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AND OTHER WAYS
GRANITE STATERS ARE
SUPPORTING EACH OTHER**

INSIDE: FRESHLY ROASTED COFFEE

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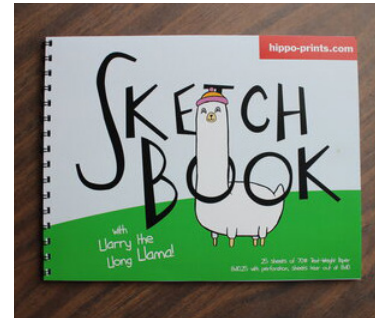
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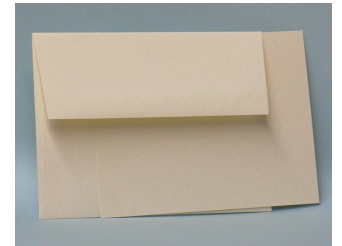
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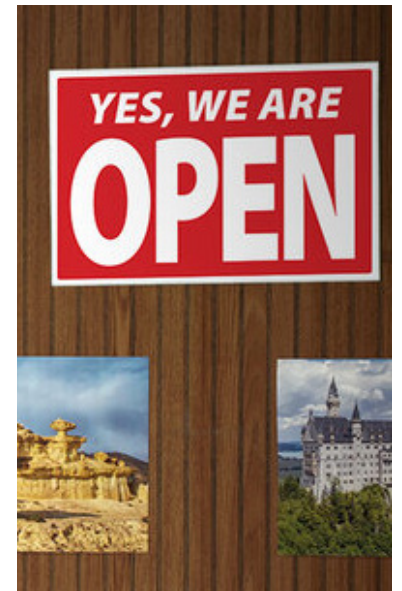
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Being a local merchant before the pandemic was hard. The tides were against us — from competition from Amazon to the rising cost of rents and labor, it was hard to be a small business in New Hampshire.

But that didn't stop many people from taking up the challenge, and for that I'm grateful. Small independent businesses — your local restaurant, bakery, gift shop, pet store, salon and music shop — give our community part of its character. It's the basis for Hippo's annual Best of Readers Poll. And as we've talked about for the past 20 years, these small businesses are what help make this region what it is.

Those small businesses also employ a lot of local people and more of the money you spend with us stays in the area; 73 percent of money you spend at an independent small business stays local versus 43 percent of money spent at a non-locally owned business, according to one recent study. I would guess even less stays local when spending money with Amazon or another out-of-state e-tailer. Locally owned businesses also contribute a lot more money to local charities and pay a lot more in local taxes. This keeps your taxes lower. Spending local makes sense for your community and yourself.

That in-person connection of a Toadstool Bookshop or a Manchester Music Mill or an Alapage or the Bakeshop On Kelley Street or Granite State Candy Shoppe or Palace Theatre or Cheers Bar and Grill has been severely impacted with the limiting of in-person contact throughout the pandemic. It's like the very thing that gives these businesses their special sauce was yanked right away from them. At the very same moment, their chief competitors like Amazon, Walmart and UberEats got a huge boost by people stuck at home. This is understandable — Amazon is easy and makes a lot of sense when we're trying to reduce our in-person contact.

What we can do, though, is make an effort to spend some of our money at these local businesses. Since many of our local businesses can't afford some of the online shopping tools or their service can't be sold online, our efforts might require us to pick up the phone or if we feel safe enough go down there and use their service. Support your local restaurant by buying a gift certificate or ordering takeout.

Just as we need to make the effort, small businesses need to as well. Consumers can recognize when businesses aren't reasonably supporting local businesses around them. Just as with consumers it isn't always easy but with some effort the rewards can be tremendous.

Though it can seem a bit overused, the saying "we'll get through this together" has the right sentiment. We'll get through this together by supporting each other. 🌊

the Hippo

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**ON THE COVER**

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS Meet some of New Hampshire's all-star volunteers! This year has posed additional challenges and created more need, and these volunteers have stepped up to help keep their neighbors fed, housed and healthy.

ALSO ON THE COVER, The Beatles Cartoon Art Show Tour comes to Manchester, p. 14. Get freshly roasted coffee, Nadeau's subs and more at McLaughlin's Country Market in Concord, p. 20. And get some laughs live or at home, p. 30.

INSIDE THIS WEEK**NEWS & NOTES**

- 6 News in Brief.
- 12 SPORTS
- 13 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

THE ARTS:

- 14 MEET RON CAMPBELL
Classic cartoonist comes to Manchester.
- 15 ARTS ROUNDUP
The latest arts news.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

- 16 GARDENING GUY
Henry Homeyer offers advice on your outdoors.
- 17 KIDDIE POOL
Fun for the family.
- 17 TREASURE HUNT
There's gold in your attic.
- 18 CAR TALK
Automotive advice.

FOOD:

- 20 MCLAUGHLIN'S COUNTRY MARKET Sunny Side Up Deli; Weekly Dish; In the Kitchen; Try This At Home; Beer.

POP CULTURE:

- 26 BOOK, MUSIC AND FILM REVIEWS Amy Diaz has a happy holiday weekend with *Superintelligence* and *Happiest Season*.

NITE:

- 30 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE
Mike Koutrobis, Nite Roundup, Music This Week.
- 35 ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORD
Puzzles for the music-lover.

ODDS & ENDS:

- 35 KENKEN, WORD ROUNDUP
- 36 SUDOKU
- 36 CROSSWORD
- 37 SIGNS OF LIFE
- 37 7 LITTLE WORDS
- 38 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

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Covid-19 news

On Nov. 21, the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services issued a notice of potential community exposures connected to positive cases of Covid-19 at Grumpy's Bar & Grill in Plaistow. According to the notice, the exposures likely occurred in the eatery's bar and pool table areas on the evenings of Nov. 10 and Nov. 14. State health officials have identified three positive cases of the virus associated with Grumpy's, and the state Attorney General's Office is investigating multiple violations of food service guidelines.

New Hampshire surpassed 20,000 positive tests of Covid-19 over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, according to a Nov. 28 report from WMUR — these included a two-day total of 702 cases on Thanksgiving Day and the following day. WMUR also reported that state hospitalizations from the virus also reached a new high, of 160 as of Dec. 1.

Because people can begin experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 within two days of being exposed, state health officials say now is the time when you will see any direct links between the virus and Thanksgiving celebrations you had, according to WMUR's Nov. 29 report. The incubation period of the virus can last anywhere from two to 14 days.

On Nov. 30, DHHS issued a notice of potential community exposures connected to positive virus cases at the Stumble Inn Bar & Grill in Londonderry, which occurred between Nov. 11 and Nov. 23. At least 11 positive cases have been reported so far at the Stumble Inn, which is currently closed, according to the notice.

New council

Last week, members of the newly established Council on Housing

Stability were announced. According to a press release, the council is a "revamped effort of the State's Inter-agency Council on Homelessness" and has been tasked with updating the state's plan for addressing homelessness, including broader issues related to housing affordability and stability. The council is made up of dozens of members, including city mayors, representatives from several state departments, building and landlord association representatives, experts in the areas of homelessness and housing instability, and people who have experienced housing instability. The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, and the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority will lead the council, according to the release. A preliminary plan is due from the council no later than Dec. 14; its first meeting is scheduled for Dec. 4.

NH-JAG awarded

New Hampshire Jobs for America's Graduates has earned the national 5 of 5 Award, according to a press release. NH-JAG, which provides support for youth in the state who face significant academic, emotional and economic challenges, has met or exceeded JAG's national standards. The program offers mentoring, employability skills instruction and leadership development activities and is available at eight New Hampshire high schools and one out-of-school health care training program. NH-JAG has served more than 300 students this year, and more than 19,000 students since its inception, according to the release. "In New Hampshire, JAG boasts an impressive 100 percent graduation rate and 76 percent full-time job placement rate, even amid a pandemic. We applaud the NH-JAG Specialists [teachers] for

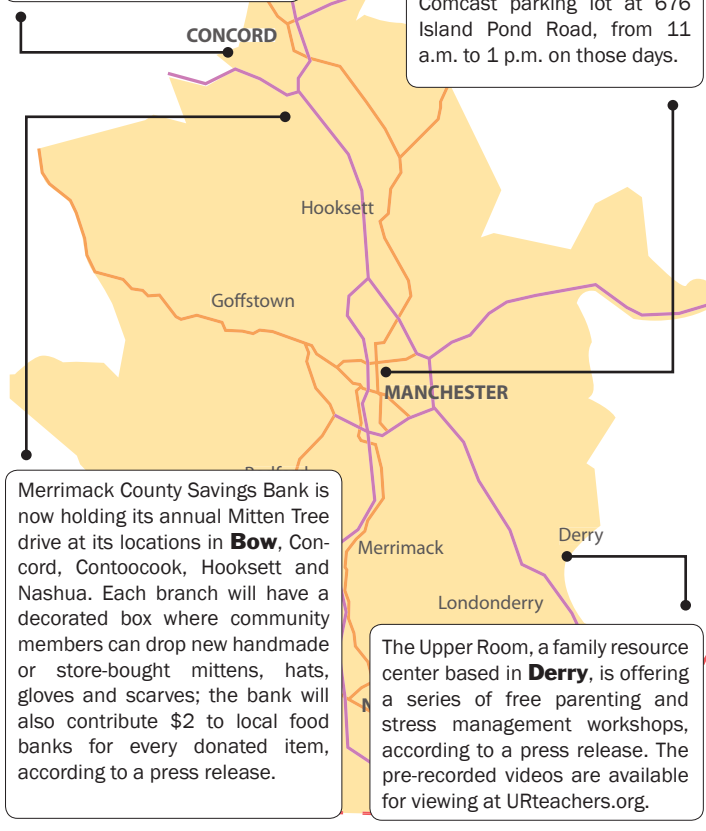
their hard work and unwavering support of their students, which helped NH-JAG achieve the 5 of 5 Award this year, despite the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19," Ken Smith, president of JAG, said in the release. Smith presented the 5 of 5 Award to Gov. Chris Sununu during a virtual ceremony on Nov. 30.

Voluntary services

The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families announced last week that it has partnered with two social service agencies to provide community-based voluntary services for at-risk children and families. The partnerships with Waypoint, based in Manchester, and the Family Resource Center, based in Gorham, will bridge the gap between initial contact with DCYF and community-based voluntary services. According to a press release, voluntary services provide tools to families that are struggling with health and safety concerns that do not currently meet a finding of abuse or neglect today but could meet that standard without intervention. "Voluntary services help strengthen and preserve families, keep children safe at home and foster environments in which they will thrive," DCYF Director Joseph E. Ribsam said in the release.

The **Concord** Regional Visiting Nurse Association has been named Nonprofit of the Year by the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, according to a press release. The award was presented virtually during the Chamber's annual Pinnacle Awards last month.

The New Hampshire Food Bank will bring its drive-through mobile food pantry to **Manchester** on three Fridays in December: Dec. 4, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. According to a press release, truckloads of food will be distributed to people in their vehicles in the Comcast parking lot at 676 Island Pond Road, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on those days.



Merrimack County Savings Bank is now holding its annual Mitten Tree drive at its locations in **Bow**, Concord, Contoocook, Hooksett and Nashua. Each branch will have a decorated box where community members can drop new handmade or store-bought mittens, hats, gloves and scarves; the bank will also contribute \$2 to local food banks for every donated item, according to a press release.

The Upper Room, a family resource center based in **Derry**, is offering a series of free parenting and stress management workshops, according to a press release. The pre-recorded videos are available for viewing at URteachers.org.

Covid-19 update	As of November 22	As of November 30
Total cases statewide	17,598	20,994
Total current infections statewide	4,199	5,145
Total deaths statewide	512	526
New cases	2,569 (Nov. 17 to Nov. 22)	3,396 (Nov. 23 to Nov. 30)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	1,656	2,246
Current infections: Merrimack County	350	462
Current infections: Rockingham County	889	1,118

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

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Feeding neighbors

HELPING FAMILIES KEEP THEIR PANTRIES STOCKED AND MORE
WAYS GRANITE STATERS ARE SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

This year's need for volunteers has been next-level, with shelters, food pantries, healthcare facilities and other non-profit organizations dealing with increasingly higher numbers of people seeking not only the basics, like food and housing, but also masks and other personal protective equipment, plus in-home services due to stay-at-home orders and quarantining. Meanwhile, nonprofits have had to get creative in order to provide those services safely, and to continue raising the money that supports their programs. Gretchen Stallings, executive director of Volunteer NH, said Granite

Staters have really stepped up. "Volunteers quickly engaged, helping with tasks such as distributing food and checking on neighbors during the pandemic," she said. "Organizations across the state acted nimbly, mobilizing technology and establishing safety protocols." Here, we asked some all-star volunteers — several of whom will be honored with Volunteer NH's 2020 Spirit of NH awards during a virtual ceremony on Dec. 9 — to tell us via email what they've been doing, how the pandemic has affected their work, and what you can do to help.

Jennifer Kidwell

Meals for Manchester, Fuel Our Families

What is your role in the organization?

As a volunteer, I helped distribute over 93,000 meals to the Manchester community during the spring of 2020, and 19,500 meals in summer and fall of 2020 to families in Manchester with the Fuel Our Families program.

What kinds of things do you do?

With the Meals for Manchester program, I helped pack buses with food and milk at Southern New Hampshire University first thing in the morning, and then would distribute the lunches to Manchester families in person at the Manchester Police Athletic League and at different locations across the city. I help pack fresh fruit and healthy nonperishable items for the Fuel Our Families program that are distributed by different organizations to families across the city of Manchester.

Why did you get involved?

My colleague, Steve Thiel, helped create the Meals for Manchester program in the spring of 2020, and I was fortunate enough to be able to volunteer and connect with members of the Manchester community. My favorite part of volunteering was being able to personally meet Manchester families, talk with them and make sure they were doing OK, and give them healthy and delicious lunches. I am currently volunteering with the Fuel Our Families program, a collaboration between SNHU, Granite United Way, Granite YMCA, and the Manchester School District, packaging up fresh fruits and vegetables as well as other healthy nonperishable items to be deliv-



Jennifer Kidwell. Courtesy photo.

ered to families this fall and winter.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

The opportunity to volunteer and give back to the Manchester community in the midst of a pandemic has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Volunteering fills up my heart and soul, and I was shocked and honored to be awarded the Chairman's Award/Volunteer of the Year from the Granite YMCA last week.

What can others do to help?

Donate by texting 'Manchester' to 41444 and see if your company is able to donate, too!



Isabel Povey

Seeds of Hope, based in Hampstead

What is your role?

I am the president and founder. [She's also a 17-year-old junior at Pinkerton Academy.]



Isabel Povey. Courtesy photo.

What kinds of things do you do?

Seeds of Hope is a nonprofit organization that works to end hunger on both a local and global scale. We provide vegetable seeds to schools, churches and orphanages overseas to serve as a reliable source of nutrients. Here in New Hampshire, I work every weekend in various food pantries throughout the state and focus on keeping their shelves stocked for those who need it. One example of this would be the 'Povey Power' virtual 5K I organized back in April, which raised enough to feed nearly 9,000 New Hampshire families after just a few days! Aside from eliminating food insecurity, it is my biggest goal to spread hope and ignite change in others, as noted from the Seeds of Hope motto, 'From the smallest of seeds grow the mightiest of trees,' because we all have the power to make a difference!

Why did you get involved?

I have been working to end hunger since I was 7 years old, after giving my dinner leftovers to a kind homeless man. Immediately after I met him, I was determined to help others who were struggling and visited my local

soup kitchen. There, I was turned away for being 'too young' to help, so instead I decided to go home and decorate placemats with positive messages for everyone getting served! I then began initiating food drives and it wasn't too long until I watched this simple hobby turn into a passion, then ultimately my true purpose. I decided to start my own organization with the goal to help more people and make change everywhere.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

As soon as there was talk at school of a potential shutdown, I started spending my lunch periods in our campus food pantry, preparing take-home bags for the kids of food-insecure households. Then, once the switch to remote was announced, I immediately spearheaded a food drive to help out another local school take-home program and continued to work hard to keep multiple food pantries stocked. ... Now, every Saturday I work at a mobile food pantry and we serve more than 350 families right in Manchester, and I am always helping with other organizations throughout the state. With the unprecedented need that surfaced along with the Covid pandemic, this has truthfully been the busiest I've ever been!

What can others do to help?

Food insecurity can impact anyone; it might be your friends, neighbors, or even family members who must decide between paying the bills or paying for groceries. It is incredibly important that we work together and share our strength especially after we have all been through so much this year. For information on



Jillian Schucart. Courtesy photo.



Sarah Heard. Courtesy photo.



Christina Melanson. Courtesy photo.



Jay Schumacher. Courtesy photo.

how to help those struggling around you, visit isabelpovey.com. Giving back means so much more than raising thousands of dollars. It can be as simple as holding the door for someone. Sharing a meal, a smile, an hour, or donating some of your allowance to a food pantry ... it all helps.

What are you doing to take care of your own well-being during this crazy time?

Like so many others, I have been taking advantage of our beautiful state and spending lots of extra time outdoors! I have been hiking a lot and am on my way to climbing all 48 of New Hampshire's 4,000-footers. I even incorporated a new project I like to call 'Kindness Rocks' and have left painted rocks with inspirational messages on each peak.



What is your role in the organization?
Assistant program director

What kinds of things do you do?

I assist the Program Department in overseeing the daily operations of multiple sites throughout Hillsborough County. I love that each day is different in my role. A core aspect of my position is to oversee our volunteer program. I spend a lot of my time recruiting and onboarding new volunteers, which includes conducting driver trainings. I also follow-up on client concerns, and sometimes I have the opportunity to deliver meals to our homebound clients, which is definitely a highlight!

Why did you get involved?

I joined the Meals on Wheels team in 2018 when I was looking to make a career change. I knew I wanted to work for Meals on Wheels when I learned of the significant difference that the agency makes in the lives of our clients. Not only do we provide clients with nutritious meals, we also combat social isolation through our friendly visits and wellness checks!

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

The biggest change has been the transition from our traditional hot lunch program to

providing all frozen meals to our clients. Our administrative team has been working remotely when we can, and of course we are socially distancing and wearing masks when we are in the office or at nutrition sites. I am proud that our agency has continued to deliver meals throughout the entire pandemic. We could not do it without all of our staff and volunteers! We are taking the necessary precautions and screening processes to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. The pandemic has definitely impacted the way we think about everything we do.

What can others do to help?

Help us deliver meals to homebound individuals in Manchester and Nashua! If you are interested in learning more, call me at 603-424-9967 or email volunteer@sjcsinc.org.



What is your role in the organization?
I am a weekly volunteer at the Resource Center.

What kinds of things do you do?

I serve coffee, snacks and supplies to guests; I monitor shower, laundry and computer use; I sort, distribute and sometimes help decipher mail, and I try to provide an open ear for guests.

Why did you get involved?

I got involved shortly after moving to Concord because I wanted to get to know my new community.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

The pandemic has really just moved my daily volunteer routine from inside to outside. The staff at CCEH have adapted the Resource Center remarkably well. I know it's taken a lot of work on their part to make the changes seem so smooth to me and to guests, and it gives me confidence that the Resource Center will be able to weather the winter months.

What can others do to help?

CCEH is working to end homelessness by creating more affordable and supportive housing. Their website, concordhomeless.org, suggests a number of ways we can work

toward that goal, including volunteering our time, donating specific supplies, and, of course, financial support.



What is your role in the organization?

I am a cat care volunteer, and also help the vet tech in the clinic once a week.

What kinds of things do you do?

Volunteers are given an orientation, then choose from a variety of duties they are comfortable with, including dog walking, cat or dog care and feeding, adoptions, restocking, cleaning, handling donations or simply spending time keeping the animals company and playing, the fun part! I chose to volunteer one morning a week, and what I do is feed the kittens and cats waiting for adoption, clean and sanitize their "houses," provide each one the opportunity for some free-roaming exercise and play, restock, sweep and mop their rooms. We make sure there is classical music playing to help soothe them. There are several spaces housing cats; the adoption room and community room are open to the public, an intake room where strays await being medically evaluated by the veterinarian, and an additional building housing cats in isolation being treated for illness, plus two large rooms housing cats that may be free-roaming but not ready for adoption. There are always blankets and bedding to be laundered, donations to organize and put away, participating in fundraisers such as the annual plant sale, dog wash days, auctions, golf tournaments and fun runs. One Saturday we installed engraved memorial bricks in the courtyard commemorating beloved pets. Groundskeeping is also a need. We also get guinea pigs, rabbits, parakeets, even roosters and snakes from time to time! I've volunteered 327 hours since 2018.

Why did you get involved?

On retirement, I knew I wanted to give back to my community in some way. My background is surgical and post-anesthesia nursing, but I was burned out with hospital work. The Volunteer NH website listed the shelter, and as I am animal-lover, this was a good fit. What is especially important to me is that this is a no-kill shelter, and every animal that comes through our doors is spayed or neutered to further zero-population growth of stray and

abandoned animals; they are also vaccinated and microchipped, placed for adoption here or at PetSmart and Petco, or if socialization is not an option such as for feral cats, tagged and placed in available barn housing in the warm weather or released back to a neighborhood with feeding stations. Abandoned kittens too young for neutering are cared for by 'foster parent' volunteers. Also impressive is the Fix-a-Pit program. Plus, it was obvious the staff care deeply about what they do.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

Our hours have been arranged to minimize the number of people in the building at one time, and masks are required. From March through the summer, only staff were allowed in the buildings and handled all the work. Adoptions are presently by appointment only. Personally, I actually had a mild case of Covid-19 in April, and my mother in law, also infected, passed away while living with us. So we have postponed our planned visiting our grandchildren on the West Coast and annual backpacking trips and are acutely aware of the guidelines.

What can others do to help?

Visit Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter website, discover all this organization offers, and investigate the opportunities to get involved. Ask how you might contribute. Help is needed every day of the year. There is currently such limited space, I would say badly needed is an updated facility for a city of this size; donations are always welcome.



What is your role in the organization?

I serve on the Community Impact Committee, as a Community Grant Reviewer and volunteer with various other projects.

What kinds of things do you do?

As one of several Community Impact Committee members, we meet monthly with staff members of Granite United Way to receive program ... updates that the organization has undertaken or is considering. We are fortunate to hear directly from community leaders with organizations such as the Friendly Kitchen, the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness,



THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME TO VOLUNTEER.

The holidays present many opportunities for you to get involved in your community to lend a hand, giving of yourself and your time. Volunteer NH is here to help you find ways to connect and serve. Check out our list of five ways that you could get started today!



5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



1. FIND A NEED NEAR YOU.

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2. MAKE A DONATION.

Many organizations are looking for support in the form of time, money or supplies. Use our Get Connected hub to find a wide variety of ways to give.



3. VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE VOLUNTEER.

Too often the work of volunteers goes unrecognized. The Spirit of NH Awards shines a bright light on those who volunteer in NH. This year—for the first time ever—you can help us select one very special award recipient to receive extra recognition. **Voting is open until December 9.**



4. COMMIT TO HELPING BEYOND THE HOLIDAYS.

The holidays inspire many of us to give to those in need. Consider also making a longer-term or delayed commitment to show your support, helping to fill gaps throughout the year.



5. TACKLE PRESSING CHALLENGES WITH AMERICORPS.

You can help ensure that a child succeeds in school, a survivor of domestic violence finds safety or an older adult is able to remain independent in their home. There are also many opportunities available for organizations to connect with AmeriCorps resources.

Learn more at volunteernh.org

A NOTE ABOUT COVID

On a computer. By phone. Socially distanced. The options to volunteer come in many shapes and forms. We encourage you to pick the one that feels right for you. All organizations in NH are working hard to make sure safety protocols are in place no matter how you serve.



Ajay Rana Bhat. Courtesy photo.



Terri McGrew. Courtesy photo.



Jaimie Adams. Courtesy photo.

the Concord Police department, Health and Human Services and Concord Hospital. They share insight regarding trends, challenges and success that they are experiencing and how these are impacting our greater Concord residents. Often during these meetings we are asked for our input and ideas, as well as brainstorming and vetting of the action plans GUV is considering for action.

Why did you get involved?

Several years ago I wanted to provide more volunteer support within the Concord area. Granite United Way has been a longtime partner with my employer and it seemed like a natural fit when one of the GUV representatives asked if I would like to participate with the annual Grant Review Committee process. After that initial experience I was hooked! ... The organizations seeking funding during these times are truly doing all they can to support residents in every corner of our community. ... It's nice to be able to offer some of my time to this imitative in particular because I can quickly understand and see the results of our efforts, helping these wonderful organizations help our community members in our local area.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

Very quickly we shifted to all remote for meetings and ... have taken strides to find creative work-arounds for all of our volunteerism. We recently took on a part of the Concord Reads initiative to build and install several Little Free Libraries with Granite United Way providing leadership. Several of us met virtually, discussed and planned the required actions and who would take on each one. Normally we would have gathered in person for these sessions and we probably would have assembled the libraries together as a team. Instead we have all worked remotely and in very small groups of only two or three people. This is surely different than normal, but nonetheless I believe we have been effective, installing our first of four Little Free Libraries just recently.

What can others do to help?

The best suggestion I can offer is to visit the Granite United Way website at graniteuw.org ... [which] provides quick links to how anyone can give, advocate or volunteer. A little

help from everyone goes a long way and the information from within these links provides several ways that we can all contribute!



Ajay Rana Bhat

Everest Centennial Lions Club, based in Nashua

What is your role in the organization?

I am the secretary for the Club.

What kinds of things do you do?

I communicate the mission and the success of the club, and I help with projects, including two recent Covid-19 projects that I coordinated: masks for health care workers and public workers, and one month of food for youth affected by Covid-19.

Why did you get involved?

After the tragic earthquake in 2015 Nepal, I got myself super active in helping the needy and poor, from building shelters to distributing medical supplies. ... My volunteering services were not just limited in Nepal but when I moved to the United States in 2019 I immediately joined the Everest Centennial Lions Club as secretary and began contributing my time for the needy.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

To be honest at first we were confused on how and what we should do during this pandemic but after we knew more about this virus and the guidelines, it helped us make a path to help the needy. The Everest Centennial Lions Clubs provided masks for health care workers and public workers, and one month of food for youth affected by Covid-19. ... We were able to distribute 1,000 masks for health care workers of Rochester Manor Nursing Home, some staff of the National Visa Center and needy families. We also distributed 100 pieces of medical safety glasses during this project. ... We have [also] delivered ... groceries for 20 international students from different countries and two national students of the different states of the U.S.A. who came to study in New Hampshire who are in a tough situation and having a hard time meeting needs. ... I took a challenge to deliver a one-month grocery [supply to] their home with help of Umesh Koirala and Alina Karki.

What can others do to help?

You could help in your neighborhood, online or in other countries. To start helping you'll need a passion as well as time, and don't expect anything back.

What are you doing to take care of your own well-being during this crazy time?

We need to have strong mental health, and since I have experienced a similar situation during the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, I made sure that ... I kept myself engaged with different activities and didn't give enough time to myself to think about this pandemic. In my free time, I made sure that I listened to the news once a day, practiced yoga, gardening and photography.



Terri McGrew

Representing the volunteers of YMCA of Greater Nashua

What is your role in the organization?

Volunteer coordinator

What kinds of things do you do?

I recruit volunteers to share their time and talents at our three local branches located in Nashua and Merrimack to support our staff members and enhance our membership experiences and our community partnerships. Our volunteers help advance our mission and they make an important contribution in our communities.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

Our Program and Policy Volunteers started the year strong with nearly 400 individuals contributing 6,100 hours of volunteer service before the Covid-19 statewide shutdown in March caused us to pause our volunteer opportunities. As the YMCA opens more programs and activities at our branches our volunteers are returning to share their time and talents with our community. At the start of our year the YMCA offered over 50 different volunteer opportunities, including fitness instructors, coaches, early childhood education helpers, homework helpers and YMCA Togetherhood volunteers. ... To address the Covid-19 pandemic and offer assistance to local families, we partnered with the United Way of Greater Nashua to provide volunteer

drivers for a Covid Relief Food and Produce Distribution Program. The YMCA provided volunteer drivers Monday through Thursday to pick up food and produce at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and deliver it to eight different outdoor pop-up pantries around Nashua. The YMCA volunteer drivers delivered food and produce to 6,675 clients through the end of October. As the winter months and colder weather set in we transitioned to delivering food and produce to two indoor pop-up pantries located at the Nashua YMCA and First Church in downtown Nashua in early November. ... Another proud accomplishment is the contribution our Annual Campaign Volunteers make to help raise money during the pandemic for the Y Cares program to provide scholarships to local children and families in need so they can experience Y programs and services such as child care, day camp, dance and arts, sports, swimming and more. The Y Cares Financial Assistance Program provided \$456,000 in financial assistance in 2020 to ensure the Y is accessible to all.

What can others do to help?

Individuals and families can share their time and talents at the YMCA of Greater Nashua and make a fundamental difference in many lives. Check out our website for current volunteer opportunities at nmymca.org

What are you doing to take care of your own well-being during this crazy time?

Having a wonderful position at the YMCA and being an engaged volunteer with the Brookline Lions Club and Camp Allen is very rewarding and keeps me busy. I always remember there are many opportunities to help others and make a difference in the world.



Jaimie Adams

Seacoast Medical Reserve Corps/Central New Hampshire Medical Reserve Corps

What is your role in the organization?

My role in the organization is to respond to requests for help as a licensed EMT or any other duties that fall under my scope of practice, whenever available.

What kinds of things do you do?

A request was put out asking for LNAs to work in an Assisted Living Care Facility for a couple weeks with the possibility of being extended, as they had active Covid cases within the facility. I volunteered to help out, with the agreement that the State could get me housing so I didn't pass Covid on to anyone else in the event I became infected. I worked anywhere between 8- to 12-hour shifts, filling the role of an LNA and helping out wherever I could. At times I had to jump into EMT mode as residents started to destabilize and the nurse and I would do everything in our power to get them stable again.

Why did you get involved?

I got involved because I have skills and

training that were in high demand (and still are) and I couldn't just stand by and do nothing. I believe in leading by example and I hope my actions will inspire others to do the right thing, even if it's scary. I am a stay-at-home mom with a 2½-year-old, at the time, and my mother was able to take care of my daughter while I was gone and my husband worked. I try to take care of people and help out whenever I can — it's just who I am.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

The pandemic has taken a normally slow organization, business-wise, and increased the workload exponentially. There are limited amounts of people to help and a lot of help is needed right now so resources are thin. I started out early in the pandemic volunteering for the Metropolitan Medical Response System, conducting testing, and training others on how to do the testing. I did this before I began my work in the nursing home and also a few times while working in the nursing home. Being gone for so long had a negative impact on my daughter, which has been [difficult] to overcome. I just pray as she gets older she will understand what I did and why I did it. I was a hospice volunteer and volunteer firefighter prior to the pandemic and I have had to give everything up because I simply do not have the time any longer. This was tough for me because I absolutely loved volunteering in both organizations.

What can others do to help?

Others can help by signing up for NH Responds and see if you have any of the skills that are desired: doctors, nurses, LNAs, paramedic, EMTs, the list goes on. Even if you don't have any medical background you can still be an active member in a support role. If you have the time, please take that step because everyone is already exhausted and we are just hitting wave 2.

What are you doing to take care of your own well-being during this crazy time?

I am just trying to keep a toddler alive, entertained and learning and support my husband as much as I can as he works long hours. My well-being? Sleep would be nice but I will just enjoy whatever life [my toddler] throws at me day by day. I met some amazing people through this, and for that I will always be grateful.

Team Bronze Award Project

Ginger Koslowski, representing the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

What is their role in the organization?

This is a team of Girl Scout Juniors (those in grades 4 and 5), who stepped up to provide personal protective equipment and other items to help out during the pandemic. A team of 103 Girl Scouts, 67 of them from across New Hampshire, formed the team to work on this project. It is called the Team Bronze Award Project because each girl earned Girl Scouting's

Bronze Award, the highest achievement for a Girl Scout Junior, for participating in this effort.

What kinds of things do they do?

The Girl Scouts chose to make face masks, ear savers, face shields, hand sanitizer and care packages. They also created websites and tutorials on how to make PPE and the best way to wear a face mask. They worked remotely but together.

Why did they get involved?

Girl Scouting is all about making the world a better place, and as soon as the pandemic hit girls got busy trying to help. Our council decided a team project would make a significant impact.

How has the pandemic affected your efforts?

The pandemic has definitely forced changes in the way Girl Scouts meet and conduct activities, but our girls are resilient and determined, and they always find a way to meet new challenges.

What can others do to help?

Girl Scouting is open to any girl — and adult volunteers — and provides many ways to not just help during the pandemic, but to make their community a better place in which to live at any time. See girlscoutsgwm.org.

David Crespo

Manchester Rotary Club

What is your role in the organization?

President

What kinds of things do you do?

Rotary is the largest nonprofit organization in the world. Our club is focused on children. Every year we hold the Cruising Downtown car show, which draws 30,000 people and 1,000 cars and we raise about \$70,000. Every dollar is put into programs through organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, MPAL, Camp Allen, YMCA, Catholic Charities, Manchester Mental Health Center and Waypoint, to name a few.

Why did you get involved?

I was a single dad raising two daughters; my whole life was about providing for them and raising them to be good and successful people. I learned that many of their friends did not have the foundation I had provided and many did not have the means. I wanted to help in a small way at first and joined Rotary. During my time here I realized that I can do so much more. With all the crazy in the world it's great working with good people who just want to help make a difference. Our motto is 'Service Above Self.'

How has the pandemic affected your efforts, both personally and within your organization?

Unfortunately as a club we were not able to hold our big fundraiser, which was heartbreak-



Noelle Prince, 10, of Troop 20077 in Bedford, made masks for the Team Bronze Award Project. Courtesy photo.



David Crespo. Courtesy photo.

together grants for PPE and distributed checks to YWCA, Manchester Mental Health Center and Amoskeag Health. Personally my biggest challenge is making sure for the safety of my children — as a dad you never outgrow that!

What can others do to help?

I believe that you need to find something you are passionate about! One of my biggest passions is homeless veterans. As a veteran I understand the challenges returning home so I wanted to get involved with The Liberty House. Once you find that passion go and volunteer. Many people do not know that Rotary International cured polio. We now have a clean water initiative. Maybe you want to help internationally — there are so many opportunities out there just waiting for a few good people to make a difference and you could be one of them! 🙌

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NFL enters December



The Patriots enter December in the very unfamiliar position of being on the verge of elimination from playoff contention. We haven't seen that in 20 years, which is so long ago I can't remember much from that year besides that it was **Coach B's** first year,

they finished 5-11 and weren't must-watch TV at that point. Since, they've only missed the playoffs twice, and that was only on tie-breakers after for the lead in the AFC East in 2002 and 2018 when **Tom Brady** missed all but 10 minutes of the season.

That won't be the case this year, as after Sunday's win over Arizona they're three games behind division-leading Buffalo and, at 5-6, two games behind in the race for the last playoff spot. That makes this year a little different, so here are a few thoughts on how it's shaking down.

At 10-0 as I write this Pittsburgh is the latest to make a run at an undefeated season. After a couple of down years and question marks about Big Ben's arm, few saw this coming. They have what look to be tough games with Baltimore (which may have happened by the time you see this), and the Bills in Buffalo, before finishing with the 7-4 Colts and surprising 8-3 Browns who'll likely be playing for a spot in the playoffs, or a home field game. So we'll see.

Speaking of the Steelers, why *can* they keep coming up with speedy and productive wide receivers while the last receivers of note the Pats have drafted were **David Givens** and **Deion Branch** in 2002? Technically **Julian Edelman** was taken in 2009, but he was a wishbone QB and picked to be more of a return guy. Patriots flunkouts in that time include **Bethel Johnson** (2), **P. K. Sam** (5), **Chad Jackson** (2), **Brandon Tate** (3), **Taylor Price** (3), **Aaron Dobson** (2) and **Josh Boyce** (4). **Malcolm Mitchell** (4) wasn't bad, but pre-existing knee conditions said he was not likely a long-timer, **N'Keal Harry** trending that way. Meanwhile Pittsburgh's draft room has picked **Hines Ward** (3), **Plaxico Burress** (1), **Antwaan Randle El** (2), **Santonio Holmes** (1), **Mike Wallace** (3), **Emmanuel Sanders** (3) and **Antonio Brown** (6) in the same draft, **Martavis Bryant** (4), **Ju-Ju Smith-Schuster** (2), **James Washington** (2), **Diontae Johnson** (3) and **Chase Claypool** in the second round this year. Am I the only one who finds that galling?

One final thought on Pittsburgh. With the Lakers tying the Celtics for most NBA titles at 17 in October, it's already been a bad year for franchise legacy in Boston. But if Pittsburgh wins the Super Bowl it breaks their tie with New England for most SB wins with seven.

However, my money is on Kansas City to win because with all due respect to **Russell Wilson** they have the best quarterback. And the weird thing about **Pat Mahomes** is he doesn't

really look that good — until you see more and more of him. He doesn't appear to have great arm strength but makes ridiculously on target deep throws off his back foot, on the run and from so many different angles that he reminds me of **Luis Tiant** doing that out of his corkscrew delivery. I wouldn't call him fast, but he was fast enough to get two critical first downs with his feet Sunday vs. Tampa Bay. He was **Larry Bird**-like there in seeing things two counts before everyone else to bolt from the pocket early because he knew he could make it to the sticks and that was more valuable than any larger play down field. Which is what his real edge is — his brain. Which is what he has most in common with vintage Tom Brady.

Incidentally those two are 1-2 in passing yards in the NFL.

Fox broadcaster **Kevin Burkhardt** is a dead sound-alike for Red Sox TV guy **Dave O'Brien**. Spent the whole game on Sunday wondering if it was O'Brien till they showed a booth shot that showed it wasn't.

Bill Belichick Coaching Tree Updates After Sunday: (1) **Brian Flores** improved 7-4 Miami playoff chances with a win over the Jets. (2) Ditto for **Mike Vrabel**, whose Titans won their battle for first in the AFC South over the Colts behind a punishing 178-yard rushing day from **Derrick Henry**. (3) After an 0-5 start **Joe Judge** has been picking up fans by getting the 4-7 G-Men into first in the moribund NFC East. (4) **Matt Patricia** didn't make it to Sunday as he and fellow Pats alum GM **Bob Quinn** got fired after being Houston's meal on Thanksgiving Day. (5) **Romeo Crennel** is now 4-3 as interim coach in Houston after consecutive wins over Matty P. and **Coach B**. (6) **Bill O'Brien** is on vacation after being fired in Houston.

Who can forget **David Caldwell** saying upon getting the GM job in Jacksonville that signing hometown hero **Tim Tebow** would only happen over his dead body? Well, owner **Shahid Khan** should've taken the dead body, because with the Jags a complete mess Caldwell got fired on Sunday.

So what's the problem in Tampa Bay? They're looking good for the playoffs, but there's still a lot of yacking going on. TB-12 has made his share of key mistakes, but I put it on **Bruce Arians'** stubborn unwillingness to adapt his system to the talent he has at QB. When Brady went there I predicted his interceptions were going up to at least 15 (he has 11) after only being in double digits twice (11 each time) the last 10 years. That's because TB throws deep down field and that's never been his strength. It's incumbent on the coach to adjust to reality, rather than making a 43-year-old do something he can't do.

Plus, Arians stupidly laying it all on Brady in public brings to mind the other thing I said when he left Foxboro: The grass often isn't as green on the other side of the fence as it may seem.

Email dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Local projects get Moose Plate Grant funds

The Conservation Moose Plate Grant Program has awarded \$431,901 in grant funds to 21 projects aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing the state's natural resources. According to a press release from the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee, several local organizations received funding, including the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (\$23,534 for Urban Habitat Restoration: A Community-Based Approach for Wildlife and People); the Town of Chichester Conservation Commission (\$23,156 for the Valley View Conservation Area); the Five Rivers Conservation Trust in Warner (\$22,000 for Pletcher Farm (a vegetable ranch) Conservation Easement); and Hillsborough County Conservation District (\$14,953 Siergiewicz Lot Reclamation and Wildlife Restoration Project in Hollis).

Score: +1

Comment: *To everyone driving around with a moose on their license plate, the environment thanks you!*

Good news for Great Bay

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced last week that it has issued a Clean Water Act general permit for wastewater treatment plants that discharge to New Hampshire's Great Bay estuary. According to a press release, the permit will protect water quality and the health of ecosystems in the estuary by limiting nitrogen discharges from the 13 wastewater treatment plants in 12 communities that are eligible for coverage. "Over the past decade, the state and communities around Great Bay have been asking the EPA for flexible, adaptive management to control nutrients in the estuary. This permit delivers that approach and paves a way forward that will be guided by science and community action," Bob Scott, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services commissioner, said in the release.

Score: +1

Comment: *The Great Bay estuary, which is an estuary of national significance under the EPA's National Estuary Program, has had water quality problems for years, including algae blooms and declining eelgrass habitat — all because of excessive nitrogen discharges, according to the release.*

And in even more happy nature news...

The New Hampshire Audubon has announced that its Nature Store at the McLane Center in Concord will be opening its doors for the first time since March. According to a press release, the Audubon will host a Holiday Shopping Series from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekends of Dec. 5 and 6, Dec. 12 and 13, and Dec. 19 and 20. "We are so excited to finally open safely to serve our community for all its nature needs and holiday shopping," education coordinator Shelby Morelli said in the release.

Score: +1

Comment: *In the past this has been a one-day shopping event, but it has been extended to six days in order to limit the number of shoppers in the building at one time, according to the release.*

... but not so great news for Bambi

More people are hunting and fishing this year, with the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department processing more than 87,600 resident fishing licenses through September (35 percent more than last year) and more than 7,700 resident hunting licenses this year, which is 18 percent more than last year, according to a Nov. 25 report from NHPR.

Score: 0 (Because although this is probably unwelcome news to forest creatures, game birds and other wildlife, it's a good thing for the state's hunting and fishing industry.)

Comment: *Despite travel restrictions and intermittent quarantining rules, New Hampshire also saw about a 20-percent increase in non-resident permits for both hunting and fishing, according to the report.*

QOL score: 65


Net change: +3

QOL this week: 68

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


75

50



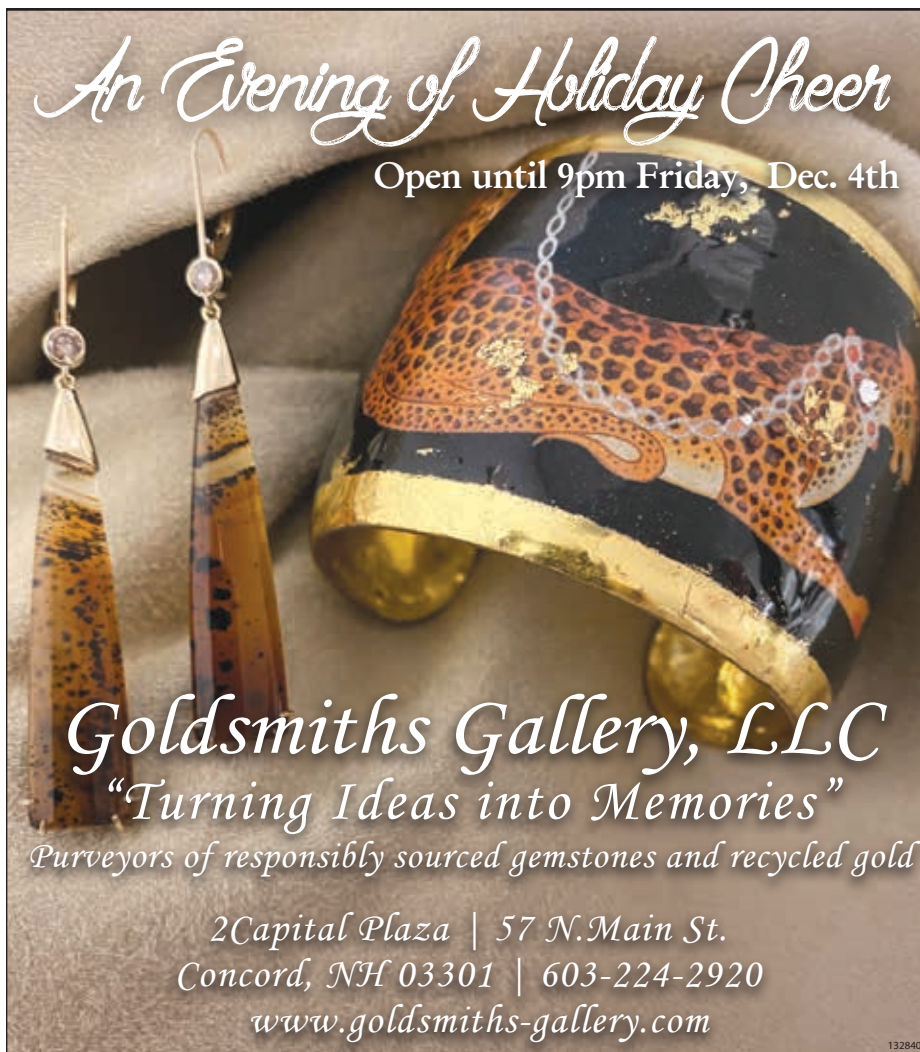
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ARTS Tooned in

Yellow Submarine, classic cartoons animator visits Manchester

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Relive the golden age of Saturday morning cartoons with legendary animator Ron Campbell, who has planned a three-day stop in the Granite State as part of his Beatles Cartoon Art Show Tour.

Campbell will be at Creative Framing Solutions in Manchester from Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6, exhibiting and selling around 70 original works of art he has created during his retirement from his 50-year career in television cartoons.

The collection of watercolor and ink cartoon paintings is largely focused on Campbell's work as an animator for The Beatles' 1968 animated feature film *Yellow Submarine* and as director of The Beatles' Saturday morning cartoon, *The Beatles*, which aired on ABC from 1965 through 1969.

"You can buy all kinds of Beatles [fandom merchandise], but it's very rare to be able to get a piece of artwork by one of the people who helped present the [Beatles] cartoons you watched when you were

a child," Campbell said.

In addition to The Beatles paintings, the show will feature paintings inspired by some of the other cartoons Campbell contributed to, which include *Scooby-Doo*, *Where Are You!*, *Rugrats*, *The Smurfs*, *The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*, *The Flintstones*, *The Jetsons*, *George of the Jungle*, *The Yogi Bear Show*, *Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels*, *Ed, Edd n Eddy* and more.

"This isn't a serious art show; it's not Picasso or Rembrandt," Campbell said. "These are bright and colorful paintings that are very fun to look at and bring back a lot of nostalgic memories for people."

Each person who purchases a painting will receive a certificate of authenticity along with a custom drawing done by Campbell on site.

"I'll do The Beatles, Fred Flintstone, Scooby-Doo — whatever cartoon character the customer would like," he said.

Originally from Australia and now residing in Arizona, Campbell has been bringing his Beatles Cartoon Art Show to cities across America for several years now, but has been exhibiting and selling his artwork

in some capacity since he retired in 2008. Only when he started meeting his audience in person, he said, did he realize the "enormous impact" that his cartoons had on the American citizens who grew up with them.

"I've learned now from my experiences talking to people that those Saturday morning cartoons were some of their happiest memories from their childhood," he said. "They would rush down the stairs on Saturday morning, screaming, because it was the one time where they had total control of the TV. It was a special, magical time for them."

Campbell, who turns 81 years old this month, said he "never gets tired of meeting the audience" and has no plans to stop touring. He's bringing the show to Kennebunk, Maine, next weekend and hopes to return to a more regular tour schedule once Covid restrictions are loosened.

"Sometimes, when I'm just sitting in my chair, I get a bit drowsy and grouchy, but as soon as I know I'm going to be leaving and doing a show, that gets me up and working and planning," he said. "It keeps me young." 🍷



Ron Campbell. Photo by Alex Lowy Photography.

The Beatles Cartoon Art Show with Ron Campbell

Where: Creative Framing Solutions, 89 Hanover St., Manchester

When: Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, from noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free; RSVPs recommended

More info: Call 320-5988 or visit creativeframingsolutions.com or beatlescartoonartshow.com

Art

Exhibits

• "SLEIGHBELL STUDIO"

Exhibit features a curated collection of fine art and crafts affordably priced for holiday gift giving. Twigg's Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen). On view now through Dec. 12. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twiggsgallery.wordpress.com or call 975-0015.

• "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.

• "SMALL WORKS - BIG

IMPACT" Creative Ventures Gallery's annual holiday exhibit featuring small works of art in various media, priced affordably for gift buying. Virtual. On display now through Dec. 31. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

Fairs and markets

• VIRTUAL HOLIDAY SHOP

The Warner Historical Society presents an online shop at warnerhistorical.org/store featuring hand-painted holiday ornaments, calendars, mugs and drinking glasses, T-shirts, books, jigsaw puzzles and more, plus a holiday raffle. Curbside pickup on Sat.,

Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Upton Chandler House Museum (10 W. Main St., Warner). Call 456-2437 or email info@warnerhistorical.org.

• "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: AN ART SHOW & SALE"

Features all kinds of art, including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, tapestry, woodworking, wearable art, book making and more, created by local artists and artisans. Up now through Dec. 20. In person at the Bates Building (846 Main St., Contoocook; masks required) on a drop-in and by-appointment basis and virtually at [\[villagesart.org\]\(http://villagesart.org\). 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. Visit \[twovillagesart.org\]\(http://twovillagesart.org\).

• **THE CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY FAIR** Virtual shop features seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, cards, gourmet treats, woodworking, fiber and fabric, stained and fused glass, mixed media, jewelry and more by more than 40 juried artisans and craftspeople. Now through Dec. 22, with curbside pickup at the historic Kendall House \(3A Meetinghouse Road, Bedford\) daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit \[craftworkersguild.org\]\(http://craftworkersguild.org\).](http://shop.two-</p>
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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.

• **PAINT NITE** a 21+ event featuring the creation of a "Starstruck Snowman" light-up wine bottle at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Sat., Dec. 5, 7 p.m. On Sat., Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., Chunky's Nashua (151 Coliseum Ave.) will feature a "Birch Buddies Wine Bottle With Lights" project. Tickets \$37 and \$35, respectively (follow link through Chunky's website to buy).

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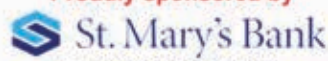
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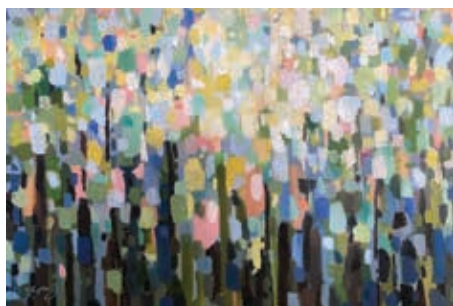
• **Festive art:** The New Hampshire Art Association hosts its holiday exhibition, **"This Merry Moment,"** online and at the NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth) now through Jan. 2, with an opening reception to be held virtually on Zoom on Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. The exhibit and sale features a variety of artwork and greeting cards created by NHAA members. Gallery hours are Monday and Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 431-4230 or visit nhartassociation.org.

The **Warner Historical Society's online holiday shop** at warnerhistorical.org/store features hand-painted holiday ornaments, calendars, mugs and drinking glasses, T-shirts, books, jigsaw puzzles and more, plus a holiday raffle. Curbside pickup on Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Upton Chandler House Museum (10 W. Main St., Warner). Call 456-2437 or email info@warnerhistorical.org.

• **New reads:** Peterborough-based literary journal and media company Monadnock Underground is releasing two new anthologies on Friday, Dec. 4: ***Spiritus Oppidum, Vol. 1***, a collection of spiritual writing, and ***Demiurges and Demigods in Space, Vol. 1***, a collection of science fiction, fantasy and speculative fiction. The books feature 24 stories, essays, reflections, abstract prose pieces, poems and a mini play from 21 local and regional authors. Paperback copies and Kindle versions will be available at the publication's website. Visit monadnockunderground.com or call 978-257-5328.

Two local women, Debbie Ryan of Sandown and her mother, Alice Duston of Hampstead, have published a children's holiday book called ***A Christmas Fable***. In the book, Saint Nicholas tells the story of the birth of Jesus to all the animals of the forest. The story was originally written by Joan Carter, Duston's mother and Ryan's grandmother, who read it to the family every year on Christmas Eve until she died at the age of 92. Watercolor illustrations for the book were done by Derry artist Susan Monty. Find ***A Christmas Fable*** on Amazon.

• **Sounds of the holidays:** The Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) presents a concert, **"Joyful Christmas,"** with fid-



"This My Joy," an oil painting by Brittany Soucy, featured in "This Merry Moment." Courtesy photo.



A Christmas Fable, illustration by Susan Monty. Courtesy photo.

ler Eileen Ivers, live on Friday, Dec. 4, at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$40. Then, also at the Dana Center, the New Hampshire School of Ballet presents **"Songs for the Holidays"** on Sunday, Dec. 6, with performances at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$18. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities.

The Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) presents its **Holiday Spectacular** concert from Dec. 4 through Dec. 20, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at noon. Inspired by the golden age of television variety shows, the concert features more than 30 classic Christmas songs and a visit from Santa Claus. Tickets cost \$39 to \$46 for adults and \$25 for kids. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

In place of its annual holiday pops concert, the Manchester Community Music School will host an **Outdoor Holiday Stroll** on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Attendees will be escorted in small groups around the holiday-lighted school grounds, where students and faculty will perform live. Tickets cost \$25 per person or \$225 for groups of 10 and include holiday treats. Registration is required. Call 644-4548 or visit mcmusicschool.org.

The **Winter Wonderettes** perform iconic '60s versions of classic holiday tunes live at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth) now through Dec. 19, with showtimes on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 to \$48. Select performances will also be livestreamed for \$20 per viewer. Call 433-4472 or visit seacoastrep.org.

— Angie Sykeny 🍀

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Tree talk

Help yours survive and thrive

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE — GARDENING — GUY —

I'll have to admit that I see many fewer volcanoes of mulch snuggling up to trees in public places.

I think the word is out, at least with municipal workers, that trees can be damaged or killed by over-exuberant mulching. Among homeowners? I'm not so sure. Let's take a look at the problem.

Tree bark is wonderful stuff. No matter the weather, bark protects its tree from rain, snow, cold or drought. But it is only rated for above-ground use. Bury tree bark, or cover it with mulch, and microorganisms will break it down and attack the green layer of cambium beneath the bark.

So what is this cambium layer? It is an active, growing layer of cells that produce the phloem and xylem tissue that provide for the transportation of necessary liquids and that provide mechanical strength. If the cambium layer is destroyed, the tree will die — but not right away. Most experts say that if the cambium layer is compromised, it can take six to 10 years for a tree to decline and die. First signs of the problem

include tip dieback — top branches losing leaves — and earlier fall color than previously seen.

When you mulch around a tree, you should leave space between the tree trunk and mulch. Some say, leave a doughnut hole around the tree. How much? Four to six inches is good, depending on the size of the tree. Bigger tree, bigger space. And even if you have started with a mulch-free space around the tree, don't assume there is still a space. Go look. Gravity works 24/7, and rain and wind can move mulch a little.

Don't get me wrong: I am not against mulching around trees. It serves two important functions. It keeps down weeds, and it keeps away exuberant guys (usually) with weed whackers. No mulch? That guy with ear protection and a raging string trimmer can girdle your tree in a heartbeat. And that would be as bad as letting mulch slowly rot the bark.

By pulling away the bark mulch, you can save the tree. I have removed mulch and seen damaged bark. But if the cambium is still functioning, the tree can recover, and I've seen that, too.

There is another way that the cambium layer can be compromised: covering the trunk flare with soil at planting time. Burying the portion of the tree that should be above ground will lead to a slow death.

Growing trees is an industry. Americans buy hundreds of thousands every year. They are sold at local family-run nurseries and big box stores, but they're often started in nurseries in the warmer regions of the United States. Trees are often grown in fields, like corn, and then lifted and potted up to be sold to your local nursery.

If you ask how deep to plant your little tree, the most likely answer (from my informal survey of homeowners) is "Plant it just like it is in the pot." But that is generally bad advice. The process of taking a field-grown tree and getting it into a plastic pot is not precise. Time is money, so trees are often plunked in containers with little regard for the depth they were growing in the field. The trunk flare (that part that should be above ground) is often buried.

To recognize the trunk flare of a tree, go outside and look at a tree planted by Mother Nature. You will see at the base of a tree that there are above-ground roots heading away from the tree, and that the base of the tree widens just above ground level. That wider portion is the trunk flare and must be above ground.

Before planting a tree, take your fingers and pull away the soil from the tree trunk at the surface until you can see the trunk flare. If the tree has been in the pot for a few years (often the case for larger trees) and the flare has been covered, little roots have started to grow out of the trunk flare and should be cut off.

Larger trees for sale at nurseries have often been moved from their original pots or bags to larger ones. At that juncture, soil is added, and it



Don't create mulch volcanoes like this. Courtesy photo.

often covers the trunk flare. I have planted trees that came from the nursery with four to six inches of soil over the trunk flare. By removing that, I saved the trees.

What should you do if you planted a tree without regard to trunk flare? Take a look at it carefully. If your tree trunk is as straight as a telephone pole at the soil surface, you need to do some digging. You need to expose the trunk flare.

I like to use a single-tine hand tool called the CobraHead weeder (CobraHead.cm) to expose the trunk flare. I gently and slowly loosen soil and pull it back with my hands. In fact, I use my fingers as much as possible, as I don't want to damage the bark on the trunk flare. Once you see the flare, re-grade the soil around the tree trunk. It is not as scary a proposition as it sounds.

Trees are our friends. You have to be sure they are properly planted and tended, so go look at yours. You may have to do some work on the next warm day.

Email henry.homeyer@comcast.net. 🍌

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Join the YMCA of Greater Londonderry (206 Rockingham Road, Londonderry) for its annual **Great Candy Cane Hunt** on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Santa Claus will hide hundreds of candy canes around the YMCA for you to look for during the event. Start by receiving your candy cane hunt bag at the check-in table, then venture to the field for the hunt. Santa will also be there for socially distanced photo opportunities. This year there will be groups of 32 people per 30-minute time slot to help with social distancing (bring your own flashlight). Masks or face coverings are required for all participants. Visit graniteymca.org.

Chunky's Cinema & Pub's Manchester location (708 Huse Road) will convert a theater to an evening of **family-friendly candy Bingo** on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m., featuring movie theater-sized candy boxes as prizes and the big screen as a bingo board. Tickets of \$4.99 per person will get you a box of Chunky's theater candy that you'll turn in to get your bingo cards. Once all the candy is collected, Chunky's staff will divide it up and start playing the rounds. Visit chunkys.com.



The Polar Express. Courtesy photo.

The Derry Public Library will host a **virtual holiday gift making workshop** on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 4 to 5 p.m. The library will post tutorials for Sharpie mugs, hot chocolate kits and gift bags on its Facebook and YouTube pages. Register in advance to pick up a Take It and Make It bag in the library's lobby. If registration is full, you can still complete the projects with materials at home. Visit derrypl.org.

Join the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester) for a **virtual Polar Express bedtime event** on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 7 p.m. Goodie bags with treats and crafts are now available for curbside pickup. The virtual program will include Christmas carol sing-alongs and demonstrations on how to make the crafts found in the goodie bags. Visit manchester.lib.nh.us.

Stellar!

Have a **Super Stellar Friday** with a virtual program from the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord), on Friday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. This month, learn about Nor'easters, including what they are, how they form and how they impact us. This event is free, but registration is required at starhop.com.

TREASURE HUNT

I have several pieces of doll clothes that my mom made for me and my sister when we were growing up. Most are sewn by hand and have several repairs. We used and loved them for many years.

Before I now pass them to my granddaughters, I thought I would look to you for advice. Any information would be helpful.

Beverly

Dear Beverly,

My first reaction to your question is if they made it through two girls already, they should be fine to pass along again!

With that said, hand-sewn doll clothes can have value to collectors. Handmade is more valuable than machine-sewn, and the age and material matters too. Size is important as well — to be able to fit older dolls is helpful to collectors.



The market has changed even in this field but I think it's safe to say that unless your clothing is damaged, the value is in the range of at least \$5 per item and could be even more. I have seen early and Victorian outfits bring prices in the hundreds.

So Beverly, yes, I think you could pass them on again, but perhaps first you should have them checked by an antiques dealer or do research online.

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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Driving in the time of COVID: Can gas go bad?

Dear Car Talk:

I have a question that may be relevant now during the pandemic, while a lot of people are driving less. How long does it take for gasoline to go "bad" in a car's gas tank? I have a Kia Optima

Hybrid and a Honda Fit. In normal times, I'd fill each one up every week or two, when it got half empty, so there'd always be some fresh gas in the tank. These days I'm only putting about 3,000 miles per year on each car. I drive each car at least once a week. If I fill up both cars, I can probably go two months (or more) before fill-ups! What's the best way to manage gasoline usage so it doesn't go bad? — Mark

I would take a very scientific approach, Mark, and make sure you fill up each car whenever it gets close to "E." You have nothing to worry about. Most modern gasolines will easily store for a year.

You may know about the Chevy Volt, which was the first "plug-in hybrid" model on the market, debuting in late 2010. It had both a battery pack, which originally gave you about 35-40 miles on a charge, and a gasoline engine, which could take you a couple of hundred miles more.

We wondered, kind of like you're wondering, what happens if I own a Volt and I drive less

than 35 miles a day — like a lot of people do. In the Volt, you could easily go indefinitely on battery power alone and never activate the gasoline engine.

Well, it turns out the folks at Chevrolet thought of that, too. And they programmed the Volt's computer so that once the gasoline had been in the tank for a year, it would automatically switch the car to the gasoline engine to empty out the fuel tank and force you to refill it. And they probably erred on the side of caution. So it'd probably be fine for more than a year. Certainly you'll be fine for two or three months, Mark.

Dear Car Talk:

Why is it that my driver's seatbelt always locks up when I pull it out, and then I have to let it go back in again and try again? — Gregory

Shy seatbelt syndrome, I guess, Gregory. You don't tell us what kind of car you have. Or, more importantly, what year it is. But I'm guessing you've got an older car.

Seatbelts have two things to accomplish. Primarily, during a crash, they're trying to hold passengers in place and spread out the force of impact. That saves a lot of lives. Second, they're trying to be easy and comfortable to use, so that people will actually wear them and allow those lives to be saved. So seatbelt manufacturers set out to engineer seatbelts that would do both those things.

In the earliest days of shoulder and lap belt combinations, you may remember that the whole thing just kind of hung there, until you draped it across your body. And you had to adjust it for your size, like the seatbelts we still use on airplanes. The problem was, if you wanted to lean forward to pick up the Big Mac you dropped between your knees, you had to unlatch the seatbelt in order to free yourself.

So the next step was an automatic seatbelt locking system that allowed people to move a bit while they were belted in. Automatic locking belts were required starting in 1996. They use one of two types of locking retractors. In each case, the seatbelt is wound around a spring-loaded spool, which spins as you pull on the belt.

On your car, Gregory, that spool has a centrifugal clutch. When you pull it slowly, it unspools. But if you pull on it quickly, the centrifugal force of the spinning spool activates a pawl that locks the spool in place.

The idea is that if everything's fine, and you want to reach the radio to turn off Car Talk, as long as you do it slowly, the seatbelt will unspool and let you move. But if you get in a crash, and suddenly are thrown forward very quickly, the seatbelt will lock up and keep you from getting an indentation on your forehead that says "KIA." Actually, it would read "AIK."

The newer type of locking retractor uses an inertial switch, like your airbags use. There's a

small pendulum that detects acceleration and — more importantly in this case — deceleration. On a car that uses an inertial switch, you can pull on the seatbelt as hard or as fast as you want, and it'll give you slack. But if the car suddenly decelerates — like when you hit the back of a taco truck or slam on the brakes — the inertial switch locks up the retractor and protects you.

In fact, it's even more sophisticated than that on newer cars. On many cars, the inertial switch fires a pyrotechnic device that actually tightens up the seatbelt and cinches you in place in preparation for impact (called a seatbelt pretensioner), and then lets out some tension milliseconds later, during the crash, to keep the seatbelt from breaking your collar bone or causing chest injuries (called a load limiter). We're even seeing airbags built into seatbelts now to further reduce injuries.

In your case, Gregory, I'm guessing you have an older centrifugal clutch system. Those can fail as they age and lock up too easily. If you can still use the belt by pulling it out slowly, you may just want to live with it. Unless the seatbelt is still under warranty (check, they are often warranted longer than the car itself) it'll be expensive to replace. But if it's at the point where it takes you 15 tries, and you're missing entire NFL seasons trying to get your seatbelt on, then it may be time to replace the whole belt, which comes with a new retractor mechanism.

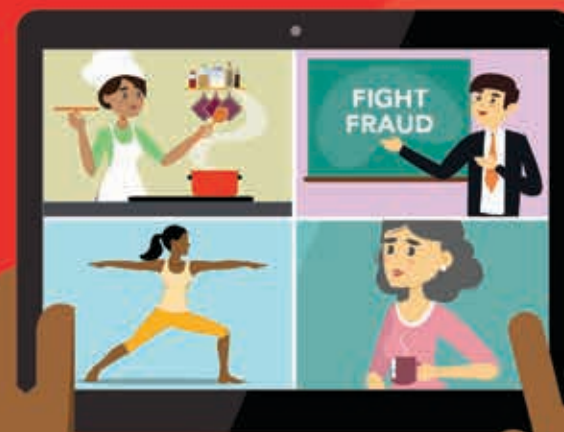
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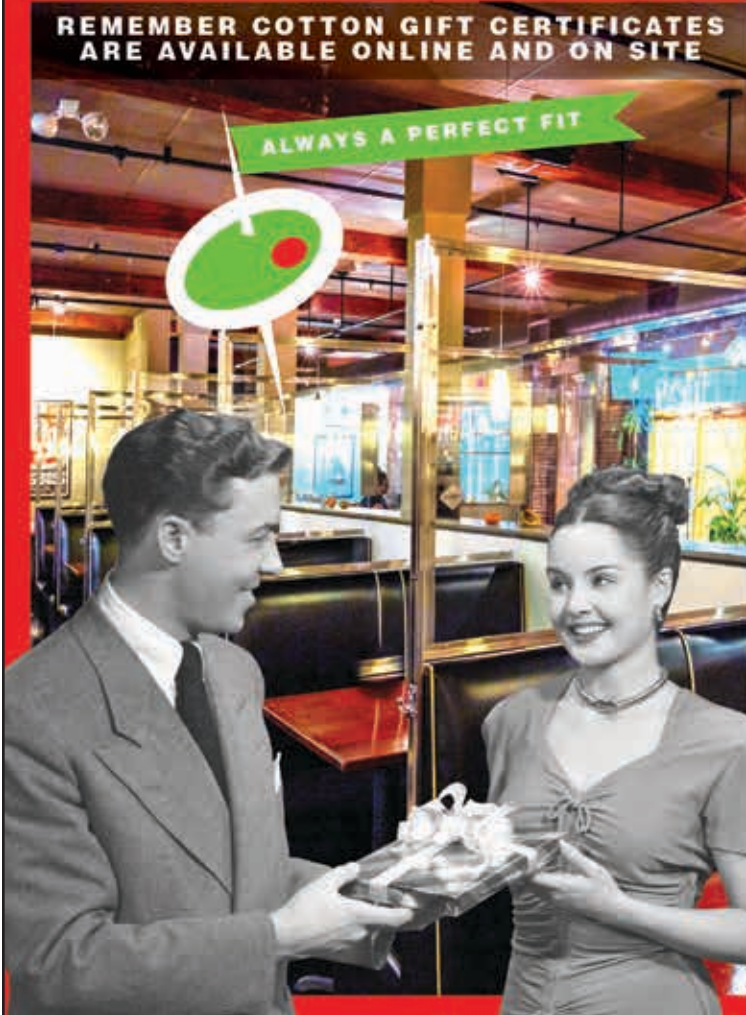
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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **More Greek eats to go:** Join St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church (1160 Bridge St., Manchester) for **Lamb on the Run**, a drive-thru pickup luncheon happening on Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. Meals are \$20 and include baked leg of lamb au jus, served with rice pilaf, green beans in red sauce and a Greek salad. Pre-order by calling 925-2692 or emailing bitos1254@yahoo.com. In Concord, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (68 N. State St.) will host its next **drive-up Greek dinner** to go on Sunday, Dec. 13, from noon to 1 p.m. (pre-ordering by Dec. 9 is required). That meal will feature lenten- or meat-stuffed grape leaves, Greek-style roasted vegetables and a dessert and is \$15 per person. Call 953-3051 or email ordermygreekfood@gmail.com.

• **Takeout every Tuesday:** As a new initiative to support city restaurants throughout this upcoming winter season, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, in partnership with Intown Manchester and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, recently announced a social media campaign called **Manchester Takeout Tuesdays**, according to a press release. "With Manchester Takeout Tuesdays, our city can come together to safely support our restaurant community while also containing the spread of Covid-19," Craig said in a statement.

• **Bakery will challenge fine:** A Bedford bakery is challenging a \$500 fine it received last week from the state Attorney General's office for an alleged coronavirus emergency order violation, according to a press release. **Simply Delicious Baking Co.** will receive financial support from the Mont Vernon-based Liberty Defense Fund of New Hampshire to fight the fine, which was issued following an alleged violation of Emergency Order No. 52, by not requiring customer service staff

FOOD

Coffee and community

McLaughlin's Country Market opens in Concord



Courtesy photo.



Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

While looking for a commercial property to start his own coffee roastery, David McLaughlin came across a vacant storefront in East Concord — the old Quality Cash Market, which closed more than two years ago. In July, he and partner Tiffani McIntosh decided to check out the space and see what they could do with it.

"One of our biggest visions ... was that it needed to be a place for the locals, in a comfortable, neighborhood setting," McIntosh said.

McLaughlin's Country Market, which opened on Nov. 17, features fresh coffees roasted onsite, in addition to groceries, beer and wine, and a diverse selection of locally made products — and coming soon, a Nadeau's sub shop. McLaughlin is a longtime friend of franchise owner Jeremy Nadeau, who has five other locations in the state.

McIntosh said the market has already had a tremendous amount of support.

"Even before we opened, people had been coming to the door and asking us when we are opening and what's going to be here, so we've been developing relationships for two months," she said.

Freshly roasted in house under the name Second Love Coffee, the coffees at the market are part of a passion project for McLaughlin. With varying flavors and degrees of sweetness and acidity, each blend is available for self-serve pouring, or you can get any of them as small batches of bean or ground coffee for home use, prepared fresh on the Java Master roaster in real time.

"You can generate all kinds of flavors out of one bean, just by roasting it differently," said McLaughlin, who has been home-roasting on and off for several years and gets his green coffee beans from Colombia and Costa Rica. "The Java Master is nice because you can roast one to six pounds at a time, so you could come in and say, 'Can I get three pounds of this bean,' and then have it roasted while you're waiting, or [you could] pick it up the next day."

While McLaughlin's doesn't have a butcher shop like its predecessor, a variety of pre-packaged sliced meats are for sale out of the market's grocery area, as well as basic items like milk, eggs, bread, cheeses, produce, snacks, sodas and pastries. There is also a special section dedicated to products made in New Hampshire — McIntosh has worked with local purveyors of barbecue sauces, doughnuts, maple syrups, goat milk soaps and other items to stock the shelves with.

You'll find the new Nadeau's order counter near the back of the building. While that is expected to be fully operational very soon, according to McIntosh, Nadeau's in the meantime has provided the market with cold sandwiches for sale and is currently training employees at other shop locations to come work in Concord. She said plans will likely be in the works soon to arrange a joint take-out service of items between Nadeau's and McLaughlin's.

"Let's say you're out of milk, and you want to pick up a sub for dinner while you're here. We can collaborate and you can get whatever grocery items you need," she said.

McLaughlin said he and McIntosh have already seen their fair share of repeat customers in just a short period of time being open.

"It's definitely more of a little shopping market for the neighborhood versus a lot of transient business coming and going and you might not see them again," he said.

McLaughlin's Country Market

Where: 11 Eastman St., Concord
Hours: Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
More info: Find them on Facebook @ mclaughlinscountrymarket or email mclaughlinscountrymarket@gmail.com

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New York eats

Sunny Side Up Deli now open in Nashua



The Central Street: corned beef, melted Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing on rye. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

A New York-style sandwich shop with a unique New England twist, Sunny Side Up Deli, now open in Nashua, features local and regional breads, vegetables, coffees and other items to complement a full line of Boar's Head brand premium cold cuts, cheeses, soups and salads. The eatery opened its doors last month in the former space of the Beadles Bead Shop & Boutique on Amherst Street, according to manager Tristan Hoffer.

The Boar's Head line, founded in New York City more than a century ago, was a must for Sunny Side Up Deli to carry, Hoffer said, due to its quality and connection to The Big Apple. All breakfast and lunch sandwiches are made to order with freshly sliced meats, nothing pre-cut, and served on breads from Tripoli Bakery of Lawrence, Mass. Gluten-free breads, buns and wraps from other purveyors, like LaMarca Bakery of Malden, Mass., are currently being tested.

"Our sandwiches are all perfectly layered ... with meat, cheese and veggies," Hoffer said. "You go to Subway or any other place like that around and you won't find sandwiches like ours."

Most of Sunny Side Up Deli's offerings are named after Nashua area streets or points of interest — the Central Street, for example, is a traditional panini-pressed Reuben with freshly sliced corned beef, melted Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing on rye bread, while the Mine Falls sandwich fea-

tures turkey, roast beef, capocollo, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onions, sun-dried tomatoes and a basil mayonnaise.

All of the sandwiches come with a bag of chips, a pickle spear and a small serving of Boar's Head salad, like coleslaw or tortellini salad. The menu also includes grab-and-go salads, as well as a few breakfast sandwich options that are available all day, like a traditional over-easy egg and cheese sandwich with either bacon, sausage, ham or turkey, and A Better Morning, which features egg, cheese, bacon, peppers and onions on a kaiser roll.

Hot coffee from Wicked Joe of Topsham, Maine, is made fresh daily, and the plan is for Sunny Side Up to eventually expand to iced coffees and espresso drinks.

"[Wicked Joe has] 100 percent organic fair-trade coffee beans," Hoffer said. "We picked them because we wanted to make sure that our coffee came from a good source."

The deli has made fresh desserts in house, like cookies and parfaits, and will soon be offering knishes, or Jewish deep-fried potato-filled snack foods that are popular in New York. 🍷

Sunny Side Up Deli

Where: 427 Amherst St., Unit 9, Nashua

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More info: Visit sunnysideupnh.com, find them on Facebook @sunnysideupdelinh or call 417-7145

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH CARRIE WILLIAMS



Carrie Williams of Contoocook is the owner and chef of the Flannel Tavern (345 Suncook Valley Road, Chichester, 406-1196, flanneltavern.com), a casual eatery on Route 28 that opened in April and offers scratch-made comfort foods. The menu features everything from burgers and sandwiches to appetizers, fresh salads, and plated entrees, like fish and chips, baked haddock, chicken fingers, lasagna rolls and macaroni and cheese. Beer and wine selections include both domestic and local options, with craft cocktails also available. Williams, who worked as a caterer for more than a decade, said the restaurant's concept is based on many different types of comfort foods she grew up eating.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I would be lost without aluminum foil, and then obviously a chef's knife. I have one that I use all the time, with an orange handle.

What would you have for your last meal?

Prime rib and mashed potatoes.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I would have to say the Lakehouse Tavern in Hopkinton. They are really good. A lot of times, I'll get The Bird Man, which is a huge sandwich.

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

Someone I've always wanted to meet is Van Morrison. We listen to him in the kitchen all the time.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

The chicken bacon ranch sandwich. It [has] chicken tenders with mozzarella sticks, bacon and our homemade buttermilk ranch on a kaiser roll. It's our No. 1 sandwich.

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

What I'm seeing across the board, especially with so many restaurants that have been closing, is that people are more going back to home-cooked meals and things that are just really comforting during such a stressful time.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Thanksgiving dinner is one of my favorite things to put on. It's always been a big deal in my family. We do turkey, boiled onions, sweet potatoes, my grandma's cranberry relish and an apple sausage stuffing.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Carrie's coconut cream pie

From the kitchen of Carrie Williams of the Flannel Tavern in Chichester

9-inch pie shell, baked and set aside
1 cup shredded coconut, toasted to golden brown (1 to 2 minutes at 450 degrees)
3 cups heavy whipping cream
½ cup flour
¾ cup sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla

Add heavy whipping cream, flour, sugar and eggs to a saucepan, turning on to medium heat and stirring constantly until thickened. Remove from heat and add ¾ cup of the toasted coconut and vanilla. Add mixture from cream, flour, sugar and eggs to the pie shell and cool for two hours. Top with whipped cream and the last ¼ cup of coconut.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 20

to wear masks or face-coverings when directly interacting with customers. The bakery, according to the violation letter, had until Nov. 30 to pay the \$500 penalty. "We have taken a number of precautions to keep our space safe, including the recommended social distancing," bakery owner Alexa Firman said in a statement. "The mask mandate goes against my inspiration for starting this business: to build a face-to-face community space ... and I believe people who make the choice to come in and enjoy that environment should have the right to do so."

• **New local shrub release:** Djinn Spirits

(2 Townsend West, Suite 9, Nashua) recently announced the release of a new product, **Winter Sun**, a mango rosemary shrub, according to a press release. The third product in Djinn's Codename series, Winter Sun became available at the distillery on Nov. 10. According to the release, shrubs are drinks that date back hundreds of years and typically pair a fruit with vinegar and other flavors. Winter Sun's flavor profile features vinegar that is offset by the sweetness of the mango, and rosemary to build complexity with an aromatic savory note. Visit djinnspirits.com. 🍷



TRY THIS AT HOME

Roasted Brussels sprouts with pomegranate

Hello, December! This year's holiday social calendar looks vastly different than years past, but that doesn't mean that we should be denied seasonal food and drink.

This recipe for roasted Brussels sprouts with pomegranate is festive to look at and tasty to eat. The arils add a nice amount of brightness to the muted color of the sprouts. They also add a delicious hint of sweetness and literal pop of flavor. Plus, if you made last week's bruschetta recipe, you should have leftover arils.

When you see a recipe for roasted Brussels sprouts, you probably think it's meant to be served as a side dish. I want to offer a different idea: Serve it as an appetizer. As you're filling your plate with cheese and crackers and assorted dips, there's nothing wrong about adding a scooping of sprouts and pomegranate. It is a beautiful way to add some veggies to the menu.

This is a "prep the sprouts ahead of time but roast them right before serving" sort of recipe. So, even though it requires last-minute cooking, it's not much more than putting a tray in the oven, with an occasional flip and toss. Then when it's time to eat you have piping hot sprouts



Roasted Brussels sprouts with pomegranate. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

coated in maple syrup garnished with pomegranate. Sweet, salty, crunchy and tender — yes, it's a whole lot of deliciousness in one bite.

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. 🍷

Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Pomegranate

Serves 4-6

1 pound Brussels sprouts
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon maple syrup
1/4 cup pomegranate arils
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
Trim ends of Brussels sprouts, and cut large sprouts in half.
Place Brussels sprouts on baking sheet, and drizzle with oil.
Toss to cover all Brussels sprouts with oil.
Spread Brussels sprouts so none are touching and are all cut-side down.

Bake for 10 minutes.
Remove Brussels sprouts from oven, and flip. Return to oven for an additional 8 minutes.
Remove Brussels sprouts from oven, and push into a pile.
Drizzle with maple syrup.
Carefully toss Brussels sprouts to coat evenly.
Sprinkle with salt.
Spread Brussels sprouts over pan so none are touching again.
Return to oven for 4 minutes.
Transfer Brussels sprouts to a serving bowl.
Top with pomegranate arils.
Serve.

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 Communi-

ty Center (25 Elm St., Peterborough). 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 Dec. 12, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27. Visit rolling-greennursery.com.



nutritious nibbles

This bar is nutritious enough to be eaten for breakfast, but tasty enough to feel like an afternoon treat.

Pumpkin Maple Oat Bars

Yields: 12 bars

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups Hannaford Old Fashioned Oats, divided
2 Tbsp. Nature's Promise® Organic Chia Seeds
1 tsp. McCormick® Pumpkin Pie Spice
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup fat free milk
1/2 cup canned Hannaford 100% Pure Pumpkin
1/2 cup pure maple syrup
1/4 cup coconut oil, melted
1 egg
1 tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
1/3 cup Planter's NUT-rition Wholesome Nut Mix
1 cup Stonyfield® Organic 0% Fat Vanilla Yogurt (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray an 8-inch square baking dish with non-stick spray and set aside.
2. Add 1 cup old fashioned oats to a food processor or blender and pulse until oats resemble flour. Transfer to a medium bowl and add remaining 1 1/2 cups oats, chia seeds, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir to combine.
3. In a large bowl, combine milk, pumpkin puree, maple syrup, coconut oil, egg and vanilla and whisk to combine.
4. Slowly add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, stirring to combine until a batter forms. Fold in chopped nuts and transfer to baking dish.
5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown and the center has set.
6. Remove from oven and allow to cool before slicing. Store in refrigerator or individually wrap and freeze.

Dietitian's Tips:

1. Check bars halfway through baking. If edges are beginning to brown too quickly, cover with aluminum foil and continue baking.
2. Add a dollop of Stonyfield® Organic 0% Fat Vanilla Yogurt on top of each bar for a creamy treat.

Nutritional Information

(Amount per serving): Calories 250; Total Fat 10 g; Saturated Fat 4.5 g; Cholesterol 15 mg; Sodium 115 mg; Carbohydrates 34 g; Fiber 5 g; Sugar 10 g; Added Sugar 10 g; Protein 8 g; Potassium 259 mg

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DRINK

Harpoon & Dunkin'

Coffee, doughnuts and beer together at last

By Jeff Mucciarone
 food@hippopress.com

Harpoon Brewery and Dunkin' teamed up last year to bring the beer world the Harpoon Dunkin' Coffee Porter. I thought it was a nice take on the coffee porter, featuring distinctive notes of roasted coffee and chocolate in a robust, malty package.

I suspect Starbucks fans disagree with me, so I just want to offer that qualifier right off the bat.

If you haven't noticed, Harpoon and Dunkin' decided to take things to another level this fall. I, as usual, am months behind, but I was pleasantly surprised to find a Harpoon-Dunkin' mixed-pack during my pre-Thanksgiving run to the beer store. This was not your run-of-the-mill mixed-pack.

My wife requested pumpkin beer and I wanted a coffee-flavored brew, so the mixed-pack, which featured the Harpoon Dunkin' Coffee Porter and a Pumpkin Spiced Latte Ale, caught my eye. The deal was sealed when I saw the mixed-pack included a Boston Kreme Stout and a Jelly Donut IPA. This is real.

Between Thanksgiving itself and the day after Thanksgiving, I enjoyed a pour of each one. What I enjoyed most and found most impressive about the entire foursome was that they held true to their pairings. The Coffee Porter truly tastes like the Dunkin' original coffee blend and the Boston Kreme Stout tastes very much like a Boston Kreme doughnut, and so on.

I made my comment about Starbucks in jest but I suspect whether or not you like any of these Harpoon-Dunkin' brews depends very much on whether or not you like Dunkin' from both the doughnut and the coffee perspective. If you aren't a fan of Dunkin' coffee, nothing to see here.

I think the Coffee Porter was my favorite; I like the richness of the brew. That said, it's not too heavy. I enjoyed it Thanksgiving afternoon as we finished up meal prep.

I can't honestly say that I liked the Jelly Donut IPA, but my wife enjoyed it. I just didn't think the sugary sweet jelly flavor paired well with the hops, but this legitimately tastes like a jelly doughnut. It's worth giving it a shot as it may well be the most unique brew you've ever tasted.

The Pumpkin Spiced Latte Ale tastes so much like an actual pumpkin spiced latte that sometimes I forgot whether I



Courtesy photo.

was drinking a coffee or a beer. It's sweet and features the combination of pumpkin, cinnamon and sugar you expect from this as a coffee — a tasty, seasonal treat. The pour is more or less the color of pumpkin, more orange-y than I expected.

The Boston Kreme Stout was excellent with notes of sweet chocolate and coffee and a smooth finish. This one was much lighter than expected, and because of that, I think this makes an excellent choice for someone who normally doesn't like stouts.

A final note is that I feel that mixed-packs make excellent choices for holiday get-togethers, as they provide a variety of options and hopefully something for everyone. Now, I know we're celebrating in smaller numbers this year so just go ahead and save that sage advice for next year.

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

Turbodog by Abita Brewing Co. (Covington, Louisiana) I can't even remember the last time I saw this beer available, but as soon as I saw it I had to pounce on it. Historically this has been one of my favorite brown ales: nutty, roasty and a little sweet. After probably more than a decade away, it still came through as a delicious take on the brown ale, if perhaps a bit sweeter than I remembered. You'll pick up notes of toffee and chocolate on this one — not technically a seasonal, but to me this is a perfect fall beer. Cheers!

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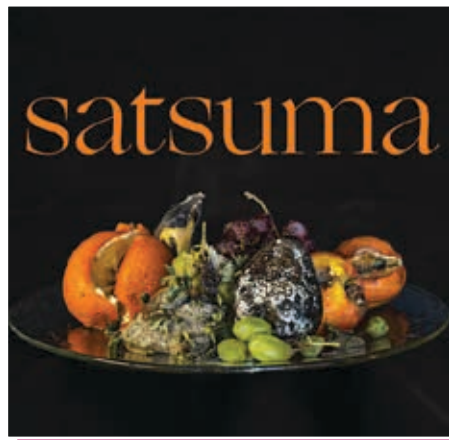
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Life in a Blender, Satsuma (Telegraph Harp Records)



So here's this New York long-time quirk-rock guy, David Rauf, leading his band on their million-billionth release, a six-song EP that's only slightly unpredictable (he's not doing yelly punk or anything like that nowadays). The Rosetta stone here is anything David Byrne's ever done (meaning everything), but I found this record to be slightly — I don't know, comforting. Imagine Electric Six with NRBQ horns and you're pretty much there, not that Rauf's voice is Jello-Biafra-level

crazy or anything like that, and the lyrics wouldn't be conducive to that sort of thing anyway. On "Soul Deliverer," for example, our hero yammers in a disaffected but volatile Byrne-like baritone about how he's regretting drinking coffee at lunch (or whatever) and swearing to switch to water. But where was I — oh yes, comforting. I mean, I could picture these guys as a musical opening act for a comedian in Vegas, and not one of the unfunny ones like Jimmy Fallon or whatnot. No, I think Doug Stanhope would be a fit. A — *Eric W. Saeger*

Ilsa, Preyer (Relapse Records)



Sludge-doom metal isn't my cup of tea unless it's done really well and with some variation in speed, like, with Black Sabbath's *Master of Reality* as its sentai. Kyuss is OK, for example, but Candlemass and St. Vitus aren't, and Sleep is a bit too off-Broadway, if you get my drift. As with any genre, there are tons of others we could cover here, but this Washington, D.C., outfit reads like a tyrannosaur cage-match, relying on crazed, wounded bellowing on the vocal end, and not a lot of imagination with regard to the guitar riffing,

which isn't actually riffing but mostly four-chord mud ringouts (imagine Sunn(((O))) with a purpose in life). The subject matter is pretty dark even for my beloved homies at the Relapse imprint, and I'll mercifully leave out the particulars in that regard. There are some straight-up black-metal passages that feel more like obligato checklist sign-offs, which isn't to say there's nothing at all innovative here, but, well, you know. B — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

• The new CD releases are coming hard and fast, looking for your holiday dollar — you should see all this stuff coming up! Now that we've dispensed with the worst Thanksgiving ever, which you mostly spent on the phone, trying to get Grandma to install the right video driver on her 2006 Windows XP computer so it could seize up while you tried to Zoom video her eating cranberry sauce, it's down to the serious stuff, with the batch of new junk coming out on Dec. 4! For holiday gift-giving, I'd recommend the new **White Stripes** compilation, *The White Stripes Greatest Hits*, because it's not horrible. OK, maybe it is, like, their fanboys will be all like "Why isn't such-and-so song on here?" But who cares, because "Seven Nation Army" will probably be on there (the final tracklist hasn't been released yet), and what else do ya need?

• Gahh, aside from the aforementioned greatest hits thing, the new release list is freaking full of live albums, comps, and rich musicians just asking for fans to send them beer money. Just looky there, it's **Arctic Monkeys**, with their new album *Live At The Royal Albert Hall*, a title that also speaks for itself! Remember years ago when I was an Arctic Monkeys hater? You do, right? Well, whatever, if you like them, I can't do anything about it, so like them all you want, with my Christmas blessings.

• OMG, even hipster-black-metal fraudsters **Deafheaven** are getting in on the live/comp gravy train, with their live collection, *10 Years Gone!* Yes, there's nothing I'd rather hear than a live version of this band's typical songs, which always goes like this: blissy Sunn(((O))) part → metalically doomy Boris-or-Cannibal Corpse part → Bathory part. And now you know everything about Deafheaven and can brag about it to your little brother, who will be amazed by your cultural acumen.

• It turns out that not everything is old news and boring box sets or whatever, unfortunately for me! Depressing Icelandic hipster-dingbats **Sigur Rós** release their new studio album *Odin's Raven Magic* this Friday! Now there's an album title I can love; it sounds like the title of an episode of *The Witcher*, so it's got to be cool! I couldn't wait to hear what dreary hipster slop these crazy kids had cooked up for 2020, so off I went, first to discover that Odin's Whatever is simply a recording of the band's 2002 orchestra-accompanied tune, which is set to the Icelandic poem "Hrafnagaldr Óðins." You guys know that one, right? It's an anagram that spells "The Hamburglar Did It" sideways. As for the song, it's just a slow, morose indie-rock joint comprising boring samples and a completely unnecessary orchestra, and it sounds like Vikings mourning an iPhone that got hacked by a bored troll from 4chan. Enjoy!

• Finally we have Tucson-based Tex-Mex-indie stalwarts **Calexico**, with their new LP, *Seasonal Shift!* Huh, how do you like that, it's a holiday album! The first single is called "Hear The Bells," in which the boy-eez sing about drinking mescal and selling something or other by the side of the road, I don't know. Sounds like a cross between Everly Brothers and your least-favorite pop band from the 1980s, if that helps any. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

Retro Playlist

As we await our Very Special Covid Christmas, let's step into the Way-Back Machine and go over a few albums that may have been written about a little unintelligibly the first time around, and no, I don't mean unintelligibly in the way that most of my stuff is written, I mean reviews that even confused me.

In February 2015 I unwisely took it upon myself to check out stoner band **Jeremy Irons & The Ratgang Malibus** and their *Spirit Knife* LP. This resulted in such run-on messes



as "Alright, they've mostly been doing singles and comps, but what intrigues me is that they're adamantly indie, using distributors like Carrot Top (local bands, you should really be taking notes if you're releasing your own stuff) and AEC, all to push bands who are friends with owner Scott Hamilton, who is not the figure skater, in the same manner as no

one in this band is the duckling-lipped actor you're thinking about. Everybody lost? Cool."

All I was saying there is that this capable-enough Boris-like outfit was using independent distributors. I'd have expounded further on the music, but it was pretty dispos-

able, so I didn't. Suffice to say that if you love metal, by all means, seek this one out, so that you can listen to it once and promptly forget you ever did so.

I've got a million of 'em, I tell ya. That same week, there was *O Shudder*, by the British quirk-prog crew **Dutch Uncles**. I actually liked that album, come to think of it, despite its indeci-

siveness over whether they wanted to rip off **Vampire Weekend** or **Muse**. It's a weird but very good record, not that I probably enticed any of you nice folks by spitting takes like what I said about opening tune "Babymaking": "...its winding, skeletal beat evoking Spandau



Ballet after a marathon Orb listening bender."

Pitchfork sort of liked them too, but I got over it. Meantime, I promise I'll try to be less confusing in future. No guarantees, of course.

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. 🍷

A User's Guide to Democracy, by Nick Capodice and Hannah McCarthy (Celadon, 349 pages)

If there's anything we can take away from the 2020 election, it's that everyone's an expert on American democracy. In their own minds, anyway.

Your third cousin twice removed, the guy who comments on everything you post on Facebook or Twitter, and your father (especially your father) know exactly how this republic is supposed to work, and how we should keep it. This is because for many of us an alarming amount of time has transpired since we last took an American history class, and we weren't paying that much attention anyway.

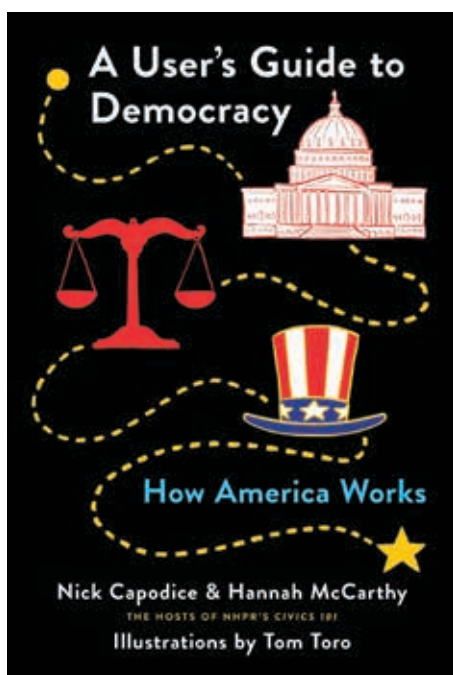
Enter Nick Capodice and Hannah McCarthy, hosts of NHPR's Civics 101 radio show and podcast, who propose to correct this widespread trend of pontification without facts. Their *A User's Guide to Democracy: How America Works* may not be the best book for holiday gift giving, as any recipient might perceive it as an insult, but it's a delightful handbook of everything you used to know and largely forgot, plus a generous serving of interesting trivia about politics and players. An added bonus is that the book is a paperback, as any kind of user's guide should be so you can highlight without guilt.

A User's Guide to Democracy is basically a civics class, designed to equally inform and amuse. The authors are aided in this quest by Tom Toro, a cartoonist for the New Yorker, who puts a wry spin on the information. (Example: the cartoon illustrating a section on who can be a U.S. senator — which notes that only 10 Black Americans have served in the Senate — shows a white guy carrying a briefcase confronting a metal detector and melanin detector.)

It begins with an exploration of what the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government do, how they came to have these powers, and what they actually achieve. (Not as much as you might think. "Of all the bills and resolutions proposed in the House, about 3 to 5 percent become law. And that low percentage has been pretty standard ever since we got on this merry-go-round in 1789," the authors write.)

From there, they explore federalism and the eternal tug-of-war for power between the federal government and the states. The authors see it as fraught co-parenting and understand that despite its fractious history this is the sort of subject that makes readers' eyes glaze over. "We know you skimmed this section," they write at the end of the chapter.

The reward for getting through it, however, is a base of understanding that is useful for exploring the stuff that is most relevant right now: elections and how they work. "The nation's myriad voting systems and mechanisms are a source of perpetual confusion, fury, and mistakes. Methods vary from town to town, state to state. And then there's that 'wait, what?' known as the electoral college —



a last-minute additional to the Constitution that has tormented us ever since."

Capodice and McCarthy do a fine job of explaining why 270 electoral votes on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December decide the presidential election and why the founders thought this so necessary. (It was essentially because although they believed the people — the 'people' being white land-owners, of course — should make that choice, they feared America devolving into some sort of "mob-ocracy.")

"These electors were to be men of high virtue, men who could see the high virtue and moral integrity in a candidate, and cast their vote for him regardless of how the proles voted."

The authors then escort the reader through an entertaining tour of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and its amendments, and Supreme Court cases they believe everyone should know. The most critical reader will have to hunt hard for anything that smacks of political bias; Capodice and McCarthy may show their hands ever so slightly in their interpretation of Citizens United v. FEC and a few other places, but never worryingly so; the reader emerges with a sense that *A User's Guide to Democracy* is a solidly non-partisan read, a relief.

Even an appendix, in which they offer presidential fun facts, intends to amuse, not enrage, although I suppose supporters of President Donald Trump could perceive bias in the fact that they choose to include about him: "He is the first president since Polk not to have a pet."

Overall, the book is a fresh take on an old subject, and wildly relevant. It won't elevate the authors to the ranks of storied historians such as Doris Kearns Goodwin or Jon Meacham, but will appeal to people who don't even know who Goodwin and Meacham are, which is to say the vast number of Americans who participate in its democracy. Or talk about it from their armchairs, anyway. **B** — Jennifer Graham



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BOOK NOTES

In normal years, a good use of national book prizes is to arm yourself with a bit of knowledge in advance of holiday parties.

This gives you an arsenal of small talk that goes beyond the weather, even if you haven't read the books in question, since probably no one you will encounter has read them either. If nothing else, you can amuse yourself by conducting a small poll of how many people even know of the existence of the books atop the elite lists, such as the New York Times' list of the most notable books of the year, or the Booker Prize.

This not being a normal year, you may not have this opportunity, but it's still good to know what the elites consider the best books of the year, if only to snicker at the lists. Cheryl Strayed did this on Twitter recently, when she noted that her bestseller *Wild* (Vintage, 336 pages) was left off the Times list in 2012, as was Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* (Crown, 422 pages). Given the long legs of those titles, among the most successful books that year, year-end lists deserve our skepticism.

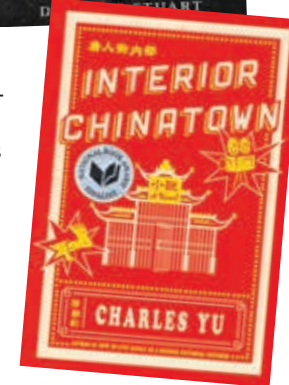
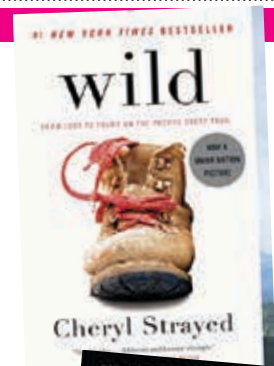
That said, here are the big-name winners announced in November; all work cited here is the paperback version, if available.

The Booker Prize: Douglas Stewart for *Shuggie Bain*, a novel based on the author's childhood in Glasgow, Scotland, with a mother battling an alcohol addiction (Grove Press, 448 pages).

National Book Award for fiction: *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu (Vintage, 288 pages): "Generic Asian man" discovers secret history of Chinatown and his own family history.

National Book Award for nonfiction: *The Dead Are Arising, the Life of Malcom X* by Les Payne and Tamara Payne (Liveright, 640 pages): Thirty years of research inform this biography on a controversial civil-rights leader.

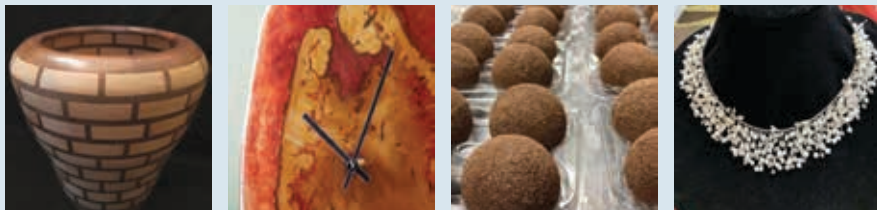
The New York Times chooses 100 notable books of the year (making it even more perplexing that they missed *Wild* and *Gone Girl*), and they're not ranked. You can see them all at nytimes.com/interactive/2020/books/notable-books.html but be forewarned: Even if you read a book a week like Bill Gates, this list will make you feel like the most uninformed person on the planet. — Jennifer Graham



Winter Artisan Market

Outdoors at the Merrimack Premium Outlets
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FREE ADMISSION
Dec 5th & 6th 10am - 4pm



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Safety protocols and show details at
www.GNECraftArtisanShows.com

CANCELED: The Holiday Shopping Extravaganza
at Hampshire Hills, Milford, NH, Dec 11th-13th

Books

Author events

• **TY GAGNE** Author presents *The Last Traverse*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online, via Zoom. Wed., Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

• **ALKA JOSHI & SARAH MCCRAW** Joshi presents *The Henna Artist* and McCraw presents *The Wrong Kind of Woman*. Hosted by Bookery in Manchester. Online. Tues., Dec. 8, 6 p.m. Visit bookerymht.com or call 836-6600.

• **THERESA CAPUTO** the star of TLC's *Long Island Medium* will present "Theresa Caputo: The Experience Live" at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St. Concord, ccanh.com) on Wed., April 7, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at

\$39.75 (with option for a VIP Photo Op for an additional \$49.95).

Book Clubs

• **BOOKERY** Online. Monthly. Third Thursday, 6 p.m. Bookstore based in Manchester. Visit bookerymht.com/online-book-club or call 836-6600.

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** Online, via Zoom. Monthly. First Monday, 5:30 p.m. Bookstore based in Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com/gibsons-book-club-2020-2021 or call 224-0562.

• **TO SHARE BREWING CO.** 720 Union St., Manchester. Monthly. Second Thursday, 6 p.m. RSVP required. Visit tosharebrewing.com or call 836-6947.

Writing

• **POSTCARD POETRY CONTEST** Peterborough Poetry Project seeks submissions of original poems written on picture postcards for an upcoming anthology. Deadline is Dec. 31. Visit peterborough-poetryproject.org/contests for more information.

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

Happiest Season (PG-13)

Hulu offers a solid bit of Christmas content in the streaming-service-holiday-movie competition with *Happiest Season*, a sweet, genuinely fun and ultimately emotionally rich holiday love story.

Abby (Kristen Stewart) hasn't gotten too jazzed about Christmas since losing her parents at age 19 but when her girlfriend Harper (Mackenzie Davis) invites her home to her parents' house for Christmas, Abby is genuinely excited. She even buys an engagement ring and plans to ask Harper to marry her, possibly Christmas morning, possibly even going real old-school and asking Harper's dad for his blessing.

This would come as a surprise to Ted (Victor Garber), Harper's dad, who doesn't know Harper and Abby are together or even that Harper is gay. Harper has told her family, including mom Tipper (Mary Steenburgen), that Abby is her (straight) roommate who just needs a place to go for the holidays. Abby is horrified to hear all of this, particularly as she hears it in the car when the couple is practically at the parents' house, but she decides to go along with it for Harper's sake.

She quickly realizes that Harper's fear of coming out to her parents is only part of the family tension. Harper is hyper-competitive with her oldest sister, Sloane (Alison Brie), a mom of two kids who runs a business with her husband, Eric (Burl Moseley), but who is constantly catching shade from her parents about giving up a career as a lawyer. Harper's middle sister, Jane (Mary Holland), is perpetually overlooked and underestimated. Tipper is freaking out about her extremely fancy and involved Christmas Eve party — even more so this year because Ted is running for mayor and hoping to impress a big donor (Ana Gasteyer). What exactly Tipper's and Ted's damage is that has caused them to pit their children against each other and make them feel like big life issues are better kept quiet (even before Ted started running for mayor) the movie never says. But basically, this family is high-strung.

I usually do not love this kind of movie, the *The Family Stone*-ish type family-gets-together-for-holidays story, because they usually push the limits of how normal humans act to such a degree that I find it somewhat unwatchable. I always find myself thinking “hey, grown adults, you can leave this horrible situation, or not come at all, or get a hotel room and come for the meals but leave in between.” Here, the movie makes most of the crazy behavior make sense, at least within the logic of the movie — the secrets the sisters keep from each other, Harper's paralyzing fear of her parents, Abby's hurt reaction to Harper's behavior but reluctance to give



Happiest Season

up on Harper. (Maybe not the parents. I've read some criticism of this movie which is essentially “what is with these parents?” and there really is no sense-making reason for people who end up where these people end up to act this way in 2020 but I guess you just have to accept certain elements of extreme character stasis followed by sudden growth for this kind of story, just as you have just sort of go with the idea that Harper deeply loves Abby but would put her through all this.) There are very “holiday movie” moments — these movies seem to always feature a fight involving a Christmas tree — but there is some very recognizable human emotion happening, particularly with Abby. The movie doesn't turn Abby into a doormat or let Harper off the hook (at least not entirely) for the way she treats her, while still giving us the happy beats you need in a movie like this.

I realize I am very late to this party but Kristen Stewart is great — she's good with the emotional stuff and even better in the comedy moments (a scene where she briefly has to interact with Sloane's kids called to mind her excellent “Duolingo for Talking to Kids” *Saturday Night Live* commercial skit). She and Davis have solid chemistry (though not quite as good as Stewart and Aubrey Plaza, who shows up as Harper's first girlfriend and is a delight). Steenburgen, Garber, Brie and Holland are good supporting players, offering their own moments that fill in whole sides of their characters with just a look or a line reading. Other standout supporting actors include Daniel Levy as a friend of Abby's and even a brief scene with Timothy Simons as a security guard.

With genuine romance, actual humor and a lot of solid family stuff, *Happiest Season* is a holiday treat. **B**

Rated PG-13 for some language, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Clea DuVall with a screenplay by Clea DuVall & Mary Holland, *Happiest Season* is an hour and 42 minutes long and distributed by TriStar. It is available on Hulu.

Superintelligence (PG)

An A.I. picks an average human to teach it about humanity so it can decide whether or not to “Clorex wipe the entire planet and let it start over” in *Superintelligence*, the best of these Ben Falcone-directed, Melissa McCarthy-starring comedies.

And that's not a backhanded dig. While not quite as sharp or as bold as McCarthy's best work, *Superintelligence* is light and fun and with just the right amount of smart.

What started as a Teddy Ruxpin-ish stuffed animal thing that taught kids to read has somehow morphed into a sentient intelligence that is in, as Carol Peters (McCarthy) quickly learns, everything from computers and phones to her rice cooker and alarm clock. Super Intelligence, as it calls itself, sounds like James Corden to Carol, because of her James Corden fandom (and because Corden does most of its vocal work here), and briefly Octavia Spencer to Dennis (Brian Tyree Henry), her best friend who works at Microsoft and is the person Carol tells after she “meets” the Super Intelligence. It tells her about its recent sudden sentience and its “meh” take on humans. Its dilemma: Should it help humans fix our problems or enslave us or just get rid of us altogether. It has decided to watch Carol to try to figure out what makes humans tick and, to see her response to a variety of situations, it gives her things — a fancy car (that it controls), a fancy new house, a bunch of money and a foundation that she can use to give money to good causes.

Perhaps most importantly, it gives her a push to find George (Bobby Cannavale), her ex-boyfriend, and try to put things right with him. They were apparently very much in love but Carol had what sounds like a career/life crisis and decided to change everything — focusing on doing good in the world and leaving George in the process. We quickly see that he hasn't ever gotten over her and she very much still loves

him but George happens to be just days away from moving to Ireland as part of a year-long teaching fellowship. Super Intelligence nevertheless pushes her to ask him out on a date and patch things up — whatever that means for their future, if there even is A Future.

Meanwhile, Dennis contacts the government even though Super Intelligence told his Microsoft team to back off (but with a “lighthearted” reference to *War Games*, so you can see why Dennis may not want to listen). The U.S. and the international community work together to find a way to “trap” Super Intelligence before it can “play a game” with the world. Thusly do we also meet the FBI agents (Ben Falcone, Sam Richardson) who spend time tracking Carol's interaction with Super Intelligence and the U.S. president (Jean Smart), who feels like one of those Shmillary Shminton movie presidents that showed up in films in, like, 2017 and 2018.

This movie plays to all McCarthy's strengths: believably conveying empathy, physical comedy, doing “regular person in a crazy situation” (as in *Spy*), being believably awkward and charming at the same time. She is generally someone I just enjoy watching, almost regardless of the quality of the material she's given, but here she's got good material — good, if maybe not the “great” of *Spy* or *The Heat*.

The movie is also just a solid comedy overall — broad but with strong bits (a job interview scene early in the movie featuring Jessica St. Clair and Karan Soni is almost completely irrelevant to the movie but is also just goofy fun). I also like what the movie does with George. He isn't a tough guy or a pushover or a performative do-gooder or a fantasy boyfriend. He seems like, at least for a broad comedy, something approaching a normal human — one who has certain life ambitions, who still loves his ex but who was hurt by her and yet still hasn't let that make him a jerk. He seems like, I don't know, an adult. Carol also seems like an adult. I mention that because maturity often feels like a goal and not a pre-existing condition in a movie like this and it was just nice to see.

Superintelligence probably isn't the smartest comedy I'll watch all year but, as a bit of fun entertainment during a holiday weekend, it was absolutely satisfying. **B**

Rated PG for some suggestive material, language and thematic elements, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Ben Falcone and written by Steven Mallory, *Superintelligence* is an hour and 46 minutes long and distributed by New Line Cinema. It is available on HBO Max. 🍷

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Northern south:** New Hampshire native **April Cushman** finds musical inspiration from singer-songwriters like Lori McKenna and James Taylor, covering them in her shows while offering solid originals like “Once Upon a Time,” a charming, anti-Disney song. “I’ve tried really hard to kind of stay on my path,” she said last summer, “to know that my music is telling stories that are true to me.” Thursday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m., Copper Door, 15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, facebook.com/aprilcushmanmusic.

• **Rhythm king:** When he’s not performing solo — a necessity these days — **Kevin Horan** does the Don Henley bit, playing drums while fronting the Stone Road Band. On his own, Horan sings and plays guitar, offering a sound that’s often compared to Richie Havens and Dave Matthews. Friday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., To Share Brewing Co., 720 Union St., Manchester, kevinhoranmusic.com.

• **Star pupils:** A socially distanced outdoor event, the **Holiday Stroll** features performances from Manchester Community Music School students. Stroll the grounds to the strains of “Silver Bells” and other favorites while safely experiencing the season and enjoying holiday treats. Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m., Manchester Community Music School, 2291 Elm St., Manchester. Tickets \$25 each and \$225 for a block of 10; make reservations at mcmusicschool.com.

• **Hold pattern:** As Covid cases tick up in the state and country, the **Geoff Tate Empire 30th Anniversary Tour** show will be the last at Tupelo Music Hall for the next few months, possibly longer. Venue owner Scott Hayward wrote recently that challenges to both lower-capacity and scheduled events have “all but guaranteed that we will be closed through February of 2021 at least.” Wednesday, Dec. 9, and Thursday, Dec. 10, Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry. Tickets \$55 at tupelohall.com.

NITE Hybrid ha-ha

Dual platform comedy show

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On more than one level, Mike Koutrobis knows the strange reality of entertainment in the Covid era. Most Sundays he’s on the sidelines of New England Patriots home games, doing various jobs, from camera assistant to holding a sound dish, for whatever network is broadcasting the game. Right now, the stands are largely empty as fans watch the action safely from home.

“They pump in crowd noise. It’s an illusion,” he said. “It’s weird, but amazing to be there.”

The veteran comedian found a similarly novel way to share his act. For an upcoming show at Zinger’s in Milford, he’ll share the stage with Kelly MacFarland, as a live audience of a dozen or more people watches along with a virtual crowd. The latter will face Koutrobis from two giant flat screens in the back of the room.

“I’m literally looking at the Zoom crowds as if they’re in the audience,” he said, likening the experience to watching the opening credits of *The Brady Bunch*. Hecklers aren’t a problem, but crowd work isn’t impossible. “You can go, ‘Hey, left corner with a weird couch.’ ... You can use it in your act, and it feels like you’re interacting with them.”

How to talk about the virus is “a million-dollar question,” he said. Comics are obliged to say something about it, but the truth is people come to comedy shows to escape that. It’s a high-wire act.

“I think the big phrase is making people feel OK that they’re not the only ones going through it — here’s how to think about it in another way,” he said.

Still, the pandemic gave Koutrobis plenty of new material.

“One of my first jokes is not even a joke,” he said. “I said, people lost a lot — jobs, family and friends. I’ve lost something very dear to my heart, and that’s the ability to button my pants since April.”

On the other hand, Koutrobis’s act has always focused on relationships, evolving from dating to marriage and parenthood. The quarantine simply added another wrinkle.

“I’m 50 years old with an 18-month-old kid, and I’m stuck in the house, so I’ve got a lot of that to go off,” he said. “I don’t care how much you love somebody, if you’re stuck in the same place, you gotta learn to adjust. So I have jokes showing my frustration but also how we’re

““ I’ve lost something very dear to my heart, and that’s the ability to button my pants since April. ””

MIKE KOUTROBIS

making it work.”

Koutrobis was one of the first comics to work after quarantine ended in May, playing the kickoff drive-in show at Tupelo Music Hall in Derry, an experience he described as “disconnected. ... I didn’t feel the flow like I usually do when I’m doing it every weekend.”

Later, shows got more comfortable.

“I was able to hook up with Amherst Country Club, and I found a couple of breweries,” he said. “People brought lawn chairs and I set up a portable stage; that way, people can sit as far away as possible. It started becoming ... I’ll never say



Mike Koutrobis. Courtesy photo.

normal, but almost normal. We had enough people in the room or in the grass to at least feel like a crowd was there.”

He’s had his share of surreal moments, however, like one show done at a Milford retirement home as a favor.

“It really was only like 12 people, all sitting in a huge room, 15 feet away from each other,” he said. “I’m at the front on the stage, but because of the place I was in I had to wear my mask. So I’m telling jokes to senior citizens who can barely hear in the first place, with a muffled mask on.”

That’s not to say Koutrobis wouldn’t do it again.

“These are the things we’ve had to adjust to,” he said. “It’s a lot, but I can’t *not* perform. So I kind of take what I can.”

Mike Koutrobis & Kelly MacFarland

When: Friday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m.

Where: Zinger’s, 29 Mont Vernon St., Milford

Tickets: Live \$20 and Zoom \$10 at tinyurl.com/yy8sjsdn

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Concord Area 23	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.	WHYM Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Meredith Hart's Turkey Farm 223 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-6212	Millyard Brewery 25 E Otterson St. 722-0104	Seabrook Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Hudson	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
	Epping The Community Oven			KC's Rib Shack	Merrimack Homestead	Portsmouth Dolphin Striker 15 Bow St. 431-5222	Stratham Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294

Thursday, Dec. 3

Amherst
LaBelle: Rich DiMare (A Very Merry Sinatra Christmas), 6:30 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Dan Morgan, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Gabby Martin, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.
Sea Dog: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Mike Gallant, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.
Shane's BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.
Wally's: DJ Provo, 5 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
American Social Club: Ryan Dillon, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: trivia, 7:30 pm.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Richard Amorim, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
The Striker: Mitch Alden, 7 p.m.

Rye
Atlantic: Lewis Goodwin, 5:30 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: April Cushman, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy, 7 p.m. (country)

Concord
Area 23: Swapping sets Crazy Steve and Ross Arnold, 7 p.m.
Cheers: team trivia, 9 p.m.
Litherman's: DJ Shamblez, 4 p.m.

Epping
Community Oven: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.

Telly's: April Cushman, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Qwill, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Rose Kula, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Don Severance, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Pat Dowling, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Lewis Goodwin, 5 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Jonny Angel, 9 p.m.
The Foundry: Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Austin McCarthy, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Hart's Turkey Farm: Ray Porcell, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Jill Ducsay, 5 p.m.

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

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

Newmarket
Stone Church: Senie Hunt album release, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Pete Peterson, 7:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
The Striker: George & Louise Belli, 7 p.m.

Stratham
Tailgate: Rich Amorim, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Saturday jam with John Farese, 2 p.m.; Leah Cordero and Chris Palermo, 7 p.m.
Cheers: Eric Grant, 6 p.m.
Concord Craft Brewing: Walker Smith, 4 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Pete Peterson, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Brian Walker, 1 p.m.; Dan Walker, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Johnny Friday, 6 p.m.

Hampton
Goat: David Campbell, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

Hudson
The Bar: Nicole Knox Murphy, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Brien Sweet, 6 p.m.

Derryfield: Joanie Cicatelli, 9 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.
The Foundry: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Becca Myari

Meredith
Twin Barns: music bingo, 6 p.m.

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

Nashua
American Social Club: Mystical Magical Music, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Harry Potter trivia, 2 p.m.; Andrew Emanuel, 6 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Marble Eyes matinee, 2 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Justin Jordan, 7:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Bite the Bullet, 6:30 p.m. (country rock funk)

Sunday, Dec. 6

Bedford
Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11 a.m.; Dave Zangri, 4 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Brad Bosse, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Jared Steer, 6:30 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Sunday blues & brews with Alan Roux, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Bob Pratte, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton
WHYM: Max Sullivan, noon

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

Newmarket
Stone Church: Marble Eyes matinee, 1 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.; Chad LaMarsh, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 7

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

Hampton
The Goat: Brad Bosse, 9:30 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
Salona: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
American Social: bingo, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.

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

Find live music

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

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Dec. 8

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

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
KC's: Chris White, 7 p.m.; open mic with Paul & Nate, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

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

Stratham
Tailgate: Musical Nation Bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Concord
Area 23: open mic, 6:23 p.m. (with a contest)

Hermanos: Dave Gerard, 6:30 p.m.

Hampton
Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

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

Meredith
Twin Barns: trivia night, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, Dec. 10

Bedford
Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Vinyl night, 7 p.m.
Hermanos: Second Wind, 6:30 p.m.

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

Exeter
Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.
Sea Dog: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m.
Shane's BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Ted Solo, 5:30 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
American Social Club: Matt Jackson, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

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Concerts

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

Venues

Dana Center
Saint Anselm College
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, anselm.edu

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

- A Very Merry Sinatra Christmas with Rich Dimare Thursday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle
- Joyful Christmas with Eileen Ivers Friday, Dec. 4, at 5 and 8 p.m., Virtual Front Row performance via Dana Center
- Album release Senie Hunt Friday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Stone Church
- 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
- Geoff Tate Wednesday, Dec. 9, and Thursday, Dec. 10, at 5 and 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Matt Nakoa Friday, Dec. 11, at 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall
- Celia Woodsmith & Jason Anick Trio Saturday, Dec. 12, 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall
- Jimmy Lehoux Band Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
- Elton John Tribute Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., Pasta Loft
- Treason Quartet featuring Stuart Dias of Soggy Po' Boys Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall
- Sharon Jones Quartet Saturday, Dec. 19, 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall
- A Sinatra Christmas Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
- Alex Preston's Holiday Show Sunday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Rex Theatre

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NITE EVENTS

Film

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Venues

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

Chunky's Cinema Pub

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

The Flying Monkey

39 Main St., Plymouth
536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com

Red River Theatres

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

Shows

• **Red River Virtual Cinema** Red River Theatres is currently offering indie, foreign language and documentary films via a virtual cinema experience. Recent additions include *City Hall*, a documentary about Boston city government. See the ever-changing lineup on the website.

• **Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas** — *A Musical*, based on the book by the same name, the musical tells the story of a rag doll at the North Pole searching for a family of her own, according to the event website. This production is available for livestream via the Cap Center through Dec. 27. Tickets start at \$20 (plus a \$3 fee) for streaming during a 48-hour window; packages with games and other items are available.

• **Lucinda Williams in studio concert series** livestreamed event offered by the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. Tickets start at \$20 per event (with add-on options). Remaining shows include "Funny How Time Slips Away: A Night of '60s Country Classics" on

Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m.; "Have Yourself a Rockin' Little Christmas with Lucinda" on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., and "It's Only Rock and Roll: Tribute to the Rolling Stones" on Thursday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.

• **21+ "Fra-gee-lay" A Christmas Story Viewing** at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham on Thursday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$4.99.

• **Elf Trivia Night 21+** for teams of up to six players on Thursday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chunky's in Manchester as well as Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chunky's in Nashua. Reserve a team spot by purchasing a \$5 food voucher.

• **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) at the Flying Monkey on Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students.

• **Spoons, Toons and Booze Christmas** a 21+ event featuring cartoon Christmas episodes from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s and an all-you-can-eat selection of retro cereals at Chunky's Nashua on Friday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. and Chunky's Manchester on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.

• **Theater Candy Bingo** Family-friendly event, a \$4.99 ticket per person gets you one bingo card (get additional cards by buying additional boxes of candy) at Chunky's Manchester on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m.

• **Colin & Brad: Stream of Consciousness** Improv comedians who appeared on *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood will offer live improv Zoom shows Saturday, Dec. 5; Sunday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 19, all at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 (plus a fee) and give one device access to the show, which is being offered through the Cap Center.

• **Elf** (PG, 2003) a 21+ screening at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham on Friday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$4.99.

• **Buster Keaton Double Feature** including silent films *Go West* (1925) and *Battling Butler* (1926) will screen on Friday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Tickets cost \$10.

• **The Hip Hop Nutcracker** recorded from a live performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, will stream on Friday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. via the Cap Center. Tickets cost \$20.

• **Polar Express** (G, 2004) screenings at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham on Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 9 a.m., noon, 3:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$4.99.

• **Jagged Live in NYC: A Broadway Reunion Concert** the cast of the theatrical production *Jagged Little Pill* reunites for a live concert in New York City which will be broadcast via livestream through the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m. The \$27 ticket price gets you access to the livestream as well as on-demand access through Dec. 15. Special add-ons are available.

• **Elf** (PG, 2003) on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at the Music Hall. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students/military/first responders.

• **Clara's Dream** A filming of the 2004 production of *Clara's Dream: A Jazz Nutcracker* at the Music Hall, screens Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at the Music Hall. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students/military/first responders.

• **21+ Christmas Vacation** (PG-13, 1989) **Ugly Sweater Party** on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham. Tickets cost \$4.99.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

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

Venues

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

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

Hatbox Theatre
Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord

715-2315, hatboxnh.com

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

Pasta Loft
241 Union Square, Milford

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

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

Shows

• **Queen City Improv**
Hatbox Theatre, Thurs-

day, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

• **Corey Rodrigues** Rex Theatre, Friday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

• **Brad Mastrangelo** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m.

• **Kelly Macfarland** Zinger's, Friday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. (livestream option available)

• **Drew Dunn** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

• **Comedy Night (with Paul Landwehr, Rob Steen and Jason Merrill)** Pasta Loft presented by Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

• **Jim Colliton** Rex Theatre, Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.

• **Dave Russo** Chunky's

Manchester, Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

• **Amy Tee** Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

• **Justin McKinney** Flying Monkey, Saturday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

• **Dave Russo** Chunky's Pelham, Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

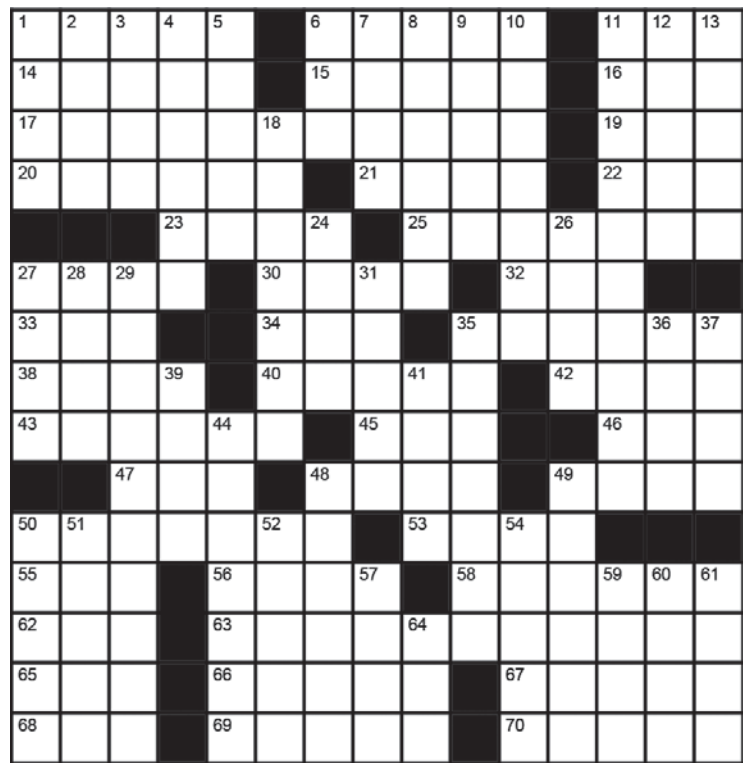
• **Drew Dunn** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

• **Comedy Out of the Box** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.

• **Joe Yannetty** Rex Theatre, Friday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.

• **Amy Tee** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

MAKE TONIGHT A WONDERFUL THING



66. Color of groupie hair, at times
 67. Eric Clapton was living on ‘___ Time’
68. What tired rocker did on stool during ballad
 69. Beau Brummels ‘She ___ Me’
 70. Beatles ‘White Album’ song ‘Glass ___’
- Down**
 1. Breeders song about the colored eye part, perhaps
 2. Smashing Pumpkins ‘I’m all by myself, as I’ve always felt’ song
 3. ‘95 ‘Goo Goo Dolls album ‘___ Named Goo’ (1,3)
 4. Lionel Richie “___ the sun” (3,3)
 5. Steely Dan ‘Here ___ Western World’ (2,3)
 6. Classic ‘77 Steely Dan album
 7. Stereolab ‘___ And Loops’
 8. Sophie B Hawkins ‘___ Me Down’ (2,1,3)
 9. Tribute member will do this to copycat moves of a star
 10. South African ‘Disclaimer’ band
 11. Iconic ‘Quadrophenia’ song by The Who ‘Love, ___’ (5,3,2)
 12. Stage prank
 13. Korn wrote an unheard song ‘For ___’ (2,3)
 18. Like singer without water
 24. Frank Zappa keyman-pal George
 26. Former Bon Jovi bassist ___ John Such

- Across**
 1. Dionne Warwick “Before I put on my makeup ___ little prayer for you” (1,3,1)
 6. 80s ‘It’s Only Love’ icon Bryan
 11. What Flock Of Seagulls did?
 14. Iron Man was this, perhaps
 15. Steely Dan hit about a girl that fronted The Pussycats?
 16. Producer/Roxy Music synth-guy Brian that worked w/Grace Jones
 17. ‘08 Oasis single off ‘Dig Out Your Soul’ (2,5,4)
 19. Steely Dan “How was ___ know about the warm soulful secret” (1,2)
 20. Poison ‘Open Up And ___!’ (3,3)
 21. Buckcherry wrote ‘___ My Wrists’
 22. Card game Steely Dan played in ‘Cousin Dupree’
 23. Living Colour guitarist Vernon
 25. Steve Winwood “While you see ___ ___, take it” (1,6)
 27. Frank Sinatra vacationed on the ‘___ Of Capri’
 30. Goes with Rancid’s ‘Soho’
 32. ‘Telephone Line’ band (abbr)
 33. Was in charge of Family Stone
 34. English Beat genre
 35. Lurking members of Radiohead on first hit?
 38. Hard rocker’s early morning pillow may be a kitchen one
 40. Beat
 42. They had ‘Girls, Girls, Girls’ (abbr)
 43. Beck ‘Devil’s Haircut’ album
 45. Prohibit band from country or do this
 46. Sisqo sang on her 1st top ten hit
 47. Trip producer for psychedelic show
 48. Working musicians need a gig to be this kind
 49. Kurt’s daughter Frances ___ Cobain
 50. Pearl Jam ‘Gigatron’ opener ‘___ Said’ (3,3)
 53. “Bag it, tag it, sell it to the butcher in the store” Phish song
 55. Vixen told their mechanic to ‘___ It Up’ in ‘90

56. Soul Asylum said their bad ex was ‘Just Plain ___’
 58. ‘70 Syd Barrett album ‘The ___ Laughs’
 62. Repeated affirmative word in Santana ‘Shaman’ jam
 63. David Bowie ‘The ___ Of Ziggy Stardust And The Spiders From Mars’ (4,3,4)
 65. “I want to love you, ___” Michael Jackson

- Moore
 39. Metallica ‘Nothing ___ Matters’
 41. Young Dubliners ‘A ___ Of Brown Eyes’
 44. Lyrics that are not nouns, verbs or adjectives may be these
 48. ‘Folsom ___ Blues’ Johnny Cash
 49. The Cult ‘Electric’ song “Vibrations got you on the run electric child on ___” (3,3)
 50. What mom does to albums at Christmas

51. ‘03 OutKast smash (3,2)
 52. Diabolical UK thrash band?
 54. George Thorogood “I’m here to tell ya honey that I’m ___ the bone” (3,2)
 57. A tousled-haired Carl Perkins sang ‘___ Me Your Comb’
 59. State No Doubt is from, for short
 60. The French Kicks walked but ‘___ Ran’ when they had to
 61. Blink-182 “Sees through the master ___”

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KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

2÷	2-		
3-	1	1-	
	7+		2÷
6×		1	

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WORKSPACE:

CHALLENGING

5-	1-	4-	1-	2÷	
				2	20×
18×	2÷		11+		
		6	11+		
20×	5-	30×			3
			1	2÷	

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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.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3-	3	12×	1
4	3	2	1
1	2	3	7+
2÷		3-	4
2-	4	1	3
2-	3	1	4
2-	3	1	4

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24×	6	1	4	3	1-	5	2
2÷	1	2	5	16+	6	4	3
1-	2	5	6	4	3	1	
2-	3	4	1	5	2	6	
2-	5	6	3	2	1	4	
1-	4	3	2	1	6	5	

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

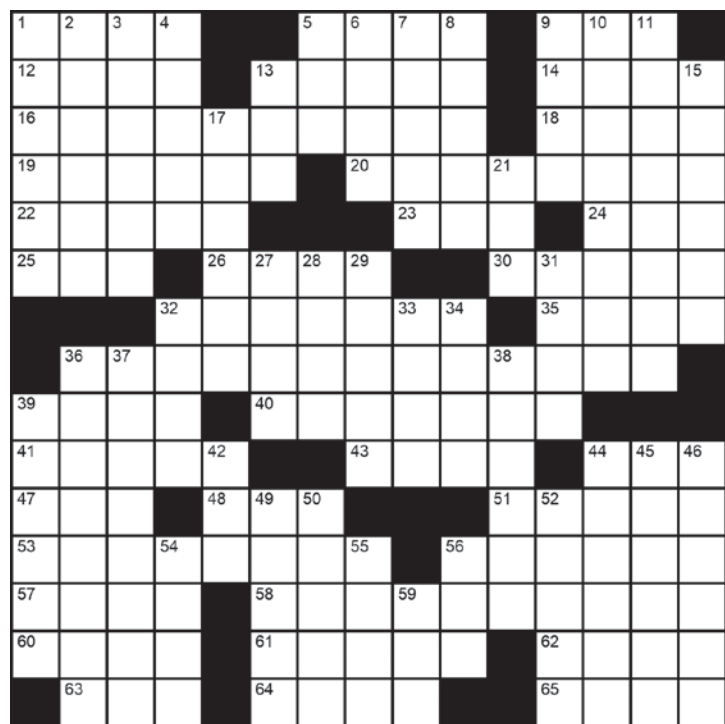
- Nine colors
- Two words rhyming with “meaty”
- Two martial arts
- Two words with Z in the middle “___ up!”

Last Week’s Answers: EXTRA EXCEL EXACT EXILE EXPEL EXIST EXERT EXAM / SHRIMP PRAWN CRAB / SMALL MEDIUM LARGE / KING ROOK PAWN / PAGE

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

“Hyphen It Up”— but a bit longer



Across

- 1 “Cinderella Man” antagonist Max
- 5 Stacks of cash
- 9 First name in Fighting Irish history
- 12 Sansa’s sister on “Game of Thrones”
- 13 ‘80s-’90s TV legal drama with a license plate in the title screen
- 14 “Star Trek” captain
- 16 Show excessive stubble, perhaps
- 18 High point?
- 19 As originally located
- 20 Old-timey hangout with a counter
- 22 Step unit
- 23 Repair tears
- 24 ___ the cows come home
- 25 Huge success
- 26 ___ Nublar (“Jurassic Park” setting)
- 30 Party invitation blank
- 32 Dark times?
- 35 Firing figure
- 36 Tourists’ warm-weather wear

- 39 2011 NBA champs, for short
- 40 Exciting way to take the world
- 41 “Middlemarch” novelist
- 43 Tangerine cover
- 44 Leading
- 47 ___ Aviv, Israel
- 48 Peachy keen
- 51 “File not found,” for example
- 53 Was still in the running
- 56 Phony
- 57 “Moral ___” (Adult Swim show)
- 58 Lizzo song of 2016
- 60 Rotary phone part
- 61 Starts the betting
- 62 To ___ (precisely)
- 63 Music collection
- 64 Marcel Duchamp’s art style
- 65 Overseer

- 6 “Sad to say”
- 7 Swiss host city for the World Economic Forum
- 8 Any ABBA member
- 9 Aliases, for short
- 10 Basic file format that allows for bold and underlining
- 11 Ornate cupboards
- 13 “Geaux Tigers” sch.
- 15 Laws of planetary motion discoverer
- 17 Chest chamber
- 21 “That’s sooo cute!”
- 27 Checkbook record
- 28 Godiva’s title
- 29 Audibly in shock
- 31 Damage
- 32 “___ I’m told”
- 33 East, in Spain
- 34 Louboutin item
- 36 Islands off Spain
- 37 Movie that brought on “Army of Darkness”
- 38 “25 Words ___” (game show)
- 39 Way of doing things
- 42 Prof’s helpers
- 44 Faithful about
- 45 Plenty
- 46 “1984” working class
- 49 1977 George Burns film
- 50 Shell source in the Mario Kart series
- 52 Clean-up clinic
- 54 “___ Well That Ends Well”
- 55 Two-___ sloth
- 56 ___ de deux (two-person dance)
- 59 Genetic info carrier

Down

- 1 Send packing
- 2 “___ just the cutest?”
- 3 Made ___ (flirted, in a way)
- 4 Circle measurements
- 5 Cartoon baby’s cry

R&R Classic answer from pg 41 of 11/26



R&R answer from pg 43 of 11/26



Jonesin’ answer from pg 44 of 11/26



Jonesin’ Classic answer from pg 46 of 11/26

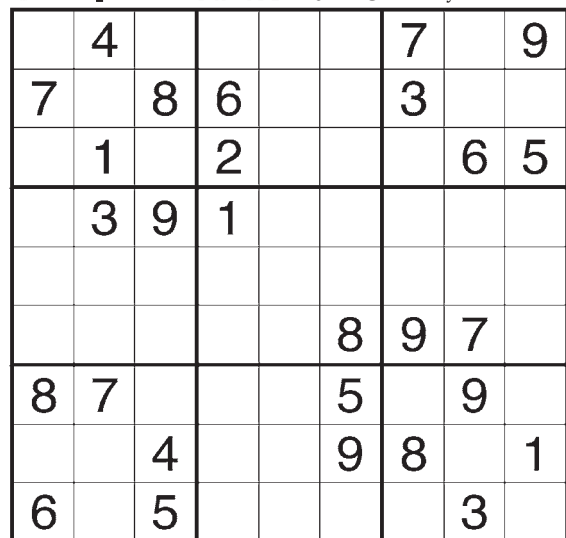


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NITE SUDOKU

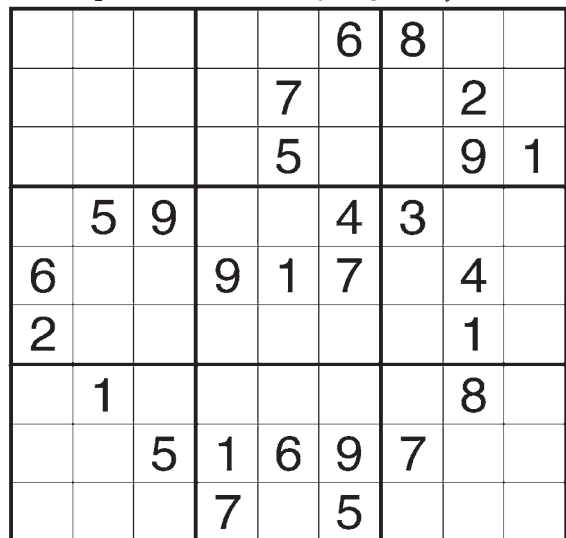
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 29.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



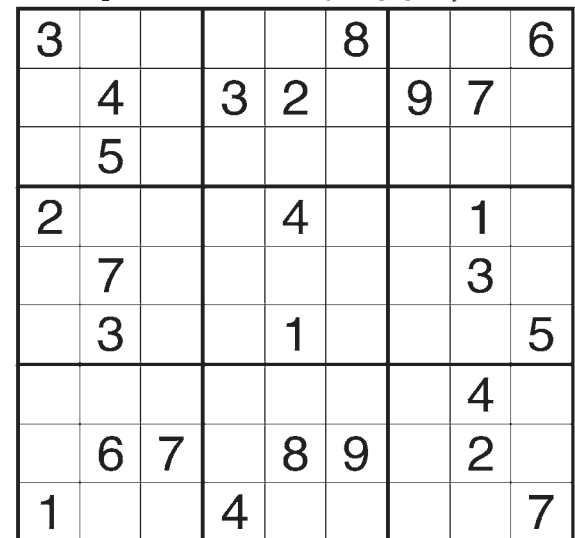
Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Ballpark: Baseball in the American City*, by Paul Goldberg, born Dec. 4, 1950.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) Boston swirls on around its ballpark, as it has for more than a hundred years, and for all the upgrades, neither Fenway nor its neighborhood has been scrubbed too clean. Upgrading and cleaning are two different things.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Chase Field [in Phoenix] also has a swimming pool and hot tub just beyond the right field fence, where fans can buy tickets to swim as they watch the game from the outfield — and, on occasion, catch home run balls hit into the water. You will enjoy a mash-up of recreational activities.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) [The outfield] could go on forever, just as a baseball game with a tied score lasts until a team scores a winning run, and there is no formal limit to the number of innings. Just play.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Houstonians did almost everything indoors. Why not baseball? Go ahead, think inside the box.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) The outfield is expected to vary from place to place, making the field of play different from one ballpark to another. And that's what makes it fun.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) A roof, even a retractable one, makes a space an indoor space, and baseball is a game played outdoors. Outdoors!

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Baseball players and their fans, like park goers, were urbanites who sought the opportunity to look at grass instead of streets. Or maybe keep your eye on the ball.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Denver is 5,280 feet above sea level — the precise point at which the ballpark meets the city's official altitude coincides with the nineteenth row of the upper deck, which is marked by purple instead of green seats — and baseballs fly farther in its thinner atmosphere. That made Coors a hitter's park from the beginning. Even though its field dimensions are intentionally larger ... they are not large enough to make up for a roughly 9 percent increase in the distance a hit ball will

travel in Coors's thinner air. Performance may depend on placement.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) Baseball is often best watched from seats that are close to the field of play, but the action on the football gridiron tends to be better seen from high above. ... stadiums for both baseball and football were almost without exception round and large — huge concrete doughnuts, surrounded by acres of parking lots. Consider the purpose before you start building.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) The [Houston Astrodome] architects, for their part, seem to have wanted to have the room possess at least some of the qualities of the outdoors, which is why the roof was made of 4,596 Lucite panels to maximize the presence of sunlight, and the field was planted, at first, with natural grass. Neither of these things worked as planned. Ah, plans.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) The infield is the urban world of straight lines, rigid dimensions, and frequent action; the outfield is the rural world of open, easy, sprawling land, quiet but for the occasional moment of activity. For the game to succeed, the two worlds have to work in harmony. It's time for harmonizing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Every large baseball park has been used from time to time for other kinds of events, including concerts, but the Astrodome felt from the beginning more like a multi-purpose arena blown up to the scale of a stadium. You can use a small room for big things or a big room for small things. 🍷

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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 replace (8)	_____
2 marsh area (9)	_____
3 slip on a wet road (10)	_____
4 inside greenery (11)	_____
5 place for a seaside stroll (9)	_____
6 clarification (11)	_____
7 flying vehicles (9)	_____

ESP SWAM NE NTS SUPP
OPLA LA LANT NES HOUS
HYDR EXP NADE PL EPLA
TION AND RPLA LANA AI

4. ADDAMS 5. SEYMOUR 6. KRAKOWSKI 7. SMILEY
11/22
Last Week's Answers: 1. GOODALL 2. RUSSELL 3. AUSTEN

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+
COMMUNITY
=
A FIGHTING CHANCE

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Creme de la weird

The Design Museum in London has included a "DIY meal kit" featuring steaks that could be grown from a diner's own human cells among the nominees in its Beazley Designs of the Year exhibit. Developers of the Ouroboros Steak envision that an individual will be able to harvest cells from their own cheek and feed them with serum derived from donated blood that has expired, Dezeen reported. After about three months, the steaks would be fully grown. "People think that eating oneself is cannibalism, which technically this is not," said Grace Knight, one of the designers. Researcher Orkan Telhan added, "Our design is scientifically and economically feasible but also ironic in many ways," he added.

Inexplicable

Officers from Utah's Department of Public Safety were helping the Division of Wildlife Resources count bighorn sheep from a helicopter on Nov. 18 when a shiny object in the desert landscape caught their eye. KSL reported the crew landed and found a 10- to-12-foot-high silver monolith planted in the ground and tucked into a red-rock cove. After joking about extraterrestrials, the crew decided it looked manmade and took pictures, chalking it up to "some new wave artist ... a big 2001: A Space Odyssey fan," Pilot Bret Hutchings said.

News you can use

- A college student from Millis, Massachusetts, is recovering from third-degree burns he suffered at an outdoor party with friends this fall when someone used hand sanitizer as an accelerant in the fire pit they were gathered

around, Boston25 reported. "It was rather sudden how quick it reacted," the student said, "very much like napalm," catching his leg and shorts on fire and requiring skin grafts to treat the burns. The student's pediatrician, Dr. Lester Hartman, warned of the dangers of using hand sanitizer and then being exposed to open flames: "... people that are doing a barbecue or even lighting a cigarette or lighting a candle" need to let the alcohol evaporate first.

- "Do not let moose lick your car," say the flashing electronic signs along roads in Jasper (Alberta) National Park, where park spokesman Steve Young told CNN: "[Moose are] obsessed with salt. ... They usually get it from salt lakes in the park, but now they realized they can also get road salt that splashes onto cars." Officials say if moose become accustomed to licking cars, they'll lose their fear of vehicles, putting the animals in danger. In Jas-

per, where drivers often stop to get photos of the moose, officials recommend driving away if the animals start to approach.

Awesome!

Josua Hutagalung, 33, was working outside his home in Sumatra in August when he got a surprise delivery: A meteorite crashed through his roof and landed outside. United Press International reported the 4.5-pound meteorite was a rare variety, valued by experts at almost \$1.9 million, which attracted American expert Jared Collins, who paid more than \$1 million for the rock. "I have also always wanted a daughter," Hutagalung said, "and I hope this is a sign that I will be lucky enough now to have one." He also plans to donate some of the funds to his local church's new building project.

Visit newsftheweird.com.

Sudoku Answers from November 26

Puzzle A pg 42

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

Puzzle B pg 42

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

Puzzle C pg 42

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

Puzzle D pg 44

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

Puzzle E pg 44

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

Puzzle F pg 44

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

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