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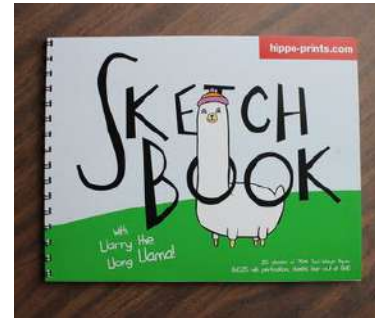
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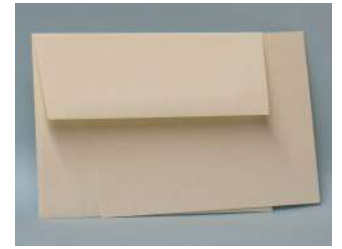
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For more years than I can remember, at this time of year someone within earshot would say, "Christmas carols so soon? It's the day after Thanksgiving and the carols have started. Far too early." That always struck me as a little Grinch-like. This year, however, no one has uttered those words. Instead, there seems an almost universal haste to bring on the holiday season.

Our favorite nursery and hardware store reports their stock of wreaths, garlands, lights, candles and festive decorations is nearly sold out. Drive through neighborhoods after dark and more houses than usual seem festooned. And while many of us are staying away from retail shops for health and safety reasons, seasonal shopping is at a brisk pace online as witnessed by the UPS, FedEx, Prime and USPS trucks out and about.

We should not be surprised at ourselves this year. As we enter the 10th month of mask-wearing, social distancing and cabin hibernation, we are looking for the comfort of those seasonal traditions that were commonplace before the pandemic.

Across cultures worldwide, regardless of their religions, rituals bring meaning to ordinary time and action. They lift us out of the commonplace by changing what we see, hear, taste and smell. In short, rituals of whatever kind link the present with the past, whether it is our tribe's, family's, community's or our very own. And we seem to need them most when the world around us seems dark and possibly even dangerous.

For centuries and in many cultures the winter solstice (which occurs this month) has been seen as a significant time and has been marked by festivals and rituals. It marked the symbolic death and rebirth of the sun. The seasonal significance of the winter solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days.

With the pandemic death toll in our country now approaching 280,000, we are truly in a very dark time. And while the promise of effective vaccines offers a light ahead, as does the solstice promise the return of the sun, we seek some comfort in rituals of this season and trust they will bolster our hope for better times.

So this year, whatever festival we observe, we are likely to do so more thoughtfully and with greater intensity. As much as we may trust in science, we also take comfort in our rituals.

You can contact Steve Reno at [stepre@gmail.com](mailto:stepre@gmail.com).



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195 McGregor St., Suite 325,  
Manchester, N.H. 03102  
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422  
[hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com)  
email: [news@hippopress.com](mailto:news@hippopress.com)

## EDITORIAL

**Executive Editor**  
Amy Diaz, [adiaz@hippopress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippopress.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Meghan Siegler,  
[msiegler@hippopress.com](mailto:msiegler@hippopress.com), Ext. 113

**Editorial Design**  
Tristan Collins  
[hippolayout@gmail.com](mailto:hippolayout@gmail.com)

**Copy Editor**  
Lisa Parsons, [lparkers@hippopress.com](mailto:lparkers@hippopress.com)

**Staff Writers**  
Angie Sykeny  
[asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com), Ext. 130  
Matt Ingersoll  
[mingersoll@hippopress.com](mailto:mingersoll@hippopress.com), Ext. 152

**Contributors** John Fladd, Jennifer Graham,  
Henry Homeyer, Michele Pesula Kuegler, Dave  
Long, Jeff Mucciaroni, Eric W. Saeger, Michael  
Witthaus

**Listings**  
Arts listings: [arts@hippopress.com](mailto:arts@hippopress.com)  
Inside/Outside listings: [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com)  
Food & Drink listings: [food@hippopress.com](mailto:food@hippopress.com)  
Music listings: [music@hippopress.com](mailto:music@hippopress.com)

## BUSINESS

**Publisher**  
Jody Reese, Ext. 121  
[jreese@hippopress.com](mailto:jreese@hippopress.com)

**Associate Publisher**  
Dan Szczesny

**Associate Publisher**  
Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 123  
[jrapsis@hippopress.com](mailto:jrapsis@hippopress.com)

**Production**  
Tristan Collins, Alex Kusnarowis

**Circulation Manager**  
Doug Ladd, Ext. 135  
[dladd@hippopress.com](mailto:dladd@hippopress.com)

**Advertising Manager**  
Charlene Nichols, Ext. 126  
[cnichols@hippopress.com](mailto:cnichols@hippopress.com)

**Account Executives**  
Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026  
[asavage@hippopress.com](mailto:asavage@hippopress.com)  
Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 127  
[rmacaig@hippopress.com](mailto:rmacaig@hippopress.com)  
Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 150

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## ON THE COVER

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Covid-19 news

In line with the CDC's updated Dec. 2 guidance for quarantining, state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan announced during a Dec. 3 press conference that the required quarantining period for people in New Hampshire who have potentially been exposed to Covid-19 has been decreased from 14 days to 10 days. If someone has not experienced symptoms after the 10th day, the quarantining period can end. However, because of the continued rates of community transmission in the state, Chan said the state is not adopting the CDC's option to allow people to end quarantining early with a negative test result. "If we were to start implementing a test out of quarantine option, the risk of missing somebody with Covid-19 and of spreading it ... within our communities increases even further," Chan said, "and that is not acceptable to us at this point in time."

Later in the press conference, Gov. Chris Sununu reported that the first doses of Covid-19 vaccines will be arriving "very, very shortly" to New Hampshire. "The Pfizer vaccine will be the first one to arrive in the state of New Hampshire, sometime probably in the third week of December, with the Moderna vaccine to arrive likely sometime in the fourth week of December, early in that fourth week," he said. The first doses will primarily be distributed to health care workers

and those in long-term care facilities.

On Dec. 5, the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services issued a notice of potential community exposures connected to positive virus cases. At least eight people who have tested positive for Covid-19 visited Filotimo Casino & DraftKings Sportsbook in Manchester between Nov. 19 and Nov. 29. At least nine people who tested positive visited MacDougall's Tavern in Keene between Nov. 20 and Nov. 24, and at least two people who tested positive visited the Chop Shop Pub in Seabrook during a live music event on the night of Nov. 21. Anyone who visited either of the three businesses on any of those days should be monitoring symptoms and should seek testing.

On Dec. 7, state health officials reported 1,045 new positive test results of Covid-19, the greatest number in a single day to date.

Also on Dec. 7, Sununu announced on his Facebook and Twitter pages that a member of his staff has tested positive for the coronavirus. According to Sununu, the individual was last in the governor's office on Dec. 2. "Contact tracing found only one close contact within the office, who is currently quarantining," Sununu said. "I will continue to monitor for symptoms, as will all other members of my staff."

Finally, Sununu has joined several other governors in urging Congress

to pass a new Covid-19 relief package immediately, according to a press release.

## School funding report

Last week the Commission to Study School Funding released its final report, which includes policy recommendations for the 2021 legislative session. The commission was established in 2019 and was appropriated \$500,000 for comprehensive research and public engagement processes, according to a press release. "For the first time in decades, this Commission engaged a national research team with expertise in education, public policy, and data analysis to help us understand the problem," Commission Chair Representative David Luneau said in a statement. According to the press release, student outcomes "vary widely" based on the amount spent per student, as well as unique student needs and the characteristics of each school district. "For New Hampshire to meet its constitutional responsibility where all students have equal opportunity to an adequate education, its state aid distribution funding formula needs to be altered. Currently, most state aid is allocated to districts as a flat universal cost per student. The state can more effectively use its education funds by distributing higher portions of state aid to districts with greater student needs and less capacity to raise funds due to

**Manchester** is holding its first Holiday Lights Contest this year, with anyone interested in participating asked to fill out a registration form prior to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at manchester.nh.gov. According to a press release, all registered lights displays will be included in a Manchester Holiday Lights Map. Any Manchester resident can vote online starting Monday, Dec. 14, and there will be a Virtual Holiday Lights Tour online as well.

Jack Barry of **Bedford** is being recognized for his work with the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, where he volunteers as the build manager for a student plane-building program that the museum hosts in partnership with the Manchester School of Technology. According to a press release, Barry, 72, is being honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Service Award from VolunteerNH in the senior category.

Make the most of the shortest day of the year with a Winter Solstice Luminary Walk, being held Sunday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Beaver Brook Nature Center in **Hollis**. There are six time slots for groups of 10 to 12 people, and the cost is \$12 per person. Register at beaverbrook.org.

Last week, the City of **Nashua** held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Dr. Crisp Elementary School and turned on the school's new 534-panel solar array. According to a press release, that solar array, along with the 1,760 panels that were just installed on the roof of Fairgrounds Middle School, is part of the city's transition to 100-percent clean energy. The two projects were completed at no cost to taxpayers by ReVision Energy, and they are the first public schools in the state to get all of their annual electricity needs from solar power, the release said.

Covid-19 update	As of November 30	As of December 7
Total cases statewide	20,994	25,816
Total current infections statewide	5,145	5,386
Total deaths statewide	526	566
New cases	3,396 (Nov. 23 to Nov. 30)	4,822 (Dec. 1 to Dec. 7)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	2,246	2,015
Current infections: Merrimack County	462	703
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,118	1,296

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

lower property valuations," Sen. Jay Kahn said in a statement. The report proposes an Education Cost Model that would "assist state budget decisions regardless of the amount of funding distributed."

## DCYF Data Book

The state Division for Children, Youth and Families has released the second DCYF Annual Data Book, which shows that, for the first time ever, DCYF's child protection workforce is approaching national caseload standards, according to a press release. Right now, the average number of

assessments per Child Protective Service Worker is 16 — down from 90 in 2016. Recent legislation has funded more CPSW and supervisor positions, and DCYF's staff now includes the largest number of CPSWs and supervisors ever, the release said. The Data Book also shows that there has been a reduction in the number of children in out-of-home care, more children being cared for in their own homes with their own families, more foster homes available, and, for the first time since 2015, fewer assessments involving caregivers struggling with substance use disorder, according to the release.

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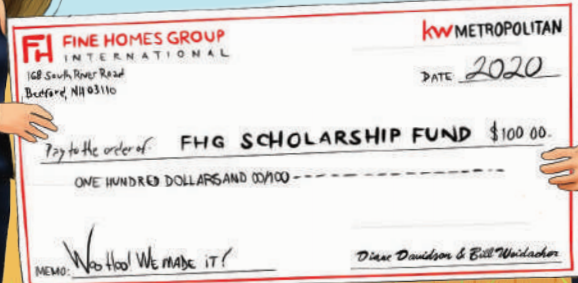
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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

## Hayward's explanation



I've never been a professional athlete and certainly have never been involved with a business decision where I could get an additional \$20 million if I took a new job. But, while I understand the entire business and playing situation, I

must say the **Gordon Hayward** free agent defection to the Hornets for a boatload of dough after opting out of the final year of his contract with the Celtics really irked me.

That's me the "fan" talking, not me the sports writer. The sports writer gets the business decision thing. Ditto for what should go through any Celtics player's mind after how **Danny Ainge** and the brass kicked **Isaiah Thomas** to the curb after he put his earning power/career on the line after taking one for the team by playing through a severely deteriorating hip injury during the 2017 playoffs. Not to mention doing it while playing through the pain of his sister's death in real time and a face plant that forced extensive dental surgery that would have been a season-ender for me-firsters like the guy he was traded for a few months later. He's still trying to come back from the damage that caused, which probably cost him somewhere between \$50 million and \$100 million.

But for me the fan, it irked me because it's a reminder why fans should treat players as they treat them — as disposable commodities. I could give a lengthy speech about why things were better back in the day, but it's not relevant. Today is what it is. **Red Auerbach** held on to his Big 3 because he felt they earned the right to retire in Boston and I was OK with that. But that led to 22 years without a title. Conversely, I must also admit I was in the chorus singing Danny's praises for not doing that with his Big 3 after the haul he got back produced **Jayson Tatum**, **Jaylen Brown** and others to give much more promise to the future than Red's approach.

The being irked part comes in because isn't getting attached to favorite players part of being a sports fan? It always has been that for me. I like the winning, but I also want to like the players on that team. That's one reason I was cool to bringing **Cam Newton** to the Patriots, as I wasn't sure about him. Turns out he's a good guy and he gets extra slack because of it.

Now, on to specifically why Hayward's leaving irked me. It was two-fold. First, while his horrific broken ankle wasn't his fault, people in these parts invested a lot in him and his recovery. That included, if you read this space, infinite patience by me repeatedly sticking up for him to critics who didn't get how long it would take to physically and especially mentally come back from that terrible injury. Ditto for the Celt-

ics brass, especially **Brad Stevens**, who took a lot of heat inside the locker room for playing him when he clearly wasn't the same. That led to a tumultuous 2018-19 Celtics season and if you want to insert toxic for tumultuous feel free. When a guy everyone did that for just up and leaves it makes one say what's the point? Though smarter, more realistic people might say grow up because that's the way it is.

The second part is the bigger issue, and no it wasn't that I was bothered he was leaving. After all they beat Philly and Toronto and made it to Game 6 of the conference finals vs. Miami with very little help from him after getting hurt (again) in Game 1 of the playoffs. Plus, somewhere in the middle of last season I'd decided he was the guy to trade to help them get to a higher level. That's because while I liked how he played at point forward, he's just not mentally tough enough for me.

What I didn't like was that his abruptly leaving as a free agent for the aforementioned extra \$20 million scuttled a sign and trade being lined up with Indiana. And while I wasn't in love with getting **Myles Turner** back, as the rumor mill said was being proposed, I knew he could be flipped for a better fit later. Which certainly was better than the talent drain of losing Hayward without getting anything back, as players of his caliber are hard to replace for a capped out team as the rising Celtics are. That irked me because it left fans who stuck by him during the dark times holding the bag for a lesser team.

However, by turning it into a sign and trade (for a mere second-round pick) Danny got back a valuable \$28 million trade exception instead. That lets teams over the cap make trades involving contracts up to that amount without having to give matching salaries back. That's even better than having Hayward's contract to trade because it can be broken up into separate deals to fill their multiple pressing needs for bench scoring, long-range shooting and a deeper overall team.

Which brings me to the point of this diatribe regarding fans investing emotion in players who don't return the favor. I'm not sure if it's being willing to give up a piece of being a fan to avoid being irked in the way I was over the ungrateful way Hayward bolted. Or hanging in there because all's well that ends well as this one may turn out to be. The only thing I do know is it's not going to end here. Hayward joined far greater players named Brady and Betts in the exodus out of town for greener pastures this year and since the system isn't likely to change any time soon they won't be the last ones to do it. So all I'll say to players going forward is just be honest. Say, "I couldn't pass up the extra \$20 million."

Because most fans respect that and almost all know the rest of it is BS. *Email Dave Long at [dlong@hippopress.com](mailto:dlong@hippopress.com).*



# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## First storm of the season

Last weekend we got our first real taste of what's expected to be a cold, snowy winter (says *The 2021 Farmer's Almanac*). Heavy snow and wind caused more than 100,000 power outages throughout the state, according to a report from WMUR, with some residents still in the dark as of Monday evening. The hardest-hit towns where restoration efforts took longer included Raymond, Rochester and Wakefield, and downed trees in roadways had a significant impact on crews' abilities to restore power, according to the report.

**Score:** -1

**Comment:** *At least we're all used to being stuck at home...*

## All kinds of cancellations

With the increasing number of people testing positive for Covid-19 in New Hampshire, more venues and businesses are shutting down through at least the end of the year. Public places like libraries are reverting back to shutdown days; Nashua Public Library, for example, announced last week that it will close until at least Jan. 5. Many of the closures are arts venues: Capitol Center for the Arts had made the decision to close a couple weeks ago, and it's been joined by places like Hatbox Theatre, Tupelo Music Hall and the Palace Theatre, all of which announced last week that their programs scheduled for the rest of the year have been canceled (see more about that on p. 11, where you'll also find some virtual arts options).

**Score:** -2

**Comment:** *The most wonderful time of the year? Not in 2020.*

## Building a Tower of Toys

The pandemic isn't stopping the annual Tower of Toys, which is collecting unwrapped children's toys, sports equipment, cosmetics and gift cards for children and families in need. Now through Thursday, Dec. 17, the donations will be formed into a toy-filled tower at the Atrium of the Beacon Building at 814 Elm St. in Manchester, according to a press release. On that final day of collection, there will be a socially distanced open house to view the tower, from 5 to 10 p.m. Last year, the toy drive benefited nearly 350 children, and the event's sponsors expect there will be even more need this year.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *With so many community events and live fundraisers being canceled, it's great to see that local kids in need will still get gifts this year. You can drop off donations at Red Arrow Diner headquarters (or shop online and have them shipped there directly: the full address is 814 Elm St., Suite 102, Manchester, 03101) or at Alley Cat Pizza or OrangeTheory in Manchester. Families looking for assistance can send a private message requesting toys at [facebook.com/toweroftoysnh](https://facebook.com/toweroftoysnh).*

## Help is on the way

Last Saturday, the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton sent out an urgent call for help due to "very serious staffing challenges" due to the pandemic. "We need more people to step up and help our veterans get through this," Margaret LaBrecque, commandant of the NH Veterans Home, said in a press release. "This is an all-hands-on-deck response. We are shifting resources and ... calling in federal resources to assist, but some positions remain to be filled." Positions include everything from registered nurses to food service workers and recreational assistants, the release said. On Sunday, WMUR reported that there was an immediate response to that call for help; staff from state agencies will be stepping in to fill numerous non-clinical positions, while the VA is sending extra medical personnel and the National Guard is helping with testing and building maintenance.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *There's still plenty of opportunities to help with both clinical and non-clinical positions; the Veterans Home asks anyone interested to email their resume and contact information to [helpnhvh@nh.gov](mailto:helpnhvh@nh.gov).*

**QOL score:** 68

**Net change:** -1

**QOL this week:** 67

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at [news@hippopress.com](mailto:news@hippopress.com). 📧

75

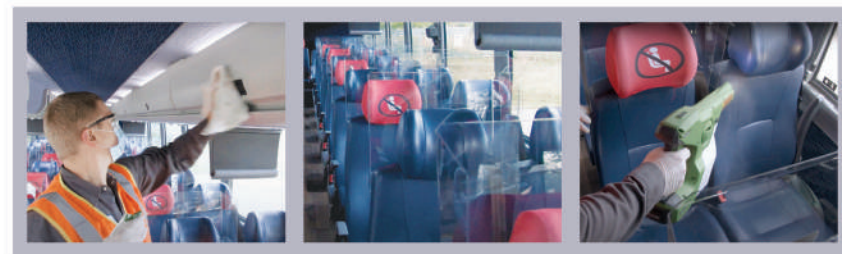
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## Orchestrating a comeback

Symphony NH presents virtual holiday pops, monthly concerts through May

By Angie Sykeny  
 asykeny@hippopress.com

After its 2019-2020 season was cut short in the spring, New Hampshire's oldest professional orchestra, Symphony New Hampshire, is returning to a regular schedule of shows — albeit virtually — beginning with its holiday pops concert, which will be recorded and livestreamed from St. Mary and Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church in Nashua on Saturday, Dec. 12.

"It's a lot different from what we had in mind, but at the same time we're fortunate that we can still perform live music in some way, and that we can provide some work for our musicians," said music director Roger Kalia, who joined Symphony NH in the fall of 2019. "That's rare right now, because most orchestras have canceled or postponed their seasons. We're one of very few orchestras still performing during this time."

Since musical performances in New Hampshire are currently limited to no more than 15 musicians in a shared space, Kalia said, he decided to feature the symphony's brass ensemble for the holiday pops.

"I think brass has become synonymous with the holidays," Kalia said. "There is, at least for me, just a real connection between brass and holiday music, because when I was

growing up I played in brass choirs and brass quintets during Christmastime, and I remember those times very fondly."

The musicians will perform at a safe distance from each other with bell covers on their instruments, a new Covid-era accessory for brass and woodwind musicians that acts as a "mask" covering the opening of the instrument from which aerosol would be projected.

"When [Covid] first happened, we knew that any instrument with a bell would be a real superspreader and that we would have to limit their involvement," Kalia said. "Then these bell covers came out and we said, 'This is great. The sound might be a little softer, but at least we can incorporate them now.'"

The holiday pops concert program will include holiday favorites like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," as well as sacred works like "O Holy Night" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful," performed in "a variety of different styles and moods," Kalia said.

"It's going to be a fresh take on the traditional holiday repertoire," he said. "It's not just classical music; there are also hints of jazz, pop, big band, you name it."

After the pops, Symphony New Hampshire will continue to perform once a month,

virtually until it is safe to perform in person, through May. The following show will be "Mozart Flute Concert, Golijov, and Piazzolla" on Saturday, Jan. 30, featuring Symphony NH's principal flutist, Kathleen Boyd.

"I'd be lying if I said that I don't miss having the full orchestra," Kalia said, "but one of the silver linings of that is when we have less musicians we're able to put more musicians in the spotlight and in soloist roles, which is really exciting."

February's show will center on a new hour-long work by American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider that Kalia described as "Radiohead meets Bjork" in that it combines classical music with elements of indie pop and electronic music.

Another perk of the virtual concerts is that with videography they can create a more intimate experience for the audience than a live concert can, Kalia said. Various camera angles will be used and close-up shots of the musicians will be shown throughout the livestream.

"You're going to see the orchestra up close and personal," he said. "You can see the musicians' fingers and faces and emotions as they play."

Symphony NH concerts beyond February are still in the works, and the 15-musician limit has made developing the programming



Symphony NH. Courtesy photo.

a challenge, Kalia said, but a welcome one.

"Everything has had to be reimagined," he said. "Smaller groups [of musicians] means we'll be doing mostly smaller repertoire and chamber repertoire — a variety of new music that we don't normally do, and we're excited about that." 🍷

### Symphony NH presents Holiday Pops

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 12, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Virtual livestream via YouTube with a shared link

**Cost:** Minimum donation of \$10 per household

**More info:** Visit [symphonynh.org/events/holidaypopsnashua](http://symphonynh.org/events/holidaypopsnashua) or call 595-9156

### Art

#### Exhibits

- **"SLEIGHBELL STUDIO"** Exhibit features a curated collection of fine art and crafts affordably priced for holiday gift giving. Twiggs 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 [twiggs-gallery.wordpress.com](http://twiggs-gallery.wordpress.com) or call 975-0015.
- **"BIG GIFTS IN SMALL**

**PACKAGES"** Artwork priced under \$100. Presented by the Seacoast Artist Association. On display now through Dec. 26. 130 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Visit [seacoartist.org](http://seacoartist.org).

#### Fairs and markets

- **VIRTUAL HOLIDAY SHOP** The Warner Historical Society presents an online shop at [warnerhistorical.org/store](http://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@warner-historical.org](mailto:info@warner-historical.org).

- **"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: AN ART SHOW & SALE"** Features all kinds of art, including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, tapestry, wood-

working, 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 [shop.twovillagesart.org](http://shop.twovillagesart.org). Show hours at the Bates Building are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit [twovillage-art.org](http://twovillage-art.org).

- **THE CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY FAIR** Virtual

shop features seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, gourmet treats, woodworking, stained and fused glass, mixed media, jewelry and more. Now through Dec. 22, with curbside pickup at the Kendall House (3A Meetinghouse Road, Bedford) daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [craftworkersguild.org](http://craftworkersguild.org).

- **HOLIDAZE BIZAARE** Alternative craft fair features art, apparel, jewelry, ceramics, stuffies, candles, candy and more by dozens of emerging local artists. Wrong

Brain (55 Third St., Dover). Now through Dec. 30, with fair hours Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. Virtual shopping with curbside pickup will also be available. Call 834-9454 or visit [wrongbrain.net](http://wrongbrain.net).

#### Special events

- **NHAA 80TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY** New Hampshire Art Association hosts a silent art auction fundraiser. Bidding runs through Dec. 11. Visit [nhartassociation.org](http://nhartassociation.org) or call 431-4230.

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# THE ROUNDUP

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

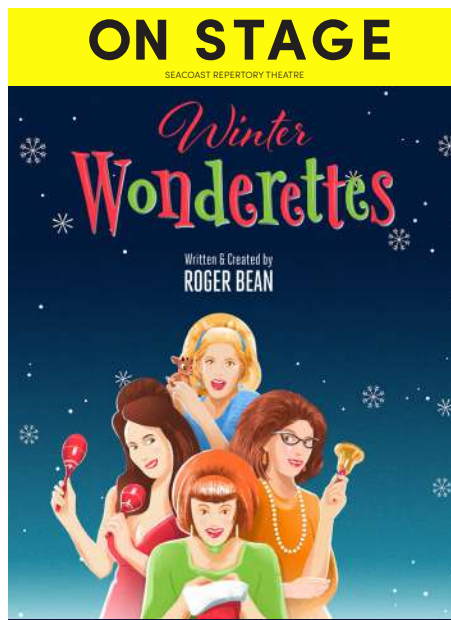
• **Theater suspended ...:** The Palace Theatre in Manchester has reclosed its doors due to “the surge in Covid-19 cases in Manchester and surrounding areas,” according to an announcement on its website. “After careful consideration of current circumstances, the Palace Theatres announce an intermission in our live performances for December and into the New Year,” it said. “We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.” The Palace Theatre’s Holiday Spectacular concert, which was set to run through Dec. 20, and the New Hampshire School of Ballet’s performance of *The Nutcracker* that was scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 26, are among the shows that have been canceled. Visit [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org) or call 668-5588.

The Hatbox Theatre in Concord has also closed for the remainder of the year, stating on its website that it is “going on hiatus until the end of February [and] will reevaluate conditions in January and announce plans to resume operations when they are feasible.” Call 715-2315 or visit [hatboxnh.com](http://hatboxnh.com).

• **... or gone virtual:** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre and The Players’ Ring in Portsmouth both announced that they have suspended live shows and will feature view-at-home content only until further notice. The Winter Wonderettes, presented by The Seacoast Repertory Theatre, will give live streamed performances of iconic ’60s versions of classic holiday tunes from Dec. 10 through Dec. 19, with showtimes on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 per viewer. Call 433-4472 or visit [seacoastrep.org](http://seacoastrep.org).

The Players’ Ring will present its one-man adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, performed by Christopher Savage, virtually, with a rentable video available starting on Friday, Dec. 11. Tickets cost \$24 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors and \$15 for kids under age 12. Visit [playersring.org](http://playersring.org) or call 436-8123.

• **Christmastime at the Village:** Canterbury Shaker Village (228 Shaker Road, Canterbury) will host A Magic Journey through the North Shop Barn from Dec. 11 through Dec. 23, and from Dec. 27 through Dec. 30, daily from 1 to 5 p.m. The North Shop Barn, which has been transformed into a winter wonderland, will feature art vignettes like a Shaker Christmas, a dollhouse, a skating panorama and snowy forest scenes; a Find-the-Elf treasure hunt; hot cocoa and cider; and shopping



The Winter Wonderettes, presented by The Seacoast Repertory Theatre. Courtesy photo.

at the Village Store. Additionally there will be a Christkindlmarkt-inspired artisan market of handcrafted holiday gifts on weekends; food trucks with sweet treats on Saturdays, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, and a live musical performance by Massimo Paparello and his Brass Quartet on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$10 for adults and is free for youth. Visit [shakers.org](http://shakers.org) or call 783-9511.

• **Different kinds of nature art:** The New Hampshire Art Association has three exhibitions going in Concord through Thursday, Dec. 17. “Moments in Nature,” on view at the gallery in the Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (49 S. Main St.) features oil paintings by BJ Eckardt that capture brief encounters with nature. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the Lobby at 2 Pillsbury St., there’s the exhibit “Unseen Light,” featuring infrared photography of New England seaside vistas, pastoral farmland, stark mountain landscapes and other scenery by Mark Giuliucci; and “An Extrapolation of Close Observation,” featuring prints of ponds, meadows and secluded places in nature by Kate Higley, created by painting or rolling inks to a surface which is then printed on paper. Lobby hours are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 7 to 11 a.m. Visit [nhartassociation.org](http://nhartassociation.org) or call 431-4230.

• **Shop antiques:** New Hampshire Antique Co-op (323 Elm St., Milford) has a holiday sale going on now through Jan. 3, with up to 65 percent off prices on vintage ornaments, holiday decor, jewelry, books, fine art, collectibles and more. The shop is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday by appointment, and Christmas Eve from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 673-8499 or visit [nhantiquecoop.com](http://nhantiquecoop.com).

— Angie Sykeny 🍀

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## Creative gifts

Perfect presents for the art-, science- and nature-lovers in your life

By Angie Sykeny  
 asykeny@hippopress.com

Art and craft shops and holiday markets are full of unique gifts for art-lovers, and, for art-makers, art and craft studios sell gift certificates that can be used for all kinds of classes and workshops, many of which have in-person and remote options. You can get your budding musician a gift certificate or package for private lessons in all kinds of instruments at a music school. Performing arts venues offer gift certificates that can be put toward tickets for any show, as well as memberships, which come with all kinds of exclusive benefits for a theater enthusiast. If your gift recipient is more into nature or science, there are gift certificates and memberships for them, too.

### Holiday art and craft markets/exhibits

You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts like jewelry, woodwork, pottery, fiber art, paintings, photography and more at these holiday art and craft markets and special exhibitions.

- The Warner Historical Society has a **virtual holiday shop** online now at warnerhistorical.org/store, with curbside pickup on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Upton Chandler House Museum (10 W. Main St., Warner). The shop features hand-painted holiday ornaments, calendars, mugs and drinking glasses, T-shirts, books, jigsaw puzzles and more, plus a holiday raffle. Call 456-2437 or email info@warnerhistorical.org.

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

- Two Villages Art Society and the Hopkinton Historical Society present "**Home for the Holidays: an Art Show & Sale**" now through Dec. 20 in Contoocook and online. The show will feature all kinds of art, including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, tapestry, woodworking, wearable art, book making and more, created by local artists and artisans. The show will be held in person at the Bates Building (846 Main St.; masks required) on a drop-in and by-appointment basis and virtually at shop.twovillagesart.org. Show hours at the Bates Building are Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org.

- The Seacoast Artist Association presents its holiday exhibit, "**Big Gifts in Small Packages**," now through Dec. 26, at 130 Water St. in Exeter. The exhibit features a variety

of artwork priced under \$100 for gift buying. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Visit seacoastartist.org or call 778-8856.

- Creative Ventures Gallery in Milford presents its annual holiday exhibit, "**Small Works — Big Impact**," virtually now through Dec. 31. The exhibit features small works of art in various media, priced affordably for gift buying. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

- **The Craftworkers' Guild's Holiday Fair** is being held virtually 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. The fair 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. Visit craftworkersguild.org.

- Wrong Brain (55 Third St., Dover) is having its ninth annual "**Holidaze Bizaare**" **alternative craft fair** now through Dec. 30, with fair hours Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. It features art, apparel, jewelry, ceramics, stuffies, candles, candy and more by dozens of emerging local artists. Virtual shopping with curbside pickup is also be. Call 834-9454 or visit wrongbrain.net.

- 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. 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.

- Pop-up holiday shop **Concord Handmade** is open now at 2 Capital Plaza in downtown Concord, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It features handmade gifts by artists from New England and beyond. Visit concordhandmade.com.

### Art and craft shops

Stop by these art and craft shops, which sell handmade items by local artists and craftspeople year round.

- **Currier Museum of Art gift shop** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org, open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- **The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries** (nhcrafts.org):

- **Concord** (36 N. Main St., 228-8171, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

- **Hooksett** (530 W. River Road, 210-5181, open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

- **Nashua** (98 Main St., 595-8233, open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

- **Meredith** (279 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-7920, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.)

- **Manchester Craft Market** (Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, manchestercraftmarket.com, open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.)

- **Spriggs Shoppe** (Twigg's Gallery, 254 King St., Boscawen, 975-0015, twiggsgallery.wordpress.com, open Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.)

- **Studio 550 Art Center** (550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com, open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 3 to 8 p.m.)

- **Wild Little Art Shop** (Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center, 30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-9453, wildsalamander.com, open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Private shopping hours for groups of five or less are available by reservation on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.)

### Art and craft classes/workshops

For a more hands-on art gift, try a gift certificate for an art or DIY craft studio, where the recipient can participate in various session classes, one-day workshops and paint-and-sip events. Some studios also offer online instruction and take-and-make kits.

- **AR Workshop Manchester** (875 Elm St., Manchester, 573-9662, arworkshop.com/manchester) Offers DIY workshops and take-home kits for creating custom wood signs, canvas pillows, centerpiece boxes, canvas tote bags and more.

- **The Canvas Roadshow** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 913-9217, thecanvasroadshow.com) Offers DIY workshops and take-home kits for creating custom wood signs, canvas paintings, sea glass art and more.

- **Creative Ventures Gallery** (411 Nashua St., Milford, 672-2500, creativeventuresfineart.com) Offers various weekly art classes and one-day workshops for all experience levels.

- **Currier Museum of Art, Art Center** (180 Pearl St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) Offers seasonal weekly classes, master classes and one-day workshops for kids and adults in all kinds of media.
- **Kimball Jenkins School of Art** (266



"Sleighbell Studio" at Twigg's Gallery. Courtesy photo.

N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com) Offers weekly classes, master classes and one-day workshops for kids and adults in all kinds of media, starting in 2021.

- **The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries** (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233; 279 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-7920, nhcrafts.org) Offer weekly classes and one-day workshops for a variety of crafts, starting again in 2021.

- **Muse Paintbar** (42 Hanover St., Manchester, 421-6500, musepaintbar.com) Offers paint-and-sip workshops in person as well as take-home kits with instructional videos.

- **Studio 550 Art Center** (550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com) Offers private parties, classes, workshops and camps for all ages and experience levels in pottery, clay, painting, stained glass and more.

- **Time to Clay** (228 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 888-0482, timetoclay.com) Offers in-studio pottery workshops and take-home kits for all ages.

- **The Voice of Clay** (16 Meetinghouse Hill Road, Brookline, 672-2626, voiceofclay.com) Offers in-studio and online pottery classes for all ages and experience levels.

- **You're Fired** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-3473; 133 Loudon Road, No. 101, Concord, 226-3473; 264 N. Broadway, Salem, 894-5456; yourefirednh.com) Offers open studio times and materials for pottery and mosaic projects.

### Music lessons

- **Nashua Community Music School** (5 Pine St. Extension, Nashua, 881-7030, nashuacms.org) Offers in-person and remote private lessons for all ages and experience levels in piano, guitar, ukulele, violin, viola, cello and percussion; music therapy sessions and instrument rentals.

- **Manchester Community Music School** (2291 Elm St., Manchester, 644-4548, mcmusicschool.org) Offers in-person and remote private lessons for all ages and experience levels in woodwind, brass, percussion and string instruments, as well as voice, music theory and music composition.



• **Concord Community Music School** (23 Wall St., Concord, 228-1196, ccmusic-school.org) Offers private lessons, remotely only until further notice, for all ages and experience levels in all instruments and voice, as well as chorus and ensemble opportunities.

## Shows

These performing arts venues have several gift options. You can buy someone tickets to a particular show, or let them choose their own shows with a season package or general gift certificate. If you're looking for a larger gift for someone who frequents the theater, consider a membership package. There are usually different tiers to choose from, with perks like reserved seats, access to pre-sales, discounts on tickets, admission to members-only events and more.

• **Capitol Center for the Arts** (44 S. Main St., and Bank of New Hampshire Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) Features traveling theater shows, dance performances, musical and comedy acts, film screenings and more. The 2021 schedule includes comedian Juston McKinney, Celtic Woman, Queen and Eagles tribute bands, the Capital Jazz Orchestra performing music of Frank Sinatra, *That Golden Girls Show: A Puppet Parody* and more.

• **Hatbox Theatre** (270 Loudon Road, Concord, 715-2315, hatboxnh.com) Features live music, theater, comedy and more. The schedule for 2021 is TBA.

• **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) Features shows by its own professional and youth and teen performing companies as well as visiting theater, music, dance and comedy acts. The schedule for 2021 is TBA.

• **The Music Hall** (Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., and Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org) Features live music, theater, comedy, on-screen events, literary events and more. The 2021 schedule includes the Portsmouth Symphony, comedian Kevin Nealon, *Giraffes Can't Dance - The Musical* and more.

## Science, nature & history

If you're looking for a gift outside of the arts, think about a gift certificate or membership for a science, history or nature center.

• **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org) A museum dedicated to the science, technology, history and culture of aviation, with interactive exhibits and educational programs. Members receive a 10-percent discount at the gift shop, a monthly e-magazine, a quarterly newsletter and invitations to special events.

• **New Hampshire Audubon** (Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045; McLane Audubon Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhandubon.org) A wildlife sanctuary and nature center with live animals, exhibits and educational programs. Members receive discounts on NH



Give the gift of music with a gift card for private lessons at the Concord Community Music School. Courtesy photo.

Audubon camps, programs and Nature Store purchases; a monthly electronic newsletter; invitations to members-only events and more.

• **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org) A museum focused on technology, engineering, mathematics and more with interactive exhibits, demonstrations and educational programs. Members receive priority admission and discounts to special programs; a discount on a child's birthday party; 10 percent off purchases at the gift shop; a members-only newsletter and more, depending on the package.

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com) A museum focused on astronomy and aviation with interactive exhibits, simulations, an observatory, a planetarium and more. Members receive free admission to exhibit halls, Super Stellar Fridays series and regular planetarium shows; an e-newsletter; discounts on workshops and programs; discounts at the gift shop and more, depending on the package.

• **Millyard Museum** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org/millyard-museum) A museum dedicated to Manchester history, particularly the history of the Amoskeag Millyard. Members receive unlimited visits to the museum, free or discounted admission to special programs and events, invitations to members-only events and more, depending on the package. The museum is also selling original, limited edition brass-plated holiday ornaments that celebrate Manchester's history.

• **New Hampshire Historical Society** (30 Park St., Concord, 228-6688, nhhistory.org) Members receive free admission to exhibits and the research library, free or discounted admission to special programs, invitations to members-only events, a subscription to the biannual Historical New Hampshire magazine and more, depending on the package. The museum is also selling bobbleheads of famous figures from New Hampshire history, such as the sled dog Chinook, John Stark, the Old Man of the Mountain and others. 🍌



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE GARDENING GUY

# Pots, edgers and manure

## Holiday gifts for the gardener

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

I love the holiday season: the lights, the carols, the cookies and more. It's a good antidote to the news, and to the gray and chilly weather. Last summer many gardening necessities sold out as so many people were quarantined at home and took to gardening. So I recommend getting presents now, before everything is sold out. Here are some ideas for presents to gardeners.

**Nice pots** are good presents, for growing plants on the deck or just for their sheer beauty. For my birthday this year my wife gave me an urn made by Brattleboro, Vermont, potter Stephen Procter. It is 20 inches tall, a foot wide in the middle and tapering to a six-inch neck. His website, [stephenprocter.com](http://stephenprocter.com), shows mostly huge pots, some six feet tall, but he makes smaller things like mine, too. And your garden center will offer a wide variety of nice pots for growing things, too.

We all need hand tools, and sometimes we lose them. So you can always give a weeder to your loved one. The best of these, in my opinion, is the **CobraHead weeder** with its curved single tine that is great for teasing out roots of grasses and invasive weeds, or for use at planting time to loosen the soil. It's available locally or from [CobraHead.com](http://CobraHead.com) for about \$28 including shipping, and made in America.

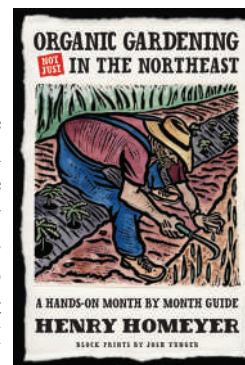
Last summer was dry, so watering devices and accessories were hard to buy locally much of the time. One item that is a bit of luxury, for me, is a **three-way or four-way splitter** for the hose. Look for a good, heavy-duty metal one at your local garden center. Why four-way? One for each hose. No more disconnecting and reconnecting hoses. Price? Around \$30. Give a five- or six-foot hose to go with it, to attach to the spigot and the splitter. Under \$10.

Another watering device is a **watering wand**. Dramm is the best because their wands deliver a lot of water in a gentle fashion. I like a 30-inch wand with a built in on-off controller. Around \$25.

I like adding height to the garden, and an easy way to do this is with Gardener's Supply's "**Essex Round Trellis**." It comes in five-foot and seven-foot heights, and I selected the taller one to grow my morning glories next year. Metal, easy to assemble, \$60 or \$80. It will look good in the garden all winter, too.

Also from Gardener's Supply I got some **metal edging**. It comes in a variety of lengths and assembles and installs easily; it's sold as 12- to 24-foot kits in a variety of metals and finishes for \$43 to \$80. These bend nicely and create a finished look for a flower bed.

I love gardening books. I realize that the web



Courtesy photo

has a lot of information, but nothing beats a book in my hands as I settle in on a cold and snowy day.

Norwich, Vermont, garden designer Bill Noble came out with a beautifully illustrated book this year, *Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden* (Timber Press, \$35). It is a lovely description of his gardens – and the thought processes that went along with doing this over a long period of time.

I have a few cases of my last book, *Organic Gardening (not*

*just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide* (Bunker Hill Publishing, 2015) collecting dust. It came out at \$17.50 in paperback, but I am offering it now at \$15 including shipping. It's a collection of my best articles arranged by month. Send me a check at P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

Storey Publications ([storey.com](http://storey.com)) is one of my favorite publishers for garden books, not only because their books are practical and well-written, but because many are in paperback and very affordable. Their *Vegetable Gardener's Bible* by Ed Smith (\$24.95 in paper) is a classic and a must-have even for experienced gardeners.

New to me this year are these, all looking interesting. Best of all is a great book on soil by Dianne Miessler, *Grow Your Soil: Harness the Power of the Soil Food Web to Create Your Best Garden Ever*. It explains very well how soils work, what soil test results mean, and how to correct deficiencies. You don't need to be a scientist to read this one (\$16.95 in paperback).

*The Gardener's Weed Book and The Gardener's Bug Book*, both by Barbara Pleasant (\$14.95 each) are very useful. No color illustrations, but the drawings are fine. It's written for organic gardeners.

*Saving Container Plants* by Alice and Brian McGowan is a useful book for all of us in New England that want to winter over tender perennials that we have grown in pots on the deck all summer, but that can't survive the winter outdoors. A stocking stuffer at \$9.95 in paperback.

Lastly, give your loved one a pile of ... **manure**. Farmers and garden centers sell hot-composted or aged manure that is great for the garden. It will improve the soil and nurture soil organisms. Three yards is a small dump truck load, or you can go get a load in a pickup truck.

All my best to you, my readers, in this holiday season. Don't be naughty, and Santa may bring you what you want.

You may reach Henry at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net) or at P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🍌



## KIDDIE

— POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

## Let there be lights

The **Gift of Lights** is open now through Jan. 3 at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway (1122 Route 106 North, Loudon). The drive-thru Christmas light park spans 2.5 miles and features 80 holiday scenes and 520 light displays. It's open Sunday through Thursday from 4:30 to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 4:30 to 10 p.m. Purchase tickets online or at the gate. The cost is \$25 per car. Visit [nhms.com/events/gift-of-lights](http://nhms.com/events/gift-of-lights).

The **Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights** will run from Dec. 11 through Dec. 27. A list of addresses will soon be released for the public to visit holiday light displays at homes throughout Amherst, Antrim, Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, Merrimack, Milford, Peterborough and Rindge. Visit [merrimackparksandrec.org/holiday-happenings](http://merrimackparksandrec.org/holiday-happenings) or call 882-1046.

## Fun with gingerbread

The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry) is hosting a **parent-child gingerbread house decorating workshops** on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 20, from 4 to 5 p.m. or from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adults and kids will work together with royal icing and all types of colorful treats and edible decorations to design their own houses. The cost is \$45 per team and registration is required. Visit [culinary-playground.com](http://culinary-playground.com).

The Amherst Town Library is holding two **virtual family gingerbread house workshops** via Zoom on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The library will provide a take-home kit for you to make graham cracker gingerbread houses at home. Registration is required, as space is limited. Visit [amherstlibrary.org](http://amherstlibrary.org).

## TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,  
I took some pictures of a vase, which I have owned for a very long time, in hopes it may be of some interest to you. I've long wondered if this mysterious vase, which I would have to imagine was obtained ... in the late 19th century or early 20th century, was of any value. My own limited research has yielded little but I thought it may be of interest to you.



Phil  
ity. So if you look at your wooden vase and judge it by the detailing of the figures (face, hands, etc.) and surrounding items, I think you can figure out a value from there.

I would say your vase would be in the range of under \$100 depending on the size, and with no damage. I think its being wood makes it less common than ceramic ware.

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](http://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](mailto:footwdw@aol.com), or call her at 391-6550 or 624-8668.

Dear Phil,  
It's tough to obtain correct information on Asian items without a signature. Even though you do have part of the history it still can be difficult.

Asian items like your vase have been brought over for many years. What you want to look for is the detailing, the rareness, signatures, etc. Most pieces are eye-pleasing but not of extreme qual-

## Meet Santa

Santa Claus will arrive by helicopter at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 11 a.m., where he'll greet families and take gift requests until 1 p.m. The outdoor event is free and open to the public. Hot chocolate will also be provided courtesy of the Airport Diner in Manchester. Visit [aviationmuseumofnh.org](http://aviationmuseumofnh.org).

## Get a golden ticket

Chunky's Cinema & Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499) will host multiple **Polar Express golden ticket screenings** on Saturday, Dec. 12, and Sunday, Dec. 13. Showtimes vary depending on the location, but there are several throughout the morning, afternoon and evening at each theater. Kids will be given a special "golden ticket" to hole-punch prior to entering the theater. Visit [chunkys.com](http://chunkys.com).

## Christmas celebrations

Enjoy **Christmas at the Farm**, reimagined, at Forgotten Farm (23 Goffstown Road, Hooksett). Families can visit from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, for cookies, cocoa, visits with the farm animals and a free take-home craft. Visit [forgottenfarm.weebly.com](http://forgottenfarm.weebly.com).

**Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth** is an ongoing citywide celebration of the holidays featuring a number of shows at The Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org), 436-2400); shopping in Market Square; Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars, happening weekends from Dec. 11 through Dec. 20 at Strawberry Banke Museum (14 Hancock St., 433-1100, [strawberrybanke.org](http://strawberrybanke.org)); Labrie Family Skate at Strawberry Banke's Puddle Dock Pond; the 30th annual Gingerbread House Contest and Exhibit at the Portsmouth Historical Society (10 Middle St., 436-8433, [portsmouthhistory.org](http://portsmouthhistory.org)) now through Dec. 22, and more throughout the holiday season. Visit [vintagechristmasnh.org](http://vintagechristmasnh.org).

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# Should I trust oil level light?



*Dear Car Talk:*  
My 2019 Alfa, with a 2-liter engine, doesn't have a dipstick to check the oil level. Can I trust the oil level light on the dash? Thank you. — Luke

By Ray Magliozzi

You don't have much choice, Luke. Unless you have a gastroenterologist in the family who doesn't mind getting his colonoscope oily. I'm a bit old-fashioned, and I like having a dipstick, too. But it's going the way of the roll-down window.

Most people are only too happy to never have to open the hood of their car, so carmakers are responding accordingly. In fact, if you do open the hood now just to look at your engine, you can't even see it anymore. It's covered by a big piece of plastic called the "engine cover." They might as well emboss it with "Nothing to see here, folks!"

The oil level on your car, Luke, and on most new cars these days, is measured electronically, with a sensor inside the crank case. And it is reliable. Put it this way: If you ran out of oil in the next few years and didn't know it, Alfa would owe

you a very expensive engine. So THEY trust the sensor enough to protect their financial interests.

If the level gets too low, the sensor triggers an "oil level" light on your dashboard and tells you to add a quart. They usually build in sufficient leeway so that when the light comes on, it's not a dire emergency.

Unless it's pouring out the bottom of the engine (in which case other warning lights will soon join that oil level light), you have time to mosey to a gas station or a Walmart and buy a quart of oil. And on some cars, including your Alfa, Luke, you can even perform an oil level test on your touch screen. And you don't even have to be able to read Italian.

If you burrow into your screen menus, you'll find one that says "Car Status." In there, you'll see an option for "Oil Level." Park the car on a level surface, follow the prompts, wait a couple of minutes while the sensor reads your oil level, and — Che Bellezza! — you'll see a graphic representation of your dipstick on the screen. And if you miss the part of the experience where you burn the tips of your fingers touching the hot dipstick, you can always touch the car's cigarette lighter.

*Dear Car Talk:*

*What moves the brake pads away from the brake rotor when you remove your foot from the brake pedal? — Jaime*

Not much, Jaime.

First of all, when brakes are working properly, the difference between the brake pads when they're "away" from the disc rotor and when they're touching the disc rotor is a few thousandths of an inch. That's thinner than a Kate Moss (that's the mechanical engineering term, I think). So the pads don't have to move much either way.

When you step on the brake pedal, hydraulic fluid applies hundreds of pounds of pressure to the brake caliper pistons. Then, each piston moves the pads on that particular wheel toward the disc rotor. There's a seal around each caliper piston that keeps the fluid from leaking out. And that seal has a sort of physical memory, and when you stop applying pressure, the seal naturally wants to go back to its original shape — and take the caliper piston a few thousandths of an inch with it.

I suspect that the vibrations involved — going over bumps, engine vibrations, any slight warp in the disc rotor — also

contribute to pushing the pads back from the rotors. And as I say, they don't have to go far. In fact, if they were more than a few thousandths of an inch away from the disc rotors, when you stepped on the brake pedal, it would sink to the floor.

That's why whenever we do brake work on the car, after we put everything back together, we have to return the calipers to their proper position, just a few whiskers away from the rotors.

And we do that by getting in the car and stepping on the brake pedal. The first time we step on it after a brake job, the pedal goes to the floor, but the fluid pushes the piston a little closer to the rotors. When we step again, the pedal goes maybe 80 percent of the way to the floor, and the pads get closer. Eventually, after five or six pumps, the pads make contact, and that's when we know it's OK to give the car back to the customer.

Before we figured that out, we lost a couple of garage doors and a soda machine as customers were driving out of the shop after brake jobs.

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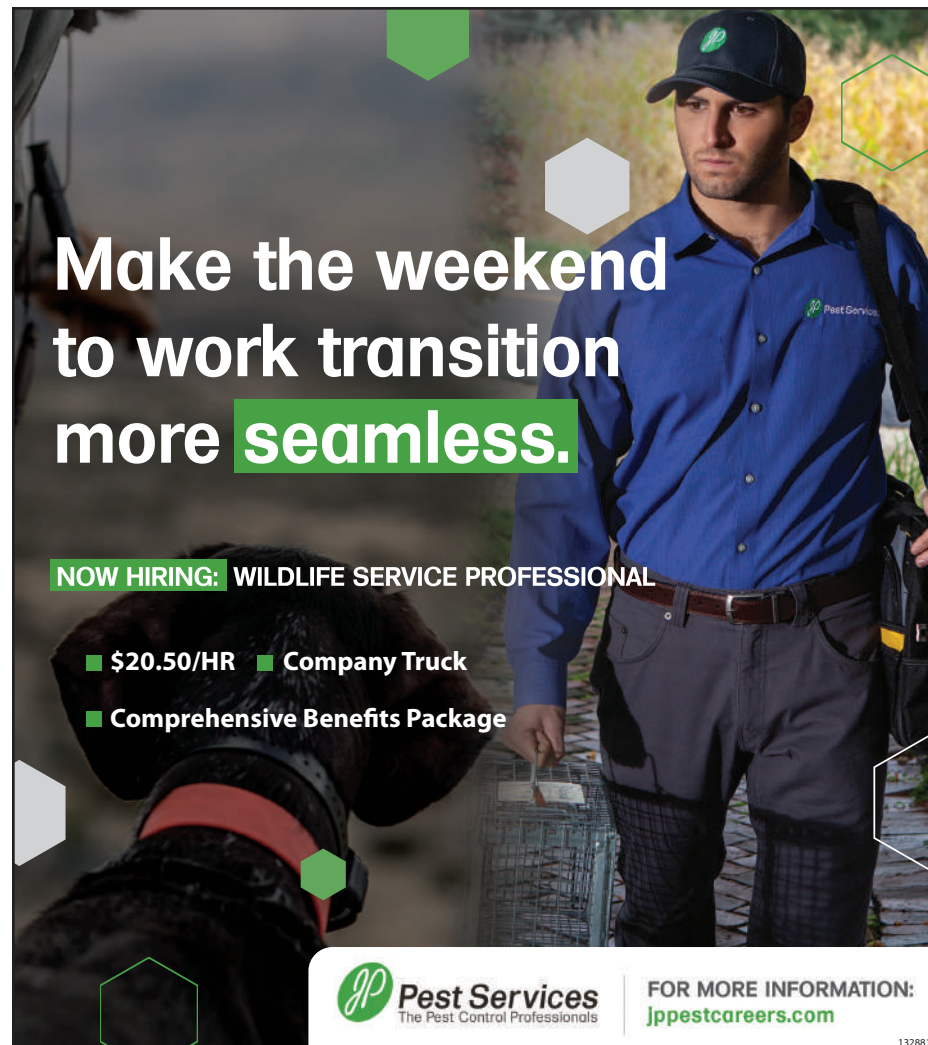
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By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

• **Easy as pie:** Join chef and cooking instructor Liz Barbour of The Creative Feast in Hollis for **Demystify the Pie**, a hands-on virtual class she'll be holding via Zoom on Monday, Dec. 14, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. During the class, Barbour will walk participants through how to prepare your own pie dough and apple pie filling. While that's baking in the oven, Barbour will demonstrate how to prepare a fruit galette you can make on your own. The cost to pre-register is \$25; after registering, participants will receive equipment and ingredient lists needed for the class. Visit [thecreativefeast.com](http://thecreativefeast.com).

• **Go fish:** Get your tickets now for a **Feast of the Seven Fishes** dinner at the Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford) on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m. In addition to a chef-attended pasta station and an Italian dessert station, the dinner will feature several house fish dishes, like haddock puttanesca with roasted Yukon potatoes; oysters on the half shell with cocktail sauce, citrus mignonette, horseradish and lemon; grilled calamari salad with pickled vegetables, radicchio and arugula; and lobster-and crab-stuffed sole with shaved fennel salad and blood orange butter. Tickets are \$85 per person and reservations are required (dinner is 21+ only and tables are limited to a maximum of six guests each). Visit [bedfordvillageinn.com](http://bedfordvillageinn.com).

• **Tea and a show:** LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst) will host a **Nutcracker ballet family tea** event on Sunday, Dec. 13, with two sessions available, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Each will feature hot tea and a menu of sandwiches and sweet treats, as well as choreographed reenactments from Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater performers. Tickets are sold by tables of six only, priced at \$25 per person. Also available for purchase will be *Nutcracker*-inspired cocktails for adults and themed non-alcoholic beverages for kids. Visit [labellewineryevents.com](http://labellewineryevents.com).

• **Procrasti(baking):** Now through Christmas, Barrington baker and author **Erin Gardner** is running the "Procrastibakers Super Snuggly Socially Isolated Holiday Baking Club," a community gathered around her Instagram account @erin.bakes, according to a press release. Gardner is the author of *Procrastibaking: 100 Recipes for Getting Nothing Done in the Most Delicious Way Possible*, which was released in March and features creative low-stress ways to approach a variety of recipes. Every Wednesday, Gardner posts reduced-size recipes from her book and other pandemic isolation-friendly baking ideas. Users who post pictures of their baked goods with the hashtag #procrastibakersclub will be automatically entered to win weekly book giveaways and other prizes, according to the release. Visit [erinbakes.com](http://erinbakes.com).

# FOOD

## Gifts for foodies

Delicious gift ideas this holiday season

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Looking for some gift-giving ideas for the foodie in your life? Local shops have all kinds of treats and tools that would make great gifts, while many local eateries are offering promotions on gift cards.

### Bombs away

Scott Watson of **Loon Chocolate** in Manchester had never made a "cocoa bomb" before the beginning of November — now he's making about 1,000 of them per week and can barely keep them in stock for each of his wholesale accounts. A trend that went viral on TikTok back in October, cocoa bombs are small hollow balls of chocolate filled with marshmallows, flavored mixes or other ingredients that you place in any type of heat-safe mug or container. Pouring hot milk or water over the bomb will cause it to "explode" with flavor inside the mug.

"The heat penetrates through the hollow bomb ... and as it slowly fills up, the bomb begins to melt from the inside out and you have one of the most decadent cups of hot chocolate you've ever tasted," Watson said. "It's basically some of the freshest chocolate melted in a cup that's single-served. It's both interactive and tastes amazing."

Watson started making them to sell at the **Manchester Craft Market** in the Mall of New Hampshire and has since expanded to feature them at other local businesses, like **Cafe la Reine** on Elm Street in Manchester and **The Country Store** at the Tilton Outlets. Loon Chocolate's cocoa bombs come in packages of four — each one is made with 70 percent dark chocolate, filled with eight vegan marshmallows and coated with the company's house-made cocoa mix.

"We thought [four] was a nice gift size that would work for us, for a family to share them on a special evening during the holidays," Watson said. "They've taken off very quickly. Our wholesale



Cocoa bombs from Culture in Milford. Courtesy photo.

accounts have received an incredible demand from their customers for them and we've been running out of chocolate as fast as we can make it."

In Milford, Emilee Viaud of **Culture** also started making cocoa bombs of her own less than two months ago. She now offers several flavors, including milk, white or dark chocolate, but also cookies and cream, peppermint bark, peanut butter, gingerbread and salted caramel.

"I actually didn't even know what they were until my mother-in-law mentioned them to me," Viaud said. "I started making a few, and all of a sudden I had about 100 orders for them within one day. So that made me say, 'OK, this is definitely something that people want.'"

You can find cocoa bombs for sale at Culture or at the Manchester Craft Market in tin containers of four, as part of a mug set, or inside of a clear ornament you can put on your tree. Viaud is also offering shipping through her personal business, **Emilee's Sweet Treats** (find her on Facebook @emileessweettreats).

**Presto Craft Kitchen** in Manchester also offers multiple flavors of cocoa bombs, from salted caramel and peanut butter cup to Almond Joy, peppermint and cookies and cream. They'll be available through about March, owner and chef Joe Grella said.

### More local eats

Even though most craft fairs, expos and winter farmers markets across New Hampshire have been cancelled or postponed or have turned virtual, there are still opportunities to support local businesses by purchasing products in-store or online.

Antrim's **Deer Meadow Homestead**, for instance, features a line of wine, beer and coffee jellies, in addition to granolas and pancake, biscuit or beer bread mixes, according to owner Grace Rowehl. Around the holidays she'll have specialty flavors like a hot pepper jelly and cranberry and strawberry jam with orange zest. You can find most of her products at the Manchester Craft Market as well as the Mont Vernon General Store and at Locally Handmade, a store that's inside both the Mall at Rockingham Park in Salem and the Mall at Fox Run in Newington.

"People always come up with their own ideas to use my jellies," Rowehl said. "The wine jellies go great on cheese boards. Some people use them for glazes when they're cooking chicken or fish, or they put them in salads or sandwiches. ... I myself like to spread some of the coffee jelly on a nice hearty piece of toasted pumpkinseed sourdough bread."

In Concord, **Local Baskit** has partnered with the Exeter-based **Cherry Bomb Cookie Co.** over the last couple of years to offer scratch-made Christmas cookie platters. This year, there are also paint-your-own cookie kits and custom charcuterie board kits available for ordering.

**LaBelle Winery** of Amherst is once again rolling out its holiday catering packages, which include home cocktail kits for options like white or red sangria, mulled apple wine and more.



## HOLIDAY EATS

Looking for holiday eats — from baked goods to entrees — you don't have to make yourself? Head to [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com) starting Thursday, Dec. 10, to see our annual list of places offering takeout for your Christmas celebrations as well as places with special dining options for Christmas, Christmas Eve and other seasonal meals. Thanks to our members and contributors this listing will be available for free at [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com).



Salem's **Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery** is offering its own "magical meals" gift set, which can be purchased online and delivered directly to your recipient. The set comes with two bottles of rosemary garlic and oregano olive oils, a bag of garlic and Italian herb risotto, a cookie cutter, an apron and a signed copy of owner Dawn Hunt's recently released cookbook.

### For the at-home cook

Local cooks say kitchen tools and utensils can make good gifts. Chef Keith Sarasin of **The Farmer's Dinner** said Wusthof, Miyabi and Shun are all great options for a knife set. For those who already have their own set of knives that they love, a knife sharpener or a bamboo cutting board could also work.

Susan Nye of **Around the Table**, a New Hampshire-based recipe blog, said one of her favorite kitchen tools to give as a gift is a mini food processor from either Cuisinart or KitchenAid.

"I use it all the time for things like salad dressings, salsas, tapenades, that type of thing," Nye said. "It also has an attachment for chopping, so I use that to chop things like garlic or nuts."

Vitamix-brand blenders, Sarasin said, are great tools if you're making bisques. He also has an Instant Pot multicooker he uses all the time, which can cook anything from rice to slow-cooked meats. They also have air frying attachments.

Silicone baking mats are a favorite of Casie Ulliani of **Sweet 23 Confections & Treats**, a homestead business based in Derry — she specializes in French macarons and prefers the silicone mats over parchment paper for its reusability and uniformity in baking. Silpat and Fat Daddio's are her two favorite brands.

When it comes to saving and storing food, Sarasin said reusable meal prep containers have started becoming popular. There are also a variety of vacuum sealers on the market. 🍷

### Explosive flavors

Here are some more local bakers and chocolatiers offering their own cocoa bombs available to order this holiday season.

- **Ashley's Eats & Sweets** (ashleys.eats.and.sweets@gmail.com, find them on Facebook) is a homestead baking business based in Raymond, currently offering multiple flavors of its own cocoa bombs, like milk or dark chocolate with marshmallow or peppermint.

- **Bearded Baking Co.** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, beardedbaking.com) has a limited supply of homemade hot chocolate bombs, with flavors that include S'mores, peppermint, Funfetti and cookies and cream.

- **Benson's Bakery & Cafe** (203 Central St., Hudson, 718-8683, bensonsbakeryandcafe.com) offers multiple flavors of homemade cocoa bombs, like peppermint, Snickers, peanut butter and maple cinnamon. Custom orders are also available.

- **Bite Me Kupcakez** (4 Mound Court, Merrimack, 674-4459, bitemekupcakez.com) offers milk or white chocolate cocoa bombs that are dairy-free.

- **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591; 832 Elm St., 218-3885; granitestatecandyshoppe.com) offers multiple flavors of homemade cocoa bombs, including salted coffee, candy cane, and cocoa trio, or a combination of milk, white and dark chocolates.

- **Hannah's Bakery and Cafe** (401 Main St., Salem, 898-2233, hannahsbakery.com) offers multiple flavors of homemade cocoa bombs, including classic marshmallow, cinnamon, peppermint and mocha. Pre-ordering by phone is available.

- **La Cascade du Chocolat** (109 Water St., Exeter, 777-5177; 214 State St., Portsmouth; lacascadeduchocolat.com) offers



Dark chocolate cocoa bombs from Loon Chocolate in Manchester. Courtesy photo.

a hot cocoa dreidel, or a family-sized hot cocoa bomb made from 68 percent single origin dark chocolate. One dreidel makes between four and six cups of hot cocoa when adding hot water or milk.

- **Sugar and Slice NH** (find them on Facebook @sugarandslicenh) is a homestead baking business based in Milford, currently offering milk chocolate or peppermint chocolate cocoa bombs.

- **Sweet 23 Confections & Treats** (find them on Facebook and Instagram @sweet23confections) is a homestead baking business based in Derry, currently offering milk or dark chocolate cocoa bombs, with or without peppermint.

- **The Wicked Sweet Sugar Boutique** (580 Lafayette Road, Suite 1, Hampton, 601-7204, thewssugarboutique.com) offers multiple flavors of hot chocolate bombs available to order, like milk, white or dark chocolate, cookies and cream and toasted coconut.

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## FOOD

# Island indulgences

Wild Orchid Bakery to open in Manchester



Shelly-Anne Storer. Courtesy photo.



Cake by Shelly-Anne Storer. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Trinidad and Tobago native Shelly-Anne Storer was a cake decorator at Triolo's Bakery in Bedford up until its permanent closure in late May. In the months that followed, the self-taught baker and cake designer kept a blog on Instagram to stay busy and eventually began working toward starting her own business.

Wild Orchid Bakery, on track to open in the coming weeks in Manchester near the Bedford town line, can best be described as an Island-style bakery and tea boutique. That's because, according to Storer, many of the sweet and savory offerings are inspired by flavors of her homeland. The bakery's name, she said, even comes from a connection she made between Trinidad and New Hampshire — both feature an abundance of wildflowers.

"I wanted to open an Island-style bakery because I know that there is a cluster of Islanders here ... but they're lacking this entity in New Hampshire," said Storer, who has lived in the United States since late 2013. "I have to go to Boston if I'm craving anything Trinidad-oriented, just to get those local products that I miss from home."

Offerings you can expect at the bakery when it opens include Trinidadian coconut rolls; callaloo, or a boiled dish with spinach, garlic, coconut milk, pumpkin and okra; and saltfish buljol, or a salad dish of chopped fish, tomatoes and other veggies. Seasonal items, like Tobago curry crab and dumplings; and shark and bake, a popular Trinidadian street food, will follow suit.

In addition to cooking some of her favorite dishes she grew up with, Storer will have a regular menu of pastries and baked goods, like cupcakes, cookies, cheesecakes, brownies, scones, sticky buns, pies, tarts, eclairs and sweet breads. She also makes

custom cakes and has her own line of gourmet doughnuts, from apple pie and lemon meringue to chocolate chip Oreo flavors.

Many of her doughnuts are regularly stocked at Hometown Coffee Roasters' coffee bar on Old Granite Street in Manchester, and Storer will likewise partner with owner Mike Brown to feature his coffee at the bakery. Brown has even provided her with a custom espresso machine and will train her staff on how to use his coffee blends.

"It works out perfectly for us," she said. "You can come here or you can go to Hometown [Coffee Roasters] and get my doughnuts and his coffee at both places. It's like a synergy that we have going for Manchester, which I'm happy to support."

On a table in the center of the bakery Storer plans to feature all types of locally made products for sale through partnerships with other area businesses. The bakery will likely close around 4 p.m. each day with the exception of Saturdays, when she hopes to close a few hours early and utilize the space for public events and functions. Within six months, she plans to acquire a liquor license, so mimosas, Island-style daiquiris, sangrias and other cocktails can be served. 🍷

### Wild Orchid Bakery

*An opening date is expected in the coming weeks. Visit their website, call or follow them on social media for updates.*

**Where:** 484 S. Main St., Manchester  
**Anticipated hours:** 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. most days (The bakery will be closed on Sundays and Mondays and will likely close a few hours early on Saturdays to accommodate private functions)

**More info:** Visit [wildorchidbakery.com](http://wildorchidbakery.com), find them on Facebook and Instagram @wildorchidbakery or call 935-7338

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# IN THE KITCHEN

WITH **THERESA ZWART**



Theresa Zwart of Derry is the owner of 603 Charcuterie (603charcuterie.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram), a new business specializing in customizable charcuterie to-go platters, featuring a variety of cheeses, meats, crackers, jams and other items. She currently operates on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as well as most holidays, accepting orders via phone, email or social media messages. Charcuterie platters are available in several sizes. 603 Charcuterie is currently offering a special antipasto charcuterie wreath for the holidays.

**What is your must-have kitchen item?**

The only utensil I use — a knife!

**What would you have for your last meal?**

Fancy cheeses. Manchego is my favorite. It's a very dry cheese, similar to Parmesan.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**

Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse [in Manchester]. I love all of the yummy meat and fish choices brought around to you by the waiters. Probably why I love charcuterie boards so much.

**What celebrity would you like to see ordering a charcuterie platter from you?**

Jennifer Lawrence. I feel like she would aggressively and wholeheartedly love these cheeses and meats.

**What is your personal favorite type of platter you've made for someone since starting this business?**

My first one. I brought it in as a gift for my co-workers ... and they all encouraged me to sell these. ... It was basically similar to my extra-large order, so it had seven different cheeses, five different meats and a couple of different jams. It was a pretty big variety.

**What's the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?**

I'm going with breweries. They're popping up all over the place and almost everyone I know of goes to them. I personally love them as well.

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

Anything on the grill! Steak tips, turkey tips, any vegetable, chicken, pizza, all of it.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

**Caramelized onion and fig jam baked brie**

From the kitchen of Theresa Zwart of 603 Charcuterie (603charcuterie.com)

- 1 wheel of brie cheese (4 to 5 inches in diameter)
- ½ large sweet yellow onion
- 1 tablespoon light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons fig jam
- 1 container/tube store-bought puff pastry
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 egg
- Choice of dipping items (such as apple slices, crackers or baguettes)

Slice onion, then heat in a skillet on medium-high heat with olive oil. After five minutes, turn on

low to medium heat, then add brown sugar, salt and pepper. Keep stirring occasionally for 15 to 20 minutes, until onions are nice and caramelized. Preheat the oven at 400 degrees. Roll pastry dough out with the flour, big enough to cover the whole wheel of brie. Place brie in the center of the dough. Top with fig jam and caramelized onions. Wrap the dough all the way on top of the brie, overlapping the edges of dough for full coverage. Paint an egg wash on the outside of the dough. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, until the dough is golden brown. Let it sit for 15 minutes and serve with dipping choices.



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FOOD



## TRY THIS AT HOME

### Mini cheesecakes

If I say cheesecake, your first thought is probably a sweet dessert topped with strawberries or hot fudge. Today I want to have you think about cheesecake as a savory dish.

Take a moment, and think about what makes cheesecake so enjoyable. Is it the creamy consistency? Or perhaps it is the rich indulgence of the dish? Maybe it's the fact that it usually is served for a special occasion.

Do all of those great reasons have to wait until dessert? Absolutely not! Why not have an appetizer that is creamy and indulgent and makes the occasion feel special, even if it's watching TV in your pajamas at home on a Friday night?

Although cheesecake may seem daunting, in this mini version it's almost foolproof. Follow the directions and you'll have a delicious appetizer with about 30 minutes of work (and a few hours of waiting).

What's nice about these savory mini cheesecakes is that you can use an assortment of toppings. While testing this recipe, I enjoyed tomato jam on mine. My husband opted for an Italian olive relish. You also could use hot pep-



per jam, salsa or chutney. If you start thinking about all of the salsa and chutney options available, your choices are almost limitless.

Make a batch, and discover why cheesecake needs to be on your appetizer menu.

*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](http://thinktasty.com) to find more of her recipes.*

#### Savory Mini Cheesecakes

Makes 12

- 1 1/2 cups butter cracker crumbs
- 6 tablespoons melted butter
- 8 ounces cream cheese, room temperature\*
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- Pinch salt

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.  
Grease the sides and bottoms of a muffin pan, or place a cupcake liner in each cup.  
Combine cracker crumbs and butter in a small mixing bowl, mixing well.  
Divide evenly among 12 muffin cups.  
Press firmly into bottom.  
Bake for 5 minutes.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine cream cheese, ricotta, Parmesan, egg and salt.  
Using paddle attachment, mix on speed 4 for 2 minutes, scraping down sides occasionally.  
Remove muffin pan from oven, and allow to cool for 5 minutes.  
Reduce oven to 300 degrees.  
Divide cheesecake mixture evenly among the muffin cups.  
Bake for 18 minutes. Edges should be firm, and middle should jiggle slightly.  
Cool on counter for 30 minutes.  
Cover, and refrigerate for at least 4 hours.  
Serve with tomato jam, cranberry sauce or a savory chutney.  
\*You can use whole or low-fat cream cheese.



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# DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

## The Blue Train

Shortly after the end of the First World War, it became fashionable for wealthy British to spend at least part of their winter in Southern France. Their money went further there and the Riviera had been spared the worst of the destruction during the War. They could see and be seen by their peers, while sitting in the sunshine and pretending to be bored by their privilege.

This was so common that a train service developed to pick the Smart Set up in Calais, on the other side of the English Channel, then take them, via Paris, to different stops along the Mediterranean. Because the sleeper cars were painted blue, this train became known as The Blue Train.

One interesting aspect of this was that upper-class British adventurers started challenging each other to race the Blue Train across France in their cars. For a brief period of time this became a standing challenge, like swimming the Channel, or shooting leopards — a chance to show off for their peers and look good doing it. Because, of course, the other members of their social circle would be on the Blue Train itself.

“I say,” one of the passengers might say, pointing at a cloud of dust in the distance, “do you think that is Waldo and Reggie?”

“I believe it is! Oh, jolly good; we must drink a toast to them! Waiter!”

Which, theoretically, is where we get The Blue Train Cocktail.

If you go searching for a recipe for a Blue Train, you will find dozens, which vary wildly in their ingredients and methodology, but the oldest ones are extremely simple:

- Three parts brandy
- One part pineapple juice (Pineapple juice? Where did *that* come from?)
- An unspecified amount of Champagne

I like the romance of this drink and such a simple formula seemed extremely flexible, so I decided to try various riffs on it. Instead of Champagne, I substituted prosecco — because what am I, fancy? — and several different types of brandy:

- Several sources suggested using apricot brandy and that seemed promising. As it turns out, not so much.
- Ginger brandy was even worse.
- Then I decided to return to the fruit theme and made a batch with blackberry brandy. Please, for the sake of everything that is good and wholesome, do not do this.

After a great deal of experimentation and heartache, I was able to fine-tune this recipe to its ideal proportions:

- Three parts brandy
- One part pineapple juice
- An unspecified amount of Champagne

(1) Shake the brandy and pineapple juice over ice.

(2) Strain into glasses

(3) Top with Champagne

This is not a drink that is meant to be sweet. If you use prosecco and a sweet brandy, it ends up tasting like cider, which is fine, but then, why not just drink cider? This drink calls for a drier, more bracing, more refined set of ingredients. I am a big proponent of using bottom-shelf alcohols; when you are making cocktails with strong-flavored ingredients, the subtler nuances of more serious, expensive labels can easily get overwhelmed and covered up.

Not in this case. If you’ve got good brandy, self-respecting brandy, this is a good time to break it out. The same with the Champagne. I’m not saying to buy the *best* Champagne, but this *is* a good opportunity to use a dry Champagne that



A Blue Train. Photo by John Fladd.

isn’t afraid to look at itself in the mirror. This is not a drink that was developed by people who cut corners.

Serve this with something salty, like caviar.

Or Cheez-Its.

*John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer, a father, writer and cocktail enthusiast, living in New Hampshire.*

### Cocktail-inspired gift suggestions

- Truly excellent cocktail cherries — Bada Bing Cherries

from Stonewall Kitchen (\$7.95 for 13.5 oz., or \$34.95 from 72 oz., if you’re really serious) A good cocktail cherry can save a cocktail. A good cocktail cherry can bring a moment of sunshine and contentment in a gray and sullen world. These are very good cocktail cherries. They are rich and deeply flavored, with the slightest hint of muskiness, like a half-heard whisper. And they fit in a stocking.

- A proper kitchen scale — KUBEI Upgraded Lager Size Digital Food Scale (\$23.99) Like many people over the past several months, I got sucked into the fraught world of sourdough bread. In theory it’s pretty simple. There are few ingredients. Peasants have been making it for centuries. In the trenches, though, sourdough is a cruel mistress who will toy with your emotions and leave you a spent, whimpering husk.

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**DRINK**

**Mulled wine by the fire**

Looking for a winter drink? Warm up with spices



Courtesy photos



By Fred Matuszewski  
[food@hippopress.com](mailto:food@hippopress.com)

The days are getting shorter and the nights cooler. The holiday season is upon us and the first snow has arrived. Wish to gather with friends? One way to gather with another couple or two is in your driveway or back yard around the firepit sipping on mulled wine.

Hot spiced wine, or mulled wine, has been around forever, it seems. Depending on its cultural origins, it may be known as glühwein, vino caliente, glögg, vin brulé, bisschopswijn, vin chaud, candola, vinho quente, or by other monikers. Mulled wine exists in just about every European culture and the recipes for making it appear to be limitless. In England mulled wine is known as Wassail, a name whose origins are Anglo Saxon. Like Christmas, this hot punch transformed itself from pagan rites to revolve around the coldest, darkest nights of the year. In its earliest form it was a drink made from mulled ale, curdled cream, roasted apples, eggs, cloves, ginger, nutmeg and sugar. It was served from huge bowls on New Year's Eve and Twelfth Night (Jan. 6). This warm drink took on a significant cultural identity as through the centuries it was used to toast the holidays.

Hot mulled wine can be a simple concoction prepared in a slow cooker or over the flames of that fire pit. In its simplest forms the ingredients consist of a bottle of robust red wine, an orange (or oranges) sliced into rounds, a half dozen whole cloves, a couple of cinnamon sticks, some star anise, honey to taste, and if you want, a measure of brandy. It takes literally five minutes to make and is scalable from two servings to enough for a large holiday gathering (for next year).

For the wine, I selected **Petite Petit by Michael David** (originally priced at \$19.99, on sale at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$12.95). This wine is 85 percent petite sirah and 15 percent petit verdot. It is large and fruity with aromas of dark fruit, raspberry and plum. To the taste the black cherry "jammy" flavor comes through with some oak on the edges. This wine is perfect to use as a base for

this concoction, as it will hold up well with the additions of fruit and spices. It is well-stocked throughout the state, and the price is so attractive! The petite sirah produces a deep-colored, robust, full-bodied peppery wine, with some tannins, that ages well. The petit verdot, used in blending the famous Bordeaux wines, has a dry, full-bodied taste of blackberry. Like the petite sirah, the strong tannins and high alcohol in the wine from this varietal allow it to age beautifully. It is perfectly matched to the petite sirah! These grapes are grown in Lodi, in San Joaquin County, in the center portion of California's Central Valley. With long hot summers, these grapes are allowed to ripen well to produce a lot of sugar.

Now, how to make mulled wine: Combine your ingredients in a saucepan and give them a stir. Heat the wine until it just barely reaches a simmer over medium heat. Remember, alcohol boils off at 173 degrees (F), so be careful. Reduce the heat, cover and let simmer for 15 minutes or so. Using a strainer remove the cloves, cinnamon sticks and star anise, and serve in heat-proof mugs garnished with the fruit and cinnamon sticks. Remember, this recipe is very flexible. You can include apple cider or orange juice in the mix. You can use sugar instead of the honey for a sweetener, although it is not as rich as honey. Additional fruit can include thinly sliced apples or frozen pitted cherries. Additional spices can include ginger, peeled and sliced, and a vanilla bean cut open from end to end. The options are limitless and the possibilities endless.

Don't let the cold, dark December days (and Covid) get to you. Invite a couple or two to gather around the fire pit and share the warmth of the holidays with a steaming mug of hot mulled wine. Savor the moments and cherish the memories of this time when we must be ever so creative in how we can remain connected.

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



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## CDs pg26

• The Myrrhderers, *The Myrrhderers Sleigh*

Christmas A+

• Deep Sea Diver,

*Impossible Weight* A+

## BOOKS pg27

• *No Time Like the Future*

## B

## • Book Notes

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book

clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events.

To let us know about your book or event, email [asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com).

To get author events, library events and more

listed, send information to [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com).

## FILM pg29

• *Mank* A-

The Myrrhderers, *The Myrrhderers Sleigh Christmas* (self-released)

It was with great sadness that I read last week there'd be no live Trans Siberian Orchestra shows coming to the area, just a streaming thingamajig instead. I looked to the universe, hoping to be cheered up, and lo, hark, behold, a wonderful holiday EP from a bunch of trolling punks declaring themselves to be a "North Pole punk-rock supergroup," made up of members of "Dead Kringles, Prancid and Sleighter." I immediately decided that the record would receive an A+ grade, then listened to all five songs, which literally only required 12 min-

utes out of my life. It's all actually quite good if you like Good Charlotte demos and junk like that; their rub of "Deck The Halls" could actually be Green Day in Santa beards for all I know. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is straight-edge-leaning punk-pop lunacy, and so on. These guys aren't just pikers with an eight-track recorder from 1991, but I didn't deduct points for their decent production quality. Very tolerable. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger*

Deep Sea Diver, *Impossible Weight* (ATO Records)

This album being so good, I think I'll pass on listening to their last couple of records, as the consensus seems to be that they're not as ambitious. The quartet is led by Seattleite Jessica Dobson, who in the past has played with a who's-who of indie royalty (Shins, Spoon, Beck, others), experiences that have helped to shape her into the closest thing to a millennials' Chrissie Hynde that I've heard to date. There's a palpable grunge edge to this stuff; "Lights Out" sounds like a cross between

Yeah Yeah Yeahs (with regard to the vocal approach) and Superdrag (relative to the mashed-potato guitar sound), but she's obviously got a jones for trip-hop, by the afterparty steez emanating from "Shattering The Hourglass." So that's all well and good, and the tunes, regardless of their disparate influences, sound like they belong together, but the killer bit is that Dobson's songwriting is outstanding. Well worth your stream time. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

## PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Yee hah. It's a landslide of new releases, vying for your Hanukku-waanzmas dollar! I feel totally blessed this time of year, what with all the new albums coming out on Dec. 11, but honestly, this year I may not have enough snark left to deal with it all! I mean, just look, it's a double-live album from **Belle and Sebastian**, called *What To Look For In Summer*, can you even stand it? Fifty million hipsters totally love dancing their happy irony dance to BS's gentle, inoffensive twee-pop, and they only dance harder when the song is so boring and unlistenable that all their friends give up on them forever, like all that stuff from *Fold Your Hands Child, You Walk Like a Peasant* (they played the whole album during their headlining stint at the Boaty Weekender festival, the famous gathering place for rich people with boats and stock options, and some of those live versions are on this album). The album starts off with a version of the Scottish beer-guzzling singalong "The Song of the Clyde," isn't that so awesome? I'm totally going to listen to this album on my schooner as I chase that devil Moby Dick all over the seven seas, with my ironic hipster bos'n mates who all have mad harpoon skills and bunny tattoos!

• Wait, fam, look, we don't just have young millennial hipster deck-swabs to talk about, because thar she blows, a new album from **Paul McCartney**, titled *McCartney III*! I totally can't remember the name of his old band, something like Herman's Hermits, or Len, or whatever, but either way, this guy, whose eyelift surgery makes him look like Carol Channing at closing time at an after-hours bash, is at it again, just cold bringin' the guitar-pop music, to teach you crazy Death Grips listeners how it's done! Boy, I can hardly wait to dig my ears into the new version of "Coming Up," any of you boomers remember that awful song? Ah, here it is. It sounds like it's sung by drunken Ewoks who don't know how to use their cheap downloadable music-making software. Gack, it's even more horrible than the original, so let's put this aside for now and press on.

• Continuing our excursion to find musical coolness whilst sailing on board the Pequod, Canadian folkie duo **Kacy & Clayton** have been around since 2011, doing their part to bring good folkie-fied feels to the hipster whaling community and all young people who watch shows like *Archer* just to annoy their roommates. Their new album is *Plastic Bouquet*, a collaboration of sorts with New Zealand musician Marlon Williams! No, I have no idea who that is either, but whatever, yay Marlon Whastisname! The lead single, "I Wonder Why" mostly sounds like Roy Orbison, but it's mostly an acoustic guitar thing, so there's a rootsy Hank Williams feel to it as well. It's OK.

• Lastly, we should probably take a quick listen to whatever's going on in the new **M. Ward** album, *Think Of Spring*, specifically the single "For Heaven's Sake." Spoiler: It's a wispy, dreamy unplugged-strummy-guitar tune with way too much reverb on his voice. I suppose I'd love it if I were a salty hipster whaleboat swab born in 1987 instead of never-you-mind-all-that, and had never listened to Simon & Garfunkel, because that's kind of what it's like, except it's bare-bones. But I wasn't, so I hereby rudely dismiss this song, with extreme prejudice. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

## Retro Playlist

Merry corona-mas everyone, as the science nerds like to say down at CDC headquarters! There's still plenty of time to order holiday music CDs, so today I'll look at albums this page has covered in the past, but first it's your reminder of the festive songs I can't stand in the least, like "Feliz Navidad,"

"O Holy Night" and of course **Billy Squier's** "Christmas Is A Time To Say I Love You," which, yes, I already harped on a couple of weeks ago, but wait, go listen to it again, if your stomach can handle it. Isn't his voice super-annoying, like, doesn't he sound like



some sort of post-punk WC Fields, as though he wants to say "Go away kid, ya bother me" after every line? I mean, sure, I'd rather be subjected to Billy Squier's dumb song than "O Holy Night" while I'm in line at Walgreens buying some stupid last-minute thing, like my hatred for that song isn't bone-marrow level the way it is with **John Len-**

**non and Yoko Ono's** "Happy Christmas," but — oh, you get the point.

For more tolerable holiday sounds, let's go all the way back to 2006 for **til Tuesday** front-lady **Aimee Mann's** *Another Drifter In The Snow*. It's a mellow, very listenable col-

lection, and her choices were all good: Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song"; a bearable "Winter Wonderland" and for (polite) laughs, a rip of "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch."

In 2008 there was the charity-driven *A Princeton Christmas: For The Children Of Africa* album, by **Princeton Choirs**. Beautiful, reflective stuff for those quiet holiday

nights, featuring donated tracks sung by The American Boychoir, The Westminster Concert Bell Choir and several others. Fun fact for cynics: Despite all the holiness baked into the tracks, there nevertheless exists a



one-star review on Amazon submitted by someone who freaked out over the fact that the Princeton Theological Seminary Choir wasn't brought into the mix. I really don't need to expound on that, I'm sure.

*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](mailto:esaeger@cyberontix.com) for fastest response.* 🍷



*No Time Like the Future*, by Michael J. Fox (Flatiron, 238 pages)

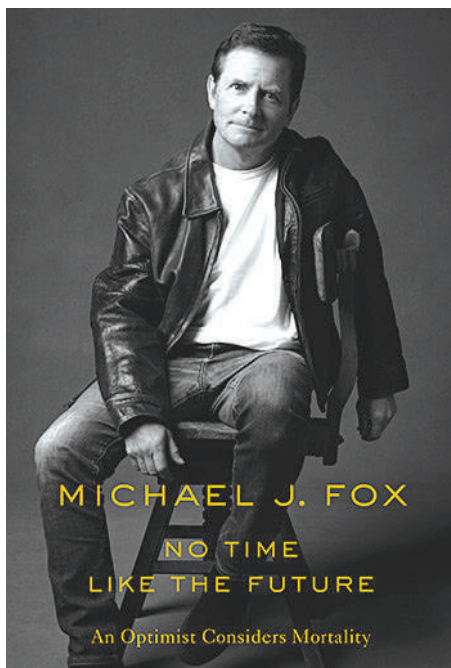
If Michael J. Fox hasn't been on your radar screen since the 1980s, you've missed a lot. You probably know that he has Parkinson's disease, a diagnosis he announced in 1998, and started a foundation to fund research, and that he continued to work, acting and writing.

But because he appears eternally youthful, it's still jarring to learn that Marty McFly, that Alex P. Keaton, is the father of four adult children and sits around mourning his empty nest. Children are time machines, he writes in his latest memoir *No Time Like the Future*, describing the "cruel velocity" with which our offspring catapult us into a future where, he says, "I wish away my time while I wait for my children to come and visit."

Well. Didn't see that coming when Fox was zipping around in Doc Brown's DeLorean.

But Fox is now 59 and while that is young as Boomers go, he has been suffering the effects of a progressive neurological disease for 30 years, so the subtitle of this memoir is "an optimist considers mortality." Optimism has been part of his brand since the diagnosis — his previous books were titled *Lucky Man* and *Always Looking Up*, the latter of which became a documentary called "Adventures of an Incurable Optimist."

Lately, however, Fox says, there are days in which he wonders if he is out of the lemonade business, if it's time to succumb to the lemons.



He writes of possessing a body that has been weaponized — even with medication and regular physical therapy, his mobility and balance is so unpredictable that he is nervous about getting too close to his 90-year-old mother, for fear of knocking her over. "I love my mother too much to give her a hug," he writes.

It's not just Parkinson's that's the problem, but the chaos caused by the disease. He frequently suffers from injuries caused by falling, a finger swollen so badly that doctors feared they might have to amputate; a pinched sciatic nerve that

renders him unable to go on the beach during a family vacation to the Caribbean; a broken arm that required a stainless-steel plate and 19 screws to fix. And he also suffered a tumor on his spinal cord that required a dangerous surgery two years ago.

The recounting of all these woes may seem like a proposal for the world's worst book. Who, save the schadenfreudeans among us, wants to read 238 pages of a likeable person's suffering? But Fox pulls it off, because the book is well-crafted, beginning and ending with a catastrophic fall, and the existential crisis that it represents, and it reveals an admirable mind, one that can fire off smart comic lines ("If Mike fell in the kitchen and no one was there to see him, would he still break his arm?") while admitting despair.

It is the broken arm, not the disease, that pushes Fox to question whether his half-full philosophy of life is useful, to question whether being a "hopeaholic" (a term coined by artist Anna Deavere Smith) is actually harmful, both to him and to his fans.

"Have I oversold optimism as a panacea, a modified hope? Have I been an honest broker with the Parkinson's community?" he wonders in anguish. "The understanding I've reached with Parkinson's is sincere, but the expression of it risks being glib. ... In telling other patients, 'Chin up! It will be okay!' did I look to them to validate my optimism? Is it because I needed to believe it myself?"

This is particularly relevant, because Fox's

reminiscing makes it clear that, despite his harsh trials, he dwells on a plane distant from most suffering mortals. When he drinks pina colodas in the Caribbean, he does so with Keith Richards; he is wealthy, able to afford the best of care and exotic vacations. It's easier to view the glass as half full when it contains Dom Perignon, not vinegar.

But Fox is markedly self-aware and comes to believe that his attitude has become too cavalier, that he has spent too much time focusing on his body and its assorted travails, and that he needs to spend more time examining his mindset. He notes that while Franklin D. Roosevelt is known for saying, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," in the same speech Roosevelt said, "Only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment."

I'll not spoil the ending by revealing Fox's conclusion, only say that *No Time Like the Future* is occasionally disjointed but assembles itself nicely by the end and is a surprisingly thoughtful memoir by one of America's most beloved celebrities. Michael J. Fox is not Alex P. Keaton but for the earnestness; he is not Marty McFly, but for the zeal; but he is the rare enduring celebrity who deserves a platform, and continued applause. (His foundation has funded \$1 billion in Parkinson's research.) Still, this memoir, his fourth, is gritty and maybe not the inspiration that people newly diagnosed with Parkinson's might want. Gift carefully. **B**

— Jennifer Graham

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## BOOK NOTES

Books can be the best gift — or the worst.

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And a gift book can easily be made to pop with a few thoughtful additions, such as a book light to attach for night reading. (Note to my mother: I am all about the fingerless gloves imprinted with passages from *A Christmas Carol* on the literati website Storiarts.)

But a book is only a good gift if chosen with a high degree of sensitivity. *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi (One World, 320 pages), is popular this year, but it's difficult to give because of the implication. Same with Joel Osteen's *Empty Out the Negative* (Faithwords, 160 pages) or any kind of self-improvement book. Novels, too, tough. For a few years, I tried giving friends a copy of the best book I'd read that year but found they don't always share my enthusiasm. And J.K. Rowling has a new children's book out, but we have to tiptoe around her this year.

That said, there are some books that are pretty much guaranteed to please people in certain categories. Below is a roundup of suggestions from a serial book giver.

**For Democrats:** *A Promised Land*, by Barack Obama (Crown, 768 pages) or *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Simon & Schuster, 400 pages)

**For Trumpy Republicans:** *Liberal Privilege* by Donald Trump Jr. (self-published, no word count available) or *Live Free or Die* by Sean Hannity (Threshold, 352 pages)

**For Never-Trump Republicans:** *It Was All a Lie, How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump* by Stuart Stevens (Knopf, 256 pages) or *Reaganland: America's Turn Right*, by Rick Perlstein (Simon & Schuster, 1,120 pages, not a typo)

**For Health Geeks:** *Clean, the New Science of Skin* by James Hamblin (Riverhead, 288 pages)

**For Nature Lovers:** *What It's Like to Be a Bird*, by David Allen Sibley (Knopf, 240 pages) or *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, (Greystone, 288 pages)

**For Shakespeare Buffs:** *Shakespeare in a Divided America* by James Shapiro (Penguin, 320 pages)

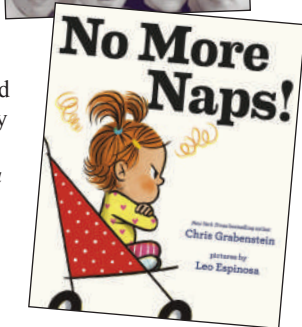
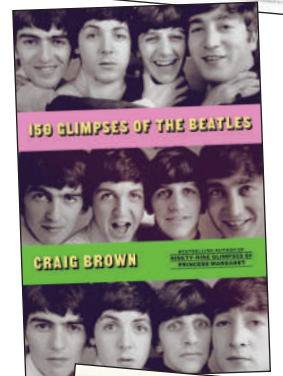
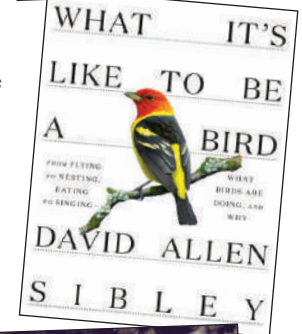
**For Beatles Buffs:** *150 Glimpses of the Beatles*, by Craig Brown (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 592 pages)

**For Young Children (and Their Parents):** *No More Naps!* by Chris Grabenstein (Random House Books for Young Readers, 40 pages)

**For Animal Lovers:** *Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver (Penguin, 144 pages) or *Feline Philosophy: Cats and the Meaning of Life* by John Gray (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 128 pages)

**For Anyone Who Loves Christmas:** *Christmas at the Vinyl Cafe* by Stuart McLean (Penguin, 272 pages) or *A Literary Holiday Cookbook* by Alison Walsh (Skyhorse, 272 pages)

— Jennifer Graham



### Books

#### Author events

- **SUSAN CONLEY** Author presents *Landslide*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online, via Zoom. Thurs., Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com) or call 224-0562.
- **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](http://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).

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### Writing

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- **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](http://newworldtheatre.org/08m46s).



**Mank (R)**

Screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz writes *Citizen Kane* while recuperating from injury and *Citizen Kane*-ily reflecting on his career in Hollywood in *Mank*, the most made-for-Oscar-nominations movie I have ever seen.

It is a movie about the movies featuring a character whose name is on one of the Academy Awards' prizes (that being the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award; the Irving Thalberg played by Ferdinand Kingsley here is worth his own biopic). Many of the towering figures of 1930s Hollywood appear in this movie set in southern California that somehow captures, despite being in black and white, the sunny California-ness. And you get the intersection of California politics and Hollywood (and the conservative politics of corporate Hollywood clashing with the liberal politics of creative Hollywood) and a testament/cautionary tale about the power of movie magic storytelling in a real political world. There's a "fake newsreel"! This movie has everything!

When we meet Herman Mankiewicz (Gary Oldman) in 1940, he has recently been in a car accident and has been given a place out toward the southern California desert to recuperate, a nurse (Monika Gossman) to care for him and an assistant, Rita Alexander (Lily Collins), for him to dictate his screenplay to. All of this comes courtesy Orson Welles (Tom Burke), who has hired him to write a screenplay (or begin the writing that the two would complete; look, the authorship of *Citizen Kane* is a whole thing — what I'm talking about here is what this movie tells us about a screenplay that would ultimately have both Mankiewicz's and Welles' names). John Houseman (Sam Troughton) is to work as



Mank

editor on the project and it seems understood by everybody, immediately, that what Mank is doing is a potentially dangerous undertaking. Even Alexander, a British lady who is more concerned about her RAF pilot husband's survival than Mank's career woes, immediately knows that the great man in decline that Mank is writing about is a thinly veiled riff on media magnate William Randolph Hearst (Charles Dance), which would make his ditzzy showgirl wife a take on Marion Davies (Amanda Seyfried), even though Mank insists he doesn't mean it to be her.

In flashbacks we see how Mank used to be a writer at MGM for Louis B. Mayer (Arliss Howard) and used to be a friend of Hearst and his mistress Marion Davies, having met her through her nephew, the writer Charles Lederer (Joseph Cross). The witty Mank was, for a while, a regular at gatherings at Hearst's house in San Simeon, where he hung out with the likes of Mayer and

Thalberg and saw their influence beyond media and into the world of state and national politics. Mank seems to want to appear above politics, playing the sarcastic wiseguy role, but the 1934 governor's race and Mayer's and Hearst's opposition to the Democratic candidate Upton Sinclair seems to make it increasingly hard for Mank to follow his wife Sara's (Tuppence Middleton) "if you don't have anything nice to say" advice. And then there's his own self-destructive behavior — drinking and gambling and a fair amount of what seems like self-loathing.

This feels like such a movie-nerd's movie I'm not even sure how to judge it. I mean, do I love it? Sure, it checks all the boxes for a movie geek, with movie nostalgia (or not nostalgia, really, because I'm not 110 years old but, like, reveling in the fantasy, mostly built by movies, of the early days of Hollywood) that packs an extra punch both because I haven't been seeing big Holly-

wood movies in theaters and because the industry and its future are suddenly, here in 2020, so much in flux. I like all the technical elements of this movie, how in look and sound and scene transitions it looks like a 1940s film. Specifically, it uses a lot of *Citizen Kane* visual and storytelling elements and, sure, it does so very self-consciously, but it doesn't make me like it any less.

Oldman's performance feels, well, Oscar-bait-y in the extreme but captivating nonetheless. He's not just Herman Mankiewicz; he's a Herman Mankiewicz-y version of the Herman Mankiewicz character in highly stylized movie. It is not a natural performance, I guess is what I'm saying, nor is anybody else's, but I bought it.

Look, this is 2020 and for those of us out in the movie fan universe (i.e. not going to virtual film festivals or working for film studios) this glossy Netflix bit of concession stand candy is probably as Hollywood as it's going to get for us. This was probably always going to be an enjoyable movie to me, but under these circumstances it felt like an extra special bit of movie magic. **A-**

*Rated R for some language. Directed by David Fincher with a screenplay by Jack Fincher; Mank is two hours and 11 minutes long and distributed by Netflix.*

**Hillbilly Elegy**

Ron Howard directed this adaptation of J.D. Vance's 2016 memoir and it's streaming on Netflix now. It stars Glenn Close and Amy Adams — both of whom seem to be trying hard for their elusive Oscar wins. Find Amy Diaz's thoughts on *Hillbilly Elegy* at [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com), available for free thanks to our members and contributors.

**Film**

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings & virtual events

**Venues**

Capitol Center for the Arts  
44 S. Main St., Concord  
225-1111, [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com)

**Chunky's Cinema Pub**

707 Huse Road, Manchester;  
151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150  
Bridge St., Pelham, [chunkys.com](http://chunkys.com)

**Dana Center**

Saint Anselm College  
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Man-  
chester, [anselm.edu](http://anselm.edu)

**The Flying Monkey**

39 Main St., Plymouth  
536-2551, [flyingmonkeynh.com](http://flyingmonkeynh.com)

**Red River Theatres**

11 S. Main St., Concord  
224-4600, [redrivertheatres.org](http://redrivertheatres.org)

**Films**

• **Red River Virtual Cinema** Red River Theatres is offering indie, foreign language and documentary films via a virtual cinema experience. See the ever-changing lineup on the website.

• **Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas** — *A Musical*, based on the book, the musical tells the story of a rag doll at the North Pole searching for a family of her own. This production is available for livestream via

the Cap Center through Dec. 27. Tickets start at \$20 (plus a \$3 fee) for streaming; packages with games and other items are available.

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

• **A Celtic Christmas** — **Jordan TW Trio** A virtual concert, Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. via the Dana Center.

• **Die Hard is a Christmas Movie** A 21+ screening of the R-rated 1988 Bruce Willis film on Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester and Nashua. Tickets cost \$4.99.

• **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.

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

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# THE (GIFT) ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Scene support:** Among those hit hardest by this no good, awful, horrible, please-let-it-end year are working musicians and the venues they play in. For the latter, a great present for your favorite fan is a gift certificate, or even a ticket for a future show. Tupelo Music Hall ([tupelohall.com](http://tupelohall.com)), Capitol Center for the Arts and Bank of NH Stage ([ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com)) and The Palace and Rex ([palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org)) are among the places that could use a boost, and music lovers will appreciate something to anticipate.

• **Teacher, teacher:** Since March, it's gone from total lockdown to sort of quarantined and back again; in short, a lot of time spent indoors, and more in the forecast. So why not gift an experience that can be enjoyed in spite of the current malaise? Plenty of musicians are offering one-on-one lessons via Zoom or Facetime, among them Danielle Miraglia, an ace blues guitarist and stop box champion. Children or adults will love them. Half-hour slots are \$37 each at [daniellem.com](http://daniellem.com).

• **Get equipped:** Learning to play requires an instrument, and a great resource is Manchester Music Mill. From a beginner's Epiphone Les Paul Express six-string electric (\$127) to a vintage 1976 Gibson Johnny Smith Hollowbody approaching seven grand, they've got the aspiring musician covered. On the acoustic side there's everything from an entry-level Cort Earth (\$99) to top-of-the-line Martins. Keyboards too — get in the game with a used Yamaha PSR portable or go all in with something grander.

• **Direct connect:** There are a lot of ways to give local musicians some love. Buy a track or more on sites like SoundCloud or Bandcamp — among the artists with new offerings this year are Hunter, Conniption Fits, Dead Harrison, Town Meeting 33 ▶

## NITE Downtown sound

Will Hatch celebrates new EP with release show

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

While the making of Will Hatch's first full-length album *For You* might be likened to a marathon, his new EP *Downtown* was more of a sprint. With extensive studio time and a long back and forth between Hatch and producer Immanuel the Liberator, he spent over two years finishing the 2018 disc.

This time around, it took just one day.

Will Hatch & Co. — the singer-songwriter, guitarist Taylor Pearson, mandolin player Brian Peasley and a rhythm section of drummer Eric Ober and bassist Jon Cheney — rolled into Cambridge's Bridge Sound & Stage in mid-October and knocked out *Downtown's* six songs with alacrity.

Financial necessity was one reason for the quick turnaround. Money for studio time came from a single summer show, as the pandemic battered the music business. More than that, the band was primed.

"We've been playing together for the past few years. ... The lineup's solidified, we've become a tighter unit," Hatch said in a recent phone interview. "Plus, nobody's playing a lot of gigs this year so we were just practicing over the summer."

The approach that day — polish a track, do the take and move on to the next effort — worked perfectly and produced a spirited, capable effort.

"We just wanted to do everything live and reflect what this band sounds like," Hatch said, "rather than getting into a whole, you know, big studio creation."

The title cut, an upbeat country rocker about relationship breakdown, illustrates the group's chemistry, while providing a template for the album, Hatch said.

"While my solo performances are more melancholic, the band thrives on raucous crowds and barroom antics," he said. "Late-night Concord is a theme that runs



Will Hatch & Co. Courtesy photo.

throughout the tracks."

Another high-energy highlight is a cover of "They're Red Hot (Hot Tamales)" — perhaps the most rollicking song in blues legend Robert Johnson's catalog. Hatch calls it one of his favorites on the new record.

"We've been playing it a long time and it's not an easy one, so I was pretty proud that we pulled that off," he said. "It's a fun song with a lot of weird changes and I was happy we were able to do that."

The EP's other cover is "Waterbound," a traditional folk song. The band also enjoyed laying down the last track of the day, "Beer Bottle Blues."

"It has electric guitars on it, so it's a little more rock," he said. "I think we were all happy with how that one came out; it's real clean and nice."

The anchor of *Downtown* is the ballad "Kid From Holden" is based on a real tragedy, the 2015 drowning death of Plymouth State University student Jake Nawn. Hatch describes friends leaving books by Nawn's favorite writers with notes inserted in them to try and lure him out of the woods, and

the frantic desperation of his family as the search dragged on. It's a spellbinding story song.

"How many times did I pass him? / I never will know," sings Hatch of Nawn, an aspiring writer beloved by classmates. "A poet he lived and a poet he died, but the river just came and it went."

Hatch spoke of his need to "keep retelling stories about local tragedies and keep them alive through folk music."

A release show at Penuche's Ale House will have a smaller, socially distanced crowd. With the recent spike in cases, it's still scheduled to happen.

"I don't want to jinx anything, because everything is getting canceled," Hatch said. "We're just happy to have the opportunity to play out, even if it's a small crowd. It's just still nice for us to keep playing." 🍷

### Will Hatch & Co.

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

**Where:** Penuche's Ale House, 6 Pleasant St., Concord

**More:** [willhatchmusic.com](http://willhatchmusic.com)

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# MUSIC THIS WEEK

<b>Bedford</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23</b> State Street 881-9060	<b>Holy Grail</b> 64 Main St. 679-9559	<b>The Goat</b> 20 L St. 601-6928	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery</b> 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	<b>South Side Tavern</b> 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>The Stately Bar &amp; Grill</b> 238 Deer St. 431-4357
<b>Bow</b> <b>Cheng Yang Li</b> 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	<b>Cheers</b> 17 Depot St. 228-0180	<b>Telly's</b> 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	<b>Shane's BBQ</b> 61 High St. 601-7091	<b>Bonfire</b> 950 Elm St. 663-7678	<b>Stark Brewing Co.</b> 500 Commercial St. 625-4444	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Mitchell Hill BBQ Grill &amp; Brew</b> 50 N. Main St. 332-2537
<b>Bristol</b> <b>Kathleen Irish Pub</b> 90 Lake St. 744-6336	<b>Concord Craft Brewing</b> 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly Brewing</b> 156 Epping Road 583-5080	<b>Wally's Pub</b> 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	<b>Derryfield Country Club</b> 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	<b>Strange Brew</b> 88 Market St. 666-4292	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Brookline</b> <b>The Alamo Texas Barbecue &amp; Tequila Bar</b> 99 Route 13 721-5000	<b>Hermanos Cocina Mexicana</b> 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	<b>Sea Dog Brewery</b> 9 Water St.	<b>WHYM Craft Pub &amp; Brewery</b> 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	<b>The Foundry</b> 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Hart's Turkey Farm</b> 223 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-6212	<b>Plaistow</b> <b>The Crow's Nest</b> 181 Plaistow Road	<b>Rye</b> <b>Atlantic Grill</b> 5 Pioneer Road 433-3000
<b>Candia</b> <b>Town Cabin Deli &amp; Pub</b> 285 Old Candia Road 483-4888	<b>Lithermans</b> 126 Hall St., Unit B	<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle</b> 25 Main St. 497-8230	<b>Hudson</b> <b>Luk's Bar &amp; Grill</b> 142 Lowell Road 889-9900	<b>Fratello's</b> 155 Dow St. 624-2022	<b>Twin Barns Brewing</b> 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Cisco Brewers</b> 1 Redhook Way 430-8600	<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
	<b>Penuche's Ale House</b> 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	<b>Hampton</b> <b>Community Oven</b> 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop Restaurant &amp; Tavern</b> 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	<b>KC's Rib Shack</b> 837 Second St. 627-RIBS	<b>American Social Club</b> 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	<b>Dolphin Striker</b> 15 Bow St. 431-5222	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop Pub</b> 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
	<b>Epping</b> <b>The Community Oven</b> 24 Calef Hwy. 734-4543	<b>CR's The Restaurant</b> 287 Exeter Road 929-7972		<b>Penuche's Music Hall</b> 1087 Elm St. 932-2868	<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club</b> 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	<b>The Gas Light</b> 64 Market St. 430-9122	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
				<b>Salona Bar &amp; Grill</b> 128 Maple St. 624-4020	<b>Fratello's Italian Grille</b> 194 Main St. 889-2022	<b>The Goat</b> 142 Congress St. 590-4628	<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate Tavern</b> 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294

## Thursday, Dec. 10

<b>Bedford</b> <b>Copper Door:</b> Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> <b>Community Oven:</b> Brad Bosse, 5 p.m. <b>Telly's:</b> Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church:</b> Luke & Babe Condon of Town Meeting, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>South Side Tavern</b> 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>The Stately Bar &amp; Grill</b> 238 Deer St. 431-4357
<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Vinyl night, 7 p.m. <b>Hermanos:</b> Second Wind, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Matt Jackson, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Elijah Clark, 5 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street:</b> Nicole Knox Murphy, 6 p.m.	<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Arthur James, 6 p.m.	<b>Stark Brewing Co.</b> 500 Commercial St. 625-4444	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Mitchell Hill BBQ Grill &amp; Brew</b> 50 N. Main St. 332-2537
<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Matt Luneau, 7 p.m.	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church:</b> Richard Armion, 6 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. <b>Shane's BBQ:</b> Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Gas Light:</b> Alex Roy, 7:30 p.m. <b>The Goat:</b> Chris Toler, 9 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. <b>The Goat:</b> Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. <b>Wally's:</b> Pat Dowling, 9 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Justin Jordan, 5 p.m.	<b>Strange Brew</b> 88 Market St. 666-4292	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m. <b>Sea Dog:</b> Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Mitchell Hill BBQ:</b> Game Time Trivia, 6 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Ted Solo, 6 p.m.	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Mitchell Hill Barbecue:</b> Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. <b>The Goat:</b> Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. <b>Wally's:</b> Pat Dowling, 9 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Justin Jordan, 5 p.m.	<b>Twin Barns Brewing</b> 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	<b>Plaistow</b> <b>The Crow's Nest</b> 181 Plaistow Road	<b>Rye</b> <b>Atlantic Grill</b> 5 Pioneer Road 433-3000
<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door:</b> Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop:</b> Whammer Jammer (a tribute to J. Geils Band), 7 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. <b>Shane's BBQ:</b> Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.	<b>American Social Club</b> 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Cisco Brewers</b> 1 Redhook Way 430-8600	<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. <b>Shane's BBQ:</b> Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Ted Solo, 6 p.m.	<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate:</b> Chad Verbeck, 7 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>The Goat:</b> David Campbell, 9 p.m. <b>Wally's:</b> Chris Toler, 9 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Eric Grant, 5 p.m.	<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club</b> 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	<b>Dolphin Striker</b> 15 Bow St. 431-5222	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop Pub</b> 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706

## Friday, Dec. 11

<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Swappin' Sets with Nate Cozzolino and Gardner Berry, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 9 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> Lucas Gallo, 8 p.m.	<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Swappin' Sets with Nate Cozzolino and Gardner Berry, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 9 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> Lucas Gallo, 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Saturday, Dec. 12</b>	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>South Side Tavern</b> 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>The Stately Bar &amp; Grill</b> 238 Deer St. 431-4357
<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Swappin' Sets with Nate Cozzolino and Gardner Berry, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 9 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> Lucas Gallo, 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Bow</b> <b>Chen Yang Li:</b> Mikey G, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Stark Brewing Co.</b> 500 Commercial St. 625-4444	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Mitchell Hill BBQ Grill &amp; Brew</b> 50 N. Main St. 332-2537
<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Ted Solo, 6 p.m.	<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Saturday jam with Crazy Steve, 1 p.m.; Swappin' Sets with Becca Myari and Brian Wall, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> Lisa Guyer, 6 p.m. <b>Concord Brewing:</b> Josh Foster, 4 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> Will Hatch & Co., 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Twin Barns Brewing</b> 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Justin Jordan, 8 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Strange Brew</b> 88 Market St. 666-4292	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Rye</b> <b>Atlantic Grill</b> 5 Pioneer Road 433-3000
<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Justin Jordan, 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Mermaid</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Justin Jordan, 8 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
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<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
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<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Maven Jamz, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Tombstone, 1 p.m.; Alan Roux, 5 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Main Street Grill &amp; Bar</b> 32 Main St. 435-0005	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
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<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club:</b> Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Red's:</b> Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Jonny Friday, 9 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek					



## NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

**Salem**  
Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11 a.m.; Jodee Frawlee, 4 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 14

**Concord**  
Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Matt Luneau, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

### Tuesday, Dec. 15

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

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

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.  
KC's: Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.; open mic with Paul & Nate, 8 p.m.  
Stark Brewing: Brad Bosse, 6 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Josh Foster, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Pittsfield**  
Main Street: Brian Booth, 6 p.m.

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

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

### Wednesday, Dec. 16

**Concord**  
Area 23: open mic, 6:23 p.m. (with a contest)  
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**Nashua**  
Fratello's: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.

**Pittsfield**  
Main Street: trivia, 6:30 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat: MB Padfield, 9 p.m.  
The Striker: George Belli, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, Dec. 17

**Bedford**  
Copper Door: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

**Concord**  
Area 23: Dan Morgan, 6 p.m.  
Hermanos: Paul Donahue, 6:30 p.m.

## Concerts

*Note: Some venues have canceled their slate of upcoming performances through the end of 2020 but still have early 2021 events listed on their websites with tickets for sale. Though schedules for the early part of next year are likely to change, we have included events where tickets are still on sale. See venues for safety procedures, ticket information and information about rescheduled shows.*

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

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

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

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

**Pasta Loft**  
241 Union Square, Milford

**The Strand**  
20 Third St., Dover  
343-1899, thestrandover.com

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

**Shows**  
• **Geoff Tate** 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, at 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall  
• **Elton John Tribute** Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m., Pasta Loft Milford, presented by Headliners  
• **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  
• **Brooks Play Brooks (Garth Brooks tribute)** Friday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre  
• **Matt Nakoa Band** Friday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **GA-20** Friday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (livestream option available)  
• **Andrew North and the Rangers** Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord (livestream option available).

• **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., The Strand  
• **The Slambovian Circus of Dreams** Friday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord  
• **Croce Plays Croce** (A.J. Croce performs the music of Jim Croce and more) Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

## The Roundup

Continued from page 30

and a joyful holiday album Dan Blakeslee. Grab a vinyl copy or some swag on a band website, and then put it under the tree. Nobody makes much from streaming, but ordering direct is a guaranteed way to maximize an artist's profit.

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top radio/turntable combo that plays internet radio stations from around the world along with Spotify or Amazon Music while offering an outlet for when the retro mood strikes. Box sets this year include Tom Petty's complete *Wildflowers* sessions and Bob Dylan's work with George Harrison from 1970. Find that last one and be a true hero — it's very limited. 🍷

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### NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

#### Epping

Telly's: Clint LaPointe, 7 p.m.

#### Exeter

Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

#### Goffstown

Village Trestle: Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m.

#### Hampton

CR's: Steve Subulkin, 6 p.m.  
Community Oven: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.  
Shane's BBQ: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

#### Manchester

Fratello's: Matt Luneau, 5:30 p.m.

#### Meredith

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

#### Merrimack

Homestead: Amanda Cote, 5:30 p.m.

#### Nashua

American Social Club: Malcolm Salls, 8 p.m.  
Fratello's: Joe Winslow, 5:30 p.m.

#### Newmarket

Stone Church: Dave Gerard, 6 p.m.

#### Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

#### Rochester

Mitchell Hill BBQ: Game Time Trivia, 6 p.m.

#### Rye

Atlantic Grill: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

#### Salem

Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

### COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

*Note: Some venues have canceled upcoming performances through the end of 2020 but still have early 2021 events listed on their websites with tickets for sale. Though schedules are likely to change, we have included events where tickets are still on sale. See venues for updates.*

#### Venues

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

#### Kathleen Irish Pub

90 Lake St., Bristol  
744-6336, kathleensirishpub.com

#### The Music Hall

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

#### The Flying Monkey

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

#### Shows

- **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.
- **Cottage Comedy** Kathleen Irish Pub, Saturday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
- **Dave Russo** Chunky's Pelham, Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.

- **Drew Dunn** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.
- **Amy Tee** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.
- **Kelly MacFarland** Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.
- **Kelly MacFarland** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Justin McKinney: The Last Laugh** Music Hall, Saturday, Dec. 26, and Sunday, Dec. 27, at 5 and 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey, Thursday, Dec. 31, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.



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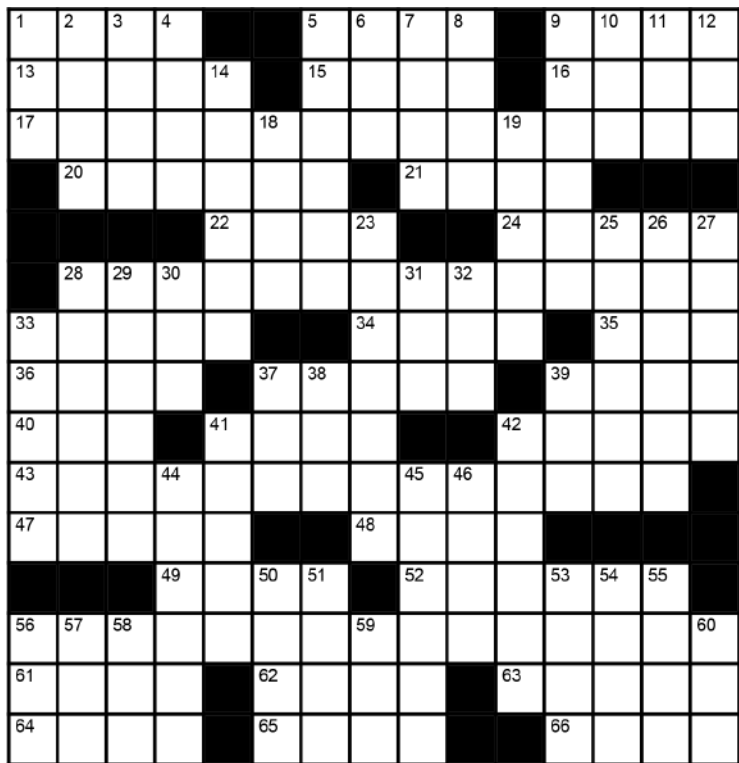


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# I JUST CALLED TO SAY YOU'RE PUZZLED



**Down**

1. Phillip Lynott got drunk on 'Jamaican \_\_\_'
2. Former Skatalite Jackie
3. 70s bushy disco do
4. Neil Diamond classic softrock staple 'September \_\_\_'
5. Weird Al's Huey Lewis parody '\_\_\_ New Duck' (1,4,1)
6. 'Wouldn't It Be Good' Kershaw
7. '96 Tonic hit '\_\_\_ Up Your Eyes'
8. Smashing Pumpkins song that didn't amount to even 1?
9. '07 Queensryche 'Best Of' '\_\_\_ The Times' (4,2)
10. Jeff Lynne 'Out Of The Blue' band (abbr)
11. Allman Bros '\_\_\_, Lose Or Draw'
12. Some say Stevie Wonder can actually do this
14. 'Wild One' teen idol Bobby
18. Audioslave song about eater of sweaters?
19. What Jack Johnson does at the beach
23. Hombres didn't care what we thought and just "Let it \_\_\_ out!" (3,4)
25. '84 "Jump back, what's that sound?" Van Halen smash
26. To give work to a roadie or do this
27. 'Still The Same' icon Bob
28. "I met him on a Monday and my heart stood still: Da do \_\_\_" (3,3)
29. Stevie Wonder 'Joy (Takes \_\_\_)' (4,2)
30. '12 Hives album '\_\_\_ Hives'
31. Fabrication you tell folks to get to show with buddies
32. '08 Panic! At The Disco album 'Pretty \_\_\_'
33. Otep '\_\_\_ And Nail'
37. Irish band that smokes then flicks off the end?
38. 'A Lonely Man' \_\_\_ -Lites

**Across**

1. Stevie Wonder "No matter how far I travel, no matter how far I \_\_\_"
5. Rick Springfield saw the Tin Man and thought he was 'Living \_\_\_' (2,2)
9. Wardrobe stitches or does this
13. Van Halen smelled the bacon and got '\_\_\_ Breakfast' (2,3)
15. Maroon 5 saw us tearing up and sang '\_\_\_ Your Eyes' w/Kleenex in hand
16. Wings 'Live & Let Die' b-side '\_\_\_ Around' (1,3)
17. '97 Harvey Danger 'Flagpole Sitta' album 'Where Have All The \_\_\_?' (11,4)
20. 'A Bit Of What You Fancy' The \_\_\_ Quireboys
21. Schoolhouse Rock song subject that's not a verb
22. Iconic female singer James
24. Penniless band is like a boxer up against these
28. Inductees get validation in the Rock And \_\_\_ (4,4,2,4)
33. A star's autobiographical one can be partially fiction
34. Elton John's close friends had to keep them on secrets
35. Prince band he did 'Cream' with (abbr)
36. Three Days Grace 'Pain' album (3,1)
37. Longed for new album or did this
39. Van Morrison "Like a full force \_\_, I was lifted up again"
40. Skynyrd song about "outlaws, renegades, rebels" (abbr)
41. Sing/songster Puthli from India
42. A smiling Darren Hayes has a great 'Sense Of \_\_\_'
43. '97 Richie Kotzen album he finally spoke up on? (9,2,3)
47. Female-fronted death metal band Arch \_\_\_
48. What 'The Show Must' do, to Three Dog Night (2,2)
49. Dylan & Clearmountain
52. Depeche Mode 'It \_\_\_ Matter Two'
56. '71 Stevie Wonder classic "\_\_\_ me won't you tell me?" (2,3,6,4)

61. 'Love's In \_\_\_ Of Love Today' Stevie Wonder
62. 'Things That \_\_\_ You Go Hmmm' C+C Music Factory
63. Beatles White Album song that goes with 'Truffle'
64. '81 Def Leppard album left us 'High \_\_\_' (1,3)
65. Country 'Live Until I Die' singer Walker
66. Iron And Wine wrote of a flowy 'Lion's'

## WORD★Roundup™

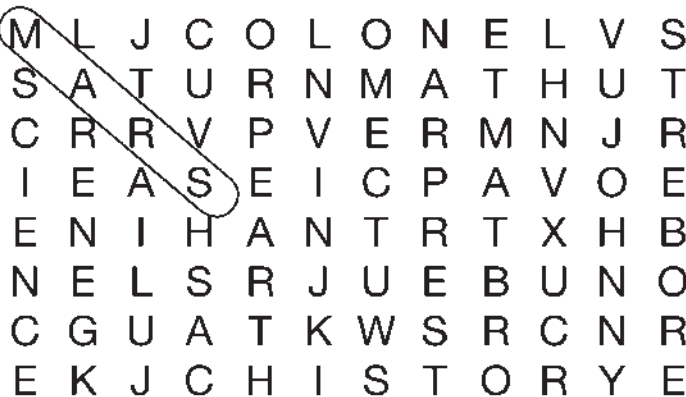
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Seven planets  □ □ □ □ □ □ □
- Three school subjects  □ □ □
- Two military ranks  □ □
- \_\_\_\_\_ in "Mystic Pizza"  □ □
- "Walk the Line" singer (first/last name)  □ □

Last Week's Answers: MAGENTA PURPLE SILVER WHITE BROWN GRAY PINK TEAL TAN / SWEETIE TREATY / KARATE JUDO / DAZED RAZOR / BATTER

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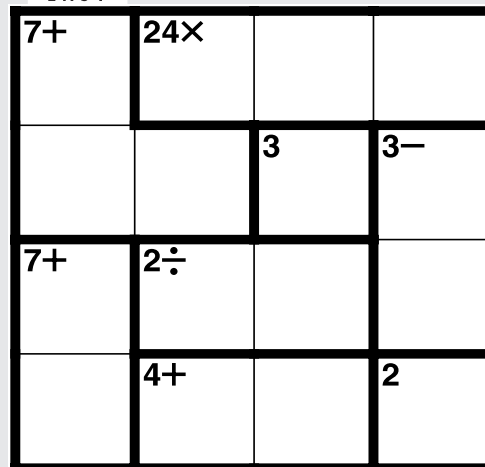
39. Simon & Garfunkel told him to "Get on the bus"
41. Stevie Wonder "When I look at love, I look \_\_\_" (2,3)
42. Jesus & Mary Chain '\_\_\_ Dead'
44. A tribute artist will personify or do this completely
45. 'Cry' \_\_\_ And Creme
46. Adam Jones '10,000 Days' band
50. 'Take Them On, On Your Own' band that's also a biker gang? (abbr)
51. 'Prayer For The Dying' singer
53. Brutal "dance" at punk shows
54. Canuck 'Fantasy' guitarist Aldo
55. Brooklyn rockers \_\_\_ The Radio (2,2)
56. Where a weary musician will crash on the highway
57. Devo saw a larger gal and sang "I can see that you are very well \_\_\_"
58. Oasis "Put \_\_\_ Money Where..."
59. Comes before stage name (abbr)
60. Killswitch Engage headed straight into the '\_\_\_ Of The Storm'

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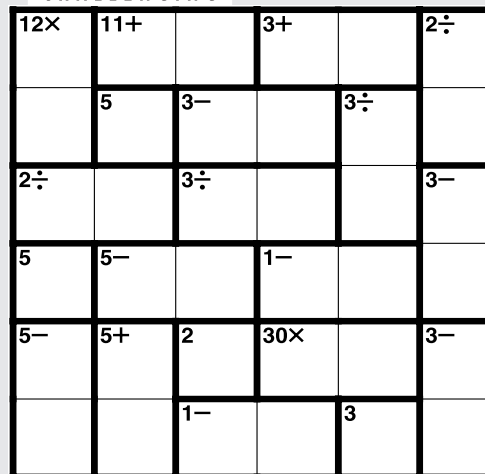
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**CHALLENGING**

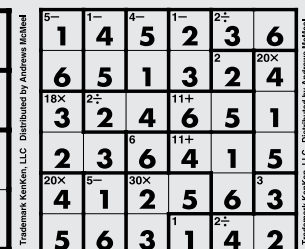
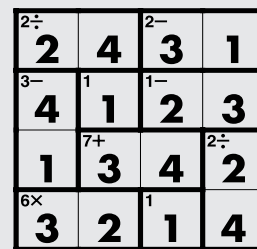


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**RULES**

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**



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# "You're Getting Sleepy" — some ways to get there

**Across**

- 1 Raccoon relative
- 6 BTS or Blackpink genre
- 10 Lawn mower's spot
- 14 "It's just \_\_\_ those things"
- 15 Edison's middle name
- 16 Jekyll's alter ego
- 17 Make yourself sleepy, in a way
- 19 "1917," for one
- 20 Writer Vonnegut
- 21 Thicke of "Growing Pains"

- 22 \_\_\_ Domingo (capital of the Dominican Republic)
- 23 Seed for flavoring soft drinks
- 25 Gp. with a Brussels HQ
- 26 "Whose \_\_\_ was this?"
- 27 "Well done"
- 30 Got angry
- 33 Concave cooker
- 34 Title said by Zazu in "The Lion King"
- 35 Tall prez, for short

- 36 Clothing item that I suppose could make you sleepy (if it's really comfy)
- 40 Poseidon's realm
- 41 Soften up
- 43 Acne medication brand
- 44 Tank covering
- 46 Synthpop duo that released an album of ABBA covers
- 48 Transport
- 50 Senatorial stretch
- 51 Snarky, but less fun
- 54 Lagoon locale
- 56 "Star Trek: TNG" counselor Deanna
- 57 Egyptian fertility goddess with a cow's head
- 59 Rice-A-\_\_\_
- 60 Chemical in turkey that makes many people sleepy
- 62 ZZ Top, e.g.
- 63 Pueblo dwellers

- 64 "Once Upon a Time in the West" director Sergio
- 65 Email app folder
- 66 "Let's Roll" blues singer James
- 67 "Melrose Place" actor Rob

- 12 Fix
- 13 Style from about 100 years ago
- 18 "Aladdin \_\_\_" (David Bowie album)
- 22 Give in to gravity
- 24 Tacks on to a friends list
- 25 "Swoosh" company
- 27 Go off in the kitchen?
- 28 Cookie with a jokey November tweet showing itself in mashed potatoes
- 29 Warm, in a way
- 30 Prominence
- 31 Service with an "Eats" offshoot
- 32 Supplement that can help make you sleepy
- 33 Method
- 37 Early bird's prize
- 38 Application file suffix
- 39 George's sitar teacher
- 42 "The Hollow Men" poet
- 45 "Follow me for more \_\_\_" (snarky meme of late)
- 47 Website necessity
- 48 Nearsightedness
- 49 "Get Down \_\_\_" (Kool & the Gang song)
- 51 Burial vault
- 52 "It's worth \_\_\_!"
- 53 "Big Little Lies" author Moriarty
- 54 Sunday newspaper section
- 55 Ripped (off)
- 56 Relaxed pace
- 58 1990s game console, initially
- 60 Chance \_\_\_ Rapper
- 61 Cheer for Cristiano Ronaldo

**Down**

- 1 Scar
- 2 Actress Aimee of "La Dolce Vita"
- 3 Brain surgeon's prefix
- 4 "Be honest"
- 5 Back, on a boat
- 6 Liqueur used in a Black Russian
- 7 Feature of some khakis
- 8 Major kitchen appliance
- 9 Soft food for babies
- 10 Sword holders
- 11 Demonstration where you might hear the line "You're getting sleepy ..."

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22			
23				24					25			
26									27			28 29
30	31	32					33			34		
35					36	37	38			39		40
41			42		43				44	45		
46				47					48	49		
50									51			52 53
54	55								56			57 58
59					60					61		
62					63					64		
65					66					67		

**R&R answer from pg 35 of 12/3**

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

**Jonesin' answer from pg 36 of 12/3**

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

**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 37.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



**SIGNS OF LIFE**

All quotes are from *When Santa Fell to Earth*, by Cornelia Funke, born Dec. 10, 1958.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *The snow machine was still purring quietly on the table, and from the workshop he could hear hammering ... and swearing. Snow made the elves lively. It's a lively time.*

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *Only the loud-speakers were still blaring out their Christmas music. Men, women, and children gazed silently into the air as Ben and Charlotte floated through the Christmas decorations on the invisible reindeer. An invisible reindeer would explain a lot, but either way you don't owe an explanation.*

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *'Phew, we're frozen through!' Matilda moaned.... 'I told you to put on more clothes!' Niklas said. 'Look at Emmanuel. He's wearing his coat.' 'Oh, that silly coat,' Matilda muttered. 'Angels look stupid in coats. Anyway, the hood always knocks off my halo.' This is why outfits need coordination.*

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *Of course Ben's father had no idea that Ben's improved math performance was only thanks to Santa Claus and two momentous bets. Improvement is coming your way.*

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *As they passed the houses, Niklas popped pinecones into the mailboxes, sprinkled ash from the Christmas fire onto the doormats, and hung red apples on the shadowy tree branches — just within reach of children's hands. A little decoration goes a long way.*

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *The store was one big crush. ... Exhausted, they finally reached the escalator to the basement level: groceries and sweets. Christmas music hung like syrup in the stuffy air, and there were Santas and angels with glittery hair everywhere. Ben stumbled off the escalator and ran into a huge plastic Christmas tree. Make a plan to get some fresh air.*

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *But Ben didn't want fish. You can't cuddle a fish. No matter how hard you try.*

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *Ben put another piece of smoked fish in his mouth. Matilda's gingerbread had definitely tasted so much better. Sure, but is it a fair comparison?*

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *But when the elves had finally dragged the wheels inside the caravan, they were all so cold and drenched that none of them felt like fixing anything. A big project might go more easily if you break it into steps and recharge yourself when needed.*

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** *And his reindeer were nowhere to be seen, either. Which was no surprise. All Christmas reindeer are invisible.... Niklas took a few bits of gingerbread from his pocket and held them out hopefully into the darkness. When carrots don't work, gingerbread might.*

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** *'Booger-burps and reindeer poo!' What kind of a mess is this?' cried the largest of [the elves]. 'What happened?' If the elves make a mess, the elves can clean it up.*

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *Ben's mother wanted mountains; his father wanted the beach. Ben's mother wanted luxury; his father wanted a bargain. Compromise is possible! Or maybe also taking turns.*

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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 oven you put in the oven (5)	_____
2 from the Emerald Isle (5)	_____
3 vinaigrette-style dressing (7)	_____
4 like nesting dolls (7)	_____
5 cuisine of dim sum & lo mein (7)	_____
6 pizza with pineapple (8)	_____
7 like Salma Hayek (7)	_____

IT	IAN	AN	MEX	IRI
II	IC	DUT	NE	CHI
SS	AN	SH	SE	HA
ALI	CH	AN	WA	RU

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**Sudoku Answers from pg 36 of December 3**

**Puzzle A**

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

**Puzzle B**

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

**Puzzle C**

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



### Names in the news

• After more than 1,000 years, the Austrian town of F\*\*\*ing is getting a new name, The Local reported. English-speaking tourists have had a field day snapping selfies with city signs, even stealing them, and the 100 residents of modern-day F\*\*\*ing have had enough. According to the minutes of a municipal council meeting published on Nov. 16, the town will change its name to Fugging as of Jan. 1. "I can confirm that the village is being renamed," said Andrea Holzner, mayor of the surrounding municipality. "I really don't want to say anything more."

• A newly elected local councilman in Ompundja, Namibia, is assuring constituents that he has no plans for world domination, despite his unfortunate name: Uunona Adolf Hitler. The 54-year-old, who prefers to be called Mr. Uunona, told a German news website that his father named him without an understanding of the Nazi leader, Sky News reported. Namibia is a former German colony, so many streets, places and people have German names. "It was a perfectly normal name for me when I was a kid," Uunona said.

### Cliches come to life

After a heated argument with his wife in late November, a 48-year-old unnamed man from Como, Italy, stepped outside to walk it

off and kept on walking until he was stopped a week later by police officers patrolling after curfew in Gimarra, more than 260 miles away, Oddity Central reported. The man said he had walked the entire way, without using any other modes of transportation and relied on the kindness of strangers for food and drink. "I'm fine. I'm just a little tired," he said. His wife, who had reported him missing, picked him up the next day but had to pay a fine of almost \$500 for his violation of the curfew.

### Speaking of ...

• The recent unexplained appearance of a silver monolith in the deserts of Utah has made headlines all around the world. It also seems to have attracted imitators, including one in Romania's mountainous Neamt region. The 9-foot-tall metal structure mysteriously appeared on Nov. 27 and vanished on Dec. 1, leaving "just a small hole covered by rocky soil," a local reporter told Reuters. "An unidentified person, apparently a bad local welder, made it." Georgiana Mosu, a spokeswoman for the local police, said officers are investigating the incident because the monolith was placed in a protected archaeological area.

• Germany has also experienced a recent monolith mystery, according to the Associated Press. Local media in southern Germany reported the disappearance on Nov. 30 of a

wooden phallus sculpture about 7 feet tall that inexplicably appeared on Gruenten Mountain several years ago and had become a destination for hikers and tourists, even appearing on Google Maps as a "cultural monument." But over the weekend, someone chopped it down, leaving only a pile of sawdust. Police in the town of Kempten are investigating.

### Turnabout is fair play

An unnamed hunter near the Czech Republic village of Horni Plana contacted police in late November after a deer startled by the man's dogs charged him, snagging his .22-caliber rifle on its antlers before running into the woods, United Press International reported. The gun was unloaded, and police said another hunter saw the stag more than a half-mile away with the rifle still hanging from its antlers.

### Sounds like a fairy tale

Police in Kansas City, Kansas, responded to a call on Nov. 27 from a man who said he returned home around 4 p.m. that day to find a stranger in his house. The unnamed suspect was wearing the victim's clothing, had made a sandwich and cooked and ate ramen noodles, and when police arrived, was fast asleep in the victim's bed, Fox4 reported. The man was arrested and booked into the Wyandotte County Jail, where the beds surely were too hard.


### Least competent criminal

Daniel M. Rizza, 20, of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, driving a gray Audi SUV, ran out of gas on Nov. 27 and called state police to ask for help, but when he was told a trooper would be responding, he abruptly said he'd changed his mind and hung up, according to court documents. WTAJ reported the trooper responding to the call learned en route that a gray Audi had been reported stolen nearby earlier in the day, and after a check of the SUV's make, model, identification number and registration, he arrested Rizza, who was charged with a felony count of receiving stolen property.

### Awesome!

An unnamed North Korean man in his late 20s told officials his training as a gymnast enabled him to jump almost 10 feet high over a fence on Nov. 3 to escape into South Korea, National Public Radio reported. After crossing the fence, the man evaded capture for about 14 hours before being detained by South Korean soldiers, whom he told he wanted to defect. Skeptical officials made him jump the same height again twice to help prove his story. Amazingly, he successfully avoided land mines and sensors around the border.

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