

the Hippo

DECEMBER 8 - 14, 2022

**CHRISTMAS
MEALS P. 26**

**BEST CHRISTMAS
PAGEANT EVER P. 14**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

**GIFTS FOR MUSIC-LOVERS,
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ON THE COVER

GIFT GUIDE 2022 It's a season of gifts and giving.
Looking for gift ideas? Find suggestions for theater and
concert goers (page 12), kids (page 16), gardeners (page
18), foodies (page 22), wine-lovers (page 30) and music
fans (page 36). And we get some advice from a United
Way of Greater Nashua official (page 6) about how to
help community members in need.

ALSO ON THE COVER The Majestic Theatre presents
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever this weekend in Derry
(page 14). Find out where to go to have a festive holiday
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Michael Davidow. Courtesy photo.



Beverly Stoddart. Courtesy photo.



Tower of Toys. Courtesy photo.

Business info

The New Hampshire Secretary of State's Corporations Division has launched a new dashboard web page allowing the public to see data about New Hampshire businesses. According to a press release, the Division has expanded its online services for businesses over the last year, giving businesses the ability to file annual reports and obtain certificates of good standing. The dashboard, a new and improved Quickstart application, enables users to access information about the distribution of businesses across the state; review business filings; file annual reports; create new businesses and more. See it at quickstart.sos.nh.gov.

M for moose

The letter "M" has been added to the numbers and letters available for the five-digit combinations used for New Hampshire's popular Conservation License Plate, more commonly known as the "Moose Plate." According to a press release, the letter was added to keep up with the demand for the plates, which previously only allowed the letters "C," "H" and "P." Each letter represents a

word: "C" for conservation, "H" for heritage, "P" for preservation and "M" for moose. Funds raised from the Moose Plates support a variety of conservation, heritage and preservation programs in New Hampshire. The program has raised more than \$30 million since its inception in December 2000. Moose Plates can be purchased at city and town clerks' offices at the time of vehicle registration. The cost is \$30 a year, plus a one-time \$8 purchase fee. Vanity Moose Plates are also available for an additional charge. Visit mooseplate.com.

Donation for kids

An anonymous donor has pledged to donate \$50,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire, a nonprofit that provides statewide one-to-one youth mentoring services, if its Thankful Giving Campaign raises \$50,000 in donations by Dec. 31. According to a press release, the annual online fundraiser is the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, typically raising more than \$100,000. On average, it costs \$1,800 to \$2,400 to create and support each mentoring match per year. "With the continued support of our generous donors, we are able to keep

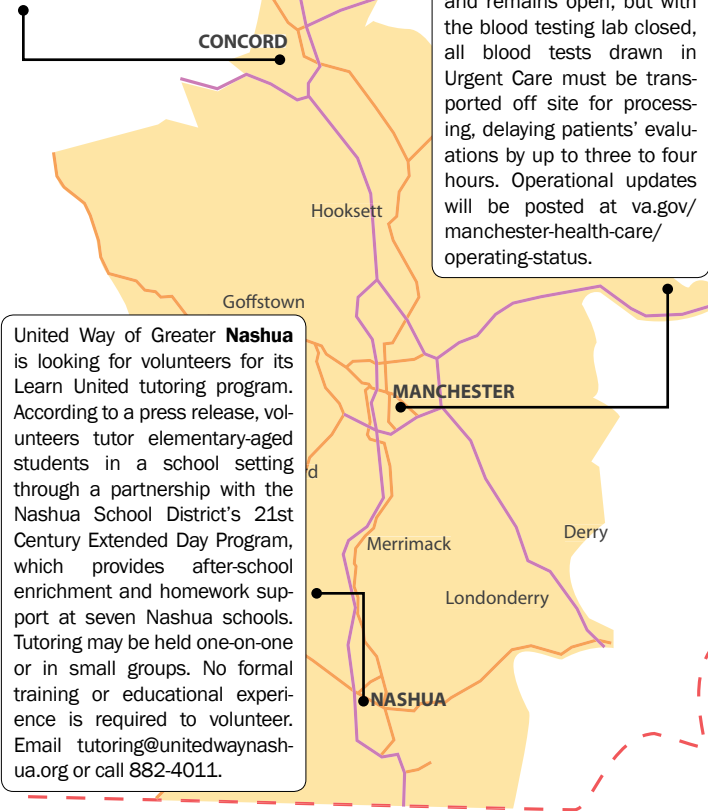
our programming completely free of cost to any child in need of a safe and trusted adult mentor in their life," CEO Stacy Kramer said in the release. "Every child deserves someone in their corner, and you can have a direct impact on making that happen." To contribute to the campaign, visit give.bbbsnh.org/TGC2022.

Toys

The 11th annual Tower of Toys initiative is accepting donations of unwrapped holiday gifts for children of families in need now through Thursday, Dec. 15. According to a press release, acceptable items include toys, sports equipment, art supplies, cosmetics, movie certificates and gift cards. Donations can be dropped off at the Beacon Building Atrium, 814 Elm St. in Manchester, or ordered online and shipped to Red Arrow Diner Corporate Offices, 814 Elm St., Suite 102, Manchester, 03101. Monetary donations can be made online at facebook.com/toweroftoysnh and will be used to purchase additional gifts to ensure that there are gifts for children of all age groups. The donations will be distributed to families in need by 10 local nonprofit organizations that work

New Hampshire students Morgan Casey of Bishop Brady High School in **Concord** and Madeline Waters of Keene High School have been selected to participate in the 61st annual U.S. Senate Youth Program. According to a press release, a panel of judges chose Casey and Waters from a pool of students throughout the state nominated by their principals. Both students will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and will represent New Hampshire at a program in Washington, D.C., in March that focuses on public service, leadership and education.

The **Manchester** Veterans Affairs Medical Center's main building has been partially closed due to a pipe leak that occurred on Saturday, Nov. 26, resulting in water damage. According to a press release, the water damage has forced the closure of the second, third and fourth floors until further notice. The Urgent Care department was not affected and remains open, but with the blood testing lab closed, all blood tests drawn in Urgent Care must be transported off site for processing, delaying patients' evaluations by up to three to four hours. Operational updates will be posted at va.gov/manchester-health-care/operating-status.



with children and families. A celebratory holiday reception, open to the public, will be held at the Beacon Building on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 10 p.m., and will feature refreshments and live music. Visit toweroftoys.org.

Meet the author

InDepthNH.org presents a new Zoom series, "The First Line," featuring New Hampshire

writers in conversation with columnist Beverly Stoddart, starting with Michael Davidow on Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. Davidow - a novelist, criminal defense attorney and fellow InDepthNH.org columnist - will discuss his new book *Chanukah Land*. "The First Line" Zoom programs are free and open to the public. Search "Meet Awesome NH Author Michael Davidow" on eventbrite.com to register.

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Toys, coats and food

What people need most now — and how to help

Sara Ceaser, Director of Volunteer and Community Engagement for United Way of Greater Nashua.

Q: *What have you noticed about the community's needs right now and over the last year?*

More people have been contacting us needing assistance this year, and the number of families that we're serving has definitely increased. ... Winter coats are a consistent need, but we have definitely had more people asking about coats than in previous years. ... I feel like the donations we've been receiving at the food drives have been a little slimmer this year, which could be because of the cost of groceries.

What items can people give?

Right now, during the winter season, there's a need for **coats and boots and hats and gloves**. People can donate those to the **Salvation Army**, because a lot of organizations direct their clients to the Salvation Army to pick up warm clothing if they need. Those can be new, or used items are always welcome if they're still in good condition.

Food is always needed. United Way of Greater Nashua does weekly food drives at various stores around the greater Nashua area. We usually announce where those will be on our Facebook page. Food can be donated directly at our **food drives, at our local Hannaford stores** or to food pantries around the area, like the **Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Corpus Christi Food Pantry, the Tolles Street Mission, the Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission, SHARE Outreach**, and there are various **food pantries at churches**, as well. They're mostly looking for non-perishable items, like pasta, rice, pasta sauce, canned meats, canned beans, that



Sara Ceaser. Courtesy photo.

type of thing.

The **Santa Fund** collects **gifts for children, teenagers and children**. They're collecting new items — toys and gifts that people purchase — which are donated to organizations like The Front Door Agency, the Salvation Army and SHARE Outreach, and those organizations distribute the holiday gifts to children. A lot of things are donated for younger kids, but

not a lot of things that are appropriate for older kids, so when people are making donations of physical items, they should definitely keep the older kids in mind. **Gifts cards** are excellent for teens, as well. Those items can be dropped off at the United Way of Greater Nashua, and there's also a drop-off location beside Trader Joe's in Nashua on the Daniel Webster Highway.

We're always collecting **school supplies** donations for teachers to use in their classrooms. That's a project we've been doing quite a bit over the past couple of years, and we have a school supplies pantry in our lower level that teachers and other educators can access. With it being the middle of the year, supplies are running a little bit low right now, so we would love some donations.

If people have leftover **women's hygiene products**, we do accept those, as well. We donate those to schools, and we have a women's hygiene supply pantry at **Girls Inc.** that the public can access.

There's also been a need for **bus passes**; the **Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter** collects donations of those.

Any local organization that's close to your heart would love a donation of physical items, but if you're not sure what they need, you

TOYS CONTINUED ON PG 8 ▶

Area food pantries

- **Corpus Christi Food Pantry**
3 Crown St., Nashua, 882-6372, corpuschristi-foodpantry.org
- **Families in Transition Food Pantry**
176 Lake Ave., Manchester, 641-9441, fitnh.org/services/food-programs
- **Goffstown Network Food Pantry**
7 N. Mast Road, Goffstown, 497-3433, goffstown-network.org
- **Hooksett Community Food Pantry**
35 Main St., Hooksett, 485-7222, hooksettkiwanis.org
- **Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter**
2 Quincy St., Nashua, 889-7770, nshks.org
- **Sacred Heart Food Pantry**
247 S. Main St., Manchester, 668-4004, sacred-heartchurch-nh.com
- **SHARE Outreach**
1 Columbus Ave., Milford, 673-9898, sharenh.org
- **Shepherd's Pantry**
1 Church St., Windham, 432-2150, shepherdspantry.net
- **Southern NH Rescue Mission**
40 Chestnut St., Nashua, 889-3421, hope4nashua.org
- **Tolles St. Mission Food Pantry**
52 Whitney St., Nashua, 880-4984, thetollesstreet-mission.org
- **The Upper Room Food Pantry**
36 Tsienneto Road, Derry, 437-8477, urteachers.org
- **NH Food Bank** distributes food to more than 400 partner agencies across the state. Visit nhfoodbank.org/find-food/food-map to find more local organizations accepting food donations.

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◀ TOYS CONTINUED FROM PG 6
should call to find out if there's something specific that they need.

What can monetary gifts be used for?

For this time of year, I would definitely recommend the **Santa Fund**. They're accepting cash donations to use to purchase other gifts [in addition to] the physical gifts that are donated.

United Way also has a lot of different projects that we can accept donations for. ... One of our projects is a **pop-up pantry** where we provide fresh fruits and vegetables to people around the community in a different location each day.

Food pantries always accept cash donations to buy food and sometimes other items, like personal hygiene items, and for operational costs. Some of these places also run **shelters** and provide other services to their clients, like assisting them with finding jobs and finding other resources in the community to help them with housing and that type of thing, so cash donations could help with that, as well.

Where are volunteers needed most?

Winter is a great time to start volunteering and continue volunteering. A lot of our **food pantries** are looking for volunteers, and United Way of Greater Nashua is looking for volunteers for our food drives. We're specifically holding **food drives** the day before Christmas and the day before New Year's,



United Way of Greater Nashua Food Drive. Courtesy photo.

and we would love to have some volunteers for those. They would basically be sitting at a table outside a store and encouraging shoppers to purchase extra items and passing out fliers to shoppers with suggested items.

We're also looking for volunteer **tutors** to do elementary-age tutoring.

How can people find the right volunteering opportunity?

If people are interested in volunteering and don't know where to volunteer, they should think about if they have specific skills, and if they don't see a call for that specific skill, they should ask local nonprofits. Having a conversation and telling them what your skills and interests are is really the best way to find your place as a volunteer.

— Angie Sykeny



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Dynasty is over



I never listen to talk radio or even read the papers much after a Patriots loss. Especially a bad one like last Thursday to Buffalo. That's because for the most part all you get is blame, finger-pointing and vitriol rather than insight and perspective on what happened.

Not that there weren't things that were bad, or even exasperating, like wasted timeouts and the usual for 2022 high number of penalties at the worst time.

Most watchers these days are in denial, judging the Patriots with expectations based on what they *have been* for the last 20 years, rather than a sober evaluation of what they are now, an ordinary team with a lot of holes that hasn't been as good as their former patsy Buffalo for three years now.

Given how long their former relationship lasted, it is understandably hard to compute even with the evidence piling up, making much of Patriot Nation and the media unwilling or unable to go against muscle memory to face the reality that Brady and company ain't walking through that door to save the day.

Said another way: The dynasty is over. Done.

It's not an unusual reaction when that has happened, as fans and the media are the last to know. Or maybe the last to give up/in.

And it's not confined to football. Boston Globe columnist **Dan Shaughnessy** still refers to the Celtics as the NBA's greatest franchise when they have won just one title since 1986. That, for the mathematically challenged, is 36 freaking years ago. They certainly have a glorious history, but their rivals in L.A. have won that title eight times in the same period. Ditto with the Canadiens in Montreal, who haven't won the Cup since 1993, or much of anything else for that matter since **Patrick Roy** left the building in a snit with the brass two years later.

Bringing it back to the NFL, there have been four dynasties since I have been following the NFL. Which I define as lasting for 15 years or more amid turnover of the original group of players to more good players that eventually formed a completely different team as the winning continued.

That takes out historically superior teams like the 1960s Packers and '70s Steelers because both faded as their throng of Hall of Fame players declined or retired as they aged with no one near good enough to step in for them to keep it going.

And sorry, '90s Cowboys, while you were a dominant team, winning three times in four years is not nearly long enough to qualify. Ditto for one-year wonders like the 1986 Bears and 2000 Ravens.

The final qualification is that being in the mix to contend for a Super Bowl title year in and year out is more important than actually winning a huge number of SBs. Which is

a legit point of debate as the aforementioned Packers and Steelers won five and four respectively during their impressive reigns but missed the cut because their excellence didn't last long enough and a dynasty by definition is about length of time.

So that leaves the '60s, '70s and '80s Oakland/L.A. Raiders and Dallas Cowboys, the '80s/'90s **Bill Walsh** 49ers and the Patriots from 2001 to 2019. Notice I said the Patriots dynasty ended in 2019, to drive home the point that dynasties end long before most realize it.

Each ended for different reasons. Oakland ended as maverick owner **Al Davis** lost his fastball. That was somewhat the case for the **Tom Landry**-led Cowboys, but it probably had more to do with losing their edge in finding talent as the rest of the league copied their sophisticated use of newfangled computers and method of drafting players for athletic skills — speed, quickness, size — over the position they played. Their mantra was “get me the best athletes and we'll find a position for them.” Concepts now identified by all at the pre-draft combine.

The advent of the salary cap croaked the 49ers, because it leveled the playing field for a team always willing to outspend others for talent or to keep their own.

Which brings us back to the Patriots. I know a lot of people bring it back to the “Was it Bill or Tom?” debate. But while losing **Tom Brady** certainly was a blow, it started before that. The one who knew it first was probably Brady because he pouted all throughout 2019 that he had terrible receivers and the offense was a disaster for a lot of the year. Along with other factors, this led him to take his talents to Tampa Bay, who, oh by the way, had two 1,000-yard receivers, so voila, he was TB-12 again.

As for the rest of us. While the dual drubbings by Buffalo at the end of 2021 made it clear how big the gap was between the two teams, it didn't kill the notion that they could close it.

That's come this year via a number of signs like their non-effort vs. Chicago on MNF, (used to be) uncharacteristic penalties piling up and the fact the team no longer has swagger or conveys the feeling they can get out of any jam.

The final piece for me is *knowing* they were gonna get thumped again on Thursday.

The culprit has been horrible drafting dating back to the early teens along with swinging and missing on almost everyone outside of **Matthew Judon** and **Jalen Mills** in their 2021 free agent spending spree.

Then there's also that in not seeing how important game-breaking speed receivers have come to be in the 2022 NFL, there could be a creeping early sign it may be passing **Bill Belichick** by.

Hopefully, that feeling is wrong. But if it isn't, the dynasty is dead and buried.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippo-press.com.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Golden Girls

The Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains honored dozens of Girl Scouts at the Young Women of Distinction ceremonies in Bedford on Nov. 16. According to a press release, the Gold Award was presented to Girl Scouts in grades 9 through



From left: Anya Nicoll, Jocelyne Lampron, Rosie McQuilkin, Sage Herr and Nolette Perry. Photo courtesy of GSGWM.

12 who have spent at least 80 hours in service to their communities, demonstrating leadership in developing solutions to challenges and creating lasting positive changes. Additionally, Girl Scout Cadettes in grades 6 through 8 who have given at least 50 hours of service were recognized with the Silver Award, and Girl Scout Juniors in grades 4 and 5 who have given at least 20 hours in service received the Bronze Award. "Today's celebration is a testament to the dedication and hard work necessary to accomplish the highest achievements in Girl Scouting," Patricia K. Mellor, CEO of the council, said in the release.

QOL score: +1

Comment: Gold Award recipients participated in a variety of initiatives, including a geocaching project to promote mental health and wellness; providing home-cooked meals to local food pantries; publishing a collection of interviews with inspiring women; and amending state legislation to facilitate environmentally conscious burials without the need for embalming.

New books!

Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School in Nashua and the Nashua Public Library unveiled dozens of new books courtesy of the Children's Literacy Foundation during Library Day on Tuesday, Nov. 29. According to a press release, the school received CLiF's "Year of the Book" grant, which provided the school's library and Nashua Public Library with \$1,000 each to purchase new books for their collections. The grant also funds author visits and special programs throughout the school year, plus 10 free books for each student. "Today's Library Event is a chance for our students to see 55 to 60 exciting new books that we have been able to purchase for our library and also have a chance to see the Nashua Public Library's new books and to learn more about NPL's many programs for the children of Nashua," school principal Cherrie Fulton said according to the release.



From left: Jaxon Rivest, Amberlee MacLean, Anthony Doby, Sofia Ely, Dr. Crisp librarian Danno Hynes, Jeremy Garcia and NPL children's librarian Kris Murphy. Courtesy photo.

QOL score: +1

Comment: CLiF, a nonprofit based in Vermont, has been around since 1998, working to inspire a love of reading and writing among children in low-income, at-risk and rural environments.

Cough, cough, sneeze

Your suspicions based on sick coworkers, kids home from school and that cough you can't shake are correct: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that influenza cases in New Hampshire are the highest they've been in a decade for this time of year, according to a WMUR report from Dec. 5. Flu cases dropped significantly in the 2020-2021 season as a byproduct of Covid mitigation measures. The number of cases increased in the 2021-2022 season, but was still significantly lower than in a typical season pre-Covid. Now, the health care system contends with an immune-sensitive population that is more susceptible to the flu than in years past, in addition to a post-Thanksgiving spike in Covid cases and cases of respiratory syncytial virus, which have been nationally on the rise.

QOL score: -2

Comment: Health officials urge people to stay up to date on their Covid and influenza vaccinations. No vaccine is available for the prevention of RSV.

QOL score: 87

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 87

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THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 8 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 10

It's a weekend of cookie tours! The **Currier & Ives Cookie Tour** will return for its 17th year today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than a dozen businesses in and around the Monadnock region participate, providing visitors with homemade treats, refreshments and recipes to take with them. Tickets cost \$20 per person (cash only) and are available now at The Inn at East Hill Farm (460 Monadnock St., Troy), New England Everyday Goods (16 Colls Farm Road, Jaffrey) and the Woodbound Inn (247 Woodbound



Road, Rindge). Visit currierandivescookie.com.

Up north, the **Inn to Inn Holiday Cookie and Candy Tour** returns for its 25th year today and tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 11, with self-guided tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Several inns in various White Mountain region towns provide cookies and candy to taste, as well as holiday recipe and decorating tips. Those not wishing to reserve an overnight package at an inn can purchase tickets for \$35 per person by visiting cookie.com.

See countryinnsinthewhitemountains.com.

ou Field House at Southern New Hampshire University (2500 River Road in Manchester) and admission is free. See snhupenmen.com.

Friday, Dec. 9

Jimmy Cash & Friends will

bring the laughs to the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) tonight at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 each. Find more comedy shows this weekend in the Comedy This Week listings on page 36.

Friday, Dec. 9

Catch musician **Caylin Costello** at Millyard Brewery (25 E. Otterson in Nashua) tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Find more live music at area restaurants, breweries and other locales in the Music This Week listing, which starts on page 38.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Take a break with some art. Today is **free admission second Saturday** at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org); admission is free to New Hampshire residents with ID. Come back tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 11, for **"ARTalk with JooYoung Choi,"** whose works are a part of "State of Art 2020: Locate" the exhibit on

display now through February. The talk starts at 2 p.m. and admission costs \$15 (which includes admission to the museum).

Saturday, Dec. 10

The **Dave Matthews Tribute Band** will bring its Dave Matthews experience to the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusic.com) tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35. Find more ticketed concerts in the listings on page 42.

Sunday, Dec. 11

The **Capital Jazz Orchestra** will present its **Holiday Pops** show today at 4 p.m.

Save the Date! Saturday, Dec. 31

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St. in Manchester; 622-9113) will host a **New Year's Eve Dance**, with doors opening at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$60 per person (children 12 and under get in free). The evening will feature music by the Kosta Taslis Band, Champagne, dinner, dancing and a cash bar, according to a press release.



Friday, Dec. 9

Catch **SNHU Penmen basketball** this weekend. The women's team takes on Post University tonight at 5:30 p.m. The men take on Post tomorrow at 2 p.m. Both games take place at Stan Spir-

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139036

An artistic present

Give the experience of a live performance this year

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippypress.com

Theaters, orchestras and cinemas are offering gift cards and season memberships for live performances.

"I think when you come to a show the overall experience is elevated," said Shannon Sullivan, the development director at the **Palace and Rex Theatres in Manchester**. "It's a chance to get out and come be part of the community. We love getting people over here to the Palace and the Rex to experience it firsthand."

Sullivan said that the Palace is in the swing of its 2022-2023 season now, with showings of *A Christmas Carol* throughout December, to be followed by the *Piano Men* tribute show in January and Broadway classic *Rent* coming later in the year.

The Rex will continue having live music performances and comedy shows every Friday evening, as well as tribute bands and other entertainment, like magicians and silent films. Both venues will have local and national musicians playing throughout the year.

Sullivan recommended that people purchase gift certificates or memberships to the theater. She added that tickets could be bought as presents, but they wouldn't be exchangeable for other days due to all ticket sales being final at checkout. Memberships for the Palace and Rex start at \$100 and gift cards could be for any price.

According to Sullivan, the base level of membership includes "two tickets, access to private members club at the palace ... various discounts ... acknowledgement in the playbill, and members are invited to receptions and dress rehearsals as a perk."

At **Tupelo Music Hall** in Derry, owner Scott Hayward said that it's incredibly important to him to give people a fantastic experience. Growing up, Hayward said, his favorite presents were gift cards to movie

theaters.

"I love getting experience for that," Hayward said. "You want to do something and now you can without paying for it."

The Tupelo has season memberships for \$250 and also offers gift cards people can purchase. As at the Palace and the Rex, ticket sales are final, and Hayward advises against purchasing tickets over the gift cards. He said the average price for one ticket at Tupelo is \$42.

There's a whole series of comedians, musicians and other performers coming up at Tupelo, Hayward said. He is most excited about *Crash Test Dummies*, an alternative and folk rock band from Winnipeg, Manitoba. They'll be playing on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. The ticket price wasn't listed on the website at the time of printing.

When it comes to a choice with gifting, Hayward said that there's nothing like live entertainment.

"You can give a physical gift but when you give them tickets or venue gift cards it's giving an experience," Hayward said. "You get to give them a full night out."

Here are some organizations in the Granite State that are offering gift certificates or memberships:

- **Capitol Center for the Arts** (44 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com, 225-1111) Memberships are available starting at \$120 and include exclusive access to the best seats in the house at the Chubb Theatre, members-only ticket insurance exchange policy, a 24-hour presale window, concession quick-lane pass, access to Listener Lab programming club, and free access to online content.

- **Community Players of Concord** (435 Josiah Bartlett Road, Concord, communityplayersofconcord.org, 344-4747) Season tickets are still available at the time of printing, costing \$16 per ticket. Order by calling or by emailing nhdm40@comcast.net.

- **Chunky's** (707 Huse Road, Manches-



A Christmas Carol at the Palace Theatre. Courtesy photo.

ter, 206-3888; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499; chunkys.com) The movie theater offers physical and printable gift cards ranging from \$10 to \$100 and an anytime movie pass for \$8. There are also gift boxes for \$22 that include a \$10 gift card, one prepaid admission and one prepaid popcorn coupon. Chunky's also offers gift baskets for one, two or a family of four priced at \$25.50, \$43 and \$84 respectively.

- **Flying Monkey** (39 S. Main St., Plymouth, flyingmonkeynh.com, 536-255) In addition to gift cards starting at \$25, Flying Monkey also offers a "Prime-Mate" membership package for \$250 that includes 48-hour advance notice on new shows, a \$100 gift card, a copy of the "Rockin' the Flying Monkey" photo book, merchandise, a pair of tickets to the annual anniversary bash, and special membership offers and discounts.

- **Hatbox Theatre** (270 Loudon Road, Concord, hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) The theater has tickets for sale for the 2022-2023

season; tickets for adults cost \$22 to \$25 while tickets for students, seniors and members cost \$19 to \$22. Memberships are still available, and prices start at \$40 a year.

- **Nashua Chamber Orchestra** (505 Amherst St., Nashua, nco-music.org, 978-226-8575) Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors ages 65 and older, military and college students, free for students under 18. A season pass costs \$50 for adults, \$35 for seniors, military and college students.

- **O'neil Cinemas** (24 Calef Hwy., Epping, oneilcinemas.com, 679-3529) The movie theater offers gift cards from \$5 to \$100. Gift cards can be purchased online or in the cinema.

- **Palace and Rex Theatres** (80 Hanover St. in Manchester for the Palace Theatre and its box office, palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) Memberships start at \$100. Gift certificate pricing starts at \$25.

- **Red River Theatres** (11 S. Main St., Concord, redrivertheatres.org, 224.4600) Gift cards can be purchased online or at the theater for \$10 or more. The theater also has package deals that include two movie passes for Red River Theatres and a \$25 gift card to a participating restaurant, and also a year-long membership that starts at \$65.

- **Symphony New Hampshire** (6 Church St., Nashua, symphonynh.org, 595-9156) Memberships are not currently available at the time of printing, according to the website. Ticket prices start at \$20 per show.

- **Tupelo Music Hall** (10 A St. in Derry, tupelomusicall.com, 437-5100) Memberships start at \$250 and gift cards can be purchased for any amount. 🎉

MADE BY YOU



Twiggs Gallery (254 King St. in Boscawen; twigsgallery.org, 975-0015) is holding a free **make & take holiday ornament craft** this Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Mixed media artist Shela Cunningham will have the materials to help make and embellish an ornament, according to a press release, which said the activity is family-friendly.

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THE ROUNDUP

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

• The next generation of actors:

The Palace Youth Theatre (Palace Youth Theatre at Forever Emma Studios, 516 Pine St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org/pyt) has a lineup of classes this winter and for 2023 vacation camps. Classes that run in January and February include stage makeup (for grades 5 to 12), teen improv (grades 10 to 12), improv and acting games (grades 2 to 5, and grades 6 to 9) and mini-camp: musical edition (grades 2 to 6). The winter vacation camp (Feb. 27 through March 3) will perform *Sleeping Beauty* and the spring vacation camp (April 24 through April 28) will perform *Pinocchio*. Registration is open now.



Holly Jolly Craft Fair. Courtesy photo.

• Not a fragment of underdone potato:

Ebenzer Scrooge continues to be haunted by three ghosts at the **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) this weekend, with shows of *A Christmas Carol* Thursday, Dec. 8, through Sunday, Dec. 11 (7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday as well as 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; the show runs through Friday, Dec. 23).

The **Hatbox Theatre** (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com) also continues its *Dickens' A Christmas Carol* this weekend with shows Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. The production runs through Sunday, Dec. 18.

Other productions offering up the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come this weekend include the **New Hampshire Theatre Project**, which presents a one-woman theatrical performance of *A Christmas Carol* by Jennifer Munro at the West End Studio Theatre (959 Islington St. in Portsmouth; nhtheatreproject.org), with showtimes on Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$26 for students, seniors and veterans, with a livestream option also available for \$20. The **Rochester Opera House** (31 Wakefield St., Rochester; rochesteroperahouse.com) presents *A Christmas Carol* from Dec. 9 through Dec. 17, with showtimes on Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m. Tickets range from \$22 to 28. The **Garrison Players** present *Inspecting Carol*, a riff on *A Christmas Carol* that features that play within a play about a theater company seeking grant funds, at the Garrison Players Arts Center (449 Roberts Road in Rollinsford; garrisonplayers.org) Dec. 9 through Dec. 18, with showtimes on Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for students and \$20 for adults.

• **A joyful noise:** The **Souhegan Valley Chorus** (souheganvalleychorus.org) performs its

holiday concert, "Sharing Christmas Joy," on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church (10 Union St., Milford). Tickets cost \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors and are free for children ages 12 and under.

The **Manchester Choral Society and Orchestra** presents its holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at Ste. Marie Parish (378 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester), and on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. at Manchester High School Central (535 Beech St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$25 for seniors and are free for children. Visit mcsnh.org.

The **New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus** wraps up its holiday concert series, "Suddenly Silver Bells," with shows Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at The Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey) and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. at The Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester). Tickets cost \$20 for adults; admission is free for children ages 12 and under. See nhgmc.com.

The **Granite Statesmen** will perform at Pinkerton Academy's Stockbridge Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for kids.

The **Canterbury Singers** will sing holiday Shaker songs at the Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road in Canterbury; shakers.org) on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 5 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

• **The pops:** The **Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra** performs its Holiday Pops concert at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester; snhuarena.com) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$55.

Symphony NH performs its Holiday Pops concerts on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St. in Nashua), and on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord). Tickets are free for youth under age 12 and start at \$10 for students, \$18 for seniors age 65 and up and \$20 for adults. Visit symphonynh.org

Craft & art fairs

More fairs and art shows offer shoppotunities this weekend. Know of any coming up? Let me know at adiaz@hippypress.com.

• **Main Street Art** (75 Main St. in Newfields; mainstreetart.org) will hold a reception for their annual "Holiday Small Works Show" on Thursday, Dec. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. Additional gallery days are Wednesdays, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21, from noon to 3 p.m.

• The **Great Holiday Shopping Extravaganza** is being hosted by The Great New England Craft and Artisan Shows at the Hampshire Dome (34 Emerson Road in Milford) on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit gncraftartisanshows.com.

• **Bishop Brady High School** (25 Columbus Ave. in Concord; bishopbrady.edu) will hold its Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• The **Holly Jolly Craft Fair** will bring more

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ROUNDUP CONTINUED ON PG 15 ▶



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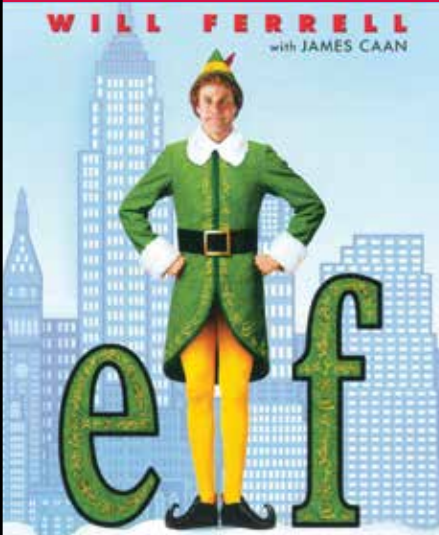
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ARTS

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Two local productions bring holiday classics to the stage



From *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*: Jonathan Kaplan as “Bob,” Suzy Denu as “Grace” and Gavin Abbott as “Charlie.” Photo by Matthew Morin.



From *A Charlie Brown Christmas*: Will Lippman (left) as “Charlie Brown” and Ava Durden as “Sally Brown.” Courtesy photo.

By Mya Blanchard
listings@hippypress.com

Two Christmas classics will be brought to the stage this holiday season with the Majestic Theatre’s production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and Peacock Players’ *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

The production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* will run at the Derry Opera House from Friday, Dec. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 11, while *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is happening the following weekend at the Janice Streeter Theatre in Nashua from Friday, Dec. 16, through Sunday, Dec. 18.

Originally a book published in the 1970s by Barbara Robinson, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* puts a musical spin on a classic story.

“[The story] centers around the Bradley family, who is ... a typical suburban churchgoing family ... getting ready for the Christmas season. ... The mother, Grace Bradley, ends up in charge of directing the church’s annual Christmas pageant,” said Katie Gifford, the director of the show. “The town bully children, [the Herdmans] ... show up at church [and] demand to be a part of the Christmas pageant.”

This is something that Helen Armstrong, the usual director of the pageant, is very unhappy with.

“She’s quite the control freak. ... She’s

trying to control the whole show [from her hospital bed],” said Bethany Layne, who plays the part of Helen.

By the end of the play, Helen and the rest of the characters eventually come around to the Herdman children.

“The Herdmans put their own take on the classic Christmas story, which ends up being even more endearing than the traditional Christmas story,” Gifford said. “They’re the ones who end up teaching the town the true meaning of Christmas. It’s just a really heartwarming story.”

Peacock Players will bring Charles Schulz’s 1965 classic Christmas special to life with their production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

“If anybody’s ever seen the holiday special, it’s basically just like that,” said Kendall Toupin, who plays the role of Snoopy. “At Peacock Players we are adding on the actual Christmas pageant [scene]. [Snoopy] gets to be all the animals in the Christmas play and that’s very exciting for him.”

Being a nostalgic classic that is sentimental to many, this is a show that is sure to spread holiday cheer and get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

“Audiences will love this show because it is just so wholesome,” Elle Millar, the show’s director, said in an email. “It has a lovely sense of nostalgia and warmth that is so fun for this season.”

Holiday classics on stage

The Majestic Theatre presents *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

When: Friday, Dec. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 11; showtimes are at 7 p.m. on Friday; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday

Where: Derry Opera House, 29 W. Broadway, Derry

Cost: Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors 65 and older and \$12 for children 17 and under

More info: Visit majestictheatre.net to purchase tickets or call the box office at 669-7469. Tick-

ets can also be purchased at the door prior to the performances.

Peacock Players presents *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

When: Friday, Dec. 16, through Sunday, Dec. 18
Where: 14 Court St., Nashua

Cost: Tickets range from \$12 to \$18, plus additional fees

More info: visit peacockplayers.org to purchase tickets.

ARTS

◀ ROUNDUP CONTINUED FROM PG 13

than 75 artisans to the DoubleTree Hilton (2 Somerset Plaza in Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. See joycescraftshows.com.

• The **Canterbury Community Farmers Market Association** (canterburyfarmersmarket.com) will hold a market with food, fine arts and more on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. inside the gymnasium of Canterbury Elementary School (15 Baptist Road).

• The Holiday Food & Arts Market focus this Saturday, Dec. 10, at the YMCA Allard Center of Goffstown (116 Goffstown Back Road) is “**Holiday Hodge Podge**” with assorted festive crafts, according to a post on the YMCA’s Facebook page. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• The **New Hampshire Audubon’s Holiday Craft Fair** will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NH Audubon McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Con-

cord; haudubon.org). The fair will feature local handmade crafts and other products and the food truck The Spot To Go, which serves Puerto Rican street food.

• The annual **Hudson Holiday Fair** will take place at Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School (33 School St. in Hudson) on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 to 4 p.m. and feature pictures with Santa and the Grinch as well as crafters and vendors, according to an event Facebook post.

• The **Wrong Brain Holiday Bazaar** (facebook.com/wrongbrain) will take place Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Millspace (55 Main St. in Newmarket) featuring artwork and artisan crafted items: “We aim to bring the strange, unconventional, underground, and alternative to the Seacoast, serving the fledgling and under-represented artists from our area and beyond,” according to the group’s Facebook page. Admission costs \$1 and masks are required. 🍷

Art

Exhibits

• **SLEIGHBELL STUDIO** Twiggs Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen; twigsgallery.wordpress.com) is hosting its annual holiday show through Saturday, Dec. 17. The show will have crafts and artworks for sale throughout the day at the Spriggs Shoppe, inside the gallery. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and

Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twigsgallery.wordpress.com.

• “**SALON 2022**” is on display now at Kimball Jenkins (266 Main St. in Concord; kimballjenkins.com, 225-3932). The exhibit features small works in all media and runs through Saturday, Dec. 17. The gallery is open Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• “**WINTER 2022 MEMBERS**

ART SHOW” at the Bates Building (846 Main St. in Contoocook) for Two Villages Art Society. The show features works of more than 30 artist members including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, prints, photos, jewelry, woodworking, glasswork, felted animals, wearable art and more, according to a press release. The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. and the show runs through Saturday, Dec. 24.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Gift of adventures

This year, give kids the gift of activities, adventures and experiences.

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippopress.com

For the holidays, give a gift to kids that allows them to explore art, nature and science through museum passes, activity gift cards, movie tickets and more.

Michael Accomando, the owner of **Mel's Funway Park**, said that even though Mel's is closed until the spring, they are still selling gift cards and Fun Packs (which include admission for all activities at the park) for the upcoming season. To Accomando, giving activities to kids is important.

"I try to keep people as far away from sitting on their phones or screens," Accomando said. "I want to see kids outside and having fun."

Below are a list of some area venues that offer gift cards, passes and more for kids and families to enjoy.

- **Altitude Trampoline Park** (360 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, altitudemerrimack.com, 261-3673) Gift cards can be requested through the website. An average jump session starts at \$20 and there are multiple session passes available for purchase at the park.

- **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, nhahs.org) Membership for the full year

includes a 10 percent discount in the Museum gift shop, borrowing privileges from the Slusser Aviation Lending Library, an invitation to quarterly luncheon programs and all Aviation Museum of New Hampshire events, and a subscription to the quarterly newsletter The Aeronaut. Individual membership costs \$35, with family membership costing \$70. Memberships can be purchased online.

- **Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St., Dover, childrens-museum.org, 742-2002) The museum is offering gift cards that are one playtime pass for \$12.50 for an adult and one child. A yearlong membership costs \$145 per family.

- **Chunky's** (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499; chunkys.com) The movie theater offers physical and printable gift cards ranging from \$10 to \$100 and an anytime movie pass for \$8. There are also gift boxes starting at \$22, such as the one that includes a \$10 gift card, one prepaid admission and one prepaid popcorn coupon.

- **Cowabungas** (725 Huse Road, Manchester, cowabungas.com, 935-9659) The playground offers gift cards in any amount that can be purchased on its website.

- **Crotched Mountain** (615 Francestown Road, Bennington, crotchedmtn.com, 588-3668) Day lift passes start at \$64 for youth ages 7 to 17.

- **Fun City Trampoline Park** (553 Mast Road, Goffstown, funcitygoffstown.com, 606-8807) Gift cards can be purchased at the park. Jump times start at \$10 for toddlers ages 6 and younger or \$16 for children ages older than 6. There is a VIP pass available online that includes two hours of fun, with a 60-minute jump time, laser tag and bumper cars. Pricing for children older than 6 is \$30, \$18 for toddlers.

- **Granite Base Camp** (300 Bloudin Road in Manchester; experiencebasecamp.org/pages/granite, 623-5962) offers annual family members (at \$150 for four passes per weekend and \$200 for six) or get a day pass for \$20 per person. During Saturdays in winter, Granite Base Camp has ice skating, ice fishing, snow shoeing, indoor archery, STEM programs and more.

- **Krazy Kids** (60 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, crazykids.com, 228-7529) Gift cards start at \$25 and a two-hour play session costs \$15 for a child and an additional \$5 for an accompanying adult.



The Aviation Museum of N.H.'s annual 'Holiday Festival of Model Planes and Toy Aircraft.' Courtesy photo.

- **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Dr., Concord, starhop.com, 271-7827) The Center features different levels of memberships that can be purchased online. Base level membership includes free admission to exhibit halls, free admission to the monthly Super Stellar Fridays series, free admission to regular planetarium shows, free or reduced admission to science centers that are part of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) reciprocal program, free admission to partner museums and attractions, discounts on Discovery Center workshops and programs, and discounts at the Science Store. Membership for students ages 18 and under start at \$30.

- **McIntyre Ski Area** (50 Chalet Way, Manchester, mcintyreskiarea.com, 622-6159) They offer everything from day lifts to season passes available to purchase on the website. Prices range from \$20 to \$389. Gift cards are also available starting at \$10.

ADVENTURES CONTINUED ON PG 42 ▶

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The big guy

• It's a bird, it's a plane ...

it's Santa Claus in a helicopter:

Santa Claus will helicopter in to the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviation-museumofnh.org, 669-4820) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m.

Plan to get to the museum by 10:45 a.m. to park and see the landing, according to a press release.

Santa will talk to kids (who will receive goodie bags) until 1 p.m., when he will depart by fire truck, the release said. The museum will be open and free to visitors on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The museum's holiday exhibit, "Holiday Festival of Toy Planes and Model Aircraft," which features more than 2,000 aviation-related toys, games and other items, will also open on Dec. 10. The exhibit will feature a "12 Planes of Christmas" scavenger hunt, the release said. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 6 to 12, and is free for ages 5 and under, seniors and veterans/active military.

Find more places where kids can talk to Santa and enjoy other holiday amusements in our Holiday Guide issue (Nov. 24); the e-edition is available at hippopress.com (toward the bottom of the homepage). This weekend you can also **find the big guy at breakfast** at the Milford Town Hall (1 Union Sq.) on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Breakfast will be pancakes and sausages. Price is \$9 per person; children ages 2 and younger eat free. Visit milfordnh.rec-



Santa arrives by helicopter at the Aviation Museum in previous years. Courtesy photo.

desk.com and to reserve a spot.

Relax while they play

• Leave your kids with the child care staff at the YMCA of Greater Londonderry (206 Rockingham Road in Londonderry) for **Kids Night at the Y** on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. The event, open to kids ages 4 to 12, will feature holiday-themed crafts and games for the kids as well as a pizza dinner, according to the YMCA. The program costs \$45 for one child and \$40 for each additional sibling. Visit bit.ly/ygl-kids-nights to register in advance.

Nutcrackers

• Turning Pointe Center of Dance presents **The Nutcracker** on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord). Tickets cost \$20. Visit turningpointecenterofdance.com.

• Dance Visions Network presents **The Nutcracker Suite Acts I & II** on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 and 5 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$22 plus a \$4 surcharge. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities.

Special screenings

• Chunky's Cinema Pubs (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com) will screen **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) at all three locations Friday, Dec. 9, through Thursday, Dec. 15, with multiple daily screenings Friday through Sunday and one 5:30 p.m. screening Monday through Thursday. Kids get a golden ticket when entering the theater and there is a surprise during the hot chocolate scene, according to the website. On Friday, Dec. 9, the 4 p.m. screening is a sensory-friendly screening with house lights slightly brighter and the movie volume turned down, the website said. 🍪

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
We have inherited this fish. It belonged to my uncle, who had many stuffed fish. Are there local collectors for such items?



My husband and I thought we might like them in our home. They are not working for us. Thank you for any information you can share with us.
Cathy

Dear Cathy,
Your taxidermy fish looks like a bass. And I would say yes to at least this one and probably all of your uncle's fish. The condition of each one will determine the value.

When it comes to collecting anything related to fishing — fish, poles, reels, etc. — there is a strong collector's market. Some taxidermy fish can bring into the four-digit range along with related items.

First thing I would do, Cathy, is bring them either to a sportsman's store or antique shop.

This is to determine the condition of each and identify them.

After getting as much information as possible, they should be able to come up with an approximate value for you. They might even be your buyer. Taking the time, Cathy, will be worth it. Your bass is in the range of \$100 in good condition. Some could even be higher. I hope I helped and your inherited fish bring you a treasure.

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

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SEACOAST SKATING WITH THE STARS

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, 2 PM

Directed by Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International & Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond Artistic Director, local "stars" are paired with IDI pros in a skate-off for audience votes.

Ticket sales begin on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

RUN THROUGH HISTORY

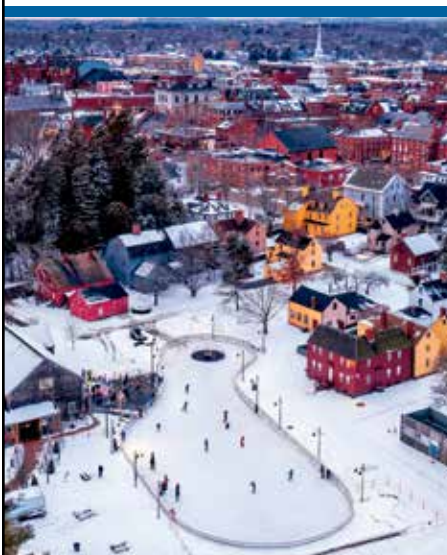
HALF KILOMETER

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, 1 PM

A half-k run/walk? Not a typo! Enjoy 260 years of architectural heritage in one loop of the historic campus. Proceeds benefit the Museum's "History Within Reach" program, providing workshops to economically underserved schools.



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE GARDENING GUY

Holiday gifts for the gardener

Tools, books and other ideas for the grower in your life

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

**— THE —
GARDENING
— GUY —**

First on my list for holiday gifts for the gardener is this: a subscription to this newspaper. Our

local papers need subscribers in order to deliver to you the news you want but cannot get online. Yes, local news, gardening tips that fit your climate, obituaries and more. If your loved ones do not have subscriptions, think about giving one.

Next, since most of us really need very little, think about a donation to a nonprofit in your loved one's honor. One of my favorites is a nonprofit that for decades has nurtured orphan bear cubs, the **Kilham Bear Center** in Lyme, New Hampshire. The Center this year is nurturing and caring for more than 100 baby bears whose mothers have been killed by cars or hunters and who would otherwise not survive. The Center has more than 19 acres of fenced forest for the bears, and serves Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. You can donate to The Kilham Bear Center at PO Box 37, Lyme, NH 03768, or go online to kilhambearcenter.org. Online there are photos and videos of the bears. Visiting is not possible, as they want the bears to have as little contact with humans as possible because their goal is to return all to the wild where they avoid humans.

Other nonprofits I like include **The Native Plant Trust**, the **Audubon Society** and the **Nature Conservancy**. As a supporter I get the Nature Conservancy magazine and I never cease to be amazed at all the good projects they initiate or support. And of course most states have nice nonprofits supporting public gardens and wildlife areas that need our support.

Along with new products I like, each year I have to mention a few old favorites. The **Cobra-Head Weeder** is a simple, well-made tool that virtually all gardeners love once they've tried it. Shaped like a curved steel finger, it will get under weeds or flowers to lift them from the earth. I use it for planting as well as weeding. It's found at most garden centers or online at cobrahead.com for about \$30. They now have a version for smaller hands and a long-handled weeder as well.

Books are a great present. I usually mention author Michael Dirr, my favorite expert on trees and shrubs. All his books are well-researched, complete and opinionated. My favorite is his classic, the **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses**.

Another classic is Barbara Damrosch's **The Garden Primer**. This book is a good reference on almost anything a gardener would wish to know. And at under \$20 in paperback, it is great value for an 800-page book. More reliable than many of the online experts, I dare say.

Lastly, a pair of books that work well together. First, Doug Tallamy's **Nature's Best Hope:**



Consider a donation to a good nonprofit like the Kilham Bear Center. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard. This explains in readable layman's terms why what we select for our gardens impacts birds and pollinators.

A good companion to Tallamy's books is **Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States** by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge. This book supplies all you need to know for selecting the right trees and shrubs for your land to support wildlife.

But on to other needs of gardeners. Consider a **small electric chainsaw**. They are safer, quieter and easier to start and to use than gas-powered ones. I have a DeWalt DCCS620 chainsaw that has a 20-volt battery and a 12-inch bar and weighs just 9 pounds. It's great for cutting up downed branches, removing small trees and more. Available locally at \$250 or less.

For gardeners who start seeds indoors each spring, there is an alternative to all those flimsy plastic six-packs. You can buy a **metal soil blocker** that you can use to make small cubes of a soil mix for your seeds. Available from Johnny's Seeds or Gardener's Supply, about \$40.

Another great product for starting seedlings is **electric heat mats**. These sit under flats of seeds planted indoors, providing heat that speeds up the germination process. They are available in two sizes — enough for one flat or a big one for four or more flats. Great for things that take a long time to germinate.

For stocking stuffers I like **seed packets**. Give your loved ones seeds of less common vegetables and flowers that they might not find at the plant nursery. **Garden gloves** are great gifts, we all use them in spring and fall, and some people use them all summer, too.

Lastly, my wife, Cindy, swears by a natural bug repellent made in New Hampshire, **White Mountain Deet-Free Insect Repellent** (whitemountaininsectrepellent.com). It doesn't take much of this stuff to keep away black flies, she says. It comes in a 4-ounce bottle of all-natural ingredients (no fillers) for \$15 plus shipping. Great stocking stuffer.

Use your imagination. There are so many nice things a gardener will appreciate, including your own time promised for weeding in the spring!

Henry is a garden consultant, public speaker and the author of four gardening books. Reach him by e-mail at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🐾

Cars — like teeth — require regular maintenance



*Dear Car Talk:
I have a 2010 Chevy Tahoe approaching 125,000 miles. It runs great. Doesn't even rattle.*

I had it checked out and serviced at 100,000 miles. Does it need a 125,000-mile service? Thanks. — Steve, D.D.S.

By Ray Magliozzi

Well, since you're a dentist, Steve, let me ask you a similar professional question: If I get my teeth cleaned every six months up until the age of 60, do I need to keep going to the dentist after that? Even if my teeth are in good shape? And don't rattle?

I think you'd say yes, right? Because at some point, I'd develop a cavity, and if I didn't treat it, the tooth would rot, and then I'd get an infection, it'd spread to my jaw, and pretty soon, they'd have to remove half my face to save me. Which would probably improve my looks, actually.

Well, the results aren't quite as dire with your car. Because unlike your face, you can just have the car towed to the junkyard and get on with your life.

But, if you're concerned about cost, or want to keep your car running for years to come, then you should absolutely keep up with the regular service and maintenance.

The reason is simple: You can catch something when it's a small problem and keep it from becoming catastrophic. Let's say you have a small oil leak. At 125,000 miles, your mechanic might find it and fix it by tightening some bolts or replacing a gasket for a few hundred bucks. But, if you keep driving, and the oil leak gets worse, you might run out of oil and cook your bearings, which will cost you at least \$5,000 for a used replacement engine.

So, even though most owner's manuals only list service intervals up to 100,000 or 120,000, the idea is that you will continue to follow the maintenance pattern as long as you're committed to keeping the car.

If you read the details of the scheduled services, you'll see there are some things that come up every 30,000 miles. Some things are called for every 60,000 miles. So, do the math and follow the patterns.

And, take the car in regularly — especially when it gets older. When a car has 100,000 miles on it, all of its parts are

getting older and can fail at any time. So a good examination along with your oil change once or twice a year can save you money in the long haul.

If you agree to that, I'll keep flossing, Steve. Deal?

Dear Car Talk:

I took my 2016 Genesis (bought used) in for an oil change and was informed that the end of the dip stick broke off. The mechanic said the broken off piece would sit in the sludge and would cause no problem.

He replaced the dip stick. I have now driven 8,000 miles with no symptoms. Should I have the piece removed or just continue as is? Thanks. — Mort

On our NPR radio show, before a break, my late brother and I used to warn listeners, "don't touch that dial, or the end of your dipstick will fall off." I think you're the first recorded case of it ever actually happening, Mort. Congratulations.

Now you can forget all about it.

Your mechanic is right. Oil collects in the oil pan, at the very bottom of your engine. From there, the oil pump sucks it up and sends it all over the engine, to the places it's needed. Then, gravity slowly

draws it back down to the oil pan. Rinse, lather, repeat.

So, why won't a broken piece of dipstick get sucked into the oil pump, jam it up and cause your engine to seize? Because the oil pump has a screen on its pickup, to make sure nothing but oil gets sucked into it.

It's a fine mesh screen, and there's no way a section of dipstick — or anything non-fluid — can ever get through it. So, it'll just sit there on the bottom of the oil pan until someday in the future you send the car to the crusher, and that dip stick remnant becomes part of a 3x3 cube.

If it really bothers you, Mort — if you've been getting up in the middle of the night and pacing over this — next time you get your oil changed, your mechanic can try to get it out with a magnet attached to a wire or a coat hanger.

Once the oil is drained, he can toss a magnet in the drain hole, and try to fish around and grab that rogue section of dipstick — which is ferrous metal and will be attracted to a magnet.

If he's able to get it out, you can take it home, have it made into a necklace and wear it as a good luck charm.

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ON THE JOB

DAN AUDITORE WOOD FLOOR REFINISHER

Dan Auditore is a wood floor refinisher and owner of Renaissance Hardwood Floors, based in Manchester.

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

My job is to take a customer's hardwood floor and make it look brand new again or give them an entirely different-looking wood floor, depending on what they want. I go in with my machinery, sand the floors down to bare wood, then sand twice more to make it smooth. After that I hand scrape the areas the machines can't reach. I vacuum the floor and apply a coat of sealer or stain depending on the job, and then apply two or three coats of finish on top, again, depending on what the customer needs.

How long have you had this job?

I've been professionally refinishing hardwood floors since January 2007 in Boston and

surrounding areas as a member of the Floor Coverers Union Local 2168, but started Renaissance Hardwood Floors back in June of this year.

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

Destiny. My great-grandfather, grandfather, father, stepfather, three of my uncles and a cousin all have had or currently have a wood flooring company. Ever since childhood I was always helping out on the jobs and started working full-time in the summers doing it at age 13.

What kind of education or training did you need?

Onsite training. You learn this trade by getting your hands on the machinery, getting a feel

for it all, learning what to look for and how to fix errors and by getting a sore back and sore knees. You could read it in a book, but to really know what you're doing, it takes hands-on, lots of time doing it and lots of body ache.



Dan Auditore. Courtesy photo.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Typically I wear a short-sleeve shirt, and then shorts or jeans, depending on the time of year, with some light, comfortable sneakers since I'm on my feet all day and doing lots of walking. I definitely make sure to have my earplugs and a dust mask since it's usually very noisy and gets dusty.

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

It seemed like when Covid was still fresh, work began to slow down a little bit. I think some people were uncomfortable with others coming into their homes unless it was completely necessary, and on occasion a homeowner would ask that I wear a mask. I was usually wearing one all day anyway due to the dust. As Covid became a part of everyday life, work seemed to pick back up.

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

To work smarter, not harder, and to actively practice self-care on my body.

What do you wish other people knew about

your job?

I wish people knew how involved refinishing a floor is, how physically taxing it is, how expensive materials and equipment are and that whether they want a small room refinished or a whole house, the same amount of equipment is required.

What was the first job you ever had?

The first job I ever had was sanding and refinishing with my family. My first real job on the books was as a kennel assistant at Handle With Care Veterinary Hospital in Derry.

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

To fix whatever errors I see in the floor before the finish starts going down. If you don't, it becomes much more difficult and time-consuming to fix after. That, and to just do what I know how to do and don't overthink it.

— Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: *Meditations* by Marcus Aurelius

Favorite movie: *Dumb and Dumber*

Favorite music: I'm big on electronic, but also enjoy classical and country.

Favorite food: Venezuelan, Italian and Chinese

Favorite thing about NH: Scenery. I've always loved forests, mountains and countryside.

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FOOD Gifts for foodies

Delicious gift-giving ideas this holiday season

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Make it a holiday season to remember for the foodie in your life, with anything from a specialty gift box of local products to sweet treats like cocoa or tea bombs, cakesicles or even chocolate candy-filled gingerbread “smash” houses. Whether you’re looking for something to ship and be enjoyed later, or a centerpiece to be the hit of your next holiday party, there are all kinds of delicious gift-giving ideas this season.

Enjoy it later

Great for colleagues, teachers, neighbors or perhaps a friend at an upcoming Yankee Swap, **gift boxes and baskets** are the perfect ways to discover all kinds of locally made goodies. Jessica Moores of the Manchester Craft Market, Mall of New Hampshire (1500 S. Willow St.), recently organized an entire table setup inside the shop featuring bundled gifts from many of her sellers, from **jams and jellies** to **cooking spices, soup kits, salsas, coffees** and more.

In Bedford, head to the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill (174 Joppa Hill Road, theeducationalfarm.org), where they are selling specialty gift boxes in two sizes containing a variety of New Hampshire-made and other regional products. According to farm stand manager secretary Mandy Underwood, they can be ordered through Dec. 22 for pickup, and custom gift boxes can also be put together if you’d like a certain theme.

Other local businesses have gift boxes available to order directly on their websites to be shipped. Salem’s Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery (cucinaaurora.com) has a gift set of its **infused olive oils**, featuring 12-ounce bottles of its roasted garlic and rosemary oregano oils packaged with a free recipe booklet. Owner Dawn Hunt, who is the author of *Kitchen Witchcraft for Beginners*, her newest cookbook, released earlier this year, also offers a larger gift set that additionally comes with a wooden cooking spoon, a **risotto mix**, a **garlic and herb dip mix** and an **herb and seasoning mix**. Both also have the option of including a holiday card for your gift recipient.

For the spicy food lover, The Spicy Shark of Portsmouth (thespicyshark.com) has a gift box containing 5-ounce bottles of each of its six **craft hot sauces** — they vary in intensity, ranging from products made with jalapeno and chipotle peppers to habanero, Scotch bonnet and ghost peppers, as well as Carolina Reapers, which were recognized in 2017 by Guinness World Records as the hottest in the world. Smokin’ Tin Roof (smokintinroof.com), based in Manchester, similarly offers gift boxes containing bottles of its ghost pepper-based sauces, sometimes also accompanied by products like a **bacon stout mustard** and a **Buffalo-style sauce**. They even now sell **man-go habanero cotton candy** in collaboration with Sillie Puffs (silliepuffs.com).

And speaking of sweets, there’s so much to discover for those looking to indulge. Fabrizia Lemon Baking Co. of Salem (fabrizialemonbakingcompany.com) is offering holiday gift boxes containing all kinds of **limoncello-infused goodies** added to its product line since its late 2020 launch, from limoncello **cookies** and **biscotti** to **truffles, blondies, lemon loaf, hard candies** and even **lemon popcorn**. They can be picked up at Fabrizia’s Salem facility (2 Industrial Way) or shipped nationwide with the option to write up a personalized holiday note at checkout.

For other sweet tastes that are uniquely New Hampshire, Ben’s Sugar Shack of Temple (bensmaplesyrup.com) has gift boxes of its **maple syrup** and other assorted maple-infused products, from **maple cream** and **buttermilk pancake mix** to gluten-free **maple kettle corn** and pure **maple candy**. Specialty candy stores like Van Otis Chocolates (vanotis.com) and Granite State Candy Shoppe (granitestatecandyshoppe.com) have gift boxes of their own, featuring items like assorted **caramels, nuts, chocolate bars** and **Swiss fudge** in several different flavors.

Enjoy it now

If you’re looking for a tasty hostess gift to share with other guests at a holiday party or gathering, local restaurants, caterers and other businesses have you covered. Tilton’s Twelve 31 Events, for instance, which also recently opened a cafe in downtown Concord (100 N. Main St.), is taking orders for its scratch-baked **Italian Christmas cookies**. They’re scheduled to be available for pickup and delivery starting Dec. 8 and right through Christmas Eve, Twelve 31 owner Melissa Dolpies said. Visit twelve31.events/christmascookies to order a dozen or more cookies — flavors include anisette, soft gingerbread, pistachio macarons, dark chocolate espresso and snowballs, or traditional butter cookies that are rolled in powdered sugar.

“The typical dozen that people can get is an assortment of all of the cookies, but you can certainly mix and match or request one or two of whatever combination you’d like,” Dolpies said. “They come in a pretty little box, and they make great gifts. I’ve had people get them for employees, for teachers, for co-workers. They’re really appropriate for any kind of occasion.”

The Traveling Foodie (jmcateringllc.com), a food truck and catering company based at Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Merrimack, also has **cookie gift trays** and **mixed cookie platters** available on its holiday catering menu. Chef and owner Jamie Mandra said orders can be placed until Dec. 18 for a free delivery to the Nashua and Merrimack areas on Dec. 22. Options will include mixed sugar cookies and chocolate chip peanut butter kisses, or you can order brownies.

For some savory hostess gift ideas, check out the **appetizer to-go kits** being offered by Local Basket (localbasket.com) — featuring your choice of a set of miniature quiches with a goat cheese



Cakesicles from The Cake Fairy in Hooksett. Courtesy photo.

Cocoa bombs from I Whisked It, based in Raymond. Courtesy photo.

honey filo and cranberry dip, or dumplings and vegetable spring rolls with a sweet spicy soy sauce, each kit’s items are ready to pop right into the oven. This year, in addition to her custom charcuterie and cheese boards under her Grazing Baskets line, Local Basket owner Beth Richards also has “Season’s Eatings” hostess gift packages, which come with a bottle of **red or white wine, cheese and crostini** — the prices for each package vary depending on your choices.

In Manchester, Loon Chocolate (loonchocolate.com) and 603 Charcuterie (603charcuterie.com) are gearing up for a two-day holiday market inside their facility at The Factory on Willow (252 Willow St.) on Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, when more than two dozen local vendors will be showcasing their products. In the meantime, you can visit their onsite joint shop every Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., which offers a variety of New Hampshire-made cheeses, jams, crackers, mustards and other artisan foods. You can also buy locally built **charcuterie boards** — courtesy of Andy Pearl of Souhegan Wood Designs of Amherst — in all kinds of shapes, sizes and designs, or even gift a custom-made charcuterie board, gift basket or class certificate, Theresa Zwart of 603 Charcuterie said.

Explosive flavors

Cocoa bombs were all the rage during the 2020 holiday season and, two years later, are continuing to stick around. A trend that originally went viral on TikTok back in the fall of that year, these small hollow balls of chocolate are most often created using silicone molds, and are usually filled with miniature marshmallows or flavored mixes. Pouring hot milk or water over the bombs causes them to “explode” with flavor inside your mug.

For Lindsey Bangs of I Whisked It (iwhiskedit.com), a home baker based in Raymond, cocoa bombs are among her most popular seasonal items. Hers is among the participating businesses at The Factory on Willow’s holiday market, where she will be offering cocoa bombs in traditional, caramel and peppermint candy cane flavors. She’ll also be at New Hampshire Audubon’s Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord).

In addition to her flavors Bangs has played around with different types of silicone molds for her cocoa bombs, from those in the shape of Christmas trees to reindeer- and ball-shaped ornaments.

“I have a lot of people who are buying [cocoa

FOODIES CONTINUED ON PG 30 ▶

News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
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• **Garden feasts:** Longtime television chef **Mary Ann Esposito** will be at Tuscan Market (9 Via Toscana, Salem) on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to present her newest cookbook, *Ciao Italia: Plant, Harvest, Cook!* Released Nov. 15, it’s her 13th book, centered around the home vegetable garden with easy-to-follow planting advice and more than 100 Italian-inspired recipes. During the event, Esposito will be accompanied by Tuscan Brands wine director Joseph Comforti for a special wine tasting. Admission is free. Visit tuscanbrands.com or read more about Esposito’s newest book on page 28 of the Nov. 17 issue of the Hippo — visit issuu.com/hippopress to read and download the e-edition for free.

• **Wine and cheese chats:** The final **Cheese & Corks** tasting at Local Basket (10 Ferry St., Suite 120A, Concord) is happening on Wednesday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Featuring Kristy Ammann of Dole & Bailey — formerly the owner of Butter’s Fine Food & Wine in Concord — and Ambra Kash of Crush Wine & Spirits, events in this bi-weekly series have included “wine and cheese chats to prepare you for holiday entertaining or cozy winter nights,” according to the event flier. The Dec. 14 event is expected to feature sparkling wines and creamy cheeses, and admission is free. Visit localbasket.com.

• **’Tis the season:** Depending on when you’re reading this, there may still be tickets available to the three-day **Christmas festival** being hosted at Fulchino Vineyard (187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis) from Friday, Dec. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 11. Each day features artisan food vendors and craftspeople, a fire pit, hot cider and doughnuts, and family photo opportunities with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Go to fulchinovineyard.com for the most up-to-date details on ticket availability. Tickets are \$15 for adults ages 21 and over (all adult tickets will also include one free wine glass per adult and a complimentary wine tasting), \$7.50 for attendees ages 12 to 20 and 1 cent for kids ages 12 and under, for counting purposes.

• **Whiskey business:** Join Steadfast Spirits Distilling Co. (134 Hall St., Unit H, Concord) for its second annual **Sip & Shop** event on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The distillery will be celebrating the return of its 86-proof peppermint moonshine, and will also be hosting a one-day community shopping event featuring local crafters and other small business owners offering their wares for sale. Admission is free. See the event page on Facebook @steadfastdistilling. 🍷

Home for the holidays

Where to get your full meals, desserts and more to go

By Matt Ingersoll
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Whether you're bringing home festive pies and cookies or a full holiday feast, local restaurants, caterers, bakeries and other businesses have you covered.

• **All Real Meal** (87 Amherst St., Manchester, 782-3014, allrealmeal.com) is taking orders for Christmas meals in two sizes (serving four or eight people)—they include slow-cooked turkey breast with gravy, brown sugar ham, cranberry almond green beans, creamy mashed potatoes, homestyle cornbread, pecan pie cheesecake and bacon herb hash brown quiche for Christmas morning. Ordering early is requested, as quantities are limited. Orders will be delivered fresh to your door on Friday, Dec. 23.

• **Ansanm** (20 South St., Milford, 554-1248, ansanmnh.com) is inviting you to enjoy a taste of Haiti at home with its holiday dinner menu. Entrees available to order include poule nan sos (stewed chicken), janbon (pineapple-glazed ham), griot (fried pork) or legumes (stewed vegetables)—each comes with rice and mixed vegetables, and a mixed greens salad with tomatoes, peppers, shallots and a citrus vinaigrette. You can also order various items a la carte, like macaroni au gratin (baked macaroni), bannann peze (fried plantains) and djon djon mushroom rice; as well as desserts, like gateau anana (pineapple upside-down cake) and gateau au beurre (Haitian pound cake). Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23—all orders will be served cold with reheating instructions at the time of pickup.

• **Ayottes Market** (100 River Road, Hudson, 883-5235, ayottesmarket.com) is taking orders for pies for the holidays (flavors include apple, blueberry, chocolate cream, pecan and pork), as well as homemade breads (banana, cranberry and zucchini). Order by Dec. 14.

• **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) is taking orders for several seasonal items for the holidays, including hot cocoa pie, eggnog cake and Yule logs, in addition to a variety of scratch-baked fruit pies, pastries and more. Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Buckley's Bakery & Cafe** (436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 262-5929, buckleysbakerycafe.com) and **Buckley's Market & Cafe** (9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522) are taking orders for a variety of specialty seasonal items for the holidays, including cakes (red velvet cake, Santa's milk and cookies cake, dark chocolate peppermint cheesecake, and hot cocoa or peppermint white chocolate Yule logs); as well as eight-inch pies (pecan, apple or chocolate cream), Parker house rolls or gingerbread loaves, and assorted breakfast or pastry trays. Additionally, Buckley's of Hollis is taking

orders for appetizers (shrimp cocktail platters, petit crab cakes, raspberry baked brie, antipasto vegetables, New England baked stuffed clams and spinach artichoke dip) and meats (cranberry and apple-stuffed boneless pork chops, boneless prime rib roast, filet mignon or crab-stuffed shrimp). Order by Dec. 18.

• **Brookdale Fruit Farm** (41 Broad St., Hollis, 465-2240, brookdalefruitfarm.com) is taking orders for scratch-baked pies for the holidays, with flavors that include apple, pecan, pumpkin, blueberry and more. The farm stand will be open until 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Brothers Butcher** (8 Spit Brook Road, Nashua, 809-4180; 142 Lowell Road, Hudson, 577-1130; brothers-butcher.com) is taking orders for several types of roasts for the holidays, including boneless prime rib and tenderloin and strip loin roasts, in addition to spiral hams, stuffed pork loin (with traditional bread stuffing or apple cranberry stuffing), boneless pork loin and gravies sold by the quart (port wine demi glaze, au jus, pork and beef gravy or turkey gravy). Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Dec. 23, as well as Saturday, Dec. 24, until 1 p.m.

• **The Cake Fairy** (114 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, 518-8733, cakefairynh.com) is taking orders for pies (eclair, apple and chocolate cream), small chocolate whoopie pies, cheesecakes (plain, strawberry and peppermint bark), assorted cookie trays, Danishes, breakfast breads and jumbo butter cookies. Order by Dec. 17. Pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and first-come, first-served items will also be available out of the bakery case.

• **Caroline's Fine Food** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 637-1615, carolinesfood.com) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items to go for the holidays, including appetizers (smoked salmon terrine, pizzetti with port-poached figs, Gorgonzola and balsamic glaze, brie en croute with raspberry and thyme, artisan cheeses with fruit and cured meats, and poached shrimp with a traditional cocktail sauce); entrees (pork ballantine stuffed with savory sausage, herb and apple stuffing, or roasted beef tenderloin with a horseradish cream sauce); and sides (garlic mashed potatoes, butternut squash, roasted Brussels sprouts with Parmesan and thyme, carrot confit, sauteed haricot verts with slivered almonds or apple cider reduction). Order by Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, from noon to 3 p.m.

• **Cherry Bomb Cookie Co.** (Exeter, find them on Facebook @cherrybombcookieco) is taking orders for a variety of specialty decorated sugar cookies, with seasonal designs that include Santa Claus, gingerbread men, snowflakes, sleighs, Christmas trees and more. Ordering is available through Dec. 23, but recommended by Dec. 19 to ensure shipping before the Christmas holiday.

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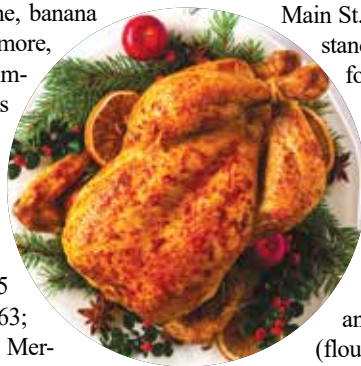
HOME CONTINUED ON PG 24 ▶

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) is taking orders for pies (flavors include chocolate cream, apple, pumpkin, blueberry, Key lime, banana cream, lemon meringue and more, as well as savory pork or salmon pies) and cakes (flavors include strawberry cream, pistachio cream, apple spice, chocolate cream, cookies and cream and more). Order by Dec. 20.

• **The Common Man** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; Lakehouse Grille, 281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171; Foster's Boiler Room, 231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; Airport Diner, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040; Tilt'n Diner, 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204; Route 104 Diner, 752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120; thecman.com) is taking orders for special holiday feasts to go, featuring your choice of glazed ham or herb-roasted prime rib dinners that serve four to six people — each comes with mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, pesto green beans, maple-roasted Brussels sprouts, Parmesan-crust dinner rolls, sweet bread and cheesecake with mixed berry compote. Additional items are also available to order a la carte, like spinach-artichoke dip and crackers, peel-and-eat shrimp cocktail, roasted turkey breast, green bean casserole, glazed baby carrots, Common Man macaroni and cheese, pecan pie, and a quart of Common Man-made vanilla ice cream. Order by Dec. 18. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, or Saturday, Dec. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, 654-2631, copperkettletogo.com) is taking orders for Christmas ham dinners with all the fixings, including mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, green beans and dinner rolls, with two sizes available (serving two to four people or four to six people). You can also order pies in a variety of flavors (pecan, coconut custard or blueberry cream cheese pie), as well as assorted muffins, cinnamon rolls and steak and cheese egg rolls. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, 882-1851, crosbybakerynh.com) is taking orders for eight-inch or 10-inch pies (flavors include apple, apple crumb, blueberry, banana cream, cherry, coconut cream, chocolate cream, coconut meringue, mince, pumpkin and pecan); assorted rolls and breads, with the option to add whipped butter or maple cinnamon butter; savory specialties, like gorton, meat pie, salmon pie, sandwich platters, Boston baked beans and potato or macaroni salads; and seasonal holiday specialties, like six-inch Yule log cakes, seven-inch Boston cream pie,



frosted angel cakes, pastry and cookie platters and more. Order by Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. Pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **The Crust & Crumb Baking Co.** (126 N. Main St., Concord, 219-0763, thecrustandcrumb.com) is taking orders for six-inch or nine-inch pies (flavors include pumpkin, Key lime, vegan gluten-free blueberry coconut crisp, Black Forest, apple streusel, forest berry crumb, maple bourbon pecan, chocolate cream, maple cream and coconut cream); cakes (flourless chocolate torte, chocolate raspberry layer cake, hazelnut Boston cream pie and eggnog rum mousse cake); cheesecakes (chocolate mint or vanilla); tarts (fresh fruit or mocha turtle); assorted pastries and breakfast items (cinnamon buns, sour cream coffee cakes, scones, dark gingerbread tea cake and more); and some savory items (French Canadian tourtiere, pork pie with apple, rosemary and sweet potato, broccoli pepper jack quiche, spinach, tomato and feta quiche or bacon cheddar quiche). Order by Dec. 15. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, Friday, Dec. 23, or Saturday, Dec. 24 — indicate your pickup time when placing your order.

• **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) has all kinds of specialty chocolate bars available in the shop, as well as bonbon sharing boxes, drinking chocolate and other products. The shop also offers holiday croissants, which can be reserved online for pickup on Tuesday, Dec. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m.

• **The Flying Butcher** (124 Route 101A, Amherst, 598-6328, theflyingbutcher.com) is taking orders for a variety of holiday roasts, in addition to boneless leg of lamb, boneless turkey breast and various a la carte sides, like maple bourbon sweet potatoes, cilantro lime asparagus, garlic pepper green beans, roasted root vegetables, horseradish cream sauce and more. Order by Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Frederick's Pastries** (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 647-2253; pastry.net) is taking orders for a variety of specialty seasonal items for the holidays, including decorated Christmas cookies, cinnamon cranberry cookies, gingerbread cookie kits, assorted chocolates, cheesecake samplers, Christmas Yule log cakes, gingerbread tortes, fruit turnover trays and more. The whole menu will be available to order online, in store or via phone until Dec. 15. Beginning Dec. 16, there will be a limited holiday menu only, and online ordering will also end on Dec. 15. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **The Fresh Chef Press** (775 Canal St., Manchester, 716-7197, freshchefmp.com) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items for

the holidays, including honey-baked spiral-cut ham, Italian sausage stuffed mushrooms and prosciutto-wrapped asparagus, as well as nine-inch quiches (plain, veggie, bacon and veggie, bacon and cheddar or ham and swiss), cookie platters, cheesecake bites and more. Order by Dec. 16.

• **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; giorgios.com) is offering its full regular catering menu for the holidays, through about Dec. 20, owner George Sklavounos said.

• **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591; 832 Elm St., Manchester, 218-3885; granitestatecandyshoppe.com) offers a variety of seasonal sweet treats around the holidays, like milk, dark and white chocolate Santa Claus molds, cake bites, advent calendars, cocoa bombs and more.

• **Greenleaf** (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com) is taking orders for special holiday dinners to go, featuring your choice of peppercorn and rosemary-glazed ham, roasted chicken breast with chimichurri, beef tenderloin with roasted garlic jus or cauliflower steak with pumpkin hummus and roasted vegetables. All non-vegan dinners come with potatoes au gratin, spiced glazed petite carrots, and seasonal mixed greens with a cranberry sage vinaigrette. You can also add house-made brioche Parker house dinner rolls (with or without whipped molasses honey butter) and desserts, like holiday Yule log slices and apple galettes with salted caramel. Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23 — all orders will be served cold with reheating instructions at the time of pickup.

• **Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant** (233 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) is taking orders for family meals for the holidays that include your choice of whole roasted turkey with gravy, prime rib au jus or baked ham — each is available in multiple serving sizes (feeding two to six or six to 10 people, as well as 10 to 14 for the turkey dinner) and comes with whipped potatoes, butternut squash, green beans, dinner rolls and your choice of a dessert pie, along with some additional accoutrements depending on the meal package you choose. Order by Dec. 20. Curbside pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and individual dinners will also be offered for takeout from the regular menu.

• **Harvey's Bakery & Coffee Shop** (376 Central Ave., Dover, 742-6029, harveysbakery.com) is taking orders for a variety of seasonal items, like gingerbread cookies, festive cakes and cupcakes, traditional fruit cake, Christmas tree Danishes, pork and chicken pies, filled finger rolls, petit fours, brownies, cream puffs and more. You can also order eight-inch or 10-inch pies (flavors include apple, pumpkin, pecan, cherry, chocolate cream, coconut cream, banana cream and more) and assorted dinner rolls available by the dozen. Order by Dec. 15.

• **Local Basket** (10 Ferry St., Suite 120A, Concord, 219-0882, localbasket.com) is taking

orders for some specialty appetizer to-go kits, as well as "season's eatings" hostess gifts and "grazing baskets." Order the grazing baskets by Dec. 21. The appetizer kits can be ordered through Dec. 22, or until they sell out. Season's eatings hostess gifts, meanwhile, will be available to order until Local Basket closes for the day on Saturday, Dec. 24, at 1 p.m.

• **Loon Chocolate** (The Factory on Willow, 252 Willow St., Manchester, loonchocolate.com) has all of its artisan chocolate products available for sale inside the shop it shares with 603 Charcuterie, which is open Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Loon Chocolate and 603 Charcuterie are also hosting a special holiday market on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., when more than two dozen local and regional vendors will be showcasing their products.

• **Mr. Mac's Macaroni & Cheese** (497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com) accepts orders for both hot-and-ready and take-and-bake trays of macaroni and cheese, as well as macaroni salads, assorted green salads, desserts and more. Placing orders at least 24 hours in advance is appreciated.

• **New England's Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, tap-housenh.com) is taking orders for several seasonal items for the holidays, including traditional French-Canadian meat pies, 10-inch carrot cake or apple crumb cheesecake, and dinner rolls by the dozen or by the half-dozen. Order by Dec. 16. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, or Saturday, Dec. 24, by 5 p.m.

• **Osteria Poggio** (18 Main St., Center Harbor, 250-8007, osteriapoggio.com) is taking orders for a variety of seasonal flavors of pies for the holidays, like eggnog, white chocolate peppermint cream, spiced cranberry apple and pumpkin pecan. Other items available to order in their Christmas to-go package include deviled eggs, pineapple candied pork belly, sweet potato casserole, five-cheese baked macaroni and cheese, white balsamic roasted Brussels sprouts, cauliflower au gratin, brown butter carrots and caramelized onions and mushrooms. Order by Dec. 18.

• **Queen City Cupcakes** (790 Elm St., Manchester, 624-4999, qccupcakes.com) is taking orders for all kinds of seasonally inspired gourmet cupcake flavors, like chocolate-covered cherry, candy cane creme, gingerbread snickerdoodle, eggnog, red velvet Oreo and coconut snowball, as well as vegan and gluten-free gingerbread spice cupcakes. Order by Dec. 21. Pickups will be on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **The Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 149 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 204-5088; redarrowdiner.com) is taking orders for its specialty homemade desserts for the holidays, including multiple flavors of 10-inch pies, double-layer cakes, "Dinah fingers" (homemade Twinkies), eclairs, whoopie pies and more. Orders can be placed online with at least a 24-hour notice in advance of pickup.

• **Roundabout Diner & Lounge** (580 Route 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, 431-1440, roundaboutdiner.com) is taking orders for special Christmas dinners to go, featuring your choice of bacon-wrapped pork loin, spiral ham, roasted chicken or baked haddock. You can also order various items a la carte, like Italian or barbecue meatballs, fowl balls (smoked chicken wrapped in bacon), smoked scallops wrapped in bacon, crab cakes with remoulade and stuffed mushroom caps; and assorted cakes and pies (pie flavors include banana cream, coconut cream, apple, chocolate cream, Key lime, pecan, blueberry and German chocolate, while cake flavors include strawberry cream, caramel toffee, coconut cream, chocolate mousse, Oreo Black Forest and chocolate peppermint). Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, and Saturday, Dec. 24, and will be served cold with reheating instructions.

• **Simply Delicious Baking Co.** (176 Route 101, Bedford, 488-1988, simplydeliciousbakingco.com) is taking orders for several sweet treats for the holidays, like cherry crumb pie, chocolate cherry cake, carrot cake and salted cinnamon chip cookies, as well as breakfast items like traditional coffee cake and cranberry orange scones. Order by Dec. 17.

• **Slightly Crooked Pies** (Bedford, slightlycrookedpies.com) is taking orders for a variety of flavors of scratch-made pies for the holidays, including apple, pecan, cherry, blueberry, maple blueberry and chocolate bourbon pecan, in addition to some specialty options, like Sweater Weather (apple and pear with cinnamon and cardamom) and Christmas (apple, cranberry and pecan with orange zest and cloves). Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23 — see website or email crookedpies@gmail.com to arrange a pickup time.

• **Smoke Shack Cafe** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 404-2178, smokeshackcafe.com) is taking orders for special holiday dinner packages to go, featuring smoked ham, salad, cornbread and your choice of sides (mashed potatoes, butternut squash, brown sugar carrots, macaroni and cheese, green beans, corn saute and gravy), available in two sizes (serving six to eight people or eight to 12 people). You can also order various meats a la carte, like smoked ham, bacon-wrapped turkey breast with jalapeno and sausage stuffing, and smoked prime rib au jus; as well as nine-inch holiday pies (flavors include apple, cranberry, pumpkin or chocolate cream). Order by Dec. 20. Pickups will be on Friday, Dec. 23, from 2 to 7 p.m., or on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

• **Sweet Caroline** (28 Homestead Place, Alton, 875-0263, sweetcarolinebakerynh.com) is taking orders for a variety of specialty cakes and desserts for the holidays, including Yule logs, carrot cakes, Holly Jolly red velvet cakes, raspberry mocha white cakes, and assorted cookie platters and holiday cakes. You can also order 10-inch pies — flavors include apple, blueberry, pecan, chocolate cream, pumpkin and lemon meringue. Order by Dec. 13.

• **Sweet Love Bakery** (20 Main St., Goffstown, 497-2997, sweetlovebakerynh.com) is taking orders for pies (apple, pecan, pump-

kin and chocolate creme); cheesecakes (white chocolate peppermint, gingerbread, eggnog, maple bourbon pecan and Bailey's); cakes (peppermint mocha, eggnog, carrot, gingerbread and red velvet); cookies (candy cane, gingerbread, molasses, chocolate chip, sugar and snickerdoodle); and assorted dinner rolls (white, wheat, and garlic herb). Pickups will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Dec. 23, from 9 to 11 a.m.

• **Tammaro's Cucina** (469 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7312, tamarros.com) is taking orders for half-sized (feeds six to eight people) and full-sized (feeds 12 to 14 people) trays of home-cooked Italian meals for the holidays, from meat or cheese lasagna to spaghetti and meatballs, chicken or eggplant Parmesan and more. Order by Dec. 18.

• **The Traveling Foodie** (Merrimack, jrm-cateringllc.com) is taking orders for pies (flavors include apple, apple crumb, pumpkin and pecan), charcuterie boards, and cookie and brownie platters. A 72-hour advance notice is requested, with free deliveries to the Nashua and Merrimack areas.

• **Tuscan Market** (9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) is taking orders for several special dinner packages for the holidays, featuring whole roasted turkey, leoncini ham or standing rib roast — each comes with an assortment of sides, complete heating instructions and a meat thermometer, and serves six to eight people. You can also order various in-house butchered meats a la carte, antipasti options; sides, like risotto stuffed peppers, jumbo shrimp with cocktail sauce, mascarpone whipped potato, balsamic roasted carrots and pecorino-stuffed artichokes; and various pastries and desserts, from tiramisu squares and assorted cannolis to traditional ricotta pie and flourless chocolate torte. Ordering with at least a three-day notice is appreciated. Pickups will be available through Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Twelve 31 Events** (261 Main St., Tilton; 100 N. Main St., Concord, 818-0012; twelve31events.com) is taking orders for assorted Italian cookies for the holidays, available to reserve now for any day up to Saturday, Dec. 24. Flavors include anisette, ginger, pistachio macaroons, honey walnut and chocolate espresso cookies.

• **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) offers a variety of seasonal sweet treats around the holidays, like chocolate mold Santas, boots and snowmen, peppermint twist bites, white chocolate kettle corn and more. A 2-foot-tall, 13-pound chocolate Santa is also being raffled off online — the winner will be chosen on Dec. 22 and must be available to pick up in store on Saturday, Dec. 24.

• **Wicked Good Butchah** (209 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5638, wickedgoodbutchahn.com) is taking orders for boneless and bone-in prime rib roasts, lamb roasts, beef tenderloin, and boneless and stuffed pork loin, as well as Boar's Head sweet sliced hams. Orders will be accepted right up until Christmas Eve, but ordering as soon as possible is recommended to ensure you get what you want. 🍷

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Gather around the table

Where to go to have a festive holiday feast

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsersoll@hippopress.com

Several Granite State eateries will have their doors open for limited hours on Christmas Eve (Saturday, Dec. 24), and a couple of them plan to serve you on Christmas Day as well. Check out this list of where you can go to celebrate the holidays with a special festive feast. Did we miss any holiday meals that you know of happening at a local restaurant? Let us know at food@hippopress.com and we'll include it in the next issue.

- Enjoy a special **chef's Christmas cheer menu at Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) during several designated days in December with seatings from 4 to 8:30 p.m. The gardens will be professionally lit with holiday decorations, and the multi-course menu will feature a variety of a la carte items to choose from. The Colby Hill Inn is also hosting a **Christmas high tea event** on Sunday, Dec. 18, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 per person and includes a first round of mimosas, followed by your choice of holiday-inspired cocktails or the famous "Cosmic Christmas punch." All attendees will receive free entry to the Inn's Winter Wonderland Barn Market, held the same day from noon to 7 p.m. and featuring local crafters and live music.

- **A Feast of the Seven Fishes at Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will be on Thursday, Dec. 22, from 5 to 9 p.m. in its great hall. The dinner will be served buffet-style with several chef-attended stations, featuring items like fra diavolo, lobster and crab-stuffed sole, baked clams casino, hake puttanesca, a pasta station with various sauce options and accompaniments and an Italian dessert station with tiramisu, cannolis, chocolate mousse cups, biscotti, Italian cookies and other assorted treats. A cash bar will also be available. The cost is \$95 per person (21+ guests only) and reservations are required.

Special Christmas Eve meals

- **Christmas Eve Dinner at Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) is happening on Saturday, Dec. 24, with seatings from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. A three-course prix fixe menu will be served in the Inn's dining room, followed by a grand dessert buffet and cash bar in its great hall. The menu will feature your choice of an appetizer (pistachio and chevre croquettes, braised lamb and ricotta ravioli, crispy calamari, Dunk's Mushrooms bisque, seared scallop "BLT" or black garlic French onion soup); a salad (local kale and Swiss chard or chicory and beet); and an entree (grilled filet mignon, Robie Farm pork tenderloin, herb-grilled swordfish loin, short rib pappardelle, savory mushroom Wellington, rosemary-rubbed Christmas rib roast or New England seafood pot

au feu). The cost is \$110 for adults and \$55 for children ages 10 and under. The Inn's Trattoria Fondi will also be open for breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and for dinner from 4 to 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, serving its regular menu in addition to some specials.

Special Christmas Day meals

- **Christmas Day Buffet at Salt Kitchen & Bar** (Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 373-6566, saltkitchenandbar.com) is happening on Sunday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in its ballroom. The menu will include deluxe chilled salads, a New England raw bar, fresh seasonal fruit displays, a Belgian waffle station, an artisan cheese display, a deluxe carving station with herb-crusted prime rib, seasonally composted hot entrees, an Italian antipasto station and a Christmas dessert display. The cost is \$89.95 per person and \$26.95 for children under 12.

- **Christmas Dinner at Salt Kitchen & Bar** (Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 373-6566, saltkitchenandbar.com) is on Sunday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 1 to 9 p.m. The three-course holiday menu will feature signature options like sous vide New York strip steak, seared scallops, brown butter-roasted halibut and wild mushroom ravioli. The cost is \$69.95 per person and \$26.95 for children under 12.

- **Christmas Dinner at The Wild Rose Restaurant** (Stonehurst Manor, 3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, thewildroserestaurant.com) is on Sunday, Dec. 25, with seatings from 2 to 8 p.m. The four-course dinner includes your choice of appetizer and Caesar salad, along with your choice of an entree, the eatery's signature sourdough bread, seasonal vegetables, dessert, coffee and tea. Available appetizers include scallops wrapped in bacon, shrimp cocktail, Jonah crab cakes or apple cider pumpkin bisque. Available entrees include roasted turkey, aged and pit-smoked prime rib of beef, the Wild Rose (shrimp, scallops, lobster and Jonah crab meat served with a garlic basil Parmesan cream sauce and tossed with house tomato rose fettuccine), grilled rack of lamb, filet of cod with a lobster cream sauce, roasted half duck, Faroe Island salmon or pumpkin ravioli. Featured desserts will be flourless double dark chocolate torte, vanilla bean creme brulee, blueberry cheesecake and chef-made caramel pecan ice cream. The cost is \$78 per person and reservations are required.

Open on Christmas Eve

- **900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria** (50 Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com) will be open until 6 p.m.
- **Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Bos-

cawen, 753-6631, alansrestaurant.com) will be open until 6 p.m.

- **Americus Restaurant** (LaBelle Winery, 14 Route 111, Derry, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **The Bar** (28 Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250, find them on Facebook @thebar.hudson) will likely be open until about 7 p.m.

- **The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern** (132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com) will be open until 5 p.m.

- **The Bistro at LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m., serving its regular menu in addition to some seasonal specials. Reservations are being accepted now.

- **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **CJ's Great West Grill** (782 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-8600, cjsgreatwestgrill.com) will be open until 5 p.m.

- **The Common Man** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 10 Pollard Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; thecman.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve at its Concord and Merrimack locations, with gift card sales available until 4 p.m. The Lincoln and Windham locations will be open that day for gift card sales only (from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lincoln and from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Windham). The Common Man's Company Store in Ashland will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., while its Claremont restaurant will be closed.

- **Copper Door Restaurant** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com) will be accepting reservations until 8 p.m. at both locations.

- **CR's The Restaurant** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972, crstherestaurant.com) will be open from 4 to 8:30 p.m., serving an a la carte menu with holiday specials and its most popular dinner items. Reservations are required.

- **The Derryfield Restaurant** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com) will be open until 6 p.m.

- **Epoch Gastropub** (The Exeter Inn, 90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be open during its normal dinner hours, from 5 to 9 p.m.

- **The Farm Bar & Grille** (1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276, farmbargrille.com) will be open until 3 p.m.

- **The Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille** (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) will be open until 5 p.m.

- **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., for dinner and gift card sales.



- **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) will be open until 8 p.m.

- **Friendly Red's Tavern** (22 Haverhill Road, Windham, 437-7251, friendlyredstavern.net) will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; 707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; giorgios.com) will be open until 4 p.m. at all three locations.

- **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (The Centennial Hotel, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9005, graniterestaurant.com) will be open for dinner from 4 to 8 p.m.

- **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) will be open from noon to 3 p.m., serving its regular menu.

- **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **MT's Local Kitchen & Wine Bar** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtlocal.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m., serving its regular menu in addition to some seasonal specials. Reservations are being accepted now.

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.

- **Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House** (393 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5975, murphystaproom.com) will be open until 8 p.m.

- **The Pasta Loft Restaurant & Brewing Co.** (241 Union Square, Milford, 672-2270, pastaloft.com) will be open until 7 p.m.

- **The Puritan Backroom Restaurant** (245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 669-6890, puritanbackroom.com) will be open until 4 p.m. both inside the restaurant and for takeout.

- **The Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 149 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 204-5088; redarrowdiner.com) will be open during its regular business hours at all four locations — the Manchester location is open 24 hours, while the Concord location is open from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and the Londonderry and Nashua locations are both open from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- **The Red Blazer Restaurant and Pub** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be open until 6 p.m., according to function coordinator Tamra Burke.

- **Route 104 Diner** (752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120, thecman.com) will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Second Brook Bar & Grille** (1100 Hooksett Road, Unit 111, Hooksett, 935-7456, secondbrook.com) will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., while the bar will remain open until 5 p.m. that evening.

- **Surf Restaurant** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) will be open from 4 to 8 p.m., serving its regular menu in addition to some seasonal specials. Reservations are being

GATHER CONTINUED ON PG 28 ►

IN THE KITCHEN WITH CARLOS DORADO



Carlos Dorado. Courtesy photo.

Carlos Dorado of Hollis is the chef and owner of Effin Sauces Co. (effinsauces.com, and on Facebook and Instagram @effinsauces), a producer of an organic apple cider-based vinegar hot sauce made with bell and habaño peppers known as Sweet Lava. Originally from Spain, Dorado graduated from Johnson & Wales University with a culinary degree and would later go on to run a brick-and-mortar restaurant in Miami, Florida, called The Lunchbox — it was there, he said, that he started offering bottles of his sauce on each of the tables. After living in Florida for about a decade, Dorado relocated to the Granite State, where his wife Kaleigh was born and raised and where the family has resided since 2018. Bottles of Sweet Lava are produced in a local licensed commercial kitchen and sold at nearly two dozen farm stands, country stores and other businesses across southern New Hampshire. The Dorados are also working toward opening their own commercial facility, where they plan to expand the Effin Sauces product line.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I have one knife that I only use for making the sauce. It's a 10-inch Shun that I sharpen with a whetstone every time I'm going to start a batch. ... I feel like a chef is as good as the sharpness of his knife.

What celebrity would you like to see trying your Sweet Lava sauce?

Adam Sandler. I grew up watching his movies ... and now I live in his home state, which I've always thought was so cool. I've always dreamed of him trying the sauce.

What would you have for your last meal?

A few years ago I ate at this restaurant in Sicily, and [I had] a homemade pasta where they emulsified sea urchin with egg yolks. ... That has been the best meal of my life, and so if I can ever have it again, it will be a dream come true.

What is your favorite thing to make with your Sweet Lava sauce?

I love to make a very rich stir-fry ... with anything that I can find, a fried egg on top and then the Effin Sauce on it. Delicious.

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

One thing that I really love about New Hampshire, which is really hard to find in the rest of the United States, is the culture of enjoying things that are locally produced.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I have a few. ... The first one is Yoshimama on Amherst Street [in Nashua]. ... Any time you go there, you will eat well. The fish is always fresh and they are very polite and very nice. The second one is Greenleaf in Milford, because I really admire what [owner and chef] Chris Viaud is doing. He's doing a great job and getting the recognition that he deserves. ... Then the third one is the Michael Timothy [Dining] Group, because I really feel that that guy is the Midas around here. Everything that he touches turns into gold.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Every once in a while, I get a little nostalgic about Spain. I like to do what I call Spanish nights at home. ... I'll buy some shosito peppers, rub some tomato on toasted bread, [or] make a Spanish tortilla with potatoes. ... Sometimes I manage to get lucky and find some octopus. We boil it and then serve it with olive oil, paprika and sea salt. Very simple, but delicious.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Shrimp taquitos

From the kitchen of Carlos Dorado of Effin Sauces Co.

- 3 small flour tortillas
- 8 ounces peeled and deveined shrimp
- 1 avocado
- 1 mango
- Lime juice
- White vinegar
- Salt and pepper
- Effin Sauces Sweet Lava hot sauce



Bring a pot of water to a boil, then add one tablespoon of white vinegar. Add the shrimp and turn down to simmer. Cook for around six minutes, depending on the size of the shrimp pieces. Transfer the shrimp to an ice bath to cool them down, then roughly chop them. Cut the mango and avocado into small-diced pieces. Combine the shrimp, avocado and mango in a bowl, then toss them with the lime juice, salt, pepper and Sweet Lava. Distribute the mix evenly on the tortillas and enjoy.

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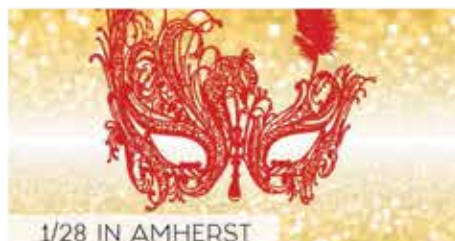
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FOOD



TRY THIS AT HOME

Raspberry jalapeño spread

Another weekend, another social gathering, right? If it is an at-home occasion, you may need to bring an appetizer to share. Since we are all busy hustling and bustling, why not bring a homemade snack that is simple yet addictively delicious?

This recipe is a play on the '80s classic of cream cheese

topped with jam. However, it is a recipe with much more depth but not much more effort. First, we are starting with goat cheese. While cream cheese is nice and creamy, its flavor is one note. Goat cheese offers a nice bit of tanginess for the base. Then we get to control the flavor of the spread topping the goat cheese. Raspberries are the star, but there are other elements. Sugar is added to brighten the fruit. Feel free to add half the amount and check for sweetness levels. Finally, there is minced jalapeño. Nothing like a little heat to make a snack more memorable. Of course,



Raspberry jalapeño spread.
Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

you also can adjust the amount of heat. Like minimal heat? Use only half the jalapeño. Like a lot of heat? Include the ribs and seeds.

Now, the only decision you have to make is the type of crackers to serve with this spread. I personally like a whole-wheat cracker for the crunch and flavor, but the

options are limitless.

Make the raspberry jalapeño spread in the day and let it chill all day long. When it's party time, simply pour it over your goat cheese, grab your crackers, and you're ready to go!

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.

Raspberry jalapeño spread

Serves 4-6

- 2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 jalapeño, seeds and ribs removed
- 8 ounces goat cheese
- Crackers

Combine raspberries and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir occasionally, using some force to smash

the raspberries.

Dice jalapeño finely.

When sugar is dissolved, add jalapeño.

After spread begins to boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until the spread thickens.

Remove from heat; refrigerate until chilled, about 2 hours.

Place goat cheese on a small serving plate; top with raspberry spread.

Serve with crackers.

← GATHER CONTINUED FROM PG 26

accepted now for any size party.

- **T-Bones Great American Eatery** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 404 S. Main St., Concord, 715-1999; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave., Laconia, 528-7800; 311 S. Broadway, Salem, 893-3444; t-bones.com) will be open until 5 p.m. at all of its locations.

- **Temple Street Diner** (200 Temple St., Nashua, 521-7133, templestreetdiner.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will also be accepting special orders for lamb shank, baked ham or 12-ounce boneless steak dinners.

- **Tilt'n Diner** (61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204, thecman.com) will be open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **The Wild Rose Restaurant** (Stonehurst Manor, 3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, 356-3113, thewildroserestaurant.com) will be serving its regular dinner menu from 5 to 8 p.m.

- **The Wild Rover Pub** (21 Kosciuszko St., Manchester, 669-7722, wildroverpub.com) will be open until 7 p.m.

- **Zachary's Chop House** (4 Cobbetts Pond Road, Windham, 890-5555, zacharyschophouse.com) is scheduled to be open its regular hours, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Open on Christmas Day

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com) will open at 5 p.m. that evening.

- **The Red Arrow Diner** (61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 149 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 204-5088; redarrowdiner.com) will be open during its regular business hours at all four locations — the Manchester location is open 24 hours, while the Concord, Londonderry and Nashua locations are all open from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Mark Scalia

Alex Giampapa



10PM Dueling
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Chunky's Nashua @ 7PM



Robbie Printz

Matt Barry

Dan Crohn

Chunky's Pelham @ 7:30PM



Dan Crohn

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FOOD



WINE

Wine for the host

Give the gift of bubbles or reds

By Fred Matuszewski
food@hippopress.com

At this “most wonderful time of the year,” there will be plenty of dinners, parties and gatherings of all sorts, and you want to bring something special to the host, your favorite family member or good friends, but you may not know what they will be serving or where exactly their tastes may lie. I offer the following suggestions of a wine to bring along to your next event or to gift.

Nothing says celebration like Champagne! There are many to choose from, and they need not be expensive. Among the many offered, I recommend the **Moët & Chandon Brut Impérial** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets, priced at \$44.99, reduced to \$41.99). This is one of the most sought-after Champagne brands in the world, with almost three centuries of history behind it. The color is that of golden straw, with a very slight green highlight carried in the glass. To the eye it is, what else? Sparkling! The nose is full of green apples along with some citrus, minerality and the yeast of a fresh brioche. To the tongue there are notes of apple, peach and pear carried through on the fine, tiny bubbles. This is a wine to be savored with the best of company and should never make its way to the bar alongside the buffet.

Our next wine comes from the winery of Joseph Carr, the **2020 Josh Cellars Central Coast Pinot Noir**, (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets, priced at \$17.49, reduced to \$14.45). The color is a rich ruby red with slight

blue notes. The nose has cherry and strawberry that carry through to

the tongue, adding a bit of chocolate, ending with notes of smoke or leather, coming from the toasted oak. This is an all-around, all-purpose wine that can be paired with a roast turkey on the sideboard, or served alongside soft cheeses like brie and Comté, or stuffed mushrooms and roasted vegetables. This wine comes from prime pinot noir producing regions that include Arroyo Seco, Monterey and Santa Lucia.

Our third wine is a **2019 Decoy Red Wine** (available at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets, priced at \$22.99, reduced to \$19.99). This wine is a blend of 35 percent cabernet sauvignon, 27 percent merlot, 16 percent zinfandel, 8 percent petite sirah, 5 percent malbec, 5 percent petite verdot, 2 percent syrah and 2 percent carignan. With a deep red color, this wine has full aromas of blackberry, plum and dark cherries, with hints of spice. There are supple tannins in this full-mouth lush wine that is perfect for pairing with that prime rib holiday roast! While priced to be placed on that bar, alongside the buffet, this wine can be thoroughly enjoyed at an elegant dinner party.

The key to these wines is their flexibility. They are wonderful examples of affordable gifts to be given to your host.

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



◀ FOODIES CONTINUED FROM PG 22

bombs] from me this year because last year they had it on Christmas Eve with their family, and their kids are asking for it again, or people need something for a Secret Santa gift or a Yankee Swap gift, and so they are getting the nicer boxes. ... I have little plastic boxes that have bows on them that I can put them in,” Bangs said.

Pastry chef Emilee Viaud of Milford started her business, Sweet Treats by Emilee (find her on Facebook and Instagram), at the height of the cocoa bomb trend. She has since branched out to all kinds of cocoa bomb flavors and even recently started dabbling in **tea bombs**, which you can get at the Manchester Craft Market, as well as at Junction 71 (707 Milford Road, Merrimack) and Locally Handmade (80 Premium Outlets Blvd., Merrimack). Find Viaud also at Great New England Holiday Shopping Extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Hampshire Dome (50 Emerson Road, Milford).

Tea bombs, Viaud said, are essentially a cup of tea’s counterpart to a cocoa bomb. They feature

a sugar sphere that’s filled with a tea bag, edible glitter and flowers. She has more than 10 flavors, ranging from passion tea and Earl Grey to green tea, chamomile and more.

Another item Viaud is featuring this year includes **chocolate candy-filled “smash” houses** — similar to the breakable chocolate hearts she sold during Valentine’s Day, you simply take a small wooden mallet that they come with to smash open the house, revealing candy inside.

Cakesicles, or fun takes on cake pops crafted in the shape of a popsicle mold, are also having a moment as popular treats. Brianna Miller, whose mother, Lisa Lucciano, owns The Cake Fairy in Hooksett, said it’s likely a nostalgic factor that makes them resonate with so many people.

“It reminds me personally of the bars you’d get off the ice cream trucks as little kids,” she said.

In addition to lemon, funfetti and chocolate peanut butter-dipped cakesicles, The Cake Fairy rolls out a special peppermint dust-flavored cakesicle around the holiday season. 🍷

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CDs pg32

- *-(16)-, Into Dust* A
- *Journey, Freedom* A

BOOKS pg33

- *Now is Not the Time to Panic* B+

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 pg34

- *Violent Night* B

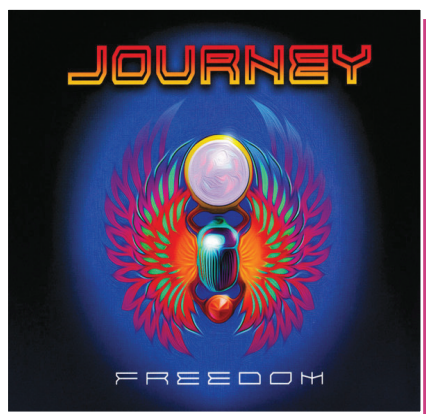
-(16)-, Into Dust (Relapse Records)



Come to think of it, it's been a while since I covered a sludge-metal album, which is weird, because I usually get a lot of jollies out of that genre: usually you can count on hearing stuff that treads some sort of middle ground between Black Sabbath and Melvins, depending on whether or not the singer can actually sing at all. These guys are from Los Angeles, and this, their eighth album, is more or less a conceptual

trip that revolves around living a generally miserable life, starting with "Misfortune Teller," a borderline math-metal joint in which an eviction notice is served to some poor dude in the wake of Hurricane Irma; singer and second-banana guitarist Bobby Ferry does a pretty good Crowbar imitation, indicating that their template pays obeisance to the genre's gold standards. "Dead Eyes" is good stuff too, aping the vibe of early Ministry; "Scrape the Rocks" shoots for doomy Kyuss respectability and largely succeeds. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

Journey, Freedom (BMG Records)



Didn't get to this one when it first landed in my inbox in July, but as always, it's a good bet that half the people who were big fans of this arena-rock band back in the day are totally unaware that they are still at it. Yes, the legend continues, after guitarist Neil Schon married the bleached blonde who, with a previous loverboy, had somehow crashed an Obama party when he was still president, and then there was the one about how,

after singer Steve Perry had had enough of it, they hired a new singer after seeing him karaokeing Journey tunes on YouTube. I'll gladly cop actually to liking some of the jacked-hormone stuff that was on their 2005 full-length album *Generations*, and there's more of that here, with the morose-rockout-morose opening tune "Together We Run," the *Escape*-mimicraving sounds of "Don't Give Up On Us," and so on. No new tricks here, but that's the punchline; when you've become an AOR meme band there's no need to ditch the original formula. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Yikes, Dec. 9 already, and me with a mere paucity of albums to talk about, because all the albums have already been released and are being loaded onto Santa's magic sleigh, to be dropped off at the homes of people who still buy things like albums and asbestos flooring! But wait a minute, folks, there are actually a few new records that have hit my all-seeing radar, starting with **NIKSHOWW**, a rapper from someplace or other, Google only found like 100 things associated with the guy, but he's obviously a highbrow bookworm type, as he was a feat guest on Fiction Fake's "L. A. U. G. H (Laugh at Ugly Generic Hoes)," which, you can tell by the title, is commonly played at retired accountants' 50th wedding anniversary bashes. Oh, who is this guy anyway, let's just move this along, his forthcoming new album, *Anxiety Ridden Isolationist*, his second. Not a lot of info to be found on this album, but his latest song on Spotify, "Fatal Shot," is okay once you get past the subtle-ish Autotune. The beat is comprised of gloomy piano and (spoiler) trap drums, and his flow is pretty cool even though his lines (sample lyric: "Everybody that's in tune knows I'm in a different lane / I will fulfill my dreams of controlling center stage") are kind of — OK, massively — contrived and old, like if people rapped in ancient Egypt, these are the kinds of rhymes they spat for the entertainment of mummies and whatever. But that's OK!

- **French Montana** is a rapper from Morocco, or more specifically Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco, and I shall talk briefly about his new album, *Coke Boys 6*, here in my column. Feats will include Max B, D Thang, Cheese, Kenzo B and Stove God; it's the sixth installment of his *Coke Boys* mixtape series, the first since 2020's *Coke Boys 5*. Montana's mushmouthed style is fun in its way; there's a sample of "Money Heist Edition" on Instagram if you're curious to hear how "underground" he is (not very, judging by the rather unadventurous 1970s girl-group-flavored beat.

- **The Lumineers** are an alternative folk band from Denver, Colorado. They enjoy such healthy pastimes as playing unnecessary cellos and wearing cabbie hats in order to hide bald spots or Martian antennae, whichever. The band's principals are heavily into Top 40 radio regulars like Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and Tom Petty, so, no there is no black metal or chopped-and-screwed sampledelia on this album, a 10th Anniversary Edition of their debut LP, *The Lumineers*, but I did check for that just in case. "Stubborn Love" is probably the most popular tune from this album, a loping number you probably mistook for an Arcade Fire B-side the first time you heard it; definitely a Tom Petty vibe going on there.

- We'll wrap up the week with singer/actress and iconic punk fixture **Nina Hagen**, who will release her 14th album, *Unity*, this week! Fun fact, when Angela Merkel ended her 16-year chancellorship of Germany last December, she chose Hagen's song "Du hast den Farbfilm vergessen (You Forgot the Colour Film)" as one of the three tunes to be played at her Großer Zapfenstreich military leaving ceremony. Yes, that's what happens to old punks, they become the opposite of punk. The title track of this new album is a funky, Warhol-esque pastiche of "woke" epithets and bad singing, but don't let that stop you. — *Eric W. Saeger*

— *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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Now is Not the Time to Panic, by Kevin Wilson (Ecco, 243 pages)

It's another mundane day in the suburban household of Frances Eleanor Budge when she picks up the phone and hears a writer for The New Yorker say, "The edge is a shantytown filled with gold seekers."

Frances numbly replies, "We are fugitives and the law is skinny with hunger for us," as her daughter bangs on drums in the back-ground and her husband makes a household repair.

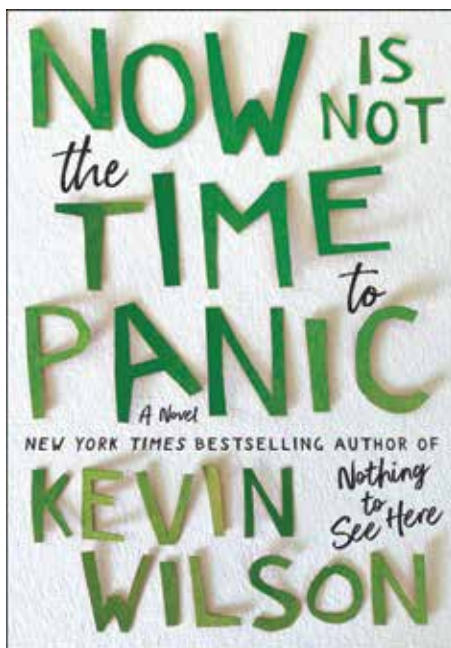
After hanging up, refusing to answer the writer's questions, Frances reflects, "Our life, which was so boring and normal, was still happening. Right at this moment, as everything was changing, it was like my life didn't know it yet."

Thus begins *Now is Not the Time to Panic*, the new novel by Kevin Wilson, whose previous work includes *The Family Fang* and *Nothing to See Here*. From that strange phone call, it's a wild, comic ride, as Wilson takes readers back 21 years to when Frances, or Frankie, as she was called, was a teenager with a secret.

The teenage Frankie, who lived with her mom and three triplet brothers in Tennessee, was an aspiring writer with a lot of time on her hands when she met Zeke, an aspiring artist. The two bonded over animosity toward their absent fathers, their misfit natures and their boredom.

One day, while trying to think of something to do, Frankie remembered that there was an old Xerox copier in her garage that her troublemaking brothers had stolen from a supply building at the high school. It had previously only been used to photocopy the triplets' body parts, and now wasn't working. But Zeke figured out that it was only a paper jam, which he fixed. "This could be fun," he says. "We could do something weird with this."

Zeke suggested that Frankie compose a



few lines, "a mystery or riddle that no one can solve," and that he would illustrate it. Frankie complied, and Zeke produced an illustration that was equally odd, with a hellscape of shacks with roofs caving in, wild dogs, children in beds and two "giant, disembodied hands, the fingers withered and jagged, almost glowing" reaching in the direction of the children.

That night, they distributed 63 copies of the poster around town – on telephone poles, in the windows of businesses, in random mailboxes. The next day, they made 300 more. "The whole experience felt like what drugs must have felt like," Frankie reflects. "It was the high of doing something weird, not knowing the outcome. I imagined my wild brothers had felt this so many times that they were numb to it. But for Zeke and me, well-behaved dorks, it was amazing." It took a while, but soon a local reporter wrote about the mysterious posters, which he deemed sophisticated, suggesting the quote came from a famous French poet. Zeke and Frank-

ie continued to distribute them, unnoticed. Theories begin to pile up. Some people said the posters were the work of a drug cult and were an ominous threat. The newspaper ran a story under the headline "Evil comes to Coalfield." Meanwhile, other people in the town started making copies of the poster and hanging them up, too. One person was putting them on top of a water tower when he fell off and died.

Eventually, the story goes national and makes it to *20/20* and *Saturday Night Live*, and reporting on it wins a Pulitzer for The New York Times, and someone opens a restaurant called "Skinny with Hunger" and so forth. The "Coalfield Panic" becomes so legendary that random people start taking credit for it, but they are shown to be hoaxes, and Frankie has lost touch with Zeke and gone on to live her ordinary life. Which is why she is so unnerved when the writer for The New Yorker, an art critic, starts calling repeatedly, threatening to expose her.


On one level, this sounds like a mad-cap adventure, something that Christopher Buckley (*Thank You for Not Smoking*, *Florence of Arabia*) would write. But there is a poignancy that underlies the story, which is billed as a coming-of-age novel but is much more. It's also about the source and meaning of art, and about how events from the past forever influence our life. "You hold on to something for twenty years, the expectations and possibilities bend and twist alongside your actual life," the adult Frankie says.

While the ending wasn't what I had hoped for (and perhaps not what Frankie and Zeke would have wanted either), *Now is Not the Time to Panic* was a joy ride from start to finish and moves easily through its two-decade time span like a fast-flowing river. It's not the great American novel but it doesn't pretend to be. It's something even better: a novel that makes you laugh and think and is simply a pleasure to read. **B+** — Jennifer Graham


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Books

Author events

• **MATT FORREST ESENWINE** will present a storytime featuring his new book *Don't Ask a Dinosaur* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m.

• **SYLVIE KURTZ** will discuss her two new holiday novels *Christmas by Candlelight* and *Christmas in Brighton* at Toadstool Bookshop (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 673-1734, toadbooks.com) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.

• **JOHN T. BRODERICK JR.** former chief justice of the NH Supreme Court and current senior director of external affairs at Dartmouth Health, will discuss his book *Back Roads and Highways: My Journey to*

Discovery on Mental Health at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.

• **J. W. OCKER** will discuss his new book *The United States of Cryptids: A Tour of American Myths and Monsters* at Toadstool Bookshop (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 673-1734, toadbooks.com) on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 1 p.m.

• **LANA HARPER** author of the new rom-com *Back in a Spell*, will appear in a virtual conversation via Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

• **MAREK BENNETT** will discuss his new graphic novel *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby Volume 3 (1864)*

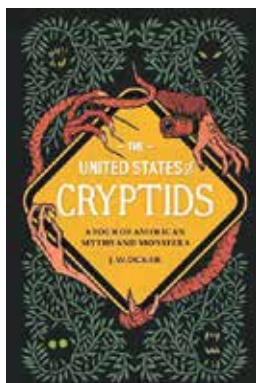
at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m.

• **KATEE ROBERT** will discuss her book *Radiant Sin* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 4:30 p.m.

Poetry

• **EWA CHRUSCIEL** presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 4:30 p.m.

• **DOWN CELLAR POETRY SALON** Poetry event series presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. Monthly. First Sunday. Visit psnh.org.



• **SLAM FREE OR DIE**, an ongoing poetry open mic and slam series, takes place every Thursday night at Stark Brewing Co. (50 N. Commercial St., Manchester). Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates on upcoming events and appearances.

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. Email pembroken-townlibrary@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. Visit underthemadnessmagazine.com for full submission guidelines.

Violent Night (R)

Santa Claus gets bloody in *Violent Night*, an entertaining oddity of an action dark comedy holiday movie that is, despite a lead-character moppet and lots of Christmas Magic, the hardest of hard Rs and decidedly not for kids.

But also, were it not for the skull-crushing (accompanied by real A+ Foley work) and the gushing fountains of blood, this is kind of a sweet and sentimental movie about family and Christmas. Very ew but also awww.

Young Trudy Lightstone's (Leah Brady) Christmas wish is for her estranged parents, Linda (Alexis Louder) and Jason (Alex Hassell), to get back together. They sort of do so for Christmas at the heavily armed and protected compound of extremely wealthy grandma Gertrude Lightstone (Beverly D'Angelo), Jason's mother. Trudy worries that Santa won't know what she wants because Jason never took her to visit him. To make up for this, Jason finds an old walkie-talkie and gives it to Trudy, telling her it's a magic device that will let her talk to Santa.

Little do any of them know that at that



Violent Night

moment Santa Claus (David Harbour) is drowning his sorrow about the greed and faithlessness of the world with many beers. When he gets to the Lightstone mansion, he brightens at the homemade cookies Trudy has left for him and even more at the nearly 90-year-old whiskey he finds at the bar. He's enjoying his treats while relaxing in a mas-

sage chair when he hears gunfire.

That would be Mr. Scrooge (John Leguizamo) and his band of Christmas-theme-code-named hired guns attacking the Lightstone compound. They take the family hostage to raid the safe that they've learned contains hundreds of millions of dollars in cash. Trudy uses her walkie to call Santa for

help, and Santa, because he's just killed a Scrooge henchman and now has his walkie, answers.

As it turns out, before he was Father Christmas, Santa was a giant-hammer-wielding Viking. Trying to help the true-believer Trudy rekindles both Santa's Christmas spirit and his Viking bloodlust, and Harbor does a good job at selling both. Equally fun (and I think having fun) is D'Angelo, who is great as a hard-driving businesswoman with a mostly awful family. The mix of petty rich people, a plucky kid (Trudy has just seen *Home Alone* and took some notes), a bunch of "like pirates but dressed as elves" bad guys and the tenderhearted Viking Santa somehow works.

Violent Night doesn't feel like a new holiday classic, but it is a tart little kick that somehow still brings some Christmas-y cheer. Cheer and gore. **B**

Rated super R for strong bloody violence, language throughout and some sexual references, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Tommy Wirkola with a screenplay by Pat Casey and Josh Miller; Violent Night is an hour and 52 minutes long and distributed in theaters by Universal Studios. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special (TV-14)

Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista.

And in addition to Quill (Pratt) and Drax (Bautista) we get Nebula (Karen Gillan), Kraglin (Sean Gunn), Mantis (Pom Klementieff), Groot (voice of Vin Diesel), Rocket (voice of Bradley Cooper), Cosmo the Russian cosmonaut dog (voice of Maria Bakalova) and, as the credits say, "introducing Kevin Bacon." The gang decides Bacon, the awesome hero of Quill's pre-space Earth memories, would be the perfect gift for a still-bummed-about-lost-Gamora Quill, especially since this happens to be the Earth season known as Christmastime. The *Guardians* retro rock vibe meshes well with some low-fi elements and the satisfying selection of modern rock Christmas music. The overall tone of this brisk 40-ish minute special is exactly the right mix of goofy (blessings to the very game Bacon), Marvelly and sweet. **B+** Available on Disney+.

Spirited (PG-13)

Will Ferrell, Ryan Reynolds.

Ferrell and Reynolds work on exactly the level they should in this breezy musical riff on *A Christmas Carol* that feels like the spiritual descendant of 1988's *Scrooged*, with Clint Briggs (Reynolds), labeled an unredeemable jerk by Jacob Marley (Patrick Page), as the focus of a *Christmas-Carol*-ing. Clint is a PR guy whose whole shtick is creating conflict and ruining lives to help his clients. To the Ghost of Christmas Present (Ferrell) that

makes him a perfect candidate. His bad actions touch a lot of lives and he offers a much-needed challenge. But, despite the year of planning that goes into the project, the night doesn't go as planned. For starters, Past (Sunita Mani) and Clint hook up and she exits his look-back early, because awkward. When Present steps in, he is irritated by Clint, particularly by how Clint has him questioning matters from his own life. Not helping is the fact that Present has a crush on Clint's second-in-command, Kimberley (Octavia Spencer), who can see and talk to Present.

Spirited is cute, in the best way. It is fun to watch; there are some well-used cameos and a nice running joke about spon-con, and the songs are thoroughly enjoyable despite any lack of expertise by the actors called on to sing. **B+** Available on Apple TV+.

The Hip Hop Nutcracker (TV-PG)

Cache Melvin, Dushaunt Fik-Shun Stegall.

A teenage Maria-Clara (Melvin) enjoys the start of a young romance with the Nutcracker (Stegall) while trying to rekindle the romance between her mom (Allison Holker) and pop (Stephen Boss) at a neighborhood block party on New Year's Eve in this 44-minute remix reworking of the *Nutcracker* ballet. Toymaker Drosselmeyer (Comfort Fedoke) is still bringing the magic but this time the Land of Sweets is a dance club in a nonspecific back in the day when Maria-Clara's parents first met. The staging is a fun way to play around with the familiar story, and the blend of classical ballet (including a short cameo from Mikhail Baryshnikov) with hip-hop dance is beautiful and technically impressive — something the special takes care to really let you see. If you

like a good riff on a holiday standard, this fits the bill and I feel like it is a good way to introduce kids who might have only meh interest in standard ballet to the music and story elements. **B+** Available on Disney+.

A Christmas Story Christmas (PG)

Peter Billingsly, Julie Hagerty.

Ralphie, the boy pining for a BB gun at Christmastime in 1940, is now Ralph, married to Sandy (Erinn Hayes), with kids — Mark (River Drosche) and Julie (Julianna Layne) — and living in Chicago. When his mom (Hagerty, taking over from Melinda Dillon, who played the mom in the 1983 *A Christmas Story*) calls to tell him his father has died, Ralph decides to take his family back to his Indiana town to spend Christmas with her in

his childhood home. His mom insists that the family not be gloomy — Dad would have wanted us to have a great Christmas, she tells him. But Ralphie is not sure he can live up to the gold standard for Christmas celebration set by his dad. He also has an approaching deadline — he has spent the year trying to make it as a writer and finding no takers for his 2,000-page sci-fi novel.

This movie has cute moments featuring cast members of the original movie. But it is long and wearily eager. Be Nostalgic! Feel the Holiday Cheer! Oh, That Ralphie! I would say, "It's fine to have on while doing your holiday tasks," but the original is available on the same streaming service, so why bother with this so-so imitation? **C+** Available on HBO Max. 🍷

Film

• *Paris Is Burning* (1990) will screen at Red River Theatres (redrivertheatres.org) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. and include a post-film discussion. Tickets cost \$12.

• *Three's a Crowd* (1927), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen at the Flying Monkey in Plymouth (flyingmonkeynh.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

• *The Banshees of Inisherin* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m.

• *The Menu* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

• *She Said* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday,

Dec. 8, at 6:45 p.m.

• *Harvest Time*, a docu-film about the making of Neil Young's album *Harvest*, will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org) on Thursday, Dec. 8, and Friday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. All tickets \$12.

• *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham (chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. as part of a 21+ Ugly Sweater Party.

• *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at O'Neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square in Epping (oneilcinemas.com) through Thursday, Dec. 8, with multiple screenings each day.

• *Elf* (PG, 2003) will screen at O'Neil Cinemas in Epping (oneilcinemas.com) Friday, Dec. 9, through Thursday, Dec. 15, with multiple daily screenings.

• **Spoiler Alert** (PG-13, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) starting on Friday, Dec. 9.

• *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at Chunky's in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham (chunkys.com) Friday, Dec. 9, through Thursday, Dec. 15, with multiple daily screenings Friday through Sunday; 5:30 p.m. screening Monday through Thursday. On Friday, Dec. 9, the 4 p.m. screening is a sensory-friendly.

• *Elf* (PG, 2003) will screen Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. at Red River Theatres (redrivertheatres.org) in Concord.

• **Reality Check movie series** at The Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org), a free series on addiction, recovery and mental health, will screen *Depression* on Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m.

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Songbird:** Along with writing achingly beautiful songs, **Antje Duvokot** is a talented animator who's made music videos for several of her contemporaries. Lately, she's collaborating on a long-form project about Holocaust survivor Abe Piasek. Musically, she's putting the finishing touches on a new, fan-funded album, and she did a stunning duet with John Gorka of Nanci Griffith's "Working In Corners" that's up on YouTube. Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge, 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, tickets \$37 and \$47 at themusichall.org.

• **Perennial:** Boston likes to think of **Martin Sexton** as its own; though the songwriter's songwriter is a Syracuse native, he came up busking at T stops and on the streets of the city in the early 1990s. He's gone on to headline storied venues like Carnegie Hall and The Fillmore. His latest album, *2020 Vision*, was made virtually during lockdown. It's described on the official Martin Sexton website as "a poetically emotive and elegantly evocative pandemic scrapbook." Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, tickets \$40 and \$45 at tupelohall.com.

• **Vocalizers:** Before *Straight No Chaser*, *Pentatonix* and the *Pitch Perfect* movies, **Rockapella** brought contemporary a cappella into many music fans' lives. The New York vocal group had forebears, but when it was the house "band" on the PBS series *Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?* its brand of human beatbox-driven harmonizing entered the mainstream. The group's annual holiday show returns to Pinkerton Academy. Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Stockbridge Theatre, 44 N. Main St., Derry, \$35 at pinkertonacademy.org.

• **Fiddlacious:** Born to play her instrument, **Eileen Ivers** remembers air fiddling a pink toy guitar at age 3. Since then, she's earned a reputation as the Jimi Hendrix of the violin from her admirers. Although she's won multiple all-Ireland fiddle championships and has toured with Riverdance, Ivers is an American, born in New York City. Her upcoming show is Christmas-themed; a highlight of past performances is the devotional song "Holly Tree." Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$39 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Hometown:** A solo set from one of the area's leading luminaries, **Justin Cohn**, may include a song from Rocking Horse Music Club's rock opera, *Circus of Wire Dolls*. The singer-songwriter is one of the group's standouts since he delivered a memorable lead vocal on 2018's "Everywhere Is Home," their debut single. Cohn has a great catalog of his own songs; he released the reflective, bucolic "Settlement Trees" at the end of last year. Tuesday, Dec. 13, 9 p.m., Stark Brewing Co., 500 Commercial St., Manchester. See justincohn.com. 🍷

NITE

Swag of the season

Music fan gift guide

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

From modest to massive, local to legend, light fun to heavy tomes, there's a great gift for the music fan in your life. Here are some ideas sure to bring a smile this holiday season.

Rocking Horse Music Club's *Circus of Wire Dolls* (rockinghorsemusicclub.com) is one of the best records to come out of New Hampshire in years, an ambitious rock opera of memoir and anthropomorphism that could very well be on Broadway one day. Its lineup includes area talent and progressive rock legends, led by creator and producer Brian Coombes — available on vinyl and CD.

Speaking of local acts, several released great albums this year. Couple *Gravity and the Stars Above*, the moody pop-punk sophomore release from **Donaher** (facebook.com/dona-hertheband), with a cool T-shirt. Go country with **April Cushman's** NEMA-winning *The Long Haul* and a bull skull hoodie (aprilcushman.com), or gift **Faith Ann Band's** raging *In Bloom* with a piece of their leader's handmade jewelry (thefaitnband.com).

Concert tickets are a gift that pays off now and later, when the shows actually happen. The two-day **Northlands Festival** (northlandslive.com) is returning next June, this time with The String Cheese Incident and Phish's Mike Gordon topping the bill at the Cheshire Fairgrounds in Swanze. The long-awaited **Nashua Center for the Arts** finally opens in April, with Suzanne Vega, blues polyglot Grace Kelly and ukulele wizard Jake Shimabukuro all on sale, along with other shows (nashuapac.org).

For the gadget-minded, there are some great options. If you're feeling really generous, the **Beolit 20** from Bang & Olufsen is a perfect gift. It's a portable Bluetooth speaker that runs around \$500, which is entry level for the Danish sound company. Along with pristine output, the unit's top doubles as a magnetic charge base for mobile phones.

Less lofty is **JBL's Charge 5**, a (totally) tubular speaker that's waterproof and quite

powerful. Apple **AirPods** are always a safe pick; the third-generation ones pack a big bass wallop. For the extravagant, there's the sleek and powerful over-ear **AirPods Max**. Just as beautiful is the Ikea **Symfonisk Picture Frame**, which does not require user assembly, a rarity for that store. It works with Sonos, AirPlay and Spotify Connect.

How thoughtful is the clever offering from **Vinylify**, a bespoke vinyl album containing a playlist of choice and customized cover art? The site also offers gift cards, a safer choice that will allow your music lover's imagination to run wild. You can give them some ideas with Easton Press's voluminous **Rock Covers** book, which collects more than 750 sleeves from Elvis and onward, organized by artist and spanning rock's 40-year "golden era" at a pricey \$176.

More down to earth are books about classic rock favorites. Bob Spitz, whose past works include an encyclopedic look at The Beatles, has a biography of **Led Zeppelin** that does a great job with the band's early days, when its four members were scrappily climbing the ladder and learning the ropes. U2 front man Bono's **Surrender** looks back at his life through 40 of his band's songs.

If fiction is more to your favorite fan's liking, a good choice is a hardcover copy of Taylor Jenkins Reid's **Daisy Jones & The Six** with a "She just seemed so fearless" bookmark. The novel traces the rise and fall of a band that sounds very much like the Stevie Nicks-era Fleetwood Mac.

Given the recent passing of Christine McVie, now's a fine time to spin "Don't Stop" and "You Make Loving Fun" — or marinate in McVie's own music. There's a Glyn Johns remaster of her **Songbird: A Solo Collection** that's a good choice there. Or go further back in McVie's career: For the hardcore fan, there's a limited white-vinyl edition of the 1970 record she made as Christine Perfect on Amazon — an import, naturally.

Everyone loves toys for Christmas, especially music fans. One of the best (and hardest to get) is Funko Pop! Rocks: **Iron Maiden**



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Funko Pop! Rocks

Easton Press's Rock Covers book.

Glow In The Dark Box Set (popmarket.com). It includes four 4.5-inch Eddie figures of the English heavy metal band: Live After Death, Seventh Son, Nights of the Dead and Somewhere in Time. When it sells out, there are other items that headbangers will love, like a **Pantera** set, along with standalones of **Ronnie James Dio** and Twisted Sister's **Dee Snider**. 🍷

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

Averill House Vineyard
21 Averill Road, Brookline
371-2296, averillhousevineyard.com

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

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

Headliners Comedy Club

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

McCue's Comedy Club at the Roundabout Diner
580 Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Portsmouth
mccuescomedyclub.com

The Music Hall Lounge
131 Congress St., Portsmouth
436-2400, themusichall.org

Rex Theatre
23 Amherst St., Manchester

668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Ruby Room Comedy
909 Elm St., Manchester
491-0720, rubyroomcomedy.com

Thirsty Moose Tap House
21 Congress St., Portsmouth
427-8645, thirstymoosetap-house.com

Events

• **Jay Chanoine** Thirsty Moose Pub, Thursday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m.
• **Jimmy Cash & Friends** Rex, Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.
• **Karen Morgan** McCue's, Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Sweeney** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 9, 8:30 p.m.
• **Dave Rattigan** Thirsty Moose, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.
• **Will Noonan** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30 p.m.

• **Brian Glowacki** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30 p.m.
• **Laura Severse** Music Hall Lounge, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.
• **Myq Kaplan** Shaskeen Pub,



Karen Morgan

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.

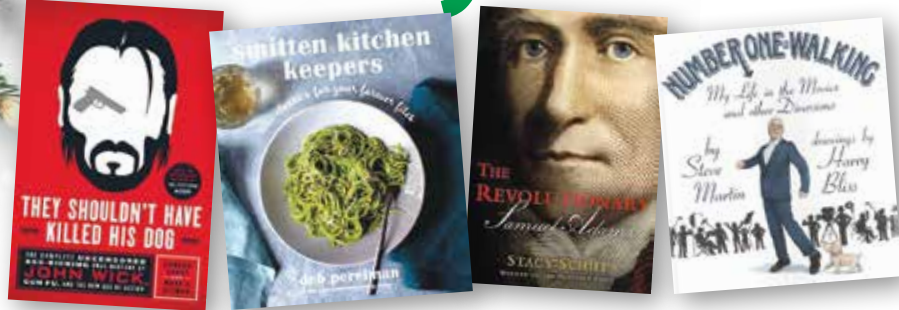
• **Greg & The Morning Buzz** Christmas Ball Chubb Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, Dec. 15, and Fri-

day, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
• **Jimmy Dunn's Comedy** Christmas Rex, Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.
• **Maine Comedy Invasion** McCue's, Friday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.

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Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive 855-2222	Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road 463-7374	Exeter Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St. 793-5116	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777	Laconia Belknap Mill 25 Beacon St. E., No. 1 524-8813	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101 672-9898	Concord Concord Craft Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St. 601-7091	Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St. 625-0246
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Dover Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St. 343-4390	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Smuttnose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Elm House of Pizza 102 Elm St. 232-5522	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947
Auburn Tavern 346 Hooksett Road 587-2057	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614	Epping Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
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				Jaffrey Park Theatre 19 Main St. 532-9300	Manchester Angel City Music Hall 179 Elm St. 931-3654	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	To Share Brewing 720 Union St. 836-6947
					Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave. 858-5789	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722

Thursday, Dec. 8

Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.	Hampton Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Matt Bergeron, 5 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Concord Area 23: Gardner Berry, 7 p.m. Hermanos: Mike Morris, 6:30 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke w/ Luke Skywalker, 8 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: D-Comp, 7 p.m.
Exeter Sea Dog: Dan Walker, 6 p.m.	Manchester Angel City: open mic, 8 p.m. City Hall Pub: Steve Prsby, 7 p.m. Currier: Lucas Gallo, 5 p.m.

Elm House of Pizza: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m. Foundry: Brad Myrick, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m. Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Clint Lapointe, 7 p.m.
Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
Salem Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.
Strafford Independence Inn: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.	

Friday, Dec. 9

Alton Foster's Tavern: Dakota Smart, 6 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Ryan Palma, 8 p.m.
Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke night, 8:30 p.m.
Concord Area 23: Brick Yard Blues, 8 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Peter Peterson, 6 p.m.
Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 6 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m. Derryfield: Bob Pratte Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m. The Goat: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m. Shaskeen: Jonee Earthquake Punk Rock Xmas, 9 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Jake Pardee & Friends, 9 p.m. To Share: Kevin Horan, 6:30 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Jodee Frawlee, 8 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Chris Lester, 5 p.m.
Exeter Sea Dog: Christopher Voss, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Horizon, 8:30 p.m. Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.
Hampton Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Wally's: Cashwood, 9 p.m.	
Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	

Windham Common Man: Mikey G, 6 p.m.	Nashua Millyard Brewery: Caylin Costello, 6:30 p.m.
	New Boston Molly's: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.
	Northfield Boonedox Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.
	Penacook American Legion Post 31: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.
	Portsmouth Gas Light: Rebecca Turmel, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Mo Bounce, 9 p.m.
	Salem Luna Bistro: live music, 6 p.m. Smuttnose: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Alton Bay Dockside: Tim T, 8 p.m.	Alton Foster's Tavern: Senie Hunt, 6 p.m.
	Brookline Alamo: live music, 5 p.m.
	Bow Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.
	Concord Area 23: acoustic jam, 2 p.m.; Secret Army (Holy Fool opens), 8 p.m. Winter Farmers Market: Paul Gormley, 9 a.m. Hermanos: Matt Poirier, 6:30 p.m.



STEVE SWEENEY

Steve Sweeney is a beloved presence on the New England comedy scene, both for his hilarious standup and for his acting appearances in movies like *The Equalizer*, *Celtic Pride* and *Next Stop Wonderland*. He comes to Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

Music, live and in person

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

Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313	Nashua Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Millyard Brewery 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	Penacook American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St. 753-9372	Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway 458-2162
Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	Raga 138 Main St. 459-8566	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Smuttynose 11 Via Toscana
Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy. 424-4479	San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St. 886-8833	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way 760-2581
Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270	Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070	Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane 436-6656	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St. 380-3480	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	Thirsty Moose Taphouse 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Strafford Independence Inn 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Windham Common Man 88 Range Road 898-0088

Contoocook Contoocook Cider Co.: Kimayo, 1 p.m. Hermanos: Matt Poirier, 6:30 p.m.	Hudson The Bar: live music, 8:30 p.m.	Shaskeen: Lucas Gallo & Friends, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Racky Thomas Band, 9 p.m. Wild Rover: Casey Roop, 5 p.m.
Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.	Jaffrey Park Theatre: Bernie & Louise Watson, 5:30 p.m.; NH Gay Men's Chorus, 7:30 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: David Lockwood, 6 p.m. Twin Barns: Andrea Paquin, 5 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Clint Lapointe, 8 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Taylor Hughes, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.
Epsom Hill Top Pizza: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Laconia Tower Hill: line dancing, 7 p.m.; Carolyn Ramsay Band, 8:30 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: Blue Monkey Band, 8 p.m.
Exeter Sea Dog: Rich Amorim, 6 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8 p.m.	Nashua Millyard Brewery: Upside Downers, 4 p.m. San Francisco Kitchen: Ken Budka, 6:30 p.m.
Goffstown Village Trestle: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Andrew Geano, 6 p.m. Derryfield: The Slakas, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Clark, 6 p.m. Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m. The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; Inside Out, 9 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Diversity, 7 p.m.
Hampton Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. L. Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m. Smuttynose: live music, 6 p.m. Wally's: The Far, 9 p.m.		Newmarket Stone Church: Debo Ray & Maz, 8 p.m.



LAURA SEVERSE

Dorchester debutante **Laura Severse** has played at clubs around New England, and her recent collaboration with Tim Dillon, "The Wallet," has been viewed over four million times. She comes to the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth; 436-2400; themusicHall.org) on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 plus fees.

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PRESENTS

WINTER AT THE REX

DECEMBER

FRI 9	Friday Night Comedy: Jimmy Cash and Friends	7:30PM
SAT 10	A Sinatra Christmas with Rich DiMare	7:30PM
SUN 11	A Joyful Christmas with Eileen Ivers	4:00PM
WED 14	Anthony Nunziata: My Italian Broadway Christmas!	7:00PM
THUR 15	Eric Mintel Quartet: A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas	7:00PM
FRI 16	Friday Night Comedy: Jimmy Dunn's Comedy Christmas	7:30PM
SAT 17	Christmas with The Spain Brothers	7:30PM
SUN 18	New Legacy Swing Band	2:00PM
FRI 30	Juston McKinney's Year in Review	8:00PM
SAT 31	Juston McKinney's Year in Review	8:00PM

JANUARY

SAT 7	A Celebration of the Allman Brothers Band with Idlewild	7:30PM
SAT 14	An Evening with Folk Legend Dave Mallett	7:30PM
FRI 20	Friday Night Comedy: Brian Glowacki and Friends	7:30PM
SAT 21	An Evening with Chris Barron from the Spin Doctors	7:30PM
SAT 28	Magic Rocks! Illusionist Leon Etienne	7:30PM

FEBRUARY

SAT 4	Panorama: A Tribute to the Cars	7:30PM
WED 8	Silent Film: Safety Last	7:00PM
SAT 11	April Cushman featuring Charlie Chronopoulos	7:30PM
SAT 18	Postcards from Heaven with Maureen Hancock	7:00PM
SUN 19	Postcards from Heaven with Maureen Hancock	2:00PM

MARCH

SAT 4	Divas with a Twist in Concert	7:30PM
FRI 31	Morgan James with Special Guest Kirk Hurmond	7:30PM

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: live music, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light Pub: Justin Cohn, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Fighting Friday, 9 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: David Corson, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Alton Bay

Dockside: Dakota Smart, 4 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.

Concord

Concord Craft Brewing: Justin Cohn, 2 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Eric Marcs, 1 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Bob Pratte, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton

Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m.
CR's: Rico Barr Duo, 6 p.m.
L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Thievery Corporation, 7 p.m.
Whym: Phil Jacques, 1 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: live music, 2 p.m.

Laconia

Belknap Mill: open mic, 2 p.m.
Tower Hill: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Foundry: Brad Myrick, 10 a.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Milford

Riley's Place: open mic w/ Blues Jam, 1 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mic, 7 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Rob Dumais, 11 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 12

Dover

Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Gilford

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

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: David Campbell, 8 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Concord

Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

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

Kingston

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 8 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Raga: karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

Seabrook

Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Red's: country night, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Concord

Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Kimayo, 6 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Exeter

Sea Dog: Alan Roux, 5 p.m.

Hampton

Bogie's: open mic, 7 p.m.
L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

Jeffery

Park Theatre: Irish Christmas in America, 7:30 p.m.

Kingston

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

Manchester

Derryfield: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Paul Warnick, 5:45 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

Rochester

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



THE HONDA GUY

The Honda Days are coming up soon. Who better to celebrate this holiday than **Will Noonan**, known throughout New England as "The Honda Guy" for his appearances in car commercials? Don't miss his upcoming appearance at Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester; headlinerscomedyclub.com) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.



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Tribute
- THURS. FEB. 2
IN AMHERST Blue Brothers the Next Generation
- FRI. FEB. 10
IN DERRY Valentine's Day Disco with Booty
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- FRI. FEB. 10
IN AMHERST Valentine's Day 'Night of Sinatra'
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- FRI. FEB. 17
IN DERRY Jimmy Kenny Band: Buffet,
Chesney & Zac Brown Tribute
- THURS. FEB. 23
IN AMHERST Takin' it to the Streets:
Doobie Brothers Tribute
- FRI. FEB. 24
IN DERRY Big Sky Country
- THURS. MAR. 2
IN DERRY Comedian Jimmy Dunn
- THURS. MAR. 9
IN AMHERST Live Bullet: Bob Seger Tribute
- FRI. MAR. 10
IN DERRY Bell Bottom Blues:
Eric Clapton Experience
- THURS. MAR. 16
IN DERRY St Patrick's Day
with Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio
- THURS. MAR. 23
IN DERRY Aquanett: 80's Rock
- THURS. MAR. 30
IN DERRY Nearly Diamond
- THURS. MAR. 30
IN AMHERST Workin' For A Livin':
Huey Lewis and The News Tribute
- THURS. APRIL 6
IN AMHERST Barely Manilow
- THURS. APRIL 6
IN DERRY Red Not Chili Peppers



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Concerts

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 Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

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

Colonial Theatre
 609 Main St., Laconia
 800-657-8774, coloniallaconia.com

Dana Center for the Humanities
 Saint Anselm College
 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Man-
 chester, anselm.edu

The Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center
 39 Main St., Plymouth
 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com

LaBelle Winery
 345 Route 101, Amherst
 14 Route 111, Derry
 labellewinery.com

Park Theatre
 19 Main St., Jaffrey
 theparktheatre.org, 532-9300

Rex Theatre
 23 Amherst St., Manchester
 palacetheatre.org

SNHU Arena
 555 Elm St., Manchester
 644-5000, snhuarena.com

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

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

The Word Barn
 66 Newfields Road, Exeter
 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

- **A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa** Thursday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Word Barn
- **Laconia Middle School Music Department Winter Concert** Thursday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Colonial
- **SALIVA** Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Tupelo
- **Cherish the Ladies** Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- **Indigo Girls** Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Martin Sexton** Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Studio Two** (Beatles tribute) Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Chunky's Manchester
- **Christmas with the Crooners** Saturday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Colonial
- **The A-Beez** Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **Boston Holiday Pops** Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., SNHU Arena
- **New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus** Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre
- **A Frank Sinatra Christmas with Rich DiMare and the Ron**



Indigo Girls

- **Poster Band** Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Ben Rudnick & Friends** Sunday, Dec. 11, 2:30 p.m., Labelle Winery Amherst
- **Capital Jazz Orchestra Holiday Pops** Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Chris Collins' John Denver Christmas** Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Eileen Ivers** Sunday, Dec. 11, 4:30 p.m., Rex
- **The Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra's "Christmas with the Crooners"** Sunday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Colonial Theatre Laconia
- **Anthony Nunziata: Italian Christmas Broadway Show** Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Rex
- **Irish Christmas in America** Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre
- **A Nashville Christmas** Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m., Labelle Winery Derry
- **The Morning Buzz Christmas Ball** Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre

Trivia

Events
 • **A Christmas Story trivia 21+** on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com). Reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.

Weekly

- **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with 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 at Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers

(17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.

- **Monday** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at 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 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



A Christmas Story

- 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..
- **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with 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)
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

◀ ADVENTURES CONTINUED FROM PG 16

- **Mel's Funway Park** (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, melsfunwaypark.com, 424-2292) Email info@melsfunwaypark.com or call to purchase gift cards or a Funway fun pack. Packs start at \$38 per person and include a go-kart ride, a round of mini golf, a laser tag session, a bumper boat ride, two admissions to the laser maze and five batting cage tokens.
- **Muse Paintbar** (42 Hanover St., Manchester, musepaintbar.com, 888-607-6873, musepaintbar.com) The studio is offering gift cards that can be purchased online. The starting price for a gift card is \$25 and sessions start at \$35.
- **O'neil Cinemas** (24 Calef Hwy., Epping, oneilcinemas.com, 679-3529) The movie theater offers gift cards from \$5 to \$100. Gift cards can be purchased online or in the cinema.
- **Pats Peak** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, patspeak.com, 428-3245) Gift cards start at \$20, and a lift pass for juniors costs \$82.

- **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, see-sciencecenter.org, 669-0400) Individual membership costs \$30, membership for a family of four costs \$120, for a family of up to eight is \$150. Gift certificates can be purchased by calling the center's phone number.
- **Studio 550** (550 Elm St., Manchester, 550arts.com, 232-5597) The clay studio offers classes in drawing or clay work for students ages 9 and older during the school semesters and a pottery camp over summer vacation. Gift cards (made out of clay) are available and range from \$10 to \$300.
- **Vertical Dreams** (250 Commercial St., Manchester, verticaldreams.com, 625-6919) The rock climbing gym has gift cards starting at \$25 that can be purchased online. A beginner lesson package costs \$40 and a day pass costs \$15 for children. Memberships for children start at one month for \$45.
- **XtremeCraze** (4 Orchard View Dr., Unit 10, Londonderry, xtremecraze.us/londonderry, 404-6064) Pricing starts at \$18.

CELTIC SHOW

Celebrate the holidays with the all-female Celtic supergroup **Cherish the Ladies**. The ensemble brings their seasonal show to the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College; 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester; anselm.edu) on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45, plus fees.



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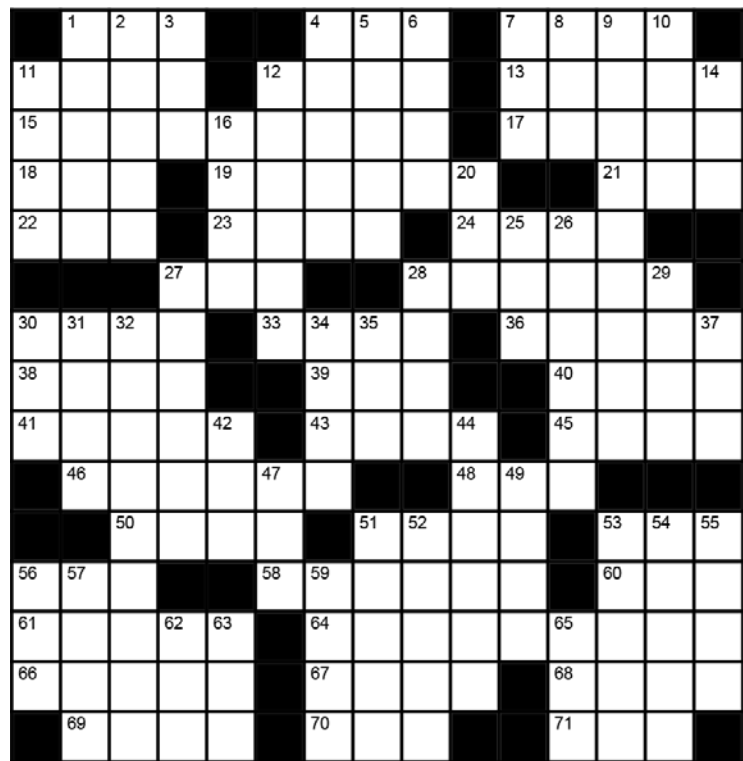
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LET'S ROCK



Across

- 1. Computer that substitutes for a studio
- 4. British reggae singer Leigh
- 7. Rolling Stones' are 'Tumbling'
- 11. Notations for guitarists (abbr)
- 12. Baldwin in musical South Pacific
- 13. Harry Connick Jr '___ To Be You' (2,3)
- 15. Alice In Chains song about a clothes presser for a lymph node? (4,5)
- 17. '04 Switchfoot hit 'Dare ___ Move' (3,2)
- 18. Sex Pistols bassist Vicious
- 19. When you can't 45. Across your friend to go rock, you may need to do this
- 21. Rick Springfield album about Chinese truth, perhaps
- 22. Legendary 'Great Balls Of Fire' West
- 23. 'Big Mouth' Martha
- 24. 'The Show Goes On' Fiasco
- 27. Borknagar bassist for son of Odin
- 28. Grammy-winning Tool song for division in opinion
- 30. Great batch of songs is this to fire at public's ears
- 33. 'Desertshore' singer/model
- 36. Prenatal position after heavy duty show?
- 38. 'LA Song (Out Of This Town)' Beth
- 39. ___ Bruce Hampton & The Aquarium Rescue Unit
- 40. Part of Morcheeba song, w/'Wasn't Built In A Day'
- 41. Katy Perry "___ my 18th birthday we got matching tattoos" (3,2)
- 43. Nails audition
- 45. Sweet-talk to go to show
- 46. 'I Love LA' Randy
- 48. 'Eve-Olution' girl rapper
- 50. Like fresh career
- 51. 'Pipeline' guitarist Dick
- 53. 'Miles Away' Winger singer
- 56. James Murphy's ___ Soundsystem

- 58. Meaty meal at concession stand
- 60. Spin Doctors "Once ___ while someone lives happily ever after" (2,1)
- 61. Type of Brazilian dance
- 64. Annoyed Steppenwolf says "Your mind is ___" (3,6)
- 66. Pirated CD
- 67. Operatic soprano Nettebko
- 68. Like Dave and Ray Davies
- 69. Road resting places

- 70. Oingo Boingo song for getting cut off on the road
- 71. GnR co-writer James

Down

- 1. '99 Blondie hit about a girl
- 2. Phish "The car is the thing on the road that takes you back to your ___"
- 3. 'Marrakesh Express' 3-part harmony icons (abbr)
- 4. Part of Commodores hit, w/'Three Times' (1,4)
- 5. Show locale
- 6. 'Iron Man 2' band
- 7. Like self-reliant bands (abbr)
- 8. Paul McCartney "What am ___ do if I don't have you" (1,2)
- 9. '03 Shins album '___ Narrow' (6,3)
- 10. Allman Brothers '___ Peach' (3,1)
- 11. 'This Is Serious Mum' Aussies (abbr)
- 12. Blur/Gorillaz frontman Damon
- 14. Lauryn Hill '___ Wop (That Thing)'
- 16. 'Mad World' Michael Andrews/___ Jules
- 20. 'CrazySexyCool' girl-group
- 25. Weird Al Yankovic movie
- 26. Rockers ___ The Veil
- 27. U2 'When Love Comes ___' (2,4)
- 28. English Beat had only one '___ Salvation'
- 29. Ozzy '___ I'm Coming Home'
- 30. "Bingo! I remembered that name of the artist!"
- 31. 'Mighty Quinn' Manfred
- 32. Union Underground 'Turn Me On ___' (2,7)
- 34. Pete Townshend reply when asked, "Who can see for miles?" (1,3)
- 35. NC 'Deliverance' metalers (abbr)
- 37. London label run by Superman foe?

WORD★Roundup™

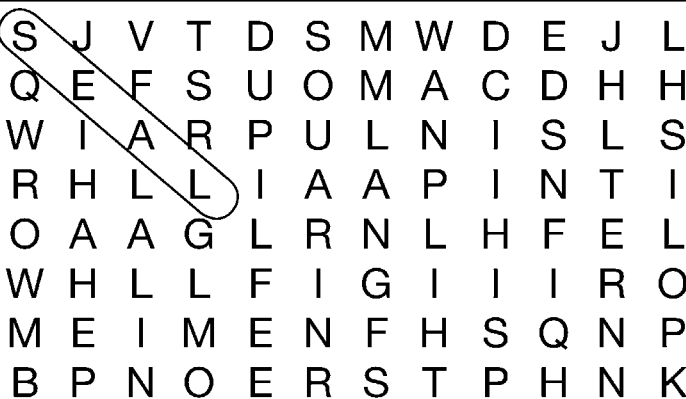
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four aquatic mammals
- Three words ending with FT
- Three languages
- Two neighboring countries
- Two U.S. states

Last Week's Answers: BLUE GRAY CYAN TEAL GOLD PINK / ETHIOPIA ECUADOR EGYPT / SLEET RAIN SNOW / RISKY BUSINESS / PANDA SKUNK

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7/25

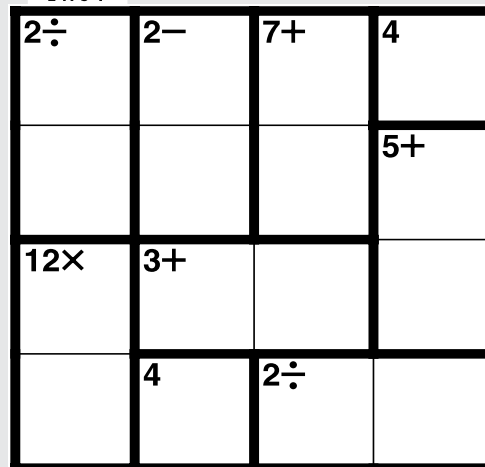
- 42. New Musical Express mag. (abbr)
- 44. 'Who Says' actress/singer Gomez
- 47. 'Pick Up The Pieces' Scottish funk band (abbr)
- 49. Pink Floyd song off 'The Wall' for a girl
- 51. Effect of one sound throughout piece
- 52. Testament song for suffering
- 53. Free drummer Simon
- 54. Matt Elliot fills up "Our Weight ___" (2,3)
- 55. Guitar "store" you lend your axe to for a loan
- 56. Kasabian 'Lost Souls Forever' song
- 57. "I'm driving in my ___ turn on the radio. I'm pulling you close, you just say no" (3,1)
- 59. Western state Donny Osmond is from
- 62. Sir Mix-A-Lot might want a cinnamon one for breakfast
- 63. New tour spots
- 65. Like Dead Kennedys and Minor Threat, to skaters in the 80s

Todd's new book Rock and Roll Crosswords Vol. 1 is available now on Amazon.

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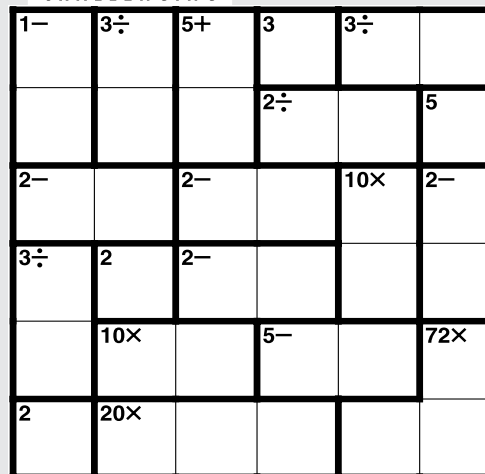
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CHALLENGING



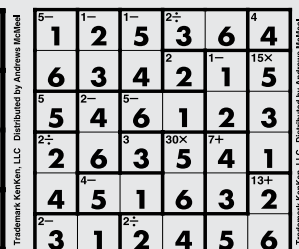
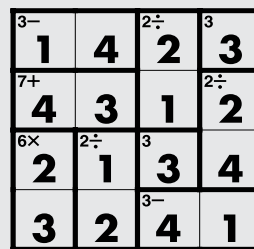
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RULES

- 1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- 3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS



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"Bird is the Word" — who knows where it'll end up.

Across

- 1. Rubbed out, gangster-style
- 6. Feasted
- 9. Laundry issue
- 14. Island near 11-Down
- 15. Bit of a beverage
- 16. "Why am ___?"
- 17. Tiny solution for cleaning up (like an understaffed moderation team)
- 19. Original "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" host
- 20. Lyrical poem
- 21. Symbol of clumsiness (like announcing, then canceling, an \$8/month verification system)

- 23. Royal sphere
- 25. Mine contents
- 26. EGOT winner Moreno
- 27. Wood for wine barrels
- 29. Wanna-___ (imitators)
- 30. Packers' org.
- 33. Official imprint
- 36. Shipping units?
- 38. "Gotcha"
- 39. Use unfair tactics (like suspending accounts from just one side of the political spectrum)
- 42. Paleozoic, et al.
- 43. "A Death in the Family" Pulitzer winner
- 44. Centrifuge inserts

- 45. Place to study
- 46. Turn purple, perhaps
- 47. Shriner's cap
- 48. Days long past
- 50. Fla. NBA team, on a scoreboard
- 52. Baryshnikov's former co.
- 55. Evoking both happy and sad feelings (like a social network that's provided both joy and frustration)
- 59. Wonderment sounds
- 61. Skips
- 62. U.K. "Love Is All Around" band which lost 40% of its members in 2022 (like a certain website that's apparently hemorrhaging users)
- 64. Handles
- 65. Acting instructor Hagen
- 66. Background distraction
- 67. Nail file stuff
- 68. Spill cleaner
- 69. Message that can be seen hidden in order in the five longest answers (which might not be seen anymore if its platform implodes)

Down

- 1. Eight, for starters
- 2. "Lord of the Rings" ringbearer
- 3. Less in number
- 4. Summer, in Paris
- 5. Bench press muscle, briefly
- 6. Fur-trading tycoon John Jacob
- 7. Spine feature
- 8. Fencing sword
- 9. Marina of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- 10. Taking things badly?
- 11. Greece/Turkey separator
- 12. Pleasant feeling, in reggae songs
- 13. Fledgling's place
- 18. Moon of Endor dweller
- 22. "___ Off the Boat"
- 24. Really falls
- 28. Long-armed animal
- 29. Computer memory unit
- 31. Dipped, like stocks
- 32. "___ Make a Deal"
- 33. Tool building
- 34. Radial, e.g.

- 35. Whenever
- 36. Old Venetian VIP
- 37. Wowed feeling
- 38. Island famous for its nightlife
- 40. Jacket over a shirt, e.g.
- 41. Mother of Abel
- 46. Elegantly clad
- 47. Got off the ground
- 49. Weasel's aquatic relative
- 50. Give credit for
- 51. Draw upon again
- 53. Stardust alter ego
- 54. The ones nearby
- 55. Femur, for one
- 56. Mosque figure
- 57. Done laps in the pool
- 58. Sidewalk sale pop-up
- 60. Don't delete
- 63. Part of a car rescue

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

R&R answer from pg 39 of 12/1

I	T	I	S		W	M	A		M	A	L	L							
S	O	D	A		L	E	O	N		D	E	V	O	E					
A	S	I	F		E	A	T	A		I	M	I	S	S					
T	H	E	E		A	G	L	E	S		N	O	D	S					
					I	T	A	L	L		D	E	R						
B	U	R	N	I	T			A	E	R	I	A	L	S					
U	S	A		M	O	B	I	L	E		A	F	E	W					
R	H	I	N	E		E	N	O		C	L	I	V	E					
M	E	T	O		P	A	S	T	T	O		N	I	A					
A	R	T	T	H	O	U				I	N	F	E	S	T				
					A	O	R			C	A	N	D	O					
					C	A	L	I		C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	
					L	O	B	O	S		A	S	I	A		A	D	O	G
					A	M	E	N	T		I	T	O	N		L	I	D	O
					S	O	L	E			N	A	T			L	A	D	S

Jonesin' answer from pg 40 of 12/1

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

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 xx.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green

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

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

All quotes are from *Drive: The Story of My Life*, by Larry Bird, born Dec. 7, 1956.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *I go to the free throw line and I try to pretend it's 6 a.m. in the gym back home and these are just two of the five hundred free throws that I shoot every morning. ... Both shots are good and we win the game by one point. Just another free throw.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *If that's all anyone wanted me to do, I honestly believe I could get a triple-double in at least forty-one of the eighty-two games played every year. How many games we'd win while I was concentrating on getting those triple-doubles is another matter. That's not all there is to do.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *The normal key to shooting a three-pointer is rhythm and balance. But sometimes keys change?*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *It would have been one thing if he had told me I wasn't good enough. But to come and say he had forgotten about me was another thing entirely. Forget him.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *I'm not that aware of individual fans. ... I just take in the court. I don't want to get to the point where I'm checking out the crowd. I need to concentrate on the game. Yes, you do.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Besides, passing is more of an art than scoring. My feeling about passing is that it doesn't matter who's doing the scoring as long as it's my team. Have good people on your team.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *When you go to an arena, one of the first things you have to locate is the scoreboard. ... Oakland used to have kind of a weird-looking round scoreboard hanging over midcourt. I'd prefer scoreboards that cannot be blocked by fans. Locate the scoreboard.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *When I was playing college basketball, I thought it was the greatest game on the*

earth. I didn't pay attention to any pro games, nor did I feel any attraction to the NBA style of play. Now that I'm in the NBA, I love our style of play and wouldn't want to go back to the college game. They're all great games.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *During my sophomore year, I broke my ankle during a game and was out almost the whole season. I was really upset that I couldn't play, but I did try to keep practicing any way I could. Stay in shape.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *It was the same pattern. A so-so first round, but good enough to advance. A fair second round. Then a good third round. Progress.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *A lot of people will say that you don't need a coach. That's a bunch of baloney. Sometimes I think there is a little bit too much coaching, but you still need a coach. Get a coach, be a coach.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *I love knowing people will buy obstructed view tickets just to be inside the building. Knowing that people are happy just to be there means a lot to me. They are!*

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 Ludwig of Germany (9)	_____
2 Wolfgang Amadeus of Austria (6)	_____
3 Johann Sebastian of Germany (4)	_____
4 Pyotr Ilyich of Russia (11)	_____
5 Franz Peter of Austria (8)	_____
6 Frédéric of Poland (6)	_____
7 Franz Joseph of Austria (5)	_____

MOZ	AIK	BA	PIN	HOV
RT	HAY	BE	KY	OVS
TCH	CHO	EN	SC	HU
ART	ET	DN	BE	CH

12/4
Last Week's Answers: 1. BALDERDASH 2. CLUE 3. MASTERMIND 4. SORRY 5. OPERATION 6. CRANIUM 7. RISK

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Sudoku Answers from pg40 of 12/1

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty Level ★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty Level ★★

It's a mystery

Volusia County (Florida) officials are baffled by an object that has been unearthed at Daytona Beach Sands, clickorlando.com reported. In the aftermath of hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the 80- to 100-foot-long structure appeared, partially buried in the sand, said Volusia Beach Safety Deputy Chief Tammy Malphurs. "We're not sure what it is," she said, adding that she'd been on the beach for 25 years and had never seen it before. The storms caused unprecedented beach erosion. An archaeological team from the state is expected to visit soon to study the object. — clickorlando.com, Nov. 29

In (not so) hot water

• About 200 ice-fishing enthusiasts had to be evacuated from Upper Red Lake, Minnesota, on Nov. 28 after a large chunk of ice broke free from the main shoreline, stranding them about 30 yards away, WDIO-TV reported. The Beltrami County Sheriff's office received a 911 call around 11:30 a.m.; employing a drone to assess the situation, officers used a temporary bridge to reach the fishers, along with airboats and water rescue boats. All anglers were returned to safety. — WDIO-TV, Nov. 28

• On Nov. 28, as the oil and chemical tanker Alithini II pulled into Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, it also carried three stowaways — riding the ship's rudder at the stern,

just feet above the water line. The Guardian reported that the three men had survived an 11-day journey from Nigeria — more than 2,700 nautical miles — and were suffering from hypothermia and dehydration. The Spanish coast guard rescued them. — *The Guardian*, Nov. 28

Picky, picky

The Cowboy State Daily reported on Nov. 27 that Vern and Shireen Liebl are hoping to make a move to Wyoming, with one very particular criterion dictating which city they choose: the public library. The Liebls have been traversing Wyoming, visiting libraries, for the last 3 1/2 months, hoping to see each one the state has to offer. There have been a few standouts along the way, they report: In Glenrock, Vern said, "They have these skylights up there, and it's like blonde wood, and it just feels so light and airy." He also loved the name of the library in Ranchester: the Tongue River Library. His infatuation with libraries also extends to bookstores: "I think that one of the finest smells in the world is to go into an old bookstore ... and just inhale the essence of the paper," Vern said. — *Cowboy State Daily*, Nov. 27

Our litigious society

Amanda Ramirez of Hialeah, Florida, filed a class-action lawsuit against Kraft Heinz Foods Co. on Nov. 18, seeking \$5 million. Her com-

plaint? Velveeta's microwavable Shells & Cheese instructions indicate the dish is ready in 3 1/2 minutes, but Ramirez says that is "false and misleading because the product takes longer than the 3 1/2 minutes to prepare for consumption." The suit goes on to say that the 3 1/2 minutes are merely the time needed for microwaving the product, which is just one of several steps. Kraft Heinz told *Fox Business* that the suit is "frivolous" and that they will "strongly defend against the allegations in the complaint." — *Fox Business*, Nov. 18

Awwwww

• Geoff Banks, 100, of Devon, England, and Celesta Byrne, 100, of Texas, have a unique bond: They've been pen pals since 1938, the *BBC* reported. Their friendship blossomed when they were in their 20s and an educational project put them in touch with each other. Since then, they've kept up with technology, switching to emails and video calls, and the two met in person in 2002. Banks calls Byrne "a very interesting person. We exchange stories and she's very good to talk to." Byrne shuts down any suggestion of romance over the years: "There wasn't 'glibbally globbally' stuff, it was just normal neighbor people." — *BBC*, Dec. 1

• Brenda and Dennis Delgado first met by chance in August 2021, in the condiments aisle at Fry's, a grocery in Casa Grande, Arizona. Dennis told Brenda a joke, she laughed, and

they talked for 30 minutes before exchanging their contact info, *News12-TV* reported. Both were widowed, and as they spent more time together, they grew close. So when they decided to tie the knot, they returned to the scene of the spark: the mayonnaise aisle. On Nov. 19, they exchanged vows on Aisle 8 as the "Wedding March" played over the store's loudspeakers. "It was wonderful," Dennis said. Floral arrangements provided by the store included Miracle Whip and mayo. "If you're looking for love, go to Fry's," Brenda said. "Keep looking." — *News12-TV*, Nov. 25

It's nice to have a hobby

High Point, North Carolina, resident Vic Clinco is believed to have the largest collection in the world of hot sauce, *WFMY-TV* reported on Nov. 29. He started 26 years ago with three bottles; today he displays almost 11,000 bottles in his basement shrine. "It has turned into an obsession," Clinco admits. He's become such a celebrity in the hot sauce "culture" that manufacturers send him samples of their new varieties. "I want it to be shared with anyone that has the love of the heat as I do," he said. He hopes to hold tastings to introduce others to the love of the spicy condiments. — *WFMY-TV*, Nov. 29

Sources according to uexpress.com. From the editors at AndrewsMcMeel.com. See uexpress.com/contact

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CAPITAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

HOLIDAY POPS!



Sunday, Dec 11



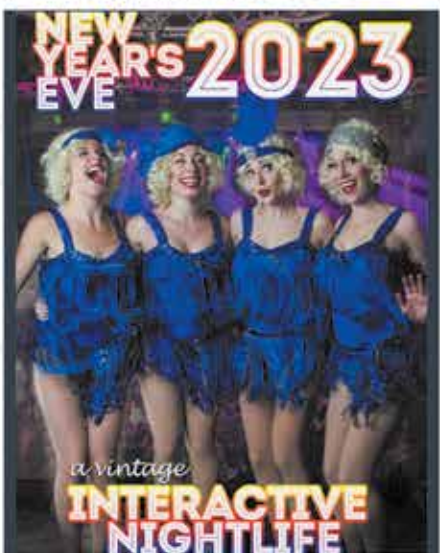
TR3
feat. **Tim Reynolds**
Friday, Dec 16



The Nutcracker
Saturday, Dec 17



Ted Vigil
A John Denver Christmas
Sunday, Dec 18



NEW YEAR'S EVE 2023

a vintage
**INTERACTIVE
NIGHTLIFE**



GET THE LED OUT

A CELEBRATION OF "THE MIGHTY ZEP"

Saturday
Jan 7

CCANH.COM - 603.225.1111

13817

Tupelo

MUSIC HALL

FULL SCHEDULE AT
TUPELOMUSICHALL.COM



JUDY COLLINS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18



New Year's Eve with
ADAM EZRA GROUP
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31



RONNIE EARL & THE BROADCASTERS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6



LENNY CLARKE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7



THE JOHNNY A. BAND
THE BLUES, BEATLES, AND BEYOND!
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

13817

Holiday Party Ready

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Facials & Peels

Botox & Fillers

JLO Glow Hydrafacial

Hollywood Peel - Laser Carbon Facial

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