

# the Hippo

DECEMBER 29, 2022 -  
JANUARY 4, 2023

**FAMILY NEW YEAR'S  
EVE FUN P. 16**

**CHEESY  
BREAD P. 30**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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## *Year in review*

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## GRANITE VIEWS JODY REESE

### An interesting 2023?



There's an old saying about living in interesting times and it seems fitting for this era. It seems more fun to read about them in history books than to live them. My guess is that in 2023 times will continue to

be interesting. If any of my 2023 predictions come true, please do not call or email me. With that, here are my 2023 predictions.

- Gov. Chris Sununu has been increasing his national profile. For a growing number of Republicans he could look like the future of a party without former president Donald Trump. So what's next in the national exposure tour? *The Masked Singer*. Yes, the guy sings the 1980s hit "Welcome to the Jungle." You know you love it, Xer.

- Republican candidate for New Hampshire's First Congressional District Karoline Leavitt decides politics just isn't for her after losing to Democrat and incumbent Chris Pappas this past fall. So what's next for one of the youngest candidates to run this past cycle? Poker, of course! Karoline signs up for the World Poker Tournament and does surprisingly well. So well that she's invited to create her own reality TV show with the tagline "A better hand doesn't always mean you win."

- The Rochester February revote for Ward 3 that ended in a tie in November ends in a tie again; the legislature votes to seat both candidates on a rotating basis, so each gets 26 weeks a year and shares the \$50-a-year salary.

- For a reason no one is able to explain, America's Stonehenge in Salem starts to attract both domestic and wild cats from all over the region. So many cats come that town officials start calling it cat caves.

- House Majority Leader Jason Osborne opens a new business in downtown Manchester right across from City Hall called Osborne's Free Hats. It's a haberdashery specializing in brimmed hats.

- Shockingly, the Democratic National Committee, headed by South Carolina native and President Joe Biden supporter Jamie Harrison, strips New Hampshire of its first-in-the-nation primary in favor of South Carolina. Oh, wait, already that happened. Just to recap: Joe Biden won South Carolina and saved his presidential bid and lost New Hampshire in, like, fifth place. What did you think was going to happen, New Hampshire?

- Former WMUR sportscaster Charlie Sherman returns to public life in the Granite State by opening the nation's largest sock store in Nashua, called Tubes for Everyone. Welcome back, Charlie! I'll be by to get some socks.

- Tired of Maine attracting more visitors, New Hampshire's tourism department announces a new advertising campaign for the state with the tagline, "Come for the cheap booze and smokes, stay for the ocean, lakes, mountains and sports betting." Hey, whatever it takes. 🐾



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## ON THE COVER

As 2022 comes to an end, we look back on the year and consider what's to come in 2023. Katelyn Sahagian talks to people in the worlds of art, theater and classical music (page 12). Matt Ingersoll looks back at the year in food (page 24). Amy Diaz considers the year in movies, with advice on where to find some of the greatest (page 34). Michael Witthaus looks at the year in local music and highlights some shows worth saving the date for in 2023 (page 38). And Angie Sykeny talks to Kristen Clarke about a planned infrastructure project in Manchester (page 6).

**ALSO ON THE COVER** Find live music, live DJs and other fun at area bars and restaurants this Saturday, Dec. 31, a.k.a. New Year's Eve. Michael Witthaus runs through the nightlife options for the final night of 2022 starting on page 39. Kids and families can celebrate the new year as well; find a roundup of family-friendly celebrations on page 16. And, what better way to end the year than with carbs! Michele Pesula Kuegler offers a recipe for cheesy pull-apart bread on page 30.

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Fighting fentanyl

The Fighting Emerging Narcotics through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting (FENTANYL) Results Act, a bipartisan legislation supported by U.S. Senators and senior members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) and U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), has been signed into law, according to a press release. Part of the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), annual legislation that authorizes defense programming, the FENTANYL Results Act will increase global cooperation in the fight against synthetic drug trafficking. Two programs through the State Department have been authorized to build foreign law enforcement capacity to detect synthetic drugs and operate an international exchange program for drug demand reduction experts. "Fentanyl is driving the substance use disorder crisis and making this public health emergency more lethal than ever," Sen. Shaheen said in the release. "It is a killer and we need to get it out of our communities. That effort needs to start with preventing it from crossing our borders. We know that fentanyl is primarily being trafficked from China and Mexico, so it is paramount that we address this issue globally, which is precisely what the FENTANYL Results Act will do."

## Grant funds

Gov. Chris Sununu and the Executive Council have

approved an allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act resources for the Community Center Investment Program, which will be overseen by the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority. According to a press release, the program will provide \$20 million in grant resources to eligible entities to support infrastructure improvements to community spaces across the state.

## Housing

Funding for the construction and preservation of six multifamily housing developments through the allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and other federal and state funding has been approved by the New Hampshire Housing Board of Directors. According to a press release, the projects will include Pembroke Road Apartments in Concord; CATCH Neighborhood Housing at Sheep Davis Road in Concord; Hillsborough Heights in Hillsborough; the first phase of The Apartments at 249 Main St. in Nashua; Coliseum Seniors Residence III in Nashua; and the third phase of Apple Ridge Apartments in Rochester. Once constructed, the buildings will provide 341 units to help meet the need for affordable rental housing for the state's workforce and other residents.

## Overdose prevention

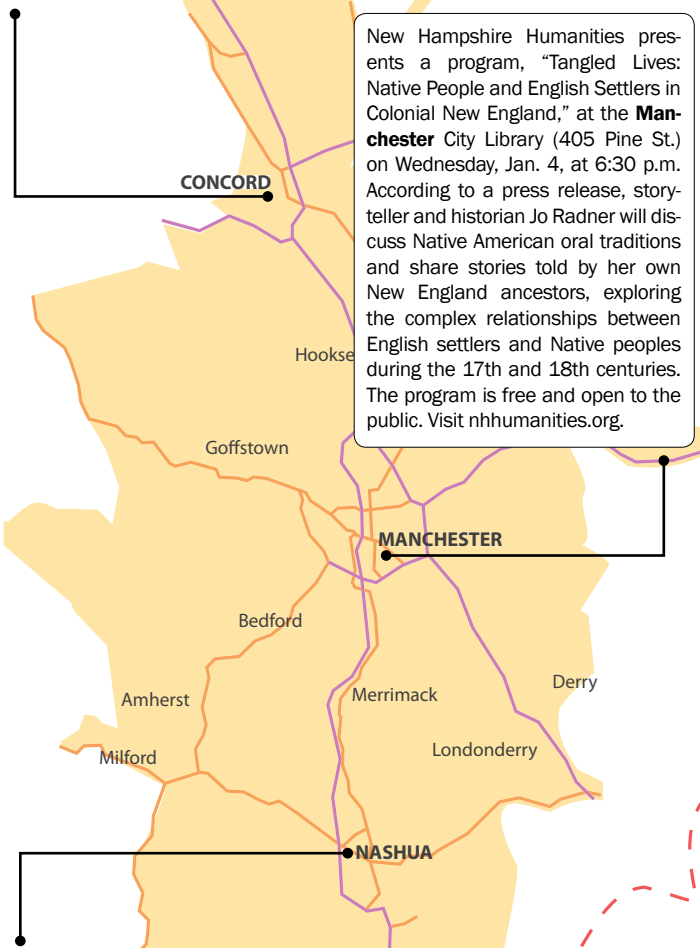
The City of Manchester has been selected by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion and the National Center for Injury Control and Prevention as one of 20 communities across the country to receive \$300,000 in funding to bolster overdose prevention efforts on the local level. According to a press release, Manchester recovery support worker and advocate Andrew Warner has been hired as Director of Overdose Prevention, a newly created position within the City's Department of Health. Warner, who has experience in the field as a provider and program administrator in treating substance use disorders, will lead the City's response in preventing drug-involved overdoses and fatalities. "My chief focus is to work with the array of resource providers in Manchester to create and implement a strategic plan to prevent drug-involved overdoses," Warner said in the release. "It's important to compile, monitor and use the real-time data in the city to help positively impact existing services and funding, improve planning and resource allocation, and ultimately track progress on key metrics."

## St. Mary's retirement

Ronald H. Covey Jr. will retire after 14 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Bank, the nation's first credit union, according to a press release. Covey served as the eighth CEO in the credit union's 114-year history. During his tenure, he expanded St. Mary's Bank's presence with the construction of its Perimeter Road operations center, West Side headquarters, and new branches including

The City of **Concord** has approved the construction of a new five-story commercial building on Main Street, the Concord Monitor reported. The building will include a Friendly Toast restaurant — the third in the state — on the first floor; 15,000 square feet of office spaces on the second, third and fourth floors; and an event space operated by the Grappone Conference Center on the top floor. Construction is slated to begin in the coming months, according to the article.



New Hampshire Humanities presents a program, "Tangled Lives: Native People and English Settlers in Colonial New England," at the **Manchester** City Library (405 Pine St.) on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. According to a press release, storyteller and historian Jo Radner will discuss Native American oral traditions and share stories told by her own New England ancestors, exploring the complex relationships between English settlers and Native peoples during the 17th and 18th centuries. The program is free and open to the public. Visit [nhhumanities.org](http://nhhumanities.org).

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains will host an informational session, "Explore Girl Scouts," on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. at the **Nashua** Public Library (2 Court St.). Girls in grades K through 3 and their caregivers are invited to learn about Girl Scouts and participate in sample activities, according to a press release. Walk-ins are welcome. Sign-ups for Girl Scouts are available year-round at [girlscoutsgwm.org](http://girlscoutsgwm.org).

Northwest Boulevard Nashua, Milford and Portsmouth. Under Covey's leadership, membership increased from 60,000 to 98,000 and grew from \$652 million in assets to approaching \$1.5 billion in assets. His accolades include induction into the

national Credit Union House Hall of Leaders earlier this year; Manchester Chamber Citizen of the Year for 2021; and being named one of the state's 200 most influential leaders by New Hampshire Business Review in 2019 and 2021.

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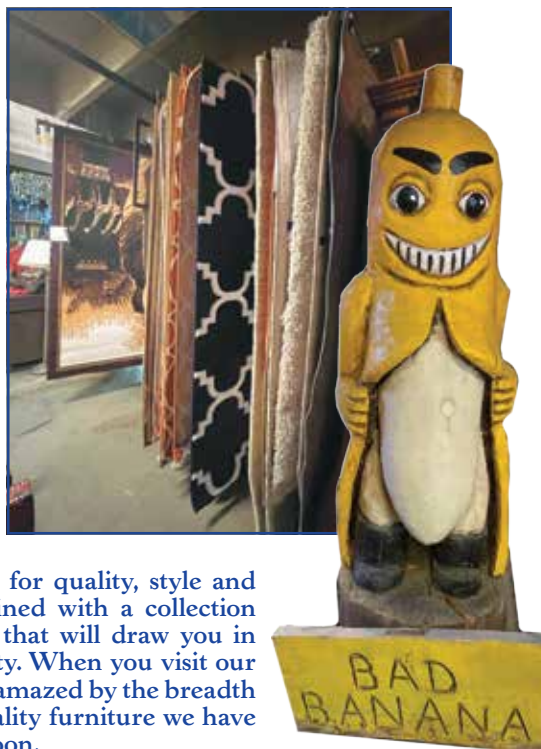
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## NEWS & NOTES Q&A

### Future plans

Project to bring connections, improved walkability to Manch

RAISE Manchester is a \$30 million transportation infrastructure project in Manchester funded in part by a \$25 million federal RAISE grant. Kristen Clarke, project manager and Manchester Department of Public Works traffic engineer, discussed the project following a public informational meeting held for residents and business owners. Visit [raisemanchester.org](http://raisemanchester.org).

**Q:** How long has RAISE Manchester been in the works?

The first time we applied for the grant was in 2019. There were some planning efforts that happened leading up to that as well. We applied for the grant in 2019 and 2020 and were not successful and then won the grant in 2021.

**What are RAISE grants awarded for?**

The grant is [awarded] through the U.S. DOT. RAISE stands for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. There are several key items that they're looking for, which are how we're improving mobility and congestion and how we're creating new development opportunities using infrastructure.

**What are the elements of the project?**

There are four different elements of the grant that are all semi-interconnected. First, there's the Granite Street and Commercial Street intersection, where we're going to be building a pedestrian bridge over Granite Street. Then, where South Commercial Street currently dead-ends by the Fisher Cats ballpark, we're going to be building a bridge over the active rail line that will connect over to Elm Street at Gas Street. Then we're going to be building a rail trail on the abandoned rail trail corridor from Queen City Avenue up to that Elm and Gas Street intersection. The last piece is the reconfiguration of the South Willow Street and Queen City Avenue intersection from a signalized intersection into a peanut-shaped roundabout.

**What are some of the problems that RAISE Manchester aims to address?**

The biggest things are we're looking at how to reconnect the south Millyard area back over to Elm Street across the rail line in hopes that it'll help spur some redevelopment and extend downtown south of Granite Street. We're also looking at [improving] safety and traffic congestion by providing alternative ways in and out of downtown.

**How are you able to predict what changes will make the biggest impact?**

Part of it is looking at where the bottlenecks are happening today. We know that, getting into the city on the Granite Street quarter, there's a lot of congestion, especially if there's a ballgame or an event at the SNHU Arena or if a train is coming through there. So that's where we started looking at where we could create more options.



The biggest part of RAISE Manchester will be a new South Commercial Street Extension. Courtesy photo.

**How much of this plan is confirmed and how much is still developing?**

The four elements as presented in the grant application are required to be complete; they have to be done in some fashion based on the stipulations of the grant. The width of the road or the exact alignment of it can change, and that part is still not set in stone. We are in the preliminary design phase right now, which we're hoping to wrap up over the next couple of months. Then, the final design phase will go on for about another year.

**What does that design process look like?**

There are three bridges that are part of this project, so a big piece of the design is actually doing all the structural analysis to design the bridges. That's what takes the longest of all of it.

**What is the timeline?**

All in all, we have to be ready for all the design to be done by September 2024, and all construction must be completed by September 2029. We're not sure about the [order of the] stages and which would happen first. A contractor might choose to do multiple of them at the same time. We can't know yet.

**What was the response at the public meeting?**

Overall, the response was positive, and people were excited. They wondered how we've gone this long without a lot of these projects in place. We did get some great comments from the bike and pedestrian communities on different things that we should explore to see if there were better ways to accommodate bikes and pedestrians. ... We're really excited about it. If people have ideas, we're happy for them to share their comments through our website, [raisemanchester.org](http://raisemanchester.org), or get in touch with us. We want to make sure that if there's something someone wants to see, and there's a way that we can accommodate it, we look into it.

— Angie Sykeny



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# 2022's biggest sports stories



We'll end the blah sports year of 2022 with a look at its biggest stories.

**World's Cup Runneth Over:** Aside from seeing the world's grandest sports event decided by penalty kicks,

which is akin to the NBA Finals being decided by a foul shooting contest, the World Cup lived up to the hype. It ended with an overtime game with uber star **Lionel Messi** winning what some thought might be his final game. It had underdogs advancing, and the Americans made it out of group play. Best of all, TV ratings were great, which may signal soccer's day as a spectator sport for the U.S. masses may have arrived.

**Here Comes The Judge:** Seeing clean cut, non-juiced good guy **Aaron Judge** chase **Roger Maris's** and the **Babe's** cherished single-season home run record in the AL was the feel-good story of the year. It was a "he's got it the whole way" laugh in, until the palms got sweaty the last 10 days. But No. 62 finally came and the record, most importantly to New Yorkers, stayed in the Bronx.

**Astros Blast Off in World Series:** After being scorned by the baseball world since it was discovered they used an elaborate sign-stealing system all throughout their championship season of 2017, the Houston Astros finally got the monkey off their back. It happened by beating the Phillies in this year's Fall Classic four games to two. It won't erase the taint of 2017, but it does validate that after going to four Series since 2017, they have been one of the best organizations in recent memory.

**Kyrie Irving's World Implodes:** The world's most self-indulgent, delusional athlete wrote another chapter for the "why I (sports) hate this guy" book by derailing his team, not once but twice.

The first time was railing about the man in refusing to get vaccinated during the pandemic, which ran afoul of New York City's mandate for having to be vaxxed to be part of mass gatherings. It led to his missing 53 games, which sent NBA favorite Brooklyn into a lurch that eventually led to their being swept out of the playoffs in Round 1 by Boston.

The other was getting suspended eight games after refusing to back down to the league-wide storm that followed his posting support for an anti-semitic documentary.

It all cost him close to \$70 million in lost NBA salary and his canceled Nike deal.

And for those who still think he's worth the trouble, the Nets were 11-18 in the 29 games played last year and the count this year was 2-6 before he was suspended and 5-3 in the games he missed.

**College Football Playoffs Expands to 12-School Format:** It won't happen until 2024 at the earliest and maybe not until 2026. But the decision by the NCAA to begin a 12-school national tournament for Division I Football was met with near unanimous approval when announced in September. Its time had come for

the following reasons: (1) D-1 football is the only sport in the NCAA without a season-ending playoff. (2) With New Year's Day Bowl games no longer the unofficial ending of college football, it needed a better ending. (3) With schools like USC and UCLA headed to the Big 10, the once recognizable conference picture is a total jumble and this gives a better focus going forward. (4) Given the success of the Men's Basketball Tournament, is there any doubt this will be a wild success too?

**Golden State Proves Me Wrong Twice:** First, I said in my NBA pre-season preview that after two injury-ravaged years I didn't see the Warriors ever returning to their championship level form. **SPOILER ALERT** — They did. Then when they met the Celtics in the Finals I picked the Green and — **SPOILER ALERT** — they didn't, after I underestimated how good their team defense was, their coach **Steve Kerr** was and historically how great **Steph Curry** is, which became more apparent as he dominated all but one game in the series. As for the history, winning for a fourth time in eight years cements them as one of the best multi-year run winners, while Curry pushed his way into my Top 10 greatest players ever.

**Hot Seat Is Warming for Coach B:** Due to repeated personnel miscalculations since 2013, his usual stubbornness, the team's most mortifying loss since getting run over by the Bears in SB 20 and a major misguided choice for offensive coordinator, things are not going well for **Bill Belichick** three years into the post-**Tom Brady** era.

It has folks wondering the once unthinkable: If Coach B does catch **Don Shula's** all-time record for wins, will he do it coaching in Foxborough?

I sense a clash coming between the owner and Coach B. One where **Bob Kraft demands** (as I would) he get some fresh perspective to help get things back on track by going outside the organization to hire a personnel guy with a track record of drafting success and another to lead the offense and develop their highly drafted young QB in a way **Matt Patricia** can't.

Will he get stubborn and say no? Then what? Another year to fix it his way, or will a refusal push Kraft into making a "do what I say or else" decision most never expected would ever happen?

**Britney Griner Comes Home:** This isn't a sports story but an international news story involving a well-known American athlete that was in the news most of the year. Given the danger posed by the arms dealer she was swapped for in the prisoner exchange, the question is did it happen because of her celebrity? Or, more likely, because she was an innocent pawn taken hostage by a hostile country in retribution for the action taken by her country in support of Ukraine after it was invaded by a power-hungry dictator?

Next, on to 2023. Happy new year, everyone.  
Email Dave Long at [dlong@hippopress.com](mailto:dlong@hippopress.com).



## QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

### Power down

Around 95,000 New Hampshire electric utility customers experienced power outages on the morning of Friday, Dec. 23, after heavy winds and rain downed trees and power lines across the state, WMUR reported. The National Weather Service issued hazardous weather alerts for icy roadways, hurricane force winds and flood warnings. The storm caused seawater flooding on the seacoast, closing parts of Route 1A in Rye and North Hampton.

#### QOL score: -1

**Comment:** *This was the second case of statewide outages this month, after around 62,000 electric utility customers were left without power following the first big snowstorm of the season on Thursday, Dec. 15.*

### Toys for kids

The 11th annual Tower of Toys, an initiative that collects donations of unwrapped holiday gifts for children of families in need, collected around 1,000 toys and raised more than \$20,000, according to a press release. "Our mission is to make the work of nonprofit organizations and families easier during the Christmas season, and most importantly, to make the season truly magical for New Hampshire's children," Tower of Toys founder and sponsor Larry Thibodeau said in the release. The donations were distributed to a number of local nonprofit organizations that work with children and families, including Dover Children's Home, Friends of Aine, Friends of Forgotten Children, My Turn, Nashua Children's Home, New Generation, Roca Kidz Club, Spaulding Academy & Family Services, Walk with a Child and Webster House.

#### QOL score: +1

**Comment:** *The donated toys were formed into a tower on display at a celebratory holiday reception held at the Beacon Building in Manchester on Thursday, Dec. 15.*

### An end-of-year gift

Gas prices in New Hampshire have fallen 12.2 cents per gallon in the last week. According to a GasBuddy price report, the average gasoline price in New Hampshire is down to \$3.29 per gallon as of Dec. 19. The data is based on a survey of 875 gas stations across the state. Prices are now 41.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago.

#### QOL score: +1

**Comment:** *The national average price of gas was projected to fall below \$3 per gallon for the first time in nearly 600 days by Christmas.*

### Praise for a NICU nurse

Victoria M. Hastings, RN, a clinical nurse in the NICU at the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, is among 10 neonatal intensive care unit nurses nationwide selected as a finalist in the 4moms first annual Nominate a NICU Nurse program. According to a press release, co-workers, friends and families of NICU babies nominate their favorite nurses for the award, and finalists are selected based on submission stories and the number of times they were nominated. "Reading through all of the nominations was truly special," Hastings said in the release. "It's nice to be reminded how important the work we all do in the NICU really is to our families, patients and co-workers."

#### QOL score: +1

**Comment:** *Ten 4moms MamaRoo Swings were donated to CHaD in Hastings' honor.*

#### QOL score: 90

#### Net change: +2

#### QOL this week: 92

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75

50



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# THIS WEEK

## BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 29 AND BEYOND



### Thursday, Dec. 29

The SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester) is hosting the **Harlem Globetrotters** today at 2 p.m. The team

will show off their basketball skills with trick shots, routines and more. Ticket prices start at \$29. Visit [snhuarena.com](http://snhuarena.com) to buy tickets.

### Thursday, Dec. 29

See **Joe Gatto** for a night of comedy tonight at 7 and 9:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord). Gatto, a comedian, actor, author and podcaster, has performed to sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden in New York City and the O2 Arena in London. Tickets start at \$40

and can be bought at [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com).

### Thursday, Dec. 29

See **The Wizards of Winter**, a holiday rock event featuring former members of some of classic rock's biggest names, including Alice Cooper, Blue Oyster Cult, Def Leppard and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, at The Flying Monkey Movie House & Per-

formance Center (39 Main St., Plymouth) today. Tickets start at \$49 and can be bought at [flying-monkeynh.com](http://flying-monkeynh.com)

### Saturday, Dec. 31

Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry) is having **The Adam Ezra Group** perform tonight at 9 p.m. Buy tickets for the show only (doors open at 8:30 p.m.) for \$45, or tickets for dinner and the show (starts at 5:30 p.m.) for \$95, at [tupelohall.com](http://tupelohall.com).

### Sunday, Jan. 1

The Apple Therapy and Derry Sports & Rehab **Millennium Mile**, a one-mile downhill race on Mammoth Road in Londonderry, starts today at 2 p.m. Registration costs \$20 for ages 12 and up and \$10 for 11 and under, with the first 1,250 registrants getting a winter hat (if available, registration on race day costs \$5 more). See [millennium-running.com](http://millennium-running.com) to register in advance.

### Sunday, Jan. 1

Today is the last chance to see the **Gift of Lights** at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway (1122 Route 106, Loudon). The show, which has more than 3 million lights, is 2½ miles long with 80 different scenes. The shows start at 4:30 p.m. and admission for one car costs \$35. Tickets can be bought at [nhms.com](http://nhms.com).

### Sunday, Jan. 1

Join NHSCOT for a **Hogmany** at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry) today at 3 p.m. Celebrate the New Year in a Scottish way, with tradition-

al board games, dancing, music, food and more. Tickets cost \$32 per adult ages 15 and older, \$15 per child ages 6-14, and kids ages 5 and younger are free. For more information, see the story in the Dec. 15 on page 14 (find the e-edition at [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com)) or visit [nhscot.org](http://nhscot.org).



### Save the Date! Thursday, Jan. 19

It's the opening night of the Cirque du Soleil show **Cor-teo** at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester). The show will have acrobats from around the world performing death-defying stunts. The show will be in town until Jan. 22. Opening night show will start at 7:30 p.m. Visit [snhuarena.com](http://snhuarena.com) for more information or to order tickets.

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## Capitol Center For the Arts Presents



Saturday, Dec 31



Thursday, Jan 5



Saturday, Jan 7



Friday, Jan 13



Saturday, Jan 21



Sunday, Jan 22



Wednesday, Jan 25



Thursday, Jan 26



Saturday, Jan 28



Thursday, Feb 2



Saturday, Feb 4



Sunday, Feb 5



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# Artistic highs

Performing arts, fine arts and classical music saw amazing gains in 2022

By Katelyn Sahagian  
ksahagian@hippopress.com

## Visual arts

**James Chase**, the founder of **Arts Build Community** and a professor at New England College, said 2022 was an amazing year for him as an artist and for his nonprofit.

In 2022, Chase founded the **Manchester Mural Festival** and brought street artists from around the world to help make Manchester even more beautiful.

“It was really successful,” Chase said. “Since it was so well-received, there’s been lots of community interest to expand the festival with new partners.”

It was imperative to Chase that the artists really work with the community, so his organization partnered with The Boys & Girls Club of Manchester so that the invited artists could hear what the city’s youth wanted to have included in the murals.

Because of the collaborative nature of the project, Chase said the festival was probably also one of his biggest challenges in 2022. He said that it could be hard to get businesses to agree to use their exterior wall space when there wasn’t a final image.

He found businesses and organizations that were excited for the artwork, even if there wasn’t a sketch for them to look at, and there are now three permanent pieces of artwork on Queen City’s walls.

Another first in Manchester’s art scene was the **Manchester Citywide Arts Festival**, created and organized by the Palace Theatre. One of the featured artists at the festival, Karen Jerzyk said that she was thrilled to showcase her work in her home city.

“I hope for more things like [the Manchester Citywide Arts Festival]” Jerzyk said. “I had a great time at it. It was a really good crowd that went and I hope I can do more stuff locally.”

Jerzyk, a photographer known for her surrealist style and astronaut models, said that the most exciting part of 2022 was attending Art Basel in Miami in early December, as well as being featured in Time magazine’s digital art

gallery.

“This year was that glimmer of hope again for me that maybe things will get better,” Jerzyk said. “I’m just grateful that everything got back to that normalcy.”

## Classical music

While the 2022-2023 classical music season has only just begun, both the **Nashua Chamber Orchestra** and the **New Hampshire Philharmonic** have seen huge differences in their audiences, primarily in their sizes, but also in the excitement.

David Feltner, the artistic director of the Nashua Chamber Orchestra, said 2022 was a huge departure from pandemic concerts, not just because there could be live music, but also because there were full orchestrations. Up until this year, the orchestra had been divided into smaller sections, with the first full orchestra concert happening in spring of 2022.

The first concert of the ’22-’23 season, *Beethoven and Friends*, was a huge success, Feltner said. Future concerts will have audience participation, with attendees being asked to give a listen to Haydn’s Symphony No. 93 and come up with a name.

While looking ahead to 2023, Feltner said he was easily most excited for playing and writing his own music as well as conducting.

“I wrote a piece for viola, and I will be conducting and performing the part,” said Chase, saying that this will be the first time he conducts and performs his own work. “It’s pretty thrilling when your music comes to life.”

Toni DeGennaro, the executive director at the **New Hampshire Philharmonic**, said that 2022 has been a step back to normalcy for the orchestra.

DeGennaro said the biggest highlight for her was seeing the holiday pops concert in mid-December sell out Seifert Performing Arts Center, a 733-seat venue. She said that having people come and see Santa playing in the orchestra, or a 9-year-old soloist perform, was a wonderful way to end the holiday season.

“It was just packed,” said DeGennaro. “That to us signified that we’re back. Covid is still

going on, but it’s still nice to see people out and enjoying the music.”

2023 brings along more exciting concerts for the orchestra, including an **African music concert** that will be performed with a resident from Dartmouth, and the *Drawn to the Music* program. **Drawn to the Music** takes artistic submissions from New Hampshire elementary school students who drew while listening to classical music. At the concert, selected students’ artwork will be displayed during the performance of the music they listened to while crafting their masterpieces.

“That’s our highlight for the end of the year, seeing the kids come all dressed up and it’s super cute,” said DeGennaro. “It’s really an awesome show.”

## Theater companies

Despite the hiccups of the pandemic, and struggling at times for performance space, **Mo Demers**, one of the directors at **Lend Me a Theatre**, said 2022 has given the company a lot of firsts.

“We’re starting to take independent plays and original plays,” Demers said, adding that one of the shows they’re looking at was written by an actor in the company. The first independent play to be performed is *The World was Yours* and will go up in 2023, Demers said.

In addition to independent plays, **Lend Me a Theatre** is the first company to perform three of its season’s shows at The Hatbox Theatre. Demer said having shows in such an intimate space makes for an exciting experience.

One of the shows was Demers’ highlight of the year. She was able to direct her dream show, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, for Hatbox. She said it’s been 10 years that she’s been dreaming of putting it on, and getting the chance to put it on, even in a smaller setting with a small audience, still made it worthwhile.

At **Manchester Community Theatre Players**, Steve Short, the executive director, said that the highlight show of the year was the final show, *Titanic the musical*, it was also one of the most challenging parts of the year.

Short said that presenting a show like *Titanic* was rewarding, and doing it for an audience that was able to not social distance and with performers completely unmasked made it a fun challenge.

“All our rehearsals were masked,” said Short. “It was hard on the final dress to adjust everything.”

Short said that, in addition to actors having to adjust their acting when seeing castmates’ full faces, technical staff had to adjust microphone settings, and some staging elements had to be changed as well.

2022 was the first season since the pandemic began that the Players performed as a full



Arms Park Mural. Photo by Michael Cirelli / @cirellivorks

ensemble on a stage, Short said. Before this, shows were done fully remote on Zoom, or in hybrid settings.

Short said he hopes to continue bringing more unmasked and in-person theater to Manchester. The next big show for the company, will be a celebration of more than two decades of theater it has brought to the Queen City.

“It’s going to be a *Manchester Community Theatre Players Become Legal* show,” Short said. “We’ll be celebrating our 21st year, as a revue of many musical numbers of shows we’ve done over the past years.”

## Performance venues

The **Tupelo Music Hall** saw many changes in 2022 due primarily to losing out on touring acts that they’re known for inviting, said owner Scott Hayward, which has affected ticket sales. Even so, he said that Tupelo is up much more in ticket sales over the pandemic.

“Right now, I’m so optimistic,” Hayward said. “I’m hoping that by this time next year, we’re back to where we were before when Covid hit us.”

While it was open before the pandemic, the **Rex Theatre** really hit its stride in 2022, according to Warren O’Reilly, the assistant to the president of Palace and Rex Theatres.

O’Reilly, who organized and ran the first **Manchester International Film Festival**, said he was excited to be bringing it back next year.

“We’re hoping for at least 50 percent of the films to be made by New Hampshire filmmakers,” O’Reilly said, adding that they would narrow the scope of the festival down but ramp up the animation in it.

O’Reilly added that the Rex was thriving when it came to comedy shows, but he wanted to promote the theater as a place where live music and comedy have a home in the Queen City.

“Looking ahead to next year, we are booking more local and independent acts,” said O’Reilly. “We’re working with **Queen City Improv** to have them do a show in April. We want to have [The Rex] be a place where Manchester-based artists can perform.”

## RECYCLED PERCUSSION

**Recycled Percussion** was slated to begin its 13-show run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Tickets start at \$37 for what’s billed as an all new show that “brings music, comedy and off the charts energy.” After opening night, the show will hit the stage Thursday, Dec. 29, through Sunday, Jan. 1, at 3 and 7 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 2, at 3 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m.



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- THURS. MAR. 9 Live Bullet: Bob Seger Tribute
- THURS. MAR. 23 Comedian Corey Rodriguez
- THURS. MAR. 30 Workin' For A Livin': Huey Lewis  
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- THURS. APRIL 6 Barely Manilow

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## ARTS

# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Join the Bee:** The Palace Youth Theatre is holding auditions for performers in grades 2 through 12 for its upcoming Small Cast production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, according to a press release. Auditions will be held on Monday, Jan. 2, at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester) with rehearsals starting the second week of January for performances at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester) on Wednesday, Feb. 22,



"Winter Wetland #1.1," a print by Kate Higley. Courtesy photo.

and Thursday, Feb. 23, the release said. Performers will learn a dance and be expected to sing (come prepared to sing a short section of a song of your choice a cappella), the release said. To schedule an audition time, email MeganAlves@palacetheatre.org with the performer's name, age and preferred audition time; if cast (not all who audition will be cast) there is a \$125 production fee, the release said.

• **An exhibit of printmaking:** New Hampshire Art Association fine printmaker Kate Higley will have her work on display at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center (49 S. Main St., Suite 104, in Concord) Friday, Jan. 6, through Friday, March 3. The gallery hours are general Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Behind the Carol:** The play *Scene Changes* will open at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) on Friday, Jan. 6. In the show, a traveling production of *A Christmas Carol* loses its Bob Cratchit when he gets ill in Burlington, Vermont, and the show has to hire a new actor when it comes to Concord, causing "a clash of wills," according to the website, which also says that the play contains adult language. The show will run Friday, Jan. 6, through Sunday, Jan. 22 with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2

p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$19 for students and seniors.

• **Call for actors:** The community theater group Nashua Theatre Guild will hold auditions for its spring show, *Pandemonium*, described as a "modern mythology mystery" according to a post on the Guild's Facebook page, on Saturday, Jan. 7, and Sunday, Jan. 8, at Broadway Bound (501 Daniel Webster Hwy. in Merrimack) from 1 to 4 p.m. on both days. The audition will be

a cold reading, the post said. For more on the group, see [nashuatheatre.org](http://nashuatheatre.org).

• **More voices in theater:** Theatre Kapow will continue its "Expanding the Canon" playreading circle focused on highlighting Black, Latinx, indigenous and global playwrights, according to [tkapow.com](http://tkapow.com). The event will be Sunday, Jan. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. over Zoom. Register on Kapow's website.

• **A Neil Simon:** The Epping Community Theater (performance space is the Epping Playhouse, 38c Ladd's Lane in Epping; [eppingtheater.org](http://eppingtheater.org)) will present Neil Simon's *Rumors* Friday, April 14, through Sunday, April 16, and is holding auditions Thursday, Jan. 19, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Watson Academy (17 Academy St. in Epping). Go online for signup information and a rundown of the characters.

• **Teens on skates?** Teen performers ages 14 to 18 can schedule in person (or virtual) auditions for the Peacock Players' upcoming production of the musical *Xanadu*. Go to [peacockplayers.org](http://peacockplayers.org) to schedule an audition for Sunday, Jan. 22, or Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. on either day at the 14 Court Street Theater in downtown Nashua. The production will run Friday, May 12, through Sunday, May 21, with night performances Fridays and Saturdays and matinees Saturdays and Sundays.

• **Next generation of theater:** Registration is open now for the Peacock Players ([peacockplayers.org](http://peacockplayers.org)) April vacation camp, which will run Monday, April 24, through Friday, April 28, at the Peacock Players space in downtown Nashua, 14 Court St. The camp runs daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for grades 1 through 8; tuition costs \$350. 🍓

### Art

#### Exhibits

• **THE ART OF GIFTING ART** Studioverne Fine Art Fused Glass (412 Chestnut St. in Manchester; [studioverne.com](http://studioverne.com)) is cohosting an art shopping event with Creative Framing Solutions through Saturday, Dec. 31. The studio is open Wednesday, noon to 5 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **"NATURALLY CURIOUS"** LaBelle Winery's Derry Location (14 Route 111) is exhibiting the

works of three New Hampshire Art Association artists through Jan. 22 in their show "Naturally Curious," according to a press release. The artists are Cheryl Frez Bencivenga, a painter from the Monadnock region who works with acrylic paints; Howard Muscott, a photographer focusing on nature, landscapes and wildlife, and Linn Stilwell, a painter from the Lakes Region, the release said. See the exhibit daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to [labellewinery.com](http://labellewinery.com) or call 672-9898.

• **JOYFUL GIVING** at Expert Design Solutions (Ripano Stone-works, 90 E. Hollis St., Nashua;

[nashuaarts.org](http://nashuaarts.org)) is open through Jan. 29. The show features acrylics, colored pencil, oils, pastels, watercolors and photography. The works on display are also available for sale.

### Classical

#### Events

• **NEW YEAR'S EVE CHAMPAGNE POPS** performed by Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra at the Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth) on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$38. Visit [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org) or call 436-2400.

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## And a happy new year

New Hampshire rings in 2023 with a plethora of events

By Katelyn Sahagian  
ksahagian@hippopress.com

The Granite State will be partying it up on New Year's Eve. Old or young, staying up late or going to bed early, there's an event for everyone.

- The **kids night at the Y** theme at YMCA of Downtown Manchester (30 Mechanic St. in Manchester; 623-3558, [graniteymca.org](http://graniteymca.org)) on Friday, Dec. 30, at 4:30 p.m. will be a New Year's pajama party. Kids ages 3 through 9 are welcome. A space costs \$25 per single child; siblings are an additional \$15. Register via the branch's Facebook page.

- See **First Night**, a romantic comedy, at the Players' Ring (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; [playersring.org](http://playersring.org), 436-8123) on Friday, Dec. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 31, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$27, \$24 for students and seniors.

- The Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover, [childrens-museum.org](http://childrens-museum.org)) is hosting a **family New Year's Eve party** on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., with a "countdown to midnight" during each session with noisemakers, hats and more. This is included in regular playtime tickets, which cost \$12.50 per child

with one adult, \$10.50 per child with a senior age 65 and older.

- Charmingfare Farm (774 High St., Candia, [visitthefarm.com](http://visitthefarm.com)) is hosting **New Year's Eve sleigh rides** on Saturday, Dec. 31, starting at 10 a.m. The rides are sleigh rides to bonfires and holiday lights on a trail.

- Cowabunga's (725 Huse Road in Manchester; [cowabungas.com](http://cowabungas.com)) is hosting a **New Year's Eve party** on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased at [cowabungas.com](http://cowabungas.com).

- Join the Concord Public Library (45 Green St. in Concord, [concordnh.gov](http://concordnh.gov)) for a **Noon Year's Eve party** on Saturday Dec. 31. The party will start at 11:30 a.m., and kids and parents can count down the clock together to noon. Recommended for kids newborn to fifth grade.

- Derry Public Library (64 East Broadway) is hosting a **Noon Year's Eve party** on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 11:30 a.m. There will be a parade and balloon drop at the stroke of noon. Visit [derrypl.org](http://derrypl.org) for more information.

- Celebrate the new year at the **First Night in Portsmouth** on Saturday, Dec. 31, in Market Square. The celebration starts at 2 p.m. and will end with fireworks at 7:30 p.m. Visit [portsmouth.org](http://portsmouth.org).

- The Kensington Parks and Recreation Department is setting off **New Year's fireworks** at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, in Sawyer Memorial Park (24 Trundle Lane). The Department recommends dressing warmly and bringing a flashlight.

- The Portsmouth City Orchestra is coming to the Music Hall's Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St.) for a **New Year's Eve concert** and Champagne toast on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$38 and can be bought at [themusichall.org](http://themusichall.org).

- Dave and Buster's (1500 S. Willow St., Manchester) is hosting a **Ring Ring Ring in the New Year party** from 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, to 1 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, with an unlimited appetizer buffet and unlimited play on select games. Tickets cost \$69 and can be bought at [daveandbusters.com](http://daveandbusters.com).

- **Pats Peak** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker) is having **New Year's Eve fireworks** on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 10:20 p.m. Get a reservation for skiing, snowboarding, or tubing to watch the show. Lift tickets start at \$60 and can be purchased at [patspeak.com](http://patspeak.com).

- Seven New Hampshire state parks are hosting **First Day hikes** on Sunday, Jan. 1. The hike at Robert Frost Farm in Derry is already



full; other locations include Greenfield State Park (954 Forest Road), Monadnock State Park (116 Poole Road in Jaffrey) and Odiorne Point State Park (570 Ocean Blvd., Rye). Check-in begins at noon. Advance registration is required; visit [nhstateparks.org](http://nhstateparks.org) to register or for more information.

- The Apple Therapy and Derry Sports & Rehab **Millennium Mile**, a one-mile downhill race on Mammoth Road in Londonderry, starts at a forgiving 2 p.m. Registration costs \$20 for 12+ and \$10 for 11 and under, with the first 1,250 registrants getting a winter hat (if available, registration on race day costs \$5 more). See [millenniumrunning.com](http://millenniumrunning.com).

- Join New Hampshire Scot for a **Hogman-ay** at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry) on Sunday, Jan. 1, from 3 to 7 p.m. There will be traditional Scottish music, food, activities and more. Entry tickets cost \$32 per adult ages 15 and older, \$15 per child ages 6 to 14, and kids ages 5 and younger are free. Visit [nhscot.org](http://nhscot.org) for more information. 🍷

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## KIDDIE

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## Out of the house

Looking to get your family out of the house during the holiday break? Check out the Kiddie Pool column in last week's (Dec. 22) issue, which features a list of some of the **area museums open extra days or hours** for the vacation. The e-edition is available at [hippocpress.com](http://hippocpress.com) and the story is on page 17.

While you're there, also check out our listing of places offering **light attractions and holiday light tours**, on page 16 of last week's issue.

## Getting crafty

The last chance to sign up for **Drawn to the Music** is Saturday, Dec. 31. The program, put on by the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, invites elementary school kids to listen to classical music and draw what they experience while listening. Winners of the competition have their artwork displayed at a concert by the Phil, and win free tickets to see the performance. To sign up, visit [nhphil.org](http://nhphil.org).

## Library fun

• Tweens can travel the world on their plate at an **international taste test** at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St.) on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 3 p.m. Kids in grades 4 through 6 will try a variety of food from around the world. The food will contain some allergens, and the librarians can provide more information if contacted at [teens@nashualibrary.org](mailto:teens@nashualibrary.org). Registration is required for this event and can be done at [nashualibrary.org](http://nashualibrary.org).

• Visit Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Derry) for a chance to **read to a dog** on Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 5 to 6 p.m. The therapy dog, named Blondie, will be a safe, judgment-free listener as kids practice reading out loud. Registration is required for this session and can be completed at [pelhampubliclibrary.com](http://pelhampubliclibrary.com).

• Take on a reading challenge at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.). Teens can participate in the **winter reading challenge** starting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and running through March. Teens who participate by reading library books and attending events will gain points

that can be used to earn prizes and a free young-adult book of their choice. Teens can sign up at [manchesternh.readsquared.com](http://manchesternh.readsquared.com) and pick up their challenge packet at the library.

• Another reading challenge at the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.) is **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**, designed for children and their caregivers to encourage literacy for kids 1 to 4 years old. Once entered in the program, kids can earn little prizes upon completing different goals. To sign up, visit the library's website at [manchester.lib.nh.us](http://manchester.lib.nh.us). After signing up, parents should pick up the reading packets at the library.

## Save the date

Watch the magic come to life at **Disney on Ice Find Your Heroes** at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester). Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy will take the audience on an adventure that includes scenes from beloved Disney movies, including *Moana*, *Frozen*, *Tangled* and *The Little Mermaid*. The ice show opens on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. and will have shows on Friday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 7, at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$18 and tickets can be purchased at [snhuarena.com](http://snhuarena.com). 🍌

Moana and Maui in *Find Your Hero*

## INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,  
I have a pair of old snowshoes that I would like to sell. Can you give me a price range and point me in a direction? Thank you,  
Donna.  
David



Dear David,  
Your vintage 1930s snowshoes look to be in good shape. Antique snowshoes are a very popular decorative item in today's market. In order for reuse they have to be in really good condition with no wood fractures and the leather very secure. You find many older ones refitted to work again today.

Values on them in original condition are in the range of \$200+ per set. Higher depending on age, rarity of style, and condition. My suggestion would be an antique shop in your

area. Or possibly a local online marketplace.

Either way, David, I don't think you will have a hard time finding them a new home. I hope this helped and thanks for sharing.

Donna

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

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# What to do after a big storm

Put on a hoodie and shake off the snow

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

## THE GARDENING GUY

We recently got hit by a big winter storm that dropped at least 15 inches of heavy, wet snow. It clung to



branches, breaking some and bending others to near their breaking points. If you suffer the same sometime this winter, here are some things you might consider to help your woody plants.

First, the best thing to do is be proactive. Even before the storm had finished I went outside and started shaking branches to get snow off them. Wear a hoodie! Snow can go right down your neck if you don't. For shrubs and small trees, you can shake the central stem, and it will clear the snow from the entire plant. For larger trees, you will need to shake individual branches.

A good tool for clearing snow is a bamboo pole, the longer and thicker the better. Some hardware stores and feed-and-grain stores will have them. I used one to knock snow off branches I couldn't reach.

So what can you do to repair cracked and broken branches? Generally, nothing. Take a sharp saw or loppers and remove the branch back to its point of origin — the main trunk or a large branch. But don't cut flush to the trunk if you can avoid it. And never leave a stub as it will have to rot back to the branch collar to heal.

The tree heals itself at what is called the branch collar. The branch collar is a swollen area at the base of each branch. If you cut that off flush to the trunk, it will be harder to heal and take longer. Often the branch collar has ridges or rings around it, and you should leave them in place.

Two winters ago we had a big snowstorm and my small leatherwood shrub (*Dirca palustris*) split up the middle. The break was not complete: There was still an attachment point for both halves of the shrub. I didn't notice the damage for a few days, but when I did, I decided to try to repair it.

Grafting is a well-known but difficult skill whereby a skilled person can add a branch to a living tree. This is most often done with fruit trees, allowing orchardists to add other varieties of apple on a tree. I have an apple with three different flavors of apple because it had other varieties grafted to the original tree. Truth be known, the tree came like that. I've taken classes in grafting and tried to do it, but have never succeeded. It's an art.

But back to my little leatherwood tree. Because it was still hinged at the bottom of the break, I moved it back together and used some stretchy green plastic tape to wrap the two halves together. I wound it tightly, and lo and behold, it worked! I removed the tape (which is usually used for tying flower stems to stakes to keep them from breaking in the rain) after two or three months. Now, two years later, the shrub shows no signs of ever being damaged, other than a little scar tissue.

Cut back a broken branch to the branch collar. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

What else did the storm do? It almost flattened a small grove of willow trees I had planted 20 years ago. They are a variety of *Salix integra* called Hakuro Nishiki. Very popular, these willows have tri-colored leaves (green, white and for part of the summer pink) and are fast-growing. There is nothing I can do for them. They are bent over and weighed down by snow, but should recover once the snow melts in a week or two. And if they don't spring back up? I will lop off the bent stems and let them re-grow. It's difficult to kill a willow, and they should have been shortened long ago.

The storm also knocked down a large tree on our property, a wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*). The black cherry doesn't produce cherries we can eat, but birds eat them. The fruit is just a third of an inch across with a pit. Not much food for anybody, really. The blossoms are not important, either, but it is a good plant for pollinators, one of the keystone species.

The tree we lost had a diameter of 14 inches at its base and stood over 67 feet tall — I measured it after it fell. It was not one I had planted, but a bird probably dropped a seed in our woods. I will count the growth rings when it gets cut up for firewood. Where it grew is a good example of where not to plant a tree.

So what was wrong with our tree? Most trees do not have tap roots going down deep into the soil. Two feet is probably average. But they spread widely. I was told in a horticulture class to think of a tree as a wine glass sitting on a dinner plate. The plate represents the root system, the wine glass the trunk and branches.

But ours was growing right next to a rock ledge that was actually showing above ground. The roots could not grow that way, so all the roots were on just three sides. The wind came from the fourth side, and with the snow load, it blew over. So if you plant trees, be mindful of bedrock and ledge. Keep away from them. You can use a steel rod or crowbar to poke the soil to find ledge before planting.

Although I will miss that big tree, I try to never mourn a plant that dies. After all, it provides me a chance to plant something else there. My best wishes to you all for the holidays.

*Henry lives and gardens in Cornish Flat, NH. He is the author of four gardening books and is a UNH Master Gardener. Reach him at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or by email at henry.homeyer@comcast.net. Please include a SASE if you wish a response by mail. 🍂*

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# Automatic shutoff on new cars doesn't wear out engines



*Dear Car Talk:*  
 When I was a young car owner (a long time ago), I was told that the worst wear and tear on an engine occurs when the engine is first started.

By Ray Magliozzi

So, I'm wondering what your opinion is about the automatic "shut off" feature on many new cars. They shut off and then restart the engine every time a vehicle comes to a stop.

I know it saves fuel and decreases pollution, but does this decrease the engine's life? — Roberto

people engaged in.  
 But, if the engine has been running recently — meaning in the last couple of hours — the oil is already well distributed and the oil passages are all filled up. So, during a two-minute shut off at a stoplight, those passages will remain filled with oil.

Plus, plenty of oil will still be coating all the engine parts very well, protecting them during the next engine start.

If you were to be stuck at a traffic light that was red for several hours, my answer might be different. I would also suggest you explore options for working from home. But warm engine restarts are not a problem.

The other thing that's changed since you were young is that engine oils are vastly improved. When you were a kid, we used thick, gloppy oils that took longer to circulate, especially when cold. You may remember terms like 20W-50, which acted like a heavy, 20-weight oil when cold and a 50-weight oil when hot. Now, cars use 0W-20 or 5W-20 weight synthetic oils that spread very quickly, even when cold, and coat and protect the engine parts better than ever.

So, cross this off your list of things to worry about, Roberto. Maybe replace it with worrying about the monthly price increase just announced by Netflix.

*Dear Car Talk:*  
 I have a 2004 Lexus LS430 with only 85,000 miles on it. Everything is great except for the navigation screen. A while ago, it started going on and off intermittently. Lexus said I need a new screen, which, at \$6,000, is out of the question.

I found a repair shop that I thought fixed the problem, but it still persists. I have a one-year warranty and will be taking it back for the third time next week. I'm all out of ideas. Do you have any suggestions for me?

I enjoy your column. Thank you. — Jamaal

Well, you already know what the expensive solution is, Jamaal: having Lexus replace the head unit for six grand.

My guess is that one or more of the tiny, soldered circuits on the screen's circuit board are broken. And, depending on the position of the screen and the jostling and flexing of the car, it's making contact and working sometimes and not making contact at other times.

The guys who fixed it temporarily probably tried to re-solder it. Maybe they didn't do a good enough job, maybe they missed a few, or maybe the circuits are just old and brittle at this point. In any case, the guys

at that shop must all run and hide in their one men's room stall whenever they see you driving in now. Have you noticed four pairs of feet in there when you stop in to use their bathroom?

Anyway, here are two less expensive solutions. One is to go to a good car stereo store and buy an aftermarket head unit that's compatible with your phone. That would essentially replace the navigation screen with a new stereo and screen system.

Pioneer and Alpine both make good units that use both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. One of those will probably run you about \$1,000. But it'll give you a fully up-to-date head unit, with Bluetooth compatibility, and the ability to mirror your phone's navigation on the car's large, centrally located screen. That's a pretty good solution.

If you want to get your navigation working again for even less money, then you can just get a vent mount for your phone, mount it up as high in your field of vision as possible, and literally follow the map guidance on your phone itself.

That's a smaller screen, and not as befitting a Lexus, but that would be your cheapest option. (Other than rolling down the window and shouting for directions.)

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# ON THE JOB

## MICHAEL TEIXEIRA PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER

Michael Teixeira is a non-emergency medical and personal transportation provider and owner of MFT Transportation Services based in Pelham.

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

My job is to bring clients to and from doctor's offices. People always say I'm different because when we're going out to their doctor's offices, I'll make stops along the way for them, if they want McDonald's or they need to stop at CVS for a prescription or whatever. I'll do whatever I can to help them out, because for some people this is the only time they're leaving their house all month.

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

We also have a home care business, and one of our clients needed a ride to

the doctor's office. I just decided to go out and buy a van and give her rides. I realized that there was a need for it, and that there were a lot of people who couldn't get around because of Covid and stuff. It started as just helping somebody out, and then I just fell in love with it. I love being around people.

How long have you had this job?  
August 2020.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I'm a driver by trade. I've worked on cars for 19 years, and in 2017 I got a class A driver's license, and I drove an 18-wheeler. But what I'm doing now is

non-emergency medical transportation, so I don't need a special license for it or anything. All I had to do was buy the van and register my business with the state.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

I just wear jeans and a nice shirt.

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

I think I'm learning every day as I go along. One of the things I'm always learning about is the finances. I wasn't charging that much at first, and I'm starting to realize that I have to raise the price a little bit because the price of everything is up right now. But you live and learn, and you have to keep moving forward.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

Nobody sees the things I do behind the scenes. If you have a doctor's appointment at 12 o'clock, I'm starting my day at 10 o'clock so I can stop at the car wash and make sure everything is clean, and then I've got to drive the 45 minutes or whatever to your house to pick you up.

What was the first job you ever had?  
Market Basket.



Michael Teixeira. Courtesy photo.

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

Always do your best. People notice what you're doing, and everything always comes back to you the way you should be rewarded. —Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

- Favorite book:** There's a book based on *Rocky* that I've always loved.
- Favorite movie:** Well, it's *Rocky*, of course.
- Favorite music:** Biggie Smalls, Dr. Dre, Tupac and Guns N' Roses
- Favorite food:** I'm Portuguese, so my favorite is Portuguese food.
- Favorite thing about NH:** I like the snow in the winter and the colors of fall — basically, the seasons.

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# FOOD

## Food for thought

Trends, predictions and what's to come for local food and drink in 2023

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingsoll@hippopress.com

### News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

• **A toast to the new year:** Join the Copper Door Restaurant (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677; 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033; copperdoor.com) for a special **New Year's Eve prix fixe dinner menu**, which will be served on Saturday, Dec. 31, from 4 to 9 p.m. at both locations, featuring meals of two, three or four courses. Options include truffled risotto, crispy Tuscan meatballs, shrimp bisque, butternut-apple salad, grilled filet oscar, braised short rib, sesame-crusted tuna, truffled mushroom ravioli, crispy duck confit, caramel apple pie and chocolate hazelnut cheesecake. The cost is \$74 for a two-course meal, \$84 for a three-course meal and \$94 for a four-course meal. Reservations are highly recommended. The Copper Door's regular menus will also be available from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both locations, and live music will be featured from 6 to 9 p.m. For more ideas on how to spend New Year's Eve or New Year's Day (there may still be time to plan depending on where you go), visit [issuu.com/hippopress](http://issuu.com/hippopress) and click on the Dec. 22 issue to read the e-edition for free. Our New Year's Eve listings begin on page 24.

• **Ready for flight:** The Flight Center Restaurant Group, which operates both Flight Center locations in Manchester and Nashua, in addition to the 1750 Taphouse in Bedford, has acquired Smuttlabs Brewery & Kitchen (47 Washington St., Dover) — the storefront reopened to the public on Dec. 16 as **Aviation Brewing Co.**, the company's newest business venture, according to a press release. "We have been dedicated to supporting the craft beer industry ... featuring the best local brews on over 50 rotating taps at our restaurants and have been working towards opening a brewery to complement this for some time," Flight Center owner Seth Simonian said in a statement. "Acquiring the Smuttlabs brand and 7-barrel brewing system allows us to begin our next phase of growth in the craft beer world." According to the release, Aviation Brewing, will begin operations as a restaurant for the next three to four months as the Flight Center Restaurant Group navigates federal and state licensing regulations to transition their restaurants into brewpubs, with the goal to begin producing its own beer in Dover. Aviation Brewing Co. is open seven days a week, featuring a menu of Detroit-style pizzas, appetizers and burgers, along with plated entrees, like 30 ▶

Another year is in the books for New Hampshire's food scene. Here's a look back on what local restaurateurs, business owners, event organizers and other notable figures contended with in 2022, plus a sneak preview of what's to come in 2023.

### An early surge

New Hampshire began the year amidst a winter surge of Covid-19, largely driven by the then-new omicron variant. Events responsible for bringing together large gatherings were once again canceled left and right, at a breakneck pace almost reminiscent of March 2020. The most significant? What would have been the anticipated return of **New Hampshire Wine Week**.

On Jan. 12 of this year — with two weeks to go until the Easterseals Winter Wine Spectacular — the New Hampshire Liquor Commission issued a statement canceling the celebration due to the rise in Covid cases.

What's next for the future of Wine Week? A new name and a new time of year for 2023, said NHLC chief marketing officer Lorrie Piper. The large seminar-style tasting event traditionally serving as the week's centerpiece has been rebranded as the **New England Wine Spectacular** and is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 15.

"Clearly over the past few winters, now that we have historical information on the pandemic, we know that we're most likely looking at an uptick in Covid cases ... and so when we kind of all got together and started talking about it, we just thought, 'Why not June?'" Piper said of the NHLC's decision to move the week. "It's going to be great weather, I think people are going to be ready to get out there, and we won't have the travel problems that maybe some people encountered during those winter months in New England. ... So far, the conversations that we've had with the wine celebrities and the winemakers who come have been very positive."

Details on 2023's Wine Week are still being ironed out, but Piper said the plan is to keep the same format as in years past. The Spectacular will take place on that Thursday and will be surrounded by a week's worth of other events like wine dinners at local restaurants and tasting and sampling events at several of the Liquor & Wine Outlet stores.

"I really want to have a very, very full calendar," she said. "My own personal



Firefly American Bistro & Bar received the "Golden Taco" trophy for winning the 2022 Taco Tour on Thursday, May 5. Courtesy photo.

challenge is to make it really difficult for customers to pick which thing they would want to attend."

Asked about trending products in 2022, Piper said the NHLC has been monitoring several — chief among them are wines and spirits in the ready-to-drink category, which overall enjoyed increasing sales at the nearly 70 Liquor & Wine Outlet stores. The number of ready-to-drink products available at each location increased by about 30 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, according to Piper.

"I think our customers love the opportunity to buy something that's easy to prepare, that they are really just pouring over ice," she said. "The makers of these products have recognized that there is a big need for it and our customers have certainly shown us that they love that ease of just being able to pick up a four- or a six-pack of canned cocktails. ... We're projecting that that's going to grow even more in 2023."

Low-calorie, low-alcohol and low-to-no sugar options — comprising what Piper called the "Better for You" category — have also become more popular, in addition to things like premium tequilas and mezcals, sparkling wines, spritzers and even barrel-aged whiskeys.

"I think kind of the overall trend that we're seeing is more and more Earth-friendly processing and growing," she said, "so we have customers that look specifically for organic wines and spirits. ... The other thing that was happening was that, during the pandemic, a lot of the distillers and makers had some time to really think about reinventing some of the products or offering something really unique, and so now we see that coming onto the market."

### Food events return

A number of food festivals and events returned this year — in at least a few cases, for the first time since 2019. In downtown

Manchester the **Taco Tour** was perhaps the most notable. The Greater Manchester Chamber worked closely with the City of Manchester's Economic Development Department and Mayor Joyce Craig's office to revive the popular street festival, which returned on May 5.

The event had the largest roster of participating restaurants — more than 70, many of which had not existed when the last Taco Tour took place. **Firefly American Bistro & Bar** took home the "Golden Taco" trophy after receiving the most votes by thousands of attendees — and a date of May 4 has already been slated for the Taco Tour to return in 2023.

"We are largely planning to replicate the event from last year, but we are looking for sponsors to support adding a concert to Taco Tour Manchester," Cole Riel, member engagement coordinator for the Chamber, told the Hippo in an email. "We are sending out a message to restaurants and event partners soon with some updates."

The **Taste of Downtown Nashua**, which allows participants to sample offerings from nearly two dozen restaurants, returned for the first time in three years in June, as did Merrimack's **Great American Ribfest & Food Truck Festival** in July, and the **Gate City Brewfest**, also in Nashua, in August. In Concord we saw the return of the New Hampshire Brewers Association's annual flagship festival in July, rebranded as the **Keep NH Brewing Festival**. That event has already garnered the support of more than two dozen participating breweries for 2023 and is slated to return on Saturday, July 8, at Kiwanis Waterfront Park.

And several new events joined the scene in New Hampshire in 2022. We saw the inaugural **New England Coffee Festival** in downtown Laconia in May, for instance, and the first **New England Hot Sauce Fest** at **Smuttnose Brewing Co.** in Hampton in July — they respectively brought together thousands of coffee and hot sauce



aficionados with demonstrations, contests, vendors and giveaways. Both are due to return for the second year in 2023: The coffee festival is happening on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20, and the hot sauce festival will return on Saturday, July 29.

Reached by email, coffee festival organizer Karen Bassett of **Wayfarer Coffee Roasters** in Laconia said the inaugural event drew more than 5,000 attendees to the area.

“We received so much amazing feedback and are excited to elevate the next festival,” Bassett said, going on to note that 2023’s event will feature a greater number of hands-on workshops and outdoor vendors, plus a “latte art throwdown” on the Main Stage of the Colonial Theatre in front of a grand audience.

### A year of resilience

Concord welcomed a downtown restaurant serving brick-oven artisan pizzas, Bedford saw a new self-serve wine bar and Nashua became home to the first area establishment offering drinks made with the South Pacific root known as kava. In January, longtime Concord restaurateur Joel Harris of **Dos Amigos Burritos** opened his newest eatery on Main Street, the **New Hampshire Pizza Co.**, following a renovation of the space the previous year. Other additions to New Hampshire’s food scene included **Hare of the Dawg Bar & Grill**, a family-friendly neighborhood restaurant in downtown Derry, in January; **Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse**, which opened in the former Fratello’s storefront on Main Street in Nashua in March; **Vine 32 Wine + Graze Bar**, a self-serve wine bar featuring Italian-made Enomatic dispensers, which also opened in March; and the joint retail shop owned by **Loon Chocolate** and **603 Charcuterie** that opened inside The Factory on Willow facility in Manchester in February.

We also saw the arrival in March of **Rambling House Food & Gathering**, a Nashua restaurant with a seasonally rotating menu of locally sourced items and a craft brewery on site, known as **TaleSpinner Brewery**. Later in the spring, George “Rocky” Burpee of **Shaker Road Provisions**, a company specializing in homemade bacon, opened a storefront in Concord, and the summer brought us the Manchester vegan cafe **The Green Beautiful**; **City Hall Pub**, the newest venture of Mint Bistro and Elm House of Pizza owner Tim Baines; and **Root Awakening Kava Bar** in Nashua, which was touted as “New England’s first kava bar,” by owner Greg Gately, who noted at the time that only around 200 such bars existed nationwide.

In June, **LaBelle Winery** opened its long-anticipated sparkling wine tasting barn and vineyard wedding ceremony space at its Derry facility — its chief purpose, owner and winemaker Amy LaBelle



New Hampshire Wine Week is being moved to June in 2023; the New England Wine Spectacular is set for Thursday, June 15. Photo by John Hession.

said, is creating sparkling wine varieties via Méthode Champenoise, a classic French technique. While it’s perhaps probably the last major addition to the space for a little while — “I know my husband is excited because I promised him I wouldn’t build any new buildings,” she joked — LaBelle said she’s looking forward to the new year. On Saturday, Jan. 28, the Amherst vineyard is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a special masquerade gala, featuring a cocktail hour, a four-course dinner menu, and performers like jugglers and fire-breathers. The ALS Association, in addition to Empowering Angels, LaBelle’s own foundation promoting youth entrepreneurship, will be the event’s beneficiaries.

In the fall, we saw the opening of the Haitian eatery **Ansanm** in October, the latest venture of *Top Chef* alum Chris Viaud of Northern Comfort Hospitality — we should also note that, in February, Viaud was nominated as a semifinalist in the 2022 James Beard Foundation awards under the “Emerging Chef” category. We saw a rare milestone in October 2022 with the **Red Arrow Diner’s** 100th anniversary and just this month bid farewell to retiring longtime chef Edward Aloise and his wife, Claudia Rippee, owners of **Republic Cafe** and **Campo Enoteca**.

Asked about her thoughts on the hospitality industry in 2022 as a whole, LaBelle said that, while staffing challenges have loosened up at her two dining establishments — **Americus Restaurant** in Derry and **The Bistro at LaBelle Winery** in Amherst — inflation and rising food costs have been ongoing problems.

“Our staffing is in a much better spot than it was a year ago, certainly, so that’s helpful,” she said. “We’ve just had to ratchet up our labor costs, so we’re paying people more to get them ... but the prices can’t really keep up with that, and so it’s a really tricky spot.”

Viaud also said rising prices have been among the biggest challenges his team has faced this year, but he added that staffing

CONTINUED ON PG 28 ▶

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has improved. At **Greenleaf**, for instance, which celebrated its third anniversary in business in 2022, Viaud promoted chefs Justin O'Malley and Nick Breyare to oversee day-to-day operations in the kitchen, changing the menus within the growing seasons and leading the line cooks.

"For the most part we have absorbed the costs of the inflation of goods ... without any disruption to service," Viaud said in an email. "For Greenleaf specifically, I

would have to say that we are in a much better position in terms of necessary staffing this year compared to last."

One encouraging thing for LaBelle is that she hasn't had a hard time filling seats.

"People are still going out and enjoying a good meal, and we're grateful for that," she said. "I think people are still willing to spend the money to go out, but they're just being a little more choosy about it and making sure where they're going to spend their money is top quality, and that's what LaBelle can provide." 🍷



LaBelle Winery held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new sparkling wine facility in Derry on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Photo by Peter Higgins of NuView Photography.

**A Year in the Kitchen: 2022 edition**

The Hippo's In the Kitchen Q&A series continued in 2022, featuring voices of New Hampshire's food scene, from restaurant chefs and bakers to homestead business owners.

We like to ask these experts for their thoughts on the food trends sweeping the Granite State. Food trucks won out as the most commonly cited trend this past calendar year, but other themes were also commonly mentioned, including farm-to-table and plant-based cooking movements in many Granite State restaurant kitchens.

"Using local farms is so cool because I think it's a great engaging point for the servers to talk with the customer ... so they get to know where their food is coming from, but they also feel like they are putting value into the economy in their area," chef **Matt McCormack of the Granite Restaurant & Bar** in Concord told the Hippo in February.

Some interviewees this year chose more specific menu items as leading trends, like smash burgers, charcuterie boards and sampler-sized offerings such as flights and tapas.

"Just any small amount of something that's served on one plate. You're seeing a lot of that now — burger flights, taco flights, you name it," Weare native **Joe Bernier of the Angry Hog Barbecue Co. food trailer** told the Hippo in May.

**Megan Kurs of The Yolk Grill** in Pelham gave us a similar answer in March, saying that the term "flight" doesn't necessarily pertain to just beers or cocktails anymore but rather to any type of food that can be presented in a sampler-style setting. "People like to have different things they can take pictures for and post them on social media and tag us and things like that," she said.

A fun question we always ask during these

interviews is either "What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?" or "What celebrity would you like to have a meal with?" For the third year in a row, the No. 1 answer was television chef Gordon Ramsay of, among many other popular cooking shows, *Hell's Kitchen*. **Saurav Goel of Raga Contemporary Kitchen** in Nashua told the Hippo in April he considers Ramsay to be "a mentor in many ways," while **George "Rocky" Burpee of Shaker Road Provisions** in Concord said in September he considers himself to be a "die-hard fan" of the chef. **Justin Hoang of Luk's Bar and Grill in Hudson and Bellissimo Italian Steakhouse** in Nashua told the Hippo in July that he regularly watches just about every show Ramsay is on.

"As intimidating as he comes off as in those shows, I think he's a phenomenal chef," Hoang said.

The runner-up for the most commonly given

answer to this question came as no surprise — Manchester's own actor and comedian Adam Sandler. Other celebrities that received two or more answers this year? Actors Jack Black and Matthew McConaughey and Food Network personalities and chefs Alton Brown, Guy Fieri and Jeffrey "Duff" Goldman.

Finally, asking our interviewees to give a shout out to their favorite local dining establishments in the Granite State always yields a diverse lineup of answers. The most common answer of 2022 was **The Riverhouse Cafe** in Milford — three people throughout the year told the Hippo that the popular breakfast and lunch spot on the Oval is among their favorites. **Industry East Bar** in Manchester, **Revival Kitchen & Bar** in Concord, **Surf Seafood** in Nashua and the **Stark House Tavern** in Weare were among some of the other recurring answers this year.

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# Queen City roasts

Eighty-Eight Coffee Co. opens in Manchester



Photo courtesy of Eighty-Eight Coffee Co. in Manchester.

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Over its nearly eight-year run, The Local Moose Cafe in Manchester gained a following for its soups, sandwiches and scratch-baked goods, including a rotating lineup of craft doughnuts. Now, the cafe's owners are switching gears in favor of offering single-origin coffees roasted in small batches, in addition to teas, a daily selection of toasts and some grab-and-go pastries.

Eighty-Eight Coffee Co., as the Queen City Ave. shop is now known, arrived the week of Thanksgiving following a roughly four-month-long hiatus. Owners and brothers Bo Tong and Marc Lee — along with Tong's wife, Natalia Umpierrez-Tong — temporarily took a break, closing the shop in early July with the goal to return later in the year.

"With The Local Moose, our intention when we opened seven years ago was to be a cafe, and from that, our menu grew and then it felt more like we were running a restaurant that served coffee," said Umpierrez-Tong, who added that they began roasting their own coffees in house in 2020. "Whereas now, we're a coffee roaster with some food items as well. ... I think, for me, that's one of the biggest differences is [that] now the focus is on roasting coffee, getting the profiles that we want and pulling out different flavors."

The trio agreed that a name change was the best way to help introduce that concept. Their new name, Umpierrez-Tong said, is rooted in Chinese culture — both Tong and Lee are lifelong Manchester residents of Chinese descent.

"In China, the number 8 is considered very lucky, and two 8s are twice as lucky," she said. "So we thought it would be fun to just bring some of our family's culture to the community."

## Eighty-Eight Coffee Co.

**Where:** 124 Queen City Ave., Manchester  
**Hours:** Wednesday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**More info:** Visit [eightyeightcoffee.com](http://eightyeightcoffee.com), or find them on Facebook and Instagram

From a Vietnamese coffee with sweetened condensed milk and espresso to house specials like a maple latte prepared with local maple syrup and a chili mocha with cinnamon, cayenne and chocolate sauce, there's a lot of variety here for coffee lovers to enjoy. In addition to drip and pour-over coffees, there are cold brew and nitro brew options, with beans that are sourced from several regions in Central and South America, like Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua.

"With the pour-over, we're manually grinding and brewing the coffee for customers instead of, say, getting it out of an airport," Tong said. "It takes a little bit of time, but it's fresher and it's cleaner. The recipes we use for the pour-overs are precise for that bean."

The shop also carries an assortment of loose-leaf teas and, for food, offers a small toast menu utilizing its own house-made white breads — there's an avocado toast with local honey and Maldon salt, a peanut butter and banana toast with chia seeds and the option to add granola, and a cucumber and hummus toast with sesame seeds and pea shoots, among others. A pastry case at the shop's front counter also regularly carries a selection of items like doughnuts, scones, muffins, cookies and pastries they call crunch rolls.

"It's a Japanese milk bread with almost like a crunchy cookie topping," Tong said of the crunch rolls. "That's something that I actually tried to remake from a pastry house in Chinatown. ... I wouldn't say it's 100 percent exactly like the ones in Chinatown, so that's why I renamed it the crunch roll. So that's something that's different that I guarantee you won't find in the city."

Bagged coffees are available for sale inside the shop, and Tong said the trio also has plans to eventually obtain some local wholesale accounts.

Despite their name change, Umpierrez-Tong said they've already seen many of the same faces come through the doors in the days since their return.

"We are so humbled by the amount of customers that we retained," she said. "Even after our longer than expected break, they came back and they were so psyched to see us." 🍷



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Pete Parenti of Troubadour Spice Blends, based in Milford. Courtesy photo.

Pete Parenti of Milford is the owner and founder of Troubadour Spice Blends (troubadourspiceblends.co, and on Instagram @troubadour.spice.blends), offering a lineup of two dozen handcrafted spice blends, from beef, chicken and rib rubs to an espresso steak blend, a Jamaican jerk blend, a hickory maple blend and several others. An Air Force veteran and musician, Parenti initially got into crafting his own spice blends as a side hustle, passing them out mostly to friends, family members and co-workers. When the pandemic hit, he decided to jump into it full-time, choosing the name “Troubadour” in reference to the song by country music legend George Strait. Each one of Parenti’s spice blends is inspired by his travels around the world, both personally and while in the military – in addition to ordering them online, you can find many of his selected flavors at Grasshoppers Garden Center (728 River Road, New Boston), Artisans Boutique by Recycled Creations (25 Main St., Wilton) and Sweet Beet Market (11 W. Main St., Bradford). Sweet Beet Market’s in-house cafe also offers the Troubadour Tempeh on its breakfast menu, seasoned with Parenti’s Jamaican jerk blend.

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

It would be my stainless steel mixing bowl ... because without that, I’m back to making one jar at a time. That big mixing bowl gives me the ability to make large batches.

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

A bacon double cheeseburger, seasoned fries and an ice cold beer, preferably an IPA from maybe Smuttynose or Great North Ale-

works. It’s got to be a New Hampshire IPA.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**

Taco Time in Milford. ... Great atmosphere over there, and great food.

**What celebrity would you like to see trying one of your spice blends?**

The Zac Brown Band. ... I remember seeing that they do this thing called an Eat and

Greet with their fans before a concert, and supposedly the food is fantastic.

**What is your favorite spice blend that you offer? What is your favorite thing to use it in?**

I like them all ... but I think the one I find myself grabbing the most is my Lone Star chili and fajitas blend. It basically just reminds me of all the time I spent in Texas while I was in the Air Force and eating the food down there. ... My favorite thing to put it in is something I call my Mexican casserole, and it’s kind of like a lasagna. I’ll layer flour tortillas, beef, refried beans, taco sauce, cilantro and then plenty of that seasoning.

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

This might have been going on for a long time, but I just kind of became aware of it. ... It seems to me that in New Hampshire, people are really on the lookout for high-quality all-natural ingredients. Either they’re cooking with them or they’re going to find them at a restaurant. ... That kind of relates to what I’m doing too, because I definitely look for that when I make my spice blends. There’s no fillers, no MSGs [and] no anti-caking agents like silicon dioxide.

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

Definitely pasta. It’s simple, easy, it makes a lot of servings and it’s delicious.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

**Homemade pasta carbonara**

*From the kitchen of Pete Parenti of Troubadour Spice Blends*

- 1 pounds angel hair pasta, cooked al dente
- 2 sticks butter
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 shaker Parmesan cheese
- 8 eggs
- 1 to 2 packages bacon, cooked and chopped
- Parsley, chopped
- Troubadour Spice Blends Pig Dust seasoning
- Black pepper

Boil the pasta until it is cooked al dente, then drain and place the pasta back into the pot (save a ladleful of pasta water for later). While the pasta is cooking, cook and chop the bacon, then set aside. Chop the parsley and set aside. In a large bowl, place the eggs, heavy cream, Parmesan cheese and the saved ladleful of pasta water. Whisk together and set aside. Finish the pasta by first adding in the sticks of butter. Slowly pour in the egg-cream-Parmesan mixture and stir everything together until the pasta absorbs all of the liquids. Add lots of Pig Dust seasoning, chopped bacon and parsley and a bit more Parmesan cheese. If desired, sprinkle on some cracked black pepper. Serve and enjoy.

**FOOD**

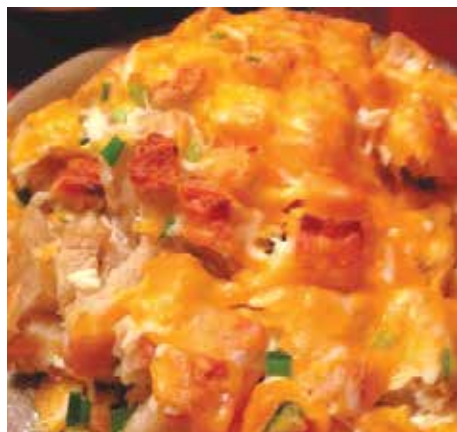


**TRY THIS AT HOME**

**Cheesy pull-apart bread**

This bread is a deliciously indulgent way to end 2022. It’s a fairly simple recipe but does require a little bit of attention to detail.

The most important ingredient in this recipe is the bread. Although it’s going to be coated in butter and stuffed with cheese, the bread is the base for all that goodness. I highly recommend using sourdough for its denser dough and nice flavor. However, if you can’t find sourdough, a plain, crusty boule will work. Also, salted butter is preferred to give a little extra seasoning to the filling. The remaining ingredients are self-explanatory.



Cheesy pull-apart bread. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

When assembling, it is important to be patient as you make this. You need to make slices into the boule, but you do not want to go through the bottom. The intact base will hold all of the buttery, cheesy goodness in place. When it’s time to pour the butter and add the cheese, go slowly. The more you can get inside the crevices you have created, the more buttery gooeyness you’ll have when it’s eating time. Once it’s

done, I have one more piece of advice. Eat it as soon as possible!

*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. 🍷*

**Cheesy pull-apart bread**

*Serves 4-8*

- 1 boule, preferably sourdough
- ½ cup (1 stick) salted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 scallions, diced
- 8 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese
- 8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Make cuts in the loaf of bread in ½-inch-wide rows and columns, stopping ¼ inch above bottom of the loaf. (You should have a cross-hatch pattern when done.) Place butter in a bowl and microwave for 1 minute or until melted, stirring every 15 seconds.

Add garlic and scallions to butter. Stir well. Place two long pieces of aluminum foil on top of each other, laying them perpendicular to each other, so that an X is created. Spray with nonstick cooking spray. Place the bread in the center of the X. Pour butter mixture over bread, attempting to get it into all of the cut areas. Wrap foil around bread, covering it completely, and place in the oven to bake for 10 minutes. Remove bread from the oven and add the cheeses, pushing it down into all of the slices. (Be patient. It takes time to get all of that cheese into place!) Rewrap foil around the sides, leaving top open. Return to the oven and bake for 15 minutes. Unwrap and enjoy!

**Weekly Dish**

Continued from page 24

braised short ribs and pan-crustied steak frites. Visit aviationbrewingco.com.

• **New Liquor & Wine Outlet store coming to Derry:** The New Hampshire Liquor Commission is building a new **Liquor & Wine Outlet store** in Derry, which is expected to open sometime in the spring of 2023. According to a press release, the new outlet is located off Manchester Road in the Pinkerton Place shopping center, and will span about 8,000 square feet. It will feature high-efficiency materials and LED fixtures, plus oversized aisles for easy shopping and an extensive product selection. According

to the release, it’s being modeled after several other recently built Liquor & Wine Outlet locations, including those in Manchester, Concord and New London. Since 2012, the New Hampshire Liquor Commission has renovated, relocated or built 40 new Liquor & Wine Outlets across nearly three dozen communities. Currently, the NHLC operates 67 of them statewide and has raised more than \$4 billion in net profits since opening the first store in 1934, the release said. Visit liquorandwineoutlets.com for a state directory and details on product availability at each of the stores. 🍷

# Holiday hot wine punch

## With dry red wines from Austria

By Fred Matuszewski  
food@hippopress.com

Winter started at 4:48 p.m. EST on Wednesday, Dec. 21. The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year but also ushers in (at least) two months of cold days, only to be outdone by colder nights! With its roots in paganism, the solstice aligns with the modern holiday season of Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's. These holidays are celebrated in Northern Europe for weeks with fairs and markets in almost every town and city. Hot wine punches are served at these fairs and markets, ideal for warding off the winter chill.

German glühwein is traditionally served at stalls at Christmas markets across Germany and Austria to keep people warm as they shop and socialize. "Glühwein" literally translates to glow-wine, describing how you feel after you've been drinking tiny mugs of it outside over the holidays. The recipe is simple, and the most important rule to follow is "Do not let the wine boil, or you will boil off the alcohol." Added to the dry red wine are an orange, granulated sugar, cloves, cinnamon sticks and star anise.

Weihnachtspunsch is a traditional German Christmas punch of tea, red wine, rum, fresh lemon and orange juice and spices. While the name translates as "Christmas punch," this punch is ideal for any cold winter night.

Feuerzangenbowle is a festive German Fire Punch. This is an interesting punch in that in addition to the heated red wine, joined by slices of lemon and orange, along with the traditional spices of cinnamon sticks, cloves, allspice berries and ginger, the ingredients include a lit sugar cone, soaked with rum that is poured over it, as the cone is perched on tongs, balanced on the ridge of the hot pot. That is impressive! Note that this concoction involves the handling of alcohol and an open flame! Extreme care should be exercised in the creation of this libation.

Now, about the wine! Recipes for these punches call for a dry red wine. Therefore, a bottle of cabernet sauvignon, Chianti, zinfandel or merlot will do, but I believe that if we are about to make a German hot punch, a German dry red wine should be used. However, I encountered a small "speed bump." My quest (albeit perhaps not exhaustive) for a German dry red wine met with some disappointment in the New



Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets. So I purchased two Austrian dry red wines.

Our first wine is a **2015 Höppler Pannonica Blaufränkisch Zweigelt Pinot Noir**, priced at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$12.99. What an incredible bargain! The color is a dark ruby hue. To the nose there are dark blackberry notes, along with a little plum. The nose carries through to the tongue with flavors of blackberries, along with some gentle spices and very soft tannins. This is an Austrian blend of 40 percent blaufränkisch, 35 percent Zweigelt and 25 percent pinot noir. The Zweigelt variety was created in the 1920's by Professor Fritz Zweigelt, by crossing varieties of blaufränkisch, St. Laurent and pinot noir. Zweigelt is the most widespread red wine variety in Austria.

Our second wine is a **2017 Anton Bauer Zweigelt Feuersbrunn**, priced at the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlets at \$17.99. Another great silent bargain! This 100 percent Zweigelt has a color that is a bit more purple than the first wine, along with the nose and tongue also ever so slightly more intense than the first bottle. This wine hails from the Wagram viticultural region of Austria, on the banks of the Danube. Known to produce excellent Grüner Veltliner, the region is ideal for the production of this superb red varietal.

So gather round a fire pit and enjoy the crisp winter cold with a cup of any of these hot wine punches, and if you lack the ambition to flame a rum-soaked sugar cone, you can curl up in front of the fireplace with a glass of either of these fine, light, dry red wines! You will delight in these new experiences.

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



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**CDs** pg32

- Justin Courtney Pierre, *Permanent Midnight* **A**
- Various Artists, *This Ain't Your Mama and Papa's Holiday Music: A Compilation of Holiday Favorites for the Weirdo in Your Life* **A**

**Justin Courtney Pierre, *Permanent Midnight* (Epitaph Records)**



If you're going to sound like a male version of Mazzy Star — I mean the full Monty of that vibe, the aural equivalent of sipping a vodka drink while floating around in a luxury pool and feeling the tremors as the earth collapses — your lyrics might as well be so maudlin and psychologically adrift that people would worry about you a bit if they cared enough to try to grok your intentions (not that I detect any in the tune we're discussing right now, "Used To Be Old School," other

than reflections on trite, Freudian little boyhood/adulthood reminiscences, but whom did that ever stop?). On and on Pierre warbles in his helium falsetto throughout the opening track of this listenable-enough five-songer, after which he tables a bunch of mid-Aughts noise-ish rock recalling Dandy Warhols and all that, exploring aging, fatherhood, family, longing and whatnot. Nothing wrong here, but by the same token there's nothing that hasn't been attempted by literally thousands of bands. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger*

**Various Artists, *This Ain't Your Mama and Papa's Holiday Music: A Compilation of Holiday Favorites for the Weirdo in Your Life* (Island House Recordings)**



You have about 20 seconds left to get this downloaded and prettily packaged so you'll have a nice, edgy, indie collection of holiday tunes for your edgy indie holiday feast, which, if you're like most people trying to get by during this corporate-greed jubilee that's being blamed on "inflation," will consist of buns, with actual hot dogs if you're lucky. I got dragged into this set of 17 songs when someone clued me in to an upcoming EP from the New York City-based Royal Arctic

Institute, a five-piece all-instrumental band that contributes to this compilation a sloshy, dreamy version of "Christmastime Is Here," you know, the maudlin melody from the old Charlie Brown Christmas cartoon. It's fine for what it is, but there are plenty of edgy indie things from which to choose here: a giggling, sample-soaked "Deck The Halls" from Synthetic Villains that didn't upset my stomach, and so on. I'm already out of room for this shtick, but do keep in mind that all the proceeds from this one go to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, so you should buy it just to be nice. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

**BOOKS** pg33

- *Two Old Broads* **D**
- Includes listings for lectures, author events, book clubs, writers' workshops and other literary events. To let us know about your book or event, email [asykeny@hippopress.com](mailto:asykeny@hippopress.com). To get author events, library events and more listed, send information to [listings@hippopress.com](mailto:listings@hippopress.com).

**FILM** pg34

- **Movies of 2022**

**PLAYLIST**

*A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases*

• Icky and gross, it's the least wonderful time of the year, because as far as I can tell, there are almost no new albums due out tomorrow, Dec. 30, a Friday, which is of course the traditional day of the week on which to release new albums. Let's face it, the holidays are over, no more plastic Halloween skulls everywhere, the Thanksgiving-flavored turkeys are all eaten up, Christmas and all its good will toward people and whatever is but a memory, and all that's left is New Year's Eve, the night we married couples stay up late to watch a bunch of people who're immune to frostbite make out in Times Square after an electronic ball drops, and then, if we have any brain function remaining, we stay up another 15 minutes to catch up with all the latest new corporate rock acts ("Wow, honey, I didn't know Florida Georgia Line actually had a catchy song!"). Then, of course, we ceremoniously clink our Coke glasses together and try to herd the cats up to bed. See, that's what happens when you grow up enough to realize that New Year's Eve is a plot to sell you cheap liquor, and that nothing really magical ever happens on that holiday, that is unless you get engaged to someone you can actually deal with as the clock strikes Bedtime. Have you ever gotten engaged on New Year's Eve and broken up with that person two months later? I have. Have you ever gone bar-hopping and been stuck driving in a car when the clock struck midnight? I've done that one too. They should make a movie about New Year's Eve that exposes the potential horror of it, like someone being stuck in an Uber at the stroke of midnight and they get sent back in time to the day before Thanksgiving, and they have to relive the whole holiday season, and if they don't get it right and have an incredible moment of New Year's Eve wonderfulness in which they smooch with their Twitter crush or whatever, they have to go back and do it all again. No? What about if there are velociraptors to deal with too?

• OK, I have no bloody idea what I'm going to do to fill the remainder of this space. Want to hear about the worst-ever meal I cooked on New Year's Eve, of course you do, one time I was dating a vegetarian and I spent the entire day of New Year's Eve making this disgusting tempeh-meatball dish with sauerkraut. The recipe required all sorts of stupid ingredients, like ginger root and sesame oil, all sorts of things that would have been great by themselves but which together made for a dining experience so unpleasant that I should make a short horror story out of it, to horrify people. But oh look, I'm saved, because some U.S. band called **Bandit** is releasing an album of "grindcore" (actually overly polished emo) tuneage, titled *Siege of Self*, on — oops, it was Dec. 29, but close enough. It's stupid, and everyone's calling it a worthless pile of Pig Destroyer worship. In other words, the only people who might like it are grindcore dudes who've never heard Pig Destroyer before. (No, don't bother.)

• On New Year's Eve day, some American metal band called **Bayonette** will release a new single called "Grógaldr." No one knows anything about it, not even the Album Of The Year site, which means either that it doesn't exist or that the band doesn't understand that record releases need to be announced so that people know they exist. I don't care what the case is, let'd just wrap up this dumb year with one more thingie.

• Finally we have **DaniFighter**, apparently a Turkish artist who, like Bayonette, has absolutely no idea how to announce an album. This dude has been known to put out Gorillaz-influenced noise-hip-hop that really sucks, and his new album/EP, *Lecsavarlak*, will be out this Friday, Dec. 30. Have a great New Year, folks!

— *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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*Two Old Broads*, by M.E. Hecht and Whoopi Goldberg (Harper Horizon, 222 pages)

There is no topic so grim that it can't be lightened by humor. And with America seeming to be graying at light speed, a wickedly funny book on the subject of aging by comedian Whoopi Goldberg (co-written with a physician friend) seemed just the prescription, promising to reveal "stuff you need to know that you didn't know you needed to know."

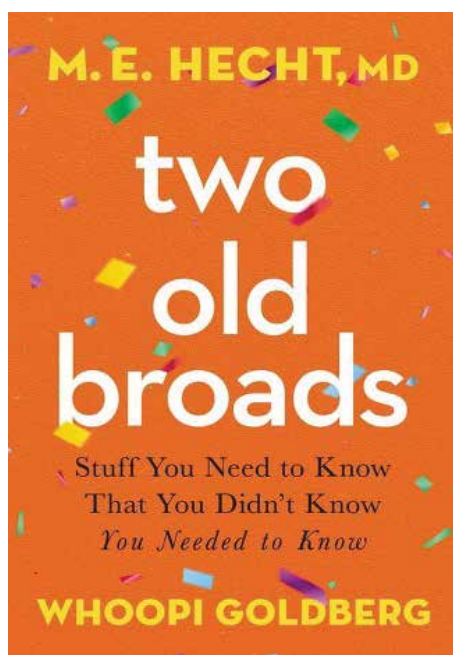
Unfortunately, *Two Old Broads* does not deliver on its promise and more realistically could have been titled "Two Old Broads Stating the Obvious in a Vanity Book." It's that bad.

It's hard to see how this collection of platitudes and painfully useless advice made it through an agent, let alone a major publishing house. It's the sort of book that is usually self-published and foisted onto friends, who have to invent creative ways to praise the book without selling their soul. Worse, this yawner comes from accomplished women who should have more interesting things to say.

Mary Ellen Hecht was an orthopedic surgeon with degrees from Columbia and Yale, who died at age 93 just before the book's publication. She had been friends with Whoopi Goldberg since they met at a fashion show in 2010. Goldberg, of course, is a talented comedian and actress who has won a Grammy, an Oscar, an Emmy, a Tony and a Golden Globe award.

With Goldberg at the shallow end of the aging pool at age 64, and Hecht at the deep end, the friends decided to share their collective advice on various aspects of aging, from skin care to exercise, from medication to wills, from sex over 60 to being "crochety with charm." All of this is done under the "old broad" rubric, (e.g., "dress like a broad") which gets tired after the second page.

Here is a sampling of some of their advice: "Arthritis is a killer when it comes to style,



but lift up your head, look the world in the eye, and say internally, *Ready or not, here I come — someone to notice and admire!*"

"Believe it or not, sweaty feet are an invitation to medical problems including fungal infections."

"Under normal circumstances, it's a good idea to get a second opinion."

"Try not to go through your day with anything that causes discomfort, like a dress or slacks being too tight or shoes that cause pinching."

Lines like this are not only boring, but they are actually insulting to readers, as if Hecht and Goldberg are speaking to geriatric kindergarteners unable to comprehend basic aspects of life. Is there an 80-year-old alive today that doesn't know they should get second opinions on serious medical matters? Is there a 70-year-old alive who doesn't know that if pants or shoes hurt, they should take them off?

The book disappoints, not only because it's not remotely funny or wise, but also because it skips lightly over things that aging people care a lot about — skin care, for example.

For that matter, it's hard to find a person over 40 who isn't concerned about how their face will look as they age (hence the trend of people in their 20s getting Botox). Yet on the subject of "senior skin care," Hecht and Goldberg offer a total of three pages. Three pages in which readers are told they should drink water, apply face cream and wax facial hair — and are given a mind-numbingly juvenile pep talk: "... Remember you're the CEO of your own body! So behave like one!"

To be fair, it is possible, *not* being in my 80s or 90s, that I'm bringing the jaundiced eye of (relative) youth to the book. Maybe our elderly relatives and friends who have been living in caves for the past 40 years will benefit from the simplistic style. And yes, there are a few takeaways that might be helpful for people struggling with the indignities of old age, such as the authors' "three-look method" of avoiding falls and accidents (look low, look level, look up) and there's surely a benefit (though this could be intuited) to their advice to thoroughly stretch before getting out bed at any age.

Moreover, Hecht, who wrote most of the book, with Goldberg chiming in, throws out the occasional charming tidbit in musings on her life. I will not soon forget her Aunt Grace, a gourmet cook who, late in life, always ate dessert before the main course. ("For her, all food led to dessert," Hecht writes.) As a fellow dessert fiend, I grudgingly enjoyed that story.

But the rare paragraphs that weren't insulting ("I'm sure you are familiar with a well-known saying: 'You are what you eat.'"), aren't good enough to justify this use of your time.

There are genuinely funny books about aging (Nora Ephron's *I Feel Bad About My Neck* comes to mind) and inspirational books about old women (*Two Old Women* by Velma Wallace). *Two Old Broads* offers little to recommend it other than the fame of one of the authors. Don't gift it to anyone that you like. **D** — *Jennifer Graham* 🍷



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## Books

### Author events

• **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.

• **KIM VARNEY CHANDLER** will discuss her book *Covered Bridges of New Hampshire* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

• **JAMES T. MCKIM JR.** will discuss his book *The Diversity Factor* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com)

on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

• **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.

• **JOYCE CHOPRA**, author of the memoir *Lady Director: Adventures in Hollywood, Television and Beyond*, will appear in a virtual conversation via Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. Registration is required.

• **ELISSA R. SLOAN**, author of the new novel *Hayley Aldridge is Still Here*, will

appear in a virtual conversation via Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

• **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.

• **REBECCA MAKKAI** will discuss her new novel, *I Have Some Questions For You*, at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org) on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45 plus fees and include a signed book and post-show meet-and-greet.

• **ADAM GOPNIK** will discuss his new book, *The Real*

*Work*, at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org) on Tuesday, March 14, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$47 plus fees and include a signed book and post-show meet-and-greet.

• **MATT TAVARES** will discuss his graphic novel *Hoops* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m.

### Book events

• **BURNS NIGHT** Celebrate poet Robert Burns at the Burns Night event on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Castleton (58 Enterprise Drive in Windham) starting at 5 p.m. The event will feature such Burns Night traditions as

the Salute to the Haggis and To the Lasses, according to a press release. The evening will also include a traditional Burns Night supper and the music of Celtic Beats and the New Hampshire Pipes and Drums (with Scottish country dancing). The event encourages attendees to BYO Quaich (a traditional drinking bowl) for the whisky toasts, which will be on sale at nhssa.org/burns-night, where you can also find tickets, which cost \$70 per person.

### 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.

# Great movies for everyone

2022 offered sweet stories, beautiful animation and some excellent stupidity

By Amy Diaz  
adiaz@hippopress.com

Whether you define a great movie as an artistic achievement or as a movie so gleefully goofy that you cry from laughter, there were great movies in 2022.

Saying this almost feels counter-intuitive with all the stories about movies — especially non-franchise, non-sequel, non-existing IP movies — that didn't do as well as hoped at the box office. On Dec. 21, Box Office Mojo showed a year-to-date top 10 consisting of two cartoons for kids, four Marvel movies, two movies based on DC Comics IP, the latest (last?) *Jurassic* movie and *Top Gun: Maverick*. (*Avatar: The Way of Water* had not yet clawed its way into the top 10 but I suspect by close of business on Dec. 31 it will.)

But other movies came out on screens big and small — often on the big screen followed quickly by the small screen, which probably isn't great long-term for theatrical distribution but was helpful to the movie-lover who couldn't make it to the theater in time. I still haven't caught *Aftersun*, *Spoiler Alert*, *Triangle of Sadness*, *Bones and All*, *The Fabelmans* or *Decision to Leave* but these acclaimed films are currently available via VOD. *Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery* is on Netflix, along with *Bardo*. Other 2022 (or, you know, nominally 2022 movies) I haven't seen yet include *Women Talking*, *The Whale*, *White Noise* and *Babylon* — so this isn't quite a definitive list. But, of what I have seen, here's where to find some of the great movies — whatever that means to you — of 2022.

• **“2021” movies I saw in 2022:** I always start the year watching all the movies that sort of touched base in a few theaters in the previous year but didn't get a major release until later. Of that bunch, I enjoyed dramedy *Licorice Pizza* in spite of its problematic teen boy-older teen or twentysomething girl chaste-but-dodgy relationship and because of the solid performance by Alana Haim and the 1970s southern California of it all (find it on Amazon Prime, Paramount+ and for rent or purchase). Joel Coen's black and white take on *The Tragedy of MacBeth* (Apple TV+) featured great performances by Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand. *C'mon C'mon* (Paramount+, possibly as part of some Showtime situation, who even knows anymore; maybe also Showtime and purchase) is a sweet movie with a likable performance by Joaquin Phoenix.

• **About that top 10:** Look, you wanna watch *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022's No. 1 at the box office, as of last week)? That's fine, we can still be friends; I also think planes are cool (movie is available for rent and purchase). But for me, the best movies of the



*Everything Everywhere All At Once*

moneymakers are *The Batman* (HBO Max or rent or purchase), mostly because I liked the municipal corruption aspect; *Thor: Love & Thunder* (Disney+ or rent or purchase), which is no *Ragnarok* but has some great moments (many featuring solid use of Guns N' Roses); *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (still in theaters), which deals with personal emotions and global philosophical issues and has beautiful, thoughtful costumes, and *Minions: The Rise of Gru* (Peacock, rent or purchase), which had a fun Looney Tunes vibe that my kids really enjoyed.

• **Animation for the kids:** For the last few years, Netflix has turned out some solid animation with a mix of styles. Two this year: *Wendell & Wild* with kind of a marionette stop-motion look to its characters and *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*, which has a whole different, very del-Toro-ish approach to stop-motion. I'd peg both of these movies at late tweens and up, both for themes and for unnerving visuals. My favorite animated film of the year is Disney's *Turning Red* (Disney+ and for purchase), an absolute charmer that is sweet, hilarious and very pretty. It too is a tween-and-up film, in which an Asian-Canadian girl in the early aughts finds that emotional turmoil (over boys, her relationship with her mother, all the changes of being 13) turns her into a giant red panda.

• **Animation for the PG-13 crowd:** Joke density and surprise earnestness were my favorite things about *The Bob's Burgers Movie* (HBO MAX, for rent or purchase). Even if you've fallen away from the series, it's still an enjoyable watch.

• **Animation with live action:** *Marcel the Shell with Shoes On* (rent or purchase) has fun with the shell-ness and acorn size of its lead character but also deals with big issues (grief, loneliness) with incredible sweetness.

• **Another one for the kids:** I have no nostalgic memories of the first *Hocus Pocus*

so I found *Hocus Pocus 2* (Disney+) rather delightful, with its silly-fun musical number and its hokey jokiness.

• **Leftover Christmas cookies:** We are living in a golden age of weird Christmas content, with every streaming service seeming to want to participate. I don't understand it but each year I find a few movies that make me enjoy it. This year, I liked Disney+'s *Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special*, which really went for the goofy holiday special of old and made great use of a very game Kevin Bacon, and Apple TV+'s *Spirited*, a good-natured *A Christmas Carol* riff. The very gory, kinda sweet *Violent Night* (like, believe them; violent, not for kids) is still in theaters but you can also rent or purchase the movie.

• **So dumb it's genius:** I might have had more fun watching *Weird: The Al Yankovic Story* (Roku Channel) than any other movie this year. It is an absolute achievement of stupidity and an excellent approach to rock music biopic. I can't recommend it highly enough; go watch it now.

*The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* (STARZ, rent or purchase) also featured performances of people willing to go to silly extremes, namely Nicolas Cage as an actor named Nicolas Cage.

• **Girls through the ages:** In medieval England, a girl tries to resist her father's push to get married (in part to settle family finances) in *Catherine Called Birdy* (Amazon Prime). In fair Verona, a girl resists her father's push to get married and gets dumped by secret boyfriend Romeo in *Rosaline* (Hulu). In Victorian London, a girl attempts to establish herself as an investigator rivaling her famous brother in *Enola Holmes 2* (Netflix). Sure, these stories feature varying amounts of anachronism, but all three are charming and make some honest observations about the lives of young women.

• **True love:** *Fire Island* (Hulu) offers a



*Tár*

delightful riff on *Pride & Prejudice* and features great performances from Bowan Yang, Joel Kim Booster and Conrad Ricomora, who joins the pantheon of great Mr. Darcys. *Bros* (Peacock) also offers solid performances from Guy Branum and Bowen Yang, a stand-out cameo by Debra Messing and truly sweet chemistry between romantic leads Billy Eichner and Luke Macfarlane.

• **Dumb love:** Am I here to argue that *Marry Me* (Prime Video, rent or purchase), a movie where Jennifer Lopez plays a pop star who marries a stranger on a whim after romantic embarrassment, is an Oscar-worthy achievement? Well, maybe yes if we're talking about the Best Original Song Oscar. Otherwise, it's more of a “great artistic achievement in cotton candy goofiness.” Ditto *The Lost City* (Paramount+, rent or purchase), which doesn't go as goofy as I would have wanted with Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum but does have enough fun to relax you after a long day.

• **Heartfelt:** People are going through it in the sweet but sincere and deeply felt *Cha Cha Real Smooth* (Apple TV+), a sort of quarter-life-crisis dramedy; *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* (Hulu), a series of conversations between Emma Thompson's character and the man she hires to help broaden her sexual experience, and *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris* (Peacock, rent or purchase), Lesley Manville's character's breaking out of her shell to buy a Dior dress in the 1950s.

• **What's up, docs:** This is also a golden age of doc accessibility — sure, many of them are true crime, but the various streamers do make documentaries on all subjects available. Three I liked from this year: *The Automat* (HBO Max), which I first saw as a part of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Fest and is a loving tribute (filled with excellent interviews, including from Mel Brooks) to the automat dining experience; *Sr.* (Netflix), a look at the life of filmmaker Robert

**POP CULTURE FILMS**

Downey Sr. and his relationship with his son, and *Descendant* (Netflix), a look at the Black community in Alabama that can trace its ancestors to the ship Clotilda that illegally smuggled Africans into the pre-Civil War South.

• **As advertised:** In *Beast* (Peacock, rent or purchase), Idris Elba fights a lion — like, that's it, that's the movie. *The Princess* (Hulu) requires a warrior-trained princess to escape down a tower and then kick some more butt until she rescues her family. Sure, these movies have action and violence but their "what you ordered and nothing more" quality is kind of relaxing.

• **Action and thrills with a kick:** Of course, some action movies go above and beyond. *Prey* (Hulu), the latest entry in the *Predator* series, is a solid bit of suspense-action entertainment, with a young Comanche woman in the early 1700s facing off against a Predator. In Steven Soderbergh's *Kimi* (HBO Max, rent or purchase) the spare but engaging thriller has Zoë Kravitz believing she hears a crime via the Alexa-like personal assistant she works on troubleshooting. *The Northman* (Amazon Prime, rent or purchase) is a wonderfully bonkers, super grisly Viking Hamlet. Is *Nope* (Peacock, rent or purchase) a Western, a sci-fi movie, a thriller or something else? I'm not sure I've decided but it is a great suspense movie from Jordan

CONTINUED ON PG 36 ▶

**2023 in movies**

Here are some of the movies I'm looking forward to watching in the first half(-ish) of 2023. Dates are according to IMDb and who even knows anymore how solid any movie's release date is until it actually hits screens.

• *Magic Mike's Last Dance* (Feb. 10) Steven Soderbergh returns to direct this third movie in the Magic Mike (Channing Tatum) series.

• *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* (Feb. 17) The next Marvel entry seems medium promising — the trailers promise, if nothing else, a relentlessly likable Paul Rudd.

• *Creed III* (March 3) Michael B. Jordan directs and stars in this third outing of the *Rocky* spinoff series.

• *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* (March 17) DC's whole movie situation seems like a hot mess but this follow up to the very likable 2019 film feels like a bright spot.

• *John Wick: Chapter 4* (March 24) I love this Keanu Reeves franchise beyond all reason. The trailer for this new entry features more "High Table" nonsense, more Ian McShane and Laurence Fishburne and more John Wick casually wasting fools.

• *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (April 28) The iconic Judy Blume novel gets a big-screen adaptation.

• *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* (May 5) Marvel's traditional summer kickoff.



John Wick: Chapter 4



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse Part One

• *Fast X* (May 19) On the one hand, Charlize Theron's exhausting villain Cypher returns to the Fast & Furiousverse in this the 10th outing, but on the other hand, IMDb lists Rita Moreno in the cast. If she has just half as much fun as Helen Mirren (also listed in this movie's cast) has been allowed to have in this franchise, this should be good.

• *The Little Mermaid* (May 26) These live action Disney remakes have always been interesting. Plus you have Halle Bailey as Ariel and Melissa McCarthy as Ursula.

• *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse Part One* (June 2) This would be the animated Spider-Man universe, featuring Miles Morales. The 2018 first entry was, rightful-

ly, that season's Oscar winner for animated feature.

• *Barbie* (July 21) I am Team Greta Gerwig, who directs this movie and co-wrote the screenplay with Noah Baumbach. That and the super-winky (literally and figuratively) teaser trailer give me lots of hope for this movie.

• *The Marvels* (July 28) This movie, which features Brie Larson's Carol Danvers as well as Iman Vellani's Kamala Khan (and, according to IMDb, Teyonah Parris' Monica Rambeau), is probably the 2023 Marvel outing I'm most looking forward to. In the meantime, watch Disney+'s *Ms. Marvel*, which is a fun time.

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## POP CULTURE FILMS



Till



The Woman King

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 35

Peele with standout performances by Daniel Kaluuya and Keke Palmer.

• **Bring the performances:** Of performances that stood out this year, let's start with Manchester's own Adam Sandler in *Hustle* (Netflix) where he plays a scout for a basketball team and gives his character depth. In *The Wonder* (Netflix), Florence Pugh brings a whole well-rounded person to the role of 19th-century nurse who is sent to examine a girl in Ireland who isn't eating but somehow isn't starving. *Causeway* (Apple TV+) gives both Jennifer Lawrence and Brian Tyree Henry a chance to shine as two people who find comfort in a friendship. *Tár* (available for purchase) features a standout Cate Blanchett performance as a conductor whose ego has eclipsed ethical behavior and

even rationality. In *Till* (purchase) Danielle Deadwyler does not let you look away from the grieving Mamie Till-Mobley, whose young son is murdered horribly in segregated Mississippi. Viola Davis gives just one of the great performances in *The Woman King* (rent or purchase), which tells the story of the female warriors of the African kingdom Dahomey.

• **2022's best:** Michelle Yeoh, Ke Huy Quan, Jamie Lee Curtis, multiverses, compassion, a rock with googly eyes, a raccoon chef, mothers and daughters — *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (Paramount +) actually has everything, taking place everywhere throughout different realities, all at once so Yeoh can hopefully save all of existence. It is smart, it is hilarious, it is empathetic. It's, well, great. 🍷

### Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings and virtual events

### Venues

#### Chunky's Cinema Pub

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

#### Fathom Events

Fathomevents.com

#### The Music Hall

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

#### O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square

24 Calef Hwy., Epping 679-3529, oneilcinemas.com

#### Park Theatre

19 Main St., Jaffrey theparktheatre.org

#### Red River Theatres

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

#### Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

### Films

• *The Fabelmans* (PG-13, 2022)

will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord through Thursday, Dec. 29, at 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 30 through Sunday, Jan. 1, at 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 5, 3:45 & 7 p.m.

• *Babylon* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord through Thursday, Dec. 29, at 6 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 30, through Sunday, Jan. 1, at 2 & 6 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6 p.m.

• *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (PG, 2022) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey through Friday, Dec. 30, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 31, at 2 and 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 3, through Thursday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Cat Video Fest 2022* will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Friday, Dec. 29, at 1 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 8, at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$17, \$14 for seniors, students and military.

• *The Hours*, the Met production of an opera based on the 2002 movie, will screen on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Music Hall in Portsmouth at 12:55 p.m. Tickets cost \$29; \$15 for 18 and under.

• *The Kid Brother* (1927), a Harold Lloyd silent comedy, will screen at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St. in Nashua; nashualibrary.org, 589-4600) on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 1:30 p.m. with



The Fabelmans

live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. The event is free and family-friendly.

• *Much Ado About Nothing*, a London stage production National Theater Live, will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$17; \$14 for seniors, students, military.

• **Reality Check movie series** at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey, a "free series on addiction, recovery and mental health to help raise awareness around issues impacting our communities" according to the theater's website. The films all start at 6 p.m. The schedule includes *The Pharmacist*, shown in two parts on Jan. 9 and Jan. 23.

• *She Said* (R, 2022) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth Tuesday, Jan. 10, through Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15, \$12 for students, seniors, military and first responders.



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|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>FRI 30</b> | Juston McKinney's Year in Review | <b>8:00PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 31</b> | Juston McKinney's Year in Review | <b>8:00PM</b> |

**JANUARY**

- |               |   |               |
|---------------|---|---------------|
| <b>FRI 6</b>  | Friday Night Comedy: Drew Dunn and Friends!             | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 7</b>  | A Celebration of the Allman Brothers Band with Idlewild | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>FRI 13</b> | Friday Night Comedy: Carolyn Plummer and Friends        | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 14</b> | An Evening with Folk Legend Dave Mallett                | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>FRI 20</b> | Friday Night Comedy: Brian Glowacki and Friends         | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 21</b> | An Evening with Chris Barron from the Spin Doctors      | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 28</b> | Magic Rocks! Illusionist Leon Etienne                   | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SUN 29</b> | 13th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival           | <b>4:00PM</b> |

**FEBRUARY**

- |               |  |               |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| <b>SAT 4</b>  | Panorama: A Tribute to the Cars                  | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>WED 8</b>  | Silent Film: Safety Last                         | <b>7:00PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 11</b> | April Cushman featuring Charlie Chronopoulos     | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 18</b> | Postcards from Heaven with Maureen Hancock       | <b>7:00PM</b> |
| <b>SUN 19</b> | Postcards from Heaven with Maureen Hancock       | <b>2:00PM</b> |
| <b>SAT 25</b> | An Evening with Singer/Songwriter Teddy Thompson | <b>7:30PM</b> |

**MARCH**

- |               |  |               |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| <b>SAT 4</b>  | Divas with a Twist in Concert                | <b>7:30PM</b> |
| <b>FRI 31</b> | Morgan James with Special Guest Kirk Hurmond | <b>7:30PM</b> |

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# THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Solo joker:** The early show is sold out, but good seats remain for a late-night set from **Joe Gatto**. The *Impractical Jokers* star left the hit show for personal reasons in late 2021 and is now doing standup instead of inducing laughter from the pain of public dares and punishment. He's also doing a parenting tips podcast called *Two Cool Moms*, and relishing the chance to show a different side of himself to crowds. Thursday, Dec. 29, at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, tickets \$39.75 and up at ccanh.com.

• **Sublimation:** Prior to its January tour kicking off in Florida, **Badfish – A Tribute to Sublime** has a brief Northeast run stopping at a favorite beach haunt. Their show will include local friends Joe Samba and Roots of Creation's Brett Wilson. Formed by a group of URI friends in the '90s, the band was at first a short-term effort that grew, and they've done the rock reggae tribute act for well over two decades now. Thursday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Wally's Pub, 144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton, 21+, \$30 at ticketmaster.com.

• **Local light:** Playing for early evening diners, **Red Daisy Revival** is a duo led by the songs of Morgan Clark, a Granite State native who went to Nashville a while back, making the frothy pop-country single "Unshakeable" — it's a real treat. Clark met Daniel Kassel while in Music City; they're now a duo and couple, and when they're not singing together, the two work for Hobo Railroad. He's a conductor, she does marketing. Friday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m., Covered Bridge Farm Table, 57 Blair Road, Campton. See iammorganclark.com.

• **Opening round:** Get a head start on the big night at **Widowmaker's New Year's Pre-Game**, with music from the host band, along with Unspun, Mr. Bobbish, Francesco, Sokomodo, Midori playing a downtempo set and special guest Bill Rich. Apparently, things might get loud; a press release for the show promises free ear plugs at the door. There are also vendors, flow arts, live painting, body art and party games. Friday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Jewel Music Venue, 61 Canal St., Manchester, \$15 advance at theticketing.co; 18+.

• **Holding forth:** Enjoy modern country with **Rob Pagnano**, who continues his residency at a downtown restaurant-bar with a rustic vibe. With a band, the Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter can produce a big sound, as evidenced on "Sugarcane," a single with a serious Luke Bryan vibe, but he's solo for this set. Pagnano took up guitar while recovering from a broken back in his mid-20s; he's done thousands of gigs since. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., The Goat, 50 Old Granite St., Manchester. See robpagnanomusic.com. 🍷

## NITE

# 2022 in the groove

A look back and glimpse forward

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

After a year spent mostly indoors, followed by another truncated by omicron, 2022 sailed along quite smoothly. From big to small, venues packed calendars and celebrated with their fingers crossed; only the odd cancellation interrupted their joy. For example, Bank of New Hampshire Stage stayed dark on New Year's Eve due to a Covid mini-wave, and Squeeze's Glenn Tilbrook had to postpone his Tupelo Music Hall show in September at the last minute.

Otherwise, what happened was inspirational. National acts were longing to be back in front of audiences and joyously delivered the goods. Performing at Laconia's Colonial Theatre over the summer, John Hiatt reminded fans why he's a treasure, well-deserving of inclusion in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Earlier, in February, Martin Barre returned to Derry's Tupelo for the first time in three years to play Jethro Tull's *Aqualung* and other hits by his former band.

Local acts got a lot of love, too, as many of the region's opera house-type venues have added more intimate satellite rooms — The Rex Theatre in Manchester, Concord's Bank of NH Stage, the recently renovated Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, and the latest addition in Keene, The Showroom. Artists like April Cushman, Darlingside, Brooks Young Band and Cold Engines enjoyed listening-room experiences.

They had a lot to showcase. Some of the better efforts included Faith Ann Band's *In Bloom*, which was played ferociously at Concord's Market Days, and Donaher's

sophomore effort *Gravity and the Stars Above*. The latter received its debut at a rousing Shaskeen release show. Dakota Smart's insightful *Leap of Faith* was another stand-out, made at Rocking Horse in Pittsfield, where producer Brian Coombes also helmed the epic rock opera *Circus of Wire Dolls*.

Memorable performances, there were a few. Friends of the Green Martini, a downtown Concord club that burned in 2012, reunited for a show at the Bank of NH Stage. Though sparsely attended, Wyn Doran opened for Billy Wylder at the same venue, with a stellar, haunting set. Cape Cod rockers Crooked Coast kicked it hard at the Shaskeen, and the disciplined Denver jam band Evanoff shook Jewel's rafters.

Comedy had a great year, capped by hometown hero Adam Sandler's sold-out stop at SNHU Arena. The downtown dome also hosted Sebastian Maniscalco, who just a few years ago sold out Concord's Capitol Center. Homegrown efforts carried on; in Manchester, Shaskeen's Ruby Room had national alt comics every Wednesday, with Strange Brew Tavern's Laugh Attic on Thursday nights celebrating its fifth anniversary in October.

The coming year promises more of the same. Born as a series of pandemic drive-in shows, the annual **Northlands Festival** will be back in June, and the LiveNation shed in Gilford has a few dates already booked — Bank of NH Pavilion kicks off its season with **Louis Tomlinson** on June 27.

In the near term, the Bank of NH Stage's *Nashville Newcomers* series continues with **Tim Dugger and Lauren Davison** on Jan. 5. In the bigger room down the street, **Rob**



Faith Ann Band

**Schneider** tells jokes on Feb. 4, and country group Lonestar plays Feb. 10. Later in the spring, **Samantha Bee**, whose show *Full Frontal* lasted six seasons, appears at the downtown Concord venue.

At the SNHU, ventriloquist comic **Jeff Dunham** appears Feb. 10 and rapper **Yung Gravy** performs on March 4. The Palace has brilliant Beatles doppelgängers **1964** on Jan. 15, while its sister room the Rex has the aforementioned **April Cushman** on Feb. 11; she's also appearing at Laconia's The CAKE on Jan. 28.

Mark-the-calendar shows at Tupelo Music Hall include hometown heroes **Fortune** on Jan. 28, **Masters of the Telecaster** on Feb. 3, and **Big Head Todd and the Monsters** Feb. 10. **The Winery Dogs**, led by former Poison guitarist Ritchie Kotzen, is there on Feb. 26; that's one that typically sells out fast.

Finally, the always meticulous prog rockers **Mindset X** promised that *Humans*, their follow-up to 2015's *Oceans*, would drop in 2022. In early summer, a video for the single "For Love of War" was released to tease the album. Perhaps it will finally appear in 2023 — the band is part of a showcase with **Dead Harrison and Dust Prophet** booked for Dover's Strand Theatre on May 26. 🍷

## COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Venues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sky Meadow Country Club**  
6 Mountain Laurels Drive, Nashua  
888-9000, skymeadow.com

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

### Events

• **Joe Gatto's Night of Comedy** Chubb Theatre, Thursday, Dec. 29, 7 and 9:30 p.m.

• **Comedy Poured with Paul D'Angelo, Dave Russo & Matt Barry** Fulchino Vineyard, Dec. 30, 5 p.m.

• **Juston McKinney's Year in Review** Rex, Friday, Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.

• **Robbie Printz** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 30, 8:30 p.m.

• **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey, Saturday, Dec. 31, 5:30 & 8 p.m.

• **New Year's Eve Comedy** Murphy's Taproom, Saturday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m.

• **New Year's Eve Live Comedy Special!** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.

• **New Year's Eve gala with Joe Yannetty, Jody Sloan,**

**Rob Steen and Eric Hurst** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 31, at 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.

• **Jason Merrill, Francis Birch and Dan Donahue** Murphy's Taproom, Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

• **Rodney Norman** McCue's, Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

• **Sky Meadow New Year's Eve Comedy Gala** Sky Meadow Country Club, Saturday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.

• **Jody Sloane** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 6, and Saturday, Jan. 7, 8:30 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Tupelo, Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Scarfo** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Jan. 7, 8:30 p.m.

• **Mark Scalia** Headliners, Saturday, Jan. 7, 8:30 p.m.

• **James Dorsey** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 13,



Jody Sloane

and Saturday, Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.

• **Roman Pierce** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.

• **James Dorsey** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.

• **Stacy Kendro** Headliners, Saturday, Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.

• **Brian Glowacki** Rex, Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.

• **Jody Sloane** Headliners, Saturday, Jan. 21, 8:30 p.m.

# 2023 beckons

Music and comedy New Year's Eve bashes

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Looking to send 2022 off in style? Here are some places with plans for Saturday, Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve.

- **3S Artspace** (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 766-3330) Dress loud and have fun at Harsh Promadillo, a prom-themed 21+ dance party with music from Harsh Armadillo, with The Q-Tip Bandits. A prom king and queen will be crowned. Doors open at 8 p.m., show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$21 and up.

- **603 Bar & Lounge** (368 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9283) DJ Tugboat back to back with DJ Donald Bump, starting at 9 p.m. and ending with a New Year's Champagne toast.

- **815 Cocktails & Provisions** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 815nh.com) This '80s Prom Party promises to be gnarly to the max, totally, for sure. Open bar, featured menu, dancing, photo booth, Champagne toast at midnight. Starts at 9 p.m., tickets \$120.

- **Alan's** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631) New Year's Eve with Stray Dog playing covers, \$15 per person, starts at 8 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 21** (7 Perley St., Concord, 225-0498) Technical Difficulties — the band, not the excuse — performs at 8 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 22** (189 Mechanic St., Lebanon, 448-3429) Dance with Cruisin' after a 5:30 p.m. cocktail hour and 6:30 p.m. dinner that offers the choice of steak or chicken as a main course. \$20.

- **American Legion Post 47** (551 Foundry St., Rollinsford, 742-5833) Acoustic Radio is back for the sixth time in a row; the annual bash includes opener Middleman. \$15 with prime rib dinner available; event starts at 7:30 p.m.

- **American Legion Post 6** (96 Islington St., Portsmouth, 436-7575) Echo Brook performs rock covers at 8 p.m.

- **Area 23** (254 N State St., Unit H, Concord, 881-9060) Smokestack Blues with Gardner Berry opening, 7 p.m.

- **Ashworth by the Sea** (295 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, 926-6762) Party with Midtown Horns, cash bar, hotel restaurant, midnight Champagne toast, and fireworks on the beach. \$20. Starts at 8 p.m.

- **Auburn Pitts** (167 Rockingham Road, Auburn, 622-6564) Stoned Wasp plays "hippie style jam music" with raffles, drink specials and more, starting at 7 p.m.

- **Bank of NH Stage** (16 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com) A tribute to America's most extravagant nightclubs, inspired by the bold speakeasies of the Roaring Twenties and the iconic New York nightclubs of the 1970s, starts at 8 p.m. Tickets \$45 to \$90 plus fees.

- **The Big House** (322 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 767-2226) NYE bash featuring Eric Grant Band, Dylan Cooper and the Beer Belly Boys starts at 8 p.m. \$20.

- **Bonfire Restaurant & Country Bar** (950



Karen Grenier is due to play at the Common Man in Windham.

Elm St., Manchester, 217-5600) Martin & Kelly perform country rock at 9 p.m.

- **Breezeway Pub** (14 Pearl St., Manchester, 621-9111) Drag Roulette NYE hosted by Portia Chanel and Sasha Stone at 8 p.m.; DJ Topher B spins with showtime at 10 p.m. \$10.

- **Bridgewater Inn** (367 Mayhew Turnpike, Bridgewater, 744-3518) Catfish Howl plays blues downstairs, with a DJ upstairs all night long. \$50 includes buffet (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.); \$20 for party only, starting at 8 p.m. Hats, tiaras, noisemakers, beads and midnight toast.

- **Brook Casino** (319 New Zealand Road, Seabrook, 474-3065) Aerosmith tribute band Draw The Line performs at 7:30 p.m. \$35.

- **Buckey's** (240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., Moultonborough, 476-5485) Red Hat Band is back, an annual tradition, at 9 p.m.

- **Castleton Banquet & Conference Center** (58 Enterprise Drive, Windham, eventbrite.com) Ring in the new year with East Coast Entertainment, featuring DJ music, dancing, a three-course meal and an open bar, all starting at 7 p.m. \$125.

- **Cercle National Club** (550 Rockland Ave., Manchester, 623-8243) Potluck dinner and appetizers with Off Duty Angels playing rock covers at this members club; the fun starts at 7:30 p.m. and there'll be Champagne at midnight.

- **Chen Yang Li** (520 South St., Bow, 228-8508) 1950s style dance party hosted by DJ Kenny P at 8 p.m.

- **Chop Shop** (920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7706) AD/HD — The AC/DC Experience, a tribute act from Boston, at 6:30 p.m.

- **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 232-4794) \$30 for early comedy show starring Robbie Printz, Mark Scalia and Alex Giampana (7 p.m.), followed by Dueling Pianos show (separate \$40 ticket) with Champagne at midnight.

- **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055) Comedy show starring Robbie Printz, Matt Barry and Dan Crohn at 7:30 p.m. \$30.

- **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499) Comedy show starring Dan Crohn, Tim McKeever and Mark Scalia at 7:30 p.m. \$30.

- **Coach Stop** (176 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 437-2022) Rebecca Turnel plays an early set at 7 p.m.

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CONTINUED ON PG 40 ▶

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CONTINUED FROM PG 39

- **Common Man** (88 Range Road, Windham 898-0088) Singer-songwriter Karen Grenier performs an early set at 6 p.m.
- **Concord Holiday Inn** (172 Main St., Concord, 224-9534) New Year's Eve cocktail party at 8 p.m. to benefit Project S.T.O.R.Y. and a book launch.
- **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Dr., Bedford, 488-2677) A local musician plays from 6 to 9 p.m., with a special NYE prix fixe menu.
- **Copper Door** (42 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033) A local musician plays from 6 to 9 p.m., with a special NYE prix fixe menu.
- **Covered Bridge Farm Table** (57 Blair Road, Campton Lower Village, farmtblenh@gmail.com) \$10 Black & White Ball with Pete Downing and Mira George starting at 6 p.m., followed by Sly Richard at 9 p.m. \$100 for a table for eight or \$50 for four includes a complimentary bottle of Champagne and nibble board to snack on.
- **CR's** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972) Live music from 5 to 10 p.m.
- **Davignon Snowshoe Club** (218 Wilson St., Manchester 623-8239) Bricadeau, Nichols, Westover play a no-cover show at 8 p.m.
- **Derryfield** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880) Chad LaMarsh rocks the house. \$25 a ticket includes admission to see the music, Champagne toast at midnight and party favors. Starts at 9 p.m.
- **DoubleTree Hotel** (700 Elm St., Manchester, headlinersnh.com) Transform into a Venetian dream at the Masquerade Ball, 6 p.m. cocktail hour with cash bar, 7 p.m. dinner, 8:30 p.m. comedy show starring Joe Yannetty, Jody Sloane, Rob Steen and Eric Hurst. Also separate Dueling Pianos show. Dinner and hotel packages available. \$60 and up.
- **Dover Town Hall** (288 Central Ave., Dover, 516-6000) Black tie optional with dancing to Black Agnes Band, fireworks at 9 p.m., Champagne toast at midnight, hors d'oeuvres by Mezzanine Catering. Event starts at 6:30 p.m. \$75.
- **East Side Club** (786 Massabesic St., Manchester, 669-1802) Cry Uncle (or maybe Synergy) plays rock covers at 9 p.m. with a potluck at 6 p.m. for members and non-members of this private club.
- **Elks Lodge No. 146** (290 Granite St., Manchester, 623-9126) A Roaring 20's New Year's Eve Party starts at 9 p.m. and includes finger foods, the Jennifer Mitchell Band and a Champagne toast at midnight. \$20.
- **Flannel Tavern** (345 Suncook Road, Chichester, 406-1196) Get an early start with Country Don from noon to 2:30 p.m., Joe Pero from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Dave Graham from 6 p.m. until close. Drink specials, food and surprises all day.
- **Fleming Center (formerly New London Barn Playhouse)** (84 Main St., New London, 562-6710) Curated dinner menu, Champagne and an assortment of drinks. Entertainment includes Bethany Gwen Perkins, known for her role at the Barn Playhouse as Patsy Cline in *Always...Patsy Cline*, and Janoah Bailin, a circus and juggler entertainer. Table seating. \$150.

- Starts at 7 p.m.
- **Flying Monkey Movie House** (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551) Comedian Bob Marley is back, performing at 2, 5:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$46.50.
- **Fody's** (9 Clinton St., Nashua, 577-9015) '90s alt rock stalwarts Smashing Cranberries perform at 9 p.m.
- **Fody's Derry** (187 1/2 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946) Pop Roks keeps it modern at this party starting at 9 p.m.
- **Fratello's** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022) Clint LaPointe plays at 8 p.m.
- **Giuseppe's** (312 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-3313) Bob Kroepel plays requests at the piano starting at 9 p.m.
- **The Goat** (50 Old Granite St., Manchester, 603-4628) NYE party with Seven Day Weekend starts at 8 p.m. at the newest member of this club franchise.
- **The Goat** (142 Congress St., Portsmouth, 658-4628) Mike Forgette plays at 9 p.m.
- **Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant** (76 Wakefield Road, Rochester, 332-0107) \$80 admission includes dinner with appetizers and dessert, along with dancing to classic rock and pop cover band Bad Penny. Starts at 7:30 p.m.
- **Granite State Music Hall** (546 Main St., Laconia, granitestatemusichall.com) Hollow Virtue with special guests Wired for Sound, along with supporting local acts, at 6 p.m. \$15.
- **Haluwa** (44 Gusabel Road, Nashua, 864-8348) Red Line helms a two-day celebration at this beloved Chinese restaurant. Starts at 8 p.m.
- **Headliners Comedy Club** is hosting a New Year's Eve gala at the Hilton DoubleTree in Manchester (700 Elm St.) on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. Ticket prices must be purchased by noon on Dec. 31 and prices start at \$35 per person. Visit headlinersnh.com.
- **Hen House** (85 S. Main St., Newton, 382-1705) New Year's Eve Bash with Stumpy Joe Band again hosting the party, at 9 p.m.
- **Hermanos** (11 Hills Ave., Concord, 224-5669) Singer and guitarist Mark Bartram plays covers and originals, 6:30 p.m.
- **High Octane Saloon** (1072 Watson Road, Laconia, 527-8116) Hell On Heels plays rock covers at this Lakes Region club celebrating a second anniversary, 8 p.m.
- **Hillsboro Moose Lodge** (15 School St., Hillsboro, 464-6024) Local Sound Development Band featuring WhoLeo and Jimmy playing classic rock, \$10, event is open to the public. 8 p.m.
- **Homestead** (641 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-2022) Lou Antonucci performs at 6:30 p.m.
- **Inn on Newfound Lake** (1030 Mayhew Turnpike, Bridgewater, 744-9111) Annual gala starts at 6 p.m. and includes cocktail hour with appetizers, five-course dinner, Champagne toast, fireworks at midnight, live music and dancing, Champagne, cash bar. \$125.
- **Jade Dragon** (515 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 424-2280) DJ Mike Kelly entertains; tickets include dinner, dancing, party favors and a midnight toast. \$20. Starts at 8 p.m.
- **Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club** (135 Congress St., Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com)

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# Legal Notice

## THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Judicial Branch NH CIRCUIT COURT

9th Circuit - Family Division - Manchester  
35 Amherst St., Manchester, NH 03101-1801

Telephone: 1-855-212-1234  
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<https://www.courts.nh.gov>

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Termination of Parental Rights

TO: Michael Ruffe  
16 Pearl St, APT#2, Manchester, NH, 03103  
Case Number: 656-2022-TR-00110

**Preliminary Hearing:** A petition to terminate parental rights over your minor child(ren) has been filed in this Court. You are hereby cited to appear at a Court to show cause why the same should not be granted.

**Date: January 31, 2023**  
**Time: 2:30 PM**  
**Time Allotted: 30 Minutes**  
35 Amherst St., Manchester, NH 03101  
Courtroom 302

9th Circuit- Family Division - Manchester  
A written appearance must be filed with this Court on or before the date of the hearing, or the respondent may personally appear on the date of hearing or be defaulted.

**CAUTION:** You should respond immediately to this notice to prepare for trial and because important hearings will take place prior to trial. If you fail to appear personally or in writing, you will waive your right to a hearing and your parental rights may be terminated at the above hearing.

**IMPORTANT RIGHTS OF PARENTS:** THIS PETITION IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER YOUR CHILD(REN) SHALL BE TERMINATED. TERMINATION OF THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP MEANS THE TERMINATION SHALL DIVEST YOU OF ALL LEGAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF ALL RIGHTS TO CUSTODY, VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD(REN). IF TERMINATION IS GRANTED, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO NOTICE OF FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING YOUR CHILD(REN).

You are hereby notified that you have a right to be represented by an attorney. You also have the right to oppose the proceedings, to attend the hearing and to present evidence. If you desire an attorney, you may notify this Court within ten (10) days of receiving this notice and upon a finding of indigency, the Court will appoint an attorney without cost to you. If you enter an appearance, notice of any future hearings regarding this child(ren) will be by first class mail to you, your attorney and all other interested parties not less than ten (10) days prior to any scheduled hearing. Additional information may be obtained from the Family Division Court identified in the heading of this Order of Notice.

If you will need an interpreter or other accommodations for this hearing, please contact the court immediately. Please be advised (and/or advise clients, witnesses, and others) that it is a Class B felony to carry a firearm or other deadly weapon as defined in RSA 625:11, V in a courtroom or area used by a court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT  
  
Mary A. Barton, Clerk of Court  
December 08, 2022  
(656608) C. Darin Hood-Tucker, Esq



Gatsby-esque New Year's party with Scott Sharrard leading an all-star orchestra through the likes of Louis Armstrong, Ma Rainey, Mamie Smith and more to create an original evening of swing/jump blues music inspired by the Roaring Twenties, with buffet, passed hors d'oeuvres and midnight Champagne toast. Doors open at 7 p.m. There's a 5 p.m. VIP reception in MONA. Tickets \$375 to \$425.

- **L Street Tavern** (17 L St., Hampton, 967-4777) Live band on the second floor with DJ Dubz playing dance and DJ Jeff doing karaoke, free appetizer buffet, no cover. 9 p.m.

- **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898) New Year's Eve dinner starting at 9 p.m. with Freese Brothers Big Band followed by a stroll through the LaBelle Lights, \$121.50.

- **Luna Bistro** (254 North Broadway, Salem, luna-bistro.com) Black Tie Cocktail Party starts at 6 p.m. and features The Hep Cats doing Sinatra and Rat Pack tunes. White glove passed hors d'oeuvres, dessert buffet, Champagne toast at midnight. Proper attire and advance ticket purchase required; cash bar available. \$100.

- **Martingale Wharf** (99 Bow St., Suite W, Portsmouth, 431-0901) First Night - Fire & Ice has DJ music, eros photo booth and ice sculpture among other attractions. NYE menu with token payment system. Starts at 6 p.m.

- **Masonic Temple** (1505 Elm St., Manchester, 543-5072) MB Enterprises has an international cuisines cocktail party with DJ, Bollywood dancing, belly dancer show, passed appetizers, bourbon tasting from 7 to 9 p.m., and Champagne at midnight. \$100. Starts at 7

p.m.

- **Muddy Road Brewery** (213 Middleton Road, New Durham, 767-5997) Singer-guitarist Chris Gowland entertains at 8 p.m.

- **Murphy's Carriage House** (393 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5875) Comedy show with Jim Colliton, Mike McDonald and host Chris Cameron at 8 p.m. \$30 or \$65 (includes dinner).

- **Murphy's Taproom** (494 Elm St., Manchester, scampscomey.com) Comedy show with Jason Merrill, Dan Donahue, Francis Birch and Juan Cespedes at 8 p.m. \$25 (\$30 at the door).

- **Music Hall** (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, themusicall.org) Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra evokes the Roaring Twenties. John Page leads the orchestra, along with old-fashioned bubble machines and a real Champagne bar. 8 p.m. \$30.

- **Music Hall Loft** (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 433-3100) Following outdoor First Night festivities, high-energy string band Rockspring performs at 10 p.m., with a midnight Champagne toast. \$35.

- **Palace Theatre** (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588) Recycled Percussion is again home for the holidays. Two shows: 4 and 7 p.m.

- **Party at the Peddler's Daughter** (48 Main St., Nashua) with the last ever performance of Take 4 for a New Year's Eve Bash on Saturday, Dec. 31 starting at 4 p.m. There will be a set menu and a Champagne toast at midnight. Visit thepeddlersdaughter.com.

- **Pasta Loft** (241 Union Sq., Milford, 672-2270) Beloved cover band The Slakas returns;



Jim Colliton, left, and Mike McDonald, right, performing at Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House. Courtesy photos.



\$10 admission includes Champagne toast at midnight. Event starts at 7 p.m.

- **Pats Peak Ski Area** (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 728-7732) There's dancing to The McMurphys in the Sled Pub starting at 6 p.m. and New Year's fireworks (slopes close at 10 p.m.).

- **Players' Ring Theatre** (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, 436-8123) Take in a performance of *First Night*, a romantic comedy by the author of *Moonglow*, Jack Neary, at 10 p.m. Tickets \$27.

- **Polish American Club** (15 School St., Nashua, 889-9819) DJ music, food, cheer and a midnight Champagne toast. Starts at 8 p.m.

- **Portsmouth Book & Bar** (40 Pleasant St., Portsmouth, 427-9197) Taylor Swift-inspired NYE celebration with themed karaoke, cocktails, snacks and dance party, starting at 7 p.m. \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door.

- **Portsmouth Gas Light** (64 Market St.,

Portsmouth, 430-9122) Boston Circus Guild's Welcome to The Show, a Cirque du Soleil-inspired evening with live entertainment and DJ music, starting at 8 p.m. VIP packages available.

- **Press Room** (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186) Ski Party with DJ Chad Banks and Adrienne Mack Davis starts at 9 p.m. \$40.

- **Re/Mix Social Club** (1 Pleasant St., Claremont, 504-4231) Alcohol-free party at a nonprofit downtown Claremont alternative to the typical club/bar atmosphere. Enjoy warm beverages from the coffee bar along with catered hors d'oeuvres as people share their experiences with overcoming addiction. (7 p.m.)

- **Red's Kitchen & Tavern** (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030) Jordan Quinn plays at a NYE Pajama Party; wear your favorite bedtime get-up for a night of live music, drinks,

CONTINUED ON PG 46 ▶



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Thank you and we are truly grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

*Jody Reese*  
Hippo Publisher



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# MUSIC THIS WEEK

<p><b>Alton</b>  <b>Foster's Tavern</b>          403 Main St.          875-1234</p> <p><b>Auburn</b>  <b>Auburn Pitts</b>          167 Rockingham Road          622-6564</p> <p><b>Bedford</b>  <b>Copper Door</b>          15 Leavy Dr.          488-2677</p> <p><b>Bow</b>  <b>Chen Yang Li</b>          520 S. Bow St.          228-8508</p> <p><b>Brookline</b>  <b>The Alamo Texas</b>  <b>Barbecue &amp; Tequila Bar</b>          99 Route 13          721-5000</p> <p><b>Chichester</b>  <b>Flannel Tavern</b>          345 Suncook Road          406-1196</p>	<p><b>Concord</b>  <b>Hermanos Cocina</b>  <b>Mexicana</b>          11 Hills Ave.          224-5669</p> <p><b>Tandy's Pub &amp; Grille</b>          1 Eagle Square          856-7614</p> <p><b>Deerfield</b>  <b>The Lazy Lion</b>          4 North Road          463-7374</p> <p><b>Derry</b>  <b>Fody's Tavern</b>          187 Rockingham Road,          404-6946</p> <p><b>Dover</b>  <b>Cara Irish Pub &amp; Restaurant</b>          11 Fourth St.          343-4390</p> <p><b>Epping</b>  <b>Popovers at Brickyard Square</b>          11 Brickyard Square          734-4724</p>	<p><b>Telly's Restaurant &amp; Pizzeria</b>          235 Calef Hwy.          679-8225</p> <p><b>Epsom</b>  <b>Hill Top Pizzeria</b>          1724 Dover Road          736-0027</p> <p><b>Exeter</b>  <b>Sea Dog Brewing Co.</b>          5 Water St.          793-5116</p> <p><b>Francestown</b>  <b>Toll Booth Tavern</b>          Crotched Mountain Resort          740 Second NH Turnpike          588-1800</p> <p><b>Gilford</b>  <b>Patrick's</b>          18 Weirs Road          293-0841</p>	<p><b>Goffstown</b>  <b>Village Trestle</b>          25 Main St.          497-8230</p> <p><b>Hampton</b>  <b>Bogie's</b>          32 Depot Square          601-2319</p> <p><b>CR's The Restaurant</b>          287 Exeter Road          929-7972</p> <p><b>The Goat</b>          20 L St.          601-6928</p> <p><b>L Street Tavern 603</b>          17 L St.          967-4777</p> <p><b>Shane's Texas Pit</b>          61 High St.          601-7091</p> <p><b>Wally's Pub</b>          144 Ashworth Ave.          926-6954</p>	<p><b>Whym Craft Pub &amp; Brewery</b>          853 Lafayette Road          601-2801</p> <p><b>Henniker</b>  <b>Pats Peak Ski Area</b>          686 Flanders Road          728-7732</p> <p><b>Hudson</b>  <b>The Bar</b>          2B Burnham Road</p> <p><b>Lynn's 102 Tavern</b>          76 Derry Road          943-7832</p> <p><b>Jaffrey</b>  <b>Park Theatre</b>          19 Main St.          532-9300</p> <p><b>Kingston</b>  <b>Saddle Up Saloon</b>          92 Route 125          369-6962</p> <p><b>Laconia</b>  <b>Belknap Mill</b>          25 Beacon St. E., No. 1          524-8813</p> <p><b>Fratello's</b>          799 Union Ave.          528-2022</p>	<p><b>Tower Hill Tavern</b>          264 Lakeside Ave.          366-9100</p> <p><b>Londonderry</b>  <b>Coach Stop Restaurant &amp; Tavern</b>          176 Mammoth Road          437-2022</p> <p><b>Stumble Inn</b>          20 Rockingham Road          432-3210</p> <p><b>Manchester</b>  <b>Angel City Music Hall</b>          179 Elm St.          931-3654</p> <p><b>Backyard Brewery</b>          1211 S. Mammoth Road          623-3545</p> <p><b>Bonfire Restaurant &amp; Country Bar</b>          950 Elm St.          217-5600</p> <p><b>CJ's</b>          782 S. Willow St.          627-8600</p> <p><b>City Hall Pub</b>          8 Hanover St.          232-3751</p> <p><b>Currier Museum of Art</b>          150 Ash St.          669-6144</p>	<p><b>Derryfield Country Club</b>          625 Mammoth Road          623-2880</p> <p><b>Elm House of Pizza</b>          102 Elm St.          232-5522</p> <p><b>The Foundry</b>          50 Commercial St.          836-1925</p> <p><b>Fratello's</b>          155 Dow St.          624-2022</p> <p><b>The Goat</b>          50 Old Granite St.</p> <p><b>Henry J. Sweeney Post</b>          251 Maple St.          623-9145</p> <p><b>The Hill Bar &amp; Grille</b>          McIntyre Ski Area          50 Chalet Ct.          622-6159</p> <p><b>KC's Rib Shack</b>          837 Second St.          627-RIBS</p> <p><b>Murphy's Taproom</b>          494 Elm St.          644-3535</p>	<p><b>Salona Bar &amp; Grill</b>          128 Maple St.          624-4020</p> <p><b>Shaskeen Pub</b>          909 Elm St.          625-0246</p> <p><b>South Side Tavern</b>          1279 S. Willow St.          935-9947</p> <p><b>Stark Brewing Co.</b>          500 Commercial St.          625-4444</p> <p><b>Strange Brew</b>          88 Market St.          666-4292</p> <p><b>To Share Brewing</b>          720 Union St.          836-6947</p> <p><b>Wild Rover</b>          21 Kosciuszko St.          669-7722</p> <p><b>Meredith</b>  <b>Giuseppe's</b>          312 Daniel Webster Hwy.          279-3313</p> <p><b>Twin Barns Brewing</b>          194 Daniel Webster Hwy.          279-0876</p>
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## Thursday, Dec. 29

<p><b>Auburn</b>  <b>Auburn Pitts:</b> live music, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bedford</b>  <b>Copper Door:</b> Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Concord</b>  <b>Hermanos:</b> Doug Thompson, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Derry</b>  <b>Fody's:</b> music bingo, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Epping</b>  <b>Telly's:</b> Lewis Goodman, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Exeter</b>  <b>Sea Dog:</b> Soul Colour, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Gilford</b>  <b>Patrick's Pub:</b> live music, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Goffstown</b>  <b>Village Trestle:</b> Dan Morgan, 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Hampton</b>  <b>Bogie's:</b> live music, 7 p.m.  <b>CR's:</b> Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.  <b>Whym:</b> music bingo, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hudson</b>  <b>Lynn's 102:</b> karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Kingston</b>  <b>Saddle Up Saloon:</b> karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Laconia</b>  <b>Fratello's:</b> Chris Perkins, 7 p.m.  <b>Tower Hill:</b> karaoke w/ Luke Skywalker, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Londonderry</b>  <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Rob &amp; Jody Duo, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Manchester</b>  <b>Angel City:</b> open mic, 8 p.m.  <b>City Hall:</b> Killian Venman Duo, 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Currier:</b> Green Heron, 5 p.m.  <b>Elm House of Pizza:</b> Taylor Marie, 6 p.m.  <b>Foundry:</b> Dwayne Haggins, 5 p.m.  <b>Fratello's:</b> Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.  <b>Strange Brew:</b> Lisa Marie, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Meredith</b>  <b>Giuseppe's:</b> The Sweetbloods, 5:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Merrimack</b>  <b>Homestead:</b> Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.  <b>Tortilla Flat:</b> Sam Hammerman, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Milford</b>  <b>Riley's Place:</b> open mic, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nashua</b>  <b>Fody's:</b> DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.  <b>Shorty's:</b> Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Portsmouth</b>  <b>The Goat:</b> Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Salem</b>  <b>Copper Door:</b> Clint Lapointe, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Seabrook</b>  <b>Backyard Burgers:</b> Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Strafford</b>  <b>Independence Inn:</b> Mikey G, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Windham</b>  <b>Common Man:</b> Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Band, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Goffstown</b>  <b>Village Trestle:</b> Dalton Lite Duo, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hampton</b>  <b>Bogie's:</b> live music, 7 p.m.  <b>CR's:</b> Clandestine, 6 p.m.  <b>The Goat:</b> Alex Anthony, 8 p.m.  <b>Whym:</b> live music, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hudson</b>  <b>Lynn's 102:</b> karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jaffrey</b>  <b>Park Theatre:</b> McGettigan &amp; Gilbert, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Laconia</b>  <b>Fratello's:</b> Henry Laliberte, 6 p.m.  <b>Tower Hill:</b> karaoke night, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Londonderry</b>  <b>Coach Stop:</b> Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.  <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Another Shot Duo, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Manchester</b>  <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> live music, 6 p.m.  <b>Derryfield:</b> Neon Rodeo, 8 p.m.  <b>Fratello's:</b> Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.  <b>The Foundry:</b> April Cushman, 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Shaskeen:</b> EMO, 9 p.m.  <b>South Side Tavern:</b> Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.  <b>Strange Brew:</b> Night Train, 9 p.m.  <b>To Share:</b> Upright Dogs, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Meredith</b>  <b>Twin Barns:</b> Justin Cohn, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Merrimack</b>  <b>Homestead:</b> Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Milford</b>  <b>Pasta Loft:</b> The MilkCrates, 8:30 p.m.  <b>Stonecutters Pub:</b> DJ Dave O karoke, 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nashua</b>  <b>Millyard:</b> Birch Hill Duo, 6:30 p.m.  <b>San Francisco Kitchen:</b> live music, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Newbury</b>  <b>Mount Sunapee:</b> Dakota Smart, 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>New Boston</b>  <b>Molly's:</b> live music, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Newbury</b>  <b>Mount Sunapee:</b> Dakota Smart, 3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Newmarket</b>  <b>Stone Church:</b> Screaming Headless Torsos, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Northfield</b>  <b>Boonedox Pub:</b> karaoke night, 7 p.m.</p>
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## COMEDY AT CHUBB

Comedian **Joe Gatto** is known for his work in front of the camera — as a cast member of the reality TV series *Impractical Jokers* — and as the director of irreverent TV spots for the Rumson & Horman microbrewery. His latest tour takes him to the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord; 225-1111; ccanh.com) on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$48.50 to \$68.50, 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](mailto:music@hippopress.com).

<b>Merrimack Homestead</b> 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	<b>Raga</b> 138 Main St. 459-8566	<b>Penacook American Legion Post 31</b> 11 Charles St. 753-9372	458-2162
<b>Tortilla Flat</b> 595 Daniel Webster Hwy. 424-4479	<b>San Francisco Kitchen</b> 133 Main St. 886-8833	<b>Portsmouth The Gas Light</b> 64 Market St. 430-9122	<b>Smuttynose</b> 11 Via Toscana 912-5467
<b>Milford The Pasta Loft</b> 241 Union Square 672-2270	<b>Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse</b> 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070	<b>The Goat</b> 142 Congress St. 590-4628	<b>Tuscan Market &amp; Village</b> 9 Via Toscana 912-5467
<b>Riley's Place</b> 29 Mont Vernon St. 380-3480	<b>Sky Meadow Country Club</b> 6 Mountain Laurels Dr. 888-9000	<b>Mojo's West End Tavern</b> 95 Brewery Lane 436-6656	<b>Seabrook Backyard Burgers &amp; Wings</b> 5 Provident Way 760-2581
<b>Stoncutters Pub</b> 63 Union Square 213-5979	<b>New Boston Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<b>Thirsty Moose Taphouse</b> 21 Congress St. 427-8645	<b>Chop Shop</b> 920 Lafayette Road 760-7760
<b>Nashua Fody's Tavern</b> 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	<b>Newfields Fire and Spice Bistro</b> 70 Route 108 418-7121	<b>Rochester Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
<b>Haluwa</b> 44 Gusabel Road 864-8348	<b>Newmarket Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Salem Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033	<b>Strafford Independence Inn</b> 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
<b>Millyard Brewery</b> 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104	<b>Northfield Boonedoxz Pub</b> 95 Park St. 717-8267	<b>Luna Bistro</b> 254 N. Broadway	<b>Windham Castleton</b> 92 Indian Rock Road 800-688-5644
			<b>Common Man</b> 88 Range Road 898-0088



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<b>Penacook</b> American Legion Post 31: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.	<b>Brookline</b> Alamo: live music, 5 p.m.	<b>Exeter</b> Sea Dog: live music, 6 p.m.
<b>Portsmouth</b> Gas Light: Jonny Friday, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Mojo's: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m. Thirsty Moose: The Mockingbirds, 9 p.m.	<b>Chichester</b> Flannel Tavern: County Don, noon; Joe Pero, 3 p.m.; Dave Graham, 6 p.m.	<b>Goffstown</b> Village Trestle: Bob Pratte Band, 6 p.m.
<b>Salem</b> Luna Bistro: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m. Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.	<b>Concord</b> Area 23: Smokestack Blues, Gardner Berry opening, 7 p.m. Hermanos: Mark Bartram, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: live music, 5 to 10 p.m. L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m. Wally's: Pop Disaster, 9 p.m.
<b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b>	<b>Derry</b> Fody's: Pop Roks, 9 p.m.	<b>Henniker</b> Pats Peak: The McMurphys, 6 p.m.
<b>Auburn</b> Auburn Pitts: Stoned Wasp, 7 p.m.	<b>Deerfield</b> Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.	<b>Jaffrey</b> Park Theatre: Bernie & Louise Watson, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Bow</b> Chen Yang Li: DJ Kenny P, 8 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> Telly's: The Drift Duo, 8 p.m.	<b>Kingston</b> Saddle Up Saloon: Casual Gravity, 6 p.m.
	<b>Epsom</b> Hill Top Pizza: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.	



**LI MONCELLO'S FOR EVERYONE!**

Drag sensation **Li Moncello** returns to the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St, Rochester; 335-1992; rochesteroperahouse.com) on Friday, Dec. 30, at 7:30 p.m. for Holiday Hoopla, the final ROH Drag event of 2022. Tickets cost \$15, plus fees.

Scamps Comedy presents

New Year's Eve

**Comedy doubleheader!**

**Jim Colliton** **Mike McDonald**

Saturday, Dec. 31  
Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House,  
303 NH-101, Bedford, NH

<https://scampscomey.com/newyeareseve>

**\$65** **\$30**  
dinner and show show only

Doors open at 6 p.m. for a buffet dinner, and showtime is at 8 p.m. Dinner-show tickets must be purchased by noon on December 30. Cash bar.

HOST: CHRIS CAMERON

Scan for more information





dancing, food, prizes, giveaways and more starting at 8 p.m.

- **Rex Theatre** (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588) *Juston McKinney's Year In Review* comes to Manchester, show at 8 p.m., tickets \$35 (also on Friday, Dec. 30).

- **Riley's Place** (22 Mt. Vernon St., Milford, 325-2177) Old friends Aces & Eights ring in the new year. Starts at 9 p.m. \$25 advance, limited number of seats for \$10 at door.

- **Rio Tequila Cantina** (37 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-8655) Music with Adam Forbes, performing acoustically at the newest addition to Portsmouth's dining scene, at 6:30 p.m.

- **Rockingham Ballroom** (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, 448-8000) Dancing all night on the area's largest dance floor starting at 8 p.m. with DJ host Johnny B Groovy. \$30 and \$40.

- **Saddle Up Saloon** (92 Route 125, Kingston, 369-6962) Casual Gravity plays fifth annual bash, \$60 tickets include buffet from 7 to 9 p.m. and a late-night pizza buffet, Champagne toast and party favors.

- **Salt hill Pub Lebanon** (2 W. Park St., Lebanon, 448-4532) Adam McMahon Trio performs with complimentary Champagne toast at midnight. Starts at 9 p.m. \$10.

- **Salt hill Pub Newport** (58 Main St.,



The Slakass to play at the Pasta Loft in Milford.

Newport, 863-7774) Tirade, featuring Toby Moore, plays the 14th annual bash at 9 p.m. \$5.

- **Sea Dog Brewing** (9 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) DJ Doug York plays from 9 p.m. to midnight; free appetizers at 11:30 p.m. with creative dinner selections from Chef Calvin.

- **Shaskeen** (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246) Lock The Doors Bash is reprised with limited \$60 tickets covering a food buffet, midnight Champagne toast, giveaways, Chris Bennett a.k.a. DJ Myth spinning, and open bar. The club will be closed to anyone without tickets. Event is 21+ only. 8 p.m.

- **Side Bar** (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, eventbrite.com) Music from DJ CHN, a free pizza and app buffet, a free Champagne toast, drink specials all night long, starting at 9 p.m. \$25.

- **Sky Meadow Country Club** (6 Mountain Laurels Dr., Nashua, headlin-

ersnh.com) Comedy with Kevin Lee and Tim McKeever, along with DJ dancing, starting at 6:30 p.m. \$75.

- **Soho Bistro** (20 Old Granite St., Manchester, 222-1677) Party Science with DJ Lefte at 9 p.m.

- **Sol Southern Kitchen** (111 State St., Portsmouth, 319-8175) Tim Parent & The Grim Bros Duo (with Tim and Ben Butterworth) NYE musical celebration starts at 9 p.m.

- **Stone Church** (5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700) Idlewild: A Celebration Of The Allman Brothers Band and Not Fade Away Band join forces for Peach Lightning, an evening of Allmans and Dead tunes, at 6 p.m. \$20.

- **Strand Ballroom** (20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899) Comedy with Mike Donovan and Amy Tee, followed by musical guests The Broken Heels. Starts at 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 and up.

- **Stumble Inn** (20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-3210) New Year's Eve bash featuring Last Kid Picked starts at 8 p.m.

- **Sweeney Post No. 2** (251 Maple St., Manchester, 623-9145) Stuck In Time Band, with a potluck dinner; bring an app, favorite dish, or dessert to share. 8 p.m.

- **Thirsty Moose** (21 Congress St., Portsmouth, 427-8645) Eric Marcs & Solid Group rock the basement music space, while great beer flows on both floors. 9 p.m.

- **Tokoss** (1293 Elm St., Manchester, 486-1538) Food, drinks and music starting at 8 p.m. with DJ Kamix spinning. The first 50 people will receive a New Year's celebration package. \$20 and up. VIP table reservations are available.

- **Tower Hill Tavern** (264 Lakeside Ave., Laconia, 366-9100) DJ Tim hosts Karaoke NYE party starting at 8 p.m.

- **Tupelo Music Hall** (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100) Adam Ezra Group and opening band Billy Keane & the Waking Dream play at 7 p.m., with a four-course dinner at 5:30 p.m. for \$95; 8:30 p.m. show only is \$45, and all tickets include a Champagne toast.

- **Tuscan Market & Village** (9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467) Silver Springs Fleetwood Mac tribute with Leaving Eden at 8 p.m.

- **Veterans Club** (118 John Stark Hwy., Newport, 863-3945) \$10 for Talkin' Smack, a popular cover band playing hits at 7 p.m.

- **Village Trestle** (25 Main St., Goffstown, 497-8230) The Full Bob Pratte Band performs at 5 p.m.

- **Wally's Pub** (144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton, 926-6954) Popular cover band Pop Disaster performs at this party starting at 9 p.m.

- **WSCA Radio** (909 Islington St., Suite 1, Portsmouth, 430-9722) Exotic Family Records showcase, 21+ BYOB, starts at 7:30 p.m. 🍷

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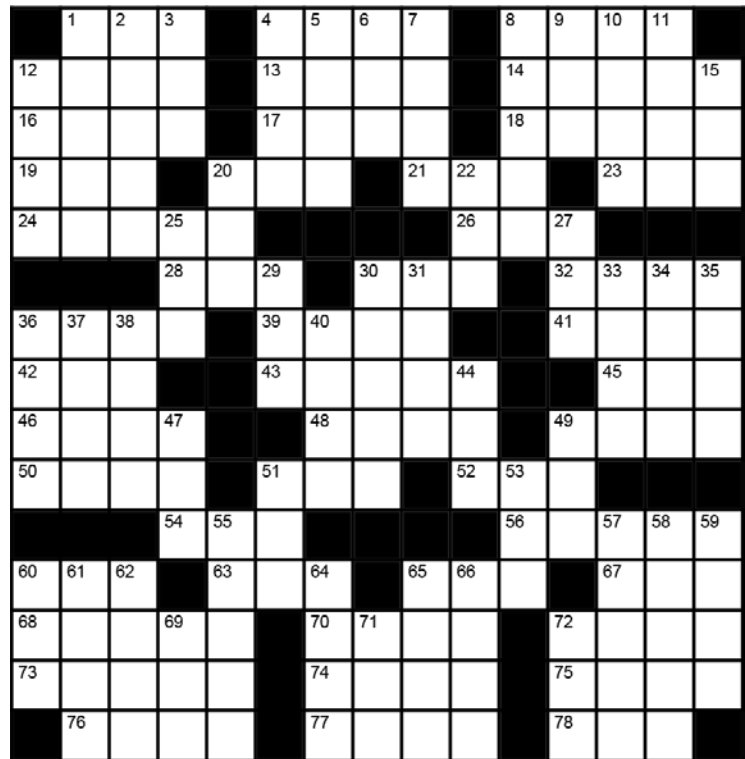
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# SLEEPING LIKE A LOG



**Across**

- 1. Boston rockers \_\_\_ De Sac
- 4. Like Dave and Ray Davies
- 8. Pink 'Just Like A \_\_\_'
- 12. '...I Did It Again
- 13. Suzanne Vega smash
- 14. Indigo Girls took out a 'Hammer And \_\_\_' and pounded it in (1,4)
- 16. Nina Simone finished it on '\_\_\_ Said!'
- 17. Ozzy 'Live & Loud' bassist Mike
- 18. Egocentric Bob Dylan song off 'Infidels'? (1,3,1)
- 19. 'No Pleasantries' band
- 20. Sister band \_\_\_ & Dia
- 21. 'Chicken Fried' \_\_\_ Brown Band
- 23. 'I Hear You Calling' punks inspired by Will Arnett character, perhaps
- 24. 'Teenage Dream' Katy
- 26. 'No More Stories...' Danish band for a cat cry?
- 28. Astbury of The Doors Of The 21st Century
- 30. Guitar virtuoso Steve
- 32. 'This Too Shall Pass' Chicago band (2,2)
- 36. 'The Crimson Idol' band
- 39. Beatles have been working like this, on 'A Hard Day's Night' (1,3)
- 41. She & Him guitarist M
- 42. R&B singer/Fresh Prince Of Bel Air star Tatyana
- 43. Janet Jackson '\_\_\_ A Gun (I Betcha Think This Song Is About You)' (3,2)
- 45. Little 90s grunge band?
- 46. They whipped it, whipped it good
- 48. Simple Plan '\_\_\_ Anything' (2,2)
- 49. '88 Aerosmith comp
- 50. Kian of Westlife
- 51. '70 Joan Baez album 'One Day \_\_\_ Time' (2,1)
- 52. Flowery verse
- 54. Solos make you ooh and this
- 56. Sly And The Family Stone song about his uppercrust woman?
- 60. Tour 18-wheeler

- 63. "Bingo! I remembered that name of the artist!"
- 65. Sisters With Voices R&B band (abbr)
- 67. W.C., to UK pub rockers
- 68. Stevie Wonder 'My Cherie \_\_\_'
- 70. 80s Ozzy guitarist E. Lee
- 72. Type of Green Day rock
- 73. Perry Farrell's \_\_\_ For Pyros
- 74. Like fan of fav band
- 75. Amy Winehouse 'You Know \_\_\_ Good' (2,2)

- 76. XTC '\_\_\_ Shuffle'
- 77. Make over, in studio
- 78. Suzanne Vega sang of her time '\_\_\_ Child' (2,1)

**Down**

- 1. Beach Boys had a 'Little Deuce' one
- 2. Van Halen rose early on '\_\_\_ Breakfast' (2,3)
- 3. Kasabian 'Lost Souls Forever' song (abbr)0
- 4. '12 Slash hit 'You're \_\_\_' (1,3)
- 5. Carl Douglas '\_\_\_ Fu Fighting
- 6. Frank Zappa guitarist Willis
- 7. Yardbirds 'The \_\_\_ Are Blue'
- 8. Deep Purple's Ian
- 9. '89 Joe Satriani album 'Flying \_\_\_ Blue Dream' (2,1)
- 10. 'Lie To Me' Johnny
- 11. "He's for the money, he's for the show", to Boz Scaggs
- 12. Primal Scream must have been watching The Jeffersons when they wrote 'Movin' \_\_\_' (2,2)
- 15. '84 Howard Jones album 'Human's \_\_\_'
- 20. One of 'Lady Marmalade' reworkers
- 22. American Music Institute (abbr)
- 25. Beirut will outswim 'The \_\_\_ Tide'
- 27. The Kills 'No \_\_\_'
- 29. Madonna did 'Veni Vidi Vici' w/this rapper
- 30. Ally McBeal 'Searchin' My Soul' singer/pianist Shepard
- 31. '00 Vertical Horizon hit 'You're \_\_\_' (1,3)
- 33. '99 Times' singer Voegele
- 34. Flying Burrito Brothers member Parsons
- 35. Phil Collins was 'Against' them
- 36. Country's 'Old Enough To Know Better' Hayes
- 37. AC/DC "Shake \_\_, get stuck in" (1,3)
- 38. 1st Smashing Pumpkins single

- 40. Assertive Nelly Furtado song? (2,2)
- 44. 'The Colour And The Shape' \_\_\_ Fighters
- 47. Fat Freddy's Drop 'Based \_\_\_ True Story' (2,1)
- 49. When jammers come together they do this, slang
- 51. Boyz II Men 'Uhh \_\_\_'
- 53. No Use For A Name song for a driving test?
- 55. French pop duo
- 57. Berklee grads
- 58. 'Bella \_\_\_' Stevie Nicks
- 59. John Lennon's screaming wife Ono
- 60. Genre rocker might not like
- 61. '85 Springsteen hit '\_\_\_ Fire' (2,2)
- 62. Heavy genre influenced by violence
- 64. Phish 'Sample In \_\_\_' (1,3)
- 65. Part of 'Piece Of Me' band, w/Row
- 66. Why Don't \_\_\_ It In The Road? (2,2)
- 69. '12 Green Day 'Let Yourself Go' album
- 71. Spacehog wants to live on NYC's '2nd' this (abbr)
- 72. 80s 'When The Rain Begins To Fall' singer Zadora

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

# KENKEN

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EASY

2 ÷	3 +		3
	3 ×	24 ×	
		4	
1 -		2 ÷	

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WORKSPACE:

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CHALLENGING

4	10 ×		2 ÷		12 ×
6 +		30 ×		12 ×	
11 +	4	3 +			
	10 +		3 -	1	12 +
5 +		2 -			
			3 ÷		5

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PREVIOUS ANSWERS

36 ×	4	3	2 ÷	1	2
3	1	2	2 ÷	2	4
3 +	1	2	48 ×	2 -	3
2	2	4	3	1	1

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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.

## WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five four-letter mammals ☐☐☐☐
- Three numbers ending with Y ☐☐☐
- Three South American countries ☐☐☐
- Three four-letter musical genres ☐☐☐
- Whopper's restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐☐

Last Week's Answers: SALISBURY SIRLOIN FLANK SKIRT CHUCK ROUND CUBE / TROOP SWARM FLOCK / WEIGHT DATE TIME / ASKING / DRIVE

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

# “A Pair of Shorts” – they follow the pattern.

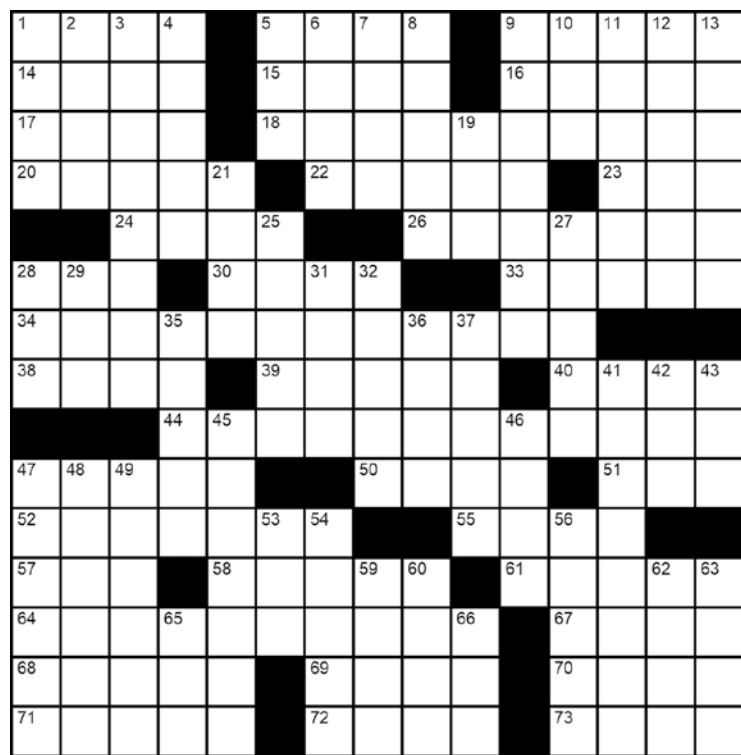
- Across**
1. Job safety gp.
  5. Open a smidge
  9. Tiny flying pests
  14. “Modern Family” dad
  15. In \_\_\_ parentis
  16. “Grey’s Anatomy” extra
  17. Bridge charge
  18. Shrinking of a bookstore section?
  20. Crash sites
  22. Body of belief
  23. Uffizi display
  24. Dividing word
  26. Award-winning 2015 movie whose title means “hitman”
  28. Breakfast sandwich layer, usually
  30. Sch. that both Dido and Shakira attended (even for a little bit)
  33. Former presidential candidate \_\_\_ Perot
  34. How electricity is conducted through a baguette?
  38. Scorch
  39. Friends in France
  40. “That ain’t good”
  44. Extra-strength bones, like the ones used to play a skeleton like a xylophone?
  47. Jeremy of “Entourage”
  50. Bengaluru attire

51. Martini base
52. Stuffs with food
55. MacFarlane or Green of “Family Guy”
57. Designer monogram that’s surprisingly late in the alphabet (as monograms go)
58. On guard
61. Town known for its mustard
64. Instruction after a power outage?
67. Remote button
68. “Taskmaster” assistant Alex
69. It may follow someone or something
70. Some lifesavers, for short
71. Spirited horse
72. Film spool
73. Place to park

5. ‘80s TV alien
6. \_\_\_ de vivre
7. Bank offering, for short
8. Some IRAs
9. Potato dumplings
10. Sister in an order
11. Hall of Fame jockey Eddie
12. Trouble, in Yiddish slang
13. Ruckuses
19. “Creed \_\_\_” (2023 boxing movie sequel)
21. Tuxedo shirt button
25. Creator of a philosophical “razor”
27. Pianist Rubenstein
28. Retreating tide
29. “Despicable Me” supervillain
31. Like cooked spaghetti
32. April sign
35. Built up the pot
36. Michael of “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World”
37. People logged in
41. Track and field event

42. Sendai sash
43. Competitor of QVC
45. Planning to marry
46. “Divorced, beheaded, \_\_\_” (refrain in the musical “Six”)
47. Gives a pep talk, with “up”
48. Summertime complaint
49. Song with Italian lyrics that won the first Grammy for Song of the Year (1958)
53. Woolly parent
54. Further from harm
56. Multiplying word
59. One in a board game sheet
60. Nero’s “to be”
62. \_\_\_ Octavius (“Spider-Man” villain)
63. Hatchling’s refuge
65. 180 degrees from SSW
66. Unagi, at a sushi bar

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- Down**
1. Chooses
  2. “Be off with you!”
  3. Designer Tommy
  4. Poe’s middle name

**R&R answer from pg 39 of 12/22**

J	O	N	A	S		S	G	T			T	O	N	I	
A	T	O	U	T		H	U	H		S	I	T	I	N	
B	E	T	T	E		A	S	A		A	K	I	L	L	
S	P	A	R	R	O		T	O	M	I	S	S	A		
					Y	E	R		S	I	R	E			
R	O	S			O	N	I	T		B	O	N	H	A	M
A	D	I	A		O	P	U	S		L	E	I	L	A	
B	E	R	N		T	O	P	O	F		I	T	I	N	
I	T	E	N	D		D	I	D	O		L	O	F	I	
N	O	N	E	E	D		F	A	N	G		R	E	A	
						N	O	S		D	E	F			
F	A	K	I	N	I	T		D	A	N	R	E	E	D	
A	B	U	S	E		R	I	O		R	E	D	D	Y	
F	E	L	O	N		U	F	O		E	D	D	I	E	
A	L	A	N			T	I	M		S	A	Y	E	R	

**Jonesin’ answer from pg 40 of 12/22**

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

**NITE SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 49.

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from Graham McTavish, born Jan. 4, 1961, in *Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other*, by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *I really would love to play Macbeth but it's been a case of 'always the bridesmaid, never the bride.'* I have been Macduff once, Malcolm once and Banquo twice.... Still valuable.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *One of the things I've learned about history is that it's rarely simple.* Which means neither is the present.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *Generally if you haven't got it in two takes, someone isn't doing their job properly.* So help them out.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *Great, I thought, even though I had no idea how this would actually work.* The details will sort themselves out.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *In my defense, I am not high-maintenance, I am just a person who needs coffee at all times of the day and, when I arrive on set, or anywhere such as a hotel, I like to know some simple information: where I can put my belongings, where I can sit down, where the coffee is and what time breakfast is served....* Ask what you need to ask.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *I've learned that directors will ask you to do things that they would never dream of doing themselves.* Won't they just.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *I couldn't help wondering if this was all part of Sam's larger diabolical plan — lure me to an island and leave me there? Probably with a coconut and a GoPro.* As long as

you've got the coconut....  
**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *I don't ski. I have attempted it twice.... Now I prefer to enjoy watching my children ski while I sip a latte and read a book.* It's OK not to ski.  
**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** *To stand in a marketplace, at any time in history prior to the mid-nineteenth century, would be a sensory overload.* Be good to your senses.  
**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** ... *Urquhart Castle ... definitely has huge bragging rights as a 'romantic' castle. Other romantic castles must be sick with jealousy of its undeniable beauty and location.* Jealousy helps no one.  
**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *I've always preferred ruins to well-maintained castles.* Just try not to trip over anything.  
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *I'm fine with kayaks. ... Kayaks are not the problem, Sam Heughan is the problem. ... It's the same as saying you love to swim but draw the line at swimming with a tiger shark.* That's fair. 🐠

## 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 self-centeredness (7)	_____
2 Dr Pepper, seltzer, etc. (5)	_____
3 effervescent (5)	_____
4 Ellen DeGeneres segment (9)	_____
5 10-speed, e.g. (7)	_____
6 Greek letter "E" (7)	_____
7 nevertheless (6)	_____

AS	RVI	ZZY	AN	ISM
IL	YH	EG	BI	EW
TE	ON	SOD	CYC	LE
FI	OT	OW	EPS	IN

Last Week's Answers: 1. SCARES 2. SHARES 3. SHARKS 4. SHIRKS 5. SHIRTS 6. SHIRTS 7. SHIRTY

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### Sudoku Answers from pg40 of 12/22

**Puzzle A**

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

Difficulty Level ★

**Puzzle B**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**Puzzle C**

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



# New Year's Eve



THE MASQUERADE BALL  
New Year's Eve Gala



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The Comedy Club  
**Tickets \$35 Per Person | 2 Show Times 7:30 & 9:30**  
Four Great Comics Featured!






Joe Yannetty
Jody Sloane
Rob Steen
Eric Hurst

## The Gala

**Tickets Starting at \$60 Per Person, Tax & Gratuity Included**  
**6PM Cocktail Hour | 7PM 3 Course Dinner**  
**8PM Dueling Piano Show | 10PM DJ Dancing**  
**12AM Champaign Toast | 1AM Event Closes**

---



**Chunky's**  
Manchester @ 7PM

**3 Comics Live! 3 Locations**  
**Packages starting at \$35 each**





Robbie Printz   Mark Scalia   Alex Giampapa



**10pm Dueling Pianos Shows**  
& 12am Ball Drop

**Chunky's Nashua @ 7PM**





Robbie Printz   Matt Barry   Dan Crohn

**Chunky's Pelham @ 7:30PM**





Dan Crohn   Tim McKeever   Mark Scalia

**Tickets & Info:**  
[NewYearsEveEvents.com](http://NewYearsEveEvents.com)  
**OR** [Chunkys.com](http://Chunkys.com)





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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

### 'Tis the season

• If you don't mind sharing a ride with the quintessential bah humbug, you stand a chance at beating traffic in the HOV lane. At least, that's what one driver in Arizona was hoping on Dec. 13 as he cruised along Interstate 10 with an inflatable Grinch in the passenger seat, CNN reported. "While we appreciate the festive flair, this is illegal & the driver received a citation for the HOV violation," the Arizona Department of Public Safety noted on Twitter. — *CNN, Dec. 13*

• Motorists in Marathon, Florida, who didn't heed the school zone speed limit on Dec. 13 were met with a choice: a citation, or an onion presented by the Grinch himself. Monroe County Sheriff's deputy Lou Caputo, a 37-year veteran of the force, started dressing up as the surly green character more than 20 years ago, the Associated Press reported. "It's about education, awareness that our school zones are still operating even though it's the holiday season," Caputo said. "It catches them off guard." Some speeders have even elected to eat the onion right on the spot. — *Associated Press, Dec. 13*

### Awesome!

This week's "And What the Heck Have YOU Done?" story comes from Golden, Colorado, and 8-year-old Maddock Lipp. On Dec. 1, *The Denver Post* reported, Lipp skied with his family on Mount Hoegh in Antarctica, achieving in his short lifetime a big feat: He has skied on all seven continents and is unofficially the youngest person to do so. Lipp said he liked Antarctica best because he "got to ski next to the penguins." He hopes to nab a Guinness World Record for the accomplishment. — *The Denver Post, Dec. 1*

### Extreme measures

An Argentinian soccer superfan became alarmed on Dec. 13 as he headed home to watch his team's match with Croatia in the World Cup semifinals, *Oddity Central* reported. The 53-year-old was frustrated at the slow progress of the bus he was riding, so when the driver stopped and stepped out to buy something at a kiosk, the soccer fan allegedly hopped into the driver's seat and took off toward his home. He drove about 4 miles, then abandoned the bus and its occupants and continued on foot. But police officers caught up with him and took him into custody — and he missed the whole game. — *Oddity Central, Dec. 13*

### Mistaken identity

Police officers in London were summoned to Laz Emporium, an art gallery, on Nov. 25 after a call about a "person in distress," *Sky News* reported. In a gallery window, the fig-

ure of a woman could be seen slumped over, with her face in a bowl of soup. Officers broke into the gallery, only to find that the "woman" was a mannequin, and the scene was art. The American artist, Mark Jenkins, created the piece, titled "Kristina," on a commission from the gallery's owner, Steve Lazarides. Turns out these officers weren't the first to be fooled; paramedics were called out to assist the woman in October. — *Sky News, Nov. 24*

### Not-so-smooth reactions

A photographer in Western Cape, South Africa, set off alarm bells after he posted some shots on Facebook that eerily resembled scenes from "The War of the Worlds," *LAD Bible* reported. Jan Vorster's shots from Dec. 2 showed creepy creatures emerging from the surf, which provoked 22,000 comments — but Vorster, 62, said the spidery "creatures" are just dead aloe vera plants. "I thought I could use this as a metaphor for how people see these plants as aliens, but we are actually the two-legged aliens messing up their world," he said. — *LAD Bible, Dec. 2*

### Bright idea

Even as it was naturally going out of style, the name Karen took a big hit in the last few years, when it suddenly became synonymous with an entitled, demanding, complaining woman. But one British TV and radio personality can't bear to see the moniker disappear completely, so he has a plan, *LAD Bible* reported. Matt Edmondson has vowed to pay 100 people to legally change their name to Karen, with the hope that they'll keep it relevant. What's the catch? He'll only pay you the standard fee to have your name changed, about \$51. In addition, he's launching a board game called — you guessed it! — Karen. — *LAD Bible, Dec. 14*

### Weird science

Hashem Al-Ghaili, a producer and filmmaker who has a background in molecular biology, has set imaginations on fire with a concept he shared on social media: EctoLife, "the world's first artificial womb facility," *Huffington Post UK* reported. Basically, it's a techno farm for growing human children, and Hashem believes it could be reality within a decade. Frighteningly enough, some scientists agree. Andrew Shennan, professor of obstetrics at King's College London, said artificial wombs are a possibility. "It's just a matter of providing a correct environment with fuel and oxygen," he said. "When we put people on things like heart bypasses or other organ bypasses, we are theoretically giving them what they need from a machine." *Jeeppers. — Huffington Post UK, Dec. 13*

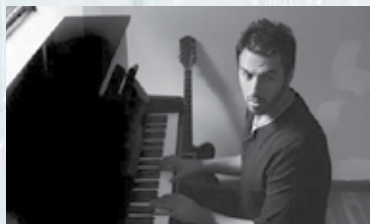
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