*. It's not as super-weird as anything you've heard from them, at least going by the "single" (for lack of a better word) "Hawk Kings (Oseberg Buddhas Button-hole)." There's some backward-masked Middle Eastern music going on there, and a pretty standard techno beat, but it's The Orb, so go dig the awesomeness.

• Finally, some reader freaked out in email about my time-saving tutorial for hipsters that came out the other week, where I pointed readers to the best and worst **Yes** albums. This person argued that there was some worthwhile music on their second album (there isn't), and refused to admit that their masterpiece is indeed *Parallels*. They got so excited that they actually inscribed as the subject line of their email, and I quote, "SAEGER!!!! %#@!!!" Folks, if you're going to self-troll, you shouldn't bowdlerize your thoughts, as my cat does tend to delete emails that appear the slightest bit disingenuous. Thanks in advance. — *Eric W. Saeger*

Local bands seeking album or EP reviews can message me on Twitter (@esaeger) or Facebook (eric.saeger.9). 🍷

Some jazz (and pop) in the time of coronavirus

Eric W. Saeger recommends a few albums worth a second look.

As I'm sure my Hippo music-writing colleague Michael Witthaus would affirm, dark times are here for all music communities until further notice. If you've spent at least five minutes in front of non-establishment media-news outlets like YouTube, you're well aware that streaming "live shows" from couches nationwide has replaced, well, everything else, at least in the area of live performance.

It all has an early 1930s feel, doesn't it, as if any minute you're suddenly going to see a rusting Model A Ford truck, filled to the top with sharecroppers looking for farm work, rolling clunkily down your hill, sounding



graceful segue) to the upcoming new jazz album from 60-year-old pianist **Matthew Shipp**, *The Piano Equation*. Not many of this type of album come in here, brimming with starkly eloquent essays without accompaniment of any kind. The acoustics are wonderful. It reminds me of my

an "ahh-OOO-gah" to warn off the skateboard kids in the hoodies.

Which brings me (well, it doesn't, but I have little room for a

youngest years, as the child of two New England Conservatory Masters grads. As it was back then, there is tinkling here, there are rolling storms punctuated by claps of pounding, there is soothing melody. I can practically smell the Silly Putty that was part of that childhood. That one should be out on May 1.

Back in 2017 an album from woodwinds/synth guy **Chet Doxas** landed here. Titled *Rich in Symbols*, it bragged to have drawn inspiration from the jazz-art scene centered around the Lower East Side/East Village in the early 1980s. Reviewers who took a shot at it realized that it was the cream missing from their coffee. There's downtempo stuff, some braying skronk, some light layering of



stun-guitar chaos, but mainly it's composed of smooth, airy groove, make-out-jazz with a pulse. You'll like it.

If you're in a local band, now's a great time to let me know about your EP, your single, whatever's on your mind. Let me know how you're holding yourself together without being able to play shows or jam with your homies. Email esaeger@cyberontix.com for fastest response. 🍷

Bloodshot (PG-13)

Vin Diesel tries to put his eggs in more than one franchise basket in *Bloodshot*, a movie that was apparently supposed to kickstart a Valiant Comics cinematic universe.

According to Wikipedia, the Valiant Comics universe also includes the superhero Faith (whose superhero name is Zephyr), a character whose books I've never read but whom I've heard enough about to feel pretty confident that she would have been a better starting point for a cinematic universe.

Or maybe *Bloodshot*, with a cleaner story, would have been fine. Reading about the character in Wikipedia, you get a sense of someone who is sort of Wolverine-ish — soldier turned super-soldier thanks to a crazy experiment. But it was the Wikipedia entry for his character, and not the movie itself, that offered a sense of the character's narrative possibilities.

Like Wolverine, *Bloodshot* (Vin Diesel) doesn't know who he is or what has happened to him. He wakes up in the lab of Dr. Emil Harting (Guy Pearce) with the ability to bench, like, all the weights and to heal almost instantly when Harting slices into his hand — all thanks to super-power-giving “nanites” that now run through his blood. But Ray Garrison, as Diesel's character has to be told his name is, doesn't even remember how he died. All Harting can tell him is that he was a soldier and his unclaimed body was donated by the Department of Defense.

But maybe Ray does have a faint sense of his life before. He remembers a woman (Tal-



Bloodshot

ulah Riley), some scenes of violence and the face of a man (Toby Kebbell) who is responsible for causing him great pain.

Other soldiers who have been modified into superheroes — KT (Eiza González, who is sort of a poor man's Gal Gadot), Tibbs (Alex Hernandez) and Jimmy Dalton (a sneering Sam Heughan who needed to turn his “obvious villain” performance either down two notches or up as high as it could go) — try to help Ray ease into this new existence. But then he hears a song that triggers the memory of the violent act that ended his (first) life and he rushes off to get revenge.

Of course, as we quickly learn (and I think the trailers gave away), there is more

to Ray's memories than just a recovered fragment of a former life. Soon he “goes rogue” — these kinds of guys in these kinds of movies always go rogue — and tries to piece together what is really going on with the help of Wilfred Wigans (Lamore Morris, who often feels like the only person who showed up for work in any given scene).

I wish this were a better version of what is it because I feel like a movie like *that* — a scrappy non-Marvel superhero film — would be an enjoyable bit of distraction. But this movie is a mess of action movie leftovers and generic-brand facsimiles of other series. If “action movie” is ever a setting on a white noise machine, this movie is what will be playing. (I did not fall asleep during

this, the second to last movie I saw in a theater nearly two weeks ago, but I totally could have.)

But let's focus on the positive and that comes entirely down to Morris, who is fun as the requisite hacker-guy. In fact, a movie with just Morris' Wigans and González's KT working to bring down the evil-doers would have been more interesting. *Bloodshot* might actually be the least interesting part of this *Bloodshot* movie. **C-**

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence, some suggestive material and language, according to the MPA. Directed by Dave Wilson with a screenplay by Jeff Wadlow and Eric Heisserer; Bloodshot is an hour and 49 minutes long and distributed by Columbia Pictures.

Spenser Confidential (R)

A disgraced former Boston police officer decides to solve a couple of murders for no good reason in *Spenser Confidential*, which might just be the kinda terrible, kinda ridiculous Mark Wahlberg movie we all need right now.

If your movie-watching is all about escapism, nothing feels more escape-ready than *Spenser Confidential*, which, Wikipedia explains, is a rough adaptation of a novel called *Wonderland* overlaid with *Spenser for Hire* characters. The movie also has the makings of a drinking game of Boston bingo. There's the Cumberland Farms mention, the fight scene choreographed to “Sweet Caroline,” the “lobstah.”

AT THE SOFAPLEX

Several movies that were in theaters at the time they closed are now available for home viewing. Here is a rundown of movies available for your movie night, starting with the recent releases and then including the bigger movies of late 2019 and awards contenders that are now available.

* Indicates a movie to seek out. Find full reviews for most films in past issues, which are available at hippopress.com.

***Bad Boys for Life* (R)**

Will Smith, Martin Lawrence. If what you want is Will Smith and Martin Lawrence in a *Bad Boys* movie, this movie delivers, exactly that and nothing more but, like, exactly the quips and car chases signed up for. **B-** Available for purchase on Tuesday, March 31, according to iTunes.

***Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)* (R)**

Margot Robbie, Rosie Perez. Also starring Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ella Jay Basco and about 60 percent too much of Ewan McGregor. This movie is at its very best when the women are brought together but it doesn't get around to this until the last half hour or so (though when it does, the possibilities of what could have been are evident). **C** Available for purchase now (and for rent in April).

***Emma* (PG)**

Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn. *Emma* has many fine qualities but she can also be careless with people's feelings and kind of, well, clueless — so argues this new adaptation of the Jane Austen novel. This *Emma* not only highlights the comedy aspect of the

story but gives everybody, from Taylor-Joy's Emma Woodhouse to Flynn's Knightley, welcome flaws that add some tartness to this delightful sweet treat. **A-** Available for rent for \$19.99 for a 48-hour period.

***The Gentlemen* (R)**

Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam. Plus Michelle Dockery, Henry Golding, Jeremy Strong, Colin Farrell and Hugh Grant having all the fun. The real star here is the classic Guy Ritchie caper. If you like that (and don't mind the associated violence and self-conscious naughtiness), then you'll like this just fine. **B** Available for purchase.

***The Hunt* (R)**

Betty Gilpin, Hilary Swank. Gilpin is the stand-out element of this thriller that gives an internet-troll-woke-culture sheen to what is basically a movie about a group of people getting killed one by one. The movie features some fun storytelling misdirection in moments but it is Gilpin's performance as a woman extremely well-equipped to fight off whatever comes her way

that makes this darkly comic, quite gory movie pluckily enjoyable at times. **B-** Available for rent for \$19.99 for a 48-hour period.

***The Invisible Man* (R)**

Elisabeth Moss, Oliver Jackson-Cohen. You almost don't need the “invisible” to make this update of the classic horror movie completely terrifying. Moss plays a woman so cowed and abused by her rich tech-guy husband that she has to sneak away from him in the movie's opening moments. When she starts to suspect that the report of his death was all part of his own plan to drive her mad, Moss's character finds herself increasingly isolated from her loved ones and even maybe doubting her own sanity (they certainly doubt her sanity). Moss is great at selling this kind of big, intense performance and putting you in it with her. **A-** Available for rent for \$19.99 for a 48-hour period.

***Onward* (PG)**

Voices of Tom Holland, Chris Pratt. Pixar's latest animated movie takes place in a world where magical crea-

tures — elves, centaurs and the like — now have non-magical suburban existence. Two teenage elf brothers receive a gift from their late father that allows them to bring him back for just one day. When the spell goes wrong, the brothers manage to bring back half of him (legs and feet) and have only a day to bring back the rest to tell him all the things they've always wanted to say. The world-building here is sort of uneven, more *The Good Dinosaur* than *Cars* or *Toy Story*, but the relationship between the brothers and with their mom (voiced by Julia Louis-Dreyfus) is the solid core of this movie. **B** Available for purchase now and scheduled to be available for rent and on Disney+ on April 3, according to cnet.com.

***Sonic the Hedgehog* (PG)**

James Marsden, voice of Ben Schwartz. The super-fast blue hedgehog of video game fame gets a buddy movie (with a very game Marsden) featuring Jim Carrey doing his Carrey-est as the villain. Very kid-friendly, very easy on the adults. **B-** Available for purchase on March 31, according to iTunes.

Spenser (Wahlberg) used to be a Boston cop but when we meet him he is in his last day of a five-year sentence for assaulting a superior officer, Captain Boylan (Michael Gaston). After one last prison fight (but, like, a goofy prison fight, if there could be such a thing), Spenser is released to Henry (Alan Arkin), a friend and mentor who owns a boxing/MMA gym. In addition to putting up Spenser for a while, he's housing Hawk (Winston Duke), another man down on his luck and now looking to become the Lebron James of the MMA world, as Hawk explains to Spenser.

Spenser is also busy dodging Cissy (Iliza Shlesinger), his girlfriend from before he went to jail who is both determined to see him and super angry at him. Why is she so angry? Comic relief I think.

On the first night after Spenser's release, Boylan is murdered, so naturally Spenser becomes a suspect. Though another murdered officer is eventually named as Boylan's murderer, Spenser thinks that story is all part of a cover-up of dirty cops and their mobster muscle. Or something. Equally "yada yada"-ed is Spenser's reason for deciding to get involved in this instead of just following his original plan to move to Arizona and become a long-haul truck driver. But, really, is plot coherence so important when Wahlberg quips and action scenes are the true glue that hold this movie together?

Remember the USA Network television shows of the mid-aughts to mid-teens, the "blue sky" era? Your *Psych* and your *Burn Notice* and the like? In tone and structure and cast, *Spenser Confidential* feels a bit like the two-hour premiere of one of those. And as such it's fine. Not as clever as *Psych* or *Burn Notice* but blunt and low-rent and watchable in the "I want to watch something while folding this laundry/drinking this cocktail" sense of watchable. C+

*Rated R for violence, language throughout and sexual content, according to the MPA. Directed by Peter Berg with a screenplay by Sean O'Keefe & Brian Helgeland (based, as Wikipedia describes, very loosely on a novel by Ace Atkins called *Wonderland* and on characters created by Robert B. Parker), Spenser Confidential is an hour and 51 minutes long and distributed by Netflix, which is where it is currently available.*

21 Bridges (R)

Chadwick Boseman takes a half-step outside his Black Panther role to play a cop seeking justice in 21 Bridges, a totally acceptable bit of cops-and-robbers action that originally came out in November 2019 and is available for rent or purchase.

Much like T'Challa of *Black Panther*, Andre Davis (Boseman) of this movie is spurred on to his life of "protect and serve" by the death of his father. Andre's police officer dad died when Andre was 13. Now, some 19 years later, Andre is a detective with a reputation for getting the bad guy,

though often he does this by shooting someone, which is why when we first meet adult Andre he is being grilled by internal affairs.

Perhaps his reputation is why he's called in when eight police officers are shot during a robbery. Two men — Ray (Taylor Kitsch) and Michael (Stephan James) — break into a restaurant after hours intending to steal 30 kilos of adulterated cocaine. What they find is 300 kilos of pure cocaine and the sudden arrival of four police officers. Michael thinks all of this is a bad scene and wants to run. Ray starts with the shooting and stealing and by the time they get away eight police officers and one civilian are dead or dying and the whole of the New York City police department is focused on finding the shooters.

Enter Andre. His immediate advice is to close the isle of Manhattan, all 21 bridges, the riverways, the subways and the tunnels. The men have to stay in the city to find a buyer for the large amount of cocaine they stole, he says, which will give police a chance to find them. The mayor's office agrees to close the city until 5 a.m. to catch the men, after which the case will go to the FBI as it will be assumed the men have fled the city. Andre, with help from narcotics officer Frankie Burns (Sienna Miller), is determined to find them. Police Captain McKenna (J.K. Simmons) tells him not only to find them but to make sure that nobody ever has to bother with a trial.

Elements of the crime and the initial attempts to track down the robbers and their accomplices soon have Andre wondering if there is more to the crime than originally appears — also maybe he noticed that J.K. Simmons was playing the police captain, which feels like almost an in-movie spoiler alert.

The load-bearing structure of this movie is made of movie-cop-jargon and the awesomeness of Boseman. As things go to hang the watchability of something on, you could do worse than the super-hero-ness of Boseman. He's extremely watchable, even in scenes where you don't quite understand what everybody's accent is supposed to be or where Sienna Miller is trying a little too hard to get a recurring role on *Law & Order SVU*. I think this movie fancies itself as something like an *Inside Man* (that 2006 movie from Spike Lee is a perfectly constructed Swiss watch of a movie; it's available for rent or purchase or with a Fubo TV subscription if you're looking for two-plus hours of top-notch entertainment). This isn't that, isn't as cleanly constructed or as smart, but it is completely serviceable entertainment with decent pacing and a magnetic central star. B-

Rated R for violence and language throughout, according to the MPA. Directed by Brian Kirk with a screenplay by Adam Mervis and Matthew Michael Carnahan, 21 Bridges is an hour and 39 minutes long, distributed by STX Entertainment and available for rent or purchase. 🍷

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

During the COVID-19 health crisis, The Roundup is highlighting online events presented by local artists.

- **Studio quality:** Patrons of Nashua's Riverwalk Café when it hosted live music almost every night should check out **Bella's Bartok** on Stay at Home Live, run by ex-Riverwalk booker Ben Ruddock. It kicked off last Friday with a stellar set from Town Meeting, followed Saturday by Slam Kitchen (video archives of both shows are up for viewing). It's easy to donate while watching great local music. Friday, March 27, 8 p.m. (Consider The Source performs Saturday). Details at facebook.com/pg/StayAtHomeLive.

- **Venue shifted:** An eagerly anticipated appearance from rising star **Zoe Boekbinder** at Manchester's Jupiter Hall has been moved to cyberspace. Boekbinder most recently worked with Ani DiFranco on the Prison Music Project, a collaboration with poet, rapper and songwriter inmates of California's New Folsom Prison. Friday, March 27, 8 p.m., facebook.com/events/624270588331657.

- **Working hard:** Under normal circumstances **Amanda McCarthy** would be performing multiple times all over the region this week, but these aren't those. So the talented singer songwriter, who's released a bevy of new original songs of late, is staying at home and hosting a series of shows cheekily dubbed Amanda McQuarantine: A Livestream Series. This week she's joined by Austin James. For a \$25 donation she'll write a personal song on a chosen topic and play it live. Friday, March 27, 7 p.m., facebook.com/amandamcmusic.

- **Hard times:** While musicians are hit hard by the live lockdown, promoters are struggling too. **NH Booking** has been a steady force for showcasing local and national hard rock bands, most recently at Jewel Music Venue. The company has launched a Patreon page and is offering a cool T-shirt reading, "I Helped NH Booking Survive The Covid Crisis," and is currently working on an all-day stream-a-thon event called Scene Strong, with bands live-streaming sets and doing Q&A sessions. See patreon.com/nhbooking.

- **Stay regular:** One of the region's more ubiquitous singer-guitarists, **Paul Warnick** appears every Thursday at Ellacoya Bar & Grille in Gilford and Fridays at Fratello's Laconia, until COVID-19. But Warnick plans to keep doing those gigs from home, via his Facebook page. Enjoy an easygoing tune or two and drop a few bucks in his tip jar — Venmo, PayPal or Facebook Pay. Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. at facebook.com/pg/paulwarnickmusic. 🍷

NITE

Hoping the shows will go on

Tupelo owner talks about COVID-19's impact on concert business



Scott Hayward. Courtesy photo.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The live entertainment business is being hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak, as big companies like AEG and Live Nation suspend operations and artists cancel tours. On March 18, Tupelo Music Hall founder and owner Scott Hayward talked about the impact it's having on his venue, how fans can help keep the music alive, and his plans for weathering the crisis, which include temporarily transforming the lobby of the 600-seat Derry listening room into a Meals on Wheels, selling fair-priced vital supplies like hand sanitizer and bottled water and, potentially, posting virtual concerts.

You've said holding on to tickets for postponed shows and requesting a credit for canceled ones would be a big help.

I just got a message from a guy saying, 'Hey, I want a refund for my Daughtry tickets, and if I don't get it, I'm gonna dispute the charge.' ... I've talked to people like that, but most are cool about it. ... Right now, branding and messaging is so important for venues, keeping in touch, sometimes just to tell [patrons] how we don't really know anything yet. But yeah, that's the message. Calm down, give your venue time to work through this. ... I have shows coming up that don't have reschedule dates. That doesn't mean that when the date passes I'm giving everybody their money back. Everybody knows that venues are closed so it's gonna take time, that's all there is to it. That's been my message. Hang in there. ... Maybe that Friday show moves to a Wednesday [and] typically they don't go out on that day but maybe they could do it. If they can't, maybe they'll get a credit instead of a refund. ... The action by ticket holders is going to be the thing that makes or breaks local venues.

Are you encouraged by what you've seen?

I'm hopeful that we don't have more than

20 percent refunds. That's typical — if we reschedule a date, we usually have 25 to 30 percent of people ask for refunds. If I have 20 percent then we're gonna be OK. Honestly, 10 percent or less would be fantastic, because it allows us to buy more shows down the road.

Virtual concerts are starting to happen a lot more now, like Dropkick Murphys.

That was fantastic. I was in such a good mood when that ended.

Are you looking to do anything like that?

We're working on implementing a business plan that's very different from music right now. ... I am buying all the paper towels, toilet paper, disinfectant, water bottles I can find. Our box office is closed and we're gonna fill our lobby with this stuff. I've got one of my employees who's just gonna work on this. It isn't to make money. I'm getting it from vendors who really only deal with commercial places and all of them are closed anyway. So my vendors have access to stuff that regular people don't. Our goal is to become basically — I don't want to say commissary because we're not gonna have that many items — but to be able to get essentials that for some reason people can't get anymore because people are hoarding it, and to be able to get it to them for what they would have paid for it to begin with on a normal day. That's one thing we're working on.

The other thing we're working on is using our kitchen to get meals to older people who are stuck in their house and won't leave. Thirdly, we're discussing how to use the venue itself. I'm not in a rush right now to use the venue because in order to do the food part I have to make damn sure that only a very few people have access to my building and there's only four of us right now that have it. We've all agreed to do things a certain way so that hopefully we're the last people to get sick because you can't be putting meals together and giving it to people if we don't cover all the bases when it comes to sanitation. ...

I know a lot of artists are streaming videos, and we certainly could do that. We're set up to do that, but I want to make sure that we perfect the other things we're trying to do first. Because there are a lot of people streaming, we'd have to get cameras in there and figure out a platform. We could stream and put stuff on YouTube, which would be cool, and I've talked to others who'd like us to do that. There are fairly big-size artists saying, 'Look, I'll stream my show from there.'

But right now my staff is focused on the community thing and getting meals to people. It's not an issue today, but I think it's gonna be an issue in seven to 10 days and we want to set ourselves up so that we're there if that happens.

What is the most encouraging thing that's happened to make you think we'll come out of this OK?

There are pretty much two sides to my business. There's the side where the venue owners are trying to get shows and [under normal circumstances] we're continually competing with each other and blocking each other. On that side of the business there [is now] a lot of collaboration between venue owners. ... That's super important. The other side is ticket holders. We've gotten a tremendous amount of support and love from people all over the country ... that have seen the video I posted and [are] watching our Facebook pages. ... We had our last show with Dave Mason and on the way out people were buying \$500 gift cards. We have a lot of people who understand the plight of the venue and they're buying memberships and gift cards and sending us nice notes. It's good. We have a daunting task trying to reschedule all these shows and work with people who have tickets for shows that aren't happening so just the fact that our people are giving us that leeway, they are working with us on that stuff, gives me a lot of hope, you know? Nobody knows how long we're gonna have to hunker down for.

That's fantastic. Good luck!

In my email today I decided to write about successes instead of [complaining]. Honestly, I came back from vacation last Thursday night [March 12] and literally when I was in the air Live Nation put out that thing saying they were pulling everything [and] all the sports stuff fell apart. Three hours in the air and when I hit the ground, my phone blew up. It was unprecedented for an entire industry, and it [appeared] like we were the victims of this and the ones to get hurt the most. That entire thing has changed now. Gyms, restaurants and bars are closing, stores — this is not specific anymore to one industry getting decimated.

So the reason I did that in my email is I think anybody that can muster the strength to talk about successes and the good things that are happening, not to ignore what's going on, but I honestly think that's what people need to hear. I've got so many responses to it, and they have the same feeling I had after watching the Dropkick Murphys last night. Yesterday was my birthday, and after that show, you know, I had a couple of beers watching it. I just forgot about crap for an hour and a half. It felt so good. I was singing and dancing in my living room, and today when I sent that email I got some responses from people saying thank you, I really needed to hear that. Focus on the positive stuff people are doing. [With] so much bad stuff going on in the world, you need to remind people this will pass — we're doing some great things, let's concentrate on successes, help each other, get through this thing. 🍷

GONNA DRESS YOU UP IN MY PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Cartoon Winnie-influenced Kenny Loggins 'Return To ___ Corner'
- 5. Big Wreck 'The ___ (My Luck Is Wasted)'
- 8. Wager, between members in battle of the bands
- 11. Band will do this on website when they

want to divulge album release date

- 13. Lenny Kravitz '___ Get You Off My Mind' (1,4)
- 16. '92 Crowded House hit about storming it together? (7,4,3)
- 18. Kiss promised "You got, got nothing to ___!"

19. Robert Plant hit 'Tall ___' (4,3)

- 21. 80s 'Kisses On The Wind' singer/rapper Cherry
- 24. 'Foolin' ___ Leppard
- 25. Three Days Grace 'Animal I Have Become' album (3,1)
- 26. Jimmy Buffett loves his canines and sang "You're better off with ___" (1,3)
- 27. It was her 'Song', to Silverchair
- 29. Madonna '85 classic "Gonna ___ you up in my love"
- 30. Crowd does this, for softer sing/songster show
- 31. '10 Phish release that brought such happiness?
- 32. Jimmy Eat World 'My ___ Theory'
- 33. 'Represent' (___) PE
- 34. '09 U2 album 'No Line On The ___'
- 36. Black 'N Blue Northwestern home state, for short
- 39. Indie Scots ___ Strap
- 41. Blondie singer (abbr)
- 42. Not-so-optimal spoken record deal
- 43. Prince 'Sometimes It Snows In ___'
- 45. 80s 'I Like It' singer inspired by The Flintstones pet dinosaur, perhaps
- 46. What Syd Barrett went, slang
- 47. 'People Got A Lotta Nerve' Case
- 48. Buddy Holly 'Peggy ___'
- 49. Like crowd during sold out concert
- 50. Madonna "Sun lights up the ___, moon lights up the night"
- 52. Unwritten Law "She ___, 'I don't love you anymore'"
- 54. Madonna 'Ray Of Light' song for family to not break up? (4,2,8)
- 59. Bob Seger sang they love to watch 'Her'

this

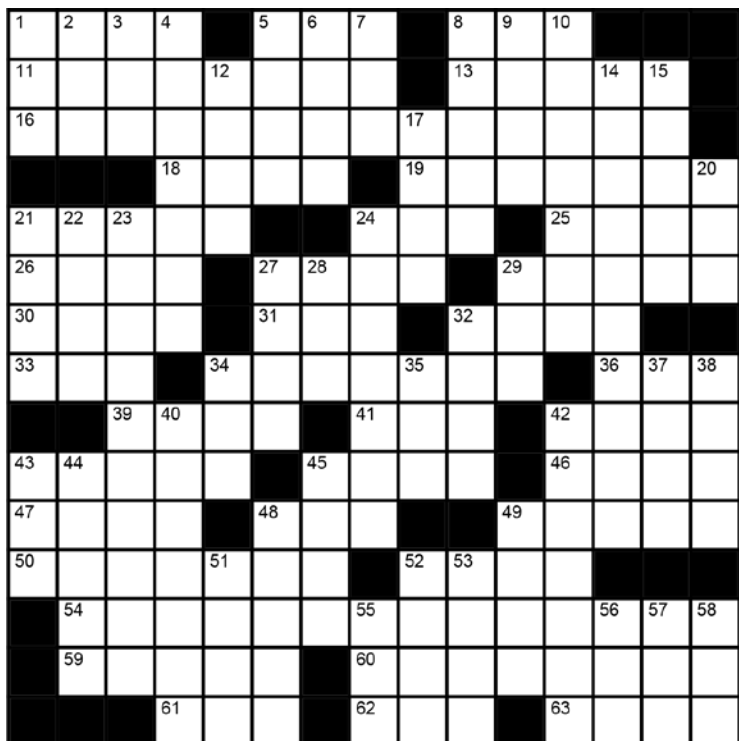
- 60. Elton John 'Tumbleweed Connection' song that also opened Dog Day Afternoon film
- 61. All-female 'Horror Wrestling' band Drain ___
- 62. 'Sleeping My Day Away' band not called "Mom"
- 63. Asia's genre of rock (abbr)

Down

- 1. Kansas 'Jessie' band inspired by a kit mitt, perhaps
- 2. Madonna just wants '___ More Chance'
- 3. Kinks "Sipping at my ice cold beer, lazing ___ sunny afternoon" (2,1)
- 4. '77 Rod Stewart hit about some nice gams (3,4)
- 5. Michael Jackson '03 compilation 'Number ___'
- 6. Ray Lamontagne sang of an '___ Of Land'
- 7. Shawn Colvin grabbed her hammer and just made 'A ___ Small Repairs'
- 8. Lou Bega 'A Little ___ Mambo' (3,2)
- 9. 80s singer that was The Bunnymen's leader
- 10. John & Andy of Duran Duran
- 12. Miami Sound Machine 'Falling In Love' song (hyph)
- 14. '94 Allman Brothers 'Where It All Begins' hit '___ With' (2,3,2,3)
- 15. What guitarist does w/guitar pegs before okaying the axe for the show
- 17. T and Cube
- 20. Elle King '___ And Ohs'
- 21. English 'Do-Wah-Doo' sing/songster Kate

- 22. Cult hit about Warhol sidekick Sedgwick 23. '97 Bob Dylan 'Time Out Of Mind' single (3,4,3)
- 24. '03 Story Of The Year hit 'Until The ___' (3,1,3)
- 27. The hardworking Silhouettes said for slackers to 'Get ___' (1,3)
- 28. Nada Surf 'Neither Heaven ___ Space'
- 29. Bruce Springsteen stepped into the 'Lion's ___' on 'Tracks'
- 32. Aerosmith 'Honkin' On ___'
- 34. Burt Bacharach co-writer David
- 35. "Everything ___, I don't think so" Bush
- 37. 'The Fine Art Of Surfacing' Boomtown ___
- 38. "And nothing ___ matters" Metallica
- 40. Kind of fans that break stuff for no-shows
- 42. Jordin Sparks takes '___ At A Time' (3,4)
- 43. Citizen King 'Better Days (___ The Bottom Drops Out)'
- 44. What #1 song does on the charts
- 45. 'Almost Paradise' is one of this kind of song w/two singers
- 48. Robert of The Cure
- 49. Led Zep '___ Mak'er'
- 51. Madonna "___ myself in this position, and I deserve the imposition"
- 52. Chicago recording studio owned by John McEntire of Tortoise
- 53. A cocky Kanye West said 'I Am ___' (1,3)
- 55. Bassist Kinchla of Blues Traveler
- 56. Madonna "When you see ___, say a prayer and kiss your heart goodbye"
- 57. Producer/artist Brian that worked w/ Coldplay
- 58. Carly Simon "From ___ dolls through brassieres"

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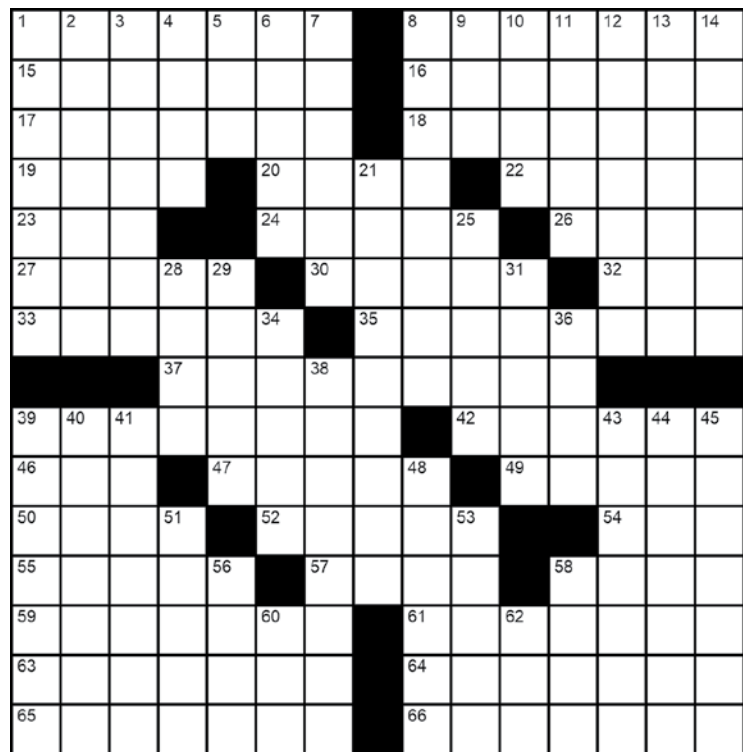
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"Freeducation" — a freestyle puzzle for now



Across

- 1 Rotary phone parts
- 8 Whip holders?
- 15 Hopy "New England-style" brew
- 16 System that includes emoji
- 17 Invited up
- 18 Compliment after getting out of bed?
- 19 ___ Bhabie (rapper first known as the "Cash Me Outside" girl from "Dr. Phil")
- 20 Precipice
- 22 Indian curry dish
- 23 ___ Dems (U.K. political party, informally)
- 24 Fictional Marnar
- 26 Achievement
- 27 Neighbor of British Columbia
- 30 Like birthday celebrants
- 32 Letters in some Baptist church names
- 33 Most sound
- 35 They may have chains and locks
- 37 Pic off a monitor?
- 39 1960s TV spy thriller with a 1997

movie remake

- 42 Site for ants or bumps?
- 46 Slick stuff
- 47 Dreadlocked one, maybe
- 49 Like some fast-food chicken sandwiches
- 50 Returning grad
- 52 Flashlight battery
- 54 Alternate spelling abbr.
- 55 Anwar who shared a Nobel Peace Prize
- 57 Deep-sea killer
- 58 Sister of Poseidon
- 59 Secure firmly
- 61 Dazed
- 63 Not consistent
- 64 The "devil's interval" in music (heard in "The Simpsons" theme)
- 65 Took once more, like a white elephant gift
- 66 Pieces of Sanskrit religious literature

- 3 Keep showing up in a book and film series?
- 4 Turned from white to pink, maybe
- 5 Pot top
- 6 Big pictures?
- 7 Company behind Hello Kitty
- 8 "You're a better man than I am" poem
- 9 "Allergic to Water" singer DiFranco
- 10 Travel expert Steves
- 11 Words before Base or spades
- 12 Quit messing around
- 13 Japanese appetizer
- 14 Advisory councils
- 21 Healed up
- 25 Dry, as Italian wine
- 28 Former New York Jets owner Leon
- 29 Muppet whose tweets often end with "Scram!"
- 31 "___ Hope" (1980s ABC soap)
- 34 Three-note chord
- 36 Machine that helps with sleep apnea
- 38 Fix firmly in place
- 39 "Wide slot" device
- 40 "Cautionary Tales for Children" author Belloc
- 41 Evasive sorts
- 43 Enjoy immensely
- 44 Instrument in a "Legend of Zelda" title
- 45 Spins around
- 48 "Little Women" author
- 51 Furious on
- 53 Actress Linney of "Kinsey"
- 56 "Africa" band
- 58 "So ___" (Kid Rock song)
- 60 Wheaton of "The Big Bang Theory"
- 62 Malleable metal

Down

- 1 Dry white wine
- 2 Jones who played Angie Tribeca

Jonesin' answer from pg 36 of 03/19



Classic Jonesin' answer from pg 34 of 03/19



R&R answer from pg 31 of 03/19



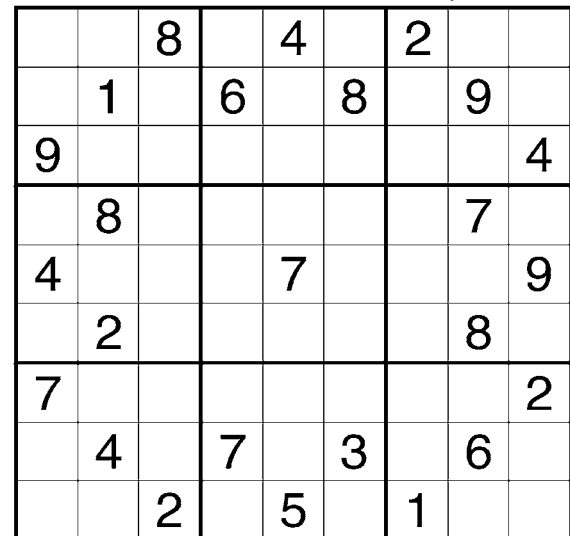
Classic R&R answer from pg 33 of 03/19



NITE SUDOKU

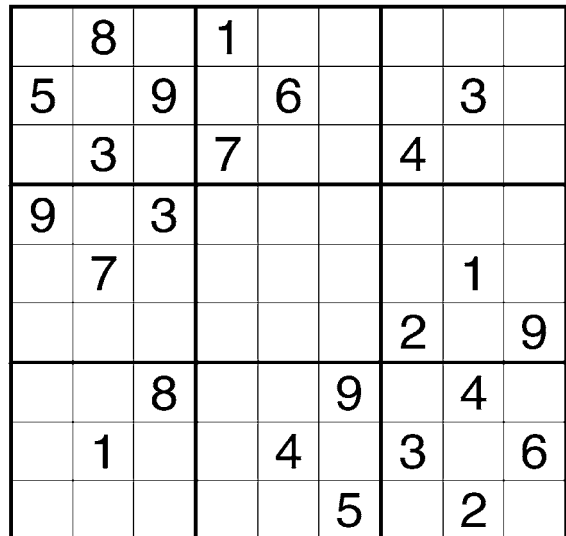
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



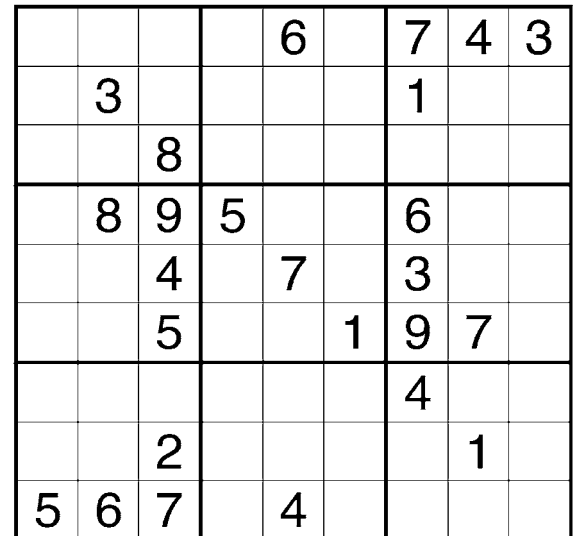
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

This round's on me

Enjoy this Jonesin' Crossword, originally printed in 2012!

Across

- 1 Psych ending
- 5 Former Anaheim Stadium football

player

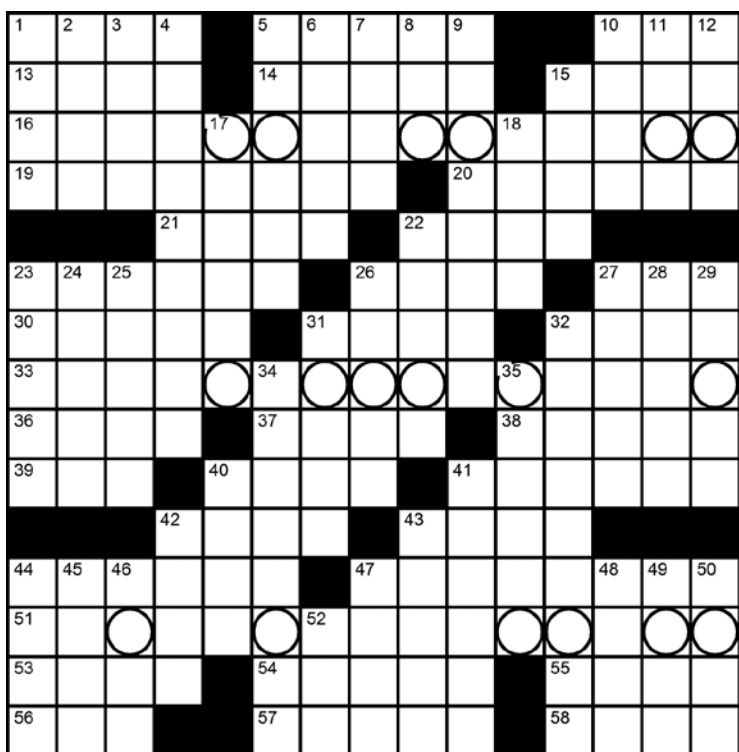
- 10 Response: abbr.
- 13 ___-Rooter
- 14 Sponge by 3M
- 15 "In the Valley of ___" (2007 Tommy Lee Jones film)
- 16 Car feature
- 19 Crammed down someone's throat
- 20 ___ Pass (one way to travel across the Alps)
- 21 Lukas of "Witness"
- 22 The abbreviated Dickens?
- 23 How goods are sold to break even
- 26 Host Donahue or McGraw
- 27 Binge
- 30 Former Yankees manager Joe
- 31 Singer that married Heidi Klum
- 32 Gangster's girl
- 33 With "The," 1994 movie with Anthony Hopkins and Dana Carvey
- 36 Shade trees
- 37 Gearshift position
- 38 Ingredient in salsa
- 39 Clairvoyant's claim
- 40 Game that spawned The Urbz, with "The"
- 41 Papers under the windshield wiper
- 42 E! show, with "The"
- 43 Seedy housing area

- 44 What the Gray Panthers fight
- 47 Monty Python-inspired musical
- 51 Queen song covered by Nine Inch Nails
- 53 Philosopher Descartes
- 54 Humble home
- 55 Property debt
- 56 Rap sheet abbr.
- 57 Went ballistic
- 58 IDs often verified by the last 4 digits

Down

- 1 "Carmina Burana" composer Carl
- 2 Matador's foe
- 3 "Like ___ not..."
- 4 "Flight of the ___"
- 5 Like some cottage cheese
- 6 Needs a rubdown
- 7 Oboist's piece
- 8 The A of IPA
- 9 You can make a mountain out of one
- 10 Actress Shawkat of "Arrested Development"
- 11 "Avatar" language
- 12 "Where the Sidewalk Ends" author Silverstein
- 15 Makes a mistake
- 17 Cups, saucers, etc.

- 18 Like some citizens
 - 22 Sidewalk outline stuff
 - 23 "Fish in ___? How can that be?" ("Hop on Pop" line)
 - 24 Shed spread
 - 25 Charlie horse, e.g.
 - 26 Jury members
 - 27 Hollywood's highest-paid actress of 2011
 - 28 ___ nothing
 - 29 Secluded spots
 - 31 Wetland area
 - 32 Some shopping centers
 - 34 One of two fought between the U.K. and China
 - 35 Car stereo control
 - 40 Just meh
 - 41 Broke off like talc
 - 42 Team
 - 43 "SNL" alum David
 - 44 Taj Mahal's locale
 - 45 Techie, stereotypically
 - 46 Active Sicilian volcano
 - 47 EPA topic
 - 48 Carter Pewterschmidt's daughter, on "Family Guy"
 - 49 Pizza joint fixture
 - 50 Till compartment
 - 52 Org. with a late start in 2011
- ©2012 Jonesin' Crosswords



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *The Intelligent Conversationalist*, by Imogen Lloyd Webber, born March 31, 1978.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Jane Austen does make the cut on the basis that I'm concerned you might confuse her with Charlotte Bronte in front of a Janeite, who are up there with Star Trek fans for unhinged behavior. Your Jane Austen knowledge could be useful.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) It is also worth noting that an Old Master is a painter who was renowned before 1800. Words have meaning.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Oh, incidentally, do what you can to become friends with someone who can vote for the Golden Globes, BAFTAs, or Oscars. They get screeners and you'll save a FORTUNE on movie tickets. There are better ways to choose friends.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) And as every seasoned partygoer knows, you will always meet the best people by the kitchen; they, like you, have been through this rodeo before. There's always a new rodeo.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) You are within your rights to call out a music snob, and if you're being one, expect to be challenged. Don't be an elitist old fogey. Or an elitist young know-it-all.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) If you're with theater buffs, say, 'A dramatic lit-

erature is necessarily conditioned by the audience for which it is intended,' and you won't have to utter another word as those in the vicinity debate the point. Talk amongst yourselves.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) Occasionally you'll get an actress remembering her roots as she mixes high fashion with highly stylized main street, most memorably Sharon Stone in *Gap* and Vera Wang in 1998. It could be a good time to mix things up.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Unless you want a Brit to laugh at you, don't refer to your trousers as pants. You probably won't need to refer to your trousers at all.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) Particularly in musical theater, there is a fine line between success and failure and no such thing as a sure thing. It may not take much to turn failure into success.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Nobody you want to speak to for any length of time wishes to dwell on finance; everyone has at some point played hooky from school or work and can wax lyrical about their secret daytime TV favorite. Get ready to wax lyrical.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) The cool kids all go to the Independent Spirit Awards the Saturday before the Oscars. The coolest kids go to the Golden Raspberry Awards, aka the Razzies, which since 1980 has been presenting honors to the worst films, but often cult classics,

of the year.

You don't need an award to know you're valuable.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Running late for a Broadway show? You've probably got seven minutes from the advertised

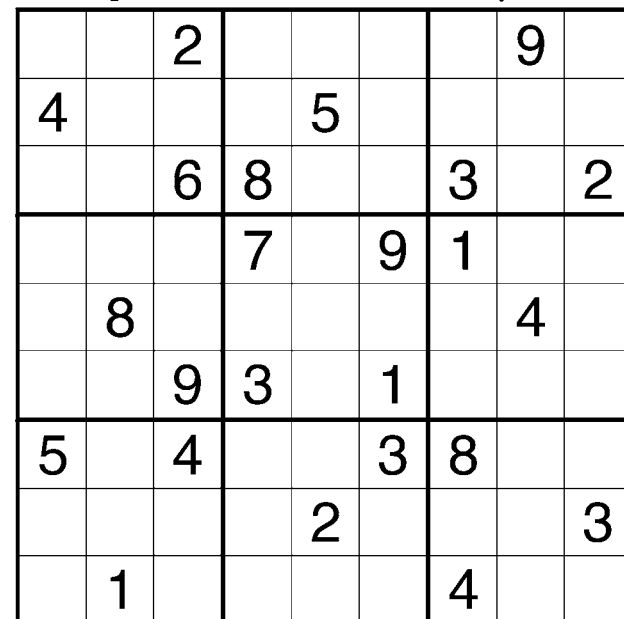
time until curtain up. Anything past that and you're annoying to actors and audience alike. And turn off your phone.... Otherwise Patti LuPone may walk off with it. This goes for live tweets from home as well. 🍷

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Last week's puzzle answers are to the right.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



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Difficulty Level ★★★

From pg 33 of 03/19

8	6	7	5	4	1	3	2	9
3	4	5	2	9	8	7	1	6
1	9	2	3	7	6	5	4	8
5	7	6	4	3	9	1	8	2
9	8	1	6	5	2	4	3	7
4	2	3	8	1	7	9	6	5
7	5	8	1	2	4	6	9	3
2	1	9	7	6	3	8	5	4
6	3	4	9	8	5	2	7	1

From pg 37 of 03/19

2	1	7	4	6	9	5	3	8
3	9	5	2	1	8	6	4	7
4	6	8	3	7	5	9	1	2
1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9	5
9	8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3
5	7	2	8	9	3	1	6	4
6	2	3	9	8	7	4	5	1
8	4	9	5	3	1	2	7	6
7	5	1	6	4	2	3	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

Wishful thinking

Police in Las Cruces, New Mexico, who approached a woman driving a stolen car on March 7 were surprised when she identified herself as pop singer Beyonce Knowles, according to police documents. The Las Cruces Sun News reported officers had to use a fingerprint scanner to properly identify Surena Henry, 48. Henry at first ignored police when they tried to pull her over, according to court documents, but they followed her to her home, where she got out of the car but refused to give them her name. She was charged with stealing the vehicle, concealing her identity and resisting arrest.

Update

News of the Weird reported in July 2017 about Jeff Reitz of Huntington Beach, California, who at that time had just achieved his 2,000th visit to Disneyland in Anaheim. Since then, Reitz, 47, has continued his daily visits — until March 13, when Disney closed its theme parks in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Reitz was just short of 3,000 visits, the Orange County Register reported, at 2,995. “The streak’s been ended,” Reitz said. He does not plan to continue his consecutive streak when the park reopens. “On the negative side, I didn’t get to choose the end,” he said. “But on the positive side, I didn’t have to choose the end.” While he’s practicing social isolation, Reitz plans to watch

some movies on ... you guessed it, Disney Plus.

People are good

Just a few hours after Harris County, Texas, declared that all bars and nightclubs would have to close on March 16, an anonymous diner at Irma’s Southwest restaurant in downtown Houston did their best to help out. The customer, who left a \$9,400 tip, wrote on the receipt: “Hold tip to pay your guys over the next few weeks.” United Press International said Irma’s will split the tip among the employees, giving them each about \$300.

I hate when that happens

Sage Aaron Cummins, 24, of Gallup, New Mexico, woke up one recent morning and found he had two TVs in his room that had not been there the day before. Two days later, he found out an acquaintance was missing two TVs and put two and two together. According to Gallup police, Cummins returned to the victim’s apartment with the goods and approached an officer who was there investigating the burglary report. He told the officer he had been “very intoxicated” when he knocked on a door that evening and, when no one answered, he entered the home, but he didn’t remember what happened after that. Cummins told police he “wanted to make things right and return the stolen items,” according to the Associated Press. Nevertheless, he

was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property.

Awesome!

When Alexandria Miller, 28, of Chicago, Illinois, won a two-inch goldfish at a carnival in July 2018, she assumed he would stay the same size. But since then, Gerald the goldfish has grown to be 12 inches long, and Miller has spent \$1,300 upgrading his tanks to accommodate him (she’s already looking for a bigger one). And, the Mirror reported, Gerald is not shy about getting his needs met. “He does lay around a lot, but it seems when he’s bored or hungry, he jumps out of the water and likes to grab the thermometer inside his tank,” Miller said. “He’ll click it against the glass till he’s got our attention.” But, she went on, “If I put a smaller fish in there with him, he will eat them.”

Signs of the times

• During the COVID-19 crisis, some people in Japan have resorted to pilfering toilet paper from public restrooms when the rolls became unavailable in stores. One convenience store worker put the power of the supernatural to work against such thefts. Mink Itachibe, who works at a store in the Niigata prefecture, hung signs with images of eyes and kanji characters in front of the toilet paper to curse the tempting rolls. “I did it as a joke, but it seems to have worked,” she told CNN. The symbols imply that if someone nips TP from the store, a hun-

gry monster will hunt them down and gobble them up. “People can be quite superstitious in Japan,” Itachibe said.

• Add toilet paper to the list of things not to leave in plain sight in your car. Police in Eugene, Oregon, stated that on March 15, a thief shattered the entire back window of an SUV in order to get his mitts on two 30-roll cases of toilet paper, along with other valuables, the Blaze reported. “Anytime vehicles are left unattended for extended periods of time, local thieves view it as a favorable opportunity,” police reminded Oregonians.

Compelling explanation

Slidell, Louisiana, police pulled over a driver on Feb. 27 for an undisclosed reason, but the car’s license plate really got their attention. The tag had expired in September 1997 — more than 20 years ago — the Miami Herald reported. “Sorry, officer,” police said the man told them. “I’ve been busy lately and totally forgot to renew my vehicle registration. I will take care of it as soon as I get home!” Slidell police posted the incident to their Facebook page, commenting: “For those of you who like to ‘switch tags,’ at least give us a good challenge.”

Government in action

In 1993, Alabama banned yoga in public schools under a general prohibition of the use of “hypnosis and dissociative mental states.” Now, Rep. Jeremy Gray has proposed a bill that would let schools offer yoga as an elective class, but religious groups are expected to fight it. “It’s the Hindu religion,” said Joe Godfrey of the Alabama Citizens Action Program. But Gray is hoping the general acceptance of yoga will prevail. “I really don’t see what the big deal is,” he told NBC News. “I mean, my wife does this, my mother does this on the floor of her Methodist church.”

Ah, snap

PSA: The Deerfield, Michigan, American Legion has been forced by COVID-19 restrictions to cancel its annual testicle-eating festival, which was to take place on March 21. The big event, which draws 2,000 locals and visitors to Deerfield every year, offers deep-fried cattle genitals (also known as mountain oysters) and chicken gizzards, Metro reported. “So many people look forward to coming to Deerfield during this time of year,” said organizer Nick Pulver, “[but] I think we made the best decision to delay it.” Organizers hope to postpone it to May 9. The 300 pounds of delectables that were ordered for the festival have been frozen.

Visit newsoftheweird.com.

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green

		9			1			
		8		4		1		
4	3		8		6		2	
		6	9	3	8	5		4
	5						9	
9		7	1	6	5	3		
	6		5		9		1	7
		2		1		4		
			7			9		

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Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

6	7		3					
2			5			4		
					1	5	9	
3	8			5		6		
		2		7			3	4
	1	3	9					
		6			3			9
					8		7	1

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