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DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2022

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## GRANITE VIEWS JEFF RAPSIS

### Look around you



In London, visitors to St. Paul's Cathedral who approach the tomb of architect Sir Christopher Wren are greeted with this inscription: "If you seek his monument, look around you."

The same may be said about Raymond Wieczorek, longtime Manchester politician and businessman, who passed away recently at age 93.

Yes, look around you. Wieczorek, often called "the Wiz," played a key role in developing much of what we point to today with pride about modern-day Manchester.

Examples abound. The SNHU Arena, which opened in 2001 and prompted a rebirth of the city's downtown. The "new" terminal at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, christened in 1994 and now a regional economic engine. Zoning changes that led to a vibrant millyard business district.

During his time as mayor of Manchester from 1990 to 2000, Wieczorek's vision and support made all these things happen.

I remember Ray being most proud, I think, of City Hall Plaza, the downtown office tower across from City Hall that was completed in 1992. At 245 feet, it remains the tallest building in northern New England.

Ray enjoyed following the construction, which he could see happening every day he came to work. To him, it was a tangible sign of good times to come for the city he called home.

All of this is more remarkable when you consider that the early years of Wieczorek's time as mayor were among the darkest ever to hit the Queen City.

In the late '80s, New Hampshire suffered through a prolonged real estate mortgage crisis. One day in October 1991, the FDIC took over eight Granite State banks — five of them headquartered in downtown Manchester.

As a reporter for the Union Leader, I was downtown that day. The sight of the feds arriving, briefcases in hand, had many people convinced that a new Great Depression was underway.

Not Ray. He followed his instincts, honed by decades in the insurance business. He took a conservative business approach to guiding the city through the crisis, both in government and in the community.

The approach worked, although he had to make some hard choices. Members of the school custodian's union never forgave him for replacing them with a private cleaning service.

But most importantly, the Wiz recognized the value of investing for the future. That's what made such a difference in the long term.

So if you seek his monument, look around. Or better yet, take a drive on "Raymond Wieczorek Drive," which connects the F.E. Everett Turnpike to the airport and the development around it.

Jeff Rapsis is Associate Publisher of the Hippo. 🐘



News and culture weekly serving Metro southern New Hampshire  
Published every Thursday  
(1st copy free; 2nd \$1).  
195 McGregor St., Suite 325,  
Manchester, N.H. 03102  
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422  
hippopress.com  
email: news@hippopress.com

## EDITORIAL

**Executive Editor**  
Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com

**Features Editor**  
Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com, Ext. 152

**Editorial Design**  
Tristan Collins  
hippolayout@gmail.com

**Copy Editor**  
Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com

**Staff Writers**  
Angie Sykeny  
asykeny@hippopress.com  
Katelyn Sahagian  
ksahagian@hippopress.com, Ext. 130

**Contributors** Michelle Belliveau, Mya Blanchard, John Fladd, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Chelsea Kearin, Michele Pesula Kuegler, Dave Long, Fred Matuszewski, Eric W. Saeger, Meghan Siegler, Dan Szczesny, Michael Witthaus

**Listings**  
Arts listings: arts@hippopress.com  
Inside/Outside listings: listings@hippopress.com  
Food & Drink listings: food@hippopress.com  
Music listings: music@hippopress.com

## BUSINESS

**Publisher**  
Jody Reese, Ext. 121  
jreese@hippopress.com

**Associate Publisher**  
Dan Szczesny

**Associate Publisher**  
Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 123  
jrapsis@hippopress.com

**Production**  
Tristan Collins, Jennifer Gingras

**Circulation Manager**  
Doug Ladd, Ext. 135  
dladd@hippopress.com

**Advertising Manager**  
Charlene Nichols, Ext. 126  
cnichols@hippopress.com

**Account Executives**  
Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026  
asavage@hippopress.com  
Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 127  
rmacaig@hippopress.com  
Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 150

To place an ad call 625-1855, Ext. 126  
For Classifieds dial Ext. 150  
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## ON THE COVER

**10 OLD THREADS, NEW LOOKS** From upcycling discarded materials to shopping secondhand stores for vintage or high-end finds, learn about how local businesses are giving clothing and jewelry a second fashion moment.



Margaret Kasper of Mountain Girl Clothing, based in Milford. Courtesy photo.

## ALSO ON THE COVER

Find out where kids can visit with Santa Claus this weekend and other holiday fun in this week's Kiddie Pool (page 18). Get a head start on your holiday shopping at the Made in New England Expo, a two-day event returning to Manchester this weekend (page 25). Find live music at area restaurants and breweries for the weekend and beyond in our Music This Week listing, which starts on page 35.

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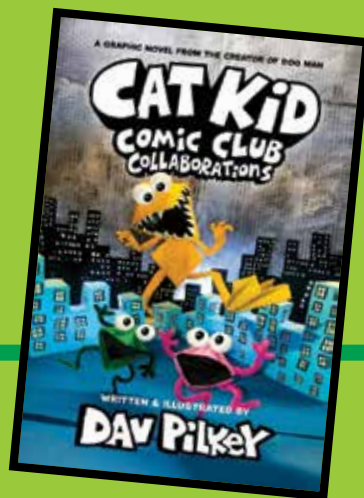
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# NEWS & NOTES

## Ray Wieczorek

Former Manchester mayor Raymond J. Wieczorek died on Nov. 22 at Catholic Medical Center at the age of 93. According to his obituary, which appeared in the Union Leader, Wieczorek's public service included five terms as mayor of Manchester, from 1990 to 2000, and then six terms as Executive Councilor for the State of New Hampshire, from 2002 to 2012. "Mayor Wieczorek cared deeply about this city, and many of our beloved institutions, like the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and the SNHU Arena, were made possible by his hard work. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time," said Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig in a statement. A funeral was held for Wieczorek on Nov. 28 and included a procession past City Hall, where past Manchester mayors joined Craig in paying their respects, according to the Union Leader coverage.

## Nashua Center for the Arts

A grand opening for the long-awaited Nashua Center for the Arts has been announced. According to the venue's Facebook page, the celebration will take place on April 1, 2023, followed by a full schedule of local, regional and national acts through the spring and into the summer, including Suzanne Vega on April 15, *Beauty and the Beast* performed by the Safe Haven Ballet on April 22, Symphony NH's 100 Year Anniversary Concert on April 29, The Rush Tribute Project on May 19, Celebrating Billy Joel on June 8, Grace Kelly on



Manchester Mobile Health Care. Courtesy photo.

June 17 and Jake Shimabukuro on July 16. Tickets will go on sale on Friday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m., with more events to be announced on Dec. 6. Call 1-800-657-8774 or visit [nashuacenterforthearts.com](http://nashuacenterforthearts.com).

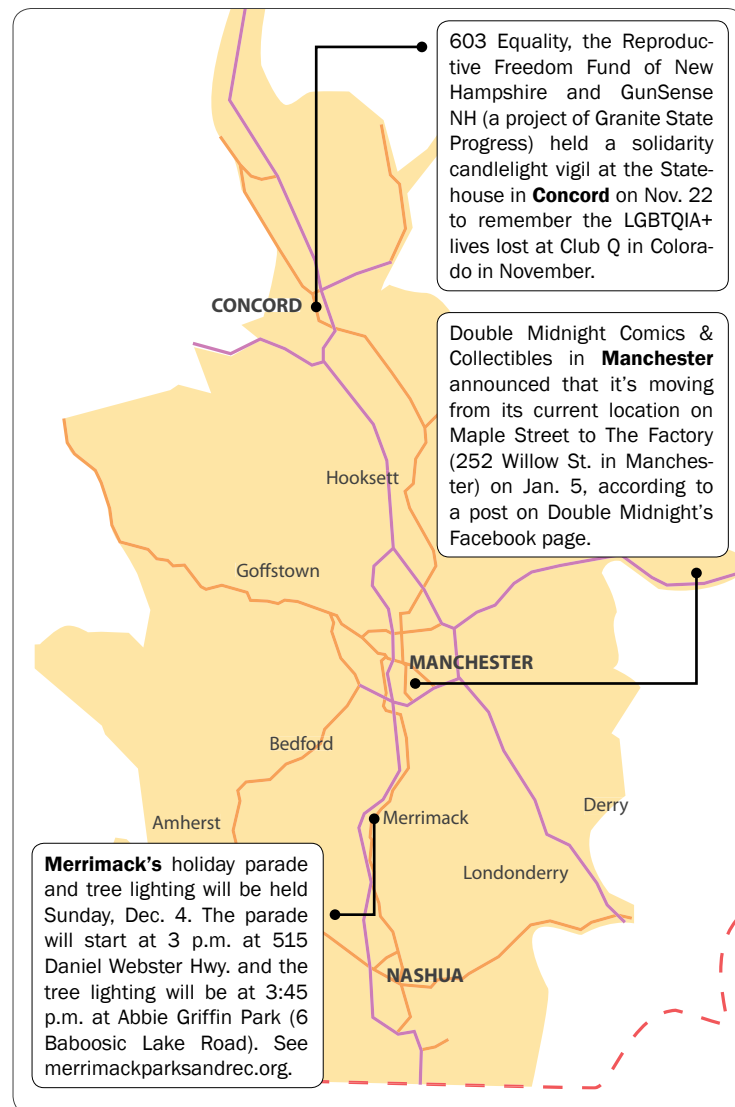
## School safety

Gov. Chris Sununu and the Executive Council have approved \$9,873,605.40 for school safety funding in New Hampshire. According to a press release, the funds, authorized as part of the Security Action for Education grant program and distributed through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, will support 335 projects at 231 public schools and 18 non-public schools, with a cap of \$100,000 per school. "School safety is an absolute priority in New Hampshire, and this latest round of SAFE grants will work to ensure that schools are prepared and supplied with new technology and other advancements to enhance school safety and the protection of our children," Frank Edelblut, New Hampshire education commissioner, said in the release.

The funds are in addition to \$3.9 million in SAFE grants awarded earlier this year to 92 public schools in the state.

## Rental assistance

The Executive Council has approved an item from the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery to divert federal funds that were originally allocated in August 2021 for the resettlement of 250 Afghan evacuees in the state toward statewide rental assistance, NHPR reported. In October, New Hampshire Housing announced that it would be forced to put its New Hampshire Emergency Rental Assistance Program on pause after the U.S. Treasury announced that New Hampshire will not receive any additional resources to continue the program beyond Dec. 29. The approved item will reduce funding for the resettlement of the Afghan evacuees from \$408,330 to \$242,000, with the difference of \$166,330 being used to support the state's emergency rental assistance program.



603 Equality, the Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire and GunSense NH (a project of Granite State Progress) held a solidarity candlelight vigil at the Statehouse in **Concord** on Nov. 22 to remember the LGBTQIA+ lives lost at Club Q in Colorado in November.

Double Midnight Comics & Collectibles in **Manchester** announced that it's moving from its current location on Maple Street to The Factory (252 Willow St. in Manchester) on Jan. 5, according to a post on Double Midnight's Facebook page.

**Merrimack's** holiday parade and tree lighting will be held Sunday, Dec. 4. The parade will start at 3 p.m. at 515 Daniel Webster Hwy. and the tree lighting will be at 3:45 p.m. at Abbie Griffin Park (6 Baboosic Lake Road). See [merrimackparksandrec.org](http://merrimackparksandrec.org).

## Mobile clinic

The Health Care for the Homeless Program of Manchester, a collaboration between the City of Manchester Health Department and Catholic Medical Center, is launching a new mobile clinic for homeless and medically underserved people of all ages in the city. Manchester Mobile Health Care will be staffed with members of CMC's Street Medicine Team, according to a press release, and will provide medical checkups, bloodwork, vaccinations and counseling. "This will undoubtedly expand our

reach and allow us to creatively get to individuals who otherwise would not have care," Anna Thomas, public health director for the City of Manchester Health Department, said in the release. "That is critically important as we enter the winter months, when those without stable housing are even more vulnerable." The mobile clinic will be regularly stationed at the Families in Transition Adult Emergency Shelter on Manchester Street and at the Manchester Recovery & Treatment Center on Wilson Street. 🐾

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## NEWS & NOTES Q&A

# The shopping experience

Families in Transition has revamped its food pantry

Families in Transition, in partnership with Hannaford Supermarkets, launched a newly remodeled Families in Transition Food Pantry in Manchester last month, reimagined to resemble the look and feel of a traditional grocery store. Stephanie Savard, chief external relations officer at FIT, talked about the pantry's unique concept.

**Q:** How does the newly remodeled Families in Transition Food Pantry work?

It's literally like a mini grocery store. When folks come in, there's shopping carts and baskets. They check in at the check-in station, and then they can shop through the store. ... There are two sort-of aisles — one for our breads and our desserts and bakery items, and then the next aisle is all of the pantry items, like pastas and canned foods. Then, as you move down the aisles, you come across the dairy section, a meat section and a produce section. Hannaford helped us with the purchasing of refrigerated fans so that it looks just like the produce department at a grocery store. It's displayed beautifully, and folks can just walk up and pick the produce that they want. ... People can either bring their own reusable bags, or we can put [the food] in boxes. As they're leaving, they check out like you would with a cashier. ... Hannaford even helped us with getting a huge food scale so that we can weigh the food and know how many pounds of food is donated on a regular basis. ... People put their food on the scale and weigh it before they leave. Then, they bring all that good food home to their family.

### How did this idea come about?

The Families in Transition Food Pantry was moved to a new location in December 2020. Because it was during Covid, we had to do it quickly. It did the job to get food in the hands of those who needed it, but it had a very warehouse-like feel to it. We really wanted to improve the customer service of the pantry. ... We've had a long-standing relationship with Hannaford. They are the primary sponsor and donor of all of the fresh produce that we receive. We've continued to talk with them about how we can bring better services and better quality to the food pantry. They knew we wanted to do something different, and they really rose to the occasion when we talked about wanting to make it like a shopping experience and wanting to do a better job of inventorying the food that we receive from them. ... This amazing donation by Hannaford allowed us to renovate the front portion of the food pantry to look like a mini grocery store.

### How many families does the pantry serve?

Before the renovation, we were averaging about 400 unique households a month. Since the renovation, we've more than doubled, and we're averaging about 900 a month. It used to be that people could come in daily or weekly, but we've



Families in Transition Food Pantry. Courtesy photo.

seen such an increase that we had to switch to once a month because we were concerned that our food quantity couldn't keep up with the pace. It's hard to say whether the demand went up because of inflation — food, utility and gas prices are higher — or because people are feeling more comfortable coming to our pantry. I'd like to say it's a combination of both.

### What has the response been from families who have used the pantry so far?

The response has been so positive. It's really bringing dignity and choice for those who are food-insecure. They can choose their own food as opposed to waiting in a line with a big box and just taking whatever is given to them. It's an opportunity to respect that they know what's best for their family and know how to meet their family's needs.

### Are other food pantries doing this?

We did some research, and there are definitely some facilities across the country that are doing this, but it's not common. We've had some other shelters and food pantries in New Hampshire and in Maine reach out to us to ask if they could come tour our pantry because they're interested in mimicking the model.

### Is there anything you want to expand or improve on for the pantry in the future?

One thing is making sure that we have culturally diverse foods in our inventory. We serve a diverse population, and we want to make sure we're getting the food that they want on their table. That can be tricky when you rely on donations, but we can do that through community food drives where we ask for a variety of ethnic foods, and by collaborating with local food stores and markets that serve different populations.

### How can people help?

We always need volunteers to pick up the fresh produce from the grocery stores, sort it, and help in the pantry, checking in customers or helping customers with their shopping. People can learn about how to volunteer and sign up on our website, fitnh.org. Then, there's donating — whether it's cleaning out your own pantry at home or getting your friends or business or organization together to do a drive. We also have a "high needs" list on our website so that people can do drives specifically for those types of foods. If people would like to do an ethnic food-specific drive, we can get them a list of things we'd love to get for that. — Angie Sykeny



# NFL enters December



With the Thanksgiving Day extravaganza in the books, the stretch run for the 2022 NFL season has begun. It offers all sorts of local and national story lines. Here's a look.

## The Playoff Picture:

Almost every team is still in it somehow, though in some cases it has little to do with the accomplishments of teams in the race. Like Tampa Bay, where at 5-6 **Tom Brady** is under .500 at the latest point ever in his career. Yet even in TB's year from hell he finds himself in first place because the NFC South is so bad.

There must be something about the water in the South, as continuing the under .500 story, only Tennessee is above water in the AFC South. But they're not alone in that way, as only 8-2 Minnesota is over .500, with a three-game lead over the pack in the NFC North.

Then there is the east, where the water must be better with every team in the NFC and AFC over .500 and threatening to make the wild card weekend an intra-division event.

**The Patriots Thanksgiving Calamity:** They gave themselves no help by coughing up a winnable game in Minnesota (with help from a pair of big mistakes/misses by the zebras). Thanksgiving was actually a double whammy, as Buffalo appeared to be headed to a loss before surviving vs. Detroit in the early game. If the verdicts were reversed, as they easily could have been, the teams would be tied at 7-4. Instead Buffalo has a two-game lead ahead of their meeting on Thursday night. Then came wins on Sunday by all their wild card contenders — Bengals, Jets, Chargers — to drop them from the 5-seed to on the outside looking in at eighth.

## Odds and Ends

**Biggest Surprise – Philadelphia:** While most thought they would be good, few saw them being the last team to lose a game and having the best record as December arrived.

**Most Disappointing Team:** That would be the 4-7 Packers, though not to me. I seem to be the only one in the country to realize the Pack is always picked for high achievement in pre-season and by the time the post season ends they never achieve it.

**Has The Game Passed Him By Award – Bill Belichick:** It seems absurd to suggest this. But his utter failure or unwillingness to recognize the growing importance of home run-hitting, deep-threat receivers in today's NFL makes you wonder. They may have been afterthoughts when he won two Super Bowls with the power running Giants back in the day and the first three with the Pats, but today they're to the NFL what deep shooters are to the NBA, once low-priority players who became vital as their games evolved.

Look no further than **Mac Jones** if you want a vivid example of why. After Miami traded for the dynamic **Tyreek Hill** to pair him with the Alabama speed **Jaylen Waddle** I said they needed to trade for a disgruntled home run threat like

**AJ Brown** or **DK Metcalf** because the D's were about to become an offensive power with those guys, just as Buffalo did after getting **Stefon Diggs** from Minnesota in 2021. Instead Philly paid the price in draft capital and salary needed to pair Brown with Waddle's dynamic Alabama teammate **DeVonta Smith**.

The results are clear, as all three quarterbacks got immediately better with those dynamic receivers. **Josh Allen** was a given. But in one year the two QB's who preceded Mac at Alabama have gone from a potential first-round bust (**Tua Tagovailoa**) and stand-in-until-something-better-comes-along **Jalen Hurts** to the highest-rated QB in the NFL and leading MVP contender respectively.

And the point of this diatribe is that when Mac played with Waddle and Smith he threw 47 TD passes and three interceptions as Bama won the national title, whereas now with Waddle, Hill, Brown and Smith, those two once questionable guys have shot by him because he's saddled with slow, unreliable receivers and they have dynamite wideouts.

**Best Tight Ever:** I know **Tony Gonzalez** has the most career catches by a tight end, so maybe I'm a homer. But I have thought for several years **Rob Gronkowski** is the best TE ever. But the more I see **Travis Kelce** the more I think it's a legit debate over who's better. Kelce is not the blocker Gronk was and with a higher yards per catch average (15-12) and a lot more TDs (92-63) the big fella was a bigger downfield threat. But Kelce has more catches and career receiving yards. And in having missed just two games in nine seasons he's a lot more durable than Gronk, who missed 30 in 11 years. Either way, that Kelce dude is teally good.

**What Goes Around Comes Around Award – Patriots:** It's true the refs blew it missing the hold on **Kyle Dugger** during that back-breaking **Kene Nwangwu** TD kick return on Thanksgiving vs. Minnesota. But it's ironic it came less than a week after a clip was missed on the **Marcus Jones** punt return that gave the Patriots a final-second win over the Jets. Didn't hear many local complaints about that.

However, since the Patriots likely would've kicked a game-winning FG even with the penalty yards tacked on it wasn't as damaging.

**Super Bowl Hangover Award – L.A. Rams:** Now 3-8 after Sunday's loss to KC, few teams have had a worse season after a Super Bowl than the Rams have had this year. And they were stumbling before big injuries hit.

**Team Killer Award – Carson Wentz:** After going from Philly's last MVP (2018) candidate, HH's killed the Eagles, Colts and Commanders in consecutive years. Though Washington has gone 5-1 since he was benched in favor of **Taylor Heinicke** after a 1-4 start.

Finally, with Buffalo twice and Miami in the final six games the Pats had better play well, because their playoff hopes are in peril.

Email Dave Long at [dlong@hippo-press.com](mailto:dlong@hippo-press.com).

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## Warming Spice Sipper

**Serves: 2**

### Ingredients:

- 12 oz. coffee or tea, brewed
- 1/2 tsp. warming spice blend (recipe below)
- 2. Tbsp Silk® Dairy-Free Vanilla Oat Creamer
- Optional: 1 to 2 oz. Silk® Nextmilk™ 2% Reduced Fat

### Warming Spice Blend Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp. McCormick® Ground Turmeric
- 1 Tbsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cardamon
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Ginger

### Directions:

1. Brew coffee or tea.
2. In a small bowl, combine warming spice blend, oat creamer and optional Silk® Nextmilk™.
3. Add creamer spice blend to coffee or tea and gently mix to stir. Enjoy.

### Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calorie 30; Fat 1 g; Saturated Fat 0 g; Cholesterol 0 mg; Sodium 20 mg; Carbohydrate 4 g; Fiber 0 g; Sugar 4 g; Added Sugar 4 g; Protein 0 g

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Source: Recipe adapted from [silk.com](http://silk.com)



## NEWS & NOTES

# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## Spreading holiday cheer

The New Hampshire Federal Credit Union's Santa for Seniors holiday donation drive is now underway, according to a press release. Members of the public are invited to participate by donating a gift card in any denomination or by creating a homemade holiday card as a way to deliver hope and holiday cheer to seniors in the local community. Santa himself will deliver the cards to eight senior facilities in the state in mid-December.

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** *Donations will be accepted at NHFCU's Concord and Lee locations through Dec. 14.*

## Online scam

Fraudulent websites posing as legitimate New Hampshire small businesses are on the rise, warns Attorney General John M. Formella. According to a press release, the scammers have been advertising products for sale online at deeply discounted prices and requesting that consumers contact the company's sales department to make a purchase. The "sales department" then insists that the consumer pay for the products using a bank wire transfer. Some scammers have even set up email addresses matching their fraudulent company's name and website in order to "verify" the company through independent organizations used to establish marketplace trust, such as the Better Businesses Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and Show Me Local.

**QOL score: -1**

**Comment:** *Attorney General Formella urges consumers to be vigilant by asking probing questions about deeply discounted products, insisting to speak to the seller over the phone, confirming the seller's contact information, asking for and contacting references that can verify the legitimacy of the seller, and, finally, checking with local law enforcement or the Attorney General's Office to see if any complaints have been filed against the seller.*

## Helping caregivers help kids

The Children's Museum of New Hampshire in Dover has curated a Play-Based Learning Kit — a 40-pound jumbo box filled with quality materials for children ages 5 and under — and is distributing the kits to 83 child care providers, libraries and family resource centers throughout the state serving more than 9,000 children, according to a press release. Each kit comes with monthly activity guides for educators on ways to use the materials to engage children. "When we saw the child care crisis growing, we began reaching out to childcare providers ... about ways we could use our expertise to help," Jane Bard, CMNH president, said in the release. "Once we realized the need was so great and so widespread around the state, the challenge was how to best serve all of these audiences. The solution was to give all of these audiences different tools and ways to participate in a variety of activities over the course of the year."

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** *Additionally, the museum has launched three new weekly play-based learning drop-in programs and is collaborating with the University of New Hampshire's Department of Human Development and Family Studies to host two free play-based learning open house events as well as four online workshops open to all early childhood educators.*

**QOL score: 86**

**Net change: +1**

**QOL this week: 87**

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

*Let us know at [news@hippopress.com](mailto:news@hippopress.com).*

75

50



# THIS WEEK

## BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 1 AND BEYOND

### Saturday, Dec. 3

Manchester's **Holiday Parade** will head down Elm Street (from the Amoskeag Bridge to Granite Street) starting at 4 p.m. Kick off the festivities at 3 p.m. by watching runners in Santa costumes tackle the **3-mile BASIC Santa Claus Shuffle**, which features stops to snack on Santa's favorite food groups (see millenniumrunning.com if you're interested in hitting the road yourself). See the story about the parade on page 19



in last week's (Nov. 24) issue of the Hippo (find the e-edition at hippopress.com). On page 18 in that issue, you'll find a listing of other towns' tree-lightings, parades and other holiday celebrations.

### Thursday, Dec. 1

The American Independence Museum will host a **Holiday Tavern Open House** at Folsom Tavern (164 Water St. in Exeter; independence-museum.org) today from 4 to 8 p.m. The event is free and will feature light refreshments, make-and-take crafts and a silent auction, according to a press release.

### Friday, Dec. 2

Head to downtown Concord to

shop and celebrate the season today at **Midnight Merriment** from 5 p.m. to midnight. Find Santa at City Plaza from 5 to 8 p.m. (that's also the site of Nazy's Holiday Dance Party); starting at 5 p.m. at Eagle Square you'll find free hot cocoa while supplies last, and at 7 Eagle Square the Concord Arts Market will hold Giftopolis, according to the schedule at intownconcord.org. The event includes live music, a gingerbread house showdown and

of course shopping at downtown shops that extend their hours for the night.

### Friday, Dec. 2

**Gerald Dickens**, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, brings his one-man performance of *A Christmas Carol* to the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. See anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities. Dickens will also do two shows in Nashua on Saturday, Dec. 3. The first, *Mr. Dickens is Coming*, will be at the Nashua Senior Center (70 Temple St.) at 12:30 p.m. The second, *A Christmas Carol*, will be at Nashua Community College (505 Amherst St.) at 7:30 p.m. Visit fortingage.com/dickens2022 for ticket information.

### Friday, Dec. 2

Deo Mwano Consultancy will present "Improvisation: Trust the Process," an original show with dancers and musicians improvising together that fuses soul, funk,

80s hip-hop and Afro-beat music samples with live instrumentation, today at 7 p.m. at Kimball Jenkins (266 N Main St. in Concord), according to a press release. There will be a post-performance Q&A and Middle Eastern foods, the release said. Tickets cost \$40 and are available at eventbrite.com/e/improvisation-trust-the-process-tickets-463648554307 or at the door.

### Saturday, Dec. 3

Warner celebrates today during **Warner Hometown Holidays**. See the Festival of Trees in the town hall (where Santa and Mrs. Claus will appear for photos at 1:30 p.m.), live performances and music, a *Polar*

Express-themed day at the NH Telephone museum, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and more. See [mainstreetbookends.com/event/warner-hometown-holidays](http://mainstreetbookends.com/event/warner-hometown-holidays) for a full schedule of events.

### Saturday, Dec. 3

The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) will hold **Caroling at the Currier** today at noon with the Manchester Choral Society performing in the Historic Court, able to be heard throughout the museum, according to the website. Hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, \$10 for students, \$5 for ages 13 to 17 and free for 12 and under.



**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, Dec. 31**

Send off 2022 with a performance by the **Adam Ezra Group** on New Year's Eve at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; 437-2100, [tupelomusichall.com](http://tupelomusichall.com)). Come for a multi-course dinner at 5:30 p.m. (ticket to the dinner includes the show) or buy a ticket for the show only at 9 p.m.

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# Old threads, new looks

HOW UPCYCLED PIECES AND SECONDHAND FINDS  
GIVE CLOTHES AND JEWELRY THEIR NEXT FASHION MOMENT



Above and bottom left: Margaret Kasper of Mountain Girl Clothing, based in Milford. Courtesy photo.

## Out with the old, in with the “new”

Upcycling used clothing into fresh fashion

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Margaret Kasper of Milford was upcycling clothes before that was even a common term.

“My grandmother was a quilter, and I used to watch her save every scrap of fabric that she would use to make her quilts and then reuse it in new quilts. And I think that kind of stuck with me,” said Kasper, who has owned Mountain Girl Clothing since 2008. “I started to do the same thing when I got into sewing. I would save all the discarded pieces of fabric and use them on a new piece further down the line. ... I think ‘upcycling’ is a pretty new term, and now it’s pretty trendy, but I think people have been doing it forever and probably not even realizing they’re doing it.”

A Milford native, Kasper studied fashion and textile design at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. Launching Mountain Girl Clothing with her grandmother’s hand-me-down sewing machine, she began exploring the world of gently used and discarded textiles. Today, she operates in her own studio space in downtown Milford with the help of two assistants.

“There are literally tons and tons of

post-consumer waste textiles and discarded clothing that you can find at thrift stores and secondhand stores and things like that,” Kasper said, “and so that’s what I really started to dive into, was looking at what I could use around me that’s not going to cost an arm and a leg. Then I would start to take it apart, transform it and make new pieces of clothing. ... People just responded to it really well. Going into thrift stores is kind of like Christmas for me, because you never know what you’re going to find.”

Kasper admitted that when she’s on the hunt for “new” pieces of old clothing she can use at thrift stores, she doesn’t always have the most immediate idea of what she is going to do with it.

“I’ll be attracted to the feel or the print of the fabric,” she said, adding that Mountain Girl Clothing primarily specializes in women’s shirts, jackets, sweaters, hoodies and similar articles.

In addition to shopping at secondhand and thrift stores, Kasper has worked with a family in India for the past few years, whom she became connected with through the e-commerce website Etsy.

“They’ve been sending me their discarded textiles from India, and so I’ve been able to kind of expand what I use for mate-



rials and bring that over here to use in my pieces,” she said.

With the help of her two studio assistants, Kasper can produce about 40 to 50 new pieces every week — on average, she said, that’s anywhere from a half hour to up to two hours per piece. Once it’s ready to go, she’ll often have a model come in and wear it, or she’ll model it herself, and they’ll take pictures and create a listing for the item on the website. On Thursdays, Kasper also usually presents a shop launch on social media for her regular customers.

New to the world of upcycling, Sofia



Sofia Farah of The Tenth String Co., based in Nashua. Courtesy photo.

Farah launched The Tenth String Co. roughly eight months ago in her basement studio in Nashua. In fact, Farah actually just learned how to use a sewing machine in 2020, when she made masks during the early months of the pandemic.

Farah’s first upcycled project was a denim jacket, but it was one she had made just for herself.

“I posted it on my Instagram after it was done, then I went about my day and I get back on Instagram and get a ton of [mes-



sages], which doesn't ever happen," she said. "People were obsessed with the denim jacket and they all wanted to buy it. So then I was like, 'What if I start doing this,' and so I went to the thrift store that week and just found a bunch of random things."

Upcycling started as a part-time hustle for Farah, until eventually she quit her job to wholly focus on keeping up with her orders. She is also now one of about 30 vendors that are participating in the inaugural Holiday Shoppes at Tuscan Village in Salem — find her there every Thursday through Sunday through Dec. 31, and daily during the week of Christmas.

"One of my more popular items is the shirt and flannel combo," Farah said. "Basically I take the torso of a shirt that might have some graphics on it, and I sew flannel arms to it, and it kind of makes this super-relaxed boxy-type fit article of clothing. ... It's the comfiest thing ever. You don't have to button up the flannel, which is awesome. You just throw it on."

Like Kasper, Farah finds herself often going to thrift and secondhand stores, as well as a lot of estate sales. She has even developed relationships with some local vintage clothing dealers.

In Salem, Ianna True owns and operates Fits the Vibe, a modern secondhand store that also carries some vintage and upcycled items. The business originally opened in Windham in October 2020 before moving to a larger space in Salem the following year.

True, who taught herself how to sew, also likes to create articles of clothing

from graphic T-shirts and flannel sleeves, and she'll sometimes dabble in upcycling sweatpants and sweatshirts.

Even some items like bed sheets and shower curtains can be upcycled into clothing. Meredith artist Cassandra "Sanni" Reale of Monarch Press Collections has filled such orders since founding her business in early 2021. She also likes to implement block printing into her work.

"That's what makes me stand out a little bit more than just doing certain sewing alterations, is I'll add that printing aspect in there, and a lot of it is some of my own designs," Reale said. "Some of the bigger projects that I've done have been ... flipping quilts into jackets, and also printing designs on the backs of jackets, or on pants or whatever."

Kasper believes her customers are drawn to her pieces for several reasons. There's the environmental benefit of reducing the amount of wasteful materials, for instance, in addition to the excitement among her buyers for being able to wear something wholly different and unique.

"I've always loved that you can find a T-shirt at a thrift shop and it's sad and it doesn't have a home, and then you add something to it or cut it a certain way and it looks like a completely new piece of clothing. And you didn't have to go to a big department store to find it," she said. "Another cool thing about the upcycling process is that it makes these pieces of clothing truly one of a kind. It's something you can't find anywhere else and can't really be replicated." 🌸

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**Where to find locally upcycled clothing**

Here are a few local companies that work to breathe new life into yesterday's clothes.

**Fits the Vibe**

287 Lawrence Road, Salem, 818-0598, [fitsthevibe.com](http://fitsthevibe.com), and on Facebook and Instagram @fitsthevibe

A modern secondhand store that also carries vintage and upcycled items, Fits the Vibe originally opened in Windham in October 2020 before moving to a larger space in Salem the following September. Owner Ianna True works with dozens of small businesses to source their products in the store, which include everything from jewelry to upcycled clothes.

**Monarch Press Collections**

Meredith, [monarchpresscollections.com](http://monarchpresscollections.com), and on Facebook @monarch.press and Instagram @monarchpresscollections

Specializing in upcycled clothing, eco-friendly stamp making, block printing and more, all with a focus on sustainability, Monarch Press Collections was launched by Meredith artist and University of New Hampshire grad Cassandra "Sanni" Reale in early 2021. Her work is available for sale online, and she'll also be selling her work at Wayfarer Marketplace (626 Main St., Laconia) on Friday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Mountain Girl Clothing**

Milford, [mountaingirlclothing.com](http://mountaingirlclothing.com), and on Facebook and Instagram @mountaingirlclothing

Milford native Margaret Kasper has owned and operated Mountain Girl Clothing since 2008, specializing primarily in women's shirts, jackets, sweaters, hoodies and similar articles. While her downtown Milford studio space isn't open to the public, Kasper usually presents a weekly shop launch on social media for her regular customers, and she ships her products worldwide.

**The Tenth String Co.**

Nashua, [thetenthstringco.com](http://thetenthstringco.com), and on Facebook and Instagram @thetenthstringco

New to the world of upcycling, Sofia Farah of The Tenth String Co. works out of her basement studio in Nashua. Find her at the inaugural Holiday Shoppes at Tuscan Village (9 Via Toscana, Salem) every Thursday through Sunday through Dec. 31 (except Sunday, Dec. 25) — hours are Thursday and Friday, 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. From Sunday, Dec. 18, through Friday, Dec. 23, the Holiday Shoppes will also be open daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and they'll be open Saturday, Dec. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## WE SELL PARTS!

# Thrill of the hunt

## Secondhand clothes shopping offers exciting finds

By Angie Sykeny  
asykeny@hippopress.com

Shopping secondhand can be a budget-friendly way to grow your wardrobe, but saving money isn't the only good reason to stop in a local consignment boutique.

"To me, the thrill of the hunt itself is just as exciting as the bargain or the item," said Elyssa Alfieri, owner of Lilise Designer Resale in Concord. "You're gaining access to a unique selection of items ... with the opportunity to shop many stores, regions, time periods and aesthetics, all in one place, and there is so much room for experimentation to find your truest self."

At LDR, you'll find women's and men's secondhand clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry, including items from everyday brands like Madewell as well as high-end brands like Chanel, Gucci and Burberry.

"We work hard at curating our selection ... and assess each and every item for condition, age, style, fabrication, authenticity and value," Alfieri said. "We focus on ... items from the highest-end brands possible, but we also can't ignore the 'it factor' — when an item is good, it's good."

For customers, she said, that carefully curated selection provides a shopping experience that is "all needles, no haystack."

"We cater to those who feel underserved by what traditional retail models offer," Alfieri said. "We are for the people who can't find trends early enough, for people who don't have time to scour the thrift store racks. ... You won't have to search long to find things you'll get excited about."

Chic Boutique Consignments in Bedford also carries secondhand clothing, shoes and accessories for women, plus a small selection for men and children, in high-end brands such as Louis Vuitton, Lululemon, Patagonia and Prada.

"Each consignment store has their own niche with matching clientele and



Chic Boutique Consignments. Courtesy photo.

best-selling brands. ... We know what our clientele is looking to purchase for their own closets," owner Ashley Lyons said. "This is always ever-changing, so keeping up with the most current trends and hot brands is something we take great pride in."

Consignment stores often carry unique and hard-to-find items "that aren't going to be found walking around a mall," Lyons said, such as luxury handbags that are out of stock or discontinued from the designer.

You may also find items manufactured years ago in older styles that are making a comeback.

"Many trends right now are vintage-inspired," Alfieri said, "so finding the original is a great alternative to spending a lot on designer pieces that sometimes don't live up to the real thing anyway."

What sets consignment boutiques apart from "thrift stores," Lyons said, is the quality of the items.

"Many people come in confusing a consignment store for a thrift store, but rest assured we are much different," she said. "Our inventory is in pristine condition. ... Most first-time customers are astonished to hear our items have been previously loved."

### Secondhand shopping tips

- **Know what you're looking for.** "I tell customers to keep a note in their phone with a list of items they're looking for so they have something to reference when they're getting caught up in the moment," Alfieri said.
- **Inspect for quality.** "Make sure everything works," Alfieri said. "Check the fabric, zippers, buttons. If you're thrifting a pair of shoes that look like they were never used, bend the soles to make sure they haven't dried out."
- **Consider the care required.** "Will you need to take special care when washing, wearing or storing this item? Sometimes it's totally worth it to have an item like that, but only if you know you'll get what you want out of owning it," Alfieri said.
- **Beware of fakes.** "When buying a designer handbag, or any piece for that matter, make sure it is from a trusted reseller that only sells authentic pieces," Lyons said. "We have seen such an influx of fraudulent designer items, so be sure to only buy from a trusted source."
- **Try things on.** "Be adventurous and use the opportunity of shopping in person to try on many different styles," Alfieri said. "It'll be fun, and you might discover a new version of yourself in the process."

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# Glam-cycling

Many ways to reuse and update jewelry



Jennifer Stewart, owner of Firefly Wood Designs in Gilford, makes necklaces out of old skateboard decks. Courtesy photo.



A collection of vintage and re-set jewelry from Atwood Jewelers. Courtesy photo.

By Katelyn Sahagian  
ksahagian@hippopress.com

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, but diamonds and a lot of other precious gems and fine jewelry can be extremely expensive. That's why some stores across southern New Hampshire are reselling old jewelry or turning other objects into beautiful, affordable pieces.

At Atwood Jewelers in Salem, manager Eileen Gormley said more than 95 percent of the business is with estate jewelry, a fancy way of saying preowned jewelry. The shop will polish the jewelry, sometimes will rehouse and fix the bands, and in some cases will completely customize a new piece.

"Mostly, it's sentimental for people. I would say our clients are mostly the older generation," said Gormley. She added that the younger generation of clients is looking for a way to continue having sustainability, and that Atwood offers a lot of that.

Another feature at Atwood is that people can often take family heirlooms and repurpose them. Some single earrings sold to the store will become pendants for necklaces or 'show-stopping' rings, Gormley said. Sometimes customers will request that the stones in the jewelry be taken out and repurposed into new designs.

"We fix people's things up and bring them back to life," Gormley said.

Gormley said that over the 24 years she's been at Atwood, there have always been professional jewelers working in the store and designers, like her coworker Jio Winchell. Gormley estimated that a third of all the business done at Atwood is repurposing stones into custom jewelry.

Customizing jewelry isn't only something for precious gemstones. Anything can be jewelry if there is enough time and creative energy put into it. Margi Lord, a contractor turned estate planner, sells costume jewelry at Antiques on Elm in Manchester.

"My jewelry making started years ago when I was working in a hardware store and I said, 'I don't have on any earrings,'" Lord said. She said she saw some lock washers and realized with some quick ingenuity she could make a pair of fun earrings.

Ever since then, she said, she's seen the possibilities for different things to become fashion statements. She is most proud of a cufflink that she sanded the post down on to turn into a pendant.

Lord said that it's important to her to make her jewelry reasonably priced. At her station at Antiques on Elm, she prices all her jewelry, even a statement piece made from an elephant belt-buckle and Ralph Lauren scarf, at \$10 or less.

Lord said she likes to see young people who want to remake the jewelry into something else, or little girls who buy the jewelry she sells so they can play dress-up.

"To me, [sustainability] is really important," Lord said. "There's so many things that can be recycled and reused."

Kim Stewart, who does jewelry design for Firefly Wood Designs, an Etsy store based in Gilford that she and her sister Jennifer run, takes sustainability a step further by turning old skateboards into jewelry.

"The colorful plywood decks are just asking to be upcycled!" Stewart said via email. "I also like finding interesting patterns in the scuffed up graphics of the boards too — they've made some of my favorite pendants."

She makes pendant necklaces and earrings from colorful skateboard decks, an idea that she got from the love she and her husband had for skateboarding while they were in college. Stewart said it's important for her to do something sustainable and while she knows this isn't a huge thing, every little bit helps.

"It's not much, but I know even small changes like upcycling things here and there can really make a big impact on the health of the environment," Stewart said.

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# Continuing the legacy

## Concord Chorale honors founder of Concord Community Music School with scholarship

By Katelyn Sahagian  
ksahagian@hippypress.com

The first Peggy Senter Scholarship at the Concord Community Music School is going to seventh-grade singer Raegan Wolfe, who has been a part of choirs at the music school for seven years and is going to be a member of the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) National Conference Choir.

When Peggy Senter, the founder of the Concord Community Music School, retired in the summer of 2021, the Concord Chorale wanted to do something to honor her legacy, said Chorale president Elibet Chase. The group landed on the idea of a scholarship to the Concord Community Music School.

"It's great to support an upcoming singer who is taking lessons at the school and to grow the young singing population," Chase said. "We really want to find ways to make younger singers aware and consider choral music."

Chase said that it was important to the chorale to show support to the school because of how the music school had helped the chorale over the years. In addition to holding practic-

es and shows for the chorale, the school lent the chorale equipment to rehearse with while the pandemic was raging.

Chase added that Senter always came to the chorale's performances and took a special interest in all music being performed in the area.

"Peggy Senter came to all of our concerts, never missed one," said Chase, adding that the community music school has always been there for the chorale. "It's really just a great relationship of support."

Kathy Lundahl, the dean of students and educators at the music school, said the arts community in Concord is very close knit. Since Concord Community Music School was started, Lundahl said, its mission has been to provide musical education to people of all abilities and from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

When Lundahl heard that the chorale wanted to offer a scholarship to vocalists, she was extremely excited.

"I think it's really heartwarming," Lundahl said. "The school has had a lot to do with quietly building an important musical community in Concord. This [scholarship] is a

perfect example of keeping that going and moving forward."

The major requirement for the scholarship from the chorale was that it goes to a vocal student who seemed likely to continue learning and performing at the school. Chase said that beyond that, the chorale wanted the school to choose the students.

Lundahl said that the school looked at need as well as students who were excelling in the vocal field. A team of teachers and accompanists was brought together to discuss who would be the best applicant.

Chase said that the group made the right choice in Raegan based on her love of music and also her dedication to performing, as well as her patience with younger singers.

"She's just a really cool student," Chase said. "Not only is she really enthusiastic about her own singing and what it means in her life ... she's also always been nurturing of younger kids. One instructor gave an example of how she worked and performed with a student to keep her from being nervous."

Raegan said that she doesn't believe that she wants to be a professional musi-



Raegan Wolfe. Photo courtesy of Elibet Chase.

cian when she grows up, but instead thinks she might want to study music in college to become a choir teacher. She added that some of the most important people in her life have been her choir and voice teachers.

"I think it would be fun to sing and teach," Raegan said. "I just really like being around younger kids.... It's so interesting to hear how voices change and how they have so much fun and energy."

Raegan is extremely thankful to be the first recipient chosen for this scholarship. She said she wanted to "thank everyone at the school and everyone who has helped me ... encouraged me and given me confidence." 🍀

### Art Exhibits

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

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

• **"SMALL WORKS — BIG IMPACT"** is a showcase of pieces from more than 30 area artists that are under a foot in size and is on display now at Creative Ventures Fine Art (411 Nahua St. in Milford; creativeventuresfineart.com, 672-2500), through Dec. 31. The gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.; Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **"BIG GIFTS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** a holiday show at the Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St., Exeter; seacoastartist.org) is open through Jan 6. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 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 or call 672-9898.

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

• **"STATE OF THE ART 2020: LOCATE"** The Currier Museum

of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; 669-6144, currier.org) opened the nationally touring exhibit "State of the Art 2020: Locate," which will be on display through Feb. 12. The exhibit "explores how different people see themselves in our society ... the artists shown here explore how relationships, families, neighborhood and even hidden forces shape us as individuals," according to the museum's website.

• **"GEE'S BEND QUILTS"** exhibit, on display at the Currier Museum of Art (50 Ash St. in Manchester; 669-6144, currier.org), features five quilts from Gee's Bend in Alabama, where several generations of women collectively developed a distinctive style of quilt making, according to the website. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for

children age 12 and under and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday.

• **"MEMOIRS OF A GHOST GIRLHOOD: A BLACK GIRL'S WINDOW"** In the exhibit on display at the Currier Museum of Art (50 Ash St. in Manchester; 669-6144, currier.org), "artist Alexandria Smith has created an immersive multimedia environment using wallpaper, paintings on wood, found objects and sculpture. It will be accompanied by an original site-specific composition, //windowed// by Liz Gre," according to the website. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children age 12 and under

and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday.

### Fairs and markets

• **GREAT HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA** hosted by The Great New England Craft and Artisan Shows at the Hampshire Dome (34 Emerson Road, Milford) on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit gnecraftartisanshows.com.

• **NH AUDUBON HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR** on Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NH Audubon McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; nhaudubon.org). The fair will feature local handmade crafts and other products and the food truck The Spot To Go.



## RUSSIAN BALLET ACADEMY PERFORMANCE

The Epping Community Theater will host the Russian Ballet Academy's Winter Showcase featuring excerpts from *The Nutcracker* and other famous ballets as well as original pieces at the Epping Playhouse (38 C Ladd's Lane in Epping; eppingtheater.org) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. and tickets will only be sold at the door; tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under (cash only), according to a press release.



## A LITTLE A CAPPELLA

The Souhegan Valley Chorus will perform their holiday concert "Sharing Christmas Joy" with special guests, the a cappella group REHarmonix, on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 10 Union St. in Milford. Tickets can be purchased at the door and cost \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors and are free for ages 12 and under, according to a press release.



Theater

Shows

• **DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) from Dec. 2 through Dec. 18, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for adults, \$19 for students, seniors and members and \$16 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **GERALD DICKENS**, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, brings his one-man performance of *A Christmas Carol* to the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for youth and students, \$35 for seniors and \$45 for adults. Visit anselm.edu/

dana-center-humanities. Dickens will also do two shows in Nashua on Saturday, Dec. 3. The first, *Mr. Dickens is Coming*, will be at the Nashua Senior Center (70 Temple St.) at 12:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20. The second, *A Christmas Carol*, will be at Nashua Community College (505 Amherst St.) at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$40. Visit fortingage.com/dickens2022.

• **BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** presented by The Bedford Youth Performing Company at Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester) on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$17.50 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Visit bypc.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER SUITE** presented by Bedford Dance Cen-

ter on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$23. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities.

• **AMAHLAND THE NIGHT VISITORS** at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester) on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$15. Visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities.

• **BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** The Majestic Theatre presents *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry) on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$20. Visit majestictheatre.net.

Classical

Events

• **HOLIDAY POPS** presented by the Manchester Community Music School (2291 Elm St., Manchester) on Friday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45. Call 644-4548 or visit memusic-school.org.

• **MERRY MERRY CANTERBURY CONCERT & COCKTAILS** at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road, Can-

terbury) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m., featuring Symphony NH's string quartet. Tickets cost \$75. Visit shakers.org/event/merry-merry-canterbury.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** presented by the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra's Brass & String Quartets at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry) on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$20 for children ages 4 through 12 and are free for chil-

dren under age 4. Visit nhphil.org.

• **HANDEL'S MESSIAH** at St. Paul's Church (22 Centre St., Concord) on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. The concert is free. Visit walkerlecture.org.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** performed by the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$55. Visit snhua-rena.com.

## NUTCRACKERS AND CHOIRS AND FAIRS



Last week's (Nov. 24) issue of the Hippo is one to spend some time with. If you don't have you issue handy, you can find the e-edition toward the bottom of our homepage, hippopress.com. In it, we tried to cram in as many holiday events as we could find, starting with Thanksgiving Eve and running through New Year's Day. Some notable stories for lovers of the arts: our annual rundown of productions of *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* can be found on page 16, followed by a selection of other holiday-themed theatrical productions on page 17. On page 21, find performances by **area choirs and symphonies**. On page 22, we feature **concerts finding the jazzier, Celtic and pop side** of the season. On page 28, we look at **art exhibits and happenings**. And for aficionados of motion pictures, we run through a list of some **classic holiday films** starting on page 29. If you know of something we didn't fit here or in that issue, let me know at adiaz@hippopress.com for one of the four issues left before the end of the year.

Photo: Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater presents *The Nutcracker*. Courtesy photo.

## SUDDENLY SILVER BELLS

The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus kicks off its holiday concert series, "**Suddenly Silver Bells**," with shows this weekend. On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m., catch the performance at Christ the King Lutheran Church (3 Lutheran Drive, Nashua). Then on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m., the chorus will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road, Newington). The chorus also has two performances next weekend. Tickets cost \$20 for adults; admission is free for children ages 12 and under. Visit nhgmc.com.



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**Cirque Alfonse**  
Modern Quebecois Circus Arts 4/27

**Johnny Peers & Muttville Comix**  
Clown & Canine Family Vaudeville 5/5



# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Joy of the season:** The Nashua Choral Society will present their annual holiday concert "Rejoice! 'Tis the Season!" on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (216 E. Dunstable Road in Nashua). The event will feature Handel's Messiah, a Christmas carol sing-along and more performed by the chorus with accompaniment by a pianist and small chamber orchestra, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for students (free for children) and are available at the door and online at EventBrite, among other places. See the Nashua Choral Society's Facebook page or email [info@nashuachoralsociety.org](mailto:info@nashuachoralsociety.org).

• **For makers:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; [currier.org](http://currier.org), 669-6144) has a Community Makers' Series of workshops on Thursdays in December during Art After Work (5 to 8 p.m. every week). The workshops include "Felted Treasures" and "Bookmaking" on Dec. 1; "Embroidered Hoops" and "Bookmaking" on Dec. 8, and "Bookmaking" on Dec. 15 (each Bookmaking class has a different focus). Register for the workshops (which vary in price) on the website.

• **Art shopping:** Among the many craft fairs and arts markets and open houses this weekend, head to the Bates Building (846 Main St. in Contoocook) for an **artists' reception of the Two Villages Art Society's "Winter 2022 Members Art Show"** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 2 p.m. The show features works of more than 30 artist members including oil and watercolor paintings, ceramics, prints, photos, jewelry, woodworking, glasswork, felted animals, wearable art and more, according to a press release. The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to



Helen Fitzgerald's Icicles, fiber art, at the Winter Art Show & Sale in Hopkinton. Courtesy photo.

4 p.m. and the show runs through Saturday, Dec. 24. This weekend the show will be open extended hours for Hopkinton's "Starry, Starry Weekend," which runs Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

## Craft fairs

It's a big weekend for craft fairs. If you know of one coming up, let me know at [adiaz@hippopress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippopress.com).

• **Starry Starry Weekend** takes place in Contoocook Village from Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, starting at 10 a.m. each day. In addition to an artisan craft fair, local shops and artists will have pop-ups around town. Visit [contoocookchamber.com](http://contoocookchamber.com).

• **Winter Giftopolis** by the Concord Arts Market is one of the many shoppertunities at Intown Concord's Midnight Merriment on Friday, Dec. 2. Giftopolis will run from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Atrium at 7 Eagle Square. See [concordartsmarket.net](http://concordartsmarket.net)

• **The Pine Hill Holiday Fair** at High Mowing School (77 Pine Hill Drive, Wilton) features an artisan market for adults on Friday, Dec. 2, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and family festivities on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See [pinehill.org](http://pinehill.org).

• The First Baptist Church of Nashua (121 Manchester St. in Nashua; [fbcnashua.org](http://fbcnashua.org)) will hold an **Olde-Fashioned Christmas Fair** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be handmade crafts as well as food and other activities.

• The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Milford** (20 Elm St. in Milford; [uucm.org](http://uucm.org)) will hold a holiday fair on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring handcrafted items (such as jewelry, ornaments, handmade cards, gnomes, knitted items, pet items and more), a bake shop, a boutique of gently used items and a cafe serving breakfast and lunch, according to an email.

• **Arlington Street United Methodist Church** (63 Arlington St., Nashua; [asumc.org](http://asumc.org), 882-4663) holds its **Holly Town Fair** Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring vendors with handmade items, crafts, candies, baked goods and a cookie walk and to-go lunches from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• The **Amherst Lions Club** holds its Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Amherst Middle School (14 Cross Road) featuring more than 80 juried craftsmen, a shopping bag (while supplies last), a food bar, raffle, a scratch ticket tree and more, according to [e-clubhouse.org/sites/amherstnh](http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/amherstnh).

• The Somersworth Festival Association will host a Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at **Somersworth High School** (11 Memorial Drive in Somersworth) featuring wood crafts, pottery items, wreaths, paintings, metal work, mugs, tote bags, gnomes, wind chimes, kids' items, jewelry, knitted and crocheted items and more as well as food and raffles, according to a press release. See [nhfestivals.org](http://nhfestivals.org).

• The **Gilford High School Craft Fair** (88 Alvah Wilson Road in Gilford) will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the event's Facebook page.

• The Holiday Food & Arts Market focus this Saturday, Dec. 3, at the YMCA Allard Center of Goffstown (116 Goffstown Back Road) is **"All Creatures Great & Small"** with animal lovers accessories, items for cats and dogs and baked goods for people and pets, according to a post on the YMCA's Facebook page. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester** (669 Union St. in Manchester; [uumanchester.org](http://uumanchester.org)) will hold its annual holiday faire on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall.

• You can also catch the Concord Arts Market this weekend with its annual **Holiday Arts Market** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kimball Jenkins School of Art (266 N. Main St. in Concord). See [concordartsmarket.net](http://concordartsmarket.net).

• The **Picker Artists Holiday Shopping Day** at the Picker Artists building (3 Pine St. in Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with handmade gifts, live music, snacks and more, according to [pickerartists.com](http://pickerartists.com).

• The Grinnell School PTA will hold a **Holiday Craft Fair at Grinnell Elementary School** (6 Grinnell Road in Derry) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring more than 30 vendors as well as raffles, baked goods and more, according to a PTA facebook post.

• The **7th Annual Nashua Holiday Fair** at Broad Street Elementary School (380 Broad St. in Nashua) will run Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school and feature more than 40 crafters and vendors as well as Santa and the Grinch on site taking photos, according to a New England Vendor Events Facebook post.

• The 33rd annual **Christmas in Strafford**, an event featuring 24 locations and pieces from more than 50 artists and craftspeople, runs Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; see the map at [christmasinstraftford.com](http://christmasinstraftford.com).

• The **Nashua Holiday Craft & Vendor Festival Fair** will be held Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Eagles Wing Function Hall at 10 Spruce St. in Nashua. The fair will feature more than 40 crafters and vendors, sweets and treats, raffles and more, according to the Bazaar Craft Fairs Facebook post.

Also check out the story in this issue about the **Made in NE Expo** (page 25) and see last week's big Holiday Guide for a listing of multi-week fairs and art exhibits filled with gift-ready items. See [hippopress.com](http://hippopress.com) for the e-edition of the Nov. 24 issue. 🍀

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MADE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Winter tree care

Pruning makes them pretty

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

### — THE GARDENING GUY —

Living in New England is a joy, but we gardeners do have some challenges: cold winter winds, deer, rocky soil and more. As we get ready for winter, one of the biggest challenges for many of us is the deer. They are hungry and relentless. In my part of the world, there was a crop failure for acorns this year, a staple for hungry deer. The deer don't care that you spent \$275 on a nice tree. If they want to browse it, they will, unless you take steps now to protect it.

The most expensive but most sure method to prevent deer from damaging your plants is to fence your entire property with 8-foot-tall deer fence. That will keep them from your flowers — tulips are a favorite — as well as vegetables, shrubs and trees. It's what most arborists do. You don't need to have a metal fence — though metal posts are best — as plastic mesh deer fencing is readily available.

Alternatively, you can protect plants that have suffered damage in the past, or, if new, are known as “deer candy.” Yew is an evergreen favorite of deer. I recently wrapped a pair of yews with burlap for a client whose plants had suffered deer damage in the past. The plants stand 7 feet tall or so, and are about as wide. I used a 6-foot-wide roll of 10-ounce burlap to wrap the shrubs and four 8-foot-tall stakes for each plant. I left the top open to avoid breakage due to heavy snows. The burlap came from burlapsupply.com.

Various repellent sprays may deter the deer, too. But if they wear off before you re-apply, the deer will let you know. Rain and warmer weather can affect how long they last.

Voles and other rodents can be a prob-

lem, too. Years when we have deep snow are the worst because owls and hawks are less able to eat the rodents that may eat the bark and girdle a tree. Wire mesh known as hardware cloth is great for keeping away rodents, but now plastic spiral wraps are available and easier to install. Young fruit trees are the most vulnerable, so do protect yours until they are 5 years old or so. Protection should go up 18 to 24 inches of the trunk.

What about those evergreen rhododendrons that have their leaves shrivel up? When the ground freezes, the roots can't take up water to replace water used in photosynthesis on sunny days or water that just evaporates from the broad leaves. There is a product called Wilt-Pruf that works as an anti-transpirant for up to four months in winter. It is available in ready-to-use form or as a concentrate.

According to its literature, Wilt-Pruf “contains a film-forming polymer which offers high density, good efficacy, and even coverage across foliage.” Talking with a local arborist, I was advised to spray both top and bottom of leaves or needles, and to do so late in the fall. He also said it may also make foliage less attractive to deer. Shriveled leaves do recover, come spring.

If you planted new trees this year, think about mulching with bark mulch now if you haven't done so. Trees do much of their root growth now, after leaf drop and before the ground freezes deeply. Trees have stored carbohydrates for use by roots even though they are no longer producing them.

By now I have about an inch of frozen soil on the surface, but roots are deeper than that — most are within a foot of the surface. So you can still put down 2 inches of mulch over the roots to slow the freezing of the soil.

Although traditionally farmers pruned their apple trees in late winter or early



Burlap will protect these yews from deer all winter. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Rhododendron leaves often shrivel up in winter but recover in spring. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

spring, I have always assumed that the reason for this is that they had time on their hands then. But if you want to do some pruning now, after the garden has gone to bed, feel free!

Begin pruning by removing any dead branches. This is a bit trickier now than when leaves are on the tree. Just look for cracked or damaged branches. Dead branches have bark that is a bit different than the rest: dry, flakey, lifeless. Rub small branches with a thumbnail. If you see green beneath the outer layer, the branch is alive. If there is no green, the branch is dead.

The goal of pruning is to allow every leaf to get sunshine. If the density of branches is too great, inner leaves will not do their job. Leaves have two major jobs: to feed sugars to their roots and to help produce flowers, fruit and seeds. If you prune back too much, a tree will respond by growing lots of new shoots, usually those vertical water sprouts. Don't take off more than 20 percent of the tree in any one season.

Look for rubbing branches, branches growing toward the center of the tree or branches that parallel others closely.



Hardware cloth will keep rodents from chewing the bark and killing this young cherry tree. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

Those are all good candidates for removal. And any time a fruit tree is getting too tall, reduce the height. Finally, pruning should make your tree or shrub beautiful to look at — especially in winter.

*Henry is a UNH Master Gardener and a lifelong organic gardener. Reach him at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or henry.homeyer@comcast.net. 🍌*

### INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,  
I Enjoy reading your articles in The Hippo. Can you give me some advice?

I just started collecting old bottles. I'm wondering how to get rid of the white cloudiness inside and outside.

Hope you can help.

Thanks.

Eric

Dear Eric,  
Thank you for reading The Hippo and my column.

I learned a lot myself trying to answer your question. This is what I found.

First, bottle collecting is fun and sometimes can be very financially rewarding, with education.

Cleaning bottles to remove lime buildup and dirt can be a hard, time-consuming job. Well worth it, though, for a clean result.

Here are a few things to try at home:  
Soaking them overnight in just a mild soap.  
Adding a vinegar mix to the inside.  
Using rice as a mild abrasive inside.

Finally — but be careful and follow instructions — using CRL liquid. It's made to remove lime, calcium and rust.

Never use steel wool or anything abrasive, to avoid scratches to the glass.

Eric, I really enjoyed answering your question.

I hope this helped and good luck with bottle collecting and cleaning.

Donna

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





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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

# KIDDIE POOL

Family fun for whenever

### Book fun

• Toadstool Bookshop (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 673-1734, toadbooks.com) will hold a party to celebrate the release of Dav Pilkey's newest *Cat Kid Comic Club* book (which hit shelves on Nov. 29), *Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations*, on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. The afternoon will feature games, puzzles, goodies, raffles and more, according to the website.

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

### Meet the big guy

In the Nov. 24 issue on page 20, we listed events where kids can get in a visit with the big guy. Find the e-edition at hippopress.com (toward the bottom of the home page). Here are a few of the opportunities to see Santa Claus this weekend.

• Have **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the First Parish Congregational Church (United Church of Christ, 47 E. Derry Road in Derry; fpc-ucc.org). See the website for details about how to RSVP. Tickets at the door cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for 3 to 8 and free for ages 2 and under, the website said. Kids can take photos with Santa, enjoy games and crafts and more, the website said.

• Charmingfare Farm (774 High St. in Candia; visitthefarm.com) will kick off its **Santa's Christmas** on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4. The event also runs Friday, Dec. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 11; Friday, Dec. 16, through Sunday, Dec. 18; Wednesday, Dec. 21, through Saturday, Dec. 24. Pick a time when you buy tickets for either a four-person or 10-person sleigh ride. The event also includes a stop at the North Pole, Mrs. Claus' Bakery, a visit to the barnyard, an opportunity to shop for Christmas trees, a campfire, and a special mailbox for letters to Santa.

• The Millyard Museum's (200 Bedford St. in Manchester; manchesterhistoric.org) will hold its **holiday open house** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day will feature games, cookies, children's crafts, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and more.

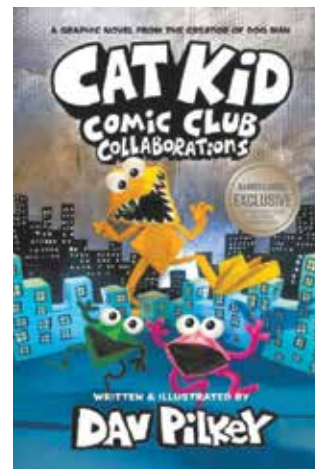


The Polar Express

• Greeley Park (100 Concord St., Nashua) is hosting **Santa in the Park** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 2 p.m. Come take a photo with Santa. See Nashua Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page.

• Londonderry Access Center TV (281 Mammoth Road) is hosting **Santa live** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. Kids can come visit with Santa live on air (first come, first serve). See lactv.com.

• The Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org) is hosting its annual **Jingle Bell Extravaganza** on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and from 3 to 4:30 p.m. (also on Sunday, Dec. 11). Meet Santa, do holiday crafts, do a science experiment and get a special treat — and pajamas are encouraged. The event is included with the cost of admission, \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members; children under 1 year old are free. Reserve a spot online.



Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations

### Holiday celebrations

• O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square (24 Calef Hwy. in Epping; 679-3529, oneilcinemas.com) will screen *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) Friday, Dec. 2, through Thursday, Dec. 8, with multiple screenings each day including one D-BOX screening (usually at 4:30 p.m.). Tickets, which are on sale now, cost \$7 and include a bell while supplies last.

• Enjoy **Mr. Aaron's holiday party** at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and tickets cost \$13. Visit ccanh.com to purchase tickets.

• Millyard Museum (200 Bedford St., Manchester) is hosting its **annual American Girl Doll Christmas tea party** on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your American Girl Doll for a tour followed by refreshments and crafts. Tickets cost \$15 per person and can be purchased at manchesterhistoric.org.



# Tough call on replacing engine of beloved VW EOS



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk: Should we sink \$12,000 into a new engine for our 2016 Volkswagen EOS? It has 95,000 miles on it, and we really enjoy it. Or, do we unload it and buy some other cute, used convertible with unknown hidden issues?*

*Here's more of the story: We bought a used 2016 VW EOS with 85,000 miles on it. What a fun car!*

*Now, at 95,000 miles and a year later, the engine sucks oil, but there's no sign of an external leak. We add about a quart of oil every other gas fill-up.*

*Recently, we had a "check engine" light come on that said there was a misfire. We took it to the dealership, they said the compression was bad in two cylinders, and we need A WHOLE NEW ENGINE!*

*Can you help us decide what to do? — Suzie*

*Tough call, Suzie. But, if you really like the car, and it's otherwise in good shape (be sure they give it a thorough*

*inspection to answer that question), you might want to put a new engine in it.*

Here's one way to think of it: If you could get another 60,000 miles out of it, would that be worth \$12,000? A new engine would last a lot longer than that, but you have to keep in mind that the rest of the car has 95,000 miles on it. So, the other parts won't last forever.

But that may be a reasonable price. If you're only putting 10,000 miles a year on the car, that's another six years, or \$2,000 a year — instead of buying a newer car — which will add taxes, registration fees and higher insurance premiums. And, keep in mind, the EOS is worth next to nothing as a used car now, because it needs an engine.

You can also do some "engine shopping." A brand-new engine from the dealer — while the best option — also definitely will be the most expensive option.

You might find a local shop near you that specializes in VWs, and may be able to save you money on a remanufactured engine, or even a low-mileage used engine.

It'll still be thousands of dollars, because the labor is significant. And

if the cost between a remanufactured engine and a genuine VW is a thousand bucks or two, I'd opt for the VW engine. But, if you can get a remanufactured engine installed for thousands less, that'd be worth considering, too.

That way, when the rear view mirror falls off, the headrests disintegrate, and the transmission dies at 150,000, you won't kick yourself nearly as hard, Suzie.

*Dear Car Talk:*

*I have a Kia Forte with about 110,000 miles on it. When it's raining and I am using the air conditioner or defroster — along with the wipers — when I come to a stop, the battery light will come on and the car will stall. I can then restart it.*

*This has been going on for a couple of years, and I have taken it in for repair only to be told they "cannot replicate the issue." They say it's not raining. I am a single woman and don't want to be taken advantage of. What would you suggest? — Sandi*

Well, you might consider hiring an offensive lineman from the Detroit

Lions in the off season and asking him to go in with you.

It can be hard to know what's causing your problem without seeing it misbehave in the shop. So, you should expect to pay them for some diagnostic time. But there are several things your shop can check, even without "replicating the problem."

It could be as simple as something causing a low idle speed. If a small vacuum leak or gummed up throttle body were causing the engine to idle just a bit too slowly, you wouldn't have any problem under normal circumstances.

But, when you put a heavy electrical load on the engine — the AC, defroster, lights and wipers — it could be enough to cause the engine to stall. And, typically, the battery light will flash just before the car stalls.

Try explaining to the shop that the car stalls under heavy load in the rain and ask them to check for anything that might cause a low idle. Or, if you get the feeling that they're just not interested enough in figuring it out for you, find a new shop at [mechanicsfiles.com](http://mechanicsfiles.com), and go there, Sandi.

Visit [Cartalk.com](http://Cartalk.com). 🍷

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# ON THE JOB

## SARAH SMITH

### MUSIC THERAPIST

Sarah Smith is a licensed mental health counselor and board-certified music therapist at C.R.E.A.T.E., the Center for Expressive Arts, Therapy and Education, in Manchester.

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

I primarily work with children. That's my specialization. They have a variety of diagnoses. A lot of the clients I work with have experienced some sort of trauma. There's also anxiety, depression and ADHD. We use music as therapy as part of the healing process. We do a lot of music-making, some improvisation, either making up a song or playing together on a variety of instruments. We listen to familiar music or sing familiar songs and engage in lyric analysis to help with emotional expressions.

*How long have you had this job?*

I started working at C.R.E.A.T.E. in 2017 as a music therapist while also earning my hours for

my mental health licensure.

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

I've had my own experiences with mental health issues. As I was going through my own healing process, I was using music often as a way to heal, and I was also in therapy for myself. I made a connection between the two. I was aware that counseling was really helpful, and I also knew that music was a really big part of my healing process.

*What kind of education or training did you need?*

My bachelor's degree is in music performance and private teaching. For several years after, before I went to get my master's degree, I

was a violinist. I was performing throughout New Hampshire with a variety of symphonies. I did play with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra; that's probably the coolest thing I've done. I was also teaching at a performing arts school in Bedford. Then, in 2014, I decided to get my master's degree in mental health counseling, with a specialization in music therapy.



Sarah Smith. Courtesy photo.

wanting to help people. I didn't really know how fulfilling it would be to actually work with people and to hear their stories and to just be there with somebody as they're going through a really difficult time.

*What do you wish other people knew about your job?*

First of all, that music therapy is definitely an evidence-based practice. It's a real thing. It exists. It's just such an impactful way of providing therapy to people.

*What was the first job you ever had?*

I was a cashier at a clothing store next to Toys R Us.

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

It's something that comes up often in this line of work: Always trust the process.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

#### Five favorites

**Favorite book:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

**Favorite movie:** I'm not much of a movie person.

**Favorite music:** I'm mostly drawn toward '70s rock. That's what I grew up with.

**Favorite food:** I love Chinese food.

**Favorite thing about NH:** Definitely the seasons, and fall in particular. Nothing beats fall in New England.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll  
food@hippopress.com

• **Food and brews for a cause:** Join The Common Man Roadside Millyard (451 Commercial St., Manchester) for its inaugural **Do Good Beer Dinner** on Wednesday, Dec. 7, to raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Manchester. The festivities will kick off at 6 p.m., featuring appetizers, brewmaster tastings, a toy drive and a silent auction, followed by a five-course meal to be served at 7 p.m. Each course — including a charcuterie board, bacon jam scallops, butternut squash bisque, beer-braised pot roast and a special dessert pairing — will be paired with a beer selection from Manchester’s Great North Aleworks. The cost is \$125 per person (21+ only) and reservations are required. Visit [thecoman.com](http://thecoman.com) or find the Eventbrite page for the dinner to purchase tickets.

• **Greek eats to go:** Get your orders in now for the annual **baked lamb dinner** from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Greek Church (1160 Bridge St., Manchester) on Sunday, Dec. 11, at noon. Ordering by Wednesday, Dec. 7, is requested, while supplies last — dinners are \$20 per person and include lamb, rice, beans and salads. Visit [stnicholas-man-nh.org](http://stnicholas-man-nh.org) or email Barb George at [bitos1254@yahoo.com](mailto:bitos1254@yahoo.com) to place your order. In Concord meanwhile, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (68 N. State St.) is taking orders for its next boxed **Greek dinner to go**, a drive-thru takeout event, on Sunday, Dec. 11, from noon to 1 p.m. Now through Wednesday, Dec. 7, orders are being accepted for boxed meals featuring dinners of Greek vegetable medley with tiropita (cheese pita) for \$20 per person. The event is drive-thru and takeout only — email [ordermygreekfood@gmail.com](mailto:ordermygreekfood@gmail.com) or call 953-3051 to place your order. Visit [holyytrinitynh.org](http://holyytrinitynh.org).

• **Cooking with wine:** The Winemaker’s Kitchen cooking with wine series continues at LaBelle Winery with **holiday recipes classes**, to be held at its Amherst location (345 Route 101) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 7 p.m. each day. Attendees will get to enjoy holiday dinner samples and discover recipes with wine paired or prepared with each item. Recipes will include candied kielbasa, deviled eggs with Seyval Blanc egg filling, red wine caramelized onion dip for vegetables and chips, and baked brie with a red wine fruit compote. General admission is \$35 per person, plus tax. Visit [labellewinery.com](http://labellewinery.com).

• **Tea time:** Enjoy **holiday afternoon tea** with The Cozy Tea Cart of Brookline, to be held at the Gatherings at the Colonel Shepard House (29 Mont Vernon St., Milford) on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition to seasonal teas, there will be assortments of festive tea breads, sandwiches and pastries to be served. The cost is \$39.95 per person and reservations are required. Visit [thecozyteacart.com](http://thecozyteacart.com) or call 249-9111.

• **NHLC taps new wine sales special-** 26 ▶

# FOOD

## Peace, love and barbecue

### Smokin’ Spank’s food trailer rolls into Litchfield

By Matt Ingersoll  
mingsoll@hippopress.com

Kevin Anctil of Litchfield grew up on family-owned farmland in Lewiston, Maine, where his late grandfather was revered in the community for his barbecued chicken. Several Sundays out of the year, Armand Anctil would purchase a batch of chickens from a local processing plant and cook them out in front of his home, using his own barbecue pits he had designed and built.

“They were sandwich-type grates, so he could load them up and close them down, then walk down the line and baste all the chickens and flip all the grates over, and he’d do that for 90 minutes to two hours,” Anctil said. “Then the people of Lewiston, after mass, would walk up the hillside with their blankets and picnic baskets, or their potato salad and lemonade, and they’d buy Peperere’s chicken and eat it out there on the yard in front of the farmhouse.”

As owner and pitmaster of Smokin’ Spank’s Barbecue, a 22-foot food trailer launched earlier this fall, Anctil pays homage to his family’s roots. He has the same original basting sauce and finishing sauce recipes for his own barbecue chicken, and he even added a custom-built pit for his trailer that uses the same type of sandwich grating techniques his grandfather once employed.

Smokin’ Spank’s Barbecue is scheduled to appear at 446 Charles Bancroft Highway in Litchfield on several weekend dates this month, with the next one on Saturday, Dec. 3. Anctil is also cooking up barbecue for attendees of Spirit of Litchfield’s fifth annual tree lighting, set for Saturday, Dec. 10, at Roy Memorial Park.

Anctil, who is affectionately known in his college friend circle as “Spank,” described his concept as traditional Southern barbecue, but with some New

#### Smokin’ Spank’s Barbecue

Upcoming appearances; visit [smokin-spanks.com](http://smokin-spanks.com) or find them on Facebook and Instagram @smokinspank

- **Saturday, Dec. 3:** 446 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield (noon to sellout)
- **Saturday, Dec. 10:** Annual Christmas tree lighting at Roy Memorial Park, Wood Hawk Way and Albuquerque Ave., Litchfield (4 to 7 p.m.)
- **Saturday, Dec. 17:** 446 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield (noon to sellout)
- **Friday, Dec. 23:** 446 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield (noon to sellout)



Macaroni and cheese. Photo courtesy of Smokin’ Spank’s.



Blueberry jalapeño slaw. Photo courtesy of Smokin’ Spank’s.



Blueberry spare ribs. Photo courtesy of Smokin’ Spank’s.

England roots. His brisket, for instance, is smoked Texas-style with salt and pepper in tribute to his own travels, while other items include maple baby back ribs that are finished with maple syrup as a glaze.

“I do a blueberry spare rib that’s a bigger, meatier rib with a blueberry barbecue sauce on it,” he said. “I also have local apples in the apple bacon barbecue sauce that I serve with my pulled pork, and I do a blueberry jalapeño slaw that I guarantee you’ve never had anyplace else. ... It starts as sort of a traditional coleslaw, but then I include big whole blueberries and slivers of seeded jalapeño in there. It doesn’t bring a lot of heat but it does bring a bright fresh green pop.”

Anctil also serves traditional macaroni and cheese and loaded baked potato sal-

ad, both of which he considers to be his flagship sides. Last week, he offered a menu of “spankwiches” for the first time, featuring a half-pound of pulled pork or pit beef and a house sauce — the apple bacon sauce, he said, is designed to pair with the pork, while the Texas table sauce goes with the beef.

“Peace, love and barbecue” is Anctil’s unofficial slogan, the words adorning his trailer.

“I spent the first 30 years of my working career in IT, and following Covid, I made a career change,” he said. “I was doing something that really wasn’t my passion or was in my heart, and so ... my family got behind me and wanted to support me to try to make a go of doing what I love. ... I’m at peace when I’m cooking and I show my love through my food.”

“I was doing something that really wasn’t my passion ... and so ... my family got behind me ... to try to make a go of doing what I love.”

KEVIN ANCTIL



# Cheeses, spices and teas

Made in New England Expo returns



Photos by Matthew Lomanno Photography.

By Mya Blanchard  
listings@hippopress.com

New England-based businesses will gather at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown's Expo Center on Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4, to showcase and sell their products at the Made in New England Expo.

"The goal ... is to shine a light on businesses and help them get recognition, [and] ... to kind of get their name out there," show director Christine Carignan said.

These businesses include Nothin' But Curd, a Vermont-based company that makes cheese curds and spreads; Vermont Condiment, which sells a variety of maple products; and New Hampshire Herb & Spice Co., offering custom rubs and blends.

Mixed Up Nut Butter, a Vermont business offering craft nut butters made from different tree nut blends with pecans, cashews and almonds, is back for the second time this year, as is Critical Mass Coffee, based in Manchester and offering multiple bagged blends of organic fair trade coffee.

You'll also find Puckerbush, a newcomer specializing in jams, jellies and unique drink infusions; Holy Moly Snacks, based in Manchester and selling pre-packaged beef chips, cookies and brownies; and 27Teas, a New Hampshire tea company now also based in Manchester.

Margaret Gay, owner and founder of

27Teas, started the company about four years ago after noticing there wasn't much out there for tea drinkers.

"When I would go places with my ... now husband, he would always be able to walk into a coffee shop or a cafe and get this awesome beverage," Gay said, "and then I would go to order something tea-related and it seemed like there [were] no options."

Gay decided to take action.

"I feel like when people start cafes, they do it thinking of the coffee and then tea as an afterthought, and I really wanted to change that for the people that are tea lovers," Gay said. "So I started doing my own blending and things."

After years of selling online and doing wholesale work with cafes, 27Teas moved to Manchester a few weeks ago, where it now has its own retail shop.

"My mission is changing the way people in New England and beyond ... drink tea," she said. "So I really focus on making education available as well. I want to make the switch to drinking loose leaf tea unintimidating, easy, delicious, but also affordable."

Another important aspect to her business is giving back, which Gay does by giving a percentage of her profits to The Water Project, a Concord-based clean water initiative.

Now being located in Manchester, Gay felt it was especially important to attend this year's expo.

"My hope is that I get to run into a lot of people who haven't maybe seen my products before and get to try it," she said.

Gay's business is a great example, Carignan said, of why the expo is such an effective platform for others like hers to expand their customer reach.

"We want to help give these small businesses the exposure that they want, [and] to help take their business to the next level," she said. "We also want ... our audience ... to be able to find unique products and support local companies and ... see what's available right around the corner from them that they may not be aware of." 🍷

## Made in New England Expo

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** DoubleTree by Hilton Expo Center, 700 Elm St., Manchester

**Cost:** \$8 admission for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$2 for children ages 2 to 12. Tickets can be pre-purchased online or at the door the day of the event.

**More info:** Visit [madeinnewenglandexpo.com](http://madeinnewenglandexpo.com) or find the event on Facebook @ [madeinnewenglandexpo](https://www.facebook.com/madeinnewenglandexpo)

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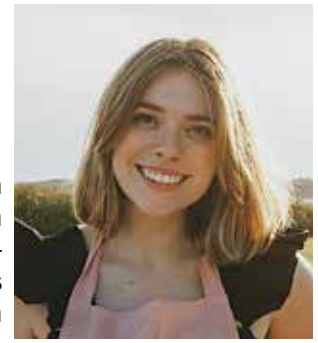
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# IN THE KITCHEN WITH CHRISTINA WORMELL



Christina Wormell. Photo by Selena Massie, selenamassiephotography.com.

Christina Wormell of Hillsborough is the owner of Queen of Tarts Patisserie (find her on Facebook and Instagram @queenoftartspatisserie), specializing in French cookies, breads, éclairs and other pastries and baked goods in a variety of rotating seasonal flavors. Originally from Maine, Wormell attended New England College in Henniker, and left her job at the beginning of 2021 to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a baker. Her passion started at an early age, when she and her Memere would bake and watch cooking shows together every weekend. Wormell regularly participates in area farmers markets during the summer months, as well as fairs and craft shows, and she also accepts custom orders through social media for local pickup.

**What is your must-have kitchen item?**  
I definitely would have to have a whisk, because it's so versatile.

**What is your favorite thing on any one of your menus?**  
I really like to make éclairs. My personal favorite flavor that I made was a lemon poppy seed éclair. I do that one around June or July.

**What would you have for your last meal?**  
I would definitely have a Maine lobster roll. I mean, I don't eat meat anymore, but if it was my last meal, I'd make an exception for that. ... It has to be with mayonnaise and on a toasted roll.

**What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?**  
I think the trend right now is because of the TV show *Is It Cake?* You'll see a scene where, say, there's a laptop, a phone and a piece of paper, and one of those things is [made of] cake, but it's so realistic that you don't [know which one] until they cut into it. That's something that I see everywhere and I think it's because of that show.

**What is your favorite local restaurant?**  
Ichiban [Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar] in Concord. ... They have a vegetarian roll that has seaweed, avocado and cucumber, and that's my go-to.

**What celebrity would you like to see ordering from you?**  
It would have to be chef Gordon Ramsay. He's my favorite. I'd be pretty confident he'd like my stuff.

**What is your favorite thing to make at home?**  
I love to make homemade bread. ... I like to do herbed French breads and just plain French breads.  
— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

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**Homemade banana bread**  
From the kitchen of Christina Wormell of Queen of Tarts Patisserie

¾ cup packed brown sugar  
1 stick butter  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
4 overripe bananas  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-by-5-inch pan. In a separate bowl,

mash three of the four bananas and set aside. In another separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon and set aside. Using your mixer, start by creaming the butter and sugar together. Add in the eggs one at a time. Add in the vanilla and mashed bananas and mix until incorporated. Add your flour mixture into the batter and fold until just combined. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Take your remaining banana, peel it and cut it down the middle vertically. Place the two halves of the banana facing up on top of the batter. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean (about 45 to 60 minutes). Let the bread cool in a pan for 10 minutes before putting it on your wire rack.

**Weekly Dish**  
Continued from page 24

**ist:** The New Hampshire Liquor Commission recently named Justin Gunter its new wine marketing and sales specialist, according to a press release. Gunter oversees all aspects of wine sales, including purchasing and promotions, across the 67 New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet locations statewide. He takes over for Lisa Gosselin, who had been in the position for six years and was with the Commission for more than two decades before her retirement. According to the release, Gunter joined the NHLC team in 2014 as a part-time sales clerk at the Stratham outlet, eventually moving up the ranks to retail store supervisor and later regional stores supervisor, leading to sales increases exceeding \$100,000 annually in multi-ple markets. 🍷



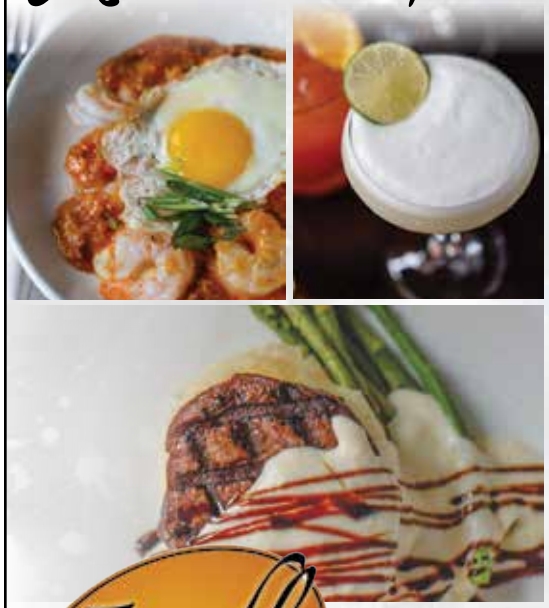
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FOOD



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## Rosemary Mixed Nuts

Over the next month, odds are likely that you will be hosting or attending a gathering where you are requested to bring an appetizer to share. There are bound to be an assortment of dips and charcuterie trays. Why not make something simple, different and utterly memorable? Let me introduce you to this mixed nut recipe.

You may be wondering why you can't just buy a container of mixed nuts at the grocery store and bring that to the party. The answer is simple: The flavors in these mixed nuts are not going to be found on a grocery store shelf. The combination of sweet, salty and herbaceous delivers a snack that is truly unique. It will work as a part of an appetizer menu, as well as a dessert menu.

Let's talk about the ingredients. The ratio of walnuts to pecans is up to you. In fact, if you want to use only one type of nut, that is fine. The butter should be unsalted. If you only have salted butter, you should use only 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Fresh rosemary is preferred, as dried rosemary has a pine needle sort of texture.

I have made this recipe for many a gather-



Rosemary Mixed Nuts. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

ing, and it is always popular. Thankfully, you can easily double or triple the recipe to feed a big, hungry crowd. Let the season of eating continue!

*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](http://thinktasty.com) to find more of her recipes.*

### Rosemary Mixed Nuts

Serves 4-6

2¼ cups walnuts and pecans  
 1 Tablespoon unsalted butter  
 2½ Tablespoons brown sugar, divided  
 ¾ teaspoon kosher salt  
 2 Tablespoons fresh rosemary, minced  
 1 Tablespoon water

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.  
 Spread walnuts and pecans on a rimmed baking sheet; bake for 10 minutes.  
 Right before the nuts are done, melt the butter in a small bowl (15 to 30 seconds in a microwave).

Add 1 tablespoon brown sugar to melted butter, and stir well.

Remove nuts from the oven, and push into a pile using a spatula.

Pour melted butter mixture over nuts, and toss to combine.

Spread nuts into a single layer; sprinkle with salt and rosemary.

Bake for 10 minutes.

Combine water and remaining brown sugar.

Remove nuts from the oven, and drizzle with sugar syrup.

Bake for 5 more minutes.

Serve warm, or cool and transfer to a storage container.

### Food & Drink Local farmers markets

• **Contoocook Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, inside Maple Street Elementary School (194 Maple St., Hopkinton). Find them on Facebook @ [contoocookfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/contoocookfarmersmarket).  
 • **Danbury Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Blazing Star Grange Hall (15 North Road, Danbury), through May. Visit [blazingstargrange.org](http://blazingstargrange.org).  
 • **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square in Concord, through April. Find them on Facebook @ [downtownconcordwinter-](https://www.facebook.com/downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket)

[farmersmarket.com](https://www.farmersmarket.com).

• **Milford Farmers Market** is every other Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Square). The next market is happening on Dec. 3. Visit [milfordnhfarmersmarket.com](https://www.milfordnhfarmersmarket.com).

• **Peterborough Farmers Market** is Wednesdays, from 3 to 6 p.m., inside Peterborough Community Center (25 Elm St.). Find them on Facebook @ [peterboroughnhfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/peterboroughnhfarmersmarket).

• **Rollinsford Farmers Market** is on select Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Wentworth Greenhouses (141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford). Upcoming markets are Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, and

March 4 and 18. Visit [seacoastlocal.org](https://www.seacoastlocal.org).

• **Salem Farmers Market** is Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at LaBelle Winery Derry (14 Route 111). Visit [salemnhfarmersmarket.org](https://www.salemnhfarmersmarket.org).

• **Stratham Farmers Market** is on select Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Cooperative Middle School (100 Academic Way, Stratham). Upcoming markets are on Dec. 10, Jan. 7, Feb. 4 and April 1 and 15. Visit [seacoastlocal.org](https://www.seacoastlocal.org).

• **Tamworth Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, outdoors at 30 Tamworth Road in Tamworth, through March 25. Visit [tamworthfarmersmarket.org](https://www.tamworthfarmersmarket.org).



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## CDs pg30

• Monster Magnet, *Test*

*Patterns: Vol. 1* B

• The White Buffalo, *Year*

*Of The Dark Horse* A

## BOOKS pg31

• *Our Missing Hearts* C+

Includes listings for lectures, author events, book

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listed, send information to

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## FILM pg32

• *The Menu* B

Monster Magnet, *Test Patterns: Vol. 1* (God Unknown Records)

Holy cats, a new Monster Magnet album, folks — there's a jolt to the brain, isn't it? They suddenly showed up from out of nowhere — a.k.a. Red Bank, New Jersey — working a noise rock angle that was, and I quote, "a cosmos away from the major-label, alternative rock boom that would suck the band into the shiny MTV world of the early to middle 90s." In other words they were pretty useful, and antidote to all the Hawkwinds and Nirvana wannabes that made the 90s so useless, and this is more of the same, two versions of a 25-odd-minute-long fuzz-jam called "Tab." The first version is a remix from 2021, pure Brian Jonestown Massacre meets Norman Greenbaum's "Spirit in the Sky" but without any real musical purpose aside from being trippy, and then comes the original version, from a 1988 demo, which is virtually indistinguishable from the last 150-odd songs King Gizzard has put out this fiscal quarter. And here I'll bet you'd thought these guys were gone forever, didn't you? Weird, or what? **B** — *Eric W. Saeger*

The White Buffalo, *Year Of The Dark Horse* (Snakefarm Records)

When the pandemic put everyone in the entertainment business into stasis chambers, people did different things to stay sane. I know of two guys who picked up the drums just to stay sane, but this fellow here, Oregon-born Jake Smith, a guitarist by trade, picked up a synthesizer to make this LP, the follow-up to his 2020 full-length *On The Widow's Walk*, more of a creative challenge as he "embarked on a voyage of discovery." Well isn't that special, and this isn't a synth tour-de-force, but it does work in many ways, especially if you dug his early Americana-rock (he hates it when people call it that). The first tune, "Kingdom For A Fool," begins with the same sleepy-but-buzzed-out vibe as Bread's "Guitar Man," but then it's on, folks, Smith's vocal tabling some unabashed rawk-melodies I wasn't expecting at all. The sound is pretty full and rich as far as California-steeped radio-pop goes (he's living in Cali these days, for the record), for example "C'mon Come Up Come Out" has a Red Hot Chili Peppers laziness to it, and if you like Beck, you'll like a lot of this stuff. **A** — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

## PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Land's sakes, Jane, stop this crazy thing, we're into the first week of December already, and there will be (I hope) a few new albums slated for release on Friday, Dec. 2. Ah, here's a few of the little rascals, the first thing to which I'll give a funny sideways look is (or course) a box set (because box sets and reissues make great holiday gifts for record collectors who already have everything they don't need), specifically the big fat *Sail On Sailor - 1972: Super Deluxe Box Set* from the **Beach Boys**, who are celebrating their 60th year of making totally groovy music for Woodstock druggies or whatever their mission statement is. But now it's time for today's big reveal: I, multiple-award-winning music journo that I am, had no idea whatsoever that the Beach Boys were the ones who did that song in the first place. No, seriously, I'd always figured it had been some Chicago-wannabe 1970s band like Stealers Wheel, but no, it was the Beach Boys. I never really liked that song all that much, but you guys remember when it was playing over some scene in *The Departed* involving hams or whatever, and it was so edgy and cool? No? Well maybe you should go watch it again, just try to get past Jack Nicholson's usual overacting and all that, it was a cool scene. And so on and so forth, this \$120 heap of CDs and nonsense covers the Boys' 1972 albums *Carl And The Passions* and *Holland*. Says here "This 6-CD set features a 48-page book with extensive liner notes, rare photos and more. The collection includes remastered versions of the original albums as well as outtakes and session highlights from the original *Mount Vernon* and *Fairway* EP from *Holland*, plus a previously unreleased concert from Carnegie Hall, 1972. Also included are dozens of studio and live additional tracks, sessions and alternate versions." Yow, all I needed was a normal version of "Sail On Sailor," but instead it's basically a hilariously overpriced pu pu platter of mostly chicken fingers instead of the beef teriyaki strip I really only wanted in the first place. How do I shut this off?

• Los Angeles skate-punk veterans **NOFX** have been a thing since 1983, but they still know where to buy Day-Glo Hawaiian shirts, K-Mart cutoff shorts and all the other parts of their clown outfits, so here's to those guys and their new album, titled *Double Album!* Wait a second, though, guys, wait a second, you'll die when you hear this, are you ready? Right, it's *not actually a double album*, just a single album, with 10 songs! The irony, I'm sorry, I'm really getting the vapors and need to lay down with my smelling salts, land's sakes alive. So, whatever, appropriately enough, the test-drive single is called "Punk Rock Cliché," and it's pretty gosh darn cool if you don't mind that the main riff is pretty much stolen from Thin Lizzy's "Thunder and Lightning," and the whole tune will be mistaken for a disposable Hoobastank filler song, but that's the price of fame: help to invent a genre one year, and then watch as a bunch of 18-year-old scamps put you out of business. Seriously, how do you stop this crazy thing?

• St. Louis-based hip-hop producer/DJ/etc. **Metro Boomin** has only been around since 2009, but one of the first questions that comes up when you Google the guy is, "Is he retired yet?" Yes, that's how ancient you are, I'm sorry for you. *Heroes & Villains* is his new record, and the beats are epic (but annoyingly trappy) in the single "Gods Don't Bleed," which features 21 Savage & Travis Scott. You might like it.

• We'll end with Cleveland-bred techno-dude **Galcher Lustwerk** and his new *100% Galcher* LP. "Put On" is a nice, hypnotic bit of mid-aughts deep house, unadventurous but perfect mall ambiance for chilling out to while your girlfriend tries on dresses she'll regret buying. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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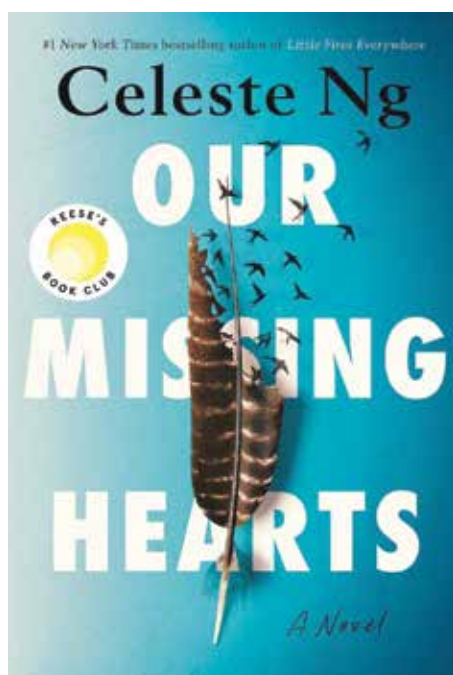
**Our Missing Hearts**, by Celeste Ng (Penguin Press, 352 pages)

Celeste Ng's latest novel is a depressing dive into a dystopian society, but I had high hopes for it when I found a handwritten note tucked inside the copy I picked up from the library that said, "It is so, so, so good!" I have to wonder if I would have liked it more if that note hadn't been there, messing with my expectations.

In *Our Missing Hearts*, the government has passed PACT, the Preserving American Culture and Traditions Act, which has resulted in the banning of anything that might promote anti-Americanism and forces children of parents who don't fully support the act to live with state-approved foster families. PACT targets Asians, particularly the Chinese; the American government blames the decade-old "Crisis" — an economic downturn marked by unemployment and poverty — on Chinese manipulation.

The story follows 12-year-old Bird, whose mother, Chinese-American poet Margaret Miu, left him and his father three years prior, after the line from her poem "Our Missing Hearts" was adopted as a slogan for anti-PACT activists. Worried that the government would take Bird away because she was perceived as a traitor, Margaret left first.

While the idea is good, its execution drags the story down. Ng (author of the adapted-for-Hulu novel *Little Fires Everywhere*) made some interesting writing choices in *Our Missing Hearts*. My biggest pet peeve is that she doesn't use quotation marks at all, anywhere, even though the characters have dialogues. The decision struck me as somewhat arrogant, serving no purpose other than showing that Ng has become well-known enough as an author to take such liberties. But I realized I wasn't being fair and should



find out if there was a good reason for it, so, naturally, I asked Google. An article on BuzzFeed gave me the answer; Ng was asked about her style choices, specifically the lack of quotation marks. Her response:

"When I started writing the novel, I found that I was instinctively writing without quotation marks ... but I had to think about why. (I'll be honest, I usually hate when there are no quotation marks.) ... I wanted the novel to feel slightly folkloric, almost dreamlike; for Bird, the events feel a little bit like stepping into a fairytale, one of the stories his mother told him when he was young. When you think of a story being told out loud, the way folktales often are ... there's a blurring between the person narrating, and the words of the story, and the things the characters say. So, removing the quotation marks helped create that effect for the reader."

Maybe someone who is less of a stickler about grammatical rules would appreciate that artistic perspective, but strong dialogue can really move a plot along and give the characters personality, and this didn't have any of that. In fact, my main issue with the novel is that I didn't really care about the characters; they were flat, dull and one-dimensional. Ng switches perspective about halfway through the novel, from Bird's point of view to Margaret's, and while it helps explain her reasons for leaving more clearly, that emotion still isn't there. A mother who has to leave her child should be devastated; what we see is her focusing instead on her anti-PACT mission. It's noble, of course, but she seems almost robotic.

The character I actually liked the most was Sadie, who was removed from her home because her parents were working against PACT. At first we get to know from Bird's memories of her; later he meets up with her on his journey to find his mother — which he seems to do only because she sent him a cryptic letter that he thinks is a request for him to find her, and not because he has a strong emotional desire to see her. He might, but the story focuses more on how he works through the clues his mother gave him to find her.

Dystopian novels are often bleak, but *Our Missing Hearts* was both bleak and boring. At times I didn't even want to finish it, but it's pretty short, and I promised to write a book review about it, so here we are.

While the concept was good, it might have been better as a short story, where the lack of character development would be less noticeable. As a novel, *Our Missing Hearts* is missing, well, heart. Maybe that's the point. But the story would have been more powerful if there were more feeling behind it. C+ — *Meghan Siegler*

## Books

### Author events

- **NICHOLAS DAWIDOFF** will discuss his book *The Other Side of Prospect: A Story of Violence, Injustice and the American City* at Toadstool Bookshop (12 Depot St. in Peterborough; 924-3545) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m.
- **MATT FORREST ESENWINE** will present a storytime featuring his new book *Don't Ask a Dinosaur* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m.
- **SYLVIE KURTZ** will discuss her two new holiday novels *Christmas by Candlelight* and *Christmas in Brighton* at Toadstool Bookshop (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 673-1734, toadbooks.com) on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.
- **LANA HARPER** author of the new rom-com *Back in a*



Gabrielle Calvocoressi

*Spell*, will appear in a virtual conversation via Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. Registration is required.
- **MAREK BENNETT** will discuss his new graphic novel *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby Volume 3 (1864)* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m.

### Book events

• **CAT KID COMIC CLUB: COLLABORATIONS CELEBRATION** Toadstool Bookshop (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 673-1734, toadbooks.com) will hold a party to celebrate the release of Dav Pilkey's newest *Cat Kid Comic Club* book (Nov. 29) on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. The afternoon will feature games, puzzles, goodies, raffles and more, according to the website. The book is available for preorder now.

### Poetry

• **GABRIELLE CALVOCORESSI** presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m.

• **EWA CHRUSCIEL** pre-

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

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

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

### Writers groups

• **MERRIMACK VALLEY WRITERS' GROUP** All published and unpublished

local writers who are interested in sharing their work with other writers and giving and receiving constructive feedback are invited to join. The group meets regularly. Email pembrokenthownlibrary@gmail.com.

### Writer submissions


• **UNDER THE MADNESS** Magazine designed and managed by an editorial board of New Hampshire teens under the mentorship of New Hampshire State Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary, features creative writing by teens ages 13 to 19 from all over the world, including poetry and short fiction and creative non-fiction. Published monthly. Submissions must be written in or translated into English and must be previously unpublished. Visit [underthemadnessmagazine.com](http://underthemadnessmagazine.com) for full submission guidelines.

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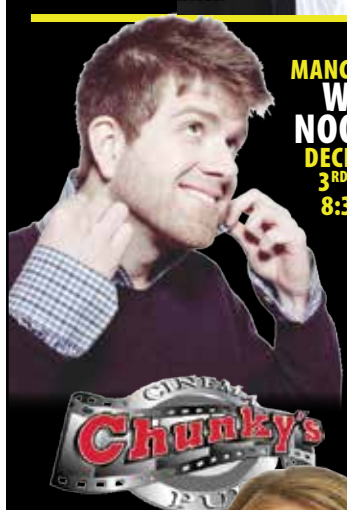
PRESENTS THIS WEEK  
**DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> @ 8:30PM**

**MANCHESTER**  
**ROB STEEN**  
DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>  
8:30PM




**DOUBLE TREE**  
700 Elm St, Manchester

**MANCHESTER**  
**WILL NOONAN**  
DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
8:30PM



**CHUNKY'S**


**NASHUA**  
**JODY SLOANE**  
DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>  
8:30PM



**For Schedule & Tickets:**  
**603-988-3673**

**HeadlinersComedyClub.com**

Many of our acts have been seen on:



138717



**The Menu (R)**

Diners at an exclusive, multi-thousand-dollar-per-diner restaurant realize their evening is about more than foams and locally sourced seafood in *The Menu*, a thriller that's probably more cute than clever but does leave you hungry for a really good [spoiler alert].

Let's just say the food item in question isn't quite the *Chef* grilled cheese sandwich but it's in that vein and I will be thinking about it long after I stop thinking about the rest of the movie.

Hawthorne is the kind of restaurant that patrons have to wait months to get a reservation for and then can get to only by taking a boat out to a secluded island where only a dozen customers are served per night. Before even getting to the restaurant, front-of-house manager Elsa (Hong Chau) takes the diners on a tour of the island and the restaurant's gardens and chicken coop and smokehouse — the base camp of bull--- mountain, as Margot (Anya Taylor-Joy) observes. Of all the guests, she is the least impressed by all the artisanal nonsense of the restaurant. And she's the date of the guest who is most obsessed with the idea of each dish's umami and presentation and Instagramability, Tyler (Nicholas Hoult). She is not, we quickly understand, the date he was supposed to bring, and when she and another guest, older man Richard (Reed Birney), recognize each other and then pointedly look away from each other, we can guess pretty quickly how she came to be with Tyler. Richard is there



*The Menu*

with his wife, Anne (Judith Light). Other guests include three finance bros (Mark St. Cyr, Arturo Castro, Rob Yang); a restaurant critic (Janet McTeer) and her editor (Paul Adelstein); a past-his-prime movie star (John Leguizamo) and his assistant (Aimee Carrero), and an older woman (Rebecca Koon).

Chef Julian Slowik (Ralph Fiennes) commands great respect — or something — from his kitchen staff, who snap to attention and “yes, chef” him loudly when he gives an order. The dishes come out, one by one, each with a story (and accompanying title card), and each one gets a little more conceptual and insane than the next. When a taco course comes out featuring a chicken thigh

with small scissors stuck it (to go along with a story about Slowik stabbing his abusive father in the thigh) and tortillas laser-printed with the guests' various misdeeds, the guests realize that the uneasiness they've felt all evening was the correct emotion.

What if Jigsaw from *Saw* went to culinary school and started to take food really seriously while still wanting to mess with people — is what I'm getting from this movie. Yes, the title cards are funny and there are a few genuine laugh-out-loud moments, often juxtaposing the la-di-da nature of foodie talk with menace or outright violence. But the customers are more monied sadsacks than monsters and the kitchen staff come off as either either dead-eyed cult members or

wild-eyed lunatics. Which, fine — but the movie spends a lot of time on speechifying and seeming to have characters believe they're making a point about class and the shallowness of high-end foodie culture. The movie acts like it's saying something but really every statement of purpose boils down to “people suck,” which kind of takes the air out of that part of the movie and makes it feel more like window dressing to the suspense than a clever message. It is, as Paul Hollywood would say poking his thumb into these sections of the movie, underbaked.

We are also boxed in to only rooting for Taylor-Joy (well, maybe her and Judith Light, who is able to do great things with the tiniest of looks or motions). This is by design but the movie doesn't give her much more than “Girl You Root For” as a character or personality. Fiennes, as the Big Bad, doesn't get a whole lot more than that — his character basically delivers Chef Julian's whole deal during one of many pre-course monologues — but he does seem to be having fun with this Great Man gone off the rails.

For all this, I enjoyed *The Menu* — it's gleeful about its different kinds of villainy and really relishes, ha, sending up needless extravagance and foodie culture. **B**

*Rated R for strong/disturbing violent content, language throughout and some sexual references, according to the MPA at filmratings.com. Directed by Mark Mylod and written by Seth Reiss and Will Tracy, The Menu is an hour and 47 minutes long and distributed by Searchlight Pictures in theaters.* 🍷

## AT THE SOFAPLEX

**Tár (R)**

Cate Blanchett, Noémie Merlant.

Lydia Tár (Blanchett) is the conductor of a symphony in Berlin. She has professional success; a large apartment; a child with her wife and the symphony's first violinist, Sharon (Nina Hoss); a book about to hit shelves, and a much-awaited recording of a Mahler symphony in the works. But behind all of this are the increasingly desperate emails from a young woman Lydia had some sort of relationship with and has now blackballed from work with other symphonies. Her assistant Francesca (Merlant) seems aware that *this* relationship has the potential to do real damage (there are regular suggestions that *this* relationship is not the first of its kind) but Lydia pretends not to be aware of the mounting darkness — nor does this gathering storm stop her from pursuing a new young musician in the symphony.

The movie is very clever in the way it puts all the Bad Man behavior in this female character. And I find it interesting how it shows us the power dynamics, the fragile self-esteem, the carelessness and the selfishness but not the sex.

We're seeing the wreckage, not the crash, and Blanchett does great things (particularly with the way she uses her voice and with small gestures) as the person walking through the scene and trying hard to stay convinced that they didn't cause the disaster. Truly, Blanchett is the movie, and I can see why Oscar predictors have been labeling hers as the performance to beat this year. The movie is long with deliberate, not-at-all speedy pacing but Blanchett makes the destructive Lydia impossible to look away from. *A Available for rent or purchase.*

**Causeway (R)**

Jennifer Lawrence, Brian Tyree Henry.

Lynsey (Lawrence) is recently home from military service in Afghanistan, where she suffered a traumatic brain injury, and has had to relearn basics like walking, holding things and sleeping without spiraling into panic. James (Henry) is a mechanic she meets when her family's truck needs work. Both Lynsey and James have lived in New Orleans all their lives; both have suffered familial tragedy in the city, which led Lynsey to run to the Army and James to stay put.

Joe Reid and Chris V. Feil, hosts of *This Had Oscar Buzz*, frequently talk about “friendship cinema,” which this very much is — a movie where the development of a non-romantic relationship is the heart of the story. Lynsey and



*Tár*

James find in each other something Lynsey isn't getting from her mother (Linda Emond), with whom she is staying while she tries to recuperate, and that James can't get from his empty house. And both Lawrence and Henry are bringing so much unsaid to their performances, so much we aren't specifically told about their characters but can understand from what they do with their eyes or the way they smile. *Causeway* is a calm surprise of a movie built on these standout roles. *A- Available on Apple TV+.*

**The Wonder (R)**

Florence Pugh, Toby Jones

Pugh is an English nurse hired to go to mid-1800s Ireland to report on the case of Anna O'Donnell (Kila Lord Cassidy), an 11-ish-year-

old girl who appears to be healthy despite, as her family claims, not eating for more than four months. A group of men in this small, very religious village including the local doctor (Jones) and priest (Ciaran Hinds) have called in Nurse Elizabeth Wright (Pugh) and a nun, Sister Michael (Josie Walker), to watch Anna and report what they observe. Wright thinks this is all nonsense — as do a good number of the townsfolk — but Anna seems sincere in her belief that she is existing only on manna from heaven and has attracted quite a bit of attention for what people seem to believe is a kind of saintliness.

It doesn't take a psychologist to make some guesses about what might be in the intersection of a “miracle” for a young girl deeply invested in the stories of female saints, denial of food by a tween and a recent family death. But the journey of Wright finding out what is behind this supernatural-seeming happening is nonetheless captivating. The men in the story have some personal gains to protect — the religious members of the town want a saint; the doctor thinks Anna might be the beginning of some scientific discovery (for him to make, of course); William Byrne (Tom Burke), a journalist from London who has his roots in this village, is chasing a story. Wright may have limited agency and some personal baggage but she is determined to figure out what's really happening and, eventually,



## POP CULTURE FILMS

find a way to keep a girl from starving to death for dumb reasons. Pugh makes this investigation compelling. **B** Available on Netflix.

### Armageddon Time (R)

Anthony Hopkins, Anne Hathaway.

This movie about Paul Graff (Banks Repeta), a tween from a Jewish family growing up in 1980 Queens, has a very novella, moment-in-time feel. Paul and public school classmate Johnny Davis (Jaylin Webb) are fast friends with a real George-and-Harold energy (for those who know their Captain Underpants), with Paul having a love of drawing and both of them disliking school and very much liking goofing off. The consequences of their goofiness are not equal, though — Johnny, one of the few Black kids at the school, seems to get punished harshly whether he's done something or not. One particular misadventure has Johnny, who is cared for by a grandmother in poor health, dodging foster care officials while Paul is sent to his older brother's private school to set him straight.

Surprisingly to Paul, the advice to his parents — Esther (Hathaway) and Irving (Jeremy Strong) — to send him to the tonier school came from Esther's dad, Paul's beloved grandpa (Anthony Hopkins). Having struggled against antisemitism throughout his life, Paul's grandpa tells him to take the opportunities he gets. But he also urges Paul to stick up for the non-white kids that the students at his new private school disparage; be a mensch, he tells him.

The movie has its compelling moments, with characters like his mother, his often angry father and his grandfather often presented to us from

his kid's-eye-view of them. But the pieces of this movie don't always hang together. Each of the adult characters, while well-performed, feel like they're working at slightly different frequencies. *Armageddon Time* isn't bad but it lacks a certain clarity. **B** Available for rent or purchase.

### See How They Run (PG-13)

Saoirse Ronan, Sam Rockwell.

In 1950s London, Inspector Stoppard (Rockwell) and Constable Stalker (Ronan) investigate the murder of Leo Kopernick (Adian Brody), an American director tasked with turning Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* into a film. As in any English country house murder, there are an assortment of potential suspects with an assortment of connections to (and disagreements with) the victim. Eager and slightly star-struck Stalker and uninterested, world-weary Stoppard make an odd-couple pairing as they interview the various players — an ego-filled star (Harris Dickinson), an ego-filled writer (David Oyelowo), the play's no-nonsense producer (Ruth Wilson), the potential producer of the movie (Reece Shearsmith) and his mistress (Pippa Bennett-Warner) — and try to figure which of the many reasons for wanting Leo dead actually moved someone to murder.

This movie has all the trappings — in how it's shot, in the very Character-y characters, in its wry dialogue — of a buoyant murder mystery. But somehow it's missing the bounce, the spark that would make it the kind of fun it seems to want to be. *See How They Run* seems to be aiming for "Knives Out but cozier" but instead it's merely inoffensive and mildly pleasant. **B-** On VOD and HBO Max. 🍷

## Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings and virtual events

## Venues

### Fathom Events

Fathomevents.com

### O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square

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

### Red River Theatres

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

### Wilton Town Hall Theatre

40 Main St., Wilton  
654-3456

## Films

• *The Menu* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, at 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 8, at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
• *She Said* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6:45 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6:45 p.m.  
• *Charles Dickens' A Christmas*

*Carol*, a new London stage production starring Mark Gatiss and Nicholas Farrell, will screen at The Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15.

• *I Heard the Bells* (NR, 2022) will screen Thursday, Dec. 1, through Thursday, Dec. 8, at theaters including AMC Londonderry, Cinemark Rockingham in Salem, O'neil in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington (not all theaters on all nights). Screenshot is 7 p.m. on weekdays, 4 p.m. on weekends. See fathomevents.com.

• *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square Friday, Dec. 2, through Thursday, Dec. 8, with multiple screenings each day including one D-BOX screening (usually at 4:30 p.m.). Tickets, which are on sale now, cost \$7 and include a bell while supplies last.

• *The Banshees of Inisherin* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, at 1 & 4 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m.  
• *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m., at Red River Theatres in Concord.

• *The Magic Flute* A holiday encore of The Met: Live in HD production



*Banshees of Inisherin*

of the opera *The Magic Flute* will screen via Fathom Events on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 12:55 p.m. at O'neil in Epping and Regal Fox Run.

• *White Christmas* (1954) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.  
• *Barbed Wire* (1927), a silent film with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen at Wilton Town Hall Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Admission is free; a \$10 donation is encouraged.

• *Three's a Crowd* (1927), a silent film starring Harry Langdon with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen at the Flying Monkey Movie House and Performance Center in Plymouth on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m.  
• *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen at all three Chunky's locations on Thursday, Dec. 8, as part of a 21+ Ugly Sweater Party. The screening starts at 8 p.m.

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PRESENTS



### FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY: PAUL GILLIGAN

Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30PM

In addition to headlining in Boston clubs, Gilligan has appeared on NESN's Dirty Water TV!

### MOONDANCE: THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO VAN MORRISON

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30PM

This incredible show captures the Van Morrison concert experience like no other.



### FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY: JIMMY CASH & FRIENDS

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM

Jimmy draws from his experience as a father of a teenage daughter, an uncertain amount of stepchildren, sobriety and 18 years as a public school janitor.

### A SINATRA CHRISTMAS WITH RICH DIMARE

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM

Rich DiMare is a Boston-based jazz singer who specializes in Sinatra and Rat Pack area music.



### A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS WITH EILEEN IVERS

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM

Celebrate why Christmas is so special through this evening of pure joy with Celtic fiddle legend, Eileen Ivers.



### ANTHONY NUNZIATA: MY ITALIAN BROADWAY CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

Kick-off the holidays with world-renowned jazz/pop vocalist, songwriter, entertainer, and Carnegie Hall headliner Anthony Nunziata.



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By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Song Circle:** A series focused on singer-songwriters, **Come On Up To The House** has a trio of luminaries: Mark Erelli, Jesse Dee and Ali McGuirk. Erelli's latest is the poignant "You're Gonna Wanna Remember This," a co-write with Lori McKenna. Dee is inspired by vintage soul — his Sam Cooke-flavored "Slippery Slope" is a good example — and McGuirk is a rising star, with a Signature Sounds debut recently released. Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., The Word Barn, 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, \$15 to \$25 at thewordbarn.com.

• **Genre-blender:** A solid draw in their Midwest home and on the festival circuit, **Tropidelic** began hitting the Northeast a few years ago. The six-piece band fuses a lot of genres, including reggae and hip-hop, exuding positivity with a spirited call to activism. To illustrate their variety, 2018's *Heavy is the Head* included eerie a capella, rage rapping and an uplifting ballad — and that was only the first three songs. Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Wally's Pub, 144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton Beach, \$20 at ticketmaster.com.

• **Woofa goofa:** A rousing tribute to the J. Geils Band, **Whammer Jammer** recalls the Boston sextet that had a habit of blowing headlines off the stage during its very brief period as an opening act; more than a few fans think it's a crime that the stellar group isn't in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With singer Rich Ashman standing in for Peter Wolf (who still performs solo), the group does a credible job of reviving their timeless sound. Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Stumble Inn, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, stumbleinnnh.com.

• **Xmas shred:** Transforming Santa season into a shredding surf safari, **Gary Hoey** provides a great way to get into the holiday spirit with his annual "Ho! Ho! Hoey!" show. The Dick Dale acolyte first donned his Kringle hat more than 25 years ago; the guitarist's franchise now includes Hallmark greeting cards playing rocked-up holiday favorites. Hoey was also featured in the 2006 Danny DeVito film *Deck The Halls*. Sunday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$35 at tupelohall.com.

• **Only one:** With its bracing, metal-limned hardcore punk sound, **Cro-Mags** broke through with *The Age of Quarrel* in the mid-'80s, followed by *Best Wishes*, before internal strife split them in two. Last October, bassist-vocalist Harley Flanagan secured rights to the band's name from its former singer, ending a protracted legal battle. With Flanagan the only founding member, the group kicks off a short tour in Manchester. Monday, Dec. 5, 9 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester, \$20 at brownpapertickets.com. 🍷

## NITE

# Nashville bond

### Amanda McCarthy duos for hometown show

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On a Thursday afternoon in late October, Amanda McCarthy played a set at Bobby's Idle Hour, a no-nonsense bar nestled at the edge of Nashville's Music Row. The busy performer had another gig scheduled later that evening, but this one was special, marking the release of "Lifeline," a song that takes a healthy look back at a long-gone relationship.

"When I finished that song in the writing session, I was like, 'Well that's all I have to say,'" McCarthy recalled in a recent phone interview. "I think there's something really cool about that feeling." Begun a few years ago and completed with the help of her fiancé, Tom Shubsda, and Martin Butter, its finality shares common ground with Taylor Swift's "All Too Well."

At her side that day was Sam Ferrara, a singer-songwriter she'd worked with a lot since leaving New Hampshire just over two years ago, lately singing backup on Ferrara's own ex-boyfriend burn, "Get Out of My Town." The two will be making a trip North in early December, with dates at NYC's Cutting Room and Over The Moon Farmstead in the Granite State.

"I played in New York City before, but she's from there, so it'll be really cool to meet her people and be with her in her home environment," McCarthy said. "Then I'll get to bring her to New Hampshire."

#### Amanda McCarthy & Sam Ferrara

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Over The Moon Farmstead, 1253 Upper City Road, Pittsfield  
**More:** amandamccarthy.com

The bond with Ferrara is one of many McCarthy has formed since her 2020 leap of faith to Music City. She's been a part of several songs that have been recorded, co-writing Benn Park's "Mountain Steep" and penning "Unwrite Every Song" with Emily Myers. "That was a special one," McCarthy said. "She's also one of my best friends."

Though written years ago, "The Long Haul" recently helped April Cushman win a New England Music Award for Best Country Act. McCarthy still hews to the song's message of tenacity in the face of challenge. "I've kept my expectations low but my work ethic high," she said. "I've always been kind of an underdog in a way, and I have no problem working harder day by day, trying to figure it out."

Her biggest success isn't one song or even the award she received from Young Entertainment Professionals Nashville for being its most active member. "Being able to quit my job was certainly validating because it let me say I'm stable enough, I'm getting enough work that I can do this," she said.

She's aware it's a crucible that's not for everyone. "I was always a full-time musician up north and the big question was can I do this in Nashville," she said. "I was able to, and that really gave me a confidence boost and let me know I'm on the right path, no matter where it's going. Every time someone records a song I've helped write is validating, because it shows me that other people see the value in what I write, not just me."

The move also helped her growth as an artist. "I've learned so much about songwriting from being here, and it hasn't even been from anyone telling me that I was doing anything wrong. I think just being



Amanda McCarthy. Photo Credit Nash Bash Collective.

around so much of it, you absorb a lot, you get inspired by a lot. I've kind of become in tune with knowing how to really pull out my inner voice. But I can also become other people's voices, which is a very cool way to switch things up — and my voice has gotten stronger."

McCarthy looks forward to seeing friends and family and doing some tax-free Christmas shopping during her brief visit, which also includes a solo show at The Bar in Hudson on Dec. 4. Beyond that, performing at Moonlight Meadery's home base is about more than music for her.

"The owners, Michael and Bernice, are my best friend's father and stepmother, and she's my maid of honor," McCarthy said, noting that the bridal shower for her wedding next spring happened at the facility. "So not only are they part of an amazing music venue, but I have a very personal connection with them.... I've known them since I was a kid, so it's very cool to be playing there." 🍷

## COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Venues

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

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

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

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

**The Music Hall**  
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth  
436-2400, themusichall.org

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

**The Press Room**  
77 Daniel St., Portsmouth  
431-5186, pressroomnh.com

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

**Rochester Opera House**  
31 Wakefield St., Rochester  
335-1992, rochesteropera-house.com

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

### Events

• **Al Ghanekar** Press Room, Thursday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m.

• **Kathe Farris** McCue's, Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

• **Chelsea Handler** Chubb Theatre, Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

• **Paul Gilligan** Rex, Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

• **Marty Caproni** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, 8:30 p.m.

• **Steve Scarfo** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m.

• **Sebastian Maniscalco** SNHU Arena, Sunday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

• **Jimmy Cash & Friends** Rex, Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.

• **Karen Morgan** McCue's, Friday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Sweeney** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 9, 8:30 p.m.

• **Will Noonan** Headliners,

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30 p.m.

• **Brian Glowacki** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:30 p.m.

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

• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, Dec. 15, and Friday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.

• **Jimmy Dunn's Comedy** Christmas Rex, Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

• **Discovering Magic in Portsmouth** Music Hall Lounge, Friday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m.

• **Dan Crohn** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m.

• **Kenny Rogerson** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 23,



Sebastian Maniscalco

8:30 p.m.

• **Justin McKinney** The Music Hall, Monday, Dec. 26 and Tuesday, Dec. 27, 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 28, and Thursday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m.

• **Ben Pratt** Chunky's Manchester, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 6:30 p.m.

• **Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m.



# MUSIC THIS WEEK

<p><b>Alton</b> Foster's Tavern 403 Main St. 875-1234</p> <p><b>Alton Bay</b> Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive 855-2222</p> <p><b>Auburn</b> Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564</p> <p><b>Bedford</b> Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677</p> <p><b>Bow</b> Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508</p> <p><b>Brookline</b> The Alamo Texas Barbecue &amp; Tequila Bar 99 Route 13 721-5000</p>	<p><b>Concord</b> Area 23 254 N. State St. 760-7944</p> <p><b>Concord Craft</b> Brewing 117 Storrs St. 856-7625</p> <p><b>Hermanos Cocina</b> Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669</p> <p><b>Uno Pizzeria</b> 15 Fort Eddy Road 226-8667</p> <p><b>Contoocook</b> Gould Hill Farm &amp; Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road 746-3811</p>	<p><b>Deerfield</b> The Lazy Lion 4 North Road 463-7374</p> <p><b>Derry</b> Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946</p> <p><b>Dover</b> Cara Irish Pub &amp; Restaurant 11 Fourth St. 343-4390</p> <p><b>Epping</b> Telly's Restaurant &amp; Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225</p> <p><b>Epsom</b> Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road 736-0027</p> <p><b>Exeter</b> Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St. 793-5116</p>	<p><b>Gilford</b> Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841</p> <p><b>Goffstown</b> Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230</p> <p><b>Greenfield</b> Riverhouse Cafe 4 Slip Road 547-8710</p> <p><b>Hampton</b> Bogie's 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>Smuttynose Brewing</b> 105 Towle Farm Road</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>Hudson</b> The Bar 2B Burnham Road</p> <p><b>Backstreet Bar &amp; Grill</b> 76 Derry Road</p> <p><b>Lynn's 102 Tavern</b> 76 Derry Road 943-7832</p> <p><b>Jaffrey</b> Park Theatre 19 Main St. 532-9300</p>	<p><b>Kingston</b> Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962</p> <p><b>Laconia</b> Belknap Mill 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> Coach Stop Restaurant &amp; Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022</p> <p><b>Stumble Inn</b> 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210</p> <p><b>Manchester</b> Angel City Music Hall 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>KC's Rib Shack</b> 837 Second St. 627-RIBS</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> Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313</p>
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## Thursday, Dec. 1

<p><b>Auburn</b> Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Bedford</b> Copper Door: Charlie Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Brookline</b> Alamo: open mic with Matt Bergeron, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Concord</b> Area 23: drum circle, 7 p.m. Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Derry</b> Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Epping</b> Telly's: Doug Mitchell, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Exeter</b> Sea Dog: Teeba, 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Gilford</b> Patrick's Pub: Sev &amp; Company, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Goffstown</b> Village Trestle: Chris Perkins, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hampton</b> Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Dog Fathers, 6 p.m. Wally's: High On Fire w/ Municipal Waste, 8 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hudson</b> Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Kingston</b> Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Laconia</b> Fratello's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke w/ Luke Sky-</p>	<p>rocker, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Londonderry</b> Stumble Inn: 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Duo, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Manchester</b> Angel City: Open Mic, 8 p.m. City Hall Pub: John Chouinard, 7 p.m. Currier: Party of the Sun, 5 p.m. Elm House of Pizza: Chris Lester, 6 p.m. Foundry: Kimayo, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Austin McCarthy, 5:30 p.m. Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Merrimack</b> Homestead: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nashua</b> Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. San Francisco Kitchen: Bobby</p>	<p>Lane, 6:30 p.m. Shorty's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Newmarket</b> Stone Church: The Worst/Pink Blazer/The Jerritones, 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Portsmouth</b> The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Salem</b> Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Seabrook</b> Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Strafford</b> Independence Inn: Paul Driscoll, 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Exeter</b> Sea Dog: Liz Ridgely, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Goffstown</b> Village Trestle: Rose Kula, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hampton</b> Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Doug Fathers, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Wally's: Tropicidelic w/Surfer Girl, 7 p.m. Whym: Austin McCarthy, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hudson</b> Backstreet Bar &amp; Grill: Project Mess, 8:30 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Kingston</b> Saddle Up Saloon: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Laconia</b> Fratello's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m. Tower Hill: Chase Campbell Band, 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Londonderry</b> Coach Stop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: 603's Duo, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Manchester</b> Backyard Brewery: Matt The</p>	<p>Sax, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Houston Bernard, 9 p.m. Derryfield: Stone Free, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Chris Taylor, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Chris Lester, 6 p.m. The Goat: Cashwood, 9 p.m. Shaskeen: Miketon &amp; The Night-blinders, 9 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: BJ Magoon &amp; Driving Sideways, 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Meredith</b> Twin Barns: The Sweetbloods, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Merrimack</b> Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Milford</b> Pasta Loft: Jamdemic w/Joe Birch, 8:30 p.m. Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nashua</b> Millyard Brewery: Leeroy Brown, 6:30 p.m. San Francisco Kitchen: Joe McDonald</p> <p><b>New Boston</b> Molly's: Jae Mannion, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Newmarket</b> Stone Church: Dan Blakeslee &amp; Calabash Club, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Northfield</b> Boonedox Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.</p>
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## Friday, Dec. 2

<p><b>Alton</b> Foster's Tavern: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Auburn</b> Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Concord</b> Area 23: Train Wreck, 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Epping</b> Telly's: Pete Peterson Duo, 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Manchester</b> Backyard Brewery: Matt The</p>
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## CHELSEA HANDLER

Meanwhile, inside the Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com), comedian **Chelsea Handler** will be bringing the laughs. The show is on Friday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$59 (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).



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**NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK**

<b>Twin Barns Brewing</b> 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	<b>Raga</b> 138 Main St. 459-8566	<b>Penacook American Legion Post 31</b> 11 Charles St. 753-9372	<b>Salem Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway 458-2033
<b>Merrimack Homestead</b> 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	<b>San Francisco Kitchen</b> 133 Main St. 886-8833	<b>Portsmouth The Gas Light</b> 64 Market St. 430-9122	<b>Luna Bistro</b> 254 N. Broadway 458-2162
<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>Smuttynose</b> 11 Via Toscana
<b>Riley's Place</b> 29 Mont Vernon St. 380-3480	<b>New Boston Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	<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>Stonecutters Pub</b> 63 Union Square 213-5979	<b>Newmarket Stone Church</b> 5 Granite St. 659-7700	<b>Thirsty Moose Tap-house</b> 21 Congress St. 427-8645	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
<b>Nashua Fody's Tavern</b> 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	<b>Northfield Boonedox Pub</b> 95 Park St. 717-8267	<b>Rochester Porter's Pub</b> 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	<b>Strafford Independence Inn</b> 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
<b>Millyard Brewery</b> 25 E. Otterson St. 722-0104			<b>Windham Common Man</b> 88 Range Road 898-0088

**COMEDY NIGHT at Millyard Brewery**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> 8 - 9:30**  
Doors open at 7:15

**HEADLINER: KYLE CRAWFORD plus two additional comedians!**

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<b>Penacook American Legion Post 31:</b> JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.	<b>Concord Area 23:</b> Acoustic Circle, 2 p.m.; Scott Solsky, 8 p.m. <b>Hermanos:</b> live music, 6:30 p.m. <b>Winter Farmers Market:</b> Josh Foster, 9 a.m.	<b>Hudson The Bar:</b> live music, 8:30 p.m.
<b>Portsmouth Gas Light:</b> Doug Thompson, 9:30 p.m. <b>The Goat:</b> Chris Toler, 9 p.m. <b>Mojo's:</b> Ralph Allen, 7 p.m. <b>Thirsty Moose:</b> Pop Disaster, 9 p.m.	<b>Contocook Contocook Cider Co.:</b> Andrew Geano, 1 p.m.	<b>Jaffrey Park Theatre:</b> Bernie & Louise Watson, 5:30 p.m.
<b>Salem Luna Bistro:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m. <b>Smuttynose:</b> music bingo, 6 p.m.	<b>Epping Telly's:</b> Ralph Allen, 8 p.m.	<b>Kingston Saddle Up Saloon:</b> All That 90's, 8 p.m.
<b>Alton Foster's Tavern:</b> The Lone Wolf Project, 7 p.m.	<b>Epsom Hill Top Pizza:</b> JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.	<b>Laconia Tower Hill:</b> line dancing, 7 p.m.; Carolyn Ramsay Band, 8:30 p.m.
<b>Alton Bay Docksides:</b> Lewis Goodwin, 8 p.m.	<b>Exeter Sea Dog:</b> Mark Lapointe, 6 p.m.	<b>Londonderry Coach Stop:</b> Dave Zangri, 6 p.m. <b>Stumble Inn:</b> Whammer Jammer, 8 p.m.
<b>Brookline Alamo:</b> live music, 5 p.m.	<b>Goffstown Village Trestle:</b> D-Comp, 6 p.m.	<b>Manchester Backyard Brewery:</b> Tyler Levs, 6 p.m. <b>Bonfire:</b> EXP Band, 9 p.m. <b>Derryfield:</b> Sold Out Show Band, 8 p.m. <b>Fratello's:</b> Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m. <b>Foundry:</b> Amanda Adams, 6 p.m. <b>The Goat:</b> Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; Pop Disaster, 9 p.m. <b>Shaskeen:</b> 90's Night, 9 p.m.
<b>Bow Chen Yang Li:</b> Eric Marcs, 7 p.m.		

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Raymond, New Hampshire's own **Steve Scarfo** is one of the top requested acts in New England, with headlining shows at the Comedy Connection, Laugh New England, and North Shore Comedy. He drops in at Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester; headlinerscomedyclub.com) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.



## NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

**Strange Brew:** Amorphous Band, 9 p.m.  
**Wild Rover:** Jake Bartolin, 5 p.m.  
**To Share:** Paul Nelson, 4 p.m.

### Meredith

**Giusseppe's:** Andre Balazs, 5:45 p.m.  
**Twin Barns:** Rebecca Turmel, 5 p.m.

### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.

### Milford

**Pasta Loft:** Billy and the Jets, 8 p.m.  
**Riley's Place:** Time Tunnel Band, 8 p.m.

### Nashua

**Fody's:** Jesse Rustein, 10 p.m.  
**Millyard Brewery:** The Groove Cats, 4 p.m.  
**San Francisco Kitchen:** Lee Bidle, 6:30 p.m.

### New Boston

**Molly's:** Acoustic BS, 7 p.m.

### Newmarket

**Stone Church:** Scissorfight/KIND/The Peasants/Proelium, 8:30 p.m.

### Northfield

**Boonedoxz:** live music, 7 p.m.

### Portsmouth

**Gas Light:** Krystian Beal, 9:30 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.  
**Thirsty Moose:** Kaleidoscope Band, 9 p.m.

### Salem

**Luna Bistro:** Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 4

**Alton Bay**  
**Dockside:** Jeff Lines, 4 p.m.

### Bedford

**Copper Door:** Marc Apostolides, 11 a.m.

### Concord

**Concord Craft Brewing:** Tyler Levs, 2 p.m.

### Contoocook

**Contoocook Cider Co.:** April Cushman, 1 p.m.

### Goffstown

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

### Hampton

**Bogie's:** live music, 7 p.m.  
**CR's:** Rico Barr Duo, 6 p.m.  
**L Street:** Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Ra, 7 p.m.

### Hudson

**The Bar:** live music, 2 p.m.

### Laconia

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

### Manchester

**Bonfire:** line dancing, 6 p.m.  
**Foundry:** Brad Myrick, 10 a.m.  
**The Goat:** Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.  
**Strange Brew:** One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.  
**To Share:** Liam Spain, 4 p.m.

### Milford

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

### Nashua

**San Francisco Kitchen:** Miles

### Northfield

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

### Portsmouth

**The Goat:** Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

### Salem

**Copper Door:** Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

### Monday, Dec. 5

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

### Gilford

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

### Hudson

**The Bar:** karaoke with Phil

### Londonderry

**Stumble Inn:** Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

### Manchester

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

### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m.

### Nashua

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

### Portsmouth

**The Goat:** Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

### Seabrook

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

### Tuesday, Dec. 6

#### Concord

**Hermanos:** live music, 6:30 p.m.  
**Tandy's:** open mic, 8 p.m.

#### Hampton

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

#### Kingston

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

#### Londonderry

**Stumble Inn:** music bingo, 7 p.m.

#### Manchester

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

#### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

#### Nashua

**Raga:** karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

#### Portsmouth

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

#### Seabrook

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


### Wednesday, Dec. 7

#### Concord


**Hermanos:** live music, 6:30 p.m.  
**Tandy's:** karaoke, 8 p.m.  
**Uno Pizzeria:** Brad Myrick, 6 p.m.

#### Derry

**Fody's:** karaoke, 7 p.m.




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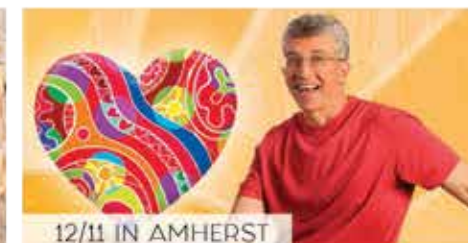
12/7 IN AMHERST

**Cooking with Wine: Holiday Recipes**




12/10 IN AMHERST

**Cooking Techniques: Butter Boards and Bread**




12/11 IN AMHERST

**Ben Rudnick & Friends: Family Holiday Concert**




12/14 IN DERRY

**Restorative Yoga and Sound Bath**




12/15 IN DERRY

**A Nashville Christmas! Concert**




12/18 IN DERRY

**The Mr Aaron Band: Family Holiday Concert**




12/31 IN DERRY

**Swinging Big Band New Year's Eve Dinner & LaBelle Lights**




1/28 IN AMHERST

**LaBelle 10th Anniversary Masquerade Gala**



1/14 IN DERRY

**Wine Pairing at Winterfest**



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## CELTIC VOCALS

The vocal group **Christmas Celts** have won a faithful audience for their blend of seasonal standards and Celtic vocal arrangements. Ring in the holiday season at the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth; 536-2551, [flyingmonkeynh.com](http://flyingmonkeynh.com)) on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.





**Exeter**

**Sea Dog:** Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.

**Goffstown**

**Village Trestle:** live music, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**

**Bogie's:** open mic, 7 p.m.

**L Street:** karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m.

**Kingston**

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

**Manchester**

**Derryfield:** Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

**Fratello's:** Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

**The Goat:** April Cushman, 7 p.m.

**Stark Brewing:** Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

**Strange Brew:** open mic w/Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

**Meredith**

**Giuseppe's:** Don Bergeron, 5:45 p.m.

**Merrimack**

**Homestead:** Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m.

**Milford**

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

**Nashua**

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

**Portsmouth**

**The Goat:** Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.

**Rochester**

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

**Concerts**

**Venues**

**Bank of NH Stage in Concord**

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

**Capitol Center for the Arts**

Chubb Theatre. 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

**Colonial Theatre**

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

**The Flying Monkey**

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

**Granite State Music Hall**

546 Main St., Laconia  
granitestatemusichall.com

**Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club**

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

**LaBelle Winery**

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

**LaBelle Winery Derry**

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

**The Majestic Theatre**

880 Page St., Manchester  
669-7469, majestictheatre.com

**The Music Hall**

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

**The Music Hall Lounge**

131 Congress St., Portsmouth  
436-2400, themusichall.org

**Palace Theatre**

80 Hanover St., Manchester  
668-5588, palacetheatre.org

**Press Room**

77 Daniel St., Portsmouth  
431-5186, pressroomnh.com

**Rex Theatre**

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

**SNHU Arena**

555 Elm St., Manchester  
644-5000, www.snhuarena.com

**Stone Church**

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

**3S Artspace**

319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth  
766-3330, 3sarts.org

**Tupelo Music Hall**

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

**The Word Barn**

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

**Shows**

• **Popa Chubby** Thursday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Jordan Fletcher/Maddi Ryan** Thursday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage

• **The Worst/Pink Blazer/The Jerritones** Thursday, Dec. 1, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Freese Brothers Big Band** Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre

• **Christmas with the Celts** Friday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Jonny Friday** Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Millyard

• **Panorama/Hey Blondie!** (Cars tribute/Blondie tribute) Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Spencer & the Walrus** Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **Dub Apocalypse** Friday, Dec. 2, 9 p.m., The Press Room

• **Mr. Aaron's Holiday Party** Saturday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord

• **The Figgs** Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., Stone Church

• **NH Gay Men's Chorus "Suddenly Silver Bells"** Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church (3 Lutheran Drive, Nashua); Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (22 Fox Run Road, Newington); Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at The Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey); and Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. at The Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester). See nhgmc.com.

• **Moondance** (Van Morrison tribute) Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Larry Carlton** Saturday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Charlie Parr** Saturday, Dec. 3, 8



Mr. Aaron

p.m., Word Barn

• **Start Making Sense** (Talking Heads tribute) Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage

• **Kat Wright** Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Seamus Egan Celtic Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Carbon Leaf** Saturday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Scissorfight** Saturday, Dec. 3, 8:30 p.m., Stone Church

• **Drumline Holiday Spectacular** Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Holiday Pops: Strings & Horns** Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m., LaBelle Winery Derry

• **Gary Hoey-HO HO HOEY!** Sunday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Ballroom Thieves** Sunday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Bywater Call** Sunday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Special Interest** Monday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m., Press Room

• **Emmaline: Christmas Show** Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Dave Gerard** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., The Orchard Chapel

• **Karina Rikman** Wednesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., Press Room

• **A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa** Thursday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Word Barn

• **Laconia Middle School Music Department Winter Concert** Thursday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Colonial

• **SALIVA** Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Tupelo

• **Dar Williams** Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Antje Duvect** Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Frances Forever** Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., 3S Artspace

**Trivia**

**Events**

• **Elf trivia 21+** on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com). Reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.

**Weekly**

• **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Smuttylabs (47 Washington St., Dover, 343-1782, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

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

• **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.

• **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage

Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

• **Monday** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.

• **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30 p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by DJ Zati.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reednorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Area 23 (254 N. State St., Concord, 881-9060, thearea23.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com)



Elf

from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events/) at 6:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..

• **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at The Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth, 427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 8 p.m.

**TINY DESK-ER IN EXETER**

Singer-songwriter **Alisa Amador** has been the best-kept secret of the New England folk music scene, and with her winning entry in the NPR's 2022 Tiny Desk Contest, the rest of the country is in on the secret. She comes to the Orchard Chapel (143 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls; 244-0202; thewordbarn.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20, plus fees.



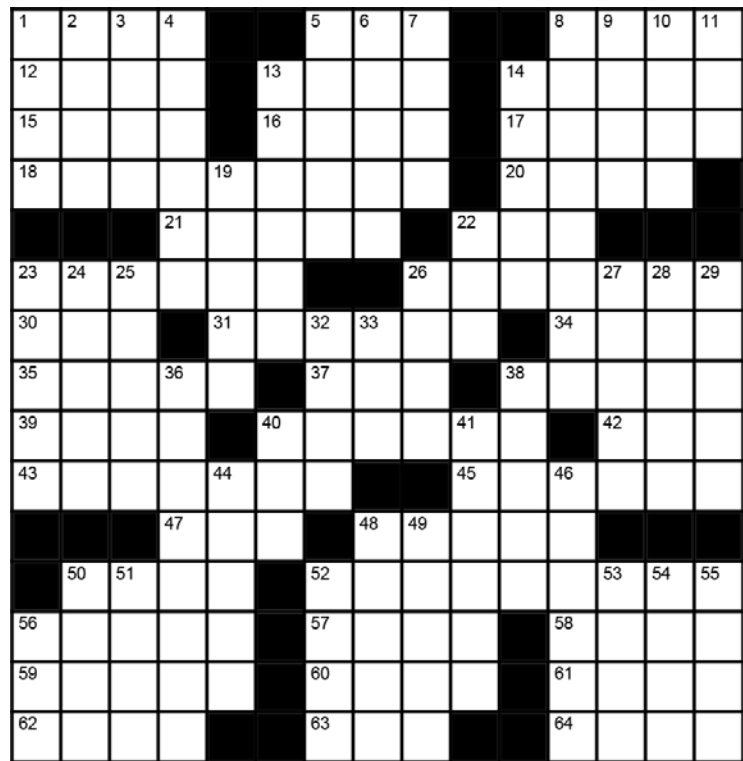
**BALLROOM THIEVES**

Folk pop duo **Ballroom Thieves** recorded their latest album, *Clouds*, in the spring of 2020. Their tour to support the album brings them to the Bank of New Hampshire Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord; 225-1111, banknhstage.com) on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25, plus fees. Griffin William is the supporting act.





# CROSSROADS SEEM TO COME AND GO



**Across**

1. Tesla said it's just 'The Way \_\_\_' (2,2)
5. William Morris' outfit (abbr)
8. '91 Gang Of Four album you hear in an indoor shopping center?
12. G Love drinks this kind of 'Pop'
13. Classic keyman Russell
14. 'Poison' Bell Biv and this one
15. \_\_\_ We Never Said Goodbye (2,2)
16. Allman Brothers will '\_\_\_ Peach' at the farmer's market (3,1)
17. A lonely Adele sings '\_\_\_ You' (1,4)
18. 'Peaceful Easy Feeling' band (3,6)
20. Nonverbal audition acceptances
21. Allmans 'Back Where \_\_\_ Begins' (2,3)
22. After The Fire '\_\_\_ Kommissar'
23. Nickelback '\_\_\_ To The Ground' (4,2)
26. '02 System Of A Down hit for half-pipe tricks
30. Clash left America on 'I'm So Bored With The \_\_\_'
31. The Who ran on 'Going \_\_\_'
34. Dropkick Murphys '\_\_\_ Good Men' (1,3)
35. Ohio band Over The \_\_\_
37. Brian of Roxy Music
38. Music exec icon Davis
39. Evanescence 'Bring \_\_\_ Life' (2,2)
40. Toto went from '\_\_\_ Present 1977-1990' (4,2)
42. 80s R&B singer Peeples
43. O Brother, Where \_\_\_? (3,4)
45. '00 Papa Roach album that needed an exterminator?
47. Adult-oriented rock genre/radio format (abbr)
48. Van Halen 'Don't Tell Me (What Love \_\_\_)' (3,2)
50. State Janes Addiction is from (abbr)
52. 'If You C Jordan' Something \_\_\_
56. Part of 'How Will The Wolf Survive?' band, w/Los
57. Vietnamese band The Flob is from

this continent

58. '90 Edie Brickell album 'Ghost Of \_\_\_' (1,3)
59. Bassist Jeff of Three Fish
60. Lenny Kravitz told us to 'Bring \_\_\_' (2,2)
61. Boz Scaggs classic (w/"Shuffle")
62. Asia '\_\_\_ Survivor'
63. 'Nature Boy' \_\_\_ King Cole
64. Libertines 'What Became Of The Likely' boys or these

**Down**

1. Queens Of The Stone Age '\_\_\_ By The Ocean' (1,3)
2. Peter of The Wailers
3. '03 Story Of The Year hit 'Until The Day \_\_\_' (1,3)
4. Foreigner locked it away '\_\_\_ My Heart' (4,2)
5. Blue Murder says don't worry '\_\_\_ Fall Down' (2,3)
6. Road musician's stop
7. Females Johnsson and singer Rodriguez
8. Rock star statue
9. Dedicated
10. John Frusciante song that went into the red?
11. Popular guitar \_\_\_ Paul
13. Played or sung smoothly or connected
14. Tom Waits 'Nighthawks At The \_\_\_'
19. "I recall once upon \_\_\_, living was so easy and I felt so fine" (1,4)
22. 'We're Not Gonna Take It' singer Snider
23. Boston post-punkers Mission Of \_\_\_
24. 'Confessions' R&B singer
25. 'Love Sneakin' Up On You' Bonnie
26. Allmans "You know I care \_\_\_, darling please don't break my heart" (1,3)
27. Tony Carey '\_\_\_, Fine Day' (1,4)
28. "Can't you see my faded \_\_\_ bursting apart" Meat Loaf
29. 'Spinning Wheel' Blood, \_\_\_ And Tears
32. '1917 Revolution' Brit
33. Amp store contacts are called these
36. '04 Breaking Benjamin album 'We Are \_\_\_' (3,5)
38. Complex unit musician might buy on 1st deal

40. '16 Brett Dennen album '\_\_\_ Favor'
  41. SRV '\_\_\_ Alley' (3,3)
  44. '94 Phish album
  46. "When it's all for one, it's one \_\_\_" (3,3)
  48. 'Sunshine' folk singer Matt
  49. Might happen during cancelled show (1,4)
  50. Tito Puente 'Oye \_\_\_ Va'
  51. The Weeknd's real first name
  52. Springsteen 'Adam Raised A \_\_\_'
  53. Sarah McLachlan "We are born innocent, believe me \_\_\_"
  54. 70s double album by singer Rundgren
  55. They can ruin bands by getting too big
  56. \_\_\_ Vegas Walk Of Stars
- © 2022 Todd Santos
- Todd's new book Rock and Roll Crosswords Vol. 1 is available now on Amazon.

## WORD★Roundup™

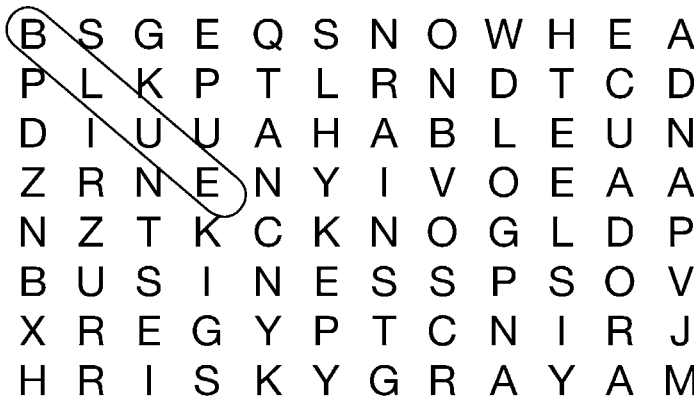
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Six four-letter colors  □□□□
- Three countries starting with E  □□
- Three forms of precipitation  □□□
- Tom Cruise in "\_\_\_\_\_"  □□
- Two black-and-white mammals  □□

Last Week's Answers: SMILE FROWN SCOWL SMIRK GRIN / ROBIN CRANE HERON EAGLE / WILSON GRANT TAFT / PIECE BOARD MOVE / EAST WEST

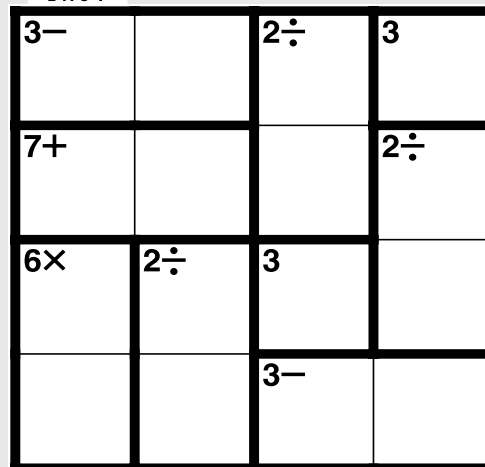
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## KENKEN

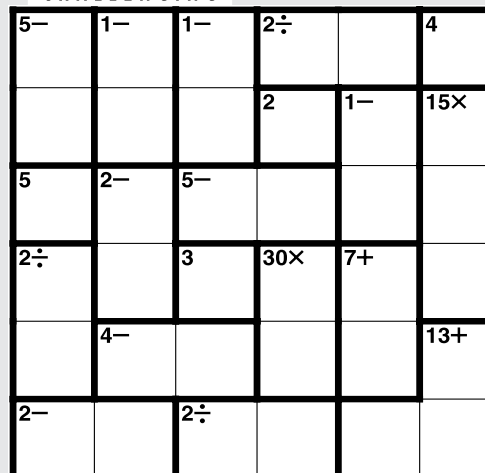
THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**



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**CHALLENGING**



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**RULES**

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**

2÷	1-	3	6×	12×	1	3	4	5	2	6
4	2	3	1	2-	10×	6	1	3	3	5
2	4	1	3	6	5	24×	2	3	4	1
1	3	4	2	3+	2	1	3	6	5	4
3	1	2	4	15+	5	4	1	2	5-	6×
				3	3	6	5	4	1	2

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# “Free Throw” – throwing a themeless puzzle out there.

**Across**

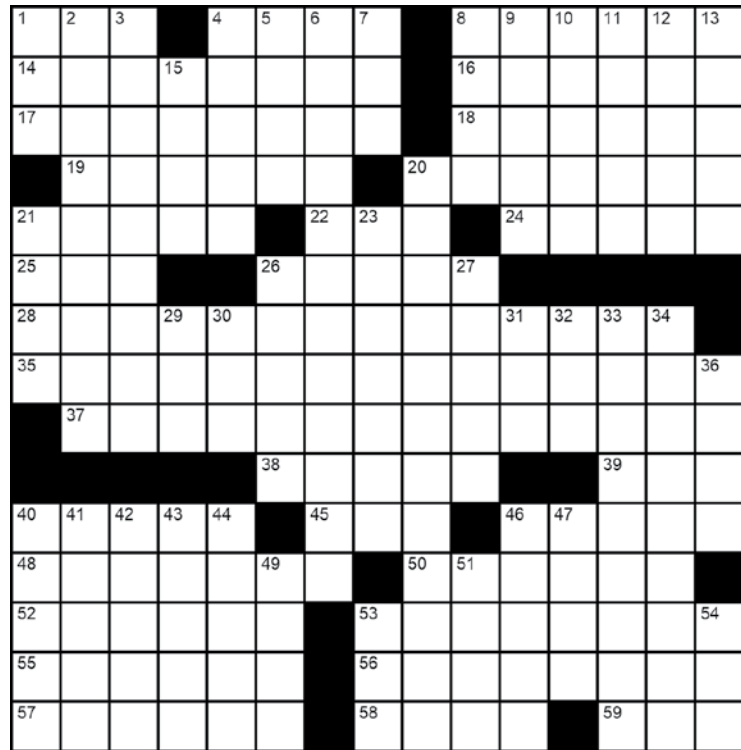
- 1. Andruw Jones and Mike Trout, for two (abbr.)
- 4. “Very much yes,” in the Yucatan
- 8. Salon stuff
- 14. Lab tubes for measurement
- 16. Yellow-flowered plant used medicinally
- 17. Upscale deli section, maybe
- 18. The sweet stuff
- 19. French schools
- 20. Salamander added to Minecraft in 2021
- 21. Class

- 22. “Down on the Corner” band, briefly
- 24. Pick up
- 25. Qty.
- 26. Some barn noises
- 28. They involve a lot of prediction
- 35. Sweepers and others
- 37. Panel show featuring David Mitchell and Lee Mack
- 38. Like some calculators
- 39. Aftermath Records founder, familiarly
- 40. Type of bath salts
- 45. Grandma, in Gloucester

- 46. Certain steakhouse orders
- 48. Festival purchase with perks
- 50. Hypothetical words
- 52. Cosmo cohort
- 53. Stoop
- 55. “Save it!”
- 56. Pat to the max
- 57. Takes a turn?
- 58. Treaty co-signer
- 59. \_\_\_-Julie, Que.

- 8. Short-haired cat breed
- 9. Cookies that have a gluten-free variety
- 10. Phil, to Will, on TV
- 11. Delay, in a way
- 12. Emulates Al Jarreau
- 13. Three-time Grammy winner Steve
- 15. Frozen meal brand touting carbon neutrality
- 20. Substratal water source
- 21. Coping mechanisms?
- 23. It surpassed the Beetle in 1997 as best-selling
- 26. Zebra groups
- 27. One who snoops
- 29. Sch. of the Horned Frogs
- 30. Norse underworld goddess
- 31. First National Leaguer with 500 homers

- 32. Summer Olympics host after London
- 33. December donation events
- 34. Zero-interest deal?
- 36. Goes to court
- 40. Set consisting of every integer doubled
- 41. First in a series
- 42. Onrush
- 43. Say what you think
- 44. Wayne, e.g.
- 46. Offered for feedback
- 47. First leg in a journey, maybe
- 49. Finalizes, with “up”
- 51. Hard water?
- 53. Queens hub, on tix
- 54. Travel plan abbr.



**Down**

- 1. Navy noncom
- 2. 1966 Tom and Jerry short involving a goldfish
- 3. Folded snack with some heat
- 4. Ancient Roman burial stone
- 5. Words after let or could
- 6. Extinct marine arthropods
- 7. Neighbor of Leb.

**R&R answer from pg 55 of 11/24**



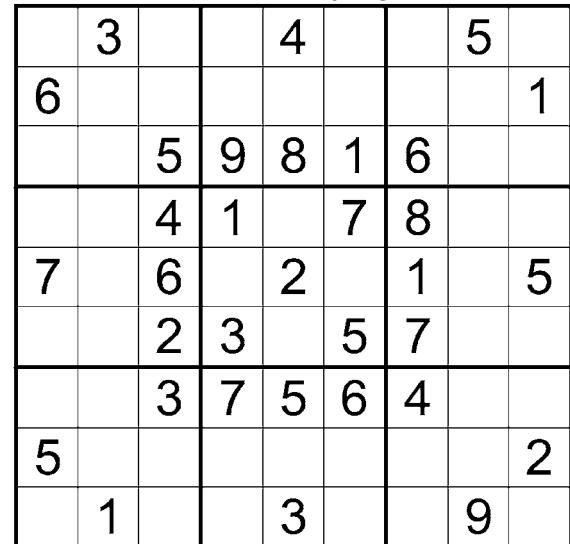
**Jonesin' answer from pg 56 of 11/24**



**NITE SUDOKU**

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

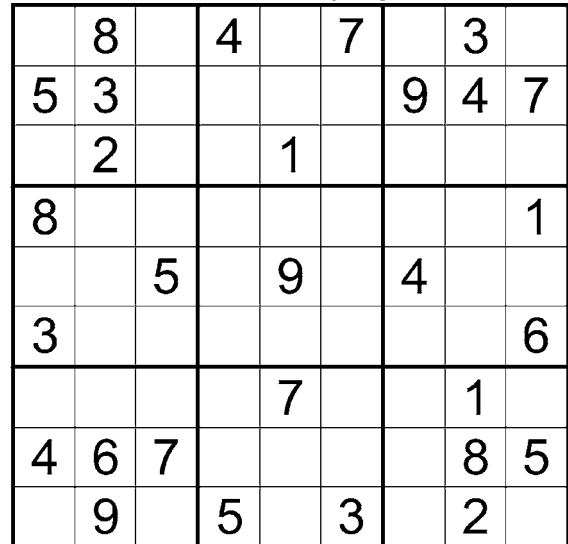
**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A** By Dave Green



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Difficulty Level ★

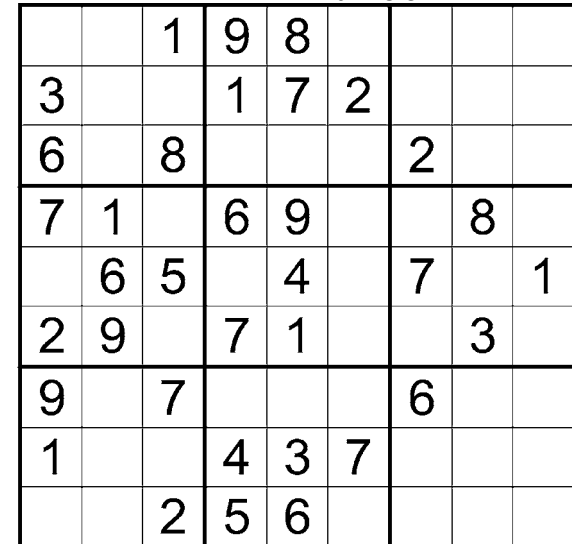
**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B** By Dave Green



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Difficulty Level ★★

**Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C** By Dave Green



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Difficulty Level ★★★



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Proud: My Fight for an Unlikely American Dream*, by Ibtihaj Muhammad, born Dec. 4, 1985.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** Every minute of my time during the Olympics was scheduled, from the moment I woke up in the morning until the blissful moment when I could lay my weary head down to rest at night. Work well, take breaks.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** I decided to keep fencing. I had accomplished my goal to make an Olympic team, but I couldn't come up with a good enough reason to retire from the sport. Keep fencing!

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** I tried to get in touch with my rational self. ... I searched inside my soul and knew I had no regrets. Losing on the world stage stings, but I knew in time the pain would fade and I was going to be okay. Take care of your rational self.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** I'm not sure what I would even put on a traditional business card: Olympic Fencer? Activist? Entrepreneur? All of the above? All of the above!

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** Thanks to the miles of sandy beaches, Rio felt like a grand tropical island instead of a major city in South America's largest country. But as an athlete there was very little time to explore this enchanting, bustling metropolis before competition started. Explore when you can.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** ... I wanted to dedicate the majority of my time to training, but aspiring world-class athlete doesn't come with a paycheck, so I had to keep my teaching job. Work all day, train all night.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** Once I learned how to use a sewing machine in Ms. Deeds's home economics class, my imagination really took off. I started making ... patchwork pillowcases for everyone in my family. My creative expression also extended to my own personal fashion, often color-coordinating my hijab and sneakers. Create for

others, create for yourself.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** Working at the Dollar Store was mind-numbing and humbling work. Customers were rude and dismissive and treated employees like we were insignificant beings to be tolerated. Kindness rules.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** Fencing felt like the one thing in my life that I could actually control. I didn't have a plan or a goal, I just wanted to be in a space where I knew what the rules were and where I didn't have to prove myself. You'll find your space.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** ISaber came much more naturally to me than epee had, and I almost felt guilty that after two years of hard work on the epee squad, I abandoned it with no regrets. No regrets.

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** As it turned out, no one from the United States women's saber team did well in the individual competition. ... So the three of us were motivated to reclaim our glory during the team competition five days later. As a team, we were underdogs. Go, team.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** Now that I was in seventh grade, art class had gotten far more sophisticated, and I looked forward to learning new creative skills. New skills are the best. 🍷

## 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 complete rubbish (10)	_____
2 catnip for Sherlock Holmes (4)	_____
3 brains of the outfit (10)	_____
4 good start for an apology (5)	_____
5 series of steps (9)	_____
6 brain's container (7)	_____
7 calculated chance (4)	_____

LDE	CL	RAT	ASH	ION
UE	RRY	SO	TE	RI
BA	MAS	OPE	ANI	IND
RD	UM	SK	RM	CR

11/27  
Last Week's Answers: 1. FOREBODING 2. IRELAND 3. SCALENE 4. DAVIS 5. CUSTODIAN 6. ESPN 7. EJECT

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# Amateur Contest

## THIS THURSDAY

### \*\*\*10 WEEK PRELIMINARY CONTEST

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## FINAL CONTEST THURSDAY DECEMBER 29TH

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### Sudoku Answers from pg 56 of 11/24

#### Puzzle A

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

#### Puzzle B

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

#### Puzzle C

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



**It's a mystery**

On a sheep farm in the Inner Mongolia region of China, a strange phenomenon has been caught on surveillance video, Oddity Central reported. Starting on Nov. 4 and lasting more than two weeks, dozens of sheep were seen walking clockwise in a large circle. Other animals could be seen staring at the circle from outside it, or standing motionless in the middle of it. Only sheep from one pen (out of 34) were acting strangely, according to Ms. Miao, the owner. Some viewers of the video theorized that the sheep are suffering from listeriosis, or "circles disease," but that condition usually causes a rapid death. — *Oddity Central, Nov. 4*

**Fish story**

Bluewater Lakes in Champagne, France, is the home of the Carrot, a hybrid leather carp and koi fish that was released into the fishing lake 20 years ago and has been eluding fishers ever since, the Daily Mail reported. That is, until Nov. 3, when Andy Hackett, from Worcestershire, England, landed the 67-pound beauty. Hackett spent about 25 minutes hauling in the Carrot. "I always knew the Carrot was in there but never thought I would catch it," Hackett said. He released the famous fish back into the lake and celebrated with a cup of tea. — *Daily Mail, Nov. 3*

**Wiener war**

A turf war of sorts broke out late on Nov. 19 in downtown San Diego, CBS8-TV reported: Interloper hot dog vendors from Los Angeles had set up outside Petco Park stadium, where Duke Dumont was playing, and the San Diego vendors weren't having it. A brawl involving 10 to 15 people ensued, with one 35-year-old man being stabbed in the back during the fray. — *CBS8-TV, Nov. 19*

**Stowaway**

TSA agents at John F. Kennedy International Airport saved the day on Nov. 16 when they spotted an unusual item in a passenger's checked baggage: a live cat. NBC2 News reported that the feline could be seen in an X-ray of the bag and was rescued before the suitcase went into the cargo hold. "The cat did not belong to the individual with the suitcase," TSA spokesperson Lisa Farbstein said. "It belonged to someone else in the household." — *NBC2 News, Nov. 16*

**The demands of the job**

In Paris, a court has ruled in favor of "Mr. T," a former employee of Cubik Partners who was fired in 2015 for being "insufficient professionally" because he wouldn't take part in "team-building" activities, i.e., going to the pub after

work hours and on weekends. In his suit, Mr. T said the company encouraged a culture "involving promiscuity, bullying and incitement to various excesses." The Court of Cessation declared that Mr. T "could not be blamed for his lack of integration in the fun environment," The U.S. Sun reported. Cubik was forced to pay him about \$3,100 in compensation. — *The U.S. Sun, Nov. 25*

**That's one way to do it**

With home prices in New Zealand taking their biggest drop in 30 years, one homeowner who's looking to sell is trying to sweeten the offer. The owner of 22 Dungle Avenue in Flat Bush is offering a free Tesla with the purchase of their \$1.8 million home, Sky News reported. The new owner will be asked to choose the color of the electric car, which will be ordered new and delivered to the home from the manufacturer. And with six parking spots, they can park it sideways if they want. — *Sky News, Nov. 17*

**The rules**

In Tennessee, it is legal to collect roadkill for consumption, WJHL-TV reported on Nov. 20. In fact, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency encourages people to take home animals found on the road, with some strict rules in place. For example, deer and turkey must be reported to TWRA

or local police within 48 hours of collection. But "bears, on the other hand, require that a TWRA agent come out and issue you a receipt for a black bear," said spokesperson Matthew Cameron. That's because the bear population is monitored, and the TWRA takes a tooth from the animal for the purpose of dating it. In addition, tracking bear kills helps the agency prevent the sale of bear parts on the black market. "It's highly illegal to sell any kind of bear parts in the state of Tennessee," Cameron said, "but it does happen." Small animals such as rabbits, raccoons, squirrels and skunks can be collected without notifying anyone. — *WJHL-TV, Nov. 20*

**Oops**

Japanese food shops rely on remarkably realistic plastic samples to showcase their offerings, but one Osaka shop mistakenly sold five plastic pastries to customers on Oct. 22, Gulf News reported. At Andrew's Egg Tart, a worker immediately noticed the mistake, and the plastic treats were exchanged for the real thing. From now on, the shop will use stickers to distinguish real egg tarts from their doppelgangers. — *Gulf News, Oct. 22*

Sources according to [uexpress.com](http://uexpress.com). From the editors at [AndrewsMcMeelSyndication.com](http://AndrewsMcMeelSyndication.com). See [uexpress.com/contact](http://uexpress.com/contact)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9



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