

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2021



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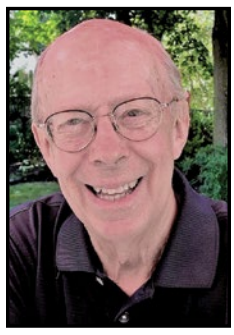
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 VOL 21 NO 4

**Lift one another up**



At a religious ceremony last weekend, in the beautiful woods of New Hampshire, the priest counseled us to come together across our differences and to pray for one another. While that sentiment seemed

reasonable among the small group of relatively like-minded folks gathered in the snow that morning, I realized it was directed ultimately not just to us but beyond, even nationally across our country. The challenge of that admonition was for each of us to look above what divides us to what we have in common. But in all honesty, that's hard to do when so much of what has happened recently seems inevitably to drive us even further apart.

Tonight, as I write this, while watching the memorial service for the victims of the pandemic who were grieved at the National Mall, and especially when the 400 lights came on along the Reflecting Pool, each one casting a reflection in the shimmering water, as if to ripple out through each glistening reflection the individuality of every single tragically lost life from families across our nation, it became so very clear that *that* truly is what we have in common.

For regardless of partisan identity, as human beings we all grieve the loss of our loved ones.

In that other, almost religious service this evening, we were counseled, "To heal, we must remember. It's hard sometimes to remember." Yes, it is hard to look beyond the tragedy of our personal losses: the deaths of those who didn't die with their families at their side, who died in the compassionate care of nurses and doctors who maybe knew them only by name and brief acquaintance, but who gave them tender ministrations in our place. Yes, to hold that sorrow and look around to so many others with whom we share loss and to remember they, too, are our brothers and sisters.

Ancient wisdom tells us that "Nothing is as strong as a heart that has been broken." Might this nation of broken hearts look up through our pain and remember who we are?

Rituals are things we do as a community at times of profound change and deep feeling. They can bind us up as individuals, but they can also urge us as fellow human beings to lift one another up. Truly, this I believe.

You can contact Steve Reno at [stepreno@gmail.com](mailto:stepreno@gmail.com).

News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire  
 Published every Thursday  
 (1st copy free; 2nd \$1).  
 195 McGregor St., Suite 325,  
 Manchester, N.H. 03102  
 P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422  
[hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com)  
 email: [news@hippopress.com](mailto:news@hippopress.com)

**EDITORIAL**

**Executive Editor**  
 Amy Diaz, [adiaz@hippopress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippopress.com)

**Managing Editor**  
 Meghan Siegler, [msiegler@hippopress.com](mailto:msiegler@hippopress.com), Ext. 113

**Editorial Design**  
 Tristan Collins  
[hippolayout@gmail.com](mailto:hippolayout@gmail.com)

**Copy Editor**  
 Lisa Parsons, [lparkers@hippopress.com](mailto:lparkers@hippopress.com)

**Staff Writers**  
 Angie Sykeny  
[asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com), Ext. 130  
 Matt Ingersoll  
[mingersoll@hippopress.com](mailto:mingersoll@hippopress.com), Ext. 152

**Contributors** John Fladd, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Michele Pesula Kuegler, Dave Long, Jeff Mucciarone, Eric W. Saeger, Michael Witthaus

**Listings**  
 Arts listings: [arts@hippopress.com](mailto:arts@hippopress.com)  
 Inside/Outside listings: [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com)  
 Food & Drink listings: [food@hippopress.com](mailto:food@hippopress.com)  
 Music listings: [music@hippopress.com](mailto:music@hippopress.com)

**BUSINESS**

**Publisher**  
 Jody Reese, Ext. 121  
[jreese@hippopress.com](mailto:jreese@hippopress.com)

**Associate Publisher**  
 Dan Szczesny

**Associate Publisher**  
 Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 123  
[jrapsis@hippopress.com](mailto:jrapsis@hippopress.com)

**Production**  
 Tristan Collins, Alex Kusnarowicz

**Circulation Manager**  
 Doug Ladd, Ext. 135  
[dladd@hippopress.com](mailto:dladd@hippopress.com)

**Advertising Manager**  
 Charlene Nichols, Ext. 126  
[cnichols@hippopress.com](mailto:cnichols@hippopress.com)

**Account Executives**  
 Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026  
[asavage@hippopress.com](mailto:asavage@hippopress.com)  
 Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 127  
[rmacaig@hippopress.com](mailto:rmacaig@hippopress.com)  
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Comics writer (and former Hippo reporter!) Ryan Lessard. Courtesy photo.

**ON THE COVER**  
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**ALSO ON THE COVER**, weddings may have been downsized in 2020, but brides and grooms have discovered the advantages of elopements and micro weddings (less stress! less money!), p. 20. And it's time for the Best of 2021 readers' poll! Voting starts Feb. 1; see details on p. 43.

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## TB 12 back for SB 10



Well, who can be surprised **Tom Brady** did it again? Despite a very shaky second half, he's headed to his 10th Super Bowl after doing what he needed to do against Green Bay to get there as usual.

Though I suspect a three-pick second half vs. KC will croak him. **Jimmy Garoppolo** got roasted for a lot less than that when the 49ers didn't hold their fourth-quarter lead against them in the SB a year ago. So Tom had better be careful.

That aside, the Bucs earned their trip to the big game with a 31-26 win over Green Bay, where defending champion Kansas City is waiting following a 38-24 manhandling of Buffalo. It was a fun day of football that reinforced my belief that NFL conference championship Sunday is the best sports viewing day of the year. Some of it had nothing to do with the local football team, and with Brady in the mix some of it seemed to me all about Patriots decisions, what might have been and what they need to do to get back to playing on the second to last Sunday of the NFL year.

Here are some more observations on all that.

If you're interested, losing Green Bay had a 34:27-25:23 edge in time of possession in Game 1, while despite KC's runaway win they had only a slight 31:09-28:51 edge over Buffalo. That's why I don't think it usually tells you much.

Don't get why **Matt LaFleur** went for the FG with 2:37 left and Green Bay down 31-23. Isn't getting one play from a Hall of Fame QB to win it on fourth down better odds than needing four from his defense and still needing a TD to win from much farther away?

Having said that, despite the success, I never do escape the feeling watching **Aaron Rodgers** in big games that there's something missing. Can't quite put my finger on why, but it was there again Sunday. Maybe that's why he's lost four of the five NFC title games he's been in.

This weekend showed how far off the Pats are. Forget quarterback for a second. The most glaring deficiency is team speed on offense and defense. KC has blinding speed. Buffalo and Green Bay have it on the outside and while besides **Antonio Brown** I'm not quite sure how fast Tampa Bay receivers are, they seem to get open down the field a lot and their linebackers can run.

Attention, **Bill Belichick**. **Josh Allen** went from 20 TD passes to 40 after Buffalo traded for **Stefon Diggs**. It wasn't all because of Diggs, but their pedestrian 2019 offense transformed into the league's second-ranked O as their prized acquisition led the NFL in catches and receiving yards. I also recall something similar happening after **Randy Moss** arrived in 2007. That's also why Brady went from 24 TD passes last year to a second best in his career 40 with Tampa Bay. Speed on the outside makes a big difference.

While we're on that subject, how is it that with good old **Rob Gronkowski**, **Cameron Brate** and the out for the year **O. J. Howard**, Tampa Bay has three tight ends better than any TE the Patriots have?

Don't buy the narrative being pushed by the Boston media Coach B didn't have a plan for when Brady left town or retired. He did have one until Brady went up the back staircase to whine about it to the owner, who then made BB trade **Garoppolo** after he'd already traded **Jacoby Brissett**, which he wouldn't have done if he were planning to trade Jimmy G. Then a short time after deep sixing the plan, Brady split to leave Coach B holding the bag. Basically he outmaneuvered Belichick in an act of self-preservation, so don't make Brady out to be anything but a contributor to their QB dilemma.

But through either a strange coincidence or karma, it's interesting that we'll have gotten to see how the Pats QB drama played out in back-to-back Super Bowls against the rampaging Chiefs. So let's see what Brady does next week-end vs. what Jimmy G did against them.

When **Bullet Bob Hayes** was called the world's fastest human after winning gold in the 100-yard dash at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, he brought blinding straight-ahead speed to scare the bejeebers out of Dallas Cowboys opponents all through the 1960's. And through the years people from **Billy White Shoes Johnson** to **Wes Welker** have had the short-space quickness to find daylight to get free inside a refrigerator box. But **Tyreek Hill** has the best combination of both I've ever seen. He can score on any down from any distance on any type of play from go routes to wideout screens to Jets sweeps and everything else. He must terrify game planners about to face the Chiefs.

Speaking of blinding speed: The closest approximation of Hill is teammate **Mecole Hardman**, whose fumbled punt on Sunday handed Buffalo its first TD. He made up for it by taking a shuffle pass up the gut for KC's first score and with a dazzling 50-yard run on a Jets sweep to put them in position for their second TD. Those impressed by that in Patriots Nation won't love hearing the wideout/Pro Bowl returner went 24 picks behind N'**Keal Harry** in the 2019 draft

After watching him average 102 catches the last three seasons and tear up the Browns and Bills the last two weeks for 23 catches, 227 yards and three touchdowns, I'm starting to think **Travis Kelce** may be a better intermediate-range receiver than Gronk in his prime. The big fella is still a much better blocker and used to be a better deep threat, but Kelce is good and clutch.

If you think Buffalo was a fluke, guess again. They have a good young coach and a really good young QB. Sound familiar? The Pats now have to catch up to them.

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## Covid-19 news

New Hampshire surpassed 60,000 overall cases of Covid-19 with its daily public health update on Jan. 21, according to state officials. Despite numbers continuing to climb, state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan said during a Jan. 21 press conference that overall test-positivity rates have been trending downward. “It’s at 6.8 percent, which is ... at the same level that we saw back at the end of November,” he said. Hospitalizations have also been on the decline — 230 people were hospitalized as of Jan. 25, down slightly from the previous week.

With the state moving on to Phase 1B of its vaccine distribution plan on Jan. 22, opening up eligibility for roughly 300,000 Granite Staters to receive their first doses, Gov. Chris Sununu urged people to be patient during the registration process. “We put needles in arms as fast as we get them in ... but we’re still only getting about 17,000 [doses] a week,” Sununu said. “As the federal government increases vaccines for the State of New Hampshire, we will add more reservation spots within our system and be able to move people up.” The online registration portal is accessed by visiting [vaccines.nh.gov](https://vaccines.nh.gov). As of Jan. 25, just under 200,000 Granite Staters have signed up to receive doses as part of Phase 1B, and more than 60 percent of those have already scheduled a location and time for their first shot. The first Phase 1B vaccines were administered Jan. 26. According to a press release issued by the state Department of Health & Human Services, the FAQs on [vaccines.nh.gov](https://vaccines.nh.gov) have also been updated and clarified to note that only residents are eligible to receive the vaccine in New Hampshire.

On Jan. 22, Sununu issued Executive Order No. 83, an order allowing local officials to postpone their 2021 town meetings and elections and to pre-process their absentee ballots due to Covid-19 concerns. The order, according to the paperwork, serves to “bridge the gap” by responding to timing challenges related to SB 2, which passed

in the Senate on Jan. 6 but has an indefinite timeline for passing in the House. “The House of Representatives has scheduled a public hearing on Senate Bill 2 and expects to pass the bill in early February 2021,” the order states. “Some towns in New Hampshire have stated that an early February enactment date ... would be too late for these towns to set their schedules.”

Also on Jan. 22, Sununu issued Executive Order 2021-1, extending the state of emergency in New Hampshire due to the pandemic for another three weeks through at least Feb. 12. It’s the 15th extension he has issued since originally declaring a state of emergency last March.

Details of Sununu’s emergency orders, executive orders and other announcements can be found at [governor.nh.gov](https://governor.nh.gov).

## Education funding

Sixteen mayors and School Board chairs from cities across New Hampshire sent a letter on Jan. 21 to New Hampshire Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Gov. Chris Sununu, Senate President Chuck Morse and House Speaker Sherman Packard regarding concerns over education funding. “Covid-19 has put tremendous strain on school districts across the state ... and as districts begin the budgeting process for the next school year, there are three particular areas of concern that we ... wanted to bring to your attention,” the letter starts. The first concern is lower enrollment in free and reduced lunch programs due to national expansion of program eligibility during the pandemic, which affects the amount of funding given to school districts. The second is that there has been an “unprecedented decrease” in school enrollment during the pandemic as many parents have chosen to send their children to private school or to home school until public schools are able to return to fully in-person education safely, the letter says. Since adequacy aid is based on the enrollment of the previous year, districts are concerned that they will end up educating students for whom they did not receive ade-

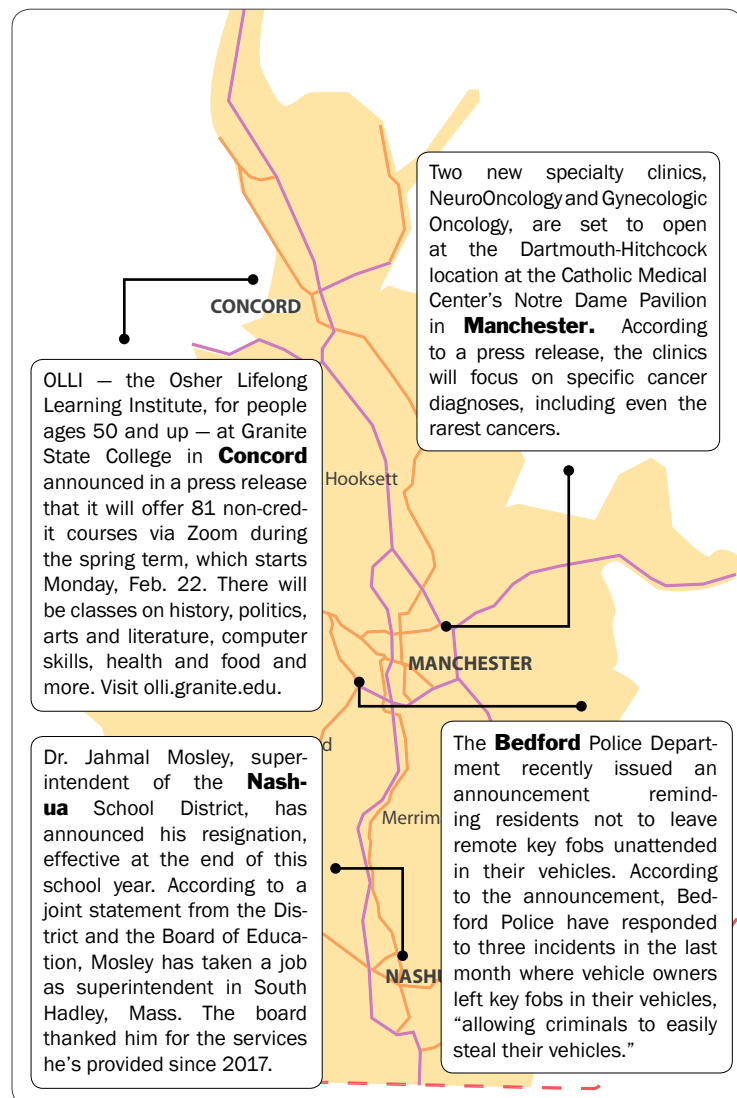
quacy aid. “For example, Nashua would see a reduction of \$1.6M in adequacy aid in the 2022FY budget if enrollment numbers increase close to pre-pandemic levels for the next school year, as districts are anticipating,” the letter reads. The final concern is the rate increases for state retirement contributions. “This downshifting of costs from the State of New Hampshire to local municipalities and school districts will result in considerable budget shortfalls,” the letter says. The letter ends by asking the Department of Education and the state’s government to take the anticipated revenue shortfalls into account as they allocate funding.

## Friends funding

On Jan. 24, the New Hampshire delegation — U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan and Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas — announced that the Friends Program in Concord has been awarded \$149,811 in AmeriCorps funding. According to a press release, the funding is specifically in support of the AmeriCorps volunteers in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, which focuses on volunteers who are 55 and older. “These federal funds make important investments in New Hampshire’s community service programming, bolster volunteer opportunities for seniors and support the Friends Program’s mission to empower Granite Staters with the tools they need to give back to their communities,” Shaheen said in the release.

## FIT grant

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health has given a \$20,000 grant to Families in Transition in Manchester,



to support the nonprofit’s work with people experiencing homelessness, providing funding for its adult emergency shelter program. “More than ever during Covid-19 members of our community are struggling to meet their basic needs for shelter, food and social contact,” Greg Norman, MS, director of Community Health for Dartmouth-Hitchcock, said in a press release. “D-HH can help community-based organizations like Families in Transition continue

to meet the safety net needs of our patients and other members of the communities we serve.”

## Winter gear

On Jan. 20, Girl Scouts in Manchester placed about 180 scarves, hats, gloves and blankets around Veterans Park. According to a press release, the items were left on trees, fence posts and other places throughout the park with tags to let people know they were free to take. 🐼

Covid-19 update	As of January 18	As of January 25
<b>Total cases statewide</b>	57,864	62,768
<b>Total current infections statewide</b>	6,444	5,627
<b>Total deaths statewide</b>	933	990
<b>New cases</b>	5,557 (Jan. 12 to Jan. 18)	4,904 (Jan. 19 to Jan. 25)
<b>Current infections: Hillsborough County</b>	2,262	1,994
<b>Current infections: Merrimack County</b>	585	420
<b>Current infections: Rockingham County</b>	1,362	1,278

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services



# Down to a science

## Volunteers needed for youth STEM learning program

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is currently looking for new volunteers for its STEM Docent program, which provides opportunities for youth to engage in STEM activities and exploration. Program coordinator Megan Glenn discussed the program and what its volunteers do.

**Q:** *What is the UNH Cooperative Extension's STEM Docent program?*

It's a program for K through 12 learners, so we work both in schools and outside of schools at libraries and the YMCA and those types of places. We train adult volunteers in the best practices of working with youth and teaching science, and we train them on a variety of specific content modules ... like engineering and computer science. We coordinate collaboration between our volunteers and teachers to come up with projects or challenges for the kids, and our volunteers will bring all the materials. ... We also focus a lot on building community and creating a space that's comfortable for kids to try out an idea [that may] fail, and then try again.

### How was it created?

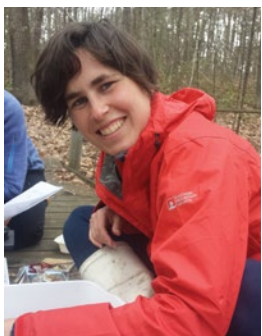
It's a fairly new program; our first training was in 2016, but the idea for the program started being worked on a few years before then ... when [Sen. Maggie] Hassan's task force on K through 12 STEM education put out a report that recommended that there be more opportunities and programs to inspire youth in the STEM field. ... At the same time, UNH had a strategic initiative to increase the number of graduates in STEM fields. ... The program was really prompted by those two things.

### What are the short- and long-term goals of the program?

[Short-term,] we're trying to create a safe space for kids to connect with other kids, connect with a caring adult ... and [develop] critical thinking and problem-solving [skills] so that when they run into a problem or issue, instead of just throwing up their hands and giving up, they really look at it and examine it and try to fix it or solve it. ... One of the big-picture goals of the program is to create a more science-literate society by increasing science literacy among youth ... so if this program sparks a kid's interest and somewhere down the road they go into a STEM field, that's awesome.

### Why do you think this program is needed?

I don't think there is a shortage of STEM programs ... but I think our program is unique for a couple of reasons. One, we work a lot with our volunteers and offer a lot of training so that they're very highly specialized in science teaching. ... Another thing that makes our program unique is that it's not just a one-and-done thing. It goes on for a series of weeks ... [allowing] our volunteers to real-



Megan Glenn. Courtesy photo.

ly build a rapport with the kids ... and [giving] kids a chance to try something, examine it and make it better. ... In classrooms, teachers are really pressed for time, so kids may not be getting that opportunity to work on a single project over time and really figure it out.

### What does being a volunteer entail?

[It requires] 20 to 30 hours of training and then around 20 hours for one full program over several weeks. ... All of our volunteers go through an application process that includes a background check and [checking] references. Once they're accepted, they go through a foundational training that's really focused on positive youth development. If you've got 10 kids in the room, how do you make a cohesive group out of those kids? How do you build a community? How do you build a space where the kids respect each other and respect you and can collaborate and share ideas? After that, the volunteers go through a module training, which is training on the actual content they'll be teaching. ... We also have monthly get-togethers with the volunteers to check in and see how things are going ... and I typically bring in speakers to talk about different science topics.

### Who would be a good fit to volunteer?

Anyone who is interested in STEM and wants to work with youth. We have a lot of industry members, like engineers and computer scientists and teachers. Some are currently working, and then there are some who have recently retired and just want to share what they love and pass on their passion for the industry to the next generation.

— Angie Sykeny 🌈

### Become a STEM volunteer

Virtual information sessions for prospective volunteers will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27, and Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 5 to 5:30 p.m. RSVP at [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu). To apply, visit [extension.unh.edu/programs/stem-docents](http://extension.unh.edu/programs/stem-docents). Applications are due by Feb. 18. Mandatory training for volunteers will be held virtually on Thursdays in April from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Program coordinator Megan Glenn can be reached at 641-4391 and [megan.glenn@unh.edu](mailto:megan.glenn@unh.edu).

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# nutritious nibbles

This veggie-filled mac and cheese is "tilt your bowl" worthy.



## Herb Roasted Veggie Mac & Cheese

**Serves:** 6

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh broccoli florets, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 cup cauliflower florets, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 cup baby carrots, sliced in half lengthwise
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. Hannaford Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Basil Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Rosemary Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Coarse Ground Black Pepper
- 1 (5.5 oz.) box Kraft® Original Macaroni & Cheese Dinner with Cauliflower
- 1/2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup Hannaford Fat Free Milk

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a large baking sheet with aluminum foil. In a large bowl, toss broccoli, cauliflower and carrots with olive oil and toss with herbs. Spread vegetables in an even layer onto prepared baking sheet. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring vegetables halfway through, until they are fork tender and begin to caramelize.
2. While vegetables roast, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Cook macaroni and cheese according to package directions.
3. Gently fold roasted vegetables into prepared macaroni and cheese and serve immediately.

### Dietitian's Tips:

Living plant-based? Swap dairy milk with Silk® Unsweet Plain Almondmilk.

### Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 160; Fat 6 g; Saturated Fat 1.5 g; Cholesterol 5 mg; Sodium 240 mg; Carbohydrate 23 g; Fiber 2 g; Sugar 5 g; Protein 5 g

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## QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

### Inspiring teen gets a book deal

Thirteen-year-old Brayden Harrington of Concord will write a picture book called *Brayden Speaks Up*, to be published by HarperCollins Children's Books, according to a Jan. 20 article in the New York Times. Harrington got national attention when he spoke at the Democratic National Convention, after meeting President Joe Biden at a campaign stop and bonding with him over their stuttering. According to the article, *Brayden Speaks Up* will be published Aug. 10 and is part of a two-book deal; next year, he plans to write a novel geared toward kids ages 8 to 12. Brayden also spoke at Biden's inauguration, reading aloud a passage from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** "What got me through and helped motivate me was knowing I could be a voice for other children who stutter as well as anyone else who has faced challenges," Brayden said in a statement following the Democratic National Convention, the New York Times reported. "I only hope my story provides a little extra support and motivation for those that need it."

### Only 424 days to go...

That's how much time will pass, as of Tuesday, before Manchester will be able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with its annual parade, which was canceled last year and now this year as well. The decision to reschedule the 25th annual parade until Sunday, March 27, 2022, was announced on the event's Facebook page on Jan. 14. The counter on the event's website, [stpatsnh.com](http://stpatsnh.com), was recently reset to count down to the new 2022 date.

**Score:** -1

**Comment:** A message on the event website encourages locals to support downtown Manchester restaurants, which lose revenue when major events like the parade are canceled, by purchasing gift cards to use at a later date.

### Blizzardly fun

The annual Blizzard Blast, a winter obstacle course race put on by the United Way of Greater Nashua, is going to be different this year (isn't everything?). What has in the past been a one-day event in Mine Falls Park will now be a multi-day event with 5K, 10K and half-marathon options, according to a press release. It will take place throughout the city, and runners will stop at one or more of the 21 participating nonprofits, like the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, that serve the greater Nashua area. At each stop, runners will have to do non-running exercises like burpees, squats, lunges and army crawls. The event starts Saturday, Jan. 30, and runs through Saturday, Feb. 6, with runners choosing the course and time to run. Sign up as a runner, team or sponsor at [UnitedWayNashua.org](http://UnitedWayNashua.org).

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** This year, proceeds from the fundraiser will support United Way's Covid-19 Relief Fund.

### More space for people in need

Two facilities owned and operated by Families in Transition-New Horizons (FIT-NH) in Manchester have been renovated, allowing the nonprofit to better respond to space and operational limits caused by Covid. According to a press release, funds for the renovations came from the CARES Act, and the project included moving the organization's food pantry from 199 Manchester St. to a new property at 176 Lake Ave., across the street from the organization's Family Emergency Shelter. The former food pantry was renovated to create additional sleeping quarters for people experiencing homelessness, the release said.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** Joseph Campbell, president of North Branch Construction, which completed the renovations, said in the release, "[Those] struggling with food insecurity are able to visit the Lake Avenue food pantry for assistance, and 40 people experiencing homelessness on another cold winter night now have a safe and warm place to sleep tonight in the adult emergency shelter."

**QOL score:** 54

**Net change:** +2

**QOL this week:** 56

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

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# The continuing adventures of NH's comic creators

Artists and authors talk about their latest comic books and more

New Hampshire comics creators have faced plenty of challenges in the past year, like publishers and distributors shutting down, comic conventions being canceled and collaborative processes taking longer than usual. But more time at home has meant more time for creating, new inspiration for story concepts and themes, and virtual events that reach a wider audience. Nine local comics creators reflect on the past year — the good and the bad — and talk about their latest and upcoming projects.

## SHIV

The Manchester comic artist who creates under the pseudonym Shiv has a portfolio full of standalone comic art prints and commissioned fan art, original characters and portraits, but has never released a full comic series. That's about to change. The pandemic provided Shiv (who uses they/them pronouns) the push they needed to move forward with a sci-fi webcomic series. Shiv is co-creating the series with their partner and it's been a long time in the making.

"That's kind of been my big, looming comic project," said Shiv, who preferred not to reveal their full name so as to keep their work as an artist separate from their day job. "Normally, I'll find any reason to procrastinate, but ... Covid life has changed ... my motivation. I've found myself really on the ball artistically while being stuck inside."

The series, which is "basically about a big treasure hunt in space with pirates and all that," Shiv said, will most likely launch next month, and they will continue to add to the series over time.

"Who knows when the entire project will be done since it's meant to be a series, but ... my main focus right now is getting the webcomic up and running," they said.

Shiv said the events of 2020 have been "very inspirational" for the absurdist humor that they often incorporate in their art, and that they're interested in exploring that more in their future work.

"Who knows?" Shiv said. "Maybe I'll make a comic that harnesses the strange and unfortunate emotions that were produced this past year."

Check out Shiv's work at [shiv-art.square.site](http://shiv-art.square.site), on Twitter @shivyshivon and on Instagram @ohnoshiv.

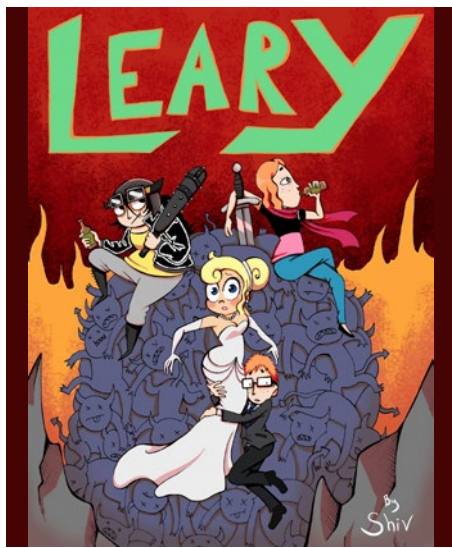
— Angie Sykeny

## RYAN LESSARD



Ryan Lessard

Ryan Lessard of Manchester, creator and writer of the sci-fi comic series *Sentinel*, released the second issue of the series in the fall — but not without some setbacks.



Leary by Shiv. Courtesy image.

In January 2020 the Kickstarter-funded comic was in the process of being colored and Lessard announced that it was on track to be sent out to backers in April. Then the pandemic hit, and his colorist had to work double time at his day job at his state health department, "squeezing in time to do colors when he could," Lessard said.

"So it took a few months longer than expected," he said. "You do your best estimating when people will get their books, but sometimes stuff happens, and a global pandemic happened to everyone."

Set in a spacefaring future, *Sentinel* follows an alien reporter through the investigation of a terrorist attack that nearly killed her and set off a chain of events.

Lessard said he's hoping to launch the Kickstarter campaign for the third issue in March. So far, his goal has been to have one campaign a year, but now, having completed the scripts for at least another eight issues, he's looking at the possibility of doing more.

"As my audience grows, I may be able to increase the frequency of production," he said, "like maybe making two books at once, for example."

Lessard has also been brainstorming and writing scripts for some graphic novels and one-off comics. He has already recruited an artist for a one-off about a hitchhiking robot, which he anticipates starting production on later this year, and is more than halfway done with the script for a space horror graphic novel, which he said was inspired by Covid life. The story, Lessard said, follows a



Sentinel, second issue, by Ryan Lessard. Courtesy image.

crew of eight people who, having been stuck on the same spaceship together for a couple of years, are "bouncing off the walls with boredom before things take a dark turn."

"The original idea and its main twist came to me in a dream," he said, "but the tone and feel and the idea of being cooped up — I'm sure that came from living in lockdown and quarantine for the better part of the past year."

The first two issues of *Sentinel* can be purchased locally at Double Midnight Comics in Manchester. For updates on Ryan Lessard's upcoming projects, visit [orionnewsservice.com](http://orionnewsservice.com) and follow him on Kickstarter at [kickstarter.com/profile/ryanlessard/created](https://www.kickstarter.com/profile/ryanlessard/created).

— Angie Sykeny

## STEPHEN BOBBETT



Stephen Bobbett

follows two aliens living on Earth as they provide commentary on the absurdities of

human culture. At the start of this year, Dover comics creator Stephen Bobbett launched *Earth is the Worst*, a new webcomic with a full-color four-panel strip added every Tuesday. The series largely



Earth is the Worst, a webcomic series by Stephen Bobbett. Courtesy image.

human culture.

"It's inspired by a lot of the newspaper comics I grew up with in the '90s, like *Calvin & Hobbes* and *The Far Side*," Bobbett said. "It even has a grainy print style as an homage to that era."

While some of his other comics "delve a little too deeply into world-building," Bobbett said, he created *Earth is the Worst* to be more accessible and appeal to a wider audience in the same way that many of the classic "old-school" newspaper comics did.

"Since Covid has put us all in a state of forced isolation, I think it's become more important to make art that people can instantaneously connect with," he said. "With *Earth is the Worst*, I wanted to make a comic where the archetypes were instantly recognizable, where you didn't have to read multiple pages to get the story, and — most importantly — where you might get a good laugh in the middle of a rough news day."

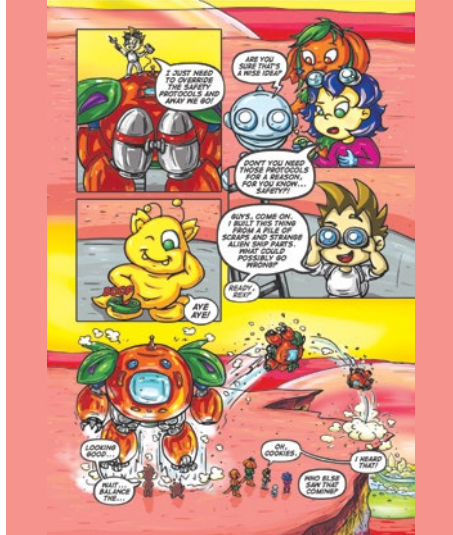
Bobbett said he plans to continue adding to *Earth is the Worst* weekly for now. He's also currently working on a dark comedy/sci-fi graphic novella series called *The Big Crunch*, which centers on an interplanetary city revolving around a black hole.

Two to three times a week Bobbett streams his art process on Twitch and answers viewers' questions about comics and illustration. He's been doing the streams for around five years now, he said, as a way of "turning visual art into an educational and social event."

"But this year it took on special significance as a way to stave off people's loneliness



From *2nd Place* by Ed Smith. Courtesy image.



From *EPLIS*, a comic book series by Emily Drouin. Courtesy image.

during quarantine,” he added. “It’s been a godsend.”

For more on Stephen Bobbett, visit [stephenbobbett.com](http://stephenbobbett.com) or catch him on his Twitch channel at [twitch.tv/FancySchmancy](https://www.twitch.tv/FancySchmancy). See the Earth is the Worst webcomic at [earthistheworst.com](http://earthistheworst.com), with a new strip added every Tuesday.

— Angie Sykeny

## ED SMITH



Ed Smith

Ed Smith of Bedford is currently working on a few comics projects; as of last week he was finishing up a four-issue graphic novel called *2nd Place*, co-written with Ben Goldsmith. He’s also

working on a monthly sci-fi serial strip and writing a book based on a story idea he had in high school.

“When drawing comics it’s usually a good idea to have as many irons in the fire

as possible,” said Smith, who works professionally as a graphic designer but aspires to be a full-time comic book artist.

*2nd Place* is about an intergalactic body-building competition that takes place between aliens. The two main characters are best friends who wish they were living each other’s lives. Smith said it’s an introspective look at them examining their own lives.

“The whole thing is done in a mockumentary style, like *The Office* or *Best in Show*,” Smith said. “So even though the theme seems pretty emotional and dramatic, it’s got a lot of humor to it. ... I [also] like to draw stuff in the background as little jokes and Easter eggs, so the readers can have more than just a quick page glance when they read it and get their money’s worth.”

Smith describes his work as very clean, emotive artwork that allows the reader to feel motion and emotion. It also transfers well from print to screen, he said, something he’s focused on since he read *The Tick* as a kid and then watched the TV show that was created based on the comic.

“It looked horrible to me,” he said. “I made it a mission of mine to create artwork that will go from the page to the screen and still look good.”

The serial strip that Smith is working

on is for a sci-fi magazine; it’s written by Alex Collazo, as part of his *Manalex* novel series.

“It’s sci-fi meets martial arts swords-and-sorcery type of books,” Smith said. “I usually handle funny and cartoony styles and stories, so I’m doing my best to make sure that the ... author is content with my perspective of his character. ... “It’s given me an opportunity to stretch my artistic muscles and do something outside of funny pages.”

Smith is also drawing for *The Life and Times of the Supertopian*, a book about stories that take place across the lifetime of a superhero that really existed in this comic book universe, written by Rich Woodall. And he has a personal project in the works that he plans to self-publish, a book about a boy who grew up next to a town full of superheroes but was always too insecure to try to be one himself.

“It shows kids that if you have a dream or a goal for yourself, you should never give up. You should always follow it, because you’re worth it,” he said.

While everyone has had to navigate a Covid-19 world, 2020 was especially life-changing for Smith, who had a heart valve replaced at the beginning of the year. At first, he fell into a post-operative depression and reached out to a friend for support. Smith speaks fluent sarcasm and appreciated his friend’s response — something to the effect of, “Gee, it’s really tough for us artists who can use what we do as a way to emote.”

“I started putting out a lot more work and it started to get better,” Smith said.

The pandemic did affect his work, though. He’s explored artistically as well as emotionally through a lot of different story lines. He’s also become much more adept at connecting with his readers, and other artists, online.

“I was really inexperienced when it came to social media, so a lot of contact with my fans was at conventions or through Facebook or Instagram,” he said. “Now I understand social media more; I can interact with fans and post videos.”

Smith said he misses that face-to-face

interaction at conventions, but staying in touch with fellow artists hasn’t been a problem.

“Artists are very emotionally raw, so we tend to support each other as much as possible,” he said.

You can find some of Smith’s work on his Facebook or Instagram pages, or on his website, [cartoonistatlarge.com](http://cartoonistatlarge.com).

— Meghan Siegler

## EMILY DROUIN



Emily Drouin

As a full-time professional illustrator, children’s book and comic book artist, video editor and animator, Emily Drouin of Raymond is always creating.

Drouin is best known for her

kids sci-fi action-adventure comic *EPLIS*, but with many comic conventions canceled due to Covid, she has turned her attention to commission work, some of which was new territory for her.

“I’ve had more time to work with more clients, which has really opened up some doors for me and [provided opportunities to] improve my art and work on new skill sets,” she said. “That’s one of the things I love most about my job — the variety of projects. I love the challenge of doing so many different things.”

One of her biggest jobs was doing the illustrations for two books in *The Pumpkin Wizard* series, a children’s anti-bullying fantasy adventure series written by Dover authors Derek Dextraze and Caitlin Crowley. Some of her other recent projects are illustrating a cover for a young adult book by a local author (she’s not at liberty to reveal the title yet, she said) as well as some coloring activity books, including one with notable figures from Black history.

Drouin also spent a lot of time reinvent-

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ing last year's Kids Con New England, of which she is the founder and organizer. Typically held in Nashua in June, the just-for-kids comic convention was converted to a free two-day virtual event in May, featuring creative workshops, special guest comic creators, book readings, sing-alongs and musical performances, a puppet show, tabletop gaming, costume contests, a coloring contest and more.

"We wanted to capture as many of the in-person events as possible," Drouin said. "It was actually a more unique experience, because we were able to connect with comic creators and families from across the country, so we had even more people than we would have had at the in-person event."

At present, Drouin is back to working on comics, including the fifth issue of *EPLIS* and a new horror comic.

"Children's comics and children's book [illustrations] have always been my thing, and this [horror comic] is about vampires and stuff, so it's a totally new thing for me," she said. "I'm excited to expand and do something different."

Check out Emily Drouin's comics and other work at [emilyatplay.com](http://emilyatplay.com). Recordings from the virtual Kids Con New England event held last May are free to watch at [kidsconne.com](http://kidsconne.com).

— Angie Sykeny

## MAREK BENNETT



Marek Bennett

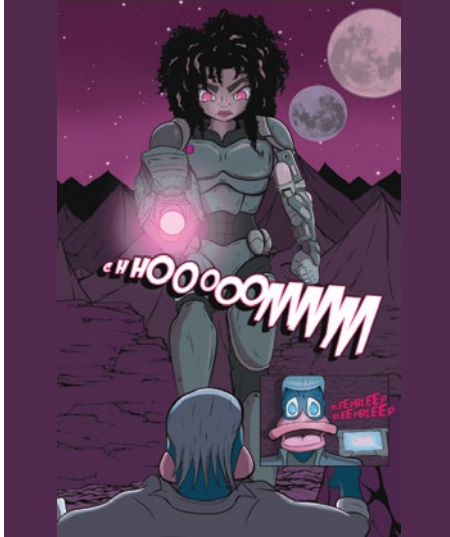
After a successful Kickstarter campaign, Heniker comic artist Marek Bennett is finishing up the final draft of his contribution to *The Most Costly Journey*, a non-fiction comics anthology scheduled to be released in February that tells the true stories of Latin American migrant workers working on dairy farms in Vermont.

It's one of several projects that Bennett is currently involved in, though he admits that the future is a little fuzzy right now.

"I have some plans that I was supposed to visit in 2020, and they're on the calendar now for spring 2021, but honestly, there's no guarantee," he said.

The biggest upheaval in Bennett's work has been his involvement with local schools; most years from January through May or June, he's working in schools several days a week. He was in the middle of a residency in Epping when schools shut down last spring.

"[Those residencies] are 50 or 60 percent of my annual income, and that was just gone," he said. "[But] If I focus on the money, it's really stressful and depressing and it's not why I got into cartooning."



From the upcoming comic book series *Re-Verse* by Brian Furtado. Courtesy image.

Bennett spent the rest of the spring trying to figure out how to reach an audience that he could no longer work with in person.

"I'm doing some regular live draws," he said. "That's really the bedrock of what I've been doing since the summer ... and Zoom sessions."

The live draws are every Monday and Friday, for anyone who's interested but also for those school groups that he can't otherwise connect with right now.

"If a classroom dials in, that's one view or one share, but it's 20 kids who get to draw — that's so much more valuable than selling a mini comic for a dollar," Bennett said. "I've been doing as much as I can through Facebook live and YouTube live, just so it's a little less prerecorded, [although there are] archived videos [too]."

Along with trying to maintain that connection, Bennett has used some of his newfound time at home to go back to his sketchbooks and do more creative, aimless doodling that leads to new ideas.

"Amidst all the upheaval and the uncertainty, having an excuse to be still ... has helped a lot," he said. "Quarantine and isolation is tough, but to a cartoonist, in some ways it's kind of an ideal scenario to get things done."

Other projects that Bennett is working on include a series of drawing activities created with a USDA grant that address toxic lead contamination in lakes and toxic materials in cosmetic and self-care products, and a series around federal sedition laws that explores the implications of current events.

"I'm taking those laws and drawing them out in very simple cartoons [and] making videos," he said. "I get so stressed about the news, but creating art about it, there's a sense of relief."

Bennett is also working on Vol. 3 of *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby*, and he's going to do more work with the Vermont Folklife Center, which is producing *The Most Costly Journey*. The next planned project is a book of comics drawn by New Hampshire and Vermont cartoonists based



Marek Bennett works on his Freeman Colby series. Courtesy photo.

on the life of Vermont storyteller Daisy Turner, who was born in 1883 and lived until 1988 and whose family's oral history reaches all the way back to early 19th-century Africa.

"There's just an incredible body of lore there," Bennett said.

Marek Bennett's work can be found at [marekbennett.com](http://marekbennett.com) or through [patreon.com](http://patreon.com), a website that allows fans to support their favorite artists in exchange for exclusive insider access to previews, future projects, workshops and more.

— Meghan Siegler

## BRIAN FURTADO



Brian Furtado

As a creative writing and graphic novel storytelling instructor at New England College, Brian Furtado of Manchester found himself with a lot of unexpected free time when many of his classes for 2020 were cut due

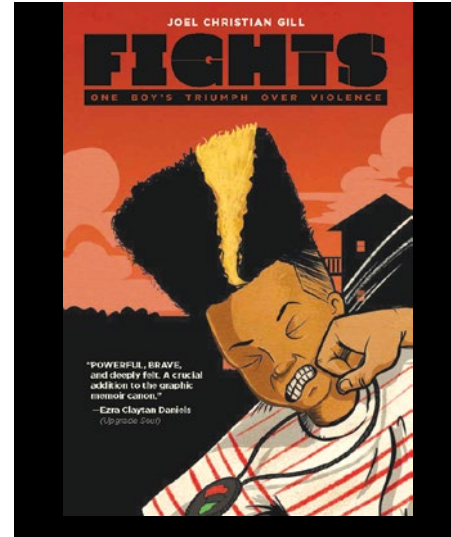
to Covid.

While the "weeks upon weeks of struggling with unemployment" were difficult, he said, the silver lining was that he had a rare opportunity to focus on his own comic series, *Re-Verse*, which has been years in the making.

"It wasn't exactly a stress-free writing retreat, but I did get a lot of work done," he said. "I got a lot more work done on this comic in 2020 than I think I could have any other year."

Furtado described the series as "an absurdist, satirical sci-fi comedy about a disgraced pop star turned private investigator who also happens to be an anthropomorphic duck." It's the first comic that he is creating entirely by himself, doing the writing, penciling, inking and coloring.

"It's been a long and arduous task," he said.



*Fights*, a graphic novel by Joel Christian Gill. Courtesy image.

"My experience and education are in writing. ... Until this project, I never really considered myself an artist. I've had to teach myself a lot more new things in order to get the artwork of this book up to the same level of quality I'd expect from an artist I [would] commission to draw it."

Furtado said he expects to have the artwork for the first issue of the seven-issue series fully completed within the next few weeks, "fingers crossed."

"Now that I've developed my own art style and drawing habits, I should be able to crank out [the artwork for the] issues much more quickly," he said.

Furtado has started the outlining and writing on a few other comics, which he plans to develop more once he releases the first issue of *Re-Verse*. For those, however, he'll be commissioning artists to do the artwork; he's got his hands full doing the art for the next six issues of *Re-Verse*.

"I think doing all the writing and artwork on multiple projects at once would actually kill me," he said. "[Commissioning artists] will free me up to write scripts for other artists to work on while I do all the artwork on *Re-Verse*."

Check out Brian Furtado's art on Instagram @SuperBri64.

— Angie Sykeny

## JOEL CHRISTIAN GILL



Joel Christian Gill

Joel Christian Gill of New Boston is best-known for his graphic novels that tell the lesser-known stories of Black history in the U.S., but his latest book, *Fights: One Boy's Triumph Over Violence*, released in January 2020, tells a different kind of story.

“It’s a graphic memoir that chronicles my life growing up and is kind of about how kids deal with emotional abuse, sexual abuse and violence,” he said. “It’s definitely a departure from the books I’ve done previously.”

Also in 2020, Gill created a series of humorous comic strips called *S--- my Students Say*, which was published in *The New Yorker*.

His next book, the third volume in his *Tales of the Talented Tenth* graphic novel series, will be released later this year, he said. It tells the story of Robert Smalls, an enslaved African American man who stole the U.S. Confederate warship *The Planter* and sailed it to the Union army.

Currently, Gill is collaborating with Ibram Xolani Kendi, author and the director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, to create a graphic novel adaptation of Kendi’s 2016 nonfiction book *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. Gill said the graphic novel is projected for release in 2023.

An associate professor of illustration at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, Mass., Gill has also been busy teaching remotely and presenting numerous virtual lectures, panels and workshops on comics.

“Not having to travel has given me the opportunity to say yes to things that I normally wouldn’t have been able to say yes to,” he said.

But having to do virtual events in lieu of the in-person book signings for *Fights* that he had planned has been disappointing, Gill said.

“Not being able to connect with people in the way that I’m used to has been the biggest hit for me,” he said. “Seeing people in real life and being in a room with them is just different, and I want to get back to that.”

Learn more about Joel Christian Gill’s work and upcoming events at [joelchristiangill.com](http://joelchristiangill.com).

— Angie Sykeny

# RICH WOODALL



Rich Woodall

All things pandemic considered, work has been going well for Somersworth comics creator Rich Woodall. He lucked out last March when his comic book *Kyrra #1* hit shelves on the last day of new

comic book releases before the Covid shutdown brought comic book presses to a halt; and he got to create the first three issues of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Last Ronin* and is starting work on the fourth and fifth issues now. But his biggest achievement over the last year has been launching his own horror/sci-fi imprint.

Woodall and comic artist Joseph Schmalke, with whom he co-created, co-writes and co-illustrates the popular horror comic series *The Electric Black*, are the co-publishers of the imprint Black Caravan, which is housed under their series’ publisher Scout.

Starting out as a publisher during the pandemic had its challenges, though, Woodall said, the biggest one being that Black Caravan’s distributor had completely shut down.

“We had to change our distribution system entirely,” he said.

Woodall and Schmalke concluded that their only option was to take the distribution process into their own hands. It’s an unorthodox practice and normally frowned upon by retailers, Woodall said, but under the pandemic circumstances, retailers were more receptive.

“Covid really kind of forced their hand,” he said. “Not many comic [publishers] were putting out comics, and some had shut down for good. [The retailers’] shelves were empty, so they didn’t really have a reason not to work with us.”

Black Caravan has published eight titles so far — six of which Woodall has contributed to creatively through writing, coloring, illustrating, design work, character design or lettering — and there are more on the way.

“I think we have about 12 different titles under our belts now ... and roughly 30 individual issues coming up,” Woodall said. “[Schmalke] and I have a lot of plans. We’re going to continue creating new stuff and building up Black Caravan even bigger and better.”

Find Rich Woodall’s comics and Black Caravan publications at [theblackcaravan.com](http://theblackcaravan.com).

— Angie Sykeny

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The Recount, by Rich Woodall. Courtesy image.

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ARTS

# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Call for actors:** Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, a new theater program at the Belknap Mill and the resident theater company of the Colonial Theater in Laconia, is holding auditions for two upcoming play festivals it's producing in collaboration with the Community Players of Concord. The Zoom Play Festival will be held virtually on Friday, April 16, and the Rotary Park Play Festival will take place outdoors at Rotary Park in Laconia on Saturday, May 29, and Sunday, May 30. Both festivals will feature short original plays by New Hampshire playwrights. "With the pandemic continuing to affect theater productions around the country, we have decided to give people the opportunity to get back 'on stage' in as safe a manner as possible," Powerhouse producer Bryan Halperin said in a press release. Auditions are by video submission, and roles are open to college-aged through senior citizen actors. The submission deadline is Monday, Feb. 1. Instructions for the video submissions can be found on the Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative Facebook page or by emailing powerhouse@belknap-mill.org.

• **Art by new NHAA members:** Catch the New Hampshire Art Association's exhibit "A New Day," before it's gone on Sunday, Jan. 31. Viewable online, in the front windows at the NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth) and at the gallery in person by appointment, the exhibit features work by 35 new NHAA members. "We are thrilled to welcome so many talented artists into NHAA and are happy to provide them opportunities to show and sell their work," NHAA board president Renee Giffroy said in a press release. "The fresh perspectives they bring help everyone in our community continue to grow." Among the featured artists are Carla Zwahlen, a landscape painter from Mont Vernon; John Kessler of Windham, an oil painter of landscapes and still life; and Howard Muscott, a nature photographer from Amherst. NHAA's next jurying opportunity for new members is scheduled for March. "We look forward to having more local artists



Art by new NHAA member John Kessler, featured in "A New Day" exhibit. Courtesy photo.

join us next year," Giffroy said. Call 431-4230 and visit nhartassociation.org.

• **Virtual author event:** The Music Hall in Portsmouth presents a virtual event with award-winning author, podcast host and culture critic Rebecca Carroll on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., as part of its Writers on a New England Stage series. Carroll will discuss her new memoir, *Surviving the White Gaze*, which chronicles her struggle to forge her identity as a Black woman in America after growing up in rural white New Hampshire. Carroll will be joined in conversation by Peter Biello, host of New Hampshire Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and *The Bookshelf*, an ongoing segment featuring local and regional authors. An audience Q&A will follow the discussion. Tickets cost \$5 for access to the event, which will be livestreamed on Crowdcast. Writers on a New England Stage will continue with author Diane Rehm, presenting her new book, *When My Time Comes*, on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and Nobel Prize winner and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman presenting his new book, *Arguing with Zombies*, on Tuesday, March 2. Visit themusic-hall.org or call 436-2400.

• **Community exhibit:** The Lane House Arts Center (380 Lafayette Road, Hampton) will have a community arts exhibit "Winter Blues," on view in person from Friday, Jan. 29, through Saturday, Feb. 27. The exhibit features art in a wide range of media created by more than a dozen local artists. "Community art exhibits provide much-needed opportunities for area artists, while enabling us to invite a broader segment of the community into the gallery," Karen Desrosiers, founder and curator of Lane House Arts Center, said in a press release. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Call 926-1111 or visit lanehousearts.com.

— Angie Sykeny

### Art

#### Call for Art

• **35TH ANNUAL OMER T. LASSONDE JURIED EXHIBITION** New Hampshire Art Association seeks submissions of artwork from 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. Call 431-4230 and visit nhartassociation.org.

### Classes

#### GENERAL ART CLASSES

In-person art classes for all levels and two-dimensional media, held with small groups of two to five students. Private classes are also available. Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover St., Manchester). Students are asked to wear masks in the gallery. Tuition costs \$20 per group class and \$28 per private class, with payment due

at the beginning of the class. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecresposfineart.com for availability.

### Theater

#### Shows

• **PALACE TEEN COMPANY TAKEOVER** Fri., Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Virtual. Presented by the Palace Theatre in Manchester. Tickets cost \$15. Call 668-5588 or visit palacetheatre.org.



## Icing things up

### Winter Fest returns to downtown Concord

By Angie Sykeny  
asykeny@hippopress.com

Winter fun is still on the schedule as The Hotel Concord and Intown Concord host their third annual Winter Fest on Friday, Jan. 29, and Saturday, Jan. 30, outside on the Statehouse lawn.

“The nature of the event — it being outdoors with people generally spread out — lent itself to having a safe version this year, so we thought it had some potential [to still take place],” said Jamie Simchik, a member of the Intown Concord board and Winter Fest committee and co-owner of The Hotel Concord. “Fortunately, Intown Concord and the city were interested and wanted to bring some activity back into downtown.”

The highlight of the event is its ice carvers, with ice carving demonstrations on Friday and a live ice carving competition on Saturday.

“People will be able to see the ice carvers in action as well as their final products,” Simchik said.

Five New England ice carvers — Eric Knoll, Dave Soha, Dennis Hickey, Michael Legassey and Alexander Bieniecki — will participate, which is the most Winter Fest has ever had.

“Many other ice carving competitions have decided not to move forward this year, which is

unfortunate but kind of a blessing in disguise for us because as a result our ice carving competition got a lot more interest from ice carvers looking for an opportunity to compete,” Simchik said.

An award ceremony will close out the event on Saturday. The top four carvers will receive a one-night stay at The Hotel Concord, and the top three will additionally receive cash prizes — \$100 for third place, \$250 for second and \$500 for first. After the event, Intown Concord will post a poll on its Facebook page, where members of the public can vote for their favorite carving to win the People’s Choice Award.

The sculptures will remain on display through at least Monday, Simchik said.

On both Friday and Saturday, Winter Fest will also feature games and activities like cornhole, warmup stations with s’mores and hot cocoa, music over a sound system and a Winter Shopping Stroll at downtown Concord’s restaurants and retail shops.

“It’s been rough, obviously, for the businesses affected by the pandemic, so helping them out is one of the goals for the event,” Simchik said. “Our vision is that we bring more people downtown in a safe fashion, and businesses take advantage of that.”

As for Covid safety precautions, mask-wearing



A previous Winter Fest in downtown Concord. Photo by Steven Lipofsky.

and social distancing are required, and attendees are asked to register in advance, providing their contact information and the times they plan on being at the event.

“It allows us to get an idea of who is coming and who is there so that, if [a positive Covid case is reported], we can do contact tracing and notify people appropriately,” Simchik said. 🍷

#### Concord Winter Fest

**Where:** Downtown Concord. Winter Fest activities, the ice carving demonstration and the ice carving competition will be held at the Statehouse Lawn (107 N. Main St.). The Winter Shopping Stroll will include restaurants and retail shops on Main Street.

**When:** Friday, Jan. 29, from 3 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ice carving demonstrations will take place all day Friday, and the ice carving competition will take place on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an awards ceremony at 4 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

**Covid guidelines:** Registration in advance is requested for contact-tracing purposes. Mask-wearing and social distancing as per state and city guidelines are mandatory.

**More info:** Visit [intownconcord.org/index.php/winter-fest](http://intownconcord.org/index.php/winter-fest) or call 226-2150. Registration for the event is through Eventbrite (search “3rd Annual Winter Fest & Ice Carving Competition”).



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Contact GAP Director Curt McDermott at 603-660-5302 or [curt.mcdermott@sau19.org](mailto:curt.mcdermott@sau19.org) with any questions.

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# Say no to pesticides

Why growing — and eating — organic is important

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

I've been growing vegetables organically all my life. I use no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. I don't often think about the reasons I do so, any more than I think about breathing — it's just something I do.

I recently picked up a book written by Maria Rodale called *The Organic Manifesto: How Organic Farming Can Heal Our Planet, Feed the World, and Keep Us Safe* (Rodale Press, 2010) and it reminded me why I do so. I'd like to share some of the important points with you here.

In the introduction Eric Schlosser (author of the fabulous book *Fast Food Nation*) presented some stark facts: American farmers use 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides each year — four pounds for every man, woman and child. Some of these pesticides — the organophosphates — were first developed in Germany in WWII as chemical weapons. The federal government does not require reporting of usage, and testing is done by manufacturers, not the EPA or USDA. Most food has some pesticide residue — except for organic foods, which shouldn't have any.

One of Maria Rodale's reasons for eating only organic food might surprise you: It has to do with climate change. Soils treated with chemicals, including fertilizers, do not have robust populations of microorganisms. Organic soils do. Key among these living beings are the mycorrhizal fungi that coat the roots of plants in organically tended soils. These fungi sequester huge amounts of carbon, taking greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere and holding it in the soil. But they are virtually non-existent in soils treated with chemicals. Grow organically? Eat organically? You are helping the environment.

Secondly, irrigation water for commercial agriculture, particularly in the West, uses large quantities of water, depleting aquifers and polluting ground water. When I traveled through the Midwest in the early 2000's

I was amazed that supermarkets designated entire aisles to jugs of water — no one wanted to drink from their own wells. And there is a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico that is bigger than New Jersey caused by agricultural runoff of chemicals from conventional fields.

Children are particularly vulnerable to chemicals used in commercial farming. Rates of childhood cancers, asthma, diabetes, autism and other debilitating conditions continue to increase. Ms. Rodale attributes (with copious footnotes to scientific studies) many of these changes to the chemicals children consume. As she says, "Cheap food equals high health care costs."

The "organic" label on food also means that no genetically modified organisms were used in producing your food. Back in 2010 when Rodale wrote the book, 91 percent of all soybeans and 95 percent of all corn produced in America was genetically modified to be tolerant of a weed killer called glyphosate, sold under the trade name Roundup.

There has been much controversy about Roundup, and whether it is harmful to

humans. Ms. Rodale points out that Roundup cannot be washed off food: It has a surfactant that allows the chemical to penetrate the cell wall. And since corn and soy are used to manufacture many foods, from ice cream to baby food and ketchup, it is everywhere. The federal government does not consider Roundup a problem, though many scientists do.

Ms. Rodale never once, in this book, criticized conventional chemical farmers. Organic or conventional, she recognized their hard work and a desire to work their land and support their families. She recognizes that transitioning to organic farming takes time, money and education.

So what can you do? You may not be able to afford to buy nothing but organic food. But you probably can buy your meats from local farmers that do not use the feedlots of the Midwest that feed their cows and pigs antibiotics. And you can get eggs, as I do, from a local teenager who treats his hens well. (Thank you, Ian's Eggs.)

For vegetables, you can probably grow some of what you require for vegetables in summer, or buy from a local farm stand.

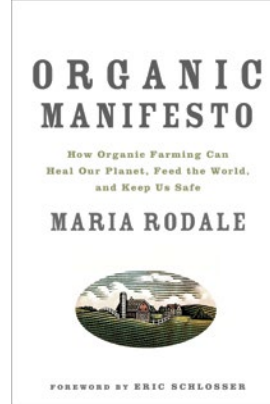


Image courtesy of Henry Homeyer.

Many farmers are happy to tell you about how they grow their vegetables. The supplier of the local farm stand near me uses an approach called IPA or Integrated Pest Management. This method encourages farmers to use natural controls and to use pesticides only when a crop is threatened. They cultivate crops to root out weeds instead of spraying herbicides like Roundup.

But the bottom line is this: The more you grow organically, the better your soil will

be. If you use only organic methods, you can avoid many chemicals in your food that might be present in grocery store foods.

I recognize that I cannot change the world with what I do. But I have learned to grow plenty of vegetables and to keep them for eating out-of-season. So think about a bigger vegetable garden this summer, and I will tell you about how to put food up for next winter when the time comes.

*Henry is the author of four gardening books and a UNH Master Gardener. He lives in Cornish Flat. You may reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.* 🍌

## TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

*I have an assortment of older comics. They are not in the best condition, but I thought you might be able to provide advice as to a value, if any.*

Karl

Dear Karl,

I have to start off by saying that comics is a very specific field, and even if I can give you my thoughts on them, you should do more research and or see someone who deals in them.

My experience with comics is that the closer they are to mint condition, the higher the value. Most are in very used condition from reading, so to find mint ones makes the value on some soar.

Collectors look for older ones, limited ones and specific issues. You can't really group your comics without checking on each one individually. One rare comic can be worth more than \$1,000 in mint condition. In poor condition the same one could be worth \$50. That's still a value that could add up with an assortment of them.



Common older comics can still have values from \$5 and up, even in used condition. There is a specific scale used to judge the condition of them. This is why I suggest you do further research before assuming you just have a lot of used comics. Even if they are only in the \$5 range each, it still adds up!

If you need help in doing research I could refer you to a person who could help you in this field. Drop me an email and I will put you in touch.

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

## INSIDE/OUTSIDE

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### Hike by the light of the moon

Beaver Brook (117 Ridge Road in Hollis; 465-7787, beaverbrook.org) has hikes on the schedule this weekend. On Friday, Jan. 29, it's

a **Full Moon Hike**, which starts at 6:30 p.m. Definitely take the advice to dress in layers; admission costs \$15 per person. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Beaver Brook also has kid-focused events during weekdays. See their website for information on multi-week programs, including the Kids Fitness Hiking Club, homeschool programs and events for the pre-K crowd.

### More wildlife

The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road in Holderness; 968-

7194, nhnature.org) has **Wild Winter Walks** on the schedule for the next few weekends. This weekend, the walks take place Sunday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The walks (recommended for ages 6 and up) offer an outdoor look at the center's animals during the winter. The cost is \$10 per person; register online.

### Putting on a virtual show

Kids with theatrical dreams might want to check out the **Palace Teen Company's "Take Over Show,"** with the teens performing their "Broadway dream roles," according to

palacetheatre.org, where you can buy a \$15 ticket to this virtual show, happening Friday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m.

### Crafting and bouncing

Cowbunga's (725 Huse Road in Manchester; mycowabungas.com, 935-9659) is offering a **String Art & Bouncing** activity on Friday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. The craft is a string-art heart (materials will be provided) and kids will have a chance to bounce while waiting for part of the craft to dry. Tickets cost \$15; see the website to reserve a spot. 🍌

# Prius safety features advancing by leaps and bounds



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I have a basic 2006 Prius that I bought new. It replaced a 1998 Corolla. How do the advancements in safety features between those two vehicles compare to the advancements between the 2006 Prius

and a basic 2021 Prius? — Vic

Night and day, Vic. Your '98 Corolla had two airbags, and seatbelts with pre-tensioners. That was pretty basic. Antilock brakes were optional, as were side airbags. Other than that, the most important safety feature on the 1998 Corolla was probably the rear window defroster.

Your 2006 Prius is safer. ABS was standard, so you have that. They added side-impact bars to the doors, which help. But side airbags and electronic stability control were optional. And since you say you have a "basic" Prius, I'm guessing you didn't spring for those.

Cut to 2021 and it's a whole new world. Electronic stability control is standard, and there are now some 10 airbags. You get side impact airbags, front and rear, side curtain airbags, and the driver even gets a knee airbag.

But the biggest safety advances are electronic. The 2021 Prius comes with what Toyota calls their Safety Sense package. That includes automatic emergency braking. So if you're distracted

watching your mileage tick from 53.4 to 53.5 and don't see a car stop in front of you, the Prius will warn you to brake and will even brake for you if you don't react in time. The system senses pedestrians, too. The 2021 Prius warns you if you start to drift out of your lane on the highway, and even nudges you back into it.

It alerts you when someone is driving in your blind spot, so you don't change lanes into a Tombstone Pizza truck. It has a backup camera, and it warns you if a car is coming down the street from either direction as you're backing out of your driveway. It also has a head-up display, which projects your vehicle speed through the windshield, so the information appears to be floating at the end of your hood. That allows you to know how fast you're going (and see your GPS) without taking your eyes off the road.

There's really been a revolution in the last, I'd say, five years or so as this equipment — which is all based on self-driving car technology — has worked its way down from expensive cars to more common cars. And these systems are definitely saving both lives and sheet metal.

So if you have a car that's 5 or 10 years old, or more, and you're on the fence about whether to get a new one, you can get a huge upgrade in safety if you buy a car now. Check to be sure all of the crucial stuff (all the stuff we list above) comes standard on the car you want. Or, if any of it is optional, make sure the car you buy has it.

Dear Car Talk:

I keep wondering about electric cars and emissions. Unless you charge from a home with solar panels, you have to charge your car from the electric grid, which mostly uses natural gas. That would cause pollution. Everyone seems to think that if you drive an electric car, you have no pollution footprint, but that is not the case.

Perhaps hydrogen fuel cells might have a better pollution footprint since I believe the emissions would be nothing but water vapor. What do you think is the best way to proceed with this long-term decision? — Roger

You're right that there's very little free energy. But here's why electric cars create less pollution than gasoline powered cars. With a gas-powered car, you have tens of millions of engines, and tens of millions of catalytic converters, all in different states of age, maintenance and disrepair.

While most states have regular emissions inspections, it's a lot harder to police tens of millions of individual cars — where a guy can slip a mechanic a \$50 to help him cheat the emissions test — than it is to police a few thousand power plants. Fewer power plants run on coal these days, which has the worst pollution footprint of the fossil fuels. There are lots of plants that run on natural gas, which, while not as clean as wind and solar, is cleaner than oil and gasoline. And, increasingly, utilities are adding solar and wind power to their generation systems. So, over time,

I would expect the amount of pollution created by our electric grid to drop and the argument for electric vehicles to get stronger.

Add to that: Electric cars remove pollution from places where traffic is densest and air pollution is the worst, like in crowded cities. So electric cars should make a big dent in air quality and public health over time.

Hydrogen is a possibility. Hydrogen fuel cells combine hydrogen with oxygen to create water, a chemical reaction that produces electricity. That electricity is created onboard the vehicle, then used to power an electric motor. The biggest advantage to hydrogen is that it can provide a longer range than some of today's batteries and allows you to refuel in about the same time as it takes to fill a traditional gas tank. But you have to make, transport, store and deliver the hydrogen. And unless you do all that with renewable energy, hydrogen power creates some pollution.

So what's the best way to proceed long term? Well, if you live in a place where solar power works well, you can reduce your pollution footprint by getting an electric car and charging it at home using your own solar panels. And in the bigger picture, the best thing we can do to reduce automobile pollution and improve public health is to move toward electric or fuel cell cars and work to increase the percentage of renewable, non-polluting generation in our electric grids.

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# Downsized nuptials

Eloping and micro weddings are the next big, er, small thing

By Meghan Siegler  
msiegler@hippypress.com

Dreams of elaborate weddings with hundreds of guests were dashed for many brides and grooms in 2020. As the pandemic took hold, social distancing restrictions made large gatherings impossible. And while some couples postponed their vows altogether, others reined in their plans and slashed their guest lists, opting for either an elopement, with no guests, or what has become known as a micro wedding, which usually includes about 15 people or fewer.

"Micro weddings definitely became a lot more popular [during the pandemic]," said Lauren Ingle, a wedding planner based in Manchester who ended up planning more than three dozen elopements and micro weddings last year and has 12 booked so far in 2021. "It's definitely ... the new norm at this point."

"When Covid hit, a lot of people realized they didn't want to postpone their wedding," said Tatiana Cicuto, a justice of the peace and co-owner of Top of the Ridge Farm in New Hampton, which just opened last spring and has since hosted several micro weddings and elopements. "Some decided, let's get married now and have a [bigger] celebration later."

For every wedding that was downsized that



A winter micro wedding. Breaanne Gilbert Photography. Photo courtesy of wedding planner Lauren Ingle.

Ingle and Cicuto were part of, the end result was overwhelmingly positive.

"In my experience so far, [all of the couples] have been very happy to have something small and private," Cicuto said.

"All of my micro weddings have been just as special and beautiful," Ingle said. "Honestly, they seem even more intimate and beautiful."

## Elopement vs. micro wedding

"I think a lot of people have different ideas of what a micro wedding is," Cicuto said.

To her, an elopement is two people and an officiant, and a micro wedding is, well, small.

"What that small means, the number, is really subject to interpretation," she said.

She thinks of micro weddings as 10 or 15 people, though some venues in New Hampshire that offer micro weddings will include up to 25 people.

Ingle, who offers packages that range from elopement to extravagant, agrees that an elopement is typically just the couple and the officiant.

"It's usually just exchanging of the vows and then the couple goes out for dinner, or goes up to a cabin up north [for the night]," Ingle said.

She said elopements can include elements like bouquets, a photographer, an arbor and Champagne so it "feels like something more than just going to town hall."

Micro weddings, on the other hand, include almost all of the elements of a larger wedding but on a smaller scale — think sweetheart cake rather than a four-tier cake, appetizers rather than a four-course meal, and an amp that plays pre-loaded music rather than a live band.

## Micro details

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to micro wedding details, though — if the couple still wants a live band or a four-course meal for their small group, that can be arranged.

Cicuto likes to work closely with couples so their micro weddings are exactly what they want them to be.

"This couple who got engaged, they decided to get married three weeks later," she said. "They came to us and said, 'We know it's crazy, but can we get married [in three weeks]?' ... They wanted it outside on a Tuesday in July. ... We said, 'Yes, of course we can get it done!'"

Cicuto said the couple was very flexible and understood that in three weeks they couldn't get, say, blue tulips in the middle of July. She worked with them to plan their music and their flowers and set up vignettes around the property, like an antique tub filled with ice and drinks. The couple brought in their own caterer and photographer.

"It was a very collaborative approach," Cicuto said. "There were some things they chose not to have ... but otherwise it was a normal wedding. It wasn't missing anything critical."

Likewise, Ingle created exactly the wedding that Rachel and Steele Hudson wanted (that's according to the bride herself — see her wedding story on p. 22), even though they had to downsize from a 100+-person wedding in Jackson to a micro wedding with 12 people.

"She ended up not getting many deposits back from some vendors, so it had to be pretty small and affordable," Ingle said.

Ingle was able to take the elements of the Hudsons' original wedding and scale it down.

"It was the most magical day," Ingle said.

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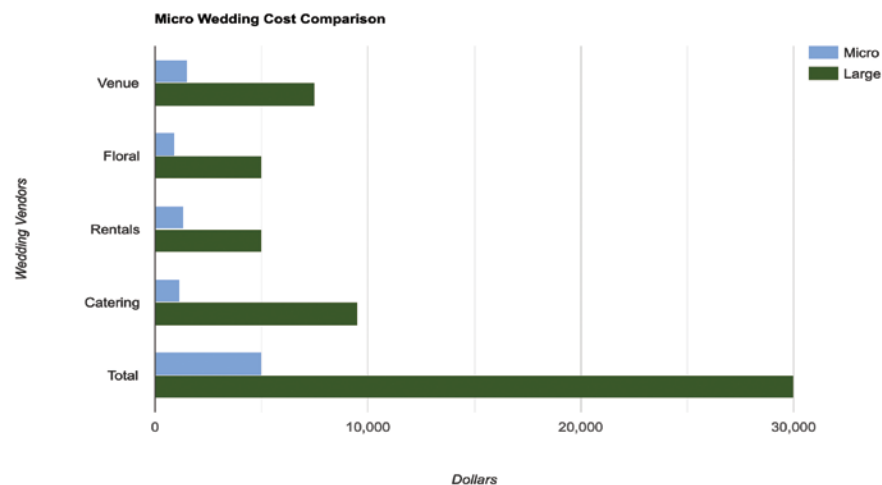
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## Wedding packages



### Large wedding

**Average total cost:** \$30,000+

**People:** 50+

**Usually includes:**

- Venue
- Rentals
- Floral
- Band/DJ
- Photo & video
- Hair and makeup
- Wedding planner
- Officiant
- Transportation
- Lodging
- Catering
- Food & beverages
- Cake
- Attire
- Stationary

### Micro wedding

**Cost:** \$5,000-\$12,000

**People:** Usually 15 to 25

**Usually includes:**

- Venue
- Rentals
- Food & beverages
- Floral
- Hair and makeup
- Music
- Photo
- Wedding planner
- Stationary
- Lodging
- Transportation
- Attire

### Elopement package

**Cost:** \$500-\$1200

**People:** The couple only with officiant, no guests

**Usually includes:**

- Location
- Arbor
- Bridal bouquet(s) / Boutonniere
- Dinner for two at a local restaurant
- Local lodging accommodations for the couple
- Champagne for 2

Above information provided by Lauren Ingle of Weddings By Lauren in Manchester.

## Less stress, less money

One of the benefits of a micro wedding (or an elopement, for that matter) is that it's usually a lot easier to plan than a large wedding — for the couple who wanted to get married in three weeks, anything bigger than a micro wedding would have been next to impossible for Cicuto to plan in that amount of time.

Cicuto herself enjoyed a stress-free micro wedding last month, marrying Gino in December at their B&B with just an officiant and their two kids, who were holding up phones so friends and family around the world could watch.

"We had been together for such a long time, and my now husband said, 'You know, 2020 has been such a crap year, let's end it on a good note,'" Cicuto said.

They made sure the kids could come that Sunday and made a cake the day before.

Rachel Hudson wanted even less involvement in the planning of their micro wedding.

"She was sick of planning," Ingle said. "She didn't want to deal with the stress of re-planning a whole wedding."

So Ingle and Hudson's maid of honor took over and left her out of everything — including where the wedding was going to take place.

"She was actually blindfolded on her way up to the venue," Ingle said. "She didn't have to lift a finger."

Aside from less planning, the day itself is less stressful too.

"It was seven minutes and done," Cicuto said of her nuptials.

Hers may be an extreme example, but both Ingle and Cicuto have found that micro weddings have fewer high-blood-pressure moments.

"[The couple] can sit back and relax and enjoy their friends and family, as opposed to having to say hi to 150 people," Ingle said. "[That] can be overwhelming. ... With a smaller wedding, it's just so laid back and relaxed."

Perhaps one of the biggest benefits of eloping or having a micro wedding is how much less expensive it is, mainly because you're not providing food and entertainment for a huge group of guests, but also because the fancy, costly details are less important when you're not trying to impress that huge group.

"A lot of couples have come to terms with the fact that some things are not needed," Cicuto said.

Ingle said a lot of the couples she worked with were relieved once they transitioned to an elopement or a micro wedding.

"I'm saving so much money now, and I'm not having to invite all these people and plus ones that I've never met," Ingle said. "Moving forward, I think these smaller weddings are going to be more popular." 🍷

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## A 2020 wedding story



Rachel and Steele Hudson and their wedding party. Photo by Novae Film and Photo.

*Rachel Hudson (formerly Prescott) shares her experience of being a bride in 2020. She and her husband, Steele, got married Dec. 18.*

I had always wanted a winter elopement, just the two of us, and then ... a big party with friends and family after the fact. He wanted a summertime wedding with as many people ... as possible. We ended up compromising and decided on a big winter wedding [at the] Mountain View Grand Resort in Whitefield. ... Then Covid hit.

Over the months more and more guests dropped out. ... It got to the point where I started to dread the wedding. I had nightmares about an empty ballroom and an even more empty dance floor. ... When we got down to about 25 guests — including the wedding party — we decided to cancel. The venue couldn't lower the minimum guest count any further, [and] too many of our closest friends and family couldn't be there. We were desperately holding on to the few shreds of the big fun wedding we wanted, and we knew no matter what happened we wouldn't be able to save it. ... We canceled it nine days before the wedding.

[A day later] my maid of honor contacted Lauren and frantically put together a plan to save the wedding, without my knowledge. Lauren ... found a venue that was willing to take us in on such short notice and made sure it was somewhere that was similar to what I had originally wanted. She worked ... with my maid of honor and my photographer/videographer, Grace from Novae Film & Photo, to create a surprise wedding from scratch in a week.

[Meanwhile], I was researching a sad courthouse wedding. I was eventually told that there was a rescue effort and that I should still plan on a wedding. My husband and I agreed to it on one condition: We wanted to be completely kept out of the loop. We had already spent so much time, effort [and] money ... [on] our original wedding that we literally couldn't bear to make another one. ...

I was blindfolded and brought to the location. My maid of honor dropped off some decorations and Lauren took off decorating while I was blindly escorted to a room to get ready. ... I had never seen the spot; we never had a rehearsal. The first time seeing the area, the aisle, everything, was during the actual wedding. It was surreal.

It was perfect, every detail. Everything was heartburstingly perfect. Lauren found the best ceremony spot I could ever hope for [I later found out it was Lakeview Inn in Wolfeboro] and decorated it exactly how I would have wanted. It was tucked into a wooded circle, surrounded by fresh snow-covered pine trees. ... The arch was simple and rustic, decorated with evergreens, antlers and juniper berries. There were lanterns with real candles lining the aisle that wound through the woods. There were only 11 of us total, which ended up being better than expected — just our closest friends and family. The reception was inside the Inn, and it was decorated like a big family dinner on Christmas, with a large single-family table and intimate lighting. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely. The Inn is family-run and they cooked for us and served us, their dogs and cats coming in and out for some pets and scratches. It felt so warm and cozy, fireplace going, wine pouring and conversation that you could actually hear and participate in.

It was better than anything I could have hoped or planned myself. Instead of compromising and making cuts and downgrading a big wedding repeatedly, they created a new micro wedding that wasn't desperately trying to be something it wasn't. ... Being able to sit back and not plan or worry about the wedding took so much of a weight off my shoulders. ... My husband and I will have a big party in a year or two so we can throw on the fancy clothes again, have a dance party like we wanted and invite everyone who missed out, but there is honestly nothing I regret about my mini wedding.

My dream wedding was a small winter wedding elopement; I was lucky enough to get that. My husband's dream was a big summer wedding party, and now we get to plan that too. We both get to have the elements of our weddings that we wanted without having to sacrifice anything.

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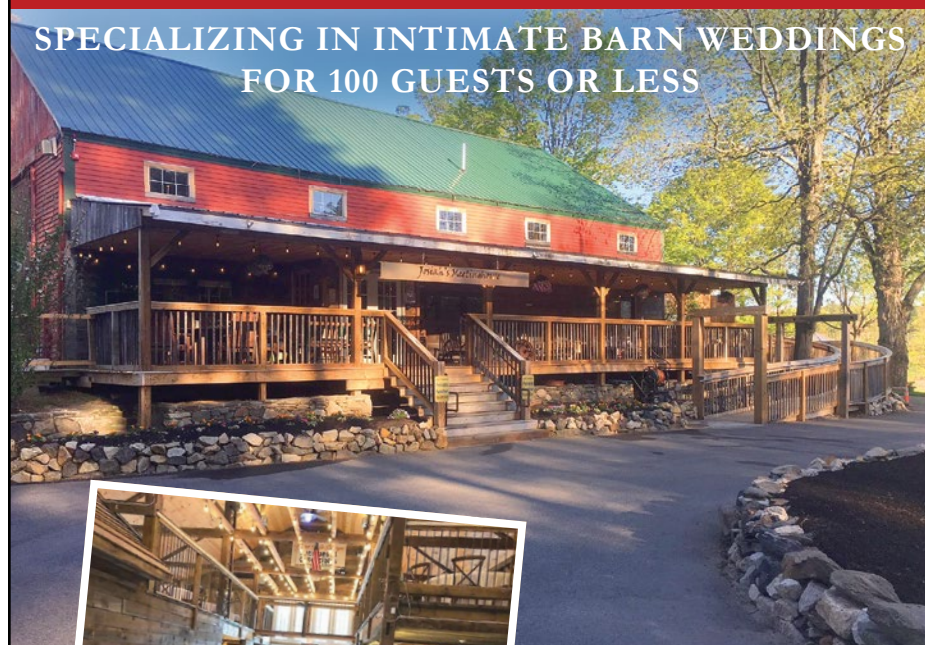
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By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

# FOOD

## Served with love

Delicious ways to celebrate Valentine's Day this year

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and whether you're looking for a romantic evening out or would prefer to enjoy it in the comfort of your own home, there have perhaps never before been so many different ways to celebrate. Local restaurateurs and candymakers talk about how they're approaching what's normally a big day for business as the pandemic continues.

### Meals for sweethearts

For co-owner and chef Matt Berry of Dahlia Restaurant, a series of New England-inspired farm-to-table pop-up dinners he presents with his wife Lauren at various local eateries, Valentine's Day menus are among his favorites of the year to write.

"The vibe of being in a restaurant is already pretty intimate and it's a special occasion to share with a partner," Berry said. "I feel like people tend to be more adventurous eaters ... so it's a good time to try out some fun techniques and be creative with what you're preparing."

Since they launched the dinner series late last year, Berry said, he and his wife had been thinking about serving some type of Valentine's Day dinner in collaboration with The Birch on Elm in Manchester. Eventually, he said, plans shifted from preparing for just one night to instead offering two seatings each across several evenings.

Starting Sunday, Feb. 7, and for select evenings through Thursday, Feb. 18, Dahlia Restaurant will serve a six-course Valentine's Day menu with seatings at either 5 or 7:30 p.m. and optional wine or Champagne bottle pairings. Courses will include mushroom agnolotti with scallop, carrots and caviar; rib-eye, with cauliflower puree, carrots and potatoes; and a buttermilk panna cotta with strawberry preserves, thyme and an almond crumble. Attendees can inquire about the most up-to-date availability on reservations by emailing [reserve@dahlianomadic.com](mailto:reserve@dahlianomadic.com).

"We figured we could still have that intimate restaurant atmosphere of being out for Valentine's Day but also being as safe and clean as possible," Berry said.

Other local restaurants, in response both to the pandemic and to Valentine's Day falling on a Sunday this year, are offering multiple chances to celebrate over the course of several days. The Hills Restaurant at Hampshire Hills Athletic Club in Milford, for instance, will be running a five-course meal during business hours from Thursday, Feb. 11, through Saturday, Feb. 13, when you'll be able to choose your own appetizer, soup or salad, entree and dessert option, according to executive chef Ben Cass. Similarly, Jamison's Restaurant in Hampstead is running a specials menu all week leading up to Valentine's Day, from Wednesday, Feb. 10, through Saturday, Feb. 13, during which a four-course prix fixe



Sweetheart chocolate bag from the Bedford Village Inn. Courtesy photo.



A box of chocolates from Granite State Candy Shoppe. Courtesy photo.

menu will be served.

In Hooksett, Roots Cafe & Catering at Robie's Country Store has been closed since Christmas Eve but is due to reopen soon — just in time for a multi-course Valentine's Day dinner menu that will be served on Saturday, Feb. 13, co-owner Amber Enright said. In addition to baby spinach salad and seared scallops with a parsnip puree and beet reduction, the meal will include one of two entree options (braised short ribs or citrus-marinated Cornish game hen) and chocolate cherry mousse for dessert. Champagne bottles will also be available.

"It's going to be one seating at 6 p.m. for dine-in, but we're going to offer the dinner for takeout as well," Enright said. "People can pick it up between 4 and 6 p.m."

Some spots are also going the brunch route for Valentine's Day this year. The Grazing Room at the Colby Hill Inn in Henniker, chief innovation officer Jeff Brechbühl said, will serve a chocolate lover's brunch on Sunday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring chocolate integrated in different ways among various selections. A three-course prix fixe dinner menu will follow, with seatings between 4 and 8 p.m.

Madear's Southern Eatery & Bakery in Pembroke, also hosting a Valentine's Day brunch on Feb. 14, will serve various all-you-can-eat scratch-made Cajun options from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., like chicken and red velvet waffles, banana-stuffed French toast, bourbon bread pudding, shrimp and grits, catfish nuggets and more. Unlimited mimosas and a bloody mary bar are also additional options. Madear's will then end the day with a five-course plated dinner from 4:30 to 10 p.m.

### Together at home

If you'd prefer to skip going out to a sit-down restaurant for Valentine's Day, there are all kinds of opportunities courtesy of local businesses to help you mark the occasion at home.

The Bedford Village Inn, for example, in addition to serving a four-course prix fixe menu in its

dining room on Feb. 14, is also offering a "Valentine's Day Takeaway" take-home meal kit this year, featuring an appetizer, an entree, various accompaniments, a dessert and optional wine or Champagne pairings, all chosen from a select menu and packaged with cooking instructions, house-made breads and Vermont butter. Highlights of the menu include a local artisan cheese board, filet mignon or grass-fed lamb with a red wine demi-glace, and a "sweetheart chocolate bag," which features white chocolate and strawberry mousses, strawberries, red velvet cake, strawberry coulis and chocolate sauce. Orders are being accepted through Feb. 7, and pickups will be on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13.

"It's a beautiful, elegant menu, and really a nice one-stop shop for Valentine's Day," Bedford Village Inn sales and marketing director Melissa Samaras said.

Several participating locations of The Common Man Family of Restaurants have also introduced unique takeout menus for Valentine's Day, dubbed the "Sweetheart Suppers To Go." Meals are sold per couple and include three courses with heating instructions, as well as half-priced wines and chocolate-covered strawberries as optional add-ons.

Common Man chief executive officer Vincent

### More ways to celebrate Valentine's Day



Swiss fudge hearts from Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester

From gifting sweet treats to your significant other to enjoying a romantic night out for two, be sure to check out our annual dine-in and takeout listings for Valentine's Day at local restaurants, candy shops, bakeries and more. They'll go live online at [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com) beginning Jan. 28, available to everyone, thanks to our members and supporters.





Nelson's Candy and Music in Wilton. Courtesy photo.

Vella said the concept continues the success that each of the company's restaurants have experienced over the last several months, following similar programs that were rolled out for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"You get a crab and spinach artichoke dip as an appetizer, and then petite filet and lobster tail dinner, and a white chocolate mousse dessert," Vella said.

He said orders are being accepted at each participating restaurant through Feb. 7, with pickups the day before Valentine's Day.

New England's Tap House Grille in Hooksett, which in previous years has served a Sunday brunch buffet for Valentine's Day, is converting its offerings into a "brunch to go" menu this year, according to marketing director Nancy Comai. Options like house frittata, mini pancakes, croissants, and mimosa or bloody mary baskets are available for pre-ordering now through Feb. 10, to be picked up the morning of Feb. 14.

At The Inside Scoop in Bedford, orders for Valentine's Day ice cream pies are being accepted now through Feb. 10, featuring various flavors of ice cream, all with a homemade Oreo crust.

In Wilton, Copper Kettle To Go is getting creative by offering its own "date boxes" that can be ordered in advance online and picked up at the restaurant. Each box includes either a bottle of Champagne or a four-pack of craft beer, plus heart-shaped ravioli presses, pasta sauce, Italian ricotta and all the other ingredients you need to make the pasta, minus the eggs. To tie it all together, each box holder will also be given access to a pre-recorded video tutorial of Copper Kettle owners and husband-and-wife team Chris and Megan Gordon walking them through the ravioli-making process.

"We figured it would be a fun way to interact with our customers, and for them to see that Chris and I are married and that it's a family business," Megan Gordon said. Also included in the boxes are two vanilla cupcakes spiked with strawberries and cream liqueur for dessert.

### Sweet indulgences

Local candy and chocolate shops across the Granite State are preparing for Valentine's Day too, all while promoting early shopping, curbside pickup and online ordering this year.

For Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester, Feb. 14 falls right in the middle of the downtown shop's busiest time of year, which is typically



Strawberry Swiss fudge from Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester. Courtesy photo.

between Christmas Day and Easter, according to marketing manager Shauna McIntosh. Van Otis is once again offering customizable chocolate gift boxes, multiple flavors of chocolate-dipped strawberries and chocolate-dipped Champagne bottles, in addition to a few new items like Swiss fudge hearts. For a limited time, McIntosh said, the shop is also bringing back its strawberry jam Swiss fudge.

Granite State Candy Shoppe in Manchester and Concord is providing curbside pickup six days a week, with a 24-hour advance notice for items. Assorted chocolate heart boxes are available, including those that are made out of chocolate, as well as chocolate-dipped strawberries and other various Valentine-themed candies and chocolates. Owner Jeff Bart said both locations are expected to be open extended hours all Valentine's Day weekend.

"We have a much better and more robust online ordering system ... and we very much encourage people to shop online," Bart said.

Nelson's Candy & Music in Wilton, according to owner Nancy Feraco, is similarly adjusting its normal Sunday hours of noon to 5 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 14. Its heart-shaped boxes made out of chocolate and filled with various flavors of chocolate-dipped strawberries, were a huge hit last Valentine's Day and will be making a return this year.

The shop has been experimenting with other kinds of chocolate molds, like solid chocolate dinosaurs holding tiny chocolate hearts, chocolate-covered marshmallow penguins holding hearts, and chocolate mold pianos filled with brandy-soaked cherry cordials.

"We used to do live music but we really haven't been able to lately," Feraco said, "so we've been doing quite a few musical molds instead."

The Candy Kingdom on Harvard Street in Manchester is also asking customers to call ahead for either in-store or curbside pickup. Items for sale include assorted heart-shaped chocolate boxes, chocolate heart boxes and the shop's popular chocolate-dipped strawberries and tuxedo berries.

"We generally dip [the strawberries] one hour before their scheduled pickup time," Candy Kingdom co-owner Phyllis Capers said in an email. "This year, we will be dipping them throughout both days [Saturday and Sunday] so we don't have people lingering in the store." 🍓

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Fruity pebble Bagel. Courtesy photo.



Titan Bagel. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippypress.com

A new business based in Milford is paying homage to the traditional New York bagel, a style known for its large size, crunchy crust exterior and pillow-like fluffiness on the inside.

Agora Bagels, which launched earlier this month, is the project of Vassilios Palaskas of Milford — he, his wife, Jennifer, and son, Deven, offer a variety of flavors of handcrafted artisan bagels, from plain, everything or cinnamon to specialty bagels of the month like Fruity Pebbles or jalapeno cheddar.

They also make several flavors of their own cream cheese spreads, or “schmears.”

“I like to call our kitchen ‘the lab,’ because we get super creative,” said Palaskas, who grew up in Merrimack and has held various positions in local restaurants, like Buckley’s Great Steaks and the Bedford Village Inn. He said he chose the name “agora,” a word meaning public gathering space or marketplace, to incorporate his Greek roots — his father came to the United States from Greece as a teenager and also owned the former Brother’s Pizza in Manchester.

Prior to the pandemic, Palaskas said, he and his brother travelled to bakeries and bagel shops across the New York City metro area to learn the secrets of making the unique style.

“Their bagels are definitely bigger, are chewy ... [and have] a soft inside, but when you bite into it, there’s a crunch,” he said. “We let ours proof overnight to help them get super airy and spongy. With some of the bagels, we’ll put a little honey in with the water when it’s boil-

ing just to give them a little extra flavor boost.”

In addition to plain, Agora Bagels regularly offers bagel flavors like blueberry and cinnamon, plus an onion bagel made with sweet Vidalia onions, a sesame bagel with black and white toasted sesame seeds, and an everything bagel that Palaskas said has by far been his top seller. Each flavor can be mixed and matched in quantities of a dozen or half-dozen, or ordered as a “Titan” bagel, in which Palaskas more than doubles the size to weigh a full pound before boiling.

The current bagel of the month is Fruity Pebbles, and Palaskas has plans to roll out a jalapeno cheddar bagel next. He’s also received requests for flavors like pumpernickel and has experimented with French toast, chocolate and peanut butter, and lemon blueberry bagels.

All orders are vacuum-sealed and shipped out every Monday and Friday. Cream cheese spreads are sold separately in eight- or 16-ounce containers and each comes with ice packs when shipping. Palaskas offers plain, veggie and honey almond flavors.

In the coming months, he hopes to begin offering a gluten-free bagel option, as well as smoked salmon lox, a bagel topping popular in New York. 🍷

**Agora Bagels**

To order, visit [agorabagels.com](http://agorabagels.com), email [palaskas@agorabagels.com](mailto:palaskas@agorabagels.com) or find them on Facebook and Instagram. Orders are vacuum-sealed and shipped out on Mondays and Fridays. Scheduled pickups are also available until 6 p.m. for orders placed the day before.

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# IN THE KITCHEN WITH JORDAN REYNOLDS

Jordan Reynolds of Concord is the owner of Col's Kitchen (55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com), a plant-based restaurant that opened last August. Named after Reynolds' pit bull, Col's Kitchen features what he calls an "eclectic, all-American" vegan concept, with a well-rounded plant-based menu of appetizers, sandwiches, entrees, brunch options, and desserts like pies, macarons and "pie shakes." Especially popular as of late, he said, have been the plant-based burgers and the milkshakes, which include some non-traditional flavors like orange creamsicle, mint chocolate and maple vanilla. Col's Kitchen also makes its own vegan sauces, which Reynolds said he hopes to begin bottling and selling in the future.



Jordan Reynolds. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

### What is your must-have kitchen item?

A silicone baking mat is a must-have for anybody making pie. ... I've also recently gifted myself a really nice set of Kamikoto knives. They are really high-quality Japanese steel knives that I'm obsessed with right now.

### What would you have for your last meal?

There's a place in Cambridge, [Mass.], called Veggie Galaxy. They have these fried vegan macaroni and cheese balls that have a really good spicy aioli to go with them. I'd probably have those.

### What is your favorite local restaurant?

The Green Elephant in Portsmouth has a really good diverse vegetarian menu. Hermanos [Cocina Mexicana in Concord] is also a great place for vegans.

### What celebrity would you like to see eating at Col's Kitchen?

Cam Newton.

### What is your favorite thing on your menu?

I've been to so many vegan restaurants around the globe, and our nachos are my favorite out of any I've ever had. We do them with a house vegan chili that I've been making for more than a decade and that I've taken pride in. ... They also have olives, smashed avocados, a cheesy sauce and a chipotle cashew cream.

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

The vegan trend is obviously big, but more than that, just the farm-to-table concept and the rustic aesthetic to go with that ... has been growing for the past 10 years.

### What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Pasta. It's just a cheap and easy way to fill yourself up at night.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

### Carrot ginger soup

Courtesy of Jordan Reynolds of Col's Kitchen in Concord

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onions
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- 2 cups chopped carrots
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup full fat coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- ½ teaspoon salt

- ½ teaspoon pepper

Heat olive oil in a large soup pot. Add onions, garlic, carrots and ginger. Cook until onions are translucent and carrots are soft. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to a gentle boil, then return to a simmer for 15 minutes. Mix with an immersion blender, topping with caramelized ginger, and enjoy.

## Weekly Dish

Continued from page 24

• **All about Chopped:** The Dover Public Library will offer a virtual presentation featuring **Chef Evan Hennessey**, owner of Stages at One Washington, on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. Hennessey will talk about his experience on the Food Network show *Chopped*. Hennessey is a three-time champion of the cooking competition show, in which four chefs from across the country battle to create the best three-course meal options using a random assortment of "mys-

tery" ingredients. During the presentation he'll also demonstrate a live *Chopped* challenge from his restaurant, and attendees will get to vote on the ingredients Hennessey will use to create an appetizer. The library is also sponsoring its own *Chopped* competition — mystery boxes can be picked up in the children's room beginning Feb. 2, and photos with your meal entries will be collected through Feb. 8. Admission is free. Visit [library.dover.nh.gov](http://library.dover.nh.gov) to register. 🍷

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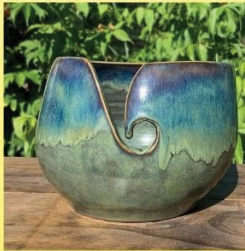
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FOOD



## TRY THIS AT HOME

# Pineapple biscotti with coconut glaze

Biscotti is my favorite baked good to make when I am mailing treats across the miles. Even if they spend a week or two in shipping, they'll taste just as amazing as the moment they were ready to eat. Of course, they also make a delicious dessert the very same day that you make them.

What's to like about this recipe for tropical pineapple biscotti with coconut glaze? It's mid-winter in New Hampshire. If you're tired of the cold and gloom, these tropical-themed biscotti are a great way to bring some sunlight and cheer to your day. Another great reason to love this recipe is that it's one of the few desserts that can pass as a breakfast treat. Eaten with a cup of coffee or tea, it's just a fancy breakfast treat.

What do you need to know about the ingredients? It may be difficult to find plain, dried pineapple; sweetened, dried pineapple is a fine substitute. It adds a pinch more sweetness, but this is a dessert, so the sweetness does not overwhelm.



Pineapple biscotti with coconut glaze. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

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

### Pineapple biscotti with coconut glaze

Makes 30

- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup diced dried pineapple
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- Skim milk
- 1/2 cup sweetened flaked coconut

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Combine butter and sugar in stand mixer; mix on speed 2 for 2 minutes.  
Add eggs, one at a time, until combined.  
Add coconut extract, mixing until blended.  
Add baking powder, salt, and flour, mixing until combined.  
Add pineapple, stirring until evenly distributed.

Divide dough in half.  
Shape each half into a 10" x 3" rectangle, using floured hands.  
Set each loaf 2" apart on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet.  
Bake for 30 minutes or until the dough is set.  
Leaving the oven on, remove the biscotti loaves and cool for 15 minutes on the baking sheet.  
Using a large knife, cut the loaves into diagonal slices, 3/4" thick.  
Place slices on the baking sheet with the cut sides down; bake for 8 to 9 minutes.  
Turn over slices, and bake for 8 to 9 minutes more.  
Remove biscotti from oven, and allow to cool completely on a cooling rack.  
Combine powdered sugar, coconut extract, and milk (1 teaspoon at a time), stirring well, until desired consistency is reached.  
Using a spoon, spread a layer of glaze on the top of each biscotti.  
Sprinkle coconut over wet glaze.  
Refrigerate for 15 minutes to set glaze.

### Food & Drink

**Farmers markets**  
• **Cole Gardens Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Cole Gardens (430 Loudon Road, Concord), through April 17. Visit [colegardens.com](http://colegardens.com).

• **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, inside the Families in Transition building (20 S. Main St.). Find them on Facebook.  
• **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. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27. Visit [rollinggreennursery.com](http://rollinggreennursery.com).  
• **Salem Farmers Market** is Sundays, from 10 a.m. to noon, inside the former Rockler Woodworking building (369 S. Broadway, Salem). Visit [salemnhfarmersmarket.org](http://salemnhfarmersmarket.org).

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# Super Bowl and beer

Five beers to enjoy during the big game

By Jeff Mucciarone  
food@hippopress.com

I know you're sullen because the Patriots aren't in the Super Bowl. Hey, I am too, but there is still technically a game and it might be worthwhile to watch, even if you can't get together with a bunch of friends and family like you might in normal times.

It's still the Super Bowl and if times were less defined by Covid-19, you'd probably be drinking beer during the game. You still can! And I have some suggestions that might just make the game and the overall experience a little more palatable.

With the Patriots not participating, I think that gives you an excellent opportunity to spend a little more time pondering your beer than you would otherwise. If the Pats are in the game, your friends could probably fill your glass with Malibu Rum instead of beer and you wouldn't notice because every fiber of your being would be tuned in to the game.

So, OK, silver lining, you can chill out a little bit.

Here are five New Hampshire beers you should drink during the Super Bowl (OK, maybe not all of them, but honestly, maybe, because where are you going?):

## Alexandr by Schilling Beer Co. (Littleton)

Let's start with something light, crisp, clean and easy. This Czech-style Pilsner is a perfect brew to sip as you take in a little of the pre-game analysis and theatrics — and with some apps. Pilsners get a bad rap sometimes as a beer that lacks flavor. True, no Pilsner is going to hit you square in the jaw like a big IPA, but they're not meant to. That doesn't mean this brew — and other craft-brewed Pilsners — doesn't have plenty of character.

## Ragged Mountain Red Ale by The Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille (New London)

This red ale is smooth, malty and, honestly, kind of dangerous, because it goes down awfully easy. The rich amber pour is intriguing, as the beer's body is really quite light, but not so light that you can't appreciate the complexity. A great beer to have in your hand at kickoff and to eat Super Bowl food with.

## New England Gangsta by Earth Eagle Brewings (Portsmouth)

We're going to start to crank things up a little now, because, presumably, the game is starting to get a little more serious now that

the players and the fans have gotten over the initial round of butterflies. But this West Coast-style IPA doesn't crank it up so much that you're going to knock yourself out. You'll get some citrus and some pine on this with some pleasing residual bitterness. This is on the lighter side as IPAs these days go, but you'll have plenty of hop character to consider as you critique the play-calling.



Pick up some beer for the Super Bowl. Courtesy photo.

## No Other Place Sour by Lithermans Limited Brewery (Concord)

OK, you got through the first half and you got through the halftime show, for better or worse, and now you need to wake up your taste buds. This'll do the trick nicely. This fruited gose is going to hit you with bright, tart cranberry flavor in a low-alcohol package, which is exactly what you need right now.

## Draken Robust Porter by Kelsen Brewing Co. (Derry)

The game isn't over but it's time to wind down. I think stouts and porters are great for doing just that. There's no rush. You can sip them slowly and appreciate their rich, complex flavors. The Draken is full of roasted malt flavor and big on chocolate and caramel, and I think maybe some coffee, too? This is a great choice to enjoy as you watch the final minutes play out and to sip as you take in the trophy presentation ceremony.

*Jeff Mucciarone is a senior account manager with Montagne Communications, where he provides communications support to the New Hampshire wine and spirits industry.*

### What's in My Fridge

**Winter Lager by Samuel Adams Brewing Co. (Boston, Mass.)** When you haven't had one of these in a long time, this brew is sort of eye-opening. It's nice and easy to drink with a little sweetness and spice as you'd expect — just a perfectly enjoyable beer. Cheers!

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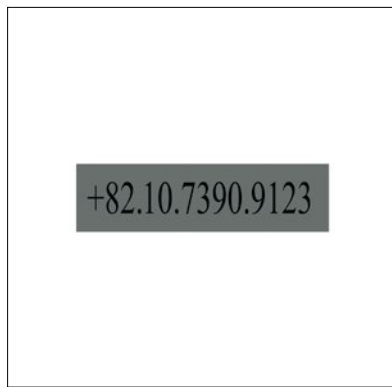
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By now, you're probably in the habit of heading for the hills whenever I start talking up an ambient album, but in this case I'd encourage you to stick around, as this isn't just composed of a bunch of accidental "hey, that sounds kind of neat" finds. I mean, yeah, it's that too, but what electronic record isn't these days, and besides, this is actually based on the mononymed artist's world travels over the last several years, to Turkey, Ireland and other places, toward the goal of "spiritual enlightenment." Wait, don't laugh at that bit, we could all use it, for sure, after a year like the last one, and

it doesn't hurt that he threw together a few one-off collaborations while journeying, guest feats that included rappers, weird instrumentalists and all that stuff. No, it's not some soundtrack to a movie that'll never be made (all of the songs have videos, while we're here), more of a high-end sonic affair in the vein of Aphex Twin, Moby, Massive Attack, that sort, but at a more un-funked, chill level. There's an art book that goes with it, by the way. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

#### Everdawn, Cleopatra (Sensory Records)



Every time a new girl-fronted symphonic-metal album comes barreling in here, I get to wondering if the tunes might actually possess the power to inspire their listeners to buy actual opera CDs, like "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci," the two most-often-paired-up operas when you go to, you know, the opera. I know that might sound a little crazy, but if you'd buy this album more for Alina Gavrienko's soaring soprano than the polite *Wayne's World*-style power-metal on board, face it, bub, you might want to go all the way and drop a few hundred to take your date to see good ole

"Cav and Pag" at the Boston Opera House, if the current horror ever ends, of course. Aside from that, there's really very little to add here in the way of music reviewin' per se. If you've heard Trans Siberian Orchestra or Visions Of Atlantis, you've already been here, and, fact is, Alina's capable but not remarkable. But don't let that stop you; all I'm trying to accomplish is to get you to think for just five seconds about how cool it would be to brag to your gamer friends about going to an actual *opera*. Try it, man! (Ha ha, their Facebook has one of the guys getting his picture taken with the actually-named Nicko McBrain from Iron Maiden. Hee HEE, he's giving a thumbs up, an expression of approval commonly exhibited by humans!) **B** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

• The next catchall date for CD releases is Friday, Jan. 29, a day that will live in infamy, because oh noes, I have to deal with *Revolutionary Love*, the newest LP from rabies-frothing grunge-folk howler-gibbon **Ani DiFranco**! You all know this Buffalo, N.Y.-born busker's story, like, she became emancipated at age 15, leaving her mom's to strike out into the great Unknown, which is super-hard when you're the child of MIT grads who were actually happy to just be able to watch *The Price Is Right* in peace without having to deal with Ani's constant barking at postmen and meter-readers and whatnot. I haven't had the pleasure of dealing with her last few albums, all of which, like the ones before them, were released on Ani's own record label, with crayon album-cover art or whatever, but don't knock it, because it's not everyone who can just simply produce and release and market their own albums, especially with only the support of MIT-grad parents to count on, so you shut up right this minute while I go and damage my brain to the strains of the album's title track. It is a slow song, like a warped outtake from a 1980s Dionne Warwick album, and the lyrics are about dealing with anger and empowering oneself. Good heavens, this dumb song is over seven minutes long, and I must shut it off right now.

• Speaking of the '90s, **Goat Girl** is a new-ish all-girl post-punk band from England that sounds like Hole, but with less throwing stuff, not that their 2018 semi-hit "The Man" wasn't somewhat edgy. *On All Fours*, their newest, streets on the 29th, led by the single "Sad Cowboy," an eclectic little '90s-chill song that has elements of Natalie Merchant, Caexico and, for no reason whatsoever, an occasional break interpolating 1970s disco drums. It's not as annoying as I just made it sound, so go listen for yourself if you're even slightly curious.

• Dum de dum, boom boom kapoosh. Huh, what's this, it's Americana singing person **Langhorne Slim**, who literally named himself after the town he was born in. Now there's an idea, I'm changing my name to Westford Saeger. Slim was in the band Trachtenburg Family Slideshow Players. Any of you guys remember when I was twisting myself into funny Rold Gold pretzel shapes trying to review one of that band's albums, and you could just tell I was bored out of my skull? Doesn't matter, because Slim's new full-length, *Strawberry Mansion*, is here, with a decent-enough song, called "Mighty Soul." His yodel-y voice is perfect for this kind of chill but grungy folkie-pop. He's like a cross between Conor Oberst and Cat Stevens. Some readers will salivate uncontrollably over that description, and others will simply continue coughing up pesky hairballs.

• Finally we have Chicago-born gloom-indie songstress **Lia Ices**, who's been compared to Feist, Bat for Lashes, etc. Her fourth LP, *Family Album*, is out imminently and features the tune "Young on the Mountain." Her voice sucks but the '60s-radio-pop vibe is OK. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

## CDs

pg30

• *Cyrcca, Cyrcca* **A+**

• *Everdawn, Cleopatra* **B**

## BOOKS

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• *The Listening Path* **C**

## • Book Notes

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

To let us know about your book or event, email [asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com).

To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com).

## FILM

pg32

• *The White Tiger* **B+**

• *Some Kind of Heaven* **B**

## Retro Playlist

Two up from the Way-Back Machine, this time from 2015, which seems like a million years ago, doesn't it? That was the same year as **Bob Dylan's** *Shadows In The Night* and **Kendrick Lamar's** *To Pimp A Butterfly*. Now do you remember? Ha ha, I don't.

This week in 2015, I covered two albums, the first of which was *Black Coffee Sigh*, the second album from Boston-based bar band **Sunshine Riot**. It's hard-ish rock, not all that well-produced, but, as I alluded to back then, they are/were something of an area band, and "I only write about albums like this when they're from decent



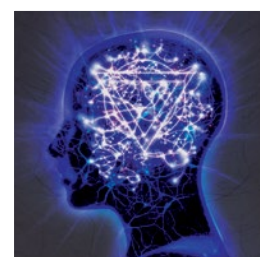
local artists, not because I expect big-production guitar-rock to overthrow trap-snap diva-bling anytime soon, even if the fantasy is comforting to some."

Anyhow, the band's was taking on "the doomed mission of bringing back rootsy bar-band rock, specifically southern-rock, more or less," and I was pretty nice to them overall. There was opening tune "Black Coffee Sigh Side A," "a doomy/crunchy thing that makes like a Ministry warmup," but from there the record becomes an amalgam of Hank Williams Jr. quasi-cowboy-punk ("This Is a Raid"), sweetly rendered Allmans nicking ("Better Days"), Doobie Brothers head-drug-pop ("Liz Stone")

and blissy but faceless '70s filler ("Dead Baby Cocaine Blues"). A band you might like to see live, I suppose.

The other one that week was *The Mindsweep*, the then-new LP from U.K.-hard-rawk outfit **Enter Shikari**, a record I did actually like, more or less. That album was their fourth and found the crew "comfortably at ease with their ingredients, a unique mishmash of grime-rap, bass-driven Meshuggah-style death-metal and, well, screamo, if you must know."

But don't let the screamo bit scare you away, I tried to say. The album is "a vision of early-aughts Linkin Park reborn as a po-faced



limeys, with a tightness that would give Pendulum night sweats if they ever had to face them at a metal-palooza."

The fact that Enter Shikari is awesome is probably old news to you, if you're into neo-metal-ish rock, but, anyway, that.

*If you're in a local band, now's a great time to let me know about your EP, your single, whatever's on your mind. Let me know how you're holding yourself together without being able to play shows or jam with your homies. Send a recipe for keema matar. Email [esaeger@cyberontix.com](mailto:esaeger@cyberontix.com) for fastest response.* 🍷

**The Listening Path**, by Julia Cameron  
(St. Martin's Essentials, 190 pages)

Julia Cameron is a national treasure. Part creativity coach, part spiritual guide, total inspiration, she's been a muse to a generation of artists since the publication of *The Artist's Way* in 1992.

Cameron deals in blockage: writer's block, painter's block, potter's block, dancer's block, the thwarting of any creative impulse. She promised in *The Artist's Way* that she knew the tools to unblock, to help others overcome resistance born of insecurity, failure and criticism so they can summon their art into existence. She calls it creative recovery.

Elizabeth Gilbert has said *Eat, Pray, Love* would not have been written without Cameron's influence. Writers Tim Ferris and Patricia Cornwall and musicians Alicia Keys and Pete Townshend are among celebrities who swear by her exercises, which include freestyle journaling upon awakening (called "morning pages") and a weekly solo outing she calls an "artist's date."

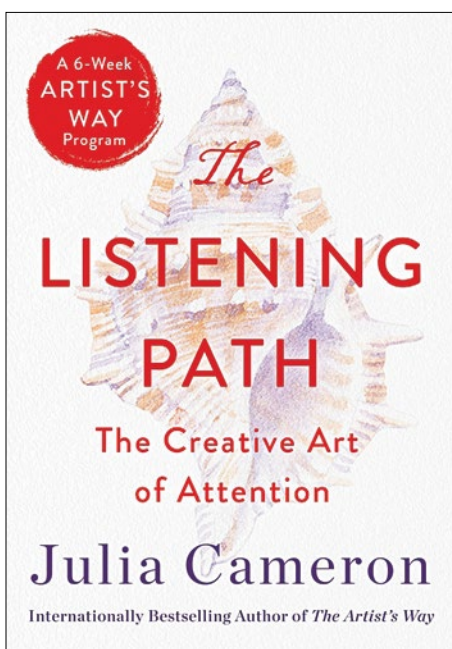
*The Artist's Way* is a simple, sensible and comforting guide to breaking through the resistance, both external and internal, that can prevent people from doing their life's work. If you haven't already read it, order it right now. It's the book you didn't know you needed.

Unfortunately, while many of us need one *The Artist's Way*, we don't need 12. But a dozen other *Artist's Way* titles have made their way into the world because of the success of the first. There is an *Artist's Way* for parents, for midlife, for work. There is *The Complete Artist's Way*, *The Artist's Way Workbook*, *The Artist's Way Every Day*, among other titles. And now there's a new title in the series called *The Listening Path, the Creative Art of Attention*. Though the title is mercifully different, most of the content is not. And what's new is tragically boring.

Cameron begins by rehashing the steps to creative recovery that she has been teaching for a quarter century. It's unclear who the audience is. Presumably most people eager to read *The Listening Path* are already Cameron devotees, so she's preaching to the choir here. Having convinced us (again) of the value of morning pages, artist's dates and solo walks, she then addresses the importance of deep and thoughtful listening.

Again, this is not really new ground. *The Artist's Way* also talks about attention and listening. Cameron sees artists as conduits; writers do not so much write as they take dictation, she believes. She says in *The Artist's Way*, "I learned to just show up at the page and write down what I heard. Writing became more like eavesdropping and less like inventing a nuclear bomb."

So in encouraging people to undertake a six-week course of active listening (to the environment, to others, to our higher selves, to "beyond the veil," to our heroes, and to



silence), she is elaborating on a well-worn theme. Ponderously.

I wanted to be interested, to be rapt, as she wanders through her days in New Mexico with her lizard-eating dog, Lily, listening to thunderstorms and friends and small, still voices within. But other than occasional horror about the lizard-eating, which Cameron never tries to prevent (the dog only eats tasty gray lizards, not striped ones, so there's that), the book meanders at the gait of a 71-year-old with nowhere to be and 180 pages to fill. The plot, such as it is, involves Cameron lunching often with friends and discussing listening over steak tacos or sushi. There's also a storyline, ultimately resolved, about how Cameron can't get her lizard-eating dog to stop barking. (Cameron's neighbors are very tired of listening to that.) And there's way too much dialogue of Cameron speaking soothingly to Lily. ("It's just hail, sweetheart.")

Like other books in the series, the margins are filled with pertinent quotes ("There's a lot of difference between listening and hearing" — G.K. Chesterton) and suggested exercises, some interesting, some tedious, some simply strange. ("I invite you to try woo-woo," begins one.) Like the other books, each chapter ends with a series of questions, always asking if we've done our morning pages, artist dates and walks. All the accountability gets exhausting.

To be fair, I suffer from chronic tinnitus, so exhortations to listen more deeply to the shrill whine of crickets in my head cause me psychic pain. For those of you capable of experiencing quiet, Cameron's latest may well be a welcome footnote to her earlier work, a gentle reminder of truths you already know. But for most people, *The Listening Path* is a duller version of Cameron's earlier, compelling work. She's written 40 books, plus plays, poetry and a feature-film script. Read Cameron, by all means, but put this one at the bottom of your list. **C**

— Jennifer Graham

## BOOK NOTES

If you're looking for a book by Amanda Gorman, the Harvard graduate who wowed the world with her poem at President Joe Biden's inauguration, just wait nine months. Or you can pre-order.

The 23-year-old Gorman has two books coming out in September, which has to be breaking someone at Penguin Random House's heart, because she could have sold a few million last week alone. The forthcoming *Change Sings* is a children's book; *The Hill We Climb* is a poetry collection.

They're already bestsellers on Amazon, doing better than Joe Biden's book *Promise Me, Dad* (Flatiron, 304 pages) and Jill Biden's *Where the Light Enters* (Flatiron again, 224 pages).

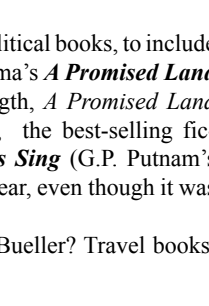
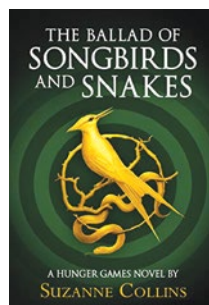
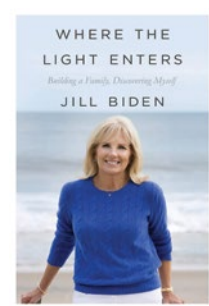
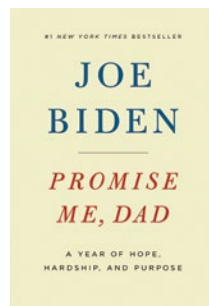
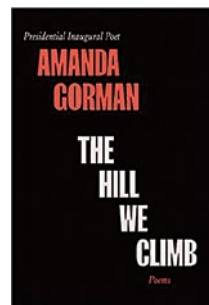
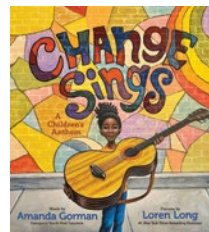
Meanwhile, reports of the publishing industry's demise have been greatly exaggerated, according to Jim Milliot, writing recently in Publisher's Weekly. Print book sales rose 8.2 percent in 2020, Milliot reported. That translates to nearly 751 million units (we presume that means books) sold, up from nearly 694 million the previous year.

Admittedly, part of the spike was because of parents schooling kids at home. They were buying education and reference titles and also books on games and hobbies to keep kids busy. Juvenile fiction also had a boost from the new releases from Stephenie Meyer and Suzanne Collins: *Midnight Sun*, which sold 1.3 million copies, and *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, 1.2 million.

Adults were reading anti-racism titles and political books, to include the title that sold the most copies: Barack Obama's *A Promised Land* (Crown, 768 pages). Despite its daunting length, *A Promised Land* sold 2.5 million print copies. In comparison, the best-selling fiction title, Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing* (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 384 pages), sold 1.1 million copies last year, even though it was released in 2018.

The worst selling genre of 2020? Bueller? Bueller? Travel books, down 40 percent from 2019.

— Jennifer Graham



## Books

### Author events

#### • 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 themusicall.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.

#### • 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 themusicall.org.

#### • PAUL KRUGMAN

Author presents *Arguing with Zombies*. Virtual livestream hosted by The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Tues., March 2, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.

Call 436-2400 or visit themusicall.org.

• 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 gibsons-bookstore.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

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

### Special events

• EXETER LITFEST Literary festival will feature local authors, keynote speaker Victoria Arlen, book launches, a Saturday morning story hour for kids, and programs on various topics including publishing tips, mystery writing and homeschooling. Hosted virtually via Zoom by Exeter TV. Thurs., April 1, through Sat., April 3. Free and open to the public. Visit exeterlitfest.com.

**The White Tiger (R)**

A young man from an impoverished town in India tries to grab his piece of his country's bright economic future in *The White Tiger*, a new movie on Netflix.

Balam (Adarsh Gourav) has seen his ambitions crushed all his life. As a child, he loses a chance to go to a good school on scholarship when his grandmother (Kamlesh Gill) forces him to go to work. Later, the social caste system keeps him literally on his knees when dealing with his new employer (Mahesh Manjrekar), who is treated as something of a feudal lord of Balam's village. Balam heads to the city to serve as a driver not for the man or his horrible oldest son, the Mongoose (Vijay Maurya), but for his more Western-cultured second son, Ashok (Rajkumar Rao). Ashok went to school in America and seems queasy about issues surrounding the way wealthy people treat the people who work for them. Pinky (Priyanka Chopra), his Indian-born but Americanized wife, seems even more uncomfortable with it. Their discomfort does not, however, always translate into being better employers. Nor does Balam always know what to do with himself in their monied urban environment, where he constantly feels his lack of worldliness and simmers with anger even as he is also hungry to find a way into this life. Add this to the fact that his family back home still gets most of his paycheck — their very survival even becomes his responsibility once his employers use them to coerce him into a ruinous decision — and it seems that no amount of eager hard work will allow Balam to get ahead.

Which is, of course, the point. This movie has a lot of the same elements about the grind of poverty as *Parasite*, but presents them bleaker, if that's possible. Balam comes to the decision that he basically has no choice but to do things he finds unethical or even immoral; the system doesn't allow him to be a good person and survive. There is also a fair amount about the idea of being a servant versus an employee; what is



*The White Tiger*

the difference between an economic system that allows someone to be employed and one that requires servitude in what again reads as a more feudal sense? All this is presented with humor, bleak humor, but humor and an engaging storytelling style (this movie makes a narration frame and some time jumps work) and a strong performance from Gourav that pulls you in. **B+**

*Rated R for language, violence and sexual material, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Ramin Bahrani with a screenplay by Bahrani (from the novel by Aravind Adiga), The White Tiger is two hours and five minutes and is available via Netflix. 🍷*

**Some Kind of Heaven (NR)**

Retirees enjoy a new carefree chapter of their lives — maybe — in *Some Kind of Heaven*, a documentary about four people living at The Villages in Florida.

“An endless cruise with everybody from high school” — what is your response to that statement? If you think “woo-hoo sign me up for the Jimmy Buffett margarita parties,” The Villages, the pre-planned retirement community that seemingly features every kind of amusement in a sort of large outdoor mall/

golf course-like setting, might be for you. If it sounds like the kind of “heaven” that you and your philosophy professor buddy figure out is actually The Bad Place, then this movie will reinforce that reaction.

It follows four people living (sort of) at The Villages. The “sort of” is because of Dennis, who is about 80 and lives out of his van. He has come to The Villages with no permanent address and hopes to meet a woman with some money to live with.

Barbara is more organically looking for companionship; she moved to the Villages with her husband, who later died. She seems like she wishes she could return to her home in Massachusetts but as it is she has to work for a Villages medical office to make ends meet. She is just barely starting to get “out there” again, when we first meet her.

Anne and Reggie, a long-married couple, are still together — for better or worse. Anne seems to be left largely alone by Reggie, who throughout the documentary seems to be in the middle of some kind of serious, needs-medical-help episode. (Late in the movie he says an MRI discovered he's been having small strokes.) He seems to be having delusions (which the movie seems to suggest are either caused by or made worse by recre-

ational drugs he takes) and is making some pretty terrible life decisions, such as choosing to represent himself when he's facing cocaine possession charges. Reggie rambles on about his spiritual journey and his newfound freedom but Anne goes from looking scared for him to seeming near the point of bubbling over with rage.

Generally, the men depicted here seem to have it better than the women — Dennis is able to float by for a good while and we meet a man whom Barbara likes and who seems to be having a truly great, carefree time. The movie doesn't get into the gender dynamics of The Villages that much and I wanted to see more. What we're left with is a “guys get to be 18 again, women have to put up with it” sense of the situation that may or may not reflect any kind of reality. There are a lot of “what about people with some different kind of life experience” or “Villages residents who are 80 versus Villages residents who are 55” questions I had that this movie doesn't address. It doesn't have to, necessarily, but since it does seem to want to be making a larger statement about the community, not just the central people, I did want more about the Villages society. There are times when it just feels like you're watching four people's misfortunes rather than getting a glimpse at a specific world.

Those stories are very engagingly told. I feel like we get to know Barbara the best and she was the one I found myself cheering on. She seems the least delighted by the Villages as a concept, with its fakey Spanish colonial facades and its million social clubs. Though I could see how this could come off as a purely negative look at the Villages, I feel like this documentary does show people enjoying their lives there and the return-to-college, eternal-tropical-vacation feel of the place. It does seem to be a kind of heaven even if it clearly isn't everybody's. **B**

*This movie doesn't appear to be rated. Directed by Lance Oppenheim, Some Kind of Heaven is an hour and 21 minutes long and is distributed by Magnolia. It is available for rent (including via Red River Theatres virtual theater). 🍷*

**AT THE SOFAPLEX****We Can Be Heroes (PG)**

Pedro Pascal, Priyanka Chopra.

Other adults include Christian Slater and Adriana Barraza. But really, this movie is about the kids.

Missy Moreno (YaYa Gosselin) thought she had a deal with her dad Marcus (Pascal) that he wouldn't be going on any more superhero missions since her mom passed away. But the day that aliens arrived on Earth, all of the heroes headed sky-

ward to fight them off and all of them got captured. This leaves only their children — most of whom have magic powers, though varying levels of control of their abilities — to save the day.

This is part of writer-director Robert Rodriguez's Shark Boy and Lava Girl cinematic universe — those kid characters from the 2005 movie are now a grown adult couple with a daughter, the super strong little Guppy (Vivi-



*We Can Be Heroes*

en Blair), who can also manipulate water. Slo-Mo (Dylan Henry Lau) moves super fast but super slowly (it's a cute visual effect), twins

Rewind (Isaiah Russell-Bailey) and Fast Forward (Akira Akbar) can manipulate time, A Capella (Lotus Blossom) can move people and things by emitting different sound waves — and so on. This live action movie has a very *Odd Squad* energy, if you've seen that PBS Kids show, and while there is some cartoony-style violence (little Guppy kicking and punching human-appearing aliens) it's a fairly peace-loving good-heart-

ed take on little kid X-Men-style superheroes. And, as in the *Spy Kids* movies, the cast is diverse in an organic way that allows more kids to see themselves in this league of heroes. There's some good messaging about confidence, teamwork and everybody having their own strengths and abilities as well. **B+** Available on Netflix.

**Shadow in the Cloud (R)**

Chloë Grace Moretz, Beulah Koale. Moretz plays Maud Garrett, a female pilot who was part of the WASP program in World War II (the



ikipedia basics: the Women Airforce Service Pilots were federal civil service employees and they sound like bad asses and why haven't there been more WASP movies?). She shows up on a foggy New Zealand military runway with a mysterious bag, orders to get the bag to American Samoa on an airplane with the name "Fool's Errand" painted on the side of it and a bunch of "it's classified" responses to the questions of the men on board, none of whom are



Shadow in the Cloud

psychod to have her there. "For her safety" but probably also because it makes her an easier mark for hazing, they put her in the sperry (think a plastic egg stuck to the bottom of the plane with a gun mounted in it) as the plane takes off and begins its travel.

As the movie begins, it's not clear whether this is a kick-butt lady-at-war movie, an improbable-mission thriller or a supernatural action movie. You're in luck, it's all three! The movie gets down to business and comes in at a tidy hour and 23 minutes (of which at least six minutes are credits; the first part of the credits feature images of actual WASPs and their British counterparts and, again, here is your next action movie franchise right here). This might not be the highest-budget movie ever but it makes up for its shortfalls by using Moretz's spot in the sperry wisely (she's hanging in the wide-open sky but actually all of the action is taking place in a chair) and keeping some things in shadow for a while. **B+** Available for rent or purchase.

**Honest Thief (PG-13)**

Liam Neeson, Kate Walsh.

Really, there are only six characters of any consequence in this movie. Neeson is a guy named Tom, who is a very tidy bank robber, and Walsh is Annie, the lady whose presence in his life leads him to give up bank robbing more or less the moment he meets her. Everybody else is an FBI agent: Nivens (Jai Courtney) and his partner Hall (Anthony

Ramos) and Meyers (Jeffrey Donovan) and his partner Baker (Robert Patrick).

After a year of dating Annie, Tom wants to move in with her and spend the rest of their lives together. But he doesn't want his bank robberies (all committed after banks were closed, no injuries to people and he even patches up and repaints the drywall he cuts through to get into the banks; his no-nonsense crimes earn him the name "the in-and-out bandit," which

makes it sound like he's a raccoon stealing cheeseburgers) hanging over their heads and so he tries to turn himself in. This would have been a 10-minute movie if Tom hired a lawyer like a normal person; instead, he randomly calls the FBI and talks to Baker, an agent who's all, "yeah, sure, buddy, you're the in-and-out bandit." He tells Tom they'll get back to him and gives the "go check on this nutjob and his crazy story" task to Nivens and Hall. It takes them a few days but they do go to see him, no more impressed than Baker was, even when he hands them a key to a storage locker where he says the money is. But then they find the cash, cash that Nivens decides is just free money that they can take with no consequences. There are about a dozen reasons this is a terrible idea, and Hall seems to think of a few of them, but he goes along and the crazy plan to steal stolen money from a naive (but explosives proficient) thief quickly goes awry.

This is another movie of Liam Neeson's "a Man with a Very Particular Set of Skills" oeuvre. This isn't a good movie in the way *Taken* was when it first came out and kicked off the "old guy kicking butt" part of Neeson's career. This isn't even quite up to the level of the enjoyable silliness of something like *The Grey*. But it's also thoroughly watchable, low-pressure enough that you don't need to give it your full attention to still get your money's worth, and has just enough fun to justify spending an hour and 39 minutes with it. **C+** Available for rent or purchase.

**Your Gateway from the City to the Seacoast.**

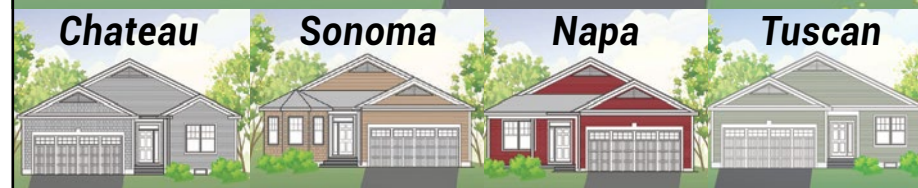


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**Film**

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings & virtual events

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

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

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

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

- **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 lineup on the website.
- **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.
- **Dirty Dancing** (PG-13, 1987) a 21+ screening of the 1980s film will take place Thursday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. at Chunky's in Nashua, Manchester and Pelham. Tickets \$4.99
- **The Freshman** (1925) silent Harold Lloyd film accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapis screens on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 2

- p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- **7th Heaven** (1927) silent romance film accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapis screens on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- **The Bride's Play** (1922) silent film featuring Marion Davies accompanied by live music performed by Jeff Rapis screens on Sunday, March 14, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Admission is free but a \$10 donation is suggested.
- **War Horse** (National Theatre Live) rebroadcast of the London production at Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord, Sunday, March 21, 1 p.m. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$12 for students.

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Soulful:** Along with winning a NEMA for best male performer a few years back, **Munk Duane** is skillful at making money in the music business, with thousands of paid downloads and licensing deals. He often fronts powerhouse band Soul Jacker, but the pandemic dictates Duane play solo for now. Check out his latest video, “Fanblade,” a groove-soaked throwback with a serious Prince vibe. Thursday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Stumble Inn, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry. See munkduane.com.

• **Stretch:** Uniquely combining exercise and music, **Disco Funk Yoga with DJ Funky Foley-B** adheres to safety protocols with a class size limit of eight participants and a program with a bevy of disco-era booty-shakers, over 90 minutes of high-energy vinyasa yoga flow. Head back to the '70s as the lights go down and a laser show mixes with a few dance breaks throughout the practice. Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., Vibe Yoga, 182 Main St., Nashua, \$25 and \$30 at vibeyoga603.com.

• **Relaxing:** A microbrewery and restaurant housed in a historic fire station offers **Tyler Allgood** as part of its regular live music schedule. “Brewery shrinks” Jason Palmer and Stanley Tremblay make beer and food on site. Their latest tap creation is an amber lager dubbed Men Are From Marzen; their Cinnamon Cookie Cream Ale is also tasty. Allgood plays covers and many fine original songs. Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Liquid Therapy, 14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391.

• **Paternal:** Enjoy a hearty meal and music from **Pete Peterson** at a hub for the local scene. Over the winter the restaurant-bar has weekend entertainment, but as things warm up there’s someone playing every night. One of the more ubiquitous performers in the state, Peterson also performs with his daughter Yamica in the band Family Affair and hosts several open mics. Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Derryfield Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880.

• **Regular:** A Seacoast eatery does its part to keep musicians working as **Alex Anthony** holds down multiple dates, Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, playing solo. Anthony is a singer and songwriter who received radio airplay a few years back for “Burning In The Sun,” which he released as Seven Mile Drive. He covers artists like Ray Lamontagne, James Taylor, City and Colour, and Damien Rice. Monday, Feb. 1, 9 p.m., The Goat, 142 Congress St., Portsmouth, 590-4628. 🍷

## NITE

# Looking back

### Live entertainment figures share memories

When the Hippo launched 20 years ago, Granite Staters often had to drive to Boston for live music or comedy. There weren’t nearly as many local venues, and a lot of the venues that were around weren’t interested in showcasing musicians who played original music. In the final piece of our month-long series looking back at some of the subjects Hippo has covered over the years, we talked some of the bigger names in New Hampshire’s music and comedy scene.

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

#### Scott Hayward



Scott Hayward

Scott Hayward is the founder of Tupelo Music Hall, which opened in Londonderry in September 2004 and moved to a larger space in Derry in the spring of 2017.

**How would you describe the local live entertainment scene 20 years ago?**

New Hampshire didn’t have as many venues as it has today and the music offerings were more specific. Typically, people would go to Boston to see a show 20 years ago. There weren’t many multi-genre venues. There were blues clubs, jazz clubs, rock clubs, etc. Today, venues are providing much more diverse programming aimed at a patron demographic rather than a musical genre.

**What do you think the most significant changes have been over the last 20 years, pre-pandemic?**

Twenty years ago, artists were able to make a living selling recorded material. Touring was not as important as it is today. Now, as CD and record sales have taken a back seat to Spotify, Pandora, and other streaming services, artists need to tour constantly. Ticket sales and merchandise sales at shows is what artists are living on these days.

**How did your efforts impact the local live entertainment scene?**

Tupelo Music Hall opened using a multi-genre model focused on a patron demographic. We were one of the first venues to do this in New England. About five years after Tupelo Music Hall opened, other venues started using the same model, booking similar artists.

**What has surprised you about the way the state’s live entertainment scene has developed?**

New Hampshire has a very vibrant music

scene and offers venues from capacities of 50 to 12,000. I believe this is in response to more people moving into southern New Hampshire from Massachusetts as the Route 93 corridor has improved from Concord into Boston. There’s really no need to go into Boston to see a show anymore.

**What do you think the live entertainment scene will be like 20 years from now, and what challenges will it face?**

The recent Covid crisis that we are in will definitely change the music business. How it will change remains to be seen, but I suspect that cleaning protocols, refund policies, and general health awareness will all be permanently modified. Although streaming shows have definitely improved in quality and viewership during Covid, I believe artists will always be touring and people will always prefer to see a live performance. I suspect there will be more consolidation of venues and less independent venues. I hope I’m wrong about that particular suspicion.

**Aside from your own venue, what’s your favorite spot to enjoy live entertainment?**

The Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion is a favorite spot for me and my wife when we can get away from our own venue.

#### Jim Roach



Jim Roach

Jim Roach is the President of JJR Productions, and books shows across the region. The Christmas Buzz Ball, Concert for the Cause and Veterans Park Summer Concerts are among the events he’s involved with, as well as music and comedy shows at the Palace and the Rex Theatre in Manchester.

**How would you describe the local live entertainment scene 20 years ago?**

Twenty years ago, the music and entertainment scene in New Hampshire was in rough shape. There were few venues to perform in, and most of those venues wanted cover music or background music. Talented

musicians were having to make a living off other musicians’ music.

**What do you think the most significant changes have been over the last 20 years, pre-pandemic?**

I believe the most important decision came when local officials moved forward with the civic center — formerly the Verizon Wireless Arena, now SNHU Arena. The Palace Theatre was one of the few places to see well-known, live entertainment in Manchester at the time. The clubs catered to cover bands, or the occasional hair band trying to make a comeback. With big acts coming to the civic center, restaurants and bars opened to serve those fans. Some were worried that those big shows would hurt the Palace and others. Just the opposite: Manchester was now a destination for entertainment. Strange Brew brought in blues bands, and other venues started to experiment with live music. I think Hippo was a big factor helping push other print and broadcast media into covering local, regional and national talent.

**How did your efforts impact the local live entertainment scene?**

My effort to bring more entertainment to the area has always been about building a team. To produce successful shows, you need that team to work together. First you need a venue, a place for people to gather. ... Second, you need a performer or performers that have crafted their art onto something they want to share. Third, you need to find a way to market those shows: print, radio, television, social media, word of mouth. Finally, you need people that will buy tickets and come see your event. I truly believe my role is to bring the pieces together. When you have an audience that connects with an artist, it does not matter your race, creed, color or preference; you can be red or blue. In that room, we are humans experiencing art that might make us smile, laugh, sing, dance or even cry. At that moment, we are more human. We need that now more than ever.

**What has surprised you about the way the state’s live entertainment scene has developed?**

In New Hampshire, I am surprised at how long it has taken for people to embrace live entertainment. I want more people to get off



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Sincerely,

*Jody Reese*  
Hippo Publisher



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their couches to see, hear and feel something that touches their soul.

**What do you think the live entertainment scene will be like 20 years from now, and what challenges will it face?**

I'm not sure about the next 20 years. What I know is that the next five years are going to be the most important. Getting through this virus is the biggest concern right now. Keeping venues alive until then is the only way we can secure the future of entertainment. In the next year, we are going to find a way to build on virtual events and socially distanced events ... events that allow patrons to feel safe and be safe with mask wearing and being respectful of each other. If we work together with our elected officials and the health community, we can get to a place where a year from now we can gather with friends we know and others we don't to immerse ourselves in the arts. I am excited to see new rooms opening: The Rex, Bank of NH Stage, Showroom in Keene, The Colonial and C.A.K.E. in Laconia, Jimmy's on Congress in Portsmouth....

**What's your favorite spot to enjoy live entertainment?**

Everywhere! I love a dive bar with a killer blues band, a lounge with jazz performers opening your mind, a theater or club packed for a play or an artist playing their hits we heard on the radio, a field with a stage, good vibes and a beer tent. My favorites include Hampton Beach Casino, Flying Monkey, Tupelo Music Hall, Strange Brew, The Rex, Bank of NH Stage, Meadowbrook, The Palace, Capitol Center for the Arts ... and so many more.

## Paul Costley



Paul Costley

Paul Costley runs NotSoCostley Productions and books the lion's share of live entertainment in New Hampshire's night clubs and restaurants. He's also a musician, a drummer who has co-hosted several open mics and played in a number of groups, including the Josh Logan Band.

**How would you describe the local live music scene 20 years ago?**

The music scene back in the 2000 was lots of fun. People tended to pay a little more attention to music back then. Today when you play at a venue it always amazes me how many people are on their cell phones and checking their social media versus really paying attention to the music that is taking place in front of them.

**What do you think the most significant changes have been over the last 20 years, pre-pandemic?**

There's a lot more venues that have music than back 20 years ago. I feel there are a lot more options for people to get out and see music. Many small little cozy venues are springing up, with some great live acoustic music, which I think is great.

**How did your efforts impact the local live music scene?**

I've worked hand in hand with many of the venue owners that I book music for to see the best way to keep patrons and my musicians safe during this crazy pandemic, and still have live music take place. Hopefully, with the vaccines now being distributed, things will start opening up again in the spring and fall.

**What has surprised you about the way the state's live music scene has developed?**

I've run an open mic with Nate Comp since 2010 and it's very promising to see all the young talent that we have in this state. We've had so many young people attend our open mics as well as our friends' open mics and they all say the same thing. There's still a lot of young people trying to make their mark with the local music scene, which I love seeing take place.

**What do you think the live music scene will be like 20 years from now, and what challenges will it face?**

To be honest with you, I don't really have a clue, as the technology changes on a daily basis. But it will be fun to just sit back and watch what takes place.

**What's your favorite spot to enjoy live entertainment?**

I personally love seeing music in a small intimate setting where you can really get up close and personal with the musician that's performing. ... On the other hand, I think it's wonderful that we have great live music venues like Tupelo Music Hall and the Bank of NH Pavilion, where you can listen to some of the best music in this country.

## Rob Steen



Rob Steen

Rob Steen is a standup comic and entrepreneur who runs Headliners Comedy Club and has spent 35 years booking shows throughout New England at venues that include several opera houses, restaurants and night clubs, the Chunky's Cinema & Pub chain and his

own showcase club in Manchester's DoubleTree Hotel.

**How would you describe the local comedy scene 20 years ago?**

Well, back in the late '80s there were many shows all over the state in small venues and bars. Nearly every venue would have a comedy night. It was great, as you could work literally seven nights a week and make a decent living. Patrons would follow comics from place to place and they really supported the local comedy. Comics would create a following, which really helped. Also, we had such great comics like Bill Burr, Lenny Clarke, Dane Cook, Tony V, Steve Sweeney and other great Boston and New York City comics working up here on a regular basis, especially if they were already in the area doing Boston or a corporate show. Occasionally you would have Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno, Steven Wright and other national acts popping in to do sets while in the area too, which was super exciting.

**What do you think the most significant changes have been over the last 20 years, pre-pandemic?**

In the past 20 years comedy has changed in that now every area and market has a handful of local comics who are very funny, so the need to bring in acts from out of New England has shrunk. New England continues to pump out some of the best comics in the country. I think it's due in part to the fact that there are so many unique venues and opportunities now, as well as a very diverse and talented pool of comics here. Comics in the Northeast are able to work colleges, high schools, cruise ships, corporate shows, fundraisers and clubs. ... This all makes for a well-rounded comic who is able to work any situation. Also venues now know what comedy is and are aware of what they are getting on every show due to YouTube, the web and social media. Comics now can create their own brand and market that brand directly to the customers, which really helps agents and promoters when booking the shows.

**How did your efforts impact the local comedy scene?**

When I began doing shows in New Hampshire in 1986 I was very young, and like most comics I was just trying to find my voice. I was living in the Boston area and booking shows around the North Shore in Massachusetts. I began promoting shows in New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, as there were not many agents focusing on northern New England. My goal was always to give everyone I could a stage to perform on. Currently, I've had the longest-running weekly shows in New Hampshire. I partner with a few local venues like the DoubleTree in Man-

chester and Chunky's Cinemas who share the same goal to create a comedy scene here in New Hampshire. I have seen many young comics grow from open mic to touring with national acts and even go on to do late-night television and sitcoms. ... I would never take the credit for their success, but I feel honored to have played a small role. I continue to book and produce over 50 events a week for local and regional acts to cut their teeth on. I welcome the next generation of comics to my stages. From what I've been seeing, we have a very talented crew coming up.

**What has surprised you about the way the state's comedy scene has developed?**

One of the most surprising things I've seen is how supportive the comics are. There is a sense of camaraderie that is so prevalent now. I see comics who are very talented and gifted helping the younger generation. There are some comics that coach, and in some instances mentor, the younger comics and show them the ropes. I also have seen a shift in that we [comedians] ... have always offered to give back to the community by doing countless fundraisers for all types of organizations.

**What do you think the comedy scene will be like 20 years from now, and what challenges will it face?**

I think the scene will continue to grow and evolve. I feel that in recent times we have been forced to explore other areas to express ourselves and perform. Live comedy will always thrive in New Hampshire thanks to the support of local venues, as well as patrons that want to see comedy. Not only will we see live comedy grow, I'm sure we will see growth in the streaming of these shows online so patrons in small areas can join in. We are in the beginning stages of Zoom comedy. It will be great to see what this will be like moving forward. ... [And places like] Manchester ... [have] been growing so fast and really becoming a hub for smart and energetic people. There are many businesspeople, like Dean Kamen, for example, who are playing a major role here in New Hampshire. What he and others are doing is awesome and helping to make New Hampshire a place to be. This will inevitably help all of us here in the arts.

**What's your favorite spot to enjoy live entertainment?**

Whenever I work locally, I like to go out after my shows. I like going to see a blues and jazz band at Strange Brew. I also like Penuche's on Elm for their bands. Tupelo has really done a great job bringing in so many great acts over the years. Honestly, there are so many places now to enjoy live music or dancing. New Hampshire really has something for everyone now. 🍷

# MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Amherst**  
LaBelle Winery  
345 Route 101  
672-9898

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

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

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

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

**Smuttynose Brewing**  
105 Towle Farm Road

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

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

**Hudson**  
The Bar  
2B Burnham Road

**Luk's Bar & Grill**  
142 Lowell Road  
889-9900

**Bedford**  
T-Bones  
169 S. River Road  
623-7699

**Cheers**  
17 Depot St.  
228-0180

**Sea Dog Brewery**  
9 Water St.

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

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

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

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

**Hampton**  
The Galley Hatch  
(Tino's Kitchen is upstairs)  
325 Lafayette Road  
926-6152

**Brookline**  
The Alamo Texas Bar-  
becue & Tequila Bar  
99 Route 13  
721-5000

**Chichester**  
Flannel Tavern  
345 Suncook Valley  
Road  
406-1196

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

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

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

**Kingston**  
Saddle Up Saloon  
92 Route 125  
369-6962

**Laconia**  
Tower Hill Tavern  
264 Lakeside Ave.  
366-9100

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

**603 Brewery & Beer Hall**  
42 Main St.  
404-6123

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

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

**Cercle National Club**  
550 Rockland Ave.  
623-8243

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

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

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

**Penuche's Music Hall**  
1087 Elm St.  
932-2868

**Puerto Vallarta Mexican Grille**  
865 Second St.  
935-9182

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

**Meredith**  
Hart's Turkey Farm  
223 Daniel Webster  
Hwy.  
279-6212

**Twin Barns Brewing**  
194 DW Hwy.  
279-0876

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

**Moultonborough**  
Buckey's  
240 Governor Went-  
worth Hwy.  
476-5485

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

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

**New Boston**  
Molly's Tavern &  
Restaurant  
35 Mont Vernon Road  
487-1362

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat  
142 Congress St.  
590-4628

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

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

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

**Red's Kitchen + Tavern**  
530 Lafayette Road  
760-0030

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

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat  
142 Congress St.  
590-4628

## Thursday, Jan. 28

**Brookline**  
Alamo: Matt Borrello, 4:30 p.m.

**Concord**  
Area 23: NH Vintage Vinyl spins records, 6:30 p.m. (pop-up shop)

**Epping**  
Telly's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m.

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

**Hampton**  
CR's: Rico Barr Duo, 6 p.m.  
Shane BBQ: Brad Bosse, 5 p.m.  
Smuttynose: Contactless Trivia Night, 6 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
Stumble Inn: Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.

**Meredith**  
Hart's: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
Fratello's: Chris Gardner, 5:30 p.m.  
Liquid Therapy: Becca's Last Thursday Night Trivia Night, 7:30 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
Stone Church: Dave Gerard, 6 p.m.

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

**Seabrook**  
Red's: Amanda Cote, 8 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 29**  
**Brookline**  
Alamo: Mike Preston, 4:30 p.m.

**Concord**  
Area 23: swappin' sets with Faith & Senie, 7 p.m.  
Cheers: Team Trivia, 9 p.m.

**Epping**  
Telly's: Tim Theriault, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**  
Sawbelly: Matt Fuller, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Danile Wray, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
CR's: Rico Barr Duo, 6 p.m.  
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.  
Wally's: Josh Waterman & Adam Fithian, 9 p.m.  
WHYM: Gabby Martin, 5 p.m.

**Kingston**  
Saddle Up: Eric Grant, 7 p.m.

**Laconia**  
Tower Hill: Ryan Williamson, 8 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.  
Stumble Inn: Munk Duane, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Backyard Brewery: Chad Verbeck, 6 p.m.  
Cercle National Club: Jonny Friday, 6:30 p.m.  
Derryfield: Chris Perkins, 7:30 p.m.  
The Foundry: Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m.  
Fratello's: Ted Solo, 5:30 p.m.  
South Side Tavern: Pete Peterson, 8 p.m.

**Meredith**  
Twin Barns: Julie Velie, 5 p.m.

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

**Moultonborough**  
Buckey's: April Cushman, 6 p.m.

**Nashua**  
American Social Club: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.

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

**Newmarket**  
Stone Church: Arthur James, 6 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat: Chris Toler 9 p.m.

**Rochester**  
Porter's: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
Chop Shop: Fast Times, 7 p.m. (1980s tribute)  
Red's: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.

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

## Saturday, Jan. 30

**Amherst**  
LaBelle: Dinner & Dueling Pianos, 6 p.m.

**Bow**  
Chen Yang Li: Tim Kierstead, 7 p.m.

**Brookline**  
Alamo: Randy McGarvey, 4:30 p.m.

**Concord**  
Area 23: Jam with Curtis Arnett 2 p.m.; swapping sets with Craig Farrington & Brian Wall, 7 p.m.  
Concord Craft Brewing: Justin Cohn, 4 p.m.

**Epping**  
Telly's: Matt Luneau, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**  
Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 1 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Gardner Berry, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
The Goat: Jonny Friday, 9 p.m.  
Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.  
WHYM: Rebecca Turmel, 5 p.m.

**Hudson**  
Luk's Bar: Vinyl Legion Band, 6:30 p.m.

**Laconia**  
Tower Hill Tavern: Eric Grant, 8 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
603 Brewery: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.  
Coach Stop: Dave Z, 6 p.m.  
Stumble Inn: Chris Lester, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Backyard Brewery: Mikey G, 6 p.m.  
Cercle National Club: Justin Jordan, 6:30 p.m.  
Derryfield: Pete Peterson, 7:30 p.m.  
Foundry: Walker Smith, 6 p.m.  
Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.  
South Side: Brad Bosse, 8 p.m.

**Meredith**  
Twin Barns: Music Bingo, 6 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

**Moultonborough**  
Buckey's: April Cushman, 6 p.m.

**Nashua**  
American Social Club: DJ night with Iron Beats, 9 p.m.  
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.  
Liquid Therapy: Tyler Allgood, 6 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
Stone Church: Skunk Sessions, 8 p.m.

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

**Seabrook**  
Chop Shop: Brick House, 7 p.m.

## Sunday, Jan. 31

**Bedford**  
Copper Door: Yvonne Aubert, 11 a.m.

**Brookline**  
Alamo: live music, 4:30 p.m.

**Chichester**  
Flannel Tavern: Joe Pero, 4 p.m.

**Exeter**  
Sawbelly: Brews & Blues with Alan Roux, noon

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

**Hampton**  
WHYM: Max Sullivan, noon

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

**Salem**  
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.

## Music plays on

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

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

**Stratham**

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

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

**Kingston**

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

**Meredith**

Twin Barns: Trivia night, 6 p.m.

**Epping**

Telly's: Brad Bosse, 7 p.m.

**Exeter**

Sea Dog Brewing: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.

**Hampton**

CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.  
Smuttynose: Contactless Trivia Night, 6 p.m.

**Londonderry**

Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

**Manchester**

Jewel: Rose Tattoo, 7 p.m.

**Meredith**

Hart's: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.

**Portsmouth**

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

**Concord**

Cheers: Team Trivia, 9 p.m.

**Epping**

Telly's: Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**

Sawbelly: Brian Walker, 5 p.m.

**Hampton**

CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.  
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.  
Tino's: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.  
Wally's: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.  
WHYM: April Cushman, 5 p.m.

**Kingston**

Saddle Up Saloon: Alex Anthony, 7 p.m.

**Laconia**

Tower Hill: Alex Cohen, 8 p.m.

**Londonderry**

Stumble Inn: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**

Backyard Brewery: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.  
Derryfield: Alex Roy, 7:30 p.m.  
The Foundry: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.  
South Side Tavern: Malcolm Salls, 8 p.m.

**Nashua**

American Social Club: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.

**Portsmouth**

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

**Seabrook**

Chop Shop: Tapedeck Heroez, 7 p.m.

**Stratham**

Tailgate: Elijah Clark, 7 p.m.

**COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND**

**Venues**

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

**Chunky's**

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

**Hatbox Theatre**

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

**The Strand**

20 Third St., Dover  
343-1899, thestrand-dover.com

- **Joe Yannetty** 13, 8 p.m.
- **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 29, and Saturday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m.
- **Johnny Pizzi** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 5, and Saturday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.
- **Jody Sloane** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 12, and Saturday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m.
- **Comedy Nights (Best of Boston)** The Strand, Saturday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
- **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Joe Yannetty** 13, 8 p.m.
- **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Manchester, Sunday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
- **Mark Riley** Chunky's Nashua, Sunday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m.
- **Tom Cotter** Chunky's Pelham, Thursday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.
- **Harrison Stebbins** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Tom Cotter** Chunky's Nashua, Friday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Tom Cotter** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Joe Yannetty** 13, 8 p.m.

- Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Mike Hanley** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m.
- **Brian Glowacki** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
- **Queen City Improv** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.
- **Comedy Out of the Box** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.
- **Juston McKinney** Cap Center, Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m.

**Concerts**

**Venues**

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

**Dana Center**

Saint Anselm College  
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, anselm.edu

**The Flying Monkey**

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

**Franklin Opera House**

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

**LaBelle Winery**

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

**Palace Theatre**

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

**Stone Church**

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

**The Strand**

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

**Tupelo Music Hall**

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

**Shows**

- **Dave Gerard** Thursday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., Stone Church
- **Dinner & Flying Ivories Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m., LaBelle

- **Mairead Nesbitt** Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- **Skunk Sessions** Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., The Strand
- **Divas Decades (tribute to Etta James, Gloria Estefan, Tina Turner, Madonna and more)** Friday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., virtual concert via Palace
- **Croce Plays Croce** (A.J. Croce performs the music of Jim Croce and more) Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **My Funny Valentine dinner with Rich DiMare and Rob Poster & The Sinatra Ambassadors** Saturday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle
- **The Rockin' Daddios** Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Opera House

**Windows and Patio Doors!**

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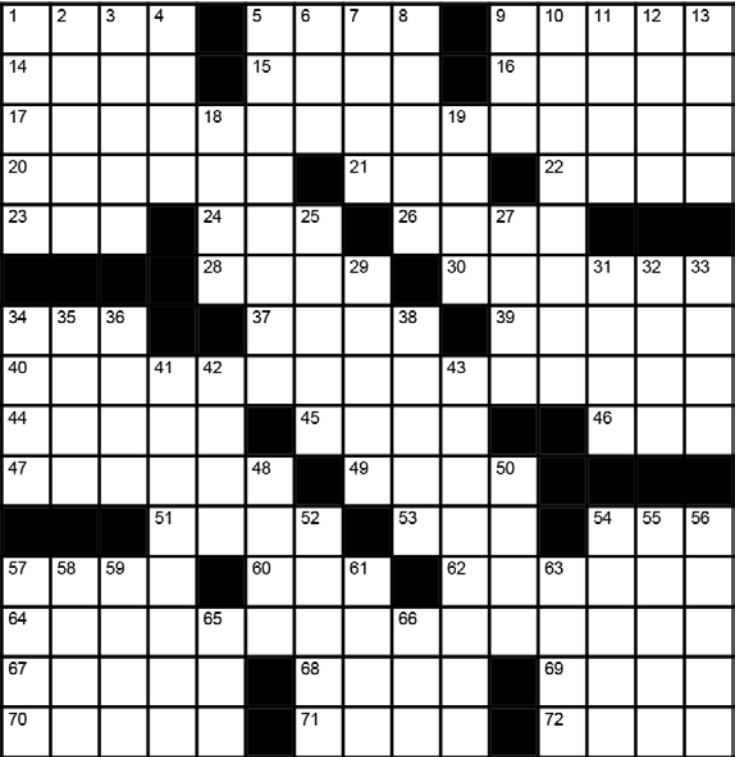
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# PUZZLE OF OZZ



**Across**

1. John Such from Bon Jovi
5. Audioslave song about eater of sweaters?
9. Black Sabbath puts dressing, then a 'Rat' in theirs
14. Like one and only member
15. 'King Of New Orleans' Better Than
16. An agreeable Foxy Shazam sang '\_\_\_ It' (1,4)
17. English 'Fire' psychedelic rockers \_\_\_ Arthur Brown (3,5,5,2)
20. J Geils 'Freeze Frame' jam '\_\_\_ The Cage' (4,2)
21. Letters before an alias (abbr)
22. 'Helpless' icons (abbr)
23. Ronnie Milsap '\_\_\_ Day Now'
24. Online musician-seeking-musician posts, e.g.
26. Migos likes to eat chicken '\_\_\_ Fry'
28. Guitars, cords and these
30. Ray Charles '\_\_\_ And Stones'
34. DeLeo brothers band (abbr)
37. Cheer band or do this
39. 'Spirit' R&B Brit girl Lewis
40. Disturbed's '11 B-sides comp for homeless kids?' (3,4,8)
44. Cannibal Corpse '\_\_\_ From Inside'
45. 'I Remember You' \_\_\_ Row
46. Reggae man \_\_\_-A-Mouse
47. Band did this w/new song, on their site
49. Stereomud wants to be their 'Perfect \_\_\_'
51. Michael Jackson asked '\_\_\_ Scary' before going in haunted house (2,2)
53. 'This Is A Call' \_\_\_ Fighters
54. 'Black On Both Sides' rapper \_\_\_ Def
57. Murder By Death has a 'Black' one on their image, perhaps
60. Drunk driving stars might get one

62. U2 "Well you left my heart empty as a \_\_\_ lot"
64. Donna Summer classic 'She Works \_\_\_' (4,3,3,5)
67. Neil Diamond "Hello \_\_, hello"
68. To sack an agent you to this
69. '04 Ozzfest rockers Lacuna \_\_\_
70. '04 Indigo Girls album 'All That \_\_\_ In' (2,3)
71. Dennis Brown 'Hold \_\_\_ What

**Down**

1. '00 Spiritual Beggars album 'Ad \_\_\_'
2. 'A Little More Personal (Raw)' singer/actress Lindsay
3. '96 Amorphis album about plaintive piece, perhaps
4. 'Finally' Peniston
5. Billy Paul was a sneak with '\_\_\_ Jones' (2,3,3)
6. Where Ozzy had a 'Blizzard'
7. Three Dog Night '\_\_\_ Little Tenderness' (3,1)
8. '80 Neil Young album '\_\_\_ And Doves'
9. \_\_\_ Ray Davies
10. Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam "Now I'm \_\_\_ out, over you" (3,5)
11. Elton John's friends had to keep these on things, back in the day
12. He was on Gwen Stefani's 'The Sweet Escape'
13. Offspring is going to stand up for themselves and '\_\_\_ You'
18. Trade org. that represents recording industry
19. Guttermouth song about horses feed bag contents?
25. Want good parking ones for show
27. Smokey Robinson "Sooner or later \_\_\_ all fall in line"
29. Red Hot Chili Peppers' sole clothing, at times
31. Shawn Mullins 'Lullaby' album 'Soul's \_\_\_'
32. Primus bent down on a 'Wounded \_\_\_'
33. What career did after scandal
34. '04 Drowning Pool hit '\_\_\_ Up'
35. NorCal band \_\_\_ & The Get Down Stay Down
36. We'll make great ones, to Porno For

## WORD ★ Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

Book \_\_\_\_\_

Four two-syllable fruits

Three layers of the Earth

Two five-letter card games

First person to walk on the moon

1/7

---

Last Week's Answers: CANYON VALLEY CLIFF RIDGE HILL / HYPHEN PERIOD COMMA COLON / TOTAL RECALL / VIETNAM LAOS / PIRATE

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

- Pyros
38. Someone that samples w/out paying
41. '11 Ozzy single for a funeral? (3,2,3)
42. Top chart slots
43. Ten Years After classic '\_\_\_ Change The World' (2,4,2)
48. British 'Don't Believe In Love' singer
50. Frothy Phish song?
52. Judas Priest was a '\_\_\_ Lover'
54. Kristian Matsson or The Tallest \_\_\_ Earth (3,2)
55. 'Another \_\_\_ The Dark' Wallflowers (3,2)

56. Doesn't hurt to have it, along w/talent
57. Tommy that did an album w/Jack Blades
58. Yardbirds/Led Zep Jimmy
59. Like unwritten agreement band shouldn't make
61. Ozzy 'Perry Mason' lyrics "You can see \_\_\_ their faces" (2,2)
63. Chewed stimulant Rick James used to chomp on, perhaps
65. Semisonic "Fascinating new thing" song (abbr)
66. Foreigner '\_\_\_ Blooded' © 2020 Todd Santos

# KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

3	4+	2÷	3-
2÷			
	3+		6x
5+		3	

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WORKSPACE:

**CHALLENGING**

4	5-	3÷		15x
3+		4	14+	3÷
	4			11+
2-	3-		3+	6
	14+	3÷		12+
			3-	

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WORKSPACE:

**RULES**

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**

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

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

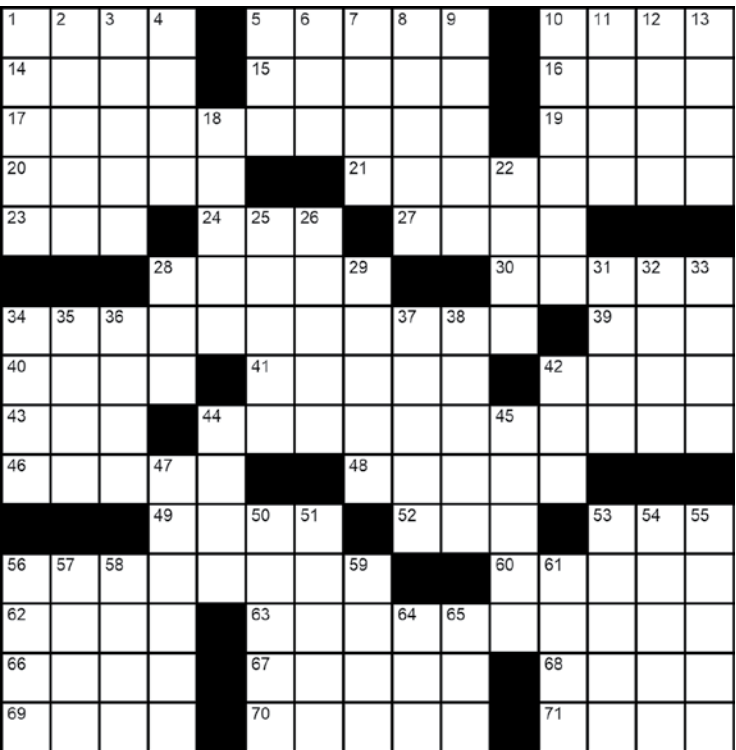
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# "Cashing In" — a puzzle with some redeeming value

- Across**
- 1 Palindromic title (even with the apostrophe)
  - 5 Dutch-speaking Caribbean island
  - 10 Gum blobs
  - 14 Prefix that means "both"
  - 15 Littlest bits
  - 16 Chain with stacks and syrups
  - 17 "How You Remind Me" rock band
  - 19 Croft of the Tomb Raider games
  - 20 Pointer by another name
  - 21 Place to get drinks before you turn in, maybe
  - 23 "Take This Job and Shove It" singer David Allan \_\_\_\_\_
  - 24 "Qué \_\_\_\_?" ("How's it going?")
  - 27 Area near NYU
  - 28 Dressed like a judge
  - 30 Nocturnal newborn
  - 34 Monopoly token until 2017
  - 39 Language suffix
  - 40 Equal share, often
  - 41 Wall crawlers
  - 42 Apothecary's container
  - 43 "The King and I" star Brynner
  - 44 Get red in the face and shy away, maybe

- 46 First "Blue's Clues" host
- 48 Willie Nelson's son who leads the band Promise of the Real
- 49 An official language of Pakistan
- 52 Remained on the shelf
- 53 Drugstore with long receipts
- 56 Smoked Polish sausage
- 60 Most Nunavut inhabitants
- 62 Monty Python member Idle
- 63 Like bottles and cans, in some states (or what five long Across answers all literally contain)
- 66 Delany of "China Beach"
- 67 Hospital figure
- 68 Luxor river
- 69 Out in the open
- 70 Secretly watch
- 71 Sailed through

- (depending on when this is published)
- 5 Have a cold, perhaps
- 6 Shoplift
- 7 Ogden's locale
- 8 Maple go-with, in some recipes
- 9 Seek permission for
- 10 Ron Howard fantasy film of 1988
- 11 Moby-Dick captain
- 12 Bilingual TV explorer
- 13 Practice for a boxing match
- 18 Endorse enthusiastically
- 22 Website for DIYers with instructional steps
- 25 "Steal This Book" author Hoffman
- 26 Remain's counterpart in Brexit
- 28 NFL official
- 29 It gets boring pretty quickly
- 31 1970s teen idol Garrett
- 32 Genesis brother
- 33 Poker player's giveaway
- 34 Motivations
- 35 High, in Haiti
- 36 Dakota Fanning's younger sister
- 37 "Classic Concentration" puzzle type
- 38 Tennis star Naomi
- 42 Initials that may be collecting dust in your TV room
- 44 "Phineas and \_\_\_\_"
- 45 Pillowcase material
- 47 Lt. Tuvok, for one
- 50 Does sock repair
- 51 Consume
- 53 Like 8, 27, and 64
- 54 Coupe de \_\_\_\_ (old Cadillac model)
- 55 Chariot horse
- 56 Canvas shoe brand
- 57 "Dies \_\_\_\_" (Latin hymn)
- 58 A, to Germans
- 59 "It's worth \_\_\_\_!"
- 61 Grandma, informally
- 64 Show stager for GIs
- 65 Neurotic cartoon chihuahua



- Down**
- 1 \_\_\_\_ Panic (hair color brand that's still around)
  - 2 Protein-building acid
  - 3 Start of a popular children's song
  - 4 (Soon-to-be) former VP name

**R&R answer from pg 31 of 01/21**



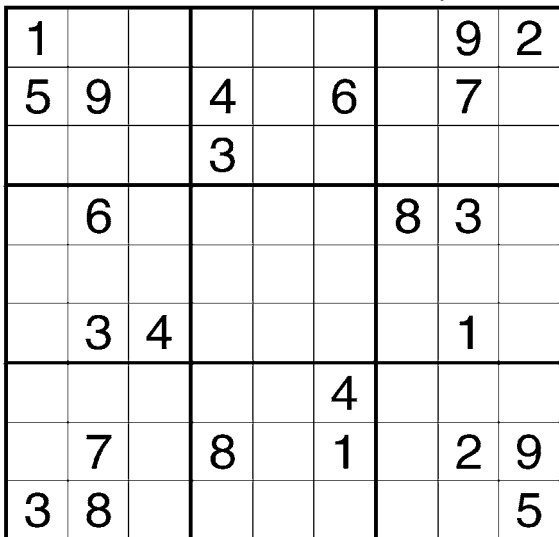
**Jonesin' answer from pg 32 of 01/21**



**NITE SUDOKU**

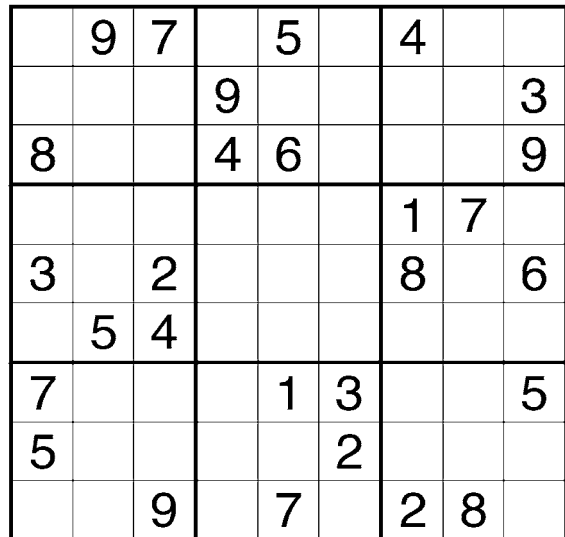
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 32.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green



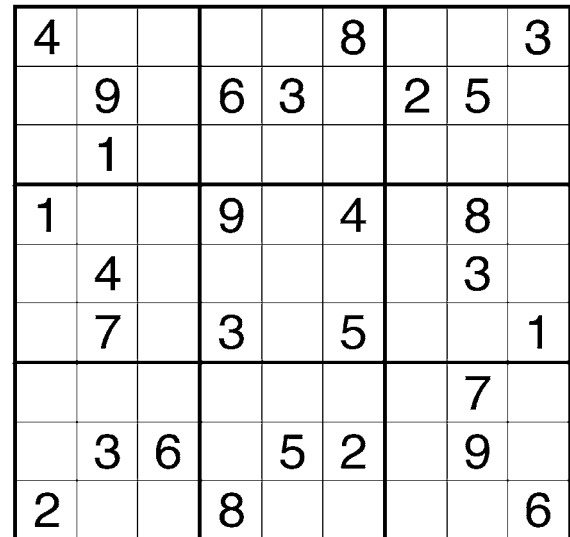
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★



All quotes are from Phil Collins, born Jan. 30, 1951.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** "Get up, get on, get out about and shout it / Tell 'em all you're dressed and on your way / Oh there's absolutely no doubt about it / This is your wake-up call / You're gonna miss it all." — "Wake Up Call" Don't tell them you're dressed if you're not.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** "For all you know, it could be good for you / to show your feelings / Don't just leave them" — "I'm Not Moving" For all you know.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** "Did I miss again? / I think I missed again, oh." — "I Missed Again" There is such a thing as close enough.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** "There's a fire that's been burning / Right outside my door / I can't see but I feel it / And it helps to keep me warm / So I, I don't mind. / No, I, I don't mind." — "Take Me Home" Don't leave fire unattended.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** "Why can't it wait 'til morning? / We can talk about it then / 'cause I've had a drink too many / And my troubles, well I ain't got any." — "Why Can't It Wait 'Til Morning" Talk when you can think clearly.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** "You can wear my hat, you can have my coat / You can take my shirt, 'cause I don't need it / You can wear my shoes, you can take my socks / Come on take my bag it's yours" — "Wear My Hat" What about the scarf?

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** "I can't dance / I can't talk / Only thing about me is the way I walk / I can't dance / I can't sing / I'm just standing here selling everything" — "I Can't Dance." Do what you can.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** "I've got no far horizons, I don't wish upon a star" — "Take Me Home" Intermediate goals are good.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** "Don't keep quiet, just 'cause you think you ought to / Feel free to shout it loud, speak your mind, spit it out." — "I'm Not Moving" Politely.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** "It must be love, I'm feeling / This must be love / Oh this must be love, I'm feeling / This must be love." — "This Must Be Love" Are you sure?

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** "I've seen your face before, my friend, but I don't know if you know who I am / And I was there and I saw what you did, I saw it with my own two eyes / So you can wipe off that grin / I know where you've been / It's all been a pack of lies." — "In the Air Tonight" Honestly is the best policy.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** "Well it feels like something you want so bad / Then you think you've got it, but it's something you already had." — "I Missed Again" Take inventory. 🍷

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**7 LITTLE WORDS**

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 friends (4)	_____
2 friends (7)	_____
3 friends (5)	_____
4 friends (10)	_____
5 friends (10)	_____
6 friends (5)	_____
7 friends (8)	_____

LS	ES	NI	DDI	ONS
CH	CO	NTS	CO	MRA
PA	UMS	MPA	TES	IDA
BU	CO	DES	NF	MA

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**Sudoku Answers from pg 32 of 01/21**

**Puzzle A**

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

**Puzzle B**

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

**Puzzle C**

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

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## In plane sight

On Jan. 16 at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, two employees of United Airlines approached a man and asked for his ID. Aditya Singh, 36, of Orange, California, produced an employee badge, but it was not his: Another employee had reported it missing on Oct. 26, the Chicago Tribune reported. Authorities said Singh had arrived at O'Hare on Oct. 19 from Los Angeles and was too afraid to fly back home because of Covid-19, so he hid in a secured area of the airport for three months, living off food given to him by strangers. Singh is unemployed but has a master's degree in hospitality and doesn't have a criminal background. He was charged with felony criminal trespass.

## The Devil made them do it

Members of Poughkeepsie, New York's Church of Satan are down in the dumps this week after someone torched their gathering place, known as "Halloween House," on Jan. 14. According to the Poughkeepsie Journal, video footage shows a person carrying two gas cans, splashing liquid on the front porch, lighting it and running away. Two people who were inside at the time escaped unharmed; the arsonist has not been caught. "Sadly there are some 'people of faith' who are intolerant, and typically ignorant, of other belief sys-

tems," noted Church of Satan high priest Peter H. Gilmore. Church member Isis Vermouth called the arson a "terror attack. Whoever did this is going to be hexed by all of us," she said. "I just don't understand why anyone would want to piss off Satanic witches. 'Cause now there's going to be hell to pay."

## Least competent criminals

• On Jan. 7, police received a call from a 7-Eleven store in Lehi, Utah, where earlier in the day a man wearing a "sheriff's deputy" jacket stole a doughnut, then left in a white pickup truck. KUTV reported that Lehi police examined surveillance video and tracked the truck to a nearby motel parking lot, where they knocked on the door of 47-year-old Daniel Mark Wright, who was staying there. As officers spoke with Wright, they allegedly saw a Salt Lake County Sheriff's jacket hanging in the room's closet. They arrested Wright and charged him with impersonation of an officer and theft, along with receiving or transfer of a stolen vehicle in relation to the truck.

• Leobardo Hernandez, 32, of Pomona, California, went to extraordinary lengths on Jan. 16 to evade police after allegedly stealing a car. As Hernandez ran from officers, he entered an apartment complex and found an unlocked door, the Daily Bulle-

tin reported. The apartment residents were not at home, so Hernandez moved right in, shaving his face, changing clothes and even cooking tortillas to make it seem as if he lived there. Unfortunately, he also burned the tortillas, summoning the fire department. Hernandez eventually surrendered and was charged with burglary and possession of a stolen vehicle among other offenses.

## Awwwwwww

Russell Jones of London couldn't figure out why his dog, Billy, was favoring one of his front paws while walking. He took the pet to the veterinarian to have X-rays, United Press International reported, but the vet found nothing wrong. Jones, however, had recently broken his own ankle and was wearing a cast and limping. At the \$400 vet visit, the doctor suggested that Billy was simply imitating his owner. Man's best friend, indeed.

## What's in a name?

Before social distancing and masks became the world's norm, CBS News reported on Jan. 12, Paul O'Sullivan of Baltimore was noodling around on Facebook one night, searching for other Paul O'Sullivans. Several of those he found accepted his friend request, which was when he noticed that some were musi-

cians, as he was. Baltimore Paul, as he's known, reached out to others, and eventually he and three others formed the Paul O'Sullivan Band. Manchester Paul plays bass; Pennsylvania Paul is the percussionist; and Baltimore Paul and Rotterdam Paul play guitar and sing. They recorded a single at the beginning of 2020, but when COVID hit, they thought it was a great opportunity to make a whole album. "It feels great to be able to contact people on the other side of the world when you're in lockdown because you don't feel alone at the moment," commented Rotterdam Paul. "If you learn to play an instrument, it can help you through some dark times," said Manchester Paul.

## Government in action

Bigfoot hunters in Oklahoma will be happy to know that their pastime could get its own season, KOKH reported. State Rep. Justin Humphrey introduced a bill on Jan. 20 asking the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission to establish a Bigfoot hunting season, "set annual season dates and create any necessary specific hunting licenses and fees." Southeastern and south-central Oklahoma is infamous for Bigfoot sightings, including a large festival (canceled this year because of Covid-19). If passed, the bill would become effective in November.

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