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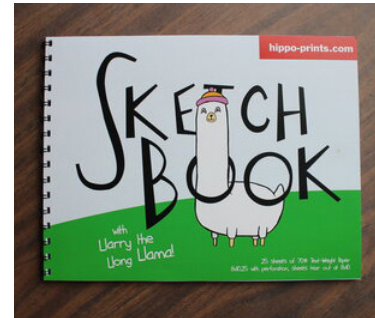
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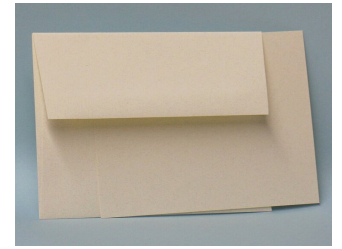
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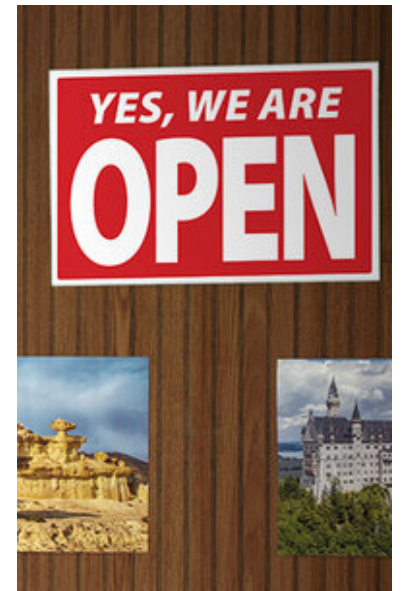
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GRANITE VIEWS **JODY REESE**

Getting back to normal



New Hampshire took a huge step a few days ago, announcing that it would lift its statewide mask mandate and start to relax other Covid safety measures. Gov. Chris Sununu attributed the moves to New Hampshire's high rate of vaccination.

New Hampshire leads the country in the percentage of people who have received at least one dose — almost 60 percent as of April 18, according to NPR. Sununu cited New Hampshire's vaccination rate and our decreased fatality rate as the factors behind his decision to lift the mask mandate, according to media reports.

New Hampshire's success has been a marriage of good governance and our good sense. State government has acted with urgency to make it easy for anyone who wants to be vaccinated to be vaccinated. And the people of New Hampshire have responded by taking the state up on its offer. I was at a vaccine distribution center last week and was able to get vaccinated in just a few minutes.

Though we're moving in the right direction and estimates are that by mid-July 85 percent of Granite Staters will be fully vaccinated, this won't happen unless people continue to make the personal decision to get vaccinated. I do see a fair amount of vaccine hesitancy. And I understand it. These are new vaccines. However, just in the United States 212 million doses of the Covid vaccines have already been administered with few side effects. Former President Donald Trump and his wife were vaccinated before leaving office as was Vice President Mike Pence. President Joe Biden and his wife, Gov. Sununu and all the Congressional delegation have been vaccinated.

My point is that the vaccines are exceedingly safe. The faster we get vaccinated the faster we can expect life to return to normal. But this is one of those times when we need to support our neighbors and rely on them. Just you or me getting the vaccine isn't enough. Seventy to 85 percent of people in the country need to be vaccinated for the disease to essentially die out. And while you may be young and healthy and the virus may not harm you (though it surely might) you're doing this for those whom Covid does have a greater chance of harming. We're asked every day to do things that are not only good for us but benefit our society. This is one of those things. Go to vaccines.nh.gov to find a place near you to get vaccinated. Do your part to return us to normal. 🗨️



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195 McGregor St., Suite 325,
Manchester, N.H. 03102
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
hippopress.com
email: news@hippopress.com

EDITORIAL

- Executive Editor**
Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com
- Managing Editor**
Meghan Siegler, msiegler@hippopress.com, Ext. 113
- Editorial Design**
Tristan Collins
hippolayout@gmail.com
- Copy Editor**
Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com
- Staff Writers**
Angie Sykeny, asykeny@hippopress.com, Ext. 130
Matt Ingersoll, mingersoll@hippopress.com, Ext. 152

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

- Listings**
Arts listings: arts@hippopress.com
Inside/Outside listings: listings@hippopress.com
Food & Drink listings: food@hippopress.com
Music listings: music@hippopress.com

BUSINESS

- Publisher**
Jody Reese, Ext. 121
jreese@hippopress.com
- Associate Publisher**
Dan Szczesny
- Associate Publisher**
Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 123
jrapsis@hippopress.com
- Production**
Tristan Collins, Alex Kusnarowicz
- Circulation Manager**
Doug Ladd, Ext. 135
dladd@hippopress.com
- Advertising Manager**
Charlene Nichols, Ext. 126
cnichols@hippopress.com
- Account Executives**
Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026
asavage@hippopress.com
Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 127
rmacaig@hippopress.com
Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 150

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Cyndee Williams, owner of White Birch Eatery in Goffstown. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

ON THE COVER

20 TALES OF NEW RESTAURANTS Owners of new eateries talk about what it's been like to open up in the midst of a pandemic.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

During the state's weekly public health update on April 15, Gov. Chris Sununu announced that he would not be renewing the statewide mask mandate, citing a more than 95 percent drop in seven-day average daily deaths from Covid-19 from Nov. 1. The mandate, which required everyone over the age of 5 to wear masks in both indoor and outdoor public spaces where social distancing wasn't possible, was originally issued on Nov. 20 and extended twice before it expired on April 16. Despite the lifting of the statewide mandate, those in several cities and towns remain in effect. Concord's citywide face covering ordinance, for instance, is still valid through at least June 1, while Nashua's will remain in place "until further notice," according to an April 16 press release. Private businesses such as retail stores also reserve the right to continue enforcing masks or face coverings when entering their establishments.

On April 16, Sununu issued Emergency Order No. 90, an order extending Emergency Order No. 52 regarding public health guidance for business operations and advising Granite Staters they are safer at home, through at least May 7. During the press conference, Sununu said that the restrictions outlined in the guidance "will transition from required mandates to univer-

sal best practices" beginning May 7. "Whether you're talking about the restrictions we have in a retail store or a restaurant, or a large venue, all of that stays in place until May 7," he said.

Also on April 16, Sununu issued Executive Order 2021-6, extending the state of emergency in New Hampshire due to the pandemic for another three weeks through at least May 7.

According to an April 18 report from WMUR, Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, said he expects there will be "a resumption in some form" of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine by Friday. State health officials had announced April 13 that they would pause the use of the vaccine based on a recommendation from the federal government, following six reports nationwide of a blood clot disorder.

School support

Schools, students and families will get a little extra support with two programs launching this summer, both of which are efforts to address the negative effects that the pandemic has had, according to a press release from the New Hampshire Department of Education. The first is ReKINDling Curiosity: Every Kid Goes to Camp, which will give children the opportunity to attend approved overnight and day youth recreation camps, with a

focus on promoting social, emotional and mental wellness. The program will be run by the state and will pay up to \$650 for camp fees at approved recreation facilities for qualifying students. DOE is also offering grants to school districts to create District Learning Pods this fall through a program called Recovering Bright Futures, the release said. The Learning Pods are designed for five to 10 students and follow a trauma-sensitive instructional model, providing students with in-person learning and peer interaction outside of traditional school. DOE will also support the creation of Community Learning Pods, especially for families who do not have a District Learning Pod available to them.

Ethical issues

The Center for Ethics in Society, whose mission is to encourage constructive conversations surrounding ethical questions, is the new name for the Manchester organization formerly known as the Center for Ethics in Business and Governance. The Center, which is located at Saint Anselm College, wanted to expand ethical issues pertaining to business and corporate governance. Its advisory board includes 18 leaders from New Hampshire's business, nonprofit, and public policy communities and is a partnership between Saint Anselm and the people

The **Warner** Historical Society presents "Social History of the Mink Hills," a virtual talk about the history of the 15,000+ acres of land in Warner that once encompassed 10 independent school districts, 13 burial grounds and several small mills, according to a press release. The presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m.; register for the Zoom link at bit.ly/3rerX70.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services recently issued two registration certificates for new therapeutic cannabis dispensary locations, according to press releases. One allowed Prime Alternative Treatment Centers to begin operations in **Chichester**, and one allowed Temescal Wellness to begin operations in Keene. At the end of 2020 there were 11,161 qualifying patients and 564 designated caregivers participating in the state's Therapeutic Cannabis Program, according to the release.

Vice President Kamala Harris is expected to visit New Hampshire on Friday, April 23, according to a report from WMUR. The April 19 report said a source has confirmed that Harris will discuss the American Jobs Plan at the IBEW headquarters in **Concord**.

National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, April 24, in towns and cities across the state, coordinated by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to allow people to properly dispose of prescription medication. In **Manchester**, the event will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Elliot at River's Edge at 175 Queen City Ave. The DEA will accept pills and patches and vaping devices and cartridges but no liquids, needles or sharps, the release said. Check with your town for similar events on that day.

Covid-19 update	As of April 12	As of April 19
Total cases statewide	89,229	91,783
Total current infections statewide	3,384	3,329
Total deaths statewide	1,257	1,270
New cases	3,104 (April 6 to April 12)	2,554 (April 13 to April 19)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	1,002	1,002
Current infections: Merrimack County	297	270
Current infections: Rockingham County	846	746

Information from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

who live and work in New Hampshire. The Center has been involved in the housing crisis, having assembled a task force to provide recommendations for the state's housing action plan, and its housing research has impacted advocacy in the field, the release said. It is also hosting a new series called Corporations and the Common Good: How Should Businesses Respond to Social Issues? Upcoming programs include an April 22 Ethics Lab on Ethics and Economics of Health Insurance and an April 27 Honorable Business webinar and panel discussion with Notre Dame professor James Otteson.

Humane treatment

The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals has been reestablished after Gov. Chris Sununu issued an executive order April 19, charging the commission with preparing a report that includes the number of animal cruelty-related convictions; the number of animal cruelty-related cases; relevant proposed or enacted legislation; and suggested legislation as necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of domestic animals and New Hampshire citizens, according to a press release.

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Living bigger

The Phoenix to offer recovery support, sober activities

The Phoenix is a nonprofit that cultivates free, organized sober activities within a supportive community for people in recovery. Recently it announced plans to bring its programs to New Hampshire, starting this summer. The Phoenix New England Regional Director Sydney Durand talked about the upcoming expansion.

Q: *What kinds of programs does The Phoenix offer for people in recovery?*

The Phoenix is really focused on this message of hope, with the idea that when you're sober and in recovery your life should get so much bigger. ... Our programs are sober active events, like yoga, rock climbing, strength-based fitness, surfing ... that people can do actively together outdoors and in public spaces.



Sydney Durand

new to recovery. ... We've been able to start doing in-person events again, but now we also have the virtual and on-demand [programs] that people can join at any time.

What led to The Phoenix's upcoming expansion to New Hampshire?

A combination of the need — New Hampshire is one of the hardest-hit per-capita states with the opioid crisis — and our partnerships. We have some partners ... who live in New Hampshire who also see the need in the state ... who have supported this expansion financially.

What sets The Phoenix apart from other activity-based recovery programs?

Accessibility and inclusivity; we eliminate as many barriers as possible for people in recovery to access a safe, supportive, healing environment. Our programs are completely free and open to anyone [who has maintained] at least 48 hours of continuous sobriety. ... Another huge part of what we do is stigma reduction. We have members who are really proud about their recovery and talk openly about their past substance use and their sobriety, so we're really trying to eliminate any shame people may have.

What programs will The Phoenix offer in New Hampshire initially?

A lot of that is to be determined ... as we build relationships and form connections. We want our programming to be informed by the community. ... Are there areas where there are sober houses or treatment centers, but not a lot of activities around? ... We do know that we ... want to do a lot of activities outdoors and use the natural resources that are so abundant in New Hampshire.

How has The Phoenix adapted its programs for a pandemic world?

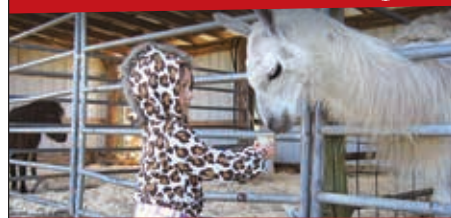
In March 2020 we launched a virtual platform. ... The great thing about that was we were able to connect with a lot of people who [lived in] parts of the country where we didn't [offer] programs, so people from New Hampshire have been able to [participate in] our virtual programming. We now have more than nine hours of free programming every day that anyone can join virtually. ... We've created prerecorded content [too], like workout videos, so people can ... see what Phoenix is like [before joining a live program], because it can be pretty intimidating to come into a group of sober people, even virtually, especially when you're

How will The Phoenix tailor these programs to meet New Hampshire's unique needs?

We're looking, first, at Manchester and Nashua and other communities with higher population densities, because they've been hit particularly hard with folks experiencing substance use disorder. Our strategy is to start programs in those communities, where we can offer support to [the largest number of people], as soon as possible. At the same time, we know there are rural parts of New Hampshire that need support, too, so we are also working on making Phoenix programs accessible to them ... by getting them connected through virtual options ... and by getting volunteers trained throughout the state.

— Angie Sykeny

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Mocking the draft mockers



There are seven days left in the endless lead-up to the NFL draft, when mock drafts from so-called experts have grown from being fun draft-day reading into a four-month-long marathon. All being presented by "insiders" who act like they know exactly

what each team is thinking. Except since everyone is different, it shows no one is doing anything more than guessing.

Case in point, all the yacking following the 49ers trading up to the third spot to supposedly get Alabama QB **Mac Jones** because he's Coach **Kyle Shanahan's** kind of pocket passing QB. That caught special attention in Patriot Nation because it could impact NE's ability to fill their long-term need at QB in a draft filled with high upside options. Except then came stories knocking Jones for not being an elite athlete and that SF really wanted uber athletic **Trey Lance** of North Dakota State, until Ohio State's **Justin Fields** ran a 4.3 40 during his Pro Day. So the reality is they're all just guessing about who'll go right after **Trevor Lawrence** and BYU's **Zach Wilson** are the first two QBs taken off the board by the Jags and Jets.

So the bottom line is don't take it all as gospel. Just enjoy it all because it informs you about needs of teams ahead of the Pats and for how the big board ranks those who'll be in play leading up to the Pats pick at (for now) 15. Here's a guide to what they face next Thursday night, with a sprinkle of what I'd do if I were the GM making their decisions.

Should They Trade Up? It would be like **Coach B** to make everyone crazy by gambling that the QB they like will fall to them at 15. That doesn't seem likely, but stranger things have happened. Having said that, unless they're certain they can get who they want, they shouldn't deal until they can guarantee they'll get him.

Is Trading Up Worth The Price? It'll take a combination of picks from Rounds 1-3 to go up. Here's who they've taken in Rounds 1-3 since 2012. So you be the judge how damaging losing any of those picks would have been to the cause. **Round 1** – Dont'a Hightower, Chandler Jones, Dominique Easley, Malcom Brown, Isaiah Wynn, Sony Michel, N'Keal Harry. **Round 2** – Tavon Wilson, Aaron Dobson, Jimmy Garoppolo, Cyrus Jones, Jordan Richards, Duke Dawson, Joejuan Williams, Kyle Dugger. **Round 3** – Jake Bequette, Logan Ryan, Joe Thuney, Geneo Grissom, Antonio Garcia, Chase Winovich and Anfernee Jennings. For me, out of 24 picks or tradeouts, just Hightower, Jimmy G, Ryan, Thuney and Wynn are big losses and the last four could be replaced.

Who Needs To Be Boxed Out: (1) Denver (ninth) – **Drew Lock** is the latest **John Elway** QB failure. (2) Washington (19) – they're going with 112-year-old short-term rental **Ryan Fitzpatrick**. (3) Chicago (20) – with the GM and

coach on the hotseat, more likely they need immediate help from a veteran. (4) Pittsburgh (24) – **Big Ben** is on his last legs, so beware. (5) New Orleans (28) – if you missed the news **Drew Brees** just retired and has only question marks behind him.

The Possible Trade-Up Slots:

4 – Atlanta: With cap hits of \$48 million, \$40 million and \$28 million over the next three years they can't trade **Matt Ryan**. So it doesn't make sense to draft a QB and sit him for two years. Realistic trade possibility.

5 – Cincinnati: **Joe Burrow** got killed all year leading to a torn ACL. So an improved O-Line is badly needed, which they can get at 15. Unless they prefer a top receiver like LSU teammate **Ja'Marr Chase**.

6 – Miami: They're not helping the Pats. But they can probably get one of Chase, **Kyle Pitts**, **Devonta Smith** or **Jaylen Waddle** among the top receivers they're eyeing with the ninth spot they'd get in a trade with Denver.

7 – Carolina: They just gave up five draft picks for **Sam Darnold** so he's probably on a two-year QB trial. A possible trade partner.

9 – Denver: They need a QB too and since the leap from 4, 5 or 6 from 9 is not as costly as it is from 15, they're the biggest competitive threat.

Best Mock Draft Trade: Here's the best trade-up deal I saw that gets the Pats in position to get a QB. It's from **NJ.com**, which covers the Jets and Giants. They predicted a trade with Carolina for the eighth pick to take Lance in return for a first and third in 2021 and a second-round pick in 2022. Don't know if it's realistic, but the net is, their QB for just a second and a third. Providing I like the 17-0 in college Lance, where he never threw even one interception: done.

Is Athleticism Overrated? I guess the experts somehow missed that the 43-year-old who runs like an ostrich just won his seventh SB in February. And that 17 of the last 20 SB's have been won by non-athletic QB's. Which says that despite trendy thinking, QB athleticism is really a(n un-needed) luxury and that's it.

Go QB Or Bust: I know they need one. But given that 34 of the 74 Round I QB's since 1990 have been busts and 16 others just mediocre, picking in Round I guarantees nothing, not even for Lawrence. History shows one or more of the so-called top five QBs aren't going to work out, and that 24 QB's taken below Round 1 turned out to be very good to excellent, including three of the four leaders (Brady, Brees, Favre) in TD passes all-time. So we could look back in 10 years and see that likely second-rounders **Kellen Mond** of Texas A&M or Florida's **Kyle Trask** were actually the guys who should have gone in Round I. All of which leaves me with only one clear feeling going into draft night.

I hope they know what they're doing.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippypress.com.

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nutritious nibbles

Avocado Chicken Salad Wrap

Serves: 6

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 Avocados from Mexico
- 1 Tbsp. Hannaford Lemon Juice
- 1/3 cup Hellmann's® Mayonnaise with Olive Oil
- 1 Tbsp. Hannaford Apple Cider Vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. tarragon
- 2 Tbsp. parsley
- 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Sea Salt
- 3 cups cooked chicken breast, cubed into half-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup green apple, chopped
- 1/2 cup Hannaford Chopped Walnuts
- 1/2 cup red grapes, halved
- 6 Cedar's® Whole Wheat Wraps
- 1 1/2 cups Fresh Express® Baby Spinach



Directions:

1. Add avocado, mayonnaise, lemon juice and apple cider vinegar to a blender or food processor and blend until smooth.
2. Pour mixture into a large bowl. Add tarragon, parsley and salt. Stir until combined.
3. Add chicken, celery, apple, walnuts and grapes to bowl and toss until ingredients are evenly coated in avocado mixture.
4. Lay whole wheat wraps flat and top with evenly divided spinach and chicken salad mixture. Roll each wrap tightly and enjoy.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 550; Total Fat 26 g; Saturated Fat 5 g; Cholesterol 65 mg; Sodium 760 mg; Carbohydrates 49 g; Fiber 8 g; Sugar 6 g; Added Sugar 2 g; Protein 31 g

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Scooter from scratch

A student in an engineering class at Milford High School & Applied Technology Center is helping the residents of Crestwood Center in Milford get around. According to a press release, senior Daniel Schonger has spent about a year building a mobility scooter that the school will donate to the residential long-term care facility in May. The school purchased parts for the scooter on Craigslist, and Schonger had to rebuild some of its major systems — a project that was made even more difficult because of the pandemic, which forced him to work at home and meet with his teacher only once a week during remote learning. Schonger said in the release that he was able to 3D print many of the accessories that he needed to build at home.

Score: +1

Comment: *Everyone's a winner here — the residents of Crestwood Center and Schonger, who said in the release that this project has helped prepare him for college, where he wants to study engineering and learn how to build robotic arms.*

Safe space

New Hampshire has been the safest state during the pandemic, according to a study from WalletHub, which recently released rankings based on data that was available as of April 14. WalletHub, a personal finance website, compared all states and Washington, D.C., in the rates of Covid-19 transmission, positive testing, hospitalizations, deaths and number of eligible people getting vaccinated. Helping it reach the top spot was the Granite State's vaccination rate, where it ranked No. 1, and its death rate, which was one of the lowest at No. 8. New Hampshire edged out Hawaii and Alaska, which ranked No. 2 and No. 3, respectively.

Score: +1

Comment: *New England as a whole fared well in this survey; Vermont, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts ranked 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th, respectively, and Connecticut ranked 18th.*

Watch out for wildfires...

It's Wildfire Awareness Week in New Hampshire (April 18 to April 24), and the state is trying to raise awareness about the dangers of wildfires, which are more common here in the spring as dry grasses, leaves, pine cones and fallen branches can act as fuel. According to a press release, more than 57 percent of the state is still experiencing moderate drought conditions, and the rest of the state is classified as abnormally dry, which raises the risk of wildfires even more. New Hampshire had an average of 119 wildfires that impacted an average of 276 acres each year from 2016 to 2020, the release said.

Score: -1

Comment: *Ninety percent of wildfires in New Hampshire are caused by human behavior; according to the release. Common causes are brush fires and campfires, improper disposal of smoking materials, overheated engines and sparks emitted from machinery.*

... and rabid wildlife

The Londonderry Police Department warned residents in a press release last week to keep an eye on their pets when they're outdoors after a dog got in a fight with a raccoon. The raccoon was euthanized and sent for testing because it showed signs of possible rabies, and testing confirmed that it was rabid.

Score: -1

Comment: *The Department encourages pet owners to get their pets vaccinated as soon as possible.*

QOL score: 69

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 69

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

75

50

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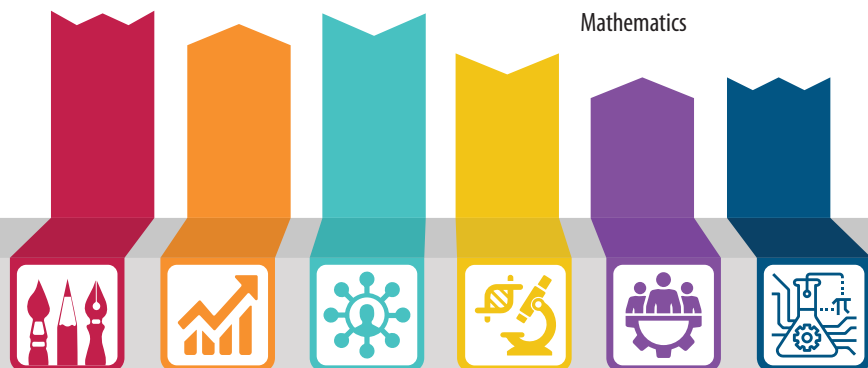
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132277

Booked up

NH celebrates Indie Bookstore Day

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

Saturday, April 24, is Independent Bookstore Day, a nationwide celebration of independent bookstores and the book-lovers who frequent them. Though you won't find as many in-store author visits, live music, food and other festivities as have been offered in pre-Covid years, local bookstores are doing what they can to make it a special day.

"We are celebrating ... but we still don't feel it is the right time to encourage in-store activities," said Willard Williams, co-owner of Toadstool Bookstore, which has locations in Nashua, Peterborough and Keene. "Instead, we are using IBD to draw attention to our bookselling staff, who have done so much for us over the past year. We want to acknowledge them with our heartfelt thanks and hope others will as well."

Participating bookstores will still carry IBD-exclusive items, such as special-edition books, art prints and literary themed novelty items, and some stores, including the Toadstool, will host special events virtually or outdoors.

IBD participating bookstores and special events

- **A Freethinker's Corner** (652 A Central Ave., Dover, 343-2437, freethinkerscorner.com)
- **Bookery Manchester** (844 Elm St., Manchester, 836-6600, bookerymht.com)

Live music, gift card giveaways with purchases and a weeklong trivia contest on Instagram

- **The Country Bookseller** (Durgin Stables, 23-A N. Main St., Wolfeboro, 569-6030, thecountrybookseller.com)

- **Gibson's Bookstore** (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com)

Erin Bowman book signing for *Dustborn*, on the sidewalk outside the store, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Literary Cocktail Hour, featuring authors Kat Howard, Kelly Braffet, Cat Valente, and Freya Marskem in conversation with bookstore staff, Zoom, 5 p.m.

- **Innisfree Bookshop** (312 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-3905, innisfreebookshop.com)

- **Still North Books & Bar** (3 Allen St., Hanover, 676-7846, stillnorthbooks.com)

- **The Toadstool Bookshop** (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St., Route 101A, Nashua, 673-1734; 12 Depot Square, Peterborough, 924-3543; 12 Emerald St., Keene, 352-8815,

toadbooks.com)

Paddy Donnelly presents *The Vanishing Lake*, Zoom, 1 p.m.

- **Water Street Bookstore** (125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com)

2021 IBD exclusive items

Available on Independent Bookstore Day through participating bookstores. Call ahead to find out which items your local bookstore will be carrying.

- Baby Yoda cotton onesie (size 6 to 12 months), a *Mandalorian* twist on the American Library Association's iconic "READ" posters

- Signed special edition of *Cook, Eat, Repeat: Ingredients, Recipes, and Stories* by Nigella Lawson

- *Being Alive is a Good Idea*, an edited transcript of a conversation held between Nikki Giovanni and Glory Edimat at the 2020 Well-Read Black Girl Festival, covering poetry, Tupac, Black Lives Matter, aliens, pencils, Kamala Harris and more

- Special edition of *Embodied: An Intersectional Feminist Comics Poetry Anthology* that includes a foil cover and poster

- "Bad Citizen" **Graffiti Stencil** featuring George Orwell quote, "In a time of deceit telling



2021 IBD exclusive items. Courtesy photo.

the truth is a revolutionary act."

- *In the Tall Grass*, a short story by Stephen King and Joe Hill, available for the first time in a limited-edition book form

- Signed special edition of *Hummingbird Salamander* by Jeff VanderMeer

- **Art print** based on the picture book *The ABCs of Black History* by Rio Cortez, created by artist Lauren Semmer

- Independent Bookstore Day 2021 **pop chart map** of participating bookstores in the U.S.

- "Little Victories" **canvas pouch** (cotton, with zipper, 9" x 6")

- Signed special edition of *Sharks in the Time of Saviors* by Kawai Strong Washburn

For more information about Independent Bookstore Day, visit indiebookstoreday.com.

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THE ROUNDUP

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

• The Hatbox reopens:

Several performance series return to The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) this month, including Queen City Improv on Fridays, April 23, May 7, May 21 and June 4, and Thursday, June 17; Comedy Out of the 'Box on Saturdays, April 24, May 8, May 22 and June 5, and Thursday, June 24; and Discovering Magic with Andrew Pinard on Wednesdays, May 19 and June 16. Mainstage theater productions will return in June with *Holmes & Watson*, presented by Phylloxera Productions, running June 11 through June 27. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for members, seniors and students, and \$16 for senior members. Call 715-2315 or visit hatboxnh.com.

• **A modern take on retablos:** Twiggs Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen) presents a new art exhibit, "Retablos Reconsidered," on view April 24 through June 6. The exhibit features works by 12 artists inspired by retablos, the honorific art form of devotional paintings that relate to miraculous events. "[The works] reveal themes that personally, socially and politically affect [the artists'] lives," the gallery stated in a press release. "Some reflect traditional religious themes within a contemporary context. Others are non-religious but are created to draw awareness to broad issues in our times and some reveal deeply personal stories."



"If Hands Had a God" by Donna Catanzaro, featured in "Retablos Reconsidered" exhibit. Courtesy photo.

Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Call 975-0015 or visit twigsgallery.wordpress.com.

• **Virtual poetry events:** National Poetry Month in New Hampshire continues with virtual poetry writing workshops on Sunday, April 25, at 3 p.m., and Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m., led by graduate students interning with New Hampshire Poet

Laureate Alexandria Peary; and a virtual poetry reading and conversation with Peary and Margot Douaihy on Monday, April 26, at 7 p.m. "[Participating in] one of these events might give you ideas for your own writing," Peary told the Hippo earlier this month. "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 could become a really rich part of your life and social life." All events

are free, and registration is required. Visit newhampshirepoetlaureate.blogspot.com and hobblebush.com/national-poetry-month for a complete schedule and list of National Poetry Month activities.

• **Shaker Village seeks artists:** Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road, Canterbury) is accepting applications for its Summer Artist-in-Residence Program now through May 1. The two-week residency is open to visual artists of all media who are interested in creating art inspired by the architecture, landscape, traditional crafts, furniture, artistic endeavors and culture of the Shakers. Resident artists will live and work onsite at the village and talk with visitors about their creative process. To apply, email csvjuror@gmail.com with a bio or resume, an artist's statement, a paragraph about why you're interested in the residency and what you hope to accomplish, and five images of your most recent artwork. Call 783-9511 or visit shakers.org.

— Angie Sykeny 🍀

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- If you meet certain income requirements
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

A time to reflect

Contemplating potential garden improvements

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

This is a good time to look carefully at your garden, and to decide what you might do to make it better. Spring is upon us, trees and shrubs are waking up in my garden, but perennials are still mostly dormant and woody plants are just beginning to leaf out. It is a good time to look at “the bones” of the garden and decide what needs to be done.

The bones of the garden are the trees, shrubs, stone walls, sculpture, water features and pathways. These are visible in winter, though often covered in snow. In summer they can become focal points, or almost disappear as flowering plants shout out for attention.

Each of us reacts to spaces a little differently. Some want an enclosed garden that is quiet and private. Others want a long view of the sea, a pond or a distant mountain. If you are lucky, you might be able to divide your garden up so that you enjoy more than one type of garden: sunny, shaded, private or open to the view of passers-by. If you have just a city lot, you may have to choose

just one kind of garden to focus on.

Making a garden private means creating visual barriers. You can do that overnight by hiring a company to put up a wooden 8-foot fence. Your neighbors may not like this and walls are generally monochromatic and boring. Of course you can then grow vines up them, or plant trees and shrubs in front of them, but plants take time to fill in and disguise the fence or wall. Still, if you have a new puppy or a bouncy 4-year-old child, you may opt for the immediate enclosure provided by fencing.

Alternatively, you can plant trees. There are advantages to this: trees get bigger and better every year. They provide habitat and food for birds, pollinators and all sorts of small animals. They reduce water runoff. And although some require occasional pruning, most of Mother Nature’s trees do just fine on their own. Some are fast growing; others will just inch along, holding place without shading the understory.

The street side of your house is important. What you show the world says something about you. If you plant a tall hedge, it can send a signal to others that you wish to remain undisturbed. If you have just lawn, it says you are not a gardener. If you plant beds and islands of color, you are saying, “Welcome, and enjoy!” Of course,

lawns are the easiest to maintain, especially if you accept my mantra, “If it’s green and you can mow it, it’s a lawn.” I love a few dandelions and love my clover, which fixes atmospheric nitrogen into the soil — it’s free fertilizer.

Trees and shrubs are important on the front lawn as much as in the gardens behind the house. You can break up the straight lines of driveway and front walk. When thinking through your plans, take a garden hose and curve it around to define spaces. Create beds with bump-outs, and drive stakes to indicate where you might add trees, and use shorter stakes to indicate shrubs. And instead of lawn between the trees, imagine groundcovers. It will soften the look of your home, and invite birds and pollinators. You can keep some lawn, just reduce its footprint.

What other bones can you add to your property? Stone is wonderful in all its forms. The simplest stone additions are just boulders or tall, narrow standing stones. One and done. Stone walls are delightful, but expensive.

You can also build a cairn — a pile of stones similar to the markers seen on mountain trails above the tree line. The key, if piling up stones to create a pyramid or cairn, is to ensure that each stone is resting on two stones below it. And be careful that when you touch a stone it does not



A simple blue birdbath can add color and interest. Photo courtesy of Henry Homeyer.

tumble. The earth does move a bit with the seasons, so building a sturdy structure is important.

Water features are nice, too. A simple bird bath can add interest and provide water for insects and birds. I have a blue ceramic birdbath that adds color and height to a flower bed — even though the birds seem to ignore it. I was told to put a stone in the water for them to perch on, but even that has not lured them in.

Of course, I have a brook nearby, so that is probably their choice instead.

Pathways are important to gardens. They can keep your shoes out of mud and protect the soil from erosion. Flat stones are great, as are pea stone and small gravel. Chipped branches or bark mulch can be used for walkways, too. Pathways naturally lead one forward to other parts of the garden. Grassy paths are simple, and work well so long as they are not worn bare by too much foot traffic.

So go outside and do some planning — even if it is too early to take much action now.

Henry is a garden designer living in Cornish Flat, N.H. He is the author of four gardening books. His website is Gardening-Guy.com. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

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Celebrate Earth

The New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center in Auburn hosts its annual **Earth Day Festival** Saturday, April 24, with three time slots between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The day will be filled with nature activities like building a birdhouse, planting seeds, going on a scavenger hunt, taking a nature-themed walk and visiting the animals that live at the center. Reservations are required; as of April 19 there were still spaces available. Sign up for one of the time slots (10 to 11:30 a.m., noon to 1:30 p.m. or 2 to 3:30 p.m.) at nhaudubon.org or by calling 668-2045. The cost is \$15 per family.



Millyard Museum. Courtesy photo.

Open paint

The Canvas Roadshow Studio (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 913-9217) hosts **Family Fun Day**, an open paint event, on Tuesday, April 27. Stop by anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to work on a craft in the studio. You can pre-register for a table or just show up. If you don't want to work in the studio, you can "grab and go" — just stop by to pick out a project kit that you can bring home. There are project options that start at \$10 for kids and adults. Visit thecanvasroadshow.com.

Yoga all week

Mountain Base Yoga (3 Church St, Goffstown) is hosting **Children's Yoga: Spring Camp** during school vacation, from Monday, April 26, to Friday, April 30. Kids in kinder-

garten through second grade will meet from 11 to 11:40 a.m., and kids in grades 3 through 5 will meet from noon to 12:40 p.m. each day. The camp will teach basic yoga poses, skills to improve mood regulation and games to promote social interaction and cooperative communication. The cost is \$125 for the week.

Purchase tickets at mountainbaseyoga.sites.zenplanner.com.

Vacation exploration

Explore hands-on exhibits that show the science behind motion, light, space exploration, the ocean, human genetics and more at the **SEE Science Center** in Manchester (200 Bedford St., 669-0400, see-sciencecenter.org), which is open daily during school vacation, with two sessions offered each day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$9 per person for ages 3 and up. Or visit both the Science Center and the **Millyard Museum** (located in the same building) for \$13 by purchasing the Super Saturday Dual Pass at either location. The passes are available to ages 12 and up and are good for same-day admission on Saturdays only.

The **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord, 271-7827) is also open daily for April vacations, now through May 2, with sessions from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. each day. The cost is \$11.50 for adults, \$8.50 for children ages 3 to 12, \$10.50 for seniors ages 62 and up, and for students age 13 through college, and free for kids 2 and under. Add a planetarium show to your visit for \$5 per person per show. Current daily shows are "Beyond the Sun" at 11 a.m. for ages 6 and up; "From Dream to Discovery: Inside NASA" at noon for ages 6 and up; "The Little Star that Could" at 2 p.m. for ages 4 through 10; and "Tonight's Sky" at 3 p.m. for ages 5 and up. 🍌

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
 Are you familiar with the maker on this pendant? It says 14kt and Jabel, not Jared. I inherited this from my family and was wondering if you could share any information with me on a value.

Mindy

Dear Mindy,
 I have to say I had never seen the mark before, but then again there are so many jewelers out there.

What I did find out was that Jabel started off as a ring maker and later created pendants and other pieces as well. I feel safe in saying your pendant is from the mid-century era to the 1960s. I found a set of earrings that are almost a match to your design, but they were 18kt gold, so the price would be significantly higher.



I think we would be safe in thinking the value of yours would be in the \$350 range in the market. It all depends on the maker, amount of weight in gold and the size and quality of the diamond.

So your family passed you down a treasure.

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



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133985

For Cruiser's squealing problem, look at the driving surface



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I have a 2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser Limited Edition with 225,000 miles. It is running fine, but when driving at lower speeds and turning, like in our condo parking garage, it makes all kinds of squeaks and squeals. They are not heard when driving at higher speeds on the road. I think in the old days, new grease plugs and a lube job would have taken care of this. Is there a way to quiet things down short of replacing ball joints? — William

William, we love having customers like you at the shop. Guys like you come in, having already diagnosed the problem and tell us you need grease plugs (whatever they are), a lube job and ball joints. We sell you all that stuff, and when you come back and say the car was still squealing, we can just shrug and say “Hey, you asked for all that stuff.”

I think the squealing is actually coming from your tires, William. But I don't think you need new tires, either. What you're hearing is the tires scrubbing or dragging along the smooth, sticky, concrete floor of your parking garage.

Chemically sealed concrete is almost perfectly flat and nonporous. That means 100% of the tire's contact patch is in touch with the garage floor.

So when you turn the steering wheel, you end up dragging the tires — in tiny little movements — over the garage floor.

The tires are intermittently sticking and then sliding a little bit. And that stick-and-slide creates the eeerrr-eeerrr-eeerrr squeaking sound you hear. It's a lot like what you hear on a basketball court, as players stop and pivot and their sneakers drag along the court surface.

When you're on a normal road, it doesn't happen, mostly because the pavement isn't as smooth. Those chunks of asphalt create a much more porous surface than concrete, so not every square millimeter of your tire's contact patch is touching the road.

Plus, when you're driving, there are other noises that would drown it out, like engine noise, wind noise, road noise and your copy of “Led Zeppelin IV.”

What can make the squealing noise worse? If they recently resealed the garage floor. If you have wheels that are out of alignment and more likely to drag or scrub on turns. Or if you've been watching too many Charles Bronson movies, William, and are flying into your parking space at 30 mph.

Dear Car Talk:
I recently purchased a 2020 Subaru Forester. So far, I love this car! One of its many features is the automatic start and stop system, which

shuts off the engine when you stop at a light and restarts it when you take off. When it functions, I notice a small shake as the engine shuts down and another shake when the engine starts back up. At first, I found this annoying and thought something was wrong. But after speaking with the dealer and numerous friends who drive Subarus, I think the engine just shakes when it starts. However, the salesperson who sold me the car told me that if one turns on the rear defroster, the shaking will stop. This seems to be true! However, the rear defroster does not stay on all the time, and with each start of the engine, I must remember to turn it on if I want to use it to control the shaking. My question is: Why does enabling the rear defroster stop the engine from shaking, and why does the car shake when the rear defroster is off? — Alan

Most cars now have these start-stop systems to save fuel and reduce pollution. And some manufacturers simply do a better job of eliminating that “restarting” vibration than others. On some cars, you don't even notice it.

Unfortunately, Subaru is at the San Andreas Fault end of the spectrum. It's among the worst in damping that engine vibration on restart. Why is that? We can't say for sure. It may have to do with the unique “boxer” engine that Subaru uses in which the pistons are horizontally opposed, creating greater side to side movement and more vibration.

That design has advantages, like a lower center of gravity. But excessive smoothness is not one of those advantages. That never mattered until recently. Not long ago, you'd start your car a few times a day. But with stop-start systems, you're starting it 50 or 100 times a day. So an engine that shakes on restart is suddenly a real annoyance.

We hope Subaru figures it out soon — through better damping or whatever — because it's an unfortunate demerit on an otherwise very good car.

Why does turning on the rear defroster stop the shaking? Because using the defroster temporarily disables the start-stop system. When there's a large electrical draw, like the rear window defroster, the car's computer disables the start-stop system to keep the battery from being drained while you're stopped with the engine off.

As an alternative, if you dig into your touchscreen menus, you'll find an option to turn off the start-stop system. It's not as convenient as pushing a simple rear defroster button (we wish it were, hint hint, Subaru), but it will disable the start-stop system for the remainder of your current trip. By regulation, they can't let you turn it off permanently, so you have to do that each time you drive. But it's either that or driving around with a prematurely warm rear window, Alan. Your choice.

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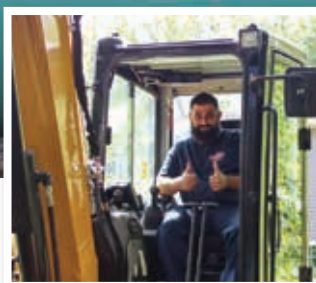
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ON THE JOB

AMANDA CEE

FOUNDER/OWNER, EYE CANDY BALLOONS

Amanda Cee is a certified balloon artist and the founder, owner and lead designer of Eye Candy Balloons, a professional balloon décor company based in Goffstown.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

I make balloon art for celebrations, to make the big moments in people's lives more memorable. ... These are not your average balloons. There's so much that goes into it. ... I have to think a lot about the space, the layout, the proportions, the scale; it's a lot of measuring and math. ... I have a shop full of professional machines and inflators and tools, where I physically create the balloons ... [and] I design the framing as well.

balloon art business], doing business management-type things. At that time, the only [kind of balloon] I knew was a balloon on a string that you get when you're a kid. ... When I saw all these really cool things [the balloon artist] created, it opened my eyes to this world I never knew existed — the world of balloon art. ... I was hooked. I knew this was what I wanted to do next.

What kind of education or training did you need?

There were a few years at that job when I was getting what I would now call 'on-the-job training,' working under an industry professional ... and when I wanted to get started [with a balloon art business] on my own, she took me under her wing. ... I go to conferences regularly. [The industry] is evolving, and there are new tech-

How long have you had this job?

I started my business in 2016.

What led you to this career field?

In 2012, I started working part time for [a

niques that come out, so there's no end to the learning.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

On site, I usually wear all black because I don't want to be seen; I want the balloons to get all the attention.

How has your job changed over the last year?

The corporate galas, the 5Ks, the grand openings, the school events — those weren't happening anymore, so I needed to pivot my focus to the new kinds of events that were happening. ... Drive-thru baby showers, drive-thru graduations — people found ways to celebrate. ... We don't work with as many businesses now; we're mostly going to people's homes, doing their small backyard celebrations. ... Yard art is also kind of a new industry category that has really taken off; people [want balloon art] for their porch or their deck or their mailbox or even their car.

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

It's OK to be a student. ... Feeling like you have to know everything and do everything correctly all of the time is debilitating, but if you have the mindset of a student who is open to learning and full of curiosity, it relieves so much pressure and makes everything more fun.



Amanda Cee

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

It's about so much more than balloons. I view it as being able to create part of an experience. ... The balloons, the lighting, the music — it all goes toward creating that moment that stays in our memory for a lifetime.

What was the first job you ever had?

I worked in a lawyer's office for four years. I started there at age 15, filing and doing small tasks, and eventually was able to take on more responsibilities, like data entry and talking to clients.

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

Progress over perfection. ... True perfection is unattainable, and with art, there's no such thing as 'perfect' anyway, because it's all so subjective and there's no one 'right' way to do things.

— Angie Sykeny

Five favorites

Favorite book: *The Bridges of Madison County*

Favorite movie: *Gone with the Wind*

Favorite music: Dave Matthews

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Tastes of France:** Portsmouth's The Music Hall will present a **virtual author discussion and Q&A** on Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m., featuring Bill Buford on his 2020 book *Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking*. The author and James Beard Award winner will talk about his journey learning traditional French haute cuisine while working under esteemed chefs in the city of Lyon. Chef-owner Evan Mallet of The Black Trumpet Bistro will serve as the event's moderator. Tickets to access the livestreamed discussion are available at themusichall.org for \$5 per person — a video link will be provided in your email confirmation. Virtual attendees also have the option to purchase a copy of Buford's book for an additional \$17 with their ticket purchase. Books can be shipped to you after the event, or available for pickup at the Music Hall's Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth).

• **Greek goodies:** In honor of **Greek Easter** on Sunday, May 2, jajabelles (143 Main St., Nashua) is taking orders now for a variety of specialty Greek pastries, like baklava, spanakopita and tiropita, as well as finikia (date-nut filled cookies), kourambietes (powdered sugar cookies), kataifi (walnuts wrapped in shredded phyllo and covered in homemade syrup), and koulorakia (twisted sesame cookies), all of which are available by the dozen. Other items include dolmathes (lamb- and beef-filled grape leaves) and tsoureki (Greek sweet bread). Orders are due by April 28 (by April 25 for the tsoureki), with pickups on either May 1 or May 2. Visit jajabelles.com or call 769-1873.

• **All about dandelions:** Register now for **Dandelion Delights**, a program of the Beaver Brook Association to be held on Sunday, May 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Maple Hill Farm (117 Ridge Road, Hollis). Instructor Rivka Schwartz will go over all the different ways dandelions can be enjoyed in foods and drinks and used in medicine to help stimulate digestion and aid the liver. Dandelion wine, soda, salad, tea and fritters will be covered, with take-home recipes and an information packet available for attendees. The cost is \$22 for Beaver Brook members and \$25 for non-members. Visit beaverbrook.org.

• **Poutine pause:** For the second year in a row, the **New Hampshire PoutineFest** will not be taking place at Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Merrimack, according to a statement posted on the popular event's Facebook page on April 14. "That said, this doesn't 24 ▶

FOOD

Tales of new restaurants

Local eateries push through a tough first year



Smoked Caribbean pulled pork. Photo courtesy of Big Kahunas Smokehouse.



Tuna tartare. Photo courtesy of bluAqua Restrobar.



Grilled romaine salad with sesame seared tuna. Photo courtesy of bluAqua Restrobar.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

What's it like to operate a new restaurant during a pandemic? Despite myriad challenges, local chefs, restaurateurs and cafe owners have weathered the ongoing restrictions in the industry and found success along the way. Here's a look at some of their stories.

Big Kahunas Smokehouse

1158 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 935-7400, nhkahuna.com

Opened: June 2020

Merrimack's Big Kahunas Cafe & Grill, which also offers barbecue catering options with an island-style flair, has been established for just under 10 years. According to co-owner and chef Jum-Pa Spooner, it was a customer who first told him and his wife, Amanda Persijn-Spooner, about the newly vacant kitchen in an adjoining space of Shooter's Outpost in Hooksett.

"We were playing around with the idea of a second location ... [and] we already had the smokehouse menu lined up from our catering," Spooner said. "So we just kind of said 'OK,' and then Covid kind of happened simultaneously with it."

Big Kahunas Smokehouse had originally been slated to open in April before pandemic restrictions pushed it back to June. Spooner said having a built-in covered deck immediately allowed them to place tables and chairs outside for dining, as well as small live music acts.

"As soon as we got that first warm day, the tables and chairs were out," he said. "We're lucky because we have such a beautiful wrap-around deck with plenty of shade and easy accessibility."

Takeout is the biggest part of the eatery's business, offering a menu of fresh entrees with various sides and signature sauces to choose from.

"Most Americans think of Texas or Louisiana when they think of barbecue ... but they don't tend to think about the other side of the

continent," Spooner said of eatery's concept. "This is just something just a little bit different from what people might be familiar with."

Lechon kawali, for instance, is a special kind of crispy pork belly that's charred on the outside and tender and juicy on the inside. Caribbean pulled pork with hand-cut slaw, and smashers, or smoked potatoes cooked on a hot griddle with seasonings, are among its other staples.

BiTsize Coffee Bar

1461 Hooksett Road, Unit A1, Hooksett, 210-2089, bitsizecoffeebar.com

Opened: September 2020

Even though BiTsize Coffee Bar (pronounced "bite-size") opened the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend in 2020 in Hooksett's Granite Hill Shoppes plaza, its genesis dates all the way back a full year. The shop, which offers single-origin Costa Rican coffees, espresso drinks, teas and smoothies, as well as a food menu of fresh baked goods and pastries, is a partnership between Granite Hill Shoppes property owner George Kassas and Rabih Bou Chaaya, who has owned Maya Gourmet in Methuen, Mass., since 2014.

The two men met when Kassas, who had envisioned a coffee bar for the then-vacant space on the lower level of his Hooksett plaza for more than a year, visited Bou Chaaya's Methuen shop in the summer of 2019 and invited him to take a look at the space. Delays in the formation of their business plan lasted several months before construction could even begin.

Now, newcomers consistently discover the shop almost every day.

"We've still been getting a lot of new customers that haven't left the house yet, or they have been working from home since the pandemic started and are finding us now," Bou Chaaya said.

Initially, BiTsize Coffee Bar's baked goods, which include French-style butter croissants, cookies, muffins, scones, and Danishes, were prepared at Maya Gourmet the night before. Now they're all made fresh onsite, many

sourced overseas from a bakery in France. Maya Gourmet's baklava is available for sale, in addition to other treats out of a bakery display that include French macarons and cake slices in several flavors. Newer items like breakfast sandwiches and pistachio and lavender lattes were recently added to the menu too.

Late last year, online ordering and curbside pickup were implemented. Starting on May 1, according to Bou Chaaya, the shop's hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays will extend from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., with outdoor patio furniture seating available on the deck.

bluAqua Restrobar

930 Elm St., Manchester, 836-3970, bluquarestrobar.com

Opened: January 2020

Scott Forrester estimates he was open for roughly 30 days before his Southern-inspired Manchester eatery began feeling the pandemic's effects. For much of the initial two-month shutdown from mid-March to late May, bluAqua Restrobar wasn't even open for takeout.

"It was a tough decision to make ... [but] I really didn't want the first impressions of our place to be coming from food from some takeout container," Forrester said. "Also being downtown, it's just not an environment that's set up for quick and easy takeout."

As soon as bluAqua was able to reopen outdoors, Forrester and his staff created a makeshift patio space out on the sidewalk. Despite its success throughout the summer, Forrester said he's still waiting on some patio furniture and heating lamps that he ordered last year to arrive.

The menu changes seasonally but has included po' boy sandwiches, gumbo, shrimp and grits, jambalaya, and other Southern-style foods. Due to a greater lack of walking traffic downtown, Forrester said keeping bluAqua open for lunch has not been viable.

"Every time you think you've overcome an obstacle, there's another one behind it," he said. "There have definitely been times when business is so inconsistent that I just can't keep some menu items on hand. ... We are seeing an



Chicken tortilla soup. Photo courtesy of Diz's Cafe.



Fish tacos with cauliflower rice. Photo courtesy of Diz's Cafe.

uptick in business for dinner, though. This past March was our best month of the year, so that was refreshing."

Cornicello

11 Water St., Exeter, 580-4604,
ilcornicello.com

Opened: March 2020

Chef-owner Tim O'Brien was set to open the Italian scratch-kitchen Cornicello the very weekend after Gov. Chris Sununu's emergency order limiting New Hampshire eateries to takeout only.

"I had people hired, trained and ready to go, and I had to let them go and drop my staff down to zero," said O'Brien, a former high school English teacher who also owns Enoteca Athena in Brunswick, Maine. "They never technically worked a shift."

Instead, Cornicello initially launched as a once-a-week takeout-only model, usually on Sunday afternoons. O'Brien would create a limited menu of fresh pastas, seafood and other items each week, inspired either from his family's recipes or from his travels throughout the many regions of Italy. For several months until he was able to open for indoor dining that June, he would drive down from his restaurant in Maine on a Saturday night or early Sunday morning and prepare Cornicello's food and wine orders for that week.

"I needed to open up to try to get my name out there to some extent," he said. "That was incredibly difficult, to try to build a reputation in town while only being able to do takeout."

When restaurants were able to welcome customers back indoors in June, Cornicello did so with entirely new staff members from those O'Brien had previously hired in March. But it would be several more months to follow before he felt that Cornicello had really hit its stride.

"By around October was kind of when we hit that turning point, because we finally started to get an established group of people that I would say have been regulars," he said. "Before then, there were many days and weeks when I was just ready to throw in the towel."

Cornicello is open Wednesday through Saturday for dining in, but even now O'Brien sometimes has to consider switching to takeout-only due to a lack of staff availability. Otherwise, he said, takeout has become a minimal part of his business while he now puts

more focus on dining in.

"It can be difficult, because we're spread out and it's already such a small space that we're in, but we do what has to be done," he said.

Recently, O'Brien has been in negotiations with his landlord to use the empty lot next door to Cornicello as a patio. He has also proposed adding an onsite oyster bar to the town.

Diz's Cafe

860 Elm St., Manchester; 606-2532,
dizscfe.com

Opened: May 2020

Named after owner and longtime chef Gary "Diz" Window of Manchester, Diz's Cafe was about three weeks away from opening when the statewide stay-at-home order was first issued.

"We had signed the lease in January, and we were in the midst of trying to hire when everything started shutting down," general operations manager Billy Martin said. "That delayed us getting our last couple of permits and inspections that we needed to open."

More than two months later, Diz's Cafe finally got the green light to open just after Memorial Day weekend. But with still a few weeks left to go before New Hampshire restaurants became allowed to welcome patrons back inside for dining, Martin said a collective decision was made to serve takeout orders directly out onto the street through the eatery's front windows.

"It almost felt like we were operating like Cremeland [Drive-In]," he said of those first few weeks. "The second week we were open, we got clearance to put tables outside, so it was kind of like a takeout picnic-area model for a week or so. Then indoor dining resumed on June 15."

Takeout still represents a significant percentage of Diz's Cafe's overall sales, Martin said, especially earlier in the week. The eatery is known for its scratch-made comfort foods and home-cooked meals, including its appetizers, burgers and sandwiches, but also its customizable "build-your-own" menu of at least one protein and up to three fresh sides.

"We've seen incredible growth, which has been encouraging," he said. "We've definitely seen more people lately who have been more comfortable with dining in, as more people go back to work and there's more activity downtown."



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The Marge and Rita cocktail. Photo courtesy of Stones Social.

As the weather continues to turn warmer and Diz's closes in on a full year being open, the eatery is expected to add more tables and chairs out on the sidewalk. Martin said monthly specials will continue too, including possibly some Cinco de Mayo-inspired items in May.

School Street Cafe

1007 School St., Dunbarton, 774-2233, schoolstreetcafe.com

Opened: August 2020

Lindsey Andrews and Carrie Hobi had worked together at MG's Farmhouse Cafe in Dunbarton Center until its permanent closure in the spring of last year. The two cousins, who had talked while growing up about one day opening their own bakery and coffee shop, were later offered the space to rebrand and remodel that summer as the School Street Cafe. Since opening in August, the cafe has become known for its build-your-own breakfast sandwiches, fresh baked pastries and yogurt parfaits, as well as coffee sourced from Hometown Coffee Roasters of Manchester and several flavors of ice cream from Blake's.

"We've recently introduced online ordering, which has been a huge success," Andrews said. "We also have several picnic tables outside now ... to help control the flow of traffic inside, or if you just want to sit out and enjoy the sunshine."

According to Andrews, the School Street Cafe is also currently developing a catering menu that would include package options such as breakfast pastries and boxed lunches. Similar to last year, evening hours for the cafe will likely be extended in the near future for ice cream.

Second Brook Bar & Grill

1100 Hooksett Road, Unit 111, Hooksett, 935-7456, secondbrook.com

Opened: September 2020

It was Christmas Day 2019 when Jeanne Foote noticed the vacant space that had been DC's Tavern while driving through Hooksett. The Manchester native had spent more than a decade working at The Puritan Backroom and Billy's Sports Bar, later owning Bella's Casual Dining in Durham before its closure a few months prior. A lease was signed for the Hooksett storefront in January 2020, with



Vegetable fried rice. Photo courtesy of Stones Social.

the goal to open what would become Second Brook Bar & Grill in early May.

Even though the pandemic delayed the new casual comfort and homestyle eatery for four months before it finally opened in September, Foote said it actually proved to be beneficial.

"The restaurant needed a lot of work," she said, "so Covid hitting really kind of gave us more time to think about what we wanted it to be, instead of just trying to throw something together."

TJ's Tavern was the eatery's original name before it was renamed Second Brook, after the nearby brook by the railroad tracks that Foote frequented as a hangout spot while in high school.

Just within the last month, Foote said, takeout orders at Second Brook have been "off the charts," especially on weekend evenings, while new customers also continue to dine in for the first time.

"We just recently hit our six-month mark, and I feel like the word is still getting out that we're even here, with more people getting vaccinated and not being as afraid to go out," she said.

Menu items, which include everything from appetizers, soups and salads, to burgers, sandwiches and plated entrees, also continue to evolve with new ideas, like mini pretzel bites with homemade beer cheese sauce, and prime rib French dip with homemade chips.

Stones Social

449 Amherst St., Nashua, 943-7445, stonessocial.com

Opened: June 2020

Inspired by the supper club, or the concept of serving creative comfort foods and cocktails in a small and intimate setting, Stones Social had been in the works well before the start of the pandemic. The eatery is the latest venture of Stones Hospitality Group, which also owns two restaurants in northern Massachusetts — Cobblestones of Lowell, which has been serving elevated tavern fare since 1994, and Moonstones, an eatery featuring global small plates that opened in Chelmsford in the late 2000s.

According to beverage director Aislyn Plath, the family-run group took over occupancy of the space that would become Stones Social in late 2019. Following a remodeling period, Stones Social would have been ready



Chicken fajita salad. Photo courtesy of Trio's Cafe & Cantina.

to open within a week of everything shutting down in mid-March.

"We knew that things were going south, but there was nothing we could do," Plath said. "We decided to put [Stones Social] on the back burner and put all our energy into Cobblestones and Moonstones, because we knew we couldn't let those suffer at the behest of a new space. ... We also didn't want people being introduced to us by eating something from [a takeout] box."

Stones Social would eventually open in late June once indoor restaurant dining restrictions in New Hampshire were loosened. The menu, which includes lighter bar snacks like Buffalo tenders and Chinese short ribs, as well as burgers, wood-fired skillet, poke bowls and a wide array of house cocktails, has remained consistent throughout. Plath said a few promotions have been added too, like "Throwback Thursday" wood-fired pizza specials, and "Social Sunday" specials featuring smoked meats, brunch options and family-style meals.

Business was slow to start at Stones Social, but Plath said she has recently been seeing an influx of new people coming through the door. Since June, the eatery has also amassed a respectable following of regulars.

"They've been our biggest champions during this time," she said. "It feels like we've been a little family over the last year."

Trio's Cafe & Cantina

264 N. Broadway, Unit 105, Salem, 458-6164, trioscc.com

Opened: January 2021

Salem native Julie Manzer opened this eatery, which features breakfast and lunch items with a unique Southwestern flair, in the Breckenridge Plaza in mid-January of this year. Trio's gets its name from the owners — a "trio" of generations of the same family that includes Manzer, her mother, Janet, and father, Paul, and her two daughters, Tanna and Keira Marshall.

"Takeout used to be crazy, but I think more people have been getting more comfortable with coming in," Manzer said. "We also just recently put out tables on the patio."

The birria tacos, she said, have been among the more recent popular menu items at Trio's.

"It's a stewed beef that we cook overnight, so it's super tender and falls apart like a pot roast would," she said. "We serve corn torti-



Strawberry Cheesecake French toast. Photo courtesy of White Birch Eatery.

llas with it and an adobo sauce."

The menu also features staples like chicken or steak fajita salads, Mexican street corn tenders, and tacos and quesadillas with a variety of fillings, plus a selection of signature margaritas and a Happy Hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 2 to 5 p.m.

White Birch Eatery

571 Mast Road, Goffstown, 836-6849, whitebircheatery.com

Opened: March 2020

Cyndee Williams of Merrimack opened White Birch Eatery, her first restaurant as owner, on March 9, 2020. Just seven days later came Gov. Sununu's emergency takeout-only mandate.

"Everyone was just starting to hear about the pandemic and what was going on," Williams said of that first week being open. "[I was] super-nervous just as far as trying to figure out what was happening in the kitchen, like do I have enough spatulas and that kind of thing ... and now I have to wonder, 'Will I be able to stay open?' It was definitely a lot of long days and longer nights, where you ask yourself, 'Is this going to work?'"

Williams said she and her staff attempted to offer takeout for a couple of days, but to no avail. After just one week of being open, White Birch Eatery ended up closing for nearly four months.

"The company that owned this space before us, Chiggy's Place, did not do takeout, so we didn't even have that takeout clientele, plus our restaurant was a completely different feel," Williams said. "So first, it was just trying to get people to come in and try us ... and then on top of that, getting them to wear a mask, not sit next to people and all that kind of stuff. It was difficult."

White Birch Eatery finally reopened on July 6 and has been going strong ever since, thanks in part to Williams' receiving aid from the state's Main Street Relief Fund. The spot is now known for its breakfast and lunch items made with fresh, local ingredients, from grain bowls and sandwiches to toasts, omelets, breakfast plates and espresso drinks, plus its seasonal specials and an entire menu of options appealing to vegan and vegetarian diners.

Even though it didn't take off right away, Williams said takeout is now integral to her business.



Breakfast BLT. Photo courtesy of White Birch Eatery.



Cowboy Rib-eye. Photo courtesy of Zachary's Chop House.

"We went from having no takeout to some days doing almost half of our sales in takeout, which is not what I had in mind at all," she said. "We have come into one of those sticky situations now where on the weekends we will have so much takeout that we have to stop it."

Williams, who has more than a decade of catering experience in several restaurants and hotels, said White Birch Eatery will also soon focus more on catering, for small gatherings like corporate events and bridal and baby showers out of an adjoining 40-seat banquet facility.

Zachary's Chop House

4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 890-5555, zacharyschophouse.com

Opened: July 2020

Zach Woodard had owned The Lobster Tail in Windham for the last six years and had worked there as a chef for about a decade prior to then when he decided he was ready for a change. The new concept he came up with was simple: to bring an upscale steakhouse experience you're more likely to get in a bigger city to rural New Hampshire.

Zachary's Chop House opened in late July following a quick two-month turnaround that included a complete remodeling of the space. With the help of Woodard's friend, Godsmack singer and frontman Sully Erna, he was able to quickly secure connections with contractors to redo everything in the restaurant from its front windows to its bathrooms and HVAC systems.

"It's more casual fine dining, so we don't have tablecloths or anything, but we do have a very nice upscale menu where we cook all sorts of steaks, and a little bit of seafood too," Woodard said. "We do brunch on Sundays, [and] then for lunch we do burgers, salads, that sort of stuff."

The eatery does limited takeout during the day, but Woodard will usually stop those services around 4 p.m. In addition to weekly indoor dining, Zachary's Chop House has quickly become a favorite spot for its weekend brunches on holidays such as Easter Sunday, when there are items that include carving stations, omelet stations and fresh fruit displays.

"Here, it's really about coming in and having that experience," Woodard said. "We feel that the sky's the limit for us once the restrictions stop and more of the vaccines are being rolled out."

Zizza Authentic Pizzeria

653 Elm St., Milford, 249-5767, zizzapizza.com

Opened: January 2021

Michael Zielie of Wilton never could have predicted the volume of response that Zizza Authentic Pizzeria would get during its opening night in Milford on Jan. 15.

"We opened at 11 that morning and even by 3 p.m. we were busier than I thought we were going to be," Zielie said. "Then the orders started pouring in after that. Between 3 and 4:30 p.m., we received probably about 150 orders alone."

Beginning at around 5 p.m. that evening and lasting for several hours, Zizza's 19-space parking lot remained full, with nearly a dozen additional cars parked on the side of Route 101 and police cruisers directing traffic. At one point, Zielie said, he counted around 90 people in the lobby and parking lot all waiting for their orders, a majority of which had been placed online through the website or via a mobile app the company developed.

"As the night went on, we decided instead to just start calling out names asking people what they ordered, and we just made those pizzas to order," he said.

The next day, the decision was made to temporarily shut down the ordering app and instead implement a system in which customers choose their own pickup times in a five-minute window. As of last month, Zielie said, ordering through the mobile app and website is now back online, with specific times you can choose to pick up your order.

Zizza Authentic Pizzeria opened following the success of Friday and Saturday Wood-fired Pizza Nights at the nearby Hilltop Cafe in Wilton, which the Zielie family also owns. In addition to handcrafted pizzas, the menu features salads, made-to-order milkshakes, homemade Italian sodas, and "ZZandwiches," or sandwiches made with folded pizza dough.

Hand-filled cannolis, each made to order with sauces like lemon curd, caramel and chocolate, and toppings like chocolate chips, pistachios and walnuts, were also recently added to the menu.

"Hopefully by the summertime, we're going to introduce other Italian pastries and desserts, like gelato, cookies and ricotta pie," Zielie said. 🍷

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH REGINA DAVISON



Regina Davison and her husband, Jeremy, own R & J Texas-style BBQ On Wheels (183 Elm St., Unit 3, Milford, 518-0186, rjtexasbbqonwheels.com), which opened a brick-and-mortar space in late December following the success of the couple's food truck last summer. The eatery features everything from combo plates of brisket or pulled pork with scratch-made sides like collard greens, cornbread and baked beans to harder-to-find items like crawfish and fried okra. A wide variety of Southern-inspired desserts includes pecan pie, banana pudding cake, and peach cobbler with a scoop of ice cream. A native of Dallas, Regina Davison came to New Hampshire about eight years ago, where she met her husband.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

[A] tasting spoon, and a long-handled stirring spoon.

What would you have for your last meal?

I have so many allergies, so I would like everything that I've been unable to have. Fried oysters, honey-glazed salmon with a watermelon salad, and then crab legs, shrimp and a large bowl of every fruit known to man.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Greenleaf [in Milford], because the owners are very nice and the drinks are amazing.

What celebrity would you like to see eating in your restaurant?

[Actress] Taraji P. Henson, because she

motivates me to keep pushing and reaching for my goals and dreams.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

The brisket mac and cheese. I eat it almost every day.

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

Pizza and barbecue.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

My family and I love hot pot [cooking]. We can eat it every day. We always buy a ton of thinly sliced rib-eye, Angus beef, chicken, sausage, watercress, spinach, bok choy, rice noodles and at least three pots of jasmine rice.

— Matt Ingersoll

Homemade baked beans

From the kitchen of Regina Davison of R & J Texas-style BBQ On Wheels in Milford

- 2 pounds pinto beans
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup molasses
- ½ cup chili powder

Combine all dry ingredients into a slow cooker and cook overnight on low. In the morning, stir and add at least two cups of water. Add molasses and continue cooking for two hours in the oven. Serve hot with cornbread.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 20

mean that all is lost for 2021," the statement read. "We are currently investigating all potential opportunities. ... When, where, how ... TBD." The poutine-centered festival was canceled last year due to the pandemic, with

a roadshow "passport" promotion held in its place in which poutine lovers could visit participating restaurants across the state and get 25 percent off a regular order of poutine. Visit nhpoutinefest.com for updates.

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TRY THIS AT HOME

Roasted tomato bruschetta

It's that time of year where I am hopeful for the return of warm weather and freshly picked produce. It's also the time of year when I remember that it's at least a month before I see the first local produce of the season, which is usually rhubarb or fiddleheads.

And it's the time of year when I think to myself that maybe the tomatoes in the produce department of my grocery store aren't too bland — until I bring them home and am disappointed in their color, texture and flavor. Sigh.

That's where this recipe saves the day. Because after buying those tomatoes, which seemed worth the gamble, I can manipulate them to derive more flavor. The trick is in roasting the tomatoes at a slow temperature for a little bit of time. That



Roasted tomato bruschetta. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

allows excess moisture to be removed and the flavor of the tomatoes to intensify.

Once you have tomatoes with a deeper, richer flavor, you want them to be the star of the show. That's why this bruschetta recipe is so simple.

Just some roasted tomatoes, crusty baguette slices and a little bit of basil for freshness, and you'll have an appetizer that's about as close to the taste of summer as you can get in New Hampshire in April.

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

Roasted tomato bruschetta

Serves 4

- 8 plum tomatoes, halved lengthwise
- 1 Tablespoon good olive oil
- 2 Tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- salt and pepper
- 6-8 fresh basil leaves, thinly sliced
- Toasted baguette slices

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Arrange the tomatoes on a rimmed baking sheet, cut sides up, in a single layer. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

Sprinkle minced garlic, sugar, salt and pepper on the tomatoes.

Roast for 1 hour; remove tray from oven. Using tongs (or fingers, if brave), tip each tomato half to remove liquid.

Return tomato halves to oven, and roast for another hour or until the tomato skins are wrinkled and the cut sides are browning. Allow the tomatoes to cool to room temperature on the baking sheet.

Slice tomato halves to fit on crostini. Top baguette slices with roasted tomatoes, and garnish with sliced basil.

Leftover roasted tomato can be stored in the refrigerator, separate from any remaining baguette slices.

Food & Drink

Farmers markets

• **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at 20 S. Main Street in Concord. Find them on Facebook @downtown-

concordwinterfarmersmarket.

• **Milford Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 300 Elm Street in Milford (across the street from the New Hampshire Antique Co-op), beginning May 8. Visit [hfarmersmarket.com.](http://milfordn-</p>
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• **Salem Farmers Market** is Sundays, from 10 a.m. to noon, inside the former Rockler Woodworking building (369 S. Broadway, Salem). Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.org.



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FOOD



BEER

The West Coast IPA

What the heck is that?

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippopress.com

It's not fair to call the IPA style ubiquitous. I mean, it totally is, but at the same time, that descriptor just takes away from how much innovation and how much variation takes place within this style.

For a quick second, think about what your choices were for IPAs 10 years ago at your local beer store. (Did you have a local beer store 10 years ago?) Times have changed.

Today, in terms of quantity, IPAs are a dime a dozen — or like in reality closer to about \$60 per dozen — but within the style, you're looking at double IPAs, New England-style IPAs, American IPAs, even triple IPAs, dry-hopped IPAs, session IPAs, and so on and so forth.

While the New England-style IPA, with its combination of juiciness, haze and drinkability, tends to get the most attention these days, let us not forget about the West Coast IPA.

This isn't a new style, of course; you could make a pretty sound and probably accurate argument that this is the style that really kicked off the current IPA craze, and maybe the craft beer revolution altogether. Think Dogfish Head 90-minute IPA or a Sculpin IPA by Ballast Point.

The West Coast IPA features prominent flavors of citrus and pine and a lot of bitterness. So you still get citrus flavors as you probably would with a New England-style IPA, but you would not consider calling these beers juicy. These beers bite and the presence of pine notes sets this style apart even more.

You'll see West Coast IPAs described with words like "dank" and "resin." Now, look, clearly no one placed a call to a marketing agency when they came up with those words, but it's too late now. I don't know that there is an explicit definition of the term "dank," but I take it to mean the brew is sort of funky — in a good way.

For a lot of IPA drinkers, it's that hop bitterness from the West Coast or American-style IPA that drew them into this style in the first place. It's also what turns off others from truly giving the style a chance.

Looking at the pour, the West Coast style tends to lack the thick, golden haze of a New England-style IPA. West Coast IPAs can range from nearly clear to a rich amber color.

Now, brewers are constantly experimenting and the guidelines for specific styles are getting broader and broader by the minute, so keep that in mind.

But, to me, the West Coast IPA is just an exciting brew that smacks you around with a ton of bold flavors. Sometimes you do need to get smacked around a little bit.

OK, that's enough, let's get to the beer.



West Coast IPA. Photo by Jeff Mucciarone.

New England Gangsta by Earth Eagle Brewings (Portsmouth)

Yes, you can make West Coast IPA on the East Coast. This has a nice floral bouquet on the nose with prominent hop character — fresh, bright and not overly bitter.

Union Jack by Firestone Walker Brewing Co. (Paso Robles, Calif.)

"Big and loud," as the brewery describes it, is right on. This is super hoppy and flavorful. The hops hit you right in the face from a variety of angles — so be ready.

Stone IPA by Stone Brewing (Escondido, Calif.)

Another iconic West Coast IPA, this hits you with a ton of tropical flavor and pine.

Pitch A Tent by Hobbs Brewing Co. (Ossipee)

This double IPA is well-balanced, featuring tropical notes and plenty of citrus and just enough bite. The pour is nearly crystal clear. At 8 percent ABV, be careful.

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

What's in My Fridge

Juice Lord by Lord Hobo Brewing Co. (Woburn, Mass.)

This is super-juicy and full of big fruit flavor as you'd expect, but it's also bitter, maybe more bitter than I expected. It took me a second to get used to that, I think just because I really wasn't expecting it, but after a few sizable sips, I was all in. Yet another Lord Hobo brew you should track down and enjoy. Cheers!

CDs pg27

• Robots of the Ancient World, "Mystic Goddess"

A+

• Hugh Manwell,

Guidance B

BOOKS pg28

• *First Person Singular* B-

• **Book Notes**

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book

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FILM p29

• *All about the Oscars*

Robots Of The Ancient World, "Mystic Goddess" (Small Stone Records)



As you know, I've been disappointed many times by bands advertised as "doom metal" or "stoner" acts. It's always the same: I press play on the promo record hoping to hear something that's even half as crazed (and mildly proggy) as Black Sabbath's *Sabotage* album, but it's never that; it's either hipster-barfed Queens Of The Stone Age nonsense, Candlemass molusk-gloom or Wino Weintraub-level Ozzy karaoke (Wolves In The Throne Room was one rare exception). This, though, is cool. I'm jumping the gun here by writing up the title track single

(the album's due May 21), but that right-arrow "play" button was too tempting for me to resist. This Seattle-or-thereabouts-based quintet aren't as prog as mid-'70s Sabbath, but they do want to impress the metal dudes with their arms crossed in the back row, which they accomplish through a next-level feel for polyrhythms a la Jane's Addiction, but with more poly to the rhythm. Their first album was great, so I have every expectation that the balance forward on this one will be pretty neat-o as well. A+ —Eric W. Saeger

Hugh Manwell, *Guidance* (self-released)

This came to my attention from my jazz-promotion space, but it comes off more like an attempt at an a capella indie project. Manwell, a New York City multi-instrumentalist, is responsible for every sound on this album, all the drums, trumpet, saxophone, bass, guitar, piano and synths. He's capable enough at all of them, and you have to hand it to him for the effort. But while the line on this record promised a "big band" style effort, it's mostly far from that, even if opening tune "Welcome To The Show" does have an overarching vibe of torchy, *Night They*

Raided Minsky's burlesque to it. The balance forward is a mesh of many things, though, very little of it big band. Manwell obviously digs stuff like J Dilla, Gorillaz, 1970s-period Miles Davis, probably even Steely Dan; his mercurial attention wanders to so many different retro urban influences that the record eventually emerges as one that wants to be something completely different. Toward that, it's certainly ambitious, put it that way. B — Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Hey guys, what the heck's the name of that stupid TV show where a crew of fishermen go out on a boat during weather that's right out of *The Perfect Storm*, where they laugh and punch themselves in the face and keel-haul each other while pulling up giant nets crawling with 3-foot lobsters and man-eating devil-crabs? Oh right, it's the *Deadliest Catch* show. For me, that's basically what every week is like, but in a musical sense, when I look through my emails. Just like those crab dudes, every week, I hold my nose, punch myself in the face, and go see what new albums are coming out, just so you rotten little trolls can point and laugh while tedious trust-fund hipster-crabs pinch my ears and dreadful thrash-metal lobsters just cold clamp down on my you-know-what. We'll start this week's ill-fated expedition with *Sweep It Into Space*, the new album from ancient semi-retired semi-punks **Dinosaur Jr.**, streeting on April 23! I was never into punk bands that weren't really all that punk-sounding, so you'll have to forgive my not being able to identify which old "relevant era" Dinosaur Jr tune the new single, "I Ran Away," rips off. After a loping, jangly intro part, an uneventful chorus part comes in, which of course follows the formula of every song written in the '90s.

• Also for April 23, famous Las Vegas singing organism **Tom Jones** is still around, which means there's hope for humanity, because he saved everyone in *Mars Attacks*, and whatever, I think he's awesome. Check it, yo, he's 80 years old but looks like a teddy bear version of Larry Ellison, maybe even Robert Downey Jr. Since he's not really a songwriter, his new album, *Surrounded by Time*, will mostly feature cover songs, including a rub of Todd Snider's "Talking Reality Television Blues," a six-minute opus about pop culture nonsense and whatnot. Jones mostly does a William Shatner on this one, not really singing, just trying to talk-sing like Johnny Cash, you know the deal. Yes, it's epic.

• **Field Music** is an art-rock/prog-pop type of band from England that's counted in its ranks members of such acts as Maximo Park and The Futureheads. Oh, whatever, they're sort of like Todd Rundgren or Prefab Sprout, so if such names trigger a Pavlovian response in your physiology, by all means go and drool on a Field Music CD, just not in front of me please (many people dig them, of course, which is probably why they broke up for a few years). *Flat White Moon* is their latest album, and — whoa, I've always wanted to say this: Stop the presses! The single "Orion From The Street" is like what you'd get if Wire rewrote Fleetwood Mac's "Everywhere." This is so awesome I can't even stand it. Holy expletive. You should pay actual money for this.

• We'll end this week's torment with the second album from **Porter Robinson**, called *Nurture*, and now I'll read the Wiki to see if I shouldn't have just skipped this bit. Hm, blah blah blah, he's an electronic musician. He has a new single, called "Musician," if this stupid ad with Ryan Reynolds will ever — ah, here we are. It's bloopy and chopped, with unintelligible chipmunk vocals, basically your average Orbital album-filler song. —Eric W. Saeger

Retro Playlist

Ten years ago this week, the thrust of this column was aimed at a couple of big-name albums, which we'll get to in a second, but there was a local boy making good as well, namely Hampton singer-guitarist dude **Doug Wheaton**, who had just released a self-titled solo album for his **Slow Burn** project. I was mildly sucked in from the start, when his press sheet asked, "Tired of wimpy emo guys in tight pants playing sensitive, quirky ballads on beaten up acoustic guitars? Need more power chords in your life? Then the nine songs I have



posted are right up your alley." It's still around on his ReverbNation space, including the tune "24 Hours," which sounds sort of like what would happen if **David Byrne** was in **Los Lobos**.

That week I also talked about the new **Airborne Toxic Event** album, *All At Once*, which found those rawk dudes casting off their **Arcade Fire**-ish indie shackles and just cold going for it. I noted "if Cold War Kids had been an '80s band that dug Joy Division, this could've easily come of it." It was nice to see that they had "reinvented themselves as a cultural vacuum cleaner

bag, touching on **Bruce, Neil Diamond, Lords of the New Church, Gavin Rossdale, U2, Goo Goo Dolls, Big Country**, and **Simple Minds**, [i.e.] almost everyone who's ever 'mattered', while wafting a somewhat dark edge."

There was also a new **k.d. lang** album afoot that week, called *Sing It Loud*. After explaining how she's basically a female **Roy Orbison**, I pronounced that this record found her "not just channeling but actually becoming Orbison, in a way, which isn't all that strange." Lots of organic feel to this record, which made it super nice.



"Easily the most stunning thing on the album," I stanned breathlessly, "is the deep-and-rich refrain of the banjo-dotted 'Habit of Mind,' which is too divine for the soccer-mom niche it'll be pointed at."

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

First Person Singular by Haruki Murakami (Knopf, 256 pages)

Type “Haruki Murakami” into the Google search engine, and one of the questions that comes up is “Why is Harukami Murakami so popular?,” which elicits a laugh. Sometimes, wading through his matter-of-fact, beige-to-gray prose, one does have to ask.

Murakami’s characters often seem aimless, their wanderings pointless, and in his longer works, such as 2017’s *Killing Commendatore*, so can his writing. One scornful critic has called him “the Forrest Gump of global literature.” But it’s not hyperbole to call the Japanese writer a sensation, so for people who would like to sample Murakami without a month-long commitment, there’s an opportunity in *First Person Singular*, a collection of eight stories that coalesce around love, death, aging and reality.



I think.

Murakami reminds me of the children’s book *Nothing Ever Happens on My Block* (by Ellen Raskin), in which a glum child sits on a stoop and complains about how boring his life is, while fire trucks zoom by and witches pop up in windows. Surely there’s more going on here than I’m seeing?

But then Murakami has one of his characters, a writer, say to an editor: “Theme? Can’t say there is one,” which seems like a sly confession befitting the owner of a jazz bar who famously decided he would become a novelist one day while watching a baseball game.

I digress, but so does he. That said, after a slow start, *First Person Singular* is a wonderfully quirky foray into the world of Murakami, the strongest stories being “Charlie Parker Plays Bossa Nova” and “Confessions of a Shinagawa Monkey.”

In “Charlie Parker,” the narrator begins by recounting a story he wrote in college about the American jazz legend experimenting with bossa nova, a type of music that is an alchemy of jazz and samba. The thing is, Parker died before bossa nova was invented, so the narrator envisions a recording that is fantasy. But one day, browsing through a music store, he comes across a crudely produced recording called “Charlie Parker Plays Bossa Nova” that lists exactly the same tracks that he had invented. Instead of buying the album (\$35 seems a bit much), he leaves the store, but then regrets the decision and returns to the store the next day. What happens next is equally fanciful but compelling, and as with much of Murakami’s work, instructive in music.

“Confessions” is a story that could come from the pen of Stephen King, had King grown up in Japan instead of Maine.

The narrator, yet another trademark Murakami wanderer, checks into a ramshackle inn, where everything is old and decrepit, to include the cat sleeping in the foyer. The inn does have one nice feature, two if you count the vending machine that dispenses beer. (Who knew that such things existed?) It has a glorious hot-springs bath, in which the

narrator soaks blissfully for a while. This is where he meets the titular monkey, a grizzled creature that shows up and, in perfect English (actually Japanese, as this, like Murakami’s other work, is a translation), offers to scrub the narrator’s back. Naturally, the narrator wants to learn more, so he invites the monkey to come to his room later for conversation and beer.

There, he learns how the monkey came to learn to speak more eloquently than many human beings and to appreciate opera. He also learned that it’s hard being an educated monkey — one is not accepted by his own kind, nor by the humans that he more closely resembles. And one has a particularly hard time finding love.

So the monkey, over time, developed an oddly touching way of experiencing love without having physical contact with the human women he desired. The method did, however, take something from the women, making it unethical. And when the narrator later meets a woman that he suspects had encountered the monkey, he has his own ethical test, of whether to tell her what had transpired. If, of course, it transpired at all and wasn’t just the fevered imagination of a tired man soaking in a hot spring.

This story was published last year in *The New Yorker*, as was “With the Beatles,” a rambling recollection of a man remembering his first girlfriend and her older brother, whom he had only met once while he was dating the girl, but then encountered decades later by chance. He had broken up with the girl, who did not “ring my bell,” and both had married someone else, and he was unaware of the shocking turn her life had taken until running into the brother.

The repurposing of previously published stories into a book seems vaguely like cheating, although it is done frequently by authors of stature. So, pro tip: You can find some of these stories by searching the table of contents on Amazon and then searching for them online.

“Carnaval” is built around the composi-

BOOK NOTES

The demise of physical books was supposed to be e-books; the end of physical bookstores, Amazon. But what if the extinction-level event turned out to be vending machines?

Probably not, but I did do a double take upon learning this week about a nonprofit called Short Edition, which has installed more than 300 “Short Story Dispensers” at locations around the world. Users can choose the length of what they want to read — one minute, three minutes or five — and the machine prints it out, looking scarily like a CVS receipt. (See a demonstration at short-edition.com.)

There don’t appear to be any in New Hampshire, but a map of locations shows a variety of locations, to include airports, universities, wineries and, somewhat disturbingly, libraries. There’s lots to unpack here, including the shrinking American attention span, but this could be an interesting way to expose people to new writers.

Meanwhile, for short reads that don’t come on a receipt, check out:

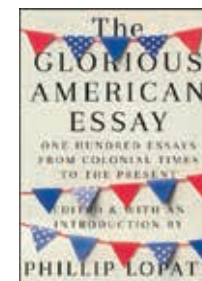
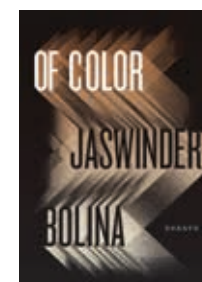
Spilt Milk by Courtney Zoffness, a two-time resident of Peterborough’s MacDowell Colony, (McSweeney’s, 211 pages) offers essays on motherhood, family connections and Judaism.

Of Color, by Jaswinder Bolina (McSweeney’s, 129 pages), poignant essays on race and identity from a poet who writes that he looks more like the 9/11 hijackers than the firefighters who responded that day.

Love Like That by Emma Duffy-Comparone (Henry Holt and Co., 224 pages). The publisher says these stories are about “brilliant, broken women that are just the right amount of wrong.”

The Glorious American Essay, edited by Phillip Lopate (Pantheon, 928 pages), collects 100 classic essays from colonial America to the present, including luminaries such as E.B. White, Rachel Carson, David Foster Wallace, Lewis Thomas and James Thurber.

— Jennifer Graham



tion by Robert Schumann and involves a music-centered relationship with the ugliest woman the narrator has ever known, “the result of a unique force that compressed unattractive elements of all shape and sizes and assembled them together in one place.”

“The Yakult Swallows Poetry Collection,” which appears to be pure memoir (but who knows?), is a man reflecting on his love for baseball, and how he scribbles poetry in a notebook in between action. (“Let’s face it — baseball is a sport done at a leisurely pace.”)

Reading Murakami is also best done at a leisurely pace, lest you feel out of touch with an author who is never in a hurry to get where he is going, and often seems not to know where he is going, which may be the truth. (Theme? What theme?) But it is a singular experience, which is sometimes

rewarded with an unexpected jolt of humor, as when Murakami (or his narrator, hard to tell the difference), reflecting on his habits of dressing, says that when looking in his closet of unworn dress shirts, still in the dry-cleaner’s plastic, starts to feel apologetic toward the clothes and tries them on out of kindness. Or when a character flatly intones, “Loving someone is like having a mental illness that’s not covered by health insurance.”

Murakami could be one of the greatest writers of understatement the modern world has known or, equally plausible, an imaginative jazz bar owner who stumbled into literary acclaim. Either way, Murakami fans will thrill to this collection, even though they’ve likely already read much of it. Others will Google “Why is Haruki Murakami so popular?” **B-**

— Jennifer Graham

Books

- **ERIN BOWMAN** Author presents *Dustborn*. Outside Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord). Sat., April 24, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Call 224-0562 or visit gibsonsbookstore.com.
- **PADDY DONNELLY** Author presents *The Vanishing Lake*. Presented by The Toadstool Bookshop of Nashua, Peterborough and Keene. Virtual, via Zoom. Sat., April 24, 1 p.m. Call 352-8815 or visit toadbooks.com

- **LITERARY COCKTAIL HOUR** Presented by Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord. Featuring authors Kat Howard, Kelly Braffet, Cat Valente, and Freya Marskem in conversation with bookstore staff. Virtual, via Zoom. Sat., April 24, 5 p.m. Call 224-0562 or visit gibsonsbookstore.com.
- **BILL BUFORD** Author presents *Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking*. Hosted by The

Music Hall in Portsmouth. Virtual. Wed., April 28, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$5. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

• **SUZANNE KOVEN** Author presents *Letter to a Young Female Physician*, in conversation with author Andrew Solomon. Hosted by The Music Hall in Portsmouth. Tues., May 18, 7 p.m. Virtual. Tickets cost \$5. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.

Have a happy Oscars Sunday

Why the Oscars and the Oscar movies can be fun

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

I love the Oscars.

Sure, the awards ceremony is long, people thank their agents, not all of the Choices! made with montages or original song performances or “comedy” bits are successful. And, yes, the Oscars don’t always pick the best movies or the most deserving artists in a year to nominate or to reward with the big prizes.

But still — I am excited about the Sunday, April 25, Academy Awards ceremony (8 p.m. on ABC; at 6:30 p.m. something called *Oscars: Into the Spotlight* will air, according to media reports, and will feature pre-recorded performances of all the original song nominees and maybe this will be fun and maybe it will be lame but I’m totally going to watch it). And this year has the potential of being extra fun/extra weird (which can also be fun) because it’s going to be “like a movie” somehow, as all the reports about the Steven Soderbergh-produced pandemic-era (but allegedly Zoom-free) ceremony have stated.

Perhaps you don’t care about the Oscars (which is fine, we all pick our own things to geek out over). Perhaps you find yourself not caring this year because you haven’t heard of some of the movies (only 18 percent of “active film watchers” have heard of *Mank*, according to a New York Times article from April 18, the gist of which was the annual freak-out about whether people will watch the Oscars, heightened this year because award shows in general have seen ratings tank during the pandemic). During this year of limited in-theater movie releases and limited “let’s go see whatever random movie is playing” outings, it seems totally normal that people wouldn’t be aware of the movies unless finding out about movies is their Thing.

So, if you haven’t already bought your bubbly and blocked off Sunday evening on your calendar, why is the Oscars, in its 93rd year of fusty award giving and “Webster’s Dictionary defines story-telling”-ness, worth getting excited about? Here are the reasons why I, in spite of everything, love the Oscars:

• **The clothes:** “Pretty dresses” (and suits and their intersection, i.e. Billy Porter’s awesome 2019 gown) may sound like a shallow reason to be interested in something but capital F Fashion is not something I, a vintage *Targeeé* and Old Navy couture -type, get a lot of regular exposure to. Post-Oscars coverage can include things like discussion of a designer’s recent collection or side-by-side pictures of a dress on the runway and the same dress, often modified, as worn by an actress. It’s a real *Devil Wears Prada*



Minari

“cerulean blue” glimpse at how high fashion connects with the business of styling celebrities. Also, you know, the dresses *are* pretty.

• **The speeches:** Corny as it is, it’s fun to see what everybody says to thank their spouses and parents. I also like the general messages of the joy of doing their work: Linda Holmes on NPR’s *Pop Culture Happy Hour* podcast often cites *Once’s* Glen Hansard’s saying “make art, make art” in 2008. I also like when people are just tickled with their win, i.e. Julia Roberts in 2001 (in vintage Valentino, I learned). And then there are the “talk to the industry” speeches, like Frances McDormand in 2018. They can be funny and serious and sweet and they still have an element of “real person having an awesome moment” to them.

• **The unexpected moments:** Sometimes I seek out the clip of when Samuel L. Jackson calls Spike Lee’s name in 2019 and Spike Lee comes up to the stage and gives him a full body hug. Or when in 2017 Jordan Horowitz, *La La Land* producer, announced that *Moonlight* had actually won best picture (followed by Jimmy Kimmel’s excellent “Warren, what did you do?” to presenter Warren Beatty). Or in 2020 when the crowd reaction to an attempt to cut off the *Parasite* team after their best picture win got the camera to cut back to them. I don’t watch a lot of sports so this is one of my few annual reminders of what live TV looks like.

• **Olivia Colman:** For all of the above-stated reasons. Some people are just really good at being on awards shows. (She’s nominated this year for *The Father*, which is available for rent.)

• **Arguing about what should have been nominated:** I hoped Elisabeth Moss for *The Invisible Man* (currently on HBO Max or available for purchase) had a shot at a best actress nomination. I’d have added *The Wiloughbys* (on Netflix) to best animation.

Beyoncé’s *Black Is King* (Disney+) must

not have been Oscar-eligible because it definitely should have grabbed Costume Design, Production Design, Cinematography, Makeup and Hairstyling and Original Song nominations (whatever, see it anyway).

My Original Song nominations would have included Jamie Dornan’s beach power ballad in *Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar* (available for rent but just purchase it because it is silly fun) and something from *The Forty-Year-Old Version* (Netflix), which also deserved other nominations.

I join other early pandemic-era movie watchers in wishing that *First Cow* (currently on Showtime and available for purchase) and the comedy *Palm Springs* (on Hulu) could have gotten some love.

I wanted Regina King to get a director’s nod for *One Night in Miami...* (on Amazon, the movie did get nominations elsewhere). Sofia Coppola’s *On the Rocks* (Apple TV+) also feels like it should have shown up somewhere. As my family could tell you, I can go on forever about who should have been nominated.

• **Predicting the winners:** Despite the existence of Gold Derby and other internet prediction sites which track nominees’ rise and fall in the prediction rankings, it’s still enjoyable to chew over whether *Nomadland* (on Hulu and available for purchase) will take the top prize (and the director Oscar for Chloé Zhao) as it’s predicted to, or if Zhao can get her win but *Minari* (available for rent) will pull off a surprise best picture victory, as is my hope.

My other predictions/preferences: Yuh-Jung Youn in *Minari* is the favorite and my favorite to win actress in a supporting role. *Soul* (Disney+) will probably take the animated feature prize but my pick would be the charming *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon* (Netflix) or, as a very close second, the lovely *Wolfwalkers* (Apple TV+). I am all in for *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*

(Netflix), which is heartwarming as well as a fascinating history lesson, in the documentary feature category but *My Octopus Teacher* (Netflix), surprisingly, seems to be what the internet predicts is leading. I want “Husavik” from *Eurovision Song Contest* (Netflix) to win original song but awardswatch.com predicts that either Leslie Odom Jr.’s “Speak Now” from *One Night in Miami* or 12-time nominee (zero wins) Diane Warren’s “Io Si (See)” from *The Life Ahead* (Netflix) will take the prize.

• **The movies!** The Oscar ballot is, more than anything else, a list of movies; this year, it’s a list of movies you can see right now from the comfort of your couch. In addition to the movies listed in this story, I laid out where to find all the nominees in stories in the March 18 (feature film and acting nominees), March 25 (other mainstream-y categories nominees), April 1 (visual effects category nominees), April 8 (documentaries) and April 15 (international feature films and shorts) issues of the Hippo (find them at hippopress.com).

This year’s nominations make for a pretty good list and the best picture nominees, while they may have dour-sounding one-line descriptions, are all actually quite lively and full of engaging performances. (I gave most of them an A in my reviews.) *Minari*, *Nomadland* and *Sound of Metal* (on Amazon Prime Video), while certainly not wall-to-wall zaniness, have moments of joy and humor and end at a place of optimism and hope. Other nominees do feature helpings of delight, such as *Emma* (on HBO Max and available for purchase), the short *Burrow* (Disney+), *Love and Monsters* (available for rent or purchase) and, for classic Hollywood nerds, *Mank* (Netflix), as well as the aforementioned *Eurovision Song Contest*, *Farmageddon*, *Soul*, *Wolfwalkers* and *Crip Camp*.

And the Oscars nominees aren’t the only list of movies going. Thanks to the podcast *This Had Oscar Buzz*, I’ve become a fan of the AARP Movies For Grownups awards (which were announced in March). *The United States vs. Billie Holiday* (Hulu) won their grand prize; see all the nominees and winners (there are categories like “Best Ensemble” and “Best Grownup Love Story”) at aarp.org/entertainment/movies-for-grownups. The British BAFTA awards, given out a few weeks ago, also offer some viewing options (some Oscar overlap, some stuff you won’t see listed elsewhere); see bafta.org.

And get in the Oscar spirit by checking out the Film Independent Spirit Awards (those winners will be announced Thursday, April 22, at 10 p.m. on IFC), which include some of those *First Cow*-y early 2020 films. 🍷

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Hometown girl:** Enjoy country songs with a local sparkle as **Nicole Knox Murphy** starts the weekend early at a rustic pub that has live acts three nights a week. Murphy's paean to her home state "My 603" was honored by the New Hampshire Senate with a resolution in June 2020. Thursday, April 22, 6 p.m., Village Trestle, 25 Main St., Goffstown. See nkmsings4u.com.

• **Showing respect:** Fans of old-school hip-hop should check out **DJ Shamblez** paying tribute to legendary producer DJ Premier at a late afternoon session of spinning. In November 2019, he unearthed vocals from Guru, his late performing partner in Gang Starr, to create *One Of The Best Yet*, and he recently released a video of "Glowing Mic" from the follow-up instrumental LP, featuring Big Shug. Friday, April 23, 4 p.m., Lithermans Limited Brewery, 126B Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer.

• **Amateur hour:** Aspiring standup comics should check out the return of **Comedy Open Mic** and see how their Zoom meeting snark lands on a live audience of non-coworkers. Here's a sample joke posted on the restaurant/pub's Facebook page for recruiting purposes: "The next time your wife gets angry, drape a towel over her shoulders (like a cape) and say, 'Now you're SUPER ANGRY!'" Saturday, April 24, 5:13 p.m., Area 23, 254 N. State St., Unit H (Smokestack Center), Concord, facebook.com/area23concord.

• **Tuesday tunes:** Massachusetts guitar ace **Ryan Foley** has a range of influences, from Hendrix to Alan Holdsworth and Doc Watson. He'll pair his music with craft spirits and ales at a riverfront brewery, distillery, bar and restaurant. Foley is celebrating the recently released album, *North Hadley Tobacco*. Fans of Nickel Creek and Union Station will appreciate his fretwork. Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Stark Brewing Co., 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, facebook.com/RyanFoleyMusic.

NITE Grateful dad

New music and shows from Lucas Gallo

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Over the past year, Concord singer-songwriter Lucas Gallo noticed a marked shift in how the diners that he played to responded to his craft.

"People's appreciation ... or the way they show it, has changed," Gallo said in a recent phone interview. For example, "I usually don't put out a tip jar, but people walk by and just throw a 10-dollar bill at me and say, 'Good job, man.' That was a rare occurrence, but now people are dropping money at my feet."

Another bright spot of the pandemic was outdoor performing, which grew out of necessity but has become de rigueur at many venues. Gallo books music at Penuche's Ale House in Bicentennial Square, which is known for its raucous basement, but they're "trying to work a patio in," and he expects that the soon-to-reopen True Brew Barista will likely use its outdoor space for live music at some point.

Gallo played at last year's summer series hosted by Capitol Center for the Arts in nearby Fletcher-Murphy Park, which will reprise in early June, and he'll be back again for a July 31 show. He's also involved in the return of Market Days to downtown Concord in August, with an even sharper eye for area talent.

"They're really focused on local offerings, not national or bigger chain vendors, which I think is cool," he said.

Lately, he's been playing at places like Area 23 and had effusive praise for the restaurant-tap room's owner, Kirk McNeil, "who never let the live, local music stop no matter what." He recently did a set at Main Street Bar & Grill in Pittsfield; it reminded him of The Green Martini, a mainstay Concord bar until it burned down in 2012.

"I lived there for a while, it was my go to, and maybe it was because some of that crew is there, but it had a super chill, fun, friendly



Lucas Gallo. Courtesy photo.

hangout vibe," he said.

An upcoming show at Concord Craft Brewery will showcase *Lost & Found*, a six-song EP released digitally in March. Their Safe Space IPA is not the only reason he enjoys going back to the brewery.

"It's so supportive," he said, adding their outdoor performing space is "one of the many cool places that have popped up everywhere. You get passers-by when you play their patio; it's right on the road."

There's a lot of love and warmth on Gallo's new record, a reflection of family nesting during the long quarantine. The title track is an easygoing love ballad; "Thrive" offers words of wisdom for his children. "I wanted to write a sort of advice-type song for them," Gallo said, "and that's what came out."

It succeeds sweetly, offering a checklist of instructions. "Don't let the bumps and the bruises of the day change the way you're moving through it," he sings, "every pain heals itself in time ... be the light."

Such sentiments, and the choice of the album's title, Gallo said, are a reminder that "in addition to the underlying theme of gratitude, there is the sense/motif of light and darkness, and a balance between the two that

corresponds with being lost and found."

While the music scene ground to halt for large parts of 2020, Gallo managed to get a lot done.

"Funny thing, there didn't seem to be a huge amount of slow time," he said. "Maybe it was all the livestreams people were doing ... people just found ways to do more, but it's nice to see them getting back into the restaurant and patio gigs."

Along with his solo projects — another three-song record will arrive mid-summer — Gallo has plans to again reunite his old band JamAntics.

"We were going to do another show last year and everything was shutting down before we announced it," he said, "We have some stuff in the works for later this year. I don't want to say too much, but we're crossing our fingers that everything continues the positive trend, so we can open later in the year." 🍀

Lucas Gallo

When: Saturday, April 24, 4 p.m.

Where: Concord Craft Brewing, 117 Storrs St., Concord

More: facebook.com/ConcordCraftBrewing

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

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Auburn Tavern 346 Hooksett Road 587-2057	Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	Shane's BBQ 61 High St. 601-7091	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	Meredith Hart's Turkey Farm 223 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-6212	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645
Barrington Dante's Pasta & Vino 567 Calef Hwy.	Hermanos Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Exeter Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080	Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Rochester 110 Grill 136 Marketplace Blvd. 948-1270
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.	WHYM Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Bonfire 950 Elm St. 663-7678	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	Pittsfield Main Street Grill & Bar 32 Main St. 435-0005	Mitchell Hill BBQ Grill & Brew 50 N. Main St. 332-2537
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Cercle National Club 550 Rockland Ave. 623-8243	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270	Plaistow The Crow's Nest 181 Plaistow Road	Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy. 476-5485	Portsmouth The Striker 15 Bow St. 431-5222	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road 406-1196	Derry LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111 672-9898	Community Oven 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road 889-9900	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Nashua American Social Club 166 Daniel Webster Hwy. 255-8272	The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Seabrook Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060	Dover SmuttLabs 47 Washington St. 343-1782	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Gibb's Garage Bar 3612 Lafayette Road	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
	Epping The Community Oven 24 Calef Hwy. 734-4543	The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Laconia 405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022	Grill 28 Pease Golf Course, 200 Grafton Road 766-6466	Stratham 110 Grill 19 Portsmouth Ave. 777-5110
				Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535	Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391		Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294t
				South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	Millyard Brewery 25 E Otterson St. 722-0104		

Thursday, April 22

Brookline Alamo: Matt Borrello, 4:30 p.m.	Hampton CR's: John Melisi and David Newsam, 6 p.m. Shane's: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.	Fratello's : David Corson, 5:30 p.m.	Deerfield Lazy Lion: Chris Torrey, 5 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Tim Kierstead, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Martin and Kelly, 8 p.m. Cercle National Club: Brett Wilson, 7:30 p.m. Derryfield: Jessica Olson, 7:30 p.m. Foundry: Brien Sweet, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Paul Lussier, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m. Murphy's: Jodee Frawlee, 5 p.m.; State of Emergency, 9:30 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke with George Cox, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: A Living Wage	Pittsfield Main Street Grill & Bar: Mikey G, 6 p.m.
Concord Area 23: Lance drops the bass, 7:23 p.m. Cheers: David Goodwin, 6 p.m. Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 & 8 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up: karaoke, 7 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.	Epping Popovers: Michael Scharff, 5 p.m. Telly's: Tim Theriault, 8 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Lucas Roy, 9 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Lucas Roy, 9 p.m.
Dover SmuttLabs: trivia, 6 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.	Portsmouth Gibb's Garage Bar: trivia, 8 p.m. The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m. The Striker: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.	Rochester Mitchell BBQ: Game Time Trivia, 6 p.m.	Rochester Mitchell Hill BBQ: Gabby Martin, 6 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Joe McDonald, 7 p.m.	Manchester Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.	Rochester Seabrook Red's: Alex Anthony, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.	Seabrook Chop Shop: American Ride, 6 p.m. Red's: Francoix and Chris Martinez, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Chop Shop: American Ride, 6 p.m. Red's: Francoix and Chris Martinez, 7 p.m.
Exeter Sawbelly: Artty Francouer, 5 p.m.	Meredith Hart's: Game Time Trivia, 7 p.m.	Stratham Tailgate Tavern: Rich Amorim, 7 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Jeff Auger, 6 p.m. The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. Logan's Run: Magical Mystery Music, 7 p.m. Wally's: Pat Dowling, 9 p.m. WHYM: Chris Powers, 5:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.	Stratham Tailgate Tavern: Rich Amorim, 7 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Nicole Knox Murphy, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.		Hudson The Bar: Joel Cage	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.	
	Nashua American Social Club: DJ Night with Iron Beats, 8 p.m.		Kingston Saddle Up: Ryan Palma, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.	
			Laconia 405 Pub: Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.	
			Londonderry Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Maddi Ryan, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.	
				New Boston Molly's: April Cushman, 6:30 p.m.	
				Newmarket Stone Church: Club D'elf, 6 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. Get your gigs listed by sending information to music@hippopress.com.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Concord Craft Brewing: Lucas Gallo, 4 p.m.
Penuche's: Hometown Eulogy

Deerfield
Lazy Lion: John Farese, 5 p.m.

Derry
LaBelle: Dueling Pianos, 6 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Clint LaPointe, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Gabby Martin, 1 p.m.;
 Todd Hearon, 5 p.m.

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

Hampton
The Goat: John Jerome the Island Cowboy, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
WHYM: Matt Luneau, 5:30 p.m.

Hudson
The Bar: Two of Us
Luk's: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Fred Ellsworth of Haywire, 8 p.m.

Laconia
405 Pub: Johnny Friday, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Mugsy Duo, 4 p.m.;
 The Drift, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: April Cushman, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Eric Grant, 8 p.m.
Cercle National Club: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.
Derryfield: Justin Jordan, 7:30 p.m.
The Foundry: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.
Murphy's: Dave Bailin, 5 p.m.;
 Casual Gravity, 9:30 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Pete Peterson, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Jon Ross Trio

Your Gateway from the City to the Seacoast.

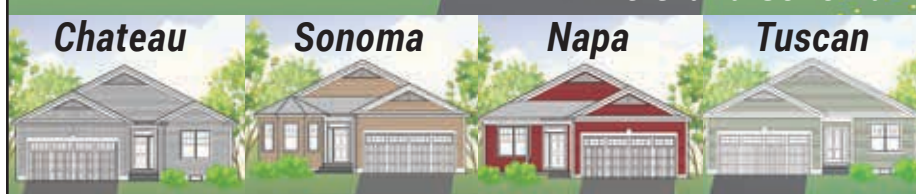


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Concerts

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

LaBelle Winery Derry
 14 Route 111, Derry
 672-9898, labellewinery.com

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

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

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

Shows

- **Mariachi Divas** Thursday, April 22, and Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 25, 2 p.m., virtual via Cap Center
- **Club D'elf** Friday, April 23, 6 p.m., Stone Church
- **The British Rock Experience** Friday, April 23, 7 p.m., virtual concert via Palace
- **Sans Souci** (A Tribute to Jerry Garcia) Saturday, April 24, 2 & 6 p.m., Stone Church

- **Dueling Pianos with the Flying Ivories** Saturday, April 24, 6 p.m., LaBelle Derry
- **The Decemberists** Sunday, April 25, at 8 p.m., virtual concert via Cap Center
- **Caamp 5 Year Anniversary** Thursday, April 29, 9 p.m., virtual concert via Cap Center
- **Town Meeting** Friday, April 30, 6 p.m., Stone Church
- **Tim Theriault** Friday, April 30, 6 p.m., Tupelo Drive-In
- **Palace Teen Apprentice Cabaret: I Hope I Get It** Friday, April 30, 7 p.m., virtual audition cuts via the Palace

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

- Merrimack**
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.
- Nashua**
Fratello's: Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Tyler Allgood, 6 p.m.
Millyard Brewery: Mike Davey, 4 p.m.; brewery comedy tours, 8 p.m.
- New Boston**
Molly's Tavern: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6:30 p.m.
- Newmarket**
Stone Church: Sans Souci (a tribute to Jerry Garcia Band), 2 & 6 p.m.
- Pittsfield**
Main Street Grill & Bar: Chris Bonoli and Roy, 6 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
The Striker: George & Louise Belli, 7 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Fil Pacino, 9 p.m.
- Seabrook**
Chop Shop: Hit Squad, 6 p.m.
Red's: Francoix Simard, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

- Barrington**
Dante's: Chris O'Neill, 10:30 a.m.
- Bedford**
Copper Door: Marc Apostolides, 11 a.m.

Monday, April 26

- Concord**
Area 23: dart night, 7 p.m.
Hermanos: Ken Clark, 6:30 & 8 p.m.
- Manchester**
Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.
Murphy's: Randy Videyko, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27

- Concord**
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 & 8 p.m.
- Hampton**
Wally's: Musical Bingo Nation, 7:30 p.m.
- Manchester**
Fratello's: David Corson, 5:30 p.m.

- WHYM:** Max Sullivan, noon
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: Video Music Bingo, 5 p.m.
Manchester
Murphy's: Chuck A Duo, noon; Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: jam
- Newmarket**
Stone Church: Sunday brunch with Zeb Cruishank, 10 p.m.; Performers on the Go Show Case, 3 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
- Salem**
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.
- Stratham**
110 Grill: Jodee Frawlee, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 28

- Brookline**
Alamo: Chris Powers, 4:30 p.m.
- Concord**
Area 23: open mic night, 6:23 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 & 8 p.m.
- Dover**
SmuttLabs: open mic with Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.
- Hampton**
Community Oven: Game Time Trivia, 6 p.m.
Smuttynose: trivia night DJ Koko-P, 6 p.m.
Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.
- Manchester**
Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.
Murphy's: Gabby Martin, 5:30 p.m.
- Merrimack**
Homestead: Josh Foster, 5:30 p.m.
- Nashua**
Fratello's: Joanie Ciatelli, 5:30 p.m.
- Plaistow**
Crow's Nest: trivia, 8 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.; Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
- Seabrook**
Red's: trivia with DJ Zati, 9 p.m.

- Murphy's: Jennifer Mitchell, 5:30 p.m.
South Side: Eric Grant, 8 p.m.
- Merrimack**
Homestead: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m.
- Nashua**
Fratello's: Chris Gardner, 5:30 p.m.
Peddler's Daughter: trivia, 8:30 p.m.
- Pittsfield**
Main Street: Brian Booth, 6 p.m.
- Portsmouth**
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
- Stratham**
Tailgate Tavern: Musical Bingo Nation, 6 p.m.

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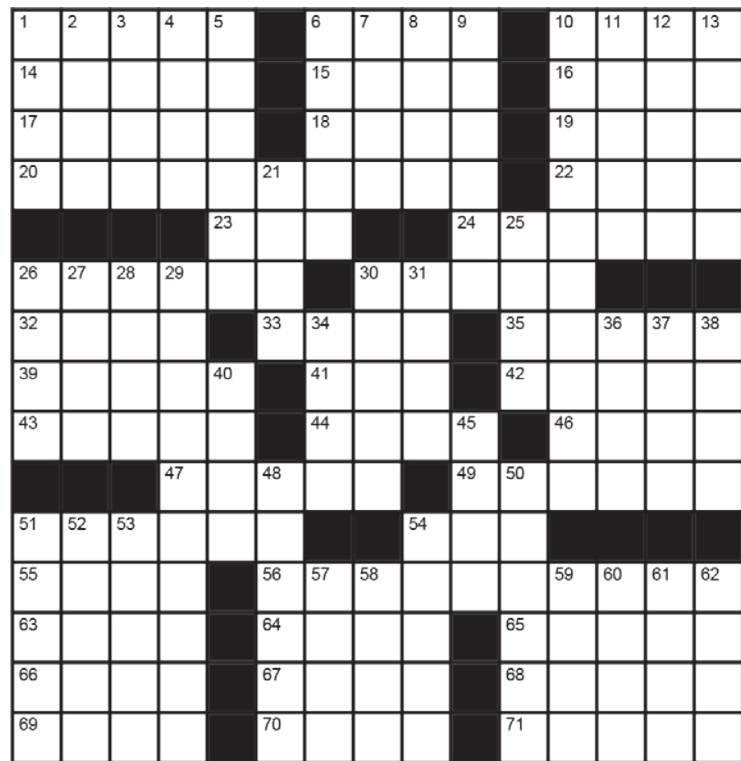
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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- Venues**
Chunky's
707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com
- The Strand**
20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899, thestranddover.com
- Hatbox Theatre**
Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord 715-2315, hatboxnh.com
- Shows**
• Dave Russo Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 23, or Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m.
• Johnny Pizzi Chunky's Nashua, Friday, April 23, or Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m.
• James Dorsey Chunky's Pelham, Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m.
• Jim Colliton Chunky's Nashua, Friday, April 30, 8 p.m.
• Steve Sweeney Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 30, or Saturday, May 1, 8 p.m.
• Christine Hurley day, April 24, 8 p.m.
- Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, May 1, 8 p.m.
• Kenny Rogerson Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, May 8, 8 p.m.
• Comedy night with Rob Steen and Johnny Pizzi The Strand, Saturday, May 8, 7 p.m.
• Queen City Improv Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

I WANNA BE YOUR PUZZLE



Down

1. Killers sang 'My ___' before the grocery store
2. Miami Sound Machine 'Falling In Love (___)' (hyph)
3. Dutch rock band that needs help walking?
4. '97 Jerry Garcia live album 'How Sweet ___' (2,2)
5. Phish hung up a 'Picture Of ___'
6. Michael Monroe band ___ Rocks
7. AC/DC "Shake ___ __, wake the dead" (1,3)
8. 'Help Is On The Way' ___ Against
9. Beartooth did it wrong and '___ Up'
10. 'Feel Alright' sing/songster (5,5)
11. Prince 'I Wanna Be Your ___'
12. Indigo Girls 'Hammer And ___' (1,4)
13. STP said 'Pretty ___' was her name
21. '03 Unwritten Law hit 'Rest ___ Life' (2,2)
25. Coldplay 'Viva La ___'
26. 60s Paul Simon group ___ And The Triumphs
27. 'Rich Girl' ___ & Oates
28. Barenaked Ladies song named after "National Velvet" author?
29. What fans feel from stellar set
30. A-ha '___ Your Name' (1,4)
31. '00 Lifehouse album 'No ___ Face'
34. Sarah Records' 'The Field ___'
36. How Axl Rose acted, at times
37. fun. singer Ruess
38. Prince "A model, ___ to be a role model"
40. 'Screwed, Blued 'N Tattooed'

Across

1. Bassist Matt of Mudhoney
6. Peter Murphy 'Keep Me From ___'
10. '90 Chumbawamba album that hits you across the face?
14. Three Days Grace '___ Everything About You' (1,4)
15. Lacuna Coil 'Heaven's ___' (1,3)
16. 'Funky Cold Medina' Loc
17. Thurston Moore band ___ Youth
18. Judas Priest 'Loch ___'
19. Jethro Tull ivory tickler John
20. Iggy And ___ (3,7)
22. Musical style or this
23. Acronymous 'Miss Murder' rockers
24. 'Wake Up Little Susie' ___ Brothers
26. Islands song about a limb? (3,3)
30. Type of lesser known rock
32. Avett Brothers '___ Love And You' (1,3)
33. Gym site, for Village People
35. '92 Prince slow jam (4,1)
39. What The Eels will do up 'To The Moon'
41. '00 Nine Days single 'If ___' (1,2)
42. Backstages are these spots
43. Might also be a goodie
44. Musical sign
46. "I know it's __, I know you're weary"
47. Billy Idol '___ Yell'
49. What first band did
51. "I'm going out in ___ of glory" (1,5)
54. Aussie rockers You ___ (2,1)
55. Prince '___ All Night' (2,2)
56. Janes Addiction album '___ Habitual' (6,2,2)

63. Not a hi-fi recording (hyph)
64. Bass amp made in a garden?
65. Helm of The Band
66. Prince stepped '___ The Light'
67. "I ___ no fortunate one"
68. Jeff of Pearl Jam
69. Frances ___ Cobain
70. Ben Harper 'Burn To Shine' jam that was marked down?
71. Starr of The Beatles

WORD★Roundup™

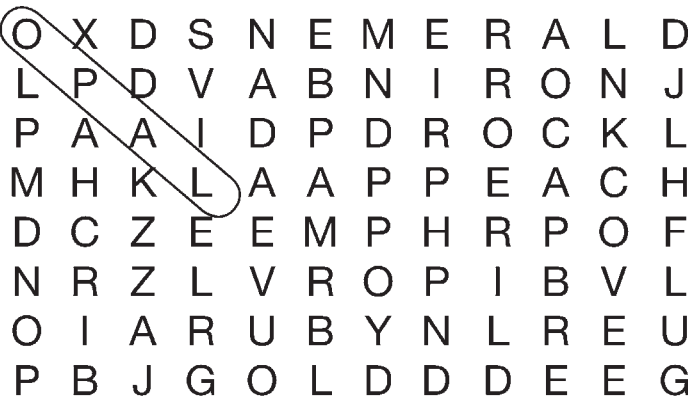
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five birthstones
- Four four-letter bodies of water
- Three four-letter metals
- Three five-letter trees
- Two four-letter musical genres

Last Week's Answers: CHRISTINE MISERY CARRIE CUJO / COYOTE DONKEY JACKAL TURTLE / PURPLE MAUVE / SWEDEN NORWAY / BEST

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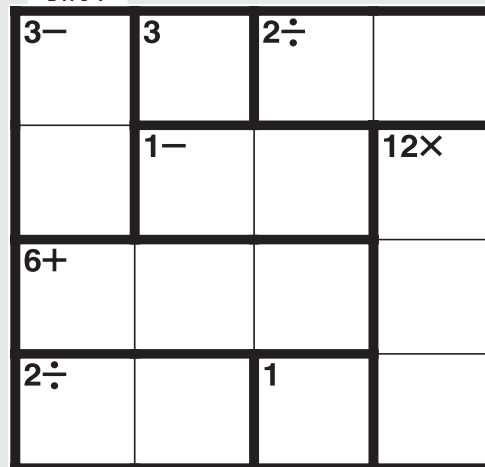


- Sleeze ___
45. '95 Nixons album
48. Cheryl Lynn 'Got To ___' (2,4)
50. 'Above' Christian rockers
51. Performance without preparation (hyph)
52. Debby or Pat
53. Yellowcard album '___ Sail' (4,1)
54. Syd Barrett may have 'Gigolo' ones
57. '03 Story Of The Year hit 'Until The Day ___' (1,3)
58. Mediocre rocker has money roll of these
59. Acting sing/songster Lovato
60. Clash "You can bruise us, and ___ shoot us"
61. "How ___ has this been going on?"
62. Ani DiFranco 'Outta Me, ___ You' © 2020 Todd Santos

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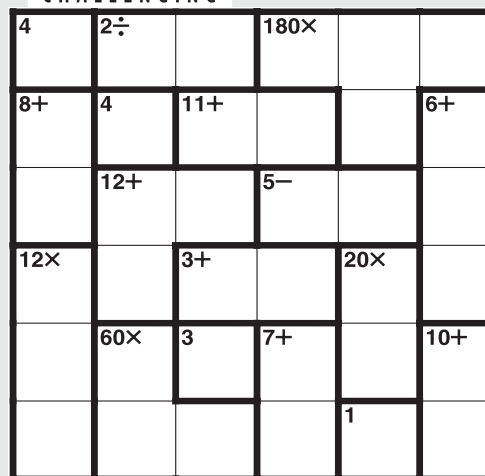
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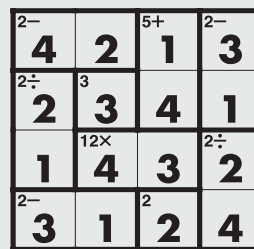


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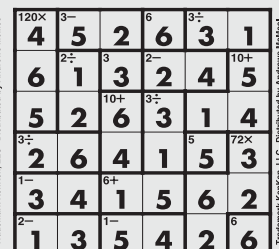
RULES

- 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



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“Well, Sorta” — partway there

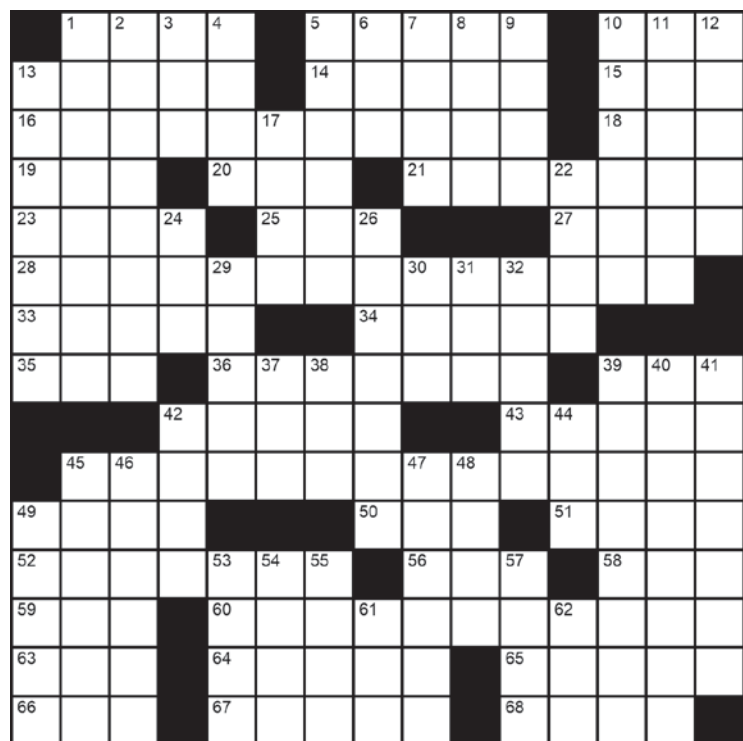
Across

- 1 “We’re calling with an urgent message about your car’s warranty,” e.g.
- 5 Creator of Pudd’nhead Wilson
- 10 “Right now”
- 13 Care Bear ____
- 14 “Yankee Hotel Foxtrot” band
- 15 Debtor’s letters
- 16 Hotel heiress who popularized “That’s hot”
- 18 Hurricane heading, sometimes
- 19 Affirmative vote
- 20 It may be doffed
- 21 Bad movie rating
- 23 Actress Seehorn of “Better Call Saul”
- 25 Torn ____ (athlete’s knee injury)
- 27 Crafty
- 28 Gear seen frequently in 1980s court matches
- 33 Districts
- 34 Organization
- 35 Australian outlaw Kelly
- 36 Satirical “Prize” given by the Annals of Improbable Research
- 39 Patty Hearst’s kidnappers, for short
- 42 Californie et Colorado
- 43 Septet plus one
- 45 He plays Thor
- 49 French islands
- 50 Truth, in Chinese philosophy

- 51 39-Down, for one
- 52 Roommate of Frylock and Master Shake on “Aqua Teen Hunger Force”
- 56 John’s “The Office” character
- 58 “Groove Is in the Heart” DJ/producer Towa ____
- 59 Bud
- 60 Title for the Pope or the Dalai Lama
- 63 Rhinitis-treating M.D.
- 64 “Damn Yankees” composer Richard
- 65 Big name in thesauruses
- 66 Suffix meaning “sorta” (found in the theme answers)
- 67 Conditions’ partner
- 68 English horn’s cousin

- 7 Choral voice range
- 8 Graphic representation
- 9 Not a bit
- 10 Cobbler’s container
- 11 Scrooge’s nephew
- 12 Search engine input
- 13 Austere
- 17 “Witness” actor Lukas
- 22 Bartering result
- 24 “SNL” alum Gasteyer
- 26 Millennium Falcon in 7,500 pieces, e.g.
- 29 “Lord, ____?” (Last Supper question)
- 30 NYSE trader
- 31 Anonymous Jane
- 32 Claus von ____ (“Reversal of Fortune” character)
- 37 Station’s supply
- 38 To the ____ degree
- 39 It’s played on a 10x10 board
- 40 “Hmmm ...”
- 41 One beyond belief?
- 42 Lead-in to “while”
- 44 Gear component
- 45 Disinfects

- 46 Wellness
 - 47 University focuses
 - 48 Garden store supply
 - 49 Louvre Pyramid architect
 - 53 “Beg pardon?”
 - 54 Delegation member
 - 55 High-end camera type
 - 57 Artist Joan
 - 61 Bottom of a pant leg
 - 62 San Francisco’s ____ Hill
- © 2021 Matt Jones



Down

- 1 “Don’t move”
- 2 Lurched and swerved
- 3 Former White House press secretary Fleischer
- 4 Fit snugly
- 5 Ninja’s platform
- 6 Actor/blogger Wheaton

R&R answer from pg 35 of 4/15



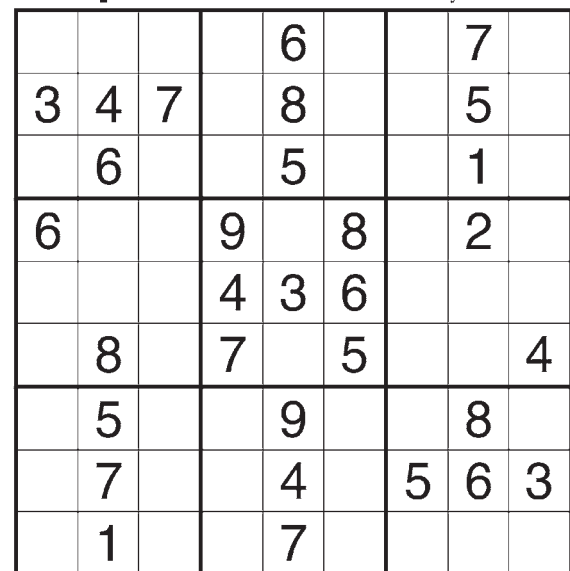
Jonesin’ answer from pg 36 of 4/15



NITE SUDOKU

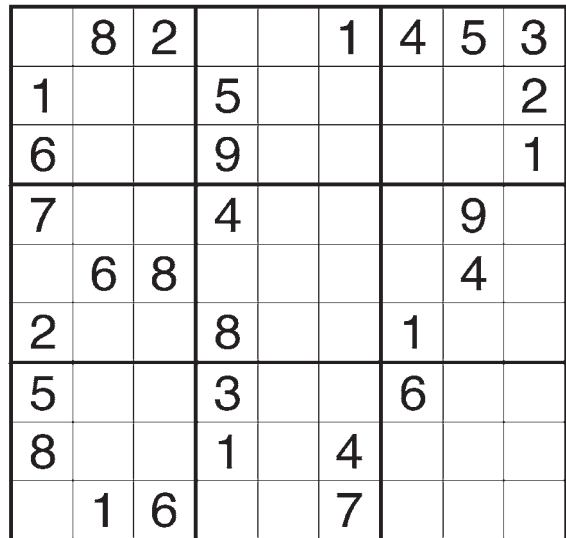
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 37.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



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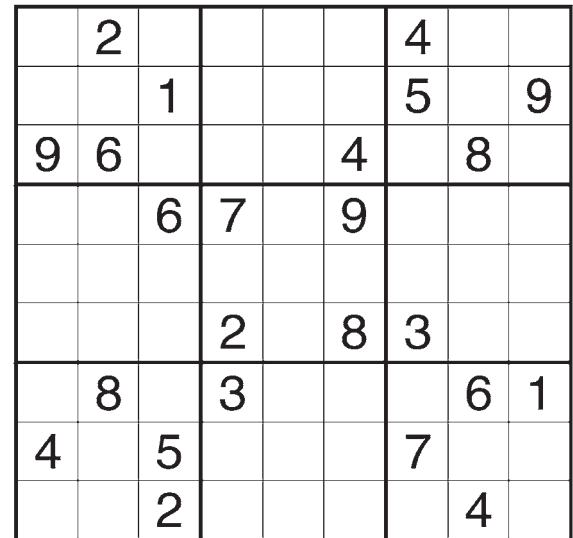
Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

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Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Pi in the Sky*, by Wendy Mass, born April 22, 1967.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *I finish up by making it clear ... that I'm a pie deliverer and not a solar-system builder.... You are more than one thing!*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *I look around us for the lab, but the only door anywhere is a white one marked CLOSET. Ash takes a key from the chain and slips it in the keyhole. The door swings open to reveal a small laboratory. I spot all the high-tech equipment ... some attached to the walls, but most piled up on the floor. The closet is a lab.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Mom won't even let us have a pet even though we all promised to help take care of it. Forget a pet, she won't even let me have a plant! Get yourself a plant! You'll do great!*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Aunt Rae's front lawn is full of flowers growing from nowhere and rootless trees. She's very proud of her garden, and when she's not making pies, I usually find her gardening out here. Do some gardening. Make some pies.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *I know Annika can see the billions of blobs of light hanging in the blackness of space, some very close, some so distant they are hard to make out, even for me. And the blobs, the galaxies, are of course magnificent. But that's not really the true picture of what's out there. You will enjoy a beautiful view.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *I peer under the table. 'Hey, didn't you say Lydia would hate me for my perfect skin? Which is it? Hate me for my skin or like me for my hair?' There's no telling with some people. Don't sweat it.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Inhabitants of The Realms can play every sport, but the ones with balls*

are our favorites. Try Ping-Pong.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Personally, I think they stuck him with this job to keep him out of trouble. Working on his own like this means he can't argue with his coworkers. Don't argue with your coworkers.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Now is the time Thade decides to develop a sense of humor? Humor wins the day!*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Everything was so easy then. Took me a tenth of the time to complete my daily pie-delivering, leaving endless opportunities to clown around ... or bowl down at Thunder Lanes. Carve out some time for leisure activities.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *After recent events, I expect to find the place a madhouse, with committee members running to and fro, arms full of reports to file. First file your reports; then, you can party.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *He doesn't think Kal has enough 'drive.' Kal actually has plenty of drive. It's just usually not in the right direction. Maybe you can help with map-making.*

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7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 sound out (9)	_____
2 kind of interest (8)	_____
3 puzzle with a cipher (10)	_____
4 snack for a whale (8)	_____
5 white or wheat alternative (10)	_____
6 Carlsbad Caverns mineral (9)	_____
7 word between hop and jump (4)	_____

COMP	NE	OUND	ONOU	PTO
TON	GRAM	NCE	MULT	TO
PL	ES	CRY	IGRA	ANK
SK	LIM	IP	PR	IN

4/18
Last Week's Answers: 1. TRANQUIL 2. HARMONIOUS 3. PLACID 4. SERENE 5. PEACEFUL 6. COMPOSED 7. COOL

Sudoku Answers from pg36 of 4/15

Puzzle A

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

Puzzle B

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

Puzzle C

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

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Metaphorically speaking

Camille Coelho, 54, of Brookline, Massachusetts, an ICU nurse at South Shore Hospital, set out at low tide for a stroll with her son's dog, Lucy, along Constitution Beach on April 8 to relax and look for sea glass, but found herself stuck in mud that reached past her knees instead. "It's a great metaphor for the year," she told the Boston Herald. "I can't believe it. ... This past year has been awful." Passersby rushed to help, but soon called firefighters, who arrived to pull her out.

Feast or famine

• Fox Business reported on April 13 that toilet paper sales have declined to levels below pre-pandemic levels, indicating that last year's hoarding is affecting this year's sales. Marjorie Greenburgh, 62, of New Rochelle, New York, said because she has 54 rolls still stored throughout her home, "I'm not planning on buying for a while." NielsenIQ clocked the decline in sales at 33 percent in March.

• The BBC reported on April 15 that England is experiencing a shortage of garden gnomes. Factors contributing to this critical supply deficit include a shortage of raw materials, the recent blockage of the Suez Canal by a con-

tainer ship, and the increased popularity of gardening during the Covid-19 shutdowns. "We haven't seen a gnome in six months," said Ian Byrne, assistant manager of Highfield Garden World in Whitminster. "Raw materials are becoming a bit of an issue, and unfortunately, gnomes are a victim. ... Gnomes of any type — plastic, stone or concrete — are in short supply."

Awesome!

Gary and Beth Machens moved into a historic home in Alton, Illinois, in December and uncovered more history to go with it when they found a 19th-century brick tunnel underneath the house. Gary Machens discovered the entrance to the tunnel as he was doing some sidewalk repair. The barrel-shaped tunnel, about 9 feet high and 60 feet long, is believed by local historians to have been built around 1840 — 50 years before the house was constructed. "Whatever they built this for, it took a lot of men and a lot of hours. You know, one guy didn't do this," Machens told KTVI-TV. He believes the tunnel could have been used to store ice or carriages, or it could have been part of the Underground Railroad. "There was a ferry here in the Alton area to the Missouri side, and it's possible it could have been used for that," he said.

Vintage weird

Brian Robson of Cardiff, Wales, was 19 years old in 1964, when he accepted a job on the Victorian Railways in Australia. He almost immediately regretted his decision and started scheming about how to get back home, but he didn't have enough money for the return trip. That's when he had an idea: With the help of two Irish friends, Robson squeezed himself into a 30-by-26-by-38-inch wooden crate and shipped himself home in the cargo area of a Qantas flight. "The first 10 minutes was fine," he told CNN. "But your knees start to cramp up when they're stuck up to your chest." When the crate arrived in Sydney, it landed on the tarmac upside down. "So now I'm sitting on my neck and my head," he explained, "and I was there for 22 hours upside down," until arriving next in Los Angeles, where two airport workers discovered him. He spent six days recovering in a hospital as word of his story got out, and Pan Am airlines sent Robson home to London in a first-class seat. Robson lost touch with the friends who helped him but now hopes to find them and reconnect. He's never been back to Australia.

Compelling explanations

A Blount County (Tennessee) Sheriff's deputy was dispatched to a Dollar

General store in Maryville on April 5 after a clerk was presented with a \$1 million bill, The Smoking Gun reported. Amanda McCormick, 39, told officers she received the bill "in the mail from a church" and that she planned to use the funds to purchase the cart full of items she had, "including several gift cards ... for care packages for homeless individuals," according to a police report. McCormick and her companion, Linda Johnson, 61, were not arrested but were banned from returning to the Dollar General store, and officers confiscated the bill.

High fashion

Among the items unveiled in Louis Vuitton's fall/winter 2021 men's collection in January was a leather "Keepall" bag, shaped like a miniature airplane and covered with the ubiquitous LV logo, which went viral April 2 when a Twitter user pointed out that an actual airplane could be purchased on eBay for less than the Keepall's \$39,000 price tag. Oddity Central reported the bag, designed by Vuitton menswear artistic director Virgil Abloh, features wings, a tail and four engines; the used single-engine Cessna was listed at \$32,300 on eBay.

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DINOSAUR JR.

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JAKE OWEN

FRI | MAY 28 | 6:30PM



AARON LEWIS

SAT | MAY 29 | 6:30PM



THE MACHINE PERFORMS PINK FLOYD

FRI | JUN 4 | 6:30PM



BADFISH: TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME

SAT | JUN 5 | 6:30PM



GOOSE

FRI | JUN 11 | 6:30PM



INDIGO GIRLS

SAT | JUN 12 | 6:30PM



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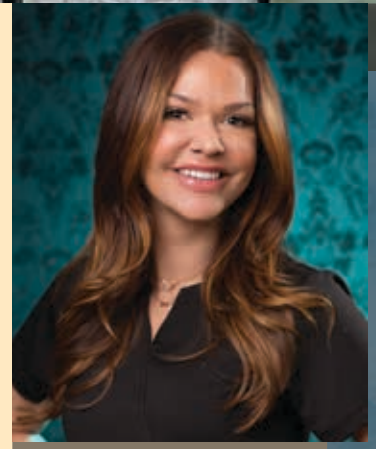
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