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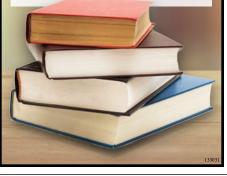
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GRANITE VIEWS JODY REESE

We're 20!



Twenty years ago Hippo published its first print issue — that's about 1,040 issues ago. At the time, we had an idea of what we wanted to do — publish a weekly paper that

covered Manchester's food, arts, entertainment, culture and news. Central to that plan was to create a quality publication that we gave away.

Hippo started as a blog in the late winter of 2000 as a way for me, a reporter for the Union Leader at the time, to write those stories that didn't fit a daily newspaper. As I recruited fellow reporters to write for it, it became more like a local Huffington Post of its day. It didn't really have an editorial vision or focus. We just did it for fun.

That started to change in the spring of 2000 when Dan Szczesny, also a reporter at the Union Leader, joined me. He would edit the zine and I would try to figure out how to make it something that we could do for a living. Back then (and even now, locally) that meant publishing in print. Dan and I didn't have much money between us so we needed a partner who could finance us. Former gubernatorial candidate and radio host at the time Arnie Arnesen suggested I speak with Jeff Rapsis, a former publisher of "Little" papers, a group of weekly newspapers outside Manchester owned by Nackey Loeb. He was also a former reporter for the Union Leader, Keene Sentinel and Claremont Eagle Times. It turned out Jeff and I had worked for the Keene Sentinel 10 years apart. Jeff took a chance on Dan and me and invested in our vision for an arts and entertainment weekly. The three of us formed a partnership that exists to this day.

In the fall of 2000 we began assembling a group of volunteers, many our friends, who would help write and deliver Hippo in our first year. As we started putting that first issue together in late December 2000, businesses, events and nonprofits stepped up to advertise. We would not have survived that first year without all of that support.

Twenty years later, in the midst of a pandemic, we're still here, though we now cover all of central southern New Hampshire, and are still extremely lucky to get financial support from our readers and local nonprofits and businesses. That support enables us to continue to be New Hampshire's largest publication, the state's only arts and entertainment weekly and one the few remaining in New England. Thank you all. We're very grateful to have your continued support.

This week, I want to offer an inside look at Hippo's first year publishing, 2001, and at this past year, 2020 — our two most challenging years. What follows are my recollections, with excerpts from recollections of other people who were there for those two years.

See page 10 for the story.



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ON THE COVER

10 HIPPO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY We take a look back at the Hippo's two most challenging years — the first one (because starting a brand new paper is hard), and the most recent one (because global pandemic) — and we talk to some of the biggest proponents of the downtowns of Manchester, Concord and Nashua to see how far they've come in the past 20 years.

ALSO ON THE COVER, Milford has a new spot for Texas-style barbecue, p. 24. Whip up a caramelized onion dip that won't ruin your New Year's eat-better resolution, p.27. And, yes, there is still live music, all week long, p. 34.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

On Dec. 30, Gov. Chris Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 78, an order authorizing certain military service members and EMTs to obtain temporary statuses as licensed nursing assistants. The order comes less than three weeks after a similar order was issued allowing qualifying nursing students to obtain temporary licenses.

Also on Dec. 30, Sununu, along with the governors in each of the five other New England states and in New Jersey, issued a joint statement extending the suspension of all interstate youth hockey competitions for public and private schools through at least Jan. 31. A regional suspension had previously been in place through Dec. 31. The prohibition does not impact interstate collegiate, professional or national hockey team activities, according to the statement.

On Jan. 1, Sununu issued Executive Order 2020-25, extending the state of emergency in New Hampshire due to the pandemic for another three weeks through at least Jan. 22. It's the 14th extension he has

issued since originally declaring a state of emergency last March.

State health officials reported a record number of hospitalizations due to Covid-19 last weekend, with the number reaching 335 people on Jan. 2 before it fell to 325 people a day later. According to the state Department of Health & Human Services' overall summary report, as of Jan. 4, a total of 916 people have been hospitalized for Covid-19, or roughly 2 percent of all of the overall cases, since the start of the pandemic in March.

Inauguration changes

Gov. Chris Sununu's 2021 outdoor inaugural ceremony has been canceled due to public safety concerns, according to a press release from the Office of the Governor. Instead, Sununu and the Executive Council will be sworn in during a small ceremony that will include the leaders of both houses of the legislature, while all other members will attend virtually.

"My first responsibility is ensuring the safety of my family and our citizens," Sununu said in the release. "For weeks,

armed protesters have increasingly become more aggressive, targeting my family, protesting outside my private residence, and trespassing on my property — an outdoor public ceremony simply brings too much risk." In response to Sununu's announcement, Brennan Christen, one of the organizers of Absolute Defiance — the group leading the demonstrations at Sununu's house — sent an email to the media saying that Sununu is being misleading in his statement about armed protesters trespassing on his property. Christen said that the group has a "consistent track record of peaceful, non-violent, law abiding demonstrators on a small park across the street from his house." He wrote that there was one man who was lawfully carrying a concealed weapon and that he was on a public sidewalk at all times. "It is our belief that the Governor was concerned by a massive protest planned by COSNH, Reopen NH, and Absolute Defiance that sought to rally over a thousand people to protest his inauguration," Christen wrote. "We believe these distortions are a tactic for the Governor to avoid the proHoliday food baskets were donated to 1,319 families in Concord and 17 surrounding communities through the Capital Region Food Program's 47th annual Exhibits from the Mount Holiday Food Basket program. According Washington Observatory's to a press release, the baskets included Weather Discovery Center in holiday meal items as well as two or three North Conway, which is days' worth of additional food items. now closed, are being moved to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, CONCORD according to a post on the latter center's website. From now through Feb. 12, the Concord center will be closed as the exhibits from the Weather Discovery Center are incor-A new local morning show is porated into their new home. now airing on 96.5 The Mill, The McAuliffe-Shepard Disa Manchester-based rock covery Center's planetarium station. The show is hosted system will be getting a major by Jason "JR" Russell and upgrade during that time as Laura Stelchook and features well, according to the website. music, news, weather and listener interaction, according to MANCHESTER a press release. It airs every weekday from 5:30 to 9 a.m. Derry The Upper Room in **Derry** will kick off a new Sober Curious Londonderry Group later this month. According to a press release, the three-week group is for young adults ages 18 to 25 who want NASHUA

Covid-19 update	As of December 28	As of January 4
Total cases statewide	41,670	47,328
Total current infections statewide	5,508	6,200
Total deaths statewide	715	781
New cases	4,282 (Dec. 22 to Dec. 28)	5,658 (Dec. 29 to Jan. 4)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	1,908	2,358
Current infections: Merrimack County	609	693
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,264	1,265

test in Concord, and to evade it by holding it at a more private location not accessible to the public." Sununu's inaugural address will be delivered live at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7.

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License renewal

The New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles has released a new online driver license renewal portal, according to a press release. Customers who have received a renewal identification number in the mail are encouraged to renew their license online at dmv.nh.gov for increased convenience and safety. Other DMV online services that customers can take advantage of include appointment scheduling, not guilty pleas, ticket pay and the REAL ID document checker.





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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

New in town

Jessica Martin joins Intown Concord

Jessica Martin is the new executive director of Intown Concord, a nonprofit organization that promotes and celebrates small businesses, arts and culture and community events in downtown Concord. She talked about why she took the position, the challenges that come with it during a pandemic and what Intown is planning for 2021.

What is your background in this type of work?

I have a background in real estate. I was the executive director at the Greater Manchester/Nashua Board of Realtors for almost six years. I did all of their events—they had quite a few—and I really loved the event [planning] portion of that position. I ended up starting an event planning business on my own



Jessica Martin. Courtesy photo.

PPE and a grant, and there's going to be a rollout of another stimulus package soon, so [the challenge is] wrapping my head around that process and making sure I understand all of that. And not only do I need to learn it for myself, but then I also need to share that information as quickly and accurately as possible with the businesses that could benefit from it.

How are you handling those challenges?

A lot of education, and making sure I'm getting information from accurate sources. I'm attending a lot of webinars. I have one next week called "The New Hampshire Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund Webinar." The Small Business Administration also has a wealth of knowledge about basically anything that you need assistance with related to Covid.

What is Intown planning for this year?

to Covia.

I'm optimistic that we'll be doing all of our events [in 2021]. They might look a little different. They might feel a little different. In what way? I'm not sure yet. ... We have to keep social distancing in mind. ... We're doing our winter festival at the end of January, since people can be outside for the majority of it and will be spread out. ... We also have to be strategic with the timing of [the events with] the vaccine and the weather. Usually our biggest event [Market Days] is in June, but does it make sense to keep it in June, or should we be talking about possibly moving it to August to allow for a little additional time for people to get vaccinated and feel comfortable with being in large groups again? We have to be really thoughtful about everything, more than in previous years ... and we have to be really clear about social distancing and masks and stuff whenever we're promoting an event so that people know we aren't just being reckless.

What interested you in the position at Intown Concord?

but kind of missed the normal 9-to-5, so I

took a position at the Exeter Area Chamber

of Commerce as their events and marketing

director for a year. ... I've also been working

on my master's degree at UNH in communi-

ty development and policy practice.

This is the most perfect job I could have ever imagined. I was looking for a position where I could use my event [planning] skills but also my background experience from the Board of Realtors. ... [As] a community organization that's advocating [for] and promoting small businesses and the community, [Intown Concord] fits within that. It's a marriage of events and marketing as well as the nonprofit management piece that I had done before and liked, so it checked all of the boxes for me.

What does your job as director entail?

Day-to-day is always different. I'm overseeing all of the events we're working on [including] Market Days ... and Midnight Merriment. We have one other staff person, Haylie Stoddard, who is our event coordinator and does a lot of our social media, and I manage the finances and anything that comes up with the businesses. I'm kind of the liaison between the businesses and our board of directors, working with them to make sure that we're fulfilling our mission. A lot of my job is also just getting our mission out there and making sure people understand it and how valuable it is.

What are some of the biggest challenges coming into this new position right now?

The finances, managing staff, marketing, events — that's all stuff I've done before, but [with Covid], this [job] is completely different. ... I wasn't [involved] when Intown Concord applied for [and] received

What are you most excited about?

I'm so excited about Concord in general. ... As I go to these places downtown, I'm just blown away by how much Concord has to offer — great restaurants, art, culture, hotels, so much stuff going on. It feels almost like a little hidden secret, and I just want to scream it from the rooftops. It's really easy to promote a city that has so many exciting things to promote. — Angie Sykeny

13260

NFL regular season wraps



It's Jan. 7 and the Patriots are already on vacation. But that's a problem to discuss another day. Instead we'll concern ourselves today with some of the more interesting stats, questions and happenings of the regular season just concluded and a look into the NFL playoffs

as they get underway this weekend. We'll start with this: Can someone with an MIT degree in mathematics explain how a guy with league bests in TD passes (48), completion average (70.7 percent) and fewest interceptions thrown (a miniscule five) can be just the seventh-ranked NFL passer, as **Aaron Rodgers** was?

Stat of the Year: With strong competition from Tennessee freight train and my new favorite player Derrick Henry for having three 200-plus-yard rushing games and gaining 2,027 overall, it goes to Tom Brady. His second best in the NFL 40 TD passes were the second most in his career. How do you do that at 43? The only age-related thing that compares is 13-time 20-game winner Warren Spahn hitting his career high 23 at 42 in 1963.

NFL 101: This may be a little too easy, as if you've read about Henry's exploits the other seven players to rush for 2,000 yards in a season were likely mentioned. But if not, name the other seven to do it.

Much has been made of Miami yanking veteran **Ryan Fitzpatrick** in favor of rookie **Tua Tagovailoa** at their bye week. But while Fitz did rescue them in relief vs. Oakland, er, Las Vegas two weeks ago he was 4-3 as the starting QB, while it was 6-3 with Tua. I'd call that a win for his experience going forward.

Not that I'll be alone on this, but my vote for best game of the year was the one with the absolutely crazy fourth quarter on Monday Night Football a few weeks ago won by Baltimore 42-38 over Cleveland that saw TDs scored on the last three possessions.

But the absolute craziest final play in a major win was seeing Tennessee win the AFC South title with a 41-38 win over Houston as Covid-19-stricken **Steve Gostkowski**'s desperation replacement **Sam Sloman**'s about-to-choke 37-yard FG went doink off the upright and over the crossbar for the win. How the Texans allowed **A.J. Brown** to get the 52-yard reception to put them in position to win after tying the game with just 18 seconds left probably explains how they could finish 4-12 despite having a great QB in **Deshaun Watson**.

In case you're wondering: Brown, who had 10 catches for 151 yards and a TD on Sunday, was still on the board when Coach B took **N'Ke-al Harry** 32nd overall pick in the 2019 draft. He had 70 catches for 1,075 yards and 11 TDs in 2020 while for Harry it was 33, 309 and two TDs. Patriots Nation doesn't want to know the two-year totals. Bill also took **JoeJuan Williams**, who barely played this year, before Brown went

51st overall, and 30-catches-for-five-TDs-in-2020 Minnesota tight end **Irv Smith Jr.** went at 50.

Incidentally, if they expect to go anywhere, the Titans had better fix their D. It's given up 38 or more points in three of its last five games and the other two were against Jacksonville (10) and Detroit (25).

The biggest blame-it-on-anyone-else crybaby outside of Washington, D.C., this fall was benched Philly QB **Carson (wah) Wentz**. Word is that he wants to be traded because the relationship between him and the coach who helped him get his mammoth contract is broken. Here's a novel idea: If you want to play, stop being the worst player on the field.

Speaking of ingratitude, after he was cracking on the Pats' loss to Miami a few weeks back someone should remind **Kyle Van Noy** that Bill and the defensive coaches saved his career after he was a second-round bust with Detroit, which directly led to last winter's big payday.

Ditto for the ever barking **Asante Samuel**. I might listen to him if he hadn't dropped that sure pick on the final drive to blow the 2007 SB vs. the Giants and the undefeated season. And they still give **Bill Buckner** grief.

The biggest nitwit was ex-Washington QB **Dwayne Haskins**, whose unmasked strip club jaunt got him cut to cost him about \$2.5 million in guaranteed money. Hope the trip was worth it.

Tough call picking the MVP. My top three are **Pat Mahomes**, **Josh Allen** and Rodgers. But, in throwing for those 48 TDs, I pick the old guy because in leading the Pack to 13 wins he did more with less.

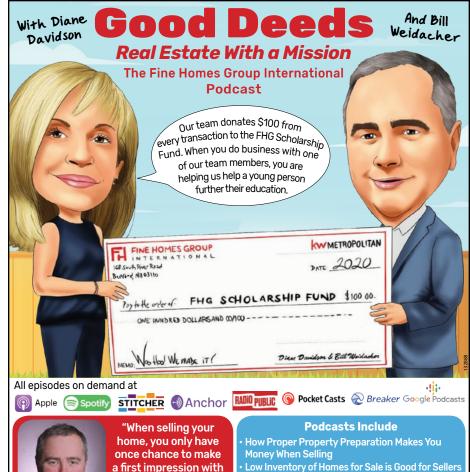
Easy call: **Baker Mayfield** repeatedly going through the Cleveland stadium metal detectors after leaving something in the locker room as the year's best commercial. He also gets best player/actor in any NFL commercial since **Peyton Manning**.

NFL 101 Answer: Members of the 2,000 rushing yards in a season club, from when it was first accomplished to most recently, are **OJ Simpson** (2,003 in 1973), **Eric Dickerson** (2,105 in 1984), **Barry Sanders** (2,053 in 1997), **Terrell Davis** (2,008 in 1998), **Jamal Lewis** (2,066 in 2003), **Chris Johnson** (2,006 in 2009) and **Adrian Peterson** (2,097 in 2012). Simpson is the only one to do it in a 14-game season and it also should be noted that if **Jim Brown** had hit his 133 yards per game from his 1,863 in a 14-game season over 16 games, he'd have run for a best-ever 2 129

Predictions for this Week: NFC – New Orleans over Chicago, Tampa Bay downs Washington, Seattle beats L.A. AFC – Buffalo over Indy, Browns beat Pittsburgh. Even though I'm rooting for Henry, **Mike Vrabel** and **Malcolm Butler** – Baltimore over Tennessee in the best game of Round 1.

Finally, nice job by the Dodger and the brass for beating the odds to pull the season off in a high-contact sport with nothing seriously bad happening. Well done.

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- 2. Toast the walnuts in the oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until they are lightly browned and smell toasted. Be sure to keep an eye on the walnuts, as they can burn quickly.
- 3. Divide the hommus and spread evenly on the corn tortillas. Divide the walnuts between tacos and top with black bean salad.
- 4. Add sliced avocado and a handful of shredded lettuce. Enjoy!

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving (1 taco): Calories 432; Fat 32.5 g; Saturated Fat 2.5 g; Carbohydrate 28 g; Fiber 8 g; Protein 10.5 g; Sodium 554 mg

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

More turkeys, or just more people noticing turkeys?

The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department recently released the results of its 2020 Winter Flock Survey, which showed that there were 2,309 reported flocks totaling 40,476 turkeys statewide. According to a news release on the department's website, this was a significant increase over the 486 flocks totaling 9,833 turkeys reported in 2019. In 2018 there were 1,372 flock observations totaling 20,224 turkeys. "The increase in observations during the 2020 winter survey may be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic," New Hampshire Fish and Game Turkey Biologist Allison Keating said in the news release. "With many people spending more time at home last winter there was an increase in backyard bird feeding as well as bird watching, which may have contributed to the uptick in reports."

Score: +1 (because yay for being closer to nature!)

Comment: New Hampshire Fish & Game is asking the public to participate in the 2021 Winter Turkey Flock Survey at wildnh.com/surveys/ turkey.html. The survey started Jan. 1 and runs through March 31.

Good and not-so-good pre-Covid health stats

The United Health Foundation's 2020 annual report, which examines 74 measures of health in each state, says that New Hampshire has improved its availability of mental health services, but it has also seen more premature deaths in recent years. According to a press release, America's Health Rankings, which was created in partnership with the American Public Health Association, highlights some of each state's health strengths and weaknesses, pre-Covid. In New Hampshire, two of the strengths that were highlighted were an increase in the number of active mental health providers, which went up 21 percent since 2016, and an increase in the percentage of residents who get enough exercise, which went from 21.4 percent of adults to 26.4 percent between 2017 and 2019. Some of the state's challenges, according to the release, are income inequality (the disparity between the highest and lowest income-earners has increased 10 percent since 2007), and premature death (recorded as deaths before the age of 75), which increased 22 percent between 2012 and 2018.

Score: 0

Comment: Other positive highlights for New Hampshire include a low teen birth rate and a low prevalence of household food insecurity, while other challenges include a high percentage of housing with lead risk and a low percentage of fluoridated water, according to the report.

Saving New Hampshire's history

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, which supports the protection and revitalization of historic buildings and places, recently announced some of its stats from 2020 to highlight the work it has done throughout the year. According to a press release, the Preservation Alliance presented more than 30 public programs via Zoom, worked on more than 120 projects in more than 100 communities in the state and spent hundreds of hours coaching property owners and civic leaders by phone. Its Seven to Save program has "an impressive" 50-percent success rate, and it invested grant funding in more than 50 community landmarks. The barn tax incentive, which the Alliance helped develop to save old barns, is now used in 100 communities, where tax relief is provided to owners of historic agricultural structures.

Score: +1

Comment: It's hard to look back on 2020 and see the positives, so QOL applauds the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for recognizing that even during a challenging year lots of good people still made lots of good things happen for the long-term betterment of the Granite State.

QOL score: 50 Net change: +2 QOL this week: 52

With the new year, the OOL Index resets to 50.

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75

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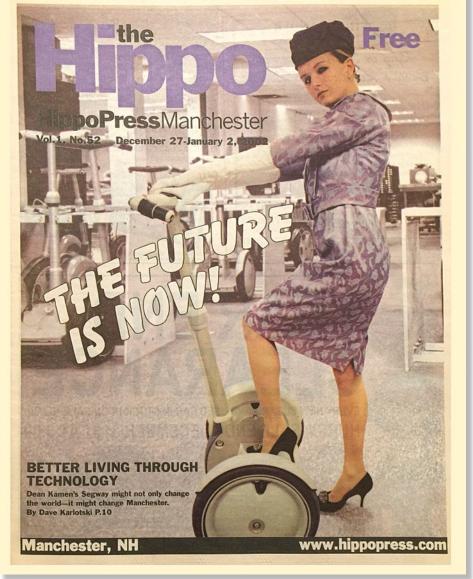
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A look at Hippo's beginnings in 2001 and at Hippo in 2020



February 8, 2001



June 28, 2001



October 11, 2001

By Jody Reese

Hippo Publisher

December 27, 2001

Once we committed to publishing our first issue on January 4, 2001, we had to figure out the nuts and bolts of publishing: what would we include in that first issue, how to design it, how to organize the ads, how would we make sure there were as few errors as possible. The whole process of publishing, we were learning that first year. (See my Granite Views column on page 2 for more on the Hippo's pre-print origins.)

DAN SZCZESNY (Hippo editor at the time and co-owner) Oh man, that first issue. What's easy to forget looking back is that we were all pretty new to Manchester. In January of 2001, I had only been in New Hampshire for two years, in Manchester for less than that. But things were happening. The hockey rink was getting built, anchor businesses like Margaritas were starting to turn the downtown vibrant. It just felt like Manchester was on the

move. So, deciding on that first cover and cover story, "Morning in Manchester," was a pretty easy call.

We didn't have a whole lot of space in those early days. Maybe 16 pages? So, the story was just a collection of things that made the city special, including some off the beaten path highlights. I remember writing about the Merci Boxcar up on the West Side, a block from where I was living.



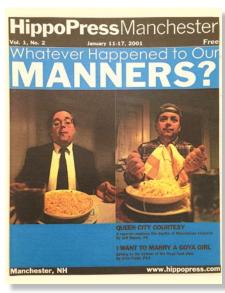
January 4, 2001

We rented an office that was really just a closet in a downtown Manchester building. It was so small many of our meetings spilled into the hall. We placed two \$500 desktop computers, loaded with a borrowed publishing program, next to each other so we could easily coordinate as we laid out the first issues. I think it's fair to say we weren't really ready to publish that first issue. So that second one came up on us fast. Jeff had an idea.

JEFF RAPSIS (Associate Publisher) I had just seen a year-end news story about an etiquette expert who ranked America's 10 most polite cities. I was all about how good manners meant good business, especially in terms of visitors and conventions.

So, with the new arena under construction and Manchester preparing to welcome more visitors, I suggested a light-hearted look at how the Queen City's manners stacked up. With the clock already ticking for next week's deadline, no one said no. So the next thing I knew I was at Manchester Airport with a photographer friend named Al Belote, us both pretending to be clueless tourists trying to get a cab to 1000 Elm St. to see how we visitors were treated. The cabbie was very helpful at our inane questions, but the big moment came when he asked for the fare. As a test, I handed him five \$100 bills. He immediately handed back four of them and then carefully counted out \$85 change, thus passing with flying colors. Also, because etiquette includes helping others in need, we staged a stunt where I filled up a giant satchel with paperback books, and then I repeatedly dumped the whole load in the middle of an Elm Street crosswalk to gauge the reaction.

That got us through week two, but during the first year there were more than a few cases of a planned cover story falling through at the last minute, and I'd be dragooned into writing something. It was a wild time when we were doing anything we could think of to keep the paper compelling.



January 11, 2001

Being a shoestring operation we couldn't afford to hire reporters, so a lot of that first year was cajoling people to donate their time to write stories. The challenge with that is that publishing requires planning and deadlines and it's, understandably, hard to get people who are volunteering their time to do either.

RAPSIS What is startling to me is how much came to be just on a whim. You and Dan were looking for content... so I suggested rather than fill

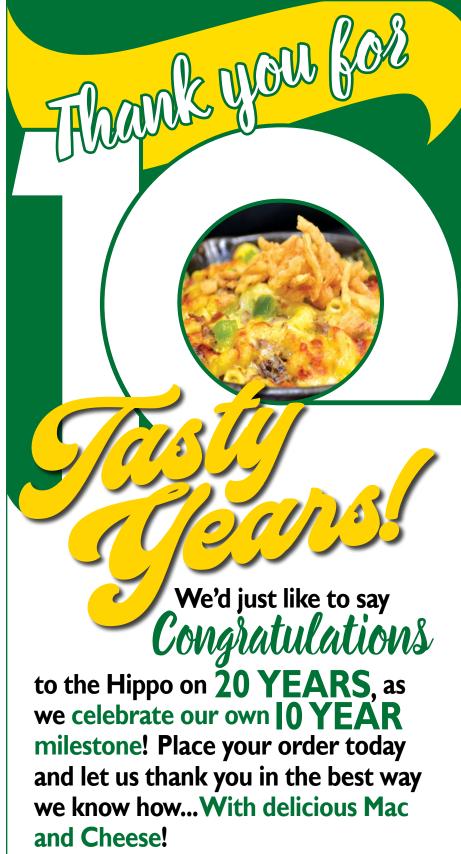
it with traditional news or traditional opinion, you package perky insider commentary under a "Quality of Life" index, where we could quantify whether something was good or bad by adding or subtracting points. I'd seen a similar feature in one of the Philadelphia weeklies. And I remember this big serious discussion about how this would possibly work: who says start it at 50? Who decides how many points?

Roles in that first year were more blurred than they are now. In mid February 2001, I wrote a cover story about the dilapidated Valley Cemetery, which I lived across the street from at the time. It was and still is a beautiful example of cemeteries as a place for the living to enjoy. That story prompted a community group to form and raise funds to repair parts of the cemetery. We felt by telling these stories we were advocating for the city.



February 15, 2001

RAPSIS Another surprising, and gratifying, thing was to see a rich and vibrant city in the process of discovering itself. Few people realize that population-wise Manchester is the largest city in northern New England - much bigger than Burlington, Vermont, or Portland, Maine, or any other city north of Boston. And for years it had been home to a vibrant food and art scene that really hadn't been covered or pulled together in any way. Even the small scale of what Hippo did at first was enough to really open people's eyes to Manchester as a place that mattered. A lot of stuff was going on, all just waiting to be showcased in a publication intended to do just that. So for a while we ran extensive restaurant listings, just because that itself seemed newsworthy. And we'd hear about people like attorneys at Devine Millimet going on "Hippo lunches," visiting plac-





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es they'd never heard of that were listed in that week's paper. Eventually, we started hearing from people who moved to Manchester in part because Hippo gave them confidence about the community's quality of life. To think that the Hippo could have that much impact on people, and the region as a whole, is really rewarding to contemplate and makes it all worthwhile.



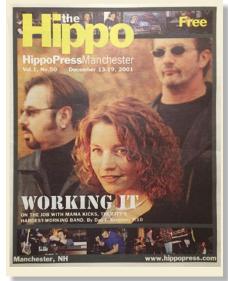
April 9, 2001

Through all that, the Hippo we know today started to take shape.

RAPSIS Even the paper's name was a work in progress during the first year. It was originally called "HippoPress Manchester" (what a mouthful!) for most of the first year, then shortened to "HippoPress." But quickly people (including us) began naturally referring to it simply as "The Hippo." So in the fall of 2001 we changed the name on the front page to call it exactly that: The Hippo. So in a way, the community helped us find the publication's true name.

We wrote about local rock bands, the city's diners, neighborhood markets, places to hike, visual arts at the Currier, a new skate park, community singing groups, writer groups and anything else that told the story of Manchester.

RAPSIS It may seem unbelievable now, but at the time we started Hippo, Manchester was home base for not one but two full symphony orchestras: the professional New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra, and the New Hampshire Philharmonic, which gave talented amateurs a place to perform. (We also had two opera companies!) These institutions had been maintained for years by many of the city's leading families: long-established professionals and business



December 13, 2001

owners who would give generously to support outposts of high culture in the old mill town. As a classical music fan, I always thought this was a pretty cool aspect of the Queen City that was underappreciated. So in Hippo's first month, when we were still scrambling to find and pull together stories worthy of the cover, it turned out one of the orchestras was seeking a new conductor. So I put on my classical music hat and dove into the scene, attending pre-concert receptions in the North End homes of supporters such as David and Barbara Stahl, hobnobbing with the musicians, and generally meeting with disbelief that a publication called "HippoPress" was doing a story on classical music in Manchester. It was the cover of our fourth issue, and it caused enough of a stir to establish Hippo as the source of classical music info in Greater Manchester. (Not that this was too hard.) But it showed us the value of taking the art scene seriously, as this added readership, which added to our credibility with advertisers. It wasn't long before classical music became a regular beat in the early Hippo, which I covered like a sportswriter would cover the local baseball team - especially the New Hampshire Symphony's search for a new conductor, which became like a slow-motion reality show. It was enough to push me back into making music myself: first, as a stunt, I joined the chorus of a local production of the opera Carmen, which resulted in a cover story showing an insider's look at staging an opera at the Palace Theatre. To me, it was extremely gratifying to see Hippo's classical music coverage find an audience and be appreciated by local musicians. Eventually, the paper's coverage gradually broadened to include balanced coverage of all arts. We still report on classical music, but alas, the scene

has changed: the New Hampshire Symphony and Granite State Opera closed in 2008, while the New Hampshire Philharmonic moved to Salem. Of the big four, only Opera NH continues to give local productions.

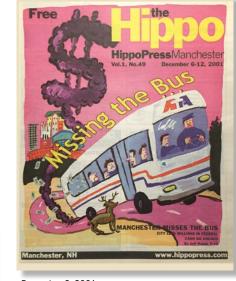
Though we focused on arts, food, entertainment and events, we also wanted to cover news that had fallen through the cracks of other media coverage. Jeff did this with a story on the Manchester Transit Authority.



January 25, 2001

RAPSIS This was one of our first actual attempts at "investigative" journalism, which showed clearly that each year Manchester's city government was leaving hundreds of thousands dollars of federal public transit money on the table — instead of bolstering Manchester's sorry bus system, it was going to North Country transport services because Manchester's aldermen were too cheap to kick in the 20 percent seed money for the 80/20 match that covered urban transit subsidies. Funny thing was, this wasn't intended as investigative journalism, but just as a look at the city's neglected bus system and how to get the most out of it. Instead, once I started research it was so glaringly obvious that Manchester was turning up its nose every year at big money, we just had to go with that angle. I think the Mike Flint painting used for the cover was pure genius: an MTA bus careening out of control, with dollar signs exploding out of its exhaust pipe-that told the story better than any writer could do.

Back then if you wrote for Hippo you also probably delivered issues. Everyone was out delivering papers Wednesday night and Thursday. This lasted for years until we could finally afford a profession-



December 6, 2001

al delivery staff. In the early days, John Fladd, an early Hippo writer, and current cocktail columnist, and friend, would help me with the downtown Manchester distribution. To do those deliveries you really needed two people — even in 2001. One would drive the car and count out the papers and the other would run the papers into the delivery location.

FLADD I jump out of the car and jog not-very-enthusiastically to the door of the bar. I go in and look around for a table near the back, without anyone sitting at it. I take three or four steps and drop the pile of papers on the table."HIP-po Press!" I announce, then turn to leave the bar, which has gone momentarily silent. "We love you guys!" a man shouts from the other side of the room.

As the weeks went on in 2001 it got easier for us to publish. We were developing ways to handle all of the information that went into each paper. We got ahead enough to create a college guide and to plan a photo essay. We still struggled with deadlines and my personal health suffered as the paper took over every bit of my life. I think I gained 30 pounds that year and got very little sleep. But it was really fun.

After that first year, the paper grew, changed over the years, added professional staff — but to some extent the focus stayed the same: covering arts, entertainment and quality of life. In our 20th year we suddenly found ourselves back in a situation like 2001 — almost having to start from scratch with what we were covering and how we covered it. By the middle of March the very things that we cover, arts, entertainment, theater, music, restaurants, and events, had ground to a halt. How do you publish an arts and entertainment magazine when there aren't a lot of arts and entertainment?



June 7, 2001

ANGIE SYKENY (Hippo's arts reporter) On March 11 of last year, I emailed my editor to let her know that an event I was covering for the upcoming paper had been canceled out of caution about this "coronavirus thing." I hope this isn't going to become a trend. If things keep getting canceled, what am I going to write about? Within a week, all manner of routine had gone out the window, and I, the arts writer, found myself writing less about art and more about community health, emergency relief funds and remote education.

MEGHAN SIEGLER (Hippo's managing editor) I remember going to your office on March 12 to tell you that I was starting to have concerns about events being canceled. How were we going to fill the paper if everything we wrote about was no longer happening? Things quickly went downhill after that conversation. The sheer number of "emergency!/help!/new plan!" emails flying back and forth between myself, Amy and our reporters and freelancers between March 12 and March 17 was insane. I sent one to my reporters that Saturday with the subject "Good news and bad news." It was a detailed plan of all the changes we needed to make for the March 19 paper. The "good" news was that they could stop working on pretty much anything they had been working on. The bad news was that we needed to, very quickly, create content with the most up-to-date information - but that information was changing constantly.

AMY DIAZ (Hippo's executive editor) On the morning of Friday, March 13, we were working on an issue with a cover story that involved different out-of-your-comfort-zone activities, all at venues out in the world. By the end of that day, a day full of canceled

events, closed venues and notices of school closings, we realized that the entire paper, which by Friday is pretty close to being what you see when it hits stands the next week, would have to be redone. Even stories that could still run had to be reworked to acknowledge that a performance had been postponed or that an event was moving online.



March 19, 2020

SIEGLER The March 19 paper was essentially created in two work days. We came up with a "Viral NH" cover story that included pieces like "Social distancing and beer" (from Jeff Mucciarone) and "Self-isolation blues — and other local music to listen to at home" (from Michael Witthaus), plus a gigantic list of events that had been postponed or canceled that we had to keep adding to right up until we sent the paper to the printer.

MATT INGERSOLL (Hippo's food reporter) Our annual coverage of New Hampshire Maple Weekend was the lead story in the Hippo's food section when, seemingly overnight, the effects of the pandemic began to overspread the state. I received an email from my event contact on a Monday morning, the day before we were to go to print with that week's issue, that Maple Weekend had been canceled. A complete rewrite of my story became necessary, with the focus switching from going out to enjoy a tour at your local sugarhouse to fun things you can do with local maple syrup in the safety of your own home kitchen.

Our advertising team faced the same challenge. We were past deadline when Gov. Chris Sununu issued a shutdown order that closed nearly 70 percent of the businesses, nonprofits and events that typically advertise. We started calling all of our advertisers asking them what they wanted us to do.

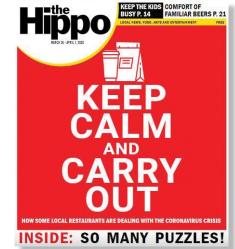
charlene Nichols (Hippo's advertising manager) It was the strangest feeling ... one minute I'm selling and building ads and the next I'm killing them. It seemed to happen all at once. As a consultant, I felt desperate to help my businesses, whether to rewrite their messages and plans or to pull their ads completely. I was so worried about how they'd survive and then, later, as a salesperson, um, what's going to happen to me? The Hippo?

DIAZ I am extremely proud of how everybody at the paper, the editorial and production staff but also our colleagues in advertising and distribution, came together and worked so hard through that first anxious weekend to produce that "Viral NH" issue.

On the ad and revenue side it was a pretty big hit — 65 percent of our revenue disappeared instantly. I wondered, can we even keep publishing? Should we shut down? But the more I thought about and sought out counsel, the more I realized that if we could we must publish. We had a job to do and our readers needed us to continue.

DIAZ As a paper whose primary mission is to help you find things to do and places to go, what do we focus on when everything is canceled and nothing is open? I thought that, whatever we did and however we went with the flow of events. our core should continue to be connecting readers to the scenes that have always been the most important to our coverage - the visual and performing arts, classical and popular music, books and the literary scene, nightlife, outdoor activities and the local food scene. And food - restaurants and their survival was about to become one of the biggest stories, not just locally but nationally, of the economic impacts of the pandemic. I think it's fitting that after that first Covid issue, our next two issues - "Keep Calm and Carry Out" and "Meanwhile, on the Farm" — focused on the adaptations of different aspects of the local food economy.

INGERSOLL Food-focused events scheduled for April, May and into the summer were being canceled or postponed one by one, having a dramatic effect on our coverage. In place of a weekend food festival or a restaurant grand opening, I'd instead write about a virtual or stayat-home event, or I'd be covering the fallout of restaurants.



March 26, 2020

SIEGLER It hasn't been all bad. Having a smaller staff has forced us all to redefine our roles to some degree; for me, that means that for the first time in years I'm doing some writing. Over the summer, for example, Amy asked if I'd be willing to write a cover story about running, and at first I said no. I read words and I fix words, but I had my doubts as to whether I could still write words. But Amy knows I'm kind of obsessed with running, and she probably knew that I'd eventually say yes specifically for that reason, which I did - and I kind of loved the whole experience. As it turns out, I've missed writing. So while the past year has taken me out of my comfort zone, I definitely don't regret experiences like that.

Like many organizations out there the pandemic made things that had been routine much more difficult. On the distribution side, the folks that get out the Hippo each week, many of our drop locations were suddenly closed. My distribution manager kept calling me and saying we have a real problem here. He put a plan in place in a few days that shifted more copies away from the closed restaurants and cafes and into the supermarkets and our street boxes.

I can look back on 2020 and say that was a really horrible year, and it was. We say our revenue declined 65 percent and we had to lay off wonderful people. But I also look at it and say we survived and I'm so very grateful that our staff kept focused on putting out the best Hippo we could. This was also the first time in our 20 years that we asked readers to help financially contribute to Hippo either through a membership or donation. And they did and have continued to do so.

I don't know if I'll be here for our 40th anniversary, but someone will be. Southern New Hampshire continues to need professional independent food, news, arts and entertainment coverage. And we at Hippo will continue to provide that with the support of our staff, our community and our readers.

Downtown renaissance

Two decades of revitalization in Manchester, Concord and Nashua's downtowns

When the Hippo started in 2001 with the intention of highlighting Manchester's culture, well, there wasn't nearly as much going on then as there is now (or was, pre-pandemic, and will be again, soon...). In the first of a month-long series looking back at some of the subjects Hippo has covered over the years, former Mayor Bob Baines, real-estate developer Dick Anagnost and Mint Bistro owner Tim Baines look back at what they call the "renaissance" of downtown Manchester, while Tim Sink of the Concord Chamber of Commerce and Michael Herrmann, owner of Gibson's Bookstore, talk about how downtown Concord has changed, and Dan O'Donnell of Nashua's Great American Downtown shares his decades of experience in the Gate City's downtown.



Bob Baines. Courtesy photo.

Bob Baines

Baines Bob was the principal of Manchester West High School for 20 years, then served as mayor of Manchester for six starting years in 2000. He's worked at South-

ern New Hampshire University and was president of Chester College for six years, and he continues to do education reform work, most recently with a program called Steam Ahead at West High School and McLaughlin Middle School. He's been on the board of the Palace Theatre for many years and is on the board of Manchester Public Television, and he recently joined the board of the Community College System of New Hampshire after serving eight years on the board of the University System of New Hampshire.

How would you describe downtown Manchester 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

During that time, when I became mayor there wasn't much going on in Manchester at all. We had suffered through hard times in the '90s and downtown was practically deserted. ... The city was in tough shape, and I was fortunate enough to get the support of the aldermen to do a lot of things with economic development downtown. ... When I was mayor there wasn't even any place to go to lunch in downtown Manchester. ... On Elm Street there were a lot of vacant buildings, a lot of rundown buildings, there wasn't any housing. ... Manchester is a totally different city than it was 20 years ago. ... The Palace Theatre ... had closed and went bankrupt. ... Manchester was not a destination — there really was no place to go. There was one restaurant on Lowell Street called Richard's Bistro, and that was about it.

Bob Baines on the Hippo

I go back to when Hippo Press started ... Jody [Reese] and Dan [Szczesny] came to see me about this idea of launching this paper and they said it was going to be called the Hippo. I was sort of puzzled about the name; I remember when they left my office I ... called Jody and said, 'Are you sure you want to call it the Hippo?'

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

The three key kingpins of the economic renaissance of the city were the Palace Theatre [reopening], the Verizon Wireless Arena [now the SNHU Arena]... and the [Fisher Cats] baseball stadium. ... [Those three things] really put Manchester on the map. ... During that time period there was a lot of excitement about the Manchester public schools [too]. The buildings hadn't been touched in decades. ... There were so many issues. When I was high school principal, I was one of the big complainers ... saying we've got to spend some money to fix our schools. ... At that time they were renovating City Hall and committed to building an arena and I said that's all well and good that you're doing that, but our students deserve better, and we got the support of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to get a \$1.5 mil-

lion bond passed to renovate all the schools in the city of Manchester, so that was a really big deal. Unfortunately as the years have gone on, the proper amount of money has not been invested into teaching and learning and technology and professional development. ... I'm very involved in an organization now called Manchester Proud ... and we've raised over a million dollars to develop a strategic plan for the district, and we're an active group still raising money to advance education in the city.

What do you think the downtown will be like 20 years from now? What will the biggest challenges be over the next 20 years?

I think good times are ahead despite the quagmire we're in right now. ... I hope [downtown is] still a vibrant part of the city. I think you're going to get more and more people looking for opportunities to live in the downtown or live in the millyard. ... They're still creating housing units in the millyard. I think downtown still has a lot of possibilities for other development ... to provide the kind of housing that people are looking for, especially young people. ... Young people who work in all these tech companies, a lot of them want to live downtown because they don't want cars. ... I think the future looks bright in the next 20 years. ... I think the biggest challenge is to get people to invest in the city, and I've always said you can't have a great city without a great

public education system, and I think that has

been the challenge for decades in Manchester. ... We should have the very best public schools in the state of New Hampshire. ... I hope our city fathers recognize that we have to invest in our schools.



September 23, 2004

We really miss being able to go there. It's like not being able to see family. ... That's our favorite place, and hopefully in the not so distant future we'll be able to go back.



Dick Anagnost. Courtesy

DickAnagnost

Dick Anagnost was born and raised in Manchester and has been involved in real estate development in Manchester for decades; in the past 20 years alone, he estimates that his company has renovated nearly 40 buildings, put up close to 600 units of housing and created approximately 400,000 square feet of new commercial office space.



What has been the most surprising thing about the way downtown has developed?

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR GEEKS

The thing that surprised me when I was mayor was the willingness of local developers to get involved, people who grew up in Manchester, people like Dick Anagnost and [Arthur] Sullivan and his partners. A lot of the great things that happened in Manchester were the catalyst of people who grew up in Manchester and went to schools in Manchester. ... It was certainly indicative of the Manchester spirit that people who grew up in Manchester and are now doing well helped revitalize our city, and they continue to do it.

What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

[Laughing] Mint Bistro! [Ed note: Mint Bistro is owned by Baines' son, Tim Baines, who was also interviewed for this story.] ...

How would you describe downtown Manchester 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

It was a raceway. Most of the commercial buildings were boarded up and abandoned, there was nobody living there. ... The kids used to race up and down the streets and the police were tasked with trying to catch them. Downtown Manchester was pretty well abandoned. ... That was about the time that the City decided that

they needed to do something to bring back our downtown and millyard. ... I received tons of cooperation from the City and actually joint ventured a number of buildings with the City. The first renovation downtown was a building called the Chase Block, where Margarita's is. ... That was actually a joint venture with Anagnost and the City of Manchester.

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

The City and I began moving down the street, so from [the Chase Block] we went to the next corner south, which is 1015 Elm, we went to 844 Elm, we participated with Paul Smith at the corner of Amherst and Elm. I took on parts of south Manchester, so I had Market Basket [brought in]. Murphy's Tavern was another one of my deals. We started

HIPPO I JANUARY 7 - 13. 2021 I PAGE 14

in the millyard with 33 S. Commercial St. ... that whole development down there, Southern New Hampshire University is all me. We began marching through the rest of the city together and at about the same time Brady Sullivan started to

see our success, and they started with the old gas company building and then they did a number of buildings downtown. ... They have a huge stake in the renovation and renaissance of downtown as well. It all started with the Chase Block, and about parallel with the Chase Block was the Verizon civic center decision. The

civic center was a key player, the construction of the ballpark, the southern side of the millyard was a key construction project.

What has been the most surprising thing the way downtown has developed?

The upper stories are still underutilized. When I was growing up the upper stories were filled with offices and residential tenants and all kinds of things,

so the buildings were all full. We still have not addressed the issue of trying to make buildings from the 1800s meet the codes of this millennium, and until that happens the upper stories will remain sparsely occupied. I mean, I was able in my buildings to renovate the upper stories by coming up with innovative methods

to coordinate and ... find

different solutions to [meet] the codes. For instance, when we did Paul Smith's building at Amherst Street, which [probably had] the best, most preserved original historic finishes from the 1800s, we ... came up with a way to ... [make] what was essentially a

sprinkler system that created a safe corridor for people to get out of without having to tear out all of the historical things. At 1015 Elm St., which is where Baked is, we creatively put retail on the first floor, office on the second floor, residential units above it, but there was a fire egress issue ... they allowed us to

put a double-wide staircase in the rear and

keep the smaller historic granite and marble

staircase in the front. ... It's cost-prohibitive to renovate the upper floors, but we're in such dire housing need, the upper floors of downtown would be the perfect opportunity to put in workforce type housing. We've

now grown into a college town ... and they're always in a deficit for student housing. We could easily turn the upper floors ... into student housing and workforce housing. That would be the key in my opinion to bringing back downtown 100 percent to its most vibrant point, because those people wouldn't need vehicles, but ... because downtown is such a walkable area, they would be able to service and support all the businesses located in downtown. Which is how downtown used to be in the '60s and '70s when I grew up.

> What do you think the downtown will be like 20 years from now? What will the biggest challenges be over the next 20 years? I think it'll look a lot

like it is now. You still have the traffic generators. When I started working in the millyard, it was 5 million feet with 90 percent vacancy and 10 percent occupancy. Your millyard today is probably 4.8

million feet and it's 93 percent occupied, so the millyard is a significant generator. The Verizon is a significant traffic generator. The ballpark is a significant traffic generator. All of the new housing that's coming in downtown, like the ones that are at the ballpark. The one finishing touch would be to [bring] the upper stories ... back to their usefulness, to making them mostly residential. ... There's a huge demand. Vacancy in the city is about 1 percent. That would be an easy place

to put a whole lot of housing. ... [The biggest challenge will be] the codes. ... In order to be code compliant, you need to spend too much money, more than [the] economic value of the property.





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December 3, 2009



What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

My office, because I have to come here every day and I spend a significant amount of time here, so we've made it comfortable enough for us to hang out in for long periods of time. ... I've always kind of put my money where my mouth is, so I was one of the first people to move my main offices, first into the millyard when we were redoing the millyard,







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and then into downtown when were redoing downtown, and this [1662 Elm St.] is one of the buildings I renovated.

Tim Baines

Tim Baines was born and raised in Manchester and is the owner of Mint Bistro on Elm Street, and he announced on Dec. 21 that he and two business partners will be opening Elm House of Pizza in January at 102 Elm St. Baines also served as alderman for Ward 3 for one term.

How would you describe downtown Manchester 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

Downtown Manchester 20 years ago was in a tough place (much of it abandoned) but there was hope on the horizon. The civic center, as it was referred to at the time, was a hotly contested issue in 1999 and 2000. It ultimately prevailed and was a part of a renaissance of sorts. There was probably one fine dining establishment and a few bars. There [were] a few solid anchor retail stores that brought people to the downtown on weekends, but it certainly was not a destination for most. Very few people were looking to live ... downtown at this time.

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

Over the past 20 years there has been strong leadership that has realized what a thriving downtown can do for a city, the tax base and the quality of life. Whether it was ensuring that the Palace Theatre stayed alive through tough times or [because of] investments [that were supported by] the government but executed by the private sector, Manchester's downtown grew and became a place that people wanted to be a part of. The condition of a downtown can truly make or break a city and we have

Dick Anagnost on the Hippo

Every time I needed help persuading the aldermen to do something, Jody and the guys, you know, Jeff [Rapsis] ... and Dan [Szczesny], all jumped in and wrote things to get support and public opinion on my side. I have a long relationship with them; I was there when they went into business. ... You could actually attribute the Hippo to a lot of Manchester downtown's growth. They were the ones writing about the opening of Margarita's and the opening of this restaurant and the Palace Theatre renovations and all those things. They were pointing out all of the good things that were going on in Manchester. ... They were a break from reality. ... They thought outside the box. ... They brought forth the whole concept of, these are the things that are going on, these are the things you can do, that helped downtown particularly go through its renaissance. ... You asked a question, what were the most significant changes? One of them was



Tim Baines. Courtesy photo.



Michael Herrmann. Photo by Ryan

ISIDE: A SWEET & SOUR SUMMER BREY

December 3, 2009



Tim Sink. Courtesy photo.

had leadership over these 20 years that [has] fostered this and understood this. With good governance comes private citizens and investors believing in it, and we have seen amazing investments in our downtown.

What do you think the downtown will be like 20 years from now? What will the biggest challenges be over the next 20 years?

I believe in my heart that leaders in this

community will step up and make sure that all of our progress continues. I hope it's more walkable, I hope that businesses can control their sidewalks and I hope that we have more retail. It truly will come down to leadership and I am hopeful there are enough people out there that know that bringing people together is the way to make many

of these things happen. Smart, common-sense and

decisive leadership will go a long way. The biggest challenge will be how we handle the issues of the day that are squarely in front of us. No successful or thriving city has all of the resources available for those suffering in the downtown. We have an obligation to help people and we need to, but attracting those suffering to an area with the temptations that our downtown has to offer continues to send us down the wrong path. A facility away from the downtown that offers services, counseling, detox [and] hope, and one that is well-funded, will go a long way. This will take political courage.

What has been the most surprising thing about the way downtown has developed?

It's a community. With a few glaring exceptions everyone cheers for each other and knows that the others' success is part of their own success. It's a beautiful thing. As far as surprising, I would have to say the lack of understanding by government officials as to what it takes to survive in the private sector. It has been discouraging to see leadership not understand the fundamentals of how A affects B and affects C. It has demoralized people.

What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

[They don't exist yet, but I would like to see] a few things: a movie theater, a beer garden and a community event that rivals what Riverfest

used to be.



INSIDE: FOOD FEST ON SATURDAY

January 2010

Michael Herrmann

Michael Herrmann has been the owner of Gibson's Bookstore in Concord since 1994, and he has served on the boards of Intown Concord and the Chamber of Commerce.

How would you describe downtown Concord 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

Concord has always been blessed to have

a thriving downtown, and even 20 years ago it was an attractive place to visit, with many interesting shops. It was starting to look tired, but there was a real community of shop owners and regular visitors, and it was fun to be part of it.

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

For the downtown, certainly the Main Street redevelopment of 2016, and also the expansion of the downtown south of Pleasant Street.

What do you think the downtown will be like 20 years from now? What will the biggest challenges be over the next 20 years?

The rise of internet commerce has put all retail at risk, but I believe that people will continue to want to shop local and support institutions that make our city unique. The biggest challenge for downtown is to have businesses that are sufficiently capitalized

so they can weather crises like the one we've seen this year.

What has been the most surprising thing about the way downtown has developed?

So many banks — some of my best friends are bankers, but these locations are like dead zones. The ground-floor spots on Main Street should be devoted to retail.

What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

I can't wait to spend too much money at all the restaurants downtown. For now, I'll just be buying gift cards and doing takeout.

Tim Sink

Tim Sink has been the president and CEO of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce since 1992; for the last 10 years he's worked at its office on Main Street. He's lived in Concord for about 35 years and raised his family there.

How would you describe downtown Concord 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

Twenty years ago downtown Concord was in the beginning of a renaissance. Capitol Center for the Arts had just opened, Capital Commons was going up with a much needed parking garage and downtown festivals like Market Days were growing more vibrant. The downtown was starting to wake up.

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

The redevelopment and redesign of Main Street, Red River Theatres, Capitol Center for the Arts, Bank of New Hampshire Stage, expansion and relocation of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and Gibson's Bookstore, more public art

HippoPress.

and greater cultural diversity have all contributed to a much more vibrant, destination downtown.

What do you think the downtown will be like 20 years from now? What will the biggest challenges be over the next 20 years?

The boundaries of what we now consider downtown Concord will expand east [and] west and further south.

The main gateway at Exit 14 will be vastly improved.

What has been the most surprising thing about the way downtown has developed?

The creativity and resilience of the retail, hospitality and dining sectors.

What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

Bicentennial Square

Dan O'Donnell

Dan O'Donnell is the president of the

Ready-made

VILLAGE

October 5, 2017

Executive Board for Nashua's Great American Downtown. He was born and raised in Nashua, spent 40 years as an educator in the Nashua School District before retiring in 2015, and is now a Realtor with Keller Williams Gateway Realty in Nashua. He has been a member of numer-

ous organizations in Nashua, such as the Jaycees, Masons and Lions Club. Though he now physically resides in Hollis, he continues to tell people he "lives" in Nashua and always will.

How would you describe downtown Nashua 20 years ago? What was it like as a destination, as a place to work and as a place to live?

Nashua's downtown has

always been a great place to dine and shop. Back in the '80s as more and more box stores and big malls opened on the outskirts of Nashua, people drifted away to experience that newfound convenience shopping, but it always lacked the character, charm and personal service that downtown offered. Since then the City of Nashua, Downtown Merchants Association, Great American Downtown and



Dan O'Donnell. Courtesy photo.

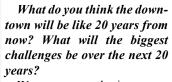
numerous volunteers have spent enormous amounts of time, energy and capital in revisioning, revitalizing and recreating what I would call the rebirth of downtown Nashua. Today's downtown Nashua is a much more warm and inviting environment. It is once again the heart of the city and a special gathering place for residents and visitors ... [and] has the highest-quality restaurants,

unique and specialized shopping venues, art galleries, live music venues and an upcoming Performing Arts Center.

What do you think the most significant changes were over the last 20 years?

I believe that the most significant change is that people realized the most important part of any community is its people. We live in an unbelievably fast paced, instant gratification world. Malls and box stores are sterile environments and have no socially redeeming benefits. Downtowns provide far more social

interactions, give us personalized service, which we have been missing, and they provide a connection with our friends and community.



We are currently in a new phase in Nashua where we are experiencing significant growth in inner city housing starts. As this continues we will

see further growth and opportunities in downtown Nashua.

What has been the most surprising thing about the way downtown has developed?

The most surprising thing about the development of downtown Nashua has been the pace of the growth and outstanding support from the community at large.

Restaurants
Take on Winter
HOW LOCAL EATERIES ARE
HANDLING THE CHANGE IN SEASON

INSIDE: LIVE MUSIC & COMEDY

lovember 5, 2020

INSIDE: APPLE & PUMPKIN PICKING

What is your favorite spot to (eventually) hang out in downtown?

My favorite future spot will be the new Performing Arts Center as it is a long overdue need for our community. I think it will be a huge draw in the further rebirth and revitalization of our Great American Downtown.







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1331

ARTS

Blast from the past

Robinson decries white supremacy, pays homage to the '80s in Exo-Hunter

By Angie Sykeny asykeny@hippopress.com

Science fiction, sociopolitical satire and 1980s nostalgia are the basis for Seacoast author Jeremy Robinson's newest novel *Exo-Hunter*, released last month.

Exo-Hunter follows a Black Marine known as Dark Horse in 1989 who, after a mission gone wrong, is launched with his team a millennium into the future. In the year 2989, humans have abandoned Earth and expanded colonization throughout the galaxy under the rule of a white supremacist government called The Union. Separated from his team and now the only Black man in The Union, Dark Horse takes control of a space vessel

Exo-Hunter by Jeremy Robinson

Exo-Hunter is available now on Amazon and Kindle and locally at Jetpack Comics in Rochester. The audiobook is set for release on Audible and iTunes in February. To learn more about the book, visit bewareofmonsters.com/exo-hunter-dark-horse-rising, and check out the companion playlist at bewareofmonsters.com/playlist.

and sets out to find his teammates, disguised as an Exo-Hunter, a space explorer seeking new planets for the Union to colonize.

Robinson said he had been contemplating a "sarcastic, fun, '80s sci-fi" while also reflecting on the racial tensions felt throughout the country over the last few years.

"I thought I'd kind of just mash all of that together," he said. "White supremacy ... is a serious topic, but I wanted to address it with a sense of humor, similar to how the movie *Jojo Rabbit* did with Nazi Germany — funny but also moving and revealing."

The humor in *Exo-Hunter* comes mostly in the form of sarcasm, Robinson said, with some sci-fi- and '80s-related jokes thrown in.

"I think sarcasm can be helpful for us now as we look back at 2020 and all the bad stuff," he said. "It's a good way to deal with it all."

The book also provides a comic look at the absurdity of a society without diversity.

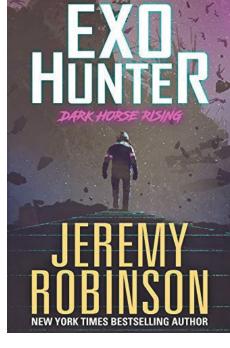
"I wanted to kind of poke fun at how weird and strange it would be and how dull life would be," Robinson said. "I guess the main moral of the story is, a world with diversity is just a better world."

Readers who lived through the '80s will get a healthy dose of nostalgia with refer-

ences to '80s pop culture, particularly sci-fi movies and new wave music. Additionally, Robinson created a playlist of the referenced songs as a musical companion to the book (available on his website) with hits like "Video Killed the Radio Star" by The Buggles, "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)" by Eurythmics and "Heroes" by David Bowie.

"A lot of the story hinges on these songs because they're applicable to what is happening and are just perfect for the situation," Robinson said, adding that pausing to listen to the songs as they are mentioned in the book can create a more immersive experience for the reader.

A New York Times and No. 1 Audible bestselling author, Robinson has written and published more than 70 books in a number of genres, including science fiction, action adventure, fantasy, post-apocalyptic, thriller and horror, as well as several comic books. Prior to writing novels he did primarily screenwriting, and he continues to write with the ultimate goal of getting his stories made into movies and TV series, he said. A couple of his books are currently in the process of being adapted for the screen, and a TV series based on one of his books has been in devel-



opment for the last five years. (He is not yet at liberty to say which books, he said.) As for *Exo-Hunter*, Robinson said, he is "absolutely" envisioning it as an action-packed movie for the big screen.

"It was written with that intention, as most of my novels are," he said. "[The production] would be really big and cost a lot of money, so [the book] will have to sell really well first for Hollywood to take the risk, but we'll see."

Ar

Call for Art

• 35TH ANNUAL OMER T. LASSONDE JURIED EXHIBITION The New Hampshire Art Association seeks submissions of artwork from NHAA members and non-members. The theme is "Beyond the Boundaries." Submit up to three pieces. Open to all artistic media. Deadline is Fri., Feb. 5, by 5 p.m. Submission form available online. Call 431-4230 and visit nhartassociation.org.

Exhibits

• "THE COLORS OF GREY"

Theme art show presented by the Seacoast Artist Association. On display now through Jan. 30. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Visit seacoastartist.org or call 778-8856.

• "A NEW DAY" Exhibit features work by 35 new members of The New Hampshire Art Association. Viewable online, in the front windows at the NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Ports-

mouth) and at the gallery in person by appointment. On display now through Jan. 31. A virtual opening reception will be held on Thurs., Jan. 7, at 6 p.m., on Zoom. Call 431-4230 and visit nhartassociation.org.

• "BRAVE NEW WORLD: RESILIENCE IN THE TIME OF COVID" Outdoor public art display features paintings by 80 students from the Nashua School District that convey a message of hope and resilience amid the challenges of Covid-19. Amherst Elementary School (71 Amherst St., Nashua). On display now through Feb. 14. An opening reception at the exhibit location to celebrate the student and teacher artists will be held on Friday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. Visit sites.google.com/nsd42. net/bravenewworld/home.

• "THE VIEW THROUGH MY EYES" The New Hampshire Art Association presents works by pastel artist Chris Reid. Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Gallery, 49 S. Main St., Concord. On display now through March 18. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-

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.

Theater

Shows

• WHERE DO I BEGIN? New Hampshire Theatre Project's SoloStage program presents. Fri., Jan. 22, and Sat., Jan. 23, 8 p.m., and Sun., Jan. 24, 2 p.m. Performances held virtually and in-person at 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. In-person show tickets cost \$30, and virtual show tickets cost \$20. Call 431-6644 or

visit nhtheatreproject.org.

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

• Gallery goes digital: Kelley Stelling Contemporary, an art gallery in Manchester that has been closed throughout the pandemic, announced in a newsletter that it will soon roll out a series of new digital programming, including artist talks, studio visits and home tours. Watch the gallery's social media @kelleystellingcontemporary for updates.

• Drive-in singing: The Nashua Choral Society has found a creative way to continue meeting during the pandemic while observing social distance, according to a press release from the chorus. With a new drive-in choir system, members can gather in person and, while remaining in their cars, sing together using wireless microphones tuned into the same radio station. NCS purchased the wireless microphones with a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The chorus had its first drive-in sing on Dec. 13, which is World Choral Day. "Seeing everyone in person, even through car windows, was a joyful event," the press release read. "NCS looks forward to hosting more socially distanced sings in the new year." The choir is also planning to hold in-person public performances this year as soon as it is safe to do so, according to the release. Visit nashuachoralsociety.org

• Nature through the seasons: The New Hampshire Art Association has an exhibition, "The View Through My Eyes," featuring the work of pastel artist Chris Reid, on view at the gallery in the Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (49 S. Main St.) now through March 18. Reid's pastels depict nature scenes from the four seasons, like emerging flowers and plants in the spring; gardens, farms and greenery in the summer; harvest landscapes and the changinging colors of leaves in the fall; and the natural shapes formed by ice and snow in the winter. "My work is a conversation with nature," Reid said in a press release. "My paintings are more than simple depictions of place. Rather, they invite a choreographed dance of the eyes, where the viewer is invited to look deep into the depths of the work and see the subject's spirit and life-force." Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• Literary Zoom: Gibson's Bookstore of Concord will host a virtual author event with Beverly Stoddart on Monday,





Art by Chris Reid, featured in "The View Through My Eyes" exhibition. Courtesy photo.

Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. Stoddart will present her new book Stories from the Rolodex: Important Figures of Journalism in Their Own Words, which includes a series of essays on local personalities from the golden age of journalism. She will be joined in conversation by local author (and Hippo associate publisher) Dan Szczesny. Then, on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m., Gibson's will virtually host poet Kyle Potvin, who will read from her new volume of verse Loosen (Volume XIV of the Hobblebush Granite State Poetry Series). Poet and executive director of The Frost Place Maudelle Driskell will join the reading and discussion. The events will be held on Zoom, and registration is required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

• A look at slavery in New England: The Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden in Portsmouth kicks off its free public winter continuing education series with a virtual lecture and discussion, "Confronting Slavery in Early New England: History, Sources and Interpetation," led by Dr. Jared Ross Hardesty, on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Hardesty is the author of Black Lives, Native Lands, White Worlds: A History of Slavery in New England (2019), "the first comprehensive look at slavery throughout New England in more than 50 years," according to a press release from the Moffatt-Ladd House. The book explores the lives of enslaved people in New England, how New England became wealthy from the slave trade and the connection between slavery in New England and the Carribean. Registration is required. Email education.moffatt. ladd@gmail.com to receive the link to the Zoom event. — Angie Sykeny







INSIDE/OUTSIDE

2020 gardens

What worked last year and what didn't

By Henry Homeyer listings@hippopress.com

This past year was a tough one for many of us: isolation due to Covid-19, political turmoil, employment

interruptions and more. But in the garden? For me, it was pretty good, overall. It was a very dry summer, but that meant that there were fewer fungal diseases on my tomatoes and phlox. Since a small stream passes through my property the water table is high, and my established plantings did fine with little supplemental watering.

Let's start in the vegetable garden. What tomatoes did best for me? For sheer production, it was one called "Big Mama." She is shaped like a plum tomato, but three times the size or more. Flavor-wise it was not spectacular for fresh eating, but it was great for making sauce. I got seeds from Burpee.

My best-flavored tomato? One I bought as a seedling called Hungarian Heart. It is a big, juicy tomato that makes any sandwich memorable. I ate them for breakfast, lunch and dinner when I had them. Seeds for this heirloom tomato are available from The Seed Savers Exchange or Burpee seeds. And since it is an heirloom, you can save seeds from this year's harvest to use next year.

Equally tasty is a perennial favorite of mine, the Sun Gold cherry tomato — early, relatively disease-free, highly productive. It's a modern hybrid, so you'll need to buy seeds or plants every year. But buy them early: They sell out fast. They're great for snacking or in salads. I also dehydrate them by the hundred and use in soups, stews and salads all winter.

Best-looking early tomato? Blue Beauty. It starts out blue but ripens to be a red tomato with black shoulders. Very productive with six- to eight-ounce tomatoes and a nice flavor. Hybrid. Seeds available from Pine Tree Garden Seeds.

Best annual flowers? My wife Cindy ordered 18 dahlia tubers last winter, and we started them indoors last March in 12-inch pots. We grew them under lights until mid-June, when the soil was warm enough to please this heat-loving flower. They grew purple, pink and white six-inch blossoms on six-foot-tall plants. We had more dahlia plants than any normal people would want, and even after we gave away a few we had a forest of them.

These big plants had to be staked, and the only thing strong enough to support them were one-inch-square hardwood grade stakes, fiveor six-footers. We dedicated one eight-foot by three-foot flower bed to them and scattered a few plants elsewhere.

For years I have been trying to find the perfect spot for a nice flowering shrub called Carolina allspice or sweetshrub. I moved it this year for the third time, and finally found a good spot. About 10 years ago I planted it in full sun with moist soil, and the leaves burned. Then I put it in shade, and

it didn't flower much. This year I moved it to a drier location in dappled shade under a pear tree. It grew well and appears to have settled in well.

Sweetshrub produces nice burgundy flowers in late June. Some varieties are very fragrant. Mine is not. (Note to self: Buy flowering plants when in flower if they are supposed to be fragrant.)

We had a fierce windstorm in 2020 and it partially tipped over a 15-foot catalpa tree that we'd had for three years. I was able to push it back up to vertical position but worried that it was unstable. I tied it to three stakes for a while. Then I had the idea to place a large stone over the root ball on the side that had lifted up. That really stabilized it, and I removed the ropes, which had begun to dig into the bark. So far, so good, despite strong winds this fall.

For years I have been frustrated by weeds that infested a walkway through a terraced area for flowers. Goutweed and creeping grasses were seemingly impossible to eradicate, especially



Calvcanthus or sweetshrub is a shade-loving shrub I love. Photo courtesy of Henry Homeyer.

since the roots could hide under the large flat stones I had used as stepping stones. This year my wife, Cindy, decided to make it

First we removed all stepping stones and she dug out the weed roots. She hired three teenagers to wheelbarrow away the soil and help with the digging as she excavated the path. They dug out a pathway about eight inches deep, two to three feet wide and 80 feet

long. They then put down six inches of one-inch crushed stone and covered it with landscape fabric. Then they edged it with bricks standing on edge and filled it with rounded pea stones about half an inch across.

The project was a huge success: For the first time ever, we had no weeds in the walkway. Not one, all summer. Stone, with no soil mixed in, will not grow weeds and the bricks kept soil in the beds from getting into the pathway. We will be on the lookout for scraps of goutweed that might pop up at the edges of the walkway next year, but the landscape fabric will keep any scraps of root from sending up shoots.

Each year is different. Each year certain flowers or vegetables are supremely happy, and others sulk. That's part of the fun of gardening: remembering the good, learning from the bad, and looking forward to the next year. My best wishes to you all for 2021.

Email henry.homeyer@comcast.net.



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KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for the weekend

Math discoveries

Have "Phun With Math," a virtual program from the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord) being presented on Friday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. Phun With Math is the theme for this month's Super Stellar Friday event. STEM instructor and Discovery Center educator David McDonald will explore fun patterns and numbers in nature, explain what you could do with a rope that circles the Earth at the equator, and show you how to increase your chances of choosing the right door in "Let's Make a Deal." This event is free, but registration is required at starhop.com.

Library fun, at home

Many local libraries are closed or have limited hours and services, but they're still offering plenty of fun for kids and families. The **Nashua Public Library** (2 Court St., 589-4600, nashualibrary. org) has virtual story times posted on its website, along with monthly interactive virtual activities — January's is "Case of the Missing Snowman." The library also offers age-appropriate craft projects on the second Saturday of each month; materials can be picked up curbside.

At the **Manchester City Library** (405 Pine St., 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us) kids can find a new Messy Art project online each Wednesday afternoon. The projects can be done at home with items



around the house. The next new project will be posted on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 3 p.m. Also on Wednesdays starting Jan. 13, the library will host "For the Young & Young at Heart – Movement and Songs" via Zoom, starting at 10 a.m. Registration is required for the live, 20-minute program, which encourages all ages to get moving.

And at the **Concord Public Library** (45 Green St., 225-8670, concordpubliclibrary.net) parents can pick up craft kits for their kids (and, every other week, for themselves). On Monday, Jan. 11, the Fun Coloring Kit will be made available to kids, while supplies last. The library is also hosting Book Bingo, challenging readers of all ages to complete as many squares as possible by Feb. 26. Fill in the squares with the names of books you've finished, and every time you get five in a row you'll earn a raffle ticket. Register online to have the game board emailed to you, or pick it up curbside.

To discover the virtual events and activities that are happening at your **local library**, visit its website — most town and city libraries have revamped their programming to offer safe, at-home fun for families.

TREASURE HUNT

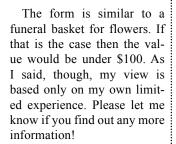
Dear Donna,

For years I've been meaning to contact you regarding my curiosity about a basket that was found in an old late 18th-century house in Chichester. The basket was found in the mid 1970s and I bought it at a yard sale!

Thank you for any information that you can offer me!
Lil

Dear Lil,

Baskets are tough for an appraisal and to know for sure when some of them were made. I think that my suggestion would be to see someone who has a lot of experience with baskets, such as Skinners in Bolton, Mass. You can send them a photo and they should be able to give you more information than I can. I would say it has an Asian look to it, which is another reason why it's tough!



Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years in the antiques and collectibles field, apprais-

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



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Looking to replace '93 Wrangler for reliability



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I am a proud
owner of a 1993
Jeep Wrangler that I grew
up with. It has
250,000 miles
on it, and I love
it to death. It fits
in the tiny park-

ing postage stamps in the city near me, it has enough clearance and four-wheel drive for the snowy winters and steep roads here, and best of all, it is so easy to work on (I do all my own mechanics). However, it's not really a friendly size for the family that I would like to start in a few years. And when I'm driving the interstate, I'm either holding up the truckers in the right lane or barreling along at 3,000 rpm while I panic internally that my engine will kick the bucket from the effort.

All of this is to say: I'm wracked with indecision. Drop a crate motor in or buy a new-ish car? Ray, what are your thoughts? What are the vehicles that fit the bill most closely? I am not super worried about reliability since I enjoy working on my vehicle (provided it's not catastrophic failure).

What vehicles are the easiest to work on nowadays? It seems like everything under the sun is jammed into the engine bay, and you're practically removing the motor to access the oil filter. Thanks.

— Casidy

Oh, Casidy. You probably thought this was a car question, didn't you? I actually think it's more than that. I think it's about adulthood.

The '93 Wrangler represents your youth. You grew up with it. You had lots of adventures with it. It didn't matter if it broke down. So what? Another adventure! You had no responsibilities.

And now you are thinking about starting a family, and you fear that it's time

to — yikes! — get practical. And I think you're right. Unfortunately, nothing is going to be as easy to work on as a Jeep from 1993 (which was pretty similar to a Jeep from '83, a Jeep from '73 or a Jeep from '63).

But if you love the barbaric nature, unreliability and occasional roof leaks of your old Jeep, you can always get one of the newer, four-door Wranglers. But those are big money and not great for toting kids. So at least see how the other half drives before you buy another Wrangler.

There are a ton of rugged-looking crossovers these days that have all of the practical qualities you love about your Jeep — the all-wheel-drive, the ground clearance, the compact size. But what they also have is comfort, safety, good mileage, reliability, a quiet interior, good handling, and room for strollers and child seats. Oh, and they're all able to stay in their lane for more than a few seconds.

I'll list a few. You'll have to go on some test drives and see what appeals to you: Toyota RAV4, Subaru Forester, Ford Bronco Sport, Nissan Rogue, Hyundai Tucson, Honda CR-V, VW Tiguan, Jeep Cherokee, Mazda CX-5.

Given the rugged self-image you've gotten used to driving your Jeep, I'd start with the RAV4 and Bronco Sport and go from there. And if you want either of those to ride just like your Wrangler, put an extra 10 pounds of air in the tires.

And here's my final suggestion: Don't sell your '93 Wrangler. It's not worth a lot anyway. Instead, store it. It'll make this transition a little easier. Then, once your kids are screaming and driving you crazy, hand them over to your spouse for a few hours and go out and get your hands dirty working on the Wrangler.

It'll be an escape from the chaos of your future life. It'll remind you of the

freedom and adventures you've had. You can revel in that while turning your wrenches. And it'll become more important to your self-image once you graduate to that minivan, Casidy.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2005 Saturn Ion with 127,000 miles on it. It's in very good condition for its age. However, about a year ago, I was driving it at about 25 miles per hour when the power steering indicator warning light ("PWR STR") and the chime warning sound came on and the power steering stopped working.

At exactly the same time the transmission dropped down to and remained in low gear, and the speedometer stopped working. Also, at the same time, the check engine light came on, and when I pressed the brake pedal, there was a clicking sound.

After a short time, everything simultaneously went back to normal. The car was fine for about a year. Then it happened again. Now it's been been happening intermittently over the past three weeks. The identical problems all come at the same time and later go at the same time. I took it to my mechanic who checked it for loose wires and loose connectors. He said he even disconnected and reconnected all the connectors at the car's computer but could find nothing.

At this time, the car has been fine for about a week. Any thoughts? — Dennis

Yeah. My first thought is to challenge your opening statement that this car is in very good condition for its age, Dennis.

I thought that perhaps some failing sensor put your car into "limp home mode." That's the same mode you go into after the neighbor kid leaves his bicycle out on the sidewalk, and you bang your shin on it. Limp home mode is designed to protect your car's catalytic converter.

If the computer gets a reading for one of the engine's sensors that suggests that harm may be done to your very expensive catalytic converter, it'll engage limp home mode, which reduces the engine's power dramatically, making it seem like you're in low gear. And that's usually accompanied by a low power light.

But you've got so many other warning lights on that I think your mechanic was on the right track to look for a more systemic electrical issue.

Normally, what we'd do in a case like this is something called a shake test. Basically, you grab onto every wire and connector you can find in the car and shake it, hoping that you can reproduce the problem and narrow down its source. And if you're really lucky, while you're yanking on all the wires, the car catches fire and that solves the problem.

There are so many things it could be: a corroded ground wire, a bad ignition switch, dirty connectors in a wire harness, a bad electronic control module (computer). Even a failing fuel pump could cause some of these symptoms.

I know you can't go to your local Saturn dealer anymore (RIP), but you might consider talking to someone at a friendly Chevy dealer, which serviced these cars after Saturn bailed.

Maybe they'll recognize the collection of symptoms and save you a few hundred hours of diagnostic detective work. If not, you can give your mechanic another crack at it and see if he finds a stored fault code in the computer this time or otherwise gets lucky.

And if that doesn't work, rest assured, Dennis, you've gotten your money out of this car. And if you decide it's time to move on — like Saturn did 10 years ago — nobody is going to think less of you. Good luck.

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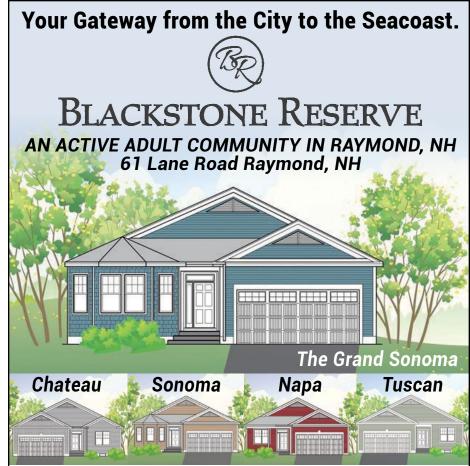
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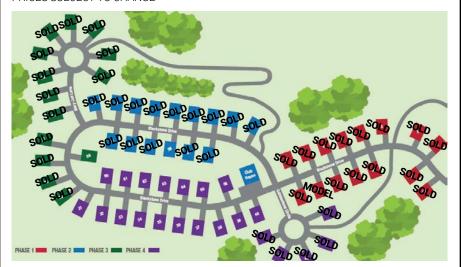


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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll food@hippopress.com

- Salem market moves indoors: The Salem Farmers Market will move indoors for the remainder of the winter beginning Sunday, Jan. 10, at a new location at 369 S. Broadway in Salem (the former location of Rockler Woodworking), according to a recent post on its Facebook page. The year-round market, which normally operates indoors from November through about April or May, has been outdoors at Salem Marketplace since this past March. According to Bonnie Wright of the market's board, limited hours of 10 a.m. to noon each Sunday will continue in the new location. Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.org.
- Blind wines: Join WineNot Boutique (221 Main St., Nashua) for a blind tasting of cabernet sauvignon wines on Thursday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants will taste nine wines, each of which will be hidden in brown bags, paired with varieties of cheese, chocolates and appetizers. After tasting each wine, you'll be asked to vote on your favorite. Separate tables and chairs will be set up for each attendee with its own individually prepared plate. The cost is \$40 per person and face masks are required when entering the store. Visit winenotboutique.com.
- Get in the spirit: LaBelle Winery recently unveiled a new line of spirit infusion kits under "The Winemaker's Kitchen" collection of handcrafted culinary products, according to a press release. Six natural flavors - juniper berry citrus, cinnamon vanilla, spicy bloody mary, triple citrus twist, vanilla bean old-fashioned and cranberry vodka — are included in the line, all of which are used to incorporate into a pre-existing alcoholic spirit of your choice. Simply add your favorite liquor to the infusion jar and let it rest for approximately a week. According to the release, kits are available to purchase online or by visiting LaBelle's Amherst location. Each kit includes one Ball jar with instructions and assorted herbs, spices and fruits for infusion. They can also be shipped or delivered locally. Visit labellewinery.com.
- Makris restaurant takes a break: Concord's Makris Lobster & Steak House has temporarily closed its doors as of Jan. 1, according to a recent post on the restaurant's website attributed to the Makris family. "We have come to a last-minute hard decision, after some deep thought, that it is in our best interest to shut down for a couple months due to Covid restrictions and lack of staff," the post reads. "Our plan is to renovate and reopen stronger than before." The post goes on to say that a reopening date for the restaurant is "to be determined" sometime in the future.

FOOD Lone Star eats

Texas-style BBQ food truck opens restaurant space in Milford



Breakfast brisket burritos. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll mingersoll@hippopress.com

Regina and Jeremy Davison gained a devoted following after the launch of their Texas-style barbecue food truck on Elm Street in Milford in late July. Now, after moving a few miles down the road, the couple is continuing that success at a brick-and-mortar location.

R & J Texas-style BBQ On Wheels, according to Regina Davison, will still be open outdoors as a mostly takeout operation. The new space, which opened last week in the former Pizza Top restaurant directly adjacent to the food truck, introduces indoor seating and expands the menu to include a wide variety of items not previously available, from breakfast options and weekly specialty burgers to mixed cocktails, spiked milk-shakes and more.

Whether you order pulled pork or beef brisket on a sandwich or as a combo



The inside of the new restaurant space. Courtesy photo.

plate — the meats are smoked overnight for 12 hours and 16 hours, respectively — you'll get a ton of it.

"Texas-style means a lot of fat, a lot of grease and a lot of food," said Regina Davison, a native of Dallas who came to New Hampshire about eight years ago. "What you would get at a normal restaurant, you get three times that much here. So you have enough for lunch, dinner and probably for lunch the next day."

An entree plate of brisket with either chicken, sausage, pulled pork or pork chops will come with three sides and a serving of cornbread. Davison makes all of her own sides from scratch, like baked beans that are prepared for six hours with pulled pork, bacon and brown sugar. Other sides include fresh collard greens, Gouda macaroni and cheese, chili cheese fries, grilled green beans with fried bacon, coleslaw, and potato salad with white or brown gravy.

Recently Davison has added items like

catfish, steaks and fried chicken; smothered chicken or pork chops with gravy, bell peppers and onions; and macaroni and cheese bowls topped with chili, brisket or pulled pork.

Breakfast is now available all day from the new location too.

"I'm creating my own hash that's going to be with brisket or pulled pork, and then I have what I call a Momma's breakfast burrito," she said. "We have pancakes and waffles as well."

Beginning this week Davison has introduced a "Wednesday Burger Madness" menu featuring a selection of specialty burgers only available on Wednesdays. They include options like the Davison Burger Extraordinaire, cooked medium and topped with bacon, two fried eggs, Gouda cheese, arugula, onions and a house sauce; and the Williams Beast Burger, which has pulled pork and pieces of ribs on top of a double meat patty, also with bacon, onions and a bourbon barbecue glazed sauce.

A drinks menu is also new for the indoor space, with a small selection of bottled beers, vanilla, chocolate or strawberry shakes (with the option to add a liqueur like Kahlua or amaretto), and mixed cocktails, like margaritas, mimosas, hurricanes and Texas rum punch.

In addition to keeping the truck open for takeout orders, Davison said it will remain available for event catering.



Brisket combo plate. Courtesy photo.

R & J Texas-style BBQ On Wheels

Where: 183 Elm St., Unit 3, Milford Anticipated hours: Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 9 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (breakfast is available all day)

More info: Visit rjtexasbbqonwheels.com, find them on Facebook or call 518-0186

Southwest inspired

Trio's Cafe & Cantina to open in Salem

By Matt Ingersoll mingersoll@hippopress.com

A new eatery coming to Salem later this month will offer family-sized meal kits, as well as other lunch and dinner items, with fresh ingredients and a unique Southwestern flair.

Trio's Cafe & Cantina, due to open in the Breckenridge Plaza on North Broadway in the coming weeks, gets its name from the owners — a "trio" of generations of the same family that includes general manager and Salem native Julie Manzer, her mother, Janet, and father, Paul, and her two daughters, Tanna and Keira Marshall.

Manzer, who previously owned the Purple Finch Cafe in Bedford, said she learned about the vacant restaurant space last August from her best friend in high school.

"My friend had wanted me to own something around here where I grew up, and so I ran it by my family and we decided to look into it," she said. "Originally I was going to do breakfast and lunch, because that was kind of the world I was used to ... but with Covid it seemed to make more sense to focus on

With Covid it

seemed to make

focus on takeout

and family meal

deals **

more sense to

takeout and family meal deals."

It's that concept, combined Manzer's with love of Southern California and Tex-Mex flavors, that sets the menu at Trio's apart. Meal kit options will include tacos, enchiladas or fajitas, with either chicken or steak and flour or corn tortillas; various soups and chilis

by the quart; and tray-sized or take-andbake bowls, like a chili and macaroni and cheese bowl with sour cream and tortilla strips, a plant-based protein bowl with sweet potato, black beans and avocado, and a citrus chicken bowl with bacon, tomato, greens, cheddar cheese and onion.

There are several sandwich, burger and side options that you'll be able to order via either takeout or dine-in. The Southern "Steuben," for instance, will feature barbecue pulled pork, coleslaw, melted cheddar cheese and ranch on grilled country white bread, while the Philly torta has steak, onion, bell peppers,



Left to right, are: general manager Julie Manzer, her father Paul Manzer, older daughter Tanna Marshall, mother Janet Manzer and younger daughter Keira Mar-

queso, jalapeno, avocado and chipotle mayonnaise on a tolera roll. A "comfort kitchen" section of the menu has plated options like beer-braised steak or half-roasted chicken with veggies, pulled pork chipotle barbecue macaroni and

cheese, and tempura-battered fish and chips with a lime cabbage carrot slaw.

Trio's is also rolling out menu of Southwestern-themed house cocktails, in addition to some bottled beers. wines and seltzers, and white citrus or seasonal red sangrias with fresh fruit.

"I have a freshsqueezed orange juice machine, so we'll have a house margarita that has a little bit of that in it," Manzer said. "We'll also have bloody marys and marias, and mimosa flights."

Trio's Cafe & Cantina

JULIE MANZER

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

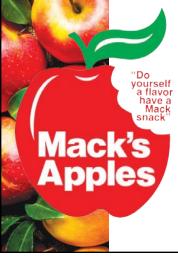
Where: 264 N. Broadway, Unit 105, Salem Anticipated hours: Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. More info: Visit trioscc.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram



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Meredith Touma of Derry is the owner of Sal Terrae Seasonings (salterraeseasonings.com, and on Facebook and Instagram @salterraeseasonings), a company offering four hand-crafted spice blends using various herbs, salts, peppers and other ingredients. Named after the Latin translation of "salt of the Earth." Sal Terrae started last April as a grassroots project when Touma, a stay-at-home mom for 14 years, began shar-



ing her spice blends with neighbors, friends and community members. Over the summer she brought her spices to farmers markets in Nashua, Bedford and Exeter. Sal Terrae's spice blends, each of which is prepared at Creative Chef Kitchens in Derry, are the Classic, with local lavender and fennel; the Italian, with herbs like rosemary, sage, thyme, basil and oregano; the Inferno, a hot, earthy blend with Trinidad scorpion and ghost peppers; and the Beach, which has cinnamon, oregano, clove, ginger, mace and smoked paprika. Four-ounce bottles of each of Touma's blends are available at The Grind in Derry, Mr. Steer Meats in Londonderry, the East Derry General Store and Donahue's Fish Market in Plaistow. Online ordering is also available.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I love to cook, and anyone who's always in the kitchen knows the importance of a good, sharp knife.

What would you have for your last meal? Just a regular simple broth fondue. We like to season that with the Inferno blend.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I have a soft spot for the East Derry Tavern. The food is spectacular. I have known [owners] Sam and Lina Patel for years ... and they've done a magnificent job turning it into a gorgeous town gem.

What celebrity would you like to see trying one of your spice blends?

Definitely Gordon Ramsay. I know it's very cliche, but he's actually been a culinary inspiration of mine for 20 years. I've been following him even before he had all of his TV shows. We've eaten at The London in New York City, which is a stunning restau-

rant. ... It would be an honor to be able to thank him for his inspiration.

What is your favorite spice blend that you

The Beach. I use it on everything from salmon to brisket and pork ribs.

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

Home cooking. People are forced to ... be creative in the kitchen and to make things at home they would normally eat while out. There are so many Zoom classes out there now that you can sign up for.

What is your favorite thing to cook at

Coq au vin is probably my No. 1 go-to meal, especially in the winter season. I love cooking with chicken thighs. I give them a really hard sear and make them with tomatoes, carrots and tons of mushrooms.

— Matt Ingersoll 🦛

Sal Terrae roasted corn and shrimp chowder

From the kitchen of Meredith Touma of Sal Terrae Seasonings in Derry

- 1-pound bag frozen corn
- 1 can unsalted creamed corn
- 3 to 4 slices thick-cut bacon, chopped
- 2 pounds medium peeled and deveined shrimp (marinated in 1 tablespoon Sal Terrae Beach seasoning at room temperature for about 10 minutes)
- 1 package chicken sausage (Buffalo or sweet apple), sliced into coins
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 to 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 1 red pepper, julienned
- 3 to 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- 3 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup heavy cream

Place frozen corn on a lined baking pan, toss with chopped bacon and roast in the oven for 10 to 15 minutes, until bacon is cooked entirely. Set aside. In a wide stock pan, sauté onion in olive oil for five minutes, until translucent. Add garlic, celery, carrots, sausage and red pepper. Sauté on medium-high until the sausages brown slightly. Add one tablespoon of Sal Terrae Inferno seasoning and chicken broth. Bring to a boil, stir in cream and add potatoes. Let simmer for 15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender. If you prefer a creamier chowder, use an immersion blender to break up the potatoes. Return to a rolling boil and add shrimp, creamed corn and roasted bacon and corn mixture. Cook until shrimp are cooked evenly (about 3 to 5 minutes), stirring occasionally. Remove from

Keep-it-healthy caramelized onion dip

I'm not much of a chip person, but I know that for many people chips and dip are a top-of-the-list snack item. However, if you're trying to eat healthfully after a holiday season of indulgence (or a year of Covid-stress eating for that matter), chips may be on your "do not eat" list.

Let me offer an alternative. Rather than eating your regular but not-good-for-you French onion dip and potato chips, give this caramelized onion dip a try. It's full of onion flavor and is wonderfully creamy but still fairly healthy. If you serve it with the homemade lavash chips at the end of this recipe, you have a snack that's much, much healthier.

Like most healthy versions of recipes, the key to this is to set your expectations. This dip does not taste like store-bought French onion dip. However, it has its own flavor profile that is quite addictive. In addition to the abundance of onions, there is a nice tanginess from the goat cheese, as well as peppery notes from the thyme.

Don't deny yourself snacks while you're



Keep-it-healthy caramelized onion dip. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

working on your healthy eating; just a little bit of effort will provide a healthy appetizer to satisfy your cravings. Who knows? This caramelized onion dip and lavash chips could become your go-to snack.

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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Keep-it-healthy caramelized onion dip

1/2 tablespoon olive oil

1 1/4 cup diced yellow onion

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

2 teaspoons fresh thyme, minced 3/4 cup Greek yogurt

3/4 cup Greek yogur

2 ounces goat cheese, softened

1/4 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium-low heat.

Add onions and sauté, stirring occasionally, until the onions are softened and brown, about 20 minutes.

Add sugar and thyme and sauté for an additional minute.

Meanwhile, combine yogurt, goat cheese and salt, whisking until smooth.

Add sautéed onions to yogurt mixture, stirring well.

Season with pepper to taste.

Can be served warm, or covered and refrigerated to be served cold.

Serve with homemade lavash crackers (recipe below), or vegetables, such carrots and celery

Homemade lavash chips

1 lavash sheet

Water

Salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Sprinkle a teaspoon of water on lavash; using fingertips, spread water to coat.

Top with a pinch of salt.

Bake on oven rack in middle of oven for 4 minutes.

Remove from oven, cool for 30 seconds, and then break into crackers.

Food & Drink

Farmers marke

• Cole Gardens Winter Farmers Market is Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road, Concord), now through mid-April. Visit colegardens.com.

• Danbury Winter Market is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Blazing Star Grange Hall (15 North Road, Danbury), now through April. Visit blazingstargrange.org.

• Deering Winter Market is Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Deerish Fish & Game Club (Fish & Game Road, Deering). Find them on Facebook @deeringwintermarket.

• Peterborough Farmers Market is Wednesdays, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Peterborough Community Center (25 Elm St., Peterborough). Find them on Facebook @ peterboroughnhfarmersmarket.

• Rolling Green Winter Farmers Market is on most Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Rolling Green Nursery (64 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland). Upcoming market dates are Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27. Visit rolling-greennursery.com.



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Soul B+

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Laraaji, Moon Piano (self-released)



In news from the weird, we present this New York pianist, an 80-year-old cult artist whose forte is sparse ambiance for New Agers who'd like their brains to kindly stop for a second. Apparently the big sell is that these slow, deserted improv pieces were recorded in a Brooklyn church, but quite honestly, that's an effect that could have come by way of a few decent knob twists on the part of an engineer, not to harsh anyone's mellow about it, particularly if you love whatever he's done before. I mean, a well-played acoustic piano is a sound

to behold; my parents were both M.A. graduate pianists of New England Conservatory, so I was spoiled absolutely rotten in that regard, and therein lies my rub: This is, in the end, a one-man jam session focused on careful, reflective non-songs, largely minor key experimentations comprising various series of notes that will appeal to not overly cultured art-freaks. Nothing wrong with that, I suppose, but for me, regardless of this guy's training/pedigree/whatever, it's non-eventful. **B** -Eric W. Saeger

Hunter, 1960 (self-released)



Hunter Stamas is a Portsmouth-byway-of-Nashua singer who's led her band through a few albums now, this one being the latest. It's stunningly polite, this stuff, heavy on the guitar jangle, squeaky clean vocal tracks that could certainly amaze young YouTube addicts and the fedora-hatted denizens of your favorite bars and eateries (opening soon, I hope, dear God). To dispense with the vulgarities, the production values are decent (a lot more pro-sounding than most of the local material that gets flopped onto this desk) and the songs general-

ly stick to a specific formula (ditto), making it something of a contender you might place in your SoundCloud queue between the first Miley Cyrus album and basically anything by Bonnie Raitt. I know that might sound a bit weird, but from my seat it's not unusual at all; Stamas is a commercial-oriented songwriter who's come close here; there's a '60s Yardbirds/girl-group vibe at work that's actually pretty unique. **B**+ — Eric W. Saeger

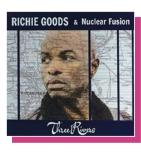
A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Way kool, everything's back to normal, with plenty of new albums coming out on Jan. 8! Or so I thought, it doesn't really look like a ton of stuff, but at least there's something, starting with the new album from Barry Gibb, called Greenfields! Gibb is, of course, one of the founders of that old disco band The Bee Gees. He was the pretty-handsome one who looked like God's idea of a male Farrah Fawcett, but now, guess what, he looks like a trucker who'd beat you up for driving a sissy electric car. But that's what happens to all of us, like one time years ago, my boy-ees and I were walking around near the Worcester Centrum, and these three girls came up to me and insisted I was Michael Hutchence from INXS, and it took forever to convince 'em otherwise, up to and including my refusal to speak in an Australian accent, but nowadays ... well, never you mind about nowadays, and that's what happens, so don't get old, I'm serious. Oh whatever, we're supposed to be talking about this old disco has-been, who became a "knight" in England, like, can you imagine if 10-foot-tall alien monsters landed here and demanded to fight our planet's "knights," so we had to trot out Paul McCartney, Elton John and this dude? We'd be doomed, just like this album's lead single, "Words Of A Fool," is doomed to be mistaken for a Matthew McConaughey cover of a Willie Nelson song. It sucks, let's move on.
- Swedish post-punk ruffians Viagra Boys release their second LP, Welfare Jazz, any minute now. The single "Ain't Nice" is terrific, a grungy, messy soundsystem thing that krazy-glues Chainsmokers to Big Black. It's awesome.
- British folk-rock dude and former busker Michael Rosenberg goes by the stage name Passenger because he knows that no hipster kids would buy an album by someone with a ridiculous name like Michael Rosenberg, you know? I wonder how long the person-who-goes-by-aband-name trend will continue, don't you? If it does continue for much longer, I hope these "bands" will start thinking of cool "band names," like if I were going to use a band name as my own name, I'd probably call myself, er, I mean my band, something like Tell Grandma It's Polka And Watch Her Epic Reaction When The Crazy Kicks In. Cool, huh? Oh, I don't care if you think that, and besides, that Van Halen tribute band I talked about forming a few weeks ago never materialized, so no bands for me, just writing in this latest column about this onedude-band here and his new album, Songs for the Drunk and Broken Hearted. I'm watching the video for the tune "A Song For The Drunk And Broken Hearted," and it's pretty dumb, like he's sort of cosplaying as the Joaquin Phoenix version of The Joker, and the six or eight people in the crowd are razzing him, and then he launches into the song, a strummy, harmonica-powered ditty that sounds like Conor Oberst trying to sound like Bob Dylan. It is very "meh," if that's your thing.
- Lastly we have Dangerous: The Double Album from cowboy-hat singing dude Morgan Wallen, who got arrested for public drunkenness outside Kid Rock's gross bar in Nashville. On the title track he sings-raps like a total redneck, like the guy from Primus but not joking around. It's kind of cool I suppose. — Eric W. Saeger

Retro Playlist

Jazz comes in all sorts of flavors, not that you're required to know even that much about the genre if you're a budding newbie aficionado of it. Sometimes jazz guys will throw different genres into their recipe, as I discussed six years ago, in January 2015, when I wrote about Three Rivers, an

LP from Richie Goods and Nuclear Fusion. ed-animation riff that proves he can restrain A Pittsburgh Jazz Hall of Fame bass player, himself from going all-out Pelican-metal, but Goods has toured with Whitney Houston and the desire is there," as indicated by every plonk Christina Aguilera, which speaks to a pedigree he earned after studying under legendary Blue Note Records legend Ron Carter in New who punches up every guitar sound from Al di York. With regard to his own (original) stuff, Meola to Blue Oyster Cult on that one track with the job of re-creating various Miles Davis ger@cyberontix.com for fastest response.

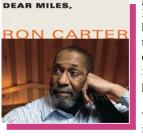


I'd anticipated mellow-ish fusion alone." a la Spyro Gyra, but it was really more a modernized **Return to Forever**, although in some cases not so modernized when considering the outright hard rock workouts found in such tunes as the title track. There's definitely a heavy influence afoot here; album opener "Soul Glow" has, as I put it back then, "a suspend-

of his Rickenbacker, not to mention the grungy sounds of guitarist Ben Butler, "a real treasure

Speaking of Ron Carter, he released a full-length on Blue Note Records in 2007. Dear Miles, which was discussed in this space. With a resume packed with guest spots on – get this - over 3,500 albums, Carter had more than earned the right to rely on his past association with Miles Davis, who kept

Carter on for most of his 1960s output. It was harmonically uncomplicated, I noted: "With Roger Squitero on board strictly to fortify percussion, the only harmonic instrument within this outing's four-piece framework is the piano of Stephen Scott, who is kept crazy-busy



grooves for this sort-of-tribute LP (ex: in order to shrink the big band sound of 'Gone' from the Evans/Miles Porgy & Bess collaboration into these confines, Scott takes on the horn parts)."

Obviously a great one for wonks of both Miles and bass in general.

If you're in a local band, now's a great time to let me know about your EP, your single, whatever's on your mind. Let me know how you're holding yourself together without being able to play shows or jam with your homies. Send a recipe for keema matar. Email esae**POP CULTURE** BOOKS *Exercised*, by Daniel Lieberman (Pantheon, 464 pages)

Your resolution is to exercise. Hasn't it always been? Harvard professor Daniel Lieberman, however, offers reasons to sit down and think about exercising before you actually do it.

Lieberman isn't an athlete or an exercise scientist, but a professor of human evolutionary biology. In his

words, "I study and teach how and why the human body looks and functions the way it does." His Harvard lab is about skeletal biology and is well worth a visit just to see the image of a skeleton running there (projects. iq.harvard.edu/skeleton).

As such, Lieberman brings a fresh perspective to the business of exercise in his quest to understand what is normal, and what is abnormal, about contemporary human beings in motion. We all know what we've been told in recent years: that aerobic exercise can help stave off disease and lengthen lifespans, that too much sitting is deadly, that the slothful American lifestyle is an aberration of what the body is designed to do. Forget all that. We did not evolve to exercise, at least not in the way we think of exercise today.

Lieberman eviscerates some myths about exercise and confirms others as truths in his research of primitive societies like the Hadza tribe in Tanzania, the legendary Tamahumara long-distance runners of Mexico, and American extreme athletes, like those who participate in Ironman contests.

Along the way, he tackles the athletic compulsions (or lack thereof) of animals like gorillas and dogs, noting that unlike his dog, "I never see adults leap out of their cars ... and sprint as fast as possible until they gasp for air."

Studies of gorillas and chimpanzees — and also human beings in hunter-gatherer societies — show that they don't go out of their way to exert themselves, much like many Americans today.

"For most of the time, our closest ape relatives are sluggards that live a sort of perpetual Sabbath," Lieberman writes.

While demonstrably hard on the human skeleton, sitting still is "an ancient, fundamental strategy to allocate scarce energy sensibly" — and at times, long periods of sitting are good for us, as when we are able to sit quietly for a long time to focus on something important, like reading a book or playing chess. (The Germans have word for such periods of intense concentration: sitzfleisch, which crudely translates to "butt flesh," Lieberman writes.)

In fact, there is evidence that humans might consider him an erudite have evolved to be "especially averse" to fascinating journey that E exercise, he says, noting that even when we A—Jennifer Graham

Exercised Why Something We Never Evolved to Do Is Healthy and Rewarding



Daniel E. Lieberman

are sitting quietly our bodies are still at work, burning 70 or so calories an hour on internal processes such as digestion and moving blood around. Even people who are highly active burn more calories through basic body maintenance than through exercise, a man who weighs 180 pounds burning about 1,700 calories in 24 hours with no running, biking or squats.

That does not mean, however, that you can throw out the New Year's resolution, at least not if you want to feel good, be healthy and live long.

Lieberman himself runs, albeit slowly, and admits to doing so even during research in societies that look on any uncoerced physical activity with suspicion. "Why would anyone run if they didn't have to?" one of the Tarahumara runners asked him, incredulously. In fact, in many societies around the world, people would laugh themselves silly if confronted with the Spandexed American earnestly huffing on a city street, Peloton or treadmill. These people, while still enjoying plenty of leisure and sitting, move more than we do, whether just by walking to get to their destinations or chasing down goats on foot. In fact, most modern humans walk less than we used to, and when we walk we carry less stuff, Lieberman writes.

Having established himself as an expert on pretty much everything (even digressions into topics such as how different cultures sleep are engrossing), he goes on to weigh in on perennial questions such as can you really lose weight by walking more, is running bad for your knees, and, perhaps most importantly, how can we make ourselves exercise regularly? (Forget doing it for the endorphins; the runner's high, Lieberman says, likely evolved to increase sensory awareness in our ancestors who ran as they hunted, and not everyone experiences it anyway.)

Federal guidelines recommend 150 minutes of moderate exercise each week, which amounts to 21 minutes a day. That's one-sixth the amount of activity that people in non-industrial societies get.

Lieberman brings a keen wit to the subject and a seemingly limitless supply of contemporary analogies. (In memorable passages, he likens evolutionary trade-offs to the Jane Austen novel *Mansfield Park* and notes that most superheroes come by their powers indirectly, unlike Batman, who works out). He also draws from an extraordinary well of experiences, to include dogsledding through Greenland and participating in the manversus-horse marathon in Arizona. This is a guy you want at the head of the table at your dream dinner party. Until that happens, consider him an erudite companion on the fascinating journey that *Exercised* provides.

These are the top
post-pandemic skill sets employers want:

Digital Transformation

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*Research sources available at NHTI.edu/news.

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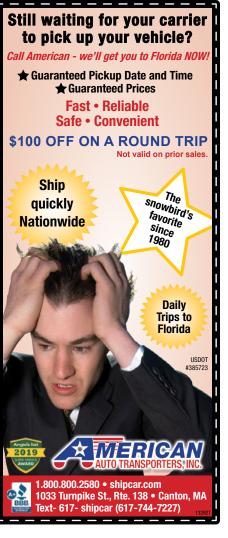
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BOOK NOTES

If you don't want to exercise but want to be healthier, happier or lose weight, there's only one option: change your diet. As always, there's a fresh crop of dieting books out this month to help with the post-holiday pounds. (Eventually, let's hope, the post-pandemic ones, too.)

Here are a few worth of attention:

The Case for Keto, by Gary Taubes (Knopf, 304 pages) — The author of The Case Against Sugar and Why We Get Fat wants us to eat fewer carbs and more fats.

The How Not To Diet Cookbook, by Dr. Michael Greger (Flatiron, 256 pages) — Seriously, you had to know this was coming when Greger's first book, How Not To Die, was released.

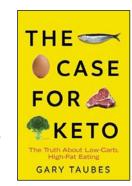
Fast This Way, by Dave Asprey (Harper Wave, 288 pages) — A bullet-proof guide to becoming the high-performing human you were meant to be, the publisher promises.

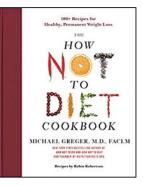
Anxiety-Free With Food, by Liana Werner-Gray (Hay House, 352 pages) — On relieving stress, depression and anxiety by using food as medicine, like Hippocrates advised.

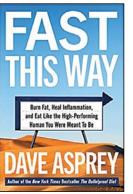
Body Love, by Kelly LeVeque (Morrow, 384 pages) — Journal your way to a healthy lifestyle in 12 weeks

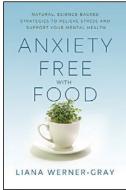
by focusing on "the fab four" — protein, fat, fiber and greens.

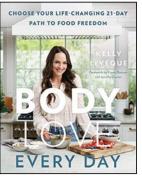
Finally, just in case 2021 is *not*, in fact, better than 2020, there's *The Meateater Guide to Wilderness Skills and Survival* by Steven Rinella (Random House, 464 pages). If nothing else, you'll want to read the introduction, titled "The Surprising Danger of S'Mores." — *Jennifer Graham*

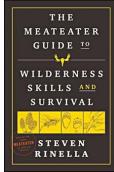












BOOKS

Author events • K WOODMAN-MAYNARD

224-0562.

- Author presents graphic novel adaptation of *The Great Gats-by*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online, via Zoom. Thurs., Jan. 7, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call
- REBECCA CARROLL Author presents Surviving the White Gaze. Virtual livestream hosted by The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Tues., Feb. 2, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5. Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.
- **DIANE REHM** Author presents *When My Time Comes*. Virtual livestream hosted by The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Tues., Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5. Call 436-2400 or visit themusichall.org.

- SUSAN CONLEY Author presents *Landslide*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Online, via Zoom. Thurs., Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.
- THERESA CAPUTO the star of TLC's Long Island Medium will present "Theresa Caputo: The Experience Live" at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St. Concord, ccanh.com) on Wed., April 7, 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$39.75 (with option for a VIP Photo Op for an additional \$49.95).

Book Clubs

• BOOKERY Online. Monthly. Third Thursday, 6 p.m. Bookstore based in Manchester. Visit bookerymht.com/online-book-club or call 836-6600.

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

Language

• FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE CLASSES

Offering remotely by the Franco-American Centre. Six-week winter session runs Jan. 21 through Feb. 25, with classes held Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Spring session dates TBA. \$225. Visit facnh.com/education or call 623-1093.

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POP CULTURE FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

Soul (PG)

A middle-aged man hangs between life and "the Great Beyond" just as his dreams of being a working musician appear to be coming true in Soul, an animated movie from Pixar.

Joe Gardner (voice of Jamie Foxx) teaches band to high school students, who have varying degrees of interest in his instruction, but his real passion is to get a full-time paying gig as a professional jazz musician. He has chased this desire, to much disappointment, for years. His mom, Libba (voice of Phylicia Rashad), urges him to quit chasing this dream and accept the teaching position (and its pension and health care and steady paycheck) permanently. But then Joe has an audition with Dorothea Williams (voice of Angela Bassett) for a position as a piano player in her jazz band. He gets a chance to play a gig with her that night that could put him in as a regular. So delighted is Joe as he walks down the street contemplating this new future that he doesn't realize there's an open pothole in his path until he's fallen into

He suddenly finds himself a bloop of glowy, vaguely person-shaped blueness, headed on a pathway through the stars up to what he's told is the Great Beyond. Joe is definitely not interested in the Beyond; he wants to go back to the city and play jazz. Luckily, the afterlife doesn't have the strictest security ever and he's able to stumble away from the path to the Beyond and into the Great Before, a sort of nursery area for new souls. He's mistaken for a mentor and is given new soul 22 (voice of Tina Fey) to mentor. His task is to help her find her "spark" and get her ready to go to Earth.



But 22 wants none of Earth and its whole "life and eventual death" thing. She's had lots of mentors — all of whom have given up in frustration at her lack of a "spark." Joe sees an opportunity; he'll help 22 find her spark and earn the badge that lets her go to Earth and he'll take the badge to return to his body and she can stay in the soft new souls land forever. Thus do they set off to find 22's purpose.

Along the way, Joe and 22 do make it to Earth for a bit, though 22 winds up in Joe's body and Joe winds up in the body of an emotional therapy cat. That cat, who (as Joe) can talk (at least to 22) and do things like push elevator buttons, is the most actively kid-like element of the movie. Similar to how Inside Out used personifications of emotions and personality traits rendered as physical spaces, Soul gives dimension to spiritual elements -

for example, a place called "in the zone" where living people's souls go when they're playing a great basketball game or lost in a musical performance, and a variant of that location where souls go when they've lost connection to life and greater purpose. Soul is thoughtful and beautiful and I'm not sure I totally understand who this movie is for.

I mean, it really is beautiful — beautiful looking in how it blends the different visual ideas about an afterlife with the "real" world, beautiful sounding in its lovely score that mixes jazz and other musical styles. And it has some really beautiful ideas about life and what gives a person's life meaning. I recently finished a rewatch of the series The Good Place, so maybe I am particularly susceptible to big-picture "what does it all mean" ideas rendered with a bit of cartooniness. I liked

been even more enveloped in all the visuals. But where Inside Out was tethered to the kidworld by the girl the emotions operated in and the kid parts of her life experience, like imaginary friends, I'm not sure how kids connect to Soul. My younger kids saw parts and seemed to enjoy the music and the little soul blobs, but there is a level of zaniness missing here. (And the "lost souls" idea is expressed in a way that feels just disturbing enough that it would stick with younger kids, perhaps popping up in their brains at, like, 2 a.m.) I rewatched the movie with my elementary-aged kid and her interest seemed to wane as the movie went on. The idea that singular focus on your big break, the life milestone that will really "start" your life, will cause you to miss what your actual life is, for all its joy and heartbreak, is interesting to me. Do such concepts have any meaning to kids? I mean, my kid laughed at some of the butt jokes, so it wasn't a total loss.

this movie and I think I would have liked it even more on a big screen, where I could have

This doesn't make the movie less successful as a, like, piece of film but as a PG movie on Disney+ it did make me wonder if when this movie goes on during family movie night, it will be the kids falling asleep and fiddling with an iPad while the parents are paying rapt attention. B+

Rated PG for thematic elements and some language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Pete Docter and Kemp Powers with a screenplay by Pete Docter & Mike Jones & Kemp Powers, Soul is an hour and 40 minutes long and distributed by Disney. It is available on Disney+.

SOFAPLEX

Wolfwalkers (PG)

Voices of Sean Bean, Maria Doyle Kennedy. In 1650, young girl Robin Goodfellowe (voice of Honor Kneafsey) and her father (voice of Sean Bean) travel to Ireland on order of the Lord Protector (voice of Simon McBurney). He's tasked Papa Goodfellowe with killing all the wolves in the forests of Kilkenny to make it easier for woodsmen to cut down the trees. But these woods are inhabited by not just wolves but wolfwalkers, according to local legend, who are people that can turn into wolves while asleep and, in either form, communicate with other wolves. Robin, a plucky girl who wants to help dad in his work, happens to meet a wolfwalker, Mebh (voice of Eva Whittaker), a plucky girl not unlike herself. Because of a little misunderstanding involving Robin's pet bird Merlin and a trap Mebh had set to keep humans out of the forest, Mebh also bit but then healed Robin. The girls become friends, with Mebh explaining that the human form of her mother has been sleeping for a while,

with her mother's wolfy spirit somewhere unknown and the ever-shrinking woods full of increasingly hostile humans.

The animation here is truly lovely, an illustrated picture book of rich landscapes and vibrant wild areas, which contrast nicely with the gray and angular people and town under English control. Common Sense Media ranks the film at age 8+ and that's probably pretty accurate. Though I let my younger kids watch some of the less scary scenes, the movie does portray the bloodlust and general cruelty of the wolf-hunting (and Irish-oppressing) Lord Protector in some stark ways, getting across menace that is plenty frightening for all that it isn't openly gory. (Also, we might come to root for the wolves but they're still pretty wolf-y with their teeth and their growls.) The movie also does a good job at conveying the genuine sweetness of Robin and Mebh's friendship and the girls' blend of fear and bravery. This movie is co-directed by Tomm Moore, who also co-directed/directed the much lauded animated movies The Secret of Kells and Song of the Sea. The beauty and engaging storytelling of Wolfwalkers has me eager to check out those films as well. A Available on Apple TV+.

Movie screenings, ie-themed happenings & virtual events

Venues

Chunky's Cinema Pub

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

Cinemagic

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

LaBelle Winery

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

Red River Theatres

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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

Shows

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

- · Saved by the Bell Trivia Night Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+. Reserve a spot by purchasing a \$5 food voucher per person.
- Our Hospitality (1923) silent Buster Keaton film accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapsis screens on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre, Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- The Storytellers a week-long series of silent films accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapsis at Wilton Town Hall Theatre, Monday, Jan. 11, through Friday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. each night. Admission is free but a \$10 donation per per-

son is suggested. Films: Monday is Destiny (1921) from director Fritz Lang; Tuesday is Intolerance (1916) from director D.W. Griffith; Wednesday is Spiders (1919) from Lang; Thursday is Way Down East (1920) from Griffith; Friday is The Saphead (1920) starring Buster Keaton.

- · Princess Bride Trivia Night Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+. Reserve a spot by purchasing a \$5 food voucher per person.
- Peter Pan (1924) silent film accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapsis screens on Sunday, Jan. 24, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- · Dawson's Creek Trivia Night Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+. Reserve a spot by purchasing a \$5 food voucher per person.
- Star Wars Trivia Night Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester, 21+. Reserve a spot by purchasing a \$5 food voucher per person.

By Michael Witthaus mwitthaus@hippopress.com

- Twang: Enjoy country music from singer and guitarist Jackie Lee, who borrows nicely from Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn and others masters of the genre. She's a regular at this and other Lakes Region venues. Expect a setlist with classics like "Ring of Fire" — her version is a solid recreation of the June Carter Cash original — along with a few modern favorites. Thursday, Jan. 7, 8 p.m., Tower Hill Tavern, 264 Lakeside Ave., Laconia. See facebook.com/jackie.lee.967806.
- Song: A series of virtual concerts kicks off with Natural Woman, a tribute to legendary singer and songwriter Carole King. The evening of music, originally scheduled as a live audience show before the winter Covid-19 surge forced a change of plans, will focus on King's breakthrough album, Tapestry, which became a blueprint for multiple generations of female performers. Friday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., the show is presented by the Palace Theatre. Stream tickets \$15 at palacetheatre.org.
- Giggle: Despite the challenges, comedy shows remain popular in the pandemic. Veteran Steve Scarfo performs two nights in the repurposed movie theater that's now home to the Headliners franchise. Born in Maine, Scarfo came up in the Boston club scene and once took part in a hilarious mashup of Survivor and Last Comic Standing that's worth checking out on YouTube. Friday, Jan. 8, and Saturday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m., Chunky's Cinema Pub, 707 Huse Road, Manchester, tickets \$20 at chunkys.com.
- Flame: Tradition lives, even in these socially distanced days, as Carl Solo provides musical entertainment for the annual Christmas Tree Burning Party at an Auburn dining and drinking hub. It's the 25th year for the event, as pines go up in flames and a heartfelt goodbye is offered to the worst year ever (though music fans may argue for 2016), along with food and libations. Saturday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Auburn Pitts, 167 Rockingham Road, Auburn, more at facebook.com/Carl-Solo-105864034170907.
- Lighten: Arguably the hardest-working man in local music, Brad Bosse recently announced plans to scale back his performing schedule to weekends only and pursue a career in real estate, pivoting from rocking houses to selling them. Here's to the best for Brad, whose deep catalog of covers and regular venue selfies will be reduced but thankfully not extinguished for good. Monday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m., The Goat, 142 Congress St., Portsmouth, more at facebook.com/Brad4Bosse.

Original music on tap

Lakes Region brewery hosts Charlie Chronopoulos

By Michael Witthaus mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Amidst the challenges of 2020, Twin Barns Brewing Co. in Meredith continued to offer live music along with craft beer. That is scheduled to continue on Jan. 8 when singer-songwriter Charlie Chronopoulos appears, on the heels of a new album he released at year's end.

Chronopoulos said in a recent phone interview that the seven starkly rendered songs on Chesty Rollins' Dead End reflect daily life struggles he sees in his home state of New Hampshire.

"There's this backward narrative of poverty around this area," he said. "A lot of these are real stories that I wove into a record. ... I would call it northern rock and soul."

He carefully alludes to the shame and desperation of addiction on "Solomons" and "God In The Details," then confronts it head on in "Middlesex," a loping shuffle that recalls a former band member lost to heroin. "He went to Hollywood and found a rubber band," Chronopoulos sings. "Coming of age, it came and went."

Punctuated by deft fingerpicked guitar riffs, "Glass Factory" lays out the themes haunting the record. "I can tell you all about the fragile things we make," Chronopoulos sings in a near-wail. "They spend their lives about to break, should stay up on the shelf."

Much of the storytelling comes from his theater experience. Among other projects, Chronopoulos worked with American Repertory Theatre on Witness Uganda, which later went to Broadway as Invisible Thread.

"A lot of the cast overlapped with the team that worked on Hamilton," he said. "So I got to see that take off."

The raw honesty in his lyrics also reflects a decision to pursue an artist's life close to home — "a lounge singer, that's what I am, I'm not some touring national act" — and what he's been exposed to as a result.

"I play a lot of rural bars, and I see the other side of things," he said. "I'm not trying to take a political stance on it, but I see the humanity in a lot of the struggle. My mother's side of the family had a lot of death to heroin in the last few years and displaced family members hopping around. My little sister, she's on the spectrum, finding housing for her has been tough. All these things ended up coming out in the songs one way or another."

Its title is an amalgamation of a famous stripper — "she had 77-inch guns 'like deadly weapons' was the way they sold her" — his mother's maiden name, and Chronopoulos's early life experience.

"I realized that ... certain pursuits, things that I thought were the goal, were actually a dead end," he said. "I needed to tie them off. They weren't my path."

He played sparingly over the pandemic-scarred year.

"I called a few of the places that were still able to be open during the summer and told friends of mine that ran the bar that I'd play for free," he said. "They were working at half capacity with people still showing up expecting the same service and show; I knew they couldn't swing it."

With an open guitar case for tips, Chronopoulos played and sang.

"People wanted to help," he said, adding that the overall response to original music like his was heartening. "In the food industry, we want to eat a salad that's from the local farm, but for some reason music is supposed to just come out



Charlie Chronopoulos. Courtesy photo.

strictly for scale.... I'm supposed to be counting streams, all that nonsense. That's what I've been railing against artistically for the last 10 years anyway; it's just self-sabotaging."

Chronopoulos looks forward to sharing his new material at Twin Barns.

"The place is great, they're such cool people," he said. "The beer's amazing [and] their protocol isn't insane — there's a lot of space and good ventilation. It's a cool old barn and it sounds amazing in there. When they invited me I said that regardless of Covid, we could probably do this safely and make it a good

Charlie Chronopoulos

When: Friday, Jan 8, 5 p.m.

Where: Twin Barns Brewing Co., 194 Dan-

iel Webster Hwy., Meredith

More: facebook.com/twinbarnsbrewing

Palace Theatre

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

Stone Church

5 Granite St., Newmarket 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.

- A Natural Woman (A Carole King Tribute) Friday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., virtual concert via Palace Theatre
- SOUP (featuring members of Slack Tide and Clandestine) Friday, Jan. 8, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- Dave Gerard & Tim Theriault Saturday, Jan. 9, 7

p.m., Stone Church

- · Jeff Daniels with music from his album Alive and Well Enough Tuesday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m., livestreamed acoustic concert via Palace
- Brooks Play Brooks (Garth Brooks tribute) Friday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m., virtual concert via Palace Theatre
- Wood & Bone Friday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m., Stone Church
- · A Night of JGB & The Dead Saturday, Jan. 16, at 5 and 9 p.m., Stone Church
- The All New Piano Men (hits from Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Elton John, Barry Manilow, Freddy Mercury & more) Friday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., virtual via

Palace Theatre

- · Russ Condon & Tim Cackett of Town Meeting Friday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., Stone Church
- · Brian O'Connell Fellowship Saturday, Jan. 23, at 8 p.m., Stone Church
- · Dave Gerard Thursday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Stone Church

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Capitol Center for the Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord 225-1111, ccanh.com

707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Col- 20 Third St., Dover iseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., 343-1899, thestranddover.com Pelham, chunkys.com

Palace Theatre

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

The Strand

- Steve Scarfo Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 8, and Saturday, Jan. 9, at
- Jim McCue Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Jan. 9, 8 p.m.
- · Brian Glowacki Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m.
- · Jim Colliton Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m.
- Brian Beaudoin Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 8 p.m.
- · James Dorsey Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m.
- · Comedy Nights (Best of Boston) The Strand, Saturday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
- · Juston McKinney Cap Center, Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m.
- · Howie Mandel Palace Theatre, Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.



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Sincerely,

Jody Reese Hippo Publisher





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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Auburn **Auburn Pitts** 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564

Bedford

Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677

Bow Cheng Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508

Concord

Exeter

Goffstown

Hampton

Londonderry

Manchester

5:30 p.m.

Meredith

Time Trivia, 7 p.m.

The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000

Thursday, Jan. 7

Cheers: Team Trivia, 9 p.m.

Telly's: Dave Gerard, 7 p.m.

Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

Village Trestle: Steve Butler, 6

CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m.

Shane BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Lewis Goodwin,

Fratello's: Doug Thompson,

Penuche's: EDM on Elm, 9 p.m.

Hart's Turkey Farm: Game

Homestead: Phil Jakes, 5:30

Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060

Cheers 17 Depot St. 228-0180

Epping The Community Oven 24 Calef Hwy. 734-4543

Holy Grail 64 Main St. 679-9559

Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225

Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080

Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.

Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230

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

287 Exeter Road 929-7972

The Galley Hatch

(Tino's Kitchen upstairs) 325 Lafayette Road 926-6152

The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928

Shane's BBO 61 High St. 601-7091

Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954

Coach Stop Restaurant 1087 Elm St. & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022

Londonderry

Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210

Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road Meredith 623-3545

Cercle National Club 550 Rockland Ave. 623-8243

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880

Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022

429-2022

Derryfield: Alex Roy, 7:30 p.m. Foundry: April Cushman, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Andrew Geano, 5:30

South Side: Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Mark Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

Fratello's: Tim Kierstead, 5:30

Liquid Therapy: Amanda Vantine, 6 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's Tavern: Chad Verbeck, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Dave Gerard & Tim Theirault, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 10 Bedford

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

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

Goffstown

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11

Monday, Jan. 11

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

Merrimack

Nashua

American Social Club: bar bingo, 7 p.m. Fratello's: Ted Solo, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Musical Nation Bingo, 7 p.m.; Brad Bosse, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

Hampton

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

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

Merrimack

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

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

Community Oven: Trivia Night,

Hampton

Manchester

p.m.

Meredith

Homestead: Chris Gardner, 5:30

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

Newmarket

Stone Church: Ryan Zimmerman, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14

Concord

Cheers: Team Trivia, 9 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

Sawbelly Brewing: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

Sea Dog: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

p.m.

Shane BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Eric Grant, 7 p.m.

Manchester

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

Hart's: Trivia, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

p.m.

Lussier, 8 p.m.

HIPPO LIANUARY 7 - 13 2021 | PAGE 34

Brookline

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 8

Murphy, 6:30 p.m. (country)

Epping

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Ralph Allen, 6

CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Hatch): Max Sullivan, 7 p.m. Wally's: Josh Waterman & Adam Fithian, 9 p.m.

Coach Stop: Ted Solo, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh, 8

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Malcolm

Foundry: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

South Side Tavern: Jonny Fri-

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

Nashua

Merrimack

Newmarket Stone Church: Dave Ogden, 6

releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Call the venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions — and you may want to double check before you head out for the evening, as cancellations for weather or virus concerns are not uncommon. Get your gigs listed by sending information to

Portsmouth

Auburn Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox

Telly's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

Hampton The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. Tino's (Upstairs at the Galley

Londonderry

Fratello's: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30

Derryfield: Justin Jordan, 7:30

day, 8 p.m.

Music plays on

These listings for live music are compiled from press music@hippopress.com.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Charlie Chronopolous, 5 p.m.

Merrimack Homestead: Dave Zangri, 5:30

p.m

p.m.

Nashua Fratello's: Mark Lapointe, 5:30

Newmarket

Stone Church: SOUP (members of Slack Tide, Clandestine), 8 p.m.

Portsmouth

Stratham

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Tailgate: Elijah Clark, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 9

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

Concord Area 23: Saturday Jam 2 p.m. Concord Craft Brewing:

Dwayne Haggins, 4 p.m.

Telly's: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.

Goffstown Village Trestle: Brian James, 6

Hampton

Londonderry

The Goat: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m. Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 Stumble Inn: Chris Lester, 8

p.m. Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m. Cercle National Club: Joanie Cicatelli, 6:30 p.m.

Manchester

Homestead: Jon-Paul Royer, 5:30 p.m.

Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

Twin Barns: Trivia Night, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Nashua

Portsmouth

330-1964 Copper Door

Portsmouth

142 Congress St.

The Goat

590-4628

Rochester

Porter's Pub

19 Hanson St.

41 S. Broadway

Chop Shop Pub

920 Lafayette Road

530 Lafayette Road

Red's Kitchen + Tavern

Salem

458-2033

& Seabrook

760-7706

760-0030

Stratham

580-2294

Tailgate Tavern

28 Portsmouth Ave.

CR's The Restaurant

Manchester

Hwy. 279-6212 **Twin Barns Brewing** 194 Daniel Webster Hwy.

Hart's Turkey Farm

223 Daniel Webster

Penuche's Music Hall

Salona Bar & Grill

South Side Tavern

1279 S. Willow St.

128 Maple St.

932-2868

624-4020

935-9947

279-0876

Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy.

Nashua

255-8272

889-2022

194 Main St.

Liquid Therapy

14 Court St.

New Boston

Restaurant

Newmarket

Stone Church

5 Granite St.

659-7700

487-1362

Molly's Tavern

35 Mont Vernon Road

402-9391

Hwy.

American Social Club

166 Daniel Webster

Fratello's Italian Grille

Stratham

Wednesday, Jan. 13

7 p.m.

Fratello's: Mark Lapointe, 5:30

Exeter

Goffstown Village Trestle: Brad Bosse, 6

Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.

Londonderry

Meredith

Homestead: Chris Lester, 5:30

Nashua

Fratello's: Matt Luneau, 5:30

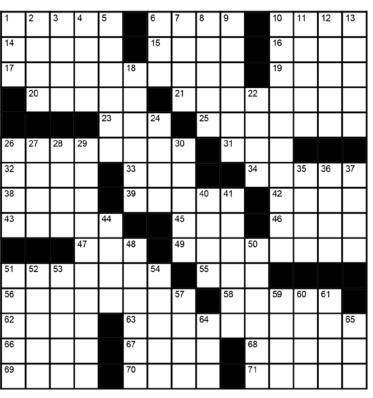
Newmarket Stone Church: George Brown,

American Social Club: Paul

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

ROCKANDROLLCROSSWORDS.com BY TODD SANTOS

L THE VAMPIRES DOWN IN THE VALLEY



Across

- 1. A fearful Tom Petty will 'Change' these on his doors
- 6. '11 Chevelle album took its '__ Off To The Bull'
- 10. Metallica 'For Whom The __ Tolls'
- 14. Neil Young "There were peasants singing and drummers drumming and the archer the tree"
- 15. 50 Cent band G-_
- 16. Sleater-Kinney was skeptical with 'Was It ?' (1,3)
- 17. Tom Petty's classic Byrds cover 'I'll Lot Better" (4,1,5)
- 19. Wacky 'Unbehagen' singer Hagen 20. Jerry Lee Lewis misspelled 'Whole
- Shakin' Goin' On' 21. Jack Johnson won and claimed 'The
- Horizon Has Been __' 23. '__ Ahh' is the gruntinspired Boyz II
- Men song 25. Smashing Pumpkins '95 album 'Mel-
- lon Collie And The Infinite __ 26. Beatles "Something __ she moves, attracts me like no other lover" (2,3,3)
- 31. Fresh Prince Of Bel Air actress/music video director Long
- 32. Puddle Of Mudd were sarcastic with
- 'I'm So _ 33. Kind of brew sold at show stand
- 34. All That Remains song you deleted?
- 38. Song concept or this
- 39. '94 Weezer smash 'Buddy __
- 42. Vertical Horizon bowed and sang 'You're
- 43. UK's Lightning
- 45. Might have to tell your wife one about your whereabouts, post-tour
- 46. Tina Turner's dude is a 'Typical' one 47. Manchester Orchestra turned into a jar part with 'I Was A
- 49. '90 Hall & Oates album went from summer to fall with 'Change ____' (2,6)
- 51. Huge LA label founded in '42
- 55. Coldplay wants to play '__ Kingdom

56. 80s Tiffany hit 'I Think We're __ _

- 58. Trapt song about accused's need
- 62. Flower that goes w/a gun while singing 'Sweet Child O' Mine?
- 63. Billy Vera & The Beaters hit song from Family Ties 'At ___ '(4,6)
- 66. Tom Petty 'Christmas All __ Again'
- 67. '04 Switchfoot egged us on with '__ You To Move'

Find and Circle...

Eight words related to trees

Three five-letter mammals

Comedy duo Bud and Lou

He had wings made of wax

Cat (six-letter answer)

TAN RED / TIGER / NEON

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68. "Put me in __" John Fogerty's 'Centerfield'

WORD ★Roundup

Last Week's Answers: MOUNTAIN VALLEY RAVINE CANYON CLIFF

RIDGE HILL / TWINGE FRINGE BINGE HINGE SINGE / GOLD BLUE TEAL

69. Ben Harper 'Burn To Shine' jam that 40. A rockin' song floats you up or gives was marked down?

70. '06 Three Days Grace album (3,1) 71. Rise Against 'Help Is ___ Way'

Down

- 1. Kasabian's 1st top 10 song (abbr)
- 2. Syd Barrett compilation album about European car?
- 3. Letters To __ 'Here & Now'
- 4. Bagpiper's wear
- 5. There is a bronze Phil Lynott one in Dublin
- 6. "Come again?" shout at loud show
- 7. What star might give from stage to wowed fan (1,3)
- 8. Led Zep 'Out On The
- 9. Lessard of Dave Matthews
- 10. 80s 'Cruel Summer' female pop trio
- 11. Like successful rockers
- 12. '04 Sugarcult album 'Palm Trees And Power
- 13. What soloist does in bridge section
- 18. 'White Room' guitar foot pedal creating voice-like tones (hyph)
- 22. The Cult 'Sonic Temple' power ballad about model Sedgwick
- 24. Symbol of goodness stars put on their head in court
- 26. Egyptian goddess-inspired Dylan song?
- 27. '89 Dead Or Alive album for the naked?
- 28. U2 'One __ Hill'
- 29. Not the opening acts
- 30. 1985's 'Oh Yeah' band that rocked Ferris Bueller
- 35. Ramones were having fun with 'Life's ___' (1,3)
- 36. George Michael wasn't planning on going this while in Wham!, but he did

 $\Box\Box$

S

Т

X

37. Guster song Adam & Eve like?

- 41. Melissa Etheridge 'If I Only Wanted To' album (3,1,2)44. Show locale

you this (w/"a")

- 50. Crazy 1981 ZZ Top album? (2,4)
- 51. Chuck Berry classic named after a girl
- 52. Janet Jackson 'You'll Never Find (__ Like Mine)' (1,4)
- 53. Fashion photog will do different posi-

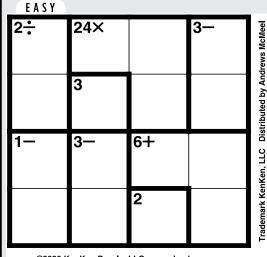
tions or these

- 54. Singer/actress Lindsay
- 57. Debut Mötley Crüe single 'Live __'
- 59. Bruce Springsteen "Whoo-oh-oh ___ _ fire" (2,2)
- 48. '79 Tom Petty classic '___ Me Like 60. Rolling Stones got 'Pretty __ Up' when they got in the ring
 - 61. Nine __ Nails
 - 64. '91 Red Hot Chili Peppers album 'Blood Sugar __ Magik'
 - 65. Tom Petty said 'Waiting' is the hardest part© 2020 Todd Santos



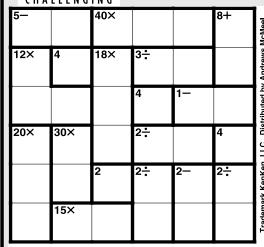
THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

WORKSPACE:



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CHALLENGING



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RULES

 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.

4 2 3 PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3 4 3 2 3

JONESIN' CROSSWORDS BY MATT JONES

"Some Good Things From 2020" — it's been a tough year, but...

Across

1 Time's 2020 Entertainer of the

- 4 Goose variety
- 10 Go without eating
- 14 Catch a bug
- 15 Cover-ups

20

29

34

37

51

54

61

- 16 Daily Bruin publisher
- -Caps (candy for moviegoers,
- when we went out to movies)
- 18 Country singer who donated \$1

- million to Covid vaccine research 20 Warmonger
- 22 "Over here"
- 23 Ronan of The Irish Tenors
- 24 Programming language with a
- coffee-cup logo
- 26 Ewe in the movie "Babe"
- 28 Square root of 2, rounded down

16

- 29 "Gone With the Wind" surname
- 31 Give a big hand
- 33 Got hitched

- 34 Pioneering Vice President-Elect of the United States
- 37 Network (abbr.)
- 38 Digital watch maker
- 39 "That's a relief"
- 43 Show with an unprecedented sweep of seven Emmy Awards
- 46 " longa, vita brevis"
- 49 Fine-tunes
- 50 Oven controls
- 51 "Cold Mountain" extra
- 52 Apple phone software
- 53 "It what you think" 54 "Foundation" author Asimov
- 56 Evil-___ (witch and ally of
- Skeletor)
- 58 Drive-_ ___ menu
- 61 Former British Army captain who walked laps for charity in April 2020, raising over 32 million pounds by his 100th birthday
- 65 Dull routine

R&R answer

from pg 31 of 12/31

С	Ε	L	L	0		Α	F	Ε	W		С	R	Ε	W
Α	G	Α	Т	Ν		Ν	0	N	Α		L	Α	٧	Α
R	0	С	Κ	Α	Ν	D	R	0	L	L	0	٧	Е	R
Τ	S	Е	Е		Е	Υ	Е		J	0	S	Е	R	S
			D	Α	Ν			Т	0	В	Е			
W	Α	S		R	Е	Α	С	Н	F	0	R	Т	Н	Е
Α	S	Н		С	Н	L	0	Е			Т	Н	Α	Ν
S	Т	Α	R	S		В	В	С		В	0	Α	R	D
Ν	Α	М	Е			Е	R	Α	S	Е		Т	R	Ε
Т	R	Е	V	0	R	R	Α	В	1	Ν		S	Υ	D
			Е	Х	1	Т			L	Е	G			
S	Т	Е	R	Е	0		Р	_	L		Α	Г	L	Τ
Н	Α	٧	Е	Ν	Т	М	Ε	Т	Υ	0	U	Υ	Е	Т
Α	L	Α	Ν		Е	Α	R	L		_	G	L	0	0
М	Е	N	D		R	Е	Е	L		L	Е	Α	N	N

- 66 Poet Pound
- 67 Noisy pig
- Salesman" 68 "Death
- 69 Element #10
- 70 Buddhist temple
- 71 Initialism that became increasingly prevalent in 2020

Down

- 1 Shindig
- 2 "Bob's Burgers" daughter
- 3 Downtempo R&B songs
- 4 Callous fellow
- 5 Word on Hawaiian license plates
- 6 "Blue" or "White" river
- 7 Efficiently
- 8 Crafty initials?
- 9 "Cleopatra" animal
- 10 Boxer Tyson
- 11 "Don't hesitate!"
- 12 "Citizen Kane" actor Everett
- 13 Soaked up some sun

Jonesin' answer from pg 32 of 12/31

			•	_										
L	0	S	Е	S		Н	1	Р	F	L	Α	S	Κ	S
Е	Ν	Α	С	Т		Ε	M	0	L	U	М	Е	Ν	Т
L	Е	D	Т	0		Τ	Ν	S	U	L	Α	Т	0	R
Α	S	L	0	W		R	0	Т		Α	D	D	Т	0
Ν	Т	Υ	Р	Ε		S	Т	Ε	Р			0	Т	В
D	Α	Ν	L					R	Α	1		V	Е	Ε
	R	0	Α	S	Т	Е	D	Α	L	М	0	Ν	D	S
			S	Α	1	L	0	R	М	Α	Ν			
Р	Е	R	М	Υ	L	Α	S	Т	Ε	М	Α	1	L	
Α	Х	Е		S	Е	В					S	С	О	Т
R	Р	М			D	0	Т	Е		Ø	U	Е	R	Υ
S	L	0	Т	Н		R	1	М		\supset	Ν	Т	1	L
Z	0	Т	R	Е	D	Α	M	Е		Α	D	1	М	Е
_	D	Ε	0	М	0	Т	0	R		L	Α	М	Α	R
Ρ	Е	R	1	Р	Н	Е	R	Υ		Μ	Υ	Е	R	S

- 19 Game maker since 1972
- 21 Units of purity
- 25 "Batman Forever" actor Kilmer
- 26 Deserves
- 27 Defunct Houston hockey team 29 Approvals
- 30 Bale stuff
- 31 Winter driving needs
- 32 Rash action
- 35 Outburst usually acknowledged
- by others
- 36 Run at full speed
- 40 London hub
- 41 "Electric" fish
- 42 Calendar units (abbr.)
- 44 A Marx brother
- 45 Floppy followers
- 46 Gotten up
- 47 Blow up, perhaps
- 48 Mall pizza eatery
- 53 How errors may be noted
- 55 Words with "early age" or "impasse"
- 56 Like some odds
- 57 "Oh ___!" (song from the "Imagine" album)
- 59 Elizabethan collar
- 60 Home of Arches and Zion
- National Parks
- 62 Swabbie's swabber
- 63 "Mamma !" (musical based
- on ABBA songs)
- 64 "Golden" time
- © 2020 Matt Jones

NITE SUDOKU

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

2 7 1



Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle A By Dave Green

8

6

			-	-	_
Difficulty	Level	**	*	*	,

3

4	Syndicate, Inc.
	Dist. by King Features S
2	©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

5

6

8 9

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★



Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

9

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from Something New: Tales from a Makeshift Bride, by Lucy Knisley, born Jan. 11, 1985.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) I found an apartment tiny enough to be freshly hilarious every time I came home, and worked hard to try to afford it. It's good to bring humor into your

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) My last book was about food and cooking, which I adore, but I could never be a professional chef. I watched my mother and her colleagues, pros all, for most of my life, and there ain't no WAY I'm staying up that late or dicing onions that precisely. You do what you can.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) I retreated, as I often do in times of stress, to over-empathy with objects and serious attachment to metaphor. Keep it real.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) There's also that ridiculous statistic about the percentage of income one is obligated to spend on an engagement ring. Oh, please. ... There are an awful lot of old rings going unworn and unappreciated. You can snag an antique ring from a vintage shop or online, or better yet, track down an old ring from family members that you might use. Or make your own out of yarn!

Taurus (April 20 - May **20)** It seems strange to me to let someone you met online last week into your apartment, and I don't really like holding hands while walking, because I prefer to hold a sandwich. Even better: two sandwiches.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Diamond engagement rings didn't even become a real 'tradition' until 1938, when the De Beers diamond cartel began aggressively marketing them. It's possibly time for a new tradition of your own making.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Despite not having a cake, I wanted cute cake toppers. Go

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) You can spend DAYS of your LIFE, wasting away, looking at DIY-wedding Pinterest boards. I found myself totally irritated and overwhelmed and, at the same time, completely sucked into the

pinning madness. Resist!

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Before my wedding, I felt it was important to study the cultural significance of weddings in the most scholarly and journalistic form of research materials: MOVIES. Study up.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Weird Wedding Facts Part 1: Emotion Edition ... The reason the bride carries a bouquet stems from ancient Roman tradition, where the smell of an herbal sachet was to ward away trolls and evil spirits. That's why flowers with strong scents are still commonly used today. If roses aren't working, try

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Why would people pay so much for a yard of TULLE? WHY? There is no explaining some things.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) For an American, I'm something of a purist and have a pretty narrow definition of what I consider to be 'real poutine.' The essentials are: (1) The cheese must be CURDS. Any other type of cheese constitutes cheese fries. (2) Vinegar must be available. Malt, preferably. (3) NO. WEIRD. ADDITIONS. No sausage gravy, no sauteed vegetables, no bacon, NO ICE CREAM — it's fine to pile on the extras, but then you are obligated to call it what it is: DISCO FRIES. Ice cream??

LITTLE W©RDS

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 surrealist painter Salvador (4) 2 erasable writing tool (6)
- 3 equine footwear (9)
- 4 Arctic marine mammal (6)
- 5 oral hygiene tool (10)
- 6 light cover (9)
- 7 stately (8)

HOR	US	HOE	IM	PEN
PSH	PER	DA	ОТ	ТО
LR	ADE	CIL	HBR	USH
SES	LI	IAL	LAM	WA
	SELESSLY 3.			

Sudoku Answers from pg32 of 12/31

Puzzle A

•			_						
6	7	1	4	9	5	2	3	8	1
3	5	9	2	6	8	7	1	4	ŀ
4	8	2	3	7	1	6	5	9	
9	6	8	5	4	3	1	2	7	
5	1	3	7	8	2	4	9	6	20.00
7	2	4	9	1	6	5	8	3	2
1	4	5	6	3	9	8	7	2	Charles Comments Brands
8	3	7	1	2	4	9	6	5	
2	9	6	8	5	7	3	4	1	Į,
Difficu	lty Lev	1 *						12/28	š

Puzzle B

1	3	8	6	4	2	7	9	5
4	9	2	5	8	7	6	1	3
7	6	5	1	9	3	4	2	8
2	4	1	3	5	9	8	7	6
9	7	6	8	1	4	3	5	2
5	8	3	2	7	6	9	4	1
3	1	7	9	2	8	5	6	4
6	2	9	4	3	5	1	8	7
8	5	4	7	6	1	2	3	9
Difficu	lty Lev	હો ★★	*					12/30

Puzzle C

4	1	7	8	9	3	6	2	5
8	3	5	2	7	6	9	1	4
6	9	2	4	1	5	7	8	3
9	4	3	7	5	8	2	6	1
7	8	6	1	3	2	5	4	9
2	5	1	9	6	4	3	7	8
3	7	4	5	2	1	8	9	6
1	6	9	3	8	7	4	5	2
5	2	8	6	4	9	1	3	7
Difficu	lly Lev	el * #	**					1/01

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Bright idea

Acting on an anonymous tip, authorities in DeKalb County, Alabama, raided the Rainsville Wastewater Treatment Plant on Dec. 17 and discovered a large illegal winemaking operation that appeared to have been in operation for a long time, reported WHNT. The next day, plant supervisor Allen Maurice Stiefel, 62, of Fyffe, was charged with unlawful possession of illegally manufactured alcohol and suspended without pay, according to Rainsville Mayor Rodger Lingerfelt. The operation was found in a little-used building at the plant, where, Lingerfelt said, "Things happen like that." The sale of alcohol had been illegal in Rainsville until the city council passed an ordinance approving it in September.

High anxiety

As Delta Flight 462, en route to Atlanta, began to taxi away from the gate at La Guardia Airport on Dec. 21, passenger Brian Plummer noticed a man and woman with a service dog changing seats several times on the less-than-full plane, he told The New York Times, and heard the man say, "If I sit down, I'll freak out." Plummer soon felt the plane come to a stop, and flight attendants revealed why: The man, Antonio Murdock, 31, of Florida, had forced open an emergency exit door, causing a slide to activate, and picking up the dog, slid down to the ground

with the woman, Brianna Greco, 23, according to a complaint filed in Queens Criminal Court, where the two were arraigned on a number of mischief and endangerment charges. "This doesn't happen every day at the airport," said Lenis Valens, a spokesperson for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. No one was injured in the incident, but the flight was delayed for hours.

Awesome!

Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? The North Carolina Department of Transportation put nine vintage train cars up for auction on Dec. 15 that it purchased from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus after it ceased operation in 2017, the Raleigh News & Observer reported. NCDOT bought the cars for \$383,000 to refurbish for use between Raleigh and Charlotte, but federal grants have enabled the department to buy new cars instead. "These cars have a great and amazing history," said Jason Orthner, director of the NCDOT rail division. Bidding continues until Jan. 4, but at press time, there were no bids on the cars.

Surprise!

Andrea Ellis of East Moline, Illinois, was wrapping presents on Dec. 19 when she opened a package of garden flags she intended to give her grandmother and noticed something extra in the bottom of the pad-

ded envelope. It turned out to be a biohazard bag containing a Virginia woman's Covid-19 test. Ellis told the Quad City Times that when she failed to reach the woman, she called police, who sent an officer to retrieve it, but 15 minutes later, he returned with the bag, saying, "I was told to bring it back to you." A representative of the Rock Island County Health Department picked up the sample the next day and will try to return it to the Virginia patient. Ellis has also heard from a vice president at Kohl's, where she bought the flags, who said the company is working hard to find out what happened and prevent it from happening again.

Perspective

Rajan Zed, president of the Universal Society of Hinduism, is asking luxury goods company Louis Vuitton to stop selling a yoga mat made partially of leather, calling the product "hugely insensitive" because Hindus regard cows as sacred. In a Dec. 22 statement, Zed said the idea "of yoga ... being performed on a mat made from a killed cow is painful," The Associated Press reported. The mat retails for \$2,390 online; Paris-based Louis Vuitton has not responded.

Great art

French artist Gaetan Marron presented a new performance piece in December titled "Non-Essential," in which he locked himself for 10 days inside a clear Plexiglas cube at a shopping mall in Marseille. Eurone-ws reported the artist described his work as an attempt to "bring culture, which clearly saved us during this lockdown, back to the center of the subject." The cube, large enough for Marron to stand up in, also contained a few nonessential items, including a TV and coffee machine; Marron left the cube to use the restroom. "I have the feeling that ... we miss what is really the real human contact ... we have really lost social links in this period," Marron said.

Sounds like a joke

Micheline Frederick of Queens, New York, is still recovering from the wounds she suffered in what she described as a brawl with a squirrel on the front stoop of her home just before Christmas. "This was an MMA cage match!" she told WLNY. "And I lost!" Several neighborhood residents have reported run-ins with aggressive squirrels, including Vinati Singh, whose husband has been attacked twice, and Licia Wang, who was bitten on the arm while walking home. A trapper has been hired to capture the rodents, and while squirrels are rarely found to have rabies, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Health is advising victims to contact their doctor if they've been bitten.

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