

DECEMBER 24 - 30, 2020

OUTDOOR  
ART P. 12

RING IN 2021 WITH  
LAUGHS P. 32

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

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holiday indulgence  
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## Giving thanks in a tough year



2020 is not going silently into the night. It's going out kicking and screaming. And let's not be nice about this: 2020 has been a brutal year for everyone. More than 500 Granite Staters have passed away from Covid, people have lost their livelihoods, whole industries have been torn apart, families have been separated, kids have been unschooled, and to top it all off we went through one of the most divisive elections in modern times with federal agencies actually warning about possible election-related civil unrest. I mean, come on. It's no wonder people are drinking a bit more. Yes, beer, wine and liquor sales are up in New Hampshire.

But even in these challenging times there are things to be thankful for.

As fraught as the election was (and could still be, I guess) there wasn't any violence. The day after most signs were down and people here were back to their daily lives. Is everyone happy? No. But most have moved on to their lives.

As bad as Covid has been, it could have been worse. New Hampshire has largely been successful in tamping down outbreaks, keeping the number of hospitalizations low and balancing the needs of people to move about with the needs of our medical system to combat the virus. Any loss of life is horrific.

While many local businesses (including us) and nonprofits have seen revenues plunge, many other businesses have seen surging demand. Everything from ATVs to swimming pools to builders to takeout pizza has seen strong revenue in 2020.

Unemployment rates have continued to fall. New Hampshire's rate is now under 5 percent from a high of almost 17 percent in April. That does reflect some people leaving the workforce but it also reflects other jobs in other industries picking up the slack.

New Hampshire showed the country it was truly bipartisan by splitting results with Republicans dominating statewide races and Democrats dominating federal races. More than that, 75 percent of eligible voters voted — a modern record level of voting. And yes, folks, we do live in a democracy. We should also be thankful for that.

There is less traffic — just saying. Folks in New Hampshire continue to be generous with their time and money in assisting and donating to local nonprofits. While many nonprofits that rely on in-person services have seen revenues decline others have seen people be more generous. It made the news recently that MacKenzie Scott (author, philanthropist and former wife of Jeff Bezos) gave more than \$6 billion to New Hampshire nonprofits.

Hundreds of Hippo readers have sent in financial contributions this year to support Hippo. We can't say thank you enough.

As much as we want 2021 to be better than 2020, and I'm hopeful it will be, the road back to normal will be slower than we want. But there is a road back and for that I'm very thankful. 🌈



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## ON THE COVER

**18 YULE LOVE IT** A look at the history of this decadent seasonal dessert, plus tips for making them yourself and a few local shops where you can buy a professionally baked version of the holiday treat.

**ALSO ON THE COVER**, Nashua students exhibit their "Brave New World" art outdoors, p. 12. Laugh your way out of 2020 with New Year's Eve comedy, p. 32. And when all else fails, do puzzles! We have plenty, starting on p. 34.

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## Covid-19 news

On Dec. 15, the first doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine were administered in New Hampshire to front-line health care workers, according to a press release. The state received 12,675 doses of the vaccine in the first shipment, according to the release, with more expected to continue to arrive on a weekly basis. The state is also expected to receive more than 24,000 doses of Moderna's vaccine this week, according to a Dec. 19 report from WMUR, and the doses will be received in batches throughout the week. Vaccinations from both Pfizer and Moderna will be distributed to long-term care facilities this week, according to the report.

Dr. Beth Daly, Chief of the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control of the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, reported during a Dec. 17 press conference that the state has averaged around 800 to 900 new cases of Covid-19 per day from the previous week. The day before, on Dec. 16, state health officials reported 21 deaths due to the virus, the highest single-day number of deaths in New Hampshire since the beginning of the pandemic.

Later during the same press conference, Gov. Chris Sununu provided an update on the final allotments of federal CARES Act funding, which the state is required to spend in full by Dec. 31. An additional \$7 million will be allocated directly to hospitals in the state, specifically those that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. "We know that a lot of hospitals have had to give up certain elective procedures, elective surgeries ... to make sure that the beds are there," Sununu said. "That \$7 million, combined with additional over \$70 million that the federal

government is also allocating ... creates a lot of economic opportunity for hospitals and doctors that have really been hard hit by this." Sununu also said an additional \$4 million will be allocated to the state's university system to offset some unanticipated testing capacity costs, as well as \$12 million allocated to nonprofit organizations. "We've spent it down almost to the penny, frankly," he said of the federal funds. "The team at GOFERR did a great job of making sure that we had emergency funds available all the way to the end of the year."

## Speaker nomination

Last week, the House Republican Caucus voted to nominate Acting House Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) as its nominee for Speaker of the House, to succeed the late Speaker Richard "Dick" Hinch, according to a press release. The nomination will be decided on Jan. 6. "Losing Speaker Hinch has been difficult for all of us, and this is not my first choice of how I wanted this session to go," Packard said in a statement following the vote. "However, we must continue our work, we must continue his work, and I promise that I will continue to further Dick's vision of how he would have run the House."

## Money for vets

The City of Manchester is encouraging veterans who have needs that are directly related to Covid-19 to reach out to Easterseals, which still has CARES Act funds remaining for military veterans. All funds must be spent by the end of December, according to a press release, and veterans who need assistance because of Covid-19, including help with mortgage and rental arrearages,

car repairs, back car payments, utilities, food, gas, childcare arrangements, heating costs and more, can contact Easterseals at 315-4354 or mvsintake@eastersealsnh.org.

## Low unemployment

Last week's release of the November unemployment rates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that New Hampshire ranked as the fifth lowest state in the nation, with an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, according to a press release. "Balancing public health and economic success has been a priority of my administration from the onset of this pandemic," Gov. Chris Sununu said in the release. "This latest economic news affirms that New Hampshire has taken the right approach and that our economy will come back stronger than ever as we near the end of this pandemic."

## Housing stability plan

The state's new Council on Housing Stability finalized its initial report and action plan and sent it to Gov. Chris Sununu on Dec. 11, according to a press release. Sununu said in a statement that the council has created "an excellent foundation" for the state to begin updating its homelessness plan. He instructed state agencies to move forward with all recommendations that can be taken immediately through executive action, which includes applying for a federal waiver to support services that assist individuals and families in obtaining housing by May 1.

## Changes at SNHU

Southern New Hampshire University announced last week new plans for its campus-based programs that it says will be more flexible, accessible and afford-

The First Congregational Church in **Manchester** is leaving its lights on from dusk to dawn, now through Sunday, Dec. 27, to showcase the recent renovation of its stained glass windows. According to a press release, the windows of the 1880 church are the culmination of a year-long restoration project, and the public is welcome to drive by and see them lit up. The church is located on the corner of Hanover and Union streets.

Rivier University in **Nashua** has been ranked as a top 100 school for nursing in the nation and as the top private nursing school in New Hampshire, according to a press release. The rankings come from the Nursing School Almanac, which evaluated more than 3,000 U.S. nursing schools.

Work has begun on a new 6,900-square-foot testing and engineering range at the Sig Sauer Academy in **Epping**. According to a press release from North Branch Construction, construction of the pre-engineered steel building is expected to be completed in late spring.

able — including a more than 50-percent reduction from its current tuition rate. According to a press release, SNHU will launch new and updated campus academic programs next fall, with greater emphasis on experiential and project-based learning. It will also move from merit-based to need-based financial aid awards, and a tiered tuition rate of just \$15,000 or \$10,000 per year. Starting in the fall of 2021, there will be more than 50 on-campus programs available. The \$15,000 programs will feature face-to-face instruction, with flexibility to explore electives, internships, project-based courses, service learning, study abroad, and other experiential learning elements. The \$10,000 programs will include at least 36 credits earned through required experiential learning components such as studio work, lab work, project-based courses, internships or certifications, and the remaining credits will be delivered in a mix of face-

to-face classroom settings and online formats. There will be less time in traditional classroom settings, and faculty will be engaging with students in new ways, including as project leads, internship advisors and coaches. These programs are open to new, first-year students and rising sophomores. "This effort is the culmination of years of hard work to fundamentally reimagine a broken model that too often leaves students behind," President and CEO Paul LeBlanc said in the release. "When we set out to radically reduce the cost of place-based higher education, we knew that it would require a holistic approach, and we are proud of the work our teams have done tirelessly during the pandemic to rethink the cost and delivery of our campus model to put higher education within reach for more learners." SNHU is also aiming to increase campus enrollment from 3,000 students to 4,500 students by 2025, according to the release. 🌟

Covid-19 update	As of December 14	As of December 21
<b>Total cases statewide</b>	31,875	37,388
<b>Total current infections statewide</b>	6,752	6,688
<b>Total deaths statewide</b>	604	656
<b>New cases</b>	6,059 (Dec. 8 to Dec. 14)	5,513 (Dec. 15 to Dec. 21)
<b>Current infections: Hillsborough County</b>	2,453	2,290
<b>Current infections: Merrimack County</b>	872	929
<b>Current infections: Rockingham County</b>	1,722	1,580

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

# Finding a way home

An update on homelessness in NH

The New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness released its annual State of Homelessness in New Hampshire report Dec. 17. It includes data generated between 2019 and early 2020, pre-pandemic, as well as a special report on The Intersection of Unsheltered Homelessness and Covid-19 in NH, based on semi-structured interviews with homelessness services across the state. Stephanie Allain Savard, LICSW, director of the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness, discussed some of the key points in the report.

**Q:** *What immediate effects has the pandemic had on homelessness in New Hampshire?*

The report showed that even pre-pandemic the homeless population had risen since last year. The pandemic layered on top of that has really exacerbated the issue. ... Many people who were living in shelters decided to leave because they were concerned about social distancing and didn't feel that it was safe to be in a congregate setting. Then, there are people who were couch-surfing, jumping from one place to the next at the graces of family and friends who were willing to let them stay with them temporarily; now, they have nowhere to go because people need to isolate.



Stephanie Allain Savard, LICSW

concerns, but they also understand the situation for those who are homeless. ... They're trying to figure out what should be enforced with a humanitarian understanding that we need to support [homeless people] where they are the best that we can.

**Has anything good come out of the pandemic in regards to homelessness?**

It's been wonderful to see so many partnerships get stronger or new partnerships form. Suddenly, city welfare departments, substance abuse [services], homelessness services, community mental health organizations and fire departments were all collaborating to respond to the crisis in the best way possible.

**What's the report's Call to Action?**

We're always looking at how we can increase the production of affordable housing, and one way to continue doing that is to maintain and increase investment in the New Hampshire Affordable Housing Fund. There's the New Hampshire Governor's Council on Housing Stability that was just established ... as a short-term action plan, and we're working to make sure that any policies, legislations and other recommendations that come out of that are supported. [And we're advocating for] the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Housing Support's request for an additional \$9 million a year to support emergency shelters across the state.

**What can people who have stable housing do to help those who don't?**

You can volunteer. There are plenty of homeless services that could use the hands-on support, or you can find out what items they need donated, like hats and mittens and food, or make a monetary donation. ... You can advocate for your legislators to address homelessness. ... Also, just talking about it is really important. The more we talk about homelessness and educate ourselves about what's happening with the homeless population, the more we can break the stigma and the cycle that we're currently in. — *Angie Sykeny*

## State of Homelessness in New Hampshire

*The state's most recent stats, pre-pandemic. To read the full report, visit [nhceh.org](http://nhceh.org).*

- The number of people experiencing homelessness increased **21 percent**.
- The number of chronically homeless people (who have been homeless for a significant length of time) increased by **112 percent**.
- Homelessness among students decreased by **19 percent**.

- **Sixty percent** of the state's homeless population resides outside of Manchester, and **43.5 percent** resides in rural communities.
- Black/African-American and multi-racial people make up only 2.7 percent of the state's general population but **10.2 percent** of the homeless population. Hispanic/Latinx people make up 2.8 percent of the general population, **10.6 percent** of the homeless population.

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# NBA blasts off



The NBA season kicked off yesterday and goes into high gear on Christmas Day. With a late start, Covid concerns, no fans and a shorter schedule it's not a typical year filled with holiday cheer. But with the Celtics re-mixed, drama impending in Brooklyn, many exciting young players and much movement among players and coaches there are a lot of stories to keep an eye as it unfolds and here are a few of them.

**The Schedule:** It weirdly will be announced at two separate times. The first 40 games leading to the All-Star break in early March are out. The second half of the 72-game schedule will be announced in late February to allow for a reset to make up games lost to Covid-19 postponements. It'll also be more like baseball with teams playing many back-to-back games in the same building two days apart. That happens for the Celtics seven times — five on the road and two at home. So the question is, will that make home court advantage no big deal with fans either not there or in lesser numbers and travel fatigue less of an issue in the back end game?

**The Big Trade That Wasn't Really a Trade:** The biggest off-season trade was Milwaukee sending a whopping *three* first-round picks along with guards **Eric Bledsoe**, who can probably be flipped for a fourth and **George Hill** to New Orleans for point guard **Jrue Holiday**. While I like Holiday a lot, that's what you call wildly overpaying. So why did they do it? Because at least two of the first-round picks were surrendered in desperation to make sure **Giannis Antetokounmpo** felt good enough about the Bucks to re-sign this off-season. And since he just did so in a record-breaking deal, mission accomplished. However, if the Freak wasn't on the line, they probably get Holiday for Bledsoe and just one first, or pass on the deal if that doesn't get it done.

**Will Warriors Return to a Golden State?** Good question. Depends what they get out of **Andrew Wiggins** and **Kelly Oubre**. But with **Klay Thompson** out for the year again, I don't see it, as it seems like the magic they once had is gone. Maybe for good.

**Are The Celtics Better or Did They Regress?** The X-factor is **Kemba Walker**. If he's not healthy, no. If he is, yes, because (1) they lost the skilled **Gordon Hayward**, but since they got virtually nothing from him in the playoffs and still went three rounds deep it's survivable; (2) if you added **Tristan Thompson's** size, rebounding and interior defense to the 2020 playoff team would it have helped? I say yes; (3) the **Jeff Teague** (more polished offensively) for **Brad Wanamaker** (more physical defender) swap is a wash. Overall, it makes them bigger, tougher and better. Though so are Milwaukee, Brooklyn, maybe Philly and even Atlanta, so the battle isn't easier. Plus with the

massive trade exception available they're still under construction.

**Next Step for Luka:** With the hype machine on full throttle expectations for Dallas star **Luka Doncic** couldn't be higher. So will the amped up pressure hinder the ascension of his **Larry Bird** like game into a spot in the NBA's Top 5 players?

**Full Year of Zion:** Thanks to a knee injury we got just a glimpse of the exciting **Zion Williamson** last year. I hope this year we'll get to see him play the whole season, which will be fun.

**Another Full Year of Ja Ja:** Zion got all the pub but **Ja Morant** dazzled all year after being taken second overall by Memphis. I missed him last year, so I want to see for myself when he faces the C's on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

**James Harden Saga:** His wanting to be traded has dominated the news of late, but who cares? The aforementioned Holiday deal complicates what Houston is asking on the "if Nola got that for Holiday we should get double that for Harden." Stat Man's not worth whatever they're asking but I'm with **Charles Barkley** — if the Nets will give up **Spencer Dinwiddie**, **Caris LeVert**, **Jarrett Allen** and a first-round pick as rumored, I take it.

**ESPN's Surprises Top 100 Ranking:** I wasn't surprised seeing **Jayson Tatum** ranked 11th overall. But I was by **Marcus Smart** (34) ranked above **Kemba** (42), which I agree with. Throw in **Jaylen Brown** at 26 and it gives the C's four in the Top 50.

**Big Expectations in Brooklyn:** With him appearing healthy I don't know how you bet against **Kevin Durant**. But I wonder about the following. (1) With Durant becoming more thin-skinned in recent years, if things don't go swimmingly how will he act when those New York writers turn on the team in a flash? (2) Will **Steve Nash** be the next great player to become a solid coach or will he join a long list who got by on previous playing deeds? (3) How long will it take **Kyrie** to under- mine Nash as he tried to do with **Brad Stevens** and did do with **Kenny Atkinson**?

**Something I Wish the Celtics Had Done:** They need a real point guard to let **Kemba** slide over and be a **Ray Allen**-like off-the-ball sniper. So instead of going for the huge trade exception in the Hayward deal with Charlotte I wish they had brought back **Terry Rozier** and a smaller exception. His final year in Boston wasn't a good one. But when he started in place of **Kyrie** he ran the offense, played solid D and was a contributor on the boards. He'd have made them deeper and more versatile.

**The Prediction:** Despite losing **Rajon Rondo** and **Dwight Howard**, the Lakers probably got better by adding **Dennis Schroder** and **Montrezl Harrell**. So I hate to say it, but with **LeBron** and **AD** leading, they're the favorites to win and go (gulp) past Boston for most titles won by a franchise with 18.

Happy holidays to all. Email Dave Long at [dlong@hippypress.com](mailto:dlong@hippypress.com).



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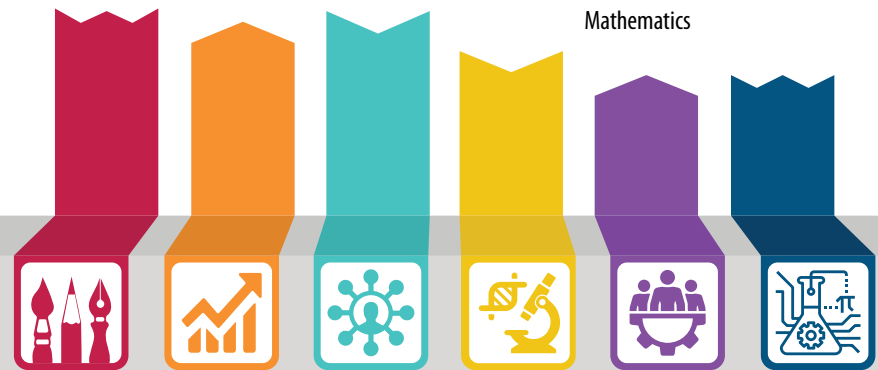
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# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## More shelters in state's biggest cities

The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness announced last week that it has purchased the First Congregational Church of Concord at 177 N. Main St. with CARES Act funding, and it has temporarily moved its Winter Shelter and Resource Center to the larger space. According to a message on the nonprofit's website, this will allow the shelter to go back to being able to safely accommodate up to 40 people in the Emergency Winter Shelter and about 50 people at a time at the daytime Resource Center — the same numbers as before the pandemic. In Manchester, the Board of Aldermen has approved the use of the old police department building at 351 Chestnut St. as a temporary homeless shelter for the winter, according to a report from WMUR. The City is leasing two floors, which will be able to house 50 people, the report said. And in Nashua, the city's Soup Kitchen and Shelter will open its new emergency shelter on Spring Street about six months earlier than the anticipated Summer 2021 completion date, according to a story in the Union Leader. The renovation project was fast-tracked because of the pandemic and the need for more space due to social distancing protocols.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *With all three cities finding ways to create more emergency shelter space, it's a positive step toward ensuring that all New Hampshire residents have a warm place to stay this winter.*

## Honoring Christa McAuliffe

A commemorative coin in honor of Christa McAuliffe that supports STEM education was unveiled last week. According to a press release, U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan led the effort to create the coin to honor McAuliffe, the Concord teacher who died aboard the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. Proceeds will support science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. "Christa was driven by a passion for teaching and scientific discovery, and this ... coin will help continue her legacy," Hassan said in the release.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *In the release, Shaheen and Hassan thanked local inventor and engineer Dean Kamen for the efforts he contributed to making the coin a reality, and for all the work he does to help engage young people in the STEM fields.*

## So much snow, so little parking

After the state saw more than two feet of snow in many areas during last Thursday's storm, clearing roads and parking lots seemed to take significantly longer than usual. Some schools that were holding in-person classes were closed both Thursday and Friday to allow for extra time for clean-up. And on Sunday, three days after the storm ended, downtown Concord still had little to no on-street parking.

**Score:** -1

**Comment:** *While road crews were likely overwhelmed with the sheer amount of snow and did the best they could, local shop owners may have been a bit dismayed too — the lack of parking along Main Street in Concord, at least, certainly made it frustrating for QOL to do some last-minute Christmas shopping.*

## Bike repairs on the go

There's a new way for the public to make minor repairs to their bikes in Manchester — a Fixit bike repair station in Bronstein Park, funded through a grant from the Granite State Wheelers, opened during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 18. According to a press release, Queen City Bicycle Collective worked with the City of Manchester Parks and Recreation Division to implement the Fixit station, which includes basic tools and an air pump that will help bicyclists make small repairs on the go. It's the first one in Manchester, and the QC Bike Collective plans to have more stations installed at various locations in the city.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *QC Bike Collective's goal is to make biking safer and more convenient for people in Manchester, according to the release.*

**QOL score:** 73

**Net change:** +2

**QOL this week:** 75

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

75

50

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- **Best Artists Market** (Honorable Mention)
- **Best Place to buy a Unique Gift** (Manchester area 2019)



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132179

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133003

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# Will paint for smiles

Nashua students create uplifting art for the community

By Angie Sykeny  
asykeny@hippopress.com

Nashua high school students are using art to spread messages of hope and positivity amid the pandemic.

A new public art exhibition, “Brave New World: Resilience in the Time of Covid,” features paintings by about 80 student artists and is attached to the chain link fence at Amherst Street Elementary School. It will remain up through Feb. 14.

“Brave New World” is a collaboration between three Nashua public high schools, organized by art teachers Stephanie Sewhuk-Thomas of Brentwood Academy, Robin Peringer of Nashua High School South and Rodney Coffin of Nashua High School North.

The students started on the project in the fall in various art classes and programs that were utilizing “Choose Love,” a social-emotional curriculum

developed by Scarlett Lewis, whose son was killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. The curriculum teaches strategies for turning negative thoughts into positive ones through courage, gratitude, forgiveness and compassion.

“The lessons talk about how, for the average person, 60 to 80 percent of the singular thoughts they have in a day are negative, and because most of our thoughts are repetitive, there’s a lot of power in changing even one negative thought to a positive thought,” Sewhuk-Thomas said. “We really zeroed in on that.”

With “Choose Love” as the basis for the project, the students also learned about the history and style of street art and techniques for using color, design and typography to create impactful images with a message.

Then, the students and teachers worked together to compile a list of

short uplifting phrases to incorporate into their artwork, either literally with text or symbolically with imagery. “You are loved,” “Apart, but still together,” “Be someone’s reason to smile,” “Only good vibes” and “Be the best version of yourself” are some of the phrases they came up with, Sewhuk-Thomas said.

“The objective was simply to give someone passing by a positive thought for their day,” she said.

“I think the installation will be a lovely addition to Nashua, as a reminder that togetherness and a sense of community is possible even in separation and isolation,” added student artist Sarah Hinds, a senior at Nashua High School South.

Sewhuk-Thomas said the project has been just as uplifting for the students themselves.

“It’s been really important for them to be able to do something to make a positive difference, especially on a community level like this, at a time when

their contact with other people is so limited,” she said.

“[It’s] been a wonderful opportunity for young artists ... to really showcase their talents while spreading positivity in a time where most people could really use a reminder that things will be OK,” added student artist Ben Almeida, a senior at Nashua High School North.

“Brave New World” is dedicated to the memory of Tyler Almeida, a senior at Nashua High School North and student artist for the exhibit who died in November. 🍀

## “Brave New World: Resilience in the Time of Covid”

**Where:** Chain link fence outside Amherst Street Elementary School, 71 Amherst St., Nashua

**When:** Now through Feb. 14

**More info:** [sites.google.com/nsd42.net/bravenewworld](https://sites.google.com/nsd42.net/bravenewworld)

### Artists & their “Brave New World” creations



**Mariah Rodriguez Costa, junior at Nashua High School South**

“I wanted my artwork to be simple, bold and easy to understand. I wrote ‘Save Our Planet’ on a plain black background to really highlight the words. The most important, and personally my favorite, part of the piece was my handprint overlapping the Earth. I thought that this tied the piece together and it shows that we have to do whatever we can to save our home. During these hard times, it is crucial that we take care of ourselves, our loved ones, and our planet. ... I want people to look at my art and want to make a change to how they treat our planet, whether it be recycling, going zero waste or even picking up trash on the ground. ... I truly believe that we can save our planet and provide a better future for the next generation.”



**Andre Dabney, freshman at Brentwood Academy High School**

“I used the classic smiley face emoji as my inspiration [and] as the focal point of [the] piece and decided to add rays coming from the sun. I used a cloudy sky as the backdrop and wanted to make it [so] that the sun was clearing away the clouds. I added goggles to show that he was having fun and his tongue sticking out to represent that he was silly. ... In the times that we are all facing in today’s world, it’s important that we all keep each other smiling and laughing together through this pandemic.”



**Ben Almeida, senior at Nashua High School North**

“My piece features my demon character Smudge next to the words ‘You Are Loved’ in big rainbow letters. My inspiration was from some of my personal struggles with feeling loved. I find that on my darkest days some of the simplest things can really make me feel better, and being reminded that you are loved ... can lift one’s mood. [Smudge] is a symbol of positivity for me. ... I’ve had a lot of people tell me that they find him to be very cute so I thought he would be a pleasant addition to my positive message. When people see my piece I want them to smile ... [and know] that no matter how dark things may be in their life currently there is someone out there rooting for them now and always.”



**Sarah Hinds, senior at Nashua High School South**

“My inspiration for the piece was my reconnection with nature during the Covid-19 pandemic. I have been so focused on school and work before quarantine, but as soon as I was forced to isolate myself, I felt an urge to go out and rediscover nature. I started hiking and just tried to spend more time outside, and my increased immersion in nature allowed me to finally feel at peace again. ... The hand extending from the [top] right corner was inspired by ‘The Creation of Adam’ by Michelangelo, but instead of the arm of God extending from the opposite corner, I included a bunch of wildflowers. This was meant to represent Mother Nature, and to encourage the audience themselves to reconnect with nature and immerse themselves in it as I had done.”

# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Currier closed for now:** The Currier Museum of Art in Manchester announced in a press release that it has temporarily closed in light of the recent spike in Covid-19 cases. It will evaluate in mid-January whether conditions are safe enough to reopen. "The Currier Museum is doing all it can to contain the spread of Covid-19 and avoid burdening local health resources," the press release said. "Many museums in Massachusetts and Maine have also temporarily shut their doors as a precaution." The museum will continue to offer virtual content and programming, including its popular "Noon Year's Eve" family-friendly New Year's Eve event, which will be held online on Dec. 31. Visit [currier.org](http://currier.org).

• **Santa books:** During the pandemic, New Hampshire Writers' Project member Yvonne Vissing created *The Santa Series*, which includes five books about Santa Claus. *The Santa Spirit* is a children's picture book that provides a history of Santa Claus and explains how to share the "Santa Spirit" of happiness and generosity with everyone. *Reimagine Santa: The social construction and transformation of Santa Claus yesterday, today and tomorrow* is a comprehensive look at the social, psychological and political aspects of Santa Claus as a symbol for adults. *The ABCs of the Santa Spirit for Adults* is an A-to-Z book to help adults rediscover the joy and kindness of Santa Claus and share it with the children around them. *The Legend of the Santa Stocking* is a family-focused fiction book that tells the story of a family in financial struggle that replaces store-bought gifts with stockings full of reminders about why they are special to each other. *A Santa Spirit Advent Calendar Book: COVID Edition* includes 24 days of fun activities and readings for families to do together leading up to Christmas. "Re-imagining Santa to be a spirit of loving-kindness



Holiday vignettes at Canterbury Shaker Village. Courtesy photo.

that anyone, and everyone, can deliver to each other takes away pressures of spending money and refocuses our attention on what matters most — having positive relationships with others and feeling we matter," Vissing said in a press release. Books in *The Santa Series* are available through local independent bookstores as well as Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Walmart and other retail stores.

• **Shaker Christmas:** Canterbury Shaker Village (228 Shaker Road, Canterbury) will continue its Magic Journey through the North Shop Barn from Sunday, Dec. 27, through Wednesday, Dec. 30, daily from 1 to 5 p.m. The North Shop Barn, which has been transformed into a winter wonderland, features 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 at the Village Store. Admission costs \$10 for adults and is free for youth. Visit [shakers.org](http://shakers.org) or call 783-9511.

• **Postcard poetry:** Write an original poem on a postcard and mail it to Peterborough Poetry Project, P.O. Box 247, Peterborough, NH 03458 before Dec. 31. The poem does not have to be related to the imagery on the accompanying postcard and can be any length as long as it fits on the postcard and is legible. Entrants can submit up to two postcards. Several dozen poems will be selected for publication in the anthology, and cash prizes will be awarded to the three top poems. The Peterborough Poetry Project is also looking for short personal essays under 200 words about people's experiences with postcards for inclusion in its spring anthology about postcard poetry. Visit [peterboroughpoetryproject.org/](http://peterboroughpoetryproject.org/) contests.

— Angie Sykeny 🍀

## Art

### Exhibits

• **"SMALL WORKS - BIG IMPACT"** Creative Ventures Gallery's annual holiday exhibit featuring small works of art in various media, priced affordably for gift buying. Virtual. On display now through Dec. 31. Visit [creativeventuresfineart.com](http://creativeventuresfineart.com) or call 672-2500.

• **"THE VIEW THROUGH MY EYES"** The New Hampshire Art Association presents works by pastel artist Chris Reid. Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Gallery, 49 S. Main St., Concord. On display now through March

18. Visit [nhartassociation.org](http://nhartassociation.org) or call 431-4230.

### Fairs and markets

• **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).

## Theater

### Shows

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** A one-man adaptation performed by Christopher Savage. Virtually. Available starting 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.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Safe Haven Ballet presents. Sat., Jan. 2, 2 and 6 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 3, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$50 for adults and \$45 for seniors and children. Visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org).



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## Winter chores

Still a few things left to do in the garden

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

### — THE GARDENING GUY —

Our gardens are put to bed for the winter: Veggie stalks are pulled and composted, perennials are cut back, weeds pulled, leaves raked. But I'm not done quite yet — and you might have a few chores left to do, too.

Young trees, especially young fruit trees, are often targeted by voles in winter. If they chew all the way around a tree, removing bark and the cambium layer beneath it, the tree will die. This is called girdling and happens most often in winters with deep snow because rodents live beneath the snow and are less likely to be caught by owls or other predators.

To prevent girdling, you need only surround young trees with a protective shield of "hardware cloth" made with quarter-inch wire mesh. It is sold at hardware stores and comes in rolls of various widths. I use 24-inch-wide hardware cloth and cut it with tin snips. It is too tough to cut with scissors. I cut pieces that will go around the trunk and overlap a little, and tie it with wire or string. I squeeze the top after encircling the trunk

so that no ambitious mice can drop down from the opening.

Another rodent-related task is to protect my riding lawn mower from mice that want to spend the winter inside the air filter. They have done that in the past, causing problems. Now? I just put a few moth balls in a sock, lift the hood, and lay it inside. It keeps away the mice.

I have already winterized my mower. This means I added something to prevent the gas from going flat during the months of non-use. I use a product called Sta-Bil. Add it to the gas, then run the engine for five minutes. Come spring, my mower starts right up.

If your garden isn't covered in two feet of snow, it might be useful to go outside with a clipboard and pencil to draw this year's vegetable garden. Right now I still know where everything was. Come spring I might not remember exactly where the leeks or beans were.

I use wide raised beds for my veggies and leave them in place from year to year. It is good to pick a new spot each year to plant the regulars — tomatoes, potatoes, squash, etc. I like to rotate plantings so that insects and diseases are less likely to find their favorites. Rotation doesn't stop diseases or pests, but it makes sense to minimize them by moving crops from year to year.

In small gardens this is almost a futile effort and even in large gardens you will have tomato diseases each year no matter what you do.

I don't believe in pampering my plants. They have to make it on their own, without too much fussing from me. So I have never been one to build shelters over shrubs to shelter them from cold winds or ice falling off the roof. I don't plant shrubs beneath the drip line of the house.

This year I got a small cutleaf Japanese red maple and planted it about 10 feet from the dripline of my house. It was a perfect planting spot except for one thing: When the relatively flat roof of the house is shoveled after a foot or more of snow, the ice and snow could land on it — after a 30-foot drop. Yikes. I decided to build a simple shelter for it, as I had spent \$125 on the tree and don't want it broken.

Here is what I did: I got four five-foot-long wooden grade stakes and a piece of half-inch plywood. I had a scrap of plywood 60 inches by 40 inches, and cut it in half to create two pieces 30 by 40 inches. I painted the plywood to keep it from delaminating, and then screwed the plywood to the stakes. I left two inches of each stake clear at the top before attaching the plywood, and drilled holes sideways through them.

To set up the shelter, I pushed the bottom of the stakes into the soil at an angle, meeting in the middle over the small tree. Then I tied them together with a strand of copper wire going through the holes I had drilled in the stakes. It seems sturdy and strong enough to deflect any snow pushed off the roof.



Wire the 2 sides of the A-frame together. Courtesy photo.

I have a number of hand tools with wooden handles that are 50 to 75 years old, tools that my parents and grandfather used and that were passed on to me. I treasure them. To keep them in good condition, I clean and oil those wooden handles and recommend you do yours, too. First, I wipe off any soil from handles and blades. Blades get brushed with a wire brush if needed. Handles get a quick touch-up with fine steel wool or sandpaper if there are rough spots. Then everything gets wiped down with a rag moistened with boiled linseed oil. That oil is available at hardware stores. The oil on metal parts will minimize rusting. Motor oil would work, but I don't want it going in the soil next spring.

An old saying goes, "A woman's work is never done." That's true for gardeners regardless of gender. I'm sure I will find something else to do that is not on my list. Meanwhile, I can dream of finding time to read good books by the woodstove.

Email [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net).

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## KIDDIE

— POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

## Just plane fun

The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org) is hosting a **Festival of Planes**, a walk-through exhibit that includes aviation-themed toys, models and puzzles, plus vintage aircraft piloted by celebrities like Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse. According to a press release, the toys span the 20th century, from custom-made cast iron planes to today's mass-produced Hello Kitty airplane toys. In addition, hundreds of collectible model aircrafts will be displayed on a new Wall of Planes in the museum's learning center. The museum will be open during the holiday vacation week, on Saturday, Dec. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 27, from 1 to 7 p.m., and Monday, Dec. 28, through Wednesday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum will reopen Saturday, Jan. 2, and throughout January will be open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 7 p.m. — later hours than normal to allow more families to see the Festival of Planes. The exhibit is included with museum admission of \$10 per person; \$5 for seniors 65+, veterans/active military and students under 13. Members and children under age 5 get in free.

## Christmas Eve at the movies

Catch *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 a.m. at Cinemagic theaters (38 Cinemagic Way in Hooksett; 11 Executive Park Drive in Merrimack; 2454 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth; cinemagic-movies.com). Tickets cost \$6.50.

Or watch *Elf* (PG, 2003), also playing Christmas Eve day, at 2 p.m. at the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com). Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students.

## Last chance for 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.

The **Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights** will run through Dec. 27. A list of addresses featuring holiday light displays at homes throughout Amherst, Antrim, Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey, Merrimack, Milford, Peterborough and Rindge is available, so families can plan a driving tour to see as many of the houses as they'd like. Contact any of those towns' rec departments for the master list of addresses. 📞

## TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

I am wondering if you can give me information and perhaps a value on this stove. It belonged to my husband's grandmother, who passed away in 1992 at the age of 93, and we inherited it. We used it to cook with for several years and decided it would be safer to replace it. We have been using it as a decorative piece in our old farmhouse, but now we would like to sell it. Thank you for any information you can provide.



Gayle

Dear Gayle,

Antique gas or wood cooking stoves are really not in my field of appraisals, but I have had experience with them that I can share.

Enamel gas cook stoves like yours have been around for more than 100 years, and it's not uncommon to still see them around in older homes today, though most have been retired to a basement and are not used any more. But some are and not just for cooking but for heating as well. Your apartment-size stove is sweet because of its size, and it appears to be in good condi-

tion. One of the markets for these might be camps around New England. Also, if you do a search online you can find companies that fully restore them and even can convert to electric. The value depends on how you market it, so doing more research could pay off for selling it.

As far as an appraisal value I would say it should be in the \$500+ range for insurance pur-

poses. Finding a new home for it at that price might be tough, though. Remember, someone has to put the work in to make sure it is safe again to use. So anywhere from \$200 to \$500 should be a safe place to start.

*Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing, and recently closed the physical location of From Out Of The Woods Antique Center (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com) but is still doing some buying and selling. She is a member of The New Hampshire Antiques Dealer Association. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550 or 624-8668. 📞*

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# Can I get a nicer horn?



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I'd like a car horn that emits a friendly little beep — like, "Look up, you have a green light." Or "Careful, bud, you're about to back into me."

Does such a horn exist? Something that doesn't

sound threatening, that lets people know I need their attention but I'm not angry? — Connie

You're absolutely right in identifying a problem — that car horns only have one note, and it's "HEY!!!!!! JERK!!!!!!"

Even when I try to tap the horn lightly, to let the guy in front of me know that he's been sitting through half a greenlight cycle while texting with his mistress, sometimes it still comes out full blast, and I feel like I've overreacted. He also feels like I overreacted, based on the hand gesture he gave me in his rearview mirror.

The problem is that the horn's primary role is to get someone's attention in an emergency. So you don't want to compromise that. If you switched to a sweet little Fiat Cinquecento horn when you actually have a guy in a Chevy Tahoe bearing down on you while rocking Metallica on his 16-speaker Bose system, he wouldn't hear you.

It'd be nice if you could have a two-way switch, kind of like what a lot of modern toilets

have. You push half the button when it's not so serious, and the whole button when it's "Whoa, Nellie!" In your case, Connie, my suggestion would be to install a separate, auxiliary, "excuse me" horn. Car horns are actually comprised of two horns. So you get two notes, and they sound very dissonant and unpleasant — on purpose.

If you have a friendly regular mechanic, I'm sure he can help you find a single horn, perhaps a higher note, that sounds like what you're looking for. He can even audition a few of them for you using a car battery. If you find one you like, you can have him wire it up with a push button on your dashboard. You want to leave your primary horn switch exactly where it is, in the middle of your steering wheel. That's where you'll instinctively reach in an emergency, and I wouldn't mess with that horn, or its switch, at all.

I'd just add the second one. And in a non-emergency — when someone doesn't notice the light has turned green or someone is about to drive away with a caramel macchiato on their roof — you'll have time to reach for the switch on your dashboard and give a friendly little beep. And if anyone notices it, I'm sure they'll greatly appreciate your effort, Connie.

Dear Car Talk:

My husband and I are both nurses, so we are trained to diagnose things. My husband is not

only a great nurse but a fine backyard mechanic as well. But we have a problem with our 2015 Ford Escape that has us stumped.

When I stop at a red light, my car shakes violently, and the RPM drops below a thousand. When I put it in neutral or park, the shaking stops.

We took it to our mechanic, who hooked up a computer that showed no codes, no idiot lights, and no warning light on the dash. They ruled out a bad motor mount and brake rotors being warped, and they cleaned the idle air-control valve. They are stumped, too.

Please help with this problem. If anybody can, you can. — Marsha (for Marsha and Robert)

I'd give you my diagnosis, Marsha, but I need to see your proof of insurance coverage first. Sorry, little hospital joke there.

It could be any number of things, Marsha. But I suspect you have a vacuum leak. The engine naturally creates vacuum every time a piston descends and sucks fuel and air into a cylinder. That "free" vacuum power is then used by other systems in the car. For example, it's used by the ventilation system to control the flaps inside your ducts, and by the exhaust gas recirculation system to open and close the EGR valve.

If you have a vacuum leak, that means unwanted air is leaking into the cylinders. Because the mixture of gasoline and air in the cylinders has to be just right, a vacuum leak

throws off that delicate balance by letting in too much air, and that makes the engine run rough.

There are various ways to find a vacuum leak. If it's big enough, you can sometimes hear it hissing. If not, we sometimes spray combustible fuel cleaner where we think air might be leaking in. If there's a vacuum leak nearby, that fuel cleaner will get sucked into the cylinders, and we'll hear the engine rev up. Or we pinch off individual vacuum hoses, one at a time, to see if closing one off makes the engine run smoothly.

There are other tricks, too. But if your mechanic is as good as you say he is, he'll know how to search for a vacuum leak. I will give you one hint for your mechanic: One often-overlooked source of a vacuum leak is the power brake booster.

The power brake booster uses vacuum from the engine to multiply the force your foot puts on the brake pedal. It's the "power" in power brakes. But if there's a hole in the booster's diaphragm, that'll create a vacuum leak, but only when you're stepping on the brake -- like when you're stopped at a light. If the leak is a small one, when you put the car in park or neutral, you reduce the load on the engine enough to stop the shaking.

So ask your mechanic to set out on an expedition for a vacuum leak, Marsha. Hopefully he'll find it, and your Escape can escape the shakes.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

# FOOD Yule love it!

A look at the holiday indulgence that is the Yule log



Courtesy of Nathalie Hirte of the Franco-American Centre.



Raspberry jam and dark chocolate mousse filled Yule log. Courtesy of Popovers on the Square in Epping and Portsmouth.

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Growing up in Québec, Nathalie Hirte of Litchfield doesn't remember a Christmas when her mother, Agnès Boucher, didn't make bûche de Noël, more commonly known here as a Yule log. The chocolate sponge cake, rolled with a jam or buttercream filling and decorated to look like the wood from an actual tree log, was the centerpiece of her family's kitchen table at dessert.

"She would cut out the edges from the pan, and I remember I always looked forward to getting to eat those crunchy sides, because she wouldn't use those to roll the log," said Hirte, now the office manager of the Franco-American Centre in Manchester and the founder of "Franco Foods," a virtual recipe swap she started earlier this year. "She always made meringue mushrooms to put on top of the cake, and she had this very small plastic Santa Claus on skis. She'd put it on with powdered sugar to make it look like he was skiing down the log."

While Hirte's mother most commonly used strawberry or raspberry jam as a

Yule log filling, you can use everything from a chocolate or vanilla buttercream to a salted caramel or peanut butter mousse. The variations continue when it's time to give your cake its own festive decorations.

The result may look fancy, but with the right baking ingredients and tools a Yule log may not be as daunting to make as you might think. Local restaurateurs and baking experts discuss some of their own tips and tricks for whipping up this classic holiday dessert.

## Baked in tradition

The precise origin of baking a cake around the holidays to resemble a log is unclear, but Pembroke chef Debbie Burritt, owner of Sweet Crunch Bakeshop

& Catering Co., said it may be linked to a long-standing custom in France and

“You can start with any basic variation of a sponge cake and turn it into a Yule log by changing the buttercream inside, or the cake itself.”

DEBBIE BURRITT

over a prepared sheet pan. Hirte said she likes to butter her pan and then line it with parchment paper before adding the batter. The exact baking time may vary depending on the oven, but it's generally pretty quick — around 15 minutes, she said.

"You want to be careful not to over-bake," she said. "I've found that using a bigger pan ... has cooked faster but also rolled better. ... You can touch the middle of it and if it's moist and bouncy then you know it's ready."

Because the cake itself is very light and airy, the trickiest part of the Yule log is in the rolling. Denise Nickerson of The Bakeshop on Kelley Street in Manchester said that it should be rolled warm as soon as it's out of the oven to prevent it from cracking. You can use parchment

## Where to get Yule logs

While the deadline to order a Yule log for the holidays has passed for most bake shops in New Hampshire, there is still time to get one at one of these local eateries.

- **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) will have a limited amount of Yule logs available for sale, on Thursday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., owner Denise Nickerson said.
- **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-

3281, colbyhillinn.com) is serving Yule logs for two as a dessert option on its Christmas Cheer menu. According to chief innovation officer Jeff Brechbühl, the menu will continue to be available for a few days after Christmas, on Dec. 26, Dec. 27 and Dec. 30.

- **Frederick's Pastries** (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 647-2253; pastry.net) offers a dark chocolate Yule log filled with a light chocolate orange mousse, available to order now through New Year's.

CONTINUED ON PG 20

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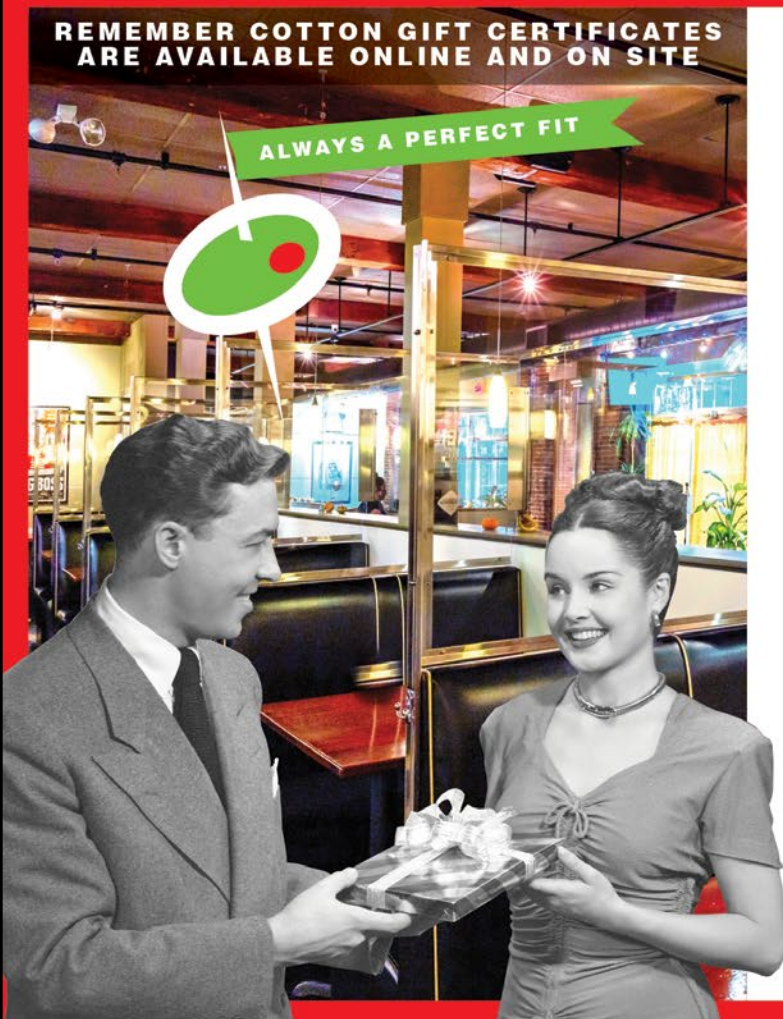
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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 18

paper or a small kitchen towel dusted with confectioner's sugar to carefully roll it before letting it rest for several minutes.

"Once it's cool, you can unroll it carefully and then spread your filling, because [the parchment paper or towel] kind of trains it to be easily rolled back up again," she said.

#### Filled with variation

Whether you're using a jelly or jam, or a buttercream icing or mousse, the filling flavor inside of your Yule log will be up to your own personal preference. Simply spread out your filling of choice across the cake while it's laying flat, then gently roll it once again.

Burritt has filled all kinds of order requests in the past, from a chocolate Yule log with vanilla buttercream to pumpkin or peppermint-flavored Yule logs.

"You can start with any basic variation of a sponge cake and turn it into a Yule log by changing the buttercream inside, or the cake itself," she said.

Hirte said she still likes to make hers the way her mother did, with a strawberry or raspberry jam, but she's tried other fillings over the years, like a salted caramel mousse.

Popovers on the Square in Epping and Portsmouth also makes its Yule logs with a raspberry jam filling, general manager Matthew Clark said, while at Just Like Mom's Pastries in Weare, owner and baker Karen Car will make a vanilla sponge cake filled with chocolate mousse on the inside.

In addition to those with chocolate, Nickerson has also taken orders for "birch" Yule logs, which feature vanilla buttercream inside a vanilla cake, made to look like a paper birch tree.

"When we roll ours up we like to leave

the ends exposed rather than covering it with frosting, so you can see the swirl, which looks like the rings of the log," she said.

In Henniker, pastry chef Aaron Malory of The Grazing Room at the Colby Hill Inn has been serving Yule logs for two as a dessert option on its Christmas Cheer menu, with a hazelnut filling and a chocolate ganache covering.

#### Time to decorate

Once your Yule log is baked and rolled, the final step is to decorate it to your liking. It's a good idea to let the rolled cake cool completely, Hirte said, even waiting until the next day if you can, to make sure it is firm and any icing you use as decorative tree bark will not

melt.

Lightly running the tip of a fork or a spatula through the frosting is an effective way to manipulate the texture, giving the cake some rough edges that look like tree bark, Nickerson said. You can also cut off a small sliver of the cake from one of the ends and place it against the side of the bigger piece to make it look like the smaller branch of a tree.

"You can dust it with confectioner's sugar for snow," Nickerson said. "We also have poinsettias we put on ours that are made out of gum paste."

Other garnishes to give your Yule log a woody look involve adding meringue "mushrooms" dusted with cocoa powder, or holly leaves with sugared cranberries for added color. 🍄

#### Agnès Boucher's bûche de Noël (Yule log)

Courtesy of Nathalie Hirte of the Franco-American Centre in Manchester

3 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1¼ cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ cup milk  
1 tablespoon melted butter

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Prepare the baking pan by buttering its surface and adding wax paper or parchment paper. Butter the surface of the paper and dust with flour. Beat the eggs in a deep bowl. Add the sugar, ¼ cup at a time. Make sure it is incorporated into the batter before adding more. Add the vanilla. In a separate bowl, mix the flour and the baking powder. Heat the milk (do not let it boil), then add melted butter. Fold the dry ingredients into the egg mixture. Add the hot milk and stir gently, to not deflate the mixture, until the liquid is absorbed. Pour onto the prepared cookie sheet. Bake for about 15 minutes, until it is lightly golden (the cake

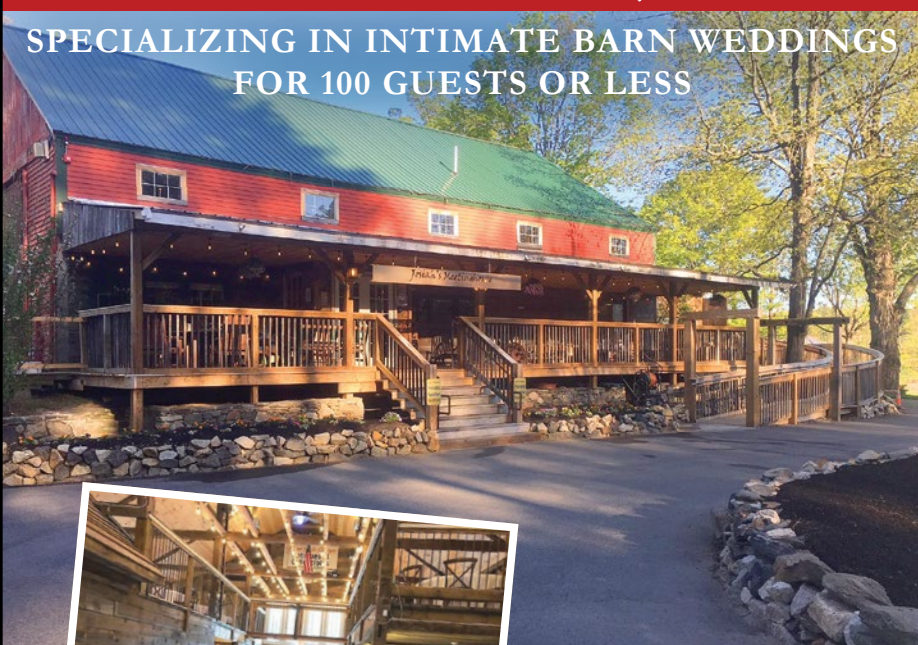
should be baked throughout, but still moist).

While the cake is baking, prepare a clean towel for rolling. Sift some powdered sugar onto the towel, or use some parchment paper, to help ensure the cake does not stick to it. Take the cake out of the oven. While the cake is still hot, trim off the edges (they will be hard and crunchy). Turn out the cake onto the prepared towel. If it's still on, remove the paper from the back. Roll the cake quickly with the towel and let it rest, towel and all, for 15 minutes.

Unroll and spread your choice of filling (jelly, jam, buttercream icing, etc.) and roll once again. It will look like a large Swiss roll. Let the rolled cake cool completely. Add any decorations of choice (optional: cutting off a piece to put on top of the cake can give it the look of a cut off tree branch). Cover everything with the icing, spreading it to make it look like bark. You can use a fork or a spatula to add texture. After decorating, display as the centerpiece of your Christmas dessert table.

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**IN THE KITCHEN**   
WITH **ATHANASIOS SIORAS**

Athanasios Sioras is the owner of Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar (125 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-4230, yamasgreek-taverna.com), which opened in late August in the former space of Dimitriou's, an eatery that was owned and operated by Sioras's uncle. Ya Mas, which means "cheers," according to Sioras, features an authentic Greek menu split by classic and modernized dishes, including more than two dozen types of small plates; entrees, like pastichio, moussaka and slow-braised lamb shank; and desserts, like kataifi, rice pudding brulee and baklava sun-daes. Around 30 percent of all of the restaurant's products are imported directly from Greece, Sioras said, while others are sourced from local farms, like Brookside Farms on the Pelham and Dracut, Mass., state line. Prior to opening Ya Mas, Sioras worked as a food and beverage program supervisor at the Revere Hotel Boston Common and at the Boston Harbor Hotel.



**What is your must-have kitchen item?**  
Just a regular chef's knife.

**What would you have for your last meal?**  
I would have a grilled whole fish, a branzino, and a nice bottle of wine.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**  
I do really like Surf, in Nashua.

**What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?**  
Jennifer Aniston.

**What is your favorite thing on your menu?**  
My personal favorite thing is the spin-

ach pie, which we hand-roll our own phyllo dough for. It's a huge serving in its own individual pan. Some people will get it as an entree, because it is quite big, and they'll take half of it home.

**What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?**  
Gluten-free and vegan. We have a lot of vegan and gluten-free items here.

**What is your favorite thing to cook at home?**  
Junk food, or honestly I'll just order a pizza rather than cook at home.  
— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

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**Gigantes**

*From the kitchen of Athanasios Sioras of Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar in Pelham*

- 2 cups dried lima beans
- ½ cup diced carrot
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced white onion
- ¼ cup freshly chopped mint
- ¼ cup freshly chopped parsley
- ½ cup tomato paste
- 3 cups water
- 1 tablespoon Greek honey
- ¼ cup Greek extra virgin olive oil

- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1½ tablespoons sea salt

Soak lima beans overnight in a bowl. Strain lima beans and place in a baking dish. Add carrot, celery, onion, parsley, mint, salt and pepper. In a bowl, mix honey, tomato paste, water and olive oil. Add liquid mixture to baking dish and mix ingredients well. Wrap with foil and bake at 375 degrees for 90 minutes.

**Weekly Dish**

Continued from page 18

New Hampshire Brewers Association, the New Hampshire Craft Spirits Association and UNH's brewing program, as well as state electric and gas utility companies, to provide education and training programs. According to the release, the

need for the grant funds is in response to the potential for increased environmental impacts as the craft beverage industry continues to grow in the state, such as the discharge of wastewater, increased energy use and water consumption. 🍷



# TRY THIS AT HOME

## Twice-the-lemon cookies

There are two key items to this cookie recipe.

First, these cookies are all about lemons. That's probably obvious given the cookie's name, but really they're more than twice the lemon. The cookie itself has lemon extract and lemon zest. The frosting has lemon juice and lemon extract. Perhaps they should be called Quadruple the Lemon Cookies. Thus, if you're a fan of lemons, these are the cookies you need. If you're not so sure about the zing of lemons, maybe skip the frosting.

Second, the sprinkles really are necessary. No, they don't add or detract from the bright, lemony flavors, but they add joy to these cookies. The bright colors of rainbow sprinkles make these some of the happiest-looking cookies I've created.

So don't skip the sprinkles. Even if you don't have any at home, I highly recommend buying some just for these cookies.

Then, when the long days of winter begin to make things feel dreary, make a batch of these cheery cookies.



Photo courtesy of Michele Pesula Kuegler

*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.*

### Twice-the-lemon cookies

Makes 40

#### Cookie dough

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/2 cups flour

#### Frosting

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- Juice of 1 medium lemon, about 3 tablespoons
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- Yellow food coloring
- Rainbow sprinkles

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream butter

and sugar for 3 minutes on speed 2.

Add eggs one at a time, mixing to incorporate, scraping sides of bowl as needed.

Add extracts and zest, and mix to combine.

Add baking powder, baking soda, salt and flour, mixing until well mixed.

Scoop by heaping teaspoonful and form into a ball; gently press ball into 2-inch disk.

Place on parchment paper-lined baking tray.

Bake for 12 minutes or until golden on bottom.

Transfer cookies to baking rack to cool.

In the cleaned bowl of a stand mixer combine butter, half the powdered sugar, lemon juice, extract, and 5-6 drops of food coloring.

Mix on lowest speed to incorporate sugar. Slowly add more sugar until desired sweetness is achieved and a smooth frosting consistency is acquired.

When cookies are cooled, frost each one with a tablespoon or so of frosting.

Place sprinkles in a small bowl, and invert frosted cookie over sprinkles.

Gently press cookie into sprinkles.

Place sprinkle-coated cookie back onto cooling rack.

*Note: In order not to waste sprinkles, place only a small amount in the bowl as needed.*



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# An adventure in sesame



Tiny ice cube tray. Photo by John Fladd.



The Vera Cruz Chameleon. Photo by John Fladd.

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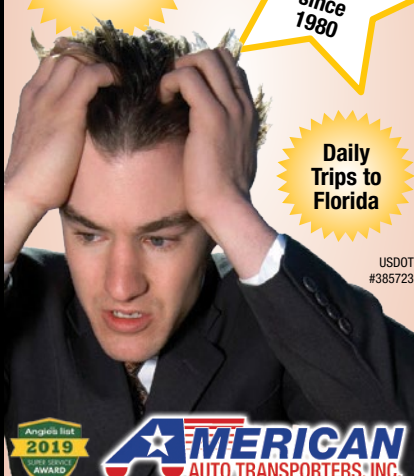
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Do you remember reading those Choose Your Own Adventure books when you were a kid?

You'd get to a turning point in a story, then find instructions like:

"To poke the sleeping bear with a stick, turn to page 130.

To run away from the sleeping bear as fast as you can, turn to page 170."

So, then you'd turn to page 170, and read something like:

"Oh, no! You run away so fast that you don't watch where you are going and ram into an oak tree, dislodging a porcupine, which falls on you. You scream so loudly that you wake the bear, who eats you, then picks his teeth with the quills. The End."

This drink is a little like that, minus the hostile wildlife. It is an adventure in sesame.

I've been thinking a lot about fat-washing, lately. Fat-washing is what upscale bartenders call a method of infusing alcohol with the flavor of something oily. You hear occasionally about bacon-washed bourbon, or butter-washed rum. Almost any food that is fat-soluble is also soluble in alcohol. Shmancy bartenders can use that chemical loophole to add background notes to a cocktail. Theoretically, you could use this technique to make a peanut butter and jelly martini, for instance. (Actually, that's not a bad idea. Let me write that down...)

A week or so ago, it occurred to me that if you can fat-wash peanut butter, couldn't you do the same thing with tahini, the sesame paste used in hummus? I adapted a recipe for peanut butter-washed bourbon:

**Tahini Rum**

1 liter inexpensive white rum (As usual, you probably don't want to use your good stuff, when you are covering up most of the subtle flavors with tahini. I used Mr. Boston.)  
 16 oz. tahini (I like Krinos.)

1. Combine rum and tahini in a very large jar or other air-tight container. Shake with great vigor.

2. Store the jar somewhere warm and dark for seven days, shaking twice per day.

3. Strain through a fine mesh strainer, then filter through a coffee filter.

This results in a *fantastic* sesame rum. It is silver in color. It is smooth and tastes delicious. You could easily sit in an armchair with a brandy snifter of the stuff. There is, however, a drawback:

The rum and the tahini have spent a week getting their groove on. At the end of it, the rum has gotten everything she wants out of this fling, says, "Well, this was fun..." and goes on her way. The tahini, on the other hand, has turned into Rick Astley, and is determined that he is never going to give her up.

As much as the rum has bonded with the tahini, the tahini has bonded with the rum, and without the use of a lab-grade centrifuge — which my wife will not let me buy — a liter of rum nets you between 10 and 12 ounces of finished product. Given that there was a relatively small investment in the rum to begin with, that might be OK.

But there is another way:

**Sesame Rum No. 2**

1 cup white sesame seeds  
 4 cups white rum

1. Over medium-low heat, toast the sesame seeds in a small skillet, stirring constantly, until they have turned the color of a graham cracker or a lion.

2. Transfer seeds to the same large jar or air-tight container. Add the rum. There will be a satisfying sizzle.

3. Shake, then store in the same warm, dark place for four days, shaking twice per day.

4. Filter through a coffee filter.

This sesame rum is not as smooth and silvery as its little brother, but it is also delicious. It has a deep golden color and really pops in your mouth, shouting, "It's SESAME TIME, Baby!"

And you net about a quart of rum.  
 So, now you've effectively made the first of your Choose Your Own Cocktail choices — silvery and sleek, or bold and bronzy.  
 Here is your second choice:



### The Vera Cruz Chameleon

3 oz. Tahini rum  
 3 gr. (a very small handful) cilantro  
 ¼ oz. simple syrup  
 Tonic water to top (I like Fever Tree)  
 Tiny ice cubes

1. Rinse the cilantro, then muddle it thoroughly in the bottom of a cocktail shaker.
2. Add rum, then dry shake. (This means without ice.) This will allow the alcohol to extract color and flavor from the cilantro.
3. Add ice and simple syrup, then shake again, until cold.
4. Strain into a large glass, over tiny ice cubes.
5. Top with tonic, then stir gently.

This is really delicious. The first flavor to hit you is the cilantro, but there is a delightful, smooth sesame aftertaste. If you are a cilantro fan — and of course you are, because you are smart and tasteful — you will love this.

But wait! What's that you say? You're not a cilantro fan? That's very sad, but I've got you covered there, too.

### The Lebanese Chameleon

3 oz. Sesame Rum No. 2  
 3 gr. (a very small handful) flat-leaf parsley  
 ¼ oz. simple syrup  
 Tonic water to top  
 Tiny ice cubes

1. Rinse, muddle and dry shake the parsley as above. Do NOT shake a second time.

2. Filter your parsley/sesame rum through a coffee filter, into a tall glass, half filled with tiny ice cubes.

3. Add the simple syrup and stir vigorously.
4. Top with tonic, then stir again, this time gently.
5. Drink with immense satisfaction.

So, do you remember that classic of American literature, *The Cat In The Hat Comes Back*? The one where the cat leaves a greasy pink bathtub ring that threatens to engulf the neighborhood? If you don't filter the parsley rum, you will get the same stain, but in swamp green. It will taste delicious but will not look appetizing. If you want to skip the filtering step, drink this cocktail in a tiki mug.

A note on tiny ice cubes: I recently discovered that you can buy small silicone ice trays that make tiny (about ¼-inch) ice cubes that are like crushed ice, but *better!* They chill your drink extremely well and they look really, really cool.

So you can make a cilantro-based cocktail with tahini rum or sesame rum, or use the same recipe — again, with your choice of rums — with parsley, instead. You are somewhat spoiled for choice.

And there are no bears.  
*John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer, a father, writer and cocktail enthusiast, living in New Hampshire.* 🍷

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## CDs pg26

- H.P. Lovecraft, *The Festival* **A+**
- Pete Ellman Big Band, *For Pete's Ache* **A+**

## BOOKS pg28

- *Perestroika in Paris* **A**
- **Book Notes**

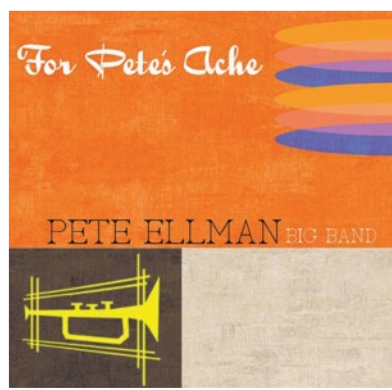
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## FILM pg30

- *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* **A**
- *Freaky* **B+**
- *Godmothered* **B-**



I'd be more than happy to make part of this space's regular praxis reviews of horror-story readings, but my PR feed is like a box of chocolates, usually composed of gross strawberry-coconut bonbons, of course, and almost never cool caramel-cookie-filled slam-dunks like this. You may recall last year, or whenever it was, we went over an album that captured a reading of one of M.R. (Montague Rhodes) James cherished ghost stories; I'm pretty sure it was also released through Calabra Records, but who cares, I was glad to be apprised of this one either way. It's a limited vinyl release, read by actor Andrew Leman, who's a member of the H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society. Leman may sound a bit bookwormy, which isn't necessarily bad (Anthony Heald's commercial reading of the *Jurassic Park*-related novel *The Lost World* was a lot more hateful than this), and he obviously has deep reverence for the matter, as did the album's soundtrack guy, horror composer Fabio Frizzi. The story itself is set during the holidays, but don't let that stop you; Lovecraft's crazily bizarre world is always fascinating, and this 30-minute escape pod is a very special treat for new and old fans. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Pete Ellman Big Band, *For Pete's Ache* (Cadabra Records)

Just what it looks like, a jazz band with a more than adequate sense of style. This now-11-year-old contingent comes to us from Illinois, where Ellman is a vital cog in the annual Naperville Big Band Jazz Festival (which of course hasn't a prayer of running this year); he retired from the 566th Air Force Band around 2009 and promptly fired this outfit up to burn on all cylinders. Along the way, the band's been joined by such greats as Wayne Bergeron, Jeff Coffin, Wycliffe Gordon, John Fedchock and Peter Erskine, just to drop a few names, who all must have had a blast with this nimble, razor-sharp crew. Lots of originals here, starting with the noir-esque "High Speed Pursuit," during which you can practically feel the pavement shake as the tune busies itself conjuring Al Capone's Cadillac V16 trying to outrun the cops. This is top-drawer stuff if, a lot of it original, always with its heart in the right place. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

I'd be more than happy to make part of this space's regular praxis reviews of horror-story readings, but my PR feed is like a box of chocolates, usually composed of gross strawberry-coconut bonbons, of course, and almost never cool caramel-cookie-filled slam-dunks like this. You may recall last year, or whenever it was, we went over an album that captured a reading of one of M.R. (Montague Rhodes) James cherished ghost stories; I'm pretty sure it was also released through Calabra Records, but who cares, I was glad to be apprised of this one either way. It's a limited vinyl release, read by actor Andrew Leman, who's a member of the H. P. Lovecraft Historical Society. Leman may sound a bit bookwormy, which isn't necessarily bad (Anthony Heald's commercial reading of the *Jurassic Park*-related novel *The Lost World* was a lot more hateful than this), and he obviously has deep reverence for the matter, as did the album's soundtrack guy, horror composer Fabio Frizzi. The story itself is set during the holidays, but don't let that stop you; Lovecraft's crazily bizarre world is always fascinating, and this 30-minute escape pod is a very special treat for new and old fans. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

• Ha ha, the next general-release day is Christmas Day, which means that even if any bands are crazy enough to wait until this week to release their stupid album, no one will be able to buy it on the traditional Friday date! So what the heck is my play here, you're probably wondering. Well, I have no idea, but if there are any polka-metal bands with a nice shiny new release coming out on or around the 25th, I will find them, and I will snark them. Ready, here I go, into the Google void, with my trusty fishing reel, zzzzzing, plopp, into the slimy ooze it goes, and wait, ho ho ho, we have a winner, the AlbumOfTheYear website claims that some comedy rapper dude named **Lilnedbigby** is releasing his second mixtape, ingeniously titled *Mixtape 2*, on The Most Wonderful Day Of The Year [void where prohibited!] Hmm, the only Lilnedbigby I'm seeing is some kid on Twitter who's babbling some nonsense about "politics" (if you actually consider the last election cycle "politics" and not cage wrestling), and he has two followers on Twitter. Maybe he's a troll. Nope, some other Twitter Twit claims he might be the only Lilnedbigby fan in the world, and there are other people tweeting at Lilnedbigby. OK, whatever, I found a lyric site on Genius.com, with a bunch of Lilnedbigby lyrics. No music, so I used my journalistic superpowers to take the next step, visiting YouTube while wearing a fake beard and not dressed in a T-shirt for once. Wup, there he is, he's probably 15 if that, and the music is random hangry venting about R Kelly, some girl who wants nothing to do with him, and, I think, trying to get his mom to take him to McDonald's or something. This is actually a pretty smart move, because no one would release an album on a Friday Christmas unless they were insane. So, thanks, insane kid, for saving my column!

• Huh, I thought that was going to be it for the week, like, no other albums to talk about, but hark, some Bad Santa guy just came down my chimney and handed me an album announcement from someone named **Emily Finchum**, whose *Morbid Curiosity* album/mixtape/whatever comes out on Thursday the 24th! A quick expert analysis of social media finds her on Facebook, where we discover that she's 18 years old, a human from Washington state, and that all her songs are always released on Facebook first. Weird, though, she hasn't released anything on Facebook in months, but the song "Morbid Curiosity" is on YouTube. It's OK, basically a Billie Eilish ripoff, but it's kind of '80s-ish, bouncy and happy. Maybe she should get together with Lilnedbigby, the guy I just talked about up there. What sort of music would they create? I do not care.

• Anyway, so yeah. The next release Friday is on Christmas, this is completely hopeless. Well, wait a moment, look, at the last minute, Genius.com says there's some band called **MAYDAY!** releasing a new EP, titled *Minute to Midnight 00:59* coming out on Christmas Day! Supposedly they're a hip-hop band, and their single "Flatline" does kind of sound a bit like someone from Cypress Hill let their little brother into the studio to do some swearing and rapping over an old Stoooges riff. It's cheap-sounding but actually kinda cool, like something you'd hear on the soundtrack to a Deadpool movie. I've heard worse, like every single day. — *Eric W. Saeger*

## Retro Playlist

Over the years this space has covered a seemingly uncountable number of odd-ball releases. In case it wasn't obvious, I do take pains to avoid heavily funded corporate-produced albums, as it's a recipe for nothing but trouble: Readers will either get mad that I failed to notice some minor redeeming quality about a record, or they'll get upset that I failed to notice something that automatically, in their eyes, made the album suck. Toward all that, I hold out perpetual hope that everyone who's ever taken a pop music group seriously has eventually grown up to be an upstanding, valuable citizen, perhaps by volunteering for the Peace Corps or something of that sort. Nobody's perfect, in case that's news.



Let's go back almost six years, to February 2015, when a certain public relations firm trolled me into reviewing *Enter*, the debut EP from a purported "goth/trip-hop" band called **Temple Invisible**. The band is/was from Romania, and they were promised to be a cross between Massive Attack, Portishead and Depeche Mode. "The

only way this could be more enticing CD-reviewer-bait," I wisecrased back then, "is if the promo came with a free robot girlfriend." As you'd guess, it was quite the disappointing listen, far from the rich and delicious industrial chill-tech I'd expected. There was goth-metal riffage, though, in some of the tunes, if that's your thing, like "Disappearance," which was basically "half Aphex

Twin and half Lacuna Coil, in other words it sounds like Col-lide." Edgy neo-'80s goth-pop is seemingly everywhere now, so I expect this band is doing OK, if all the members haven't abandoned ship.

A few months later I made like Wile E. Coyote for the umpteenth time with regard to *Portal/Well*, an album from Bee and Flower's Dana Schechter, stumping under the name **Insect Ark**. A former metal chick, Schechter's indie cachet was nonetheless impeccable, being that she formed the band **Angels of Light** with Swans leader **Michael Gira** in the early '90s. And so, Schechter had partaken of too much freak-pop Kool-Aid, and this LP turned out to be a fairly typical trip down whack-job lane, viz:



"roiling networks made of organic and synthetic drums, heavy ringouts and faraway lead-guitar figures, [all] creating murals evocative of Mount Doom lava flows and war wreckage."

I'll be falling for the "wait, no, seriously, an awesome album from someone associated with Swans" trap until further notice, just saying.

*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.*

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## POP CULTURE

*Perestroika in Paris*, by Jane Smiley  
(Knopf, 288 pages)

My daughter asked what I was reading this week, and I struggled to explain. “It’s a novel about a racehorse who escapes from her stall” — eyebrows raised — “and wanders around Paris” — slight smirk — “and becomes friends with other animals.”

By this point, my daughter’s face could’ve been an all-out meme, the expression people post on Twitter when they hear something utterly ridiculous. And I hadn’t even gotten to the part where the animals befriend a young boy.

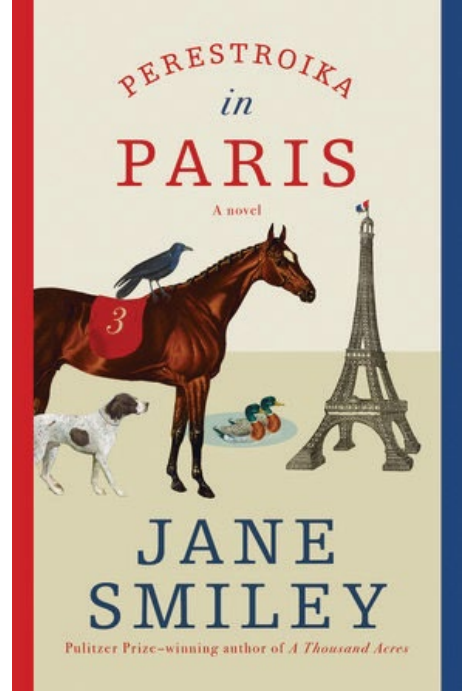
But hear me out. It would also be difficult to describe *Animal Farm* and *Charlotte’s Web* to people who haven’t read them without eliciting the same reaction. Jane Smiley’s *Perestroika in Paris* may not rise to that level of classic, but *Perestroika*, the racehorse who goes by Para, is as charming as Wilbur the pig and as memorable as Boxer the horse. It’s a surprising and delightful diversion for the gloom of post-Christmas winter.

Para is a filly who idly pushes up against her stall one day after a race and it unexpectedly opens. Although she is well-treated and loved, she is a curious horse and takes advantage of the opportunity to explore. Before leaving, she investigates a pile of her groom’s belongings and is interested to find a leather purse. She had heard people talk of purses — in fact, she has won many and figures this was probably her own — and so she picks up the purse with her mouth and carries it with her.

The droll scene conveys two things to the reader: that Smiley has a smart and understated wit, and that she knows horses and horse racing. In fact, she’s a Pulitzer Prize winner (for the novel *A Thousand Acres*, published in 1991) and many of her books for young readers involve horses. But *Perestroika in Paris* isn’t a horse book; it’s an animal story rich with subtle commentary on the human condition.

The first of Para’s new friends is Frida, a homeless hound — or, as Smiley puts it, “free dog” — who has been on her own and lonely since her human companion died. Intrigued by the sight of a horse on its own, carrying a purse, Frida befriends Para and helps her find a place where she can sleep at night, undetected. Then comes a world-wise raven, and two ducks which Frida, though hungry, manages with Edward Cullen-style self-control not to eat. Instead, she befriends the proprietor of a local market and offers him money she pilfers from Para’s purse in exchange for a bag of bread, beans, carrots and lettuce. (She is a very smart dog, having figured out that she can get humans to do what she wants when she performs some sort of trick.)

The animals encamp for a while in the Champ de Mars, with the occasional foray into Paris when it’s dark. There is some necessary suspension of disbelief in all of this, not only for the talking animals but for the fact that they are not quickly hauled off by Animal Control. Smiley deals deftly with



this problem. For example, when Para goes out on her own one morning, she encounters a kindly baker who offers her oats and sugar. “She knew so little about horses that at first it didn’t occur to her to report the animal. If a horse lived in Paris, and could stroll down the street gazing into shop windows, Anais thought, then that was the horse’s business.” And the shop owner who gives Frida food in exchange for the money she continues to bring him assumes that she’s a very smart dog who has been sent by someone who is housebound.

The commentary by the animals is refreshing and may well accurately reflect what they think. One day, Frida reflects on runners she comes across, “Running humans never looked at a thing. ... Perhaps they could not do two things at once, which was why she had never seen even the fastest ones catch a pigeon.”

But the most astute observer might be the raven, Raoul, who notes “there is nothing quite as amusing as observing humans in their own habitats.” (He also later reveals that many human beings are reincarnated as avians; he suspects he was once an ineffective government official. But then again, he also believes that Christmas, for humans, is a “mass breeding ritual.”)

The story builds slowly, with the animals gradually building bonds with friendly humans who do not deem it necessary to intervene in their lives. We also look in occasionally on Para’s former trainer, who has assumed the horse was stolen or is dead. The most central human, however, is Etienne, an 8-year-old orphan who lives with his great-grandmother, who has known much loss. The animals, which now include a rat, are all bonded with Etienne and come to his aid when he experiences a tragedy.

In this year of Covid and closed theaters, there wasn’t a “feel-good movie of the year,” but there is a feel-good book of the year, and this is it. It’s the happy ending we’ve all been waiting for. If only Smiley could write 2021.  
A — Jennifer Graham

**BOOK NOTES**

They say you can't tell a book by its cover, but you can tell a lot by its title. Books can go through several — the author's choice isn't necessarily the final decision, and the publisher's isn't necessarily the best. In fact, book titles can change even after a book has been published, for a paperback edition or second printing.

As such, it's a pleasure to come across book titles that are so punchy, so perfect, that they make you want to read the book. Here are some of the best titles of 2020, a year that for some people has been one of the worst.

**Block, Paper, Chisels** by Kim Cunningham (Bauhan Publishing, 128 pages) — A collection of images depicting nature in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire, with information on the artist's influences and techniques, plus some haiku.

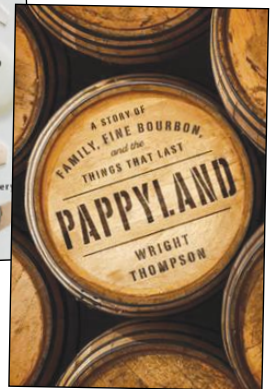
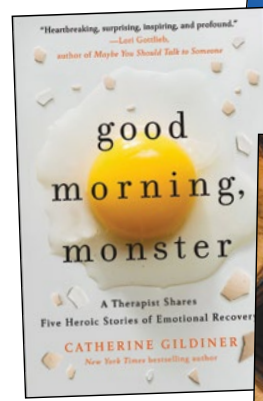
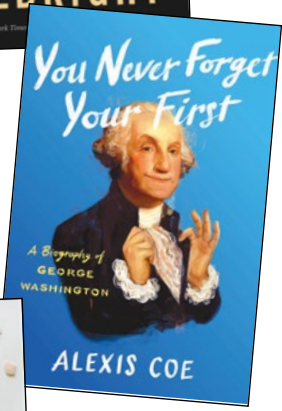
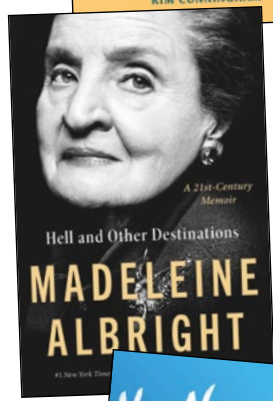
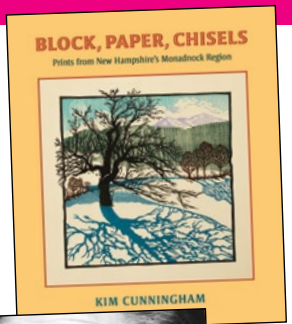
**Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir**, by Madeleine Albright (Harper, 384 pages) — Recollections of the former secretary of state, the first woman to hold the office in the U.S.

**You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington**, by Alexis Coe (Viking, 304 pages) — Described by The New York Times as a "historiographical intervention in the form of a sometimes cheeky presidential biography."

**Good Morning, Monster**, by Catherine Gildiner (St. Martin's, 368 pages) — The subtitle, "A therapist shares five stories of emotional recovery," isn't nearly as catchy, but with the type set atop a fried egg, it's a world-class cover.

**Pappyland: A Story of Family, Fine Bourbon and the Things That Last**, by Wright Thompson (Penguin, 256 pages) — You don't have to drink bourbon to be seduced by the title of this look at the family business whose motto is "We make fine bourbon at a profit if we can, at a loss if we must."

— Jennifer Graham

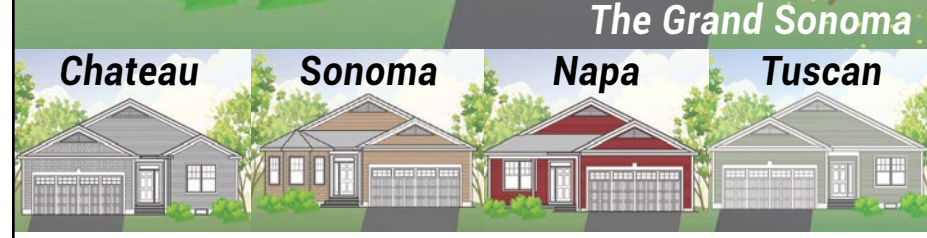


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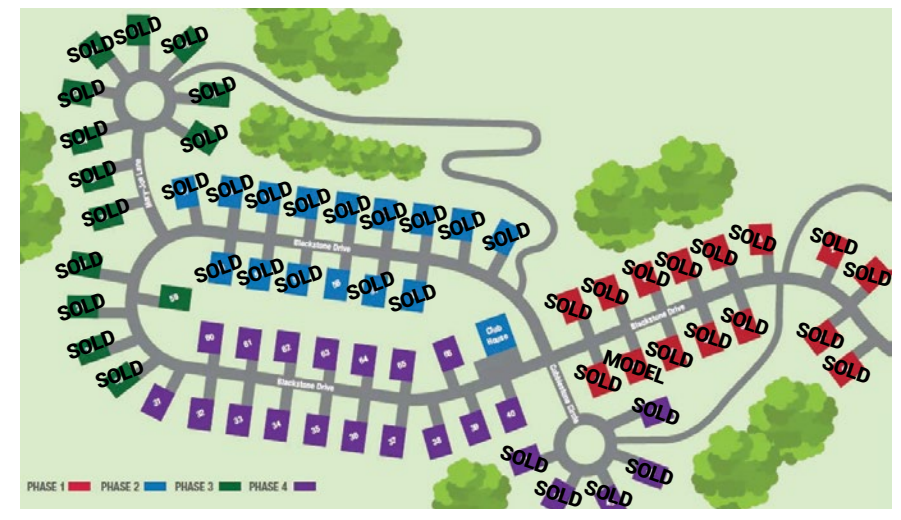


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**Books**

**Author events**

- **KJ DELL'ANTONIA** Author presents *The Chicken Sisters*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online, via Zoom. Wed., Jan. 6, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.
- **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 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) on Wed., April 7, 7:30

p.m. Tickets start at \$39.75 (with option for a VIP Photo Op for an additional \$49.95).

**Book Clubs**

- **BOOKERY** Online. Monthly. Third Thursday, 6 p.m. Bookstore based in Manchester. Visit bookerymht.com/online-book-club or call 836-6600.
- **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** Online, via Zoom. Monthly. First Monday, 5:30 p.m. Bookstore based in Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com/gibsons-book-club-2020-2021 or call 224-0562.
- **TO SHARE BREWING CO.** 720 Union St., Manchester. Monthly. Second Thursday, 6 p.m. RSVP required. Visit tosharebrewing.com or call 836-6947.

**Writing**

- **POSTCARD POETRY CONTEST** Peterborough Poetry Project seeks submissions of original poems written on picture postcards for an upcoming anthology. Deadline is Dec. 31. Visit peterboroughpoetryproject.org/contests for more information.
- **CALL FOR BLACK WRITERS** New Hampshire-based theater company and playwright collective New World Theatre announces an open call to Black writers to submit monologues that reflect their personal experience of living while black, to be published in an anthology titled "08:46." The deadline for submissions is Jan. 1, 2021. Visit newworldtheatre.org/08m46s.

**Ma Rainey's Black Bottom****(R)**

The late Chadwick Boseman probably secures his Oscar with *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, a new Netflix movie, adapted from a play by August Wilson, which also features a stand-out performance by Viola Davis.

The bulk of this movie's action is centered around Ma Rainey (Davis), a real-life founding mother of blues, showing up at a Chicago recording studio in 1927 to record a set of songs. Most of the scenes are either in a large recording room or a small rehearsal room where her band heads between recordings. The band consists of pianist Toledo (Glynn Turman), Slow Drag (Michael Potts) on bass, band leader and trombone player Cutler (Coleman Domingo) and Levee (Boseman), a trumpet player with a lot of ideas about his songs and the band he plans to form and even "better" more modern arrangements for Ma's songs. Levee is certain his style of playing will better reach customers in the big cities, who might see Ma's music as too country. The studio's owner, Sturdyvant (Jonny Coyne), seems to agree with Levee, but Ma doesn't care about the potential big city audience when she knows what the audience who turns out to see her likes. Her



Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

manager Irvin (Jeremy Shamos) might tend to agree with Sturdyvant but knows that ultimately Ma will have things her way. And as we see when she talks to Cutler about making these recordings, she might seem like a diva (demanding cold Coca-Colas or for a nephew to have a small part) but she always knows exactly what she's doing and how to writing the most from a system that is inherently against her interests.

There are times when this movie very

much feels like a play in the staging and the way people talk, but I didn't mind that, even when it leads to monologues that would maybe feel unnatural in a more "out in the world" movie. Here, the strength of the performances easily pushes past any not-quite-cinematic staginess. The movie takes place, for the most part, on one day in 1927 in one building but also manages to serve up a good slice of late 1800s through mid 1900s American history (the ending of the movie mercilessly

encapsulates the next at least 50 years in the American music industry).

Boseman, who died this summer, will likely get the bulk of the spotlight here. This movie shows how much more Boseman had in him, how much of a good-across-the-board performer he was. Boseman was someone who could be an anchor in a big popular blockbuster, a believable action hero and do more nuanced work. Even though he gets some big shouty moments here, you can see layers going on behind Levee's words.

Davis, of course, is also great here because she is basically great everywhere. Davis is masterful at showing how Ma uses loud demands as protection in a situation of constant vulnerability. Davis doesn't give us a perfect human being but does give us a rounded character whose life you can see in the expressions on her face. **A**

*Rated R for language, some sexual content and brief violence, according to the MPAA on filmratings.com. Directed by George C. Wolfe with a screenplay by Ruben Santiago-Hudson (based on the play by August Wilson), Ma Rainey's Black Bottom is an hour and 34 minutes long and distributed by Netflix, where it is currently available.*

CONTINUED ON PG 31 ►

## AT THE SOFAPLEX

### Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square (TV-PG)

Dolly Parton, Christine Baranski.

Dolly Parton is an angel and Christine Baranski is a lady-Scrooge in this Netflix Christmas movie that isn't nearly as fun as that description would indicate. Regina (Baranski) is a rich lady who somehow owns the entirety of her hometown. Shortly before Christmas, she evicts everybody because she's selling the town to the Cheatum corporation so they can build the giant Cheatum Mall (which, ha). Nuts to this town, Baranski sings, which she left behind to move to the Big City years earlier. Why? Secrets! (Although, once you hear what the secret is, "nuts to this town" is probably a reasonable response.)

At one point in this movie, Regina is drinking a whiskey and talking about life's trials with the bartender who has just served her — Violet (Selah Kimbro Jones), who is an elementary-school-aged child. This scene is kinda great, as is one where Regina thinks Angel Dolly Parton is a rhinestoned hallucination as a result of a brain tumor. Parton,

Baranski, Jenifer Lewis as Regina's childhood buddy, even Jeanine Mason as Regina's put upon assistant are all sorta kooky and fun in this Christmas cheese ball, but way too much of this movie is taken up by the drippy town and its assorted drippy denizens. The movie is all over the place, not really picking a plot lane — but ends with Baranski wearing a simple but lovely white shift dress. Add that to Parton's white jean jacket-y blouse thing with I think a feather hem and you understand why I can't recommend this movie and yet I also can't bring myself to give it the blah grade it deserves. How about a C+, emphasis on the +? *Available on Netflix*

### Mariah Carey's Magical Christmas Special (TV-G)

Mariah Carey and...

Billy Eichner, Tiffany Haddish, Jennifer Hudson, Misty Copeland, Snoop Dogg and also Snoopy the Dog and Charlie Brown and Linus and Woodstock, because, I guess, corporate synergy as this appears on Apple TV+, which is also the current home of *Peanuts* content. The year 2020 has got the whole world down, so Mariah Carey is tasked with Saving Christmas by raising holiday spirits, which will help to light the way for Santa Claus. Mari-

ah is thusly whisked from her stylish apartment to the North Pole for a series of costume changes and musical numbers. At 43 minutes, this is definitely more network Christmas special than plot-driven movie but who cares, it's great! And by "great" I mean fun, silly, self-aware about its silliness, full of good cameos and whole-family appropriate. Also, of course, it contains The Song, which is teased throughout before we finally get an all-singing, all-dancing version of Carey's big Christmas hit. This is the perfect thing to have on while you're cooking holiday fare or wrapping holiday fare or immobilized by exhaustion on the couch after all the holiday cheer. **B+** *Available on Apple TV+*.

### Mario Puzo's The Godfather, Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone (R)

Al Pacino, Andy Garcia.

Nothing says "holiday season" like some cable station somewhere running *The Godfather* movies on a loop for a couple of days. You can add to that this Christmas season by checking out *Mario Puzo's The Godfather, Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone*, a slightly reedited version of what was previously known as *The Godfather Part III*. Released in 1990, some 16 years after *The Godfather Part II*, "Three," as characters

on *The Sopranos* called it, is stuck in my memory as being full of "hoo-ahh!" Al Pacino acting and a derided performance by Sofia Coppola. But 1990 is nearly twice as long ago from today as it was from the series' original heyday (I saw it a while after 1990, when it was already universally understood to be an embarrassment). After checking out this updated version, I feel like we just didn't know what it was back then. This movie is that most 21st-century thing: a continuation of a franchise in an established cinematic universe. It's basically *The Godfather: The Force Awakens* — some old characters and some new characters and some stuff about regret.

This version is a clearer presentation of the story from what I dimly remember: An ailing Michael Corleone's ambitions for a family legacy that leaves crime behind (and that gains wealth and respect on an international scale) are the central driver of the movie. Vincent Mancini (Garcia), his nephew who is hungry to be a part of the Corleone family's old business, and Vincent's affair with his first cousin, Michael's daughter Mary (Coppola), are less important to the story than I remember. And Coppola's very green performance fits with the Meadow-Soprano-but-even-more-naive character as



Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square

presented here. Pacino is more nuanced than I thought (and than the movie's famous "just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in" line reading suggests). Talia Shire also returns as Michael's sister Connie. I feel like if this movie was being made now, that character would have a bigger role; Shire and Connie clearly have more than they can do here.

Director Francis Ford Coppola could have been even more merciless with his cuts; this movie still weighs in at two hours and 38 minutes (only four minutes shorter than the original version). But, while not perfect, it's also not terrible and there are worse things than a talented director revisiting popular characters. **B** *Available for rent or purchase.* 🍷

**Freaky (R)**

**A high school girl swaps bodies with a grunting serial killer in *Freaky*, a fun horror movie with a particularly fun Vince Vaughn performance.**

Teen Millie (Kathryn Newton) is having a hard time. Her father died a year ago, which has left her mother, Coral (Kate Finneran), a bit of a wreck and her police officer older sister, Char (Dana Drori), angry. Millie is so busy trying to smooth over their relationship and take care of her mom she doesn't seem to have the space to grieve herself or to live her life. Her friends Nyla (Celeste O'Connor) and Josh (Misha Osherovich) urge her to go to the upcoming homecoming dance, take a chance on talking to the boy, Booker (Uriah Shelton), she likes and pursue her dream of heading off to college. You don't want to get to the end of your life and realize you never lived it for yourself, Nyla tells her.

And that end may come much sooner than expected. The Blissfield Butcher (Vaughn) has long been a local urban legend, a spooky tale of a serial killer who hunts teens born from decades-earlier murders. Nobody much believes the stories until four teens are horribly, red-corn-syrupily murdered in the movie's opening scenes. After the big football game, Millie, who plays the school's mascot, is waiting alone outside the stadium for a ride home. The Butcher appears and chases Millie before stabbing her in the shoulder with a strange, old blade he stole from the scene of the movie's first murders.

Char arrives just in time to scare him off but not before Millie notices that the Butcher started bleeding from the same spot on his shoulder where he had stabbed Millie in hers. When she wakes up the next morning, she finds herself not in her cheery bedroom but on a mattress in a murder-lair (complete with disfigured mannequins and dead animals) and in the giant (and smelly) body of the Butcher. Which, of course, means that back at her house the Butcher is waking up to her unsuspecting mom and sister.

Quickly, we figure out the rules to this situation: The knife has curse-bestowing properties, the bodies have been switched for 24 hours, Millie has to stab the Butcher to switch the bodies back or their situation becomes permanent. Though a pretty solid sketch of the Butcher is all over the news — making it hard for Millie to move around her town unnoticed — she does get some help from Nyla and Josh, whom she's able to convince of her true identity. They work to get the knife from the police evidence locker and find the Butcher to get her body back. She also needs to stop the Butcher, who quickly realizes that his physically weaker new body nevertheless has the benefit of lulling people into seeing no threat until it's too late. Also, Millie irritatingly notices, the Butcher seems to have done a better job at styling her body (a bold red lip, a sassy red leather jacket) than she usually does.

The Butcher, both as Vaughn and as Newton, is just a grunting kill machine; it's Millie where the actors get to do a performance, particularly Vaughn. Sure, it's a little gimmicky to have big, extra-scruffy 50-year-old Vince Vaughn nervously biting at his finger and screeching like a teenager. But he does a really solid job making us see Millie and her feelings, fears and conviction.

Beneath all this silliness, *Freaky* — not unlike *Happy Death Day*, which this movie's director, Christopher Landon, also directed — has some interesting beats about grief and learning how to come back from loss. A scene between Vaughn as Millie and Finneran's Coral (Millie's mom) does a good job of being silly and funny, bittersweet and filling in the details of the family's relationships with each other in a way that really pays off later. There are also some interesting moments about power and gender that transcend what you expect from a movie with this much gleeful gore.

I will admit that I am definitely more in the tank for this kind of horror — horror plus laughs, weighted more toward laughs — and this movie puts you even more at ease by not only making the kills extravagantly stagy but also making everybody other than Millie who is attacked by the Butcher extremely unsympathetic. So, it's all fun with very little serious “keep you up at night” terror. **B+**

*Rated R for strong bloody horror violence, sexual content and language throughout, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Christopher Landon with a screenplay by Michael Kennedy and Christopher Landon, Freaky is an hour and 42 minutes long and distributed by Universal Studios. The movie is currently in theaters and available on video on demand.*

**Godmothered (PG)**

**A godmother in training tries to prove her godmothering prowess before her academy of godmothers is shut down and everyone is sent to work as tooth fairies in *Godmothered*, a live action movie new to Disney+.**

Eleanor (Jillian Bell) has never done proper godmother work and it doesn't look like she's going to get the chance. Even though she is the rare eager young recruit, there isn't much call for fairy godmothers these days and the school's headmistress, Moira (Jane Curtin), is considering shutting the whole thing down. In a desperate attempt to save the Motherland, as the godmother headquarters is called, and prove her own godmothering abilities, Eleanor finds an old letter to a godmother from a young girl named Mackenzie and decides to go to Boston to find and help her.

When she arrives, she learns that Mackenzie (Isla Fisher) is now “old,” an Isla-Fisher-aged single mom with two daughters — teen Jane (Jillian Shea Spaeder) and younger Mia (Willa Skye) — and a crummy

job on a fifth-ranked local news show. Eleanor is surprised but still determined to help her; Mackenzie thinks she's doing an act and calls security. Eventually, by showing Mackenzie her old letter, doing some magic and getting a raccoon to help with household chores, Eleanor convinces Mackenzie that she is a real fairy godmother. But Mackenzie, who is still grieving the death of her husband, says she doesn't want the ball gown and happily-ever-after with a prince that Eleanor has been trained to provide. Might that change if it turns out that colleague Hugh Prince (Santiago Cabrera) is interested in more than just Mackenzie's producing abilities?

This has a very *Enchanted* feel — with the earnest visitor from fairyland learning the strange and grimy ways of the unmagical modern-day Earth. But this movie isn't quite as, er, enchanting — not quite as smart in its story or its writing, even though I am a fan of Bell and Fisher does solid work here too. This has that second-tier-ish-ness of a direct-to-video sequel (with some direct-to-video-level special effects too). But for that, it's not the worst. Common Sense Media gives this an age 8 rating and I would say it's that primarily because younger kids might be a little bored but it wouldn't necessarily scare or traumatize them. (There is maybe one extremely veiled sex joke that I only half caught because my kids were sort of in and out of the room during the movie; there for



Godmothered

the singing and the fairy magic but wandering away during the emotional talking stuff.)

I think *Godmothered* could have been a more substantial movie with a little rewriting; it has a solid cast, some nice ideas (does True Love really have to be about finding your Prince? And what does “happily ever after” truly mean?) and some cute moments. **B-**

*Rated PG for some suggestive comments, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Sharon Maguire with a screenplay by Kari Granlund and Melissa Stack, Godmothered is an hour and 50 minutes long and is distributed by Walt Disney Studios on Disney+.* 🍷

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By Michael Witthaus  
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## NITE

# Ring in 2021 with laughter

### Three comedy shows celebrate New Year's Eve

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Holiday green:** Trying to make the best of the worst year ever, **Celtic Thunder** will air its annual Christmas concert online. The show, filmed in front of a live audience in Poughkeepsie, New York, is presented by the Capitol Center and will be available on demand for 48 hours after it premieres. Enjoy favorites like "Let It Snow" and "Silent Night" delivered with an Irish and Scottish flavor directly to your Christmas Eve living room. Thursday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$35 at ccanh.com.

• **Hometown girl:** Returning from the West Coast for the holiday season, **M.B. Padfield** performs solo at a Londonderry restaurant that was among the first to offer live music post-lockdown, and continues until another stay-at-home order comes. Padfield moved to L.A. in early 2018 and has had success with her own efforts and session work, including a co-write on Yeti Tactics' recent *Guest House*. Saturday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m., Stumble Inn, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry. See mbpadfield.com.

• **Spin city:** Featuring upbeat house music and an array of DJs, **Open Decks** revives a popular night of EDM and camaraderie, with all Covid regulations enforced, according to the club's Facebook page. Professional gear is provided, but though the evening's name implies an open mic event, it's not an opportunity to learn how to DJ; only the experienced should apply. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 9 p.m., Central Ale House, 23 Central St., Manchester, information on facebook.com/thedadum

• **Early goodbye:** The urge to close out 2020 ahead of time is easily understood. **Leathal New Year** includes sets from DJ Clay, Waraq, Problemmattik and Leathal Wreckords, the underground rap group behind the event, whose fitting slogan is: "Bringing an end to the adventures of 2020 ... with a HAMMER!" Covid-19 regulations will be strictly enforced at the 21+ event. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m., Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester, tickets at leathalweekend.com.

Most years Headliners Comedy Club is a many-headed monster on New Year's Eve, with shows all over New England. 2020, however, is anything but normal. Maine has a 9 p.m. curfew, and performances are banned in Massachusetts. New Hampshire is still on, though it's scaling back to three socially distanced affairs at different Chunky's Cinema Pubs.

Only one event, in Manchester, includes a midnight countdown.

Amy Tee, among a trio of comics appearing in Pelham, is glad for a chance to perform.

"I'm gonna look at the glass half full," she said in a recent phone interview, "just embrace it, be appreciative of the people that are coming out to celebrate New Year's Eve, and put 2020 behind us. I'm looking forward."

Comedy began as a bucket list item for Tee over a decade ago, "something I'd always wanted to do since watching *Stand Up Spotlight* on VH1," and grew quickly from there. "That very first time on stage I felt it in my soul ... that's what I was supposed to be doing."

Tee's career has two parts; for the last 10 years, she's been sober. Soon after quitting drinking, she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She found the news liberating and wove it into her act.

"By diminishing the stigma of what mental health looks like, I had an opportunity to show people that it looks very different from what people think," she said. "It was also cathartic. ... I created a lot of damage in my earlier years [and] confessing and talking about it felt almost like amends."

This calling extended beyond the

stage, becoming a second career for Tee with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, where she works with dual diagnosis patients.

"I do motivational speaking on behalf of mental health and substance abuse," she said. "So that was kind of the trajectory. It changed drastically, and actually gave it more passion and purpose."

Her act is honest and revealing, yes — but also hilarious. Dressed in a tie and suit jacket, she begins most shows by poking fun at her androgynous appearance.

"You're probably wondering what bathroom I'm gonna use," she said. "It'll be the one with the shortest line, I guarantee you that."

She'll riff on married life — and being openly gay in her act has never been a big issue for Tee.

"Though in the last four years, I've had this sinking feeling of things being mean," she said. "I'm able to make people feel comfortable about gay people on stage because I joke about it in a stereotypical way. Also, me being married is not a lot different than other people being married. It just happens to be two women. We still have the same challenges."

Although it's unclear how long live performances will continue, Tee prefers even smaller crowds to the Zoom shows she did during lockdown. Ever the optimist, she managed to find a bright side to those.

"I had no commute, I was dressed from the waist up, and nobody knew if I was wearing a bra or not. ... I almost enjoyed it sometimes," she said.

Tee credits Headliners CEO Rob Steen for keeping the scene alive.

"With the challenges he's had, he's done a really good job ... letting us perform, whether it's been outside this



Amy Tee. Courtesy photo.

summer, or now as we've moved into some of the indoor venues," she said. "Comedy is my passion and where I get my joy — I need it for my mental health. So it's been nice to still be able to perform amongst the challenges. The audiences that are coming out are appreciative, and they also need it for their mental health and a night out."

#### Amy Tee, Jim Colliton, Jason Merrill

**When:** Thursday, Dec 31, 8 p.m.

**Where:** Chunky's Cinema Pub, 150 Bridge St., Pelham

**Tickets:** \$30 at chunkys.com

#### Also:

Drew Dunn, Jody Sloane, Paul Landwehr at Chunky's Manchester - 7 and 10 p.m. (w/ Dueling Pianos & Ball Drop)

Kyle Crawford, Matt Barry, Tim McKeever at Chunky's Nashua - 8 p.m.

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**Live Music**  
Sat. Dec. 26th, 6-9pm - Ross Arnold  
Sun. Dec. 27th, 3:30-6:30 - Bob Pratte Acoustic Sessions

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# MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door**  
 15 Leavy Dr.  
 488-2677

**Concord**  
**Area 23**  
 State Street  
 881-9060

**Penuche's Ale House**  
 16 Bicentennial Square  
 228-9833

**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle**  
 25 Main St.  
 497-8230

**Epping**  
**The Community Oven**  
 24 Calef Hwy.  
 734-4543

**Hampton**  
**Community Oven**  
 845 Lafayette Road  
 601-6311

**CR's The Restaurant**  
 287 Exeter Road  
 929-7972

**The Goat**  
 20 L St.  
 601-6928

**Shane's BBQ**  
 61 High St.  
 601-7091

**Concord Craft Brewing**  
 117 Storrs St.  
 856-7625

**Hermanos Mexicana**  
 11 Hills Ave.  
 224-5669

**Lithermans**  
 126 Hall St., Unit B

**Cocina Exeter**  
**Sawbelly Brewing**  
 156 Epping Road  
 583-5080

**Sea Dog Brewery**  
 9 Water St.

**Wally's Pub**  
 144 Ashworth Ave.  
 926-6954

**WHYM Craft Pub & Brewery**  
 853 Lafayette Road  
 601-2801

**Londonderry**  
**Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern**  
 176 Mammoth Road  
 437-2022

**Stumble Inn**  
 20 Rockingham Road  
 432-3210

**Manchester**  
**Backyard Brewery**  
 1211 S. Mammoth Road  
 623-3545

**Bonfire**  
 950 Elm St.  
 663-7678

**CJ's**  
 782 S. Willow St.  
 627-8600

**Derryfield Club**  
 625 Mammoth Road  
 623-2880

**The Foundry**  
 50 Commercial St.  
 836-1925

**Fratello's**  
 155 Dow St.  
 624-2022

**South Side Tavern**  
 1279 S. Willow St.  
 935-9947

**Stark Brewing Co.**  
 500 Commercial St.  
 625-4444

**Strange Brew**  
 88 Market St.  
 666-4292

**Meredith**  
**Twin Barns Brewing**  
 194 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
 279-0876

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead**  
 641 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
 429-2022

**Nashua**  
**American Social Club**  
 166 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
 255-8272

**Fratello's Italian Grille**  
 194 Main St.  
 889-2022

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church**  
 5 Granite St.  
 659-7700

**Portsmouth**  
**The Gas Light**  
 64 Market St.  
 430-9122

**Raymond**  
**Cork N Keg**  
 4 Essex Drive  
 244-1573

**Rochester**  
**Porter's Pub**  
 19 Hanson St.  
 330-1964

**Salem**  
**Copper Door**  
 41 S. Broadway  
 458-2033

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop Pub**  
 920 Lafayette Road  
 760-7706

**Stratham**  
**Tailgate Tavern**  
 28 Portsmouth Ave.  
 580-2294

## Thursday, Dec. 24

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door:** Nate Comp, 4 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Area 23:** Brian Munger, 7 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**CR's:** Jeff Auger, 6 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**American Social Club:** Pete Peterson, 4 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

**Salem**  
**Copper Door:** Phil Jakes, 4 p.m.

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

## Friday, Dec. 25

**Hampton**  
**Wally's:** Christmas Day with MB Padfield, 9 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Penuche's:** Rebels Without a Claus night with K-Ranium (house), The Lifeguard (dubstep) and Instinct (dubstep/trap), starting at 9 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**The Goat:** Alex Anthony on Christmas Day, 9 p.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 26

**Bow**  
**Chen Yang Li:** April Cushman, 7 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Area 23:** Saturday Jam with Jamie, 2 p.m.; Kyle & the Figments, 7 p.m.  
**Concord Craft Brewing:** Ryan Williamson, 4 p.m.  
**Penuche's:** Hometown Eulogy, 8 p.m.

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** Chris Perkins, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**  
**Sawbelly:** Wood & Bone Duo, 1 p.m.; Matt Fuller, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle:** Ross Arnold, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**Community Oven:** Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Jonny Friday, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Chris Lester, 9 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Coach Stop:** Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.  
**Stumble Inn:** MB Padfield, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Bonfire:** Martin & Kelly, 9 p.m.  
**Derryfield:** Matt Luneau, 7:30 p.m.

**The Foundry:** Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.  
**South Side Tavern:** Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
**Fratello's:** Andrew Geano, 5:30 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**Gas Light:** Lewis Goodwin, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop:** MoneyKat, 6:30 p.m.

**Stratham**  
**Tailgate Tavern:** Alan Roux, 7 p.m.

## Sunday, Dec. 27

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door:** Mark Lapointe, 11 a.m.; Jodee Frawlee, 4 p.m.

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

**Exeter**  
**Sawbelly:** Sunday Blues & Brews with Max Sullivan, noon

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

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

**Salem**  
**Copper Door:** Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.; Matt Luneau, 4 p.m.

## Monday, Dec. 28

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

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Jae Mannion, 5:30 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**Fratello's:** Josh Foster, 5:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Dec. 29

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

**Manchester**  
**Fratello's:** Brad Bosse, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
**Fratello's:** Jon-Paul Royer, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

## Wednesday, Dec. 30

**Concord**  
**Area 23:** open mic, 6:23 p.m. (with a contest)  
**Penuche's:** Holy Fool, 8 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**Shane BBQ:** Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Fratello's:** Josh Foster, 5:30 p.m.

**Meredith**  
**Twin Barns:** Trivia Night, 6 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**Fratello's:** Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** Consider the Source, 8 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**The Goat:** MB Padfield, 9 p.m.

## Thursday, Dec. 31

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door:** Phil Jakes, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Area 23:** New Year's Eve live music including Dan Morgan, 7 p.m.  
**Penuche's:** Llava Llama, 8 p.m.

**Chichester**  
**Flannel Tavern:** Rat Pack New Year's Eve with live music (call for tickets), 5 p.m.

**Exeter**  
**Sawbelly:** Rich Amorim, 5 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**The Goat:** New Year's Eve with MB Padfield, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Pat Dowling, 9 p.m.

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

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Austin McCarthy

**Nashua**  
**American Social Club:** Pete Peterson, 9 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** Consider the Source, 9 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**The Goat:** New Year's Eve with Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

**Rochester**  
**Porter's:** Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.

**Salem**  
**Copper Door:** Brad Bosse, 7 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop:** Wildfire, 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, Jan. 1

**Concord**  
**Cheers:** Team Trivia, 8:30 p.m.

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** Emily Rae Shively, 8 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**The Goat:** Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** MB Padfield, 9 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Coach Stop:** Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.  
**Stumble Inn:** Joanie Cicatelli, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Derryfield:** Jonny Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.  
**South Side Tavern:** Justin Jordan, 8 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
**American Social Club:** Matt Jackson, 8 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Jeff Mrozek, 5:20 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop:** Bite the Bullet, 7 p.m.

**Music plays on**

These listings for live music are compiled from press releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Call the venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions — and you may want to double check before you head out for the evening, as cancellations for weather or virus concerns are not uncommon. Get your gigs listed by sending information to [music@hippopress.com](mailto:music@hippopress.com).

**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 updated information.*

**Venues**

**Capitol Center for the Arts**

44 S. Main St., Concord  
225-1111, ccanh.com

**Dana Center**

Saint Anselm College  
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester  
anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities

**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

**Shows**

- **Celtic Thunder Christmas — an online concert** Thursday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m., livestream via Cap Center
- **Brooks Play Brooks (Garth Brooks tribute)** Friday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- **Mairead Nesbitt** Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- **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 Rockin' Daddios** Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Opera House
- **Phil Vassar** Friday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Vapors of Morphine** Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., Music Hall
- **Livingston Taylor** Saturday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Music Hall
- **Tapestry — the Carole King Songbook** Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:30

p.m., Flying Monkey

- **Soulsha** Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
- **Martin Sexton** Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Music Hall
- **Tom Rush's Club 47** featuring **Tom Rush and Leo Kottke** (with special guests Matt Nakoa and Monica Rizzio) Sunday, March 7, 6:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **The Tallest Man on Earth** Sunday, March 7, 7 p.m., Music Hall

**COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND**

*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 updated information.*

**Venues**

**Capitol Center for the Arts**

44 S. Main St., Concord  
225-1111, ccanh.com

**Chunky's**

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

**The Flying Monkey**

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

**Hatbox Theatre**

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

**The Music Hall**

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

**Palace Theatre**

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

**The Strand**

20 Third St., Dover  
343-1899, thestrandover.com

**Shows**

- **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.
- **Bob Marley New Year's Eve Streaming Event** on Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., livestreamed via Cap Center. Tickets cost \$25 plus a \$4.50 fee.
- **New Year's Eve Dueling Pianos Party** Thursday, Dec. 31,

10 p.m., Chunky's Manchester

- **New Year's Eve Live Comedy with Drew Dunn, Jody Sloane and Paul Landwehr** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- **New Year's Eve Live Comedy with Kyle Crawford, Matt Berry and Tim McKeever** Chunky's Nashua, Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
- **New Year's Eve Live**

**Comedy with Tim Colliton,**

**Amy Tee and Jason Merrill** Chunky's Pelham, Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

- **Kyle Crawford** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m.
- **Steve Scarfo** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 8, and Saturday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m.
- **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., The Strand

**Film**

*Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings & virtual events*

**Venues**

**Capitol Center for the Arts**

44 S. Main St., Concord  
225-1111, ccanh.com

**Chunky's Cinema Pub**

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

**Cinemagic**

with IMAX at 38 Cinemagic Way in Hooksett; 11 Executive Park Drive in Merrimack; 2454 Lafayette Road in Portsmouth; cinemagicmovies.com

**The Flying Monkey**

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

**LaBelle Winery**

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

**The Music Hall**

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

**Red River Theatres**

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

**Wilton Town Hall Theatre**

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

**Movies**

- **Red River Virtual Cinema** Red

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

- **Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas — A Musical**, based on the book by the same name. This production is available for livestream via the Cap Center through Dec. 27. Tickets start at \$20 (plus a \$3 fee) for streaming during a 48-hour window; packages with games and other items are available.
- **Polar Express Family Brunch** on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 a.m. Have brunch during a screening of *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) that will also feature a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christ-

mas" by Santa and Mrs. Claus at LaBelle Winery. Tickets are sold by the table, maximum of six people per table, and cost \$22.99 (plus a fee) per child and \$41.14 (plus a fee) per adult.

- **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) will screen Thursday, Dec. 24, at 10 a.m. at Cinemagic theaters in Merrimack, Hooksett and Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$6.50.
- **Elf** (PG, 2003) Thursday, Dec. 24, at 2 p.m. at Flying Monkey. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students.
- **Celtic Thunder Christmas — an online concert** Thursday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m., livestream via Cap Center. Tickets cost \$35.
- **Beggars of Life** (1928) silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis on Sunday, Dec. 27, at 2 p.m. Admission is

free but a \$10 donation is encouraged.

- **Ski Bum: The Warren Miller Story** screens Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey. Tickets cost \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day.
- **Bob Marley New Year's Eve Streaming Event** on Thursday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., livestreamed via Cap Center. Tickets cost \$25 plus a \$4.50 fee.
- **Lucinda Williams in studio concert series** livestreamed event offered by the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. Tickets start at \$20 per event (with add-on options). The last show is "It's Only Rock and Roll: Tribute to the Rolling Stones" on Thursday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m.
- **Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester on Fri-

day, Jan. 1, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 2, at 6 p.m. at Chunky's in Nashua, and Sunday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. at Chunky's in Pelham. Admission costs \$4.99 per person.

- **Saved by the Bell Trivia Night** Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+.
- **Our Hospitality** (1923) silent Buster Keaton film accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapsis screens on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- **Princess Bride Trivia Night** Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+.

**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.

**Puzzle A**

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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**Puzzle B**

**Conceptis Sudoku**

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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**Puzzle C**

**Conceptis Sudoku**

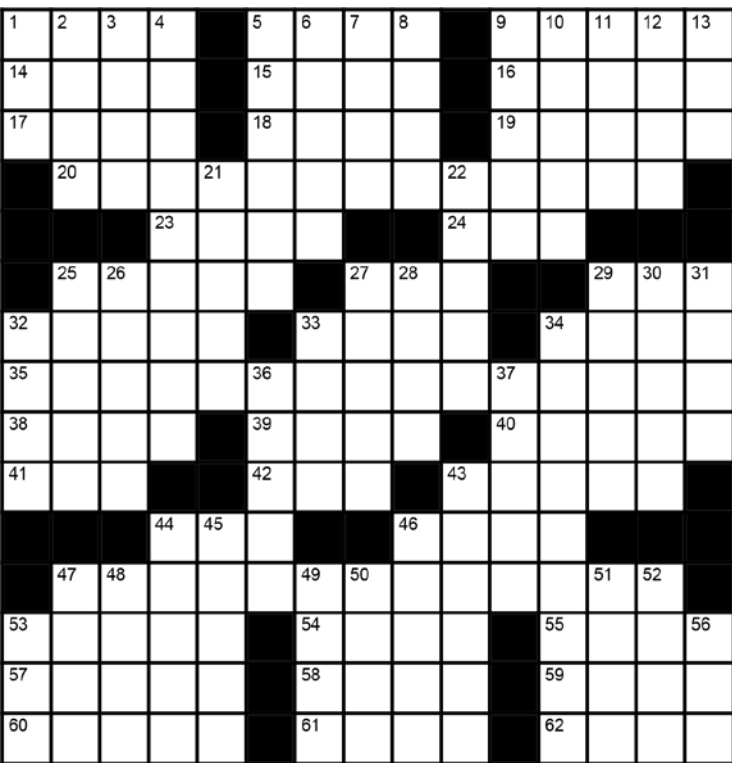
By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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# THE KILLER IN ME IS THE KILLER IN YOU



**Across**

1. Toad The Wet Sprocket smash '\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Want' (3,1)
5. Melvins 'Matt-\_\_\_'
9. What Slipknot wears so you can't see their faces
14. Shannon of Blind Melon
15. 1st Smashing Pumpkins video that is also part of the Hindu trinity
16. Smashing Pumpkins "When I break, \_\_\_ broken" (1,4)
17. Leonard Cohen musician son
18. '14 Yellowcard album 'Lift A \_\_\_'
19. Smashing Pumpkins got up off their chair to '\_\_\_ Inside Your Love'
20. Meghan Trainor "\_\_\_ moving, then you're lying" (2,4,4,3)
23. Unattended amp drones or does this
24. 'Love And Memories' Maryland band inspired by crew need, perhaps
25. Jacksons got overwhelmed and went into a '\_\_\_ Of Shock'
27. Leaving \_\_\_ Vegas
29. Color TV pioneer we watched performances on
32. Bassist Jeff of Pearl Jam
33. Social D's Mike
34. English punks \_\_\_ 69
35. Tina Turner's Mad Max song 'We Don't \_\_\_ (Thunderdome)' (4,7,4)
38. Hill and Folgelberg
39. \_\_\_ Man Of Constant Sorrow (1,2,1)
40. Chainsmokers 'Everybody \_\_\_ Me'
41. Guns 'N Roses song titled after form 1040 org. (abbr)
42. Dream Theater will 'Take \_\_\_ Time' to get it right
43. Collective Soul '\_\_\_, Allegations, And Things Left Unsaid'
44. Genre of Smashing Pumpkins or 90s rock (abbr)
46. Bang A \_\_\_ (Get It On)
47. Bryan Adams 'Do I Have \_\_\_?' (2,3,3,5)
53. 'La Bamba' Los \_\_\_
54. '72 Allman Brothers 'Little Martha' album '\_\_\_ Peach' (3,1)
55. Slipknot home state or FieldOf

**Down**

57. Bad Company finished their jam and asked 'How \_\_\_ That'
58. Like less than ideal mosh pit type of body frame
59. Black Rebel Motorcycle Club needed an advance so they 'Took Out A \_\_\_'
60. Dead Milkmen 'Smokin' Banana \_\_\_'
61. Basil that sang 'Mickey'
62. Ben Fold Five song that goes to war on the college football field with Navy?

**Down**

1. 'Sun Always Shines On TV' and 'Take On Me' band
2. "Came into town a one night stand, looks like my plans fell through" CCR song
3. 'Harnessed In Slums' Archers Of \_\_\_
4. Fuel hit 'Hemorrhage (\_\_\_)' (2,2,5)
5. Sylar song they will take for granted?
6. Ian Thomas song about untrue people
7. Like villainous promoter
8. Sublime is from the Long Beach part of this state, for short
9. '98 Aerosmith #1 'I Don't Want To \_\_\_ Thing' (4,1)
10. Neil Diamond 'When You Wish Upon \_\_\_' (1,4)
11. Mark Wahlberg music film 'Rock \_\_\_'
12. Dutch rock band inspired by classic Orson Welles role, perhaps
13. Pink Floyd's original frontman Barrett
21. Daughtry went nuts when he sang '\_\_\_ My Head'
22. 'The Great Milenko' Insane Clown \_\_\_
25. Photo shoot makeup problem
26. These parenting challenges are the years when some fans get into music
27. Future Leaders Of The World were trapped and sang '\_\_\_ Out' (3,2)
28. Cornershop's "Everybody Needs a bosom for a pillow" song 'Brimful Of \_\_\_'
29. 'The Believer' Miller also of Old 97's
30. Gnarlz Barkley didn't like it so wrote 'Who \_\_\_?'
31. 'Abnormally Attracted To Sin' Tori
32. Jason Mraz 'You \_\_\_ Both' (3,1)
33. Bob Seger System album about ark driver?
34. '01 Stevie Nicks album had 'Trouble In' this place of bliss (hyph)
36. Country rockers \_\_\_ Gritty Dirt Band
37. Record label for safari animal?
43. Radiohead EP 'Airbag/\_\_\_ Driving?' (3,2,1)

44. '89 Replacements told us to shush with 'Don't Tell \_\_\_' (1,4)
45. What 'Nothing' does, to a sad Matthew Sweet
46. '99 Barenaked Ladies single was in front when they told us to '\_\_\_ Line' (3,2)
47. Third Eye Blind 'How's It Going \_\_\_' (2,2)
48. Mitch Miller's instrument
49. A demo could be considered this, for your producing skills

50. Australian sludge metal band named after angel's headwear
  51. Magnapop heard a knock before they went to 'Open The \_\_\_'
  52. Thao With The Get Down Stay Down got out of the pool to sing 'When We \_\_\_'
  53. Small children might have to sit on parent's one
  56. Smashing Pumpkins "Is it \_\_\_ wonder I can't sleep?"
- © 2020 Todd Santos

1. Dreams setting
2. Bad Company finished their jam and asked 'How \_\_\_ That'
3. Like less than ideal mosh pit type of body frame
4. Black Rebel Motorcycle Club needed an advance so they 'Took Out A \_\_\_'
5. Dead Milkmen 'Smokin' Banana \_\_\_'
6. Basil that sang 'Mickey'
7. Ben Fold Five song that goes to war on the college football field with Navy?

## WORD ★ Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

Ten animals (four-letter min.)

Four words rhyming with "able"

Four words ending in LM

Tom Hanks' first big movie

Special occurrence

---

Last Week's Answers: HOOK FOOT LOON WOOL ZOOM FOOD MOON / METS REDS CUBS RAYS / FEEDER LEADER READER / FIRST SECOND THIRD / SOFA DESK BED

6/16

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

# KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

5+		7+	2
6x			8+
1-		1	
	2÷		

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WORKSPACE:

**CHALLENGING**

12x		1-		5+	
2÷			30x	14+	
	5				5-
90x	4-		16x	5	
	48x			9+	2
			3		

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WORKSPACE:

**RULES**

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

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

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**

3-	2-	2÷	
1	3	4	2
		1-	3
4	1	2	3
6x	4		3-
2	4	3	1
	3+		
3	2	1	4

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60x	3÷	3÷	1-		
4	5	1	3	6	2
	15+	6			
3	6	4	5	2	1
6x		3÷	1	120x	
2	3	5	6	1	4
	1-				
1	4	3	2	5	6
5	3÷	8x	10+		
5	2	6	1	4	3
5-				5	
6	1	2	4	3	5

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# "J'Accuse!" — they're in there

**Across**

- 1 Sluggish
- 5 Arm gesture done by kids graduating elementary school
- 8 Hosts in one's apartment (remember that?)
- 13 The A in A.D.
- 14 Public radio news Glass
- 15 Early online hostgroup system
- 17 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
- 18 \_\_\_ squared (circle formula)
- 19 Act as a go-between
- 20 Bygone laptop company's fiscal year division?
- 23 "Blah!"

- 25 "As Seen on TV" knife brand
- 26 Dinnerware collections
- 27 "Batman Forever" actor Kilmer
- 28 "Messenger" material
- 29 Talent for detail, maybe
- 32 "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly \_\_\_ Jepsen
- 33 General ballpark
- 35 It may be educated
- 37 "How does a company reserve a symbol to trade?" and "How does it differ from NYSE?"
- 44 Photographer Diane
- 45 Button alternative
- 46 Greek M's

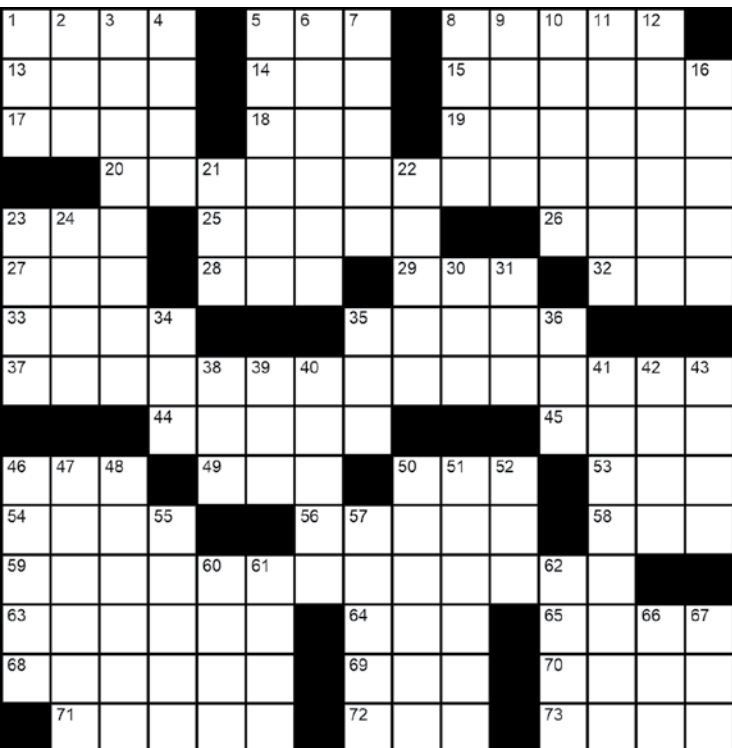
- 49 Long-running forensic drama with an upcoming reboot
- 50 Mineral spring
- 53 Airport posting
- 54 Catchall abbrs.
- 56 Largest moon of Saturn
- 58 Particle accelerator particle
- 59 "Me shooting 40% at the foul line is just God's way to say nobody's perfect," for instance?
- 63 Playwright Beckett
- 64 Suffix for Gator or Power
- 65 Idaho neighbor
- 68 Midway through a migraine, e.g.
- 69 "In the Heights" Tony winner \_\_\_-Manuel Miranda
- 70 Adult \_\_\_ (Cartoon Network offshoot)
- 71 Leg bone (connected to the arm bone?)
- 72 China's Sun \_\_\_-sen
- 73 Male cats

**Down**

- 1 Ocelot foot
- 2 See 4-Down

- 3 Sonic the Hedgehog's echidna friend
- 4 With 2-Down, interviewee for John Lennon retrospectives
- 5 \_\_\_ Dots (cryogenic ice cream brand)
- 6 "thank u, next" singer Grande
- 7 Hires competitor
- 8 Platform for the "Animaniacs" reboot
- 9 Bhutan's continent
- 10 Retailer that filed for bankruptcy in 2018
- 11 No divider, they
- 12 Spanish currency pre-euro
- 16 Briefly stated
- 21 Ball club VIP
- 22 Leicester lineup
- 23 "Kindergarten Cop" director Reitman
- 24 Model/actor Delevingne
- 30 "For real?" response
- 31 ME zone, in winter
- 34 Holly Hunter, in "The Piano"
- 35 Astronaut Grissom
- 36 "Pretty sneaky, \_\_\_" (Connect

- Four ad line)
- 38 Storyline progression
- 39 Many Super Bowl MVPs
- 40 Capital at over 9,000 feet
- 41 Like 50/50 odds
- 42 Alphabet where X is "X-ray"
- 43 Bridge section
- 46 Argentine soccer superstar Lionel general
- 47 1960s United Nations secretary general
- 48 Dish prepared with garlic butter and white wine
- 50 Google gaming service as of 2019
- 51 Inventor's concern
- 52 "Allergic to Water" singer DiFranco
- 55 Fledgling pigeon
- 57 Rome home
- 60 Royally named liner, briefly
- 61 Arm bone (connected to the leg bone?)
- 62 Force to leave
- 66 Objective
- 67 Letters on British battleships



**R&R answer from pg 35 of 12/17**



**Jonesin' answer from pg 36 of 12/17**

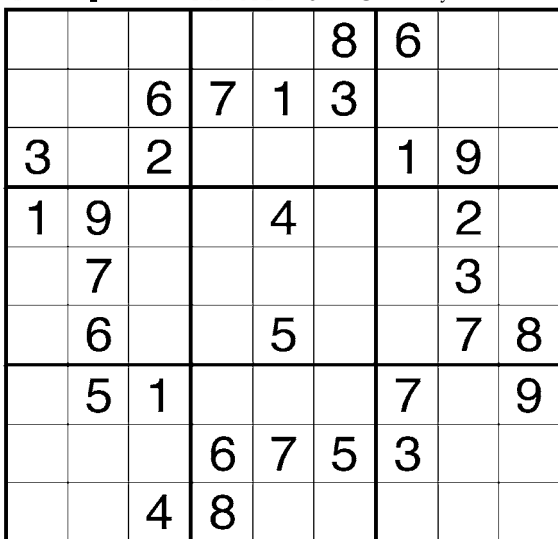


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**NITE SUDOKU**

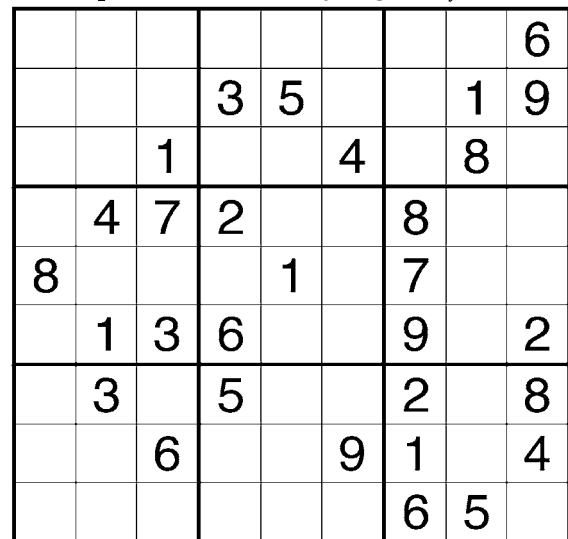
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 37.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle D** By Dave Green



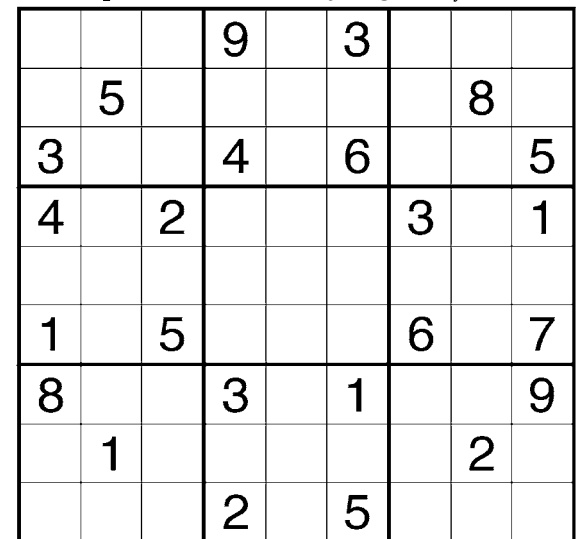
Difficulty Level ★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle E** By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle F** By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

All quotes are from *Becoming Naomi Leon*, by Pam Munoz Ryan, born Dec. 25, 1951.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *A few weeks earlier the sun had switched to its winter bedtime, so even though it was early evening, the sky was dark as pine pitch. A well-chosen bedtime is important.*

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *I added flour-ish to my 'Splendid Words' list. Splendid words are coming at you.*

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *The name Lemon Tree did not appeal to Gram's sense of description because, as she pointed out, there wasn't a stick of citrus in sight. Maybe Gram should plant one.*

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *Mr. Marble, the librarian and the absolute best person at Buena Vista Elementary, gave me the book yesterday when I walked into the library at lunchtime. A meeting with a favorite person leads to good things.*

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *It was the first time I'd ever carved a bird with the wings in the flying position, and even I could see it was the prettiest and most delicate thing I'd ever done. Look for new frontiers of creativity.*

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *The strip of cheese was similar to the string cheese that Gram used to buy in Lemon Tree at the supermarket, only creamier and softer. I decided that quesillo was my new favorite food in Mexico. Get ready for a new favorite food!*

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *Gram always said that the clothes made the person, meaning that when a girl put on a wedding dress she felt like a bride, or if she put on a three-piece suit, she felt like a businessperson. Choose thoughtfully.*

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *Santiago considered an odd-shaped piece of wood. '... Sometimes the wood fools me. I think I am carving a parrot, and when I am finished it has a fish tail. Or I begin a tiger, and in the end it has the body of a dancer.' Whatever it is, it'll be cool.*

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** *I had seen the individual pieces, but I never could have imag-*

*ined how it all connected. Radish upon radish upon radish had been bound together with thin roots to create the giant trunk and sprawling branches. Little pieces, big picture.*

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** *'I just can't believe that every detail of every figure has been made from a radish or some part of it,' said Gram. 'It's true,' said Fabiola. 'It is forbidden to use anything else. One year someone used a carrot to carve a figure, for color, and they were eliminated from the competition.'* A carrot is not a radish.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *... we had time to start at the stall next to ours and walk slowly on the viewing platform around the entire park, along with hundreds of other people. The carvers added their final touches to their scenes and began to put out their secret best that they had held back until the last minute. Don't hold back!*

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *Chewing on the end of my pencil, I got back to my list, which Gram said was one of the things I did best. I had all kinds of lists in my notebook, the shortest being 'Things I Am Good At' which consisted of 1) Soap carving, 2) Worrying, and 3) Making lists. You may discover a new thing you are good at. 🍷*

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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 double-cross (8)	_____
2 deprive of sensation (6)	_____
3 dust-jacket plug (5)	_____
4 panko, perhaps (10)	_____
5 nonsense speak (9)	_____
6 shower alternative (7)	_____
7 hunt for jetsam in the sand (9)	_____

BEN	BEA	UMB	CKS	URB
UMB	BR	TAB	BAF	UB
EAD	HT	BL	FLE	CR
CHC	BAT	OMB	BA	GAB

**Last Week's Answers:** 1. CURVEBALL 2. HAIRBALL 3. SLIMEBALL 4. BASKETBALL 5. MEATBALL 6. BUTTERBALL 7. EYEBALL

**Sudoku Answers from pg 36 of 12/17**

**Puzzle A**

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

**Puzzle B**

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

**Puzzle C**

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

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**Obsessions**

Real estate agent Sevenraj, 58, of Bangalore, India, has always wanted to be unique, he told the Mirror on Dec. 15, so when he was 18, he decided to make red and white his signature colors and has worn only those two colors ever since. Today, his home, his car and even his family — Puspha, his wife of 25 years, and their two children — sport nothing but red and white. Along with his color scheme, Sevenraj is fixated on the number 7. He was named after the number because he was the seventh child, and he now embroiders a crown symbol and the number 7 on all his suits and even has it stitched into the headrest of his red and white car. Sevenraj also speaks seven languages. “Wherever we go, people recognize us. They know us (as) the red and white family. I enjoy all the attention,” he admitted.

**It’s come to this**

China’s Civil Aviation Administration issued updated Covid-19 safety guidelines in early December that drew attention by encouraging flight crews to wear diapers and avoid airplane lavatories. Titled “Technical Guidelines for Epidemic Prevention and Control for Airlines,” the document included information on wearing masks and other personal protective equipment and also stated, “It is recommended that cabin crew members wear disposable diapers and avoid using the lavatories barring special circumstances

to avoid infection risks,” United Press International reported.

**Only in Canada**

Police in Sarnia, Ontario, arrested two suspects after they allegedly broke into the wrong house on Dec. 11 and offered to pay damages after they realized their mistake. CTV reported that residents of the home were watching television when two unnamed 27-year-old men broke through a door, one holding a hammer, and demanded money they claimed was owed to them. They apologized and left the home after discovering their error, according to police, who quickly apprehended them.

**Likely story**

Barry Joseph Watts told police in Fort Dodge, Iowa, that he had been walking by the building police found him in on Dec. 15, pulling on doors to see if they were unlocked and “entered the property to get warm,” according to the police report, “but after spending some time looking around the building, he decided to start taking items.” Watts told officers he had taken gold teeth and a laptop from a dental business, but police also found cash, a \$5,000 digital camera and burglary tools on him, including a screwdriver and a flashlight. KCCI reported authorities also found five doors damaged. Watts was arrested and held at the Webster County Jail.

**Suspicious confirmed**

Twenty-year-old Kaleb Kleiss was arrested in Clearwater, Florida, on Dec. 12 after a witness saw him driving with the barrel of an AR-15 rifle sticking out the driver’s side window of his 2016 Volkswagen, The Smoking Gun reported. Kleiss, who allegedly was intoxicated, according to arrest affidavits, told officers he carries the gun for self-defense because he’s “seen crazy stuff since moving to Florida.” When police tracked him down, Kleiss was standing next to his car outside a laundromat, with the assault weapon “displayed carelessly ... on the dashboard ... in plain view of everyone walking by the store,” police said, and the gun was “loaded with a full magazine and a round in the chamber.” Kleiss was charged with drunk driving and improper exhibition of a dangerous weapon.

**Bad dog**

An unnamed “pug-like” dog was found at the wheel of a family’s van after it plummeted into a ditch on Dec. 9 in North Grenville, Ontario. The Ottawa Citizen reported that police determined the owners had left the dog in the running car, and it probably bumped the gear shift into reverse, causing the van to slowly back up as the driver ran alongside, trying to get in. “Of course, the dog wasn’t charged,” said Grenville County police acting Sgt. Anne Collins.

**‘Tis the season**

While children across the world await Santa’s visit, naughty kids in some parts of Europe have already been visited by Krampus, the Christmas devil, a half-goat, half-demon with horns, who, according to legend, appears on Krampusnacht, Dec. 5, bearing whips and chains to beat wicked children before stuffing them in a sack and taking them away. The Mirror reports the centuries-old tradition takes place in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia and the Czech Republic and had its origin in German and Norse mythology.

**Oops!**

Matt Hightower, of Overland Park, Kansas, was home alone with his three kids in mid-December when he switched on the oven in preparation for making dinner. Inside, unfortunately, were the family’s three Elves on the Shelf, who had been put there the night before to “warm up” after a day of being held captive in the refrigerator by the “bad milk,” KCTV reported. “Babe ... I cooked the elves,” Hightower confessed to his wife, Chelsea, who was out Christmas shopping. “Thankfully,” said Chelsea, after a frantic search around town, “Jingle, Belle and Magic have made a miraculous recovery and are back to their silly ways.”

Visit [newsftheweird.com](http://newsftheweird.com).

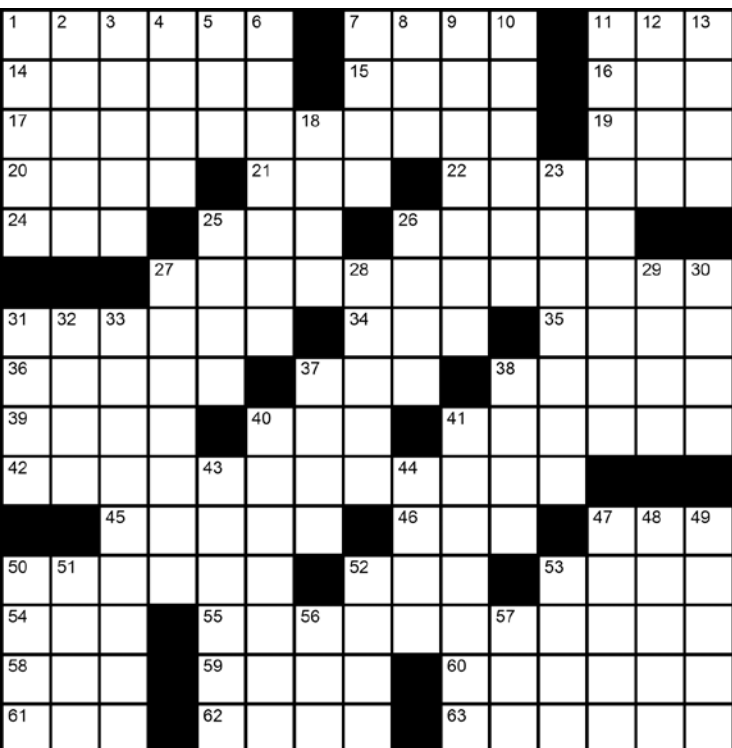
**JONESIN’ CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES**

**“The Big Build-Up” — see the sequences?**

Enjoy this Jonesin’ Crossword, originally printed in 2012!

**Across**

- 1 Old theater name
- 7 Actor Oka of “Heroes”



- 11 \_\_\_ Rida (“Low” performer with T-Pain)
- 14 Like some art exhibits
- 15 “By the look \_\_\_”
- 16 Ticket seating stat
- 17 Write down “Vast Asian country with a population of over a billion”?
- 19 \_\_\_ Productions (“Skyfall” company)
- 20 Notable time periods
- 21 Dinghy mover
- 22 James Cameron hit
- 24 Fifth qtrs.
- 25 Direct deposit abbr.
- 26 “Ten Summoner’s Tales” singer
- 27 Crazy situation in “The King’s Speech”?
- 31 \_\_\_ corpus
- 34 Tiny battery size
- 35 Arms requirement
- 36 On guard
- 37 It ain’t nothing
- 38 Chris of the “American Pie” series
- 39 \_\_\_-Flush (former bathroom cleaner brand)
- 40 Poli \_\_\_ (college field of study)
- 41 They produce mushroom clouds
- 42 Steal a parachute pants-wearing rapper’s plane?
- 45 Kate’s sitcom partner, in the 1980s

- 46 Guy’s counterpart
- 47 “\_\_\_ du lieber!”
- 50 Malfunctions, like a printer
- 52 Endodontist’s degree: abbr.
- 53 Razor line introduced by Gillette
- 54 Inventor Whitney
- 55 Leader of the course “Denial 101”?
- 58 Actor Cheadle
- 59 Heidi of “Project Runway”
- 60 Ultimate
- 61 Favorite word of nitpicky grammarians
- 62 Himalayan giant
- 63 Slender

**Down**

- 1 Drive around southern California?
- 2 Like xenon, as gases go
- 3 Some Italian cars, for short
- 4 Piano teacher on “Family Guy”
- 5 Neutral shade
- 6 Chant from the cult horror classic “Freaks”
- 7 “SNL” alum Jay
- 8 Org. with a “100 Years...” series
- 9 “Witchcraft” singer
- 10 Type of type
- 11 Apps for nothing
- 12 “On Golden Pond” bird

- 13 Takes control of
- 14 “E! News” co-host Sadler
- 23 Asthmatic’s item
- 25 Coup d’\_\_\_
- 26 59-across’s ex
- 27 TV dramas, generally
- 28 Sofia Coppola’s aunt \_\_\_ Shire
- 29 Leave out
- 30 Mitt Romney’s entourage quintet
- 31 Chop into fine pieces
- 32 Half a ball game?
- 33 Hundreds of rap videos?
- 37 Pang
- 38 “Hooked on Classics” record label
- 40 It’s held going downhill
- 41 Best Picture winner of the 1980s
- 43 Really inelegant
- 44 “Oracular Spectacular” band
- 47 Playwright Fugard
- 48 Aim rival
- 49 “The Outcasts of Poker Flat” writer Bret
- 50 One who obeys The Force
- 51 Oodles
- 52 Moore of “G.I. Jane”
- 53 Wile E. Coyote’s supplier
- 56 Accommodate, with “up”
- 57 Off-roader

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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 3/31/21. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio door, get one (1) window or patio door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 money down, \$0 monthly payments, \$0 interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 7/1/2020 and 3/31/21. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the order. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License MN:BC130983/WI:266951. Excludes MN insurance work per MSA 325E.66. Los Angeles License #992285, Orange County License #990416, MHIC #121441, VA License #2705155684, DC License #420215000125. All other license numbers available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. \*ENERGY STAR\* is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. \*Renewal by Andersen\* and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA12288

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