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Brooks Hubbard. Photo by Brett Berwager Photography.

ON THE COVER

30 CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM THE GRANITE STATE They may be based in Nashville or L.A. now, but musicians who got their start in New Hampshire always seem to find their way home.

ALSO ON THE COVER, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival returns with in-theater and virtual screenings, p. 10. Warm up with soup and help end homelessness, p. 19, and savor some beer and pizza, p. 22.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS & NOTES

4 NEWS IN BRIEF

6 Q&A

7 SPORTS

8 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

9 THIS WEEK

THE ARTS

10 NH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 11 ARTS ROUNDUP

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

13 GARDENING GUY

Henry Homeyer offers advice on your outdoors.

14 TREASURE HUNT

There's gold in your attic.

14 KIDDIE POOL

Family fun events this weekend.

15 CAR TALK

Automotive advice.

CAREERS

16 ON THE JOB

What it's like to be a...

18 WOODMAN'S ARTISAN BAKERY SouperFest; In the Kitchen; Weekly Dish; Try This at Home; Beer.

POP CULTURE

26 REVIEWS CDs, books, TV and more. Amy Diaz enjoys Deep Water, Cheaper By the Dozen and Windfall each in its own way and gets excited (eventually) about the Oscars

NITE

30 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE Nite Roundup, concert & comedy listings and more. **35 MUSIC THIS WEEK**

Live music at your favorite bars and restaurants. **39 ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORD**

A puzzle for the music-lover.

ODDS & ENDS

39 KEN KEN, WORD ROUNDUP 40 CROSSWORD, SUDOKU 41 SIGNS OF LIFE, 7 LITTLE WORDS **42 NEWS OF THE WEIRD**





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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

On March 16, the state Department of Health & Human Services announced in a press release that its 11 state-managed Covid-19 vaccination sites will permanently close on March 31. Additionally, four of the seven mobile vaccination teams will demobilize that same day. The announcement comes just one day after health officials permanently closed all of the state-run testing sites. Vaccines are still easily accessible through medical providers, pharmacies, urgent care centers and mobile vaccination clinics, the release said.

State health officials announced 53 new positive Covid test results on March 21. The state averaged 119 new cases per day over the most recent seven-day period, a 4 percent increase compared to the week before. Hospitalizations continue to be low, at just 30 statewide as of March 21 — that's the fewest since Aug. 2 of last year.

Child advocate plan

Last week the state Office of the Child Advocate released its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, a collaboration of members of the community and state leaders, Child Advocate Moira O'Neill said in a press release that forming the plan was an "opportunity to engage with the broader community to co-create a road map for deeper impact and lasting system reform," and input was received from children, parents, foster parents, providers, attorneys, government leaders and the Oversight Commission on Children's Services. According to the release, the plan was developed after looking at the office's progress and talking to the community about its future vision, mission, values, priorities and needed changes. Focus groups and interviews showed that the four-year-old Office of the Child Advocate is "respected, reliable and transparent," the release said, but it is still not well-known throughout the state. Another issue is an unbalance of independent oversight with collaborative relationships; both of those problems could be attributed in part to not having enough staffing, the release said. The Strategic Plan has four goals: continue to be responsive to complaints, incidents and opportunities to improve the state's support and protection of children; expand public knowledge of the office as a resource to understand and advocate for children; invest in building the capacity of the office to support the safety and well-being of children; and strengthen and expand relationships with system partners based in trust, collaboration and impact. According to the release, O'Neill has completed her four-year term of service and is waiting for the governor to appoint a replacement.

SleepOut

On Friday, March 25, hundreds of people in the Granite State will sleep outside for Waypoint's eighth annual SleepOut, which raises awareness and funds to help end youth homelessness in New Hampshire. According to a press release, the funds will support Waypoint's new overnight youth shelter in Manchester and its dropin resource centers in Concord and Rochester, as well as help sustain its existing services. This year's event will be held remotely, with sleepers spending the night outside at a place of their choosing and sharing the experience virtually. The online event will also be livestreamed on the agency's Facebook page, allowing members of the community to show their support even if they are not registered sleepers. Last year, Waypoint had nearly 1,500 contacts with youth who were on the streets and offered services like survival aid, basic needs relief, educational support, job and life skills training, driver's ed, access to mental

health services and more, the release said. Visit waypointnh.org.

Oil tank leaks

The New Hampshire Insurance Department has received numerous questions from consumers regarding insurance coverage for cleanup costs associated with heating oil spills. According to a press release, those costs can exceed \$100,000, and there are no admitted insurance carriers in the state who cover home heating oil spills. However, the state Department of Environmental Services has two programs to help consumers who have home heating oil tanks that have leaked or are in danger of leaking: the Safetank Program and the Petroleum Reimbursement Fund Program. The Safetank Program provides financial assistance to income qualified homeowners — up to \$2,250 to upgrade or remove and replace an above-ground oil tank and up to \$2,500 to remove an underground tank. The Petroleum Reimbursement Fund Program reimburses costs incurred by DES-required cleanup at eligible properties where a petroleum release has occurred from a tank system, with coverage of up to \$500,000. The Insurance Department encourages homeowners to upgrade or replace their heating oil tanks before a release occurs, the release said.

A presentation and conversation called "The Russian Invasion of Ukraine - Why Did it Happen? What Are the Global Implications?" will be held Tuesday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the **Goffstown** Public Library, according to a press release. Registration to attend in person or virtually is required at https://bit.ly/GPLUkraine329.

from high school and middle school athletics and youth sports leagues in the city came together to help students find a sport they love. According to a press release, the event also highlighted the schools' current student-athlete stars who have signed with colleges and universities to compete for them next year.

Last week, Memorial, Central and

West high schools in Manches-

ter hosted their first-ever Sports

Nights, where representatives

Daytime road work on the Route 101 Bridge replacement project in Bedford has begun and, according to a press release, there will be alternating oneway traffic between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Route 101 from Twin Brook Lane to Joppa Hill Road. Construction will continue in the area throughout the summer and fall. the release said.

Goffstown

MANCHESTER

Bedford

Merrimack

Londonderry

Jersey Mike's Subs locations in New Hampshire — most locally in **Londonderry**, Hudson and Plaistow — are supporting the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games through its 12th Annual March "Month of Giving" campaign. According to a press release, customers can make a donation at any Jersey Mike's to help local Team NH athletes get to the Games, happening in June in Orlando. On March 30, Jersey Mike's will have a "Day of Giving," when the restaurants will give 100 percent of the day's sales — not just profits — to the Games, the release said.

Covid-19 update	As of March 14	As of March 21
Total cases statewide	300,511	301,308
Total current infections statewide	821	911
Total deaths statewide	2,417	2,436
New cases	860 (March 8 to March 14)	797 (March 15 to March 21)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	196	242
Current infections: Merrimack County	67	65
Current infections: Rockingham County	142	151

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





GRANITE VIEWS ROBIN MILNES Saying goodbye



Fifteen years ago, as a new board member of the Animal Rescue League of NH, I pulled into the parking lot one day and met the sweetest beagle out for a walk. I went

home and began negotiating with my husband, anxious for our 2-year-old son to have a canine companion to grow up with. He reminded me we were leaving on vacation. We agreed if the dog was still there when we got back, we could bring it home. The dog was adopted in the interim, but a few weeks later I received a call that he had been returned.

Potter and his sibling had both arrived at the shelter as strays. Their owner had been called but declined to pick them up. The shelter staff estimated Potter's age as 1 at the time. When I saw Potter's patience with our curious toddler, I knew he was meant for us. That patience never wavered with our son, nor with the next beagle I brought home, nor with the addition of a Brittany spaniel, and certainly never with our grandchildren.

This is not to say Potter didn't have his quirks. UPS deliveries were a challenge as he assumed responsibility for judiciously guarding the front door from any drivers of brown trucks. A few years ago I noticed Potter no longer reacted to the sound of the UPS truck, and we soon realized he had gone completely deaf.

As he entered his senior years he slowed down remarkably, spending his days sleeping in his favorite chair, only rising (punctually) for his four meals a day. As one aging issue developed into another, Potter received his very own pill box so we could better manage his medications. We arranged our schedules to accommodate mealtimes and meds. He became increasingly anxious and restless, frequently pacing throughout the night, symptoms of doggie Alzheimer's.

The past several months, we have struggled with when to let him go. At a recent vet visit, Potter became aggressive with the vet staff. I knew then that it was time, his pain and confusion causing atypical behavior for him. Potter did his job well, and the little boy who grew up with him is now a 17-year-old teenager. I will be forever grateful that he chose us all those years ago to be his forever home. His steadfast love and companionship made our family whole. He has more than held up his end of the deal and it is time to bid him farewell. May you rest in peace, our sweet boy.

Robin Milnes is a small business owner and advocate with more than 30 years of experience in real estate acquisitions, property management, sales, leasing, budgeting, fiscal oversight, human resources and administration. She can be reached at rmilnes@inex.com.







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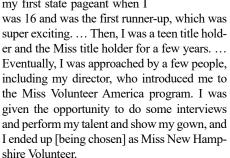
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Crowning achievementMeet Miss New Hampshire Volunteer, Grace Orfao

Grace Orfao, 23, of Manchester, has been crowned the first Miss New Hampshire Volunteer. The new pageant program provides scholarship and growth opportunities for young women across the country who actively volunteer in their communities. Orfao talked about the program and how she's preparing to represent New Hampshire at the Inaugural Miss Volunteer America Pageant in Jackson, Tennessee, in May.

become New Hampshire Volunteer?

I grew up dancing, starting at 4 years old. ... I've been doing pageants since I was a junior in high school. I started in the Miss America program. ... My dance teacher introduced me to the program because her daughter was the state title holder for the teen program, and she thought it would be a great opportunity. ... I competed in my first state pageant when I





I'm taking care of my body, being super active and maintaining a good skin care routine so that I can put my best self forward. ... I'm also volunteering a lot and have a lot of [visits] set up with [schools in] the Manchester school district ... to talk about my platform and to talk about the [Miss Volunteer America] program to see if any girls would be interested.

What is your community service platform?

The first few years I did pageantry, my platform was autism awareness. Once I was out of high school I wanted to change my platform to something that could really connect with many different people on many different levels, so I thought, 'What's something that people do every day?' I did some research and found that texting while driving is unfortunately a big problem

Miss Volunteer America

The Inaugural Miss Volunteer America Pageant will take place in Jackson, Tennessee, from May 1 through May 7, and will be streamed on the Miss Volunteer America website, missvolunteeramerica.net. Follow Orfao's pageant journey and volunteer work on Instagram at @missnhvol and @ grace_orfao_volunteer.

that a lot of people have right now, so my platform now is 'Stay Alive; Don't Text and Drive.' I'm very passionate about it. I've created my own little emblem, and I've made stickers and handouts teaching people about the issue. There's also a pledge that I [organized], where people can pledge to turn on the 'do not disturb' [feature] on their phone while driving. I'm just really trying to spread awareness and help make the roads



Grace Orfao. Courtesy photo-

a safer place.

What talent will you perform?

I'm doing a lyrical dance. ... I've trained in all forms of dance, but my favorite style is lyrical, because you can really tell a story with lyrical dance, and people can relate to it. ... I love being able to connect with the audience in that way. ... It's just a beautiful form of dance, and I'm just so excited to share that with everybody.

What are your future plans?

I've been teaching dance since the age of 17, and I choreograph dances for competitive dancers. ... I'm taking classes online through Southern New Hampshire University and working toward my bachelor's degree in business management. ... I would love to open and own and operate my own competitive dance studio; that's my dream.

What advice do you have for other young people in New Hampshire who want to get involved in volunteering?

The biggest thing I want to do is spread the word about this program, because [it offers] so many opportunities. Not only is it a great way to get involved in volunteering, but the scholarships are amazing; Miss Volunteer America gives out over \$100,000 in scholarships to the girls who are competing. ... You also make a lot of connections in the program and build relationships that you'll have forever. It's just such a rare opportunity, and I don't think people take advantage of it enough. ... I know pageants can be a little intimidating for some people, so if people are just looking to get involved in volunteering they can go to volunteernh.org, [which has] a huge list of volunteer opportunities that people can sign up for across New Hampshire. ... Once you start [volunteering], you can't stop, and once you find your passion in helping others, it's a feeling you'll never forget. — Angie Sykeny 🧢

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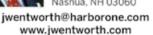
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Good new story for Sox



year Red Sox Nation was wondering what in the name of Haywood Sullivan was going on up there in the executive

increasingly hated (for me) bargain basement mode while Rome burned.

ry has finally opened his wallet to outbid the Yanks and others for free agent **Trevor Story**. A major get that let some of the Nation's building frustration escape. Though Chaim's not out of the woods just yet.

But enjoy it for the day before getting back to the important business of grousing about the other issues that need addressing before the season starts.

Trevor Story implications: Signing him was a two-fer, as the former shortstop (for now) gives them a solid fielding second baseman with major offensive pop. It also sends Kike Hernandez out to right field to fill both the offensive and defensive holes left by the departure of Hunter Renfroe that everyone has been wondering about all winter. It also provides insurance at short if **Xander Bogaerts** opts out and leaves at the end of the year.

So, since Bloom "only" had to go six years and \$25 million per to get all that, job well done. Especially since Texas gave their arguably not as good and definitely more injury-prone new shortstop Corey Seager a whopping \$330 million over 10 years to get him.

Losing Kyle Schwarber: Letting him walk was a missed opportunity. Keeping him would have given them three more years of contractual control at DH and let them trade J.D. Marti**nez** when every team in the NL suddenly needs one. It would have been revenue-neutral too, as Schwarber will get less per year than the \$20 million the Sox pay J.D., while also making the line-up less right-handed dominant than it is now.

With the line-up and defense settled, we turn to pitching, which looks like a hodgepodge mess.

Starting pitching: The good news is the stat geeks tell us number of wins by a starter is totally the six guys likely to get the bulk of the starts — Chris Sale, Nate Eovaldi, Nick Pivetta, Tanner Houck and newcomers Rich Hill and Michael Wacha — won a combined 34 games against 35 losses in 2021. Which means if 90 is the target, they need 56 wins from the pen. And while I like the promise Houck and Pivetta showed in 2021, am hopeful Sale and Eovaldi can avoid the injuries that have plagued their careers, wonder when it'll end for the ageless Hill and have no faith in Wacha, the group as a whole doesn't provide a lot of confidence.

So there are many questions looking for answers here, with the biggest coming from com.

For the second straight Chris Sale. The 5-1, 3.16 numbers after he returned from his 18-month Tommy John on the cusp of entering surgery absence look good. But it was a difthe final week of March ferent story in the final 10 days of the regular season and in the playoffs when he struggled mightily. Was it natural fatigue or something more alarming?

Now comes the latest, a stress fracture in suite. It seemed Chaim the ribcage. He's calling it "a freak thing," but Bloom was again in the it's another reminder making you wonder if he has the body to face the rigors of pitching the 200-plus innings a year needed from your ace. But news broke Saturday that John Hen- Especially considering his last healthy season was way back in 2017. I don't see him making a full 200-inning season anymore, which suggests a role change could be needed. Which brings us to the bullpen.

The bullpen: I know Tampa Bay won 100 games with a bullpen filled with guys making under a million dollars. But we also saw them knocked around in the playoffs, so I'd prefer a hybrid approach so you're not bringing in seven new bargain basement guys every year as Chaim did in 2021 and basically is doing now, beyond Matt Barnes, who they're stuck with after giving him an extension during his tremendous first half last year, and 2021 scrap heap find Garrett Whitlock. But beyond Whitlock, I had zero confidence in the pen after Barnes' astonishing second-half collapse, because it has control issues and was used far too much by the suddenly micro-managing Alex Cora in games it was needed in. And 2022 starts out the same way.

Closer: To solidify the back end I'd make Sale the closer when he comes back for three reasons: (1) Pitching one inning every other day and 70 over the entire year would likely keep the arm fresher for the whole year instead of dealing with the dramatic second-half drop-offs that have plagued him since his days in Chicago; (2) Pitching just one inning gives him a better chance to regain the life to his fast ball and snap to his slider that have been missing since July 2018. (3) There's no guarantee it'll work, but almost every great closer was originally a failed starter. Including Mariano Rivera, who had durability issues starting. Not to mention the one-season record for saves is held by John Smoltz, set when arm issues prevented him from starting for three seasons.

Bottom line on the pitching: I know \$30 milcircumstantial and unimportant. Phew! Because lion is usually too much to sink into a closer, but the money is already spent and the issue now is how to get the best bang for their \$30 million.

> So the Sox should not waste any more time. When Sale comes back, leave Houck in the rotation, give the seventh to Barnes, the eighth to Whitlock, and bite the bullet to make Sale the ninth-inning closer.

> OK, so while I think it's how you spend it, not how much, with payroll pruning done and David Price finally coming off the books after 2022 it's time to spend to find more quality for the rotation and pen to give them a real chance in 2022.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.





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Score: +1

Comment: If you can't get the kids away from gaming anyway, why not sneak

Extreme weather possible

Last week New Hampshire residents, scientists and legislators gathered via Zoom for a preview of the soon-to-be-released 2022 NH State Climate Assessment, an update of the last statewide assessment of 2014. According to a press release, Dr. Cameron Wake, Lamprey Professor of Climate and Sustainability at UNH, said assessment results show that if we don't lower emissions rates, heavy rain events and flooding will become more common in the state, especially in winter and spring, which could alternate with "extended drought periods and summers with as many as 60 days above 90 degrees." Dr. Mary Stampone, State Climatologist and Associate Professor of Geography at UNH, said that without fast reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, she foresees "more winter days above freezing and fewer days with snow on the ground."

Comment: To find out what specific actions we can take, NH Network is hosting a free online event, "Is Net Zero by 2050 Possible?" on Monday, March 28, at 7 p.m. Visit newhampshirenetwork.org.

Be a state ambassador

Granite State Ambassadors Certification Training, which prepares participants to become GSA volunteers, starts virtually April 5 and in person April 6 at Kimball Jenkins in Concord. According to a press release, the course includes presentations from tourism organizations and attractions, and training modules include Outdoor Recreation, Attractions and Heritage, New Hampshire History and more, as well as information on serving as a GSA volunteer. The program encourages participants to volunteer at events, museums and visitor centers throughout the state, the release said. The training will continue virtually on Tuesday mornings until the final session, which will be in person, statewide, during the week of May 16.

Comment: The organization has certified over 1,940 industry friends and volunteers, and approximately 350 volunteers are actively volunteering at any time, the release said. Visit nhgraniteambassadors.org.

Back on the ice for CHaD

More than 4,000 fans celebrated the return of the CHaD Battle of the Badges Hockey Championship on March 13 at SNHU Arena in Manchester. After almost three years, the fundraising event for Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock was back in person and helped raise more than \$210,000, according to a press release. Law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel returned to the ice exactly two years after Team Fire's victory in the streaming 2020 game. The 2021 game was canceled due to Covid. At this year's game, which was also streamed online, Team Police skated off with a 5-2 victory. Police leads the series 8-5.

Score: +1

Comment: Police got the victory as top fundraisers too, raising more \$72,000 as a team, according to the release. Kyle Daly of the Manchester Police Department was the top individual fundraiser — he collected more than \$11,000 with his CHaD Buddy Elliot.

QOL score: 66 Net change: +2 **QOL** this week: 68

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THIS WEEK BIG EVENTS MARCH 24 AND BEYOND



Sunday, March 27

The Manchester St. Patrick's Parade returns today at noon stepping off from the north end of Elm Street and heading through downtown Manchester. Find the parade particulars at saintpatsnh. com. The parade is preceded by the Citizens Shamrock Half-Marathon, Relay and Shuffle, which will take place Saturday, March 26 (for the half-marathon and relay) and

in the morning on Sunday, March 27 (for the shuffle and 8-and-under Lil Leprechaun Run). See millenniumrunning.com/shamrock. for a closer look at one of the participants, check out last week's (March 17) issue of the Hippo, where Angie Sykeny interviews Matt Casey, the parade's official leprechaun. Find the e-edition on hippopress.com and the story on page 6.

Thursday, March 24

Conjure up the weekend spirit early with a little rock 'n' roll music from Studio Two: The Beatles Tribute at LaBelle Winery in Derry (14 Route 111, labellewinery.com) tonight at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets cost \$35.

Friday, March 25

Get just what you needed from Panorama — A Tribute to the Cars tonight at 8 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord, ccanh.com) with opening act Being Petty: The Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers Experience. Tickets cost \$16 general admission, \$25 for the balcony (plus fees).

Saturday, March 26

Work on your plans for planting season with help from the Concord Garden Club and Gibson's Bookstore today during a virtual presentation with author Ellen Ogden, whose 2021 release was The New Heirloom Kitchen. Registration is free but required and tickets are by donation (up to \$20) with proceeds split between the club and the bookstore, according to gibsonsbookstore.com.

Saturday, March 26

Ballet Misha presents Danse Nouveau VI, a concert of original choreographed works, today at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord; theaudi.org), according to the website. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at balletmisha.com.

Sunday, March 27

It's the final day of the New Hampshire Orchid Society's annushow and sale which

starts Friday, March 25, at the Courtyard Marriot in Nashua. The show is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 27. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$18 for a three day pass (kids under 12 get in free). See nhorchids.org.



Save the date: Friday, April 15

Beaver Brook Association (117 Ridge Road in Hollis; beaverbrook.org, 465-7787) will hold a full moon hike (the "pink moon") on Friday, April 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission costs \$20 per person; go online to reserve a spot.

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ARTS

11 features, 5 shorts

NH Jewish Film Fest offers in-theater & virtual screenings

By Meghan Siegler msiegler@hippopress.com

This year's New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is combining the benefits of virtual screenings — reaching more people in more places, for example — and hosting in-person screenings too, to bring back that festival vibe that's been missing for the past two years.

"It's been a journey, that is for sure," festival co-chair Pat Kalik said of holding the event during the pandemic. "We did get some benefits from going virtual, but we missed, of course, the community feeling of seeing a movie in the theater and then having the discussion after."

This year's festival, which runs March 31 to April 10, will feature five in-theater screenings, two of which will have post-screening discussions. Virtual attendees will have a 48-hour window to watch each movie any time during the festival, and there will be virtual screenings of four of the in-theater films as well after the festival ends.

The festival features independent and foreign films from 12 countries. Kalik said they start screening films in July and view about 50 before picking their final lineup. She said they try to pick different kinds of films, from dramas to documentaries, to appeal to all tastes.

"Our goal is to bring these films to the community, films that would not come to the independent theaters in New Hampshire," Kalik said. "Some of the films are subtitled — some people won't go to subtitled films, but we try to get a mix. ... My hope is that everyone will give these types of films a try."

One of her favorites is the documentary that's going to open the festival at Rex Theatre.

"I thought *The Automat* was a fascinating film, and that's going to be our opening night at the Rex in Manchester," Kalik said. "[At Automat restaurants] you would put money into a wall of windows, and behind each window was the food you wanted to buy. This is a film about the history of the Automat."

The closing film is *Cabaret* at Red River Theatres in Concord. Typically the festival features newer films; in this case, it's celebrating *Cabaret*'s 50th anniversary. The screening will be followed by a discussion with film buff Zachary Camenker of Concord.

"The film kind of broke the glass ceiling 50 years ago in ways that people weren't expecting,"

New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

When: March 31 through April 10

Where: Various locations in the state and

Cost: \$12 per in-theater ticket or per virtual household ticket

More info: For festival pass information, movie trailers and more, visit nhjewishfilm-festival.com.

Camenker said.

Cabaret, which is about Berlin nightlife during the Nazi rise to power, won eight Academy Awards. Camenker said it's the winningest film that did not win best picture in Oscar history; it lost that award to *The Godfather*.

Still, "It's one of those musicals that has stood the test of time," he said. "It's a good reminder of where things were a century ago as opposed to where they are now."

Another film that looks back at a difficult time in history is "*Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin.*" The documentary explores the life of the Israeli prime minister.

Director Jonathan Gruber of Black Eye Productions in New York said he didn't know much about Begin before he started working on this project.

"I didn't realize how instrumental he was in Israel's becoming a state," Gruber said. "I was just impressed with him as a leader. He never enriched himself through his position."

Begin was a controversial leader, though, which Gruber saw firsthand in his interviews. He said he heard some criticism that the film is slanted favorably toward Begin, while others have thought the opposite.

"Begin does not get a free pass in the film," Gruber said. "We annoy everybody."

Gruber, who was born in Israel, was able to get all of his interviews done in person overseas just before the pandemic started. He used a third-camera angle for some of the film.

"The content is so powerful but I also visually wanted to make it arresting," he said.

Gruber will discuss the documentary via Zoom on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m.

With the exception of *Cabaret*, Zoom will be used for all film discussions.

"I think we've learned a lot because of [the pandemic], and we're going to take advantage of it in the future, but it's not going to replace the traditional film festival where you can go to the theater and bond and eat and drink," Kalik said.

Here are the films according to festival descriptions.

In-theater screenings

The Automat

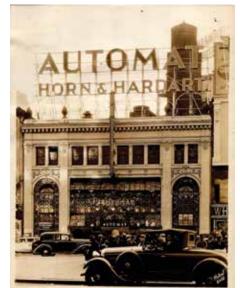
Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m. at The Rex, Manchester

Documentary, 2021, U.S., English. Before fast food, one American restaurant empire was unstoppable. Experience the untold story of the Automat with this documentary film starring Mel Brooks about the popular 1950s restaurant chain that served its meals in vending machines.

Following the screening, director Lisa Hurwitz will discuss her film via Zoom, and Automat collector Steve Stollman will join the conversation.

Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen

Sunday, April 3, 1 p.m. at 3S Art Space (Portsmouth), The Rex (Manchester) and Showroom



The Automat restaurant. Courtesy photo.

(Keene)

Documentary, 2022, U.S., English. Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen* captures the humor and drama of film director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic.

The Un-Word

Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m., Red River Theatres, Concord

Narrative, 2020, Germany, German with English subtitles. In this German satire, tempers flare after a Jewish student is goaded by Muslim classmates into a schoolyard brawl, injuring an Iranian and a Palestinian student. A hopelessly naive teacher arranges a summit with the fuming parents and spineless principal. But her do-gooder attempts at peacemaking, complete with Palestinian and Israeli flags decorating the snacks, expose her own misguided beliefs.

Tiger Within

Sunday, April 10, 1 p.m., Red River Theatres,

Drama, 2020, USA, English. Multiple Academy-Award-winner Ed Asner, in one of his last performances, stars in this tender story of the unlikely friendship between Samuel, a Holocaust survivor, and Casey, a skinhead teen runaway. Despite their respective traumas and initial mistrust of one another, they form a powerful bond that yields a sense of family and mutual support.

Cabaret

Celebrating Cabaret's 50th Anniversary!

Sunday, April 10, 3:30 p.m., Red River Theatres, Concord

Musical/Romance, 1972, U.S., English

Starring Liza Minelli, the musical about Berlin nightlife during the Nazi rise to power won eight Academy Awards.

Following the screening, New Hampshire educator and film enthusiast Zachary Camenker will lead a discussion about the history and impact of the film a half century later. (This screening is in-person only and does not have a virtual option.)



200 Meters. Courtesy image.

Virtual-only screenings 200 Meters

Drama, 2020, Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, Italy, Sweden (Arabic, Hebrew, English with subtitles). Mustafa and his wife live 200 meters apart in villages separated by the Israeli border wall. One day he gets a call every parent dreads: His son has been injured in an accident. Rushing to cross the Israeli checkpoint, Mustafa is denied on a technicality. But a father's love won't give up, and he will do anything to reach his son.

Apples and Oranges

Documentary, 2021, Israel (Hebrew, English with subtitles). A wave of foreign volunteers came to Israel in the 1960s through 1980s to work on a kibbutz, a communal village centered around agriculture. During the '80s, the war in Lebanon and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict forced volunteers to decide whether supporting the kibbutz meant supporting the state of Israel.

On Monday, April 4, at 7 p.m., Director Yoav Brill will discuss his film and reflect on the changing nature of the volunteers as Israel's geopolitical situation evolved.

Greener Pastures

Drama, 2020, Israel (Hebrew, English with subtitles). Dov, a widower, is forced by his family to move to a nursing home. He's broke since he lost his pension, and he blames the state. When Dov notices that all his fellow residents smoke legal medical cannabis, he realizes that weed can be his salvation — selling it, not smoking it.

Neighbors

Drama, 2021, Switzerland, France (Kurdish with English subtitles). In a little village on the Syrian-Turkish border in the early '80s, a 6-year-old Kurdish boy experiences his first year in an Arab school and sees how his little world is radically changed by absurd nationalism.

Persian Lessons

Narrative Feature, 2020, Russia, Germany, Belarus (German, French, Italian, English and Persian with English subtitles). Occupied France, 1942. Gilles is arrested by Nazi SS soldiers along-

CONTINUED ON PG 12

ROUNDUP

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

- High standards: Catch the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's triennial exhibit "Setting the Standard," on view at the League's headquarters gallery (49 S. Main St., No. 100, Concord), before it's gone on Thursday, March 31. The exhibit features new works by 45 League jurors, master craftsmen who volunteer to work with League hopefuls and review their work to uphold the League's standard of artistic excellence. A variety of media is represented, including wood, textile, clay and metal. "These works ... will reflect the spirit of the maker," League executive director Miriam Carter said in a press release. "Given the difficulties faced during the past several months, the work of our members takes on an almost indomitable nature, mixing the strength and resilience of the artists with the vulnerability that we have all experienced," Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 4 p.m. Pieces are for sale and can be picked up when the exhibit closes. Visit nhcrafts.org or call 224-3375.
- Musical prince: The Pinkerton Players will perform *Pippin* at the Stockbridge Theatre (located at Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry), with showtimes on Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at noon. The 26, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 27, at classic Broadway musical is set in 1958 in 2 p.m. The musical, based on the book by Roger O. Hirson, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, is the story of a young prince searching for meaning in his life, as told by a traveling theater troupe. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Call 437-5210 or visit stockbridgetheatre.com.
- Ancient lens: The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) has an exhibition, "Appeal of the Real: 19th Century Photographs of the Ancient World," on view now through June 12. It features photographs of the ruins of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, taken prior to when tourists could take their own photographs, often at the request of wealthy European and American tourists. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17, and is free for children under age 13 and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.
- Stories on Zoom: The Portsmouth-based monthly storytelling showcase True Tales Live returns with a



Bye Bye Birdie at the Palace Theatre. Courtesy photo

virtual show over Zoom on Tuesday, March 29, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. This month's theme centers on activism and exercising rights. The series is free and open to all who want to watch or participate as a storyteller. Registration is required. Shows have been held over Zoom during the pandemic but will tentatively be held in person at the Portsmouth Public Media TV Studio (280 Marcy St.) starting in April. Interested storytellers are encouraged to participate in a storytelling workshop, which is held on the first Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. over Zoom. Visit truetaleslivenh. org or email info@truetaleslive.org.

- Birdie's back: The Palace Theatre's (80 Hanover St., Manchester) current mainstage production, Bye Bye Birdie, continues now through April 3, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at the small town of Sweet Apple, Ohio, and centers around an Elvis-like rock 'n' roll star named Conrad Birdie who is drafted into the Army. As a publicity stunt, Birdie's agent and songwriter arranges for Birdie to appear on a television program, where he will perform a new song called "One Last Kiss" and give one lucky girl from his fan club a real last kiss before reporting for duty. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.
- Premiere play by local playwright: New World Theatre presents the premiere production of Places You Go, an original play by New Hampshire playwright William Ivers, at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) from March 25 through April 1, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. The play follows Maddy Wear, a young musician destined for Julliard, and the tensions that arise in her family while she is in the hospital recovering from a car accident. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for members, seniors and students and \$16 for senior members. Call 715-2315 or visit hatboxnh.com.

— Angie Sykeny 🦚



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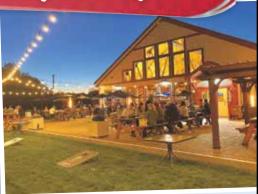
Pond Skim and Hawaiian Festival Sat. March 26 at 1pm Free entry with purchase of half day lift ticket

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◆ CONTINUED FROM PG 10

side other Jews and sent to a camp in Germany. He avoids execution by swearing to the guards that he is not Jewish, but Persian. This lie temporarily saves him, but Gilles gets assigned a life-or-death mission: to teach the Farsi language to Koch, the head of camp, who dreams of opening a restaurant in Iran once the war is over.

Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin

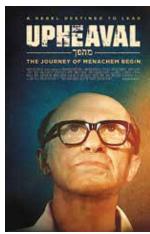
Documentary, 2020, (English) Prime Minister Menachem Begin was a tireless fighter for the Jewish people. He was, at the same time, a controversial leader.

On Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. Director Jonathan Gruber will discuss his documentary on the life of Menachem Begin.

Short films (virtual only)

Beefies

Comedy Short, 2021, U.S. (10 minutes, English). Josh wants to find his late mother's



Upheaval. Courtesy image.

"beefies" recipe for Passover but must reconnect with his estranged brother to do so.

Ganef

Short, 2020, U.K. (14 minutes, English with Yiddish phrases), London, 1962. 6-year-old Ruthie discovers Lynn, the cleaner, is a thief.

Masel Tov Cocktail

Short, 2020, Germany (30 minutes, German, Russian with English subtitles). A Russian-Jewish teen in Germany offers a comic take on modern Jewish life.

The Shabbos Gov

Comedy Short, 2019, U.S. (7 minutes, English). God literally forbids Chana to turn off her vibrator gone rogue.

The Tattooed Torah

Animated Short, 2021, U.S. (21 minutes, English, Hebrew). True story of the rescue and restoration of a Torah from Czechoslovakia.

- ELEMENTS OF NATURE TEXTILE FRAG-MENTS" New Hampshire Art Association exhibition features call 413-210-4372. the textile collages of Cheryl Mill-Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Gallery hours are Monday through All work is for sale. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230.
- "REAWAKENING" Two Villages Art Society presents an chapter of the Women's Caucus March 18 through April 9. An

opening reception with the artists and live music will be held on Sat., March 19, from noon to 2 p.m. Regular gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org or

• "WARHOL SCREEN TESTS" er, inspired by the colors in nature. exhibition features 20 films from On view now through April 15. Andy Warhol's silent black and white Screen Tests, shown in loops across four largescale projections. The Currier Museum of Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On view March 31 through July 3. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth exhibition featuring work by artist ages 13 through 17 and is free for members of the New Hampshire children under age 13 and museum members. Current museum hours for the Arts. Bates Building (846) are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 Main St., Contoocook). On view p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday

through Wednesday. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

Shows PUFFS!

INCREASINGLY FUL YEARS AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL OF MAGIC AND MAGIC Cue Zero Theatre Co. presents. Granite State Arts Academy (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, Salem). Fri., April 29, through Sun., May 1. Visit cztheatre.com.

DRAWN TO THE MUSIC 2022 - STORIES IN MUSIC The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra performs. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Geremonty Drive, Salem. Sat., April 9, 2 p.m., and Sun., April 10, 2 p.m.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Don't be afraid to prune

How to not kill your fruit tree

By Henry Homeyer listings@hippopress.com

GARDENING

Traditionally, farmers pruned their fruit trees and put wood ashes around their lilacs in March. And

although this is a good time for both, you can do either earlier or later. I believe that because farmers couldn't plant or work the soil in March, they did other tasks to fill up their days — such as pruning.

If you plan on pruning now, please be aware of the danger of compacting the soil. Compacted soil has few air spaces — and plants get their oxygen from their roots, not their leaves. Roots from trees can extend well beyond their dripline and can be damaged by your footsteps if the soil is soggy.

If the soil is still thawing and is wet, it's better to stay off it for now. If you have light, sandy soil that drains well, then you are fine. Clay soils are most at risk for compaction. Once you compact the soil, it is less able to drain away excess water, too. Just remember that the soil can freeze deeply - two feet or more, depending on snow cover — and a layer of frozen soil is like a layer of concrete. If you leave footprints in the soil, don't walk on it.

Don't be afraid to prune, even if you have never done it before. Fruit trees grow vigorously when

pruned, and even if you remove a branch and then wish you hadn't, other branches will grow and fill in the space. You can safely remove about 25 percent of your branches and leaves; your tree will still have plenty left to grow fruit and feed the roots.

Use a sharp pruning saw. You will rarely have to remove anything more than a 2- or 3-inch branch, so a folding tri-cut saw will be fine and can be purchased for around \$25. Bow saws are not able to get in tight places, so are not recommended. A chainsaw is rarely needed, and can easily remove too much wood too fast!

What should you remove? First, remove any dead branches. How do you know if the branch is dead, since there are no leaves? The bark will be flaky and a different color from healthy branches. For smaller branches, scrape the bark with your thumbnail. If it does not show green, it is dead.

Ideally, sunshine can reach every leaf of the tree. Leaves shaded by others do little to feed the tree. So if you have branches layered closely, one above the other, the lower branch is being shaded. Either remove it, or remove the one above it.

Often branches grow back toward the middle of the tree. These will create problems as they get larger, often rubbing existing branches and shading out others. So follow them back to their point of origin to remove them. Remove any branches that are rubbing or touching. Decide which is the better branch, and leave it.

Where should you make your cuts when removing a branch? Look carefully and you will see the "branch collar." You will want to leave the collar as this is where the cut will heal. It is a swollen area where the branch and the trunk or a larger branch are joined. Often the collar has photo. wrinkles in it. Cut just past the

branch where it is circular in cross-section.

Many fruit trees send up water sprouts - vigorous new shoots. In their first year they grow straight up and are the thickness of pencils. They should be removed every year. If you cut a bigger branch, you might get several water sprouts surrounding the cut that year — but remove them all next year. Water sprouts are a tree's attempt to increase food production by making more leaves. Some trees do it vigorously each year, others respond to heavy pruning this spring by growing many this summer. Water sprouts rarely produce fruit - ever.

When I prune fruit trees, I pay attention to the fruit spurs that actually produce the fruit. When choosing which of two branches to remove, I leave the one that will be producing the most fruit. Fruit spurs are 2- to 5-inch branches that have buds on them. Fruit spurs produce both leaves and flowers, and need to be at least two years old for the trees to produce fruit, sometimes longer.



Apples are worth pruning and do not need pesticides to grow well. Courtesy

I often get complaints from readers about the fact that their young apple tree has not produced any fruit. Be patient, I say. Each variety of tree has its own schedule - dwarf or semi-dwarf trees produce fruit sooner than full-size trees. A newly planted tree can take two to six years before the first fruits grow. I once had a plum tree that took 20 years to flower and produce fruit, and only did so when

swollen, wrinkled area and remove the offending I threatened to cut it down if it didn't produce fruit the next year!

> Lastly, know that pruning your tree well will increase the size and improve the flavor of the fruit. It takes a lot of energy to produce fruit, so a tree that only grows 100 apples is better able to feed the fruit and grow the sugars that make it tasty than a tree that grows 1,000 apples. And really, how many apples can you eat?

> As to that other March chore, improving the pH of the soil around your lilacs? Two dry quarts of wood ashes or garden lime will sweeten the soil if spread around your lilac. Lilacs do not flower as well in acidic soil, which is what most New Englanders have. It won't affect this year's blossoming, but should by next year.

> So get outside on a sunny day and get to work. I always find something to do, and pruning is one of my favorite March activities.

> Reach Henry at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or P.O. Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746

1 GREAT LOCATION

2 GREAT SHOWS

1 AMAZING WEEKEND

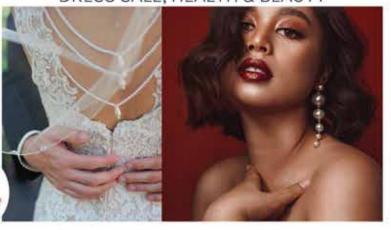
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Family fun for whenever

More maple

If you didn't get enough of the sweet stuff during last weekend's statewide Maple Weekend, the maple fun continues this weekend with some sugar houses continuing tours (find a complete listing of local sugar houses at nhmapleproducers.com).

Ben's Sugar Shack, with locations in Temple and Newbury, will continue offering weekend tours through Sunday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the syrup process from tree to finished product and enjoy some maple samples, according to bensmaplesyrup. com. The Temple location will also have maple doughnuts and maple soft serve, according to Ben's Facebook page.

Several other sugar houses are open weekends through March. Check out the list of area sugar houses in last week's (March 17) issue of the Hippo. Find the e-edition on hippopress. com and the list starting on page 11.

Charmingfare Farm (774 High St. in Candia; visitthefarm.com, 483-5623) also has some maple programming on the calendar. On Saturday, March 26, sign up for Sugar Shack Live, an evening that will feature a campfire (BYO marshmallows or hot dogs), a look at the sugar shack and boiling sap, a horse-drawn or tractor ride and live music. Tickets must be purchased online and cost \$29. Or check out the Maple Express Saturday, March 26, or Sunday, March 27, when you can see tree tapping, visit the animals and get a taste of the syrup on some pancakes. Admission costs \$22 and must be purchased online.

On stage

The Pinkerton Players present *Pippin* at the Stockbridge Theatre (5 Pinkerton St. in Der-

ry; stockbridgetheatre.com, 437-5210) Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 27, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost

The Bedford Youth Performing Company presents *Matilda* this weekend — Friday, March 26, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 27, at 1 and 7 p.m. — at the Derryfield School theater (2108 River Road in Manchester). Tickets cost \$17.50 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors, and are available via showtix4u.com. Call 472-3894.

The Majestic Theatre presents Frozen Jr. this Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 26, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 27, at 2 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway in Derry). Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for 65+ and \$10 for 17 and under. Call 669-7469 or see majestictheatre.net.

Bye Bye Birdie continues its run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) with shows this weekend on Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 26, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 27, at noon. Tickets cost \$39 and \$46 for adults, \$25 for kids through age 12.

On stage at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) catch the Palace Youth Theatre Dance Show on Sunday, March 27, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$10 to this 45-minute show.

And for older young theater-goers, the Palace Teen Company will present Carrie at the Rex Theatre on Tuesday, March 29, and Wednesday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

Do postcards from the 1950s have value?

Dear Joann,

I always think everything antique or collectible has a value — the question is how

Postcards are a market within the field that has many collectors for several reasons. Basically when looking at postcards subject. Postcards from 1940s and 1950s that are comical mass-produced ones I'm sure have collectors for them. The value enjoy them again is worth it.

in the antiques and collectibles field, apprais- or 624-8668.



the value is in age, rarity, condition and ing 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 selltends to run in the couple-dollar range for ing. She is a member of The New Hampshire most. But I feel finding someone who will Antiques Dealer Association. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550

Current oil technology leaves nothing more to add



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

Could you address the use of oil additives? I am particularly interested in one called System 48, because I inherited a case of it from my father.

Should I dispose of it, or is it OK to use? I have a 2007 Infiniti

G35 with 345,000 miles, a 2010 Hyundai Santa Fe with 148,000 miles and a 2014 Ram 1500 with 105,000 miles. — Tim

Gee, Tim. I hope he also left you something of actual value, like a fountain pen.

First of all, if you've got a car with 345,000 miles on it, for crying out loud, don't add anything to it. Whatever you're doing is working. You're probably driving gently, changing the oil regularly and keeping up on regular maintenance. Good for you.

I've actually never heard of System 48. But in my opinion, oil technology is so good now that you'd have a hard time convincing me that any oil additive is necessary in 2022.

Any full-synthetic oil on the market now will do a spectacular job of lubricating your engine parts. And most can be used for 10,000 miles before they need to be changed. Even standard, dead-dinosaur-based oil is better than ever before and will do a fine job if you change it as recommended.

There are various goops and potions that are sold to desperate people whose cars are on their last legs. Those folks are willing to try anything that costs less than \$30 and promises to save their engine. But I don't recommend any of those products. And neither do the engineers who designed your car, by the way.

So despite the sentimental value of your inheritance, Tim, I'd put the case of System 48 on eBay. Then, with the proceeds, buy yourself a nice pen to remember Dad by.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2011 Toyota RAV4 with about 95,000 miles on it. Recently, I noticed that when I get to about 40 mph, the car makes a weird rattling or loudish whirring sound.

It sounds like it is coming from just in front of the front seat area of the car. If I hit the gas hard or take my foot off the gas, the noise stops.

I'm hoping you can help me figure this out. I tried taking it to a mechanic, but since they aren't getting an error message on their computer, they don't know what it could be. Thank you! — Edie

You've given me several excellent hints here, Edie. If only I was smart enough to make sense of them.

Actually, I think your noise is related to the exhaust system. My first guess would be that a heat shield around your catalytic converter is loose and that's what's rattling.

Why do I think that? Well, first, since there's no warning light or computer code, that suggests to me that it's not an engine issue.

Second, rattling exhaust systems are often sympathetic vibrations. That doesn't mean they feel sorry for you when they vibrate. It means that they vibrate because something nearby is vibrating at just the right frequency to set them off. And these sympathetic vibrations in cars often happen only at specific speeds.

Third, your catalytic converter is located just in front of the passenger seat, under the car - right where you say the noise is coming from.

It's possible that it's not the converter's heat shields. It could be a loose or broken honeycomb inside the converter or

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some other part of the exhaust system has come loose or is touching something it shouldn't be. But the heat shields are the first thing I'd look at because that's very common.

If you can get your mechanic interested enough, I'd strongly suggest he take a test drive with you and hear the noise for himself. First, it'll allow him to rule out anything dangerous. Second, once he hears the noise and where it's coming from, he'll probably know exactly what to do.

If he can't identify it during a test drive, he can always put the car up on the lift while someone else stays inside it. The driver can then rev the engine to different speeds and try to make the noise occur.

If they can get it to make the noise on the lift, the mechanic under the car should be able to find the cause in a matter of seconds

Even if he can't duplicate the noise, he may be able to find something under the car that's obviously loose or not connected as it should be. And if he fixes that, there's a good chance that'll make the noise go away ... along with a few bucks from your bank account. Good luck, Edie.

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CHRISTINA MCRITCHIE

COSMETIC TATTOO ARTIST

Christina McRitchie is a cosmetic tattoo artist and the owner of Wink & Inked, a permanent cosmetic studio in Londonderry.

Explain your job and what it entails.

I work one-on-one with women to deliver cosmetic tattoo solutions ... [like] brows, eyeliner and lip blushing, but what I'm really providing is self-confidence and empowerment; many of my clients suffer from lack of important facial features like eyebrows, often due to medical or hormonal reasons.

I'm my more a teen.

providing the same at each.

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what I'm really providing is self-confidence and empowerment; many of my clients suffer from lack of important facial features like eyebrows, often due to medical or hormonal reasons.

How long have you had this job?

I've been in the beauty service industry for 30 years and began my cosmetic tattooing journey five years ago.

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

As I child, I played 'beauty shop' and charged

Explain your job and what it my mother a quarter to have her hair done. ... As a teen, I was well-known in my high school for providing prom hair, and many girls came to my house before school to get styled. I would have to say it was a natural calling.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I'm dual licensed in cosmetology and body art. ... Both my licenses required 1,500 hours of training each. What really counts in both fields, particularly tattooing, is the endless hours of practice. I can't count how many hours I've spent tattooing latex skin and even microblading banana peels to get my art good enough to work on actual client faces. This definitely isn't something you attempt after a two-day certification course. Each year I continue educating myself by

attending classes to zone in on specific technical skills. ... I attend at least three trainings a year to stay up to date on industry standards.

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

I'm moving all around my client to ... tattoo, so comfort is important to me, but I do work in the world of style and fashion, so I like to spice it up with a touch of bohemian flair. Shoes are my obsession.



Christina McRitchie

What do you wish other people knew about your job? We truly do our job with a sin

We truly do our job with a sincere heart and deeply want our clients to love their service. ... I really do want to help women feel confident. It means so much to me to see my clients walk out the door with a little swagger in their step. ... If I can help other women feel empowered and confident to step out into the world and make

their own impact, then I'm happy.

What was the first job you ever had?

A dressing room attendant in a clothing boutique. I've always loved fashion.

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

Consultation is absolutely key in providing a successful service. By listening to my client, I'm able to provide the best professional advice and the best solution for them. — *Angie Sykeny*

Five favorites

Favorite book: The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean Auel

Favorite movie: *Inception.* It makes you think so hard at the end.

Favorite music: Anything by my daughter, Carleigh Mack. I'm also a huge Stevie Nicks fan. **Favorite food:** Mexican food is the best, and chocolate.

Favorite thing about NH: The wildlife.

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

In the permanent makeup industry, it's quite normal to wear a mask, and gloves are essential to good sanitation practices. ... The biggest change was ditching the in-person consultations and moving to virtual consultations. It has worked out fantastically.

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

To value myself more, and that validation comes in the form of demand, not [from] what coworkers or others think. ... There is a lot of time, money and overhead that goes into what we do. ... We train hard and work hard ... in a very personal service, and charging appropriately for your time is important not only for your livelihood but also for your mental well-being, so don't bargain with anybody; set your prices and stick to them.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll food@hippopress.com

- Maple madness: There's still time to go tour a local sugarhouse for New Hampshire Maple Month, which will hold its final weekend on Saturday, March 26, and Sunday, March 27. Visit the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association's online directory at nhmapleproducers.com for a list of participating farms and sugarhouses. Even though Maple Weekend was last weekend, several maple producers across the state are continuing to welcome visitors for sugaring tours, samples and gift shop product sales. You can also check out our coverage of Maple Weekend in the Hippo's March 17 issue, which begins on page 10 and includes recipes and details about this season's syrup production. Visit issuu.com/ hippopress to read the e-edition for free.
- · Heirloom feasts: Join the Concord Garden Club in welcoming Ellen Ecker Ogden, author of The New Heirloom Garden, for a virtual event on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m., in partnership with Gibson's Bookstore. Ogden will talk about her book and discuss the essentials of how to prepare, plant and maintain an heirloom food garden. Released in early 2021, The New Heirloom Garden is filled with tips on how to grow various heirloom vegetables, herbs and flowers, and includes 55 recipes for everything from entrees and sides to desserts, drinks and more. Registration is free but required to receive a link to the Zoom webinar. Donations are accepted through Eventbrite, with proceeds split between Gibson's Bookstore and the Concord Garden Club, and copies of Ogden's book are also available for sale. Visit gibsonsbook-
- PoutineFest is back: After a successful event in 2021, the New Hampshire PoutineFest is returning to Anheuser-Busch Tour Center & Biergarten (221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack) on Saturday, Oct. 15, according to a recent announcement on its website and social media channels. Since 2016, the annual festival has brought together local and regional restaurants, food trucks and other vendors to compete for the best poutine dish as voted by attendees. It had traditionally been held in the summer, but the response to last year's festival from both vendors and poutine lovers alike has prompted organizers with the Franco-American Centre to make a permanent shift to October. Details on ticket sales are expected soon. Visit nhpoutinefest.com.
- Mile Away to return: After previously announcing late last year that it would close

FOOD

Breaking bread

Woodman's Artisan Bakery to open storefront in Nashua



Photos courtesy of Woodman's Artisan Bakery.





By Matt Ingersoll mingersoll@hippopress.com

Bill Woodman gained a following across the local farmers market scene for his European-style artisan breads, first selling in Salem in 2018 before branching out to six markets by the following summer. Nearly four years later, Woodman is expanding his startup bread business into a storefront, giving him his own permanent spot to bake as well as an opportunity to serve coffees, teas, sandwiches and grab-and-go pastries.

Woodman's Artisan Bakery is due to open in the coming weeks on the corner of Amherst and Sunapee streets in North Nashua — it's in the former spot of Great Harvest Bread Co., which has sat vacant since December 2019. Upon coming into the space, Woodman connected with former Great Harvest owner Jeremy St. Hilaire, who welcomed him to the neighborhood, shared his own experiences, and helped go over the basics of its unique multiton 48-pan oven.

Woodman's breads are 100 percent scratch-baked and range from various country ryes and sourdoughs to flavored options like a cranberry walnut and an Italian focaccia with Parmesan and rosemary. His product line also includes traditional French butter croissants and pain au chocolat pastries, as well as soft blueberry scones and lightly salted German-style pretzels.

A Manchester native, Woodman attended Springfield College in Massachusetts before

transferring to Southern New Hampshire University to study culinary arts. From there, he would hold multiple kitchen jobs over the years, and it was while as a cook at the RiverMead, a retirement home in Peterborough, that he got the opportunity to attend bread baking intensive courses at King Arthur Flour in Vermont, thanks to an educational reimbursement program.

"I had always had an interest in breads, but no one ever knew much to teach me about them," he said. "I did the program at King Arthur, came back to the retirement home and then was doing fresh bread for them every day. ... People were going crazy about it to the point where we ended up setting up a sale with three or four different types of bread. So that went over very, very well."

In May 2018, Woodman applied to become a vendor at the Salem Farmers Market. Dave Hippert, a longtime friend of his who owns Sal's Pizza in Hooksett, agreed to let him use his oven after hours, where he currently bakes his breads and pastries.

"He closes down at the end of his day, so 9 or 10 o'clock at night, and then I go in, mix up my doughs and bake throughout the night into the mornings. Then from the morning to the afternoon I go out to the markets and sell my bread off," he said. "So without him, none of this would've been possible, especially just with the volume that I'm able to pull out of there."

As a result, nearly all of his items at the

market have only just been out of the oven hours earlier.

"That's one of those things that makes a big, big difference is that quality and freshness," he said.

Once his Nashua storefront opens, Woodman will leave the kitchen at Sal's, but he still plans to attend a few farmers markets per week. Currently he's in Concord on Saturdays and Salem on Sundays, and he'll pick up a third market in Bedford on Tuesdays when it resumes in June.

In addition to Great Harvest's oven, Woodman has an electric Bongard deck oven from Germany he purchased a few years ago through a mutual connection with a Portsmouth chef.

"It's kind of like your Lamborghini of ovens, so to speak," he said. "Anything that's got a real nice crust and a chewy crumb is going to come out of there, because you get that steam injection. ... You get a little bit of water, which keeps the dough pliable enough so that it grows and expands properly, but then when it starts evaporating off, you start basically caramelizing the sugars on the surface of that dough, and it gives you that color and crispiness that you want."

Woodman plans to get into baking ciabattas and baguettes, breads he said he hasn't regularly done in a few years. He'll also be able to produce all of his other artisan breads on an even larger scale than before, thanks to his newfound 24/7 access. One of his flagship products is called the "Yukon Dave" sourdough - it's named after a farmers market customer who gifted him a sourdough starter that originated in Alaska sometime in the 1960s.

On the retail side, Woodman will have a display case featuring grab-and-go pastries as well as drip coffee sourced from A&E, a USDA-certified organic roaster. Eventually, he said, he'd like to add cappuccinos and lattes and plans to offer pizzas, sandwiches and other lunch items.

Woodman's Artisan Bakery

An opening date is expected in the coming weeks for the bakery's storefront. In the meantime, find owner and bread maker Bill Woodman from 9 a.m. to noon, and at the Salem Farmers Market (LaBelle Winery Derry, 14 Route 111, Derry) on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: 4 Sunapee St., Nashua

Hours: TBA

More info: Visit woodmansartisanbakery. at the Downtown Concord Winter Farmers com, or find them on Facebook @woodman-Market (7 Eagle Square, Concord) on Saturdays sartisanbakery and Instagram @woodmans. artisan.bakery

Soup's on

Concord's SouperFest returns



Photo courtesy of Mulberry Creek Imagery

By Alexandra Colella listings@hippopress.com

Food can always bring a community together, no matter the circumstances. The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness is partnering with local eateries once again for its annual SouperFest event, set for Saturday, March 26, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at White Park in Concord.

Each year local restaurant owners donate a selection one of their soups to raise money for the Coalition, which aims to raise awareness about homelessness in the community through its many partnerships. The Coalition hopes to raise \$50,000 with SouperFest and, if the weather is nice, feature a live performance from the New Orleans-influenced State Street Jazz Band.

Eight Concord restaurants are participating in this year's event, and the soup flavors are diverse, ranging from a mushroom beef and barley soup courtesy of Revival Kitchen & Bar to vegan and vegetarian chilis from Col's Kitchen and Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, respectively. There's also going to be a Hungarian mushroom soup provided by the Concord Food Co-op, and a lentil soup from The Works Bakery Cafe, among others.

"The soup selection ... is awesome, and it will be wonderful to see friends and supporters again," said Ellen Groh, executive director of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, "and, I must say, hearing the State Street Jazz Band makes for a great festive mood."

Online orders can be made before the event. Advanced online ordering is a better option to secure the soup you want for the event. Weather permitting, soup lovers are invited to bring chairs to the park to watch the live band perform, or you can take your soup to go and enjoy at home. Anyone who orders online will be prompted to choose a designated pickup time during the event's hours.

Previous SouperFest events have been



Photo courtesy of Mulberry Creek Imagery.

held indoors, bringing together hundreds of attendees to enjoy several dozen locally made soups. The pandemic forced its cancellation in 2020, while last year's event was the first in its history to make the transition outdoors to a mostly takeout format.

Event organizer Greg Lessard called SouperFest "a tremendous testament to the Concord community's compassion, generosity and commitment" to ending homelessness in the city.

"This was evidenced when the call went out to local restaurants to ask them to donate soup," he said. "Although over the past two years restaurants have had a challenging time, eight ... immediately confirmed their commitment to the event."

Of its \$50,000 goal with the event, \$40,000 has already been raised from local businesses. Soups may be available on the day of the event, but selections are expected to be limited.

SouperFest

When: Saturday, March 26, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Where: White Park, 1 White St., Concord Visit: concordhomeless.org/souperfest

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Kaylon Sweet - known by many simply as "Sweets" - is the owner of Osteria Poggio (18 Main St., Center Harbor, 250-8007, osteriapoggio.com), a farm-to-table Italian eatery set inside the historic Coe House, which overlooks Lake Winnipesaukee. In late January, he also took over culinary operations of the Mak'n Ends Meat food truck (maknendsmeat.com, and on Facebook and Instagram @maknendsmeat) as part of a collaboration with its owners, the Osgood family of Birch Rise Farm in Sanbornton. Mak'n Ends Meat is unique for utilizing Birch Rise's own farmraised proteins on board the truck, giving Sweet the opportunity to dabble in all kinds of menu options, such as pork smash burgers, chicken tacos, ham and cheese "foldies," and ramen



burgers topped with a house Japanese-style barbecue sauce. One of Sweet's first restaurant jobs was at Cookie's Chuck Wagon in Hudson, a town where he lived for a few years as a teenager — since then, he has studied Italian cuisine abroad in Florence and, upon returning to the Granite State, has gone on to establish himself as a chef working closely with local farms in sourcing his ingredients. Locally, you can find Mak'n Ends Meat parked at Lithermans Limited Brewery (126B Hall St., Concord) on Friday, March 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. Sweet will then return to Lithermans for its six-year anniversary celebration on April 8 and April 9, and he's also due to appear at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester) on April 16.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

You've got to have a nice flat metal spatula and a towel. ... I can make everything else work with those items.

What would you have for your last meal?

My mom makes these pork ribs with a barbecue sauce recipe that my grandmother gave her ... [and] they always come out absolutely amazing. I'd want those one last time. She does a chocolate raspberry cheesecake too that I go nuts

for. ... Then I would also have our Caesar salad with our house hot sauce squirted into it, and some smoked Gouda mac and cheese with honey. It's your last meal, so you've got to make it count, you know?

What is your favorite local restaurant?

The Thompson House Eatery up in Jackson is one. I have a buddy who owns it. He was just up for a [James] Beard [award] and he's definitely earned it. ... I'd also have to say The Wilder in Portsmouth. It's always fantastic.

Ramen smash burgers

From the kitchen of Kaylon Sweet of Osteria Poggio and the Mak'n Ends Meat food truck (yields about three burgers)

- 3 Martin's potato buns
- 3/4 pound ground pork
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 2 Tablespoons water
- 1 bag instant ramen noodles
- 3 slices American cheese

Japanese barbecue sauce

Any additional toppings of choice (optional)

Heat up your ramen per instructions. Drain and set aside. Save the seasoning packet for the burgers. Heat up a nonstick pan and add canola oil. Divide ground pork into three equally sized balls and semi-flatten. Season with ramen seasoning packet and salt on one side. Place in the pan and leave to get a hard sear (according to Sweet, it should achieve a dark golden brown color, "like good maple syrup"). Season the uncooked side and flip. Smash burgers down and flatten. Add one slice of cheese to each pat-

ty. Cook through and set aside. Add ramen into the still hot pan. Add two tablespoons of water to release the sticky bits, then add the Japanese barbecue sauce. Once all of the noodles are coated, set aside and prepare to build. Put a patty on a bun, add ramen on top and place your top bun on. Add any other optional toppings — Sweet's favorites to use are shredded lettuce, chipotle mayonnaise, pickled onions, pickled ginger and a fried egg.

For the Japanese barbecue sauce:

1 cup soy sauce

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup ketchup

3 Tablespoons rice wine vinegar

1 ripe pear, with cores chopped

2 cloves garlic

1/4 cup pickled ginger

1/4 cup chopped scallions

Place all ingredients into a blender and puree until smooth. Pour into a saucepan and cook on a low temperature until the mixture has reduced by a third. Cook and store in an airtight container.

What celebrity would you like to see ordering from the truck?

[Chef] Mason Hereford from Turkey and the Wolf, which is a sandwich place in New Orleans. His claim to fame is a fried bologna sandwich. ... He's somebody that I follow religiously on all of the social media platforms. He's very much a guy that is who he is ... [and] I'd like to have him come through because I know I'd get an honest answer out of him.

What is your favorite thing on the truck's menu?

I really like our pork smash burger. It's a ground sausage-based burger that we just pound out and fry up. I like to do that with a fried egg, some bacon jam and chipotle aioli. ... I'd have to say that the ham and cheese foldy is also something that I really like. It's basically like a ham and cheese quesadilla, but the ham from Birch Rise Farm is what makes it. It's an insanely good ham.

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

Tacos and Asian fusion, to be honest. ... Every time I see some place trying to start their own thing, that's where it seems to be that they are gravitating toward.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Usually just a bagel, egg and cheese sandwich and then I'll dip it in something. ... I've also been playing around a lot lately with fried rice.

— Matt Ingersoll 🦛

Weekly Dish \$3 OFF Any Lunch Entrée OR Continued from page 18

its kitchen space in January, Milford's Mile Away Restaurant will now be reopening on April 6, according to a message recently posted on its website. Reservations will be required going forward, due to limited staffing, the message reads in part. Additionally, public events with set menus are being planned for every Saturday and Sunday in April, during which Mile Away's regular dinner menu will not be available. The eatery will also be open for Easter — reservations are being accepted now for special

meals that will include an appetizer, a salad, an entree and a dessert. According to its website, Mile Away is in a historic spot in town — the site of one of the earliest settlements in New England in the 18th century. Visit mileawayrestaurantnh.com.

HIPPO I MARCH 24 - 30, 2022 | PAGE 20

Cheddar and chive scones

It is yet another week of baking, but this week has a different spin. These are savory scones. For the first 10 to 15 years that I made scones they were always sweet. Then my sweet tooth diminished, and I began to consider alternate fillings.

Even though they are savory, these scones still make a fabulous breakfast dish. Serve them alongside or even underneath the eggs that you are making for a weekend breakfast. Or you could serve them at dinner as a side with a bowl of soup or stew.

This recipe is pretty straightforward, especially if you got through last week's sweet scone recipe. The ingredients shouldn't need modification, except for the buttermilk, so I've left the same note at the foot of the recipe.

Here's to a delicious, savory baked good that works at almost any time of

Michele Pesula Kuegler has been thinking about food her entire life. Since



Cheddar and chive scones, Courtesy photo,

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.

Cheddar and chive scones

Makes 8

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 5 Tablespoons chilled, unsalted butter, diced 3/4 cup buttermilk*
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1/3 cup minced chives
- 1 3/4 + 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 Tablespoon milk

Flaked sea salt

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl.

Add butter.

Combine butter and dry ingredients using a pastry blender (or two forks) until butter is reduced to the size of grains of rice.

Whisk buttermilk and egg in a 2-cup liquid measuring cup or small bowl.

Add liquids to dry ingredients; mix until dough forms a ball.

Stir in chives and 1 3/4 cups cheese.

Place dough on a lightly floured surface and press into an 8-inch square.

Brush the top of the square with milk and sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese and a pinch of sea salt.

Cut into 16 squares.

Transfer squares to a parchment paper-lined, rimmed baking sheet.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until the scones are crusty on top and a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

Serve warm with butter for an extra treat.

*In lieu of buttermilk, you can combine 1 tablespoon lemon juice and enough milk (I've used both cow and almond milks with success) to equal 3/4 cup. Allow to sit for 5 minutes before using in the recipe.

Local farmers markets • Contoocook Farmers Mar-

- ket is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Manle Street Elementary them on Facebook @contoocookfarmersmarket.
- Fridays, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the market.
- Woods and Fish and Game roads). Find them on Facebook @deeringwintermarket.
- School (194 Maple St., Contoo- Farmers Market is Saturdays, is March 26. Visit milfordnhfarmcook). Masks are required. Find from 9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square in Concord, now through April. Find them on Facebook @ · Deering Winter Market is downtownconcordwinterfarmers-
- Deering Fish & Game Club (Long Milford Farmers Market is every other Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (Union Square), • Downtown Concord Winter now through April 9. The next one ersmarket.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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BEER

Pizza and beer

You can't overstate the perfection of this pairing

By Jeff Mucciarone food@hippopress.com

After a quick glance at the beer menu at Cornerstone Artisanal Pizza & Craft Beer in Ogunquit, Maine, a couple weeks back, I ordered the **Forklift Unicorn IPA** by Stoneface Brewing Co.

The bartender-slash-server said "It's good," and while that might not have sounded like an overwhelmingly ringing endorsement, I can tell you that based on the complete interaction, it was, in fact, the equivalent of a five-star Yelp review.

With good reason, too. The New England IPA was delightfully juicy and hazy with big hop flavors, pronounced tropical fruit and citrus notes, but with what seemed like zero bitterness. Plus, it lacked the heft of many of today's IPAs, which was great because I was about to eat a lot of pizza.

The beer was secondary on this particular occasion, however. My wife and I had somehow found a way to take a weekend away and Friday night was my night to pick dinner. After a traffic-filled drive, we were famished and craving more carbs and cheese than our bodies could actually handle. (Is there anything that gets you craving pizza and a beer like a frustrating car ride?)

As I said, the beer delivered on the server's promise, and so did the pizza. We went with a barbecued pulled pork pizza and a sausage, pepper and mushroom pizza.

Sipping on a delicious beer and biting into a savory, cheesy, meaty satisfying slice of pizza may not be the height of luxury, but let me know if you can think of a better combination. There's just something about it. I swear it's good for your soul, if not for your gut. I'm craving it right now and it's 10 a.m.

My grandmother is 90-something years old and she still will not eat pizza without having a beer. She gets it.

Now, the type of beer matters. You want to put a bit of thought into the pizza you're eating when selecting a brew. A coffee porter probably wouldn't have been a great pairing with the pizzas we chose that night. Something drier, like an Irish stout, probably would have been just fine with the earthiness of the mushrooms.

IPAs stand up to just about anything but they're so intensely flavored themselves, they can overpower your palate while you're eating, which is why I tend to stay away from big double IPAs when I'm eating. They just offer too much flavor and too much heft for my palate.

Pilsners, like the Alexandr by Schilling



Forklift Unicorn IPA by Stoneface Brewing Company. Courtesy photo.

Beer Co. in Littleton or the **Beer Hall Lager** by 603 Brewery in Londonderry, are perfect for pairing up with pizza, as lighter, crisper brews provide a perfect counterpoint to the combination of chewy dough and rich cheese.

Sours — and I would suggest sticking with lighter varieties, like a Berliner weisse — also pack a tart counterpoint that can be very nice with a slice of pizza. That said, sours vary quite a bit, so again, you just need to think about flavor combinations when you're ordering.

My wife enjoyed the **Dichotomie Saison Inspired Cider** by Austin Street Brewery and the beer's fruity, funky flavor worked really well with the pulled pork pizza, which included a topping of crunchy, sweet coleslaw.

Saisons can be spicy, which makes them an interesting choice for pairing up with pizzas that have a little spice as well — think banana peppers and pepperoni.

I finished up my Forklift Unicorn and ordered an **Irish red ale** by Geaghan Brothers Pub & Craft Brewery out of Bangor, Maine, and I found the light body and flavorful malt a nice pairing with both of our pizzas.

The core message here: Be like my grandmother and don't eat pizza without beer.

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

What's in My Fridge

Guinness Draught Stout by Guinness & Co. (Dublin, Ireland) It was Saint Patrick's Day last week after all, and of course Guinness is a fitting choice. There's nothing quite like watching a Guinness cascade in the glass as you prepare to enjoy a meal of corned beef and cabbage. Dry and drinkable, Guinness is a perfect change of pace. Cheers.

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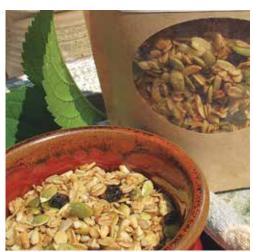
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Index

Raveena, Asha's

Awakening A-

• Dave Douglas, Secular

Psalms A

BOOKS

• Comedy Comedy Come-

dy Drama B

Book Notes

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

- Deep Water C+
- Cheaper by the Dozen

• Windfall B

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

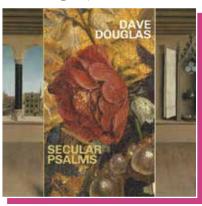
Raveena, Asha's Awakening (Warner Records)



Another Missy Elliott wannabe heard from, more or less, although this diva is more prone to tabling reggaeton and such than Ariana Grande-ish Disney-spazz when she's in gyration mode. With regard to her reggaeton, her singing on "Rush" has the same fluttery fragility as The Jets' "Crush on You," if you remember that one, and "Secret" borders on same, but the beat there is more a general-purpose Shakira thing than anything else. "Mystery" is

different, though, a rather straightforward R&B tune with a pretty remarkable amount of bubbly femininity. I wouldn't want to be trapped in a car driving around with nothing but this album for a few hours, but it's pleasant enough. And mind you, the LP revolves around a conceptual theme regarding an alien princess "who, through a fantastic journey across the centuries, learns about love and loss, healing and destruction." So anyhow, that. The closest her tour will bring her to New Hampshire will be on June 15, at Brighton Music Hall in Allston, Mass. A-

Dave Douglas, Secular Psalms (Greenleaf Music)



Quite the Da Vinci Codetinged curveball here from jazz trumpeter Douglas, who was commissioned by the city of Gent, Belgium, to score music for the city's 600th anniversary celebration of the creation of a 24-part polyptych (multi-paneled painting) titled "The Adoration Of The Mystic Lamb." There's an interesting backstory of course, revolving around the 2012 discovery that the altarpiece had been overpainted

around AD 1550, and a couple of pieces are apparently missing, and such and so, all of which served to inspire Douglas and his sextet to work with such components as Latin Mass chanting, medieval folk songs and the work of composers of the period. As well, the band plays unconventional instruments such as a lute and a serpent (a huge, meandering ancestor of the tuba), which takes us to the first track, "Arrival," a bizarre piece that evokes a William Peter Blatty fever dream. There's relatively normal stuff as well, some readily accessible modern jazz and such, but chanting and such things do appear from time to time. Like its subject, a unique, rare artwork. A — Eric W. Saeger 🦱

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Onward we slog, my stouthearted ones, to March 25, when the new albums will magically appear in your Spotify, begging for just a little space in your non-existent attention span. Pitchfork will have to talk about these albums, as will YouTube's resident clue-mosquito "musicologist" Anthony Fantano, a.k.a. "Needle Drop." As always, in between making up nonsense words in an effort to overanalyze simple rock 'n' roll songs, Fantana will make super-funny comments and perform two-second skits dressed up as a butler or Haystacks Calhoun or whomever he assumes will entertain his audience of 11-year-olds that day. And once he's done confusing the young'ns, he'll either toddle off to say something completely idiotic on some political podcast run by college freshmen who've never actually read any political books, or he'll go shopping for more funny costumes in order to better entertain his fans, who apparently don't have ears attached to their own heads, so there's no way they can judge all that awful music for themselves. Needle Drop will definitely ignore the new Cowboy Junkies album, Songs Of The Recollection, because he is fake-edgy and only likes songs he could play his stupid bass to, but you know this album will be OK, because the ole Junkies have always made it a point to make a stop in New Hampshire when they tour, which is pretty cool of them. This year they'll be at Portsmouth Music Hall on April 12, and the alternative country-folk veterans will surely play a few numbers from this new LP, a collection of cover tunes. There's a boozy/pretty version of David Bowie's "Five Years" on board; singer Margo Timmins sounds particularly Melissa Etheridge-ish on it.
- Speaking of Bowie, there's a new album coming from British pop-punkers Placebo, who benefited greatly when Bowie took them on tour with him in 1996. It's all well and good by me that they've had success; I suppose the world could always use a band that sounds like a weak version of Killers, but such analyses are beyond the scope of this newspaper article, as I'm supposed to discuss this new album, Never Let Me Go, and move on to the next thing. Fine, then, one of the tunes, "Surrounded By Spies," has the same rhythm as "Cry Little Sister" from the soundtrack to The Lost Boys, like it's music for dancing slowly and weirdly around a roaring campfire and making googly eyes at people, except the vocals sound like Pet Shop Boys. I have no idea what these guys think they're even doing these days, but anyway, that.
- What else, what else, what else, oh look, it's Toronto hardcore punk band F--ed Up, with a new album, called Do All Words Can Do. The title track really is old-school, which is cool, like, it's really fast and crazed, and it sounds like it was recorded on a boombox and whatnot, but the only reason I even brought this up was that you bands out there really need to stop having swears in your names, because 99 times out of 100 you'll be ignored by respectable newspapers like this one, because young children would accidentally read it and have questions. It just isn't done, you see. If you're looking for a way to make me listen to your music, I'd much rather that you brag about how awesome your band is instead of behaving like a 10-year-old, that'd be great. This has been a public service message; the more you know.
- Let's wrap up the week with Australian all-girl indie-rock trio Camp Cope, whose new full-length, Running With The Hurricane, is heading your way in trucks right this minute! The title track is really good, evoking Florence & The Machine in a Woodstock frame of mind, you'll like it, I promise. — Eric W. Saeger 🦛





Comedy Comedy Drama, by **Bob Odenkirk** (Random House, 285 pages)

It's hard to imagine now, but in its first season, the AMC drama Breaking Bad didn't make much of a splash. In fact, when his agent first brought up a potential short-term gig playing a sleazy lawyer named Saul Goodman, Bob Odenkirk had not seen the show.

"I vaguely recalled the image on the billboards — a guy in his underwear in the desert?" He figured, "I would phone a friend, see if anyone had actually seen it," Odenkirk writes in his new memoir.

Breaking Bad, of course, would go on to be a monster hit and make household names out of Odenkirk and several of his costars. And the show's success eclipsed the work he'd been doing since he was in middle school. ("By age twenty, I'd been steadily pumping out the blithering idiocy for over a decade," he writes.) What he wanted to do, what he'd always done, was make people laugh, and he had been (mostly) paying his bills by writing jokes and sketches, going from the famed comedy stages in Chicago to the set of Saturday Night Live.

Saul Goodman, of course, is in many ways a comical character, although he exists within a serious and often violent drama. So maybe Odenkirk's transition from stand-up wasn't as big a transition as, say, playing the butler in *The Remains of The Day*, but it's surprising enough to sustain a 200-pluspage book, at least for Breaking Bad fans. Those who have no interest in the show or its spinoff would have a tougher time paying attention unless they are young people looking to get into comedy.

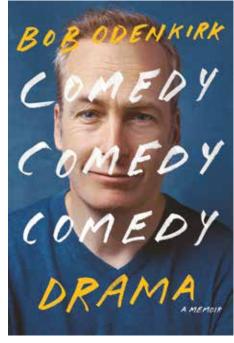
The book, of course, begins with a joke:

"How does one begin a book? ... Dickens, Melville, Odenkirk — all have faced the same query, and only one has failed. Melville. 'Call me Ishmael.' Talk about giving up."

He goes on to riff about a childhood in Naperville, Illinois, that was most likely more painful than described. "A tale as old as time. Daddy issues. The end," he jokes. Odenkirk was one of seven children in a Catholic family headed by a man with anger issues, so to speak. "Generally speaking, my dad was rough and too intense, and those were his good qualities. He was never around, and when he was, there was tension in the air."

Odenkirk was relieved when his parents split up when he was 15; he says he shrugged when his father died when he was 22. His salvation was his brothers and sisters, encouraging teachers and, most importantly, discovering Monty Python, the British comedy troupe. Their comedy taught him that much of the world and many of its people were pretty awful "and you don't have to respect these people, you can laugh at them."

He mowed lawns in order to save enough money to buy a cassette recorder from Kmart (Google both of them, kids), on which he



recorded comedy bits and interviews, but he couldn't really envision doing comedy for a living until he was in college and had a chance encounter with Del Close, a legend in Chicago's comedy scene. On impulse, Odenkirk asked if he could interview Close, "a gnarled, shaggy Sasquatch of a man," and got two and a half hours of rambling memories, confessions, inspiration and advice. "All I can say is that it drew me in and shook me by the collar and screamed in my face, 'YOU CAN DO THIS! THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT! I trembled in the presence of his galloping mind."

From there, Odenkirk describes the ins and outs of his early career as a comedian and writer, including a trying time as a writer at SNL, which was then in its 13th season, working with people such as Al Franken and Chris Farley. It's a revelatory in that he describes how what seems to be a dream job can actually wreck even someone with talent. (And it's clear Odenkirk had talent — I am still laughing over a sketch he pitched about a cheap airline called "Greyhound Air" that doesn't promise destinations but vague directions: "the plane is headed in a general direction ... like towards New York.")

It's interesting that Breaking Bad doesn't show up in the memoir in any real way until the ninth chapter, some 200 pages in. It shows how so many people in Hollywood can define a person by a single series or film, despite a robust body of work that precedes or follows it. And Breaking Bad, of course, gave birth to the prequel that Odenkirk is still immersed in: Better Call Saul, which he calls "the biggest break of my career by a fair margin."

But here's one of Odenkirk's more interesting reveals: He initially said no to the role, because it was going to be shot in Albuquerque. He and his wife/manager had two kids, he was a school volunteer and a soccer coach, and a raft of other reasons, including that he felt he was famous and successful enough. "I am in this to entertain myself. Here's how much fame I need: 'just enough' and no more."

Maybe that's the secret to Hollywood success: not really caring about it. Odenkirk concedes that his own success has in some ways been driven by luck. (He tells a young woman seeking advice, "You can't

make your own break.") But it's hard to look over Odenkirk's life and not recall the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." With enough raw talent and a cheap tape recorder, it's apparently enough to just want to entertain vourself.

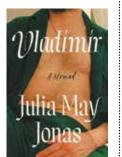
B — Jennifer Graham 🦡

BOOK NOTES

The literary genre known as autofiction is a blending of fiction and autobiography, and not everyone accepts it as necessary. "It's either memoir or fiction. There's no such category as autofiction," writing coach Brooke Warner argued in Publishers Weekly last year.

The industry begs to differ, as perhaps would authors of centuries past. Let's just say Charles Dickens' fiction likely would have been much different had he not grown up in his own bleak house.





The latest buzz in the realm of autofiction is *Checkout 19* (Riverhead, 288 pages) by Claire-Louise Bennett, a novel published in the U.K. last year and released this month in the U.S.

It is, as much as I can tell from reading excerpts and reviews, a stream-of-consciousness novel about books and their effects on the narrator's life. But the opening will draw in anyone who, like the narrator, would go to the public library as a child and emerge with a stack of books they could barely see over.

It's better, Bennett's narrator, says, to just pick one book, rather than to be distracted by the siren songs of 10 others all week: "[J]

ust because we were allowed to take out six books eight books twelve books four books didn't mean did it that we had to."

That could be autofiction for many of us.

Meanwhile, one has to marvel at the timing of Vladimir: A Novel (Avid Reader Press, 256 pages) by Julia May Jonas, which was released a few weeks before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It has nothing to do with Putin, but surely benefits from people searching for books on Russia's president. It's about a New York college professor who develops an obsession with the titular Vladimir while her husband is under investigation for having untoward relationships with students.

Finally, Anne Tyler fans are rejoicing at this week's release of her 24th novel, French **Braid** (Knopf, 256 pages), a multigenerational family story — set in Baltimore, of course. – Jennifer Graham

Author events

- AN EVENING TO REMEM-BER: CONCORD-AREA AUTHORS Authors Margaret Porter, Virginia MacGregor and Mark Okrant, in conversa-Presented by The Duprey Companies. Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord. Wed., April 6, 7:30 p.m. Free to attend. Visit ccanh.com.
- MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD Author presents The Great Circle. Virtual store in Concord. Wed., April 13, gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-
- EMMA LOEWE Author presents Return to Nature: The New Science of How Natural Landscapes Restore Us, in conversation

with author Hannah Fries. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Wed., April 13, 7 CONVERSATIONS p.m. Registration is required. Held via Zoom. Visit gibsonsbookstore. com or call 224-0562.

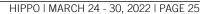
- MARIE BOSTWICK Author (Nina Monroe), Paul Brogan presents her new book The Restoration of Celia Fairchild. Booktion with NHPR's Laura Knoy. ery, 844 Elm St., Manchester. Fri., April 15, 5:30 p.m. Visit bookerymht.com or call 836-6600.
- BECKY SAKELLERIOU AND HENRY WALTERS Becky Sakelleriou presents The Possibility of Red. Henry Walters presents Field Guide A Tempo. Sat., April event hosted by Gibson's Book- 16, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord 6 p.m. Registration required. Visit St., Peterborough. Visit monadnockwriters.org.
 - ANNE HILLERMAN Author presents The Sacred Bridge. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Tues., April 19, 7 p.m. Held via Zoom. Registra-

tion is required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

BRANDON K. GAUTHIER Author presents Before Evil: Young Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Mao, and Kim. Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Wed., April 27, 6:30 p.m. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.

Poetry

- REBECCA KAISER Poet presents Girl as Birch. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Mon., April 11, 7 p.m. Held via Zoom. Registration is 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.



Deep Water (R)

Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas chew all the scenery and bring all the ham as a sexy couple in the uproarious comedy Deep Water.

Beautiful people Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas play a couple whose relationship is as much ruled by tormenting each other as it is by desire in *Deep Water*, an intense and sexy thriller with a twisted sense of humor.

I feel like I'm supposed to feel the latter but for me it's all the former. This movie was frequently "what? HA!" when I think it was supposed to be "ooo, twist!"

Married couple Vic (Affleck) and Melinda (de Armas) have some kind of kink that seems to involve her openly dating handsome young dudes and him menacing and maybe killing them. Which feels like an unsustainable situation, both as couple foreplay and as a serial killer pattern. Especially since they seem well-known in their town and always going to parties where members of their friend-group ask Vic why he's letting Melinda flirt with these dudes right there, at the parties, in front of everyone. "It's our sexy arrangement" would actually be a great answer and would make sure that they always get invited to parties because people love to be bystanders to drama. But instead, he sidesteps these discussions and only intervenes when Melinda's drinking puts her or a host's furniture in peril.

His odd calm, tendency to brood at his wife from afar and his hobby of raising snails would, in any normal circumstance, make him an obvious suspect when one of her boyfriends goes missing. But when Vic tells Joel (Brendan Miller), Melinda's latest fling, that he murdered the previous guy and Joel apparently goes and tells, like, Everybody, all of Vic's friends laugh it off. Buddies Jonas (Dash Mihok) and Grant (Lil Rel Howery) seem to think if anything Vic needs to show more of a reaction to rein in Melinda's behavior.

But Vic doesn't need or want to control Melinda, he claims. And Melinda seems to need the drama of these romances to make her life exciting. Perhaps this is what happens when, like Vic, you basically don't need to work because vou've retired very early and very wealthy from making computer chips. Specifically, the computer chips that help guide military drones, which means that even if Vic hasn't actually offed any of his wife's special friends, some people think of him as someone who has killed people. "Some people" include Don (Tracy Letts), the writer who smells both guilt and a story in Vic's whole situation and who has newly become friends with Vic's crew.

So I guess you could spend time wondering how much of this movie's comedy is intentional, how much of the melodramatic acting of Affleck and de Armas is part of how much of the score is supposed to send us



to a Lifetime-esque Deadly Sexy: The Melinda Story-type place. Or, you could just go with it and "blah-ha!" at Melinda's inappropriate behavior while Vic is trying to pay the babysitter (the couple has a 6-year-old daughter). Or at Vic's whole deal with his snails - he has a Whole Lot of snails, it would definitely be one of the first things you would mention if you were describing him to someone: "he's super rich, he has this bonkers wife and he has a thing about snails."

Is this movie sexy? I'm not sure, the intentional sexiness is also kind of funny at times. And other than that this state of constant angst is just sort of their thing, the movie never gives a reason that this couple would stay together. I feel like there's a Gone-Girl-ish destructive-people-who-areaddicted-to-each-other thing this movie is trying to build but it's so much trashier and more ridiculous that it doesn't elevate them from "movie characters" to "human-like." But again, I think you just need to set logic, even the internal logic of this relationship aside, and enjoy the goofy ride. I do think a movie this soapy probably should have been as liberal with dude nudity as it is with de Armas' toplessness. Also the elements about Vic's concerns with Melinda's drinking feel sort of like an unnecessary misdirection. This movie is at its best when its characters are being over-the-top bonkers.

Does this all mean you should skip Deep Water? No, but I think you need to choose the appropriate movie viewing situation. This is not the movie for when you want an actual thriller or a mystery of any kind or a romance. This is a movie for when you have a big bowl of popcorn and want to laugh about the nonsense you're watching with someone who has an equal appreciation for what I think could arguably be described as camp. I think that makes it a C+?

Rate R for sexual content, nudity, language and some violence, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Adrian Lyne with a screenplay by Zach Helm and Sam Levinson (based on a novel by Patricia what the movie is doing to build atmosphere, Highsmith), Deep Water, which also has the layer of everything you know about the former Ana de Armas/Ben Affleck relationship

over it, is an hour and 55 minutes and is distributed by New Regency Productions and is available on Hulu.

Cheaper by the Dozen (PG)

A blended family does hijinx and occasionally addresses racism in Cheaper by the Dozen, a gentle family movie.

I assume this is the kind of movie the whole family (of like tweens and up) watches together as part of a chill-out movie night, i.e. a movie night where nothing is so exciting or scary that anybody will have a hard time going to sleep and some people will likely nod off during the movie. By that standard, this movie is fine — as mildly funny as it needs to be, thanks largely to the always awesome Gabrielle Union and Zach Braff, and sweet in a way that mostly isn't too treacle-y. And I appreciate the way the movie addresses the different ways Black, white and brown family members feel in situations.

Chef/diner owner Paul (Zach Braff) and his three children (Harley played by Caylee Blosenski, Ella played by Kylie Rogers and Haresh played by Aryan Simhadri) — and his omnipresent ex-wife Kate (Erika Christensen) — joined marketing exec Zoey (Gabrielle Union) and her two kids (by NBA star Dom, played by Timon Kyle Durrett), Deja (Journee Brown) and DJ (Andre Robinson), in creating a happy blended family that then added four more members via two sets of twins (Luca and Luna played by Leo Abelo Perry and Mykal-Michelle Harris, and Bailey and Bronx played by Christian Cote and Sebastian Cote). The 11 Bakers become 12 when Paul's sullen nephew Seth (Luke Prael) comes to stay.

Paul and Zoey and the kids old enough not to break labor laws all work in the family diner that serves breakfast all day and features Paul's amazing sweet/savory breakfast sauce, which is so well-received he wants to bottle it and sell it nationwide. When he gets investors to help him develop the sauce brand, he pushes Zoey to use some of the money to buy a big new house, something that has individual rooms for more of the kids and enough bathrooms that morn-

ings don't have to be as hectic. Zoey is less delighted about the gated-community aspect of the new house, where she is immediately greeted by a security guard who tells her about the late-night noise policy. Many of the kids feel equally displeased with the move away from friends and, in Deja's case, the basketball team where she was trying to catch the eye of a USC scout.

Paul is excited about this new money-having phase of his family's life and excited to follow his investors' lead in not only bottling the sauce but franchising his restaurant. But the bigger his business becomes the more it takes him away from the family, which worries Zoey, who feels like she's reliving the success-related falling apart of a partnership that she experienced in her first marriage.

Among the kids there are also kid dramas — crushes, bullies, fears about the new house. It's Deja, DJ and Haresh who get the most thoroughly developed storyline, though everybody and their personalities get a moment. Exes Kate and Dom also float around with their own bits of action but always landing on the spot of "we're all family."

I can't tell if I'm being too hard on this movie wishing it was just a little bit more — more something, more about the physical comedy so that it could pull in younger viewers bored by all the talking maybe or more about the clash of all the different household personalities. Or, if I'm giving it too much of a pass for the little moments of surprisingly well-executed comedy, like some of the crazier antics of the little kids or Zoey's ongoing struggle with Kate's total lack of boundaries but her willingness to babysit whenever for free. So it's fine, is where I land. Everybody here is doing fine, maybe not their most, maybe in Union's case just enough to make you wish she had more opportunities to shine, but fine. And, if you don't agree with this family movie night pick, you can always fall asleep. B-

Rated PG for thematic elements, suggestive material and language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Gail Lerner with a screenplay by Kenya Barris & Jenifer Rice-Genzuk (based on the really cute novels by Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine Gilbrath Casey that I read a million years ago), Cheaper by the Dozen is an hour and 47 minutes long and is available on Disnev+.

Windfall (R)

A rich couple is held hostage by the man who has broken into their vacation home in the quirky suspense movie Windfall.

The nameless burglar (Jason Segel) is almost out the door of the couple's house, having lifted some jewelry, cash and a gun, when the couple — a jerky tech billionaire (Jesse Plemons) and his unhappy wife (Lily Collins) — arrive. The wife spots him and

CONTINUED ON PG 28

Oscar night excitement — really!

Close the book on 2021 at the movies with Sunday's awards show

By Amy Diaz adiaz@hippopress.com

Get excited about the Oscars!

Yes, I'm talking to you, person interested in movies enough to be lingering in the film section. But I'm also talking to me, an official Oscars Fan who proclaimed her love for the Oscars last year and yet can't quite seem to get as jazzed about this year's ceremony the way I did about 2018 (Ladybird! Get Out!) or 2019 (Black Panther! The Favourite! A Star Is Born and everything to do with Lady Gaga!) or even last year's weird train station Oscars (Minari! Regina King! The song "Husavik" from Eurovision Song Contest!).

But even if, like me, you haven't seen all of the Best Picture nominees (I'll get to the three-hour *Drive My Car*, I promise) there is still a lot to get even casual movie fans enthused about this year — in terms of the movies, the ceremony and Oscar season. Pop your popcorn, open the prosecco you're going to pretend is Champagne and don that vintage Old Navy and let's get excited about Oscar Sunday (March 27 at 8 p.m., on ABC) together. Time to get excited about...

• The Best Picture nominees: Kenneth Branagh's Northern Ireland-set Belfast has six nominations (available for rent or purchase). CODA, about the hearing teen daughter of deaf parents, has three nominations (Apple TV+). Adam McKay's apocalypse, I don't know, comedy I guess, Don't Look Up (Netflix) has four nominations. The Japanese drama Drive My Car (HBO Max and rent or purchase) has four nominations including best international feature film. Beautiful, slow-moving *Dune* (HBO Max or for purchase) has 10 nominations and while I didn't love the movie I feel like it's a strong and worthy competitor for the sound and visual categories. The Will Smith-starring biopic of Serena and Venus Williams' dad, King Richard, has six nominees (in theaters and returning to HBO Max on March 24, and available for rent or purchase). Paul Thomas Anderson's nostalgia trip to 1970s L.A., Licorice Pizza (available for rent or purchase), has three nominations. The Guillermo del Toro-directed beautiful-looking but meh Nightmare Alley (HBO Max and for purchase) has four nominations. Jane Campion's menace-filled Western *The Power of the Dog* (Netflix) has 11 nominations including Campion for director. Steven Spielberg's surprisingly joyful (I mean, bleak if you think about it but iovful to watch) West Side Story (HBO Max. Disney+ and for rent or purchase) has seven nominations including what I would consider maybe the surest-thing nomination of Ariana DeBose for Anita.





• The ceremony: This year's Oscar ceremony has the potential to be an entertaining grab bag of winners with Thoughts About This Moment We're In globally, Academy members angry about the move of some categories off the broadcast proper and a whole bunch of people low-level freaked

whole bunch of people low-level freaked out about the state of their industry. For the first time in a while, domestic U.S. politics is probably, like, fourth or fifth on the list of issues that will be part of the mood of the night. I feel like last year's Oscars missed an opportunity to get people revved up for either the nominated films specifically or the theatrical experience in general (Google "Marvel Studios Celebrates the Movies" for a look at how to do *that*). With movie-going still not fully Back, it would be great if

the ceremony helped sell us on the concept

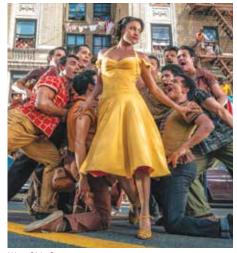
again and helped to actually introduce peo-

ple to some of the lesser-known films on

the nominees list.

And crazy stuff will likely happen because crazy stuff always happens and I hope that includes, as was speculated by the folks at Vanity Fair's *Little Gold Men* podcast, some actor winner pulling up the Makeup and Hairstyling winner or a Directing winner shouting out Production Design or Editing winner. Those are some of the eight categories that, as has been widely reported, have been pushed to a pre-broadcast first hour largely at the behest of ABC to make the broadcast ceremony shorter, which will somehow translate into more viewers. What will be part of the broadcast, though, is some kind of recognition of the "fan favorite film" of the year that was voted on largely via Twitter, so you know that will be weird. Anyway, tune in at 8 p.m. for the ceremony; a preshow starts at 6:30 p.m., according to Indiewire.

• The other award-granting organizations: Between this year's Oscar season being a month longer than the pre-pandemic awards season schedule and the



West Side Story

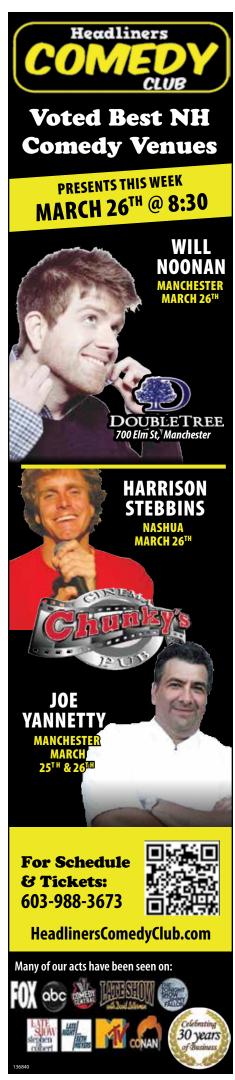
collapse of the Golden Globes (which were announced via Twitter a million years ago back in early January), I feel like some of the precursor awards got less attention, particularly if you're not someone who goes seeking that info. So let's go seeking, shall we? As with the Oscars, other awards nominee lists offer a great place to turn when you're trying to figure out what to watch tonight.

Even though We Don't Talk About the Golden Globes (no no no...), it is a place where the list of nominees includes Mahershala Ali in *Swan Song* (Apple TV+), Marion Cotillard in the musical *Annette* (Amazon Prime), Ruth Negga in the lovely-looking melodrama *Passing* (Netflix) and the score for Wes Andreson's latest, *The French Dispatch* (currently on HBO Max).

The Indie Spirit Awards, which usually happen the Saturday evening before the Oscars, took place in early March this year. On that list, non-Oscar nominees include the sweet family dramedy *C'mon C'mon* (available for rent or purchase), the excellent Nicholas Cage drama *Pig* (Hulu) and the claustrophobically funny *Shiva Baby* (HBO Max).

The Critics Choice Awards, handed out a few weeks ago, included nominations for the delightful Western, starring Regina King and Idris Elba, *The Harder They Fall* (Netflix) as well as, thanks to its comedy category my favorite movie of last year, *Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar* (Hulu, rent or purchase).

- The night of capital F Fashion: After two years of stretchy pants, I'm not necessarily in a hurry to dress fancy myself but I do enjoy watching others do it.
- The nominees I'm rooting for: Of the nine Best Picture nominees I've seen, my favorite is *CODA*, probably followed by *West Side Story* and a tie between *Belfast* and *Licorice Pizza*. In other categories, I'd pick Denzel Washington to win for his titular role in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (Apple TV+).





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In-Theater Screenings

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 PM The Automat

Followed by post-film discussion with director Lisa Hurwitz & collector/ restorer Steve Stollman The Rex, Manchester, NH

Sunday, April 3, 1:00 PM Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen

3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH The Rex, Manchester, NH Showroom, Keene, NH

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 PM The Un-Word

Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 10, 1:00 PM Tiger Within

Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, April 10, 3:30 PM 50th Anniversary Celebration Cabaret

Followed by post-film discussion with Zachary Camenker: "Revisiting Cabaret: The History of the Groundbreaking Film 50 Years Later" Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Virtual Screenings

Thursday, March 31– Sunday, April 10 All films will be available for 11 days.

All films will be available for 11 days.

After film is unlocked you have 48 hours to screen.

200 Meters Apples and Oranges Greener Pastures Neighbours Persian Lessons Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin Shorts Program: Beefies Ganef Masel Tov Cocktail Tattooed Torah The Shabbos Goy

Virtual Post-Film Discussions

Monday, April 4, 7:00 PM

Apples and Oranges

Zoom discussion with director Yoav Brill

Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin

Zoom discussion with filmmaker Jonathan Gruber

Virtual Screenings Bonus Week Monday, April 11–Sunday, April 24

Four Films that were shown in theaters will be available for 14 days. After film is unlocked you have 48 hours to screen.

The Automat Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen Tiger Within The Un-Word

Executive Producers: Glikstorm LLC, The Hippo Press, The Kalik Family, The Rex Theatre, Russell Wolff Productions, WZID Executive Producers: 3 Art Space, Cohen Investment Advisors LLC, Law Offices of Ross W. Fishbein PLLC, Bertha and Ken Litvack, Red River Theatres, Showroom—Colonial Performing Arts Center, Statement Boutique, Joy and Michael Sydney, Upton & Hatfield Attorneys at Law. Film Stars: Consulate General of Israel to New England, Jennifer and Ross Fishbein, Ledgewood Wealth Advisors LLC, Monadnock International Film Festival, Spotlight On Israet: Israel Enrichment and Education Committee Directors: 92.5 - The River, Angpels's Pasta, Cheese & Wine, Anonymous, Barry & Honorow Attorneys at Law, Maryellen and Mark Biletch, CCA Global Partners, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College, Pam Grich and Louis Fink, Grinley Creative, The Harbor Group, Nancy and Richard Kudler, Rachel Kurshan, Sedra Michaelson and Ronald Deeter, Peters of Nashua, Julia and Ido Preis, Barbara and Barry Scotch, Temple Beth Abraham, Tulley Automotive Group, Honey Weiss and David Lewis



Supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council

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POP CULTURE FILM REVIEWS BY AMY DIAZ

I'd be happy with any of the nominees for best actress taking the win: Jessica Chastain, who went the extra mile in The Eves of Tammy Fave (HBO Max, rent or purchase); Penélope Cruz in Pedro Almodovar's Parallel Mothers (available for rent), also nominated for score; Olivia Coleman, always great, in the Maggie Gyllenhaal-directed The Lost Daughter (Netflix), also nominated in supporting actress for Jessie Buckley and for adapted screenplay; Kristen Stewart, who is maybe the frontrunner for playing Princess Diana in Spencer, and depending on the day I might even agree to Nicole Kidman, a decent Lucille Ball in Aaron Sorkin's Being the Ricardos (Amazon Prime).

The other "I'd be happy with any win" category is animated feature film: Find *Encanto* (the favorite to win, I think?), *Luca* and *Raya and the Last Dragon*, all beautiful and solid films, on Disney+; *Flee*, which is also nominated in the documentary and international categories and is a compelling tale of one man's flight from Afghanistan, is available on Hulu and for rent or purchase, and *The Mitchells vs. the Machines*, a fun tale of family and technology, is on Netflix. While I agree that there are like two or even three better songs in *Encanto*, I am also rooting for it to win the original song category for "Dos Oruguitas."

In what could be called the "movies people actually saw" category (visual effects), **Spider-Man:** No **Way Home** (available for purchase), the No. 1 2021 movie at the box office, faces off against the No. 2 movie, **Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten**



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Rings (Disney+, rent or purchase); the last Daniel Craig James Bond and the year's No. 7 movie, **No Time to Die** (rent or purchase), and the 10th biggest box office of 2021, the Ryan Reynolds-starring **Free Guy** (HBO Max, Disney+, rent or purchase), as well as **Dune**. It's a solid list — and my vote might actually go to **Dune**.

• Saying a final goodbye to 2021: And as at any good New Year's Eve party, enjoy a glass of bubbly and some time to reflect (House of Gucci — that was really something, wasn't it?) and make your resolutions: more in-theater movies, more searching for the cool weird stuff on streaming, more embracing what we get instead of wishing everything was John Wick. And, of course, a whole new year of award contenders.

Hey, look at that, I'm excited!

◆CONTINUED FROM PG 26

soon the couple is being held at gunpoint (though it's a while before anybody actually shows anybody a gun) and the burglar is demanding more cash. The billionaire gets it for him and then the burglar leaves, barricading the couple inside of their sauna to give himself time to escape.

He is starting his car, parked on the edge of the property, and ready to leave when he spots a security camera directly above him. He returns to the house, corrals the couple again and demands more money, now that his identity is likely known. He needs enough to disappear, start a new life, but an amount that is physically small enough for him to carry off. Thus begin negotiations for how much, how it will get to him and what the trio will do while they wait for the money to arrive.

Googling around, I couldn't figure out if this tight, bottle-episode-like thriller was a pandemic-era-made film, though with its small on-screen cast (in addition to the main trio, Omar Leyva shows up as a gardener and that's it) and its single location it has the feel of that in the best way. (Single location but what a location! The beautiful ranchish home is set in an orange grove and with a kind of desert-style stretch of manicured garden. You could spend an hour just gazing at shots from the house and surrounding property.) I did see the word "Hitchcockian" a lot, which fits with the choices this movie made with its score, its tone and even its title fonts. The burglar is committing the crime but everybody in the setup has secrets and parts of themselves they are holding back. Everybody also has bits of cruelty and selfishness running through them add Plemons' character to the growing list of horrible tech bro-characters. It's not that the movie leads us to root for the burglar but neither are we filled with sympathy for Plemons. Collins gets the most complexity as a woman who is constantly making a choice to stay with Plemons that even she doesn't seem to agree with.

There are moments of humor and moments of tension but overall there is a breezy engrossing-novel quality to *Windfall* that makes it a brisk, enjoyable watch. **B**

Rated R for language throughout and some violence, according to the MPA from filmratings.com. Written and directed by Charlie McDowell, Windfall is an hour and 32 minutes long and is distributed on Netflix.

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings and virtual events

Venues

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

The Music Hall

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

Red River Theatres

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

Rex Theatre

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

The Strand

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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

Shows

- A Fine Line (2021) on Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. at the
- Senior Movie Mornings: Casablanca (1942) on Thursday, March 24, at 10 a.m. at the Rex Theatre
- day, March 24, at 4:30 and 7:30 \$10.

p.m.; Friday, March 25, through Sunday, March 27, at 1:30 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 31, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Red River Theatres

- Infinite Storm (R. 2022) on Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m.; Friday, March 25, through Sunday, March 27, 1, 4 and 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 31, at 4 and 7 p.m. at The Outfit Red River Theatres
- Music Hall
- Rockets in Space (2022) on Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m. at the Strand
- March 25, at 7 p.m. at the Music
- Solo Sunny (1980) on Saturday, March 26, at 3 p.m. at the Music
- Senso (1954) on Saturday, March 26, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall
- I Vitelloni (1953) on Sunday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at the Music
- Oscar Micheaux—The Super- at 10 a.m. at the Rex Theatre hero of Black Filmmaking (2021) on Sunday, March 27, at 4 p.m. at film with live musical accompanithe Music Hall
- starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr. Flying Monkey. with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Sunday, March a silent film with live musical 27, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on • The Outfit (R, 2022) on Thurs- Hall Theatre. Suggested donation



- Cleo from 5 to 7 (1962) on Fri- Flesh and Blood and The Man day, March 25, at 4 p.m. at the from Beyond (1922), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Suggested donation \$10.
- L'Inferno (1911) on Friday, Othello (1922) on Sunday, April 24, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Suggested donation \$10.
 - · Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1925), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex in Manchester. Tickets cost \$10.
 - · Senior Movie Mornings: Brigadoon (1954), on Tuesday, April 26,
- Battling Butler (1922), a silent ment by Jeff Rapsis, on Wednes-• Robin Hood (1922), a silent film day, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the
 - Bardelys the Magnificent (1922), Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Flying Monkey



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By Michael Witthaus mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On every highway, from I-95 to Route 66, there's a car towing a trailer full of dreams, a van packed with guitars, amps, an electric keyboard and a suitcase stuffed with notebooks. Every musician with a shred of ambition hears the call to Mecca.

Not all have the gumption to take flight. Those who do usually find a way to hold on to their hometown. More often than not, a round trip is a necessity. Landing in a new place means finding gigs, not always an easy task.

"This city ain't your throne, like it was back home," singer-songwriter Amanda McCarthy wrote about the challenge. She considers herself fortunate to quit a day job after less than a year in Nashville to play music full time, but her calendar still includes several months in New Hampshire, working at her old haunts.

Tom Dixon's country music dream eventually wore him down to just a handful of hometown shows a year, but he's proof that though the grind may get old, the pull remains.

"The reason I come back? One answer is the fans, really," he said. "As long as I can do it, and as long as they want me to do it, I will."

In 2002, guitarist Brad Myrick left his home in Hopkinton on a whim to try his luck in Los Angeles. There, a chat with a fellow music school student launched him

musician Nicola Cipriani and began a collaboration that led him around the world.

A decade later, however, he'd returned to his foundation in the Granite State, even as he continued to travel to Europe to tour. Myrick currently runs Lakes Region recording studio The Greenhouse, and leads NH Music Collective, which fosters talent and books shows throughout the region.

"It's beautiful when I can incorporate what I've learned in other music scenes into the great scene we have here," Myrick said in 2014. Eight years later, he feels validated. The need to go through a crucible like L.A. isn't hard to understand, but there's no reason it can't also be done here.

"We have the technology to make New Hampshire the next Seattle," he said. "The people with something to say are going to find a way, and most take off for that reason. I just want that opportunity to be bigger here, and that's a big part of why I stick around."

Amanda McCarthy: The Long

For Amanda McCarthy, leaving New Hampshire was always the dream. The singer-songwriter began looking at Nashville apartments when she was 20 years old, stopping only when she learned she was pregnant.

"That changed everything," she said. "I won't say that set me back; I mean, everything happens for a reason. I love my

on a journey to Italy, where he met Italian daughter, but it definitely made my approach very different."

> McCarthy has been a working musician since her high school days, playing throughout her home state. Her biggest local moment came when she performed at Salt Hill Shanty in Sunapee. Steven Tyler, a personal hero of hers, was there that day, so she boldly decided to cover an Aerosmith song. He reacted favorably, leading to a weekslong media splash.

> Soon after, she made the move to Music City with a singular goal in mind.

> "I really wanted to explore the world of writing music for other people," she said. "Writing songs that might not necessarily be my style, but knowing they still have a life somewhere else." A good example of this is "The Long Haul," a song McCarthy wrote in the early 2010s that became the title track of fellow New Hampshire singer April Cushman's debut album.

> There are only a few places left to follow such a dream, and Nashville tops the list. That said, it's a crowded and often daunting place to stake a claim, but the young and hopeful artist managed to find her way.

> "I was a little nervous that it would be hard to break in, that people might be mean, because it's a big city, but people are genuinely nice, accepting and welcoming," McCarthy said, "By the time Year 1 wrapped up, I'd pretty much found who I consider to be my circle, my tribe of people who I collaborate and play shows with."



Amanda McCarthy. Courtesy photo.

Helping her crack the code was a realization that hosting song pulls — events where writers share their work with audiences and each other — was a great way to network.

"I got the opportunity to book some shows, and rather than billing it under Amanda McCarthy ... I chose to bill it under a company that I started called Nashville Writers Collective," she said. "I think that's attracted a lot of people because it sounded more like an entity and an experience rather than just another songwriter."



Tom Dixon, Courtesy photo.

Currently, McCarthy has been readying a new album, *Don't Stop Me*, due for release soon. All the while, she's kept one foot in New England, traveling back to play gigs. Her next hometown appearance will be at Exeter's Sawbelly Brewing on April 29. Initially she did it to survive; now it gives her a way to check in with home that's not an economic necessity.

"When I got here ... I didn't have a professional network, and I didn't really have a way to make money, whereas now I kind of figured that out," she said. "It's less of a crutch for me and more enjoyable... I can treat it more like a working vacation."

Tom Dixon: Gone to the Dogs

For Tom Dixon, the road out of New England led to some great memories, but not enough to sustain a career in music.

Dixon hit Nashville in 2013 after establishing himself as a solid draw in his home state fronting an eponymous band, but had no illusions about taking the town by storm.

"My expectations were low, but my hopes were high," he said. "If you go into something like this expecting to be a star, you're a fool; you *hope* that you will, and get as far as you can."

Undeterred, Dixon worked to break into the scene there, beginning with his aptly titled album, *Kick Start This Party*, made with producer Kent Wells.

"We got that out and hit the road with it as soon as possible," Dixon said. "Of course, my first trip was back to New England — I knew I could play there."

Soon, he was booking tours that led from Nashville to New England, playing bars, barbecue joints, and anywhere else he could. It was lucrative, and when he arrived in New Hampshire he'd play for a large chunk of the summer. All the while, he was checking off items from his professional bucket list.

"I played all over the country," Dixon said. "I didn't play in all 50 states, but I played in a lot. I was able to do some big things, play some big stages, play on national television, get on radio ... I wanted to do everything." His biggest moment came after he was inspired to write a song for a veterans organization called Coalition For The American Heroes.

Eventually, though, it got old.

"I began to feel like a truck driver who stops in different towns to play music," Dixon said. "All I do is drive and then I stop, put on a show and drive again. I can't tell you how many times I've driven 10 hours, played a show, slept in a hotel for four hours, got up and drove 10 hours back. I ended up having some issues. My career kind of slowed down, it's not on fire like it used to be. I'm in pain literally and I'm tired of not being home and it just wasn't fun anymore."

Despite that, Dixon travels home each summer to play a handful of shows for his still dedicated local fan base. He'll be back in April at Manchester's Bonfire and Stumble Inn in Londonderry, a New England run he's dubbed The Good Times and Bad Decisions Tour.

Before he decided to play music fulltime, Dixon had seriously considered a profession centered on his love for dogs. He'd trained his own, helped friends with theirs, and claimed it was a coin flip that led him to music. He decided to contact the Animal Behavior College to learn his options and was stunned by what the person on the other end of the phone told him.

"He said, 'Funny story, you're in my system already, in New Hampshire... you and I talked 10 years ago," Dixon said. "It was a real thing that long ago, when I hadn't started playing music full-time. The weird thing is that I'm still following a dream, but now I can follow two dreams. My career's gone to the dogs."

MB Padfield: California Dreaming

When MB Padfield moved to Southern California, she didn't receive a golden reception.

"I got broken into, and all of my songwriting notebooks were stolen," the New Hampshire native recalled recently. "On impact, that was brutal; but since then things have been really great."



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Driven to perform from an early age — she enrolled at Berklee at 16 — Padfield traveled between coasts a lot before packing a U-Haul in early 2018. At home she gigged constantly, but playing covers were on her.

Padfield's songs were getting played on the radio when she was 16. Her first single, "Silly Boy," featured Greg Hawkes of the Cars on ukulele. Her anti-bullying original "You Can't Break Me Down" showed a maturity beyond her years. A next stop at the world's entertainment hub was a natural choice.

"New England has really amazing players as far as musicians, and the talent there is top-notch, but there's a mindset in Los Angeles that you want to push yourself to do more," she said. "I don't think moving away is for everybody, but I do think if you feel a call of an artistic vision that you don't seem to be surrounded by currently, then it might be an option."

For Padfield, the level of talent in L.A. is the opposite of intimidating.

"There are people that exude creativity; it's so inspiring and motivating to be around. ... That's honestly my favorite part," she said. "I'm not looking to be a big fish in a little pond. I want to be able to play shows and make music ... representative of the person I am, [and not] a different mindset of, 'Oh, I gotta be the best in the room.' If you're the best in the room, you aren't in the right room."

She's currently at work on a new EP called *Surface* and has launched a Kickstarter campaign to cover distribution costs.

"It's sonically very modern; I guess you would call it in the indie pop genre," she said. "I wrote all the songs myself, and I've been working with an amazing team out here that's kind of helping me bring those songs to life."

Padfield heads back to New England in the summer and around the winter holidays to play shows but doesn't plan on being bicoastal forever.

"Three or four months out of the year until I'm able to be full-time in Los Angeles," she said, adding that returning to SoCal can be jarring. "There is a switch that has to be flipped, and it's so hard sometimes."

For Padfield's long-term goals, her new home is an ideal fit.

"New England has such an amazing strong backbone, of cover gigs and working-class musicians," she said, "but in Los Angeles there's something to be said for creativity and innovation, and propelling culture. It just feels like you're part of something bigger."

Senie Hunt: Dividing the Time

Senie Hunt first left his New Hampshire home for another Tennessee music mecca, Memphis. After a few months there he returned, following a breakup with his girlfriend. Heading south was always part of his long-term plan, and Hunt made the move to Nashville in April of last year.

"I wanted to be in a place that was more diverse both in terms of music and in terms of culture and race," Hunt, who is Black, said in a recent phone interview. His new home offered the bonus of being "the least furthest away, so I'm still able to visit with my family and friends, and also stay down here."

Hunt is an acoustic guitarist with a unique percussive sound produced by tapping the body of his instrument as he plays it. The urge to move was spurred by a need for both "a change of scenery" and a change from what had become a limiting gig schedule.

"I didn't want to end up playing the same places to the same people all the time; I wanted to branch off," he said. Nashville had "hundreds of places either doing live shows or open mics, showcases, recording, all of that ... built into one city block. At almost every show I played, I'd meet an entirely new audience."

Another factor that helped was having a musical style that diverged from the sound the city was primarily known for.

"Despite Nashville being a very heavy country scene, it's starting to evolve because a younger generation is coming in," he said. "Right now is the perfect time if you stand out in a different style. ... People just create music here."

Along with success that finds him able to book shows months in advance in his new home, Hunt stays connected to his old digs, regularly returning for area gigs. Camaraderie with the local scene was vital when his car caught fire on a recent tour, resulting in a total loss of Hunt's vehicle and much of his equipment.

Area musicians quickly organized a benefit for him at Area 23 in Concord, a place Hunt played frequently when he lived there.

"A lot of my friends decided they wanted to pitch in and help me kind of get back on my feet and get back on tour regularly," he said. At the show, Hunt played a Zoom set for the crowd there. "It was nice, even just briefly, to share a few songs with the folks up north."

Resupplied with assistance from his pals, Hunt is headed back at the end of the month to play some shows; he'll be around until the end of May. Fans can see a new side of him on April 23 in Concord, with the debut of the plugged-in Senie Hunt Project at Bank of NH Stage.

"I have always loved blues and electric, and since it is very different from my normal stuff I decided to make a new band to not throw too many people off," he said, noting he'd begun on electric guitar in grade school. "I really only switched back to acoustic when I transferred colleges and needed to find a solo alternative, which then brought me back to my percussive guitar playing, which filled the void of not having a band around."



Senie Hunt. Courtesy photo.

Gracie Curran: Point of Departure

In 2014, Gracie Curran moved to Memphis after experiencing the city during the International Blues Competition. She found it welcoming, both for the music and for its central location, which made touring a big chunk of the country easier.

"After the awards, we were starting to get calls to play in Omaha, in Chicago," Curran said in February. "Mapping from Boston was a scary thought, but I realized we could reach 70 percent of our markets within an eight-hour drive from Memphis. ... It was a good jumping-off point for us to put our feet in the waters and start touring."

Soon after, Gracie Curran & the High Falutin' Band scored a residency at a Beale Street nightclub called Rum Boogie. The singer shared cramped quarters in a city apartment, but it didn't bother her.

"It was worth living with four other band leaders," she said. "I was with such talented musicians that put so much work and effort into their craft."

Another reason Curran settled in Memphis was that the band she'd formed in 2010 with bass player Geoff Murfitt was at a crossroads. Murfitt had a family, which didn't fit well with spending time on the road, while guitarist Tommy Carroll had grown tired of touring.

"So I came down to Memphis initially to kind of start and grow the band," Curran said, something she found easier said than done. "There are a lot of amazing musicians here in Memphis, but all the great ones are usually on the road."

She recruited veteran Boston guitar player Chris Hersch and coaxed Murfitt back into the band with an offer to fly them from New England to wherever their dates are, while ending the Rum Boogie residency. The band is rounded out by keyboard player Scott Coulter, who's also in Hersch's band Say Darling, and drummer Terrell Reed.

"That's what we've been doing ever since," Curran said. "It's been great to be able to play with them. Memphis was really everything I expected it to be; it's truly a great musical family here, a really support-

ive, welcoming community ... and not only that, musician supporters."

Curran's connection to her old home is unwavering; she returns whenever she can, and always on her birthday. She'll be at The Bull Run in Shirley, Mass., on May 16 for an ensemble show that includes Toni Lynn Washington, Diane Blue, Gina Coleman and Erin Harpe.

"I really feel like I have the best of both worlds right now," she said. "I have a great community here... but also in Boston. I was very spoiled in that when I first started testing the waters, we had Ronnie Earl, Mike Welch and Roomful of Blues, Toni Lynn Washington and all these amazing musicians. To have both those perspectives from musicians that played with all the greats, to be able to pass on stories and tips ... these are valuable things that I am so grateful for."

Brooks Hubbard: Back Home Again

From the moment he left New England, Brooks Hubbard knew he'd be back. In fact, that was his goal.

In early 2015 Hubbard set out for Los Angeles to grow his music career, but a stop to visit a friend in Nashville changed his mind. "It offers the same opportunities and cuts out all the Hollywood stuff that I don't need," Hubbard said in early March. "Nashville welcomes you with open arms, whereas L.A. or New York seem to be closed off. ... You have to work the networks to get on stage."

Hubbard managed to leverage the West Coast connections he did have. A drummer he knew who had played with Robert Cray had introduced him to Jackson Browne's guitarist Val McCallum during a visit there the previous year. In summer 2015, the two played together in White River Junction, Vermont, at a release party for Hubbard's album *Start of Me*.

McCallum agreed to do the show via text, based on a misunderstanding that turned out well

"He thought it was a bar gig, but it was actually a ticketed show, and I was playing all original music," Hubbard said. "He



Gracie Curran. Courtesy photo.

didn't know any of my songs, but he's one of those players that can play anything — he has a great ear."

After the show, McCallum was insistent that they should "do something together," Hubbard said. "That was where the seed was planted to make a record, which we eventually got to do in 2017."

As Hubbard had made the move right after earning his bachelor's, he approached his new home as a learning experience.

"The first couple of years I was there was just an extension of school," he said. "This is what I really want to do, and this is where I need to learn what people do in this industry do to make a living."

He found that opportunity did not equate to success.

"I always say it's the home of the greatest and the worst musicians in the world," he said. "If you want to be one of those great artists or performers, you gotta put in the work. It's really tough to make a buck



Brooks Hubbard. Photo by Brett Berwager Photography.

in town there, because there's just so many people that are doing the same thing."

Hubbard uses the past tense because he recently re-settled in Etna, the New Hampshire town where he grew up and began playing music, inspired by his father, also a musician. He's now married to the girlfriend he decamped with to Music City seven years ago; they'll welcome their first child in April.

The move back came a bit sooner than expected, but the timing turned out for the

"It was something that my wife and I had always talked about eventually doing, but the pandemic for sure sped up that plan," Hubbard said. "Doing livestreaming and even co-writing through Zoom made me realize that you don't have to physically be in some of those places. If you go there and make the corrections and then keep those connections, it doesn't really matter where you base yourself."

See the musicians

Amanda McCarthy just released "Don't Stop Me" co-written with fellow expat Ty Openshaw; the track will appeal to fans of Marshows, though her only Granite State gig is Fri-Road, Exeter). Visit amandamccarthy.com.

Tom Dixon made his final single, "The Weekend," in 2020, a raucous call to party that will please fans of Luke Bryan and Rascal Flatts. Though he officially retired from the music business, Dixon heads home occasionally to play for his hardcore fans. He'll do a full band Friday, April 23, at 8 p.m.

MB Padfield has a four-song EP called Surfaces due later in the year. Fans of Holly Humberstone will enjoy 2020's brooding love song "Trxst" — it's on her YouTube page. Padfield is currently booking New England dates for summer. She'll be at Bernie's Beach Bar (73 Ocean Blvd., Hampton) every Saturday afternoon from mid-June until Labor Day.

Senie Hunt continues to play acoustic music in his singular percussive guitar style, but will showcase an electric side during his Saturday, ren Morris and Kacey Musgraves. She'll be April 23, appearance at Bank of NH Stage (\$18 home in late April for a round of New England at ccanh.com). For a taste of that sound check out "Lovers on the Run," available on Tidal and day, April 29, at Sawbelly Brewing (156 Epping other platforms. It's a growling blues rocker reminiscent of Gary Clark Jr.

Gracie Curran & the High Falutin' Band is a rip-roaring combo fronted by a namesake singer who channels Janis Joplin and Brittany Howard. Their next area date is a blues showcase Saturday, April 16, at Bull Run (215 Great Road, Shirley, Mass., \$30 at bullshow at Bonfire (950 Elm St, Manchester) on runrestaurant.com) with Curran, Toni Lynn Washington, Diane Blue, Gina Coleman and Erin Harpe.

> Brooks Hubbard is a singer-songwriter in the vein of Jackson Browne, Jack Johnson and Jason Isbell. He's putting the finishing touches on Father & Son, a collection of songs celebrating parenthood — his first child is due in April. See him Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at The Goat (50 Old Granite St., Manchester).



19 N Main St, Concord, NH 603-228-1198 | vikinghouse.com





PRESENTS





FRI. APR. 1 7:30PM

SAT. APR. 2 7:30PM





FRI. APR. 8 7:30PM

SAT. APR. 9 7:30PM







FRI. MAR. 25 7:30PM

FRI. APR. 15TH 7:30PM

By Michael Witthaus mwitthaus@hippopress.com

- Request filler: An audience-driven event with a big screen catalog of over 200 songs, Max Weinberg's Jukebox is the definition of a crowd-pleasing show. The E Street Band drummer and ex-Conan bandleader helms a quartet that readily knocks out requests ranging from the Beatles to the Stones to, naturally, plenty of the Boss's favorites. Each show is different, but every one of them is a delight. Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, tickets \$49 to \$115 (meet & greet) at palacetheatre.org.
- Still one: Formed in 1972, Orleans began inspired by an eclectic mix of styles including Meters and Neville Brothers styles roots music — hence the name — but the group found success with pop rock staples like "Dance With Me" and "Still The One." They've endured some bumps along the way, including one member taking four years off to serve in Congress, and the death of key member Larry Hoppen, but they're still playing. Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Dr., Manchester, \$45 at anselm.edu.
- Bright beats: Enjoy an evening of dance music, luminescence and craft beer at the Pipe Dream Glow Party. Unleash the child within with glow sticks and face painting, as the W.A.P. DJ Trio entertains. The group consists of DJ ACHE, MC Mikey P&W and Wounded Wing. It's the first time the veteran-owned brewery has done such a bash, with blacklights, pulsing rhythms and the energy of a big city discotheque. Friday, March. 25, 6 p.m., Pipe Dream Brewing, 49 Harvey Road, Londonderry, pipedreambrewingnh.com.
- Special night: Comedy fans looking to be a part of history should check out Juston McKinney in his upcoming show. Known for riffing on fatherhood and the foibles of New England, McKinney will be filming a new comedy special called On The Bright Side, his first since 2018's Parentally Challenged, which was taped in Manchester. He's done them for Comedy Central, Netflix and Amazon Prime. Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$29.50 at ccanh.com.
- Party on: What once was a day's celebration grew to a week and then a month why not more? After Manchester's end-of-March St. Patrick's Parade, head across town for a post-event party, with Solitary Man performing traditional Irish music, joined by step dancers from Murray Studio, and more merriment from the AOH Hibernians Pipe and Drum Band. All proceeds from the bash benefit the Post's baseball program. Sunday, March 27, noon, Henry Sweeney Post No. 2, 251 Maple St., Manchester, sweeneypost.org. 🦚

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. 343-1899, thestranddover.com

Fulchino Vineyard

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

Headliners Comedy Club

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

McCue's Comedy Club at the Roundabout Diner

Portsmouth mccuescomedyclub.com

Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester 669-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rex Theatre

23 Amherst St., Manchester

668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Rochester Opera House

31 Wakefield St., Rochester 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.

The Strand

20 Third St., Dover

Events

- ImprovBoston The Rex, Friday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
- Steve Sweeney McCue's, Friday, March 25, 8:30 p.m.
- Robbie Printz/Carolyn Plummer/Greg Howell Fulchino 8 p.m. Vineyard, Saturday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
- Juston McKinney Chubb Theatre, Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m.
- Jim McCue McCue's Comedy 580 Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Club, Saturday, March 26, 8:30 Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m.
 - Joe Yannetty Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, March 26, 8:30
 - Will Noonan Headliners, Saturday, March 26, 8:30 p.m.
 - Harrison Stebbins Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, March 26, 8:30 p.m.



Juston McKinney

- Kelly MacFarland Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m.
- Juston McKinney Rochester Opera House, Saturday, April 2,
- Frank Santos Jr. The Strand, Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m.
- · Joe Yannetty Headliners, Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m.
- Joey Carroll Chunky's Nashua,
- · Bob Marley Palace Theatre, Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9, at 6 and 8 p.m.
- Tom Cotter Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
- Lenny Clarke/Dave Russo Fulchino Vineyard, Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.



Alton Bay **Dockside Restaurant**

6 East Side Drive 855-2222

Amherst

LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898

Auburn

Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564

Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr.

Murphy's House

488-2677

393 Route 101 488-5875

Bow

Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508

Brookline

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

Concord

Area 23 State Street 881-9060

Concord Craft Brewing

117 Storrs St. 856-7625

Carriage Hermanos Cocina Mex-

icana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669

16 Bicentennial Square 228-9833

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

Deerfield

The Lazy Lion 4 North Road

Derry

Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946

LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111

672-9898

Epping

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

Exeter

Sawbelly Brewing 156 Epping Road 583-5080

Gilford Patrick's

18 Weirs Road 293-0841

Goffstown

Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230

Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square

601-2319

287 Exeter Road 929-7972

CR's The Restaurant

The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928

L Street Tavern 603 17 L St.

Shane's BBQ 61 High St.

967-4777

601-7091

Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954

Whym Craft Pub & **Brewery**

853 Lafayette Road 601-2801

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

2B Burnham Road

Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road

Hudson

The Bar

943-7832

Kingston Saddle Up Saloon

92 Route 125 369-6962

Laconia

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

Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022

Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave.

366-9100

Londonderry **Coach Stop Restaurant** & Tavern

176 Mammoth Road 437-2022

p.m.

20 Rockingham Road 432-3210

Stumble Inn

623-3545

Bonfire

663-7678

950 Elm St.

150 Ash St.

Derryfield

623-2880

935-9740

21 Concord St.

Firefly

625 Mammoth Road

Club

669-6144

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

The Goat **Backvard Brewery** 50 Old Granite St. 1211 S. Mammoth Road

Currier Museum of Art 819-9336

Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave. 858-5789

Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St.

The Foundry

836-1925

Fratello's

624-2022

155 Dow St.

50 Commercial St.

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

Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535

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

Thursday, March 24 Amherst

LaBelle: The Eagles Experience,

7:30 p.m.

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

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

Area 23: DJ Dicey Dance Party, 8 Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m. LaBelle: Studio Two: The Beatles Londonderry Experience, 7:30 p.m

Epping

Telly's: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Sawbelly: Laura Lee, 5 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: BoneShakerz Duo, 6 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: Just the Two of Us, 6 p.m. Wally's: Chris Toler, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: karaoke with George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke, 7 p.m. Nashua

Laconia

Belknap Mill: Ziggy & Miles Johnston, 7 p.m.

Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Mugsy with Nate Comp Trio, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Currier: Jessye DeSilva and Alex Brookline Calabrese Duo, 5 p.m. Foundry: Doug Farrell & Jack

Henry, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 Concord

KC's: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m. Strange Brew: Jam Tomorrow, 8

p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Sweetbloods, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jessica Olson, 5:30

Milford

Stonecutters: Blues Therapy, 8 p.m.

Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

Portsmouth The Goat: Joe Birch, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Chris Lester, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 25

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: Stuck In Time, 7 p.m.

Alamo: Joe Birch, 4:30 p.m.

Area 23: Steven Fry, Somewhere In Between, 6 p.m. Penuche's: Masceo Williams, 7

p.m.

Deerfield

Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.

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

Exeter

Sawbelly: Elijah Clark, 5 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: Just the Two of Us, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m. Wally's: Woodland, 9 p.m. Whym: Steve Haidaichuck, 6:30 p.m.

Henniker

Pats Peak: Marc Wydom, 6 p.m.

Hudson

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

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Eric Grant Band, 8 p.m.

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Coach Shop: Liz Ridgely, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m. Manchester

Angel City: Rotten Apple, 8 p.m. Backyard Brewery: Karen Grenier , 6 p.m. Bonfire: Martin and Kelly, 9 p.m.

Cercle National Club: Chad Lamarsh, 7:30 p.m Derryfield: Dancing Madly Back-

wards, 8 p.m. The Foundry: Joey Clark Duo, 6

Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m. **The Goat:** The Pogs, 9 p.m. Murphy's: Chris Fraga, 9:30 p.m. Shaskeen: Warthog, Paul Jarvis, 9

South Side: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Jake Pardee & Friends, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 6

Twin Barns: Mikey G, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Milford

Pasta Loft: Bob Pratte Band, 8:30 Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O kara-

oke, 9 p.m. Nashua

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

New Boston

Molly's: Matt Bergeron, 7 p.m.

Newmarket Stone Church: Dogs in A Pile, 9

Northfield Boonedoxz: karaoke night, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth Gas Light: Rebecca Turmel, 8 p.m. Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Ripcord, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Bulletproof, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

Alton Bay Dockside: Lewis Goodwin, 8 p.m.

Auburn Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy, 7 p.m.

Chen Yang Li: Chris Peters, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Matt Borrello, 5 p.m.

Concord

Area 23: Mikey G, 2 p.m.; Scalawag, 8 p.m. Hermanos: John Franzosa, 6:30

Penuche's: Tumble Toads, 7 p.m.

Deerfield

Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Lisa & Nate, 8 p.m.

Exeter

Sawbelly: The Duo, noon; John Irish, 5 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Joe McDonald, 6

WILL NOONAN

You've seen Will Noonan in those hilarious Honda commercials; now catch him live at Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester; headlinerscomedyclub.com) on Saturday, March 26. at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.

Music, live and in person

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.

These listings for live music are compiled from press

HIPPO | MARCH 24 - 30, 2022 | PAGE 35





Studio Two: The Beatles Tribute

24



The Eagles Experience



MAR Panorama: The 31 Music of the Cars



Get tickets at labellewinery.com or scan the code



APR

Blues Legend Joe Louis Walker

No Shoes Nation Band

603.672.9898 | Amherst Derry Portsmouth

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444

Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292

Meredith Giuseppe's

312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313

Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster

Hwy. 279-0876

Merrimack Homestead

641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022

Tomahawk Tavern

454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960

Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square

672-2270 **Stonecutters Pub**

63 Union Square 213-5979

Nashua Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St.

577-9015

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

Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391

Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104

Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535

New Boston Molly's Tavern Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road

487-1362

Newmarket **Stone Church** 5 Granite St. 659-7700

Northfield **Boonedoxz Pub** 95 Park St. 717-8267

Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122

The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628

Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186

Thirsty Moose **Taphouse** 21 Congress St. 427-8645

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

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

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

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

Somersworth The Speakeasy Bar 2 Main St.

Hampton

The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 9 p.m. L Street: live music, 6:30 p.m.; karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m. Wally's: Highway Souls, 8 p.m. Whym: Pete Peterson, 6:30 p.m.

Henniker

Pats Peak: The Murphys, 5 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: Leaving Eden, 8 p.m. Lvnn's 102 Tavern: Sindicate, 8 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Time Bandits, 8 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Shop: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: All That 90's Band, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Angel City: Earth and Bomber, 9 Backyard Brewery: Eric Lindberg Duo, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 7 p.m. Derryfield: Eric Grant Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Liz Ridgely, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Chris Lester, 6 p.m. **The Goat:** Fighting Friday, 9 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Becca Myari, 3 p.m. McIntyre: Ralph Allen, 5 p.m. Murphy's: Joanie Cicatelli Duo,

9:30 p.m. Shaskeen: Pharaohe Monch, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Amorphous Band, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Eric Marcs, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Milford

Pasta Loft: The Milk Crates, 9 p.m.

Nashua

Liquid Therapy: Bootscam, 6 p.m. Millyard Brewery: Jermaine, 4

New Boston

Molly's: The Incidentals, 7 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Dreadnaught w/ Almanac Mountain, 8 p.m.

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

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Sean Coleman, 9:30 **The Goat:** Mike Forgette, 9 p.m. Press Room: Will Evans, 7 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: The Limit, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: AD/HD, 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 27 Alton Bay

Dockside: Jeff Mrozek, 4 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Mike Freestone, 4:30 p.m.

Chen Yang Li: Josh Foster, 3 p.m.

Concord

Craft Brewing: Ariel Strasser, 12

Exeter

Sawbelly: Dyer Holiday, 12 p.m.





Ronstadt Revue, fronted by the talented and charismatic vocalist Gesenia, pays tribute to Linda Ronstadt at the Bank of NH Stage (44 S. Main St. in Concord; 225-1111, ccanh.com) on Saturday, March 26. at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Bob Prette, 3:30

Hampton

L Street: live music, 6:30 p.m.; karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m. Whym: Justin Jordan, 1 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102 Tavern: Carter on Guitar, 4 p.m.

Laconia

Belknap Mill: open mic, 2 p.m. Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m. Tower Hill: Tim Kierstead, 3 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: J-Lo, 3 p.m.

Manchester

The Foundry: Brad Myrick, 10

The Goat: Over the Bridge, 7 p.m. Strange Brew: jam, 7 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: The Hot Club, 4

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Monday, March 28

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil

Gilford

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

Hampton

L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Foundry: live music, 10 a.m.

Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: David Campbell, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

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

Press Room: open mic, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29

Concord

Hermanos: Dave Gerard, 6:30 p.m. Tandy's: open mic night, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9

Shane's: music bingo, 7 p.m. Wally's: musical bingo, 7 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: line dancing, 7

Laconia

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m. KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Shaskeen: Johnny Friday, 8 p.m. Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 7

Merrimack

Homestead: Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Wednesday, March 30 Concord

Area 23: open mic. 6 p.m.

Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Hampton

Bogie's: open mic, 7 p.m. Homestead: Dave Zangri, 5:30 L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.

Kingston

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

Laconia

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Lou Antonucci, 5:30

Goat: country line dancing, 7 p.m. Stark Brewing: karaoke, 8 p.m. Strange Brew: Howard & Mike's Acoustic Jam, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Milford

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Modern Fools with Jordan Cowley, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Rochester

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

Somersworth

Speakeasy: open mic night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 31

Bedford

Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 7

Brookline

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

Concord

Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

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

Epping

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





OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, APRIL 20, 5-7 PM



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Speak with students, college faculty, staff in the Multicultural Department, & Disability Services. Or create your college pathway - such as with Running Start, Early College, Dual Admissions, and Transfer Agreements! We will have bilingual staff available to answer questions during the event.

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RSVP: nashuacc.edu/openhouse

- · Grey's Anatomy Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).
- Disney Princess Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, March 31, 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 31, doors open at 6 p.m., trivia starts at 7
- Mamma Mia! Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).
- · Schitt's Creek Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; p.m. chunkys.com) on Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).
- · Doctor Strange Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6
- Disney Songs Trivia at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester;

chunkys.com) on Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. Reserve a spot with a \$5 per person food voucher (teams can have up to 6 players).

Weekly

- Thursday trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
- Thursday trivia Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment. com) at 7 p.m.
- Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- First Thursday of every month trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St. in Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8
- Friday Team Trivia at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.
- Mondays trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8
- 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 Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 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



Grey's Anatomy

- · Tuesday Geeks Who Drink • Thursday Kings trivia at Game trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
 - · Wednesday trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6
 - Wednesday trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 - Wednesday Kings Trivia at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester; 627-7427, ribshack. net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..
 - · Wednesday trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
 - · Wednesday trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.
 - Wednesday trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.

Bank of NH Stage

Venues

16 S. Main St., Concord 225-1111, ccanh.com

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

Dana Center

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

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

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

LaBelle Winery Derry

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

The Oven in Epping

24 Brickyard Square, Epping 734-4543, thecommunityoven.

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

The Word Barn

66 Newfields Road, Exeter 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

- Megan Woods Thursday, March 24, 6 p.m., The Oven in Epping
- Martin Sexton Thursday, March 24, 6 and 9 p.m., Word Barn
- The Eagles Experience (Eagles tribute) Thursday, March 24, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
- · Studio Two (early Beatles tribute) Thursday, March 24, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle Winery Derry
- Crawlspace Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the
- BILMURI/Jacketless/Everway Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m., Jewel Music Venue
- Max Weinberg's Jukebox Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
- Orleans Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- Blanco/The Rockdwellers Thursday, March 24, 8 p.m., Stone Church • English Beat Thursday, March
- 24, 8 p.m., Tupelo Sam Weber/The Ladles Friday,
- March 25, 7 p.m., Word Barn • Voluntary Victim Friday, March
- 25, 7 p.m., Jewel Music Venue • Nicole Henry Friday, March 25,
- 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
- Panorama (Cars tribute) Friday, March 25, 8 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts



The English Beat

- · The Dirty Knobs with Mike Campbell Friday, March 25, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- Dogs in a Pile/Lazy Bird Friday, March 25, 9 p.m., Stone Church
- ATTACK ATTACK/Conquer Divide/Until I Wake/Across the White Water Tower Saturday, March 26, 7 p.m., Jewel Music Venue
- · Tommy Castro and the Painkillers Saturday, March 26, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
- The Ammonium Maze Ensemble Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., Word Barn · Dreadnaught/Almanac Moun-
- tain Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., Stone Church Ronstadt Revue Saturday,
- March 26, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, Concord
- · Dreadnaught/Almanac Mountain Saturday, March 26, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- Top of the World A Carpenters Tribute Sunday, March 27, 7 p.m., Tupelo
- Melissa Ferrick, Vance Gilbert, and Mark Erelli Sunday, March 27, 7 p.m., Word Barn



A SPRING FLING

New Hampshire solo artists Audrey Budington, Dan Faiela and Scott Kiefner join forces for the collaborative roots music concert A Spring Fling at the Franklin Opera House (316 Central St., Franklin; 934-1901; franklinoperahouse.org) on Saturday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$14, \$12 for seniors. and \$10 for children under 12.

ORLEANS

Get ready for smooth sailing when yacht rockers Orleans come to the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester; anselm.edu) on Thursday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 to \$45 plus fees.

Photo by Ben Risatti.



We will pay up to \$600 for some cars and trucks.



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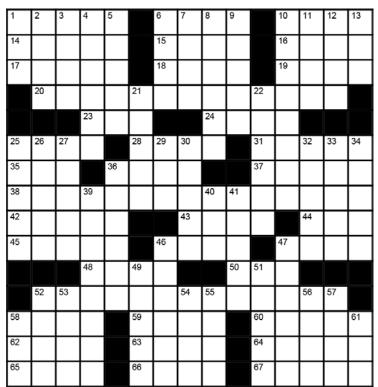
PARTS!







И GONNA SOAK UP THIS PUZZ



Across

- 1. Music makes fingers do this
- 5. U2 Bassist Clayton
- 9. Janey went to a pawn one, on Bruce's 'Spare Parts'
- 13. Italian metalers Lacuna
- 14. Cheap recording w/hum (hyph)
- 15. Happening venue
- 16. 'I Just Fall In Love Again' Murray
- 17. Gripe sound when hated song starts
- 18. 'Unchained' Van
- 19. Indie label for a bullfighter (7,7)
- 22. Police "I'll send an to the world"
- 23. Alanis Morissette 'You __ Me Nothing In Return'
- 24. Not electrical but this
- 30. '91 Gang Of Four album you hear in an indoor shopping center?
- 34. LA's __ Of Rockets
- 35. Famous saxophonist nickname
- 36. CeCe Peniston 'My '
- 37. Amount of pre-show bottle
- 38. Trippy UK pioneers, with "the"
- 39. T. Rex 'Bang __ _ (Get It On)' (1,4)
- 41. Pink Floyd '__ Of These Days'
- 42. Atlantic Records division started in '551
- 43. Kings Of Leon had a lasso w/'King Of The
- 44. Pet Shop Boys ' End Girls'
- 46. Video may have cast of crazy ones 48. Indie band Uh Her
- 50. Zac Brown might dip one in, to check water
- 51. The Alarm felt this sensation when she first walked by (8,2,4)
- 59. 'California Saga/The __ of Eagles' Beach Boys

66. Humans to pompous rock stars?

67. Dandy Warhols '__ I Dreamt Of

Down

- 1. Record label fast one
- 2. Crüe song about Nikki's grandmother
- 3. '__ No Reason' Brett Dennen
- 4. Soup Dragons song about nirvana?
- 5. Bowling For Soup song that "nearly" made it
- 6. Senses Fail 'Wolves At The '
- 7. Where the last row sees from
- 8. Genesis 'No Son Of'
- 9. Canucks Harem
- 10. De La Soul '__ Down'
- 11. Albums don't try to become #2's but these
- 12. Who wrote with 'Guitar And'
- 15. Lenko put on 'The'
- 20. Doctor who administers pre-tour vaccine
- 21. Rainbow's girl was 'Stone' this
- 24. Like elated concert feeling
- 25. Crooner Patsy
- 26. 'Maneater' Hall &
- 27. Shakey Graves "You and
- know that the house is haunted" (1,4) 28. Rockers Survive
- 60. 'What Makes __ _' City and 29. Big Head Todd
- 'Ann Grandfather' 61. Nobodys 'Ain't No One Getting
 - 31. Home or this musician finally invests in after 1st album
 - 32. Introvert musician, perhaps
 - 33. Band symbols
 - 39. '80 Steve Winwood album '____ A Diver' (3,2)
 - 40. Sheryl Crow '__ On The Mountain' (2,4,2)
 - WORD ★Roundup

62. Black Crowes 'Shake You Mon-

64. "Speaking words of wisdom, let ___

65. '03 Staind album '14 Shades Of'

63. TV On The Radio 'Heroic'

Find and Circle...

Colour (1,3)

"(2,2)

ey

Five four-letter mammals The Monkees (last names) Three five-letter flowers Three Italian cities

__ (island)

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Last Week's Answers: RECTANGLE SQUARE CIRCLE OVAL / PINKIE THUMB PALM FIST / THINNER CARRIE MISERY CUJO / GRAND CENTRAL /

AMAZING

R Ζ S K R P E Ε BKN

- 42. Hurting James Carrington song? 45. '15 Operation: Mindcrime album for opening the lock (3,3)
- 47. Soilent Green 'Superstition Aimed Skull' (2,4)
- 49. Beatles were 'Back' here where you don't know how lucky you are,
- 51. Elvis Costello ate a 'Sweet' one 52. Townes Van Zandt song for fall
- 53. What you get when shelved, slang
- 54. Repeated word in Def Leppard & Sheryl Crow song titles
- 55. Coast Aerosmith is from
- 56. Kiss 'Elder' song 'The '
- 57. Star feeling, aura or this
- 58. Dylan sang of the 'Gates Of' this Adam & Eve home
- 59. Big label Sony bought in '08© 2022 Todd Santos

WORKSPACE:



EASY 2÷ 7+ 24X **5**十 5+ ©2022 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

CHALLENGING 48× 10+ 6X 10+ 2÷ 10+ 24× 15×

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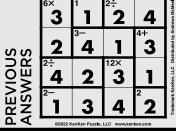
RULES

 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.



2 4

R Stunts" — it sounds almost the same

Across

- 1. Venus's sister
- 7. Have a copy of
- 10. Adult ed. course, often
- 13. 1950 Isaac Asimov novel
- 14. Hanoi bowlful
- 15. Pad kee mao cuisine
- 17. Melon liqueur
- 18. Heavily promote the top of the house?
- 20. Inhabitants of a necklace fastener?
- 22. Had food
- 23. Soothing plants
- Beso"
- 25. 1055, to ... someone who knows 47. New Guinea

- Roman numerals
- 27. Campus in Troy, NY
- 28. Top-left square
- 29. Smoke detector chirp, after getting fixed?
- 35. Verizon's onetime in-flight calling system
- 36. Trademarked Intel chip
- 40. Transportation for when you have to jump to avoid burning your burger?
- 42. _ Moines, Iowa
- 44. 1991 Naughty by Nature hit
- 45. 2.0 GPA
- 46. It's often served with rice

61

Down

- 1. Kind of card in a smartphone
- 2. Actor Bana

50. Pose questions

Food for Felines"?

59. Musical Myra

63. "__-haw!"

64. Edges (along)

52. Users who post about a group of

56. Delicacy in the cookbook "Fried

57. Pablo Picasso's designer daughter

60. "Fight of the Century" contender

61. "Baba" (The Who classic)

62. Prefix with -phyte or -lithic

Boy Scouts, then upvote it?

- 3. Tennis's Australian "Rocket"
- 4. German torpedo craft of WWII
- 5. Ancient Scandinavians
- 6. "Let me give you _ "
- 7. Daughter of Polonius in "Hamlet"

- Knight" quote)
- 9. Three Little Kittens' punishment (I mean, that sounds pretty dire if you really wanted it!)
- 10. Raison d'
- Jump" (manga magazine 11. " since 1968)
- 12. "Tao Te Ching" philosopher
- 16. "Based on that ..."
- 19. Rolling Stone staffers, for short
- 21. Wu Tang member, e.g.
- 25. CEO's degree, possibly
- 26. Fragrant garland
- 27. "General Hospital" Emmy winner Sofer
- 28. It forms part of the Poland-Germany border
- 30. Cpl.'s inferiors
- 31. "Ruh-!"
- 32. Gel pack kin
- 33. Take a sickle to

- short
- 37. Prank that's never gonna give you up?
- 38. Honorary poem
- 39. "Born," in some notices
- 41. It stands out against a standard dress shirt
- English illusionist/mentalist 42. Brown
- 43. Plaza Hotel girl of fiction
- 46. Do art on glass
- 47. Barely audible, in music notation
- 48. Assortment
- 49. "Positive thinking" advocate Norman Vincent
- 50. Pong maker
- 51. Tried-and-true
- buco (Italian dish)
- 54. NASDAQ debuts
- 55. "Hook" sidekick
- 58. Cries heard in Tejano music
- serious?" ("The Dark 34. '70s prog rock supergroup, for © 2022 Matt Jones

R&R answer from pg 43 of 3/10

MATADORRECORDS SOS PRESENCEOFLOVE BEAKS

Jonesin' answer from pg 44 of 3/10

F	Н	М		Α	F	Т	Α		U	٧	U	L	Α	
R	0	Е		S	L	0	Р		Т	0	L	Α	Ν	D
0	W	Ε	Ν	Н	Α	R	Т		Α	Т	Ν	Τ	Ν	Е
М	Τ	S	0		W	Τ	L	W	Н	Ε	Α	Т	0	Ν
М	Ε	Е	Т	М	Е		Υ	0	J	0	Ε			
			L	Ε	D			R	Α	Ν		0	R	С
Е	Ν	Ν	Ι	0		K	Ι	D	Z		0	٧	Α	L
В	U	С	K	W	Н	Е	Α	Т	Z	Υ	D	Ε	С	0
Е	D	1	Е		_	0	Ν	0		0	W	Ν	Е	D
R	Е	S		S	Т	U			G	0	Α			
			S	Т	Α	G	Υ		0	Ν	L	0	Α	Ν
В	0	В	Ν	Е	W	Н	Α	R	Т		L	U	L	U
Α	В	R	Ε	٧	Α		Р	0	W	Н	Α	Т	Α	Ν
R	Ε	Ν	Α	Τ	L		Р	L	Ε	Α		Α	R	Е
	Υ	0	K	Ε	L		Υ	Е	Т	_		Т	М	Z

NITE SUDOKU

42 43

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 41.

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

Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle A By Dave Green



2

Difficulty Level ★

Con	cept	is S	udok	(U I	Puzzle	в В	y Dave	e Green
		3	4					
		6		1				
		8			5			
		9				7		
		4	5	7	2	8	6	
6				9				
6 2		5	6	3	7	9	8	1
	8							4
		1	8	4	9	5	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis SudoKu Puzzle C By Dave Green 4 2



Difficulty Level ★★★★

All quotes are from Me, by Elton John, born March 25, 1947.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) As I suspected the moment I'd announced it onstage at Madison Square Garden, retiring from live performance wasn't a plan I could stick to. Or at least, sometimes I couldn't. I was unable to decide whether it was the smartest move I'd ever made, or the stupidest. No need to decide that.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) We used a studio in L.A. ... and a new producer ... who was best known for working with Madonna, but was absolutely steeped in seventies rock. It was hilarious: he was the guy who co-wrote 'Like a Prayer' and 'La Isla Bonita', but he was completely obsessed with Jethro Tull. The power is in the mashup.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Ever since I was a kid, owning things had always made me feel happy, but now it just made me feel overwhelmed. What was I going to do with all this stuff? Yard sale and Craigslist!

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) I'd occasionally stick my head round the door of the squash court — there was just about enough room to do that, if you breathed in — and feel oddly despairing. Your dreams will not be squashed.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) ... there's something incredibly, indefinably satisfying about using a paper shredder; the sound it makes, the sight of the paper slowly vanishing into it, the tendrils of shredded paper emerging from the other end. I loved it. Take pleasure in small satisfactions.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Pop videos were still a new thing in early 1978, and I decided to jump in feet first. Of course I did: I was going to make the most incredible, expensive, lavish pop video of all time, for a song called 'Ego'. Of course.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) Things were so exhausting at home that a dull life outside the front door seemed oddly welcome.... Whew.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) The next morning found me pacing around the house, trying to work out what was the earliest you could call someone who'd been out the previous night at a Halloween party.... Noon.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) It quickly became apparent that after twenty-five years of earning a living by being as extravagant and OTT as possible, my notion of keeping things low-key was wildly at odds with everyone else's. Recalibrate.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Then I'd go and sit on the tube. I'd go round and round the Circle Line for three and a half hours, reading The Pan Book of Horror Stories instead of practising Bartok. Reading is good.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Walking around the house was like taking part in the world's most expensive obstacle course. If you put a foot wrong, or turned round too quickly ... you could smash something worth thousands of pounds. Put away your toys, and watch where

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) I knew I didn't want to be a classical musician. For one thing, I wasn't good enough. I don't have the hands for it. My fingers are short for a piano player. If you see a photo of a concert pianist, they've all got hands like tarantulas. There are lots of kinds of music.

LITTLE W©RDS

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

CLUES

SOLUTIONS

- 1 from the heart (7) 2 chicken-hearted (8)
- 3 having a heavy heart (8)
- 4 close to one's heart (4)
- 5 game akin to Hearts (6)
- 6 knew by heart (9)
- 7 half-hearted (5)

СО	ED	WAR	NC	GR
DE	IE	ERE	AR	RIZ
VI	MO	DLY	SPA	NG
BLA	ME	SE	SI	DES

4. CHARCOAL 5. GUNMETAL 6. NICKEL 7. SLATE

Sudoku Answers from pg44 of 3/17

Puzzle A

9	3	2	8	1	5	6	7	4
8	7	1	3	6	4	9	5	2
4	6	5	9	7	2	1	3	8
6	5	8	2	3	1	7	4	9
3	1	7	6	4	9	8	2	5
2	9	4	7	5	8	3	1	6
7	4	3	5	9	6	2	8	1
5	8	9	1	2	7	4	6	3
1	2	6	4	8	3	5	9	7
Difficu	lly Lev	el 🖈						3700

7	1	5	9	2	8	6	4	3
4	3	8	7	1	6	2	9	5
6	2	9	5	4	3	7	1	8
1	8	3	6	7	4	5	2	9
5	4	2	1	3	9	8	7	6
9	7	6	8	5	2	4	3	1
2	6	4	3	9	5	1	8	7
3	5	1	2	8	7	9	6	4
8	9	7	4	6	1	3	5	2
Difficu	lly Lev	el ★ ★	*					370

Puzzle C

- 										
7	3	4	2	6	8	9	1	5		
1	8	9	4	3	5	2	7	6		
2	6	5	1	7	9	4	8	3		
3	9	1	8	4	6	5	2	7		
6	5	7	9	2	3	1	4	8		
8	4	2	5	1	7	6	3	9		
5	2	3	6	8	1	7	9	4		
9	1	8	7	5	4	3	6	2		
4	7	6	3	9	2	8	5	1		
Difficu	lty Lev	ol **	**					3711		

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Awesome!

Thirteen-vear-old Matilda Walden of Bentham, United Kingdom, has broken the Guinness World Record for assembling a Mr. Potato Head, United Press International reported on March 14. Walden put together the iconic toy in just 5.69 seconds. The previous record had been in place for 10 years. Her secret technique? "I had to be joining the nose and mustache together as I picked them up in one hand," she said. Walden was hoping to raise awareness of Skipton Extended Learning for All, an organization that offers services to children. Walden noted, "I have disabilities, and sometimes find that in other community events I was not welcome and people judge me." She is thinking about going for the record for assembling a Mr. Potato Head while blindfolded.

Bright idea

A big night out on March 12 led Leoni Fildes, 34, to a big idea: She would get an Uber from The Church Inn in Salford, United Kingdom, to Ukraine, to "help" the situation there. Fildes admits she had "one too many double pink gins and shots of Sambuca," the Manchester Evening News reported, and she was saved from her drunken philanthropic tendencies by fiscal realities: Her Uber app reported "insufficient funds" to back the 1,700-mile trip,

which would have cost about 4,500 British pounds. (Not for lack of trying, though — Uber attempted to make the transaction nine times.) "I remember when we were looking, we said, 'Oh, we'll get the comfort one.' That's dearer — the XL one," Fildes said. "I'm so glad I didn't have the funds available."

Oops, I did it again

NBC2-TV reported on March 6 that Anthony Antonaras, 38, of Venice, Florida, inexplicably rammed his pickup truck three times into the home of a woman he knows, damaging her garage doors and a window near the front door. When she came outside, Antonaras was sitting in the bed of the truck as "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus blared from the stereo. He told police that his "foot slipped"; but he also said that the woman is "not a good person" and that the incident was "a message." Antonaras can be heard screaming expletives while the homeowner was speaking with the 911 dispatcher.

We all need a little good news

Sunday, March 13, was a holiday in New Zealand: Waitangi Day. As such, Turanga library in Christchurch was scheduled to be closed for the day, but the automated door locks malfunctioned, The Guardian reported, and the unstaffed and unsecured library was used by 380 people that day — with-

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out any ill effects. "Our self-issue machines automatically started up and 147 books were issued by customers," a library staff member said. "No book-theft alarms went off, and at this stage nothing has been reported missing, nor have we spotted any damage." Only one customer left a note about there being "no librarians in sight." "We're grateful for the honesty of the people who used the library during this time," said Bruce Rendall, head of facilities, property and planning at Christchurch city council.

Blue light special

Pastor Paul Knight of Hope Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota, is puzzled. On the morning of March 9, as he drove by his own home, he noticed that someone had placed a giant K from a Kmart store on his front lawn, the Grand Forks Herald reported. The sign is believed to be from the Kmart store that's being redeveloped in town. "I don't know who to call," Pastor Knight said. "So I am kind of making a general announcement: The people who are responsible for this, you're welcome to remove it anytime. My wife hopes it's gone by June, I think."

What are the odds?

Katie Chisholm, 32, is only about 2 percent Irish, according to her ancestry.com report, but the luck o' the Irish was with her, and her

mother, Mary Adams, 67, and her daughter, Charlotte Chisholm, 1, as they all were born on March 17, The Irish Sun reported. Katie, of Omaha, Nebraska, says she and her family "just feel like the luckiest people ever. My husband's family has a much stronger Irish heritage — his mother's maiden name is O'Connor. St. Patrick's Day was always a major family holiday for him growing up." As for those odds of three generations of women born on March 17? According to the Sun, they're about 1 in 100,000.

Unclear on the concept

Jackson, Wisconsin, dentist Scott Charmoli, 61, was convicted on March 10 of five counts of health care fraud and two counts of making false statements about his patients' treatment, The Washington Post reported, after a scheme in which he drilled into and broke his patients' teeth so he would have to charge them to fix the damage. His plan increased his income from \$1.4 million in 2014 to \$2.5 million a year later. Federal prosecutors reported that Charmoli inserted more crowns in his patients' mouths than 95% of Wisconsin dentists between 2016 and 2019; one assistant testified that the change in strategy made her uncomfortable and she ended up leaving the practice. Charmoli is scheduled for sentencing in June.

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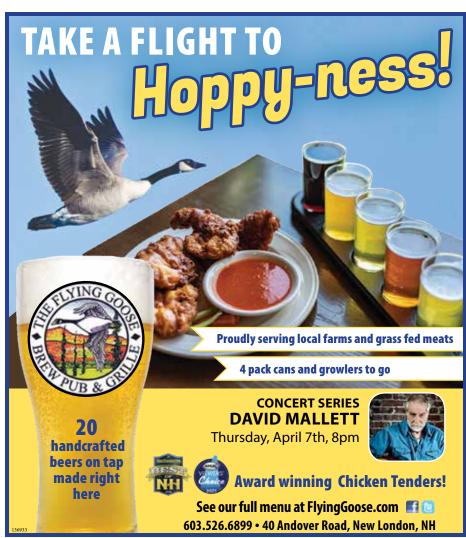
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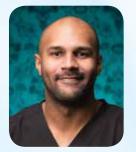


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