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GRANITE VIEWS **STEPHEN RENO** 

### No ordinary time



Days on a calendar all look alike. They take on individuality when we pencil onto them future plans, appointments, meetings, projects or travel. Then, if one

keeps a journal, each blank page becomes a record of what was done on that day, what was thought, wondered, feared, celebrated or lamented. For many of us now, the entries we had put on our calendars have been changed, turned into Zoom or Skype meetings, postponed out several weeks or even months, or perhaps canceled entirely. While something in any one of our lives may have caused such an alteration in our plans before, we have never had the experience of it as a nation, or even as a global community.

This is no ordinary time.

Yet for many, especially those who have been directed to shelter in place or who are doing so voluntarily, there still is a certain ordinariness of life in our homes. We sleep, perhaps fitfully, get up, dress, prepare meals, watch the news, talk with family and friends, read, work on projects: so many of the things we do ordinarily. But at unexpected moments, it dawns on us that these are not ordinary days. We are living our lives in very different ways. If we have to go out for food, for example, we look at those we meet differently, as one writer observed, "with a mixture of fear and kinship." We recognize that as much as we may have to avoid one another lest infection be shared, we nonetheless need one another.

In Hannaford yesterday, I stopped and talked with Sarah, a manager there who seems to be at her post every time I go in to get provisions. She is tired; it shows on her face. She tells me she worries because her job brings her into contact with people all day and then she goes home to her family. But she also knows I, and customers like me, need her and her colleagues. She and I have what would be an ordinary conversation that is now about an extraordinary situation. We are reflecting on our interdependence.

Twenty-five years ago, a statewide commission report titled "New Hampshire: My Responsibility" said it well: the individual independence we prize so highly in our state must be as strong as our interdependence with others. If it is not, we could lose both.

William Falk, editor-in-chief of The Week magazine, observed: "Deeper truths often are delivered in the envelope of crisis." We can take care of ourselves only if we also find a way to take care of others.

Stephen Reno is the executive director of Leadership New Hampshire and former chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire. His email is stepreno@gmail.com.



News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire Published every Thursday (1st copy free; 2nd \$1). 195 McGregor St., Suite 325, Manchester, N.H. 03102 P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422 hippopress.com email: news@hippopress.com

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#### ON THE COVER

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**ALSO ON THE COVER**, comfort yourself with a glass of wine, paired with good eats, p. 21. Local musician Yamica Peterson plays live online — plus find more "live" shows in Nite Roundup, p. 26. And fill your free time with extra crossword puzzles and sudokus, starting on p. 27.

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### **NEWS & NOTES**

#### COVID-19 deaths

Two more people in New Hampshire have died from COVID-19, bringing the state's death toll from the novel coronavirus to three as of March 30, according to press releases. Both victims — a man over the age of 60 from Hillsborough County and a woman over the age of 60 from Rockingham County - had underlying health issues, officials said. On March 30, the Department of Health and Human Services reported 56 new positive case results of COVID-19, bringing the total number of cases in the state to 314. Of these cases, 45 patients have been hospitalized. Thirty four of the new cases have no identified risk factors, which means community-based transmission continues to increase, according to the release. Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig's daughter Sarah, who recently studied abroad in London, is among the positive cases. In a March 29 statement Mayor Craig said while no one in her family is showing symptoms of the virus, they are "taking all necessary precautions" in closely monitoring their health.

### **Unemployment benefits**

On March 30, Gov. Sununu signed the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus (CARES) act agreement, enabling New Hampshire to receive 100 percent funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist with the growing number of unemployment claims in the state as a result of COVID-19, according to a press release. Those currently drawing from the state's Unemployment Insurance fund will be shifted to the federally funded Pandemic Employment Assistance, increasing the weekly benefit amount from \$32 per week to \$168 per week and an additional \$600 per week to be added for all weeks claimed starting this week. In addition, the length of time a person can receive benefits is extended by 13 weeks, totaling 39 weeks.

#### New emergency orders

In the past week, Gov. Chris Sununu issued three more emergency orders in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 26, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 17, requiring Granite Staters to stay home and all non-essential businesses to be closed until May 4. The order went into effect at midnight on March 27. Essential businesses, such as grocery and convenience stores, pharmacies, banks,

gas stations and doctors' offices, remain open. Non-essential businesses are closed for the duration of the order, including retail stores, malls, hair salons, movie theaters, bowling alleys, all sporting events, all concerts and all state beaches along the Seacoast.

On March 27, Sununu issued Emergency Orders No. 18 and No. 19. Emergency Order No. 18 suspends fingerprinting requirements of most criminal background checks, and allows the Department of Safety to conduct fingerprinting on a case-by-case basis.

Emergency Order No. 19 extends the provisions of Emergency Order No. 1, now requiring all public K through 12 schools to continue remote learning through May 4.

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

### Legislative suspension

In conjunction with Sununu's stayat-home order, the suspension of all legislative activity in New Hampshire has been extended through May 4, according to a press release. The Statehouse and legislative offices will remain closed to all staff and visitors. "While lawmakers are not at the State House, we continue to work with our communities, state agencies, and Governor Sununu to address this outbreak and curb the health and economic impacts as much as possible," according to a joint statement from Senate President Donna Soucy and Speaker of the House Stephen Shurtleff.

### Scam alert

The state Attorney General's office issued a press release on March 26 urging people to be aware of possible charitable giving scams related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Scammers may take advantage of consumer fears associated with the virus by selling bogus "treatment" and "prevention" products, establishing fake charities and sending seemingly legitimate emails with malicious links or attachments. The press release encourages people to be on the lookout for phony emails, false claims and deceptive marketing, and to stay informed on the virus outbreak by visiting nh.gov/covid19 for the most up-to-date information.

### Flush responsibly

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is urging people to only flush human waste and toilet paper down the toilet amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A shortage of toilet paper across the state is raising New England College, based in **Henniker**, announced in a March 26 press release that it will launch two new degree programs "designed to meet the needs of the modern world." The Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program can be completed entirely online and will offer two tracks: a technical track for programmers, database specialists and networkers, and a business track for project managers and other leadership roles. The program also allows students to earn CompTIA certifications. The Master of Science in Applied Data Analytics program will entail online work, plus one in-person evening class session per week. Students studying Applied Data Analytics will learn how to extract meaning from data to help organizations make better decisions, and the skills to make data, and themselves, strategic assets within an organization. Both programs are accepting applications with rolling admissions. Visit nec.edu.

CONCORD

Gov. Sununu announced his nomination of Captain Nathan A. Noyes of **New Boston** to become the next Colonel of the New Hampshire State Police during the Executive Council's meeting on March 25, which was conducted remotely due to COVID-19 concerns. Noyes is currently a Captain with the New Hampshire State Police and is Commander of the ooksett Field Operations Bureau, Field Area III. A New Hampshire State Trooper since 2001. Noves has previously held the ranks of Troop Commander, Assistant Troop Commander, Patrol Supervisor and Trooper and has been awarded several honors, including the Congressional Law Enforcement Award. According to a press release from the Office of the Governor, a confirmation vote will likely be held at the Executive Council meeting set for April 8. Bedford **Amherst** 

Milford

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announced in a March 27 press release that, starting on Sunday, April 5, there will be an extended closure of Manchester's Exit 2 on-ramp from Brown Avenue/Route 3A to Interstate 293 northbound for an estimated 140 days in order to complete project tasks, including deck repair, pier rehabilitation, and replacement of modular expansion joints, on the I-293 northbound bridge that extends over the Merrimack River. The ramp closure and new traffic pattern on Brown Avenue will be implemented between Sunday, April 5, at 8 p.m., and Monday, April 6, at 8 a.m. A detour sign will redirect traffic to reverse its direction at Exit 1 on I-293 southbound.

According to a March 24 press release, Fulcrum Associates, a construction management firm based in **Amherst**, donated more than 200 winter coats to New Hampshire nonprofits this winter through its inaugural coat collection drive. The new and gently worn coats for adults and children were collected in January from the firm's clients, subcontractors and employees and distributed to Families in Transition's New Horizons program, Friends of Forgotten Children and Easterseals' Veterans Count program. The firm will "absolutely run the coat drive again next year," Fulcrum's director of human resources Karen Massone said in the press release.

MANCHESTER

MACHIIA

concerns about inappropriate items like rags, wipes, paper towels, T-shirts and sheets being flushed down the toilet, according to a press release. This could potentially cause damage to municipal wastewater or home septic systems, resulting in costly repairs. "Many items claim to be 'flushable,' but they don't break down easily and can clog sewer and septic systems," the press release read. "If you are forced to use something other than toilet paper, please place it in a bag and dispose of it in your trash." See des. nh.gov for more details.

### **Toll booth changes**

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation made multiple changes in toll collection operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a press release. As of

March 30, Cash/E-ZPass lanes have moved to an exact change only policy. In addition, toll plaza cash lanes are now staffed from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. only. During the hours of 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., all plazas are operating as All Electronic Tolling. If you go through the tolls and don't have exact change or an E-ZPass, you can use the "7-Day to Pay" option by visiting ezpassnh.com or by calling 877-643-9727. Invoices can also be paid in person at the E-ZPass Walk-In Centers in Concord, Portsmouth or Nashua. Traffic on New Hampshire's highways has been in significant decline over the last several weeks, according to data the Hippo obtained from the state's Department of Transportation. Just over 1 million vehicle trips were made from March 22 to March 29, down nearly 50 per-

#### **Temporary hospitals**

On March 24, Gov. Sununu ordered Nashua High School South to serve as a temporary hospital for patients suffering from COVID-19, according to a press release from the Nashua School District, with the help of the New Hampshire National Guard. The athletic wing of the school serves as the hospital's hub, similar to other occasions when it has been used as an emergency shelter. The school will be used as a temporary hospital for an undetermined amount of time and will be restricted to all visitors, according to the release. Meanwhile, NHTI in Concord will serve as an alternate care site for COVID-19 patients of Concord Hospital and Lakes Regional General Healthcare if necessary. Dr.

NEWS BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PG 7 ▶

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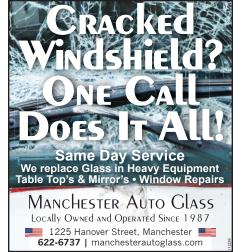
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NEWS & NOTES Q&

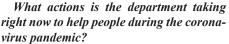
### **Keeping health coverage**

Insurance changes and options during COVID-19 crisis

As a growing number of people find themselves laid off or furloughed by their employers as a result of the coronavirus, many are wondering what will happen to their health insurance coverage. Alex Feldvebel, deputy commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Insurance, sheds some light on the current state of the health insurance landscape in New Hampshire and how people can ensure that they have coverage during this turbulent time.

Explain what the New Hampshire Insurance Department does, particularly regarding health insurance.

We enforce the insurance laws that govern health insurance. Health insurance or insurance generally is regulated at the state level and not to any great extent at the federal level, so we are the primary regulator for all insurance companies operating in the state of New Hampshire. What that means is that, first of all, we review the policies that the health insurance carriers offer to consumers in the state and make sure that they are in compliance with New Hampshire law. We also review the premium rates, because there are laws governing how health insurance can be priced, so we review them for compliance with the law. Then we also do market conduct examinations, which are audits of how the companies are behaving in the marketplace, to make sure that they're in compliance with all of the insurance statutory requirements. We also operate a consumer services unit where we take complaints and questions from consumers including many about health insurance, and we regulate the health insurance companies for solvency, which means we look at their financial statements and we pay particularly close attention to the health insurance companies that are domesticated in the state, because we're responsible for enforcing the solvencies standards that apply to them.



First of all, the commissioner put out an order that applies to the health insurance companies to deal with some issues that we could expect to occur for people who do have coverage but [are in new] situations because of the coronavirus. One is getting tested, and we put out an order that's on our website that requires carriers to cover testing and related office visits without any cost-sharing. We also, through the authority the commissioner has, require carriers to make available, to the maximum extent that they can, coverage for telemedicine, and that was expanded on by the governor's order, which also required that telemedicine be reimbursed at the same rate as that particular service that would have been provided [in-person]. The telemedicine is important because we want people to be able to stay at home, but still get appropriate medical care.



Alex Feldvebel. Courtesy photo.

### What qualifies as a coronavirus-related office visit?

That's a good question. I'm not exactly sure, yet. That's one area that we've been asked by the carriers to clarify, so the Insurance Department is looking at what "related to" means and will be issuing some guidance on that.

### What options are available to a person who loses their health insurance coverage after being laid off from their job?

[There's] COBRA coverage, which is the right to continue [with your] employer plan [for up to 18 months], but at your own expense. ... The main challenge for COBRA continuation and state continuation is that ... the employee has to pick up the full cost of the coverage, plus two percent for the extra administrative costs, and that can be a lot for people who suddenly have little or no income. Some people [may] be eligible for Medicaid coverage if they are low income, and if they are moderate income they'll be eligible for special enrollment in the marketplace exchange in New Hampshire. Signing up on the exchange is another important, valid, useful option because a lot of these people will be eligible for unemployment insurance. The qualifications have been loosened so that people who have been laid off, even temporarily, are eligible for unemployment, so they'll have modest income, and that might put them in the category where their income is between 133 percent and 400 percent of the poverty level, [allowing them to] go on the exchange and get subsidized health insurance coverage. ... We're also paying close attention to what Congress is doing, and we're hopeful that ... [they] provide assistance to people who are in this situation of being in danger of losing their health insurance coverage.

Q&A CONTINUED ON PG 7 ▶

Q&A CONTINUED FROM PG 6

### What happens to a person's health insurance coverage if they are furloughed?

I think it's up to the employer whether to continue the group coverage when [their employees] are furloughed. ... I know I've heard talk of Congress [potentially] doling out money to employers who choose to keep their employees on the group health insurance plan, even though they've been furloughed. ... That's something that could happen. ... If [employers] don't choose to continue the group coverage, then it triggers the [employees'] COBRA continuation

rights or state continuation, and also their right to go on the exchange and sign up for coverage.

Do you have any data, recorded or anecdotal, about how employers affected by coronavirus are handling their employees' health insurance benefits? If there isn't enough data available yet, what do you predict most employers will do?

We haven't heard that much yet, so I don't know. It's hard to picture at this point. Different businesses are in different circumstances, so it's hard to say.

— Angie Sykeny 🦛

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#### ◆ NEWS SHORTS CONTINUED FROM PG 4

Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki, president of NHTI, said in a March 29 letter addressed to the NHTI community that the college is expected to house patients who have tested positive for the virus but who do not require acute care, such as those in need of isolation. The campus locations that would be utilized are Sweeney Hall, the Wellness Center, the Student Center and Langley Hall. "The NHTI site will become operational as an Alternate Care Site if the area's hospitals reach a certain capacity that triggers the need for overflow," Mullin-Sawicki said in the letter. "In that event, we will provide additional information about areas of campus that will be designated for various purposes including dedicated parking and ancillary support."

### State parks

Most of New Hampshire's state parks remain open to visitors amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, according to a statement from the New Hampshire Division of Parks & Recreation, although all campgrounds, playgrounds and indoor venues are closed. Getting fresh air and exercise is one of the exceptions Gov. Sununu outlined in his March 26 stay-at-home order, "provided that appropriate social distancing protocols are observed," including limiting groups to less than 10 people and staying at least six feet apart from others.

### MTA suspends bus service

All fixed route bus service has been suspended through May 4, according to a press release from the Manchester Transit Authority. The welcome center at Veterans Memorial Park is also closed for this period. Demand response service is still available for essential travel only, such as for trips to grocery stores, pharmacies and medical appointments. Those in need of essential travel can call MTA at 623-8801 to schedule a

### Standardized testing

New Hampshire's standardized testing requirements have been suspended as a result of COVID-19, Gov. Chris Sununu announced in a press release on March 30. "While remote learning has gotten off to an incredible start, we

must continue to have flexibility in our approach to education," Sununu said in a statement, "and onerous standardized tests from Washington send the wrong message to New Hampshire families who are already working hard to adapt to this new, challenging environment." The state's Department of Education will still work with College Board to create access for students looking to take the SATs this summer or early fall, according to the release.

### Fiscal year budget

On March 30, Manchester mayor Joyce Craig delivered her fiscal year 2021 budget from her home, which aired on Manchester Public Television, Channel 22. The budget will give \$163 million available for spending to the city and \$183 million to the school district, as well as a 0.49 percent increase in property taxes. In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the budget also incorporates the hiring of an epidemiologist at the city's Health Department and an emergency operations coordinator at its Fire Department. Both are at no cost to taxpayers, thanks to a three-year grant from the CDC. A full list of fiscal year budget materials can be found at manchesternh.gov.

#### **Puritan presses pause**

A small fire broke out at The Puritan Backroom Restaurant (245 Hooksett Road, Manchester) on the morning of March 25, according to a press release. Fire officials received a call at 7:04 a.m. indicating smoke in an office area on the first floor of the building. The fire was extinguished and placed under control by 7:45 a.m., as firefighters found no further extension into the rest of the restaurant. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Puritan briefly closed, then reopened for takeout on March 27, but a March 31 post on the restaurant's Facebook page said that after Wednesday, April 1, it would be closing "for a few weeks. ... While the damage from the kitchen fire last week had minimal impact on our takeout service, we need to complete significant repairs in order to reopen at full capacity in the future." The Puritan will be sharing updates throughout the process, according to the post.

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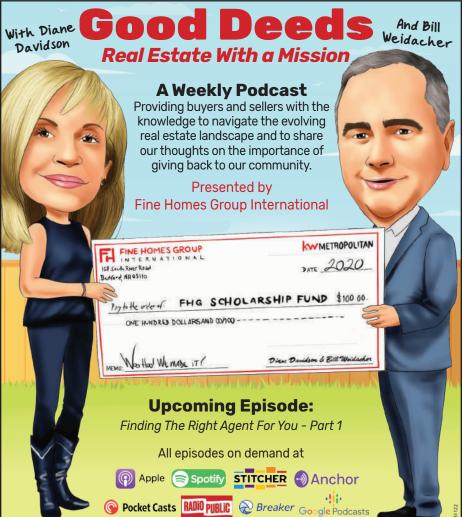
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**SPORTS** DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

### **Sports limps along**

OK, I lied about doing Part 2 on the Tom Brady saga today. Actually, I'm more like Bill Parcells reserving the right to change my mind. I did, so I'll do Brady next week in favor of offering some thoughts on how the coronavirus has disrupted things in sports. With more and more people getting sick or dying I know it's not important. But this is a sports column, so let's stay on topic to look at some of what's happened as things changed overnight. First some quick hitters:

Remember when everyone hated the cheating Houston Astros? It's lost in the coronavirus haze and now seems like a distant memory. Ditto for the results of the investigation into Alex Cora's 2018 Red Sox.

While some of Roger the Dodger's reasons are pretty self-serving, I think I'm OK with the NFL draft still going forward.

Drew Brees pledging a whopping \$5 million to help the sick and needy in New Orleans during its now exploding pandemic situation - wow!

It's one thing to shut down the NBA/NHL seasons. But losing your chance to play in the NCAA Basketball Tournament in your senior season is a bitter pill to swallow.

Wonder how much impact not getting to see top prospects play in the tournament will have on the NBA draft? Remember the Celtics have three, which at the moment stand at 18, 25 and 30.

Good news: Marcus Smart is now free of coronavirus. With him missing a Monday game because he was "sick" before facing Utah and Brooklyn right before Rudy Gobert, Donovan Mitchell and four Nets all tested positive, I'm wondering if it actually all started with Marcus and not Gobert.

A story flying under the radar was Rick Pitino returning to college basketball at Iona. Quite a career comedown for the one-time boy wonder. I love when religious schools try to justify hiring a guy with Ricky's rap sheet. I'd have more respect if they just said, we need the money you get playing in the NCAA tournament. I don't have space to detail it all, but after hearing him drone on when I was covering the Celtics, telling his players, "If you tell a lie, it becomes part of your future. But if you tell the truth it becomes part of your past," my favorite is after a late night extramarital fling in a Louisville restaurant his concealing paying off the paramour to get an abortion. That is until forced to admit all after it put him at the center of an extortion scheme that sent said paramour to the big house. You'd think a Catholic school would frown at taking out at least three commandments with one move. But I guess it's the old "do as I say, not as I do." Got it.

By putting his Brookline home up for sale in advance of any official announcement Dustin Pedroia looks to be following Tom Brady's play book for leaving town. I've got to think that spells the end for Pedey.

This mess also momentarily saves Gronk from the indignity of being a jester in Vince McMahon's WWE entertainment spectacle for the brain dead. Hope the money is good.

You learn something new every day, even during a pandemic. With writers searching for anything to write about, I learned the 1942 "Rose Bowl" was played in Durham, N.C. As **Johnny Carson** used to say, I – Did – Not - Know - That. With Pearl Harbor happening just three weeks earlier, it was moved out of Pasadena because the West Coast was very jittery over the fear a full-scale Japanese attack might soon follow there. If you want a sense of that jitteriness in a comical way, watch **Steven Spielberg**'s parody of it, 1941. Not a huge box office success then, but a classic now and very funny.

I can include this in a sports column because the pay-for-play plot she's charged with allegedly involved helping her daughters get into USC with a bogus claim they rowed crew to beef up the extracurriculars. But since we all have to stay in anyway, if I'm fellow Long Islander Lori Loughlin, I'd forget not guilty and plead guilty. Given what's going on she'll probably just get home confinement while she has to stay in anyway and if it lasts until August she may get time served when

Of all the canceled events I'm least sorry to see the Masters put on hold. More than anything it says to me spring has arrived. But with us stuck inside until possibly June, I don't need that reminder, so I'm cool with it being a sports version of Punxsutawney Phil extending winter by not seeing his shadow.

Watched the replay of Michael Jordan going for 63 against the Celtics in the 1986 playoffs the other day. What a game. Reminded me just how great a passer Larry Bird was. But as good as it was, it wasn't close to the greatest game of the Bird era. That would be the tension-riddled Game 7 win over dastardly Philadelphia to clinch the comeback from down three games to one in the '81 playoffs sealed on Larry's 18-foot fast break banker with about a minute to go. So, NBC Sports Boston, can we please see that one too?

Better Lucky Than Good Award: How's that Mookie Betts trade looking now? With the loss of Chris Sale making their playoff prospects dim at best, losing Mookie isn't nearly as damaging to 2020 as most feared. Plus with players being awarded service time for a season that may possibly never start, the Dodgers might wind up paying Mookie about \$8 million to never play one game before heading to free agency, while the Sox get three of their high-level prospects.

Finally, please listen to Gov. Sununu – stay home whenever possible because the better we all do our job to flatten the curve, the sooner we'll be able to get back to normal.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.

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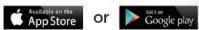
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**QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX** 

### Local heroes

As coronavirus continues to spread in New Hampshire, so do acts of kindness. An email from the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord noted that its front-of-house manager, Cheryl Lampron, has been making daily house visits — while keeping social distance — to the venue's volunteer ushers, many of whom are retired and confined to their homes, to lift their spirits and make sure they have everything they need. Kim Cremin from South Hampton, who teaches pilates classes throughout southern New Hampshire, has been streaming live classes for free using Facebook Live (anyone can join her private group by searching for "Kim Cremin's Quarantine Mat Pilates Classes"). And teachers from Green Acres Elementary School assembled a caravan parade, driving through dozens of Manchester streets, honking and waving at their students, whom they haven't seen in person in two weeks.

**Comments:** What acts of kindness have you seen from individuals in your community? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

### **Low-stress state**

With April being Stress Awareness Month and the coronavirus causing high levels of stress throughout the country, WalletHub has released a report on 2020's Most & Least Stressed States. New Hampshire ranked 45th, with No. 1 being the most stressed and No. 50 being the least stressed. The report considered a wide range of data, including average number of hours worked per week, hours of sleep per night, credit score, divorce rate, crime rate and more. See the full report at wallethub.com/edu/most-stressful-states/32218.

**Comment:** It's safe to say that all states are experiencing higher-than-normal levels of stress right now.

### **Businesses doing good**

Local businesses are also doing their part to help others during this time of need. In Manchester, Firehouse Subs recently donated more than 100 meals to local first responders, according to a press release, collaborating with the American Legion to have the meals delivered to all 10 of the city's fire stations; and, according to a press release, Alene Candles, one of the nation's leading full-service contract and private-label candle manufacturers, is using its Milford production facility as a site for assembling 10,000 face shields to donate to first responders and health care facilities in New Hampshire and Maine, just to name a couple.

**Comment:** The coronavirus has hit local businesses hard. It's inspiring to see them stepping up to support their communities even as they too are struggling.

### "Essential" workers

Good news for New Hampshire kids: Gov. Sununu just made two additions to the list of essential workers exempt from the emergency stay-at-home order so they can continue to do their jobs. In a tweet, the governor announced that he has authorized the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy to go about business as usual.

**Comment:** Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs are as essential as it gets.

**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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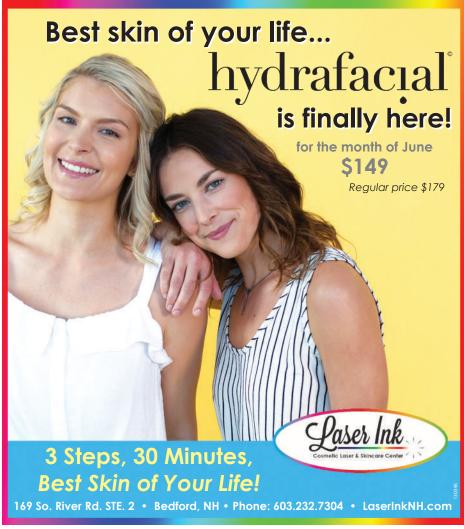
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### ARTS

### Rising to the challenge

Kimball Jenkins welcomes new executive director

By Angie Sykeny asykeny@hippopress.com

On March 17, Julianne Gadoury became the new executive director of Kimball Jenkins, a nonprofit arts and cultural organization based at a historic estate in Concord that encompasses an art school, galleries and events venues. Kimball Jenkins' response to the coronavirus has been to cease all on-premise public activities and to cancel the remainder of its winter term at the School of Art. Gadoury discussed the position and her plans to help the organization survive and thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Tell us about your background in the arts.

Prior to coming to Kimball Jenkins, I was working for the New Hampshire State Council for the Arts for eight years. I had a few different positions there, most recently as the arts education coordinator, who is meant to support the field of arts education in all arts disciplines statewide and to give grants to schools and nonprofits doing community programming in the arts. ... It was a really fantastic job, and I got to see a lot of amazing things happening across the state in the arts in many different sectors. Before that, I taught art history at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and Southern New Hampshire University. I got my MFA in printmaking and cultural studies and undergraduate degrees in studio art and art history. Along the way, I knew I wanted to do nonprofit management, so I earned an MBA, because I wanted to understand the business side of running a nonprofit.

### How did you come into this position at Kimball Jenkins?

There were a lot of times during my eight years of work [for the State Council for the Arts] that I had a little bit of jealousy watching these nonprofits doing all of these amazing things and transformational work with young people, and I found myself wanting more and more to be on the ground level, helping to make those amazing things happen in the community. I knew that eventually I wanted to move toward nonprofit leadership, and I was keeping my eyes and ears open for a while, waiting for the right fit, because my job at the Arts Council was fantastic, and I would only leave it if I knew I had found the best fit for me. When I was thinking about what kind of organization I wanted to work for, I always said in my head, 'I'd love to work for one like



Julianne Gadoury. Courtesy photo.

Kimball Jenkins,' even years before the position opened up. About a year ago I started volunteering there and was on the development committee. ... [Kimball Jenkins] didn't have an executive director. ... It had intermittent and part-time leadership for years. Then, in December of last year, [the board] decided they wanted to hire an executive director, and I felt like that was really good, because it signaled that the organization was serious about moving forward. I thought [the position] would be a good fit for me, so I went for it

### Under normal circumstances, what will your job as executive director entail?

Well, I've only been in [the position] for the last two weeks, so it's hard to say exactly what it will entail, but it's my job to make sure that the organization is meeting its mission as strongly as it can, which is to be a space and resource for cultural arts and dialogue in the community. ... I know that I will be overseeing all aspects of the operations of the School of Art, which has 12 faculty [members] and 18 classes every term, with four terms a year, as well as a six-week summer camp. I will also be overseeing the Estate, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. It's [Kimball Jenkins'] obligation to make sure that the Estate buildings are preserved and that they are around for another 300 years.

### Looking beyond the COVID-19 situation, what are your goals as executive director?

Before I took the role as executive director, I always thought that Kimball Jenkins was an amazing organization

and could be promoted more. I felt like all of its assets and programs weren't as widely known in the community as they should be, and that's an area where I felt like I could make a big impact. ... Kimball Jenkins has two main galleries with shows every month, and I think it's important to support local artists through those galleries and bring in shows that are really dynamic and thought-provoking, and I really want to grow attendance at those shows and have more programming and dialogue around those shows. ... I'd like to expand our free programs and scholarships to widen our audience and make [Kimball Jenkins] a place that's accessible to anyone in the community, especially [people] who might not otherwise have access to those kinds of programs. ... [Lastly,] I'd like Kimball Jenkins to support artists through more advanced classes and through teaching more experimental art forms.

### What challenges does COVID-19 pose for Kimball Jenkins?

Kimball Jenkins, like many other nonprofit arts organizations, gets most of its revenue from its classes and events, [which are] in-person gatherings, so it's experiencing a huge loss of revenue right now, and I'm expecting that loss to continue through July, maybe even longer. Right now, it's a matter of looking at expenses and figuring out how to pivot and change the revenue streams. ... Another problem is that many of the people who take classes or [participate in] open studios here as well as some of the faculty members are older adults, and older people are the most vulnerable to the virus. For many of them, having that social time has been an important and positive thing for their mental health for many years. It's important that they stay connected with us and don't feel isolated ... [but] I don't know how ready and able they are to move to online learning. ... Kimball Jenkins also had a free after-school art program that had to get cut short, and it's important to stay connected with those students and help them stay engaged in art-making activities at home so they feel like they haven't lost that [program]. ... Another challenge is staying committed to the faculty and staff and trying not to lay anyone off. A lot of faculty rely on teaching classes here for their income, so the challenge is to figure out ways to continue to engage them and pay them during this time so they still have some income coming in and aren't left without any work.

### How are you facing those challenges?

The first thing is working with faculty to reach out to those [students and program participants] to make sure they are doing OK. ... We want to be mindful of the mental health of isolated people, so we're brainstorming ways to bring people together and testing out platforms like Zoom and Google [video chat] and Facebook Live so that we can host online conversations, [art] critiques, interviews with faculty members and "WIP" or "work-in-progress" sessions where people can share the art they are working on, because what we've seen across the nation is that a lot of people are finding more time to try creative things they haven't tried before and invest more time in their creative hobbies and projects, so we want to provide a venue for those people to show off the things they are creating. ... This week, we'll be launching some art activity prompts on social media and [inviting] people to send their art to us for a community art project that we're hoping to assemble. ... [The faculty and I] are also assessing how we can continue our regular paid-for classes through [virtual

### What would you say to fellow arts organizations during this turbulent time?

This is a period of immense creativity ... especially in the ways that we are engineering and adapting to these new circumstances. Teachers are flipping to online classrooms. Whole industries are changing their tools based on what is needed right now. We've seen record numbers of people tuning in to free live streams of concerts. We've seen museums doing [virtual] tours for free. There is so much generosity and creativity going around right now ... so I would just say that we are all in this together, and that people need us — arts and cultural organizations — now more than ever for that feeling of connection.

### Kimball Jenkins Estate and School of Art

Kimball Jenkins is currently closed and all public events are canceled until further notice. Registration is open now for spring term classes and workshops and for summer camp. If those programs are canceled, registrants will receive a refund. Check kimballjenkins.com and follow facebook. com/kimballjenkins for updates on remote learning, online community conversations, at-home art project prompts and more.

### ARTS

## **ARTS NEWS**

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

• Nashua arts news: Angel investment firm SLC Group Holdings of Nashua has pledged \$100,000 toward the construction of the Nashua Performing Arts Center, according to a press release from Nashua Community Arts, the nonprofit spearheading the campaign to build the venue. The venue, to be located at 201 Main St., will seat up to 750 people, with banquet seating for 250 people, and will hold up to 1,000 people standing. It will host a variety of musical and theatrical performances, corporate and nonprofit events, family celebrations and other private gatherings. Nashua Community Arts states that its goal is to start construction on the Nashua Performing Arts Center in the fall of Visit nashuacommunityarts.org.

Great American Downtown, a nonprofit organization that promotes activities and businesses in downtown Nashua, is partnering with other community and arts organizations, including Freedom's Way Heritage National Park, City Arts Nashua, Nashua International Sculpture Symposium and Positive Street Art, to create the city's first self-guided audio tour of the public art in downtown, according to a Great American Downtown Facebook post. The audio tour, which will be available in English and Spanish, will be offered through the Distrx app, accessible on Android and iOS on demand. Using bluetooth iBeacon technology, the app will automatically display photos and text and provide audio descriptions at each stop on the tour as tourists approach the works of art. The tour, which will include 15 stops along and near Main Street, is projected to be up and running by May, with a second tour covering stops along the Nashua Riverwalk planned to be released in late 2020. The program is being funded by public donations made through a fundraising campaign on Facebook. "These tours will be a great way for folks to explore our Downtown, and provide a free, healthy, and fun opportunity that will be available all day, all year round," Paul Shea, executive director of Great American Downtown, said in the Facebook post. Search "Nashua Public Art Tour" on Facebook.

- Learn French from home: The Franco-American Centre is offering online French language classes, with sessions starting the week of April 6. Classes include children's classes, beginner, intermediate, advanced, traveler's and private and semi-private classes. Adult classes are open to FAC members only and cost \$375. Yearly memberships start at \$40 for individuals, \$60 for families and \$35 for seniors age 65 and up and students. Membership is not required for children, and children's classes cost \$150, with sibling discounts available. Visit facnh.com.
- New Hampshire Writers' Project goes virtual: The New Hampshire Writers' Project announced in a press release that it is shifting



Nashua public art. Courtesy photo.

all its programs to an online format until further notice. NHWP will engage writers through participation activities on social media; change its monthly "Writers' Night Out" meetings to "Writers' Nights In" via Zoom or Google Hangouts: and augment its online members' webinar archives with additional new webinars that will be updated biweekly. "The silver lining is we are able to share our programming with far more individuals through this shift to online learning," NHWP director of programming Ron Stokes said in the press release. The press release also stated that NHWP would shift its largest yearly event, the 603 Writers' Conference, set for May 2, to an online format, but in a more recent update on the NHWP website, the NHWP announced that the conference would be rescheduled for Oct. 17. "We did not come to this decision lightly, but we realize that for many people it is difficult to think about spending money and energy on nonessential activities during a time of uncertainty," said the announcement, signed by the NHWP board of trustees. "By delaying our conference to a later time, we hope you will all be in better circumstances physically, mentally, and economically – to take full advantage of all the benefits the conference has to offer." Visit nhwritersproject.org.

• More music to come: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Symphony New Hampshire has canceled or postponed its remaining spring concerts (the April 4 "Enigma Variations" concert has been postponed; the April 25 "The Conductor's Spellbook" family concert has been postponed; and the May 16 "A Night of Symphonic Rock" concert has been canceled; all set to be held in Nashua), but hopes to gives music-lovers something to look forward to by releasing the schedule for its 2020-2021 season, which will run Oct. 3 through April 17, 2021. According to a press release, the season will include concerts featuring works by Florence Price, the first African-American composer to have her music performed by a major U.S. symphony; two Symphony New Hampshire premieres, including one by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail and one by Grammy-nominated American composer Missy Mazzoli; movie themes by iconic songwriters such as Shirley Bassey, Carly Simon and Adele: masterworks by Beethoven, celebrating his 250th anniversary, as well as Mozart, Gershwin, Prokofiev, Rimsky-Korsakov and Mussorgsky; pieces by New England composers George Walker and Leonard Bernstein; and holiday music, with three holiday pops concerts to be held in Nashua, Manchester and Concord. Visit symphonynh.org.

— Angie Sykeny 🦡

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### **DE/OUTSIDE**

### **Fun with fruit trees**

Get out your pruners and saw

By Henry Homeyer listings@hippopress.com

We are lucky this March: no deep snow to keep us from approaching our fruit trees, ladder and clippers in hand. Some years we still have thigh-deep snow in March, which is the traditional time to prune our apples, pears, peaches

There is nothing magical about March as a time for pruning your fruit trees: you can prune any time of the year without harming your trees. After the buds open up in late spring they are more easily knocked off, but that is not usually an issue for home gardeners — we have more fruit buds than needed. I think March is the time when, traditionally, farmers were less busy so they pruned apples.

I recently took a good look at the fruit trees on my property. I have two pear trees and numerous apples, both crabapples and standard apples. Since I prune yearly, my trees are in pretty good shape.

The key to good tree health and production is to allow every leaf on the trees to get sunshine. Shaded leaves don't do much to produce food for roots or fruit, and those leaves also shade others. I like to say a robin should be able to fly through a fruit tree without getting hurt.

It's important to recognize the basic nature of each tree. Most pears, for example, want to grow tall and lean. However, picking pears on a tall tree is difficult, and you can reduce the height of a pear without damaging it. I have been known to lop off the top 10 feet of a pear tree without adverse results. Yes, the tree did try to send up lots of suckers, or vertical shoots, to replace the portion I removed, but they are easy to snip off each year.

How much can you prune from a tree each year? In the past experts said up to one third of a tree. Nowadays experts advise removing not more than a quarter of a tree. How do you calculate that? Leave your trimmings in a pile on the ground as you work. Then you can see how much you've taken. Try to calculate the percentage of leaves taken off. A one-inch-diameter branch that is 6 feet long has lots of leaves, but a 6-inch-diameter branch may have few.

Dead wood does not count in the calculation of how much you can remove. Even now, before leaf-out, you can recognize a dead branch easily: the bark is dry and flaky. If you take your thumb nail and scratch a small twig on a branch, it should show green. If not, it is dead and should be removed.

It's important to know where to make your cuts. You should leave the "branch collar" on the tree. That's the swollen and wrinkly part of a branch right where it attaches to the tree or a larger branch. It's where the tree heals itself. Don't cut flush to the trunk or a larger branch.

Here is what you should remove: (1) branches that are headed back into the tree or going through the middle of the tree, (2) branches that are damaged, cracked or split, (3) branches that are competing for light with another branch either below or above them, (4) if two branches are rubbing, remove one, (5) those pencil-thin "water sprouts" that shoot straight up.

A few words about water sprouts. These are numerous on some fruit trees, less so on others. If you have a nice open tree that gets good sunshine on all its leaves, the tree is less likely to produce many of those pesky sprouts. They are often a stress response – they may be indicating the roots are not getting enough food, so the tree responds by producing more leaves. So leave a few sprouts if you have many, but also work on training branches to reach out, away from the center of the tree to get more sun.

Where is fruit produced? Most fruit trees produce "fruit spurs" that blossom and also produce leaves. These spurs range in length from 2 inches to 6 inches. For apples, a fruit spur will not produce fruit the first year it grows, only in subsequent years. Most spurs are produced on branches that are 30 to 60 degrees from vertical. So those vertical water sprouts will not produce fruit.

You can change the angle of a branch by tying it down, spreading it with a piece of wood or even weighing down a branch with a jar of water. Hang the jar (or one-quart plastic milk jug) and add water until the mostly vertical branch bends down to a better angle. Remove the jar in mid-June and it should stay in place.



Fruit spurs are short. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

Some fruit trees produce lots of shoots around the base of the tree. Those are an unsightly nuisance and should be cut right to the ground. Since most fruit trees are grafted to root stock, those shoots are not the same variety as the tree

Later on, if you get a huge number of blossoms, you will need to thin out some of the fruit in early summer. If you don't do that, your fruits will be small, no matter how nicely pruned your

So get out your pruners and saw, and spend a sunny afternoon working on your fruit trees. Not only will your trees do better, you will, too.

Email henry.homeyer@comcast.net. 🦛

#### **INSIDE/OUTSIDE** TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

Can you provide any help on these old glasses? I'd like to know the value and market, if there is one.

Alex

Dear Alex,

It seems like whenever people find antique glasses they find multiple pairs. There is some value in pairs that are rare and in different forms. Most, though, have little value, unless they are gold (marked 10kt or 14kt) and not filled. Their value would be with the scrap value in gold.

I also have seen a market in several places that make large dolls and bears. They buy glasses like these to add to the dolls. Not sure how much they would pay. If I had the ones you have and none were gold I would say the value for each pair is in the \$10 range. Just remember to check to make sure they are not marked gold or sterling silver.

Note: I know people who still use antique glasses. They are almost like today's modern reader glasses.



Courtesy photo.

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.

## - POOL

Family fun for the weekend

### Musical days

· Mr. Aaron, the musician whose Rattlebox Studio in Concord offers music and art classes and music lessons for kids, offers live streams most days at 9:30 a.m. (see rattleboxstudio.com and mraaronmusic.com). The 40-plus-minute classes (also available after the live stream) feature songs, exercises, dancing, stories and more. Rattlebox is accepting donations via the site.

• Dan Zanes, whose Facebook page describes his music as "21st century all ages party music" and who has been posting folk and gospel "Social Isolation Song Series" songs most days with his wife Claudia Zanes, has videos on his website (danandclaudia.com) of his family folk music. A series of videos under the "Music Lessons" heading offer quick lessons in the banjo, ukulele, mandolin, guitar and spoons, all with the goal of creating a family band. Dan Zanes, who is currently in Baltimore, according to his Facebook post, was born in Exeter (according to Wikipedia)



Circus Smirkus. Courtesy photo.

and has performed frequently in New Hampshire, including shows benefiting The Friendly Kitchen in Concord, where his mother is a board member according to the Concord Monitor.

· Want more formalized music lessons for a kid who has a piano and some extra time? Both the Manchester Community Music School (mcmusicschool.org) and the Nashua Community Music School (nashuacms.org) are doing remote music lessons to allow students to still "meet" with teachers. See websites for information and pricing.

#### Circus skills

Circus Smirkus (smirkus.org), the Vermont-based traveling youth circus that frequently brings shows to New Hampshire, is offering Smirkus@Home, featuring online classes in circus skills (juggling, clowning, card tricks, etc.) and other performance and conditioning subjects (including hula hooping). Many of the classes cost \$5 or \$15 for one-time classes. Other class packages are available. Smirkus Camp Dinner Dress Up events are available for free (donations accepted) and feature stories, games and more, the website said. The next dinner is Superheroes on Friday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m.

### **Storytime**

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (seacoastrep.org) is offering livestream events including Drag Queen Story Time with Honey Punch and Pals on Saturdays at 11 a.m. The storytime, which will feature people and puppets, is "story time, friend time, lesson time and more hosted by Honey Punch herself live from the Seacoast Rep Stage! Perfect glamorous fun for the whole family," according to the website. A \$1 donation gets you access to the event, the site said. Find more information by clicking on the "Seacoast Rep Livestream" box in the middle of the home page.

### Science!

• SEE Science Center (200 Bedford St. in Manchester; see-sciencecenter.org, 669-0400) is closed but you can get some science and a look at SEE's exhibits via videos on the center's website. Give Lego fans some project ideas with the video about the center's Lego Millyard exhibit (featuring a link to the museum's gift shop, where you can purchase a book about the making of the exhibit for \$5; also for sale is the SEE's book about dinosaurs, We Thought You'd Never Ask, for \$10). The video "An Introduction to

www.GraniteStateCandyShoppe.com

Static" shows off the center's Van de Graff generator and includes links to do-at-home projects.

- McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com, 271-7827) is also offering some ideas for at-home science fun while it's closed. Posts on its blog (which you can find a link to on the top of its home page) include instructions for making a kaleidoscope (with information about the science at work), making a pH indicator, constellation cards and more. The center also offers scienceand space-themed word searches and virtual exhibits and science lessons, often accompanied by videos, such as the explanation of a Newton's Cradle (one of the hands-on exhibits at the center). The blog also features the center's newsletter, Cosmos Quarterly, which has some significant skywatch dates (and reports that the Center's annual Aerospacefest will be rescheduled from the first weekend in May to Sept. 12).
- Get more astronomy by getting outside for your own (socially distanced) skywatch. UNH's Observatory (physics.unh.edu/content/observatory) has recently posted a few skywatch notes on its Facebook page, offering descriptions of celestial bodies and how they're visible (some without a telescope, some with a telescope). Get more skywatch tips via Night Sky Network (nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov) from "a nationwide coalition of amateur astronomy clubs bringing the science, technology and inspiration of NASA's missions to the general public," according to the website. You'll find photos with visual cues to help you find the stars.



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### Nothing foggy about running AC and heat together



By Ray Magliozzi

My wife drives a 2019 VW Tiguan. When I occasionally drive it in the winter, I notice she has both the heater and the AC on. She claims the owner's manual says to have the AC button on to remove humidity. But

I can't figure out why you'd have the AC compressor running at the same time as the heater. Why? — Richard

Like your wife said, Richard, it's to remove humidity. You should listen to her. In fact, maybe I'll write to her next time I get a question that stumps me. The way air conditioning works is by removing humidity from the air. That's the "conditioning" part of air conditioning. It cools the air, too, but removing humidity is a big part of what makes you feel cooler and more comfortable.

Why would you want that in the winter? Let's say there's humidity in the air, which there usually is, and let's say the outside of your windows are cold because it's, what? Winter!

Now, when you heat up the inside of the car, you have cold glass on the outside and warm glass on the inside. That causes condensation or fog to form on the inside of the windows (see also: beer glass). The result? You can't see! But if you remove the humidity from the air inside

the car, there's nothing to condense on the inside of your windows and fog them up. That's why you run the AC. In fact, many cars automatically turn on the AC when you activate your defroster. In terms of whether you're "wasting" something by running both the AC compressor and the heater at the same time, you are, a little bit, but it's small potatoes. While the AC compressor does use energy, and reduces your mileage a bit, your heat is really free. With an internal combustion engine, your cabin heat is excess heat that's being thrown off by the engine. And it's being produced whether you're sending it to the passenger compartment, or letting it dissipate into the atmosphere.

I think most people would agree that it's better to spend a few cents more on gasoline — and use your AC compressor when you need it — than to let your windows fog up and drive into the back of taco truck.

I am the proud owner of a 2017 Honda Ridgeline that, unlike my previous 2006 Ridgeline, has all kinds of fancy feature including a digital readout that lets me know how many miles per gallon I'm getting. The problem is, the information isn't accurate. My wife and I recently went on a short road trip and I was pleased to see that we averaged 30.4 mpg. But when I filled up with gas and divided the number of gallons into the mileage driven, I actually achieved 27.06 mpg

or 89% of the digital reading. Ever since, each subsequent actual mpg has been exactly 89% of the digital reading. I've skimmed though the 500+ pages of the digital owner's manual to see if an adjustment can be made to reflect actual mpg but to no avail. Is this an issue with other makes and models? Any suggestions other than using a calculator every time I fill up? — Ernest

Well, it's hard to know just how accurate these onboard gas mileage readings are.

The manufacturers insist they're very accurate. They say the same precise instruments that measure your fuel economy are also used to run the engine management system, where fuel and air have to metered very precisely to maintain pollution standards.

On the other hand, you can understand the incentive for overstating the mileage a bit. If you get 30.4 mpg in your pickup truck, not only are you happy with your purchase, but you might tell a friend, who could go out and buy his own Honda Ridgeline, right?

There was a study done by Edmunds that concluded onboard gas mileage readings overstate mileage by about 5 percent, with specific cars varying more or less than that. But that was done in 2011, so we don't if the results still hold.

What we can tell you is that the onboard gas mileage readings are consistent. That means you can use them to tell whether your mileage has increased or decreased. If you got 30.4 mpg one

weekend and 32.4 mpg the next weekend, you'd know that something really did change.

And that's what they're best for.

Interestingly, these dashboard readouts have been proven to increase people's mileage. How? When you drive more gently, keep your tires properly inflated, slow down a bit and take those 4x8 sheets of plywood off of your roof, you'll see your mileage go up on your dashboard. And when humans see good results, they tend to repeat whatever got them good results. So these dashboard readouts "train" us to drive more efficiently.

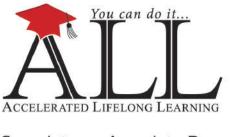
And keep in mind that your homegrown measuring system may not be any better. Filling up the tank and dividing the number of gallons by the number of miles is not perfect either — unless it's done over many, many tanks full of gas and thousands of miles. You don't know precisely how full your tank is each time the nozzle turns off, nor can you account for differences in weather, road conditions or terrain.

So, if you're very confident in your own measurements, Ernest, you could just reduce the dashboard figure by 10 percent to get an mpg number you feel you can believe in.

But my suggestion would be to use the dashboard number for comparison. Use it not as an absolute number, but to teach you how to improve your mileage.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll food@hippopress.com

• Eats for Easter: Easter Sunday is April 12, and several local businesses are offering special takeout menus to help you mark the occasion. LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com), for example, is taking orders now for small (serves 6 to 8) or large (serves 12 to 14) packages, with items like its riesling wine apricot mustard glazed ham, garden salad, Gruyere asparagus red pepper quiche and chocolate croissant bread pudding for dessert. The deadline to place orders is April 4, with pickups on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presto Craft Kitchen (168 Amory St., Manchester, 606-1252, prestocraftkitchen.com) is also taking orders now for Easter, including family-sized pastas, sandwiches and salads, as well as desserts from Custom Eats & Sweets, like carrot cake or Oreo-flavored cheesecake truffles, egg-shaped funfetti cake pops, assorted Italian cookies and more. The deadline for those orders is April 8, with pickups on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. In Hampstead, Jamison's (472 Route 111, 489-1565, jamisonsrestaurant.com) is offering prepared Easter dinners for you to enjoy at home, like herb-roasted prime rib, roasted turkey, crab-stuffed haddock and honey pineapple ham, each with two sides, such as apple stuffing, roasted asparagus, green bean casserole or steamed broccoli (family portions feed four people). Order by April 9 and pick up on Sunday, April 12, between 10 a.m. and noon.

· NH Food Bank online portal: In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the New Hampshire Food Bank has created a new page on its website for providing information and making online donations, according to a press release. Individuals and businesses who are able to do so can visit nhfoodbank.org/covid-19 to make donations, which allow the New Hampshire Food Bank to purchase food for statewide distribution. "We are already seeing an overall increase in orders and .. a number of agencies that have not needed our resources in some time reaching out and placing orders for food," New Hampshire Food Bank executive director Eileen Liponis said in a statement. "We know the need is rising fast and we are taking every possible step to ensure we can provide food to those in need." In 2019, more than 14.2 million pounds of food was donated to more than 425 partner agencies statewide, and that is expected to increase this year due to growing demand, according to the

### FOOD Meanwhile, on the farm...

## Meanwhile, on the farm... How farmers are adjusting to COVID-19 challenges, plus where to find farm-fresh eats

By Matt Ingersoll mingersoll@hippopress.com

William "Dunk" Dunkerley of Dunk's Mushrooms in Brentwood and Danville typically sells 800 pounds of mushrooms to more than 50 restaurants in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Last week, as restaurants continued to adjust to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dunkerley sold mushrooms to just two.

"About 90 percent of my sales go to restaurants," he said. "That's gone completely."

Farms are included in the list of businesses deemed essential under Sununu's March 26 emergency stay-at-home order. But as the dine-in restriction on New Hampshire restaurants continues, the coronavirus crisis has had a ripple effect on those like Dunk's Mushrooms that regularly wholesale products to chefs in the state.

There are about 4,100 farms in the state representing all types of agriculture, according to the 2017 USDA census, the most recent census available.

Dunkerley is among many that have been forced to seek out other avenues to make up for financial losses. A few weeks ago he started selling to the Three River Farmers Alliance (threeriverfa.com), which has set up an emergency home delivery service to multiple cities and towns in response to the virus, including in Brentwood, where his kitchen is located, but also in surrounding communities.

"As soon as this happened, they reached out to me and asked if I would be interested, and I jumped on it," Dunkerley said. "It's not a huge amount of sales, but it is helping me move some product. I sold about \$600 worth of mushrooms in the first week."

In the meantime, Dunkerley said, he is adding open hours and days in his kitchen for anyone interested in purchasing pre-packaged mushrooms. He produces up to 12 varieties, and while he hasn't yet obtained the licensing to sell it, he's also turning unsold mushrooms into jerky by hand-cutting, boiling and dehydrating them.

About 50 percent of all sales from hydroponic lettuce at Oasis Springs Farms in Nashua normally comes from local restaurants, according to owner Sarah Ward—that all evaporated "pretty much overnight," she said, once they became limited to takeout only.

With all the extra lettuce, Ward is offering special lettuce-only CSA shares for \$17 per week, while some of the product is being donated to the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter. She does sell products to small food purveyors like The Flying Butcher and

Moulton's Market, both in Amherst. But the transition to larger supermarkets is not always ideal, due to the requirements necessary to obtain food safety certifications like GAP (Good Agricultural Practices).

"It seems simple ... but there are procedures in place to make sure people get safe food," she said. "Most [of the] bigger places require this because of liability, and a lot of farms don't do it because it's a lot of paperwork, it takes time and some money."

Pickups for the farm's lettuce shares are available onsite by appointment (contact the farm for directions) or at multiple locations in Nashua and Amherst on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

"The shares run until the end of May, and I'm hoping that by then the restaurant [sales] will come back up," Ward said.

#### **Farmers markets in flux**

The coronavirus arrived during a transitional period in the state's farmers market season, when most winter markets are wrapping up and outdoor summer markets are right around the corner.

"We are encouraging markets to stay open because they are important to supplying food, but we have left it up to [them] to make the decision based on their comfort with handling the logistics," Gail McWilliam Jellie, director of agricultural development for the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, said in an email. "Some market locations can handle this better than others, so some ... have chosen not to operate."

There are several markets across the state that have already finished their winter seasons, while others still had a few more weeks to go. The Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market in Eagle Square, for example, was scheduled to continue every Saturday through April 25. But on March 17, the market was canceled until further notice — a move that has caused participating local vendors to consider other options.

Larry Pletcher of the Vegetable Ranch in Warner said about 25 to 30 percent of his sales comes from being at the farmers market each week.

"[The market closing] had an immediate impact on us," he said. "We had people instead come out to the farm after pre-ordering our certified organic vegetables and organic chickens, and we had a huge response the first week. We wouldn't do anything at the farm itself normally, but I think people are really, really needful of good local produce."

Lenny Buxton of Porkside Farm in Henniker, another vendor at the winter market, has also recently had to pivot to selling his



Pies from Trombly Gardens in Milford. Courtesy photo.

products onsite, which include sausages, bacon, pork chops, spare ribs and smoked ham steaks, available by appointment only. Last summer, Buxton increased his product line to rabbit and duck, which he was on the cusp of selling to the Colby Hill Inn prior to the onset of the virus.

The Concord Farmers Market's summer season on Capitol Street is scheduled to begin on May 2. That date still stands — at least for now, said Pletcher, who is a member of the market's board of directors.

"If that were to be canceled, that would be a huge hit for us," he said. "We'd probably be doing what we're doing now, but that would be a big gap for us to fill with everything we grow in the summer. ... Hopefully it won't cancel, since it's not an enclosed market."

Jimi Tutor of Clyde Farm in Farmington said he was impacted by the cancellations of the Seacoast Eat Local markets in Exeter and Rollinsford, where he sells certified organic chickens and free-range eggs. Around 20 to 30 percent of all the chickens produced each year, he added, are sold to Blue Moon Evolution in Exeter.

"Our CSA share signups are still going well," he said, "so as of right now it's not a disaster but we definitely will have to rethink our cash flow and do something different if we can't sell to Blue Moon."

#### A rise in demand

Some year-round farm stands, like Trombly Gardens in Milford, have seen a significant uptick in business in recent weeks as a result of the pandemic. The fourth-generation farm sells its own raised beef and pork, as well as few other local products like milk from Contoocook Creamery.

"Our egg sales have probably increased

by about 80 percent, which is unprecedented," owner Sean Trombly said. "We've also sold almost all of our hamburger meat we had in stock ... and we've probably sold five times as many potatoes over the last week to week and a half."

The farm stand features a commercial kitchen with prepared meals like soups, chowders, macaroni and cheese and American chop suey, plus a selection of breads and pies.

"We've sold ... probably four times as much bread as we did a month ago," Trombly said. "We also started selling ice cream from a company down in Dunstable, [Mass.], and the amount of ice cream we've sold has been tremendous."

In an effort to limit surface contact as much as possible, Trombly said each cus-

tomer who walks into the farm stand is given a pair of gloves to wear. Phone orders and local delivery to Milford have begun as well.

In Loudon, Miles Smith Farm has not only extended its farm stand hours, but owner Carole Soule said online ordering and curbside pickup is now available, in addition to delivery to multiple locations in Laconia, Concord, Manchester and Nashua. Hamburgers and pork chops have been among the farm stand's biggest sellers.

"We went from maybe one order a week to 20 to 30 a week," Soule said. "What's amazing is we're getting so many people coming to the farm store lately who said they knew about us but never knew we had pork and beef until now."

Soule has also recently added all kinds of

local products to the farm stand's shelves from other farms, from dairy to mixed greens.

"We all know each other, so when the farmers markets started closing down I called some of my farmer friends and [asked], 'What do you want to have in my store?' So we started selling lettuce from Granite State Greens and milk, yogurt and cream from Huckins Farm," Soule said.

James Stever of Generation Farm in Concord, which sells packaged certified organic greens to local food co-ops and natural food stores, also said there has been a noticeable increase in demand for his products among his clients.

"I am definitely concerned about the impact this could have on farmers over the long term," he said. "For us, our business

model was always more specialized [to sell to] co-ops and stores, but I think the farmers that mostly rely on restaurants will be hit the hardest and probably may have to change their strategy going forward."

The demand for fresh local products has also inspired restaurants like Tucker's to help out their farm partners. All five Tucker's locations (Concord, Dover, Hooksett, Merrimack and New London) have begun selling eggs from LaValley Farms in Hooksett and Trailbend Farm in Belmont. Purchases are limited to two flats of eggs per customer.

"We've been getting them shipped every week, so we haven't been selling out yet," Tucker's business development manager Meghann Clifford said. "People can walk right in and buy them or add them to their takeout order."

#### Farm fresh eats

Here's a list of local farms and small businesses offering everything from meat and dairy to fresh vegetables and baked goods, via store walk-ins, online ordering or delivery.

- **Benedikt Dairy** (97 Shirley Hill Road, Goffstown, 801-7056, benediktdairy.com) Farm stand open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for purchases only. Products include milk, eggs, beef and pork.
- Blakeney's (496-4306, find them on Facebook @blakeneysbakedgoods) Orders accepted every week through Thursday, for Saturday pickup at their home (contact them for the address). Deliveries are also made to the Elkins Public Library (9 Center Road, Canterbury). Order options include boule breads, scones, soft pretzels and cookies.
- **Brookford Farm** (250 W Road, Canterbury, 742-4084, brookfordfarm.com) Farm store open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering fresh vegetables, dairy, meats and more. Online ordering and home delivery also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for customers in Concord.
- Cascade Brook Farm (96 Baker Road, North Sutton, 496-7470, cascadebrookfarm.com) Ordering online and local delivery to customers in Concord for beef and pork products.
- Celeste Oliva (8 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3866, celeste-oliva.myshopify.com) Online ordering and curbside deliveries available with-

in a 15-mile radius of the store. Products include gourmet olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

- **Dog Rose Farm** (16 Harvey Mill Road, Lee, dogrosefarm.com) Farm stand open from 9 a.m. to dusk daily, offering fresh vegetables, meats and dairy products.
- **Dunk's Mushrooms** (313 Route 125, Brentwood, 617-240-9605, dunksmushrooms.com) Storefront open Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon, and Monday, from 3 to 6 p.m. Online ordering is also temporarily available via Three River Farmers Alliance (threeriverfa.com) to select communities in the Brentwood area.
- **Hickory Nut Farm** (22 York Lane, Lee, 659-6885, hickorynutfarm.com) Delivery available to customers within an hour's drive of the farm. Products include goat milk cheese, fudges and soaps.
- **Kearsarge Gore Farm** (173 Gore Farm, Warner, 456-2319, teamkgf.com) Call-ahead ordering available for products like pork, lamb, fresh greens and maple syrup.
- Lull Farm (65 Broad St., Hollis, 465-7079, livefreeandfarm.com) Farm stand open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering fresh produce, dairy products, baked goods and prepared meals.
- Marsh Meadow Bison (16 Scales Road, Canterbury, 783-0083, marshmeadowbison.com) Contact them directly for meat pickups at the farm. Products include porterhouse steaks, roasts, stew meat and burgers. Bulk orders for

bison will be available soon.

- Miles Smith Farm (56 Whitehouse Road, Loudon, 783-5159, milessmithfarm.com) Farm stand is now open Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Online ordering and curbside pickup are now available, in addition to delivery to locations in Laconia, Concord, Manchester and Nashua. Products include beef, pork, eggs, mixed greens and more.
- New England Fishmongers (953-5515, newenglandfishmongers.com) Home deliveray for products like haddock and sea scallops now available on Fridays. Deliveries are made from Manchester to the Seacoast.
- Oasis Springs Farm (Nashua, 930-1294, oasisspringsfarm.com) Lettuce-only shares now available for \$17 per week, with pickups available at the farm (contact them directly for the address) and in multiple locations in Nashua and Amherst on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.
- Porkside Farm (10 French Pond Road, Henniker, 748-3767, porksideathenniker@gmail.com) Items available at the farm by appointment only. Products include sausages, smoked kielbasa, smoked ham steak, fresh pork shoulder, rabbit and duck.
- Riverslea Farm (362 N. River Road, Epping, 679-2629, riversleafarm.com) Items available at the farm by appointment. Products include lamb

and goat.

- Tilton Hill Goat Farm + Alpaca (11 Route 4, Danbury, 738-5133, tiltonhillgoatfarm.com) Call-ahead ordering available by appointment for goat meat, from Concord to Danbury.
- Trombly Gardens (150 N. River Road, Milford, 673-0647, tromblygardens.com) Farm stand open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and usually until 5 p.m. on Sundays. Products include milk, eggs, beef, fresh produce and prepared meals.
- Valicenti Pasta Farm (11 Monument Square, Hollis, 459-3627, gimmespaghetti.com) Online ordering and home delivery available to the greater Nashua area. Products include a variety of fresh pastas and sauces.
- Vegetable Ranch (443 Kearsarge Mountain Road, Warner, 496-6391, vegetableranch.com) Pre-orders available for pickup at the farm by appointment. Products include fresh vegetables like spinach, beets, carrots and turnips, as well as organic frozen whole chickens.
- Warner River Produce (119 Dustin Road, Webster, 491-4203, find them on Facebook @ warnerriverorganics) Online ordering, pay ahead and pickup options available, via harvesttomarket.com (type "Warner River Produce" in the search bar). Products include seasonal mixed vegetables, eggs and frozen fruits like strawberries and blueberries. See website for list of pickup locations.







Margaret Gay of Candia is the owner of 27 Teas (27teas.com, find her on Facebook @27teasllc), a company she founded about two years ago that offers around 30 types of loose leaf teas and custom herbal tea blends. A variety of black, green and white comprises her product line — popular sellers include the hibiscus berry tea, which features a balance of rose hips, cranberries and blueberries. Other teas are packaged and sold seasonally, like a black tea with cacao nibs and peppermint in the winter, and a tea with lemongrass and butterfly pea flower in the summer. In addition to buying them from the company's website, you can find 27 Teas products at a few local craft stores, like the Manchester Craft Market at the Mall of New Hampshire, and sometimes at select farmers markets throughout the year. Gay donates 10 percent of the profits from 27 Teas to The Water Project, a Concord-based clean water initiative.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I would say my reusable stainless steel tea infuser basket. It's always on my counter.

### What would you have for your last ing one of your teas? Honestly, I would li

A nice creamy and rich macaroni and cheese.

#### What is your favorite local restaurant?

Throwback Brewery in North Hampton is one of my favorites. I really love the food and the environment there. I'll usually get

one of their rice bowls and a flight of beers. They have a great beer selection.

### What celebrity would you like to see trying one of your teas?

Honestly, I would like to see anyone who is a tea lover give one of my teas a shot. I still get new people all the time that find me at an event sampling or at the farmers market

What is your favorite tea that you offer? I always say my Lilac Lady oolong tea.

It's a really easy drinking tea and it's very high-quality. You can reuse the leaves up to four or five times.

### What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?

I think it's shopping local and learning more about where your food is coming from, combined with healthier plant-based alternatives.

### What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I've been playing around with a lot of Thai food. I love pad thai.

- Matt Ingersoll -



### **Hibiscus refresher**

Courtesy of Margaret Gay of 27 Teas

1 teaspoon hibiscus berry tea ½ cup lemonade 1 cup water

Brew hibiscus berry tea with cold water overnight (cold brew), or with hot (near boiling) water for five minutes and let cool to room temperature. Add ice to a larger glass. Pour lemonade over ice and top with hibiscus tea.

00D



### Date & pancetta scones

My scones are a breakfast treat of family renown. When the kids come home, it's the most often requested breakfast item. Although we all have our favorite recipes, I like to try new variations. As most of my scone recipes lean toward sweet, I wanted to try and make a scone with more balance.

This recipe really shows the balance of sweet and salty well. You'll want both the pancetta and dates diced, no big chunks. The smaller size allows them to disperse throughout the dough, which means you usually get some pancetta and date in each bite.

Dates are the key ingredient. First, they are very tender dried fruit, which is what you want for the fruit inside this scone. Second, they are very sweet, and you need that to balance the salty nature of the pancetta. It took two grocery stores for me to find dates, but it's worth the effort.

The pancetta, while delicious, isn't an end-all, be-all ingredient. If you can't



Date & pancetta scones. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

find pancetta at your grocery store, bacon makes a fine substitute. You can dice and fry it to produce crispy, salty bites for your scones. Now just get the rest of your ingredients, and let the baking begin!

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.

#### **Date & Pancetta Scones**

Makes 8 scones

4 ounces diced pancetta

2 cups all-purpose flour

⅓ cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar

1½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon cinnamon

5 tablespoons chilled unsalted butter, diced

3/4 cup diced dates

3/4 cup buttermilk\*

1 large egg yolk

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

In a frying pan over medium heat, sauté pancetta until crispy, about 5 minutes.

Transfer pancetta to a paper towel-lined plate to drain excess grease.

Mix flour, 1/3 cup sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Add butter.

Combine dry ingredients using a pastry blender (or two forks) until butter is reduced to the size of grains of rice.

Add dates and pancetta to flour mix-

ture, tossing gently.

Whisk buttermilk and egg yolk in a 2-cup liquid measuring cup or small bowl.

Add liquids to dry ingredients; mix until dough forms a ball.

Place dough on a lightly floured surface and press into an 8-inch round.

Sprinkle with 1 tablespoon sugar. Cut into 8 wedges.

Transfer wedges to rimmed cookie sheet, preferably lined with parchment paper.

Bake for 15-20 minutes or until the scones are crusty on top and a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

Serve warm.

\*Instead of buying buttermilk, you can measure 1 tablespoon of white vinegar or lemon juice into a measuring cup. Fill with milk to equal 3/4 cup. Let it sit for 5 minutes before following recipe directions.

#### DRINK

### **Comfort wines**

Make your at-home meals a feast with favorite wines









Courtesy photo.

By Fred Matuszewski food@hippopress.com

Social distancing and limiting ourselves to minimal trips deemed "essential" has made an impact on us that was unimaginable a short time ago. All social gathering is off limits. Streets are quiet. We need comfort.

Wine offers comfort when linked to good food.

While we must limit our traveling, we can still take walks, and yes, the grocery stores are open, takeout is available, and the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets remain open on a limited basis! We can fight this isolation by purchasing takeout or preparing a great meal at home that, when coupled with good wine, turns into a banquet for one or two (but definitely fewer than 10).

One of my favorite white wines is **Del**ille Cellars Chaleur Estate Blanc, 2015, regularly priced at \$34.99, and reduced to \$17.99. It is a blend of 73 percent sauvignon blanc and 27 percent semillon. This wine has complexity, diverse aromas and classic structure. The color is straw-white; its nose opens with air and begins to yield a scent of preserved lemons. The taste is buttery and citric, of lemon rind, along with a bit of ginger on the back of the tongue. The finish is long. This wine pairs well with grilled poultry, fish or shellfish, and rich, medium aged cow's and sheep's milk cheeses. This wine is an excellent pairing to chicken tenders.

Do you consider pizza one of the four food groups? The Cline Meadowbrook Ranch Vineyard Zinfandel 2014, regularly priced at \$59.99, and reduced to \$27.99, is the perfect wine to pair with a hearty white or red pizza, with meat or vegetable toppings. This wine comes from grapes grown on the red volcanic soil of Tehama County, northeast of Mendocino National Forest, California. Jim Gordon of Wine Enthusiast magazine gave this wine 89 points: "Brawny and tasty at the same time, this combines oak, vanilla and cherry aromas with very full body, ripe and broad boysenberry flavors and firm tannins.

The texture is firm and tannic, making it a good counterpoint to rich food." So order a pizza and turn it into a feast with this winning wine!

How about picking up a thick, juicy, aged rib-eye steak, grilled and enjoyed with sides of garlic mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus? Top that steak with a dollop of bearnaise sauce, and you have a sumptuous meal to be enjoyed fireside or just in your kitchen by candlelight! What do you pair with that steak? A Neal Family Vineyards 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, of course! This wine, regularly priced at \$55.99, and reduced to \$30.99, is classically produced by blending grapes from the Napa Valley. It has a deep red-purple color and firm structure. Aromas include blackberry, cassis, cherry and vanilla. The taste and "feel to the mouth" are intense but very velvety, with black cherry fruit, some cedar, with a hint of leather, to a complex and long finish. Can you tell this is one of my favorites? Decanting is recommended and will significantly enhance the enjoyment of this wine.

On a budget? Craving that quart of Cherry Garcia that you will down in one sitting? Wash it down with a glass of **Gruet Brut**. Originally priced at \$18.99, and on sale at \$16.99, it is an amazing value. This is a sparkling wine that is a blend of 75 percent chardonnay and 25 percent pinot noir. It has, at first taste, notes of green apples that settle to citric and mineral tastes on the middle of the tongue, with a long finish of brioche. A perfect match for that Cherry Garcia!

So, "keep calm and carry on." This isolation shall end before we know it and once again we will be able to live normal, social lives. And think of what we have learned about food and wine in this down time!

Fred Matuszewski is a local architect and a foodie and wine geek, interested in the cultivation of the multiple strains and varieties of grapes and the industry of wine production and sales. Chief among his travels is an annual trip to the wine producing areas of California.





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MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

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sible A+

BOOKS

 These Fevered Days B Book Notes

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.

Portrait of a Lady on

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- Crip Camp A

I sure don't get a lot of this kind of stuff in here, aside from what the jazz promoters send me. This female-fronted Chicago band hawks jazz-pop that mostly adheres to a somewhat straightforward piano-blues formula, but can come out and surprise you with beautifully airy '70s cruising-pop when you least expect it ("I Swear to God I Will" melts in the ears like chocolate mousse). Longtime famous sideman Johnny Iguana is the principal musician here, fresh off his first solo record after playing alongside the likes of Buddy Guy, James

Cotton and Mick Jagger in various setups, holding down the vaguely Dresden Dolls-ish cabaret-pop fort while singer Berit Ulster shows off a sleepily unique voice that often wanders into Lorde and Amy Winehouse territories. You'd probably be down with this if you've ever wished for Amanda Palmer without the over-amped melodrama, or maybe Carole King with a quicker pulse. A — Eric W. Saeger

### Enter Shikari, Nothing Is True & Everything Is Possible (So Recordings)



I was looking forward to this one, if only to remember why I liked this British post-nu-metal band in the first place. After listening to this, their sixth fulllength, I can safely say I still do, but it's for different reasons than previous, when they were a super-cool combination of Pendulum electro-shock-aggro and mathematically correct Linkin Park yell-alongs. But no, this is awesome, even if I had to get past a couple-few emo moments intended for their small contingent of runaway teen-girl fans; in fact, steampunk-oriented noise-punk

track "The Dreamer's Hotel" may be the coolest song I've heard thus far this year, a runaway train of crazy that Battles might have cobbled together if they'd loosen up a little. Things get even more unhinged, but in a slower way, with the steampunk-cabaret-oriented "Waltzing off the Face of the Earth." The spazzing "T.I.N.A." is like a funhouse in a can. A lot of goths would lose their minds over this. A+ — Eric W. Saeger

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- · Onward, my coronavirus-terrorized homies, where, if you have any money left over from buying truckloads of toilet paper, you can buy one or more of the albums scheduled to come out Friday, April 3! Look, it's a new album from Canadian indie-rock nerds Born Ruffians, titled Juice. These guys are so totally indie, like, back in 2002, when they called themselves Mornington Drive, they burned their first CDs in the drummer's basement, his mom "sewed the packaging," and the singer-guitarist painted the covers. They have made appearances on a British teen-centric TV show called Skins and done other indie things. Maybe you heard their 2013 song "Needle," which sounded like a Dodos song but not as good and with more energy. Their newest single, "I Fall In Love Every Night," has brassy horns and bad singing to start it off, and then it turns into a speed-punk-pop thing with Ennio Morricone overtones, then it turns into a Strokes-type song. It is OK, but nothing I will ever listen to again.
- There's more stuff from Canada, but this time it's probably salvageable, because it's from electro-pop duo Purity Ring, who have given us awesome songs before, like the epic-but-weird tune "Fineshrine," but you probably know them better from the bubbly, trip-hoppish "Obedear," the theme song to the American dark-comedy TV show Search Party. That tune is sort of like Mazzy Star but perky, which does tickle my fancy. So the bottom line is that Purity Ring is pretty cool, so I look forward to venturing into the troll-infested wilds of YouTube to see what their upcoming new album, Womb, has in store. Ah, here it is, a song called "Stardew," which would play immediately if I'd just break down and not be such a cheapskate and subscribe to YouTube, which I will never do, because I only have 500 rolls of coronavirus-curing toilet paper and am planning to invest more, much, much more. Anyway, I love singer Megan's voice on this slow-ish electropop song, it is more bee-stung than ever, and the sound is huge, like these people should be bigger than Pink, but I am not in control of these things.
- One of the great things about the 1960s was a TV show called The Monkees, which you can still watch on the MeTV network, if you have decided that you are happy to pay your cable provider their insane ransom. Or you could always watch all the episodes for free by searching for "Monkees full episodes" on YouTube and the police couldn't do anything about it, if you're trying to save for more toilet paper for your retirement. There were stuffed apes and random incompetent Goldfinger villains, and it was stupid, but whatever. Anyway, whatever is left of the band has a new live album coming out this week called The Mike & Micky Show Live, and your grandmother would
- Closing things out this week is I'm Your Empress Of, the new album from L.A.-based Latinx synth-popper Empress Of who is also known as Lorely Rodriguez. If you like house-tinged technopop, you'll love it. — Eric W. Saeger

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

### Retro Playlist

Eric W. Saeger recommends a couple of albums worth a second look.

If you're not employed by a company that provides essential services, chances are good that you're at home, trying to think of a productive way to waste time. Maybe you've considered extending your

because you have no idea where to start.

least to the extent that I felt comfortable adding jazz-album reviews to my suite of writing services. I used to feel intimidated: I figured everyone will know that I can't automatically tell **Branford Marsalis** from **Kenny G.** after it turned out, were great jazz-fusion choices. two seconds. Scariest of all, I assumed that



Albert Einstein as an idiot.

So, then, the secret to "becoming" an "actual" jazz fan? All you

musical taste to jazz, but you're intimidated have to do is enjoy listening to it. That's it.

I decided to become a jazz guy a long time It took a few years before I figured out the ago. Browsing the jazz section of a Strawbertrick to becoming a "true jazz aficionado," at ries record store, I was quickly overwhelmed, and figured I'd just choose albums depending on (A) whether I liked the cover, and (B) whether or not I'd ever heard of the musicians. That's it. I bought two that day, both of which,

The first was Weather Report's 1980 LP, all the readers who have memorized literal- Night Passage. Like every other jazz album mental power-building. These guys made top-

ly everything Miles Davis ever ever made, this can be found recorded will think I'm an idiot. mentioned in a "100 Greatest But then I remembered: No mat- Jazz Albums" list somewhere in ter who you are, whatever your the blogosphere. It's trippy stuff, deal is, right now, someone thinks touted by some critics as less you're an idiot. At some point, busy than, and thus an improvesurely someone, probably a guy ment over, its predecessor, with a funny overbite, referred to 1978's Mr. Gone. In particular, the songs "Port of Entry" and "Rockin' In Rhythm" paint an unforgettable, surrealist land-

scape of a multi-ethnic downtown Manhattan, experts recommend selecting wines that simbut one that's been taken over by skinny, harmless aliens from Jupiter.

The other was *The Romantic Warrior*, the 1976 album from Return to Forever. This bona fide superstar band was the unlikely team-up of literally the biggest jazz-rock names of the day. The album wasn't my favorthe cover art, but it's certainly an exercise in



of-their-game-era Yes sound like The Hives, if that gives you any idea. There's obviously a medieval theme to it, which makes it a must-hear for people who love post-Deep Purple Ritchie Blackmore (I don't).

So there you go. Choosing jazz to check out is similar to choosing a wine (some wine

ply have more writing on the label): If you're lost, just go by the cover art. Worked for me.

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 ite thing to listen to, and I wasn't crazy about able to play shows or jam with your homies. Send a recipe for keema matar. Email esaeger@cyberontix.com for fastest response.

#### POP CULTURE BOOKS

These Fevered Days, by Martha Ackmann (W.W. Norton & Co., 239 pages)

Unless someone is on the verge of publishing "My Kids Went to Miami Beach and All I Got Was Coronavirus," it's hard to imagine a book more appropriately titled for quarantine reading than *These Fevered Days*.

But don't get too excited,

unless you're spending your days reciting Emily Dickinson poems on your couch.

Martha Ackmann's examination of 10 pivotal moments in the poet's life is a lovely tribute to the enigmatic recluse of Amherst, Massachusetts, but one more suited for superfans than for nonessential persons who decide to learn to appreciate poetry during social isolation. (For that, start with a Dickinson collection, or Robert Frost, or Alexandria Peary.) That's because of the mounds of detail, much having to do with 19th-century weather, that at times make the narrative seem less likely a revelatory book than a forced conversation with a boring relative.

For this, do not blame Ackmann, who is a lyrical wordsmith in her own right. But These Fevered Days is a scholarly work, drawn from historical records and letters, and Ackmann is a professor so determined to recreate the poet's world that she spent an hour in the Dickinson homestead attic, reading Shakespeare aloud like Dickinson once did. She did this, she writes, to bring "sensory verisimilitude" to the book, which gave me a mild headache, as did learning that she went to a local planetarium so she could look at the exact arrangements of the stars on the day that Dickinson died. Admirable? Indeed. But by no means a necessary plot point.

The title derives from Dickinson verse, which Ackmann sprinkles liberally throughout an accounting of what she believes to be turning points in the poet's 55 years of life. Among them: the glimmer of youthful ambition and hope when she wrote to a friend "All things are ready"; her decision at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary to with-



stand pressure to give her life to Christ; the composition of the famous poem "Safe in their Alabaster Chambers"; a health crisis that sent her to Boston; and the cluster of deaths that led Dickinson to write "the Dyings have been too deep for me" and ultimately led to her own decline and passing.

An interesting chapter concerns Mount Holyoke Female

Seminary (now Mount Holyoke College, in South Hadley, Massachusetts, about 10 miles from Dickinson's home) and its founder, Mary Lyon, who established the school at a time when many people considered higher education for women a waste of time and energy. (For women, "With every act of life ... the uttering of a word, the coining of a thought, the thrill of an emotion, there is a destruction of a certain number of cells," one Harvard professor had said.)

Lyon repudiated that, building a school where young women learned chemistry, botany and algebra and were taught to "distinguish between what is very difficult and what is impossible" and then to "do what is difficult." But it was also a place where religious faith was important, and students were asked if they were willing to "give up the world for everlasting life."

"Emily knew her answer," Ackmann writes. "No, she thought. Amherst, her family, and the deep mud of March were more sacred to her than any religious doctrine." Always lyrical, even in personal correspondence, she once wrote to a friend, "Does not Eternity appear dreadful to you. ... To think we must forever live and never cease to be."

Also interesting is the extent to which Dickinson continually revised her poems, which numbered 1,789 that are known. (She didn't keep copies of verse she sent to others.) She said poems were never finished, only abandoned, and tinkered with wording and construction of past work even as she composed a new verse nearly every day. Although she said it was her business "to sing," her poems were taut and intentional, Ackmann says. But she practiced intentionality with a goal that she articulated when she wrote to an editor asking for advice: "Are you too deeply occupied to say if my Verse is alive?" "She would never be content to reach

only a reader's mind and heart, she wanted to touch bone, muscle and nerve," Ackmann

Among the revelations of this book are that Emily Dickinson, for all her creative genius, was not a meticulous speller. (The author chose to leave misspelling and grammatical errors in correspondence intact.) But like Dickinson's sister-in-law upon Emily's death, Ackmann wants the reader to realize that Dickinson was no crazy spinster, no "artifact in amber," but an artist and thinker who understood that her poems demanded a degree of solitude that appeared, frankly, batty. Although she had deep and satisfying relationships conducted mainly through personal letters, as her obituary said, Dickinson sat "in the light of her own fire."

Emily Dickinson's birthplace and home is now part of a museum, but Ackmann writes that the woman who wrote "I dwell in Possibility" may have slept in a now famous house, but her real home was consciousness, "the wild terrain of her mind."

Scholars have been trying to explain Dickinson's lifestyle and work ever since the first volume of her poems was published in 1890, four years after her death. Ackmann, who taught a class on Dickinson, at the poet's homestead, for nearly 20 years, is better qualified than most to probe these corridors. These Fevered Days is not for a general audience whose only exposure to Dickinson was "A Narrow Fellow in the Grass" in 11th-grade American lit. But it will be treasured by the poet's thoughtful fans. B

– Jennifer Graham 🦡

#### **BOOK NOTES**

comfort books, with all of the pleasure, none

If your mental health during social distancing doesn't preclude pandemic/apocalypse entertainment (meaning you have watched some point during the past three weeks), the perfect pandemic novel is Charles Wheelan's The Rationing (W.W. Norton & Company, 410 pages), released last spring. It's not out in paperback yet, but it's on Kindle or Audible, and there are lots of pre-owned hardbacks on the internet.

Wheelan, a professor at Dartmouth, was eerily prescient in this comic thriller reminiscent of Christopher Buckley's Thank You for Smoking. It's close enough to our current circumstance to be relevant (a mysterious illness is killing healthy young people, and the governbut not so similar as to make us cringe.

The narrator is Max, a low-level government scientist, who is summoned into the president's inner circle because he's the only person who is an authority on "lurking viruses," viruses that live contentedly inside a host until they suddenly turn lethal. He is alter-

First, there was comfort food; now there's nately thrilled and bewildered to be thrust from obscurity to the Oval Office in this post-Trump world in which Home Depot Media and the Washington Post-USA Today are the major media players.

The president and his cabinet try to hide Contagion or Deep Impact without trauma at the truth of the virus until they can produce enough of the miracle drug, called Dormigen, even going so far as to invent a scandal about an extramarital affair to try to distract the press and nation from the real story. It's witty and engaging, and much of the action takes place in New England.

> Compared to the coronavirus offerings that have already hit Amazon — The Wuhan Coronavirus Safety Handbook, Coronavirus Questions Answered for Kids and, no joke, The Coronavirus Coloring Book — The Rationing is a much better choice.

By the way, don't look for the book version ment is desperately searching for a treatment) of Contagion. The director and writer consulted with health and medical experts to produce the script, and also met with Laurie Garrett, author of the 1994 nonfiction The Coming *Plague*, by no means a light social-distancing read. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 750 pages, if you insist.)

- Jennifer Graham



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POP CULTURE FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

### Blow the Man Down (R) The small Maine fishing town of Easter

The small Maine fishing town of Easter Cove is full of secrets in *Blow the Man Down*, a smart dark-comedy thriller.

Somewhere, on this movie's Amazon page maybe (it's available through Amazon with a Prime subscription), it was compared to a Coen brothers film, and I feel like that is probably the cleanest description of its tone. Throughout, fishermen sing sea shanties in a way that had me thinking of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, and the blend of small-town claustrophobia and the wide-openness of the natural surroundings (in this case the ocean) brings to mind *Fargo*.

And for a movie with "Man" in the title, the men are almost incidental in this movie, indeed perhaps in the running of the whole Easter Cove community. They are to be tended to, maneuvered around and handled, but it's the women who take care of business.

One woman who always took care of business, strapping on her L.L. Bean-like knee-high boots and showing up when a friend needed help, was Mary Margaret, mother to twentysomething-ish Priscilla (Sophie Lowe) and Mary Beth (Morgan Saylor) Connolly. At Mary Margaret's funeral, as the movie opens, Priscilla and Mary Beth hear stories about what a capable, reliable woman their mother was — and Mary Beth also learns that the family is broke and losing their house. Mary Beth had put her college plans on hold to be with her mother in her last days but now she is angry and resentful at the family's limited fortunes and at the possibility that she won't be able to break free of the town.

It's in this state that she goes to a bar and meets Gorski (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), a man lat-



Blow the Man Down

er described as a creep who did work in some capacity for Enid Devlin (Margo Martindale), owner of the Oceanview Bed and Breakfast. Except, it's really just the Beds that are used and nobody sticks around long enough to have Breakfast. Her establishment was a "women taking care of business" arrangement some women in the town made decades ago, a place where the fishermen who came into the port could find female companionship rather than preying on the local girls. But now, a trio of local women (played by June Squibb, Marceline Hugot and Annette O'Toole) aren't so keen on Enid's continued activities and feel emboldened to take her down now that peacemaker Mary Margaret is no longer around.

Mary Beth doesn't know all this when she

meets Gorski; she's perhaps just looking for a little bit of risky behavior to take her mind off things. But then, once in Gorski's car, she sees his gun and gets a look at his trunk, filled with what could be fish guts and lure bits or blood and a woman's hair. She takes off running, he follows her and a little while later Mary Beth is waking up Priscilla to get help in dealing with a body. Priscilla is a straight arrow who is at first inclined to call the police but as she gets sucked in to protecting her sister she finds herself drawn further into the town's underbelly.

The most prominent (living) man in this movie is Officer Justin Brennan (Will Brittain), the sharp and conscientious young police officer who is investigating the murder of a young woman connected to Enid's business. He has a crush on

Priscilla, which is quickly complicated and dangerous for both of them.

Even when the Maine accents don't exactly land, this movie is packed with good performances, from the always excellent Martindale to Lowe and Saylor. This tart, bracing cocktail of a movie mixes dread, mystery, dark humor and relationship drama perfectly. This feels like the kind of murder mystery novel that you read in one sitting. **A-**

Rated R for language, some violence, sexual material and brief drug use, according to the MPA. Written and directed by Bridget Savage Cole and Danielle Krudy, Blow the Man Down is an hour and 31 minutes long and distributed by Amazon Studios. The movie is available on Amazon Prime with a subscription.

### Portrait of a Lady on Fire (R)

A painter and her subject feel an instant connection in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire,* a "shoulda been a contender" Oscar season movie (written and directed by Céline Sciamma) that did receive Golden Globe and Film Independent Spirit Award nominations.

Luckily for all of us, it is now on Hulu.

Oscar categories in which this movie could have been a strong contender include directing cinematography, writing, score perhaps and maybe an acting nod for lead Noémie Merlant. There is great work being done all around in this movie

Merlant is Marianne, a portrait painter in the 1700s hired to paint Héloïse (Adèle Haenel), a young woman whose family is hoping she'll marry a wealthy Milanese man. The story we piece together is that Héloïse's mother (Valeria Goli-

## SOFAPLEX

Several movies that were in theaters at the time they closed are now available for home viewing. Here is a rundown of recent releases and some of the bigger award movies and end-of-year movies from 2019, starting, in honor of this week's reviews, with some other A-scoring movies.

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

### \*<u>Dolemite Is My Name</u> (R)

Eddie Murphy, Da'Vine Joy Randolph. I am a sucker for a "let's make a movie" movie, which is what this very R-rated comedy from Eddie Murphy ultimately is. Based on the true story of Rudy Ray Moore, who (in this movie at least) is a struggling comedian who finds success when he creates a character called Dolemite and starts producing comedy albums, *Dolemite* soon finds Rudy making his own movie on a shoestring. Performances by Snoop Dogg, Kee-

gan-Michael Key, Mike Epps, Craig Robinson, Tituss Burgess and more — and especially Wesley Snipes — make this movie a winner. A *Available on Netflix*.

### \*<u>Emma</u> (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 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.

### \*Knives Out (PG-13)

Daniel Craig, Chris Evans.

Plus Jaime Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, Toni Collette, Don Johnson, LaKeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford and Ana de Armas — all having a total blast in this Clue-like whodunit that is funny and twisty and an absolute great time. A Available for rent or purchase.

#### \*Little Women (PG)

Saoirse Ronan, Florence Pugh.

Both of whom received Oscar nominations, as Jo and Amy respectively. Other Marches include Emma Watson and Eliza Scalnen and Laura Dern as Marmee; Timothee Chalamet is Laurie. Director and screenwriter Greta Gerwig has crafted a perfect movie in this adaptation of the beloved story of sisters coming of age in Massachusetts during

and after the Civil War. The movie starts the story in the middle of the book, giving us a portrait of each sister separately before we see them fully together, which makes this well-known story feel fresh. A Available for purchase (and for rent on April 7).

### \*Marriage Story (R)

Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver.
Johansson and Driver are a wife and husband in the midst of a divorce in this surprisingly funny, heartfelt and sweet movie written and directed by Noah Bombach. Laura Dern, playing Johansson's divorce lawyer, earned her supporting actress Oscar, somehow being both a warm heart and a cold reality of this movie. A- Available on Netflix.

### \*<u>1917</u> (R)

Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay.

This fairly straightforward World War I battlefield movie from director Sam Mendes pretty solidly offers the illusion of being one continuous shot, a structure that helps to ramp up the tension of this movie that follows the attempt to deliver important orders from one spot on the front to another. This movie puts its head

down and does its work and the result is excellent. A Available for purchase and rent.

### \*Parasite (R)

Song Kang Ho, Cho Yeo Jeong. Director and co-writer Bong Joon Ho crafts a kind of dark (but multi-Oscar-winning!) fairy tale about the oblivious wealthy and the knife's edge existence of the people who work for them. What starts as a small resume lie a friend recommends a buddy for a tutoring job and the new tutor sells the recommendation with some forged university student identification — quickly becomes an elaborate con. The movie is full of strong performances (Song Kang Ho and Cho Yeo Jeong in particular) and smart comedy and isn't afraid to get dark. A Available for rent or purchase.

#### \* <u>Oueen & Slim</u> (R)

Daniel Kaluuya, Jodie Turner-Smith. A couple on a mediocre blind date find themselves on the run through multiple states in this lovely, thoughtful, tragic and occasionally funny movie that features some truly standout performances. A- Available for rent or purchase.

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#### POP CULTURE FILMS

no), originally from Milan but married into a French family, wants to secure Héloïse's future (and her own return to her native city) with this marriage. Héloïse's sister was originally slated to make the match but she has died. Héloïse, who had previously been at a convent, is quietly seething at this new future required of her. She doesn't seem particularly religious but she did like the life of books, music and, as she explains, a kind of equality. She has no interest in helping to facilitate this match and refused to sit for the previous portrait painter. Thus is Marianne told to pretend that she has been hired as a walking companion and to just base her painting on what she can observe this way.

Marianne is tasked with, basically, staring at Héloïse, which she does, picking up small things (her ears, the way she holds her hands, her eyes). The movie actually does a good job of showing Marianne observing Héloïse as a painter and, over time, also as a lover. We get to see Marianne as an artist and her professional struggles with trying to secretly paint a formal portrait. There is also emotion as we see the ways in which what she is observing about Héloïse is drawing them together. It's a nice bit of visual storytelling, done in camera angles that frequently mimic paintings. These visual set-ups also emphasize the very female world that these women are in — the family house, which Marianne gets to by taking a boat, feels itself like a bit of an island, with the occupants being just Héloïse, her mother and servant Sophie (Luána Bajrami), whose own life we get to see a slice of. With the addition of Sophie's story, the movie rounds out the idea that it is presenting an artist at work, a romance and a picture of women's choices.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire is deeply romantic, stunningly beautiful (some really excellent choices are made with how indoor and outdoor shots are constructed and with costume colors) and smart in how it unfolds its story — all with just the right dash of humor A

Rated R for some nudity and sexuality, according to the MPA. Written and directed by Céline Sciamma, who definitely should have been Oscar-nominated for something with this movie, Portrait of a Lady on Fire is two hours and five minutes long and distributed by Neon. It is currently available on Hulu.

#### Crip Camp (R)

Judith Heumann is a strong candidate the next time we look to put women on U.S. currency, was one of my takeaways from the uplifting *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, a documentary on Netflix produced by the Obamas' Higher Ground Productions.

This is the production company behind 2019's *American Factory*, the Oscar winner in the best documentary feature category (also available on Netflix). So far, the Obamas know good documentaries.

Judy Heumann is one of the people we see as teenagers and young twentysomethings at Camp Jened in upstate New York in the early 1970s. When a 2020-era person hears "camp

for young people with disabilities," you might think of lots of equipment-filled facilities with a heavily programmed schedule and firm but upbeat adults. At Camp Jened, as one camper says, you couldn't always tell the counselors from the campers — everybody (campers, counselors, camp head Larry Allison) was a long-haired, music-loving, big thinker looking to shake up society. The camp was an old-school collection of bunk houses, common rooms, a ball field, a pool and kids and counselors who seem just relieved to get to be themselves. Campers, in video from the time and in interviews now as adults, talk about making friends, first kisses and first boyfriends and girlfriends and the delightful discovery that they could have the full, rich life that schools and neighborhoods back home made seem out of reach.

That discovery and the times put a political charge in some of the campers, including James Lebrecht (the documentary's co-director, who has a long career as a sound engineer) and Judy Heumann, who I think is a counselor by the time we see her in the early 1970s footage. She gives off something of an Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez energy, with her Bronx heritage and her ability to forthrightly and unapologetically speak her mind. The movie follows her activism, building to a showdown with the Carter administration over enacting laws that offered legal protections to the rights of people with disabilities, which included some basic accessibility requirements to public facilities and rights to an education for children. The story, which I was sort of shocked that I'd never heard in depth before, paints Heumann as such as significant figure in the country's broader fight for recognized legal rights and protections for everybody that I ended the movie feeling like my kids should really be writing essays about her life every year on Judy Heumann Day (which would maybe be April 28, which according to Wikipedia was the day in 1977 when Education Secretary Joseph Califano signed Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the regulations that Heumann long demonstrated for).

Blended with the truly remarkable story of Heumann and her career of activism is this great story of a camp and what it can mean for kids to have agency, to have a peer group and have equality within that peer group and to be able to dream of bigger futures than what the school year presents them with. The kids — then and later as adults — talk about not just the difficulties of life in the pre-Americans with Disabilities Act days but also of the frustration of dealing with well-meaning protective parents. There's a lot of really eloquent discussion of what it means to be able to navigate life on your own steam.

*Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* is an engrossing and inspiring slice of history. **A** 

Rated R for some language including sexual references, according to the MPA. Directed by James Lebrecht and Nicole Newnham, Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution is an hour and 46 minutes long and is available on Netflix.







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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.

- Percussive picking: A little over a year ago, Senie Hunt played his first major opening show with The Levin Brothers. He deserves to go far, with a unique percussive playing style, soothing voice and insightful lyricism. As a young child in Sierra Leone during the country's decade-long civil war, Hunt took refuge in rhythm, and when he learned to play guitar he incorporated djembe-style drumming into his sound. Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m. on Facebook. Tip jar paypal.me/seniehuntmusic and venmo.com/SenieHuntMusic.
- Sibling harmony: A fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire, Unplugged Virtual Party features a bevy of fine local acts. Kingdom is a hip-hop collective led by a trio of Seacoast rappers, Good Will Harding plays rock, funk and soul, and River Sister is the sublime singing duo of Elissa Margolin and Stefanie Guzikowski backed by the acoustic jazz stylings of Nate Therrien on bass and drummer PJ Donahue. Friday, April 3, 7 p.m. Get a virtual ticket at give.bbbsnh. org.
- World music: Kicked off last weekend, the Stay Home Music Fest brings together performers from all across the country, and a few locals like Hank Osborne, who in non-pandemic times hosts the weekly open session at Concord's Area 23, a great friend to the music scene (remember to buy gift certificates to help out favorite venues closed by the crisis, and over-tip for takeout at the ones doing limited business). Saturday, April 4, 9 p.m. for Osborne's set; festival starts at noon. Tip jar at paypal.me/onlinemusicfest.
- More and more: The Stay Home Festival wraps up with OK Koala, a Nashville-based one-man band inspired by alt rockers like Hawthorne Heights, Fall Out Boy and My Chemical Romance. Also on the all-day show are Jenni Alpert, Senie Hunt, Stevie Rae & Kieman, Clare Cunningham, Korie Burton, Monica G, Stacey K. Black, Ken Buono, Sean Ryan and Amanda Page Cornett. Sunday, April 5, noon, facebook.com/onlinemusicfest. Listen at ok-koala.bandcamp.com.

## NITE Live online

### Granite State musician discusses upcoming webcast

By Michael Witthaus mwitthaus@hippopress.com

One of the busiest performers around, Yamica Peterson leads her funk and soul band Mica's Groove Train, plays with her father Pete Peterson in the duo Family Affair, along with the Mica-Sev Project (a collaboration with Don Severance), duos with Chris O'Brien and solo gigs. The shutdown of restaurants and bars means no more playing out for a while, but Peterson is filling the gap with online shows like the one she'll do Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. on her Facebook page. She's also taking time to work on new material and revisit a few unfinished songs. Peterson spoke by phone from her Seacoast home.

### How have you been holding up since the shutdown?

It was really hard at first. I went through the gamut of emotions. I was angry, then just completely baffled, and now I guess I'm in a state of acceptance because it is what it is and hopefully we all stay safe and come out of this on the other side. I'm still disappointed and bummed and I really am truly missing my music life but taking it one day at a time.

#### Did anything prepare you for it?

I feel like I was blindsided and sucker punched. If I had known my Friday night gig was my last, I don't know what I would have done ... it was crazy. Still kind of tough to wrap your head around, but it's a problem that's out of my hands. The only thing that keeps me sane right now is knowing I can't do anything about it anyway.

### What was the final gig?

It was at the Pasta Loft in Milford. Great one, we have a few changes, major changes. We have a new guitarist and new drummer, it could be the first of many good things ahead. It all came to a screeching halt. It was a good gig, though, so at least I have comfort in that.

### What are you doing to make ends meet?

My dad and I did a Family Affair livestream, and that worked out really well in spite of the enormous technical difficulties that we had. It was a learning curve for me in terms of doing it on the fly. Now I know what things to prepare for and how to do better. ... It was good to do it, good for the soul because we were kinda low but it ended up being a really great night. I love my dad, and any time I get to play with him it's a real treat.

*Did you have a virtual tip jar going?* We did: PayPal and Venmo.

Fans are liking them and seem to be generous.

Yeah, they were. It was heartwarming to see.



Yamica Peterson. Courtesy photo.

We were touched by a lot of the comments and generosity from a lot of folks. We realized too after that show that it wasn't just us feeling the weight of the loss of connection with the people that not only do music but go to see it too. That common thread of needing each other.

### Tell me about your upcoming webcast.

Well, it's going to be an hour of original songs. Just myself. Doing concerts in a virtual way is very strange, there's no eye contact with anybody, you're basically looking at yourself, so that was an adjustment. I don't usually see myself when I'm on stage. No one's smiling at you, you're not looking out at people talking or whatever. I just try to relax.

### They type comments.

I didn't do that, have my laptop nearby where I could read it. Next time I'll have my phone there so I can read what people are saying when they say it. Maybe when my dad and I are together we can take requests. I don't play too many covers so I won't, but hopefully people will enjoy the new songs that I haven't played yet.

### On the plus side, no one will be talking over your playing.

This is true, or knocking the mic into my teeth, because that's never pleasant. See, there's a silver lining to everything.

### What gives you hope?

That's a tough one. My faith gives me hope as far as the pickle we've all found ourselves in. I'm just as uncertain as everybody else. I really don't have a handle on it.

#### What's the hardest thing about this?

The loss of personal connections. I can see my mom on video chat, I can see my dad in person because we're close in distance and we're both not doing anything. I can call friends and reconnect; some people I haven't spoken to in forever. There's definitely some bonuses. I get

to spend way more time with my kids, which is really cool, and gain some insight into them, quirks I may have overlooked because I work so much. They're not fighting like I worried they would, so I count that as a win.

### What's the first thing you plan on doing when the lockdown is lifted?

I'm gonna find some friends to hug and shake nands.

### What do you tell people who want to help?

We're hurting as musicians. . . . It's hard when you love that job and it's a part of you. For me it feels like I've been grounded and I can't see my friends. Two weeks is like forever and I find it amusing that I've been grounded for a couple of weeks so to speak and it sucks. I hated that as a kid, so I didn't do many things to cause me to be in time out. I don't mean to make light of it in any way, the severity of it is pretty ugly, so I know the logic behind it, but it's still surreal.

### What are some of the songs on your coronavirus playlist?

Honestly, I've been trying to dig inward for this. I haven't been really looking outward to inspiration because there are some pieces of music that have just been sitting. I've either been too scared to play them or I didn't have the right line, melody, whatever. Life gets in the way. There are some tunes that I need to sit down and reconnect with and finish. Putting it off because I'm the queen of procrastination but today I started playing and where I ended up was an old tune, I was able to put down the verses, the bridge and chorus, space for a solo, and sent it off the bassist and drummer. See where it goes.

### Sounds like you've got your own little Coronavirus RPM Challenge going on.

Yeah, so to speak. It's nice that I have time because that was my excuse before. Now I'm home, I have this time and I don't want to waste it.

#### ROCKANDROLLCROSSWORDS.com BY TODD SANTOS

### RD FLY HIGH BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

### 1. Lee Michaels ' (3,1)

5. Instumental Paul Simon jam that's

9. Unsung funkster Butler

not a Stones cover

20

23

39

42

32

of the 'Rock Of' them 15. Ziggy Marley '\_\_ Who's Dancing' 16. Kind of steak a star might get

17. '89 Fine Young Cannibals hit album 'The \_\_' (3,3,3,6)

20. Crunk trailblazer \_\_ Jon

14. On 'Pyromania' Def Leppard sang 21. Kelly Clarkson 'Since U\_

60

63

Now offering...

25. 'Straighten Up And Fly Right' Nat

22. Spin Doctors 'Jimmy

drive on one on '03 single (3,4)

26. Band highway crash spot 27. 90s Christian rock band named after angel's headwear

23. An aimless George Harrison will

28. Classic '77 Steely Dan album

31. If Bob Dylan were a waiter he would have to do this to 'Somebody'

34. Tour big rig

35. '03 3 Doors Down hit 'The Road (2.2)

36. USPO-inspired Marvelettes classic covered by The Beatles (6,2,7)

39. Cincinnati's \_\_ Office was inspired by the White House, perhaps

40. Lyrically slander, slang 41. Singular Dropkick Murphys song?

42. Grunge band that made "little

headway" 43. Standing Outside A Broken Phone

Booth \_\_ Money In My Hand 44. Meat Loaf partner Steinman

45. Like rock star palace

46. 50-50 Sony Corporation of America and Bertelsmann Music Group venture

50. Incubus smash '\_\_ \_ Know You' (4,2)

53. Singer McCracken of The Used that isn't named Ernie

54. 'Coney Island Baby' Reed

55. Ray Parker Jr & Raydio '\_\_ (Just Like You Do)' (1,5,5,4)

58. Albarn of Blur/Gorillaz

59. Etta James 'Tell - The Complete Muscle Shoals Sessions'

60. Billboard number

61. I'll Have To Say I Love You In \_\_

62. Japanese metalers Lost \_

63. Bob Dylan cleaned up his 'And 35. Bon Jovi 'Life' (3,2)

#### Down

1. Autolux drummer & singer Azar

2. An enlightened Black Sabbath got

3. David Grisman '\_\_ Wedding' 4. Bob Dylan 'Your Heart \_\_ \_ Mus-

cle' (2,1) 5. 'Dirt Road Anthem' Jason

6. Like prominent musician that went down in the books

7. 'Theme From Jaws' Williams

8. Tina Turner's sidekick Turner 9. London's Hammersmith

10. Seal "I've been kissed by

11. Bob Dylan 'A Rolling Stone' 12. LA metal band that forebodes?

13. 'Tantrum' \_\_ Atomic Dustbin

18. Guns N' Roses 'Dust \_\_\_' (1,5)

19. 'Gangsta's Paradise' rapper

24. Long Beach rockers \_\_ Sons

25. What sleepy musician does in van,

perhaps 27. Kristin of Throwing Muses

28. Minus The Bear will bring their 'Guns &

29. Runaways guitarist Jett

30. 'Shadows In The Moonlight' Murray

31. Inez 'On The

32. '02 Unwritten Law album

33. If You Could \_\_ My Mind

34. Robert of The Cure

37. 'Love Grows (Where My Rosemary

Goes)' \_\_ Lighthouse 38. Motley Crue '\_\_ Of Los Angeles'

43. RZA of \_\_ Clan (hyph)

44. 'I Like' R&Ber Montell

45. Walkmen 'Emma, Get Me A

46. The Who '\_\_\_\_, Feel Me' (3,2)

47. Like sexy star hair color, at times

48. What band did when they went to

49. '04 Ani DiFranco album took an 'Educated

50. Amount you get when shelved

51. Sophie B Hawkins 'Damn I Wish Your Lover' (1,3)

52. 40s-70s singer Perry

53. Little bit of nervous forehead sweat

56. "New Musical Express" UK mag

57. Restroom facility, to British band © 2020 Todd Santos



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JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

### "Indoor Activities" — where everything is in doors

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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			49						50		51			
		52				53	54	55				56	57	58
59	60				61					62				
63					64					65				
66					67					68				

#### Across

1 "Knives Out" sleuth Benoit 6 1/8 of a fluid ounce

10 MTV mainstay Loder who turns 75 soon

14 Jasmine's pet tiger in "Aladdin"

15 Tabula \_\_\_ (blank slate)

16 Abbr. on egg cartons

17 Best effort, slangily

18 Oklahoma town near Vance **AFB** 

19 Benefit of time off

20 Request that's asking a lot

23 Prefix with laryngologist

24 Fire starter?

25 Bio., chem., or biochem.

28 Overachieving college student's quest

35 "\_\_\_ Can Cook" (former cooking show)

36 Bobbing necessities

37 Film segue, perhaps

38 "Neato!"

40 Carrere who sang in "Wayne's

### Classic R&R answer from pg 27 of 03/26



- 41 New , Conn. (home of
- O's (cookie-based cereal) 43 Britton in season 1 of "Ameri-
- can Horror Story"
- 45 "Able was I I saw Elba"
- 46 Job for a resident assistant
- 48 It has teeth but no mouth
- 49 Do mild exercise
- 50 Edinburgh cap 52 Something you can't take up
- at the mall
- 59 "Dear \_\_\_ Hansen" 61 Military no-show, briefly
- 62 "CSI" or "NCIS"
- 63 Seconds, e.g.
- 64 Jolt, for one
- 65 Chamillionaire hit parodied
- by Weird Al
- 66 Has claim to
- 67 Bend out of shape
- 68 "Byzantium" poet

#### Down

1 Garrett of "Everybody Loves Raymond"

2 Loch : Scottish :: : Spanish

3 In \_\_\_ (stuck)

4 "... and Bingo was his \_\_\_\_"

5 "Allowed" time to go off a regimen?

6 Number of e's in Heidelberg?

7 Tried to get hold of

8 "Oh, right!"

9 Butterfly and Bovary, for two

10 "Seven Samurai" director

11 Password typer, maybe

12 Satnav suggestions

13 Inky artwork

21 "I touched your nose!" sound

- 22 Energetic spirit
- 25 Assembly of clergy
- 26 Capital near the Great Sphinx
- 27 Conclude from evidence
- 29 "Oil!" author Sinclair
- 30 Pancakes sometimes served with caviar
- 31 Inclined
- 32 Swing dances
- 33 Nightly streaming offering
- from the Met
- 34 Sign up again for an online subscription
- 39 "It's Not Unusual" singer
- 41 Field involving coats-of-arms
- 43 Courvoisier and Hennessy,
- e.g.
- 44 Teeniest bit
- 47 Do a yard job
- 51 Callender in the frozen food aisle
- 52 "Well, heck"
- 53 "Star Wars" series creature
- 54 Kind of proprietor
- 55 Attack, like a kitty while
- you're trying to work
- 56 "Look what I did!"
- 57 Leave out
- 58 Also- (election conceders)
- 59 Moody music genre
- 60 Altar words
- © 2020 Matt Jones

### NITE SUDOKU

E R R A T I C

A L U M D C E L L

ADATORCA

Classic Jonesin' answer

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C R A G K O R M A S I L A S F E A T

from pg 28 of 03/26

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

Classic Jonesin' answer

H A A S C H A S

A G E I S M S P A M A L O T

G E T D O W N M A K E D O V E

from pg 29 of 03/26

### Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle A By Dave Green

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### Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle B By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle C By Dave Green

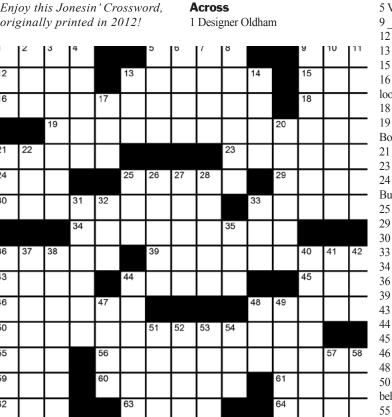
Difficulty Level ★★★★

#### HIPPO LAPRIL 2 - 8 2020 LPAGE 28

Difficulty Level ★★★★

JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

### "Cheatin' with the Codes" — old school Nintendo knowledge



Across

5 Victoria's Secret sells them -cone (carnival purchase) 12 Strained from work

13 Dusting items 15 Good or bad figure, in TV dramas 16 Direction for "my beautiful bal-

loon," in song 18 Come up short

19 What "we're" doing, in a Fall Out Boy song lyric

21 Part of a fireman's outfit

23 Babies do it

24 Movie where Will Ferrell played

25 Fall guy

29 In the ballpark

30 With 39-across, marching chant

33 Labor mate, on an invoice

34 Like objective data

36 Prefix before gender or mission

39 See 30-across

43 "Role Models" actor Paul

44 Complaints

45 Not just my

46 Like some playgrounds

48 "Yabba doo!"

50 Degree that focuses on human behavior

55 "And so on"

56 Panicky yell to a getaway driver

59 Felix or Fritz

60 Forehead-smacking phrase

61 Bupkis

62 Sit-up focus 63 1970s song with a letter-forming

64 Abbr. in a recipe

#### Down

1 Coll. in Houston

2 Alley-

3 Towed away, colloquially

4 Train station

5 Skyscraper, for example: abbr.

6 Word before hog or rage 7 "...and " (Lawrence Welk

count-off)

8 BET Hip Hop Awards "Rookie of the

Year" winner Lo 9 Two-wheeler

10 "OK, I'm waiting..." 11 Can

13 Anderson Cooper's channel

14 Word sung on 1/1

17 " for Alibi" (first in the Kinsey

Millhone book series)

20 North America's highest peak

21 Paese (cheese)

22 Soccer match shout

25 Spot on a domino

26 Like contortionists

27 "A magic number," according to

"Schoolhouse Rock"

28 Rigid

31 Muscle-to-bone connector

32 Apt. ad stat

33 Golf average

35 Dollar divs.

36 Robert De Niro's film studio

37 Keep the drink payment until the

38 Detox denizens

40 Take a taxi

41 Central airport

42 "La la" lead-in

44 Like weak soup

buco

48 "Simpsons" word added to the OED

49 Bond, e.g.

51 Chilled out

52 -Z (old Chevy)

vez (again, in Spanish)

54 Public Image (post-Sex Pis-

tols band)

57 30-second spots

58 Grammy category

©2012 Jonesin' Crosswords

### SIGNS OF LIFE

Quotes are from Squirrels and Other Fur-Bearers and The Wit of a Duck and Other Papers, by John Burroughs, born April 3,

Aries (March 21 – April 19) The first chipmunk in March is as sure a token of the spring as the first bluebird or the first robin, and is quite as welcome. Give a warm welcome to the second chipmunk.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) But [the duck] seemed to have an exact map of the country in his mind; he soon left the station road, went around a house, through a vineyard .... Then down the road he paddled with renewed confidence: under the trees, down a hill, through a grove, over a bridge, up the *hill again toward home.* Who needs a map?

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) I have seen a nest-building robin baffled and delayed, day after day, by the wind that swept away the straws and rubbish she carried.... But she did not seem to lose her temper. She did not spitefully reclaim the straws and strings that would persist in falling to the porch floors, but cheerfully went away in search of more. There's more rubbish where that came from.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) There is one thing the red squirrel knows unerringly that I do not (there are probably several other things); that is, on which side of the butternut the meat lies. You have much to learn.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) I have a barndoor outlook because I have a hay-barn study, and I chose a hay-barn study because I wanted a barn-door outlook — a wide, near

view into fields and woods and orchards where I could be on intimate terms with the wild life about me, and with free, open-air nature. ... what could be a more fit place to thresh out dry philosophical subjects than a barn floor? Head for the barn!

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) When I hear the little downy woodpecker begin his spring drumming, then I know the chipmunk is due. He cannot sleep after that challenge of the woodpecker reaches his ear. Sometimes you're the woodpecker; sometimes you're the chipmunk.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) The squirrel had all his wits about him, and kept them ready for instant use. He did not show the slightest confusion. He was no match for the dog in fair running, and he discovered this fact in less than three seconds; he must win, if at all, by strategy. Keep your wits ready for instant use.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Every instant the dog was sure the squirrel was his, and every instant he was disappointed. It was incredible and bewildering to him. The squirrel dodged this way and that. The dog looked astonished and vexed. Dog, meet

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** ... *a* woodchuck comes hesitatingly out of his hole and goes nibbling in the grass not fifty feet away. How alert and watchful he is! Every few moments he sits upright and takes an observation, then resumes his feeding. Woodchuck knows what's going on.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) I once

passed a summer night alone upon the highest peak of the Catskills.... I soon found there were numerous porcupines that desired to keep me company. Just because they want to doesn't mean you have to let them.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) How much business the crows seem to have apart from hunting their living! I hear their voices in the morning before sun-up, sounding out from different points of the fields and woods, as if every one of them were giving or receiving orders for the day.... First coffee, then check your email.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) A chipmunk comes along on the stone wall, hurrying somewhere on an important errand, but changing his course every moment. The direct route isn't the only route.

#### **NITE SUDOKU**

Con	cept	is S	udok	(U		Н	By Dave	: Gree
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Difficu	lty Lev	el 🖈 🖈	*					4/0

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

### Signs of the apocalypse

Steward Gatt, also known as Stewy the Snake Catcher, was summoned to a yard in Ardeer, Victoria, Australia, in mid-March, where he bagged up a female tiger snake in order to relocate it in the wild. But when Gatt opened the bag a short time later, he discovered the snake had given birth to several offspring one of which had two heads. According to United Press International, Gatt took the snakes to Direct Vet Services and had them checked over. The usual one-headed babies were fine, but the two-headed specimen had to be euthanized; "... these animals are not generally viable so it was euthanized on humane grounds," the clinic posted on its Facebook page. Mom and babies were returned to the wild according to plan.

### Oops

Vicar Simon Beach, 61, of St. Budeaux Parish Church in Plymouth, England, was uncomfortable enough as he launched into his first virtual church service on March 22, calling it "surreal." But as he leaned into the camera to deliver the final portion of his sermon, he looked to his left and calmly deadpanned, "Oh dear, I've just caught fire." Beach had leaned a bit too close to one of several nearby candles and ignited his sleeve. "I just felt my arm getting a bit hot," he told Metro News. The flame damaged his sweater and shirt, but did not burn his skin. Beach was teased a bit by fellow vicars, who razzed him for being "on fire for Jesus." "People have laughed and laughed, really," Beach

### Crafting during coronavirus

Steve Walton of Shotley Bridge, England, took a bad spill in 2018 and, after a series of surgeries, had to have the lower part of his leg amputated in January. He was scheduled to be fitted with a prosthetic leg in mid-March, but his appointment was delayed because of the coronavirus crisis. That was when his wife, Atchari, went to work, making a leg for him using a bucket, fiberglass resin and wood. The first attempt kept falling off ("It was more akin to something Long John Silver would wear," Walton said), but Ms. Walton refined her project using a moon boot, and it worked. "My wife is very practical. She can turn her hand to anything," Walton told the BBC. "I am not going to use this regularly, but it will be good for getting around the house for the next three to six months. There are people far worse off than me at the minute."

### **Least competent criminal**

Kenneth Braden, 65, filled his shopping cart at a Nashville-area Kroger store with essentials — five cases of beer and two packages of toilet paper - on March 11, then bypassed the checkout lanes, according to court documents. As he attempted to leave the store, he tripped the alarm sensors at the door and the wheels on his cart locked up. After several unsuccessful attempts to move the cart, he fled the store. WZTV reported Metro Police later picked him up and charged him with theft of merchandise and driving on a suspended license.

### Lesson learned

Taiwan has strictly cracked down on its citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic, using GPS on phones to monitor the movement of those in quarantine. One man got a particularly costly lesson when he violated the quarantine to go clubbing, AFP reported. The unnamed man, who was required to self-quarantine for 14 days after returning from Southeast Asia, was charged \$1 million Taiwanese (about \$33,000 US) after he was found at a Taipei nightclub on March 22. Authorities deemed his night out "malicious," and the New Taipei mayor, Hou Yu-ih, warned, "I will not be soft-handed."

### **Neighbors helping neighbors**

In Richfield, Wisconsin, neighbors Eric Trzcinski and Trevor Reinke have missed sharing a beer while they are socially isolating. So Trzcinski came up with a novel idea: He's a car guy, and happened to have a spare exhaust tip that was the perfect size to hold a bottle of beer. Using zip ties, he strapped the tip to a remote control car, then dropped a bottle of Corona (ves, on purpose) into the pipe. He called Reinke, told him to start videotaping, and Reinke caught the little delivery as it zoomed across a busy street and up his driveway, delivering the cold brew into his hands. Trzcinski's Facebook post featuring the video racked up more than 5 million views, he told FOX6 News on March 24.

### **Not Funny**

Joe Fasula, co-owner of Gerrity's Supermarket in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, had "a very challenging day" on March 25. A woman who claimed she had the corona-

virus, later identified by police as Margaret Chirko, "came into the store and proceeded to purposely cough on our fresh produce, and a small section of our bakery, meat case and grocery," he wrote on Facebook. While the staff "did the best they could to get the woman out of the store as fast as possible," he said, the health department had to help disinfect the store, and the "twisted prank" resulted in the loss of \$35,000 worth of food. The Philadelphia Inquirer reports the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office has charged Chirko with threatening to use weapons of mass destruction and making terroristic threats. It is not known whether the woman has COVID-19.

### Ew ew ew!

A mother in Saint-Malo, France, filed a complaint with police on Feb. 25 against Danone, the manufacturer of powdered baby formula. Police told AFP the woman's 3-month-old daughter became ill in November with a high temperature, and the mother took her to the emergency room. "Several days later," authorities said, "[the baby] vomited a worm about 6 to 7 centimeters long" — about the length of an adult index finger. In the report, the mother said the worm had been examined at a hospital and was determined to be of a parasitic type. She decided to take action after learning of two other cases, one in central France where living larvae were found in a container of the same brand of formula. A spokesperson from Danone told a news conference that without the containers, "several hypotheses could explain the presence of an insect," but the formula is never exposed to air in its production chain.

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#### **Sudoku Answers from March 26**

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#### Puzzle B pg 30

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