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DECEMBER 16 - 22, 2021

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LOVERS P. 44

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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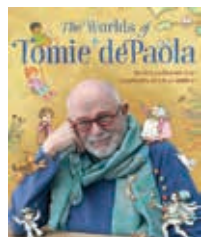
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GRANITE VIEWS **STEPHEN RENO**

Lights and beginnings



Following closely the end of daylight saving time comes my recognition of just how much shorter are the passing days. Activities are now more narrowly confined to daylight hours and for some of us even the prospect of driving much after dark is less and less attractive. As soon as those realities set in for me, I begin to long for spring. Call it the foolishness of a native Californian now living for more than 50 years in New England, but truth to tell, I do feel a kinship with those peoples across time who found ways of bringing light into these darkened days.

I write this on the first Sunday of Advent, which at sunset is also the beginning of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Both Christians and Jews light candles — the Advent wreath and the menorah respectively — (and again respectively) to prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas and to commemorate the rededication of the Second Temple.

In these days, also dark owing to the persistent lingering of the pandemic, those ancient traditions and observances carry even more significance and appeal. They can bring some sense of order to a very disordered time. How often do we hear ourselves say we hope for a return to normalcy? We are impatient for things to be set right, to have a kind of spring-time in which we can carry on as we were able to do before.

In some religious traditions, symbols have such power that they actually bring about what it is they symbolize. Such are called “sacraments.” The word comes from Roman antiquity and refers to the oath a new soldier took, while grasping the Roman standard, the swearing itself making him “sacer,” “given to the gods.” In our own times as well, gestures can bring about what they symbolize: the placing of a wedding ring, for example.

I wonder if the religious ceremonies of lighting Advent candles or Hanukkah candles can be for us our individual attempts to bring order, hope and peace into our lives and those of others. We know the visual impact of hundreds, if not thousands, of individual lights held aloft at a concert. Might our own lightings be illuminative of our way — individually and collectively — into a brighter time? It would be a beginning. As the poet John O’Donohue says so beautifully, “We are never alone in our beginning as it might seem at the time, A beginning is ultimately an invitation to open toward the gifts and growth that are stored up for us.”

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Hippo reporter Matt Ingersoll gets a feel for skydiving, with a little help from instructor Kevin Drivas. Photo courtesy of SkyVenture NH.

ON THE COVER

10 THRILL RIDE Tap into your adventurous side without actually jumping out of a plane! We tried indoor skydiving and surfing, smashing things at Rage Cage NH and pole dancing for fitness and fun. The results? Worth it.

ALSO ON THE COVER, it's time to rethink kale, p. 22. Find good eats for New Year's Eve, p. 30. And for the music lovers in your life, consider these gifts, p. 44.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

During a Dec. 8 press conference, Gov. Chris Sununu announced that the state will be deploying 70 members of the National Guard in the coming weeks to assist hospitals in managing their current Covid surge, helping out with everything from food service to clerical tasks. Hospitals in New Hampshire are continuing to see record numbers of Covid patients since the start of the pandemic — a total of 479 were reported on Dec. 9, an all-time high.

About 12,000 Granite Staters received their booster doses on Dec. 11 as part of the state's "Booster Blitz" initiative, according to a report from WMUR. Shots were administered at 15 locations statewide, the largest of which was in Stratham. According to the report, officials are planning to host a similar event in January, on a date to be determined.

On Dec. 13, state health officials identified the first known detection of the omicron variant in a New Hampshire resident. According to a press release, the infection is in an adult from Cheshire County who traveled out of state and was exposed to another person with the variant. The resident, who was considered fully vaccinated but was not yet boosted, had a mild illness and has since recovered during home isolation. No public or occupational exposures to the variant have been identified. Since it was first reported in South Africa on Nov. 24, the omicron variant has spread to several dozen U.S. states and more than 70 countries worldwide. Ninety-nine percent of Covid infections in the state are currently due to the delta variant, but according to the release, the omicron variant is likely more

infectious and may become the dominant strain.

Affordable housing

The Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen has approved \$2.3 million to develop affordable housing units in the Queen City using funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME program. According to a press release, three organizations will use the funds to build or upgrade 152 affordable housing units. Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority will construct 48 one-, two- and three-bedroom units in two 24-unit buildings on the Kelley Falls apartment campus. Neighborworks Southern New Hampshire will rehabilitate and upgrade 101 one-, two-, and three-bedroom units of existing affordable housing units in the Elm Street brownstones and the Straw Mansion apartments. And Waypoint was approved to renovate the former Employment Security building to create three studio apartments for at-risk adults ages 18 to 25. "With these projects, we're focusing on addressing homelessness and making sure families, seniors on a fixed income, and those with disabilities have access to safe, affordable housing," Mayor Joyce Craig said in the release.

Cancer in Merrimack

An analysis of data from the New Hampshire State Cancer Registry has found "a higher than expected number of people with kidney and renal cancers in Merrimack between 2009 and 2018 than would typically be observed in a town of similar size in New Hampshire," according to a press release from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. The analysis

is an update to the 2018 DHHS Report on Cancer in Merrimack that was conducted in response to concerns following detection of PFOA in the Merrimack Village District Public Water System. According to the release, the new data does not provide sufficient information at this time to "draw any conclusions about the individuals who have kidney and renal cancer in Merrimack and any specific exposure." The analysis is part of a multi-step process with the residents of Merrimack and the state Department of Environmental Services to better understand cancers in their community. An upcoming meeting (details TBA) will allow community members to share further information. "While this preliminary data does not necessarily indicate the presence of a cancer cluster, any data that points to the possibility of increased illness in our communities warrants closer examination," Division of Public Health Director Patricia Tilley said in the release. "We will be seeking input from individuals affected by these cancers, community leaders and members of the Commission on the Environmental and Public Health Impacts of Perfluorinated Chemicals as we continue with our investigation."

House meeting

The New Hampshire House of Representatives will meet off-site for their constitutionally required meeting in early January, according to a press release. The meeting, which starts Jan. 5 and is expected to last three days, will be in the exposition center in the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown. The 30,000-square-foot space will allow legislators to be seated in a socially distanced floor

The Manchester Health Department is now holding free walk-in Covid-19 vaccination and booster clinics. According to a press release, all three vaccines will be available during the clinics, which are Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. and Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. No appointments are necessary. The department is also bringing mobile clinics to priority populations most days this month, and there is free drive-up or walk-up Covid testing at Hunt Pool (297 Maple St.), seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the release said.

A Tri-State Megabucks ticket sold at the Circle K on 185 First NH Turnpike in **Northwood** was a \$1.825 million winner in the Dec. 8 drawing. According to a press release, the winner will get either a one-time cash payout of \$1,320,068 or graduated annuity payments over 30 years, and Circle K will get \$18,250 for selling the winning ticket.

A man from Michigan is dead after the turboprop plane he was piloting crashed along the Merrimack River in **Bedford** around 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. According to a press release from the Bedford Police Department, the plane was transporting medical supplies from New Jersey and was headed to Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, and the pilot, who was flying alone, reported engine trouble just before the crash.

plan, with sections for those who want to wear masks and sections where masks are optional. The space is bigger than the UNH location where the legislators met in 2020; the NH Sportsplex in Bedford, which served as the legislature's temporary session location in 2021, is not available for the January meeting. "With hospitalizations at record levels and community transmission still high, the responsible thing to do is to maintain health and safety protocols for our legislators and hold off on returning to the House chamber, at least for now," Speaker of the House Sherman Packard said in the release.

Build Back Better

Manchester has been named as a finalist for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration Build Back Better Regional Challenge, which was created to help communities throughout the country "build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future

economic shocks," according to a press release. Manchester's application takes advantage of the region's investments in the life sciences and aerospace industries by securing two job tracks, Tissue Engineering and Advanced Aerial Mobility, which have the potential to create 7,500 to 15,000 jobs and increase the rate of GDP growth by more than 30 percent, the release said. The city would be working in partnership with the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, Southern New Hampshire University, the University of New Hampshire Manchester, the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and the Manchester Transit Authority. It is one of 60 projects that made it into the final round out of 529 projects that were submitted, the release said. Each finalist will get approximately \$500,000 to further develop their projects and will then compete in Phase 2, which will award 20 to 30 regional coalitions up to \$100 million each to implement anywhere from three to eight projects that support a specific industry.

Covid-19 update	As of Dec 6	As of Dec 13
Total cases statewide	169,219	178,099
Total current infections statewide	9,671	9,086
Total deaths statewide	1,744	1,788
New cases	8,932 (Nov. 30 to Dec. 6)	8,880 (Dec. 7 to Dec. 13)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	2,436 (as of Dec. 3)	2,576
Current infections: Merrimack County	923 (as of Dec. 3)	1,115
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,580 (as of Dec. 3)	1,780

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


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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Gifts from the heart

Charitable giving for the holiday season

Melinda Mosier, director of donor services at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, talked about charitable giving and how you can support New Hampshire's nonprofits this holiday season and year-round.

Q: *What are some of the biggest needs in the state right now?*

The ongoing pandemic and its effects mean that basic needs are even more acute — food, housing, health care and child care. The pandemic has taken a huge toll on children and youth, and put many kids and families into crisis, so programs that provide mentoring, after-school care and mental health care for children really need help. Organizations that support dialogue and protect civil rights, democracy and racial justice are playing a critical role for our communities and are in need of support.



Melinda Mosier. Photo by Cheryl Senter.

With so many different areas of need, how does someone decide on a cause to support?

Consider the areas of greatest needs in the state and think about where you most want to help, then select ... based on your priorities.

Once they've narrowed that down, how do they find local organizations to give to?

When you have identified priority areas for your giving, it becomes easier to identify and connect with the nonprofits doing great work on those issues in New Hampshire and likely right in your own backyard — the local food pantry, an after-school program or performing arts center, or a local conservation group. Visit their websites to learn more.

Why should someone donate to a local organization versus a national one?

Both are worthy of charitable gifts, of course, but if you give to the local chapter, your dollars will circulate locally and have more of a local impact, improving the well-being of New Hampshire residents and boosting the local economy. It's the same principle as buying local.

How do charitable organizations typically use donations?

If you believe in what your local food pantry is doing, or in the mission of your local art museum or homeless shelter, give to support its whole mission rather than restricting your donation for a specific project or purpose. A food pantry needs food, of course, but it also needs to keep the electricity running. ... An art museum needs a building, and it also needs programming to bring art ... into the community. A homeless shelter needs warm blankets, of course, but it also needs staff,

and hand sanitizer and masks to keep people safe. Unrestricted donations are most valuable because they can be put to use where they are most critically needed.

How important is the holiday season for local charities?

Nationally, about a third of all charitable giving happens in December, but nonprofits all over New Hampshire rely on generosity ... all year round, and now, more than ever before, nonprofits need our help. We hope people will give as generously as they can this holiday season and all year long to help New Hampshire's nonprofits ... make our communities strong.

How can people maximize their giving?

Making larger gifts to fewer organizations allows you to have a greater impact on an area of critical work. ... Consider consolidating, giving a higher-impact gift to one or two organizations. ... If you run a company, consider matching employees' year-end gifts. Matching gifts not only drives increased giving; it helps build a culture of giving in your business and camaraderie among your team. You can also choose a nonprofit that is doing work you care deeply about and ask people to give to it in your name as a gift [to you]. You could also consider making a gift to a nonprofit as a meaningful holiday gift for family and friends.

What are some ways that people can give other than monetary donations?

Giving financial resources is critically important, and so is giving of your time and passion and expertise. Volunteer opportunities abound to give by doing. ... Volunteer.org has a search engine that can be filtered by region, issue, and even by family-friendly volunteer opportunities.

— Angie Sykeny

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Celtics disappointing so far



After a summer of big changes I waited to give my outlook for the Celtics until I'd seen them play for a while. They were a "wait and see" proposition for me, so I reserved judgment until 20 games had been played. And while they remain riddled with

uncertainty, after their first 27 games I do have a better handle on their strengths and weaknesses and a sense of where they are headed by year's end.

So here's an assessment of who they are after returning home last Saturday morning at 13-14 after a dismal 1-4 trip to the left coast.

Biggest weaknesses: (1) Consistency. So far it's been game to game whether they're going to bring effort to deliver the A game or not. In Portland last Saturday, yes; vs. L.A. in the next one, no. (2) 3-point shooting. It's not that they're shooting 33.4 percent (24th in the NBA); it's recognizing what is a good one and what isn't. (3) Mental toughness. Their wins usually happen when the talent kicks in, but when it doesn't there aren't enough guys who tighten the screws to grind through bad times. (4) A true point guard. **Dennis Schroder** is the closest thing, so Earth to Ime: Start him until you trade for one.

Jayson Tatum: I've been saying for two years now he's their biggest strength and biggest weakness. That's because he has No. 1 player talent, but it comes with the head of a No. 2 player. That means he's more **Kevin McHale**, who never would have been as good as he became if **Larry Bird**'s competitive personality hadn't been driving the bus. Said in wins and losses: Bird turned a 29-win team into 61-win team his rookie year, while they went from 57 to 42 when McHale was the star as Bird missed most of 1988-89. Tatum was a good fit with the Olympic team because it had strong leaders like **Kevin Durant** and that let him just play. The dilemma: Do you move him to get a best player who's a stronger leader? Or since the talent is so extreme and getting better (he leads the team with 8.3 rebounds per too) find a stronger personality to pair with him? Or maybe fill the team with that type of guy to make the need not as extreme. Unless there's the perfect deal out there that I can't find, I'd do option 3.

Jaylen Brown: He's been hurt most of the season, and mostly shot/played poorly when he did play. He also has not improved his handle in traffic, which is still weak. The silver lining is that it's showed how they play without him as they contemplate changes. On the other hand, his 41-point game on opening night at MSG showed just how dynamic he can be.

Al Horford: He remains a versatile defender, but he's mainly trade bait for a contender at the deadline.

Dennis Schroder: He has brought both the feisty attitude and the penetration they desper-

ately need. Their best games have been when he has started at point guard, partly because it moves **Marcus Smart** off the ball, where he does much more damage without the responsibility of running the offense.

Marcus Smart: Unless everyone else has fouled out, and I mean everyone, it would be Smart to keep Marcus away from running any offense. To do that, keep him and Schroder starting and bring Brown off the bench, which also gives real offensive juice to the second team.

Rob Williams: Everyone loves the lob dunks he gets to above the box, even me. But I like his rebounding and shot-blocking shots better. However, he's already missed seven of the first 27 with knee soreness and never played more than 59 games, so his durability is a major question mark.

Romeo Langford: When he comes into a game the clueless expression on his face makes me think he has no idea what city he's even in. But while he's far from perfect, the FG percent is over 50 percent and he's shooting over 40 percent from international waters, so there are signs he may be coming around. So play him more.

Grant Williams: He makes the all-clinic team because he always plays hard, rarely is in the wrong spot, takes charge and has worked hard to improve his 3-point shooting to a team-leading 43 percent. All deserve a pat on the back, so I've got nothing against him. The problem is he's too short for his position, so he's easy to shoot over and too slow to cover the smaller guys.

Other young guys: No one else has shown me anything, including **Aaron Nesmith**, an alleged 3-point shooter who can't shoot 3's (25.5 percent), and **Payton Pritchard**, who dribbles more than a 2-year-old at breakfast.

Ime Udoka: He's had some glaring game/player management mistakes that make you wonder. Not ready to pull the ripcord yet, but I've yet to see one thing that makes me think they made the right choice.

Projected finish: They're, at best, a 42- or 43-win team that likely will be in the play-in round. But the Eastern Conference could have as many as 11 teams finishing .500 or above, so it'll be close. Regardless, they won't get by Round 2, unless Tatum has a totally dominant spring.

So what do you do? After blowing their chance in 2017 to move into the Top Four, they need to dig out. But after squandering a 10-deep roster and eight first-round draft picks over the next three years it won't be easy. First they need to identify how they want to play and which players will remain to build around — a process that would be under way if I were the GM or owned the team. We'll get to that after the holidays in advance of the February trade deadline.

For now, lower expectations and don't bang your head on the coffee table too often during the bad games.

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Recipe created by Hannaford Dietitian, Mary Lavanway. Inspired by the yummy Turmeric Latte at Wicked Brew Cafe in Bangor, Maine.



NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Moose plate money

Fifteen projects aimed at protecting and restoring New Hampshire's natural resources have been awarded a total of \$379,913 in funding from the New Hampshire State Conservation Committee's 2022 Conservation Moose Plate Grant Program. According to a press release, projects include the Potter Family Farm in Concord (\$30,000); Supporting Soil Health Management in Hillsborough County (\$29,648); Improving Aquatic Organism Passage at Rocky Pond in Loudon and Canterbury (\$30,000); Making No-Till Practices Accessible Through Rental Equipment in Merrimack County (\$27,000); and Killam-Hog Hill Brook in Atkinson (\$10,000).

Score: +1

Comment: *The funds come from the sale of moose plates, which vehicle owners can buy for \$38 the first year and \$30 in the following years when renewing or registering a vehicle, according to the release.*

Decking the halls, again

The coffee shop at Saint Anselm College got a dose of Christmas kindness recently, according to a report from WMUR. After holiday decorations were stolen from the shop's entrance, students stepped up and replaced them — and then some. "A bunch of the students came in with a humongous amount of gifts and gift cards for my staff, for me personally, Christmas decoration wreaths, you could not believe the stuff they came in with," Terry Newcomb of Saint Anselm Dining Services, who decorates the coffee shop each year, told WMUR. "They were all thanking me for the hard work I have done for them."

Score: +1

Comment: *The coffee shop won Saint Anselm's annual holiday decorating contest this year; WMUR reported.*

Express yourself

The Magnify Voices Expressive Arts Contest is back for its fourth year, encouraging kids in grades 5 through 12 to express their experiences with mental health. One in six New Hampshire youth experiences a mental health disorder each year, and in 2020, 57 percent of Granite Staters with depression ages 12 to 17 did not receive any care, the release said. Submissions for the contest, which was created to help raise awareness and remove the stigma around mental health issues, will be accepted starting Dec. 15, according to a press release. Submissions will be accepted through March 4 and can be short films (two minutes or less), essays or poems (1,000 words or less) or visual art, a song or a sculpture.

Score: +1

Comment: *"Last year's submissions were extremely personal and powerful, and epitomized the purpose of why we started Magnify Voices," Michele Watson, Magnify Voices committee chair, said in the release. "[It] gives youth a creative outlet to share their feelings and emotions."*

Paying it forward

Chris LaPage, a Concord Banks Chevrolet service technician, and his wife, Deborah, are making sure people in their community have the chance to learn CPR after it saved his life. According to a press release, LaPage was found unconscious at work one day last May; with the guidance of a 911 dispatcher, an employee was able to resuscitate him at the scene with the use of an Automated External Defibrillator and Compression Only CPR. LaPage returned to work full time two and a half months after his cardiac arrest and since then has taken a CPR course and received certification. Deborah LaPage, who works for the Epsom Elementary School, did as well, and the two have provided training and CPR certifications for the school basketball coaches and are advocating for the addition of CPR instruction to the eighth-grade curriculum, the release said.

Score: +1

Comment: *Banks Chevrolet has installed five additional AEDs and sent about two dozen staff members to the American Red Cross training, the release said.*

QOL score: 78

Net change: 82

QOL this week: +4

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

75

50

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 16 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 18

It's the last weekend of pre-Christmas craft fairs!

• **Bazaar Craft Fairs** will hold a **Holiday Crafts and Vendor Fair** today from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Eagles Wing Function Hall (10 Spruce St. in Nashua), featuring more than 35 vendors, according to the event's Facebook page.

• **Pipe Dream Brewing** (49 Harvey Road in Londonderry; pipedreambrewingnh.com, 404-0751) will host its annual **Holiday Craft Fair** today from noon to 5 p.m.



"Ugly X-Mas Sweater Party" at 7 p.m., featuring contests, giveaways and live music by the Rock Junkies, according to the website.

Saturday, Dec. 18

Another chance to wear that sweater: The sixth annual **Ugly Sweater 4 Miler** will be held today at 9 a.m. at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road in Manchester). The cost for this 21+ event is \$40 and includes a Tito's Handmade Vodka ugly sweater for the first 75 registrants. All registrants get a unisex-fit long-sleeve shirt and one Tito's Handmade Vodka signature cocktail. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society of Greater Nashua, the Animal Rescue League of NH and Pope Memorial SPCA Concord. Visit totalimagerunning.com. Find more charitable runs and discussion of what makes these events a good time in the Nov. 11 cover story on page 10.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

See some classic holiday movies on the big screen this week at the Music Hall (28 Chestnut St. in Portsmouth; themusichall.org, 436-2400). Today, *White Christmas* (1954) screens at 3 p.m. and *Love Actually* (R, 2003) screens at 7 p.m. Tomorrow, Wednesday, Dec. 22, catch *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) at 3 and 7 p.m. And on Thursday, Dec. 23, it's *The Grinch* (PG, 2018) at 3 p.m. and *Last Christmas* (PG-13, 2019) at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for 60+.

Thursday, Dec. 23

Get Christmas with the **Spain Brothers**, who will be joined by **Green Heron**, tonight at 7 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588). Tickets cost \$29. 🎵



Save (it for later) the date:

March 24, 2022

The **English Beat** will play the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) on Thursday, March 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$40.

Thursday, Dec. 16

The Peacock Players present *A Christmas Carol: An Original Live Radio Play* at the Court Street Theatre (14 Court St. in Nashua; peacockplayers.org) tonight and Friday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec.

18, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$19.

Friday, Dec. 17

Angel City Music Hall (179 Elm St. in Manchester; angelcitymusichall.com) will hold its

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THRILL

**SKYDIVING WITHOUT A PLANE
SURFING THE INDOOR WAVES
AND OTHER WAYS TO GET
OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE**

RIDES

Looking for adventure? This week, our reporters go outside their comfort zone to get the thrill of new experiences.

Actually, some of these adventures started way before this week. Matt and Angie first started looking into their subjects way back in early 2020 and this story was slated to run in the issue of March 19, 2020 — an issue which ended up focused on a whole different type of new experience.

But now, nearly two years later, who couldn't use a little adventure that is purely fun? So this week, Matt Ingersoll brings you skydiving and surfing — without leaving Nashua. Angie Sykeny takes a more daring (and physically challenging) approach to fitness. And Meghan Siegler gets to break stuff.

The sky's the limit

Indoor skydiving and surfing at Nashua's SkyVenture

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

I've never jumped out of an airplane, nor hung ten on a surfboard — two basic facts about myself that made a trip to SkyVenture NH in Nashua seem fitting for this assignment.

SkyVenture opened in 2006, first offering indoor skydiving before adding indoor surfing in 2013 (under the name Surf's Up NH). The top of the facility is visible from the bustle of Daniel Webster Highway, and while I had driven by thousands of times but had never set foot inside prior to writing this story, I have to admit that it had always intrigued me.

Owners and founders Laurie and Rob Greer told me their customers are usually one of two significant pools of people — experienced skydivers (or surfers) who are looking to improve their skills, or anyone who has ever been curious about what it's like to try either one. I'm in the latter. I grew up always being around the water, and while I don't exactly love heights, I'd be lying if I said I've never wondered what skydiving is like (not enough to actually do it, mind you, but hey, I'm game to try a safe, not-so-far-from-the-ground simulated version).

A wave of nervous excitement passed through me as I arrived in early March 2020 to try out skydiving and surfing. The staff highly recommends booking your sessions in advance, due to the time slots filling up fast, and also asks that you show up at least 30 to 45 minutes beforehand to complete a preliminary safety class.

When I reported to the front desk, I was directed to a series of touch-screen tablets mounted in the lobby, where all participants must sign a waiver (or, if you're under 18, the parents of the child sign it). For safety reasons, there actually are a fair number of restrictions for both skydiving and surfing. For example, you must weigh under 250 pounds to skydive (275 pounds to surf), you must not be under the influence of any drugs or alcohol, and you must not be pregnant — none of which disqualified me. There is an additional attraction next to the wave machine called the "fish pipe," or a large rotating barrel you climb into that simulates the feeling of a very fast and endless water slide. Because of the motion associated with it, the fish pipe is not an activity for people with high blood pressure, prior head injuries or epilepsy. This is all part of the waiver that customers need to read carefully before they can participate.

Sky high

After I signed the waiver, I headed upstairs for my skydiving session, which began with the safety class. It was here where I met Kevin Drivas, my instructor,

who has more than a decade of skydiving experience (you know, the real, jump-out-of-an-airplane kind) to his credit.

Drivas explained to me that because he and I wouldn't be able to hear each other over the sound of the wind in the tunnel, we would communicate with each other through a few hand signals. If I forgot the signals, a teleprompter was also there to provide instructions during my flight. Drivas then demonstrated the way I should position my body as I entered the tunnel — holding both arms out in front of me, with my hands flat and my legs straight. It was also important that I not jump into the wind tunnel, but rather slowly lean into it as I let the force of the wind carry me up.

Because I was the only one participating for this particular session, the class only took a few minutes before it was time to get into my "skydiving" gear. Drivas handed me a pair each of elbow and knee pads that I dutifully put on, followed by laced sneakers, a heavy purple and black jumpsuit that I comfortably wore over my clothes, a helmet, a pair of safety goggles that replaced my glasses, and a pair of earplugs. I was ready to learn how to fly.

I followed Drivas a few feet away to the enclosed wind tunnel, and that was when that wave of nerves rose in my stomach again. I think it was the fact that I wasn't going to be attached to any harness or mechanism that made me the most nervous — just suspended literally in midair inside a 40-foot tunnel by recirculatory winds rushing at more than 100 miles per hour. According to the Greers, professional skydivers must train in an indoor facility such as this one to prepare for competitions, so I think it was that fact in and of itself that racked my nerves a bit.

Insert the cliched phrase "don't look down," as that definitely applied here. I found myself actively trying not to do just that as I leaned into the rushing air with my arms out in front of me.

A split second later, I felt my body rising until suddenly my feet were off the ground. I felt Drivas's hands around my torso as he steered me to the center of the wind tunnel.

Now admittedly, it took a few tries before Drivas could let go of me completely. He would later tell me that this was due to my nerves kicking into overdrive the second I entered the tunnel. He gave me the hand signal to straighten my legs, but for some reason my brain thought this meant I had to also keep them together, causing my whole body to flip until I was on my back like a turtle on its shell. Another hand signal required me to relax my arms, but I was applying so much tension that they were almost stone-like when Drivas attempted to move them. Because of this, the first two times I entered the tunnel, I had to exit a few seconds later.

CONTINUED ON PG 12 ►



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Matt Ingersoll gets a little support from instructor Danny Hyatt. Photo courtesy of SkyVenture NH.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 11

But you know what they say — third time’s a charm. Somehow, it just clicked for me after that. With my legs straight and my arms up over my head, Drivas was eventually able to get me into a neutral body position inside the tunnel before releasing me. I was flying on my own (albeit for just a few seconds)! It really did feel more like a sensation of floating, rather than free falling. I felt weightless as the wind furiously blew against my face and body, letting it just carry me.

During the last few seconds of my flight, Drivas held on to me again and the air tunnel controller revved up the speed, causing both of us to float even higher up to the top of the

wind chamber. Remember that scene in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* when Charlie Bucket and his Grandpa Joe start to float after trying the Fizzy Lifting Drinks? That’s what it reminded me of (except there was no exhaust fan at the top and we didn’t have to burp our way down, of course).

This was the longest duration of time I was in the wind tunnel, so when I was guided out for the last time, I immediately noticed how dry my mouth was and how out of breath I quickly became. Video of my ascent was captured on a nearby television monitor, and it wasn’t until I viewed it just then that I realized how high I had actually gone up — let’s just say a scary height.

As I began to take off my gear, Drivas

reentered the wind tunnel for a little demo. Within a few seconds, he was doing front flips and backflips in midair like it was second nature to him. Watching him do tricks inside the wind tunnel was, quite honestly, almost as much fun as going in there myself.

Surf’s up

My skydiving session over, I went back down the stairs into the lobby and through a door on the opposite end to the SurfStream wave machine. After changing into my swimsuit and packing my belongings in a locker, I met with Danny Hyatt and Dave Cormier, two of the surfing instructors.

Hyatt asked me if I had ever surfed in the ocean before, and when I answered

“no,” his response was “that’s good,” the reason being that, while the SurfStream is designed to make numerous types of waves, it’s not exactly the same as surfing a natural ocean wave. In the words of Hyatt, whose uncle taught him to surf out on the waters of Hampton Beach when he was a child, “in the ocean you ride the wave, but here, the wave rides you.” I understood what he meant once I climbed on my board for the first time. Unlike the ocean, where you’re waiting for a wave to form, the SurfStream requires you surf on a wave of already flowing water, making your stance and weight distribution on the surfboard that much more critical. Hyatt also demonstrated the way I should position myself when I fall

off the board, by crossing my arms over my chest in an “X,” and with my fingertips touching my shoulders once I knew I would be going down.

Just like for my skydiving experience, I put on a helmet, elbow pads and knee pads. While I was getting prepared, Hyatt and Cormier queued up the SurfStream, and that filled up with rushing water within seconds. According to the Greers, it’s the first machine of its kind to be available in North America and the largest in the world, moving 240,000 gallons of water in a minute. It also has several different settings, accommodating everything from boogie boarding to wakesurfing.

When I was ready to hit the water, I followed Hyatt and Cormier to one side of the Surfstream. Cormier placed my surfboard flat onto the water while Hyatt took his own board out on the waves next to it. My task would be to place my feet onto the board, take Hyatt by the arms and pull myself up to a standing position. He would then guide me out to the middle of the Surfstream and let go of each arm one at a time while I attempted to balance on the waves.

Maybe I just don’t have the greatest sense of balance, but this turned out to be quite a difficult undertaking. The first time I got on the board, I was able to stay on it for about 30 seconds before wiping out (almost taking Hyatt down with me in the process). I immediately realized just how important the placement of each foot on the board really was.

Despite the shallow water levels, falling off the board really didn’t hurt much at all as long as you followed the instructions. I will say, though, that every time I did fall, I increasingly became more and more determined to get out there on my own hands-free (only to fall again). Let’s just say the instructors made it look so much easier than it really was.

My session was 15 minutes total, with the ability to divide that time up in order to try out different settings on the Surfstream. That doesn’t sound like a ton of time, but it actually does afford you quite a bit of opportunities to master balancing yourself on the board.

I decided to try boogie boarding and, as it turned out, even that required a little bit of skill and balance. Getting into the water was the most difficult part (it felt as though I was preparing to jump into a pool from a high diving board). Once I was in, Hyatt and Cormier taught me to firmly grip the boogie board and simply move from one side to the other by leaning into the water and putting more weight on that side. It proved to be an effective way to maneuver around, but trying to stay on the board was still a challenge.

I got to watch the pros in action once again after my session ended. The most important thing I learned from them? Remember to relax and breathe. Too often when I tried to balance on the surfboard, I did not focus on my breathing when I should have, causing my body to tense up.

I knew before my SkyVenture visit was

over that I had to try the fish pipe (which, according to the website, is currently not running). I followed Cormier to the large rotating barrel in the back corner of the room, where he began to get it ready for me by checking the air and adding several gallons of water. As he did so, he explained that the barrel spins for 90 seconds, gradually getting faster before reaching a maximum speed of just under 20 miles per hour. You can choose to either stand or sit, but running on foot for the entire 90 seconds is much easier said than done.

When the fish pipe began spinning, I was able to stay standing for all of about three seconds before falling (it gets extremely slippery once the water has time to travel up and down the sides). By the time I attempted to get back up, the fish pipe had already started moving so fast that I could barely move on my own beyond a sitting position. Picture going down one of those extremely steep water slides you might have encountered if you visited a water park last summer — that’s what this was like, but with the added effect of constant rotation, making me feel dizzy but also extremely exhilarated once it stopped.

Adventure recap

My visit winding down, I reentered the lobby after changing back into my regular clothes. Everyone’s skydiving and surfing experiences are captured in the form of photos and videos that are available for purchase once you finish. Using the same tablets I signed my waivers on, I was able to get everything sent to my email with the help of the front desk staff.

Would I try any one of these activities again? Absolutely. Would I recommend indoor skydiving, surfing or fish pipe sliding to my friends or anyone looking to “jump” outside their comfort zone? You bet. Both were much more difficult than I was anticipating, but I never felt like I wanted to give up trying to balance on the surfboard, nor did I ever feel too terrified of heights to get back into the wind tunnel. As Drivas told me: “If you’re thinking about doing it, then do it.” 🍷

SkyVenture New Hampshire

Where: 100 Adventure Way, Nashua (formerly 3 Poisson Ave.)

Hours: Current hours are Wednesday through Friday, 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., for both skydiving and surfing (the fish pipe is currently not running). Reservations for all activities are highly recommended; call or book online

Cost: Rates vary depending on which activity you want to do and for how long, but generally will start at \$55 per two-minute skydiving session and \$45 per 15-minute surfing session.

More info: Visit skyventurenh.com, follow them on Facebook and Instagram @skyventure and @surfsupnh, or call 897-0002

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Meghan Siegler at Rage Cage NH. Courtesy photo.

All the rage

Emotions and breakables fly at Rage Cage NH

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

Going to Rage Cage NH in Nashua for this story was not my idea. Two coworkers, separately, emailed me links for the place and somewhat emphatically suggested that I go. I'm not sure what that says about me, but I was game.

I was nervous but not especially angry when I walked into the Rage Cage, and I wondered how my rage session would go sans rage. As it turns out, smashing stuff is fun even if you're not particularly upset.

But for people like me, who come in without a specific thing to rage about, owner Tedd Cherry said he's found that it's not all that hard to coax out some emotions.

"I kind of try to break people down psychologically when they come in," he said. "We really want people to stop masking [their emotions]."

Perhaps because I was writing a story about my experience, Tedd didn't mess with my head (next time, Tedd, next time). He said he likes to get a feel for where people are at as he's explaining what they'll be doing, and he has no problem swearing to see if anyone is offended. I brought my son Ben with me; he's 16 (the minimum age allowed to rage), and the first time Tedd swore he checked in to make sure we were OK with it. (We were.)

Tedd clearly loves his job and is excited about the psychological benefits it offers. It's a healthy way to deal with negative emotions,

he said, a better alternative to alcohol or drugs or physical violence. He's had people come in after break-ups and bad days at work, and people who just need to let out long pent-up emotions.

His enthusiasm was contagious. I will admit that I was a little sketched out when we first got to the Rage Cage; the space is located in a building on West Hollis Street, and when you open the door you walk into a large room that's pretty dark and filled with, well, trash that's waiting to be destroyed. But Tedd apologized and said it was a bit messier than usual, with inventory waiting to be put away.

"We've grown so fast that I'm having trouble keeping up with it," Tedd said — he just opened in February and the response has been good. "I think the pandemic helped us quite a bit."

To get us started, Tedd had us sign waivers, because of course there are waivers — you're using bats and sledgehammers to destroy breakables and furniture in a small enclosed room. He then gave us a list with the number of items we could pick from various size categories; the number and sizes depend on the package you choose. There's a whole wall of shelves, many of which are filled with glass: bottles, vases, drinking glasses. He said that three weeks ago he bought 17,000 pounds of glass, and at that point there was only about 2,000 pounds left. There were also small appliances, dishes, furniture and computer monitors, much of which he gets from thrift stores and nonprofits. For Ben and me, Tedd

picked a variety of items for us, but typically he has people choose their own stuff so they can have some kind of emotional connection to it — say, a person who is frustrated with their desk job might find it freeing to smash a monitor with a baseball bat.

While Tedd filled a shopping cart with junk, Ben and I put on our safety suits, gloves and helmets, then headed into the "cage," a small room with concrete walls and floors and just enough room for the two of us to take turns raging without worrying too much about getting hit with flying debris. We let Tedd choose the music — he likes to give customers options, from death metal to mildly scream-y. Ben and I couldn't think of any good mad music, but Tedd is a pro and picked the perfect mix of loud, angry, but not obnoxious music.

Here's my takeaway: Throwing glass at walls is fun. Beating a chair to smithereens with a baseball bat is extremely satisfying. Smashing computer screens is something most of us have wanted to do from time to time, and it feels good. Wielding a sledgehammer feels powerful. And watching my incredibly chill son show some aggression was pretty amusing.

I would love to go back when I truly need to let off some steam. I very much enjoyed all the smashing, but I was more worried about writing the story and taking pictures (which I did a terrible job of) than fully giving myself up to the experience the way I would if I went there specifically to release some frustration. I feel like it could save me from some serious yelling when my 13-year-old daughter is determined to break me down with her eye rolls and attitude. 🗑️

Rage Cage NH

Where: 10 West Hollis St., Nashua
Hours: noon to 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Cost: Prices vary depending on the number of people, amount of time in the smash room and the number and size of items you want to smash. For example, "The Quickie" 20-minute smash session is \$20 while the "Ultimate Showdown" for four people for an hour is \$130, with several options in between. Glow smash is also available.

Paint a mess!

Rage Cage NH also features a soon-to-be-expanded paint splatter room that's open to all ages — and every Thursday is kids' day where the vibe changes from heavy metal to a little more mellow. Have a glow paint party with ultraviolet black lights, bubble and fog machines and whatever music you want for \$25 per person for an hour, with up to eight people per party allowed in the current space. A regular paint splatter party without the glow is \$15 per person. Rage Cage NH will be open during school vacation week for paint splatter only, Dec. 21 through Dec. 23 and Dec. 28 through Dec. 30.

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Go for a spin

Get fit, have fun with pole dancing classes

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

As an on-again off-again fitness enthusiast who gets bored easily, I have been-there done-that with a variety of group fitness classes and physical activities, from my humble beginnings following the same 2003 Tae Bo workout DVD in my living room to my experimental phase in college attempting ballet and Taekwondo, and finally to a series of trendier classes offered at my gym, like Zumba, BODY-PUMP and Pilates.

In early 2020, I reached out to Juel Sheridan, owner and instructor at New Perspectives Pole and Aerial, which offers numerous pole fitness and pole dancing classes for all experience levels, as well as aerial, lyra (aerial hoop) and trapeze classes. At the time, the studio was located in a small space in Manchester's Millyard and had six chrome poles.

In a recent conversation I had with Juel over the phone, she told me New Perspectives has moved to a larger studio in Hooksett to allow for social distancing. The new studio has two class spaces, with seven poles in each, including a few stainless steel poles to accommodate people with an allergy to chrome.

"It's more spread out and open by design," she said. "We can fit more people — we can run two classes at the same time — but even with more people, there's more space, so people can feel safer when they come in."

When I reached out back in 2020, I asked Juel if she had any open spots for the Intro to Pole class. She said the classes had been nearly booked up for about a month but she could squeeze me into a Monday morning session.

Everything needed for the class — mats, spray bottles, rags — is supplied at the studio. No special apparel is necessary; "anything you would wear to the gym" is fine, Juel said.

It had been a while since my activewear drawer had seen the light of day, but I managed to dig out a loose athletic top and some workout leggings that still fit and headed to the studio.

As soon as I walked in and introduced myself to Juel, she had me fill out a short form with some basic information about myself and an emergency contact.

Four other people showed up, all of whom appeared to have been there before and knew the ropes. I followed their lead and made my way from the reception area to the main floor, where the poles were. I had a small moment of panic after the back row of poles was quickly occupied. "You only live once," I thought, reassuring myself as I timidly claimed the front-and-center pole.

At the start of the class, we each grabbed a mat and laid it down next to our pole. Juel led us in some simple stretches for around five minutes; then we rolled up the mats and took to the poles.

Over the course of the hour-long session,

Juel demonstrated and had us mirror various movements based around the pole. The skills involved in performing those movements consisted mostly of footwork, hand positioning and a correct distribution of body weight. We learned different ways of gripping the pole with our hands,

hooking our legs around the pole and engaging our core to generate enough momentum to complete a full spin — ideally, multiple spins — around the pole.

We would practice a series of three or four different movements, and then Juel would show us how to use transitions to string the movements together into one sequence. It took me many repetitions before I was able to carry out a sequence that was even remotely graceful. I shudder to think of how I looked: a befuddled expression on my face, clumsily grappling with the pole and the only person in the class sweating buckets and fighting to catch my breath. I found solace when I scanned the room and realized that everyone was entirely focused on themselves.

After what felt like much longer than an hour, we returned to some stretches to close out the class.

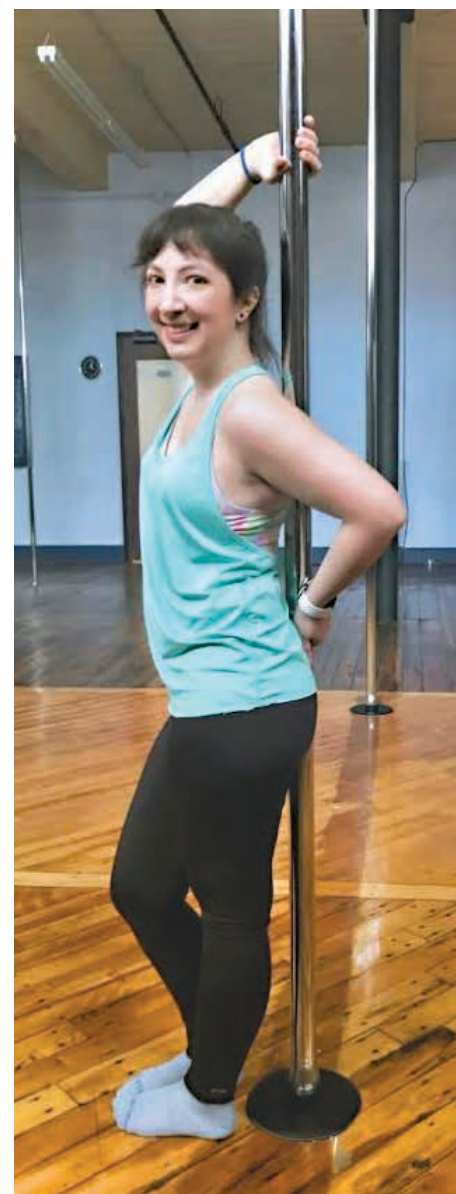
As I reflect on the experience, I've come to several conclusions. The first is that, based on the word "intro," I significantly underestimated how physically demanding the class would be. My muscles were sore for the next three days after the class, which leads me to my second conclusion:

Pole is a comprehensive workout. It works every part of your body, and if you aren't feeling it during the class, you will undoubtedly feel it the next morning. Lastly, I ask myself if I would take a pole class again, and my answer is, absolutely. Not



My muscles were sore for the next three days after the class. Pole is a comprehensive workout. ”

ANGIE SYKENY



Angie Sykeny. Courtesy photo.

only is it an effective way to build strength, flexibility and muscle tone, but it's also fun, and a great option if you're looking for a fitness class that breaks the mold. With more than a dozen different advanced pole classes offered above the intro class, there is a ton of opportunity for growth, and I believe that for someone with dedication this exercise medium could blossom into a hobby. 🍷

Pole and aerial fitness classes

- **Aerial Moon Yoga Studio** (85 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 321-2275, aerialmoon.com) Aerial yoga.
- **Center Stage Fitness & Aerial Arts** (2 Paul's Way, Unit 2, Amherst, 801-3032, centerstagedancefitness.com) Pole and aerial.
- **Kama Fitness** (250 Commercial St., Suite 3007A, Waumbec Mill, Manchester, 339-8253, kamafitnessnh.com) Aerial and trapeze.
- **New Perspectives Pole and Aerial** (35 Londonderry Turnpike, Suite GH, Hooksett, 775-3136, newperspectivesnh.com) Aerial, pole and trapeze.

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Merry movement and music

Birdie premieres at Canterbury Shaker Village's holiday event

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

The heartwarming story of a child who grew up in Canterbury Shaker Village is part of the inspiration behind *Birdie*, a new show that will be performed for the first time this weekend as part of the village's Merry, Merry Canterbury celebration.

Birdie

"It's a beautiful story," said Shaker Village artist in residence Lorraine Chapman, who created the production as a way to honor both the Village's theatrical history and the story of Alberta MacMillan Kirkpatrick, who came to Shaker Village at the age of 11. "Her mother died and she went from foster home to foster home. ... [She] was not treated well and had quite a few ... terrible experiences. When she got to the village, Sister Marguerite ... gave this girl her first hug in four years."

Chapman, a professional dancer and choreographer who owns a small studio in the Boston area, has been bringing dance to the Village for several years now, partly at the request of Joan Talarico-Brodsky, the founder of New Hampshire Dance Collaborative and former Shaker Village board member.

"Her desire was to bring more dance to the Village because the Shakers, part of their daily spiritual routine was movement and dance," Chapman said. "There's some written descriptions of ... [when] they would go into the meetinghouse and throw themselves around the room and roll on the floor and gesticulate. ... They were releasing negative thoughts, negative energy."

For this piece, Chapman sat in the archives for weeks researching what the Shakers called "entertainments."

"They consisted of Bible scenes, quartets, singing, instruments, ... plays, skits," Chapman said.

She read dozens of old programs to try to decipher what it was the Shakers were



Performers rehearse *Birdie*. Courtesy photos.

doing in their performances.

"Entertainments were rehearsed meticulously," Chapman said. "This is [like] the work of a [modern-day] theater company."

One of the entertainments she found was "Old Oaken Bucket," a popular song at the time that she incorporated into *Birdie*, along with a play called "Cate Family Reunion" that she found handwritten in a journal.

"We had enough to go on with the entertainments, but I also wanted to bring in Alberta's story," Chapman said. "We're kind of weaving together her story with what we think they might have ... have presented in their entertainments."

Chapman wanted to capture the kindness that Alberta was shown when she was taken in by the Shakers. She lived there until her late teens, and though she decided not to become a Shaker, she loved her time there — it's evident in the letters Alberta wrote to her father while she was there, Chapman said. Chapman also had a chance to meet Alberta's daughter, Marcy O'Brien, at a Starbucks over Thanksgiving weekend.

"I just got a sense of what a relief it was to her mother, the difference between what her life had been in the foster homes and [the life] she was able to live at the village," Chapman said. "I think what the Shakers wanted to do when they built Can-



terbury Shaker Village, I think they wanted to build a heaven on earth, and I think they did that."

Merry, Merry Canterbury

This is the second and final weekend of Merry, Merry Canterbury, which, along with the performance of *Birdie*, features crafts and a Stairway to the Clouds.

"We had a bunch of elves working at the Village and we set up a really magical experience in the horse barn," Executive Director Leslie Nolan said. "Visitors will meander through little makeshift forests and go upstairs to a cloud-like atmosphere ... and experience the [proverbial] silver lining in the cloud."

She said there will be a cotton candy machine to go with the cloud theme. In the gallery next door, there will be crafts that are appropriate for all ages.

"Both of these are ecological ornaments," Nolan said. "There's not a lot of glitter and glue."

One is a cinnamon ornament, and the other is a pomander ball, where cloves are inserted into clementines and oranges in a pattern and they are wrapped with a ribbon for hanging.

"I'm told it was used in the 19th century [to eliminate odors]," Nolan said. "People would hang them up so they were both decorative and functional."

After the performance of *Birdie*, candlelight tours will be offered for an additional fee.

"Those are going to be really special," Nolan said. "We'll be walking through two buildings ... and everyone will have a small lantern to hold."

The tours will be capped off with Rae Easter singing "Simple Gifts" a cappella.

"She has a beautiful voice," Nolan said.

The Shaker Village store will be open throughout the event selling holiday gifts and homemade candies, with free gift wrapping available. 🍪

Merry, Merry Canterbury

Where: Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury

When: Saturday, Dec. 18, and Sunday, Dec. 19, 1 to 5 p.m.

Stairway to the Clouds and crafts: 1 to 5 p.m. each day

Birdie dance and theatrical performance: 3 p.m. each day

Candlelight tours: 4 and 5 p.m. each day

Cost: \$20 for adults; kids get in free. All events included in the admission price except for candlelight tours, which are an additional \$50.

More info: shakers.org

Masks are required.

Art

Exhibits

• **"AROUND NEW HAMPSHIRE"** On exhibit at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center, 49 S. Main St., Concord, on view now through Dec. 16. Featuring the work of New Hampshire Art Association member Elaine Farmer, the exhibit features her oil paintings embodying New Hampshire's iconic views and ideals, ranging from mountain lakes and birch tree woods to historic landmarks. Visit concordnhchamber.com or [\[sociation.org\]\(http://sociation.org\).](http://nhartas-</p>
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• **HOLIDAY ART SHOW AND SALE** Featuring hand-made gifts by more than 30 local artists, including paintings, pottery, mixed media, photography, fabric art and more. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). Now through Dec. 23. Gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **CRAFTWORKERS' GUILD HOLIDAY FAIR** Features seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, cards, gourmet

treats, woodworking, fiber and fabric, stained and fused glass, mixed media, jewelry and more by juried local artists and craftspeople. Now through Dec. 23. 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. Visit craftworkersguild.org.

• **"SMALL WORKS — BIG IMPACT"** Creative Ventures Gallery presents its annual holiday exhibit in-person at the gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford) and virtually on the gallery's



HOLIDAY POPS

The New Hampshire Philharmonic performs a combination of classical and popular seasonal favorites for its Holiday Pops concert at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem), with showtimes on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. The concert will also feature music by Florence Price, the first African American female composer to have her music performed by a major symphony orchestra in 1933, including her piece "Dances in Canebreaks," which is based on dance themes Price knew in her lifetime. Tickets cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$8 for students. Visit nhphil.org or call 647-6476.

THE ROUNDUP

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



The Palace Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol*. Courtesy photo.



The Rockingham Choral Society presents its holiday concert, "Invitations and Carols." Courtesy photo.

• **A Christmas classic:** There are still plenty of opportunities to see Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* on stage before Christmas.

The **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St., Manchester) presents its production of *A Christmas Carol* on Thursday, Dec. 16, Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21, and Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 19, at noon. Tickets range from \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

The **Hatbox Theatre** (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) presents *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, Dec. 17, and Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

The **Peacock Players** present *A Christmas Carol: An Original Live Radio Play* at the Court Street Theatre (14 Court St., Nashua) on Thursday, Dec. 16, and Friday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$19. Visit peacockplayers.org.

The **Players' Ring Theatre** (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth) presents *A Christmas Carol* on Friday, Dec. 17, Monday, Dec. 20, and Thursday, Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 p.m. 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.

Finally, the **Rochester Opera House** (31 Wakefield St., Rochester) presents *A Christmas Carol* on Thursday, Dec. 16, and Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m. Tickets range from \$16 to \$26. Visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **Handmade gifts:** The **Sanborn-ton Community Arts Festival** will take place on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Town Hall (19 Meetinghouse Road, Sanbornton). More than 30 local artisans will be selling unique handmade items, including jewelry, stained glass, cards, quilted wall hangings, birdhouses, baby blankets and knitted clothing, home decor, soaps, tie-dye shirts, gourmet treats, handbags and totes, candles, ornaments, flower arrangements and more. Search "Sanbornton Community Arts Festival" on Facebook for more information.

It's the final weekend for Twigg's Gallery's (254 King St., Boscawen) annual holiday showcase, "**Sleighbell Studio**," which closes on Saturday, Dec. 18. The show features 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. Visit twiggsgallery.wordpress.com or call 975-0015.

• **Carols galore:** The Piccola Opera presents "**The Dickens Carolers on Tour**" at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for seniors and children and \$20 for adults. Call 344-4747 or visit ecca-audi.org.

Eve Pierce and her band of singers and musicians will perform festive music in Depot Square in downtown Peterborough on Friday, Dec. 17, starting at 6 p.m., as part of the town's annual holiday caroling program. Call 547-8323.

The Rockingham Choral Society presents its holiday concert, "**Invitations and Carols**," on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road, Newington), and on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 p.m. at Christ Church (43 Pine St., Exeter). Tickets cost \$12. Visit rockinghamchoral.org.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

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ARTS

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. Now through Dec. 31. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

• **“LET IT SNOW”** The New Hampshire Art Association presents its holiday exhibition. Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth). Now through Jan. 2. Features works in a variety of media, as well as books and cards for sale. Opening reception on Fri., Dec. 3, from 5 to 8 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **EMILY NOELLE LAMBERT** Solo exhibition by New York City artist Emily Noelle Lambert. Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). On view 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.

• **“SALON 2021”** Exhibition features offbeat and experimental works in a variety of media by regional artists with diverse studio practices and artistic approaches. The Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St.,

Concord, 225-3932, kimballjenkins.com). 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.

• **“BIG GIFTS IN SMALL PACKAGES”** The Seacoast Artist Association’s annual holiday exhibit, featuring a variety of small works of art priced under \$100 for gift buying. Now through Jan. 7. 130 Water St., Exeter. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit seacoastartist.org or call 778-8856.

• **“AS PRECIOUS AS GOLD: CARPETS FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD”** Exhibit features 32 carpets dating from the 15th century to the 19th century. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On view now through Feb. 27, 2022. Museum admission tickets cost \$15, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, and must be booked online. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **“1,000 CRANES FOR NASHUA”** Featuring more than 1,000 origami paper cranes created by hundreds of Nashua-area kids, adults and families since April. On display now at The Atrium at St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Visit nashuasculpturesymposium.org.

• **“NEW HAMPSHIRE NOW”** A collaborative photography project presented by the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artists, on display in eight exhibitions at museums and historical societies across the state. Nearly 50 photographers participated in the project, taking more than 5,000 photos of New Hampshire people, places, culture and events from 2018 to 2020 to create a 21st-century portrait of life in the Granite State. Exhibition locations include Belk-

nap Mill Society in Laconia; Colby-Sawyer College in New London; Portsmouth Historical Society; Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene; the Manchester Historic Association; Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University; and the Tillotson Center in Colebrook; with the flagship exhibition at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. Visit newhampshirenow.org.

• **GALLERY ART** A new collection of art by more than 20 area artists on display now in-person and online. Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford). Call 672-2500 or visit creativeventuresfineart.com.

• **“TOMIE DEPAOLA AT THE CURRIER”** Exhibition celebrates the illustrator’s life and legacy through a collection of his original drawings. On view now. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Museum admission tickets cost \$15, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, and must be booked online. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **ART ON MAIN** The City of Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce present a year-round outdoor public art exhibit in Concord’s downtown featuring works by professional sculptors. All sculptures will be for sale. Visit concordnhchamber.com/creativeconcord, call 224-2508 or email tsink@concordnhchamber.com.

• **“9/11”** Exhibit features images of the September 11 attacks and the aftermath, taken by war photographer Jim Nachtwey. On view now. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). Museum admission tickets cost \$15, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, and must be booked online. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

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LAST-MINUTE GIFTS

If you’re getting to your holiday shopping a little late this year, these art and craft sales are open until Thursday, Dec. 23.

Two Villages Art Society’s (46 Main St., Contoocook) **Holiday Art Show and Sale** features 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** has 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, featuring 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.



ARTS

Workshops and classes

• **WINTER ART CLASSES** Art classes for teens and adults, including Pottery, Stained Glass, Intermediate Watercolor and Clay Hand Building. Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester). Five-week sessions. Classes met for two hours a week. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com for the full schedule and cost details.

• **GENERAL ART CLASSES** In-person art classes for all levels and two-dimensional media. Held with small groups of two to five students. Private classes are also available. Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover St., Manchester). Students are asked to wear masks in the gallery. Tuition costs \$20 per group class and \$28 per private class, with payment due at the beginning of the class. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecrespofineart.com for availability.

Theater

Shows

• **RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER** The Palace Youth Theatre presents. Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Wed., Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **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.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** The New Hampshire 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.

• **TRUE TALES LIVE** Monthly showcase of storytellers. Held virtually via Zoom. Last Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Now through December. Visit truetaleslivenh.org.

• **SCENE CHANGES** Produced by New World Theatre. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Jan. 7 through Jan. 23. 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 members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **MARY & ME** Produced by Glass Dove Productions. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Jan. 28 through Feb. 13. 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 members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **LAST GAS** Produced by the Community Players of Concord. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Feb. 11 through Feb. 13. Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$16 for youth ages 17 and under, \$16 for seniors age 65 and up. Visit communityplayersofconcord.org.

• **LIFESPAN OF A FACT** Produced by Lend Me a Theater. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeple-

gate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Feb. 18 through March 6. 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 members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **MUSICAL MOM** Produced by the Community Players of Concord. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). May 5 through May 15. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors and members and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **THE BALD SOPRANO** Produced by the Community Players of Concord. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). June 17 through June 26. 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 members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

Classical

• **HOLIDAY POPS** The New Hampshire Philharmonic performs holiday music. Sat., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m., and Sun., Dec. 19, 2 p.m. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Gernemonty Drive, Salem. Tickets cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$8 for students. Visit nhphil.org.

• **"INVITATIONS AND CAROLS"** The Rockingham Choral Society presents its holiday concert. Sat., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road, Newington); and Sun., Dec. 19, at 3:30 p.m., at Christ Church (43 Pine St., Exeter). Tickets cost \$12. Visit rockinghamchoral.org.



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NUTCRACKER WEEKEND

There's still time to see a local production of *The Nutcracker*.

The New England School of Dance will perform the piece on Saturday, Dec. 18, with showtimes at 2 and 5:30 p.m., at the Stockbridge Theatre (Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry). Tickets cost \$30. Visit newenglandschoolofdance.com.

Ballet Misha presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$26. Visit dimensionsindance.com.

Finally, the New Hampshire School of Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker Suite* at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22. Visit nhschoolofballet.com.



INSIDE/OUTSIDE

In praise of kale

Why the misunderstood veggie is a hero

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE — GARDENING — GUY —

Like Rodney Dangerfield, kale doesn't get enough respect. I've been told that it only became a commonly grown vegetable in the 1970s when salad bars ordered it to use as the bed upon which other edibles like tomatoes, carrots and cukes slept in nearly ordered arrangements. No one actually ate kale. But that has changed, at least with the Birkenstock crowd. Like me, for one.

Kale became the carpet for other veggies because it is a deep, rich green and seemingly never wilts. It is the toupee of veggies, always looking neat and presentable. I often pick a few leaves and place the stems in a jar of water on the kitchen counter to remind me to include it in soups, stews, scrambled eggs and more. And to admire.

On a recent raw December morning I took our new dog out for a walk. Rowan is a 1-year-old Irish setter/golden retriever mix we adopted just before Thanksgiving. As he zoomed around the property I stopped to see how our kale was doing. Still healthy, despite occasional temps down to 15 degrees, and covered with wet snow. I picked a few leaves and brought them up to include in a soup or salad.

Kale is crunchy. In a salad I cut it finely, blending it in with lettuce, although my wife, Cindy, recently made a kale salad. She also used walnuts, crispy rice and dried cranberries — and it was delicious. She massaged the fine-cut leaves with olive oil for a couple of minutes first to help make it less crunchy.

It is one of the more nutritious greens. Compared to iceberg lettuce, it has two and a half times more fiber. It has more thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid, vitamin B6 and folate than iceberg lettuce. It is a great source of vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K, calcium and potassium. It has twice the calories of iceberg lettuce, but neither is

a high-calorie food. You can eat all the kale you want and not gain an ounce of fat.

One of my favorite ways to eat kale is in a green smoothie for breakfast. I use about 2 cups of kale removed from the center rib, a banana, half an avocado (if I have one), half a cup of orange juice and a cup and a half of water. Oh, and I squeeze half a lime into the mix, and grate in some fresh ginger if I have it. I chop the kale very, very finely because my older blender doesn't liquefy it, even though the dial says "Liquefy." I don't want to have to chew my smoothie.

Sometimes I add frozen blueberries or raspberries to the mix, or if I want a cold smoothie I substitute ice cubes for some of the water. In summer when I have lots of greens I try to add four or more leaves of other greens — lettuce, Swiss chard or whatever looks good. Spinach is good, and very nutritious. It freezes well after a brief blanching.

Growing kale is easy. I rarely find the leaves eaten by insects, though some readers have written me about flea beetles (or something) eating holes in the leaves. You can stymie most bugs by covering the plants with a layer of "row cover." Row cover is a spun agricultural fabric that looks like those dryer sheets available to reduce static and add fragrance to laundry. But this stuff comes in long 60-inch-wide pieces. Wires are sold to form hoops over small plants, but you can drape it right on bigger plants. It is great for keeping potato beetles away from your spuds, too.

Kale is a big plant. I grow it 18 inches apart in a wide, raised bed. It grows best in full sun, but if sun is at a premium in your garden, it will do fine in part shade. Hot afternoon sun and dry soil is not ideal for kale. I recommend adding plenty of compost in the planting hole, and some slow-release organic fertilizer.

Sometimes I start kale from seed indoors six weeks before planting it outside, but if I'm too busy I just buy some started plants from my favorite farm stand. If you start your own kale indoors, you may get tall,



December kale with Rowan, our new dog. Courtesy photo.



A few ingredients for my soup - dry beans, kale, scallion and garlic. Courtesy photo.



All the kale varieties with "bor" in them, like this Redbor kale, are excellent. Courtesy photo.

lanky plants — due to not enough light inside. No problem. Bury some of the stem. Just pinch off some lower leaves, and plant the kale deep in the soil so it is not flopping over when it goes in the ground.

I make a great winter stew using kale and other garden vegetables that I have either stored or frozen. It can be either vegetarian or not. It is loosely based on a Portuguese stew I ate years ago on Cape Cod. I don't think you need a step-by-step recipe, nor do I know the exact proportions, but I share with you my carnivore version and you can make your own according to your preferences — and what you have available.

I start by slicing a pound of linguica Portuguese sausage into smallish cubes and browning in olive oil with onions and/or leeks (which I always have in the freezer). If you don't find linguica, substitute any spicy sausage like andouille cajun sausage.

Then I add water and tomatoes. I freeze

tomatoes whole in September, so I use those, chopped up, but you could use a 28-ounce can of diced tomatoes. Into the stew goes a couple of cups of chopped kale. Then I add herbs: parsley, fennel seed, oregano and marjoram. And carrots, for sweetness.

Lastly I add something to give the stew rib-sticking goodness: either potatoes, winter squash or cooked dry beans. I let the stew simmer until hunger overwhelms me, but I always make plenty as it is good warmed up for days.

So remember to plant plenty of kale next spring. It won't disappoint you.

Henry's book, Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide, is available from him, signed, for \$19. Send a check to PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. Or, if you want to use PayPal, go to his website, Gardening-Guy.com. 🍷

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

These brass buttons were from my grandfather's military jacket. Where he was in his career at the time, I don't know, but he eventually became a colonel, then a general.

I'm curious as to whether there's any value. — Pam

Dear Pam,

I think your buttons are great pieces of your family history. Although they have

sentimental value, military coat buttons were mass produced. These were done by the Waterbury Button Co. in Connecticut. They are from World War II. The value on them is in the \$20 range for the lot.

Some buttons can have a much higher value so it's always good to check with someone who might have expertise in this area. Also, military medals have collectibility depending on what they are and when they are from.

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



INSIDE/OUTSIDE
KIDDIE
 — POOL —
 Family fun for whenever



The Polar Express

Ho ho ho holidays

The holiday happenings — plays, concerts, Santa appearances and more! — continue this weekend. Check out our big listings of holiday events in the Nov. 25 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.

Holiday fun at the movies

This weekend you'll find fun for families with kids of all ages at area theaters.

- For the littlest moviegoers: Catch *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) on Thursday, Dec. 16, at the O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square (24 Calef Hwy. in Epping; 679-3529, oneilcinemas.com) at 1:30 and 4:05 p.m.

- *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will also screen at the Park Theatre (19 Main St. in Jaffrey; theparktheatre.org) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. Admission is free but go online to get tickets. Have a photo taken with Santa and Elves in the lobby.

- *Elf* (PG, 2003) is screening at Christmas Break on a Budget on Saturday, Dec. 18, at noon at The Strand (20 Third St. in Dover; 343-1899, thestranddover.com). The afternoon will include storytime, family activities and the movie. The cost is \$20 for a family of four or \$8 each.

- Show your ballet-loving dancer how the pros do it with a broadcast presentation of the *Bolshoi Ballet — The Nutcracker* on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 12:55 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; 225-1111, banknhstage.com). Tickets cost \$15.

- For the cinephile kid interested in the classics: *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) will screen at all three Chunky's Cinema Pub locations (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com) on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.99.

- For the cinephile teen interested in the 1980s version of the classics: *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen at Regal Fox Run (45 Gosling Road in Newington; regmovies.com) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

- For watching with the teen who is old enough to argue the merits of the "is it a Christmas movie?" debate: *Die Hard* (R, 1988) is screening at Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord; 224-4600,

redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. The screening is part of the theater's "Vax & Snax" program, when the concession stand will be open but guests must be vaccinated (see the website for details).

Winter-y fun outdoors

- The Beaver Brook Association (117 Ridge Road in Hollis; beaverbrook.org) will hold its annual **Winter Solstice Family Event** on Sunday, Dec. 19, with time slots from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be a self-guided trail with a nature story about the origins of the winter solstice, plus facts about New England wildlife and the tradition of the Yule log. The cost is \$12.

- Charmingfare Farm (774 High St. in Candia; visitthefarm.com) continues its **Santa's Christmas** celebration this weekend (Dec. 17 through Dec. 19) and on Thursday, Dec. 23. Attractions include a horse-drawn wagon, live animal Nativity, visits with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and live "reindeer," s'mores kits available for purchase, and hot cocoa and complimentary sugar cookies provided by Mrs. Claus.

Nutcracker season continues

- New England School of Dance presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 and 5:30 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theatre (Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St. in Derry). Tickets cost \$30. See newenglandschoolofdance.com.

- Ballet Misha presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Dr. in Manchester). Tickets cost \$26. See dimensionsindance.com.

- The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents *The Nutcracker Suite* at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord) on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. (and at the Palace Theatre in Manchester on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 6 p.m.). Tickets cost \$22. See nhschoolofballet.com. 🍪

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Common cause of pressure loss is also the simplest to fix



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
My 2013 Subaru Outback recently freaked me out! Just out of the driveway, I noticed the “check engine” light was on, and the brake and cruise control lights were flashing.

I eventually Googled these symptoms and the recommended fix was to turn the engine on, take off the gas cap, put the cap back on, then turn off the engine.

I did this and hocus pocus! When I restarted the engine, the demon was gone! All the warning lights were off. Does this make sense to you? — Frank

Total sense. And keep in mind, Frank, not much makes sense to me.

One of the check engine light’s duties is to alert you when there’s a problem with your emissions system. And part of your emission controls is a sealed fuel system. That traps gas fumes and keeps them from leaking into the atmosphere.

The whole fuel system is kept under pressure. If it loses pressure, your car’s computer concludes — correctly — that there’s a leak somewhere, and it turns on your check engine light.

One of the most common causes of a pressure loss in the fuel system is also the simplest: a bad gas cap or one that wasn’t put on correctly.

So, if on your last trip to Bubba’s Tacos and Gas, Bubba was checking his GameStop stock while he was pumping and didn’t thread the gas cap correctly, that could cause your fuel system to slowly lose pressure.

Once it lost enough pressure, the computer said “Leak!” and turned on your check engine light to alert you.

Sometimes, when there’s a fuel system fault, the computer will also temporarily disable other systems — like your cruise control — to be safe. That’s why those other warning lights came on at the same time.

If removing and replacing the gas cap turned off the warning lights, do your happy dance and keep driving. You’re probably all set.

If the check engine light comes on again, though, you’ll need to have the car scanned. When that light comes on, the computer stores a “fault code” that tells your mechanic why, so he knows where to look for your problem.

If your next scan turns up a code for a bad gas cap, you may just need a new one. Fortunately, Frank, I think the ‘22 gas caps are out now with 1.9% financing.

Dear Car Talk:
What would you recommend for puncture-resistant tires? I keep hoping for something like Tweels to come out.

With a couple of surgeries under my belt and slowly advancing in age, it would be reassuring to be able to worry less about something like changing a tire. Thanks for your time! — Rob

The Tweel is both a terrible name and an interesting concept. Michelin engineers invented a combination tire and wheel (“Tweel”) in which the tire requires no air.

It uses a springy outer band that has the tire tread on the outside of it. In the middle, they put whatever bolt-hole configuration the car takes. And then radiating out from that inner “wheel” are high-strength plastic spokes.

The strength of the outer belt and spokes apparently makes it rigid enough to allow for handling and braking. And the flexibility of the outer band makes it comfortable enough so you don’t get welts on your head from bouncing off the headliner.

There are two major advantages of the Tweel. One is that no air is required, so if the structure proves durable, it could make tires much more reliable, reducing or eliminating tire failure as a reason to get stranded.

They also apparently weigh less than typical

wheel-tire combinations. And weight savings lead to fuel savings (or more range if you’re driving an electric vehicle) and better handling.

So far, we’ve only seen Tweels that are made for small utility vehicles, like mowers and golf carts. But Michelin recently ran a Mini Cooper equipped with Tweels, so maybe they’re getting closer to using them on real cars.

Of course, they’ll have to persuade car manufacturers to go along, and they’ll have to win a knife fight with the wheel manufacturing lobby first.

So, they’re not an option right now, Rob, and probably won’t be for at least several years. In the meantime, you can use run-flat tires. Those have been around for decades. And they work well. They use air, but they come with a very rigid side wall, so that if there’s a puncture, you can keep driving for 50 miles or so — enough to get to a tire shop, so you don’t have to kneel in the mud in your Armani suit and jack up your car.

How do you even know you’ve punctured a tire with run flats? Your tire pressure monitor light comes on to warn you. Run flats tend to be more expensive, faster to wear out, and a little less comfortable than traditional tires. But if peace of mind is important to you, they’re a perfectly good option, Rob.

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ON THE JOB

DARIA HARVEY

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CLIENT ADVOCATE

Daria Harvey is a client advocate at SHARE Outreach, a nonprofit that provides emergency services and ongoing support to individuals and families in need in Milford, Amherst, Brookline and Mont Vernon.

Q: *Explain your job.*
I meet with clients who are seeking financial assistance. I get to know their situation so we can make a decision about assisting. I also connect them to other resources in the community that might be helpful for them, [like] food stamps, health insurance, transportation, case management and counseling.

How long have you had this job?

I've worked with SHARE since 2015, but I've worked in social services jobs since I was in college 22 years ago.

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

We always ask kids, 'What do you want to be

when you grow up?' ... I always said, 'I want a job where I can help people.' I come from a long line of people who worked in social service-type jobs, so I guess it's in my blood. I've worked for an employment and training program for youth; in workforce development; in recovery and mental health; and now this job at SHARE.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I have an undergrad degree in English and a master's degree in fine art. All the skills I use at my job have come from work and life experience.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

It depends on the day. This job can include moving boxes and cleaning, to meeting with

clients, to meeting with other organizations. We are typically pretty casual.

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

We had to restructure completely how we deliver services. We used to have clients ... actually shop in the food pantry ... with volunteers. We changed to an online ordering system to minimize contact. My interactions with clients went totally to on-the-phone or email for about a year. This was hard because ... face-to-face contact is extremely different from phone or the computer. Our organization prides itself on being a place where people can come and get answers without sitting on hold, being passed off to someone or treated like a number. We were assisting people financially, but felt like we were really missing the most important part of working with people: the relationship you build. ... We have people back [staffing] our building now, with safety measures in place ... and it's so much better.

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

I wish I had an awareness that people who come to an agency, organization or program for help are often at a low point in their life. Often, it can be at their rock bottom. It's very humbling to be the person they're reaching out to for help. Compassion and empathy are key.



Daria Harvey

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

This job is about so much more than giving out financial assistance to folks who are having a hard time. Paying a bill is easy. It's about taking time to talk with people, [because] that reveals what they really need.

What was the first job you ever had?

I worked at Shaw's Supermarket in high school, [collecting] carts in all the extremes of weather, and also was a cashier.

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

Working in a social service-type job, you often don't see the results of the work you do. Part of this job is having faith that what you're doing is making a difference for someone. It may show up for that person in a day, a month or even a couple years. We're planting seeds.

— Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: *Cooked* by Jeff Henderson and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Favorite movie: Currently, it's *Rent*, but it changes

Favorite music: Ani DiFranco and Melissa Etheridge

Favorite food: Mexican

Favorite thing about NH: The seasons

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Season's eatings:** There may still be time to **order your holiday dinners and desserts** — check out our listings in the Dec. 9 issue; they begin on page 23. You'll find a comprehensive list of local restaurants, bakeries and other businesses offering all kinds of specialty eats available to order, from entrees and sides to pies, cakes and other sweet treats. Some places are still accepting holiday orders now through the coming days, for pick-up at designated times during the week of Christmas. Go to issuu.com/hippopress and click on the Dec. 9 issue to read the e-edition for free.

• **Cheers to three years:** Join To Share Brewing Co. (720 Union St., Manchester) for its **third anniversary party**, happening on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 1 to 9 p.m. The brewery will have several new beer releases, desserts and games, and will host live music from 3 to 8 p.m., featuring Alli Beaudry, Paul Nelson, Ryan Gagne-Hall and Kevin Horan. Husband-and-wife team Aaron and Jenni Share officially opened To Share Brewing Co. on Dec. 15, 2018, in the space of a former electronics manufacturer on Union Street in Manchester. Visit tosharebrewing.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram @tosharebrewing.

• **Festive cookies:** BB Take Home Kitchen (633 Maple St., Contoocook) will hold its second annual **Christmas cookie market** on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or until they sell out). Visitors will be able to come and choose from more than 15 varieties of homemade decorative cookies to create their own gift boxes, plus a "Grinch box" that's available for pre-order, featuring a dozen pre-selected and packaged cookies like chocolate chip, molasses, sugar and oatmeal raisin. BB Take Home Kitchen is also taking orders now for holiday pastry boxes for pickup on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29 — those items will include Danishes, croissants, doughnuts and the eatery's famous cinnamon rolls. Visit bbtakehomekitchen.com.

• **Bacon, beer and ribs to return:** Two popular summer food festivals in the Granite State have new dates for 2022, according to recent announcements from their organizers. The **New Hampshire Bacon & Beer Festival** is due to return for its sixth year on Saturday, June 4, at Anheuser-Busch Brewery (221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack) and tickets are available now. The 21+ event 34 ▶

FOOD

Rooted in deliciousness

Vegan coffee and breakfast cart launches in Manchester



Peppermint mocha, with house blend A&E iced coffee, house made peppermint and mocha syrup, plant-based milk, coconut whipped cream and a cacao nib and candy cane topping. Photo courtesy of New Roots Coffee Cart.



Breakfast "buzzito," featuring house made plant-based maple "sausage," tofu scramble and house made cashew cheddar. Photo courtesy of New Roots Coffee Cart.



Bagel sourced from Bagel Alley of Nashua, with house made tofu "cream cheese." Photo courtesy of New Roots Coffee Cart.



Orange cinnamon oat milk matcha latte, with vegan cranberry orange scone sourced from Seacoast baker Nommunism. Photo courtesy of New Roots Coffee Cart.



"Truffle hash," featuring truffle russets, black beans, tempeh "bacon," pickled red onions, chives and a cilantro-garlic aioli. Photo courtesy of New Roots Coffee Cart.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

When Madeline Rossi and her wife Olivia Lenox bought a small mobile food trailer over the summer, their original plan was to bartend at weddings. That all changed when the Manchester couple learned about a new food truck park and residency being planned for The Factory on Willow, a newly unveiled apartment complex from an old Queen City shoe factory.

New Roots Coffee Cart, now open Monday through Friday, became the first vendor to sign up for the pilot program. Rossi and Lenox partner with several local businesses to create a menu that's 100-percent vegan, featuring coffees and teas, pastries, and breakfast and lunch options made from scratch. It's also an extension of their plant-based meal prep business, New Roots Meals, which offers weekly deliveries of items from a rotating menu.

New Roots Coffee Cart

Where: The Factory on Willow, 252 Willow St., Manchester

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (online ordering for pickup also available)

More info: Visit newrootsmeals.com/coffee-cart or follow them on Facebook and Instagram @newrootscart

Rossi and Lenox are no strangers to food trucks — though both are New England natives, the pair met while working at a food truck pod in Portland, Oregon, where Lenox at the time had co-owned Flourish Plant-Based Kitchen with a friend. They launched New Roots Meals in late 2020 after returning east to be closer to family members.

All of their meals are cooked on Sundays at Jerome's Deli in Manchester, which Rossi and Lenox continue to rent out as a commissary space. Orders placed by Friday at 8 p.m. through their meal prep business are delivered on Mondays within a 30-mile radius of Manchester and on Tuesdays on the Seacoast, between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. The menu changes bi-weekly.

"We do coffee strictly at the truck, and then have two constant breakfast items. Those are prepped every week at Jerome's and brought to the truck, and they are also on our breakfast menu for meal prep," Rossi said. "Our lunch specials are also prepped at Jerome's but then those are only at the food truck. So basically there's a bit of crossover in both areas."

The truffle hash, one of the regular breakfast options available on the cart and among its top sellers, features tempeh "bacon" from BOS-tempeh of Somersworth, along with truffle russets, black beans, pickled red onions, chives and a cilantro-garlic aioli. You can also order a breakfast "buzzito" that's available all the

time, which has plant-based maple "sausage," a tofu scramble and a house-made cashew-based cheddar wrapped up in a flour tortilla.

"The lunch specials always change ... and it's just whatever we decide we want to make for that week," Lenox said. "It's always a panini because we have a panini press."

In preparation for the cart's launch, Rossi and Lenox received training from A&E Coffee & Tea, whose drinks they now carry with oat, soy and coconut milks and several house-made syrups.

"[A&E] helped us pick a house blend, which was really cool," Lenox said. "We also started wholesaling from The Local Moose. They just started to roast their own beans too."

The cart's menu also features bagels sourced from Bagel Alley of Nashua, and a variety of croissants, scones, doughnuts and more from Nommunism, a Seacoast-based pastry company.

Rossi said their next step is to expand New Roots in the form of a brick-and-mortar cafe by next spring. They envision offering espresso drinks and more vegan menu items at that space, and even possibly hosting open mic nights, vegan documentary screenings and other events.

"We've definitely fallen in love with coffee ... and so I think we're looking to do kind of like a cafe vibe, but more with a lot of food options," Rossi said. 🍷

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FOOD

New Year's eats

Celebrate 2022 with a special meal or dining party

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Ring in 2022 with a special multi-course meal, a midnight Champagne toast, or just a night out at one of these New Hampshire restaurants, bars and function centers open on New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. A few local eateries are also open for brunch on either New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan. 1, or the following morning on Sunday, Jan. 2. Did we miss any restaurants offering New Year's specials? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.



- **815 Cocktails & Provisions** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 782-8086, 815nh.com) will host a New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$150 and include drink and food specials, an open bar, an unlimited photo booth and a Champagne toast at midnight.

- **900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria** (50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com) will be open during its normal hours on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) is holding a New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31, featuring a buffet that will be served from 4 to 9 p.m., in addition to live music from Stray Dog. Tickets are \$15.

- **Auspicious Brew** (1 Washington St., Suite 1103, Dover, 953-7240, auspicious-brew.com) will hold a family-friendly New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Food will be available from Dos Mexican Eats and classic and hard kombuchas will be on draft. Tickets are \$10 and will also include house made hot cocoa, craft opportunities, a festive photo station and more.

- **The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern** (132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com) will be open during its normal hours on Friday, Dec. 31, from noon to 10 p.m.

- **Bedford Village Inn & Restaurant** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will serve a special four-course prix fixe dinner menu on Friday, Dec. 31, with seatings from 4 to 9 p.m. The menu will include your choice of an appetizer (Dunk's mushroom toast, yellowfin tuna poke, a Vermont cheese board, New England oysters, butternut squash risotto or lobster bisque); a salad (watercress and firecracker mizuna or Boston bibb); an entree (grilled filet mignon, smoked New Bedford sea scallops, Moroccan-spiced Australian grass-fed lamb rack, pan-seared Faroe Island salmon, cornbread-crusting Icelandic cod loin, Robie Farm pork tenderloin or maple-roasted acorn squash); and a dessert (midnight chocolate cake, peach Champagne sorbet,

Godiva creme brulee, pumpkin cheesecake or apple raisin strudel). The cost is \$95 per person. The BVI's Lobby Bar will also be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. A special brunch will then be served on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Lobby Bar will also be open that day, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. for breakfast and from 4 to 9 p.m. for lunch.

- **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove St., Manchester, 625-8540, belmonthall.net) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, until 2 p.m.

- **Bistro 603** (345 Amherst St., Nashua, 722-6362, bistro603nashua.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 10 a.m. to close (likely around 10 p.m. for the kitchen and 11 p.m. for the bar). On Friday, Bistro 603 will host a New Year's Eve Bash, featuring live music by the Massive Groove Band beginning at 9:30 p.m., as well as a special features menu, a late night buffet, a midnight Champagne toast and more.

- **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) will be open on both Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. each evening.

- **Cask & Vine** (1 E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com) is celebrating nine years in business with its annual end-of-year anniversary party on Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 5 p.m. They're taking reservations now for \$25 per person, which will be applied to your bill at the end of the evening, with a complimentary toast at midnight. Go to caskandvine.com/nye.

- **Castleton Banquet and Conference Center** (58 Enterprise Drive, Windham, 898-6300, castletonbcc.com) will host a special New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31, from 7 to 10 p.m., featuring a three-course meal, an open bar, a 50/50 raffle, a Champagne toast at midnight and more. Tickets are \$200 (event is 21+ only).

- **CJ's Great West Grill** (782 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-8600, cjsgreatwestgrill.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, until 10 p.m.

- **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henni-

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ker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) will serve a special New Year's Eve sparkling wine dinner on Friday, Dec. 31, from 7 to 10:30 p.m. The six-course prix fixe meal will feature pairings of Sea Smoke wines — courses will include foie gras torchon, New Hampshire oysters, petite rabbit and mushroom cassoulet, petite tournedos with lobster tail, a white winter festival dessert featuring a coconut cup, white chocolate gelato and crisp meringue, and a plate of mignardises. The cost is \$150 per person. Overnight packages at the Inn are also available, which will include a complimentary Champagne brunch and late night treats, as well as a late 1 p.m. checkout the next day.

• **Copper Door Restaurant** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com) will serve a special New Year's Eve prix fixe dinner menu on Friday, Dec. 31, from 4 to 8 p.m. at both locations, featuring meals of two, three or four courses. Options include sesame tuna risotto, crispy pork and beef meatballs, fish chowder, sausage and kale soup, shaved Brussels sprout and arugula, grilled filet oscar, braised short rib, soy honey glazed salmon, seafood-stuffed haddock, truffled mushroom ravioli, duck confit risotto, sugar cookie cupcakes, German chocolate cake, and vanilla Funfetti cheesecake. The cost is \$69 for a two-course meal, \$79 for a three-course meal and \$89 for a four-course meal. Reservations are highly recommended. The Copper Door's regular menus will also be available from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both locations. Live music will be featured from 6 to 9 p.m.

• **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, 654-2631, copperkettletogo.com) will serve a special New Year's Eve buffet dinner on Friday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m., featuring a dip station with Buffalo chicken, spinach and onion dips, as well as other items like crab rangoons, egg rolls, macaroni and cheese, butternut squash ravioli and more. Tickets are \$40 per person and also include a Champagne toast at midnight.

• **CR's The Restaurant** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972, crstherestaurant.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and from 5 to 9:30 p.m. for dinner.

• **The Crown Tavern** (99 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-3132, thecrownhanover.com) will be open on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

• **Epoch Gastropub** (The Exeter Inn, 90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 3 to 9 p.m., serving a special New Year's Eve prix fixe menu alongside its normal menu. The meal will include your choice of a first course (grilled local oysters or red beet salad), an entree (braised short rib, pan-seared salmon or beet rissoles), and a dessert (citrus creme brulee with fresh oranges, or dark chocolate mousse with candied walnuts and coffee ice cream). The cost is \$55 per person.

• **Fire and Spice Bistro** (70 Route 108,

Newfields, 418-7121, fireandspicebistro.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, serving dinner from 4 to 10 p.m. Local acoustic guitarist Chris O'Neill will perform live from 5 to 10 p.m., and the bar will remain open until 12:30 a.m.

• **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 1, Firefly will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for brunch and from 4 to 9 p.m. for dinner.

• **The Foundry Restaurant** (50 Commercial St., Manchester, 836-1925, foundrynh.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 4 to 9 p.m., and for brunch on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$35 with prime rib, a build-your-own waffle bar, \$5 mimosas, live music and more.

• **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (The Centennial Hotel, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9005, graniterestaurant.com) will be open during its normal hours on Friday, Dec. 31, from 5 to 9 p.m.

• **LaBelle Winery Derry** (14 Route 111, Derry, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will hold a special three-course plated dinner and celebration for New Year's Eve on Friday, Dec. 31, from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Seatings will take place in the vineyard ballroom, adjacent to Americus Restaurant, and the evening will also feature a live performance by the Freese Brothers Big Band and a stroll through LaBelle Lights. The meal will feature house-made pork dumplings, a baby kale salad with pomegranate seeds, blue cheese, roasted cashews and a winter citrus vinaigrette, a surf and turf entree of hoisin-glazed short rib and yuzu-glazed shrimp with baby bok choy and sticky rice cakes, and chocolate pot creme for dessert along with fortune cookies. The cost is \$100 per person and includes the dinner, a greeting wine pass, access to a cash bar, and admission to LaBelle Lights after the live performance.

• **Mile Away Restaurant** (52 Federal Hill Road, Milford, 673-3904, mileawayrestaurantnh.com) will serve a multi-course meal for New Year's Eve on Friday, Dec. 31, featuring your choice of an entree (sliced roasted tenderloin of beef, duck Grand Marnier, nut-crusted chicken, chicken piccata, pork forestiere, schweineschnitzel, roasted vegetable lasagna, baked stuffed Jumbo shrimp, baked stuffed scrod or maple-glazed salmon); and a dessert (chocolate mousse cake, flourless chocolate cake, bourbon bread pudding, cheesecake, lemon mascarpone cake, or sorbet). All dinners come with appetizers like tomato bisque, Swedish meatballs and a fresh fruit plate with sorbet (or you can substitute shrimp cocktail, escargots and onion soup gratinee), and a Caesar or garden salad. Entrees also include your choice of a baked potato, Swiss potato or rice pilaf, and your choice of butternut squash, pickled beets or applesauce.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslo-

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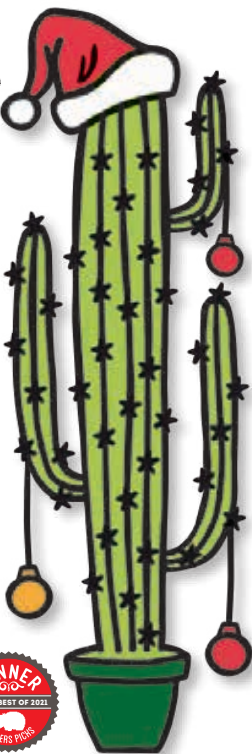


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cal.com) will be open on both Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. each evening.

• **New England's Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, taphouseh.com) will hold a special New Year's Sunday brunch on Sunday, Jan. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a prime rib and turkey carving station, build-your-own omelets and crepes, a raw bar, and a bloody mary and mimosa bar. The cost is \$29 for adults and \$14.95 for kids.

• **Osteria Poggio** (18 Main St., Center Harbor, 250-8007, osteriapoggio.com) will host a special New Year's Eve gala on Friday, Dec. 31, at 7 p.m., featuring passed appetizers, Prohibition-style cocktails, music, dancing, a photo booth and prosecco toast. Tickets are \$40 per person.

• **Piccola Italia Ristorante** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 606-5100, piccolaitalianh.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 4 to 10 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 9 p.m.

• **Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery** (67 State St., Portsmouth, 427-8459, raleighwinebar.com) will serve a special four-course New Year's Eve dinner on Friday, Dec. 31, with optional wine pairings. Two seatings are available, at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Featured items to choose from will include endive salad, elk tartare, roasted squash, coal-roasted quail, root vegetable gratin, magret duck breast, coal-roasted sea bass, chocolate cake, and crème fraîche cake with pistachio praline. The cost is \$120 per person with Champagne toast (additional \$45 if wine pairings are included). Reservations require a \$25 deposit per person.

• **The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, until 7 p.m.

• **Saddle Up Saloon** (92 Route 125, Kingston, 347-1313, saddleupsaloonh.com) will host a special New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., featuring your choice of prime rib, half-roasted chicken or baked haddock (each entree also comes with mashed potatoes and veggies). Local cover band Bite the Bullet will then perform from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The cost is \$50 per person and also includes a Champagne toast at midnight, followed by a pizza buffet.

• **The Shaskeen Irish Pub and Restaurant** (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) will host a special New Year's Eve party on Friday, Dec. 31, featuring a buffet from 8 to 10 p.m., a midnight Champagne toast, and music by Chris Bennett, a.k.a. DJ Myth. The cost is \$50 per person.

• **Stalk Restaurant** (286 Central Ave., Dover, 343-2600, stalkrestaurant.com) will host a special five-course prix fixe menu for New Year's Eve on Friday, Dec. 31, with two seatings available (5 to 5:30 p.m. for the first seating and 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. for the second seating) with two and a half hours

allotted per reservation. A variety of items will be available to choose from, like pan-seared scallop, red beet salad, Atlantic cod chowder, udon noodles, duck confit ravioli, pinot-braised short rib and more. The cost is \$85 per person and includes complimentary prosecco. Wine pairings and cocktails are also available at an additional cost.

• **Surf Restaurant** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293; 99 Bow St., Portsmouth, 334-9855; surfseafood.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. both evenings, at its Nashua location. Its Portsmouth location will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 3 to 9 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 open on Friday, Dec. 31, until 10 p.m., at all of its locations.

• **The Wild Rose Restaurant** (Stonehurst Manor, 3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, thewildrosereastaurant.com) will serve a special New Year's Eve dinner menu on Friday, Dec. 31, with seatings at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. The meal includes your choice of an appetizer (bacon-wrapped scallops, shrimp cocktail, Jonah crab cakes, forest mushroom pot sticker, or crab and lobster bisque); a Caesar salad; your choice of an entree (pit smoked and aged prime rib of beef, lobster ravioli, filet of cod with a lobster cream sauce, grilled New York strip steak, crispy half-roasted duck, shrimp, scallops, lobster and Jonah crab meat in a garlic basil Parmesan cream sauce, or grilled rack of Australian lamb); and a dessert (blueberry cheesecake, flourless double dark chocolate torte, limoncello cake or vanilla creme brulee). The cost is \$78 per person and also includes signature sourdough bread, a seasonal vegetable, and coffee and tea.

• **XO Bistro on Elm** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998, xobistronh.com) will be open during its normal hours on Friday, Dec. 31, from noon to 10 p.m. They'll also be open on Saturday, Jan. 1, from 4 to 10 p.m.

• **Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar** (125 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-4230, yamsgreek-taverna.com) is throwing a special New Year's Eve dinner party just down the street at Chunky's Cinema Pub (150 Bridge St.), alongside a screening of the 2013 film *The Great Gatsby*, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. The evening will include a five-course menu, followed by a Champagne toast and a big-screen viewing of the Times Square ball drop at midnight. The cost is \$90 per person and includes the dinner, the movie and the toast (optional wine pairings are also available at an additional cost).

• **Zachary's Chop House** (4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 890-5555, zacharyschophouse.com) will be open on Friday, Dec. 31, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. 🍷

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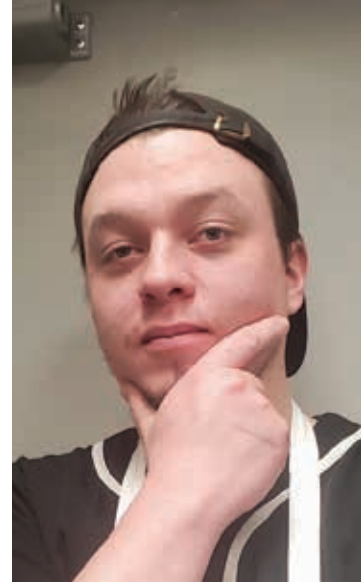
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IN THE KITCHEN WITH MARTIN KELLY JR.



Chef Martin Kelly Jr. oversees kitchen operations at Stones Social (449 Amherst St., Nashua, 943-7445, stonessocial.com), an eatery known for its creative comfort foods served in a casual, quick-service setting. Stones Social is the latest project of Stones Hospitality Group, which also owns two sister restaurants in Massachusetts — Cobblestones of Lowell, which has been serving elevated tavern fare since 1994, and Moonstones, a restaurant featuring globally inspired small plates that opened in Chelmsford in 2008. Originally from Tyngsborough, Mass., Kelly had been working at Moonstones for about two and a half years just prior to the pandemic when he was brought up to help open Stones Social in late June 2020. The menu includes everything from lighter bar snacks, soups and salads to burgers, wood-fired skillet and a wide array of house cocktails, plus “Throwback Thursday” wood-fired pizza specials and “Social Sunday” specials with smoked meats.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

A pair of tongs, and at least one dry towel. ... I’m a little obsessed with dry towels. You can ask anybody that works with me.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

The Nashua Garden on Main Street. I love that place. Their sandwiches are so abnormally large but they are always delicious.

What would you have for your last meal?

I’ll keep it simple and just say a whole steamed lobster and a whole lot more butter.

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

Fast, quality comfort food, and that’s the atmosphere we’re trying to cultivate here. ... We want food to be getting to the table fast, and for people to not even realize that it’s only been maybe four minutes since they were up at the counter to order it.

What is your favorite thing on the menu at Stones Social?

I’d say it’s a four-way tie. ... I’m going to have to go with our Buffalo tenders, our Stones No. 1 Burger, the faux French dip sandwich, and either our half or full bucket of fried chicken.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

A real simple dish that my mom made for me all the time, which is cajun shrimp, sausage and spinach sauteed over white rice. I could eat plates and plates of it.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at Stones Social?

This is an easy one. Jayson Tatum of the Boston Celtics.

— Matt Ingersoll

Miso Sriracha sauce

From the kitchen of Martin Kelly Jr. of Stones Social in Nashua (great for dipping or as an add-on to burgers)

- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon rice wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons miso paste
- ¼ cup Sriracha

Mix ingredients in a large bowl with a whisk until thoroughly combined.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 28

pairs all kinds of craft brews with specialty food items from local restaurants using bacon from North Country Smokehouse, all to benefit the High Hopes Foundation of New Hampshire. Visit nhbaconbeer.com. Tickets are also on sale now for the highly anticipated return of the **Great American Ribfest & Food Truck Fes-**

tival, set for Friday, July 15, through Sunday, July 17, also at Anheuser-Busch. That event has not been held since the summer of 2019 — local barbecue vendors, live musicians and more will all get together that weekend to raise money for the Merrimack Rotary Club. Visit greatamericanribfest.com.

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TRY THIS AT HOME

Baked falafel burgers



Baked falafel burgers. Courtesy photo.

Falafel is one of those dishes that seems like it's healthy, but that isn't always the case. Although falafel is mainly composed of garbanzo beans, quite often they are deep fried and topped with heavy sauces. Now, there is nothing wrong with a little decadence, but at this time of year there is so much indulgent eating, a healthier alternative is greatly appreciated.

Thus, today I have a recipe for baked falafel burgers. This simple-to-make dish is about as healthy as can be. There is no oil added to the burger, and they are baked instead of fried. However, all of this healthiness does not equal a boring dish. These burgers are bursting with flavor from the addition of two different fresh herbs as well as a dried spice.

Serve these "burgers" in a piece of pita

bread and add lots of veggies, and you have an incredibly healthy meal. To keep it even healthier, skip mayonnaise and opt for something lighter, such as Buffalo sauce. You can even make your own two-ingredient condiment: 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt mixed with hot sauce (you choose the amount). This recipe should be enough to top all four falafel burgers.

Serve these falafel burgers with some baked green bean fries or a fruit salad, and you have a delicious, health-conscious meal for four!

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. 🍷

Baked falafel burgers

Serves 4

15-ounce can garbanzo beans, rinsed & drained

½ cup fresh parsley

1 cup fresh cilantro

3 cloves garlic, minced

2 teaspoons cumin

¼ cup walnuts

3 Tablespoons lemon juice

Salt & pepper

Optional:

Hamburger buns or pita bread

Lettuce, tomato and condiments

Combine garbanzo beans, parsley, cilantro, minced garlic, cumin and walnuts in the bowl of a food processor.

Add 2 tablespoons of lemon juice, and pulse. Add remaining lemon juice, 1 teaspoon at a time, blending until smooth.

Divide mixture into 4 equal portions, and form into patties.

Place on a small greased baking sheet.

Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Remove falafel burgers from the refrigerator, and bake for 30 minutes.

Serve in a pita or on a bun with desired toppings and condiments.

(Long Woods and Fish and Game roads). Find them on Facebook @deeringwintermarket.

• **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square in Concord, now through April. Find them on Facebook @downtownconcord-winterfarmersmarket.

• **Milford Farmers Market** is every other Saturday, from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (Union Square), now through April 9 (except on Jan. 1). The next one is Dec. 18. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

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

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FOOD

BEER

Sugar and spice
'Tis the season for holiday beers

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippopress.com



Footy Pajamas by Henniker Brewing Company. Courtesy photo.

years. That's good news. Here are four New Hampshire-brewed holiday beers to enjoy right now.

Footy Pajamas Belgian Style Holiday Ale by Henniker Brewing Co. (Henniker)

Dark fruit, spices and brown sugar: you can sip this 8.7 percent ABV brew slowly by the fire and let the beer and the flames warm you right up.

Monks Vice Belgian Quad by Loaded Question Brewing Co. (Portsmouth)

This isn't brewed specifically for the holidays as far as I know, but with big flavors of complex caramel up front, it seems perfectly suited to this time of year. The brewery says the finish is "reminiscent of crème brûlée from black strap molasses." This is another slow sipper you can savor with friends and family.

Smuttlabs Peppermint Porter by Smuttynose Brewing Co. (Hampton)

This is basically a glass full of peppermint patties.

The Great AK; Dunkles Bock with Gingerbread by Northwoods Brewing Co. (Northwood)

I haven't tried this one but it is now on my list for the holidays. Tabbed as the brewery's "ode to the Master Woodsman of the World," the beer is brewed with gingerbread and actual gingerbread men, resulting in "aromas of dates, plums, toffee and cinnamon." Frankly, it sounds delicious.

Jeff Mucciarone is Vice President with Montagne Powers, where he provides communications support to the New Hampshire wine and spirits industry.

What's in My Fridge

Samuel Adams Holiday White Ale by Boston Beer Co. (Boston) Probably 15 to 20 years ago, if a beer was described as "citrusy and hazy," this is what you'd expect. Nowadays, someone says citrusy and hazy, and approximately 1,000 percent of the time that person is talking about an IPA. This is a delightful brew; flavored with holiday spices and orange peel, it has a smooth, festive flavor with borderline nonexistent bitterness you can enjoy all winter long. Cheers.

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MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

CDs pg38

• Tulip Tiger x Garrett

Noel, *Synth Xmas II* A

BOOKS pg39

• *On Animals* A• **Book Notes**

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

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

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

FILM pg42

• *West Side Story* A-• *Being the Ricardos* BTulip Tiger x Garrett Noel, *Synth Xmas II* (Give/Take Records)

Funny, right after I wrapped up this week's Playlist thingie, in which I bemoaned the fact that no public relations goblins had sent me any holiday albums to review this year, this one just came in, from a bicoastal lo-fi hip-hop collaborative duo. Just to put things in context, big-beat aficionado Tulip (Augustus Watkins) is based in Los Angeles and Prague, modern psychedelia guy Noel's from Baltimore, and this is their take on a set of eight old Christmas classics, "reimagined in tranquil, instrumental, electronic arrangements." Very true, that; the guys have selected from the chilliest of vintage chestnuts: "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night" to name two, rendering them in tasteful 1980s-synthpop cheese and adding things like glitchy noises, bell samples, etc. The overall effect is cloudy, woozy and, well, edgy, evoking high-end backgrounding for fashion outlet malls; in other words, it's very unobtrusive but redolent of seasonal spirit. Very nice. A — *Eric W. Saeger*

Retro Playlist



I've obviously slacked this year as far as throwing you nice people a few recommendations for holiday music buying. I almost forgot again this week, which would definitely been bad, but by chance I happened upon a column I'd written this very week in 2009, and it started out with a suggestion for, of all things, a country music compilation, to wit: "Howzabout this for a compilation: **Dim Lights, Thick Smoke & Hillbilly Music: Country Hit Parade 1951**. Comes out on Tuesday [11 years ago, mind you], which gives you no time to find it, but you should try, so that you can hear awesome old garbage like "Shot Gun Boogie" by **Tennessee Ernie Ford**. We've all gone old-school anyway, so why not just reboot the whole thing and start off with bands that had to sing into toasters while sticking their fingers into light sockets so the tape-gizmo thing would record it, because they did not have our awesome technology, which has turned us all into people nobody can trust."



Boy, could someone tell me when I'm acting cynical, would you folks, I can't stop myself. But then again, I have every excuse in the book, because 99 times out of a hundred, holiday albums are usually just comprised of old bands doing versions of old carols you're already sick of hearing. See, what I listen to myself this time of year is music that's either Christmas-y sounding or actually peripheral to my chosen pagan frostbite-holiday. For the former, you can't beat **Enya's *Paint The Sky With Stars***, a compilation of her more popular "hits." As you may or may not know, she multi-tracks her voice hundreds of times in the studio, which means we'll never see her play live, because you'd need 100 singing Enyas to accomplish it. But the music itself is reflective, pretty and spiritual. My holiday-sounding faves are "Anywhere Is" and "Storms in Africa," but almost all are very nice.

As for the latter, the **Boston Ballet Orchestra's** version of *The Nutcracker* is a CD I keep in the car every year, from Thanksgiving to Dec. 26. The CD is missing a few things, like the teddy bear's dance, but other than that it's such a peach, especially if you've ever seen it live. It seems to be out of stock at bostonballet.org, but it's worth hunting down.

Local bands seeking album or EP reviews can message me on Twitter (@esaeger) or Facebook (eric.saeger.9). 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• The new albums set to be released on Dec. 17 are in our scope today, folks! I haven't even looked at the list yet, because that has as much appeal to me as watching my dentist prepare his syringe of Novacaine. Like, I know it's coming, and there will be "bootleg" albums for collectors and massively expensive box sets for people who'd rather have albums than a car, but what's odd to me is that I haven't been made aware of any new holiday albums as of yet. OK, lemme go look at the list of — holy crow, there are almost no new albums coming out on the 17th, let alone holiday albums! What the heck am I supposed to do here? You know, that always happens during these last weeks of the year, and the only bands putting out albums are metal bands, because there's a new metal album born every minute. With the big holidays coming so soon, the editors should just let me fill up this column with jokes, nursery rhymes and bedtime stories, so at least there'd be — wait, wait, I found one, *Califas Worldwide*, from California quartet **Hed PE**, a band that's known for "its eclectic genre-crossing style, predominantly in the fusion of gangsta rap and punk rock it has termed 'G-punk,' but also for its reggae-fused music." Great, whatever, I'm just glad I have something music-related to talk about in this music column (I'll bet next week is going to be even worse). So there's a single, called "Not Now," which features the mad metal-rappin' skills of some collective (or just one dude, it's impossible to tell from their Facebook, which, trust me, annoys me a million times more than it does you) called The Final Clause of Tacitus. So the overall effect of the song is Rage Against The Machine with no budget; it's not bad I suppose, but I'd have to say — oh, you don't care about this either, it's not Tom Morello or anything, just some guys who sound like they won a football pool and decided to spend it doofing around in a recording studio while the engineer ate Funyuns and took naps. Let's forget this and try to find something normal, not that I think there's a snowball's chance of that happening.

• Praise be, gang, there's another one, titled *Food For Thought*, from some rapper lady named **Che Noir!** Unless the Brooklyn Vegan blog-site has no idea what it's talking about (which is always a possibility), she is from Buffalo, New York, a place that Trip Advisor says is mostly inhabited by clinically depressed football fans and Loch Ness Monsters. OK, let me get down with this awesome tune. Hmm, that's original, she starts out her rap by saying "Yeah," you know, in this really rappy tone, and then she's spittin' mad words and swears. She's pretty edgy I suppose, but her voice is gentle-ish, like if Dionne Warwick were a rapper. The beat is this dumb 1980s synth-cheese thing. I don't hate it, mostly because I just feel sorry for it. Aaaaand we're movin', folks, let's keep trying to find something normal.

• OK, I give up, there's not even a heavy metal Christmas album, just no albums at all. Looks like I'll just do a bedtime story and then tuck you in. OK, so this little bear got lost in the woods looking for special mushrooms, see, and — wait! *Wait!* Look! Looky yonder! You'll never believe it, a new album from 1950s rock 'n' roll icon **Chuck Berry**, *Live From Blueberry Hill!* Why am I being given this gift of column-filling news? Well, it's because the 17th would have been Chuck's 95th birthday! It's dumb but I'll take it, this wonderful collection of live versions of "Roll Over Beethoven," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Johnny B. Goode." I will take it, as a Christmas miracle! God bless us, guys, every one! — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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On Animals, by Susan Orlean (Avid Reader Press, 237 pages)

Susan Orlean had me at “Shiftless Little Loafers,” her 1996 essay in *The New Yorker* in which she bemoaned how little babies do to earn their keep.

But then she lost me. I’ve not kept up with Orlean’s work, even as she grew in fame and output. I didn’t read *The Orchid Thief* in 1998 or *The Library Book* in 2018, and didn’t even know about *Red Sox and Bluefish*, a 1987 paperback collection of Boston Globe columns on “Things that Make New England New England.”

My bad.

After reading *On Animals*, I’ve repented of Orlean negligence and vowed to catch up, even though her new book is the type that generally irritates me: one composed almost entirely of previously published works. These essays were originally published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *Smithsonian* magazine, and they’re introduced under the unifying umbrella of a 2011 Amazon Kindle Original.

Normally there’s one suitable response to pre-published essays released in book form just before the holiday season: pffft. As in, you want us to pay money for essays we’ve already read for free? However, this is the rare collection that’s worth overlooking the bald money grab, at least for anyone who is, like Orlean describes herself, “animalish.”

Orleans begins by describing an ordinary childhood of animal longing, in which she and her siblings had to overcome their mother’s resistance in order to obtain a dog and a butterscotch-colored mouse. Early on, Orlean displayed a quirky sense of comedy that underlies her work. She writes of the mouse, “I named her Sparky and pretended that she was some sort of championship show mouse, and I made a bunch of fake ribbons and trophies for her and I told people she had won them at mouse shows.”

In college she splurged on an Irish setter puppy, causing her mother to sigh, “Well, for heaven’s sake, Susie. You and your *animals*.” She married a man who once promised her a donkey for her birthday and who, for Valentine’s Day one year, arranged to have an African lion — “tawney and panting, with soft, round ears and paws as big as baseball mitts” — visit her Manhattan apartment on a leash. (The lion was accompanied by his owner and three off-duty police officers.)

Orlean quotes John Berger, who said that people get attached to animals because they remind us of the agrarian lives that most of us no longer lead, but she says it’s more than that, that animals give a “warm, wonderful, unpredictable texture” to life. As such, she’s spent much of her career writing about animals and spent much of personal life caring



for them. (It helps that she lives on 50 acres in California, enabling her to keep creatures such as ducks and donkeys.)

In “The It Bird” Orlean writes of her interests in chickens and tells the fascinating story of how Martha Stewart helped to launch a nationwide chicken craze by publishing glamour shots of chickens in her magazine. “Show Dog” is a brief meditation on the lives of championship dogs, focusing on a boxer from Massachusetts named Biff. (“He has a dark mask, spongy lips, a wishbone-shaped white blaze, and the earnest and slightly careworn expression of a small-town mayor.”)

“The Lady and the Tigers” explores the strange life of the New Jersey woman who owned 24 or so tigers, more than Six Flags Wild Safari. “You know how it is — you start with one tiger, then you get another and another, then a few are born and a few die, and you start to lose track of details like exactly how many tigers you have.”

In “Riding High,” Orlean examines the history of the mule, the cross of a male donkey and a female horse that is always sterile because of its uneven number of chromosomes, and in “Where Donkeys Deliver,” she writes of falling in love with “the plain tenderness of their faces and their attitude of patient resignation and even their impenetrable, obdurate temperaments.”

This essay is as much a reflection on the mind-boggling differences in cultures as it is on donkeys alone. Orlean notes that donkeys in America are mostly kept as pets, whereas in other countries, such as Morocco, they remain beasts of burden. She writes of seeing a small, harnessed donkey walking gingerly alone down a steep road in Fez, with no one showing any interest. When she asked someone about this, she was told the donkey “was probably just finished with work and on his way home.”

Other animals that merit their own chapter in this book include rabbits, lions, pandas, oxen, pigeons and whales, with side trips into the business of taxidermy and animal actors in Hollywood.

In her chapter on chickens, Orlean acknowledges a largely ignored problem: Animals live short and brutish lives and then die, giving animalish people self-inflicted pain. She writes of sitting in a vet’s office sobbing after having to have a sick chicken euthanized. (“I eat chicken all the time, so I have no right to morally oppose the killing of a chicken, but I couldn’t kill my own pet.”) And she owns turkeys, “an impulse buy,” but they are pets that will not be eaten. “I am having turkey for Thanksgiving, but not *my* turkeys,” she writes. (Her husband calls them “landscape animals.”)

Eventually Orlean concludes that animals are “an ideal foil for examining the human condition.” Agreed, but animals are more a romp in the park than a philosophy class. That’s true of *On Animals*, as well. **A** — Jennifer Graham

BOOK NOTES

The end of the year is time for celebrating with family and friends, making resolutions for the new year, and hearing wealthy CEOs tell us what books we should have read but probably didn’t.

Bill Gates, for example, had a difficult year PR-wise but still found time to share his five favorite books of the year in a video in which he strolls through a holiday tableau, under what’s probably fake snow, wearing a buffalo-checked lumberjack shirt as if he were a simple man of the people. (You can find this on YouTube.)

Gates, who famously reads 50 books a year, says he looks forward to reading for three hours a day when he’s on vacation. His five recommended books for 2021:

Project Hail Mary (Ballantine, 496 pages) by Andy Weir, a novel by the author of *The Martian*, about a high-school teacher who is startled to wake up in a different star system. (Gates read the book over a weekend, he said.)

Hamnet (Knopf, 320 pages) by Maggie O’Farrell, speculative fiction about William Shakespeare’s life; Hamnet was the name of his son, who died at age 11.

A Thousand Brains, a New Theory of Intelligence (Basic, 288 pages) by Jeff Hawkins, who is best known as the co-inventor of the PalmPilot, one of the first handheld computers. In this book he delves into artificial intelligence and where it’s headed.

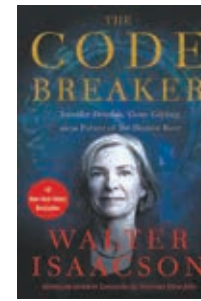
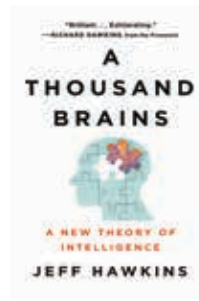
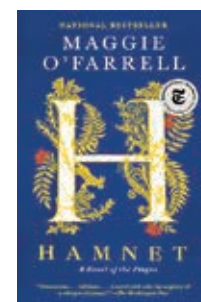
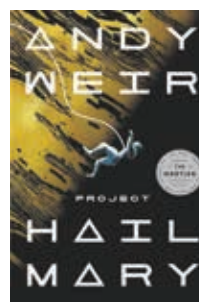
The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race (Simon & Schuster, 560 pages), by Walter Isaacson, probes the development and ethical quandaries presented by CRISPR gene editing technology.

Klara and the Sun (Knopf, 320 pages) by Kazuo Ishiguro is a thought-provoking novel about a specific form of artificial intelligence, the personal robot engineered to be a companion to humans.

For what it’s worth, we, too, loved *Klara and The Sun*, and gave it an A back in the spring. So we’re more interested in what Ishiguro believes to be the best books of the year than Gates. There’s no heartwarming video involved, but here they are, courtesy of the UK newspaper *The Guardian*, which did a roundup of several authors’ favorites.

The Premonition, A Pandemic Story (W.W. Norton, 320 pages) by Michael Lewis; **Failures of State** (Mudlark, 432 pages) by Jonathan Calvert and George Arbutnot; **The Dangers of Smoking in Bed: Stories** (Hogarth, 208 pages) by Mariana Enriquez; and **Spike, The Virus vs. the People** by Jeremy Farrar and Anjana Ahuja (Profile Books, 253 pages).

— Jennifer Graham



Books

Author events

• MIDDLE GRADE AUTHOR

PANEL Featuring middle grade authors Padma Venkatraman, Barbara Dee, Leah Henderson, Aida Salazar and Lindsey Stoddard. Virtual event hosted by Toadstool Bookshops in Peterborough, Nashua and Keene. Sat., Dec. 18, 4 p.m. Via Zoom. Visit toadbooks.com.

• **JOHN NICHOLS** Author presents *Coronavirus Criminals and Pandemic Profiteers*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord. Tues., Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

• **GARY SAMPSON AND INEZ MCDERMOTT** Photographer Sampson and art historian McDermott discuss *New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State*. Sat., Feb. 19, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Visit monadnockwriters.org.

• TIMOTHY BOUDREAU

Author presents on the craft of writing short stories. Sat., Jan. 15, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Visit monadnockwriters.org.

Poetry

• **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.

West Side Story (PG-13)

Get Maria and Tony, the Sharks and the Jets, the dance-fights and the love songs plus Rita Moreno in *West Side Story*, the Steven Spielberg-directed film adaptation of the 1957 stage musical.

If you are totally new to *West Side Story* in any form, it is basically *Romeo & Juliet* with New York City-born Tony (Ansel Elgort) and recent arrival from Puerto Rico Maria (Rachel Zegler) as the star-crossed lovers and the gang of angry nativist boys calling themselves the Jets and the Puerto Rican gang called the Sharks standing in for the Montague and Capulet families. Here, racial animosity, economic fears and encroaching gentrification in the Upper West Side of mid-century New York City form the basis of the resentments between the opposing camps, instead of whatever the beef was back in fair Verona.

In Maria's corner: her older brother Bernardo (David Alvarez), the leader of the Sharks; Bernardo's girlfriend Anita (Ariana DeBose), and Chino (Josh Andrés Rivera), a nice boy with a good future in accounting whom Bernardo is shoving at Maria.

In Tony's corner: Riff (Mike Faist), head of the Jets, and Valentina (Rita Moreno), widowed owner of corner store Doc's, who is letting Tony work and live at the shop. Valentina, who has sort of adopted Tony, is also Puerto Rican, which is perhaps why Tony seems less focused on the turf struggles than Riff. Well, that and the fact that he's had a good long while to think about the nature of violence while serving time for his part in a previous brawl.

I'm not at all objective about this movie or this musical; it is one of my longtime favorites. So even when the movie felt a little flat in the opening few scenes, I was always having a good time. But, happily, it grew on me. The more we got of Anita, Bernardo, Valentina and even Riff, the more interesting I found this movie's take on the material and the more I generally liked the movie. The movie sort of rides the line between seeming like it's in a real place and feeling like a stage set. Scenes in the Puerto Rican neighborhood approached a kind of reality (or, at least, golden age Hollywood musical reality) but other scenes, particularly some of the scenes set amid the construction rubble of half-demolished slums, felt more like an excellent tech crew was working with a very large budget.

The least interesting thing about the film is probably the Tony-Maria love story. Elgort is mostly fine, Zegler is quite good, bringing more depth to the occasionally drippy-seeming character of Maria. Their relationship had more oomph than I remember from the 1961 movie — more actually than most



West Side Story

Romeo & Juliet stories I've seen. But all the stuff going on around them and all the supporting characters — to include smaller roles like Anybodys (Iris Menas) or Valentina or Chino or the storyline about the urban renewal projects displacing many neighborhoods — are more interesting than the two people who “love at first sight” during a dance battle. (A well-staged dance battle. All of the choreography here is electric and has that “big Hollywood musical dance number” showmanship, all bright colors and screen-filling extras.)

As with the 1961 movie adaptation of *West Side Story*, Anita is the movie's standout character, followed here by Valentina (which feels fitting, since Moreno won an Oscar for playing Anita in the 1961 movie). Anita is awesome, her showcase song “America” is the banger it always is, her wardrobe is a costume-y delight and she gets the movie's most complex (if super downbeat) arc. DeBose brings all the energy and stage presence the role calls for and absolutely shines throughout. I also appreciated the movie's take on Anita's personal goals and the relationship between Bernardo and her, and their different experiences with trying to make it in New York. This movie doesn't modernize the play's politics, necessarily, but it does bring some 2021 awareness to the racial and economic issues in the story.

This adaptation of *West Side Story* doesn't explode its box or do something entirely new, but it adds enough little details or tweaked elements that it does feel like its own thing while still presenting you with the songs and characters you know and love. **A-**

Rated PG-13 for some strong violence, strong language, thematic content, suggestive material and brief smoking, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Steven Spielberg with a screenplay by Tony Kushner, West Side

Story is two hours and 36 minutes long and distributed by Twentieth Century Studios in theaters.

Being the Ricardos (R)

A series of potential calamities hits the *I Love Lucy* show during one week in the early 1950s in *Being the Ricardos*, an Aaron Sorkin-written and -directed movie that is in theaters now and slated to stream on Amazon Prime on Dec. 21.

On Sunday, Lucille Ball (Nicole Kidman) gets an early peek at a tabloid story alleging that her husband, Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem), is a serial cheater — worse, she's getting the story after he's been gone for a couple of days. After he comes back, claiming he spent the time playing cards on his boat and swearing that he's been a faithful husband, the two start to make up — only to have their making out interrupted by Walter Winchell's radio report of a blind item about the most popular woman in television being a secret communist. Maybe he means Imogene Coca, Desi tries to calm her by saying, but Lucy knows he's talking about her.

On Monday, Lucy and Desi meet with officials from CBS and Philip Morris (the show's largest advertiser) to explain the situation — or rather, to sort of explain the situation. Desi tells them she checked the wrong box when registering to vote decades ago, though privately Lucy says her one-time communist party affiliation was a tribute to the grandfather who raised her. The story hasn't hit the papers yet, but Lucy and Desi work to reassure their show's staff, the network and Philip Morris that Lucy's no communist and that this hit show, now in its second season, will go on.

Monday's craziness pushes their intended big news of the week back a day: Lucy is pregnant and, rather than hide that fact on TV with laundry and giant chairs, Desi wants Lucy Ricardo, her onscreen persona, to be pregnant on air as well. Of

course, pregnant women are indecent (somehow) and shake the very foundations of society (or something) and aren't to be shown on television, is the network's position, which the couple will have to work to change.

Will the show last long enough for Desi to get his boundary-breaking pregnancy storyline or will news of Lucy's recent appearance before the House Un-American Activities Committee sink the show before Friday's tape time? This is the most urgent part of the story, but Lucy's fears about Desi's infidelities and the possible breakup of their marriage also bubble steadily in the background. Then there's the ongoing, very active dislike between costars William Frawley (J.K. Simmons) and Vivian Vance (Nina Arianda), who is bristling at her character's dowdiness being a running gag (and a likely bit of typecasting from which she won't escape). We also watch writers Madelyn Pugh (Alia Shawkat) and Bob Carroll (Jake Lacy) jostling for position with executive producer Jesse Oppenheimer (Tony Hale).

The movie is framed with an older trio of actors playing those last three characters as they look back on that week, a conceit that allows for a lot of exposition delivery. It's not the smoothest bit of scene-setting and character-building ever put on screen, but it gets the job done — which is maybe how I'd describe the movie overall. Nobody blows you away but nobody stinks up the joint, performance-wise. This is neither the most nor the least Sorkin Sorkin screenplay; I think in the main his writer tendencies work with the material and the story as he's chosen to tell it.

In addition to directly being told about the volatility of Lucy and Desi's relationship, we get flashbacks that sort of deepen the exploration of the characters and their motivations. You know, sort of. This movie reminds me a bit of last year's *Mank* for how it gives you a picture of an earlier era of showbiz, showing you both the golden public image and the grimmer behind-the-scenes happenings. But while that movie was *Doing A Thing* (giving you the behind-the-scenes of *Citizen Kane* in the style of *Citizen Kane*), *Being the Ricardos* is a more straightforward take that blends network politics, national politics and marriage politics with bits of several people's biographies. This movie is solid, enjoyable if you are at all interested in TV or Hollywood or any of the big names involved — and the fact that it will soon be available for viewing in your home is all the better. **B**

Rated R for language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, Being the Ricardos is two hours and 5 minutes long and is distributed by Amazon Studios in theaters and will stream on Amazon Prime starting Dec. 21. 🍷

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***The Power of the Dog* (R)**

Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst.

Jane Campion writes and directs this movie based on a 1967 novel by Thomas Savage.

Brothers from a prosperous ranching family, Phil (Cumberbatch) and George (Jesse Plemons) run their ranch together, with Phil in particular getting into the dusty, gritty work of tending to the cattle. During one of their cattle drives, George starts a relationship with Rose (Dunst), the widowed owner of the inn where they stop to eat and sleep. Their relationship starts in part because George finds her crying over what a homophobic jerk Phil was to her college-age son, Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee), who had served as waiter to the ranching party.

George and Rose get married, enraging Phil, who relates to his new relatives only via psychological torture — first of Rose, already shaky about marrying in to the wealthy family, and later of Phil.

The Power of the Dog is a beautifully shot, (largely) understatedly performed, expertly scored movie that quietly ratchets up the tension as it shows the wildfire-like destruction of performative toxic masculinity, which Phil not only embodies but encourages in the ranch hands around him. These aspects, ruminating on them, are what stand out to me as I think back on the movie.

However.

As I watched the movie, what I often felt more was how hard this movie was Oscar-ing, just straining and stretching with every fiber to “for your consideration” with all its elegantly matte Important Movie might. I mean it is beautiful and Cumberbatch *does* create a fascinating character to watch and I definitely had that “just before an explosion” feeling the whole time I watched it. This movie is good, maybe even great, but it also felt like it needed something to pull it out of the space where you can see the words on the page of the book it’s from and into a more organic living, breathing world. Nevertheless, **A-** Available on Netflix.

***Tick, Tick ... Boom!* (PG-13)**

Andrew Garfield, Alexandra Shipp.

Before he wrote the hugely popular musical *Rent*, before he wrote the show that would become *Tick, Tick ... Boom!*, the late Jonathan Larson (played here by Garfield) struggled to get attention for *Superbia*, a futuristic musical that Wikipedia says was meant to be a rock opera retelling of *1984*. This movie, based on the one-man (plus band) show that would eventually become *Tick, Tick ... Boom!*, tells the story of his work to put on a presentation of *Superbia* while dealing with changing relationships with friends and his girlfriend Susan (Shipp) and with his looming 30th birthday, which he has set as a sort of life-accomplishment deadline. (Stephen Sondheim already had a Broadway hit by 30, Larson keeps saying.)



The Power of the Dog

My feelings about this musical changed in the days after I saw it. When I saw it, it felt like an affable if rough, not-quite-for-me tale with a somewhat unlikable performance at its center. But, after the Nov. 26 death of Sondheim, it started to feel more like a heartfelt tribute to Sondheim and the community of New York City theater itself. The song “Sunday,” which has more Broadway cameos than a *Law & Order* marathon, is a direct homage to Sondheim and he has a strong presence throughout the movie (he is played onscreen by Bradley Whitford, except during a final scene when it is Sondheim’s actual voice that we’re hearing). I felt like I was watching director Lin-Manuel Miranda express his gratitude and fondness for the lyricist/composer as much as I was watching Sondheim’s influence on Larson’s work.

I liked the nitty-gritty details of putting on the presentation of *Superbia* that is supposed to help it reach the Broadway stage (Jonathan takes part in a focus group to earn \$75 to pay for an extra musician at his presentation) to the overall artistic struggle (at one point, his agent, played by Judith Light, explains that writing is just throwing one thing after another against the wall and hoping something sticks). But I never quite warmed to Garfield’s performance; he brings a kind of careless self-absorbed smugness to the character that just made it hard to sympathize with. And while I think some of this is part of the character — learning to see beyond himself is part of the Larson character’s journey — I don’t feel like he was meant to be as off-putting as he frequently seems.

In the moments where Garfield brings the volume down, I could see more of a real person and putting that guy in the fantastical world of song, dance and 1990s Broadway feels more winning than what we get from him through much of the film. **B** Available on Netflix.

***Single All the Way* (TV-PG)**

Michael Urie, Philemon Chambers.

Also, Barry Bostwick, Jennifer Coolidge and Kathy Najimy.

This perfectly delightful Christmas cookie of a rom-com features some classic ingredients — going home for the holidays (to New Hampshire!), a pretend boyfriend, a quirky family, a blind date, the realization that your soulmate was Right There All Along. L.A.-based Peter (Urie) breaks up with his most recent boyfriend just before Christmas and asks best



Single All the Way

friend Nick (Chambers) to come home with him and pretend to Peter’s matchmaking family that he and Peter finally got together. What is extra wonderful about this movie is that Nick (who has quietly felt more for Peter than he thinks Peter feels for him) doesn’t engage in this rom-com wackiness, and throughout this sweet confection people just basically behave like normal humans (at least, by movie standards). They talk about what they’re thinking and explain their feelings and generally act out of love and respect. Crazy, I know! I know you have a lot of options out there when you need holiday silliness and joy to accompany gift wrapping or avoiding gift wrapping but *Single All the Way* is so enjoyable that it can be your post-chores relaxing-with-a-warm-boozy-drink treat. **B+** Available on Netflix.

***Ciao, Alberto* (G)**

Jack Dylan Grazer, Marco Barricelli.

This eight-minute short, featuring the characters from *Luca*, follows Alberto (voice of Grazer) as he adjusts to life with Massimo (voice of Barricelli), the fisherman, now that Julia and Luca are away at school. My kids enjoyed this short, sweet (and, like *Luca*, absolutely beautiful) film of Alberto earnestly trying to impress Massimo with his hard work but messing up, often with chaos-creating results. But I almost feel like this is even more a film for the parents; it offers a reminder that behind every kitchen covered in tomato sauce or flaming rowboat is a kid whose intentions (oftentimes, good intentions) outstripped their abilities. The climax is a scene that ends with one almost shockingly perfect line of dialogue. **A** Available on Disney+.

***Olaf Presents* (TV-PG)**

Josh Gad.

Gad voices Olaf, the snowman of *Frozen* movies fame, in this series of shorts, which can be viewed individually as four-minute movies (really just two minutes, with another two minutes of credits) or as one 12-minute short. Riffing on the scene from *Frozen 2* when Olaf gives a short dramatic reenactment of the plot of the first movie, these shorts feature Olaf, with occasional assists from Sven the reindeer and from the snow monster (who the internet tells me is named Marshmallow), recapping *The Little Mermaid*, *Moana*, *The Lion King*, *Aladdin* and *Tangled*. Each one is a goofy

delight, as much for the meta commentary of the movies themselves as for snowman silliness. **A** Available on Disney+.

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (PG)**

Voices of Brady Noon, Ethan William Childress.

The first of the popular Jeff Kinney books gets a new, animated adaptation that runs a kid-friendly 58 minutes long.

Greg (voice of Noon) and his longtime friend Rowley (voice of Childress) are terrified by the start of middle school — there are the kids who are shaving, the popularity that runs on different rules than elementary school, the politics of the lunch room and the terror of the “cheese touch” (a kind of cooties caused by a moldy piece of cheese that has sat on the basketball courts since Greg’s high school brother was at middle school). Along the way, Greg starts to fear that Rowley’s “elementary-school-ish” interests will hurt their coolness cred.

The animation is bright and round and has a nice comic-y appearance. The movie does a good job of addressing the drama of the changing friendships between elementary school and middle school and the sudden self-consciousness that sets in. While there are some cartoony hijinks, the movie is much more about these issues than just pure silliness — putting the optimum viewing audience at more the late-elementary school and up level. **B** Available on Disney+.

***Trolls Holiday in Harmony* (TV-PG)**

Voices of Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake.

The new trolls of *Trolls World Tour* show up in this 30-minute holiday special whose main storylines include Branch (Timberlake) and Poppy (Kendrick) getting each other Secret Santa gifts and Tiny Diamond (voice of Keenan Thompson) trying to regain his flow after he finds himself at a loss for rhymes. Probably that this short exists and offers a half hour of kid entertainment is the most notable thing about it. It gives you songs, some troll visual fun and a few moments of quirkiness. **B-** Available on Hulu.

***A Castle for Christmas* (TV-G)**

Brooke Shields, Cary Elwes.

Romance author Sophie Brown (Shields) travels to her late father’s hometown in Scotland to escape the fan fury over her recent novel, which kills off the romantic hero of her long-running series. His death is perhaps a reflection of the end of Sophie’s real-life marriage and her general sense of unmooredness. When she arrives in Scotland and sees Dun Dunbar Castle, the large manor house her father’s family were caretakers of, she decides she’s home. And, lucky for her, the current duke, the grumpy also divorced Myles (Elwes), is in financial trouble and reluctantly looking to sell. Or perhaps he can have his castle and his debts cleared too if he can convince Sophie to agree to some only-in-a-rom-com terms: she lives at the castle with him for a few

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months to learn how to take care of it, but if she leaves before this training period is over she forfeits her down payment.

Are these two people who are initially antagonistic going to warm to each other? The total lack of mystery about this question doesn't dampen the mild enjoyment of watching exactly everything you think will happen happen exactly as you think it will. **B-** Available on Netflix.

Zoey's Extraordinary Christmas (TV-14)

Jane Levy, Skylar Astin.

The TV show *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, which had two seasons on NBC, now has this holiday movie on, of all things, the Roku Channel. I didn't watch the show but the beginning of this movie sums things up: Zoey (Levy) can hear people's "heart songs" — their hopes and fears and other emotional struggles expressed via song. Recently, her boyfriend Max (Astin) also gained the ability to hear heart songs and, like Zoey, tries to use this knowledge to improve things for people like Zoey's mom, Maggie (Mary Steenburgen), still dealing with the death of Zoey's dad Mitch (Peter Gallagher). Zoey is also still dealing with his death: this is the first Christmas that the family will be without him and she is intensely determined that everything they do be exactly the way he would have done it.



Olaf Presents

I don't know that this movie put *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist* on the top of my must-watch list (both seasons are available on Peacock) but the movie is affable, sweet, lightly funny and, if you like a good dance number, enough of a good time. I like so many of the actors here — Levy, Astin, Steenburgen and also Alex Newell (who plays Zoey's friend) and Andrew Leeds and Alice Lee, who play her brother and his wife — that I was willing to stick it out through some of the too-sugary elements or moments when it felt like the words "The Message of This Story" were flashing on screen. **B-** Available on the Roku Channel. 🍷

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Film Venues

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225-1111, banknhstage.com

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

Park Theatre
19 Main St., Jaffrey
theparktheatre.org

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

Regal Fox Run Stadium 15
45 Gosling Road, Newington
regmovies.com

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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre
40 Main St., Wilton
wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-
3456

Shows

- *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen multiple times at all three Chunky's locations through Thursday, Dec. 16. Tickets cost \$5.99.
- *The Danish Collector: Delacroix to Gauguin* (2021) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord

on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

- *House of Gucci* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 3:30 & 7 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. (vaccinated guests); Friday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 19, at noon, 3:30 & 7 p.m.
- *Die Hard* (R, 1988) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.
- *Nightmare Alley* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres on Friday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 19, at 12:30, 4 & 7:30 p.m. and (for vaccinated guests) on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6:30 p.m.
- *Elf* screening at **Christmas Break on a Budget** on Saturday, Dec. 18, at noon at The Strand in Dover. The afternoon will include storytime, family activities and the movie. The cost is \$20 for a family of four or \$8 each.
- *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen at Regal Fox Run on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. Tickets \$5.
- *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at the Park Theatre (19 Main St. in Jaffrey; theparktheatre.org) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. Admission is free but go online to get tickets. Have a photo taken with Santa and Elves in the lobby.
- *The Bolshoi Ballet — The Nutcracker* A broadcast presentation captured live, Sunday, Dec. 19, at 12:55 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord. Tickets cost \$15.
- *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) will screen at all three Chunky's locations on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.99.
- *The Music Hall* will show a series of holiday movies during Christmas week at its Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth), including *White Christmas* (1954) on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.; *Love Actually* (R, 2003) on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m.; *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 3 and 7 p.m.; *The Grinch* (2018, PG) on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.; and *Last Christmas* (2019, PG-13) on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors age 60 and up, students, military and first responders. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.
- *The Strong Man* (1926) starring Harry Langdon and directed by Frank Capra, a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free; \$10 donation suggested.
- The Senior Movie Mornings Series at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester) presents *White Christmas* (1954) on Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$10. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.

NITE
Rock the halls
Gift ideas for music fans

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Holiday cheer:** Hosting its annual benefit show, the **Uncle Steve Band** is a friendly combo whose audience was once described as consisting of “old hippies, college kids, families with young children, and everyone else.” Featuring fiddle and harmonica, they lead with a country rock vibe, though a recent original, “To Be In Love Alone,” has a soulful groove. Proceeds from the event go to Bristol Community Services. Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Kathleen’s Irish Pub, 90 Lake St., Bristol. Admission \$10 at the door.

• **Winter party:** A mini-festival starring Grammy-nominated mandolin player **Matt Flinner** and roots band **Low Lily** marks the solstice — what optimists term the turn towards spring. Possessing a wide-ranging style that’s found him working with Leftover Salmon, Steve Martin, Modern Mandolin Quartet and others, Flinner was called “the most exciting and creative mandolin player on the scene today” by Jazz Times. Friday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$23 at ccanh.com.

• **Guitar heroes:** Three veteran guitarists team up for **Masters of the Telecaster**, a trio devoted to the Fender-forward music of Roy Buchanan, Bo Diddley, Little Richard and others. The show stars G.E. Smith, known for his time in the SNL Band and stints with Hall & Oates and Roger Waters; Jim Weider, who stepped in for Robbie Robertson in The Band; and Jon Herington, who currently tours with Steely Dan. Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$35 and \$40 at tupelohall.com.

• **Groovy time:** Six-piece funk fusion powerhouse **Mica’s Groove Train** returns to a music-friendly downtown tap room and restaurant. Led by Yamica Peterson, a soulful singer and keyboard player with a voice that can lift a crowd from its chairs and onto the dance floor, the band made a splash in the early 2010s before taking a multi-year hiatus. Back and busy, the band leads with a solid catalog of original songs. Saturday, Dec. 18, 8 p.m., Strange Brew Tavern, 88 Market St., Manchester. See msyamicapeterson.com.

• **Sunday fun:** Enjoy afternoon tapas and music from **The Incidentals**, a quartet whose repertoire ranges from Sinatra to the Ramones. It’s not clear if that includes a punk rock version of “My Way,” though perhaps — Sid Vicious covered that song once upon a time. The restaurant is renowned for its inventive sharable small plates and a cocktail bar that extends the Grateful Dead theme with a grapefruit-flavored Sugar Magnolia martini. Sunday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m., Stella Blu, 70 East Pearl St., Nashua, stellablu-nh.com. 🍷



Dan Blakeslee vinyl. Courtesy images.



Liz Bills poster



Sepsiss fleece



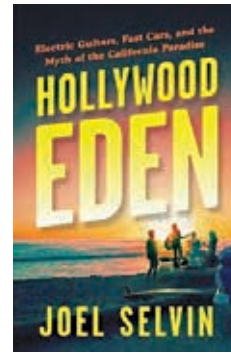
Made-to-order action figure



Nirvana Nevermind box set



Rock Concert



Hollywood Eden



Joan Jett deluxe hardcover

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Books, box sets, baubles, even bespoke action figures are all good ways to make the music fan in your life feel special — and if those don’t do it, there’s always concert tickets. Here are some gifts that are sure to provoke a positive response.

Keep the holiday spirit alive all year with singer, songwriter and artist Dan Blakeslee & the Calabash Club’s joyful album, **Christmasland Jubilee**, available in a deluxe green and gold accented splattered vinyl edition that includes a silkscreened jacket, lyric book and original sketches from the New England treasure, who frequently performs in the Granite State.

Celebrate multiple New England Music Award nominee **Liz Bills** by purchasing her latest CD, *Liz Bills & The Change*, or grabbing a ’60s themed poster marking the same release.

Sepsiss took home their second NEMA in October, for Hard Rock/Metal Act of the Year. The New Hampshire rockers are ace branders as well, with a merch store offering puzzles, dog tags, red starred socks, stickers and even a signed Polaroid, along with T-shirts and caps. One of the best items is a fleece blanket with the image of lead singer Melissa Wolfe.

Not content with doing standup comedy and performing power pop with

his band Donaher, Nick Lavallee began crafting **made-to-order action figures** of cultural icons a while back, including a dual set with Chance the Rapper and Death Cab for Cutie’s Ben Gibbard, Tom Hanks in his *Castaway* role, Tenacious D and the priceless *Mahket Basket* clerk (actually \$65). See pics on Instagram @wickedjoyful or purchase at wickedjoyful.bigcartel.com.

Peter Jackson’s mammoth documentary **Get Back** had Beatles fans atwitter over Thanksgiving; some loved it, others were put off by its eight-hour length. For fans, there’s a deluxe vinyl box set of the **Let It Be** album that includes all the superior Glyn Johns mixes, or a **Get Back coffee table book**. For brevity lovers, it’s perhaps a better idea to grab a pair of **tickets to watch Ringo Starr & His All-Starr band** open Bank of NH Pavilion’s 2022 concert season on June 4.

For the concert fan who can’t decide, there’s always the **gift card** option. Many area venues offer them, including Tupelo Music Hall. The Derry venue has upcoming shows from Marc Cohn, The Alarm, Rick Springfield, Tower of Power and ex-Eagle Don Felder, along with Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers guitarist Mike Campbell, so it will surely get spent.

Supply chain problems preclude anyone from having the 30th-anniversary box set of Nirvana’s earth-shattering **Nevermind**

on vinyl until next May, so if preordering won’t work, there’s a five-CD version with the remastered album and complete recordings of four concerts, as well as a Blu-ray disc of the *HD Live in Amsterdam* video, and a 40-page hardcover book.

Speaking of books, several fine reads for the rock fan were published this year, including **Rock Concert** by Marc Myers, an oral history with memories from artists, fans and industry figures. It’s packed with fun facts, such as that the first stadium concert was promoted by Kay Wheeler, the teenage president of Elvis Presley’s fan club. Her letter writing campaign in 1956 managed to fill the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

For the classic rock fan, **Hollywood Eden** by Joel Selvin traces the roots of the 1960s California Sound to University High School in Los Angeles, where teens like Bruce Johnston of the Beach Boys and Jan & Dean spent their days in classes and their nights making hit records. It includes the bizarre story of a plot to kidnap Frank Sinatra Jr. to revive a flagging career.

At the intersection of rock and fantasy, Z2 Comics offers **graphic novels** based on music from artists from All Time Low to Yungblud. Among the best are one that combines the *I Love Rock and Roll* and *Bad Reputation* albums by Joan Jett into one book, and another based on Judas Priest’s *Screaming for Vengeance*. The latter comes in a \$500 deluxe version. 🍷

WE'VE UPPED OUR GAME

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New Hampshire
University

Did you know SNHU is one of the first schools in New England to offer competitive college esports? That's why we've recently opened our brand new esports arena with 18 PC stations and two console stations. Here, you can compete on a local, regional and national level, or just play for fun!

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snhu.edu/campus





MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive 855-2222	Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road 406-1196	Shara Vineyards 82 Currier Road T-Bones 404 S. Main St. 715-1999	Dover Sunrise Pointe Cafe 50 Pointe Place #33 343-2110	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	The Goat 50 Old Granite St. 858-5789
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898	Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614	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	Manchester Angel City Music Hall 179 Elm St. 931-3654	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave. 858-5789
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Cheers 17 Depot St. 228-0180	Contoocook Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road 746-3811	Exeter Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080	Community Oven 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St. 819-9336
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road	Farmington Hawks Pen 1114 Route 11 755-3301	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832	Bonfire 950 Elm St. 663-7678	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 South Bow St. 228-8508	Courtyard by Marriott Concord 70 Constitution Ave.	Derry Amphora 55 Crystal Ave., 537-0111	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	McGuirk's Ocean View Restaurant & Lounge 95 Ocean Blvd.	Laconia Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535
Canterbury Canterbury Shaker Village 288 Shaker Road 783-9511	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111 672-9898		North Beach Bar & Grill 931 Ocean Blvd. 967-4884	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	Firefly 21 Concord St. 935-9740	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833			Sea Ketch 127 Ocean Blvd. 926-0324	Game Changer Bar & Grill 4 Orchard View 216-1396	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292
				Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road	603 Brewery & Beer Hall 42 Main St. 404-6123	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy 279-3313
				Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954		Getaway Lounge 157 Franklin St., 627-0661	

Thursday, Dec. 16

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open mic jam, 6:30 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Jordan Quinn, 4:30 p.m. Hermanos: Ken Clark, 6:30 p.m.	Londonderry 603 Brewery: 5th Annual Ugly Sweater Party, 5 p.m. Stumble Inn: D-Comp, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke Party, 9:30 p.m.	Manchester Angel City: open mic w/ Jonny Friday, 8 p.m. Currier: Charlie Chronopoulos, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m. KC's: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m. Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Chris Fraga, 7 p.m.	
Exeter Sawbelly: Taylor Duo, 5 p.m.	

Milford Stonecutters: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m. Stone Social: Throwback live music, 4 p.m.
Northfield Boonedoxz: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	
Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.	
Salem Copper Door: Jon-Paul Royer, 7 p.m.	
Seabrook Red's: Beau Dalleo, 7 p.m.	

Exeter Sawbelly: Tim Parent, 5 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 5:45 p.m. Twin Barns: Amanda Adams, 5 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Yamica and Nate, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Chris Gardner, 6 p.m.
Hampton CR's: Dogfathers, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. North Beach Bar: Radio Active, 8 p.m. Wally's: Pop Disaster, 9 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Not Fade Away, 9 p.m.
Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Nashua Fratello's: Josh Foster, 6 p.m. Peddler's Daughter: Stone Road Band, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.
Londonderry Coach Stop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Almost Famous, 8 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Peter Pappas, 7 p.m.

Seabrook Red's: Walk the Walk, 7 p.m.	Stratham Tailgate Tavern: Douglas James, 7 p.m.
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Saturday, Dec. 18

Auburn Auburn Pitts: Two for the Road, 7 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Chris Perkins, 4:30 p.m.
Concord Area 23: Blue Light Rain, 8 p.m.	Concord Area 23: Bluegrass with Ross Arnold, 2 p.m.; R&B Dignity, 8 p.m. Concord Craft Brewing: Kimayo, 3 p.m. Hermanos: Matt Poirier, 7 p.m. Penuche's: The ODB Project, 7 p.m.
Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.	Contoocook Contoocook Cider Co.: Josh Foster, 1 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Chris Perkins, 8 p.m.	Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 5 p.m.

Brookline Alamo: Ramez Gurung, 4:30 p.m.	Concord Area 23: Blue Light Rain, 8 p.m.
Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.	
Epping Telly's: Chris Perkins, 8 p.m.	

Manchester Angel City: Rock Junkies, 9 p.m. Backyard Brewery: Brien Sweet, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Martin and Kelly, 7 p.m. Derryfield: Eric Grant, 8 p.m. The Foundry: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Rick Watson, 6 p.m. Murphy's: Chris Taylor & Mark Fitzpatrick, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Kevin Laurecelle, 5:30 p.m. Strange Brew: Lisa Marie, 8 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Naya Rockers, 8 p.m.
Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light: Ralph Allen, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Brubeck Brothers Quartet, 7:30 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Cover Story, 9 p.m.

Seabrook Red's: Walk the Walk, 7 p.m.	Stratham Tailgate Tavern: Douglas James, 7 p.m.
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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.

Hart's Turkey Farm 223 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-6212	Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391	Plaistow The Crow's Nest 181 Plaistow Road	Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	Cup of Joe 31 Market St. 294-9404	Radloff's Cigar Shop 38 N. Main St. 948-1073
Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535	The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Seabrook Castaways 209 Ocean Blvd. 760-7500
Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270	Stones Social 449 Amherst St. 943-77445	Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club 135 Congress St. 603-5299	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Stoncutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Nashua Boston Billiards 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	The Stately Bar & Grill 238 Deer St. 431-4357	Somersworth The SpeakEasy Bar 2 Main St.
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Pelham Village Green in front of Pelham Public Library at 24 Village Green	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Stratham Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022	Pittsfield Main Street Grill & Bar 32 Main St. 435-0005	Rochester Mitchell Hill Grill & Brew 50 N. Main St. 332-2537	Warner Reed's North 2 E. Main St. 456-2143

Derry Fody's: Doug Flood, 8 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Down Cellar, 8 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Andre' Balazs, 5:45 p.m.
Exeter Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 1 p.m.	Laconia Tower Hill Tavern: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Gardner Berry, 6 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Kevin Laurencelle, 3 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: Jessica Olson Duo, 9:30 p.m. Fratello's: Johnny Angel, 6 p.m. Liquid Therapy: Dylan Doyle, 6 p.m. Millyard Brewery: live music, 5 p.m. The Peddler's Daughter: Best Not Broken, 9:30 p.m.; Mockingbirds, 9:30 p.m.
Hampton The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 9 p.m. North Beach Bar: Groove Cats, 7 p.m. Wally's: Woodland Protocol, 9 p.m. Whym: Rebecca Turmel, 6:30 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Amanda Adams, 6 p.m. Derryfield: D-Comp, 8 p.m. The Foundry: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Joanie Cicutelli, 6 p.m. Great North Aleworks: Paul Driscoll, 4 p.m. Strange Brew: Mica's Groove Train, 9 p.m.	New Boston Molly's Tavern: Little King, 7 p.m.
Henniker Colby Hill Inn: Justin Cohn, 3:30 p.m.		
Hudson Lynn's 102: Off the Record, 8 p.m.		

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Hear the music of Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn and more at **A Nashville Christmas** at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111 in Derry; labellewinery.com) on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 (plus fees).



23 AMHERST STREET | MANCHESTER, NH

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PRESENTS



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.



ROCK THIS TOWN ORCHESTRA
Dec. 18 at 7:30PM

The band's guitar-horns infused music and legendary high energy show is perfect for audiences of all ages.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE SPAIN BROTHERS
Dec. 23 at 7:00PM

Join the Spain Brothers for an evening filled with Christmas songs featuring the multi-instrumentalists Green Heron.



SENIOR MOVIE MORNINGS: WHITE CHRISTMAS
Dec. 28 at 10:00AM

Senior Movie Mornings Series presents White Christmas. Please join us to enjoy this classic movie musical on the BIG SCREEN.

JUSTON MCKINNEY'S YEAR IN REVIEW
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 at 8:00PM

End the year with laughter as Juston dishes on his New England life and looks back at the year that was.



LIVE MUSIC AND #1 PIZZA THURSDAYS!

🎵 Dec 23rd, 6PM-9PM: Jeff Mrozek
 🎵 Dec 30th, 6PM-9PM: Harry Borsh



Find more event information at our facebook page @StonesSocialNashua

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136001



NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Newmarket

Stone Church: Way Up South Band, 8 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz: live music, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Jordan Quinn, 9:30 p.m.
 Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
 Thirsty Moose: Holly Heist, 9 p.m.; LU, 9 p.m.

Rochester

Mitchell Hill: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Francoix Simard, 8 p.m.

Somersworth

Speakeasy: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19

Alton Bay

Dockside: Mike Laughlin, 4 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11 a.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Justin Jordan, 4:30 p.m.

Chichester

Flannel Tavern: Tequila Jim, 4 p.m.

Contoocook

Cider Co.: Karen Grenier, 1 p.m.

Dover

Sunrise: Chris O'Neill, 11 a.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Amberly and Dave Guilmette, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: John Irish, 4 p.m.

Whym: Max Sullivan, noon

Kingston

Saddle Up: video music bingo, 5 a.m.

Manchester

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

Nashua

Millyard: live music, 5 p.m.
 Peddler's Daughter: Best Not Broken, 9 p.m.
 Stella Blu: The Incidentals, 4 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Jimmy Zaroulis, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Pete Peterson, 8 p.m.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Comedy

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

Headliners Comedy Club

DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm
 St., Manchester
 headlinerscomedyclub.com

The Music Hall

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

Rex Theatre

23 Amherst St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Strange Brew

88 Market St., Manchester
 666-4292

Tupelo Music Hall

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

The Word Barn

66 Newfields Road, Exeter
 244-0202, thewordbarn.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

- ImprovBoston Presents the Improvised Holiday Extraganza Rex Theatre, Friday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Will Noonan Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Dec. 17, and Saturday, Dec. 18, 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.
- Mark Riley Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 18, 8:30 p.m.
- Comedy Out of the Box Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.
- Juston McKinney The Music



Lenny Clarke

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.
- James Dorsey, Matt Barry, Greg Boggis Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Dec. 31, 7 & 10 p.m.
- Headliners Comedy: Robbie Printz, Rob Steen, Tim McKeever, Tom Spohn Headliners, Friday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.
- Juston McKinney Rex Theatre, Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, 8 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.
- Paula Poundstone Cap Center, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Packages starting at \$30 each



Manchester



Nashua

See 3 of New England's BEST Comics LIVE



Joe Vannetty Joey Carrol Mark Scalia

7pm & 10pm Shows



James Dorsey Matt Barry Greg Boggis

7pm & 10pm Shows

Tickets & Info: NewYearsEveEvents.com OR Chunkys.com



Manchester

10pm Dueling Pianos Shows & 12am Ball Drop



Nashua

10pm Dueling Pianos Shows & 12am Ball Drop



Tickets & Info:

NewYearsEveEvents.com OR Chunkys.com

135927

WYNONNA JUDD



Wynonna Judd and her band The Big Noise will play the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusichall.com, 437-5100) on Friday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets run from \$65 to \$75.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Warner

Reed's North: Clint Trudeau, 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 20

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil

Gilford

Patrick's: open mic, 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.

Merrimack

Homestead: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.

Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 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.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Concord

Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 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: Clint Lapointe, 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.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Stratham

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

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Brookline

Alamo: Ralph Allen, 4:30 p.m.

Concord

Area 23: open mic night, 7 p.m.

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

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

CONTINUED ON PG 50 ►

Trivia

Events

• **Christmas Vacation** trivia, 21+ at the Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 16, 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 the Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 23, 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., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8

to 10 p.m.

• **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.

• **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

• **Mondays** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.

• **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30 p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by DJ Zati.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Area 23 (254 N. State St., Concord, 881-9060, thearea23.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250)



Christmas Vacation

at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Square, Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester; 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** Game Time trivia at The Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth; 427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua; fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.



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



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RIPE

The Capitol Center for the Arts website describes **Ripe** as bringing the swagger of funk filtered through a rock anthem, a musical journey that somehow gets as stuck in your head as your favorite pop banger. The band plays the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$27 for general admission, \$35 for the balcony (plus fees).

Photo by Bill Mcmenamey Photography





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Sincerely,

Jody Reese
Hippo Publisher



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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 49

Hampton

Bogie's: open mic, 7 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Second Take, 7 p.m.

Kingston

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

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.

Merrimack

Homestead: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: The Double Crossers, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Rochester

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

Seabrook

Red's: Chris Lester, 7 p.m.

Somersworth

Speakeasy: open mic night, 7 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
Outdoor venue: Fletcher-Murphy Park (28 Fayette St. in Concord)

The Flying Monkey

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

Fulchino Vineyard

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

Jewel Music Venue

61 Canal St., Manchester
819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.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

Tupelo Music Hall

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

The Word Barn

66 Newfields Road, Exeter
244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

• Million Dollar Quartet Christmas Friday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Cap Center

- Winter Solstice Mini-Fest Featuring Matt Flinner & Low Lily** 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
- Fortune** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Get the Led Out** Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, 8 p.m., Cap Center
- 1964: The Tribute (Beatles Tribute)** Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, 7 p.m., Palace Theatre
- Ronan Tynan (Irish Tenor)** Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- Blood, Sweat & Tears** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- Beatejuice** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo



Low Lily

- An Evening with Felix Cavaliere's Rascals** Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Who's Bad (tribute to Michael Jackson)** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- Beechwood & Boomsoss** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
- The Gilmour Project** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Keb'Mo'** Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, 8 p.m., Music Hall
- Blitzkid The Reunion Kickoff Tour** Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, 7 p.m., Jewel
- Foreigners Journey (tribute to Foreigner and Journey)** Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
- Tusk (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)** Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Cash Unchained — The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute** Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, 7 p.m., Cap Center
- Jethro Tull's Martin Barre — Aqualung 50th Anniversary Tour** Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Mike Dawes and Yasmin Williams** Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

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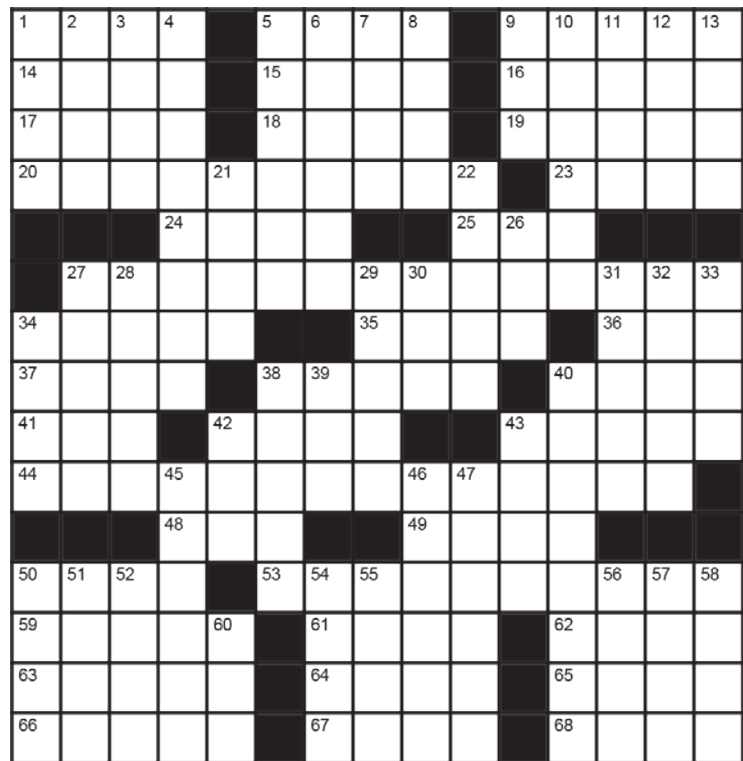
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LIFE'S A DRAG

The holiday show for "the hostess with the most-est"? Monique Toosoon's monthly **Life's a Drag** show at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com) on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 9:30 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.). Tickets cost \$25.

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A RAILROAD TRACK



67. Dressing room beverage
68. Portugal. The Man 'Time Isn't Working On My ___'

Down

1. Reel Big Fish '___ Out'
2. Randy Newman song that came to him?
3. 'Whoomp! (There It Is)' Tag ___
4. Star marketing a product is this
5. Elton John '___ Jeannie'
6. Country Gene Simmons was born in
7. Blatant promotion
8. Have You ___ Your Mother, Baby, Standing In The Shadow?
9. Funky Scots (abbr)
10. '94 Beatles album of performances 'Live At ___' (3,3)
11. Springsteen's Fender model (abbr)
12. Levon of The Band
13. Led Zeppelin 'Somethin' ___'
21. "Oh no, lets go! Let's go crazy, let's get ___"
22. Best of the best
26. Tesla 'Caught ___ Dream' (2,1)
27. Jerry Lee Lewis instrument
28. '04 Norah Jones 'Feels Like Home' song 'What ___ You?' (2,1,2)
29. 'Distance' Christina ___/Jason Mraz
30. 'Is This Love' Corinne Bailey ___
31. Marilyn Manson's painting stand
32. 'The Soul Sessions' Joss
33. Arc Angels '___ By Angels'
34. Meatloaf "I won't do ___"
38. I Saw Mommy Kissing ___ Claus
39. Sparklehorse song for a ham?

40. Tribute band copies or does this
42. 'Mighty KC' ___ Squirrels
43. Jon Butcher ___
45. 'The Ballad Of Jayne' hair metal-ers (2,4)
46. Cranberries '___ ___ To Argue' (2,4)
47. 'MCMXC a.D.' electronic band
50. Kayler and also Woods of Steel-eye Span
51. Woodwind instrument
52. Schoolhouse Rock 'A ___ Is A Person, Place Or Thing'
54. 'Critical ___' Nuclear Assault
55. Voice below soprano
56. R&B/reggae guy Priest
57. ___ jazz
58. Music starting point?
60. Lisa Lisa 'Head To ___'
© 2020 Todd Santos

Across

1. Fest spot
5. Our ___ Are Sealed
9. "___ car wash" (2,3)
14. Where 10,000 Maniacs spent 'Time'
15. What Dylan's 'Belle' is on
16. Journey '___ In The Sky'
17. This guy shines w/rhythm guitarist's support
18. Hall And Oates 'You Make My Dreams Come ___'
19. Danger Mouse/Shins offshoot Broken ___
20. 'Monovision' sing/songer Ray
23. Social Distortion 'Let It ___' (2,2)
24. Lenny Kravitz 'Let Love ___'
25. Jimmy Giuffre made it all up w/'Ad ___'
27. Silverchair 'Paint ___' (6,8)
34. Cars 'Good ___ Roll'
35. '72 Allman Brothers 'Melissa' album '___ Peach' (3,1)
36. What scalper did to ticket he couldn't sell (w/"it")
37. Weird Al Yankovic Bad ___ Day'
38. Go on a post-Xmas shopping one at Guitar Center
40. AC/DC 'This House ___ Fire' (2,2)
41. 80s "pirate" Adam
42. INXS '___ Weather Ahead'
43. Jeff of Temple Of The Dog
44. '93 Van Morrison album he came back for? (3,4,2,5)
48. '02 Shadows Fall album 'The ___ Of Balance'
49. Beck "I know you really want it, 'cause your Daddy's always ___" (2,2)
50. Giant percussion instrument

53. Masculine Who song? (1,3,2,1,3)
59. Gin Blossoms 'Found Out ___ You'
61. What AC/DC wants you to 'Shake' on 'Back In Black' (1,3)
62. Mexican food 'Satan Gave' Beck
63. London's We Yes ___ (3,2)
64. Hayden song for wine glass part
65. Rush '___...Stage Left'
66. Smash Mouth "Didn't make ___ not to live for fun"

WORD★Roundup™

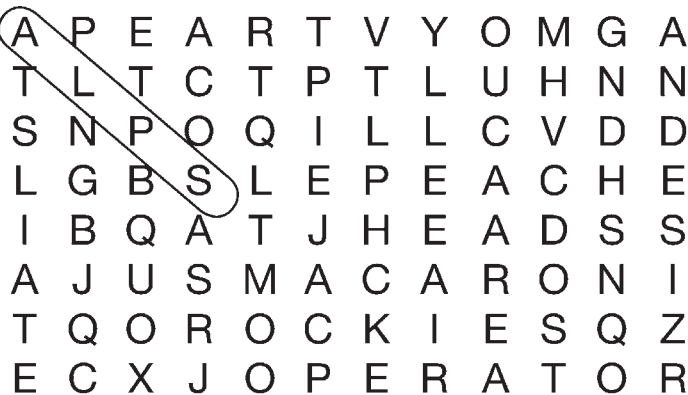
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Three mountain chains
Three fruits starting with P
Three eight-letter, four-syllable words
Two coin-flip possibilities
Comedians Bud and Lou

Last Week's Answers: ANTELOPE GIRAFFE HORSE MOLE / MAROON PURPLE YELLOW INDIGO / OREGANO OVERDO ORZO / JACK JILL / CABBAGE

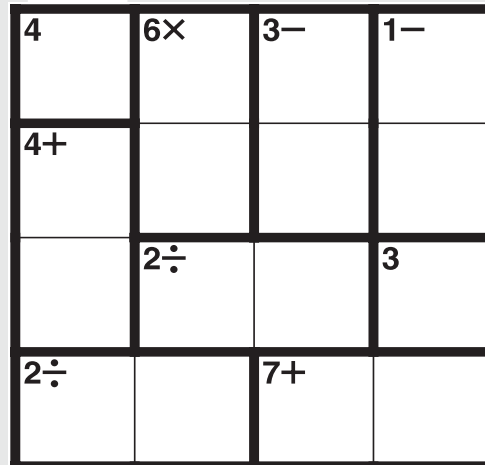
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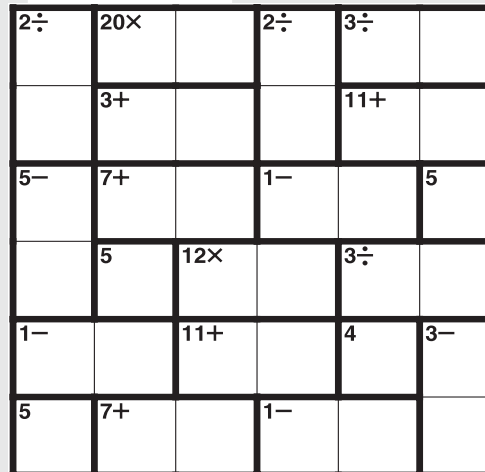
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CHALLENGING

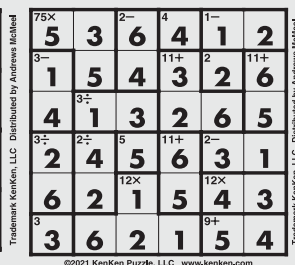
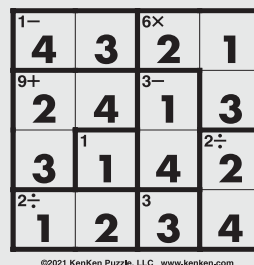


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RULES

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS



“Free Fifty” — that’s 5x10x2

Across

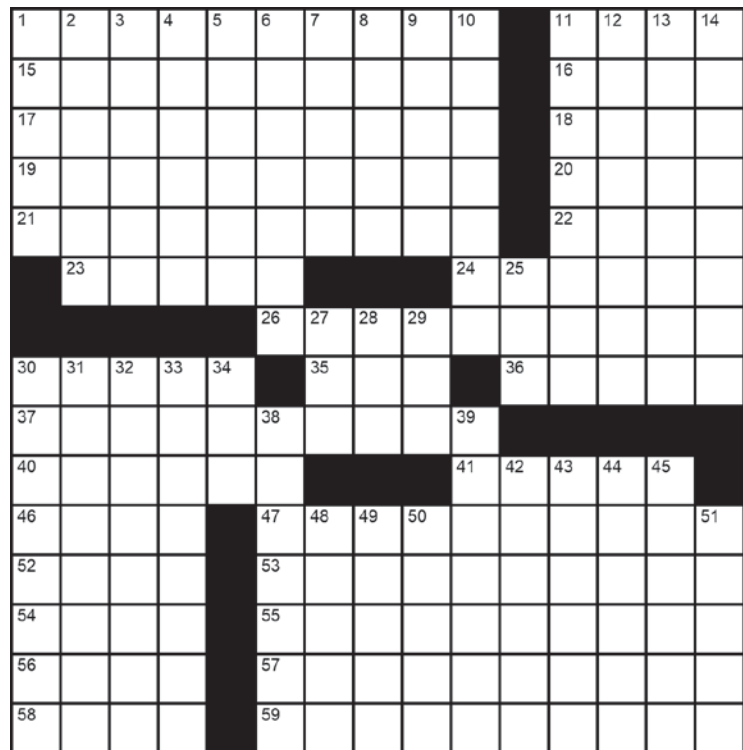
- 1 When they’re low, insurance companies are more profitable
- 11 Trans Am that talks
- 15 Central, with “of”
- 16 “I Am Not My Hair” singer India. ___
- 17 Sap
- 18 Haynes with the documentary “The Velvet Underground”
- 19 Musical work featuring historical figures, often
- 20 Indigo dye
- 21 Second-hand, alternately

- 22 Costar of Thora and Wes in “American Beauty”
- 23 Canadian actress Cooper of Apple TV+’s “See”
- 24 Circumvents
- 26 He played Tobias Funke
- 30 Puff ___ (venomous critter)
- 35 Race a motor
- 36 Unilever laundry soap brand that’s over 100 years old
- 37 Basis of the name of a short-lived, short-form streaming platform
- 40 Detach from the dock
- 41 “In ___ called malice, yeah” (The

- Jam lyric that’s almost the proper title)
- 46 “L&O: SVU” costar
- 47 Like two structures that map out the same way
- 52 30 Seconds to Mars singer Jared
- 53 Like the pronouns he, she, and they, grammatically
- 54 Rosy assertion
- 55 St. Vincent’s backup group?
- 56 Kitten’s scruff
- 57 The act of not paying attention, old-style
- 58 “House” actor Omar
- 59 Ferrari model

- 6 Title ship in a 1997 Spielberg movie
- 7 Solution strength, in chemistry
- 8 “Do ___ to eat a peach?” (Eliot)
- 9 Rome’s port in the Punic Wars
- 10 Like some hams, at this time of year?
- 11 ___ Damacy (Playstation game with a ball that picks up everything in its path)
- 12 Like some T-shirt art
- 13 Spruce quality?
- 14 Show with the Season 1 episode “Biscuits”
- 25 “Be Kind, Rewind” device
- 27 Billy Zane’s character in the Netflix miniseries “True Story”
- 28 Heeler healer?
- 29 Japanese light novel series “___ Been Killing Slimes for 300 Years and Maxed Out My Level”
- 30 Like an eagle’s beak

- 31 Outdated headgear for a poor student
- 32 Children’s cold medicine brand
- 33 Boundaries between biomes
- 34 “Citizen Kane” studio
- 38 “C’mon, let’s do this!”
- 39 Municipality in the province of Padua (and not a Japanese send-off)
- 42 Supposed occupation of Joe Couombe, founder of a grocery chain
- 43 Cigar brand whose name means “best” in Spanish
- 44 Gets petulant
- 45 Sue Ann ___, Betty White’s role on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”
- 48 “An Impeccable Spy: Richard ___, Stalin’s Master Agent” (2019 Owen Matthews book)
- 49 Future indicators
- 50 North Dakota State Fair city
- 51 Wicker basket used in jai alai



Down

- 1 Cruise liner decks with pools
- 2 Head of a bowling team?
- 3 Monk known as “the Venerable”
- 4 Counties overseas
- 5 Do some boot repair

R&R answer from pg 43 of 12/9



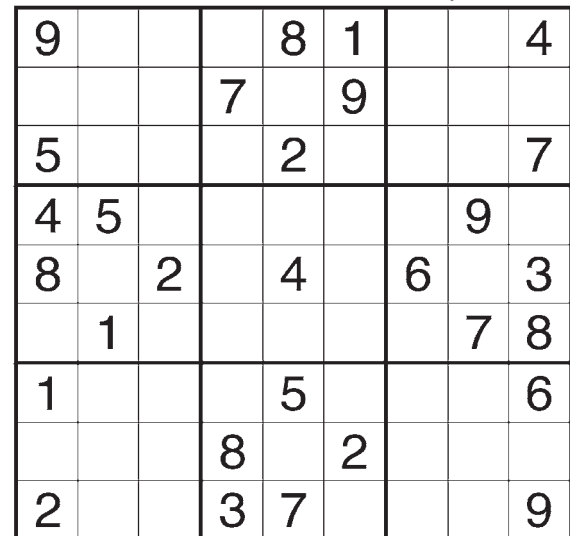
Jonesin’ answer from pg 44 of 12/9



NITE SUDOKU

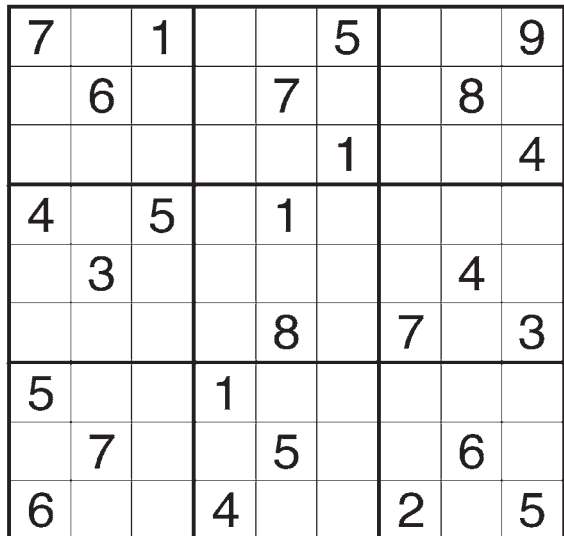
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 49.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



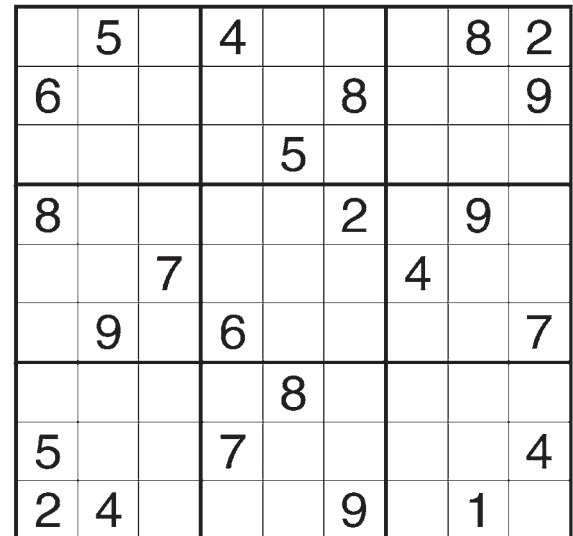
Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Crash Test Girl*, by Kari Byron, born Dec. 18, 1974.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) Like a million lonely geek girls before me (and after), I set out to win over the popular kids with cake. For my thirteenth birthday, I invited all the girls who'd dumped me to a party at my new house. Nobody showed up. ... I felt so much worse for my parents than I did for myself. I didn't want to disappoint them with my social ineptitude. After all, they have always been the life of the party with more friends than I could keep track of. How did they end up with me? Who knows?! You are still a success!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) If you do have the occasion to glitz and glam it up, have fun with it, do NOT overspend on it, and remember that under all those sequins, you're still you. Stay cool.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) When my class moved from elementary school to junior high in seventh grade, it was a precipitous leap from the cubbies to lockers. The junior high in Los Gatos was fed by three elementary schools, and when they all joined up, the whole pecking order of popularity had to be reshuffled. A reshuffling is in progress near you.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) If I did somehow, magically, climb the ladder and end up with a job in the art department, where I'd be helping sell cars and cornflakes, would that be fun? I'd been so focused on the path, I forgot to check where it led. Check.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Television people will always push for a more 'polished' human, which was absurd in our case. We were supposed to be builders, not supermodels. You are perfectly scruffy.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) I wasn't inherently repellent. It's that the mean girls enjoyed hating me. Mean girls gonna mean, but it doesn't mean much.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) I got an internship. The

internship turned into an entry-level job. I got promoted into a better job. It became a bug-eating, poop-collecting, chicken-exploding career. That's how it works.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) I'd had this idea that friendship was something I had to figure out, something I had to select for myself, strategize, and create. It never occurred to me that friendship might find me for a change. It might.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) By applying all-important critical thinking, we learned that plants like to be yelled at, and that not talking to them left them limp. There's more to learn.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) I had to admit that winging it wasn't working. Living in my car wasn't the great adventure I thought it'd be. Not even close.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) When you feel low, invest time in something that will make you feel better. Chances are, it'll be inexpensive, like cooking a meal, singing, or dancing with someone else, going to a movie, taking a bike ride. Walks are good too.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) No one cares how fancy your purse is besides you. No one. 🍷

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 bulb that can make you cry (5)	_____
2 oft-hated flower buds (8)	_____
3 seed used for hummus (8)	_____
4 orange root (6)	_____
5 stringy stalk (6)	_____
6 fruit in moussaka (8)	_____
7 leaf used to wrap galumpki (7)	_____

EA	LA	CAR	BB	OLI
CHI	ROT	RY	LE	GP
ON	CC	EG	ONI	CA
AGE	BRO	CE	CKP	NT

12/12
Last Week's Answers: 1. JABBERWOCKY 2. QUIBBLE 3. CARIBBEAN 4. SHRUBBERY 5. CUBBYHOLE 6. WOBBLINESS 7. NEBBISHY

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Sudoku Answers from pg45 of 12/9

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Holiday Cheer IS HERE!

Live Music 6-9pm

Thurs. Dec. 16th - Christopher Perkins
 Fri. Dec. 17th - Yamica and Nate
 Sat. Dec. 18th - Gardner Berry

Sun., Dec. 19th - Bob Pratte Trio
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Who knew?

The Saudis take their beauty contests seriously, it appears: Judges at a competition northeast of Riyadh are cracking down on artificially enhanced contestants. The contest is part of the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival. Yes, the contestants are camels, the Associated Press reported, and 43 of them have already been disqualified. Camel breeders enter their most beautiful animals with the hope of winning \$66 million in prize money, but Botox injections, face lifts and other cosmetic changes will not be tolerated this year. How, you ask, are those procedures implemented? Breeders might stretch the lips and noses of their camels, inject their heads or lips with Botox, inflate body parts with rubber bands and use fillers to relax their faces. "The club is keen to halt all acts of tampering and deception in the beautification of camels," the Saudi Press Agency said.

debris from an airplane crash there in 1966, CNN reported. The original owner of the stones couldn't be located. The council split the booty with the climber and will display their half at the Chamoinix Crystal Museum.

Wrong place, wrong time

Graham George Spencer of Singapore was walking with a friend in the Singapore Botanic Gardens on Nov. 30 when a runner dashed right into the path of a group of about 20 otters, causing them to change from "being quiet to going crazy like dogs," Spencer told todayonline.com. The otters, apparently confused about who was who, attacked Spencer, pushing him to the ground and biting him around his feet and buttocks. "I was bitten 26 times in 10 seconds," he said. "If it wasn't for my friend, I don't think I'd still be here. I'd be dead." At a hospital across the street, Spencer was given tetanus shots and antibiotics.

Merry Christmas!

An unnamed mountain climber is a little richer this season after a cache of precious gems valued at \$84,350 was awarded to him by the Chamoinix-Mont-Blanc council on Dec. 3. The climber found the emeralds and sapphires in 2013 as he scaled the tallest peak in western Europe; they apparently were

Bright idea

In the "this could never happen in America" category: New Zealand is putting in place laws that will eventually ban smoking altogether by 2025, The Guardian reported. Each year, the legal smoking age will increase, said associate health minister Dr. Ayesha Verrall. Legislation

will also make smoking unaffordable, reduce the level of nicotine in tobacco products, limit retail outlets, and increase funding for addiction services. "We want to make sure young people never start smoking ... People aged 14 when the law comes into effect will never be able to legally purchase tobacco," Verrall said.

Sign of the times

A middle school in Milton, Massachusetts, went into lockdown on Dec. 8 when a student reported that an adult "may have had a weapon," The Patriot Ledger reported. After about 30 minutes of investigation by school officials and Milton police, however, it was determined that the "weapon" was a phone charger that a staff member was carrying. "I am pleased to report that nobody was physically harmed," Superintendent James Jette said in a statement.

Nice try

A 50-year-old Italian dentist tried on Dec. 2 to dodge getting the COVID-19 vaccine but still gain a health pass by offering the health worker a silicone prosthetic arm for the jab, The Guardian reported. Italy recently cracked down on unvaccinated people at social, cultural and sporting events, so the man allegedly purchased a fake arm that may have

cost him hundreds of euros. The medic, Filippa Bua, said she "felt offended as a professional. The color of the arm made me suspicious and so I asked the man to uncover the rest of his left arm. It was well made but it wasn't the same color." The unidentified man will face fraud charges, according to Luigi Icardi, the regional health councilor.

The way the world works

You may be grouching about your mail taking FOREVER to get to your mailbox, but that's nothing compared to a couple in Chicago, CBS Chicago reported. Last year, a postal worker tossed a package onto Vera and Donald Rideaux's front porch — then pulled away in his vehicle, hitting the Rideauxs' van, "and he kept backing the truck up, back and forth, back and forth, pulling my car at the same time," Donald said. The worker got out of his truck, looked at the car, and "got back in it and he drove off," Vera added. The couple called the USPS but as of Dec. 7, there had been no resolution of the \$1,467 in damages caused to their van. A spokesman said drivers are supposed to notify immediate supervisors when they're involved in an accident but wouldn't confirm that such a report had been made in this instance.

Visit news-of-the-weird.com.

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 SATURDAY, JANUARY 8



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 10:00PM

The Metropolitan Opera
CINDERELLA
 1.1.22
 Bank of New Hampshire Stage

Bank of New Hampshire Stage
PURSING - SIN -
 King's Skull
 JAN 6 - 8PM

BROOKS YOUNG BAND
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 Bank of New Hampshire Stage

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