

the Hippo

NOVEMBER 12 - 18, 2020

WINE & SPIRITS
FEST P.16

NEW IN ROAST
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LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

At the

MOVIES

LOCAL MOVIE THEATERS TURN TO CLASSIC MOVIES,
LIVE COMEDY, ROOM RENTALS AND MORE TO
STAY IN BUSINESS UNTIL THE BLOCKBUSTERS RETURN

INSIDE: WIMPY KID AUTHOR JEFF KINNEY

The source of our pain

We have selected a new president and vice president for the United States and as happy as I am with the results I can say that a lot of places within me hurt. Insights gleaned from this particular election have caused me to pause because they serve as unfortunate reminders of how deep our ache runs.

Where my heart feels pain the most is around racism. Donald Trump did not create this system and, as we work to create a more just society, it's clear that there is much to be addressed to eradicate the disease that has permeated the fabric of this nation. Although he is not guilty of establishing oppression, I don't feel as if he ever had a sense of obligation to address it, either. In fact, I believe he intentionally fed the sickness with a toxic, sometimes deadly, dose of lies and "othering."

These tactics manifested in a myriad of ways, starting in the executive branch and trickling down to our communities across the country. From locking innocent children away in cages to putting gag orders on those who are working each and every day to bring awareness to the systems of privilege to attempted lynching here in our own state. When you offer cover and opportunity for those most afflicted by addiction to indulge with reckless abandon, there will be consequences.

We, of course, chose to fight with one another in a variety of ways. I am not innocent of this and, looking back, neither am I proud of this. I played along with the game and I'm walking away wounded as I abandoned my dedication to love and connection in a culture that is doing its best to tear us apart.

I try to find not justification but purpose as one of my survival mechanisms. For me, the last four years, in the depths of darkness, the stars shined the brightest. Those stars cannot and will not go away in my life even under a new administration.

Listening to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and President-elect Joe Biden speak brought me relief but it did not heal the pain. Just as no one person got us here, no one person can lead us out. We must come together — unified in our purpose — to do that.

The great civil rights activist and icon Ruby Sales was interviewed by Krista Tippett for the *On Being* radio show where she talked about the collective pain of our nation. She asked all listeners to find the source of the pain and to explore it with curiosity, compassion and love. I can think of no better commitment for each of us to take on in these times.

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**ON THE COVER**

6 AT THE MOVIES Local theaters are doing everything they can to stay in business during the pandemic, with some hosting special events and renting out rooms and others offering classic movies either in person or virtually. Find out what to expect from your local theaters in the coming months.

ALSO ON THE COVER, Jeff Kinney, author of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, is bringing a socially-distanced pool party to New Hampshire, p. 10. The New Hampshire Liquor Commission has morphed its annual Wine Week and Distillers Showcase into a 90-day virtual tasting series, p.16. And a new roast beef and pizza shop has opened in Hooksett, p. 17.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

During a Nov. 5 press conference, state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan provided a public health update on New Hampshire's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic. New and active infections of the coronavirus have been on a continuous increase over the last couple of weeks in the state, he said, with seven of its 10 counties — Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Coos, Grafton, Belknap and Stafford — at a substantial level of community transmission. According to WMUR, Gov. Chris Sununu said the state is preparing for what could be a "very aggressive" spike in Covid-19 cases, with New Hampshire potentially seeing 500 to 1,000 new daily cases by the end of the month. He said the state is ready, with PPE, testing, funds and resources, according to WMUR.

During the Nov. 5 press conference, Sununu also provided an update on the status of New Hampshire's federal CARES act funds, which he said must be spent prior to Dec. 31. More than 4,000 businesses applied for the Main Street Relief Fund 2.0, around 3,000 of which were eligible. Sununu added that around \$15 million is still available that has been allocated for the state's housing relief program. As of Nov. 5, about 2,100 people have applied for and received funds totaling about \$5.6 million.

On Nov. 7, the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services issued a potential community exposure notice related to a person with Covid-19 who visited the 401 Tavern in Hampton. According to state health officials, the exposure occurred in the eatery's bar area during the evenings of Oct. 23 and Oct. 24. Anyone who was there on those evenings should monitor for symptoms of

the virus and seek testing.

Details of Sununu's Emergency Orders, Executive Orders and other announcements can be viewed at governor.nh.gov.

Addressing homelessness

On Nov. 5, New Hampshire's 13 mayors sent a joint letter to Gov. Chris Sununu asking him to make it a top priority to develop a statewide plan that addresses homelessness. According to the letter, homelessness is a crisis in all of the mayors' communities. "In recent months, in an effort to prevent community spread of Covid-19 and allow for social distancing, shelters have been forced to decompress and reduce the number of available beds," it reads, though it also notes that the number of people living unsheltered has been increasing even in the years prior to the pandemic. The letter cited a lack of funding and emergency shelter beds in some communities and said that with many homeless individuals living on state-owned properties, the state needs to create and implement a winter shelter surge plan, as well as a comprehensive housing plan that would increase the number of supportive, transitional and affordable housing options for couples, victims of domestic violence, families with children and felons. "Because of a lack of an overarching statewide approach, our communities' homelessness strategies have been reactive rather than proactive," the letter reads. "The state must take a role in designing an incident command infrastructure to address homelessness, similar to the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, to establish a set of metrics to determine success, and implement accountability

measures, and progress tracking to ensure positive outcomes."

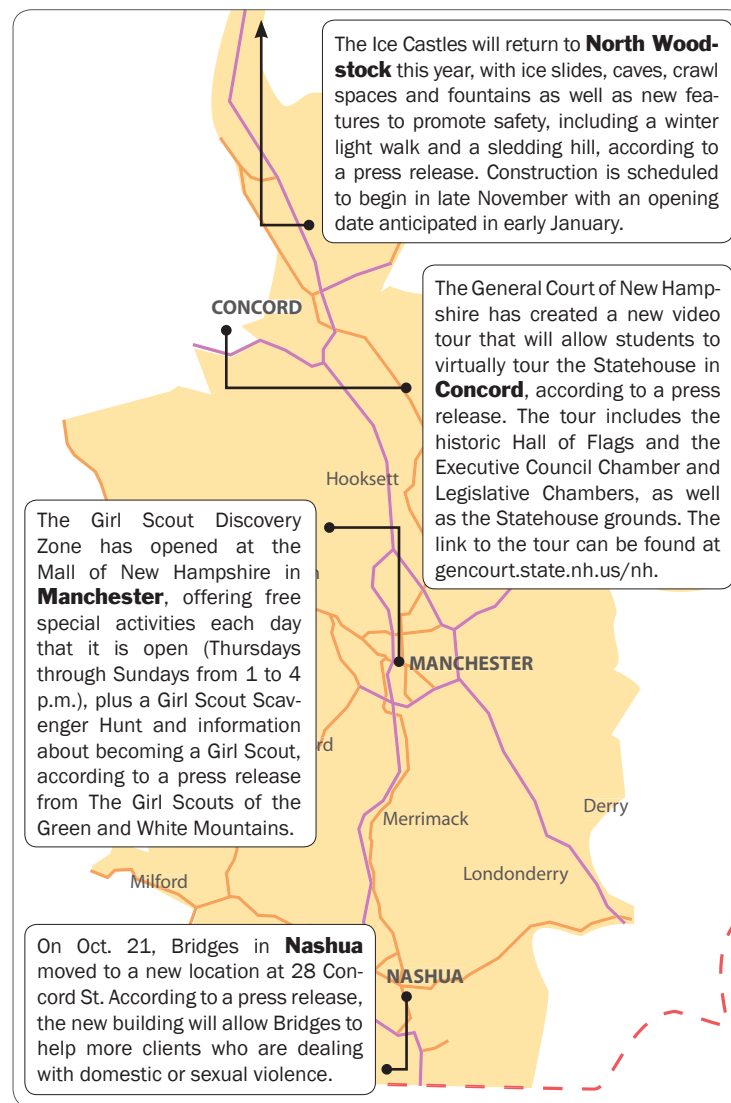
On Nov. 8, the Union Leader reported that people have been ordered to leave the homeless encampments on either side of the Hillsborough County Superior Court by Nov. 16 or they will face penalties, and any personal items remaining on the property will be disposed of. The signs that have been posted say camping is not allowed on the property; the Union Leader reported that about 26 tents were set up at the two encampments as of Sunday night. Sununu told the Union Leader that a commission would be "great," but that he would want one that addressed all of the issues related to homelessness, like mental health, addiction, abuse and neglect and poverty.

Better food

After five weeks of receiving low-quality foods as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm to Trunk program, the New Hampshire Food Bank now has a new supplier, according to WMUR. New Hampshire's congressional delegation recently sent a letter to the USDA citing concerns about the product that was being supplied by Delaware-based Vincent Farms. The delegation requested an investigation, and while Food Bank Director Eileen Liponis told WMUR that she doesn't know what will come of that, "word has gotten out that we were not happy, and this next distributor that has gotten the award is making sure they don't get themselves in the same pickle," she said.

SUD relief

More than 20 organizations across the state that provide services to people affected by substance use disorder have received CARES Act funding, awarded by



Granite United Way, which was chosen by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to receive \$750,000 in funding, according to a press release. Granite United Way worked with United Ways throughout the state to identify organizations that will use the funding for people with substance use disorder who are struggling even more during the pandemic. Funding will cover basic needs like food, clothing, transportation and housing. "This has been a great opportunity for all of our United Ways to work together and with our community partners to ensure this funding gets to those who need it the most," Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way, said in the release. "This support will really help our organization continue to help people struggling with addiction," said Steve Gadomski of Teen Challenge in Manchester, one of the organizations that received the funding. The funding will run through Dec. 30, according to the release.

Busy day

The state's Attorney General's Office, which supports and assists election officials, announced on Monday the results of its Election Day Operations, calling it a successful election that was "the result of extraordinary efforts of thousands of local election officials." More than 100 attorneys, investigators and staff from the Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State's Office and other state agencies covered 305 of New Hampshire's 307 polling places, with each inspector completing a detailed checklist and working with local election officials to resolve any issues, according to a press release. More than 275 phone calls were made to the Attorney General's Election Hotline, and "the majority of issues were resolved on Tuesday by working directly with local election officials." Comparatively, 302 out of 309 polling places were inspected in the 2018 General Election and 185 unique calls were received. In the 2016 general election, only 76 percent of polling locations were inspected, according to the release. 🗳️

Covid-19 update	As of November 2	As of November 9
Total cases statewide	11,320	12,699
Total current infections statewide	1,407	2,057
Total deaths statewide	483	489
New cases	923 (Oct. 27 to Nov. 2)	1,379 (Nov. 3 to Nov. 9)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	425	576
Current infections: Merrimack County	192	227
Current infections: Rockingham County	360	497

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services



Great NH Restaurants Installs NASA Grade Air Purifiers In All Locations

An Abundance of Precautionary Measures

T-BONES, CJ's & Copper Door restaurants are now all fully equipped with state of the art, NASA grade air purification systems as an additional step to further protect guests from airborne and surface viruses and bacteria, including COVID-19.

"With the outdoor dining season coming to a close and some guests still being cautious of indoor dining, we wanted to provide an abundance of precautionary measures to ensure the safest environment for our many loyal guests," says Tom Boucher, CEO of Great NH Restaurants. The restaurant group has put dozens of additional safety protocols into place since the beginning of the pandemic. In addition, they commissioned Saint Anselm College Survey Center to conduct a poll to give a true idea of consumer attitudes about dining during the COVID pandemic; to ensure that practices and precautions being taken were aligned with consumers expectations for safe and comfortable dining experiences. The results motivated the company to seek out state-of-the-art air purification systems. After much research, Great NH Restaurants overwhelmingly chose Aqualite US and has since installed a system in every location, including their administrative office.

The Aqualite US ActivePure® air cleaning technology is proven to safely remove 99.97% of airborne viruses as small as 0.1 micron, including COVID-19.

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"Our primary goal at Great NH Restaurants has always been to deliver a great dining experience and peerless value to our customers. The COVID-19 pandemic has added an unexpected element to how we operate, but by continually listening and adjusting, we are determined to provide our customers the safest dining experience possible," states Tom Boucher, CEO at Great NH Restaurants.

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- ▶ **Nightly Deep Cleaning**



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At the movies

How locally-owned movie theaters are weathering 2020

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

With Covid-related capacity restrictions and a scarcity of big new movie releases, movie theaters are struggling to cover their operating costs and some haven't been able to open at all.

Among the big chains, area Regal theaters are temporarily closed and the AMC theater in Londonderry is mostly open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as is the Cinemark in Salem, according to their websites. Likewise, locally-owned movie theaters have worked to find ways to adapt to regulations and uncertain movie release schedules.

Limited capacity, limited releases

One of the biggest challenges movie theaters have faced this year is the shortage of new movies being released.

"Whenever we think [a movie] is coming out, we get news that the studio has pushed the release date out," said Mike Mannelta, marketing manager for Chunky's Cinema Pubs, whose screening rooms offer chairs arranged at tables and food and bar menus, with locations in Nashua, Manchester and Pelham. "It's like we're chasing a carrot that just keeps moving on us."

Some studios are bypassing theaters altogether and distributing the new films straight to home video, streaming platforms and on-demand services.

"It's really hard to get people engaged [with movie theaters] when they have Netflix and HBO and so many different options," said Angie Lane, executive director of Red River Theatres in Concord, which is a non-profit cinema with a mission to highlight independent films. "And I don't blame them. It's definitely easier right now to be like, 'I'll just find something to watch on Netflix.'"

Theaters may be able to get a hold of some new indie, local or foreign films or classic movies, but those alone don't attract enough moviegoers for the theaters to make a profit or, in many cases, even break even with what they have to pay in licensing and operation costs in order to show the movie.

"A lot of these [indie] titles are great films, but they don't have a great marketing budget," Lane said, "and it takes a certain attitude that a lot of people don't have to say, 'I've never heard of this and have no idea what it's about; I'm going to watch it.'"

"We need the blockbusters; the movies from Disney and all those big studios are the meat of our business," Mannelta said. "Not having those is what's really, really hurting us right now."

But, as Wilton Town Hall Theatre owner Dennis Markaverich can attest, even first-run movies with big-name actors aren't a surefire antidote to moviegoers' reluctance to go out, especially to a small, intimate theater. When the theater reopened with new releases *Irresistible*

and *Emma* in July, it was, Markaverich said, "a disaster."

"They were first-run movies, one with Steve Carell in it, and guess what? They did terrible," he said. "The film companies still wanted their regular percentage, which is high, and we weren't even making the minimum. People weren't even coming inside. It was like shoveling money into the boilers of the Titanic."

If and when more moviegoers feel comfortable going to the theaters again, the state's regulations for theaters, which currently call for a 50-percent reduction in capacity, may still make it difficult for theaters to cover their operating costs.

"Our largest theater can normally hold 150 people, so realistically, right now, with social distancing, we could sell maybe 50 tickets for that one, and maybe 25 tickets for our other theater, which can normally hold 100 people, and that's at best," Lane said, "and if we can't sell enough tickets to cover the cost of opening the theater, our hands are tied. We can't risk our financial future by trying to stay open. We have to be responsible."

Bringing back the classics

Local theaters have taken a variety of approaches to coping with the challenges posed by Covid-19.

It's been easier for some than others. Drive-in theaters were among the first entertainment venues permitted to reopen in New Hampshire on May 11, which was great news for the Milford Drive-In Theater, which has two screens.

"I was ecstatic that the governor's office recognized that we would be able to [operate safely] and allowed us to open back up so quickly," said Barry Scharmatt, one of the family owners.

The Milford Drive-In Theater opened that same weekend with double features of *Onward* and *The Call of the Wild* on one screen and *The Invisible Man* and *The Hunt* on the second screen, new releases from February and March that were in the middle of their run when theaters were ordered to close. Tickets sold out fast for all showings. The drive-in continued throughout the summer and fall with a wide range of double features, including family-friendly favorites like *Shrek* and *Despicable Me*, horror duos like *It* and *It Chapter Two* and *The Conjuring* and *The Conjuring 2*, comedy pairs like *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *The Big Lebowski*, and a "Christmas in July" weekend with titles like *Elf*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

"Covid never actually hurt us. The turnout this season was steady and fantastic from the get-go," Scharmatt said. "People wanted to get out of the house and do something, and we were able to provide a safe place for them to do that, so things worked out well for us."



Elf

Milford Drive-In has closed for the season and will reopen in the spring, according to its website.

When indoor theaters got the green light on June 30, Chunky's opened its doors right away with screenings of *Jurassic Park*, *Ghostbusters* and *The Goonies*. It continued with themed events like "Shark Week" in August, which featured shark-centric movies like *Jaws*, *Open Water* and *Shark Tales*; a screening of *Mean Girls* on Oct. 3 (fans know it as "Mean Girls Day"); and Halloween classics like *Hocus Pocus*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Beetlejuice*. They also brought back some popular flicks from the last few years, such as *The Greatest Showman* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

But screenings of older movies, even if well-attended, bring in nowhere near the amount of revenue that new blockbusters do, Mannelta said. In an effort to compensate for that loss, Chunky's has been hosting other kinds of entertainment, including live comedy, music, magic and variety shows, trivia, 21+ events sponsored by an alcoholic beverage brand, a celebrity chef dinner series, paint nites, special promotions for kids and more and is, according to Mannelta, "constantly coming up with new, creative events to add."

"If we just relied on the classic movie showings, we would be really struggling," he said. "We're still down significantly [in revenue] from last year, but all these special events we're doing have been helping a lot with allowing us to continue [operating]."

Regional chain Cinemagic, which has theaters locally in Merrimack, Hooksett and Portsmouth, opened in New Hampshire in August with a similar mix of classic blockbusters as well as the new movies that came out in late summer, like *The New Mutants* and the Christopher Nolan directed *Tenet*. Local Cinemagic theaters' current line-up of films includes new releases such *The War with Grandpa* featuring Robert De Niro, *Honest Thief* with Liam Neeson and other films with lower profiles than the big franchise films that have been delayed until 2021.

At Wilton Town Hall Theatre, after seeing the negligible turnout for the two first-run titles that he showed after reopening, Markaverich said he is resigned to showing only classic movies for the foreseeable future. The theater continues to run its Saturday classic films series each week and has been increasing the frequency of its well-attended silent film series, which features live music by silent film accompanist (and Hippo co-founder and associate publisher) Jeff Rapsis, from once a month to several times a month. Markaverich said he still looks forward to "going back into the movie business," he said, "meaning the *real* movie business, being open seven nights a week with regular commercial films," but he's not going to take that step lightly.

"I already tried, and that act didn't fly, so why would I try again when I know I'm just going to end up back in that same boat?" he said. "That's why I'm waiting until I see other [similar theaters] start to turn over some good figures and get some steady flow. That doesn't seem to be happening, but hopefully someday it does."

Red River and O'Neil Cinemas in Epping have yet to reopen to the public. Red River has been subsisting on federal relief as it waits for "the safety and the financial viability" to reopen, Lane said, adding that the theater is preparing to attempt "a very limited reopening" before the end of the year.

"The funds have allowed us to breathe a little," she said. "They've given us a bit of a cushion so that we can take the time to survey people ... and look at every possible scenario ... and really think about what our reopening is going to look like before we do it."

In April, Red River launched its "virtual cinema," inviting moviegoers to support the theater by purchasing tickets for new independent films, to be streamed from home.

"It's not really enough to fund us, but we see it more as an engagement opportunity," Lane said. "We feel that it's important for us, as part of what we do as a nonprofit, to be out there in the community in some way. We want to make sure that we're always meeting our mission, even when we're not open or not making any money."

Loni Dirksen, marketing manager for O'Neil Cinemas, said the theater is hoping to reopen next year but will not do so under the current circumstances for as long as they persist.

"We're waiting for Covid numbers to improve, for restrictions [enforced by the state] to be lifted, and for new movies to start being released again," Dirksen said, adding that O'Neil has no interest in reopening only to show classic movies.

Though their theaters were closed, O'Neil and Red River were, however, able to host some outdoor events during the summer. O'Neil had four drive-in showings of classic movies like *Jurassic Park* and *Back to the Future*, which

Dirksen said “were pretty popular.” Red River partnered with Concord Parks and Rec for an outdoor showing of *Toy Story*, and with Canterbury Shaker Village for an outdoor showing of *Casablanca*. Lane said Red River may even hold another outdoor movie during the winter.

“Sometimes early December can be a little warmer, so we’re trying to see if that would be feasible and are looking into maybe getting some heaters,” she said.

Want a private screening room?

Another way that many local theaters are supplementing their income is by renting out their spaces as venues for private events for a reduced price. Depending on the theater, renters may be able to show their own DVD or Blu-ray disc or play their own video games on the big screen, and some theaters will provide concessions for the events.

Chunky’s and the Wilton Town Hall Theatre have been doing the rentals for months with a lot of success, according to theater representatives. It’s the main source of income (aside from federal relief funds) for O’Neil Cinemas and for Red River, which just started offering the rentals this week, their representatives said.

Dirksen said the rentals at O’Neil Cinemas have been popular for holiday get-togethers, business meetings, birthday parties and the like.

“It gives people a chance to get out and do something enjoyable,” she said, “and they can feel safe knowing that they’re coming into a clean environment that’s been disinfected just



Jaws

for them, and that all the people there are people from their own group who they’ve been socially distancing with.”

Pandemic protocols

In addition to limiting their capacity to 50 percent as mandated by the state, theaters have implemented a number of different protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and ensure a safe environment for moviegoers.

Standard procedures at all theaters include required mask-wearing for theater staff and patrons, socially distanced seating arrangements and frequent sanitizing of common areas.

“I was adamant about people wearing masks while outside their cars,” Scharmatt said of the

Milford Drive-in. “If someone came in without a mask, they’d have to find one or leave — no ‘ifs,’ ‘ands’ or ‘buts’ about it.”

Rules about food and concessions vary from theater to theater. Chunky’s, for example, is continuing to offer a scaled-back selection of its pub fare, whereas Red River, when it reopens, will not offer concessions.

“We want people to be able to keep their masks [on] at all times,” Lane said.

Some theaters have taken other kinds of precautions as well. Both Chunky’s and the Drive-in (when it was open) conduct temperature checks with every staff member before every shift, and Red River has updated its air filtration system and is currently working on creating a contactless system for buying tickets in preparation for its reopening.

Dirksen said the actions taken by theaters across the country have been “very effective” so far.

“We recently learned that, as of now, there have been zero cases of Covid-19 connected to a movie theater,” she said. “That’s really great news for us.”

How patrons can help

Support from moviegoers is essential to the survival of movie theaters now more than ever, Lane said.

Theater staff said that one of the best ways to support local theaters is to consider becoming a member if the theater has a membership program, which often gives dues to the theater and

gives patrons perks such as reduced admission pricing, guest passes, complimentary popcorn, invitations to members-only events and more.

Some local movie theaters have hosted fundraising events. O’Neil, for example, had a drive-thru popcorn and candy sale in October, and Dirksen said the theater may have another one in the future.

Gift cards are another option, Dirksen said, and can be a big help to theaters that still aren’t open and able to sell tickets.

“We will be opening again, and when we do, those gift cards will be good to use,” she said.

Lane at Red Rivers says donations of even \$5 or \$10 helps.

“We understand that a lot of people are out of work and struggling and it’s hard to give right now, but whatever they can give is enough,” she said. “Five dollars doesn’t seem like a lot, but if everybody gave that, it adds up.”

Though the CARES Act did provide some loans for small movie theaters, it simply wasn’t enough, Dirksen said, especially for theaters that are still closed.

“Some of us have been closed for six-plus months now and are still not getting any income,” she said.

By encouraging patrons to reach out to local congresspeople to advocate for them and “raise awareness ... about how much independent theaters are hurting right now,” Dirksen said, theaters are hoping that Congress will be compelled to provide them with additional relief funding to help them stay afloat. 🙏



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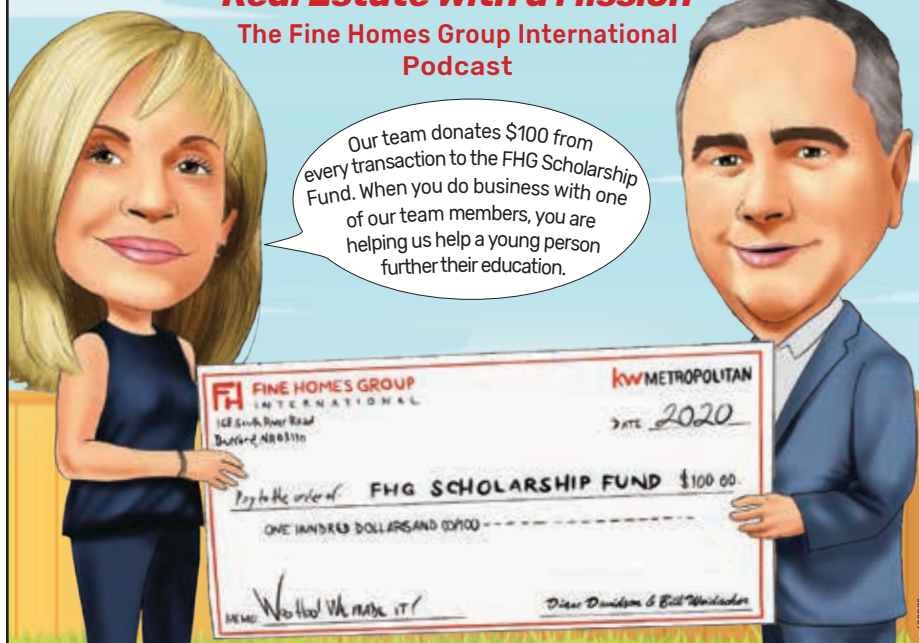
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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

Celts and Pats fixes ahead?



As we start today the Patriots are fighting through a rugged start where if they have somehow lost to the winless Jets by the time you see this, it's going to get ugly around here. Free agency is about to start in baseball with the Red Sox in need of a major talent infusion. The Celtics are holding three first-round picks for now with the NBA draft 10 days away amid an accelerated time frame to reshape the team with training camp less than six weeks after the season ended. Thus there are a lot of local and national sports stories colliding in ways we've never seen because the world order has been so upended. So here are some thoughts on a wide range of them.

After you-know-who left and the team had little room under the salary cap to improve, I said the Patriots should look at the post-Brady era as an 18-month remodeling period focused on seeing which of the young guys, including **Jarrett Stidham**, can and can't play over contending. Because that would establish where they need to spend their pre-pandemic \$100 million free agent money next spring to put a contender back on the field in 2021. And with the **Cam Newton** audition sputtering, they should do that for the rest of the year.

I was OK with **Tom Brady** leaving because I thought he'd continue the tick down that started last year. Didn't expect **Willie Mays** on the warning track, more like **Joe Montana** in Kansas City. But his 20 TD passes after eight games is a lot better than that. But oddly in the four games I've seen him play, against New Orleans twice, Chicago and the G-Men, he's looked mortal at best to downright awful on Sunday against the Saints. So I don't know if I was right or wrong. But maybe the tell is his inconsistency, which was never an issue until last year.

The rumor mill has **Gordon Hayward** opting out of his contract. If that's true, where he goes will tell you where his head is at, as the only teams with big-bucks cap space — Atlanta, New York, Detroit and Charlotte — are terrible. Only Atlanta has a chance to improve quickly, so if he goes to any of those places it's about a payday, not winning. Or paying back the team that stuck with him during his dark time, the uneven next season that ended with being awful in the playoff vs. Milwaukee.

If I could wave a magic wand here's what I'd do: get rebuilding Indiana to give the hometown hero a contract extension as part of a deal sending Hayward and the C's three first-round picks for **Domantas Sabonis** and **Malcolm Brogdon**. They'd lose a little of his play-making/ball movement game and three-point shooting. But they'd get bigger and tougher to help **Daniel Theis** on the boards, the kind of real point guard they need and two guys tied

up contractually longer than Hayward. And if **Danny** could somehow work Oak City free agent scorer **Danilo Gallinari** into that deal it would be a home run.

Am I the only one who thinks the oversized, bejeweled rings given to Super Bowl winners these days look ridiculously gaudy and ostentatious?

I get why people toward the end of their life auction off memorabilia from their careers. Which is what legendary Dodgers broadcaster **Vin Scully** just did to the tune of \$2 million. But if he was going to sell any of the six World Series rings from being with the Dodgers in Brooklyn and L.A., how did he choose the one from 1955? After years of futility and failure, especially to the Yankees, to whom they'd lost five World Series before then, that was Brooklyn's 2004 and would seem to be the most cherished.

Loved **Pete Rose's** reasoning for why he should be reinstated to baseball, because none of the players in the Houston sign-stealing scandal were punished. By the way, ahh, Pete, while they just got re-hired, **AJ Hinch** and **Alex Cora** both got fired as managers in Houston and Boston for doing it. You were betting on games when you were the Reds manager, not as a player. So the comparison is not valid. Though it works better as an argument for your Hall ineligibility, because that was done after the playing career ended and thus a separate act. Of course he denied he did it until he needed to juice sales for a new book. So no sympathy here for a dishonest guy getting what he earned.

I'm starting to think the The Washington Football Team should permanently keep their current name. It has a one-of-a-kind distinctive ring to it that other pedestrian name changes like the Wizards or River Rats will never have. And while it's too bad the shorthand initials didn't line up instead to be WTF to add a comic and prophetic touch to their plight during the Dan The Fan era, I can see them using "the WFT's" as the nickname and logo. Sounds nuts, I know, but I'm all in.

Just saw the movie **The Express** about the great and tragic Syracuse running back **Ernie Davis**. I know, I'm a little late since it came out in 2008. But I don't usually rush to see sports biopics because they make up so much stuff, as they did here as well. But it was pretty good. Though I must admit I didn't really know about the racially charged brawl instigated by the Texas football team during the 1959 Cotton Bowl. In part because UT coach **Darrell Royal** pretty much sailed through the racially charged 1960s with his reputation intact. But seeing it made me think he may not have been so squeaky clean and that his being the coach of the last team to win a national championship (1969) without having any black players was more than a coincidence.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

New threat from scammers

There's a new twist on the "grandparent scam," according to an alert sent out by the state Attorney General's Office, which wants New Hampshire residents to be aware of the "new and concerning tactics." In a typical grandparent scam, the scammer calls or emails a victim and pretends to be one of the victim's relatives, then claims to be in trouble with the law, or the scammer might claim to be a member of law enforcement who has arrested the victim's relative. Scammers often tell the victim they are under a "legal gag order" to not speak about the incident, according to the release. Previously, the scammers would ask victims to wire money to a bank account or transfer money electronically; now, the scammers are trying to arrange in-person pickups of either money or other valuable items from the victim's home. "This represents a new and dangerous threat to New Hampshire residents," the release says.

Score: -1

Comment: *The Attorney General's Office said in the alert that law enforcement officials will never ask for money over the phone or via email and will never ask for in-person payments of cash or other valuables in exchange for a relative's release. The office suggests hanging up and contacting your local police department.*

Torch Run opens to all

The 2020 version of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Hampshire, which is usually held in the summer, will be a virtual event that, for the first time, will be open to non-law enforcement personnel, according to a press release. Typically, the run is made up of members of New Hampshire law enforcement running with the Flame of Hope in 28 different "legs" of a route that crisscrosses the Granite State, and it usually happens in conjunction with the Special Olympics New Hampshire State Summer Games. This year, anyone who wants to support the event can buy a "Braver Together" T-shirt or hat for \$30 at sonh.org, where they will be asked to pledge the number of miles they intend to run or walk between Nov. 26 and Dec. 6.

Score: +1

Comment: *Participants are asked to wear their "Braver Together" shirt or hat while they run or walk, and Special Olympics New Hampshire plans to post Torch Run photos and videos on its website and social media, according to the release.*

Skating is on!

Though all ice rinks in the state were forced to close for two weeks in October due to Covid-19 concerns, several local rinks have reopened and are offering public skating, with restrictions. At Everett Arena in Concord, public skating hours are Monday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tri-Town Ice Arena in Hooksett is now offering limited public skating sessions, with various times available each week. In Manchester, JFK Memorial Coliseum offers public skating on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. And West Side Ice Arena offers hourly private rentals.

Score: +1

Comment: *All facilities have safety guidelines in place, and availability is subject to change; visit their websites for the most up-to-date information.*

NH supports veteran-owned businesses

A national analysis by Zippia, a resource site for job seekers, has found that New Hampshire is the most supportive state in the country for veteran-owned businesses. The data came from the U.S. Government's Small Business Administration and included the number of veteran-owned businesses per capita and the percentage of state sales that go toward these businesses. In New Hampshire, 6 percent of state sales go toward veterans, which is the highest percentage in the country, and 12 percent of all businesses in the state are owned by veterans.

Score: +1

Comment: *The other top spots went to South Carolina at No. 2 and Mississippi at No. 3, and the states that were ranked least friendly for veteran-owned businesses were New Jersey at 49 and New York at 50.*

QOL score: 67

Net change: +2

QOL this week: 69

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Making a splash

Wimpy Kid author visits Concord and Exeter



Jeff Kinney. Photo by Filip Wollak.

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Jeff Kinney, bestselling author of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, is partnering with local bookstores to host two “Drive-Thru Pool Parties” in New Hampshire to celebrate the series’ 15th title, *The Deep End*, which was released Oct. 27. Additionally, he’ll be paying a special visit to one of his biggest fans, Cam, a sixth-grader at Rundlett Middle School in Concord. Kinney talked about the new book and tour.

What is the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series about?

Diary of a Wimpy Kid follows the trials and tribulations of a middle school weakling named Greg Heffley. The series is a little bit different from ordinary books because each book is a mix of text or handwritten text and cartoon drawings.

And the new book?

The new book, which is called *The Deep End*, starts off with the family in quaran-

tine — not Covid-19-related quarantine, but quarantine nonetheless, because they’re having home renovations done at their house, and they’re living in the grandmother’s basement. Then, the family gets their hands on an RV and takes off for an epic camping trip.

Is *Wimpy Kid* autobiographical?

The books are semi-autobiographical. They often start off with real-life stories, and then those stories get really exaggerated and changed for comic effect. I would say that the DNA of my childhood is in these stories, even if the stories aren’t exactly true.

Did you ever think the series would be so popular?

No, I never thought that this would happen. I had hopes that the books would get published and hopes that they would take off, but I never had any expectations. Just a few minutes ago, I found out that the book is the No. 1 book in the country, so that’s really cool.

What’s going on at the pool parties?

They’re drive-through events geared for a Covid world. We feel that they’re really safe for kids. The kids and their families stay in cars with masks. I hand kids their books on a six-foot pool skimmer pole. There are some activities, like the kids are going to get to drive through a car wash-type tunnel that feels like you’re at the bottom of a swimming pool. At the end, I hit their car with a water balloon, and there’s music and a kind of happy atmosphere to it.

And your visit with your fan, Cam?

We’ve asked bookstores to identify fans of the series who might like to have some fun, and we’ve been visiting their homes,

and we do a water balloon toss and some other activities. The grand finale is that we fire off a water balloon launcher that shoots water balloons like 100 yards. It’s just an unusual and fun and special experience. It’s been really fun for us. I’m traveling with a team of three, and these events tend to be our favorite part of the day.

What is it like for you, meeting young fans?

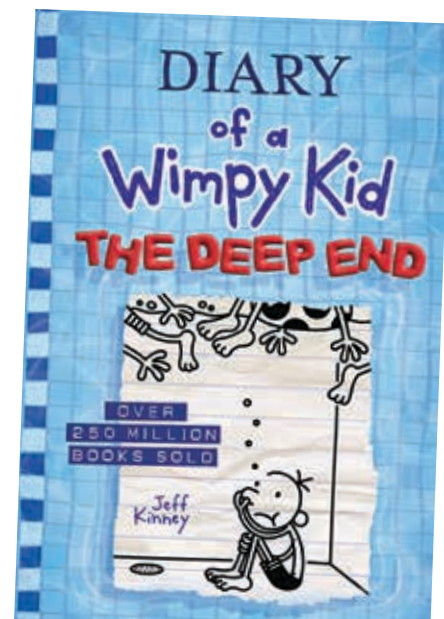
It’s really special when there’s a kid who seems especially excited to meet me, especially during this time when kids don’t have a lot to look forward to. You can see that that connection is really important. It’s energizing for the kids, and it’s energizing for me, as well. ... I’m 15 books in, so when I started *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in 1998, of course these kids weren’t born, and their parents probably hadn’t even met yet, so it’s been really cool to get waves of new fans and meet generations of new fans.

Did you always want to be a children’s author?

I didn’t know. I wanted to be a newspaper cartoonist, and I sort of fell into this. When I wrote [the first book] *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, it took me eight years. ... I had one big book which was 1,300 pages long ... and the whole time, I was thinking I was writing for an audience of adult comic-lovers. I wasn’t thinking about kids at all. When my publisher got their hands on the book that I wrote, they said that they saw it as a children’s series, and that was a surprise to me. ... It really took me a while to adjust to this idea that I was writing for kids and that there would be multiple books.

Do you have kids of your own?

I do. I have a 17-year-old and a 15-year-old, both boys.



Did they inspire any of your *Wimpy Kid* stories?

Every so often they’ll give me an idea. ... I think mostly, having had kids has given me another crack at childhood. It’s given me a chance to see childhood again, and that’s been really fun to experience both as a parent and as a writer.

What are your future plans for the series?

I’d like to get to at least book No. 20. We’re also working on an animation now for Disney+. Hopefully these books will reach a whole new generation of readers in the next few years. 🐸

The *Deep End* Pool Parties with Jeff Kinney

- Thursday, Nov. 12, 5 to 7 p.m. at Lincoln Street Elementary School, 25 Lincoln St., Exeter. Hosted by Water Street Bookstore. Visit waterstreetbooks.com.
- Friday, Nov. 13, 5 to 7 p.m. at Rundlett Middle School, 144 South St., Concord. Hosted by Gibson’s Bookstore. Visit andgibsonsbookstore.com.

Tickets cost \$14.99 and must be purchased in advance through Eventbrite.

Art

Exhibits

• **“MANCHESTER’S URBAN PONDS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: A CELEBRATION OF THE MANCHESTER URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY”** Through its cleanup efforts, the Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program has helped restore the city’s ponds to their historic uses. The exhibit provides a look at the history of some of those ponds, including Crystal Lake, Dorrs Pond, Maxwell Pond, Nutts Pond, Pine Island Pond and Stevens Pond. State Theater Gallery at Millyard Museum,

200 Bedford St., Manchester. On view now through Nov. 28. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors age 62 and up and college students, \$4 for youth ages 12 through 18 and is free for kids under age 12. Call 622-7531 or visit manchesterhistoric.org/millyard-museum.

• **“MOMENTS IN NATURE”** The New Hampshire Art Association presents oil paintings by BJ Eckardt. Concord Chamber of Commerce Gallery, 49 S. Main St., Concord. On display now through Dec. 17. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **“UNSEEN LIGHT”** The New Hampshire Art Association presents infrared photography by Mark Giuliucci. 2 Pillsbury St., Concord. On display now through Dec. 17. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **“AN EXTRAPOLATION OF CLOSE OBSERVATION”** The New Hampshire Art Association presents prints and paintings by Kate Higley. 2 Pillsbury St., Concord. On display now through Dec. 17. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **“BIG GIFTS IN SMALL PACKAGES”** Artwork priced under \$100. Presented by the Seacoast Artist Association. On

display now through Dec. 26. 130 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Visit seacoastartist.org or call 778-8856.

• **“SMALL WORKS - BIG IMPACT”** Creative Ventures Gallery’s annual holiday exhibit featuring small works of art in various media, priced affordably for gift buying. Virtual. On display now through Dec. 31. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

• **“THREADS: A COMMUNITY QUILT FOR 2020”** A Portsmouth Historical Society exhibit. Discover Portsmouth, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth. On view Nov. 20

through Dec. 22. Visit portsmouth-history.org or call 436-8433.

Theater

Shows

• **“THE BRITISH ROCK EXPERIENCE”** The Palace Theatre presents. 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Through Nov. 14, with showtimes on Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 to \$46 for adults, \$30 for seniors age 60 and up and veterans and \$25 for children. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **MARY AND ME** Glass Dove Productions presents. Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270

Loudon Road, Concord). Nov. 13 through Nov. 22, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$19 for seniors and students and should be reserved in advance. Visit hatbox-nh.com or call 715-2315.

Classical

Events

• **WILD SYMPHONY** The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra will perform the debut classical work by *The Da Vinci Code* author Dan Brown. The Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Sun., Nov. 15, 2 p.m. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Decades of art:** The New Hampshire Art Association is celebrating its 80th year with a virtual silent art auction fundraiser and anniversary celebration on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6 to 7 p.m. The event will include a short presentation highlighting the history of NHAA and some of its most prominent members over the years. Nearly 100 pieces of art from NHAA's archives and current members will be up for auction, with bidding open through Friday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. The artwork will be viewable online and in person at the NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth) during gallery hours. "[The event] is more than a fundraiser," NHAA gallery manager MaryAnn DePolo said in a press release. "It is an extensive showcase of artwork ... within an organization dedicated to the idea of supporting the visual arts." NHAA was founded in 1940 to provide opportunities for New England artists to exhibit and sell their artwork locally throughout the year. The oldest statewide artist association in the state, it has grown from 50 members in its first year to 275 members today, representing a variety of media, including painting, photography, printmaking, sculpting and more. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **The Nutcracker is here:** It's officially *Nutcracker* season as Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater presents the holiday classic at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) with showtimes on Thursday, Nov. 19, and Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, at noon and 4:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 to \$46 for adults and \$25 for children. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **Quilted stories:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) has extended its exhibition "Richard Haynes: Whispering Quilts," which was originally scheduled to close this month, through Jan. 4. The exhibit features a series of drawings by Portsmouth artist Richard Haynes, inspired by traditional quilting patterns



"Passing Glance," watercolor on paper by Bill Childs, 1962, up for auction through the New Hampshire Art Association. Courtesy photo.

that tells the story of an enslaved family's dangerous journey along the Underground Railroad from a southern plantation to freedom in Canada. "This enslaved family has traveled to many states and communities in the past seven years, seeking freedom and a place to call home," Haynes said in a press release from the museum. "I am so pleased and proud that this family can call New Hampshire and the Currier Museum their official home. Free at last." Haynes will be at the museum on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., to sign copies of a portfolio edition based on the exhibit (available for purchase in the museum gift shop). Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and free for children under age 13. Reserve in advance online. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **Mathematical drama:** The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth) presents *Proof* Nov. 13 through Nov. 22, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Auburn follows 25-year-old Catherine, the daughter of a brilliant but mentally unstable mathematician and professor who has undoubtedly inherited her father's mathematical genius but fears that she has also inherited his mental illness. In the wake of his death she must deal with the arrival of her estranged sister and one of her father's former students, who discovers a groundbreaking mathematical proof in her father's office. Catherine must prove the proof's authenticity and authorship while battling her own personal demons. Tickets cost \$24 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123. — Angie Sykeny

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Forcing spring bulbs

Tips for getting them to bloom indoors

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

At this point, the garden is put to bed — or if I've neglected to do something, it probably won't happen until spring. But this is a good time to force bulbs for early spring blooming indoors.

To force bulbs means preparing them in such a way as to force them to bloom early indoors, before they would bloom outdoors. Daffodils or crocus, for example, can be made to bloom by mid-February indoors, and tulips in March.

On a raw day recently I planted 20 "Tete-a-Tete" daffodils in pots. Each of these will produce one or more brilliant yellow blossoms just when I'm sick of winter, and renew my faith that spring is on the way. Bulbs have everything they need in order to bloom. All we have to do is offer a suitable place to spend the winter. Here is what I did:

First, I selected nice deep pots for planting. In the soil outside, daffodils are planted with six inches of soil over their pointy little noses. But in a pot, three inches is fine. I selected pots that were five or six inches deep, and placed three inches of potting soil in each. It's fine to place the bulbs

close together, just a couple of inches apart.

The potting soil I used was already damp, but after the bulbs were covered and ready for their winter sleep, I watered lightly. I will check them from time to time throughout the winter to make sure the soil does not dry out. The bulbs need moisture to develop roots and prepare to bloom. But be moderate: A soggy soil mix can rot roots.

I have a cold basement that I keep lightly heated to avoid freezing temperatures — my old house is set on a hill, and the basement is above ground in the back of the house where I keep my bulbs. The ideal temperature for forcing bulbs is around 40 degrees for good root development. You can begin the process by leaving your pots outdoors until real cold weather is upon us. Cover the pots with leaves to minimize temperature fluctuations.

If you have a warm basement, you can try placing pots in an unheated garage or mudroom, or perhaps in the bulkhead if you have one. Everything I have read says to keep the pots in a dark place, though I think that only matters once the bulbs have started to send up leaves or buds. The bulbs can't know about light while covered with soil. So put the pots in a cardboard box if you have them in a garage with windows.

How long do bulbs need to stay dormant? The

little bulbs — crocus, snowdrops and such — only need eight to 10 weeks, daffodils need 12 weeks, and tulips need 16 weeks. I always place a plant tag in the pot with the date I started the process. And tulips will not bloom if you bring them into the warmth of the house before March.

Beware of mice and squirrels! Most old houses harbor at least a few mice. Once the mice got into my pots and ate all the tulip bulbs! Daffodils are mildly poisonous, so rodents will not bother them, and I've never had trouble with mice eating any alliums, which are good for forcing, too. I've had mice dig up bulbs, only to find they were daffodils and leave them on top of the pots, those rascals.

One way to know if your bulbs are ready is to look for roots poking out through the drainage holes of the pots. If you have daffodils that you planted 12 weeks ago but have not sent out any roots, they may be ready, but it would be safer to wait another week or two. Once you bring your bulbs up into the house it will take two to four weeks more for them to bloom. Place the pot on a south or east windowsill and check daily. Water if the soil surface feels dry.

Will the bulbs bloom again next year? Tulips probably will not ever bloom again for you, even if you plant them outdoors in the spring. Daffodils can bloom again, but might take a couple of years to rebuild their energy enough to bloom.

Paperwhites are bulbs that can be forced without soil and an extended dormant cold period. These beauties are in the daffodil family and are sold for forcing in a bowl of gravel and water on



Paperwhites are easy to force in pebbles and water. Courtesy photo.

a sunny windowsill. Most have a very strong fragrance, though not everyone likes it.

Select a deep bowl without a drainage hole. Place a one- to two-inch layer of gravel or small stones in the bottom, then place your paperwhites on it, shoulder to shoulder. Add water to the bowl until it just kisses the bottom of the bulbs. You don't want water so deep the bulbs are wet; it is just for the roots that will grow.

Next add more stones or gravel up around the bulbs. This will help to keep your flower stems from tipping over. Another way you can do is to keep stems short by giving them some gin! Start them in water, and after a week drain the water, and add a mixture of five parts water to one part gin. That will stunt the growth. Paperwhites started by the third week of November should bloom by Christmas. They will never bloom again, so put them in the compost after blooming.

Henry can be reached by email at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or at P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 📧



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Meet *Toy Story's* Woody and Jessie during a lunch or dinner viewing party at Chunky's, with screenings on Saturday, Nov. 14, at noon at Chunky's in Pelham (150 Bridge St.) and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. at Chunky's in Nashua (151 Coliseum Ave.). Woody and Jessie will be in the theaters an hour before screening times to lead the kids in games and socially distant dance parties. Tickets cost \$6.99 and can be purchased at chunkys.com.

Make music

Kids in grades 6 through 12 can create music that will explore their feelings and help them express their emotions during a **free online rap music class** hosted by the Manchester Community Music School. The class is designed to allow students to work together

to come up with original music that helps them navigate the effects of the pandemic. The class is free via Zoom and will run on Wednesdays for four weeks: Nov. 11, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. Students can register for one of two class times on those dates, either 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Call 644-4548 or visit mcmusicschool.org.

Family field trip

While it's still not too chilly, take the kids to **America's Stonehenge** (105 Haverhill Road, Salem, 893-8300, stonehengeusa.com), a 4,000-year-old stone construction that was built by ancient people as an astronomical calendar to determine solar and lunar events of the year. Take a tour (mostly outdoors) and learn about the site, which was also used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Kids can dig for gemstones with tools used by real archaeologists, and interactive tools are now available, including a free audio tour that parents can download to their smartphones. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last entrance at 3 p.m.). Admission rates are \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors age 65 and up, \$7.50 for kids ages 5 through 12, and free for kids age 4 and under. 🍌

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
Can you tell me any information about my gentleman's dresser?
Jennifer



Dear Jennifer,
Even though your gentleman's dresser looks interesting and seems to be in pretty good shape, it's not at an age that I can truly give you much advice or value on. I can say this, though: If it's in good shape and usable, it has value.

The style looks to be from the 1970s or later. The construction looks to be a veneer or laminate finish and most likely not a real wood base. Don't be alarmed by this as most aren't now. As

I said, if it's in good shape and sturdy, then it's a good usable piece. I am sorry for not having better news, but I do think there is some value in the used furniture market.

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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Why is Tacoma humming at night?



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk: Sometimes when I go into my garage late at night, I can hear a humming noise coming from my 2005 Tacoma. It sounds like a small electric motor running. What is it and

will it eventually run down the battery?
— Randall

What's it humming, Randall? If it was a German car, it would probably be "Ride of the Valkyries." I'd be curious to know what Japanese trucks hum.

What you're hearing is the evaporative emissions pump. In the old days, fuel systems were vented directly to the outside air. Every gas cap had a hole in it to let the gasoline vapors escape. But that was a huge cause of smog. So fuel systems were redesigned and sealed to trap gasoline vapors. Inside a sealed system, we now capture gas vapors in a charcoal canister and then reintroduce and combust them when the car starts up again.

What you're hearing is a pump that pressurizes your fuel storage system (the tank, filler neck, gas cap, evaporative canister)

in order to test it, and make sure it's sealed. As long as the system holds its pressure, the computer concludes that everything is fine, and it stands down.

But if the system can't hold pressure — if the pump has to come on too often or for too long — then the computer assumes there's a leak from which gasoline vapors are escaping, and it will turn on your check engine light.

So if your check engine light hasn't come on, there's nothing to worry about yet, Randall. If it HAS come on, first check to be sure your gas cap is on tightly and correctly. That's the single most common source of a fuel system pressure leak. And if that doesn't turn the light off in short order, you've bought yourself a trip to the mechanic to figure it out.

Either way, stop sneaking up on your truck like that in the garage, Randall. Give it a little privacy at night, eh?

Dear Car Talk:

I drive a supercharged 1994 Buick Park Avenue Ultra with 123,000 miles. The horn quit working, and I took it to a Buick dealer who ran a diagnostic test.

Their test didn't show why the horn had quit working. They thought it might possi-

bly be a short circuit. They offered to do a more extensive test for \$375 but would not guarantee that they could find the problem.

I did not take them up on their offer. They suggested that I try to find a Mom and Pop car shop that would do the diagnostic work more cheaply. No luck so far. Do you have any idea why the horn quit working? — Jerry

I do, Jerry, but I'll have to charge you \$375 before I tell you.

Actually, no. I don't know. I'm guessing the dealership ran the simplest tests. They probably started by checking the fuse and horn relay. Those take about two minutes each. Then they energized your horns (there are two of them, which is what creates that obnoxious, dissonant musical note) and found that the horns themselves worked fine when properly energized.

Then, they probably tested the wires that attach to the horns and discovered that there was no power arriving there. That means that the problem is somewhere between your palm and those final horn wires.

That's how we would have started, too. And the truth is, at that point, the work starts getting a lot more time-consuming, which is why they quickly lost interest.

If I were working on your car, the next thing I'd check is the horn pad on your steering wheel, given the age of your Buick. Checking that requires removing the horn pad, which contains the driver's airbag. Once you remove the horn pad, you can jump the horn wires and see if that makes the horn blow. If it does, then you need a new horn pad.


If jumping the wires doesn't sound the horn, then you've got a wiring issue — somewhere downstream of those two wires and upstream of the horns themselves -- and that could easily run into several hours of labor and, therefore, hundreds of dollars to track down.

Alternatively, if you're ready to accept that this car has officially entered heapdom, you could bypass your current setup and have a shop install a new horn button somewhere that's easy for you to reach on the dashboard.

For less than \$100, someone could probably rig up a nice, big, red button that you can't miss, that's wired right to the horns. Sure, it's not elegant. But elegance could easily cost you \$300-\$400.


Good luck, Jerry.

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Sincerely,

Jody Reese
Hippo Publisher



Community Supported

News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Italian feast:** Make your reservations now for a **family-style Italian feast** at The Hills Restaurant at Hampshire Hills Athletic Club (50 Emerson Road, Milford) on Wednesday, Nov. 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. The dinner will feature Italian options like chicken Parmesan, meatballs and Italian sausage, cavatappi pasta and cheese tortellini, as well as mixed greens, cheesy garlic bread and garlic Parmesan broccoli, and desserts like tiramisu, cannolis and fresh baked cookies. The cost is \$22 for adults, \$15 for teens ages 13 to 17, \$12 for children ages 5 to 12 and free for children under 5. Visit hampshirehills.com or call 673-7123 to make a reservation.

• **Sleigh-ing the competition:** Pastry chef Jon Buatti of the **Bearded Baking Co.** in Manchester recently appeared as a contestant on the season premiere of Food Network's *Holiday Baking Championship* cooking competition series, according to a press release. The two-hour episode, which aired on Nov. 2, featured Buatti competing against several other bakers from across the country to create the best holiday-themed desserts for judges Nancy Fuller, Duff Goldman and Carla Hall. He and the other bakers made wreaths out of quick breads during the first challenge and later decorated cakes in the shape of Christmas hats. Shooting for the episode took place in Los Angeles over the summer. "I had never been on national TV before, so I was definitely nervous," said Buatti, who was one of 12 bakers selected from a pool of thousands of candidates to appear on the show. "The competition was super stiff, and that's definitely in your mind when you're out there." The season will continue every Monday night until one of the 12 contestants wins a grand prize of \$25,000 during the finale, which will air on Food Network on Dec. 21.

• **Day of the Dead opens in Litchfield:** A new eatery offering authentic Mexican options recently opened in Litchfield. **Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria**, named after the multi-day Mexican holiday "Día de los Muertos," or "Day of the Dead," opened last month in the former space of Applewood BBQ & Pizza, near Mel's Funway Park. Menu items are prepared fresh daily, including tacos with several filling options, like carnitas, grilled chicken, steak, adobada (diced pork), lengua (beef tongue), and chorizo (pork sausage), as well as quesadillas, burritos, chimichangas and flautas, or deep-fried tortillas with either shredded chicken or shredded beef, and sides of guacamole, rice and beans. A small dessert menu includes items like churros and chocolate flan. Find the eatery on Facebook @dayofthedeadaqueria or call 377-7664 to place a takeout order. 🍷

FOOD

Virtual wines and spirits

Liquor Commission presents 90 Days Around the World tasting series



A table of booze from a past Distillers Showcase. Courtesy photo.



Laphroaig. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

In lieu of its annual Wine Week and Distiller's Week, both of which bring hundreds of the world's esteemed winemakers and spirit purveyors to the Granite State for several nights of tastings and seminars, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission is now bringing them to you from the comfort of your own home. The inaugural 90 Days Around the World program, which began on Nov. 2 and will continue through Jan. 30, features a three-month series of free virtual tastings, Q&A sessions and other interactive events with winemakers and distillers near and far.

"We knew it would be impossible to host the same events that we have in the past ... but we still wanted to support that engagement with our customers, who continue to want to learn about our product offerings," said Lorrie Piper, director of sales, marketing, merchandising and distribution for the New Hampshire Liquor Commission.

Each day during the program, participants can visit 90daysaroundtheworld.com and click on the "events" tab, where they'll find a link to a virtual tasting or Q&A session that will be livestreamed on the Commission's Facebook page and via Zoom. Most of them also include information about the purveyor and which wines and spirits will be discussed and tasted.

Those tuning in live can engage in the conversation by posting comments or questions to the video, but even if you miss one you wanted to watch, Piper said, all of the videos are archived.

"We'll be monitoring the videos after they get posted, so we encourage people to still reach out, ask questions and make comments," she said.

Several industry professionals who have travelled to New Hampshire for Distiller's Week or Wine Week in the past have returned for this new virtual series. Among them is Jane Bowie, director of innovation at Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto, Kentucky, who was a featured panelist at the Women of Whiskey & Spirits seminar during last year's Distiller's Week.

On Nov. 5, Bowie, along with Maker's Mark master distiller Denny Potter, led an interactive virtual discussion and tasting of four of the company's spirits.

"It's not as personal, but you do get to talk to and reach a lot more people in this format," Bowie said in a phone interview. "I almost think you can get more engagement in this scenario, because people are tasting from their homes. They're in their natural environment and may not be as nervous about asking questions as they might be from a more orchestrated tasting."

Some tastings planned for later on in the series will also feature live cooking

demonstrations, meant to showcase food pairing suggestions with wines and spirits. In mid-January, winemaker Lisa Evich of Simi Winery in Sonoma County, California, will host a joint virtual cooking demonstration and tasting with executive chef Kolin Vazzoler.

Evich is a two-time past attendee of the Winter Wine Spectacular and has also participated in several dinners at local restaurants that have featured Simi's products during Wine Week.

"Sonoma County is just such an incredibly diverse region to grow grapes in with nice lush flavors," Evich said in a phone interview. "Kolin does an outstanding job of creating dishes that really complement and showcase what our wines are all about."

Throughout the 90-day series, participants have the opportunity to earn points that would accumulate toward their chance to win multiple prizes and giveaways. You can start earning points by downloading the free Scavify app, which Piper said acts as a virtual "passport" for each event you tune into. Once you create an account through the app, you'll earn points by getting a "stamp" in your passport.

Points can be accumulated by attending as many events as possible or by completing tasks, such as posting pictures of your favorite spirits or wines or correctly answering trivia questions. Some of the larger prizes, Piper said, include a \$2,500 New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet gift card and a guide to build your own home bar, including tools and accessories. 🍷



GET YOUR THANKSGIVING MEAL

Want someone else to do the cooking for some or all of this year's Thanksgiving meal? Whether you want to out-source the pie-making or go out for the whole meal, there are oodles of options. Head to hippopress.com starting Thursday, Nov. 12, to see our annual list of dine-in and take-out options from area restaurants, bakeries and more. Thanks to our members and contributors this listing will be available for free at hippopress.com.

90 Days Around the World virtual tasting series

When: Various dates and times, now through Jan. 30 (series began Nov. 2 and all tastings can be viewed on Facebook @nhliquorandwine)

How to participate: Visit 90daysaroundtheworld.com or download the Scavify app to start accumulating points

New American-Italian option

Mikey's Roast Beef & Pizza opens in Hooksett



The super-sized "three way special" roast beef sandwich, with mayonnaise, barbecue sauce and cheese. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Nashua High School North and Southern New Hampshire University graduate Mikhail "Mikey" Bashagurov got his start in the restaurant industry at Giovanni's at the age of 18, working many different roles over the course of several years. Nearly a decade later, after additional stints at Sal's Pizza and the Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery, Bashagurov now has his own restaurant, offering fresh pizzas, calzones, subs, pastas and other items in a casual environment.

Mikey's Roast Beef & Pizza, which opened on Nov. 6 in Hooksett, is in the former space of ABC Pizza on Londonderry Turnpike. Bashagurov found the vacant storefront earlier this summer with the help of Giovanni's owner Jeannette Alexandrou, and has worked ever since toward reopening the eatery under his own name and brand. The menu is based on those of other similar casual Italian-American restaurants he's worked in.

"A lot of the items are very similar, but they are my recipes, so they kind of have my own twists on them," he said. "I will say that people would be familiar with the menu while still getting something different and new."

Appetizers include french fries, onion rings, chicken fingers and wings, all available in multiple portion sizes, plus mozzarella sticks, garlic bread, meatballs, steak tips and grilled chicken tenders. There are also several salads, like garden, Greek, Caesar and antipasto with Italian meats, all with the additional option to add tuna, steak or chicken.

The roast beef sandwiches, which Bashagurov said feature meat sliced

fresh every day, come in five different sizes ranging from three to six ounces. Other subs and sandwiches, divided on the menu between hot and cold, include BLTs and turkey clubs, chicken or meatball Parmesan subs, steak bombs — either as shaved steak or steak tips — and grilled chicken bombs with mushrooms, peppers, onions and cheese, smash burgers and fried chicken sandwiches.

Pizzas and calzones come in small or large sizes, with the option to choose a specialty topping (like the Mikey's Special, with mushrooms, peppers, onions, pepperoni and sausage), or to create your own using around two dozen ingredient add-ons. A small selection of pastas using ziti and either garlic butter, alfredo or marinara sauce is also available, in addition to dinner plates with steak, chicken or roast beef and salads, fries or onion rings as sides.

Bashagurov's wife Tiffani makes homemade chocolate chip cookies as a dessert option, which are thick and crunchy on the outside and feature a soft cake-like texture on the inside, he said.

The restaurant has a small dine-in space of about eight seats, but Bashagurov said that like its predecessor, Mikey's will be largely focused on takeout, with delivery services also available within a five-mile radius. 🍷

Mikey's Roast Beef & Pizza

Where: 21 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett
Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

More info: Visit mikeysroastbeefandpizza.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram @mikeysroastbeefandpizza or call 623-0005



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANK MANNINO

Francesco "Frank" Mannino of Nashua is the owner of Pizzico Ristorante Italiano & Martini Bar (7 Harold Drive, Nashua, 897-0696; 7 Continental Blvd., Merrimack, 424-1000; pizzicotogo.com), which offers a menu of authentic Italian appetizers, pastas and steak, chicken and seafood entrees, in addition to specialty burgers, sandwiches, pizzas and calzones. The drink menu includes a variety of house martinis and an extensive selection of Italian red and white wines. Pizzico, its name coming from the Italian word meaning "pinch" in terms of cooking, has been open in Nashua since 1996. Originally from Palermo, Italy, Mannino came to the United States as a teenager. He purchased the restaurant from his older brother Vito in 2005, opening the second location in Merrimack about three years later.



What is your must-have kitchen item?
I would say a pan or a knife.

What would you have for your last meal?
I would have our Sicilian stew, which we make in house with steak tips, sausage, carrots and onions cooked in a tomato sauce, and then we toss it in a pasta.

What is your favorite local restaurant?
Michael Timothy's [Local Kitchen & Wine Bar in Nashua]. I'll usually have a steak dish, cooked medium-rare.

What celebrity would you like to see eating in your restaurant?
Robert De Niro.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

The lasagna, which is one of our most popular items. The meat lasagna has ground beef and pork Bolognese, and then we do a vegetarian lasagna with layers of eggplant.

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

Definitely gluten-free [options]. We do both gluten-free pastas and pizzas.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Nothing too crazy, just a simple pasta with tomato sauce ... or a cheese pizza.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Thanksgiving Variety Box

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- BOTTLE OF CABERNET WINE WITH MULLING SPICES \$18

Thanksgiving Boxes must be ordered by 12pm on Monday November 23, 2020.

Pick-up will be on Wednesday, November 25 from 2-8pm.

Delivery will be on Wednesday, November 25 from 2-8pm. Delivery available within 10 mile radius of the restaurant for orders of \$100 or more. See location for availability.

Food is served cold with reheating instructions.

Spaghetti Aglio & Olio

From the kitchen of Francesco "Frank" Mannino of Pizzico Ristorante Italiano & Martini Bar in Nashua and Merrimack (served with a pasta of your choice)

- 2 ounces chopped garlic
- 1 ounce extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- Pinch of chopped parsley

cooking, add the red pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Once garlic is a gold color, shut the stove off and add a little bit of hot water to prevent it from burning and the pasta from sticking to the pan. Toss the pasta in. Serve and top with freshly chopped parsley and Parmesan (optional).

In a saute pan, add oil and garlic. While it's

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TRY THIS AT HOME

Spiced Pear and Cranberry Cookies

Yes, this is the third week in a row that my recipe has included cranberries. However, two things make this recipe very different from the two prior. First, this is a sweet treat. Cranberries deserve their turn on the dessert table. Second, this recipe is made with dried cranberries, which makes the ingredient easier to find all year long.



Spiced Pear and Cranberry Cookies. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

While these cookies can be made at any time of year, I'm going to make the case that they should be made for Thanksgiving. When I think of a typical Thanksgiving dinner, when you're gathered with friends and family, the table usually is filled with pies. But not everyone is a pie fan. Also, after a big meal of turkey and all the fixings, a lighter dessert of a cookie or two may be what many people are craving.

Plus, cookies store well. So, whether you're making them two days in advance or have a lot of leftovers, there's no harm. The cookies will

be good for a week or so.

If you decide that at Thanksgiving you want to stick with your tried and true desserts, I would highly recommend these at another time this fall. Between the pear, cranberries, cinnamon and cloves, they taste like fall. In fact, a couple of these with a warm cup of tea and a fireplace could be the perfect way to spend

a lazy weekend afternoon or wind down after a long day at work.

No matter the reason you make them, just do it. Gather the ingredients together and get some cookies in the oven!

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

Spiced Pear and Cranberry Cookies

Makes 2 dozen

- 1/2 cup butter softened
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup diced pear
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries

Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine butter and both sugars in the bowl of a stand mixer. Mix on speed 2 for 4 minutes. Add egg, mixing until incorporated, scraping sides if necessary. Add vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves and flour, mixing until combined. Add pear, walnuts and cranberries to dough, stirring until combined. Refrigerate dough for 30 minutes. Scoop heaping teaspoon of dough onto parchment paper-lined tray. Bake for 12-14 minutes. Allow to cool for 2 minutes on tray, then transfer to baking rack to cool completely.

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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

S'mores martini

Sylvester Graham would hate this article. For the purposes of this week's cocktails, here's what you need to know about Graham, who died in 1851:

- He didn't invent the graham cracker — he encouraged people to grind their own flour (he said white bread was made from “tortured wheat”). Some mills started producing a rougher-ground, whole-grain flour that they called Graham flour. Graham crackers were made using this flour.

- He was horrified by alcohol.

- He was very impatient; he couldn't understand why Americans didn't just listen to him and change their lifestyles instantly (he basically thought pleasure and anything that gave you pleasure — alcohol, meat, sex — is bad for you).

So, here's our first tie-in with Sylvester Graham: What's with all the exotic ingredients, Cocktail Boy?

I've been looking back at the last several cocktails I've written about and I'm pretty sure some of you have been thinking to yourself, “OK, this drink sounds very interesting, but do I really need Nepalese orchid pollen to make it?” The most exotic ingredients in today's drinks are cocoa nibs and grapefruit juice. (No, not together.)

The bad news is that Cocktail No. 1 will take you a week to make.

Cocktail No. 1 – The S'mores Martini

After making chocolate vodka last month, I decided to see if I could make graham cracker vodka (Sylvester Graham connection No. 2).

I'll spare you the experimental methodology, but in short, it works.

Graham Cracker Vodka

1 sleeve (135 grams) graham crackers
3 cups 80 proof inexpensive vodka

Combine graham crackers and vodka in a blender. Blend at whatever speed pleases you for one minute. Feel free to chuckle evilly as the graham crackers meet their fate.

Pour into a wide-mouthed, airtight jar.

Store in a warm, dark place for a week, shaking twice daily.

(And this is really important) On Day 7, DO NOT SHAKE THE JAR.

Gently pour the clear liquid through a fine-meshed strainer, then through a coffee filter, into a labeled bottle.

Strain the remaining graham cracker glop overnight, then filter and add to your bottle.

S'mores Martini

2 oz. chocolate vodka
2 oz. graham cracker vodka
3-4 miniature marshmallows, for garnish.

In a mixing glass (see below), pour equal amounts of chocolate and graham cracker vodka over ice.

Stir gently but thoroughly.

Pour off, into a chilled martini glass.

Garnish with toasted miniature marshmallows, much like you would a conventional martini, with olives.

Some bartenders make standard, conventional martinis by pouring an ounce or so of vermouth over the ice in the mixing glass, stirring it around, then pouring it out. The vermouth-washed ice adds just enough vermouthiness to the gin to make a solid dry martini. I suspect that if one were to wash the ice in this drink with creme de cacao before mixing in the chocolate and graham cracker vodkas, it would deepen the flavor even more. That would stretch the boundaries of Sylvester Graham-like simplicity and humble ingredients, though.

Observation No. 1 – Is this idea a bit cutesy and Food Networky?

Yes, but if you find yourself with chocolate and graham cracker vodkas, the Universe sort of demands that you do it.

Observation No. 2 – Shaken versus Stirred

For years, I've heard martini snobs sneering at the whole James Bond, shaken-not-stirred concept. But for the sake of ... um, I'm not actually sure what ... I decided to make two different versions of this martini, one shaken brutally in a Boston shaker (the kind with two halves) and one stirred in a mixing glass.

Shockingly, there was a real difference, and not a small one. The shaken martini had a different look, a different mouth-feel and even a different taste than the silkier one made in the mixing glass. By comparison, it seemed like it was made in a frat house. The stirred one was delightful and civilized.

Does this mean that you'll have to invest in a special mixing glass and long spirally bar spoon? I did, but I suspect you could do just as well with a glass measuring cup and the blunt end of a butter knife. But let's say you suffer from a Sylvester Graham-like impatience. Try this instead:

Cocktail No. 2 – Palm Beach Special

2 oz. blisteringly cold gin
½ oz. sweet vermouth
¾ oz. grapefruit juice

Add all three ingredients to a shaker half-filled with ice. Shake vindictively, like you actually have something against the ingredients in the shaker.

Strain into a chilled martini glass.

This is a vintage cocktail from the 1930s. Depending on the sweetness of your grapefruit



S'mores martini. Photo by John Fladd.

MARTINI CONTINUED ON PG 21 ►

Sherry, sherry, baby

Give the world's oldest fine wine a chance

By Fred Matuszewski
food@hippopress.com



Whenever I think of sherry, the fortified wine, I cannot help thinking of Frankie Vallée singing “Sherry, Baby” in that Jersey Boys falsetto voice. Wait, I may have said too much, and yes, I occasionally tune into “60’s on 6” on Sirius radio!

Sherry (the wine) has a bad reputation, linked to proper ladies drinking ever so politely from little glasses. However, it should not have such a limited audience. It is more than a beverage option for tea, served with small sandwiches and polite fruit creams. It should be served chilled and enjoyed along a fireside, wrapped in a blanket.

Sherry has a long and storied past. At about 2,000 years old, it is the world’s oldest fine wine, made principally from the palomino grape, along with a couple of others in Jerez, Andalusia, Spain. It has been imitated in other regions, but never with any success outside of Jerez. In fact, the EU has dictated the name can only apply to wines from Jerez. It can range from the driest, most delicate fino to the richest, most pungent oloroso. The wine is made in a traditional manner. The grapes are harvested and the wine is made in exactly the same manner as any other dry white wine, but in the following year the wine is fortified with alcohol and other wine to raise the strength to 14.5 percent. A skin of naturally occurring yeast, called flor, forms along the surface of the wine, which makes a barrier between the surface of the wine and the air within the cask, preventing the wine from oxidizing and imparting that “nutty” character sherry has. The amount of flor on the wine determines the direction the sherry will take, from fino, which is fortified to 15.5 percent, to oloroso, 17.5 percent.

On the bottle labels you may find the term “solera system.” One might call this “quality control.” It is a system of mixing young wines with older wines to ensure consistency, but it is more than that. Typically, there are four tiers to the stand of oak barrels sherry is stored in. Each year two thirds of the wine of the oldest in the tier will be blended with one third of the wine of the following year’s vintage. The wine is tapped off from each successive barrel, allowing new wine to be replenished in the top level. The fino soleras are emptied periodically to maintain the freshness of the wine. A good fino has spent five years rotating through these barrels. The oloroso soleras, however, may not be completely emptied.

Sherry comes in a variety of styles. Fino is the palest and driest of the Jerez styles. It has a citric quality to it. Amontillado is aged beyond five years and has a light shade of almond to it. It is still dry but more complex, rich and spicy. Oloroso sheries spend about 10 years in the solera and while still dry are mixed with other sweet wines to produce “cream sheries.” Sometimes sheries are made from other grapes, such as muscatel or Pedro Ximénez, a grape dried in the sun to produce extremely sweet wine. Sherries can be dated but dating them follows a complex formula because of the mixing of vintages, and sometimes there are individual vintages from single casks, but these are rare and can be pricey.

So, what sheries are available in New Hampshire? Sadly, the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets have somewhat meager offerings. Of the 76 stores only four varieties of sheries are offered in many of the stores. This is unfortunate because there is a wealth of types of sheries to explore. Our first is **Dry Sack Medium Jerez-Xérès-Sherry**, available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$13.49 per bottle. This wine is the color of weak tea and has a dry “nutty” character to it.

Our next sherry is **Savory & James Fino Deluxe Dry Sherry**, available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$9.99 per bottle. The color of this sherry is a very pale straw. To the nose and mouth it is a very dry, light sherry with strong citric notes. One can compare this to a dry vermouth.

Our last sherry is **Harveys Bristol Cream Solera Sherry**, available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$13.99 per bottle. Perhaps the standard by which all other sheries are compared, it is a rich, smooth, full sherry with creamy notes, as its name defines.

Pick up a bottle or two to enjoy by the fire as the weather gets cooler. And remember, you don’t have to invite Grandma to enjoy new experiences with this fine fortified wine.

Fred Matuszewski is a local architect and a foodie and wine geek. 🍷

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◀ MARTINI CONTINUED FROM PG 20

juice, you might want to add ¼ oz. of simple syrup to your next batch. It may take you several tries to dial this cocktail in to your personal taste. Drinking several stiff cocktails is the kind of sacrifice that civilized living requires, sometimes.

So, what does a Palm Beach Special have to do with Sylvester Graham?

- It's extremely simple.
- You make it yourself.
- I think I can state with some confidence that there is nothing — not one thing — in South Florida that Sylvester Graham would approve of.

John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer, a father, writer and cocktail enthusiast. 🍷

• Raf Vertessen Quartet,

LOI B

• Fred Hersch, *Songs*

From Home A+

• *Squeeze Me A*

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accomplished on this, his bandleader debut, I've experienced several stages of self-confidence, but always come back to my musician's sense that improv is three-dimensional, that the listener is observing personal, not solely musical, interactions. Here, the sax/trumpet/bass contributors do seem to want to expand on Vertessen's whiteboard sketches, but the constant outbursts of (spoiler) unmitigated skronk really did nothing for me until the heavily syncopated "Fake," at which point the band did sound like they had a common goal. Note that the whole record was recorded during two one-shot attempts, so, as one critic noted, it gets better after they're warmed up. **B** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Fred Hersch, *Songs From Home* (Palmetto Records)



after nine nominations, he still hasn't won a Grammy, not that those are handed out like candy, and regardless, a Grammy won't keep a person from contracting Covid depression. No, better to keep at it, to be the best you can be, and within this wide-open environment, Hersch reminds us that he is indeed one of the best, period. Playful versions of "Wichita Lineman," "After You've Gone"; some deft rhythmic change-ups on "All I Want," solemn modal ruminations on Hersch's own "West Virginia Rose" — sweet escapism abounds. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

The term "avant-garde" originally came to us from the military, a catch-all describing a small troop of highly skilled soldiers who went ahead of the rest of the army to explore the terrain and warn of potential danger. That military association has mostly faded from the public hivemind, which nowadays regards it as an adjective describing various forms of improvised, off-the-cuff art. After years of trying to "clue in" to avant-jazz, even the red-hottest of it, like this Brooklyn-by-way-of-Belgium drummer has

accomplished on this, his bandleader debut, I've experienced several stages of self-confidence, but always come back to my musician's sense that improv is three-dimensional, that the listener is observing personal, not solely musical, interactions. Here, the sax/trumpet/bass contributors do seem to want to expand on Vertessen's whiteboard sketches, but the constant outbursts of (spoiler) unmitigated skronk really did nothing for me until the heavily syncopated "Fake," at which point the band did sound like they had a common goal. Note that the whole record was recorded during two one-shot attempts, so, as one critic noted, it gets better after they're warmed up. **B** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Album titles rarely ring this true. On this LP, the Ohio-raised jazz pianist, now 64, has made coping with Covid easy on himself by leaving his two usual-suspect rhythm-section cohorts out of it and simply solo-doodling with (mostly) some standards at relaxed leisure, at home. This guy's a survivor; one of the first jazz musicians to come out as gay and HIV-positive, he was on the ropes in 2008, first suffering from AIDS-related dementia and then, promptly afterward, pneumonia. Unbelievably,

after nine nominations, he still hasn't won a Grammy, not that those are handed out like candy, and regardless, a Grammy won't keep a person from contracting Covid depression. No, better to keep at it, to be the best you can be, and within this wide-open environment, Hersch reminds us that he is indeed one of the best, period. Playful versions of "Wichita Lineman," "After You've Gone"; some deft rhythmic change-ups on "All I Want," solemn modal ruminations on Hersch's own "West Virginia Rose" — sweet escapism abounds. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

Retro Playlist

By now it's an established supposition that I may indeed have an undiagnosed allergy to bands in fedora hats, a fashion accessory usually reserved for bands that specialize in music I detest, like jam bands. If I see fedora hats on bandmembers, I usually expect them to play their guitars through wimpily affected Peavy amps, with the distortion knob set to "Don't Upset Anyone." I mean, it's cool if you're into that; maybe that's on me, on my black-and-white worldview. My thinking is that a band either plugs guitars into amplifiers to produce loud-ass noise, or leaves



them unplugged in order to temporarily to soothe the savage lager-drinking beasts who attend shows, concerts and after-hours fire-pits. I'm not much with gray areas, apparently.

That's not to say I hate all fedora music. You know for a fact that I'm always nice to **Norah Jones**, whose Blue Note Records release, *The Fall*, had me gushing over its prettiness (if not its faux-world-weariness) way back in 2009 ("Chasing Pirates" — the lyrics of which betray a weariness with the stupid side of boys — is a shy chick's 'Like a Virgin' in rhythm, tone and attitude"). As well, back in June of this year, I was quite

impressed with her new LP, *Pick Me Up Off The Floor* ("she is officially a folk-jazz goddess ... and at least she's not trying to become a media conglomerate like everybody else who lucks into a hit record").

And don't forget **Amos Lee**. I always have time for that guy. 2011's *Mission Bell* is still one of my favorite fedora albums, on the strength of the galloping "Windows Are Rolled Down" alone, but there's plenty of folk-and-soul-tinged fedora-pop on board to love. Thus I am not hopelessly irredeemable.

(Note that someone may jump onto a [hopelessly rickety] stack of milk crates and object



that Lee is simply too soulful to be classified as a fedora artist, but that's the whole point: My "Critic's Tip To Bands" for this week is to avoid being boring if you're writing fedora-rock tunes, a thing far easier said than done.)

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. 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Uh oh, gang, the new releases of Nov. 13 are on the way, and things are heating up, probably! I mean, the holidays are basically here, so all your favorite bands and twerking frauds plus William Shatner In A Pear Tree want you to spend the last of your emergency Spaghettios unemployment money not on food, but on albums, like you should, don't be such a cheapskate! I haven't looked at the list of new releases yet, but I'll bet you there's some OG rapper dude releasing a Christmas album, or maybe a team-up between Kellie Pickler and Dolly Parton, which could be titled *Before And After*. Wouldn't that be funny? No? OK, whatever, let me put on my Santa hat and check the list! Whoa, wait a second, look, guys, it's a new **AC/DC** album, called *POWER UP!* The title is capitalized, because seriously man, now that they're all older than Betty White or whatever, Angus and his boys are *seriously* powered up! Ho ho ho, this should be awesome in every way, I can't wait to hear the new single, "Shot In The Dark," but first, look at Angus! He looks like a beardless Gandalf now, like a cemetery caretaker extra dude from some 1980s PBS show about Sherlock Holmes, so funny and awesome. OK shut up, wait, here's the video, after this commercial word. Hey, why is the YouTube spam-bot trying to sell Cadillacs on an AC/DC video? Don't they know AC/DC hates new cars, because the establishment is bad? I'm gonna email Angus on his MySpace or AOL, right after this song (*man* is he gonna be mad)! Ack, guess what, it's the same song as "Shoot To Thrill," like, I'll bet if you heard this song and "Shoot To Thrill" played at the same time, you'd just say "Hmm, interesting multi-tracking!" Ho ho ho, all right, enough of that.

• I say, old chaps, it would appear that there is a new album from **Yukon Blonde**, called *Vindicator!* If you tend to avoid bad music, you probably don't know about this Canadian indie-rock band, but for the record, they did have a No. 11 hit (in Canada) with the (Canadian) single "Saturday Night," which was basically a meatless Canadian ripoff of A-ha's "Take On Me." Unfortunately they weren't sued into oblivion for that, so now I have to go listen to the band's new single, "You Were Mine," because no justice no peace. I'm watching the YouTube video for the song now, and shocker, it has no hook, just vibe, like a way-too-long Gorillaz/Jamie Liddell mashup. I am now shutting it off and will try to forget the dumbness I have just experienced.

• **The Cribbs** are an indie band from Britain (or, more specifically, because you know how people in the U.K. like to be specific: Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England, U.K., Europe, Earth, solar system, Orion Arm, Milky Way, universe). They have been around since the early Aughts, and everyone from England loves them, because they once made a song called "Mirror Kissers" that sounded kind of like The Hives. The band's new LP, *Night Network*, is on the way, and it features the tune "Never Thought I'd Feel Again," which sounds like a Herman's Hermits B-side from 1965. You might like it, but probably won't.

• To end the week, let's talk about *Fear & Loneliness*, **The Darcys'** new album! "Too Late," the single, sounds like background music for a disco scene from *The Love Boat*, and is, thus, worthless, but I thank the band for playing. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

Squeeze Me, by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf, 336 pages)

This year has already seen the publication of one clever novel about the weirdness of the Sunshine State (*Florida Man* by Tom Cooper) and another that was a satirical takedown of the Trump presidency (*Make Russia Great Again*, by Christopher Buckley). Did we really need another that combines the finer points of the two?

Why, yes, it turns out that we did. Carl Hiaasen, a Miami Herald columnist who also finds time to crank out books every other year or so, offers balm for the post-election brain in *Squeeze Me*, a satirical novel that takes a well-worn premise (a political cover-up) and makes it glorious. The fact that it takes place in the second term of the presidency of a man the Secret Service code-named Mastodon should not be a deterrent to anyone except for die-hard Trump supporters born without a funny bone.

The novel begins with a Palm Beach socialite gone missing during a charity gala. Kiki Pew Fitzsimmons, whose wealth derived from marrying well twice, spent a lot of time at events benefiting second-tier diseases. (The current one, the White Ibis Ball, is a fundraiser for “a group globally committed to defeating Irritable Bowel Syndrome.”) She has the sort of friends who object to her being listed missing through a “Silver Alert” for seniors. “Isn’t there a premium version for people like us? A Platinum Alert, something like that?”

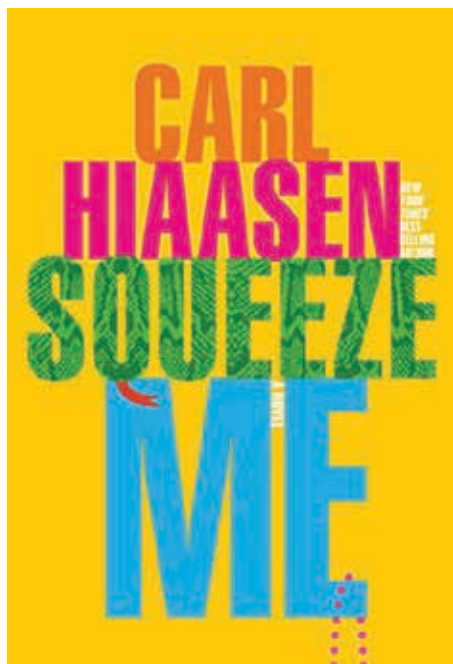
Like many of her friends, Kiki Pew’s lineage can be described simply from whence her money came, i.e., “the antifreeze and real-estate Cornbrights”; and the “asbestos and textile Fitzsimmonses.” It is the sort of sly detail that makes *Squeeze Me* so delectable, savage and mocking yet never coming off as mean.

Kiki Pew, in addition to raising money for various causes, is an ardent supporter of a president who is “white, old and scornful of social reforms.” So are her friends.

“Often they were invited to dine at Casa Bellicosa, the Winter White House, while the President was in residence. He always made a point of waving from the buffet line or pastry table.”

Unfortunately, Kiki Pew, fascinating a character as she is, is with us only for a short time, as what happened to her sets up the cover-up that consumes the bulk of the novel. The unsettling manner of Kiki’s death was not good for business at the Lipid House, the place where she was last seen. But, rewritten, it could be very good for the president.

So a plot is hatched to blame her disappearance on a 25-year-old man from Honduras named Diego Beltran, who was arriving on the shore of Palm Beach via a smuggler’s boat the same night at the White Ibis Ball. And the president seizes



the opportunity to suggest that her “brutal murder” was an act of “political terrorism” aimed at his administration. At her funeral at Cape Cod (“Winter residents of Palm Beach inevitably return north forever, either in caskets or urns”), she is eulogized by the vice president as a “martyred patriot.” A rallying cry is soon heard across the country: No more Diegos!

There is a monkey wrench in this plan, which is that there are people who do know what happened to Kiki Pew, most significantly, Angie Armstrong, who runs a nuisance-wildlife removal business. From alligators to coyotes to possums, Armstrong wrangles them all, releasing them in the wild when possible, burying them when it’s not. (Again, demonstrating Hiaasen’s wicked mastery of blending real life with comic fiction, in one memorable scene she snares a bobcat hunched on a Peloton bike like Grace in Boston.)

Baked into this Wag-the-Doggish story is an affair the first lady (code name Mockingbird) is having with a Secret Service agent.

Hiaasen is a longtime writer of humor, but this book is an extraordinary accomplishment, given a personal tragedy. His brother, Rob Hiaasen, was one of the journalists killed by a gunman in a newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland, in 2018. The book is dedicated to him. It’s good that he has retained a sense of humor in the wake of loss like that. (Side note: A novel that Rob Hiaasen had worked on for years was published after his death. All proceeds from *Float Plan* go to a group called Everytown for Gun Safety.)

As the election fades into memory — if the election fades into memory — we may all be a little hung over, needing just a wee fix of politics before returning to what resembles real life. *Squeeze Me* will get you over the hump. A

— Jennifer Graham

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BOOK NOTES

You don't have to have been a supporter of Barack Obama to be dazzled by the recent video clip of him effortlessly swishing a basketball through a hoop in Michigan while on a campaign stop with Joe Biden.

Say what you want about his politics, but the former president is cool. Which reminded me of a 2018 book, *Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents*, (Little, Brown & Co., 240 pages). The author is Pete Sousa, who was the official White House photographer for the entire eight years of Obama's administration. His book juxtaposes photos of Obama with tweets, articles and headlines about and by Trump, and is predictably devastating but also smart and entertaining. It is definitely not for Trump fans, but if you know someone who still has an Obama/Biden bumper sticker on their car (I still come across them), this would be the perfect Christmas gift, paired with Obama's new memoir.

Shade was released in paperback last fall, but this is the type of book better in hardcover.

What we all should be reading for the next few weeks are books about the Electoral College in anticipation of the events of Dec. 14, but

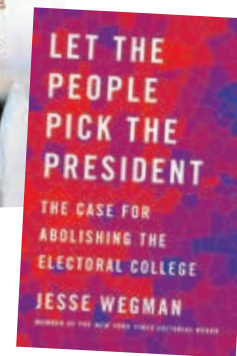
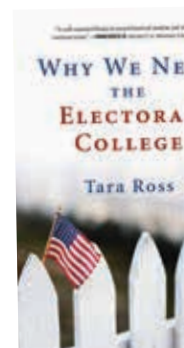
who can stomach that?

Better: Humorist David Sedaris has a new collection of previously published work: *The Best of Me* (Little, Brown & Co., 400 pages).

But if you are bent on staying up with the news, these are two salient books that should be read together: *Why We Need the Electoral College* by Tara Ross (Gateway Editions, 320 pages) and *Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College* by Jesse Wegman (St. Martin's Press, 304 pages).

Incredibly, there are two other books about the Electoral College that were published this year: *Why Do We Still Have the Electoral College?* by Alexander Keyssar (Harvard University Press, 544 pages); *Presidential Elections and Majority Rule, the Rise, Demise, and Potential Restoration of the Jeffersonian Electoral College* by Edward B. Foley (Oxford University Press, 256 pages).

Don't ever let anyone tell you traditional publishing is dead. — *Jennifer Graham*



Books

Author events

• **JEFF KINNEY** Bestselling author of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series presents the series' 15th title, *The Deep End*, at two Drive-Thru Pool Parties, where there will be pool party-themed activities like a lifeguard dunk tank, a tiki hut and an underwater venture. Kinney will also personally deliver signed copies of the book to fans using a 6-foot pool skimmer. Thurs., Nov. 12, 5 to 7 p.m., Lincoln Street Elementary School (25 Lincoln St., Exeter). Friday, Nov. 13, at Rundlett Middle School (144 South St., Concord), 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$14.99. Visit waterstreetbooks.com/event/jeff-kinney-drive-thru-event and gibsonsbookstore.com/event/deep-end.

com/event/jeff-kinney-drive-thru-event and gibsonsbookstore.com/event/deep-end.

Discussions

• **BOOK TALK: COZY & SPOOKY** Amherst Town Library staff discuss their favorite books for fall. Virtual. The program will be recorded, and a full booklist will be available afterwards. Registration is required. Mon., Nov. 16, 2 to 3 p.m. Call 673-2288 or visit amherstlibrary.org.

Poetry

• **JANET SYLVESTER AND OLGA LIVSHIN** Poets present their newest volumes of verse, *And Not to Break* (Sylvester) and *A Life Replaced: Poems with Trans-*

lations from Anna Akhmatova and Vladimir Gandel'sman (Livshin). Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore of Concord. Thurs., Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Virtual, via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

Writing

• **CALL FOR BLACK WRITERS** New Hampshire-based theater company and playwright collective New World Theatre announces an open call to Black writers to submit monologues that reflect their personal experience of living while black, to be published in an anthology titled "08:46." The deadline for submissions is Jan. 1, 2021. Visit newworldtheatre.org/08m46s.

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Love and Monsters (PG-13)

A guy travels through miles of monster-infested wilderness to see a girl in *Love and Monsters*, a sweet, hopeful movie about the end of the world.

Joel (Dylan O'Brien, who is better served by this movie than by the *Maze Runner* movies he starred in) and Aimee (Jessica Henwick) are high school sweethearts who are in a car overlooking their bucolic California town, hanging out and making out, when suddenly an air raid siren goes off, stuff starts to blow up and the military shows up. Monsters are soon destroying the town and the couple is separated as people rush to evacuate. These monsters are mutated creatures — giant bugs, worms, frogs, lizards, etc. — created by chemicals that rained down on Earth from bombs sent to destroy an asteroid. (But wait —, you're about to say. Look, just go with it.)

Seven years later, Joel, like the rest of the surviving 5 percent of humans, lives with his colony underground. Traumatized by the early days of the monster uprising, he's not so much of a hunter, more of a soup-maker and radio-fixer. But with these skills he was able to call around to other human colonies and eventually find Aimee, living in a colony by the beach 80-some miles away. Because he still loves her (and also because he is lonely as the only person not paired up in his small colony), Joel decides to set off on the trek to see her.

Along the way, Joel meets Clyde (Michael Rooker) and his sort of adopted daughter Minnow (Ariana Greenblatt) and they help him learn some survival skills, including some decent archery work. And Joel befriends a dog



Love and Monsters

called Boy who turns out to be a good and useful traveling partner.

For a movie with giant man-eating ants and worms (decently portrayed and just this side of silly), *Love and Monsters* has a surprising amount of heart. And it's hopeful. It shows Joel, deeply heartbroken and lonely, learning how to take the world as it is and move forward with some optimism despite, like, man-eating termites and a seriously depopulated world. And it's funny — *Love and Monsters* isn't full of big laughs but it has a lightly humorous tone throughout that really complements the sweet and bittersweet elements of the story. **B**

Rated PG-13 for action/violence, language and some suggestive material, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Michael Matthews with a screenplay by Brian Duffield and Matthew Robinson, Love and Monsters is an hour and 49 minutes long and distributed by Paramount Pictures. It is available for rent or purchase.

The Craft: Legacy (PG-13)

A new generation of teenage witches uses their powers to teach jerks lessons and apply sparkly eye makeup in *The Craft: Legacy*.

Teenager Lily (Cailee Spaeny) and her mom (Michelle Monaghan) move to a new town to live with Adam (David Duchovny), her mom's new flame, and his three teenage sons. Lily isn't terribly excited to start at a new school and her first day does not go well. Her period shows up unexpectedly and a particularly meatheaded boy, Timmy (Nicholas Galitzine), a friend of Lily's new stepbrother-types, humiliates her. Lily runs to the bathroom, where Lourdes (Zoey Luna), Frankie (Gideon Adlon) and Tabby (Lovie Simone) show up with words of comfort and a new pair of shorts. They have their eye on Lily and after she is able to shove Timmy into a locker without really touching him the trio decide that Lily is exactly who they've been looking for — the fourth, who will complete their coven and

allow them to tap into the witch powers they're certain they have. And with Lily around, they find they can perform some impressive feats, like telepathic communication, briefly freezing time and playing a kick-butt round of Light as a Feather, Stiff as a Board.

There is a very "first two episodes of a new CW series" feel about this movie — a new series I would probably watch even if it's still finding its footing. *Legacy* balances, or at least it tries to balance, teen drama with magic and humor with horror, both literal and metaphorical. In one plot point, the girls cast a spell on Timmy, who tormented them all at some point. Their spell, basically, makes him woke — talking about his feelings and chastising bros for making insensitive jokes. It's a cute element that is executed, at least for a while, OK. A series probably could have developed in clever ways but a movie just doesn't have time.

The actors here are fine — little is stand-out but it feels like everybody is bringing a bit of something to their characters, even if they don't get the time to do all that much. The movie's final note really does have that "mid-season finale" energy and many of the story and character choices made here would make sense if this is the start of a longer-running universe. As a stand-alone movie, *The Craft: Legacy* feels not-yet-done and in need of a tighter focus. **C+**

Rated PG-13 for thematic elements, crude and sexual content, language and brief drug material, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Written and directed by Zoe Lister-Jones (from characters by Peter Filardi), The Craft: Legacy is an hour and 37 minutes long and is distributed by Columbia Pictures. It is available for rent or purchase.

Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings & filmed events

Venues

Chunky's Cinema Pub
707 Huse Road, Manchester;
151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150
Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com

Cinemagic

with IMAX at 38 Cinemagic
Way in Hooksett; 11 Executive

Park Drive in Merrimack; 2454
Lafayette Road in Portsmouth;
cinemagicmovies.com

Red River Theatres

11 S. Main St., Concord
224-4600, redrivertheatres.org

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

40 Main St. in Wilton
wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-
3456

Shows

- **Red River Virtual Cinema** Red River Theatres is currently offering indie, foreign language and documentary films via a virtual cinema experience. Recent additions include *City Hall*, a documentary about Boston city government. See the ever-changing lineup on the website.
- **Live Trivia Hamilton** (21+) at Chunky's Manchester on Thursday, Nov. 12, and Sunday, Nov.

15, at 7:30 p.m. and at Chunky's
Nashua on Thursday, Nov. 12,
at 7:30 p.m. Teams of up to six
players; reserve a team spot with
\$5 food vouchers.

- **Toy Story** (G, 1995) screens at Cinemagic theaters in Merrimack, Hooksett and Portsmouth on Thursday, Nov. 12, with three (Hooksett) or four (Merrimack and Portsmouth) screening times. Tickets cost \$5.
- **Guardians of the Galaxy**

(PG-13, 2014) will screen at
Cinemagic theaters in Merrimack, Hooksett and Portsmouth
Friday, Nov. 13, through Thursday,
Nov. 26, with three to four
screening times per day. Tickets
cost \$5.

- **Dr. Mabuse The Gambler, Part 1** (1922) This silent film directed by Fritz Lang will screen at Wilton Town Hall Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. with live musical accompa-

niment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is encouraged. The movie, part 1 of two, is a crime thriller set in Weimar-era Germany, according to Rapsis' website.

- **Dr. Mabuse The Gambler, Part 2** (1922) Catch the second half of the film on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is encouraged.

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Laugh night:** After working as a district attorney and criminal defense lawyer, **Paul D'Angelo** became a standup comic, and a successful one at that. He's opened for everyone from Aretha Franklin to Huey Lewis, at places such as Caesar's Palace and New York City's Friar's Club. D'Angelo also appeared on Showtime's Godfathers of Comedy a while back as well. Friday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester. Tickets are \$25 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Local lights:** A silver lining of Covid-19 is area bands like **Mica's Groove Train** who've stepped up to fill the gap left by national tour cancellations and received well-deserved big-stage spotlight moments. Yamica Peterson keeps busy in a number of configurations, but her NEMA-nominated group is the one that gave her a name for soulful, danceable funk. Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets are \$25 at banknhstage.com.

• **Brew tunes:** Live music returns to a neighborhood microbrewery as **Nick Ferrero** strums and sings at an afternoon gathering. Ferrero is described as a "folk punk singer songwriter and heartfelt rock 'n' roller," who "aims to be the voice of his generation, whether anyone hears it or not." The event will be set up for social distancing, the way of the world for the foreseeable future. Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m., To Share Brewing Co., 720 Union St., Manchester, see facebook.com/nickferreroofficial.

• **Blues dude:** A regular around the region for decades, **Arthur James** debuts his friendly blues music at a venerable venue. Last year, James released the solo acoustic *Hey... I'm Still Here*, his first LP sans band, and a prescient move considering the current live performance climate. Highlights include the easygoing "Got Me A Woman" and "292 Nashua Street," a countrified gem. Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m., The Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket; more at arthurjames.org.

NITE

High country show

Fogelberg tribute is a gem

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

A careful return to concerts at the Franklin Opera House includes a hybrid live and livestream show on Nov. 14, with Maine singer-songwriter Don Campbell playing the music of Dan Fogelberg. Employing a voice that closely resembles the soothing tenor that propelled hits such as "Leader of the Band," "Same Old Lang Syne" and "Go Down Easy," Campbell will perform both solo on piano and guitar, and with an expanded band.

For Campbell, hearing Fogelberg's *Souvenirs* album as a teenager in the early 1970s was a transformative experience.

"It made me want to become a songwriter," he said in a recent phone interview. "It felt like he was singing directly to me. A common thread with fans that I meet is it's almost like you knew him through his music."

Campbell has had a lot of success with his chosen craft. He's a six-time winner of the Maine's Best Singer-Songwriter poll and took top honors at a Grand Ole Opry competition of original artists that earned him \$50,000 and a Gibson Les Paul custom guitar. He's made 14 CDs of original music, including a pair of Christmas albums. His most recent release is 2014's *The Dust Never Settles*.

It's Campbell's tribute act that's getting the most notice in recent years, however.

When prostate cancer claimed Fogelberg in 2007, Campbell began recording his favorites to memorialize him, ultimately releasing a double album in 2012, *Kites To Fly - The Music of Dan Fogelberg*. Its title is a metaphor, not a lyric reference.

"His songs are like beautiful kites that you take down from the wall and outside to fly a little bit," Campbell said. "That's the only way I can describe them for someone who doesn't know Dan's music."

The tribute was noticed by the Fogelberg Association of Peoria, Illinois (the singer's hometown). The family trust invited Campbell to perform at their annual Celebration Weekend in 2013 and endorsed his act on its website.

"I got to speak to his mother through the foundation president, who put me on the phone with her," Campbell said. "It was really quite an honor."

The upcoming Franklin show will be Campbell's first livestream, and he said he's relieved to be performing for an in-person crowd at the same time.

"We like to play for people, not at people, where you can talk to the audience," he said. "So I love opera houses. They always sound great, and they were built for carrying sound. We're not a loud band; we're more about playing the parts."

He'll bring a seven-piece band that includes fiddle and mandolin players for the evening. It will span Fogelberg's career, from his gentle, semi-confessional early work to mid-'70s jazz rock and the 1985 bluegrass classic *High Country Snows*, a record Campbell names as one of his most beloved in the catalog.

"It was a special project," he said.

Over the summer, Campbell and his band did a few outdoor, socially distanced shows. One memorably happened in the parking lot of The Clambake, a favorite seafood restaurant in his hometown of Scarborough, Maine; he and his band played atop a flatbed truck.

"People got lobster rolls and sat in lawn chairs between each car or in the



Don Campbell. Courtesy photo.

back of a pickup truck," he said. "We put on a three-hour concert and it was really great. I've always said, 'Evolve or dissolve.' Everybody's had to evolve in 2020 to keep things going."

Asked what he'll remember most about this challenging year, Campbell answered quickly.

"Playing in close proximity to people," he said. "Being able to play in venues where there are dancers right in front of you, it's hard to replace that."

The Music of Dan Fogelberg - Don Campbell Band

When: Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Franklin Opera House, 316 Central St., Franklin

Tickets: \$18 & \$20 (\$17/livestream) at franklinoperahouse.org

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Thursday, Nov. 12

<p>Bedford Copper Door: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Brookline Alamo: Matt Borrello, 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Concord Hermanos: Richard Gardzina, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Epping Telly's: Gabby Martin, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Exeter Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.</p> <p>Goffstown Village Trestle: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m. (acoustic)</p> <p>Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m. The Goat: Dave Perlman, 9 p.m. Shane's BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.</p> <p>Hudson Fat Katz: social distance karaoke, 6:30 p.m. (outside)</p>	<p>Londonderry Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Manchester Derryfield: D-Comp, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Meredith Hart's Turkey Farm: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Merrimack Homestead: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Milford The Hills: Robert Allwarden, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Nashua American Social Club: Tyler James, 7 p.m. Fratello's: Ted Solo, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Newmarket Stone Church: Arthur James, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Portsmouth The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.</p>
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Salem

Copper Door: April Cushman, 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 13

<p>Brookline Alamo: Ryan Hood, 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Concord Area 23: Swapping sets with Joe Messineo and Dean Harlem, 7:30 p.m. Cheers: team trivia night, 9 p.m. Penuche's: Becca Myari, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Epping Community Oven: Brad Bosse, 6 p.m. Holy Grail: Jared Steere, 7 p.m. Telly's: Tim Theriault, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Goffstown Village Trestle: Lisa Marie, 6 p.m. (acoustic)</p> <p>Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m. The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. Wally's: Chris Lester, 9 p.m. WHYM: Pete Peterson, 5 p.m.</p> <p>Hudson Fat Katz: social distance karaoke, 6:30 p.m. (outside)</p>	<p>Londonderry Coach Stop: Ted Solo, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Brad Bosse, 1 p.m.; Munk Duane Duo, 7 p.m.</p>
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Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Walker Smith, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Justin Jordan, 9 p.m.
The Foundry: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Malcolm Salls, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Ken Clark

Meredith

Hart's Turkey Farm: Joel Cage, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Chris White, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Tim Kierstead, 5:30 p.m.

Moultonborough

Buckey's: Rick Clogston, 6 p.m.

Nashua

American Social Club: Eric Grant, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

Pittsfield

Main Street Grill & Bar: Nicole Knox Murphy, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Rochester

Porter's Pub: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

Salem

Jocelyn's: Steven the Deviant, 6 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Back to the 80s, 7 p.m.

Stratham

110 Grill: Elijah Clark, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 14

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Chris Powers, 4:30 p.m.

Concord

Area 23: Saturday Jam with Crazy Steve, 1 p.m.; Swapping sets with Frank and Kyle, 7 p.m.
Cheers: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.
Concord Craft Brewing: Alex Cohen, 4 p.m.
Penuche's: Derek Astles & Eric Ober of the Rippin' E Brakes, 8 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.
Telly's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Chris Noyes, 6 p.m. (acoustic)

Hampton

The Goat: David Campbell, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Brad Bosse, 6:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Acoustic Bullet, 7 p.m.

Laconia

Broken Spoke Saloon: Deja Voodoo, 8 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Erika Van Pelt Duo, 6:30 p.m.; Karaoke with Tami Stewart, 10 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Nick Drouin, 9 p.m.
The Foundry: April Cushman, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Andrew Geano, 5:30 p.m.
South Side: Jodee Frawlee, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Music Bingo, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

American Social Club: Jae Mannion, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.

Find live music

These listings for live music are compiled from press releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Some events may be weather dependent. Call venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions. Get your gigs listed by sending information to music@hippopress.com.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Liquid Therapy: Charlie Marie, 6 p.m.
Millyard Brewery: Renee & The Renegades, 6 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Back on Zion Hill, Zach Nugent, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Seamus Caron, 9 p.m.
The Stately: Whiskey Horse, 8 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: WildFire, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15

Bedford
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.; Jodee Frawlee, 4 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Matt Borrello, 4:30 p.m.

Chichester
Flannel Tavern: Bill Coffill, 4 p.m. (acoustic)

Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase, 6:30 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Blues and brews with Alan Roux, 1 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Steve Swartz, 11 a.m. (sax)
Lafayette: Max Sullivan, 3 p.m.
WHYM: Phil Jakes, 1 p.m.

Manchester
Foundry: NH Music Collective artists, 9:30 a.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Sister Dee and the Dis N Dat Band, 1 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Mark Lapointe, 11 a.m.; Chad LaMarsh, 4 p.m.
Tuscan Kitchen: Brad Bosse, 4 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 16

Concord
Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 p.m.

Gilford
Patrick's: Team Trivia, 6:30 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.
Salona: Music bingo, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.; Alex Anthony Band, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.

Hampton
Wally's: Musical Bingo Nation, 7:30 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
KC's: Demetri Papanicolau at 7 p.m., open mic at 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Brad Bosse, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fratello's: Amanda Cote, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Stratham
110 Grill: Music Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 18
Brookline
Alamo: Travis Rollo, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.

Concerts

Ticketed shows; schedule subject to change. See venues for safety procedures and information about rescheduled shows.

Venues

Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 16 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, banknhstage.com

Capitol Center for the Arts
 44 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, ccanh.com

The Flying Monkey
 39 Main St., Plymouth
 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com

Franklin Opera House
 316 Central St., Franklin
 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org

The Music Hall
 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
 436-2400, themusichall.org

Palace Theatre
 80 Hanover St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rex Theatre
 23 Amherst St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Stone Church
 5 Granite St., Newmarket
 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com

Tupelo Music Hall
 10 A St., Derry
 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com

Shows

• **Back on Zion Hill, Zach Nugent** Saturday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Pat McGee Band** Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Combo Sabroso Quartet** Friday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Don Campbell Band with The Music of Dan Fogelberg** Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Franklin

Opera House (livestream option)
 • **Mica's Groove Train** Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (livestream option available)
 • **Patty Larkin** Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Sister Dee and the Dis N Dat Band** Sunday, Nov. 15, 1 p.m., Stone Church
 • **We Salute You (An AC/DC tribute)**, Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Glen Phillips and Chris Barron** Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Tupelo (indoors)
 • **Broken Arrow (a tribute to Neil Young)** Sunday, Nov. 22, 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Heavens to Murgatroid** Saturday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m., Stone Church
 • **A Couple of Fools (Mike and Rich of The Fools)** Saturday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **The British Invasion Years**

Sunday, Nov. 29, 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Gary Hoey's Ho Ho Hoey 25th Anniversary**, Friday, Dec. 4; Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo (indoors)
 • **River Sister** Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (livestream option available)
 • **Geoff Tate** Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5 and 8 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 10, 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Blue Light Rain** (celebration of the music of The Grateful Dead) Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (livestream option available)
 • **Celtic Thunder** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Cap Center
 • **Brandon "Taz" Niederauer** Saturday, Dec. 12, 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Jimmy Lehoux Band** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Kashmir: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Show** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

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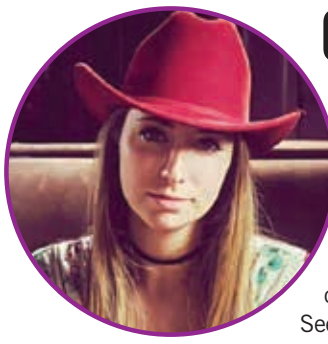
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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK



COUNTRY LADY

Rhode Island singer-songwriter Charlie Marie plays her first show at a Nashua craft beer bar and restaurant. Raised on her grandmother's Loretta Lynn and Merle Haggard records, she cultivated her country side early, and these days counts Margo Price as a key influence. She's released a pair of EPs, including a rollicking live one that perfectly captures her essence as a performer. Saturday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Liquid Therapy, 14 Court St., Nashua. See charliemariemusic.com.

Hampton
Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: Jesse's Open Mic Extravaganza

Merrimack
Homestead: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.
Nashua
Fratello's: Brad Bosse, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 19
Bedford
Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Matt Borrello, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Matt Luneau, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sea Dog: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Gardner Berry, 6 p.m. (acoustic)

Hampton
CR's: Rico Barr, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Dave Perlman, 9 p.m.
Shane's BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Eric Grant, 6 p.m.

Manchester
Derryfield: D-Comp, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

Meredith
Hart's Turkey Farm: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.

Milford
The Hills: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
American Social Club: Paul Lussier, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
The Striker: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Comedy
Some are ticketed shows; schedule subject to change. See venues for safety procedures, ticket information and information about rescheduled shows.

Kathleen's Irish Pub
90 Lake St., Bristol 744-6336, kathleensirishpub.com
LaBelle Winery
345 Route 101, Amherst 672-9898, labellewineryevents.com

• Jody Sloane (headlining three comics), Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m.
• Lenny Clarke dinner and comedy LaBelle Winery, Saturday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.
• Will Noonan (headlining three comics), Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m.
• Jim Colliton (headlining three to four comics) Headliners, Saturday, Nov. 14, 8:30 p.m.

• Friday Night Comedy at the Rex with Tony V, Rex Theatre, Friday, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.
• Jay Grove (headlining three comics), Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m.
• Juston McKinney, Flying Monkey, Saturday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.
• Mark Riley (headlining three comics), Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
• Hypnotist (headlining three to four comics) Headliners, Saturday, Nov. 28, 8:30 p.m.
• Tupelo Night of Comedy with Robbie Printz and Jason Merrill, Tupelo, Saturday, Nov. 28, 8 p.m.
• Queen City Improv Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m.
• Cottage Comedy Kathleen Irish Pub, Saturday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
• Harrison Stebbins (headlining three to four comics) Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 5, 8:30 p.m.

Venues
Capitol Center for the Arts
44 S. Main St., Concord 225-1111, ccanh.com

Palace Theatre
80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palace-theatre.org

Rex Theatre
23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palace-theatre.org

Tupelo Music Hall
10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusic-hall.com

Chunky's
707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com

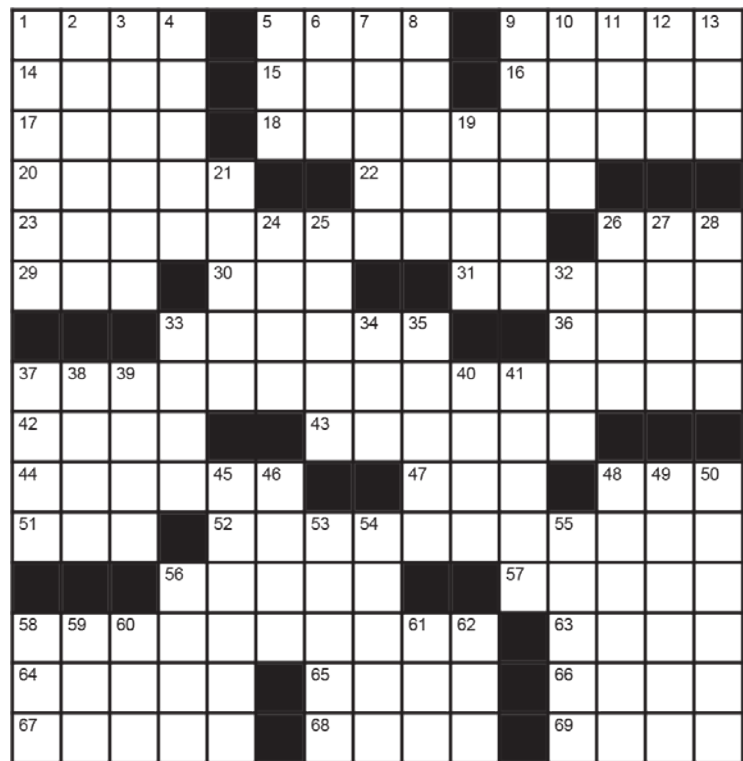
Hatbox Theatre
Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord 715-2315, hatboxnh.com

Zinger's
29 Mont Vernon St., Milford, zingers.biz

Headliners Comedy Club
DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St. in Manchester, headlinerscomedyclub.com

Shows
• Friday Night Comedy at the Rex with Paul D'Angelo, Rex Theatre, Friday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

BAD, BAD PUZZLE BROWN



Down

1. Italian music term for "from the beginning" (2,4)
2. Iconic 'Respect' soul singer Franklin
3. Guide for a youngster
4. Weird AI "___, open up your mouth and feed it" (3,2)
5. Jim Croce "Not a word did I utter ___ lay down in the gutter" (2,1)
6. Def Leppard said it was time to get over it with "___ It Go"
7. 'Bust A Nut' band named after inventor Nikola
8. Van Halen "Standing ___ of the world" (2,3)
9. Joe Strummer movie score ___ Pointe Blank
10. Some rockers long for a small one in a movie
11. LA band ___ Robot
12. Waylon Jennings 'Working Without A ___'
13. Breeders song about unknown John?
19. Come before "aahs"
21. 'Everybody Got Their Something' Nikka
24. Spice Girl Halliwell
25. Bret Michaels single about his daughter that fell from the sky?
26. 80s Steve Howe 'Heat Of The Moment' band
27. Leader of Cradle Of Filth
28. Like song performed just before retirement
32. Marseille Figs was cooking breakfast when they wrote 'Honey How Do You Like Your ___'
33. 'City Of Angels' Goo Goo Dolls soundtrack hit
34. 'If You're Poor, Find Something to Sue Somebody For' Meg & ___
35. Steve Miller told 'Maurice' to do

Across

1. Charting soundtrack 'Hunchback Of Notre ___'
5. Popular sax
9. Alice In Chains song that will crush?
14. Parties happen in the backstage this
15. Yes 'I've ___ All Good People'
16. '90 Dino hit for Juliet?
17. Rapper 50 ___
18. Carole King "___, though we really did try to make it (3,3,4)
20. Old records might be in this upstairs locale
22. Foo Fighters "Give me some rope I'm coming ___"
23. Jim Croce had his camera out for '___ & Memories'
26. New album spots in magazines
29. 'Stories Of A Stranger' Maryland band
30. The Who came ashore and sang '___ And Sand'
31. Devendra Banhart song that goes up and down in a playground? (3,3)
33. BTO classic 'Let ___' was for betting it all, perhaps (2,4)
36. Birch of The Raincoats
37. '82 Supertramp hit/video about a storm that won't let up (3,7,5)
42. West coast state X is from, for short
43. Since zombies eat us, Faith No More wrote 'Zombie ___'
44. Some people believe their idol faked their death and still ___
47. RCA competitor
48. 'Hljómálmind' band Sigur ___
51. Slipknot turntablist Wilson
52. When star gives support to a product it's called this
56. Last name of Jim Croce's 'Leroy'
57. Default '___ Lie' (4,1)
58. Led Zep classic '___ Heaven' (8,2)
63. Elton John's saw a 'Grey' one swimming with a fur and earless one
64. '04 U2 album '___ Dismantle An Atomic Bomb' (3,2)

65. B-52s 'Cosmic Thing' hit you need an atlas for?
66. Cole Porter put a sign on his lawn when he sang 'Love For ___'
67. Gomez thought of a hot coal when they named this 'Lane'
68. What band investor will do with his money
69. Vonda Shepard's cameo was on the TV show ___ McBeal

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Ten countries
- The Monkees (last names)
- Spanish one, two and three
- Pub missile
- Son of Cronus and Rhea

Last Week's Answers: GONDOLA GOVERN GOSPEL GOUDA GOLD GOAT GOAL GOLF / CONTINENT PENINSULA ISLAND / OSCAR EMMY TONY / BUD LOU / OPENING

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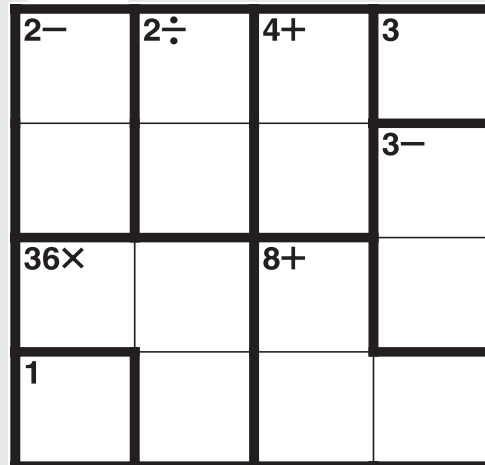
37. T. Cube and Vanilla
38. Joni Mitchell hailed a 'Big Yellow ___'
39. What song did off charts after peaking
40. '88 Aerosmith comp of masterpieces?
41. Babes In Toyland song inspired by title character in 'Little Mermaid', perhaps
45. Frightening LA metal band?
46. Kings Of Leon saw 'Velvet' this falling down in winter
48. What magazine will do with breaking star news
49. Neil Finn's 'One Nil' US release (3,3)
50. Layne of Alice In Chains
53. Kind of fan w/worst view, perhaps
54. Tokio Hotel 'Down ___' (2,3)
55. '98 Aerosmith #1 'I Don't Want To ___ Thing' (4,1)
56. NIN "Will you ___ the hand that feeds?"
58. Chaka Demus 'Murder ___ Wrote'
59. Famous sexyman Jones
60. Funky Scots that are mediocre? (abbr)
61. The Clash 'Atom ___'
62. 80s 'Sugar Tax' synth-band (abbr)

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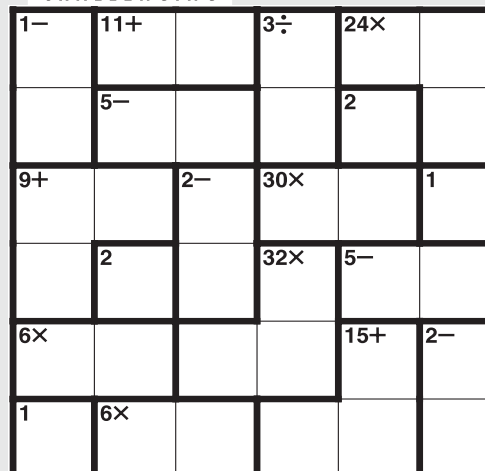
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CHALLENGING

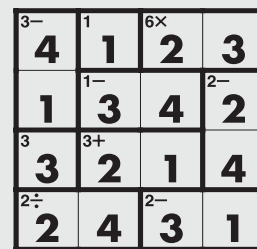


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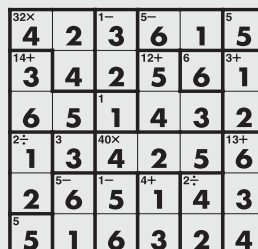
- 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS



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“Going Dim” — turn down for what?

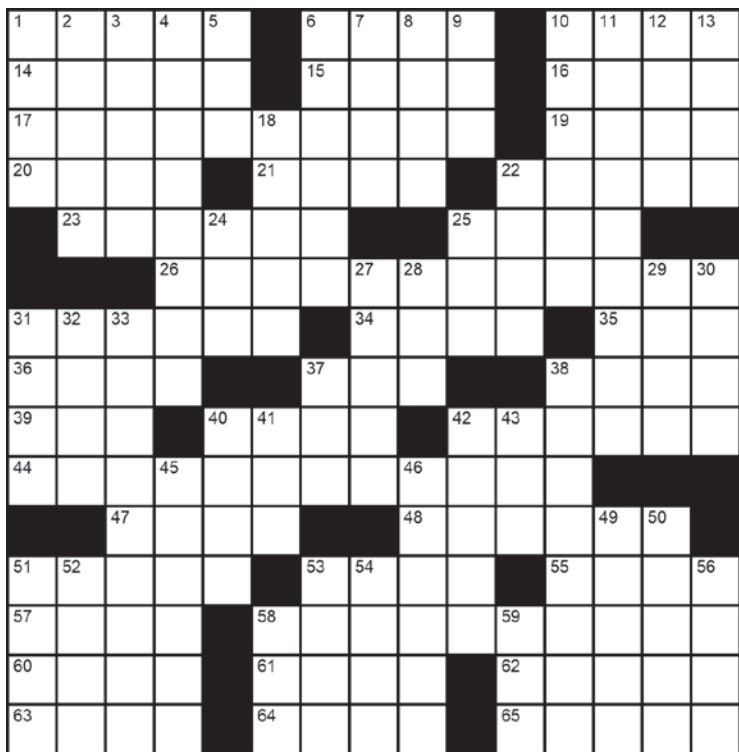
- Across**
 1 Actress Anna who left “Mom” after season 7
 6 Carry through the air
 10 Lose it
 14 The “fifth taste”
 15 Penne ___ vodka
 16 Cuban greeting

- 17 Yoda, for one
 19 Caught in ___ (trapped)
 20 Letter opener, for short?
 21 Grub
 22 Language that gave us “robot” and “howitzer”
 23 Not out of the question
 25 Written companion to a Twitch stream
 26 It might obscure identity
 31 Lithe
 34 “Frozen 2” character
 35 Sorento maker
 36 Francis’s title
 37 Nonstick brand
 38 TV Batman Adam
 39 Kentucky-born boxer
 40 Chancellor Helmut
 42 Team that won the most World Series in the 2010s
 44 Creator of another crater, maybe
 47 Got out quick
 48 “Cocoon” Oscar winner Don
 51 Part of a black suit
 53 Insightful
 55 Tony of “Veep”
 57 Overly formal
 58 Question from someone who just resurfaced (like me after running “best of” puzzles?)
 60 Carbonated drink

- 61 Israeli Golda
 62 “___ Dragon” (2016 Disney remake)
 63 One “A” of AAA
 64 Just say no
 65 Flavoring for Greek cookies

- 31 Luxury resorts (remember those?)
 32 Lemminglike rodent
 33 Entertaining displays of ineptitude
 37 Symbol of the golden ratio
 38 Emmy-winning 2019 HBO miniseries
 40 One of an elephant’s four
 41 Like one
 42 Took advantage of, as a system
 43 It may get crushed
 45 Gary who’s 13 days younger than Gary Numan
 46 Danish, for example
 49 Dominican Republic neighbor
 50 “It’s nobody ___ business”
 51 Adoption agcy.
 52 They do it for a living
 53 “This is exciting”
 54 Comedian and “Love Island” narrator Stirling
 56 Caesar’s “to be”
 58 Target of early-2000s U.N. inspections
 59 Drink with a high IBU
 © 2020 Matt Jones

- Down**
 1 Apple variety from Japan
 2 “FoxTrot” cartoonist Bill
 3 “On the Media” medium
 4 Worthy of copying
 5 ___ City (classic computer game)
 6 Nut and bolt spacer
 7 Part of SATB
 8 Went quickly
 9 Goo in a prehistoric pit
 10 2019 Zachary Levi film
 11 Reply to “No offense”
 12 Jim’s counterpart in recent “SNL” cold opens
 13 Garden route
 18 “Get ___” (GSN show of 2020)
 22 Kitschy plant from the mint family
 24 Diner staple letters
 25 Items stuck in some car changers
 27 Kingdom
 28 Nightmarish street
 29 Central idea
 30 Uber ___ (delivery service)



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 below

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku Answers from Nov. 5

Puzzle A pg 29

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Puzzle B pg 29

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Puzzle C pg 29

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Puzzle A pg 32

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

Difficulty Level ★

Puzzle B pg 32

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Puzzle C pg 32

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Book of Indian Birds*, by Salim Ali, born Nov. 12, 1896.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Orioles ..., along with other such mild-mannered birds as doves and babblers, often build in the same tree as holds a nest of the Black Drongo. ... the birds must thereby enjoy a degree of protection against marauders like crows and tree-pies. Location, location, location.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) The Red-vented Bulbul is a common bird of gardens.... Occasionally it causes some damage to fruit in orchards and is at all times a nuisance in the vegetable patch on account of its weakness for peas. Peas make you strong.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Great noise and bustle prevails before the [Green Bee-eaters] finally settle in for the night. ... They are late risers and may frequently be seen huddled together in little groups along the branches, heads tucked away under their wings and fast asleep, till after the sun is well up. Find a schedule that works for you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) What Is a Bird? A Bird has been described as a 'Feathered Biped.' This description is apt and precise, and can apply to no other animal. You won't get anywhere without precise descriptions.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) [The Blue Rock-Thrush] is of sedentary habits and will often frequent a particular locality day after day throughout the season. The blue rock-thrush is not going to come to you.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) In rapid accommodation of the eye, the bird surpasses all other creatures. The focus can be altered from a distant object to a near one almost instantaneously.... A change in focus may be beneficial.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) The Red-whiskered Bulbul is another of the more familiar birds of our garden and countryside.... Its joyous, querulous notes may be heard at all hours of the day. Keep the noise to a reasonable level.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Birds build nests which may range from a simple scrape in the ground, as of the Lapwing, to such elaborate structures as the compactly woven nest of the Weaver Bird. Make your structure how you want it.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Cobwebs are very extensively employed in bird architecture, for binding the material compactly and neatly together: You can go from cobweb to curb appeal in a few easy steps.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) One often hears it asserted that there are no birds in this locality or that. Such statements merely suggest that the observer may not know exactly where and how to look for them. Some birds just don't like the limelight.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) The pretty little song ... is seldom heard when the birds are in their winter quarters. Seasonal variations may occur.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) [The Ashy Wren-Warbler] flits about excitedly, jerks his tail up and down and flutters his wings. His jerky undulating flight gives the impression of his tail being too heavy for him to carry. But it's not.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 Bartlett, for one (4)	_____
2 circular (5)	_____
3 pillow (7)	_____
4 green gemstone (7)	_____
5 noblewoman (8)	_____
6 child of a king and queen (8)	_____
7 beaming (7)	_____

EM	CE	ERA	DI	CUS
HI	LD	ISE	QU	IN
AR	ND	PR	PE	RA
ANT	ROU	MAR	ON	SS

11/8 Last Week's Answers: 1. RINGLET 2. CAVATAPPI 3. SLINKY 4. WHIRLPOOL 5. CORKSCREW 6. COCHLEA 7. SPRING

R&R answer from pg 31 of 11/5

C	O	N	D	O	S	A	T	A	N	S	G	T
O	N	E	O	F	E	N	E	M	A	H	O	W
I	C	A	N	T	T	A	K	E	I	T	I	T
L	E	T	T	H	E	A	N	T	I	A	N	T
B	E	N	T	R	O	N	S	O	N			
R	U	L	E	S	T	H	E	M	I	N	D	
A	T	A	U	S	E	M	E	M	Y	L	O	
T	A	K	E	N	P	I	L	D	R	A	I	N
T	H	E	A	I	L	L	B	E	W	E	T	
T	H	A	T	Y	O	U	C	A	N	D	O	
L	A	D	I	E	S	W	I	L	D			
A	G	I	T	A	T	E	D	L	A	M	E	N
P	I	A	L	I	V	E	A	T	R	I	V	E
O	R	R	I	M	E	A	N	E	R	A	S	E
F	L	Y	T	E	R	R	Y	D	E	N	S	E

Jonesin' answer from pg 32 of 11/5

C	A	L	M	L	A	P	E	M	O	J	I			
A	L	I	A	O	R	E	O	R	E	S	E	W		
L	E	F	T	O	V	E	R	S	G	E	L	A	T	O
I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	C	H	I	C	K	E	N
H	U	G	S	A	I	A	R	T						
D	O	S	S	U	B	R	A	G	S					
A	H	A	S	R	A	M	R	E	A	C	T			
M	I	L	K	J	U	I	C	E	B	U	T	T	E	R
N	O	K	I	A	U	S	A	H	I	R	E			
P	H	D	S	P	C	S	T	A	X					
A	M	S	A	P	P	K	O	I						
R	O	M	A	I	N	E	R	A	D	I	S	H	E	S
B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	C	A	R	R	O	T	S
U	P	T	H	E	L	E	N	T	E	L	O	N		
S	H	E	E	T	S	E	E	D	E	N	S			

Jonesin' Classic answer from pg 34 of 11/5

S	T	G	O	L	E	M	I	S	A	R	S			
C	I	O	R	E	T	I	N	O	L	L	E	A		
A	D	D	T	O	R	N	A	D	O	L	A	T		
D	E	S	T	I	N	E	D	T	O	G	L	O	R	Y
S	T	A	N	Z	A	I	S	O	V	E	R			
A	V	G									B	E	N	
A	B	E	C	A	R	T	R	I	P	R	D	A		
A	L	T	O	N	E	H	A	L	F	T	E	D		
Z	O	E	K	I	N	E	T	I	C	H	D	S		
E	M	E	N	D	T	A	S	T	E					
B	B	Q	S							A	W	E	E	
L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	O	U	T	L	O	U	D
A	L	E	A	M	I	A	B	L	E	R	B	L	I	
Z	O	E	H	O	T	P	I	N	K	L	I	T		
E	O	N	A	N	S	T	A	E	D	E	S			



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Inexplicable

Firefighters with Essex County (England) Fire and Rescue Service were called to a derelict laundromat in Epping on Oct. 30, where three young men had become trapped inside an industrial-sized tumble dryer. Two of them had climbed all the way into the dryer, while the third had managed to get his ankles trapped in the door. Firefighters were joined by Essex Police, a medical helicopter and the ambulance service as they employed “a lot of heavy equipment” to free the men, watch manager Glenn Jackson told Sky News. No word on what they were looking for in there.

Rise of the machines

• A thief in Lippstadt, Germany, was foiled by his own booty on Oct. 27 as he tried to make off with a robotic lawnmower. The Associated Press reported that the robot sent a message to the owner’s smartphone, alerting the man that it had been flipped upside down. When the owner went to investigate, he saw the thief with the robot under his arm. Police said the thief then dropped the lawnmower and fled.

• Craig Hershoff of Miami has invented a robot to help people like himself who may have difficulty using the special contact lenses they wear for vision problems that can’t be helped with regular contacts. The Cliara Lens Robot can insert and remove the lenses by voice activation. “It really helps with dexterity,” Hershoff told WPLG, especially for elderly or disabled

people. The robot is being tested in a clinical trial in Boston, and he hopes to have FDA clearance on it early next year.

• Fans of the Caledonian Thistle soccer team in Inverness, Scotland, were frustrated as they watched a broadcast of the club’s Oct. 24 game against rival Ayr United when the new robotic cameras programmed to follow the ball around the pitch focused instead on the bald head of one of the game’s linesmen. The team had proudly announced a week earlier that it would be replacing human camera operators with a new system “with in-built, AI, ball-tracking technology” to stream live HD footage of home games to season ticket holders and fans who purchased the service. IFLScience reported that while many fans complained, others “saw this as a bonus, given the usual quality of performance.”

Bright ideas

• Two passengers traveling together on an American Airlines flight from Dallas to Miami on Oct. 30 were removed before taking off after one of the women attempted to sneak from coach into first class and hide in the footwell of her friend’s seat, Fox News reported. The flight had already been delayed because of a catering issue, according to a witness, who said, “Apparently the plan was for this woman’s friend to remain there the entire flight ... (as a stunt to) drive viewers to their YouTube channel.” Flight attendants discovered the plot when they noticed an empty seat in coach, and the

plane returned to the gate so the friends could be removed. The witness reported an unrelated passenger was also removed after he “cussed out” a flight attendant over the delay.

• An unnamed man from Idaho Falls, Idaho, pleaded guilty in a Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, court on Sept. 10 to citations including walking in restricted thermal areas of Yellowstone National Park after park rangers found him with a cooking pot and a burlap sack containing two whole chickens near a hot spring. Witnesses tipped off rangers on Aug. 7 that a group of 10 people, including a child, were seen hiking toward Shoshone Geyser Basin carrying cooking pots, EastIdahoNews.com reported. The man was ordered to pay fines and has been banned from Yellowstone for two years.

Government in action

The San Diego City Council blocked funding last summer for its controversial smart streetlights program, which features not only streetlights but also a video surveillance system that has been used by the San Diego Police Department, and on Sept. 9, Mayor Kevin Faulconer ordered the cameras turned off. But Voice of San Diego reported the cameras and streetlights are connected to the same power supply, so turning them off would have left the city in the dark. Florida-based Ubicquia owns the underlying technology, but the company has been reluctant to work with the city because of unpaid bills amounting to \$771,000.

Meanwhile, the cameras are still recording and storing footage for five days.

Awesome!

• Julie McSorley of San Luis Obispo, California, and her friend Liz Cottriel were enjoying a sunny day of kayaking and whale-watching at Avila Beach on Nov. 2 when they were overturned by a humpback that got too close while feeding. “I saw the big pool of fish, the big bait ball come up out of the water. ... All of a sudden I lifted up and I was in the water,” McSorley told KMPH. “I thought it was gonna land on me,” Cottriel said. Other paddleboarders and kayakers came to their rescue, thinking the whale may have bitten the women, but it merely pushed them underwater. “We got back to the car, I was shaking my shirt and a bunch of fish came out of my shirt,” Cottriel said.

• Loyola University graduate Brianna Hill went into labor within minutes of sitting down to take the Illinois bar exam on Oct. 5, but “I didn’t think about it because I was in the test,” she told NBC5 in Chicago. Hill continued and finished the first part of the test, then gave birth to a healthy son hours later at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois. She tackled the second part of the exam the next day, from the hospital, breastfeeding during breaks. The whole experience was “definitely a little crazy,” she said. She’ll find out if she passed in December.

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