



NOVEMBER 19 - 25, 2020

STORIES IN
COMICS P. 10

LIVE MUSIC
THIS WEEKEND P. 28

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Why Trump lost



Make no mistake about it, Donald Trump lost this election and the passion on both sides was either for or against Donald Trump. While many were hopeful of a blue Democratic wave, it didn't happen. It looks likely that the Republicans will hold onto the Senate and gain House seats. And, although New Hampshire voted for Joe Biden, Republicans fared very well in other elections around the state. It is my belief that this election was less about whether Trump did a good job with his presidential policies and more about the style in which he carried off his duties.

This style leaves a list of "don'ts" for future presidents. These should have been no-brainers for virtually anyone elected to that office and had Trump avoided these things he probably would have been re-elected.

1. Don't call the scientist idiots — and wear a mask.
2. Don't make fun of people with disabilities.
3. Don't disparage prisoners of war (this alone probably cost Trump Arizona).
4. Don't stereotype people.
5. Don't anger our allies. We need them.
6. Release your tax returns. Everybody else seeking that office seems to have no problem releasing theirs. It looks like you have something to hide.
7. Don't trash all of your predecessors. It makes you look small.
8. Have an actual health care plan. (Trump had four years!)
9. Don't call people names. Schools across the country teach students that this is bullying.
10. Clearly denounce white supremacists. (I know that when pressed on the issue Trump denounced them but it never seemed genuine.)
11. Don't separate parents from their kids.

None of the above are hard to understand. Anyone else in the president's position would have followed these. So many who were inclined to support many of Trump's policies were turned off by actions like these. I believe that Trump could have still been that quirky commander in chief that so many seem to love and still not made so many of these obvious errors. Obviously, my advice is too late.

Fred Bramante is a past chairman and member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education. He speaks and consults on education redesign to regional, state and national organizations.



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See the recipe for this cranberry-orange Vienna French toast on page 19. Photo courtesy of the Purple Finch in Bedford.

ON THE COVER

16 GIVE THANKS AND RELAX It won't be a typical Thanksgiving this year for most people, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy all of the traditional sweet and savory flavors. Local chefs share their tips and recipes for an easier, more relaxed meal to celebrate the holiday.

ALSO ON THE COVER, a local comics artist tells stories of migrant farmworkers, p. 10. Beer columnist Jeff Mucciarone has some suggestions for the best beers to go with your relaxing Thanksgiving meal, p. 22. And if you're looking for live, in-person music, check out our Music This Week listings starting on p. 28.

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Covid-19 news

Several state chief medical and nursing officers issued a joint statement with the New Hampshire Hospital Association on Nov. 10, urging people to continue to adhere to the guidance from state health officials to prevent the spread of Covid-19. “We ask that you ... wear a mask, stay at least six feet apart, avoid crowds, wash your hands frequently, cover your mouth when you cough and stay home if you are experiencing any respiratory or unexplained symptoms,” the statement reads.

State health officials reported 462 new positive tests of Covid-19 in New Hampshire on Nov. 13, the most recorded in a single day since the start of the pandemic in March, and an increase of more than 100 from the previous record set just the day before (323 new positive tests on Nov. 12). “In the last week, we have now averaged about 240 new infections per day statewide, which is up from where we were last week,” state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan said in a Nov. 12 press conference. “This ... virus is now widespread in our state. The number of infections are increasing. The hospitalizations are increasing. The test-positivity rate is increasing, and the number of people dying from Covid-19 is also increasing.”

Chan also announced that, due to the rapidly increasing rates of community transmission, the state Department of Health & Human Services will no longer be conducting contact tracing investigations for those who test positive. “Instead, we will be prioritizing who we investigate and targeting our public health resources to those individuals in those situations most at need and most at risk for [the] spread of Covid-19,” Chan said.

As of Nov. 12, 64 people in New Hampshire were being hospitalized for Covid-19, but Gov. Chris Sununu said he expects that number will rise “very aggressively,” which may prompt the need to open more temporary “surge

hospitals” in the state. “Hospitals are open and they’re performing services, [and] they have a lot of testing capability,” he said. “That means we have less available bed capacity today than we did [in March and April] ... and so the need to open a surge or flex hospital would probably come much sooner.”

Later during the same press conference, DHHS Commissioner Lori Shibinette reported four instances of potential community exposures of Covid-19 at polling locations on Election Day (Nov. 3) — at Souhegan High School in Amherst, Pembroke Academy, Belmont High School and Newfields Elementary School. “These were all people that identified in the last couple of days of having positive Covid-19 tests and reported being in line and not being able to six-foot socially distance,” Shibinette said, noting that anyone who was at any of those polling stations should monitor for symptoms.

Sununu also announced that New Hampshire, along with each of the five New England states and New Jersey, has suspended all interstate hockey competitions for public and private schools, and for youth hockey, from Nov. 14 through Dec. 31. “This doesn’t pause hockey,” he said. “It pauses crossing the border for games.” Sununu added that college, professional or national team hockey activities are not impacted by the suspension.

With the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday just one week away, Sununu announced the state has updated its travel guidance for residents who travel outside of New England. “Currently, when you come back, we’re having folks quarantine for 14 days,” he said. “We’re augmenting that to allow a seven-day quarantine with a test. So if you get a test, after seven days, you don’t have to do the 14. You could do the 14 without a test, or you can quarantine for seven days with a test. ... “Obviously, we’re not going to tell people that they can’t have a family gathering at Thanksgiving. But what we can do

is manage our controls, expectations, the elevated message, and especially the data that we’re seeing out there.”

On Nov. 14, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 72, an order extending Emergency Order No. 52, which had been issued on June 15. Emergency Order No. 52 is an order regarding public health guidance for business operations and advising Granite Staters they are safer at home. Emergency Order No. 72 extends that advisory through Jan. 15.

On Nov. 16, Sununu reactivated the state’s Long Term Care Stabilization Program, offering stipends to frontline health care workers at Medicaid facilities until Dec. 31.

Details of all of Sununu’s Emergency Orders, Executive Orders and other announcements can be found at governor.nh.gov.

Child Advocate report

Released last week, the Office of the Child Advocate’s Annual Report cited the pandemic as the “dominating factor of the year” for children, according to a press release. The Division for Children, Youth and Families received praise from Child Advocate Moira O’Neill for the support it provided to families to help prevent abuse or neglect that stemmed from pandemic restrictions. The report identified pandemic-related concerns, such as less access to school personnel, who usually monitor for signs of abuse and neglect. The Office of the Child Advocate is working toward implementation of an expanded community-based system of care, which it identifies as the most critical response to child and family needs, the press release said. Also in the report is a look at the number of complaints about state services for children that the office has received from Oct. 1, 2019, to Sept. 30, 2020, as well as reports of incidents that involve kids in state care during that same time frame. “We received, reviewed and monitored outcomes of 2,183 incident reports,” O’Neill said in the report.

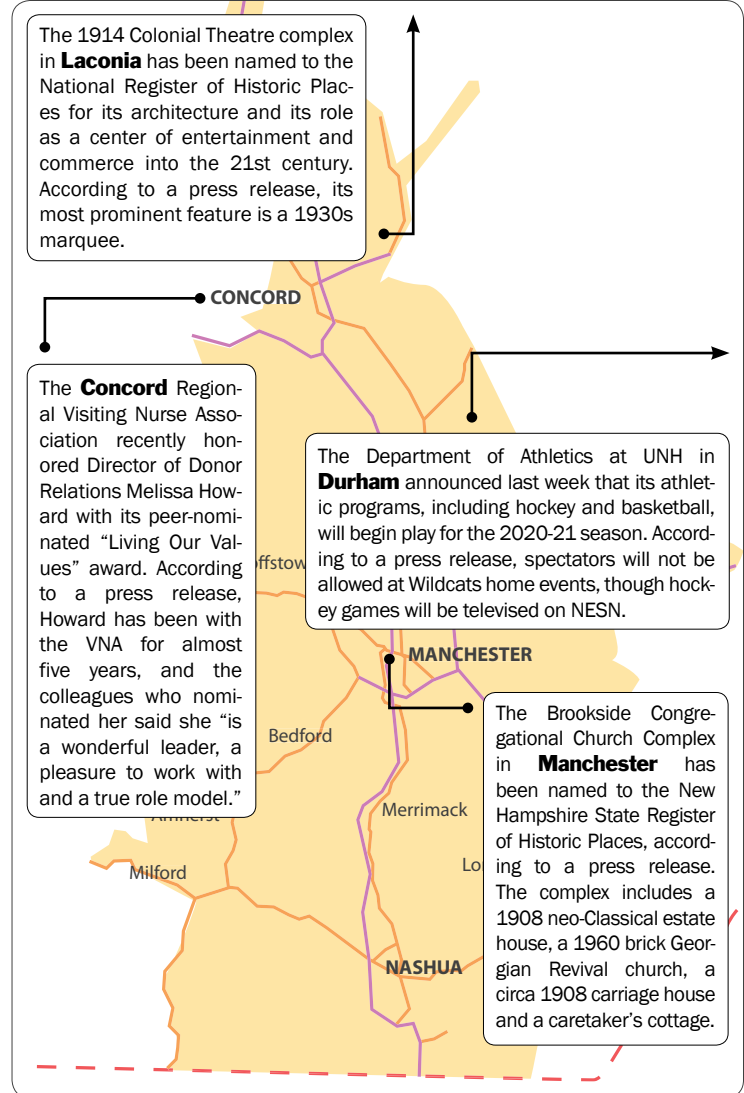
The 1914 Colonial Theatre complex in **Laconia** has been named to the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture and its role as a center of entertainment and commerce into the 21st century. According to a press release, its most prominent feature is a 1930s marquee.

CONCORD

The **Concord** Regional Visiting Nurse Association recently honored Director of Donor Relations Melissa Howard with its peer-nominated “Living Our Values” award. According to a press release, Howard has been with the VNA for almost five years, and the colleagues who nominated her said she “is a wonderful leader, a pleasure to work with and a true role model.”

The Department of Athletics at UNH in **Durham** announced last week that its athletic programs, including hockey and basketball, will begin play for the 2020-21 season. According to a press release, spectators will not be allowed at Wildcats home events, though hockey games will be televised on NESN.

The Brookside Congregational Church Complex in **Manchester** has been named to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places, according to a press release. The complex includes a 1908 neo-Classical estate house, a 1960 brick Georgian Revival church, a circa 1908 carriage house and a caretaker’s cottage.



“That is an increase of three times what we saw in the year before.” However, those numbers reflect DCYF coming into compliance with the mandate to report and not necessarily an increase in incidents, according to the release.

School lunches

Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig sent a letter last week to the New Hampshire congressional delegation regarding the concern that the city’s school district, as well as districts throughout the state, is in danger of losing funding due to a reduction in the number of families who have filled out paperwork to be eligible for free or reduced lunches. That number helps determine school funding needs, but because all students have been able to get free school lunches during the pandemic without filling out forms, the current number does not reflect the actual need, the letter says. In Manchester, prior to the pandemic, about 49.5 percent of students in the district were eligible for free lunch; as of Oct. 31, that number dropped to 39.99 percent. “This decrease in enrollment does not reflect the needs of our community, however, and if this continues, the Differentiated Aid under the Adequacy formula that

is tied to the number of students receiving free and reduced lunch will be approximately \$3.6 million lower than this year,” Craig wrote in the letter. “This is an unintended consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic that could have detrimental impacts on school district budgets across the state.”

Sports betting

Since it debuted on Dec. 30 last year, the New Hampshire Lottery has surpassed \$200 million in total sports wagering, with more than 52,000 registered customers in New Hampshire making over 6 million bets that totaled more than \$205.1 million as of Nov. 9, according to a press release. Since Dec. 30, New Hampshire Lottery and DraftKings have launched mobile sports betting in New Hampshire and have opened two retail sportsbook locations for in-person betting, at DraftKings Sportsbook at The Brook in Seabrook and DraftKings Sportsbook at Manchester at the Filotimo Casino & Restaurant. “The success of sports betting in New Hampshire represents success for our entire state, as revenue from sports betting directly benefits education in New Hampshire,” Gov. Chris Sununu said in the release.

Covid-19 update	As of November 9	As of November 16
Total cases statewide	12,699	15,029
Total current infections statewide	2,057	3,344
Total deaths statewide	489	500
New cases	1,379 (Nov. 3 to Nov. 9)	2,330 (Nov. 10 to Nov. 16)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	576	1,168
Current infections: Merrimack County	227	320
Current infections: Rockingham County	497	690

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Spotlight on mental health

High school filmmaker confronting stigma

U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan named Brielle Paquette, a high school senior from Salem, October's "Granite Stater of the Month," a title that recognizes New Hampshire citizens who are working to make a difference in their communities. Paquette has been using her platform as Miss Londonderry and her filmmaking talents to confront the stigma surrounding mental illness. In 2019, at a competition held by New Hampshire Futures, an organization focused on promoting health and wellness in the state, she received the People's Choice Award for a PSA video she made about mental illness. Paquette talked about the video and why she is passionate about the issue of mental health.

Q: *How long have you been making videos?*

I grew up around a very artistic family. A lot of them are photographers and videographers themselves, so I grew up always having a camera in my face. Eventually, when I got older, I was like, 'This looks fun,' and me and my cousins started making little plays. Ever since then I've been like, 'This is what I want to do.' It wasn't until I got older that I started using it for more serious topics. Instead of making music videos, I started making videos about mental health and stuff that I feel really passionate about. I've actually created three mental health videos.

What sparked your interest in mental health and mental illness?

I grew up with both of my parents who struggled with mental illness. My dad used to be an alcoholic, and my mom had extreme anxiety. Growing up around that was very difficult and very hard on my mental health, especially being such a young child. Me and my brother both developed really bad anxiety and went through times where we were very depressed, but luckily we were able to get the help we needed and go to therapy and everything and get through it.

Tell me about the PSA you made.

I made a sign that said "20 - 50 percent of adolescents struggle with mental illness. Hug to show support for people who are struggling." I went to Boston with my mom, and I went to a subway station. I blindfolded myself and stood there and let random people hug me. All these normal people are going about their day — we don't know what their names are or what they've been through — and they go up to me and hug me to show support and show that maybe they're going through mental illness. ... I guess the whole purpose of that video was to spark conversation. I wanted to get the message across that there are so many people out there who are going through this, and it shouldn't be looked down upon. It should be something that we should be able to talk about, and I wanted to make peo-



Brielle Paquette. Courtesy photo.

ple feel safe to talk about what they're going through.

What kind of response did you get?

I got so much feedback — way more than I was expecting, which was the most amazing thing. Within five minutes of uploading the video, one of my friends who I went to school with called me hysterically crying, and her first words were 'thank you.' She just thanked me and said it was so hard for her to be able to watch that, but it made her feel so safe and comfortable, and it made her feel like she wasn't alone. There were so many other people who reached out to me saying that it really touched them or really moved them, and that they're showing [the video to] their parents and their friends, and that a lot of people could relate to it. ... There were even people from across the country reaching out to me.

Why is breaking down the stigma around mental illness important?

I remember when I was a little girl, I would sit in my room, feeling all alone, feeling like, 'I shouldn't be feeling like this because this is bad, and I can't let anyone know how I'm feeling because people will make fun of me or judge me or just won't understand.' That was just such a terrible feeling, and if I had known that [mental illness] wasn't bad and that I wasn't alone, then maybe I would have been able to reach out and get help sooner. I'm very lucky for the family and the support that I have, but I know that not everyone is that fortunate. I want to be able to advocate for those people who are afraid to speak up and let them know that it's OK, that they can talk about it and that they aren't alone.

Do you know what you want to do after graduation and beyond?

I'll definitely be going to college ... and I'll definitely be majoring in film production and directing. I would love to go to school in Boston or New York and be able to start working with production companies there. My end goal is to be a director for movies. I would also love to produce and direct commercials ... and music videos.

— Angie Sykeny

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

Crowing after Ravens win?



So what do we have here with the Patriots? After losing four straight for the first time since 2002, they're now on a two-game winning streak. Given what we've enjoyed for two decades that's hardly something to get excited about, but still it's something. The question is what to make of it without getting out ahead of your skis as they are still just 4-5 after all. So here's a look at how it's gone down so far.

Criticism of Coach B: He's taken his share. They include some curious clock management issues, the recent draft record, salary cap management and how he handled the QB position after you-know-who left. We'll address them as we go along, but some are fair, some debatable and some over-the-top ridiculous from whiners who can't see past two weeks at a time.

Draft Record: Coach B was a bit defensive about it last week. I've been in that chorus and stretched it back to 2013. But I went back over it and it's not quite as bad as I thought, though it falls down badly at the receiving positions. They haven't gotten anything out of their tight ends, which they badly needed. But with a team-high 12 tackles Sunday **Kyle Dugger** had his best game, ditto for **Josh Uche** playing his most snaps while picking up a sack, and with **Michael Onwenu** doing well at right tackle they're getting some production from 2020 picks. And with **Damien Harris** having three 100-yard games in his five starts and **Chase Winovich** out of the doghouse vs. Baltimore, 2019 is looking a bit better. Not great but, better.

Salary Cap Mismanagement: Coach B got hammered for saying they've been hurt by lack of cap room after selling out to win in recent years. While I can't say I ever heard him make anything close to an excuse like that, it doesn't make it untrue. True, there have been some questionable calls, but I'd argue putting the \$14 million franchise tag on **Joe Thuney** was not one of them. That's a lot of cabbage, but with the running game emerging as the calling card now and a disaster last year it was necessary. And with about \$100 million to spend next year in free agency, it's a one-year thing so harping on it is ridiculous.

Biggest Surprises and Disappointments

(1) **Damien Harris** – After he didn't play at all last year, I didn't have great expectations. But he has zero **Laurence Maroney** in him, which is to say he runs with a purpose and decisively to make him a huge development.

(2) **Jakobi Meyers** – 12 catches last week, five more with a TD pass to boot this week. He's definitely benefited from Newton's attention after **Tom Brady's** indifference to helping young receivers in recent years.

(3) **Nick Folk** – He missed a PAT Sun-

day, but he had to rush it because a block was missed on his right side. But he won the Jets game with a 51-yard FG and has been solid, which was a life-saver after fifth-round pick **Justin Rohrwasser** busted.

(4) **N'Keal Harry** – With just 19 catches and one TD after nine games last year's top pick is on the not so great side. He's what people are pointing to about Belichick's drafting mistakes. Made worse considering game breakers **Deebo Samuel, A.J. Brown, Mecole Hardman** and especially **D.K. Metcalf** were all taken right after him in Round II.

(5) **Stephon Gilmore** – He's been inconsistent, disengaged at times and missed three games with injuries. But there's still time to get the focus back.

(6) **Cam Newton** – He's a little of both. SF and Denver were terrible games and the fumble in Buffalo was a killer. But I think the biggest problem was he just didn't know the offense well enough, which led to indecision as a passer. Plus **Josh McDaniels** wasn't quite sure how to most effectively use him. But it seemed in better focus the last two weeks as Newton played much better. Though I need a better sample size for a definitive conclusion.

What to Make of the Jets Win: Yes, it was the Jets. Yes, it took a field goal as the game ended to beat a winless team. Hardly something to crow about. So how come **Coach B** called it one of the best two moments of his career? My guess is after four straight morale-killing losses he saw the season going south in a hurry. So seeing his much-criticized team with the pride to fight back from 10 down in the fourth period meant something more than just a W.

What to Make of the Ravens Win: It was improvement. That's it. The hallmark of Coach B's team has been that outside of 2015 and last year they always improve as they go along. While there have been glitches, that's mostly been the case the last three weeks as they've demonstrated who they are offensively by rushing for 186, 156 and 173 yards: a grind-it-out, run-it-down-their-throat kind of a team that will pick its spots with a conservative passing game.

Where Do They Stand? When the schedule came out I did the W and L thing and had them at 4-5 after nine weeks. Though I had Denver a win and Baltimore a loss. So they're where I thought they'd be, making the relevant question today, what will they be when it's over? The pessimists (and naysayers) understandably say it's hard to avoid the obvious issues during the first nine weeks. The optimists say if Newton gets in on the final play for Seattle and doesn't fumble on that final drive vs. Buffalo they're two plays away from being 6-3. There is truth to both views and only time will tell on what will happen.

Though my money goes on Coach B helping them get better as they go along.
Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Unsettled schooling

With the increasing number of Covid cases, school districts across the state are rethinking their learning models, with many making modifications on a daily or weekly basis as things change and an increasing number deciding to go fully remote through the holidays. The Manchester School District voted Monday night to move from a hybrid model to fully remote learning from Nov. 23 through at least Jan. 19, according to a report from WMUR. In Concord, the School Board voted last week to continue its hybrid instruction until Dec. 23, followed by remote learning from Jan. 4 through Jan. 18, after the holiday break, according to a message on the school district's Facebook page. Pinkerton Academy in Derry will move to fully remote learning starting Nov. 23 through December, according to a letter on the school's website from Headmaster Timothy Powers. And the Nashua School District will move to all remote learning from Nov. 23 until at least Dec. 11, according to a letter from Superintendent Jahmal Mosley on the district's website.

Score: -4 for the upheaval and disruption for everybody involved
Comment: *What day is it again? An in-person school day? A remote learning day? Or is it Saturday? QOL understands the virus-containing reasons for the schedule changes but waking up has never been so complicated.*

A new Thanksgiving-esque event

While some turkey trots have been canceled or have transitioned to virtual runs, there's a brand new event in Goffstown this year: the first annual Gobble Wobble 5-Miler. The event is being hosted by Total Image Running and will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary Wesley Wyman Unit No. 16 in Goffstown, to help them support local veterans, active duty military and their families. The run is being offered both virtually and in person, the latter of which starts and ends at the town's Parks and Recreation facility on Mast Road on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 9 a.m. Registration for the virtual run closes Nov. 28, so participants can run any time prior to that. The cost is \$35 or \$40 (depending on age and whether the run is in person or virtual), and all runners, walkers and wobblers will get a Gobble Wobble hooded sweatshirt. Visit runsignup.com/Race/NH/Goffstown/GobbleWobble5Miler to register.

Score: +1
Comment: *Cheers to the opposite of canceling an event — starting a new one! Safety protocols, like socially distanced start times and mask-wearing at the starting line, will be in place.*

Good at giving

New Hampshire is the 15th most charitable state, according to a new study from personal-finance website WalletHub, which compared the 50 states using data that indicated charitable behavior, from volunteer rates to donated income. The Granite State ranked third for percentage of population that donated time, seventh for charities per capita, 13th for volunteer hours per capita, 16th for volunteer rate and 18th for percentage of the population that donated money.

Score: +1
Comment: *Our closest neighbors' rankings were varied, with Maine coming in ninth, Massachusetts ranking 21st and Vermont coming in at 36th.*

QOL score: 69
Net change: -2
QOL this week: 67

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

75

50



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Meet the neighbors

NH comics artist tells the stories of migrant farmworkers

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Henniker comic artist Marek Bennett is one of 15 New England comic artists contributing to *The Most Costly Journey*, a nonfiction comics anthology from the Vermont Folklife Center, set for release in February and available online now.

The comics depict true stories told by more than 20 Latin American migrant workers working on dairy farms in Vermont, exploring themes like language barriers, substance abuse, separation from family, work issues, domestic abuse, depression and other challenges that many migrant workers face.

The idea for the anthology was conceived by Julia Doucet, a nurse at The Open Door Clinic, a free health clinic in Middlebury, Vermont, serving uninsured and under-insured adults, after she noticed a trend of migrant patients suffering from untreated anxiety and trauma. She believed it could be therapeutic for them to tell their stories and wanted to create a safe outlet for them to do so.

"There's a lot of healing in forming narratives and making sense of your experiences," Bennett said, "and making it into something visual, like comics, is a great way to do that."

Bennett, who teaches at The Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, Vermont, first heard about the anthology in progress when one of the organizers, an

archivist from the Vermont Folklife Center, visited the campus to give a presentation on ethnography in comics.

"He mentioned this new project he was working on, and when I heard what it was about, my ears perked up," Bennett said. "It really spoke to me because of the kinds of comics I usually do, which tend to focus on the unknown and unheard stories and voices from our communities and from our history."

The comic artists conducted one-on-one interviews with their paired storytellers. A transcript of the interview was made and provided to the artist, who then got to work on an eight-or-so-page comic.

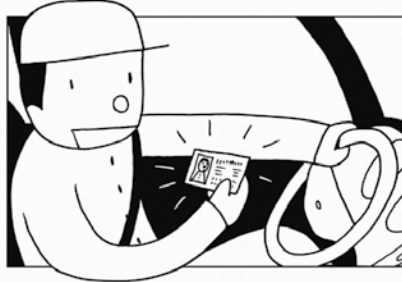
Creating a "condensed distillation of the person's experience" from the transcript, some of which were pages long and "could easily be made into a whole graphic novel," was one of the hardest steps, Bennett said.

"At that point, the question becomes, what do you include? What do you leave out? How do you arrange things?" he said. "It's your own creative process — you choose what aspect or what element [to focus on] in those eight pages, and you choose the style and how to show the story — but you're doing it in service to the storyteller's vision."

He didn't always get it right the first time; the comic artists were expected to consult with the storytellers throughout the process to make sure that the comic was an accurate representation of the story and the storytell-

"EL VIAJE MAS CARO" / "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY" presents:

NOW THAT I HAVE MY LICENSE



Migrant Laborers Reflect on Driving
Art by Marek Bennett

"EL VIAJE MAS CARO" / "THE MOST COSTLY JOURNEY"

ALGO ADENTRO - SOMETHING INSIDE -



Historia y pintura por: El migrante de Hidalgo
Story & paintings by: Marek Bennett
Historieta por: Marek Bennett
Comics by: Marek Bennett

er, and that it "got to the heart" of what the storyteller wanted to communicate, Bennett said. In one instance, the storyteller felt that the artistic style Bennett used for the comic was not a good fit for the story.

"I scrapped it, backed up and redesigned the whole thing, because ultimately it's their story," he said. "If they say to me, 'No, that's not what [the experience] was like,' I actually really appreciate that. ... I think having them there to teach you and show you what direction to go in helps you create a stronger project."

Bennett said he hopes the anthology will give a more human face to the issue of immigration, and give readers a greater sense of

appreciation for the people behind "the nice New England farm pictures on the milk and cheese labels."

"Much of the time when we hear about immigration it's in terms that are abstract for us: 'down on the Texas border' and 'some detention center in the South,'" he said, "but these stories are coming out of Vermont, and whether we recognize it or not, these people are a part of our society. They're our neighbors." 🌱

Find Marek Bennett's work

To view the comic online, visit vermont-folklifecenter.org/elviajemascaro-eng. For more from Marek, visit marekbennet.com.

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.

• **JOAN L. DUNFEY EXHIBITION** The New Hampshire Art Association presents artwork

in a variety of media by regional NHAA members and non-members. The exhibit theme is "Intrinsic Moments." NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, 136 State St., Portsmouth. On view now through Nov. 29. Gallery hours are Monday and Tuesday by appointment, Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., but are subject to change. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **"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.

• **"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.

• **"PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT"** Exhibit features photography from the Civil Rights protests in the 1950s and 1960s. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. On view now. Museum hours are Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Monday through Wednesday. 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.

Special events

• **NHAA 80TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY** New Hampshire

Art Association hosts a silent art auction fundraiser. Bidding runs through Dec. 11. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

Tours

• **PORTSMOUTH HOLIDAY ARTS TOUR/ORIGINAL SEACOAST ARTIST STUDIO TOUR** Tour includes four Portsmouth studios featuring eight artists, plus five member artists online. Sat., Nov. 21, and Sun., Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit portsmouthartstour.com.

Theater

Shows

• **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.

• **PROOF** The Players' Ring Theatre presents. Performances are live in person and virtual. Nov. 13 through Nov. 22. 105 Marcy St.,

Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$24 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Southern New Hampshire Dance Theatre presents. Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Thurs., Nov. 19, and Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 21, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and Sun., Nov. 22, noon and 4:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 to \$46 for adults and \$25 for children. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **"CLASSICS WE'D LOVE TO DO (BUT MAY NEVER GET THE CHANCE)"** The Garrison Players Readers' Theater program of Dover performs scenes from Shakespeare (*Hamlet* and *Romeo & Juliet*), Moliere (*Tartuffe*) and Sheridan (*The Way of the World*). Virtual performance. Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free. Registration in advance is required. Visit garrisonplayers.org.

• **A TEMPEST PRAYER** Theatre KAPOW presents. Virtual, live stream. Nov. 20 through Nov. 22, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m. Tickets cost

\$10. Visit tkapow.com.

• **THE ROCKIN DADDIOS** Doo-wop music presented by The Majestic Theatre. Sat., Nov. 21, 2 and 7 p.m. Virtual live-stream and in person at The Majestic Theatre Studios, 880 Page St., Manchester. Tickets cost \$20 for in person performance and \$10 for virtual performance. Call 669-7469 or visit majestictheatre.net.

• **THE ADVENTURES OF SLEEPYHEAD** New Hampshire Theatre Project presents its 2020 - 2021 MainStage Season Opener. Fri., Nov. 27, and Sat., Nov. 28, 7 p.m., and Sun., Nov. 29, 2 p.m. Live in person at 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, and virtual live-stream. In person tickets cost \$10. Virtual tickets cost \$10 per streaming device. Call 431-6644 or visit nhtheatreproject.org.

Classical

Events

• **UTE GFRERER** Concert soloist performs. Sat., Nov. 28, 6 and 8 p.m. The Music Hall Historic Theatre, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. \$130 for a table of two, \$260 for a table of four and \$390 for a table of six. Visit themusicall.org.

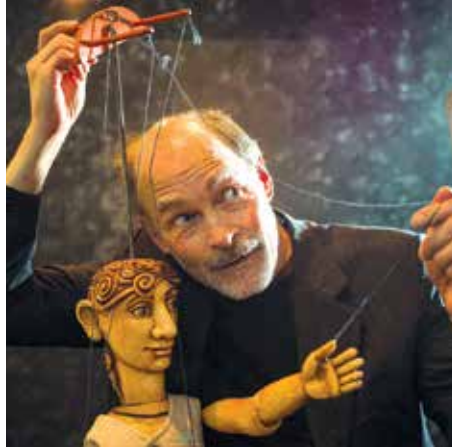
THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Holiday art shopping:** The newly formed Two Villages Art Society has partnered with the Hopkinton Historical Society to present "Home for the Holidays: an Art Show & Sale" from Nov. 21 through Dec. 20 in Contoocook and online. The show will feature all kinds of art, including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, tapestry, woodworking, wearable art, book making and more, created by local artists and artisans from Hopkinton, Bradford, Warner, New London and other surrounding towns. "We are excited to partner with Two Villages Art Society for this new show that includes ... an impressive variety of art forms," Heather Mitchell, executive director of Hopkinton Historical Society, said in a press release. "It is a wonderful way to support local artists and to shop local." The show will be held in person at the Bates Building (846 Main St.; masks required) on a drop-in and by-appointment basis and virtually at shop.twovillagesart.org. Show hours at the Bates Building are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with extended hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 21, Friday, Nov. 27, and Saturday, Nov. 28. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **Virtual solo play:** Manchester-based theater company Theatre Kapow presents *A Tempest Prayer*, third and final production in a series of three virtual one-person plays, Nov. 20 through Nov. 22, with livestream showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m. The play by Peter Josephson is an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* for today's times. The performances are being shot in a small studio space in Manchester and are full theater productions with sets, costumes, props, lighting design and sound effects. "It's still theater, not film," Theatre Kapow artistic director Matt Cahoon told the Hippo in September. "If people were here watching [in the studio], it would look like a regular live theater performance." Tickets cost \$10 per streaming device. Ticket holders will be sent the link to watch the show. Visit tkapow.com.

• **Manchester maps:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) presents a new special exhibit, "Critical Cartography: Larissa Fassler in Manchester," on view now through spring 2021. The exhibit features immersive large-scale drawings created by Berlin-based artist Larissa Fassler, who was an artist-in-res-



Larissa Fassler, Manchester I, 2019-2020, pen, pencil and pencil crayon on paper, four panels. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Jérôme Poggi, Paris, France. Photo by Jens Ziehe.

idence at the Currier Museum in 2019. Stylistically inspired by maps and cartography, the drawings reflect Fassler's observations of downtown Manchester and explore civic issues like the use of public spaces, the role of community organizations in supporting the needs of citizens, and the effects of poverty on the physical and emotional health of a community. "Larissa's drawings complicate our expectations of what a map can do," Samantha Cataldo, curator of contemporary art, said in a press release. "As an artist, her role is to ask questions, rather than offer answers, and she inspires us to think critically about our own perspectives on the concepts present in her work." 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.

• **Now playing at the Hatbox:** *Mary and Me*, presented by Glass Dove Productions, continues at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) through Nov. 22, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. The original play by Irene Kelleher, inspired by a true story, follows a pregnant 15-year-old girl and her search for understanding while growing up in 1986 Ireland. The production marks the beginning of the play's premier tour in the U.S. The theater has limited its capacity to 40 percent, and masks are required. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$19 for seniors and students and should be reserved in advance. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.

• **An evening of classics:** The Garrison Players Arts Center's Readers' Theater presents a virtual show, "Classics We'd Love To Do (But May Never Get The Chance)," on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. The show will feature scenes from various works, including Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and *Romeo & Juliet*, Moliere's *Tartuffe* and Sheridan's *The Way of the World*. Tickets are free, but registration is required. Visit garrisonplayers.org/showsandevents. — *Angie Sykeny* 🍷

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Giving thanks

Grateful for family, friends and gardens

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

I think it's important to take time to count my blessings. I try to take time each day

to reflect on how grateful I am for living the life I do. And on a sunny afternoon near Thanksgiving I like to sit outside and reflect on everything I have to be grateful for. Here are some thoughts about my life, and how gardening helps to make my life full, satisfying — and rich in flowers and vegetables.

I am grateful to have a loving family and wonderful friends. On July 1 of this year Cindy Heath and I got married, after 11 years of partnership. Our family and friends attended via Zoom. Cindy is a wonderful person, an accomplished fiber artist and a terrific gardener. Not only that, she loves to weed! The gardens here in Cornish Flat have never been so well-tended. I am so grateful to have her in my life.

I am very pleased to have a newspaper column that has kept me writing and learning for 22 years. On Nov. 11, 1998, my first gardening column appeared in the Valley News of West Lebanon. In that article I reflected on how important it is to clean up the garden each fall, and to get rid of weeds before their seeds get in the soil.

I also noted, "As insects may have laid their eggs on or in vine crops, tomatoes and potatoes, it is not a good idea to compost these plants." Diseased or insect-prone plants I recommended for the burn pile or the household trash — or perhaps a pile in a far corner of the property, well away from garden beds. I am happy that our vegetable garden is fully cleaned up and put to bed.

I am grateful for my gardens. My huge 'Merrill' magnolia tree that blooms with a thousand white blossoms on my birthday in April. The primrose garden with hundreds of blossoms in the shade of old wild apple trees in June. The peonies that are seemingly everywhere. Milkweed that attracts and nourishes the gorgeous monarch butterflies. Fall asters, and so many more.

Although this may sound silly, I am grateful to have so many potted geraniums in the house. This year we brought in all our geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp., not to be confused with perennial geraniums of a different plant family that winters just fine outdoors). They sit on bright windowsills and will bloom off and on all winter, and go outside next summer. Their bright red blossoms give me joy.

I am happy and grateful that I have a small crape myrtle tree in a pot and have learned how to overwinter it indoors. I bought it in Florida in 2018 and brought it home as carry-on luggage. Last winter I brought it indoors and overwintered it in our cold, dark basement that stays in the 35- to 50-degree range. I didn't think it would survive, but it did and bloomed magnificently this summer. The fall foliage was a great red, the leaves dropped, and it has now settled in for its winter rest.

I am grateful that we have put up so much food for the coming months. We froze lots of whole tomatoes in zipper bags for use in soups and stews, along with dried cherry tomatoes and some tomato sauce. What else is in the freezer? Lots of leeks, zucchini, kale, Hubbard squash, beets, blueberries and peppers.

I'm happy to have good farm stands nearby. I only had a few peppers this year, so I bought half a bushel from Edgewater Farm in Plainfield at the end of the year. They are great farmers who use the IPM method: Integrated Pest Management. As



Freezing tomatoes extends the season, feeding me even in winter, for which I am grateful. Courtesy photo.



I am grateful for bright red geraniums on my windowsills. Courtesy photo.

IPM farmers, they use many of the techniques of organic farmers but reserve the right to use pesticides if a crop is in danger. I prefer to buy organic produce, but trust them to use the least toxic chemicals, and only if necessary. I buy my corn from them and I am always pleased when I get a corn worm: it means that they did not have to spray.

I am happy and grateful that I have been able to plant bulbs each fall for decades. Winters are long here, and the thought of all those little balls of energy waiting in the soil for the onset of spring to come up and share beauty with me makes me happy.

At age 74 I like to point out that I will make it through another winter just because I want to see what else did. I regularly take chances with plants that are not supposed to be hardy in my climatic zone. This year I planted a cut-leaf Japanese red maple, a variety called Tamukeyama. The cut-leaf varieties are generally less hardy than the standard varieties, of which I have three.

The grower of our Tamukeyama, John Lyon of Newbury (Lyon Family Nursery)

told me it is one of the hardiest varieties. We'll see. I'm happy to have it, and if it does not survive a cold winter, so be it. Although I have never done this before, I will protect it from the wind with a little A-frame shelter made of plywood. I do love the plant.

I am happy and grateful for you, my readers. Each week I get nice emails or thoughtful hand-written notes thanking me for sharing my knowledge and sharing personal experiences, and only occasionally disputing my assertions. When my corgi, Daphne, passed away last summer, I was inundated with messages of sympathy. Thank you. Please write to tell me what you are grateful for, where you live, and if I can quote you in a future column.

Lastly, I am grateful that all the newspapers that carry my column are still in business. Subscribe! Buy the paper. Donate to the paper if you get it free. Advertise if you have a business. Local newspapers are the lifeblood of our communities.

You may reach Henry Homeyer at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or email him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.



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Virtual Feztival

The Bektash Shriners of New Hampshire is moving its annual **Feztival of Trees** online. Starting Saturday, Nov. 21, you can view photos of the trees and buy raffle tickets online for a chance to win your favorite tree. You can also buy cash calendars and enter a Treasure Tree raffle and a 50/50 raffle. Find the Feztival, plus a special message from Santa, at nhshriners.org.

Bingo!

LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst) is hosting a **Family Bingo Night** on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. featuring six rounds of bingo (with one adult and one kid winner per round) and an Italian dinner and a full bar with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. There is a limit of six adults per table, with no more than 10 people, including kids, per table. Tickets are \$25 to \$33 and can be purchased at labellewineryevents.com.

Chunky's Cinema Pub is hosting a family-friendly **Theater Candy Bingo** event at its Manchester location (707 Huse Road) on

Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. Purchase a ticket online to reserve a spot; for \$4.99 you get a ticket and a box of Chunky's theater candy. Players will turn in their candy to the host to get a bingo card, then play a few rounds to try to win some of that candy as well as other Chunky's prizes. Doors open at 5 p.m. Visit chunkys.com to reserve your spot.

At the movies

Cinematic theaters in Hooksett (38 Cinematic Way; 644-4629), Merrimack (11 Executive Park Drive; 423-0240) and Portsmouth (2454 Lafayette Road; 319-8788) will have special showings of **The Santa Clause** (PG, 1994) from Nov. 20 to Dec. 3 for \$5 a ticket. Visit cinematicmovies.com for times and safety protocols.

Hit the ice

Though hockey competitions have been canceled, several local rinks are still open and offering public skating, with restrictions (see facility websites for the most up-to-date information). At the **Everett Arena** in Concord (15 Loudon Road, concordnh.gov), public skating hours are Monday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$6 for ages 14 and up and \$5 for ages 4 to 13; kids 3 and under skate for free. Skate rentals are available for \$5. Public skating has been reduced to 50 percent capacity, and masks are required inside the building and while

on the ice. **Tri-Town Ice Arena** (311 West River Road, Hooksett) is now offering limited public skating sessions for \$6. Skating times vary and are subject to change; visit tri-townicearena.com for an updated schedule, as well as Covid-19 safety guidelines. Walkers and skate rentals are not available at this time. In Manchester, **JFK Memorial Coliseum** (303 Beech St.) typically offers public skating on Tuesday and Thurs-

day mornings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The cost is \$3 for students (high school and under) and senior citizens and \$5 for adults. Skate rentals are \$5 and are available only for weekend public skating, school vacations and holidays. Face masks are now required on the ice. And **West Side Ice Arena** (1 Electric St.) offers hourly private rentals. Call 624-6444, ext. 5346. Visit manchesternh.gov.

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
My father-in-law showed this item to me and we have no idea what it is. He does not know where he got it. Any idea what it is, and is it worth anything?

John

Dear John,
Yikes! That is what I thought when I saw it! I don't know either. This machine would not be in my field. I also don't think that it being old or even an antique would give it value, other than to someone who does know what it is.

That being said, I'm hoping one of the readers will know what it is and will contact me about it. The fun part of being in the antiques business is learning something



Courtesy photo.

new, even if it's not something I typically would deal with.

John, let's hope someone can help me to help you!

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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A Pontiac by any other name ... may be the same car



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I just love your crummy column, and I really enjoy antique cars. My favorite is the 1956 Ford Fairlane Sunliner. However, I recently discovered the 1957 Pontiac Star Chief, and it's quite a beautiful machine, as is the 1957 Bonneville.

But help me out ... other than some of the chrome detailing, those two Pontiacs look almost exactly the same. Why did Pontiac make two different models that look the same? And please don't use too much engine-ology in your answer; engine specifics make my eyes glaze over. Thanks. — Jeanette

Engine specifics make my eyes glaze over, too. That's why the guys at the shop will sometimes find me deep into a nap while working on a car, and they'll have to sneak up and give me a shot in the rear end with the air wrench to snap me out of it.

Car names are a mess, Jeanette. Manufacturers slap them on and remove them at will. So it almost takes a Kremlinologist to figure out what was what. But here's what we can tell you about the Pontiacs that interest you.

The 1957 Star Chief was Pontiac's top

of the line model at the time. And the convertible version of it was a very pretty car. In fact, if you were a fan of the sitcom "I Love Lucy," you may remember that the car Lucy, Ricky, Fred and Ethel drove to California on the show was a Pontiac Star Chief (a 1955).

Anyway, Pontiac's sales were in the dumps at that time. So, to try to goose them, Pontiac created a new, high-performance version of the Star Chief Convertible. They loaded it with every conceivable option, put a crazy-high price on it (\$5,782), and called it ... the Star Chief Custom Bonneville. So the Bonneville was just a high-end version of the Sky Chief in 1957. That's why you're having a hard time telling them apart. They're the same car.

The following year, in 1958, Pontiac decided to make the Bonneville its own, separate model. They stripped out all the expensive options they'd put in the previous year and lowered the base price to around \$3,000.

By the way, you have very good taste, Jeannette. A well-maintained '57 Star Chief Bonneville would probably run you about \$150,000 these days.

For a mere fifth of that, you can pick up that Fairlane Sunliner. Start hinting for your next birthday now.

Dear Car Talk:

My wife owns a 2001 Honda Accord that acts up periodically, mostly in hot weather. When we talk to our mechanic, who is very good and has taken care of our cars for years, he scratches his head.

He tells us to bring it in when the problem occurs. I understand his request, but we're always on the road when the problem occurs. Maybe you can help.

The problem only happens in hot weather and when we've already been driving for quite some time. When we stop for a 20-minute break and get back into the car, it won't start.

When we turn the key, the starter will try to start it, but the engine won't catch and run. If we wait for several minutes, sometimes up to half an hour, it'll start, but it's a rough start, and we have to give it a lot of gas before it smooths out and runs normally.

Any direction we can point our crack mechanic in? — Sid (for Sid and Carol)

Yes. Point your crack mechanic toward the driver's side floorboards and have him get his head under the dashboard. Once he's there, he should look for the fuel pump relay. When he finds it, he can remove it, get another one from Honda and replace it, and your problem should be solved.

This is a classic problem with Hondas of

this vintage. They've since fixed it, but we saw this pretty often back in the day. When you start the car, there's a relay that closes. When it closes, it sends power to your electronic fuel pump, which sends gasoline to your fuel injectors and into the engine.

What happens is that in hot weather, an older fuel pump relay can overheat. The conditions under which it typically overheats are after a long drive, when it's hot out and when you close up the car and allow the car's interior to get saunalike.

When that relay overheats, it won't close. And if it won't close, the electronic fuel pump doesn't work. And as even the knuckleheads at my shop can tell you, no fuel = no start.

After a while — usually while you're sitting there with the doors and windows open because it's — what? — hot in the car, the relay cools off and starts working again. Then it takes a little revving of the engine to get enough fuel back into the cylinders to get the engine running smoothly. And then it works fine. Until it doesn't again.

So ask your mechanic to replace the fuel pump relay, and you should be done with this problem, Sid. Then you won't have to bring three changes of undershirts with you on every time you take a day trip in the summer.

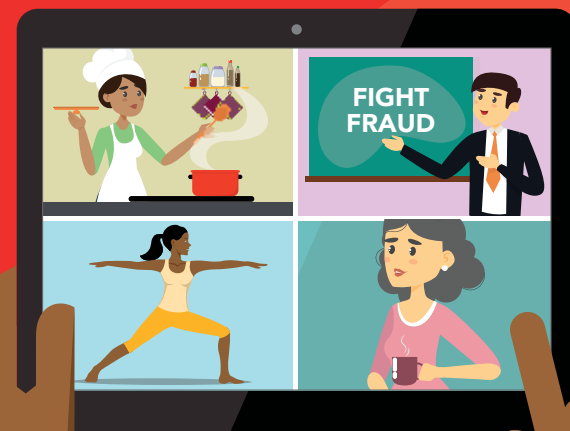
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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

FOOD
Give thanks and relax

Ideas for getting big Thanksgiving flavors in smaller, easier dishes

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsersoll@hippopress.com

If you're used to cooking a large Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings, chances are this year may look a bit different — but that doesn't mean your meal can't be just as delicious.

"I do think that we have to make it a little more accessible and casual and less grandiose to fit the world we're living in right now," said Dawn Hunt, owner of the Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem. "For me, what actually stands out in my memory are the smaller intimate gatherings, and if Covid has taught us anything it's how important it is to slow down a little bit and reconnect with our families, and maybe just give ourselves a break."

From smaller entrees and appetizers to soups, salads, sandwiches and light brunch options, local chefs and cooking instructors give some suggestions that will work for a smaller gathering this Thanksgiving while still allowing those familiar holiday flavors to come through.

Or, don't cook at all...
If you'd prefer to just make the drinks and have someone else do the pies and turkey for this year's Thanksgiving, head to hippopress.com to see our annual list of dine-in and take-out options from area restaurants, bakeries and more.

Spicy pumpkin chowder
From the kitchen of Dawn Hunt of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem (cucinaaurora.com)
6 slices bacon
2 tablespoons Cucina Aurora Savory Sage olive oil
1/2 yellow onion, chopped
2 ribs celery, diced
2 large carrots, peeled and sliced into rounds
3 fresh sage leaves (or 1 teaspoon dried sage)
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 potatoes, peeled and cubed
8 ounces frozen corn
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
2 15-ounce cans pumpkin puree, unsweetened
1/2 teaspoon ground chipotle pepper (or sweet paprika for less heat)
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup half-and-half
Heat a large soup pot over medium heat. Chop three slices of bacon into small pieces and cook in the pot until crispy. Add olive oil, onions, celery, carrots and garlic, cooking until onions are tender (about five minutes). Add sage, potatoes, broth and corn. Stir with a wooden spoon to remove any bits stuck to the bottom of the pot. Bring to a boil. Once boiling, lower the heat to simmer until potatoes have become tender but not mushy (about 30 to 40 minutes). Meanwhile, cook remaining strips of bacon until crispy and set aside. In a small saucepan, mix pumpkin, chipotle pepper, salt and pepper until heated through. Add pumpkin mixture to the soup and heat through for about a minute, stirring while simmering. Add half-and-half and stir until well-incorporated and heated through. Serve immediately, topped with crispy bacon and sour cream if desired.

Tips for your bird
As an alternative to a full-sized turkey, which can often be up to 15 to 20 pounds, bone-in or boneless turkey breasts, or even roast chicken breasts or small Cornish game hens, can all be good options to serve tables of smaller groups.

"A whole turkey is a huge meal if you're only talking about a small gathering, so you're not going to go through all of those extremes of deep-frying it or smoking it. You can keep it simple," said chef and cooking instructor Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis.

Bone-in turkey breasts, as well as "hotel-style" turkey breasts, which come with the bird's wings and usually its neck and back, are usually much smaller in size — around 6 to 7 pounds.

After letting the bird stand at room temperature for an hour to an hour and a half, Barbour said, she likes to add a mixture of butter, salt, pepper and chopped parsley and thyme to be placed under its skin. You can do this by carefully separating the skin from the meat over the breast without tearing it. A turkey or chicken's pan drippings can also make a flavorful base for gravy.

Merrimack chef Oonagh Williams, also a cooking instructor and the owner of Gluten-Free Cooking with Oonagh, said she has prepared turkey thighs in a slow cooker, to be used in smaller items like crepes, curries or soups. She also likes to stuff tenderloins from boneless turkey breasts, with a mixture of herbs, Craisins, bacon, onions and finely chopped apples,



Smashed potatoes with garlic and bacon. Photo courtesy of Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis.

served cold with a salad or reheated with gravy the day after you cook them.

Perhaps an even easier option could be to transform your Thanksgiving feast into a grilled cheese. Hunt said a freshly cooked sandwich with sliced turkey, stuffing, bacon, crispy fried onions, baby spinach, Swiss cheese, her rosemary olive oil and a homemade cranberry Dijon sauce offers a delicious balance of flavor. The cranberry Dijon sauce, served on the side, features a simple mixture of Dijon or brown mustard, cranberry sauce, honey and mayonnaise.

Sides, soups and salads
Over the last several weeks, through her online recipe blog and virtual classes via Zoom and Facebook Live, Barbour has shared several easy ways you can prepare your favorite Thanksgiving sides. One recipe features smashed fingerling potatoes, simply cooked in the oven for about 25 minutes and plated with garlic, bacon, rosemary and chopped parsley. As a low-carb replacement for potatoes, you can

Smashed potatoes with garlic and bacon
From the kitchen of Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis (thecreativefeast.com)
2 pounds fingerling potatoes (or other small potatoes)
4 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon fresh cracked black pepper
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1/4 pound thick-cut bacon, diced (or diced pancetta)
1/2 cup parsley, chopped
Salt and pepper
Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Drizzle a rimmed baking sheet with two tablespoons of olive oil. Place the potatoes onto the baking sheet and shake the pan to coat the potatoes on both sides with oil. Season with the salt and pepper. Place the pan into the oven and cook for 25 minutes or until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork. While the potatoes are cooking, heat a large saute pan over medium heat. Add one tablespoon of olive oil and the bacon. Cook until the bacon begins to brown. Add the sliced garlic and cook for one minute. Remove the pan from the heat and set aside. When the potatoes are fork tender, remove the pan from the oven. Gently press down on each potato to "smash" it and flatten a bit. Be careful not to flatten too much, or else the potatoes will break apart and lose their shape. Warm the bacon and garlic on the stove. Add the potatoes in a single layer. Turn the potatoes over to coat both sides with the garlic and bacon. Place the potatoes onto a warmed platter. Continue with the remaining potatoes and place onto the platter. Drizzle any remaining garlic and bacon onto the potatoes and sprinkle with parsley. Serve hot.

CONTINUED ON PG 18

Grateful grilled cheese sandwiches with Cranberry Dijon Sauce

From the kitchen of Dawn Hunt of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem (cucinaaurora.com)

Sliced turkey (leftover from Thanksgiving or cooked fresh)
1 cup crispy fried onions
6 to 8 strips crisp bacon
6 to 8 slices Swiss cheese
1 to 2 cups stuffing (cooked to package instructions or leftover)
1 cup fresh baby spinach
4 to 6 slices sourdough bread (or gluten-free bread)
2 tablespoons Cucina Aurora rosemary olive oil



Grateful grilled cheese sandwich. Photo courtesy of Dawn Hunt of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem.

For the cranberry Dijon sauce:

2 tablespoons Dijon or brown mustard
2 tablespoons cranberry sauce
1 teaspoon honey
1 teaspoon mayonnaise

Make the cranberry Dijon sauce by placing the Dijon mustard, cranberry sauce, honey and mayonnaise in a small bowl and stirring until combined. Set aside. Warm a large skillet or griddle pan on medium-heat for about two minutes. Brush four slices of bread with rosemary olive oil on just one side of the slice. Place bread oil side down on the hot pan. On each slice of bread, lay ½ slices of

cheese. On two slices of bread, layer bacon, then spinach, then turkey. On the other two slices, layer a bit of the stuffing and the fried onions. When the bread starts to toast and the cheese starts to melt, build the sandwiches by carefully flipping one slice of bread onto the other. Grill on each side of the sandwich until both sides are light brown and the sandwich is warmed through. Repeat with remaining bread and ingredients to make as many sandwiches as desired. Serve warm with cranberry Dijon on the side.

Autumn mini quiche

From the kitchen of Dawn Hunt of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem (cucinaaurora.com)

8 to 16 slices deli ham
6 to 8 eggs (use 2 less than your muffin tin has cups)
¼ cup milk
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1 large tart apple, grated

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray muffin tin with cooking spray. Line each muffin cup with one to two slices of ham. Set aside. In

a large bowl, gently beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Gently fold in grated apple and cheese. Ladle the egg mixture into muffin cups and fill each only halfway. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the egg has set in the middle and the tops have browned slightly. Serve warm or cold, or freeze in an airtight container for up to two months. To reheat, place on a microwave safe dish and heat for 30 seconds.

Roasted winter squash with yogurt herb sauce

From the kitchen of Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis (thecreativefeast.com)

1½ cups plain whole fat Greek yogurt
2 garlic cloves, minced
¼ cup mint leaves, chopped
½ cup parsley, chopped
¼ teaspoon ground coriander
½ teaspoon ground cumin
2 teaspoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons honey
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
2 pounds butternut squash or other winter squash
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
¼ cup toasted pistachio nuts, roughly chopped (pecans, walnuts or almonds are good to use too)

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place

the yogurt, minced garlic, mint, parsley, coriander, cumin, lemon juice and honey in a bowl and stir to combine well. Taste and season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside. Peel the butternut squash, cut in half lengthwise, and remove the seeds. Cut the squash into ½-inch-thick pieces (slices or cubes are fine). Toss the squash with the olive oil and season with plenty of salt and pepper in a large bowl. Spread the squash in one layer on one or two rimmed baking pans. Roast until fork tender and browned on some of the edges (about 20 minutes). Place the cooked squash on a serving platter. Drizzle with half of the yogurt herb sauce. Scatter the top with the pistachio nuts and serve.



nutritious nibbles

Try this lightened up turkey pita for a new twist on the classic Thanksgiving leftover sandwich.



Cranberry Mayo Turkey Pitas

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

1/4 cup Hellmann's® Mayonnaise with Olive Oil
1/4 cup Stonyfield® Organic 0% Fat Plain Greek Yogurt
3 Tbsp. Taste of Inspirations® Cape Cod Cranberry Sauce
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
Pepper to taste
2 cups leftover turkey breast meat, skin removed
2 Hannaford Whole Wheat Pitas, sliced in half
4-8 pieces Fresh Express® Leafy Green Romaine

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine mayonnaise, Greek yogurt, cranberry sauce, lemon juice and pepper. Mix well to combine.
2. Separate 2 cups of lean turkey breast meat, making sure to remove skin for reduced saturated fat. Dice, chop or mince turkey to desired consistency.
3. Add turkey breast to cranberry mayo mixture, stirring gently to combine.
4. Slice pita pockets in half, and fill each half with 1 to 2 romaine leaves and evenly divided turkey mixture.
5. Serve immediately or store cranberry mayo mixture in an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week.

Dietitian's Tips:

For a tasty Thanksgiving-esque appetizer, swap the pita pocket with a Cedar's® Low Carb Wheat Wrap. Roll tightly and slice into one-inch portions fastened with a toothpick.

Skip the bread and serve on a bed of Fresh Express® Spinach and Arugula with a drizzle of raspberry vinaigrette.

Add a few tablespoons of Hannaford Chopped Walnuts for additional crunch, healthy fats, and fiber.

Nutritional Information

(Amount per half pita serving):

Calories 320; Total Fat 9 g; Saturated Fat 1.5 g; Sodium 360 mg; Cholesterol 80 mg; Carbohydrates 24 g; Fiber 4 g; Sugar 6 g; Protein 33 g

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 16

also make mashed cauliflower.

She's also done a roasted winter squash, cut into small slices or cubes, with a Greek yogurt herb sauce made up of ground coriander and cumin, chopped mint leaves, parsley, lemon juice and honey. Butternut squash works great, or you can use delicata to save time on peeling.

Soups and salads with fall flavors can also be simple options to pivot your Thanksgiving meal this year if you're serving a smaller group. Michelle Thornton, director of marketing and business development at LaBelle Winery in Amherst, recommends a butternut squash soup with diced apples and ground nutmeg and cinnamon, cooked in either a vegetable or chicken broth and LaBelle's dry apple wine, and garnished with sour cream and caramelized apple slices.

To go with her grilled cheese and cranberry Dijon sauce, Hunt said she'll be making a spicy pumpkin chowder using an unsweetened pumpkin puree prepared with bacon, veggies and ground chipotle pepper to give it a kick. She's also done an autumn salad with apples, candied pecans, greens, radishes, goat cheese and a rosemary maple vinaigrette dressing made from New Hampshire maple syrup.

Easy sweet treats

Beyond baking a full pie, there are all

Pumpkin puree parfait

From the kitchen of Nicki Leavitt of the Purple Finch Cafe in Bedford (purplefinchcafe.com)

- 1 loaf pumpkin bread
- 1 32-ounce container plain/Greek or vanilla yogurt
- 1 15-ounce can organic pumpkin puree
- 1 12-ounce bag organic plain granola
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1 pint fresh blueberries or blackberries
- Whipped cream (optional)

Slice a one-inch thick piece of pumpkin bread and dice that into 12 smaller pieces, cutting two times



Mulled apple wine. Photo courtesy of LaBelle Winery in Amherst.

kinds of simple ways to recreate some of your favorite sweets and treats. An apple and Craisin bread pudding, for example, served with a maple bourbon butter sauce, is an option Williams said can be great for a Thanksgiving Day brunch. Naturally sweet apple varieties, like Gala, Fuji or Braeburn, work best when peeled and sliced into very small pieces, like shredded cheese. Plain bagels or a challah bread are best for cooking, as a softer white bread would make it too mushy, she said.

Nicki Leavitt, owner and executive chef of the Purple Finch Cafe in Bedford, said pump-

down and three times across. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, add four cups of yogurt, ¾ cup pumpkin puree, ½ teaspoon cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon of nutmeg and set aside (this yields about four servings). Using a glass or a bowl, build your parfait by placing a few cubes of the diced pumpkin bread at the bottom, then add in a few berries and pour in the yogurt mixture, stopping about a fourth of an inch from the top of the glass or bowl. Add a layer of granola, topped with more diced bread and berries. For added sweetness, top your parfait with whipped cream or powdered sugar.

Apple muffins with honey butter

From the kitchen of Dawn Hunt of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem (cucinaaurora.com)

- 1½ cups oatmeal (gluten-free oatmeal can be used)
- 1½ cup all-purpose flour (gluten-free all-purpose flour can be used)
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- Pinch nutmeg
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup applesauce
- ¼ cup melted butter or vegetable oil
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped and peeled apple (about 1 large apple)

- 2 tablespoons raw unfiltered honey
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a muffin tin with paper liners and set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine oats, flour, sugars, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Whisk to combine. In a separate bowl, whisk together applesauce, butter, egg and vanilla. Mix wet ingredients into dry ingredients until a thick batter forms. Gently fold in the apples. Scoop batter into prepared muffin tin. Bake for about 15 to 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean and the tops are a light golden brown. Cool completely before serving. To make the honey butter, mix softened butter, honey, brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Honey butter can be stored in the refrigerator for up to three months in an airtight container.

For the honey butter:

- 1 stick butter, softened



Roasted winter squash with herb yogurt sauce. Courtesy of Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis.

kin puree parfaits are also fun and easy to prepare, as either a snack or a quick breakfast.

“You can use a blend of organic pumpkin puree and some Yoplait yogurt ... and then add cinnamon, nutmeg or maybe some fresh fruit at the base,” she said. “We bake our own pumpkin bread in house and dice that up and put it in the glass. ... If you have a sweet tooth you can add whipped cream or caramel sauce.”

Hunt said you can easily make your own honey butter from brown sugar, cinnamon and unfiltered honey, which serves as a great complement for several types of fall-inspired

baked goods, like pumpkin bread. She’s also baked apple muffins to go with it.

Barbour has baked apple Dutch baby pancakes in a cast iron skillet, featuring apples cooked in brown sugar and butter and a crepe batter poured on top.

“It’s basically like a big pancake you cook in the oven that rises like a souffle,” she said.

Decadent drinks

If you need to take the edge off this Thanksgiving from what has been a tough year — let’s face it, most of us do — you can incorporate some fall flavors into your cocktails.

Barbour, for instance, has a whiskey cranberry sour recipe that uses her own “cran-raspberry sauce,” or a homemade sweet sauce made from fresh cranberries or frozen raspberries. The recipe works just as well with regular raspberry sauce or your favorite brand of fruit jam.

LaBelle Winery, according to Thornton, is holding its annual “Cranberry Wine Week” now through Nov. 25, during which its cranberry wine and several other cranberry-flavored items are available for sale. The wine works great in several types of cocktails, including a cranberry cosmopolitan, which features triple sec liqueur, fresh lime juice, sugar and a lime wedge garnish. The mulled apple wine, with the winery’s dry apple wine, brown sugar, cinnamon sticks, nutmeg and an orange garnish, is another seasonal favorite. 🍷

Cranberry-orange vienna French toast

From the kitchen of Nicki Leavitt of the Purple Finch Cafe in Bedford (purplefinchcafe.com)

- 1 loaf cranberry-orange tea bread (available at the Purple Finch Cafe’s takeout area)
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup milk
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ zested orange
- Salt to taste

Make a French toast batter by beating together egg, milk, salt, spices, orange zest and

vanilla. Set aside. Cut the cranberry-orange tea bread into 1-inch thick slices, yielding approximately eight slices (10, including bread ends). Collect your favorite ingredients to top your French toast with (suggested toppings include whipped cream, caramel sauce, Craisins and powdered sugar). Heat a lightly oiled griddle or skillet over medium-high heat. Dunk each slice of bread in egg mixture, soaking both sides. Place in the pan and cook on both sides until golden. Add your collected toppings and serve.

Whiskey cranberry sour cocktail

From the kitchen of Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis (thecreativefeast.com); recipe makes one 5-ounce cocktail

- ¾ ounce maple syrup
- ¾ ounce fresh lime juice
- 1 ounce leftover “cran-raspberry sauce”
- 3 ounces whiskey of choice (Jack Daniel’s works well)
- 2 dashes Angostura bitters (optional)
- Ice cubes for mixing and serving

Optional additions:

- ¼ cup seltzer water
- 1 egg white

For the “cran-raspberry” sauce (makes about three cups)

- 1 12-ounce package fresh cranberries
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 12-ounce packages frozen raspberries

To make the cran-raspberry sauce, combine water, sugar and cranberries in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Turn off the heat. Cool the cranberries to room temperature. After the cranberries have cooled, gently stir in the raspberries.

In a cocktail shaker filled with five ice cubes, combine together the maple syrup, lemon juice, cran-raspberry sauce, whiskey and bitters (if using). Fill a seven-ounce glass with ice. Cover your shaker and shake your cocktail for 30 seconds. Pour into your glass of ice. Top with the seltzer, if using, and give it a stir. Serve immediately. (If using egg white, put in a shaker with all the ingredients and the ice. Leave the seltzer out).

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IN THE KITCHEN
 WITH **MATT CASEY**



Matt Casey is the owner-operator of Casey Magee's Irish Pub & Music Hall (8 Temple St., Nashua, 484-7400, caseymagees.com), which opened in June. Casey Magee's offers a menu of American comfort items with an Irish flair, featuring burgers, sandwiches and wraps, appetizers, flatbreads and entrees, with specialty cocktails, beers and wines available out of its full bar and a brunch menu on Sundays. Since opening, the pub has become especially popular with the late-night crowd on the weekends, Casey said, with upstairs pool tables and a jukebox you can use from your phone. Casey is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island and a three-time marcher in the South Boston St. Patrick's Day parade as a costumed leprechaun. Casey Magee's is the culmination of his decades-long dream to open his own Irish pub.



Matt Casey. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

The grill is huge. You can throw anything on it and get creative with it.

What would you have for your last meal?

It would be steak, cooked medium, with a loaded baked potato and an IPA.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Tostao's Tapas-Bar. They are right around the corner from me on Main Street in Nashua. I've been in there a few times and they are really nice people with incredible food. The Buffalo dip and the empanadas are great.

What celebrity would you like to see eating in your restaurant?

Adam Sandler. I would love to have him come in during an open mic night!

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

The Irish nachos are awesome, and also the Guinness-battered fish and chips. I also love our traditional Irish boxty. That's a different type of item that you can't really find around here.

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

Street tacos, and just experimenting with different sauces and flavors. I think we will be jumping on that wagon. We're looking into adding them on our menu.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

English muffin pizzas. I eat them like M&Ms. I like to do a chunky mushroom sauce and mozzarella cheese.

— Matt Ingersoll

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

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Food is served cold with reheating instructions.

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Traditional Irish boxty (potato pancakes)

Courtesy of Matt Casey of Casey Magee's Irish Pub & Music Hall in Nashua

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 pounds mashed potatoes (no skin) | 1½ teaspoons salt |
| ¼ cup diced red onion | 1½ teaspoons coarse black pepper |
| ¼ cup diced green peppers | 1 tablespoon butter |
| ¼ cup diced bacon | |
| ¼ cup shredded cheese of choice | |
| ¼ cup diced scallions | |
| ¼ cup milk | |
| 1 egg | |

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Place onto a skillet, forming into patties and cooking on both sides, like pancakes. Layer and top them with scallions and a citrus sour cream drizzle.

Food & Drink
Farmers markets

- **Cole Gardens Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road, Concord), now through mid-April. Visit colegardens.com.
- **Danbury Winter Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Blazing Star Grange Hall (15 North Road, Danbury), now

through April. Visit blazingstar-grange.org.

- **Deering Winter Market** is Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Deerish Fish & Game Club (Fish & Game Road, Deering). Find them on Facebook @[deeringwintermarket](https://www.facebook.com/deeringwintermarket).
- **Peterborough Farmers Market** is Wednesdays, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Peterborough Community Center (25 Elm St., Peterbor-

ough). Find them on Facebook @[peterboroughnhfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughnhfarmersmarket).

- **Rolling Green Winter Farmers Market** is on most Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Rolling Green Nursery (64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland). Upcoming market dates are Nov. 21, Dec. 12, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27. Visit rollinggreennursery.com.



TRY THIS AT HOME

Sweet Potato Casserole Bites

It's the week before Thanksgiving, but it is 2020. Maybe your family will host a small gathering, or maybe you'll be spending the holiday just with your immediate house members. Whatever your situation may be, I still suggest planning some sort of holiday menu.

Your 2020 Thanksgiving menu doesn't have to be as robust as in years past, but it should include dishes that you enjoy. In strange times, food can be a great source of comfort. This week's recipe is a play on a comforting dish that appears on many Thanksgiving menus. Bye-bye, sweet potato casserole. Hello, sweet potato casserole bites!

The nice thing about this recipe is that you can use it however you see best. If you're still planning on making a turkey dinner with all the fixings, these bites could be served as an appetizer while you wait for the big meal. If you're looking for a different Thanksgiving dinner, you could make a menu out of appetizers and include these as one of the choices. If you want a lighter dessert, these bites can fill that role also.

These sweet potato casserole bites are simple to make and require only three major ingredients, assuming you keep butter, cinnamon, and salt on hand. Plus, you can do the bulk of the cooking hours



Sweet potato cassarole bites. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

before you want to serve them. Simply save the final two steps (top with marshmallows and bake; top with pecans) until right before serving.

One final note: These bites are meant to be eaten by hand. With marshmallow topping, they're a bit on the messy side. Just keep some napkins nearby, and you'll have a simple, delicious dish to share.

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. Visit thinktasty.com to find more of her recipes.

Sweet Potato Casserole Bites

Makes 24

- 2 sweet potatoes, cut widthwise into 1/2" slices
- 1 1/2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 12 full-sized marshmallows
- 24 pecan halves

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Lightly brush both sides of sweet potato rounds with butter.
- Place on prepared baking sheet, and bake for 10 minutes.

- Flip and bake for another 10 minutes.
- While the rounds continue to bake, place marshmallows in the freezer for 10 minutes.
- Remove marshmallows from freezer, and cut in half.
- Remove rounds from oven.
- Sprinkle the sweet potato rounds with salt and cinnamon.
- Top each round with one marshmallow half.
- Return baking sheet to oven, and bake topped rounds for 2 minutes.
- Remove tray from oven, and carefully top each marshmallow with a pecan half.
- Serve immediately.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 16

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Thanksgiving and beer

The ultimate day of indulgence requires the appropriate brew

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippopress.com

Thanksgiving is the ultimate day of indulgence — savory gravy, delicious stuffing, buttery potatoes and vegetables, sweet and rich yams and flavorful roast turkey followed by a spread of sweet, rich desserts.

And you can't just sip any old beer on the ultimate day of indulgence.

I sort of teeter back and forth when it comes to beer on Thanksgiving. On the one hand, the food of the day is so rich, so decadent and so carb-heavy that it's almost a challenge to try to add a similarly rich and decadent brew into the mix — but richer, maltier brews work so well with the sweet, buttery foods that dominate the day. We've got ourselves a predicament.

On the other hand, I find that crisp, clean brews like Pilsners or bright, tart sours can cut through the fat a bit better, and that allows you to really focus in on the food you're eating — nothing wrong with that either.

But you don't want to feel like you held back on Thanksgiving, so how should we handle this dilemma? That is the question and I don't have the answer because I've gone back and forth on what the best move is from holiday to holiday, and sometimes even from brew to brew.

With respect to these two competing narratives, I'd like to offer a few suggestions from both lines of thought to help you drink your way through Thanksgiving.

Carry On Bohemian Style Pilsner by Great Rhythm Brewing Co. (Portsmouth)

This is crisp, clean, light and so, so easy to drink. You can enjoy this without really having to think about it. This would be a nice choice during appetizers, or honestly, really at any moment on Thanksgiving day.

Georg Munich-Style Dark Lager by Schilling Beer Co. (Littleton)

While this is rich and offers layers of complexity, what stands out to me is that it's quite dry and easy to drink. I think you get some notes of toasted caramel that would do very well alongside a piece of warm apple or pumpkin pie.

Rye IPA by Stoneface Brewing Co. (Newington)

I haven't tried this one but I'm intrigued by this brew, in particular because I think the bitterness and the earthiness from the rye would really cut through the richness of the day. The brewery indicates this beer is "bold and malty,"

which is a bit different than your typical IPA. This one seems like a good choice on turkey day.

Pandora's Kettle #4 by Concord Craft Brewing (Concord)

This Berliner weisse is tart, bright, and quite refreshing. Brewed with apple and cranberry, this is perfectly seasonal—and a great choice to sip with the meal or right after when you're trying to give your belly a bit of a break. At 3.7 percent ABV, you can have more than one.

Vendel Imperial Stout by Kelsen Brewing Co. (Derry)

This is the one you grab when you just decide to go all in on Thanksgiving. This beer holds nothing back. It's incredibly rich and creamy with big notes of chocolate and coffee. Savor this one slowly on the big day.

Working Man's Porter by Henniker Brewing Co. (Henniker)

This is dry and robust but it's also very, very drinkable, making it a nice choice when you're embracing the decadence of the day but not trying to go too overboard. It's that dry complexity that I think pairs quite well with Thanksgiving fare.



Happy Thanksgiving. Courtesy photo.

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

What's in My Fridge

DDH Pulp Daddy by Greater Good Imperial Brewing Co. (Worcester, Mass.)

Wow. This one comes at you with hop ferocity. The brewery states that it is its hoppiest beer — double the hops of its little brother, Pulp Daddy (which is also quite hoppy, as is the youngest brother, Pulp). This is a hop-lover's dream: a tropical juice bomb that pulls no punches. The dry hops adds another layer of complexity and freshness that really allows this beer to stand out. Cheers!



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CDs pg23

• The Old Rochelle, *Pony Steps* A+

Steps A+

• Orianthi, *O* A

BOOKS pg24

• *How to Write One Song* B

• Book Notes

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

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

To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listsings@hippopress.com.

FILM pg26

• *Jingle Jangle: A*

Christmas Journey A

The Old Rochelle, *Pony Steps* (Crumple Crumple Crumple Records)

This band is too messy and cool for me to dismiss as an average fedora combo, even if most of the varying ingredients are there. Thing is, this Lowell, Mass., band, led by Bucky Fereke, has hit on something that's like a zydeco-washed cross between Eels, Springsteen and '80s-era Randy Newman. The up-front stuff on this record, starting with "It's All A Mystery," is party-time Cajun-pop, made legitimately listenable through the efforts of the band's accordion player, Tony Cavalieri. It goes on like this for a few tunes, and then, as expected,

comes a nice knuckleball, in the form of "West Coast," an examination of personal rebirth sizzling with a squeaky clean Byrds-style guitar line, in other words stylized in the manner of every other indie-rock song made in the Aughts. That'd usually make me reach for the Tums, but Fereke's battered yet unrelenting voice can be, as alluded, redolent of Mark Oliver Everett, even borderline Elvis Costello, come to think of it. I'm sure this is a blast to hear live, if this Covid nonsense ever ends. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger*

Orianthi, *O* (Frontiers Records)

You may remember this millennial answer to Lita Ford from her 2009 bubblegum hit "According To You," a Michelle Branch-style rockout in which the mononymed Australian did her own guitar shredding, something she's done for a long time now, not only as a solo artist but also as a sidekick for Michael Jackson, Alice Cooper and others. The aforementioned 2009 album, *Believe*, earned platinum sales status, mostly on the strength of the similarly Avril Lavigne-esque stuff that was on it, but on this, her fourth LP, she ventures into other

blends of familiar female-rock, applying a grungy Alanis Morissette vocal to the Evanescence-drenched opener "Contagious." "Sinners Hymn" ropes in the noise-heads with a brilliantly beaten-down mud-blues riff, and I suppose I'd love the tune even more if it didn't rip off Alice in Chains, but what are ya gonna do. "Sorry" finds her trying Trent Reznor goth-electro on for giggles, at which point anyone into heavier music has to tip their hat. A — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

• It's here, fam, Nov. 20, the next dump-day for general CD releases! What's in the can and headed our way, don't you wonder? Maybe an album of T-Pain burping complete Bach concertos through an Auto-Tuned mic? A Blu-ray of Cardi B giving twerking lessons while wearing a scowling "I Heart Beethoven" half-top? Miley Cyrus covering the entire Mastodon *Leviathan* album? (You know she wants to, seriously, have you even seen what she's been up to lately?) Jeezum crow, I can't imagine what sort of horrific monstrosities are on their way, for the final shopping weeks of this, Week 47 of The Worst Year Of Our Lord 2020, when marriage counselors and family therapists made more money than the airline, cruise ship and hotel industries combined, all while working from home in their Scooby Doo pajamas! Harumph, I say, old chaps and chapettes, look yonder, it's mummified English EBM/industrial-punk veterans **Cabaret Voltaire**, with their 15th album, *Shadow Of Fear*! Hmm, it says here that Richard Kirk is the only remaining member of the band. What fun could that have been, with no drama over artistic differences? Boring! The single, "Vasto," is a krautrock-electro thing, with no singing. It is OK, because at least it isn't like some stupid Kraftwerk fanboy thing. Nice tribal-house loops, I shall allow it to live.

• Canadian pub-emo band **Partner** is commanded by two lesbian guitarists, Josée Caron and Lucy Niles! They won a Canadian songwriting contest or another, whatever, and then got semi-famous when their video for "The 'Ellen' Page" went viral, when actual Ellen Page shared it on her Twitter and such. Anyway, *Never Give Up*, the band's new LP, features the tune "Honey," a pretty decent hipster-ized nicking of Joan Jett's "Do You Wanna Touch Me." Totally salvageable tune; you might possibly like it, but also might not!

• Speaking of ambivalence, maybe you liked "My Heroine" by Canadian screamo geeks **Silverstein**, back in 2005, when you were a nerdy tadpole playing *Counter Strike* for 26 hours a day, but now you're hopelessly adult and don't have time for dweeb-rock anymore, yet you're still interested to know that the band has a new album, *Redux II*, coming to your Spotify! The first single, "My Disaster (2.0)" is mostly oi-tinged ape-screamo, but then the Dashboard Confessional part comes in, and you realize you must drop everything and go pwn noobs on CS just like back in the old days, what are you waiting for!

• Finally we have my favorite stoner band in the world (because their name fills up almost one million characters of column space), **King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard**, with not one but two new albums! We'll first talk about the new studio album, *K.G.*, which includes a song titled "Automation," a shuffle-y, super-cool, mid-tempo post-grunge tune in which our demented heroes try to make Indian sitar-like sounds with their guitars; you'll totally love it, it's like a s'mores of Queens of the Stone Age and Ravi Shankar. Now, of course, because it's holiday shopping season and this band loves putting out albums every two weeks or whatnot, they are also releasing a concert album, *Live In S.F. '16*, which will include such songs as — oh, whatever, it's all awesome, King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard everyone! — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

Retro Playlist

People who are old enough to have their mailboxes stuffed with AARP spam remember when '80s hair-metal hack Billy Squier, a Boston native, once sang "Christmas is a time to say I love you." In my mind, now that it's looking like a Covid Christmas, I've changed the lyrics to "Covid is a time to stop being a sucky band."

Like, why not, bands? There's really nothing else to do other than reassess your whole approach. It's either that or just keep trying to press on with the current plan, which, for most bands, involves streaming live shows from someone's basement. That hasn't worked out so well, at least from a critic's eye view. I'm not the only one who's noticed it;



in a recent Facebook post, local veteran rock writer Billy Copeland noted, "The sound quality sucks. The singer keeps pausing to acknowledge all of the fans watching, and that reminds me of ... *Romper Room*, when the lady used to look into her crystal ball and say 'I see Tommy, and I can see Sally, and I can see Robin[...].'"

The more palatable option for bands looking to make a socially distanced splash, according to one of my favorite PR guys, is to spend no more than \$500 on two professionally shot videos. I like that, but I'd always rather see bands getting better at, or changing entirely, their approach to music-making.

We've already discussed the possibili-

ties that can come from bands changing their sounds, both the good (**Fantastic Negrito's** dumping his **Prince** trip and becoming the best **Led Zeppe-** **lin** wannabe in the world) and the bad (**The Horrors**, enough said). But there've been others, like Staten Island indie rockers **Cymbals Eat Guitars**, who in August 2011 gave

up posing as a lousy **Pavement**-type band and released the LP *Lenses Alien*, which, I noted back then, evinced "a talent for funk-chill, an ear for angsty hooks, a singer who can accurately karaoke **Trail of Dead**, and a gimmick (mad, mad bliss) — the whole **Pavement** thing was doomed from the start."

On the flip side, we have trip-hop legend **Tricky**, a once-vital character in the **Mas-**



sive Attack canon. His 2013 album *False Idols* was too minimalist and wasn't my cup of tea. He went "completely torch," I whined then.

So, if you're an artist or band, don't just change for the sake of changing. I know, it's totally Captain Obvious, but true.

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. 🍷



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POP CULTURE BOOKS

How to Write One Song, by Jeff Tweedy
(Dutton, 159 pages)

Of all the implausible goals on my bucket list, writing a song is not one of them. Although I possess both a guitar and a piano, and regularly abuse a vintage iPod, I have always been a consumer of music, not a creator, and it never even crossed my mind to try birthing a song. I'll venture to say that's probably true of you, too.

So Jeff Tweedy's *How to Write One Song* should have no value to people like us, but as it turns out, the book is a quirky little pep talk that's more about creativity in general than about songwriting in specific. Imagine Julia Cameron (*The Artist's Way*) or Steven Pressfield (*The War of Art*) in a cowboy hat. Like these creativity coaches, Tweedy proposes to wrest people from tedium — of jobs, lives, dinner choices — by inviting a daily visit from the muse. But he believes that anyone can write a song that is meaningful to them, even without music education or even owning an instrument.

Tweedy, recently described in *Rolling Stone* magazine as "one of today's greatest songwriters," leads the Grammy-winning rock band Wilco and was co-founder of the group Uncle Tupelo. He begins with an interesting assessment of how songs differ from other art forms, like novels or paintings. "They're hard to hold on to — airline and ephemeral. They pass through time. They're here, then gone ... Yet they're portable, they can linger as a memory, and even crazier, they can just pop into our minds for no discernable reason."

If people think at all about the craft of songwriting, Tweedy says, they're likely to assume that songs are conjured, not written. He concedes that there is some sort of partnership between the conscious mind and the unconscious, but doesn't subscribe to the magical "the universe gave me this work, I am but a lowly conduit" mindset. Instead his is a practical method that benefits from timers, schedules and, amusingly, theft.

"Everyone who you could possibly steal from at this point in human evolution is a thief. Even innovators seemingly without any historical precedence are found to be building on someone else's foundation, upon deeper investigation," Tweedy writes.

That doesn't mean he endorses presenting someone else's work as your own, but seeing the work of others in the context of a "shared ability to create," and thus allowing for inspiration and integration into your own work. "I believe that writing your own lyrics to an existent melody is a damn fine thing to do if you don't have much of handle on the music side of things and you really need to get something off your chest in song."

In fact, one of his suggested exercises is to steal words from a book. Think of a melody, and then "Open up a book anywhere, any page, and keep humming the melody to yourself as you scan. Don't really try to comprehend what you're reading; just let your mind skim over the surface of the words on the page and focus your attention on the melody."

The goal is to capture ideas without the control of the ego, to connect with an "anchor word"

JEFF TWEEDY HOW TO WRITE ONE SONG



from which inspiration flows. Tweedy says that he used this process when writing Wilco's song "Hummingbird," conceived with an assist from Henry Miller's *Stand Still Like the Hummingbird*. (That's a nice example of how "theft" doesn't have to be a crime.)

Simple and folksy, *How to Write One Song* does not attempt to be more than what it is, a conversation between someone who knows how to write songs and people who don't. There may not be any great gems of insight here, but there are pebbles of smart, such as Tweedy's insistence that, to truly succeed at any form of art, the process has to be the goal, not the success of the work, or even the work itself.

In other words, if you want to write a song in order to make money and win a Grammy, you will most likely be emotionally crushed. If you, instead, decide that writing a song is a worthy goal in itself, that the act of creating it has benefits (which Tweedy believes), then you win every time you sit down with a timer and work on your song (or painting or poem) for five minutes. That you win every day when you do it for nothing more than the love of the work.

"There's just a lot of joy in it, in having created something at all. I don't feel as bad about other things. I don't necessarily feel high, or *overly* joyed. I just feel like, 'Oh, I'm not wasting my time.'"

But what if we are wasting our time? It's easy to think that if we are creating things that don't net us money or recognition. Tweedy says we have to mentally return to childhood, when we hunched over a Crayola masterpiece for an hour and were so proud of what we produced, despite its actual artistic worth. "The drawing got hung up on the fridge regardless of how good it was, because your mom loves you and everyone loves you. Why can't you be that kind to yourself?"

He goes on: "That's one of the problems with humans — that we can be talked out of loving something. That we can be talked out of loving something that we do, and we can be talked out of loving ourselves. Easily, unfortunately."

Will you write a song after reading this book? Maybe not, but it's still worth the small investment of time, and if nothing else, maybe you'll resume coloring on the floor, a joyful activity that Tweedy himself would endorse. **B**

— Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **MEREDITH HALL** Author discusses her new novel *Beneficence* in an online conversation with NH Poet Laureate Alice Fogel Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. Hosted by Toadstool Bookshops; find the link at toadbooks.com.

• **MIKE PRIDE** Author presents *Storm Over Key West*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online via Zoom. Tues., Dec. 1, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

Book Clubs

• **BOOKERY** Online. Third Thursday, 6 p.m. Visit bookerymht.com or call 836-6600.
• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** Online. First Monday, 5:30 p.m. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

BOOK NOTES

Since songwriting is, well, writing, it's a natural progression for musicians to write books, too. Whether they're readable is another story.

Anything by country music superstar Dolly Parton, however, seems a safe bet. She's out this week with *Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics*, written with an assist from music journalist Robert K. Oermann (Chronicle, 388 pages). The publisher promises that fans will learn the origin stories of Parton classics such as "Jolene," "9 to 5" and "I Will Always Love You," as well as more than 170 other songs that Parton has written.

If you have a Parton fan on your Christmas list, pair this with a "A Holly Dolly Christmas" CD and you're done.

But Thanksgiving stands between us and Christmas, so more pertinent to your life this week may be *The Book on Pie: Everything You Need to Know to Bake Perfect Pies* by Erin Jeanne McDowell, with photos by Mark Weinberg (Rux Martin/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 352 pages).

McDowell, the author of 2017's *The Fearless Baker* and a host on Food Network Kitchen, believes that pie of any kind is perfectly acceptable fare for breakfast, which seems reason

enough to buy this book. In it, she walks novices through crust-making (she prefers butter to Crisco and lard), and offers her own recipes on classics like apple pie, entrees such as chicken pot pie, and dozens of creative variations such as striped citrus pie, watermelon pie, triple chocolate caramel truffle pie and pina colada pie. Your socially distanced relatives and friends will thank you for reading this book.

Also, fans of Hallmark holiday movies (I don't understand you, but I know you exist) will want to pick up the clunkily titled *Hallmark Channel Countdown to Christmas: Have a Very Merry Movie Holiday* (Hearst Home, 224 pages). Author Caroline McKenzie offers recipes and decorating tips from "stars, screenwriters, set designers, costume designers, and directors who create the movie magic."

In other TV-inspired holiday fare, check out *The Official Downton Abbey Christmas Cookbook* (Weldon Owen, 240 pages) by Regula Ysewijn. "Now you can eat like an aristocrat," a review in Delish promises, evidence of yet another wide divide in America: the Downton Abbey stans versus the Hallmark Christmas movie peeps. — Jennifer Graham



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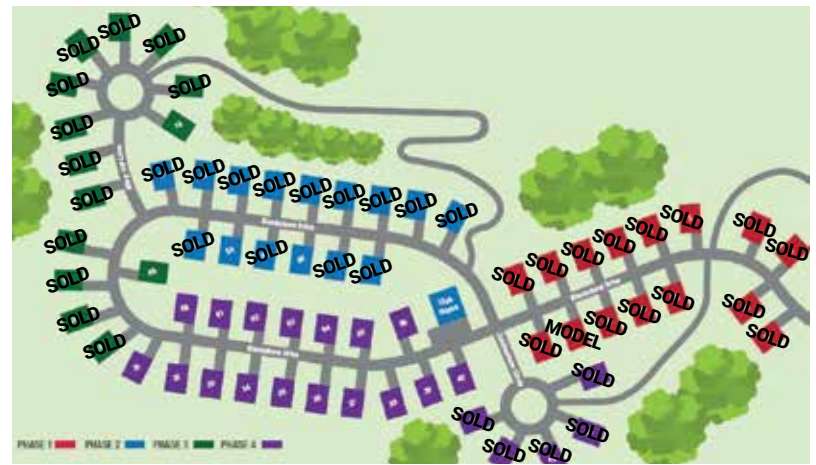


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Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey (PG)

An inventor is lifted out of his doldrums by a visit from his plucky granddaughter in *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey*, a charming Christmas-y family musical about STEM, the dedication of the post office and the importance of small business loans.

I mean, it's also about the magic of creativity and believing in yourself, the magic of actual magic and the importance of familial bonds and friendship, but small business loans and the post office play a not insignificant role.

Jeronicus Jangle (Justin Cornwell as a young man, Forest Whitaker as a grandpa-aged man) is a toymaker and a dazzling inventor in some kind of Victorian-ish world that has a vaguely steampunk feel but without any menace. He believes he has finally cracked the puzzle of a toy so marvelous that it will solidify his Greatest Inventor status and a lifetime of wealth for his family, including wife Joanne (Sharon Rose) and young daughter Jessica (Diaana Babnicova), who wants to be an inventor just like her dad. The toy is a sentient toy matador called Don Juan Diego (voice of Ricky Martin), who is fairly flawed from the outset in that he is extremely vain and possibly evil. When he hears that Jeronicus' plan is to mass produce him, which means he would no longer be one of a kind, Don Juan convinces Gustafson (Miles Barrow as a squirrely young man; an excellent Keegan-Michael Key as a desperate older man), Jeronicus' underappreciated apprentice, to steal him, the plans



Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey

for him and Jeronicus' book of inventions. Thus does Gustafson become a rich and famous toy inventor and Jeronicus lose his confidence in his inventions, his livelihood and even his family as Joanne dies abruptly and he becomes estranged from Jessica.

As a grown woman, Jessica (Anika Noni Rose) has an inquisitive and creative daughter of her own, Journey (Madalen Mills). Journey has grown up hearing stories about Jeronicus and his inventions but, due to the estrangement between father and daughter, she has never met him. She finds a way to travel to meet Jeronicus, but finds a man mired in sadness. He is barely hanging on in his shop, which is now a pawn and fix-it store. Though his young apprentice Edison

(Kieron L. Dyer) believes in him and post officer Mrs. Johnston (Lisa Davina Phillip) cares for him (reminding him in song that she is a widow ready to mingle), Jeronicus wants nothing to do with any of it. He isn't terribly welcoming to Journey — making her sign a non-disclosure about any plans or inventions she might stumble on — but he slowly starts to warm to her.

With singing! As I mentioned, this is a musical and, while I'm not necessarily humming anything from the movie at the moment, all of the songs are high-energy, plot-appropriate and fun.

I don't understand the weird financial alchemy that makes a family musical with music co-written by John Legend and a whole bunch of really expensive-looking wooden-toy and paper pop-

up-book and wind-up robot animation (used to move the narrative through time jumps between live-action scenes) possible for Netflix distribution but — cool! I'm so glad this movie exists! And I'm so glad it's getting distribution this way, which feels like the most family-accessible way to put it out there. This movie features genuine artistic achievement, particularly for the look of this film, as well as some solid storytelling. The movie creates a very specific world and then builds a magical story in it, with flavors of *The Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan*. The actors do a good job at making us care about these people and believe them, even if they're doing math equations in the air or singing in the middle of a Dickens'-London-esque setting (but, like, clean and bright, and calling to mind a snow globe with colors that pop). In addition to the core cast, Phylicia Rashad and Hugh Bonneville show up for small roles, which give this movie a quality-throughout feel.

There is also solid adventure, a friendly robot, a goofy villain and not too much scariness — I feel like kids a few years into elementary school can handle this movie. (Common Sense Media gives it an 8+ rating.) Looking for something for a family movie night? *Jingle Jangle* has enough action that it can probably keep kids engaged and enough storytelling cleverness to entertain adults as well. **A**

Rated PG for some thematic elements and peril. Written and directed by David E. Talbot, Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey is two hours and two minutes long and distributed by Netflix. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

Operation Christmas Drop (TV-G)

Kat Graham, Alexander Ludwig.

A congressional aide eager to impress and an Air Force captain laser focused (like, possibly to a degree that should warrant some personal examination on his part) on spreading Christmas cheer clash, but flirtily (at least I think that's what they're doing) in this Netflix Christmas romance. I think it is also technically a comedy but I don't specifically recall anything funny happening or being said.

Erica (Graham) is sent to Guam to observe the annual Operation Christmas Drop (a real thing that would probably make for a fun holiday documentary), wherein supplies are brought by air drop by the U.S. Air Force (and allies) to the people living on islands around Micronesia. Her boss, Congresswoman Sourface (Virginia Madsen, who looked like she was given a shot of lemon juice before every scene; also, no, that's not really her character name), wants Erica to go and write a report that says the whole thing

is wasteful and the military base should be closed — which would allow Sourface to keep the base in her district. Pilot Andrew (Ludwig) is picked by his boss to show Erica around, answer questions and make a good argument for the base's continued existence. Because it's Christmas (there's also some talk about Guam's strategic importance but honestly it's very secondary to the Christmas thing). Because it is required by law, there is immediate friction between the two — he's surfing, she's in a suit! — but slowly they bond over the fact that they are both attractive and that it's Christmas.

This is the kind of movie where the main female character starts off with hair neatly up and ends up with wavy hair even in circumstances where down, wavy hair doesn't seem like a great idea, like while pushing stuff out of a plane. I feel like even for that kind of movie, though, *Operation Christmas Drop* could be better. Ludwig and Graham are both attractive people but they have no chemistry with each other nor does the bland “banter” generate any. They also have no general chemistry with the movie; I suspect they're not given enough to do to really commit and create emotional weight of any kind. **C-Available on Netflix.**

Holidate (TV-MA)

Emma Roberts, Luke Bracey.

It feels shallow to be all “this one had swearing, sex and sarcasm and I liked it better” but, well, this holiday movie from Netflix had swearing, sex and sarcasm and I liked it a lot better than *Operation Christmas Drop*. Sloane (Roberts) is knocking on the door of 30 (ha!) and feels like the most pitied member of her family because she doesn't have a date to bring home with her to family celebrations. Jackson (Bracey) regularly finds himself on holiday dates where the importance of the day has outpaced the seriousness of the relationship. They meet cute at the mall while trying to return underwhelming Christmas gifts and discuss the idea, introduced by Sloane's aunt (a “having big fun” Kristin Chenoweth), of a standing “holidate” — someone who can attend Easter outings and St. Patrick's pub crawls but won't expect any long-term commitment. Naturally, Sloane and Jackson decide to become each other's holidates and run through the year's holidays — New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, Cinco de Mayo — while having what they claim is no-strings-attached fun together.

Does this movie write itself? Kinda. But that doesn't make it any less enjoyable in a satisfying “fun thing on in the background” way, particularly if it is the entertainment to accompany pairing up a pile of winter gloves or cleaning out your purse or some other task. Roberts and Bracey have decent chemistry and seem like a good fit for the mildly zany material. **B-Available on Netflix.**

A New York Christmas Wedding (TV-MA)

Nia Fairweather, Adriana DeMeo.

In the tradition of *It's a Wonderful Life*-type holiday movies, this one finds Jennifer (Fairweather) planning a wedding with David (Otoja Abit, the movie's writer and director) — or rather, listening to his mother's over-the-top plans for their wedding to take place on Christmas Eve. Jennifer has a tough relationship with Christmas — years ago she had a big fight with her best friend near Christmas, and both of her parents passed away when she was relatively young. Out on a jog to get away from David and his overbearing mother, she meets Azrael (Cooper Koch), who — if the name didn't give it away the white outfit and the imperiousness to being hit by a car should

— is an angel. Thus, when she wakes up the next morning, Jennifer finds herself in bed not with David but with Gabby (DeMeo), her best friend all grown up and now her fiancée.

I feel like I should say something like “Jennifer has to decide if this is the true path her life should have taken” but there really isn't much to decide; Jennifer and Gabby are clearly deeply in love and meant to be together.

Much like one of those cakes with wonky fondant and oozy jam on *Great British Baking Show*, this movie isn't quite patisserie-window-ready; you can see the lumpy bits and rough patches in the basics of this movie's construction and in some of the writing. Chris Noth shows up as a priest wrestling with the church's position on same-sex marriage and his whole plot is both very heartfelt and not quite as well folded into the overall story as it could have been with a few tweaks. There is genuine emotion and sweetness all over this movie even if there are also flaws that a slicker production could have fixed. I'm not sure if the heart totally makes up for all the rough moments, but I feel like if the heart is your focus, this could work for you. **B-**

Available on Netflix.

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

NITE

Two of a kind

Fools duo play intimate Manchester show

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Flighting:** Southern California-based tribute band **The Eagles Experience** presents a convincing recreation of their sound, from the four-part harmonies of “Heartache Tonight” to Don Henley’s melancholy on “Heart of the Matter.” An originally scheduled full hall appearance was split into two shows to accommodate social distancing requirements. Saturday, Nov. 21, 5 and 8 p.m., Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester. Tickets are \$40 at anselm.edu.

• **Modness:** Singer Rick Larrimore’s **Rod Stewart Tribute Show** convinces on two fronts. He looks the part of the shaggy-haired pop star, and his delivery — sandy-throated vocals, fluid mannerisms and impish charm — is a perfect doppelgänger. Larrimore is a big draw in Las Vegas, when a pandemic isn’t running the tables. The event is limited to four-seat table reservations. Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. at Pasta Loft Restaurant & Pub, 241 Milford Oval, No. 4, Milford, tickets \$80 per table at eventbrite.com.

• **Worldly:** Serious music ensues at a Symphony NH event called **Universal Perspectives**, as Maestro Roger Kalia leads a 10-piece string ensemble performing selections ranging from Gershwin’s “Lullaby” to a pair of Brazilian pieces — Danza’s “De Panama” and “Mother & Child” — concluding with a musical journey to Estonia and the enduring hymn “Amazing Grace.” Sunday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester. Tickets \$10 to \$25 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Percussive:** Though Drinksgiving is Covid-diminished this year, **Senie Hunt** will perform an evening of his unique, guitar-as-a-drum music to lead into the holiday. Born in Sierra Leone, Hunt moved from New Hampshire to Memphis a while back but has been in town for the past several weeks. He’ll debut a new Christmas album, *Winter Meadow*, at the show. Wednesday, Nov. 25, 8 p.m., Penuche’s Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord. \$2 at the door, see seniehunt.com.

November is a time of year when Mike Girard is usually getting ready to star in the annual Christmas Buzz Ball or doing shows with either his longtime band The Fools or the oversized side project, Mike Girard’s Big Swinging Things. Since the pandemic put the kibosh on most live music last March, however, he’s done exactly one gig: an early August drive-in Fools show at a Manchester by the Sea fitness club parking lot.

Girard’s performance output will double when he and Fools guitarist Rich Bartlett play an intimate show at the Rex Theatre in Manchester on Nov. 28. They’ve done the duo act once before at a house concert, “and we really had a terrific time,” Girard said in a recent phone interview. “The songs were stripped down, with lots of stories in between. We called it the *Naked and Afraid Tour*; this is a continuation of that.”

The setlist will include favorites like “Life Sucks, Then You Die” and “It’s A Night For Beautiful Girls,” reworked for the spare performance.

“I guess the words are going to be a lot more audible, for good or ill,” Girard said. “If you don’t like it, you’ll know why. There’s [one] song in particular, a slow one called ‘Just Give Up’ — it’s kind of an inspirational song about just quitting.”

A natural raconteur, Girard is more than ready to perform, despite the time off. He’ll share tales of his band’s beginnings in the late 1970s, when hits “She Looks Alright In The Dark” and “Psycho Chicken” were all over Boston radio, and talk about international tours opening for Van Halen and The Knack.

Fans will also gain insight into his songwriting process, Girard promised.

“For instance, ‘Night Out’ occurred to me in a dream — it really did,” he said. “In the dream, we were playing in a small club, doing this song. I woke up and wrote the verse and chorus. I knew where it was going and I went back to bed.”

In the morning, Girard finished the song.

“I called up Richie and said, ‘I had this dream we’re playing this song in a club; I wrote it down and I want to play it for the band.’ He said, ‘How many people were in the club?’ I said, ‘Not too many.’ He said, ‘Call me back when there’s more people in the club.’”

For his part, Bartlett is always ready to hit the stage, Girard said.

“I could show up at his place pretty much any hour of the day and he’ll be sitting on the couch playing guitar into his headphones while watching one TV show or another,” he said. “I tell him, ‘Your life hasn’t really changed at all; we’re all [not used to] staying at home, but that’s just what you do.’”

The upcoming stripped-down show will be The Fools’ second at the Rex; they were there last Feb. 22, a few months after Girard published a new book, *A Fool In Time*. Like 2010’s *Psycho Chicken & Other Foolish Tales*, he admits that it’s loosely a memoir, quoting Bartlett’s response to *Psycho Chicken* in the preface: “The story is pretty much true, even if the details aren’t.”

The Fools have a long history in Manchester, dating back to the raucous mid-’80s days of The Casbah Club, when they and performers such as GG Allin, Jim Carroll and The Ramones would frequently visit.

Girard is looking forward to playing at the city’s newest venue again.

“We’re going to add to the foolish population of that town,” he said with a



Mike Girard and Rich Bartlett. Courtesy photo.

laugh. “I love the Rex, the place is great. It’s got that feeling of history about it, being an old theater. Nice high ceilings, lots of space.” And it’s ideal for a safe, socially distanced evening.

“We won’t be selling merch, or hanging out with the audience after or whatever, all the things that we would normally do,” Girard said. “We’ll have our own separate entrance, everyone will wear a mask when they’re out of their seat, you know? But once we start, it’s going to be fun — that’s the whole point of every show.”

An Intimate Evening With A Couple of Fools

When: Saturday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Where: The Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester

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Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m. (solo acoustic)

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
Sawbelly: Marc Apostolides, 5 p.m.
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.
Wally's: DJ Provo, 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.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Honey Bees Trio, 6 p.m.

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

Rye
Atlantic Grill: Pete Peterson, 5:30 p.m.

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

Friday, Nov. 20

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy, 7 p.m.

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

Concord
Area 23: Swapping sets with Brian Booth and Dave Mulchahay, 7 p.m.
Cheers: Team trivia, 9 p.m.
Penuche's: Masceo Williams, 8 p.m.

Epping
The Community Oven: Brad Bosse, 6 p.m.
Holy Grail: Andrew Emmanuel, 7 p.m.
Telly's: Dave Gerar, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Dean Harlem, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Jeff Auger, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Emily Rae Shively, 5 p.m.

Hudson
The Bar: Carter on Guitar, 8 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Threesea, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: April Cushman, 9 p.m.
Foundry: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Hart's Turkey Farm: Sweetbloods, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Matt the Sax, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.

Moultonborough
Buckey's: Joe Sabourin, 6 p.m.

Nashua
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: George Barber and Derek Fimbel (of Town Meeting), 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Rebecca Turmel, 7:30 p.m.
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: American Ride, 6:30 p.m.

Stratham
Tailgate: David Corson, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Dwayne Haggins, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jae Mannion 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Saturday jam with Ross Arnold, 2 p.m.; swapping sets with Nate Cozzolino and Craig Greenman, 7 p.m.
Cheers: Gabby Martin, 6 p.m.
Concord Craft Brewing: Andrew Geano, 4 p.m.
Penuche's: Jared Steer & Company, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: John Irish, 7 p.m.
Tellys: Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Elijah Clark, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Bob Rutherford, 6 p.m.

Hampton
The Community Oven: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.
The Goat: Dave Campbell, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Ryan Williamson, 5 p.m.

Londonderry
603 Brewery: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.
Coach Stop: Mark Lapointe, 6 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.

LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Stumble Inn: 21st & 1st, 6:30 p.m.; Tami Stewart, 10 p.m. (karaoke)

Manchester

The Alibi: Carter on Guitar, 8 p.m.
Backyard Brewery: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: The Eric Grant Band, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Pete Massa, 9 p.m.
Foundry: Senie Hunt, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Lussier, 5:30 p.m.
South Side Tavern: April Cushman, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Becca Myari

Meredith

Twin Barns: Musical bingo, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

American Social Club: Matt Jackson, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Harry Potter Trivia Extravaganza, 2 p.m.; Brian Wall, 6 p.m.
Millyard Brewery: Randy McGravey, 4 p.m. (acoustic covers of 90s rock, classic rock and alternative)

New Boston

Molly's Tavern: Jim Nicotera, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Rustic Overtones, 5 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Jodee Frawlee, 7:30 p.m.
The Goat: Brad Bosse, 9 p.m.

Salem

Jocelyn's: Brian Walker, 6 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Fast Times, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22

Bedford

Copper Door: Mark Lapointe, 11 a.m.; Pete Peterson, 4 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Ryan Hood, 4:30 p.m.

Chichester

Flannel Tavern: Joe Piro, 4 p.m. (acoustic series)

Concord

Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m.

Exeter

Sawbelly: Sunday Blues & Brews with Alan Roux, 1 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Bob Pratte, 3 p.m. (acoustic sessions)

Hampton

CR's: Gerry Beaudoin, 11 a.m.
WHYM: Max Sullivan, noon

Manchester

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

Newmarket

Stone Church: Soggy Po Boys, 3 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Marc Apostolides, 11 a.m.; Jodee Frawlee, 4 p.m.
Tuscan Kitchen: Brad Bosse, 4 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 23

Concord

Hermanos: Jock Irvine, 6:30 p.m.

Gilford

Patrick's: team trivia, 6:30 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.
Salona: Music Bingo, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

American Social Club: Bar Bingo, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Matt Luneau, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

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

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Concord

Hermanos: Zeb Cruikshank, 6:30 p.m.

Hampton

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Brad Bosse, 5:30 p.m.
KC's: Steve Archambault, 7 p.m.; open mic with Paul Costley and Nate Comp at 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Andrew Geano, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Fratello's: Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

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Concerts

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

Venues

LaBelle Winery
 345 Route 101, Amherst
 672-9898, labellewinery.com

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
 436-2400, themusichall.org

Pasta Loft

241 Union Square, Milford

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

- **George Barber and Derek Fimbel (of Town Meeting)** Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Stone Church
- **Rustic Overtones** Saturday, Nov. 21, 5 p.m., Stone Church
- **We Salute You (An AC/DC tribute)**, Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
- **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Tupelo (indoors)
- **Rod Stewart Tribute** Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. at Pasta Loft in Milford
- **Soggy Po Boys** Sunday, Nov. 22, 3 p.m., Stone Church
- **Broken Arrow (a tribute to Neil Young)** Sunday, Nov. 22, 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Friendsgiving with Slack Tide** Wednesday, Nov. 25, 6 p.m., Stone Church

- **Annual Thanksgiving Truffle Show** Friday, Nov. 27, 1 p.m., Stone Church
- **Heavens to Murgatroid** Saturday, Nov. 28, 3 and 6 p.m., Stone Church
- **Ute Gfrerer** Saturday, Nov. 28, 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall
- **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
- **A Very Merry Sinatra Christmas with Rich Dimare** Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle
- **Gary Hoey's Ho Ho Hoey 25th Anniversary**, Friday, Dec. 4; Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., Tupelo (indoors)
- **Marble Eyes matinee** Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m., Stone Church
- **Taylor O'Donnell Quartet** Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall

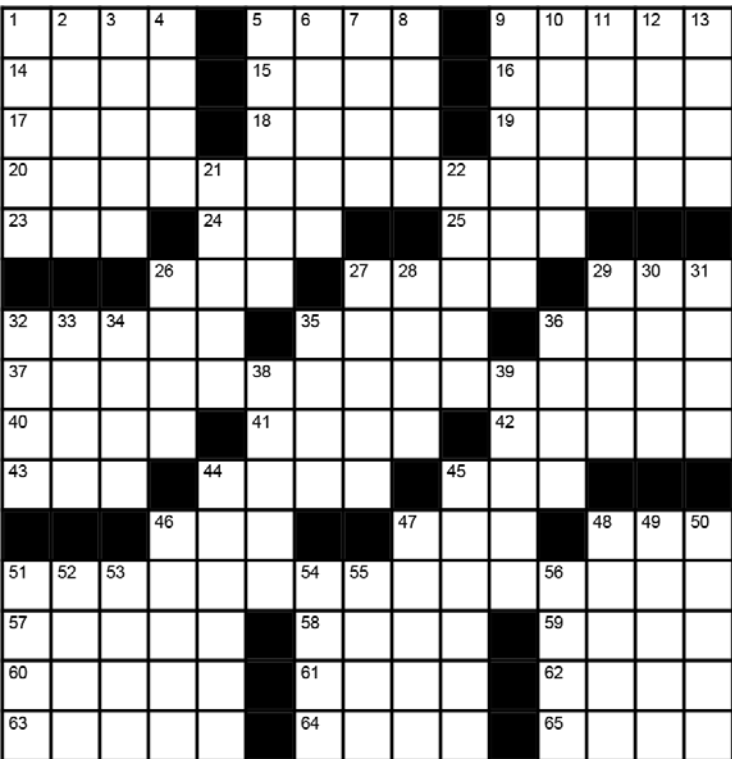


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BEHIND BLUE PUZZLES



Across

1. Queen of neo-soul Erykah
5. Social Distortion raised their hand and sang 'Let It ___' (2,2)
9. Ritchie Valens 'La ___'
14. The harder you rock, the stronger this gets in your armpits
15. Irish queen of soft rock
16. Funk icon Hayes
17. Cherry variety in backstage drink
18. Bryan Adams '___ Like A Knife'
19. Rocker might do a brief one, in a band
20. Archers Of Loaf cut off 'All The Nations Airports' for a doctor? (5,2,3,5)
23. The Who 'A Man ___ Man' (2,1)
24. Band that sampled Andrew Dice Clay on 'Unbelievable'
25. Album oriented rock genre (abbr)
26. Jamaican ___ Scratch Perry
27. You give it to security when you sneak to better seats
29. Color Me Badd's big album
32. Guns And Roses' Matt
35. '___ Away My Idols' Dion
36. Kind of 'Eye's' The Who was 'Behind'
37. '84 Don Henley smash album 'Building ___' (3,7,5)
40. Actress Bancroft that played 'Mrs. Robinson'
41. Nickelback were so very 'Far ___'
42. Yim of Monsters Of Folk
43. Lonestar '___ A Day Goes By'
44. Led Zeppelin's 'Mak'er'
45. She's pretty and young, to Michael Jackson on 'Thriller' (abbr)
46. Head of England, in an English club?
47. Veteran
48. Make multiple copies of
51. REM debut single they went foreign with? (5,4,6)

57. Theory Of A Deadman 'The Truth Is... (___ About Everything)' (1,4)
58. What a band finally does at a restaurant when they sign
59. Grand Funk Railroad 'Walk Like ___' (1,3)
60. The Used '___ Beside You'
61. "Rock Of Love" Michaels
62. Kind of band exposure, in the UK
63. X female singer

64. Phish '___ Sprach Zarathustra (2001)'
 65. Roy Harper tossed the pepper and wrote 'Pinches Of ___'
- Down**
1. Houston & Brown singing daughter
 2. The Ramones '___ Amigos!'
 3. Avett Bros 'Bella ___'
 4. St Louis 'Jump Right In' band The ___
 5. '___ What You Are' The Juliana Hatfield 3
 6. ___ Z'Nuff
 7. Michael Penn hit 'No ___'
 8. What musical genius plays with
 9. 'It Might Be You' Stephen
 10. Gene Simmons cover 'When You Wish Upon ___' (1,4)
 11. Lynyrd Skynyrd '___ Street's still there but the stores are all empty'
 12. "Join together with the ___"
 13. Musicals have an intermission between two, often
 21. The Who "___, feel me, touch me, heal me" (3,2)
 22. Bonnie that covered Roy Orbison's 'You Got It'
 26. 'The Show Goes On' Fiasco
 27. 'Slavery Days' Burning ___
 28. She's 'In The Sky With Diamonds'
 29. 50s cover charge might have been only one, slang
 30. 'Black Holes And Revelations' band
 31. Unseen Guest "placed" them on the blackjack table
 32. Jazz tenor saxist Getz
 33. ELO '___ Not Susan' (2,2)
 34. What struggling musicians dread to the landlord once a month

WORD★Roundup™

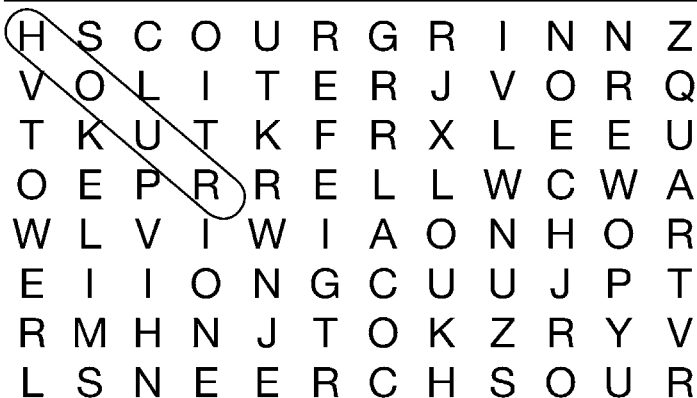
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Eight words rhyming with "flower"
- Five units of liquid measure
- Three facial expressions
- Magician's feats
- Finish ___ (goal)

Last Week's Answers: TANZANIA MEXICO CANADA JAPAN CHINA INDIA CHILE EGYPT LAOS PERU / NESMITH DOLENZ JONES TORK / UNO DOS TRES / DART / ZEUS

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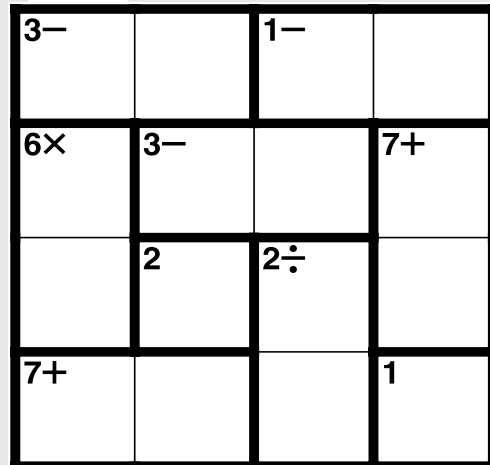
35. Billy Joel "For the promises our teachers gave ___ worked hard" (2,2)
36. Go-Go's 'Beauty And The ___'
38. '98 Madonna album '___ Light' (3,2)
39. Pretenders 'I'll Stand ___' (2,3)
44. Might draw one for album cover idea
45. Rush's 13th album for a magic show?
46. Brother Cane 'I ___ The Bed I Make' (3,2)
47. Libertines were fed up when they sang 'For ___ Sake'
48. '13 Stone Sour hit they asked nicely '___ Favor' (2,2,1)
49. '03 Waifs album went sleepless when they stayed '___ Night' (2,3)
50. 'A Day In The Life' R&B guy Eric
51. Beck jumped aboard and took a 'Farewell ___'
52. Sea Wolf, aka ___ Brown Church
53. Sarah Brightman song for a swim off a jumping board?
54. McEntire that starred in sitcom
55. 'Picnic' Robert ___ Keen
56. Bob Geldof band Boomtown ___

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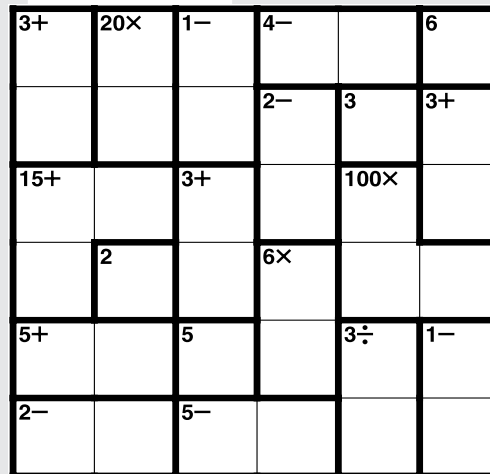
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CHALLENGING



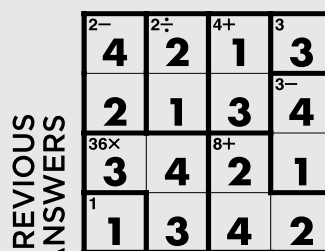
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RULES

- 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

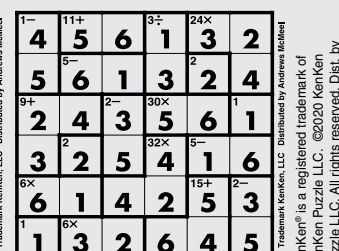
outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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6-15-20



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"Leg Work" — keep on counting!

- Across**
- 1 1990s Disney show with characters from "The Jungle Book"
 - 9 Clear music holder
 - 15 Prozac maker
 - 16 Enter, as data
 - 17 They have two legs each
 - 19 Icon used in Twitch chat to express feelings
 - 20 Uganda's Idi
 - 21 Being, Roman-style
 - 22 "Tiny Alice" dramatist Edward
 - 25 Active chemical in cannabis
 - 28 "Parklife" group
 - 29 The heavens, for Olympians
 - 32 They have four legs each
 - 37 Broadcast studio sign
 - 38 Key to get out?
 - 39 Cover once more?
 - 40 They have six legs each
 - 43 "Here are the words on the label ..."
 - 44 State with a three-word capital
 - 45 Abbr. in a job posting
 - 46 Charlie of "Hot Shots!"
 - 48 Singer with the EPs "BLQ Velvet" and "PRINCESS"
 - 52 "Transformers" actor LaBeouf
 - 54 Abbr. on marked-down clothes
 - 55 They have eight legs each
 - 61 Like a difficult battle
 - 62 Comedian Sarah who once

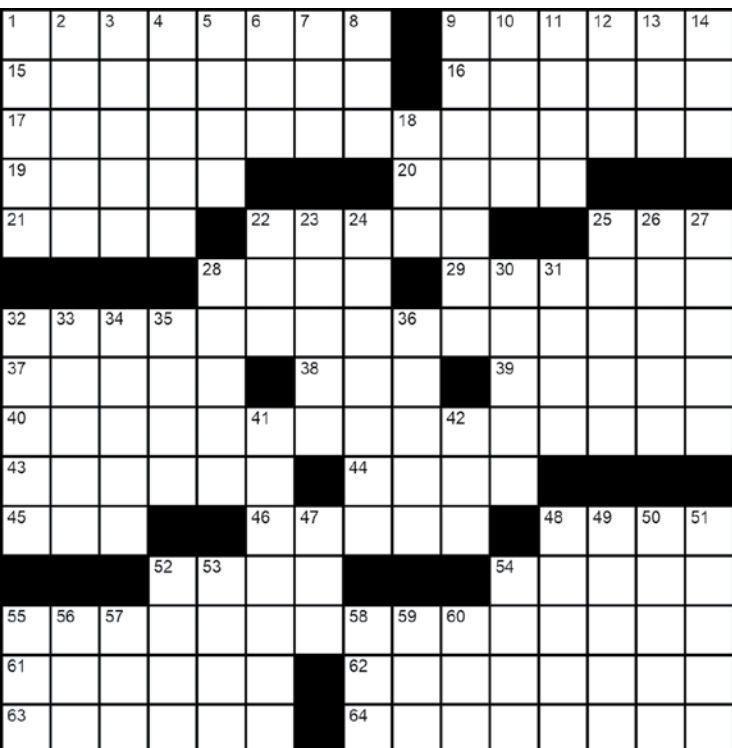
- wrote "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard"
- 63 "Game of Thrones" actress Williams
- 64 Followed

Down

- 1 Tiny laugh
- 2 Class reunion attendees
- 3 Cars for execs
- 4 Make happy
- 5 Mathematical ratio
- 6 Middle East gp.
- 7 French 101 pronoun
- 8 "All the news that's fit to print" initials
- 9 Sevastopol resident
- 10 Metric prefix for "tenth"
- 11 "Call Me Irresponsible" lyricist Sammy
- 12 City southwest of Tulsa
- 13 Sample of wine
- 14 Methyl ending
- 18 Actress Issa
- 22 Olympic flame lighter in Atlanta

- 23 Winter Games vehicles
- 24 Rudely abrupt
- 25 "Is ___ fact?"
- 26 Poet Gil Scott-___
- 27 Advanced very slowly
- 28 Daft, in Derby
- 30 You are here
- 31 Van Gogh's brother
- 32 "Holy moly!"
- 33 Maternally related
- 34 ___ profundo (lowest vocal range)
- 35 Morning TV host Kelly
- 36 Like some angles
- 41 Tiny ear bone
- 42 "American Gods" actor McShane
- 47 It might go over your head
- 48 Shimerman of "Deep Space Nine"
- 49 Streisand's "Funny Girl" role
- 50 Levy again
- 51 Bond, for example
- 52 Downhill runners
- 53 Hindu festival of colors
- 54 Maui, for one

- 55 Rum ___ Tugger ("Cats" cat)
 - 56 Bitter brew, briefly
 - 57 Athens X
 - 58 One-hit wonder band behind "How Bizarre"
 - 59 "When the Rain Begins to Fall" singer Zadora
 - 60 Einstein's birth city
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R&R answer from pg 31 of 11/12



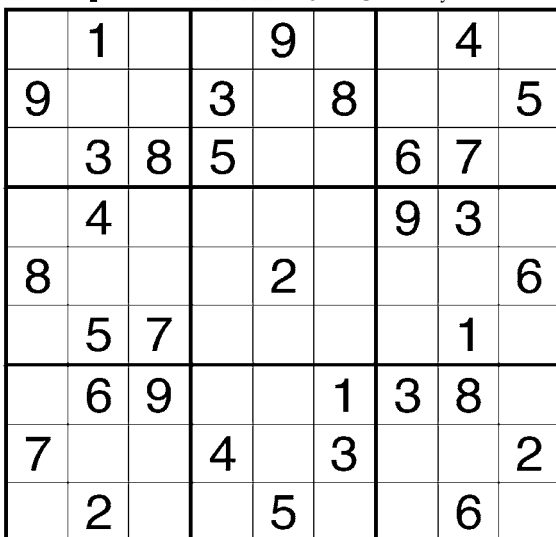
Jonesin' answer from pg 32 of 11/12



NITE SUDOKU

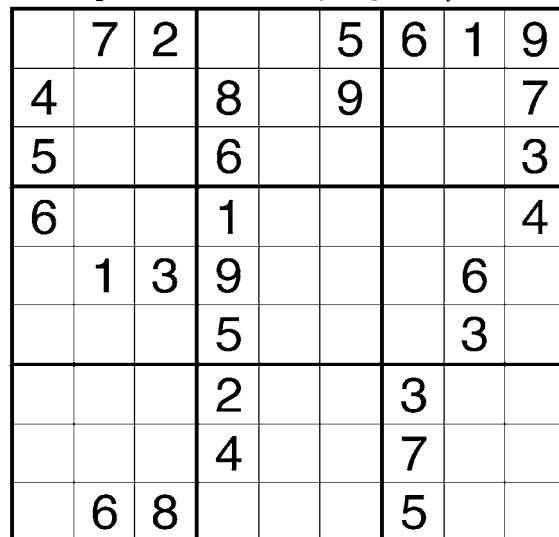
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 29.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



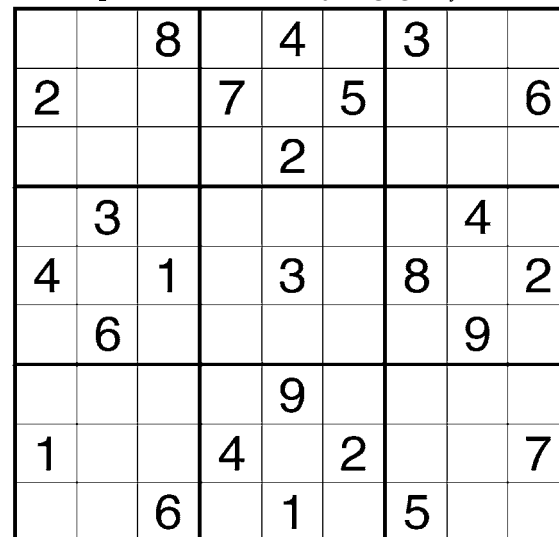
Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

All quotes are from *A Beautiful Mess* blog entries by Elsie Larson, born Nov. 19, 1983.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *In fact, I have seen firsthand that there are many jobs we can't get because our blog is "too big." Plus many opportunities are not just about size, they are about what you bring [to] the project, or what your audience values from hearing from you specifically.* Go for quality over quantity.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *If you don't have the money to do a big renovation, distract yourself with paint while you save up.* Some distractions are more useful than others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Even though Emma was a little nervous to host her open house (our property was mostly gutted and under major construction at the time), it was so good to be able to talk face to face with the neighbors.* Try it. You'll like it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Last Christmas, I ended the night in tears because it was just so overwhelming. After that, we began to make plans to go at a slower pace that works better for our family.* Think back to plan ahead.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Before we got into apps we didn't consider ourselves a techy company. We still don't really fit that mold, but that doesn't matter. Mold? What mold?*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *It's amazing what a difference a day and a few nights off every week do to reduce our stress levels.... Amazing!*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *I remember in junior high I took a bubble bath every morning ... like, I got up extra early every morning just to enjoy my bath. ... So learning about the Danish concept of hygge really resonated with me and I wanted to learn everything I could.* Coziness is the theme.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *For us, multiple projects actually helps make our job more fun and less monotonous. ... But with that said, it's important not to over-commit, because I think that is one of the biggest sources of burn out!* Three mini-commitments equals one standard-size commitment.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *The number one reason we are able to post 2-3 blogs every single day is because we are organized. ... Emma and I invest time every week in making a plan and a schedule for the blog articles that we need to write as well as all the behind the scenes work.* You can't be good at making schedules until you have experience doing the work.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *When you start a new hobby, chances are you won't be very good at first. That's a big part of learning. Don't let anyone discourage you ...!* Or, as Monica Geller said when told she was doing it wrong, "Yeah, well, at least I'm doing it!"

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *I often catch myself spending too much time browsing Pinterest and Bloglovin' during work time. ... When I am not logged in to any social networking websites, I save HOURS of valuable work time each week.* News flash.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Whatever your hobby or interest, you can find friends who share the same passion. Just keep your eyes open and try joining online groups that fit your interest. You'll be able to provide each other with encouragement and information to keep learning!* If you can dream it, you can Zoom it. 🍷

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Fri., Nov 20th Charlie Chronopoulos
Sat., Nov 21st Bob Rutherford

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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 bulbs from the Netherlands (6)	_____
2 "he loves me" flowers (7)	_____
3 ray-loving blooms (10)	_____
4 flowers in Pasadena parade (5)	_____
5 delicate spring blooms (8)	_____
6 frilly blossoms (7)	_____
7 bright yellow blooms (9)	_____

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Last Week's Answers: 1. PEAR 2. ROUND 3. CUSHION 4. EMERALD 5. MARQUISE 6. PRINCESS 7. RADIANT 11/15

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Sudoku Answers from page 32 of 11/12

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty Level: ★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty Level: ★★

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty Level: ★★★



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News you can use

Engineers at Japan's Gifu University have developed a robotic device that re-creates the experience of holding another person's hand — without the other person. "My Girlfriend in Walk" attaches to the user's forearm, and the metal hand is covered with a soft, gel material that simulates human skin, even allowing custom fragrances to be added to the artificial sweat. A heater provides warmth and a pressure sensor duplicates the strength of the wearer's grip, according to Oddity Central. An accompanying smartphone app can emit sounds including footsteps, breathing and the sound of clothes rubbing against skin.

Schemes

• Kimberly Ragsdale's apparent plan to get free food at a Chick-Fil-A in Rockmart, Georgia, ended in her arrest on charges of impersonating a public officer on Nov. 5. According to police, Ragsdale, 47, of Dallas, had repeatedly visited the restaurant, telling workers she was an FBI agent and threatening to arrest them if they didn't serve her a complimentary meal. Ragsdale continued her charade, the Associated Press reported, telling arresting officers her credentials were electronic and talking "into her shirt like she was talking into a radio," the arrest report noted. Rockmart Police Chief Randy Turner said in a statement to news outlets, "You will not hear a real officer demand a meal anywhere."

• Two men have been arrested on suspicion of conning an unnamed doctor in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh into paying \$41,600 for an "Aladdin's lamp" that the sellers promised would bring him "wealth, health and good fortune." The two con artists even conspired to conjure a genie from the lamp, which turned out to be one of the men, to convince the doctor of its authenticity, the BBC reported. According to local police, the con men had duped other families in the same way.

Awesome!

• Mayor Yutaka Umeda of the Japanese town of Yamato was puzzled when his name started trending on social media after the U.S. presidential election, but he is now hoping his newfound fame will help him "promote the town," United Press International reported. The extra attention online came because the Chinese kanji characters used to spell Umeda's name can also be pronounced "Jo Baiden" -- strikingly similar to U.S. President-elect Joe Biden. "Although there are differences in the positions of a U.S. presidential candidate and the mayor of Yamato ... our passion is the same," Umeda said.

• A couple hiking in Ingersheim in northeastern France in September came across a tiny aluminum capsule that turned out to contain a message in German dropped by a carrier pigeon 110 years ago, CNN reported. Curator Dominique Jardy at the nearby Linge Memorial museum, dedicated to a battle between

French and German forces in 1915, determined the message was sent from one German officer to another, detailing military exercises taking place in the area. The find, Jardy said, "is really very, very, very rare," and the message will go on display at the museum.

Bright ideas

In September, police in Ceske Budejovice in the Czech Republic, where a 9 p.m. curfew has been imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, came upon a man pulling a toy plush dog behind him late at night in the town's center, Idnes.cz reported. "I'm walking a dog here. I'm not doing anything illegal here," the man told officers. Walking a dog is permitted after curfew, but the police gave him a warning and sent him and his "pet" on their way.

People with issues

Police in Fruitland Park, Florida, arrested Ronni Leigh Kimberlin of Leesburg on Oct. 31 on charges of theft and disturbing a grave after she allegedly repeatedly removed items left at her ex-husband's grave by his fiancée. The grieving fiancée first complained to police in late September, records show, saying items missing from the grave included a pair of \$250 sunglasses, hanging LED lights, hanging planters, artificial flowers, a ring and assorted other items, all valued at more than \$400. Kimberlin denied involvement, WKMG reported, but the arrest affidavit noted an ex-roommate came

forward saying she was with Kimberlin when she stole the items, and police found some of the missing planters at Kimberlin's brother's home.

Recent alarming headlines

Police in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, continue to investigate two explosive incidents in area port-a-potties, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported. No one was injured in either explosion, the first of which occurred Nov. 5 in Lawrenceville and was strong enough to blow apart the toilet and damage a nearby home, police said. The second came on Nov. 10 in East Allegheny. Pittsburgh's Bomb Squad and Crime Unit is working to determine what types of explosives were used and whether the events are related.

Government in action

Indonesia has the highest death toll from COVID-19 in Southeast Asia, and officials there are getting creative with punishments in addition to fines for not complying with mask laws. Metro News reported on Nov. 11 that regional governments are forcing scofflaws to do pushups, pull weeds, clean riverbeds and dig graves for coronavirus victims. Coffeeshop owner Evani Jesselyn of Jakarta said she was given a choice of paying a fine or cleaning public toilets after she was caught not wearing a mask in her car.

Visit newssoftheweird.com.

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