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JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2023

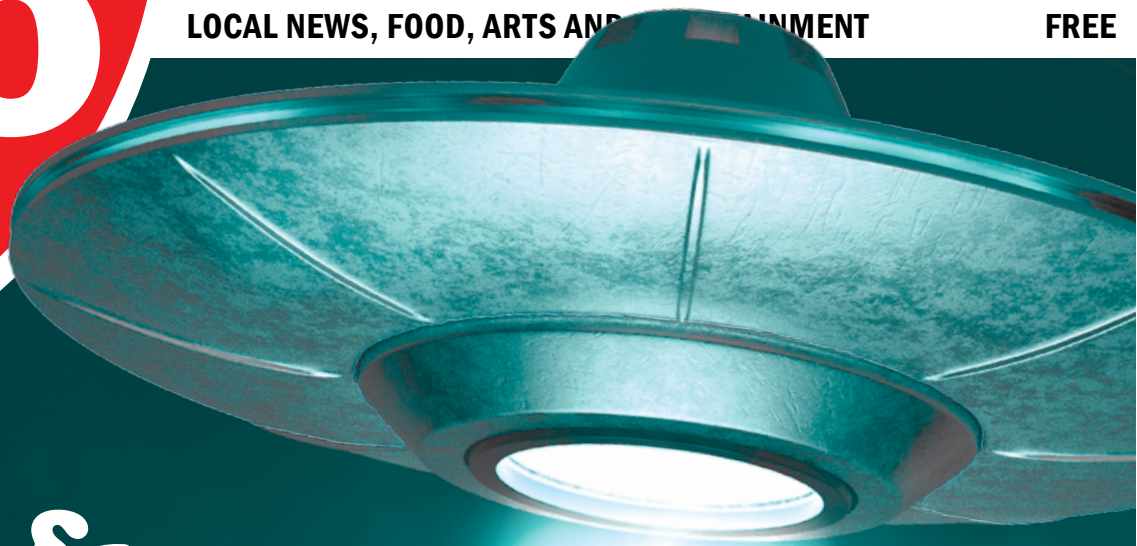
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FEBRUARY 1-28
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Katelyn Sahagian
and Matt Ingersoll
talk with some New
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science fiction,
fantasy and horror
authors about their
most recent novels,
novellas and short
stories. Learn about their inspirations and writing styles, and
find out where you can grab copies of their works for yourself.



ALSO ON THE COVER It's the Hippo's annual Wedding
Guide, and Angie Sykeny brings you all kinds of tips, advice
and suggestions for your big day from local wedding experts
(page 16). It's also almost time for the 2023 Hippo Best Of
readers' poll! Vote for your favorite people, places and things
in New Hampshire starting Feb. 1 (see details on page 5).

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NEWS & NOTES

Hate crime forums

The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office presents a series of public Hate Crimes Forum conversations, with the first to be held on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Michael Briggs Community Center (409 Beech St., Manchester). According to a press release, the series will provide community members, public officials and other interested parties with information related to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act as well as state and municipal hate crimes laws, and engage local and federal law enforcement and community organizations in discussions and information sharing on methods to prevent and respond to local bias incidents and hate crimes. "Preventing hate crimes is one of our most important shared priorities across New Hampshire law enforcement," Attorney General Formella said in the release. "We need a whole-community approach to truly be successful in our fight against bias and hate. ... These will be critical conversations as we work collectively to keep New Hampshire safe and welcoming for people of all backgrounds." Presenters at the first event will include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Manchester Police, the Department New Hampshire Human Rights Commission, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, the Manchester Branch of the NAACP, the New Hampshire Council of Churches and the IQRA Islamic Society of Greater Concord. Call 230-2518 to RSVP by Feb. 6.



Stay Work Play New Hampshire welcomes new events and communications manager Kristina Lafiosca. Courtesy photo.

New at Stay

Stay Work Play New Hampshire, a nonprofit organization that works to attract and retain young people in New Hampshire, welcomes a new events and communications manager, Kristina Lafiosca. According to a press release, Lafiosca, a New London resident, graduated from the University of New England in 2011 with a bachelor of arts in sociology and anthropology. She began her career in the nonprofit sector and most recently has owned and operated her own business in the Sunapee region. In her new role, Lafiosca will oversee the organization's content and communications strategy; provide leadership in planning, coordinating and evaluating the organization's events, programs and initiatives; and serve as the organization's primary point of contact for young professionals.

Airport funds

A New Hampshire delegation consisting of U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas welcomed \$2,821,120 to support modifications and rehabilitation efforts for the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport terminal building. According to a press release, the award, allocated through the Department of Transportation using Bipartisan Infrastructure



Help track the evening grosbeak and other bird species during NH Audubon's annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey. Photo by Kyle Willmarth.

Law funds, will be used to replace 16,000 square feet of the terminal's original translucent fiberglass canopy, thereby increasing energy efficiency. "Improving and updating Manchester-Boston Regional Airport is critical to our regional economy and ensuring individuals can travel safely and efficiently," Pappas said in the release. "This federal funding ... will update existing infrastructure to improve key systems at New Hampshire's largest airport."

Big bird weekend!

The New Hampshire Audubon's annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey will run on Saturday, Feb. 11, and Sunday, Feb. 12. According to a press release, New Hampshire residents are invited to count and observe birds in their own backyards during that weekend and report their findings to the New Hampshire Audubon to provide critical data to biologists who are monitoring the state's bird species, such as the northern cardinal, tufted titmouse, red-bellied woodpecker, southern woodpecker and evening grosbeak. Reports of a lack of birds are just as valuable as reports of many birds. "If everyone reported only when they have a lot of birds, we wouldn't be able to see the declines," Rebecca Suomala, survey coordinator, said in the release. Forms can be acquired and submitted online at nhbirdrecords.org/

Registration is open for the 21st Annual Payson Center for Cancer Care Rock 'N Race 5K, to take place Thursday, May 18, at 6 p.m. in **Concord**. The event raises funds for services for patients and their families at Concord Hospital Payson Center for Cancer Care HOPE Resource Center. Participants may run or walk a 5k or walk a one-mile loop. Visit rockn-race.org to register.

Construction has begun on the F.E. Everett Turnpike south of the I-293 interchange in **Bedford**. According to an announcement from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, work includes rock blasting in southbound lanes to allow the addition of a through travel lane. The work is scheduled to be done on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. over the next two to three months.

Nashua high schools are adjusting their GPA (grade point average) scale from 5.4 to the more commonly used unweighted 4.0 to measure students' academic achievement. According to a press release, the 5.4 GPA was originally put in place as a way for students to earn added points for Advanced Placement and honors classes.

backyard-winter-bird-survey or by emailing bwbs@nhaudubon.org.

And the nominees are...

Nominations are open now through April 14 for the 2023 Governor's Arts Awards. The awards, given every other year, recognize individuals, organizations and communities that have made outstanding contributions to New Hampshire's arts and culture. The categories include Arts Education, Arts in Health, Creative Communities, Distinguished Arts Leadership, Folk Heritage, Individual Arts Champion and Lotte

Jacobi Living Treasure, a lifetime achievement award. To be eligible, nominees must reside in New Hampshire or have resided in New Hampshire while making their contributions. Nominations, which must include a 1,000-word statement of the nominee's accomplishments and two to five current letters of support, will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the State Arts Council. Visit nh.gov/nharts. Nominees will be notified of the results by mid May, and an awards ceremony will be held in the fall. Visit nh.gov/nharts/artsandartists/gaa/index.htm.

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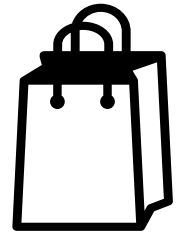
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The week that was



The NFL followed up the close games and the astonishing comeback of Jacksonville from down 27-0 to beat the San Diego, er, L.A. Chargers 31-30 in a wild card weekend with a series of boring duds last weekend.

Next comes (for me) the best sports day on the calendar when the NFC and AFC play their title games on Sunday, where it'll be the 49ers trying to get to the Super Bowl behind a rookie QB with just seven NFL starts to his name vs. the Eagles, followed by KC's injured star **Pat Mahomes** facing the red hot Bengals in a rematch of last year's AFC title game.

While the NFL commanded the most attention, that wasn't the only thing that happened. Here are a few thoughts and outright pontifications on recent events.

Mahomes's injured ankle is reminiscent of **Tom Brady** getting knocked out of the AFC title game in Pittsburgh during the run to their first title in 2001. That brought opening day starter **Drew Bledsoe** off the bench to save the day. He wasn't lights out, but he did throw the decisive TD pass to the late **David Patten** that got them to the big game. Then we wondered all week if it would be Drew or Brady as QB on Sunday (there was only one week off because of the 9-11 attack). As everyone knows, Brady did play, and while he led the game-winning drive with **Adam V** sending his FG try right down Broadway, TB only threw for 145 yards.

Think Red Sox owner **John Henry** got the message that the natives are not happy when he and his over-his-head GM got booed off the stage at their ticket sale pep rally in Springfield, Mass., on Friday night?

I don't know about you but the premise for the movie *House Party* of having one at LeBron James' house, unbeknownst to LBJ, sounds like a funny idea in an *Animal House* kind of way.

I'm starting to sports-hate **Steph Curry** because he flops on every play. Sorry, but it's not possible to fall as much as he does. Yet he gets the call all the time even though replays show defenders clearly are not touching him. Thought we were done with that nonsense after **Michael Jordan** retired.

Didn't hear many of the yahoo M-V-P chants for **Jayson Tatum** in last week's game vs. Golden State, did we? He did do something remarkable, though, by having a terrible game (outside of a few late plays) despite a 34-19-6 stat line that suggests otherwise. And his statement afterward that it was just one of 82 shows that, despite all the brilliance, he still doesn't get it. Because there are five or six a year that aren't one of 82. And after he choked against the Warriors in the Finals and again in their first meeting this year, they/he needed to make a statement on Thursday night. Which they did not by lucking out in OT vs. a team that has

struggled all year except in two games vs Boston. Like the Pistons getting by Boston in the '80s and then Jordan's Bulls finally doing it to Detroit, emerging teams have to show they can beat their nemesis, and the Cs didn't do that. That's why if they meet in the Finals again I'm taking GS unless and until Tatum figures it out.

Things are progressing nicely for **Wenyen Gabriel**. He's played in 38 of the Lakers' 47 games when he's getting about 16 minutes a night off the bench while averaging 6 points, 4 rebounds per while shooting 62.4 percent from the floor.

Everyone loves what **Nate Eovaldi** did in Game 3 of the 2018 World Series. But after winning just 24 games in four full seasons with the Sox while averaging just 101 innings per season, how much of a loss is he to the Red Sox? I know in the pitching world of today expectations are different than when you'd check the papers to see what the pitching match-ups would be on a daily basis. But six wins a year is not worth \$20 million per year.

What a difference a year makes. A year ago there was outrage that Tampa Bay offensive coordinator **Byron Leftwich** wasn't getting at least Rooney Rule interviews to be a head coach after two stat-filled years with Brady. This year he just got fired/blamed for TB's less than stellar offensive season.

Is it ironic, or just interesting, that amid all the talk of the negative brain drain impact on the Patriots coaching staff, the coaches who killed them the most were pre-drain returning Super Bowl vets **Joe Judge** and **Matt Patricia**?

Robert Williams is hurt *again*. This time after banging his left knee (the bad one) with **Jaylen Brown**. Celtics Nation and the brass are just going to have to live with the fact that the guy is fragile and likely never will be able to play a full season. Which means they need insurance for the playoffs.

Here's another thing that's wrong about how the steroid era is treated by Hall of Fame voters. Guys who came clean like **Andy Pettitte** don't get in, while guys everyone knows were users are rewarded with induction by staying silent. I know it is complicated for some, but that seems wrong to me.

For the record, in addition to his record (by far) 18 post-season wins, Pettitte's 256 wins in the five-man rotation era are more than the following Famers from the four-man rotation time: **Carl Hubbell**, **Bob Gibson**, **Juan Marichal**, **Don Drysdale**, **Jim Bunning**, **Catfish Hunter**, **Stan Coveleski**, **Bob Lemon**, **Rube Marquard**, **Dizzy Dean** and **Sandy Koufax**, as well as Yankee Famers **Waite Hoyt**, **Whitey Ford** and **Herb Pennock**. And he's also got more than fellow five-man rotation guys **Pedro Martinez**, **Jack Morris**, **Roy Halladay** and **John Smoltz**.

My money is on a Philly-Cincy Super Bowl.

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

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Donation for mental health

Merrimack County Savings Bank, better known as The Merrimack, donated \$10,000 to support two New Hampshire mental health services. According to a press release, the recipients are Riverbend Community Mental Health, a private nonprofit organization based in Concord that offers comprehensive behavioral health and addiction treatment services for children, adolescents, adults and families, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Hampshire, a grassroots organization that works to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness and suicide through support, education and advocacy for improved access to services and social supports, early intervention and science-based practices that promote recovery and build skills and resilience. "Riverbend and NAMI NH play a crucial role in our community by providing access to lifesaving treatment," Linda Lorden, president of The Merrimack, said in the release. "We hope this donation will help stretch the resources needed to improve the quality of life for our neighbors, friends, and families."



Riverbend Community Mental Health. Courtesy photo.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: Data published by NAMI revealed that 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 6 children in New Hampshire experience mental illness each year, according to the release.

One less spot for movies in a theater

Concord's 10-screen Regal Cinema movie theater, located at 282 Loudon Road, is one of 39 movie theaters across the country set to be closed by Cineworld Group, the parent company of Regal Cinemas, effective Feb. 15, the Union Leader reported. Cineworld filed for bankruptcy in September 2022 following financial struggles spurred by the pandemic and competition with at-home streaming services. Regal is the second-largest movie theater chain in the U.S. following AMC theaters and has more than 500 locations. The company announced that it will reject the leases of the 39 theaters to save an estimated \$22 million, which would allow it to keep remaining theaters open.

QOL Score: -1

Comment: Remaining theaters such as the Regal Cinema on Technology Drive in Hooksett, which will continue to serve up popcorn and movies.

Free tax prep

Granite United Way has launched a free tax prep program for New Hampshire residents with annual household incomes of up to \$60,000. According to a press release, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, supported by a \$50,000 contribution from Citizens, connects qualifying low-to-moderate-income individuals and families in the state with IRS-certified volunteers who can help them access the greatest amount of tax refunds. "This is one of the uniquely impactful ways Granite United Way helps our community," Paula Gay, asset building coordinator, said in the release. "VITA's IRS-certified volunteers are up to date on all the options in which to receive their refunds and options to use a portion of their refund to gain financial stability moving forward." To schedule an appointment near you, visit nhtaxhelp.org.



Granite United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Courtesy photo.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: IRS data revealed that about one in four New Hampshire residents don't file for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), leaving an estimated \$49 million unclaimed, according to the release.

QOL score: 51

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 52

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

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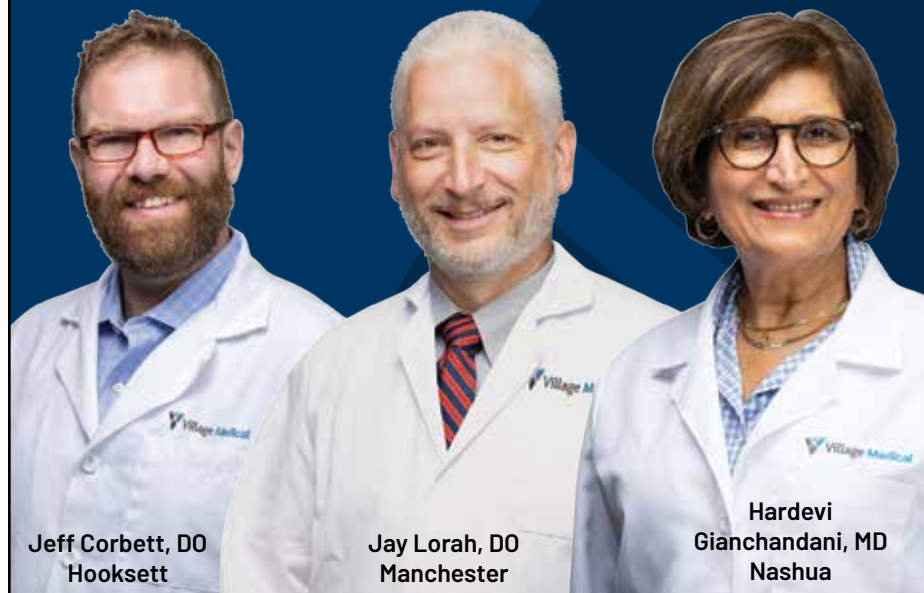
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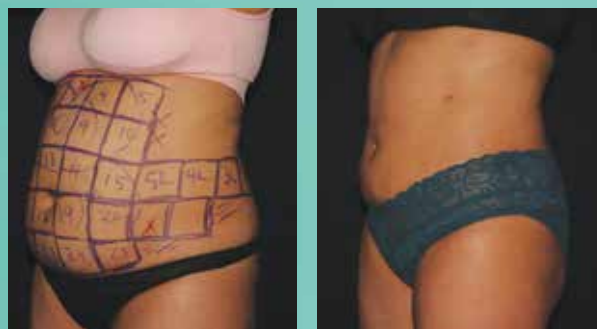
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GET FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION THRILLS AND HORROR CHILLS FROM GRANITE STATE AUTHORS

With everything from zombie apocalypses to high fantasy and futuristic concepts, the imaginations of the Granite State's genre fiction writers are seemingly limitless. Katelyn Sahagian and Matt Ingersoll caught up with several New Hampshire-based fantasy, science fiction and horror authors to discuss their inspirations, influences and most recent projects.

Scott M. Baker



Before becoming a prolific self-published author of horror fiction, Scott Baker of Dunbarton worked for the Central Intelligence Agency for 23 years. Born and raised in

Everett, Mass., he lived in Virginia during most of his tenure with the CIA, along with a few stints overseas.

While working for the CIA, he developed an idea for an espionage novel about North Korea acquiring five nuclear weapons. As Baker recalls, it was initially well-received — he even had a literary agent who was ready to sell the book to a major publisher in New York City — but then the Sept. 11 attacks changed everything.

“The minute 9/11 hit, everything dried up,” Baker said. “There was no market for espio-

nage. ... About three or four days afterward, my agent called me up and said the market died.”

A few years later, Baker said, he became inspired to switch genres from espionage to horror after seeing the 2004 film *Van Helsing* with a close friend.

“As we were walking out of the theater, I said, ‘You know, I could write a better story than that,’ and she looked me and smiled and said, ‘Well, why don’t you?’” Baker recalls. “So that’s what got me writing in the horror genre.”

His first three books made up *The Vampire Hunters* trilogy, followed up by *The Rotter World* trilogy, a series about a zombie apocalypse. He also became inspired by his then-10-year-old daughter to write a five-volume young adult series called *Shattered World*, about an ill-fated scientific experiment that causes portals to open between Hell and Earth.

Currently Baker is busy working on three separate additional series, including Book 9 of a planned 10-book series called *Nurse Alissa vs. The Zombies*.

“It’s about a typical nurse who is just your average person,” he said. “She’s working in the ER at Mass. General and she’s at Ground Zero during a zombie outbreak, so the whole series just deals with her getting out of Boston, trying to survive and picking up friends along the way.”

He also has a spin-off series set in the same universe, titled *The Chronicles of Paul*; the

second volume was just released in October. A third series, meanwhile — known as *The Tatyana Paranormal* series — is about a young graduate student who discovers she has the ability to talk to spirits. *The Ghosts of the Maria Doria*, released last August, follows the titular protagonist as she finds herself stranded upon a haunted cruise ship.

While Baker most often dabbles in series, he does have a few standalone novels. One of his latest is *Operation Majestic*, released in December 2021.

“When people ask what that book is about, I say, ‘Think Indiana Jones meets Back to the Future, with aliens,’” he said. “It’s a time-traveler [novel].”

All of Scott M. Baker’s novels are self-published. For more details on Baker’s work or to purchase an autographed copy of one of his books, visit scottmbakerauthor.blogspot.com or search for him on Amazon. You can also join his Facebook group, “Scott Baker’s Realm of Zombies, Monsters and the Paranormal,” or follow him on Instagram @scottmbakerwriter or on Twitter @vampire_hunters. Baker is one of several local writers who will attend the New England Author Expo’s Authors at the Vineyard event at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown) on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to that event is free.

— Matt Ingersoll

Gregory Bastianelli



Some of Gregory Bastianelli’s earliest memories involved watching Creature Double Feature on Saturday afternoons around the age of 6. He first read the short stories of Ray Bradbury — whose 1962 novel *Something Wicked This Way Comes* is one of his all-time favorite books — before diving into the works of acclaimed horror writers such as Richard Matheson and Stephen King.

“I think I wrote my first short story when I was 11 years old, and then I just kept writing

stories all the time,” said Bastianelli, a University of New Hampshire graduate and a native of Dover. “Pretty bad ones, but they were fun, and that’s how I sort of was cutting my teeth. ... Another book that [had] a big influence on me when I was in junior high was Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. I remember reading that and just being so moved and so terrified by it.”

Prior to publishing his first novel, Bastianelli lived in New York City, where he worked as a copy editor for a company that published law books. Returning to the Granite State at the end of the 1980s, he worked for Foster’s Daily Democrat as a copy editor and writer.

“Two of the highlights of my career were ... getting to do an interview with Alice Cooper, who I was a big fan of, and then also interviewing Bruce Campbell. Anyone who knows horror knows Bruce Campbell — king of the B-movies.”

While working at Foster’s, Bastianelli published a few short stories in some obscure horror magazines. Through a contest, he finally found a publisher in 2011 for his debut novel, *Jokers Club*, a project he had been working on and off on for more than two decades.

“Before the contest ended, I got a call from the publisher and he said that, regardless of how it did in the contest, he wanted to publish it. I was just thrilled,” Bastianelli said. “It did end up winning second place in the contest, but the fact that he reached out to me and said that he was interested in publishing, it was a dream come true.”

Since then Bastianelli has moved on to a larger publishing company, Flame Tree Press, out of London, England. In January 2020 he released *Snowball*, a novel about a group of motorists who are stranded on a New Hampshire highway in the middle of a blizzard on Christmas Eve. His latest title, *Shadow Flicker*, was published in March 2022.

“*Shadow Flicker* is about an insurance investigator who goes to an island off the coasts of Maine to interview some residents ... who are complaining about some wind turbines, believing that they cause some ill effects,” he said. “In the course of his investigation, he stumbles



Useful vocabulary for horror, fantasy and science fiction

Definitions were compiled from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, book-genres.com, bookriot.com and the Collins Dictionary

Character study: an analysis and portrayal in literature of a character’s core traits.

Creature feature: also called monster feature; a subset of horror and science fiction that features a monster.

Cross-genre: when two or more genres are combined in a story.

Fantasy: a form of fiction that features strange and often magical settings and characters.

Genre: a category that literature falls into, such as science fiction, romance, crime, horror, fantasy, and thriller.

Hard science fiction: a subgenre of science fiction that happens exclusively within the realms of scientific possibility and recognizes the known laws of nature in the story.

High fantasy: a part of the epic fiction

genre, which uses magic to tell an epic quest that spans three or more books and multiple years within the story.

Horror: stories that evoke fear, fascination or revulsion in the reader.

Kaiju: coming from the Japanese word for strange beast, these are supersized monsters, the most famous being Godzilla.

Multiverse: a reality where there are infinite parallel timelines.

Post-apocalyptic: a subgenre of horror and science fiction that describes the story happening after the end of the world.

Science fiction: fiction that addresses the impact of real or imagined science and the impact it has on the world.

Slasher: a horror subgenre that focuses on an antagonist brutally killing characters.

Subgenre: a genre within a genre, a specific subset of one genre.

Young adult: books that are geared toward preteen and teenage readers.

upon something even darker going on on this island, and he gets sucked into a phenomenon that is beyond anything that he could realize.”

Bastianelli called *Snowball* a “straight-out horror novel.” *Shadow Flicker*, on the other hand, has been referred to by some as horror and others as a science fiction or speculative mystery.

Bastianelli is a regular participant in speculative fiction writers’ conventions like NECON in Lowell, Mass., in July. He has also attended StokerCon, put on by the Horror Writers Association, and the Merrimack Valley Halloween Book Festival, held in October in Haverhill, Mass.

“One of the things that I’ve learned from going to a lot of these conventions and events is that ... a lot of these authors that you grew up loving, they love to hear that you talk about their books and that you enjoy their writing,” he said. “That’s what they do it for.”

Gregory Bastianelli’s latest novel, *Shadow Flicker*, is available through Flame Tree Press (flametreepress.com). Learn more about Bastianelli and his works by visiting gregorybastianelli.com, which provides links to various ways to purchase his books. You can also find him on Facebook and Twitter; or purchase his books online through Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

— Matt Ingersoll

Justin Bell



While most authors jump from subject to subject in the same genre, Justin Bell takes a much different approach. His writing is specifically in the post-apocalyptic subgenre, which focuses on what happens to humanity after a catastrophic event.

For example, the series Bell just finished writing focused on what would happen if the world became too radioactive for humans to survive above ground.

Bell started his writing career by working for a handful of different independent publishing houses, gravitating toward the post-apocalyptic subgenre the whole time. When he was picked up by his current publishing house, Muonic Press, he got the chance to shine.

Muonic, Bell said, exclusively publishes post-apocalyptic science fiction, and on top of that, the company is one of most-read publishers for the subgenre on Amazon. Bell saw a drastic increase in readership, he said.

His books get millions of reads a year, averaging between 12 million and 15 million. He said one year during the pandemic his page

reads was up to 20 million.

“It’s amazing,” Bell said. “I was a struggling author independently published. I started in 2014 with middling success and exposure. ... Later in 2018 I’m getting hundreds of pre-orders per book and it’s been life-changing.”

Bell said he just completed his most recent book series in June 2022, and a collection of the six-book series dropped in November. Now he’s putting all his efforts into his new novel series, *After the Fall*, with the first novel coming on Feb. 3, and a new book coming monthly after that.

Bell said that he’ll continue writing post-apocalyptic stories for as long as the subject remains interesting to him and inspires him with different ideas. His favorite part of the subgenre isn’t the disasters and chaos but the resilience of the characters thrown into those situations. To him — and his readers — it becomes a story of the human spirit and of hope.

“What’s great about these books is you’re putting [characters] through different situations but seeing, in spite of odds, that they persevere,” Bell said. “They find a light in the darkness and that’s what I like most about them.”

Visit Justin Bell’s website at justinbellauthor.com to learn more about his works, which are available through Amazon and its products Kindle and Audible. All of his works are published by Muonic Press. To learn more about Muonic Press, visit their website at muonic.com.

— Katelyn Sahagian

David D’Amico



David D’Amico grew up with a love of writing. He said that when he was young he always had story ideas floating around in his head. It wasn’t until his twin brother announced

he would be a writer that D’Amico decided to take up the craft as well.

“All my life I was the one with the stories,” D’Amico said, jokingly adding that he “couldn’t let [my twin] become the writer.”

D’Amico has won numerous awards for his science fiction short stories, including winning Writers of the Future in 2011. His stories have been published in popular science fiction magazines, including *Analog*. While his stories are typically around 5,000 words, he said that it’s become enough space for him to get a good grasp on his storytelling abilities.

Typically, when writing a story, D’Amico finds it much more important to focus on the characters than the world that he’s built for each story. He said that character studies are



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better received by publishers and readers.

“I write majoritively straight sci-fi, slightly in the future, a little bit like *The Twilight Zone*,” D’Amico said. “I’m heavy on characters, and it’s not epic quests, usually.”

Right now D’Amico is working on publishing collections of his stories, called “Through Machine Eyes,” which are illustrated through an artificial intelligence art program. Two have already been published, and he hopes to put out more in the new year.

Even this early in the new year D’Amico has sold one of his short stories. He said that he’ll sell approximately a dozen over the course of 2023, depending on the process. Some of his stories can be as short as 42 words long, but he prefers a bit more length to establish context.

In addition to submitting his short stories to different magazines and working on his AI project, D’Amico is working on completing his first full-length novel. He said that he’s begun several but wants to really stick to it this year.

D’Amico has learned over the years that writing isn’t just a career, it’s a passion. To him, readers can tell when authors aren’t happy writing, and that is the most important part of the craft.

“Write what you like,” he said. “Enjoy it. Don’t worry about the other stuff until after the draft is done.”

For more information about David D’Amico, or to read his short stories and purchase a copy of his anthologies, visit his website at dadamico.com. His second anthology of stories *Through Machine Eyes: Science Fiction and Fantasy Stories Illustrated by AI Intelligence*, Volume Two was a self-published title.

— Katelyn Sahagian

Elaine Isaak



Fantasy steeped in real history is what Elaine Isaak’s writing is all about. She strives for a level of realism in her work, tying archaeology to magic, and adding a fantastical element to history.

“My author brand is knowledge-inspired fiction,” Isaak said. “I find ideas by reading nonfiction or doing museum visits [about] something that excites and inspires me.”

Isaak said that binding her love for history and art with her writing has been one of the best things that has ever happened to her. Her novels will take something like an obscure medieval clock and turn it into a doomsday device the protagonist must find a way to stop, as in her most recent novel.

While she primarily writes fantasy nov-

els, Isaak is exploring new territories with her upcoming young adult sci-fi series about space dragons, the first book of which is set to be released on Feb. 7.

The series was written for her son, who she said loves robots and dragons, and she wanted to find a way to combine the two. She got the idea when another writer mentioned doing the same for their child.

“I didn’t want it to be fantastical dragons,” Isaak said, explaining her reasoning for choosing a sci-fi approach to traditionally fantasy creatures. “I thought, if they’re not fantasy and those tropes, then they’re probably aliens.”

She’s taking her research-forward approach of writing to this genre too, looking at how some animals communicate non-verbally. One inspiration she mentioned was learning that elephants use the vibrations from their footfalls to communicate across miles. Another is looking at animals like dolphins and platypuses that have electroreceptors that give them the ability to sense their prey underwater.

Isaak said that she wanted the series to make people think about what communication and culture are, and what it would look like in aliens wildly different from humans, as well as planets different from Earth. She said the most important thing she can do with her books is create a world her readers can enjoy, one that sparks their own imagination.

“A work isn’t complete until there’s a reader,” Isaak said. “[Books are] a collaboration between me and my words and the reader opening their imagination to the world and characters I’m creating.”

To learn more about Elaine Isaak’s work, visit elaineisaak.com. Her most recent work, *Drakemaster* (written under the pen name EC Ambrose) was published by Guardbridge Books. Her novels are available online at Amazon and wherever books are sold.

— Katelyn Sahagian

Troy Osgood



Building imaginative worlds is only one aspect of Troy Osgood’s writing. He creates worlds within worlds, choosing to use video games to trap his characters in alternate realities. He likes the diversity this allows him, bringing fantasy and sci-fi together.

One of his most recently completed book series, *Sky Realms Online*, follows this almost exactly. He said the plot is about a popular online virtual reality video game that sucks in some of the players. The players have to navigate the world of floating islands

held together by magic and defeat boss battles and quests, all while trying to figure out how to escape the game.

“I want to write adventures and entertaining stories that people want to read more of,” Osgood said.

Sky Realms Online was completed last November, followed by the completion of a similar saga with fewer fantasy elements called *Battlegrounds Online* — the final book in that series was released in December.

His next series, *Connective System*, will be a bit different. Instead of characters being sucked into the games they’re playing, a game will “hack” the world, giving humans superpowers and special abilities. Osgood said the story will fit more in with the post-apocalyptic subgenre of science fiction.

“They’ll have to rebuild their world with superhuman powers,” he said, adding that he plans to release the first in the series in either March or April.

While Osgood’s more adult books focus on the sci-fi worlds of being trapped in video games, or video games affecting the outside world, his books for younger readers are more steeped in the fantasy genre. He just finished writing a series called *The Viral Rose Sprite*, and he hopes to get more young reader fantasy out in the coming year.

“You can get away with a lot more stuff,” Osgood said about his fantasy writing. “As long as your magic rules make sense, anything goes. You can have a lot of fun and just go crazy.”

To learn more about Troy Osgood’s writing, visit ossywrites.wordpress.com. His books, (print, e-edition, and audio) can be purchased at Amazon. His most recent book, *Onyxgate*, was published by Aethon Books.

— Katelyn Sahagian

Chris Philbrook



While Chris Philbrook’s books will almost always have a science fiction or fantasy base to them, he likes to tie them to thriller and horror tropes as well.

“I got my big break with post-apocalyptic, so where horror and science fiction meet,” Philbrook said. “I’ve written urban fantasy, too. I tend to gravitate toward horror themes. I like having characters meandering into places where they are stressed out by situations and given the chance to rise up or succumb.”

His most recent novel, *Ghosts*, is the 13th in the *Adrian’s Undead Diary* series, released last Halloween. The series follows Adrian as he tries to reunite the dead and help their souls

move on. Philbrook said he wasn’t sure how long the series would continue, but he started it back in 2010 and people have seemed to really enjoy it.

Philbrook is currently working on both the 14th volume of *Adrian’s Undead Diary* and the third book in *The Darkness of Diggory Finch* series. Right now, he doesn’t have a concrete publishing date for either book, but is aiming for the spring for *Adrian’s Undead Diary* and the summer for *The Darkness of Diggory Finch*.

The Darkness of Diggory Finch series is cosmic horror set in the woodland border of New Hampshire and Vermont. The main character, Diggory Finch, finds himself inheriting land at the border, and once he moves there he finds out that nothing is as it seems.

“The series is [Diggory Finch] dealing with the locals and [figuring] out what the deal with his family is,” Philbrook said, adding that there are twists and turns, like cults and “monsters and bears and weirdos, oh my.”

Philbrook said that most of his inspiration for writing comes from living in the Granite State. Although he has lived in Boston and Arkansas and has traveled across the country promoting his novels, Philbrook said there is something special about living and writing in New Hampshire.

“It’s a neat place to be a writer,” he said. “New Hampshire is a cool nexus of culture and location that isn’t very common in America.”

Find information about Chris Philbrook’s upcoming books at thechrisphilbrook.com. His works can be purchased online at Amazon, but Philbrook would love for his readers to support independent book shops by ordering his books through them. His most recent book, *Ghosts*, was self-published.

— Katelyn Sahagian

Jeremy Robinson

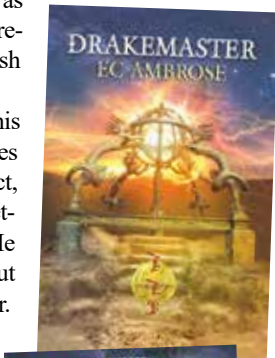
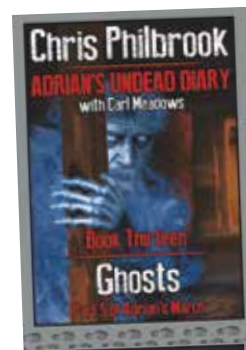


It takes a lot of effort to create one world for a book or series to take place in, but Jeremy Robinson decided that just one world wasn’t enough. His 80 books take place in something

he calls the Infinite Timeline, a multiverse that existed long before the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

“Readers have tried making a map of how all 80 books are connected,” Robinson said. “It’s fun for me and it’s fun for the readers as well.”

Robinson said most of his novels could be read as stand-alone books. He said the only thing that stays the same for some of the books is that they will feature the same characters.



His most recent publication, *Khaos*, blends Greek mythology with the science fiction world he's built.

The next book after *Khaos* will be called *Singularity*, which will be coming out on March 21. Robinson said that *Singularity* will officially tie the whole universe together.

Due to his extensive catalog of work, Robinson has amassed a large following across the country. He's been a New York Times bestselling author and the No. 1 bestselling author on Audible. He's even had people in Texas host a "Robinson Con," a convention to discuss and enjoy the books he's put out over the years.

Robinson gained popularity because of his skill with the sub-genre called creature features, where monsters are the star of the show. He said he strives to make his books interesting to all readers, and interesting to write, by making the plot get increasingly strange.

"It's probably that I'm ADHD and, for me to write, [the stories] have to get progressively weirder to hold my own attention," Robinson said. "I start with real science and then I get to go crazy."

His favorite creature that he's created is called Nemesis, a kaiju that spawns out of different New Hampshire locations and destroys Boston. Robinson said he's working on *Nemesis Wages of Sin*, a reboot of his original series that featured Nemesis, called *Project Nemesis*, and hopes for it to come out sometime in 2023.

The book will be written in conjunction with a television show that Sony is producing about the first book. Robinson said he feels fortunate to have had all these opportunities for his writing.

To keep track of Jeremy Robinson's upcoming projects, visit his website bewareofmonsters.com. Robinson's books can be purchased online or from local bookstores. His most recent book, *Khaos*, was published by Breakneck Media.

— Katelyn Sahagian

Tony Tremblay



Tony Tremblay's lifelong love of horror started when he was around the age of 9 or 10, reading, of all things, the Old Testament of the Bible.

"Those stories were scary as heck, and they left a lasting impression on me," said Tremblay, a longtime resident of Goffstown. "As I grew older I started to look at some of the horror authors that were out there at the time, and really enjoyed what I was reading. ... I thought maybe I could try to write something on my own, but just never got around to doing it."

About 15 years ago, at the encouragement of a colleague, Tremblay joined a

writers' group at his local library, which helped him learn all of the fundamentals of how to write fiction.

"My first stories were horrible. But I learned fast and I started getting stories published in anthologies and websites and magazines," he said. "The writers' group helped me tremendously."

Tremblay published his first book of short stories, *The Seeds of Nightmares*, about a decade ago through Crossroad Press. His latest work — 2022's *Do Not Weep for Me*, available through Haverhill House Publishing — is a follow up to *The Moore House*, which was nominated for a Bram Stoker Award in 2018 for "Best First Novel."

"Bram Stoker, of course, is like the Oscars of the horror industry, and I couldn't be prouder," he said. "It was a great honor."

Both novels are set in the same universe and deal heavily with the macabre side of religion. *The Moore House* in particular, he said, has been compared by many to the 1971 novel *The Exorcist*.

"All the action happens in Goffstown, so if you're a Manchester or a Goffstown resident, you'll see all the familiar sites in there, [like] the bridge downtown, the popcorn stand and all that stuff," Tremblay said. "So that's a lot of fun for the local people."

While reading *The Moore House* first is not necessary to enjoy *Do Not Weep for Me*, Tremblay said it absolutely does make the experience "more fun."

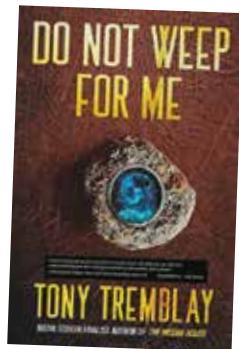
"Both of them are very fast reads," he said. "I've had people write to me, [saying] they're on airplanes and they didn't want the flight to end because they wanted to finish the book. It's that thrilling, and that's what I was trying to write."

Tremblay said he hopes to complete his next novel by Halloween, and he also has a new novella and a new short story in the works for later this year. Throughout the year, he participates in regional conventions alongside many other names in horror fiction. He even has co-produced one in Manchester, known as NoCon, which has been on hold since the pandemic.

"I've read thousands of books, and what's kind of neat is that now I'm the one that's selling them and going to these conventions and speaking on the panels," Tremblay said. "If you asked me if that would ever happen, I would've laughed in your face back then. But it just proves that anybody can do it. You just have to buckle down and learn."

Tony Tremblay's latest novel, *Do Not Weep for Me*, is available through Twisted Publishing, an imprint of Haverhill House Publishing (haverhillhouse.com). Find out more about Tremblay's work by visiting tonytremblayauthor.com. You can also find him on Facebook or purchase his books online through Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

— Matt Ingersoll



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A winter oasis

Concord Garden Club holds 20th annual Art in Bloom

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippypress.com

Every year the Concord Garden Club celebrates the winter with its Art in Bloom event. This year's show features 23 bouquets inspired by the creations of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen.

"It's not all paintings, textiles, pottery," said club president Nancy Betchart. "It's interesting to see the creativity and to see what people use to come up with arrangements."

Betchart's own project was inspired by a birch tree lamp with a red and orange shade. Betchart said that she and her partner took a few hiking trips in preparation to mimic the lamp with their vase, covering the glass holder with birch tree bark and arranging a

colorful bouquet in the vases.

Other projects florists have selected for inspiration in years past have been hand-sewn clothing, pillows, woodworking and more. Betchart said it's not just about capturing the visual representation of the craft, but it could be the color palette, the textures or even the feeling that it evokes in the club member.

The hardest part of the show, after selecting a craft, is sourcing the flowers for the arrangement, Betchart said. The wintertime makes it challenging to find the vibrant blooms and specific flowers the arrangers might be looking for. Betchart said she'd seen club members use flowers from a grocery store in a pinch.

"Garden club members aren't professional florists," Betchart said. "It's just a lot of fun. It's a way to develop a new friendship and just an opportunity to be creative."

One of the most creative displays Betchart ever saw, she said, was when a garden club member created a flower cushion to match a throw pillow. She said the florist copied the design and texture of the craft, and it was something she never would have thought of.



Art in Bloom photos courtesy of Nancy Betchart.



Each bouquet will be on display next to the item that inspired it. The display will have a plaque that tells viewers what flowers and techniques were used in the making of the bouquet, and a sign explaining the item that inspired it.

Garden club members who participated in creating the bouquets will be at the

gallery for the opening day, Thursday, Jan. 26, at 1 p.m. to talk about their creations and why they were inspired by the crafts they chose.

"It's a nice way to encourage people to see some creative things and to get out and mingle and see the nice crafts artisans are making," Betchart said. 🍷

The Concord Garden Club's Art in Bloom

Where: 49 S. Main St., Concord

When: Thursday, Jan. 26, 1 to 5 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit: concordgardenclubnh.com

Art

Exhibits

- **"MULTI-MEDIUMS"** exhibit featuring works on canvas and panel, wall reliefs in ceramic and metal and sculptures in stone and wood is open now at the Art 3 Gallery (44 W. Brook St. in Manchester; 668-6650), according to a press release. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and a virtual exhibit should be available soon, the release said.
- **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.
- **"NH SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST MEMBER EXHIBIT AND SALE"** will run through Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Exeter Town Hall Gallery (10 Front St. in Exeter), which is open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m.
- **"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.

- **"BEGINNINGS,"** the first group show at the art studio Girl from Mars (135 Route 101A in Amherst), will feature 14 local artists showing 24 pieces of new work. The show will run through the end of February. The Gallery's hours are Thursday through Saturday by appointment. Visit marsartstudio.weebly.com.
- **WORLDWIDE PRINTMAKING** The Art Center (1 Washington St. Suite 1177 in Dover; theartcenterdover.com, 978-6702) has its "Worldwide Printmaking Exhibition" on display now through February. The exhibit features works of more than 40 artists from 11 countries, according to a press release. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. An artist reception will be held for the exhibit on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m.
- **KATE HIGLEY** New Hampshire Art Association fine printmaker Kate Higley will have her work on display at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center (49 S. Main St., Suite 104, in Concord) through Friday, March 3. The gallery hours are general Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **"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.
- **ART ON MAIN** The City of Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce present a year-round outdoor public art exhibition in Concord's downtown featuring works by professional sculptors. All sculptures will be for sale. Visit concordnhchamber.com/creativeconcord, call 224-2508 or

email tsink@concordnhchamber.com.

Arts events

- **ART CONVERSATIONS FROM HOME** The Currier hosts conversations over Zoom examining a piece of artwork from the museum's collection and exhibitions. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, the focus will be "Yellowwave" by Jiha Moon from the exhibit "State of the Art 2020: Locate," according to a museum newsletter. Registration is required and accepted until noon on the day of the event; see currier.org.

Tours

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

Workshops and classes

- **WOODSHOP 101** Manchester Makerspace (36 Old Granite St. in Manchester; manchestermakerspace.org) has a class called "Woodshop 101 — Cedar Plant Box" scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. Registration starts at \$150. Go online to register

in advance.

- **ART CLASSES** Art classes for teens and adults, including Pottery, Stained Glass, Intermediate Watercolor and Clay Hand Building. Studio 550 Art Center (550 Elm St., Manchester). Five-week sessions. Classes met for two hours a week. Call 232-5597 or visit 550arts.com for the full schedule and cost details.
- **DRAWING & PAINTING CLASSES** Art House Studios, 66 Hanover St., Suite 202, Manchester. Classes include Drawing Fundamentals, Painting in Acrylic, Drawing: Observation to Abstraction, Exploring Mixed Media, and Figure Drawing. Class sizes are limited to six students. Visit arthousestudios.org or email arthousejb@gmail.com for more information.
- **GENERAL ART CLASSES** Weekly art classes offered for kids and adults of all skill levels and cover a variety of two-dimensional media, including drawing and painting with pastel, acrylic, watercolor and oils. Classes are held with small groups of students. Diane Crespo Fine Art Gallery (32 Hanover St., Manchester). Kids classes, open to ages 10 and up, are held on Thursdays and Fridays, from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. Adult classes are held on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuition is pay-as-you-go at \$20 per student per class, due upon arrival. Call 493-1677 or visit dianecrespofineart.com for availability.

Theater

Shows

- **IS EDWARD SNOWDEN SINGLED?** a "volcanic comedy about pretty lies and ugly truths," runs at the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; playersring.org, 436-8123) through Sunday, Jan. 29. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$27 general admission, \$24 for students and 65+.
- **THE ALL NEW PIANO MEN** an original musical production featuring the music of Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Elton John, Freddie Mercury and more, will run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) through Sunday, Feb. 5. Showtimes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 to \$46.
- **THE 39 STEPS** The New Hampshire Theatre Project will present this comic riff on the Alfred Hitchcock movie through Sunday, Feb. 5, at the company's 50-seat black box theater at 959 Islington St. in Portsmouth. The show, which is directed by Blair Hundertmark and stars Shawn Crapo and Courtney St. Gelais, will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 general admission, \$26 for students, seniors and veterans. See nhtheatreproject.org.
- **CATS, YOUNG ACTORS EDITION** presented by the Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts (youth/

teens) will run at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway in Derry) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 28, at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 to \$15; call 669-7469 or go to majestictheatre.net.

• **DISNEY'S NEWSIES Jr.**, a Palace Youth Theatre production performed by student actors in grades 2 through 12, will run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Tuesday, Jan. 31, and Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.

• **THE WORLD WAS YOURS** a play from Lend Me A Theater Productions, will run at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) Friday, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 19, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22 for adults and \$19 for seniors and students.

• **A NIGHT OF ELVIS**, a variety show with songs, skits and more presented by Majestic Productions, will take place at the Majestic Theatre (88 Page St. in Manchester; 669-7469, majestictheatre.net). Tickets cost \$20.

• **CABARET**, a Palace Teen Apprentice Company production performed by student actors ages 12 through 18, will play at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for ages 6 to 12 and \$15 for adults.

• **ALMOST, MAINE**, a play described as "witty, romantic and clever," will come to Epping Playhouse (38c Ladd's Lane in Epping; eppingtheater.org) on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 to \$20.

• **CABARET**, a Palace Teen Company production performed by student actors ages 12 through 18, will play at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for ages 6 to 12, \$15 for adults.

• **LEADING LADIES** The Majestic Theatre (88 Page St. in Manchester; 669-7469, majestictheatre.net) will present this comedy Friday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 to \$20.

• **THE 39 STEPS** A spoof of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film, this comedy will be presented by the Community Players of Concord at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord) on Friday, Feb. 17, and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$18 for 17 and under and seniors. See commu-

nityplayersofconcord.org.

• **BREADCRUMBS** a play by Jennifer Haley, will be presented by theatre Kapow at Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. In-person tickets cost \$28 for adults, \$23 for students (plus fees); livestream tickets will also be available.

• **VANITIES** a comedy-drama by Jack Heifer and produced by Creative Ambitions Performance Studio, will run at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 19, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22, \$19 for seniors and students.

• **SKIN DEEP** will be presented by Bedford Off Broadway on Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 5, and Friday, March 10, through Sunday, March 12, with evening shows on Friday and Saturday (at 8 p.m.) and matinees on Sunday (at 2 p.m. at the Bedford Old Town Hall at 3 Meetinghouse Road in Bedford. See bedfordoffbroadway.com.

• **SLEEPING BEAUTY**, a Palace Youth Theatre vacation camp production performed by student actors in grades 2 through 12, will play at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Saturday, March 4, at 11 a.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.

• **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS YOUTH EDITION** produced by the Peacock Players (14 Court St. in Nashua; peacockplayers.org) will run for two weekends: Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 18, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m.; Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 25, at 2 & 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m.

• **ANYTHING GOES: YOUTH EDITION** will be presented by the Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts (669-7469, majestictheatre.net) at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway in Derry) on Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 25, at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 26, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 to \$15.

• **DON'T TALK TO THE ACTORS** produced by Lend Me A Theatre will run at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) Friday, March 31, through Sunday, April 16, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22,

\$19 for seniors and students.

• **DEATH BY DESIGN** a mystery comedy set in an English country manor, will be presented by the Majestic Theatre (88 Page St. in Manchester; 669-7469, majestictheatre.net) on Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 15, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 to \$20.

• **RUMORS** The Epping Community Theater (performance space is the Epping Playhouse, 38c Ladd's Lane in Epping; eppingtheater.org) will present Neil Simon's *Rumors* Friday, April 14, through Sunday, April 16.

• **RENT** the rock musical will run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) Friday, April 21, through Sunday, May 14. Showtimes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 to \$51.

• **ANIMAL CIRQUE ALFONSE** "reimagines Quebec folklore" with acrobats, musicians, dancers and more at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester; tickets.anselm.edu) on Thursday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45.

• **SHE KILLS MONSTERS** produced by Dive In Productions will run Friday, April 28, through Sunday, May 14, with show times at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$22, \$19 for seniors and students.

• **PINOCCHIO**, a Palace Youth Theatre vacation camp production performed by student actors in grades 2 through 12, will play at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Saturday, April 29, at 11 a.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.

• **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** will be presented by Actorsingers Friday, May 5, through Sunday, May 7, at the Keefe Auditorium (117 Elm St. in Nashua). See actorsingers.org.

• **NOT A WORD**, a comedy

about silent film-era Hollywood, will be presented by the Community Players of Concord at Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord) on Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m.

• **XANADU** The Teen Mainstage of Peacock Players (peacockplayers.org) will present this musical on Friday, May 12, through Sunday, May 21, at the 14 Court Street Theatre in downtown Nashua. The times are Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. and a school day performance on Thursday, May 18, at 9:30 a.m.

• **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF** produced by Not Too Loud Productions will run at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) on Friday, May 26, through Sunday, June 22, with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22, \$19 for seniors & students.

• **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** The sung-through musical comedy will run at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) Friday, June 2, through Sunday, June 25. Showtimes are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 to \$51.

Auditions

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

• **CATS: YOUNG ACTORS EDITION** The Palace Youth Theatre will hold auditions for

performers in grades 2 through 12 for *Cats: Young Actors Edition* on Friday, Jan. 20, with sessions at 5, 6 and 7 p.m., according to a press release. "Expect to stay for your entire one-hour audition slot. You will learn a dance and be asked to sing after," said the release, which instructed auditioners to come prepared to sing a short section of a song a cappella (musical theater or Disney preferred). The show will run at the Palace Theatre in Manchester Tuesday, March 7, through Wednesday, March 15. To schedule an audition time, email megalanvalves@palacetheatre.org with performer's name, age and preferred time. The auditions will be held at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester).

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

• **WOLVES** Cue Zero Theatre Company will hold auditions for its April production of *The Wolves*, a gritty drama by Sarah DeLappe directed by Erin Downey, on Monday, Jan. 30, and Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire in Salem. All characters in the production are female/female presenting, according to the press release. Sign up for an audition slot at CZTheatre.com and those auditioning should prepare a one-minute dramatic monologue and be prepared to read sides on request; callbacks are Sunday, Feb. 5, the release said. Get information about the character breakdowns on the website.

• **THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** The Prescott Park Arts Festival's summer 2023

auditions for

CONTINUED ON PG 22 ▶



MUSIC AT THE ANDRES

Support the Andres Institute of Art (106 Route 13 in Brookline; andresinstitute.org, 673-7441) with a night of music from the **Soggy Po' Boys** on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Institute's welcome center. General-admission tickets cost \$25; a five-seat table in the first row costs \$200 per table, according to a press release. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served before the show and a cash bar will be available, the release said.

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Why to marry at a museum, fall versus spring, and the trouble with desserts

Wedding tips and stories from the pros

You probably want too much dessert.

That's one of the takeaways from the wedding planners who offer their experiences arranging couples' special days. Wedding planner Anja Matukic reminds us that all the times you may have left a wedding early point to less need for desserts than most couples assume when they are planning their wedding meal.

Looking for more ideas on ways to make your wedding memorable and how to avoid some pitfalls? Take advice from these experts.

Anja Matukic of Fete & Festoon
Manchester, fetefestoon.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

I studied hospitality and events in college and got my professional experience in the hospitality industry. I was working for a corporate planning company based in Boston when the pandemic hit and I lost my job. I had done some freelance event work here and there and always thought about starting my own business. I strategized a brief business plan, made a website and some business cards, and here we are today. One reason I particularly love weddings is the strong sentiment and emotion behind each experience. These are such special days ... and I love that I get to be a small part of it.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

It was an oceanfront September event in 2021. Min and Hunter hosted their wedding on Hunter's parents' property — a private yacht club in Portsmouth. It was a custom-built event from start to finish that contributed to the guest experience while showcasing their love story. They honored the groom's late mother in countless ways: just like for Hunter's parents' wedding, Min was brought to the ceremony on a boat, and they had the ceremony on the pier. They were married by the same bishop and danced to the same band that performed at the groom's parents' wedding nearly 30 years earlier. Hunter's father built a deck

on the island's edge, which was used as the dance floor. Engineers themselves, Min and Hunter built their own marquee lights, lighting fixtures that hung in the tent and wood lanterns for centerpieces. Min's family traveled from South Korea to attend, and they honored her family's background with a custom menu served by the yacht club's private caterer. It was an expertly crafted quintessential New England wedding day, enhanced enormously with the couple's personal touches.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

I'm a sucker for museums. One gorgeous, often unconsidered location is Manchester's Currier Museum of Art. They have several stunning spaces to pick from, and it's not your traditional wedding space; it's a little bit of Europe in southern New Hampshire, and it feels so elevated. Plus, designing your wedding is much simpler when you have literal masterpieces surrounding you.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

Early fall, right at the tail end of summer. The air has that touch of crispness to it, but the sunshine and warm temperatures still hold up without feeling scorching hot. It's the perfect weather to wear a suit without sweating through it and to wear any style of dress. You've got quite a broad selection of design themes and florals to pick from.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something that you can go cheap with?

Many couples think they can skip out on a planner. I'm not saying you need to hire someone to plan your wedding, but you should at least hire someone to execute your wedding weekend. ... All events are prone to in-the-moment changes and potential disasters, and you want someone in your corner who understands your values and will take care of it. They'll trouble-solve the inevitable issues, make sure everyone's



Angela Marie Weddings. Courtesy photo.

where they need to be and pick up the pieces when a vendor drops the ball. ... You'll feel that weight lifted off your shoulders ... so that you can enjoy every moment.

You can save some money on dessert. Almost every couple over-orders their dessert when there are many guests who won't indulge or will leave before it's even served. I recommend only purchasing enough dessert for 70 percent of your guest count.

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

The dessert provider delivered a three-tier cake minutes before the ceremony — completely smashed. The top tier looked just fine, but there was no way the bottom two tiers could be salvaged aesthetically. The venue and I put our MacGyver hats on. The cake was supposed to sit on a flat cake stand in the center of a dessert display. The one tier would have looked silly if we stuck with that plan, so we decided to build a taller cake stand to keep a similar setup. We were able to salvage the second tier using some icing from the bottom, but it didn't look pretty. Once we put the cake on the stand, we hid the imperfections with some leftover blooms that matched the topper — and voila. During the ceremony we contacted another baker who was able to give us a couple of smaller cakes to feed the

guests. Our makeshift two-tier delight lasted long enough to cut into the top tier, and then the venue sliced up the backup cakes to serve guests. The couple didn't even notice.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

My first step, before we even begin planning, is to get to the root of why they're even hosting a wedding. It sounds like a silly conversation at first, answering a seemingly simple question — why are you having a wedding? With every response, I continue to ask 'why?' until we get to the deep, meaningful heart of it, and that becomes my mission for the entire experience. When it's time to start making decisions, I always refer back to this and triple-check that the decision contributes to that mission. When a couple has disagreeing visions, we'll come back to this 'why' together and have a discussion comparing their visions. Sometimes one partner will quickly realize their vision doesn't contribute to the mission. Other times we'll take pieces of both visions to craft something truly theirs.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

The pandemic ... forced the world to slow down and consider how time is

passing them by, and the same is true for weddings. Couples are more in tune with what's important to them and why, and they're not as willing to compromise on those values because of family expectations or tradition. Weddings feel more personal and less like the pageantry of the past. If a tradition doesn't feel right, get rid of it.

**Angela Desrochers of
Angela Marie Weddings**

Deerfield, angelamarieweddings.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

I decided to become a wedding planner after planning my own wedding. I wanted to work for myself and have more flexibility with young kids at home. My background in data analysis was a great asset to making this transition since wedding planning is all about details, organization, time management and logistics. Wedding design has allowed me to tap into my more creative side.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

Our favorites are those that bring in elements that embrace them personally, such as Dungeons & Dragons-themed centerpieces or Nerf guns. Yes, we had a group of bridesmaids ambush the groomsmen with Nerf guns. One of my favorites was an autumn boho wedding inspired by the Celtic harvest at Allrose Farm in Greenfield. They selected Celtic music and included an ancient Celtic oathing stone ritual during their ceremony. Every element and detail represented the couple and their love for one another.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

Non-traditional wedding locations sometimes come with unique logistical challenges, but a butterfly sanctuary, zoo, aquarium or museum are great options we don't see a lot of. A warehouse or nightclub are also great blank canvas options to design however you want.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

We love fall weddings. The fall foliage and vibrant colors of nature make for a beautiful backdrop. We'd like to see more winter weddings. They're not ideal for outdoor weddings, but many venues have off-season pricing, making it a great option for your wallet. The snow is pretty, too.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something you can go cheap with?

This [depends on] what the priorities of the couple are. When a couple is looking to cut costs, we recommend a lower budget for flowers and stationary. Also consider, in place of a full open bar, serving beer, wine and a signature cocktail. Food and enter-



Blissful Beginnings. Photo by Kelsey Regan Photography

tainment are often areas that couples are happy to spend extra money on, as a great guest experience is typically a high priority.

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

Being in the wedding business for nearly 10 years, we've had our fair share of mishaps ranging from a guest falling and dislocating a shoulder and Champagne flutes left off a rental order, to an intoxicated guest making a scene. It's important to stay calm and in control, helping to keep the couple and guests calm as well. ... Recently we had a DJ who was two hours late. We found a portable speaker and a Spotify playlist to get through cocktail hour, organized the bridesmaids to announce the newlyweds, made a few toasts without a microphone and rearranged the timeline to move the first dance to later in the evening, but everything stayed on track, and at the end of the day everyone was happy.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

It's important to get couples on the same page before the planning begins. We discuss each of their individual priorities and then come up with joint priorities. It's a simple but effective exercise. We [act as] a third party impartial resource, providing facts and pros and cons to help them make a decision they both will be happy with.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

Things are mostly back to the way they were before — no more concerns about social distancing, masks and sanitizer or buffets and food stations. The biggest impact we're seeing is inflation; everything just costs more, which has forced couples to downsize their flowers or reduce their guest counts to save on food costs.

CONTINUED ON PG 18 ▶

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 17

Christa McLean of Christa McLean Events

Raymond, christamcleasevents.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

Growing up and working my way up the ladder in hospitality, I always found the most special occasions were the occasions I could help make lifelong memories for guests. ... Being around events for years, eventually you find a natural rhythm in planning and executing. ... I coordinated and managed weddings periodically, but after a long commute back to New Hampshire from managing a music venue in Cambridge, I connected with a New Hampshire wedding venue and worked at that venue full time for eight years before starting my business.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

It took place on the most perfect fall day. ... This wedding had some hiccups along the way, but the solutions truly worked out better than the original plans, so we had an 'everything happens for a reason' mantra going on. The wedding professionals had all worked together numerous times so the flow was on point. There were a few special entertainers, including the bagpiper from Dropkick Murphys and Celtic music by Celtic Beats as well as traditional Scottish line dancing. The key features in this wedding were personal to the couple. During planning, they came up with epic ideas, then discussed with their vendors, who all discussed together to come up with the best way to execute.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

Flag Hill Distillery and Winery has a special place in my heart. Its vineyard is stunning July through September, and it's fun that you can go back to visit for a tasting on your anniversary.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

There's certainly a magic about fall wed-

dings in New England, but each season has pros and cons. ... If you have travelers, don't choose winter in case of inclement weather. If you're choosing an outdoor venue, spring is great due to freshly done landscaping. Summer will provide the full, lush greenery that's so trendy. Ultimately, choosing a date that's special to you or will allow you to have a special anniversary is a good idea. But if you go into wedding planning with a season in mind but not a date, that'll allow you to find your perfect venue and then base your date on the availability.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something you can go cheap with?

Don't downplay the importance of photos and video. Whenever I have a hard day or am in a mood, I watch my wedding video and am able to snap back into a good place. To be able to capture memories of your best day ever is amazing and can only happen once. Imagine hiring someone who misses a special moment. Go cheap with programs and favors; they're usually left behind by guests.

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

The buses that someone was supposed to book weren't actually booked, and guests weren't going to get there for the ceremony that was starting in 20 minutes. I called a connection at the bus company and had two buses ASAP. The ceremony started 20 minutes late, but just about everyone was there and had a great time, and the bride didn't find out until the end of night.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

I discuss pros and cons based on experience. We find a way to sometimes weigh what the priorities for each of them are and meet in the middle of some ideas. Coming together to plan the biggest event you'll ever throw for yourself can be a lot, but you learn to compromise when needed.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

I'm seeing less [weddings with] 200+ [guests]. Couples are also definitely more interested in how things are going to be executed, especially food. Pre-pandemic the focus was more on if the food tastes good and is at a fair cost. Now I get more questions about where it'll be and how it'll be served.

Melanie Voros of Blissful Beginnings Wedding & Event Design
Bedford, blissfulbeginnings.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

I celebrated Blissful Beginnings' 25th anniversary last fall. I had been working in a bridal shop and loved the elements of

CONTINUED ON PG 20 ▶

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fashion and design, but I equally enjoyed working with the brides and their entourage, helping them stay on budget and hearing about the event details. ... At the time, wedding planning wasn't something you could study in college, so I took a certificate course through Weddings Beautiful Worldwide to become a certified wedding planner and opened my business shortly thereafter. Over these 25 years, I've worked with over 1,500 weddings across New England.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

One extra-special wedding was actually a 10-year surprise vow renewal and anniversary party for a couple whose wedding I planned and officiated back in 2012. The husband called on me to help him coordinate this 120-guest party as a complete surprise to his wife, back at the same venue where they were married the first time. I was honored to once again officiate their ceremony as well. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the wedding in Jackson, New Hampshire, where I met my now-husband back on July 7, 2007.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

The most special locations are those that mean something to the clients, so I often work at private homes, family vacation spots and places where memories can continue to be made long after the wedding day. Many clients choose to incorporate fun excursions or activities ... to introduce their guests to a place that's special to them. One couple planned a scavenger hunt on the campus of their alma mater Dartmouth College to share the story of how they met with their friends and family.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

In New England, 'wedding season' is mainly spring, summer and fall, but to me, that makes winter weddings even more special. There's something about the dramatic build up to a winter wedding, as well as the different activities and design elements that can be incorporated that make them so unique. For a recent winter wedding, we created a magical outdoor winter welcome party the night before, complete with fire pits, festive lighting, night sledding, a live ice sculpture demonstration, hot drinks and fair food.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something you can go cheap with?

The best-spent money is always on elements that benefit the entire group or overall success of the event, such as appropriate amount of waitstaff and bartenders, the correct tent size, heating or cooling and enough food. I like to help my clients create a priority list of 'needs' and 'wants' so they can budget for some of their fun but less imperative 'wants' while also covering their 'needs.'

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

I had a wedding that was held on a family estate in a field far from any power sources, so everything was run by generator. A pretty intense storm passed through and the restroom trailer was hit by lightning, causing the motor to burn out. ... I quickly called the company owner as well as a local electrician. Thankfully we had enough time to get the trailer working before guests arrived on property, but it could have been a huge issue if it wasn't detected early.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

It's most important for couples to have an open dialogue about what's important to them and work through the pros and cons of different elements. Most of the time, common ground can be met by discussing what's most important for both parties and finding a place in the middle.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

I still have clients who prefer plated dinners to family style or communal sharing-of-platters types of dinner service. We also see more late and week-of-the-wedding declines from guests due to Covid exposure. We saw a lot of weekday weddings in the past few years as the backlog of weddings from the pandemic years had filled the 2021 and 2022 weekends. I also see that guests are even more happy to be able to attend, travel and celebrate after the limitations during the pandemic.

Samantha Sheehy of The Perfect Match Weddings, Manchester, theperfectmatchweddings.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

I've loved weddings since I was a little girl. The idea of dressing up, having all your family and friends in one place, eating awesome food and having beautiful flowers fascinated me. I've always had a knack for organization and connecting with people and realized wedding planning was the perfect combination of my creative side and Type A personality. I started out working for another wedding planner while working full-time in public relations. ... Starting my own business seemed like it just made sense, and I wanted to see how I could have an impact on the wedding industry.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

Last summer we hosted a wedding in an airport hangar. The groom was a pilot. ... The bride flew into the ceremony on a plane, and we transformed the airport hangar into a reception space.



Willow Tree. Photo by Dual Photo.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

Renting an Airbnb. This idea became popular during Covid since many venues were shut down. Some rules and regulations have changed through Airbnb since, but it's such a cool way to have a place all to yourself for the weekend. ... I would highly recommend hiring a wedding planner to help you navigate the logistics of a nontraditional location. You'll need to bring in everything from tables to chairs, trash cans, lighting, linens, china and more.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

Spring. This is an unpopular opinion being a New England wedding planner where everyone loves the fall foliage, but spring has the best flowers, it's not too hot, and everyone's excited to be outside again.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something you can go cheap with?

When all is said and done, the only things you have left to remember your wedding are the photos and video. Many couples are tempted to hire a friend who's a photographer on the side or to skip the videographer, but trust us on this one — you'll regret it if you cut corners here. Think about how much time and money you put into making your wedding look beautiful. It's important to have a professional there who knows how to properly capture this and tell the story of the day.

We suggest trying to cut costs on dessert. Don't get me wrong, I love a good after-dinner sweet, but ... guests are busy dancing, drinking and socializing, and dessert often gets wasted.

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

We've [handled] everything from restarting generators during power outages, getting

stains out of shirts minutes before walking down the aisle, a groom with a sprained ankle, high winds threatening to knock down tents, blizzards and more. We show up on your wedding day with an emergency kit so we're ready for anything. Our kit includes safety pins, stain removers, any over-the-counter medication you can think of, hair spray, scissors, lighters, fashion tape and more.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

There are so many decisions that need to be made throughout the wedding planning process ... so when couples have differing opinions, there's often an opportunity to include their idea in another part of the wedding. For example, if one partner wants the wedding to have an elegant feel but the other wants it to be more casual, we can compromise by having an elegant venue but fun and casual food choices such as a taco and mac and cheese bar.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

The pandemic gave couples the excuse they needed to downsize their weddings and cut out the things that weren't important to them. We see this trend continuing into 2023 and 2024, and it's what we encourage all of our couples to do. If you don't want to have a wedding party, don't have one. If you don't like cake, skip the cake and get doughnuts. This is your day, and just because something's "traditional" doesn't mean it has to be a part of your wedding.

Megan Thomson of Willow Tree Events North Conway, willow-tree-events.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

After years of hosting my own events and being the go-to person to help my friends and family plan theirs, I decided 10 years ago to dive into the industry on my own. ... My career is based on granting wishes, making the impossible possible and bringing people together. ... The love I have for what I do is deeply rooted in me, and I could never do anything else.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

It was heartbreaking as a planner to go through month after month of canceled weddings [during the pandemic]. ... The first big wedding we had after all the pandemic restrictions were lifted [included] a venue filled with smiling, hugging, dancing and singing people. I was overcome with so much relief and gratefulness for my couples to be able to have their day again. I'm not sure my eyes were dry all day.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

I'm a lake and mountains kind of girl, so I suggest spots like Echo Lake, Cathedral

Ledge and local breweries. Pull the outdoors into your day and find a spot where you have more freedom to do your own thing on your own time and not be tied down to restrictions and time limits.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

All of the above. We live in New England after all. Winter for the quiet romance of it, spring for the new blooms, summer for the longer nights and fall because fall in New Hampshire is simply perfect.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something you can go cheap with?

Never skimp on your entertainment, always add the extra hour of photography and go for the video. ... If you're looking to save, then skip the programs and Champagne toast.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

You talk it out, and, just like with marriage, compromise.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

Higher RSVP counts and more multi-day celebrations. We all missed out on so much, and no one wants to waste time or miss a thing anymore.



Memorable Events. Photo by Kate Preftakes Photography.

Jennifer Matthews of Memorable Events

Keene, memorableeventsnh.com

How did you get into the wedding business?

When I was growing up, my parents owned a catering company. I also was a DJ when I was younger, so it was a natural transition. I'm headed into my 19th wedding season.

Describe one of your most memorable weddings.

This past wedding season, I did a really amazing four-day Indian wedding that was a huge undertaking and certainly one of the most memorable ones.

What's a fun wedding location people may not have considered?

We're so blessed in New Hampshire to have amazing venues [like] summer camps, lake and oceanfront venues and private estates tucked in the woods. I love when weddings are weekend-long celebrations at a venue that can house many or all of the guests.

Winter, spring, summer or fall wedding, and why?

It's a personal preference. My schedule tends to be the most full in the fall because of the foliage, cooler evening temps and less bugs.

What's one thing that's worth spending extra money on? What's something that you can go cheap with?

Photography is usually worth the splurge; the photos are what you'll have left when the day is done. One area where I see a lot of people pulling back are extravagant favors; keep in mind that many could get left behind.

Recount a wedding mishap and how you handled it.

A caterer pulled out of a wedding just three days before. ... Thankfully I was able to have a conversation with a catering company I've used several times, bring them up to speed, and they pulled together a miracle menu.

How do you help a couple when each partner has a different vision for their wedding?

I work with them to find middle ground or even lead them in a direction they may not have thought about that they both love.

How are weddings today different from what they were pre-pandemic?

By 2022 ... weddings were back to 'normal.' But something non-pandemic-related I'm seeing a lot more of is couples including their dogs in the festivities, which I love. 🐾



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THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Stories of ballooning:** Hear the stories of balloonists who explored New Hampshire skies in the 19th century at the presentation "Lighter Than Air" on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.org, 6699-4877). Leah Dearborn, the museum's assistant director, will discuss balloonists such as Eugene Goodard, Thaddeus Lowe (an aeronaut for the Union Army during the Civil War) and others, according to a press release. "Early pioneers of local skies took to balloons and other lighter-than-air vessels for a host of reasons. Some were intended to pursue military reconnaissance and scientific inquiry, while others were simply daredevil stunts designed to attract a crowd," the release said. Admission costs \$10.

• **Paint night:** Katrina Reid will lead the "Bearly Winter Paint Nite" at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Reid brings the materials and the know-how to teach the art of painting, according to the website. Admission costs \$35; reserve a spot online.

• **Call for art:** The Lakes Region Art Association is looking for pieces for its upcoming exhibit "Love, Passion & Chocolate," which will run Thursday, Feb. 2, through Friday, Feb. 25, at the Lakes Region Art Gallery (120 Laconia Road, Suite 300, in the Tanger Outlets, Tilton), according to a press release. An artists reception will be held Saturday, Feb. 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. featuring chocolate from Rocky Mountain Chocolate, the release said. The rules for submission: Each artist can submit up to five unframed pieces no larger than 8 inches by 8 inches, artwork must be dry and ready to be bagged, all artwork must be for sale, there is an entry fee of \$25 and artwork must be received by Jan. 28 by mail or dropped off on Wednesday, Feb. 1, from noon to 6 p.m., the release said. See LRAANH.org.

• **Upcoming auditions for Cue Zero:**



A vintage postcard depicts a balloon ascension about to take place circa 1900 in Laconia, N.H., for the "Lighter Than Air" presentation at the Aviation Museum of N.H. Courtesy photo.

Cue Zero Theatre Company will hold auditions for its April production of *The Wolves*, a gritty drama by Sarah DeLappe directed by Erin Downey, on Monday, Jan. 30, and Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire in Salem. All characters in the production are female/female presenting, according to the press release. Sign up for an audition slot at CZTheatre.com and those auditioning should prepare a one-minute dramatic monologue and be prepared to read sides on request; callbacks are Sunday, Feb. 5, the release said. Get information about the character breakdowns on the website.

Other Cue Zero auditions on the horizon include for *Be More Chill*, which is based on the novel by Ned Vizzini, and the CZT Lab Series productions *Empathy* and *Join*, original pieces. Auditions for *Be More Chill*, which will be presented at the Derry Opera House on Friday, June 23, through Sunday, June 25, will be Wednesday, March 8, and Thursday, March 9, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire in Salem. Auditions for the Lab pieces, which will be presented in August, will be Sunday, March 12, also in Salem. See cztheatre.com for all the details and to sign up for auditions.

• **"Winter Frost" winners:** The Seacoast Artist Association announced the winners of its "Winter Frost" show, which can be viewed through Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Association's gallery at 130 Water St. in Exeter (the gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.), according to a press release. Martin Lamon of Stratham won Best in Show for his painting "Winter Sunset" and Mark Leavitt won the People's Choice Award for his watercolor "New Snow in Vermont," the release said.

The Seacoast Artist Association's next



Art on display in the new exhibit by Center for the Arts in New London. Courtesy photo.

show is "Let Me Show You What I Love," with a dropoff for local artists to submit their works on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (see the rules and find the application at seacoastartist.org), the release said. A reception for that show will be held Friday, Feb. 10, from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Painting and photography:** The new exhibit by Center for the Arts in New London will open Friday, Feb. 3, at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust (321 Main St. in New London) as part of the Center's First Friday Gallery Stroll. The show, "Where Painterly Art and Photography Converge," will feature 15 paintings and one sculpture displayed with photographs used as reference images, according to a press release. The exhibit will hang at Bar Harbor Bank for three months, the release said. The exhibit will feature the works of 12 painters and four photographers, the release said.

The February First Fridays from the Center for the Arts (centerfortheartsnh.org/first-fridays) will run from 5 to 7 p.m. and include four other galleries: the New London Inn with the work of Kim Schusler, the New London Barn Playhouse Fleming Center Gallery for Contemporary Art, the Tatewell Gallery and the Candita Clayton Gallery; the Blue Loon Bakery (open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) also features the work of Susan D'Appolino, the release said.

• **Sculpture:** 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth; 3arts.org) will feature the architectural sculptures of Frank Poor in the exhibit "Relics," which opens Friday, Feb. 3, and runs through Sunday, April 2. There will be an opening reception on Feb. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m., according to a press release.

• **Circus with a Chance of Meatballs:** The High Mowing School middle schoolers (Pine Hill Campus, 77 Pine Hill Drive in Wilton;



Winning painting "Winter Sunset" acrylic by Martin Lamont. Courtesy photo.

highmowing.org/hilltop, 654-6003) will show off their circus skills with their show *Circus with a Chance of Meatballs* Thursday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 18, at 1 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; bring a donation for the Wilton's Open Cupboard Food pantry for free popcorn, according to a press release.

• **"Comic thrill ride":** That's how the Community Players of Concord describe their production of *The 39 Steps*, a comic riff on the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock movie, which will run Friday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord). Tickets cost \$20 for adults and students, \$18 for seniors. The performances are slated for 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, according to a press release. See communityplayersofconcord.org for tickets.

• **Music at the Andres:** Support the Andres Institute of Art (106 Route 13 in Brookline; andresinstitute.org, 673-7441) with a night of music from the Soggy Po' Boys on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Institute's welcome center. General-admission tickets cost \$25; a five-seat table in the first row costs \$200 per table, according to a press release. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served before the show and a cash bar will be available, the release said.

• **The faculty presents:** The Manchester Community Music School's Faculty Performance of "Chanson d'Amour" featuring Harel Gietheim on cello and Piper Runnion on harp has been rescheduled (it had been slated for Jan. 19) for Thursday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at the school, 2291 Elm St. in Manchester. Admission is free but pre-register at mcmusicschool.org to attend in person or online. 🍎

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 15

musical will open in the Portsmouth waterfront park on Friday, June 23, according to a press release. Virtual auditions for the musical are due Saturday, Feb. 4. Would-be Audrey's and Audrey IIs can go to prescottpark.org/about/auditions.

Classes/workshops

• **CAMP ENCORE** The Prescott Park Arts Festival in Portsmouth has announced the dates and productions for its three multi-week

summer camp sessions. Session 1, Theatre Creatures, will run three weeks, Monday, June 19, through Sunday, July 9, and feature *Disney's 101 Dalmatians Kids* and *The Aristocats Kids* with public productions Saturday, July 8, and Sunday, July 9, at 11 a.m. Session 2, Stage Folks, runs two weeks, Monday, July 10, through Sunday, July 23, with productions on Saturday, July 22, and Sunday, July 23, at 11 a.m. Sessions 1 and 2 are open to ages 7 to 17. Session 3, Prescott Teens (Teen Musical Theatre Intensive), runs two weeks,

Monday, July 24, through Sunday, Aug. 6, with shows Saturday, Aug. 5, and Sunday, Aug. 6, at 11 a.m. See prescottpark.org for pricing, including sibling and multi-camp discounts, and to register.

Classical Events

• **THE SKY WITHIN** The Concord Chorale will present "The Sky Within," a concert celebrating the themes of sky, flight and letting go and showcasing musical styles including works by Brahms, Renais-

sance madrigals and contemporary works, on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 22, at 3 p.m. The concerts will take place at South Congregational Church (27 Pleasant St. in Concord) and the Sunday show will also be livestreamed. See concordchorale.org for tickets, which cost \$20.

• **WINTER SERENITIES** at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem; 893-7069) will run Sat., Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Featuring Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas

Tallis (by Vaughn-Williams). Presented by New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra. Tickets range from \$5 to \$30 for in-person seating. Visit nhpo.booktix.com.

• **DRAWN TO THE MUSIC: MUSICAL TALES** at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem; 893-7069) will run Sat., April 15, and Sun., April 16, at 2 p.m. Featuring Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, the music for a ballet about puppets that come to life. Presented by New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra. Tickets range

from \$5 to \$30 for in-person seating. Visit nhpo.booktix.com.

• **SPRING POPS: HOLLYWOOD IN AFRICA** at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem; 893-7069) will run Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m. Featuring Grammy Award-nominated African musician Mamadou Diabate on the balafon, a xylophone-like instrument. Presented by New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra. Tickets range from \$5 to \$30 for in-person seating. Visit nhpo.booktix.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Spring flower shows are back!

Get your tickets now

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

The spring flower shows are always a contrast to the cold, icy days of winter. Bright flowers, garden paraphernalia and numerous workshops make these events fun, for both beginner and expert. Here are this year's offerings.

The first show of the season is a specialty show: orchids. The New Hampshire Orchid Society is holding its annual get-together Friday, Feb. 10, to Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Courtyard Marriott in Nashua. This is *the* show for orchid lovers. There will be vendors of orchids from Ecuador, Taiwan and the U.S. Members of the Society will bring their orchids to compete and to strut their stuff. Admission is just \$10, or \$8 for seniors.

Next up is the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show Feb. 23 to Feb. 26. This is a mammoth show with more than 3 acres of displays. As always, it is being held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Tickets are \$20 at the door, or \$17 in advance. Kids 5 to 12 are \$5.

One of the greatest things about this show is the educational seminars. Here are a few workshops that interest me: "Good Bug, Bad Bug,

Benign Bug." This is great for anyone who tends to squish any bug in the garden even though most are not a problem. I assume there will be slides of insects we should recognize but probably don't. Then there is one on organic lawn care, and another called "Shady Characters." I know garden writer Ellen Ecker Ogden of Vermont will do a nice slide presentation and talk about kitchen garden design and how to make your veggies look artful. She always does.

One of my favorite shows is always the Vermont Flower Show. It will take place this year March 3 to March 5 at the Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, Vermont. The theme this year is "Out of Hibernation! Spring Comes to the 100-Acre Wood," a tribute to Winnie-the-Pooh.

The main garden display is always a collaborative effort by members of the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association. For three and a half days members of VNLA will work together to create a 15,000-square-foot display using their own and donated materials. Other shows tend to have displays by professionals that are competing with each other, but not in Vermont — they work together.

There will be more than 100 vendors and 35 workshops to attend over the three days of the event. In the past I have purchased seeds, seed

potatoes, bulbs, books and garden tools. Tickets are \$25, or \$20 for seniors. Kids are \$7.

The Vermont show is a child-friendly event with a craft room open all day. Go online to see the schedule of events for kids — there will be a magician, marionettes and music. Be sure to attend this year — it only occurs every other year.

A bit farther afield there is the Philadelphia Flower Show. Last year they held it outdoors in May due to Covid concerns, but this year they are back inside the Pennsylvania Convention Center in downtown Philly March 4 to March 12. According to their publicity, "The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is both the nation's largest and the world's longest-running horticultural event, featuring stunning displays by premier floral and landscape designers from around the globe. Started in 1829 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Show introduces diverse and sustainable plant varieties and garden and design concepts. In addition to acres of garden displays, the Flower Show hosts esteemed competitions in horticulture and artistic floral arranging, gardening presentations and demonstrations, and special events."

I've been to the Philly show a couple of times and I am always amazed by the sheer size and diversity of the displays, vendors and workshops. It is best to go mid-week when crowds are smaller, and take two days, if you can, to see it all. Tickets are \$43.50 for adults and \$20 for kids.



Photo by Henry Homeyer.

A show I have yet to attend is the Capital Region Flower and Garden Show in Troy, New York, which will be held again this year at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy from March 24 to March 26. According to their website, there will be 160 vendors and exhibitors and eight to 10 workshops each day.

Then in May there is the New Hampshire Farm, Garden and Forest Expo being held this year at the Deerfield Fairgrounds on May 5 and May 6. It is now in its 40th year and is the least commercial of all the shows. It is focused on sharing information.

Finally May 23 to May 27 there is the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in London, England. I've been, and it was well worth the trip. It's held outdoors and is truly wonderful.

If you plan to go to Chelsea, join the RHS to get better access times and pricing. Members get a discount of over \$10 per day, but prices still range from \$89 to \$46 depending on the day of the week. British women tend to dress up for this show and wear big colorful hats. The first two days are for members only, so it should be a bit less crowded.

The spring flower shows are fun — and we deserve that after a long New England winter.

Henry is a UNH Master Gardener and the author of four gardening books. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

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Frozen fun

The annual Winter Festival in Concord is back

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippopress.com

Intown Concord is bringing some post-holiday fun to the city with the annual Winter Festival, with ice sculpting competitions, unique food options and more starting on Friday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m.

Haylie Stoddard, a representative from Intown Concord, one of the organizations that has partnered to run the festival for the last five years, said that this year will have a few new additions to the festivities.

“New this year we’ll have the Capitol Street warming hut and beer garden, and we’re excited to have that,” said Stoddard, adding that there is a lounge area in the tent as well, and the garden will

Concord Winter Festival

Where: New Hampshire Statehouse, 107 N. Main St., Concord

When: Friday, Jan. 27, from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 28, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit: intownconcord.com

serve local canned beers and drinks.

There will also be a dozen vendors, from media corporations to artisans. Stoddard said this was the first time in a while that the group had brought on vendors to the partnership.

The main event of the festival is the ice carving competitions, Stoddard said. This year the competitions will take place in front of the Statehouse. On Friday the sculptors will honor the sponsors of the festival with something inspired by the company’s logo or industry. Stoddard said that it used to be sculptures of the logos, but that proved to be too time-consuming for the smaller sculpting.

On Saturday, the six sculptors will spend the whole day working on creating the semi-permanent masterpieces. Stoddard said that it was important to the festival committee to give the sculptors as much free range as they wanted when it came to the creation of the frozen artwork. She said there is something magical about the ice and the way sculptors work it into their own vision.

“It brings uniqueness ... during a colder time of year,” Stoddard said about the sculptures. She said it also gives people a chance to enjoy the



Photo courtesy of Intown Concord.

winter weather. “Not everybody has the opportunity to get out, especially if they have a family and if they don’t do skiing or snowboarding. [The festival] gives a free option for families to get out and do something during the day and get some fresh air.”

Red River Theatres is partnering with the event this year and is showing family favorite *Frozen* (PG, 2013) on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. The Concord Public Library will host a snowy story-time that might feature everyone’s favorite ice queen and her younger sister.

The Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament, orig-

inally slated to coincide with the Festival, has been postponed to March 17 through March 19. According to Intown’s website, the O Steak & Seafood ice bar also has been postponed.

The winter festival is all about bringing the community together and outside during a time of year when most like to stay indoors, Stoddard said.

“It’s fun and something to do in the wintertime,” said Stoddard. “Get some fresh air and check out beautiful pieces of art. Even though it’s temporary, it’s exciting and unique.”

KIDDIE

— POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Museum fun

• On Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) will be hosting **Lighter Than Air**, an educational program and lecture about the people who pioneered flight through hot air balloons. The event will have photographs of the early pioneers of air travel, many of whom were in the Manchester region. Tickets to the event cost \$10 for nonmembers and are free to members. Visit nhahs.org for more information.

• Join the Children’s Museum (6 Washington St., Dover) for a **Robotics Petting Zoo** presented by Sages Entertainment on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 11 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. Kids will learn about what makes robots special, how people use them in everyday life, and the code that brings robots to life. There will also be a robot scavenger hunt and robot-themed craft in the Muse Art Studio at the museum. Join the event by purchasing morning or afternoon play tickets at childrens-museum.org. Tickets cost \$12.50 for children and adults, \$10.50 for seniors older than 65. Children younger than 1 year old are free.

• Build a plane with the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry) at their **student and family plane-build open house** on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. The open house is to pro-



Cats: the Young Actors Version by the Majestic Academy. Courtesy photo.

mote a program with the Manchester School of Technology, where students will work with volunteers to build a plane from scratch during the school year. The program is free for students who meet the age requirement, and students from other schools or districts or who are home-schooled are able to participate as well. To learn more about the program, visit nhahs.org.

Showtime

• All three Chunky’s (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham) will have a **little lunch date** showing the movie *Shrek* (PG, 2001) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 3:45 p.m. The family-friendly showing will have dimmed lights. Admission is free, but reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher at chunkys.com.

• Get your claws and whiskers ready for a family-friendly production of *Cats: the Young Actors Version* by the Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts at the Derry Opera House (29 West Broadway). Opening night is Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. and following shows are on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 2 and 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for

seniors ages 65 and older, \$10 for youth 17 and younger. Purchase tickets at majestictheatre.net.

• Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St., Concord) is screening *Frozen* (PG, 2013) on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. as part of the Concord Winter Festival. Tickets cost \$10 per person; visit redrivertheatre.com to purchase tickets.

Save the date

• Get prehistoric with the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover) with a **dinosaur-themed Valentine’s Day party** on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. The party will have a dinosaur-themed craft, stories, and a meet and greet with a friendly dinosaur. This event is a special ticketed event. Tickets

cost \$10 for members, \$16 for nonmembers, free for children under a year. Ticket sales start on Wednesday, Jan. 25, for members and open to the public on Monday, Jan. 30. To purchase tickets, visit childrens-museum.org.

• Winter vacation is just around the corner, and Park Arts (19 Main St., Jaffrey) is holding a **winter vacation camp** for all the little performers starting on Monday, Feb. 27. The camp will run the whole week and include a performance on March 4. The play for elementary students will be *The Elves and the Shoemaker* and the play for middle school students is *Mystery Anyone?* Each camp costs \$90 for admission, with an optional \$12 for a commemorative T-shirt. Registration is open and can be done at theparktheatre.org.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

Picked this up a few months ago. I thought it was interesting. It looks all handmade and has weight to it. It’s 4 inches by 6 inches. I think it could be an old chalkboard eraser. The bottom has about 1/4 inch of felt. Interesting, as I said. What do you think?

Luke in Berlin, N.H.



Dear Luke,

You got my interest!

First, you are right, it appears to be handmade. It looks old, but it’s tough to be exact with the age of handmade items.

My question would be why would it need to be heavy if it’s an eraser. My thought is that it’s more of a commemorative to a dog. Possibly a paper-weight? You could be right, or maybe it’s even for

something we won’t ever know.

To give it a value: It’s a homemade piece with good detail, construction and subject. I would say your little treasure is in the \$40 range!

Thanks for sharing, Luke.

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.

A great idea, 50 years too late



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
Are electric cars rigged up to re-charge as they drive? It seems like there could be some sort of alternator set up on the wheels to generate power that could extend the range

of the battery.

Alternatively, are any set up with a reserve battery — akin to a spare gas tank like some trucks have? — John

This is a brilliant idea, John. You've just invented regenerative braking.

You're about 50 years too late to make any money on it in cars, but good thinking, nonetheless.

Both hybrids and battery-electric vehicles use regenerative braking.

When the driver wants to slow the car and taps on the brake pedal, the first thing that happens is that a generator is engaged.

The wheels then turn the generator, simultaneously charging the battery, and — because it takes effort to spin the generator — slowing down the car.

If the stop is gradual enough, the car can be brought to a complete halt using

the regenerative braking. In that case, the maximum amount of kinetic energy is recouped and put back into the battery.

If more stopping power is needed — the computer adds in the friction brakes (the brake pads) to stop the car safely, but then some of that energy is lost to heat.

You'll be happy to hear that your other idea, John, the spare battery, has not been applied to cars. But you'll be unhappy to hear that it may never be.

A spare battery simply weighs too much to lug around. It would reduce the range of the car considerably. You'd need a trailer to pull it around. Then you'd need a spare battery for the spare battery.

In fact, it's so unworkable that, in the early days of electric cars, some manufacturers added small gasoline engines as backup chargers rather than have to add the weight of more batteries. That tells you how badly they wanted to avoid adding another battery.

So, if you can invent a spare battery that weighs about the same as a spare tire, write back immediately.

Dear Car Talk:
I have a 2003 Pontiac Bonneville that has not been driven since the March 2020 arrival of COVID-19. Long story

short: It has 66,000 (accident-free) miles on the odometer and should have lots of around-town miles left.

It was well-maintained and running fine until it was parked in a back lot three years ago but won't start now. Upon investigation, a toad leaped out from the trunk and there was leafy green growth in the engine compartment.

It's accessible for towing. I want to tow it to a mechanic to see what it needs to make it road worthy again. What do you recommend I ask the mechanic to check to get a comprehensive evaluation of its condition?

Anxious to get your reply, and thanks for your sage advice. — Chris

Well, it needs a sign that says, "Caution, wildlife area." And maybe a pass with a mulching lawn mower. But other than that, it may not need much of anything.

Your mechanic should begin by getting it started. If he wants to be ultra-safe, he can remove the spark plugs and squirt a shot of oil in each cylinder first. Then, with the plugs still out, he can hand turn the crankshaft a few times to get the rings moving and cylinder walls lubricated.

After that, he can put a good battery in it and fire it up. If it runs, he'll know pretty quickly from any noises, smells or fumes whether anything else is seriously amiss.

If it doesn't run, he'll have to do some detective work and figure out whether it's lacking fuel, spark or both.

It's possible that rodents chewed through some wires or dined on a crucial sensor connection. Or maybe the fuel pump relay is rusted and stuck in the open position. Given the vintage of this car — and the fact that it was running well when you parked it — it shouldn't take him too long to figure out what's keeping it from starting.

Regardless, once he gets it started, he should test drive the car, to be sure the brakes are working well and that there are no snakes under the front seat looking for those toads. Then, he should check all the key systems — brakes, steering, exhaust, cooling, etc. — before he returns the car to you.

Then you drive it around, Chris, and see if you notice anything else misbehaving. You may not.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍌



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Hippo Publisher



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ON THE JOB

SHELLY A. MEAD

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Shelly A. Mead is a justice of the peace who officiates weddings throughout southern New Hampshire.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

My job is to write and officiate wedding ceremonies for any mutually consenting couple in New Hampshire. I am able to perform quick legal ceremonies, but I specialize in creating love story ceremonies for couples. This involves really getting to know a couple and having them open up about what makes their relationship work, what they love about each other and their favorite memories together. I translate those details into a ceremony that I perform on their wedding day. My ultimate goals are to make the ceremony planning process feel simple and straightforward for couples, and to create a relationship that allows them to feel as calm and confident as humanly possible when standing up in front of their fami-

ly and friends on their wedding day.

How long have you had this job?
Six years.

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

I officiated for the first time in 2017 for my brother-in-law with the intention of never officiating again. As it turned out, creating and officiating ceremonies is extremely joyful and rewarding work. Since then, I have officiated over 350 ceremonies, and 2023 will be my sixth wedding season.

What kind of education or training did you need?

To become a justice of the peace in New

Hampshire, one must take an oath and then be certified by the governor. Much of my training was through extensive online research, and then on the job. I love learning from other officiants and have great local mentors. I get really excited when a couple brings up a new idea or tradition to research that can be incorporated into their ceremony.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

I typically wear a black or navy dress or suit, depending on the couple's wedding colors.

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

This past wedding season was incredibly busy as so many couples had to put off their big wedding from 2020 to 2022. I often officiate for couples who want to have a quick legal ceremony and then plan to celebrate with a formal wedding when there are fewer Covid restrictions or more open wedding dates. I think for a justice of the peace it is not that common to have repeat customers. With couples having a private elopement and then a big ceremony later, I sometimes get the honor of sharing their happiness twice.

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

It is so important to set boundaries with clients.



Shelly A. Mead. Courtesy photo.

Having a detailed contract to establish ground rules is key.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

Something that not many people realize is that planning a beautiful and meaningful ceremony takes time — a lot of time. If you go to a wedding and the ceremony is executed flawlessly, with the couple and their guests sharing laughter, joy and maybe even some happy tears, know that years of experience and hours of time went into making that 15 to 30 minutes so completely perfect.

What was the first job you ever had?

I worked as a page at the Manchester Public Library in Manchester, Connecticut.

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

Always take a deep breath and smile at the beginning of a ceremony. It helps the couple to relax. — Angie Sykeny 🍷

Five favorites

Favorite book: *Beartown* series by Fredrik Backman

Favorite movie: *Stranger Than Fiction*

Favorite music: I always sing in the car to get warmed up for a ceremony. Currently, Lizzo and Adele are my top choices.

Favorite food: Cherries

Favorite thing about NH: I love that we can be in a city, the beach or the mountains all in just an hour. New Hampshire has it all.

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A taste of Somalia

Batulo's Kitchen coming to Concord's Bank of New Hampshire Stage

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Celebrate Mardi Gras:** Get your tickets now to the Franco-American Centre's annual **Mardi Gras celebration**, happening on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Alpine Club (175 Putnam St., Manchester). The event will feature a variety of Cajun and comfort items served buffet style, along with king cake and a cash bar. Activities will include karaoke, dancing, a costume contest, 50/50 raffles, door prizes and more. The cost is \$25 for non-FAC members, \$20 for members and \$15 for 2022 volunteers. Pre-register online by Feb. 1 at facnh.com — non-members will receive one free raffle ticket and members will receive three tickets for a chance to win the door prizes, and additional tickets will also be available for purchase for more chances to win.

• **From Venice to Bedford:** Join the Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford) for its own take on the Carnevale di Venezia, a three-day **ice festival** happening Thursday, Feb. 2, through Saturday, Feb. 4, from 6 to 10 p.m. each evening. Attendees will be fully immersed in Venetian culture, enjoying the sites of ice sculptures and ice bars designed to pay homage to one of Italy's most famous annual celebrations. Activities will include live music, martini bars with specialty cocktails, a whiskey bar, a beer and wine bar and lots of ice. The Inn's Great Hall will be offering snacks and desserts available for purchase with tokens, which will be sold at the door. Food items each evening will include Italian sausage subs, Carnevale lasagna soup, Sicilian-style pizza, vegetable minestrone soup, Cape Cod oysters, Jumbo cocktail shrimp, traditional or double chocolate cannolis and tiramisu cheesecake. Ice bar tokens are to be used to purchase all food and beverages at the ice bar — cash and credit cards will not be accepted. Tokens will be sold on site in bundles of five, 10 and 20 via credit card only — they are not cash refundable but can be used at any of the Inn's dining outlets from Feb. 2 through March 31 for the face value of \$3.50 apiece. Tickets are \$40 per person (event is 21+ only). Visit bedfordvillageinn.com.

• **QC Cupcakes completes move:** Manchester's Queen City Cupcakes has completed the move of its operations a few doors down, joining forces with

31 ▶

At the Concord Multicultural Festival, Batulo Mahamed has gained a reputation over the last decade as one of the event's most popular food vendors, building a following for her sambusa, or Somali meat pies. You'll soon be able to enjoy her pies all year round, thanks to the launch of a new culinary artist-in-residence program with Concord's Capitol Center for the Arts.

Batulo's Kitchen, set to open Feb. 1 at the Bank of New Hampshire Stage, is the first participant of the new program, which aims to give new Americans an opportunity to start their own food businesses in a low-risk, low-cost setting.

"This is something that I've been trying for years to get done through the Multicultural Festival," said Jessica Livingston, who joined the Capitol Center's staff in March as community outreach coordinator. "We have several food vendors who are interested in starting a business ... and the community obviously wants more access to these delicious foods."

Livingston met with Sal Prizio, who took over as the Capitol Center's executive director in late 2021, to discuss the establishment of the program.

"He said that there was a commercial kitchen just sitting there being unused and he wanted to do like a ghost kitchen program," she said, "and I was like, 'Wait, what? Are you serious? I've been trying to do something like this forever.' ... It's a way to give back to the com-



Somali meat pies. Courtesy photo.

munity and support local people and their food business endeavors, but it's also a win-win for us because we can offer something different to the patrons who come here, rather than your typical concessions."

Mahamed relocated to the United States with her family in 2004 from Somalia. In addition to being a regular vendor at the Multicultural Festival, she operates her own farm and sells her own fresh produce at local farmers markets through Fresh Start Farms.

"I was so excited to talk to Batulo about it because this has been a huge goal of hers, and I've always kind of promised that I would help her make it happen," Livingston said.

Mahamed's sambusa, known across the Multicultural Festival circuit as simply "Batulo's meat pies," are small triangular-shaped pastries that can be stuffed with one's choice of ground beef, chicken breast or veggies. All are additionally prepared with bell peppers, onions, potatoes, salt, garlic, cilantro and curry powder.

Other than the sambusa, Batulo's Kitchen's menu will feature rice and vegetable meals, like basmati rice, stir-fried in onions and seasoned with veggie bouillon, cilantro, cumin and garlic.

"She's keeping it pretty simple right



Batulo Mahamed, owner of Batulo's Kitchen in Concord. Courtesy photo.

now to what she knows," Livingston said. "Her ultimate goal is to build up enough of a customer base and [have] enough income to be able to purchase a food truck when her residency is through with us. ... She'll be here all through 2023."

Batulo's Kitchen will soon be accepting orders for lunch pickup, as well as delivery through third-party services like GrubHub and DoorDash. Livingston added that she does expect Mahamed to also continue participating in the Multicultural Festival, due to return to Keach Park in Concord this fall.

"It's strictly going to be a family business with her kids working with her, and I think that's really kind of special," she said. "It's really all about preserving their culture, but doing it as a family and sharing the food that they love with people here." 🍷

Batulo's Kitchen

Opening Wednesday, Feb. 1

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

Anticipated hours: Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More info: Visit batuloskitchen.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram @batuloskitchen or call 848-2204

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 blazingstargrango.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 @ [downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket).
- **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 Jan. 28. Visit 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 Satur-

days, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Wentworth Greenhouses (141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford). Upcoming markets are on Feb. 18, and March 4 and 18. Visit 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.
- **Stratham Farmers Market** is on select Sat-

urdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Cooperative Middle School (100 Academic Way, Stratham). Upcoming markets are on Feb. 4, April 1 and April 15. Visit 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.

Brews by the Oval

Ogie Brewing now open in Milford



Ogie Brewing's starting lineup of beers. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippypress.com

Nearly four full years after Bill Ogert signed a lease to open his own nano brewery in Milford, his vision is now a reality. Ogie Brewing, a stone's throw from the town Oval, celebrated its grand opening Jan. 6 with a lineup of 10 beers on tap, following many months of delays.

"I've loved how many people have come in on our days open and said, 'We've been watching you for years, we've been so eager, we're so glad it finally happened.' That's encouraging," he said. "You stop and look around [and] ... you suddenly see the reward for all the hardships."

It was February 2019 when Ogert, a former aerospace engineer who originally became interested in homebrewing through his brother, found the former Bravo Pizza storefront on South Street. Eighteen months of litigation would follow, stemming from a neighbor's complaint over a zoning exception and eventually reaching the state Superior Court. The pandemic hit right in the middle of the legal proceedings, Ogert pointed out, further delaying the process.

By September 2020 the two parties were able to settle in mediation, clearing Ogie Brewing to begin its construction phase. But with Ogert's lease up for renewal the following February, he quickly found himself at a crossroads.

"I just had to make up my mind, like, you're in or you're out," he said. "And my wife convinced me to just keep doing it. We renewed the lease. ... I was still working my day job through all of this, and pretty much every penny I made went into keeping this place going."

By May of last year Ogert decided to quit his day job in favor of getting the brewery open. Just before Christmas, Ogie Brewing held a "super soft" opening, pouring pints of one beer — an easy-drinking lighter version of a Norwegian farmhouse ale Ogert called "Soft Serve" — with the plan to hold a grand opening two weeks later with a full array of beers on tap.

"When you're trying to pick one beer to please a broad audience, it has to be a lit-

tle lighter and a little easy to drink. Not super-hoppy, not super-yeasty," Ogert said. "We named it 'Soft Serve' because it was the only beer we served for the soft opening. People come in and they're like, 'Is that some kind of an ice cream IPA?' I'm like, no, it's just a play on words."

As for the rest of his beer lineup, Ogert said his intention has always been to have a total of 10 that rotate out. His offerings out of the gate include a Belgian-style witbier made with Maine wild blueberries, a single-grain, single-hop American pale ale, a sour flavored with California figs, a German-style hefeweizen, and a hazy IPA with tropical aromas and flavors, among others.

"People ask me what I specialize in, and my honest answer is that I specialize in variety," Ogert said. "I decided I'd start off with a menu that would hopefully have something for everyone and also expose people to styles they may not have ever tried. ... And, I mean, I've spent so much time ... getting each recipe to where it is now. The ones I didn't like either got reinvented to [what] they are on the menu or they were discarded completely."

Ogert also has plans to implement a food menu — he's thinking simple items that pair well with beer. While he said he isn't focused too much on distribution outside of the brewery, he is implementing a "crawler" system for his beers — similar to growlers, only in cans.

"They would usually fill it like a growler and then can it at that time," he said. "It gives us the ability to just pour off taps without pre-canning stuff. If you've tried a flight and you're like 'Wow, I really like this beer, do you have any to go?' We just pour them off the tap like it was [for] a glass, set it on the canner, attach the lid and out you go."

Ogie Brewing

Where: 12 South St., Milford

Hours: Currently vary; see their Facebook page for the most up-to-date details on their hours of operation each week.

More info: Find them on Facebook @ogie-brewing or call 249-5513

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH GERALD ORIOL



Gerald Oriol, owner and executive chef of Caribbean Breeze in Nashua. Courtesy photo.

Gerald Oriol is the owner and executive chef of Caribbean Breeze (233 Main St., Nashua, 883-4340, find them on Facebook and Instagram @caribbeanbreezerestaurant), a one-stop culinary destination for authentic Caribbean eats, featuring Haitian, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Jamaican and Dominican items all under the same roof. Arriving in the former Norton's Classic Cafe storefront on the corner of Main and West Hollis streets in Nashua in late 2021, Caribbean Breeze also features a menu of many familiar breakfast items the space has long been known for. Oriol is originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and has amassed more than three decades of experience as a chef. For 19 years he served as an executive chef for Sodexo, and before that he worked for the DoubleTree Hotel in Cambridge, Mass. A certified executive chef through the American Culinary Federation, Oriol is also the recipient of several awards, including Sodexo's Rookie of the Year award in 2001 and a silver medal in the ACF's Hot Food Competition in 2004.

What is your must-have kitchen item?
A knife.

What would you have for your last meal?

I have so many choices. It would be whatever's available to me, because as a chef, doing what I've been doing for so many years, I learn ... to love and appreciate any food.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I used to like to go to Chicken N Chips [in Nashua], but unfortunately now they are closed. ... I used to travel a lot, so I've tried many places, but I don't have enough time to eat out because of the business I have now.

What celebrity would you like to see eating in your restaurant?

Guy Fieri, because he knows and understands food ... and I think his critique would be very well-received.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

Whatever the customer tries, because that's the food that I will make them ... to please them and make them happy. Everything on the menu that I have from the islands [is] all very authentic.

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

To be honest with you ... I feel like Caribbean food is a trend, because people will feel like it's not something they can find anywhere else. ... And you don't need to travel to the Caribbean or go down to Boston. You don't need to leave New Hampshire.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Unfortunately, when I get home, I get home late. ... So if I have time, I will cook whatever my family wants to eat. ... Usually I like to grill.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Haitian potato salad

From the kitchen of Chef Gerald Oriol of Caribbean Breeze in Nashua

- 4 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 carrot, peeled and minced
- 2 1/4 teaspoons salt
- 1 small beet
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sweet peas
- 1/2 onion, minced
- 1/3 cup red bell pepper, diced
- 1/3 cup green bell pepper, diced
- 2 Tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Boil the potatoes and the carrot in water with one teaspoon of salt for 10 minutes, or until tender. Boil the beet separately in water with



one teaspoon of salt until tender, then peel and mince. Boil the eggs separately in water with 1/4 teaspoon of salt until hard. In a bowl, place the cubed potatoes, minced beet, sweet peas, carrot, onion, red and green bell peppers and mix with the mayonnaise. Add the black pepper.



TRY THIS AT HOME

Vegetable vegetarian soup

I love aligning my cooking with the weather. When it's January and the days are cold, I enjoy a hot meal at the end of the day. Even better than a hot meal is one that has been simmering all day long. After a day of work, it is nice to know that a warm dish awaits me.

Except for peeling the carrots and dicing the fresh veggies, this is pretty much a measure-and-combine recipe. Everything can be prepped and assembled in 15 minutes or less, which probably means it can be completed before your workday begins. Set your slow cooker on low, and you'll return to a home that smells amazing!

The ingredients for this recipe are pretty simple, but I do have a few notes. I used unsalted broth and tomatoes, so before serving I tasted and added a tiny pinch of salt. If you use regular broth and tomatoes, the soup most likely won't need salt. As for all of the veggies, you are welcome to add and delete based on your preferences. Broccoli, spinach and potato would make fine additions.

This recipe utilizes a slow cooker for the simmering. However, it can be cooked on the stove, and in much less than 4 hours. Once the fresh veggies have been added, bring the soup to a boil. Then reduce to a simmer for 15 minutes. Add the frozen



Vegetable vegetarian soup. Photo by Michele Pesula Kuegler.

veggies, cook for 5 minutes, and serve.

No matter how you cook it, this soup is a healthy way to warm and fuel up at the end of the day.

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

Vegetable vegetarian Soup

Serves 6

- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 16-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced green beans
- 1 Tablespoon dried basil
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder
- ½ Tablespoon dried oregano

- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 cup frozen peas

Combine broth and tomatoes in a 5-quart slow cooker. Add carrots, celery, green beans and seasoning. Stir well, and cover. Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 8 hours. Add frozen corn and peas. Heat for 15 minutes, and serve.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 28

its sister gift shop, Pop of Color, according to a recent announcement from its email newsletter. You can find the adjoining businesses, now known as **Queen City Cupcakes & Gift Shop**, between Market Square Jewelers and Granite State Candy Shoppe at 816 Elm St. Queen City Cupcakes has been open since 2011, offering freshly baked small-batch cupcakes daily in a rotating menu of flavors. Visit qccupcakes.com to see their most up-to-date cupcake menus.

• **A bittersweet farewell:** On Saturday, Jan. 21, **Blake's Creamery** closed its

353 S. Main St. restaurant. "We have had the pleasure of serving this Manchester neighborhood with great pride for nearly 60 years," reads a recent announcement posted to Blake's website. "We are deeply appreciative to our loyal customers, employees and vendors who have supported us throughout the years. We will miss all of them." The announcement goes on to say that Blake's wholesale ice cream business will continue production and distribution to its many wholesale customers across New England. Visit blakesicecream.com to read the full statement.

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CDs pg32

• keep calm stay home, *A*

Theme For... A

• Die Oberherren, *Die By*

My Hand A

BOOKS pg33

• *The Matter of Everything* B

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clubs, writers' workshops

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FILM pg34

• *Missing* B

keep calm stay home, *A Theme For...* (Give/Take Records)

I know how much a good percentage of my readership loves The Beatles, even if I don't so much. I only bring it up because the artist in question here, London-based composer Oli Morgan, is the mastering engineer at legendary Abbey Road Studios, the 90-year-old space where The Beatles cut, you know, the *Abbey Road* album. That's some cred, for sure, but Morgan hasn't been using it to record bubblegum songs; he's all about ambient

soundscapes, using techniques he used while working for big shots like Elton John and Seal. This one took him long enough, and it's only five songs clocking in at a total of 17 minutes, but it's a quantum leap from the ambient stuff that ends up on this desk. The title track, for instance, has an advanced art-rock feel, starting with a *History Channel*-inspired let's-explore-this-giant-underground-cavern feel before suddenly shifting into an IDM/noise-rock joint. "Unrest" is more droney, almost gothic in the way it resembles stuff I've heard from Noise Unit. Well worth your time if you need to get lost in really thick layers of melodically usable techno. A — *Eric W. Saeger*

Die Oberherren, *Die By My Hand* (Svart Records)

This LP is described as "the product of Joakim Knutsson's dissatisfaction of a genre which has gone totally down the drain," meaning goth rock, which means he may have never heard Front Line assembly and all that stuff, but you know the drill: any angry goth-rebel palomino is a palomino-o. It streets this week, this debut LP from a six-piece Swedish band that wants to appeal to "metalheads, synth aficionados, rockers and shoegazers" but

that also believes goth peaked in the 1980s. The record lifts off with "The Horned One Stabs," a tune that does remind us that bands like Sisters Of Mercy are sorely missed, and that's no understatement; in other words the tune is basically what you'd hear if you took everything about SOM's "Lucretia My Reflection" and rearranged the parts. "By The End Of The Shore" adds some Fields Of The Nephilim gloom-pop to the SOM trappings and voila, very enjoyable if in no way groundbreaking. They have my blessings, certainly. A — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• So yo, the next general-release date for music CDs is Jan. 27, just a couple more months of winter horror left to go. Aaand terrific, I don't know any of the artists dropping new product this Friday, so I get to — OK, wait, here's one, *Truth Decay* from none other than **You Me at Six**, the British five-piece band that's sort of half-emo and half-Creed insofar as temperament. You may have seen them on Warped Tour or whatnot, playing alongside Fall Out Boy and all those guys; chances are — if you usually do things like attend keggers and have a glass muffler on your car — that you've probably subjected yourself to their sort-of-hit single "Bite My Tongue" on many an occasion, but let's just forget that, because a new and improved YMAS is here, to drop some fresh hot tracks! One hot track that got dropped for all you homeslices a few months ago was "Deep Cuts," in which our intrepid heroes dabble with a Red Hot Chili Peppers sound at the beginning and then remember they're trying to be Panic! At The Disco and so on and so forth. There's another song for you to preview out there as well, "Mixed Emotions (I Didn't Know How To Tell You What I Was Going Through)," which isn't all that bad, a little like Hoobastank trying to emulate Aerosmith. It's OK, but the video's pretty dumb.

• Still on a British music tip, **Sam Smith** is a singer-songwriter who won fame in 2012 by featuring on Disclosure's breakthrough single "Latch," which peaked at No. 11 on the U.K. Singles Chart, according to Wikipedia — in other words you probably have no idea who we're talking about here but that's OK. Ha ha, this genius released a tune in 2014 called "Stay With Me" that was pretty good, but only because it sounded like Tom Petty's 1989 hit "I Won't Back Down," but the party ended early, when Petty himself noticed the similarities between the hooky parts of the two songs (namely that they're exactly the same except for the lyrics) and promptly sued the little rascal and settled out of court. But hey, come on, everyone accidentally steals from Tom Petty, you know that, so let's cut Smith some slack and waddle off to YouTube to listen to "Unholy," the latest single from their new album, *Gloria*. This track features German singer and popular trans figure Kim Petras (who received international media coverage that touted her as the "world's youngest transsexual"). It's a U.K.-garage-and-King Tut-tinged diva extravaganza that's kind of fascinating, not that there seems to be any point to it whatsoever, but, well, there you are.

• Garage rock dude **King Tuff** is from our neighboring state of Vermont, where he makes garage rock records for the Sub Pop label. He looks like your average everyday popcorn seller at the local Comicon, all beard and unattractiveness, but that makes him more edgy than most, as who would want to be seen like that. He's also the singer and guitarist of stoner-rockers Witch, and used to be in Ty Segall's backing band The Muggers, if any of that means anything to you, but meanwhile the hot new beats he's about to drop are compiled on a new album called *Smalltown Stardust*, the title track from which is sort of unplugged Nirvana meets Beck or something of that nature. The video is kind of neat, he's hanging around this colorful Sesame Street kind of sidewalk playing a piano and fondling an actual rat. Yay randomness!

• And to end this week's thing, let's check out *Electroponic Chronic*, the latest LP from U.S. garage rockers **The Arcs**. Led by Black Keys singer Dan Auerbach, the single "Keep On Dreamin'" is a cross between Flaming Lips and Wilco. It takes guts to be that lazily viable and relevant, you have to admit. — *Eric W. Saeger*

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The Matter of Everything, by Suzie Sheehy (Knopf, 320 pages)

If you've been on this planet for more than two decades and have decent health insurance, you've probably had an X-ray at some time. However, you may not have given any thought as to how the technology came about unless it was required on a test.

Suzie Sheehy, an Australian physicist, is here to forgive and redeem the incurious with a surprisingly engaging book that delves into 12 experiments that radically upended the world. While "read a science book by a particle accelerator physicist" might not be on your bucket list, *The Matter of Everything* is an easily digestible dive into advances in physics that will be especially useful for anyone who struggles to define a quark.

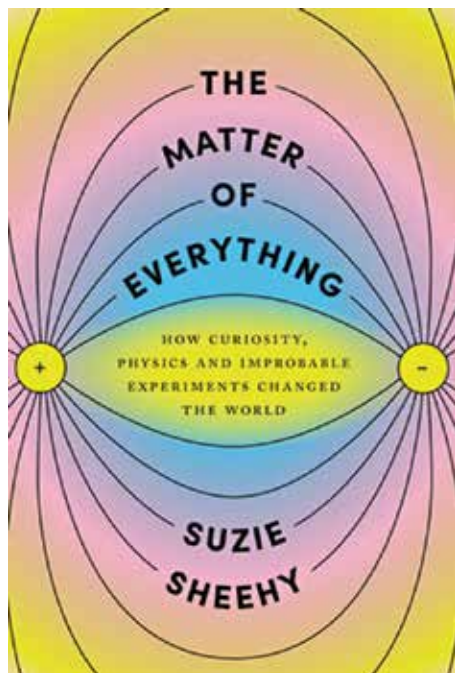
Sheehy didn't plan on a career in physics; she was studying civil engineering in college when she was invited to an overnight astronomy event at the Leon Mow Dark Sky Site not far from Melbourne. (Dark sky preserves are places where you can see much more of the galaxy because of the absence of artificial light.)

There Sheehy saw Saturn's rings and the arc of the Milky Way and experienced a recalibration of what she thought about the universe. She writes, "I wanted to know how it was all connected and how I was connected with it. I wanted to know if there really was a theory of everything. I felt deeply that all this mattered, that it mattered to me as a human, that understanding this was a goal big enough that if I managed it even a little bit, I'd not have wasted my blip of time as a conscious being."

She changed course and began studying particle physics — how particles form, transform and behave. And her interest in connectivity eventually helped to shape this book, as she connects historical dots to show how some of the most ground-breaking advances have come about not from the "lone genius theorizing at a desk" but by stubborn and curious scientists who were determined to figure out something that stumped them.

Take, for example, the X-ray.

A German scientist named Wilhelm Rontgen was working with cathode rays (observable streams of electrons) when he noticed a green-colored glow coming from the other side of his lab. The light disappeared when he turned the cathode ray tube off, but



remained when he covered the tube with black paper. He became obsessed with figuring out what was happening, and discovered that the strange light would leave shadows of what it passed through.

Rontgen had dark hair that protruded from his forehead "as if he were permanently electrified by his own enthusiasm" and was a shy loner ill-prepared for the fame that would find him when he began telling the world about the discovery of this new kind of ray, to which he assigned the letter "X," to denote "unknown."

While conducting experiments, "He spent seven intense weeks in his lab, occasionally being reminded to eat by his wife, Anna Bertha." He used his wife's hand to test what happened when the ray passed over a human limb and an image of her bones and wedding ring showed up.

Writes Sheehy: "According to legend, when Bertha saw the bones in her hand, she exclaimed, 'I have seen my death!' and never set foot in her husband's lab again."

Rontgen soon realized how transformative his discovery would be in medicine, and he made the first public presentation of his findings to a medical society. It marked the first time that doctors would be able to see inside the human body without cutting it; within a year, X-rays would be used to find shrapnel in wounded soldiers on battlefields.

Of course, with one being born every minute, as P.T. Barnum would say, X-rays quickly seized the public imagination in non-medical

ways. "X-ray-proof" underwear and "X-ray glasses" would soon be for sale by unscrupulous entrepreneurs.

Sheehy (or her editors) was smart to begin with the X-ray experiment, since that is something to which most people can easily relate. She has to work a bit harder to get us to care about the origins of, say, cloud chambers or the linear accelerators that led to the discovery of quarks. But she is a good storyteller despite her formidable intellect and weaves in the sort of detail that humanizes her subjects and holds our attention.

We might not, for example, be as intrigued by the origin of the nuclear theory of the atom until we learn that it was developed by a man who believed that "swearing at an experiment made it work better" and thus cussed his way into changing what we previously believed about the composition of atoms.

Or that technology that dates historical artifacts was developed, in part, because contemporary physicist Charles Bennett bought an \$80 violin at a New York flea market and was determined to find out if it was a famed Stradivarius instrument made in Italy.

This is not to say that the entire book is riveting to people who aren't conversant in physics. For the science-impaired, it can go from fascinating to bewildering in the span of 10 seconds. I have lived many decades on this planet without once using "muon" in a conversation and don't expect that to change even though I now know that muography is a thing and muons are apparently going to assure the structural integrity of our bridges in the future.

And while I understand in principle the importance of the Large Hadron Collider, which in 2012 confirmed the existence of the Higgs boson particle, I take it on faith, much like I take on faith that my air fryer will not explode no matter how loud it gets.

Disappointingly, Sheehy did not help me to wax eloquent on these subjects, nor did she convince me that with just a little more study I, too, could explain the Standard Model of particle physics to an innocent bystander.

That said, I am a little bit smarter for having read this book, my eyes having been opened to many more things that I know embarrassingly little about. There are about 13,000 particle physicists in the world, and they are just like you and me except that they spend their time using ion traps to mimic particle accelerators. Whatever that means. B

— Jennifer Graham



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Books

Author events

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

• **CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN** will discuss his new novel *All*

Hallows at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m.

• **KIM VARNEY CHANDLER** will discuss her book *Covered Bridges of New Hampshire* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m.

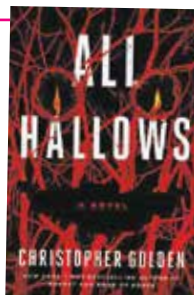
• **KIM CHAFEE**, children's author, will be at the storytime and

crafts event at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. to read her new book *Courage in Her Cleats: The Story of Soccer Star Abby Wambach*. The event is free; register online.

• **LINDA REILLY** will discuss her new cozy mystery *Cheddar Late Than Dead* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Saturday, Feb. 4, at

1 p.m.

• **BRANT MEN-SWAR**, author of *Black Sheep: Unleash the Extraordinary, Awe-Inspiring, Undiscovered You*, will appear at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Thursday,



Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. According to the website: "Now, in this high-octane, laugh-out-loud one-act show, he delivers one-of-a-kind wisdom through live music and audience interaction for living the amazing life you were always meant to." Tickets start at \$15.

Missing (PG-13)

A teen uses location services, street cams and Colombian Taskrabbit to search for her mother in *Missing*, a lightweight thriller.

June (Storm Reid), 18, is on eyeroll-what-ever terms with her mother, Grace (Nia Long), as Grace heads from their L.A.-area home to vacation in Colombia with her boyfriend Kevin (Ken Leung). The vacation falls on Father's Day, a tough time as June's dad James (Tim Griffin) died when she was little. June is no more interested in Kevin's awkward beginnings of some discussion about his feelings for her mom than she is in Grace's blah blah blah about safety. She just wants Grace out the door so her friend Veena (Megan Suri) can come over with a big box full of cheap booze purchased with the money Grace Venmo-ed June "for emergencies." I guess needing booze for the friends hanging out at your parent-free house for a week, culminating in a rager the night before mom is slated to return, is, like, a hosting emergency. The only oversight June has is a brief visit from Heather (Amy Landecker), her mother's friend, who seems a little too fond of Kevin.

The Sunday morning Grace is set to arrive, a hungover June wakes up late and rushes to the airport to meet her. She waits — and waits and waits but neither her mother nor Kevin get off the plane. When June calls the hotel in Colombia she is able, with



Missing

some help from some quick Google translations, to figure out that while Kevin and Grace are no longer there, their suitcases and other items still are. June calls the embassy but finds it closed and the hotel won't send her the security footage over the internet. Via the Colombian version of Taskrabbit, she hires Javi (Joaquim de Almeida) to go to the hotel to get the footage. He doesn't find that but does find other clues to where the couple may have gone.

As *Missing's* present-day scenes begin, June and her friends are watching *Unfic-*

tion, a true crime show. Using some of the techniques of that show, Veena and June figure out how to find street footage that might give more information about her mother's trip and even her relationship with Kevin. Against the advice of Agent Park (Daniel Henney) at the Embassy, who is all "evidence we can use in court," June worms her way into Kevin's Gmail account and starts to learn more about her mother's boyfriend. She also gets access to the location services that give her more clues about where they really went.

Some of the same people involved in this movie were also involved in *Searching*, a 2018 movie seen almost entirely through a variety of screens (phone, computer, etc.) where John Cho searches for his teen daughter. Though this movie isn't quite as stuck to screens, we are learning and searching and seeking largely through June's computer searches and phone calls with occasional news reports and "live" scenes worked in. The movie edits these pieces together in a way that keeps things moving. I wouldn't say this particular puzzle is super-complicated or all that twisty — there are several twists that the movie drops enough clues on that it feels a little pokey how long it takes June to figure them out. But Reid, who carries the action with her worried face, is a compelling enough lead character that the movie never really feels slow.

Missing maybe makes little nods toward saying something about our constant surveillance, our very unprivate notions of privacy and the true crime industrial complex. But mostly it is a fun enough thriller that moves along at a brisk enough pace. **B**

Rated PG-13 for some strong violence, language, teen drinking and thematic material, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Nick Johnson and Will Merrick with a screenplay by Will Merrick & Nick Johnson, Missing is an hour and 51 minutes long and is distributed by Sony. 🍷

Film

Movie screenings, movie-themed happenings and virtual events

Venues**Chunky's Cinema Pub**

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

Park Theatre

19 Main St., Jaffrey theparktheatre.org

Red River Theatres

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

Rex Theatre

23 Amherst St., Manchester

668-5588, palacetheatre.org

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

Shows

• *The Fabelmans* (PG-13, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Jan. 29, at 12:30 & 3:45 p.m.
• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Jan. 29, at 1, 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Thursday,

Feb. 2, 4 & 7:15 p.m.

• *Carole King: Home Again, Live in Central Park* (2022), a film of the 1973 concert, will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey (in the Epps Auditorium) Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.

• *When You Finish Saving the World* (R, 2023) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey (King Auditorium) Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

• *Shrek* (PG, 2001) will screen at all three area Chunky's as part of the "Little Lunch Date" series, where the lights are slightly dimmed for this family-friendly screening, on Friday, Jan. 27, 3:45 p.m. Admission is free but reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.

• *The Whale* (R, 2022) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord Friday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m.

• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 28, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 31, through Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.

• *Frozen* (PG, 2013) will screen Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord. Tickets cost \$10 per person.

• *College* (1927) a Buster Keaton silent comedy will screen Sunday, Jan. 29, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.

The screening is free; a \$10 donation per person is suggested.

• *80 for Brady* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 4:15 & 6:45 p.m. (proof of vaccination required); Friday, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1:45, 4:15 & 6:45 p.m., and Thursday, Feb. 9, at 4:15 & 6:45 p.m. (proof of vaccination required).

• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 7, through Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

• *The Kid Brother* (1927) a silent comedy starring Harold Lloyd, will



The Fabelmans

be screened Saturday, Feb. 4, by the Campton Historical Society at Old Campton Town Hall (529 Route 175 in Campton) featuring live musical accompaniment for the film by Jeff Rapsis. The event, which is free, starts with a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. See camptonhistorical.org.

AT THE SOFAPLEX

Encanto at the Hollywood Bowl (TV-G)

Stephanie Beatriz, Lin-Manuel Miranda.

I know, I know, do you really need to hear the *Encanto* songs again? Yes! This filmed concert of the songs of *Encanto* as presented at the Hollywood Bowl is a delightful celebration featuring the original vocal talents from the animated movie as well as some beautiful

staging with sets, light projections and dancers as everything from townfolk to animals. It's fun, a nice introduction for kids who have seen more movies than live theater and a nice reminder that the *Encanto* songbook is stuffed with dancy gems. *A Available on Disney+.*

Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical (PG)

Lashana Lynch, Emma Thompson.

Roald Dahl works through more childhood terrors — a bleak school, a sadistic headmistress, awful parents — in this charm-

ing if occasionally PG-ily violent and mean musical starring Alisha Weir as the titular heroine. Matilda is smart, a lover of stories and only occasionally naughty with vengeful acts against her negligent parents (Stephen Graham, Andrea Riseborough). When she is sent to a grim day school run by tyrannical, joy-hating headmistress Agatha Trunchbull (Thompson, having the most fun), Matilda can't stand for the bullying of her fellow students and begins a revolution against Trunchbull, which even extends to the kind Miss Honey (Lynch), Matilda's teacher. Miss Honey has her own difficult past with Trunchbull but tries to teach her chil-

dren with respect and kindness nevertheless, cheering them on, if quietly at first, in their rebellion.

I think because of the cruelty of Trunchbull and the indifference and abuse by Matilda's parents, I'd peg this one at somewhere in the 11-year-old-and-up viewership range. For kids old enough not to be scared, the story involves some lovely set pieces with songs ("When I Grow Up" is nicely done) and a sweet tale about the vindication of a bookish girl. And, as mentioned, Thompson, a sort of fairy tale witch-as-dictator, seems to be having an absolute ball. **B+** *Available on Netflix* 🍷

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Song truths:** With his debut album, *Leap of Faith*, singer-songwriter **Dakota Smart** evinced stunning maturity for such a young artist. His performance at the regular Bell and Brick Winter Concert Series will include originals, like the climb-on-a-back-that's-strong "Believe" and the semi-autobiographical "Sunrise In New York," along with covers from the classic rock canon and modern popsters like Ed Sheeran, The Black Keys and The Lumineers. Thursday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m., Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon St., Laconia, \$10 at the door.

• **Disco fever:** Time travel to Studio 54 circa 1976 with **Boogie Wonder Band**, a 10-piece combo paying tribute to acts like Chic, Sister Sledge, the Bee Gees and their namesakes Earth, Wind & Fire. Both a musical and lifestyle phenomenon, the era still resonates, and BWB has covered it for over 25 years, with two female vocalists and singer Apollo Johnson along with keys, guitar, a pair of horns and a rock-solid rhythm section. Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$40 at tupelohall.com.

• **Local color:** A former congressman and current talk show host leads **Paul Hodes & the Blue Buddha Band**, which just released a debut LP, *Turn This Ship Around*. One song, "The Night I Met John Lennon," is a true story that happened a few doors from the Dakota in NYC and included the ex-Beatle, Yoko Ono, Andy Warhol and a large quantity of hashish. The rest of the record is an enjoyable mix of roots and psychedelic rock. Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$21.75 at ccanh.com.

• **Grunge redux:** An evening of '90s music, **Seattle Night** is led by Nothingsafe: An Alice In Chains Experience with Justin Ballard of tribute act Song Garden doing a set of Chris Cornell covers. According to a press release, "Nothingsafe reproduces the dark, heavy, and delightfully sludgy rhythmic backbone of AIC, while lead singer SteveO commands the stage with powerful, haunting, and intoxicating vocals." Saturday, Jan. 28, 9 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester, facebook.com/Nothingsafe.AIC.Boston.

• **Munch music:** Enjoy an afternoon of hickory-smoked barbecue and tunes from **Dan Blakeslee**. The multitalented singer and guitarist is coming off a heady 2022; he served as official busker at the Newport Folk Festival, an event he designed the poster for a few years back, and joined Anais Mitchell, Natalie Merchant and other stars for a rousing singalong of an Elvis Costello song on the same stage where Joni Mitchell later performed a historic set. Sunday, Jan. 29, 3 p.m., MrSippy BBQ, 184 S. Main St., Rochester. See danblakeslee.com. 🍷

NITE Homecoming

Blues Fest debuts at Rex

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The first New England Blues Festival was a modest one-off featuring regional bands, including Mr. Nick & the Dirty Tricks, led by organizer Nick David. Buoyed by its success, David brought it back the following year and soon was attracting national talent like Chicago heavy-hitter Nick Moss, and the event scaled to multiple venues.

The annual show has attracted a bevy of talent over the years, including Muddy Waters' son Big Bill Morganfield. David's former group Mr. Nick & the Dirty Tricks backed him up in 2018. "I get goosebumps talking about it," David recalled in 2019, "because that's as close as I'll ever get to playing with Muddy."

David always hoped the show would stop in his hometown of Manchester; that will finally happen on Sunday, Jan. 29, on the stage of the Rex Theatre. "I've been talking to the Rex off and on for the last few years," David said by phone recently. "I really like the venue a lot."

The 13th festival features four guitar heroes. There's headliner Mike Zito, Moss, playing for his fourth time, Roberto Morbioli, and Paul Size, the latter a member of David's latest group, and concert house band, The Wicked Lo-Down.

Size is a legend in the blues rock world

13th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival

When: Sunday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m.

Where: The Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester

Tickets: \$23 at palacetheatre.org

dating back to his stint in L.A.-by-way-of-Texas band The Red Devils, whose early '90s residency at the gritty King King club attracted movie stars and music legends. They made an album with Mick Jagger that was never released (one cut was on Jagger's *Very Best* compilation), and backed Bruce Willis on his *Return of Bruno* LP. Rick Rubin produced their lone live album, in 1995.

The Wicked Lo-Down grew out of a fruitful collaboration in late 2019 between David, Size and another guitarist, later replaced by Jeff Berg and augmented by a rhythm section of Nick Toscano and Mike Law. Hobbled by lockdown, they made an album, *We Hot*, in mid-2020 that stayed shelved for almost two years before its release last November. It's a barn-burner, with a churning title cut and the Blasters-adjacent "Lena" among the standouts.

They're now gigging and shopping the record to labels, including Zito's moniker Gulf Coast. David met the guitarist in 2021 at the White Mountain Boogie & Blues Festival. Zito passed on releasing it, even though he reportedly "loved" the album, according to David. "Nobody was willing to sign us because we weren't out there gigging ... how are they going to make money off us if we're not playing? Who knows who we are?"

Zito has had a string of blues chart-topping albums in the recent past, beginning with 2018's *First Class Life* and a Chuck Berry tribute collection that had assistance from Joe Bonamassa, Walter Trout, Robben Ford, Luther Dickinson and Sonny Landreth. Zito's most recent disc, *Resurrection*, received a Blue Music Award last year for Best Blues Rock Album.



Mike Zito. Photo by Scott Lukes.

The chat with Zito did get David a headliner for his festival, which has two Massachusetts dates, Salisbury and Norwood, along with Hartford, Connecticut, before its New Hampshire finale. "Mike and I have some stuff in common," David said. "He was into doing it, so we were able to get it together this year."

Morbioli is an Italian guitarist who comes Stateside once a year. David met him over a decade ago when he appeared on John Guregian's *Blues Deluxe* radio show. "It was on the UMass Lowell radio station," David explained. "I was living there with my wife at the time, and she spoke fluent Italian. We went down there, hung out and played a few songs. We've been friends ever since."

Finally, along with his status as a fest perennial, Moss created an interesting conundrum for David from the time they met.

"I got confused for him often; we're both similar-looking," he reported of the guitarist, who rose to fame with Nick Moss & the Pop Tops. "We both had big greasy pompadours, and we're big guys named Nick. I saw a picture of him once and thought he was me. I was like, why do I have a guitar in my hand? Oh, it's because that's not me." 🍷

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

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

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

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

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

Fulchino Vineyard
187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis
438-5984, fulchinvineyard.

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

Palace Theatre
80 Hanover St., Manchester
668-5588, palacetheatre.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

• **Brad Mastrangelo** Rex, Friday, Jan 27, 7:30 p.m.
• **Brian Beaudoin** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m.
• **Rob Steen** Headliners, Saturday, Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m.
• **Magic Rocks! Ilusionist Leon Etienne** Rex, Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
• **Josh Filipowski and Friends** Press Room, Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.
• **Dave Russo and Friends** Rex, Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
• **Mark Riley** Chunky's Man-

chester, Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m.

• **Rob Schneider** Chubb Theatre, Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.
• **Cory Gee** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m.
• **Stacy Kendro** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m.
• **Jeff Dunham** SNHU Arena, Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
• **Dan Crohn** Rex, Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
• **Karen Morgan** McCue's, Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m.
• **Stacy Kendro** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 10, and Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.
• **Joe Yannetty/Paul Gilligan** Fulchino Vineyard, Saturday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m.
• **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Palace, Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
• **Mike McDonald's Come-**



Rob Schneider
dy Extravaganza Rochester Opera House, Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
• **Mark Riley** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.
• **Mark Scalia** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.
• **Bored Teachers Comedy Tour** Colonial Theatre, Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.
• **Paula Poundstone** Flying Monkey, Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Foster's Tavern 403 Main St. 875-1234	Concord Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St. 601-7091	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614	Dover Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St. 343-4390	Epsom Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road 736-0027	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Laconia Belknap Mill 25 Beacon St. E., No. 1 524-8813	Manchester Angel City Music Hall 179 Elm St. 931-3654
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road 226-8667	Epping Popovers at Brickyard Square 11 Brickyard Square 734-4724	Francestown Toll Booth Tavern Crocthed Mountain Resort 740 Second NH Turnpike 588-1800	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St. 228-8508	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road 463-7374			CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	CJ's 782 S. Willow St. 627-8600
				The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022	City Hall Pub 8 Hanover St. 232-3751
				L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777	Jaffrey Park Theatre 19 Main St. 532-9300	Crown Tavern 99 Hanover St. 218-3132	

Thursday, Jan. 26

Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.	Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.	Epping Popovers: Chris O'Neill, 5:30 p.m. Telly's: The Drift Duo, 8 p.m.	South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Ken Clark, 9 p.m.	Salem Luna Bistro: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m. Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Rebecca Turmel, 7 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	Francestown Crocthed Mountain: Dusty Gray, 7 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Tom Boisse, 5 p.m.	Tilton Pour Decisions: Tyler Levs, 8 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Grace Wallace, 6:30 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. San Francisco Kitchen: Brad Myrick, 6:30 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.	
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke w/ Luke Skywalker, 8 p.m.	Newmarket The Stone Church: Fackn' A, 8 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Wally's: Pulse, 8 p.m. Whym: Steve Haidaichuk, 6 p.m.	Milford Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karoke, 9 p.m.	
Epping Telly's: Doug Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Mugsy Trio, 7 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Nashua Millyard Brewery: Matt Siopes, 6 p.m. San Francisco Kitchen: Kimayo, 6:30 p.m.	
Gilford Patrick's Pub: Sev and Company, 6 p.m.	Manchester Angel City: open mic, 8 p.m. City Hall Pub: John Chouinard, 7 p.m. Currier: Jim Dozet, 5 p.m. Elm House of Pizza: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m. Foundry: Chris Lester, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m. Strange Brew: Lisa Marie, 8 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Travis Rollo, 7 p.m.	
Goffstown Village Trestle: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.		Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Something Else Band, 8 p.m.	Newmarket The Stone Church: The Rock Dwellers, 8 p.m.	
Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m. Wally's: Bartender Idol, 7 p.m.		Strafford Independence Inn: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: Mikey G, 6 p.m. Derryfield: Emily Garage Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m. Shaskeen: Emo karaoke, 8 p.m.	Northfield Boonedox Pub: karaoke, 7 p.m.	

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.

Friday, Jan. 27

Alton Foster's Tavern: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.	Concord Area 23: Final Friday Jam with Crazy Steve and Stoned Wasp, 7 p.m.
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WICKED FUNNY

You might know **Brian Beaudoin** from the *Wicked Funny Podcast*, which just released its 200th episode. He returns to Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 27, and Saturday, Jan. 28, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25, plus fees.



LAUGHS WITH MARTY

For the past decade, **Marty Caproni** has carved out a career in comedy based on grit and determination. His hard work has led him to opening slots with comedy legends like Tracy Morgan, Dave Attell and Norm MacDonald. He comes to Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester; headlinerscomedyclub.com) on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	The Hill Bar & Grille McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022	Raga 138 Main St. 459-8566	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St. 717-8267	Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane 436-6656	Smuttynose 11 Via Toscana
Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS	To Share Brewing 720 Union St. 836-6947	Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy. 424-4479	San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St. 886-8833	Penacook American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St. 753-9372	Thirsty Moose Taphouse 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way 760-2581
Elm House of Pizza 102 Elm St. 232-5522	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722	Milford Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St. 380-3480	Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St. 625-0246	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway 458-2033	Strafford Independence Inn 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Nashua Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700		Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway 458-2162	Tilton Pour Decisions 500 Laconia Road 527-8066

Hampton L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m. Wally's: Rob Pagnano Band, 8 p.m. Why: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.	Laconia Belknap Mill: open mic, 2 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 8 p.m.
Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: All The 90's, 8 p.m.	Nashua Millyard Brewery: Caribbean Vibes (reggae), 4 p.m.	Manchester Foundry: Brad Myrick, 10 a.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m. Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.
Laconia Tower Hill: line dancing, 7 p.m.; Blue Monkey Band, 8:30 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: The Incidentals, 7 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:30 p.m.
Londonderry Coach Stop: Pete Peterson, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh Band, 8 p.m.	Newmarket The Stone Church: Skunk Sessions, 8 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic w/ Blues Jam, 1 p.m.
Manchester Backyard Brewery: Ariel Strasser, 6 p.m. Derryfield: Bob Pratte Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m. Foundry: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m. The Hill: Ralph Allen, 5 p.m.; D-Comp, 7 p.m. Shaskeen: Nothingsafe, Song Garden, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Swamptones, 9 p.m. Wild Rover: Dave Clark, 5 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: live music, 7 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.
Manchester Goffstown Village Trestle: Bob Pratte, 3:30 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light Pub: Dave Corson, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Meredith Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 6 p.m. Twin Barns: The Hart of Sound, 5 p.m.	Salem Luna Bistro: Liz Ridgley, 7 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
	Sunday, Jan. 29 Bedford Copper Door: Nate Comp, 6 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Jon Paul Royer, 11 a.m.
	Monday, Jan. 30 Dover Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.	
	Hampton L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.	Gilford Patrick's Pub: open mic w/ Paul

Luff, 6 p.m.	Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.	Derry Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.
Hudson The Bar: karaoke with Phil	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: line dancing, 7 p.m.	Hampton Bogie's: open mic, 7 p.m. L Street: karaoke with DJ Jeff, 9 p.m. Wally's: Chris Toler, 7 p.m.
Londonderry Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: music bingo, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.
Manchester Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: David Campbell, 8 p.m. KC's Rib Shack: live music, 6 p.m. Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	Manchester Fratello's: Chris Taylor, 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.	Manchester Derryfield: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 7 p.m. Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m. Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.
Meredith Guissepe's: Lou Porrazzo, 8:30 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 5:45 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Don Bergeron, 5:45 p.m.
Merrimack Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.
Nashua Fody's: karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.	Nashua Raga: karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Milford Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.
Portsmouth The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.	Newmarket The Stone Church: Kate Possi with Ratland, 8 p.m.
Seabrook Red's: music bingo, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m. Red's: country night, 7 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
	Wednesday, Feb. 1 Concord Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m. Uno: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.	Rochester Porter's: karaoke night, 6:30 p.m.



ROCK YOU LIKE A CANNON BALL

Over a career spanning two decades, Chicago blues guitarist **Toronzo Cannon** has gone from collaborating with contemporary blues greats like Wayne Baker Brooks, L.V. Banks and Joanna Connor to become a formidable solo artist in his own right. His tour behind the 2019 album *The Preacher, the Politician, or the Pimp* takes him to Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club (135 Congress St., Portsmouth; 888-603-JAZZ; jimmysoncongress.com) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$45, plus fees.

Photo by Chris Monaghan.



THEY'RE DOWN WITH JGB

The Grateful Dead tribute band **Dead Set-Winterland Revisited** sets itself apart from its peers by featuring Zach Nugent, who played with The Jerry Garcia Band. They touch down at the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth; 536-2551; flyingmonkeynh.com) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$29 to \$34, plus fees.

Trivia

Events

• **Shrek trivia 21+** on Thursday, Jan. 26, 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 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.



Shrek

• **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events/) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** 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.

Tupelo Music Hall

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

The Word Barn

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

Shows

• **Good Acoustics** (Simon & Garfunkel/James Taylor tribute) Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
 • **Back in Black** (AC/DC tribute) Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
 • **Foreigners Journey featuring Constantine Maroulis** Thursday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Palace
 • **Fackn' A** Saturday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Boombbox** Thursday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Reed Foehl** Friday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **The Tonymack Band** Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., Press Room
 • **Toranzo Cannon** Friday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Dead Set-Winterland Revisited** Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Boogie Wonder Band** Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Do I Do Band** Saturday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
 • **Popa Chubby/Albert Cummings** Saturday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Small Pond/Matriarch** Thursday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Press Room
 • **Fortune** Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Paul Hodes & The Blue Buddha Band** Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Chris Smither** Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
 • **Skunk Sessions** Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Superfrog/The Bulkheads** Saturday, Jan. 28 9 p.m., Press Room
 • **New England Winter Blues Festival** Sunday, Jan. 29, 4 p.m., Rex Theatre
 • **Maddoc Johnson** Sunday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., Press Room
 • **Albert Cummings** Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Blues Brothers: The Next Generation** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
 • **Vintage Skynyrd** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry



The Blue Suddha Band

• **Alex Bugnon** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Breland/Whiskey-6** Thursday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Livingstone Taylor** Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
 • **Shemekia Copeland** Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Masters of the Telecaster** Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Martin Toe/Destin Boy Official** Friday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Capitol Center
 • **A Band of Killers** Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Griffin William Sherry** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m., Press Room
 • **Panorama** (Cars tribute) Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Jessie's Girl** ('80s tribute) Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Lee DeWyze** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Everything Elvis** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Majestic Theatre
 • **Pasquale Grasso Trio** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **O-Town** Sunday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Eleri Ward** Tuesday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
 • **The Mighty Soul Drivers** Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Wired for Sound/Riley Lucifer & Night Crew** Wednesday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Drumline Live!** Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Capitol Center
 • **Garcia Peoples** (Jerry Garcia tribute) Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., Press Room
 • **Rich DeMare & the Ron Post-er Trio** Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
 • **Heart Attack Ack Ack Ack Ack** (Billy Joel tribute) Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Press Room
 • **Booty Vortex** Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
 • **Dancing Dream** (ABBA tribute) Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Palace
 • **Louis Hayes** Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Sister Hazel** Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Big Head Todd & the Monsters** Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Lonestar** Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Capitol Center
 • **New Norde** Saturday, Feb. 11, 5 p.m., Stone Church
 • **April Cushman** Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Funky Dawgs Brass Band** Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **The Unforgettable Fire** (U2 tribute) Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, Concord
 • **Ward Hayden & The Outliers** Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Damn the Torpedoes** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Say Darling/Soggy Po' Boys** Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
 • **Taylor O'Donnell** Tuesday, Feb. 14, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Juanito Pascual Trio** Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **The Headhunters** Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Mike Dawes** Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Crash Test Dummies** Thursday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Jimmy Kenny Band** Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
 • **The Wolff Sisters/Caroline Cotter** Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Shades of Buble: A Three-Man Tribute to Michael Buble** Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Palace
 • **Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes** Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

Concerts

Venues

Bank of NH Stage

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

Capitol Center for the Arts

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

Dana Center for the Humanities

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

The Flying Monkey

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

Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

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

LaBelle Winery Amherst

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.net

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

Stone Church

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

3S Artspace

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

**GOOD SONGS,
GOOD HARMONIES**

With their close harmonies and excellent musicianship, the western Massachusetts-based trio **Good Acoustics** pays tribute to folk rock legends Simon & Garfunkel and James Taylor. They bring their act to LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst; 672-9898; labellewinery.com) on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$35, plus fees.

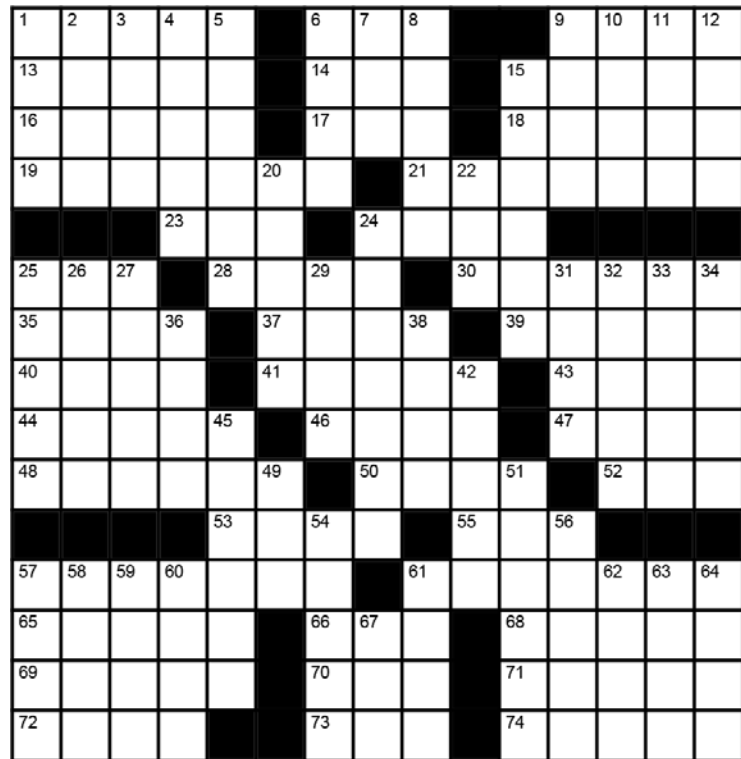


BRAD AT REX

Brad Mastrangelo has written for the *Tonight* show, appeared on Comedy Central, and shared the stage with Dennis Leary at his annual Comics Come Home concert. Don't miss him at the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester; 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25, plus fees.



IT'S ALL THERE



Across

- 1. Gene Simmons "I'm living __, at the Holiday Inn" (2,3)
- 6. Come together in jam session, slang
- 9. Brass band member
- 13. 80s 'Kids In America' Kim
- 14. 'Daydreamin' Tatyana named after boxer Muhammed?
- 15. K's Choice "I'm __ addict, baby that's a lie" (3,2)
- 16. Catherine ' __ To Entropy' (1,4)
- 17. Bar staple
- 18. It's "somewhere in middle America" to Counting Crows
- 19. Bob Marley " __ it's just a part of it" (4,3)
- 21. "Too late, my __ come, sends shivers down my spine" (4,3)
- 23. Wood of Rolling Stones, for short
- 24. '68 smash "Here she come down say __"
- 25. Mandolin Orange "How am __ blame?" (1,2)
- 28. fun. singer Ruess
- 30. "King Of Country" George
- 35. 'Stronger Than Pride' softrock singer
- 37. 'All The Young Dudes' __ The Hoople
- 39. No Doubt ' __ Good'
- 40. Tours want to turn __ profit (1,3)
- 41. Survivor ' __ The Tiger' (3,2)
- 43. '80 Genesis 'Duke' hit 'Turn __ Again' (2,2)
- 44. Ricky Nelson was suspicious on ' __ Feeling' (1,3,1)
- 46. Like blue-ribbon song
- 47. Coconut Records album about Monkee Jones?
- 48. 'New Frontier' Fagen
- 50. Beatles 'Lovely __'
- 52. 'Fool (If You Think It's Over)' Chris
- 53. Ricky Martin 'Livin La Vida __'

- 55. American Music Institute (abbr)
- 57. Lou Barlow 'Bakesale' band
- 61. Whitesnake "So take me down __ easy!" (4,3)
- 65. CA 'Promises' nu-metal band
- 66. British reggae singer Leigh
- 68. Magnetic Fields grabbed their laso and sang 'Papa Was A __'
- 69. 'Breakout' Cyrus
- 70. Part of '88 Hall & Oates album 'Yeah'

- 71. Pretenders "Gimme __ and hold a candle to this!" (1,4)
- 72. Manic Street Preachers Moore
- 73. "Uncle" that got to Willie Nelson
- 74. Reverend Horton Heat "I got a new __ on life and things to do"

Down

- 1. Rod Stewart ' __ Only Joking' (1,3)
- 2. 'Desertshore' singer/model
- 3. Joe Lynn Turner album about a basketball dunk?
- 4. '12 Fiona Apple album 'The __ Wheel'
- 5. Teen star Ricky with twin musician sons
- 6. 'Mad World' Michael Andrews/ __ Jules
- 7. Sing/songster Joe
- 8. Johnny Lang ' __ Me' (3,2)
- 9. Lionel Richie "Do it __ one more time" (2,2)
- 10. Western state Donny Osmond is from
- 11. 'Get Ya Party On' __ Men from The Bahamas
- 12. Vidovic & frontwoman Voog
- 15. Michael Penn's biggest hit (2,4)
- 20. Pretenders "What's the cost of fame, what's in __" (1,4)
- 22. Amp store contacts
- 24. '03 Linkin Park 'Faint' album
- 25. OMD 'Was It Something __' (1,4)
- 26. Part of 'Psycho Cafe' rockers, w/ Bang
- 27. Classic music hall
- 29. Chantay Savage 'Give It __' (2,2)
- 31. Living Colour's guitarist Vernon
- 32. Slayer ' __ Of Sacrifice'
- 33. Coldplay "You're the one __" (1,4)
- 34. 'Blood Red And Goin' Down' Tucker
- 36. 'Ella Is Betta Than Evah' jazz singer James

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Seven words related to bowling
- Five bodies of water
- U.A.E.: _____
- _____ Britain
- Sprint

Last Week's Answers: WIND SNOW RAIN COLD WARM / DIAMONDS HEARTS SPADES CLUBS / VIETNAM CHINA NEPAL / MOUNTAIN EASTERN / BENT

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12/8

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

- 38. 'Mickey' one-hitter Basil
- 42. Prenatal position after heavy duty show?
- 45. Lazy Jason Mraz will 'Sleep __' (3,3)
- 49. Lauryn Hill ' __ Wop (That Thing)'
- 51. Death/Power metalers from Finland
- 54. '96 Prince album ' __ And Disorder'
- 56. '94 Rusted Root album 'When __' (1,4)
- 57. Smith and Hunt
- 58. "The dogs lay at your feet, __" Cult

- 59. Bauhaus ' __ Lugosi's Dead'
 - 60. Kid Rock song that's the final word at a sermon?
 - 61. Sir Douglas Quintet leader Doug
 - 62. Sarah McLachlan "We are born innocent" song
 - 63. Iconic punk singer/guitarist Mike
 - 64. TV On The Radio 'Heroic __'
 - 67. US Congress funded international broadcaster
- © 2022 Todd Santos

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

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

1-		48x	
2÷			3
	2-		2÷
7+		2	

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WORKSPACE:

CHALLENGING

5	1-	1-	2÷	2÷	
3+				1-	20x
	15x	5-			
7+		1-	1	2÷	2÷
	6		2-		
24x		2		3÷	

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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

5+	1	4	1-	2	3
2÷	4	2	4+	3	1
3x	2	3	1	4	
3	3	1	4	2	

4	11+	90x	3+	3÷
4	5	6	3	2
2-	2	4	5	6
15x	3	1	4	5
2÷	5	3	2	1
5-	1	6	3	2
2-	6	2	1	4
8+	4	3	5	

“Pay Cut” – my interest is divided.

Across

- 1. Hazy conditions
- 6. “The X-Files” gp.
- 10. Greek letter that looks like a pitchfork
- 13. Count up
- 14. Marking under the C?
- 15. Pursued an office
- 16. Ehrenreich who played Han Solo
- 17. Daily Planet reporter Jimmy
- 18. Singer Rita
- 19. Used a burner, perhaps
- 22. Bass ___ Shops
- 23. Abbr. after a former military leader’s name
- 24. Advertising connection

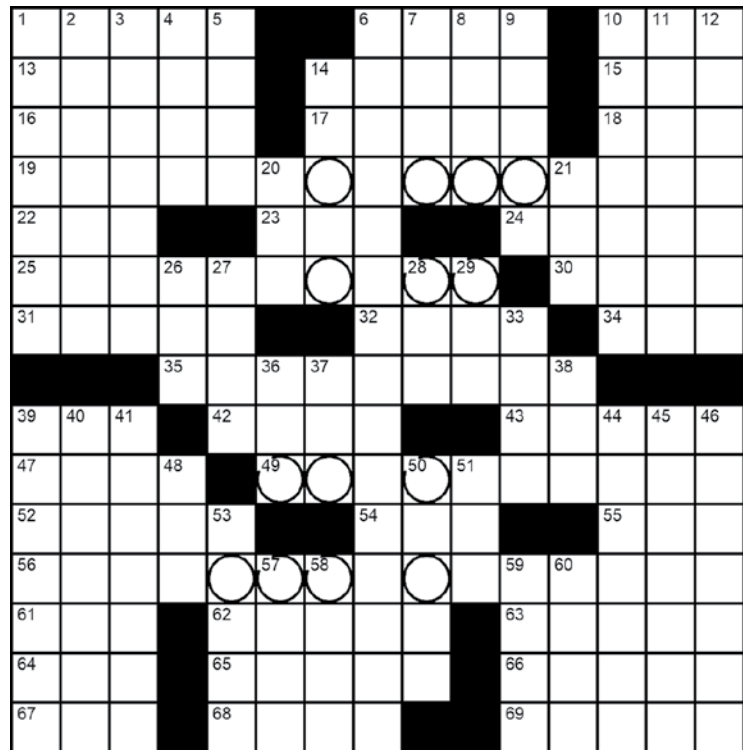
- 25. Common photo portrait dimensions
- 30. Lucy Lawless TV role
- 31. Reggae culture
- 32. Broke ground
- 34. Bank acct. transaction
- 35. Some TSA employees
- 39. “Drank too fast” noise
- 42. Press down tightly
- 43. Choir section
- 47. “A Hard Road to Glory” author Arthur
- 49. Eroded, like round river rocks
- 52. Carrying out
- 54. “Hollywood Squares” win
- 55. Take care of the bill

- 56. Recreational soccer, in the U.K.
- 61. Mo. with 30 days
- 62. Wedding gown part
- 63. Half of Danny Elfman’s band name
- 64. Enmity
- 65. Miniature pies
- 66. Pertaining to a Hindu philosophy
- 67. Seattle winter hrs.
- 68. Fiesta cheers
- 69. Hanging loosely

- the capital letters individually — now I feel old)
- 6. What this answer does to the words in the circles?
- 7. Other than this
- 8. U.S. election day
- 9. “This ___ a drill”
- 10. Carry on
- 11. Cramped fish
- 12. Almost immediately
- 14. Bashful’s partner
- 20. Spheroid
- 21. Mend
- 26. Abbr. after Cleveland or Shaker
- 27. People person’s skill
- 28. 1 billion years
- 29. Society column word
- 33. Fraction of a fluid ounce
- 36. Served like sashimi
- 37. Fall Out Boy genre

- 38. ___-mo replay
- 39. Taste-tested some tea
- 40. Chemically related compounds
- 41. Figurine that gets watered
- 44. “Boy Meets World” girl
- 45. Earache-related
- 46. Shakespeare character who says “If you prick us, do we not bleed?”
- 48. “The Two Towers” creature
- 50. High times?
- 51. Phillipa who originated the role of Eliza in “Hamilton”
- 53. Reach
- 57. Russian mountain range
- 58. Like blue moons, black sheep, or red steak
- 59. Chest contents
- 60. Branch of sci.

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Down

- 1. Mail room tool
- 2. Mosquito-borne illness
- 3. You can’t teach them new tricks, it’s said
- 4. “As they shouted out with ___ ...”
- 5. “N ___” (boy band that I heard some TikToker tried to say with all

R&R answer from pg35 of 1/19



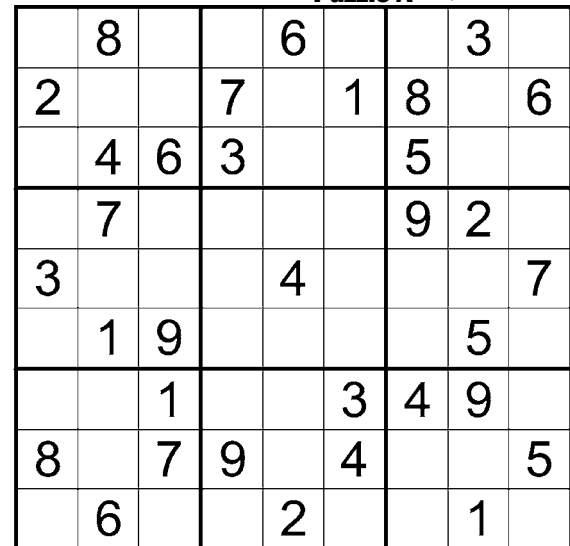
Jonesin’ answer from pg36 of 1/19



NITE SUDOKU

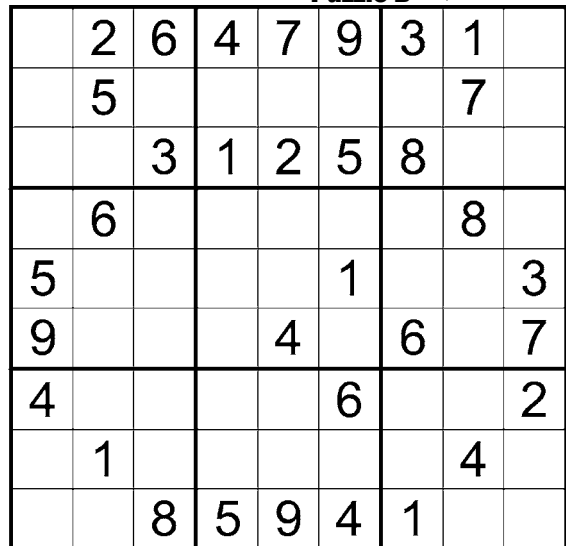
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week’s puzzle answers on pg 41.

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle A By Dave Green



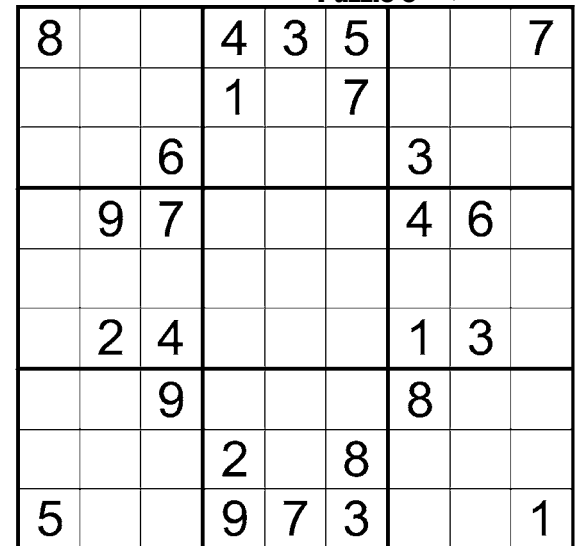
Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle B By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Conceptis Sudoku Puzzle C By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *About Your Father*, by Peggy Rowe, born Jan. 28, 1938.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) My husband had chosen the day of Mike's birthday party to do his spring burn-off in the field. It wasn't his fault that an unexpected wind came in from the north. Wear a windbreaker.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) I wanted to tell him that Goodwill was not that desperate but thought better of it. They aren't, though.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) A woman approached me at a social gathering and asked if it was true that I was the mother of that Dirty Jobs guy. ... 'Tell him I said thanks,' she said, a little too vehemently. 'My three-year-old grandson says poop every other minute of the day! I can't take him out in public!' It's tough being a role model.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) Anybody who thinks that true adventure and excitement are behind you when you've reached your eighties clearly hasn't experienced the *Early Bird Senior Buffet Special* at the Golden Corral. You can make your own adventures.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Our son performed his earliest chore as a two- or three-year-old when he placed the family trash and garbage in the cans behind our house. Almost anyone can do it.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) Before we were married, John told me right up front: 'I have never cared for horses, and I doubt that I ever will.' He said this knowing of my lifelong passion for horses — preferring them to people, in some cases. They still made it work.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) 'What do you mean, you just bought it?' John asked, scratching his head. 'Nobody just buys a television! Did you do comparison shopping? How do you know this is a good product? Did you check Consumer Reports? Where are your notes? Did you have a coupon?' Do your research.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) Nothing achieved family participation quite like the woodstove. Not even Monopoly. Sorry!, or 500 Rummy. From gathering

logs, splitting, and stacking them, to feeding the stove's insatiable appetite and shoveling out the ashes, there were plenty of chores to go around. Chopping wood is more fun than Monopoly.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) Mike was a teenager and helping his brothers stack firewood when he noticed a nest of young mice embedded in a log. He ... tapped it hard against the ground. Sure enough, a litter of baby mice emerged, and, following their instincts, immediately shot up my son's pant leg to a dark and safe space. Don't tap the log on the ground.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) When I learned how many millions of people worldwide were watching Discovery Channel's *Dirty Jobs*, I remembered the shy kid who dove beneath the kitchen table ... every time the doorbell rang. It's different in person.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) I watched my boy on national TV hawking merchandise he knew nothing about. The night he dozed off in front of millions of viewers while demonstrating bedding, I worried that he was sleep-deprived. At least he didn't snore. Practice good sleep hygiene.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) 'I got the lead in the senior play,' he mentioned at dinner one evening. He said it in the same voice he might have used to say, 'Please pass the potatoes.' And the butter. 🍞

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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 one meaning of "aloha" (5)	_____
2 make amends (9)	_____
3 Labor Day month (9)	_____
4 bright explosion in the sky (8)	_____
5 ancient pyramids' continent (6)	_____
6 Kansas City baseball team (6)	_____
7 boundary edge (10)	_____

AF	APO	BER	RK	HE
TEM	RI	LLO	INE	FIR
SEP	ROY	CA	LOG	EWO
BO	IZE	RL	ALS	RDE

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Sudoku Answers from pg35 of 1/19

Puzzle A	Puzzle B	Puzzle C
8 2 9 3 1 5 4 7 6 1 4 6 7 8 9 5 3 2 7 5 3 4 2 6 9 8 1 5 3 1 6 9 2 7 4 8 6 7 8 1 3 4 2 9 5 4 9 2 5 7 8 6 1 3 9 6 4 8 5 1 3 2 7 2 8 7 9 6 3 1 5 4 3 1 5 2 4 7 8 6 9	8 4 7 3 5 9 2 6 1 1 3 6 7 8 2 4 9 5 5 9 2 6 1 4 3 8 7 3 5 8 4 7 1 9 2 6 6 2 4 5 9 8 7 1 3 9 7 1 2 3 6 5 4 8 2 1 3 9 6 5 8 7 4 7 8 9 1 4 3 6 5 2 4 6 5 8 2 7 1 3 9	4 7 1 5 9 6 3 2 8 3 8 2 4 1 7 5 9 6 5 6 9 3 2 8 1 7 4 1 3 7 9 6 2 4 8 5 9 2 5 8 4 1 6 3 7 6 4 8 7 3 5 9 1 2 8 1 4 2 5 9 7 6 3 2 9 3 6 7 4 8 5 1 7 5 6 1 8 3 2 4 9

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Fail

When Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, was built in 2012, the district installed a high-tech lighting system that was intended to save on energy costs, NBC News reported. But the software that controls the lights failed on Aug. 24, 2021, and every light in the school has been on since then. Aaron Osbourne, the assistant superintendent for the district, says the glitch is costing taxpayers “in the thousands of dollars per month on average, but not in the tens of thousands.” Teachers have removed bulbs where possible, and staff have shut off breakers to darken some of the exterior lighting. But help is on the way! Parts from China have arrived to fix the problem, which is expected to be completed in February. — *NBC News, Jan. 19*

Repeat offender

An unnamed 62-year-old man from Garfield Heights, Ohio, was arrested — for the 70th time — in early January after he allegedly stole a shopping cart full of packaged meat to sell to restaurants, WJW-TV reported. The Walmart in South Euclid alerted authorities to the theft; in the parking lot, the thief transferred the goods to a stolen suitcase and threw what wouldn't fit in a dumpster. He told officers he sells the meat half-price to area restaurants. He was booked, again, for theft. — *WJW-TV, Jan. 9*

It's come to this

Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 of 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported a 108 percent increase in a certain smuggled item at ports of entry, Fox5-TV reported on Jan. 18. It wasn't fentanyl or heroin, though. Seized egg products and poultry were the hot catch as prices soared in the United States. “My advice is, don't bring them over,” said CBP supervisory agriculture specialist Charles Payne. Or, he advised, if you do, declare them so you won't be fined. Thirty eggs in Juarez, Mexico, cost \$3.40 — a fraction of what they'd cost in the U.S. because of an outbreak of avian flu that forced producers to euthanize 43 million egg-laying hens. — *Fox5-TV, Jan. 18*

Awesome!

Dominican sailor Elvis Francois, 47, was rescued by the Colombian navy on Jan. 18 after surviving 24 days drifting from the island of St. Martin in the Netherlands Antilles, NPR reported. Francois said he had been making repairs to a sailboat when currents swept it out to sea. He scrawled “help” on the boat's hull, then survived on a bottle of ketchup, garlic powder, seasoning cubes and collected rainwater while he waited for a rescue. “I called my friends, they tried to contact me, but I lost the signal,” Francois said. “There was nothing else

to do but sit and wait.” He finally caught the attention of a passing airplane by signaling with a mirror. “I thank the coast guard. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be telling the story,” he said. — *NPR, Jan. 18*

Irony

Early on Jan. 14, in Monterrey, Mexico, Carlos Alonso, 32, allegedly broke a glass door at Christ the King Parish and entered, intending to rob the church, Catholic News Agency reported. But as he tried to flee with a statue of St. Michael the Archangel in hand, he tripped and fell on the angel's sword, seriously wounding his neck, police said. Passersby saw the injured Alonso and called for help; he is expected to be charged after he recovers from the fall. The statue was unharmed. — *Catholic News Agency, Jan. 14*

Animal antics

Carrier pigeons have been couriers of legitimate and nefarious items for centuries, but officials at the Pacific Institution in Abbotsford, British Columbia, nonetheless were stunned when a gray bird with a tiny backpack landed in a fenced inmate prison yard on Dec. 29. The CBC reported that officers “had to corner it,” according to John Randle, Pacific regional president of the Union for Canadian Correctional Officers. “You can imagine how

that would look, trying to catch a pigeon.” After some time, they were able to grab it and remove the package, which contained about 30 grams of crystal meth. “We've been focusing so much on drone interdiction ... Now we have to look at, I guess, pigeons again,” Randle said. They set the little guy free and are investigating its origin. — *CBC, Dec. 29*

Delicate surgery

On Jan. 9 in Kyiv, Ukraine, a surgeon removed an unexploded grenade from the chest cavity of a 28-year-old Ukrainian soldier, The Guardian reported. The weapon lay just below the man's heart, and two “sappers” (military engineering soldiers) were on hand during the delicate operation to neutralize the device after it was removed. Doctors were unable to use electrocoagulation, a method that controls bleeding, because of fear that the grenade might detonate. “I think this case will go down in medical textbooks,” said Anton Gerashchenko, Ukraine's internal affairs ministerial adviser. The soldier will now undergo rehabilitation. — *The Guardian, Jan. 12*

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