

the Hippo

FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2022

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2022 PAGE 21



LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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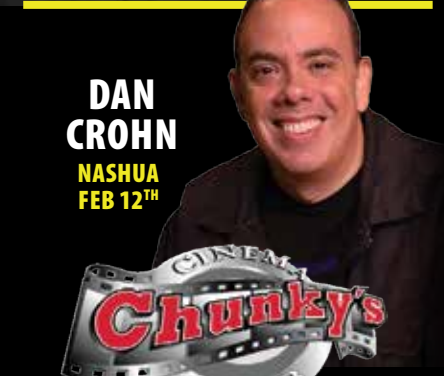
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Inspired for change



February has finally arrived and with it comes Black History Month. Having lived in New Hampshire for a significant portion of my life, I have only recently become aware of all the wonderful events happening across the state during this commemorative month. For those who, like me, wish to address racial injustice and to work for a more integrated nation, here are some things I'll be doing to expand my commitment.

Attend a Black Heritage Trail of NH Tea Talk. This year's series is being offered virtually with an in-person option with limited capacity on the subject of "Courage Conversations: Learning in for Change." For the 2022 Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks Series, BHTNH will work collectively to create a safe space for meaningful interchanges, grounded in history and lived experience between different segments of the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community. We will also investigate the current issues that continue to create tension in the community. All talks are on Sundays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and are free of charge. More information can be found at blackheritagetrailnh.org.

Address legislation impacting racial justice in New Hampshire. There are several bills in this year's legislative session that will have an impact on how our state's public education systems are able to practice their right to teach our students. The most promising, SB304, counters the harmful HB2 "divisive concepts" bill that has sent a chill throughout our state's public institutions, especially K-12, in their efforts to address inclusion and equality especially around race. Passage means removing provisions concerning freedom from discrimination in public workplaces and education, and would clarify the authority of public schools and public employers concerning discrimination.

There are two additional bills that are looking to limit free speech and free expression in the classroom. HB1313 expands HB2 to include public higher education and limit the essence of higher education learning by promoting the omission and silencing conversation on important parts of our nation's history as it relates to race and other protected identities. HB1255 seeks to ban New Hampshire public school teachers from promoting any "negative account or representation of the founding and history of the U.S."

Explore my own biases and assumptions This is, for me, the most critical piece of this work. What is my vision for our society and what role will I play in helping to create this? I need to know that I am not free of racial biases and healing myself of these comes from self-responsibility, patience, love and mindfulness.

This work, of course, doesn't end in February. This is a years-long journey and it will continue to require collective community to bring about the change.

Allyson Ryder addresses social justice issues in a variety of capacities across New Hampshire. She can be reached at almryder@outlook.com.



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Valentine cocoa bombs. Courtesy of Emilee Viaud.

ON THE COVER
10 SWEETS MADE WITH LOVE Celebrate Valentine's Day (or any occasion, really) with homemade goodies, from truffles and cocoa bombs to sugar cookies and cupcakes.

ALSO ON THE COVER, head to Wilton for the town's all new Winter Festival, p. 17. And voting is open for the Hippo's annual Best of readers' poll! See p. 21 for details on how to vote for your favorite people, places and things in New Hampshire.

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

On Jan. 31, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration fully approved the Moderna vaccine against Covid-19 for people ages 18 and older, according to a press release. It becomes the second Covid vaccine to receive full authorization in the U.S. following the approval of the Pfizer vaccine back on Aug. 23 — both had previously only been approved under emergency authorization status. “While hundreds of millions of doses have been administered ... we understand that for some individuals, FDA approval of this vaccine may instill additional confidence in making the decision to get vaccinated,” acting FDA commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement. The following day, Feb. 1, the FDA announced that a virtual advisory committee meeting will take place to discuss the possibility of emergency use authorization approval of the Pfizer vaccine for use in children ages 6 months to 4 years old. The meeting is scheduled for Feb. 15.

An initial round of 500,000 Covid test kits became available across all 67 New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet stores as of Feb. 4, according to a press release from Gov. Chris Sununu’s office. Kits are sold for \$11.29 apiece while supplies last. According to the release, there is no age requirement to purchase a test kit, and anyone can buy as many as they would like. As the state purchases and acquires more test kits, the NHLC plans to restock shelves at each store.

State health officials announced 779 new positive Covid test results on Feb. 7. The state averaged 804 new cases per day over the most recent seven-day period, a 40-percent decrease compared to the previous seven-day average. As of Feb. 7 there were 6,277 active cases, down from more than

10,000 on Jan. 31, and 206 active hospitalizations.

High-speed internet

Residents who can’t afford high-speed internet services may be eligible for discounts through the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, created to help ensure that people who struggle financially can stay connected to family members, friends, health care providers and work. According to a press release, applications are now being accepted for the program, and eligible recipients could get a discount of up to \$30 per month for high-speed internet services, as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer or tablet purchased through a participating provider. “The pandemic has shown us that access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it is a necessity,” Todd Fahey, State Director of AARP NH, said in the release. New Hampshire residents who have a household income of less than \$25,760 for a single-family household or \$43,540 for a couple, or who qualify for the Lifeline program or Medicaid or receive SNAP or WIC benefits, Federal Public Housing Assistance or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefits may be eligible. This program modifies and extends the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit program in effect last year as part of Covid-19 relief, the release said.

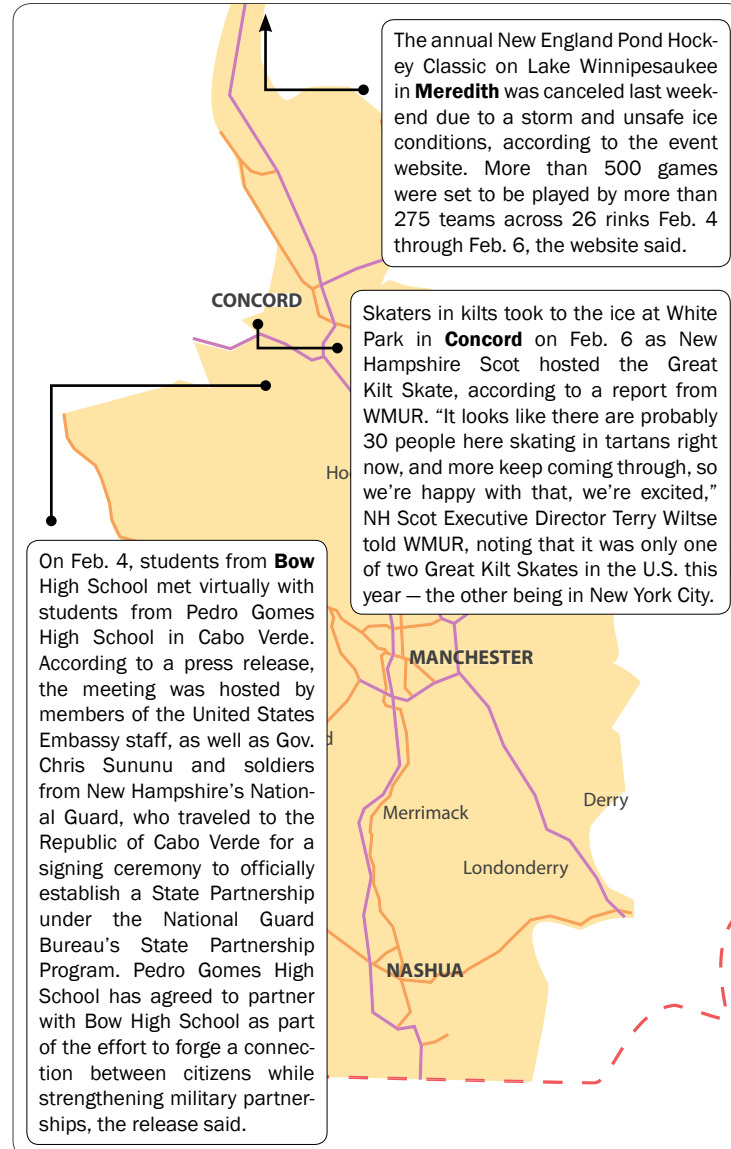
Housing Commission

Manchester’s Housing Commission nominees have been approved by Mayor Joyce Craig. According to a press release, the creation of a Housing Commission follows recommendations made by the Mayor’s Affordable Housing Task Force last year. “We’ve already begun to make significant

progress on the Affordable Housing Taskforce recommendations, moving forward with changes to zoning ordinances, developments on City-owned land, adding additional resources to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and more,” Craig said in the release. “The inaugural members of Manchester’s Housing Commission are uniquely qualified to continue this work. They bring a range of perspectives and backgrounds from housing advocacy, to development, to housing and homelessness service providers.” The commission will be responsible for following up on the task force’s recommendations, the release said. Founding members of the commission are Jean Noel Mugabo, Zachery Palmer, Peter Capano, Jessica Margeson and Chris Wellington, along with alternate members Joseph Wichert and Kate Marquis.

Community grants

Manchester’s Planning and Community Development Department has launched a new Community Event and Activation Grant program, part of the American Rescue Plan Act recommendations approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 2021. According to a press release, the grant program provides up to \$10,000 to support and increase the number of community-based projects and events to help the Queen City recover from the negative effects of the pandemic. Examples of eligible projects include public art installations, outdoor seating or bike racks and events such as concerts in the park, neighborhood block parties or sporting events, the release said, and applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 per grant but are required to provide a 25 percent match for each request. The first round application is due March 31.



Police cameras

Grant funds are now available to local and county law enforcement agencies to purchase body-worn and dashboard cameras. According to a press release, the fund is a key recommendation of the Governor’s Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency that encouraged all law enforcement agencies to acquire and use these cameras. Agencies can be reimbursed up to \$50,000 for the purchase of body-worn or dashboard cameras, software maintenance for the cameras and maintenance and storage of data related to the cameras, the release said. “The safety of all law enforcement officers across the state is imperative,” New Hampshire Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn said in the release. “These grant funds will help departments put important equipment in place to protect officers who put their lives at risk every day and enhance trust with the public they serve.”

Housing a priority

Stay Work Play’s biggest legislative focus area for the 2022 legislative session is housing affordability. According to a press release, half of the 18 bills that the organization — a nonpartisan advocacy program focused on public policy issues that affect whether young people will choose to live in the Granite State — have taken a position on this year are aimed at making the Granite State a more affordable place to live. Other focus areas include child care, outdoor recreation, and diversity, equity and inclusion. “Given the effect of public policy on the attraction and retention of young Granite Staters, having Stay Work Play’s voice in Concord is important,” Rep. Joe Alexander of Goffstown said in the release. Stay Work Play Executive Director Will Stewart will be involved in direct lobbying at the Statehouse, and the Stay Work Play Advocacy Network, with nearly 70 young people from across the state, will reach out to the legislators who represent them to speak on behalf of Stay Work Play’s policy positions, the release said.

Covid-19 update	As of Jan 31	As of Feb 7
Total cases statewide	276,856	284,180
Total current infections statewide	10,436	6,277
Total deaths statewide	2,209	2,260
New cases	11,716 (Jan. 25 to Jan. 31)	7,324 (Feb. 1 to Feb. 7)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	2,890	1,596
Current infections: Merrimack County	1,158	632
Current infections: Rockingham County	1,762	978

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

On the home front

New Hampshire Housing names new executive director

New Hampshire Housing, an organization dedicated to growing affordable housing in the state, welcomed Robert Dapice as its new executive director and CEO last month. Dapice discussed the position and how he plans to lead New Hampshire Housing in addressing New Hampshire's housing needs.

Q: *What is your background in this type of work?*

I worked ... in construction for seven years. ... I got a job for a construction company in Concord and did some work in the housing space. That's when I really came to appreciate the value of New Hampshire's communities and villages and main streets. I did some volunteer work ... that draws upon volunteers from the design and construction and engineering industries to help communities solve design problems. Through that, I became aware of New Hampshire Housing and applied for a job there. That was seven years ago, and I've been working here since then, mostly on multi-family development but also on compliance and development [issues], working with partners and developers who are trying to create new housing initiatives and opportunities for people across the state.



Robert Dapice. Courtesy photo.

es ... like people who are [experiencing] homelessness, substance abuse disorders and mental illness ... and housing for the workforce.

How has the pandemic impacted housing in the state?

Covid has affected housing by changing people's preferences. To some degree, the school closures early in the pandemic, coupled with the ability or need to work from home, has put additional pressure on the homeownership market. Another effect is ... homelessness [among] people who have been in unstable [housing] situations, like living with their relatives or couchsurfing with friends; a lot of those arrangements became untenable during the pandemic [due to] fear of infection or people needing more space [at home] to do remote school or work.

What do you hope to accomplish as director, short-term and long-term?

Short-term, to continue running emergency relief programs efficiently and with compassion to help get people through what is still a really difficult time, and ... to figure out how we're going to evolve to reflect the changes in people's lives and in the housing landscape. ... Long-term, we're working on a range of initiatives to create new housing across the spectrum of communities and housing types ... and [the types of] housing that people in the state want and need.

What do you find rewarding about this work?

The work we do [like] helping first-time homebuyers afford new homes [and] creating new opportunities for multi-family rental housing ... is essential to meet the [housing] needs of the state, and to help people find a good home when they might not otherwise be able to afford one. That's incredibly satisfying. ... I feel lucky to work here.

— Angie Sykeny

What does your job as executive director entail?

This is a period of transition for New Hampshire Housing. ... We're running an emergency rental assistance program to help [renters] who have been [financially] affected by Covid to be able to stay in their homes. We're also getting ready to launch a homeowners assistance fund to help [homeowners] with mortgage or utility payments they've fallen behind on. A lot of what I'm doing is helping to support the team and making sure they have the resources they need ... to run those programs. There's also a certain amount of external engagement, like working with GOFER, [which is] the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery ... and answering questions for legislators when they're considering legislation that might affect the housing economy.

What are some of New Hampshire's greatest needs when it comes to housing?

Demographically, [New Hampshire] households have been getting smaller, which has created a need for more smaller types of housing. We have a lot of larger single-family homes, which were developed at a time when it was more common [to see] larger families with more kids, but now, there are a lot of one- and two-person households ... and people who are looking to downsize. ... When people have trouble moving into homeownership opportunities, they stay in their apartments, which puts pressure on [renters] who are more vulnerable or housing-insecure. We also need more supportive housing for people with significant challenge-

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All-time Super Bowl team



I'll be adding to my world record on Sunday of having seen every Super Bowl game ever played. While I can't say I'm looking at this one with a high degree of anticipation, I do like that I'm part of the crowd that has seen them

all. Especially as it's now a dwindling group. Not quite on par with the shrinking number of D-Day survivors, but it does qualify me to start cataloging my historical record. Which today takes the form of naming my All-time Super Bowl team.

We'll start with the coach.

Coach – Joe Gibbs: A lot of worthy candidates here, including **Vince Lombardi** for winning the first two, **Chuck Noll** for going 4-0, 3-0 **Bill Walsh** and **Tom Coughlin** for engineering two, ah, Giant upsets. **Coach B** did win six times, but he also lost three and got outcoached by Coughlin twice. And there's also the **Malcolm Butler** mystery. But it's supposed to be a QB's league and Gibbs was 3-0 with three different QB's, who were all mediocre at best, so I'll go with him.

Special Teams

Kicker – Adam V: Do I need to explain?

Returner – Desmond Howard: **Devin Hester** opened SB-41 with a TD return, and **Jacoby Jones'** 108-yarder is the longest play in SB history, but Howard destroyed the Parcells Pats in SB-31 with 90 punt return yards and 154 on kick-offs, including a back-breaking 99-yard TD that basically ended the game.

Punter – Ryan Allen: My MVP in SB-53 over **Julian Edelman** when the Rams scored just 3 points vs. NE mainly because he pinned L.A. inside their 10-yard line five times.

Defense

DE – L. C. Greenwood: The all-time sack leader as Pittsburgh put up two dominant defensive efforts in SB-9 and 10.

DE – Charles Haley: Was a D key for five wins with SF and Dallas.

DT – Mean Joe Greene: Pittsburgh's D was impenetrable in those just-mentioned wins and he was the leader.

DT – Justin Tuck: With two sacks and two QB hits, he murdered the Pats when the G-Men ended hope of an undefeated season in SB -42.

MLB – Ray Lewis: The Baltimore D was steel against NY in 2000 and vs. SF in 2012 so he gets the nod over **Jack Lambert** and **Mike Singletary**.

OLB – Chuck Howley: Even though it came for Dallas in the horrid SB-5 between two inept offenses, the only player from a losing team to be MVP has to get this, right?

OLB – Mike Vrabel: He, **Tedy Bruschi** and **Willie McGinest** are tied for most sacks (3) by an LB, but Vrabel drilled **Kurt Warner's** arm to force the game-changing duck **Ty Law** pick-sixed for NE's early 7-0 lead in SB-36.

CB – Ty Law: There's part A above and part B was being the lynch pin that shutdown the most prolific passing attack in league history that day.

CB – Larry Brown: Was a starter for three Dallas wins in the '90s when he had a record three picks, including two vs. Pittsburgh when he was MVP in SB-30.

S – Jake Scott: Was another MVP defender for two picks in the mind-numbingly boring SB-7 match-up with Washington that closed out Miami's undefeated season.

S – Rodney Harrison: All-time leader in tackles with 34 and had a two-pick day vs. Eagles in SB-39.

Offense

T – Joe Jacoby: Was dominant in three SB wins, especially as **John Riggins** rumbled for 166 and **Timmy Smith** 204 when the Redskins piled up 276 and 280 rushing yards in wins over Miami and Denver in SB's 17 and 22

T – Forrest Gregg: The best player **Vince Lombardi** said he ever coached started when Green Bay won the first two SB's and as Dallas won SB-6.

G – Russ Grimm: See Jacoby's entry. He also started in all three games.

G – Larry Allen: The key to the Cowboys' run of three wins in four years was the running game and he was their best O-lineman.

C – Jeff Bostic: Hard to grade centers but he was part of the Hogs in the three Washington wins.

WR – Jerry Rice: No competition here for the all-time leader in everything.

WR – Deion Branch: Nips **Lynn Swann** for having 21 catches in SB-38 and 39 when he could have been MVP of the first and was in the second.

TE – Rob Gronkowski: Second behind Rice in total receptions (29), receiving yards (364 tied with Swann) and TD catches (5). No other TE is in the top 10 in any of those categories.

TB – Terrell Davis: He ran for a fourth best 259 yards in two Denver wins with a high of 157 vs. GB in 32.

FB – Franco Harris: All due respect to the plowhorse Riggins, Long Island's own **Matt Snell**, the real MVP of the Jets' earth-shattering upset of Baltimore in SB-3 (not **Joe Willie**), bruising **Larry Csonka** and rushing TD leader (5) **Emmitt Smith**. But it goes to the all-time leading rusher with 354 yards in Pittsburgh's first four wins.

QB – Joe Montana: Sorry, TB-12 fans. But Joe Cool has the highest QB rating ever at 127.3 to TB's 97.7, never threw an interception in 122 passes, led the last-minute drive to beat Cincy 20-16 on a pass to **John Taylor** with 34 seconds left, was a three-time MVP and 4-0 in the big game. He won seven times, has all the records, including the two highest passing yard games (467 and 505), and engineered major comebacks vs. Seattle and vs. Atlanta. But he also lost three times and while he was a five-time MVP, he shouldn't have been in SB-36, when he threw for only 145 yards while the O scored just one TD, or last year, because when a team blanks **Patrick Mahomes** the MVP is someone from the D.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Olympians represent

New Hampshire ranks 12th for the number of athletes who have participated in a Winter Olympics game on behalf of Team USA, according to a recent report from BeenVerified, a public information website. Four New Hampshire-born athletes are in Beijing right now, which did not change the ranking; prior to this year, 47 state-born athletes have participated in the Winter Olympics. Those athletes have earned 19 medals, making them 9th in the country for total medals, and 8th for gold with six medals, the report said. Top cities by birthplace are Easton (six medals); Hanover, Derry and Salem (three medals); and Concord (two medals).

Score: +1

Comment: *The top Olympic sport in New Hampshire, according to the report? Alpine skiing.*

Students speaking up, sparking change

Central High School has a new dress code, thanks to senior and Manchester School Board student rep Kellan Barbee, who rewrote the outdated code that had been in effect since the '80s. According to a report from NHPR, the new code — the first policy in the district authored by a student — allows items that were formally prohibited, like spaghetti straps, tube tops, ripped jeans, do-rags, bonnets and hats, while wearing the hood of a hoodie, see-through clothing and attire displaying messages with profanity and hate speech are still prohibited. The update has been a long time coming, with students asking for it for years; Barbee wrote the new code with other students' input. For example, he told NHPR, the district wanted to keep the hat ban, but after hearing about homeless peers who didn't have access to hair products and showers, Barbee made it a priority to get rid of it.

Score: +1

Comment: *"My goal is not to impose my own views on dress — on students, on staff, on the district. It is to bring student voices to the table," Barbee told NHPR.*

Because you can't do this in Florida

Special Olympics New Hampshire is gearing up for its two biggest fundraisers, the Penguin Plunge and the Winni Dip, and for the second year, participants are being asked to take a DIY approach in light of Covid. According to a press release, the theme of this year's events is "Survivor," and participants will have "Survivor Packs" delivered to their home, school or office, with items packed into a pail that can be used for do-it-yourself plunging. Penguin Plunge Weekend is Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 and includes the Penguin Plunge, the High School Plunge, Prep School Plunge and the new Middle School Plunge. Winni Dip Weekend is March 12 and March 13 and includes the Law Enforcement Dip, The Winni Dip, High School Dip, Middle School Dip and the MEGA Dip. Participants can register online at sonh.org; all fundraising can be done online, and most participants can meet the fundraising minimums in less than 72 hours, according to the release.

Score: +1

Comment: *SONH President and CEO Mary Conroy said that they were pleasantly surprised last year by the turnout and participants' creativity. "We had everything last year from schools utilizing their local fire departments to help students plunge, to individuals plunging on their own in lots of fun and creative ways," she said in the release.*

Late for love

A Google Trends analysis that looked at searches for "last minute Valentine's Day gift ideas" shows that New Hampshire ranks 10th in the U.S. for gift-buying procrastination. According to a report from wholesale trade printer 4over, waiting until the last minute seems to be a trend on the East Coast, with New Jersey coming in first and Maryland, Rhode Island, New York and Virginia round out the Top 5, while Connecticut and Massachusetts joined New Hampshire in the Top 10.

Score: -1

Comment: *Valentine's Day is Monday, Feb. 14 — just sayin'.*

QOL score: 57

Net change: +2

QOL this week: 59

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

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS FEBRUARY 10 AND BEYOND

Friday, Feb. 11

The Full Monty, the musical based on the 1997 film, continues its run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) this weekend with shows tonight at 7:30 p.m.; tomorrow, Feb. 12, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 13, at noon. Tickets cost \$39 and \$46 (plus fees).

Also from the Palace today, Feb. 11, a vaccine clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Palace's Spotlight Room



(96 Hanover St. in Manchester). This walk-in clinic is offering Pfizer, Moderna and J&J vaccines for first, second or booster doses to anyone 5 and older, according to the website.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Robert Irvine, celebrity chef and host of *Restaurant: Impossible* on the Food Network, will sign bottles of his Irvine Dry Gin and Irvine Vodka at the New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlet in Bedford (9 Leavy Drive) today from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Catch **Stephen Decuire** at Stones Social (449 Amherst St. in Nashua; 943-7445, stonessocial.com) tonight at 6 p.m. Find more live music at area bars and restaurants in our Music This Week listing on page 35.

Friday, Feb. 11

"What even is this?" followed

by "this is awesome!" might be your reaction to the trailer for *New Worlds: The Cradle of Civilization*, a concert film (sort of) featuring the final performance of the European tour of cellist Jan Vogler, violinist Mira Wang, pianist Vanessa Perez and Bill Murray on vocals. Yes, that Bill Murray — who sings, recites poetry and more. The performance was from 2018; the broadcast will be tonight at 7 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com, where you can find a trailer for the film). Tickets cost \$18 for reserved seating (plus fees). Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11

Get some laughs with **Drew Dunn and Jim Lauletta** at Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusichall.com) during tonight's Tupelo Comedy Night at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$22.

Sunday, Feb. 13

It's (stakes-free for New England fans) Super Bowl Sunday! The Cin-

cinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams will meet in Los Angeles for **Super Bowl LVI** with game time at 6:30 p.m. on NBC.

Want to participate in some competition yourself? The **Primary Bank Super Sunday 4-Miler**, a 4-mile race in Bedford, starts at 9:30 a.m. on Nashua Road. Registration costs \$35 through Saturday, \$40 on race day (based on availability); registration for youth (under 21) costs \$30 through Saturday and \$35 on race day, according to millennium-running.com.

Monday, Feb. 14

It's Valentine's Day! Though advance

RSVPs are strongly encouraged, you may still be able to find a spot for you and your sweetie to grab a bite. Find our listing of **Valentine's Day meals** (some of which are available earlier in the weekend) in the Feb. 3 issue of the paper on page 22. The e-edition is available at hippopress.com. 🍷



Save the date: Thursday, Feb. 24

Alton Brown, Food Network host beloved by "but why and how?" food nerds, comes to the Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Thursday, Feb. 24. The show starts at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. This "Beyond the Eats" tour is billed as a "culinary variety show" on the Cap Center website. Tickets start at \$54.50. For Alton Brown merch and more on what he's been up to, see altonbrown.com.



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EXPERTS EXPLAIN HOW TO WOW WITH COOKIES, CANDY AND CUPCAKES FOR YOUR VALENTINE — OR YOURSELF



Heart shaped cocoa bombs. Courtesy of Emilee Viaud.

Make your Valentine's Day a little sweeter with homemade goodies as local bakers share their secrets for jazzing up sugar cookies, getting creative with cupcakes and going fancy with chocolates.

For the chocoholics

Ideas beyond the traditional heart-shaped box

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

From chocolate-dipped strawberries to homemade truffles and breakable chocolate hearts, here are some sweet ideas for chocolate-y treats you can try out at home this Valentine's Day.

Chocolate-dipped strawberries

One of the most common treats associated with Valentine's Day, the chocolate-dipped strawberry is easy to create at home — the key is which type of chocolate to use, said Emilee Viaud, pastry chef and owner of Sweet Treats by Emilee, a home baker based in Milford.

"Baker's chocolate is what you want to use. You can find it in the baking aisle at the grocery store," Viaud said. "The top two brands are Baker's and Ghirardelli, and those can come in a bag or as a bar. ... There are options, [like] unsweetened, semi-sweet and bittersweet, and they are based off of the amount of cacao that's in them. I recommend using semi-sweet for the strawberries, because it kind of gives it a little bit of sweetness and it's not super bitter."

Viaud recommends about five ounces of chocolate per pound of strawberries. The fruit itself should be bought fresh, washed, dried and kept at room temperature, never frozen.

"Dryness is super important, because water and chocolate do not mix," she said.

Inserting a toothpick into the top of the fruit can make it a useful tool for dipping, or you can twist the leaves a bit to turn them into a sturdy handle and prevent them from breaking.

To melt the baker's chocolate, the easiest way is to just pop it into the microwave. Viaud recommends starting with the smallest size possible, cutting it up or breaking it with your fingers, placing it in a bowl and heating

for 30-second increments, stirring after each.

After it's melted, dipping the strawberries into the chocolate works best when you use the smallest bowl you can, so that you have a deeper level to work with.

"You don't want a big wide bowl. You want to be able to have at least two to three inches of chocolate so that you can dip the strawberry in," Viaud said. "You can choose to dip them halfway or all the way up to the leaves, and then you basically just shake the strawberry five or six times to let off all that excess chocolate. ... Then you want to place it on parchment paper on a plate or something. Tin foil will not work because it will stick."

Placing the fruit into the refrigerator for 15 to 20 minutes after it's dipped will cause the chocolate to harden. For extra flavor, you can roll them in anything from peanuts or hazelnuts to toasted coconut pieces, chocolate sprinkles or a white chocolate drizzle.

Ashley Reisdorf of Ashley's Eats & Sweets, based in Raymond, said she has worked with alcohol-infused chocolate-dipped strawberries — a batch she made a few years ago, for instance, featured strawberries infused with Grey Goose vodka using pipettes.

"You poke a hole in the top of the strawberries by the stems with a toothpick, and then stick a pipette of the alcohol in the hole and squeeze it in right before you eat it," she said.

Homemade truffles

Truffles are also very easy to make because they only require two ingredients — chocolate and heavy cream. Butter is also an optional ingredient to give them an added creaminess, or you can incorporate an extract like vanilla, raspberry, orange, peppermint or coconut for more flavor.

Like with the strawberries, Viaud said she recommends using baker's chocolate for truffles. About eight ounces of chocolate and two-thirds of a cup of heavy cream would

yield 20 tablespoon-sized truffle balls. If you're using butter and extract, she said, one tablespoon of butter at room temperature and half a teaspoon of extract would be enough for that same amount.

Truffles require creating a ganache, achieved by heating the heavy cream in a pot on the stove until it simmers, or just until you see bubbles. The chocolate should be finely chopped.

"You don't want to boil it. You just want to make it simmer," Viaud said. "You're going to have that chopped chocolate in a heat-proof bowl. You want to add the butter to that bowl of chocolate and then, once the heavy cream comes to a simmer, you're going to pour that hot cream over the chocolate. ... Then, the most important thing is to let it sit and not touch it."

Allowing the pot to sit for about five minutes will allow the heavy cream to incorporate and melt the chocolate. If you're using an extract, this is when you'll add that in next, Viaud said.

"You can mix it in using a whisk, which will help incorporate the liquid into the melted chocolate," she said. "Then it will come together and basically look like a chocolate hot sauce."

Once you have your chocolate hot sauce, placing it in the refrigerator for one to two hours will cause it to harden. Viaud recommends covering it with plastic wrap, pushing the plastic wrap down so that it touches the top of the chocolate in the bowl and prevents moisture.

After that time in the refrigerator has passed, the chocolate should become moldable, allowing you to scoop it out and roll into balls using your hands. If the ganache is too sticky, you can use gloves or lightly coat your hands in cocoa powder to help produce smooth truffle balls.

If your truffles have other ingredients like coconut pieces, peanuts or hazelnuts, they

should be rolled a second time at room temperature to help them stick. Placing them back into the refrigerator afterward for an additional 30 minutes will then allow them to be fully incorporated.

Cocoa bombs and breakable chocolate hearts

While a bit more involved than truffles or chocolate-dipped strawberries, cocoa bombs are great to enjoy on a cold winter night. Pouring hot milk or water over these hollow balls of chocolate, which are usually filled with flavored cocoa mixes, miniature marshmallows or any other ingredient you want to put in them, causes them to "explode" with flavor inside your mug.

Viaud, who began making her own cocoa bombs in late 2020, now offers all kinds of flavors from traditional milk, dark or white to peanut butter, salted caramel and more.

The traditional round appearance of cocoa bombs is achieved using half sphere-shaped silicone molds, which are available in most big box or craft stores in all shapes and sizes. Unlike for the strawberries or truffles, Viaud recommends using coating chocolate.

"You can really use any type you want, but for cocoa bombs, because you're molding them and keeping a sphere shape, you really want to use a chocolate that is durable," she said. "[Coating chocolate] is made with ingredients that help keep it stable and give it that nice shine. ... Ghirardelli has coating chocolate at the grocery store, or melting wafers, is what they call it."

Melting the chocolate can similarly be done by placing it in the microwave and stirring at 30-second increments. Viaud recommends pouring just about a teaspoon into each individual mold and using a spoon to coat its entire inside. Placing it in the refrigerator for about five minutes and repeating that process a second time will cause your molds



Breakable chocolate hearts. Photo courtesy of Emilee Viaud.



Grey Goose infused chocolate covered strawberries. Photo courtesy of Ashley's Eats & Sweets of Raymond.

to harden well.

"I think that's the step that a lot of people don't do, and then their chocolate breaks," Viaud said. "So it's important that you repeat that process to get a really thick shell."

Once it's completely hardened, you can remove the shells from the mold — the best way to do that is to gently push them out from the bottom with your finger or thumb, as the edges would break most easily, Viaud said. Two half sphere molds equal one cocoa bomb, and heating a saute pan over the stove on low heat will ensure smoother spheres. This is also when any flavorings such as cocoa mixes or marshmallows get added into your bombs.

"You take the edges and quickly put them on the hot pan to melt the chocolate and make

it smooth, so that they come together easily," she said. "You have to have the right pressure, because if you push down too hard, you've melted half of it. ... So it's really about having the right touch to know exactly how much of that sphere to melt."

The chocolate then eventually cools at room temperature, the half sphere molds "glued" together.

If you have heart-shaped molds, you can make breakable chocolate hearts, a process very similar to the cocoa bombs. The difference, Viaud said, is you can fill them with any small candy you want, from M&Ms or Hershey's kisses to jelly beans or conversation hearts.

"You can use the back of a spoon to kind of crack it open," she said. 🍫

Where to get specialty chocolates

If you'd rather let the experts handle everything this Valentine's Day, check out this list of local candy and chocolate shops, home bakers and other businesses offering special chocolate treats.

- **Candy Kingdom** (235 Harvard St., Manchester, 641-8470, candykingdom.shop) takes special orders for chocolate-dipped strawberries, and also offers treats like chocolate red-foiled hearts and assorted heart-shaped boxes of chocolates.

- **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) has various bars, boxes, drinking chocolate sets and other items that can make great Valentine's Day gifts.

- **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.

- **Loon Chocolate** (252 Willow St., Manchester, loonchocolate.com) just opened a new retail shop inside The Factory on Willow on Feb. 5, in partnership with 603 Charcuterie. The purveyor of small batch chocolates features 12 flavored bars in addition to a product line that includes cacao nibs, dark chocolate cocoa bombs and a do-it-yourself chocolate elixir kit.

- **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) has assorted milk chocolate heart lollipops, gold foil solid milk chocolate hearts and more.

- **Sweet Treats by Emilee** (Milford, sweettreatsbyemilee@gmail.com, find her on Facebook) offers milk chocolate-dipped Twinkies, breakable chocolate hearts filled with assorted candies, and cocoa bombs in several flavors, from milk, white or dark chocolate to salted caramel, peanut butter and cookies and cream. Find her products at the Manchester Craft Market (inside the Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester), Locally Handmade (at the Merrimack Premium Outlets, 80 Premium Outlets Blvd., Merrimack), and Junction 71 (71 Route 101A, Amherst). You can also find them at the Milford Farmers Market on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Square, Milford).

- **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) has assorted chocolate gift boxes, custom chocolate-dipped Champagne bottles and milk chocolate foiled hearts. They're also taking special orders for chocolate-dipped strawberries.

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Sugary sweet

Decorate your cookies like a pro

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

Elevate a standard sugar cookie to a bake-shop-worthy treat by stepping up your baking game, whipping up a perfect royal icing and decorating with finesse.

Jessica Radloff from Granite State Cakes in Wilton teaches classes and posts tutorials on her Facebook page to help novice bakers make sugar cookies that look professionally decorated. And the best part is, you can focus on the icing instead of the dough.

“While you *can* make your own cookie dough, there’s absolutely no rule that says you can’t use ready-made dough from the refrigerated section of your local supermarket,” Radloff said.

Here are her tips for making ordinary sugar cookies extraordinary.

Roll and bake

Regardless of whether you make or buy your dough, Radloff advises that you roll your cookie dough out between two layers of parchment paper and place it in the freezer for about 5 minutes to help retain the shapes you cut out and make it easier to transfer to your baking sheet. Once it’s chilled, you can use cookie cutters or get creative; Radloff said you can print a tem-

plate on a piece of paper and cut cookies with a sharp knife. Then it’s time to bake.

“I’ll preach parchment until the end of my days,” Radloff said. “Line your baking sheet with it. If you have a silicone mat feel free to use it instead. Give your cookies about 2 inches of space in case they spread a little.”

Bake ¼-inch-thick cookies at 350 degrees for 7 to 8 minutes, then let them cool *completely* before you start icing.

Nice icing

“Royal icing can seem intimidating but it is all about the consistency — too thin and it will never stay where you want it and it will take an eternity to dry. Too thick and it will be impossible to get [a] smooth, satisfying finish,” Radloff said.

Once your icing base is made [see recipe in box], add your desired amount of royal icing base to a mixing bowl and add food color until you get the shade you want. Radloff said that color continues to develop over time so mix them in a couple days ahead of time for darker colors. In a pinch, you can microwave your royal icing on the 50-percent power setting for 15 seconds at a time (no more than twice) to help speed up the process.

There are two popular methods of icing cookies, Radloff said. The first is using



Valentine's Day cookies. Photo by Jessica Radloff.

two different consistencies of icing — one that’s thicker to create a sturdy border and one that’s looser to fill in the spaces you’ve outlined. The second is using one medium-consistency icing that can hold its shape enough to outline but also be smoothed out nicely to fill in the outlines. “I personally prefer the second option — I would prefer not to have to mix double the icing for my cookies when it’s not absolutely necessary,” Radloff said. “[But] some designs and details require different consistencies to achieve different looks.”

When thinning your icing, add water by the drop; consistency can change greatly with even a teaspoon. Medium consistency royal icing looks a bit like ranch dressing, Radloff said. You can test your icing by drawing a line through your icing with a knife and then counting the number of seconds it takes for the line to disappear into the rest of the icing. Medium icing will smooth out within about 15 seconds.

“The best advice I can give a new cookie decorator is to count your icing and then test it out on a piece of parchment paper to make sure it’s where you want it *before* piping it onto a cookie,” Radloff said. “If it’s too thick and doesn’t smooth out properly, add another mist of water and try again. ... If it is too thin you can add half a teaspoon of confectioner’s sugar at a time to thicken it and then test again.”

Decoration perfection

“I would suggest using tipless icing bags so you do not have to go through the hassle of finding, buying and cleaning a ton of piping tips,” Radloff said. “Start small when you first cut your piping bags — you can always cut off more but you cannot add it back.”

Once you outline your cookies, let them set for a few minutes.

“Trust me, it’s worth the few minutes to preserve your mental health,” Radloff said. “The last thing you want after going through all the work to get to this point is for your icing to start dripping off of your cookies because you were too impatient to wait for your outline to set a bit.”

Once your outline has set — it will look a little less glossy and more matte — you can start to fill them in. Start from just inside your outline and work toward the center of each space you are “filling in.”

“You can choose solid-colored cookies for your first time decorating, or you can let your imagination run wild and add polka dots or stripes, choose a different outline and food color — the possibilities are endless,” Radloff said.

Once decorated, cookies should dry for 12 to 24 hours before packaging to prevent moisture in the cookie from seeping out and causing the colors to run or the ice cracking due to not being allowed to fully harden. 🍪

Royal icing

Jessica Radloff shares her recipe, minus a couple of “secret” ingredients that are key to her icing’s flavor but don’t affect consistency.

6 tablespoons meringue powder (You can use 9 tablespoons of egg whites but make sure they are pasteurized for food safety.)

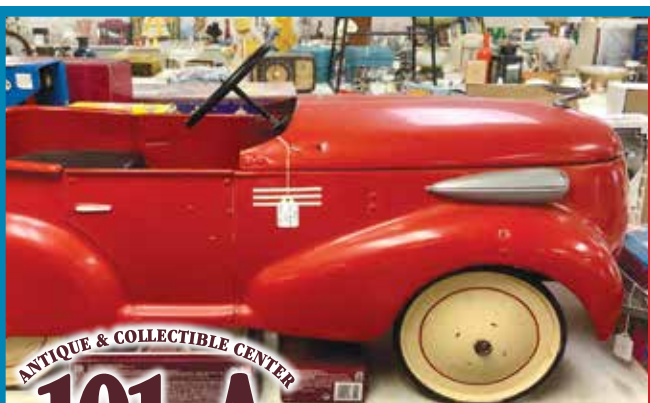
10 Tablespoons water

2 pounds confectioner’s sugar

1 Tablespoon corn syrup (This is optional but it gives your fully dried icing a softer bite as opposed to the crunchy texture you sometimes find with decorated cookies.)

1 teaspoon almond extract (I use imitation to ensure I don’t have any issues with allergies.)

Add all of your ingredients to your mixing bowl, making sure to sift your dry ingredients to remove all lumps. Mix with a stand mixer or beater for a couple minutes or until the royal icing looks a bit like plaster — it will be thick. Store your finished royal icing in an airtight container with a piece of parchment or plastic wrap laid directly on the surface of your royal icing to prevent crusting on the surface of your icing.



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Let them eat cupcakes

Put your own twist on the classic dessert



Courtesy of Collins Cupcakes.



Courtesy of Cake Fairy Bakery.

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

When it comes to Valentine's Day treats, cupcakes are quintessential.

"They're made with love, pretty to look at, and, let's face it, they just make people happy," said Tara Collins, baker and owner of Collins Cupcakes in Derry. "They're everything we think about on Valentine's Day."

Cupcakes have a short, simple set of steps and ingredients that "most people have right in their cabinets and pantries," Collins said, making them a great dessert option for beginner bakers.

"The great thing about baking cupcakes is that even if they don't look perfect the first time, they will still taste great," she said.

The versatility of cupcakes gives bakers plenty of room for creativity and experimentation.

"The customization options are endless," Collins said, "and the fun thing is, cupcakes are individual [desserts], so each cupcake can be different ... and customized to each person's liking, and, more importantly, you don't have to share."

Consider filling your cupcakes with a fruit filling, like strawberries, blueberries, raspberries or apples; or with pudding or sprinkles.

"Filling is a super easy way to elevate your cupcakes to a whole new flavor dimension," said Brianna Lucciano, manager at Cake Fairy Bakery in Hooksett.

Play around with frostings by mixing extracts, liqueurs or candy or cookie pieces into a buttercream frosting base. Then, add

a topping, like a single piece of candy — a heart-shaped candy is the perfect accent for a Valentine's Day cupcake, Lucciano said — or sprinkles, fruit, edible glitter, or chocolate or caramel drizzle.

"If it sounds good to you, try it," Lucciano said. "Do you think anyone thought a maple bacon cupcake would be good at first? Definitely not, but someone tried it, and look how beloved that flavor is now."

One of the easiest ways to jazz up your cupcakes, Collins said, is with food coloring. For Valentine's cupcakes, place streaks of pink food coloring inside the piping bag, fill it with white buttercream and swirl it on top of the cupcake once it's cooled.

"Each one will look slightly different than the others, while at the same time complementing one another," she said.

You can have fun with cupcakes this Valentine's Day even if you aren't up for baking them yourself.

"You can literally just go to your local box store and grab some unfrosted cupcakes," Lucciano said, "and, if you can't frost very well, grab an ice cream scoop and do a scoop of frosting on top of the cupcake, add some sprinkles or a chocolate drizzle, and you now have a gorgeous dessert that looks professionally crafted."

Finally, Lucciano said, have fun and don't take yourself too seriously; even if your cupcakes are a flop, "the thought is truly what counts."

"So, they came out disastrous? It's a fabulous story to tell your family and friends about how you tried and completely failed," she said. "Laughter is the best medicine." 🍷

Valentine's Day buttercream frosting

Courtesy of Tara Collins, baker and owner of Collins Cupcakes in Derry

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (2 sticks) softened butter
- ¾ cup strawberry jam
- 3 cups powdered sugar

Using a stand or hand mixer, whip butter until smooth. Add strawberry jam, then slowly add in powdered sugar. Mix until all sugar is well-incorporated and buttercream is smooth and creamy. Frost onto cooled chocolate cupcakes and top with fresh sliced strawberries.

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

• **Art for bid:** The New Hampshire Art Association is holding an auction from its permanent collection, with pieces on view at NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St., Portsmouth) starting on Wednesday, Feb. 16, and online bidding starting on Friday, Feb. 18, and continuing through Saturday, Feb. 26. There will be 75 pieces acquired by NHAA over the last 40 years, including pieces by former and current NHAA members. "Over the years, NHAA has been home to some very talented artists, and we are pleased to be able to offer some of their pieces to the public at very reasonable prices," NHAA board president Renee Giffroy said in a press release. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Masks are required indoors. Visit nhartassociation.org.

• **One-woman play:** It's the final weekend for Glass Dove Productions' run of *Mary & Me* at the Hatbox Theater (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord); showtimes are on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. The one-woman play written by Irene Kelleher, performed by Emily Karel and directed by Peter Josephson follows a pregnant 15-year-

old girl named Hannah and her search for understanding while growing up in 1986 Ireland. "*Mary & Me* is a very personal story, and, as a performer, it's a very deeply personal experience to perform this play," Karel told the Hippo earlier this month. "I'm excited to share Hannah's story with the audience and have them get to know Hannah and, hopefully, get to love Hannah." Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.

• **Teen writers published:** The first issue of the New Hampshire-based teen creative writing magazine *Under the Madness* is now available on its website. Designed and managed by an editorial board of New Hampshire teens under the mentorship of New Hampshire State Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary, the magazine features creative writing by teens ages 13 to 19 from all over the world, including poetry and short fiction and creative nonfiction. "It speaks to the confusing whirlwind faced by teenagers [due to the] pandemic, political polarization, global warming, inequity and unrest," Peary told the Hippo earlier this month, "[and to] writing and creative expression as a way to set a foot on the ground when the adult-made sky seems to be spinning." Submissions are open for future issues on an ongoing basis. All writing must be written in or translated into English and must be previously unpublished. Visit underthemadnessmagazine.com for full submission guidelines and to read the first issue.

• **Last call for Tomie dePaola exhibit:** Catch "Tomie dePaola at the Currier" at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Man-



"#42 Yuji," a charcoal drawing by Sigmund Abeles, featured in the NHAA auction. Courtesy photo.



Painting by Susan Stetson, featured in the NHAA auction. Courtesy photo.

chester) before it's gone on Sunday, Feb. 13. The exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of the beloved New Hampshire children's author and illustrator through a collection of his original drawings. Tomie dePaola, who died in March 2020 at the age of 85, wrote and illustrated more than 270 children's books during his 50-plus-year career, including the popular *Strega Nona* series. Nearly 25 million copies of his books have been sold worldwide. The Museum recently established a new fund in dePaola's name to support art education for young people. 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. Masks and proof of Covid vaccination are required for entry. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **Valentine's laughs:** The Majestic Theatre presents *A Funny Little Thing Called Love* at The Majestic Theatre Studios (80 Page St., Manchester), with showtimes on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. The Jones Hope Wooten play includes four comedic tales about love. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors age 65 and up and youth age 17 and under. Visit majestictheatre.net.

—Angie Sykeny 🍀

Art

Auctions and sales

• **NEW HAMPSHIRE ART ASSOCIATION PERMANENT COLLECTION AUCTION** Fundraiser auction features 75 pieces acquired by NHAA over the last 40 years, including pieces by former and current NHAA members. Pieces will be on view starting Wed., Feb. 16, at NHAA's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery

(136 State St., Portsmouth). Online bidding will run Fri., Feb. 18, through Sat., Feb. 26 at 5 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Masks are required indoors. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230 to learn more.

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. See the museum's website for the most up-to-date Covid policies for visitors. 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 now 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., closed Monday through Wednesday. See the museum's website for the most up-to-date Covid policies for visitors. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **"VEHICULAR NARRATIVES"** Exhibit features New Hampshire Art Association artist William Turner, whose narrative realism oil paintings have depicted distressed vehi-

cles and machinery, vintage toys and stories from Greek and Roman mythology and folklore told through imagery of automobiles. All works are for sale. The Art Center (Washington Mill, 1 Washington St., Suite 1177, in Dover). On view now through Feb. 28. Gallery hours 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 or theartcenterdover.com.

• **"SETTING THE STANDARD"** Exhibit features new work from League jurors in all media areas. League of New Hampshire Craftsmen headquarters, 49 S. Main St., #100, Concord. Now through March 31. Regular exhibition hours are Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 4 p.m. Visit nhcrafts.org.

• **"FOR THE LOVE OF IMPRESSION"** Exhibit features prints created using traditional techniques and

ERIK LARSON VISITS

The Music Hall presents an in-person author event with Erik Larson on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 at p.m., at its Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth) as part of its Writers on a New England Stage series. Larson will discuss his new book, *The Splendid and the Vile*, a saga of Winston Churchill that draws on Churchill's own diaries, original archival documents and once-secret intelligence reports. Tickets cost \$13.75, and for each one to two tickets sold, the purchase of a book voucher for \$20 is required. Vouchers can be redeemed the night of the event for signed copies. Visit themusichall.org or call 436-2400.



ARTS

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

• **“ARGHAVAN KHOSRAVI”** Artist’s surrealist paintings explore themes of exile, freedom and empowerment; center female protagonists; and allude to human rights issues, particularly those affecting women and immigrants. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On view April 14 through Sept. 5. 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. See the museum’s website for the most up-to-date Covid policies for visitors. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

• **“ECHOES: ABSTRACT PAINTING TO MODERN QUILTING”** Exhibit features abstract paintings inspired by the bold colors, asymmetry, improvisational layout, alternate grid work and negative space in composition of modern quilting. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). April 22 through May 14. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **“NATURE AT NIGHT: PAINTINGS BY OWEN KRZYZANIAK GEARY”** Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). May 27 through June 18. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **“1,000 CRANES FOR NASHUA”** Featuring more than 1,000 origami paper cranes created by hundreds of Nashua-area kids, adults and families since April. On dis-

play now at The Atrium at St. Joseph Hospital, 172 Kinsley St., Nashua. Visit nashuasculpturesymposium.org.

• **“NEW HAMPSHIRE NOW”** A collaborative photography project presented by the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artists, on display in eight exhibitions at museums and historical societies across the state. Nearly 50 photographers participated in the project, taking more than 5,000 photos of New Hampshire people, places, culture and events from 2018 to 2020 to create a 21st-century portrait of life in the Granite State. Exhibition locations include Belknap Mill Society in Laconia; Colby-Sawyer College in New London; Portsmouth Historical Society; Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene; the Manchester Historic Association; Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University; and the Tillotson Center in Colebrook; with the flagship exhibition at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. Visit newhampshirerow.org and nhhistory.org.

• **GALLERY ART** A new collection of art by more than 20 area artists on display now in-person and online. Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford). Call 672-2500 or visit creativeventuresfineart.com.

• **ART ON MAIN** The City of Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce present a year-round outdoor public art exhibit in Concord’s downtown featuring works by professional sculptors. All sculptures will be for sale. Visit concordnhchamber.com/creativeconcord, call 224-2508 or email tsink@concordnhchamber.com.

Tours

• **NASHUA PUBLIC ART AUDIO TOUR** Self-guided audio tours of the sculptures and murals in downtown Nashua, offered via the Distrx app, which uses Bluetooth iBeacon technology to automatically display photos and text and provides audio descriptions at each stop on the tour as tourists approach the works of art. Each tour has 10 to 15 stops. Free and accessible on Android and iOS on demand. Available in English and Spanish. Visit downtownnashua.org/nashua-art-tour.

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. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecrespofineart.com to learn more.

• **WINTER ART CLASSES** Art classes for teens and adults, including Pottery, Stained Glass, Intermediate Watercolor and Clay Hand Building. Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester). Five-week sessions. Classes met for two hours a week. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com for the full schedule and cost details.

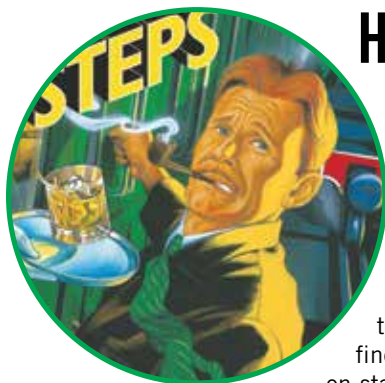
• **DRAWING & PAINTING CLASSES** Art House Studios, 66 Hanover St., Suite 202, Manchester. Classes include Drawing Fundamentals, Painting in Acrylic, Drawing: Observation to Abstraction, Exploring Mixed Media, and Figure Drawing. Class sizes are limited to six students. Visit arthousestudios.org for more information.

• **GENERAL ART CLASSES** Weekly art classes offered for both kids and adults of all skill levels and cover a variety of two-dimensional media, including drawing and painting with pastel, acrylic,

HITCHCOCK HUMOR

The Windham Actors Guild presents *The 39 Steps* at Searles School and Chapel (3 Chapel Road, Windham), with showtimes on Friday, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. The show is a humorous reimagining of an Alfred Hitchcock film that uses a small group of performers to perform a large number of different roles. “The sheer absurdity of the plot and the situations in which the characters find themselves and the way the story is presented on stage are fresh and fun and escapist in a time where everyone could use a complete departure from reality,”

performer Jonathan Kaplan told the Hippo last month. Tickets cost \$16 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and military. Call 247-8634 or visit windhamactorsguild.com.





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watercolor and oils. Classes are held with small groups of three to eight to five students. Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover St., Manchester). Kids classes, open to ages 10 and up, are held on Thursdays and Fridays, from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Adult classes are held on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuition is pay-as-you-go at \$20 per student per class, due upon arrival. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecrespofineart.com for availability.

Theater

Shows

- **THE FULL MONTY** A mainstage production presented by the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Now 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). Now 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). Now 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 and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.
- **DEADLY** Cue Zero Theatre Co. presents an original movement-based theater piece by Crystal Rose Welch. Granite State Arts Academy (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, Salem). Fri., March 4, through Sun., March 6. Visit 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 cost \$16 for adults and \$14 for students and seniors. Visit franklinoperahouse.org or call 934-1901.
- **BYE BYE BIRDIE** Mainstage production by The Palace Theatre. 80 Hanover St., Manchester. March 11 through April 3. Tickets range from \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.
- **CHICKEN LITTLE** Original musical adaptation presented by Upside Arts. The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth). The show runs March 12 through March 20, with showtimes on Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$18 for adults and \$15 for

- kids under age 12. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.
- **PUFFS! OR SEVEN INCREASINGLY EVENTFUL YEARS AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MAGIC** A comedy presented by Cue Zero Theatre Co. Granite State Arts Academy (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, Salem). The show runs Fri., April 29, through Sun., May 1. Visit cztheatre.com.
- **MUSICAL MOM** Produced by the Community Players of Concord. The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). The show runs May 5 through May 15. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors and members and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.
- **LAST GAS** Produced by the Community Players of Concord. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. The show runs Fri., May 6, through Sun., May 8. Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$16 for youth ages 17 and under, \$16 for seniors age 65 and up. Visit communityplayersofconcord.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.
- **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.



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE IN NYC

Jonesing for Theatre, in collaboration with Dive in Productions, presents *I Love You Because* at the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth) now 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. The musical is a gender-reversed retelling of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*, set in modern-day New York City. "As a hopeless romantic, I love the idea of someone wanting you *because* of faults and idiosyncrasies rather than simply tolerating them," performer Nicole Jones told the Hippo last month. "It's hopefully happy, romantic and so funny — all things that everyone could use more of right now." Tickets cost \$28 for adults and \$25 for seniors age 65 and up and students. Visit playersring.org or call 436-8123.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Winter in Wilton

New festival features art, snow elves, s'mores and more

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

The just-created Wilton Arts Market will make its debut at the first-ever Wilton Winter Festival, a community collaboration that will offer a day of arts, crafts for kids, fire pits and s'mores, ice sculpting demonstrations, a teddy bear clinic, a potluck dinner and live music from folk singer Paul Driscoll.

"We could all use some feel-good moments right now," said Kate Schimke, a Wilton Main Street volunteer and founder of the Wilton Arts Market. "I want people to come and shake off the winter blues."

Schimke is planning to hold monthly arts markets after its debut at the festival, in the hopes of drawing attention to the town's three-floor art mill right by the Souhegan River, home to many artistic minds.

"Wilton's really got a lot of cool artisans in town," Schimke said. "There are so many talented local crafters."

Her own studio is there too; she and her husband create artisan jewelry and decor under the name Prayers of Nature. She said she's earned her stripes when it comes to vending her art.

"I was sick of packing up my art and [doing other shows]," she said. "I thought, why don't I do this outside my art studio in Wilton?"

Once she decided to start an arts market in town, she talked to Wilton Main Street about collaborating with other town organizations to make the first one part of a community-wide event — and thus, the Wilton Winter Festival was born.

It's not a brand new idea for Wilton; in fact, the Heritage Commission will have on display artifacts from old Wilton Winter Carnivals.

"[They] used to draw four trains a day from Boston and beyond to come to Wilton," said Sandy Lafleur, a board member for the Wilton Community Center. "There were all kinds of winter activities, including a toboggan run that went through three towns: Wilton, Lyndeborough and Milford!"

There won't be a toboggan run at this festival, but there will be outdoor activities like ice sculpting demonstrations, songs and s'mores around a campfire, and snow elf making. The Wilton Public Library is heading up the latter two events.

Pat Fickett at the Wilton Public Library said youth librarian "Ms. Boo" will have several activities for kids throughout the day, starting with Valentine making at the library from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. It's a drop-in event with craft supplies available and is geared toward families and teens, she said.

At noon, Ms. Boo will head to the camp-



Bead embroidery jewelry. Courtesy photo.



Handmade pet toys. Courtesy photo.



Valentine gnomes. Courtesy photo.



Ceramic jewelry. Courtesy photo.

fire at Main Street Park, where she'll sing and play guitar.

"Songs will be familiar to most for singing along," Fickett said. "There may be a winter story as well."

And from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Ms. Boo will lead Snow Elf Making on the library lawn, providing everything that's needed to create "some adorable elf creations," Fickett said.

Saint Joe's Mobile Clinic will be set up at the end of Main Street for heart health screenings, as well as games and teddy bear clinics, so kids are encouraged to bring their favorite stuffed animal to the event.

Local folk singer-songwriter Paul Driscoll will be playing live during the arts market, which is being held in the

Congregational Church due to lack of space in the arts mill (it will be held outside the mill building once the weather warms up, Schimke said.

There are eight artisans signed up for this first market, including a macrame artist, a jeweler who works with clays and pottery, an artisan who makes pet gifts, a jeweler who works with bead embroidery and Schimke and her husband with selection from their Prayers of Nature boutique.

Wrap up the day by bringing a dish to the potluck dinner, which will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., with drinks, bread and desserts provided.

"I just want people to come out and have fun," Schimke said. "It's all about supporting the community." 🍌

Wilton Winter Festival

This free event will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at various locations in Wilton. Email wiltonartsmarket@gmail.com and find the event on Facebook.

Congregational church

Inside, masks required

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Arts market, live music, drinks and refreshments, and a Heritage Commission pictorial display of past winter carnivals in Wilton.

5 to 7 p.m.: Potluck dinner

Library

Inside, masks required

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Valentine crafts

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Snow elf building

Main Street Park

Noon to 1 p.m.: Stories and songs at the fire pit, s'mores and marshmallows

1 to 4 p.m.: Ice carving demonstrations

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Show time (kind of)

Some flower shows will go on

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

Usually at this time of year I am planning my travel to the various flower shows around New England: Boston, Connecticut or Vermont. Perhaps Maine. Not this year. Most of the shows have been put off due to Covid, including the Boston Show, which was canceled recently.

The Connecticut Flower Show website says it will be the only major flower show in New England, and it will take place Feb. 24 to Feb. 27 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Tickets cost \$20 for adults on the day of the event, or \$16 if purchased in advance (which will avoid the wait in line). Children ages 5 to 12 are \$5, and children under 5 are free. The Convention Center has been upgraded to minimize risk of Covid transmission and state and local regulations will be followed.

The show is always known for having lots of educational workshops. This year is no exception: There are some 80 presentations, including organic lawn care, container gardening, floral arranging and pollinator gardens, among others.

One talk that caught my eye is by a friend of mine, Len Giddix: "It's Rain Gutter Gar-

dening: Sprouts, Herbs and Greens without Draining Your Wallet." I called Len, who explained that he uses 4-inch pots in a 10-foot section of gutter partially filled with potting mix. It's tidy and can produce a lot of greens. And no, the gutter is not up high; it's along the edge of a walkway. Sounds slick! He'll repeat his demo every day.

The show will have all the usual vendors selling seeds, plants, cut flowers, air plants, tick protection products, beekeeping supplies, garden tools and more. Organizations like the Rose Society will be there, and other nonprofits.

Next there is the Chelsea Flower Show in London from May 24 to May 28. This show has always been held outdoors and is known for the lavish gardens built by world-famous designers, often using mature trees and shrubs. There are, of course, tents, one of which would easily accommodate Barnum and Bailey at its heyday. My wife and I attended in 2017.

The magnificence of the show is startling: hundreds of fresh blossoms in perfect form in many of the booths. New introductions of named varieties are on display. Actress Judi Dench got a lovely apricot-colored rose named



Calla lilies at the Chelsea Flower Show. Photo courtesy of Henry Homeyer.

after her by David Austin the year I attended, and as press, I got to see her accept the honor. The chief executive of Burpee Seeds, George Ball, was in the Burpee booth, greeting us and answering questions. There was even a cute little robot cutting the lawn in one booth. The show covers many acres.

If you decide to go, I recommend joining the Royal Horticultural Society for 50 pounds (\$67.50 at current exchange rate). The membership gets you admission to the show for two days before it opens to all, a 10-percent discount on all tickets, and other benefits including their quarterly magazine. I went on the first membership day and it was quite crowded, so I can't imagine what it is like when the show is open to the public. I recommend attending at least two days to see it all, which is what we did.

Daily tickets for adults cost about \$55, with Saturday at about \$116. But if you can afford it, go! It's a once in a lifetime experience. And women: Bring your most colorful garden hat and a flowered dress as the British women love to dress up for the show — and you don't want to appear like the poor "country cousin."

Then there is the Philadelphia Flower Show, which will be held outdoors from June 11 to June 19 at South Philadelphia's Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park. The show, which was first

organized by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 1829, will include 15 acres of this large park with majestic trees and views of the waterfront. By holding the show outdoors in early summer, exhibitors will be able to include larger landscape material than an indoor event, much as the Chelsea Flower Show does.

I have attended the Philly show in the past, and always was thoroughly "wowed." One aspect of the show that I love is the competitions that allow ordinary gardeners to strut their stuff, competing for ribbons for best house plants, flower arrangements, specialty plants and more. Then of course there are the displays made by professional landscapers, stone workers and designers. And more garden geegaws than you can imagine are for sale.

Bring an umbrella or raincoat, just in case of a shower. There are tents, but much is outdoors. The large outdoor venue should keep attendees well socially distanced.

Admission is \$45 for adults, \$30 for young adults (18 to 29), and \$20 for kids 5 to 17. Go to the website to read more about gala events and early morning tours: phsonline.org/the-flower-show

Covid has limited what we can do and see, but there are still a few places to go if you hanker for a good garden show. And maybe next year they will all be back to normal.

Henry lives in Cornish Flat, N.H. He is the author of four gardening books. His email is henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

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KIDDIE

— POOL —

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One bird, two bird

• This Saturday, Feb. 12, and Sunday, Feb. 13, is the **Backyard Winter Bird Survey** — an excuse to do a little winter bird watching and enjoy both birds and math out in the wilds of your own backyard. Go to the New Hampshire Audubon's nhbirdrecords.org to download the forms and read the rules for counting birds, which can be done as long or short a time as you and your fellow bird watchers would like. Along with more than two dozen bird species, the form also asks for the number of red and gray squirrels spotted.



JoJo Siwa

Wildcats basketball

• For those looking for some in-person college basketball, the University of New Hampshire is allowing masked spectators to **Wildcats games** this season, according to unhwildcats.com. This Saturday, Feb. 12, at noon you can catch the women's team play the Binghamton University Bearcats at noon at Lundholm Gymnasium at UNH in Durham. On Monday, Feb. 14, catch the men's team in their game against UMBC at 4 p.m. (the game is a reschedule of the Jan. 2 game and tickets to that game will be honored). Tickets cost \$10, \$8 for seniors and 12 and under.

Free day

• As with every second Saturday, New Hampshire residents who go to the **Currier**

Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) on Saturday, Feb. 12, will get in for free. See the website for the museum's Covid policies. The museum is open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Current exhibits include "As Precious As Gold: Carpets from the Islamic World," "WPA in NH: Philip Guston and Musa McKim" and "Tomie DePaola at the Currier."

Also scheduled for the Currier on Saturday: The state's **mobile vaccination van** will be on site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register to get a shot at currier.org/event/vaccine-van.

Science Friday

• Little scientists can head to Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover; 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) on Friday, Feb. 11, for another installment of **Science Friday**. The Friday sessions (which run through the end of April) feature "messy experiments and activities that focus on sensory fun," according to the website. 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.

Save the date: for JoJo Siwa

The **JoJo Siwa D.R.E.A.M. The Tour** will come to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester; snhuarena.com) on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. The tour is rescheduled from May 2020 (tickets for that show are valid here) but new tickets are available. 🍷

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

We use this pitcher every Christmas, as my mother did as well while I was growing up. I'm wondering if you could tell me anything about it. I'm not looking to sell because of family memories, but it's always good to know more information.

Diane



bottom in the center you will see the trademark. It's a diamond with an H in the center.

As long as it is in good condition with no damage, chips, cracks, fogging in the glass, etc., the value would be in the range of \$50. The real value, though, is that you still use and cherish it.

Diane, I do think you would enjoy the history of Heisey if you get the time.

Dear Diane,

I have a smile on my face reading your note. Glad to see your pitcher still being used and creating more memories.

Your pitcher has a very interesting history — good reading if you want to pursue it. What your mother has passed down is a piece of Heisey glass. It's been around since the early 1900s and as I said has a long and interesting story.

Diane, Heisey glass has several patterns and even colors. Yours is called the Greek key pattern. You should be able to flip it over and on the

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

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Find a good home for your orphaned lightbulbs



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk: I'm sure, like many others, I've accumulated unused automotive lightbulbs for cars I no longer own (the result of being

forced to buy two-packs when only one bulb is needed).

Is there someplace I can donate them, so they can be used by someone? I'd hate to throw perfectly good bulbs into the landfill.

— Jim

Ah yes, the bulb orphanage, Jim. We all have one.

You might take a lesson from our esteemed producer, Doug Berman. Last year, he ordered something from Amazon. I think it was an extra-large tube of hemorrhoid cream or something.

The next day, a box shows up at his door. He opens it up, and inside the box is not what he ordered, but rather, a set of brake shoes for a 1987 Buick LeSabre. He doesn't have a 1987 Buick LeSabre. But he does have itching and burning.

So, he calls Amazon and says "you guys sent me brake shoes by accident. Can you send me what I actually ordered — ASAP — and I'll send you back these brake shoes?"

Amazon says "Don't send them back. It costs us more to ship them back than they're worth. Do whatever you want with them."

Well, like you, Dougie doesn't want to throw them out, so he takes them down the street to a repair shop. And he explains to the woman at the desk what happened, and asks if, by any chance, she wants to trade the brake shoes for some Preparation H.

No, he offers them to her and says, maybe you'll have a customer who's going through some tough times and you'll be able to help them out. She happily accepts the donation, and — as far as we know, there are four fewer brake shoes in the landfill now.

So, try your own mechanic, Jim. Or try a shop nearby. Put them in a box, donate them, and let the shop add them to their bulb inventory. And either some lucky customer will be thrilled that an older, unusual bulb is in stock just when he or she needs one, or the shop will toss them in the landfill.

Dear Car Talk:

My 1998 Toyota Camry developed windshield cracks at the upper corners recently. They grew longer, so I took it to a national chain for a windshield replacement. They looked at it and said they wouldn't replace the windshield until the rust was repaired.

I went to the internet to learn more. One discussion said it could cost as much as \$2,000 to repair — if it could even be repaired. Another said junk the car.

The car is in excellent shape. I spend about \$1,000 a year on it to keep it that way. Please give me some of your wisdom on this problem.

— David

My wisdom's the same, David: You can either spend about \$2,000 to fix it or junk the car.

Here's the problem. They can't replace your windshield because there's no longer anything solid to attach it to.

The windshield is actually held in place by a gasket that attaches to the surrounding metal. If any — or all — of that metal (the roof, the side pillars and the cowl) is rotting away, the gasket will be loose, the windshield will move around and likely crack.

It's not easy to just patch up the rust with Bondo, because there's probably not enough solid metal there to work with anymore.

So, the solution — assuming the rust is at the top or on the sides — is to replace the car's roof. A body shop would have to find a junkyard Camry of the same vintage for you — one without the same rust problem.

The junkyard would then cut off the old roof, usually at the bottom of each pillar, and deliver it to your body shop. Then your body shop would cut off your roof and weld on the new one.

And when you add in the sanding, the paint job and the new windshield, you're easily looking at \$2,000. If you really love the car, and it really is in great shape, that would be your best option. But keep in mind that if the metal around the windshield has corroded to the point that it no longer casts a shadow, it's likely that there are other parts of the car that are rotting away, too.

So get someone to really look it over carefully before you invest in a new roof. And if the rot is pervasive, buy a new roof with a new car under it instead. Good luck, David.

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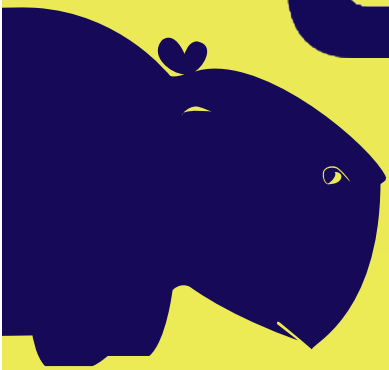
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ON THE JOB

JESSE DOUCETTE
CHIMNEY SWEEP

Jesse Doucette is a certified Master Chimney Sweep and owner of Crown Chimney in Hooksett.

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

I oversee all day-to-day operations ... and deal with the customers. ... I still do site previews here and there as well. When I go on site, one of the first things I do is find out from the customer what they're having an issue with or what they would ultimately like to achieve with their chimney. Every job is different. ... I educate them on what their options are, and we ... [determine] what the best solution is for them and their home and their lifestyle, and we try to formulate a plan together.

How long have you had this job?

A little over 16 years.

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

I used to be an electrician, and I loved it ... but the company I was with was starting to go down the wrong road, so I decided to get out. [Crown Chimney] offered me a position. I started out not knowing anything about the job; I knew that Santa goes down the chimney, but that's about it.

What kind of education or training did you need?

CSIA, which is the Chimney Safety Institute of America, was the first place I started getting an education. It's out in Indiana. They [offer] different levels of education. I've now become Master Chimney Sweep [certified] through the NFI, which is the National

Fireplace Institute, which is another place where I've done a lot of schooling.

What's your typical at-work uniform or attire?

It depends if I'm out on the road or in the office. Our company has uniform shirts, hoodies, jackets and that type of thing. If we're out in the field, it's jeans or shorts, depending on the weather, and if I'm in the office, I typically wear a polo or something like that.

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

Many people have been able to work remotely during this whole thing, but our job isn't like that; the chimneys are on the houses, so we have to go to the people's houses. ... We've had to be cautious around people as far as navigating how they feel about us being in their home ... and really make sure that we're taking any measures necessary for them to feel comfortable with us being there.

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

On my first day [working at Crown Chimney], I ... was handed a map of the homes I had to go to. I didn't know how to read a map. The owner of the company had just gotten in an accident and wasn't able to go out with me on the road. I had to travel all over the state to the homes of these cus-



Jesse Doucette

tomers without knowing how to read the map. That was definitely a challenge for me, so I wish I had known that I would need to know how to read a map.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

How much I love my job. I love gaining new insights and knowledge about the industry, and I love educating my customers, which is a very crucial part of what we do, so that they can get what they're looking for with their chimney.

What was the first job you ever had?

Being a paperboy for the Concord Monitor. My job was to deliver papers every day except for Christmas and try to not get attacked by dogs.

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

To treat each customer as if they were our only customer. — *Angie Sykeny* 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth* by John C. Maxwell

Favorite movie: *Kingdom of Heaven*

Favorite music: '80s rock

Favorite food: Mexican, specifically burritos

Favorite thing about NH: Hunting, fishing, mountain biking — anything outdoors



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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Romantic meals:** Still haven't made plans yet for **Valentine's Day**? There may still be time depending on where you go. Check out our listings that ran in the Feb. 3 issue; they begin on page 22. You'll find dozens of special menus and dinners at local eateries, as well as sweet gift-giving ideas at chocolate and candy shops and bakeries with their own special offerings. Since Feb. 14 falls on a Monday this year, some businesses are opening their doors on the weekday when they would normally be closed, while others are choosing to celebrate all throughout the preceding weekend. Go to issuu.com/hippopress and click on the Feb. 3 issue to read the e-edition for free — and be sure to contact each establishment directly for the most up-to-date availability on reservations and takeout items.

• **More drive-thru Greek eats:** Join Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (68 N. State St., Concord) for its next boxed **Greek dinner to go**, a drive-thru takeout event, on Sunday, Feb. 20, from noon to 1 p.m. Now through Wednesday, Feb. 16, orders are being accepted for boxed meals featuring dinners of Greek meatballs, rice pilaf, Greek salad and a roll for \$15 per person. The event is drive-thru and takeout only — email ordermygreekfood@gmail.com or call 953-3051 to place your order. The church is also planning a similar takeout and pickup meal featuring chicken and orzo, scheduled for March 13. Visit holyltrinitynh.org.

• **Get into the spirit:** The **New Hampshire Liquor Commission** has a couple of special virtual events planned for this week. On Friday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 7 p.m., they'll be helping you gear up for the Big Game — brand representatives from Crown Royal, Smirnoff and Captain Morgan will be tuning in for some game day cocktail recipes and ideas, which you can also access by visiting liquorandwineoutlets.com/diageosuperbowl. Then on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 5 to 6 p.m., the NHLC will hold a behind-the-scenes tour of Fabrizia Spirits in Salem, which has grown into one of the leading purveyors of limoncello in the United States. After the tour, co-founder Phil Mastroianni will be sharing a cocktail recipe using Fabrizia's crema di pistachio, the newest addition to his product lineup. Both events are free to sign up via Zoom, or you can watch them live on Facebook @nhliquorwine (click the "live" tab to access the videos).

• **Make way for Mardi Gras:** Save the date for **A Mardi Gras Wine Festival**, an event presented by St. Thomas Aquinas Church that's happening at the Aquinas Center (26 Crystal Ave., Derry) on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening will include samplings of several New Hampshire-made wines, along with live music, raffles, games, a door prize, food and more. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Visit stthomasderry.org for more details, or call the church office at 432-5000 to purchase tickets.

FOOD

Chocolate, cheese and more

Loon Chocolate and 603 Charcuterie join forces for new retail shop



Courtesy photos

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Scott Watson was perusing Netflix one day in the winter of 2017 when he came across a documentary about a Southeast Asian coffeehouse. He tuned in to learn the shop also produced its own chocolate onsite — a catalyst for what would end up becoming his newest venture.

“It just triggered something in me and got me thinking, ‘How come I don’t know how chocolate is made?’” said Watson, who worked as a craft brewer during the mid to late 1990s at the now closed Nutfield Brewing Co. in Derry. “I started diving into it ... and it brought me back to my brewing days. It fascinated me that there was fermentation involved, and that there seemed to be so many parallels to craft brewing. ... It intrigued me enough to start making it at my house.”

That was how Loon Chocolate, based in Manchester, was born — Watson sold his first chocolate bar in the spring of 2018. On Feb. 5, he opened his first retail shop, teaming up with Theresa Zwart of 603 Charcuterie to also feature New Hampshire-made specialty foods like cheeses, jams, hot sauces, crackers and mustards.

Watson and Zwart are the first commercial tenants of The Factory on Willow, a former Queen City shoe factory turned apartment and business complex. The new shop also has an adjoining chocolate production facility that is double the size of Watson’s former manufacturing space.

Loon’s chocolates are handcrafted in small batches from bean to bar, its cacao

beans sourced from multiple growers across Bolivia, Belize, Uganda, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

“We get beans in and we’re roasting and doing every single step from bean to bar,” Watson said. “There’s no curtain hiding people in the back room that are opening up pallets of pre-made chocolate and melting them down into an Easter Bunny for you.”

In addition to offering a lineup of 12 flavored bars, Watson has since expanded his product line to include bagged cacao nibs, dark chocolate cocoa bombs and a do-it-yourself chocolate-infused elixir kit. All of these items are now available for sale out of his new storefront.

Zwart, meanwhile, is utilizing the space as a one-stop shop for all of the New Hampshire-made products featured on her charcuterie boards, like cheeses from Bell & Goose Cheese Co. of South Hampton and Abbot Hill Creamery of Wilton, cured meats from Short Creek Farm of Northwood, and mustards from the Blackwater Mustard Co. of Contoocook. Even the boards themselves, built by Souhegan Wood Designs of Amherst, are sold in various shapes and sizes.

Since launching 603 Charcuterie in late 2020 as a small takeout ordering business, Zwart has gone on to teach charcuterie board-building classes at local breweries and wineries, and has also expanded into catering larger boards and grazing tables for weddings. She and Watson first developed a business relationship last year when she started purchasing Loon’s chocolates for use on her boards. They’re also

commonly served samples at her classes.

“We’re going to have charcuterie boxes to go, so pre-made charcuterie boards that people can just pick up,” Zwart said. “I want to bring in some other stuff in the next few weeks too, so things like honeys, maple syrups, and maybe an olive oil for dipping bread.”

Other items in the store include loose leaf teas from 27 Teas of Candia, cooking salts from the Maine Sea Salt Co., and craft marshmallows from Nomadic Kitchen of Vermont.

Events are already being planned for the space, starting with a multi-course tasting menu centered around Loon’s chocolate by Dahlia Restaurant, a series of farm-to-table pop-up dinners across New Hampshire. They’ll be hosting limited seatings on Friday, Feb. 11, and Saturday, Feb. 12 — one at 6 p.m. on Friday and two at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“We’re also planning on doing some sort of chocolate and wine tasting ... just to take advantage of the space that we have and to give the wineries a chance to talk about their products and pair them up with some chocolate,” Watson said.

Loon Chocolate & 603 Charcuterie

Where: The Factory on Willow, 252 Willow St., Manchester

Hours: Friday, Feb. 11, noon to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 13, 8 to 11 a.m.; hours for future dates TBA

More info: Visit loonchocolate.com or 603charcuterie.com, or find them on Facebook and Instagram

Soup's on

Epsom soup/chili/chowder cook-off to return



Three-time trophy winner Heather Brown will return to Epsom Central School's ninth annual soup/chili/chowder cook-off on March 7. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll
 mingersoll@hippopress.com

If you think you make the best bowl of soup, chili or chowder around, you'll have a chance to prove it at Epsom Central School's annual cook-off. Now through Feb. 14, entrants are welcome to participate in the friendly competition, which is due to return for its ninth year on Monday, March 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. inside the school's gymnasium.

"It's been a huge event for us, and it's a great community builder," school business secretary and cook-off coordinator Stephanie Colvin said. "We try to get different people in from all over."

Originally conceived as a much smaller fundraiser mostly among the school's teachers and staff, the cook-off has grown over the years to now feature dozens of entrants across three judging categories: soups, chilis and chowders. After a brief hiatus in 2021, the event is returning with a few tweaks, Colvin said, such as additional seating in the cafeteria to allow for distancing.

There is no fee to register as an entrant — soup and chili makers can access the entry form through the event's Facebook page. Each participant also receives three free sampling tickets.

For tasters, tickets will be sold at the door and will include access to up to 10 four-

ounce sampling cups per attendee for adults and five sampling cups for kids ages 10 and under, along with sides of corn bread. Part of the fun is that you never know which different flavors of soups, chilis and chowder you may encounter at the cook-off in any given year.

"You have your typical seafood chowders or your tomato soups," Colvin said. "We've had a Tuscan soup and a chicken bacon wild rice soup. One year we had a dill pickle soup, and then somebody also did a chocolate raspberry delight soup ... I feel like the stranger or the more curious it is, the more people are going to go over to try it."

Chilis, meanwhile, also usually include an eclectic mix of options, from chicken or turkey to a venison chili. Entrants like to give their soups, chilis and chowders all kinds of unique names.

A panel of nine judges — three for each category — gives entrants a score on a 10-point scaling system and adds them all up at the end of the night. Winners from each of the three categories receive a "Souper Bowl" trophy, and the top vote getter also wins a \$50 Visa gift card. Two People's Choice recipients from each category are awarded ribbons.

Proceeds from the cook-off help fund various student activities at Epsom Central School, from field trips to clothing needs. 🍷

9th annual Epsom Central School soup/chili/chowder cook-off

When: Monday, March 7, 5 to 7 p.m. (registrations are due by Monday, Feb. 14)

Where: Epsom Central School, 282 Black Hall Road, Epsom

Cost: \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids ages 10 and under (includes access to up to 10 four-ounce samples for adults and up to five samples for kids, plus cornbread). Tickets are sold at the door while supplies last. Registration as a soup, chili or chowder entrant is free.

More info: See "9th Annual ECS Soup/Chili/Chowder Cook-off" on Facebook, or email cook-off coordinator Stephanie Colvin at scolvin@sau53.org.

Entrants must provide at least one gallon or more of their soup, chili or chowder, along with a slow cooker, a large serving spoon or ladle, and a displayed list of its ingredients. Each entrant will also receive three free sampling tickets.

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH STEVE YURISH



Steve Yurish of Amherst is the owner of Sherman's Pit Stop (944 Gibbons Hwy., Wilton, 654-2600, shermanspitstop.com), as well as 603 Foods (603foods.com, and on Facebook), a line of homemade soups, chowders, cottage pies and other prepared comfort meals that he runs during the winter months. Menus of 603 Foods products are posted to its website and Facebook page early each week, with ordering available until 6 p.m. on Wednesdays — items are regularly rotated out but have included New England clam chowder, chicken pot pie, shrimp and sausage gumbo, shepherd's pie, macaroni and cheese, Italian wedding soup and more. Pickups are on Fridays after 11 a.m., at the Amherst Garden Center (305 Route 101, Amherst) or at Sherman's Pit Stop. Weekly home deliveries are available too — email 603foodsnh@gmail.com or message them on Facebook for details. Prior to starting 603 Foods in 2020, Steve and his wife, Diane Yurish, owned and operated Moulton's Market in Amherst Village for 16 years.

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What is your must-have kitchen item?

I usually make the soups in five-gallon batches, so I need a good cast iron soup pot and a large wooden ladle to stir with.

What would you have for your last meal?

Cheeseburgers, medium rare, with pickles, onions and ketchup. I've always called them my desert island food.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I like Eric Griffin's restaurant over in Milford, Grill 603. He's got a good group of people over there and the food is always good.

What celebrity would you like to see trying something on your menu?

Elvis Presley.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

The vegetable beef barley soup. It's got a base of tomato and red wine, and lots of mushrooms, carrots, celery, onions and peas. I just find it to be a great hearty soup.

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

Specific to New Hampshire, I think it would be the continued trend toward using more and more local products, grown here and produced here.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I like to grill outdoors as much as possible. I still grill pretty much through the winter.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Smoked Gouda and roasted red pepper bisque

From the kitchen of Steve Yurish of 603 Foods and Sherman's Pit Stop

2 pounds freshly roasted red peppers or jar equivalent (rinsed and with all seeds removed)
1 stick and 3 Tablespoons butter or margarine
2 onions, minced
2 teaspoons dried thyme
1 Tablespoon chopped garlic
1 Tablespoon black pepper
1 quart chicken broth
2 quarts water
3 Tablespoons Better than Bouillon chicken base
2 cups half-and-half
1 6 to 8-ounce package smoked Gouda cheese, shredded (or more, if desired)
2 Tablespoons cornstarch, dissolved in water
2 teaspoons liquid smoke

chicken base, half-and-half and black pepper and simmer for about 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Add shredded Gouda, remaining three tablespoons of butter and liquid smoke. Return to low heat and add cornstarch. Bring to just below a boil. Salt and pepper to taste and enjoy (Hint: Add more chicken broth or water if soup seems too thick.)



136230



TRY THIS AT HOME

Bourbon simmered apples

It's cold outside; make your home warmer with this simple apple dish.

This recipe is pretty simple, with some important caveats. Let's start with ingredients. I recommend using Honeycrisp or Granny Smith apples, as both of them are good baking apples. They will become tender without losing their texture. Use Granny Smith if you prefer more tartness, and use Honeycrisp if you like a bit more sweetness.

Also, this recipe requires only two tablespoons of bourbon. While it is a small amount, it is a key part of this recipe, so be sure to use a bourbon that you would drink as is. You want the apples to be flavored with a bourbon that you enjoy.

Next, let's talk about the cooking. The instructions note that the apples need five to 10 minutes of sauteing. The amount of time required can vary, depending on the ripeness of the apples and the settings on your stove. Be sure to keep an eye on the apples! Check for fork tenderness every couple minutes so you have apples that are tender but not mushy.

Once the cooking is done you have an extremely versatile dish. These apples are sweet enough that they could be the topping for ice cream or pound cake. They also are



Bourbon simmered apples. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

savory enough that they could be used as a topping for roast pork or chicken. You could even use these apples as a side dish on their own.

No matter how you choose to use them, they will warm you inside and out!

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

Bourbon simmered apples

Serves 2

- 2 Honeycrisp or Granny Smith apples
- 1 Tablespoon salted butter
- 3 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 Tablespoons bourbon

Cut the apples into quarters, and remove cores.

Cut each quarter into 3 or 4 slices; cut each slice in half lengthwise. (The most important thing is to have the slices be similarly sized.)

Heat a large nonstick frying pan over medium heat.

Add butter, stirring until melted.

Add apples to butter, and saute for 5 to 10

minutes, or until barely fork tender. Add cinnamon, sugar and bourbon, tossing constantly to coat.

Remove from heat, and serve immediately.



Food & Drink

- **Contoocook Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Maple Street Elementary School (194 Maple St., Contoocook). Masks are required. Find them on Facebook @contoocookfarmersmarket.
- **Deering Winter Market** is Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Deering Fish & Game Club

(Long Woods and Fish and Game roads). Find them on Facebook @deeringwintermarket.

• **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square in Concord, now through April. Find them on Facebook @downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket.

• **Milford Farmers Market** is every other Saturday, from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (Union Square), now through April 9. The next one is Feb. 12. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

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

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FOOD



Care-free Super Bowl

Three beers for a game you don't really care about

By Jeff Mucciarone
food@hippopress.com

It was kind of surreal when Tom Brady retired.

It shouldn't have been shocking that a 44-year-old who had accomplished more than anyone else in the history of the sport decided to call it a career as he quite literally had nothing left to prove, but it was stunning all the same.

I suppose we all took it for granted that he'd, I don't know, just keep playing. That's what he said he was going to do after all. I believe his quote was — I'm paraphrasing — that he would keep playing until he sucked. And he never sucked.

I loved that he just retired without the farewell tour that's becoming all too common these days across sports. He caught us all off guard and just called it quits. And good for him.

What does this have to do with anything? Well, Brady's retiring just made me think about how for the first time in what feels like a really long time, New England sports fans really don't have a vested interest in this Sunday's Super Bowl. The Patriots didn't make it and neither did Brady's Buccaneers. And it's not like either of the participants is a longtime Patriots nemesis either.

Do you have strong feelings about who wins between the transplanted Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals? I sure don't, though I suppose I'll technically be rooting for the Bengals as it feels like L.A. has just won enough in general.

But who cares? Let's drink some beers and eat some wings and all get heartburn together and not stress about the game itself. We've earned this.

So let's embrace how care-free the Super Bowl can be if you don't really care who wins. Here are three New Hampshire beers to help you do just that.

Team of Rivals Mango New England IPA by Able Ebenezer Brewing Co. (Merri-mack) in collaboration with Backyard Brewery (Manchester)

This beer makes you go "woah." (Or is it "whoa?") [Editor's note: It's "whoa."] It's delightfully fruity but not overpoweringly sweet. When someone says New England-style IPA, to me, this is what the style is all about: hazy, juicy and exploding with flavor.



North Beach Lager by Great Rhythm Brewing Company. Courtesy photo.

IPAs can sort of overpower your tastebuds so I might suggest grabbing this to open your festivities and just enjoying the tropical deliciousness. That said, if you were to enjoy this with some spicy wings, I don't think you'd regret that move.

North Beach Mexican Lager by Great Rhythm Brewing Co. (Portsmouth)

Why am I suggesting a Mexican lager during the most American of sporting events? Well, because your belly is full of IPA and chicken wings and your body is craving something lighter, something easier. This is perfectly light, crisp and yet plenty flavorful. Have this with some chili or maybe a pulled pork sandwich, or honestly, anything.

RVP (Robust Vanilla Porter) by Great North Aleworks (Manchester)

At this point, between the wings, the chili, and the pulled pork sandwiches, and who knows what else — not to mention the beer — you've probably consumed your fair share of calories for the week. It's hard to believe just a few hours ago you were inputting your breakfast calories into your trusty calorie-counting app as if that was a worthwhile endeavor for Super Bowl Sunday. Also, there was probably some kind of dip you ate too much of. But maybe now you need something with just a touch of sweetness, you know, to balance out all the savory stuff. Enter RVP. It has a little sweetness from the vanilla and a little richness from the malt, but it's also surprisingly dry and drinkable. My mom always made whoopie pies for my dad's Super Bowl parties. Have an RVP with a whoopie pie as you close out the fourth quarter of this game you don't really care about.

Jeff Mucciarone is a vice president with Montagne Powers, where he provides communications support to the New Hampshire wine and spirits industry.

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What's in My Fridge

Plush Double IPA by Frost Beer Works (Hinesburg, Vermont) This is a delicious New England-style IPA featuring big notes of citrus, including orange and grapefruit and plenty of pine, too, along with minimal bitterness. This beer doesn't taste like it's 8 percent ABV, but it is, so be careful. Cheers!

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MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

CDs pg30

• We Are The World, *Clay Stones* B-

• Charming Disaster, *Our Lady of Radium* B-

BOOKS pg31

• *This Will Be Funny*

Later 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.

To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to listings@hippopress.com.

FILM pg32

• *Moonfall* C-

We Are The World, *Clay Stones* [2022 Reissue] (Give/Take Records)

Today I learned that Madonna wasn't the only artist Lady Gaga stole song ideas from, and that's about it. An alleged selling point of this "seminal" album from the Los Angeles electro-pop quartet (which, for clarity's sake, had nothing whatsoever to do with the 1985 famine-relief charity single) is that it was Gaga's "favorite album" in 2010, thus its 2022 reissue marks a milestone of something or other. I suppose I'll buy that, given that I just can't call Gaga right now to vet all this rubbish for myself, so I'll

play along. It's mainly a ringtone-centric rehashing of the eclectic cultural appropriation Moby hawked with his 1999 *Play* album; in that vein, the Pitchfork guy basically wrote this off as a ripoff of Knife, which is fine with me, as maybe the Moby reference is a bit dated (you should see my face right now, panicking at the thought of committing such a colossal foul-up). But, yeah, there are unintelligible Baptist preacher-ish chants and creepy voodoo-priestess 'ocal lines going on here, all marinating in thick rhythmic samples, and sure, it all sounds like it could have inspired Gaga circa 2010. It's OK I guess, and if you've read this far you have my sympathies. B- — *Eric W. Saeger*

Charming Disaster, *Our Lady of Radium* (self-released)

Most recent LP from the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based goth-folk duo comprising Ellia Bisker and Jeff Morris. She plays ukulele, he guitar, so like anything else they've done, it's a novelty record intended for convention nerds who covet overdone eye makeup, fishnet stockings and vintage weirdness, and for those things I do thank them. The two are really great at welding their voices into fascinating harmonies in the service of songs dedicated to steam-punk-ish themes, in this case, Marie Curie. They're a mishmash of black-

clad-but-innocent tropes, paying obeisance to the likes of Edward Gorey and Tim Burton, but given that they're from the Boroughs, this ain't no foolin' around. They strum and busk, busk and strum, warbling on about the subject and going into the deeper ends, like a Curie séance they attended. They're nothing like Dresden Dolls, so don't think that; more like an opening act for The Cure at an Addams Family festival. She sounds like Siouxsie Sioux when she wants to, if that helps sell you.

B- — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• O, what artistic marvels shall we experience on Feb. 11, when the usual Friday delivery of new albums drops into our music stores and Pandoras and illegal torrent streams? Uh-oh, gang, looky there, it's Pearl Jam's singer/surfer **Eddie Vedder**, gone solo, with a new album called *Earthling!* LOL, remember when he put out that album *Ukulele Songs* in 2011, and the only problem with it was that it was a bunch of songs literally played on the ukulele? Boy I do, and I remember that all the annoying hipster bands were playing ukulele around that time too, like I couldn't just sit and watch a stupid car commercial without some twirp playing a ukulele in the background. But that's finally over with, so we can cut to now, and this new album, his fourth, which features a single titled "Long Way," I can't wait! But wait, ack, ack, what's *this*, is he trying to be Tom Petty? This sounds like some strummy nonsense song for bored Uber drivers to play on the radio when they're driving grandmothers to casinos. Come on, Eddie Vedder, what happened to those stupid lumberjack shirts and an entire generation getting nothing accomplished other than oh, I dunno, making people afraid of Courtney Love? I mean, what *happened?*

• Ha ha, look, guys, it's super-old Canadian thrash metal weenies **Voivod**, with a new album called *Synchro Anarchy*, that you can buy on Friday when the clock strikes midnight! What's that? No, I know you won't, I'm saying you *could* buy it. If you're in your 40s, maybe you remember when Voivod was an actual force to be reckoned with in the heavy metal scene, because they had good drawings of monsters on their album covers or whatever the attraction was aside from their (really stupid) band logo, I forget. But whatever, outta my way man, I have to go to YouTube and listen to this new song, "Planet Eaters," and give you my expert review! Ha ha, look at this video, there's like an evil Pikachu ball and some other poorly drawn monster-whatever things in a swirling hypnotic mush, and they're trying to sound like Primus. Hm, now it's trying to be like Guns N' Roses, and it's boring, let's bag this and just continue.

• Oh, here we go. In its continuing, moronically conceived mission to confuse its readers as much as it can, Pitchfork Media described "Cisgender," the new single from **Shamir**, as "Prince masquerading as Camille," failing to remember that most people who have actual busy lives were never aware that the very existence of Prince's (unreleased, mind you!) *Camille* album is nothing more than a weird little footnote to His Purplepleness's career. It annoys me that I had to look that up; the writer could have simply spent a handful of words to explain to their bewildered readers that the Camille concept was to present Prince as a female version of himself, but whatever, I suppose the comparison is more or less apt, given that Shamir's voice is, as you probably know unless you're older, very feminine. His new album, *Heterosexuality*, is on the way and will feature the aforementioned tune, a bizarre noise ballad reminiscent of M83 trying to be epic a la "Skin of the Night"; it's cool, more or less.

• To close out the week, let's look at indie-folk band **Big Thief**'s new one, *Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You* before I fall asleep from all this nonsense. Hm, they wear farmer overalls; I knew someone was still buying those things. The single "Time Escaping" has some weird organic-sounding percussion driving a decent hayloft-pop idea, this is OK I suppose.

— *Eric W. Saeger*

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***This Will Be Funny Later*, by Jenny Pentland** (Harper, 341 pages)

You may not have heard of Jenny Pentland, but you've probably heard of her mother, an actress and comedian by the name of Roseanne Barr. Barr was the star of the eponymous sitcom that aired on ABC for nine years in the '80s and '90s, and I have to confess before we start that I'm not sure I ever watched an episode in its entirety.

As such, I'm not much impressed by the fact that Pentland and her siblings — indeed, her entire family — were the models for the messy TV family known to Americans as the Conners. (In addition to Barr, the show made John Goodman, her TV husband, a household name.)

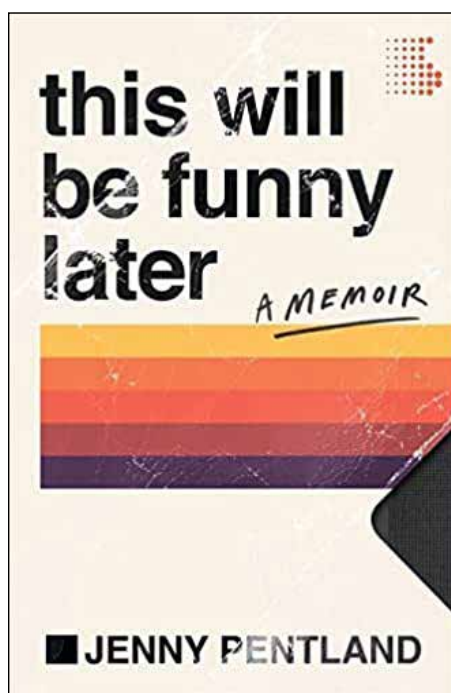
Truth be told, I'm not much impressed by anything that comes out of Hollywood lately.

That said, Pentland has emerged from relative obscurity to write a surprisingly interesting book that doesn't demand binge-watching *Roseanne* as a prerequisite.

It is intelligent and scathing, indicting and forgiving, bitter and loving, a large dose of acid with just the right amount of sweet. Pentland's childhood was, in effect, kind of horrible by all objective standards, meaning the standards of Child Protective Services — and that was before her mom became famous. "Aside from being half-naked and feral, we were also being raised part atheist, part Jewish and part Wiccan, with a touch of paganism and voodoo thrown in." For years, the family struggled, graduating from trailers to an apartment to a 500-square-foot bungalow. "We may have been climbing the ladder, but we were still on the lower rungs," she writes. "We could afford name-brand foods now, but we couldn't afford to spill them. We still had to make our frivolous purchases, like toys, from other people's lawns."

Her dad was a trash collector before he became a mail sorter; her mother struggled to assimilate her creative ambitions with the day-to-day drudgery of having three young children in diapers. Meanwhile, Pentland herself showed signs of a comedic streak even as a child: Her growing collection of dolls, some scavenged by her father from other people's trash, always had something wrong with them, so she took to diagnosing them with various illnesses — polio, sickle cell anemia, debilitating autoimmune diseases. She even made crutches out of pencils for one of the dolls. Yes, a social worker seeing this would have intervened, but in retrospect, since Pentland turned out OK, it's wicked good black humor.

Humor got scarcer in adolescence. After her mother discovered her talent at making people laugh at open-mic nights, she began spending less time tending to her children and more time tending her career, and Pentland's weight started to become an issue;



like mother, like daughter. (She says her mother once lost a lot of weight with a diet that allowed her one doughnut and one ice cream cone a day, and nothing else.) Barr would be traveling and come home to find out that everyone had gained five pounds from eating fast food. Then they'd all go on a fad diet. Visits to her grandparents' "house/feedlot" didn't help. No surprise, Pentland developed an eating disorder that found her at times eating spoonfuls of granulated sugar or plain pats of butter. At one point, to try to keep their children from eating, the parents literally put a padlock on the refrigerator.

Meanwhile, the relationship between Barr and Pentland's father was catastrophically unraveling, even as Barr's star was ascending. When they finally got divorced, he lost not only his kids, but his job writing for the TV show. Pentland and her siblings had to deal with all the ordinary fallout from a family disintegrating, while also dealing with reporters and photographers stalking the family. Then Barr got involved with Tom Arnold, a man 10 years younger than she was, and their lives got even messier.

Through her teen years, Pentland was shuttled from weight-loss camps to wilderness survival programs, some of which have now been described as child abuse. At the start of one, participants were given a can of peaches each, but no way to open them. (The staff just watched as the teens tried to smash them.) In the next phase, they were given nothing to eat but raisins, peanuts, raw cornmeal and beans to eat. She writes of being covered with blisters and mosquito bites, and having to spend a night in the woods by herself. She was 15. Later, when she was done with all that, there were the classes at the Scientology Center.

It is much like driving past a car wreck, only in this book we are invited to look at

the horror. What is most amazing about this story is that somehow, inexplicably, it seems to end well. Despite a train-wreck of a childhood and adolescence, Pentland turned out amazingly well. She is now the mother of five (none of whom have polio) and she lives a seemingly idyllic life on a farm in Hawaii. Moreover, her relationship with her mother is confoundingly good. She recently told *People* magazine,

"We communicate at all costs. Even if it's uncomfortable, annoying or the timing is bad, that's the priority."

It is unclear how such a good relationship could have emerged out of what came before, and I still have zero desire to watch *Roseanne*, but *This Will Be Funny Later* succeeds as a thoughtful and provocative memoir, even its title isn't always true. **A** — Jennifer Graham

BOOK NOTES

In February, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of strangling the infernal groundhog.

Winter will be with us for a few more weeks, although there are those who say it won't be with us in a few more centuries. Porter Fox, for example, asks us to consider *The Last Winter* (Little Brown & Co., 320 pages), his examination of "the scientists, adventurers, journeymen and mavericks trying to save the world" from climate change.

A former fellow at MacDowell, the artists' colony in Peterborough, Fox grew up on the coast of Maine and has previously written about skiing and the future of snow, so he's not new to the topic. Depending on how cold you are right now, this might be a dystopian book, or one of hope.

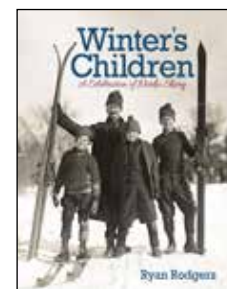
Continuing the theme, poetry fans will want to check out *Winter Recipes from the Collective* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 64 pages) from Louise Glück, an underachiever who has won both a Nobel Prize for literature and a National Book Award and has also been the U.S. poet laureate.

If you prefer short stories, there's Lily King's *Five Tuesdays in Winter* (Grove Press, 240 pages), of which Ann Patchett said, "It filled up every chamber of my heart."

Skiers will like *Winter's Children, A Celebration of Nordic Skiing* (University of Minnesota Press, 448 pages), by Ryan Rodgers, even though it's mostly about skiing in the Midwest.

And worth dipping back to the past is *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival* (Ecco, 368 pages), which was published in 2003 but is an evergreen discourse on how animals survive through New England winters. It's by biologist Bernd Heinrich, a professor emeritus at the University of Vermont.

— 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 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. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., Peterborough. Visit 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.
- **BECKY SAKELLERIOU AND HENRY WALTERS** Becky Sakelleriou presents *The Possibility of Red*. Henry Wal-

ters 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.

Poetry

- **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 or call 224-0562.
- **DOWN CELLAR POETRY SALON** Poetry event series presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. Monthly. First Sunday. Visit poetrysocietynh.wordpress.com.

Book Clubs

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

- **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** Online, via Zoom. Monthly. First Monday, 5:30 p.m. Bookstore based in Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com/gibsons-book-club-2020-2021 or call 224-0562.

- **TO SHARE BREWING CO.** 720 Union St., Manchester. Monthly. Second Thursday, 6 p.m. RSVP required. Visit tosharebrewing.com or call 836-6947.

- **GOFFSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY** 2 High St., Goffstown. Monthly. Third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call 497-2102, email elizabethw@goffstownlibrary.com or visit goffstownlibrary.com

- **BELKNAP MILL** Online. Monthly. Last Wednesday, 6 p.m. Based in Laconia. Email bookclub@belknapmill.org.

- **NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY** Online. Monthly. Second Friday, 3 p.m. Call 589-4611, email information@nashualibrary.org or visit nashualibrary.org.

Moonfall (PG-13)

The moon is suddenly headed toward collision or something with Earth in *Moonfall*, a movie that is both even dumber than that sounds and yet somehow not nearly as dumb as it needs to be.

Lean in to your dumbness, you dumb dumb movie — was my feeling throughout.

Astronaut Brian Harper (Patrick Wilson) is kicked out of NASA after an incident in space results in the death of one of his crew members. His public downfall also leads to his getting divorced, being estranged from his kid, going broke and even cutting contact with his former close coworker Jocinda Fowl (Halle Berry), who was on the doomed mission but was knocked unconscious and can't back up his story that the incident was caused not by human error but by a Space Thing.

What kind of Space Thing, you ask? Well, the thing that causes the destruction to Brian's mission looks like a floaty cloud made of pencil lead bits and ball bearings. He last sees it in the vicinity of the moon and then — then nothing. He's drummed out of NASA and labeled a nutcase and nobody ever mentions the Thing again for like a decade until the events of this movie start with NASA scientists figuring out that the moon's orbit has changed. Jocinda is now number two at NASA and wants the team to figure out what's up with the moon and why it seems to be suddenly getting closer to Earth, which will eventually cause chunks of the moon to ram into Earth. Also she'd like everybody to keep quiet about it for a bit.

What she doesn't know is that at the same time, amateur astronomer/professional pastrami sandwich maker KC Houseman (John Bradley), long the holder of some really wild theories about the moon, has also figured out that it has changed its orbit and is heading toward Earth. He tweets it out and suddenly the world is in chaos at our impending destruction while NASA and the military work on compet-



Moonfall

ing ideas for preventing the disaster.

Naturally, KC, Brian and Jocinda eventually come together to tackle the moon crisis. All three have family situations that lead to harrowing near-misses in “meanwhile” scenes — or at least they would if we ever really got to know anybody's kids and moms or if any of them behaved in recognizably human ways, which they don't.

I have so many questions about the making of this movie. I want to know the total backstory, soup to nuttiness — starting with how did Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson and John Bradley end up in this movie together? My theory: somebody challenged Roland Emmerich (this movie's director and co-writer) to make a movie starring whoever happened to be the guests on, say, Jimmy Fallon one night. Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson and guy from *Game of Thrones* feels like a solid late night show lineup; please don't ever tell me if I'm wrong about this because I like this theory and anything else would just make me feel sad for these actors.

You know that expression “building the plane while we're flying it”? This movie feels

like it was thought up as it went along with holes for dialogue and plot to be filled in later — but “later” never came. Like, Emmerich was standing over one of his co-writers saying “come on, just print out the script for this scene” and the writer was saying, “But it's not finished. The dialogue doesn't sound like normal human speech and we don't really understand what motivates anybody's characters or what their relationships to each other are” and Emmerich says “So what? We'll just make the moon bigger and say some nonsense about gravity, no one will notice” and that's how every scene came to be. (Though I could also see some kind of Mad Libs situation being at play.)

I won't spoil the exact nature of the moon as presented here, mostly because it's stupid, but I will say that it wasn't what I was sort of rooting for, which was giant space egg holding some kind of about-to-hatch space lizard. Or chicken, space chicken would also be fun. It is much more muddled than that, with some interesting ideas but nothing ever well-developed enough to be even as “just go with it” fun

as, like, *The Day After Tomorrow* and its whole ice age thing or *2012* and its worldwide flood. Again, you suspect the writers were writing page three while they were printing page two and the cast was shooting page one — with no chance to go back and fill in details or message story points to flow more smoothly.

And yet, none of this would have necessarily mattered if the movie had really leaned into how dumb it is and let the characters be as ridiculous as the situation. Remember the various people who died in ridiculous ways in *Independence Day*? Or Woody Harrelson as the wild-eyed volcano guy in *2012*? This movie needs some of that energy. Of the core group, only Bradley really seems to understand the exact speed to be at. Berry (who was great in *John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum* and knows how to be awesome in nonsense) and Wilson feel as though they're in different movies — different from the movie they're in and possibly different from each other. Everybody in this movie needs to be thinking “what would *Geostorm*-era Gerard Butler do” and then do that, but bigger and louder.

I fully expected and wanted *Moonfall* to be really dumb. I'm completely uninterested in gritty, realistic apocalypse movies right now. I want space chickens to hatch from the moon or whatever and I want the saving of all of humanity to come down to three randos in some patched together old space shuttle. So crank the volume on that silliness all the way up, movie. At the current muted and muddled level, *Moonfall* is just the kind of dumb you wonder why you even bothered to watch, not the kind of dumb you want to watch again and again. C-

Rated PG-13 for violence, disaster, strong language and some drug use, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Roland Emmerich with a screenplay by Roland Emmerich, Harald Kloser and Spencer Cohen, Moonfall is two hours and 10 minutes long and distributed by Lionsgate in theaters. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

Flee (PG-13)

This animated documentary (nominated in for Oscars in the animated feature, documentary and international film categories) tells the tale of Amin Nawabi — not, according to a story in *Variety*, the man's real name, even though I believe it is the real “Amin's” voice that we hear in the movie and he has a co-writing credit along with the director, Jonas Poher Rasmussen (whose voice is also featured). Amin is the identity created to protect the man who is now happily married — to Kaspar, who I think we also hear (I'm not sure if that's his real name, though I suspect it is his real voice) — and living in Denmark. Amin was born in Afghanistan



Flee

in the 1980s and the story of how he and his family tried (occasionally failing) to escape the country when the Soviet occupation ended and the civil war began is the story Amin is telling Jonas, a little at a time, with increasing veracity the more Amin comes to trust Jonas.

Rendered mostly in a spare but beautiful color sketch-style of animation, Amin's story follows his family as they

flee — first to Russia and then attempting to go further west, perhaps to Sweden, where his adult oldest brother already lives. Along the way, the family's legal situation grows ever more precarious — they only ever have tourist visas in Russia — and the weight of hiding and being at the mercy of unscrupulous traffickers and even more unscrupulous Russian police drags at all of the family members, particularly Amin's close-in-age older brother Saif.

As Amin ages, he is also coming to a better understanding of himself and his sexuality. His struggles with his fears about how his family might receive this information and struggles with the balance between living the life that might do his family the most good (one largely dedicated to work) and one that makes him feel safe and happy.

Similar to *Persepolis*, the animation

allows you to experience Amin's story as though you are inside his mind, with images that focus on the emotions of a moment — fear, sorrow, loneliness, excitement. It's an engrossing way to absorb this story, while occasional archival newsclips help to ground it in a past that feels particularly relevant to this moment in world history. **A Available for rent or purchase.**

Ice Age: The Adventures of Buck Wild (PG)

Simon Pegg, Justina Machado.

In the grand tradition of TV series adaptations of movies starring none of the original characters and direct-to-video sequels featuring sound-alike (maybe) voices, *Ice Age*, the previously five-movie animated franchise, gets a sixth movie sidequel thing that is direct to streaming.

Gone are your Ray Romano and Queen Latifah and parade of big name vocal tal-

POP CULTURE FILMS

ent (except for Pegg, who voices Buck, the crazy weasel, as he apparently did in previous movies, so Wikipedia explains, which I consulted because this *Ice Age* saga is basically an *All My Children*-like web of characters, relationships and story points). Instead, Manny (voice of Sean Kenin) the mammoth, Sid (voice of Jake Green) the sloth and Diego (voice of Skyler Stone) the saber-tooth tiger are voiced by people doing a facsimile of Romano, John Leguizamo and Denis Leary, respectively. Latifah's Ellie (now voiced by Dominique Jennings), a female mammoth who showed up in the second movie and is now Manny's wife, and her adopted possum brothers Eddie (Aaron Harris) and Crash (Vincent Tong) are also voiced by new actors. And several characters — Sid's grandma voiced by Wanda Sykes, Manny and Ellie's daughter Peaches, and a Jennifer Lopez-voiced love interest for Diego — have been lopped off entirely. Which, whatever; in my review of the last movie "way too many characters" was one of my criticisms.

The main characters are sort of shunted to the side here, with the story focusing on Eddie and Crash, who are chafing under the constant sisterly bossing by Ellie and want to strike out on their own.

They end up wandering back to the Lost World, the dinosaur-filled valley beneath the Earth's surface where the characters spent some time in a previous movie, and meet up once again with Buck Wild (Pegg), the off-kilter one-eyed adventurer who enforces a "land for all animals" peace. The boys decide to hang with Buck and help him on his current adventure: stopping a big-brained dino named Orson (voice of Utkarsh Ambudkar) from upsetting the dino-mammal coexistence in the Lost World.

I don't fault this movie for not getting back its big money players or for moving the action — set in some vague part of the franchise timeline — to some side characters. I do fault it for not being weird enough about the whole thing. Let Buck, who has a pumpkin he calls his daughter, be weirder; let Crash and Eddie be zanier. At its best, *Ice Age* was never great, but it had some nice Looney Tunes elements in Scrat, the saber-tooth squirrel always thisclose to getting his acorn, and in the dopey wise-guy nature of Sid. Here, everything feels muffled, like the volume has been turned down on all the wacky and goofy — even Buck feels flatter. This movie, which doesn't even hit the 90-minute mark and is clearly being delivered as



Ice Age: The Adventures of Buck Wild

Disney+ filler, doesn't need a super strong emotional arc but it does need to be constantly appealing to its young audience. It didn't feel like it consistently had that big energy. One of my younger elementary schoolers proclaimed it "boring" by about 10 minutes in, though later he did decide it was "kinda cool."

Similar to what I said in my recent review of the fourth *Hotel Transylvania* installment, I think this movie's principal selling point is that it is available in your home right now for no extra cost. This movie is probably even more younger-kid-audience-friendly than that one as it has fewer adult-type problems. It is, for a day when your kids just need new content and you just need them to settle down for a bit, fine but doesn't offer anything more. *C Available on Disney+.*

OSCAR MOVIE SEASON!

Welcome to the new class of Oscar nominees! The nominations for the 94th annual Academy Awards were announced on Feb. 8 and this year there are 10 contenders for best picture (the Oscar winners will be announced on March 27). If you're still looking to catch up on the films of 2021, the list of nominees is an excellent place to start. Here are the best picture nominees and where to find them:

- **Belfast** (PG-13) Kenneth Branagh wrote and directed this semi-autobiographical tale of a boyhood amid the unrest of Northern Ireland in the 1960s. It is available for rent at home and it is still in theaters,

including Red River Theatres in Concord, where it returns starting Friday, Feb. 11.

- **CODA** (PG-13) This excellent story about a teen who discovers her singing talent and her changing relationship with her parents might be my favorite of this group. It is available on Apple TV+.

- **Don't Look Up** (R) Adam McKay directed and wrote the screenplay for this satire, which you can find on Netflix, that stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence.

- **Drive My Car** (NR) This Japanese film also nabbed a Best International Film nomination as well as nominations in other categories and is the one movie of this group I haven't seen yet. It is currently in theaters in the Boston area.

- **Dune** (PG-13) Not surprisingly, this beautiful-to-look-at adaptation also nabbed several nominations for the look and sound of the film. It is currently available for rent or purchase and will return to HBO Max on March 10.

- **King Richard** (PG-13) Will Smith also got a Best Actor in a Lead Role nod for this movie about Richard Williams, the father of Venus and Serena Williams. The movie is available for purchase.

- **Licorice Pizza** (R) For me, the San Fernando Valley of the 1970s was this real star of this Paul Thomas Anderson story about a precocious 15-year-old and the twentysomething girl he falls for. The movie is currently in theaters.

- **Nightmare Alley** (R) This movie from director Guillermo del Toro was another one that wowed me more for its aesthetics. It is currently playing in theaters in the Boston area and available via HBO Max.

- **The Power of the Dog** (R) This Jane Campion-directed movie nabbed a slew of nominations, including nods in three acting categories and for Campion in the director category (making her the only woman nominated in that category this year). Find it on Netflix.

- **West Side Story** (PG-13) Steven Spielberg's very good adaptation of the musical got Ariana DeBose a much deserved nomination in the Best Actress in a Supporting Role category for Anita, among its many nominations. It is currently in theaters.



Film

Venues

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

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
436-2400, themusicHall.org

Red River Theatres

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

Shows

- **Licorice Pizza** (R, 2021) at Red River on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 3:45 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 13, at 1, 4 & 7 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 17, at 4 & 7 p.m.

- **Parallel Mothers** (R, 2021) at Red River Thursday, Feb. 10, at 4:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 11, through Sun., Feb. 13, and Thursday, Feb. 17, at 4:30 p.m.

- **In the Heat of the Night** (1967) at Red River Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

- **Belfast** (PG-13) at Red River Friday, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 13, at 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

- **Bridesmaids** (R, 2011) a vax & snax screening on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m.

- **Magic Mike** (2010) on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at Chunky's Manchester

- **Crazy Stupid Love** (2011) on Monday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall

- **Sleepless in Seattle** (PG, 1993) Monday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at Red River

- **Drive My Car** (2021) on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall

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Movie Line: 224-4600

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Big stage:** One of last year's highlights was *Phosphorescent Snack*, the debut LP from **Andrew North & The Rangers**, an eclectic mix of jazz rock fusion and disciplined jam band sound, the latter exemplified by the Phish-adjacent "Aditi." The group is a fixture on the local club scene, lately hosting the midweek open mic at Concord's Area 23, but listening room evenings like this one upcoming are a special treat. Thursday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 day of show at ccanh.com.

• **Good deed: Homies Helping Homies** benefits a venue employee and her friends recovering from a house fire. A long list of area artists will appear gratis, including DJ Closed Loop and Fermented Beats, hippie/funk bands Nicky O and Danny Berm, rappers Livid and Kinetic, metal acts Domsayer and Infinite Sin, and acoustic sets from Brian Munger and Madison West, and several others. Friday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m., Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester, facebook.com/jewlnh.

• **Double play:** A throwback evening features **Panorama: A Tribute To The Cars** and a set of Black Crowes music from **The Americans**. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018, The Cars were at the forefront of the emerging New Wave in the late '70s; sadly, two of the original members have passed, so a reunion won't happen. Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 p.m., Stumble Inn, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, panorama.rocks.

• **No thanks:** Guests are encouraged to wear all black at the **12th Annual Anti-Valentine's Day Party**, a gathering for those who turn up their noses at the season's Hallmark and Whitman's Sampler displays. Featuring a curated playlist of '80s mope rock like Smiths, New Order, Psychedelic Furs and non-optimistic Cure, it's a celebration of bitterness, an ode to burning greeting cards while deleting the OK Cupid app. Monday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester, facebook.com/theshaskeenpub.

• **Groove thang:** Formed onstage at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, **Dumpstaphunk** is descended from that city's royal bloodlines. Over nearly two decades together, the band has had guest appearances from Carlos Santana, Bob Weir, George Clinton and others. Their latest album is 2021's *Where Do We Go From Here*; its title track marked the 15th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club, 135 Congress St., Portsmouth, tickets \$25 to \$55 at ticketmaster.com.

NITE Dust off the Discman

Latest from Donaher a throwback time capsule

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

There's a clear '90s vibe to Donaher's second long-player. The Manchester quartet signals its intentions with leadoff track "Fixer Upper" — with its angsty lyrics, floor-shaking guitar and a vocal that straddles the line between an angry growl and a heart-wrecked moan, it's something Nirvana might have done had Kurt Cobain walked out of his Seattle garage.

That's no accident.

"Kurt's the reason why I picked up a guitar when I was 15 years old," singer and main songwriter Nick Lavallee said recently. Though adulthood, sobriety and a bit of therapy have mellowed him, "I remind myself that I need to continuously do things that would make my 15-year-old-self smile."

The mood of *Gravity And The Stars Above* veers from their sunny 2017 debut *I Swear My Love Is True*, though it shares its sheen — and then some. There's "Lights Out," a hook-tastic breakup song brimming with pain, and "Sleepless in New England," with a protagonist who needs "to remind [his] lungs to keep on breathing."

The latter track paraphrases a line from the movie *Castaway* — "tomorrow the sun will rise and who knows what the tide could bring?" — that Lavallee feels could reach the shipwrecked or the dumped.

"I think in many ways the character in that Tom Hanks movie was put on that island to almost slow down time... he had to learn how to be grateful for the things he had," he said. "There's some running themes like that on a couple of the songs."

While there is more than a little romantic misery, a few moments of hope peek through.

"Worth The Wait" is a duet with Noelle Leblanc of the Boston band Damone that recalls both Iggy Pop's "Candy" and the Foo Fighters' wall of sound. Lavallee said he was reaching for layers of meaning in songs like Semisonic's "Closing Time" when he wrote it.

"It sounds like a couple singing about each other, but it's about [them] having a baby," he said. "I was like, can I write a song that might be about one thing to me, and mean something totally different to the listener?"

Sweet and wholesome, "Circle Yes Or No" is another highlight, a grade-school romance laid atop a brisk power pop beat. "I basically envisioned, what if The Descendants covered The Lemonheads?" Lavallee said. "They actually backed up Evan Dando on a record once... that's what I was going for."

Another throwback move was how the new record dropped. One week prior to hitting streaming services, it came out as an oh-so-retro compact disc.

"I love vinyl, but we weren't listening to records in the '90s, we were listening to CDs and tapes," Lavallee said. "I wanted the first image of this album to be a shrink-wrapped CD, and those feelings of '90s nostalgia to hit hard."

Donaher — Lavallee, lead guitarist Tristan Omand, bass player Adam Wood and drummer Nick Lee — will celebrate the new disc with three area shows. The first is Feb. 11 at Newmarket's Stone Church, followed a week later at Shaskeen Pub, the band's home court. Opening there is Colleen Green, a singer-songwriter signed to original Nirvana label Subpop's affiliate Hardly Art. The final show happens Feb. 26 at Lowell's Thirsty First Tavern.



Donaher. Courtesy photo.

A self-described "obsessive creative" who's also a lapsed standup comic and creator of the Wicked Joyful line of pop culture action figures, Lavallee said the presence of two other songwriters in the band, Wood and Omand, helped steady him.

"I'm challenged by them. They don't let anything slip by," he said. "I'm doing some stuff that's very different compared to the first record lyrically, and that's definitely Tristan pushing me to not just repeat myself."

As with the first record and last summer's *Angus Soundtrack 2 EP*, a favorite band from the decade still influences him.

"This album sounds like it could have been recorded between the Blue Album and *Pinkerton*," he said, referring to a pair of Weezer CDs. "It's no secret that I'm a big fan of Rivers Cuomo and his songwriting, and people would expect our take on *Pinkerton*, but a little darker, a little louder, little messier... I think some of those elements are definitely there."

Donaher w/ The Graniteers

When: Friday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m.
Where: Stone Church Music Club, 5 Granite St., Newmarket
Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show at stonechurchrocks.com

Also Feb. 18 at 9 p.m. at Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester with Colleen Green & Monica Grasso (\$10 at door)

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

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

Chunky's

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

Hatbox Theatre

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

Headliners Comedy Club

DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester
headlinerscomedyclub.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

Tupelo Music Hall

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

Events

• **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.

• **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.

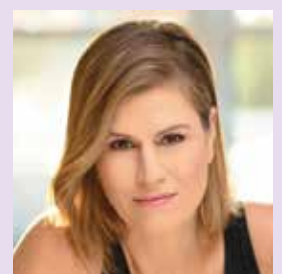
• **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Palace Theatre, Friday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.

• **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.

• **Tim Dillon** Sunday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre



Kerri Louise

• **Queen City Improv** Hatbox Theatre, Thursday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tony V** Rex Theatre, Friday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

• **Jody Sloane** Headliners, Saturday, March 5, 8:30 p.m.

• **Mike Donovan** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, March 10, 8:30 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive 855-2222	Concord Area 23 State Street 881-9060	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614	Gifford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	Logan's Run 816 Lafayette Road 926-4343	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898	Cheers 17 Depot St. 228-0180	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Shane's BBQ 61 High St. 601-7091	Laconia Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Derry Amphora 55 Crystal Ave., 537-0111	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	Firefly 21 Concord St. 935-9740	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Courtyard by Marriott Concord 70 Constitution Ave.	Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Community Oven 845 Lafayette Road 601-6311	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	Hermanos Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111 672-9898	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Henniker Colby Hill Inn 33 The Oaks 428-3281	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Penuche's Ale House 16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833	Epping Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	The Galley Hatch (Tino's Kitchen is upstairs) 325 Lafayette Road 926-6152	Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road 888-728-7732	Manchester Angel City Music Hall 179 Elm St. 931-3654	Getaway Lounge 157 Franklin St., 627-0661	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313
Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road 406-1196	Shara Vineyards 82 Currier Road	Exeter Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080	The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Hudson Backstreet Bar and Grill 76 Derry Road 578-1811	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876
	T-Bones 404 S. Main St. 715-1999	Sea Dog Brewery 9 Water St.	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777	The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Bonfire 950 Elm St. 663-7678	Henry J. Sweeney Post 251 Maple St. 623-9145	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022
				Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road 889-9900	CJ's 782 S. Willow St. 627-8600	Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St. 819-9336	Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960
				Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832		KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS	

Thursday, Feb. 10

Bedford Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Wally's: Chris Toler, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.	Milford Stonecutters Pub: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.	Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Ryan Williams, 6 p.m. Bonfire: live music, 9 p.m. Derryfield: Sunday Ave, 9 p.m. Foundry: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m. Murphy's: Bob Pratte Duo South Side Tavern: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Off the Map, 9 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic, 4:30 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: George Bisson karaoke, 8 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Fratello's: Pete Peterson, 5:30 p.m. Stone Social: Stephen Decuire, 7 p.m.	Epping Telly's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Old Tom & The Lookouts, 5 p.m.	Portsmouth Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Ben Lyons, 9 p.m.
Concord Area 23: DJ Dicey karaoke, 8 p.m. Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m. Penuche's: Osi and The Jupiter, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: DJ Jason karaoke, 7 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Titans, 7 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: David Corson, 5 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.	Seabrook Red's: live music, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m. LaBelle Winery: Bennie & The Jets (Elton John tribute), 6:30 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m. Press Room: Chameleon Rift w/ Johnny Trama, 8 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Due South Duo, 6 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Mica's Groove Train, 9 p.m. Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.	Auburn Auburn Pitts: Tfab, 7 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: D-Comp, 7 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Rico Barr Duo, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Shane's Texas Pit: Brian Walker, 7 p.m. Wally's: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m. Whym: Pete Peterson, 6:30 p.m.	Nashua Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 6 p.m. Peddler's Daughter: Down A 5th, 9:30 p.m.	Bow Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.
Exeter Sawbelly: Brethren Duo, 5 p.m. Sea Dog: Todd Hearson, 5 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Ramez Matas, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m. KC's: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m. Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.	Seabrook Red's: live music, 7 p.m.	Henniker Pats Peak: Marc Wydom, 6 p.m.	Windham Common Man: Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Matt Borrello, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11

Brookline Alamo: Austin McCarthy, 4:30 p.m.	Concord Area 23: swappin' sets with Claire Bridgewater and Mike Peterson, 7 p.m. Penuche's: Masceo Williams, 7 p.m.	Friday, Feb. 11	Laconia Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m. Tower Hill Tavern: DJ Kadence karaoke, 8 p.m.	Hampton Lynn's 102: George Bisson karaoke, 8 p.m.	Manchester New Boston Molly's: Joe Birch, 7 p.m.	Concord Area 23: open mic with Crazy Steve and Friends, 1 p.m.; Brian Munger, 6 p.m.; BeefStu, 8 p.m.; Duo Del Inferno, 10 p.m. Concord Craft Brewing: Justin Cohn, 3 p.m. Hermanos: Tim Hazelton, 6:30 p.m. Penuche's: Trade, 7 p.m.	Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.
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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.

FENTANYL WARNING



- 1 Pill Will Kill -

- **On average 275 people die each day and over 100,000 in the last year.**
- **Fentanyl has been found in pill form to copy known prescription pills.**
- **Made in China- Imported by Mexican Drug Cartels at the Open Southern Border.**

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Milford Fuel 167 Union Sq. 554-0646	Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535	Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club 135 Congress St. 603-5299	Jocelyn's Lounge 355 South Broadway 870-0045
The Hills 50 Emerson Road 673-7123	Stone's Social 449 Amherst St. 943-77445	Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	Seabrook Castaways 209 Ocean Blvd. 760-7500
The Pasta Loft 241 Union Sq. 672-2270	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	The Stately Bar & Grill 238 Deer St. 431-4357	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Sq. 213-5979	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Nashua Boston Billiards 55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	Rochester Governor's Inn 78 Wakefield St. 332-0107	Somersworth The SpeakEasy Bar 2 Main St.
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Portsmouth Clipper Tavern 75 Pleasant St. 501-0109	Mitchell Hill Grill & Brew 50 N. Main St. 332-2537	Stratham Tailgate Tavern 28 Portsmouth Ave. 580-2294
Fratello's Italian Grille 194 Main St. 889-2022	The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Warner Cafe One East 1 E. Main St.
Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391	Gibb's Garage Bar 3612 Lafayette Road	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033	Reed's North 2 E. Main St. 456-2143
Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628		Windham Common Man 88 Range Road 898-0088

Epping Telly's: Zac New Bound Duo, 8 p.m.	Fratello's: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light: live music, 9:30 p.m.
Exeter Sawbelly: Andrew Edmondson, 1 p.m.; Artyy Francouer, 5 p.m.	The Foundry: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.	The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.	Great North Aleworks: Bird Friend, 3 p.m.	Thirsty Moose: Bryan Frates, 9 p.m.; Closing Time, 9 p.m.
Hampton The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 9 p.m.	McIntyre Ski: Lewis Goodwin, 5 p.m.	Seabrook Chop Shop: AD/HD, 9 p.m.
L Street: live music, 6:30 p.m.; karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.	Murphy's: My Other Side, 9:30 p.m.	Red's: live music, 7 p.m.
Wally's: Alex Anthony, 7 p.m.	Strange Brew: Lisa Marie, 9 p.m.	
Whym: Sean Coleman, 6:30 p.m.		
Hudson Lynn's 102 Tavern: BNW, 8 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Karen Grenier, 5 p.m.	Sunday, Feb. 13
Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Casual Gravity, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.	Alton Bay Dockside: Matt Langley, 4 p.m.
Laconia Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Bone Shakerz, 9 p.m.	Bedford Copper Door: Marc Apostolides, 11 a.m.
Londonderry Coach Shop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: Sipping Whiskey, 10 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Daniel Gay, 4:30 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Americans, 8 p.m.	Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.	Exeter Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.
Manchester Backyard Brewery: Hank Osborne, 6 p.m.	Liquid Therapy: Quincy Lord, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Bob Prette, 3:30 p.m.
Bonfire: live music, 9 p.m.	Peddler's Daughter: Fiesta Melon, 9:30 p.m.	Hampton L Street: live music, 6:30 p.m.; DJ Jeff karaoke, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Almost Famous, 8 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Jeff Mrozek, 7 p.m.	Whym: Lewis Goodwin, 1 p.m.
	Newmarket Stone Church: Hambone with special guest Frenzie, 8 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102 Tavern: Better Left Acoustic, 5 p.m.
	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: live music, 7 p.m.	Laconia Belknap Mill: open mic, 2 p.m.
		Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: 603's, 3 p.m.

Manchester
Strange Brew: jam, 7 p.m.

New Market
Stone Church: Green Heron, 4 p.m.

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

Salem
Copper Door: Yvonne Aubert, 11 a.m.

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

Monday, Feb. 14

Hudson
The Bar: karaoke with Phil

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

Hampton
CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m.
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: Jessica Olson, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 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. 15

Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 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: Jessica Olson, 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: Liz Ridgely, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: musical bingo, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Gardner, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Concord
Area 23: open mic, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Derry
Amphora: Tequila Jim, 6 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.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Papa Deux, 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: Austin McCarthy, 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: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

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

Nashua
Fratello's: Joanie Cicutelli, 5:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Andrew North w/ Hey Dana, 7 p.m.

Rochester
Porter's: karaoke night, 6:30 p.m.

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

Somerset
Speakeasy: open mic night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Amherst
LaBelle Winery: Cold Spring Harbor (Billy Joel Tribute), 6:30 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

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

Concord
Area 23: New Hampshire Music Collective Artist Showcase, 7 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.
LaBelle Winery: Good Acoustics (tribute to James Taylor and Simon & Garfunkel), 6:30 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Clint Lapointe, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.
Sea Dog: live music, 5 p.m.

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



	LABELLE DERRY	LABELLE AMHERST
FEB 3	Comedian Jimmy Dunn	Ca\$h Only: Jammin' on Johnny Cash
FEB 10	Bennie & The Jets: Elton John Tribute	
FEB 17	Good Acoustics: James Taylor and Simon & Garfunkel	Cold Spring Harbor: Billy Joel Tribute
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	
MAR 17	Takin' It to the Streets: Doobie Brothers Tribute	Comedian Christine Hurley
MAR 24	Studio Two: The Beatles Tribute	The Eagles Experience
MAR 31	Panorama: The Music of the Cars	
APR 7	Announcing Feb. 13!	No Shoes Nation Band

ROOMFUL OF BLUES

Heat up your Saturday night with the Big Blues Winter Warmer at the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth; 536-2551; flyingmonkeynh.com). New England legends Roomful of Blues and powerhouse blues guitarist Joe Louis Walker light up the stage on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$34 to \$44.



Get tickets at labellewinery.com or scan the code

603.672.9898 | Amherst Derry Portsmouth

Trivia

Events

• **Wild Nights Trivia** set to music at Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant (78 Wakefield St. in Rochester) on Thursday, Feb. 3, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

• **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).

• **Wild Nights Trivia** set to music at Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant (78 Wakefield St. in Rochester) on Thursday, Feb. 17, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

• **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).

• **Wild Nights Trivia** set to music at Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant (78 Wakefield St. in Rochester) on Thursday, March 3, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

• **Wild Nights Trivia** set to music at Governors Inn Hotel &

Restaurant (78 Wakefield St. in Rochester) on Thursday, March 17, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

• **Wild Nights Trivia** set to music at Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant (78 Wakefield St. in Rochester) on Thursday, March 31, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7 p.m.

Weekly

• **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St. in Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 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.

• **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.

Concerts

Venues

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

Dana Center

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

The Flying Monkey

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

Jewel Music Venue

61 Canal St., Manchester
819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com

Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

135 Congress St., Portsmouth
888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com

LaBelle Winery Derry

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

The Music Hall

28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
436-2400, themusichall.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

• **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 Concert** Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., The Rex Theatre

• **Croce plays Croce** Thursday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Andrew North and the Rangers** Thursday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **Homies Helping Homies Fun Rager** Friday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m., Jewel Music Venue

• **Kenny Barron Trio** Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues

• **Dueling Pianos Saddle Up** Saloon in Kingston, Friday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m.

• **Taylor O'Donnell** Friday, Feb. 11, 6 and 8 p.m., Music Hall

• **Bruce in the USA** (Bruce Springsteen tribute band) Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center

• **Livingston Taylor** Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Donaher/Pink Blazer & the Graniteers** Friday, Feb. 11, 9 p.m., Stone Church

• **Kat Wright** Saturday, Feb. 12, 6 and 8 p.m., Historic Venue/Music Hall

• **Ali Beaudry's Song Fest** Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre

• **Big Blues Winter Warmer: Roomful of Blues & Joe Louis Walker** Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Emmaline** Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues

• **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Dance New England** Saturday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Hambone/Frenzie** Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 p.m., Stone Church

• **Andrew North/Hey Dana** Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m., Stone Church

• **Dumpstaphunk** Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

• **Iron & Wine** Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **Donny McCaslin Group** Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club



Bruce in the USA. Photo by Darrell Craig Harris.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) is honoring the memory of sitcom star Bob Saget with an evening of **Full House trivia** on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, but teams can register in advance by purchasing a \$5 food voucher.



MUSIC OF THE ALARM

Mike Peters, vocalist of the Welsh rock band **The Alarm**, will present acoustic versions of the band's music on Thursday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusichall.com, 437-5100). The evening will also feature a screening of the movie *50 Days in Lockdown*, a movie about the band making its most recent album, according to the website. Tickets cost \$45.



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IS THIS THE REAL LIFE?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		14	15					16			
17			18					19			
	20					21	22				
23	24		25	26						27	
28			29	30				31			
32			33	34	35		36	37			
		38	39			40					
41	42	43		44			45	46	47	48	
49			50	51		52	53				
54		55			56	57	58				
	59			60	61						
62			63	64					65	66	
67			68				69				
70			71						72		

Across

1. "I love you my baby, yes ___" J Geils (1,2)
4. '14 Yellowcard album 'Lift ___' (1,4)
9. '03 Tiamat album
13. Boy Meets Girl 'Waiting ___ Star To Fall' (3,1)
15. Neko Case 'People Got A ___ Nerve'
16. Stevie Ray Vaughan's unkind 'Mood'
17. Lisa Loeb 'Stay (___)' (1,6,3)
19. U2 "You say you'll give me a highway with no one ___" (2,2)
20. 'Name' ___ Dolls (3,3)
21. Fiddlers may be on them
23. Queen + Paul Rodgers were '___ Burnin' after all these years
25. The Band's debut '___ The Big Pink' (5,4)
28. Oklahoma 'Lips Of An Angel' rockers
30. Tommy, Arthur, or Scratch Perry
31. Pearl Jam "The ___ comes near, I'm here"
32. '93 Melissa Etheridge album '___ Am' (3,1)
33. Peter Bradley Adams song about midwestern state
36. Skid Row cleaned up after 'Makin' ___' (1,4)
38. Rippin' yesteryear jazz singer Anderson
41. Mariah Carey "And then ___ comes along" (1,4)
44. Tex-Mex guy Doug
45. Acting sing/songer Lovato
49. You hate when this gets added onto your ticket after the fees
50. Guitar maker Paul
52. Kinks song about Tarzan, perhaps

54. Barry Manilow "___, Copacabana" (2,3,4)
58. 'Funkytown' ___, Inc.
59. '96 Dave Matthews album
60. Washed up June Tabor album?
62. 'I Got You Babe' Sonny & ___
63. '77 Queen album 'News ___' (2,3,5)
67. Jason Donovan 'Let It ___' (2,2)
68. Diana Ross '___ Alive'
69. 'Italian Leather' ___ Cake

70. Glass part grabbed at celebratory toast
71. What groundbreaking music does to the public
72. Country music legend Acuff

Down

1. Robert Plant '___ Were A Carpenter' (2,1)
2. Champagne brand cracked at signing (abbr)
3. '16 Ace Frehley album '___ Vol. 1'
4. What someone wishes you "break" (1,3)
5. Pet Shop Boys 'The ___ & Gomorrah Show'
6. Joe Jackson 'Mad ___' (2,3)
7. Reba McEntire 'How Was ___ Know' (1,2)
8. 'O Superman' Anderson that was married to Lou Reed
9. Bruce Springsteen gave 'Living' this
10. Bob Dylan 'If Dogs ___' (3,4)
11. Tesla '___ Medicine'
12. Dwight Yoakam 'Ain't That Lonely ___'
14. Arlo Guthrie 'When ___ Makes It Home' (1,7)
18. Like one and only member
22. Watery Bravery song?
23. 'Too ___ To Scream' AFI
24. The White ___ Affair
26. '03 'Someday' band
27. "Tender love, love so tender" Force ___
29. Wood of The Stones that AC/DC's Youngs rocked with
34. "___ shy, that sweet little boy who caught my eye" (3,2)
35. Jason Mraz 'Love ___ Four Letter Word' (2,1)
37. 'Nothing's Gonna Change My

- Love For You' Glenn
39. Leaders might handle different ones
40. Tech N9NE '___ Playa' (2,1)
41. Tracy Chapman "Leaving me ___ loss for words to express my feelings" (2,1)
42. 'Flirtin' With Disaster' Molly ___
43. Vanilla Ice 'To The ___'
46. Blues Traveler told you to 'Support Your Local' one
47. Yeah Yeah Yeahs' van need for next gig?
48. Helpful contacts

51. Foo Fighters '___, Silence, Patience, & Grace'
 53. How to get front row, perhaps
 55. 'Shine On Brightly' Procol ___
 56. New York punker Smith
 57. Cee-Lo sidekick Roth
 61. 'The 12 Days Of Christmas' has 3 French ones
 62. TV network-owned record company
 64. Queen '___ Bottomed Girls'
 65. 'Life Is Good' boy band
 66. Queen 'It's A Beautiful ___'
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KENKEN

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EASY

12X			2÷
2	7+	3+	
2-			1
	2	12X	

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CHALLENGING

1-	4-		3÷		5
	5+		2	10X	3÷
10+		2-			
2÷	10+	10+			3÷
		4-	2÷	4	
5				10+	

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RULES

- 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2 The numbers within the heavily

outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3	3+	2	2÷
3	1	2	4
8X	2-	3	1
4	3	1	2
2	7+	4	3
1	2	4	3

6	3-	5	2	3	5+
6	5	2	3	1	4
1	2	5	6	4	3
5	4	1	2	3	6
4	1	3	5	6	2
3	2-	3	6	4	1
1	2	4	3	1	2
2	2÷	3	6	4	5
2	3	6	4	5	1

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Paul _____ □ □ □ □ □
- Basketball _____ □ □ □ □ □
- Two African countries □ □
- Five-letter punctuation mark □
- Direction of the sunrise □

Last Week's Answers: CHINA INDIA NEPAL LAOS / TWENTY THIRTY FORTY FIFTY / SHRUNKEN GRANULAR / GOPHER GERBIL / HEADS TAILS

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

"Fenders" – failing to see the significance here

Across

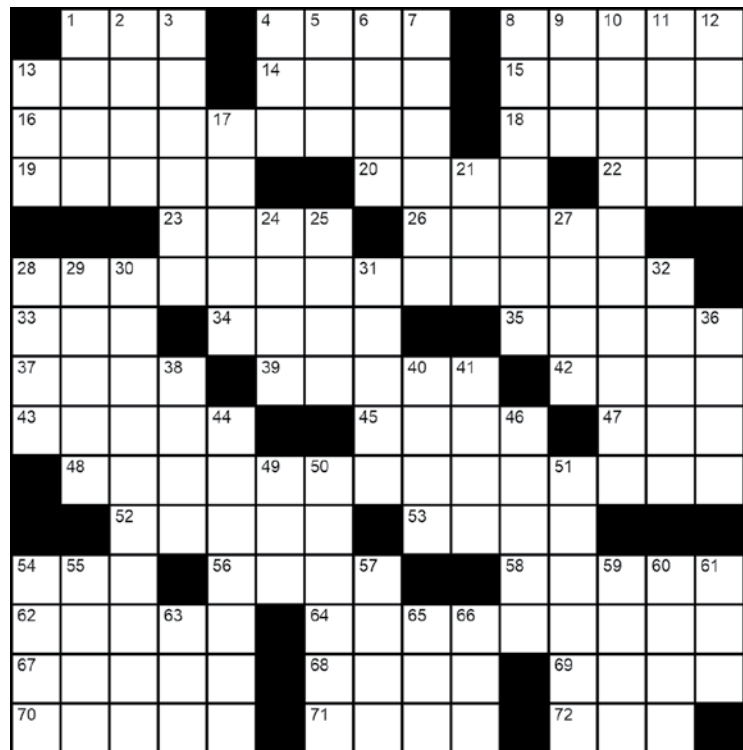
- 1. Air marshal's org.
- 4. Hilarity, on the Interwebs
- 8. West ____ (Long Island locale)
- 13. "Believe" singer
- 14. Opera showstopper
- 15. See 22-Across
- 16. Flag position in remembrance
- 18. Go inside
- 19. Holiday visitor, maybe
- 20. "Along with all the rest" abbr.
- 22. With 15-Across, "A Change Is Gonna Come" singer
- 23. Robbie who was Cousin Oliver on "The Brady Bunch"

- 26. "Famous Potatoes" state
- 28. Meat and mushroom dish originally made with a mustard and sour cream sauce
- 33. Notable time division
- 34. Appear
- 35. Column style simpler than ionic
- 37. Bits of work
- 39. Prepares, as kiwifruit
- 42. Prefix before "plasmosis"
- 43. Ancient artifact
- 45. First-timer, slangily
- 47. Yes, in France
- 48. German-born NBA player who appeared multiple times on "Parks &

- Recreation"
- 52. "You ____ not pass!"
- 53. Gang leader?
- 54. Mo. for most of Sagittarius
- 56. Promotional bit
- 58. Skewered dish
- 62. Knock for ____
- 64. 1986 Fabulous Thunderbirds song (or the album it was on)
- 67. Neutral brownish color
- 68. Singer Fitzgerald
- 69. Low quartet?
- 70. Adjust to fit
- 71. Archetype for one of "The Odd Couple"
- 72. Miss Piggy, for one

- 5. "Kia ____" (Maori greeting)
- 6. Subject of many toasts
- 7. Rubenesque
- 8. Country with fjords
- 9. "Sanford and ____"
- 10. What uncramped areas have
- 11. Furniture store with meatballs
- 12. Salon do
- 13. Sox home, on scoreboards
- 17. Reuben ingredient
- 21. Org. recommending regular checkups
- 24. Instruction part
- 25. Word after family or phone
- 27. Owl sound
- 28. Pub pour
- 29. Miscalculated
- 30. Earner of 21 merit badges
- 31. "Good ____" (Gaiman/Pratchett novel)
- 32. Repair
- 36. Salon do

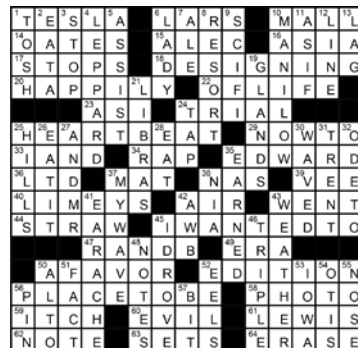
- 38. "Revenge of the ____" ("Star Wars" subtitle)
- 40. Key's partner
- 41. "Last Night in ____" (2021 film)
- 44. Sound-activated infomercial gadget
- 46. Out of money
- 49. Joint with a 90-degree bend
- 50. Grade school orchestra section
- 51. Justice Kagan and forward Delle Donne, for two
- 54. Numbers to be crunched
- 55. Airline with Hebrew letters in the logo
- 57. Beach bird
- 59. Osso ____ (Italian dish)
- 60. Not too many
- 61. Some partners, for short
- 63. Unlock, in poetry
- 65. "Low" rapper ____ Rida
- 66. Beatles adjective



Down

- 1. "Easier said ____ done"
- 2. Put on the marketplace
- 3. Pound sound
- 4. Back muscle, in the gym

R&R answer from pg 39 of 2/3



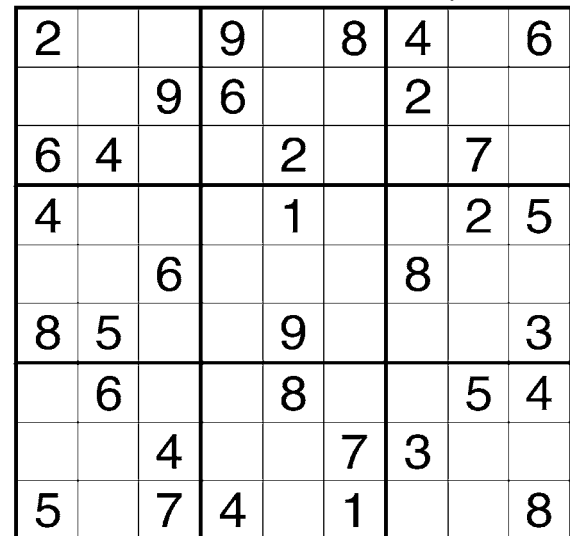
Jonesin' answer from pg 40 of 2/3



NITE SUDOKU

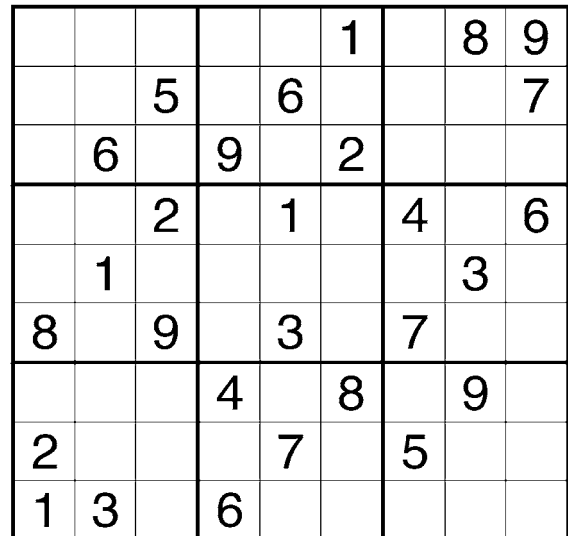
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 42.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



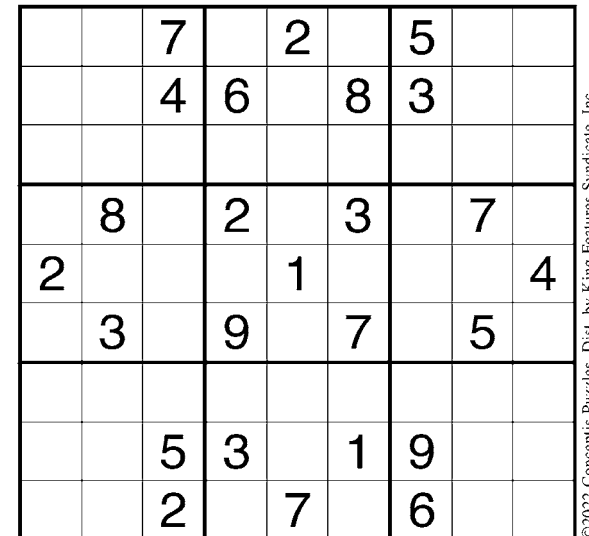
Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

My kingdom for an editor

Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee is celebrated this year, and the souvenir producers are hard at work creating tchotchkes to commemorate it — but apparently not hard enough at work to proofread their copy. People magazine reported that because of a translating error, Karl Baxter, CEO of Wholesale Clearance U.K., is trying to sell more than 10,000 pieces that trumpet the queen's "platinum jubbly" — mugs, tea sets and plates featuring an illustration of Elizabeth and her coat of arms. Baxter hopes to salvage \$44,000 from the lot and says the buyer could make a "potential profit" of \$400,000. The website suggests using the items for a plate-smashing contest or a "dangerous game of Frisbee."

The passing parade

Maybe it was just the prospect of one more day of notoriety followed by 364 of boredom, but for Milltown Mel, it was curtains on Jan. 30, the New York Daily News reported. Mel, no relation to the better-known Punxsutawney Phil, was New Jersey's prognosticator of spring, and his untimely passing just three days before Groundhog Day left the Milltown Wranglers without a replacement for their event, which was strangely scheduled for Feb. 1 rather than Feb. 2. The

Wranglers did not report a cause of death for Mel.

Suspicious

On Jan. 31, a Rhode Island Red hen was found wandering around a security checkpoint at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, the Associated Press reported. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington was summoned, and one of their employees took the bird into custody. Chelsea Jones, a spokesperson for the group, said the hen was "sweet" and "nervous." She has been adopted by a staff person who has a small farm in western Virginia.

Armed and courteous

When a couple returned to their home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Jan. 30 after a few days away, they were shocked to find a messy kitchen and a young man with an assault weapon inside, The Washington Post reported. But even more stunning was the intruder's behavior: He explained that his family in east Texas had been killed and he was on the run from someone. He told the husband that his car had broken down about 100 miles away. "He was extremely embarrassed and apologetic about the situation," the husband told sheriff's officers. As he left, he dropped \$200 on a table to help pay for the window he had broken to get

in. None of the couple's items had been stolen, including jewelry that was left on a counter, but he had cooked some of their food, slept in a bed and bathed in the master bathroom. Investigators figured he owed the couple \$15 for beers and shrimp he consumed.

People with issues

"All I wanted was some steak," one customer was heard to say in a video of a brawl that broke out at a Golden Corral in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 28, CBS Philly reported. Reports were unclear about what started the brawl, but employee Gaven Lauletta gave his account of the incident: "There was a shortage of steak and two parties were involved and one family cut in front of another family, they were taking their time and they ran out of steak and it got into a heated exchange at the tables," he said. Police said more than 40 people may have been involved in the melee, although no serious injuries were reported.

Clowns

When Mark, 38, and his wife left for work one morning in January, their back garden in Belfast, Northern Ireland, looked just like it does any other day. But when the wife returned that afternoon, there was a concrete slab painted

with a creepy clown face propped against the wall, the Belfast Telegraph reported. "Someone would have had to come through our gate and down the steps to place it there — and deliberately place it so it was facing the window so we would see it," Mark said. The clown was holding a lighted candle, and on the reverse, a Bible verse was inscribed: "Let your light shine. Matthew 5:16." Mark contacted friends, neighbors and family members to see if it was a prank, or if others had received a clown, but no one had experienced anything similar. He threw the clown away, but remains creeped out: "It's so unsettling."

Recurring theme

Zane Wedding, 40, of Auckland, New Zealand, went swimming on Jan. 7 and thought he got water in his ear, United Press International reported. He saw a doctor the next day, who suggested he use a hair dryer to evaporate the moisture in his ear. But on Jan. 10, as the sensation persisted, he saw a specialist. "She said, 'I think you have an insect in your ear,'" Wedding said. It took the doctor only five minutes to extract a cockroach, and Wedding felt instant relief: "I felt a pop as soon as the doctor pulled it away." He also noted that a fumigator was scheduled at his home for Jan. 14.

Visit news-of-the-weird.com.

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EAGLEMANIA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18



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STEWART TRIBUTE**
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19



SARA EVANS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20



RICK SPRINGFIELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24



LOTUS LAND
FEBRUARY 25 & 26



STEVEN PAGE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27



TOWER OF POWER
THURSDAY, MARCH 3



DON FELDER
FRIDAY, MARCH 4



Laurie Berkner
SATURDAY, MARCH 5

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