

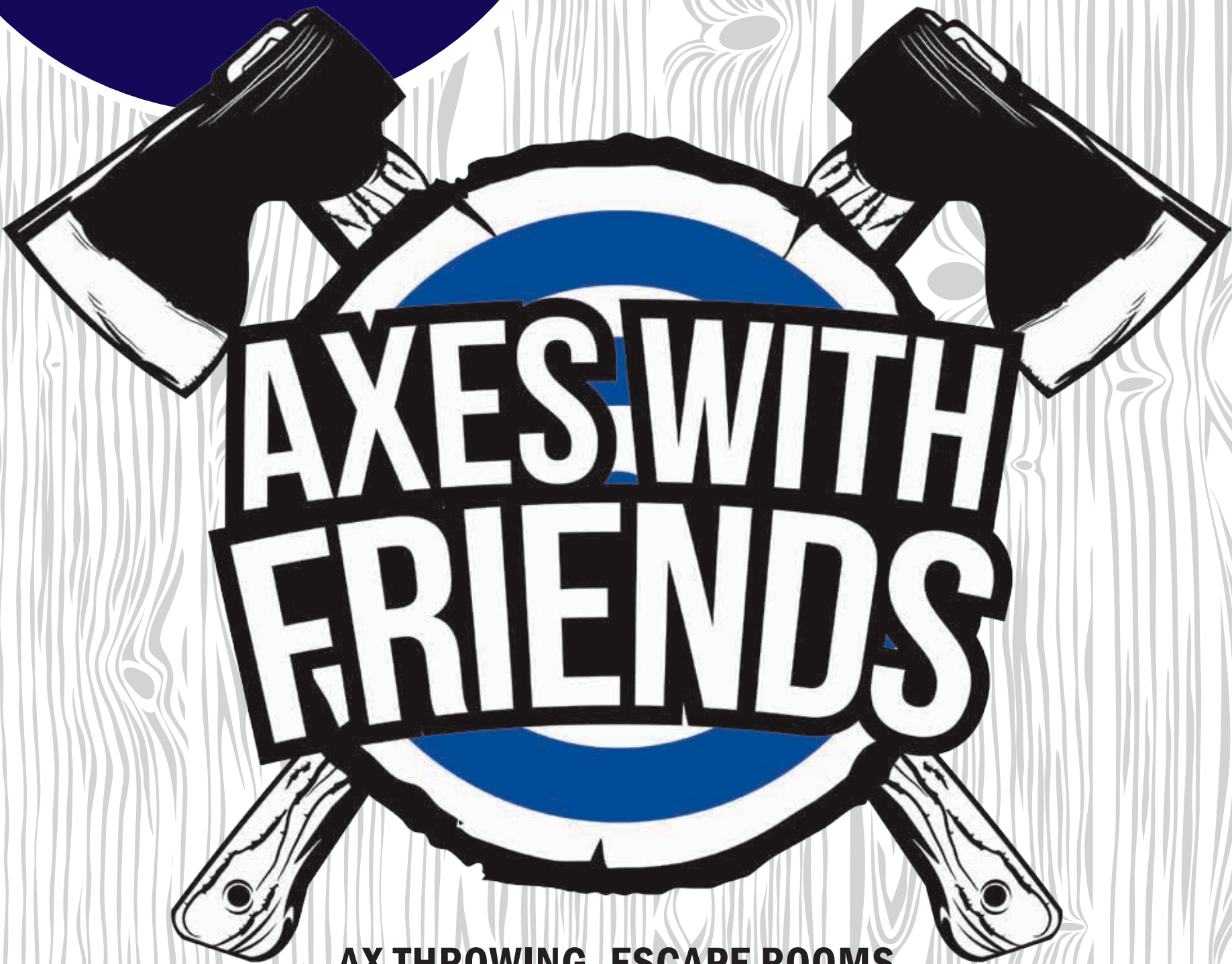
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STAFF WRITER SUSAN HATEM

## Allow the change



My new go-to is yoga. Too much hiking and not enough stretching, not to mention crouching over my keyboard, brings on unaccustomed pains. The breathing, poses and mental habits of yoga rejuvenate me. Even practiced in a drafty community rec center, yoga loosens my muscles and expands my mind.

The language is part of it. I do not mean Sanskrit, the ancient language the first yogis spoke. I mean the word patterns and translations used by my American teachers, each of whom brings their own style and experience to class. They all emphasize that practicing yoga is a personal journey. There are modifications for different bodies and room for different degrees of challenge on different days. After all, it seems, "Leg" and "Hip" and our other body parts are esteemed colleagues. It's OK, I'm told, if "Back Body" wants to just drape in "Child's Pose" for an hour.

The descriptive names of yoga's poses and flows just tickle me. "Downward Dog" and "Cow-and-Cat" are well-known, the stuff of birthday card jokes. But what about "Seated Half-Fish" or "Revolved Chair"? I have to wonder if these sound as funny in the original. My teachers actually do refer to the final pose, lying prone on the mat in silence for a few minutes, in Sanskrit. I imagine that's because we Americans aren't very comfortable with death and "savasana" means "corpse." Although there is a practice known as laughter yoga, and various animal-accompanied classes are guaranteed to make one smile (think yoga with goat, butterfly, kitten), I'm not in one of those classes. I giggle as quietly as possible at the imagery of my teachers' words.

Physical movement is only one of the eight limbs of yoga. Breathing control, behavioral self-restraints and disciplines, withdrawal of the senses, concentration and meditation are others, culminating in liberation. A significant and growing body of research backs up what dedicated yogis have always known about the emotional and mental as well as physical benefits. Yoga reduces anxiety and depression and strengthens parts of the brain important for memory, attention, awareness, thought and language.

The pandemic has caused significant mental health challenges, particularly among younger adults, racial and ethnic minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers. Experts surveyed by the Pew Research Center predict that some of the worst stressors — economic inequality, misinformation and "tele-everything" — will persist in the new normal. At the very least, life will remain unpredictable. We can ease ourselves into position to handle it, and help others, by stretching our bodies and minds. When my hip joints are screaming as I criss-cross my legs, my teacher says, "Breathe. Sit up tall. Allow the change." Ever so slowly my pain, thoughts, and feelings do change.

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## ON THE COVER

**10 AXES WITH FRIENDS** Looking for new ideas for hanging out with friends in the ever-changing world? Throw axes together, compete against each other at paintball or laser tag, maneuver through an escape room as a team or rent an igloo for wining and dining.

**ALSO ON THE COVER**, voting is now open for Hippo's Best of 2022 readers' poll! Find out how to vote for your favorite people, places and things in New Hampshire on p. 33. And make plans now for your Valentine's Day meals and sweets, p. 22.

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## Covid-19 news

During a Jan. 26 press conference, state epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan reported that, while the test positivity rate of Covid-19 in New Hampshire dropped slightly from 22 percent to 17 percent over the previous week, hospitalization and death rates in the state remain high. “In the last week, we reported 59 new Covid-19 related deaths, averaging more than eight new deaths identified each day,” he said. As of Jan. 31 there were 10,436 active cases and 303 hospitalizations, and all 10 counties are still reporting substantial community transmission.

Gov. Chris Sununu also announced during the press conference the Executive Council’s approval earlier that day to sell 1 million at-home rapid tests across the state’s Liquor & Wine Outlet stores. “We will put them on the shelves and sell them ... approximately in the \$13 range,” Sununu said, adding that tests should be available at the stores “within the next two weeks.”

On Jan. 31, the New Hampshire Insurance Department released a Frequently Asked Questions sheet regarding the national mandate that private insurers will have to cover the cost of eight at-home coronavirus tests per person per month.

According to a press release, those with private individual health insurance coverage or covered by an employer-sponsored health plan who purchase Covid-19 diagnostic tests that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration can get them covered by insurance, without a health care provider’s order or clinical assessment and without cost-sharing requirements such as deductibles, co-payments or prior authorization. The costs may be covered up front by their health plan or reimbursed after a claim is submitted. The Frequently Asked Questions document can be found at [nh.gov](http://nh.gov).

Meanwhile, more state-run fixed vaccination sites continue to open for walk-ins, including in Belmont, Lincoln and Manchester as of this week. Go to [covid19.nh.gov](http://covid19.nh.gov) and click on the “vaccination fixed sites” button to view a complete list — no appointments are required.

## U.S. attorney nomination

Last week Attorney General John M. Formella issued a statement after President Biden nominated Deputy Attorney General Jane E. Young to serve as the United States attorney for the District of New Hampshire. “We at the Department of Justice greet today’s news with mixed emo-

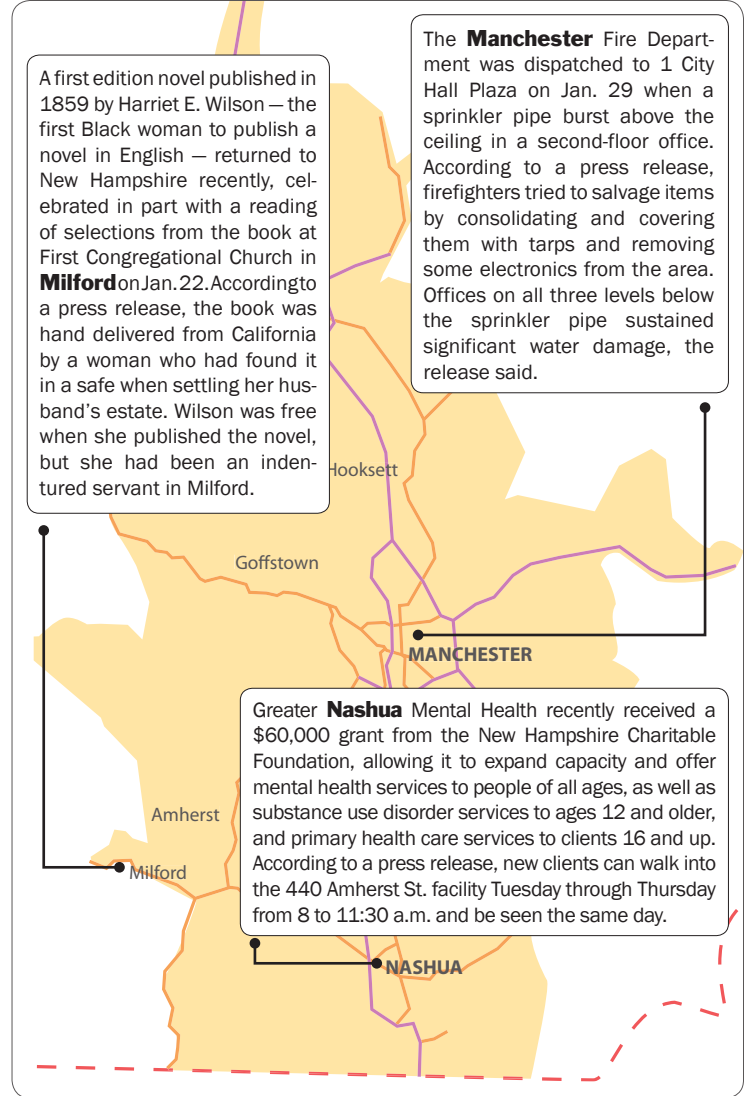
tions. For almost thirty years, Jane has served this Office and the State of New Hampshire with distinction as an incredible prosecutor and public servant. She is one of a kind and irreplaceable,” Formella wrote. “That said, Jane is more than worthy of this recognition and honor, and ... the District of New Hampshire will be well served with Jane Young as United States Attorney.”

## Sununu in D.C.

Last weekend Gov. Chris Sununu attended the 2022 National Governors Association Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., where he planned to meet with Canada’s Ambassador to the United States. According to a press release, he also attended NGA meetings with United States Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Infrastructure Coordinator for the White House Mitch Landrieu. The governors were scheduled to have dinner with President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden and attend a Governors meeting at the White House.

## Reducing classroom stress

New Hampshire educators will soon have new resources to reduce



A first edition novel published in 1859 by Harriet E. Wilson — the first Black woman to publish a novel in English — returned to New Hampshire recently, celebrated in part with a reading of selections from the book at First Congregational Church in **Milford** on Jan. 22. According to a press release, the book was hand delivered from California by a woman who had found it in a safe when settling her husband’s estate. Wilson was free when she published the novel, but she had been an indentured servant in Milford.

The **Manchester** Fire Department was dispatched to 1 City Hall Plaza on Jan. 29 when a sprinkler pipe burst above the ceiling in a second-floor office. According to a press release, firefighters tried to salvage items by consolidating and covering them with tarps and removing some electronics from the area. Offices on all three levels below the sprinkler pipe sustained significant water damage, the release said.

Greater **Nashua** Mental Health recently received a \$60,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, allowing it to expand capacity and offer mental health services to people of all ages, as well as substance use disorder services to ages 12 and older, and primary health care services to clients 16 and up. According to a press release, new clients can walk into the 440 Amherst St. facility Tuesday through Thursday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and be seen the same day.

stress and dysregulation in the classroom. According to a press release, the Executive Council recently approved an \$815,400 contract between the state Department of Education and The Regulated Classroom, a Peterborough-based company that provides tools for educators to help de-escalate adverse and confrontational issues in the classroom and refocus students on academics. The program includes a somatosensory toolkit and four kinds of classroom practices to regulate stress for teachers and students, the release said, and about 2,500 toolkits will be made available to New Hampshire educators. “This new collaboration is aimed to support teachers who may be experiencing disruptions in their school environments, who today are struggling with dysregulated students that have had inconsistent and disrupted instructional schedules going on two years, as well as the high stress level among the teachers themselves,” Frank Edelblut, New Hampshire state education commissioner, said in the release.

Covid-19 update	As of Jan 24	As of Jan 31
Total cases statewide	265,140	276,856
Total current infections statewide	15,641	10,436
Total deaths statewide	2,145	2,209
New cases	29,242 (Jan. 15 to Jan. 24)	11,716 (Jan. 25 to Jan. 31)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	4,843	2,890
Current infections: Merrimack County	1,842	1,158
Current infections: Rockingham County	2,885	1,762

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

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# Taking care of business

Meet Entrepreneur of the Year Kyle York

The New Hampshire Tech Alliance has named Kyle York, co-founder and CEO of the Manchester-based strategic growth and investment firm York IE, its Entrepreneur of the Year. York discussed his work, the award and his approach to business and entrepreneurship.



Kyle York

**Q:** *What entrepreneurial work have you done in New Hampshire?*

My entrepreneurial work began as a young man working at my parents' store in Manchester called Indian Head Athletics. In college I got my first internship at ... WhippleHill [in Bedford]. I later went on to become the head of West Coast sales for WhippleHill. ... I became the Chief Revenue Officer of Dyn ... [and] helped lead the sale of Dyn to Oracle. For three years I was VP [of] product strategy for Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and general manager of Oracle Dyn. In 2019 I co-founded York IE. ... I've invested in nearly 100 startups over the past decade, which have created thousands of jobs. ... I also own a real estate portfolio [with] more than 100,000 square feet in Manchester ... focused on innovators, community organizations and nonprofits.

*What are you working on now?*

York IE ... [is] committed to supporting the startup ecosystem globally. We've invested in over 30 scaling companies that have created hundreds of jobs, with hundreds if not thousands more to come in the future. ... We work with hundreds of companies ... helping them to grow responsibly ... [and are] incubating a few additional New Hampshire-based startups as part of our York IE labs efforts.

*What is the Entrepreneur of the Year award?*

The Entrepreneur of the Year is an award given out by the New Hampshire Tech Alliance. It was first given 33 years ago to ... Dean Kamen. Since then, it's been awarded to some truly outstanding business leaders and visionaries, so it's a true honor to be included in such esteemed ranks.

*How did it feel being named Entrepreneur of the Year?*

It felt great. I've worked very hard over the years to make an impact, but ... so many people have helped me along the way, starting with my wife, Katie, my children, my parents and brothers and everyone I've been blessed to work with in all of my various roles.

*What is the secret to your success?*

My parents preached and ... [demonstrated] in their daily actions the importance of an incredible work ethic and commitment to family. Those ... characteristics fuel my life to this day. From the beginning of my career, I've operated under ... two principles: be loyal [and] play the long game. These are ... [how] I

view everything and [are] the parameters I use to keep myself guided. If I do something that contradicts either of these principles, an internal warning alarm goes off in my gut. If there's a great outcome but it comes at the expense of my principles, I don't pursue it; the end doesn't justify the means.

*What is your business philosophy?*

We don't operate with management fees or a traditional fund of any kind. ... We work with entrepreneurs in so many different ways because we want to do what's best for the entrepreneur and what will help their company grow. We never want to make decisions simply because we have capital to deploy. That's not normal or natural. ... I've never believed in the win-at-all-cost method. I think, in most markets, there's room for many winners [because] success is relative to ambition [and] goals. ... If there can only be one winner in a market, then the market is too small.

*What do you enjoy most about helping startups?*

I truly enjoy sharing my knowledge and mentoring entrepreneurs. [There are] so many wonderful people with bright ideas who simply need someone — or a firm, like York IE — they can call when faced with a new problem. I always want to be that phone call, because passion and integrity are contagious, and, honestly, I learn as much from these entrepreneurs as they learn from me. Making an impact and always learning is what fuels me.

*Do you have any advice for aspiring entrepreneurs in New Hampshire?*

One of the key lessons I like to share is to not be passive. Don't sit back and let things happen to you. Take charge and ownership of your career. Think of your career as a company ... [and] be the CEO. Lead your 'company' to success. — Angie Sykeny

# That was the week that was



When it rains it pours and that's what happened in sports over just a few days last week. Rather than decide which story is biggest of the big, we'll give all a mention in News Item fashion and come back to each in more detail during quieter weeks after

the Super Bowl.

## News Item: Brady Retired

While ESPN stood by its reporting last weekend that forever young **Tom Brady** was retiring, his father, **Tom Sr.**, said he wasn't. But Brady made his retirement official via Twitter on Tuesday. My bet is the news was leaked early because the decision was made long ago as part of a deal with his wife where he got to play two more years if they moved to a place she liked living in more than New England. But what do I know.

In any event, if it is the end, I can't say he was the greatest player ever, because how do you tell if a QB is better at his job than greats like **Jerry Rice**, **Jim Brown** or **Lawrence Taylor** were at their respective, very different, jobs? But I do know after throwing for 40 and 43 TD passes in his last two years, he joins **Brown**, **Sandy Koufax** and **Barry Sanders** as the only guys I know of to retire while still at their peak. And, since he was the best ever at the position most critical to team success, he's the most valuable football player ever. Something we got to view up close for 20 years. So thanks for the memories. It's hard to imagine a better fan experience than we got from TB-12.

## News Item: Ortiz Walks Through That HoF Door

Since we're a week behind we won't rehash the numbers. Instead I'll say Sox President **Sam Kennedy** was right saying that **David Ortiz** is the *most important* Red Sox player ever. Yes, that means even over **Ted Williams**. Why? Because he was the straw that stirred the drink as the Sox won their first three World Series in nearly a century, and Ted never even won once. The stats are nice, but winning matters most.

I thought the 78 percent Hall of Fame vote total was a little low (75 percent is needed). It was due to taint from a positive 2003 drug test he disputes, and no votes from nitwit purists who don't think DH's who didn't play the field belong. To them I say, if the defensively indifferent Williams had played now he'd be a DH. It's been an "official" position for 50 years, so get over it. Besides, when you're one of just four players to win three rings and hit 500-plus homers, you belong.

So congrats, big fella, for a well-earned honor.

## News Item: Bonds and Clemens Controversy Done For Now

With **Roger Clemens** and **Barry Bonds** being denied in their final year on the ballot,

there were an awful lot of wins and homers that missed the train to Cooperstown on Wednesday, all due to the PED-era backlash. If you vote no on a steroid guy because you think cheating for higher stats is wrong I respect that. Not to mention you're backed by one of the five voting criteria that speaks to a player's overall character. However, my problem with that lies with it doesn't square with **Bud Selig** cruising in even though he was commissioner when all the cheating went down. If the media and almost every fan knew what was going on, how could coaches, managers, GM's, owners and the league office not know? Answer: They did know, and looked the other way 'cause chicks dig the long ball. So, while I lean toward the cheaters-should-never-prosper side, I just can't keep out any pre-2004 testing player if the guy who enabled it all breezed in.

To solve the bloated numbers part, put **Bill James'** numerical nonsense to good use for a change to come up with and apply a mathematical factor that normalizes them to pre-PED numbers. Then put up a permanent PED-era exhibit that names names, vote and be done with it.

Enough already.

## News Item: The Super Bowl Match-Up

Here are some pre-Super Bowl thoughts on the surprising Cincinnati Bengals and L.A. Rams.

**Cincy:** (1) Just two seasons ago they were the worst team in the NFL, so being in the SB now is quite a quick turnaround. (2) Hope seeing how the electric **Ja'Marr Chase** immediately transformed Cincy offensively (with help from **Joe Burrow**) turns a light bulb on as getting blown out in the second half of the 2006 AFC title did to **Coach B**. It led to getting **Randy Moss** because he realized they couldn't beat **Peyton Manning** and company anymore unless they outscored them. Ditto for **Mac Jones** in 2022, because he needs a threat like that to take the next step. (3) How does coming back from 18 down to **Patrick Mahomes** in thunderous Arrowhead Stadium during an AFC title game compare to the Pats' comeback vs. Atlanta in SB 51?

**L.A.:** (1) With the game in L.A. the SB will be a home game for one team for a second straight year. (2) Who had **Sony Michel** going to the SB again before his former team? (3) To skeptics like me, giving up two first-round picks, a third-rounder and your starting QB to get **Matthew Stafford** seemed extravagant. But the draft-choice-averse Rams are showing there's more than one way to skin a cat as they wouldn't be in the SB without that trade.

## News Item: Andy Reid Does It Again

Going for it and failing with no timeouts and five seconds left in the first half, then losing in an OT you never would have been in if you'd kicked the sure FG instead, is the latest in a long line of game management mistakes by **Andy**.

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**Serves:** 5

### Ingredients:

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- 1 Tbsp. low fat milk
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- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup Hannaford Italian-Style Breadcrumbs
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Perfect Pinch® Italian Seasoning
- 1/4 cup Cabot® Shredded Mozzarella Cheese
- 2 Tbsp. canola oil

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Add cottage cheese and milk to a food processor or blender and blend until smooth, 30 to 60 seconds.
3. In a large bowl, combine cottage cheese mixture with ground turkey, egg, breadcrumbs, basil and optional mozzarella.
4. Using a scoop or clean hands, form the meat mixture into 15 meatballs of equal size.
5. Add canola oil to a large nonstick skillet, and heat over medium-high heat. Carefully place meatballs in hot skillet and rotate to brown on all sides.
6. Remove meatballs from pan and place onto foil-lined baking sheet.
7. Bake meatballs 12 to 15 minutes, or until cooked through.

### Serve It Up!

Kid-Approved Dinner Ideas: Top Kraft® Macaroni & Cheese Dinner with sliced meatballs and steamed broccoli for a quick and nutritious meal. Or try these meatballs with whole wheat pasta, tomato sauce and side salad, in a whole wheat grinder roll with a sprinkle of cheese and tomato sauce or slice up as a pizza topping!

### Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 240; Fat 10 g; Saturated Fat 2 g; Cholesterol 95 mg; Sodium 350 mg; Carbohydrate 9 g; Fiber 1 g; Sugar 2 g; Added Sugar 1 g; Protein 29 g

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## QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

### Winter weather cancels Winter Festival

Intown Concord sent out a notice last Saturday to inform people that almost all of the events at that day's Winter Festival were canceled because of the snowstorm. "This is really disappointing for everyone involved [but] safety is our number one priority. Intown Concord will be working to reschedule as many elements from today's festival as we can for the springtime," Intown wrote in the notice.

**Score:** -2

**Comment:** *The exceptions were the ice carvers and the ice bar – "the ice carvers are a hardy crew," the notice read. The carvings were done on the Statehouse lawn, with the plan that they would remain on display for about a week.*

### Keeping college costs down

For the fourth year in a row, the University System of New Hampshire is freezing in-state tuition for the upcoming academic year. According to a press release, university system schools currently provide more aid to more students than at any other time in their history, and students are paying less on average to attend these public institutions than in-state students paid five years ago. The University of New Hampshire campuses in Durham and Manchester, Plymouth State University and Keene State College continue to offer the Granite Guarantee program, which makes college affordable for more than 1,800 New Hampshire residents by covering the full cost of in-state tuition for all who qualify.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *Ninety-five percent of first-year students attending University System of New Hampshire schools currently receive some form of financial aid, the release said.*

### Supporting our health care heroes

For the second year, the NH Healthcare Heroes effort is recognizing outstanding professionals in the health care community, naming one hero for each of the state's seven regions. According to a press release, the winners were nominated by colleagues, family, friends and patients and were chosen by a volunteer committee made up of health care professionals across the state. Locally, winners are Laura "Beth" Nagy, director of rehabilitation services at New Hampshire Hospital in Concord; Matt Bouchie, homeless outreach coordinator at the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester; and Stacy Dionne, clinical nurse manager at Lamprey Health Care in Raymond.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *Winners are being honored during pinning ceremonies with their employers, and runners-up stories will be shared on social media at [facebook.com/healthcareheroesnh](https://facebook.com/healthcareheroesnh), according to the release.*

### Giving girls a Sporting Chance

Girls Inc. of New Hampshire is collaborating with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care in support of healthy living and access to sports through its Sporting Chance Program, which provides opportunities to young girls to participate in physical activities and develop good habits that will benefit their physical and mental health. According to a press release, both the Nashua and Manchester Girls Inc. centers offer the program, with activities like basketball, yoga, soccer and racquet sports.

**Score:** +1

**Comment:** *"Sporting Chance provides girls a safe and supportive environment to participate in competitive and recreational activities and sporting events and empowers girls to succeed," Sharron McCarthy, CEO of Girls Inc. New Hampshire, said in the release.*

**QOL score:** 56

**Net change:** +1

**QOL this week:** 57

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



# THIS WEEK

## BIG EVENTS FEBRUARY 3 AND BEYOND



### Thursday, Feb. 3

Let **Enter the Haggis** kick off the weekend spirit early tonight at 8 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Admission costs \$18 for general admission, \$25 for a reserved balcony seating (plus fees). Listen to songs from the band's newest album, *The Archer's Parade*, at enterthehaggis.com. Some the other shows on the

schedule at the Capitol Center for the Arts and the Bank of NH Stage: *Spamilton — An American Parody* on Friday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. at the Cap Center; Mike Daws and Yasmin Williams at the Bank of NH Stage on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m.; The Brothers Brothers at the Bank of NH Stage on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., and, also at the Bank of NH Stage, Andrew North and the Rangers on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 8 p.m.

### Thursday, Feb. 3

Liven up your winter evening with a little **poetry and music**. Rob Azevedo will read from his book of poetry, *Don't Order the Calamari*,

and musicians Becca Myari and Todd Hearon will perform tonight at 6 p.m. at the Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St. in downtown Manchester; bookerymht.com). Admission is

free but go online to register. Angie Sykeny talked to Azevedo when he released his first book of poetry, *Turning on the Wasp*; find that story in the May 6, 2021, issue of the Hippo (page 14). Click on "view more" under E-Editions to find older issues of the Hippo.

### Friday, Feb. 4

Catch up with the University of New Hampshire team sending an experiment to the International Space Station tonight at 7 p.m. as part of the virtual **Super Stellar Friday** program at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com, 271-7827). Team Cooke NoMADS — Novel Methods of Antibiotic Discovery in Space — will explain their experiment and talk about their experiences working with NASA, according to the website, where you can register for this free virtual program.

The center is open for in-person visits, Fridays through Sundays with sessions from 10:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. and from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$11.50 for adults, \$10.50 for students and seniors, \$8.50 for children ages 3 to 12 and free for kids 2 and under. Planetarium tickets are an additional \$5 per person. Reserve tickets for a session online in advance.

### Friday, Feb. 4

Comedian **Jim Colliton** brings the laughs to the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the Palace website, where you can find a link to clips from Colliton's DryBar sets.

### Saturday, Feb. 5

Get some fresh produce and fresh baked goods and other must-haves for a yummy weekend at the **Contoocook Farmers Market** today from 9 a.m. to noon at Maple Street School (194 Maple St. in Contoocook). 🍌



### Save the Date! Galentine's Day

Grab your besties and your vaccination card for a screening of *Bridesmaids* (R, 2011) on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. at Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord; redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600). Tickets cost \$12. The screening is a "snax and vax" screening, which means that the concession stand will be open and attendees are required to show proof of full vaccination.

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# AXES WITH FRIENDS



## AX THROWING, ESCAPE ROOMS AND OTHER IDEAS FOR FUN GROUP OUTINGS

Looking to hang out with friends, away from your house, out there in the world? Here are some ideas for spots to plan a gathering with your group.

### Learn from the ax-perts

Bury the hatchet with your friends

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Ax throwing is one of those sports that gets you hooked the first time you try it — at least that’s how it started for Tracey McCormick, owner and founder of RelAxe Throwing in Manchester.

“I actually went down to Texas on a family vacation, went ax throwing on a fluke and fell in love with it immediately,” she said. “I couldn’t believe how good it felt and how much fun it was at the same time. ... I remember looking around the room at all

the different types of people that were there. People were cheering each other on, even when they didn’t know each other.”

When McCormick returned to New Hampshire and realized there were no indoor ax throwing venues in the state at the time, she began working on a business plan to bring one here. Today, RelAxe Throwing holds four ax throwing leagues per year and has even had throwers represented at three world ax throwing championship competitions.

But you don’t have to be a professional thrower to give it a go. McCormick’s team

of “ax-perts” is always on hand to teach you the basics if you’ve never tried it before.

“Ax throwing is not about strength or trying to throw hard. It’s about finesse and technique,” she said. “We work with people of all varying abilities ... and so we can adapt some of the things that are needed for their safety in order for them to be successful as well.”

It’s a similar operation at The Rugged Axe, which opened on South Willow Street in the Queen City last June. Co-owner and longtime Goffstown resident Charles Keith dreamed about opening his own ax throwing business after trying it out while visiting his son in Pensacola, Florida.

“Anybody can throw an ax. We’ve had a 90-year-old man throw one and be able to get a bull’s-eye. The skillset is really just hand-eye coordination,” Keith said. “We teach everybody how to do both a two-handed throw and a one-handed throw. ... The ax will typically rotate one and a quarter to one and a half times depending on how hard you throw it, and it’s top heavy, so the weight of the ax is actually what makes it rotate. You don’t have to use your wrists at all.”

There are lots of different ax throwing games you can play. In a typical standard game, you would get 10 throws and the player with the most points wins. Each ring on the target is worth a different number of points that increases the closer you get to the bull’s-eye. There are also other ways to score, Keith said, including smaller blue



Photo courtesy of The Rugged Axe in Manchester.

dots that are awarded a higher number of points if the player announces before throwing that they’re aiming for it.

Two of The Rugged Axe’s 18 lanes have a projector that superimposes a target onto the boards, allowing throwers to play other games like Tic-Tac-Toe or Duck Hunt. The venue is open weekly for private parties and for leagues you can sign up for, either individually or as a group.

“It’s such a wonderful activity that’s competitive and a great way to get your aggression out, especially in Covid times,” Keith said. “You can always tell when somebody hits the bull’s-eye, because there’s some yelling and screaming going on from that lane. It’s very satisfying.”

### Where to go ax throwing

*Closed-toe shoes are required and a safety waiver must be filled out. For groups, booking in advance online is recommended; reserve your own lanes by telling them how many people are coming and how long you’ll be throwing for.*

#### Axe Play

142 Lowell Road, Unit 19, Hudson, 809-9081, [axe-play.com](http://axe-play.com)

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

**Cost:** \$25 per hour per person

Axe Play, which opened in August 2020, features seven ax throwing lanes for a total of 14 targets. Ax throwers must be at least 18, with the exception of family hours on specific days and times, when the center is open to kids ages 10 and up.

#### Block Party Social

51 Zapora Drive, Hooksett, 621-5150, [blockpartysocial.com](http://blockpartysocial.com)

**Hours:** Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to midnight  
**Cost:** \$30 per hour per person (includes a \$5 arcade game card)

Formerly the Space Entertainment Center, Block Party Social features a newly renovated space that includes an eight-lane ax throwing lounge with multiple game formats to choose from using superimposed screens and a touch screen interface to keep track of players’ scores. Ax throwers must be at least 18.

#### RelAxe Throwing

157 Gay St., Manchester, 782-3061, [relaxethrowing.com](http://relaxethrowing.com)

**Hours:** Monday and Thursday, 4 to 10 p.m.; Friday, 4 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

**Cost:** \$25 per hour per person

Since opening in June 2019 as an indoor ax throwing venue, RelAxe has added seasonal outdoor throwing, including through an expansion at Candia Springs Adventure Park in Candia, and has had throwers represented at three world ax throwing championship competitions. The minimum age to throw is 10, and all throwers under the age of 16 must have a throwing adult with them.

#### The Rugged Axe

377 S. Willow St., Manchester, 232-7846, [theruggedaxe.com](http://theruggedaxe.com)

**Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Friday, 4 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 11 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. (the center is reserved for leagues on Mondays and private events on Tuesdays)

**Cost:** \$25 per hour per person

One of the newer spots to join the local ax throwing scene, The Rugged Axe opened in June 2021. It’s also the largest indoor ax throwing venue in the Granite State, with a total of 18 lanes. Ax throwers as young as 12 years old are welcome. A small menu of hot dogs, snacks, beer and wine is available at the center’s onsite “Lumberjack Shack.”

### Party of you

Get your own mini restaurant with igloo dining

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Enjoying a meal inside a warm heated igloo keeps outdoor dining alive in the winter and gives you and your own party space. Here’s a list of local eateries offering outdoor igloos by reservation. Due to high demand, some may require you to book them out several days, weeks or



Averill House Vineyard in Brookline. Courtesy photo.

PARTY CONTINUED ON PG 11 ▶

# Take aim at your friends

Get messy with paint or hit 'em with lasers

By Alexandra Colella  
news@hippopress.com

Want a little healthy competition among your friend group? Paintball and laser tag give you the chance to fight in a fun way — or you can ramp up the mess factor with a private party in a paint splatter room.

## Paintball

**AG Paintball** (158 Deering Center Road, Weare, 529-3524, [agpaintball.com](http://agpaintball.com)) opened in 1988 and today is one of the longest-running paintball parks in the Granite State. The park encompasses 30 acres with nine woodsball fields and one speedball field, and also offers an onsite pro shop with guns, masks and other accessories for sale. “[We have] many different themed paintball rooms that can pertain to any interests and likes,” said Rusty Glaze, Paintball Blogger at AG Paintball. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and

Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Their average paintball experience package when you come self-equipped is \$30 per person. They also have rental packages starting at \$40 per person. Private group parties can include 10 players or more to experience your own game of paintball with your group of friends.

**OSG Paintball** (1053 N. Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, 1-800-707-7529, [osgpaintball.com](http://osgpaintball.com)) is the largest paintball park in the state, with 44 acres and 12 playing fields. Every field is themed, including Star Wars, Pirate Cove, Empire Castle, Hamburger Hill and more, and games can also have themes of their own, like Westerns, *Call of Duty*, *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy* and *The Goonies*. The park is closed for the winter but is scheduled to reopen March 5. Private parties are available seven days a week with a reservation required. Packages include a

TAKE AIM CONTINUED ON PG 12 ►

► PARTY CONTINUED FROM PG 10

more in advance. Be sure to contact each restaurant directly via phone or email for the most up-to-date availability.

• **603 Brewery** (42 Main St., Londonderry, 404-6123, [603brewery.com](http://603brewery.com)) features heated igloos on its patio that accommodate seating for up to eight people. Igloos are available to rent for two-hour time slots for a \$50 rental fee per party. Time slots are released online one month at a time.

• **Averill House Vineyard** (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, [averillhousevineyard.com](http://averillhousevineyard.com)) offers a “vine to wine” igloo and gazebo experience package, available for two to eight people per party. The cost is \$100 for the first two people and \$50 for each additional person and includes four wine tastings and a charcuterie board inside one of the vineyard’s heated igloos for a one-hour-and-45-minute visit.

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, [bedfordvillage-inn.com](http://bedfordvillage-inn.com)) offers luxury outdoor dining at its onsite igloo garden, accommodating up to six people per party and featuring heat and air filtration systems. Igloos can be reserved for up to two and a half hours, offering the BVI’s tavern and dining room menus, except on holidays, in addition to a special Simi wine and cocktail menu. The cost is \$50 to reserve an igloo for lunch and \$100 to reserve one for brunch or dinner (brunches are on Saturdays and Sundays only).

• **Boston Billiard Club & Casino** (55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 943-5630,



Al fresco igloo dining at Tuscan Market in Salem. Courtesy photo.

[bostonbilliardclubcasino.com](http://bostonbilliardclubcasino.com)) has a few heated igloos on its patio that are available by reservation only. Igloos have a two-hour limit and can be reserved for parties of up to five.

• **Downtown Cheers Grille & Bar** (17 Depot St., No. 1, Concord, 228-0180, [cheersnh.com](http://cheersnh.com)) has four heated igloos on its patio that can be reserved for parties of four to eight people. Reservations are two hours per party and require a \$50 deposit that’s applied to your bill.

• **Tuscan Market** (Tuscan Village, 9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467, [tuscanbrands.com](http://tuscanbrands.com)) offers “al fresco igloo dining experience” packages that can accommodate two to six guests per party. The cost is a \$150 spend minimum on weekdays and a \$250 spend minimum on weekends. 🍷

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# Break free with your buddies

## Escape rooms offer a safe activity for groups

By Angie Sykeny  
asykeny@hippopress.com

Since New Hampshire's first escape room, Granite State Escape, opened in 2015, escape rooms have been popular destinations in the state for group outings and private events like birthday parties, bachelor and bachelorette parties, school trips and corporate team-builders. Now, in pandemic times, escape rooms offer something even more valuable:

"I think that people are wanting to once again enjoy the company of others while participating in a fun, safe and interactive experience together," said Pamela Provencher, owner of Granite State Escape in Manchester. "[Because] escape rooms allow groups to stay in their bubble, escape rooms [are a way] for some folks to begin to safely venture out again while also being ... a fun night out for the more adventurous."

Players do puzzles, solve riddles and crack codes by physically engaging with items in the room in a race against the clock to complete the room's overall objective. A "gamemaster" explains the backstory, objective and rules to the players and monitors the room remotely during the game, maintaining audio communications with the players to ensure their safety and to provide hints, should they get stuck.

Escape rooms are unique in that they appeal to a wide range of people, Escape Room Concord owner Gregory Slossar said, making them a great outing for mixed groups.

"There are few activities out there that offer multi-generational entertainment," he said. "Escape rooms are great for friends who want to do something fun before or after dinner, or families who are looking to do something with their children that makes everyone put down their phones for an hour, or a place where co-workers can come together as a team and bond on a personal level."

Christopher McCarthy, who is the co-owner, operations manager and resident gamemaster at The Escape Room Experience in Laconia, said escape rooms are an opportunity for people to let go of whatever is on their mind and be transported to another world where their only focus is to complete the objective of the room.

"It gives you an active goal, with minimal distractions," he said. "It's an environment catered to challenging your brain while in a physical space designed to grab your attention and keep it there."

McCarthy said he is especially excited about The Escape Room Experience's new room, "Serial Killer Cabin," which pays homage to classic 1980s slasher films.

"As the designer, I'm proud of what I've accomplished within the space," he said. "I feel like, atmospherically, we knocked it out of the park."

Policies for players vary per escape room. Some escape rooms accept walk-ins, but most require booking in advance. The number of players allowed typically ranges from

one to six people, but certain rooms may have their own limit. Families and groups with children should check on the escape room's age restrictions or recommendations before they go as some rooms may be frightening, atmospherically, or too challenging for young players.

Escape rooms have been taking various safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid, such as allowing more time between groups to clean and sanitize the rooms and to ensure that the groups don't run into each other in the lobby area; requiring their staff to be vaccinated; requiring or encouraging staff and players to wear masks; and installing air filter machines.

"We believe escape rooms truly are one of the safest things you can choose to participate in," said Lara Barkley, creative director



"Escape the Library," an escape room at Escape Room Concord. Courtesy photo.

at Key to Escape in Nashua. "Not even the movie theater or bowling alley can keep you out of the same room with groups of people you don't know." 🧐

### ◀ TAKE AIM CONTINUED FROM PG 11

private group of 10 or more people for a full day for \$49.99 or a half day for \$39.99, with full-impact and low-impact options available.

### Paint splatter

**Rage Cage NH** (10 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 402-4197, [ragecagenh.com](http://ragecagenh.com)) features a paint splatter room that's open to all ages. Have a glow paint party with ultraviolet black lights, bubble and fog machines and whatever music you want for \$30 per person for an hour, with up to eight people per party. A regular paint splatter party without the glow is \$20 per person, with up to 20 people allowed (contact Rage Cage if you have more than 20 people). When you book a paint party online, you pay for just one person to reserve the room for the full hour. For a regular paint splatter party, every participant can pick out 10 colors of washable paint, a 12x12" canvas and safety goggles, and additional upgrades are available, like throwable paintballs (\$5 to \$20), more colors (\$2 per color), larger canvases (\$5 to \$10) and stencils (\$10) to make your art. Paint parties do not come with jumpsuits, but white hooded jumpsuits are available for \$10 each. For glow parties, participants can pick out

14 colors of UV-reactive washable paint, a 12x12" canvas and safety goggles, along with any preferred upgrades. Rage Cage NH hours are noon to 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

### Laser tag

**Block Party Social** (51 Zapora Drive, Hooksett, 621-5150, [blockpartysocial.com](http://blockpartysocial.com)) is open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight. The price for the laser tag arena is \$22 per person for a 30-minute experience (this includes a \$5 arcade game card).

**Hilltop Fun Center** (165 Route 108, Somersworth, 742-8068, [hilltopfuncenter.com](http://hilltopfuncenter.com)) is open Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 8 p.m., Friday from 3 to 9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Laser tag prices are \$14 for a 30-minute session and \$22 for two 30-minute sessions; each session includes three six-minute games. On Friday and Saturday, laser mania is \$25 per person, with unlimited laser tag from 5 to 9 p.m. You can also rent out the entire arena for your own group for \$300 for the first hour and \$100 for additional hours. 🧐

### Play an escape room

- **102 Escape**, 123 Nashua Road, Unit 34, Londonderry, 260-6198, [102escape.com](http://102escape.com)
- **Break Free 603**, 141 Route 101A, Amherst, 424-1758, [breakfree603.com](http://breakfree603.com)
- **Escape Room Concord**, 240 Airport Road, Concord, 225-2271, [escaperoomconcordnh.com](http://escaperoomconcordnh.com)
- **The Escape Room Experience**, 555 Main St., Suite A, Laconia, 366-6296, [theescaperoomexperience.live](http://theescaperoomexperience.live)
- **Granite State Escape**, 795 Elm St., Manchester, 935-7455, [escapenham.com](http://escapenham.com)

- **Key To Escape**, 3 Bud Way, Unit 21, Nashua, 809-4018, [keytoescape.com](http://keytoescape.com)
- **LOK'd! Room Escape**, 1500 S Willow St., Manchester, 945-3113, [lokdrocks.com](http://lokdrocks.com)
- **Monkey Mind Escape Rooms**, 10 Vaughan Mall, Portsmouth, 498-8997, [monkeymindescape.com](http://monkeymindescape.com)
- **Portsmouth Escape Room**, 95 Brewery Lane, No. 13, Portsmouth, 380-9160, [portsmouthescaperoom.com](http://portsmouthescaperoom.com)

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# Visual discoveries

## Abstract images of nature captured in mixed media collages

By Meghan Siegler  
msiegler@hippypress.com

Seeing goldenrod, touching tree bark, feeling lichen underfoot — those are the kinds of sensations that Daniela Edstrom is hoping you'll experience when you walk into her "Expressions: Nature" exhibition.

Currently on display at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, the exhibition is made up of the Allenstown artist's abstract mixed media collages, which combine digital images with traditional collage done by hand.

"The images aren't literal," Edstrom said. "I feel that they let the viewer wonder about what it's like to be in that place. ... I want it to be an experience of revelation and discovery where each time they look at the piece their interest is renewed, [that there's] a constant visual discovery."

Edstrom said she enjoys using both collage methods, with the traditional form of collage being more tactile with textured papers and the digital method offering an endless stream of non-copyrighted images that can be printed using archival inks and photographic paper.

"I love the computer," Edstrom said. "I think it's a wonderful free method of doing art."

Edstrom takes her own photos too, finding inspiration close to home.

"I'm often in my yard photographing irises, tulips..." she said. "I [also] spend a lot of time photographing the gardens around Allenstown."

In her neighborhood, Edstrom has photographed century-old lilac bushes, and throughout town she's taken pictures of stone walls that date back to the colonial period and old passageways through the forests.

"There are paths that people have walked

for centuries, or at least a hundred years, through Bear Brook [State Park]," she said. "[I like to capture] man's presence in nature."

Edstrom said it can take months to create a collage, often waiting for the right season or the right weather to get a photo that inspires her. She said she typically takes hundreds of photos during the spring and summer — but exploring nature to get those photos is one of her favorite parts of the artistic process.

"It's very therapeutic, meditative, noticing lichens and mushrooms and looking for tracks of the animals," she said. "It's quite poetic."

Edstrom uses a standard point-and-shoot camera, then downloads the images, combs through them to find the ones that most intrigue her, color-enhances them in Photoshop if she thinks it will add vibrancy to the collage, then prints them and starts working with cut papers.

One of the pieces in her show, "Boppin' Blossoms," features a printed photo of an iris.

"Then, inspired by the colors of the iris, I printed colored papers ... and collaged them onto the surface, trying to feel the sensation of the flower, the feelings of spring, using color to express emotion," she said. "I'm fascinated by the emotions that nature is capable of producing in ways that no ... technology can."

A member of the New Hampshire Art Association, graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts of Naples and graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a B.A. in art history, Edstrom has been creating for decades. She has shown her paintings, collages, mixed media and other art in solo, juried and group exhibitions locally, nationally and abroad.

She's currently working on her next solo show, planned for this summer; "Fantastical Flora" will feature 18x24 mixed media col-



Blossoms light Bound. Collage by Daniela Edstrom.

lages. And Edstrom is also trying to get into encaustic art.

"It's a nice challenge," she said. "It's freeing because you can use found objects, found paper ... [you can] create from scratch using what is available to you." 🌱

### "Expressions: Nature"

**Where:** The Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, 49 S. Main St., Suite 104, Concord

**When:** Now through Feb. 14

**Visit:** danielaedstrom.com

### Art

#### Exhibits

• **"TOMIE DEPAOLA AT THE CURRIER"** Exhibition celebrates the illustrator's life and legacy through a collection of his original drawings. On view now through Feb. 13. Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children under age 13 and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

#### • "IMPRESSIONS: NATURE"

The New Hampshire Art Association presents an exhibit featuring the work of Allenstown artist Daniela Edstrom. Edstrom's art explores the abstract qualities of light, form and color found in the New England landscape. On view now through Feb. 17. Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (49 S. Main St., Concord). Gallery hours at the Chamber are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. All works are for sale. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.

• **"TRANSLATING NATURE INTO FABRIC"** Exhibition features nature-inspired artistic quilts by Ellen Fisher. Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua. On view through Feb. 26, during library hours. Visit nashualibrary.org.

#### • "AS PRECIOUS AS GOLD: CARPETS FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD"

Exhibit features 32 carpets dating from the 15th century to the 19th century. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On view now through Feb. 27. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children under age 13 and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit currier.org.

• **"FOR THE LOVE OF IMPRESSION"** Exhibit features prints created using traditional techniques and materials, combined with contemporary aesthet-

ics, new materials, and technology. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). Feb. 11 through March 5. Visit twovillagesart.org.

#### Workshops and classes

• **PASTEL PAINTING WORKSHOP** Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover St., Manchester). Sat., Feb. 26, 1 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$40. Visit dianecrespofineart.com.

#### Theater

##### Shows

• **THE FULL MONTY** presented by the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Jan. 28 through Feb. 20, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at noon. Tickets cost \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **MARY & ME** Produced by Glass Dove Productions. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Jan. 28 through Feb. 13. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.

• **I LOVE YOU BECAUSE** presented by Jonesing for Theatre, in collaboration with Dive in Productions. The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth). Feb. 4 through Feb. 20, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$28 for adults

and \$25 for seniors age 65 and up and students. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

• **THE 39 STEPS** presented by the Windham Actors Guild. Searles School and Chapel (3 Chapel Road, Windham). Fri, Feb. 18, and Sat., Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$16 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and military. Call 247-8634 or visit windhamactorsguild.com.

• **LIFESPAN OF A FACT** Produced by Lend Me a Theater. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Feb. 18 through March 6. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members

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## ARTS

# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **High standards:** The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's triennial exhibit "Setting the Standard" is on view now through March 31 at its headquarters gallery (49 S. Main St., No. 100, Concord). The exhibit features new works by 45 League jurors, master craftsmen who volunteer to work with League hopefuls and review their work to uphold the League's standard of artistic excellence. A variety of media is represented, including wood, textile, clay and metal. "These works ... will reflect the spirit of the maker," League executive director Miriam Carter said in a press release. "Given the difficulties faced during the past several months, the work of our members takes on an almost indomitable nature, mixing the strength and resilience of the artists with the vulnerability that we have all experienced." Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. Pieces are for sale and can be picked up when the exhibit closes. Visit [nhcrafts.org](http://nhcrafts.org) or call 224-3375.

• **Disney classic:** The Riverbend Youth Company presents *The Lion King Jr.* at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts (56 Mont Vernon St., Milford), with showtimes on Friday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2:30 p.m. Based on the 1994 Disney animated film, the coming-of-age musical follows a lion cub named Simba as he struggles to find his inner strength to confront his evil uncle so he can claim his rightful place on the throne in his beloved Pride lands. It features classic numbers like "Hakuna Matata," "Circle of Life" and "I Just Can't Wait to Be King." "Like any good musical, *Lion King Jr.* has a great depth of different musical styles that add much to the experience of the show," musical director Kimberly Vars Whitehead told the Hippo last month. "Each song sets important dialogue to music so the audience hears the story in a different way." The show is performed by a cast of 50 young performers, ranging in age from 9 through 14, with stage tech and lighting run by a team of high school and middle school students. "Our cast has put in a great deal of time and effort under difficult circumstances, and



Painting by William Turner, featured in "Vehicular Narratives" exhibit. Courtesy photo.

they've risen to the occasion," director Mike McKnight told the Hippo last month. "I think the audience will like the ... production because it's kids doing what they truly enjoy." Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors. Visit [amatocenter.org](http://amatocenter.org) or call 672-1002.

• **Auto art:** The paintings of New Hampshire Art Association artist William Turner are on display in an exhibit, "Vehicular Narratives," now through Feb. 28, at The Art Center (located inside the Washington Mill, 1 Washington St., Suite 1177, Dover). Turner worked in the auto body restoration business for 30 years before becoming a full-time painter, earning BFA and MFA degrees in visual arts and painting from the former New Hampshire Institute of Art (now the Institute of Art and Design at New England College). His oil paintings, which he describes as "narrative realism," have depicted distressed vehicles and machinery, vintage toys and stories from Greek and Roman mythology and folklore told through imagery of automobiles. All works are for sale. "Vehicular Narratives" is the first NHAA exhibit to be installed at The Art Center as a result of a newly formed partnership between the NHAA and the 6,000-plus-square-foot art space. Gallery hours at The Art Center are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with private appointments available by request. The exhibition can also be accessed via an online gallery. Call 978-6702 or visit [nhartassociation.org](http://nhartassociation.org) or [heartcenterdover.com](http://heartcenterdover.com). — Angie Sykeny

and \$16 for senior members. Visit [hatboxnh.com](http://hatboxnh.com).

• **DEADLY** Cue Zero Theatre Co. presents Granite State Arts Academy (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, Salem). Fri., March 4, through Sun., March 6. Visit [cztheatre.com](http://cztheatre.com).

• **LITTLE WOMEN** The Franklin Footlight Theatre presents Franklin Opera House (316 Central St., Franklin). Thurs., March 10, through Sat., March 12, 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., March 13, 2 p.m. Tickets

are \$16 for adults, \$14 for students and seniors. Visit [franklinopera-house.org](http://franklinopera-house.org).

• **BYE BYE BIRDIE** Presented by The Palace Theatre. 80 Hanover St., Manchester. March 11 through April 3. Tickets cost \$25 to \$46. Visit [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org).

### Classical

• **"WINTER VOYAGES"** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra performs. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44

Geremonty Drive, Salem. Sat., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 20, 2 p.m. Visit [nhphil.org](http://nhphil.org).

• **WINTER MAINSTAGE CONCERT** The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra performs. The Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Sun., March 13, 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 to \$35 for adults, \$20 for students and \$25 to \$30 for seniors age 60 and up. Call 436-2400 or visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org).

# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

## The rail trail connection

Imagining a walkable New Hampshire

By Dan Szczesny  
news@hippopress.com

This all started with a troll; more specifically, the Heritage Troll, a large wooden sculpture built by artist Tom LeComte and placed along a trail behind Stark Park in Manchester. My daughter, ever the little explorer, took about one minute to find the troll, and about 10 seconds to ask, “Are there more?”

Finding the answer to that question took me down a decades-long road of city planning and sustainable design, all of which may be coming to a head this spring in a way that could change the infrastructure of transportation in the Merrimack Valley.

But first, the troll.

The installation is part of the newly refurbished trail system behind the park that organizers call Walk in the Woods. In the summer and fall of 2021, the lower 15 acres of Stark Park were redesigned and landscaped back to the walking park originally envisioned when the Heritage Trail was designed and built along the Merrimack River. Charming bridges now span babbling brooks, park benches are set up to rest weary feet, and a tree troll — sitting nearly as high as my daughter is tall

— now casts a watchful eye out over the river.

During our hike I noticed how close the new (old) trail system is to the Merrimack River. But there are no spur trails to take a walker out there and the reason is the active set of railroad tracks that runs from Manchester to Concord along the river and divides the park from the river.

For 12 years various biking/walking and developing groups have been trying to convince Pan Am Railways to allow rail trails to be built alongside their active tracks, said Jason Soukup, the board secretary of Manchester Moves, one of the organizations working on rail trail projects around the city. The problem right now is liability.

“We found a gap in New Hampshire law, compared to other states like Maine, in the current Rec Use Law on the books that doesn’t protect the railway,” he said. “We’re trying to change that.”

Last year Pan Am sold the railway to CSX Transportation, a railway company that already has established active use railroad lines right next to rail trails around the country.

“If we give them liability protection, they’ll do it,” said Soukup.

On Jan. 20, House Bill 1579 (The Rail with



Trail Bill) was introduced into the House Judiciary Committee for study. This May, when the railroad sale is finalized, supporters say passing the bill will protect the railway from liability and open the door to rail trail development.

Beside Manchester Moves, the bill is supported by a wide coalition of rail trail supporters, including the New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition, The City of Manchester, the Friends of Stark Park, New Hampshire DOT and the Rails to Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C.

While it may seem strange that such a coalition is putting this much support behind a fairly obscure bipartisan bill, there’s a much larger picture here to consider.

Should the bill pass and the railway relent to allow a rail trail to be built alongside its tracks,



Top left, the author’s wife and daughter stroll over the John Stark Bridge in the newly refurbished Walk in the Woods in Manchester’s Stark Park. Top right, the author’s daughter finds the Rail Troll, a sculpture by artist Tom LeComte. Above, the newly renovated park is dotted with artistic maps, designed by artist Peter Noonan. Photos by Dan Szczesny.

CONTINUED ON PG 17 ▶



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE GARDENING GUY

# Sell the house

And other less drastic ways to deal with Japanese knotweed

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

I'm a lucky guy: I have no Japanese knotweed. Many is the gardener who has emailed me asking, "What can I do to get rid of Japanese knotweed?" My usual answer? Sell the house.

Japanese knotweed, commonly called bamboo because of its hollow, segmented stems, goes by a number of scientific names, most commonly *Polygonum cuspidatum*. The leaves are heart-shaped and alternate on the stems, which can reach up to 10 or even 15 feet tall. It was introduced from Japan as a landscape plant in the late 1880's, and was sometimes planted for erosion control, but quickly proved invasive.

Japanese knotweed spreads easily; its rhizomes (roots) can go 90 feet or more, even popping up through asphalt or pushing through house foundations. I talked to someone who tried to dig out a patch that had been growing for decades by using a backhoe; he quit after digging down 8 feet because he saw roots going even deeper!

Japanese knotweed blooms in early fall with white blossoms that attract bees and other pollinators. The small seeds are carried by wind, water or animals, though research shows that seeds are not usually how it propagates. It spreads by root — even a small bit of root can create a new patch of knotweed, so it is a problem along streams and rivers because flooding can send its invasive roots to new sites miles away. Sometimes highway departments move soil with roots, and it spreads.

Invasive plants (like knotweed) are defined as those coming from a different continent with few or no natural predators here. The bugs that eat purple loosestrife or Japanese knotweed did not come with them when they first made it to our shores. Invasives spread rapidly and can outcompete our native plants for sun, moisture and soil nutrients.

Most invasives can grow in sun or shade in wet or dry soil. They do not need that dark, organic matter-rich soils that we offer our peonies. Invasives, generally, can grow in your gravel driveway if given half a chance.

Most invasives are hard to control for several reasons. Most have extensive root systems that spread far and wide, and are often brittle. Trying to dig out the roots generally results in new plants from scraps of root that broke off, and that is certainly the case for knotweed.

I recently called Pete Butler, an arborist living in Stockbridge, Vermont, to talk about Japanese knotweed. Last summer I visited one of his projects, a public park along the Ottauquechee River in Woodstock, Vermont, to look at his efforts controlling knotweed.

Pete said that the best time to attack a patch of knotweed is in the fall, when the plants are

less vigorous and new shoots are less likely to grow after the roots are disturbed. Dig out root masses to get as much root as possible. The roots show bright orange if scraped with your shovel. They are woody and large in a well-established patch. "You're not going to dig it all out successfully. But taking away a lot of the root mass is like a good punch in the nose," according to Pete.

He emphasized that you should never get rid of your excavated knotweed roots by taking them away. Destroy them on site by burning them. He takes dead trees, branches from pruning and other wood products to start a hot bonfire that will destroy the knotweed. If you truck it away, it will start growing elsewhere, spreading the problem.

After digging, he said, add some competition. He uses winter rye, planting in the fall. It scavenges nitrogen and starts rebuilding soil that the knotweed has depleted. He also adds fertilizer to improve the soil. In spring the winter rye starts growing early, as does the knotweed. The grass stabilizes the soil and helps re-introduce microbial life, he said.

Getting a soil test will help you determine how badly your soil has been degraded by the knotweed so you can improve it. In the spring he likes to add more grass seeds, particularly sheep fescue and hard fescue. These grasses compete with the little sprouts of knotweed from root scraps that evaded your digging. He does not mow the grasses, which are relatively short.

Pete explained that he uses an IPM or Integrated Pest Management approach to controlling knotweed, including micro-doses of herbicides, just "ounces per acre." He is



Japanese knotweed is an attractive plant, but nearly impossible to get rid of. Courtesy photo.

licensed to apply pesticides, to help in the process, but cautions that homeowners should not attempt using herbicides. Even herbicides like Roundup, widely touted as safe, can have negative impacts on beneficial plants and soil fungi.

Getting control of a knotweed infestation will take at least three years, Pete said, and each year he uses less herbicide. The "shelf life" of the roots is about nine years, he said, after which they will no longer be viable. Until that time, a site needs to be carefully monitored and appropriate steps taken each year.

When I visited his knotweed control site last summer Pete showed me how competition can help control knotweed. He planted a clump of hemlocks about 6 feet tall, shoulder to shoulder, after removing knotweed roots. They effectively outcompeted the knotweed, even if not completely eliminating the few new shoots that appear each year. He applies micro-doses of herbicide to finish it off.

Knotweed does best in full sun and moist soil, so creating shade near a site will slow it down some. And human activity can discourage it, too. High foot traffic will slow it down.

So maybe you don't have to sell your house just because you have knotweed. But be prepared to battle it for years. And for those of us committed to organics, we may have to live with a little knotweed.

*Henry lives and gardens in Cornish Flat. Email him at [henry.homeyer@comast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comast.net).*

## TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

*This lamp appears to be bronze and is 3 feet tall. It belonged to my grandmother and she passed away so I don't have any detail on when or where it was purchased. It was in her home since I could remember (1970s). She loved anything with crystals!*

Laura



Dear Laura,

That is a big lamp! I can see why she liked it. The style of it looks to be from the 1970s from the pictures but could be a lot older. But let's determine some things first. If the lamp is bronze it should weigh a lot. It could also be a mixed metal with a bronze look on the surface (usually you can see spots of a gray metal from underneath). If you see any signs of a different metal coloring that can help determine a value.

While you're looking at the bottom, check for any markings, a maker, etc. (though that infor-

mation could be elsewhere on the lamp so give it a good look all over).

From the pictures I'm thinking it's not a bronze metal, and the crystals have a watermelon sheen to them that are applied to give a glimmer. The chains are a later style like the 1970s. It's still a very interesting-looking lamp. I think the value would be in the range of \$200, but with more information that estimate could be higher.

*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](http://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](mailto:footwdw@aol.com), or call her at 391-6550 or 624-8668.*



# KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

## Smallfoot, take two

• Last weekend's storm led to the cancellation of parts of Concord's Winterfest — including a scheduled screening of the animated movie *Smallfoot* (PG, 2018), about a village of Yetis and featuring the voices of Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya, Common and others. That screening is back on for this coming Saturday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. at the Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord; redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600). Tickets for last Saturday's show can be transferred to this coming Saturday's show (email info@redrivertheatres.org).

## Science Fridays

• Head to the **Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St. in Dover; 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) on Fridays (through the end of April) for their special "Science Friday" programming featuring "messy experiments and activities that focus on sensory fun," according to the website. "Activities can be used as a jumping off point for learning about scientific concepts like states of matter or immiscible liquids," the website said. The events take place at 10 a.m. during the morning session (which runs from 9 a.m. to noon) or at 2 p.m. during the afternoon (from 1 to 4 p.m.). The activities are geared to ages 3 and up with the help of a grownup. To visit the museum, pay for admission (\$11 for everyone over 1 year old, \$9 for 65+) and reserve a time slot in advance.

As of Jan. 31, the museum also still had



Smallfoot

tickets available for its **Dinosaur Valentine's Party** on Sunday, Feb. 13, with sessions including one from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission costs \$16.

## Some Plays

• A the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; 668-5588, palacetheatre.org), the Palace Youth Theatre group (featuring student actors in second through twelfth grade) will present the tale of Wilbur, "Some Pig," in *Charlotte's Web*, a play based on the book by E.B. White. The show will run Tuesday, Feb. 8, and Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. Call for tickets.

• Head to Narnia for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, presented by Epping Community Theater's Youth Theater on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Epping Playhouse (38 Ladd's Lane in Epping, eppingtheater.org). Admission costs \$10 at the door (cash only).

## Magic and stories

• "Storytime and magic" is the theme for the Saturday, Feb. 5, storytime at Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) at 11:30 a.m. The event will feature a reading of Tomie dePaola's *Strega Nona's Magic Lessons* and then a magic show from DaSean "Magicman" Greene, according to the website, where you can register for this free event. 🍌

Meanwhile, to answer my daughter's question, the Manchester Trolls may well be multiplying. Word has it that plans are in the works to find homes for several others, including somewhere along the Rockingham Trail. And don't be surprised if Arms Park suddenly becomes a troll home.

"This all falls under the umbrella of making our neighborhoods better," Soukup said. "We want to encourage people to stay here, explore local places, and that means investing in those places."

*Dan Szczesny is a long time journalist and hiker and a member of New Hampshire's 4,000-footer club. He's written travel memoirs about Nepal and Alaska and about hiking with kids. His latest books include The White Mountain: Rediscovering the Hidden Culture of Mount Washington and NH Rocks That Rock: An Adventure Guide to 25 Famous Boulders in the Granite State. He lives in Manchester with his wife and daughter. See danszczesny.com. 🍌*

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 15

that would connect a critical 31-mile "gap" in the Granite State Rail Trail. The nearly contiguous 125-mile rail trail that runs from Salem to Lebanon is missing one critical section: the piece between Manchester and Concord. Connect that part along the active tracks, and one could in theory walk or bike the entire length of the trail without having to touch a road.

"Imagine, for tourism and connectivity, being able to get on your bike and ride safely wherever you want," Soukup said. "A community you can connect to without having to use a car is a better community."

Rail Trail supporters have never been so close to making the statewide corridor a reality. And rail trails, in general, make perfect routes for beginner walkers who want to experience hiking during all seasons.

But while we wait for May, Walk in the Woods and the Heritage Trail, which continues on for another two miles behind the Youth Services Center off River Road, is open for exploration.

# Top up or top down? It's more about exposure than safety



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk:  
Help! Please settle an argument my husband and I are having.*

*Is it safer to drive a convertible with the top up or top down on the interstate? We are snowbirds headed south in a 2021 Mustang California Special convertible.*

— Marianne

Sounds like a fun trip, Marianne. Let's start by laying out the pros and cons of having the convertible top down on the interstate.

Convertibles have notoriously poor visibility with the top up, so with the top down, you'll see around you a lot better. That'll make it easier to change lanes safely — although your car is new, so it probably has blind spot warning anyway.

Second, you'll have great air circulation, so you definitely won't get Covid-19 from your husband while driving.

On the downside, your hair will be a mess. And you won't hear a word your spouse is saying to you. I guess

that could be in the positive column, depending on how you feel about that.

In terms of real safety, however, I actually don't think it matters very much. A convertible top provides only a little more protection than no top at all, at least in terms of things like a rollover or serious accident.

It's cloth. So if, heaven forbid, your car rolls over or a truck carrying a load of axes to Tucumcari has its cargo suddenly break free in front of you, a convertible top is not going to give you much protection. A little, but not enough to base this decision on.

So I think you should do whatever pleases you. You may find, though — like I have — that you really can't stand driving a convertible with the top down at high speed on the interstate for any length of time.

Between the noise and the buffeting wind, I find it gets fatiguing very quickly. And with all that exposure, I can't yank out my nose hairs in peace.

So, I usually put the top up on the highway. Then, when I get off the highway, I'll put the top down, and it's wonderful.

Enjoy your trip and your convertible, Marianne.

*Dear Car Talk:*

*We own a 2014 Honda Accord V6 with the top trim level. My wife no longer drives due to a bad back. Since switching to the passenger seat, she has become painfully aware that the passenger seat does not have the same level of controls and adjustments as the driver's seat.*

*Is there an aftermarket seat upgrade that can be integrated into this car? Or is there an affordable vehicle that has a comparable passenger seat to the driver's seat that does not cost a fortune?*

— Raymond

Not really, Raymond. Many passenger seats don't have the same variety of adjustments as driver's seats. It's discrimination, pure and simple. It's passengerism.

And it's not easy to just find a driver's seat from another Accord and plop it where your passenger seat goes. For one thing, the electronic controls and motors aren't there.

There are aftermarket seats, but the good ones, from companies like Recaro, cost upwards of \$1,000 to \$1,500 before installation.

And there are two challenges with those seats. First, it's hard to find a place where you can really test them out — a crucial step for your wife. You'll also find that a

lot of them are geared more toward sporty driving and racing, rather than folks with back issues.

So, my suggestion would be to upgrade your whole ride — seats and all. Some manufacturers just use better seats than others. I've always found Volvo seats to be more comfortable than anything I sit on in my house — including the cat, occasionally. BMW and Mercedes seats are also terrific.

Try shopping around for a used luxury car and see if you can find one with seats that make your wife more comfortable.

In that range of cars, you're also more likely to find passenger seats with more adjustments — although perhaps still not as many as the driver gets. But you might get lumbar support on the passenger side and even seat cushions with separate front and rear height adjustments. But most of all, the seats themselves will be better made and more supportive.

You don't have to take a long test drive before making a decision. But do take a good, long, test-sit. Bring a copy of *Anna Karenina* with you and sit in the car with your wife for an hour or more. And if the salesman forgets you're there and goes home for the night, consider the car yours.

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# ON THE JOB

## LOUANN GENTILUOMO

### GYM OWNER/TRAINER

Louann Gentiluomo and her husband Brian co-own and train at CKO Kickboxing Londonderry.

**Q:** Explain your job and what it entails.

I, with my husband, oversee the business as a whole — the financials, operations, marketing and advertising, sales, everything — and we train as well.

**How long have you had this job?**

We opened in September 2019.

**What led you to this career field and your current job?**

I've always loved fitness. We were involved in kickboxing for about 10 or 11 years and just felt like we wanted to do something more. ... We loved the sport so much that we really wanted to pay it forward.

**What kind of education or training did you need?**

We had 11 years of kickboxing background, and we went through a training process ... regarding how to put that [kickboxing experience] together with the skill set to be able to own and operate [a kickboxing studio] and teach other individuals how to kickbox safely and correctly with proper form.

**What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?**

It's a very casual environment. [The attire] is fitness-focused, so basically gym clothes — shorts or sweatpants, sneakers, and we have CKO branded shirts.

**How has your job changed over the course of the pandemic?**

When we had to shut down, we very quickly pivoted to everything virtual. We hired a professional coach ... to help us. We put our heads together and got very creative with all kinds of challenges and contests through social media. ... The most important thing was to make sure that our members saw us every day ... and that they could be engaged. We were recording almost every day, and we partnered with a virtual company to set up a YouTube channel and broadcast our videos live throughout the country.

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

I wish I could have started this career sooner in my life. I'm 51 now, and I wish I had recognized and embraced this when I was in my 30s, but then I wouldn't have had all the experiences that have brought me to where I am today.

**What do you wish other people knew about your job?**

What I wish people knew that maybe they don't know is that we're a super-supportive community. I think sometimes



Louann Gentiluomo

people want to give us a try but are intimidated by the idea of kickboxing. They think everyone here is all fit and buff and in perfect shape, and they think, 'I don't know; maybe this isn't for me.' That's truly not the case. We cater to all fitness levels and support everyone and help them reach their goals. It's a very positive, healthy, welcoming environment.

**What was the first job you ever had?**

I worked at an ice cream shop.

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

Take time for yourself. You need a balance between work and family. You need to be able to relax and get away from the stress and unwind. — Angie Sykeny

#### Five favorites

**Favorite book:** *The Pursuit of Happyness*

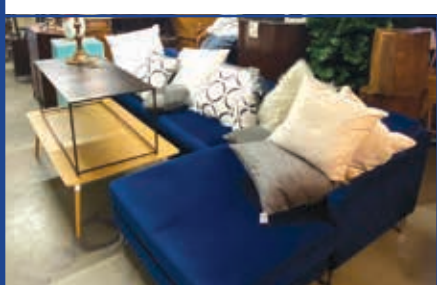
**Favorite movie:** The same as my favorite book — *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

**Favorite music:** An eclectic mix ... of '80s music, rock, today's top hits, hip-hop — anything that has a good beat.

**Favorite food:** Brownies

**Favorite thing about NH:** The diversity ... of activities. You can go to the city, or the mountains, or the beach, whatever you want.

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By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

# FOOD

## From the Midwest to Manchester

### Squaloo's BBQ opens inside Bunny's Superette

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingsoll@hippopress.com

Ira Street happened to be shopping in Bunny's Superette in Manchester's North End one day when a sign advertising a kitchen space for sale caught his attention.

"I started looking around and one of the cashiers told me it's in the back of the store, and so I walked back there, met the prior owners and got to talking to them," said Street, an Army veteran and Chicago native who came to the Queen City about five years ago. "I've been in the food industry for over 25 years. I've cooked basically everything, but I love barbecue and figured this would be something I'd be able to succeed at. ... So we bought it and that's how we started."

Squaloo's BBQ, now open for take-out and limited in-store seating, features a menu of fresh meats smoked daily — several items, like the rib tips and the hot links, are traditional barbecue staples of the Midwest. The eatery is named after Street's childhood nickname.

Starting at 1:30 p.m. six days a week, Squaloo's BBQ accepts phone orders for pickup in addition to third-party deliveries through GrubHub and DoorDash. Meal plate options include a half slab of smoked ribs, a two-piece portion of fried chicken, and an open-faced pulled pork sandwich, each of which is served with french fries and a house-made coleslaw. One plate



Wing dings and rib tip combo plate (left). Jerk chicken with rice and beans. Photos courtesy of Squaloo's BBQ.



Street said he's received positive feedback on out of the gate features smoked rib tips.

"They are a really big seller in a lot of the Midwestern cities," he said. "The tip part of the rib comes from the top of the spare rib before they become St. Louis ribs."

Hot links, or spicy smoked sausages, are also unique to Squaloo's and very popular in and around Street's home state — a hot link plate features two sausages per order, or, he said, you can get them on a combo plate with rib tips for a double dose of Midwestern barbecue.

For those with a sweet tooth, there's also a fried apple pie that can come with a side of ice cream.

"It's like an empanada, and I cook it to order," Street said. "I deep fry it, take it out and add on a little bit of cinnamon sugar and caramel sauce."

Other items include beef empanadas, a chicken tender plate, and a jerk chicken plate with rice and beans. Street said it's possible that a few additional menu options may be making it onto the menu in the near future, like macaroni and cheese, collard greens and cornbread.

#### Squaloo's BBQ

**Where:** 75 Webster St., Manchester (inside Bunny's Superette)

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 1:30 to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 1:30 to 9 p.m. (closed on Sundays)

**More info:** Visit [squaloosbbq.com](http://squaloosbbq.com), find them on Facebook and Instagram @squaloosbbq or call 232-7288. Ordering through DoorDash and GrubHub is also available. *Veterans and active military service members receive 10 percent off on their orders.*

## FOOD

# Food is love

## Special meals and sweet treats for Valentine's Day

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingsoll@hippopress.com

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, so if you're looking for a local spot to dine out with your special someone, or you want to give the gift of gourmet chocolates or sweet treats, check out this list of New Hampshire businesses to help you mark the occasion.

With Feb. 14 falling on a Monday this year, some local eateries are open for business on the weekday when they would normally be closed. Others are choosing to offer special menus on other days throughout the preceding weekend. We've indicated the exact dates for each of those celebrations where applicable. Chocolatiers and bakers with special offerings are also included. Be sure to contact each establishment directly for the most up-to-date availability.

Do you know of a special Valentine's Day dinner, menu or other special gift-giving oppor-

tunity in New Hampshire that is not on this list? Let us know at [food@hippopress.com](mailto:food@hippopress.com).

- **Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop** (815 Chestnut St., Manchester, 625-9544, [angelaspastaandcheese.com](http://angelaspastaandcheese.com)) is taking orders for multi-course dinners to go for two, featuring she-crab bisque or herbaceous citrus salad, your choice of an entree (aged short ribs, rosemary halibut or brined Statler chicken), two sides of herbed red bliss potatoes and roasted haricot verts, and four-inch chocolate strawberry mousse cake for dessert. Complementary wines are also available a la carte. The cost is \$89.95 per dinner for two, or \$49.95 for one. Order by Feb. 4. Pickups will be on Saturday, Feb. 12, or Monday, Feb. 14.

- **Atkinson Resort & Country Club** (85 Country Club Drive, Atkinson, 362-8700, [atkinsonresort.com](http://atkinsonresort.com)) is offering a special "romantic rendezvous" package for Valentine's

Day, which includes a dinner for two featuring a cup of soup or shared appetizer, a dinner entree and a choice of dessert, as well as a one-night resort stay and a complimentary bottle of Champagne with a cheese and fruit platter. Rates vary depending on the day of the week. Call to book.

- **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, [thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com](http://thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com)) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items for Valentine's Day, including milk, dark and white chocolate-dipped strawberries, cannolis, chocolate chip heart cookies and Valentine's cakes. New this year is a chocolate dessert "charcuterie" board, featuring a selection of cookies, cake bites, fudges, cannolis, fruits and more. Pickups will be on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Monday, Feb. 14, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford

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 com) will serve a special four-course prix fixe menu in its dining room on Monday, Feb. 14, with seatings from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Options will include your choice of an appetizer (Cape Cod oysters, veal meatballs, yellowfin tuna tartare, confit duck leg, or Caprese soup); a salad (red oak and arugula or lamb's lettuce and baby mizuna); an entree (Madeira-braised pork shank, grilled filet mignon, Dunk's mushroom cannelloni, sesame-crusted yellowfin tuna, roasted garlic-marinated Vernon Farm chicken Statler, or oven-roasted lamb rack, lamb shoulder and merguez cassoulet); and a dessert (chocolate profiteroles, mille feuille, mandarin lingonberry sorbet, galette frangipane, chocolate marquise, a dessert collection to share for two featuring chocolate-covered strawberries, orange rosemary shortbread cookies, red velvet whoopie pies and crispy Nutella bars, or a sweetheart chocolate bar to share for two featuring dark chocolate Godiva mousse, ladyfinger sponge cake, raspberry mousse, raspberries, raspberry coulis and chocolate sauce). The cost is \$95 per person and reservations are required. A Champagne brunch is also scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Bedford Village Inn's Great Hall. Tickets are \$95 per person and will include unlimited mimosas and access to a brunch buffet with a raw bar, a chef-attended omelet station, a grand dessert buffet and more (event is 21+ only).

• **Birch Wood Vineyards** (199 Rockingham Road, Derry, 965-4359, birchwoodvineyards.com) will serve a special four-course Valentine's wine dinner on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m., featuring items like burrata cheese ravioli and pomegranate salad with a maple cider vinaigrette. The main entree will include your choice of one of four options, including a surf and turf plate with New York sirloin and creamy garlic shrimp, chicken oscar with white asparagus, lobster meat and hollandaise sauce, seafood Newburg served in a puff pastry, or a vean eggplant Napoleon, layered with zucchini and summer squash and served over quinoa. The cost ranges from \$70 to \$110 per person, depending on which entree you choose and whether you opt for the wine pairings for each course. Reservations are required.

• **Bistro 603** (345 Amherst St., Nashua, 722-6362, bistro603nashua.com) will serve a special Valentine's Day features menu from Friday, Feb. 11, through Monday, Feb. 14, in addition to its regular dinner menu. Reservations are highly recommended.

• **Boston Bakes** (Goffstown, find them on Facebook @bostonbakesnh) is taking orders for four-inch mini cakes for two, in addition to multiple flavors of macarons, full-sized cakes, sugar cookies, honeycomb truffle pieces, cupcakes, chocolate-dipped strawberries and marshmallow pops. Order by Feb. 8.

• **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) will be open on Monday, Feb. 14, from 4 to 9 p.m., serving some Valentine's Day specials in addition to its regular dinner menu.



• **Buckley's Market & Cafe** (9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522, find them on Facebook @buckleysmarketcafehollis) is taking orders for Valentine's Day takeout dinner boxes for two, featuring a shrimp cocktail, a surf and turf entree with pan-seared filet mignon and crab cake, roasted potatoes, spinach, tomatoes, Madeira demi-glace and remoulade, a strawberry cheesecake bar with chocolate ganache and Oreo crust, and a bottle of Prima prosecco. The cost is \$110 per box. Order by Feb. 9.

• **Candy Kingdom** (235 Harvard St., Manchester, 641-8470, candykingdom.shop) has a variety of specialty treats available for Valentine's Day, like chocolate-dipped strawberries, chocolate red-foiled hearts and assorted heart-shaped boxes of chocolates.

• **Caroline's Fine Food** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 637-1615, carolinesfood.com) is taking orders for special dinners for two, featuring options like beef tenderloin, roasted duck breast, horseradish-encrusted salmon, and pan-seared chicken breast with porcini cream, all of which come with shallot whipped potatoes and a vegetable like sauteed broccolini or roasted asparagus. Each also includes your choice of pot de creme or baby lemon cake for dessert. Order by Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. Pickups will be available through Monday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m.

• **Cava Tapas & Wine Bar** (10 Commercial Alley, Portsmouth, 319-1575, cavatapasandwinebar.com) is taking reservations now for its annual eight-course aphrodisiac tasting menu, which will be served during dinner service from Saturday, Feb. 12, through Monday, Feb. 14. Items include yellowfin tuna, scallops and saffron, cherries and figs and more. The cost is \$75 per person.

• **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) will serve a special three-course prix fixe menu for Valentine's Day from Saturday, Feb. 12, through Monday, Feb. 14, with seatings between 4 and 8 p.m. each evening. The menu will include your choice of a first course (roast butternut squash and apple cider soup, lobster bisque, heirloom beet salad, endive salad, potato, roast garlic and goat cheese pierogi, or Dutch meatballs); an entree (roasted hen in citrus and bay leaves, Burgundy braised lamb shank, seared tenderloin, heirloom squash and goat cheese maultaschen, or pan-roasted Faroe Island maultan); and a dessert (passion fruit panna cotta, caramelized pineapple brown butter cake, a chocolate trio featuring Mexican-spiced chocolate pot de creme, mini chocolate brownie and

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CONTINUED ON PG 24 ▶

cherry parfait and chocolate-dipped strawberry, or a sorbet trio featuring pineapple ginger, strawberry, and blood orange and olive oil sorbets). The cost is \$75. The Colby Hill Inn will also serve a chocolate lover's brunch on Sunday, Feb. 13, for \$45 per person, with seatings between 9 a.m. and noon.

• **The Common Man** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; Lakehouse Grille, 281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171; Foster's Boiler Room, 231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; Lago, 1 Route 25, Meredith, 279-2253; Camp, 298 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-3003; Italian Farmhouse, 337 Daniel Webster Hwy., Plymouth, 536-4536; Airport Diner, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040; Tilt'n Diner, 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204; 104 Diner, 752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120; thecman.com) is taking orders for "Sweetheart Suppers To Go," or three-course Valentine's Day dinners for two, featuring crab cakes with roasted red pepper remoulade, tender short ribs and garlic butter shrimp scampi, and red velvet cake for dessert. Optional add-ons include four chocolate-covered strawberries or one of four Common Man wines (chardonnay, cabernet, merlot or pinot grigio). The cost starts at \$74.95. Order by Feb. 6. Pickups will be on Sunday, Feb. 13, or Monday, Feb. 14.

• **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, 654-2631, copperkettletogo.com) is taking orders for special Valentine's "date boxes," which come with your choice of either a bottle of Champagne or a four-pack of craft beer, plus all the ingredients you'll need to make gnocchi in alfredo sauce with spinach and two slices of cheesecake. The cost is \$84.95 per box. All boxes will be ready for pickup on Saturday, Feb. 12.

• **Cotton** (75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com) is taking reservations now for Valentine's Day — they'll open at 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, with their last seating at 8:30 p.m. Food and drink specials will also be served during dinner service on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12.

• **The Cozy Tea Cart** (Brookline, thecozyteacart.com) will hold a Valentine's Day afternoon tea tasting on Sunday, Feb. 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Gatherings at The Colonel Shepard House (29 Mont Vernon St., Milford). In addition to the teas, available items will include tea breads, tea sandwiches and sweeter options like chocolate-covered strawberries and milk chocolate tortes with Assam tea ganache. The cost is \$39.95 per person and reservations are required.

• **CR's The Restaurant** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972, crstherrestaurant.com) will be holding a weekend-long Valentine's Day celebration, serving various specials in addition to its regular menus. The restaurant will be open on Friday, Feb. 11, from 11:30



a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m. (with live music from 6 to 9 p.m.); Saturday, Feb. 12, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Monday, Feb. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 9 p.m.

• **The Crust & Crumb Baking Co.** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com) is taking orders for cinnamon buns, scones, muffins, cupcakes, whoopie pies, frosted brownies, quiches (bacon cheddar or spinach, tomato and feta), cakes (chocolate strawberry mousse, french vanilla layer, double chocolate red velvet layer, flourless chocolate torte or cheesecake with fresh berries); and pies (apple streusel, chocolate cream or key lime). Order by Feb. 8. Pickups will be on Saturday, Feb. 12.

• **Cupcakes 101** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 488-5962, cupcakes101.net) is taking orders for chocolate-covered strawberries, chocolate-dipped Oreos, cake pop bouquets, hot cocoa bombs and other sweet treats, which will be available for pickup on or before Feb. 12.

• **Dahlia Restaurant** (dahlianomadic.com) is teaming up with Loon Chocolate of Manchester for a special multi-course dinner that will be served at the shop's new location at The Factory on Willow (252 Willow St., Manchester) at select times on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12. Tickets are \$145 and reservations are required. Go to dahlianomadic.com/events to book.

• **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancingleon.us) has various bars, boxes, drinking chocolate sets and other items that can make great Valentine's Day gifts. Online orders are usually shipped within three to five business days.

• **Daydreaming Brewing Co.** (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, daydreaming.beer) is organizing a "Beer My Valentine" Derry brewery crawl on Sunday, Feb. 13, which will kick off at the brewery at 11 a.m., followed by visits to Kelsen Brewing Co., From the Barrel Brewing Co. and Rockingham Brewing Co.

• **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) has reopened for business as of Jan. 31 following a temporary closure due to interior renovations. They'll be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, serving their full lunch and dinner menus in addition to some Valentine's Day specials. Reservations are strongly recommended.

• **Flag Hill Distillery & Winery** (297 N. River Road, Lee, 659-2949, flaghill.com) will serve a special three-course Valentine's Day dinner on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., including a wine pairing with the entree. The meal

will include pastrami-crusted bistro steak, roasted crab-stuffed sole or black bean street corn zucchini), accompanied by sweet potato and carrot puree and roasted asparagus, and a tangy goat cheesecake with fresh strawberries and whipped cream for dessert. Dinner reservations are \$50 per person.

• **Frederick's Pastries** (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 647-2253; pastry.net) is offering several specialty treats for Valentine's Day, like conservation heart cakes, double chocolate chunk cookies with hearts, fresh strawberry tarts, heart whoopie pie cakes, strawberry cake truffles and more.

• **Fresh AF Bakeshop** (34 Church St., Unit 4, Kingston, freshafbakeshop.com) is taking orders for chocolate, strawberry or red velvet heart cakes, assorted Valentine's Day macarons, cupcakes and cookie platters, chocolate-covered strawberries, and jumbo strawberry shortcake stuffed doughnuts. Order as soon as possible for pickup on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) is offering a Valentine's weekend special from Friday, Feb. 11, through Monday, Feb. 14 (Gauchos is normally closed on Mondays but will be open on Feb. 14, from 4 to 9 p.m.). The special is \$159 per couple and includes dinner, a long-stem red rose, a box of chocolates from Van Otis and a glass of Champagne for each person.

• **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323; 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; giorgios.com) will be open extended hours on Monday, Feb. 14, at all three of its locations, from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., serving their regular menus in addition to some Valentine's Day specials.

• **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591; 832 Elm St., Manchester, 218-3885; granitestatecandyshoppe.com) is offering a variety of specialty chocolates and candies for Valentine's Day, like milk, white or dark chocolate heart boxes, Valentine malt balls, chocolate-dipped strawberries and more.

• **Greenleaf** (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a special four-course prix-fixe menu, to be served on Friday, Feb. 11, Saturday, Feb. 12, and Monday, Feb. 14. Courses will include scallop crudo, mushroom ricotta ravioli, roasted ribeye and a black sesame brownie, for \$125 per person. Greenleaf's regular dinner menus will additionally be available that weekend, on Feb. 11 and 12 only.

• **Huckleberry's Candies** (293 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 926-5061, huckleberryscandies.com) has a variety of specialty chocolates and candies for Valentine's Day, including milk chocolate red foil lips or sour gummy lips, milk, white or dark chocolate heart pops, "cupid bark," and chocolate "charcuterie" boards filled with assorted sweet selections.

• **LaBelle Winery Amherst** (345 Route 101, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will host "A Night of Romance," a special three-course Valentine's dinner, on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in its Great Room. The meal will include a baby spinach salad with roasted acorn squash, crumbled goat cheese, pomegranate seeds, pine nuts and Seyval vinaigrette; your choice of an entree (baked stuffed had-dock with shrimp stuffing, or molasses-braised short ribs with herbed beet polenta cake); and a dessert course featuring chocolate pot de creme, chocolate-covered strawberry, chocolate baton and chantilly cream. A glass of wine will be served with the first course, and a full bar will also be available for purchase throughout the evening. Tickets are \$80 per person plus tax. LaBelle's Amherst location is also hosting a "Valentine's Day Experience" dining package on Monday, Feb. 14, with reservations slots opening at 4 p.m. (\$50 per person), and a special wine and dessert pairing class for chocolate lovers on Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 6 to 7 p.m. featuring white chocolate mousse, milk chocolate pot de creme, dark chocolate brownies and chocolate cayenne truffles. Tickets to that event are \$40 per person plus tax and reservations are required.

• **LaBelle Winery Derry** (14 Route 111, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) is offering a "Valentine's Day Experience" dining package on Monday, Feb. 14, with reservation slots opening at 4 p.m. Americus Restaurant's full dinner menu will be available, in addition to Valentine's Day specials, and there will be wine toasts, floral arrangements, and an opportunity to check out LaBelle Lights, the ongoing festive light display on LaBelle's Derry property, after your meal. The cost is \$50 per person for the full experience, or \$15 if you just want to experience LaBelle Lights. LaBelle's Derry location is also hosting a special wine and dessert pairing class for chocolate lovers on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 7 p.m. featuring white chocolate mousse, milk chocolate pot de creme, dark chocolate brownies and chocolate cayenne truffles. Tickets to that event are \$40 per person plus tax and reservations are required.

• **La Cascade du Chocolat** (109 Water St., Exeter, 214 State St., Portsmouth, 777-5177; lcdcnh.com) is offering several seasonal sweets for Valentine's Day, like bonbons, dark chocolate hearts, solid dark chocolate flower bouquet bars, and limited-edition roses and strawberries chocolate bars.

• **Martingale Wharf Restaurant & Bar** (99 Bow St., Suite W, Portsmouth, 431-0901, martingalewharf.com) is taking reservations now for Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 14 — they'll serve a special dinner menu featuring options like beef short rib rangoons, togarashi tuna lettuce wraps, Delmonico rib-eye steak, Mediterranean mezzaluna pasta, vegetarian winter medley, braised pork shank, and red velvet lava cake.

• **Mile Away Venue** (52 Federal Hill Road, Milford, 673-3904, mileawayvenue.com) will serve a special four-course dinner menu for Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 14, with



ings at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Each meal includes your choice of an appetizer (escargots with garlic butter, jumbo shrimp cocktail or fresh fruit and sorbet); a classic wedge salad with blue cheese or ranch dressing; your choice of an entree (broiled filet mignon, haddock and scallops or chicken breast stuffed with sun-dried tomatoes); and your choice of a dessert (chocolate mousse cake, lemon mascarpone cake or cheesecake with wildberry sauce), along with chocolate-dipped strawberries. Each entree is also served with a twice-baked potato and butternut squash. The cost is \$100 per person.

• **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) will be open on Monday, Feb. 14, from 4 to 9 p.m., serving some Valentine's Day specials in addition to its regular dinner menu.

• **Nelson's Candy & Music** (65 Main St., Wilton, 654-5030, nelsonscandymusic.com) is offering a variety of specialty sweets and treats for Valentine's Day, from traditional assorted heart-shaped boxes of chocolate to solid chocolate dinosaurs holding tiny hearts.

• **Pearls Candy & Nuts** (356 S. Broadway, Salem, 893-9100, pearlscandy.com) is offering a variety of specialty chocolates and candies for Valentine's Day, like assorted milk chocolate heart lollipops, classic conversation hearts, gummy sour candy hearts, Cupid candy corn and more.

• **Presto Craft Kitchen** (168 Amory St., Manchester, 606-1252, prestocraftkitchen.com) is taking orders for three-course meals to go for two, featuring your choice of an entree (sirloin Marsala with wild mushrooms over penne, filet roast over lobster risotto, heart-shaped ravioli, shrimp scampi over linguine or chicken Parmesan over penne). Each option comes with garlic bread, a Caesar or field green salad, and a half-dozen chocolate-covered strawberries for dessert. Presto's sister company, Custom Eats & Sweets, is taking orders for giant breakable chocolate hearts, mini red velvet cakes topped with roses, Oreo cheesecake cakesicles, chocolate-covered strawberry cocoa bombs, chocolate-covered Oreos and more. Order by Feb. 6. Pickups will be on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12.

• **Raleigh Wine Bar + Eatery** (67 State St., Portsmouth, 427-8459, raleighwinebar.com) will serve a special four-course dinner menu with wine pairings all weekend long from Saturday, Feb. 12, through Monday, Feb. 14. Items to choose from will include Johns River oysters, potato millefeuille, endive salad, grilled quail, mushroom and truffle cannelloni, sea bass, magret duck breast, honey and yogurt semifreddo and dark chocolate torte. The cost is \$98 per person or \$132 with the wine pairings.

• **Red Beard's Kitchen** (968 Elm St., Manchester, redbeardskitchen.square.site, and on Facebook @redbeardskitchennh) is taking orders for special three-course Valentine's Day dinners to go for two, featuring marinated melon and prosciutto salad, your choice of either beef Wellington or lobster ravioli for an entree, and chocolate pate for dessert. The cost

is \$135 per order. Pickups are available on Feb. 12, Sunday, Feb. 13, or Monday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. each day.

• **Sawbelly Brewing** (156 Epping Road, Exeter, 583-5080, sawbellybrewing.com) will be open on Monday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., serving a special seven-course tasting menu with beer pairings. Items will include persimmon carpaccio, Nantucket Bay scallop crudo, roasted beet and bresaola, grilled local oysters, French onion soup, beef osso bucco, and profiteroles with a craquelin top, butternut squash ice cream and sea salt chocolate sauce. The cost is \$80 per person and reservations are required.

• **Surf Restaurant** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293; 99 Bow St., Portsmouth, 334-9855; surfseafood.com) will be open on Monday, Feb. 14, from 4 to 9 p.m. at both locations, serving some Valentine's Day specials in addition to its regular dinner menu.

• **Sweet Treats by Emilee** (find them on Facebook @emileessweettreats) is taking orders for several specialty items for Valentine's Day, including milk chocolate-dipped Twinkies, strawberry or dark raspberry chocolate-covered marshmallow lollipops, breakable chocolate hearts filled with assorted candies, milk or dark chocolate-dipped strawberry wafer cookies, and cocoa bombs in several flavors, from milk, white or dark chocolate to salted caramel, peanut butter and cookies and cream. Order by Feb. 4, for pickup at the Manchester Craft Market (inside the Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester) on Feb. 6.

• **To Share Brewing Co.** (720 Union St., Manchester, 836-6947, tosharebrewing.com) is offering special beer and chocolate pairings with selections from Loon Chocolate of Manchester, each day from Thursday, Feb. 10, through Sunday, Feb. 13, while supplies last.

• **The Utopian** (135 Route 101A, Unit A1, Amherst, 315-9197, theutopiannh.com) will serve a special four-course tasting menu with wine pairings for Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 14 — items will include bacon-wrapped maple scallops, lobster bisque with cauliflower puree, filet mignon with sun-dried whiskey-soaked cherry and acorn squash risotto, and a dessert platter for two featuring chocolate-dipped strawberries, mini cannolis, key lime tartlets and red velvet cake.

• **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) is offering a variety of specialty chocolates and candies for Valentine's Day, like assorted chocolate gift boxes, custom chocolate-dipped Champagne bottles, chocolate tuxedo hearts and chocolate-dipped strawberries.

• **Zachary's Chop House** (4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 890-5555, zacharyschop-house.com) will be open on Monday, Feb. 14, from 3 to 9:30 p.m. for dine-in service only, and will be serving a few menu specials, like filet mignon topped with lobster meat and hollandaise, served with asparagus and mashed potatoes, and tomahawk rib-eye served with roasted potatoes and broccolini. Reservations are highly recommended. 🍷

# Valentine's Day

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# IN THE KITCHEN WITH DONNA TAMMARO



Donna Tamaro of Derry is the owner and co-founder of Tamaro's Cucina (469 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7312, [tamaroscucina.com](http://tamaroscucina.com)), an eatery offering home-cooked Italian meals that she opened last July with her daughter, Lindsey Russo. Tamaro's Cucina features a diverse menu of dishes cooked to order, including chicken Parm, meat lasagna, stuffed shells, and chicken broccoli alfredo, plus hot subs, Sicilian pizzas, and a rotating soup of the day with flavors like Italian chicken or pasta fagioli. With 24-hour advance notice, half- or full-sized pasta trays can be ordered that feed about six to eight or 12 to 16 people, respectively — each comes with a loaf of garlic bread featuring a garlic butter Tamaro makes in house. Originally from the Boston area, Tamaro also lived in Manchester for several years.

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

My Cuisinart food processor.

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

Lobster, steamed with butter.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**

Ignite [Bar & Grille in Manchester]. My sister and her family go there all the time and that was how I started going. ... I love to get a lot of different things there. Their steak tips are really good.

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

Adam Sandler.

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

The Tamaro's tortellini special. It's a five-cheese tortellini with alfredo, and it's got pancetta, spinach and mushrooms. It was my own creation.

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

Mexican food. I feel like I've seen so many Mexican places opening up lately.

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

I love to cook hamburgers on the grill. I also really like to make American chop suey.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

## Italian mac and cheese

From the kitchen of Donna Tamaro of Tamaro's Cucina in Litchfield

- 8 ounces fontina cheese, shredded
- 8 ounces mozzarella cheese, shredded
- ¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¾ cup heavy cream
- 2 Tablespoons butter (plus extra for greasing)
- 1 pound cavatappi pasta
- ¼ cup breadcrumbs
- 2 Tablespoons fresh basil, minced

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Heat a saucepan over low-medium heat. Add fon-

tina, mozzarella, heavy cream, butter and half a cup of Parmesan and stir until combined. Cook for about four minutes, or until the cheese is melted. Bring a pan of water to a boil and cook the pasta. Drain and add to the cheese mixture. Mix well. Grease the dish slightly with butter and dust with the breadcrumbs. Pour the pasta and cheese sauce into the dish. Sprinkle remaining breadcrumbs and Parmesan cheese on top and bake for 30 minutes. Garnish with basil.

## Weekly Dish

Continued from page 22

traying some of the Queen City's most nefarious pre-Victorian era villains throughout an evening that will also feature appetizers, a cash bar and more. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$20 per Manchester Historic Association member (event is 21+ only) and include a complimentary cocktail and souvenir shot glass. Visit [manchesterhistoric.org/events](http://manchesterhistoric.org/events) to register.

• **Capital City pies:** After several months of construction, a new full-service dine-in restaurant featuring brick-oven artisan pizzas, appetizers and desserts made with local ingredients has arrived in downtown Concord. The **New Hampshire Pizza Co.** opened late last month in the former Crazy Goat space at 76 N. Main St., according

to its website and social media pages, and also features local craft beers and specialty cocktails. It's owned by Joel Harris, who also opened Dos Amigos Burritos, first in Portsmouth in 2003 and then in Concord four years later. "I've really come to love Concord ... and I felt like full-service family-friendly brick-oven pizza would be a great addition to the city's dining scene," Harris told the Hippo back in August. Both traditional and specialty pies are available, in addition to gluten-free crusts and dairy-free options. The eatery is open Tuesday through Thursday, from 4 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, from 4 to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., for brunch. Visit [newhampshirepizzaco.com](http://newhampshirepizzaco.com). 🍷



# TRY THIS AT HOME

## Overnight apple oatmeal

When I think about breakfast recipes, I usually think about something to make on the weekend, when time doesn't matter. Perhaps it is a new flavor of sweet roll or maybe a seasonal quick bread. When creating this recipe, however, I had a busy morning in mind, because although it needs a minimum of eight hours of chilling time, the rest of the time — chopping, mixing, and cooking — is a total of maybe 10 minutes.

For a simple recipe, it has a number of ingredients. First, old-fashioned (or rolled) oats are essential. Quick-cooking and instant oats won't produce the desired texture. Second, you can use sweetened applesauce, but you may need to reduce or eliminate the added sugar. (You can add the sugar at the end so you don't end up with a too-sweet dish.) Third, you don't have to use almond milk. You can use another plant-based or even regular milk. I would choose lower-fat and unsweetened versions to keep this recipe nice and healthy.



Overnight apple oatmeal. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

Fourth, the apple choice is up to you. I like Fuji because it has a decent amount of crunch and a bit of sweetness. Pick the apple you like best. Fifth, no matter the apple you choose, don't peel it. The apple skin will add more vitamins and texture to this dish.

Now, with all of those hints shared, you have an incredibly simple recipe that produces a wonderful winter breakfast.

Though it sits in the refrigerator overnight, you heat it before serving. Then you have a warm, hearty and healthy breakfast to get you ready for the cold outdoors. If you prefer your breakfast served cold, this recipe can do that also. Just add the diced apple before serving, then stir and eat.

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

### Overnight apple oatmeal

Serves 2

- 3/4 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup natural applesauce
- 3/4 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 medium Fuji apple

Combine oats, applesauce, almond milk, sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl. Stir well to combine. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Divide oatmeal into two cereal bowls. Core and dice apple; divide between bowls. Stir well. Microwave each bowl for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring at 30-second intervals, until hot.

### Food & Drink

• **Concord Winter Farmers Market** Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square, Concord, through April. Find them on Facebook @[downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket).

• **Deering Winter Market** Fridays, 4 to 7 p.m., at Deering Fish & Game (Long Woods and Fish & Game roads). Find them on Facebook @[deeringwintermarket](https://www.facebook.com/deeringwintermarket).

• **Milford Farmers Market** Every other Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at

Milford Town Hall (Union Square), through April 9. Visit [milfordnhfarmersmarket.com](http://milfordnhfarmersmarket.com).

• **Salem Farmers Market** Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry), through April 24. Visit [salemnhfarmersmarket.org](http://salemnhfarmersmarket.org).

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## Greyhound leaving right about now

I know you've had a lot going on in your life lately — it's the start of another pandemic year, your children are listening to strange music that references *coconuts?*, and there's been that haunting, moaning sound coming from the basement — so it's totally forgivable that it's slipped your mind that February is National Grapefruit Month.

The good news is that you still have three weeks or so to put up the decorations and plan a Fresca™ party.

In the meantime, let's make a grapefruit cocktail.

Citrus is a family.

Oranges are the mom — sweet, with the merest hint of bitterness, like a sigh of regret; the backbone of the family.

Lemons are the sexy aunt who makes a lot of important life decisions based on alcohol.

Limes are the workhorse of the family. They hold down 15 jobs and still manage to tackle the hard songs at karaoke.

Grapefruit is the cousin who, while having a very good heart deep down, is the one you call when you need something shady. Grapefruit knows a guy who knows a guy. He never hides in the background. Expect him at a wedding in a loud plaid suit and wingtips. He'll tip the minister with a Benjamin in a handshake while telling an off-color joke.

When you make a cocktail with grapefruit, the bitterness isn't a bug; it's a feature. You have to embrace it. Even if, like me, you prefer cocktails a little on the sweet side, be aware that grapefruit will refuse to be covered up.

Perhaps the most classic grapefruit drink is a Greyhound, a spin on a Screwdriver; gin or vodka — sometimes rum — with the orange juice replaced with grapefruit juice. There are really only two ingredients, so the flavor tends to be very straightforward. I've tweaked this particular recipe to add a little more complexity.

### Greyhound

(slightly modified)

#### Ingredients

2 2-inch slices of grapefruit rind (Just the thin outer layer. The grapefruit will bring enough bitterness without using any of the white pith under the surface.)

1½ ounces good gin — I like Death's Door.

1 ounce St. Germain, an elderflower liqueur

2 ounces unsweetened ruby grapefruit juice



Greyhound. Photo by John Fladd.

Muddle the grapefruit peel thoroughly in the bottom of a cocktail shaker. This will release citrus oil and add an extra layer of grapefruitiness to the finished drink. Feel free to really smash the peel.

Add the other ingredients and four or five ice cubes to the shaker, and shake thoroughly.

Strain over ice in a rocks glass.

Grapefruit is the dominant flavor in this cocktail. The St. Germain takes a tiny bit off the edge of the bitterness and adds a hint of — floralness? Florality? Gin has enough character to go head-to-head with the grapefruit. This is a classic drink that you've probably never taken for a test drive. I think this will be a bit of a revelation.

I remember hearing a country song when I was little. I was very young and I've never — then or since — been much of a country music fan, but you accept Art where you find it, and the lyrics have stayed with me for 50 years.

The singer — I think it was Roy Clark — sang about the sad realization that love has died between him and his woman. He watches her pack her bag with tears in his eyes, then drives her to the bus station. He watches her get on the bus, and then, in words that have haunted me for more than half a century:

*...Now we're here at the station*

*And you're getting on*

*And all I can think of is*

*Thank God and Greyhound you're gone!*

John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer and cocktail enthusiast living in New Hampshire. 🍷

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# S'more wines

Fancy up the traditional dessert

By Fred Matuszewski  
food@hippopress.com

In the fall of 2020 I wrote a column about port wine varieties and their pairings with s'mores. The article spoke to evenings, gathered around the campfire, savoring fine port wines and how they can pair to the welcoming warmth of both the fire and the gooey s'mores.

It is winter and the crisp air and snow are to be enjoyed. So get out and strap on those touring skis or snowshoes. Break out those skates and take a spin on the pond. After your "walk in the woods," gather around a warm fire and break out the s'mores. But this time try a different spin on the s'mores. Ramp up with a few changes to the mainstay of graham crackers and marshmallow and pair those new s'mores to different wines.

For the traditionalist who likes their s'mores the way they have always had them, I offer the **2019 Sixth Sense Syrah**, by **Michael David** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$17.99). This wine hails from their Lodi, California, winery and vineyards planted in 1982. With a color of dark violet and nose of black cherry, plum and espresso, it is a perfect complement to the toast of the brown, melted marshmallow. Flavors of ripe raspberry and licorice, along with a bit of spice, carry through to the finish, pairing nicely with the dark chocolate in the s'mores. This is a real treat for the child that still remains in our adult bodies.

Time for a change-up? Add a little chocolate-covered bacon to the marshmallow, and you get that salty smokiness we all love. What to pair with this combo? The **2019 Cline Cellars Ancient Vines Zinfandel** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$17.99) brings the fruit-forward experience of the wine to the fore. With notes of strawberry, along with coffee and chocolate, there is a full mouth feel to the experience. The wine was aged on new and used oak, which brings notes of leather and vanilla to the mix.

Coming from ancient vines planted in Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco Bay, this wine can be enjoyed now or in future outings for another five years.

Looking to resurrect that child wonderment still within you? How about baking a batch of snickerdoodle cookies and replacing those store-bought graham crackers with the cookies in your s'more? Any of your favorite homemade cookies will do, sugar or chocolate chip, but the cinnamon in the snickerdoodles complements the fruit in the riesling I suggest here. The **2019 Hermann**



Photo courtesy of Fred Matuszewski.

**J. Wiemer Vineyard Dry Riesling** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$17.99) is a perfect match! Estate bottled, from grapes grown on the west bank of Seneca Lake, New York, it is true to an old-world Riesling. With a 300-year family history of winemaking in the Mosel region of Germany, Hermann Wiemer came to New York in the 1960's and found the cool climate and gravel soils of the western shore of Seneca Lake to be like that of the Mosel Valley. The layers of citric and other tropical fruit, along with a slight minerality, complements the sugar and cinnamon of the snickerdoodles.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, a romantic, snowy afternoon outing must end at a fire pit with s'mores made with chocolate-covered strawberries, paired with a sparkling rosé wine. **Mumm Napa Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$22.99) is the perfect complement to those lush strawberries. It has a beautiful pink color with rich fruit flavors that culminate in an elegant finish. A blend of 80 percent pinot noir and 20 percent chardonnay, it has aromas of black cherries, raspberries, along with citrus. It has a delightful full mouth feel as it bubbles over your tongue. As the label states, this sparkling wine is produced the same way as classic Champagne, that is with a double fermentation, and with a minimum of 18 months of yeast aging.

So release that inner youthfulness and play in the snow and on the ice. And after that, kick back over some adult-themed s'mores, made all the more interesting by changing up the recipes and pairing those new discoveries to different wines.

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



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FEB 24	Hot Tamale Brass Band New Orleans Dixieland Jazz	The Corvettes: Doo Wop Revue
MAR 3	No Shoes Nation Band	Illusionist Ben Pratt
MAR 10	Comedian Kelly McFarland	
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• Power Paladin, *With The Magic Of Windfyre Steel A*

• Martin Wind/New York Bass Quartet, *Air A*

• *I Came All This Way to Meet You A*

### • Book Notes

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, email [asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com).

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

• *Parallel Mothers B+*

# POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

## Power Paladin, *With The Magic Of Windfyre Steel* (Atomic Fire Records)



You know, I don't think I've seen the words "Reykjavik, Iceland" in years, or at least since there was talk of the city hosting a biannual Olympics. Oh wait, though, that's every year, including this one. But before I tangent all my allotted words away, this power metal band is from there, actual Iceland, and, as I fully expected, their childlike enthusiasm is off the charts. I'm sure I'd get along with them personally; not that I'm a Dungeons & Dragons guy, but I've never not gotten along with anyone who's

## Martin Wind/New York Bass Quartet, *Air* (Laika Records)



into those dragons-and-elves games, a passion that drives these five or six or however many guys. They've confessed to being fans of Dio, Iron Maiden, Hammerfall and Rhapsody, so they obviously have no shame, and that's refreshing in its way; the true test, though, is the music of course. Toward that, we start with "Kraven The Hunter," which recalls Motley Crue's "Kickstart My Heart," then move to the Savatage-ish "Righteous Fury," and the title track, a pomp-blasted hit of epic metal. It's all super tight, and look at how cute this all is; I can't hate these guys at all, sorry. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Every time I think I've heard it all, something bubbles up from this massive pit of promotional albums and makes me go, "OK, another country heard from." Picture it: four guys who all play double bass (i.e., the upright acoustic bass guitar), but instead of laying down the low lines for four different bands, they're in one place, jamming to familiar tunes from various genres. If you need some sort of certificate of authority for this one, Rufus Reid thinks it's great, as does 84-year-old bass icon Ron Carter, so all that's really to be done here is listen to some of it. It starts off with the title track, two or three of the players bowing at the high end in a thing that threatens for a second to droop into the maudlin strains of "Whiter Shade Of Pale" but instead turns into J.S. Bach's immortal 'Suite No. 3 In D Major: Air' (you heard it in the movie *Se7en*, when Morgan Freeman is in the library). It's an eerie thing to hear, but these supremely talented guys make it sound natural, rather cello-ish. Return To Forever drummer Lenny White also helps turn that arrangement on its head, and later helps to nail down a cover of Weather Report's "Birdland." Quite the gold nugget for eclectic tastes here. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Feb. 4 is here, can you feel the madness creeping in, on little tiny creepy feet? It's frickin' freezin', frantic fam, I hate everything about it, and my seasonal affective disorder (or whatever it's called, I just don't like being cold) has me breaking down into teary madness every morning, just waking up and realizing that I still live in the North Pole and this will never end, ever. Other than that I am fine, I hope that you are well as well, as we examine the "slate" (I really hate seeing that word being used by a writer when "set" or "list" wouldn't tick off half their audience) of new albums that'll be released on the 4th in the hopes that someone will have one too many drinks and accidentally buy one. Hopefully no one accidentally buys the new album *Pompeii* from official crazy lady **Cate Le Bon**, because when she was writing it she was grappling "with existence, resignation and faith. I felt culpable for the mess but it smacked hard of the collective guilt imposed by religion and original sin." Ha ha, she's like Bjork but in clown makeup and outfits because she's so edgy. She told the utterly enthralled, neckbearded writer from Pitchfork Media the album "was written and recorded in a quagmire of unease. Solo. In a time warp. In a house I had a life in 15 years ago." Yes, Cate Le Bon, but what we really want to know is what snacks did you have? Probably nothing good, I'll bet, and that's why she lives a lonely fourth-dimension existence, being weird, all because she doesn't have tasty shelled pistachios or chocolate cream pies. That's basically all I eat now, someone should text her that diet tip, but in the meantime let's see if my stomach can handle the new Cate Le Bon single "Running Away," I'll bet it can't. Hold on, this isn't so bad, it's like a poor imitation of Siouxsie And The Banshees, but really, that's what every band should be doing now, trying to imitate Siouxsie. Every once in a while a decent-enough melody trickles in, then disappears again into the sloppy imitation-'80s muck. Ok, this thing's getting on my nerves, let's just go to the next thingie.

• Oh terrific, can we just go back to Fake Siouxsie so I don't have to listen to anything from *Time Skiffs*, the new LP from **Animal Collective**? I mean, all you ever needed to say in an Animal Collective CD review was "Cool fractals" and that was really it, although yes, they changed things up after the hipster crowd decided to abandon the band to the trash folder of college-rock history, so maybe there's something worthwhile on this new "slab" (another word I hate to see used in a music review, because it makes the writer sound like they're from the 1950s). I mean, it could happen, so let's check out their new song "Prester John." It's noisy and creepy and slow. Wait, I get it, they've obviously been listening to a lot of Massive Attack, because this is just an edgy, grungy ripoff of "Teardrop," which you know as the opening theme to the old TV show *House*. Next.

• OK, here we go, it's a new album from edgy/gross/awesome metal guys, **Korn**, called *Requiem!* I'll bet there's no way I'll have anything bad to say about their new tune "Start The Healing." Whoa, bouncy beat here, my foot is already tapping, and — wait, this is some pretty basic nu-metal, almost kind of pop-punk, or like Tool. What the — oh, whatever, it's Korn. They've earned the right to suck.

• We'll end the week's nonsense with indie-punk girl **Mitski**, because she's awesome, so "Working for the Knife," from her new album, *Laurel Hell*, must be awesome too. Wow, there's like cowboy guitar in there, and it's trippy but high-class, your girlfriend will probably like it. You should probably marry her, by the way. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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**DOGS PLAY HERE**

***I Came All This Way to Meet You*, by Jami Attenberg** (Ecco, 263 pages)

It is apparently the fashion to write a memoir about writing after having achieved at least some modest success. Maybe this isn't new and goes all the way back to Montaigne, but the trend seems to have accelerated after Anne Lamott's ever popular *Bird by Bird*, published in 1994.

Into this space enters Jami Attenberg, a novelist of acclaim whose body of work includes *The Middlesteins*, her 2012 portrait of a family obsessed with eating; 2017's *All Grown Up* (given a B+ here), and most recently, 2019's *All This Could Be Yours*.

In *I Came All This Way to Meet You*, subtitled "writing myself home," Attenberg gets personal in a refreshingly candid manner. It's not so much a book as it is a conversation, the sort that occurs at a bar after strangers have had a couple of shots.

It's a conversation that takes place during the pandemic; Attenberg peppers the memoir with mentions of life during Covid-19 and she occasionally touches on ongoing social issues. But it's mainly the story of an ordinary woman who got tired of all the ordinariness in her life and set out to build something different. As Attenberg writes in the opening, in which she bluntly summarizes the first 20 years of her working life, most of her jobs were essentially bringing other people's ideas into being.

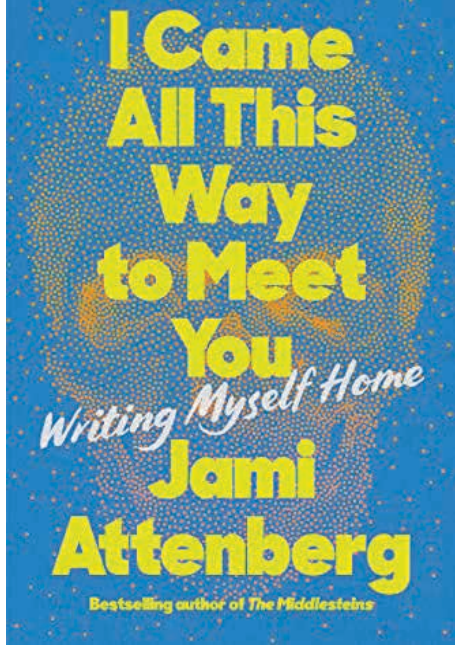
"Eventually I thought: What about my ideas? When do I own them?" she writes. "And once I realized that, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I could not stay where I was any longer."

In a perfect world, an aspiring writer who comes to this conclusion would then find an oceanside cottage in which to write her first book, ensconced there rent-free except for the task of walking someone's dog. And for Attenberg, it was in fact a perfect world, at least in this regard.

After she spent decades working invisible, low-paying jobs — to include temping, waitressing, typing, blogging — a supportive friend helped set her up in this space, and Attenberg started bringing her characters to life. But that was the extent of her perfect world. It was a hard slog to get to where she is today, an "Author with a capital A," and she shares her remembrances of this unglamorous life, much of which involved arduous road trips in an old car, trying to get people to buy her books when people didn't want them — including, at one point, her publisher, who dumped her after her first few books didn't sell well.

In many ways it would be hard to find a more unappealing depiction of a novelist's life, from driving alone in a white-out in Wyoming to being booed at a literary festival when she was introduced as being from Brooklyn.

At one point she says this about a book tour: "I do my event. A Jewish event, a pan-



el of four authors. I sell five books. Thanks, Jews. Another car to the airport, two hours before my flight. And there I sit."

That paragraph, in all its pith, demonstrates precisely why this memoir is so engrossing. Attenberg is completely uninhibited; you never know what she is going to say next. The writing is as choppy as the sea, and as unpredictable, as is her life story, which she unspools gradually.

As much as the memoir is about Attenberg, it's also about her friends. Despite being a generally anxious person, she has the enviable talent of finding and cultivating friends, such as the Alaska mom she met in Guatemala when she was doing travel writing — a woman who travels internationally for a month by herself every year — or the younger Italian novelist she spotted at a literary festival wearing a black Victorian gown. ("I immediately thought: Her, I must know.")

On the subject of friendship, Attenberg waxes philosophical, writing: "The thing about bad friends is you never realize when you're being one until it's too late. Forgiveness and understanding? Not in this economy."

She also brings that candor to writing about her romantic relationships. One, undertaken after a solitary trip to Sicily during which a restaurant refused to seat her because she was alone, was particularly promising: "No children, no desire for them whatsoever. No old marriages rotting in the past. We both owned our own homes. We both had flexible schedules. He even promised to quit smoking for me."

There may have been no children, but a beautiful essay grew out of this relationship, about their trip to a "bone chapel" in Portugal — Capela dos Ossos, circa the 16th century, built using the remains of more than 5,000 people. Visiting it, Attenberg writes, she was "in a state of thrall to the bones."

"Everything was dead ... and yet it felt so alive to me at the same time. It was designed for thought. Alive and dead, sto-

ries everywhere. Thousands of possibilities, thousands of stories. The bones had been brought together in this space, the bones would never be alone. They have each other, I thought. And all of us, visiting them, every day."

Bones became a metaphor for her life, and ultimately for the relationship as well. She is a work in progress, as we all are, but just is

more talented than other people in lassoing the mess into art.

To call Attenberg an original thinker is an understatement. Her words crackle like an overbuilt fire, and whether or not you've read her work previously, this thoughtful memoir is worth a look. **A**

— Jennifer Graham

**BOOK NOTES**

With Valentine's Day coming up, you're probably scouring the shelves of your local independent bookseller looking for the perfect book to give to your significant other. If you're not, you should be. Chocolate is gone in a week. The perfect book may outlast your relationship.

You can buy love poems, of course — a new title is *Love by Night* (192 pages, Andrews McMeel) by SK Williams. But these are not to be confused with poems about love, such as *Please Love Me at My Worst* (Andrews McMeel, 144 pages), last year's collection by Michaela Angemeer.

You can buy books about great relationships other people had — such as *Dear Scott, Dearest Zelda* (Bloomsbury, 432 pages), the story of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's marriage in their own words. Or books that promise to help you have a great relationship of your own, such as *Fierce Love, Creating a Love That Lasts — One Conversation at a Time* (Thomas Nelson, 240 pages).

Or you can forget the cheesy sentimental stuff and give your significant other a book about love that isn't really about love, but just has love in the title and is a cool and interesting book. To wit: *Love Poems (for Anxious People)* by John Kenney, known for his writing in *The New Yorker* and also for two previous books, *Love Poems for Married People* and *Love Poems for People With Children*. It's from G.P. Putnam's Sons, 112 pages. With poems titled "Here comes someone whose name I should know" and "Am I meditating yet?" these are not really love poems, but that's kind of the point.

*I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness* (Riverhead, 304 pages) by Claire Vaye Watkins is a novel released last fall that's probably more of a wry gift for your BFF when you exchange cards about how much you hate Valentine's Day. But we can't resist the title. Premise: Woman with postpartum depression leaves her baby and husband and goes all Thelma and Louise without the Louise. It's widely described as hilarious.

*The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* (Harper, 816 pages) by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers was an Oprah's pick last year and Barack Obama said it was one of his favorite books. It's a novel that reads like poetry and it is not actually about Du Bois, the late Civil Rights activist, historian and sociologist, but his words are interspersed throughout.

But there are limits to how edgy you can be when selecting a book with love in the title. ***The 'I Love My Instapot' Anti-Inflammatory Diet Recipe Book***: Not recommended. If that's your only choice, go with the candy. — Jennifer Graham



**Books**

- Author events**
- **ERIK LARSON** Author presents *The Splendid and the Vile*. The Music Hall Historic Theater, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth. Wed., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13.75. Visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org) or call 436-2400.
  - **GARY SAMPSON AND INEZ MCDERMOTT** Photographer Sampson and art historian McDermott discuss *New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State*. Sat., Feb. 19, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterbor-

- ough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Visit [monadnockwriters.org](http://monadnockwriters.org).
- **HOWARD MANSFIELD** Author presents *Chasing Eden*. Sat., March 19, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Visit [monadnockwriters.org](http://monadnockwriters.org).
- **BECKY SAKELLERIOU AND HENRY WALTERS** Becky Sakelleriou presents *The Possibility of Red*. Henry Walters presents *Field Guide A Tempo*. Sat., April 16, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St.,

Peterborough. Visit [monadnockwriters.org](http://monadnockwriters.org).

**Poetry**

- **ROB AZEVEDO** Poet reads from his new book of poetry, *Don't Order the Calamari*. The Bookery, 844 Elm St., Manchester. Thurs., Feb. 3, 6 p.m. Visit [bookerymht.com](http://bookerymht.com).
- **REBECCA KAISER** Poet presents *Girl as Birch*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Mon., April 11, 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Registration required. Visit [gibsonsbookstore.com](http://gibsonsbookstore.com) or call 224-0562.

**Parallel Mothers (R)**

Writer and director **Pedro Almodóvar** tells a story of mothers and daughters, secrets and reckoning with the past in the Spanish-language movie *Parallel Mothers*.

I mean, OK, he does that in most of the movies of his that I've seen — *Pain and Glory* felt like a striking departure because it was about a mother and son — but Almodóvar knows how to build fascinating relationships between imperfect women.

Here we see Janis (Penélope Cruz) and Ana (Milena Smit), sharing a hospital room, as they are about to give birth to their babies. Both are single. Janis is a settled professional woman nearing 40; Ana is a teenager (how old exactly I'm not sure — high school or young college). Janis is grateful for this unexpected pregnancy, the result of an enjoyable (but concluded, maybe) affair. Even before we hear the details, it's clear that there is some trauma attached to Ana's pregnancy. Both women have their babies — Janis' daughter Cecilia and Ana's daughter Anita — and both have some emotional support in their corner: Janis has her longtime friend Elena (Rossy de Palma) and Ana has Teresa (Aitana Sánchez-Gijón), the mother with whom she's had a difficult relationship. At least, Ana has her mother's financial support; a stage actress, Teresa lands a career-defining role and has to go on tour early in Ana's new mom-hood.



*Parallel Mothers*

Janis is managing with help from her housekeeper and, eventually, a good daycare, thanks to some photography work thrown her way by Elena. But she hits an unexpected emotional bump when Arturo (Israel Elejalde), baby Cecilia's father, comes to see them. Though she ended their relationship — he's married and wasn't too keen on her keeping the baby — she is disappointed when he leaves moments after seeing Cecilia. Later he tells her he didn't feel a kind of instant recognition for the baby, which sets Janis' mind going in all

sorts of directions, perhaps connected to the fact that she didn't know her own father and was raised by her grandmother.

While Janis and Ana deal with their present-day motherhood, a story unfolds in the background connected to how Janis and Arturo first met. Arturo is an archaeologist whose work includes looking into the remains of those executed during the Spanish Civil War. Janis and the village she is from are looking to get help excavating an unmarked grave that they believe holds 10 men, including Janis'

great-grandfather. When Janis works a photo shoot for Arturo, she asks him if he will help the village work on the excavations — with the great-grandchildren and grandchildren and even at least one living child of the men eager to see them properly laid to rest.

It's odd to have a melodramatic — to the point of soapiness — tale of Janis and Arturo and Ana layered over the top of this more searching historical tale of wrongs and the attempts to bring some sort of justice or at least recognition of what happened. There is a clear throughline — about having to acknowledge wrongs, despite the personal sacrifices, and make attempts to make amends. But it's still jarring, at times.

That said, this is, as always, a well-crafted, thoroughly engrossing tale of women and their relationships to each other, of mothers and their difficult (but fiercely loving) relationships with their daughters, of coming to terms with sorrow and heartache and moving forward. Almodóvar does such a great job of getting to the raw emotion of these tangles — and of getting an emotionally raw performance from Cruz — that it overcomes what occasionally feel like dips into “too much”-ness, storywise. **B+**

*Rated R for some sexuality, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar; Parallel Mothers is two hours and three minutes long and distributed by Sony in theaters.* 🍷

## AT THE SOFAPLEX

**C'mon C'mon (R)**

Joaquin Phoenix, Gaby Hoffmann.

Phoenix plays Johnny, a man suddenly thrown into the deep end of parenting, in the sweet and lovely *C'mon C'mon*, a film written and directed by Mike Mills (of *20th Century Women* and *Beginners* fame).

Johnny finds himself suddenly charged with looking after 9-year-old nephew Jesse (an excellently natural Woody Norman, capturing kid oddballness without turning into a writer's caricature of a child) when Jesse's mom, Johnny's sister Viv (Hoffmann), has to go from L.A. to Oakland to take care of Jesse's dad, Paul (Scoot McNairy), who is suffering from mental illness.

Johnny and Viv haven't been in each other's lives much lately — they clashed over the care of their recently deceased mother, over Johnny's unasked-for opinions about Viv's relationship with Paul, over basic sibling stuff. But Viv is desperate and Johnny is willing to show up so she leaves Johnny to deal with Jesse — his Saturday morning blasting of opera, his odd tendency to pretend to be an orphan, his extreme (but, like, totally familiar to any parent) reaction to having sugar, his kid tendencies to not stay put. But also, his sudden pointed but thought-provoking questions, his delightful imagination, his charming goofiness, his curiosity at new things (like radio producer Johnny's sound equipment and kid-interviewing project). So, you know, all the frustrating, wonderful, heartwarming-and-breaking stuff about kids.

The longer Viv has to help Paul, the more

Johnny brings Jesse into his life — first to New York City and later to New Orleans, making sure he does basic things like brush teeth and do homework (ha, remotely — you don't see much of that or this would go from a heartwarming look at parenting to a total nightmare horror story so fast).

Phoenix gives possibly his most relatable, most open and human performance as Johnny, a man who knows how out of his depth he is but doesn't stop trying for Jesse and is aware that this terrifying and difficult scenario is his sister's, like, Tuesday. Hoffman also gives a great performance as a woman trying to mom from afar while taking care of her co-parent (and ex, I think), largely to save her son's dad — and to protect her son from the most difficult aspects of his father's illness.



*C'mon C'mon*

This doesn't sound like the most uplifting subject matter, but it is presented with such grace and care, with such a real-world collision-of-fear-and-awesomeness look at parenting, that *C'mon C'mon* is just a delight.

*A Available for rent and in theaters.* 🍷

**Film****Venues****Chunky's Cinema Pub**

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

**The Flying Monkey**

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

**Red River Theatres**

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

**Rex Theatre**

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

**Wilton Town Hall Theatre**

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

**Shows**

• *Licorice Pizza* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 3:45 and 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 4, through Sunday, Feb. 6, at 12:30,

3:45 and 7 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 10, at 3:45 p.m.

• *Parallel Mothers* (R, 2021) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 4:15 and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 4, through Sunday, Feb. 6, at 1, 4:15 and 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 10, at 4:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

• *Smallfoot* (PG, 2018) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. (Tickets originally purchased for the Jan. 29 screening will be accepted).

• *In the Heat of the Night* (1967) screening at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

• *Bridesmaids* (R, 2011) a vax & snax screening on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord.

• *Blood and Sand* (1922), on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Suggested donation of \$10.

• *Sleepless in Seattle* (PG, 1993) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Monday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.

• *When Knighthood Was in Flower* (1922), a silent film starring Marion Davies, on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Suggested donation of \$10.

• *The Tempress* (1926), a silent film starring Greta Garbo, on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey, Plymouth, featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs \$10.

• *Girl Shy* (1924), a silent film starring Harold Lloyd, on Thursday,

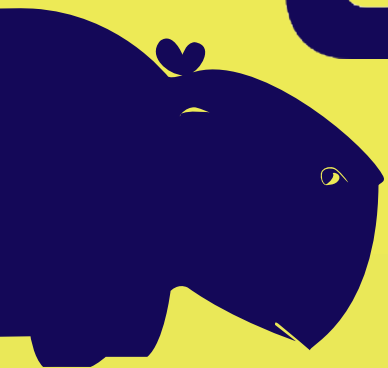
Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex in Manchester, featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission costs \$10.

• *Gnomeo & Juliet* (2011, G) “Little Lunch Date” screening on Friday, Feb. 18, at 11:30 a.m. at all three Chunky's locations. Free admission. Reserve seating with the purchase of a \$5 food voucher.

• *The Winning of Barbara Worth* (1926), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, screening on Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey.



# 2022



**FEB. 1 - FEB. 28**

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# NITE

## Finding his father

### A.J. Croce's family crossroads

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com



A.J. Croce. Photo by Joshua Black Wilkins.

• **St. Pat's prep:** It's getting close to shamrock time, so get ready with **Enter the Haggis**. A truly international band — they were formed in Toronto with musicians from Portland and Philadelphia — the Celtic-flavored rockers released their album *The Archer's Parade* in early 2020 just as the pandemic hit. They livestreamed a few shows, then got back on the road to resume as an energizing live act. Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets \$18 general admission, \$25 reserved at ccanh.com.

• **Solo turning:** Though weather postponed his band's recent show, Mindset X front man **Steve Haidaichuk** will perform as his alter ego The Deviant at the same downtown venue; their appearance is now moved to April 9. Playing alone, the singer-guitarist offers a decades-spanning set of songs that inspired him to become a musician, from Eagles and Billy Joel to One Republic — as the name implies, it's a slight departure from prog rock. Friday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m., Angel City Music Hall, 179 Elm St., Manchester, angelcitymusicahall.com.

• **Salsa time:** A Brazilian steakery turns up the heat with **Latin Night**, an evening of music and dance led by Eleganza Dance Company. The regular First Friday affair begins with a 45-minute bachata dance lesson, followed by DJ Jersey spinning salsa, bachata, chacha and kizomba tunes into the night, along with a performance by Eleganza Ladies. Friday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m., Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse & Butchery, 62 Lowell St., Manchester, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

• **England calling:** To mark a half century since the release of *Aqualung*, Jethro Tull guitarist **Martin Barre** will play the iconic 1971 album in its entirety, with a band that includes former Tull members Clive Bunker on drums and Dee Palmer on keyboards. With timeless tracks including the title cut, "My God" and "Cross-Eyed Mary," it's arguably the best effort from a catalog that included some real greats, from *Stand Up to War Child*. Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$45 at tupelohall.com.

• **Home quarters:** After years of playing Las Vegas residencies, junk rockers **Recycled Percussion** decided to build their own venue, closer to their roots. Chaos & Kindness Experience opened last year, and features frequent appearances from the group that shot to national fame on *America's Got Talent*, along with shows from other acts and unique events like an upcoming Tattoo Festival in March that will blend dance music and mass inking. Sunday, Feb. 6, 2 p.m., The CAKE, 12 Veterans Square, Laconia, \$35 to \$110 at tix.com. 🍷

Fittingly, the first song A.J. Croce ever recorded from his late father Jim Croce's catalog was "I Got A Name." He'd done hits like "Time In A Bottle" and "You Don't Mess Around With Jim" during *Croce Plays Croce* concerts for a few years, and a bit reluctantly at that. The decision to truly embrace the tribute show after a long and successful solo career involved some divine intervention, A.J. said recently.

When Jim Croce died in a 1973 plane crash, his son was 2 years old. One way he got to know him was as an archivist, poring over reels of tape for clues about his artistic process.

A fourth-generation musician on both sides of his family, A.J. Croce was destined to perform, but his apple landed away from the tree. He grew up playing piano, not guitar like his dad, and his tastes leaned toward blues, jazz and R&B instead of lyric-driven folk rock. A.J. went on to make multiple acclaimed albums rooted in a style one writer described as "part New Orleans, part juke joint, part soul."

One day a few years ago A.J. Croce stumbled upon a crossroads while listening to his father's writing tapes. When he wasn't touring, Jim Croce would record ideas into a Wollensak recorder, and one particular reel was filled with material his son recognized immediately — they were selections *he'd* been performing for years.

"It gave me chills," Croce said. "It wasn't just obscure old jazz and blues and early country artists, but the exact, very obscure

songs. So it was Fats Waller, who's not obscure; but it wasn't 'Ain't Misbehavin'' or 'Honeysuckle Rose' — it was "You're Not The Only Oyster In The Stew," which was one of the first songs that I played on a demo for Columbia way back in the late '80s, early '90s."

Twelve of 15 were songs he'd done; Croce began to look at the connection to his father as more than biological.

"I'd probably been asked my whole career to perform his music, and as much as I love his songs, I was first and foremost a piano player," he said, "and I was also more likely to play a song by Ray Charles or the Rolling Stones than something by my father. That really inspired me to look at the concert not just as a tribute to *his* music but to the connection that we have to music in general."

Thus, the upcoming *Croce Plays Croce* concerts in New Hampshire and across the river in Vermont will blend selections from Jim Croce's brief but prolific career — three albums made over 18 months in the early '70s — and A.J.'s genre-crossing catalog, along with the music that inspired them both.

"The influences that we both share are so vast, it could be so many different things," Croce said. "You can hear Jimmy Reed on songs like 'You Don't Mess Around With Jim,' and Lieber & Stoller's songwriting on many of the others, whether it's 'Leroy Brown' or 'Car Wash Blues' — those sort of R&B influenced things."

The show also celebrates Jim Croce's innovative songwriting approach, which A.J. believes came into its own with his most enduring hit, "Time In A Bottle." His dad wrote the song for him.

"It was sort of a musical epiphany that happened," he said. "I think he felt like, 'This is my last chance to do this for a living; I have a son now, I have a family,' and he really went with it."

Croce knows the foundational elements of his dad's work, but believes it's the relatability of hits such as "Operator (That's Not the Way It Feels)," "Lover's Cross" and character songs like "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," "Rapid Roy" and "Speedball Tucker" that ultimately set him apart.

"Being a record collector and sort of a musicologist, I think I can hear where those influences come from," he said. "But what he does is so unique, different than almost anyone I've heard. He personalizes it from the perspective of not just him seeing these people, or being present around these people, but also making heroes out of sort of everyday folks." 🍷

**Croce Plays Croce**  
**When:** Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** The Flying Monkey, 39 Main St., Plymouth  
**Tickets:** \$39 and up at flyingmonkeynh.com (13+)

## COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

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

**The Music Hall**  
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth  
436-2400, themusichall.org

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

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

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

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

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

**Headliners Comedy Club**  
DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester  
headlinerscomedyclub.com

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

**Events**  
• **Jimmy Dunn**, LaBelle Derry, Thursday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.  
• **Spamilton: An American Parody** Cap Center Chubb Theatre, Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.

• **Jim Colliton** Rex Theatre, Friday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Stephanie Peters** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Feb. 5, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Mark Riley** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 5, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Seth Meyers** Palace Theatre, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.  
• **Queen City Improv** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Kerri Louise** Rex Theatre, Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Drew Dunn & Jim Ialetta** Tupelo, Friday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.  
• **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Brad Mastrangelo** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Dan Crohn** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.

• **Ken Rogerson** Rex Theatre, Friday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Mike McDonald's 21st Annual Comedy Extravaganza** The Music Hall, Friday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Brian Beaudoin** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Bill Simas** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Brad Mastrangelo** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 19, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Charlie Berens** The Music Hall, Thursday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Comedy Out of the Box** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Paul D'Angelo** Rex Theatre, Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
• **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Palace Theatre, Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.

• **Steve Sweeney** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 25, 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m.  
• **Kyle Crawford** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 26, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Stephanie Peters** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 26, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Jimmy Cash** Millyard Brewery Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.  
• **Tim Dillon** Sunday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre



Stephanie Peters. Courtesy photo.

# MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Alton Bay**  
**Dockside Restaurant**  
 6 East Side Drive  
 855-2222

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

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

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door**  
 15 Leavy Dr.  
 488-2677

**Bow**  
**Chen Yang Li**  
 520 So. Bow St.  
 228-8508

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

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

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

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

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

**Hermanos Cocina Mexicana**  
 11 Hills Ave.  
 224-5669

**Lithermans**  
 126 Hall St., Unit B

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

**Shara Vineyards**  
 82 Currier Road

**T-Bones**  
 404 S. Main St.  
 715-1999

**Tandy's Pub & Grille**  
 1 Eagle Square  
 856-7614

**Deerfield**  
**The Lazy Lion**  
 4 North Road

**Derry**  
**Fody's Tavern**  
 187 Rockingham Road,  
 404-6946

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

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

**Sea Dog Brewery**  
 9 Water St.

**Gilford**  
**Patrick's**  
 18 Weirs Road  
 293-0841

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

**Hampton**  
**Bogie's**  
 32 Depot Square  
 601-2319

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

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

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

**L Street Tavern 603**  
 17 L St.  
 967-4777

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

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

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

**Henniker**  
**Colby Hill Inn**  
 33 The Oaks  
 428-3281

**Pats Peak Sled Pub**  
 24 Flanders Road  
 888-728-7732

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

**Lynn's 102 Tavern**  
 76 Derry Road  
 943-7832

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

**Laconia**  
**Belknap Mill**  
 25 Beacon St. E., No. 1  
 524-8813

**Fratello's**  
 799 Union Ave.  
 528-2022

**T-Bones**  
 1182 Union Ave.  
 528-7800

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

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

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

**Manchester**  
**Angel City Music Hall**  
 179 Elm St.  
 931-3654

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

**Bonfire**  
 950 Elm St.  
 663-7678

**CJ's**  
 782 S. Willow St.  
 627-8600

**Currier Museum of Art**  
 150 Ash St.  
 669-6144

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

**Firefly**  
 21 Concord St.  
 935-9740

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

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

**Getaway Lounge**  
 157 Franklin St., 627-0661

**The Goat**  
 50 Old Granite St.

**Great North Aleworks**  
 1050 Holt Ave.  
 858-5789

**Jewel Music Venue**  
 61 Canal St.  
 819-9336

**KC's Rib Shack**  
 837 Second St.  
 627-RIBS

**McIntyre Ski Area**  
 50 Chalet Ct.  
 622-6159

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

**Stark Brewing Co.**  
 500 Commercial St.  
 625-4444

**Strange Brew**  
 88 Market St.  
 666-4292

**To Share Brewing**  
 720 Union St.  
 836-6947

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's**  
 312 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
 279-3313

**Twin Barns Brewing**  
 194 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
 279-0876

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

**Thursday, Feb. 3**  
**Amherst**  
**LaBelle Winery:** Ca\$h Only, 6:30 p.m.

**Bedford**  
**Copper Door:** Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

**Brookline**  
**Alamo:** open mic, 4:30 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** live music, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.

**Exeter**  
**Sawbelly:** Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle:** Joe Birch, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**CR's:** Greg Decoteau, 6 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Chris Toler, 6 p.m.  
**Whym:** music bingo, 6 p.m.

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

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

**Laconia**  
**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Stumble Inn:** Charlie Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Angel City:** open mic, 8 p.m.

**Currier:** Jessye DeSilva, 5 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m.  
**KC's:** Pete Peterson, 6 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
**Fody's:** DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.  
**Stones Social:** Harry Borsh, 7 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** Mike Block Trio, 7 p.m.

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

**Salem**  
**Copper Door:** Chris Lester, 7 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Red's:** live music, 7 p.m.

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

**Concord**  
**Area 23:** Tom Economides, 6 p.m.; Mary Fagan & The Honey Bees, 8 p.m.

**Deerfield**  
**Lazy Lion:** live music, 7 p.m.

**Derry**  
**Fody's:** Joe Macdonald, 7 p.m.

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** 21st & 1st, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**  
**Sawbelly:** Douglas James, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle:** Rose Kula, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**CR's:** Barry Brearly, 6 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Legends of Summer, 9 p.m.

**Music, live and in person**

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

**Henniker**  
**Pats Peak:** Kimayo, 6 p.m.

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

**Kingston**  
**Saddle Up Saloon:** Cory Malm, 8 p.m.

**Laconia**  
**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.  
**Tower Hill Tavern:** DJ Kadence karaoke, 8 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Coach Shop:** Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m.  
**Stumble Inn:** Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Angel City:** musical bingo, 6:30 p.m.  
**Backyard Brewery:** Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.  
**Bonfire:** Houston Bernard, 9 p.m.  
**Derryfield:** Blue Matter, 9 p.m.  
**The Foundry:** Dwayne Haggins, 6 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m.  
**South Side Tavern:** Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** Sage Ryder, 9 p.m.

**Meredith**  
**Giuseppe's:** Michael Bourgeois, 5:30 p.m.  
**Twin Barns:** Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Pete Peterson, 6 p.m.

**Milford**  
**Pasta Loft:** live music, 9 p.m.  
**Stonecutters Pub:** DJ Dave O with karaoke, 9 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**Fratello's:** Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

**New Boston**  
**Molly's:** Acoustic BS duo, 7 p.m.

**Newmarket**  
**Stone Church:** The Soggy Pot Boys, 8 p.m.

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

**Portsmouth**  
**The Goat:** Chris Toler, 9 p.m.  
**Thirsty Moose:** Cover Story, 9 p.m.; Dave Alves, 9 p.m.

**Salem**  
**Jocelyn's:** Brian Walker, 7 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Chop Shop:** Whammer Jammer, 8 p.m.  
**Red's:** live music, 7 p.m.



## SPAMILTON

Hamifans and skeptics alike will find much to enjoy in *Spamilton: An American Parody*, *Forbidden Broadway* playwright Gerard Alessandrini's spoof of the blockbuster musical *Hamilton*. Shots fly at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; 225-1111, [cconh.com](http://cconh.com)) on Friday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 to \$65.

<b>Tomahawk Tavern</b> 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960	<b>Stella Blu</b> 70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557	<b>Gibb's Garage Bar</b> 3612 Lafayette Road	<b>Jocelyn's Lounge</b> 355 South Broadway 870-0045
<b>Milford</b> <b>The Pasta Loft</b> 241 Union Square 672-2270	<b>Stones Social</b> 449 Amherst St. 943-77445	<b>The Goat</b> 142 Congress St. 590-4628	<b>T-Bones</b> 311 South Broadway 893-3444
<b>Stonecutters Pub</b> 63 Union Square 213-5979	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>Jimmy's Jazz &amp; Blues Club</b> 135 Congress St. 603-5299	<b>Tuscan Kitchen</b> 67 Main St. 952-4875
<b>Nashua</b> <b>Boston Billiards</b> 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630	<b>Newmarket</b> <b>Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Press Room</b> 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Chop Shop Pub</b> 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
<b>Fody's Tavern</b> 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	<b>Northfield</b> <b>Boonedoxz Pub</b> 95 Park St. 717-8267	<b>The Stacey Bar &amp; Grill</b> 238 Deer St. 431-4357	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
<b>Fratello's Italian Grille</b> 194 Main St. 889-2022	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Clipper Tavern</b> 75 Pleasant St. 501-0109	<b>Thirsty Moose Taphouse</b> 21 Congress St. 427-8645	<b>Somersworth</b> <b>The SpeakEasy Bar</b> 2 Main St.
<b>Liquid Therapy</b> 14 Court St. 402-9391	<b>Cup of Joe</b> 31 Market St. 294-9404	<b>Tuscan Kitchen</b> 10 LedgeWood Drive 570-3600	<b>Stratham</b> <b>Tailgate Tavern</b> 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
<b>Millyard Brewery</b> 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	<b>The Gas Light</b> 64 Market St. 430-9122	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	<b>Windham</b> <b>Common Man</b> 88 Range Road 898-0088
<b>Peddler's Daughter</b> 48 Main St. 821-7535		<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033	

**Saturday, Feb. 5**

**Alton Bay**  
Dockside: Fran MacDaniels, 8 p.m.

**Auburn**  
Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.

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

**Brookline**  
Alamo: live music, 5 p.m.

**Concord**  
Area 23: John Farese, 2 p.m.; One Big Soul, 8 p.m.  
Craft Brewing: April Cushman, 3 p.m.  
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.  
Penuche's: live music, 7 p.m.

**Deerfield**  
Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.

**Epping**  
Telly's: The Drift, 8 p.m.

**Exeter**  
Sawbelly: Kimball Brothers, 1 p.m.; Todd Hearson, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Brother Seamus, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
The Goat: Jonny Friday Duo, 9 p.m.  
L Street: live music, 6:30 p.m.; karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

**Henniker**  
Waterville Valley: Chris Perkins & Jonny Friday Duo, 3 p.m.

**Hudson**  
Lynn's 102 Tavern: live music, 8 p.m.

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

**Laconia**  
Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
Coach Shop: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.  
Stumble Inn: Money Kat, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Backyard Brewery: live music, 6 p.m.  
Bonfire: live music, 9 p.m.  
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.  
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.  
The Foundry: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m.  
The Goat: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m.  
Great North Aleworks: Lucas Gallo, 3 p.m.  
McIntyre Ski: Dave Zangri, 5 p.m.  
Murphy's: Mike and John, 9:30 p.m.



**JIMMY DUNN**

Jimmy Dunn starred as Sean in the CBS sitcom *The McCarthys*. Catch him live and in person at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111 in Derry; 672-9898, [labellewinery.com](http://labellewinery.com)) on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35

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**FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY: JIM COLLITON**  
Feb. 4 at 7:30PM

Jim is a confused middle-age man who can spin soccer games, school drop offs and lunches into his comedy material based around his life as a dad and husband.

**MOONDANCE: ULTIMATE VAN MORRISON TRIBUTE CONCERT**  
Feb. 10 at 7:30PM

This incredible show captures the Van Morrison concert experience like no other, and is packed VM classic after the next.



**FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY: KERRI LOUISE**  
Feb. 11 at 7:30PM

High-energy, commanding and versatile, Kerri Louise can entertain any audience with her warmth and razor-edge wit.

**ALLI BEAUDRY'S SONG FEST**  
Feb. 12 at 7:30PM

An intimate evening of original music hosted by Alli Beaudry featuring local talents Kevin Horan, Paul Nelson, Nick Phaneuf & Jesse Magnuson.



**SILENT FILM: GIRL SHY**  
Feb. 17 at 7:30PM

Enjoy the Romantic Comedy "Girl Shy" on the big screen, accompanied by New Hampshire-based musician and composer, Jeff Rapsis.

**FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY: KEN ROGERSON**  
Feb. 18 at 7:30PM

"The funniest man you've never heard of," veteran of the Chicago club circuit and the famed Second City. His fine edge standup act soars over film, stage and the internet.



## LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Strange Brew:** Walking Finnegan, 9 p.m.

### Meredith

**Bank of NH:** Whiskey-6, 3 p.m.

**Twin Barns:** Ryan Williamson, 5 p.m.

### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.

### Milford

**Pasta Loft:** live music, 9 p.m.

### Nashua

**Fody's:** Jessican Olson Duo, 8 p.m.

**Fratello's:** Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

**Liquid Therapy:** Andrew Emanuel, 6 p.m.

**Peddler's Daughter:** The Ruckus, 9:30 p.m.

### New Boston

**Molly's:** Rob & Rich, 7 p.m.

### Newmarket

**Stone Church:** Sister Dee & Dis N' Dat, 8 p.m.

### Northfield

**Boonedoxz Pub:** live music, 7 p.m.

### Portsmouth

**Gas Light:** live music, 9:30 p.m.

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

**Stately:** Woodland Protocol, 8 p.m.

**Thirsty Moose:** LU, 9 p.m.; Broken Heels, 9 p.m.

### Seabrook

**Chop Shop:** Back in the Day Band, 9 p.m.

**Red's:** live music, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, Feb. 6

#### Alton Bay

**Dockside:** Old Folk, 4 p.m.

#### Bedford

**Copper Door:** Phil Jakest, 11 a.m.

#### Brookline

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

#### Hampton

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

**L Street:** live music, 6:30 p.m.; karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

**Whym:** live music, 1 p.m.

#### Henniker

**Pats Peak:** The Evocatives, 5 p.m.

### Hudson

**Lynn's 102 Tavern:** live music, 5 p.m.

### Laconia

**Belknap Mill:** open mic, 2 p.m.

**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.

### Manchester

**Strange Brew:** Becca Myari, 5 p.m.; jam, 7 p.m.

### Northfield

**Boonedoxz Pub:** open mic, 4 p.m.

### Salem

**Copper Door:** Steve Prisky, 11 a.m.

### Seabrook

**Red's:** live music, 8 p.m.

### Monday, Feb. 7

#### Hudson

**The Bar:** karaoke with Phil

#### Gilford

**Patrick's Pub:** open mic w/ Paul Luff, 6 p.m.

#### Hampton

**L Street:** karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

#### Laconia

**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.

#### Londonderry

**Stumble Inn:** Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

#### Manchester

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

**The Goat:** David Campbell, 8 p.m.

#### Merrimack

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

#### Nashua

**Fody's:** karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.

**Fratello's:** Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.

#### Portsmouth

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

**Press Room:** open mic, 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 8

#### Concord

**Hermanos:** live music, 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Hampton

**L Street:** karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

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

### Kingston

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

### Laconia

**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.

### Manchester

**Fratello's:** Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.

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

**KC's Rib Shack:** Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

**Strange Brew:** David Rousseau, 7 p.m.

### Merrimack

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

### Nashua

**Fody's:** musical bingo, 8 p.m.

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

### Portsmouth

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

### Seabrook

**Red's:** live music, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Feb. 9

#### Concord

**Area 23:** open mic, 6 p.m.

**Hermanos:** live music, 6:30 p.m.

**Tandy's:** karaoke, 8 p.m.

#### Hampton

**Bogie's:** open mic, 7 p.m.

**L Street:** karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

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

#### Kingston

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

#### Laconia

**Fratello's:** live piano, 5:30 p.m.

#### Manchester

**Fratello's:** Ted Solovicos, 5:30 p.m.

**The Goat:** country line dancing, 7 p.m.

**Stark Brewing:** Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

**Strange Brew:** Howard & Mike's Acoustic Jam, 8 p.m.

#### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Max Sullivan, 5:30 p.m.

#### Milford

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

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## PINK TALKING FISH

If you like the music of Pink Floyd, Talking Heads and Phish, get down to the Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth; 436-2400) on Saturday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. for **Pink Talking Fish's** Winter Carnival. General admission tickets cost \$27.

**Trivia**

**Events**

• **Grey's Anatomy Trivia** at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

• **Full House Trivia** at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

• **John Hughes/80s Trivia** at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

• **Dirty Dancing Trivia** at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

**Weekly**

• **Thursday Game Time** trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchell-hillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Smuttlabs (47 Washington St., Dover, 343-1782, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.

• **Thursday Game Time** trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

• **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.

• **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

• **Mondays** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.

• **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30 p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by DJ Zati.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Area 23 (254 N. State St., Concord, 881-9060, thearea23.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.



Grey's Anatomy. Courtesy photo.

• **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlers-daughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St, Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester; 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..

• **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.

**Concerts**

**Venues**

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

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

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

**Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club**  
135 Congress St., Portsmouth,  
888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com

**LaBelle Winery**  
345 Route 101, Amherst,  
672-9898, labellewinery.com

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

**Lakeport Opera House**  
781 Union Ave., Laconia,  
519-7506, lakeportopera.com

**The Music Hall**  
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth,  
436-2400, themusichall.org

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

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

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

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

**Shows**

• **Cash Only** (Johnny Cash Tribute) Thursday, Feb. 3, LaBelle Winery Amherst

• **Mike Block Trio** Thursday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Stone Church

• **Shemekia Copeland** Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

• **Enter the Haggis** Thursday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **Foreigners Journey (tribute to Foreigner and Journey)** Thursday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre

• **King Solomon Hicks** Friday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

• **The Soggy Po' Boys** Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Phil Vassar** Friday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Tusk** (Fleetwood Mac Tribute) Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **The Brother Brothers** Saturday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, Concord

• **Cash Unchained — The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute** Saturday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Cap Center

• **Lucky Chops** Saturday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. & 10 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz

• **Sister Dee & Dis N' Dat** Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Stone Church



Foreigners Journey. Courtesy Photo.

• **Jethro Tull's Martin Barre — Aqualung 50th Anniversary Tour** Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Mike Dawes and Yasmin Williams** Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **Pink Talking Fish** (Pink Floyd/Talking Heads/Phish tribute band) Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m., The Historic Theatre/Music Hall

• **Bird Friend/Mike Cote** Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Stone Church

• **Peter Parcek Band** Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues

• **Benny & the Jets: An Elton John Tribute** Thursday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle Winery Derry

• **Pokey Lafarge** Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues

• **Paul Nelson** Thursday, Feb. 10, Jimmy's Jazz and Blues

• **Moondance: The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute** Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., The Rex Theatre

**MARTIN BARRE**



Former Jethro Tull guitarist **Martin Barre** is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the band's legendary *Aqualung* album with a tour. He touches down at Tupelo (10 A St. in Derry; 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 to 60.

**THE TEMPTRESS**



The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St., Plymouth; 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) screens *The Temptress* on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m. This silent film features live musical accompaniment from Jeff Rapsis and stars Greta Garbo. Tickets cost \$10.

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Fri. Feb. 4th - Rose Kula  
Sat. Feb. 5th - Brother Seamus

Sunday, Feb 6th  
3:30-6:30pm  
Acoustic Session with Bob Pratte

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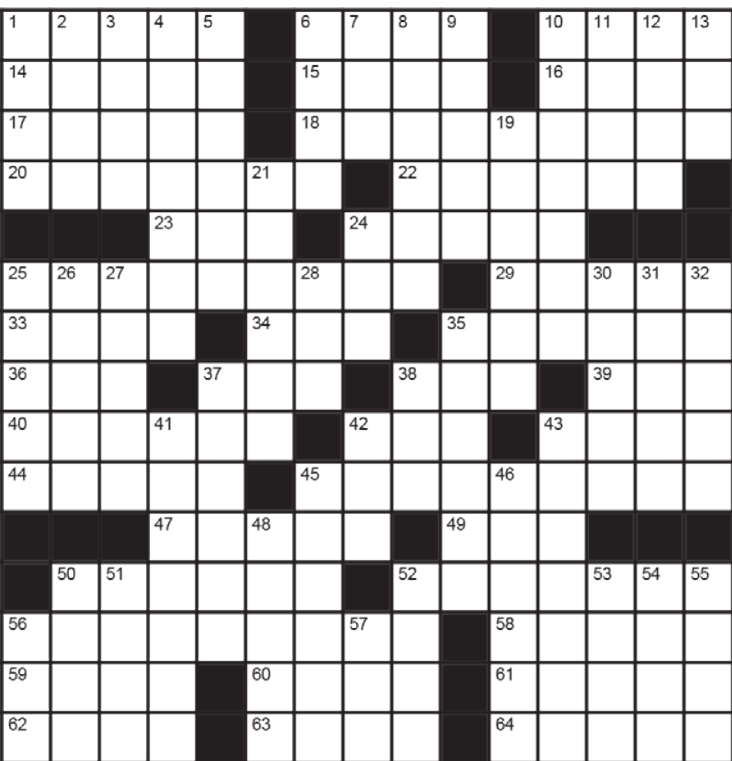
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# JESUS BUILT MY PUZZLE



**Across**

- 1. 'Love Song' rockers
- 6. Famous metal drummer Ulrich
- 10. We used to music shop at retail stores in this
- 14. Daryl Hall's friend John
- 15. Baldwin that Reba McEntire sings to in South Pacific
- 16. Boris is from this largest continent
- 17. What 'The Torture Never' does, to Zappa
- 18. Creating or doing this for video sets
- 20. Spin Doctors "Once in a while someone lives \_\_\_ ever after"
- 22. Moody Blues 'The Other Side \_\_\_' (2,4)
- 23. Ministry "You watched \_\_\_ rolled down the stairs" (2,1)
- 24. Bad boy star may have legal case that goes to this
- 25. Cars '84 smash album '\_\_\_ City'
- 29. "Ramble on, and now's the time, the time is \_\_\_ sing my song" (3,2)
- 33. '09 Avett Bros album '\_\_\_ Love And You' (1,3)
- 34. Hip-hop
- 35. Magnetic Zeros leader Sharpe
- 36. Short-run album release (abbr)
- 37. Singer/Songwriter Kearney
- 38. Damian Marley sidekick
- 39. 1960's 'Devil Or Angel' singer Bobby
- 40. 1960s North London band The \_\_\_ sang 'That's What I Want'
- 42. Anthrax song that's a lungful?
- 43. Devil \_\_\_ Down To Georgia
- 44. "Jack \_\_\_ from Wichita"
- 45. Ministry "\_\_\_ tell her but I stuck to my lies" (1,6,2)
- 47. Genre originating in Afri-

- can-American communities in the 40s (1,3,1)
- 49. Cloudscape started fresh w/'New \_\_\_'
- 50. Stone Sour hit 'Do Me \_\_\_' (1,5)
- 52. Boston 80s boy band New \_\_\_
- 56. AC/DC 'Hell Ain't A Bad \_\_\_' (5,2,2)
- 58. Snapshot or this for website

- 59. Performance enemy on your nose
- 60. Diabolical Interpol song
- 61. 'Bleeding Love' Leona
- 62. Musical mark
- 63. Song groups at shows
- 64. What The Cardigans do before they 'Rewind'

**Down**

- 1. Legendary Peter of The Waiters
- 2. 1972's '\_\_\_ Peach' by Allman Brothers (3,1)
- 3. Ministry "Someone's gotta make it \_\_\_"
- 4. 'Animal' Def \_\_\_
- 5. What engineer will do to producer
- 6. Great White '\_\_\_ Red Light
- 7. Might see a pint of one on stage
- 8. Papa Roach smash 'Last \_\_\_'
- 9. Cliff Richard song for movie category (hyph)
- 10. 'Copacabana' Barry
- 11. Clueless film-inspired Sky Ferreira EP? (2,2)
- 12. Jimmy Buffett waited in 'The Last \_\_\_'
- 13. Fall behind on tour
- 19. Athens band for an organ that secretes substances
- 21. Rockers born in early October
- 24. '84 film This Is Spinal \_\_\_
- 25. Thin Lizzy "And far away \_\_\_ look greener still"
- 26. '73 Humble Pie album (3,2)
- 27. '04 Clapton album 'Me \_\_\_ Johnson' (3,2)
- 28. 'All Boro Kings' Dog \_\_\_ Dog
- 30. What star did from stage to fan

## WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Five birthstones
- U.S. states: New \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ in "Notting Hill"
- Two metals ending with D
- Two eight-letter countries starting with M

Last Week's Answers: CLOUDY RAINY SUNNY SNOWY HAZY / CARDINAL CONDOR CROW / ROCKY BALBOA / GREAT BRITAIN / KLINGON ROMULAN

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

- 31. Renzor of Nine Inch Nails
- 32. Band Of Horses wrote poem or '\_\_\_ LRC' (3,2)
- 35. The Weeknd deserved or '\_\_\_ It'
- 37. Soundgarden 'Superunknown' hit (2,4)
- 38. 80s dance music singer Peebles
- 41. What loud metal will give an old timer, before headache
- 42. Average White Band (abbr)
- 43. Murder and this "Is our only news" to Ministry
- 45. Cyndi Lauper filled up the tank w/'\_\_\_ All Night' (1,5)
- 46. '04 Beastie Boys hit '\_\_\_ Trouble'
- 48. Reviewers jottings while listening
- 50. Kind of horn
- 51. Vandals "Your on the right track, it's a \_\_\_"
- 52. 'Shootenanny' band led by E
- 53. '01 Slipknot state-named album
- 54. Bluesman Taylor
- 55. Singer doesn't want a stuffy one
- 56. A small skewer or this hurt us on 'Comfortably Numb'
- 57. Beth Orton EP took the 'Best \_\_\_' from her songbook, perhaps

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# KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

3	3+		2÷
8x	2-		
	7+		8+
	2		

Workspace:

**CHALLENGING**

5-	3-		3	5+	
	2÷	5	3÷	1-	
5		3÷		3-	
5+			11+		10x
1-	2-		1-		
	2÷		20x		1

**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**

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

3÷	20x		11+	3			
2	1	5	4	6	3		
6	2÷	2	9+	3	5	1	
5+	8+	1	5	3	2	4	6
4	3÷	6	1	2	5		
5	2	1	6	3	4		
3	6	4	6+	5	1	2	

# "Wordle Has It" — when everyone is posting results

**Across**

- 1. West African amulets (and bad word to open a certain game with)
- 6. Smoke detector noise
- 10. Frozen waffle brand
- 14. Backspace over, maybe
- 15. Pac-12 powerhouse
- 16. "Moonraker" villain Hugo
- 17. Entry at the top of some crossword grids, or a good description of the game's dimensions?
- 19. Spice Girl who got a 2022 honor from Queen Elizabeth
- 20. Phobia
- 21. "Except ..."
- 23. Chess rating system

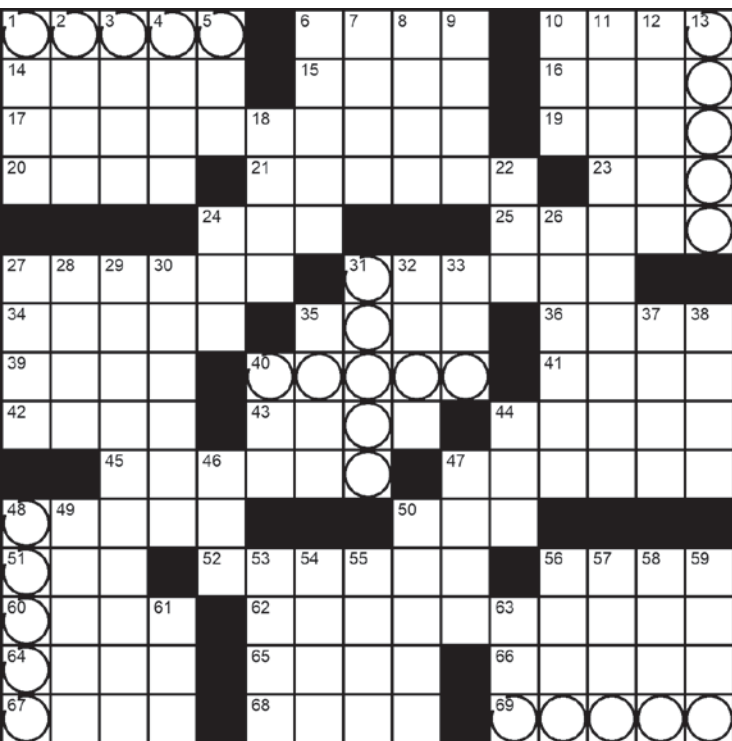
- 24. Make a choice
- 25. "You don't have to tell me"
- 27. "In Living Color" acting family
- 31. Malfunctions, like a printer
- 34. "Easy On Me" singer
- 35. Radiant glow
- 36. Light bulb unit
- 39. Advanced H.S. math class
- 40. Blend thoroughly (and bad word to open with)
- 41. Highlight at The Met
- 42. Norway's largest city
- 43. "Sorry, can't"
- 44. Snarly kitten, maybe
- 45. "The Gift of the Magi" writer
- 47. Goat-legged revelers

- 48. Shows signs of tiredness
- 50. Complete collection
- 51. City area, briefly
- 52. Spirited gathering?
- 56. 1% alternative
- 60. It's protected by a pad
- 62. Representation of a synthesizer sound, or the onslaught of game solutions people are posting on social media?
- 64. "To \_\_\_ a Mockingbird"
- 65. Door word
- 66. Ending with way or sea
- 67. Cryptozoological giant
- 68. "The Lion King" lioness
- 69. Wood-related isomer derived from coal tar used to make tear gas and dyes (and a \*terrible\* word to open with)

- 6. In the toaster for too long
- 7. Earth sci.
- 8. Contrarily
- 9. "Yeah, I'm out this round"
- 10. Dubstep or techno, e.g., for short
- 11. Eco-friendly bloc also seen when you win the game?
- 12. Ernest or Julio of winemaking
- 13. U-shaped bend in a river (and bad word to open with)
- 18. Baking measures
- 22. "Pretty sneaky, \_\_\_" (Connect Four ad line)
- 24. Free throw value
- 26. Iraq neighbor
- 27. Home of Baylor University
- 28. "Law & Order" figures, for short
- 29. Beginner's karate wear, or clump you may see when letters are in the wrong places?
- 30. Tenor sax player who worked with Zoot Sims
- 31. Nervous from caffeine (and bad word to open with)
- 32. Indy champ Luyendyk
- 33. "Mad \_\_\_: Fury Road"

- 35. Love, in a telenovela
- 37. Stadium section
- 38. Road materials
- 40. Tavern
- 44. Mammal in a cave
- 46. Snaky letter
- 47. Fortune teller
- 48. Bad-tasting (a variant spelling ... and worse word to open with because of that)
- 49. Schwarzenegger, informally
- 50. Milan's Teatro alla \_\_\_
- 53. "2 Minute Drill" channel
- 54. Bluish color
- 55. \_\_\_ and void
- 56. Move back and forth
- 57. Designer Lagerfeld
- 58. Judith of "Brighton Beach Memoirs"
- 59. Jerry Garcia collaborator Saunders
- 61. Peyton's brother
- 63. Das \_\_\_ (1990s hip-hop group)

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**Down**

- 1. "Survivor" host Probst
- 2. "Ugly Betty" actor Michael
- 3. Morning mugful
- 4. Operator
- 5. Coral or Caspian, e.g.

**R&R answer from pg 43 of 1/27**



**Jonesin' answer from pg 44 of 1/27**



**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 41.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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## Bright ideas

• Zachary Taylor Blood, 33, of Galveston, Texas, pleaded guilty on Jan. 25 to trying to smuggle two men into the United States in a flag-draped coffin, The New York Times reported. Blood showed up at a border patrol checkpoint near Encino, Texas, on Oct. 26, where he told the agent he was hauling a “Dead guy, Navy guy” when asked about his cargo. But the agent, who was a military veteran, noticed the “rusty and dented coffin” and saw that the flag had been “crudely taped” to it. Agents explored further and found two live men, cousins, inside the coffin. One man told agents that it had been hot and hard to breathe in the box, and he had agreed to pay \$6,000 to be smuggled to San Antonio. Blood will be sentenced on May 11 and could receive up to five years in federal prison.

• The Irish Times reported that on Jan. 21, two men carried Peadar Doyle, 66, into a post office in Carlow, Ireland, and inquired about collecting his pension. Staff and other customers became concerned about Doyle, as he seemed unresponsive, and made efforts to resuscitate him, but he was already deceased. While an investigation showed there was no foul play in his death, the two men were detained by police on Jan. 26. One of the men had gone to the post office

earlier that day to try to collect Doyle’s pension, but he was told the person had to be there. Both insisted that Doyle was alive but unwell when they left his home and that they helped him as he walked to the post office. They believe he died there.

## New world order

In an elementary school classroom in Berlin, one student is a little ... different from the others. Joshua Martinangeli, 7, is too ill to attend school in person, so a robot avatar sits at his desk and relays lessons to him at home. “The children talk to him, laugh with him and sometimes even chitchat with him during the lesson,” the school’s headmistress, Ute Winterberg, told Reuters. The avatar displays a blinking signal when Joshua wants to say something. The school district bought four of the avatars for use in the classrooms during Covid-19, but officials believe they’ll be used beyond the pandemic. When asked whether he’ll be happy for Joshua to return to school, his classmate Noah Kuessner said he likes it “either way because I like the avatar.”

## Sounds like a song

Danville, Pennsylvania, residents were warned to look out for three small monkeys run amok after a crash between two trucks on Jan. 21, The Daily Item report-

ed. State Trooper Andrea Pelachick said a truck with 100 African monkeys on board was on its way to a laboratory when it collided with a dump truck. She tweeted that “a small number of monkeys may have fled the scene” after escaping from their carriers. The three escapees were later located and humanely euthanized.

## Oops

Diners eating on the deck at Flip Flops Dockside Eatery in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, were plunged into the Intracoastal Waterway when the deck partially collapsed on Jan. 21. NBC6 South Florida reported that three people swam to a nearby boat, where they were pulled out of the water, and two of them went to the hospital with minor injuries. Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Stephen Gollan said the dock had apparent signs of decay and areas that had visibly been recently repaired.

## The way the world works

With a snowstorm bearing down on New England, residents of five homes on Hampshire Street in Methuen, Massachusetts, have a real problem: The city will no longer remove snow from their street. Mayor Neil Perry sent a letter to homeowners alerting them to the change, which he attributed to the street being

private property. He told NBC10 Boston that he received an anonymous tip about the property ownership. But neighbors are not having it: “There is a storm coming this weekend. Like, God forbid 911 needs to be called in,” said Collette Maksou. Cornelia Illmann hoped the city would reconsider: “We pay taxes, just as any other resident of Methuen does.” However, the assistant city solicitor is holding their ground.

## Teacher of the year

Robin Hughes teaches special education students at SouthShore Academy in Tampa, Florida, where most of her kindergarten kids had never seen snow, United Press International reported. So Hughes got in touch with her sister, Amber Estes, who lives in Danville, Kentucky. “I said I want you to make me a snowman, and I want you to overnight him to me and see if he can make it to the school,” Hughes said. “I want these children in Florida to see snow.” Estes said she wrapped Lucky the snowman in foil and packed him with ice in Styrofoam, and “off he went to the local UPS Store.” Hughes said her students had looks of “pure joy” on their faces when Lucky was unwrapped on Jan. 20. 🐻

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