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AN EVENING OF WRITERS P. 26

HEART TRIBUTE P. 46

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ON THE COVER

10 BEST OF READERS' POLL The results are in! Find out Hippo readers' opinions of the best people, places and things in New Hampshire, plus see some of the clever - and spot-on - responses we got to a few fun questions.

ALSO ON THE COVER, meet four of the Capital City region's authors, p. 26. Amateur bakers compete with French-inspired cakes at a new event in Merrimack, p. 36. And hear the sounds of Heart in Concord, p. 46.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS & NOTES

- 4 NEWS IN BRIEF
- 6 Q&A
- 7 SPORTS
- 8 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX
- 9 THIS WEEK

THE ARTS

- 26 AN EVENING WITH CONCORD-AREA AUTHORS
- 28 ARTS ROUNDUP

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

- 30 GARDENING GUY
Henry Homeyer offers advice on your outdoors.
- 30 TREASURE HUNT
There's gold in your attic.
- 31 KIDDIE POOL
Family fun events this weekend.
- 32 CAR TALK
Automotive advice.

CAREERS

- 34 ON THE JOB
What it's like to be a...

FOOD

- 36 FRANCO FOODS CHALLENGE Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse; In the Kitchen; Weekly Dish; Try This at Home; Drinks with John Fladd; Wine.

POP CULTURE

- 42 REVIEWS CDs, books, TV and more. Amy Diaz adventures with *The Lost City* and *Infinite Storm* and checks out films from the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.

NITE

- 46 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE
Nite Roundup, concert & comedy listings and more.
- 47 MUSIC THIS WEEK
Live music at your favorite bars and restaurants.
- 51 ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORD
A puzzle for the music-lover.

ODDS & ENDS

- 51 KEN KEN, WORD ROUNDUP
- 52 CROSSWORD, SUDOKU
- 53 SIGNS OF LIFE, 7 LITTLE WORDS
- 54 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

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NEWS & NOTES

Covid-19 news

State health officials reported 76 new cases of Covid-19 on March 28. The state averaged 126 new cases per day over the most recent seven-day period, a 5 percent increase compared to the week before. As of March 28 there were 1,020 active infections and just 26 hospitalizations.

State of Manchester

On March 23, Mayor Joyce Craig gave her State of the City speech, during which she announced the launch of The Manchester Promise Program, which would enable some Manchester public school students — those who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity — to attend college debt-free. According to a press release, the program will start in the coming weeks as the city partners with Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester Community College and Duet.

Other speech highlights, the release said, included:

The formation of an exploratory committee to bring hockey back to Manchester.

In the past two years, the city has exceeded its goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50 percent, with current reductions at 58.4 percent, in large part because of the city's solar array.

The Manchester Police Department is focused on reducing gun crimes and has formed a community-focused gun crime problem-solving team and has deployed additional walking patrols to increase police presence and community engagement in neighborhoods, according to the release, and in 2021 the department seized 81 illegal guns off the streets.

Manchester was named a finalist for the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Bet-

ter Regional Challenge Phase 1 and submitted its Phase 2 application March 15; if awarded, the grant would provide more than \$100 million in federal dollars to accelerate job creation in tissue engineering and advanced aerial mobility — potentially creating more than 20,000 jobs — and fund a pedestrian bridge over the Merrimack River connecting the Millyard to the West Side. The Manchester Transit Authority is in the process of piloting a program for an on-demand bus service that it hopes to launch in FY23. Manchester allocated \$8 million in federal funds to develop new affordable housing and established the Manchester Housing Commission to assist in that process. Proposals for 450+ new mixed-income apartments to be built on underutilized city-owned parking lot are currently being finalized. The city has also hired its first Director of Homeless Initiatives, is working with outreach teams to address the needs of the chronically homeless, and is establishing new relationships with recovery service providers to help people enter treatment.

Redistricting

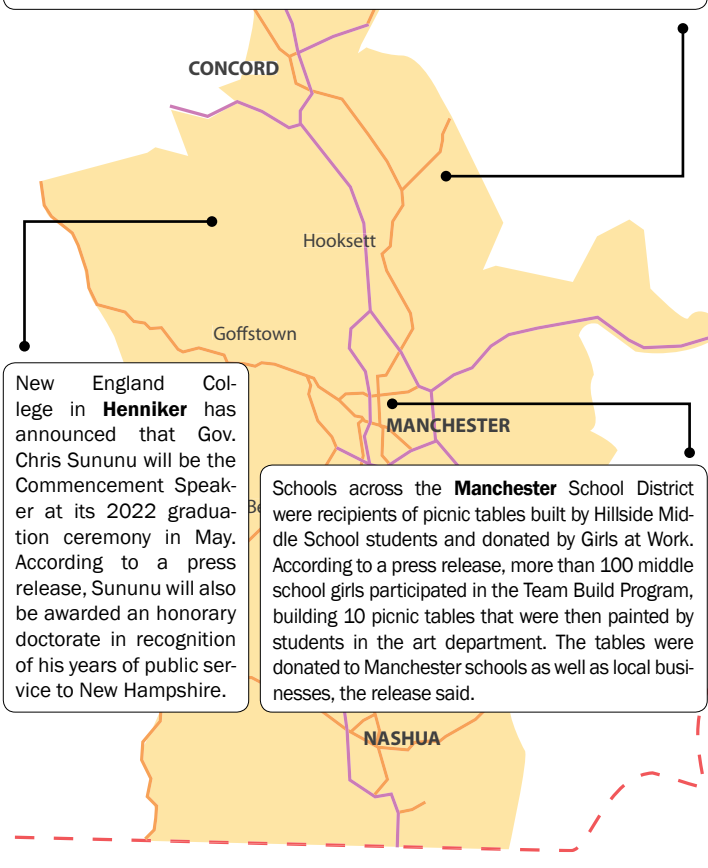
Gov. Chris Sununu has submitted a draft Congressional redistricting map that he said in his letter to legislative leaders he would sign if it reaches his desk. Sununu has said he will veto the redistricting map put forth by Republicans in the New Hampshire House and Senate, according to a report from WMUR, and his own map “includes adjustments to the current districts that would likely create a more competitive first district and a second district that still leans Democratic.” Sununu wrote in his letter that his proposed map “keeps our districts competitive, passes the smell test, and holds our incumbents

accountable so that no one elected official is immune from challengers or constituent services.”

LNA training

The New Hampshire Veterans Home is accepting applications for its new Licensed Nursing Assistant course that will allow students to earn hourly wages while learning in the expense-paid course. According to a press release, the salary includes a 15-percent enhancement of the base pay available for all Veterans Home nursing positions. Students who commit to providing care at the Veterans Home will receive education in a classroom setting and through clinical hours. Successful completion of the course prepares students for the Board of Nursing license exam, the release said, and after completing training and passing the exam, students will apply for full- or part-time positions at the home. The 10-week LNA Course begins April 19 at the New Hampshire Veterans Home campus, 139 Winter St. in Tilton. Applications are due by April 7 and are available at nh.gov; click on “careers,” then “NH State Government Job Opportunities,” then type “Tilton” in the location box when searching for jobs. 🗨️

The N.H. Division of Historical Resources' State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program is accepting applications for its field school at Bear Brook State Park in **Allenstown**. According to a press release, participants will continue the excavation of a pre-contact archaeological deposit that was identified last year and will focus on additional areas that might contain pre-contact deposits. Sessions are June 6 to June 17 and June 20 to July 1. The program is open to ages 16 and up (16- and 17-year-olds must participate with a parent or guardian), and registration closes April 30. Visit nh.gov/nhdhr/SCRAP.htm or contact the NHDHR at 271-6433.



Covid-19 update	As of March 21	As of March 28
Total cases statewide	301,308	302,181
Total current infections statewide	911	1,020
Total deaths statewide	2,436	2,447
New cases	797 (March 15 to March 21)	873 (March 22 to March 28)
Current infections: Hillsborough County	242	253
Current infections: Merrimack County	65	86
Current infections: Rockingham County	151	164

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

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So often in our society, I hear how we crave opportunities for our children to explore, to tinker, and to figure out who they are in this world. We are all for our youth getting outside

or into the kitchen or workshop to help make sense of what the world offers them.

What is often missing from this narrative is giving space for our kids to explore who they are and what they offer to the world. In fact, we can often find this downright threatening especially when it comes to exploring one's race, sexual orientation, sex, gender and culture.

I see the fear of these types of examinations rippling throughout our entire public education system here in New Hampshire and our country as a whole. There are laws and policies being passed that dictate what a teacher can instruct on race, or what name a child can (or cannot) go by, and limit discussions around family structures. There are demands that parents must be notified of all that is being discussed in our K-12 schools with threats of lawsuits being made if those requirements are not met.

In Manchester, there is a lawsuit filed over chosen name practices within that district. We have HB2 in place, which white lawmakers adopted to limit discussions around race in our classrooms. In Mississippi, an administrator was terminated for reading a book titled "I Need a New Butt" to second-graders, and we cannot forget the recent legislation passed in Texas and Florida with really damaging practices put in place to further oppress LGBTQIA+ youth.

These are all motivated by fear but I'm not sure what the fear is about. Do we truly not believe our children are capable of learning more about themselves? To better understand the complexities and possibilities each of our identities hold? Is it that there is a belief that if they learned this information then they would be able to have better agency over their own bodies, their own lives, in a way that threatens the "norm"?

Our kids are beautiful and resilient humans. All trauma specialists talk about the need to build healthy resilience, which comes through conversation, connection and self-responsibility. Avoidance, unfortunately, does not get us there and stunts us against reaching our true potential.

I hope we can embrace and find the same level of fulfillment from self-exploration as we do exploration of the outside world. We can understand a lot from our children, and I believe they will be our greatest teachers in redeveloping our curiosity.

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

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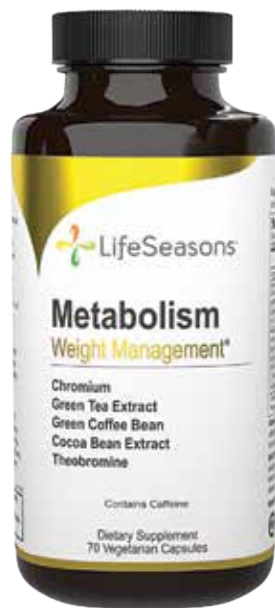


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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Running the rules

State's first female deputy enforcement, licensing chief

Meet Danielle Ellston, the new deputy chief and deputy director of the New Hampshire Liquor Commission's Division of Enforcement and Licensing, and the first woman to assume the role.

Q: *What does your job as deputy chief and deputy director entail?*

Within the Division of Enforcement and Licensing, we have field operations, which [consist of] all of our sworn police officers — their official title is 'investigators' — who provide our regulatory function throughout the state, [with] a primary mission of preventing youth access to alcohol and tobacco. We also have our administrative services, which includes our licensing, help desk, auditing and direct shipping units, as well as our training units, which provide training to our licensees and our store employees. I'm second in command to the chief, who runs the whole operation. I'm kind of the middleman; I'm a support for the chief ... and I also oversee some of the day-to-day operations of the division, making sure that we're staying on track with our mission to ensure that we're complying with our policies, rules and regulations.

What is your background in this kind of work?

I have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Endicott College. I was hired right out of school by Liquor Enforcement in September 2008. ... In January 2009, I received my police certification from the New Hampshire Police Academy, representing the [liquor] division at the academy. I've been here [in New Hampshire] for my entire adult career, and that's something that's important to me. ... There's a lot that has happened in the amount of time I've been here. It's really cool that I got to see and be a part of the agency's development and progression.

What are some of the biggest challenges you're up against?

It's very tough for the licensees right now. They were just getting their footing back from everything that happened during Covid. At the end of last year and even last summer, we saw people out and about, feeling comfortable going to public places again. Now, with some of the inflation issues ... people are going out less and spending less money ... and the industry is starting to feel the impact of that. The industry is also still dealing with staffing issues. Covid created a lot of job opportunities for people to work remotely, which is good, but the industry is feeling the impact of people ... moving on to different jobs. We feel that on our end, too, because they're trying to manage more patrons with less staff. The way we combat that is through our educational platform; education ... is a primary function of our investigators. They're out there educating



Danielle Ellston being sworn in. Courtesy photo.

these licensees, giving them ways to run their business with less staff and ways to be more diligent with checking IDs and over-serving. ... We have to look at what's going on around us and really change the way we [communicate] our goals to the licensees. It's a partnership where we have to listen to them and hear what their issues are, then educate them on what the best ways to stay in compliance are. It really is a give and take.

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

My big goal here is to keep us moving forward and to be progressive ... and to really try to streamline everything we do, to work with the industry and to make it a great, very successful relationship. ... When I say 'be progressive,' it's [referring to] everything — technology, education, community outreach. How can we make our processes more efficient for the licensees? How can we make our internal procedures more efficient for our employees? ... There's a mentality to say, 'This is the way we've always done things,' ... but there are so many opportunities for us to partner with the industry and our coalition groups to really step forward.

What does being the first woman in this position mean to you?

I'm very honored and grateful. It's a very cool situation to be in. ... Going back to [the idea of] being progressive, we're seeing ... a movement throughout law enforcement of more females getting into the profession. I'm the first female deputy chief, but we have a pretty big group of females working here, and we have some female supervisors. ... If I can help show that [women] can be successful in it, then that's a very cool opportunity.

What do you find rewarding about this work?

The cool thing about our agency is that there are so many people you get to interact with. We're interacting with licensees who are just trying to have a successful business. We're interacting with our coalition groups, which have such an outstanding mission they're trying to achieve, and they like including us in that. We get to work with local law enforcement agencies and help them be successful in establishing their business relationships with their licensees. We get to interact with youth. For me, that's the best part — getting to interact with all these different people and to really be a part of their mission and bring them in to be a part of our mission.

— Angie Sykeny 🌱

Brady bound for Miami next?



Idle thoughts today from an idle mind.

Given the **Tom Brady**-to-Miami rumor that surfaced last week, maybe we have a clue why TB's retirement announcement seemed so botched. Maybe he quickly wanted the Bucs to contemplate life without him, to get leverage for forcing a trade to Miami. Where, oh by the way, he and **Yoko** are building their dream retirement home on billionaires row just off Miami Beach.

Loved **Jimmy Kimmel's** assessment for the Rams' woefully sparse Super Bowl victory parade turnout: "honestly, I think there were more football fans on the street cheering for **OJ** during the slow-motion chase."

Speaking of L.A., so much for it being the center of the basketball universe. Just two summers ago when the Clippers signed **Kawhi Leonard** and traded for **Paul George** after the Lakers slimily, albeit legally, tampered to pair **Anthony Davis** with **LeBron James** it looked like that city was going to dominate the NBA for several years. But with the Clips 36-39 and the Lakers 31-43, both are fighting to barely make the play-in round.

And while the Lakers did win the title in the abbreviated bubble year, they're just 162-137 in LeBron's time in L.A., with that lowly play-in round finish ahead, after being bounced in Round 1 last year and missing them all together in Year 1. And with the Clips even worse, it's turned out to be a colossal failure considering the expectations. Especially when they collectively *still* owe the Pelicans and Thunder an astonishing seven more first-round picks through 2026. And none are protected as both trend down!

The Lakers predicament is good news for the Celtics. They're tied with a most-ever 17 league titles, and with the C's suddenly surging as **Jaylen Brown** and **Jayson Tatum** enter their prime, they look a lot more likely to get No. 18 first than I would have thought possible as late as New Year's Day.

Anyone else notice that the Hornets have gone 8-2 since signing **Isaiah Thomas** when he scored 9.2 points per in 13 minutes a game off the bench? That includes their 119-110 win over the Nets in Sunday's battle for the top seed in the play-in round that starts the playoffs.

Incidentally, with the mask mandate lifted, that game was the first one in Brooklyn for the guy **Danny Ainge** stupidly traded Isaiah (and the draft pick that turned out to be **Collin Sexton**) for — **Kyrie Irving**. The loss made the Nets 9-13 in the 22 games played by their so-called difference maker.

Hearing **Deion Sanders** say it was "disrespectful" when media people called him by his first name at a recent press conference instead of "coach" was comical. Pretty rich for a guy who showboated everyone anytime he did something big. As for not calling him by his title, you're a football coach, Deion, not the president. Get a grip.

Speaking of pretty rich, how about ex-Patriot **LeGarrette Blount** recently lambasting college coach at Oregon **Chip Kelly** for "not supporting" him after he delivered an unprovoked sucker punch to an unsuspecting Boise State player after the first game of his senior season? So much for maturity helping him take responsibility.

Got to love ex-Trinity hooper **Wenyen Gabriel** getting another NBA chance in L.A. He's started in four of his 11 games with the Lakers, while averaging 6 points and 4 rebounds a game.

I don't get HBO, so I haven't seen any of its 1980s Showtime Lakers series. But I saw a clip of the first meeting between **Jerry Buss** and a made to be the villain **Red Auerbach** as an over-the-top (even for him) arrogant adversary. **John C. Reilly** as Buss looked more like a porn king than an NBA owner. Not sure I'm interested in seeing **Jerry West** as a bitter drunk either.

I crossed paths with Dr. Buss one time, just outside the Kingdome during the 1989 Final Four in Seattle. True to form, he came walking toward me before the Saturday afternoon games with a gorgeous 20-something blonde on each arm.

Loved the recent line from **Will Clark**, whose swing was often compared to **Ted Williams** during his 80s/90s heyday, while talking about today's three-outcome — walk, strike out, homer — launch angle approach to hitting: it must have "**Rogers Hornsby** and **Ty Cobb** rolling over in their graves."

When you hear **Jermaine Wiggins** say on WEEI the Patriots should trade **Mac Jones** for (before they were) **Russell Wilson** or **Deshaun Watson**, don't listen. Remember his suggestion to fix the 2017 dumpster fire Celtics was signing ball hog **Carmelo Anthony**. Wiggy's a likable fellow, but a dope.

For what it's worth, no matter how good he is I wouldn't want Watson with 22 sexual misconduct complaints against him. (He has denied all the allegations, according to the New York Times.) However, since I don't have much faith in mankind when sports is involved, I think the hoo-ha around him will disappear with a win or two as football-crazed Cleveland is win-hungry since it hasn't won a playoff game since **Bill Belichick** bested **Bill Parcells** and the Patriots in 1994!

I give ESPN's **Tom Brady-Charles Woodson** 30 for 30 on the Tuck Rule play a C- at best. It was 15 minutes (maybe) of new content stretched (endlessly) into 60. How many of the 900 replays shown did we really need to see? Six? How many times did we need to hear Woodson, **Jon Gruden** and **Lincoln Kennedy** say it was a fumble and they got screwed? Or Brady and **Bob Kraft** saying good call? All it did was remind me how close that call was, and that the play on the field would have stood because the replay was inconclusive. Bad rule. Right call.

Also, the notion Brady would have gone back to backing up **Drew Bledsoe** for fumbling was ridiculous. The season turned when TB replaced Drew.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Granite State innovates

New Hampshire is the 9th most innovative state, according to a new report on the country's most and least innovative states from personal-finance website WalletHub. According to the report, the Granite State ranks 5th in eighth-grade math and science performance, 7th in projected STEM-job demand by 2028, 8th in share of STEM professionals, 9th in share of tech companies, and 10th in share of science and engineering graduates ages 25 and older.

Score: +1

Comment: *District of Columbia, Massachusetts and Washington ranked highest in the report, while North Dakota, Louisiana and Mississippi were at the bottom of the list.*

Donor milk needed

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Women's Health Resource Center has been providing pasteurized donor human milk for babies whose mothers might be having challenges producing a reliable milk supply since it opened in the summer of 2020. According to a press release, that milk supply is now running low, and the center is looking for donors. "When the donor milk depot and dispensary first opened, we were averaging 150 bottles of donor milk," Krista Duval, women's health manager of the WHRC and the Milk Depot, said in the release. "Today, the number has dropped to 50, which limits the number of bottles a family can receive and, in some cases, we are turning families away." Pasteurized donor milk can be lifesaving for preterm infants, the release said.

Score: -1

Comment: *Mothers interested in donating milk can contact the WHRC to arrange for free testing, which includes a phone screening, application and blood test. Call 650-2600 or email whrc@hitchcock.org.*

Help for small businesses

The first round of grants through the Manchester Small Business Grant & Program Assistance has been distributed: Barre Life, Café la Reine, Jump Chiropractic, Caesario's Pizza, Blackwood Law, Manchester Acupuncture Studio, Willows Florist, Hospitality Sports Club, Zapata Trucking Express, Studio Verme, and Patz Deli each received a \$10,000 grant, according to a press release. The program is designed to help Queen City small business owners recover from the negative economic effects of the pandemic, using funds from the American Rescue Plan. Grants can be used for other fixed business costs as well, like transitioning to e-commerce business platforms and outdoor space upgrades, the release said.

Score: +1

Comment: *"This grant program not only gives [these small businesses] the boost they need right now, but helps them plan for the future," Mayor Joyce Craig said in the release.*

Newman Civic Fellows

Students from five colleges and universities in New Hampshire have been named Newman Civic Fellows public problem solvers: Jonathan Cacatian of Hellenic American University, Emily Infinger of Plymouth State University, Jillian Barrett of Saint Anselm College, Kate Matthews of UNH and Aditi Gupta of Dartmouth College. The fellowship "recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world," according to a press release, and provides recipients with a year of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional and civic growth that helps prepare them to create large-scale positive change.

Score: +1

Comment: *"Our state has a long history of community service and giving back to others. This fellowship advances our collective mission to work in areas of need to improve the lives of Granite Staters," Debby Scire, executive director of Campus Compact for New Hampshire, which runs the fellowship program, said in the release.*

QOL score: 68

Net change: +2

QOL this week: 70

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire?

Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

75

50

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS MARCH 31 AND BEYOND

Thursday, March 31

Get music and the art of **Andy Warhol** at Art After Work today from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. Admission is free (as it is all Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.) and Joel Cage (pictured) will be performing live. The Currier's new exhibit, "Warhol Screen Tests," opens today with 20 silent, black and white screen test films, according to currier.org. Other exhibits on display include "The Appeal of the Real: 19th Century Photo-



graphs of the Ancient World" and "WPA in NH: Philip Guston and Musa McKim."

for details and check out Meghan Siegler's story on page 10 of the March 24 (last week's) issue of the Hippo (which you can find at hippopress.com). Amy Diaz reviews a few of the films in this week's film section, which starts on page 44.

Friday, April 1

The Palace Theatre's production of *Bye Bye Birdie* kicks off its final weekend of performances. See the musical today at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 2, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 3, at noon at the Palace in Manchester. See palacetheatre.org.

Friday, April 1

Meanwhile, continuing its run tonight is the drama *Places You Go* presented by New World Theatre at the Hatbox Theatre in Concord. The play, which opened March 25, will run the next two weekends: Fridays and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students and seniors. See hatboxnh.com.

Saturday, April 2

Get some **smooth jazz** with Andrew Emmauel at Liquid Therapy in Nashua today at 6 p.m. Find more music at area bars, restaurants, breweries and more in the Music This Week listing, which starts on page 47.

Sunday, April 3

The Strathspey and Reel Society of NH, described as "New Hampshire's own Scottish orchestra" according to a press release, will perform a **Scottish Concert** in honor of Tartan Day today at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Collaborative Space (25

Gregg St. in Wilton). The event is free but reservations are required; call the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library at 654-2581 or email sandyl@wiltonlibrarynh.org. 🌈



Save the Date! Saturday, May 7

Enjoy "**The Music of James Bond**" from Symphony NH on Saturday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Keefe Center for the Arts in Nashua. In addition to music from the decades of Bond movies, the program will include music from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Mission Impossible* and more. Tickets cost \$20 to \$60 for adults (children are free with an adult ticket, seniors get a discount). See symphonynh.org.

Thursday, March 31

Get nearly a month of movies when the **New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival** begins today with a screening of *The Automat* at the Rex Theatre in Manchester at 7 p.m. The festival runs through Sunday, April 10, with 16 films in all — 11 features, five shorts and four in-person screenings. Most of

the movies will also be available virtually, either during the festival itself or during a bonus week, April 11 through April 24. Tickets start at \$12 for individual screenings, or you can buy packages for screenings of all movies, virtual only (\$118) or in-person and virtual (\$130 for one person, \$180 for two). See nhjewishfilmfestival.com

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2022 THE RESULTS ARE IN!



Hippo readers have a lot of opinions.

This year's Best of 2022 Readers' Poll features, for the most part, five winners for each category — five favorites, the top five opinions about what makes a great place for a second date or a good spot to let the kids run wild.

All these "readers' bests" mean lots of recommendations for places to go and things to do (and eat — as always we ask a lot of questions about eating). Along the way, we also got readers' opinions on their feelings about Zoom meetings (the answer will not surprise you), their feelings about the

ARTS

Best Performing Arts Venue

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

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

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

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

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

Best Theatrical Production

Best of the Best: *Mamma Mia!*, mainstage production of the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) ran Oct. 15 through Nov. 14, 2021.

★*The Full Monty*, mainstage production of the Palace Theatre ran Jan. 28 through Feb. 20, 2022.

★*A Christmas Carol*, mainstage production of the Palace Theatre ran Nov. 26 through Dec. 22, 2021.

★Recycled Percussion, drumming group performed at the Palace Theatre Dec. 27, 2021, through Jan. 8, 2022, recycledpercussion.com.

★*Barefoot in the Park*, performed by the Community Players of Concord at the

Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) Oct. 15 through Oct. 17, 2021, communityplayersofconcord.org.

Best Local Place to Buy Art

Best of the best: Craftsmen's Fair, nhcrafts.org. The annual nine-day craft fair hosted by the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen is held outdoors at Mount Sunapee Resort starting the first week of August. It features hundreds of craftspeople with vendor booths, plus special craft exhibitions, demonstrations, hands-on workshops and more.

★Manchester Craft Market, Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, manchestercraftmarket.com. Year-round gift shop features handmade items by more than 125 local artisans.

★League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Concord Fine Craft Gallery, 36 N. Main St., Concord, 228-8171, concord.nhcrafts.org. The craft organization's flagship retail shop and gallery features a variety of traditional and contemporary crafts created by juried New Hampshire craftspeople.

★The Museum Shop at the Currier, Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org. The gift shop offers art supplies and gifts for artists and art-lovers, including novelty items inspired by the museum's special exhibitions.

★Concord Arts Market, Rollins Park, Concord, concordartsmarket.net. The juried outdoor artisan and fine art market runs one Saturday a month, June through Octo-

ber, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first market will be held on Saturday, June 11.

Art Gallery with the Most Surprising Art

Best of the best: Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org. The internationally renowned art museum, founded in 1929, has permanent and rotating exhibits featuring American and European paintings, sculptures, photographs and more by notable artists such as Picasso, Monet and O'Keeffe, as well as local and regional artists. Its next special exhibition, "Warhol Screen Tests," opens on March 31 and will feature projections of film shot by Andy Warhol in the 1960s.

★Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery, 32 Hanover St., Manchester, 493-1677, dianecrespoart.weebly.com. The gallery, owned and operated by local artist Diane Crespo, features Crespo's oil and pastel realism landscapes and offers art classes and workshops for all ages and abilities.

★Art 3 Gallery, 44 W. Brook St., Manchester, 668-6650, art3gallery.com. The fine art retail gallery features art in a variety of media and styles by local, regional, national and international artists, and offers

custom framing and corporate and residential art consulting.

★Art Up Front Street Studios & Gallery, 120 Front St., Exeter, 418-6286, artupfront-street.com. The artists' collective features seven working artist studios, open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and hosts art events, workshops and demonstrations. Its Spring Open Studios will be held on Saturday, May 7, and Sunday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

★League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Concord Fine Craft Gallery, 36 N. Main St., Concord, 228-8171, concord.nhcrafts.org. The craft organization's flagship retail shop and gallery features a variety of

traditional and contemporary crafts created by juried New Hampshire craftspeople.

Granite Stater — Living, Dead or Fictional — I'd Like to Have a Drink With:

"The Exeter aliens"

ENTERTAINMENT

Best Bookstore

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

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

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

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

★ The Toadstool Bookshop, 12 Depot St., Peterborough, 924-3543, toadbooks.com
 ★ Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com

Best Comic Book Store

Best of the best: Double Midnight Comics, 245 Maple St., Manchester, 669-9636, dmcomics.com

NH is #1 at _____

“Being da bomb!”

★ Merrymac Games and Comics, 550 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 420-8161, merrymacgc.com

★ Jetpack Comics, 37 N. Main St., Rochester, 330-9636, jetpackcomics.com

★ Double Midnight Comics, 341 Loudon Road, Concord, 715-2683, dmcomics.com

★ Chris’s Comics, 341 S. Broadway, Salem, 898-4151, chriscardscomics.com

Best Mini Golf

Best of the best: Chuckster’s Family Fun Park, 9 Bailey Road, Chichester, 798-3555, chuckstersnh.com. Opening for the season in Chichester on April 9.

★ Mel’s Funway Park, 454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 424-2292, melsfunwaypark.com. Open seasonally from April to October, weather permitting.

★ Chuckster’s, 53 Hackett Hill Road, Hooksett, 210-1415, chucksters-hooksett.com. Opening for the season in Hooksett on April 9.

★ Legends Golf & Family Recreation, 18 Legends Drive, Hooksett, 627-0099, legendsgolfnh.com. Open seasonally; 2022 operating dates TBA.

★ Mammoth Green Driving Range & Mini Golf, 135 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 432-4653, mammothgreendrivingsite.com. Open seasonally; 2022 operating dates TBA.

Best Spot for Some Friendly Competition

Best of the best: The Rugged Axe, 377 S. Willow St., Manchester, 232-7846, theruggedaxe.com

★ Game Changer Sports Bar & Grill, 4 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com. The sports bar is known for its indoor cornhole facility.

★ RelAxe Throwing, 157 Gay St., Manchester, 782-3061, relaxethrowing.com

★ Leda Lanes, 340 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-4884, ledalanes.com

★ Lakeside Lanes, 2171 Candia Road, Manchester, 627-7722, lakesidelanes.com

NIGHTLIFE

Best Bar for Live Music

Best of the best: Strange Brew Tavern, 88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292, strangebrewtavern.net. Live local music is usually

featured six nights a week, from Tuesday through Sunday, with an emphasis on blues artists. See Frankie Boy & the Blues Express on Friday, April 1, and 2120 S. Michigan Ave. on Saturday, April 2, at 9 p.m. respectively.

★ The Shaskeen Pub and Restaurant, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com. Live entertainment

is featured multiple nights a week — a typical week will usually include Open Mic nights on Mondays, solo performances on Tuesdays, live music on Friday and Saturdays

and a themed “Rap Night” on Sundays.

★ The Derryfield Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com. Live local performances are held at The Derryfield every Friday and Saturday evening, from 8 to 11 p.m. Next up is Blue Matter on Friday, April 1, and the Chad LaMarsh Band on Saturday, April 2.

★ The Goat Bar and Grill, 50 Old Granite St., Manchester, 222-1677, goatnh.com. Live entertainment is usually featured sev-

THE FINE PRINT

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

The results of Hippo’s readers’ poll are based on readers’ answers to a poll conducted online in February. Readers typed in the names of people and locations they voted for. In situations where the vote is tied or otherwise unclear, Hippo editorial staff makes an effort to determine the will of the greatest number of voters.

Hippo reserves the right to disqualify individual votes, ballots and/or entries when they are incomplete or unclear, do not meet the letter or the spirit of the question asked or otherwise do not meet the requirements to make them a usable vote. Hippo’s editorial staff makes the ultimate determination of the winners in the categories. Hippo’s advertising staff and its advertisers play no role in the determination of the winners. All results are final.

The Best of 2022 is a celebration of all things local and is meant to serve as a snapshot of the people and places in southern New Hampshire. Large national and international chains are, for the most part, not included in the count.

Information presented here is gathered from sources including the location’s website and social media pages. Double check with the spots before heading out to make sure times, locations and menu items haven’t changed.

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

And, again, all results are final.



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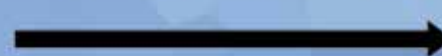
TRUTHS



Friday, April 8, 2022 | 2-4 p.m.

NHTI—Concord’s Community College

Join the New Hampshire Humanities Collaborative as we host faculty and college students from across N.H. to explore ideas of truth and equality through social, artistic, and literary representations.



Visit NHTI.edu for details on how to attend this free event!



en nights a week at 9 p.m. (21+ only starting then), with a focus on country and pop artists. Catch Rob Pagnano on Friday, April 1, and The Pop Disaster on Saturday, April 2.

★The Stumble Inn Bar and Grill, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-3210, stumbleinnnh.com. Live music is usually featured Thursdays through Mondays at The Stumble Inn. See Jonny Friday there on Friday, April 1, and the Casual Gravity Band on Saturday, April 2, from 8 to 11 p.m. each evening.

Best Bar with an Outdoor Deck

Best of the best: The Derryfield Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com

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

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

★Downtown Cheers Grille & Bar, 17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com

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

Best Pub

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

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

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

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

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

Best Weekly Bar Event

Best of the best: Ruby Room Comedy, Wednesday nights at 9 p.m. at The Shaskeen Pub and Restaurant, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com

★Open Mic Nights with Nate Comp and Paul Costley, Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. at KC's Rib Shack, 837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net

★Heather Abernathy: Trivia Bee, Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. at The Farm Bar and Grille, 1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276, farmbargrille.com, and Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub, 707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888, chunkys.com. Find her on Facebook @manchestersbesttrivia

★Trivia with Steve, Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. at The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar, 99 Route 13, Brookline, 721-5500, alamobarbecue.com, and Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at The Pasta Loft Restaurant & Brewing Co., 241 Union Sq., Milford, 672-2270, pastaloft.com. Find him on Facebook @triviawithsteve

★Trivia Nights with Bill Seney, Thursday nights at 7 p.m. at The Hop Knot, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com

Best Spot for a Second Date

Best of the best: The Rugged Axe, 377 S. Willow St., Manchester, 232-7846, theruggedaxe.com

★RelAxe Throwing, 157 Gay St., Manchester, 782-3061, relaxethrowing.com

★Classes with 603 Charcuterie (various breweries, wineries and other locations; see 603charcuterie.com/classes or find them on Facebook and Instagram for the full schedule)

★Copper Door Restaurant, 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033, copperdoor.com

★Hampton Beach, Route 1A, Hampton, hamptonbeach.org

★Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

Best New Eatery

Best of the best: Tucker's, 95 S. River Road, Bedford, 413-6503, tuckersnh.com. Arriving in the former Outback Steakhouse on South River Road in Bedford in

October 2021, this is the sixth Tucker's restaurant overall and also the largest — the local diner chain has five other locations, in Hooksett, Dover, New London, Concord

and Merrimack. Tucker's features a menu of breakfast items like omelets and scramblers, and lunch items like sandwiches and bowls, plus a rotating selection of specials, while the new Bedford spot introduced new menu concepts for the brand, like fresh juices, smoothie bowls and brunch-based cocktails.

★New Hampshire Pizza Co., 76 N. Main St., Concord, 333-2125, newhampshirepizzaco.com. The latest venture of longtime Concord restaurateur Joel Harris, who opened the first Dos Amigos Burritos location in Portsmouth before coming to the Capital City four years later, the New Hampshire Pizza Co. opened in the for-

Thing We Forgot To Ask About:

"Best Places to Avoid Children"

RESTAURANTS

Best Restaurant Overall

Best of the best: Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com

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

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

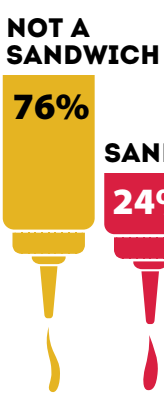
★The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com

WE ASKED YOU...

A HOT DOG IS...

A: A SANDWICH, B: NOT A SANDWICH OR C: WHO CARES BECAUSE IT'S NOT NEARLY AS GOOD AS SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS?

SANDWICH VS. NOT A SANDWICH



"Definitely a sandwich. Make sure to stop by Puppy Love in downtown Concord"



"It's its own thing — not inferior with right toppings"

"Who cares; get one from Haywards!"

"Hot dogs were best at the arena during a Monarchs game"

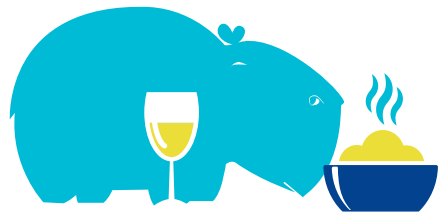
HOT DOG VS. SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS



"Sausage and peppers all the way!"

"Hot dog is unto itself; superior to sausage & peppers"

"It IS a sandwich, and both are gross."



mer Crazy Goat space in January 2022. This full-service dine-in restaurant features brick-oven artisan pizzas as its centerpiece, along with salads, brunch items, cocktails, homemade ice cream and more, with the overall focus of highlighting locally produced ingredients.

★Hare of the Dawg Bar & Grill, 3 E. Broadway, Derry, 552-3883, find them on Facebook @hareofthedawg. Longtime Derry couple Kevin and Lesley Decker opened this family-friendly downtown bar and grill in early January 2022, taking over the space that had long been occupied by the C & K Restaurant on East Broadway. The eatery features a wide variety of comfort foods, craft beers and cocktails, with a 24-seat custom bar built from the ground up by local woodworker Matt Daily.

★The Lucky Moose Casino & Tavern, 16 Gusabel Ave., Nashua, 864-0175, luckymooscasino.com. A sister establishment of The River Casino & Sports Bar just off Main Street in the Gate City, The Lucky Moose opened in July 2021 as New Hampshire's newest casino, complete with daily games of blackjack, roulette and Texas hold 'em, as well as a full bar and an elevated tavern menu out of a scratch kitchen. You'll find it in the former Bugaboo Creek Steak House in the Nashua Mall plaza — it has even kept the moose structure that adorns the roof with a brand new set of antlers.

★Elm House of Pizza, 102 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5522, elmhoph.com. This neighborhood restaurant and bar opened in the old Theo's space in March 2021, channeling the nostalgic vibe of the 1970s downtown favorite of the same name among Manchester locals. You'll find what co-founder and business partner Tim Baines calls a modern twist on the traditional house of pizza, featuring everything from house pies and appetizers to fresh seafood dinners, pastas, burgers and more.

Best Fine Dining Restaurant

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

★Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com

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

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

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

Best Restaurant From Which to Get Takeout

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

★ Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

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

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ Georgia's Northside, 394 N. State St., Concord, 715-9189, georgiasnorthside.com. Currently only open for catering and pop-up events. Regular operations are due to resume this May.

Best Food Truck

★ **Best of the best:** B's Tacos & More, nhtacotruck.com. Find them seasonally outside the BP Gas Station (2 Mohawk Drive, Londonderry), usually from May to December. A brick-and-mortar location is also open year-round at 372 Kelley St. in Manchester.

★ Messy Mike's Barbecue & Catering Co., messymikesbbq.com. Find them seasonally in the parking lot of Rockingham Acres Greenhouse (161 Rockingham Road, Derry) most Thursdays through Sundays.

★ Up in Your Grill, upinyourgrill.com. Find them parked in and around various areas of Merrimack, most commonly in the parking lot of Vault Motor Storage (526 Daniel Webster Hwy.).

★ Smoke N' Butts BBQ, smokenbuttsbbq.com. Opening for the season on April 8 at The Farmer's Wife (20 Main St., Candia); hours are Friday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

★ Pressed For Time Mobile Cafe, pressedfortimecoffee.com. Find them at Seacoast Sport Cycle (129 Rockingham Road, Derry) most Tuesdays through Sundays.

Restaurant with best outdoor seating

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

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

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

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

★ Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com

DELICIOUS DISHES

Best Dish or Drink You Had in the Last Year

★ **Best of the best:** Blood orange Cosmo martini at Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com. The blood orange Cosmo features Tito's Handmade Vodka, Solerno blood orange liqueur, cranberry juice and freshly squeezed lime.

★ "Goon Glizzy" loaded hot dog at Industry East Bar, 28 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-6940, industryeastbar.com. Industry East is known not only for its specialty craft cocktails, but also for its loaded hot dogs. The "Goon Glizzy" is loaded with a crab rangoon spread, crispy wontons and scallions.

★ Chicken tenders at The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com. The chicken tenders, deep-fried with homemade dipping sauces, have long been a staple at The Puritan Backroom. Buffalo, spicy and coconut tenders are also available.

★ Espresso martini at Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar, 270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323; 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; giorgios.com

★ Pad Thai at Col's Kitchen, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com. Col's Kitchen's vegan Pad Thai features seared tofu, rice noodles, carrots, cabbage, spinach, basil and peanuts.

Best Barbecue

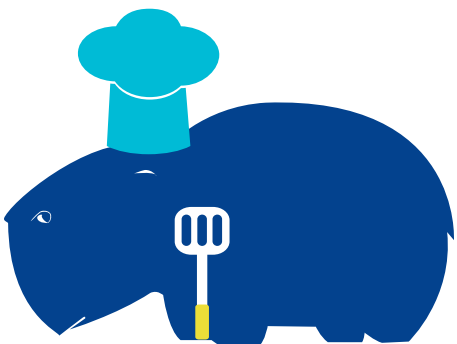
★ **Best of the best:** KC's Rib Shack, 837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net

★ Smokeshow Barbeque, 231 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6399, smokeshowbbq.com. In March 2022, Smokeshow Barbeque moved into a new space in Concord's South End, sharing a building with Feathered Friend Brewing Co.

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

★ Georgia's Northside, 394 N. State St., Concord, 715-9189, georgiasnorthside.com. Currently only open for catering and pop-up events. Regular operations are due to resume this May.

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



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She told me I couldn't afford to go to The Rib Shack anymore to drink the 34 oz. Bubba Beers and that I would have to quit. Then I caught her spending \$65.00 dollars for makeup. I asked her how come I had to give up stuff and she didn't. She said she needed the makeup to look pretty for me. I told her that's what the Bubba Beers were for. I don't think she's coming back!

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Best Breakfast

Best of the best: Airport Diner, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com

★ Tucker's, 80 South St., Concord, 413-5884, tuckersnh.com

★ Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

★ Tucker's, 1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 206-5757, tuckersnh.com

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

Best Brunch

Best of the best: The Foundry Restaurant, 50 Commercial St., Manchester, 836-1925, foundrynh.com

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

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

★ Tucker's, 80 South St., Concord, 413-5884, tuckersnh.com

★ Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

Best Burgers

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

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

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

★ Papa Joe's Humble Kitchen, 237 South St., Milford, 672-9130, papajoeshumblekitchen.com

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

Best Fish & Chips

Best of the best: The Peddler's Daughter, 48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com

★ The Lobster Boat Restaurant, 453 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-5221, lobsterboatrestaurant.com

★ The Beach Plum, 3 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 679-3200, thebeachplum.net

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

★ Clam Haven, 94 Rockingham Road, Derry, 434-4679, clamhaven.com

Best Mac & Cheese

Best of the best: Mr. Mac's & Macaroni & Cheese, 497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com

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

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

★ Pressed Cafe, 108 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, 718-1250; 3 Cotton Road, Nashua, 402-1003 (the Cotton Road location is drive-thru only); pressedcafe.com

★ O Steaks & Seafood, 11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, osteaksconcord.com

Best Pizza

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

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

★ Constantly Pizza, 39 S. Main St., Concord, 224-9366; 108 Fisherville Road, Concord, 227-1117; constantlypizza.net

★ Sal's Pizza, 80 Storrs St., Concord, 226-0297, salspizzaconcord.com

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

Best Sandwich

Best of the best: RT's Italian spuckie at Rig A Tony's Italian Takeout & Catering, 254 Wallace Road, Bedford, 488-2877; 13 Rockingham Road, Windham, 685-8122; 38 W. Broadway, Derry, 425-6116 (the Derry location is due to reopen soon); rigatonyitalian.com. This made-to-order classic features Italian cured meats, tomatoes, hots, pickles, red onion, provolone cheese and seasoned oil on a house-baked roll.

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

★ Steak and cheese sub at Nadeau's Subs, 776 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9315; 100 Cahill Ave., Manchester, 669-7827; 673 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 644-8888; 1095 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-4411 (the Hanover Street location is inside of the Kwik Stop Mobil; 48 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 580-4445; 11 Eastman St., Concord, 715-1474 (the Concord location is inside of McLaughlin's Country Market); nadeaussubs.com. The steak and cheese sub at Nadeau's is available with either steak tips or Philly shaved steak in several sizes. You can order it plain with American cheese on a sub roll, or customize your bread or cheese type, grilled vegetables or other add-ons like bacon or grilled salami.

★ Super Regular at Beefside, 106 Manchester St., Concord, 228-0208, beefsidenh.com. The Regular features four ounces of tender roast beef on a bulk roll, with the option to "super" it with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise.

★ Banh mi at The Local Moose Cafe, 124 Queen City Ave., Manchester, 232-2669, thelocalmoosecafe.com. The pork banh mi features local pork patties, pickled carrots and daikon, cilantro, cucumbers, Sriracha mayonnaise and honey ginger mayonnaise on a house-made baguette. You can also order a vegan tofu banh mi, or a breakfast banh mi with free-range egg.

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

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

★ Candia Road Convenience Store, 836 Candia Road, Manchester, 669-6565

★ Great American Subs, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 434-9900, greatamericansubsnh.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

Best Subs

Best of the best: Nadeau's Subs, 776 Mast Road, Manchester, 623-9315; 100 Cahill Ave., Manchester, 669-7827; 673 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 644-8888; 1095 Hanover St., Manchester, 606-4411 (the Hanover Street location is inside the Kwik Stop Mobil); 48 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 580-4445; 11 Eastman St., Concord, 715-1474 (the Concord location is inside McLaughlin's Country Market); nadeaussubs.com

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

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

★ Candia Road Convenience Store, 836 Candia Road, Manchester, 669-6565

★ Great American Subs, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 434-9900, greatamericansubsnh.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

Best Tacos

Best of the best: Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

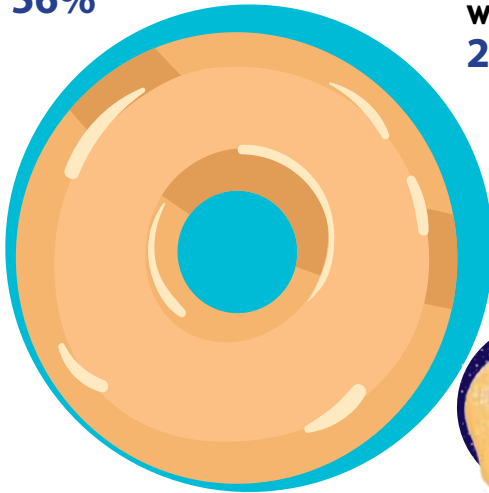
★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

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FRIED DOUGH

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHERE TO GET YOUR TREATS

CIDER DOUGHNUTS: Several area farms and orchards got nods (including Meadow Ledge Farm in Loudon, Carter Hill Orchard, Lull Farm in Hollis, Apple Hill Farm in Concord, Applecrest Farm in Hampton Falls, Gould Hill Farm in Chichester, Sunnycrest Farms in Londonderry and Mack's Apples in Londonderry) as well as the Chichester Country Store and the Common Man at the Welcome Center in Hooksett on Interstate 93, the northbound side.

WHOOPIE PIE: Readers raved for whoopies from Cake Fairy in Hooksett and Crust & Crumb in Concord as well as several area bakeries. Two ambitious readers even reported making their own.

FRIED DOUGH: For fried dough, readers suggest going to the coast (Blink's on Hampton Beach received some shoutouts), a fair (Deerfield but also "any fair" as a few readers said) or Canobie Lake in Salem.

FRAPPES: For a New Hampshire frappe — which people who grew up outside the area might think of as a milkshake (a term that can mean something more like flavored milk here; see Matt Ingersoll's cover story in the July 5, 2018, issue of the Hippo) — readers shouted out a range of favorite ice cream places. Check out your go-to scoop shop or this year's winners of the Best Ice Cream category.

NH is #1 at

"Eating ice cream in winter"

Hanover Street location is inside of the Kwik Stop Mobil; 48 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, 580-4445; 11 Eastman St., Concord, 715-1474 (the Concord location is inside of McLaughlin's Country Market);

nadeaussubs.com. The steak and cheese sub at Nadeau's is available with either steak tips or Philly shaved steak in several sizes. You can order it plain with American cheese on a sub roll, or customize your bread or cheese type, grilled vegetables or other add-ons like bacon or grilled salami.

★ Super Regular at Beefside, 106 Manchester St., Concord, 228-0208, beefsidenh.com. The Regular features four ounces of tender roast beef on a bulk roll, with the option to "super" it with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise.

★ Banh mi at The Local Moose Cafe, 124 Queen City Ave., Manchester, 232-2669, thelocalmoosecafe.com. The pork banh mi features local pork patties, pickled carrots and daikon, cilantro, cucumbers, Sriracha mayonnaise and honey ginger mayonnaise on a house-made baguette. You can also order a vegan tofu banh mi, or a breakfast banh mi with free-range egg.

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

★ Candia Road Convenience Store, 836 Candia Road, Manchester, 669-6565

★ Great American Subs, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 434-9900, greatamericansubsnh.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ Dos Amigos Burritos, 26 N. Main St., Concord, 410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

★ La Carreta Mexican Restaurant, 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; lacarretamex.com

★ Hermanos Cocina Mexicana, 11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

★ El Rincon Zacatecano Taqueria, 10 Lake Ave., Manchester, 232-4530, elrinconnh.com
 ★ B's Tacos & More, nhtacotruck.com. Find them seasonally outside the BP Gas Station (2 Mohawk Drive, Londonderry), usually from May to December. A brick-and-mortar location is also open year-round at 372 Kelley St. in Manchester.

Restaurant That Can Make You Love Vegetables

Best of the best: Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com
 ★ Col's Kitchen, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com
 ★ The Republic of Campo, 969 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0256, republiccafe.com and campoenoteca.com
 ★ Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro & Bar, 35 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, 427-8344, greenelephantnh.com
 ★ Greenleaf, 54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com

SWEET TREATS

Best Bakery

Best of the best: Bearded Baking Co., 819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150, bearded-baking.com
 ★ The Crust & Crumb Baking Co., 126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com
 ★ Bread & Chocolate, 29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330, find them on Facebook @ breadandchocolate-concordnh
 ★ Buckley's Bakery & Cafe, 436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 262-5929, buckleysbakerycafe.com
 ★ Klemm's Bakery, 29 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 437-8810, klemmsbakery.com

Best Candy or Chocolate Shop

Best of the best: Granite State Candy Shoppe, 13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591, granitestatecandyshoppe.com
 ★ Van Otis Chocolates, 341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com
 ★ Nelson's Candy and Music, 65 Main St., Wilton, 654-5030, nelsonscandymusic.com
 ★ Loon Chocolate, 252 Willow St., Manchester, loonchocolate.com. This small-batch bean-to-bar company opened its first retail storefront in February 2022 inside the The Factory on Willow complex, sharing a space with 603 Charcuterie.
 ★ Dancing Lion Chocolate, 917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us

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

Most Decadent Desserts

Best of the best: Buckley's Bakery & Cafe, 436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 262-5929, and Buckley's Market & Cafe, 9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522; buckleysbakerycafe.com
 ★ The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub, 72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com
 ★ Lucciano's Bakeshop, 4 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 432-2442, luccianosbakeshop.com
 ★ Col's Kitchen, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 227-6778, colsplantbased.com
 ★ Bedford Village Inn & Restaurant, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com

Best Locally Made Doughnuts

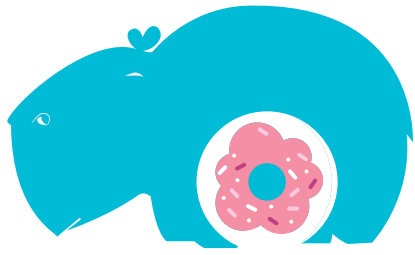
Best of the best: Klemm's Bakery, 29 Indian Rock Road, Windham, 437-8810, klemmsbakery.com
 ★ Flight Coffee Co., 209 Route 101, Bedford, 836-6228, flightcoffeeco.com
 ★ New Hampshire Doughnut Co., 2 Capital Plaza, Concord, 715-5097, nhdoughnutco.com
 ★ Brothers Donuts, 426 Central St., Franklin, 934-6678, find them on Facebook @brothersdonuts
 ★ Donut Love, 112 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, find them on Facebook @ donutlove603

Best Ice Cream

Best of the best: Hayward's Homemade Ice Cream, 7 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 888-4663, haywardsicecream.com. Open year-round.
 ★ Moo's Place Ice Cream, 27 Crystal Ave., Derry, 425-0100, moosplace.com. Opening for the season in Derry on April 1.
 ★ The Puritan Backroom, 245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com. Open year-round.
 ★ Goldenrod Restaurant Drive-In, 1681 Candia Road, 623-9469, goldenrodrestaurant.com. Open year-round.
 ★ Hayward's Homemade Ice Cream, 364 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-5915, haywardsicecream.com. Open year-round.

Granite Stater I'd Like to Buy a Drink For:

"Myself, honestly — it's 2:30 on a Monday and I've already had a long week"



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"Tall glass of water; city tap—straight up, no rocks"

"Pineapple Coconut Margarita"

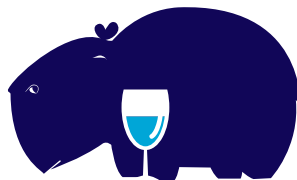
"Maple Vanilla Milkshake from Col's Kitchen! (Maybe I spike it, who's to say)"

"Raspberry ice tea"

"Shirley Temple"

"chai latte with oat milk"

"Raspberry Margarita with sugar rim"



DRINKS

Best Beer Selection

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

★The Packie, 581 Second St., Manchester, 232-1236, thepackienh.com

★Lazy Dog Beer Shoppe, 27 Buttrick Road, Londonderry, 434-2500, lazydog-beer.com

★East Derry General Store, 50 E. Derry Road, Derry, 432-5302, eastderrygeneralstore.com

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

Best New Hampshire Brewery

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

★Pipe Dream Brewing, 49 Harvey Road, Londonderry, 404-0751, pipedream-brewingnh.com

★Lithermans Limited Brewery, 126B Hall St., Concord, 219-0784, lithermans-beer

★Able Ebenezer Brewing Co., 31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 262-5543, ableebenezer.com

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

Best New Hampshire Winery

Best of the best: LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com

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

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

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

★Hermit Woods Winery & Deli, 72 Main St., Meredith, 253-7968, hermitwoods.com

Restaurant With the Most Inventive Cocktails

Best of the best: Industry East Bar, 28 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-6940, industryeastbar.com

★Chuck's BARbershop, 90 Low Ave., Concord, 856-7071, find them on Facebook @chucksbarbershopnh

★815 Cocktails & Provisions, 815 Elm St., Manchester, 782-8086, 815nh.com

★Copper Door Restaurant, 15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com

★The Birch on Elm, 931 Elm St., Manchester, 782-5365, thebirchonelm.com

Where They Make Your Coffee Perfect Every Time

Best of the best: Flight Coffee Co., 209 Route 101, Bedford, 836-6228, flightcoffee.co.com

★Revelstoke Coffee, 100 N. Main St., Concord, revelstokecoffee.com

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

★O'Shea's Caife & Tae, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 540-2971, osheasnh.com

★A&E Coffee & Tea, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, 578-3338, aeroastery.com

OUTDOORS

Best Farmers Market

Best of the best: Concord Farmers Market, concordfarmersmarket.com, held on Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Capitol Street in Concord (near the Statehouse), from May through October. The 2022 market is set to begin on May 7.

★Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market, derryhomegrown.org, held on Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. at 1 W. Broadway in Derry, from June through September. The 2022 market is set to begin on June 1.

★Bedford Farmers Market, bedfordfarmersmarketnh.org, held on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. at 393 Route 101 in Bedford, from mid-June through mid-October. The 2022 market is set to begin June 14.

★Salem Farmers Market, salemnhfarmersmarket.org, held on Sundays year-round, indoors at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry) during the winter and early spring, and outdoors at Tuscan Market (12 Via Toscana, Salem) from late spring through fall. The market is currently indoors and runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The opening date and hours for the outdoor market are TBA.

★Milford Farmers Market, milfordnhfarmersmarket.com. The market returns outdoors at 300 Elm Street in Milford (across from the New Hampshire Antique Co-op), every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 11 through Oct. 8. The winter market is held at Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Square).

Best Farm for Pick Your Own

Best of the best: Sunnycrest Farm, 59 High Range Road, Londonderry, 432-7753, sunnycrestfarmnh.com. Pick-your-own opportunities, depending on availability, include apples, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, peaches, grapes, cherries and flowers.

★Mack's Apples, 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 434-7619, macksapples.com. Pick-your-own opportunities, depending on availability, include apples, pumpkins, peaches and pears.

★Lull Farm, 65 Broad St., Hollis, 465-7079, livefreeandfarm.com. Pick-your-own opportunities, depending on availability, include strawberries and apples. Lull has a seasonal farm stand in Milford and, as of last year, now also operates a satellite farm stand at Sullivan Farm in Nashua.

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

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

Best City Park

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

★Greeley Park, 100 Concord St., Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. Amenities include baseball and softball fields, a playground, picnic areas, walking trails and a tennis court.

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

★Stark Park, 650 River Road, Manchester, starkpark.com. The 30-acre park dedicated to New Hampshire's Gen. John Stark, who penned the state motto, "Live Free or Die" in 1809, includes a large

NH is #1 at ____

"The black flies that swarm those of us living in Dunbarton, NH"

equestrian statue of Stark, several models of cannons and cannonballs, a memorial bench honoring New Hampshire's Officer Michael Briggs, and a gazebo bandstand where live music is occasionally held.

★Benson Park, 19 Kimball Road, Hudson, 886-6000, hudsonnh.gov. Originally a private zoo and amusement park, Benson Park reopened in 2010 as a town park for recreational use and is now a popular spot for hiking, dog walking, fishing and picnicking.

Best State Park

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

★Pawtuckaway State Park, 128 Mountain Road, Nottingham, 895-3031, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuck-

away-state-park. The park offers campers a family beach on the lake and hiking trails across a diverse landscape, where they can see wildlife and natural points of interest.

★Odiorne Point State Park, 570 Ocean Blvd., Rye, 436-7406, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/odiorne-point-state-park. The park features an extensive network of trails through 135 acres of rocky shoreline, sandy beaches, salt marsh, freshwater and salt ponds, dense forest and military and historical sites, and is home to the Seacoast Science Center.

★Mount Sunapee State Park, 86 Beach Access Road, Newbury, 763-5561, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/mt-sunapee-state-park. The park is home to the alpine ski area and resort Mount Sunapee Resort, and to Mount Sunapee State Park Beach, which contains a 4,085-acre lake. Amenities include a boat launch and boat rentals, hiking trails, a playground, a picnic area, a campground and more.

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

Best Campground

Best of the best: Pawtuckaway State Park, 7 Pawtuckaway Road, Nottingham, 895-3031,

nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/pawtuckaway-state-park

★Branch Brook Campground, Exit 28 off I-93 to Route 49 West, Campton, 726-7001, branchbrooknh.com

★White Lake State Park, 94 State Park Road, Tamworth, 323-7350, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/white-lake-state-park

★Greenfield State Park, 133 Beach Road, Greenfield, 547-3497,

nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/greenfield-state-park

★Danforth Bay Camping & RV Resort, 196 Shawtown Road, Freedom, 539-2069, danforthbay.com

Prettiest Spot in New Hampshire

Best of the best: Franconia Notch, at Franconia Notch State Park, Exits 34A to 34C off I-93, Franconia/Lincoln, 745-8391, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/

franconia-notch-state-park. The mountain pass, crossed by a parkway extending from Echo Lake to the Flume Gorge, once held the iconic Old Man of the Mountain.

★Kancamagus Highway, kancamagushighway.com. A 34.5-mile scenic ride from Lincoln to Conway along New Hampshire's Route 112.

★Rye Coastline. Public beaches in Rye include Jenness State Beach (2280 Ocean Blvd., metered parking from 8 a.m. to midnight, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/jenness-state-beach) and Wallis Sands State Beach (1050 Ocean Blvd., parking fee between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. is \$15 per vehicle and free for New Hampshire-resident seniors age 65 and over, and parking reservations can be made online in advance, nhstateparks.org/visit/seacoast-beaches/wallis-sands-state-park).

★Artist's Bluff Trail, located at Franconia Notch State Park, Exit 34C off I-93, Franconia, 745-8391, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/franconia-notch-state-park. The 1.5-mile loop leads hikers to a peak with scenic views of Echo Lake, Cannon Mountain and Franconia Notch.

★Cathedral Ledge, located at Cathedral Ledge State Park, 579 Cathedral Ledge Road, Bartlett, 356-2672, nhstateparks.org/visit/state-parks/cathedral-ledge-state-park. The 700-foot peak offers views across the Saco River Valley to the White Mountains.

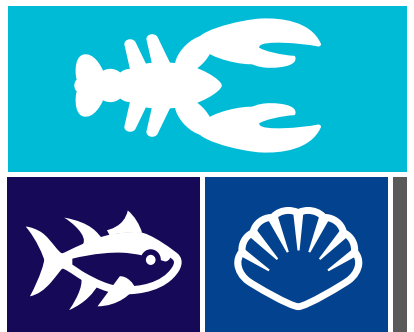
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- FISH & CHIPS 24%**
- FRIED CLAMS 23%**

OTHER 4% (including such dishes as the Fisherman's Platter, Fried Scallops and "Lobstah")



"Warm Lobster roll (with buttah) — ideally from The Beach Plum"

Restaurants recommended for whatever your seafood craving is include the Beach Plum (which has locations in Epping, Salem, Portsmouth and North Hampton), Clam Haven in Derry, Goldenrod in Manchester, Lobster Boat in Merrimack and Lobster Claw in Derry.



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OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Best Bike Trail or Spot for a Bike Ride

Best of the best: Nashua River Rail Trail, Nashua. This paved trail is 12.5 miles and runs along the Nashua River, connecting Nashua to Ayer, Mass.

★ Londonderry Rail Trail, Londonderry, londonderrytrails.org. About 6 miles of this trail runs through North Londonderry.

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

★ Goffstown Rail Trail, Goffstown, goffstownrailtrail.org. The 7.5-mile trail runs between Goffstown and Manchester, connecting Pinardville, Grasmere and Goffstown Village.

★ Derry Rail Trail, Derry, derryrailtrail.org. Running several miles through Windham and into Derry's town center, the Derry Rail Trail is part of the larger proposed Granite State Rail Trail.

Best Hike in Southern New Hampshire

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

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

★ Mount Major, Alton, blog.nhstateparks.org/mt-major-family-friendly-hike. The mountain's 1.5-mile Mount Major Trail and 1.6-mile Boulder Loop Trail form a loop at its 1,785-foot summit, which offers a panoramic view of Lake Winnepesaukee to the north.

★ Mount Kearsarge, Warner/Wilmot. At 2,397 feet, Mount Kearsarge features two state parks, Winslow State Park on the northwest slope in Wilmot and Rollins State Park on the south slope in Warner. The quickest way to the summit is a half-mile trail that starts in Rollins State Park. Other popular trails include the 1.1-mile Winslow Trail and the 1.6-mile Barlow Trail, both of which start at Winslow State Park.

★ Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. The park has around 8 miles of trails across 325 acres of forest, open fields and wetlands, bordering the Nashua River, Millpond and canal system on the north side.

Best Spot for a Mini Hike

Best of the best: Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. The park has around 8 miles of trails across 325 acres of forest, open fields and wetlands, bordering the Nashua River, Millpond and canal system on the north side.

★ Lake Massabesic, off the Londonderry Turnpike, Manchester, 642-6482, manchesternh.gov. Spanning 2,500 acres in Manchester and Auburn, the lake is the centerpoint for a network of dozens of trails, including a loop to the Massabesic Audubon Center, a wildlife sanctuary situated on a historic farm site in Auburn. The trails range in length from half a mile to more than 3 miles.

★ Mount Major, Alton, blog.nhstateparks.org/mt-major-family-friendly-hike. The mountain's 1.5-mile Mount Major Trail and 1.6-mile Boulder Loop Trail form a loop at its 1,785-foot summit, which offers a panoramic view of Lake Winnepesaukee to the north.

★ Marjory Swope Park, Long Pond Road, Concord, 225-8515, concordnh.gov. This 77-acre park features three connecting trails, including a 1.45-mile loop trail that runs up Jerry Hill, leading to scenic views of the Penacook Lake; a 0.56-mile trail that cuts through the park; and a 0.18-mile trail that passes the large granite outcrop Gilfillan Rock.

★ Mount Kearsarge, Warner/Wilmot. At 2,397 feet, Mount Kearsarge features two state parks, Winslow State Park on the northwest slope in Wilmot and Rollins State Park on the south slope in Warner. The quickest way to the summit is a half-mile trail that starts in Rollins State Park. Other popular trails include the 1.1-mile Winslow Trail and the 1.6-mile Barlow Trail, both of which start at Winslow State Park.

Best Spot for a Long Run

Best of the best: Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov. The park has around 8 miles of trails across 325 acres of forest, open fields and wetlands, bordering the Nashua River, Millpond and canal system on the north side.

★ Nashua River Rail Trail, Nashua. This paved trail is 12.5 miles and runs along the Nashua River, connecting Nashua to Ayer, Mass.

★ Windham Rail Trail, Windham, windhamrailtrail.org. The Windham Rail Trail is 4.1 miles and is a core part of the lon-

WE ASKED YOU...

SOAK IN THE SUN OR RELAX IN THE SHADE?

"Sun it up"



"Shade on a hot day, Sun on a cold day"

"Sun for me, shade for my spouse."

"Relax in the shade – in a hammock" – "with a good book!" – "with sunscreen"

"Either as long as it's warm out."

"Bounce between both"

SUN 62%
SHADE 34%
BOTH 4%

gest paved abandoned rail bed in the Granite State, as the Windham, Derry and Salem rail trails collectively run about 11 miles.

★ Goffstown Rail Trail, Goffstown, goffstownrailtrail.org. The 7.5-mile trail runs between Goffstown and Manchester, connecting Pinardville, Grasmere and Goffstown Village.

★ Derry Rail Trail, Derry, derryrailtrail.org. Running several miles through Windham and into Derry's town center, the Derry Rail Trail is part of the larger proposed Granite State Rail Trail.

Best Lake to Canoe or Kayak

Best of the best: Lake Massabesic, Manchester and Auburn, 624-6482, manchesternh.gov. The 2,560-acre lake has three public boat launches: one in Auburn Village; one off Route 121 near the Manchester-Auburn town line; and one at Deer Neck Bridge off the Londonderry Turnpike in Auburn. The latter is designed for kayaks and canoes.

★ Pawtuckaway Lake, Pawtuckaway State Park, 7 Pawtuckaway Road, Nottingham, 895-3031, nhstateparks.org. The park offers canoe and kayak rentals at its camp store as well as a public boat launch for the 784-acre lake.

★ Lake Winnepesaukee, Belknap and Carroll counties, lakewinnepesaukee.net. With 71 square miles of surface area, the Granite State's largest lake has 18 boat launches spanning multiple towns (some charge a launch fee). Local businesses can provide everything you need to hit the water, including boat rentals, cleaning, accessories and storage.

★ Newfound Lake, Wellington State Park, 614 W. Shore Road, Bristol, 744-2197, nhstateparks.org. A boat launch is located just outside the park, providing free 24/7 access to the 4,106-acre lake.

★ Squam Lake, Grafton, Carroll and Belknap counties, lakesregion.org/squam-lake. Big and Little Squam lakes are naturally spring-fed and connected by a channel in Holderness. Big Squam is the second-largest lake located entirely in New Hampshire, at 6,791 acres long with 61 miles of shoreline. The lakes are also host to 67 islands.

Best Ski Hill

Best of the best: Pats Peak Ski Area, 686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 428-3245, patspeak.com

★ Loon Mountain, 60 Loon Mountain Road, Lincoln, 745-8111, loonmntn.com

★ McIntyre Ski Area, 50 Chalet Court, Manchester, 622-6159, mcintyreskiarea.com

★ Bretton Woods, 99 Ski Area Road, Bretton Woods, 278-3320, brettonwoods.com

★ Mount Sunapee, 1398 Route 103, Newbury, 763-3500, mountsunapee.com

Best Place for Bird Watching

Best of the best: Massabesic Audubon Center, 26 Audubon Way, Auburn, 668-2045, nhaudubon.org

★ Carter Hill Orchard, 73 Carter Hill Road, Concord, 225-2625, carterhillapples.com

★ McLane Audubon Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org

★ Mount Washington, Route 16, Pinkham Notch, mt-washington.com

HOME & CAR

Best Car Repair Shop

Best of the best: Ron's Toy Shop, 235 Elm St., Manchester, 669-9682, ronstoyshop.com

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

★ East Derry Collision, 46 E. Derry Road, Derry, 437-5177, facebook.com/eastderrycollision

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

★ Garry's Service Center, 323 S. Main St., Concord, 224-9641, garrysservicecenter.com

Best Garden Center or Nursery

Best of the best: Demers Garden Center, 656 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 625-8298, demersgardencenter.com

Granite Stater – Living, Dead or Fictional – I'd Like to Have a Drink With:

"Old Man of the Mountain, RIP homie"

★House by the Side of the Road, 370 Gibbons Highway, Wilton, 654-9888, housebythesideoftheroad.com

★Cole Gardens, 430 Loudon Road, Concord, 229-0655, colegardens.com

★Bedford Fields Home & Garden Center, 331 Route 101, Bedford, 472-8880, bedfordfields.com

★Lake Street Garden Center, 37 Lake St., Salem, 893-5858, lakestreet.com

Most Reliable Home Care Company

★Best of the best: Groundhog Landscaping, 6 Bowers Road, Derry, 437-4464, groundhognh.com

★Giant Landscaping Services, 1071 Hanover St., Manchester, 932-6062, giantlandscaping.net

★CleanQueen, cleaning service based in Manchester, 716-8053, facebook.com/clean2017queen

★Alliance Landscaping, 140 Rockingham Road, Auburn, 622-1111, alliancelandscaping.com

★A.J. LeBlanc Heating, 45 S. River Road, Bedford, 623-0412, leblanchvac.com

BEAUTY & WELLNESS

Best Barber Shop

★Best of the best: HomeGrown Barber Co., 18 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 818-8989, homegrownbarber.com

★Lucky's Barbershop and Shave Parlor, 50 S. State St., Concord, 715-5470, luckysbarbershop.biz

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

★Dude's Barber Shop, 1311 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 626-0533, dudesbarbershop.com

★Your Brothers Barbershop, 4 Peabody Road Annex, Derry, 818-4268, yourbrothersbarbershop.com

Best Salon

★Best of the best: Blank Canvas Salon, 1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, blankcavassalon.com

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

★Topknot Salon + Spa, 1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6863, topknotnh.com

★Color Trends Hair Salon, 25 Merritt Parkway, Nashua, 880-7504, colortrendshair-salon.com

★5 Diamond Salon, 915 Holt Ave., Suite 4, Manchester, 459-3367, 5diamond-salon.com

Granite Stater I'd Like to Buy a Drink For:

"Any public school teacher"

Best Spa

★Best of the best: Renew MediSpa, 23 B Crystal Ave., Derry, 932-4808, renewmedispa.com

★Pellé Medical Spa, 159 Frontage Road, Manchester, 627-7000, pellemedicalspa.com

★Serendipity Day Spa & Float Studio, 23 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 229-0400, serendipitydayspa.com

★Innovations Salon & Spa, 228 Naticook Road, Merrimack, 880-7499, innovationsnh.com

★Chill Spa, 1224 Hanover St., Manchester, 622-3722, chillspa.com

Best Workout Space

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

★SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, nashua.spenga.com

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

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

★Collective Studios, 4 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 216-2345, thecollective-studios.com

FAMILY FUN

Best Place to Take Your Kids

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

★Fun City Trampoline Park, 553 Mast Road, Goffstown, 606-8807, funcitygoffstown.com. The 60,000-square-foot indoor playground features trampolines, foam pits, laser tag, a climbing wall and more.

★Krazy Kids, 60 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 228-7529, krazykids.com. The indoor playground and party venue features a trampoline, a ropes course, slides, tunnels and other structures for climbing, bouncing and jumping.



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

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WE ASKED YOU...

PAJAMAS OR PARTY CLOTHES?



"Pajamas in the winter, party clothes in the summer"

"Pajamas, but I'm ready for party clothes again"

"Pajamas are party clothes"



DOGS

Best Doggie Daycare

Best of the best: American K9 Country, 336 Route 101, Amherst, 672-8448, americank9country.com.

★All Dogs Gym & Inn, 505 Sheffield Road, Manchester, 669-4644, alldogsgym.com

★The Barking Dog, 208 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, 833-688-0750, thebarkingdog.com. There are additional locations in Derry and Exeter.

★Superdogs Daycare, 637 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-1515, superdogsdogsdog.com

★Pawquet's Play & Stay, 302 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 216-1147, pawquetsplaystay.com

Best Dog Groomer

Best of the best: Sarah's Paw Spa, 16 Manning St., Derry, 512-4539, facebook.com/sarahspawspa.

★Bark Now!, 237 S. Main St., Concord, 229-3700, barknow.com. There is an additional location in Northfield.

★Pet-Agree Canine Services, 12 Donovan Road, Candia, 483-8775, petagree-nh.com

★D'Tails Dog Grooming, 178 Route 101, Bedford, 703-6288, see "D'Tails Dog Grooming" on Facebook

★A Paw Above the Rest Salon, located inside American K9 Country, 336 Route 101, Amherst, 472-7282, americank9country.com/grooming/a-paw-above-the-rest-salon

Best Place to Let Your Dog Off-Leash

Best of the best: Hooksett Dog Park, 101 Merrimack St., Hooksett, 485-8471, hooksett.org

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

★Derry Dog Park, Fordway and Transfer Lane, Derry, 432-6100, derryrh.org

★American K9 Country, 336 Route 101, Amherst, 672-8448, americank9country.com. The dog daycare and boarding facility offers a free dog park, which is temporarily closed for construction; a re-opening date is TBA.

★Wagon Hill Farm, 156 Piscataqua Road, Durham, 868-5571, ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/wagon-hill-farm. Off-leash dog walking permitted from dawn to 10 a.m.; dogs must be on a leash after 10 a.m.

Best On-Leash Dog Outing

Best of the best: Mine Falls Park, Whipple Street, Nashua, 589-3370, nashuanh.gov

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

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

★Londonderry Rail Trail, access points are located in Londonderry at the Interstate 93 Exit 5 Park & Ride, 4 Symmes Drive; at the south end of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport runway, 106 Harvey Road, Londonderry; at North Elementary School, 19 Sanborn Road; and at Independence Drive, londonderrytrails.org

★Goffstown Rail Trail, access points are located in Goffstown at Goffstown Parks and Recreation Center, 155 S. Mast St.; Hillsborough County Offices complex on Mast Road; Danis Park Road; and Moose Club Park Road; and in Manchester at Sarette Recreation Complex, 2 Louis St., goffstownrailtrail.org

Granite Stater I'd Like to Buy a Drink For:

"The Hippo person that has to collate all this data!"

SHOPPING

Best Independent Clothing or Shoe Store

Best of the best: Alec's Shoes, 1617 Southwood Drive, Nashua, 882-6811, alecs-shoes.com

★Joe King's Shoe Shop, 45 N. Main St., Concord, 225-6012, joeings.com

★Gondwana & Divine Clothing Co., 13 N. Main St., Concord, 228-1101, gondwana-clothing.com

★Alapage Boutique, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 622-0550, alapageboutique.com

★The Shoebox, 17 Route 101A, Amherst, 672-6570, shoeboxnh.com

Best Independent Jewelry

Best of the best: Bellman Jewelers, 1650 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4653, bellmans.com

★Jonathan's Jewelers, 460 Route 101, Bedford, 471-2828, jonathansjewelers.com

★Capitol Craftsman Romance Jewelers, 16 & 18 N. Main St., Concord, 224-6166, capitolcraftsman.com

★Richter's Jewelry & Design Studio, Appletree Mall, 4 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 437-2655, richtersjewelry.com

★Scontsas Fine Jewelry & Home Decor, 169-173 Main St., Nashua, 882-3281, scontsas.com

Best Independent Eyeglass Store

Best of the best: Myoptic, 204 Main St., Nashua, 880-6700, myoptic.net

★Taylor & Murphy Optical, 545 Hooksett Road, Suite 23, Manchester, 622-6333, tmoptical.com

★Spindel Eye Associates, 6 Tsienneto Road, Suite 101, Derry, 434-4193, spindel-eye.com. Additional locations in Windham, Londonderry and Raymond.

★Concord Eye Center, 248 Pleasant St., Suite 1600, and 2 Pillsbury St., Suite 100, Concord, 224-2020, concordeyecenternh.com

★MacKay Vision Center, 207 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 668-2771, visionsource-mackayvision.com

Best Secondhand Store

Best of the best: Kelly's Kloset, sales are coordinated through the Facebook group "Kelly's Kloset LLC," with pick-up and drop-off based in Hooksett, kellys0kloset@gmail.com

★M&C Clothing and Gifts, 135 Route 101A, Amherst, 886-6727, m-c-clothing-and-goods.myshopify.com

★Lilise Designer Resale, 7 N. Main St., Concord, 715-2009,

liliseresale.com

★Corey's Closet, 1329 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 722-2712, coreyscloset.org

★Hilltop Consignment Gallery, 56 N. Main St., Concord, 856-0110, facebook.com/hilltopconsignmentgallery

WORK

Best Co-working Space

Best of the best: Coworking House, 52 Nashua St., Milford, 556-8267, cohonh.com

Best Eatery for Ordering Lunch for your Workplace

Best of the best: The Bridge Cafe, 1117 Elm St., Manchester, 647-9991, thebridgecafe.net

★Pressed Cafe, 108 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, 718-1250; 3 Cotton Road, Nashua, 402-1003 (the Cotton Road location is drive-thru only); pressedcafe.com

★Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

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

★Granite State Lunchbox, inside the Brady Sullivan Tower, 1750 Elm St., Manchester, 930-0716, granitestatelunchbox.com

PERSONALITIES

Most Inventive Chef

Best of the best: Chris Viaud, Greenleaf, 54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com

★Troy Ward Jr., Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

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

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

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

Restaurant with the Friendliest Staff

Best of the best: Troy's Fresh Kitchen & Juice Bar, 4 Orchard View Drive, No. 6, Londonderry, 965-3411, troysfreshkitchen.com

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

★The Hop Knot, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com

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

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

Butt-kicking-est Fitness Instructor

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

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

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

★Karen McAdam, SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, nashuanh.spenga.com

★Alyssa O'Mara, SPENGA, 493 Amherst St., Nashua, 324-0355, nashuanh.spenga.com

Best Barber

Best of the best: Kelly Smith, Home-Grown Barber Co., 18 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 818-8989, home-grownbarber.com

★Josh Craggy, Lucky's Barbershop & Shave Parlor, 50 S. State St., Concord, 715-5470, luckysbarbershop.biz

★Erica Juneau, Juneau the Barber, 1802 Elm St., Suite 3, Manchester, 490-2421, juneauthebarber.booksy.com

★Traci Pettengill, Tooky Village Barber-shop, 12 Maple St., Contoocook, 746-2170, tookyvillagebarbershop.net

★Rick Lindof, The Polished Man, 707 Milford Road, Unit 3A, Merrimack, 718-8427, thepolishedman.com

Best Hair Stylist

Best of the best: Tashia Landry, Salon North, 102 Bay St., Manchester, 483-3011, 102salonnorth.com

★Danica Labrie, Blank Canvas Salon, 1F Commons Drive, No. 38, Londonderry, 818-4294, blankcavassalon.com

★Samantha Courtois, 5 Diamond Salon, 915 Holt Ave., Suite 4, Manchester, 459-3367, 5diamondsalon.com

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

★Amanda Novak, Topknot Salon + Spa, 1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6863, topknotnh.com. Topknot is currently closed due to severe water damage, but some of the stylists are working out of Escape Salon at 800 Turnpike Road in New Ipswich. Email topknotnh@yahoo.com to book an appointment.

Granite Stater I'd Like to Buy a Drink For

Most picked drink recipient: Chris Sununu, New Hampshire governor

★Adam Sandler, Hollywood actor, comedian and a Manchester native

★Fritz Wetherbee, host of "Fritz Wetherbee's New Hampshire" on WMUR's *New Hampshire Chronicle*

★Charles Keith, co-owner of The Rugged Axe, 377 S. Willow St., Manchester, 232-7846, theruggedaxe.com

★John Lynch, former New Hampshire governor

★Seth Meyers, late night television host, comedian and a Bedford native

Friendliest Dentist

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

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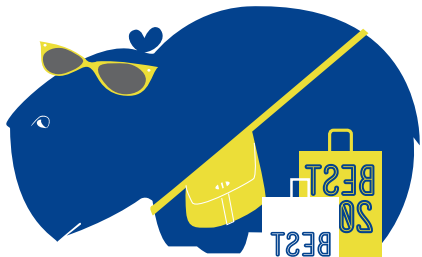
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- ★Dr. Shannon Arndt, 280 Pleasant St., Suite 4, 228-4456, orzechowskiarndt.com
- ★Dr. Russell Mann, Mann Family Dental, 9 Roosevelt St., Manchester, 605-1734, manfamilydental.com

Friendliest Mechanic

- Best of the best:** Ralph Brutus, Brutus Auto Repair & Service, 148 Merrimack St., Manchester, 624-8881, brutusauto.com
- ★Bill Morin, Morin's Service Station, 1091 Valley St., Manchester, 624-4427, morinsservicestation.com
- ★Mike Alton, Pro-Image Automotive, 254 Sheffield Road, Manchester, 644-8480, proimageautomotive.com
- ★Bret Russell, Under the Hood Auto Service, 1580 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 485-9032
- ★Doug Johnson, Doug Johnson Auto Repair, 131 High Range Road, Londonderry, 437-1714

Granite Stater – Living, Dead or Fictional – I'd Like to Have a Drink With:

"Why are we boozing up all the Granite Staters in these questions?"

Best Local Musical Act

Best of the best: Jennifer Mitchell, jennifermitchellmusic.com. In addition to being an award-winning singer-songwriter, Mitchell is the owner of Jennifer Mitchell Music, a full-service entertainment company that travels all over New England. This weekend, Jennifer will be at Backyard Burgers & Wings in Seabrook on Thursday, March 31, at 6 p.m. and at Hill Top Pizza in Epsom on Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

★Justin Jordan, find him on Facebook @justinjordanmusic. Jordan performs a combination of covers and originals encompassing multiple genres such as acoustic rock, pop, R&B and country across New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. See Justin on Saturday, April 2, at the Coach Stop in Londonderry.

★April Cushman, aprilcushman.com. New Hampshire country artist April Cushman performs all over New England. She released her debut album, *The Long Haul*, in November 2021. April will play the Village Trestle in Goffstown on Thursday, March 31, at 6 p.m.

★Matt the Sax, find him on Facebook @matthesax. Matt Beudin, a.k.a. "Matt the Sax," specializes in saxophone and acoustic guitar and vocals.

★Recycled Percussion, recycledpercussion.com. Recycled Percussion originally formed in Goffstown, later going on to appear on Season 4 of *America's Got Talent*. Today they're a nationally touring act, known for their high-energy interactive shows blending music and comedy and incorporating all sorts

of nontraditional items as instruments. Recycled Percussion is next slated to play their own CAKE Theatre in Laconia on Saturday, May 7, at 2 & 7 p.m.

Best Local (-ish) Comedian

Apologies to Adam Sandler, Seth Meyers and Sarah Silverman, who are Granite Staters in our hearts but not regulars of the local comedy scene.

Best of the best: Bob Marley, bmarley.com. Maine native Bob Marley is regularly featured on Sirius XM radio and has released more than 20 comedy CDs and DVDs. He is scheduled to perform at the Palace Theatre Thursday, April 7, through Saturday, April 9.

★Juston McKinney, justonmckinney.com. A former deputy sheriff in York County, Maine, McKinney traded in his badge in the late 1990s for a microphone to pursue a career in stand-up comedy. He has gone on to appear in numerous televised shows, including his own one-hour special on Comedy Central. He will be at the Rochester Opera House on Saturday, April 2.

★Jay Chanoine, find him on Facebook and Instagram @jaychanoine. Manchester-based comedian Jay Chanoine is also a contributing writer for *The Hard Times*. He released his most recent comedy album, *The Texas Chanoinesaw Massacre*, in 2019.

★Matt Barry, mattbarrycomedy.com. Matt Barry has been a staple of the New England comedy scene for nearly a decade, performing in area clubs, theaters and bars and appearing on Sirius XM radio. He's opened for national acts like Tom Green, Gilbert Gottfried and Harland Williams.

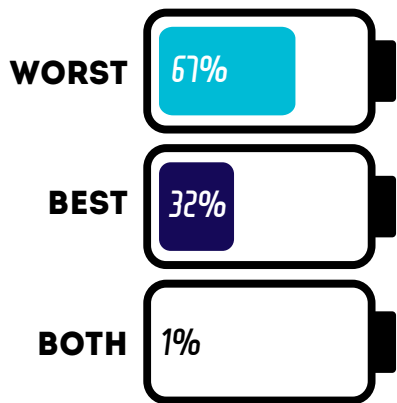
★Doris Ballard, on Facebook as "Doris Ballard Comedy." Former Concord Community TV executive director Doris Ballard is now a locally performing comedian. She's also the creator of the Laughta in New Hampshire comedy school.

★Drew Dunn, drewdunncomedy.com. Originally from New Hampshire, Drew Dunn now lives in New York and has performed stand-up comedy all over the United States and Canada. He'll perform at the Rex Theatre in Manchester on May 20.



WE ASKED YOU...

ZOOM MEETINGS ARE THE BEST OR THE WORST?



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"Send me an email instead"

"The best, for unscripted comedy"

"All meetings are bad"

"Best if cameras are off, worst if cameras are on"

Granite Stater — Living, Dead or Fictional — I'd Like to Have a Drink With

Best of the best: Adam Sandler, Hollywood actor, comedian and a Manchester native

★ Robert Frost, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet

★ Fritz Wetherbee, host of "Fritz Wetherbee's New Hampshire" on WMUR's *New Hampshire Chronicle*

★ John Stark, general in the Continental Army during the American Revolution

★ Chris Sununu, New Hampshire governor

LIVING HERE

Coollest Free Historic Site

Best of the best: The Old Man of the Mountain, Franconia Notch State Park, Exit 34B off I-93, Franconia, cannonmt.com/things-to-do/activities/old-man-of-the-mountain.

The series of cliff ledges resembling the profile of a man's face was a popular tourist attraction at Franconia Notch State Park until its collapse in May 2003. The site is now home to the Old Man of the Mountain Profile Plaza, which features seven steel

"profilers" that recreate the Old Man's visage, as well as museums with history, photos and stories of the Old Man and a gift shop. The museums and gift shop are open daily, May

through mid-October, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Access to Profile Plaza will be closed Monday through Friday through late May for construction.

★ New Hampshire Statehouse, 107 N. Main St., Concord, 271-2154, gencourt.state.nh.us/nh_visitorcenter. The Statehouse is the oldest state capital in the country in which both houses of the legislature meet in their original chambers. Visitors can take a guided or self-guided tour of the building; view

Thing We Forgot To Ask About:

"How I'm doing. I mean, it's fine, but still."

permanent and rotating exhibits about New Hampshire history, government, state agencies and tourism; and browse the gift shop, which sells a variety of New Hampshire gifts as well as state and federal flags. The Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

★ Robert Frost Farm, 122 Rockingham Road, Derry, 432-3091, robertfrostfarm.org. The National Historic Landmark includes a two-story white clapboard farmhouse built in 1884 that was home to New England poet Robert Frost from 1900 to 1911. The grounds and trails around the house are open to the public daily, year-round, from dawn to dusk. Guided tours of the house are offered May through October and are free for all children age 5 and under, New Hampshire-resident children age 17 and under, New Hampshire-resident seniors age 65 and over, all active military, New Hampshire National Guard and New Hampshire-resident disabled veterans. The cost for paying visitors ranges from \$3 to \$5.

★ Fort Constitution, located off Route 1B at the U.S. Coast Guard Station, 25 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 271-3556,

nhstateparks.org/visit/historic-sites/fort-constitution-historic-site. The site was once a military defense fortification built in 1631 and used by British colonialists until it was taken by the rebels during the American

Revolution. It is also home to the Portsmouth Harbor Light lighthouse, which was built in 1878. The site is free to visit and open to the public daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

★ Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park, 139 St. Gaudens Road, Cornish, 675-2175, nps.gov/saga. The 190-acre park features the preserved home, gardens, studios and works of American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and was the site of Saint-Gaudens' summer residence from 1885 to 1897. The park grounds, outdoor monuments and sculptures, gardens and wooded trails are free to visit and open to the public year-round, from dusk to dawn. The visitors center

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

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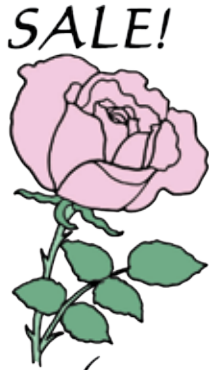
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and museum buildings are open seasonally, with guided tours available, from late May through October. Admission is free for children age 15 and under and for all visitors on Entrance Fee-Free Days (2022 dates TBA). Regular admission for adults costs \$10 and secures a seven-day pass.

Weirdest NH Attraction or Historic Site

Best of the best: America's Stonehenge, 105 Haverhill Road, Salem, 893-8300, stonehengeusa.com. The 4,000-year-old stone construction, likely the oldest man-made construction in the United States, was built by an ancient people as an astronomical calendar to determine solar and lunar events of the year. It's open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last entrance at 4 p.m.). Admission rates are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$8 for children ages 5 through 12 and free for children age 4 and under.

★The Old Man of the Mountain, Franconia Notch State Park, Exit 34B off I-93, Franconia, cannonmt.com/things-to-do/activities/old-man-of-the-mountain. The series of cliff ledges resembling the profile of a man's face was a popular tourist attraction at Franconia Notch State Park until its collapse in May 2003. The site is now home to the Old Man of the Mountain Profile Plaza, which features seven steel "profilers" that recreate the Old Man's visage, as well as museums with history, photos and stories of the Old Man and a gift shop.

★Site of the reported alien abduction of Portsmouth couple Barney and Betty Hill on September 19, 1961. The event is memorialized by a state marker outside the entrance to Indian Head Resort (664 Route 3, Lincoln), and by a mural and memorabilia at the nearby Irving gas station (off Exit 33 of Route 3). Alien-themed souvenirs are sold at the gas station and at the Indian Head Resort gift shop.

NH is #1 at ____

- ★Live Free or Die!
- ★Drinking, which you could interpret as "Drinking Beer, having a good time, working hard," as one reader puts it, or "Drinking iced coffee during a snowstorm," as another reader says.
- ★Everything!
- ★Everything to do with our outdoors: "Beautiful landscapes, mountains, ocean, lakes," as one reader says.
- ★Fall, its foliage and its foliage-related excursions.

Thing We Forgot to Ask About

Best NH Food Product: Laurel Hill Jams and Jellies (47 Birchwood Circle, Bedford, 472-5388, laurelhilljams.com) was established in 1960 by Sue Stretch, who first start-



Laurel Hill Jams and Jellies. Courtesy photo.

ed making jams and jellies with her mother as a young girl. The product list includes gourmet fruit jams and jellies like strawberry rhubarb and raspberry lavender; red, white, rose and New Hampshire-made wine jellies; spir-

its-inspired jellies like margarita and pina colada; and tea jellies. Each batch is made by hand using as many local ingredients as possible and with no artificial colors or flavors. Visit the Laurel Hill website to order products online or see a list of local stores that carry Laurel Hill products.

Best Massage Therapist:

Bethany J. Chabot is a licensed massage therapist and the founder and owner of 444 Hands Innately Integrative Massage & Energy Therapy (36 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, 834-2758, 444hands.com). She received her certificate for Massage Therapy and Bodywork from MacIntosh College in Dover in 2004 and her national and state license in 2005. Her services include focused massage, body work and energy therapy; focused recovery sports massage for athletes; reiki, meditation and Tibetan sound bath; aroma touch technique; and prenatal and pregnancy massage and may incorporate chakra work and essential oils. There is normally a waitlist for new clients, and referrals are required.



Bethany J. Chabot. Photo by Devon Gagnon.

Best Dog Training Company:

New England Dog Training Co. (978-350-6274, newenglanddtc.com) consists of a network of seven professional dog trainers throughout New England, including Manchester-



Trainers Nikki and Nick Wolak. Courtesy photo.

based husband-and-wife team Nikki and Nick Wolak. With over eight years of experience between the two of them, the Wolaks utilize a variety of training methods to work with dogs with all kinds of learning styles in both rural and urban environments. NEDTC

uses a "board-and-train" system in which the dog being trained stays at the trainer's personal home for two consecutive weeks. Trainers commit to providing daily updates and communication with dog owners during their dog's training session.



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Capital authors

Meet four Concord-area writers at “An Evening to Remember”

By Meghan Siegler
msiegler@hippopress.com

Concord author Paul Brogan is on a mission to show locals that the Capital City area is home to talented writers of all genres — in fact, he’s using all of the royalties from his recently published book, *The Concord Theatre*, to pay for what he hopes will be an ongoing free series of talks that spotlight these local authors.

The first event will bring four of those writers — Brogan included — to the Bank of NH Stage for “An Evening to Remember: Conversations with Concord Area Authors” on Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

“There are lots of people in this area who write, who love to write, who express themselves beautifully in all genres,” Brogan said. “I want to do something that makes the people of the area understand that we have some really talented people who are writers. We know we have really talented performers [like] Seth Meyers, Adam Sandler, Sarah Silverman, and there are [well-known] writers like Dan Brown and Jodi Picoult, but I want to showcase some of the people who aren’t selling books at that same level but who are writing passionately ... [and] writing because they have something they want to say.”

“An Evening to Remember” will be led by former longtime NHPR host Laura Knoy and feature Brogan as well as authors Margaret Porter, Virginia Macgregor (who writes as Nina Monroe) and Mark Okrant.

“An Evening to Remember: Conversations with Concord Area Authors”

When: Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord

Cost: Free; visit ccanh.com to register

“Laura will talk with each of us and let us tell a little bit of our story, ask questions and encourage people in the audience to ask questions [about things like] why do we do it, how we get inspired,” Brogan said.

Brogan’s writing story began relatively recently.

“I went to Catholic schools and writing was one of those things nuns instilled in you ... but I never did anything with my writing for a long, long time,” Brogan said. “I was past 50 when I finally sat down and wrote my first book.”

That book, *Was That A Name I Dropped?*, was published in 2011, and Brogan didn’t get the writing bug again until several years later, when he was inspired by the old Concord Theatre being converted into the Bank of NH Stage. He had worked at the Concord Theatre for 27 years, starting when he was 14.

“I had such affection for the [Concord Theatre], so I wrote a book three years ago about the theater’s history and Concord’s history with movies,” he said.

The feedback he got after his latest book came out showed him how few people are aware of what New Hampshire authors have to offer, with people saying things like, “I didn’t know anyone around here could write,” and assuming that you have to be in a more metropolitan area “to have the muse hit you,” Brogan said. But that’s because most people aren’t taking advantage of local resources; Brogan calls Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord, for example, “a writer’s best friend,” with owner Michael Herrmann hosting book launches for local writers and displaying their books in a special section. He also said the NH Writers’ Project is a great resource, but “would wager that a lot of people don’t click on that website.”

So Brogan started thinking about putting on an event to spotlight local authors and spoke with fellow author Margaret Porter at Gibson’s one day, asking her what she

thought about it. She was all in, and the two approached Monroe and Okrant to see if they’d be interested as well. They were on board, and Porter suggested they ask Knoy to moderate the discussion.

“I said, ‘If you can get her, she would be amazing.’ ... And she jumped at it,” Brogan said.

Knoy met with Brogan and Porter recently to check out the venue.

“Within an hour I felt like we’d been friends for years, and I think she’s the perfect person to put us all on stage at ease, and put the audience at ease,” Brogan said.

They want to make sure the whole atmosphere is comfortable too.

“We want it to be [like] the audience is looking at people in a living room having a conversation and then have the audience become involved and then stay around and mingle,” Brogan said.

Porter said she’s looking forward to sharing a small sample of the creativity within the Concord region, as well as their experiences of writing and publication.

“We hope to provide helpful information, maybe even some inspiration, to anyone aspiring to write fiction or non-fiction, or has questions about pursuing a writing career,” she said.

Brogan said he wanted to make the event free so that people can check it out without making any kind of financial commitment.

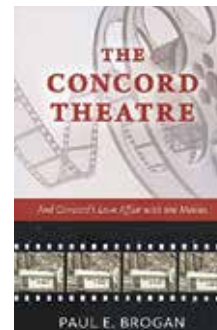
“They can come see the Bank of NH Stage — now there’s no excuse not to check the place out — and meet Laura in real life. ... There’s a number of reasons for someone to give it a try,” he said.

Both Porter and Brogan hope the audience will come away with new notions and ideas and a curiosity to read one of their books or to check out the section of local authors at Gibson’s.

“New Hampshire has long been noted for its literary associations, a legacy that we’re privileged and excited to continue,”



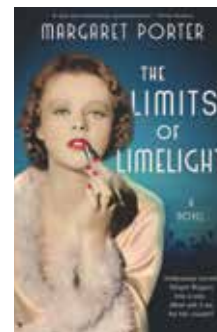
Laura Knoy, Margaret Porter, Paul E Brogan. Courtesy photo.



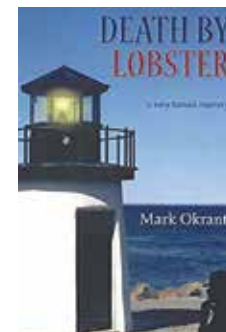
The Concord Theatre by Paul E. Brogan



The Children's Secret by Nina Monroe



The Limits of Limelight by Margaret Porter



Death by Lobster by Mark Okrant

Porter said.

“We hope, if it really goes nicely, we’ll do a second one next year with different area authors,” Brogan said. 🍀

Art Exhibits

• **“SETTING THE STANDARD”** Exhibition features new work from League jurors in all media areas. League of New Hampshire Craftsmen headquarters, 49 S. Main St., #100, Concord. On display now through March 31. Regular exhibition hours are Tuesday through Thursday, from noon to 4 p.m. Call 224-3375 or visit nhcrafts.org for more information.

• **“REAWAKENING”** Two Villages Art Society presents an exhibition featuring work by artist members of the New Hamp-

shire chapter of the Women’s Caucus for the Arts. Bates Building (846 Main St., Contoocook). On display now through April 9. Regular gallery hours are Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org or call 413-210-4372 for more information.

• **“STITCHED TOGETHER - ELEMENTS OF NATURE FROM TEXTILE FRAGMENTS”** New Hampshire Art Association exhibition features the textile collages of Cheryl Miller, inspired by the colors in nature. On display now through April 15. Greater Concord Cham-

ber of Commerce Visitors Center. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. All work is for sale. Visit nhartassociation.org or call 431-4230 for more information.

• **“APPEAL OF THE REAL: 19TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD”** exhibition features photographs taken throughout the Mediterranean to record the ruins of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On display now through June 12. 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 age 12 and under 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 for more information.

• **“WARHOL SCREEN TESTS”** In the mid-1960s, American multimedia artist Andy Warhol had shot more than 400 short, silent, black-and-white films of his friends at his studio in New York City. Warhol referred to the films, which were unscripted and played

in slow motion, as “film portraits” or “stillies.” The exhibition will feature 20 of those films, provided by the Andy Warhol Museum, in loops across four large-scale projections. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On display from March 31 through July 3. 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 age 12 and under 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.

• **“ARGHAVAN KHOSRAVI”** Artist’s surrealist paintings explore themes of exile, freedom and empowerment; center female protagonists; and allude to human rights issues, particularly those affecting women and immigrants. The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester). On display from April 14 through Sept. 5. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children age 12 and under and museum members. Current muse-

ARTS

um 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 for more information.

• **“ECHOES: ABSTRACT PAINTING TO MODERN QUILTING”** exhibition features abstract paintings inspired by the bold colors, asymmetry, improvisational layout, alternate grid work and negative space in composition of modern quilting. Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). On display from April 22 through May 14. Visit twovillagesart.org or call 413-210-4372 for more information.

• **“NATURE AT NIGHT: PAINTINGS BY OWEN KRZYZANIAK GEARY”** Two Villages Art Society (46 Main St., Contoocook). On display from May 27 through June 18. Visit twovillagesart.org or call 413-210-4372 for more information.

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

Fairs and markets

• **CRAFTSMEN’S FAIR** The annual nine-day outdoor craft fair hosted by the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen features hundreds of craftspeople with vendor booths, plus special craft exhibitions, demonstrations, hands-on workshops and more. Sat., Aug. 6 through Sun., Aug. 14. Mount Sunapee Resort, 1398 Route 103, Newbury. Call 224-3375 or visit nherafts.org for more information.

• **CONCORD ARTS MARKET** The juried outdoor artisan and fine art market runs one Saturday a month, June through October,

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Market dates are June 11, July 30, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 and Oct. 15. Rollins Park, 33 Bow St., Concord. concordartsmarket.net. The first market will be held on Saturday, June 11. Visit concordartsmarket.net/summer-arts-market.html for more information.

Special events

• **UPCYCLED FASHION SHOW** Presented by Makers Mill and the Governor Wentworth Arts Council. Designers of all ages are invited to create fashion pieces composed of at least 75 percent recycled, reused or repurposed materials. Sat., April 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. Makers Mill (23 Bay St., Wolfeboro). Registration for designers is free and open now through the end of March or until participation is full. Visit makersmill.org/blog or call 569-1500 for more information.

• **SPRING OPEN STUDIOS** Art Up Front Street Studios & Gallery, 120 Front St., Exeter. The artists’ collective features seven working artist studios. Sat., May 7, and Sun., May 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 418-6286 or visit artupfrontstreet.com for more information.

Tours

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

Workshops and classes

• **“HANDS-ON 3D PRINTING FOR BEGINNERS”** A one-day crash course covering the basics

of 3D printing. Making Matters NH (88 Village St., Penacook). Sat., April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 for Making Matters members and \$50 for nonmembers. Call 565-5443 or visit makingmattersnh.org for more information.

• **“INTRO TO 3D PRINTING”** Port City Makerspace (68 Morning St., Portsmouth). Wed., April 13 and June 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members of the makerspace and \$45 for nonmembers. Call 373-1002 or visit portcitymakerspace.com for more information.

• **“BLACKSMITHING BASICS”** Beginner level workshop. Sanborn Mills Farm (7097 Sanborn Road, Loudon). Fri., May 20, through Sun., May 22, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The cost is \$375. Call 435-7314 or visit sanbornmills.org for more information.

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

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

• **GENERAL ART CLASSES** Weekly art classes offered for both kids and adults of all skill levels and cover a variety of two-dimensional media, including drawing and painting with pastel, acrylic, watercolor and oils. Classes are held with small groups of three to eight to five students. Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover

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SLOW ART DAY 2022

Join the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) in the worldwide celebration of Slow Art Day 2022 on Saturday, April 2. Slow Art Day, according to slowartday.com, is “a global event with a simple mission: help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art.” Founded in 2010, the event has had more than 1,500 art museums and galleries participate. The Currier will host an hour-long guided visit, starting at 11 a.m., exploring three works of art through mindful looking and improvisational dialogue focused on being in the moment. Attendees can choose one, two or all three of the works; the studies will begin at 11:05, 11:25 and 11:45 a.m., followed by a shared reflection in the lobby at 12:05 p.m. A docent will be available for each work to guide the program. Call 669-6144 or visit currier.org.

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ARTS

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Everyone is connected:** The Anselmian Abbey Players present *The Theory of Relativity* at the Dana Center's Koonz Theatre at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester), with showtimes on Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. The 2014 musical, with music and lyrics by Neil Bartram and a book by Brian Hill, explores stories of seemingly isolated individuals who discover how their lives are intertwined with one another's through interrelated moments. Tickets cost \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students. Seats are reserved in advance online. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities or call 641-7000.

• **Visual verse poetry:** Celebrate April as National Poetry Month at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum (18 Highlawn Road, Warner) with a visual verse poetry reading on Thursday, April 7, at 6 p.m. Local poets will read their poetry from *Diversity is Beauty*, the latest Visual Verse Book, a collection of poems assembled through a collaboration with the center for the Arts New Hampshire Lake Sunapee Region Literary Arts Series. Doors will open at 5 p.m., and visitors are invited to come early and browse the galleries before the reading starts. The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be for sale for \$10 for museum members and \$15 for non-members. Those who cannot attend the event in person can join via Zoom. Visit centerfortheartsnh.org/literary-arts.

• **Tax scam:** The Majestic Theatre presents *Love, Sex, and the IRS* at the Majestic Studio Theatre (880 Page St., Manchester), with showtimes on Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 11, at 2 p.m. The play by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore follows two out-of-work musicians who are living as roommates in New York City and filing their tax returns as a married couple in order to save money. When the IRS visits the pair to investigate the validity of their marriage, the masquerade quickly turns comedic. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Visit majestictheatre.net or call 669-7649.

• **Warhol's "stillies":** A new special exhibition, "Warhol Screen Tests," opens at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester) on Thursday, March 31. In the mid-1960s, American multimedia artist Andy Warhol had shot more than 400 short, silent, black-and-white films of his friends at his studio in New York City. Warhol referred to the films, which were unscripted and played in slow motion, as "film portraits" or "stillies." The exhibition will feature 20 of those films, provided by the Andy Warhol Museum, in loops across four large-



Andy Warhol, Lou Reed (Coke), 1966, 16mm film, provided by The Andy Warhol Museum, on view in "Warhol Screen Tests" exhibit at the Currier Museum of Art. Courtesy photo.



Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus seeks female a cappella singers. Courtesy photo.

scale projections. It will remain on view through July 3. 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.

• **Call for female a cappella singers:** Women's a cappella chorus The Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus has returned to in-person rehearsals and is looking for female singers in the region to join. "We have a well-designed step process to introduce new visitors to the barbershop a cappella style," director Jessie Caynon-Oslan said in a press release. "We promise that the audition process will be friendly and encouraging." The group, an affiliate of the North American singing organization Harmony, Inc., performs a wide variety of music, including Broadway musical songs, patriotic songs, pop, jazz and seasonal pieces, for community and veterans' events and private functions. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway, Derry. Masks are required. Additionally, The Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus will hold its "Spring Singation," a five-week program where guests can learn a few songs to sing at a performance with the group, from May 5 through June 2. Visit mhchorus.org or email info@mhchorus.org.

— Angie Sykeny



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ARTS

St., Manchester). Kids classes, open to ages 10 and up, are held on Thursdays and Fridays, from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Adult classes are held on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuition is pay-as-you-go at \$20 per student per class, due upon arrival. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecre-spofineart.com for availability.

Theater

Classes/workshops
• STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS Monthly workshop series hosted by True Tales Live storytelling showcase. First Tuesday (except November), from 7 to 8:30 p.m., virtual, via Zoom. Registration is required. Visit truetaleslivenh.org.

Shows

• BYE BYE BIRDIE Mainstage production by The Palace Theatre. 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Now through Sun., April 3, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at noon. Tickets range from \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588 for more information.

• PUFFS! OR SEVEN INCREASINGLY EVENTFUL 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.
• MUSICAL MOM Produced by the Community Players of Concord. The Hatbox Theatre (located inside the Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Thurs., May 5 through Sun., May 15. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors and members and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.

• LAST GAS Produced by the Community Players of Concord. Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord. Fri., May

6, through Sun., May 8. Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$16 for youth ages 17 and under, \$16 for seniors age 65 and up. Visit community-playersofconcord.org or call 224-4905 for more information.

• THE BALD SOPRANO Produced by the Community Players of Concord. The Hatbox Theatre (located inside the Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord). Fri., June 17 through Sun., June 26. Showtimes are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com or call 715-2315.

• TRUE TALES LIVE Portsmouth-based storytelling showcase. Monthly, last Tuesday (no shows in July and August), from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Shows will be held in person (Portsmouth Public Media TV Studio, 280 Marcy St., Portsmouth) starting in April, and returning to the Zoom format for the winter, starting in November. Each month's showcase is centered around a different theme. The series is free and open to all who want to watch or participate as a storyteller. Pre-registration for attendees is required for Zoom shows but not required for in-person shows. Visit truetaleslivenh.org and email info@truetaleslive.org if you're interested in being a storyteller.

Classical

• 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, at 2 p.m., and Sun., April 10, at 2 p.m. Visit nhphil.org or call 647-6476 for more information.

• "FROM THE NEW WORLD" Symphony New Hampshire presents. Concerto for electric harp featuring Rosanna Moore, performing Farrenc, Overture No. 1 and Dvořák, Symphony No. 9. A New Hampshire premiere. Sat., April 23, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Keefe Center for the Arts

(117 Elm St., Nashua); and Sun., April 24, from 3 to 6 p.m., at Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$20 to \$60 for adults, \$18 to \$55 for seniors age 65 and up, and free for children with a paying adult. Visit symphonynh.org or call 595-9156 for more information.

• "THE MUSIC OF JAMES BOND" Symphony New Hampshire presents. The performance will include *Themes from 007, a Medley for Orchestra* and themes from other spy film favorites, including *Mission Impossible, Pink Panther* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Sat., May 7, from 7:30 to 8:50 p.m. Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St., Nashua). Tickets cost \$20 to \$60 for adults, \$18 to \$55 for seniors age 65 and up, and free for children with a paying adult. Visit symphonynh.org or call 595-9156.

• SPRING POPS - BROADWAY AND MORE The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra performs. Seifert Performing Arts Center, 44 Geremonty Drive, Salem. Sat., May 21, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., May 22, at 2 p.m. Visit nhphil.org or call 647-6476 for more information.

Open calls

• THE RHYTHM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SHOW CHORUS Women's a cappella chorus is looking for female singers in the region to join. The group, an affiliate of the North American singing organization Harmony, Inc., performs a wide variety of music, including Broadway musical songs, patriotic songs, pop, jazz and seasonal pieces, for community and veterans' events and private functions. Rehearsals are held weekly on Thursdays from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway, Derry. Masks are required for singing, but both vaccinated and unvaccinated singers are welcome. Visit rhchorus.org or email info@rhchorus.org for more information.



BABY ANIMALS: Heritage Breeds at the Banke

An educational experience showcasing heritage-breed barnyard animals

Saturday, April 23 - Sunday, May 1, 2022

Learn about domestic livestock typical on coastal northern New England farms from the 17th century to the present day at this family-friendly event. Expert breeders from NH, ME, MA, and NY farms answer visitors' questions about the specific breeds, including lambs, kids, calves, piglets, bunnies, chicks, and ducklings, their care, developmental needs, and more.

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HIPPO | MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2022 | PAGE 29

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Soil improvement

A key step toward successful gardening

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

This is a good time to beat the rush and get your soil tested so that you can improve your soil before you begin planting.

Most New England states have soil testing labs available to gardeners. Finding one is as simple as searching for “Soil testing lab near me” in your browser. Your first choice should probably be one run by the state university extension service. Most offer a variety of options as to what is tested, and their websites will explain your options, what each costs, and how to collect a sample. Most tests require one or two cups of air-dried soil free of roots and rocks.

Most state labs are very busy in spring, and a 14- to 21-day wait is typical. If you are in a rush to get your soil test results, you might try Logan Labs, a commercial lab in Ohio. They can usually email test results in a few days and also have a soil scientist available to talk to you (for a fee) to make recommendations.

Unless you live where there are natural limestone or marble deposits — parts of Vermont, for example — your soil is probably acidic. Why? Coal-fired power plants send sulfur into the air, and it reacts with water to form sulfuric acid that is dropped by the rain. Most plants do best with a soil pH between 6.0 and 6.8. A pH of 7.0 is neutral, and above that is alkaline. Soils rich in organic matter and microorganisms tend to buffer the soil pH, making it less acidic.

Soils are composed of three things, basically: ground up rock is about 45 percent, air is about 50 percent and organic matter about 5 percent. The particle size of the rock component is what determines soil texture: big particles are in sand, medium particles in silt, and very fine particles make up clay. A good soil has particles of all three sizes, but is mostly silt.

You can see what is in your soil by filling a quart jar half full of water, and adding a couple of cups of soil, and then shaking it well. Sand will drop to the bottom pretty much immediately, and silt will drop next. Finally, after 24 hours or so, your clay will form a layer. Each will probably be a different color and quite obvious. Organic matter often floats on the surface, but generally mixes with the silt layer.

Clay holds on to soil minerals and moisture the best, but it can stay soggy and also get compacted. Sand particles are not electrically charged, so they don't hold on

to minerals like clay or silty soils, but the sand helps with drainage. You can get a feel for your soil by rubbing it between your thumb and a finger after wetting it. Clay soil is sticky. You can feel the grains in a sandy soil.

If your soil has a pH of 6.0 or less, you should add some garden lime or wood ashes to “sweeten it.” If you get a soil test, it should tell you how many pounds of lime to add as expressed in pounds per 100 square feet — a 10 foot by 10 foot area. I weighed a quart of garden lime in a yogurt container and it weighs a little over 3 pounds. Wood ashes are about equivalent in what they do. But this isn't rocket science — you don't have to be precise.

Lime is ground limestone and is sold in bags at the garden center. It comes as powdered lime or pelletized lime, which is less messy. If you buy powdered lime, wear a mask when spreading it so you don't inhale it.

All fertilizers add nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). The amount of each is expressed as a number that is the percentage of the active ingredient by weight. A 10-10-10 fertilizer has 10 percent of each, and 70 percent filler. The minerals in chemical fertilizers are in the form of salts, and using too much can damage roots. The salts in chemical fertilizer are water-soluble and can be dissolved and washed away in heavy rains.

Organic fertilizers, on the other hand, are made from natural ingredients and minerals from ground rocks. My favorite organic fertilizer, Pro-Gro, is made in Vermont and has things such as peanut meal, cottonseed meal, ground oyster shells, feather meal, crab meal, dried blood (for nitrogen) and rock phosphate. I like to compare it to a seven-course meal for plants.

The ingredients of an organic fertilizer mostly need to be digested by microorganisms found in the soil and then shared with green plants. They are gentler, and slow to release their goodies. The mineral content of Pro-Gro is listed as 5-3-4, which is lower than most chemical fertilizer, but offers all those micronutrients not found in chemical fertilizers.

Of course you can go the old-fashioned way and add animal manures to improve your soil. They work, but some may also introduce weed seeds. I don't recommend using fresh horse or cow manure because of that, but manure that is a year or two old has fewer seeds. Rabbit, sheep and goat manure has fewer weed seeds, and they add plenty of organic matter that helps with texture and tilth.

If you add compost to your garden



Add fertilizer and compost to hole, and stir in before planting. Courtesy photo.



A simple pH test kit costs under \$10 and does fine. Courtesy photo.



Organic fertilizers generally are slow-release fertilizers. Courtesy photo.

and work it in, it will become more biologically active — full of beneficial microorganisms. It will drain much better but hold moisture better, too.

Having good soil is one of the keys to being a good gardener. Perhaps testing and improving your soil will help you to

have that elusive green thumb. It's worth trying.

Henry can be reached by email at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or by mail at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. His website is Gardening-Guy.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

We thought you would enjoy this set of Goffstown history books. They are in good condition and full of some very interesting facts from Goffstown, N.H. Could you possibly give us an approximate value and is this something you might be in need of?

Betty

Dear Betty,

Your books look to be in great shape! Tougher to find the set, so that's a plus. I want to say thank you for sharing with us and thinking of me for a home. I happily say I have my own set from when I lived in Goffstown. You're right, there is so much interesting history in them.

Your books' value comes from age, having both and condition — if the pages are all there and there are no tears, fading, wrin-



kles, etc. The value of town history books vary depending on rarity as well. These would be in the range of \$50+.

I do hope you find a new home for your set. I still enjoy mine!

Donna

Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing, and recently closed the physical location of From Out Of The Woods Antique Center (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com) but is still doing some buying and selling. She is a member of The New Hampshire Antiques

Dealer Association. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550 or 624-8668.

KIDDIE

— POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Thursday night live

Cowabunga's Indoor Playground (725 Huse Road in Manchester; cowungas.com, 935-9659) will hold a "Dinner & a Dance Party" on Thursday, March 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. For \$25 per kid, children get a meal, two hours of play time and a meet and greet with a special character. Similar events are scheduled through April — the guest for Thursday, April 14, is scheduled to be the Easter Bunny.

See a show

- The Epping Middle High School Drama Club will present *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* on Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 at the door in cash or check. The show, a youth adaptation of the 1994 Broadway play and 1991 animated film, will feature kids in grades 6 through 12, according to a press release. The show will take place at the Epping Playhouse (38 Ladd's Lane in Epping). See eppingtheater.org.

- The Methuen Ballet Ensemble will present an all-ages-friendly ballet of *Cinderella* on Saturday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 West Broadway in Derry). Tickets cost \$25. See derryoperahouse.org.

- The Palace Youth Theatre will present *The Descendants The Musical* on Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$12 to \$15. The show features student actors in grades 2 through 12.

The spring sky

- "The Stars and the Planets of Spring" is the focus of the virtual Super Stellar Friday Online program on Friday, April 1, at 7 p.m. via the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com, 271-7827). Register for the free discussion to find out what planets can be seen in the spring sky without a telescope.

The center itself is open to the public Fridays through Sundays with sessions from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. There will be four planetarium shows daily, according to the website, which recommends purchasing timed tickets in advance. Admission costs \$11.50 for adults, \$10.50 for students and seniors and \$8.50 for kids ages 3 to 12 (admission is free for children 2 and under; masks required for visitors over



Be their guest — the Epping Middle High School Drama Club presents *Beauty & the Beast Jr.*

the age of 2). Planetarium show tickets cost \$5 per person (free for children 2 and under); see the website for the schedule of planetarium shows.

Spring storytime

- The storytime and craft at the Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St. in downtown Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Saturday, April 2, will **celebrate spring**. The book will be *First Notes of Spring* by Jessica Kulekjian, illustrated by Jennifer Bower. The craft will be making spring wands, according to the website.

A little more syrup

Ben's Sugar Shack, with locations in Temple and Newbury, has its final scheduled weekend tours of maple season this weekend, Saturday, April 2, and 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.

Save the date: For PJ Masks

To celebrate National Superhero Day, local theaters will present *PJ Masks We Can All Be Heroes*, an event featuring a four-part PJ Masks adventure, music videos and other PJ Masks clips. The presentation will screen Saturday, April 23, at 2 p.m. at AMC Londonderry (16 Orchard View Drive in Londonderry) and Cinemark Rockingham Park (15 Mall Road in Salem) and at 10 a.m. at the O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square (24 Calef Highway in Epping). Ticket prices vary at the different theaters; see fathomevents.com.



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Time to resist the subscription bandwagon



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk:
I purchased a 2019 Toyota RAV4 XLE with 10,400 miles on it in October 2020. It came with a remote start feature on the key fob that I used last winter.*

I went to use it this winter, and it did not work. I come to find out I have to pay for it. Apparently, I had it on a "free trial" for a period of time, but if I want to keep using it, now I have to pay a monthly fee. Nobody told me this when I bought the car.

Have you ever heard of this? It doesn't make any sense to me. Isn't it like having brakes but having to pay extra to use them? — Phil

its Toyota Remote Connect plan a subscription service. That "plan" includes services that use the car's built-in modem — things like checking the status of the doors and windows from an app, emergency calling services and remote start.

But here's what owners figured out: You don't need the car's modem to use remote start. You can use your key fob.

Unfortunately, Toyota programmed the system so that however a remote start is requested, the system first checks to see if you have a paid-up subscription. If not, it tells you to get lost. How did this go over with customers? Well, kind of like how it went over with you, Phil. They're ticked off.

Toyota says they are surprised by the customer reaction, and that they're "reviewing" the plan. But there's no guarantee they'll change it.

So if you really want the remote start, Phil, you'll have to fork over the monthly fee, and buy the whole Remote Connect plan.

I'm not a big fan of subscriptions for the same reason that companies love them. They're relatively small monthly payments, charged automatically to your credit card. And when a fee is automatic and small enough, you forget about it,

and you keep paying whether you use the service or not. See also: my gym membership.

So my suggestion is to resist, if you can live without it, Phil. And let Toyota know you're disappointed. If we don't put up a fight, before we know it, we'll be putting a quarter in the dashboard every time we want to recline our seats.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 1997 Mazda B2300 pickup. It has a brand-new fuel pump, new clutch and new coil packs.

Sometimes while I'm driving, it will buck a little bit, like there's a misfire, and then the bucking will stop. Also, when I'm going uphill, it will lose power and lose speed. When I get to the top of the hill, it goes back to normal speed again. I also smell gas sometimes.

At least the check engine light has not come on. I'm lost. Any ideas? — Ken

Add "broken check engine light" to your list of things to fix, Ken.

When you turn the key to the run position, just before you crank the engine, all of the dashboard warning lights should come on as part of a self test. If you don't see the check engine light then, it's not

working. And I suspect it's not.

But even though the light is not on, your computer may still be storing a code. Or multiple codes. So try scanning it. It may tell you which cylinder is misfiring. A misfire could explain everything. It would cause bucking, low power on hills, and I suppose, under rare circumstances, it might even create a smell of gasoline if enough gas goes into a cylinder but doesn't get combusted because there's no spark. Or you might just have a separate fuel leak. Your truck is a quarter-century old, remember.

The things that typically cause misfires are components of the secondary ignition. You've already replaced the coil pack, but it could be a bad spark plug, a bad plug wire or a faulty crank sensor. The crank sensor tells the car's computer which plugs to fire. The part costs about \$20 and is easy to change.

So I'd start with a scan and see if that helps you narrow down the location of the misfire.

Then, I'd try the crank sensor, then plugs then wires. Then, a new truck. Not necessarily in that order. Good luck, Ken.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍌



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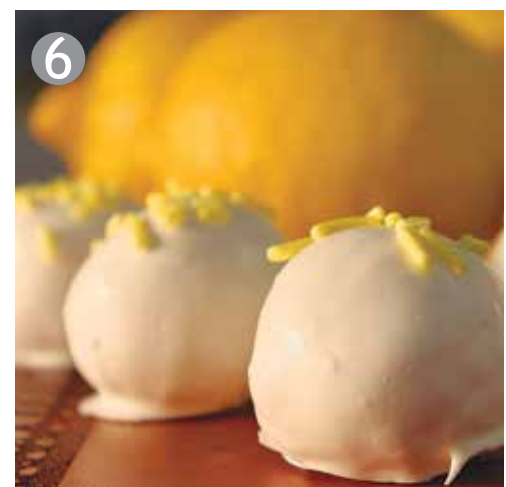
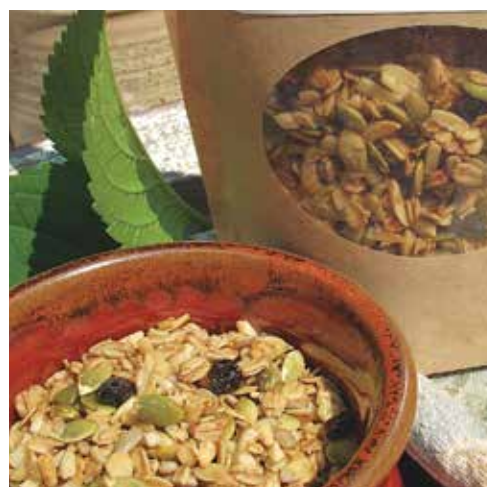
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ON THE JOB

SAMANTHA ROSS LANGLOIS

METAPHYSICAL SHOP KEEPER

Samantha Ross Langlois is the owner of Rock Bottom in Belmont, a shop that sells crystals, stones and other metaphysical items.

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

Building vendor relationships, shipping and receiving, ordering items, maintenance upkeep, cleaning and inventory control. Then, we have the fun stuff — we work with rocks, crystals and other metaphysical items to help others on their journey of life. Stones hold a lot of energy, and we help our customers who come learn how to use stones to help them with their everyday life. We are beginning to offer services as well.

How long have you had this job?

We have been selling rocks and crystals through Facebook Live for about two or three years now, but we were fortunate to finally

be able to find a wonderful location with a fantastic landlord. We started selling at our location in December of this past year, and the pylon signs we received three weeks ago are becoming more noticeable for walk-in traffic.

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

I started collecting as a kid and loved it, but life happens, and I moved away from it. When my former husband started getting sick, I went back to look for natural remedies and crystals to help him, and that is how we continued.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I started with energy work and massage

therapy back in 2004. I am a reiki master and teacher and a certified tuning fork practitioner; and I hold a master's degree in operations and project management, and a bachelor's in human resources, and an associate's in marketing.



Samantha Ross Langlois. Courtesy photo.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Comfortable clothing — no dress code. I want myself and others who work with me to be comfortable being themselves.

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

Before the pandemic hit, we were looking for a location. Then we stopped due to Covid, but, honestly, I think it helped, because it forced me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to learn how to provide Facebook Live [sales]. This is how we began to build our audience. Then, we were able to start doing craft fairs, and that helped as well.

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

How to develop my memory more. So many people want to know the metaphysi-

cal properties of all the stones, and I am lucky enough to just be able to remember the names of them, but we love Google, so we use that to help with the properties and the 'What does this do?' portion of questions.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

Google is a great tool to look up the metaphysical properties and uses for stones.

What was the first job you ever had?

I worked at a video store.

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

Take your time, and slow down. Life is a journey, not a race. Enjoy it, look around and remember to breathe for you.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

Five favorites

Favorite book: *Do It Afraid* by Joyce Meyer

Favorite movie: *Working Girl*

Favorite music: Rock, metal, rap, dance, pop — I like any kind, really.

Favorite food: Thai, Indian and overall spicy food.

Favorite thing about NH: The waterfalls. I love them so much.



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Ready, set, decorate

Franco-American Centre to host amateur cake competition

News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Keep on brewing on: New Hampshire Craft Beer Week**, an annual 10-day celebration of the Granite State's craft brewing industry, is returning for its eighth year. Starting Thursday, April 7, and continuing through Saturday, April 16, breweries all over New Hampshire are showcasing special beer releases, hosting events and participating in various collaborative social media efforts to keep the community connected and engaged. It's overseen by the New Hampshire Brewers Association, which represents the more than 90 craft brewers statewide. Visit nhbrewers.org or follow the Facebook page [@nhcraftbeerweek](https://www.facebook.com/nhcraftbeerweek) for the most up-to-date Craft Beer Week happenings. The Association is also planning to bring back its long-awaited Keep NH Brewing Festival this summer — that event is set for Saturday, July 9, at the Everett Arena Waterfront Park in Concord, and tickets are expected to be available soon.

• **Ukrainian wines:** Join WineNot Boutique in Nashua for a special **virtual wine tasting** on Friday, April 1, from 7 to 8 p.m., featuring selections from ArtWinery, a producer of sparkling wines based in Ukraine. Scheduled pours during the tasting include several of its white and rose sparkling wines, which are available for sale at WineNot, and admission is free via Zoom with a minimum purchase of two bottles. WineNot will be donating 10 percent of the proceeds to the Ukrainian Red Cross, and its importer, Saperavi USA, will be matching all donations as well. Visit winenotboutique.com or find the event page on Facebook [@winenotboutique](https://www.facebook.com/winenotboutique) to register.

• **Grilled cheese and ice cream:** Manchester food truckers Alex and Marcie Pichardo of **Prime Time Grilled Cheese** have a new brick-and-mortar restaurant, which opened March 18 at 119 Hanover St. in the Queen City. The space operates in a fast casual atmosphere with both bar and table seating inside, offering a menu of all kinds of unique takes on the traditional grilled cheese sandwich, from Buffalo chicken and pulled pork grilled cheeses to a Philly cheese steak option, a jalapeño macaroni and cheese sandwich and more. Other menu items include a lineup of a few soups, sides and drinks, with a few domestic and local craft beers, craft cocktails, and a small space for reg-



Scenes from Franco Foods, a YouTube series hosted by Franco-American Centre office manager Nathalie Hirte. Courtesy photos.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Eight amateur bakers will show off their cake decorating skills to attendees and a panel of judges during the Franco Foods Fleur Délices challenge, a new friendly baking competition and fundraising event happening on Saturday, April 9, at Anheuser-Busch's Biergarten in Merrimack.

Countries and regions spanning multiple continents around the world will be represented, but all of them share one commonality, either their French-speaking language or French culture, said Nathalie Hirte, event organizer and office manager of the Franco-American Centre, based in Manchester. A native of Québec and an avid home cook, Hirte is also the host of Franco Foods, a how-to YouTube series on French-inspired recipes that her son Oskar directs and produces.

"We were looking to do a live event ... and, pre-pandemic, we had planned a cupcake challenge that was going to be a professional competition," Hirte said. "That obviously got shelved, and especially now that it's all hands on deck for businesses post-pandemic, we decided to do an amateur baking competition instead. ... I know too just from seeing [posts from] my friends on Facebook and whatnot that there are so many talented amateur bakers out there."

Each of the eight entrants has chosen from a list of nearly 90 International Francophonie-recognized countries and regions, or nations where French is a primary or secondary language or has a historical connection to the culture. France, Canada and Haiti, in addition to Croatia, Belgium and even Egypt and Mexico, have all been selected, and contestants will be tasked with creating a cake that is decorated to reflect that country in some way.

"They will pre-make everything at home, and then they will be bringing that to the event and will be putting together the cake and decorating it there," Hirte said. "There are certain rules, so for example every cake has to have a minimum of two tiers. One of the tiers must be a sponge, so a regular cake batter, and then every cake must have a buttercream element and a cookie element."

Once at the venue, contestants will be timed — one hour for single decorators and 45 minutes for teams of two — to create their cakes, and attendees are free

to watch. There will also be a cash bar and light finger food appetizers to be provided by Celebrations Catering.

The judge panel will include local chefs Alex Waddell and Matt Provencher, as well as Marie-Josée Duquette, a representative of the

““ I know just from seeing [posts from] my friends ... that there are so many talented amateur bakers out there. ””

NATHALIE HIRTE

Québec Government Office in Boston. Waddell is the owner of Crèmeux French Patisserie in Merrimack, and he also studied at Ferrandi, an internationally recognized culinary arts school in Paris. Provencher is an award-winning Manchester

chef and a two-time champion of the New Hampshire PoutineFest, another Franco-American Centre event. Each will grade the cakes based on everything from taste and texture to overall appearance, creativity and representation of their country or region.

There will also be a people's choice winner for the best appearances as voted by attendees. Prizes include an engraved cake platter and bamboo cutting board, and winners also receive bragging rights and the opportunity to be a featured guest on an upcoming Franco Foods episode.

"I think the fun part will really be getting to watch the bakers go at it," Hirte said. "We also have two very nice baskets for door prizes. Everybody gets a raffle ticket, but if somebody really likes something and they want to win, we'll have an opportunity to buy more tickets." 🍷

Franco Foods Fleur Délices Challenge

When: Saturday, April 9, 6 to 9 p.m.

Where: The Biergarten at Anheuser-Busch Brewery, 221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack

Cost: Admission is \$27 per person or \$50 per couple; all attendees receive a raffle

ticket for a chance to win a door prize. Franco-American Centre members receive three tickets each.

Visit: facnh.com/fleur-delices-challenge
Reserve your admission spot to the event by **Monday, April 4.**

New Italian option

Bellissimo opens in former Fratello's space in Nashua



Filet Oscar. Courtesy photo.



Wood fired oven pizza. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Less than three weeks after Fratello's Italian Grille closed its downtown Nashua restaurant, a new concept has already arrived in its place. Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse and Bar opens on March 31 and will feature a variety of steak, chicken and seafood entrees, pastas and wood-fired pizzas, plus rotating house cocktails and regular live entertainment.

Although some Fratello's employees have remained on staff during the eatery's transition, Bellissimo — named for the Italian word meaning "beautiful" — is under new management from its predecessor. It's the latest venture of Jason Fiore Sr., David Raptis and Justin Hoang, co-owners and partners of a local restaurant group that also includes Luk's Bar & Grill in Hudson and Joey's Diner and The Black Forest Cafe & Bakery, both in Amherst.

With the exception of only a few options, Bellissimo's dinner menu is almost entirely brand new for the space, said Hoang, a Nashua native who is the group's executive chef.

"I wanted to make it slightly more upscale than Luk's [and] to get a little more creative," Hoang said. "Luk's is considered more of a tavern and bar, and it's very broad as far as the menu goes, so here I really wanted to focus more on the pasta dishes, and the steaks and things like that."

Plated entrees are indeed among Bellissimo's many highlights, with a number of signature menu items that include filet oscar, saffron lobster risotto, chicken Francese, almond-crusted salmon, and steak tip Gorgonzola alfredo with penne pasta. You'll find appetizers like meatballs, arancini, bruschetta and mus-

sels fra diavolo, and premium sides like grilled prosciutto-wrapped asparagus and Parmesan risotto. As for the wood-fired pizzas, those options run the gamut from traditional flavors like cheese and pepperoni to meatball and ricotta and prosciutto and arugula.

"We're using the same dough that we've been doing at Luk's, but the whole dynamic of the pizzas has changed, because that wood-fired oven completely changes the texture," Hoang said. "It gives the pizza this super-rustic look and taste, which is really awesome."

For desserts, there's tiramisu, a limoncello cake and a raspberry doughnut cheesecake. The drink menu features a lineup of Italian wines and specialty martinis.

While Bellissimo is starting out with just weekly dinner service, Hoang said he'd like to eventually begin offering lunch — he's thinking perhaps sandwiches, paninis, salads and other similar items to serve the working demographic among the neighboring downtown businesses. Sunday brunch is also a possibility for the restaurant sometime in the future, Fiore said. 🍷

Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse and Bar

Opening Thursday, March 31

Where: 194 Main St., Nashua

Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 4 to 10 p.m. The bar will remain open until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

More info: See "Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse & Bar" on Facebook, call 718-8378 or email co-owner Jason Fiore Sr. at jason@bellissimoitalian.com to make a reservation.



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IN THE KITCHEN WITH PAIGE MELANSON



Paige Melanson is the owner of Crumb to Mama (find her on Instagram @crumbtomama), serving as the in-house baker for The Brothers' Cortado (3 Bicentennial Square, Concord, 856-7924, brotherscortado.com). A Concord native, Melanson is a longtime family friend of the shop's owners, having worked together with founder Chuck Nemiccolo at Starbucks nearly a decade ago. The Brothers' Cortado opened in November, with Melanson joining the team in mid-February — currently you can find her there every Monday, Friday and Saturday, with a rotating offering of freshly baked treats like vegan strudels, gluten-free buttermilk blueberry muffins, apple loaves, protein egg bites and cinnamon rolls. The goal, Melanson said, is for her to eventually take over the kitchen space adjacent to the coffee shop full time.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

My bench scraper. It's very versatile because it's great for baking but also for cleanup.

What would you have for your last meal?

It would be a double smash patty on a brioche bun with extra pickles.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

One that I've been going to a lot more recently is Sun Shui in Bedford. ... I love the dan dan noodles and the basil chicken.

What celebrity would you like to see trying something that you've baked?

Action Bronson [rapper Ariyan Arslani]. He's a musician but also a trained chef. He loves good food and sharing it with people, so I'm a fan of [his] music and also a fan of his food.

What is your favorite baked treat that you offer?

I know the crowd favorite is the strudel, but [recently] I made these cheese Danishes

with a triple berry jam. It's a really awesome combination of a nice fluffy dough with a slightly sweet cheesecake filling and a really good homemade jam. I think I'm going to be trying to make it as often as I can and probably rotate out the flavor.

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

Those loaded Korean corn dogs. ... The Hop and Grind over in Durham has them on their menu and I've been dying to get over there to try one because they look so good.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

My favorite meal to make is anything that I can just do totally from scratch. ... I love having pasta nights, doing homemade pasta and some sort of sauce that you can just put a little effort into and let simmer for a while. ... Vodka sauce is delicious, and it's a nice quick one that you can make in about 20 minutes.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

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Homemade vodka pasta sauce

From the kitchen of Paige Melanson of Crumb to Mama

- 3 Tablespoons butter, divided
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, finely diced and grated
- 4 Tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/3 cup vodka
- 1 cup heavy cream

Saute shallots and garlic in one tablespoon of butter until soft. Add tomato paste

and cook for two minutes while stirring. Add vodka and let simmer lightly for two minutes. Stir in cream and bring to a simmer. Add salt and pepper to taste, and stir in the last two tablespoons of butter. Toss in a half pound of cooked pasta of choice with 1/4 cup of pasta cooking in water. Top with grated Parmesan cheese and fresh basil (optional).

Food & Drink Local farmers markets

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

Deering Fish & Game Club (Long Woods and Fish and Game roads). Find them on Facebook @deering-wintermarket.

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

- **Milford Farmers Market** is every other Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (Union Square), now through April 9. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.
- **Salem Farmers Market** is Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry), through April 24. Visit salemnhfarmersmarket.org.



TRY THIS AT HOME

Spinach and salsa egg white muffins



Spinach and salsa egg white muffins. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

After five weeks of baked goods, it seems like a good time to switch to a healthier dish.

This week I have an utterly healthy recipe that can be used as a breakfast or brunch dish, as well as an afternoon snack. You also can make a batch of these egg white muffins in advance and store them in the refrigerator to be eaten later. They are perfectly fine when served cold but also can be quickly warmed in the microwave.

There are only three ingredients to this recipe. In fact, there is a good chance you already have all of them at home. Frozen spinach is key for keeping it simple; if you prefer to use fresh spinach, you should cook it before starting this recipe. For the egg whites, I prefer to use whole eggs and save the yolks for another recipe. If you want to use a container of egg whites, you need about two tablespoons per muffin cup. Finally, the salsa can be whatever degree of heat you prefer, but try not to use one that is too watery, as it will interfere with baking.

While it's not included in this recipe, you absolutely could add a tablespoon or two of

shredded cheese to each cup. However, these muffins are so tasty as is, the cheese really seems unnecessary.

As you will soon discover, healthy eating can be quite tasty!

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

Spinach and salsa egg white muffins

Makes 8

- 1 10-ounce package frozen spinach
- 8 large egg whites
- 1/2 cup salsa, divided
- Salt & pepper

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Defrost spinach and squeeze out excess liquid.

Coat a muffin pan thoroughly with nonstick

spray.

Divide spinach among 8 muffin cups.

Place one egg white in each cup.

Top with 1 tablespoon of salsa.

Season with salt and pepper.

Using a fork, mix spinach, egg white and salsa in each cup.

*If you are using a 12-cup muffin pan, place 1/4 cup water in each empty cup to ensure even baking.

Bake for 25 minutes or until the egg whites are fully set.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 36

ular live local music planned. The eatery also shares space with Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream, which is the franchise's first location in Manchester. Prime Time Grilled Cheese is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit primetimegrilledcheese.com.

• **Seafood worker study:** Seafood workers were twice as likely to contract Covid-19 as workers in other food industries during the height of the pandemic, according to a recently published **University of New Hampshire** study. Researchers looking at the effects of

the pandemic on the country's seafood industry found that a majority of Covid cases from the summer of 2020 through the beginning of 2021 involved workers in seafood processing who tend to work in close proximity to each other for long hours. "Even though ... precautions were set in place reducing the number of workers on processing lines, it meant longer shifts and increased exposure overall," UNH assistant professor of biological sciences Easton White said in a statement. "Fishing vessels had similar issues, where crews on crowded boats faced challenges wearing PPE, or masks, in wet and windy conditions."



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FOOD

DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

A cocktail forged in the heart of a suburban kitchen

I blame *Forged In Fire*. Granted, I've always had a weakness for television competition shows where people make things and are nice to each other — *The Great British Bake-Off* obviously, and its ceramic counterpart, *The Great Pottery Throw-Down*. And it goes without saying that I'm a fan of *Making It*, Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman's crafting show.

OK, yes. Also, the glass-blowing one.

And the science fiction makeup one.

And — I think you get the idea.

Anyway *Forged In Fire* is sort of like *Chopped* for metal-smiths. Brawny men with hammers are given a ridiculous piece of metal — a box of random tools from a flea market, a cement mixer, half a bicycle — and a few hours to forge it into a knife, a sword, or maybe a ninja assassination weapon. The judges then put the weapons through insane challenges like hacking through a castle drawbridge, or elk antlers, or ballistic gel dummies, and everyone hopes they don't shatter. It's crazy.

A little like inventing new cocktails each week.

After I wrote a few weeks ago that I was out of bourbon, several very generous people have given me bottles of bourbon.

(I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I also do not have an apartment above a used book shop, around the corner from a Manhattan jazz club.) (As long as I'm wishing, Minnie Driver would be the bartender.)

Given my new wealth of bourbon, it made sense to find a recipe to use it in. I found a bourbon-based punch that I like the sound of, but it has two significant drawbacks: (1) It's called a Tomahawk Punch, which seems problematic; and (2) I'm something of a connoisseur of bad decisions, and the idea of making a gallon of this stuff brings on a familiar and dangerously comfortable feeling.

This needs to be reconfigured, much like the engine block from a '72 Matador that I'm supposed to turn into a set of X-Acto knives.

The original recipe calls for a fairly pricey ancho chile liqueur — which I've replaced with Fresno-infused rum — and sparkling cider, which I think would be a little more sweet than I'm looking for, so I've replaced it with an aggressively bubbly club soda.

Suburban Anvil

2 ounces bourbon — Right now, I like Wiggly Bridge, a solidly dependable label. I've been



Suburban Anvil. Photo by John Fladd.

a fan of their gin, and their bourbon has not let me down.

¾ ounce Fresno-infused rum — see below

1 ounce fresh-squeezed lime juice

1 ounce honey syrup

1½ ounce Topo Chico mineral water

Fresh grated nutmeg and cinnamon, for garnish

Shake bourbon, rum, lime

juice and syrup over ice.

Pour mixture, with ice, into a Collins glass.

Top with mineral water and stir gently.

Garnish with a pinch each of fresh-grated nutmeg and cinnamon.

This punch is definitely bourbon-forward, but it is the lime juice that takes the starring role. This starts out tasting fruity, but the spices — the nutmeg especially — take things in an unexpected direction. The bubbles keep it light, and you are left with a hint of heat from the Fresno rum.

You can't reliably count on porch weather quite yet, but if we have a sunny afternoon this week, you could do worse than knocking off work early and wrapping yourself around a couple of these.

Fresno-infused rum

I've gone on about this before, at length, but lacking a dependable supply of spicy, flavorful jalapeños, your best bet for a pepper to infuse into alcohol is bright red Fresno chiles.

Roughly chop three-four Fresno chiles and add them to a quart-sized jar.

Top the jar off, to an inch or two from the top, with a lower-shelf white or silver rum. The flavor of the Fresnos will blow out any delicate tasting notes from a more expensive rum.

Seal the jar and shake it. Store someplace cool and dark, shaking twice per day. Taste after four days, then every day thereafter, until it suits your taste. Strain and bottle.

Honey syrup

Bring equal amounts (by volume) of honey and water to a boil. Boil for 10 or 15 seconds to make sure that the honey is completely dissolved.

Cool and bottle. This will keep for about a month in your refrigerator.

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



Pink for spring

Lighten up with some rosés

By Fred Matuszewski
food@hippopress.com



It's official! Spring is here! It happened at 11:33 a.m., March 20. Mother Nature may not be able to make up her mind as one day the temps rise into the 50s and the next day temps barely rise to the 30s. But spring is a mindset. It is more than the promise of longer days. It is a time of rebirth. It is the time to change from dark, luscious, chewy reds to wines that reflect our wanting to shed the wrappings and trappings of winter and embrace something new and light. It is the time to visit the garden to see what is popping through the last vestiges of winter. Spring is the time to try this year's offering of rosé wines.

Our first wine is a **2020 Fleur de Mer Rosé** (originally priced at \$21.99 at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets, and on sale with a price of \$16.99). It has a brilliant coral pink color and is a medium-bodied wine that evokes aromas and flavors of subtle citrus, lavender and Mediterranean herbs. It is fresh and elegant with a soft texture and mineral finish that is balanced with refreshing acidity. Fleur de Mer means "Flower of the Sea," and the wine brings to mind the region's famed fields of flowers and vines that bask in the warm summer sun. Côtes de Provence is an extensive appellation that includes vineyards of the greater Provence region and extends east all the way to the Italian border. Its sites vary from subalpine hills, receiving the cooling effects of the mountains to the north, to the coastal warm Mediterranean of St-Tropez. This wine is a superior rosé, made from high-quality 43 percent grenache, 23 percent cinsault, 12 percent carignan, 7 percent mourvedre grapes, and 15 percent selected other varieties. It can be sipped with hors d'oeuvres of soft cheeses and berries or paired with fish or chicken.

Our second wine is a **2019 Tasca D'Almerita Regaleali Terre Siciliane Rosé** (originally priced at \$16.99 at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets, and on sale with a price of \$7.99). Located in the mountainous heart of inland Sicily, Tenua Regaleali is a vast estate owned and operated by the Tasca d'Almerita family since 1837. Almost 1,000 acres of vineyards thrive between 1,300 and 3,000 feet above sea level. Soils vary from vineyard to vineyard, creating a mosaic of geologic compositions. The microclimate here

boasts excellent light and temperatures of hot days and cool nights. Wine Enthusiast named Tasca d'Almerita the 2019 European winery of the year.

Produced from nerello mascalese grapes, grown almost exclusively on the side slopes of Mount Etna, that give Le Rose di Regaleali its class and elegant fragrance and its deep salmon-pink color, this wine offers delicate aromas of cherry, raspberry, blackberry and, appropriate to its name, rose petals. Rich on the palate with refreshing acidity and a long, flavorful finish, it is perfect for pairing to tuna, salmon, poultry, pork and flavorful pasta dishes. This wine is universally food-friendly.

Our third wine is just plain fun! The **IGP Pays d'Oc Rosé All Day** has us returning to the south of France, but this time we go to the Languedoc-Roussillon region, west of Provence. A quick interpretation of the label: IGP (Indication Géographique Protégée) places this wine between table and superior wines. D'Oc, or the Languedoc-Roussillon region, shares many of the terrain and climate characteristics with the neighboring regions of Southern Rhone and Provence, but at a far greater value. A top trending wine hashtag, #RoséAllDay has become a social media phenomenon with hundreds of thousands of rosé lovers sharing their excitement for the wine by posting pictures emulating a trendy, chic lifestyle. Made from grenache grapes, this wine has the nose of watermelon and strawberry, with crisp, fresh notes on the palate, and a long fruity finish. Pair this with fish, chicken and sushi, or salads and appetizers, but always enjoy it with friends! It's also available in cans for those warm, sunny afternoon picnics.

So succumb to the allure of spring fever, catch a bit of sunshine, and go out and "smell the rosés."

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

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CDs pg42

• Various Artists, *Black Lives: From Generation to Generation A*

• Graeme James, *Seasons*

A-

BOOKS pg43

• *What Happened to the Bennetts B-*

Book Notes

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

To let us know about your book or event, email asykeny@hippopress.com.

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

FILM pg44

• *The Lost City B*

• *Infinite Storm B-*

Various Artists, *Black Lives: From Generation to Generation* (Jammin'colorS Records)



The Belgium-based Jammin'colorS label is run by its chef/cook/bottle-washer, Stefany Calambert, whose husband, bassist Reggie Washington, helped out on the writing end in this collection of songs, which aims to present "Black music as a source of moral truth and potent weaponry against the scourge of racism." The Belgian government directly contributed to the creation of this hefty double album, so Calambert

was able to gather an amazingly diverse herd of artists that includes Oliver Lake, Marvin Sewell and a chorus line of others. It's strikingly produced and deeply urban, all of it: Stephanie McKay's playful, electric-piano-and-la-la-la driven "Phenomenon" checking off the '80s-jazz-pop tick; Andy Milne & Unison's dreamy, soprano-scatted "Togged To The Bricks"; Cheick Tidiane Seck's tribal-rhythmic "Sanga Bo" adding some Fela Kuti texture; even some opera-diva high-wire stuff from Alicia Hall Moran, getting plenty of help from Washington and DJ Grazzhoppa ("Walk"). An honest, depthlessly immersive experience throughout; it may not solve anything but it sure does try. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Graeme James, *Seasons* (Nettwerk Records)



In the busking space, you've got your golden-throated guys like Peter Bradley Adams, and you've got your po-faced Art Garfunkel types. This New Zealander would fall into the latter category, a serious balladeer who plays a million instruments in these smooth, sometimes mildly rocky tunes. Let's see, here you'll hear him play mandolin, double bass, fiddle, guitar, banjo and bass ukulele, among other things, a cornucopia of sound that's

equal to the task of supporting his voice, which is similarly all over the place, ranging from floaty Bon Iver to vanilla Sufjan Stevens to clear-throated sea shanty slinger to the aforementioned Garfunkel ("Death Defying Acts"). The song that's so far received the most attention (including some love from *Rolling Stone*) from this album is a song about a terrifying adventure aboard an old ship (let's all agree that humanity will never have enough of those), that being "The Voyage of the James Caird." **A-** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• The next batch of new albums scheduled for release will get here on April 1, i.e. April Fools' Day, which is, of course, most apropos, because this week we start with badly tattooed **Red Hot Chili Peppers**, whose new album, *Unlimited Love*, is first to be put into the Snark-O-Scope™ for a thorough and proper evaluation! But before we do that, let's go over it again: I don't like this band, and, um, well, I never really did. If the '90s were the '60s, RHCP would have been the Rolling Stones to Pearl Jam's Beatles, if you're down for some rather trite juxtaposition, and I have no idea how that happened, how RHCP got so popular. But people of all ages love 'em, they just love 'em. A couple years ago I was given a single pass for the RHCP show at TD Garden, and since it was snowing and it was only one pass and I don't like RHCP to begin with, I gave it to a friend, who drove down from New Hampshire, through the snow, to see the show. He loved it, which I wouldn't have, because I don't like a single one of their songs, literally none. The only thing that pumps me up about the old 'Chili Peppers is being given this new opportunity to trash their funk-ska nonsense in public, and since I'm salivating at that prospect, I'll toddle off to YouTube right now, to listen to the new song "Black Summer." OK, the video starts with Anthony Howeveryou spell-it dressed like the Karate Kid, and the song is mellow, with their usual drippy guitar sound (it would be so cool if they'd learn that their Peavey amplifiers actually have things like distortion knobs and stuff and thus don't necessarily have to sound like the sort of 1-foot-tall amp that's normally played at kids' birthday parties, so lame!). Anyway, on the tune drags, with Anthony making rapper hand movements even though he doesn't rap, and then there's some psychedelic '70s vibe that's just annoying and then some Austin Powers 1960s-pop vibe that also just made me depressed. What does this all mean? Well, it means that a lot of people will like it, just to tick me off.

• In spite of their German-sounding name, **Warmduscher** is a British garage/post-punk band. Wikipedia says that a "Warmduscher" basically refers to someone who's a wimp, like, at English "pubs," the beer-gargling "punters" tease their "mates" with that term, in the hope that someone will start a huge bar fight that will need to be broken up by the "bobbies." Any-whatever, the new album, *At The Hot Spot*, is on the way, in the "lorries" right now, headed to the "record shoppes," where you can buy it with your shillings and tuppence, and it will feature a song called "Wild Flowers," a stream-of-consciousness rant spoken by one of the "lads," who "prattles" on and on about all the stuff he hates in everyday life. There's a wah-wah pedal on the guitar, not that that sound will be coming back from the grave for widespread use anytime soon, or at least I hope.

• You have to admire a band whose cover art is inspired by those old Garbage Pail Kids stickers, so props are due for Toronto four-man power-pop band **PUP**, whose new LP *The Unraveling Of Puptheband* is on the way! The push track, "Robot Writes A Love Song," is a pretty well-rounded amalgam of Weezer and Violent Femmes, if that sounds like something anyone out there would be the slightest bit interested in.

• Finally, let's check in with Canadian singer **Lights**, and her new album *PEP*, with its single "Salt and Vinegar." This is basically next-gen Taylor Swift bubble-pop, made tolerable by some nifty samples; it's brainless but not hateful. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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What Happened to the Bennetts, by **Lisa Scottoline** (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 400 pages)

Most people have heard of the federal witness protection program; far fewer have ever actually given it any serious thought. Those who have might know its acronym, WITSEC for witness security, and that it is a program of the U.S. Marshals Service that gives new identities to people who testify against criminals who have networks that enable them to retaliate.

According to the government's website, more than 19,000 people have taken part in the program since its formation some 50 years ago. That includes not just people who testify but also any dependents who might be in danger.

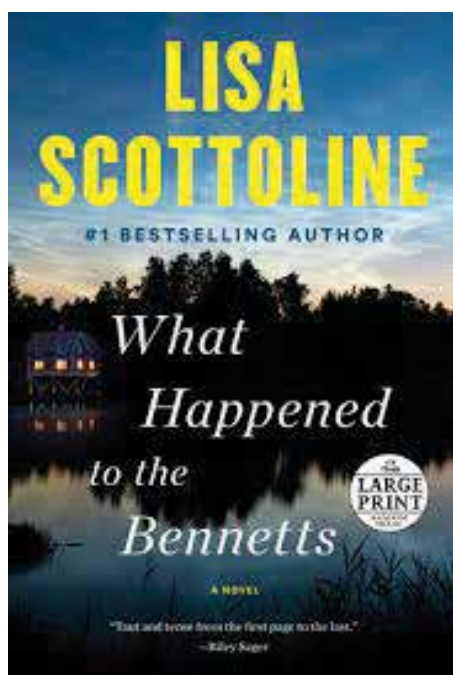
Lisa Scottoline dives into this world with her new novel, which probes the hellscape one family endures after a violent carjacking. Up until this point, Jason and Lucinda Bennett had enjoyed a comfortable suburban life — replete with a Mercedes sedan, two nice teens and a small white dog with two speeds: “asleep and annoying.” But driving home after their daughter's field hockey game, they were cut off by two men, which started a cascade of horrific events that led up to FBI agents banging on their door later that night.

The agents informed the already reeling family that they were in imminent danger because they had witnessed one of the carjackers shoot the other. They had 15 minutes to decide whether to enter the witness security program or to stay home and risk their own deaths.

That in itself is worth some reflection. Many people have thought through what they would take to leave their house for an emergency, such as a wildfire or hurricane; that's why “bug out” bags are a thing. But this wasn't just bugging out. The Bennetts had 15 minutes to gather belongings with the realization that they were never coming back, and in fact, they would never even be “the Bennetts” anymore after they left. Moreover, they weren't allowed to tell anyone they were leaving — not Jason's employees, not Lucinda's friends or even her mother, who lived in a nursing home for the memory impaired.

As such, it wasn't quite as easy a decision as it seemed.

The Bennetts do leave, however, and that's not a spoiler; the title tells us as much. And although they are not allowed to go to their social media accounts on the new laptops the U.S. taxpayers give them, Lucinda uses an old account to see what's being said about their disappearance. This makes it even harder, of course, seeing a thread called “What happened to the Bennetts” and a search



being organized by citizen investigators, much like what happened in the real-life case of Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie last year.

Moreover, by seeing what was said on the internet, the couple can see the rampant speculation that is taking place, such as whether Jason killed his family and then burned down the house and his office.

All this is fascinating enough, but eventually the story turns into a more conventional crime novel, enabled because Jason, as a court reporter, knows how to read lips, and learns something about the criminal he is hiding from that he wasn't supposed to know.

From there the story accelerates, going back and forth between Jason's quest for justice and the frenzied search for answers within the community they left behind.

It would be a mistake to call this a nail-biter; the novel is not as accomplished as that, although it certainly qualifies as a run-of-the-mill thriller. Scottoline, a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer, has somehow found the time to write 32 novels in addition to non-fiction books of humor, including *Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog*. She also writes humor with her daughter, Francesca Serritella.

There's little humor in this story, however, and in fact, the opening sequence of events will be disturbing to anyone who is a parent. It's an emotional haul for the reader to move past what happens to fully embrace the thriller mode.

What Happened to the Bennetts is being praised by some as Scottoline's best novel yet, which does not make me want to rush to get the others. It's an excellent beach read, a few months early and a hundred pages too long. **B-**

— Jennifer Graham 🍷

BOOK NOTES

Looking for new releases in gardening, I came across a term I hadn't heard before: survival gardening. Apparently, this is a subset of doomsday prepping that has been a thing since long before Joe Biden warned us that Ukraine-related food shortages are coming.

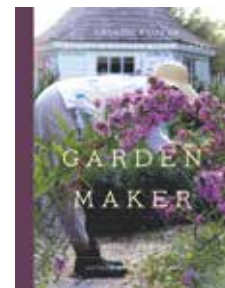
Until the seed shortage hits, you might be interested in some more traditional titles as we wait for the growing season to start. Out this month is *Gardening for Everyone* (Harvest, 304 pages) by sustainability expert Julia Watkins, who focuses on vegetables, fruits and herbs.

If you're more into flowers, there's *Garden Maker* (Harvest House, 208 pages) by Christie Purifoy. *The Healing Garden* by Juliet Blankespoor is out this week (Harvest Press, 448 pages) and is a comprehensive guide to growing therapeutic plants. Next week comes *Containers in the Garden* (Cool Springs Press, 176 pages) by “celebrity gardener” Claus Dalby, who is apparently the Scandinavian Martha Stewart.

But for sheer reading enjoyment about gardens with none of the actual work, look for Marta McDowell's *Unearthing the Secret Garden* (Timber Press, 320 pages), which explores the life and gardening history of Frances Hodgson Burnett, the author of the beloved children's classic.

The opening: “Can a book be a horticultural trigger? A sort of gateway drug for gardeners? If so, then surely *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett is a contender.”

McDowell, who teaches at the New York Botanical Garden, has also written horticultural histories of sorts about other writers, to include Emily Dickinson and Beatrix Potter, is the author of 2016's *All the Presidents' Gardens* (Timber Press, 336 pages), a history of White House gardens — “from Madison's cabbages to Kennedy's roses” — that sounds infinitely more interesting than foraging for seeds. — Jennifer Graham



Books

Author events

- **AN EVENING TO REMEMBER: CONVERSATIONS WITH CONCORD-AREA AUTHORS** Authors Margaret Porter, Virginia MacGregor (Nina Monroe), Paul Brogan and Mark Okrant, in conversation with NHPR's Laura Knoy. 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 cconh.com.
- **MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD** Author presents *The Great Circle*. Virtual event hosted by Gibson's Bookstore in Concord. Wed., April 13, 6 p.m. Registration required. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.
- **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 p.m. Registration is required. Held via Zoom. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com or call 224-0562.
- **MARIE BOSTWICK** Author presents her new book *The Restoration of Celia Fairchild*. Bookery, 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 16, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord 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. Registration 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.

Writers groups

- **MERRIMACK VALLEY WRITERS' GROUP** All published and unpublished local writers who are interested in sharing their work with other writers and giving and receiving constructive feedback are invited to join. The group meets regularly; the next meeting is scheduled for Tues., April 5, from 5 to 7:15 p.m., and will be held virtually over WebEx Meetings. To reserve your spot, email pembrokenhtownlibrary@gmail.com.

Writer submissions

- **UNDER THE MADNESS** Magazine designed and managed by an editorial board of New Hampshire teens under the mentorship of New Hampshire State Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary. features creative writing by teens ages 13 to 19 from all over the world, including poetry and short fiction and creative nonfiction. Published monthly. Submissions must be written in or translated into English and must be previously unpublished. Visit themadnessmagazine.com for full submission guidelines.

The Lost City (PG-13)

Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum are accidental explorers seeking ancient treasure and running from a petulant Daniel Radcliffe in *The Lost City*, a movie that should have kept its original title, *The Lost City of D*.

Why “of D”? The movie has an “ancient tribe of D-yada yada” answer but mostly it’s exactly why you think it’s “D” and for that reason the movie also should have gone for an R rating. This is a “ladies meeting up for a movie” kind of movie and it should have gone to town with its female-friendly bawdy comedy goofiness. As it is, it’s more like the movie went to the end of the driveway, maybe a bit down the block, but then decided, eh, maybe not *all the way* to town this time.

Loretta (Bullock) is a successful author of a series of romance novels about Angel Love-more and Dash, two adventurers who find themselves in situations like being menaced by a villain in a temple full of snakes while professing their love, all heaving chests and throbbing other things. But real-life Loretta isn’t feeling the love for her characters; still mourning the loss of her husband, she’s having a hard time writing her latest book and when she finally finishes it it’s not well-received by the public.

To try to gin up sales, publisher Beth (Da’Vine Joy Randolph) sends Loretta to a romance convention and pairs her with Allen (Tatum), the cover model who has posed as Dash all these years. Loretta doesn’t have much patience for conventions, Q&As or Allen and suffers through it until her car arrives to take her home.

Or, at least, she thinks it’s her car. It turns out to be what she describes as a low-key *Taken* scenario, more of a whisking-away, really, by Abigail Fairfax (Radcliffe), the very rich, very indignant son of a media family. His younger



The Lost City

brother has just been given the family business and Abigail is looking to one-up him by discovering a priceless ancient treasure. Since she worked some real-world archaeology into her books, Loretta is the perfect person to help him on his quest, Fairfax thinks, whether she wants to or not.

Allen, who wants Loretta’s respect and maybe more, sees her being taken-ed and decides to rescue her. Or at least he decides to participate in her rescuing: He calls in his trainer, named, naturally, Jack Trainer (Brad Pitt), to help him free Loretta.

Some 15 or so years ago, I think *The Lost City* would have really annoyed me, with its dumb plot and its sharp-as-a-butter-knife-or-maybe-a-spoon humor. But now, saying a movie is “a goofy premise filled with dumb jokes” feels like more of a recommendation and Bullock and Tatum know exactly what they’re doing here and exactly how to do it. Bullock presents a variation on the smart-but-prickly characters she’s been playing over the

last decade in comedies and Tatum knows how to mix the “beefcake with a meathead but a sweet heart” cocktail and serve up a character who — OK, every way I could think of to finish that metaphor sounds dirty. Basically, Tatum knows what he looks like and knows how to make that guy funny. Even though *The Lost City* isn’t as smart as it could be, isn’t as big-dumb-laugh as it could be, it is pretty dumb and it is pretty fun. It uses Radcliffe and Randolph well, even if both could probably have done more. And it’s a good time, if not right now in theaters definitely in the near future in your living room. **B**

Rated PG-13 for violence and some bloody images, suggestive material (though not nearly suggestive enough), partial nudity (ditto) and language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Aaron Nee and Adam Nee with a screenplay by Oren Uziel and Dana Fox and Adam Nee & Aaron Nee, The Lost City is an hour and 52 minutes long and is distributed by Paramount Pictures in theaters.

Infinite Storm (R)

Naomi Watts plays Pam Bales, a former Granite Stater who rescued a man from a particularly stormy Mount Washington, in *Infinite Storm*.

Pam heads out for a hike on Mount Washington on a day that, based on a conversation with ex-husband Dave (Denis O’Hare), is already heavy with some kind of grief for her. As she hikes, the weather gets colder, clouds roll in and a storm starts. She finds the hike harder, she falls and has to climb out of the snow and then she comes upon a man just sitting on the mountain. John (Billy Howle) is what she calls him when he declines to give his name or say anything about why he’s sitting in a blizzard in what appears to be shorts and sneakers. She tells him they’re leaving, going down the mountain, and they begin the slow, painful trek down, with John often giving up and Pam essentially ignoring that and keeping him going, even when it’s clear she’s putting her own life at risk.

At points, this movie reminded me a bit of *127 Hours*, with Watts’ Pam frequently either talking to herself or talking to John, who doesn’t really answer her. Watts’ performance is a solid one that the whole movie is basically hung on. It’s a strong enough performance that the movie probably doesn’t need the flashbacks to Pam and her young daughters or the movie’s final 15 or so minutes that do a lot of unnecessary telling after Watts has spent a good deal of the movie showing us Pam’s inner turmoil and her determined personality. *Infinite Storm* is ultimately a thin but interesting watch about this slice of recent New Hampshire history. **B-**

Rated R for some language and brief nudity, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Malgorzata Szumowska with a screenplay by Joshua Rollins, Infinite Storm is an hour and 37 minutes long and is distributed by Bleecker Street. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Edition

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival kicks off Thursday, March 31, and runs through Sunday, April 10, with 16 films in all — 11 features, five shorts and four in-person screenings. Most of the movies also will be available virtually, either during the festival itself or during a bonus week, April 11 through April 24.

Tickets start at \$12 for individual screenings or you can buy packages for screenings of all movies, virtual only (\$118) or in-person and virtual (\$130 for one person, \$180 for two). See nhjewishfilmfestival.com for details and check out Meghan Siegler’s story on page 10 of the March 24 (last week’s) issue of the Hippo (which you can find at hippopress.com).

Thanks to the organizers, I got advance screenings to a few of the films.

The festival kicks off with an in-person screening of *The Automat* at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester) on Thursday, March 31, at 7 p.m. with a post-film discussion with director Lisa Hurwitz and collector/restorer Steve Stollman. If you can’t make it to that screening, you can also watch the movie during the virtual screening bonus week.

Either way, this movie, like the coffee it so lovingly describes, is well worth the price. This is an absolute charmer of a documentary about the Horn & Hardart chain of automats, which dominated the New York and Philadelphia restaurant scene in the early and mid 20th century. Put a nickel in a slot and open the compartment to reveal the pie or sandwich or creamed spinach you’d been craving, and another nickel gets you coffee so good that Mel Brooks sings a song about it over the documentary’s closing credits. Brooks appears throughout the documentary along with Carl Reiner and Elliott

Gould explaining the place of this democratizing but also stylish eatery in their youth and young adulthood. (Descriptions of the restaurants’ gleaming floors, brass fixtures and high ceilings reminded me of discussions of similar era movie palaces and suggest a real luxury-for-all approach to design in public spaces — in case anybody is looking for a senior thesis.) Also appearing here are Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia, as well as Colin Powell and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, discussing both the food (there’s a lot of pie talk, be prepared to get hungry) and the social vibe created by a space where a business exec, a member of New York’s booming (in the 1920s) female workforce and a blue-collar worker would share a table and where recent immigrants to New York could feel welcome.

You also get the business side of the restaurant — how it rose and the forces that led to its fall. It’s a delightful story told with great fondness and humor.

I had the great good fortune of watching *Fiddler’s Journey to the Big Screen* at the start of Oscar weekend and it was a perfect way to kick off a weekend of thinking about the art and craft of movies. This documentary (which will be available during the bonus week) offers a great examination of all parts of the movie-making process as it looks at how the successful Broadway musical was translated into the 1971 movie. The songs and the way director Norman Jewison wanted to block a scene influenced the production design, just as the casting of the actresses and finding their comfortable key influenced the way John Williams brought the music of the stage musical to the screen. How do you recreate the look of a turn-of-the-20th-century shtetl in Ukraine some 60-plus years later, after wars and during the Cold War? Jewison discusses finding an Anatevka-like village in the former Yugoslavia.

POP CULTURE FILMS

Jeff Goldblum narrates this documentary, which features interviews with the three actresses who played the older daughters, Topol (the actor who played Tevye), and members of the film crew as well as people, like critic Kenneth Turan, talking about the story and the movie from a cultural-relevance perspective.

The **shorts program** features five films and you can purchase 48-hour access to the five-film block at any time from March 31 to April 10. The films are *Ganef*, *Beefies*, *The Shabbos Goy*, *Mazel Tov Cocktail* and *The Tattooed Torah* and they are a diverse mix in terms of style, tone and theme.

The Tattooed Torah presents as an animated storybook, with the screen panning across pictures but with people popped out from the background to give depth and blinking eyes and other small animated details that add a liveliness to the scenes. Ed Asner narrates the story of a boy and a beloved Torah in Czechoslovakia before and during World War II. The story is based on a book of the same name written by Marvell Ginsburg and illustrated by Martin Lemelman.

As with that movie, *Mazel Tov Cocktail* slips bits of history into its tale about a teenager named Dima (Alexander Wertmann), a post-Cold War Jewish-Russian immigrant to Germany. He wrestles with his frustration, all teenage righteousness and humor, over the way Germans — the prejudiced and the well-meaning — pull him into their views of World War II and what their ancestors did (or, as some claim, definitely weren't a part of).



Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen

The short is the fourth directing credit (all shorts) for directors Arkadij Khaet and Mickey Paatzsch, according to IMDb, and it has that entertaining, scrappy indie film energy.

Ganef will be familiar to viewers of the 2021 Manhattan Short Film Festival. It's a tight drama about the residual effects of trauma that features Sophie McShera (best known as Daisy from *Downton Abbey*) playing Lynn, the housekeeper to the Hirth family, who live in an upper-class house in England. Mrs. Hirth (Lydia Wilson) tells her young daughter Ruthie (Izabella Dzeiwanska) that people can't take what they don't know you have — a lesson she learned as a child in Frankfurt, Germany. It's a smartly told story that clocks in at about 14 minutes.

Beefies is a charming tale about Josh (Adam Lebowitz-Lockard), a man trying to figure out the recipe to his late mother's "beefies" dish. (Lebowitz-Lockard wrote and directed *Beefies*; on the website he describes the dish as his own mother's "sort of beef stew/stroganoff dish of meat and veggies" which he hasn't been able to reverse engineer since she died.) In *Beefies*, Josh finds clues in his mother's papers but



The Shabbos Goy

realizes that to get answers he'll have to call Mark (Goran Ivanovski), the brother he's been estranged from. The movie is a sweet family tale that gets bonus points for the rare good use of pandemic as story point.

The Shabbos Goy is my favorite of the pack. This movie stars Milana Vayntrub, perhaps still best known as the lady from the AT&T commercials. As the movie poster explains, the titular person is a non-Jewish person who performs certain tasks that religious law prohibits a Jewish person from doing on the Sabbath or, more succinctly, "a human loophole." During a gathering with her family and her future in-laws, Hannah (Vayntrub) is desperate to keep her engagement on track but won't break the Sabbath by turning off her, er, personal device when it is accidentally activated. She runs out to find a non-Jewish person to help her, leading her to Davian (Devere Rogers), who first tries to ignore her when she crazily tries to wave him down. The movie is written and directed by Talia Osteen, who has a director credit on the Hulu movie *Sex Appeal* (also a fun trailer) and it is executive produced by Paul Feig. 🍷

OSCAR WRAP-UP

If there's one thing you'll remember from last Sunday's Oscars, it's that you need to watch *CODA*.

OK, one *other* thing.

Truly, though, if you have "meh-ed" at Oscar nominees — which isn't an unfair response in 2021 when the movies never fully felt

back — hopefully *CODA*'s wins will entice you to check it out. It won for best picture, best adapted screenplay and best supporting actor for Troy Kotsur, who co-starred with Marlee Matlin as the deaf parents of a hearing teen (Emilia Jones) in this truly heartwarming movie. It's on Apple TV+.

Another winner worth seeking out is *Summer of Soul (... Or When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, the documentary that won Questlove an Oscar (which you may have missed while Googling "Chris Rock Will Smith was it a bit?"). That excellent documentary

about the multi-concert Harlem Cultural Festival is on Hulu and Disney+ and is available for rent or purchase (and you can also purchase the very excellent soundtrack).

Another winner that might have gotten lost in the evening's proceedings for a different reason (it was one of the awards cut from the broadcast and then deep-faked back in, as writer Chris V. Feil described in a tweet) was *The Queen of Basketball*, the winning documentary short, which is available on nytimes.com. It's a charming profile of Lucy Harris, a star college (and Olympic) basketball player in the 1970s who was drafted by, but never played for, the New Orleans Jazz.

Then feel free to shut the book on the whole messy 2021 in the Oscar-verse, with its category strife, its lack of real surprises among the winners (though my swing-for-the-fences guesses led to my still only correctly predicting a little more than half the winners) and all-over-the-place ceremony even before the infamous slap. Or, at least, shut the book after one more watch of the beautifully staged Beyoncé opener and the uneven but lively at least "We Don't Talk About Bruno" remix. — *Amy Diaz*

Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings and virtual events

Venues

Red River Theatres

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

Rex Theatre

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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

Shows

• *The Automat* (2021) at the Rex Theatre in Manchester as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.com) followed by a post-film discussion with the director on Thursday, March 31, at 7 p.m.
• *The Outfit* (R, 2022) at Red

River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, March 31, at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 1, through Sunday, April 3, at 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 7, at 4:30 p.m.

• *Infinite Storm* (R, 2022) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, March 31, at 4 and 7 p.m.; Friday, April 1, through Sunday, April 3, at 1, 4 and 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 7, at 4 p.m.
• *The Un-Word* (NR, 2020)

screening at Red River Theatres in Concord as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.com) on Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m.

• *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (R, 2022) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Tiger Within* (2020) at Red River Theatres in Concord as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.com) on Sunday, April 10, at

1 p.m.

• *Flesh and Blood and The Man from Beyond* (1922), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre. Suggested donation \$10., at 3:30 p.m.

• *Ben-Hur* (1922), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, on Thursday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre in Manchester.

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Pickers' pick:** A new band of bluegrass aces, **Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway** is led by the award-winning guitarist and songwriter; the quintet encored a recent Seattle show with twanged-up take on Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Also on the bill is Bella White, a 20-year-old singer and multi-instrumentalist whose debut album *Just Like Leaving* was called "sublime Appalachian heartbreak" by Rolling Stone. Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m., 3S Artspace, 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, \$22 to \$25 at eventbrite.com.

• **Jazzy folk:** The four-piece band **River Sister** came together after an open mic revealed the preternatural connection of singers Elissa Margolin and Stefanie Guzikowski. They melded so well that they formed almost by acclamation. Rounded out by upright bassist Nate Therrien and drummer PJ Donahue, their music is a wonderful blend of folk traditions and jazz rhythms, pure harmony wed to musical complexity. Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$15 at ccanh.com.

• **Blues man:** Though he often sounds like he was plucked from a century ago, **Guy Davis** didn't grow up in hardscrabble times. The singer, guitarist and actor has said he learned the blues tradition at first as a Vermont college student. He has a solid knack for channeling masters like Howlin' Wolf and Blind Willie McTell, however. Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$25 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Sound machine:** A rare live appearance from prog rock duo **Delusive Relics** is part of an event dubbed Synthwave Night that will feature selections from their second album, *The Blind Owl*. The show also stars Bosey Joe, the electronic groove pairing of looping wizard Aaron Jones and sax player Curtis Arnett, who will headline their own showcase in downtown Concord at Bank of NH Stage in early June. Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Area 23, 254 N. State St., Unit H (Smokestack Center), Concord. See delusiverelics.com.

• **Lunar tunes:** In a new video filmed in an open field, percussive guitarist **Senie Hunt** covers George Ezra's "Budapest" and makes it his own, with elegant, quick fills and hypnotic rhythm. Hunt is back home from his current Nashville base to play shows, including one at a colonial-era estate owned by Moonlight Meadery, who also makes beer and cider; it often hosts area musicians — see the schedule on their website. Sunday, April 3, 2 p.m., Over The Moon Farmstead, 1253 Upper City Road, Pittsfield, overthemoonfarmstead.com. 🍷

NITE Self-tribute

Heart By Heart hits Cap Center

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Among tribute bands, Heart by Heart is unique in actually having original members in its lineup. Bassist Steve Fossen joined Heart when it was a Pacific Northwest club band banging out Zeppelin and Deep Purple covers. Drummer Mike Derosier played on a pair of tracks from their 1976 debut album, *Dreamboat Annie*, then joined full-time.

Compare that to what's these days officially advertised as Foreigner — only guitarist Mick Jones was part of its best-known hits, and he tours with them for maybe half the year.

With singer Somar Macek and guitarist Lizzy Daymont performing the roles of Ann and Nancy Wilson, Heart by Heart is a facsimile, but one with real cachet.

"We have to call ourselves a tribute act, because people understand what that means," Fossen said in a recent phone interview. "At the same time, Mike and I helped write the material, and we toured with it. ... Actually, we're kind of a tribute to ourselves."

With the rhythm section at the core of hits like "Little Queen," "Straight On" and "Baracuda," Heart by Heart provides a faithful version of what Heart sounded like in its heyday. Though Fossen no longer dons a unitard as he did in his twenties and Derosier keeps his shirt on, the overall vibe is solid throwback.

"We try to recreate what it would be like to see a band in the late '70s and early '80s," Fossen said. "The guitar players were out there doing double leads together, harmony solos, there's keyboards blaring, drums and bass are loud. ... That's our goal."

Fossen and Derosier were pushed out of Heart together in 1982, after the *Private Audition* album failed to sell as hoped. In the decades that followed, Fossen mostly stayed away from music.

"I was more into mountaineering," he said. "I spent a lot of my time going up and down mountains, and driving all around Washington



Heart by Heart. Photo by Bill Bungard.

state to different wilderness areas."

In 2008, Derosier and fellow Heart alum Roger Fisher invited him to play a few Heart songs with Macek at a Seattle party. It was the first night he met the woman who'd become both a music and life partner. His first impression was off, though, because he assumed she spelled her first name like the season.

"I thought, oh, here we go; she's going to come in with the tie-dye dress, hairy armpits, smelling of patchouli oil, a classic hippie chick," he said, noting that while there's nothing wrong with any of those things, he was totally off base. "She spells her name S-o-m-a-r, she's highly educated, and she's been singing her whole life."

Macek and Fossen bumped into each other a few more times and became friends.

"She had a band at the time, so I would go out and see her play," he said. "They would invite me to sit in on Heart songs; the friendship turned into a romance by Christmas."

He laughed at the observation that unlike Heart, whose romantic entanglements could rival those of Fleetwood Mac and then some, they fell in love before starting a band.

The two began playing as a duo at social gatherings, creating enough of a buzz that

they were invited to open for Dwight Yoakam in Anchorage, Alaska. They decided a bigger sound was needed and brought on Derosier and guitarist Randy Hansen. The Yoakam gig ended up getting canceled, but the group enjoyed rehearsing enough to carry on anyway.

Their first official show was a breast cancer awareness benefit. When Daymont joined two years later, the doppelgänger effect was complete with her solid guitar skills and vocal support.

Their sets span all of Heart's catalog, even songs Fossen and Derosier weren't on, like "Alone," "These Dreams" and "All I Wanna Do Is Make Love to You."

"We look at Heart songs that are popular, that people want to hear, and we tried to learn those in the beginning," Fossen said. "Obviously, with a band like ours, we want to please as many people as possible. There's a lot of fans of that era of music, so we [play] those too." 🍷

Heart By Heart

When: Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m.
Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord
Tickets: \$25 and up ccanh.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

Chunky's

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

Fulchino Vineyard

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

Hatbox Theatre

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

Headliners Comedy Club

DoubleTree By Hilton, 700

Elm St., Manchester

headlinerscomedyclub.com

Palace Theatre

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

Rex Theatre

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

Rochester Opera House

31 Wakefield St., Rochester
335-1992, rochesteropera-house.com

The Strand

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

Events

• Kelly MacFarland

Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m.

• **Justin McKinney** Rochester Opera House, Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m.

• **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, Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m.

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

• **Bob Marley** Palace Theatre, Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9, at 6 and 8 p.m.

• **James Dorsey** Headliners, Saturday, April 9, 8:30 p.m.

• **Joe Yannetty** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, April 9, 8:30 p.m.

• **Joey Carroll** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, April 9, 8:30 p.m.

• **Corey Rodriguez** Rex Theatre, Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

• **Tom Cotter** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke/Dave Russo**



Kelly MacFarland

Fulchino Vineyard, Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

• **Mike Donovan** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, April 16, 8:30 p.m.

• **Amy Tee** Headliners, Saturday, April 16, 8:30 p.m.

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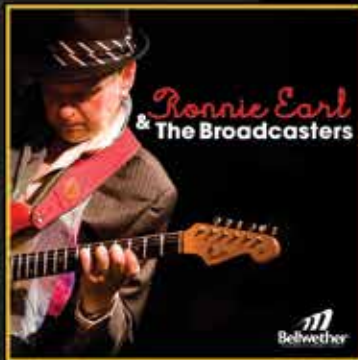
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FRI. APR. 8
7:30PM



SAT. APR. 9
7:30PM



PRESENTS



FRI. APR. 15
7:30PM



FRI. APR. 22
7:30PM

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964
Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292	Nashua Casey McGee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St. 484-7400	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
Meredith Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Tuscan Kitchen 67 Main St. 952-4875
Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	Liquid Therapy 14 Court St. 402-9391	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Seabrook Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road 760-7706
Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy. 365-4960	Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	Press Room 77 Daniel St. 431-5186	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270	Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St. 821-7535	Thirsty Moose Taphouse 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Somersworth The Speakeasy Bar 2 Main St.
	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362		Windham Common Man 88 Range Road 898-0088

Londonderry Coach Shop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Casual Gravity Band, 8 p.m.	Nashua Liquid Therapy: live music, 6 p.m. Millyard Brewery: The Garrett Partridge Acoustic Triune, 4 p.m. Peddler's Daughter: No More Blue Tomorrows, 9:30 p.m.	Sunday, April 3
Manchester Angel City: Red Eye Riot, 8 p.m. Backyard Brewery: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Fatbunny, 7 p.m. Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Brad Myrick, 10 a.m.; Ken Budka, 6 p.m. The Goat: The Pop Disaster, 9 p.m. Great North Aleworks: live music, 3 p.m. Strange Brew: 2120 S. Michigan Avenue, 9 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: live music, 7 p.m.	Alton Bay Dockside: live music, 4 p.m.
Meredith Twin Barns: Matt the Sax, 5 p.m.	Newmarket Stone Church: Rudder with special guests Milque, 8 p.m.	Bedford Copper Door: Phil Jakes, 11 a.m. Murphy's: Ryan Williamson, 4 p.m.
Merrimack Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: live music, 7 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: live music, 4:30 p.m.
Milford Pasta Loft: Done By 9, 8:30 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light: Johnny Angel, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m. Press Room: MC M-Dot, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Fighting Friday, 9 p.m.	Bow Chen Yang Li: Brian Booth, 3 p.m.
	Seabrook Chop Shop: Gunpowder & Lead, 8:30 p.m.	Concord Concord Craft Brewing: Tim Kierstead, 2 p.m.
		Exeter Sawbelly: Alan Roux, 12 p.m.
		Goffstown Village Trestle: Bob Prette, 3:30 p.m.
		Hampton Charlie's Tap House: Lisa Guyer, 4:30 p.m. CR's: The Joy of Sax, 4 p.m.



RONNIE EARL

New York blues legend Ronnie Earl comes to the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester; 668-5588; palacetheatre.org) in support of his new album, *Mercy Me*, on Friday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$39 to \$49 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

Hudson

Lynn's 102 Tavern: Old Gold, 4 p.m.

Laconia

Belknap Mill: open mic, 2 p.m.
Fratello's: live piano, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh, 3 p.m.

Manchester

The Foundry live music, 10 a.m.
The Goat: Drake White, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: jam, 7 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Jimmy Zaroulis, 11 a.m.

Monday, April 4

Bedford

Murphy's: Chris Powers, 5:30 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil

Gilford

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

Hampton

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

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Foundry: live music, 10 a.m.
Fratello's: Phil Jakes, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: David Campbell, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: music bingo, 7 p.m.;
Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Chatham Rabbits, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 5

Bedford

Murphy's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic night, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.
Shane's: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Kingston

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

Laconia

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Doug Mitchell, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: country night, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6

Bedford

Murphy's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

Concord

Area 23: open mic, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Hampton

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

Kingston

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

Laconia

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Jessica Olson, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: country line dancing, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Howard & Mike's Acoustic Jam, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Milford

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Briezzyane & Friends w/ Scott Heron, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Press Room: open mic featuring
Adrienne Mack-Davis with Nate Winter, 7 p.m.

Rochester

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

Somersworth

Speakeasy: open mic night, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Bedford

Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.
Murphy's: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

Brookline

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

Concord

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

Derry

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

Epping

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

Exeter

Sawbelly: Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.



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JUSTON MCKINNEY

Seacoast New Hampshire native Juston McKinney is a comedy legend in the making. He's appeared on the *Tonight* show and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and recorded two specials for Comedy Central. Catch him at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester; 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com) on Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.



Trivia

Events

- **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 p.m.
- **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; 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 players).
- **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 Game Time** trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Smuttlabs (47 Washington St., Dover, 343-1782, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
- **Thursday Game Time** trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-



Disney Princess Trivia

- 9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St. in Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
- **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.
- **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Mondays** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.
- **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30 p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by DJ Zati.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reednorth.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 p.m.
- **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

- **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at 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** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042; revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events/) at 6:30 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** Game Time trivia at The Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth; 427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.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.com) at 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua; fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

Concerts

Venues

- Bank of NH Stage in Concord**
16 S. Main St., Concord
225-1111, banknhstage.com
- Capitol Center for the Arts**
44 S. Main St., Concord
225-1111, ccanh.com
- The Flying Monkey**
39 Main St., Plymouth
536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
- Franklin Opera House**
316 Central St., Franklin
934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org
- Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom**
169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach
929-4100, casinoballroom.com
- Jewel Music Venue**
61 Canal St., Manchester
819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com
- Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club**
135 Congress St., Portsmouth
888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com
- LaBelle Winery**
345 Route 101, Amherst
672-9898, labellewinery.com
- The Music Hall**
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
436-2400, themusichall.org
- The Oven in Epping**
24 Brickyard Square, Epping
734-4543, thecommunityoven.com
- Palace Theatre**
80 Hanover St., Manchester
668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- Pasta Loft**
241 Union Square, Milford
pastaloft.com/live-music
- Rex Theatre**
23 Amherst St., Manchester
668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- Stone Church**
5 Granite St., Newmarket
659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com
- The Strand**
20 Third St., Dover
343-1899, thestranddover.com



Straight No Chaser

- Tupelo Music Hall**
10 A St., Derry
437-5100, tupelomusic hall.com
- The Word Barn**
66 Newfields Road, Exeter
244-0202, thewordbarn.com
- Shows**
 - **Leon Trout + Baked Shrimp** Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m., Jewel
 - **Rachel Baiman & Taylor Ashton** Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 - **Man on the Hill** Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, 7 p.m., Franklin Opera House
 - **Celtic Woman** Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts
 - **Raul Midon** Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
 - **Jimmie Vaughn** Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 - **Ronnie Earl & the Broadcasters** Friday, April 1, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre
 - **Twiddle/Strange Machines** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
 - **IVY LAB** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Jewel Music Venue
 - **Gold-Plated Door** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 - **River Sister** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 - **Al Stewart** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 - **Wreckless Child** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., The Strand
 - **Gold Plated Door** Friday, April 1, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 - **Jess Olson Band** Friday, April 1, 8:30 p.m., Pasta Loft
 - **Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra** featuring Dan Brown Saturday, April 2, 2 p.m., The Music Hall
 - **Lee Ritenour** Saturday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
 - **Heart by Heart** (featuring original Heart members Steve Fossen & Michael Derosier) Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts
 - **Rudder/Milque** Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 - **TENACIOUS** Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Jewel Music Venue
 - **Don Campbell Band - Dan Fogelberg Tribute** Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 - **Joe Nichols** Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 - **The Beach Boys** Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
 - **Done By 9** Saturday, April 2, 8:30 p.m., Pasta Loft
 - **Southern Avenue** Sunday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
 - **Cole Swindell/Travis Denning/Ashley Cook** Sunday, April 3, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom
 - **Straight No Chaser** Monday, April 4, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 - **BriezyJane/Scott Heron** Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m., Stone Church
 - **Shai Maestro Trio** Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 - **Brian Walker** Thursday, April 7, 6 p.m., The Oven in Epping
 - **No Shoes Band** (Kenny Chesney tribute) Thursday, April 7, 6:30 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
 - **Damn Tall Buildings** Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 - **Bettye Lavette** Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 - **Molly Hatchet** Thursday, April 7, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 - **Resurrection: A New Beginning** Thursday, April 7, 9 p.m., Jewel Music Venue

FRANK SANTOS JR.

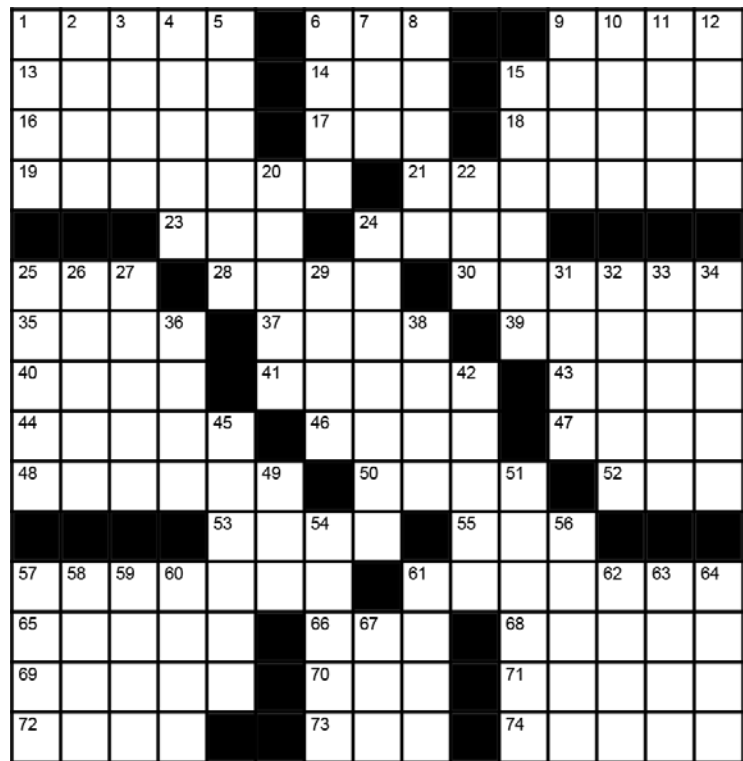
Comedian and hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. returns to the Granite State with a show at The Strand (20 Third St., Dover; 343-1899; thestranddover.com) on Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$30.

THE BEACH BOYS

The Beach Boys bring a ray of summer sunshine to the Casino Ballroom (169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach; 929-4100; casinoballroom.com) on Saturday, April 2, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$29 to \$69 plus fees.



THIS ONE GOES OUT TO THE ONE I LEFT PUZZLED



Across

- 1. The "C" in TLC
- 6. Lifehouse 'From Where You ___'
- 9. Red Line Chemistry '___ Luck'
- 13. 'Feelin' Alright' writer Dave
- 14. Canadian 'New Skin For The Old Ceremony' sing/songster Cohen (abbr)
- 15. Spoon has a better or this 'Feeling'
- 16. Song Simon and Garfunkel played during multiple finales?
- 17. It's bruisable, by critics
- 18. Alice In Chains hit '___ Away' (1,4)
- 19. Montgomery Gentry was '___ A Beer' after bad news
- 21. 'Today Is The Day' Christian artist Brewster
- 23. Sheryl Crow 'Everyday ___ Winding Road' (2,1)
- 24. Sing/songster Kate
- 25. "I knew it!" sound when band goes into your favorite jam
- 28. 'The White Album' Aussies (abbr)
- 30. Submit or do this with music contest entry (4,2)
- 35. Nick of Diamond Head
- 37. Kings Of ___
- 39. Russ Ballard 'I Can't Hear ___ More' (3,2)
- 40. Peter Gabriel comp 'Shaking The ___ 16 Golden Greats'
- 41. Star bed sheet material
- 43. Tour does this, after grosses
- 44. All Pigs Must Die 'God ___' (2,3)
- 46. Torres of Bon Jovi
- 47. The Moments 'Love On ___ -Way Street' (1,3)
- 48. Smashing Pumpkins '___ Rock'
- 50. Nine Inch Nails 'Into The ___'
- 52. Jay Farrar band ___ Volt
- 53. 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan' cover girl Rotolo
- 55. 'Highway 20 Ride' ___ Brown Band

- 57. 'Epic' ___ More (5,2)
- 61. All That Remains "This ___ my beliefs"
- 65. Brandy 'Who ___ 2 U' (2,3)
- 66. Brian Setzer 'This Cat's ___ Hot Tin Roof' (2,1)
- 68. REM 'The One ___' (1,4)
- 69. 'Highly Evolved' Aussie rockers
- 70. Kind of 'Man' in Oz, to America
- 71. 'Madman Across The Water' John
- 72. Allman Bros 'One Way Out' album '___ Peach' (3,1)

- 73. 'The Audience Is Listening' guitarist Steve
- 74. ___ In Sight: The Very Best Of Foreigner (2,3)

Down

- 1. Eddie Cochran '___ Everybody'
- 2. '___ You Ever Needed Someone So Bad' Def Leppard
- 3. Jane's Addiction "What a happy ending ___" (1,3)
- 4. Ozzfest Finnish rockers
- 5. You must do this, to have club let you play
- 6. AC/DC 'Shake ___' (1,3)
- 7. Korn bassist Arvizu, aka "Fieldy"
- 8. OMD '___ Gay'
- 9. Stores would sell a compact ___
- 10. Evanescence "Give ___ me your troubles"
- 11. What rocker gets backstage, besides booze
- 12. Jesus music trailblazer Haworth
- 15. 'Sunday Shining' Quaye
- 20. Joe Diffie 'Tougher Than ___'
- 22. Taxing Guns And Roses song?
- 24. '04 Perfect Circle album
- 25. Trans-Siberian Orchestra climb up the stairs to 'The Christmas ___'
- 26. Like scathing review
- 27. Toad The Wet Sprocket '___ Afraid' (3,2)
- 29. Yours might be in loge
- 31. Motley Crue song about Nikki's grandmother
- 32. '93 Frank Sinatra album of twosomes
- 33. Tool "Where there's one, they're bound to divide it, right ___" (2,3)
- 34. Genesis "You're ___ of mine" (2,3)
- 36. One may come out of Smokey Rob-

- inson's clown's eye
- 38. 'Chelsea Girl' singer/model
- 42. Misspelled classic Cum On Feel The
- 45. REM 'Green Grow The ___'
- 49. Pink Floyd 'Candy And A Currant ___'
- 51. 'O' sing/songster Rice
- 54. The name of the tour U2 did for 'Achtung Baby' (3,2)
- 56. Bowed string instrument of the violin family

- 57. '00 Powderfinger album 'Odyssey Number ___'
 - 58. Geoff Downes band
 - 59. Snow Patrol 'This ___ Everything You Are'
 - 60. 'Juliet (Keep That In Mind)' Gilmore
 - 61. Jessica Mauboy asked '___ Get A Moment?' (3,1)
 - 62. Songwriter scribble
 - 63. Kyp Malone band ___ The Radio (2,2)
 - 64. Sade 'Please ___ Me Someone To Love'
 - 67. Actress/video director Long
- © 2022 Todd Santos

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five land formations
- First three Greek letters
- Three countries starting with I
- Three citrus fruits
- Three five-letter words related to tennis

Last Week's Answers: WOLF HARE SEAL LYNX MOLE / NESMITH DOLENZ JONES TORK / DAISY TULIP LILAC / NAPLES MILAN ROME / BRITAIN

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KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

24x	1	2÷	
		10+	2÷
2÷			
	3-		3

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CHALLENGING

1-	24x	4-		1-	
			3÷	2÷	2÷
3	1-				
6+		2	2÷		10+
3÷	1-		4	1-	
	3	5-			

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RULES

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

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2÷	7+	3	24x
1	4	3	2
2	5+	3	1
4	1	2	3
5+	3	2	4
1	4	3	6

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“OK Computer” – each has an integral component

Across

- 1. When quadrupled, a Crash Test Dummies hit
- 4. “Dog Day Afternoon” chant
- 10. Crypto art initials
- 13. 2010 health law, for short
- 14. Umpire’s error
- 16. Gp. with auditors
- 17. Paste that can be used in breads and meat dishes
- 19. ___ au vin
- 20. “The Usual Gang of ___” (Mad Magazine group)
- 21. Screen that may loop until you start the movie
- 23. Heat, in Honduras

- 24. “Night” essayist Wiesel
- 26. It is, to Iglesias
- 27. Entity that manages composers’ intellectual property
- 30. Prepare a slingshot
- 31. River painted by van Gogh
- 32. It’s south of Leb.
- 35. 1998 Matthew Lillard film set in Utah
- 38. 6-pointers, briefly
- 39. Complete beginners, slangily
- 41. It may offer couples packages
- 42. Pressure-driven apparatuses
- 49. Last half of a ball game?
- 50. Alley group
- 51. “Fiddlesticks!”

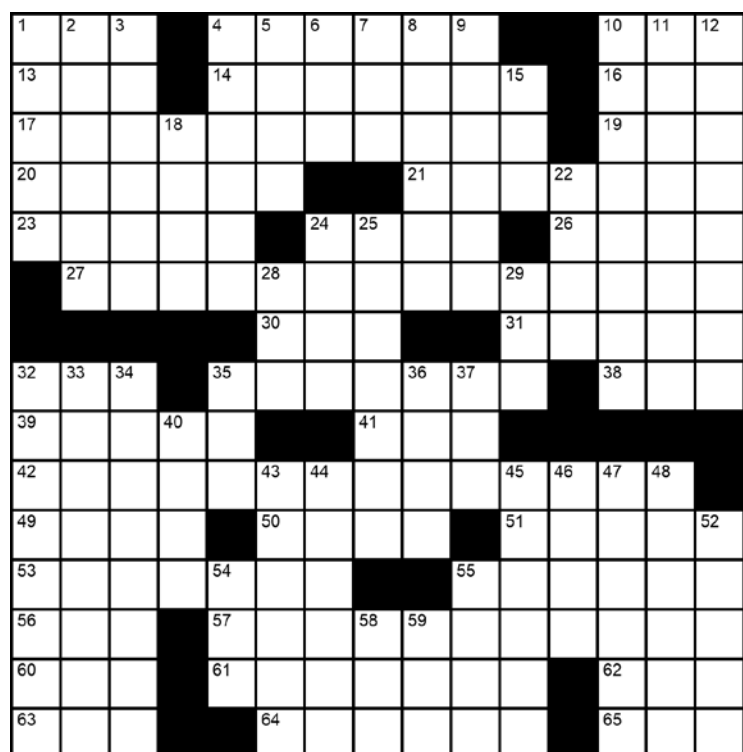
- 53. One of Paul Revere’s signals
- 55. Possible choice
- 56. “Addams Family” cousin
- 57. Nurikabe, Masyu, or sudoku
- 60. Advanced degree in math?
- 61. More racy, as humor
- 62. Snakelike fish
- 63. Garage opener?
- 64. Decorated again
- 65. Source of the skit “Word Crunch,” where players find inappropriate words in a word search

- 4. “Roll to Me” group Del ___
- 5. Eyelid twitches, e.g.
- 6. Cough syrup amt.
- 7. “ER” setting
- 8. “Bodak Yellow” rapper
- 9. Sussex secondary school exam
- 10. Compliment from a tennis opponent
- 11. User interface
- 12. Drafting tools
- 15. Was winning
- 18. “Happy Birthday” playwright Anita
- 22. Blend together
- 24. “Lawrence of Arabia,” for one
- 25. Groups indiscriminately
- 28. Hall-of-Famer Ripken
- 29. Tick off
- 32. Getting some air
- 33. Vegan coffee shop order

- 34. Nicholas Sparks’s “Nights in ___”
- 35. 9-digit no. issuer
- 36. Bars in supermarkets
- 37. Time out
- 40. Telly watcher
- 43. Commotion
- 44. Van ___ Mungo (‘30s-’40s baseball player with a novelty song named for him)
- 45. Tarnished
- 46. Chrissy of “This Is Us”
- 47. Game show giveaways
- 48. Taken dishonestly
- 52. Tackle box line
- 54. Links star Ernie
- 55. Receptive
- 58. “___ be an honor!”
- 59. 1955 merger with the AFL

Down

- 1. Specialty of the late Amazing Johnathan
- 2. Engineer for whom a type of paving is named
- 3. Henner of “Evening Shade” and “Taxi”



Jonesin’ answer from pg 40 of 3/24



NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 49.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Yoga Pant Nation*, by Laurie Gelman, born April 4, 1964.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) After hitting the gas station, the post office, Party City (Max's eleventh birthday is coming up!), and the dry cleaner, we stop by the deli to pick up sandwiches for my parents. Get moving, you have things to do!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) I'm on quite the high after class. I race home, shower up, and belt out 'Girl on Fire,' by Alicia Keys, as I'm getting dressed. Belt it out.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Thank God for Alison Lody, ... who actually tried to help me steer the conversation back to the subject at hand. Unfortunately, even she got sucked into the all-important discussion about what happened on The Bachelor. Stick to the subject.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) This morning's meeting was a colossal waste of time. ... I want to delegate! I want to say yes and no to ideas that are brought to me. Is that too much to ask? Possibly, but keep trying.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) It was an impressive spread, and we had it all set up in the gym by noon. Everything would have been fine if it hadn't started raining, forcing the petting zoo people to move inside very quickly. They obviously didn't know about the bounty of baked goods just sitting there like a smorgasbord for the animals. Make sure the petting zoo people know what's going on.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) I stretch back in my kitchen-counter-office chair and try for the umpteenth time to loosen up my joints. I was so excited to teach spin classes ... but I had no idea the toll it would take on me. Even the teacher needs to limber up.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) I'm doing my best to get this group motivated but getting the usual nothing in return — except from Carmen, who is smiling her encouragement and giving the odd 'Woo-hoo!' Woo-hoo!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) I play the songs I want (Rick Astley!), I say all the things that I observe (hey, Mary Willy, nice haircut!), and I talk about my life struggles. Talking it out with my class has become the best therapy I've ever had. Open up.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) When Vivs told me this story later, I couldn't help but wish I'd been there — not as the voice of reason, mind you, but because I happen to be really good at giving dirty looks. Try to be a voice of reason.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) These are my kind of people — middle-aged moms who want to work out after dropping their kids at school! Lots of people are your kind of people.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Hell must have frozen over, because Shirleen, after years of judging from the cheap seats, is now dipping her toe into the class mom swamp. Dip a toe.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) The three-day training, over the weekend, was challenging but totally doable. The cardio wasn't a problem, but I was surprised by the amount of written work we had. Don't leave homework till the last minute.

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 "Imagine" singer (6)	_____
2 "Daughters" singer (5)	_____
3 "Rocky Mountain High" singer (6)	_____
4 "All of Me" singer (6)	_____
5 "Proud Mary" singer (7)	_____
6 "Seminole Wind" singer (8)	_____
7 "Small Town" singer (10)	_____

NN	ER	AND	MAY	ER
DE	GE	FO	ER	ENC
LE	NV	RTY	ME	END
ON	LL	AMP	LEG	SON

Last Week's Answers: 1. SINCERE 2. COWARDLY 3. GRIEVING 4. DEAR 5. SPADES 6. MEMORIZED 7. BLASE

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APR 7 DERRY

Sudoku Answers from pg40 of 3/24

Puzzle A

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

Puzzle B

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

Puzzle C

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



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I'll have the porridge

Someone in Royton, Oldham, England, woke up on March 20 and felt like something was missing from their life. And maybe breakfast was particularly difficult that morning. The Manchester Evening News reported that at the Barclay Pizza & Prosecco restaurant, as workers cleaned up after Saturday night's festivities, they found a full set of dentures on the floor in the bar. Barclay owner Emma Whelan posted a photo of a plastic bag containing the false teeth on Facebook, hoping to locate the owner. "We get a lot of things left behind after a night in the Barclay ... but this is a new one," Whelan said. "It must have been a cracking night."

Oops

The Roller-McNutt Funeral Home in Little Rock, Arkansas, is facing a lawsuit on behalf of the family of Harold D. Lee of Pauline, South Carolina, who was hoping to be buried next to his parents at a Quitman, Arkansas, cemetery after his death on Thanksgiving Day 2019. Lee's body was transferred to the Roller-McNutt facility and arrangements were made for the casket and funeral, KNOE-TV reported, but according to the lawsuit, the funeral home alerted the family on Dec. 10, 2019, that they had "accidentally cremated the body." Lee was extremely religious and "desired not to be cremated, as he believed his body would be

raptured following the second coming," the lawsuit stated. The funeral home waived the cost of the funeral and returned \$5,000 after the mistake was made, the lawsuit noted.

Great art

In the London neighborhood of Richmond, an unusual property that's been dubbed the "Invisible House" is attracting attention — or flying under the radar — of passersby, MyLondon reported. The front of the home sits on a busy thoroughfare and is almost completely covered with one-way mirrored glass, which reflects a roundabout across the road and the busy sidewalk in front. The family, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the architect wanted the mirror to "make the house 'talk with its environment.' We really liked the idea and ran with it." The back of the house sits on a quiet lane and features traditional architecture.

And their little bird, too!

In a scene eerily reminiscent of "The Wizard of Oz," the Castellanos family of Arabi, Louisiana, took a wild ride on March 22 as a destructive tornado ripped through the area, ABC News reported. Dea Castellanos was sitting on a couch in her living room when the house began to spin, whipping her into a bedroom. Her daughter, who has muscular dystrophy, was in another bedroom. The one-story home was lifted

from its foundation and crashed down in the middle of the street, where neighbors called 911 and the girl was taken to the hospital. One of the Castellanos' pet birds stood among the rubble as they salvaged what they could; family members were "doing fine" after their ordeal.

Welcome to Hogwarts, Harry!

A U.K.-based startup called Invisibility Shield Co. has brought Harry Potter's most handy tool to reality, Oddity Central reported. The company's technology isn't quite as perfect as the fictional character's cloak, but it's close: "From the observer's perspective," the company says, "the background light is effectively smeared horizontally across the front face of the shield, over the area where the subject would ordinarily be seen." Of course, they add, the shield won't protect users from Dementors or Voldemort himself. They hope to start deliveries in December.

Bright ideas

• One exhibit at the March International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo attracted a lot of attention: Kawasaki's Bex, a prototype robot goat that can carry 220 pounds of cargo (or humans). The Bex is named after the ibex, a large wild goat of Eurasia and Africa that's famously sure-footed, Engadget reported. However, on flat surfaces, Bex moves along on wheels attached to its "knees," and on

rougher terrain, it walks at a slower pace.

• Need socks? Need exercise? Souki Socks, a small factory in Japan's Nara Prefecture, has you covered — or at least your toes. The company devised a contraption that combines a stationary bike with a sock-knitting machine and called it Charix. Before customers sit down, Oddity Central reported, they choose the size and colors for their socks. Riders pedal for about 10 minutes, and happy clients take the new pair home.

News that sounds like a joke

Around Corsham, Wiltshire, England, people, sheep — even a former police German shepherd — are being terrorized by two aggressive canines, Metro News reported. "There were two unpleasant Chihuahuas who attacked the German shepherd, so the size of a dog is no reflection on their aggressiveness," said councillor Ruth Hopkinson. One resident described the Chihuahuas as "bloody Mexican hooligans," and Hopkinson warned that the little dogs are causing havoc during a sensitive time of year: "If in a lambing field, please keep to the paths and your dog on a leash. When they're spooked, the ewe and lamb can become separated and (because they're not very bright creatures) they can't find each other, and it is leading to lamb deaths. The dogs may just be 'playing,' but that's not how the sheep see it."

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