

the Hippo

DECEMBER 23 - 29, 2021

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HOGMANAY P. 10

GRILLED
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ON THE COVER

20 MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT Put some festive flavor into your holiday drinks! John Fladd mixes up cocktails based on some fun seasonal history and pop culture. Pottersville Special, anyone?

ALSO ON THE COVER, celebrate Scotland's New Year's Eve traditions at NHSCOT's Hogmanay, p. 10. Level up your grilled cheese at Prime Time, p. 28. And find music, laughs and more to ring in the new year, starting on p. 36.

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Covid-19 news

During the state's weekly public health update on Dec. 16, state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan reported that more than 1,100 new infections of Covid-19 continue to be identified each day, while hospitalizations and deaths also remain high. Additional infections with the omicron variant have also been reported in New Hampshire since the first one was detected on Dec. 13. "Based on what we're seeing in other countries and in other areas of the U.S., we expect that ... there will be an increase in [the] proportion of omicron infections," Chan said.

Following the success of the state's first "booster blitz" on Dec. 11, when more than 10,000 Covid booster doses were administered, Gov. Chris Sununu announced during the press conference that a second event has been scheduled for Jan. 8. "We're going to have registration open up shortly after the new year," Sununu said, adding that there will be up to six additional fixed vaccination sites across the state pending approval by the Executive Council.

Hundreds of thousands of additional at-home rapid Covid tests are also expected to be available to Granite Staters soon via sayyescovidtest.org. "At the end of the day, this is the future of managing the Covid pandemic: home testing, easy access [and] rapid results for you or your child," Sununu said. "I think it's going to not just keep the burden off of the hospitals. It's going to reduce transmission and really help us bend that curve down, knowing that we could be dealing with Covid in the long run for potentially a long time to come."

On Dec. 20, state health officials announced they have identified the first pediatric death from complications related to Covid-19 in New Hampshire. According to a press release, the death occurred back in September in another state, in a child who was too young to have been vaccinated. The identification was made after Covid-19 was listed as a cause of death on the recently finalized death certificate. According to the release, about 25 to 30 percent of all new infections in New Hampshire are continuing to occur in people under the age of 18.

State assessments

The impact that the pandemic has had on education throughout the country can be seen in students' assessment scores from the spring of 2021, and New Hampshire's test results are no different. According to a press release, about 38 percent of students in the state scored proficient or above proficient in math for 2021, compared to 48 percent in 2019, while about 52 percent scored proficient or above proficient in reading for 2021, compared to 56 percent in 2019. Science scores dropped from a statewide average of 39 percent proficient or above proficient in 2019 to 37 percent in 2021. The number of students who participated in the testing this year dropped as well, the release said. About 73,406 New Hampshire students completed the assessment tests for math in 2021, while about 91,050 completed the tests in 2019; for reading, numbers dropped from about 90,785 to 72,880; and in science, which is taken in fewer grades, participation was about 37,720 in 2019 and 28,495 in 2021. "It is clear and under-

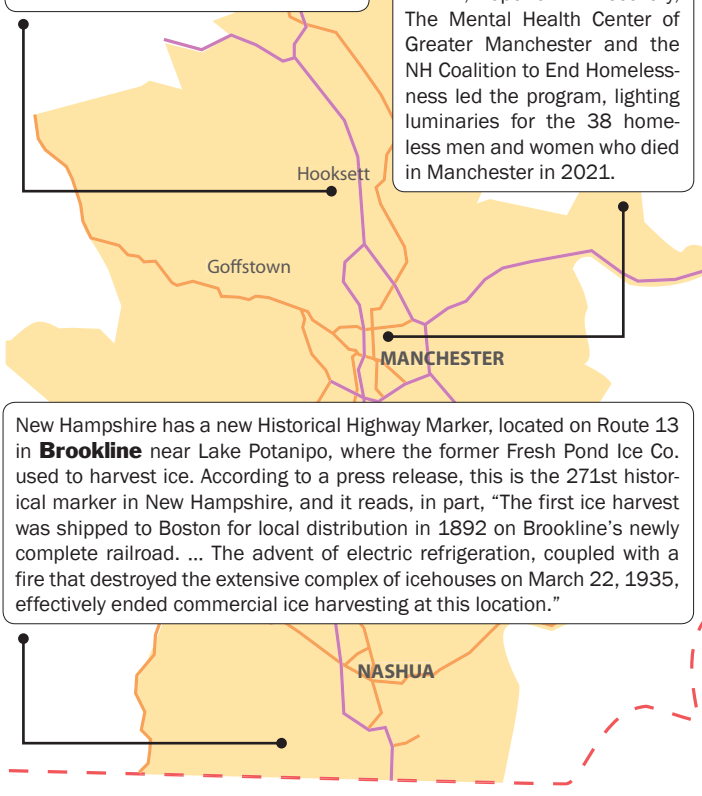
standable that trauma from the pandemic continues to impact schools, students and teachers," Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education, said in the release. "New Hampshire will continue to address learning loss through customized, unique and engaging learning platforms that focus on individual student achievement and success."

Divisive concepts

The American Federation of Teachers New Hampshire chapter is challenging the constitutionality of a new piece of legislation, often referred to as the "divisive concepts" law, in federal court, WMUR reported. The law, passed by Republican lawmakers and signed by New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, prohibits school teachers in the state from making any statements insinuating or indicating that people are inferior or superior to others on account of their race, gender, religion and other factors. According to the article, teachers said the policy has caused confusion and difficulty in teaching historical events accurately. The complaints were outlined in a 52-page document filed in the U.S. District Court in Concord. "The law is crafted with language that was designed to make it look benign, but in reality, it puts public school teachers in an impossible position," National AFT President Randi Weingarten said during a telephone news conference. Sununu, state Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley and state Board of Education member Ryan Terrell said the lawsuit mischaracterizes the law with the wording "divisive concept," which is not included in the written legislation, and does not accurately represent the language and intent of the written

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Bureau of Turnpikes Safety Patrol celebrated its new sponsorship from Geico by donating more than 500 toys and gifts to Operation Santa Claus. According to a press release, the sponsorship announcement and the donation were made Dec. 15 at the Common Man Roadside Welcome Center in **Hooksett**.

On Dec. 21, to honor Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, people from the community gathered at Veterans Park in **Manchester** in a tribute to the homeless and formerly homeless. According to a press release, Catholic Medical Centers's Health Care for the Homeless, FIT-NH, Hope for NH Recovery, The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester and the NH Coalition to End Homelessness led the program, lighting luminaries for the 38 homeless men and women who died in Manchester in 2021.



New Hampshire has a new Historical Highway Marker, located on Route 13 in **Brookline** near Lake Potanipo, where the former Fresh Pond Ice Co. used to harvest ice. According to a press release, this is the 271st historical marker in New Hampshire, and it reads, in part, "The first ice harvest was shipped to Boston for local distribution in 1892 on Brookline's newly complete railroad. ... The advent of electric refrigeration, coupled with a fire that destroyed the extensive complex of icehouses on March 22, 1935, effectively ended commercial ice harvesting at this location."

legislation. The New Hampshire Department of Justice is expected to file a response, the article said.

Insurance navigation

The Foundation for Healthy Communities announced that it is offering free health insurance navigation services to New Hampshire residents seeking health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. A Health Insurance Navigator, accessible to all state residents, assists health insurance consumers with the process of shopping for, assessing their eligibility for, applying for and enrolling in health insurance coverage for the 2022 plan year during the Open Enrollment period, which is going on now through Jan. 15. The tool was made possible through a grant awarded to the Foundation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; grants are awarded each year to organizations that serve as health insurance Navigators in states that offer a Federally-Facilitated Marketplace.

NHDRA

After 36 months of work, the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has completed its new Revenue Information Management System. According to a press release, the modernized information system, which replaces a 30-year-old system, has upgraded and consolidated the functionality of its tax administration processes, including automation, integration and electronic filing. The NHDRA has also launched Granite Tax Connect, a tool for New Hampshire taxpayers, operators and practitioners that allows them to easily maneuver and complete tax-related tasks online. Granite Tax Connect will fully replace NHDRA's current eFile interface starting on Jan. 1. Since NHDRA started using the new system, known as RIMS, the department has processed more than \$3 billion in payments and administered three CARES Act Programs, which provided \$390 million in Covid-19 relief funds to 12,000 New Hampshire businesses. In Fiscal Year 2021, NHDRA performed electronic filing for more than half of the 420,000 tax returns that it processed.

Covid-19 update	As of Dec 13	As of Dec 20
Total cases statewide	178,099	186,678
Total current infections statewide	9,086	8,504
Total deaths statewide	1,788	1,843
New cases	8,880 (Dec. 7 to Dec. 13)	8,579 (Dec. 14 to Dec. 20)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	2,576	2,492
Current infections: Merrimack County	1,115	1,032
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,780	1,756

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



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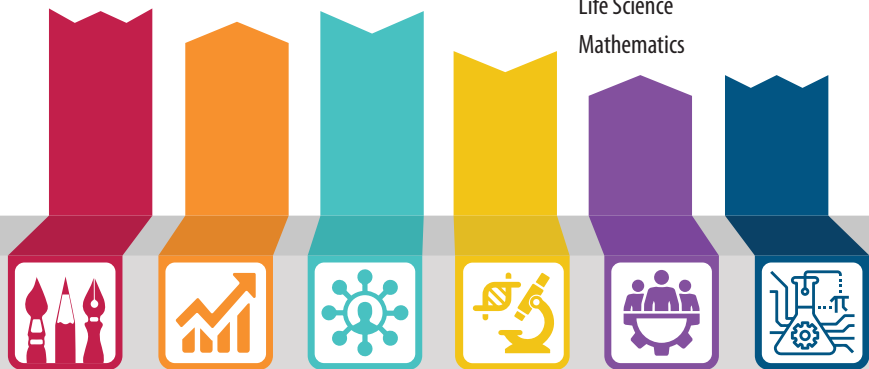
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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Get a lift

A look at the upcoming ski season

Alexandra Moore, marketing director at McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester, talked about what to expect during this winter's ski season and how to stay safe and enjoy your time on the slopes.

Q: *What Covid safety measures should people be practicing at the ski area?*

Right now, we're following all of the CDC guidelines. We require people to wear masks while indoors, and all of our employees are masked while indoors. We certainly recommend that people wear masks outdoors, as well. We also just ask that everybody [practice] social distancing ... and try to limit their time indoors. We have a ton of outside seating, picnic tables and these beautiful fire pits that people can sit around so that they can really enjoy the outdoors. ... Consider using your car as a base lodge. ... When you get on the lift chair, go with the crew that you came in with, versus catching a chair with somebody you don't know. ... The biggest thing we ask is that everybody just be aware of what's going on, and, of course, if you're not feeling well, stay home.

Aside from Covid protocol, what else should people know about staying safe?

Dressing properly is definitely the big one. I would recommend that people check the elements and dress for the elements; a good coat, snow pants, snow boots, a hat and gloves are really key to enjoying your time outside during winter in New England.

Are you expecting a good season, snow-wise?

Yes. We just listened to weather forecasts that said it's going to be a good winter for skiing and riding, so we're anticipating a wonderful year of being outside, enjoying the winter in the ways that New Englanders love the most. ... Plus, it's always a good winter for skiing or riding here, because we have the ability to make our own snow, and our snowmakers are out there diligently working every chance that they can.

Local ski areas

- **Crotched Mountain** (615 Francestown Road, Bennington, 588-3668, crotchedmtn.com) Opening date TBD.
- **Gunstock Mountain Resort** (719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 293-4341, gunstock.com) Open now for day skiing, with night skiing starting on Dec. 28.
- **McIntyre Ski Area** (50 Chalet Ct., Manchester, 622-6159, mcintyreskiarea.com) Open Thursday, Dec. 23, from noon to 8 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; day and night skiing offered daily starting on Dec. 26.
- **Pats Peak Ski Area** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 428-3245, patspeak.com) Open now for day skiing, with night skiing starting Dec. 26.



Alexandra Moore. Anne Skidmore Photography.

Where do you get your forecast info? How accurate is it, usually?

We get it through Manchester City weather forecasting. We are usually pretty spot-on. We were hoping for 8 inches during this last storm, and we got about 4, but weather, as we all know, is unpredictable in many ways.

Do you offer any special programs or lessons?

We have a lot [of learning opportunities] for people who are out [on the slopes] for the first time or want to get into the sport [of skiing]. We offer group lessons, private lessons, and semi-private lessons here ... to teach people the love of skiing and riding. We have an incredible ... program for the younger [kids]. We have a lot of school programs with local schools. We have a parent-and-me class. We have a women-in-winter class.

What about special events?

Yes, the events that go on here are so cool. Santa was just at the ski area today. We have a Tuesday night race league. We have a neon race coming up [on Jan. 4], and we have the Vertical Challenge coming in February.

Why should people hit the slopes this winter?

Winter in New England is long. This is a great way to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family, and [to do so] safely, because you're outside, in the open air. It brings generations together; we have people who are over 80 years old who are still enjoying us. It's something I think everyone should try at least once in their lifetime. ... If you don't want to ski, we have snow tubing, with eight tubing lanes ... and we have a wonderful cafe and bar area. There are really no limits; there's something here for everybody.

— Angie Sykeny 🗨️

The naughty and nice



With Christmas arriving on Saturday it's time to review who's been naughty and nice as we hand our annual presents for folks in sports during 2021.

Chip Kelly: A top 10 recruiting class to get him over the hump in Year 4 on the job because the big

seat is going to get hotter at UCLA in the year ahead if he doesn't.

Tiger Woods: A return to good health after the horrific car accident to let him pursue what he wants to in golf, as it would be sad to see one of the greatest careers in golf end in such a terrible way.

Chris Sale: Ditto for you, lefty, as it would be nice to see you regain form and pitch injury-free for the first time since spring of 2018.

Steph Curry: A little perspective. As those water works after you did it show, you and many others in basketball way, way, way over-value the three-point shot. It's a nice career record you set and I do marvel at your incredible range and accuracy, but give me a break, buddy; in the end it's just a long shot, not like passing **Bill Russell's** record 11 NBA titles.

Ben Simmons: A lump of coal and a DVD of the game where fans in Philly booed **Santa Claus** on Christmas Day to show him it's a tough place to play and he shouldn't be such a crybaby. Of course it would help if he weren't terrified to shoot in big moments.

Mac Jones: A Super Bowl title in the very near future to stop the yapping of the haters out there who are doing it to fabricate a weakness of yours because starting the career in Brady-like fashion drives those who hate that Coach B pulls rabbits out of his hat more than anyone even crazier than they usually are.

Donald Parham: A swift and complete recovery for the L.A. Chargers tight end after his scary neck/head injury on Thursday Night Football last week.

Brandon Staley: A place to hide out in L.A. after blowing that just-mentioned TNF game for first place in the AFC West, a game his Chargers should have won vs. KC, by going for TD's over the field goal three times inside the five-yard line on fourth downs when they were stopped twice and fumbled on the other one, when one FG would have prevented it from going into OT, where KC won it. Also a copy of the soon to be best seller *It's OK To Admit You're Wrong When You Screw Up* for him saying after the game he was "comfortable" with those decisions despite the disastrous results. Talk about delusional thinking for the holidays!

Red Sox Nation: Two quality starters, two quality relievers (at least) and a return from whatever world **Matt Barnes** lived in during the second half of 2021 after being lights out in the first half.

Jackie Bradley Jr: That his return home to

Fenway sparks a return to his hitting form of 2018 when he was ALCS MVP and hit a huge homer in the clinching game in the World Series that followed. Why? Because we like JBJR.

Sox owner John Henry: The perspective to know there's a fine line between not allowing yourself to be strangled/penalized by an overindulgent payroll and rebuilding the farm system and that you are a major market team financially and shouldn't be cheaping out to save a few bucks.

Chaim Bloom: The good sense to know the \$20 million per for just three years **Kyle Schwarber** is looking for is exactly the kind of short-term deal he should be looking for. It's a bargain, buddy, so as Kramer would say, *Go!*

USA Men's Soccer: A nice showing (for once) in the upcoming World Cup this summer.

Danny Ainge: A good luck wish for the new job in Utah and a ceremony to raise 44 to the rafters, as two titles as a player and one as the GM over 20 years of service to the Celtics warrants that.

MLB and the Players Association: Not that this has a chance of happening. But to have the common sense and wisdom to know that the best deals are the ones when both sides win.

Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds: Election to the Hall of Fame. Because while usingroids was kinda sorta illegal, with a number of highly suspected users already in it's murky to prove. Plus with the grand enabler **Bud Selig** breezing in, what's good for the goose is good for the gander. Ditto for **Mark McGwire** and **Andy Pettitte**.

Urban Meyer: A new job where he'll go back to being the BMOC on a college campus because after his catastrophic 13-game reign in Jacksonville when the trouble started less than a month into his tenure he'll never work in the NFL again. Hard to screw something up as badly and quickly as he did this one.

The Patriots Special Teams: A refresher course from the time when the other guys made the big mistakes on special teams, because after seeing three punts blocked punts in their first 14 games, they seem like the good old days now.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander: A framed print of **Yogi Berra's** quote "It ain't over till it's over" to remind him to always play through the buzzer, as everyone in the joint thought OKC and New Orleans were headed to OT after SGA drained a 38-footer to tie it at 110 apiece with 1.8 seconds left.

Devonte Graham: Nothing we can give the Pelican point guard could top what he got when Christmas came early last week when his desperation 70-foot heave after that dagger from **Gilgeous-Alexander** banked in at the buzzer to give New Orleans a stunning 113-110 win over OKC instead.

To all of us, an end to the Covid nightmare so we can all get back to a normal life sometime in the year ahead.

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Ham and Cheese Breakfast Quesadillas

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- 2 Cedar's® Whole Wheat Wraps
- 2 cups ham, diced
- 1 cup Cabot® Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 4 eggs, hard boiled or scrambled
- 1 ripe Avocado from Mexico, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup Taste of Inspirations® Mild Pico de Gallo
- 1/2 cup Stonyfield® Organic 0% Fat Plain Greek Yogurt

Directions:

1. Spray a large skillet with cooking spray and heat over medium heat.
2. Lay one wrap flat in skillet. Add half of the ham, cheese and boiled or scrambled eggs to one half of the wrap. Fold the other side of the wrap over the egg mixture, creating a half moon shape.
3. Heat in skillet until wrap is golden brown. Carefully flip the quesadilla to brown the other side.
4. Once both sides are browned and cheese is melted, place the quesadilla on a large cutting board. Cut into wedges.
5. Repeat steps one through four with the second wrap and second half of ham, cheese and eggs.
6. Top quesadilla wedges with sliced avocado, a spoonful of pico de gallo and a dollop of yogurt.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 480; Fat 28 g; Saturated Fat 11 g; Cholesterol 250 mg; Sodium 1290 mg; Carbohydrate 26 g; Fiber 5 g; Sugar 4 g; Added Sugar 1 g; Protein 32 g

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Preserving New Hampshire

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program has awarded more than \$4.7 million in matching grants for 40 projects throughout New Hampshire that support historic preservation and land conservation. According to a press release, these grants will bolster outdoor recreation, food-producing farmland and working forests and will help preserve old buildings. For example, several old towns halls have received grants: Salem's, built in 1738, and Wilmot's, built in 1906, are the oldest and newest buildings to get grants, while the Mont Vernon Town Hall has received a \$25,000 grant to support the restoration of its windows and sashes. Other building projects are at historic churches, like the First Church of Nashua, which got a \$60,000 grant to support the restoration of its bell tower, the release said.

Score: +1

Comment: *Grant recipients have to raise a minimum of \$1 for each dollar provided by LCHIP, the release said, and this year's awards will be matched by \$19 million that the projects' sponsors will raise on their own.*

Winter optimism

More than 3 million visitors are expected to travel to New Hampshire and spend about \$1.2 billion this winter season, the state Division of Travel and Tourism Development announced last week. According to a press release, the department will launch its winter ad campaign in January, including in Quebec and Ontario, now that the Canadian border is open to non-essential travel again. The campaign will mainly promote winter sports like skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and snowshoeing, plus some non-outdoor activities like shopping and dining.

Score: +1

Comment: *"We know the outdoor recreation assets in New Hampshire like our ski resorts and winter trail networks are among the largest drivers of our state's economy," Taylor Caswell, commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs, said in the release. "They bring tourists to spend a weekend but also increasingly more new residents seeking to restore their work/life balance."*

Make the most of matching donations

For every dollar raised by the New Hampshire Food Bank by the end of the year, an anonymous private foundation will match the donation, up to \$100,000, potentially providing a total of \$200,000 in funding. That would equate to about 400,000 meals, according to a press release. This is the seventh year in a row that this foundation has provided matching donations, which, in conjunction with public support, has resulted in more than \$4 million raised and 80 million meals given to those in need.

Score: +1

Comment: *The pandemic has increased the need for food assistance throughout the country, and in New Hampshire one in nine people face food insecurity, the release said. Donations can be made at nhfoodbank.org.*

Unlikely elves

New Hampshire State Prison residents created more than 400 hand-drawn cards and more than 200 hand-drawn coloring books for kids at the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth this holiday season. According to a press release, Cards for Kids and Coloring Books for Kids originated through the Resident Communication Committee's Lifer & Long-term Incarceration Subcommittee, which also made a treasure chest so CHaD staff can hand out prizes when they play games with the kids.

Score: +1

Comment: *The items were recently delivered to CHaD by a state prison lieutenant.*

QOL score last week: 82

Net change: +4

QOL this week: 86

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 23 AND BEYOND

Monday, Dec. 27

New England's own **Recycled Percussion** kicks off a string of more than a dozen shows at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) today with a show at 7:30 p.m. Future dates include Tuesday, Dec. 28, through Saturday, Jan. 1, at 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 2, at 4 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 8, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 through \$45.



Friday, Dec. 24

Looking for some **holiday eats**? While deadlines for special orders have probably passed, a pie or cookie plate may be available for last-minute pickup and there are restaurants with special meals or limited hours for today and tomorrow. Check out Matt Ingersoll's listing of food-related gifts, holiday eats to bring home and places to dine out in the Dec. 9 issue of the Hippo at hippopress.com, where you can find the e-edition. The stories start on page 22.

Sunday, Dec. 26

Get in one last dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy when the New Hampshire School of Ballet presents *The Nutcracker Suite* at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester, palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) today at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$22.

Tuesday, Dec. 28

See Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney (aunt of George) in *White Christmas*

(1954) at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) today at 10 a.m., part of the Senior Movie Mornings Series. Tickets cost \$10.

Wednesday, Dec. 29

Looking for something interesting to pour at your New Year's Eve gathering? WineNot Boutique (25 Main St. in Nashua; winenotboutique.com, 204-5569) has some opportunities for trying new beverages this week.

Today it's a **sake tasting**, starting at 5 p.m.

Tomorrow, Dec. 30, it's a tasting of exotic **sparkling wines**. Both events are free but online pre-registration for a specific time slot is required. ☁️



Save the Date! Thursday, Jan. 27

Tickets are on sale now for the 18th annual **Winter Wine Spectacular** to benefit Easterseals, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Manchester. Tickets cost \$65 for the grand tasting (the room featuring wine and restaurant vendors serving hundreds of different bottles for tasting) and \$145 for "full access," which includes access to the Bellman's Cellar Select Room (which opens at 5:30 p.m. and features a selection of \$200 high-end wines). See nhwineweek.com.

Thursday, Dec. 23

Need to do a little last-minute shopping? **Two Villages Art Society's** (46 Main St. in Contoocook, twovillagesart.org) Holiday Art Show and Sale, featuring handmade gifts by more than 30 local artists, including paintings, pottery, mixed media, photography, fabric art and more, is open today from noon to 4

p.m. The **Craftworkers' Guild's Holiday Fair** 3A Meetinghouse Road, behind the library, in Bedford; thecraftworkersguild.org, open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through today. The **Artisan's Market at the Cider Mill Gallery** (24 Francestown Road, Route 136, in New Boston, 487-5522) is open Friday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

the **Y** YMCA

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- Competitive Swim Team
- Progressive and Competitive Dance Program
- Youth Sports and Leagues
- Music and Performance Art
- Art and Humanities

FOR ADULTS

- Personal Training
- Group Exercise Classes including Zumba, Yoga, aqua exercises and functional training systems
- Swim Lessons
- Fitness and Wellness Programs
- Adult Sports and Leagues
- Art, Music and Dance Programs



Scan the QR code, join the YMCA December 13 to January 16 and donate 5 non-perishable food items to enjoy a \$0 join fee (up to a \$100 savings).

Visit nmyymca.org/joinus for More Details!

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135844

Happy Hogmanay!

Celebrate the new year Scottish-style



Hogmanay Bonfire. Courtesy photo.



Kelpies. Courtesy photo.



Stramash, a Scottish board game. Courtesy photo.

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

You don't have to live across the Atlantic to celebrate Hogmanay — Scotland's New Year's Eve tradition is coming to Manchester this year, on Sunday, Jan. 2, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Derryfield Country Club.

"In Scotland this is a very big deal," said Amy Lehman, program coordinator for NHSCOT, which is putting on the event. "People will travel to Scotland to celebrate Hogmanay."

This is the second time NHSCOT has held a Hogmanay celebration, the first being in 2019, pre-Covid.

"We had a really good crowd [of hundreds of] people of all ages, and I felt like we had [activities] for everyone," Lehman said. "We're very excited that we're going to gather again this year."

She said NHSCOT has been working to expand its events so there are more of them year-round, to complement the popular New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival that typically takes place at the end of the summer. People who have enjoyed the Highland Games will find some of the same fun traditions at Hogmanay — though it will likely be significantly colder. Most events are held outside, with plenty of warming fires and a s'mores station to keep things cozy.

"Fire is the center of Hogmanay celebrations," Lehman said, noting that in Scotland they'll have fire festivals to drive away bad spirits.

Street curling, which was at the Highland Games for the first time this year, will be available for people to try, and other "try-its" include drumming, Highland dancing and Scottish country dancing.

"Scottish country dancing you do with a group of people ... at a wedding or at parties," Lehman said. "We'll have a caller for that. Highland dance is usually done with someone who's more highly trained."

A "haggis throw" (cornhole) will be set up near the fires, and sledding will be available as long as there's enough snow on the ground. Rebel Collective and the Pipes and Drums of NHSCOT will take turns playing live music in a heated tent throughout the event.

Indoors, there will be Scottish board games and a jigsaw puzzle challenge.

Tickets include a buffet for adults, with fish and chips, lamb stew and shepherd's pie. Kids get chicken strips and french fries, though Lehman said a lot of the kids are interested in trying some of the "adult" foods. There will be a cash bar as well.

The day will conclude with a torchlit parade.

"We'll all gather outside and everyone will be led [in a short parade] by pipes and drums, so it's very festive," Lehman said. "We have some banners kids can hold, and we end up around the fire and sing 'Auld Lang Syne' at 7 p.m., which is midnight in Scotland."

As the event winds down, NHSCOT will have a "First Footing," which says the first visitor to enter a home in the new year bearing gifts will bring good luck — particularly if that visitor is tall, dark and good-looking.

Visitors will be given small gifts on their way out to honor that Scottish tradition.

Lehman said that last year they had a good mix of people who attended, including plenty with no Scottish background and having never attended the Highland Games.

"It's a family-friendly event that makes everybody happy," she said. 🍷

Schedule of events

Indoor

Scottish jigsaw puzzles - ongoing
4 p.m. Team Puzzle Challenge
4 p.m. Stramash - Scottish Board Games
4 p.m. Snare Drumming Try It - Pipes & Drums of NHSCOT
5 p.m. Royalty Announcement: Lord, Lady, Lassie & Lad
5:30 p.m. Tenor Drumming Try It - Pipes & Drums of NHSCOT

Outdoor

Sledding, ongoing as snow conditions allow
4 to 6 p.m. Dinner (ticket required)
4 p.m. Highland Dance Try It - Shelley Stiles
4:30 p.m. Scottish Country Dancing - Merrill Henderson
5 p.m. Highland Dance Try It - Shelley Stiles
5:30 p.m. Scottish Country Dancing - Merrill Henderson
6:30 p.m. Parade
7 p.m. Toast to Hogmanay & singing of "Auld Lang Syne"
First Footing

Hogmanay

When: Sunday, Jan. 2, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Where: Derryfield Country Club, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester

Cost: Adults, \$42, which includes buffet-style meal; children, \$20, which includes chicken and french fries

Contact: info@nhscot.org, 219-1772

Art

Exhibits

HOLIDAY ART SHOW AND SALE Featuring handmade 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 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.



FESTIVE PAINTING

Muse Paintbar (42 Hanover St., Manchester) is offering family-friendly and adult paint-and-sip **painting classes** with a variety of winter and holiday themes now through December. Projects include a snow-capped sunset and Buddy the Elf on Thursday, Dec. 23, a white frosted eve on Sunday, Dec. 26, penguins at play on Wednesday, Dec. 29 and more. The cost ranges from \$20 to \$45, depending on the class. Visit musepaintbar.com to see the full schedule and book a class.

ARTS

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. 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 Belknap 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 newhampshirerow.org and

nhhistory.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.
- **“ECHOES: ABSTRACT PAINTING TO MODERN QUILTING”** Exhibit features abstract paintings inspired by the bold colors, asymmetry, improvisational layout, alternate grid work and negative space in composition of modern quilting. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). April 22 through May 14. Visit twovillagesart.org.
- **“FOR THE LOVE OF IMPRESSION”** Exhibit features prints created using traditional techniques and materials, combined with contemporary aesthetics, new materials, and technolo-

Check out this year’s virtual and in-person

Small Works- BIG IMPACT Show Now through December 31st

Please view the show online at creativeventuresfineart.com/product-category/small-works-show/

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NYC ARTIST EXHIBIT



The Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) has a special exhibition featuring the paintings and sculpture of New York City artist Emily Noelle Lambert on view now through Jan. 9. Lambert has shown her work nationally and internationally in solo exhibitions in New York City, Chicago and South Korea as well as a number of group exhibitions. “I love swimming in a kind of visual mystery of things between abstraction, landscape and figuration,” Lambert said of her work in a press release from Saint

Anselm. “I search for interactions between materials, colors and forms and often switch things up to keep my curiosity fresh.” The exhibition was curated by Fine Arts Professor Kimberly Kersey-Asbury, with assistance from fine art students on the layout and installation process. Visitors must wear masks inside the gallery. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities or call 641-7700.



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ARTS

— THE —
ROUNDUP

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

• **Still time for art gifts:** If you're still doing some last-minute gift shopping, these arts and craft shows have you covered.

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

Two Villages Art Society's (46 Main St., Contoocook) **Holiday Art Show and Sale** will be open on Thursday, Dec. 23, from noon to 4 p.m., featuring handmade gifts by more than 30 local artists, including paintings, pottery, mixed media, photography, fabric art and more. Visit twovillagesart.org or email info@twovillagesart.org.

The **Craftworkers' Guild's Holiday Fair** is still open for online shopping and will be open for in-person shopping at the historic Kendall House (3A Meetinghouse Road, Bedford) on Thursday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You'll find seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, cards, gourmet treats, woodworking, fiber and fabric, stained and fused glass, mixed media, jewelry and more by juried local artists and craftspeople. Visit craftworkersguild.org.

The Seacoast Artist Association's holiday exhibit, "**Big Gifts in Small Packages,**" is open at the gallery (130 Water St., Exeter) on Thursday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 26, Wednesday, Dec. 29, and Thursday, Dec. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit features a variety of small works of art priced under \$100 for gift buying. Visit seacoastartist.org or call 778-8856.

The New Hampshire Art Association presents its holiday exhibition, "**Let it Snow,**" at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth) through Jan. 2. It includes works in a variety of media, as well as books and cards for sale. 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 nhar-tassociation.org or call 431-4230.



New Hampshire School of Ballet presents *The Nutcracker*. Courtesy photo.



The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra. Courtesy photo.

• **New Year's music:** Get your tickets now for The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra's annual New Year's Eve Champagne Pops concert, which will be held at the Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth) on Friday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. The concert will feature special guest conductor Dr. Dirk Hillyer and guest vocalist Jacyn Tremblay, with music ranging from Broadway to Hollywood, including selections from *Frozen*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *The Godfather*, *West Side Story* and a collection of Gershwin swing pieces. Tickets cost \$38. Attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

• **Last call for classics:** There are still a couple of opportunities to catch the traditional *Nutcracker* or *A Christmas Carol* this holiday season.

The New Hampshire School of Ballet will perform *The Nutcracker Suite* at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) on Sunday, Dec. 26, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$22. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth) has its final showtime for *A Christmas Carol* on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 7:30 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.

ARTS

gy. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). Feb. 11 through March 5. Visit twovillagesart.org.

“NATURE AT NIGHT: PAINTINGS BY OWEN KRZYZANIAK GEARY” Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). May 27 through June 18. Visit twovillagesart.org.

Tours

• NASHUA PUBLIC ART AUDIO TOUR Self-guided audio tours of the sculptures and murals in downtown Nashua, offered via the Distrx app, which uses Bluetooth iBeacon technology to automatically display photos and text and provides audio descriptions at each stop on the tour as tourists approach the works of art. Each tour has 10 to 15 stops. Free and accessible on Android and iOS on demand. Available in English and Spanish. Visit downtownnashua.org/nashua-art-tour.

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 dianecresposfineart.com for availability.

• DRAWING & PAINTING CLASSES Art House Studios, 66 Hanover St., Suite 202, Manchester. Classes include Draw-

ing Fundamentals, Painting in Acrylic, Drawing: Observation to Abstraction, Exploring Mixed Media, and Figure Drawing. Class sizes are limited to six students. Visit arthousestudios.org.

Theater

Shows

• PETER PAN The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth) presents. Thurs., Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$32 to \$50. Visit seacoastrep.org.

• THE NUTCRACKER The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents. 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., 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 communityplayer-sofconcord.org.

• LIFESPAN OF A FACT Produced by Lend Me a Theater.

The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate 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

• NEW YEAR'S EVE CHAMPAGNE POPS The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra presents its New Year's Eve concert. The Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth). Fri., Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$38. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

• “WINTER VOYAGES” The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra performs. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Geremonty Drive, Salem. Sat., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 20, 2 p.m. Visit nhphil.org.

• DRAWN TO THE MUSIC 2022 - STORIES IN MUSIC The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra performs. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Geremonty Drive, Salem. Sat., April 9, 2 p.m., and Sun., April 10, 2 p.m. Visit nhphil.org.



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MANCHESTER SPORTS HISTORY

The Manchester Historic Association's Millyard Museum (200 Bedford St., Manchester) celebrates Manchester's sports history from 1989 through 2009 with a special exhibit, "Queen City Athletic Hall of Fame." The exhibit features original photos depicting many of the 240 Hall of Fame inductees, as well as trophies, artifacts and memorabilia from the city's sports community during those two decades. Admission to the museum costs \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors age 62 and up and college students, \$4 for youth ages 12 through 18 and is free for children under age 12. Current museum hours, according to the website, are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit manchesterhistoric.org.



Winter plantings

Enjoy paperwhites and amaryllis indoors

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

As winter drags along, I long for warm sun and green plants surrounding me outdoors. It's much too early to start spring seeds (even indoors), but I can plant some flower bulbs. I love paperwhites and amaryllis, and both are readily available for planting now — and they will bloom indoors while it snows outside.

Paperwhites are a type of daffodil specifically for forcing indoors now. Most grocery stores sell them, as do garden centers and feed-and-grain stores. They usually cost about a buck a bulb, and will produce flowers in four to six weeks. They are not hardy in New England, so don't bother saving the bulbs to plant outdoors. Just enjoy them, and accept that they are a one-shot deal.

I should warn you that paperwhites have strong scents, and not everyone is enthralled with their smell. But I like the scent, which I can smell once I walk into a room with freshly blooming paperwhites. If you don't like strong-smelling musky scents, there is one variety that is barely fragrant: Grand Soleil d'Or. Instead of the traditional white blossoms these bulbs produce gold or yellow blossoms.

If you are in a hurry for blossoms and can select your bulbs from a bin, select those that already have started to grow. They are just aching to grow. Select a nice bowl or pot that will hold water, and get some small stones — three quarters of an inch to an inch is a good size. Garden centers sell white marble chips for this, but you can pick up stones from your driveway or garden, too. Just rinse off any stones before using them.

Arrange the three to five bulbs on a layer of stones, then fill in around the

bulbs with more stones. The stems and flowers will get up to 18 inches tall, so they may tip over if not firmly seated and surrounded with stones.

Next, add water until it just kisses the bottom of the bulbs. You do not want the bulbs to sit in water. Those dry roots will quickly wake up and extend into the pool of water around the stones. Top up the water as needed, but try not to let it go dry.

Some people wait until the bulbs have grown an inch or two, drain off the water, and replace it with a 7-to-1 dilution of gin or vodka. This will, I am told, produce shorter, sturdier stems that will not flop. Or use rubbing alcohol and dilute a bit more, 11 to 1.

A more expensive but more dramatic flower for forcing is amaryllis. This is a tropical flower originally from South Africa — and many are still imported from there each year. Properly cared for, your investment in an amaryllis bulb will produce a plant that will last for up to 75 years, blooming every year.

Amaryllis bulbs are big: They are anywhere from 2 to 4 inches across. They are often sold with a kit that includes an appropriate-sized plastic pot, the bulb, and enough potting soil to plant it in.

Smaller amaryllis bulbs are younger and less expensive, but you get what you pay for: A \$5 amaryllis at a Big Box Store will probably produce one stem with three or four large blossoms. A \$12 bulb will be bigger and should produce two stems with eight or more blossoms. In time, your small bulb will get bigger if you care for it properly.

Planting an amaryllis is easy. You should plant it in a good potting soil, not soil from the garden, which may stay too wet and get compacted. It is important that the bulb *not* be buried in soil. It may rot if you do that. The shoulders of the bulb should stick up above the soil line, up to one third of the bulb. The potting



An amaryllis bulb does not need much soil and needs to be planted like this. Courtesy photo.

soil should be lightly moist, not dry or soggy when you plant it.

Place your amaryllis in a sunny window and wait. Sometimes when you buy an amaryllis it will have already started to grow in the box. I like that, as it means that my amaryllis will start growing for me right away.

Other times an amaryllis will sulk for weeks, doing nothing. There is nothing I know of to encourage it to grow, though maybe whispering encouragement to it will help. Only do that, however, when you are the only person in the room!

Amaryllis stems tend to lean toward the light, so rotating the pot every few days will help to keep it growing straight up (and give you something to do). You may need to insert one or more thin bamboo sticks and tie with yarn to help keep the heavy blossoms — up to 4 inches across — from pulling the stem over.

After the first stem has bloomed you may get a second stem. You can cut off the first stem after it is finished blooming. Sometimes the first and second stems grow at the same time, which leads to a little pushing and shoving in the pot, much like teenagers. Once a stem is finished blooming, you can cut it off.

After blooming, keep it in the pot, and put it outside in a sunny location all summer, but bring it inside by Oct. 1. Remove



5 paperwhite bulbs fit into this soupbowl with gravel. Courtesy photo.



Amaryllis blossoms come in red, white, pink and striped. Courtesy photo.

from the pot and let it dry out. Cut off the leaves and place it in a paper bag and keep in a cool, dark place for five or six weeks. Then pot it up, and it will bloom again.

So if you miss gardening, get an amaryllis or some paperwhites. And spring will be along in no time!

Looking for a present to give? Henry is selling his book Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A Hands-On, Month-by-Month Guide. This is a collection of his best articles. Send a check for \$19 to Henry Homeyer at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or order using PayPal at Gardening-Guy.com. 🍷

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

Can you give me any information on this box of metal puzzles? I believe they are all in the original box and with instructions. Just wondering if they have value.

Jim

Dear Jim,

Your box of metal puzzles is from the 1960s and I remember struggling to figure them out myself in the 1970s — a lot

of fun, but some were very difficult to figure out!

They were manufactured in England and have several versions and various amounts of stainless steel puzzles in each box. Having the original box is always a plus. With so many made and still around today, the values on some are low. I found the set you have to be in the \$15 range.

I personally would like to try to do them again today to see if they seem easier. Enjoy your puzzles.

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. 🍷



See Santa

• As of Dec. 20 a few slots were still open for **Santa's Christmas** celebration at Charmingfare Farm (774 High St. in Candia; visitthefarm.com) on Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24. 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.

• And as of early this week, a few slots still appeared to be available for **Afternoon Tea with Santa Claus** at Ya Mas Greek Taverna & Bar (125 Bridge St. in Pelham; yamsgreek taverna.com), on Thursday, Dec. 23, and Friday, Dec. 24, with times at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$55 for adults and \$35 for kids. Find the link to the eventbrite registration page in a Nov. 25 post on the restaurant's Facebook page.

At the movies

• The Music Hall (28 Chestnut St. in Portsmouth; themusic hall.org) will host a screening of the 2018 animated film **The Grinch** (PG) on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m., with a children's storytime preceding it at 2 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students, and includes access to the storytime. If you want to attend just the storytime and not the movie screening, admission is \$5 per family.

• Also in theaters for the G- and PG-rated crowd: **Sing 2** (PG), the animated sequel to the 2016 movie about singing and dancing animals, is slated to open Wednesday, Dec. 22. **Clifford the Big Red Dog** (PG), the live-action plus CG dog movie, is in theaters and on Paramount+. **Encanto** (PG), Disney's latest animated movie, featuring songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, is in theaters and will stream on Disney+ starting Dec. 24.

See some lights

Get some hot chocolate to go and buckle in the family for a ride to see some displays of holiday lights:

• Find a map to all the entrants in the **Manchester's Holiday Lights Contest** at manchesternh.gov. The site also features three different routes to see lights in different city neighborhoods.

• The **Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights** features a listing of decorated homes in Amherst, Bedford, Milford, Jaffrey, Antrim, Fitzwilliam, Keene, Merrimack, Peterborough, Rindge and Troy. See the rec department websites of participating towns for lists of houses on the tour, which runs through Dec. 27.



The Grinch

• Find a list and map of lit-up homes in **New Boston** at newbostonnh.gov/recreation.

Or for something a little more organized, check out these ticketed events:

• The **Gift of Lights** at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (1122 Route 106 North, Loudon), runs daily through Sunday, Jan. 2. The 2½-mile drive-thru light show features a variety of scenes making up more than 500 different light displays along the track. It's open from 4:30 to 9 p.m. every Sunday through Thursday, and 4:30 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, depending on weather conditions. The cost ranges from \$30 to \$35 per carload, and is \$60 per limo or bus. See nhms.com/events/gift-of-lights.

• **LaBelle Lights** continues at LaBelle Winery's Derry location (14 Route 111) now through Feb. 26. This festive outdoor light show features displays that are being changed periodically throughout its run, taking place on the facility's golf course along a paved walking path. The display includes a 15-foot-tall selfie station made of wine barrels, designed and installed by LaBelle vineyard manager and professional woodworker Josh Boisvert. Hours of operation are from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on select days throughout the season. Tickets are \$15. See labellewinery.com/lights.

Day at the museum

• The **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) is closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Otherwise, the museum is open Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission costs \$15, \$13 for 65+, \$10 for students and \$5 for ages 13 to 17 (children under 13 get in free) and can be purchased on-site (masks for all are required), according to the website. This Thursday, Dec. 23, Alli Beaudry will perform from 5 to 8 p.m., as part of the museum's weekly Art After Work programming (admission to the museum is free after 5 p.m.). Kevin Horan is slated to perform Dec. 30. On Sundays, the Winter Garden Cafe offers a special brunch menu starting at 10 a.m. featuring mimosa flights, according to the website. Current exhibits include "As Precious As Gold: Carpets from the

Islamic World," "WPA in NH: Philip Guston and Musa McKim" and "Tomie dePaola at the Currier," featuring the works of dePaola, writer and illustrator 270 children's books.

• **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St. in Manchester; see-sciencecenter.org, 669-0400) is open Tuesdays through Fridays (it will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas and New Year's Day) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Though normally closed Mondays, SEE will be open Monday, Dec. 27. Current displays and exhibits with hands-on examinations of science include BiologYou. Purchase reservations in advance via the website (masks are required for all visitors age 2 and up); admission costs \$10 per person ages 3 and up.

• The **Millyard Museum** (200 Bedford St. in Manchester; 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org/millyard-museum) is normally open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The museum will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day; it will be open until 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31.) Admission to the Millyard Museum costs \$8 for adults, \$6 for 62+ and college students, \$4 for children 12 to 18 and free for children under 12. In addition to the permanent exhibits about Manchester's history, the museum currently features the "New Hampshire Now" photography exhibit.

• The **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry;

nhahs.org, 669-4820), featuring exhibits about the people and events of New Hampshire's aviation history, will be closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day but open Sunday, Dec. 26, from 1 to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 29, through Friday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m., and thereafter Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Exhibits include the annual "Festival of Holiday Toy Planes and Model Aircraft." Admission costs \$10, \$5 for 65+ and children (6 to 12) and a family max of \$30; children 5 and under get in free (masks are required), according to the website.

• The **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com, 271-7827) is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day but will be open daily Sunday, Dec. 26, through Friday, Dec. 31, and Sunday, Jan. 2, and Monday, Jan. 3, with sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The center recommends purchasing timed tickets in advance; admission costs \$11.50 for adults, \$10.50 for students and seniors and \$8.50 for kids ages 3 to 12 (admission is free for children 2 and under; masks required for visitors over the age of 2). Planetarium show tickets are also available and cost \$5 per person (free for children 2 and under); see the website for the schedule of planetarium shows.

• The **Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (2 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org, 742-2002) requires pre-purchased admission (which costs \$11 per person, \$9 for 65+ and no charge for children under 1). The museum will be open Thursday, Dec. 23 (from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.) and Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 2 (from 9 a.m. to noon), and then Tuesday, Dec. 28, through Thursday, Dec. 30 (from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.), with special programming on Dec. 31 (see box). Masks are required for all guests over 24 months, the website said.

• The **New Hampshire Telephone Museum** (One Depot St. in Warner; nhtelephonemuseum.org, 456-2234) is open Tuesday, Dec. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$7 for adults, \$6 for 60+ and \$3 for students. 🍷



PARTY LIKE IT'S PAST YOUR BEDTIME

Ring in the new year a bit early at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org), during its annual **family New Year's Eve celebration** on Friday, Dec. 31. Two time slots are available to reserve, from 9 a.m. to noon or from noon to 3:30 p.m. Museum staff will stage four "countdowns to midnight," at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. during the morning session, and at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. during the afternoon session. Everyone will receive a noisemaker and will get to create their own sparkly party hat. Admission is \$11 per adult and per child, \$9 for seniors, and free for museum members and kids under 12 months.

Don't stick with a stick to unlock Versa shift interlock



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk:
My 2015 Nissan Versa has a shifting problem. I can only get it out of park when I stick a stick through the shift lock. The dealer says it will cost \$1,000 to fix.*

I'm a real cheap-skate; how long can I get away with using a stick? — Ed

Until the stick breaks off in the bypass slot or jams it up with wood shavings, Ed. So even though you're cheap, you might want to invest in something a little less breakable, like a \$2 screwdriver.

Your car — like all modern cars — has a safety device called a brake-shift interlock. To prevent you from putting the car in gear and driving through the back wall of your garage, the car won't let you shift out of park until your foot is on the brake.

There's a switch near the brake pedal that triggers a solenoid that unlocks the shifter. Just in case something goes wrong with the system, every car also has a manual bypass or override. It's usually right next to the shifter.

So if you're in "Jurassic Park 14," a T. rex is coming after you and your shift interlock fails, you can always use the manual override

to put the car into drive and get away — to be eaten later in the movie by the T. rex.

So, something is wrong with your interlock, Ed. It could be a bad switch at the brake pedal or a switch that's just badly out of adjustment. It could be the solenoid that operates the lock. Or it could be the lock mechanism itself.

While the manual override switch should operate indefinitely, I think it'd be worth taking the car for a second opinion. The dealer may be right that it's a \$1,000 repair, based on other Versas he's fixed. But he also could be guessing or trying to get you to trade in your car so he can have another car to sell.

If it's just the switch at your brake pedal, it's not going to cost anywhere near \$1,000 to fix. Even if it's the solenoid, you'll probably get a much better price at a good, independent shop.

So at the very least, spend \$2 on a screwdriver and throw away your stick. And if you can stomach spending a few more bucks, get a second opinion before you give up and condemn this car to heap status.

*Dear Car Talk:
I drive a 2013 BMW X3. It's been an excellent car, perhaps the best I've ever owned. It has only 52,000 miles on it.
I retired six years ago and drive much*

less than I used to, and even less during the pandemic. Recently it started sporadically emitting a lot of exhaust smoke when starting up — enough to fill the garage. Not every time, but especially when it sits unused for a couple of days.

When I asked the service department at the dealership about this, I was told that older BMWs had this problem when sitting unused for a couple of days, and there was no fix other than a new engine. I guess they were suggesting I just buy a new car. From them.

That seems unreasonable for a nine-year-old car with low mileage. At my age, I don't need a new car and I intended to keep this one. Any advice? — Tim

Advice? Yeah, make sure you always open the garage door before starting the car, Tim.

And keep driving. There's no reason to put a new engine in it based on this problem alone.

We see lots of cars that do this. The most likely explanation is that there's oil that remains on the cylinder walls after you shut off the engine.

And in your case, it's possible that a little more oil is leaking down from the valve guide seals and into the cylinders while the car sits. Then, when you next start the car, that oil gets burned up and comes out the tail pipe as smoke.

It doesn't smell good and has a blue-ish-gray haze that makes you feel like you're living in Los Angeles in 1974. But, keep in mind, Tim, it doesn't take much oil to make a lot of smoke. So don't assume that you've got a major problem.

As long as you're not losing oil at a significant rate, this is really more of an annoyance than a four-alarm BMW repair. The key is to keep an eye on your oil consumption. If you're adding a quart every 1,000 to 2,000 miles, it's not serious enough to fix.

If you have to add a quart every 200 to 300 miles, then you are burning a lot of oil — and it's not just happening when you start the car after a few days. In that case, the dealership is right. You need serious engine work. Or a 2022 X3, with a Harmon Kardon stereo and 19-inch alloy wheels.

But the phenomenon you describe — burning a little bit of oil on the first start after sitting for a few days — is not something we've ever correlated with imminent engine failure. In fact, it could have been doing this for years. You just rarely let it sit for three days until recently.

So monitor your oil consumption, and if it's not alarming, keep driving, and wave to the dealer and smile whenever you drive by.

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ON THE JOB

MEGAN THOMPSON

TRAVEL ADVISOR

Megan Thompson is a travel advisor and owner of Wanderlust with Meg, based in Newmarket.

Q: *Explain your job.*
I work with my clients to help them navigate world travel. I'm here for them throughout the whole process. I do calls with them and get to know them so I can make the best recommendations for their trips and answer any questions they have. I get them booked, keep them updated on any changes and take care of all the details, like reservations, tours, transfers, insurance, things like that. I'm also here for them while they're traveling, should anything come up and they need assistance.

How long have you had this job?
This turned into my full-time career three years ago. Before that, I was a teacher [full-time] and was doing [travel advising] part-time. I had been planning trips for friends and family and for myself long before that.

What led you to this career field and your current job?
Traveling is my passion. It's given me a chance to get to know so many people and different cultures, and I want to share that love of travel with other people. I want to help people travel without stress and just be able to explore the world and have a good time.

What kind of education or training did you need?
I've done a lot of training, from business training to destination training. I've taken many different in-person and online courses on running a business and marketing. I'm certified in different destinations and resort groups, as well. A lot of my skills from being a teacher carried over [into travel advising], like organization skills and communication skills.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?
It depends. A lot of days I work remotely, so if I'm at home and I don't have any meetings, I can dress super casual. If I have a Zoom meeting, or if I'm going to a training or conference or touring a resort, it's business casual.



Megan Thompson

me figure out and narrow down [the travel destinations] that are my favorite to sell, that I really want to focus on and do most of my training on and visit.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

When I tell people what I do, they usually ask me, 'Travel agents still exist?' I wish people knew that, yes, we do exist, and we're here to help, and not just by booking your trip for you; we're here to help throughout the whole process.

What was the first job you ever had?

When I was in high school, I worked at a summer and after-school care program.

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

Follow your passion and do what makes you happy. Don't be afraid to fail. It was a big change going from teaching to travel [advising], but travel is my passion.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

Five favorites

- Favorite book:** *Next Year in Havana*
- Favorite movie:** *Home Alone*
- Favorite music:** Jimmy Buffett and reggae
- Favorite food:** Mexican
- Favorite thing about NH:** The beauty of each season



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PART 1: SAINT NICHOLAS

A lot of people conflate Saint Nicholas with Santa Claus, which is, at best, overly simplistic and, at worst, potentially dangerous. He was not a man to take lightly.

Nicholas of Myra is one of the early Catholic and Orthodox saints — really early, like Roman Empire-early. Appar-

A note on measurements

For non-liquid ingredients, like sugar and stuff, I measure by volume and weigh it as I go. In general when I cook, I almost entirely measure ingredients by weight, when possible, especially with baking, because I find it's more precise. For those who prefer to wing it with cups and teaspoons, I've approximated those.



Pawnbroker Cocktail. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

ently, “jolly” was not really one of his outstanding character traits. Nicholas was more of a roll-up-the-sleeves-of-your-ropes-and-knock-some-sense-into-them kind of saint. According to the Saint Nicholas Center (stnicholascenter.org),

during his lifetime he was best known for chasing demons out of trees with an ax — apparently demonic possession of trees was a thing in the fourth century — and punching a fellow theologian in the face at the Council of Nicaea.

“But, surely,” you say, “he must have had *something* to do with children. He’s the Patron Saint of Children, after all.”

Funny you should ask, actually. Yes, Saint Nicholas *is* the Patron Saint of Children — as well as thieves, brewers, sailors and wolves — because of a light, charming, amusing* anecdote. (*Actually, it’s pretty much the opposite of light or charming.)

It seems that a rogue butcher, or maybe an innkeeper — there are several versions of the story — kidnapped three children and cut them up to make into sausage. Worried parents asked Nicholas to get their children back for them. According to the story, Nicholas went to the butcher’s workshop and called for the children to come home with him, whereupon the body parts sprang up from various vats,

reassembled themselves into little boys and followed him back to their village. The moral of the story, I suppose, is that even in the Late Roman Empire some things were off the table — literally, in this case.

A more cheerful story — and probably the connection with Santa Claus — is the story of The Golden Balls:

It seems that a wealthy man fell on hard times and didn’t have any money to provide his three daughters with dowries to attract good husbands. He was in the process of preparing to sell them into prostitution — because of course he was — when Nicholas saved the day by throwing three gold balls down their chimney, where they landed in the girls’ shoes, or possibly their stockings.

You would think that this would be enough to make him the Patron Saint of Brides or Stockings or maybe Balls, but in fact it landed him the gig as Patron Saint of Pawn-Brokers. (This is why most pawn shops have a sign with three golden balls by their front doors.)



Cobbler's Punch. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

Pawnbroker Cocktail

2 ounces apple brandy — I like Laird's Applejack

1 ounce Goldschläger — a cinnamon schnapps with flecks of actual gold in it

1 ounce fresh-squeezed lemon juice

Combine all ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker.

Shake.

Strain into a small, fancy glass. As you drink this, think about how much you'd have to pay someone to take one of your kids off your hands. You'll come away with a new appreciation for Nicholas.

This is a take on a classic cocktail called a sidecar. Think of it as a cousin to a margarita, but with brandy instead of tequila, and, in this case, a sweet, cinnamon associate. The taste of this drink is very cinnamon-forward, but, as with Saint Nicholas himself, do not underestimate it. The Goldschläger is sweet and a bit candy-like but clocks in at over 80 proof. If you had too many of these too quickly, you could find yourself threatening your houseplants with a spatula, trying to rid them of malignant spirits. (In fact, you are probably just over-watering them.)

PART 2: DRINKING PUNCH WITH CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens was a big fan of punch — *proper* punch, with something sweet, something sour, and an alcoholic kick that would stun a musk ox. During the Victorian period, being able to serve a self-respecting punch was a status symbol for any host. Today we think of the term “punch drunk” in the sense of a boxer who is on his last legs, but the whole reason that phrase ever caught on in the first place is that everyone was familiar with the concept of being drunk *on* punch.

Apparently, Dickens' favorite punch was a version of something called a Smoking Bishop, which was traditionally heated by lighting it on fire or, better yet, plunging a red-hot poker into it, which

frankly seems a bit intimidating. Fortunately he provided an alternative.

In *A Christmas Carol* Dickens makes several passing references to punch but never gets specific about what, aside from lemons, should go into a decent Christmas punch. (The lemons themselves are a bit of a tell, though. When you think of what an extravagance lemons would have been to a man like Bob Cratchit, you get a glimpse into what a special occasion punch-drinking was.) A better guide comes from *Our Mutual Friend*:

'You don't use lemon in your business, do you?' asked Wegg, sniffing again.

'No, Mr Wegg,' said Venus. *'When I use it at all, I mostly use it in cobblers' punch.'*

'What do you call cobblers' punch?' demanded Wegg, *in a worse humour than before.*

'It's difficult to impart the receipt for it, sir,' returned Venus, *'because, however particular you may be in allotting your materials, so much will still depend upon the individual gifts, and there being a feeling thrown into it. But the groundwork is gin.'*

'In a Dutch bottle?' said Wegg gloomily, *as he sat himself down.*

'Very good, sir, very good!' cried Venus. *'Will you partake, sir?'*

'Will I partake?' returned Wegg very surlily. *'Why, of course I will!'*

— Charles Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*
So let's take a stab at a Cobbler's Punch.

Cobbler's Punch

3 lemons, large and as deeply yellow as you can find. (Your best bet will be to look in the seafood department of your supermarket.)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup white sugar

1 750-ml bottle of very cold gin

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup / 4 ounces limoncello

3 12-ounce bottles of extremely bubbly seltzer, chilled. Topo Chico would be excellent for this.

Peel the lemons and muddle the rind with the sugar at the bottom of a punch bowl.

Turn your back on the lemon sugar and find something else to do for three hours — maybe watch the first two *Die Hard* movies (see below).

Shortly before your guests arrive, squeeze the lemons. You're aiming for $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of juice. Add it to the lemon sugar in your punch bowl, and stir to dissolve. You will be surprised at how much moisture the lemon peels have released already, preparing the sugar for its final disposition.

Add the other ingredients and stir.

Add an extremely large block of ice. If you have a small Bundt pan, make it in that. It will be a fancy ring of ice with a lot of surface area to chill the punch. Garnish with thin slices of lemon.

The key to this punch is the lemons. Dickens was right about that. It might be tempting to try rounding out the fla-

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The Nakatini. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

vor with triple sec, or elderflower liqueur, or something that isn't lemony. Don't do it. The lemons know what they're doing; don't get in their way. Limoncello is the way to go on this.

The second key to this punch is extreme cold. Store your gin in the freezer for a day or so ahead of time. It won't freeze, but it will get shockingly cold. Chill your seltzer. If it's really cold outside on the night of your party, make this on the patio. Or balcony. Or fire escape.

PART 3: IS DIE HARD A CHRISTMAS MOVIE?

Yes. Yes, it is.

The Nakatini

2 ounces Szechuan peppercorn-infused gin (see below)
1½ ounces ginger syrup
1 ounce fresh-squeezed lemon juice

Combine all ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake like a building that has just had a bomb go off on the roof, taking out a helicopter full of overconfident federal agents.

Strain carefully into a martini glass — carefully, as if the gin were an international terrorist with unknown motivations.

Drink it. You have two options here:

(a) Knock it back blithely, overconfident in your ability to handle factors well beyond your understanding. This might not end well for you, but fortune favors the bold. Sometimes.

(b) Sip it gingerly (get it?) like a wounded hero hobbling across the floor with feet full of broken glass.

Every now and then you run across somebody who has never seen *Die Hard*. If you ever managed to sit them down and force them to watch it, they would almost certainly start out skeptical:

Them: "Bruce Willis? Really? But he's so—"

You: "Shhh. Be patient."

After half an hour they will slip into a stunned silence.

Approximately an hour and a half, two explosions and 73 shootings later (I looked it up) they will be sitting, mouth agape, in a sort of fugue state.

You: "So?"

Them: "Wow. I, uh, I had no idea. Um — wow."

You: "Do you want to watch it again?"

Them: "Yes. No. Uh, my brain can't — um —"

You: "Will you ever be the same, from this point forward?"

Them: "I really don't think so."

That's what drinking a Nakatini is like. Szechuan peppercorns are delicious, spicy — not too hot — and a little citrusy. They go well with the aromatics in gin. Gin, in its turn, goes extremely well with lemon, which goes with the citrusness of the peppercorns. All of it marries well with ginger.

But Szechuan peppercorns — and this is the part that is just like watching *Die Hard* for the first time — have a numbing effect on your lips and tongue. Your mouth will feel exactly like it just watched a wounded cop swing through a window on the end of a fire hose.

Szechuan Pepper-Infused Gin

1 cup / 8 ounces / 237 ml. good-but-not-very-expensive gin
1 tablespoon Szechuan peppercorns

Combine the gin and Szechuan peppercorns in a small bottle. Forcing the peppercorns through the neck of a funnel with a chopstick will break them up just enough.

Cap the bottle and shake it. Let the mixture infuse for 24 hours, shaking it periodically.

Strain and rebottle.

PART 4: A CHRISTMAS DRINK FOR GUYS AND DOLLS

Before Tom and Jerry were a cartoon, they were a Very Serious Drink.

As described by Damon Runyan:

This hot Tom and Jerry is an old-time drink that is once used by one and all in this country to celebrate Christmas with, and in fact it is once so popular that many people think Christmas is invented only to furnish an excuse for hot Tom and Jerry, although of course this is by no means true. ... Now of course Good Time Charley and I are not using rum in the Tom and Jerry we are making, as we do not wish to do anything illegal. What we are using is rye whisky that Good Time Charley gets on a doctor's prescription from a drug store, as we are personally drinking this hot Tom and Jerry and naturally we are not foolish enough to use any of Good

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Tom and Jerry. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

Time Charley's own rye in it. The prescription for the rye whisky comes from old Doc Moggs, who prescribes it for Good Time Charley's rheumatism in case Charley happens to get any rheumatism, as Doc Moggs says there is nothing better for rheumatism than rye whisky, especially if it is made up in a hot Tom and Jerry.

— Damon Runyon, *Dancing Dan's Christmas*, Damon Runyon Omnibus

The good news about a Tom and Jerry is that it doesn't require any preparations that need to be made days in advance. Do not be overconfident, however — making a credible T&J requires a cool eye and steady nerves.

Tom and Jerry Batter

- 3 eggs, separated
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground allspice
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Beat egg whites to stiff peaks.

Separately, beat the egg yolks, powdered sugar and spices until they lighten in color. (The mixture will look like whole-grain mustard, but not as angry.)

Carefully fold the egg whites into the yolk mixture, being careful not to deflate them. This is a lot like making a soufflé, if that means anything to you. Beat about 1/4 of the egg whites into the mixture, just to lighten it up a bit. Then add the rest of the whites, 1/3 at a time, folding them in gently, until everything is evenly mixed but still light and fluffy. You'll have 3 or 4 cups of the final mixture when you are done.

Set this mixture aside. It is your "batter."

Tom and Jerry

- 2 Tablespoons / ¼ cup "batter" mixture
- 2 Tablespoons / ¼ cup "batter" mixture
- ¾ ounces brandy or 2 ounces rye whiskey
- 1½ ounces dark rum — Myers, in this case
- Hot milk

Add "batter" and alcohol to a mug. The 1935 edition of the Mr. Boston Bartender's Guide is explicit about the importance of making a Tom and Jerry in a heated mug, so fill yours with boiling water for a few minutes before mixing the actual drink. Remember to pour the water out before adding the other ingredients. That may seem obvious, but might become less so after two or three Tom and Jerrys.

Top with hot milk. (How hot? I like mine to be around 175° F / 80° C.)

Stir to combine.

Garnish with fresh-grated nutmeg. Seriously, if you've never grated your own nutmeg, try it. Just smell a little of it in the palm of your hand. It will be a revelation.

I tried this recipe both ways — with rum and with rye. I'm generally a rum guy, and even Damon Runyon's character admits up front that a Tom and Jerry is best with rum. On the other hand, I'd feel foolish to go to all this trouble and end up with rheumatism.

The rye recipe is completely delicious. The spiciness of the rye plays really well with the black pepper. There is a whiskeyness to it that feels extremely Runyonesque.

Tom and Jerry 1 – rheumatism 0.

The rum recipe knocked me back on my heels. I have to go with the 1930s hoodlum logic on this. A rum Tom and Jerry — or three — would make for a truly magical Christmas. The deep, sweet muskiness of the rum adds a layer of decadence to the whole affair that really could convince you to break into a showgirl's apartment dressed as Santa Claus and leave her stolen diamonds. (See Damon Runyan, above.)

(If the idea of using a raw egg in a cocktail is a little *too* 1930s hoodlumish for you, some supermarkets carry pasteurized eggs. Alternatively, you can pasteurize your own by heating them in a water bath at 135 degrees for two hours. If you have a sous vide apparatus, this is an excellent use for it. If you don't, you know what to ask for this Christmas.)

PART 5: GIVING THE JOINT SOME ATMOSPHERE

Nick: "Hey, look mister, we serve hard drinks in here for men who want to get drunk fast. And we don't need any characters around to give the joint atmosphere. Is that clear? Or do I have to slip you my left for a convincer?"

Nick (Sheldon Leonard) — *It's a Wonderful Life*, 1946

I was a senior in college before I saw *It's a Wonderful Life*. In my defense, this was in the mid-'80s, before the movie

was on TV, demand and video quite so ubiquitously.

We were screening it in the school's dining hall. The music swelled, Zuzu said her line about angels getting their wings, and the movie ended. Someone turned on the lights, and the other students all got up, put on their coats and left, leaving me and a buddy of mine sitting there, crying like French soccer players.

I hadn't even realized that JP was at the movie. Apparently, he hadn't ever seen the movie before either, because he got up and walked across the room to me, tears streaming down his face.

"Are you OK?" he asked me. I nodded between sobs. "It's just that he had ... such ... a ... hard ... life!"

JP understood. "But ... it ... was" At this point, we both broke down completely. "...A *WONDERFUL* life!" he wailed. We hugged.

To this day I can get through the entire movie pretty well until that last scene, when the whole town shows up to give Jimmy Stewart money, and Martini, the bar owner, shouts, "I broke open the juke-a-box!"

Sniff
Dang it.



Pottersville Special. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

Pottersville Special

- 1½ ounces rye
- ¾ ounce sweet vermouth
- ¼ teaspoon orange bitters

Shake over ice.
Pour into a rocks glass.
Drink, garnished with sentimental tears.

This is delicious, with a hard edge. It makes you realize that you may have bought that rye to make the Damon Runyan drink but you are starting to really like it. It has an emotional whiskeyness to it, but sweetened and tempered by the



Switches and Coal. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

vermouth and bitters. This is what you'd drink if the bank examiner were coming to serve a warrant for your arrest, but if you weren't *quite* ready for prison yet.

PART 6: BIG MAN ON KRAMPUS

"The Feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated in parts of Europe on 6 December. On the preceding evening of 5 December, Krampus Night or Krampusnacht, the wicked hairy devil appears on the streets. Sometimes accompanying St. Nicholas and sometimes on his own, Krampus

visits homes and businesses. ... Unlike North American versions of Santa Claus, in these celebrations Saint Nicholas concerns himself only with the good children, while Krampus is responsible for the bad. Nicholas dispenses gifts, while Krampus supplies coal and the Ruten bundles (birch rods to beat the children with). It is customary to offer a Krampus schnapps, a strong distilled fruit brandy."

— Wikipedia page on Krampus

Dieter Krampus snuck a look at his watch. He had a couple of minutes before he and The Boss had to be at the next house.

He set down his sack of birch switches and stood up straight, stretching the kinks out of his back. All in all this was a pretty good gig, but Dieter had to admit it was harder on his body than it used to be. He leaned his head from side to side, stretching out his neck, and was rewarded with a couple more popping sounds — a task that was aided significantly by the weight of the enormous horns growing out of the top of his head. He'd be happy to shed them in a couple of days. Yes, they itched like the devil as they grew back in, but he couldn't imagine hauling that weight around all year.

"Herr Krampus?"

It didn't matter how long they had worked together, The Boss was always formal.



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Coquito. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

Dieter was getting tired. It had been a long night. He let out a grunt as he bent over and picked up his sack. He must have groaned a little louder than he intended, because the saint called out softly to him again, this time with a little encouragement.

“Time for some schnapps, don’t you think, Herr Krampus?”

Say what you will about The Boss, nobody understood the concept of Carrot and Stick better than he did.

“On my way, Mein Herr.”

Switches and Coal

The legends and traditions are pretty clear: The traditional drink for a Krampus is a straight shot of schnapps. That’s great if you’re putting in a hard night of terrifying children, but what about when your shift is over and you get a chance to put your hooves up? You’ll want something refreshing but with some authority.

This is a take on a classic drink called a Black Satin, but boilermaker-y:

- 3 ounces very dark beer — stout or porter
- 3 ounces brut Champagne
- 2 ounces of the darkest rum you can get your hands on — I like Cruzan Black Strap

Gently pour the very dark beer into a tall glass.

Float the Champagne on top of it. Pour it over the back of a spoon. It will not make visibly separate layers, but it makes a difference.

Pour a shot of very dark rum, then drop it into the mixture.

Drink, while complaining to your husband about your day.

We all understand, intellectually, that grapes are a fruit, but it is still shocking how fruity and chocolatey this drink is. It is utterly delicious and just what you want to drink if you’ve had a hard day with the kids. It goes down dangerously smoothly.

PART 7: THE FEROCIOUSNESS OF A PUERTO RICAN GRANDMOTHER

Over the past several years, as I have researched my family tree, the most joy has come — hands down — from a branch of my father’s family from the hill country in Kentucky.

Case in point: my Great Uncle Wirt, who was ridden out of town on a rail and ended up in upstate New York, and was arrested for fishing in a state park.

With dynamite.

I mention this to help illustrate an (admittedly shaky) analogy between Kentucky and Puerto Rico. Both are well-known for their fine, sophisticated liquor — upscale bourbon near Churchill Downs, and golden añejo rum on the beaches and resorts of Puerto Rico. But as you move up into the hills in either place, both the people and their alcohol become somewhat alarming.

It would be rude to turn down your cousin Cletus’ offer of a taste of his moonshine — acknowledging all the while that you would be seriously rolling the dice to drink it. In the same vein, there are Puerto Rican grandfathers who make a sugarcane liquor called pitoro that can strip the chrome off a trailer hitch.

The traditional holiday drink in Puerto Rico in December is a rich, creamy concoction called coquito. Some people describe it as “Puerto Rican eggnog,” but that’s misleading; there are no eggs in it. There is, however, an alarming amount of pitoro.

Ask any Puerto Rican about coquito and they will get misty-eyed remembering their mother or grandmother’s recipe — much like a Southerner’s relationship with biscuits — but they will almost always finish with a statement like, “But if you go up into the hills, their coquito is really scary!”

A friend of mine tells me that each family has its own recipe for coquito. “At each house it tastes different,” she says. Every mother or grandmother has two secret ingredients that they use to make their version. “Some of my friends’ mothers added ice cream to make their coquito creamier,” my friend Myrta says. “My mother,” she adds, pausing dramatically, then continuing almost in a whisper, “uses *pistachio* ice cream.”

The second secret ingredient is almost always extra alcohol.

Let’s be really clear here: This will *not* be as good as Myrta’s mother’s coquito. It will be really, *really* good, but for the real stuff you’ll have to go to Puerto Rico.

Coquito

1 15-ounce can cream of coconut (the presweetened, incredibly artificial kind you would use for dorm-room piña colodas)

1 14-ounce can condensed milk

1 14-ounce can coconut milk (Warning: If you even *think* of using any low-fat ingredients in coquito, you risk angering vengeful Caribbean spirits. I wouldn't risk it.)

1 cup / 8 ounces overproof rum (I like Gosling's Black Seal 151.)

½ cup water

1 cup pistachio ice cream

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 cinnamon sticks

2 whole cloves

1 pinch ground cinnamon

1 pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Add all ingredients except the cinnamon sticks and cloves to a blender. Blend on low speed for 1 to 2 minutes.

Strain into one large, or two large-ish, jars. Add the whole spices, seal and shake.

Refrigerate for at *least* overnight, or better yet, 2 to 3 days.

Your finished coquito will be pretty thick, so you will probably want to thin it with a little water, but that said, if you want to tackle it full-octane, more power to you.

Coquito is very everything — very sweet, very coconutty and very boozy. This is not for someone with mixed feelings about the holidays. It is for fully embracing the season and singing loudly— louder with each glass of coquito. I'm not saying you will necessarily end up waking your wife at 2 a.m. singing "Oh-hoe tie-eye-dings of CUH-HUM-FORT AND JOY!", wavering on the lowest note you can force out of your chest.

But you might.

PART 8: "YEAH, BUT WHAT IF I'M A TEETOTALLING, GLUTEN-FREE VEGAN?"

I think the best inspiration for this challenge is Hermey the Elf, from the Rankin-Bass Christmas classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. If you don't remember Hermey, he is the tacitly closeted elf who, unhappily working on Santa's toy assembly line, yearns to be a dentist. After being mocked and punished for not being as butch as the rest of the elves (Yes, I know. What can I say? It was the '60s.), he runs away to seek his fortune, singing one of the greatest "I Want" songs in movie history:

Hermey: "Why am I such a misfit? I am not just a nitwit. You can't fire me, I quit. Seems I don't fit in."

Like every character in the *Rudolph* story, he is eventually provisionally accepted



Caffeine for Hermey. Photo courtesy of John Fladd.

once he can prove himself useful to a judgmental society.

You could take several lessons from Hermey's adventures:

Work hard and be loyal to your friends, and the Universe will reward you.

Inspire respect by ripping the teeth out of your enemies with pliers.

Don't wait for the world to accommodate you; create your own destiny — or, in this case, your own festive holiday beverage.

Let's focus on the third one, shall we?

Caffeine for Hermey

2 cups almond milk

½ cup white sugar

1½ cups whole coffee beans

pinch of salt

1 cinnamon stick

1 cup non-dairy half & half

1 tablespoon vanilla

Combine the almond milk, sugar, salt, coffee beans and cinnamon stick in a small saucepan. Heat to just below a simmer, approximately 174 degrees, stirring occasionally. The sugar should dissolve completely.

Remove from heat, cover, and allow to steep for two hours.

Strain the mixture to remove the coffee beans and the cinnamon stick. Wash your hands and squeeze the coffee beans to wring every bit of flavor from them.

Add the non-dairy half & half and the vanilla. Stir to combine.

Chill for 2 to 3 hours.

Drink with a proud heart and kind thoughts for Hermey.

"This is really good and all, but isn't it just iced coffee?"

I can't help noticing that you're on your third glass of it.

"Well, that's only because it's so creamy. It tastes ... friendly."

I wouldn't know. There isn't any left.

"Uh, yeah ... Merry Christmas."

You too, Petal. 🍷

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By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Here's to 2022:** Depending on when you're reading this, there may still be time to make a reservation for **New Year's Eve** (Friday, Dec. 31) — check out our listings that ran in the Dec. 16 issue; they begin on page 30. You'll find all kinds of unique ways local eateries will be ringing in the new year, from special multi-course meals to late-night buffets, parties, midnight Champagne toasts and more. A few restaurants will also be open for brunch on either New Year's Day, Saturday, Jan. 1, or the following morning, Sunday, Jan. 2. Go to issuu.com/hippopress and click on the Dec. 16 issue to read the e-edition for free.

• **Charcuterie and chocolate:** Derry-based business **603 Charcuterie** is teaming up with Loon Chocolate to launch a new shared storefront, set to open in early 2022 at The Factory on Willow (252 Willow St., Manchester), owner Theresa Zwart recently announced. Loon Chocolate owner and founder Scott Watson had previously announced plans to open his first retail space, which will almost triple the size of his current production facility. Zwart, meanwhile, is now planning on having all of the New Hampshire-made cheeses, meats and other products she features on her charcuterie boards available for sale at the space, as well as merchandise and charcuterie boxes to go. Since launching 603 Charcuterie in late 2020 as a small takeout ordering business, Zwart has gone on to teach charcuterie board-building classes and has also expanded into catering larger boards and grazing tables for weddings. Visit 603charcuterie.com or follow her on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

• **A wine wonderland:** New Hampshire Wine Week is right around the corner — tickets are available now to the 18th annual **Easterseals Winter Wine Spectacular**, happening on Thursday, Jan. 27, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown (700 Elm St.). Acclaimed winemakers from all over the world travel to the Granite State to attend this expo-style event, which has grown over the years to have the largest gathering of wines in northern New England with more than 1,000 types available for sampling. In addition, the event features foods from more than a dozen local restaurants, as well as a silent auction and raffle and the opportunity to meet with and learn from more than 60 wine personalities. This will be the first in-person Winter Wine Spectacular since January 2020 — the pandemic forced its transition into a series of virtual tastings last year. Tickets are \$65 for access to the grand tasting, or \$135 for access to the Bellman Cellar VIP tasting room (limited availability), with proceeds benefiting Easterseals New Hampshire. For the most up-to-date details on New Hampshire Wine Week, which also includes bottle signings and wine tastings across the state, visit nhwineweek.com. 🍷

FOOD

Say cheese

Prime Time Grilled Cheese opening restaurant in Manchester



Ham and Cheese grilled cheese. Courtesy photo.



Alex and Marcie Pichardo. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsersoll@hippopress.com

Alex and Marcie Pichardo found success in 2018 with Prime Time Grilled Cheese, a Manchester-based food truck offering unique takes on the traditional grilled cheese sandwich. After more than three years of participating in public and private events, the couple is getting ready to expand their business in the form of a new brick-and-mortar restaurant.

On track to open on the corner of Hanover and Chestnut streets in the coming weeks, Prime Time Grilled Cheese will be sharing space with Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream, the franchise's first location in the Queen City.

Plans have been in the works for the restaurant since before the pandemic — the Pichardos took over the former storefronts of both Summer Pizza and

Hien's House of Tailoring, knocking down the wall separating the two units. The space will offer a fast casual atmosphere with both bar and table seating inside.

Cheddar, colby jack and Monterey Jack make up the base cheeses for each sandwich. Among the truck's most popular options are grilled cheeses with Buffalo chicken, pulled pork, and jalapeno macaroni and cheese, and while you can expect those to be part of the menu at the restaurant, the larger space will give the Pichardos even more creative grilled cheese freedom.

"I think I counted about 20 different grilled cheeses," Marcie Pichardo said. "We're going to have a Philly cheese steak grilled cheese, a Mediterranean, a chicken Parm ... and then we're going to bring our old menu, so we're going to have the tuna melt and the Super Slop-py Joe."

Fueled by customer suggestions, there will also be special "grilled cheeses of the month."

"Everyone has their own ideas where they would say, 'That would be amazing in a grilled cheese,' and so we want to interact with people and make it fun," she said.

Other menu items will include flavored macaroni and cheese bowls, salads and a line of about four to five different soups, from chicken noodle to tomato or French onion. A few domestic and local craft beers will be on tap, and a small space for live local music is also planned.

Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream came along when the Pichardos met Rita and Mark McCabe, the owners of the Nashua shop, while attending the same events as vendors. Although they will operate as two separate businesses, they will share the same seating area inside the restaurant.

The McCabes are natives of Pelham who first brought the franchise to the Granite State in 2014 after seeing it on the ABC series *Shark Tank*. They're now the area developers of the brand for New England, helping franchisees open other shops in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. 🍷

Prime Time Grilled Cheese

An opening date is expected in early 2022 — the restaurant will also feature a new locally owned Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream location under the same roof. Visit their website or follow them on social media for updates.

Where: 119 Hanover St., Manchester

Hours: TBA

More info: Visit primetimegrilledcheese.com, email primetimegrilledcheese@gmail.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram @primetimegrilledcheese



Frank Barrese of Nashua is the executive chef of The 101 Grille (88 Shirking Road, Epping, 734-2273, the101grille.com), a new eatery that opened inside the Seacoast United sports complex last month. Currently open five days a week for dinner and on Saturdays for lunch, The 101 Grille features everything from snacks and appetizers to burgers, sandwiches and flatbreads, with a heavy emphasis on from-scratch cooking and locally sourced ingredients through the Three River Farmers Alliance. Barrese is originally from Port Chester, New York — he later moved to Fairfield County in southwestern Connecticut, eventually landing his first executive chef job at the former Picador restaurant in the town of New Canaan. Just prior to joining The 101 Grille, he worked as a chef on the campus of Emmanuel College in Boston for about two years.

What is your must-have kitchen item?
Tongs.

very often and the fact that I was able to find one that was made in New Hampshire was really exciting.

What would you have for your last meal?
Garlic noodles from this place in Charleston, South Carolina, called Pink Bellies, and probably a nice Kölsch.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at The 101 Grille?

I'm going to say Bruce Willis. That would be pretty sweet.

What is your favorite local restaurant?
Smokehaus in Amherst. They do great barbecue. ... I get the pulled pork with their tangy and spicy sauce.

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

Ghost kitchens are starting to become more and more prevalent, and I am a big fan of them.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

It would be the nduja crostini. Nduja is a soft, very spicy Calabrian pork sausage, and Short Creek Farm [of Northwood] actually makes it in house. They source the peppers from Calabria, but everything else is local. ... Nduja is something that you don't see

What is your favorite thing to make at home?

Sourdough bread is probably my favorite. I've had the same sourdough starter for the last five years.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Grilled scallion chimichurri

From the kitchen of Frank Barrese of The 101 Grille in Epping (yields about two cups; great on grilled steak or vegetables, mixed with mayonnaise as a dipping sauce for fries, or on a sandwich or wrap)

- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon Aleppo chile pepper, or crushed red pepper
- 4 cloves garlic
- ½ cup red wine vinegar

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 bunches of scallions, lightly brushed with oil, charred on the grill, then roughly chopped
- ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil

Combine all ingredients except extra virgin olive oil into a food processor and process until finely chopped. While food processor is running, add the extra virgin olive oil until well-incorporated. Store in an air-tight container.

FOOD IS ALWAYS A WELCOME GIFT

Need a last-minute gift for the foodie in your life? We have plenty of tasty ideas in our Gift Guide coverage, which ran in the Dec. 9 issue of the Hippo. The story starts on page 22, detailing all kinds of gift recommendations from ready-to-eat meals to specialty food boxes, candies, cooking class certificates and more. Also in that issue, find places open Christmas Eve and special meals planned for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Find the e-edition of the issue at hippopress.com.



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FOOD



TRY THIS AT HOME

Chocolate & caramel oatmeal bars

It's almost Christmas, so you probably are already surrounded by many treats. You may wonder why you need one more dessert recipe right now. The answer is simple: These bars are delicious and make a fabulous dessert that doesn't require a lot of time.

During this holiday season, cookies usually take center stage, which is fine. The problem with cookies is that you need to make batches of them. Plus, you need to find a cute serving tray on which to serve them. That's where this bar recipe can assist you. You can bake and serve in the same pan!

When you make these (not if but when), there are three important ingredient notes. (1) You need to use old-fashioned or rolled oats to provide the correct texture. (2) The soft caramels are the ones that come individually wrapped but don't have that white/creamy center. (3) Although it's only a few tablespoons, whole milk really is the best choice to keep the caramel sauce creamy.



Chocolate & caramel oatmeal bars. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

Now you have a dessert that is bound to receive many oohs and ahhs. Make sure you save one for yourself!

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.

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Chocolate & caramel oatmeal bars

Makes 20

- 1½ cups flour
- 1½ cups old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 7 ounces soft caramels
- 4 Tablespoons whole milk
- 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Using a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, mix flour, oats, sugar, butter, baking soda and salt on medium speed until butter is the size of rice.

Line a 13×9 pan with parchment paper,

and then grease the parchment paper with butter or nonstick cooking spray.

Place ¾ of the cookie dough in the pan; spread evenly and pat firmly.

Bake the bottom crust for 12 minutes.

While the crust bakes, combine the caramels and milk in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat the caramel mixture in the microwave in 30-second increments, stirring after each.

Remove crust from oven; spread melted caramel over it.

Sprinkle chocolate chips on top of caramel.

Scoop remaining cookie dough into tablespoons, and distribute evenly over the chocolate chips.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the crust is golden brown.

Cool for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Food & Drink Local farmers markets

- **Contoocook Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Maple Street Elementary School (194 Maple St., Contoocook). Masks are required. Find them on Facebook @contoocookfarmersmarket.
- **Deering Winter Market** is Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Deering Fish & Game Club

(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 @downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket.

- **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 Jan. 8. 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.



Pretty sweet

Sweet wines for holiday giving and drinking

By Fred Matuszewski
food@hippopress.com



The holiday season provides us with the opportunity to exchange gifts with those who mean so much to us. Therefore, this time of year with feasting on savory and sweets alike, why not select that bottle

to pair with fruit, or cheese, or with a sweet dessert? Past the bottles of chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon, past the bottles of pinot grigio there lie countless options available to us. Pick out a bright sparkling sweet wine, or a “fizzy” red wine. Try a wine normally reserved for cooking or try a truly luxurious sauternes from Bordeaux. Whatever your choice, you will be rewarded with a wonderfully new experience.

Our first wine is a classic. **Martini & Rossi Asti Sparkling Wine** (originally priced at \$14.99, and reduced to \$9.95 at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets) is a label familiar to many. A couple of decades ago we were pummeled with TV ads for Asti Spumante. In late 1993 Asti Spumante was promoted to the top-level DOCG classification, at which point the “spumante” was officially dropped, resulting in the same great and inexpensive wine with a much shorter name. This wine comes from the Piedmont region of Italy and is made from the moscato bianco grape. It is produced by cold fermentation under pressure and is created to be enjoyed immediately. This is a slightly sweet, bubbly wine with notes of peach with some herbs that transform on the palate to pear and tropical pineapple notes. As a very approachable wine that is low in alcohol, it appeals to those who are just being introduced to wine.

Our second wine is another classic. **Roscato Provincia Di Pavia Rosso Dolce** (originally priced at \$12.99, and reduced to \$8.95 at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets) is a delicately sweet and gently fizzy red wine from the northern Italian region of Lombardy. Made from three grape varieties — Croatina, Teroldego and Lagrein — this is a slightly sweet wine that can also be paired to entrees such as classic tomato-based Italian dishes. However, this chameleon of a wine can also be paired to cheeses or just sipped when slightly chilled. It has notes of raspberries and cherries.

Our third wine is frequently thought of as reserved for cooking. **Colombo Sweet**

Marsala Wine (\$10.99, and available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets) is a hidden wonder. Marsala is a Sicilian wine, fortified, with a spectrum of sweetness, conditioned on the preferences of the region and winemaker. Marsala grew in popularity at the time when the British were

becoming invested monetarily and in taste in fortified wines such as sherry and port. While its popularity has waned over the last century, it can be savored in front of the fireplace with its dark amber color, and hints of dates and apricots. It is full, warm and satisfying to the palate, a wonderful wine to be sipped after dinner.

Our fourth and fifth wines are luxurious sauternes. The **2016 Michel Lynch Prestige Sauternes** (\$19.99 for a 375 ml bottle, and available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets) is liquid silk in a small bottle. Also available in New Hampshire is another sweet sauternes – **Château Guiraud Sauternes 1er Cru Classé** (originally priced at \$27.99, and reduced to \$24.99 for a 375 ml bottle at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets). Why are two sauternes noted in this column? The answer is simple: The state stores do not inventory a wide selection of these cherished rare wines. These aromatic wines are produced from semillon grapes that are botrytized. When conditions are just right, nature can hold a usually nasty fungus in such check that something special happens. Instead of destroying a crop, the fungus creates grapes with incredibly concentrated flavor that can make some of the world’s sweetest, most precious wines. Botrytis cinerea is more affectionately known as “noble rot.” It’s the same kind of rot that spoils strawberries and soft fruit with greyish fuzz. So what makes this mold noble? A fine balance of moisture, sunlight and temperature. Ripe, healthy grapes must still be on the vine as fall begins, when misty mornings provide the moisture that the fungus needs to thrive. The fungus pierces the grape’s skin to feast on its juice, but after a few hours, sunshine and otherwise dry conditions follow to evaporate the moisture and stop the fungus in its tracks.

Try these alternatives to the all-too-familiar wines. The experience will be rewarding.

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



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MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

CDs pg32

• Alice Phoebe Lou,

Child's Play D• ABBA, *Voyage* A

BOOKS pg33

• *Powder Days* B+

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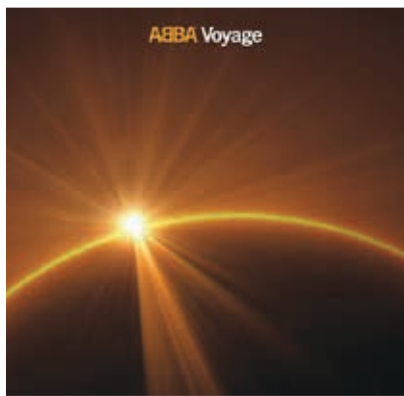
FILM pg34

• *Spider-Man: No Way*

Home B+

Alice Phoebe Lou, *Child's Play* (self-released)

I don't like getting all class-war on an innocent album that never did anything to me personally, but sometimes weak albums released by highly privileged postmodern artists really get on my nerves, I have to tell ya. I do try to telegraph my moves in that regard, and I'd think by now you know I don't trust most indie bands these days, given that the Pitchfork Media crowd has become the "essential art" dictators of the potty-trained "professional management class" that's being bashed to smithereens in leftist intellectual circles. A big-time PR firm is handling this piece of junk, the latest album from this South African-raised white woman whose parents are documentary filmmakers; Lou's voice was purported to "sound like Judy Garland, Kate Bush, or Angel Olsen" but "mostly her own." They got the last bit right anyway; she's a pretty unremarkable fashion-victim waif, and her woozy awkwardness (not to mention absolutely dreadful Lawrence Welk keyboard sound) had me reaching for the Off button every 10 seconds. She strikes me as a third-rate Kate Bush with a decent-enough ear for samples, but, as always, your mileage may vary. **D** — *Eric W. Saeger*

ABBA, *Voyage* (OK Good Records)

What a treat it was to witness the Pitchfork Media writer squeezing his brain for the requisite 1,500-word essay on this album! It's the first one in 40 years from the Swedish pop group that basically owned the 1970s, and so Pitchfork Guy's obscure shibboleths included nonsense like "glam boogie" and "scandi-disco bounce." It was so rich and delicious to watch him squirm, when all that's really to report is that the two dude songwriters still have it, and the singers all sound older. That's it. There have been a couple

of hilariously bad musicals based on the band's million-year-old tunes, of course, all of which resurged in popularity after the 1990s *ABBA Gold* album, so it's not that these people have ever disappeared. Anyhow, the first two songs threaten to go Celtic Woman, especially "When You Danced With Me," which has an Irish jig feel to it, but most of the balance forward is the usual formula of all-hook tuneage fit for children's dentist overhead speakers. Same as it ever was, really. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

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

• It's the least wonderful time of the year for people like me, music columnists who have to spin column-gold out of literally nothing, because there are basically no important new records coming out on Friday, which is Christmas Eve. And why? Well, because it's time to forget about important things like redundant, overhyped music albums and instead — yuck — feel jolly and bright or whatever, and be sociable — with *people!* Gross! — and visit. It stinks, man, I just want some albums to write about, so I can fill this column with humor and fascinating news about whatever stupid pop diva or tedious Coldplay-clone-band band, because it's my job, to fill this space with information and advice that you won't follow anyway, but at least I try. But here we are again, with the never-ending culture war in happy détente, and me with no albums to write about, because only certified loons (and metal bands) (same thing) would put out an album on Christmas Eve. Fact is, guys, I've been through this for nearly 20 years now, scrambling for stuff to write about this holiday week. You see folks, here's the thing: *I must stop Christmas from coming.* But how?

• No, seriously, it's that time of year when I actually *want* to hear bad new albums from non-musically trained indie bands banging their ting-tinglers and disposable hit singles from whichever lollipop-brained Ariana Grande-of-the-month is honking her gong-zookas. But do I dare even bother webbing into the Album Of The Year site to look for an album to talk about here, or should I talk about my feelings? I don't know, but here, fine, I'll look. OMG, guys, I totally found one, it's *Tales From The Pink Forest*, by some band or whatever called **ID KY!** I feel like Yukon Cornelius on that Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer show, like I was chipping and chipping at the barren Google wasteland and finally there it was! Silverrrrr! Silver and gold! OK! Now, ahem, let's just calm down and try to find out what an "ID KY" is; it's probably something dumb, like some YouTuber playing Panic! At The Disco cover songs on a kazoo (I'm not expecting anything more artistic than that, honestly). OK, great, there's literally nothing on Google or YouTube about this, so now I feel like Geraldo Rivera after he opened Al Capone's secret vault and came out with a sales receipt from Walmart or whatever it was. Just great. OK, let's pretend it was just really dumb polka played on a Charlie Brown toy piano. Aaaaand we're moving, people, let's go.

• Hmm, it's some other band-or-whatever-who-cares with a random four-letter name, this time **MDMJ!** I can't wait to hear — oh, never mind, the album is called "Album" probably because it doesn't have a title yet. I'm about to bag it, folks. Look at all you Whos down in Whoville, just laughing at the sad music critic clown making a fool out of himself, so that you can laugh and point. I can't wait to stuff your Christmas tree up the chimney and have my dog drag it to the top of Mount Crumpit. OK, one last pass and I'm getting a drink, I deserve it.

• We'll evacuate these dreary premises by closing with — OK, there are no other records supposedly being released on Christmas Eve. None. So let's just get drunk and listen to the only thing that's literally coming out on Christmas Day itself! Of course it's a metal record, **Sonic Wolves's** *It's All A Game To Me EP!* Ha ha, these three people look like sleepy Hells Angels, and the EP is a two-song "tribute to Lemmy and Cliff Burton!" Figures, there's no music for me to trash, um, I mean critique, so let's do a last Jell-O shot and forget this column ever even happened. Happy holidays and whatever! — *Eric W. Saeger*

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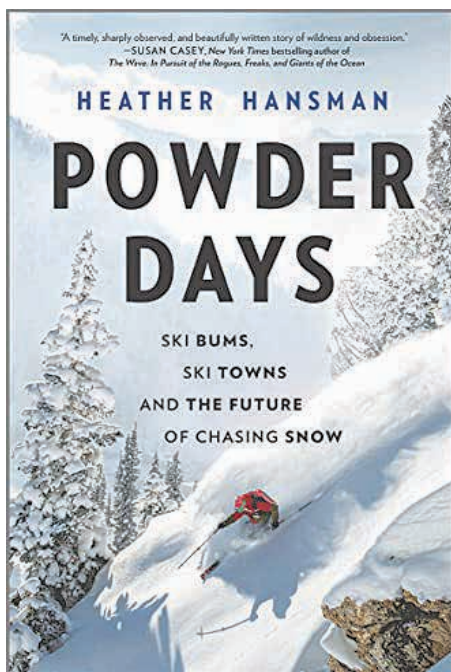
Powder Days, by Heather Hansman
(Hanover Square Press, 264 pages)

Heather Hansman learned to love skiing in New England, even though she's more of a West Coast woman these days. An accomplished writer and editor who has worked for magazines such as *Outside*, *Backcountry* and *Powder*, Hansman doesn't qualify as a ski bum, the skiing-obsessed person who will take on low-paying jobs at ski resorts in order to indulge the passion full-time. But she was for a while and brings deep insider knowledge to *Powder Days*, an examination of what rising temperatures are doing to the ski industry, wrapped in a love letter to the sport and to winter.

"I know that skiing is ephemeral and selfish, but I ache when I'm away from it for too long, and I don't think it's just the dopamine drop that drives the fixation," Hansman writes.

Before you non-skiers depart for lack of interest, you should know that while this is a book written by a skier for other skiers, this shouldn't be a deal-breaker for the sedentary and clumsy (myself the latter). Hansman is a graceful writer, as lithe in language as in body, and while she occasionally slips into skier-speak, with a little Googling, you will learn many interesting things, such as that dangerous clumps of snow on a ski route are called frozen chicken heads, a term I enthusiastically welcome to my vocabulary. In short, I don't ski, and I still found this book engrossing.

Hansman begins by recalling her early ski-bum days, which began around a campfire in Maine when another skier offered Hansman a job scanning lift tickets at a ski



resort in Colorado. "I latched on to the idea that if I went west, I would be braver and truer and more exciting," she writes.

She had become a skier like most people do — because her parents paid for lessons. "You don't become a skier by accident — it's an objectively stupid, expensive, gear-intensive sport — but my parents enabled it early, cramming my brother and me into hand-me-down boots and carting us to New Hampshire, so they could ski too," she writes. "... In college, I'd wake up in the post-party, predawn dark to drive across Maine and New Hampshire just to ski knobby back-country lines in the White Mountains. I've always felt clearer in motion."

That said, Hansman came from a family of

occasional skiers, not those who strap toddlers to skis while they are learning to walk. Her obsession with the sport and lifestyle grew organically, somewhat to her bewilderment. "Skiers chase snow and freedom and wildness, at the expense of a lot of other things. I'm still trying to understand how something so ephemeral can shape your whole life."

Hansman dips into the history of skiing in the U.S., acknowledging "the ski industry starts where my ski story starts, in the knobby mountains of New England." She recalls skiing the Tuckerman Ravine and the Sherburne Trail of Mount Washington, created in the 1930s, back when runs were "steep and skinny, just a couple of skis wide."

"That was skiing for a long time, no lifts, just a grind uphill and a slide back down."

She then zips through how the sport exploded, its growth tracking with the lives of baby boomers, and how its popularity in the 1970s led to today's elaborate resorts and McMountain trails that she fears have taken the soul out of the sport and tarnished it with elitism. (Fun fact: more than 50 billionaires have homes in Aspen.)

The bigger problem for the industry, however, is not the unaffordability of homes in ski country, but the warming climate. There's less snow these days than there was a quarter-century ago, and it's not always cold enough to make snow, as 88 percent of ski resorts do. We are seeing, as Hansman puts it, "the winnowing of winter." She quotes a meteorologist friend who says that what concerns him most is that low temperatures are increasing faster than high temperatures. This means that places like New England have fewer days when the

temperature falls below freezing.

"Depending on the emissions scenario you choose, snowfall is predicted to shrink by up to a third by the end of the century. That thin margin of winter is going to have a huge bearing on the future of skiing, and on whether or not people can keep counting on the seasons to eke out a way of life."

Hansman's worries that Aspen could be the new Amarillo by century's end may strike some as the hysteria of the climate-grief-stricken. By the end of January, her fear of "hot, snowless winters" may actually hold some appeal. But there is real concern about what will happen if recent trends continue. Resorts can make snow, sure, but it still has to be cold enough. "I get a deep gut ache when I think about losing snow, about the contrast between my childhood memories of snow and the gray slush of right now. ... New England skiing feels almost too painful now. How could it have gotten this bad so fast?"

Hansman ends with another kind of grief, the acknowledgement that skiing can be deadly. "If you get deep into skiing, eventually you have to acknowledge that the thing you love can kill the people you love." Then, she pivots into the tendency for thrill-seekers like skiers to abuse drugs and alcohol, and sometimes to kill themselves. Deaths of despair are on the rise in the U.S. and this is an important topic, but it was a bit jarring to have this conversation take place at the end of the book. That said, it's a small quibble with an otherwise solid book, which might even be more interesting for nonskiers than skiers, who already know about frozen chicken heads.

B+ — Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **JAMES ROLLINS** Author presents *The Starless Crown*, in conversation with Terry Brooks. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Mon., Jan. 10, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **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.

• **CHAD ORZEL** Author presents *A Brief History of Time-keeping*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord.

Thurs., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **ISABEL ALLENDE** Author presents *Violeta*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Sat., Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration and tickets required, to include the purchase of the book. Visit gibsonsbookstore.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.

• **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.

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.



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Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG-13)

Peter Parker is introduced to the multiverse in *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, a solid third part to the saga of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's teenage Peter Parker.

The movie more or less picks up where 2019's *Spider-Man: Far From Home* ended, with Peter's (Tom Holland) Spider-Man alter ego being revealed to the world. Far from becoming a celebrity, a la Tony Stark post-"I am Iron Man," Peter is suspected of crimes related to his fight with fake hero Mysterio in the last movie and related to missing tech from Stark Industries. On his first day of senior year, he finds himself hounded by news media and phone-wielding fellow students and also learns that not only are colleges reluctant to accept him, but best buddy Ned (Jacob Batalon) and girlfriend MJ (Zendaya) are also being turned down because of their association with him. Life would be better if he could just go back to a time before everybody knew he was Spider-Man, Peter thinks mopeily. And then he realizes that he actually knows somebody who can mess with time: Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), the MCU's New York City-dwelling wizard.

When Peter goes to see him, Strange explains that he doesn't have the time stone (the doohickey that allowed him to manipulate time) anymore but does think he can conjure a spell to help the world forget that Peter is Spider-Man. Oh, but wait, Peter says as Strange is conjuring, I do want MJ to know, and Ned and Aunt May (Marisa Tomei) and Happy (Jon Favreau) and.... Too



Spider-Man: No Way Home

late, Strange realizes all of these last-minute exceptions have caused the spell to go wonky. He thinks he's contained it before disrupting the fabric of reality but later, while Peter tries to get an official from MIT to reconsider not admitting his friends, he is confronted by Doc Ock (Alfred Molina), looking to fight Spider-Man. Ock, the scientist who went villainous in 2004's *Spider-Man 2* due to a mind meld with his metallic tentacles, knows that Spider-Man is Peter Parker but he is surprised when the Peter he sees isn't the Peter Parker he remembers.

As you may have seen in trailers, more villains appear — the Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe), Electro (Jamie Foxx), others — representing both live-action, 21st-century pre-MCU Spider-Man franchises. They are from the multiverse, Strange tells Peter,

and Peter has to hunt them all down and send them back to universes they belong in.

This could have gone a bunch of different ways but in the end I think this element of the movie works. While I didn't always feel like the road to getting us all these different iterations of the Spider-Man story was particularly smooth (some of the choices the characters here make do not make sense for people with the recent MCU time-related experiences — Thanos and the blip — that these characters have), I felt great affection for how the movie uses the idea of bringing all these worlds together. It manages to bring something to those pre-MCU movies' story arcs that wasn't there before and is mostly fun in its own right. As with the (unrelated, so far) animated movie *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, the different realms of Spi-

der-Man help to examine basic elements of the character — the choices he has to make, the way he wants to live his life.

And I think this movie does right by its core trio of Peter, MJ and Ned and their relationships with each other. They work well together, Scooby-Doo-ing the problem, as Stephen Strange says, and what they're given to do makes sense with how their characters change and grow as near-end-of-high-school teens.

My biggest problem with this movie is that the mechanics of getting us from this situation to that situation, of bringing in certain sets of characters, is so very choppy. To use Martin Scorsese's comparison of superhero movies to amusement park rides, this one has that jerky, stop-start feel of something hastily constructed and not entirely passing code. That the movie could feel this way and still basically be fun — and fun for almost all of its nearly two-and-a-half-hour runtime — is I think a credit largely to the characters and the way the movie builds its relationships more than the way it builds its story.

Spider-Man: No Way Home does offer the grand blockbuster movie experience that you want from a Marvel movie and that has still been relatively rare since March 2020. Even when the movie's execution of its story wasn't perfect, I enjoyed being back in this world. **B+**

Rated PG-13 for sequences of action/violence, some language and brief suggestive comments, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Jon Watts and written by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, Spider-Man: No Way Home is two hours and 28 minutes long and distributed by Columbia Pictures.



CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

Even this year, we're getting a rush of new releases over the next week.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, *The Matrix Resurrections* is scheduled for release in theaters and on HBO Max for 30 days. The movie, the fourth in the *Matrix* series and the first since 2003, brings back Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss.

Also scheduled for release on Wednesday are the much-rescheduled *The King's Man*, the prequel to the *Kingsman* movies starring Ralph Fiennes and Harris Dickinson, and the animated sequel *Sing 2*, featuring oodles of big-name voices including Reese Witherspoon, Matthew McConaughey, Taron Egerton and Scarlett Johansson.

Celebrate Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, with the Adam McKay-written and -directed *Don't Look Up*, a comedy about the impending destruction of all life on Earth via comet starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep and Jonah Hill, which will be released on Netflix.

On Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, new movies include *American Underdog*, a biopic of football player Kurt Warner starring Zachary Levi and Anna Paquin, and *A Journal for Jordan*, directed by Denzel Washington and starring Michael B. Jordan.

The Tragedy of MacBeth, starring Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand and directed by Joel Coen, is also slated to open on Christmas in limited release and will be on Apple TV+ on Jan. 14.

Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings & virtual events

Venues

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

The Music Hall
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
436-2400, themusic hall.org

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

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

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

Shows

• *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors age 60

and up, students, military and first responders.

• *The Grinch* (2018, PG) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors age 60 and up, students, military and first responders.

• *House of Gucci* (R, 2021) will screen at Red River Theatres on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m.

• *Nightmare Alley* (R, 2021) will screen at Red River Theatres on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 24, at noon and 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 25, at 4 & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 2, 12:30, 4 & 7:30 p.m.

• *Last Christmas* (2019, PG-13) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth 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.

• *Licorice Pizza* (R, 2021) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord Friday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 25, 3:30 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 2, 12, 3:30 & 7 p.m.

• *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/rex-theatre.

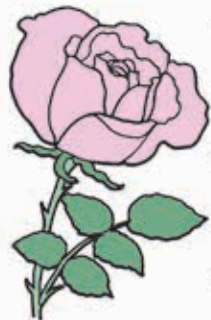
• **The Metropolitan Opera** — *Cinderella* on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, at 12:55 p.m. at Bank of NH Stage in Concord. Tickets cost \$26.

• *Girl Shy* (1924), a silent film starring Harold Lloyd, on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex in Manchester, featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs \$10.

• *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1925), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex in Manchester. Tickets cost \$10.

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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Back for Xmas:** In what's become a holiday tradition, **Abrielle Scharff** returns for her fifth annual *Abby Holidays* show. Now living in New York City — a few years back, her original “New York Makes Me Cry” earned a top three finish in Pop Dust’s Coffee Music Project competition — the Portsmouth native promises “seasonal songs, bad jokes and a lot of love” for her homecoming set. Thursday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., Portsmouth Book & Bar, 40 Pleasant St., Portsmouth. Tickets \$20 and \$25 at eventbrite.com.

• **Lead into fun:** Head to a music-friendly taphouse and eatery for **Early Music Christmas Eve**, a local showcase starring Becca Myari, Angela Stewart, John Farese and Crazy Steve sharing songs, stories and good cheer. Singer and guitarist Myari has a gorgeous acoustic rendition of the classic “O Holy Night” to anticipate, along with various stouts and barley wines. Friday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m., Area 23, 254 N. State St., Unit H (Smokestack Center), Concord, facebook.com/area23concord.

• **Rock it forward:** Work out post-Christmas ya-yas at **Holiday Hardcore Fest 2021**, a two-stage event commencing in late afternoon with a sprawling list of bands including Trauma Kit, Hard Target, Sophisticated Adult, Clock Out, I Know A Ghost, Bleach Temple, Trading Heroes For Ghosts, Duress, Spit, Duress, Ten to One, Voluntary Victim, Choke Out, and Slug; by showtime likely a few more will be added. Sunday, Dec. 26, 5 p.m., Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester, \$12 and up at eventbrite.com.

• **Tri tip time:** Joined by area mainstays Paul Costley and Nate Comp, Jess Olson hosts an **Artist Showcase**. The Granite State singer-guitarist has kept busy of late, recently spending time in Nashville, sharing a stage with new expat Amanda McCarthy at Pete & Terry’s Tavern, and performing at a songwriter round at the Copper Branch club there, along with doing a photo shoot at the Opryland Resort. Tuesday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m., KC’s Rib Shack, 837 Second St., Manchester, facebook.com/TheJessOlsonBand.

• **All in one:** Midweek mirth and music, including an EDM-infused version of “Tequila,” comes from **Lee Ross**, a Boston dance machine who works keyboards, horns and a psychedelic light show into his act. If that’s not enough, his wild head of hair takes over. One set highlight is the New Orleans second line staple “Money Back,” and he also has a long list of funk, reggae and rhythm & blues bangers at the ready. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 9 p.m., Penuche’s Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord, youtube.com/HouseOfLeeRoss. 🍷

NITE Enter laughing

New Year’s Eve comedy across the state

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Laughter just may be the best medicine as New Hampshire and the rest of the world lurch into 2022, evidenced by the number of standup comedy shows on tap for New Year’s Eve. No fewer than eight events are scheduled, from marquee shows at Manchester’s Rex Theatre and The Flying Monkey in Plymouth, to clubs, movie houses and all manner in between.

Start with the big names. A Seacoast mainstay moves to Manchester for 2021’s final night, though *Juston McKinney - A Year in Review* will have a four-day run at Portsmouth’s Music Hall from Dec. 26 to Dec. 29. Along with his New Year’s Eve Rex Theatre appearance, McKinney has a New Year’s Day show slated. Up north, comedian Bob Marley does three shows at Plymouth’s Flying Monkey, in what’s becoming an



Robbie Printz. Courtesy photo.

end of year tradition for the Maine funny man.

Similarly venerable is the annual bash at the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth, now in its 12th year. Presented by Live Free or Die Laughing, an early and a late show stars Mark Riley, with support from Ryan Gartley and Steve Scarfo. In Manchester a showcase with Dave Rattigan, Chris Cameron, E.J. Murphy and Casey Crawford precedes a New Year’s party with a live band.

The rest of the night belongs to New England King of Comedy Rob Steen, whose Headliners franchise is offering no fewer than five standup showcases, along with a pair of dueling pianos events. Three are gala events, capped with DJ dancing and midnight toasts, preceded by dinner and laughs.

The biggest of the bunch is at their Manchester flagship location. It stars Robbie Printz, Tim

McKeever and Tom Spohn; Steen will host. It’s a Roaring Twenties, Great Gatsby themed event. Attendees are encouraged to dress accordingly, and for those wanting an extra touch, fedoras will be provided for the guys, with feathered headbands available for women.

Making the show happen meant clearing a few hurdles.

“We were supposed to start back up a year ago, but they had no staff,” Steen said by phone recently; a planned summer 2021 reopening was also delayed. “We opened soft the first week of November, in the small room.... Dec. 11 was our first night in the comedy club.”

Safety is a watchword, Steen continued. “Every customer that buys a ticket has to call me for seating, and the first thing I ask them is, ‘How do you feel about going — are you comfortable?’ We’re only doing 500 people, not 1,000 like in the past, so it’s not going to be jammed.” As for masking and vaccination protocols, “we’re following the guidelines.”

Low capacity requirements this year have led to one event already selling out, a show with Mike Donovan and Amy Tee at Concord’s Holiday Inn. The final gala is up in the Lakes Region, at the Wolfeboro Inn, with Boston funny man Mike Bain and Jody Sloane, who parlayed her talents as a Duck Tour guide into a standup career.

If all the galas sell out, customers can redirect to two shows each at Chunky’s Cinema in Manchester, where Joe Yannetty, Joey Carroll and Mark Scalia perform, or the moviehouse and pub’s location in Nashua, where Matt Barry, James Dorsey and Greg Boggis hold forth. Each location also offers a 10 p.m. Dueling Pianos show to ring in the new year.

Though there are a lot of options for comedy fans this year, Steen doesn’t expect a plethora of choices to impact his efforts. In fact, he’s prepared for more than a few patrons to double dip in the fun, and head to one of his late shows after seeing an early one.

“One thing feeds the other,” he said. “People will tell me, ‘you’ve got too much competition,’ but in a way we’re all working together. I’m having one of the better years I’ve ever had in 2021, because people are dying to get out.” 🍷

New Year’s Eve comedy shows

Who: Juston McKinney’s Year In Review

Where: Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, 8 p.m. (also Jan. 1)

Tickets: \$35 at palacetheatre.org

Who: Bob Marley

Where: Flying Monkey Movie House, 39 Main St., Plymouth

Tickets: \$46.50 and up at flyingmonkeynh.com (shows at 2, 5:30 and 8 p.m.)

Who: Dave Rattigan, Chris Cameron, E.J. Murphy and Casey Crawford

Where: Murphy’s Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$22 at scampscomey.com

Who: Mark Riley, Ryan Gartley, Steve Scarfo

Where: Sheraton Harborside Hotel, 250 Market St., Portsmouth, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$28 and \$38 at livefreeordielauding.com

Who: Robbie Printz, Rob Steen, Tim McKeever, Tom Spohn

Where: Headliners at the DoubleTree, 700 Elm St., Manchester, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$35 and up at headlinersnh.com

Who: Mike Donovan, Amy Tee

Where: Holiday Inn, 172 N. Main St., Concord, 8 p.m.

Tickets: SOLD OUT

Who: Matt Barry, James Dorsey & Greg Boggis

Where: Chunky’s Cinema Pub, 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 7 and 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 at headlinersnh.com

Who: Joe Yannetty, Joey Carroll & Mark Scalia

Where: Chunky’s Cinema, 707 Huse Road, Manchester, 7 and 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 at headlinersnh.com

Who: Mike Bain & Jody Sloane

Where: Wolfeboro Inn, 90 N. Main St., Wolfeboro, 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$369 per couple (room, dinner and show) \$169 per couple (dinner and show) at headlinersnh.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

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

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

Hatbox Theatre
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, themusicall.org

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

Rochester Opera House
31 Wakefield St., Rochester

335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

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

Events

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

• **Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House, Monday, Dec. 27, at 6 & 8 p.m.

• **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey, Friday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., & 8 p.m.

• **Joe Yannetty, Joey Carroll, 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 & 8 p.m.



Bob Marley. Courtesy photo.

• **Juston McKinney** Rex Theatres, Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, 8 p.m.

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

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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.

FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY:
JOE YANNETTY

Jan. 7 at 7:30PM

Where Joe grew up, if you're not willing to kill somebody you had better make them laugh.

LIVIN' ON A BAD NAME
A BON JOVI TRIBUTE

Jan. 8 at 7:30PM

The energy, tones, sounds, musicianship and chemistry in this band has to be seen and heard to be believed.

FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY:
CHRISTINE HURLEY

Jan. 14 at 7:30PM

Married to Jimmy Hurley and having five kids, Christine is never at a loss for comedic material.

MORGAN JAMES:
A VERY MAGNETIC CHRISTMAS

Jan. 15 at 7:30PM

"The most promising young vocalist to come along so far this century," according to The Wall Street Journal.



NITE

Escape to 2022

Music, comedy and more for New Year's Eve

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Send off 2021 in style with music, comedy and more on Friday, Dec. 31. Know of a party not mentioned here? Let us know at music@hippopress.com.

- **603 Bar & Lounge** (368 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9283) A night of DJs offers Sex on Decks with support from DJ Deja and Pete Vitello. 9 p.m.

- **815 Cocktails & Provisions** (815 Elm St., Manchester, eventbrite.com) \$100. The theme at this downtown speakeasy is Red Carpet — think Music Awards, and the fun wardrobe that goes with that. Open bar, eats, dancing, unlimited photo booth, midnight Champagne toast. 9 p.m.

- **Alan's** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631) NYE with Stray Dog, \$15 per person, 8 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 47** (551 Foundry St., Rollinsford, 742-5833) Acoustic Radio fifth annual bash with opener Aunt Peg, \$15, with prime rib dinner available. 7:30 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 70** (169 Walton Road, Seabrook, 474-2430) Ghost Riderz rock in the New Year, \$20 per person. Starts at 9 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 98** (43 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, 429-0343) Kid N' Play Style New Year's Eve Bash with a mix of '80s/'90s hip-hop and R&B music. 9 p.m.

- **Angel City Music Hall** (179 Elm St., Manchester, 931-3654) Rock in 2022 with Everybody Wants Some — A Tribute to Van Halen '78-'84; The Hellion — Judas Priest Tribute; and Caliente Pistolas. \$50 dinner buffet by Chef Sean, Champagne toast at midnight. Starts at 7 p.m.

- **Area 23** (State Street, Concord, 881-9060) With edgy new song "Deathmask," Faith Ann Band performs, joined by special guests Alfredo Benavides and Ben Harris. 7 p.m.

- **Ashworth by the Sea** (295 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, 926-6762) Party with a live band, hors d'oeuvres and a seated surf & turf dinner, a cash bar, late-night snack, midnight Champagne toast, and fireworks on the beach. DJ dancing. 6:30 p.m.

- **Auburn Pitts** (167 Rockingham Road, Auburn, 622-6564) Stuck In Time Band performs '60s, '70s and '80s covers, with free buffet and midnight Champagne toast. 8 p.m.

- **Backstreet Bar & Grill** (102 Plaza, 76 Derry Road, Hudson, 578-1811) DJ Bobby Lane leads a dance party. 8 p.m.

- **Bank of NH Stage** (16 S. Main St., Concord, eventbrite.com) \$45 to \$90. Shut-tavac NYE Spectacular is inspired by the bold speakeasies of the Roaring 1920s to the iconic New York nightclubs of the 1970s, where people escaped to celebrate in inclusive, bold and glamorous worlds. 8 p.m.

- **Belmont Hall & Restaurant** (718 Grove



- St., Manchester, 625-8540) New Year's Eve dance party with DJ Hustle Boy, \$55, cash bar. 7 p.m.

- **Blue Ocean Music Hall** (4 Oceanfront North, Salisbury, Mass., 462-5888) The tradition continues with a New Year's Eve bash starring The Fools & Psychedelic Relics, with optional dinner buffet. Champagne toast, party favors and midnight balloon drop. Dinner and show \$92; show only \$28 general admission. 7 p.m.

- **Bonfire Restaurant & Country Bar** (950 Elm St., Manchester, 217-5600) Martin & Kelly perform country rock. 9 p.m.

- **Boston Billiard Club** (55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 943-5630) Live music from The Apathetics, \$10 cover. Reserve a pool table for the night for \$175. Includes an appetizer platter, bottle of Champagne and the cover is waived for up to four people in your party. 9 p.m.

- **Breezeway Pub** (14 Pearl St., Manchester, 621-9111) Drag Roulette Fridays. 8 p.m.

- **Bridgewater Inn** (367 Mayhew Turnpike, Bridgewater, 744-3518) Mystical Magic performs downstairs, with DJ upstairs spinning all night long. \$45 per person includes buffet (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) and party; \$20 for party only. Hats & tiaras, noisemakers, beads and Champagne toast. 8 p.m.

- **Buckey's** (240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., Moultonborough, 476-5485) Red Hat Band plays its traditional NYE set. 9 p.m.

- **Cask & Vine** (1 East Broadway, Derry, beerfests.com) Celebrate this gastropub's 10th year with its NYE masquerade party. \$25 deposit will be applied to the bill. Includes midnight Champagne toast. 6 p.m.

- **Castleton Banquet and Conference Center** (58 Enterprise Dr., Windham, eventbrite.com) \$200. Dress to impress with three-course meal, open bar all night, 50/50 raffle, Joey Dion from Main Event Entertainment, photo booth, midnight Champagne toast. 7 p.m.

- **Central Ale House** (23 Central St., Manchester, 660-2241) Gatsby Gala Midnight Masquerade with 1920s style dress

code, midnight Champagne toast. Starts at 6 p.m. Email info@centralalehouse.com to RSVP.

• **Cercle National Club** (550 Rockland Ave., Manchester, 623-8243) Drink specials, party favors and Plan B playing rock covers at this members club. 6 p.m.

• **Chen Yang Li** (520 South St., Bow, 228-8508) Great Gatsby party hosted by DJ Kenny P. 8 p.m.

• **Chop Shop** (920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7706) An evening of active rock with Leaving Eden and Band, Inc., led by 18-year-old singer and bassist Giuliana Amaral. 6:30 p.m.

• **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, headlinersnh.com) Two events: Comedy with Matt Barry, James Dorsey and Greg Boggis in one room, Dueling Pianos in another. \$30 each show, 7 and 10 p.m.

• **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (707 Huse Road, Manchester, headlinersnh.com) Two events: Comedy with Joe Yannetty, Joey Carrol and Mark Scalia in one room, Dueling Pianos in another. \$30 each, 7 and 10 p.m.

• **Coach Stop** (176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 437-2022) Pete Peterson performs an early set. 7 p.m.

• **Common Man** (88 Range Road, Windham 898-0088) Singer-songwriter Karen Grenier performs an early set. 6 p.m.

• **Concord Holiday Inn** (172 Main St., Concord, 224-9534) Comedy with Mike Don-

ovan and Amy Tee, dancing and toast — with dinner and room \$276 per couple, dinner-only \$188 per couple, \$94 single. 8 p.m.

• **Copper Door** (41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-3033) Jodee Frawlee plays an early set. 3 p.m.

• **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677) Jordan Quinn plays an early set. 3 p.m.

• **CR's** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972) Rico Barr Trio playing holiday hours 5 to 11 p.m.

• **Crow's Nest** (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 974-1686) DJ Golo provides the music with prizes, giveaways and extended hours. 9 p.m.

• **Derryfield** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880) Chad LaMarsh rocks the party. \$20 a ticket includes admission to see the music, Champagne toast at midnight and party favors. 9 p.m.

• **Farm Bar & Grille** (1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276) The Gold Everything Party: Jam'n 94.5's DJ Sammy Smoove and Boston's DJ Real Ace spin top 40, hip-hop and Latin hits. Gold attire is encouraged but not mandatory for entry. \$25. 8 p.m.

• **Flying Monkey Movie House** (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551) Comedian Bob Marley is back, performing three times, at 3, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets start at \$39.50. 8 p.m.

• **Fody's** (9 Clinton St., Nashua, 577-9015) Joe Wedge Experience performs. 9 p.m.

• **Fody's Derry** (187 1/2 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946) Pop Roks plays fun covers. 9 p.m.

• **Fratello's** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022) Clint LaPointe plays. 8 p.m.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (194 Main St., Nashua, 889-2022) Justin Jordan entertains. 9 p.m.

• **Gibb's Garage Bar** (3612 Lafayette St., Portsmouth, portsmouthnh.com) Elijah Clark plays an early set at this throwback automotive-themed restaurant. 7 p.m.

• **Grill 28** (200 Grafton Road, Portsmouth, 766-6466) Dave Gerard of Truffle plays an early set. 6 p.m.

• **Headliners** (700 Elm St., Manchester, 988-3673) Open after a long hiatus, with three comics and DJ spinning in the ballroom. Packages include food, drink and dancing, starting at \$40. 8 p.m.

• **High Octane** (1072 Watson Road, Laco-nia, 527-8116) Masquerade party with EXP Band playing, best mask cash prize, Champagne toast as this Lakes Region club celebrates its first anniversary. 8 p.m.

• **Hillsboro Moose Lodge** (15 School St., Hillsboro, 464-6024) Cellar Dwellers, Super-bug and Probable Cause perform, with a Champagne toast at midnight plus snacks, appetizers and food. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. 6 p.m.

• **Homestead** (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022) Ralph Allen performs. 6:30 p.m.

• **Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club** (135 Con-gress St., Portsmouth, ticketmaster.com) Grammy-winning jazz pianist Eddie Palm-

ieri & La Perfecta Big Band perform. \$375 to \$425. 7 p.m.

• **Jocelyn's** (355 S. Broadway, Salem, 870-0045) Brian Walker performs an early set. 6 p.m.

• **L Street Tavern** (17 L St., Hampton, 967-4777) Craig LaGrassa performs. 8 p.m.

• **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898) New Year's Eve dinner with Freese Brothers Big Band followed by a stroll through the LaBelle Lights. \$121.50. 9 p.m.

• **Lynn's 102 Tavern** (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832) Syndicate rocks in the new year. 9 p.m.

• **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Man-chester, scampscomey.com) Dancing Madly Backwards follows a comedy show with Dave Rattigan, Chris Cameron, E.J. Murphy and Casey Crawford. \$22. 8 p.m.

• **Music Hall** (28 Chestnut St., Ports-mouth, themusichall.org) \$38, Champagne Pops, Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra led by special guest conductor Dr. Dirk Hillyer and guest vocalist Jacyn Tremblay, performing selections from *Frozen*, *The Greatest Showman*, *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *The Godfather*, *West Side Story* and a collection of Gershwin swing favorites. 8 p.m.

• **Nan King Restaurant** (222 Central St., Hudson, 882-1911) Patty Shock's Energizer Karaoke provides entertainment. 8 p.m.

• **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St., Man-chester, 668-5588) Recycled Percussion is

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▶ CONTINUED FROM PG 39

again home for the holidays — ring in 2020 with junk rock. Two shows, 4 and 7:30 p.m. \$35 to \$45.

• **Pasta Loft** (241 Union Sq., Milford, 672-2270) Fatha Groove fills the dance floor. \$10 includes Champagne toast at midnight. 7 p.m.

• **Pats Peak Ski Area** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 728-7732) New Year's fireworks (slopes close at 10 p.m.) and dancing to The McMurphys in the Sled Pub. 6 p.m.

• **Penuche's Ale House** (6 Pleasant St., Concord, 228-9833) NYE party with Felix Holt. 9 p.m.

• **Players' Ring Theatre** (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123) Lady Ro drag show is back after two years. 10 p.m.

• **Portsmouth Gas Light** (64 Market St., Portsmouth, 430-9122) Boston Circus Guild — Welcome to The Show. Cirque du Soleil-inspired evening with live entertainment and DJ music. VIP packages available by emailing brandonburke@portsmouthgaslight.com. 8 p.m.

• **Rex Theatre** (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588) Juston McKinney's Year In Review comes to Manchester, \$35 (also New Year's Day). 8 p.m.

• **River Hill Grange** (32 Horse Hill Road, Penacook, penacook.org) Midlife Crisis album release party with K Daver, Kinetik, Mass Militia, Livid Rhymer and Quincer. \$20 includes free drinks. 7 p.m.

• **Rochester Elks Lodge** (295 Columbus Ave., Rochester, 332-9700) Bill Vendasi performs at a Mad Hatter's party, \$45 per person includes cocktail hour with appetizers, prime rib or chicken cordon bleu dinner, dessert and midnight toast. 9 p.m.

• **Saddle Up Saloon** (92 Route 125, Kingston, 369-6962) Bite The Bullet Band plays fourth annual bash, \$55 tickets include buffet from 7 to 9 p.m. and a late-night pizza buffet, Champagne toast and party favors. 7 p.m.

• **Salt Hill Pub** (2 W. Park St., Lebanon, 448-4532) 19th annual New Year's Eve party featuring Vermont and New Hampshire's only cowpunk-thunder boogie band, Road Trash. \$10 admission, 8 p.m.

• **Sawbelly Brewing** (156 Epping Road, Exeter, 583-5080) Parker Richards, back for the holidays from Nashville, performs an early set. 5 p.m.

• **Shaskeen** (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246) Lock The Doors Bash is reprised with limited \$50 tickets covering a food buffet, midnight Champagne toast, giveaways, Chris Bennett, a.k.a. DJ Myth, spinning and open bar. The club will be closed to anyone without tickets (21+ only). 8 p.m.

• **Sheraton Hotel** (250 Market St., Portsmouth, eventbrite.com) Mark Riley, Ryan Gartley and host Steve Scarfo provide the laughs at the 12th annual show presented by Live Free and Die Laughing. Early show \$28 (8:30 p.m.), late show \$38 (10:30 p.m.).

• **Soho Bistro** (20 Old Granite St., Manchester, 222-1677) \$20 for starters with up to \$600 for VIP packages gets you into an ele-

gant NYE party. 9 p.m.

• **South Side Tavern** (1279 S. Willow St., Manchester, 935-9947) Cox Karaoke hosts with dancing, party favors and Champagne toast at midnight. No cover. 9 p.m.

• **Stone Church** (5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700) Club d'Elf with special guests John Medeski & David Tronzo. \$75. 6 p.m.

• **Stonecutters Pub** (63 Union Sq., Milford, 213-5979) KJ-Dave O hosts New Year's Eve karaoke with spot prizes for ugly sweaters and much more fun in store. 9 p.m.

• **Stumble Inn** (20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-3210) Swipe Right Band performs. 8 p.m.

• **Sweeney Post #2** (251 Maple St., Manchester, 623-9145) The Lexi James Band, with lots of food, lots of great music and lots of fun. 8 p.m.

• **The Big House** (322 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 767-2226) Back in the Day plays this Weirs Beach room at 8 p.m. \$10.

• **The Goat Hampton** (20 L St., Hampton, 601-6928) Alex Anthony performs at Hampton Beach's only country bar at 8 p.m.

• **The Goat Manchester** (50 Old Granite St., Manchester, 603-4628) NYE party with Those Guys at this club family's newest location at 8 p.m.

• **The Goat Portsmouth** (142 Congress St., Portsmouth, 658-4628) Chris Toler plays early. 9 p.m.

• **Thirsty Moose** (21 Congress St, Portsmouth, 427-8645) Connecticut pop rock band Mattson performs in the basement music space while great beer flows on both floors, 9 p.m.

• **Tower Hill Tavern** (264 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 366-9100) \$10. Resident DJ Kadence hosts a karaoke NYE party, 8 p.m.

• **Tupelo Music Hall** (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100) Adam Ezra Group and opening duo Sirsy play with a four-course dinner at 5:30 p.m. for \$95; 8:30 p.m. show only is \$40, and all tickets include a Champagne toast.

• **Tuscan Market & Village** (9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467) The Deviant (Mindset X leader Scott Haiduchuk's acoustic alter ego) performs. 8 p.m.

• **Veteran's Club** (118 John Stark Hwy., Newport, 863-3945) \$10 for Talkin' Smack, a popular cover band playing the hits. 7 p.m.

• **Village Trestle** (25 Main St., Goffstown, 497-8230) Paul Lussier plays an early set. 5 p.m.

• **Wally's Pub** (144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton, 926-6954) Boston based rock/pop cover band Down A 5th performs at this party. 9 p.m.

• **Waterville Valley Ski Area** (1 Ski Area Road, Waterville Valley, 236-8311) Gabby Martin at T-Bars and Henry LaLiberte at Freestyle, with fireworks at midnight. 3 p.m.

• **XO Bistro** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 560-7998) Acoustic Moxie performs an early set. 6:30 p.m.

• **Yankee Lanes** (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656) Roll New Year's Eve three-hour bowling party \$99.95 per lane for up to six people. 9:30 p.m. 🍷

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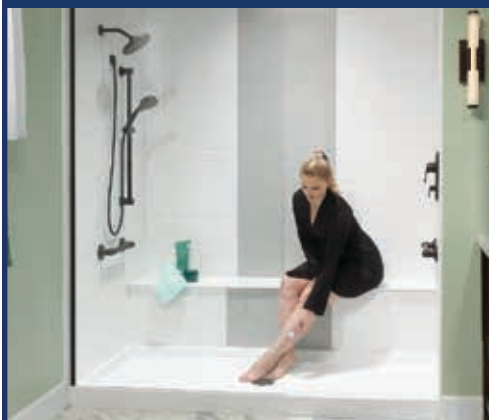
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Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive 855-2222	Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060	Epping Popovers at Brickyard Square 11 Brickyard Square 734-4724	Hampton Ashworth by the Sea 295 Ocean Blvd. 926-6762	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Laconia The Big House 322 Lakeside Ave. 767-2226	Bonfire 950 Elm St. 663-7678	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898	Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Henniker Colby Hill Inn 33 The Oaks 428-3281	Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Cercle National Club 550 Rockland Ave. 623-8243	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Hermanos Mexicana Cocina 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Exeter Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road 888-728-7732	High Octane Saloon 1072 Watson Road 527-8116	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.	The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Hudson Backstreet Bar and Grill 76 Derry Road 578-1811	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Stark Park Bandstand River Road
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614	Farmington Hawgs Pen 1114 Route 11 755-3301	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road 889-9900	The Wreck Yard 322 Lakeside Ave.	Firefly 21 Concord St. 935-9740	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292
Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road 406-1196	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road 404-6946	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	Shane's BBQ 61 High St. 601-7091	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832	Manchester Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	XO Bistro 827 Elm St. 560-7998
	LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111 672-9898	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road	Nan King Restaurant 222 Central St. 882-1911	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022
			Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960
						Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave. 858-5789	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270
						McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159	

Thursday, Dec. 23

Bedford
Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jordan Quinn, 4:30 p.m.
Hermanos: Paul Hubert, 6:30 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Karaoke with DJ Dicey, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: Paul Hubert, 6:30 p.m.

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

Epping
Telly's: Alex Roy, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: David Corson, 5 p.m.
Sea Dog: Todd Hearon, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Brian James, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Barry Brearly, 6 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Mugsy Duo, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Angel City: open mic with Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.
Currier: Alli Beaudry, 5 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Lussier, 5:30 p.m.
KC's: Pete Peterson, 6 p.m.
Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.

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

Milford
The Hills: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
Stella Blu: Ryan Williamson, 8 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Myles Burr & Designated Drive & Citizen Kane, 8 p.m.
Stones Social: live music, 4 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
Clipper Tavern: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m.
Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: live music, 7:30 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Chad Lamarsh, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Francoix Simard, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 24

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

Concord
Area 23: early music event, 9 p.m.

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

Manchester
Angel City: musical bingo, 6:30 p.m.
The Goat: MB Padfield, 8 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.

Rochester
Potter's: Max Sullivan, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, Dec. 25

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

Manchester
The Goat: MB Padfield, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jae Mannion, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Craft Brewing: Colin Hart, 3 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Parker Richards, 11 a.m.; Elijah Clark, 3 p.m.

Hampton
Whym: Max Sullivan, noon

Sunday, Dec. 26

Alton Bay
Dockside: Matt Laughlin, 4 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jae Mannion, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Craft Brewing: Colin Hart, 3 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Parker Richards, 11 a.m.; Elijah Clark, 3 p.m.

Hampton
Whym: Max Sullivan, noon

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Tequila Jim, 5 p.m.

Manchester
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.



END THE YEAR WITH A LAUGH

Comedians **Bob Marley** and **Juston McKinney** are giving comedy fans lots of opportunities for laughs in the final week of the year.

Juston McKinney will play the **Music Hall** (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth; 436-2400, themusichall.org) on Sunday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Dec. 27, at 6 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m.. He'll be at the **Rex Theatre** (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) with shows on Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, at 8 p.m.

Bob Marley will be at the **Rochester Opera House** (31 Wakefield St., Rochester; 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com) on Monday, Dec. 27, at 6 and 8 p.m. He'll send out 2021 with three shows at the **Flying Monkey** (39 Main St., Plymouth; 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Friday, Dec. 31, at 2, 5:30 and 8 p.m.

Music, live and in person

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

Stoncutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	Stones Social 449 Amherst St. 943-77445	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Michael's Flatbread 8 Stiles Road 893-2765
Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy. 476-5485	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club 135 Congress St. 603-5299	Tuscan Kitchen 67 Main St. 952-4875
Nashua Boston Billiards 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	Seabrook Castaways 209 Ocean Blvd. 760-7500
Casey McGee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St. 484-7400	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	The Stately Bar & Grill 238 Deer St. 431-4357	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Pittsfield Main Street Grill & Bar 32 Main St. 435-0005	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022	Plaistow The Crow's Nest 181 Plaistow Road	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Somersworth The SpeakEasy Bar 2 Main St.
Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033	Stratham Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	Gibb's Garage Bar 3612 Lafayette Road	Jocelyn's Lounge 355 South Broadway 870-0045	Windham Castleton 92 Indian Rock Road 800-688-5644
Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535			

Strange Brew: jam, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Red's: Amanda Cote, 8 p.m.	The Goat: live band karaoke, 8 p.m.
Newmarket Stone Church: Sans Souci JGB, 3 p.m.; open mic night, 7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 27 Concord Area 23: Irish music, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.
Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.	Hudson The Bar: karaoke with Phil	Nashua Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.
Portsmouth The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. Marriott: Killough & O'Neill, 11 a.m.	Gilford Patrick's Pub: open mic w/ Paul Luff, 6 p.m.	Fratello's: Ted Solovicos, 5:30 p.m. Portsmouth The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m. Press Room: open mic, 6 p.m.
Salem Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.	Londonderry 7-20-4: live music, 5 p.m. Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.	Tuesday, Dec 28 Concord Hermanos: Scott Solsky, 6:30 p.m.
	Manchester Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.	

PIZZASTOCK 5.5

Catch **Pizzastock 5.5 Battle of the Bands** on Sunday, Jan. 2, at 1 p.m. at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; 437-5100, tupelomusic hall.com). The show will feature competing bands Rock Bottom, Second to Last Minute and Castle Island as well as last year's winner Cozy Throne, according to the website. The event is put on by the Jason R. Flood Memorial, a nonprofit focused on "providing tweens, teens, and young adults a forum and safe place to discuss mental health issues and suicide prevention amongst their peers," the website said (see pizzastock.org for more on the organization and its events). Tickets cost \$15.

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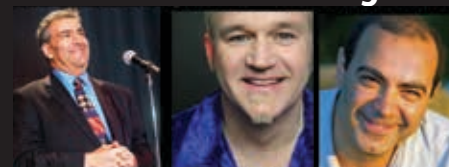


Manchester



Nashua

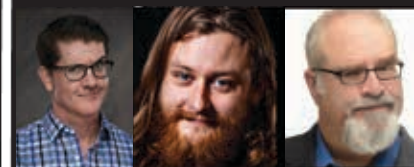
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7pm & 10pm Shows

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Manchester

10pm Dueling Pianos Shows & 12am Ball Drop



Nashua

10pm Dueling Pianos Shows & 12am Ball Drop



Tickets & Info:

NewYearsEveEvents.com OR Chunkys.com



OPEN LATE

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Tandy's: open mic night, 8 p.m.

Hampton
Shane's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Brookline
Alamo: Ralph Allen, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: open mic, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.
Penuche's: Lee Ross, 9 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sea Dog: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

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

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Chris & Paul Belley, 7 p.m., 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Nashua
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
Newmarket
Stone Church: Villains w/ Bass Sabbath & Jake Russell, 7 p.m.

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

Seabrook
Red's: Charlie Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.

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

Thursday, Dec. 30
Bedford
Copper Door: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Jeff Mrozek, 4:30 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

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

Epping
Telly's: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: David Corson, 5 p.m.

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

Hampton
CR's: Don Severance, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Rob & Jody, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Currier: Kevin Horan, 5 p.m.
Fratello's: Joanie Ciatelli, 5:30 p.m.
KC's: Jessica Olson, 6 p.m.
Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
Tomahawk: Chad LaMarsh, 6:30 p.m.

Milford
Stonecutters Pub: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bearly Dead, 9 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Pete Massa, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31
Amherst
LaBelle: Freese Brothers Big Band, 9 p.m.

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Stuck in Time, 7 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.

Boscawen
Alan's: Stray Dog, 8 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: DJ Kenny, 8 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Brian Weeks, 4:30 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Faith Ann Band, 7 p.m.
Penuche's: Felix Holt, 9 p.m.



METAL NIGHT

See **Purging Sin** and **Kings Petition** on Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets for general admission cost \$15 plus fees (plus \$2 on the day of the show). Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.

Purging Sin. Photo by Jennifer Noel Photography.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Derry
Fody's: Pop Rox, 9 p.m.
LaBelle: The Freeze Brothers Big Band, 6:30 p.m.

Dover
603 Bar & Lounge: DJ Deja and Pete Vitello, 9 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Parker Richards, 5 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Paul Lussier, 5 p.m.

Hampton
Ashworth by the Sea: live band, DJ, 6:30 p.m.
CR's: Rico Barr Trio, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.

L Street Tavern: Craig LaGrassa, 8 p.m.
Wally's: Down 5th, 9 p.m.

Henniker
Pats Peak: McMurphys, 6 p.m.

Hillsborough
Hillsboro Moose Lodge: Cellar Dwellers, Superbug and Probable Cause, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Backstreet Bar & Grill: DJ Bobby Lane, 8 p.m.
Lynn's 102: Syndicate, 8 p.m.
Nan King: Patty Shock's Energizer Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Bite the Bullet, 8 p.m.

Laconia
The Big House: Back in the Day, 8 p.m.
High Octane: EXP Band, 8 p.m.
Tower Hill Tavern: DJ Kadence with karaoke, 8 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Shop: Pete Peterson, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Swipe Right, 9 p.m.

Manchester
Angel City: Everybody Wants Some (Van Halen tribute), The Hellion (Judas Priest tribute) and Calienta Pistolas, 7 p.m.
Belmont: DJ Hustle Boy, 7 p.m.
Bonfire: Martin & Kelly, 9 p.m.
Breezeway: Drag Roulette, 8 p.m.



	LABELLE DERRY	LABELLE AMHERST
JAN 20	Joshua Tree: The U2 Experience	
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

Trivia

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



A Christmas Story.

• **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.

BROOKS YOUNG BAND



The **Brooks Young Band** will play the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets for general admission cost \$15, reserved balcony seating costs \$25 — plus fees (plus \$2 on the day of the show). Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m.



Get tickets (and give as gifts!) at labellewinery.com or scan the code

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Cercle Club: Plan B, 6 p.m.
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band, 9 p.m.
Farm Bar & Grille: DJ Sammy Smoove and DJ Real Ace, 8 p.m.
The Foundry: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe & Phil Jakes, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Those Guys, 8 p.m.
Murphy's: Dancing Madly Backwards, 9:30 p.m.
Shaskeen: DJ Myth, 8 p.m.

South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Sweeney Post: The Lexi James Band, 8 p.m.
XO Bistro: Acoustic Moxie, 6:30 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Milford
Pasta Loft: Fatha Groove, 9 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O with karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough
Buckeys: Red Hat Band, 9 p.m.

Nashua
Boston Billiard Club: The Apathetics, 9 p.m.
Fody's: Joe Wedge, 10 p.m.
Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
Stella Blu: Austin McCarthy, 8 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Joe Birch, 7 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: John Medeski, 9 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.

Plaistow
Crow's Nest: DJ Golo, 9 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Sean Coleman, 9:30 p.m.
Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Grill 28: Dave Gerard of Truffle, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Jimmy's Jazz & Blues: Eddie Palmieri & La Perfecta Big Band, 7 p.m.
Stately: Max Sullivan, 8 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Mattson, 9 p.m.

Rochester
Elks Lodge: Vill Vendasi, 9 p.m.
Governors Inn: Dueling Pianos Bash, 7:30 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.
Jocelyn's: Brian Walker, 8 p.m.
Tuscan Village: The Deviant, 8 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Leaving Eden and Band Inc, 7 p.m.
Red's: Undercover, 7 p.m.

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

Concerts

Venues

Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 16 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, banknhstage.com
 Outdoor venue: Fletcher-Murphy Park (28 Fayette St. in Concord)

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

Franklin Opera House
 316 Central St., Franklin
 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org

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

Stone Church
 5 Granite St., Newmarket
 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com

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

Shows
 • **Christmas with the Spain Brothers with Green Heron** Thursday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Recycled Percussion** Monday, Dec. 27, 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 29, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 31, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.,



Adam Ezra Group.

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
 • **Bearly Dead Thursdays** Thursday, Dec. 30, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Adam Ezra Group** Friday, Dec. 31, 5:30 & 9 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Club d'Elf** Friday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 • **New Year's Eve Champagne Pops with the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra** Friday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Music Hall

• **Brooks Young Band** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **Jamie Saft Trio** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Fortune** Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Livin' on a Bad Name** (Bon Jovi tribute), Jan. 8, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Recycled Percussion** Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
 • **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
 • **EJ Oulette and Crazy Maggie/Carol Coronis** Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Beatlejuice** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Blood, Sweat & Tears** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
 • **Recycled Percussion** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Opera House
 • **Morgan James** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Beau Sasser Trio/Slack Tide** Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Dave Gererd and Tim Theriault** Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, 7 p.m., Stone Church
 • **An Evening with Felix Cavaliere's Rascals** Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
 • **Red Hot Chili Pipers** Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **The Gilmour Project** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Who's Bad (tribute to Michael Jackson)** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre
 • **Beechwood & Boomsoss** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 • **The Skunk Sessions** Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Citizen Cope** Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Bearly Dead** Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives** Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Keb'Mo'** Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **The Bulkheads/Adrienne Mack-Davis/Villains Row** Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, 8 p.m., Stone Church

THE U2 EXPERIENCE

See **Joshua Tree: The U2 Experience** at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111 in Derry; labellewinery.com) on Thursday, Jan. 20. Doors open and cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m.; the performance starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35.

BRUUUUUUUCE

Catch **Bruce in the USA**, a musical recreation of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street band, performed by Matt Ryan at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester; anselm.edu) on Friday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45.



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 Fri. Dec. 31st - Paul Lussier

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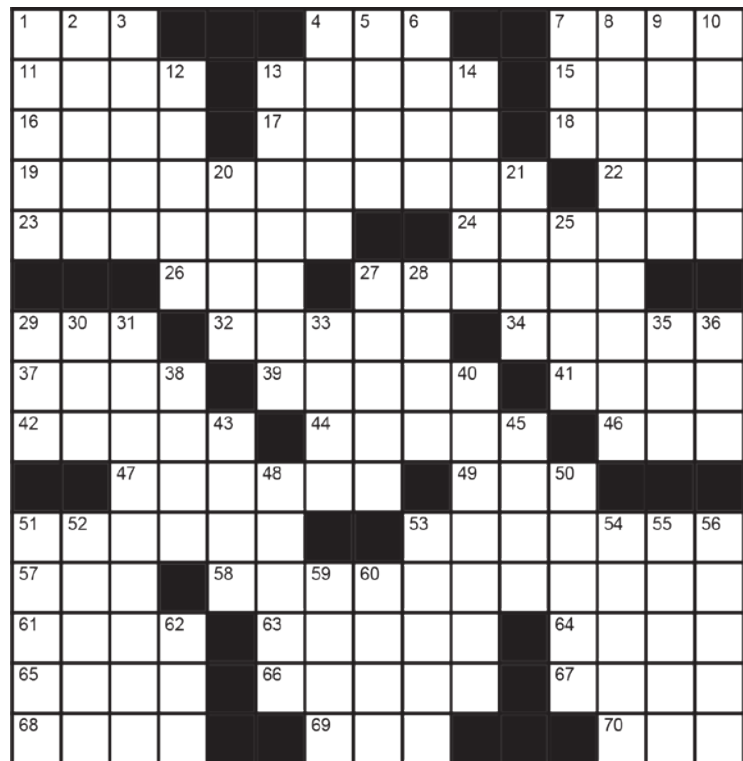
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WICHITA PUZZLE



Across

- 1. TV network-owned record company
- 4. Obituary 'Slowly We ___'
- 7. ___ Oh My (I'm A Fool For You Baby) (2,2)
- 11. Put a new album on a scale or do this
- 13. Punk/spoken word man Rollins
- 15. Twin Proclaimers Charlie & Craig
- 16. Leonard Cohen might come up with an 'Old' one
- 17. Bad Company '___ The Knot' was for divorce, perhaps
- 18. Quiet Riot "___ Your Head!"
- 19. '99 Powerman 5000 album 'Tonight The ___!' (5,6)
- 22. Old school crooner Bobby
- 23. Noise will do this, to parents
- 24. Not the winners of band contests
- 26. One-time Duran Duran label
- 27. All female pop-punk Japanese band ___ Knife
- 29. Alicia Keys '___ Am' (2,1)
- 32. 'How Soon Is Now?' ___ River Conspiracy
- 34. Richards of Rolling Stones
- 37. Compact ___
- 39. Don Henley 'Sunset ___'
- 41. Boris is from this largest continent
- 42. Groupies are usually ___ free
- 44. Guitarist Van Halen
- 46. "Hey, you know they're ___ the same"
- 47. 'Take It Off' girl band
- 49. 'What'll I Do' ___ King Cole
- 51. Judy Garland Gershwin song about a famous river?

- 53. Derek & The Dominoes 'Why Does Love Got To ___' (2,2,3)
- 57. Jeff Buckley 'Mojo ___'
- 58. '04 Simple Plan hit '___ Life' (7,2,2)
- 61. Atlantic Records division started in '551
- 63. Michael Jackson 'Dirty ___'
- 64. AC/DC '___ Caesar'
- 65. Concrete Blonde 'It'll ___ You

- Up & Spit You Out'
- 66. Nickel Creek '___ Wonders'
- 67. Bluesy James
- 68. 'Angel In Disguise' country artist Thomas Conley
- 69. Gomez will give us a rundown of the '___ And Don'ts
- 70. Cult 'Wild Hearted ___'

Down

- 1. George Harrison 'Ballad Of Sir Frankie ___'
- 2. '82 George Thorogood album '___ The Bone' (3,2)
- 3. Ozzy '___ Away (The Night)
- 4. Left Banke 'Walk Away ___'
- 5. 'Satellite Of Love' lyrics "I love to watch things ___" U2 (2,2)
- 6. Early Grand Funk Railroad, e.g.
- 7. Trippy UK pioneers, with "the"
- 8. OPM '___ Halfpipe' (6,2,1)
- 9. Rare memorabilia hunter?
- 10. Some rockers get pushed over them
- 12. 'Washington Square Sere-nade' Steve
- 13. Tears For Fears 'The ___'
- 14. 'Oh Yeah' one hitters
- 20. Tour bottom lines
- 21. Honky-___
- 25. Bob Mould '___ Little Light' (3,1)
- 27. What you're out on, when starving
- 28. De La Soul '___ Down'
- 29. System Of A Down song off 'Steal This Album'
- 30. 'To ___, With Love' Lulu
- 31. Snap! 'Rhythm ___' (2,1,6)
- 33. Ry Cooder avoids a rock 'Slide ___'

- 35. Bryan Adams '18 ___ I Die'
- 36. Iconic lyricist David that wrote w/Burt Bacharach
- 38. Repeated word in Von Bondies & Sheryl Crow song titles
- 40. Glen Campbell 'Wichita ___'
- 43. How rocker feels after comeback
- 45. Van Halen "Reach down between my legs n' ___ the seat back"
- 48. Placebo 'Special ___'
- 50. '02 Coldplay album 'A Rush Of Blood ___ Head' (2,3)
- 51. Prince song for the cosmos?
- 52. Beatles '___ Little Help From My Friends' (4,1)
- 53. What Rush will 'Roll'
- 54. Jimmy Buffett '___ Beaches, Bars & Ballads'
- 55. Sum 41 was at a loss w/'What ___ say?'" (2,1,2)
- 56. Wallflowers leader Jakob
- 59. Sick Puppies 'So What I ___'
- 60. 'Bright Days Dark Nights' rockers that go into hibernation?
- 62. 'Fireflies' ___ City

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EASY

2 ÷	2	9 ×	
	1 -		7 +
2 -		2	
	3 -		

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CHALLENGING

2 ÷	18 ×	3 +		5	1 -
			18 +	2 ÷	
4 -					3
1	2 ÷	1 -		3 -	8 ×
2 ÷			4		
	2 -		1 -		

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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

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

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- John _____
- Four countries ending with IA
- Two oceans
- Greenwich _____ Time
- Direction of the sunrise

Last Week's Answers: ROCKIES ANDES ALPS / PEACH PLUM PEAR / EQUALITY MACARONI OPERATOR / HEADS TAILS / ABBOTT COSTELLO

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

“Dr. Livingston, I Pre-Zoo?” — it’s the same outcome

Across

- 1 One of 11 for RuPaul
- 5 100-meter race
- 9 Telegram break
- 13 Rowed vessel
- 14 “It is not ___ am crazy ... it is ___ am mad!” (“Ren and Stimpy” quote)
- 15 Believer in spiritual unity
- 16 What happened when the wedding party gained an extra foot?
- 18 Elicit
- 19 TV series divs.
- 20 “Try the ___!” (comedian’s cliché)
- 21 Signs of snoring
- 22 Hallowed place to learn to count in French?
- 27 Without assistance
- 28 ___ squared (formula for the area of a circle)
- 29 2014 U.S. Open champ Michelle
- 30 Pinafore designation
- 33 Done at the table
- 35 Words from a ghost clock?
- 37 Perform really well at freestyle rap
- 39 Belarus, in prev. days
- 40 . follower

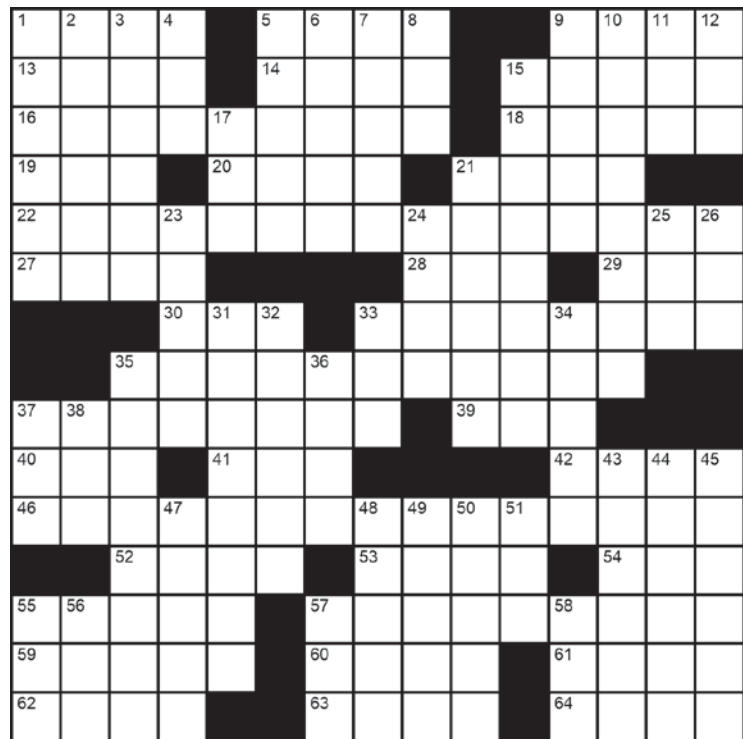
Down

- 41 Bit of duplicity
- 42 “Who ___ thinks that’s a good idea?”
- 46 Chef’s complaint about a lack of sauce base?
- 52 Oldman’s villain role in “The Fifth Element”
- 53 “Up in the Air” Oscar nominee Farmiga
- 54 “Live in Front of a Studio Audience” aier
- 55 Elevator selection
- 57 Allows just a pair?
- 59 Full of dryer fluff
- 60 Blue-gray shark
- 61 “Now, more ___ ever ...”
- 62 Beehive State athletes
- 63 Part of MS-DOS
- 64 Janitor’s ringful

Across

- 2 Vivid blue butterfly type
- 3 “The Marvelous Mrs. ___”
- 4 “Jan. 1 to now” column
- 5 Honey Smacks frog mascot introduced in 1972
- 6 “That’s ___!” (director’s shout)
- 7 Beach souvenir
- 8 “___ goes it?”
- 9 Hit Ctrl-S
- 10 First words of some proverbs
- 11 Furniture wood
- 12 Pecan, for one
- 15 Smoker contents, maybe
- 17 “All About ___” (Bette Davis movie)
- 21 Shaggy’s catchphrase
- 23 “I’m going ___ the hay ...”
- 24 Huge retelling
- 25 180-degree turn, slangily
- 26 Signed very simply
- 31 Fast food dessert inspiring the search question “Is the spoon a straw?”

- 32 Downhill event
- 33 Quaint cry of disgust
- 34 More bent out of shape?
- 35 Mountain, for example
- 36 Early Palm smartphone
- 37 Ecol. or econ.
- 38 PBS documentary film series since 1988
- 43 Want no part of
- 44 Franchise with recent legal questions about its tuna
- 45 They’ve been out for a while
- 47 1976 literary bestseller
- 48 Bit of light that’s harmful to the skin
- 49 Durable woods
- 50 “Believe It ___”
- 51 Queen’s “___ Bottomed Girls”
- 55 Reason for a fall shot
- 56 Burning
- 57 Ball club VIPs
- 58 Wall St. cert.



Down

- 1 Field formerly home to the Brooklyn Dodgers

R&R answer from pg 51 of 12/16



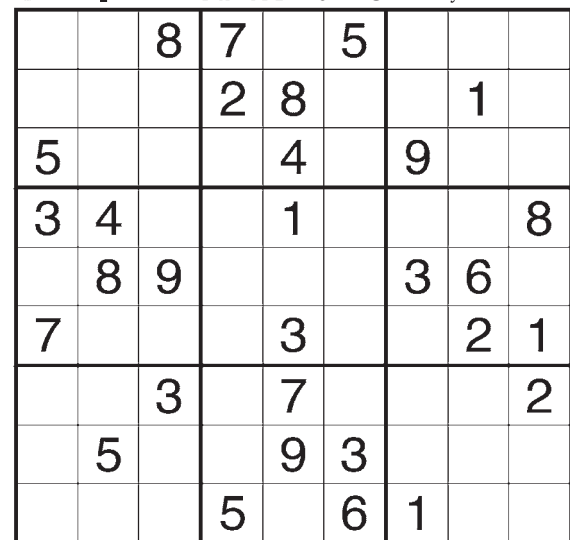
Jonesin’ answer from pg 52 of 12/16



NITE SUDOKU

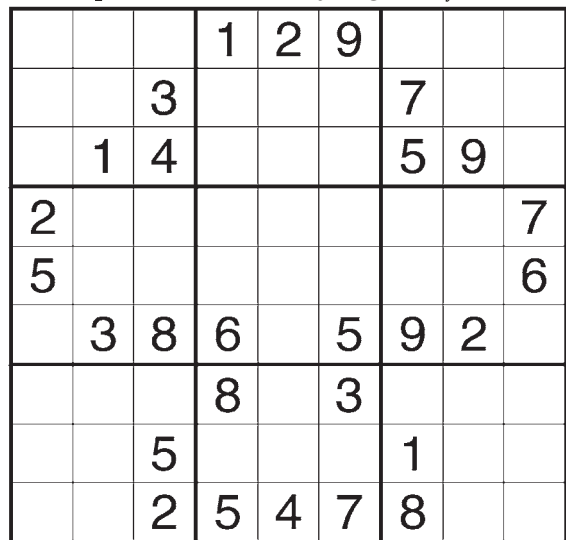
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 49.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



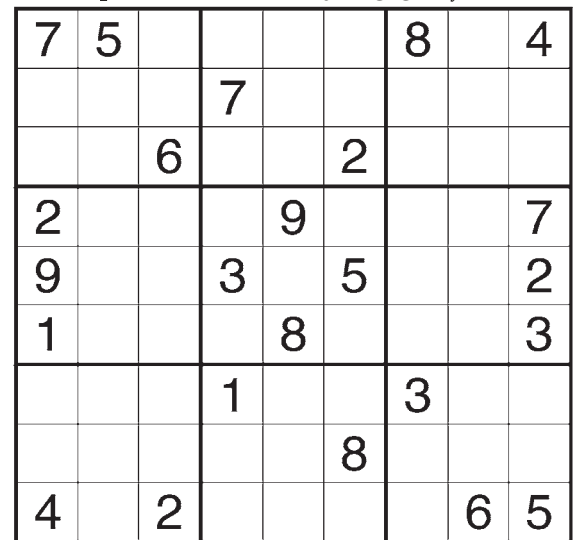
Difficulty Level ★

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 *The Arbournaut: A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us*, by Meg Lowman, born Dec. 23, 1953.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) With the equipment list squared away and a beginner's sense of the logistics for scaling tall trees, I still needed to think harder about what trees to climb, how many, and why. Think; you'll get it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Like a plant that is watered, I flourished with the job.... Hydrate and flourish!

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Before the 1980s, foresters unimaginatively overlooked 95 percent of their subject; almost no one paid attention to the tree-tops. Look up.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) The simultaneously most frustrating and inspirational part about field research in the rain forest was realizing that every question generated five more. And every answer seemed to create even more mysteries, each of which demanded more climbing. That's the fun of it!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) Life in base camp was not without humor! Look for the humor.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) First, my underwear kept disappearing, and by the end of the trip, I only had one pair left. Keep track of your underwear.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) To me, climbing provided access to a frenzied hot spot of unknown creatures and their interactions. Party time!

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) Patience is a requirement for most ecological research. Some data col-

lection takes years, even decades, to complete. Cultivate patience.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) If there were an Emmy award for Best Performance of a Tree, surviving despite amazing odds against six-legged enemies, New England peppermint would win. But it's an honor just to be nominated.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) If a bug takes one tiny bite out of a young leaf, does the resulting hole expand when the leaf becomes full-grown? Stay curious.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) If you love to climb trees, take note — there is a profession for you! Go for the job you want.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) Having tackled wildflowers and trees in upstate New York, I was ready for the challenges of nonflowering plants. Time to shift gears. 🍷

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 acid found in tangerines (6)	_____
2 dazed (9)	_____
3 GM luxury marque (8)	_____
4 innocent-looking (8)	_____
5 trendy (4)	_____
6 place for walk-in care (6)	_____
7 like film (9)	_____

CAT	EM	ATO	TR	CAD
RU	ILL	IC	BIC	CIN
AC	NIC	NIC	CH	CHE
AT	CLI	IC	CI	IC

Last Week's Answers: 1. ONION 2. BROCCOLI 3. CHICKPEA 4. CARROT 5. CELERY 6. EGGPLANT 7. CABBAGE 12/19

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Sudoku Answers from pg52 of 12/16

Puzzle A

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

Puzzle B

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

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty Level ★★

Difficulty Level ★★★

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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The Christmas spirit

Fritz Turner, 23, returned to his hometown of Newport, Washington, to find the city's Christmas tree "embarrassing." The scant trimming comprised a series of vertical rope lights dangling from the top of the tree down the sides, The News Tribune reported. "This is not gonna do," he said. So he set up a GoFundMe page on Dec. 2, hoping to raise \$5,000 for better lights and more decorations. "We can do better. Even Charlie Brown's Christmas tree looked better than this sad spruce," he wrote. The page raised more than \$2,700 for the lights, and the local utility company hung them on the tree. And middle- and high school students donated handmade ornaments for it. For the first time in many years, the chamber of commerce organized a tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 11. Turner said he's been "inspired" by the support. "Together, we're really powerful."

Sign of the times

Working at home? Stubbed your toe while making the commute from the bedroom to your desk? In Germany, you can now sue for worker's comp insurance for injuries suffered while working at home. Germany's Federal Social Court ruled that an unnamed man who slipped on a spiral staircase and broke his back was entitled to coverage, saying it viewed the "first morning journey from bed to the home office as an insured work route," NBC Washington reported.

Not your father's buick

Sure, the Greatest Generation may be coasting down the road at 32 mph in their Le Sabres, much to other drivers' frustration, but Buicks weren't always old-man cars. In fact, car collector Anthony Saia sold a 1987 Buick GNX on eBay on Dec. 11 for \$249,999, Fox News reported. The GNX, part of a limited edition of 547 built for only one year, was produced by Buick along with McLaren Engines and ASC Inc. It was the second-fastest 0-to-60 mph car of its day (behind the Porsche 911 Turbo), and others have sold for similar amounts. Saia's car had 426 miles on it.

My kingdom for an editor

Thankfully, a sign on Interstate 95 in Delaware directing drivers to a Wilmington exit was only temporary, but that didn't stop commuters from noticing it. The Associated Press reported that the sign was missing an "A" in the avenue's name ("Delware"); transportation officials said it was made in a hurry in case the permanent sign didn't arrive in time for the opening of the exit, which had been under construction. There's always time for correct spelling, kids.

The way the world works

Those large inflatable Christmas decorations may fill the hearts of children with holiday cheer, but one young ursid saw a sparring partner and went on the attack in Monrovia,

California, on Dec. 8. Donna Hargett captured video of a bear cub wrestling with her neighbor's inflatable reindeer as the mama bear looked on, United Press International reported. "I looked up and there it was, jumping on the reindeer," Hargett said. "We see these two around all the time. They're trouble," she said. In fact, Hargett said they once broke into her home and left paw prints on the bed. No word on Rudolph's condition.

It's a living

Hasan Riza Gunay, known as Turkey's one and only stress coach, has a unique method for easing his clients' angst: He lets them hit him (and doesn't hit back), Oddity Central reported. After a decade in the business, though, Gunay is ready to train someone to take his place. "Most of my clients suffer from depression or panic attacks," he said. "I would like to train other potentially interested people ... and hand over my gloves to the new generation." Gunay said around 70% of his clients are women whose strength is equivalent to that of boys 12 to 14 years old, so he doesn't worry about getting hurt. And he wears protective gear, sometimes accompanied by a photo of the person the client is unhappy with.

Chutzpah

On Dec. 6, Laura Oglesby, 48, pleaded guilty to one count of intentionally providing false information to the Social Security Administra-

tion, The New York Times reported. Her story is much more complicated than that one charge. In 2016, Oglesby used her estranged daughter's identity to create another life for herself as Lauren Hays, a 22-year-old college student in Mountain View, Missouri. She obtained a Social Security card and driver's license, then racked up more than \$25,000 in debt with student loans and other expenses. She also worked at Southwest Baptist University and rented a room from Wendy and Avery Parker. "Everybody believed it," said Mountain View Police Chief Jamie Perkins. "She even had boyfriends that believed that she was that age: 22 years old." Oglesby may face up to five years in prison and will have to pay restitution to her daughter and SBU.

Yikes!

Rob and Marcela Wild of Robertson, South Africa, figured there might be a mouse in their newly decorated Christmas tree when their cats started watching it intently on Dec. 10. Instead, they found one of the most venomous snakes in Africa, a boomslang, CNN reported. The Wilds called on snake catcher Gerrie Heyns, who used "snake tongs" to put it on the floor. "Once I had it under control, the family came right up to see the snake," Heyns said. "A scary moment turned into an exciting moment for the children." Heyns released the female snake, about 4 1/2 feet long, back into the wild a couple of days later.

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