

# the Hippo

APRIL 1 - 7, 2021

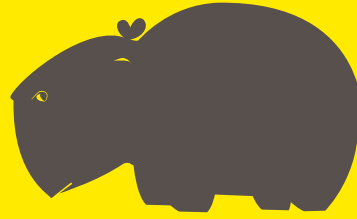
CELEBRATE POETRY  
MONTH P. 24

ROSÉ SEASON  
P. 35

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

YOUR LOCAL FAVORITES



HIPPO BEST OF 2021



READERS PICKS

**BEST OF 2021**

Readers pick the **BEST** stuff

**INSIDE: NH CRAFT BEER WEEK**



## Hippo Best of 2021



This week's issue is a celebration of many of the things that make up what many of us have come to think of as our community and our quality of life. It's Hippo's Best of 2021 issue,

where you tell us what you like best about your community.

We made a few changes this year to reflect the realities of the effects of the pandemic on our community, including more questions relating to outdoor activities and removing some relating to live performances. We also changed how we classified the Best of picks. We kept the Best of the Best — those are the top vote getters in a category — but rather than having geographic Best of picks, such as Best of Manchester, we classified the next four top picks as "Readers Bests." We hope you enjoy the results and explore (once you feel safe to do so) your community. The results start on page 10.

One of my favorite parts of the Hippo Best of is the *Smaaart* answers we get. When asked to name the "Thing New Hampshire does better than any other state," many folks answered maple syrup or four seasons or the great outdoors or live free and others suggested, "hate Massachusetts," or "just not Massachusetts," and others hit on a drinking theme with answers such as "booze" or "great beer" or "liquor stores on the highway."

On a question where we asked readers to fill in the blank — "2021 in NH: Year of the \_\_\_" — we also got some creative answers. They included "mask," "Covid," "lockdown," "pandemic" and "Oh God, what now," but there were also a few that went in different directions, such as lobsters, cider doughnuts, beer, babies, divorce, smiles and tattoos. I guess I can see that too much cider doughnuts and beer leads to babies and divorce and soon to follow are smiles and tattoos. "Oh God, what now."

One of the more surprising reader answers came from our multiple-choice question asking whether vegetables on pizza are a crime against pizza, OK in the case of \_\_\_ vegetable, or always delicious. One of our vote-counters asked if we were being punked because a fair number of people answered, "broccoli." Clearly that vote counter is in the George H.W. Bush camp. But as you can see on page 13 the great majority of Hippo readers think veggies on pizza are A-OK (a sentiment I share). I even like broccoli on pizza, though probably not enough to mention it by name.

Thank you to everyone who voted and congratulations to all the winners — even broccoli. 🍷



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## ON THE COVER

**10 2021 BEST OF READERS POLL** Despite the challenges of the past year, there's still plenty to celebrate about living in New Hampshire. Readers voted on their favorite people, places and things in the Granite State; now, check out the results and make some plans to grab a winning bite, take a mini hike or enjoy a night of comedy or live music from some of our best local talent.

**ALSO ON THE COVER**, immerse yourself in verse during Poetry Month, p. 24. New Hampshire breweries celebrate Craft Beer Week, p. 30. And springtime means spring wines, p. 35.

## INSIDE THIS WEEK

### NEWS & NOTES

- 4 NEWS IN BRIEF
- 6 SPORTS
- 8 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

### THE ARTS:

- 24 POETRY MONTH
- 24 ARTS ROUNDUP
- The latest arts news.

### INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

- 26 GARDENING GUY  
Henry Homeyer offers advice on your outdoors.
- 26 KIDDIE POOL  
Fun for the family.
- 28 CAR TALK  
Automotive advice.

### FOOD:

- 30 NH CRAFT BEER WEEK; Weekly Dish; In the Kitchen; Try This At Home; Drinks with John Fladd; Wine.

### POP CULTURE:

- 36 BOOK, MUSIC AND FILM REVIEWS Amy Diaz packs in more Oscar talk with a review of *The Father* and a look at the visual effects nominees.

### NITE:

- 39 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE  
Lamont Smooth, Nite Roundup, Music This Week.
- 43 MUSIC CROSSWORD  
Puzzle for the music-lover.

### ODDS & ENDS:

- 43 KENKEN, WORD ROUNDUP
- 44 CROSSWORD
- 44 SUDOKU
- 45 SIGNS OF LIFE
- 45 7 LITTLE WORDS
- 46 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

## Speaking groups:

### Prêt-à-parler

04/06/2021 - 5:30 pm  
1st Tuesday of the month

### Teen Prêt-à-Parler

04/14/2021 - 6:00 pm  
2nd Wednesday of the month

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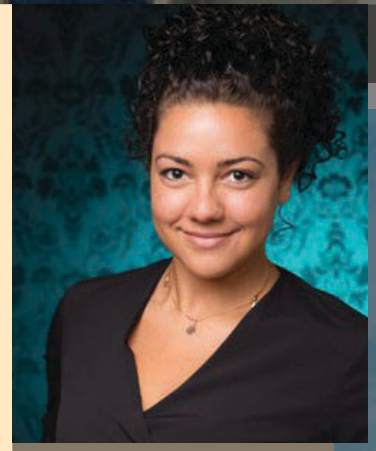
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# NEWS & NOTES

## Covid-19 news

State residents between the ages of 40 and 49 became eligible to register for the Covid-19 vaccine on March 29, through the state-run Vaccine & Immunizations Network Interface website at vaccines.nh.gov. On March 31, those between the ages of 30 and 39 became eligible. Starting on April 2, everyone between the ages of 16 and 29 will be able to register. "We feel fairly confident that everyone should be able to get their first shot by Memorial Day," Gov. Chris Sununu said in a March 25 press conference.

On March 26, Sununu issued Emergency Orders No. 87 and No. 88. Emergency Order No. 87 extends the statewide mask mandate for another three weeks through at least April 16. Emergency Order No. 88 extends the stay-at-home advisory, also through at least April 16.

Also on March 26, Sununu issued Executive Order 2021-5, extending the state of emergency in New Hampshire due to the pandemic for another three weeks through at least April 16. It's the 18th extension he has issued since declaring a state of emergency in March 2020.

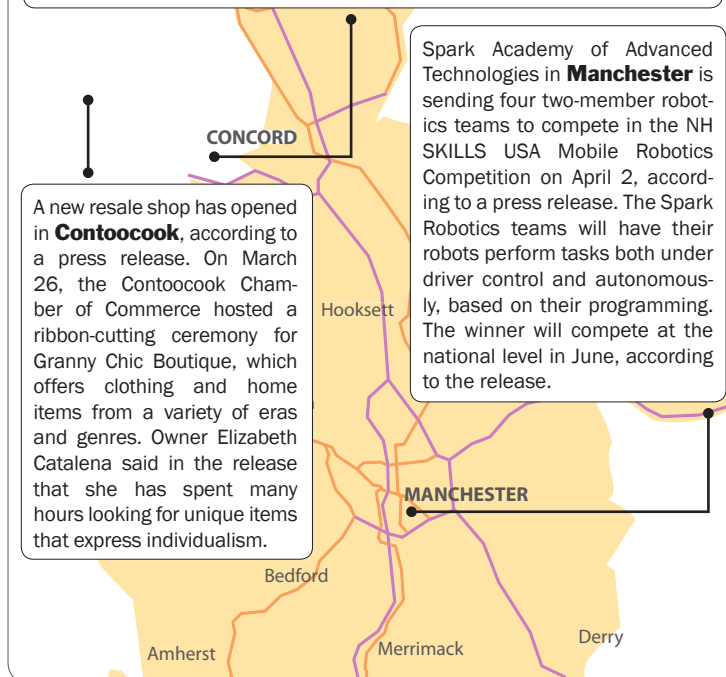
## New NH AG

John Formella was confirmed on March 24 as New Hampshire's next Attorney General after a 4-1 Executive Council vote. "John's work ethic is unmatched, and I have no doubt he will make an exceptional Attorney General and advance the best interests of Granite Staters," Gov. Chris Sununu said in a statement.

## State budget

The NH Fiscal Policy Institute is hosting a free webinar on Monday, April 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to provide a closer look at the House Finance Committee's budget propos-

At 57, Barb Higgins of **Concord** is the oldest woman to give birth in New Hampshire, according to a report from the Concord Monitor. Higgins gave birth March 27 to a healthy boy, whom she and her husband, Ken Banzhoff, named Jack Kearsley Banzhoff, according to the report.



al for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, according to a press release. *Examining the State Budget: The House Finance Committee's Proposal* will be held virtually via Zoom and will include a discussion of key changes from the governor's budget propos-

and the current operating budget, and the potential impact of federal aid that's expected from the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as a question and answer session. Pre-registration is required. Visit NHFPI's online at nhfpi.org.

Covid-19 update	As of March 22	As of March 29
Total cases statewide	80,750	83,340
Total current infections statewide	2,334	2,785
Total deaths statewide	1,217	1,237
New cases	1,937 (March 16 to March 22)	2,590 (March 23 to March 29)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	756	948
Current infections: Merrimack County	195	214
Current infections: Rockingham County	633	727

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

## Ainge behind Celtics mess



I said last week I don't think **Danny Ainge** realizes how much trouble the Celtics are in. And that was before Saturday's absolutely appalling, ah, win against the G-League team in Oak City they call the Thunder that came from a fourth-quarter blitz after a total non-effort during the first three quarters, when somehow they let a guy I never heard of go for 17 points and a Wilt Chamberlain-like 19 rebounds by *halftime*. Throw in their mostly lethargic play since an 8-2 start, best exemplified by their two losses to Brooklyn as they got rolled by **Kyrie Irving**, and it tells all you need to know. A total lack of fight and pride.

But the bigger problem is the decision-making for personnel by Ainge, which after a long run of terrific moves has been mostly terrible for three years. It's led to a major talent drain as Irving, **Al Horford**, **Gordon Hayward** and **Terry Rozier** have walked while getting only the comparable, but oft injured, **Kemba Walker** back. This is compounded by an inability to build a stronger bench because of an irrational reluctance to part with his war chest of draft assets in deals. His many major draft misses over the last 10 years have led people to logically ask, if he can't draft consistently, why not trade the picks for a guy you know can play in the NBA? Instead he keeps them, drafts badly and then is unable to get anything of value for players like **Grant Williams** and **Aaron Nesmith** because they are marginal players.

Not all of the decisions and draft picks have been bad, but many have. Here's a summary.

2011-2012 - Drafted: **JaJuan Johnson** (27th overall). Passed on: **Jimmy Butler** (29), **Chandler Parsons** (38). Coming and going: **Big Baby Davis** traded for **Brandon Bass**. End game: JaJuan lasted one year in the league, while Butler is a star and the kind of leader the Celtics lack.

2012-2013 - Drafted: **Jared Sullinger** (21) and **Fab Melo** (22). Passed on: **Jaé Crowder** (34), **Draymond Green** (35), **Khris Middleton** (39). Coming and going: no one of consequence. End game: Sullinger was a serviceable player, while the late (not so) Fab actually outdid JuJuan by playing just six NBA games.

2013-2014 - Drafted: **Kelly Olynyk** (traded up to 13). Passed on: **Giannis Antetokounmpo** (15), **Rudy Gobert** (27). Coming and going: Nothing of any real consequence added or lost. End game: It's hard to understand how Danny could be so in love with 3-point-shooting bigs, instead of 6'11" athletes who give 100 percent of their effort on every single play. The biggest mistake of the Ainge era.

2014-2015 - Drafted: **Marcus Smart** (6) and **James Young** (17). Passed on: **Clint Capela** (21), **Nikola Jokic** (41). Coming and going: A tank-athon season began with **KG**, **Paul Pierce** and **Jason Terry** being traded to Brooklyn. Trades of **Jeff Green**, **Rajon Rondo** and a draft pick brought back a first-round pick, **Jaé Crowder**

and **Isaiah Thomas**. End game: Thomas trade shockingly turned a team headed nowhere into a playoff team. They wasted the first Brooklyn pick on Young, but the trade eventually delivered **Jayson Tatum**, **Jaylen Brown** and Irving, so it was a major win. Despite going sixth Smart was the second best guy drafted after **Joel Embiid**.

2015-2016 - Drafted: **Rozier** (16) and **RJ Hunter** (28). Passed on: **Montrezl Harrell** (32), **Norman Powell** (46). Coming and going: No major moves. End game: Rozier showed promise, but Hunter wasn't the knock-down shooter he was billed as, but sadly Powell eventually was/is.

2016-2017 - Drafted: **Brown** (3), **Guerchon Yabusele** (16), **Ante Zizic** (23). Passed on: **Pascal Siakam** (27), **Malcolm Brogdon** (36). Coming and/or going: Signed **Al Horford** as a free agent in a very good move. End game: Brown has been even better than expected. But with Yabusele looking 50 pounds overweight on draft night, it's mind-boggling Ainge took him at all, let alone in Round 1. His worst pick ever and when you also know he also picked JaJuan, Fab and RJ Jr. that's saying something.

2017-2018 - Drafted: **Tatum** (3). Passed on: **De'Aaron Fox** (5), **Donovan Mitchell** (13), **Bam Adebayo** (14). Coming and going: Callously dumped Thomas in trade for Irving and with signing Hayward optimism ran amok until six minutes into the season when Hayward suffered a gruesome injury. End game: Came within a half of going to the NBA finals with both Kyrie and Hayward sidelined for the playoffs.

2018-2019 - Drafted: **Robert Williams** (28). Passed on: **Devonte Graham** (34). Coming and going: No notable transactions. End game: A dumpster fire of a season from start to early finish. Time Lord looks like a gift at 28.

2019-2020 - Drafted: **Romeo Langford** (14), **Grant Williams** (22). Passed on: no one notable. Coming and going: Before the year Kyrie and Horford walked for nothing in return and the Rozier now scoring 20 per night went for injury-hampered **Kemba Walker**. End game: Much better year but should have stuck with Rozier and traded Kyrie a season earlier.













2020-2021 - Drafted: **Aaron Nesmith** (14), **Payton Pritchard** (26). Passed on: **Saddiq Bey** (19), **Immanuel Quickley** (25). Coming and going: Lost **Hayward** after passing on a deal for shot-blocking stretch 4 **Myles Turner** and **Doug McDermott**. Instead took a \$28 million trade exception with 17 just sent for **Evan Fournier**. End game: Danny blew the deal for Hayward with Indiana. And while Fournier is solid, is using the valuable exception on a two-month rental a smart play by a team going nowhere?

How would the Cs look now if they got one or more of Butler, Green, Antetokounmpo, Jokic, Harrell and Siakam? Or by sending Nesmith, Lankford, Hunter, JuJuan and others away in deals for veterans when their value as draft picks is much higher than after being taken? Bottom line: Danny had better get it together because guys get fired for the kind of streak he's on.

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**Serves: 12**

### Ingredients:

- Hannaford Olive Oil Cooking Spray
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- 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Coarse Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Thyme Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Onion Powder
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
- 1/3 cup mushrooms, diced
- 1 cup (packed) Fresh Express® Spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded Cabot® 4 Cheese Mexican Shredded Cheese
- 1 cup ham, diced

### Directions:

1. Set your slow cooker to high and spray with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together whole eggs, egg whites, almondmilk, yogurt, pepper, thyme, onion powder and garlic powder.
3. Add in mushrooms, spinach, cheese and ham, and stir to combine.
4. Pour mixture into slow cooker and cook on high for 90 minutes to 2 hours. Eggs should be set. Slice and serve warm.

### Dietitian's Tips:

1. Leftover asparagus and sweet potato are other great additions to this simple slow cooker recipe.
2. Make it a muffin! To bake individual breakfast bake "muffins," preheat oven to 350°F and spray 12 muffin tins with cooking spray. Fill each muffin until it's 2/3 full. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until set.

### Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 140; Total Fat 8 g; Saturated Fat 1.5 g; Cholesterol 15 mg; Sodium 25 mg; Carbohydrates 12 g; Fiber 4 g; Sugar 5 g; Added Sugar 0 g; Protein 8 g

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## NEWS & NOTES

# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## Making a case for the daring jumping spider

A third-grade environmental science class from Hollis Primary School stood before the Senate Executive Departments & Administration Committee last week to push for the passage of HB 318, which would proclaim the daring jumping spider to be the state spider of New Hampshire, according to a press release.



The daring jumping spider

Tara Happy, the teacher who taught the spider unit to her class in October, told the Concord Monitor in December that the daring jumping spider won the school-wide election in part because it can jump really far, can withstand New Hampshire winters, isn't harmful to people and is the size and shape of a button.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** "Not only was their testimony educational and persuasive, it was a pleasure to hear about the ways in which teachers and their students have creatively adapted approaches to education during the pandemic," Sens. Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester) and Sue Prentiss (D-West Lebanon) wrote in a statement after the session.

## Manchester PD takes 30x30 Pledge

The Manchester Police Department has announced a new initiative called the 30x30 Pledge, with the goal of increasing the number of women in recruit classes by 30 percent by 2030, according to a press release. The department will look at low- and no-cost ways to attract and retain female officers, who, according to the release, generally use less excessive force, are named in fewer complaints and lawsuits, are perceived as being more honest and compassionate by communities and see better outcomes for crime victims, especially in sexual assault cases.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** "This pledge means that the Manchester Police Department is actively working to improve gender equity and identify any disparities that there may be," Chief Allen Aldenberg said in the release. "The goal is to eliminate barriers and advance women in policing."

## Vaccination registration success!

It took until Phase 3, but New Hampshire's vaccination scheduling system is now running smoothly — and QOL can vouch for that, as it took all of five minutes to sign up through the VINI website on Monday and find an appointment for later this week. According to a press release, almost 37,000 appointments were booked Monday by 5 p.m., as New Hampshire became the first state in New England to expand vaccine eligibility to residents 40 and over.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** QOL felt bad for all of the people who previously struggled with scheduling problems in Phases 1 and 2 and spent hours trying to navigate an overwhelmed system but was relieved to get that appointment with no issues.

**QOL score:** 60

**Net change:** +3

**QOL this week:** 63

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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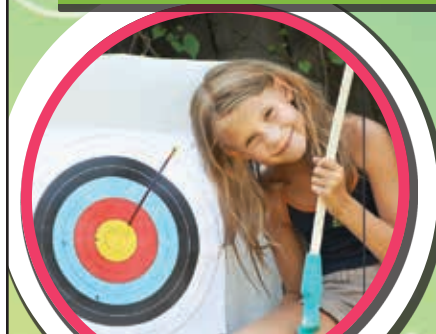
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# BEST OF 2021

## Readers pick the BEST stuff



Let's try something new.

As with every year, the Best of 2021 Hippo Readers Poll offers lots of ideas for new things to try: a new sandwich, a new restaurant for your date night, a new spot for your morning coffee, a new hike with the family, a new park to visit with your energetic dog. If you're looking for new and different things to do this year, readers, who voted in our online survey in February, have oodles of suggestions for you.

And this year we're giving you readers' picks in a slightly new way. Instead of breaking out some of the categories by geography, we're giving you the top five winners in most

categories. All these "readers bests" mean extra recommendations for places to go and things to do (and eat).

A note about the information here: It's always a good idea to call before you head out to see if that salon is open or if that restaurant has the dish you're craving. Even as more things are returning to normal, schedules can still be in flux and some locations have registration and reservation procedures.

Looking for a quick hike this weekend? Or a new spot to grab some takeout for dinner? Let Hippo readers give you some recommendations for all the Bests our slice of New Hampshire has to offer.

## ARTS

### Best Performing Arts Venue

**Best of the best:** Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

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

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

★ Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion, 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, banknhpavilion.com

★ The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., and 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org

### Best Drive-in Venue for Live Entertainment

**Best of the best:** Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com

★ Milford Drive-In Theater, 531 Elm St., Milford, 673-4090, milforddrivein.com

★ Northlands (formerly known as Drive-In Live), Cheshire Fairground, 247

Monadnock Highway, Swanzey, northland-slive.com

★ Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion, 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, banknhpavilion.com

★ Weirs Drive-In Theater, 76 Endicott St. N., Weirs Beach, 366-4723, weirs-drivein.com

### Best Virtual Performance

**Best of the best:** Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org.

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

★ Bob Marley, comedian, bmarley.com

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

★ Recycled Percussion, instrumental junk rock band, New Year's Eve show, recycledpercussion.com

### Best Place to View Art

**Best of the best:** Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org

★ League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Fine Craft Gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nashua.nhcrafts.org

★ Andres Institute of Art, 98 Route 13, Brookline, 673-8441, andresinstitute.org

★ ArtHub, 107 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 405-698-1951, nashuaarts.org

★ Area 23, 254 N. State St., Concord, 552-0137, thearea23.com

### Best Place to Buy Art

**Best of the best:** League of NH Craftsmen Nashua Fine Craft Gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nashua.nhcrafts.org

★ Craftsmen's Fair, nhcrafts.org. The nine-day craft fair, hosted by the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, normally takes place at Mount Sunapee Resort starting the first week of August.

★ Greeley Park Art Show, nashuaarts.org. The outdoor art show, hosted by the Nashua Area Artists Association, is held every summer in Greeley Park (100 Concord St., Nashua).

★ League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Concord Gallery, 36 N. Main St., Concord, 228-8171, concord.nhcrafts.org

★ Concord Arts Market, 1 Bicentennial Square, Concord, concordartsmarket.net. The juried outdoor artisan and fine art market normally runs weekly on Saturdays from June through September.

## ENTERTAINMENT & NIGHTLIFE

### Best Bookstore or Comic Book Store

**Best of the best:** Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsons-bookstore.com

★ The Bookery, 844 Elm St., Manchester, 836-6600, bookerymht.com

★ The Toadstool Bookshop, Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St., Nashua, 673-1734, toadbooks.com

★ Double Midnight Comics, 245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com

★ Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com

### Community Event You're Most Looking Forward To

**Best of the best:** Market Days Festival, Concord, intownconcord.org. A three-day street festival, hosted by Intown Concord, featuring shopping, games and live entertainment on Main Street. Normally held in June.

★ Intown Taco Tour, Manchester, intown-manchester.com. An annual street festival organized by Intown Manchester in May. Restaurants create and sell their own unique tacos, and attendees vote on their favorites.

★ Winter Holiday Stroll, Nashua, downtownnashua.org. A holiday event, presented by Great American Downtown, featuring live music, food, holiday shopping, a candlelight stroll and a tree-lighting ceremony downtown. Normally held the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

★ Milford Pumpkin Fest, milfordpumpkinfestival.org. Features giant pumpkins, craft fairs, talent shows, fireworks and a haunted trail in downtown Milford. Normally held on Columbus Day weekend.

★ Deerfield Fair, Deerfield Fairgrounds, deerfieldfair.com. One of the largest and most well-attended agricultural fairs in New Hampshire, with carnival rides, live entertainment, food and more. Normally held in September.

**Best of the best:** top vote getter in the category  
★: the next four readers' bests

## Best Bar for Live Music

**Best of the best:** The Shaskeen Pub and Restaurant, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com

★ Area 23, 254 N. State St., Concord, 552-0137, thearea23.com

★ The Derryfield Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com

★ The Stumble Inn Bar & Grill, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-3210, stumbleinnh.com

★ Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com

## Best Bar With an Outdoor Deck

**Best of the best:** Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com

★ Penuche's Ale House, 4 Canal St., Nashua, 595-9831, penuchsalehouse.com

★ Backyard Brewery & Kitchen, 1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, backyardbrewerynh.com

★ Fody's Great American Tavern, 187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com

★ The Pasta Loft Restaurant, 241 Union Square, Milford, 672-2270, pastaloft.com.

## Best Sports Bar

**Best of the best:** Billy's Sports Bar & Grill, 34 Tarrytown Road, Manchester, 622-3644, billys-sports-bar-grill.business.site

★ The River Casino & Sports Bar, 53 High St., Nashua, 881-9060, therivercasino.com

★ The Thirsty Moose Taphouse, 360 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 670-0270, thirstymoosetaphouse.com

★ The Draft Sports Bar and Grill, 67 S. Main St., Concord, 227-1175, draftsportsbar.com

★ The Thirsty Moose Taphouse, 795 Elm St., Manchester, 792-2337, thirstymoosetaphouse.com

## Best Sports Book

**Best of the best:** Filotimo Casino & Restaurant, 279 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-6591, filotimocasino.com

★ The Brook, 319 New Zealand Road, Seabrook, 474-3065, livefreeandplay.com

★ The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, 58 Route 27, Raymond, 244-2431, thetuckaway.com

★ Mint Bistro, 1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistro.com

## Best New Eatery

**Best of the best:** bluAqua Restrobar, 930 Elm St., Manchester, 836-3970, bluqua-restrobar.com. A "restrobar," according to bluAqua owner Scott Forrester, is a downtown gastropub offering quality food and cocktails with a little Southern flair. The Lubbock, Texas, native opened this eatery in downtown Manchester in early 2020, offering Southern-inspired items like chicken and andouille gumbo, seared sesame tuna, and shrimp and grits, in addition to burgers, sandwiches, tacos and more.

★ White Birch Eatery, 571 Mast Road, Goffstown, 836-6849, whitebircheatery.com. Offering breakfast and lunch seven days a week, the White Birch Eatery features a menu of small plates, bowls, sandwiches and toasts, all with fresh, seasonal ingredients.

★ Tomahawk Tavern & Butchery, 454 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 365-4960, tomahawktavern.com. This deli and restaurant has quickly become a favorite in Merrimack for its marinated meats, burgers, hot and cold subs, and selection of Boar's Head meats and cheeses.

★ Col's Kitchen, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com. Col's Kitchen is a plant-based restaurant that opened its doors in mid-August 2020, featuring a well-rounded menu of appetizers, sandwiches, entrees, brunch options and desserts. The eatery also makes a variety of its own vegan sauces, which owner Jordan Reynolds said he hopes to begin bottling soon.

★ Diz's Cafe, 860 Elm St., Manchester, 606-2532, dizscafe.com. Longtime chef and Manchester native Gary "Diz" Window opened Diz's Cafe, his first restaurant as owner, in May 2020. Diz's Cafe offers scratch-made comfort foods and home-cooked meals, including customizable "build-your-own" menus of at least one protein and up to three fresh sides.

## Best Fine Dining

**Best of the best:** Hanover Street Chop-house, 149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com

★ Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com (The Copper Door Restaurant also has a location in Salem.)

★ Bedford Village Inn & Restaurant, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com

★ Buckley's Great Steaks, 438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com

★ Cotton Restaurant, 75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com

## Best Diner

**Best of the best:** The Red Arrow Diner, 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118, redarrowdiner.com (The Red Arrow Diner also has locations in Concord, Londonderry and Nashua.)

★ MaryAnn's Diner, 29 E. Broadway, Derry, 434-5785, maryannsdiner.com (MaryAnn's Diner also has locations in Windham and Salem.)

★ Airport Diner, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com/airport-diner

★ The Red Arrow Diner, 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3651, redarrowdiner.com (The Red Arrow Diner also has locations in Manchester, Concord and Nashua.)

★ The Red Arrow Diner, 112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444, redarrowdiner.com (The Red Arrow Diner also has locations in Manchester, Londonderry and Nashua.)

## Best Seafood Restaurant

**Best of the best:** Surf Restaurant, 207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com (Surf also has a location in Portsmouth.)

★ The Lobster Boat, 453 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-5221, lobsterboatrestaurant.com (The Lobster Boat also has a location in Litchfield.)

★ Petey's Summertime Seafood & Bar, 1323 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 433-1937, peteys.com

★ The Beach Plum, 3 Brickyard Square, Epping, 679-3200, thebeachplum.net (The Beach Plum also has locations in Portsmouth and North Hampton. A fourth location is due to open in Salem this spring.)

★ Hooked Seafood Restaurant, 110 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-1189, hookedonignite.com

## Best Pub

**Best of the best:** The Shaskeen Pub and Restaurant, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com

★ The Peddler's Daughter, 48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com

★ Strange Brew Tavern, 88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292, strangebrew-tavern.net

★ The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern, 132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com

★ The Wild Rover Pub, 21 Kosciuszko St., Manchester, 669-7722, wildroverpub.com

## THE FINE PRINT

This survey is for entertainment purposes only and all results are final.

The results of Hippo's readers poll are based on readers' answers to a poll conducted online in February. Readers typed in the names of people and locations they voted for. In situations where the vote is tied or otherwise unclear, Hippo editorial staff makes an effort to determine the will of the greatest number of voters. Hippo reserves the right to disqualify individual votes, ballots and/or entries when they are incomplete or unclear, do not meet the letter or the spirit of the question asked or otherwise do not meet the requirements to make them a usable vote.

Hippo's editorial staff makes the ultimate determination of the winners in the categories. Hippo's advertising staff and its advertisers play no role in the determination of the winners. All results are final.

The Best of 2021 is a celebration of all things local and is meant to serve as a snapshot of the people and places in southern New Hampshire. Large national and international chains are, for the most part, not included in the count.

## QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS

Did we get an address or phone number wrong? Do you have an idea for a new category? Let us know. Contact editor Amy Diaz at [adiaz@hippopress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippopress.com). Corrections will appear on the first page of the news section in future issues. Is your favorite category missing? Categories change regularly, with some categories taking a sabbatical and new categories introduced, so please send your suggestions for a category for next year. And, again, all results are final.

## RESTAURANTS

### Best Restaurant

**Best of the best:** Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com (The Copper Door Restaurant also has a location in Salem.)

★ The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com

★ Buckley's Great Steaks, 438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com



## DELICIOUS DISHES

### Best Dish or Drink You Had in the Last Year

**Best of the best:** Fried Oreos at Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663. The deep-fried Oreos are among several sweet treats available at this takeout-only eatery, along with brownies, cookies and chocolate or peanut butter fudge.

★ Loaded chicken tenders at The River Casino & Sports Bar, 53 High St., Nashua, 881-9060, therivercasino.com. A customer favorite, these hand-battered chicken tenders are tossed in a sweet chili sauce and topped with cheese, bacon and scallions.

★ Chili at Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663. Chili is available on multiple menu items here, including by itself with bread and butter, as well as on a hot dog, a cheeseburger or an order of chili cheese fries.

★ Chicken Francaise at Stella Blu, 70 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557, stellablu-nh.com. This dish features chicken breast floured and egged, cooked in olive oil and butter, over angel hair pasta, topped with garlic butter cream sauce and served with green beans.

★ Poutine at New England's Tap House Grille, 1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, taphousenh.com. The Tap House poutine has hand-cut fries that are topped with cheese curds, a peppercorn demi-glace, Parmesan cheese and fresh rosemary before being finished off with a spray of white truffle oil.

### Best Barbecue

**Best of the best:** KC's Rib Shack, 837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net

★ Smokehaus Barbecue, 278 Route 101, Amherst, 249-5734, smokehausbbq.com

★ Smokeshow Barbeque, 89 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 227-6399, smokeshowbarbeque.com

### We asked you!

**NEW YEAR,  
NEW**

**1. ME**

**2. YOU**

**3. LIFE**

**4. MASK**

**5. ATTITUDE**



★ Georgia's Northside, 394 N. State St., Concord, 715-9189, georgiasnorthside.com

★ Goody Cole's Smokehouse and Catering Co., 374 Route 125, Brentwood, 679-8898, goodycoles.com

### Best Breakfast

**Best of the best:** Tucker's, 80 South St., Concord, 413-5884, tuckersnh.com (Tucker's also has locations in Hooksett, Dover, Merrimack, New London and a sixth location that's due to open in Bedford this summer.)

★ Purple Finch Cafe, 124 S. River Road, Bedford, 232-1953, purplefinchcafe.com

★ Tucker's, 1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 206-5757, tuckersnh.com (Tucker's also has locations in Concord, Dover, Merrimack, New London and a sixth location that's due to open in Bedford this summer.)

★ Tucker's, 360 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 413-6477, tuckersnh.com (Tucker's also has locations in Concord, Hooksett, Dover, New London and a sixth location that's due to open in Bedford this summer.)

★ Janie's Uncommon Cafe, 123 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 432-3100, janiescafe.com

### Best Breakfast Dish

**Best of the best:** Sedona skillet at Tucker's, 80 South St., Concord, 413-5884, tuckersnh.com. The dish features three local eggs scrambled with onions, pepper jack cheese and piquante peppers over crispy hash browns, and topped with guacamole, Southwest seasoning and a chipotle aioli drizzle. (Tucker's also has locations in Hooksett, Dover, Merrimack, New London and a sixth location that's due to open in Bedford this summer.)

★ Banana nut bread French toast at Tucker's, 360 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 413-6477, tuckersnh.com. This freshly baked banana nut bread is grilled in French toast batter and then topped with bananas, maple glazed walnuts, whipped cream and powdered sugar. (Tucker's also has locations in Concord, Hooksett, Dover, New London and a sixth location that's due to open in Bedford this summer.)

★ Crepes at Chez Vachon, 136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, find them on Facebook. Crepes are made to order at this longtime West Side staple, with a variety of sweet and savory fillings available.

★ Pancake boards at the Purple Finch Cafe, 124 S. River Road, Bedford, 232-1953, purplefinchcafe.com. Depending on the time of year, you'll find all kinds of seasonally themed pancake boards featuring eight pancakes and a variety of fun toppings per order.

★ Compost Heap at The Riverhouse Cafe, 167 Union Square, Milford, 249-5556, damngoodgrub.com/riverhousecafe. One of The Riverhouse Cafe's

many signature creations, the Compost Heap features roasted veggies, Monterey Jack cheese and tomato between two cheesy hash browns, topped with two eggs, organic pea shoots, avocado and salsa verde.

### Best Burgers

**Best of the best:** The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern, 132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com

★ New England's Tap House Grille, 1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, taphousenh.com

★ Vibes Gourmet Burgers, 25 S. Main St., Concord, 856-8671, vibesgourmetburgers.com

★ The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, 58 Route 27, Raymond, 244-2431, thetuckaway.com

★ The Crown Tavern, 99 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-3132, thecrownhanover.com

### Best Fish & Chips

**Best of the best:** The Lobster Boat, 453 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-5221, lobsterboatrestaurant.com (The Lobster Boat also has a location in Litchfield.)

★ The Peddler's Daughter, 48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com

★ The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern, 132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com

★ Goldenrod Restaurant Drive-In, 1681 Candia Road, Manchester, 623-9469, goldenrodrestaurant.com

★ Petey's Summertime Seafood & Bar, 1323 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 433-1937, peteys.com

### Best Mac & Cheese

**Best of the best:** Mr. Mac's Macaroni & Cheese, 497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com (Mr. Mac's also has locations in Portsmouth and in Tyngsboro, Mass., and Westford, Mass.)

★ Pressed Cafe, 108 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, 718-1250; 3 Cotton Road, Nashua, 402-1003 (the Cotton Road location is drive-thru only; Pressed Cafe also has locations in Burlington, Mass., and Newton, Mass.)

★ Stella Blu, 70 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557, stellablu-nh.com

★ The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, 58 Route 27, Raymond, 244-2431, thetuckaway.com

★ O Steaks & Seafood, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, osteaksconcord.com (O Steaks & Seafood also has a location in Laconia.)

### Best Pizza

**Best of the best:** 900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, 50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com

★ Alley Cat Pizzeria, 486 Chestnut St., Manchester, 669-4533, alleycatpizzerianh.com

★ Constantly Pizza, 39 S. Main St., Concord, 224-9366, constantlypizza.net (Constantly Pizza also has a location in Penacook.)

★ Sal's Pizza, 80 Storrs St., Concord, 226-0297, sals-pizza.com (Sal's Pizza also has locations in Derry, Hampton, Hooksett, Laconia, Manchester, Merrimack and Milford and several others in Massachusetts.)

★ Vintage Pizza, 241 Candia Road, Manchester, 518-7800, vintagepizzanh.com

### Best Sandwich

**Best of the best:** Steak and cheese special at Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663. You can get a steak and cheese sub with peppers and onions here, or order it as a special with bacon, mayonnaise and other toppings like lettuce, tomatoes and pickles.

★ The Garden at the Nashua Garden, 121 Main St., Nashua, 886-7363, find them on Facebook @thenashuagarden603. This vegetarian sandwich features tomato, cucumber, olives, bell peppers, pickles, onion, lettuce and sprouts.

★ Steak and cheese sub at Sub Station, 1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 625-1800, substationhooksett.com. Featuring custom-blended shaved steak with either melted American or provolone cheese, this sub can be customized even further by adding teriyaki or barbecue sauce.

★ Roast beef sandwich at Bentley's Roast Beef, 134 Route 101A, Amherst, 883-2020, bentleysroastbeef.com. Bentley's uses grain-fed Midwestern beef for its sandwiches, which are available in multiple sizes on toasted sesame or onion rolls, or on Syrian bread.

★ CBC at T-Bones Great American Eatery, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; t-bones.com. The CBC features fried chicken, cheddar cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise on a toasted bun. (The Bedford, Derry and Hudson T-Bones locations all received votes in this category for the CBC, but you can also get this sandwich at the locations in Concord, Laconia and Salem.)

### Best Subs

**Best of the best:** Nadeau's Subs, 776 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9315; 100 Cahill Ave., Manchester, 669-7827; 673 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 644-8888; 1095 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-4411; nadeaus.com (Nadeau's Subs also has a fifth location in



## We asked you!

# VEGETABLES ON PIZZA ARE... A CRIME AGAINST PIZZA, OK IN THE CASE OF SOME VEGETABLES OR ALWAYS DELICIOUS?

Vegetables are delicious **91%**

of those:

**14%** mushrooms

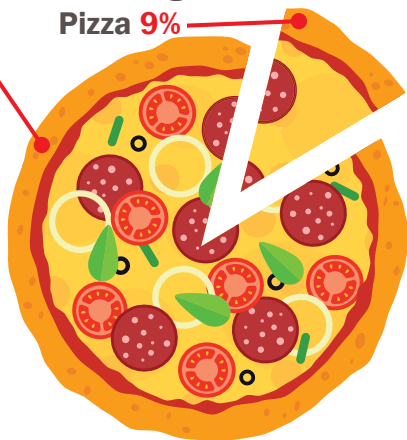
**7%** peppers

**6%** onion

**4%** peppers and onions

**3%** broccoli

Crime against Pizza **9%**



Exeter and a sixth location that opened inside McLaughlin's Country Market in Concord in January 2021.)

★ Bill Cahill's Super Subs, 8 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, 882-7710, find them on Facebook @billcahills

★ USA Subs, 66 Crystal Ave., Derry, 437-1550, usasubs.com

★ Sub Station, 1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 625-1800, substationhooksett.com

★ Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663

ly operating under the same roof as its sister restaurant, Campo Enoteca, at 969 Elm St. in Manchester.)

★ Stella Blu, 70 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557, stellablu-nh.com

★ Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro & Bar, 35 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, 427-8344, greenelephantnh.com

## Best Tacos

**Best of the best:** Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com (Dos Amigos Burritos also has a location in Portsmouth, and a third location in Dover under the name "Dos Mexican Eats.")

★ B's Tacos, nhtacotruck.com (Find their food truck outside the BP Gas Station at 2 Mohawk Drive in Londonderry every Tuesday through Saturday, from May to October. B's Tacos also opened a brick-and-mortar location at 372 Kelley St. in Manchester in January 2021.)

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; lacarretamex.com (with locations in Derry, Londonderry, Nashua and Portsmouth.)

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 965-3477, lacarretamex.com (with locations in Manchester, Derry, Nashua and Portsmouth.)

★ California Burritos Mexican Grill, 101 Factory St., Nashua, 718-8745; 2 Cellu Drive, Nashua, 417-6151; californiaburritosnh.com (California Burritos Mexican Grill also has locations in Hudson and Manchester.)

## Restaurant That Can Make You Love Vegetables

**Best of the best:** Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, Unit 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

★ Col's Kitchen, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com

★ Republic Cafe, 969 Elm St., 666-3723, republiccafe.com (Republic Cafe is current-

## SWEET TREATS

### Best Bakery

**Best of the best:** Bearded Baking Co., 819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, bearded-baking.com

★ The Crust & Crumb Baking Co., 126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com

★ Buckley's Bakery & Cafe, 436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 262-5929, buckleysbakerycafe.com (Buckley's also has a second location, known as Buckley's Market & Cafe, in Hollis.)

★ Klemm's Bakery, 29 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 437-8810, klemmsbakery.com

★ Bread & Chocolate, 29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330, find them on Facebook @breadandchocolateconcordnh

### Best Candy or Chocolate Shop

**Best of the best:** Granite State Candy Shoppe, 13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591, granitestatecandyshoppe.com (Granite State Candy Shoppe also has a location in Manchester.)

★ Van Otis Chocolates, 341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com

★ Nelson's Candy and Music, 65 Main St., Wilton, 654-5030, nelsonscandymusic.com

★ Granite State Candy Shoppe, 832 Elm St., Manchester, 218-3885, granitestatecandyshoppe.com (Granite State Candy Shoppe also has a location in Concord.)

**Best of the best:** top vote getter in the category  
★ : the next four readers' bests

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- \*Pastel Painting - Wednesday AM
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## We asked you!

**WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER,  
I JUST WANT TO GO TO A  
RESTAURANT AND ...**



**1. DRINK**

**2. EAT**

**3. NOT WEAR A MASK.**

**4. EAT WITH FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS.**

**5. RELAX**

★ Dancing Lion Chocolate, 917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us

### Best Doughnuts

**Best of the best:** Klemm's Bakery, 29 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 437-8810, klemmsbakery.com

★ Brothers Donuts, 426 Central St., Franklin, 934-6678, find them on Facebook @brothersdonuts

★ New Hampshire Doughnut Co., 2 Capital Plaza, Concord, 715-5097, nhdoughnutco.com (New Hampshire Doughnut Co. also has a location in Chichester.)

★ Crosby Bakery, 51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851, crosbybakerynh.com

★ The Local Moose Cafe, 124 Queen City Ave., Manchester, 232-2669, thelocalmoosecafe.com

### Best Ice Cream

**Best of the best:** Hayward's Homemade Ice Cream, 7 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 888-4663, haywardsicecream.com (Hayward's also has a location in Merrimack.)

★ Moo's Place Ice Cream, 27 Crystal Ave., Derry, 425-0100, moosplace.com (Moo's Place also has a location in Salem.)

★ Goldenrod Restaurant Drive-In, 1681 Candia Road, Manchester, 623-9469, goldenrodrestaurant.com

★ The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com

★ The Inside Scoop, 260 Wallace Road, Bedford, 471-7009, theinsidescoopnh.com

## DRINKS

### Best Beer Selection at a Retail Store

**Best of the best:** Bert's Better Beers, 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsbetterbeers.com

★ The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com

★ The Packie, 581 Second St., Manchester, 232-1236, thepackienh.com (The Packie moved from South Willow Street to its current space in the Second Street Shop-pes plaza in June 2020.)

★ Local Baskit, 10 Ferry St., Suite 120A, Concord, 219-0882, localbaskit.com

★ Lazy Dog Beer Shoppe, 27 Buttrick Road, Suite B4, Londonderry, 434-2500, lazydogbeer.com

### Best NH Brewery

**Best of the best:** 603 Brewery, 42 Main St., Londonderry, 404-6123, 603brewery.com

★ Able Ebenezer Brewing Co., 31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253, ableebenezer.com

★ Backyard Brewery & Kitchen, 1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, backyardbrewerynh.com

★ Concord Craft Brewing, 117 Storrs St., Concord, 856-7625, concordcraftbrewing.com

★ Pipe Dream Brewing, 49 Harvey Road, Londonderry, 404-0751, pipedreambrewing-nh.com

### Best NH-made Beer Variety

**Best of the best:** Safe Space New England IPA (Concord Craft Brewing, 117 Storrs St., Concord, 856-7625, concord-craftbrewing.com)

★ Misguided Angel New England IPA (Lithermans Limited Brewery, 126 Hall St., Unit B, Concord, 219-0784, lithermans.beer)

★ Burn The Ships Cherrywood Smoked IPA (Able Ebenezer Brewing Co., 31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253, ableebenezer.com)

★ Victory Nor Defeat Double IPA (Able Ebenezer Brewing Co., 31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253, ableebenezer.com)

★ Winni Amber Ale (603 Brewery, 42 Main St., Londonderry, 404-6123, 603brewery.com)

### Best NH-made Cider and Mead

**Best of the best:** Ancient Fire Mead & Cider, 8030 S. Willow St., Building 1, Unit 7-2, Manchester, 203-4223, ancientfirewines.com

★ Moonlight Meadery, 23 Londonderry Road, No. 17, Londonderry, 216-2162, moonlightmeadery.com

★ Contoocook Cider Co. (Gould Hill Farm), 656 Gould Hill Road, Contoocook, 746-1175, contoocookcider.com

★ North Country Hard Cider, 3 Front St., No. 160, Rollinsford, 834-9915, northcountryhardcider.com

★ Sap House Meadery, 6 Folsom Road, Ossipee, 539-1672, saphousemeadery.com

### Best NH Winery

**Best of the best:** LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com (LaBelle Winery also has a location in Portsmouth. Another location featuring an onsite restaurant and retail marketplace is due to open in Derry later this year.)

★ Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com

★ Ancient Fire Mead & Cider, 8030 S. Willow St., Building 1, Unit 7-2, Manchester, 203-4223, ancientfirewines.com

★ Flag Hill Distillery & Winery, 297 N. River Road, Lee, 659-2949, flaghill.com

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

### Where They Make Your Coffee Perfect Every Time

**Best of the best:** Revelstoke Coffee, 100 N. Main St., Concord, revelstokecoffee.com

★ Hometown Coffee Roasters, 80 Old Granite St., Manchester, 703-2321, hometownroasters.com

★ A&E Coffee & Tea, 135 Route 101A, Amherst, 578-3338, aeroastery.com (A&E Coffee & Tea also has a cafe location in Manchester and a wholesale roastery in Nashua.)

★ Flight Coffee Co., 30 Harvey Road, Bedford, 836-6228, flightcoffeeco.com

★ Cafe la Reine, 915 Elm St., Manchester, 232-0332, cafe-la-reine.square.site

## EATING OUTDOORS & FOOD TO-GO

### Best Restaurant to Get Take-out From

**Best of the best:** The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com

★ Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, Unit 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

★ Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663

★ Georgia's Northside, 394 N. State St., Concord, 715-9189, georgiasnorthside.com

★ Lilac Blossom, 385 E. Dunstable Road, Nashua, 888-9588; 650 Amherst St., Nashua, 886-8420; lilacblossom.us

### Best Food Truck

**Best of the best:** B's Tacos (nhtacotruck.com) Find them outside the BP Gas Station (2 Mohawk Drive, Londonderry) every Tuesday through Saturday, from May to October. B's Tacos also opened a brick-and-mortar location at 372 Kelley St. in Manchester in January 2021.

★ Up In Your Grill (upinyourgrill.com) Follow them on Facebook @upinyourgrill for their most up-to-date schedule. The barbecue trailer regularly appears at Vault Motor Storage (526 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack) and also provides catering services.

★ Smoke N' Butts BBQ (smokenbuttsbbq.com) Find them outside The Farmer's Wife (20 Main St., Candia) on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, beginning April 9. The barbecue trailer has also appeared at several local events and provides catering services for small parties.

★ The Hungry Caterpillar (find them on Facebook @thehungrycaterpillarnh) This plant-based food truck regularly posts its weekly schedule on social media, but is most often found every Wednesday through Saturday at 45 Danville Road in Hampstead.

★ The Food Abides (find them on Facebook) The truck is currently closed for the season, but will regularly post updates on its whereabouts on social media. Last year, it was a regular visitor of Lithermans Limited Brewery (126 Hall St., Unit B, Concord).

### Restaurant with the Best Outdoor Seating

**Best of the best:** Downtown Cheers Grille & Bar, 17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com

★ The Crown Tavern, 99 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-3132, thecrownhanover.com

★ Backyard Brewery & Kitchen, 1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, backyardbrewerynh.com

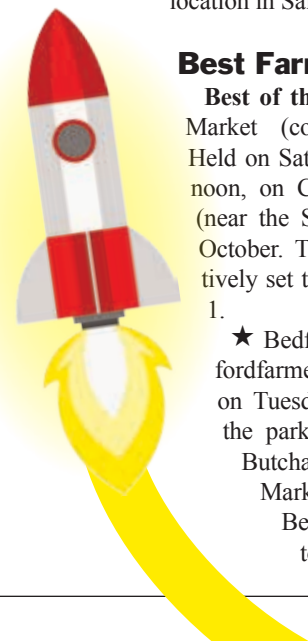
★ 603 Brewery, 42 Main St., Londonderry, 404-6123, 603brewery.com

★ Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com (The Copper Door Restaurant also has a location in Salem.)

### Best Farmers Market

**Best of the best:** Concord Farmers Market (concordfarmersmarket.com) Held on Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, on Capitol Street in Concord (near the Statehouse), from May to October. The 2021 market is tentatively set to begin on Saturday, May 1.

★ Bedford Farmers Market (bedfordfarmersmarketnh.org) Held on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. in the parking lot of Wicked Good Butchah (formerly the Harvest Market) at 209 Route 101 in Bedford. The market is due to return on June 15 and



will continue weekly after that until the middle of October.

★ Nashua Farmers Market (downtown-nashua.org/local) Held on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of City Hall at 229 Main St. in Nashua. The market is usually held from mid-June to mid-October. 2021 market dates TBA.

★ Salem Farmers Market (salemnhfarmers-market.org) Held on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon inside the former Rockler Woodworking building (369 S. Broadway, Salem). The year-round market, which normally operates indoors from November through about April or May, moved into its current spot in January 2021.

★ Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market (derryhomegrown.org) After taking a one-year hiatus last year due to Covid-19 concerns, the Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market will return on June 2 at 1 W. Broadway in Derry, where it will be held on Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. through the end of September.

## OUTDOOR FUN

### Best Farm for Pick-Your-Own

**Best of the best:** Sunnycrest Farm, 59 High Range Road, Londonderry, 432-7753, sunnycrestfarmnh.com. Pick-your-own opportunities include apples, strawberries, blueberries and cherries.

★ Mack's Apples, 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-3456, macksapples.com. Pick-your-own opportunities include apples and pumpkins.

★ Lull Farm, 65 Broad St., Hollis, 465-7079, livefreeandfarm.com. Pick-your-own opportunities include strawberries, apples and pumpkins. (Lull Farm also has a seasonal farm in Milford.)

★ Brookdale Fruit Farm, 41 Broad St., Hollis, 465-2240, brookdalefruitfarm.com. Pick-your-own opportunities include strawberries, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, black raspberries, blackberries, apples and pumpkins.

★ Carter Hill Orchard, 73 Carter Hill Road, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com. Pick-your-own opportunities include peaches, blueberries and apples.

### Best City Park

**Best of the best:** Benson Park, 19 Kimball Road, Hudson, 886-6000, hudsonnh.gov. Originally a private zoo and amusement park, Benson Park reopened in 2010 as

a town park for recreational use and is now a popular spot for hiking, dog walking, fishing and picnicking.

★ White Park, 1 White St., Concord, 225-8690, concordnh.gov. Amenities include a basketball court, a seasonal pool, walking trails and an ice skating rink.

★ Greeley Park, 100 Concord St., Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. Amenities include baseball and softball fields, a playground,

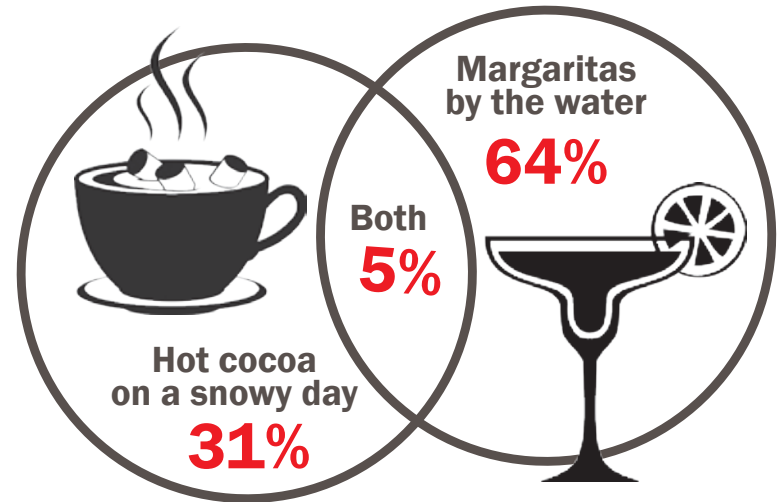
picnic areas, walking trails and a tennis court.

★ Livingston Park, 156 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 624-6444, manchesternh.gov. Amenities include walking trails around Dorrs Pond, as well as a baseball diamond, a running track and two playgrounds.

★ Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. This 325-acre park features eight miles of walking trails, forest, open fields and wetlands.

### We asked you!

## HOT COCOA ON A SNOWY DAY OR MARGARITAS BY THE WATER?



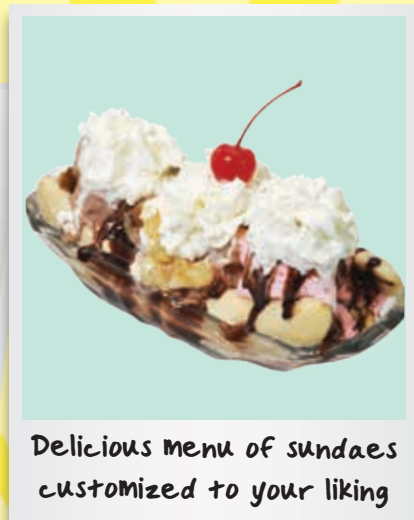
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## Best State Park

**Best of the best:** Bear Brook State Park, 61 Deerfield Road, Allenstown, 485-9874, [nhstatesparks.org/visit/state-parks/bear-brook-state-park](http://nhstatesparks.org/visit/state-parks/bear-brook-state-park). The largest developed state park in New Hampshire, Bear Brook State Park is 10,000 acres and features more than 40 miles of trails. Activities include biking, hiking, swimming, camping and fishing.

★ Hampton Beach State Park, 160 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, 926-8990, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/hampton-beach-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/hampton-beach-state-park). Activities include swimming, fishing, picnicking and RV camping.

★ Pawtuckaway State Park, 7 Pawtuckaway Road, Nottingham, 895-3031, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park). This park features more than 5,000 acres of land and trails with a variety of landscapes.

★ Wellington State Park, 614 W. Shore Road, Bristol, 744-2197, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/wellington-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/wellington-state-park). Wellington State Park offers hiking trails, picnic areas and volleyball and horseshoe courts, and is also known for having the largest freshwater swimming beach in the New Hampshire state park system.

★ Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-7406, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/odiorne-point-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/odiorne-point-state-park). This park offers gorgeous views of the Atlantic Ocean and also features the Seacoast Science Center.

## Best Campground

**Best of the best:** White Lake State Park, 94 State Park Road, Tamworth, 323-7350, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/white-lake-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/white-lake-state-park)

★ Pawtuckaway State Park, 7 Pawtuckaway Road, Nottingham, 895-3031, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park)

★ Danforth Bay Camping & RV Resort, 196 Shawtown Road, Freedom, 539-2069, [danforthbay.com](http://danforthbay.com)

★ Moose Hillock Camping Resort, 96 Batchelder Brook Road, Warren, 764-5294, [moosehillock.com](http://moosehillock.com)

★ Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort, 111 Mi-Te-Jo Road, Milton, 652-9022, [lakesregionjellystone.com](http://lakesregionjellystone.com)

## Best Bike Trail

**Best of the best:** Nashua River Rail Trail, Nashua. This 12.5-mile trail roughly follows the Nashua River, passing through Nashua and several neighboring towns in Massachusetts.

★ Goffstown Rail Trail, Goffstown, [goffstownrailtrail.org](http://goffstownrailtrail.org). The trail runs for more than seven miles from Goffstown to Manchester.

★ Londonderry Rail Trail, Londonderry, [londonderrytrails.org](http://londonderrytrails.org). About six miles of this trail runs through North Londonderry.

★ Windham Rail Trail, Windham, [windhamrailtrail.org](http://windhamrailtrail.org). The Windham Rail Trail is 4.1 miles and is a core part of the longest paved abandoned rail bed in the Granite State, as the Windham, Derry and Salem rail trails collectively run about 11 miles.

★ Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, [nashuanh.gov](http://nashuanh.gov). This 325-acre park features about eight miles of trails.

## Best Hike in Southern New Hampshire

**Best of the best:** Mount Monadnock, Jaffrey/Dublin, 532-8862, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/monadnock-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/monadnock-state-park). The 3,165-foot mountain features more than 35 hiking trails of various levels of difficulty leading to the summit.

★ Pack Monadnock, Miller State Park, 13 Miller Park Road, Peterborough, 924-3672, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/miller-state-park). The oldest state park in New Hampshire, Miller State Park features three hiking trails and a 1.3-mile paved, driveable road to the 2,290-foot summit.

★ Mount Major, Alton, [blog.nhstateparks.org/mt-major-family-friendly-hike](http://blog.nhstateparks.org/mt-major-family-friendly-hike). This 1,785-foot peak offers panoramic views of Lake Winnepesaukee.

★ Mount Uncanoonuc Trails, Mountain Road, Goffstown. The North Uncanoonuc Trail, about a 0.6-mile hike, is steep in some spots and is known for its wilderness and panoramic views of Goffstown. The South Uncanoonuc Trail is slightly longer (about 0.8 miles) and is a snowmobiling and ATViing trail that features views of Mount Monadnock from a distance.

★ Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, [nashuanh.gov](http://nashuanh.gov). This 325-acre

park features eight miles of walking trails, forest, open fields and wetlands.

## Best Spot for a Mini Hike

**Best of the best:** Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, [nashuanh.gov](http://nashuanh.gov). This 325-acre park features eight miles of walking trails, forest, open fields and wetlands.

★ Marjory Swope Park, Long Pond Road, Concord, 225-8815, [concordnh.gov](http://concordnh.gov). Named in 2012 after Marjory Swope, longtime executive director of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, this 77-acre park near Long Pond in Concord features a nearly two-mile trail loop that offers great views of Penacook Lake.

★ Lake Massabesic, Manchester, 624-6482, [manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed](http://manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed). Dozens of trails are available for walking, jogging and hiking.

★ Beaver Brook Association, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, [beaverbrook.org](http://beaverbrook.org). The Beaver Brook Association features more than 35 miles of trails across more than 2,000 acres of forest, fields and wetlands within the towns of Hollis, Brookline and Milford.

★ Livingston Park, 156 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 624-6444, [manchesternh.gov](http://manchesternh.gov). Numerous trails for hiking are available in the area; one of them circles the pond, which opens for fishing in the summer months and public ice skating in the winter months.

## Best Spot for a Long Run

**Best of the best:** Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, [nashuanh.gov](http://nashuanh.gov). This 325-acre park features eight miles of walking trails, forest, open fields and wetlands.

★ Goffstown Rail Trail, Goffstown, [goffstownrailtrail.org](http://goffstownrailtrail.org). The trail runs for more than seven miles from Goffstown to Manchester.

★ Londonderry Rail Trail, Londonderry, [londonderrytrails.org](http://londonderrytrails.org). About six miles of this trail runs through North Londonderry.

★ Nashua River Rail Trail, Nashua. This 12.5-mile trail roughly follows the Nashua River, passing through Nashua and several neighboring towns in Massachusetts.

★ Lake Massabesic, Manchester, 624-6482, [manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed](http://manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed). Dozens of trails are available for running and jogging.

## Best Lake to Canoe or Kayak

**Best of the best:** Lake Massabesic, Manchester, 624-6482, [manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed](http://manchesternh.gov/departments/water-works/lake-massabesic-watershed)



★ Newfound Lake, Wellington State Park, 614 W. Shore Road, Bristol, 744-2197, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/wellington-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/wellington-state-park)

★ Lake Winnepesaukee, [lakewinnepesaukee.net](http://lakewinnepesaukee.net)

★ Pawtuckaway State Park, 7 Pawtuckaway Road, Nottingham, 895-3031, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park)

★ Lake Sunapee, Mount Sunapee State Park, 86 Beach Access Road, Newbury, 763-5561, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/mt-sunapee-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/mt-sunapee-state-park)

## Best Route for a Motorcycle Ride

**Best of the best:** Kancamagus Highway, [kancamagushighway.com](http://kancamagushighway.com). A 34.5-mile scenic ride from Lincoln to Conway along New Hampshire's Route 112.

★ New Hampshire Route 31. A 56-mile state highway crossing several towns in southwestern New Hampshire.

★ New Hampshire Route 107. A 69-mile state highway connecting Laconia in the Lakes Region with Seabrook on the coast, its northernmost area near Lake Winnepesaukee.

★ New Hampshire Route 1A on the Seacoast, or the Coastal Byway, [visit-newhampshire.com/seacoast/scenic\\_drives](http://visit-newhampshire.com/seacoast/scenic_drives). An 18.4-mile drive along New Hampshire's coast through Portsmouth, Rye and Seabrook.

★ New Hampshire Route 13. A 43-mile state highway running from Brookline to Concord.

## Best Off-Roading Trail

**Best of the best:** Jericho Mountain State Park, 298 Jericho Lake Road, Berlin, 752-4758, [nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/jericho-mountain-state-park](http://nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/jericho-mountain-state-park). The trails at Jericho Mountain State Park are currently closed to OHRV use for mud season but may reopen in late May, depending on the weather and trail conditions

★ Pittsburg, [greatnorthwoodsridersatv.org](http://greatnorthwoodsridersatv.org). Most of the Great North Woods Riders ATV Club's trails are located on 8,000 acres of the Perry Stream Land and Timber Co. property in Pittsburg. The only allowed travel on Route 3 is from Cheese Factory Road to the Murphy Dam.

★ The state's trails (visit [nhstateparks.org](http://nhstateparks.org) for a map of permitted OHRV trails)

## Best Ski Hill

**Best of the best:** Pats Peak Ski Area, 686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 428-3245, [patspeak.com](http://patspeak.com)

★ Loon Mountain, 60 Loon Mountain Road, Lincoln, 800-229-5666, [loonmtn.com](http://loonmtn.com)

★ Gunstock Mountain Resort, 719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 293-4341, [gunstock.com](http://gunstock.com)

## We asked you!

WHEN I DRINK,  
I DRINK \_\_\_\_\_

1. WINE

2. BEER

3. COFFEE



4. WATER

5. A LOT



★ Bretton Woods, 99 Ski Area Road, Bretton Woods, 278-3320, [brettonwoods.com](http://brettonwoods.com)

★ Cannon Mountain Ski Area, 260 Tramway Drive, Franconia, 823-8800, [cannonmt.com](http://cannonmt.com)

**Best Spot for Cross-Country Skiing**

**Best of the best:** Jackson XC, 153 Main St., Jackson, 383-9355, [jacksonxc.org](http://jacksonxc.org)

★ Beaver Meadow Golf Course, 1 Beaver Meadow Drive, Concord, 228-8954, [concordnh.gov](http://concordnh.gov)

★ White Farm, 144 Clinton St., Concord, 271-3241, [concordnh.gov](http://concordnh.gov)

★ Bretton Woods, 99 Ski Area Road, Bretton Woods, 278-3320, [brettonwoods.com](http://brettonwoods.com)

★ Gunstock Mountain Resort, 719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 293-4341, [gunstock.com](http://gunstock.com)

**Best Snowmobile Trail**

**Best of the best:** Pittsburg, [pittsburg-bridgerunners.org](http://pittsburg-bridgerunners.org). Trail reports in Pittsburg are posted on the Pittsburg Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club's website.

★ Lake Massabesic, Manchester, [snowmobile-nh.com](http://snowmobile-nh.com). The Southern New Hampshire Snow Slickers posts information on trail status in this area on its website.

★ Belmont, [belmontbogiebusters.org](http://belmontbogiebusters.org). Trail reports in Belmont are posted on the Belmont Bogie Busters Snowmobile Club's website.

★ Bow, [bowpioneers.org](http://bowpioneers.org). Trail conditions and maps are available on the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club's website.

**HOME & GARDEN**

**Best Car Repair**

**Best of the best:** Merrimack Auto Center, 9 Webb Drive, Merrimack, 216-9596; 150 Amherst St., Nashua, 546-0157, [merrimack-autocenterllc.com](http://merrimack-autocenterllc.com)

★ Duncan's European Automotive, 3 Liberty Drive, Londonderry, 434-5796, [duncansauto.com](http://duncansauto.com)

★ Weed Family Automotive, 124 Storrs St., Concord, 225-7988, [weedfamilyautomotive.com](http://weedfamilyautomotive.com)

★ Gurney's Automotive Repair, 83 Broad St., Nashua, 886-5800, [gurneysautomotive.com](http://gurneysautomotive.com)

★ Ron's Toy Shop, 235 Elm St., Manchester, 669-9682, [ronstoishop.com](http://ronstoishop.com)

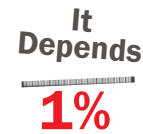
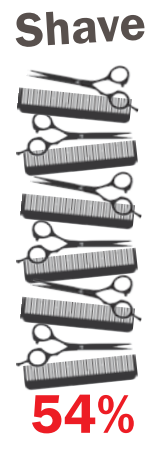
**Best Garden Center or Nursery**

**Best of the best:** House by the Side of the Road, 370 Gibbons Highway, Wilton, 654-9888, [housebythesideoftheroad.com](http://housebythesideoftheroad.com)

★ Demers Garden Center, 656 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 625-8298, [demersgardencenter.com](http://demersgardencenter.com)

**We asked you!**

**QUARANTINE BEARD?**



★ Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road, Concord, 229-0655, [colegardens.com](http://colegardens.com)

★ Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake St., Salem, 893-5858, [lakestreet.com](http://lakestreet.com)

★ Bedford Fields Home & Garden Center, 331 Route 101, Bedford, 472-8880, [bedfordfields.com](http://bedfordfields.com)

★ The Polished Man, 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 718-8427, [thepolishedman.com](http://thepolishedman.com)

★ Lucky's Barbershop and Shave Parlor, 50 S. State St., Concord, 715-5470, [luckysbarbershop.biz](http://luckysbarbershop.biz)

★ HomeGrown Barber Co., 18 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 818-8989, [homegrownbarber.com](http://homegrownbarber.com)

★ Blank Canvas Salon, 1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, [blankcanvassalon.com](http://blankcanvassalon.com)

**BEAUTY, WELLNESS & FASHION**

**Best Barbershop**

**Best of the best:** South Mane Barbershop, 28 S Main St., 1B, Concord, 952-2202, [southmanebarbershop.com](http://southmanebarbershop.com)

**Best of the best:** top vote getter in the category  
★: the next four readers' bests

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 for more information!



133640

## Best Independent Clothing and/or Shoe Store

**Best of the best:** Alec's Shoes, 1617 Southwood Drive, Nashua, 882-6811, [alecs-shoes.com](http://alecs-shoes.com)

★ Gondwana & Divine Clothing Co., 13 N. Main St., Concord, 228-1101, [clothingnh.com](http://clothingnh.com)

★ Joe King's Shoe Shop, 45 N. Main St., Concord, 225-6012, [joekings.com](http://joekings.com)

★ Alapage, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 622-0550, [alapageboutique.com](http://alapageboutique.com)

★ Camaraderie Boutique, 175 Main St., Nashua, 402-1908, [camaraderiestyle.com](http://camaraderiestyle.com)

## Best Jewelry Shop

**Best of the best:** Bellman Jewelers, 1650 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4653, [bellmans.com](http://bellmans.com)

★ Capitol Craftsman Romance Jewelers, 16 & 18 N. Main St., Concord, 224-6166, [capitolcraftsman.com](http://capitolcraftsman.com)

★ Scontosas Fine Jewelry & Home Decor, 169-173 Main St., Nashua, 882-3281, [scontosas.com](http://scontosas.com)

★ Jonathan's Jewelers, 460 Route 101, Bedford, 471-2828, [jonathansjewelers.com](http://jonathansjewelers.com)

★ Princess Jewelers, 55 Crystal Ave., Derry, 537-9605, [princessnh.com](http://princessnh.com)

## Best Second Hand Shop

**Best of the best:** Mother & Child Clothing and Gifts, 135 Route 101A, Amherst, 886-6727, [mothersays.shoprw.com](http://mothersays.shoprw.com)

★ Lilise Designer Resale, 7 N. Main St., Concord, 715-2009, [liliseresale.com](http://liliseresale.com)

★ OutFITters Thrift Store, 394 Second St., Manchester, 641-6691, [outfittersnh.org](http://outfittersnh.org)

★ Hilltop Consignment Gallery, 56 N. Main St., Concord, 856-0110, [hilltopconsignmentgallery.com](http://hilltopconsignmentgallery.com)

**We asked you!**



**I CAN'T WAIT TO BE WITH A CROWD AT \_\_\_\_\_**

**1. A CONCERT OR MUSIC EVENT**

**2. GET FIT NH**

**3. ANYWHERE**

**4. BANK OF NH PAVILION**

**5. THE BEACH**

★ Corey's Closet, 1329 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 722-2712, [coreyscloset.org](http://coreyscloset.org)

## Best Salon

**Best of the best:** Blank Canvas Salon, 1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, [blankcanvassalon.com](http://blankcanvassalon.com)

★ 5 Diamond Salon, 915 Holt Ave., Suite 4, Manchester, 459-3367, [5diamondsalon.com](http://5diamondsalon.com)

★ Color Trends Hair Salon, 25 Merritt Parkway, Nashua, 880-7504, [colortrendshair-salon.com](http://colortrendshair-salon.com)

★ Salon North, 102 Bay St., Manchester, 483-3011, [102salonnorth.com](http://102salonnorth.com)

★ Advanced Hair Etc., 61 Crystal Ave., Derry, 425-2262, [advancedhairderry.com](http://advancedhairderry.com)

## Best Spa

**Best of the best:** Renew MediSpa, 23 B Crystal Ave., Derry, 932-4701, [renewmedispa.com](http://renewmedispa.com)

★ Pellé Medical Spa, 159 Frontage Road, Manchester, 627-7000, [pellemedicalspa.com](http://pellemedicalspa.com)

★ Serendipity Day Spa & Float Studio, 23 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 229-0400, [serendipitydayspa.com](http://serendipitydayspa.com)

★ Innovations Salon & Spa, 228 Naticook Road, Merrimack, 880-7499, [innovationsnh.com](http://innovationsnh.com)

★ The Skin & Body Spa, 385 E. Dunstable Road, Nashua, 888-7900, [theskinandbodyspa.com](http://theskinandbodyspa.com)

## Best Workout Space

**Best of the best:** Get Fit NH, 41 Terrill Park Drive, Concord, 344-2651, [getfitnh.com](http://getfitnh.com)

★ SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, [spenganashua.com](http://spenganashua.com)

★ Strive Indoor Cycling, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 513-9464, [striveindoor-cycling.com](http://striveindoor-cycling.com)

★ Executive Health & Sports Center, 1 Highlander Way, Manchester, 668-4753, [ehsc.com](http://ehsc.com)

★ New Hampshire Power Yoga, 704 Milford Road, Merrimack, 594-2494, [nhpoweryoga.com](http://nhpoweryoga.com)

## KIDS

### Best Place to Take Kids

**Best of the best:** Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, [nhahs.org](http://nhahs.org). Museum dedicated to the science, technology, history and culture of aviation, with interactive exhibits and educational programs.

★ SEE Science Center, 200 Bedford St., Manchester, 669-0400, [see-sciencecenter.org](http://see-sciencecenter.org). Museum focused on technology, engineering, mathematics and more with interactive exhibits, demonstrations and educational programs.

**Best of the best:** top vote getter in the category  
 ★: the next four readers' bests

★ Cowabunga's, 725 Huse Road, Manchester, 935-9659, mycowabungas.com. Indoor inflatable playground and party venue.

★ Benson Park, 19 Kimball Road, Hudson, 886-6000, hudsonnh.gov

★ Livingston Park, 156 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 624-6444, manchesternh.gov

**Yes**  
**19%**



**We asked you!**  
**QUARANTINE PUPPY?**  
**NO**  
**81%**

**Best Outdoor Spot to Let Kids Run Around and Be Crazy**

**Best of the best:** Livingston Park, 156 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 624-6444, manchesternh.gov

★ White Park, 1 White St., Concord, 225-8690, concordnh.gov

★ Benson Park, 19 Kimball Road, Hudson, 886-6000, hudsonnh.gov

★ Greeley Park, 100 Concord St., Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov

★ Hampton Beach, Hampton, hamptonbeach.org

**Best Kids Summer Day Camp**

**Best of the best:** YMCA of Greater Nashua's Camp Sargent, 141 Camp Sargent Road, Merrimack, 880-4845, campsargent.org

★ Melody Pines Day Camp, 510 Corning Road, Manchester, 669-9414, melodypines.com

★ Granite YMCA, Allard Center of Goffstown, 116 Goffstown Back Road, Goffstown, 497-4663, graniteymca.org/locations/allard-center-of-goffstown

★ Boys & Girls Club of Manchester's Camp Foster, 36 Camp Allen Road, Bedford, 625-5031, begreatmanchester.org

★ Executive Health & Sports Center, 1 Highlander Way, Manchester, 668-4753, ehsc.com

**Pets**

**Best Doggie Day Care**

**Best of the best:** Woof Woof Daycare & Boarding, 47 Rockingham Road, Windham, 890-6239, woofwoof.net. In addition to day care, boarding and grooming services for dogs of all breeds, this family-owned and -operated company offers classes in pet first aid and CPR, as well as in basic or intermediate obedience training.

★ All Dogs Gym & Inn, 505 Sheffield Road, Manchester, 669-4644, alldogsgym.com. Founded in 1993 by dog trainer, behavioral consultant and author Gail Fisher, All Dogs Gym & Inn is a full-service training center and activity center for dogs, with services that include boarding, day care, grooming, training and dog sports classes.

★ American K9 Country, 336 Route 101,

Amherst, 672-8448, americank9country.com. American K9 Country, which celebrated its 18th year in business last month, offers a doggie day care center, a full-service grooming salon, boarding for both dogs and cats, a dog park and more.

★ Chewie's Playland, 472 Amherst St., Nashua, 921-1875; 217 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 921-0745; chewiesplayland.com. With two locations in the Gate City, Chewie's Playland offers a variety of services for dogs, including day care, boarding, grooming and both indoor and outdoor play areas with plenty of toys.

★ Bark City, 259 Hanover St., Manchester, 227-5248, barkcitynh.com. Bark City, which opened in 2017, features a day care facility with grooming services and a boutique retail store carrying top toy brands, all-natural snacks and treats.

**Best Dog Groomer**

**Best of the best:** Grooming at Tiffany's, 127 Rockingham Road, Derry, 432-8000, groomingattiffanys.com. Grooming at Tiffany's offers a variety of crate-free appointment or walk-in services for both dogs and cats.

★ Sarah's Paw Spa, 16 Manning St., Derry, 512-4539, sarahspawspa.com. Established in 2017, Sarah's Paw Spa offers a variety of grooming services for dogs, with several special add-on services ranging from flea and tick shampoos to teeth brushing and nail painting.

★ WAG Grooming Salon & Spa, 15 Ermer Road, Suite 108, Salem, 328-5530, wagplace.com. WAG arrived in early 2019 and continues to provide a variety of grooming and styling services for both dogs and cats.

★ Ruff to Fluff Dog Grrrooming, 1238 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 669-1955, rufftofluff.com. Ruff to Fluff offers both quick-fix and full-service grooms, which include bath, brush and blow dry services.

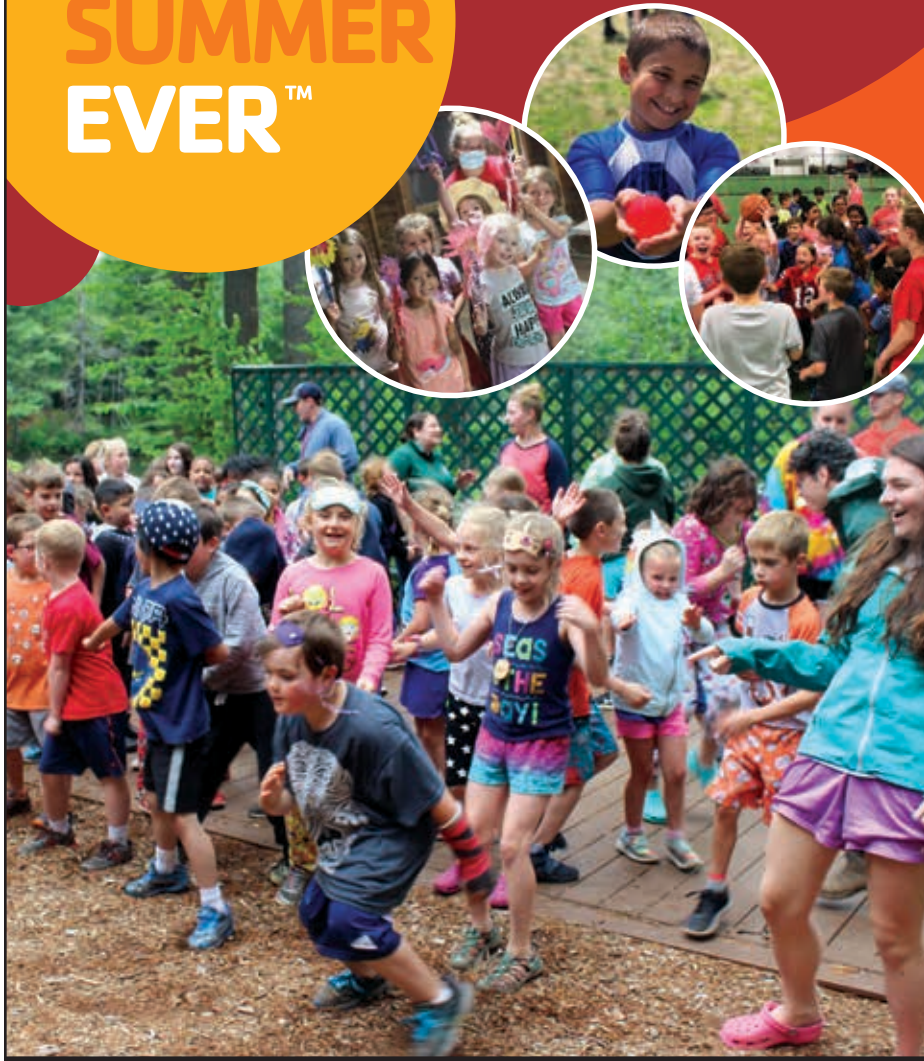


**YMCA OF GREATER NASHUA SUMMER CAMP INFO:**

Summer Day Camp at YMCA Branches  
[www.nmymca.org/summercamps](http://www.nmymca.org/summercamps)



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## American Canadian Genealogical Society

Founded in Manchester, NH in 1973, the *American Canadian Genealogical Society* is the oldest genealogical society in the U.S. specializing in family tree research for persons who have family roots extending into French Canada, and ultimately into Europe.

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We also offer French-to-English translation of documents. Our research services are available to members as well as non-members of ACGS, though a generous discount for these services is available to paid members.

Our current membership fee is \$45.00 per year.  
 For further information please contact us via our Web site at [ACGS.org](http://ACGS.org), call us at 603-622-1554, (option #3 for "Research") or write to us at One Sundial Ave., 317N, Manchester, NH 03103.

★ Hollywood Hounds Pet Spa, 250 Wallace Road, Bedford, 472-7387, [hollywoodhoundsnh.com](http://hollywoodhoundsnh.com). Hollywood Hounds, which opened in 2006, offers grooming services to dogs and cats of all breeds, as well as hydrosurge bathing, flea and tick removal and emergency de-skunking.

### BestPlacetoLetYourDog Go Off Leash

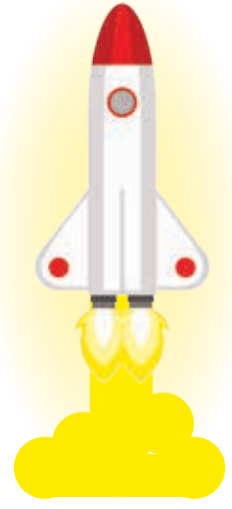
**Best of the best:** Hooksett Dog Park, 101 Merrimack St., Hooksett, 668-8019, [hooksett.org/parks-recreation-cemeteries-division/pages/dog-park](http://hooksett.org/parks-recreation-cemeteries-division/pages/dog-park). Two off-leash fenced-in play areas for small and large dogs.

★ Hudson Dog Park at Benson Park, 19 Kimball Hill Road, Hudson, 886-6000, [hudsonnh.gov/bensonpark/page/dog-park](http://hudsonnh.gov/bensonpark/page/dog-park). The Hudson Dog Park, which opened on the grounds of Benson Park in Hudson in the fall of 2012, features two separate areas for large and small dogs. Dog waste bags are available.

★ Concord Dog Park at Terrill Park, Old Turnpike Road, Concord, 225-8690, [concordnh.gov/facilities/facility/details/Terrill-Park-28](http://concordnh.gov/facilities/facility/details/Terrill-Park-28). This 21-acre park is maintained by the Pope Memorial SPCA and features groomed trails and fenced in areas for dogs of all breeds.

★ Derry Dog Park, Fordway and Transfer Lane, Derry, 432-6136, [derrynh.org/animal-control/pages/derry-dog-park](http://derrynh.org/animal-control/pages/derry-dog-park). This dog park is completely fenced in with a double gate to enter, featuring separate areas for larger and smaller dogs.

★ Merrimack Dog Park at Wasserman Park, 116 Naticook Road, Merrimack, 882-1046, [merrimackparksandrec.org/merrimack-dog-park](http://merrimackparksandrec.org/merrimack-dog-park). This ¾-acre-sized dog park is divided into separate sections for larger and smaller dogs.



**BestOn-LeashDogOuting**  
**Best of the best:** Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, [nashuanh.gov](http://nashuanh.gov). This 325-acre park features eight miles of walking trails, forest, open fields and wetlands.  
 ★ Benson Park, 19 Kimball Road, Hudson, 886-6000, [hudsonnh.gov](http://hudsonnh.gov). Originally a private zoo and amusement park, Benson Park reopened in 2010 as a town park for recreational use and is now a popular spot for hiking, dog walking, fishing and picnicking.  
 ★ Livingston Park, 156 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 624-6444, [manchesternh.gov](http://manchesternh.gov). Amenities include walking trails around Dorrs Pond as well as a baseball diamond, a running track and two playgrounds.

★ Windham Rail Trail, Windham, [windhamrailtrail.org](http://windhamrailtrail.org). The Windham Rail Trail is 4.1 miles and is a core part of the longest paved abandoned rail bed in the Granite State, as the Windham, Derry and Salem rail trails collectively run about 11 miles.

★ Beaver Brook Association, 117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, [beaverbrook.org](http://beaverbrook.org). The Beaver Brook Association features more than 35 miles of trails across more than 2,000 acres of forest, fields and wetlands within the towns of Hollis, Brookline and Milford.

## PERSONALITIES

### Most Innovative Chef

**Best of the best:** Troy Ward Jr., Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, Unit 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, [troys-freshkitchen.com](http://troys-freshkitchen.com)  
 ★ Bobby Marcotte, The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, 58 Route 27, Raymond, 244-2431, [thetuckaway.com](http://thetuckaway.com)



We asked you!

## BEST NON-SKIING WINTER OUTDOOR THING

1. SNOWSHOEING
2. SNOW TUBING
3. ICE SKATING
4. FAT BIKING
5. HIKING

★ Nicki Leavitt, Purple Finch Cafe, 124 S. River Road, Bedford, 232-1953, purplefinchcafe.com

★ Michael Buckley, Surf Restaurant, 207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com (Surf also has a location in Portsmouth.)

★ Corey Fletcher, Revival Kitchen & Bar, 11 Depot St., Concord, 715-5723, revivalkitchennh.com

### Restaurant with the Friendliest Staff

**Best of the best:** Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, Unit 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

★ Union Street Takeout, 90 Union St., Manchester, 260-7663

★ Purple Finch Cafe, 124 S. River Road, Bedford, 232-1953, purplefinchcafe.com

★ The River Casino & Sports Bar, 53 High St., Nashua, 881-9060, therivercasino.com

★ Stella Blu, 70 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 578-5557, stellablu-nh.com

### Butt-kicking-est Fitness Instructor

**Best of the best:** Meagan Sbat, Get Fit NH, 41 Terrill Park Drive, Concord, 344-2651, getfitnh.com

★ Mary Peace, SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, spenganashua.com

★ Lauren Pino, SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, spenganashua.com

★ Meagan Ferns, Strive Indoor Cycling, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 513-9464, striveindoorcycling.com

★ Courtney Giddis, Strive Indoor Cycling, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, 513-9464, striveindoorcycling.com

### Best Barber

**Best of the best:** AJ Caron, South Mane Barbershop, 28 S Main St., 1B, Concord, 952-2202, southmanebarbershop.com

★ Joey Daniels, South Mane Barbershop, 28 S Main St., 1B, Concord, 952-2202, southmanebarbershop.com

★ Traci Pettengill Tooky, Village Barber Shop, 12 Maple St., Contoocook, 746-2170, tookyvillagebarbershop.business.site

★ Rick Lindof, The Polished Man, 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 718-8427, thepolishedman.com

★ Rafael Robles, Lineup Barbershop, 1271 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 218-3294, lineupbarbershop.com

### Best Hair Stylist

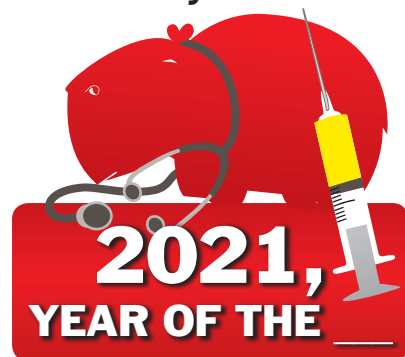
**Best of the best:** Samantha Courtois, 5 Diamond Salon, 915 Holt Ave., Suite 4, Manchester, 459-3367, 5diamondsalon.com

★ Kate Kwasniak, Blank Canvas Salon, 1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, blankcanvassalon.com

★ Tashia Landry, Salon North, 102 Bay St., Manchester, 483-3011, 102salonnorth.com

★ Ashley Hastings, Blank Canvas Salon,

### We asked you!



1. VACCINE

2. COMEBACK

3. RECOVERY

4. MASK

5. OX

1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, blankcanvassalon.com

★ Corrie Thayer, Color Trends Hair Salon, 25 Merrit Parkway, Nashua, 880-7504, colortrendshairsalon.com

### Friendliest Dentist

**Best of the best:** Dr. Elizabeth & Victoria Spindel Rubin, Spindel General and Cosmetic Dentistry, 862 Union St., Manchester, 669-9049, elizabethspindel.com

★ Dr. John Patrick Ahern, Ahern, Nichols, Hersey & Butterfield Family & Preventive Dentistry, 30 Pinkerton St., Derry, 432-5039, ahern-nichols.com

★ Dr. Ray Orzechowski, 280 Pleasant St., Concord, 228-4456, rayorzechowski.com

★ Dr. Charles Pipilas, 280 Main St., Suite 311, Nashua, 881-8280

★ Dr. Joseph Sheehan, 155 Dow St., Suite 401, Manchester, 623-0641

### Friendliest Mechanic

**Best of the best:** Chad Tanguay, Merrimack Auto Center, 9 Webb Drive, Merrimack, 216-9596; 150 Amherst St., Nashua, 546-0157, merrimackautocenterllc.com

★ Ralph Brutus, Brutus Auto Repair & Service, 148 Merrimack St., Manchester, 624-8881, brutusauto.com

★ Dan Weed, Weed Family Automotive, 124 Storrs St., Concord, 225-7988, weedfamilyautomotive.com

★ Chuck Nelson, P&N Automotive Services, 140 Pleasant St., Concord, 225-4313, pandnauto.com

★ Justin Lemay, Bandit OffRoad, 51 Kosciuszko St., Manchester, 624-0400, banditoffroad.com

**Best of the best:** top vote getter in the category  
★: the next four readers' bests

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†THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE.



## Best Local Music Act

**Best of the best:** Chad LaMarsh, chadlamarsh.com. Chicago born and Berklee trained, the singer-guitarist calls Boston home, but he's a Granite State favorite and perennial opener for Recycled Percussion whenever they're in town.

★ Alli Beaudry, allibeaudry.com. She's a Manchester native and Berklee alum (and instructor) whose bedazzled keyboard, infectious smile and sweet singing voice make Beaudry a local treasure.

★ Lucas Gallo, lucasgallomusic.com. Along with his talents as a singer, songwriter and guitarist, Gallo is a Concord booster, booking as well as playing shows in his hometown.

★ Brad Bosse, facebook.com/bradbossemusic. A ubiquitous presence on the music scene, Milford native Bosse possesses a voluminous catalog of cover songs and boundless energy.

★ Kevin Horan, kevinhoranmusic.com. The talented guitarist and drummer lives in Manchester and also performs with the Stone Road Band.

## Best Comedian Who Lives Local-ishly

**Best of the best:** Bob Marley, bmarley.com. Marley is a Maine native who went west to seek fame many years ago, only to return quickly and find it at home riffing on the region's many funny foibles.

★ Justin McKinney, justonmckinney.com. Having spent time as a Portsmouth police officer before he became a comic, one of the state's most beloved, McKinney still lives on the Seacoast.

★ Nick Lavallee. Manchester's own polymath, Lavallee does standup, plays in power pop rock band Donaher, and makes custom action figures under his Wicked Joyful brand.

★ Paul Landwehr, paullandwehr.com. He's a Manchester native who cut his teeth at the weekly comedy gathering in Shaskeen Pub's backroom, graduating to bigger stages and a solid regional reputation.

★ Jimmy Dunn, jimmydunn.com. Dunn made a name for himself in Boston and on enough cruise ships to write a book called *Boat Hack*. He now lives in Hampton Beach, where he hosts a must-see comedy festival every summer.

## LIVING HERE

### Coollest Free Historic Site or Monument

**Best of the best:** Stark Park, 650 River Road, Manchester, starkpark.com. Dedicated to New Hampshire's Gen. John Stark, who penned the state motto, "Live Free or Die," in 1809. The 30-acre plot was once the Stark Family farm and contains the original Stark Family burial plot.

★ New Hampshire Statehouse, 107 N. Main St., Concord, 271-2154, gencourt.state.nh.us/nh\_visitorcenter/default.htm. The oldest state capitol in the country in which both houses of the legislature meet in their original chambers. Features tours, exhibits and a gift shop.

★ The Old Man of the Mountain. A series of cliff ledges resembling the profile of a man's face that was a popular tourist attraction at Franconia Notch State Park until its collapse in May 2003. In 2011, the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund created The Old Man of the Mountain Profile Plaza, with seven steel "profilers" that recreate the Old Man's visage. Also at the State Park are museums with history, photos and stories of the Old Man. Visit cannonmt.com/things-to-do/activities/old-man-of-the-mountain.

★ Amoskeag Millyard, between Commercial and Bedford streets, Manchester, 622-7531, manchesterhistoric.org. Site of Amoskeag Manufacturing Co. from 1831 to 1936. The textile factory complex was the largest in New England.

★ Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, 139 St. Gaudens Road, Cornish, 675-2175, nps.gov/saga. Features the preserved home, gardens, studios and works of American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The plot was Saint-Gaudens' summer residence from 1885 to 1897. The park grounds, gardens, outdoor monuments and trails are open now during daylight hours for no cost. The Visitor Center and all historic buildings are currently closed for the season and will reopen in May.

### Thing NH Does Better Than Anyone Else

**Best of the best:** Live free or die.

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- ★ Outdoor activities.

### Best Thing We Forgot to Ask About

**Best of the best: Best Jams and Jellies:** Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies, 47 Birchwood Circle, Bedford, 472-5388, laurelhilljams.com. A producer of dozens of jams and jellies made by hand in small batches from local fruits, wines and teas, Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies gets its name from the area of Bedford where owner and founder Sue Stretch lives.

**Best of the best: top vote getter in the category**  
★: the next four readers' bests

the Y

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Formerly the president of the Bedford Farmers Market, Stretch was also a teacher for 41 years before retiring in the mid-2000s to focus on her business. She makes fruit jams like strawberry rhubarb, blueberry and red raspberry, plus jellies like apple cider, Asian pear, Concord grape and heirloom apple, and tea jellies, like chamomile tea and chai tea. You can order her products online or find them at several local stores, like Lull Farm in Hollis, Trombly Gardens in Milford, Grasshoppers Garden Center in New Boston and Bedford Fields Home & Garden Center.

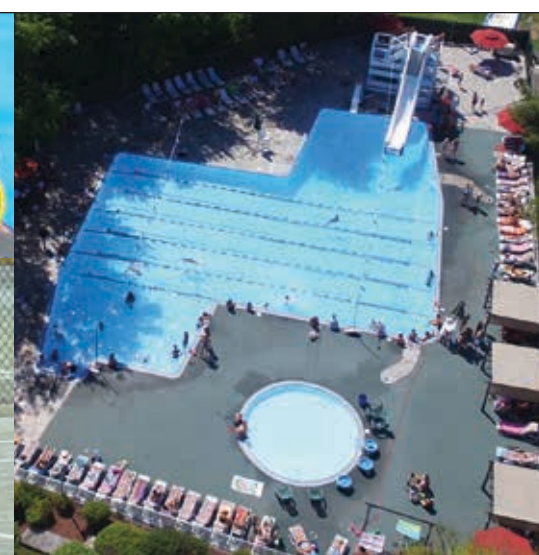
★ **Best Distillery:** Steadfast Spirits Distilling Co., 134 Hall St., Unit H, Concord, 333-2162, [steadfastspiritsdistilling.square.site](http://steadfastspiritsdistilling.square.site). Steadfast Spirits officially opened its doors in early 2020 as the first licensed liquor manufacturer in the city of Concord. Its signature moonshine — Trouble's Moonshine, named after owner and head distiller Charles "CJ" Lundergan, who is known by some as "Trouble" — is made with all natural ingredients and comes in a variety of flavors, like maple, vanilla, honey and cinnamon. Moonshine-mixed Trouble's cocktails are also available, like Strawberry Smash, Citrus Squeeze and Apple Pie.

★ **Best Gourmet Food to Go/Specialty Food Service:** Local Basket, 10 Ferry St., Suite 120A, Concord, 219-0882, [localbasket.com](http://localbasket.com). Local Basket was born when owner Beth Richards, an early adopter of the meal kit concept around the year 2013, began working

toward creating a business plan integrating New Hampshire farms and other local businesses. In late 2016 she started working out of Genuine Local, a shared commercial kitchen in Meredith, and appeared at local farmers markets to gauge public feedback for the concept. She opened a storefront in Concord early the following year. Local Basket has since expanded into offering craft beer and small gourmet food items, as well its meal kit delivery radius across southern New Hampshire.

★ **Best Physical Therapist:** Elite Rehab & Sports Therapy, 380 Daniel Webster Hwy., Suite H, Merrimack, 262-3305, [eliterehabsports.com](http://eliterehabsports.com). Elite is a therapist-owned outpatient physical therapy practice, providing individual treatment plans to clients based on their own goals. It's affiliated with several local universities and youth sports leagues, and offers a variety of services, from home exercise programs to injury prevention and wellness.

★ **Best Massage Therapist:** Bethany Chabot, LMT, 444 Hands, 36 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, 834-2758, [444hands.com](http://444hands.com). Certified massage therapist Bethany Chabot has been working out of Family Chiropractic of Merrimack and Wellness Center in Merrimack since 2007 — in 2020, her practice was rebranded under the name 444 Hands. She is a 1999 Keene State College graduate, later going on to attend McIntosh College in Dover and completing her certificate for Massage Therapy and Bodywork. 🍷



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# ARTS

## Fine lines

### New Hampshire celebrates National Poetry Month

By Angie Sykeny  
 asykeny@hippopress.com

From writing prompts to readings and workshops, New Hampshire poets and poetry lovers will have all kinds of opportunities throughout April to celebrate National Poetry Month from home.

Now in its 25th year, National Poetry Month is an annual observance created by the Academy of American Poets to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the U.S. Schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers and poets all over the country are encouraged to host special events and activities to promote the literary art form.

In New Hampshire, the month's festivities are spearheaded by state Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary, in partnership with New Hampshire Magazine, Concord-based publisher Hobblebush Books and others.

Peary has created 30 poetry writing prompts — one for each day in April — that will be posted on New Hampshire Magazine's website and social media.

The prompts are meant to be "a reflection of the past year," Peary said, particularly in regard to the pandemic, and will represent a wide variety of

poetry styles. They may, for example, challenge participants to write a sonnet that mourns a loss or celebrates a recovery; a narrative poem about a pandemic moment; a persona poem from the perspective of a front-line worker; or an ode to a pandemic-related object.

"They're just something to get people started," Peary said. "You could look at the prompts and just see what comes to mind and do a free-write every day, or you could pick just one or two [prompts] and try to write a whole poem — whatever works for you."

At the end of the month, there will be two free virtual workshops, led by two graduate students interning with Peary, where participants can receive feedback on their poems.

Now through May 15, original poems can be submitted for review and possible publication in an anthology of poetry about the pandemic experience in New Hampshire, to be edited by Peary and published by Hobblebush Books this summer. The anthology is a follow-up to *COVID Spring: Granite State Pandemic Poems*, published in September 2020, which features original poems submitted by 54 New Hampshire writers, providing "a thirty-day snapshot of what life was



Alexandria Peary. Courtesy photo.



like in the Granite State in April of 2020" through topics such as Covid-related "job loss, loneliness and love, masks, social distancing, surreal visitors, uncertainty, graduations deferred, grief, neighborly and less-than-neighborly acts, observing the beginning of the pandemic and making projections about the future, recalibrating or confirming what it means to be human, to be a resident of this region," Peary said in the anthology's introduction.

Gibson's Bookstore in Concord, in partnership with Hobblebush Books, will host free virtual poetry readings and conversations every Monday in April. The series will feature Granite State poets Maudelle Driskell, Meg Kearney, Martha Carlson-Bradley, Liz Ahl, Rodger Martin, Henry Walters, Margot Douaihy and Peary.

"[Participating in] one of these events might give you ideas for your own writing," Peary said, "and I think it could also give you a sense that, with so many opportunities for engagement with the creative writing [community] in the state, it

### National Poetry Month in New Hampshire

Virtual poetry events and activities will be held throughout April. Visit [newhampshirepoet-laureate.blogspot.com](http://newhampshirepoet-laureate.blogspot.com) and [hobblebush.com/national-poetry-month](http://hobblebush.com/national-poetry-month).

#### Writing workshops

Registration required.

- Sunday, April 25, 3 p.m., moderated by Lily Greenberg
- Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m. moderated by Brooke Delp

#### Readings and conversations with Granite State poets

Weekly, Monday at 7 p.m., through April. Registration required.

- April 5: Maudelle Driskell and Meg Kearney
- April 12: Martha Carlson-Bradley and Liz Ahl
- April 19: Rodger Martin and Henry Walters
- April 26: NH Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary and Margot Douaihy

could become a really rich part of your life and social life."

Peary said this month is a great time for people who are interested in poetry to give writing their own poetry a try, even if it's short or in fragments.

"It doesn't need to be something with a complete structure," she said. "Try to maximize the distance between you and the critics in your head and just jot some stuff down, and be accepting of whatever that is." 🗨️

### ARTS

## THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Currier reopens:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) is reopening to the public on Thursday, April 1, with several new exhibitions on display. "The Body in Art: From the Spiritual to the Sensual" provides a look at how artists through the ages have used the human body as a means of creative expression; The Tomie dePaola exhibition celebrates the illustrator's life and legacy through a collection of his original drawings; and "Critical Cartogra-

phy: Larissa Fassler in Manchester," features immersive large-scale drawings that reflect the Berlin-based artist's observations of downtown Manchester while she was an artist-in-residence at the Currier Museum in 2019. Tickets cost \$15, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, and must be booked online. Museum hours are Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (free after 5 p.m.); and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the hour of 10 to 11 a.m. currently reserved for seniors and museum members. Call 669-6144 or visit [currier.org](http://currier.org).

• **Growing up wild:** The Walker Lecture Series continues with a virtual author event featuring Michael Tougias ([michaeltougias.com](http://michaeltougias.com)) on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. Tougias will discuss his new bestselling memoir *The Waters Between Us: A Boy, A Father, Outdoor Mis-*

*adventures and the Healing Power of Nature*, which chronicles his experience growing up and exploring nature in the 1960s and '70s. "I was a wild kid by nature and choice who sought out wild places," Tougias said in a press release. "I feel lucky to have grown up in a time when a kid could spend the entire day on their own in the great outdoors with no parental interference." The memoir also looks at his complex relationship with his father, Tougias said. A recording of the event will be available to watch starting the following day. The Walker Lecture Series will continue every Wednesday through April 21, with a travelogue about the deserts, coastline and safari parks of Namibia presented by Rick Ray on April 14 and a faculty concert by Concord Community Music School on April 21. Events are free and open to the public. Call 333-

0035 or visit [walkerlecture.org](http://walkerlecture.org).

• **Virtual screenings:** The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord presents a series of virtual screenings for a variety of performances. "Double Take," a dance concert by Repertory Dance Theatre and Ririe-Woodbury Dance Co., will screen on Thursday, April 1, and Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, April 3, at 4 p.m., for \$25 per ticket. *War Horse*, a National Theatre Live Encore Presentation, is available on demand through Tuesday, April 6, for \$15. *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, filmed live in London, is available on demand now through Sunday, April 11, for \$25. Finally, "The Art of Circus" will be screened on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 10, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 11, at 2 p.m., for \$25 per ticket. Call 225-1111 or visit [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com).

— Angie Sykeny 🗨️

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- Scientists have been *researching similar vaccines* for years which allowed for faster creation and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

## Stems, branches and weeds

### How to create early spring arrangements

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

### — THE GARDENING GUY —

I miss being able to go to my garden and pick flowers for the table. Yes, spring is on the way and even feels present on good days now. But it will be a while until my daffodils and tulips bloom. My winter aconite, small yellow bulb flowers, are blooming, and little white snowdrops have pushed through frozen earth. Those mini-flowers aren't really suitable for a bouquet, but I've picked a few things that please me.

First, I picked some stems from my Merrill magnolia. It is loaded with fuzzy buds for its late-April blooming, and these look good in an arrangement. Magnolia branches tend to fork and grow in different directions, so placing stems in a vase can be tricky. I put some in a dry vase with dried flowers and seed-bearing stems and one in a vase with water to put on a windowsill. The buds I picked on Jan. 31 bloomed on March 17.

Beech branches are good for arrangements, too. The young trees, anyway, hold onto their light brown leaves, filling spaces in a vase. And

the stems are a smooth gray, with cigar-shaped, pointy buds.

Of course red- or yellow-twigged dogwood stems add color to a winter arrangement. Each year one must cut back the plants in spring or winter to get the color on the new stems. They are fast-growing plants, so they can grow 5 feet of new stem in a single summer. They grow best in moist or marshy places.

For contrast in my vase I like to have some dark stems. Trees in the cherry family do well there. Chokecherry, pin cherry and black cherry look good in a vase. Young white birch have dark stems, as does hop hornbeam. But basically you can pick any tree branches if you like their look.

Greenery is nice for contrast with bare stems. I recommend white pine for greenery. It has a nice weeping tendency and is great around the outside of the vase. Unlike Canadian hemlock, it holds onto its needles quite well, but hemlocks are more common on my property, so I often use them.

Then there are the hydrangeas. Many species and varieties hold onto their flower panicles well into winter and can be quite nice in a vase. My favorite is one called Pink Diamond. It has long stems and it holds onto the fertile and

infertile inflorescences, showing contrast between white and black florets on the panicles. Although the blossoms are pink toward the end of their bloom cycle, they are not pink after frost.

Winter weeds can be interesting, too. One of my favorites for winter picking is teasel. Technically, this is a biennial weed. I harvested some seeds from a corn field in Ohio years ago. The corn farmer thought I was a total nutcase because to him teasel is a noxious weed. But I have learned its habits and allow just half a dozen plants to flower and produce seed every year, and it is a delightful addition to winter arrangements.

The key to keeping teasel in check is to recognize the first-year plants. They are rosettes of light green leaves. I pull most, but leave half a dozen to mature and bloom in Year 2. The second year plants are loaded with thorns and have a deep tap root, so if you pull them then, you must wear gloves. I rub the thorns off while wearing gloves as I pick them, and can then handle them with ease when arranging them in a vase.

Astilbes bloom magnificently for me, and their winter stems are great in a dry vase. I have many different species and varieties ranging from short (12-inch blossom stems) to tall (48 inches). Their chief requirement is moist soil, and I have plenty of that. If you don't have moist soil, the leaves will brown up in the heat



Winter aconite. Courtesy photo.

of summer. One trick I have tried in dry locations is to bury a plastic bag a foot or so deep in the soil before planting. That will act like a little bathtub and hold some water in dry times. They like a half day of sunshine, and prefer morning sun.

Snake root or black cohosh (formerly called Cimicifuga spp. Now in the genus Actea) holds on to dry blossoms long after summer has passed. They look good in dry arrangements if you have any still standing.

Winter arrangements tend to be fairly monochromatic — tan or brown colors are most common. I have seen gardeners use dry allium (onion-family) blossoms to bring color to the table by spray-painting them with red, blue, purple and yellow spray paints. I have never done so, but if I think to harvest some next spring or summer, I may do so. I have even seen them sprayed while still in the garden!

Of course, the best color in the house for me right now is my forced daffodils. Last fall I potted up plenty of "tete-a-tete" daffodils and I kept them in my cold cellar until recently. Each bulb provided many blossoms and even now, after the flowers have gone by, they are still pleasant-looking with green leaves and dried yellow flowers.

Henry can be reached at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net) or PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🍷

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### INSIDE/OUTSIDE

## KIDDIE

### — POOL — Family fun for whenever

#### Easter fun!

Follow the Bunny in downtown Concord on Saturday, April 3! The free event will begin at the Statehouse lawn at 11 a.m., where kids will have the chance to participate in games, activities and crafts. They'll also get to meet with the Easter Bunny and decorate their own treat bags before heading downtown to search for special treats. "Follow the Bunny" posters displayed on participating business windows will let them know that there's a treat inside. The event runs until 2 p.m.

Also on Saturday, the Easter Bunny will hop on over to the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, [aviationmuseumofnh.org](http://aviationmuseumofnh.org)) to meet with kids and give out special goody bags. Ask the Easter Bunny questions and pose for photos, then check out the museum's kid-friendly activities and exhibits, like a scavenger hunt and a real airplane cockpit kids can climb into. The event will run during normal operating hours, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults,



The Easter Bunny visiting the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire. Courtesy photo.

\$5 for children ages 6 to 12, seniors 65 and older, and retired/active military, and free for kids 5 and under.

#### Nature activities

Kids can hike, run or learn about science at Beaver Brook Nature Center (117 Ridge Road, Hollis), with new sessions of after-school and homeschool programs starting Tuesday, April 6. The Hiking Club and Trail Running programs, which are for kids in grades 4 through 8, are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, respectively, from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m., from April 6 through May 18. The center is also hosting Home-school Science those same weeks, from 9 a.m. to noon, for ages 6 to 10 on Tuesdays and ages 9 to 13 on Wednesdays. Classes will include hikes and other outdoor activities along with nature-related lessons. Register at [beaverbrook.org](http://beaverbrook.org). 🍷

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# RAV4 hosts feast for uninvited guests



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk,  
I have a 2018 Toyota RAV4. Last weekend, I bought a 20-pound bag of birdseed for the feeders in my backyard. It was a cold, rainy, miserable day, and I decided to wait to bring it in the house.*

*A couple days later, I opened the back door of the car and a hole had been chewed in the bag, and there were sunflower seed shells on the floor. How on earth did the mice (I'm assuming) get into the car? — Julie*

They may have already been using your car as an extended stay Marriott, Julie. They may have been as surprised as anyone that it suddenly turned into a bed and breakfast.

Mice are notorious for seeking out warm places to sleep (and perform other functions) and for being able to squeeze into very tight spaces. I wouldn't be surprised if they had already discovered that your engine compartment or ventilation system provided a wonderful, dry place to sleep after you got home at night.

It's not hard at all for them to get in there. They can climb up your tires and get into the engine compartment. From there, they can make their way to the cowl at the bottom of the windshield, where fresh air comes into the passenger

compartment.

There's a plastic grate in there, but mice are good at squeezing through small openings. Or chewing holes in things they can't squeeze through. From the fresh air vent, it's smooth sailing to the air ducts and to the interior of the car.

My guess is that some lucky mouse found the birdseed and posted a picture on Twitter. #Jackpot!

It's a tough problem to solve. The best solution is a well-sealed garage. But I would suggest you clean out the remaining food to discourage them. You might also ask your mechanic to check the grating that protects the fresh air vent, in case they damaged it. See if he can find you a titanium replacement.

And look on the bright side, Julie. Your car may be a mess. But you're responsible for one of the greatest bonanzas in mouse history. It's the mouse equivalent of the First Thanksgiving. Two hundred years from now, mouse textbooks will teach young mice about "Julie's RAV4 Miracle."

*Dear Car Talk:  
I have a question about a dashboard accessory. It came to mind after my wife and I prepared to go on a little 350-mile trip to spend a few days at our daughter's house.*

*I checked the tire pressure and oil level, we*

*packed the car, set the GPS and congratulated ourselves for an on-time departure. Then I pushed the ignition switch, only to hear clicking, and a weak hum, illuminated by dim headlamps.*

*I guessed the problem immediately; our 2013 Murano's seven-year-old, original-equipment battery was dead. OK, no surprise there. I was thankful it died before the trip got underway.*

*A new battery later, and we were on our way. But it made me wonder: Why don't cars have starter-battery meters to warn of dying batteries? Even if it's not perfect, it might alert us to imminent battery death and save us from sitting in the garage rather than visiting our distant children. — Wayne*

Sure. It could be another warning light we all ignore — like the tire pressure warning light and the check engine light.

I'm sure it's possible, Wayne. Even though it's not nearly as easy as testing a D-cell that powers your flashlight or monitoring the charge on your iPhone. Because a 12-volt car battery has to provide a massive amount of power all at once to start the car, you really have to measure the resistance of the electrolyte.

There are testers you can buy and use at home that claim to test your car battery and cost anywhere from \$20 to \$200. But if you want one that gives you the same information that we get at the shop when we test the health of car bat-

teries, you're probably going to spend at least \$100- \$150. That may make it cost prohibitive to include as standard equipment on every gasoline-powered car.

Of course, with the costs of electronics and computerization dropping every year, that calculation may change, but possibly not before electric cars take over and make this whole issue of the "starter-battery" moot.

So in the meantime, if you don't want to get stuck with a dead car battery, my advice is to replace your battery every five years. In my experience, batteries rarely die before the five-year mark. But after that, they're essentially on borrowed time.

You may say, "Well, why should I spend \$150 on a battery if my old battery's not dead yet?" And the answer is, because it'll still cost you \$150 six months or a year later, plus the towing fee, the inconvenience, the missed dinner at your daughter's house, and the indigestion from having to eat at the Only Dropped It Once Burger at a highway rest stop.

And since most people change the battery just once during the time they own their car, why not do it on your schedule, as preventive maintenance and then not have to worry about it for another five years?

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

• **Get ready for Easter:** Visit [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com) for our annual **Easter listings** (available for free to everybody thanks to our members and supporters), which include details on local restaurants and function centers serving special brunches or dinner menus, as well as bakers, chocolatiers and candy makers offering unique creations of their own. Easter Sunday is April 4; for the most up-to-date availability, check the websites or social media pages of restaurants, bakeries and function centers, or call them directly.

• **Shop local:** There's a new indoor spot to get some local products like fresh veggies, breads, baked goods, honeys, gifts and other non-perishables and handcrafted items. The **Weare Real Food Market** opened March 15 and is now open seven days a week, at 65 N. Stark Hwy. in Weare, owner Marek Rivero confirmed. The market's mission, Rivero said, is to present a venue where local farmers, crafters and artisans can come together to provide products directly to the Weare community. The market is open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit [wearereal.com](http://wearereal.com) or follow them on social media.

• **Temporary takeout change: Great New Hampshire Restaurants**, the local group that encompasses all T-Bones, CJ's Great West Grill and Copper Door restaurants in the state, announced last week it has temporarily suspended takeout services on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 5 to 8 p.m., across all of its locations, including online ordering and phone-in orders during those times. "Takeout has become so busy during these up-times that it is impeding our ability to serve in-house guests at the level we demand of ourselves," reads a March 26 company statement released on its newsletter and social media channels. Takeout will still be available outside of those hours as Great New Hampshire Restaurants continues to prioritize the increasing return of indoor and outdoor dining.

• **Ribfest update:** For the second year in a row, the **Great American Ribfest & Food Truck Festival** will not be taking place during its normal Father's Day weekend timeframe, nor will it be happening at Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Merrimack, according to a statement recently issued on the event's website and Facebook pages. Organizers hope to have the festival at a new location sometime later this year, but according to the statement, "negotiations are taking longer than expected." The three-day event, which typically features local and regional barbecue vendors and food trucks, as well as live music, a beer station and a variety of family-friendly activities, was postponed multiple times in 2020 before it was ultimately canceled. Updates on the status of a 2021 festival will be made as they become available at [greatamericanribfest.com](http://greatamericanribfest.com).

# FOOD

## Keep on brewing on

### New Hampshire Craft Beer Week returns

By Matt Ingersoll  
[mingersoll@hippopress.com](mailto:mingersoll@hippopress.com)

New Hampshire Craft Beer Week, an annual celebration dedicated to highlighting brewery culture in the Granite State, is returning for its seventh year. Starting Wednesday, April 7, in line with National Beer Day, and continuing through Saturday, April 17, breweries all over New Hampshire will be showcasing special beer releases, hosting virtual events and participating in various collaborative social media efforts to keep the community connected.

Craft Beer Week was introduced by the New Hampshire Brewers Association in 2015, when there were just 44 licensed craft breweries statewide. Today, there are over 90, according to executive director C.J. Haines. In 2019, the industry contributed more than \$500 million to the state, the most recent data currently available.

#### Brewery happenings

Even now, brewers are finding ways to celebrate with their customers.

Several beer trails (you can receive prizes or giveaways based on how many participating breweries you visit) are planned — including a special one through the New Hampshire chapter of the Pink Boots Society. The beer trail is being held in lieu of a collaborative release from women representing multiple Granite State breweries.

Each brewery is instead releasing its own beer highlighting the hop blend released by Yakima Chief Hops. The trail, featuring nearly a dozen craft breweries across Manchester, Concord, the Lakes Region and the Seacoast, will be open throughout the months of April and May with grand prize drawings for those who complete it.

Great North Aleworks in Manchester, in addition to releasing a new lager to benefit the Manchester Historic Association on April 7, will host a trivia night that evening at 6 p.m., featuring executive director and author John Clayton. According to Great North sales and marketing manager Brian Parda, Clayton will be using the Manchester Wall of Fame, the Millyard Museum's

interactive exhibit, to play a game of "Who's Who" that people can participate in either virtually or in person.

#### More new brews

In Derry, Cask & Vine owners Andy Day and Alana Wentworth happen to be celebrating the first anniversary of the Daydreaming Brewing Co. during Craft Beer Week. Their venture has gone in directions Day never thought it would go in since the pandemic hit.

"Our original intention was to do English-style ales," Day said. "We started doing barrel-aged variants with our distillery, which was not what we had set out to do, but the reception has been pretty fantastic. ... We've also found ourselves in stores and have a few draft accounts in restaurants. That was another thing we didn't plan on doing."

Fierce Princess, a German Pilsner brewed with rye and spicy peppers, is a new brew that will be available beginning Thursday, April 15. It's the first of a series of beers being released that's based on a Dungeons & Dragons campaign Day is running called Insidious. It will also be the first Daydreaming Brewing Co. beer to come in cans as well as on draft. Three more releases in the series are expected to follow, every four months. The following day, Friday, April 16, they will release a special anniversary ale, Day said, a blend of Daydreaming's Russian imperial stout, barleywine and Belgian strong dark ale that has been aged in a whiskey barrel.

Lithermans Limited Brewery in Concord also has an anniversary coming up in line with Craft Beer Week — its fifth, according to owner Michael Hauptly-Pierce. On Friday, April 9, Lithermans will be releasing a new double dry hopped IPA called Styles and Dynamics, followed by the re-release of Inner Light Spectrum, a dry hopped Pilsner, on Friday, April 16.

"We opened up an online store as soon as [the pandemic began], and that's been huge in helping us get through," said Hauptly-Pierce, adding that the outdoor patio at Lithermans is expected to reopen starting Saturday, April 3.

Last week, Manchester's To Share Brewing Co. had two new releases of its own — Sw hale, a hazy New England-style double IPA with flavors of strawberry, melons and coconut; and Up Cider, a dry hard cider made with orange zest and juice to give it a citrus-y kick.

To Share co-founder Aaron Share said he has plans to collaborate with Martha's Exchange in Nashua on a beer he hopes to have released by May. The brewery will welcome several live music acts over the course



Courtesy photo.

of Craft Beer Week, like Ryan Gagne-Hall on April 10 and Kevin Horan on April 11. It also recently received approval to bring back extended outdoor seating.

"Throughout Covid, we've had to continue to adjust our business model in terms of how much canning we do versus what we have here on tap," Share said. "For a while, we were canning a majority of the beer we were producing, but over the last several months things have picked back up [in the taproom]. ... We usually see a dip in business in January, but in fact, January this year was pretty phenomenal for us."

#### Looking ahead

The Brewers Association's annual summer festival was canceled last July, but a couple of virtual or drive-thru events were held in its place to raise funds.

"We did the first one back in May, and I think we hit the timing just right because not everybody had suffered the whole Zoom burnout yet," Haines said. "We meet with all of the other brewers guilds and associations weekly, and they've all done one to two virtual events since the pandemic started. Their participation numbers for those virtual events have definitely dropped."

Instead of another virtual festival, Haines said, there are plans later this year to introduce a collaborative beer release among local breweries to benefit the Association.

With the launch of its new website earlier this year, Haines said the Brewers Association is now shifting away from its app in favor of a more user-friendly directory.

"There are all kinds of different search filters, so you can tell which breweries have outdoor seating, which breweries you can bring your dogs to, things like that," she said. "We're also going to be launching a new campaign on social media called 'Your Next beer is Here,' with the emphasis on the 'n' for next and the 'h' for here to highlight New Hampshire. So it's going to be a way to encourage people to get out and enjoy their next beer at a place not in their homes."

#### New Hampshire Craft Beer Week

**When:** Wednesday, April 7, through Saturday, April 17

**Where:** Various breweries statewide throughout the week; follow the New Hampshire Brewers Association on social media or visit their website for the most up-to-date details on special beer releases, events and more

**More info:** Visit [nhbrewers.org](http://nhbrewers.org) or find them on Facebook @nhcraftbeerweek



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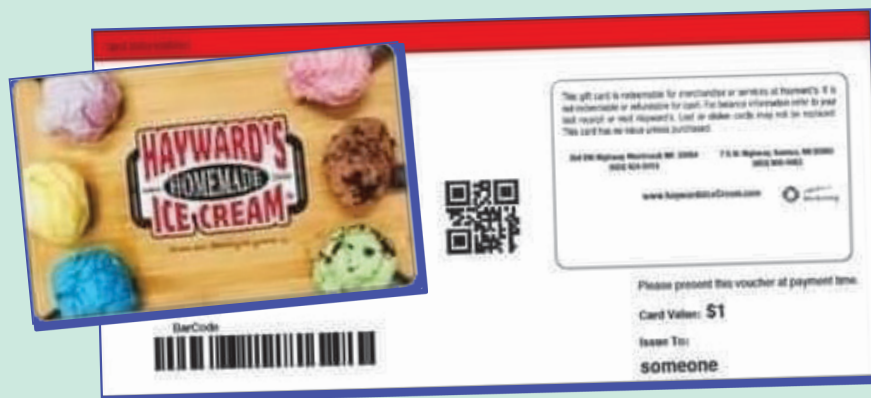
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**IN THE KITCHEN**



**WITH MADELINE ROSSI AND OLIVIA LENOX**

Madeline Rossi and her wife Olivia Lenox are the owners of New Roots Meals ([newrootsmeals.com](http://newrootsmeals.com), and on Facebook and Instagram @newrootsmeals), a Manchester-based company offering weekly deliveries of fresh plant-based items like sandwiches, salads, grain bowls, pastas, breakfasts and more. Even though both are from New England (Lenox from New Hampshire and Rossi from Connecticut), the couple met in Portland, Oregon, where Lenox had owned and operated a vegan food truck called Flourish. They eventually came to New Hampshire to be closer to family members, launching New Roots Meals as their newest business venture in October. Their menu changes every other week, but all items are 100-percent plant-based. They've done everything from Buffalo cauliflower wings and fried mushrooms to vegetable lo mein, Italian polenta bowls, yuca shepherd's pie and caprese quiches. Orders are accepted until 8 p.m. every Friday. All meals are cooked at Jerome's Deli in Manchester on Sundays, which Rossi and Lenox rent out as a commissary space. Free deliveries are made on Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., for all customers within a 30-mile radius of Manchester.



Madeline Rossi (left) and her wife Olivia Lenox (right).

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

**Madeline:** Our mandoline, which we use to thinly slice all our veggies.

**Olivia:** The Vitamix blender, because I like to make cheeses and sauces from scratch. I could probably record a commercial for them, I love it so much.

**What celebrity would you like to see ordering from New Roots Meals?**

**Madeline:** Definitely Lizzo, for sure!

**Olivia:** Yeah, let's just go with that.

**What has been your personal favorite menu item that you've offered?**

**Madeline:** The Korean barbecue cauliflower. I love having a lot of color in our dishes, and that one just came out really colorful and tasty.

**Olivia:** Mine is the quiche, which we sell whole or sometimes by the slice. The base for them is made with garbanzo bean flour.

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

**Olivia:** Avocado toast.

**Madeline:** Hot chocolate bombs, especially around Christmas. Loon Chocolate [in Manchester] has a vegan option.

**What is your favorite thing to make at home?**

**Madeline:** I love making vegan charcuterie plates often. I'll use crackers, maybe some kind of vegan sausage or cheese, and then whatever veggies we have in our fridge that we need to use up.

**Olivia:** I like to make soups that are miso-based, with cabbage or maybe carrots or mushrooms, some fresh cilantro and a lot of red pepper flakes and ginger.

— Matt Ingersoll

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**Beetroot hummus**

From the kitchen of Madeline Rossi and Olivia Lenox of New Roots Meals, [newrootsmeals.com](http://newrootsmeals.com)

- 1 can (1½ cups) chickpeas
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup cooked beets
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- Salt to taste

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. If using raw beets, dice them and place on a greased baking sheet. Salt beets, cover with foil and bake for 25 minutes. Add chickpeas, beets, water, lemon juice and garlic powder to a blender and blend on high. While ingredients are blending, pour in olive oil until you reach a smooth consistency, adding more olive oil if necessary. Salt to taste and enjoy.





# TRY THIS AT HOME

## Lemon blackberry bars

It's the beginning of April, and blackberries may not yet come to mind. Berries are the fruits of summer. But why not bring a little bit of the warmth and flavor of summer to early spring with this recipe?

For this recipe I do have a couple notes about the ingredients. When making these bars it is vital that you use fresh blackberries. Frozen blackberries will add too much moisture, possibly preventing the lemon layer from setting. Also, fresh lemon juice is highly recommended. You could replace it with bottled lemon juice, but I have two reasons as to why you shouldn't. One, freshly squeezed lemon juice has much more flavor than bottled. Two, you need a lemon or two for the zest anyway, so why not buy a couple more for a really vibrant dessert?

Once you have all your ingredients it is



Lemon blackberry bars. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

important to note that you'll need an extra couple hours before your dessert is ready to be served. Plan wisely! You need about an hour for the bars to cool to room temperature. Then, I would suggest giving them an hour in the refrigerator before serving. This allows the bars to become nicely firm, which will help with both serving and eating.

With proper ingredients and time allotted, you'll have a delightfully tart and sweet dessert to make you think of warmer days to come.

*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.* 🍷

### Lemon blackberry bars

Makes 20 bars

- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter chilled
- 1 1/4 cups old fashioned oats
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 tablespoons finely grated lemon zest
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice, about 4 lemons
- 2 large egg yolks
- 6 ounces fresh blackberries
- Powdered sugar, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Spray sides only of a 13"x9" baking pan.  
In a large mixing bowl combine flour, salt,

baking soda, and both sugars  
Cut butter into small pieces, and add to flour mixture.  
Using a pastry blender or two forks, cut in butter until it is the size of peas.  
Add the oats and vanilla and stir well.  
Press the mixture into the bottom of your baking pan.  
Bake for 20 minutes.  
While the crust is baking, mix together the condensed milk, lemon zest, lemon juice, and egg yolks.  
Remove crust from oven; pour lemon mixture over the crust.  
Sprinkle blackberries over the lemon mixture; press down gently to cover.  
Bake for an additional 20-22 minutes. (Lemon mixture should feel firm to the touch.)  
Let cool completely, then refrigerate.  
Optional: before serving, sprinkle each slice with powdered sugar.



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**FOOD**



**DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD**

**Spring Sunshine**

So, apparently, it's springtime. The snow is gone. We've switched over to daylight saving time. My road is a morass of muddy ruts. The air smells like fresh soil and stale dreams.

I like to think I'm jaded and world-weary, but I'm not immune to spring.

I've been giving my wife what passes for a saucy look. I've been practicing smiling knowingly and raising one eyebrow, which is much harder than it looks. Every time I think I've got it nailed, my wife will ask me if I'm feeling OK.

"What?" I ask. "Don't I look sexy?"

"More like constipated," she replies.

In my book, that must mean it's Cocktail Time.

There are, of course, several cocktails that we associate with springtime — mint juleps, for instance, or creative hipster drinks infused with snap peas, or variations on summer drinks named after flowers, honeysuckle margaritas or hyacinth highballs, maybe.

Personally, I've been pretty fond of a Sunshine cocktail lately — a classic made with equal parts white rum, pineapple juice, dry vermouth and hope, with a small amount of grenadine for color and sweetness. It is bracing, not too sweet, and a lovely rosy-orange color. It is thoroughly delightful. And yet....

As much as I like a blisteringly cold Sunshine, as delicious as it is, it doesn't taste very spring-ish. The flavors all go together well, and it looks lovely and respectable, but it's restrained and self-contained. It wears a tie and a vest and tips the staff generously but reasonably. It greets you with a firm handshake and asks after your family. It does not dash through the wildflowers, strewing rose petals and singing, "Hey, Nonny, Nonny," on its way to meet a secret lover. It doesn't demonstrate enough questionable judgment, in my opinion.

So let's mess around with a classic cocktail that's just minding its own business and not hurting anybody.

White rum is a good base for a drink. It doesn't have a pronounced flavor, which makes it a good starting point for a cocktail that won't offend anyone — vodka with a passport. (In fact, I made some dynamite banana-infused rum last week with white rum that would — but I digress.) Since we're looking to put some backbone into our spring cocktail, let's swap out the white rum for golden rum — not too dark — something caramel-colored that knows who it is. In this case, I'm using Rhum Clement, but anything golden will work.

I'm leaving the dry vermouth as is. It is a solid utility player that can support the rum.

Maybe the biggest change I'm going to make is swapping out the pineapple juice for passionfruit cocktail. We've talked about this before; you'll find it in the juice aisle at the supermarket,

probably just out of reach on the top shelf. It's like pineapple juice, if PJ was perfumy and slightly dangerous-tasting.

Let's replace the grenadine with homemade strawberry syrup. The strawberry goes well with the passionfruit cocktail and is a little more springy.

I'll leave the hope as is.

**Effulgence Cocktail**

(I looked it up in a thesaurus, and it's a synonym for sunshine. I like the sound of it.)

- 1½ ounces golden rum
- 1½ ounces dry vermouth
- 1½ ounces passionfruit cocktail
- ½ ounce homemade strawberry syrup (see below)

Combine all ingredients in a shaker half-filled with ice.

Strain into a chilled coupé glass.

Drink while making direct eye contact with a stranger.

This tastes similar to its cousin Sunshine, but with a few striking differences. The Effulgence's golden rum is firmly in the driver's seat. It lets you know who you're dealing with, but it also lets you know that it is a professional and knows what it's doing. The passionfruit adds a note of exotic devil-may-care vernality. The vermouth and the strawberry are background singers in this very nice spring-like mixed metaphor of a cocktail. Hey, nonny, nonny.

**Strawberry syrup**

- An undetermined quantity of frozen strawberries (Make as much or as little of this recipe as you like. The frozen berries will give up their juice more willingly than fresh ones; they've had their hearts broken by ice crystals.)
- An equal amount (by weight) of sugar

Heat berries and sugar in a small saucepan.

As the berries thaw and start to give up their juice, mash them with a potato masher.

Bring to a boil (to allow the sugar to dissolve completely), then remove from heat.

Cool, then strain into a small bottle and label.

Eat the remaining berry jam left in the strainer on toast or chocolate ice cream.

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



Effulgence Cocktail. Photo by John Fladd.

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# Spring rosés

Time to stop and sip the wine

By Fred Matuszewski  
food@hippypress.com

It's spring and perhaps Mother Nature may cooperate and provide us with continued spring-like weather. The sun warms the soil, the snow banks are receding, and a few trees are already beginning to set buds. The perfect pairing for springtime fare is a chilled rosé wine.

Our first wine is an Italian sparkling rosé, **Val d'Oca Extra Dry Sparkling Rosé**, originally priced at \$15.99, reduced to \$7.99 at the NH Liquor & Wine Outlets. It is a bright sparkling wine with a light pink color and floral, strawberry and raspberry aromas. The nose of the wine carries through to the palate, with a short but pleasant finish. This is a wine that is perfect as an aperitif or with fresh seafood or grilled fish. It is also ideal to be served opposite soft, young cheeses. Produced in Veneto, the northeast region of Italy and home to prosecco, this wine is also made from the glera grape, used in the production of prosecco. But added to the glera grapes are pinot noir grapes, bringing along their color and a fuller mouth to enhance the wine. Val d'Oca is under the Cantina Produttori di Valdobbiadene, a group of nearly 600 growers within about 2,500 acres of vineyards. The making of this wine consists of separate vinification for the glera grapes and the pinot noir grapes, including soft pressing and fermentation for the glera grapes and red maceration for the pinot noir grapes. Blending of the two happens before the second fermentation, employing the Charmat method (trapping bubbles in the wine via its own carbonation in large, cool steel tanks).

Our next two wines hail from the south of France.

**Château Montaud Côtes De Provence 2019 Rosé** (originally priced at \$17.99, reduced

to \$12.99 at the NH Liquor & Wine Outlets) has a pink color approaching amber. It has a subtle nose, but to the mouth there are notes of peach, strawberry and citrus, followed by a mineral finish. It is refreshingly both smooth and crisp. It pairs well with vegetarian, fish, shellfish, pork and poultry, quite a diverse offering. This wine may not be complicated, but it is still lovely and can go beyond a dinner pairing wine to one that is enjoyed on the deck or patio in the warm spring sunshine with some cheese. This wine is a blend of grenache, cinsault, syrah and mourvedre.

**Gérard Bertrand 2019 Cote Des Rosé** (originally priced at \$17.99, reduced to \$15.99 at the NH Liquor & Wine Outlets) is from the Languedoc region in the south of France, just west of Provence. Bordering Catalonia Spain and the Pyrenees Mountains, the region is known as the largest wine-growing region in the world and produces one third of France's wines. It has a soft coppery-pink color and a nose of cassis and red currant, along with some floral notes. The palate is light, but with a ripe fruit character and some spiciness. Citric notes provide a lengthy feel and interest to the mouth. A blend of grenache, syrah and cinsault, this wine is different from the Pierrefeu rosé. There is more acid to the tongue, coupled with a taste of oak and tangerine rind.

Any, or all, of these rosés are a great way to celebrate spring.

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

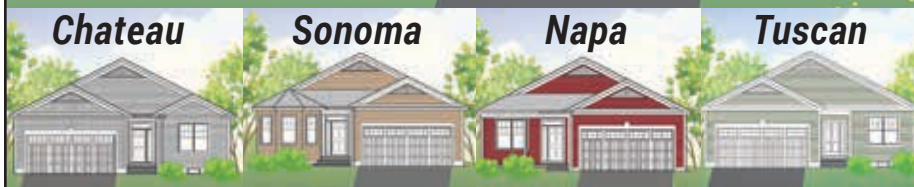


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## CDs pg36

- Dan Blake, *Da Fé* B+
- Jazz WORMS, *Squirmin'*

A+

## BOOKS pg37

- *Klara and the Sun* A

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 pg38

- *The Father* A

Dan Blake, *Da Fé* (Sunnyside Records)

Fourth full-length from band-leader Blake, a Brooklyn-based sax player and board member of Buddhist Global Relief here busying himself at contributing something to the full slate of activist movements, including Extinction Rebellion, the Poor People's Campaign and Show Up for Racial Justice. Sound-wise, Blake tries to emulate 1980s-era Wayne Shorter, and does make a good go of it when things get chaotically urban; you can practically smell the fried asphalt cooling outside. Doesn't start out that way, though; in the

message-sending prologue ("A New Normal") pianist Carmen Staaf introduces the record with a slow, menacing solo bit whose augmented feel is fit for an old Vincent Price horror movie. It'll be a bit unsettling to listeners who show up here for the sizzling, stubbornly retro vibes that take hold for pretty much the remainder. Things get the most animated during "The Grifter" (now who on Earth might that be referring to); the band lopes along like a herd of jacked-up gazelles in that boss move. "Doctor Armchair" is the obligato skronk workout. **B+** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Jazz WORMS, *Squirmin'* (Capri Records)

I suppose it's a given that every major city has a best jazz band in residence, and this five-piece ("WORMS" is an acronym that collects the first letters of the last names of the band members) is Denver's. Coronet, piano and sax are the major instrumental components here, intertwining nicely in order to table '60s-ish post-bop-ish advanced lounge stuff that's simultaneously feel-good and mildly challenging. I know, I know, that pretty much describes approximately seven billion working jazz bands currently in business, but

man, these guys are a lot of fun, even when they're engaging in a workable level of skronk (basically minimal, praise Allah) and allow each member to stretch out without letting things get too wonky or drag on for any uncomfortable amount of time. Lots of experience in this 34-year-old band, including coronet guy Ron Miles' bandleader releases on the Blue Note label. Just a terrific record all around. **A+** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

## PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• April 2 will bring our ears new albums, and hopefully some actual hints of actual summer, after this long Covid winter of going quietly insane! We will start with **Godspeed You! Black Emperor**, whose new album, *G\_d's Pee AT STATES END*, is on the way! I know nothing about them except for the fact that they're from Montreal, Canada, and there are nine members. So, ipso facto, even though they claim to be into "space rock" (a made-up genre that means drone-y psychedelic rock), I'll bet this stuff sucks, because all the band members are, of course, white and quite privileged-looking, and there are, repeat, nine members, and one of 'em plays a fiddle. As well, the band is named after an obscure Japanese movie (so edgy!). Get all that? I am expecting pure horror and barfing as I proceed to the next step of this little write-up, the bit where I actually submit my ears to this unlistenable nonsense. Ready? OMG, this all just got even worse. The teaser song is called, and I quote, "4521.0kHz 6730.0kHz 4109.09kHz." It is a nonsense song that sounds like noise from a transistor radio that has super-bad reception. No, I'm serious, and one of the whopping *seven* people who left a comment on the YouTube for this idiocy exclaimed, "I cannot express with words how exited [sic] I am for this." For my part, I am very excited to exit this part of our show.

• Since we're on the subject of godspeeding and whatnot, I would also like to bring up an album that I'm sort of excited about, **Glassegas' Godspeed**, which will probably be decent, but there's always the chance that it will disappoint and I won't invite them to my Slip n Slide party when it gets warm! The band is from Scotland, and in the past they've done some right smart shoegaze-goth music. I just checked in with the second single, "Dying To Live," which has been around for several months already, while the band got their act together enough to release the album. This is like a cross between U2's first album and, I don't know, probably Sisters Of Mercy. I like the tune, even if all it does is wander around acting edgy and not settling on any real melodic line. Your pet toucan might like it, who knows.

• **Flock of Dimes**, a Baltimore singer lady whose real name is Jenn Wasner, has played with Bon Iver and Wye Oak, and thus she is the most important musician in history in the eyes of people who love that kind of music (I don't). This project's third album, *Head of Roses*, is on my examination table, and boy, the new single, "Two," sounds kind of like PJ Harvey trying to make something out of a chintzy Figurine cheese-techno line. Eventually it's successful, but jeez, come on, people.

• To wrap up the week we have **Du Blonde**, the nom-de-stage of English musician Beth Jeans Houghton, who is also an artist, animator and video director, as well as a frequent wearer of belly shirts; she's directed and animated music videos for Red Hot Chili Peppers and Ezra Furman, among others. Her third Du Blonde album is called *Homecoming*. In the video for the single "Medicated," she has Kiss-style Gene Simmons makeup on, and it's totally no-wave and grungy and spooky, but aimless. At least it's irritating, thank heaven. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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***Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro (Knopf, 303 pages)**

If you tell Alexa to turn on your lights, have named a Roomba or asked Siri to navigate around the Suez Canal, you already have a sense of what it's like to have an "artificial friend."

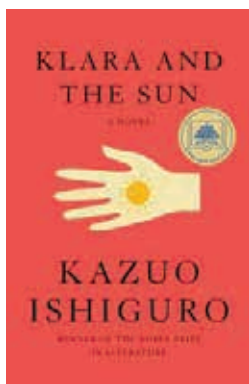
However, while we readily embraced using artificial intelligence to do work for us, we've been more hesitant to rush along the path where this ultimately leads, where "social robots"—robots that serve primarily as companions—await. Social robots already exist, of course, but they mostly look like toys, even ones like ElliQ that have been designed to serve as companions to the elderly. But in his eighth novel, Kazuo Ishiguro leaps ahead to a time in which artificial friends (or AFs) are commonplace in our homes, not for seniors, but for children and teens.

The world of *Klara and the Sun* is not quite a dystopia but feels like one, as children have been divided into groups of "lifted" and "unlifted," learn from home on devices called "oblongs" and get together sporadically in formal "interaction meetings" so they can learn to get along with their peers.

In this world exists Klara, an AF who narrates the story, first from the store where she waits to be purchased, where she is already a generation behind the newest models. Although as a B2, fourth series, model, Klara is not as technologically advanced as the latest B3s, she is extraordinarily sensitive and observant and the store manager considers her to have the most "sophisticated understanding" of any of the AFs in the store.

She is, in a way, like Good Janet from the TV show *The Good Place*—human looking, or at least human enough, yet robotically "off," speaking as if English was a third or fourth language, while constantly processing new information. After brief interactions with a teen who is interested in her, Klara can give the girl's eye color (gray), the pitch of her voice (a "range between A-flat above Middle C to C octave") and identify a weakness she notes in the girl's left hip.

She can not only "think" but also feel and philosophize, as when she says this of a bull she spots in a field: "Its face, its horns, its cold eyes watching me all brought fear into my mind, but I felt something more, something stranger and deeper. At that moment it felt to me some great error had been made that the creature should be allowed to stand in the Sun's pattern at all, that this bull belonged somewhere deep in the ground far within the mud and darkness."



The girl with the weak hip is Josie, and she feels a bond to Klara and after several visits convinces her mother to buy Klara. Klara is happy, inasmuch as AFs can be happy—indeed, that is one of the intriguing

questions that runs through the novel—how much, if at all, AI can acquire of the human heart and its emotions. But soon, she realizes that there is more wrong with Josie than the physical weakness she detected in the girl's hip and shoulder.

Josie, it is gradually revealed, is suffering from a worsening illness that appears to have been caused by something her mother did when deciding whether to "lift" her daughter through some sort of genetic editing. She is desperate to help Josie, as she has already lost another daughter to illness and a husband to divorce. Josie's father is among the "Post-Employed" (presumably displaced by all the robots in a radical reshuffling of society) and now lives in a community enamored of fascism.

Klara is not Josie's only friend; she is also close to a teenage boy named Rick, who lives nearby with his mother. When Klara, who runs on solar power, decides to help Josie by asking the sun for his help, Rick helps Klara, as much as she will allow him. But to Klara, the sun is essentially God, a mysterious but occasionally benevolent being whose "nourishment" bestows energy and healing. She makes a short pilgrimage to where she believes the sun goes to rest, to strike a deal with him in order to ask for Josie's healing.

This simple act of faith sets into motion a series of events that are not overtly religious but still evoke ancient stories of sacrifice and redemption. (Also, it's hard not to puzzle over Ishiguro's intentions when the conversation involves "the Father" and "the Sun.") But that is but one layer of many in this fine-grained examination of what could well be a realistic future for many people who are alive today. It's much easier to imagine a Klara than it was a time-traveling DeLorean. The Klaras are not here, but they are unnervingly near. What will become of them, and of us, is worth contemplation, maybe while taking in the nourishment of the sun. **A**

—Jennifer Graham

#### Books

##### Author events

• **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.

• **MICHAEL TOUGIAS** Author of *The Waters Between Us* presents. Virtual, via Zoom. Part of Concord's Walker Lecture Series. Wed., April 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. Call 333-0035 or visit walkerlecture.org.

• **SCOTT WEIDENSAUL** Author presents *A World on the Wing*. Tues., April 20, 7 p.m. The

Music Hall, Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Tickets cost \$46. Visit themusicall.org or call 436-2400.

• **ERIN BOWMAN** Author presents *Dustborn*. Hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Virtual, via Zoom. Tues., April 20, 7 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsons-bookstore.com or call 224-0562.

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**The Father (PG-13)**

**Anthony Hopkins is heartbreaking and Olivia Colman is heartbroken in *The Father*, a sad but excellent movie that is nominated for six Oscars.**

Anthony (Hopkins) is a retired man living in London and Anne (Colman) is his daughter — this much feels certain. But, after a fight with yet another caregiver, has Anthony gone to live with Anne or has she come to live with him? And is it just her sharing the apartment with the increasingly agitated Anthony, who feels certain she's trying to wrest his flat from him, or is her husband (maybe Mark Gatiss or maybe Rufus Sewell) there as well? Anthony and the patient if increasingly despondent Anne frequently butt heads, leading Anthony to tell whomever's around how much better he gets along with his other daughter Lucy — but Anne's silence whenever Lucy is mentioned suggests that there's more to her absence than just a busy schedule.

That Anthony is constantly losing his watch may sometimes feel a little too nail on the head for his lost grip on time — he relives moments over again and forgets who people are or how long it's been since he's seen them last. He is a man grasping at sand and still sinking. The movie (and Hopkins' strong performance) lets us feel his confusion, frustration and sense of complete disorientation. The story has the build of a psychological mystery thriller and works even though we understand what the mystery is that



*The Father*

Anthony seems unable to unravel. Likewise, Colman puts us inside of Anne's grief. Her love for her father, their relationship difficulties, her frustration with his limitations, her conflicted thoughts about what is truly best for him (and for her) — we can see all of this, often just from a look on Colman's face or the way her eyebrows raise during a smile. The very last time she's on screen, she gives this little nod that does the work of a whole speech.

*The Father* is not a fun movie but it is exceptionally well-made and so well-performed that it is an engrossing watch even when it is aching-ly sad. **A**

Rated PG-13 for some strong language and thematic material, according to the MPA at [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Florian Zeller with a screenplay by Christopher Hampton and Florian Zeller (from the play of the same name by Zeller), *The Father* is an hour and 37 minutes long and is distributed by Sony Pictures Classics. It is screening in theaters (including via Red River Theatres' virtual cinema) and available for rent.

**ESPECIALLY SPECIAL EFFECTS**

The Oscar's visual effects nominees offer some good examples of films that were able to transcend the "TV-ness" of 2020.

Because the nominees provide great answers to "what should we watch tonight?" I'm spending the pre-awards ceremony (on April 25) weeks running through this year's nominees. I previously discussed two of the visual effects nominees — *Tenet* (available for purchase and coming to HBO Max on May 1) and *Mulan* (available on Disney+ and for purchase). Both wowed with their visuals, *Mulan* perhaps more for costuming (for which it's also nominated) and set design. *Tenet*'s coolest element is its use of characters traveling in opposite directions through time in the same scene (and if that makes no sense, buckle up for the "time travel and stuff"-ness of this movie), which would probably make it my pick in this category.

Other visual effects nominees:

- ***Love and Monsters*** It's so cool this sweet, sorta silly creature movie/love story got a nomination. A 20-something guy hikes through some 80 miles of a monster-infested California to see the girl he's loved since high school in this fun, sort of optimistic movie with an "end of the world" premise. The monsters are pretty well-rendered too. The fun movie night movie is available for rent or purchase.

- ***The Midnight Sky*** I can see why this total bummer of a George Clooney movie received a nomination: It features bleakly beautiful shots of the Arctic (where Clooney's scientist is the final remaining human — maybe) as well as a storyline that takes place on a spaceship with occasional scenes of weightlessness and space-walks. But

I have a hard time recommending this downbeat end-of-the-world movie (available on Netflix, if you're in just too good a mood).



- ***The One and Only Ivan*** This Disney+ family live action film (or, you know, "live action" since the photo-realistic animals are CGI creations, according to a New York Times story) is based on the true story of a gorilla named Ivan who made art. The Ivan here (voiced by Sam Rockwell) is the star attraction in a fading mall circus run by human Mack (Bryan Cranston) and filled with other animals (voiced by the likes of Helen Mirren, Phillipa Soo, Chaka Khan, Ron Funches and Danny DeVito). This older elementary family movie is probably adequately entertaining for family movie night (despite some moments of sadness with sick moms and poachers and the like).

I discussed where to find best picture and best animated feature nominees and the films that received acting nominations in the March 18 issue and last week (March 25) tackled most of the other "mainstream movie" categories. (Find them all at [hippypress.com](https://hippypress.com).) Programming updates: Red River Theatres in Concord now has multi-category nominee *The Father* available via its virtual cinema as well as fellow nominees *Minari* and *Collective*. Nominated short films may be available as well starting April 2.

— Amy Diaz

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# THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Maine man:** Even with a socially distanced crowd, comedian **Bob Marley** can fill a room with laughter. From his *Upta Camp* jokes to riffs on his home life, like inventing nonexistent tools and terms to weasel his way out of home repair jobs, Marley is a top draw in the region. never doing the same show twice. He made the Guinness Book of World Records a while back for longest set — no repeats. Thursday, April 1, at 5 and 8:30 p.m., Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets \$36.50 at anselm.edu.

• **Sing along:** When he's not performing as one half of Acoustic BS, **Shane Hooker** plays solo gigs like one upcoming at a New Boston restaurant and bar. Hooker has a wide range of material to draw from; he played with the heavy rock band GFY in college, and can really liven up songs like Sister Hazel's "All For You." His band's name, in case the question came up, is a combination of his and mate Bob Fillion's first names' initials. Friday, April 2, 5 p.m., Molly's Tavern, 35 Mont Vernon Road, New Boston, facebook.com/shane.hooker.

• **Guitar magic:** Enjoy Easter brunch and tasteful music from **Phil Jakes**, a guitarist who lets his instrument speak instead of vocalizing. He gives expression to songs like 10cc's "I'm Not In Love" and Tool's "Sober" that reveal them in ways not heard in the originals. The only thing more enjoyable than listening to Jakes' intricate arrangements is watching his fretwork, fingers fluidly moving up and down his custom guitar's neck. Sunday, April 4, 11 a.m., Copper Door, 41 South Broadway, Salem, facebook.com/philmacrakken.

• **Game playing:** Those looking to flaunt their College of Musical Knowledge bona fides will enjoy **Music Bingo**. Patrons receive a card with 25 squares, a DJ from Florida-based Musical Bingo Nation starts playing songs, everyone listens carefully to a short snippet and crosses off matches, until someone gets five in a row and jumps up to yell (or sing) the winning phrase. Wednesday, April 7, 8 p.m., Shoppers Pub at Indian Head, 18 Lake Ave., Manchester, more at shoppersmht.com.

# NITE

## Staying live

Playing through, and past, the pandemic

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

If a Concord bar is offering live music, there's always the possibility that Andy Laliotis will get involved. He's a member of several groups, and a regular presence at open mic nights. If a friend is playing, he's always ready to jump on stage and jam.

The guitarist is a Capital City native and musical mainstay, dating back to his early days with Lamont Smooth, a band that marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. He's part of several other acts; currently, they include Grateful Dead channeling Blue Light Rain, the roots acoustic Diamond Joe and Menthol Rain, which formed, then folded, at the end of 2020.

"Covid lasted longer than that band did," Laliotis said in a recent phone interview. "It's too bad, man; we were sounding good. Mostly, we were playing a lot of covers. It didn't work out, but I'll be playing with some of those guys again soon, so maybe we can talk about getting together again."

A hunger to play defines Laliotis, and it's managed to keep him busy during the pandemic. Between Penuche's Ale House, Area 23, and the occasional Manchester show, there were gigs enough to keep him sane — but just barely.

"It's been a core group of guys getting together," he said. "With weather hopefully getting nice and the vaccine happening, there's hope we can get out there and play more and more. But it's been a lot of duo shows."

On April 10, a power trio version of Lamont Smooth will perform at Penuche's — Laliotis, his brother Chris and Scott Seeley, the band's original bass player. They're listed on the bar's chalkboard schedule under an alias.

"Maybe there's a little too much confidence in what we can do, but it is limited capacity," Laliotis said. In later months, "we

look forward to getting back at it with the full band again — we're a six-piece."

In February the band contributed a 15-minute video to Bank of NH Stage's Local Band Mixer, part of the venue's Mud Season Sampler. Concord performers Dusty Gray Band, The Special Guests with Lucas Gallo, Mal-lory Weiss, Andrew North & the Rangers, Supernothing, Will Hatch & Co, Bosey Joe, Trade, and Ehyric & B.Snair all appeared.

"We had to be in and out in an hour," Laliotis said, "but it's actually good to be in there again playing."

A fresh outbreak of Covid cases in the state caused the cancellation of a scheduled Blue Light Rain show at Bank of NH Stage in early December.

Lamont Smooth will also do an outdoor show at Area 23 on May 8. He's a big fan of the out-of-the-way Concord tap room and restaurant, which hosts local performers several times each week. Venue owner Kirk McNeil "helped us a lot last summer, booking us a bunch of times with different acts," he said. "You get so used to playing a lot of shows and when it's gone, that creative outlet all the other stresses in life kind of build up on you, you know?"

Consistent with his ubiquity, Laliotis will join Jared Steer and Friends a week after the Lamont Smooth show at Penuche's on Saturday, April 17.

"We'll be doing Dead and Jerry Garcia Band, as well as other stuff," he said.

His Dead tribute is in its 13th year.

"I get to make a set list of my favorite tunes, and it's good to be playing with my friend Rob [Farquhar], who's the original bass player," Laliotis said. "When we started, it was supposed to be a one-off gig, but it just stuck."

Blue Light Rain also provides Laliotis with a chance to play with another musical brother, George — Lamont Smooth's original drummer and a big reason he found music as a teenager.



Andy Laliotis. Photo by Cory MacEachern Ghelli.

"He picked up the guitar and I was around," he said, "then I started getting more and more into going to shows."

Lamont Smooth released one album, in 2003, and Laliotis has hopes of returning to the studio for a follow-up.

"There are so many songs we haven't even touched," he said.

The band's eponymous record is on TouchTunes, a digital jukebox that's in every Waffle House in the country, among other places. It's surprisingly popular, even now, Laliotis said.

"I get random texts from people all over the country saying that they played it in North Carolina or somewhere else, because it's in boxes all across the country," he said. "It's pretty wild." 🍷

### Andy & Chris Laliotis and Scott Seeley

**When:** Saturday, April 10, 8 p.m.

**Where:** Penuche's Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord

**More:** \$15 at headlinerscomedyclub.com

*Andy Laliotis appears with Jared Steer & Friends at Penuche's on Saturday, April 17*

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# MUSIC THIS WEEK

<b>Auburn</b> <b>Auburn Pitts</b> 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	<b>Concord Craft Brewing</b> 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	<b>Sea Dog Brewery</b> 9 Water St.	<b>Smuttnose Brewing</b> 105 Towle Farm Road	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop Restaurant &amp; Tavern</b> 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	<b>South Side Tavern</b> 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	<b>Fratello's Italian Grille</b> 194 Main St. 889-2022	<b>Thirsty Moose Taphouse</b> 21 Congress St. 427-8645
<b>Auburn Tavern</b> 346 Hooksett Road 587-2057	<b>Penuche's Ale House</b> 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle</b> 25 Main St. 497-8230	<b>Wally's Pub</b> 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	<b>Stumble Inn</b> 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	<b>Strange Brew</b> 88 Market St. 666-4292	<b>Liquid Therapy</b> 14 Court St. 402-9391	<b>Rochester</b> <b>110 Grill</b> 136 Marketplace Blvd. 948-1270
<b>Bedford</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	<b>Deerfield</b> <b>The Lazy Lion</b> 4 North Road	<b>Hampton</b> <b>Bogie's</b> 32 Depot Square 601-2319	<b>WHYM Craft Pub &amp; Brewery</b> 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery</b> 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	<b>Thirsty Moose Tap-house</b> 795 Elm St. 792-2337	<b>Millyard Brewery</b> 25 E Otterson St. 722-0104	<b>Mitchell Hill BBQ Grill &amp; Brew</b> 50 N. Main St. 332-2537
<b>Bow</b> <b>Chen Yang Li</b> 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	<b>Dover</b> <b>SmuttLabs</b> 47 Washington St. 343-1782	<b>Community Oven</b> 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	<b>Hudson</b> <b>The Bar</b> 2B Burnham Road	<b>Bonfire</b> 950 Elm St. 663-7678	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Hart's Turkey Farm</b> 223 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-6212	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23</b> State Street 881-9060	<b>Epping</b> <b>The Community Oven</b> 24 Calef Hwy. 734-4543	<b>The Goat</b> 20 L St. 601-6928	<b>Kingston</b> <b>Saddle Up Saloon</b> 92 Route 125 369-6962	<b>Cerle National Club</b> 550 Rockland Ave. 623-8243	<b>Twin Barns Brewing</b> 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
<b>Cheers</b> 17 Depot St. 228-0180	<b>Telly's Restaurant &amp; Pizzeria</b> 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	<b>Shane's BBQ</b> 61 High St. 601-7091	<b>Laconia</b> <b>405 Pub &amp; Grille</b> 405 Union St.	<b>Derryfield Country Club</b> 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead</b> 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>The Striker</b> 15 Bow St. 431-5222	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop Pub</b> 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly Brewing</b> 156 Epping Road 583-5080		<b>High Octane Saloon</b> 1072 Watson Road 527-8116	<b>The Foundry</b> 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	<b>Nashua</b> <b>American Social Club</b> 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	<b>The Goat</b> 142 Congress St. 590-4628	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
				<b>Fratello's</b> 155 Dow St. 624-2022	<b>Casey McGee's Irish Pub</b> 8 Temple St. 484-7400	<b>The Statey Bar &amp; Grill</b> 238 Deer St. 431-4357	<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate Tavern</b> 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
				<b>Penuche's Music Hall</b> 1087 Elm St. 932-2868			

## Thursday, April 1

<b>Auburn</b> <b>Auburn Pitts:</b> Acoustic Moxie, 7 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Emily Shively, 7 p.m.
<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Drum Circle, 7 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> open mic with Brian Burnout, 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> David Corson, 5:30 p.m. <b>Penuche's:</b> DJ Stix & Friendz, 9 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Lewis Godwin, 8 p.m.
<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Austin McCarthy, 7 p.m.	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Hart's:</b> Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.
<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Todd Hearon, 5 p.m. <b>Sea Dog:</b> Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Chris Gardner, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Yamica and Nate Comp Duo, 6 p.m.	<b>Nashua</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> Jessica Olson, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> The Last Duo, 6 p.m. <b>Wally's:</b> ladies night with DJ BearKilla, 8 p.m.	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church:</b> Paul Jarvis, 6 p.m.
<b>Kingston</b> <b>Saddle Up Saloon:</b> karaoke with DJ Jason Whitney, 7 p.m.	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>The Striker:</b> George & Louise Belli dinner & music, 7 p.m.

## Friday, April 2

<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Side Peace, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Rochester</b> <b>110 Grill:</b> Patio season kickoff party with music from Michael Scharff, 5 p.m. <b>Mitchell BBQ:</b> Game Time Trivia, 6 p.m.
<b>Deerfield</b> <b>Lazy Lion:</b> Tequila Jim, 5 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.
<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly:</b> Qwill, 5 p.m.	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Rose Kula, 6 p.m.	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern:</b> Shane Hooker, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Hampton</b> <b>CR's:</b> The Last Duo, 6 p.m. <b>Wally's:</b> Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop:</b> Tapedeck Heroez, 6:30 p.m. ('80s classic rock/modern rock)
<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Ted Solo, 6 p.m. <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Jessica Olson, 8 p.m.	<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate Tavern:</b> Elijah Clark, 7 p.m.

<b>Foundry:</b> Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Lewis Goodwin, 8 p.m. <b>Strange Brew:</b> David Rousseau, 9 p.m.	<b>Concord Craft Brewing:</b> Chad Verbeck, 4 p.m.
<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Malcolm Salls, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Deerfield</b> <b>Lazy Lion:</b> Chris Torrey, 5 p.m.
<b>Nashua</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> Tim Kierstead, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> <b>Community Oven:</b> Randy Hawkes, 6 p.m. <b>Telly's:</b> Johnny Angel, 8 p.m.
<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern:</b> Shane Hooker, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly Brewing:</b> Heard Immunity (Wayne and Glenn of Irish Whiskey), 1 p.m.; Artty Francouer, 5 p.m.
<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop:</b> Tapedeck Heroez, 6:30 p.m. ('80s classic rock/modern rock)	<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.
<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate Tavern:</b> Elijah Clark, 7 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>Wally's:</b> Chris Toler, 8:30 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.
	<b>Kingston</b> <b>Saddle Up Saloon:</b> Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.
	<b>Laconia</b> <b>405 Pub &amp; Grille:</b> Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.

<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Side Peace, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Cerle National Club:</b> Justin Jordan, 7 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 7:30 p.m. <b>The Foundry:</b> Alex Cohen, 6 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Doug Thomspson, 5:30 p.m. <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.
<b>Deerfield</b> <b>Lazy Lion:</b> Chris Torrey, 5 p.m.	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Twin Barns Brewing:</b> Music Bingo, 6 p.m.
<b>Epping</b> <b>Community Oven:</b> Randy Hawkes, 6 p.m. <b>Telly's:</b> Johnny Angel, 8 p.m.	<b>Nashua</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m. <b>Millyard Brewery:</b> Corey Zwart, 4 p.m.
<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly Brewing:</b> Heard Immunity (Wayne and Glenn of Irish Whiskey), 1 p.m.; Artty Francouer, 5 p.m.	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern:</b> Travis Rollo, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church:</b> Skull & Roses, 5 p.m.
<b>Hampton</b> <b>Wally's:</b> Chris Toler, 8:30 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>The Statey:</b> Dave Gerard, 7 p.m. <b>Thirsty Moose:</b> Munk Duane, 9 p.m.
<b>Kingston</b> <b>Saddle Up Saloon:</b> Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Porter's Pub:</b> Max Sullivan, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Laconia</b> <b>405 Pub &amp; Grille:</b> Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop:</b> One Fine Mess, 7 p.m.

<b>Concord</b> <b>Area 23:</b> Side Peace, 7 p.m. <b>Cheers:</b> team trivia, 8:30 p.m.	<b>Deerfield</b> <b>Lazy Lion:</b> Chris Torrey, 5 p.m.
<b>Epping</b> <b>Community Oven:</b> Randy Hawkes, 6 p.m. <b>Telly's:</b> Johnny Angel, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Sawbelly Brewing:</b> Heard Immunity (Wayne and Glenn of Irish Whiskey), 1 p.m.; Artty Francouer, 5 p.m.
<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>Wally's:</b> Chris Toler, 8:30 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Hampton</b> <b>Wally's:</b> Chris Toler, 8:30 p.m. <b>WHYM:</b> Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Kingston</b> <b>Saddle Up Saloon:</b> Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.
<b>Laconia</b> <b>405 Pub &amp; Grille:</b> Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Joanie Cikatelli, 6 p.m. <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Alex Roy, 8 p.m.
<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Joanie Cikatelli, 6 p.m. <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Alex Roy, 8 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Andrew Geano, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> Eric Grant Band, 8 p.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).



**NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, April 4**

**Bedford**  
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Bob Pratte, 3:30 pm.

**Manchester**  
Strange Brew: jam

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

**Newmarket**  
Stone Church: Mary Fagan, 10 a.m.

**Portsmouth**  
The Striker: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.

**Salem**  
Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11 a.m.

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

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

**Nashua**  
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
Red's: Trivia at the Tavern hosted by DJ Zati, 9 p.m.

**Monday, April 5**

**Hampton**  
The Goat: musical bingo, 7 p.m.; Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

**COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND**

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

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

**Dana Center**  
Saint Anselm College  
100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, anselm.edu

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

**Shows**  
• **Laugh Thursdays Showcase Comedy Series** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, April 1, 8 p.m.  
• **Bob Marley** Dana Center, Thursday, April 1, at 5:30 & 8 p.m., Friday, April 2, at 5:30 & 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 3, at 3 p.m.  
• **Mark Scalia** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m.  
• **Brian Glowacki** Chunky's Pelham, Saturday, April 3, 8 p.m.  
• **Laugh Thursdays Showcase Comedy Series** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, April 8, 8 p.m.  
• **God Is A Scottish Drag Queen** comedy experience via Cap Center, Thursday, April 8, and Friday, April 9, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 10, at 2 p.m.  
• **Kelly MacFarland** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10, 8 p.m.  
• **Mark Riley** Chunky's Nashua, Friday, April 9, or Saturday, April 10, 8 p.m.  
• **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey, Saturday, April 10, 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.

**Film**

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

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

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

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

**Shows**  
• **Red River Virtual Cinema** Red River Theatres is currently offering indie, foreign language and documentary films via a virtual cinema experience including Oscar nominees *The Father*, *Collective* and *Minari*. A note on Red River's facebook page said the Oscar short film nominees will be available on April 2. See the-changing lineup on the website.  
• **War Horse** National Theatre Live production of the play available virtually through Cap Center March 31 through April 6. Tickets cost \$15.  
• **Beverly Hills 90210 Trivia Night 21+** at Chunky's in Manchester on Thursday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.  
• **Double Take!** A collaboration between Repertory Dance Theatre & Ririe-Woodbury Dance Co., available virtually via Cap Center, Thursday, April 1, at 8 p.m.; Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, April 3, at 4 p.m. Tickets start at \$25.  
• **Ben Hur, A Tale of the Christ** (1925) a silent film, will screen Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs \$10.  
• **Wandavision Trivia Night 21+** at Chunky's in Manchester on Thursday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

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**NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday, April 6**

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

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

**Nashua**  
Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Wednesday, April 7**

**Dover**  
SmuttLabs: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
Community Oven: Game Time Trivia 6 p.m.  
Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

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

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Newmarket**  
Stone Church: George Barber & Kevin Daniel, 7 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
Thirsty Moose: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 8**

**Concord**  
Penuche's: open mic with Brian Burnout, 8 p.m.

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

**Exeter**  
Sawbelly: Aaron Denny, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

**Concerts**

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

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

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

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

**Shows**  
• **Teen Co Takeover: Golden**  
Age performances of 1940-1965 Broadway by the Palace Teen Company, Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m., virtual via Palace Theatre  
• **Stephen Marley Acoustic Soul** (with special guest Mystic Marley) Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.,

Flying Monkey  
• **The Blind Boys of Alabama**  
Good Friday Livestream, Friday, April 2, 9 p.m., Cap Center  
• **Skull & Roses** Saturday, April 3, 5 p.m., Stone Church  
• **NY Symphony — East Meets West** Friday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., virtually via Cap Center  
• **Marble Eyes** Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10, at 3 p.m., Stone Church

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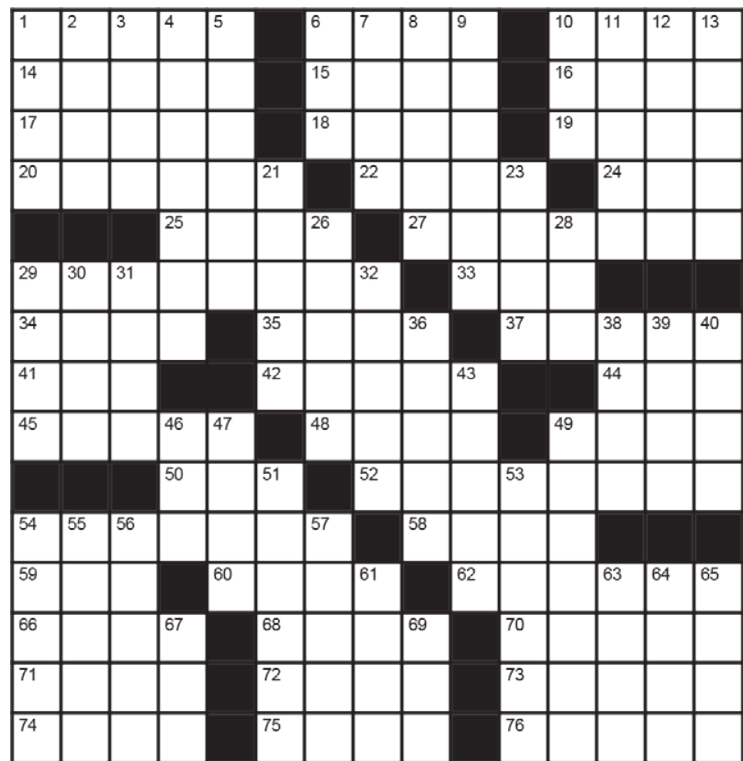
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# THE BRITISH ARE COMING



- More' (3,2)  
 71. '10 Javiera Mena album  
 72. Warren Haynes band 'Gov't \_\_\_'  
 73. Composer Kohs  
 74. Unwritten Law 'She \_\_\_'  
 75. Writer of Passing Strange musical  
 76. 'Mama Weer All Crazee Now' originators

**Down**

1. James '93 smash  
 2. Popular sax  
 3. British band \_\_\_ Machine  
 4. 8th Meat Puppets album '\_\_\_ To Die' (3,4)  
 5. 'New Killer America' metal band  
 6. Label Sony now owns  
 7. Bread 'Everything \_\_\_' (1,3)  
 8. TV show Phantom Planet did theme song for (3,2)  
 9. Nine Inch Nails '\_\_\_ That Could Have Been' (3,3)  
 10. Groupie Des Barres (abbr)  
 11. "Here's looking \_\_\_ kid, missing all the things we did" (2,3)  
 12. Record label for the sun?  
 13. Iron Maiden 'Holy \_\_\_'  
 21. Bruce Springsteen 'Human \_\_\_'  
 23. Boyz-N-The-\_\_\_  
 26. Career might go down this, postscandal  
 28. Runaround \_\_\_  
 29. Makes faces for the camera or does this  
 30. Beatles wanted to just 'Let \_\_\_' (2,2)  
 31. Edmunds of Rockpile  
 32. 'Love Me Tender' Presley

**Across**

1. Shpongler 'Nothing \_\_.But Nothing Is Lost'  
 6. "Lovely \_\_\_ meter maid"  
 10. Do this with a torch to replace member  
 14. "Take \_\_\_ at my girlfriend, she's the only one I got" (1,4)  
 15. British rock journalist Nik  
 16. Song by British Sea Power that has a nucleus?  
 17. English Beat 'Save \_\_\_ Later' (2,3)  
 18. Floored  
 19. '11 Coldplay album '\_\_\_ Xyloto'  
 20. \_\_\_ To Me One More Time (2,4)  
 22. English folkies \_\_\_ And The Whale  
 24. 'Talk About The Good Time' \_\_\_ Ridge Boys  
 25. Earbuds go in it  
 27. 'Look Out Below' band you couldn't drive by?  
 29. Ultravox frontman (5,3)  
 33. Reed of Velvet Underground  
 34. State Donny & Marie are from  
 35. What you have to stay when show sells out before you have tix  
 37. Star pays them off after hitting it  
 41. Robert Pollard band (abbr)  
 42. Swedish rockers that sting?  
 44. 'Funky Cold Medina' Tone  
 45. Conchita Wurst '\_\_\_ Now' (3,2)  
 48. Croatian singer Badric  
 49. Traditional university dressed students singing serenades  
 50. "You down with \_\_\_?"  
 52. '67 Miles Davis album where he used magic?  
 54. Modest Mouse '\_\_\_ Long Drive For Someone With Nothing To Think

- About' (4,2,1)  
 58. Robert Plant '\_\_\_ Cool One'  
 59. Need a good one for knowing pitch, slang  
 60. '08 Death Cab For Cutie hit  
 62. Do this for band to come back on  
 66. Confess openly in interview or do this  
 68. What 'Dream Weaver' uses?  
 70. '81 Badfinger album '\_\_\_

## WORD★Roundup™

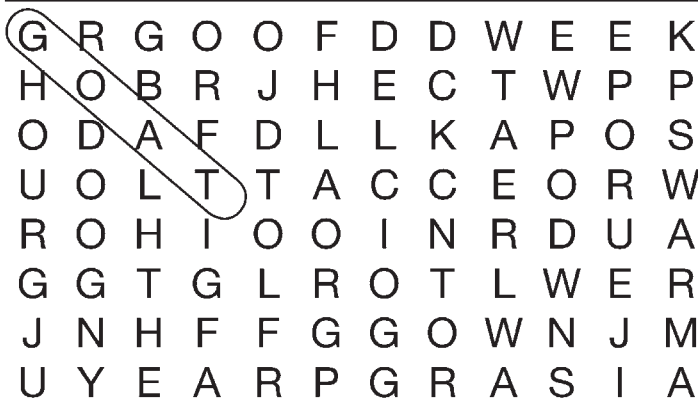
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Eight four-letter words starting with GO          
 Three continents     
 Three four-letter units of time     
 Three five-letter animal groups     
 Not yet named, as a book or movie

Last Week's Answers: LOGICAL LITERAL LABEL LOYAL LULL / OCTOPUS OYSTER SNAIL CLAM / ELIZABETH VICTORIA / HONEY / BACON

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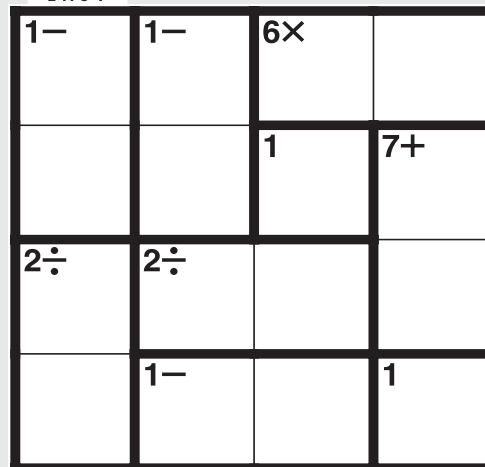


36. Bad English 'Forget \_\_\_' (2,3)  
 38. British Graham Coxon band  
 39. Like certain knob on the guitar  
 40. Mosh pit might cause one  
 43. Bat For Lashes song w/girl's name  
 46. '\_\_\_ Def & Talib Kweli Are Black Star'  
 47. Faith No More hit  
 49. Like biography w/out subject's permission (hyph)  
 51. Sacred songs or hymns  
 53. What venue finally does after show  
 54. A&R guys might break off into these, at festival  
 55. Pink Floyd '\_\_\_ Cigar' (4,1)  
 56. Songs use this to signify the opposite, at times  
 57. Megadeth '\_\_\_ Le Monde' (1,4)  
 61. Courtney Love band  
 63. Oasis 'Don't Believe The Truth' single  
 64. Barenaked Ladies song about Oklahoma city?  
 65. Seal got a 'Kiss From' one  
 67. Pet Shop Boys '\_\_\_ It Worth It?'  
 69. Danish 'A Triumph For Man' band© 2020 Todd Santos

# KENKEN

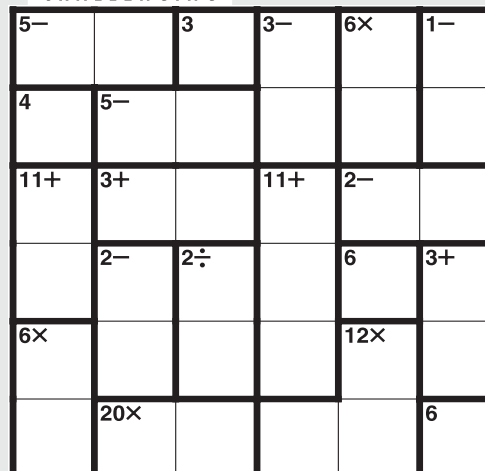
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**CHALLENGING**

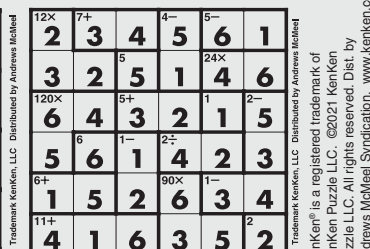
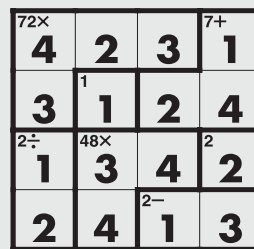


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**RULES**

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**



# “Miss Statement” — don't worry, it's all here

**Across**

- 1 46 was his veep
- 6 Gridlock problem
- 9 Abacus counters
- 14 “Go \_\_\_!”
- 15 “Dangerous Liaisons” name
- 16 “Don't do that!”
- 17 T, A, or Fiesta, e.g.
- 19 Drops in the mailbox
- 20 Hydroxyl-bearing compound
- 21 Fort \_\_\_, N.J.
- 22 As a maximum
- 23 Go back in a stream, maybe

- 25 Nonprofit that now focuses on ages 50 and older
- 26 Certain caretaker of children
- 32 City regulator
- 35 Like some fails
- 36 “No Ordinary Love” singer
- 37 “My hands \_\_\_ tied”
- 38 Season with heavy rainfall
- 41 Address ender
- 42 Do no better
- 44 Asian country with no coastline
- 45 “Now I get it!”
- 47 Film that's probably subtitled

- 50 “\_\_\_ said ...”
- 51 Menlo Park name
- 55 Twelfth zodiacal sign
- 58 Pre-weekend day, for short
- 60 Smoke detector?
- 61 “The Oracle of \_\_\_” (Warren Buffett nickname)
- 62 Trait of trashy talking, perhaps
- 64 Madagascar mammal
- 65 “\_\_\_ making sense?”
- 66 Super-\_\_\_
- 67 Expert
- 68 “\_\_\_ voyage!”
- 69 “All I Want for Christmas \_\_\_”

- 8 “Honi soit qui \_\_\_ y pense”
- 9 Casual eatery
- 10 Gives immunity to
- 11 Part of A.D.
- 12 Root beer brand
- 13 Pt. of GPS
- 18 Betting probabilities
- 22 Transmission repair company with a “beep beep” in its ads
- 24 “Cheers” regular
- 25 Short melodic solo
- 27 Rent payer
- 28 Salts source
- 29 Like some IPAs
- 30 Actress Falco
- 31 Sales agents
- 32 \_\_\_ Dingbats (picture-based font)
- 33 Double Stuf cookie
- 34 Handy
- 39 Gymnast Korbut and comedian Koch, for two
- 40 Old Domino's mascot to “avoid”
- 43 Condiment in a packet
- 46 Really abominable

- 48 Words directly before “Radio” or “Media”
- 49 Bridal cover
- 52 Comedian Sales
- 53 “Bony” prefix
- 54 Beatles' jacket style
- 55 Actress Negri of silent movies
- 56 Chatted online
- 57 Equivalent
- 58 Exclusionary anxiety acronym, and a hint to the four theme answers
- 59 Archaeological dig site
- 62 “Groovy”
- 63 1,501, to Nero

© 2021 Matt Jones

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
17				18				19				
20				21			22					
23			24			25						
		26			27	28			29	30	31	
32	33	34			35			36				
37			38	39				40		41		
42			43	44				45	46			
47			48					49				
		50					51			52	53	54
55	56	57				58	59			60		
61					62			63				
64					65			66				
67					68			69				

**Down**

- 1 Bid
- 2 Kentucky frontiersman Daniel
- 3 Elevator button symbol
- 4 Time for a crisis
- 5 Convenience store device
- 6 Dame \_\_\_ Dench
- 7 “Don't leave home without it” card, briefly

**R&R answer from pg 39 of 3/25**

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

**Jonesin' answer from pg 40 of 3/25**

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

**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 45.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Miss Marjoribanks*, by Margaret Oliphant, born April 4, 1828.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *But nevertheless, Dr. Marjoribanks's dinner-table was always a cheerful sight, even when it was only a dinner-party of three.... A small dinner-table will be a cheerful sight.*

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *When Miss Marjoribanks found herself alone in the solitude of her drawing-room, and in the still greater solitude, as we have said, of her genius, she felt a little sad, as was natural. But she will soon enjoy togetherness.*

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *... she had, as she herself expressed it, harmonised the rooms, by the simple method of rearranging half the chairs and covering the tables with trifles of her own — a proceeding which converted the apartment from an abstract English drawing-room of the old school into Miss Marjoribanks's drawing-room, an individual spot of ground revealing something of the character of its mistress. What you need is some harmonizing.*

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *... Miss Marjoribanks gave a rapid glance at the shops in George Street as she drove past, and decided which of them she meant to honour with her patronage. Planning ahead makes for a better shopping trip.*

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *To be sure, Grange Lane was inhabited, at present, by the best families in Carlingford; but then, without organisation, what good does it do to have a number of people together? No good!*

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** *It was the very day after the marriage, and two or three days after this conversation, that Mr. Cavendish left Carlingford. Drama is afoot, but it need not affect you.*

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** *Lucilla said much less about her feelings on this occasion than she was in the habit of doing, but there could be no doubt that she*

*felt it, and felt it acutely. Talk it out.*

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *Up to this moment there had never been a time in which it was not said in Carlingford that some one was paying attention to Miss Marjoribanks; but at present no one was paying attention to her. It won't last that long.*

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *She had ... half forgotten how pleasant it was to have somebody coming in with a breath of fresh air about him and the day's budget of news.... It is very pleasant and you can be that guy!*

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *As for Dr Marjoribanks, his triumph was taken out of him by that spectacle. Don't get sucked into someone else's spectacle.*

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *... Miss Marjoribanks, though she had no vote, was a person of undoubted influence, and such a conviction on her part was not to be laughed at. You're an influencer whether you know it or not.*

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *For the first time in her life she not only did not know what she would do, but she did not know what she wanted to do. Take your time.*

## 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 believable quality (11)	_____
2 spot for readers, perhaps (10)	_____
3 moving cautiously (8)	_____
4 coffee sweetener (7)	_____
5 rejected (8)	_____
6 bits of dried bread (6)	_____
7 venomous flatfish (8)	_____

IBI	GH	UF	NI	FED
TST	OSE	SUCR	STE	STIN
CRED	AND	REB	US	THY
LITY	TS	GRAY	AL	CR

3/28  
Last Week's Answers: 1. TOMATO 2. PEPPER 3. PUMPKIN 4. BEAN 5. OLIVE 6. ZUCCHINI 7. CUCUMBER

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## Sudoku Answers from pg40 of 3/25

### Puzzle A

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

### Puzzle B

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

### Puzzle C

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

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## Entrepreneurial spirit

Good Fortune Burger in Toronto has renamed some of its menu items as office supplies as a not-so-underhanded way to help customers get reimbursed for lunch, the National Post reported, and perhaps boost sales. The restaurant's Fortune Burger is now the Basic Steel Stapler, and Parm Fries will appear on a receipt as CPU Wireless Mouse. Director of operations Jon Purdy said the restaurant "just wanted an opportunity to put a smile on some people's faces and have them have a little bit of a giggle."

## Wait, what?

As Jensen Karp, 41, of Los Angeles, was pouring a second bowl of his favorite breakfast cereal, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, on March 22, "something plopped out of the box. I picked it up, and I was like, 'This is clearly a shrimp tail,'" he told The New York Times. Karp looked into the box and saw another tail, both encrusted in sugar. Karp took a picture, sent it to his wife, then contacted General Mills. Then a friend suggested he take another look into the bag, where he reported finding "shrimp skins-looking things, a small string, something that resembled a pistachio, and finally, 'small black pieces' at the bottom that he fears are rat feces, he said in the story. Karp is having the samples tested at a lab. "I'm a comedy writer, but like, there's no joke here," he said. "I love Cinnamon Toast Crunch." General Mills says it's looking into the matter, but "we can say with confidence that this did not occur at our facility."

## Inexplicable

A motorist in Delray Beach, Florida, stopped to investigate the screaming she heard on March 23 and found a naked woman trapped in a storm drain 8 feet below street level. The Washington Post reported first responders pulled the unnamed 43-year-old woman to safety and took her to a hospital as investigators discovered she had been reported missing

by her boyfriend three weeks earlier, Palm Beach County sheriff's officials said. The woman told officers she had been swimming in a canal when she noticed a door leading to a tunnel, which she entered, and then became lost, wandering for weeks in the tunnel system and surviving on a bottle of ginger ale she found. Ted White, a spokesman for the Delray police, was skeptical: "Was she actually down there the whole time?" Health officials think she might have been in the tunnels just a few days, he said.

## Compelling explanation

Phedeline St. Felix told police in Pompano Beach, Florida, she had gone to a city park in mid-March to settle an argument with another woman when she allegedly drove her car over a gate and into a playground, accidentally hitting Chaunda McCleod and her 3-year-old grandson instead, injuring them both. "I was attempting to run (the other woman) over," St. Felix said, according to WPLG-TV. McCleod said she saw a fight brewing in the park and "started to get all the kids together to get them out of the park. ... As I'm picking (my grandson) up, she's just hitting us both and we just went flying over the car and finally we hit the ground." St. Felix was arrested and ordered not to have any contact with the victims.

## Devil in the details

An unnamed teenager in Thailand was excited by the surprisingly low price he found online for an Apple iPhone, and even though the shipping seemed a little high, he went ahead and ordered it, Oddity Central reported. The surprise came when he received a box nearly as tall as he was and found inside a coffee table shaped like an iPhone. The teen posted photos of his acquisition on social media and admitted he had been so anxious to snag the bargain that he didn't read the listing carefully.

Visit [newsftheweird.com](http://newsftheweird.com).

# Work Weekends?

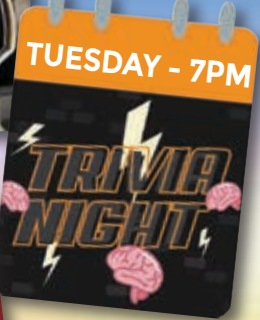
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