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Intergenerational ties

I find being one of my family's elders a bit unsettling. Sure, I already embraced the gray hair. But until this year I always had someone more experienced with whom to discuss parenting, career, home ownership, the news, family history, my dreams. We didn't necessarily think alike, but my parents and in-laws listened and shared their stories.

One thing my mother-in-law taught me was how to cook the family's favorite Lebanese dishes. You might think she learned the recipes growing up, but her family was Portuguese, not Lebanese. Like me, she learned how to make "kibbeh" and "fatayer" after marrying into the tribe. "Kibbeh is meatloaf," she said, "only nicer." It's made with ground lamb, bulgur, pine nuts and allspice. My husband and his brothers like to prove their heritage by eating their kibbeh "naye-e" (raw) and telling the rest of us we're wimps for preferring it "sineyee" (baked). Before baking, you drizzle olive oil over the loaf, draw criss-crossed lines on the surface, and poke a deep hole in the middle with your finger. When I asked why, my mother-in-law said, "Because my mother-in-law did."

I cherish the morsels of culture that I got from my in-laws, as well as those from my own Scottish-English parents. During the pandemic, I contemplated learning to play a bagpipe, but that is a particularly inappropriate instrument to take up when family members are working at home. I content myself with humming the Skye Boat Song and being able to recognize MacDonald tartans at the Highland Games. What I really value, though, is the feeling of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

You don't have to be related to get the benefits of intergenerational relationships. For older people, they include a sense of purpose and self-esteem. For younger people, they can provide mentorship, opportunities for meaningful service, and increased perspective and empathy. Studies show both generations are happier and more hopeful. People are now exploring how to move from the separatist practices of the last 30 years — like 55+ housing developments — to intergenerational collaborations such as residences for "grandfamilies" and community reading programs. Sara Zeff Geber, Ph.D., writing in Forbes, discusses inventive organizations such as Generations United and Seniors4Seniors. In New Hampshire, AARP age-friendly communities are re-thinking everything from health to transportation, including zoning changes that could help with one of the most significant issues for young people and businesses: workforce housing.

As my family comes together for the holidays, I hope to keep both the old traditions and the sharing of new ideas alive. Baking fatayer — doughy, little, tri-cornered meat pies oozing a creamy yogurt sauce — ought to help.

Susan MacDonald Hatem, former Director of Programs and Grant Making at New Hampshire Humanities, is a CASA of NH guardian ad litem, mentor and writer. Email her at susanh8m@gmail.com.

News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire
Published every Thursday
(1st copy free; 2nd \$1).
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**ON THE COVER**

GIFTS TO DELIGHT We have suggestions for all your favorite people, whether they're artistic (p. 10), love the outdoors (p. 14), enjoy good eats (p. 22) or like to get lost in a book (p. 33),

ALSO ON THE COVER, find out where to get delicious Christmas eats, p. 22. Add some sparkle to your holidays, p. 31. And Black Violin comes to the Cap Center in Concord, p. 36.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

During the state's weekly public health update on Nov. 30, Gov. Chris Sununu reported that New Hampshire saw a 43 percent increase in hospitalizations due to Covid-19 just in the last two weeks. A total of 433 active hospitalizations were reported on Dec. 6, a new all-time high.

State epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan also gave brief remarks during the press conference about the emergence of the Omicron variant, which was first reported to the World Health Organization from South Africa on Nov. 24. Although the strain has not yet been identified in New Hampshire as of Dec. 6, it has been detected in at least 15 U.S. states, according to the CDC, including in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. "Because of the number and the types of mutations that are seen with this new strain, it's predicted that this new variant ... will be more infectious and possibly evade a person's immune defense system," Chan said. "It highlights the importance for everybody who is eligible to be vaccinated and to continue to take precautions."

About 10,000 Granite Staters are scheduled to receive their booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccine on Dec. 11, across more than 20 pop-up community sites statewide. As of Dec. 6, appointments are full at every site except for the Brown Elementary School in Berlin, but booster doses can still be scheduled at participating local pharmacies or doctor's offices in the coming weeks. Go to vaccines.nh.gov to make an appointment and check availability.

NH HWCA

NH Healthcare Workers for Climate Action, which is open to all clinical and non-clinical health care workers, officially launched with an event on Dec. 4, promoting its mission to increase awareness and knowledge of the impact of climate on health among health care workers. According to a press release, the members of this grassroots nonprofit organization will get support and tools to "educate and activate colleagues, patients and family members, community members and policy makers in support of climate solutions to improve the health of all, particularly the most vulnerable among us." The group's first direct action was sending a letter — signed by 19 health care associations and almost 600 New Hampshire health care workers — to the state's elected officials about the science behind the impact of climate on physical and mental health and stressing the need for urgent action.

Roadside parking

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation is reminding hikers, skiers, snowmobilers and other backcountry users that anyone who leaves a vehicle on the side of the road unattended may be risking having their vehicle towed. According to a press release, the DOT and contract plow drivers often work in low-visibility conditions, making it hard to see vehicles on the side of the road. This puts people in the vehicles at risk and delays snow removal operations due to needed repairs or replacement of the

plow equipment. When a vehicle impacts snow removal, police will be called to check on it and determine what action is taken, which may include a ticket or the vehicle being towed, the release said.

Free ride

For the rest of December, all stops along Manchester Transit Authority's Route 8 will be offered free of charge. According to a press release, this tradition began during the holiday season in 2018. The Route 8 service starts at 5:30 a.m., and the last return to downtown Manchester is 6:25 p.m. It offers 30-minute frequency, eight times a day on the hour from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., the release. It makes 13 regular loop stops: the Downtown Manchester Doubletree Hotel, Michaels/Burlington Coat Factory Plaza on South Willow Street, Walmart on Gold Street, the Mall of New Hampshire, South Willow Street and downtown Manchester. MTA is encouraging people to use its app, RouteShout 2.0, to get bus arrival time and bus location in real time. 🚗

Michelle Xiggors of **Concord** and Catherine McArthur of Pelham won \$5,000 during the Dec. 2 Double Diamond Spectacular second-chance drawing at the Filotimo Casino & Restaurant in Manchester, according to a press release. The big prize — \$1 million — went to Maine resident Beatrice Paisley, and the other two semifinalists each won \$1,000. All players who claimed a \$1,000 prize from the \$20 Double Diamond Spectacular scratch ticket were eligible to enter the semifinalist drawing, the release said.

It seems Queen City residents really like their lights! On Dec. 6, the **Manchester** Transit Authority added four new times for its free holiday lights Trolley Tours — and as with the first announcement, those time slots were filled within hours. "We saw an overwhelming response," Mayor Joyce Craig said in a press release. "I'm so grateful to everyone at MTA who worked to double the amount of tours families can take to see the holiday lights displays across Manchester."

The United Way of Greater **Nashua** will be presenting gifts of gratitude to St. Joseph Hospital and Southern New Hampshire Health on Dec. 10, according to a press release. The gifts are tokens of appreciation for the work being done by community health care workers and will include gift cards, hand-written greeting cards and artwork designed by students from Nashua schools.

Covid-19 update	As of Nov 29	As of Dec 6
Total cases statewide	160,287	169,219
Total current infections statewide	7,078	9,671
Total deaths statewide	1,694	1,744
New cases	9,474 (Nov. 20 to Nov. 29)	8,932 (Nov. 30 to Dec. 6)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	2,124	2,436 (as of Dec. 3)
Current infections: Merrimack County	751	923 (as of Dec. 3)
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,251	1,580 (as of Dec. 3)

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Candlelight Stroll UNDER THE STARS
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What's in store

Shop local this holiday season

Nancy Kyle, president and CEO of the New Hampshire Retail Association, talked about the current state of New Hampshire's retail industry and how shopping locally benefits consumers, businesses and communities.

Q: *How are small businesses doing right now?*

Retailers are actually doing fairly well. There's been a real shift over the last five or 10 years to a trend of shopping locally ... and people's overall mindset of wanting to buy items that were grown or made in their own community. Interestingly enough, a lot of millennials actually prefer to shop in stores rather than online. ... On Cyber Monday, which is supposed to be the biggest online shopping day of the year, the [sales] numbers this year were less than they were last year. The Thanksgiving holiday weekend had very good numbers of people out in the community and shopping.



Nancy Kyle

What are the perks of shopping locally for the consumer?

When you buy from a local business rather than ordering from [a seller] halfway across the country, you're not going to have to deal with the shipping problems that a lot of us are seeing right now; you'll get your things in a timely manner. ... You're getting very

unique gifts that you probably wouldn't be able to get anywhere else ... and the quality of the goods is oftentimes better. ... A lot of times you're dealing directly with the owner of a store, so it's a more personal experience. If you go into a store downtown looking for a specific item and they don't have it, they'll recommend somewhere else [locally] that you can get it.

Why do you think that is?

I think people just want to start going back out and shopping in stores. ... Because of the times we've been in and the restrictions in place because of Covid, a lot of people haven't been traveling as much; they haven't been going to as many concerts; they haven't been eating out as often; so they haven't been spending as much money. I think there's a pent-up demand, now, to go shopping, and to spend their money on the people in their lives who are important to them.

What changes and new business models born out of the pandemic are here to stay?

A big thing stores are doing now is having more outreach with their customers using Zoom. Local bookstores are a perfect example; they're doing Zoom calls with authors who have new books coming out [as a way to] get people to come in [to the store] and buy the books. I know of some clothing stores that are having fashion shows on Zoom and social media to sell items. These are all new things; they weren't happening before Covid. ... Delivery, curbside pickup — all of that is here to stay, too. We're all really busy, and it's just really convenient when we can order something online and have it brought out to our car. That has only helped [local businesses'] cause and encouraged more people to want to shop local.

How does shopping locally benefit the communities?

Because of our lack of a sales tax, retail is a cornerstone of the state's economy and a really strong and vibrant part of our state. One out of every four people in the state is employed in some type of retail industry. ... When you shop local, you're putting your dollars into your community. You're investing in people who are invested in your community. These small, local businesses are there for us — they're the ones supporting your little league teams, supporting your kids in school when they're selling candy bars — so it's time for us to be there for them. ... Last year was a challenging time for them, and with Covid numbers surging again, it will be challenging again ... so let's try to get out there and support them as much as we can.

How can consumers discover local businesses to support?

Look in your community. Search for [local businesses] on Facebook and social media. Walk around your downtown. A lot of towns also have special [event] weekends before Christmas with carolers and activities for kids and things to bring people downtown. Those community events are a great opportunity for people to walk in the doors of local businesses and support them.

— Angie Sykeny

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NFL stretch run preview



With December here and four games left to play, let's take a look at where things stand for the Patriots and the rest of the NFL as they jockey for playoff position.

After Monday Night's, um, unique 14-10 win over the Bills in very windy Buffalo, the Patriots go into their bye week as the Top Seed in the AFC thanks to a best in the conference 9-4 record. Now they'll sit by and wait for the outcomes of a bunch of games with implications for the AFC playoff picture this week that could help or hurt the Pats' place in the scrum. They are Baltimore at Cleveland, SF at Cincy, LV at KC, and the biggie, Buffalo at Tampa Bay, that will have Patriot Nation hoping TB delivers one more solid for the Foxboro faithful with a win.

Who's hot: While not blowing anyone away like past seasons, it's KC with five straight wins to regain control in the AFC West. Miami's also won five straight, and while they're just 6 and 7, they could be a problem for Pats if they're still red hot when they meet in Miami in Week 17.

Who's not: After losing on a failed two-point conversion on Sunday's final play vs. Pittsburgh it's the Ravens. Still have the AFC North lead, but after losing three of six amid three skin-of-their-teeth wins their seeming lock on top seed in the AFC is gone. Especially with five tough closing games ahead.

In my season preview I had Buffalo and TB in the SB. Now, since I'm still not convinced on Arizona, I'll recalibrate to a KC-TB rematch. Though having said that, the Pats can beat anyone and I won't be surprised if they get there.

However, with the Rams and Cardinals playing on Monday night I'll get a chance to re-evaluate Arizona. And in a matter related to Zona having the best record in the league, a lot has to do with QB **Kyler Murray** and his league-leading 110.2 in QB rating. All of which makes it obvious the former first-round pick of the Oakland A's made the right call choosing the NFL over MLB.

Murray is not the only former first overall pick who's thriving in 2021. **Joe Burrow** is having a nice year too. With the Bengals in the playoff hunt, he's thrown for 2,835 yards and 22 TD passes to put him on pace for 34 and 4,400. Not a bad second season.

Not so much for the first overall before Murray and Burrow, however, as there are major grumbles all over Cleveland about **Baker Mayfield** as he comes up for his first big contract. A big decision for the Browns and it will be interesting to see if they punt on Mayfield to start their QB hunt again. I bet they sign him, but for nowhere near the \$40 million people were throwing around last summer.

Speaking of big money decisions, **Coach B** has a big one coming up at the end of the year as it's no secret **JC Jackson** will get a boatload after another great season. The options: if it gets too expensive let him walk, extend him for big money (which he should have done last winter) or franchise him for north of \$17 million per. One side of history says after seeing **Ty Law**, the still bitter **Asante Samuel**, **Darrelle Revis**, **Malcolm Butler** and **Stephon Gilmore** walk out that door Coach B will let JC do that as well. But my history says he should not let that happen, because the Pats went 10 years without winning the SB from when Law left after 2004 to when Revis arrived in 2014. They've also never won it without a top-flight CB in the secondary — Law (2001, '03, '04), Revis (2014), Butler (2016) and Gilmore (2018). In other words, Bill, don't screw this up.

The latest evidence is in for just how idiotic stat geek analysis is. It comes from Pro Football Focus, which gave **Mac Jones** his *worst* graded game so far after the 36-13 win over Tennessee when all he did was complete 73 percent of his passes while throwing for a career-best 310 yards, two TD passes and no interceptions. The 122.3 QB rating was, oh by the way, the best in the entire NFL for Week 12. Guess they didn't see the New Orleans or L.A. Chargers games when the QB ratings were 70.8 and 55.2 respectively. You have to see the marking categories, but suffice it to say they are nitpicking nonsense.

The most remarkable Patriots stat of the season has been them going into the Buffalo game with the largest (+186) point differential in the entire NFL. Who saw that coming with a rookie QB?

Patrick Mahomes just does not look fast or especially athletic to me, but when he runs out of the pocket he still somehow always seems to get to the sticks for a first down or just squeezes into the corner of the end zone as he did on his 12-yard scramble for the first TD in KC's Sunday night win vs. Denver.

While **Cooper Kupp** sounds more like a sporting goods company specializing in protective equipment for baseball catchers, he actually is the Rams wideout who's having a hellacious season. He's on pace for 142 catches and 1,929 receiving yards, which has him in range of the all-time record in both categories of 149 and 1,964.

I must admit I had barely ever heard of Colts RB **Jonathan Taylor** until I saw him gash the Bills for 185 rushing yards and five TD's as Indy carved them up in their 41-15 Week 11 demolition of Buffalo. He's worth the price of admission.

But, with him on a collision course with the Patriots defense on Saturday night — be careful what you wish for.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Putting a damper on shopping

The Mall of New Hampshire had to shut down its food establishments temporarily after a massage chair caught fire. According to a press release, the Manchester Fire Department responded to the call around 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 5 and found heavy smoke throughout the mall. The sprinkler had turned on and contained the fire to the area of the massage chair, which, according to a report from WMUR, was said to have been in a hallway outside of Best Buy and the food court. There was water damage in the area of the fire and smoke damage throughout, according to the fire department's report, but no one was injured. The mall's eateries were scheduled to reopen upon passing inspection from the Manchester Health Department, according to WMUR.

Score: -1

Comment: *What is Christmas shopping without snacks and a massage?*

Granite State gives

New Hampshire is the 9th most generous state, according to GoFundMe's annual Giving Report. The fundraising platform's report includes a list of the most generous states and cities in America for supporting individuals, causes and organizations in 2021. According to the report, the top three states are Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut. The rankings are based on the number of donations per capita on GoFundMe.

Score: +1

Comment: *All six New England states made it into the Top 10, according to the report.*

Student success

Two New Hampshire students — Matthew Blair of Manchester Central High School and Warren Chen of Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua — have been selected to participate in the 60th Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program. According to a press release, the two were nominated by their principals and were selected by a panel of judges. Blair, a senior, is class president, editor-in-chief of Central's school newspaper, co-captain of the Boys' Varsity Hockey Team, drum major and a National Honor Society member, and he's ranked 1st in his class with a 4.0 GPA. Chen, a junior, is the school's junior communications officer and has "thrived in a challenging program of study ... [and] contributed greatly to the school community while engaging and collaborating with everyone," according to the release. Alternates are Matthew Pemberton at Bedford High School and Max Aframe at Hopkinton High School.

Score: +1

Comment: *Both students will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and will represent the Granite State in an intensive study of the federal government, joining alums like former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, the release said.*

QOL score: 77

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 78

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

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THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 9 AND BEYOND

Friday, Dec. 10

This week's craft fairs kick off tonight.

• The **Great New England Craft & Artisan Show** (gncraftartisanshows.com) runs today from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Hampshire Hills Athletic Club (50 Emerson Road in Milford). Admission is free; Santa will make an appearance on Saturday.

• The Auburn Village School (11 Eaton Hill Road in Auburn) will hold its **Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair** Saturday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with more

than 30 vendors and crafters, kids crafts and games, concessions and a visit from Santa, according to the school's Facebook page.

• Bishop Brady High School (25 Columbus Ave. in Concord; bish-opbrady.edu) will hold its **Craft Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• On Saturday, Dec. 11, the **Holly Jolly Craft Fair** (joycescraftshows.com/nh-craft-fairs-schedule) will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel (2 Somerset Plaza in Nashua).

• The Canterbury Communi-

ty Farmers Market Association (canterburyfarmersmarket.com) will hold a special indoor holiday-themed market with food, art and crafts on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. inside the gymnasium of Canterbury Elementary School (15 Baptist Road).

• The **NH Audubon** McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; nhaudubon.org) will host a **Holiday Craft Fair** on Saturday,



Glass art window by Doris massetti. Courtesy photo.

Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Nature Store will also be open.

• The **Wrong Brain Holiday Bizaare** (facebook.com/wrong-brain) will take place Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Millspace (55 Main St. in Newmarket) featuring artwork and artisan crafted items.

• The **Santa's Workshop Craft Fair** will run at the Derry VFW (18 Railroad Ave. in Derry) on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

School (tickets on sale at the door) and a free holiday concert by the Amherst Town Band Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

The Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road in Canterbury; shakersorg) kicks off two weekends of its "**Merry Merry Canterbury**" celebration today. The events take place Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 (as well as Dec. 18 and Dec. 19) from 1 to 5 p.m. Reserve a spot in advance for \$20 per adult (free for kids). The days will include a seasonal display in the bar, a craft, a 19th-century magic show and carols. (For \$50, attend the Candlelight Tours the following weekend.)

Saturday, Dec. 11

Take a drive and see some lights: **Light Up New Boston** will take place on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. Find a map to houses with holiday displays at newbostonnh.gov. The event follows the **S'mores with Santa** event from 4 to 6 p.m. which features a tree-lighting, a chance to meet Santa and s'mores.

Friday, Dec. 10

Celebrate the annual **Amherst tree lighting ceremony** at 6 p.m. at the Amherst Town Green. Treats will be available for purchase, according to amhersttreelightingfestival.weebly.com. Keep the holiday spirit going in Amherst with a performance by the Souhegan Valley Chorus Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at Souhegan High

and noon on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The **Hatbox Theatre's** (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com) production (which continues through Dec. 19) has showtimes Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.

For a slightly different take on the main character, the Majestic Theatre

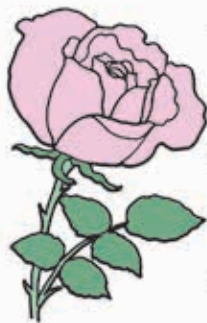
presents **Scrooge in Love** at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway in Derry) on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. This continuation of the *Christmas Carol* story looks at Scrooge a year later when the ghosts return to help Ebenezer find love, according to majestictheatre.net.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Productions of **A Christmas Carol** take place on stages throughout the area this weekend. Tonight, the **Palace Theatre's** (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) continues its run (shows continue through Dec. 22) with shows at 7:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow; 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11,

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Creatively wrapped

Art, music and theater gifts for all ages

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

There are plenty of opportunities to shop locally for handmade, one-of-a-kind gifts this month. Some art galleries host **special holiday exhibits** focused on small and affordable works of art, with gift shopping in mind. **Pop-up holiday arts markets and craft fairs** have a little of everything, including photography, pottery, woodwork, textiles, jewelry, glass, metal, fine art, mixed media and more. New Hampshire also has a number of **retail shops** that sell items created by local artists and craftspeople.

“Buying handmade and local not only supports the local economy, and our neighbors’ livelihoods, but also presents an opportunity to gift unique, one-of-a-kind, heartfelt gifts that are so much more personal than things you may find in a bigger retail environment,” said Jessica Moores, owner of Manchester Craft Market.

Arts markets and craft fairs

• The annual holiday showcase at Twiggs Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen), “**Sleighbell Studio**,” is open now through Dec. 18, featuring a wide selection of fine art, jewelry, cards, books, honeys, soaps and more, all locally made and priced affordably for gift buying. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twigsgallery.wordpress.com or call 975-0015.

• “**Small Works — Big Impact**,” the annual holiday exhibit at Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford), is going on now through Dec. 31, in person at the gallery and virtually on the gallery’s website (creativeventuresfineart.com/product-category/small-works-show). The exhibit features non-juried small works of art in a variety of media and styles, created by area professional and nonprofessional artists, priced affordably for holiday gift buying. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

• Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook) has its **Holiday Art Show and Sale** now through Dec. 23, featuring handmade gifts by more than 30 local artists, including paintings, pottery, mixed media, photography, fabric art and more. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **The Craftworkers’ Guild’s Holiday Fair** is open now through Dec. 23, with in-person shopping at the historic Kendall House (3A Meetinghouse Road, Bedford), open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and an online shop. The fair will feature seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, cards, gourmet treats, woodworking, fiber and fabric, stained and fused glass, mixed media, jewelry and more by juried local artists and craftspeople. Visit craftworkersguild.org.

• **The Great Holiday Shopping Extravaganza** is Friday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

at Hampshire Hills Athletic Club (50 Emerson Road, Milford). More than 80 local crafters and artisans will sell jewelry, scarves, home decor, woodwork, pottery, metal art and more. Visit hampshirehills.com.

• **The Holly Jolly Craft Fair** takes place at DoubleTree Hotel (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 80 exhibitors will sell jewelry, wreaths, metal art, pottery, children’s items, candles, scarves and more. Admission costs \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and is free for kids under age 16. Visit joycescraftshows.com.

• The New Hampshire Audubon hosts its **Holiday Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord). A number of local artists will show and sell their work, including jewelry, pottery, nature photography, greeting cards, quilted items and more. Visit nhaudubon.org.

• **The Artisan Market** at The Cider Mill Gallery (24 Francestown Road, New Boston) is going on now through Dec. 24, open Friday through Sunday, and, for last-minute gift shopping, Monday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., each day. Call 487-5522 or visit eileenbelanger.com.

Handmade gift shops

• **Creative Vibes** (2 Pauls Way, Amherst, 557-2457, creativevibesnh.com, open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

• **Currier Museum of Art gift shop** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org, open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

• **The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries** (nhcrafts.org)

• **Concord** (36 N. Main St., 228-8171, open Monday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

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

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

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

• **Locally Made**

• **Salem** (99 Rockingham Blvd., Salem, 890-7141, locallyhandmadesalemnh.com, open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.)

• **Merrimack** (80 Premium Outlets Blvd., Merrimack, 377-7610, facebook.com/LHMerrimackNH, open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6

p.m.)

• **Manchester Craft Market** (Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, manchestercraftmarket.com, open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.)

• **Spriggs Shoppe** (Twiggs Gallery, 254 King St., Boscawen, 975-0015, twigsgallery.wordpress.com, open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.)

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

• **Wild Little Art Shop** (Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center, 30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-9453, wildsalamander.com, open Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closing at 5 p.m. on Dec. 23.)

Performance venues

For the theater-lover in your life, consider **tickets to an upcoming show** that you know they would like.

“Giving the gift of theater and allowing someone to have a night out and away from the daily grind of life is a great thing,” said Robert Dionne, artistic director for The Majestic Theatre, a theater company based in Manchester.

Or let the recipient choose a show themselves with a **gift certificate for a local entertainment venue**.

“Entertainment is a great gift because it’s providing an experience that is always unique, and it’s a flexible option that can satisfy the tastes of any recipient,” said Dan Darling, executive director of the Franklin Opera House.

• **Capitol Center for the Arts** (44 S. Main St., and Bank of New Hampshire Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com)

• **Franklin Opera House** (316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org)

• **Hatbox Theatre** (270 Loudon Road, Concord, 715-2315, hatboxnh.com)

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

• **The Music Hall** (Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., and Loft, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusicHall.org)

Art classes/workshops

Give the gift of knowledge to an aspiring artist, actor or musician with a **gift certificate for a local art studio, theater program or music school**, which they can use for workshops or classes to improve their craft.

“Perhaps someone played an instrument many years ago and has been wanting to pick it up



Shop handmade gifts at The Craftworkers’ Guild’s holiday fair. Courtesy photo.

again,” said Dionne, who is also the administrator at Ted Herbert Music School in Manchester. “Our teachers [work with] all ages, abilities, and musical styles. Whether you are learning for fun or to further a music career, we are here to lead you in the direction you wish.”

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

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

• **Kimball-Jenkins School of Art** (266 N. Main St., Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com) Offers weekly classes, master classes and one-day workshops for kids and adults in all kinds of media.

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

• **Muse Paintbar** (42 Hanover St., Manchester, musepaintbar.com) Offers paint-and-sip workshops and step-by-step painting workshops for families.

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

• **Time to Clay** (228 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, timetoclay.com) Offers pottery workshops for all ages.

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

• **You’re Fired** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-3473; 133 Loudon Road, No. 101, Concord, 226-3473; 264 N. Broadway, Salem, 894-5456; 204-5559; yourefirednh.com) Offers open studio times and materials for pottery and mosaic projects.

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

CONTINUED ON PG 12 ►

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Nutcracker galore:** Don't miss your chance to see the classic *Nutcracker* this holiday season. Three local dance groups are performing the piece this weekend. The **Turning Pointe Center of Dance** presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord). Tickets cost \$18. Visit turningpointecenterofdance.com.

The **Northeastern Ballet Theatre** presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m., at Dover High School (25 Alumni Drive, Dover). There will also be shows the following weekend on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m., at the Kingswood Arts Center (396 S. Main St., Wolfeboro). Tickets purchased in advance cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors age 60 and up and \$17.50 for students and children; tickets purchased at the door are an additional \$5. Visit northeasternballet.org.

Finally, **Dance Visions Network** presents *The Nutcracker Suite* on Sunday, Dec. 12, with shows at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester). Tickets cost \$22. Visit dancevisions-network.com.

• **Holiday theater:** If you're looking for something different from the ubiquitous *Nutcracker* and *Christmas Carol*, there are a few other holiday shows coming up. The Majestic Theatre presents *Scrooge in Love* at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry), with showtimes on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. Set one year after the events of Charles' Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the musical follows four ghosts — Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future — as they team up to reunite a reformed Ebenezer Scrooge with his long-long first love, Belle. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors age 65 and up and students age 17 and under. Visit majestictheatre.net.



The Majestic Theatre presents *Scrooge in Love*. Courtesy photo.

The Pinkerton Players presents Donald Mar- gulies' play *Coney Island Christmas* at the Stockbridge Theatre (5 Pinkerton St., Derry), with showtimes on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. Based on the 1959 autobiographical short story "The Loudest Voice" by Grace Paley, *Coney Island Christmas* follows a young Jewish girl from an immigrant family in Depression-era New York City who is cast as Jesus in her school's Christmas pageant. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Visit stockbridgetheatre.com.

The Palace Youth Theatre, consisting of student actors in grades 2 through 12, presents *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **Festive voices:** It's also a big weekend for holiday choral music. The **Souhegan Valley Chorus** presents its holiday concert, "A Celebration of Christmas," on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. at Souhegan High School (412 Boston Post Road, Amherst). Tickets are available at the door and cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. Visit souheganvalleychorus.org.

The Concord Chorale presents its holiday show "Gloria!" at South Congregational Church (27 Pleasant St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors in advance, and \$25/\$20 at the door. Visit concordchorale.org.

Lastly, the **Manchester Choral Society** presents its holiday concert at LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst) on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids age 10 and under. Visit labellewinery.com. — *Angie Sykeny*

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ARTS

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 10

- **Wild Salamander Creative Arts Center** (30 Ash St., Hollis, 465-9453, wildsalamander.com) Offers a variety of art classes and workshops for all ages.

Music and performing arts classes/workshops

- **Concord Community Music School** (23 Wall St., Concord, 228-1196, ccmusicschool.org)
- **The Majestic Theatre** (880 Page St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net)
- **Manchester Community Music School**

(2291 Elm St., Manchester, 644-4548, mcmusic-school.org)

- **Manchester Music Mill** (329 Elm St., Manchester, 623-8022, manchestermusicmill.com)
- **Nashua Community Music School** (5 Pine St. Ext., Nashua, 881-7030, nashuacms.org)
- **New Hampshire Theatre Project** (West End Studio Theatre, 959 Islington St., No. 3, Portsmouth, 431-6644, nhtheatreproject.org)
- **NH Tunes** (250 Commercial St., No. 2017, Manchester, 660-2208, nhtunes.biz)
- **Ted Herbert Music School** (922 Elm St., Manchester, 669-9191, tedherbert.com)
- **The Flying Monkey** (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com)

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Art

- **"AROUND NEW HAMPSHIRE"** Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, 49 S. Main St., Concord, now through Dec. 16. Featuring the work of New Hampshire Art Association member Elaine Farmer, including oil paintings embodying New Hampshire's iconic views and ideals, ranging from mountain lakes and birch tree woods to historic landmarks. Visit nhartassociation.org.

- **EMILY NOELLE LAMBERT** Solo exhibition by New York City artist Emily Noelle Lambert. Dana Center for the Humanities (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Now through Jan. 9. Masks required inside the gallery. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities or call 641-7700.

- **"THE DYSFUNCTION OF SOCIAL PRACTICE"** Kelley Stelling Contemporary presents an exhibition featuring paintings, sculpture and performance works by five New Hampshire artists. Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St., Concord). Now through Jan. 14. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with evening and weekend visits available by request. Visit kelleystellingcontemporary.com.

Theater

- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road, Concord). Now through Dec. 19. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and mem-

bers and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

- **THE TOYMAKER'S APPRENTICE** The Players' Ring Theatre presents. 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth. Now through Dec. 19, with showtimes on Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and noon. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students and seniors age 65 and up and \$15 for kids under age 12. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

- **PETER PAN** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth) presents. Now through Dec. 23, with showtimes on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$32 to \$50. Visit seacoastrep.org.

- **A CHRISTMAS CAROL: AN ORIGINAL LIVE RADIO PLAY** The Peacock Players present. Court Street Theatre (14 Court St., Nashua). Thurs., Dec. 16, and Fri., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Dec. 18, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$19. Visit peacockplayers.org.

- **THE NUTCRACKER** The NH School of Ballet presents. Sun., Dec. 19, at 2 p.m., at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord); and Sun., Dec. 26, at 6 p.m., at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$22. Visit nhschoolofballet.com.

Classical

- **"IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR"** The NH Gay Men's Chorus presents holiday concert. Sat., Dec. 11,

7:30 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road, Newington); and Sun., Dec. 12, 4 p.m., at Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester). Tickets cost \$20 for adults; free for children under age 13. Visit nhgmc.com.

- **GRANITE STATE RINGERS** Handbell choir performs holiday music. Sat., Dec. 11, 2 p.m. 20 Main St., Sandown. Free. Reservations required. Visit graniteringers.org.

- **HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR** Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra performs. Fri., Dec. 10, 7 p.m., at Colonial Theatre (617 Main St., Laconia); and Sat., Dec. 11, 7 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 12, 3 p.m., at Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium (Route 25, Meredith). Tickets cost \$10 to \$20 for students and \$20 to \$30 for adults for Dec. 10 show, and \$10 for students and \$25 for adults for shows on Dec. 11 and Dec. 12. Visit lrso.org.

- **HOLIDAY POPS** Symphony NH performs. Sat., Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m., at the Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St., Nashua); and Sun., Dec. 12, at 3 p.m., at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord). Tickets range from \$20 to \$60 for adults, \$18 to \$55 for seniors age 65+, and are free for children. Visit symphonynh.org.

- **"THE DICKENS CAROLERS ON TOUR** The Piccola Opera presents. Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord). Sat., Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for seniors and children and \$20 for adults. Call 344-4747 or visit ccca-audi.org.



DIY GIFTS

AR Workshop Manchester (875 Elm St., Manchester) will have a holiday gift making workshop on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m. There will be several different projects to choose from, including mini plank trays, round lazy susans, centerpiece boxes and photo boards. The cost ranges from \$49.50 to \$89.50, depending on the project chosen. Registration is required, and space is limited. Call 573-9662 or visit arworkshop.com/manchester.



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

A gift guide for hikers

Gear, good reads and great ideas for kids

By Dan Szczesny
news@hippopress.com

While the cold season and its wind chills, frost and snow will certainly not be slowing down the winter hiker in your family or that crazy friend who takes midnight hikes up Mt. Washington, you can make their lives easier and maybe safer by stuffing their rag wool stockings with some hiker gear over the holiday.

From books and maps to help navigate the White Mountains, to tough and warm gear to take on a frigid overnighiter, to starter gifts for the tiny hiker in your croo, what follows is a brief overview of some (mostly) locally sourced gift items the John Muir in your family will enjoy.

Books: Because the first step is not getting lost

• *New Hampshire's 52 With a View: A Hiker's Guide* by Ken MacGray (\$23.95, kenmacgray.org) Longtime hiker and guidebook writer Ken MacGray recently published the quintessential guidebook to what's becoming one of the state's most popular hiking lists, the "52 with a view." The list is a collection of hikes to moun-



Field guide, hiking journal and the White Mountains 4000 Footer Passport. Courtesy photo.

tains around the state under 4,000 feet that offer spectacular views somewhere along the way. Some of the hikes on the list are family-friendly, others very difficult. But all of them get thoroughly analyzed in this guidebook that includes directions, mileage and a bit of history on each mountain.

• *The 4,000-Footers of New Hampshire's White Mountains* by Steven D. Smith and Mike Dickerman (\$24.95, bondcliffbooks.com) Mike Dickerman, the owner of Bondcliff Books in Littleton and a well-known mountain writer and hiker, just released a unique and beautiful photographic history of the White Mountains that any hiker would love to unwrap under their tree. The book features 200 vintage photos, historical background about the mountains and tourist sites and even an elevation list of the high mountains in our state.

• *NH Rocks That Rock: An Adventure Guide to 25 Famous Boulders of the Granite State* by Uma and Dan Szczesny (\$12, dan-szczesny.square.site) Looking for some shorter hikes kids of all ages will enjoy? Six-year-old Uma Szczesny and her dad (full disclosure: that's me!) have written an adventure guide to more than two dozen famous boulders scattered across New Hampshire. The book includes directions to all of these interesting glacial erratics, along with photographs, their history and GPS coordinates.

Family hikes

• **Hiking field journals / mountain passports** What better way to involve the kids in your family's hikes and adventures than through journals and logbooks? From White Mountain passport books where you can stamp your adventures to simple blank field guides, your littlest hiker can draw and color about their hike like a mini Jane Goodall. Go for a blank field guide with a brightly colored cover from Elan Publishing (elanpublish.com), or, if you want some prompts for drawing and writing, the *Nature Journal and Sketchbook for Kids* from River Breeze (riverbreeze.com). The handy pocket-size White Mountain 4000-Footers Passport from The Mountain Wanderer (mountainwanderer.com, \$20) has a peel-off stamp for each peak.

• **White Mountain Cut Your Own Christmas Tree Program** (\$5, recreation.

gov/tree-permits) Want to bring part of the White Mountains into your living room for the holidays? For a \$5 permit, the state will let you cut down and bring home your own Christmas tree from the Whites. They only offer one per family and as you can imagine there are rules about where you can go and how you can cut them, but there's nothing like a family hike to bring back a tree.

• **Keen Greta Waterproof Boots, plus Snowline Kids' Traction Spikes** (Approximately \$80 for boots, \$40 for spikes, most local retailers, prices vary) If your little hiker is going to help you find a tree, they need to protect their feet. We like the Keen Greta boots for comfort and ease to slip on. Over the top of that, pick up a pair of XXS Micro-Spikes and your mini hiker will have warm feet and sturdy footing!

Heavy-duty winter gear

• **Burgeon Outdoors Flume Base Layer** (\$89 to \$100, burgeonoutdoor.com) Hardcore hikers know warmth and safety start with a solid base layer. Lincoln, N.H., outdoor company Burgeon Outdoors is offering a Tencel and Spandex base layer top that was named best hiking shirt by Field and Stream. The company specializes in sustainable outdoor wear inspired by and designed in the White Mountains.

• **The Nemo Quasar 3D Sleeping Pad** (\$129 to \$249, nemoequipment.com) If

CONTINUED ON PG 15 ▶

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Santa at the Aviation Museum in Manchester. Courtesy photo.

Holiday happenings

The Nov. 25 issue was our big Holiday Guide issue, packed full of Christmas/winter/general holiday-themed events happening through the end of the year. You can find the e-edition at hippopress.com. Here are some of the events that are happening this weekend.

Santa!

- **Santa Claus will arrive by helicopter** at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.org) on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m., where he'll greet families and take gift requests until 1 p.m. The outdoor event is free and open to the public. Arrive by 10:45 a.m. to park and get a spot. Hot cocoa and cider will also be provided, courtesy of the Airport Diner in Manchester. Children who talk to Santa will get goodie bags, according to a press release.

- **Enjoy S'mores with Santa** at the tree lighting at the gazebo in New Boston on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. The tree lighting will take place at 4 p.m., after which kids can bring an ornament from home to put on the town tree and visit with Santa, according to newbostonnh.gov. The Recreation Department will provide s'mores ingredients along with hot chocolate and cider.

Lights!

- After the S'mores with Santa, New Boston will hold **Light Up New Boston** from 6 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 11. Find a map of houses that will be decked out via newboston.gov.

- Saturday, Dec. 11, is the first night of the **Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights**. Participating town parks and recreation departments include Amherst, Milford, Jaffrey, Antrim, Fitzwilliam, Keene, Merrimack, Peterborough, Rindge and Troy. See the rec department websites for lists of houses on the tour, which runs through Dec. 27.

- **Manchester's Holiday Lights Contest** opens for judging on Friday, Dec. 10. See manchesternh.gov for the Manchester Holiday Lights Map and the judging form for Manchester residents to pick their favorites.

Kids night out

- The YMCA of Greater Londonderry (206 Rockingham Road, Londonderry) hosts **Kids Night at the Y** on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 9 p.m. The theme will be "Holiday Palooza." YMCA staff will keep the kids healthy and active with art and STEM projects, and a pizza dinner will be served. All are welcome; no membership required. The cost is \$40 per child, and \$30 for each additional sibling. Go to bit.ly/3vNi98A.

The Polar Express

- Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham) has added more screenings for its **Polar Express** viewing party at each of its three locations. In Manchester, while Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 screenings were sold out, as of earlier this week, tickets were still available for Friday, Dec. 10, at 3 and 6:30 p.m. as well as Monday, Dec. 13, through Thursday, Dec. 16, in the evening. In Nashua, available screenings include Friday, Dec. 10, at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, at noon as well as evening screenings Monday, Dec. 13, through Thursday, Dec. 15. In Pelham, available screenings include Friday, Dec. 10, at 6:50 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. and evening screenings Monday, Dec. 13, through Thursday, Dec. 16. Tickets cost \$5.99. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 14

you're overnighing on snowpack, you're going to need a tough and warm pad. We're recommending Dover outfitter NEMO's Quasar #D Sleeping Pad. Low weight, easy inflation completes the package. Rest easy!

Miscellaneous hiking gifts you didn't know you needed

- **Artwork from Kat Maus Haus Illustration and Design** (katmaushaus.com) Artist Kat Maus has been illustrating amazing and unique scenes and landscapes from around New England for posters, book covers, stickers and greeting cards for years.

One of her specialties is White Mountain scenes, everything from Mount Washington to the Cog Railway to mountaintop fire towers. Pick up a pack of White Mountain postcards for your favorite hiker's stocking.

- **New Hampshire State Park ornaments** (newhampshirestateparks.reserveamerica.com) The state has teamed up with artist Lyn Collins of White Mountain Smile Makers to create a series of Christmas tree ornaments that commemorate several state parks, including Mt. Washington, Bear Brook and Franconia Notch. You may want to grab one now, though, so it's on the tree when you're opening your presents. 🍷

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Dark days of winter

How to make them a little brighter

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

This is the darkest time of the year: Not only are the days short, but clouds obscure the sun much of the time. Many of us find the gloom oppressive, especially when there is neither enough snow to ski nor ice to skate on. And for gardeners, there is little we can (or wish to) do outside. So what do I do?

First, I go to my local grocery store or florist and buy cut flowers or potted plants. For \$10 or \$15 I can brighten my outlook considerably. The most economical to buy are potted plants. They will, with a minimum of care and forethought, bloom for weeks or even for months. Here are a few of my favorites:

Christmas cactus. It should be called a Thanksgiving cactus, really, because they usually bloom well before Christmas. Buy one in full bloom or that has a mix of blossoms and buds. They need moderate light indoors, but not hot afternoon sun. Temperatures of 60 to 70 degrees are best for success. They should not be allowed to dry out completely, but neither do they want to be kept soggy. They like humidity, so place them in a saucer of small stones and add water. Never let the pot sit in water.

Cyclamen. Another low-light plant. This one is suited for even less light than Christmas cactus. If you give it any direct sunshine, an hour or two of morning sun is plenty, but indirect light is better.

Water your cyclamen only when dry, which depends on the temperature and relative humidity. I find picking up the pot tells me a lot: If dry, it weighs very little; when moist, it is heavier. If you go too long, the flowers will flop as if to say, "Look at me, I'm dying of thirst!" But they recover quickly. Place your plant in a saucer of water and let it suck up water. But don't let it sit in water for long.

My mother loved African violets and did well with them. I remember doing an experiment with my new Chemistry Set for Young Scientists when I was in the fourth grade. I made a solution of tannic acid and put a drop on a leaf. Overnight, it burned a perfect hole! Great experiment until my mother asked me if I had done something to her plant.

I have not had great luck with African violets here in New Hampshire (they may have heard about my experiment, way back when). I largely heat with a wood stove, and keep the house warm, but quite cool at night. I finally read an article that said one should never let the temperature in the room they are in drop below 70 degrees. So I no longer try, though I have recently read that temps down to 60 degrees are OK.

If you want to grow them, keep them consistently warm in a bright room but not in direct



Cyclamen really are not fussy, and bloom for weeks. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

sunshine. They like high humidity (hence do not like woodstoves) but do not tolerate soggy roots. Water from the bottom, but water once a month from above (to flush out any fertilizer salts). Never let water get on the leaves. Pinch off spent blossoms or yellowed leaves.

My absolute favorite house plant is an orchid called phalaenopsis or moth orchid. Buy them in bloom, and they will

bloom for many weeks. Direct sunlight can scorch the leaves, but they need a bright room. These are tropical orchids so like warm temperatures. But cool nights are good, down to 55 degrees.

Moth orchids in their native environment grow in trees. So the soil mix they come in is generally a special orchid mix made of bark chips, and perhaps a little perlite or vermiculite. This mix allows water to run right through it. If it comes with an inner pot and an outer pot, be sure to pour out water after watering from the outer pot, which normally has no drainage. Or just lift the inner pot and run water through in your sink. Otherwise you will kill your orchid. Water once a week, or if exposed roots turn silvery white.

According to the experts, tree orchids such as these do best with good air circulation. Me? I find that in a room with people coming and going there is enough air movement to keep them healthy. I grow them over a saucer of pebbles and water to increase humidity, and grow them in the bathroom, where steam from the shower helps.

But if you have no patience with house plants, or believe you cannot grow them, buy flowers for a vase. Most cut flowers will last a week; many will last longer. Most stems cost between \$1.50 and \$3. Buy an odd number of stems: three, five, seven or 11, depending on your budget.

The vase for displaying cut flowers should be about half as tall as the stems are long (or a little less). But that rule is not firm. If the arrangement looks good to your eye, it is fine.

Cut flowers generally come with a little packet of white powder. Use it. It helps to keep the water from getting full of bacteria or fungus that will clog the stem, keeping it from taking up water. Pull off any leaves that would otherwise go in the water. You can also use a teaspoon of Clorox in a quart of water. Never put cut flowers near a radiator or wood stove.

Henry's book *Organic Gardening* (not just in the Northeast is available from him for \$19 at gardening-guy.com.

Gifts for gardeners

Henry Homeyer recommended gifts for the gardener in your life in the Dec. 2 issue of the Hippo. Find the e-edition at hippopress.com; the story is on page 20.

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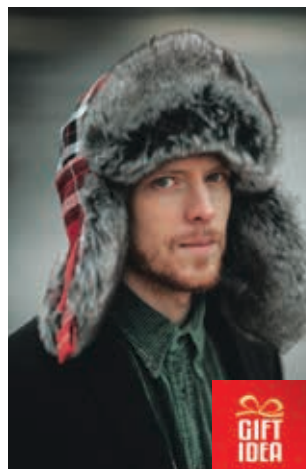
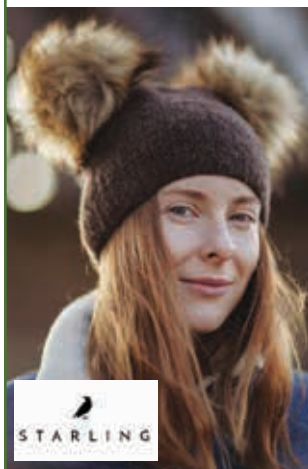
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The price is right for tire pressure sensor battery replacement



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
Do tire pressure sensors use individual batteries (that may last only 10 years) rather than the car's electrical system? Could such a battery replacement cost about \$85 for each wheel?

What about other sensors on the car? Are they battery powered, too? — Ken

Let me guess, Ken. You just had to replace a tire pressure sensor, and it cost you \$85?

Yes, each tire pressure sensor uses its own battery. They tried hard-wiring them, but the car only got about 10 feet down the road before the wires got hopelessly wrapped around the car's axles. So, battery power was really the only practical way to go for a sensor that lives inside a tire.

Most of them last about 7-10 years — less if you do a lot of stop-and-go driving, because the sensors only send their signals to the car's computer when the car is stopped.

When the battery finally does die, it can be replaced. But since most of the labor involves removing the tire from the wheel,

it's silly to not just replace the whole sensor, which comes with a new battery. And \$85 is about the right price for the job.

You'd be miffed if you paid to have the sensor removed and the battery replaced, then have a 10-year-old sensor fail a few months later due to an age-related problem. So, we always replace the whole sensor.

We also use only original equipment sensors from the manufacturer. You can get cheaper, aftermarket sensors that claim to work on different cars. But in our experience, they sometimes have trouble communicating with the car's computer. And then you've got the same problem: You've spent \$50, and then you've got to spend \$85 and start all over again.

The tire pressure sensors are the only sensors that are powered by their own batteries, Ken. Pretty much everything else on the car can be wired directly. It's just the unique setting of the tire pressure sensor — spinning inside a sealed tire — that calls for a battery powered solution.

Dear Car Talk:
I'm one of the 11 people in America who still prefer a manual transmission. My 2002 Silverado 2500HD has an 8.1-liter gas engine and six-speed ZF manual transmission. The clutch linkage is hydraulic.

Since new, when pulling a trailer in the mountains, it sometimes has issues. It might suddenly develop 3-4 inches of free play at the top. It might go almost to the floor before releasing the clutch. Today, it did what I've feared; it wouldn't release the clutch at all. I had to pull the pedal up and pump it a few times to get it working again. Any idea what's wrong? — Norm

I noticed recently that real estate ads started referring to the "master bedroom" as the "primary bedroom." So rather than wait to get hate mail on this answer, I'm going to start referring to the clutch master cylinder as the clutch "primary" cylinder.

That OK with everybody? I guess that'll make the slave cylinder the "guest" cylinder.

Anyway, I'd start by replacing your clutch primary cylinder, Norm. The primary cylinder is essentially a hydraulic pump. It multiplies the force of your foot on the clutch pedal by sending hydraulic fluid, under pressure, to the guest cylinder, which moves the clutch release bearing, and disengages the clutch.

So why would I try the primary cylinder first? Because that cylinder only costs about \$50. And even though bleeding the air out of it is tricky, at least the repair

doesn't require removing the transmission. If the primary cylinder isn't generating enough pressure — if there's an internal leak due to a failed seal, for instance — the guest cylinder won't move the release bearing far enough, and you'll get free play and a low engagement point in the clutch pedal. So that certainly could be the problem.

And it's likely exacerbated by heat. When you're towing a trailer up mountains, the engine is generating a ton of heat, and the clutch is working as hard as it ever works.

If replacing the primary cylinder doesn't fix it, then I would guess that your guest cylinder is leaking. That's a much bigger job. The guest cylinder comes as one piece with the release bearing in this truck. And replacing those parts require removing the transmission. And if you're doing that, you might as well put in a new friction disc and a clutch plate at the same time and have a whole new clutch.

And, in fact, if it comes to that, you should buy the whole clutch kit, which includes a new, prebled primary cylinder, too. That's going to run you many hundreds of dollars, Norm. If it makes you feel any better, think of it as redoing the guest room.

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ON THE JOB

KATIE BOOKER

VINTAGE AND HANDMADE GIFT SHOP OWNER

Katie Booker is the owner of Little Vintage Venue in Suncook. The retail shop sells vintage, upcycled and locally handmade items.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

My job includes finding local crafters and vendors to rent out space in the shop or having them attend one of my open houses. I love being on the hunt for unique antique or vintage items [and] items made locally or in the U.S. ... I place [items] in the shop. Display is everything. If items aren't selling, I ... change the display, and that usually does the trick. I also take pictures for social media to share new items or items on sale. Sometimes I'll have a live video with my daughter and show new items ... or feature a local crafter to help their sales. I love interacting with my customers. ... When they ask for special orders, or ... something in particular they're looking for, I enjoy finding that special piece. There are housekeeping items

I have to handle, too cleaning the shop, paying my vendors and crafters, paying bills, posting on social media.

How long have you had this job?

Since August 2018.

What led you to this career field and your current job?

I've always loved making craft items for my home or to give as gifts. In 2013 I started making and selling signs to friends and family. From there I started attending craft fairs, selling my work. When I saw places that opened up at the mall selling local crafters' work, it made me think about having my own shop. There's nothing better than stumbling along a cute town with some nice shops. A space was open right in the

town I grew up in. Even better, it was only a four-minute walk from my house.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I've been self-training the point-of-sale system and taking photos of items that I'm selling.



Katie Booker

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Casual attire that includes my shop's shirts.

How has your job changed over the course of the pandemic?

I had to shut down March 2020 until June 2020. I was nervous how sales would do after reopening. It turned out to be great for my business. People who lived in town started walking by and would peek in the window. It made them want to come into the shop. My reopening attracted many because they were excited to see what I had. On the weekends people would go out for a Sunday drive and notice my flag outside and items on the sidewalk, then stop in. I feel that people felt safe coming into a small shop where it was less busy. For me, it brought in a lot of new customers that enjoy coming back.

What do you wish you'd known at the beginning of your career?

More about social media and building a platform for my business.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

I've started the business from scratch. There have been a lot of bumps along the way, but I try my best to smooth them out. When the shop is a mess, it's only because it's a lot of work to move items around. You have to keep it fresh by rearranging the shop and making your visions and ideas come to life.

What was the first job you ever had?

I was 14 years old and worked selling rubber stamps at craft fairs on the weekends for a small business called Stampers Delight. I would give demonstrations for making cards and crafts and how to use the different products, along with ringing up the customers.

What's the best piece of work-related advice you've ever received?

Remember to take time for your family and yourself. — Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

- Favorite book:** Craft magazines and *The Mysterious Benedict Society*
- Favorite movie:** *Mary Poppins*
- Favorite music:** Rob Thomas/Matchbox Twenty
- Favorite food:** My mom's chocolate cream pie
- Favorite thing about NH:** Everything it has to offer. I love being an hour away from the mountains, beach, lakes and Boston.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Shop (and eat) local:** More than 80 specialty food vendors, artists and craftspeople are expected to attend **The Great New England Holiday Shopping Extravaganza**, happening on Friday, Dec. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Hampshire Hills Athletic Club (50 Emerson Road, Milford). The event will feature a bar on Friday night with holiday-themed cocktails available for purchase, followed by cash door prizes and an appearance from Santa Claus on Saturday. You'll find local and regional vendors selling everything from hot cocoa bombs, cocoa mixes and artisan chocolates to hot sauces, jams and jellies, black garlic, baked goods, olive oils and more. There will also be pottery, jewelry, candles and other wares for sale. Free admission. Visit gncraftartisanshows.com.

• **Brunch and bubbly:** Join the Bedford Village Inn & Restaurant (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford) for its next **Champagne brunch** on Sunday, Dec. 12, beginning at 9 a.m. in the eatery's Great Hall. The event features unlimited mimosas and a brunch buffet, including a raw bar, a chef-attended omelet station and a selection of desserts like cookies, finger pastries and chocolate-covered strawberries. Tickets are \$95 per person (21+ only) and reservations are required. Visit bedfordvillageinn.com.

• **Sereni(tea):** Enjoy **holiday afternoon tea** with The Cozy Tea Cart at the Gatherings at the Colonel Shepard House (29 Mont Vernon St., Milford) Sunday, Dec. 12, 1 to 3 p.m. There will be a selection of teas and snacks, like tea sandwiches, pastries and more. The cost is \$39.95; reservations are required. Visit thecozyteacart.com.

• **Final Canterbury market:** The Canterbury Community Farmers Market Association will hold its final market of 2021, a special holiday-themed **indoor winter market**, on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will be held inside the gymnasium of Canterbury Elementary School (15 Baptist Road, Canterbury), and will feature a wide variety of local produce, in addition to meats, eggs, small-batch coffees and assorted baked goods. There will also be specialty crafts, photo prints, personal care products and more available for sale. Face masks are required for all attendees. Visit canterburyfarmersmarket.com.

• **Showing some spirit:** Steadfast Spirits Distilling Co. (134 Hall St., Unit H, Concord) will hold a **holiday sip and shop** event on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in its tasting room with local crafters, live music and pourings from the distillery. Admission is free, but donations of \$2 to \$10 per gift based on size are recommended, with proceeds benefiting Peace and Paws Dog Rescue of Hillsborough. See "Sip & Shop at Steadfast" on Facebook for more details. 🍷

FOOD

Presents for your palate

Tasty gift ideas for the foodies in your life

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

Give the gift of local eats this holiday season — whether it's a ready-to-eat meal, a cooking class certificate, or a specialty box of sweets, there's something that's sure to please every palate.

Make a meal out of it

A certificate or subscription to a local meal delivery service or caterer makes a great gift for those who just don't have that time in their schedule to cook during the week. Here are a few weekly meal companies based in southern New Hampshire offering gift-giving opportunities.

• **All Real Meal** (87 Elm St., Manchester, 782-3014, allrealmeal.com) is a weekly meal delivery service offering fully prepared meals you can readily reheat and eat in minutes. Ordering is done online for a weekly Tuesday delivery to up to more than 50 New Hampshire and Massachusetts towns (minimum orders of \$49 for free delivery), as well as at the kitchen from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All Real Meal also offers several unique gift giving options, from customizable gift cards to special monthly cooler bag deliveries for the holidays that can be purchased for a period of up to three, six or 12 months. Each bag is stuffed with eight portioned meals, two savory sides and two desserts, and deliveries will begin the first Tuesday of January.

• **Caroline's Fine Food** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 637-1615, carolinesfood.com) offers individual to-go options, as well as family-style prepared meals that can feed up to six people, with at least a 24-hour advance ordering notice requested. Gift cards can be purchased through the website for redeemable amounts of up to \$100.

• **Ding Dong Deliver** (dingdongdeliver.com) is a ghost kitchen powered by Great New Hampshire Restaurants, the parent company of T-Bones Great American Eatery, CJ's Great West Grill and the Copper Door. The service offers ready-to-heat and ready-to-cook meal packages delivered to Manchester and Bedford, as well as restaurant pickup at each location. Meal orders must be placed by noon on Wednesday for delivery on Thursday, Friday or Saturday of that week, and can be sent to a friend or family member as a gift.

• **Local Baskit** (10 Ferry St., Concord, 219-0882, localbaskit.com) offers online gift cards that are specially designed for gifting a meal to a friend or family member. Each card is redeemable for one prepared meal or a meal kit listed on the "Cook Tonight" section of the website — see shop.localbaskit.com/collections/cook-tonight. Selections vary each week but will always include both meat and vegetarian options for main courses and sides, sourced primarily from local farms and businesses. Local Baskit

is also partnering once again with the Cherry Bomb Cookie Co. of Exeter, offering platters of hand-decorated cookies in the shapes of Christmas trees and poinsettias, as well as paint-your-own cookie kits.

• **New Roots Meals** ([Manchester, newroot-meals.com](http://Manchester.newroot-meals.com)) is a plant-based meal prep and delivery company launched last year. Weekly deliveries are made within a 30-mile radius of Manchester, as well as on the Seacoast — the menu changes every other week but is always 100 percent plant-based, with both breakfast and lunch items available. Gift certificates can be purchased for meals, and New Roots is also offering a special "gift bundle" for the holidays, featuring two entrees, two breakfasts, smaller snacks, a simmer pot jar and a peppermint mocha coffee kit with oat milk, coconut whipped cream, peppermint and mocha syrups and crushed candy cane and cacao nibs. Gift bundles are \$85 each and must be placed by 8 p.m. on Fridays to be delivered the following Monday.

For the chocoholics

From customizable boxes of treats to more unique items like flavored hot cocoa bombs and chocolate "charcuterie boards," these gift ideas will make anyone with a sweet tooth happy.

• **Candy Kingdom** (235 Harvard St., Manchester, 641-8470, candykingdom.shop) has a wide variety of holiday-themed sweets and treats available now, like decorative chocolate Christmas trees, chocolate molded Santas, assorted fudges, and milk, white or dark chocolate solid Christmas tree pops decorated with rainbow nonpareils.

• **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) has gift-giving opportunities that include a "chocolate tasting experience" featuring samples of eight of its bars, and a drinking chocolate set complete with a ceramic drinking bowl and a wooden device used to froth the chocolate called a molinillo. You can also purchase six-month or one-year "cacao connoisseur's club" subscriptions, featuring one new custom bar each month (local pickups only); and cacao tree gift sets, which come with bonbon sharing boxes and a one-year heirloom cacao tree adoption helping to improve the lives of cacao farmers.

• **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591; 832 Elm St., Manchester, granitestatecandyshoppe.com) offers all kinds of homemade holiday-themed sweets and treats available for purchase now online and in both retail stores. Selections include white peppermint bark, milk, dark and chocolate Santa Claus molds, peppermint or wintergreen candy canes, and hot cocoa bombs in flavors like candy cane and salted toffee.

• **Loon Chocolate** ([Manchester, loon-chocolate.com](http://Manchester.loon-chocolate.com)) is a small-batch producer of bean-to-bar chocolate. In addition to multiple



Cocoa bombs and gingerbread from Benson's Bakery & Cafe in Hudson. Courtesy photo.

types of handcrafted bars, the company offers hot cocoa mixes, four-packs of hot cocoa bombs, bagged organic cacao nibs that are great for yogurt or smoothies, and do-it-yourself chocolate-infused elixir kits for your favorite spirits.

• **Nelson's Candy and Music** (65 Main St., Wilton, 654-5030, nelsonscandymusic.com) offers all kinds of holiday-themed sweets and goodies, like cocoa bombs, handmade candy canes, and sleigh-shaped gift baskets filled with fine chocolates and other treats.

• **Sweet Boutique** (21 Kilton Road, Bedford, 222-1521, visitsweetboutique.com) offers customizable boxes and baskets, in addition to novelty items like chocolate sleighs, holiday peppermint bark and foiled chocolate Santas. Co-owner Lynn MacKenna has also begun offering chocolate "charcuterie boards" in various sizes, featuring assorted chocolates, nuts, gummy candies, dipped fruits and more. Special ordering by Dec. 18 is recommended.

• **Sweet Treats by Emilee** (Milford, emileesweettreats@gmail.com, and on Facebook and Instagram) is taking orders for handmade hot cocoa bombs for the holidays, available in more than a dozen flavors, from milk, dark and white to egg nog, gingerbread, milk chocolate peppermint, salted caramel and more. They're available as single orders or in packs of four and make great stocking stuffers. Order by Dec. 20.

• **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) has several themed gift boxes and baskets available for purchase, like a Swiss fudge gift set, a maple-themed gift set with treats from Ben's Sugar Shack, and an "ultimate snacker" gift set featuring chocolate bars, chocolate-dipped pretzels, and the shop's own line of Evangeline's caramel corn. Other seasonal offerings include white chocolate candy cane dipped pretzels, candy cane and orange-flavored Swiss fudges, milk, dark or chocolate molded Santa pops, and now flurry gummies.

Things are cooking

Certificates for cooking classes make great gifts not only for those who are adventurous eaters, but also for those who may want to learn a thing or two in the kitchen or get back into the activity altogether.

• **The Culinary Playground** (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, culinary-playground.com) has a year-round schedule of cooking classes for kids and adults of all ages. Gift certificates can be pur-

chased online and are redeemable to any of the available programs, which also include special adult and child team cooking classes and date night classes for couples.

• **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898; 14 Route 111, Derry; labeledwinery.com) has an ongoing schedule of cooking classes at both locations, often featuring wines paired with each item and recipe cards participants can take home with them.

• **Tuscan Kitchen** (67 Main St., Salem, 952-4875, tuscanbrands.com) offers the Scuola Culinaria program, featuring an ongoing schedule of cooking classes dabbling in different areas of artisan Italian cuisine. Each class is designed to appeal to all backgrounds and experience levels and can be booked online. Private culinary classes can be booked too.

Order your holiday dinners and desserts

While you're finishing up that Christmas shopping, it's not too late to think about what you'll be serving at the table. Check out this list of local restaurants, bakeries and other businesses offering specialty eats from entrees and sides to pies, cakes and other desserts.

• **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) is taking orders for layered cookies and cream tarts, mini Bundt cakes, Yule logs, cheesecakes, pies, assorted holiday cookies and more. Order by Dec. 17. Pickups will be on



Gingerbread house kit from Frederick's Pastries. Courtesy photo.

Wednesday, Dec. 22, Thursday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 24.

• **Bearded Baking Co.** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, beardedbaking.com) is taking orders for pies (apple crumb, Key lime, chocolate cream or coconut cream), cakes (holiday spice cake or vanilla lamington cake with raspberry filling and coating of chocolate ganache), cupcakes (red velvet, chocolate peppermint, lamington, chocolate, vanilla, eggnog and spice cake), vegan cupcakes (cookie butter or Snickerdoodle), cheesecakes (plain, blueberry, strawberry, cherry or raspberry), and cocoa bombs in packs of six (classic, peppermint or salted caramel). Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 23, or Friday, Dec. 24.

• **Benson's Bakery & Cafe** (203 Central

St., Hudson, 718-8683, bensonsbakeryandcafe.com) is taking orders for cakes, pies, holiday cookies and cookie kits, miniature gingerbread houses, gingerbread house decorating kits, cocoa bombs, holiday drinks and more. Order by Dec. 20.

• **Bite Me Kupcakez** (4 Mound Court, Merrimack, 674-4459, bitemekupcakez.com) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items for the holidays, including chocolate flourless torte, strawberry shortcake, chocolate whipped cream cake and six-inch cheesecakes available in several flavors, plus dairy-free options, like double-layer red velvet cake, cookies and cream cake, vanilla cake, chocolate cake and Boston cream pie. Other options include pies (with flavors like apple, triple berry and Samoa with toasted coconut, caramel and whipped cream); and assorted platters, like brunch platters with coffee cakes, muffins and doughnuts; Santa cookie platters; or dessert platters with cupcakes, brownies, cookies and whoopie pies. Orders must be in by Dec. 13, with pickup times to be arranged during the week of Christmas.

• **The Black Forest Cafe & Bakery** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) is taking orders for pies (apple, Dutch apple, apple cranberry, pecan, pumpkin, summer berry and chocolate cream); cakes (coconut, carrot, chocolate mousse, Black Forest gateaux or Frangelico mousse cake); and assorted holiday cookies, as well as savory items like baked pastas, cheese trays, scratch-made dips and spreads, and a la carte sides, like sausage focaccia stuff-

ing, maple Dijon glazed carrots and parsnips, turkey-sage gravy, cranberry orange sauce, and cream of curried butternut squash soup. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, Thursday, Dec. 23, or Friday, Dec. 24.

• **Brothers Butcher** (8 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, 809-4180; 142 Lowell Road, Hudson, 577-1130; brothers-butcher.com) is taking orders for specialty roasted meats like spiral ham, boneless prime rib and stuffed pork loin with traditional bread stuffing. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, Thursday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 24, until 1 p.m.

• **Buckley's Bakery & Cafe** (436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 262-5929; 9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522; buckleysbakerycafe.com) is taking orders for specialty holiday cakes, including Yule logs, gingerbread spice cakes and dark chocolate peppermint cheesecakes, as well as 8-inch pies (Key lime, chocolate cream or apple), Parker House rolls, Dresden stollen rolls, and assorted breakfast, dessert pastry or cookie trays. Order by Dec. 19.

• **The Cannoli Stop at The Candy Shop** (239 Loudon Road, Concord, 224-9706, thecannolistop.com) is taking orders for all kinds of items for the holidays, from cannolis with dozens of available handmade fillings to cannoli cream pies, whoopie pies, macarons, tiramisu, mini eclairs and cheesecakes, chocolate-dipped Oreos, Italian cookies and assorted dessert platters. Order by Dec. 15. Pickups will be available through Friday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

• **Carter Hill Orchard** (73 Carter Hill Road,

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Concord, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com) is taking orders for homemade pies in a variety of flavors, like apple, apple crumb, pumpkin, blueberry, strawberry rhubarb and pecan. Order by Dec. 12. Pickups will be available through Sunday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m., when the orchard closes for the season.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, find them on Facebook) is taking orders for more than a dozen flavors of dessert pies and cakes, in addition to some savory items, for the holidays. Order by Dec. 21.

• **The Common Man** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; Foster's Boiler Room, 231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764; Lago, 1 Route 25, Meredith, 279-2253; Camp, 298 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-3003; Lakehouse Grille, 281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221; Italian Farmhouse, 337 Daniel Webster Hwy., Plymouth, 536-4536; Airport Diner, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040; 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204; Route 104 Diner, 752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120; thecman.com) is taking orders for holiday feasts to go, featuring herb-roasted prime rib dinners with mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, garlicky green beans, maple-roasted Brussels sprouts, horseradish cream, demi sauce, Parmesan-crust dinner rolls, sweet bread and cheesecake with berry compote for dessert. Meals serving one or four people, as well as additional optional a la carte items like spinach-artichoke dip and crackers and peel-and-eat shrimp cocktails, are available. Order by Dec. 17. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 23, or on Friday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Concord Food Co-op** (24 S. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop) offers all kinds of items on its catering menu, from hors d'oeuvres and soups to half- or full-tray entrees, like house lasagna, grilled flank steak, grilled chicken breast, and tofu stir-fry, as well as assorted breakfast and dessert platters, from scones, croissants and muffins to cookies, bars and brownies. Orders should be placed as soon as possible.

• **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, 654-2631, copperkettletogo.com) is taking orders for Christmas dinners, featuring ham, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green beans and dinner rolls. Two sizes are available (feeding two to four people or four to six people), with additional a la carte options, like sausage gravy and biscuits, cinnamon rolls, assorted muffins, and pies like pecan, gingerbread cream, eggnog and Nutella. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Crèmeux French Patisserie** (707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 320-4702, cremeuxfrenchpatisserie.com) is taking orders for several specialty French desserts and delicacies for the holidays, including cherry and pistachio or winter spice tea, caramel and clementine bûche (Yule log), as well as bûche tiramisu, and croque-mouche, featuring multiple choux pastries filled with Tahitian vanilla bean crème pâtis-



Gingerbread houses from Benson's Bakery & Cafe in Hudson. Courtesy photo.

sière assembled into the shape of a Christmas tree. Order by Dec. 19 at noon. Pickups are on Friday, Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851, crosbybakerynh.com) is taking orders for dessert pies (apple, apple crumb, blueberry, banana cream, chocolate cream, pumpkin and pecan); as well as savory specialties like salmon pie and meat pie with hamburger and pork; assorted cakes, cookies, party platters and more. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be available through Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

• **The Crust & Crumb Baking Co.** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com) is taking orders for a variety of scratch-made items for the holiday season, including dinner rolls (Shaker squash or butter), cinnamon buns (pecan sticky or vanilla glazed), and pies and cakes, like chocolate raspberry layer cake and maple bourbon pecan pie. Savory offerings include a local pork pie with sweet potato, rosemary and apple, and quiches in several flavors, like bacon and cheddar, spinach, marinated tomato and feta, and broccoli and pepper jack. Orders must be placed by Dec. 17. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, Thursday, Dec. 23, or Friday, Dec. 24, at a pre-arranged time (the bakery will be closing early at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24).

• **Ding Dong Deliver** (dingdongdeliver.com) is a ghost kitchen powered by Great New Hampshire Restaurants, the parent company of T-Bones Great American Eatery, CJ's Great West Grill and the Copper Door. They're taking orders for holiday roasts and freshly baked homemade cakes and pies in several flavors. Online ordering will be available from Wednesday, Dec. 15, through Friday, Dec. 17, at noon, for deliveries to Manchester and Bedford only on Wednesday, Dec. 22, as well as local pickups at each restaurant.

• **Earl's Steak Sandwiches** (99 Oak St., Dover, 834-9659, find them on Facebook @earlssteaksandwiches) is taking orders for ready to heat and serve dinners for four, featuring your choice of either brined and smoked whole chicken with gravy or house cured and smoked holiday ham with a brown sugar glaze. Each dinner also comes with your choice of two signature sides (roasted garlic mashed potatoes, creamy white cheddar macaroni and cheese, fresh green beans with shallots and almonds, brown butter sage roasted carrots, or combread with honey butter). Order by Dec. 15.

• **Frederick's Pastries** (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 647-2253; pastry.net) is taking orders for all kinds of holiday-themed sweets, treats and goodies, like dark chocolate Christmas Yule log cakes filled with light chocolate orange mousse, gingerbread cupcakes made from scratch with molasses, cinnamon and sugar, and moist gold eggnog cakes laced with Myers's dark rum. New offerings this year include gingerbread pyramid tree kits that come with 10 shaped gingerbread cookies, green and white buttercream frosting and candy to decorate. See pastry.net/category/christmas for a complete list of holiday items. Orders are strongly encouraged by Dec. 18. Pickups will be available through Friday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

• **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323; 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; giorgios.com) is taking orders from its catering menu now ahead of the holiday season, featuring everything from appetizers, sandwiches and wraps to pasta trays, meats sold by the pound, a la carte sides and desserts. Visit giorgios.com/catering to view the full menu. Place your holiday catering order by Dec. 22.

• **Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) is taking orders for individual and family-sized meals to go, featuring your choice of whole roasted turkey, prime rib au jus or baked ham, all of which come with sides like whipped potatoes, butternut squash, green beans, dinner rolls and your choice of dessert pie. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For any last-minute needs, the eatery's grab-and-go store will also be open that day, featuring a la carte items like sliced turkey by the pound, gravy, stuffing, butternut squash, soups, chili, rolls and more.

• **Harvey's Bakery & Coffee Shop** (376 Central Ave., Dover, 742-6029, harveysbakery.com) is taking orders for Christmas cookies, pork and chicken pies, maple cakes and doughnuts, fruit cakes, and eight- or 10-inch pies in all kinds of flavors, from apple, pecan and pumpkin to chocolate cream, coconut cream, lemon meringue and more. Order by Dec. 17.

• **Just Like Mom's Pastries** (353 Riverdale Road, Weare, 529-6667, justlikemompastries.com) is taking orders for specialty holiday cakes, like raspberry mousse-filled Yule logs and cranberry orange white chocolate vanilla cakes, as well as pies (Kahlua black bottom, apple butter-scotch pecan, chocolate pecan or savory pork), quiches (tomato, pepper and onion, spinach and feta, bacon, tomato and onion, or meat lover's), assorted flavors of dinner rolls, cupcakes and cheesecakes, and holiday cookie, whoopie pie or finger pastry platters. Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be through Friday, Dec. 24, at noon.

• **Klemm's Bakery** (29 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 437-8810, klemmsbakery.com) is taking orders for all kinds of sweet treats for the holidays, from pies and cakes to mini pastries, cookies and more. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be available through Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

• **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst,

672-9898; 14 Route 111, Derry; labellewinery.com) is taking orders for a variety of items for Christmas at both locations, including a la carte items, like artisan cheese boards, shrimp cocktail, spiced cranberry sauce, red wine gravy, brown sugar ham glaze, maple sweet potatoes, honey glazed carrots, and cinnamon maple bread pudding. Items can also be ordered as packages, serving either six to eight people or 12 to 14 people. LaBelle is also taking orders for cocktail kits in several flavors, with wine, natural ingredients and instructions (liquor is not provided and must be purchased separately). Order by Dec. 17. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, and Thursday, Dec. 23, at your location of choice.

• **Morrissey's Porch & Pub** (286 S. Main St., Wolfeboro, 569-3662, morrisseysfrontporch.com) is taking orders for holiday meals to go, featuring your choice of an entree (slow-roasted Angus prime rib au jus, roast chateaubriand, seafood pie, roast leg of lamb, roast stuffed pork loin, honey Dijon baked ham, roast turkey, or surf and turf). All meals are served with your choice of vegetable (broccoli gratin, broccoli and carrots, green bean almondine, or roast butternut squash); a potato (colcannon potatoes, O'Brien potatoes, scalloped potato casserole, baked potatoes or mashed potatoes); and a dessert (tiramisu, cheesecake, white chocolate bread pudding, apple strudel, or fruit of the forest pie). Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 23, or Friday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• **Mr. Mac's Macaroni & Cheese** (497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com) is taking orders for macaroni and cheese trays, available in any type of regular menu flavor in small, medium or large, as well as macaroni salads, assorted green salads and desserts. An advance ordering notice of at least 24 hours is encouraged. As of last month Mr. Mac's is now also offering nationwide shipping of about a dozen of its take-and-bake options, according to a statement from founder Patrick Cain. Orders submitted on Thursdays and Fridays will be shipped the following Monday and should arrive at their destination in two to three business days. Each order is packed fresh with cool packs to keep it at a safe temperature.

• **New England's Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, tap-housenh.com) is taking orders for savory French-Canadian meat pies for the holidays, freshly made with pork, beef, potatoes, celery, garlic and seasonings. Order by Dec. 16. Pickups will be on Thursdays or Fridays, Dec. 23 and 24, or Dec. 30 and 31.

• **Pinard Street Bakery at Charlie's** (1 Pinard St., Goffstown, 606-1835, find them on Facebook @pinardstreetbakery) is taking orders for savory pork pies or chocolate cream pies, as well as assorted home-baked cookies by the half-dozen or dozen. Cookie flavors include snickerdoodle, gingerbread, molasses, chocolate chip or sugar. Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, or Thursday, Dec. 23, from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• **Presto Craft Kitchen** (168 Amory St., Manchester, 606-1252, prestocraftkitchen.com)

is taking orders for several specialty holiday menu offerings, like lasagna, a roast beef tip dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans and fresh bread, a stuffed chicken dinner with stuffing and gravy, glazed carrots and fresh bread, and a bourbon-glazed ham dinner with country macaroni and cheese, garlic green beans and fresh bread (dinners feed six people). Other featured a la carte items include charcuterie boards available in several sizes, butternut squash ravioli in a brown butter sage cream sauce, and “elf on the shelf” holiday-themed cocoa bombs. Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Wednesday, Dec. 22, and Thursday, Dec. 23, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

• **The Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 149 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 204-5088; redarrowdiner.com) is taking orders for homemade double-layer cakes and 10-inch pies, which must be placed at least 24 hours in advance. Pie flavors include banana cream, coconut cream, chocolate cream, brownie cream, cherry, blueberry, pecan and more. Cake flavors include carrot, chocolate peppermint, almond raspberry, pumpkin spice and more.

• **Red Beard's Kitchen** (Manchester, redbeardskitchennh@gmail.com, red-beards-kitchen.square.site) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items for Christmas, including honey-roasted ham dinners featuring country mashed potatoes, roasted root vegetables, buttermilk biscuits with honey butter, pineapple raisin

relish and sausage cornbread stuffing. Each of the sides can also be ordered a la carte (serving four to five people), in addition to gravy, macaroni and cheese, and loaded twice baked potatoes, as well as seasoned oven-ready prime rib (serves four to five people) and pork pies with gravy and bread and butter pickles. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 23, from noon to 4 p.m. at Noodz (968 Elm St., Manchester).

• **The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) is taking pie orders for the holidays, available in several flavors from apple, pecan or pumpkin to chocolate cream, coconut cream and more. Order by Dec. 19.

• **Roundabout Diner & Lounge** (580 U.S. Highway 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, 431-1440, roundaboutdiner.com) is taking orders for family-sized Christmas dinners that feed five to six people, featuring slow-smoked prime rib or seasoned pork loin smoked with sugar-cured bacon. Both also come with red bliss mashed potatoes and roasted Brussels sprouts. A la carte items include appetizers like shrimp cocktail, Italian meatballs and bacon-wrapped smoked chicken or scallops; and desserts, like double chocolate Black Forest cake. Pie orders and half-sheets of cornbread are available too. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Smoke Shack Cafe** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 404-2178, smokeshackcafe.com) is taking orders for Christmas dinners featuring smoked ham with sides like mashed potatoes, butternut squash, brown sugar car-

CONTINUED ON PG 28 ▶



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Holiday feasts

Where to dine in for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

'Tis the season for holiday dining, as several local eateries are getting ready to host special dinners and events on and during the days leading up to Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24. A few of them will also be open on Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25.

One of the first will be a **Polar Express brunch** at The Bistro at LaBelle Winery in Amherst (345 Route 101, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon. In addition to assorted scones, muffins and rolls, the menu will feature a multi-course food offering and holiday-inspired cocktails. The event also includes a screening of *The Polar Express* and photo opportunities with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Admission, after taxes, is \$41.31 for adults and \$23.09 for kids ages 3 and up.

Enjoy a special **chef's Christmas cheer menu at Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) during several designated days in December with seatings from 4 to 8:30 p.m. The gardens will be professionally lit with holiday decorations, and the multi-course menu will feature a variety of a la carte items to choose from. The Colby Hill Inn is also hosting a **"Ho Ho Homicide" murder mystery and high tea event** on Sunday, Dec. 19, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The menu will feature rounds of holiday-inspired cocktails and sparkling wines, along with holiday punch, seasonal high tea sandwiches, assorted pastries and the added drama of a murder mystery. Tickets are \$75 per person (reservations are required), and all attendees will receive free entry to the Inn's Winter Wonderland Barn Market with local crafters and live music.

Read on for a list of special meals, in addition to New Hampshire restaurants that will be open for business on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Do you know of a local eatery offering Christmas dinners that we may have missed? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

Special Christmas Eve meals

• **Christmas Eve Dinner at Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) is happening on Friday, Dec. 24, with seatings from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. A three-course prix fixe menu will be served in the Inn's dining room, followed by a grand dessert buffet and cash bar in its great hall. The menu will feature your choice of an appetizer (five spice grilled shrimp, black garlic French onion soup, lobster arancini, red kuri squash bisque, Dunk's Mushrooms vol au vent, or veal, prosciutto and mortadella stuffed tortellini); a salad (local kale and Swiss chard, or winter spinach salad); and an entree (grilled filet mignon, olive oil poached day boat halibut, Long Island duck breast,

beef cheek stew, savory mushroom Wellington, rosemary-rubbed Christmas rib roast, or New England seafood pot au feu). The cost is \$95 for adults and \$49 for children ages 10 and under. The Inn's Lobby Bar will also be open for breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m., and for dinner from 4 to 9 p.m., serving its full menu with some specials. The tavern and the dining room, meanwhile, will be serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be closed for dinner.

• **Christmas Eve Dinner at Copper Door Restaurant** (15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com) will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. at both locations, featuring your choice of a two-course, three-course or four-course prix fixe menu. Options include pistachio-crusting tuna, truffled arancini, mushroom bisque, spinach salad, pork shank au poivre, sesame grilled chicken, garlic panko salmon, butternut ravioli, sugar cookie cupcake, chocolate peanut butter pot de creme, and raspberry white chocolate cheesecake. The cost is \$59 per two-course meal, \$69 per three-course meal and \$79 per four-course meal. Reservations are highly recommended.

• **Christmas Eve Dinner at Epoch Gastropub** (The Exeter Inn, 90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be on Friday, Dec. 24, with seatings from 3 to 9 p.m. In addition to its regular menu, the Epoch Gastropub will be serving a special three-course prix fixe menu, with items like grilled apple salad or roasted cauliflower soup, potato gnocchi, herb-roasted half chicken or braised lamb shank, and bûche de Noël (Yule log) or gingerbread cake for dessert. The cost is \$55 per person.

• **Christmas Eve Dinner at Granite Restaurant & Bar** (The Centennial Hotel, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9005, graniterestaurant.com) will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 5 to 9 p.m. A special prix fixe menu will be served, featuring items like local squash fritters, creole baked oysters, seafood chowder, Creekstone Farm braised short rib, Maine lobster pappardelle, honey nut squash risotto, flourless chocolate cake, and panettone "French toast" with house made ice cream and local apple cider caramel. The cost is \$60 for adults and \$20 for children.

• **Feast of the Seven Fishes at Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) will be on Friday, Dec. 24, with one seating at 4 p.m. A seven-course meal will be served, featuring baccala salad on croustade, house smoked flaked salmon, calamari fritti with lemon aioli, cioppino with clams, mussels and monkfish, lobster fra diavolo, baked sardines in peperonata and escarole with roasted garlic, and grilled branzino with orange, olives and capers, along with a dessert trio of limoncello sorbet, mini chocolate chip cannoli and pignoli cookies. All courses will be paired with

Banfi wines. The cost is \$130 per person and includes the wine pairings.

• **Feast of the Seven Fishes at Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar** (125 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-4230, yamsgreek taverna.com) will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The eight-course meal will include Oysters Rockefeller, pan seared scallops, grilled octopus, prawn saganaki, little neck clam carbonara, seared branzino, haddock au papillon and strawberry chocolate mousse torte for dessert. The cost is \$150 per person and reservations are required.

Special Christmas Day meals

• **Christmas Dinner at Epoch Gastropub** (The Exeter Inn, 90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be on Saturday, Dec. 25, from 5 to 9 p.m. In addition to its regular menu, the Epoch Gastropub will be serving the same three-course prix fixe menu available during the Christmas Eve dinner (see that listing). The cost is \$55 per person.

• **Christmas Day Buffet at Salt Kitchen & Bar** (Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 373-6566, saltkitchenandbar.com) is happening on Saturday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The menu will include a raw bar with oysters, shrimp and King crab, plus seasonal fruit displays, an artisan cheese display, a Belgian waffle station, an Italian antipasto station, a carving station with golden roasted turkey, a Christmas dessert display and more. The cost is \$74.95 per person and \$26.95 for children under 12.

• **Christmas Dinner at Salt Kitchen & Bar** (Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 373-6566, saltkitchenandbar.com) is on Saturday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 1 to 9 p.m. The three-course holiday menu will feature signature options like slow roasted prime rib of beef, braised duck pappardelle, pan seared wild salmon, and maple-brined sous vide turkey. The cost is \$64.95 per person and \$26.95 for children under 12.

• **Christmas Dinner at The Wild Rose Restaurant** (Stonehurst Manor, 3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, thewildroserestaurant.com) is on Saturday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 2 to 8 p.m. The four-course dinner includes your choice of appetizer and Caesar salad, along with your choice of entree, the eatery's signature sourdough bread, seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee and tea. Available appetizers include bacon-wrapped scallops, shrimp cocktail, Jonah crab cakes or apple fig baked brie. Available entrees include roasted turkey, aged and pit-smoked prime rib of beef, the Wild Rose (shrimp, scallops, lobster and crabmeat served over tomato rose fettuccine with a garlic basil Parmesan cream sauce), grilled rack of lamb, filet of cod with a lobster cream sauce, roasted half duck, Faro Island salmon, or pan



seared caramelized butternut squash filet with rice pilaf and julienne vegetables. Featured desserts will be flourless double dark chocolate torte, vanilla bean creme brulee, blueberry cheesecake or limoncello cake. The cost is \$68 per person and reservations are required.

Open on Christmas Eve

• **900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria** (50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com) will be open until 5 p.m. that evening.

• **Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) will be open until 6 p.m. that evening.

• **Americus Restaurant** (LaBelle Winery Derry, 14 Route 111, Derry, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern** (132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com) will be open from noon to 5 p.m.

• **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthall.net) will be open until 2 p.m. that afternoon.

• **The Bistro at LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Bistro 603** (345 Amherst St., Nashua, 722-6362, bistro603nashua.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to close (likely around 10 p.m. for the kitchen and 11 p.m. for the bar).

• **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, find them on Facebook) will be open during its normal hours, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **CJ's Great West Grill** (782 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-8600, cjsgreatwestgrill.com) will be closing at 5 p.m. that evening.

• **The Common Man** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; thecman.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at its Concord, Merrimack and Ashland locations, with gift card sales available until 5 p.m. in Concord and Merrimack and until

7 p.m. in Ashland. Its Windham and Lincoln locations will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for gift card sales only. The Common Man's Claremont location will be closed.

- **Copper Door Restaurant** (15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 288-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., with reservations accepted until 8 p.m., at both locations. From 4 to 8 p.m., the prix fixe menu will be offered in lieu of the eatery's regular dinner menu.

- **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022; 194 Main St., Nashua, 889-2022; fratellos.com) will be open until 8 p.m. that evening at both locations.

- **Friendly Red's Tavern** (22 Haverhill Road, Windham, 437-7251, friendlyredstavern.net) will be open until 8 p.m. that evening, serving its regular menu with specials.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com) will be open until 1 a.m.

- **Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House** (393 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5975, murphystaproom.com) will be open until 9 p.m. that evening.

- **New England's Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, taphouse-nh.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **The Pasta Loft Restaurant & Brewing Co.** (241 Union Square, Milford, 672-2270, pastaloft.com) will close at 8 p.m. that evening.

- **The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be open until 7 p.m.

- **Route 104 Diner** (752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120, thecman.com) will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Second Brook Bar & Grill** (1100 Hooksett Road, Suite 111, Hooksett, 935-7456, secondbrook.com) will be closing its kitchen at 4 p.m. and its bar at 5 p.m. that day.

- **Surf Restaurant** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **T-Bones Great American Eatery** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 404 S. Main St., Concord, 715-1999; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave., Laconia, 528-7800; 311 S. Broadway, Salem, 893-3444; t-bones.com) will be closing at 5 p.m. that evening at each of its locations.

- **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204, thecman.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **The Wild Rose Restaurant** (Stonehurst Manor, 3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, thewildrosere.com) will be serving its regular dinner menu from 5 to 8 p.m.

- **XO Bistro on Elm** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xobistro-nh.com) will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

- **Zachary's Chop House** (4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 890-5555, zacharyschophouse.com) will be open during its regular hours, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Open on Christmas Day

- **Epoch Gastropub** (The Exeter Inn, 90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. serving its regular dinner menu alongside its prix fixe menu.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be open for brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com) will be open from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Murphy's Bedford location is closed on Christmas Day). 🍷

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH MATT PIERCE



Matt Pierce of Salem is the owner and founder of Granite State Spice Blends (granitestatespiceblends.com, and on Facebook @granitestatespiceblends), a company offering small-batch herb and spice seasoning blends available in a variety of flavors. Pierce, who is also the executive chef for Fresh Picks Cafe, a division of Cafe Services, Inc., of Manchester, launched Granite State Spice Blends earlier this year as a side hustle. Each of his blends is individually toasted, muddled and ground before being packaged — his signature product is an all-purpose blend called the “SPOG” (it features salt, pepper, onion and garlic as its ingredients). But Pierce’s lineup of more than a dozen blends also includes a curry powder, a chili powder, an adobo seasoning, a Caribbean jerk seasoning and a few other unique offerings, from a “hot magic dust” blend with ground chile peppers to the “miso shroomy” blend with ground mushrooms and miso powder. Granite State Spice Blends will be a featured vendor at the Great New England Holiday Shopping Extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Hampshire Hills Athletic Club (50 Emerson Road, Milford). You can also order Pierce’s blends online in either two- or four-ounce bags.

- What is your must-have kitchen item?**
There are actually three things: my grinder, my Lodge cast iron, and my Big Green Egg kamado-style cooker.
- What celebrity would you like to see trying one of your blends?**
Joe Rogan.
- What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?**
Foraging for seaweed and taking advantage of what our oceans have to offer seems to be pretty popular right now. UNH has done classes on it and they’ve teamed up with chefs in the area.
- What is your favorite local restaurant?**
The Black Trumpet in Portsmouth. We’ll typically sit down and just order a whole bunch of dishes, to turn into a huge experience.
- What is your personal favorite blend that you make?**
My favorite is the SPOG, because that was the one that got it all started. Aside from that one, the adobo is definitely the fan favorite.
- What is your favorite thing to cook at home?**
My go-to at home would probably be tacos, because it’s everybody’s favorite no matter what day of the week.
— Matt Ingersoll

Adobo-roasted spatchcock chicken
From the kitchen of Matt Pierce of Granite State Spice Blends

- 1 whole broiler chicken (about 3 pounds average size)
 - 1 ounce Granite State Spice Blends adobo seasoning
 - 2 Tablespoons yellow mustard
- Preheat the oven or grill to 350 degrees. Score both sides of the chicken’s backbone to create guidelines. Using poultry shears, cut out the backbone. Pat the cavity dry and score a line in the middle of the breastbone. Flip the chick-

en and press down so the breastbone splits and the chicken is now flat. Rub mustard on both sides to allow the adobo seasoning to stick to the bird. Sprinkle a generous amount of adobo seasoning all over the bird. Cook for an hour to an hour and a half. Turn the heat up to 400 degrees for the final 15 minutes. The thickest part of the breast should be at 165 degrees and the meat should be easily pulling from the bone. Let it rest for 15 to 20 minutes before carving. When done, do not discard the bones — add them to a pot of water with thyme, bay leaves, crushed red pepper flakes, carrots, celery and onion, and simmer for two hours to make a great bone broth.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 25

rots, green beans, macaroni and cheese and cornbread. Other a la carte items include bacon-wrapped turkey breast with jalapeno and sausage stuffing, smoked prime rib, a breakfast casserole and dessert pies. Order by Dec. 19. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Sweet Caroline** (28 Homestead Place, Alton, 875-0263, find them on Facebook @sweetcarolinenh) is taking orders for 10-inch pies in several flavors (apple, blueberry, pecan, chocolate cream, pumpkin, ricotta or lemon meringue), as well as traditional Yule log cakes,

eggnog cheesecakes, and assorted mini pastry or cookie platters. Order by Dec. 18.

- **Tammaro’s Cucina** (469 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7312, tammaroscucina.com) is taking orders for several homemade pasta trays, with options like cheese or meat lasagna, stuffed shells, spaghetti and meatballs, chicken broccoli penne alfredo and more. Half-sized trays (feeding six to eight people) and full-sized trays (feeding 12 to 16 people) are available, and each comes with a loaf of garlic bread. Order by Dec. 22, for pickup on Friday, Dec. 24, at the latest.



TRY THIS AT HOME

Sun-dried tomato spread

I don't know if the word "spread" accurately describes this recipe. Yes, as you can see in the photo, it can be used as a spread for pita wedges. I also have used it as a topping for roasted eggplant slices, so that's another use as a spread. In addition to those, I have also used it as a topping for pasta and zoodles.

What I love about this recipe, besides its simplicity, is the amount of flavor in it. Because you use sun-dried tomatoes, this recipe packs a ton of tomato flavor. The red wine enhances and deepens that flavor, providing a bite of summer flavor, even in the middle of winter.

There are a number of ingredient notes for this recipe. First, you have to use sun-dried tomatoes, not packed in water or oil. You want the dried version. Second, you really should mince the garlic before it goes in the



Sun-dried tomato spread. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

food processor. Yes, it will get blended in there, but it's such a small amount of ingredients, the garlic may end up in bigger chunks. Third, for the red wine, I would encourage you to use a full-bodied red, such as a cabernet sauvignon. If you prefer a different wine, that is fine as long as it is a dry red. No sweet or white wines allowed.

With all of the possible uses, this is a great recipe to have on hand, whether you want a unique topping for some ziti or are looking for a different accoutrement for your cheese and crackers.

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

Sun-dried tomato spread

Serves 4

- 4 ounces sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 4+ Tablespoons red wine
- 3 Tablespoons tomato paste
- Salt & pepper

Instructions

Place sun-dried tomatoes in a small bowl, and cover with warm water.

Allow to soak for 30 minutes or until tender.

Drain tomatoes.

Combine tomatoes, garlic, basil, 4 tablespoons red wine, and tomato paste in a food processor; blend for 10 seconds.

Scrape down the sides of the processor bowl with a spatula, and blend for another 10 seconds. If the spread isn't smooth at this point, add another tablespoon of wine to the mixture, and blend again.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Serve or refrigerate, covered, until needed.

Food & Drink

• **Contoocook Farmers Market** Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, Maple Street Elementary School (194 Maple St., Contoocook). Masks required. Find them on Facebook.

• **Milford Farmers Market** every other Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall (Union Square), through April 9 (except on Jan. 1). The next one is Dec. 18. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **Salem Farmers Market** Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry), through April 24. Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.org.



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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Spirits of Christmas present(s)

So you're finally a full-blown grown-up. Congratulations.

One of the things that comes with that is learning how to give good, thoughtful presents to other full-blown grown-ups. For a lot of us, that leads in one of two directions: gift cards, or something homemade. Gift cards: on the plus side, they're easy; the minus, they're expensive and clearly lacking in effort. Something homemade: on the plus side, it's thoughtful and offers a chance to show off; the minus, there is no chance you'll be able to learn to knit in the next week.

Here are some suggestions for easy, cocktail-centric, homemade gifts that will hint that you might have hidden depths:

Infused alcohols

This is where the gift-giving process gets budget-friendly. If you are flavoring alcohol with strong flavors, you don't want to use expensive booze; any subtleties in the base liquor will be covered up. You probably don't want to use the absolute *cheapest* stuff, though, because you might find some off flavors in your final product. I try to steer toward a respectable bottom-shelf vodka or white rum — Mr. Boston, for instance.

Method: The great thing about infusing alcohol is that, at its simplest level — which, let's face it, is about all you can handle at this point in the year — it is pretty much foolproof. You add a flavorful ingredient to a clear spirit, shake it, then store it in a warm, dark place for a few days, shaking it twice per day. I use the laundry room. Strain and bottle it when it tastes right to you.

Ideas:

- Chocolate Vodka — ½ cup/60 grams cocoa nibs to a 750 ml bottle of vodka. Shake and age for four days.

- Graham Cracker Vodka — Blend 1 sleeve of graham crackers with three cups/710 ml of vodka. Shake and age for seven days.

(These two would make a great matched gift set for making s'mores martinis)

- Jalapeño Rum — 4 spicy jalapeños to one liter of white rum. Shake and age for four days, then taste each day until it is flavorful and spicy enough for your Auntie's taste.

- Banana Rum — Muddle a very ripe banana, the type you find next to the cash register at a convenience store, with two cups/475 ml white rum. Shake and age for a week.

- Cardamom Vodka — ½ ounce/14 grams lightly crushed cardamom pods to 1½ cups/350 ml vodka. Shake and age for 12 hours. This is delicious but potent. Give in very small bottles with instructions to use judiciously.

- Basil/Fresno Vodka — 3 chopped Fresno



Cocktail-centric, homemade gifts. Photo by John Fladd.

chilies (~50 grams) and 20 grams of hand-torn basil leaves to 1¼ cups/300 ml vodka. Shake and age for four days. (Excellent for bloody marys.)

Fruit syrups

Method: Heat equal amounts of frozen fruit and white sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Use frozen fruit, because the freezing process produces jagged ice crystals that poke holes in the

cell walls of the fruit and help this process along. As the fruit thaws, it will weep juice — far more than you are expecting. (You might want to help the process along with a potato masher.) Bring to a boil. Let the mixture boil for another 10 to 20 seconds to make sure that the sugar is completely dissolved. Remove from heat and let everything steep for another half an hour. Strain and bottle. (You might want to put the leftover fruit glop as jam on an English muffin.)

Surprisingly good syrup fruits:

- Cherries, cranberries, rhubarb, cucumbers (yes, really), wild blueberries, honeydew melon, raspberries, strawberries.

Infused syrups

Method: Make a simple syrup (equal parts water and white sugar), and bring to a boil. Remove from heat, add an aromatic ingredient, cover and steep for 30 minutes. Strain and bottle.

“Wait — Can I Put This On Pancakes?” (Yeah, probably.)

Dried hibiscus blossoms, dried jasmine blossoms, dried butterfly sweet pea blossoms (this is a deep blue color, which turns a fantastic shade of violet when combined with citrus juice), whole garam masala, cracked nutmeg, broken cinnamon sticks (steep overnight), lightly crushed coffee beans (steep for a couple of hours).

Also, not for nothin', but this is the time of year when it's easy to get down on yourself. Your anxiety will tell you that nobody loves you, your depression will add that you deserve it, and your guilt will tell you that you should be doing much more for other people than you are. My advice to you — and bear in mind that I have the emotional depth of a parking lot puddle — is that you might not be the best judge of your own worth.

You are special and magical and bring joy to people who will never tell you about it, but would miss you like oxygen if you weren't around. (And if you need help remembering this, reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.) The fact that you are thinking about what you can give to others is a good hint that you do have hidden depths.

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



Bubbles for the holidays

Celebrate with some sparkling wine

By Fred Matuszewski
food@hippopress.com

As the song goes, it is “the most wonderful time of the year!” as we partake of seemingly endless gatherings, indulging in calorie-laden savories and sweets to bring on those well-intended New Year’s resolutions.

What is the perfect beverage to go with all sorts of food? Bubbles, or more specifically, my favorite — Champagne! There are other sparkling wines, cava from Spain, prosecco from Italy, but Champagne has a well-deserved cache. And thanks to Champagne houses like Mumm, Taittinger, and Moët et Chandon, we can savor sparkling blends made in America in Méthode Traditionnelle manner, that is by double fermentation, at a fraction of the price we pay for imported Champagne. So, when you buy a bottle of Mumm that is produced in Napa, California, the label cannot contain language referring to “Methode Champenoise” as it does on the imported bottle. However, the production is the same.

Champagne can be paired to appetizers, including caviar and moderately spicy Asian food. It is excellent with chicken, seafood (especially oysters or lobster), eggs, hollandaise sauce, foie gras, gravlax and smoked salmon. It is among the most versatile of wines, whether it is brut (dry), demi-sec (sweet) or doux (sweetest). It can be blanc de blanc, made with 100 percent chardonnay grapes, or blanc de noirs, made with 100 percent pinot noir grapes. When preparing carpaccio, very rare beef, ham, prosciutto or rare lamb, a rosé, made with pinot noir and/or pinot meunier grapes, is a tasting adventure not to be missed.

Our first wine is **Champagne Pommery Brut Royal**, regularly priced at \$44.99, on sale at \$36.99, at the New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlets. Located in Reims, wool trader Alexandre Pommery’s widow, Louise, inaugurated the Champagne house in the mid-19th century. Per the website, she initiated the idea of storing wines in temperature-controlled caves carved from the chalk deposits of the region. An innovator, she created the first brut Champagne in 1874 — a dry version of the wine when Champagnes were largely much sweeter than they are today. A blend of grapes from 40 selected villages in the Côte des Blancs and Montagne de



Reims and other areas in the Champagne region, this wine is produced from 35 percent chardonnay, 35 percent pinot noir and 30 percent pinot meunier. Its color is pale gold, with an abundance of tiny bubbles. Its nose is of yellow to green apple, some citrus and vanilla. Its taste is very “fruit-forward” with notes of apple, with a very soft creamy long finish. As a dry wine, it pairs well with appetizers, creamy dishes, seafood and shellfish.

Our second wine is **Domaine Carneros Brut**, by Taittinger, regularly priced at \$29.99, on sale at \$25.95, at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlets. Domaine Carneros was established in 1987 when Claude Taittinger selected a 138-acre parcel in the heart of Carneros, California, to grow and produce a sparkling wine made in the Méthode Traditionnelle manner. The winery, pictured on the label, is modeled after the grand châteaux of France. All the wines produced at the winery hail from the Carneros appellation, with 100 percent of the fruit coming from the six estate vineyards of the chateau, now comprising 400 acres.

A blend of 53 percent pinot noir, 44 percent chardonnay and 3 percent pinot gris, this sparkler is aged nearly four years in the bottle. Fruity and balanced in acidity, it offers rich notes of pear, green apple and melon that contrast against notes of praline and toasted almonds.

This holiday season, celebrate with a wine that can traverse all your culinary delights, from appetizers to desserts. Explore this bubbling creation of that Benedictine monk, Dom Perignon. Legend has it that upon his discovery, he was quoted as saying, “Come quickly! I am drinking the stars!” Indeed, he was! And so can you!

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

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A book and a ...

Gift ideas for book lovers

Jennifer Graham
news@hippopress.com

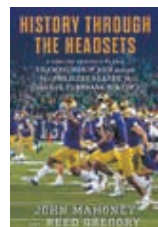
As holiday gifts go, you can't do much better than books. They're easy to wrap, cheap to mail, and for the most part, unperishable.

That said, they're so easy to give that givers of books can come off looking cheap, not so much for the money they spent but for the lack of effort involved. But that's a problem easily solved by adding a "plus one" to your gift — a complementary knickknack or two. (Think a decorative spatula attached to a cookbook.) Conversely, a book can add physical heft to an otherwise generous gift that looks unsubstantial by itself, such as a ticket to a game or a concert.

Here's a guide to the best books for everyone on your list; we did the heavy lifting for you. Buy local if you can because Jeff Bezos is set for the year. (Note: These suggestions are all new releases, or new in paperback, although publishing information is for hardcover editions. Don't give paperbacks if you can help it.)

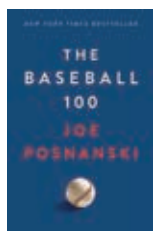
For football enthusiasts:

History Through the Headsets: Inside Notre Dame's Playoff Run During the Craziest Season in College Football History by Reed Gregory and John Mahoney (Triumph, 256 pages) or *It's Better to Be Feared,*



The New England Patriots Dynasty and the Pursuit of Greatness by Seth Wickersham (Liveright, 528 pages). Plus one: game ticket or team-branded merch.

For baseball lovers: *The Baseball 100* by Joe Posnanski (Avid Reader Press, 880 pages) Plus one: MLB Ballpark Traveler's Map from the website and catalog Uncommon Goods.



For hockey freaks: *Beauties: Hockey's Greatest Untold Stories* by James Duthie (HarperCol-

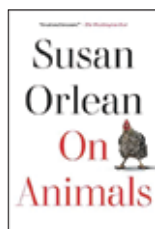
lins, 320 pages). Plus one: warm gloves and a hat.



For horse lovers: *The Last Diving Horse in America, Rescuing Gamal and Other Animals* by Cynthia A. Branigan (Pantheon, 288 pages) and/or *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley (Knopf, 288 pages). Plus one: (for horse owners) bag of peppermint horse treats or (for non-horse owners) gift certificate for a riding lesson or trail ride.

For dog lovers: *A Dog's World, Imagining the Lives of Dogs in a World Without Humans* by Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff (Princeton University Press, 240 pages). Plus one: nice leash.

For lovers of animals in general: *On Animals*, by Susan Orlean (Avid Reader Press, 256 pages) or National Geographic's *Photo Ark Wonders* (National Geographic, 400 pages). Plus one: ticket to local zoo, or animal socks from the World Wildlife Fund.



For music lovers: *The Beatles: Get Back*, edited by John Harris (Callaway Arts & Entertainment, 240 pages) or *Rock Concert, an Oral History as Told by the Artists, Backstage Insiders, and Fans Who Were There* by Marc Myers (Grove Press, 400 pages). Plus one: gift subscription to Spotify or Apple music.

For lovers of comics: *The DC Comics Encyclopedia* by Matthew K. Manning and Jim Lee (DK, 384 pages). Plus one: vintage comic book or gift card to Newbury Comics.



For the Fox News enthusiast: *All-American Christmas* by Rachel Campos-Duffy and Sean Duffy (Broadside Books, 272 pages). Plus one: American flag.

For the MSNBC fan: *Rachel Maddow, a Biography* by Lisa Rogak (Thomas Dunne Books, 288 pages). Plus one: MSNBC baseball cap from the network's online store.

For lovers of literature: *A Literary Holiday Cookbook, Festive Meals for the Snow Queen, Gandalf, Sherlock, Scrooge and Book Lovers Everywhere* by Alison Walsh and Haley Stewart (Skyhorse, 272 pages). Plus one: gift certificate to a local bookstore or fingerless gloves from the website Storiarts.



For fans of The Sopranos: *Woke Up This Morning, the Definitive Oral History of The Sopranos* by Michael Imperioli and Steve Schriipa (William Morrow, 528 pages). Plus one: bag of ziti or pasta machine.

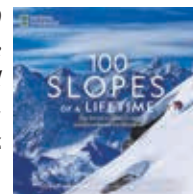


For fans of The Office: *Welcome to Dunder Mifflin, The Ultimate Oral History of The Office* by Brian Baumgartner and Ben Silverman (Custom House, 464 pages). Plus one: Dunder Mifflin socks or shot glasses.

For car enthusiasts: *A Man and His Car, Iconic Cars and Stories from the Men Who Love Them* by Matt Hranek (Artisan, 240 pages). Plus one: gas card or box of Armor All cleaning wipes.

For birders: *The Birds of America*, a reissued work by the late John James Audubon, with an introduction by David Allen Sibley (Prestel, 448 pages). Plus one: bird-seed wreath.

For ski buffs: *100 Slopes of a Lifetime, The World's Ultimate Ski and Snowboard Destinations*, by Gordy Megroz (National Geographic, 400 pages). Plus one: ski mittens or box of hand warming packets.



For runners: *Running is a Kind of*



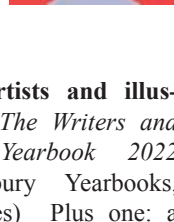
Dreaming: A Memoir by J.M. Thompson (HarperOne, 320 pages). Plus one: Yaxtrax Pros and a stick of BodyGlide.

For bicyclists: *The Cycling Chef: Recipes for Getting Lean and Fueling the Machine* (Bloomsbury Sport, 192 pages) Plus one: fingerless cycling gloves.

For TikTok addicts: Sympathy. Don't enable.

For new parents: *How to Raise Kids Who Aren't ***holes* by Melinda Wenner Moyer (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 352 pages) Plus one: bottle of vodka and earplugs.

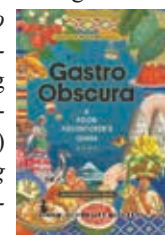
For writers or writer-wannabees: The venerable guide to selling your work released a new edition in November: *The Writer's Market 100th Edition* (Writer's Digest Books, 912 pages). Plus one: a journal or monogrammed pen.



For artists and illustrators: *The Writers and Artists Yearbook 2022* (Bloomsbury Yearbooks, 816 pages) Plus one: a box of fine pencils or a sketchpad.

For travel buffs: *1,000 Perfect Weekends: Great Getaways Around the Globe* by George Stone (National Geographic, 704 pages) Plus one: a luggage tag or airline gift card.

For foodies: *Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide* by Cecily Wong and Dylan Thuras (Workman Publishing, 448 pages) or *The Great British Baking Show: A Bake for All Seasons* (Mobius, 288 pages). Plus one: a restaurant gift certificate or gift card for a delivery app.



For everyone else: A generous gift certificate to your local bookseller (or local to the recipient). Plus one: a box of bookplates. You're welcome, and happy holidays. 🍷

Books

Author events

• **SIMON BROOKS** Author presents a storytelling event for ages 16 to adult. Sat., Dec. 11, 6:15 p.m. 185 Main St., Hopkinton. Reservations required. Call 406-4880.

• **KATHRYN HULICK** Author presents *Welcome to the Future*. Sat., Dec. 11, 2 p.m. Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot Square, Peterborough. Visit toadbooks.com.

• **MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT** The Belknap Mill Page Turners Book Club presents authors from Laconia, the Lakes

Region and throughout New England, including Larry Frates, MJ Pettengill, Christopher Beyer, Cathy Waldron, Ian Raymond, Heidi Smith and Courtney Parsons, Janice Petrie, Rose-Marie Robichaud, Jane Rice and others. Authors' books will be for sale. Sat., Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon St. East, Laconia. Visit belknapmill.org.

• **AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING** Featuring New Hampshire authors Dan Szczesny, Jerry Lofaro, Simon Brooks, Byron Carr. 185 Main St., Hopkinton. Sun., Dec. 12, noon to 2 p.m. Call 406-4880.

Poetry

• **NH POET LAUREATE ALEXANDRIA PEARY** Poet presents a new collection of poetry, *Battle of Silicon Valley at Dawn*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Tues., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

• **CAROL WESTBURG AND SUE BURTON** Virtual poetry reading hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Thurs., Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

• **DOWN CELLAR POETRY SALON** Poetry event series presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. Monthly. First Sunday. Visit poetrysocietynh.wordpress.com.

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.

• **GOFFSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY** 2 High St., Goffstown. Monthly. Third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call 497-2102, email elizabethw@goffstownlibrary.com or visit goffstownlibrary.com

• **BELKNAP MILL** Online. Monthly. Last Wednesday, 6 p.m. Based in Laconia. Email

bookclub@belknapmill.org.

• **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Online. Monthly. Second Friday, 3 p.m. Call 589-4611, email information@nashualibrary.org or visit nashualibrary.org.

Language

• **FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE CLASSES** Offered remotely by the Franco-American Centre. Six-week session with classes held Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$225. Visit facnh.com/education or call 623-1093.

Encanto (PG)

A girl growing up in a magical family with a magical house tries to find her place in the world in *Encanto*, a lovely new animated movie from Disney.

Mirabel (voice of Stephanie Beatriz) is a member of the “magical Madrigal” family, whose members all live together in a large house in an idyllic Colombian valley. All of the adult members have their own superpowers that they call their “gift.” Mirabel’s mom, Julieta (voice of Angie Cepeda), can heal people with her cooking. Her sister Luisa (voice of Jessica Darrow) has superhuman strength. Her “perfect” sister Isabela (voice of Diane Guerrero) can make gardens of beautiful flowers grow and bloom at will. Her aunt Pepa (voice of Carolina Gaitán) can control the weather. Pepa’s children, Mirabel’s cousins, Dolores (voice of Adassa) and Camilo (voice of Rhenzy Feliz), have superhearing and shape-shifting powers, respectively. Only Pepa’s and Julieta’s husbands (voiced by Mauro Castillo and Wilmer Valderrama) are non-magical, having just married into the family.

Abuela (voice by María Cecilia Botero) is in charge of the house and the family and her power seems to be having the triplets — Julieta, Pepa and Bruno (voice of John Leguizamo), “we don’t talk about Bruno” is the family’s position about that brother — that kicked off the family’s magic and caring for the family and the town that grew up around the house.

The house, which has a magic of its own, responding to voice commands and occasionally being a little sassy, and the family get their magic from a long-burning candle that became charmed as a sort of miracle after the death of Abuela’s husband long ago. He died helping his wife and children — and the people who became the townsfolk — escape from the bad guys on horseback



Encanto. Courtesy photo.

who had chased them out of their former hometown and into the jungle. His sacrifice leads to the miracle of the magic-giving candle and a forest that grows to create a hidden valley where the people can live safely.

Abuela is determined to keep the house, the family and the magic going so that they can all stay safe in this green, beautiful and, it’s implied, somewhat hidden valley. But as the years go by, Mirabel never develops her gift. When she starts to see some cracks in the house, Abuela secretly fears that the house, the magic and the family could be falling apart but is determined for the town to see only the strong, magical family they’ve always been.

Mirabel’s quest — because these movies always have a quest — is to figure out what is putting the magic in danger and to save the family’s miracle. To do this, she sets out to find clues about Uncle Bruno, whose power was seeing the future and who vanished years ago.

Encanto is a truly beautiful movie —

beautiful all the way around, beautiful music, beautiful songs that play with South American musical elements, beautiful jewel-toned visuals, beautiful characters that display a wide diversity of the people you might find in one Latin American family. And it has some really beautiful messages about being yourself, figuring out your place in the world, loving and celebrating family not for the image we want to project but for what it and its members truly are. And it has a fair amount of humor. There isn’t a wise-cracking dragon or snowman but the cousins bring plenty of their own quirky senses of humor to the situation.

I feel like there is a lot here that I appreciated initially and that I will only grow to enjoy more with subsequent viewings (and I’m sure there will be subsequent viewings, as this movie comes to Disney+ on Dec. 24).

But — and it kills me that there’s a “but” — there is also something off about *Encanto*, like a cake where one layer is way too thick and one layer is way too thin and the

whole thing is leveled off with large frosting patches. The movie takes a long time to get to the central problem — and I’m still not entirely certain I understand what that problem was — and rushes through things such as Isabela’s discovery that she can make things other than soft, rose-like flowers and Luisa’s stress at having to carry so much weight all the time. Bruno is a really well-developed and intriguing character that the movie doesn’t always seem to know what to do with. I would have *loved* Mirabel as a child, with her curly hair and her glasses and her lack of a discernible Thing, and she’s a great character to build an adventure around but, as with so many other elements in this movie, her whole arc seems rushed. We see her worry A Lot about her place in the family if she is not gifted like everyone else but the resolution of this comes very fast and feels unfinished. Maybe there are so many good characters, so many ideas, that the movie spends too long setting up all its pieces and leaves not enough time to play out their stories? So many times it feels like a really interesting point or a fairly big character development is sort of sewed up with one very fast line of dialogue.

I feel like I need to watch *Encanto* again to really figure out how I feel about this movie. But I guess the best recommendation I can give for it is that I look forward to another viewing. I may not have always understood what *Encanto* is doing but it’s such a lovely world to spend time in. **B**

Rated PG for some thematic elements and mild peril, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Jared Bush and Byron Howard and co-directed by Charise Castro Smith with a screenplay by Charise Castro Smith & Jared Bush, Encanto is an hour and 42 minutes long and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures in theaters (and on Disney+ starting Dec. 24). 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

8-Bit Christmas (PG)

Neil Patrick Harris, Steve Zahn.

I’ve seen this movie described as an update of *A Christmas Story* and it definitely has shades of that, though it may be even more family-friendly. Here, present-day dad Jake Doyle (Harris) tells his young, iPhone-wanting daughter Annie (Sophia Reid-Gantzert) about a Christmas back in the 1980s when he desperately wanted a Nintendo. His parents, Kathy (June Diane Raphael) and John (Zahn), go from not exactly knowing how to pronounce “Nintendo” to being violently opposed to ever having one in their house. Young Jake (Winslow Fegley) and his friends try a variety of schemes to ensure that one of them will wind up with a Nintendo while Jake’s

younger sister Lizzy (Bellaluna Resnick) works on getting that equally rare item, the Cabbage Patch Kid.

I thoroughly enjoyed this family comedy, with its Harris-narrated tale of life in the 1980s, occasionally edited to explain to his daughter that “of course all kids wore bike helmets.” The story features plucky kid-quests in search of the game system or the money to buy it while also offering really good-hearted examinations of kid social relationships — the bullies, the perceived weirdos, the habitual liars. It also does a good job with the age-old struggle between the “why can’t you and your friends just play outside” parents and the “X piece of tech is the Most Important Thing Ever” kids. **A** Available on HBO Max.

A Boy Called Christmas (PG)

Henry Lawfull, voice of Stephen Merchant.

Maggie Smith is the dour-seeming great-aunt of three gloomy and grieving children

who comes to their house to babysit. Though they want nothing to do with Christmas this year, having recently lost their mother, she settles in to tell them a story about a boy named Nikolas (Lawfull) who lives deep in the woods in Finland in olden days. The king (Jim Broadbent) asks people to go on quests to the farthest reaches of his realm in search of something that will bring magic and hope into people’s lives. Nikolas’ father (Michiel Huisman) sets out in search of a magical place that Nikolas’ mother used to talk about, Elfhelm. After running away from the horrible aunt (Kristen Wiig) left to care for him, Nikolas also goes in search of his father and Elfhelm, taking along with him Miika (Merchant), a mouse that, to his great surprise, he’s taught how to talk.

Along the way they help a reindeer that Nikolas starts calling Blitzen and they meet a community of elves who are part of the resistance to an oppressive new elf regime run by Mother Vodol (Sally Hawkins).

This is a darker live-action Christmas tale, with orphans and parents who have died and discussions of grief and sadness. But in that dark fairy tale way, and for kids maybe in the 9-years-old-and-up range who don’t mind that kind of story, the movie is also sweet, adventure-packed and straightforward in how it deals with kids’ emotions. I think Maggie Smith’s narration, with its *Princess Bride*-style interruptions, helps sell that particular mood of kids working through stuff and of kids learning how to stay hopeful in the face of a world that isn’t always about loving moms and happy elves. **B+** Available at Netflix.

Waffles + Mochi’s Holiday Feast (TV-Y)

The humans here include Tracee Ellis Ross, Samin Nosrat and Mrs. O (Michelle Obama), the owner of the market where Waffles and Mochi normally hang out to learn about food. In this half-hour holiday special, the market is closed for the holiday

POP CULTURE FILMS

season and Waffles and Mochi, enamored of all the talk about special holiday foods, tell their friends it's Freezie Day and accidentally invite the whole gang over for a Freezie Day feast. This leads Mochi to set out around the world to learn about a few winter-solstice-season celebrations and gather some holiday treats while back at Waffles' house the guests talk about their own cultural winter holiday traditions. Like the show *Waffles + Mochi*, the holiday special is the right mix of learning, puppet-y fun, food, silliness and sweetness. **B+** Available on Netflix.

***Shaun the Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas* (TV-Y)**

Voices of Justin Fletcher, Kate Harbour.

Shaun, his sheep friends, the dog who watches after them and their farmer, with another harebrained scheme to make money, return in this charming 30-minute Christmas-themed special. The farmer's attempts to sell soda at a local Christmas fair and the littlest sheep's curiosity about gifts come together, resulting in the whole flock riding a Santa sleigh on their way to heist-like hijinks at the home of a little girl who thinks she's been gifted a robot sheep. As usual, this story has no real words, just lots of grunts and meeps and British-y noises. Sheep silliness is the star of this very all-ages-friendly holiday fare with, as always, top-notch Aardman animation. **A** Available on Netflix.

Film

Venues

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

Red River Theatres

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

Shows

• *House of Gucci* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 3:30 & 7 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6

p.m. (vaccinated guests); Friday, Dec. 10, through Sunday, Dec. 12, at noon, 3:30 & 7 p.m.
• *Elf* (PG, 2003) 21+ screening at all three Chunky's locations on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m.
• *Straight Is the Way* (1921) This silent crime drama set in New Hampshire will screen Thursday, Dec. 9, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. (for vaccinated guests) at Red River Theatres with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.
• *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen multiple times at all three Chunky's locations Friday,

Dec. 10, through Thursday, Dec. 16. Tickets cost \$5.99.
• *Belfast* (PG-13, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres on Friday, Dec. 10, at 1 & 4 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.
• *The French Dispatch* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres on Friday, Dec. 10, through Sunday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.
• *Winter Starts Soon* (NR, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Saturday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m.

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Since 1927

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Side to front:** A rock guitarist takes a jazz direction as **Scott Sharrard & Friends** pay tribute to bop and soul legend Grant Green in an evening dubbed *Green Is Beautiful*. Beginning in 2008, Sharrard was musical director for the Gregg Allman Band. Currently he plays lead for Little Feat, stepping in after the passing of Paul Barrere in 2019. His presence gives that band new velocity. Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club, 135 Congress St., Portsmouth, \$20 and \$30 at ticketmaster.com.

• **State repping:** A packed lineup of hard-core talent drives **603 Strong**, with Great American Ghost performing a holiday show, the original lineup of metal band Vanna rebranded as Inspirit for its first New Hampshire appearance, Kaonashi, In Remembrance doing a reunion show, Katahdin, Martial Law and Underthrow. The 18+ show has an early start to provide each act with enough time to stretch out. Friday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m., Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester, \$20 advance at eventbrite.com (\$25 day of show).

• **Peanuts gang:** The music from a beloved 1965 Christmas special is revisited by the **Heather Pierson Trio**. When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* first aired, the network complained about inexperienced child voice actors, poor sound and choppy animation. They wanted a laugh track in and the Gospel of Luke out. The jazz soundtrack was most troubling, but it sparked an interest by a young Pierson that's still enduring. Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., The Word Barn, 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, \$25 at portsmouth-nhtickets.com.

• **Holiday swing:** Symphony NH performs its annual **Holiday Pops Concert**, playing favorite classic Christmas songs led by conductor Roger Kalia. This year's program begins with "A Christmas Scherzo" followed by music from the motion picture *Frozen* and a reading of *The Night Before Christmas*. The show's second half offers seven selections from *The Nutcracker*, "Deck the Halls" and, finally, an audience sing-along. Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m., Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord, \$35 and up at symphony.org.

• **Dynamic duo:** Touring in support of *Noon*, their first new album since 2005, **Leo Kottke & Mike Gordon** perform an evening of acoustic music. Phish drummer Jon Fishman recalled seeing virtuoso guitarist Kottke in a Vermont club in the 1980s and thinking if he ever connected with his bandmate Gordon, "that might be the end of the world." The two joined up in the early 2000s, making a pair of albums before their hiatus. Monday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St., Lebanon, \$38 to \$58 at lebanonoperahouse.org.

NITE

Classical hip-hop

Black Violin transcends genres

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Black Violin earned a Grammy nomination for its 2020 album, *Take The Stairs* — a fitting title, given the band's challenging journey to success.

Led by Kev Marcus on violin and Wil Baptiste on viola, the group mashes up classical music and hip-hop. They invented their innovative genre years before YouTube, Twitter and TikTok virality existed, when making it in the world of music came from wearing out shoe leather, not web clicks.

Their first big break came as the new millennium was unfolding, and it's illustrative. Hoping to perform at basketball star Allen Iverson's birthday bash, they got a meeting with the promoter of Teasers nightclub in Miami.

"He laughed us out the door," Marcus said in a recent phone interview. "He said, 'What am I gonna do with violins?'"

Their irate manager responded by opening the back of his Ford Expedition, cranking up the sound system, and instructing the pair to play on the sidewalk in front of the club. A crowd quickly formed that soon included the shocked promoter. He got it, and agreed to hire them — as long as they promised to stay in flow.

"We needed to create a set for the DJ to mix in [so] our music didn't stop everyone dancing," Marcus said. "It's the same kind of hip-hop music, except now you're hearing violins, and you're like, where is that? Then once they see us, they start crowding around. That was sort of the beginning."

A couple of years later, they earned a spot on *Showtime At The Apollo*, a talent contest famous for unforgiving audiences.

"They boo you off the stage if they don't like you," Marcus said. "I mean, they are legendarily ruthless."

The two waited in the green room as four acts went out ahead of them and were quickly dispensed by the crowd.

"A guy called the Sandman jumps from his box, hits the stage, and starts tap dancing you



Black Violin. Courtesy photo.

off," Marcus said. "I remember being underneath ... and just seeing the dust fall from the green room ceiling."

Staring down at their violins, the two feared they'd been set up. But that feeling soon vanished.

"We walk on stage and we never lose," Marcus said. "We won four straight competitions, we got standing ovations. It was the 'we call home and quit our jobs' moment. ... If this crowd is gonna take us, then any crowd is gonna take us."

The spark for their unique sound came when Marcus and Baptiste were in high school together — via a Sony Ericsson cell phone.

"Before ringtones, you could program notes," Marcus said. "Busta Rhymes took the theme from *Psycho* and made a hip-hop beat, and it was the No. 1 song in the country. ... I thought that was cool, so I created the notes for it and put it in my phone."

When it rang in orchestra class, Marcus's teacher predictably confiscated it, but not before his intrigued fellow musicians started replicating the digital sounds on their own instruments.

"The violinist next to me started playing the notes from my phone, and he went, 'What if the violinist played?' The next thing you know, the whole orchestra is playing," he said.

Although Black Violin's first Grammy nomination came for Best Instrumental Album, there's an uplifting lyrical message throughout *Take The Stairs*, particularly on "Impossible Is Possible" and "One Step." The latter song was made into a hard-hitting video, reminiscent of Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

C&I Studio CEO Joshua Miller wrote a short film that touched on racial profiling, the immigration crisis, and the scourge of gun violence in schools.

"We wanted it to be really controversial," Miller said in a 'making of' video. "Our whole pitch was really telling the story of what's happening in America right now."

"One Step" had been written two years earlier, with a different message in mind, Marcus explained, but they also felt a need to update it for the present moment.

"Everything you see in the video ... we're dealing with directly," he said. "We wanted to show our reality, and if we can't do that within our own art then we're in the wrong business." 🍌

Black Violin

When: Sunday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.
Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord
Tickets: \$35 and up at ccanh.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

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

Fulchino Vineyard

187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis
438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com

Hatbox Theatre

Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon

Road, Concord
715-2315, hatboxnh.com

The Music Hall

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

Strange Brew

88 Market St., Manchester
666-4292

Tupelo Music Hall

10 A St., Derry,
437-5100, tupelomusichall.com

Yankee Lanes

216 Maple St., Manchester
625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com

Weekly comedy nights

• **Thursday** Yankee Lanes, 8 p.m.
• **Thursday** Strange Brew, 9 p.m.

Events

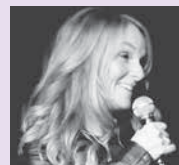
• **Queen City Improv** Hatbox, Thursday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
• **Rob Steen & Jody Sloane** Saddle Up Saloon, Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

• **Chris D Chunky's** Manchester, Friday, Dec. 10, and Saturday, Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 17, and Saturday, Dec. 18, 9 p.m.

• **Puddles Pity Party** Cap Center, Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m.

• **Comedy Out of the Box** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.



Jody Sloane. Courtesy photo.

• **Justin McKinney** The Music Hall, Sunday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Dec. 27, at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.

• **Joe Yannetty, Joey Carrol, Mark**

Scalia Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 31, 7 & 10 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Tupelo, Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, 8 p.m.

• **Queen City Improv** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

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Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	Shorty's 1050 Bicentennial Dr. 625-1730
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Cheers 17 Depot St. 228-0180	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Game Changer Bar & Grill 4 Orchard View 216-1396	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Epping Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	Charlie's Tap House 9A Ocean Blvd. 929-9005	Henniker Colby Hill Inn 33 The Oaks 428-3281	603 Brewery & Beer Hall 42 Main St. 404-6123	Firefly 21 Concord St. 935-9740	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Exeter Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080	Community Oven 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	Hollis Alpine Grove 19 S. Depot Road 882-9051 alpinegrove.com	7-20-4 Lounge at Twins Smokeshop 80 Perkins Road 421-0242	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292
Canterbury Canterbury Village 288 Shaker Road 783-9511	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313
	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614		The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832	Manchester Angel City Music Hall 179 Elm St. 931-3654	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876
				Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave. 858-5789	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022
						Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St. 819-9336	
						KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS	

Thursday, Dec. 9

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open mic jam, 6:30 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m. Sea Dog: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Ian & Abbi Sleeper & Kent, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Ted Solovicos, 5:30 p.m. KC's: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m. Strange Brew: Becca Myari, 8 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Akrobatik, 9 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: John and Roxanne Man, 6 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Mary Fagan, 5:45 p.m. Merrimack Homestead: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Joey Clark, 4:30 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.	Milford Stonecutters Pub: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m. Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Scott Sharrard & Friends, 7:30 p.m.
Concord Area 23: DJ Dicey, 8 p.m. Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: Karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m. Stones Social: Stephen Decuire, 6:30 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m. Epping Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.		Seabrook Red's: Mica Peterson, 7 p.m.
	Londonderry Stumble Inn: 21st & 1st & Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.		

Friday, Dec. 10

Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: Douglas James, 5 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Ian & Abbi Sleeper & Kent, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Ted Solovicos, 5:30 p.m. KC's: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m. Strange Brew: Becca Myari, 8 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Robert Allwarden, 4:30 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Mr. Doctor Pepper — steel drums, 6 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Bob Kroepel, 5:45 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m. Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Scott Sharrard & Friends, 7:30 p.m.
Concord Area 23: Classic Invasion, 8 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Sharon Jones, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. North Beach Bar: Mostly Young, 8 p.m. Tinos: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m. Wally's: Crooked Coast & The Quins & Supernothing, 8 p.m. Whym: Steve Haidaichuck, 6:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Justin Quinn, 6 p.m.	Seabrook Red's: Mica Peterson, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: Pop Rox, 8 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: Karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Way Up South, 9 p.m.	
	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.	
	Londonderry Coach Stop: Ted Solovicos, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Mugsy Duo, 8 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.	
	Manchester Angel City: The Drift, 9 p.m. Backyard Brewery: Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m. Bonfire: FatBunny, 7 p.m. Derryfield: Almost Famous, 8 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Maine Dead Project, 8 p.m.	
	North Woodstock Woodstock Inn Brewery: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8:30 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.	
	Portsmouth Gas Light: Rebecca Turmel, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Brubeck Brothers Quartet, 8 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Greg Mattson & Sweep the Leg, 9 p.m.		



VAX & SNAX

Thursdays at Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600) are "Vax & Snax" days, when the concession stand is open for business and guests are required to show proof of vaccination to gain entry to the theater. Bring your vax card, a photo of the vax card or a digital vaccination record plus a photo ID, according to a press release. Face masks will be required except when seated in theaters, the release said. This Thursday's lineup features *House of Gucci* at 3:30 and 7 p.m. and *Straight Is the Way*, a silent crime drama set in New Hampshire with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Next Thursday, Dec. 16, *House of Gucci* screens at 6 p.m. and celebrate Christmas at Nakatomi Plaza with a screening of 1988's *Die Hard* at 7 p.m.

Music, live and in person

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. Get your gigs listed by sending information to music@hippopress.com.

Portofino Italian Restaurant 456 Daniel Webster Hwy. 424-4010	Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	Pittsfield Main Street Grill & Bar 32 Main St. 435-0005	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960	Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535	Plaistow The Crow's Nest 181 Plaistow Road	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270	Stones Social 449 Amherst St. 943-7445	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Seabrook Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Stoncutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Nashua Boston Billiards 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club 135 Congress St. 603-5299	Somersworth The SpeakEasy Bar 2 Main St.
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	North Woodstock Woodstock Inn Brewery 136 Main St. 745-3961	Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	Stratham Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	The Stately Bar & Grill 238 Deer St. 431-4357	Warner Cafe One East 1 E. Main St.
Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391		Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Reed's North 2 E. Main St. 456-2143

Seabrook Red's: Lisa Love, 7 p.m.	Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 5 p.m.	Laconia Tower Hill Tavern: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 8 p.m.
Stratham Tailgate Tavern: Chad Verbeck, 7 p.m.	Epping Telly's: Chris Fraga, 8 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Little Kings, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11	Derry Fody's: Kevin Haverty, 8 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Houston Bernard Band, 7 p.m. Derryfield: Last Kid Picked, 8 p.m. The Foundry: Kimayo, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m. Great North Aleworks: Alli Beaudry, 4 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 7 p.m. Strange Brew: Mike and Howie, 9 p.m.
Alton Bay Dockside: Jeff Lines, 8 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: Red Tail Hawk Duo, 1 p.m.; Rich Amorim, 5 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Sweetbloods, 5:45 p.m.
Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Off Duty Angels Trio, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.
Bow Chen Yang Li: Amanda Adams, 7 p.m.	Hampton Smuttynose: live music, 6 p.m. Wally's: One More Time, 9 p.m. Whym: Gabby Martin, 6:30 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Compaq Big Band, 9 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Chris Perkins, 4:30 p.m.	Henniker Colby Hill Inn: Brad Myrick Duo, 1 p.m.	
Concord Area 23: Crazy Steve, 1 p.m.; Undaunted Professor Harp, 8 p.m. Concord Craft Brewing: Ryan Williamson, 3 p.m. Hermanos: Eugene Durkee, 7 p.m. Penuche's: The Honeybees, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Ryan Palma, 8 p.m.	
Contoocook Cider Co.: Alex Cohen, 1 p.m.		



JIMMY DUNN'S COMEDY CHRISTMAS

Catch comedian Jimmy Dunn and friends on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) for **Jimmy Dunn's Comedy Christmas**. Tickets cost \$25.

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YMCA OF CONCORD 15 North State St, Concord, NH	YMCA OF GREATER LONDONDERRY 206 Rockingham Rd, Londonderry, NH

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PRESENTS



LAUREN RAINBOW

Dec. 9 at 7:00PM

Lauren Rainbow is an evidential medium, inspirational and sometimes funny storyteller and a spiritual travel guide!

JIMMY DUNN'S
COMEDY CHRISTMAS

Dec. 10 at 7:30PM

Jimmy Dunn, stand-up comedian and co-star of the Mccarthy's, takes over the Rex Theatre stage for a little holiday cheer!

A SINATRA CHRISTMAS
WITH RICH DIMARE

Dec. 12 at 2:00PM

A Boston based jazz singer who specializes in Sinatra and Rat Pack area music, Rich has 15 years' experience in entertainment.



KT TUNSTALL

Dec. 16 at 7:30PM

An award-winning Scottish singer-songwriter and musician, KT Tunstall broke into the public eye with her song "Black Horse and the Cherry Tree."

IMPROVBOSTON PRESENTS
THE IMPROVISED HOLIDAY
EXTRAVAGANZA!

Dec. 17 at 7:30PM

The ensemble integrates interactive improv games, scenes and skillful storytelling into an unforgettable performance.



NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Nashua

Fody's: Occam's Razor, 9:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Kevin Horan, 6 p.m.
Millyard Brewery: Bradley Copper Kettle, 5 p.m.
The Peddler's Daughter: Take 4, 9:30 p.m.
San Francisco Kitchen: April Cushman, 6 p.m.

North Woodstock

Woodstock Inn Brewery: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8:30 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedox Pub: live music, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Rebecca Turmel, 9:30 p.m.; Max Sullivan, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Brubeck Brothers Quartet, 7:30 p.m.
Press Room: Truffle, 8 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Clique, 9 p.m.

Rochester

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

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Bulletproof, 7 p.m.
Red's: Kaleidoscope, 8 p.m.

Somersworth

Speakeasy: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12

Alton Bay

Dockside: Jackie Lee, 4 p.m.

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: live music, 2 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Jae Minnion, 4:30 p.m.

Chichester

Flannel Tavern: McAdams Duo, 4 p.m.

Exeter

Sawbelly: Max Sullivan, 11 a.m.; Tombstone, 3 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: David Papa, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: Gerry Beaudoin 4 p.m.
Whym: Phil Jakes, 12 p.m.

Henniker

Colby Hill Inn: Brad Myrick Duo, 12:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: video music bingo, 5 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Jonny Friday, 2 p.m.

Manchester

The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.
Strange Brew: jam, 7 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:45 p.m.

Newmarket

The Stone Church: Dan Blakeslee, 2 p.m.; Jim Prendergast, 5 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedox Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Brass (R) Evolution, 5:30 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Birchwood Blaze, 8 p.m.

Warner

Reed's: Tequila Jim, 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: open mic w/ Paul Luff, 6 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.
Manchester
Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: live band karaoke, 8 p.m.
Spotlight Room: D-Comp, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

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

Press Room: open mic, 6 p.m.; Andrew Marlin of Watchhouse, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 14

Concord

Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic night, 8 p.m.

Hampton

Shane's: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Wally's: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: line dancing, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Ryan Williamson, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Joe Winslow, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Fratello's: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Wiki X Navy Blue, 9 p.m.

Stratham

Tailgate Tavern: Musical Bingo Nation, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Brookline

Alamo: Jeff Mrozek, 4:30 p.m.

Concord

Area 23: open mic night, 7 p.m.
Hermanos: John Franzosa, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Hampton

Bogie's: open mic, 7 p.m.
North Beach Bar & Grill: Mikey J, 6:30 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Manchester

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

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
CHRISTMAS

Catch the *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*, a musical paying tribute to Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkin and Johnny Cash, on Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts (Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets cost \$35 to \$85.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

The Goat: country line dancing, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Howard & Mike's Acoustic Jam, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Paul Warnick, 5:45 p.m.

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

Milford
Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

Newmarket
Stone Church: Eleanor Elktra, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Kandace Springs, 7:30 p.m.
Press Room: Pressing Strings, 8 p.m.

Rochester
Porter's: karaoke night, 6:30 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Max Sullivan Trio

Somersworth
Speakeasy: open mic night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 16
Auburn
Auburn Pitts: open mic jam, 6:30 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jordan Quinn, 4:30 p.m.
Hermanos: Ken Clark, 6:30 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Chris Fraga, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Taylor Duo, 5 p.m.

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

Hampton
CR's: Just the Two of Us, 6 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.

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SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS

The Squirrel Nut Zippers will bring their "Holiday Caravan Tour 2021" to the Flying Monkey (39 Main St. in Plymouth; 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 to \$69.



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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Trivia

Events
 • **Home Alone** trivia, 21+ at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).
 • **Christmas Vacation** trivia, 21+ at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).
 • **A Christmas Story** trivia, 21+ at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

Weekly

• **Thursday Game Time** trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at SmuttLabs (47 Washington St., Dover, 343-1782, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
 • **Thursday Game Time** trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr.,



Home Alone

Londonderry, 216-1396, gamechanger-sportsbar.com) 8 to 10 p.m.
 • **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 • **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Concerts

Venues
Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 16 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, banknhstage.com
Capitol Center for the Arts
 44 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Flying Monkey
 39 Main St., Plymouth
 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Fulchino Vineyard
 187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis
 438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com
The Music Hall
 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
 436-2400, themusichall.org
Palace Theatre
 80 Hanover St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Rex Theatre
 23 Amherst St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
The Spotlight Room
 96 Hanover St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Tupelo Music Hall
 10 A St., Derry
 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com

The Word Barn

66 Newfields Road, Exeter
 244-0202, thewordbarn.com
Shows
 • **Chris Pureka with Anna Tivel** Thursday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Squirrel Nut Zippers** Friday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Matt Nakoa** Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet** presents **Charlie Brown Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m., The Spotlight Room in Manchester
 • **Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters** Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Zach Deputy** Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **A Night of Frank Sinatra with Rich DiMare** Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Blessid Union of Souls** Sunday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Black Violin** Sunday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Cap Center
 • **Million Dollar Quartet Christmas** Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Cap Center
 • **Winter Solstice Mini-Fest** Featuring **Matt Flinger & Low Lily**



Matt Nakoa. Courtesy photo.

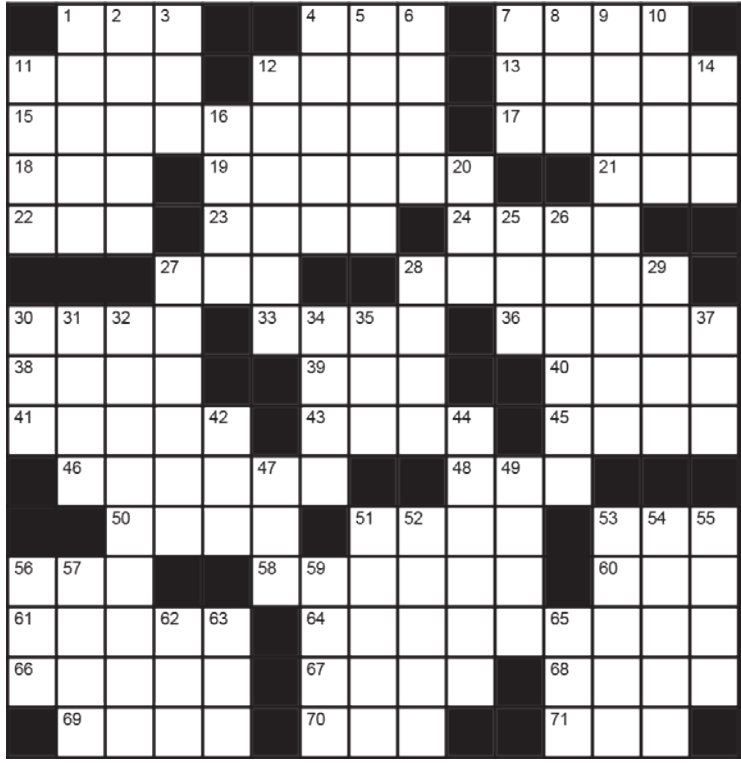
Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **Wynonna Judd with the Big Noise** Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Franco Corso Christmas at the Vineyard** Saturday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Fulchino Vineyard

• **Rock This Town Orchestra (Brian Setzer Orchestra tribute band)** Saturday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Masters of the Telecaster** Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Ripe** Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **Capital Jazz Orchestra — Holiday Pops** Sunday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m., Cap Center
 • **Christmas with the Spain Brothers with Green Heron** Thursday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Adam Ezra Group** Friday, Dec. 31, 5:30 & 9 p.m., Tupelo
 • **New Year's Eve Champagne Pops with the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra** Friday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Brooks Young Band** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **Fortune** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo

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GO FOR IT



Across

- 1. ‘___ It In A Minute’ Hall And Oates
- 4. Mariah Carey “You’ll finally ___ the truth that a hero lies in you”
- 7. Led Zep “When you cut it ___, save me a slice”
- 11. Kix ‘Blow My ___’
- 12. Rapper Flavor ___
- 13. Tom Petty “Buy me a drink, sing me ___” (1,4)
- 15. Like very expensive show
- 17. Nervous failure
- 18. “When ___ I want is you” U2
- 19. Rod Stewart ‘___ ___ Dull Moment’ (5,1)
- 21. ‘The Frim Fram Sauce’ ___ King Cole
- 22. Keith Urban ‘___ The Summer Comes Around’
- 23. Tiger Beat reader
- 24. Shows
- 27. Shows are on blu-ray or this
- 28. Classic Bruce cover ‘Santa Claus Is Coming ___’ (2,4)
- 30. ‘Diamond Life’ singer
- 33. Screamer Ono
- 36. Dive-bar might have one as a stage
- 38. John Such from Bon Jovi
- 39. Remi Nicole got ‘___ Up’
- 40. Gym site, for Village People
- 41. Fountains Of Wayne ‘Michael And Heather At The Baggage ___’
- 43. Awards for venues, artists, and promoters
- 45. Alter Bridge ‘___ Your Eyes’
- 46. ___ Mean A Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing) (2,4)
- 48. ‘66 Cream opener on ‘Fresh Cream’
- 50. ‘Wonderworld’ Uriah ___

Down

- 1. Greg of Afghan Whigs
- 2. REM ‘Love ___ Around’ (2,3)
- 3. Blondie singer (abbr)
- 4. David Coverdale song for a master?
- 5. ‘90 Cannibal Corpse album ‘ ___ Back To Life’
- 6. “If you’ve ___ seen a one trick pony then you’ve seen me”
- 7. Present day studio?
- 8. British rockers Wishbone ___
- 9. ‘97 John Fogerty album ‘Blue ___’ (4,5)
- 10. 60s ‘Diana’ singer Paul
- 11. A rock accomplishment
- 12. ‘Bad Reputation’ Johnston
- 14. “Turn around, every now and then I ___ a little bit lonely”
- 16. Where you want to see your band (2,2)
- 20. Alice Cooper ‘Years ___’
- 25. Talk Talk ‘___ My Life’
- 26. Flys ‘___ ___ (Where I Want You)’ (3,3)
- 27. ‘You ___’ Fireflight
- 28. ‘Hermit Of Milk Hollow’ Rundgren
- 29. Dixie Chicks ‘Not Ready To Make ___’
- 30. Cali capital Cake is from (abbr)
- 31. Radiohead ‘___ ___ Need’ (3,1)

- 67. Irish popsters Gina, ___ Haze & The Champion
- 68. Have to do it to Weezer’s ‘Sweater’ after the unravel
- 69. ‘Save Your Love For Me’ jazz songstress Jones
- 70. Like foxy agent
- 71. Kind of stage “contact” fans keep staring and waiting for

Down

- 1. Greg of Afghan Whigs
- 2. REM ‘Love ___ Around’ (2,3)
- 3. Blondie singer (abbr)
- 4. David Coverdale song for a master?
- 5. ‘90 Cannibal Corpse album ‘ ___ Back To Life’
- 6. “If you’ve ___ seen a one trick pony then you’ve seen me”
- 7. Present day studio?
- 8. British rockers Wishbone ___
- 9. ‘97 John Fogerty album ‘Blue ___’ (4,5)
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- 28. ‘Hermit Of Milk Hollow’ Rundgren
- 29. Dixie Chicks ‘Not Ready To Make ___’
- 30. Cali capital Cake is from (abbr)
- 31. Radiohead ‘___ ___ Need’ (3,1)

- 32. Ian Astbury band Southern ___ (5,4)
- 34. Eric Church “Some ___ you read on a page” (2,3)
- 35. Boothe from the 60s
- 37. Linda Ronstadt ‘When We ___’
- 42. Further fest Buffalo band
- 44. ‘Marching Out’ Malmsteen
- 47. Prince’s one-time band (abbr)
- 49. Boy band ‘N ___’
- 51. Like perfect tour schedule
- 52. Good ___ Miss Molly
- 53. Goes with ‘Ivory’, to McCartney/Wonder

- 54. Repeated word in iconic rock classic
- 55. ‘95 Bjork album for a lamp stand in the street?
- 56. Spending limit or this a per diem has
- 57. Slender reed instrument
- 59. “And you’re coming back to me, it’s against all ___” Phil Collins
- 62. What you did on lawn “seats”
- 63. Time-Life’s ‘The Rock’n’Roll ___’0
- 65. Tina Turner’s husband

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EASY

1-		6x	
9+		3-	
	1		2÷
2÷		3	

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CHALLENGING

75x		2-	4	1-	
3-			11+	2	11+
	3÷				
3÷	2÷	5	11+	2-	
		12x		12x	
3				9+	

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RULES

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

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

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

2-18-21

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2÷	3	3-	6x
1	3	4	2
2	2÷	1	3
7+	4	3	1
3	2÷	2	4

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WORD★Roundup™

- by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek
- Find and Circle...**
- Four mammals ending with E
 - Four six-letter colors
 - Three words starting and ending with O
 - They went up a hill
 - Mustard family member

Last Week's Answers: FIRE TIRE WIRE DIRE HIRE / PICTURE ACTRESS ACTOR / SECOND MINUTE DECADE / URANUS VENUS MARS / FIDDLER HERMIT KING

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

“What the H” — is it Cockney? Probably not.

Across

- 1 ___-Magnon (early human)
- 4 Soda can meas.
- 7 '70s music genre
- 12 Muscle near a lat
- 13 Certain Greek consonants
- 15 “Let’s keep moving!”
- 17 Student financial assistance that makes you groan?

- 19 Brazilian Carnival city that’s a World Heritage Site
- 20 GPS instruction
- 21 Burden on a German opera composer?
- 23 Tale with the Trojan Horse
- 25 “I just thought of somethin’”
- 26 “Either that wallpaper goes ___ do” (Oscar Wilde’s last

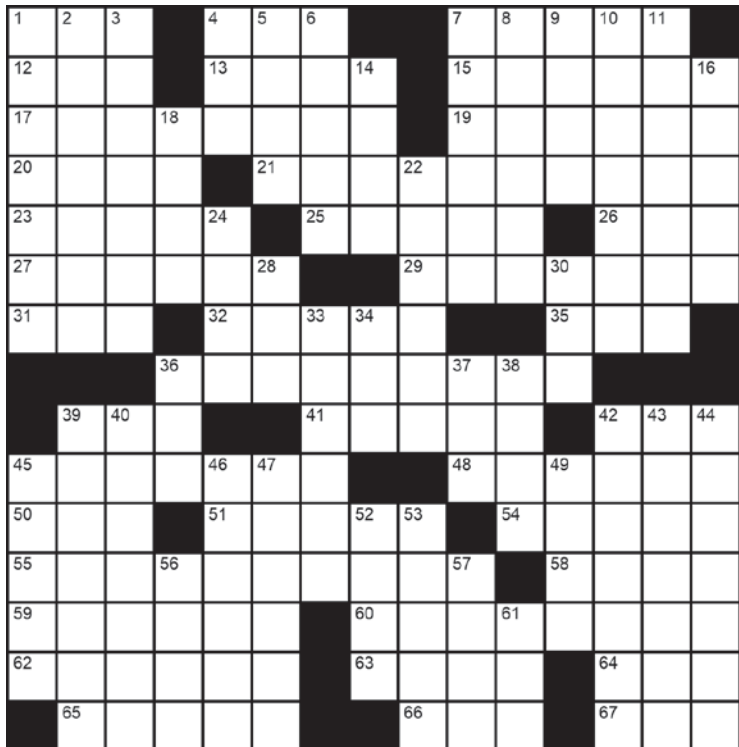
- words)
- 27 “Romeo and Juliet” locale
- 29 Delta follower
- 31 Relative of a joule
- 32 “Eighth Grade” star Fisher
- 35 One of a deadly seven
- 36 American publishing pioneer who’s not feeling so well?
- 39 6-point plays, for short
- 41 Elgort of the upcoming “West Side Story” remake
- 42 Org. that holds Renaissance Fairs
- 45 Get ready early?
- 48 Long-lasting lighters
- 50 “This Side of Paradise” singer Ocasek
- 51 Magnus Carlsen’s game
- 54 Goes bad
- 55 Someone who seeks out either British singer Murs or a vitamin and supplement company?
- 58 Prefix before directional
- 59 Swiss psychologist who studied object permanence
- 60 Booboo for an extended amount of time?
- 62 Flashing effect that may

- require a warning
- 63 Monetary unit of Chile
- 64 “Sister Act” extra
- 65 “___ Boomer” (1980s TV dog drama)
- 66 Chihuahua of cartoons
- 67 “___ up to you”

Down

- 1 Processing speed measured in some desktops
- 2 Mundane
- 3 Tinting reddish-yellow, as with earth tones
- 4 Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby
- 5 “Eternals” director Chloe
- 6 “I Got You Babe” singer
- 7 ‘50s music genre
- 8 Post-wedding relatives
- 9 Hefty swallow
- 10 Dessert mentioned in “The Godfather”
- 11 Words before “our mobile app”, for delivery services
- 14 IKEA storage box series that sounds destined to jam up?
- 16 “Beyond the Sea” singer Bobby
- 18 Tiny buzzer

- 22 Gives a snotty look
- 24 “Hamilton” highlight
- 28 Nothing antithesis
- 30 Neighbor of Syr.
- 33 Bond preference?
- 34 Quarterback Book of the New Orleans Saints
- 36 NetZero, once
- 37 Candy from a character?
- 38 Yale alums
- 39 Structure of three stones, like some parts of Stonehenge
- 40 Reveal to a customs inspector
- 42 Italian ice cream with multiple flavors
- 43 Really hard snack to eat?
- 44 Distributes, as tasks
- 45 Stage accessories
- 46 “Things Fall Apart” novelist Chinua ___
- 47 Ladders’ partners
- 49 It may have a shallow end
- 52 Eight-sided message at a four-way intersection
- 53 Ninja Turtles setting
- 56 Bela Lugosi’s role in “Son of Frankenstein” (spelled differently from other appearances of this character!)
- 57 Gain in status
- 61 365 billion days
- © 2021 Matt Jones



R&R answer from pg 43 of 12/2



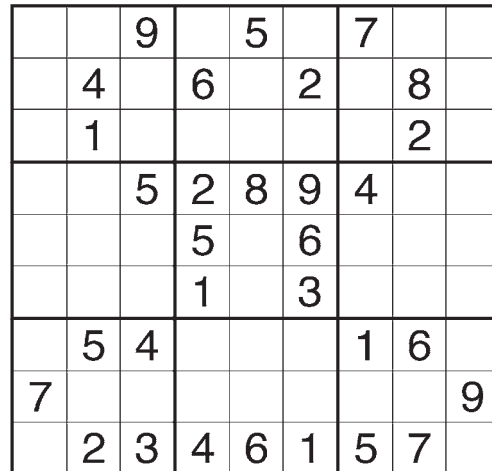
Jonesin’ answer from pg 44 of 12/2



NITE SUDOKU

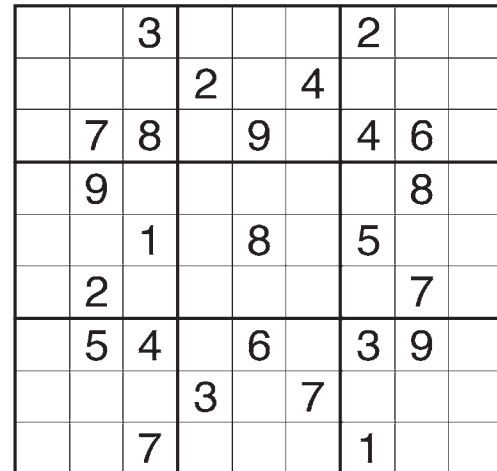
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 42.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

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Fri, Dec. 10th - Mr. Doctor Pepper on Steel Drums
Sat, Dec. 11th - Off Duty Angels Trio

Sunday Dec. 12th
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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Flavor*, by Yotam Ottolenghi, born Dec. 14, 1968, and Ixta Belfrage.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *The question of ‘What’s needed?’ in a dish was, so often, answered with ‘chile heat.’ Consider it.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *What would bitter cocoa powder be, after all, without its very opposite, sweet sugar? Satisfaction is about the combination, the layering, the contrast of tastes. Actually cocoa powder doesn’t have to be bitter.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Our ‘regular’ Fresno or serenade chiles score between 2,500 and 8,000 [Scoville units]. There’s always quite a range because the amount of capsaicin in individual chiles of the same type can vary dramatically. The same, but different!*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Sandwiches are, arguably, the ultimate elevation of the most everyday of ingredients — bread — by virtue of what it’s paired with. Elevate your bread. P.S. You can do this by using really good bread. There are some amazing breads out there.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Mushrooms growing under chestnut trees will taste of chestnut and soil. Mushrooms growing under pine trees will taste of pine and soil. Grow, you.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Vegetable-focused meals are flexible by their very nature. Flex your veggies.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *The same oils that make nuts so appealing also make them go rancid quite easily. ... Unfortunately, no amount of toasting or blitzing is able to undo rancid or floury! Think ahead.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *If you are*

making a batch of something for a recipe, it’s often worth doubling or tripling the quantities so that you have some at the ready. ... If you are scaling up a recipe, you’ll probably need to increase pan or bowl size and cooking time accordingly. Might as well scale up.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *...the smell of an onion — or its relatives, shallot or leek — being cooked is one of expectation and promise: a meal is underway! If you’re going to hover in the kitchen, offer to help out.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *The umpteenth way to cook the beloved cauliflower didn’t just present itself out of thin air. Creative effort pays off.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Here, mushrooms fill every conceivable party role: host and guest, DJ and dancer. You’re going to love filling multiple roles.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Behind so many delicious dishes, there’s often an onion or two at work. Shoutout to behind-the-scenes workers. 🍷*

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

- 1 “Twas brillig ...” poem (11)
- 2 be a nitpicker (7)
- 3 Belize’s sea (9)
- 4 hedges (9)
- 5 place for a knickknack (9)
- 6 lack of stability (10)
- 7 overly timid (8)

SOLUTIONS

BBLE	UBBE	RIBB	ESS	OCKY
WOB	NEBB	JAB	CU	RY
SHR	BLIN	QUI	BBY	HO
CA	BERW	ISHY	LE	EAN

12/5
Last Week's Answers: 1. SUPPORTED 2. DRIVING 3. SECRETLY 4. ABANDONED 5. OUTDATED 6. JAILED 7. RALLY

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	LABELLE AMHERST	LABELLE DERRY
JAN 20	Announcing Soon!	Joshua Tree The U2 Experience
JAN 27		The Corvettes Doo Wop Revue
FEB 3	Ca\$h Only Jammin' on Johnny Cash	Announcing Soon!
FEB 10	Announcing Soon!	Bennie & The Jets Elton John Tribute
FEB 17		Good Acoustics James Taylor and Simon & Garfunkel
FEB 24	The Corvettes Doo Wop Revue	Hot Tamale Brass Band New Orleans Dixieland Jazz
MAR 3	Illusionist Ben Pratt	No Shoes Nation Band
MAR 17	Comedian Christine Hurley	Takin' It to the Streets: Doobie Brothers Tribute
MAR 24	The Eagles Experience	Studio Two Beatlemania
MAR 31		Panorama The Music of the Cars
APR 7	No Shoes Nation Band	Big Surprise! To be announced on February 13



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Sudoku Answers from pg44 of 12/2

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty Level ★

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Cuteness alert

The Flower Mound Rebels, a youth football team in Texas, won't be in the playoffs this year, NBC News reported. The Rebels, composed of 7- and 8-year-olds, are "too good" for their league, boasting a perfect record and having outscored their opponents 199-6, according to Keller Youth Association Vice President Rhett Taylor. "They are a select-level team." He said if the team had competed in the league's super bowl, he would have caught it from parents of other teams. Center Greyson Tanner, 8, reported being "very sad" about the ruling.

That's So Haute

Politix, a menswear brand in Australia, celebrated Movember (when men grow mustaches to raise awareness of men's health care concerns) with a special suit of clothing made of mustache hair, Oddity Central reported. The Mo-Hair suit's fabric was made by Melbourne artist Pamela Kleeman-Passi, who collected hair from salons and individuals. "When hair is on your head, it looks really beautiful," she said. "But when it's off the body, it immediately becomes disgusting ... I'm interested in the polarity between what's really voluptuous and what's really repulsive." If you're interested in the Mo-Hair suit, sorry: It isn't commercially available.

'Educational' toy

Ania Tanner, a grandmother from Ontario, Canada, found a cute singing and dancing cactus on the Walmart website and purchased it for her granddaughter, CTV News reported. The animated \$26 toy sings in three languages: English, Spanish and Polish. But when Tanner, who is Polish, listened to the Polish lyrics, she was shocked: "This toy uses swear words and talking about cocaine use. This is not what I ordered for my granddaughter. I was in shock. I thought, what is this, some kind of joke?" The Polish song is by rapper Cypis, who didn't give permission for the use of his song by the Chinese manufacturer of the item. For its part, Walmart said the toy is sold by a third-party vendor and will be removed while they investigate.

Awesome!

• Swedish meatballs for everyone! A snowstorm that dumped about 12 inches in Aalborg, Denmark, on the evening of Dec. 1 forced about 30 people to spend the night in an Ikea store, Pix11-TV reported. Store manager Peter Elmoose said customers and employees slept "in the furniture exhibitions and our showroom on the first floor, where we have beds, mattresses and sofa beds," giving shoppers the chance to "pick the exact bed they have always

wanted to try. It's been a good night. All fun."

• The Tan Hill Inn in northern England — Britain's highest-altitude pub — drew a big crowd on Nov. 26 for the Oasis cover band Noasis. But when heavy snow and dangerous wind conditions hit the remote pub, more than 60 people were stranded there, with the exits blocked and vehicles buried, NPR reported. People slept on the floor and mattresses and ate Yorkshire pudding while playing games and watching movies. Noasis missed their next gig, in Essex, but everyone was able to leave the inn by Nov. 29 with a great story to tell.

Oops!

Twenty-year-old Lucy Battle of Burnley, England, nearly threw out the baby with the bathwater ... er, with the sofa, recently. Battle posted an ad on Facebook Marketplace about her sofa, with the caption "Need gone today," but she accidentally posted a photo of her 7-month-old son, Oscar, rather than of the furniture, Leeds Live reported. "I just somehow managed to upload the wrong photo ... I didn't expect it to go so far!" Battle said. One user commented, "Can I swap for a teenager?" But Battle isn't budging: "I don't want to give away my child."

Bright Idea

In Greenwood, South Carolina, firefighters responded on Nov. 28 to the Morningside assisted living facility, where several rounds of ammunition, which had apparently been stored in a toaster oven, discharged and caught a resident's apartment on fire. WSPA-TV reported that employees initially believed a shooter was on the property when they heard the shots, but the room's resident was found unconscious and suffering from smoke inhalation. The fire was extinguished, and no other apartments were damaged.

People with too much time on their hands — or, try the decaf

Mark Smith of Cass County, Missouri, filed a class-action lawsuit in late November against Folgers Coffee Co. and its parent company, J.M. Smucker, for misleading label information about the serving sizes and quantity of coffee in its canisters. Smith says the company has "grossly misinterpreted the number of cups of coffee" that can be made from a container, calling it a "classic and unlawful bait-and-switch scheme," The Kansas City Star reported. Folgers rebutted by saying that the label offers two ways to make coffee, and its label uses the words "up to" when describing how much a canister could make.

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 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11



BLESSID UNION OF SOULS
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12



WYNONNA JUDD
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17



MASTERS OF THE TELECASTER
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18



ADAM EZRA GROUP
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31



FORTUNE
 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7



LENNY CLARKE
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 8



BEATLEJUICE
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

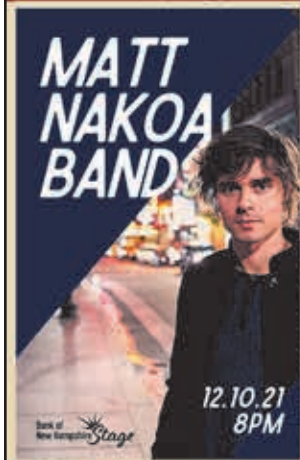


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 FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

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MATT NAKO BAND
 12.10.21
 8PM

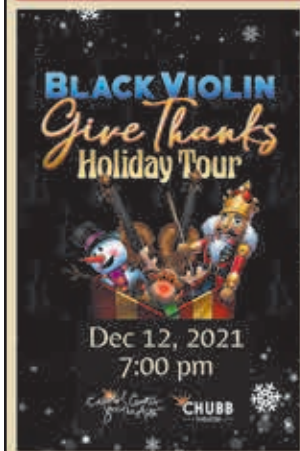


ZACH DEPUTY
 RED MOON TOUR
 12.11.21 | 8PM



CHEVY CHASE
 SAT, DEC 11 7PM

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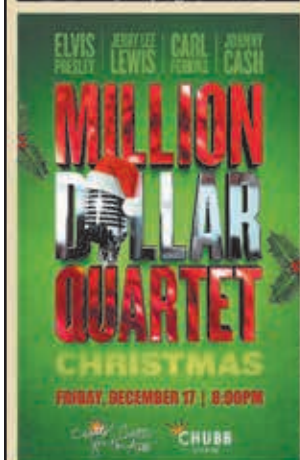
BLACK VIOLIN
 Give Thanks
 Holiday Tour
 Dec 12, 2021
 7:00 pm



GREG & THE MORNING BUZZ
 Ball
 DEC 16



Winter Solstice Mini-Fest
 Featuring Matt Flinner & Low Lily
 12.17.21



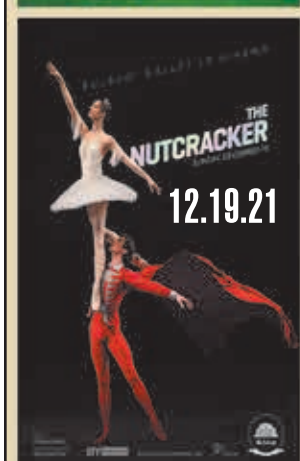
MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
 CHRISTMAS
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 | 8:00PM



Ripe
 12.18.21
 8PM



PUDDLES PITY PARTY
 UNSEQUESTERED SHOW
 LIVE!
 12-18-21
 8PM



THE NUTCRACKER
 12.19.21



CAPITAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA
 Holiday Pops
 12.19.21
 4:00PM



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