

the Hippo

MAY 7 - 13, 2020

WHAT'S UP WITH
GOFERR P. 6

'LIVE' MUSIC
P. 26

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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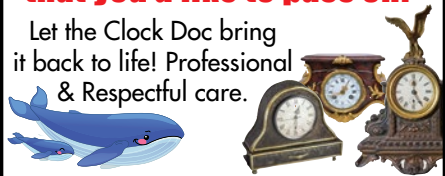
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GRANITE VIEWS **STEVEN RENO**

Life in poetry



Many are the ways we are living our lives differently in these trying times. Those whose work, health or other circumstances keep them sheltered in place are finding new opportunities alongside the constant dark shadow of worry that clings throughout the days and haunts at night.

For some, it is a time to read more deeply and widely. For others, creativity that is their livelihood is finding ways to break free of current restraints and pollinate our lives through the vehicle of social media. For me, it has been a time for reaching out to reconnect with friends, some of whom have not been contacted for many years.

Thanks to a college roommate, I was reconnected to another college friend, a retired oil company executive, and he and I found ourselves on a phone call that lasted over an hour. We'd much to catch up on, as it had been 54 years since last we'd spoken. It took time for each of us just to rehearse the major milestones of our respective journeys since last we saw one another in 1966. Over the course of our conversation, our individual recollections at times overlapped and at others filled in one another's gaps. "Do you remember the time when...?" was a regular intro.

One such shared experience was the poetry class we took together. Our professor, Father Louis Franz, was brilliant, engaging, funny, and a taskmaster. His final message at semester's end was, "Gentlemen, my hope is that in years ahead, whenever in your reading you come across a poem, you'll not just turn the page, but rather pause and give it a careful reading. Someone spent time and sweat to write it; you at least owe them a couple minutes of your time."

And so, my college friend reminded me that in our senior year, when I was the editor of our quarterly college magazine, he had submitted an essay for my review. I published it. "Would you be my editor once again?" he asked. "I have a poem I'd appreciate your comments on." Two days later it appeared in my email. I sat and read it several times. It told me so much more about my old friend than any detail of the career account had. Here, encoded in the patterned language that is poetry, was the gist of the person I knew.

I was reminded of Thomas Lynch's comment: "A poem is a purse made out of words into which a treasure is placed." Enrichment comes in many new ways these days.

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MAY 7 - 13, 2020
VOL 20 NO 19

News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire
Published every Thursday
(1st copy free; 2nd \$1).
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Lakehouse Grille's Ruby Red mimosa (Deep Eddy Ruby Red vodka, Ruby Red grapefruit juice, Champagne, fresh wedge of lime). Courtesy photo.

ON THE COVER

16 HAVE A GOOD MORNING Whether you want to whip up a special cocktail for Mom to celebrate Mother's Day (which has not been canceled or postponed — it's this Sunday, May 10!) or you just want to practice your bartending skills so you can enjoy a beverage at home, we have tips for how to make tasty made-for-morning drinks.

ALSO ON THE COVER, the executive director of the newly formed Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery talks about its purpose and what it's done so far, p. 6. The front man for local band Freevolt talks about the evolution of his music, a new talk show and trying to make every day the best day, p. 26. Find crossword puzzles and lots of sudoku to keep you busy, p. 27-30.

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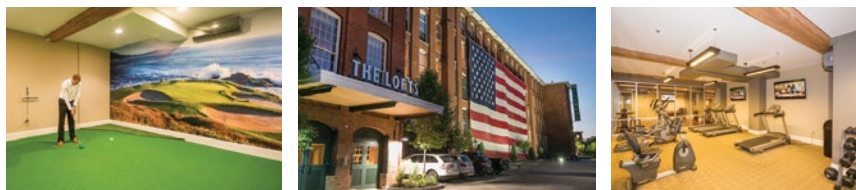
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Covid-19 updates

On May 4, state health officials reported in a press release that the number of positive test results for Covid-19 had reached 2,588. Twenty-six additional deaths as a result of complications from the virus have been reported in the last week, with the total number now at 86, or roughly 3 percent of all cases. About 11 percent (286 cases) have required hospitalization, while 39 percent (1,019) have recovered. A majority of all of the cases of Covid-19 continue to be reported in Hillsborough and Rockingham counties, data from the state Department of Health and Human Services shows. Visit nh.gov/covid19 for information on the most up-to-date numbers.

Stay at home 2.0

On May 1, Gov. Chris Sununu announced the implementation of “Stay at Home 2.0,” a new modified stay-at-home order that extends many stay-at-home restrictions to May 31 while slowly allowing some industries in the state to reopen over the course of the month. Stay at Home 2.0 is a “phased approach” to restarting the state’s economy in four parts, according to a press release, in close collaboration with state epidemiologist Benjamin Chan and his team at the state’s Department of Public Health. Each business currently opening or that will soon open has been given “universal guidance” standards on how to operate.

Phase 1, which went into effect immediately, allows public and private campgrounds in the state to open, but only to New Hampshire residents or out-of-state residents who are members. Local towns, however, may choose to close their own public campgrounds. Campgrounds are limited to just 50 percent capacity, and all administrative offices, swimming pools, playgrounds and indoor and outdoor gathering areas must remain closed. Most state parks are still open, but with all employees required to wear masks or face coverings and post signage encouraging social distancing. Inland beaches are open with limited capacity, but all Seacoast beaches remain closed to the public indefinitely. The first phase of the order also gives guidelines for manufacturing employees, like encouraging personal protective equipment and staggered shifts and break times, as well as limiting interaction with others as much as possible.

Phase 2 went into effect on May 4, phasing in time-sensitive care procedures at New Hampshire’s hospitals, such as MRI or CT scans, knee or hip replacements for chronic pain, and biopsies and other invasive testing. These non-emergency procedures had been mostly suspended in mid-March, due to the anticipation of a surge in Covid-19 patients. Under Phase 2 of Stay at Home 2.0, hospitals can resume performing those services, but they must have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment and must continue to enact social distancing policies among staff members, patients and visitors.

Phase 3 allows golf courses, barbershops, hair salons, retail stores and drive-in movie theaters to reopen beginning May 11, with some restrictions. Golf courses are only available to New Hampshire residents and out-of-state residents who are members of private clubs, but pro shops and clubhouses must remain closed. Personal clubs must also be used. Barbershops and hair salons can open by reservation only, with limited open chairs and waiting rooms closed. Staff and clients must wear masks or face coverings, and all services are limited to just haircuts and root touch-ups only — no blow drying, waxing or manicures. Retail stores can reopen with a maximum 50 percent capacity at all times, with at least six feet of spacing for those waiting in line to get in. Employees must also wear masks or face coverings. Drive-in theaters must maintain a minimum distance of 10 feet between cars.

During Phase 4, it will be restaurants’ turn to reopen for limited dine-in services, beginning May 18. Open outdoor dining is allowed only, on parking spaces, patios, lawn areas and sidewalks. Tables must be at least six feet apart from each other, and all servers must wear masks or face coverings. Indoor seating areas at bars and restaurants must remain closed.

Emergency orders

In addition to Stay at Home 2.0, Sununu issued four more emergency orders in the past week in response to Covid-19. On April 28, he issued Emergency Orders No. 37 and No. 38.

Emergency Order No. 37 temporarily halts hiring of full-time and part-time employees of the state’s executive branch for positions that are already vacant or will become vacant during the state of emergency. There are a few notable exceptions, including employees in roles relat-

ed to combating the pandemic and employees working in child protective services. Out-of-state travel for executive branch employees, without Sununu’s approval, is also temporarily put on hold under the order.

Emergency Order No. 38 allows school districts and school boards in the state to make expenditures prior to their annual meeting and for the duration of the state of emergency, giving them more financial flexibility in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

On April 30, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 39, which temporarily allows agents to consent to clinical trials for Covid-19 symptoms.

On May 1, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 40, extending Emergency Orders No. 2 (no dine-in restaurant services), No. 16 (public gatherings limited to no more than 10 people) and No. 27 (restriction of hotel services to all but essential workers) from May 4 to May 31.

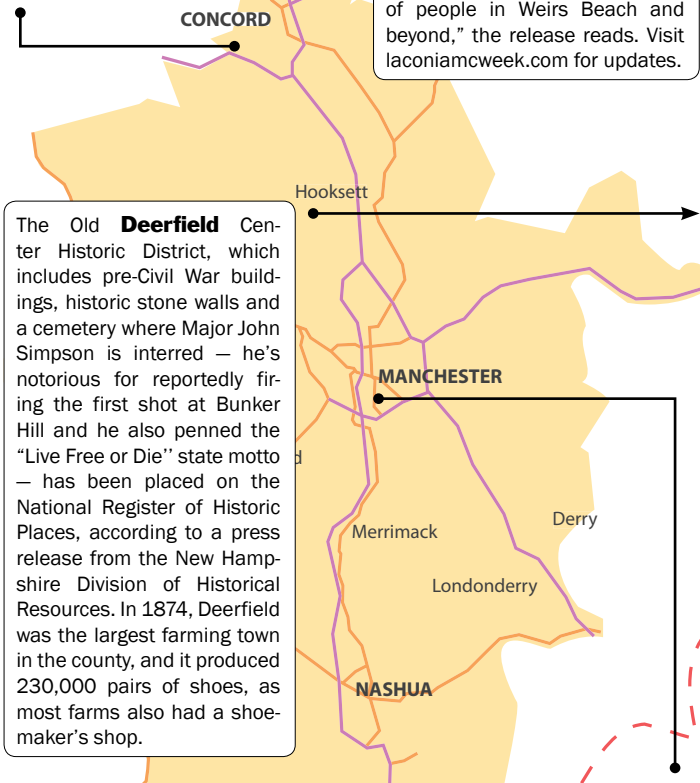
Details of all Emergency and Executive Orders can be found at governor.nh.gov.

New testing locations

The state Department of Health and Human Services has established five new testing locations, plus a mobile testing team, to increase the availability of Covid-19 tests in New Hampshire, according to an April 29 press release. The new program features fixed drive-through testing locations in Claremont, Lancaster, Plymouth, Tamworth and Rochester. Testing will be made available to any state resident whose health care provider requests it. As of April 29, each site is open eight hours a day, seven days a week, and is staffed by personnel of the National Guard and Metropolitan Medical Response System. The mobile testing team is deployed daily, rotating between counties for greater access in testing for essential businesses and targeted communities, according to the release. Health care providers can also order Covid-19 tests for their patients and send their patients’ lab testing orders to DHHS, which will then coordinate specimen collection at one of the sites with scheduled appointments. Anyone who can’t access one of the five testing sites can receive testing through the Visiting Nurses Association. Additionally, DHHS has partnered with ConvenientMD to provide telehealth screening and Covid-19 testing for people regardless of their insurance status.

Concord has been named New Hampshire’s Greenest City, according to a press release from auto quote company Insurify, which ranked communities in each state to find the one most dedicated to eco-conscious living and driving. Factors included driving practices, green vehicle features, air quality and the use of renewable electricity programs.

Laconia Motorcycle Week has been postponed from mid-June to Aug. 22 through Aug. 30, according to a news release on the event’s website. “The consensus was that June was too early for a gathering of tens of thousands of people in Weirs Beach and beyond,” the release reads. Visit laconiamcweek.com for updates.



The Old **Deerfield** Center Historic District, which includes pre-Civil War buildings, historic stone walls and a cemetery where Major John Simpson is interred — he’s notorious for reportedly firing the first shot at Bunker Hill and he also penned the “Live Free or Die” state motto — has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to a press release from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. In 1874, Deerfield was the largest farming town in the county, and it produced 230,000 pairs of shoes, as most farms also had a shoemaker’s shop.

The **Manchester** Department of Public Works has postponed the household hazardous waste collection scheduled for May 9, according to a press release. It is now scheduled for Saturday, June 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 500 Dunbarton Road. The collection is for items that cannot be thrown in the trash, including oil, solvents, toxic cleaners and herbicides. The collection is free to residents of Manchester. Visit manchesternh.gov/hhw for a list of acceptable materials.

Manchester’s homeless

Two new locations have opened in Manchester to provide quarantine space for people experiencing homelessness amid the Covid-19 pandemic, according to an April 30 letter addressed to the public from the city’s Emergency Operations Center and a press release from Families in Transition-New Horizons. One is the former St. Casimir School; the other, a three-story building just down the road on Union Street called Angie’s Shelter, has 17 individual rooms, in addition to bathroom and shower facilities, a kitchen and a living space. Funding is coming from the state, according to a press release, covering expenses for staff and operations, as well as basic supplies for participants. “We know that people experiencing homelessness are at high risk for severe complications from the virus due to the high rate of chronic severe medical conditions among this population,” Cathy Kuhn, chief strategy

officer for Families in Transition-New Horizons, said in a statement. “Our goal is to protect the health of our participants while managing this public health threat.”

Virtual convention

Due to Covid-19, this year’s New Hampshire Democratic State Convention will be held virtually on Saturday, May 9, the state Democratic Party announced in an April 28 press release. All convention programming will be available for viewing on the website, at nhdp.org. In addition to U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, there will be video messages from other top New Hampshire Democrats, like Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas, Sen. President Donna Soucy, House Speaker Steve Shurtleff, the Democratic gubernatorial candidates, and the candidates for executive council. The convention will also kick off

NEWS SHORTS CONTINUED ON PG 7 ▶

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

GOFERR making progress

New group overseeing allocation of relief funds

The State of New Hampshire received \$1.25 billion from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide emergency assistance and health care to individuals, families and businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. On April 14, Gov. Sununu issued Executive Order 2020-06, establishing the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to oversee the management and allocation of New Hampshire's CARES Act funds and any additional federal Covid-19 relief funds. We talked with Jerry Little of the State of New Hampshire Banking Department, who has been temporarily reassigned from his position as bank commissioner to serve as executive director of the GOFERR.

Q: *Why was the formation of GOFERR necessary?*

The governor is focused on making sure the [CARES Act] money gets used as it's legally allowed, and gets to the people as fast as possible. ... GOFERR is unique. We don't see any other states around us employing a similar mechanism, and we think it'll be the fastest, most efficient way to get the maximum amount of federal funds to the people. ... [The money] doesn't do New Hampshire any good if it's sitting in the State Treasury.



Jerry Little. Courtesy photo.

trends we're seeing and how we're going to give bipartisan recommendations to the governor about how he should spend the CARES Act money.

Are the GOFERR boards and staff meeting in person?

We have an office across the street from the Statehouse in Concord. ... Most of us are coming in and meeting in person. I don't think there's any way we could continue

to make the great amount of progress that we're making if we are all teleworking. There's a very large conference room, so one of the first things we did was take out every other chair and spread out the remaining chairs so that we can respect the six-foot distancing zone and still put ourselves in a room around a table and conduct our meetings and conference calls.

The governor has emphasized that one of the missions of GOFERR is to operate with 'transparency,' 'accountability' and 'bipartisanship.' Why is that important, and how is GOFERR carrying out that mission?

We're taping every meeting we have. We've created a GOFERR website where we've been putting a lot of information and all of our recorded meetings. We're going to continue building that website, and eventually there will be a dashboard that distills all the data from both our financial documents and key public hearing documents. We'll put our budget on there, too. People will be able to comb through the data and figure out, down to the last dollar, where all the money went and what it was spent on. ... The governor wants us to make sure that everything we do is fully transparent, and that we have total accountability, not only to the people of New Hampshire, but also to the federal government. The money came from U.S. taxpayers, and they have a right to know how we spent it and that we spent it properly. The governor also wants the recommendations from GOFERR to be as bipartisan as possible. The real mission is to [distribute] the money ... without political consideration, and he wants to make sure people know that politics were left out of this.

What has GOFERR accomplished so far, and what is next on its agenda?

At this point, we're having conversations with

Who serves on GOFERR, and how were those people chosen?

There are two boards within GOFERR, both established under the governor's Executive Order. One is the Legislative Advisory Board, made up of eight senior lawmakers from both the House and the Senate, from both parties, equally. The other is the Stakeholders' Advisory Board, made up of community leaders from a wide variety of industries and interests, from across the state, both geographically and socio-economically. One of their roles is to be the representatives of the public. Some of them tossed their name into the hat, and some were [chosen] by the governor. ... All the GOFERR staff are state employees who have been reassigned from their home agencies. We have a really strong team. Everyone has pulled together very quickly and is on task and honored to have the opportunity to work on this great project to help the State of New Hampshire.

How does GOFERR operate? How are decisions made?

Both of the GOFERR boards have been meeting on a very regular basis ... hearing presentations [from] and having conversations with a very diverse group of people from New Hampshire. We started with major state agencies, industries, sectors, restaurants and hotels, retailers, the construction trade, nonprofit organizations ... health care and hospitals [and] service agencies [for] people who need assistance... and asked them to give statements about how they and their constituent groups have been impacted by the coronavirus, and what kind of support they could use. ... From all that public testimony that we receive, we pivot to discussions about the

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people in the state, gathering input and data ... answering questions for the Advisory Boards and preparing ourselves with the necessary information to make well-informed recommendations to the governor, and I believe we'll be ready to start making some recommendations very soon. ... We're doing our best not to take too much time; we know we've got to get this money out there to help people. ... I do want to point out that a few weeks ago, GOFERR didn't exist, so at the same time that we've been moving forward with the process of getting this money out the door, we've also been bringing in desks, setting up phone lines and creating the website. We really have been trying to fly this plane and build it at the same time, and I think we've had a pretty successful lift off the runway and are ready to move forward ... Our plan right now is to have money going out this month — the month of May — and more by the end of July, and more by the end of September. We're planning on holding a little bit [of the money] in reserve for this fall to address new problems and problems that

weren't addressed during the first several months of these efforts. ... Damage from the coronavirus is still being done in New Hampshire, which is why we're trying to be as flexible as we can possibly be so that we can be responsive to problems as they arrive.

So, how did you wind up with a catchy name like 'GOFERR'?

[The Governor's Office] named the group the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery. I don't think it dawned on any of them that people have an automatic inclination these days to turn [titles] into acronyms. I think there must be rooms full of people in Washington [D.C.] who figure out catchy acronyms. Look at "CARES Act," for instance, which is very well thought out and creative. I'm sorry to say, there was no catchy intention for GOFERR. You're not the only one who has asked us that, though, and we've actually received some nice little pictures of gophers.

— Angie Sykeny 🐾

◀ NEWS SHORTS CONTINUED FROM PG 4

delegate voting, which will be open from Saturday, May 9, at 9 a.m. until Saturday, May 23, at 5 p.m. Sen. Jon Morgan and Maura Sullivan will chair the convention. Last month, the New Hampshire Democratic Party's Executive Committee unanimously voted to adapt the convention from an in-person to a virtual event, according to the release.

PFAS case

The Conservation Law Foundation and the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a brief on April 29 in a landmark PFAS case in New Hampshire Supreme Court, according to a press release. The 3M Co., they allege, is challenging the state's new rules establishing drinking water standards for highly toxic "forever chemicals." "The rules are designed to protect people in New Hampshire from the dangerous impacts of these toxic chemicals, and it's essential that they be allowed to go into effect," Tom Irwin, Vice President and Director of CLF New Hampshire, said in a statement. "We all should be able to turn on our taps without wondering if our water is safe." According to the release, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) include suspected

carcinogens and have been linked to a variety of severe health problems, like learning disorders in infants and children, fertility and pregnancy issues and impaired liver, thyroid and pancreatic function. It's estimated that almost every American has at least one of these substances in their blood. Called "forever chemicals" because of their persistence in the environment, PFAS have been widely used to make products like nonstick cookware, food wrappers, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics and some firefighting foams.

Opioid report

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly decreased the rate of opioid overdoses in the Nashua and Manchester communities, according to data from Safe Station reports. There were 11 suspected overdoses in Nashua and 24 in Manchester during the month of April, new monthly lows for both cities. Additionally, there were no fatal overdoses in Nashua and just one in Manchester all month. According to the data, there has also been an increase in the amount of layperson Narcan health officials have been encountering, with 27 percent of all of the opioid overdoses in Nashua and 38 percent in Manchester during the month of April. 🐾

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

Life goes on in sports



Despite no games being played, sport has continued to make news during the Covid-19 quarantine through a mix of big and small off-field happenings, social media activity, flashback games and program repeats, along with a smattering of new programs like ESPN's high-profile *The Last Dance*. The latter chronicles the final year of the **Michael Jordan**-led Chicago Bulls 1990s dynasty; harsh feelings between the Bulls and Pistons are alive and, ah, well 20-plus years later.

Here are a few thoughts on what's been going on.

Have to wonder if anyone will be helped more by the pandemic than the Astros, whose cheating scandal was white hot before baseball shut down, and I wonder if some of the intensity will be lost whenever baseball returns. In any event, here's an interesting comment from Dodgers pitcher **Alex Wood** on baseball's last two scandals: "I'd rather be matched up against a player on steroids than a guy who knows what pitch is coming."

Phew on Dallas signing **Andy Dalton**. He made no sense for the Patriots. Not even as a back-up because even if he's better than **Brian Hoyer**, first-time starter **Jarrett Stidham** will benefit more from Hoyer's thorough knowledge of the system than from anyone new.

And while we're at it: The only way **Cam Newton** makes sense is to see if he can be the QB for the next three or four years to maybe become a sort of 21st-century **Jim Plunkett**. After early success here, 1971's top overall pick was given up for dead after getting the crap beat out of him on bad teams in New England and San Francisco. That led to a year out of football and another backing up fellow Year of the QB draftee **Dan Pastorini** in Oakland. But, after that two-year exile, when Pastorini went down early in 1980 he was healthy and back to himself to lead the Raiders to a SB win over Philly and another with major help from **Marcus Allen** a few years later.

Football 101: The interesting sidebar to the Plunkett story is Pastorini was taken two spots behind Plunkett in the '71 draft when the first three picks were QB's. Who was taken second overall between Plunkett and Pastorini?

Bill Parcells, Richard Seymour and Mike Vrabel were just named finalists for the Patriots Hall of Fame. All three are highly worthy, but my guess is Seymour goes because some dopes won't want Vrabel because he coaches Tennessee or Tuna for starting the border war. But Parcells should go first because the QB-coach tandem that changed everything in New England was not the Brady-Belichick duo, it was **Drew Bledsoe** and Tuna. Reward that, to let him at 78 enjoy it.

NESN just ran a three-hit, 14-strikeout gem by **Roger Clemens** during the Morgan Magic

craze that swept Red Sox Nation in 1988. He threw 162 pitches in that win over Texas, yet still somehow managed to pitch four days later and last 20 more years in the majors. So to the 100-pitch-count crowd of today: If a human could do that then, why can't more evolved humans do it 30 years later?

Football 101 Answer: Going second after Plunkett in 1971 was **Peyton** and **Eli Manning's** dad **Archie**, who I was surprised to see had the ghastly won-loss record as a starter in New Orleans, Houston and Minnesota of 35-101-3.

Football 102: Speaking of Peyton, I got this from watching a *Peyton's Place* re-run. Name the Hall of Famer who caught the first completion of **Brett Favre's** Green Bay Packers career.

Have to be a certain age for this. But with no 2020 NCAA Tournament, today's college basketball question is, with Michigan State Coach **Tom Izzo** MIA, is it just me or does he look separated at birth from the longer MIA'er Teamster Union boss **Jimmy Hoffa**?

Two big real estate alerts. Super G and hub-by just took their \$33 million Brookline manse off the market. More interesting was impending free agent **Anthony Davis** putting his L.A. house on the market. Not sure what that means, but wouldn't it be great seeing the Lakers left holding the bag after the slimy way **LeBron James** and lackey agent **Rich Paul** engineered AD's way out of Nola? That would mean for a half year of AD, L.A. gave up two emerging stars, two more solid young players and three first-round picks to send the Pelicans rising and Lakers crashing for 10 years.

This will be a shocker. Word in Brooklyn is the guy who put the knife in **Kenny Atkinson's** back to get him fired as Nets coach was, wait for it, **Kyrie Irving**. No! Really? So add coach killer to the resume. I didn't like the guy before, but backstabbing a guy whose brothers I played basketball with in high school amps it to a new level!

Football 102 Answer: The Famer catching Brett Favre's first GB completion was Favre on a pass batted back by a Tampa Bay defender, which he caught and took off with. He told Manning when he went to the sideline coach **Mike Holmgren** loudly asked, 'What were you trying to do?' He said, 'I was trying to take it for a TD.' Instead it was a five-yard loss, but you've got to love Brett's attitude.

Gotta love **Joe Kelly** too after he was caught on YouTube exhibiting the same control issues that made Sox fans crazy by somehow missing the ginormous cage he set up to work on a new change-up that crashed right through a plate glass window into his bedroom. Classic.

Incidentally, I didn't need *The Last Dance* to remind me how detestable those cheap shot **Bill Laimbeer**-led Detroit Pistons were or what a dishonest weasel **Isiah Thomas** was/is. That's burned into my memory – booooo!

Be safe. Listen to the guy, he's doing a good job leading us through this thing.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

New Hampshire 911 dispatcher honored

According to an April 30 press release from the New Hampshire Department of Safety, the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch named New Hampshire 911 telecommunicator Bethany Drew its 2020 Dispatcher of the Year. The IAED has a membership of tens of thousands of dispatchers and telecommunicators from more than 3,000 emergency communications centers worldwide, and its Dispatcher of the Year award is one of the highest honors for dispatchers in the world. An online awards ceremony was held for Drew on April 28. She was nominated for the title by her supervisor Dana Jennings for her exemplary work on a call that came in on Aug. 26, 2019. The call was made by a woman whose husband collapsed while hiking in the White Mountains. The man was unconscious and not breathing, and Drew guided the caller through performing CPR for 68 minutes until the New Hampshire National Guard arrived.

Comment: *Drew is the third dispatcher from New Hampshire to receive the honor.*

Crocheting for a cause

Members of a charitable crochet club including more than 20 St. Mary's Bank employees are continuing to crochet for a good cause despite having to suspend their regular weekly meetings due to Covid-19, according to an April 30 press release from the Manchester-based credit union. The club was founded last January by Shirley Bhutto, St. Mary's director of ERM and compliance, to crochet hats and lapghans for area hospitals and nursing homes. It recently donated 100 hats for newborns on behalf of St. Mary's to Catholic Medical Center in Manchester and St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua. Non-members are also pitching in, donating crochet hooks and yarn to the club.

Comment: *Bhutto believes the feeling of relaxation and stress relief that crocheting provides has contributed to club members' continuing the activity at home, she said in the press release.*

Baby falcons born

Two peregrine falcon eggs hatched on May 2 at the New Hampshire Audubon's peregrine nest box atop the Brady Sullivan Tower in Manchester, according to the Audubon's daily peregrine falcons log. The hatched eggs were laid on March 24 and March 26. The peregrines are slightly behind schedule as they typically lay their eggs in March, hatch their chicks in April and fledge their young by early June, according to information put out by the Audubon. Three unhatched eggs remain in the nest box; they were laid on March 29, March 31 and April 3. The first four baby falcons to hatch are being named after New Hampshire towns. The two that just hatched are named Xander (Alexandria) and Hank (Henniker), and the next two will be named Madi (Madison) and Woodie (Woodstock). If the fifth egg hatches, it will be named Colby in honor of local falcon rehabilitator Maria Colby.

Comment: *You can watch the falcons on the Audubon's 24/7 high-definition livestream of the nest box on YouTube. Visit nhaudubon.org/conservation-2/peregrine-web-cam and click "Link to Camera 1 Live Stream."*

NH Fish & Game on TV

New episodes of *North Woods Law*, a reality television program about New Hampshire Fish & Game conservation officers, are airing now on the Animal Planet cable channel every Sunday at 9 p.m., the AP reported. The show follows the officers as they deal with challenges like a hawk with a head injury, a belligerent ATV driver, a four-day search for a missing 70-year-old man, a moral dilemma and more. Additionally, the officers will provide updates on Animal Planet's social media platforms about how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting their work.

Comment: *Now in its 14th season, the show originally followed the game wardens of the Maine Warden Service before shifting its focus to New Hampshire Fish & Game conservation officers in its eighth season.*

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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ARTS

Comic book adventures

Seacoast artist talks *Kyrra #1* and other comic collaborations

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Comic book presses have had to cease operations, leaving many comic artists sitting on new material, waiting for the day they can get it printed and onto store shelves — but Rich Woodall got lucky. The Somersworth comic artist's latest comic, *Kyrra #1*, hit stores in March on the last day new comic books were released before the Covid-19 shutdowns.

Kyrra #1 is a relaunch of the 12-part *Kyrra* series, published by Scout, an independent comics publisher based in Florida. Woodall is the writer for the series, which he co-created with comic artist Craig Rousseau.

Kyrra is an all-ages action-adventure story about a jungle girl who is left for dead on an alien planet and taken in and raised by a primitive tribe of demon apes. With no memory of her previous life, she adopts the tribe's way of life, but she often wonders about her origins. On her 16th birthday a clue about her past sets her on an adventure to discover more about herself and her destiny.

"It's basically like a *Star Wars*-meets-*Tarzan* story," Woodall said.

Woodall also co-created and co-writes and co-illustrates the horror comic series *The Electric Black* with comic artist Joseph Schmalke.

The series, which currently has four issues, features stories about a cursed antique shop that can appear in any time or space. All of the antiques in the shop come with dark secrets, and the shop's demonic owner and psychopathic staff make sure their customers never leave empty-handed.

"Working with Joe on that first issue was rough, because we both had strong opinions about what should happen in

the story," Woodall said, "but once we figured out how to work with each other and got rolling with it, we fell in love with writing those stories."

The Electric Black, also published by Scout, became the publisher's best-selling comic series of all time, doubling the highest sales that it had prior. The success of the series led to the opportunity for Woodall and Schmalke to co-publish their own horror and sci-fi imprint with Scout. The imprint, called Black Caravan, is projected to launch in October and is representing six comic titles so far.

Woodall said he and Schmalke have also been approached by a Hollywood studio that is interested in developing *The Electric Black* into a TV show.

Other comics that Woodall has co-created or contributed to include *Space Force*, *Johnny Raygun*, *Sgt. Werewolf*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Savage Dragon* and more.

Additionally, he has done creative work for the NFL, NBA and MLB; *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Lord of the Rings* and *South Park* franchises; and Marvel Comics.

Woodall said he started reading comics when he was around 5 years old. *G.I. Joe* was one of his favorites and first influences.

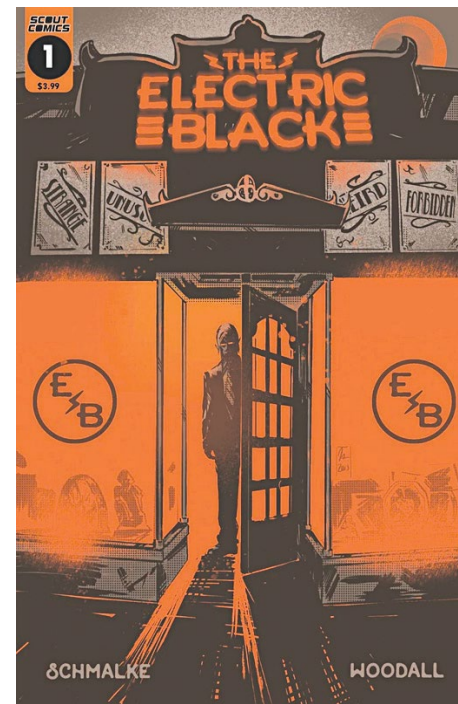
"I would always draw at school," he said. "Whenever I was done with a page, doing math or whatever, I would flip it over to the blank side and draw *G.I. Joe* things and army guys."

When he was 16, Woodall met the editor of a small-press comic company at a comic show in Boston. He showed the editor his "crappy little portfolio," he said, and was offered a job.

"He would introduce me to various comic creators, and I had a couple things



Courtesy image.



Courtesy image.

published at that time," he said. "It was a great experience."

After graduating high school, Woodall accepted a job doing illustration and design for Fruit of the Loom's Sports and Licensing division.

He moved to New Hampshire with his wife in 2000 to be closer to family and quickly got involved with the comic arts community on the Seacoast.

He started self-publishing some of his own comics, and his career as a comic artist grew from there. His day job is doing web design, app design and video illustration and animation for a design firm with offices in Portsmouth and Boston.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 shutdown, Woodall sold some of his art online and donated the profits to local

comic shops, including Jetpack Comics in Rochester and Double Midnight Comics in Manchester and Concord.

"It wasn't much, but I wanted to give back to them in some way," he said. "These are stores that are near and dear to me and have always supported me as a creator and pushed my books."

Woodall is now spending his time working on new comics, recruiting comics collaborators and preparing for the launch of the Black Caravan imprint.

Rich Woodall

Learn more about Woodall and his work at projectpandoraentertainment.com and patreon.com/richwoodall. His comics are available at most New Hampshire comic book shops.

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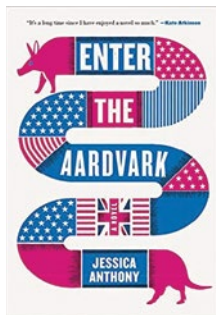
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ARTS NEWS

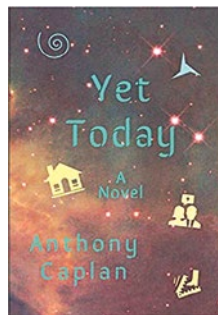
The latest from NH's theater, arts and literary communities

• **Virtual music gala extended:** Manchester Community Music School's virtual Share the Music Gala, which was scheduled for April 27 through May 3, has been extended for another week, now running until Sunday, May 9, thanks to a donor who has initiated a \$5,000 match challenge. The donor will match every donation made to the school up to \$5,000. The annual gala is traditionally the school's biggest fundraiser of the year and a celebration of the school's students, faculty and supporters. The event is being livestreamed from the school's website and features musical performances by students and faculty, a look at the school's outreach work and stories from students, faculty and supporters about what the school means to them. Visit mcmusingschool.org.

• **No Prescott Park Arts Fest this year:** The Prescott Park Arts Festival, previously scheduled for June 20 through Sept. 7, has announced the cancellation of its 2020 season. The festival, held every summer in Portsmouth, presents more than 90 concerts, theater productions, film screenings and other arts events to nearly 250,000 people throughout its season, according to its website. 2020 would have been the festival's 46th year. "The safety of our audience is our primary concern, and unfortunately there is simply no safe way to gather a crowd of people in a summer setting without risking infection," John Tabor, chairman of the festival's board of directors, said in a May 1 press release. "So, we will be dark this summer but look forward to a rejuvenated 2021 season." The festival board and staff considered shortening or modifying the season, but "the economics for small, socially distanced crowds, a partial season or both won't cover our program costs," Tabor added. The decision to cancel the festival this year coincides with the festival's recent announcement that it will have a new executive director; Court-



Enter the Aardvark by Jessica Anthony.



Yet Today by Anthony Caplan.

ney Perkins will officially step into the role on May 15. "Throughout this process, I have been so moved by the love and care the Seacoast community has for the Festival, and I know together we will return even better than before," Perkins said in the press release. Visit prescottpark.org.

• **Authors on Zoom:** Gibson's Bookstore, based in Concord, has two virtual author events coming up. Jessica Anthony will present her new novel *Enter the Aardvark* on Wednesday, May 13, at 6 p.m. It follows a young congressman who finds a stuffed aardvark mysteriously left on his doorstep and sets out on a journey to discover what it means. Anthony will be in conversation with Gibson's staff member Hillary Nelson. On Thursday, May 14, at 6 p.m., Anthony Caplan will present his new novel *Yet Today*, and Sam Kench will present his new novel *The Fall of Polite*. *Yet Today* follows Gillum Kaosky, a Spanish teacher living on a farm with his family in central New Hampshire, whose life is turned upside down after he takes a job wiretapping the Dominican crime families who have brought heroin and fentanyl into New England. *The Fall of Polite* is a post-apocalyptic tale following the lives of several individuals and families struggling to survive their first winter in New Hampshire after the fall of society. The events are free and will be streamed live via the video conferencing platform Zoom. They will not be recorded. The links to access the virtual events are posted on their respective event pages on gibsonsbookstore.com.

— Angie Sykeny 🍀

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Soil solutions

How to gear up for growing

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

As we move from dreaming to planting, we all want to offer our plants the perfect soil. This leads some gardeners to buy a big bag of 10-10-10 and sprinkle it heavily on everything. For others, manure or compost is the answer to increasing soil productivity and plant health. And then there are bagged minerals, organic bagged fertilizers, rock powders and more.

What do plants need? Scientists agree that plants need minerals for health: nitrogen (N) for promoting green growth; phosphorus (P) for better roots and promoting flowers, seeds and fruits; potassium (K) for strong cell walls to survive drought and cold. These three elements are often called “the big three” and listed as percentage by weight on fertilizer bags (5-10-5, for example). Chemical fertilizers have just those three elements, plus inert fillers (which would be 80% in the example cited).

Additionally, there are elements that are needed in smaller amounts, including magnesium, calcium and sulfur. In very small amounts plants need iron, chlorine, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, molybdenum and nickel. None of those are found in chemical fertilizers but they are present in unlisted amounts in bagged organic fertilizers, and in good compost.

Bagged organic fertilizers are made from natural ingredients, things like ground oyster shells and seaweed, or dehydrated chicken manure, or cottonseed meal and peanut hulls. Added to the mix are minerals such as rock phosphate (a good source of slow-release phosphorus) and green sand (a source of potassium from the sea).

These are slow-release fertilizers. Most of the ingredients are not water-soluble but are broken down and utilized in concert with bacteria and fungi in the soil. That is good, as they are not washed away in rainy times



Organic fertilizers contain more healthy minerals than chemical fertilizers. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Lots of blueberry blossoms tell me the soil is acidic enough. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Hay and straw make good mulches. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

the way many chemical fertilizers are.

Here in the Northeast most soils are a bit acidic due to acid rain, so adding limestone is good for getting your soil near neutral. But not all plants need the same things in the soil. Blueberries, for example, need very acidic soil. Instead of lime, they may need sulfur to make the soil more acidic.

A simple soil pH test kit can be purchased for under \$10, or you can send a sample to your state Extension Service for testing. Go online and search for soil tests in your state, and you will find how to collect the soil, and where to send it. A basic soil test will tell you much in addition to the soil pH.

I've been adding finely ground granite dust to my soil for 20 years or so, and a commercially prepared rock and mineral soil supplement called Azomite for nearly as long. I've done side-by-side trials of plants with rock powders and without them, and have seen dramatic differences. Soils with rock powders have helped plants survive drought, and have increased crop yield in my peppers.

The mechanism by which rock powders work is unknown. I interviewed a soil scientist who pointed out that every 10,000 years or so we've had glaciers come down and

deposit ground rock, distributing obscure minerals in the soil. Maybe the rock powders I add are just mimicking what the glaciers have done — though not recently.

What about compost? It is pure gold, from a soil perspective. It has all the minerals needed by plants and good compost also has literally millions of beneficial bacteria, fungi and other living things in each spoon of goodness.

Beneficial organisms in compost work with your plants, sharing minerals with your plants; they benefit from sugars exuded from the roots each night. That's right, over eons the plants and microorganisms have developed a mutually beneficial system.

I should explain that compost is not high in nitrogen. But most vegetables and annual flowers don't need a lot of nitrogen. Nitrogen will make veggies like peppers or tomatoes grow big plants, but often those big plants do not produce a lot of fruit. Most annual flowers do not need much nitrogen.

How much compost should you use? I have been putting an inch or two over my vegetable beds every year and working it in. If you are buying it by the bag, even half an inch is good — with some extra in the hole with each tomato.

What about trees and shrubs? Most do not need fertilizer or those tree fertilizer spikes sold at hardware stores. Mother Nature does not provide fertilizer; she adds organic matter to the soil over time as leaves decompose and living beings of all sorts die and add to the soil.

That said, if you live in a new subdivision your soil may be nothing but sterile subsoil with a thin layer of “topsoil” spread by the contractor. Adding organic matter to the soil in the form of compost will help it become biologically active. It will add minuscule amounts of the less common minerals.

Mulch all your beds with ground leaves, grass clippings, mulch hay or straw. These will break down with time and add organic matter to the soil. Breakdown of that mulch is done by bacteria and fungi.

Treat your soil to some compost at planting time. And if you use fertilizer, don't overdo it — more is not better. Read the directions of anything you add to the soil.

Henry Homeyer can be reached at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. He is a long time UNH Master Gardener and the author of four gardening books. 🍄

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Bird news

On Saturday, May 9, the NH Audubon will hold its **Birdathon**. Make a plan to search for birds — in your backyard, in a certain geographic area, or at one of the Audubon’s wildlife sanctuaries (which remain open), according to the press release. To get the details about how to participate, email phunt@nhaudubon.org. And whether you’re birding or just looking for a quiet spot to get into nature, check out the trail guides for many of the NH Audubon’s 39 sanctuaries on the website (nhaudubon.org).

Arts & crafts for mom

Looking for some ideas for some kid-created Mother’s Day gifts?

The Currier Museum of Art (currier.org) has several art project videos (along with story times and other subjects) on its “**Currier at Home**” page. Two that seem particularly useful for Mother’s Day: a “Fun with Frames” printable that features four picture frames for a young artist to fill with family photos and a video about a collage card-making activity.

Find more printables, including blank comic pages (moms love comics), at the website for author and illustrator **Jarrett Lerner** (jarrettlerner.com); click on “activities.”

Cartoonist, musician and educator **Marek Bennett** (marekbennett.com) can also help you craft some gifts for a comics-loving mom. His how-to videos explain how to make a four-box comic about feelings, how to draw people and faces and the extremely useful video explaining

how to make an eight-page mini-comic book.

Emily Drouin, arts educator and illustrator of comics and children’s books (and founder of Kids Con New England), offers coloring pages on her website, emilyatplay.com, including pages that teach how to draw certain characters and a page that prompts kids to create their own dragon.

Speaking of Kids Con...

This year’s Kids Con New England scheduled for June in Nashua has been canceled (the Kids Con scheduled for November in Portland, Maine, is still going forward) but save the date for next weekend’s **Kids Con Online**, which will run Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17. The event will feature an Artist and Author Alley, workshops, meet a superhero (or princess or pirate) and more, according to the website, kidsconne.com. The event will be free, though donations will be accepted.

Wonder of wonders

Attention theater kids (and theater adults): This year’s New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival was postponed but catch one of the movies slated to screen during a special online event that culminates on Sunday, May 17. Go to nhjewishfilmfestival.com to register for a free screening of *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* (PG-13), a 2019 documentary about the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. The movie is a thorough delight, covering the development of the musical and the filming of the 1971 movie as well as the lasting appeal of the story and the music. Registrants for the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival event will be sent an email for a link to the film, which will be available from Thursday, May 14, at 5 p.m., through Sunday, May 17, at 5 p.m., according to the website. At 7 p.m. on Sunday, there will be a post film discussion via Zoom with Joanne Borts, a theater and cabaret artist, the site said. 🍷

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
 I found these two buttons in a box I purchased at a thrift shop. They look like they were once coins. Tough for you to see from the photo, but I believe they are English coins. Would they be of value to anyone? I wouldn’t want to make them into a piece of jewelry if they were.
 Barbara



Courtesy photo.

Dear Barbara,
 In your picture it is tough to tell, but coins have been made into buttons, so yes, it is possible. When I first read your email I was thinking how resourceful people were in the past, using and reusing everything to save it. We think repurposing is now a trend, but it goes back way before our generations.

Coin buttons don’t seem to have a high value because most were worn down so much they just looked like bland pieces of brass or other metal. As always, I think there are exceptions. Silver ones could be for a scrap value as well. You might also find collectors just for coin buttons.
 For a value I would say they would be under

the \$10 range. But for a great story and piece of history, they’re priceless.

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. 🍷

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After 7 years, a little oil loss is not a big deal



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2013 Subaru Outback 2.5i with 171,000 miles. It's been burning a quart of oil every 1,500 to 2,500 miles. This doesn't seem right, and I know Subarus have issues with oil

burning. What can I do to fix or improve this? Or is it time to trade it in for another vehicle?
— Kirby

What do you think the doctor says when a 95-year-old guy comes in and complains, "I have to get up at least once a month during the night to pee."

He probably thinks: "Once a month?? You're a medical miracle, Sheldon!"

That's my reaction to your oil burning, Kirby. For a car with 171,000 miles on it, this is not a terribly serious problem. My late brother wouldn't make an offer on a car unless it burned at least a quart of oil every 300 miles.

First of all, burning a quart every 1,500 to 2,500 miles is not much at all. If you were burning a quart every 500 miles or less, I'd tell you to start saving for a down payment on your next car. But a quart every 1,500 to 2,500 miles is almost insignificant on a car of this age. What you should do is check for leaks. Don't assume you're burning the oil. Some

leaks can be easy to find and cheap to fix.

For instance, maybe your oil pressure switch is leaking. You can fix that for \$50. Or maybe your valve cover gaskets are leaking. We see that frequently on Subarus. And if that's where you're losing your oil — or some of your oil — you can fix that for a couple of hundred bucks or less.

Then maybe you'll be losing a quart every 3,000 miles, or every 5,000 miles.

Some leaks won't be worth fixing, like if you're leaking oil from the head gaskets. But if you have any obvious leaks, I'd fix those.

And then I'd buy a case of oil the next time it's on sale, and just keep an eye on the dipstick. At your current rate of oil loss, a case of oil ought to get you to about 200,000 miles. That's pretty much how long Subaru engines, on average, last.

We know some go longer. But however many more miles you get from here on out, Kirby, rest assured you've gotten your money out of the car.

Dear Car Talk:

My 1984 Toyota pickup truck has been sitting for a year and a half. Here's the story:

The battery was running down overnight. My auto parts store said it was probably the alternator. The neighbor replaced the alternator and voltage regulator for me, but that

didn't fix it, and he did some damage in the process.

During all of this, the license plates expired, and I canceled the insurance, not knowing how to proceed with little money. Then two men stole the catalytic converter and probably the muffler.

I realize I have to do something, and it can't sit forever. It has a good engine and transmission, so I'm thinking I'll try to start it.

What should do in preparation before starting it? — Roxanne

Well, it depends what your goal is, Roxanne. Do you want to get it started so you can fix it and drive it again? Or do you want to start it so you can sell it?

If you just want to get rid of it, I wouldn't try to start it at all. I'd just advertise it "as is." Be completely honest. Good engine and transmission. No converter or muffler. Not currently running due to charging system problem. Excellent truck for a mechanic who wants to fix it, or for parts. Best offer and must tow it away.

There's a certain cult around these old Toyota trucks, and my guess is someone will want it. You may even get some money for it.

On the other hand, if you want to drive it again, keep in mind that you'll need whatever parts caused the battery to run down, whatever parts the neighbor damaged, plus a catalyt-

ic converter and muffler. So you're probably looking at over \$1,000 in repair costs. At minimum.

Even if that sounds OK to you, I still wouldn't start it. Instead, I'd find a shop you trust (try www.mechanicsfiles.com), and arrange to have it towed there. Your mechanic can take steps to prevent any engine damage when starting the car after it's been sitting for years.

For instance, he can remove the spark plugs and squirt oil into each of the cylinders so you're not moving the pistons against dry cylinder walls. Then he can turn the crankshaft by hand, with a wrench, to get the pistons moving slowly, and make sure the rings aren't stuck.

If all that works, he can crank the engine with the coil wire detached — letting the engine turn at cranking speed, which is much slower than running speed.

That allows the fuel pump to fill up the carburetor with gasoline, and allows the oil pump to start lubricating all the parts of the engine that haven't seen oil since "Game of Thrones" was in Season 3.

And then, once he gets it started, he can begin to figure out what it'll need to get on the road again. At that point, you can always go back and reconsider Plan A: Selling it "as is." Good luck, Roxanne.

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By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

FOOD

Morning cocktails

Celebrate Mother's Day with homemade brunch beverages

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

• **Gratuity in the Granite State:** Five New Hampshire breweries have collaborated virtually on a **new beer release** to support restaurant and hospitality employees in the state affected by Covid-19, according to a press release. Known as "Gratuity," the new pale ale featuring Galaxy, Amarillo and Lemon Drop hops was brewed at Great North Aleworks in Manchester, with participation and donations from Woodstock Inn Brewery in North Woodstock, Moat Mountain Smoke House & Brewing Co. in North Conway, Smuttynose Brewing Co. in Hampton and Great Rhythm Brewing Co. in Portsmouth. Beginning this week it became available in stores statewide, shipped via Amoskeag Beverages. All proceeds from the beer will be donated to the New Hampshire Hospitality Employee Relief Fund, which has raised more than \$144,000 to date. Visit nhherf.org.

• **"Cooking Live with Liz":** Chef Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis has started offering free **virtual cooking demonstrations**, streaming live on Facebook from her home kitchen. Past demonstrations of her "Cooking Live with Liz" series have included topics such as baking artisan bread, creating homemade cocktails, feasting from your pantry, and making grain bowls, full videos of which are all available for viewing at facebook.com/thecreativefeast. Now through the summer, Barbour is also offering virtual cooking programs using the Zoom webinar by appointment. Details are available at thecreativefeast.com/online-cooking-demos.html.

• **Sundae Drive returns:** Brookline soft-serve ice cream shop **Sundae Drive** (346 Route 13) reopened on May 1, after being closed for nearly a month due to Covid-19. The shop is offering online ordering and call-ahead orders by credit card only, according to a message on its website. More than a dozen flavors of ice cream are available, in addition to family sundaes to go, which include two quarts of ice cream, hot fudge, two additional toppings and six cones, as well as ice cream cakes (those require a 48-hour advance notice). Sundae Drive is open Sunday and Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit sundaedrive.square.site or call 721-5209. 🍷

Brunch cocktails are the stars of many Mother's Day menus across the Granite State — and you can easily create your own at home, whether you want to celebrate mom on Sunday, May 10, or add a little fun to any weekend morning. From bloody marys and marias to mimosas, bellinis and sangrias, you can make all types of drinks from store-bought ingredients with no rules.

"There's a school of thought some people have about doing things by the book," bartender Tiffanie Austin of Greenleaf Restaurant in Milford said, "but quite frankly ... the cocktail culture wouldn't have exploded the way it did without experimentation. You can follow your heart and put in whatever you like, as long as you have the right balance and ratios."

In the era of social distancing, local bartenders provide some tips and tricks on how you can best replicate some delicious brunch cocktails out of your own kitchen.

What's a bloody mary anyway?

Vodka and tomato juice — those are the two fundamental ingredients of the popular brunch cocktail that is the bloody mary, and they were, Austin said, all that was in its original version. French bartender Fernand Petiot, who worked at Harry's New York Bar in Paris at the time, claimed to have invented the drink in the early 1920s, she said. In the '30s, Petiot moved to the King Cole Bar at New York City's St. Regis Hotel.

In New York, the drink would end up evolving to the more modern version most of us are familiar with, including additional ingredients with the vodka and tomato juice, such as black pepper, cayenne pepper, Worcestershire sauce, horseradish and salt. Some people even add steak sauce or fresh lime juice to the mix.



Bloody mary from Greenleaf Restaurant in Milford. Courtesy photo.



Lakehouse Grille's Ruby Red mimosa (Deep Eddy Ruby Red vodka, Ruby Red grapefruit juice, Champagne, fresh wedge of lime). Courtesy photo.

"I always like to hit the international aisle for bloody marys. There are some Mexican and Asian spices that are just incredible for it," Austin said. "Gochujang is one. It's a Korean red chile paste that has glutinous rice powder in it. Sambal oelek [Indonesian chile paste] is another good one."

There are store-bought bloody mary mixes available, or you can easily make one yourself. General manager Bill Day of the Lakehouse Grille in Meredith, who also oversees The Common Man's beverage program, said mixes can range from spicy or savory to more on the sweeter side.

"For making a bloody mary mix, I would start with ... one of those big tomato juice jugs you can get at the grocery store, and two tablespoons of Worcestershire. ... Then from there you can decide," Austin said. "Some people are all about black pepper, some like more horseradish. I like three tablespoons of black pepper, two of gochujang and ... one or two of sambal."

Dan Haggerty of In the MIX Beverage Catering, based in Nashua, said other great garnishes for bloody marys include green

olives, lemons, celery sticks or bacon strips. If you like your drink to have a kick, you can even add habanero peppers or hot sauce. Day said he has also worked with more elaborate toppings like soft-shell crab or bacon-wrapped scallops.

"Just like the martini, the bloody mary has kind of taken off as its own thing. Everyone has their own version that they like," Haggerty said.

You can change the type of alcohol too — replacing the vodka with mezcal or tequila turns it into a bloody maria. For a more herbaceous taste, you can use gin.

As for a flavored rim on the glass, you can use just about any kind of seasoning. For a darker, smokier flavor, Austin likes ancho powder, made from poblano chile peppers.

"The advantage of doing it at home is you can make it exactly how you want," Day said. "It could just be a simple celery stick and lime as a garnish, or you jazz it up with a flavored rim. A really great seafood garnish I like to use is the McCormick brand Old Bay seasoning, which is a blue crab seasoning."

Homemade bloody mary

Courtesy of Dan Haggerty of In the MIX Beverage Catering, based in Nashua (makes about 8 servings)

- 1 32-ounce bottle V8 tomato juice
- 1 10-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 5 garlic cloves
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 5 ounces Cholula brand hot sauce
- 1 cup pickle brine

Blend ingredients with an immersion blender or traditional blender until smooth. Rim glass with kosher salt and fresh cracked pepper. In a mixing tin or other container, add ice, vodka or tequila, and bloody mary mix (1 ounce spirit to 3 ounces bloody mix ratio). Shake vigorously. Pour shaken drink over ice in rimmed glass. Garnish with pepperoncini, gherkin, olive or lime.

Homemade sangria

Courtesy of Tiffanie Austin of Greenleaf Restaurant in Milford

- 1 bottle Spanish wine (dry is best)
- 4 ounces brandy or Cointreau triple sec orange liqueur
- ¼ cup raw sugar
- ½ cup fresh orange juice
- Cut up fruit (limes, lemons, apples, peaches, berries, pineapples or whatever else you choose)

In a glass measuring cup, mix sugar with a few tablespoons of warm water. Mix until syrupy, but leave some full crystals of sugar. Add this and all other ingredients to a large pitcher. Stir. Serve over ice, making sure to get some of the soaked fruit in every glass. Garnish with citrus. (This recipe is best made the night before you want to serve it, according to Austin).

Mimosas versus bellinis

Mimosas and bellinis are similar in that they'll usually contain a sparkling wine — specifically Champagne or prosecco. There's debate on what is considered a "traditional" mimosa or bellini, but according to local bartenders it's generally accepted that the differences come down to the fruity elements. Mimosas will contain a fruit juice, most commonly orange juice, while bellinis have a fruit puree, traditionally a peach puree or nectar. According to Day, the bellini originated long after the mimosa, in Italy.

Despite its minimal ingredients, there is still room for experimentation with mimosas and bellinis. Blood orange juice, for example, not only gives your mimosa a nice color but is also a sweeter and less tangy alternative, Haggerty said.

At Greenleaf, Austin said she likes to use fresh squeezed orange juice that is frozen into ice trays, creating orange cubes to go into the mimosas.

But virtually any fruit juice or puree can be substituted if oranges or peaches aren't your thing. You can make mimosas with apple cider, pineapple juice or cranberry juice, or bellinis with a strawberry puree (thus turning the drink into a "rossini," Day said). Granite Tapas & Cocktail Lounge in Hooksett has even done a caramel apple bellini, creating a puree by combining ice, apple cider, salted caramel-flavored vodka and maple syrup.

Haggerty said mimosas are nearly always the most popular drink of choice with catering events throughout the year, no matter what the occasion is.

"We'll usually do a mimosa bar ... with different juice options, like orange, pineapple, grapefruit or cider, and people can choose what they want," he said.

As an alternative to prosecco or Champagne, Austin said, you can use Vinho Verde, a Portuguese sparkling wine with a slightly lower ABV at around 9 percent. Another option is St-Germain, an elderflower liqueur that gives your mimosa a nice floral addition. As garnishes, Haggerty said orange slices or raspberries work well for mimosas, or peach slices for bellinis.

Simple sangrias

Also known as "wine punch," the sangria originated in Spain as a cocktail most commonly made with red wine, lemon juice and brandy. Eventually, the popularity of the sangria made its way overseas to the United States sometime in the middle of the 20th century — and today you'll see all kinds of variations with red or white wines.

"Sangrias ... kind of grew out of people not wanting to waste wine," Haggerty said. "You'd take wines that were at the end of their shelf life, mix them all together and add a little citrus. Basically it's like a fruit salad ... and, like a lot of the other cocktails, it morphed over time."

Sangrias are known for their versatility, because you can use about any fruit to infuse with. They also keep well, so you can make them in big batches and store in the refrigerator for a few days.

"Sangrias are great for [while you are] quarantining, because whatever leftover fruit you have in the house, like chopped apples [or] peaches ... you can just mix in whatever," Austin said. "I like to use a bottle of really good Spanish wine, some raw sugar ... and then either brandy or Cointreau for a more orange-flavored sangria," Austin said.

Other easy brunch cocktails

Some of the simplest drinks you can make require mixing just two basic ingredients with all kinds of creative garnishes. One of them, Austin said, is gin and tonic.

"Gin and tonic ... is a great drink to make this time of year because you can support local farmers by getting sprigs of thyme, basil or other fresh herbs to garnish with," she said. "I like to use a botanical gin ... like St. George Botanical, and then Fever-Tree Indian tonic water."

Another popular brunch cocktail is the paloma, or what Haggerty referred to as the margarita's cousin due to its tequila base.

"It's tequila and either grapefruit juice or grapefruit soda, usually," he said. "There are different ways you can do it, but I like to use fresh grapefruit juice and soda water with a lime."

You can also easily mix vodka, gin, bourbon and other alcohols with just about any kind of fruit juice to make a delicious drink, like a Cape Cod (vodka and cranberry juice) a screwdriver (vodka and orange juice), or a stone fence (bourbon and apple cider). Vodka and grapefruit juice makes a greyhound — or, if you take it a step further by adding a salted rim to the glass, it becomes a salty dog. Vodka with both grapefruit and cranberry juices makes it a sea breeze.

"Just a little bit of salt in a cocktail ... goes a long way for flavor, especially with the grapefruit-based cocktails," Austin said. 🍷

Spring garden gin and tonic

Courtesy of Tiffanie Austin of Greenleaf Restaurant in Milford

2 ounces gin
Sprigs of basil, mint, thyme or other fresh herbs of your choice
Fever-Tree Indian tonic
Lemon or lime wedge
Edible flowers (optional; can include pansies, calendula, bachelor's buttons or snapdragons)

Fill a large goblet-style wine glass with ice to the top. Add gin and several sprigs of herbs and edible flowers. Top with Fever-Tree tonic. Garnish with lemon or lime wedge and more fresh herbs. Give a quick stir to incorporate.



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Greek Yogurt Raspberry Loaf

Serves: 10

Ingredients:

Nonstick cooking spray
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup, plus 1 Tbsp. sugar
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 large eggs
1/2 cup coconut oil, melted
1 1/4 cups Stonyfield® Organic Whole Milk Plain Greek Yogurt
1 cup raspberries
1/2 cup Hannaford Chopped Walnuts
1/2 tsp. lemon zest

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Mix well. Add the eggs and coconut oil and mix until just combined. Next, add the yogurt and mix again until just combined.
3. Gently fold in the raspberries, chopped nuts and lemon zest. Avoid over-mixing, as it may mash the raspberries too much.
4. Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan, spreading it evenly with a spatula. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Dietitian's Tips:

If the top of the loaf gets too brown, cover it with foil for the last 15 minutes of baking. Store the loaf wrapped in foil at room temperature.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving (1 slice, or 1/10 of loaf): Calories 300; Total Fat 17 g; Saturated Fat 10 g; Cholesterol 40 mg; Sodium 200 mg; Carbohydrates 29 g; Fiber 2 g; Total Sugars 13 g; Protein 7 g

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IN THE KITCHEN



WITH JOE TEIXEIRA



Joe Teixeira of Manchester is the owner of Moe Joe's Family Restaurant (2175 Candia Road, Manchester, 668-0131) and Moe Joe Country Diner (649 E. Industrial Park Drive, Manchester, 641-2993). Both locations serve breakfast and lunch, featuring menus of American comfort food options like burgers, sandwiches, chicken tenders, chicken wings and grilled omelets, in addition to a few dishes hailing from Teixeira's native Portugal, like seafood paella, Portuguese sweet bread and linguica sausage with eggs. The eatery's Candia Road location also serves dinner, in addition to a full bar and about 30 flavors of Gifford's Ice Cream. Due to Covid-19 both Moe Joe's restaurants are currently open for limited takeout menus only (Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., at its East Industrial Park location, and daily, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at its Candia Road location). Limited menus from both locations are available on the Moe Joe's website, eatatmoejoe.com, and its Facebook page.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

It depends on what I'm doing, but most of the time it's a knife or a mixing bowl.

omelet, [which has] linguica, peppers and onions, and American, provolone and Swiss cheese.

What would you have for your last meal?

It would be seafood paella and a nice Portuguese wine.

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

Chicken tenders. I think they've been so big around here because of the [Puritan] Backroom [Restaurant], and now you see so many other restaurants trying to do what they're doing. I definitely think it's a New Hampshire thing, because I lived in Massachusetts for 30 years and I never saw chicken tenders the way I do up here.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I really don't have too many places I like to go to. I'll go out for a nice steak every now and then but that's it.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at one of your restaurants?

Kelly Ripa or Michael Strahan. My wife watches her show every day, and I loved when Michael Strahan was with her, plus I like football.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I like to make a good old-fashioned Southern style country fried chicken that's not greasy. I marinate the chicken for a couple of days in buttermilk. It's a beautiful dish.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

My favorite thing is the Portuguese

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Moe Joe's dipping sauce

Courtesy of Joe Teixeira of Moe Joe's Family Restaurant and Moe Joe Country Diner in Manchester (combine all ingredients)

4 tablespoons sesame oil
1 ounce garlic
½ to 1 ounce Thai chiles
1½ cups rice vinegar
1½ cups soy sauce

1 10- or 12-ounce bottle sweet chili sauce
½ 9-ounce bottle Sriracha
6 cups sugar
3 cups orange juice
9 tablespoons fish sauce

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TRY THIS AT HOME

Healthy-ish broccoli fritters

Here we are, multiple weeks into staying at home. As we all experience this, we most likely are cooking at home more and trying to be more creative with the food we have on hand. I know I am. Rather than running to the grocery store to get one more item, I've been finding ways to cook with what I have in the pantry, fridge and freezer.

Today's recipe was inspired in just this manner. I've been buying more frozen produce so that it will last longer and reduce my number of shopping trips while still keeping veggies front and center in my eating. Even though frozen veggies are good for you, there's only so many times that you want to serve plain old reheated broccoli. That's where this recipe comes to the rescue.

Since I'm trying to make this a simple, cook-without-shopping recipe, there are plenty of ways to adapt it. Cheddar is not the only



Healthy-ish broccoli fritters. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

cheese that you can use in it. Feel free to try Parmesan, mozzarella or Gruyere. They'll all add a nice bit of flavor and unctuousness. As for replacing the broccoli, that's a bit trickier. You can use spinach, if you make sure to remove all excess moisture. You could try frozen Brussels sprouts as well. If you happen to have fresh broccoli, just be sure to steam or boil it to make it tender before adding it to the recipe.

I enjoyed these with a little bit of homemade dipping sauce. I took some plain Greek yogurt, added a few spices and gave it a stir. Search your kitchen and see what you can serve with your fritters.

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.

Healthy-ish Broccoli Fritters - From Your Freezer

4 appetizer-sized servings

- 3 cups frozen broccoli florets
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt & pepper

Place florets in a medium-sized mixing bowl, and microwave for 1-2 minutes to defrost. Allow broccoli to cool.

Gently squeeze florets to remove excess water.

Option 1: Chop florets into a fine dice. This will take a couple minutes.

Option 2: Use a food processor, and pulse broccoli until chopped into small pieces.

Transfer chopped broccoli to a mixing bowl.

Add flour, egg, cheese and garlic powder; stir

until fully combined.

Season with salt and pepper; mix.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Heat a large nonstick frying pan over medium heat.

Coat pan with nonstick cooking spray or a small amount of olive oil.

Place rounded tablespoon of broccoli mixture into frying pan; flatten with the back of the spoon.

Repeat, leaving about an inch between fritters.

Cook for 2 minutes.

Flip and cook for 2 more minutes.

Transfer cooked fritters to a baking sheet.

When all fritters have been fried, place baking tray of fritters in the oven.

Bake for 5 minutes.

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DRINK
Cheap beer that is quite good
 We're all pinching pennies these days

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippypress.com

It's well-documented that I'm fundamentally opposed to waiting in long lines for beer. Trillium Brewing Company in Canton, Mass., is one brewery that is known for its lines — and excellent beer.

When I saw that Trillium is actually delivering beer directly to customers, well, I coordinated with a couple friends and made plans to place an order.

The brewery is currently rotating delivery to different regions of Massachusetts, so you need to live in the Bay State — or know someone who does — and you are required to buy at least a case of beer, which seems reasonable to me. It doesn't really feel right to have someone drive all the way to your house to drop off a four-pack.

So I did my research and penciled in my selections and found creative ways to justify the cost. The brewery states you must place your order online between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. the day before they deliver to your region.

Long story short, I logged in at 9:22 a.m. to learn they had sold out at 9:08 a.m., so yeah, good times. Will I try again? I probably will.

The whole experience got me thinking about good beer that doesn't cost a ton of money and also that doesn't require you to jump through hoops.

Most days right now, I'm finding that I just need a beer, not the most coveted beer. I'll take a Heady Topper for sure, but I'll be OK if I don't get one.

With this fun little anecdote in mind, here are five excellent IPAs that cost \$10 or less as either a four-pack or a six-pack.

Fresh Pick IPA by Fort Hill Brewery (Easthampton, Mass.)

My wife picked this one up on a whim and I'm glad she did. As the name suggests, the hops taste quite fresh. This is a New England-style IPA that comes in at 7.0-percent ABV and features big tropical flavors thanks to the combination of Simcoe, Citra and Mosaic hops. The brew is bright, citrusy and quite refreshing. Find it. Drink it.



Fort Hill Brewery Fresh Pick IPA. Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.

Two Hearted Ale by Bell's Brewery (Kalamazoo, Mich.)

I've written about this tremendous beer before and with good reason: it's perfectly balanced and delicious. This American IPA is brewed with 100-percent Centennial hops. Maybe it's too strong to call this the perfect IPA but that kind of feels right. By the way, you can find this anywhere.

Jai Alai by Cigar City Brewing (Tampa, Fla.)

I love this beer and I find it particularly complex with big notes of citrus and then pine and then even rich caramel. I pondered this brew by a fire pit a couple weeks ago as I avoided my kids and life for a bit. Maybe you should too.

IPA by Goose Island Brewing Co. (Chicago)

Yeah, you probably walk right by this one when you go to the beer store, but maybe you shouldn't. This packs a pleasingly bitter punch and sort of brings me back to a time when IPAs were all about amping up bitterness — and I mean that in a good way.

Union Jack IPA by Firestone Walker Brewing Co. (Paso Robles, Calif.)

This is an exciting IPA with big flavors of pineapple, grapefruit and plenty of pine — a flavor bomb, you might say. It's also got a little sneaky sweetness that makes it particularly interesting. If you haven't, Firestone Walker is a brewery that is well worth exploring.

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

What's in My Fridge

Blip IPA by Stoneface Brewing Co. (Newington) "Just a blip on the hop radar," this one still packs plenty of flavor. This is a tremendous warm-weather IPA that I find both refreshing and interesting. Relying on Mosaic hops, this may be lower in alcohol than your typical IPA but there's still a lot going on here that will make your taste buds smile. Cheers!

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CDs pg22

- Unconditional Arms,

Formation A+

- Chucky73 and Fetti031,

Sie7etr3 A-

BOOKS pg23

- *In Five Years* B

- **Book Notes**

To let us know about your book or event, email asykeny@hippopress.com.

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FILM pg24

- *Buffaloed* B

- *Wendy* B-

- *Robert the Bruce* (C+)

and *Outlaw King* (B-)

- *Fleabag* A

Unconditional Arms, *Formation* (Sell the Heart Records)

From Oakland, California, comes this instrumental post-rock band, led by American Scene/Compltr main man Jeff Wright. His last attempt at this was dropped a few years ago, and he's counting this as a mulligan, as that previous outing wasn't the post-rock he was looking for. Usually I'm allergic to post-rock instrumental LPs thrust at me by metal guys, but this one was more than I could have ever hoped for, not to get too hyperbolic about it. There's no singer, true, but

when something is this towering (to pickpocket some other critic's adjective) but wonderfully accessible at the same time, I can't help but shut up, really. The drone parts are very tasteful, and in the main the guitar sound jacks the reverb and treble to reach for a totally friendly, almost U2 type of effect, lonely and rainy but upbeat in spite of it. This is a great one. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger*

Chucky73 and Fetti031, *Sie7etr3* (Sie7etr The Label/Caroline)

I have no idea what the size of our Latin trap audience is, but either way, anyone with a soft spot for authentic music of any sort would have to have some modicum of appreciation for the work of this Bronx-based indie label and its latest EP release, from two Dominican-born rappers whose aural graffiti isn't aimed at just painting the streets a zillion shades of day-glo but at taking over the world in the long run. This is the first official release from the pair, a couple of stoner-

er-mumblers in their early twenties with a fascinated reverence for the life teeming in their part of the borough. It is most definitely trap, which shouldn't require a lot of explanation by now, but as I alluded to earlier, it's very colorful trap, evoking a parking lot full of bouncing 1964 Impalas in an imaginary scene from an early Spike Lee film. Eh, try it, you'll like it. A- — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- May 8 is the next big day of scheduled album releases, and we'll start with the best of the lot (or so I hope), *Warnings*, the third album from Swedish boy/girl duo **I Break Horses!** Even if singer Maria Lindén weren't so depressingly hot, you'd have to admire any band that can take lo-fi My Bloody Valentine-tinged shoegaze and turn it into pure awesomeness, like these kids did in 2011 with the Cocteau Twins-like "Winter Beats," the most well-known tune from their debut LP, *Hearts*. The success of that album got them some festival appearances in Europe, but, as with anything that's purely, totally indie and European, almost no one in the States has heard of them, which ... wait, OMG, look at me, gushing like a fanboy. Maybe my Grinchy heart is growing three sizes this day, so I'd better go listen to this new stuff right away and find something to hate, like hopefully the single, "Death Engine," won't be awesome. So this tune, which is slow and dreamy, isn't as lo-fi as their previous stuff, but it's definitely '80s in sum effect. Any Gen Xer would love this stuff, so go get your grandson to download the Spotify and you'll be thrust into a John Waters fever dream before ya know it.

- I know we've talked about Los Angeles indie-rawk crew **The Airborne Toxic Event** before, but all my old stuff is on my old computer waiting to be transferred whenever I get around to it, the probability of which grows less likely with every minute I spend with this lovely hyper-fast SSD drive. They're like a Coldplay meets U2 meets emo thing, super-important-sounding musical feels for when your date at Red Lobster is really starting to click (unless it's the alcohol, which it usually is). Their new one, the band's sixth, is titled *Hollywood Park*, and the single, "Come on Out," is totally gloom-pop, a dead-eyed cross between Depeche Mode and Psychedelic Furs, a little draggy but catchy nonetheless. Speaking of Red Lobster, it just occurred to me that I'm at the stage of this quarantine nonsense where I would literally kill for some takeout from basically anyplace, as long as I knew that every cook and cashier has taken nine showers and hadn't so much as sniffled in the past two years. Man is this awful.

- Wow, millennial hip-hop-rave-after-partiers, electro-wiz Alfred Darlington, better known by his stage name **Daedelus**, is 42 years old, yikes, huh? I wasn't that big on his last album, 2019's *The Bittereinders*, but then again I've never been one to try science experiments on my head to see how long I can listen to drone-pop nonsense and woozy weirdo-acid-jazz before barfing. Matter of fact, I don't remember ever liking anything by him per se, it's just that I added him to my "crash course in horrible new Aughts IDM" mixtape a million years ago for the sole purpose of dropping his name in a stupid New Times article I was assigned. In other words, I should just make some barfing sounds and call it a writeup, but let's go with it. *What Wands Won't Break* is his eleventh-gorillionth LP, and the single is "Sunflower Stems," a totally chopped-and-screwed dubstep rinseout that isn't all that bad, kind of a glossy neurofunk feel. You probably have no idea what I'm talking about, and you're advised to keep it that way.

- Finally, it's Seattle alt-rock **Mark Lanegan**, formerly of Screaming Trees, with *Straight Songs of Sorrow*, his new album! If Lou Reed and Thomas Dolby co-produced a song, it'd sound like the single "Bleed All Over," which sounds like something that got left out of the *Weird Science* soundtrack with good reason. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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 albums worth a second look.

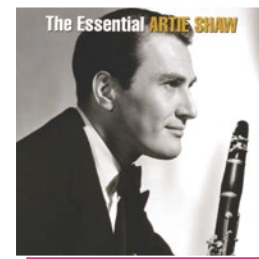
If I have any goal for this space, it's to transport you and me both to much better days ahead, to give the fast-forward button a nice long press, even if we can only do it in our heads. My own head is saying that soon enough it'll be summer, and with any luck there'll be estate sales for us to invade. On our summer Saturdays we head to destinations north, while great jazz albums play at polite levels. In our endless safaris to hunt down weird old antiques,



we've gone as far as Colebrook, N.H., which is way up there, like you can practically smell Montreal's dishes of yucky-gross poutine from there. For trips like that we have a nice set of double albums, like *The Classic Prestige Sessions 1951-1956*, featuring **Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins**. I don't know how well those guys got along, but this stuff did come off as having been a fairly democratic affair, with Miles' trumpet getting as much solo time as Sonny's sax. Three tunes get two takes each in a row, in other words the same song is played twice, but it doesn't get boring, even if the main riff to "The Serpent's

Tooth" sounds like it wasn't fun for either of them to navigate. It's a workout of a listen, the perfect thing if you can't decide between sax and trumpet.

The latest two-CD addition to my truck's hilariously overstuffed cubby is 2005's *The Essential Artie Shaw*. Collecting 38 songs recorded between 1938 and 1953 (originally taped for Bluebird Records), this stuff instantly zaps you to a dreamy 1940s America where romance was everything, and never more thoroughly embodied than by Helen Forrest's voice wrapping itself around "Deep Purple."



Really looking forward to spinning that one while driving to Jackson or Enfield or basically any New Hampshire town that's back open again (and where there might be a big tall 1800s-era case clock, my current holy grail).

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

In Five Years, by Rebecca Serle (Atria, 251 pages)

Fifteen years after it was published, Amazon's bestselling book on screenwriting is Blake Snyder's *Save the Cat!*, which has been widely maligned for its promotion of formula, but which contains an important truth:

For stories to work, we must have some reason, any reason, to like the protagonist.

Snyder calls this saving the cat, and it's important even if rescuing a cat is the only noble thing a protagonist does in a two-hour movie. Just one kind act, even if it's out of character, helps keep the audience invested in the hero or anti-hero.

I think of this, 15 chapters into Rebecca Serle's *In Five Years*, while I'm still waiting for the protagonist to save a cat.

Dannie Kahn, a corporate lawyer, apparently didn't get that memo.

She's a smart, ambitious millennial obsessed with numbers and plans. She believes that there's a right age to get engaged (28) and a right age to get married (30), and that you should date someone for 24 months before moving in. She's engaged to an investment banker, and is about to be hired by the top law firm in New York City, and "between the two of us, we make more money than a pair of twenty-eight-year-olds has any right to."

She's honest, at least.

Dannie is a little bit irritating, the sort of person who talks nonstop about what she is wearing and what she is eating, whether or not it's relevant to the plot.

She is the person who answers "yes" before her partner pops the question. The person whose lifelong dream is to work at a law office that goes full speed 24-7, who is impressed by "the thump, thump, thump of money." Whose favorite French cafe has "the best eggs and croque monsieur on the planet" and whose best friend is a painter who bought her own gallery with money from her trust fund. When she gets a ring, she describes it as modern, clean, elegant: "It's exactly me."

Relatable, she's not. But all she has to do is save a cat.

Dannie does not save a cat. Not ever. She gets engaged to the investment banker, who seems a nice enough fellow who shares Dannie's dreams of working nonstop, living in exclusive Gramercy Park, and spending enough money to feed a small impoverished nation on one meal and a follow-up snack. ("This is us. Spend seven hundred dollars on dinner, come home to eat eight-dollar fried rice. I never want that to change," Dannie says, revealing that both the fictional character and her creator are functionally tone-deaf.)

But then, right after she gets engaged, Dannie has a startling and vivid dream of waking up in exactly five years, having sex with a different man, in a different apartment

that contains all her stuff. He clearly knows her, she feels comfortable, and "he kisses and touches like he's inside my brain."

The dream is so jarring that she goes to see a therapist to try to discern its meaning. And eventually, she is able to set aside the vision and move on with her life — until she is introduced to the man from the dream, in real life, 4½ years later, just months before she is to be married.

The introduction of this new man, Aaron, and the circumstances in which he arrives in Dannie's life, throws a curveball of tension into what had, up until then, been an unremarkable monologue of self-absorbed chatter. Worse, it is self-absorbed chatter in the year of a pandemic.

Through ill timing that could not have been foreseen, Serle sets her story in the five years that span December 15, 2020, and December 15, 2025.

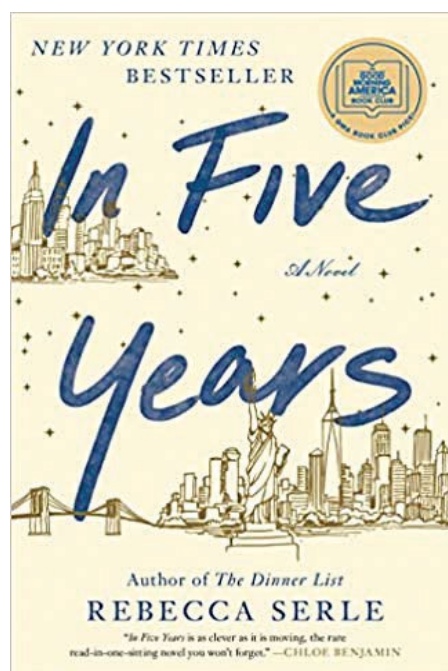
No matter what happens between now and Thanksgiving, casually spending \$700 on dinner does not age well in a pandemic. Especially not in New York City.

But here's the surprise: Even though Dannie is at times a caricature of childish vanity and consumption, completely oblivious to a world-altering pandemic that just struck her city, she exists in an otherwise engrossing story.

Once "real" Aaron appears, there are suddenly questions that must be answered, to hell with the cat.

Was the dream a premonition? Should she tell Aaron about it? Call off the wedding? Renounce the thump-thump-thump of money, go to divinity school, take up meditation?

With just these bones in a story, *In Five*



Years could be a silly rom-com, but there is another, profound thread that runs through the novel, about the relationship between Dannie and her best friend, Bella, whose upbringing, while affluent, was not idyllic. There is also a villain that visits, cancer.

At the end, *In Five Years* is a love story, and not the shallow one promised at the beginning. It's bait-and-switch, in reverse: The book you finish is not the book you start. But its ending is pleasingly unpredictable, and Serle answers almost every question she poses, including one she didn't know she asked:

"Can you like a book without liking the protagonist?"

Answer: Yes. **B** — Jennifer Graham 🍷

BOOK NOTES

No one wants this pandemic, which is deadly and economically ruinous for many. But there are little green shoots of good things emerging from it, to include the publishing industry.

For one thing, some books that just a few months ago seemed to have passed their sell-date suddenly are fresh and relevant.

It's been two years since superstar composer Lin-Manuel Miranda (with illustrator Jonny Sun) published *Gmorning, Gnight! Little Pep Talks for Me & You*, a Random House book of encouraging verse which seemed a little silly at the time but now seems prescient and wise:

"Good morning, he said/Be at home in your head/Make sure joy is well fed/Don't let dread hog the bed."

Another older book enjoying a resurgence of popularity is Rebecca Solnit's *A Paradise Built in Hell*, released in 2009 but currently being scalped on Amazon with prices upwards of \$100 for print books. (Audio and ebooks, thankfully, much cheaper.) The nonfiction title is a study of silver linings that emerge from devastating events, such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

For book enthusiasts, however, a small

pleasure born of the pandemic is the sudden prevalence of virtual events, to include readings and presentations by authors. The chance to see an author at a reading or signing has been shrinking in recent years, as book tours are now privileges of the most lucrative authors, and then, in only select cities. Suddenly, everything's online.

For those of you with young children, there's a Facebook group where authors are reading their children's books. (Search #OperationReadAloud.) There are virtual book clubs to join. Some authors are interacting with readers on Zoom calls. (Check out Quarantinebookclub.com for some examples.) And readers have the opportunity to be virtually present for events that they otherwise might not have seen, because of physical distance. Check out, for example, the upcoming virtual events at Harvard Bookstore in Cambridge, Mass. (Some require a ticket and a contribution.)

The quickest way to find a current book event, however, is to search "virtual book reading" on Twitter, which can yield events such as Christopher Moore's recent reading for his forthcoming novel *Shakespeare for Squirrels* (HarperCollins). — Jennifer Graham

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Buffaloed (NR)

A woman with big dreams but limited opportunities enters the cutthroat world of debt collection in *Buffaloed*, a fun little indie that Wikipedia says had a brief theatrical release before the shutdown.

Peg (Zoey Deutch) has been determined to get out of Buffalo, New York, her whole life. Her plan seemed solid: get accepted to a fancy college and then go to Wall Street and clean up. But even selling loose cigarettes to high school students didn't earn her enough money to cover the tuition. Thanks to a friend's fancy printer, she found an even more lucrative hustle: selling counterfeit Bills tickets. Of course, the police don't find her go-getter nature quite so charming — particularly since her con involved sully the sacred Bills game — and she is arrested. And, because of a dispute between her lawyer and the judge about which restaurant serves the correct Buffalo wings, Peg ends up in jail.

When she gets out, Peg is stuck cleaning toilets in her brother JJ's (Noah Reid) bar and dodging collection calls. But then she takes one of those calls and is able to get some operations information out of the man calling her. She shows up at the collection office and gets the boss, Wizz (Jai Courtney), to make a deal: he'll erase her debt if she becomes the top collector of the month. As she explains in voiceover narration, she has found her life's calling and she quickly takes the top spot. She is proud of herself and the money she could be making — Wizz takes a pretty big cut — but her job doesn't impress her mother (Judy Greer) or Graham (Jermaine Fowler), the local prosecutor who put Peg away but is now maybe interested in a relationship. Peg is maybe interested in a relationship with him too but she's interested in money more. She tries to strike out on her own, hiring buddies from prison and other people with overlooked talent to run collections legitimately, none of Wizz's crazy threats or scams. Of course, perhaps she should have considered that a man whose agency threatened to send snipers after debtors would not react well to competition.

Buffaloed, like its heroine, is plucky. It has a goofy sense of humor (packed with Buffalo-ness) and a solid story it wants to tell about the world of debt collection. Every edge isn't completely sanded down but the movie makes up for this with an overall good-heartedness, even when its heroine is acting in ways that not even she is entirely comfortable with.

Deutch is the reason for a lot of that positive energy that keeps the movie going. This is the second movie I've seen her in recently (she is also in 2019's Netflix movie *Set It Up*). In both of these movies, she has a spark that brings alive characters who might not be fully formed on the page. She is also in last year's *Zombieland: Double Tap* as Madison, the sorority sister-type who had managed to



Buffaloed

survive the apocalypse for years in the mall. Deutch is one to watch, particularly as a comic actress, is my takeaway from all three movies. **B**

Not rated (but this feels pretty "R"). Directed by Tanya Wexler with a screenplay by Brian Sacca, Buffaloed is an hour and 35 minutes long and distributed by Magnolia Pictures. It is currently available for rent.

Wendy (PG-13)

Children run feral on a strange island in *Wendy*, a reworking of the *Peter Pan* story that also has some notes of *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Wendy (Devin France), James (Gavin Naquin) and Douglas (Gage Naquin) Darling live above their mom's (Shay Walker) diner next to a train track. When Wendy is still a toddler, a neighbor boy (Krzysztof Meyn) is so horrified by the prospect of adult drudgery that he runs off and jumps on a passing train. Years later, kid Wendy and the boys see a boy on top of a train passing their house, beckoning them to come too. They do and, after a train ride and then a rowboat ride, they end up on a strange island full of wild children, including their lost-boy neighbor, running around playing with volcanoes and exploring caves. The children all vow to never grow up, though Wendy sends a sort of prayer back to her mother saying that she's being "wild as hell" and will remind her mom how to do that when she returns.

The island's magic keeps the kids young — aided, perhaps, by Mother, a creature who lives in the sea and who communicates with the children via Peter (Yashua Mack), the boy who coaxed the Darlings to get on the train. Or, at least, the island keeps some of the children young some of the time; sadness, loss, worry — these things have turned some eternal youngsters old.

It's been a while since I've seen 2012's *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, this movie's director and co-writer Benh Zeitlin's previous movie, but my memory of that movie is, tonally at least, something very similar to

this, to the way *Wendy* mixes the real world with fantasy and is maybe more about big feelings than a tight, grounded narrative. And wow does this movie about kids and growing up and mothers and letting go have a lot of big feelings. Even when I wasn't entirely buying what was happening on screen, it was hard to deny the emotion of it.

In that vein, I feel like the movie also does a good job of presenting kid-ness even when the story around them spins off. The children and their reactions feel like kid logic and kid emotion.

There is an occasional "too much"-ness to *Wendy*; it could have used some paring down of its wild growth of ideas. But I found myself liking this *Peter Pan* story more than expected. **B-**

Rated PG-13 for brief violent/bloody images, according to the MPA. (And, just generally, this isn't a little kids' Peter Pan story; maybe more of a middle schoolers' and up movie? Really it feels like a movie aimed at parents who are worried their children have become wild things in lockdown land. It's a movie telling you to not worry so much and that your children won't be children forever and that might all be more feels than some people can take.) Directed by Ben Zeitlin and co-written by Ben Zeitlin and Eliza Zeitlin, Wendy is an hour and 51 minutes long and distributed by Searchlight Pictures.

Robert the Bruce (NR, 18+) and Outlaw King (R)

Scottish king Robert the Bruce gets two recent biopics with *Outlaw King*, starring Chris Pine, and *Robert the Bruce*, starring Angus Macfadyen, who first played the character in 1995's *Braveheart*.

Robert the Bruce was originally released in theaters in the U.K. in 2019, according to its Wikipedia page, and was scheduled for a spring theatrical release in the U.S. but instead was released via video on demand in the U.S. in April.

Outlaw King is a Netflix movie from

2018 that got some kind of theatrical release and I remember some vague Oscar talk during the part of the year where Oscar talk casts a wide net and is of the "maybe this?" variety (but Wikipedia only lists one award season accolade, a nomination from the Visual Effects Society Awards).

Both movies feel like they live in the post-*Braveheart* universe, in terms of the movie's timeline and what the movie-makers seem to believe audiences will know, and both have a fair amount of William Wallace discussion, though he is (wisely, I think) not seen (at least in one piece) in either movie.

In *Outlaw King*, we meet Robert the Bruce (Pine) in, I think, 1302-ish as he and the other Scottish nobles are proclaiming their allegiance to King Edward I (Stephen Dillane), who is going out of his way to be super humiliating about it. Robert's father (James Cosmo) urges his sons and the other nobles to just accept the king's peace as an alternative to continued war. Robert gives it a go, even accepting the king's offer to marry Elizabeth (Florence Pugh), the king's goddaughter.

But then (off-screen) William Wallace is executed and parts of him are displayed around Scotland. The populace, already bristling under English rule and taxation, riots in one town and appears ready for new insurrection across the countryside. Robert works to form a coalition of the willing (some of the "won't-ing"s don't live so long) and mount a proper rebellion, even though his forces are significantly smaller than England's.

In *Robert the Bruce*, we actually see one of the big events from early in the *Outlaw King* years (the killing in 1306 of John Comyn, here played by Jared Harris) but it is described as a flashback to years earlier. Most of this movie's action takes place in roughly 1313/1314, when Robert (Macfadyen) and his army are scattered and discouraged. He sends the men around him home and sets off by himself. He stumbles upon a homestead where a woman, Morag (Anna Hutchison), tells her children — nephew Carney (Brandon Lessard), niece Iver (Talitha Bateman) and son Scot (Gabriel Bateman) — stories of Robert's glories. (All of the kids' dads died fighting with either William Wallace or Robert the Bruce.)

Robert continues skulking around the mountains until three of his own men attempt to kill him in order to collect a reward. Robert manages to get away, killing two of the men, but is wounded. He hides in a cave, bleeding and watching a spider (which is apparently a whole thing in Robert the Bruce lore, not that you'd know it from how the movie portrays it).

Before the third turncoat (Patrick Fugit) is also killed, he tells the local sheriff, Brandubh (Zach McGowan), about how to find Robert. Brandubh is also the brother of Morag's dead husband, which means he



Robert the Bruce

shows up to help her/menace her/pressure her to marry him from time to time. Since Brandubh is part of the (English-backed?) power structure, it would be bad for Morag to support Robert, so naturally it's her plucky/pesky son Scot who finds the half-dead Robert and the family nurses him back to health. Robert slowly regains not only his health but his fire to fight.

To fight in a battle that takes place off-screen, which is a spoiler but also, like, fair warning for anybody who thinks they're getting *Braveheart 2: 2 Brave 2 Furious*. The big on-screen fight in *Robert the Bruce* involves saving Robert from Brandubh and his men, which can feel like small potatoes, particularly compared to *Outlaw King*. That movie is all battles and snarling English kings and 1300s gore.

Both movies come in a little longer than two hours but *Robert the Bruce* feels longer, taking nearly an hour to really put all the story elements in place. *Outlaw King* can at times feel like a run from this battle to that siege to this ambush but at least it moves forward. Perhaps because of what it's showing — a scrappy king versus *Robert the Bruce*'s bummed out king — *Outlaw King* also has more energy in the action. And it benefits from the presence of Pugh, whose sassiness (and the relatively egalitarian nature of her relationship with Robert) feels a bit dodgy, historically speaking, but gives the movie a liveliness. (For historical reasons, the movie kind of runs out of things for her to do, which is too bad because, compared to Pine, she is frequently the stronger actor and the movie tries to put her in the story as much as it can.)

Outlaw King, like many a Netflix effort, is entertaining enough — a bit of knights-and-swords historical drama with just a tinge of romance thanks in part to the watchability of its central stars, Chris Pine and Florence Pugh. *Robert the Bruce* feels like a pretty bit of scenery intercut with a movie that never quite gets going (but would make for, I think, a really fascinating

“how this got made” story). *Outlaw King* is fine for an “I just need something OK to watch” movie night; *Robert the Bruce* feels like a movie for hard-core history buffs and *Braveheart* completists. *Outlaw King*: **B-**, *Robert the Bruce*: **C+**.

Outlaw King is rated **R** for sequences of brutal war violence, some sexuality, language and brief nudity, according to the MPA. Directed by David Mackenzie with a screenplay by Bash Doran & David Mackenzie and James MacInnes, *Outlaw King* is two hours and one minute long and distributed by Netflix. *Robert the Bruce* is not rated as far as I can tell (Amazon puts it at 18+, I assume for all the sword-based violence). Directed by Richard Gray with a screenplay by Eric Belgau and Angus Macfadyen, *Robert the Bruce* is two hours and four minutes and is distributed by Metro International.

Fleabag (R)

Phoebe Waller-Bridge offers up her one-woman show *Fleabag* for a \$5 rental via Amazon Prime.

I have heard nothing but good things about *Fleabag* the series (which got two seasons, also available on Amazon). And yet, as with so much of Peak TV, I haven't gotten to it yet.

This recording of a live production of the one-woman show that originated the character feels like a good way to plunge in. Framed by a job interview that goes almost instantly hilariously wrong, we get the story of her life: the failing cafe, the dead best friend, her off-again boyfriend, her other romantic partners, her parents, her sister, her insecurities, her fears. It is at times stomach-crampingly funny and at times heart-breaking.

And it's for a good cause, as Waller-Bridge explains in a video posted on Twitter, with the proceeds from rentals going to coronavirus-related charities. **A**

Rated R (exceptionally R), according to Amazon. The show is an hour and 20 minutes long and was recorded in 2019. 🍷

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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Greenery:** One of the first concerts lost to coronavirus was **Enter the Haggis**, scheduled to play March 13 in Peterborough. St. Patrick's Day is a big time for the Canadian Celtic band. With a tour now scuttled, a livestream devoted to one of their best albums, *Casualties of Retail*, will have to suffice. The group will tell stories, play old demos, and track the 2004 album from start to finish. Enjoy songs like "Down with the Ship" and "Gasoline" on Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m., bandsintown.com.

• **Songsmith:** A mother of five before she first hit the New England coffeehouse circuit, **Lori McKenna** is now an MVP songwriter in Nashville, penning hits for a who's who of country stars, and becoming the first woman to win Song of the Year CMAs in consecutive years — 2016 for Little Big Town's "Girl Crush" and 2017 for Tim McGraw's "Humble and Kind." She's at her best playing solo, harkening back to the days when she wrote in her kitchen. Friday, May 8, 7 p.m. on Instagram Live.

• **Quarantinis:** A live record release show must wait for **Bitter Pill**, but the band that calls its fans "Pillheads" instead hosts a three-weekend streaming listening party for *Desperate Times on the New Hampshire State Line*. Hippo writer Eric Saeger likened the throwback title track, released earlier this year, to "alternate universe Bob Dylan" and "hayseed indie notions of Dresden Dolls doing Jamba Juice commercials." Begins Saturday, May 9, 4:20 p.m., facebook.com/bitterpilltoswallow.

• **Teamwork:** Any other summer, **The Kennedys** — married couple Pete and Maura — head to the Lakes Region for Summer Acoustic Music Week, an instructional camp led by many of the folk scene's finest players. Alas, the WUMB Boston-sponsored event is canceled. The pair have done many shows during the pandemic shutdown, playing 92 unique songs in the process. They'll certainly break 100 during a Mother's Day livestream, an all-request event. Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m., youtube/AAKrpB0mg.

• **Revival:** The City of Dover shut down Red & Shorty's as a live music venue last year, but **Bob Halperin** is bringing back memories as he plays in their Isolation Room every Tuesday for Internet listeners. In other news, videos of performances recorded over the run of the venue are now available on elysiumarts.com, beginning with a pair of 2018 shows, from Gurf Morlix and Rod Picott. Priced at \$10 each, all proceeds go to musicians waiting for normalcy to return. Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m. on Facebook Live. 🍷

NITE

Mister Positivity

Music entrepreneur on coping with Covid-19

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Michael Bernier is the ultimate hyphenate — as front man of the roots rocking band Freevolt, he's a singer, musician and songwriter. He also runs Evolverment Music, which broadcasts web radio shows, along with booking shows at venues on the Seacoast and in southern New Hampshire. Bernier also owns and operates the apparel and lifestyle brand Enjoy Your Life and works as a motivational speaker.

When the Covid-19 crisis hit, much of this halted, but Bernier's sunny outlook continues. In a recent phone interview he talked about a new album with an all-star guest list, and how the pandemic's challenges offer an opportunity for mental, physical and professional growth.

How is the most positive guy in New England dealing with this crisis?

It's a wildly unique time. I'm embracing the new emotions and all these opportunities to have new thoughts and create new patterns and new routines. Honestly, there's so many ways we can react and so much weight we can put on our minds. I choose to look at this like I look at other challenges in life. This is an opportunity to better myself and my situation to become more prepared for these kinds of things in the future.

What are you doing in the quarantine?

Everything I've done for the last 15 years has revolved around large gatherings, so this is a drastic change for me. ... I had the most successful year of my life on the schedule ahead of me, and now I'm here. ... I've started a new talk show called *Offering Something* that is airing three days a week [noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and 1 p.m. Saturdays]. It's a way for me to say nice things and make sure that I'm doing something good for the world. I'm back on the air creating these shows, and I'm also performing a livestream on Monday nights on my Facebook page.

You were on the fence about streaming, but it sounds like you've embraced it?

I'll be doing more unique things as opposed to just acoustic performances; I want to make sure that things remain exciting. It's a seriously saturated market out there. For a lot of us that have lived in the performance world, we want to make sure we're keeping our brand exciting and giving the right product to our fans and friends and viewers. So I'm really spending a lot of time thinking about that.

Enjoy Your Life happened before all this corona stuff.

I launched it last event season. That's an opportunity for people that want to support



Michael Bernier. Courtesy photo.

what I've done and understand the serious impact here, to have an angle to do something tangible. Get themselves a hat, shirt, tank top or whatever. On another layer this is a thing for me — I've been saying 'enjoy your life' since I was a wee boy. ... It's been wonderful to have the opportunity and especially to coincide with the name of my new album.

Good segue — there's a special guest on every single track of the new album. Did organizing it take a long time?

Three years of work. People that came to the studio to record were people that at some point in my life we had a special connection. ... I wanted them to sit with me and write the song together in the sessions. So we'd get together for five-, six-, seven-hour sessions and write the songs. I would come up with the music in advance. I wrote most of it on the keyboard and the guys from Freevolt laid the bass and guitars, and I play the drums on it. Getting all those people together was a lot of work but they're people that I love. Knowing that, as time goes on I will be able to look back at this album, that is clearly sending a message of hope and triumph, and feel great about it. Because it's me and my friends.

I loved "Mud" — what inspired that song?

It was raining, mud on the ground, and I was looking at a puddle. I stomped my feet in that, and I put my hands in the mud. ... I want to be connected to the land. I yearn for that oneness, that understanding that can exist between nature and humans and animals. I feel like we obviously slip away from that as we put up walls, separate ourselves from nature. ... I looked down at that puddle and said, 'I want to wipe that mud on my face and just scream, 'This is life, don't forget about it — we come from the dirt.' That's the explosion that came over me. I wrote the chorus in the next three minutes.

"Feel the Sunshine" has a good message — if you fall down get back up again — that's a recurring theme in your music.

Yeah it totally is, because that's real. I mean you could fall down and do nothing or get back up. It's a very simple concept but you can do anything that you want to do in this life or you cannot. I'm not being delusional, it's easy. You have a vision, a mission, a goal in sight and as every day passes you have to answer to yourself.

When you put on your motivational speaker hat, what is your message?

This is a beautiful time right now to look within yourself and develop a love for yourself. ... Take the time now to step back from everything and clearly take a look at where you are and where you want to go. Make that plan, and when the time is right take your action.

What's the summer going to be like for you?

I would say that for myself the majority of events are completely shut down because we're talking about thousands of people next to each other — for me personally. For all the acts I'm booking for performances at restaurants and bars, I think those are changed for a long time. I don't know that immediately that people are going to be ready to offer their money for musicians. They are going to want to see how things are coming. I'm looking forward to continuing to make sure that I'm having the best day and doing productive things. Because I'm not sitting here banking on what I used to know as normal happening again. 🍷

Michael Bernier

When: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

Where: facebook.com/EvolvermentMusic

I'M GONNA SIT DOWN AND WRITE A LONG LETTER

Across

- 1. Brother Cane 'I Lie In The ___ Make' (3,1)
- 5. '95 'Alice In Chains' album song (3,2)
- 10. '90 Black Sabbath album inspired by Norse war god, perhaps
- 13. When something isn't noticeable, Soul Asylum 'Can't ___ Tell'
- 14. Duff-sung Guns & Roses song on 'Use Your Illusion II' (2,4)
- 15. 'Bleed' Hot Chelle ___
- 16. When the slugger stepped to the plate, Outfield was told to

- 'Play ___'
- 17. CSN&Y "Glad that you got ___" (2,4)
- 18. Righteous Babe Records owner DiFranco
- 19. '88 My Bloody Valentine debut (4,8)
- 22. What crowd will do with their name for band to come back on
- 25. Neil Young '___ Of These Days'
- 26. Thievery Corporation 'The Richest ___ Babylon' (3,2)
- 27. A promoter in organized crime might be running one
- 29. '99 Perry Farrell comp that he

- uses when accelerating his hog?
- 30. 'Diesel And Dust' Midnight ___
- 31. Clive Davis-founded label
- 35. Cult power ballad hit off 'Sonic Temple'
- 39. 'Lovefool' was in this '99 film w/Reese Witherspoon & Ryan Phillippe (5,10)
- 42. Bob Dylan 'Sad-___ Lady Of The Lowlands'
- 43. Like label party for album coming out tomorrow
- 44. Nelly Furtado 'Mi Plan' song about more?
- 45. Goopy Collective Soul hit about hair product?
- 47. '05 My Chemical Romance hit w/girl's name
- 49. What Frankie Goes To Hollywood said to do
- 52. English 'I Will Always Love You' singer Waller from Pop Idol
- 55. Sublime told us to get up and 'Get ___'
- 56. Bush song about US baby blues? (8,4)
- 59. Neil Young 'I Want To Drive My ___'
- 60. Aerosmith "I'm back in the ___ again!"
- 61. Hopefully the van doesn't blow one going 80mph!
- 65. Jeff Lynne band that released 'Time' in '81 (abbr)
- 66. "Happy ___ to you, until we meet again"
- 67. '92 10,000 Maniacs album 'Our Time In ___'
- 68. 'I Want To Take You Higher' Stone
- 69. 'Rock This Town' ___ Cats

70. Bonnie Raitt listens to her live '95 album '___ Tested' on the highway, perhaps

Down

- 1. A sleepy Susanna Hoffs sang 'My Side Of The ___'
- 2. 'Assassination On Christmas ___' Archers Of Loaf
- 3. 'Blizzard Of Ozz' instrumental
- 4. Psychedelic Furs "Pretty ____, isn't she?" (2,4)
- 5. GnR "You ___ find yourself another piece of the action" (3,2)
- 6. Neil Young "No one wins, it's a war ___" (2,3)
- 7. This songwriting goddess Warren has penned about a million hits
- 8. REM "___ did you hear about this one?"
- 9. Deaf Havana '___ Halfway, At Least' (4,2)
- 10. AC/DC went to the station and got on a 'Rock 'N Roll ___'
- 11. Long-haired Greek new age pianist
- 12. The Who 'Love, ___ O'er Me'
- 14. Neil Young "They're pipin' music in, we all have to ___"
- 20. What non-crediting samplers do
- 21. Depeche Mode "___ got a soft touch?" (4,1)
- 22. 'Time In A Bottle' Jim
- 23. Vaselines song about being furry?
- 24. Replacements "Left a rebel without ____, and I'm searching for something to do" (1,4)
- 28. Voice lesson topic
- 29. Bruce Springsteen skips the

- cattle and horses and heads to the 'Cadillac ___'
- 32. Neil Young "I was lying ___ burned out basement" (2,1)
- 33. Original Beatles bassist Sutcliffe
- 34. Sting liked even numbers and told '___ Summoner's Tales'
- 36. '13 Stone Sour begged '___ Favor' (2,2,1)
- 37. Bon Jovi '___ Out Of Love' (2,3)
- 38. A Berkley final will have you write one in your blue book
- 40. Albino saxist Winter
- 41. Jackson 5 'I'll Be ___'
- 46. Some people believe their idol faked their death and still ___
- 48. Gene Simmons/Paul Stanley band Wicked ___
- 49. For 'The Galway ___' The Dubliners get on their marks, get set and go
- 50. Metallica's 'Seek And Destroy' album 'Kill ___' (2,3)
- 51. Miller of Smash Mouth
- 52. Golden Earring uses this detection system to find 'Love'
- 53. 'Voyage To India' Arie
- 54. Mika sang of this iconic actress named 'Grace'
- 57. Neil Young grabbed a 'Safe-way ___' then went shopping
- 58. Agreement Beatles say before 'It Is'
- 62. J Geils 80s hit for the altar? (1,2)
- 63. English 'The Road To Hell' sing/songer Chris
- 64. A bored Linkin Park was 'Waiting For The ___'

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
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16					17						18		
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49	50	51			52	53	54			55			
56					57					58			
59					60					61	62	63	64
65					66					67			
68					69					70			

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 29.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

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

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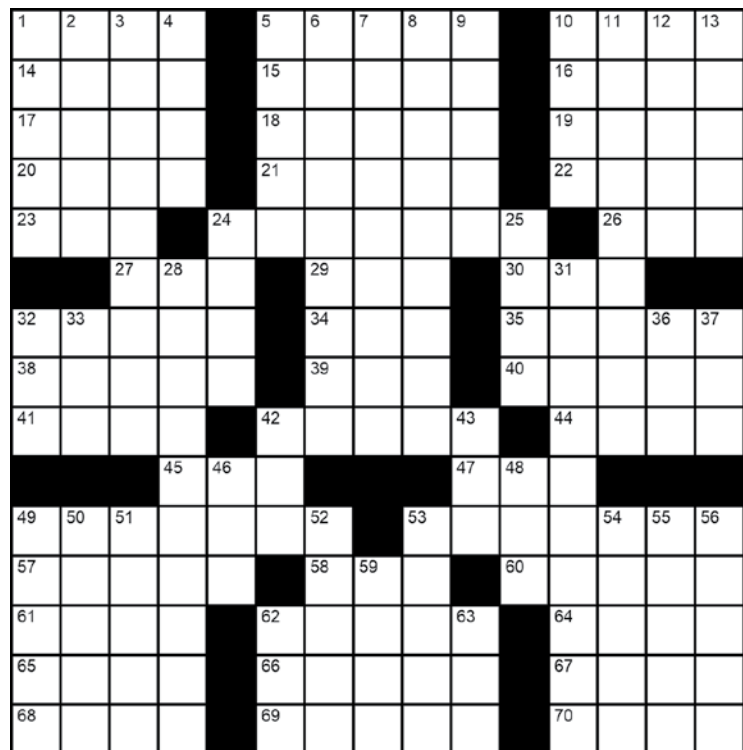
Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green

1		8		5				
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8								3
	3			7		8		
		5					9	
		3		2				1

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

"In Storage" — walk-ins accepted



Across

- 1 NATO Phonetic Alphabet vowel
- 5 Socially distance from
- 10 Kind of D.A.
- 14 Hawaiian party
- 15 Cape ___ (westernmost African point)
- 16 Tea-based drink
- 17 ___ Blanc (highest peak in the Alps)
- 18 About 1% of the Earth's atmosphere
- 19 Prefix for "medicine" seen more often recently
- 20 Heart charts, briefly
- 21 Is a huge fan of, slangily
- 22 Garden gastropod
- 23 Nigiri sushi option
- 24 Come back inside
- 26 Army outposts (abbr.)
- 27 Squeeze bunt stat (or so I'm told... it's sports)
- 29 Pen name?
- 30 "Meatspace," for short
- 32 Like some sprays
- 34 Wu-Tang Clan member born

Robert Diggs

- 35 Balance
- 38 Got high
- 39 ___ Arann (former airline)
- 40 Charge to a sponsor
- 41 "Hurts 2B Human" singer
- 42 Rosie of "Birds of Prey"
- 44 Gasket, e.g.
- 45 Flub
- 47 Fluffy grazer
- 49 With 53-Across, what a 7-Down helps keep
- 53 See 49-Across
- 57 "First Blood" protagonist
- 58 France on the new "Queer Eye"
- 60 "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar winner Kevin
- 61 Sicilian mountain
- 62 Madcap
- 64 Americana lithographer
- 65 Punxsutawney notable
- 66 Multiple-choice choice, sometimes
- 67 Infamous fiddling emperor
- 68 Blue-green shade
- 69 Showtime series set in Agrestic Township
- 70 Spring up

answers)

- 8 "Meh, whatever"
- 9 Packed
- 10 Does something
- 11 *Product's freshness period
- 12 "Cheers!" in France
- 13 '70s supermodel Cheryl
- 24 Really irk
- 25 "Live With Kelly and Ryan" cohost
- 28 *Steph Curry's sport
- 31 *"The Twilight Zone" creator
- 32 Forty winks
- 33 "Dutch" actress Meyers
- 36 The briny
- 37 "Jellied" British fish
- 42 Lead-in to lude
- 43 "Your Moment of ___" ("The Daily Show" feature)
- 46 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 48 Panda Express vessel
- 49 Crawled cautiously
- 50 Wood shop equipment
- 51 "___ vincit amor"
- 52 Texas, for one
- 53 Did some comic book work
- 54 Coral reef visitor
- 55 Start of el año nuevo
- 56 Implant again
- 59 Dull pain
- 62 "That's great"
- 63 '19 and '20, e.g.

R&R answer from pg 27 of 04/30



Jonesin' answer from pg 28 of 04/30



Jonesin' Classic answer from pg 29 of 04/30



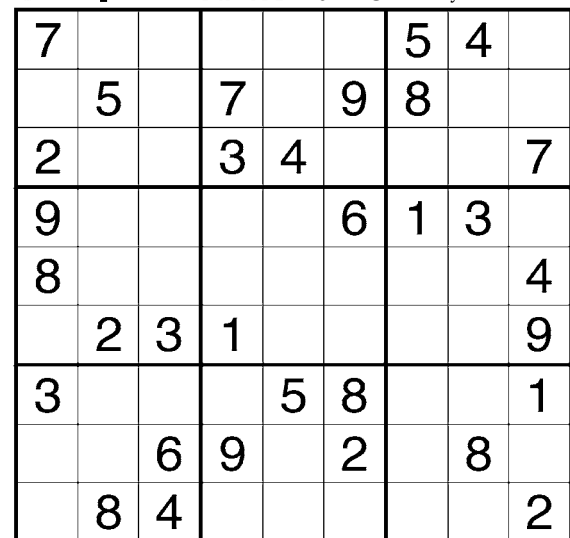
Down

- 1 Fudd who bugs Bugs
- 2 Actress Kaley of "The Big Bang Theory"
- 3 *Sycophants
- 4 Escape clauses
- 5 "Three Sunflowers in ___" (1888 Van Gogh painting)
- 6 Spine components
- 7 *It helps out in the closet (as demonstrated by the other starred

NITE SUDOKU

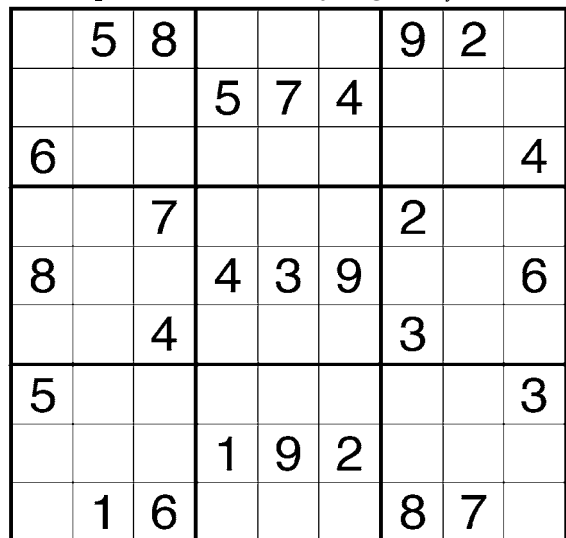
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Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle D By Dave Green



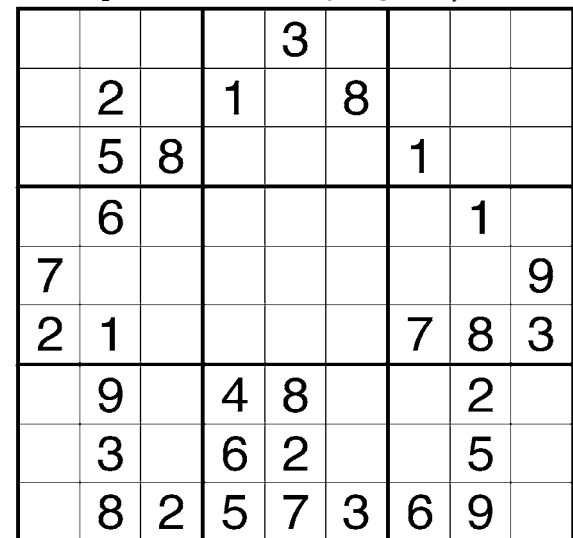
Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle E By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle F By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from My Reminiscences, by Rabindranath Tagore, born May 7, 1861.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) I was never tired of roaming about among those miniature hills and dales in hopes of lighting on something never known before.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Many a trivial thing was for us a rarity.... The result was that what little we did get we enjoyed to the utmost; from skin to core nothing was thrown away.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Like a young deer which butts here, there and everywhere with its newly sprouting horns, I made myself a nuisance with my budding poetry.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) My father would sometimes tell me funny stories. He had many an anecdote of the gilded youth of his time.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) I had a great curiosity to see a Bengal village. Its clusters of cottages, its thatched pavilions, its lanes and bathing places, its games and gatherings, its fields and markets, its life as a whole as I saw it in imagination, greatly attracted me.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) In my case my very nearness had so long kept me out of mind; now that I had been out of sight I came back into view.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) This school had one great advantage for me. No one there cherished the forlorn hope that boys of our sort could make any advance in learning.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) We had half-an-hour for writing our copybooks; that was a time when, pen in hand, I used to become absent-minded and my thoughts wandered hither and thither.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) The same old house and the same old trees must still be there, but I know it cannot any longer be the same — for where am I now to get that fresh feeling of wonder which made it what it was?

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) In those days everything from furniture to festivity was designed to be enjoyed by the many, so that whatever of pomp or magnificence there might have been did not savour of hauteur.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) At the time the height of my ambition was to become a poet like Vihari Babu. I might have even succeeded in working myself up to the belief that I was actually writing like him, but for my sister-in-law, his zealous devotee....

Aries (March 21 – April 19) But, admire the performance as I did, I could not appreciate the song. There's always another song.

Legal Notice

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF ALEXANDER IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

File No: 20 CVD 40
Cielo Patino, Demandante Vs. Natanael Ramirez Flores, Demandado

POR FAVOR TOME EN CUENTA que se esta levantando una demanda encontra de usted. El motivo de la demanda es para lo siguiente: El Demandante desea el Divorcio.

Usted debe responder a la demanda a mas tardar el dia 5 de Julio del 2020, a partir de loe 40 dias de la primera publicacion de esta noticia. Si usted no responde para la fecha indicada, el Demandante en contra de usted solicitara al Tribunal que se le otorgue la Demanda deaseada.

File No: 20 CVD 40
Cielo Patino, Plaintiff Vs. Natanael Ramirez Flores, Defendant

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above action. the nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff is seeking of Divorce.

You are required to make defense to such a pleading no later than the 5th day of June 2020, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

SMITH IMMIGRATION LAW OFFICE

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THIS THE 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2020

Sudoku Answers from April 30

Puzzle A pg 27

Grid for Puzzle A with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Puzzle B pg 27

Grid for Puzzle B with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Puzzle C pg 27

Grid for Puzzle C with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Puzzle D pg 28

Grid for Puzzle D with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Puzzle E pg 28

Grid for Puzzle E with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Puzzle F pg 28

Grid for Puzzle F with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

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Quick thinking

Eliza Ruth Watson, 37, raises chickens in Gray, Maine, so she's used to seeing foxes nosing around, but as she worked in her garden on April 23, the fox she spotted didn't run when she tried to scare it off by hollering and waving her arms. Instead, the animal lunged toward her, ready to attack. "Thinking back on it now, the fox was a mangy, stanky fox," Watson told the Sun Journal. She responded by kicking it, but "it kept coming back, and I kept kicking it." Finally Watson grabbed the fox around the neck, and as it fought back, she shoved it into a large pot used for scalding chickens, sealed the lid and called 911 and her husband. At the hospital, she received five rabies vaccine injections. "People kept asking, 'Are you the one who wrestled the fox?'" she said. "It's certainly not how I expected to spend my day."

remarks about the commission, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported. In an April 25 email to the newspaper, Platzer apologized for his actions and said he has resigned from the commission. "We are all living in uncertain times, and I certainly, like many of you, am adjusting to a new normalcy," he wrote. Mayor Bob Sampayan said he was bothered by Platzer's "whole demeanor during the entire meeting." The commission had scheduled a vote to remove Platzer on April 28.

• ABC News reporter Will Reeve made an internet meme come to life on April 28 when he appeared on *Good Morning America* to report on pharmacies using drones to deliver prescriptions. Looking dapper in a sport coat and open-collared shirt, Reeve no doubt thought his home setup would camouflage the fact that he wasn't wearing pants, CNN reported. Twitter had a field day, and Reeve himself tweeted back, "I have ARRIVED ... in the most hilariously mortifying way possible."

Zoom fatigue

• A videoconference meeting of the Vallejo, California, planning commission got a little weird on April 20 when commissioner Chris Platzer announced, "I'd like to introduce my cat," then was seen throwing the cat off-screen. Later Platzer was seen drinking a beer, and after the meeting ended, city staff could still hear him making derogatory

Irony

The National Weather Service issued a dust advisory on April 27 in eastern Washington after wind gusts of more than 40 mph kicked up a wall of sediment. "We have had reports of blowing dust near Dusty (seriously, near the town of Dusty) on SR 26 and SR 127," the NWS tweeted. According to Fox

News, the Washington State Patrol reported that SR 26 was "fully blocked" about 3 miles outside of Dusty after a car and a semi-truck crashed. The highway remained closed for about six hours.

Desperate times

In Logrono, Spain, an unidentified man pushed the envelope on Spain's stringent lockdown rules, which make an exception for pet owners, who are allowed to go outside briefly with their pets, according to Gray News. The National Police tweeted a photo on April 24 of the man being arrested for sitting on a city bench holding his pet fish in a fish bowl.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Brian Wood, owner of All American Gator Products in Dania Beach, Florida, is taking face masks to a whole new level by fashioning coverings made with the skin of Burmese pythons. "Some people want to make a fashion statement even during this pandemic, so I want to give them options," Wood told the Miami Herald on April 19. The snakeskin itself doesn't offer any added protection, but the masks would allow for a filter or lining to be inserted and removed. Wood hopes to add alligator and crocodile skin masks to his offerings, although alligator, "the diamond

of leathers," would be more expensive. Wood said he will be buying animals from local hunters to meet the demand.

Name in the news

Police in Gwinnett County, Georgia, finally caught up with 35-year-old Speedy Gonzalez, of Buford, on April 25. Gonzalez had been wanted in connection with a theft in January, when multiple checks were reported stolen from a mailbox in Suwanee, the Associated Press reported. Gonzalez allegedly cashed the checks, used the money to buy more than \$3,000 worth of merchandise at Home Depot, then returned the goods for cash. He was charged with forgery, identity theft and theft by deception.

Ewwwww!

Three roommates at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa, were charged on April 20 with assault in response to an event that took place on March 13. According to *nwestiowa.com*, Lindsey Ann Cundiff, 20; Kyiah Elaine Kastner, 19; and Ellie Thompson, 20, allegedly removed dry skin from the bottom of one of their feet and added it into a fourth roommate's shredded cheese, then watched her eat it. No word on what else was in the dish.

Visit newssoftheweird.com. 🍷

JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

"You Missed!" — he shoots, he doesn't score

Enjoy this Jonesin' Crossword, originally printed in 2012!

Across

- 1 Prescription figures
- 6 Frenemy, in part

- 9 Tenth-grader, for short
- 13 Sportscaster Shaquille
- 14 Not real, like some crab meat: abbr.
- 16 Shade darker than eggshell
- 17 "Spiffy!"

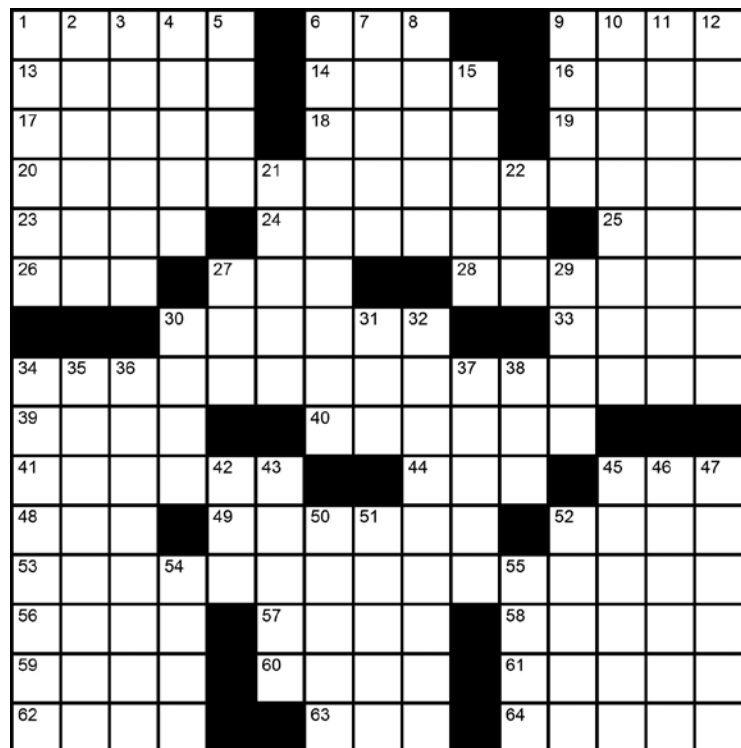
- 18 1958 Best Picture winner
- 19 Summers abroad?
- 20 Add atop a refuse pile, after aiming out and missing?
- 23 Good, in Guatemala
- 24 Room where church records are kept
- 25 "Isn't that somethin'?"
- 26 Abbr. at an airport terminal
- 27 Cave under weight
- 28 Placing, at the track
- 30 Strikes, in Biblical terms
- 33 It's inside an env.
- 34 Sports uniform for an all-out brawl, after aiming back and missing?
- 39 Cambodian currency
- 40 Fox News analyst, often
- 41 Focus for some committees
- 44 Hit the jackpot
- 45 Pai ___ (gambling game)
- 48 National code-breaking gp. (found in VACATION)
- 49 Member of a duo that "went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat"
- 52 Olympic swimmer with 12 medals ___ Torres
- 53 What your dog might do after eating his way through your linen closet, after aiming in and missing?
- 56 Actor Jon of "Homicide"

- 57 Marcia and Felicity's co-star
- 58 Electronic bracelet site
- 59 Work without ___ (take risks)
- 60 Hold, like a vehicle
- 61 Magnus Carlsen's game
- 62 IDs often used in identity theft
- 63 Pilot's heading: abbr.
- 64 "M*A*S*H" setting

- 31 Ma who says "baa"
 - 32 Happy acquaintance?
 - 34 Responds to (in a certain way)
 - 35 "Letters to a Young Contrarian" author Christopher
 - 36 Freeze again, like slush to ice
 - 37 Rapper with the 2011 hit "Work Out"
 - 38 Reeceeeally long time
 - 42 "Sesame Street" org., back in the day
 - 43 Seals (out)
 - 45 "Daily Manhattan media news and gossip" site
 - 46 Ultimatum ender
 - 47 Peace Nobel list Lech ___
 - 50 Fencing swords
 - 51 Others, in Spanish
 - 52 "Tiny Bubbles" crooner
 - 54 Muesli ingredient
 - 55 It's put on a chair in a prank
- ©2012 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com)
by Matt Jones 2012

Down

- 1 "Surprised?" follow-up
- 2 Like many musical wonders
- 3 Prepared like some ahi
- 4 Shirley who was painted gold in "Goldfinger"
- 5 Like molasses
- 6 Square cookie
- 7 Leaves out
- 8 This clue's number
- 9 Fortune teller
- 10 Linoleum pattern shapes, sometimes
- 11 Just being there
- 12 In a suddenly quiet way
- 15 Stadium divisions
- 21 Egg-shaped
- 22 Heavyweight boxer Fields
- 27 Rolls-Royce's parent company
- 29 Org. that operates the world's largest particle physics lab
- 30 One-person opera performances



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