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FEBRUARY 2 - 8, 2023

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195 McGregor St., Suite 325,
Manchester, N.H. 03102
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
hippopress.com
email: news@hippopress.com

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor
Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com

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

Editorial Design
Tristan Collins
hippolayout@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Lisa Parsons, lparkers@hippopress.com

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

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

Listings

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

BUSINESS

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

Associate Publisher
Dan Szczesny

Associate Publisher
Jeff Rapsis, Ext. 123
jrapris@hippopress.com

Production
Tristan Collins, Jennifer Gingras

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

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

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

To place an ad call 625-1855, Ext. 126
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ON THE COVER

10 INDOOR WATER FUN It may be the dead of winter, but indoor pools at New Hampshire can still serve as water wonderlands for fun or exercise. Find out where you can enjoy aquatics classes, learn to swim and even go surfing or boogie boarding inside.

ALSO ON THE COVER

Voting has begun on Hippo's annual readers' poll! Go to hippopress.com to vote in the Best of 2023. Tell us who makes the perfect cup of coffee, who gives you the best haircuts and where to go to for a cheap night out. Vote now for all of your favorite local stuff!

And it's time to make those Valentine's Day plans. See our roundup (starting on page 22) of places offering special meals for dine-in or eats and treats to go.

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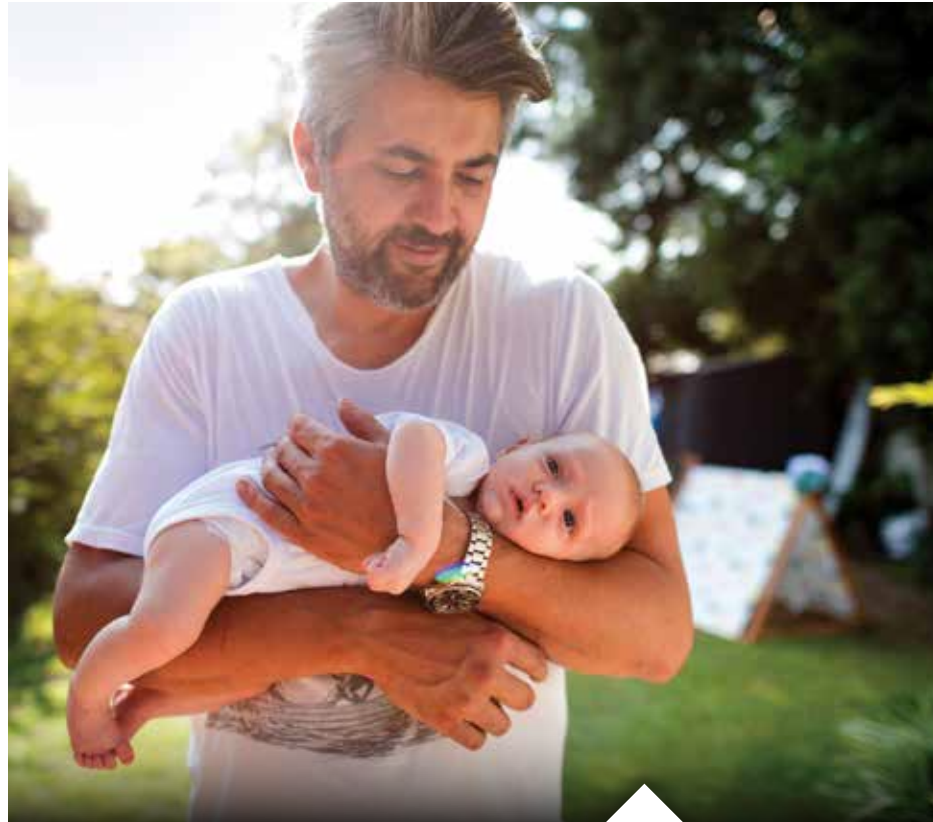


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NEWS & NOTES

Rental assistance

New Hampshire has received nearly \$3.6 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the Emergency Rental Assistance program to assist New Hampshire renters with rent and other housing expenses, including energy and utility costs. According to a press release, the supplemental funds were allotted in response to an appeal made by the New Hampshire congressional delegation in October after the U.S. Treasury announced that New Hampshire would not receive additional resources to continue the program beyond Dec. 29, and New Hampshire Housing was forced to put the program on pause. “The housing crisis continues to be a top challenge facing Granite Staters, with particularly brutal consequences during the intense winter season,” U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, who led the delegation, said in the release. More than \$230 million in assistance was provided to more than 23,000 households across the state through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program from when it was launched in March 2021 to when it was put on pause in October 2022. Visit nhhfa.org/emergency-rental-assistance for updates and to apply for assistance.

Covid detection

Data from New Hampshire’s wastewater surveillance for detecting Covid levels is now available to the public on a new online dashboard at covid19.nh.gov/wastewater-surveillance. Because the virus can be shed in wastewater, viral fragments in community-wide samples

collected from wastewater treatment facilities can be used to track trends in levels of the virus over time. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services’ Division of Public Health

Services launched the program in December as a potential tool to monitor the virus in New Hampshire communities and issue earlier warnings to the public about rising levels, according to a press release. The dashboard cautions against using the current data to inform public health as several months of data are required for accurate interpretation and establishing trends.

New shelters

Manchester homelessness initiatives are working to open two 24-hour emergency shelters following the City’s eviction of a large homeless encampment at Manchester and Pine streets that left about 50 people with nowhere to live, WMUR reported. The YCWA will oversee the reopening of the Tirrell House on Brook Street to provide 14 to 16 beds for women, and the City will oversee the other shelter, which will provide 40 beds for men and women. The City-run shelter is expected to be open until April while the YCWA is seeking to keep the Tirrell House open permanently. The City set up a temporary warming station at the William Cashin Senior Activity Center on Douglas Street in early January, and that operation will be moved to the City-run shelter once the shelter opens, according to the article.

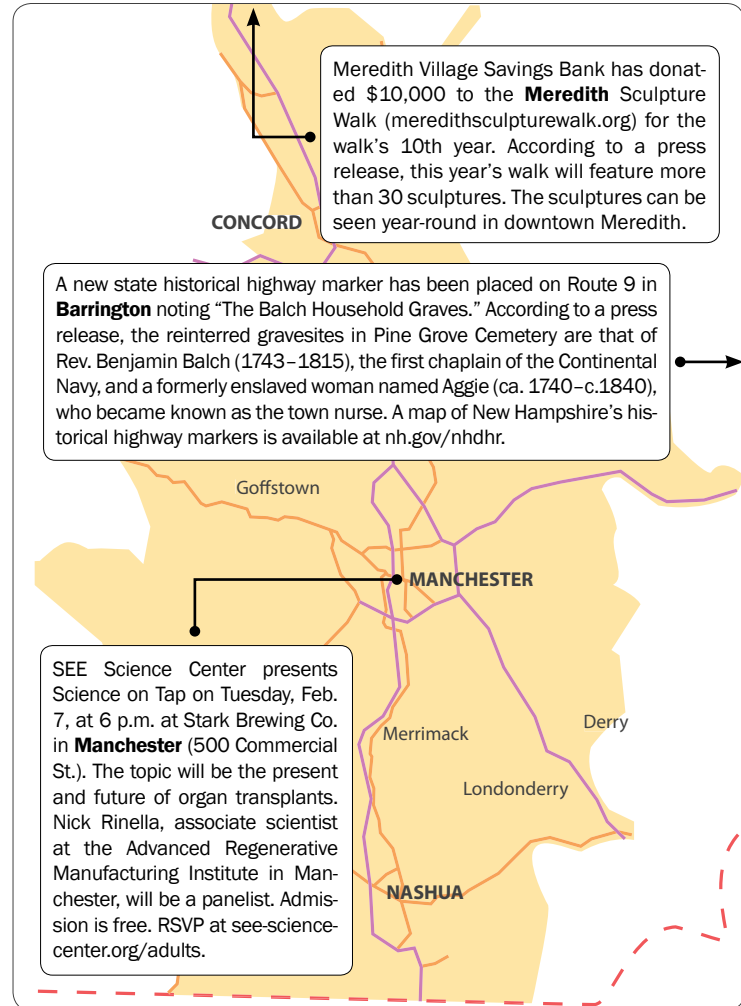
Hiring freeze

Dartmouth Health, New Hamp-

shire’s largest private employer, has instituted a hiring freeze and plans to conduct a job review process as it looks to close a \$120 million budget gap by the end of September, NHPR reported. All open positions at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinics, as well as job changes, such as employee transfers, adjustments, promotions and filling positions after an employee leaves, will be subject to review. The system currently employs about 12,000 people and had more than 1,000 job openings listed last month, most of which were for nursing and allied health positions.

Back to normal

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has announced that Medicaid eligibility and enrollment will resume regular, pre-pandemic operations beginning on April 1, according to a press release. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act has allowed all Medicaid recipients to retain their health coverage during the pandemic since March 2020. In the coming months, the Department will be reaching out to those approximately 102,000 beneficiaries currently protected under this coverage to assess their eligibility to continue being covered by Medicaid beyond April 1. “It will be important for Medicaid beneficiaries to watch their mail, email and texts for notices from DHHS and complete their Medicaid renewals in order to avoid a gap in their health coverage,” DHHS Medicaid Director Henry Lipman said in the release.



Tea Talks

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire’s 2023 Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks Series, titled “Bringing it Back: Conversations We Still Need,” begins with its first program, “Before European Contact: Changing the Ways We Present Our History,” on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., virtually and in person at the Portsmouth Public Library (175 Parrott Ave.). According to a press release, the talks explore the history and lived experience surrounding current issues in the Black, Indigenous, People of Color community and provide a safe

space for conversation about race, equity, social justice and belonging. Other talks in the series will include “The Paradox of Education for Black and Brown Children” on Feb. 12; “Beyond Forty Acres: Land Ownership and Black Wealth” on Feb. 19; “Shades of Black: Connected by Color, Culture, and Community” on Feb. 26; “Exploring the Heart of Cross-Racial Conversation” on March 5; and “Youth to Power: Black Female Activists” on March 12. Registration is required. Visit blackheritagetrailnh.org/elinor-williams-hooker-tea-talks-2023.

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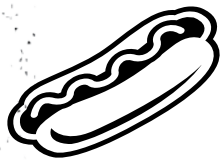
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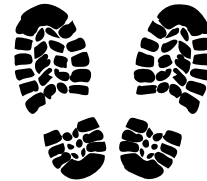
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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

The pep talk pod

Luna Smith wants to bring positivity to your day

Luna Smith of Londonderry talked about her new podcast, *The Friend In Your Ear Pod*, launched Jan. 11, with new episodes released every Wednesday. Find the podcast on all major podcast platforms or visit thefriendinyourearpod.com.

Q: Tell us about you.

I've been married to my best friend for over a decade now, and we are parents to a 4-year-old boy and a 6-year-old Boston Terrier. I went to school for Classics but ended up in the creative realm working freelance from home. I've been obsessed with self-improvement for as long as I can remember. In my pregnancy I started a blog called "That Blissful Balance," ignorantly thinking I had figured it out, only to discover postpartum that balance is not what I thought it was. Since starting the podcast I've restarted the blog to be more in line with the podcast — less about a perfect balance and more about all the tips and tools that make life a little more blissful, coming from the perspective of a recovering perfectionist with high-functioning anxiety who believes even the smallest changes can make major impacts on the quality of our lives.



Luna Smith. Courtesy photo.

What made you want to start a podcast?

I'm a huge fan of podcasts and listen to them daily in the pockets of time I have between drop-offs and pickups, housework and work deadlines. But sometimes I would just want to listen to something that was more personable and uplifting, like a pep talk from a friend on a particularly hard day, and I thought that if I felt that way, perhaps others did, too. So that was the inspiration to create a podcast that did that — a podcast that felt like a friend giving you a hug from afar and telling you you could do it; a friend to give you company, positivity and to help you believe in yourself when you need it.

What is The Friend In Your Ear Pod about?

It's mainly a self-improvement and positivity podcast, currently in a season of wellness, both mental and physical, and each week is on a different topic. They mostly feel like motivational pep talks with some personal experiences sprinkled in. There's a new segment called 'Good News' to celebrate listeners' wins, because celebrating small wins makes a big difference. I also do a mantra of the week to further help with cultivating and keeping that positive mindset. But it's all done in a friendly, encouraging way, like a friend giving you a little boost of positivity with a dose of understanding and empathy.

Who is your target audience?

I wanted to create an accessible space for

anyone who could use a little boost of positivity and friendly support in their lives, but being familiar with the struggles of women and mothers in particular, that is who I'd like to offer the most support to with the topics I choose to discuss. Though some challenges are universal, I hope everyone can gain something positive from listening.

Where do you get your material?

Right now the material is mostly derived from my own personal experiences in self-improvement and wellness, though some topics are inspired by friends, and reader submissions are always welcome. I would love to provide friendly support in any way I can.

What are your future plans?

I would love to grow and expand in any way I can to provide these friendly pep talks to as many people who need them. Eventually I would love to bring on guests who can provide more expertise on particular topics, but for now it's just my voice and experiences from things I've been able to accomplish and overcome through the power of positive thinking, like letting go of perfectionism and navigating anxiety to achieve goals and create a life I love.

What would you like listeners to get out of your podcast?

I want listeners to feel seen and supported in whatever they're going through — to feel like they aren't alone, and to get the motivation they need to make every day a little better, because every little win counts. I hope together we can create a community that celebrates and supports each other.

— Angie Sykeny

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The week that was



Brady vs. Manning – The Sequel: The games with **Tom Brady** facing **Peyton Manning**-led teams were the marquee NFL events for the first 15 years of the 21st century. It was bigger than the teams themselves;

when Manning moved to Denver, Indianapolis all but disappeared from the radar and Denver vs. New England became the game everyone circled on the calendar. But after four straight games decided by three points, two of which went to overtime and the other two of which were decided by last-second field goals, and having Cincy and KC in the last four Super Bowls, we now have a successor to Manning vs. Brady. Because even with the league filled with a boatload of talented young quarterbacks, after the last two AFC title game thrillers it is clearly **Patrick Mahomes vs. Joe Burrow**. Both have the same coolness under fire, with the added dimension of greater mobility to use their legs when needed, as Mahomes did in Sunday's cataclysmic play. And with great weapons to collaborate with on offense, sturdy young teams behind them and having a coach who's much better than it seemed two years ago and another whose next stop will be the Hall of Fame, Bengals vs. Chiefs will be the NFL game to circle over the next 10 years.

Rollin' into the Hall: I've got nothing against **Scott Rolen**. But after seeing him voted into Baseball's Hall of Fame last week I will say the "everyone gets a trophy" generation strikes again! Because like in the case of **Harold Baines**, not once during his career did it ever occur to me that Rolen might be a Famer, let alone should he get in. Not to knock him, because he was a very good long-time player, but sorry, the Hall is honoring *greatness*, not very goodness. Now my attitude has changed a little bit on it, just being about peak greatness to give a little more deference to guys who rack up numbers because of their longevity, because the durability to do that is a skill.

As for Rolen, they tell you you can't play "what about him"-ism when it comes to Hall voting. But I say why not? When I heard Rolen was likely to get in I came up with 10 guys, like **Dwight Evans**, **Albert Belle** and **Dick Allen**, who were clearly more impactful in their time than Rolen was. But let's focus on just two who played the same position: **Joe Torre** and **Graig Nettles**. Rolen's numbers were .281 BA, 316 homers, 1287 RBI, 7 All-Star games and 8 Gold Gloves. But remember, making the All-Star game was taken *far* more seriously in the past, while Gold Gloves depend on who's in your era.

In the case of Torre, he outhit Rolen (.292), had more RBI, more 100-RBI seasons and made 9 All-Star games, which he did at three

different positions (C, 1B and 3B). Only **Pete Rose** did that besides him. He had the signature season of 1971 that Rolen never came within three area codes of when he won the batting title (.363) with 230 hits, 137 RBI and was MVP. For good measure he also sometimes hit clean-up for the Braves between **Hank Aaron** and **Eddie Mathews**, who for the historically challenged hit a combined 1,266 home runs. In short: Him not being in while Rolen is in is a joke.

The case for Nettles is a lot closer as some of his numbers come from longevity and batting average was not his thing. But he's got more homers (390), more RBIs (1,314) and a home run title and was a better fielder, though not as many GGs because he played when the spectacular **Brooks Robinson** did when he always got in on reputation whether he deserved it or not. Plus, Nettles was stationary defensively in the 1978 World Series, while Rolen hit .220 in the postseason.

AFC Championship Game: There are two things that distinguish football from other sports: how the players have to adapt to conditions around them by playing in anything from the searing Miami heat of September to last week's driving snowstorm in Buffalo, and coping with the injuries most teams have at this time of year. This week was no different, with a 10-degree wind chill in KC, and SF having to play the Wildcat after its third- and fourth-string QBs got knocked out of the game and the Chiefs surviving after losing all but one wide receiver. Not to mention having their QB come into the game a week after suffering an injury that annually took **Kelly Olynyk** two months to recover from when he was a Celtic. But there was Mahomes throwing for 300 plus and making the game's most crucial play on a mind-over-matter scramble to get the first down in the final seconds he always seems to get in crunch time before getting smacked out of bounds to get the 15-yard penalty that made the 47-yard FG that sent KC to the Super Bowl doable. So move over, **Curt Schilling**, because, as young'n **Tony Romo** astutely mentioned during the broadcast, this one goes up there with the bloody sock game, **Willis Reed** limping into Game 7 at MSG, and flu-stricken **Michael Jordan** going for 37 in the NBA Finals. Bravo, Patrick.

NFC Title Game Notes: (1) **Nick Sirianni** has a very similar resume to Coach B, with a D-III playing career and a million jobs before becoming a young HC at 40. But by getting to the SB in Year 2 he's five years ahead of Bill. (2) Philly is a lot better than I thought they were. (3) Coach B, please pay attention to how adding two dynamic outside threats (**A.J. Brown** and **DeVonta Smith**) turned the waiting until someone better comes along **Jalen Hurts** into an MVP-caliber player, because **Mac Jones** was better at Alabama than he was.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

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- 1/2 cup water
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- 2 cups Hannaford Frozen Cut Corn
- 5 cups Fresh Express® Baby Spinach
- 1/4 cup Silk® Unsweetened AlmondMilk



Directions:

- Bring 6 cups of water to a boil in a large pot. Once boiling, add macaroni and cook for time listed on box.
- While macaroni is boiling, cook ground turkey in a large sauté pan. When turkey is browned and cooked through, add taco seasoning and water. Stir to combine and lower heat to simmer until sauce is thickened.
- Once sauce thickens, add diced tomatoes, frozen corn and baby spinach. Gently toss to combine.
- Drain pasta. Add cheese packet and milk to pot and stir until creamy. Add macaroni back to pot and toss to fully coat in cheese sauce. Add macaroni and cheese to sauté pan and gently stir to combine with ground turkey mixture.

Dietitian's Tip:

This recipe can be made vegetarian by leaving out the ground turkey or substituting it with tofu. It is a great way to add your favorite vegetables such as broccoli, mushrooms, diced zucchini, peas or even edamame for another boost in protein!

Nutritional Information

Amount per (1 1/2 cup) serving: Calories 290; Fat 6 g; Saturated Fat 2 g; Cholesterol 55 mg; Sodium 650 mg; Carbohydrate 35 g; Fiber 3 g; Sugar 6 g; Added Sugar 0 g; Protein 22 g

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Recipe submitted by *The Nutrition Mix*

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

News your wallet already knows

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration collected by Texas-based electricity company Payless Power revealed that New Hampshire is the U.S. state with the biggest jump in electricity prices between August 2021 and August 2022, with a 40 percent increase in cost per kilowatt-hour. The study also found that New Hampshire is the state with the fifth-highest estimated monthly residential electric bill, averaging \$173.34, and the sixth-highest cost per kilowatt-hour at 20 cents.

QOL score: -2

Comment: Find the complete study at paylesspower.com/blog/where-to-save-on-your-electric-bill.

Hospitals are crowded

News outlets around the country have reported hospital overcrowding this winter, and New Hampshire is no exception. Earlier this month the New Hampshire Hospital Association tweeted a graph showing a statewide average of 94.9 percent occupancy of staffed hospital beds in December. Hospitals in Concord and Laconia "have been at or above 100% capacity for the past few months, with little or no let-up," according to a Jan. 23 Concord Monitor Granite Geek story. Workforce shortages and difficulty moving patients to long-term care facilities (which are also crowded and short-staffed) are thought to be behind the crowding, the story said.

QOL score: -2

Comment: Props to the hospital staff trying to keep it all together during long emergency room waits.

Top marks

For the fourth year in a row United Way of Greater Nashua is the recipient of Charity Navigator's highest rating for nonprofits demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. According to a press release, only 21 percent of charities evaluated by Charity Navigator receive the highest rating. "This ... indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way ... [and] verifies that United Way of Greater Nashua exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work," Charity Navigator president and CEO Michael Thatcher wrote in the award letter. United Way of Greater Nashua has also received top ratings for accountability, transparency and financial management from the nonprofit reporter GuideStar.

QOL score: +1

Comment: Participate in their fundraising via the upcoming Nashua Nor'easter Winter Walk/Run/Drive Community Fundraiser, taking place Feb. 26 through March 4. Choose the day, distance, method and speed of locomotion to tackle the distance by yourself or with a team, according to a press release.

Rookie of the Week

Breezie Williams, a freshman guard on the University of New Hampshire's women's basketball team, was named Rookie of the Week by America East on Jan. 30, according to a press release, her second such designation this season. QOL will let the press release recount the stats: "Williams averaged 11.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.0 steals in 33.9 minutes per game to rank second on the team in scoring and third in rebounding last week. She shot 41.2 percent (7 of 17) from the floor and a perfect 8-for-8 at the foul line. Williams helped lead UNH to its first conference win of the season, a 56-51 victory at UMass Lowell on Jan. 28, by recording 13 points, six rebounds, two steals and an assist."

QOL score: +1 because QOL likes rooting for all the home teams

Comments: UNH women's basketball will play a home game on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 p.m. vs. Bryant University. Tickets cost \$10 (\$15 to sit courtside), \$5 for kids and seniors for general admission. See unhwildcats.com/tickets.

QOL score: 52

Net change: -2

QOL this week: 50

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

Let us know at news@hippypress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS FEBRUARY 2 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Feb. 4

The Queen City Rotary Club's annual **Comedy Bowl** returns tonight at St. George's Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St. in Manchester). A social hour starts at 6 p.m., a buffet dinner starts at 7 p.m. and the comedy starts at 8 p.m. with a lineup including Joe Yannetty, Jody Sloane, Jeff Koen and Rafi Gonzalez, according to queencityrotary.org. The event also features a silent auction and a cash bar with proceeds from



the event benefiting youth charities and agencies in Manchester, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$50; call 391-1110 to purchase.

Thursday Feb. 2

Today is the last day to **purchase tickets for the Snowball Gala** hosted by the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill. The gala will have live music, live and silent auctions, a photo booth, a surf and turf dinner, and more. The gala is on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Manchester Country Club (180 S. River Road, Bedford). Tickets cost \$100 a person and

can be purchased at educational-farm-at-joppa-hill.square.site.

Friday, Feb. 3

Catch "**Masters of the Telecaster**" **G.E. Smith and Jim Weider** tonight at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusichall.com) at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$40. Find more concerts this weekend in the concert listings on page 34.

Saturday, Feb. 4

There will be a **Valentine's craft and vendor fair** at the Eagles Wing Function Hall (10 Spruce St. in Nashua) today from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be more than 40 vendors and crafters selling handmade goods, valentine-themed sweets and treats, and more. For more information, visit facebook.com/BazaarCraftEvents.

Sunday, Feb. 5

The Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum (18 Highlawn Road in Warner) is hosting a **mid-winter social** today starting at 2 p.m. The social will have dancing, a potluck dinner and a performance by the Black Thunder Singers. Reservations are not required for this event. Visit indianmuseum.org for more information.

Wednesday Feb. 8

The Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester) is doing a special screening for the 100th anniversary of the silent film

Safety Last tonight at 7 p.m. The film will have live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. *Safety Last* is a comedy that follows famous silent film actor Harold Lloyd's character as he tries to make his mark on the Big City and impress his sweetheart in the process. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at palace-theatre.org.



Save the Date! Oscar Watch Party

Celebrate awards season with the Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord) with a special **Oscar watch party** on Sunday, March 12, at 7 p.m. The theater invites attendees to sit back, unwind and watch one of the biggest award shows of the season. Comfortable clothing, including pajamas, is encouraged. Tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased online at redrivertheatres.org. As part of its Oscar Party Weekend, Red River is also hosting an **Oscar Party Trivia Night** on Saturday, March 11, at 6 p.m. For this night, the dress code is Hollywood glamor and tickets (\$90 per person or \$760 for a table) for a red carpet experience, food (dinner is served at 7 p.m.) and a trivia game, according to the website. Trivia night will take place at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution St. in Concord).

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**HIT THE INDOOR POOL
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Dive In

Who says having fun in the water has to be a summer-only activity?

Even in the dead of winter, there are several local spots to enjoy a bit of water fun indoors. We look at where to go to get in the pool for exercise, improve your swimming skills or try some surfing or boogie boarding — yes, indoors. Dig out that swimsuit and make a plan for a day in the water.

Water wonderland

Find a summertime oasis at an indoor aquatic center

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippopress.com

Surfing in the wintertime is no longer restricted to tropical vacations, thanks to SkyVenture NH's aquatic attraction Surf's Up. Laurie Greer, who co-owns the Nashua facility with her husband, Rob, said she wanted to bring year-round waves to the Granite State.

"We can do everything from knee high to a 6-foot standing barrel," Greer said, adding that people love to come and watch the surfers as much as they surf themselves. "Kick your shoes off and bring your flip-flops. It's ... a tropical paradise."

Surf's Up uses a device called a SurfStream. The wave machine fills a small pool with about a foot of water, which is then propelled at a speed of about 14 miles per hour to create a variety of waves. The Greers had specialized surfboards made and gathered up boogie boards. They heated the water to 80 degrees to create their own summertime oasis.

While it seemed easy enough to get going for people who are experienced on surfboards, Greer saw that some newer surfers needed an extra hand. Now, SkyVenture offers help to the newer surfers from the staff of surf instructors.

"The program we have is called 'surf assist,'" she said. "An instructor ... will set [a visitor] up and the other will help them up on the wave. Once [the visitor is] stable, they'll let go. They basically are your personal coach on the waves."

Surf's Up is the largest SurfStream in the world, measuring in at a length of 32 feet.

The attraction is more than just a fun way to get out energy, Greer said — it's also used by professional surfers and wake surfers to practice during the winter months. Pro wake-surfer Jake Caster got started using Surf's Up as his training ground, while YouTube and award-winning surfer Jamie "JOB" O'Brien has also used the facility.

Each session at Surf's Up lasts 15 minutes, Greer said.

"Fifteen minutes doesn't sound like a lot, but it's a lot," she said. "In the ocean, you'd be lucky to get 10 seconds to catch a ride."

While kids as young as 4 or 5 years old can go on Surf's Up, sometimes indoor swimming fun can look a bit more like a traditional waterpark. Over at The Workout Club in Salem, there's a kid-friendly water wonderland known as the SplashZone that's available for use in addition to the facility's regular lane swimming.

"We have wonderful aquatics that are bro-



The Workout Club's aquatic center in Salem. Courtesy photo.

ken into three segments," said Laurie Moran, The Workout Club's aquatics director. The segments are lane swimming, family swimming and the SplashZone, which has wade-in water activities and swim areas, water sprinklers, a mushroom-cap fountain and a 75-foot water slide. On the other side of the complex you'll find a wade pool for toddlers and a family swimming pool for fun.

When parents and older siblings need a break from the pool fun, they can take time

in the spa, a hot tub for visitors ages 16 and older. The water can get up to 104 degrees with jets to help massage sore muscles.

Moran said that the aquatics center is a place for everyone in the family to have a good time and get some energy out.

"This is a place where parents and kids can get exercise," she said, jokingly adding, "Afterward, kids are really tuckered out, and when they're tired they're less work to take care of." 🌊

Indoor water fun

This list has a selection of places that are free or offer day passes to use their facilities.

Dover public pool

9 Henry Law Ave., 516-6441, dover.nh.gov

The public pool is open daily, with different programs scheduled each day. A single day pass costs \$5 for resident adults and \$3 for resident children and seniors, and \$7 for non-resident adults and \$4 for non-resident children and seniors. There are discounted packages available for a multi-day pass. See the website for the full schedule.

Envy Sports Club

298 Queen City Ave., Manchester, 703-5303, envysportsclubs.com

The Envy Splash Lounge is not only an indoor pool but also has a cinema, music, parties, food and drinks. Kids and parents can join Envy for a live DJ at the Kids Glow Party every Saturday night from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person and can be purchased online.

SkyVenture NH

100 Adventure Way, Nashua, 897-0002, skyventurenh.com

SkyVenture is open Wednesday through Fri-

day, 2 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pricing for Surf's Up starts at \$45 for a 15-minute session, followed by \$22.50 for each additional session. Private sessions are also available — book online through their website.

The Workout Club

16 Pelham Road, Salem, 894-4800, theworkoutclub.com/salem

The SplashZone is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. The water slide will only be operational during the weekends, when a lifeguard is on duty in that area. The cost is \$20 for non-members ages 13 and up and \$10 for non-members.

Making a splash

Get fit in the pool, from aquatics classes to swim lessons

By Mya Blanchard and Matt Ingersoll
listings@hippopress.com

Between frigid temperatures and the depths of snow, it can be hard to find ways to stay active in the dead of winter. Indoor swimming and water exercise programs are great year-round alternatives to what are traditionally warm-weather activities — and they've been steadily growing in popularity post-pandemic.

"There's definitely been a good uptick in the amount of interest the last three years," said Matthew Chabot, owner of Somerset Swim & Fitness in Nashua, which offers swimming lessons for kids and adults, in addition to aqua aerobics for its members six days a week. "To be honest, we've quadrupled the amount of lessons on a yearly basis that we're doing now from what we were doing pre-Covid."

The interest in indoor pools also grows this time of year at the Hampshire Hills Athletic Club in Milford, according to aquatics director Jasmine Bishop.

"I think after Christmastime, it's a real big turning point, and our pools start to get busier because people are thinking of activities that they can do with their kids, or they're thinking of different ways to cross-train when they can't be out on the roads running or biking," Bishop said. "A lot of people will hop in [the pool] and do PT [physical therapy] if they are trying to recover from something. ... Or even if it's icy outside, they'll get into the water and walk, and that adds resistance and they're still getting their steps in."

At Hampshire Hills, one lane of a five-lane lap pool is always open to members — according to the club's website, it's open seven days a week throughout each day and can be reserved for swimmers up to four days in advance. Bishop added that, for adults, the club's aquatics programs are more fitness-oriented and include everything from strength and tone workouts to those that promote proper joint and muscle alignment.

"We have an arthritis class, we have a Water in Motion [class] ... and a lot of other different options, and generally those run Monday through Friday," she said. "We have our family pool and that's where our aqua classes run. Then we have our hot tub, which is a nice addition after you've been in a class or [you've been] swimming laps. ... We see all different types of fitness levels."

In business in the Gate City for more than two decades, Somerset Swim & Fitness is known for focusing on one-on-one private lessons for swimmers, regardless of one's membership status with the club. It's also one of the only spots around with a heated saltwater pool, a safer and more natural alternative, Chabot said, to one filled with chlorine. In addition to lessons, the club does offer open swimming hours to members seven days a week at various times over several hours, and there are membership rates available for open



NH Swim School co-owner Tyler Smirnioudis's daughter, Sofia. Courtesy photo.

swim in the pool only. Aqua aerobics classes, meanwhile, are available and great for building strength and improving flexibility.

"All of our instructors are WSI [Water Safety Instructor, through the American Red Cross] certified. A lot of them have competitive swimming backgrounds," Chabot said.

Lessons at the club are offered daily, and swimmers are usually guided to enroll in at least one lesson per week. A majority of swimmers, Chabot said, are kids and teens up to 15 years old, although lessons are available to all ages.

"We focus on ... more of the beginner to the intermediate [swimmer]," he said. "Getting that individual, whether it's the parent [who] wants their child to be comfortable and have those water safety skills, or if it's an older child or an adult, then we're basically helping them get over any fear they may have or getting them comfortable so that they feel they can swim. ... Between the swim director who runs the program, or the individual instructors, they'll more or less observe in the first session to get an idea of where the person is at."

Group swimming lessons for kids and teens are also available at Hampshire Hills, with the next eight-week session running from March 6 through April 29. For younger swimmers, Bishop said, the benefits of enrolling in lessons range from basic water safety to building or boosting confidence.

"It's a huge life skill that kids should know," she said, "and then from there, you can work on fitness or you can swim for fun. Whatever you want to do, there are so many avenues that it can take you through."

The YMCA of Greater Nashua also offers group swimming lessons, in addition to private lessons and daily guest passes for people to access the facility's swimming pools, according to chief community relations officer Elizabeth Covino. Lessons are offered all year long, with the next program session beginning Feb. 6. At Granite YMCA, meanwhile (which includes the YMCA of Downtown Manchester, the YMCA of Concord and the YMCA

CONTINUED ON PG 12 ▶

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 11

Allard Center of Goffstown), day passes to use the pools are also complimentary for first-time visitors, followed by up to five paid visits.

In the Concord area, Karen Jenovese and her stepdaughter, Tyler Smirnioudis, have operated the NH Swim School for more than a decade. Both with backgrounds in competitive swimming — Smirnioudis is also a lifeguard instructor and Jenovese a swimming coach — the two developed their own methods of teaching that allow kids to progress faster and at their own pace.

“A lot of other places rely on floatation devices when teaching kids how to swim ... and that can make the process take a lot longer,” Smirnioudis said. “We don’t use any floatation in our swimming lessons and our

class sizes are very small compared to other programs ... so that really helps make a difference with our kids learning to swim.”

The school provides lessons for children and adults. When deciding which lesson to sign up for, one must consider a swimmer’s age and skill level.

Those age 6 months to 3 years old can start with parent-and-child classes. These lessons familiarize children with the water and teach them developmental skills, like swimming on their front and back, floating and going under the water. Next up is Level 1, which teaches children how to swim independently. The following levels build on these skills and teach core strokes. “Our goal is for all the kids to continue swimming until they get to our developmental swim team,” Smirnioudis said. 🐬



Photo courtesy of the YMCA of Greater Nashua.

Where to find indoor swimming lessons and aquatics programs

Here are some local health clubs and other organizations offering either private or group swimming lessons for kids and adults, as well as some open swimming opportunities and fitness-oriented aquatics classes.

Envy Sports Club

298 Queen City Ave., Manchester; 703-5303, envysportsclubs.com

When: Classes for kids and adults run on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at various times throughout the day, depending on the class. Aquatics programs are also available.

Cost: \$169 for members and \$199 for non-members, either for eight weeks with one class per week or four weeks with two classes per week. Membership rates start at \$39 per month to use the pool only.

Executive Health & Sports Center

1 Highlander Way, Manchester; 668-4753, ehsc.com

When: Classes are held Sundays through Saturdays at various times, depending on the class (no classes during school vacation weeks or holiday weekends). The next session for swimming lessons runs from March 4 through April 16, with registration opening Feb. 6 at 5 a.m. Group aquatics programs, meanwhile, are available Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$69 for members, and \$119 for non-members for swimming lessons

Hampshire Hills Athletic Club

50 Emerson Road, Milford; 673-7123, hampshirehills.com

When: Group lessons are held weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m., and on Saturday mornings. The next eight-week session runs from March 6 through April 29, with registration due March 4 (private lessons are currently not available). One lane of a five-lane lap pool is also open to members — according to the club’s website, it’s open seven days a week throughout each day and can be reserved for swimmers up to four days in advance. Aquatics classes, meanwhile, are offered seven days a week at various times — see website for details.

Cost: Ranges from \$96 to \$136 for the eight-week swimming lesson program, depending on the swimmer’s membership status.

NH Swim School

96 N. State St., Concord; 724-3106, nhswim-school.com

When: Classes are offered weekly, Sunday through Saturday, depending on the class.

Registration opens Feb. 4 for the NH Swim School’s next session, which begins in March.

Cost: Ranges from \$175 to \$230

Peak Swim Center

45 Mountain Road, Brookline; 978-337-6717, peakswimcenter.com

When: Coached swimming sessions are available seven days a week; see website to book a time.

Cost: \$90 per 45-minute coached swimming session, or \$100 per 60-minute session

SafeSplash Swim School

Hosted at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester; 945-1844, safesplash.com

When: Classes are offered on Sundays, at various times between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and on Wednesdays, at various times between 4 and 7 p.m.

Cost: Ranges from \$88 to \$308, depending on the type of class and the length of each session.

Somerset Swim & Fitness

2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua; 595-4160, sometersf.com

When: Private lessons are available seven days a week; call to schedule a time. In addition to lessons, the club does also offer open swimming hours to members seven days a week at various times over several hours, in addition to aqua aerobics classes. Membership rates are available for open swim in the pool only.

Cost: Membership rates vary; call for details

YMCA Allard Center of Goffstown

Granite YMCA, 116 Goffstown Back Road, Goffstown; 497-4663, graniteymca.com

When: Swimming programs are held at various dates and times throughout the week — see program brochure for the full schedule. Open swimming hours vary and can be viewed online graniteymca.com on a week-to-week basis, Monday through Saturday.

Cost: Varies, depending on the swimmer’s age and membership status. Day passes to use the pool are also complimentary for first-time visitors, followed by up to five paid visits (\$10

for adults, \$5 for adolescents and teens and \$3 for younger kids)

YMCA of Concord

Granite YMCA, 15 N. State St., Concord; 228-9622, graniteymca.com

When: Swimming programs are held at various dates and times throughout the week — see program brochure for the full schedule. Open swimming hours vary and can be viewed online graniteymca.com on a week-to-week basis, Monday through Saturday.

Cost: Varies, depending on the swimmer’s age and membership status. Day passes to use the pool are also complimentary for first-time visitors, followed by up to five paid visits (\$10 for adults, \$5 for adolescents and teens and \$3 for younger kids)

YMCA of Downtown Manchester

Granite YMCA, 30 Mechanic St., Manchester; 623-3558, graniteymca.com

When: Swimming programs are held at various dates and times throughout the week — see program brochure for the full schedule. Open swimming hours vary and can be viewed online graniteymca.com on a week-to-week basis, Monday through Saturday.

Cost: Varies, depending on the swimmer’s age and membership status. Day passes to use the pool are also complimentary for first-time visitors, followed by up to five paid visits (\$10 for adults, \$5 for adolescents and teens and \$3 for younger kids)

YMCA of Greater Nashua

24 Stadium Drive, Nashua; 882-2011, nmyymca.org

When: Swimming lessons are offered all year long; the next program session begins Feb. 6. Daily guest passes are also available for people to access the Y’s swimming pools. Indoor pools are located at the Nashua YMCA (24 Stadium Drive, Nashua) and the Westwood Park YMCA (90 Northwest Blvd., Nashua). Lanes are available for open swim on various days and times — the full schedule is regularly updated at nmyymca.org.

Cost: Daily passes are \$15 per adult and \$5 per child per day.

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ARTS

Opening day for new show

Nashua playwright's production comes to the Concord stage

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippypress.com

At the Hatbox in Concord, the community theater troupe Lend Me a Theatre is preparing the first production of *The*

The World Was Yours

What: Original play by New Hampshire playwright William Ivers produced by Lend Me a Theatre

Where: Hatbox Theatre, 270 Loudon Road in Concord

When: Friday, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 19, with shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$22 for adults, \$19 for seniors and students

More info: hatboxnh.com

World Was Yours, by Nashua playwright William Ivers. Matthew Parent, director of *The World Was Yours*, said he was extremely excited to bring this play to life.

"It's a great story about the value of art and what people think of art and whose opinion about art is right or not," Parent said. "It's this debate, and you can extract that to be about anything, not just art."

This isn't the first of Ivers' plays to be produced, but it is the first time Lend Me a Theatre has produced an original and independent text.

In the play, three artists compete for the same grant: aging art professor Adley Schwartz, his young student Joy and guerilla graffiti artist Z-Jones, according to a press release. Watching the action

from the ether are Bob Ross, Salvador Dali and Andy Warhol, the release said.

Parent, who is a new member to Lend Me a Theatre, said having an original play be his directorial debut is extremely exciting. He said it's incredible that he is allowed a chance to put his own spin on the text, to work with the Ivers to realize his vision, and to work with actors to breathe life into characters that have never been portrayed before.

Even though this is the first performance of *The World Was Yours*, Parent said there is a very good chance that it won't be the last. This show will have a reading done in New York City, and it has gathered interest from the Royal Court Theatre in London.

"It's unusual for a community theater or nonprofessional theater to do



Courtesy photo.

new plays," Parent said. "Usually they do shows that have been published and done before. In that respect, [*The World Was Yours*] is brave." 🌱

Art

Opening

• **"LOVE, PASSION & CHOCOLATE"** The Lakes Region Art Association's exhibit 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. See LRAANH.org.

• **"RELICS"** 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth; 3arts.org) will feature the architectural sculptures of Frank Poor in this exhibit, 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.

• **"WHERE PAINTERLY ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONVERGE"** This 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 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.

Events

• **CENTER FOR THE ARTS FIRST FRIDAY** 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 Tawell 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.

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.

• **"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.

Theater

Shows

• **"THE 39 STEPS"** The New Hampshire Theatre Project will present this comic riff on the Alfred Hitch-

cock 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.

• **"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 Compa-

ny 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.

• **"CIRCUS WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS"** The High Mowing School middle schoolers (Pine Hill Campus, 77 Pine Hill Drive in Wilton; 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

Auditions

• **"THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS"** The Prescott Park Arts Festival's summer 2023 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. See prescottpark.org/about/auditions.

Classical

• **"WINTER SERENITIES"** at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Gernemonty 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.

• **"CHANSON d'AMOUR"** The Manchester Community Music School's faculty performance of "Chanson d'Amour" featuring Harel Gietheim on cello and Piper Runion 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.

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- FRI. 2/17** Idlewild: A Celebration of the
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- FRI. 2/24** Big Sky Country Band
- THURS. 3/2** Comedian Jimmy Dunn
- FRI. 3/10** Bell Bottom Blues:
Eric Clapton Experience
- THURS. 3/16** Celtic St. Patrick's Day
with Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio
- THURS. 3/23** Aquanett: 80's Rock
- THURS. 3/30** Nearly Diamond
- THURS. 4/6** Red Not Chili Peppers

- THURS. 1/26** James Taylor/Simon & Garfunkel
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- THURS. 2/2** Blue Brothers the Next Generation
- THURS. 2/23** Takin' It to the Streets:
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- THURS. 3/9** Live Bullet: Bob Seger Tribute
- THURS. 3/23** Comedian Corey Rodrigues
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ARTS

— THE —
ROUNDUP

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

• **Last call for *Piano Men*:** The Palace Theatre's ode to the music of Billy Joel, Elton John, Stevie Wonder and Freddie Mercury, *The All New Piano Men*, wraps up its run this weekend with shows Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m. The show is an original production of Carl Rajotte, artistic director at the Palace (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588), according to the website. Tickets start at \$25.

• **Wilkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome:** Also at the Palace in Manchester this weekend, the Palace Teen Apprentice Company production performed by student actors ages 12 through 18, will present *Cabaret* on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults. See palacetheatre.org.

• **Disney's next generation:** The Riverbend Youth Company will present a tale of the kids of Disney villains in *The Descendants: The Musical*, based on the Disney Channel movies, at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts (56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford; amatocenter.org) on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for children and seniors.

• **Get all shook up:** Local artists will perform the songs of one Elvis Aaron Presley at "A Night of Elvis," a variety show featuring songs, skits and more, at the Majestic Theatre (88 Page St. in Manchester; 669-7469, majestictheatre.net) on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.

• **New show — and a slate of concerts:** The Two Villages Art Society (Bates Building, 846 Main St. in Contoocook; twovillagesart.org) will present a new show — the work of The Secretive and Mysterious Order of the Crimson Sparrow — opening Thursday, Feb. 2, and running through Sunday, Feb. 19. Ty Meier, an artist and member of the Society's board of directors, organized and curated the show and describes the 14 artists (which include painters, printmakers, illustrators and sculptors) as "a scrappy group of underground art ninjas," according to a press release. The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

On Saturdays Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, from 4 to 6 p.m. the gallery will also host concerts featuring light refreshments (donations will be accepted at the door), the release said. The schedule includes Ariel Strasser (a Boston-based Minnesotan singer, songwriter and piano player) on Feb. 11, The Honeybees (Mary Fagan and Chris O'Neill with original songs, 1930s era jazz, Western swing, folk-rock and Americana) on Feb. 18 and Hydro-Geo-Trio (featuring George Holt, Dave McLean, Dan Morrissey and Mitch Simon with blue grass and



Ariel Strasser. Courtesy photo.

new-grass) on Feb. 25, the release said.

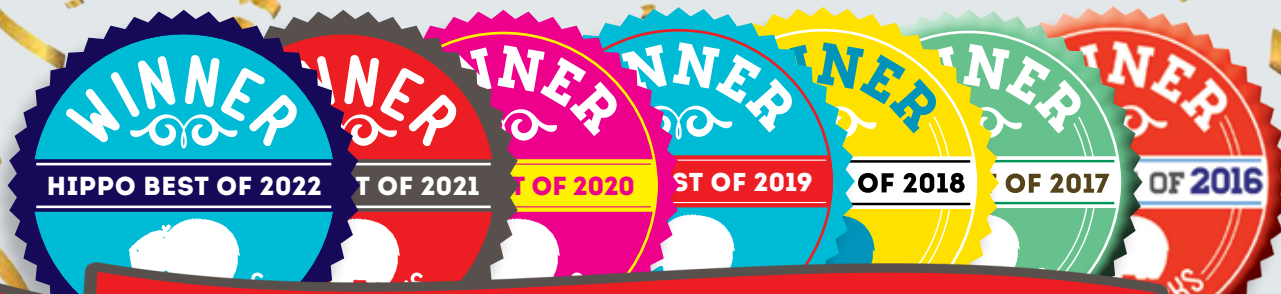
• **Small works and a silent auction:** The New Hampshire Art Association's Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery (136 State St. in Portsmouth; nhartassociation.org) will hold its annual fundraiser silent auction scheduled to have started Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the gallery and online, according to a press release. The auction will run through Feb. 19. The gallery is also hosting a "Small Works" exhibit featuring works 8 inches by 8 inches or 8 inches by 10 inches, the release said.

• **Underground Russian art:** Moscow-born Nikolay Manulov, 88, now a resident of New Hampshire, will have his works and pieces by his wife, Ludiya Kirillova, displayed at the Mariposa Museum (26 Main St. in Peterborough; mariposamuseum.org), which is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is also having an artist reception for Manulov, known as "Kuk," with a Q&A discussion on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. Admission to that event is \$10. Manulov's art, and that of his late wife, was illegal during the time of Stalin and wasn't allowed to be exhibited in official venues even after Stalin's death, according to a press release. Kuk emigrated during the Russian invasion of Crimea, bringing his and his wife's work with him, the release said.

• **Dream the impossible dream:** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; seacoastrep.org, 433-4472) will present the musical *Man of La Mancha*, Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. through Sunday, March 5. The show follows Don Quixote, a man who lives in a fantasy world of his own creation that baffles everyone he meets but changes the world for the better and inspires those around him, according to a press release. This show contains adult themes including violence. Tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased at seacoastrep.org

• **One-woman show:** The Pontine Theatre will present guest artist Tannis Kowalchuk and her original one-woman show *Decompositions* at the Pontine's 1845 Plains Schoolhouse Theatre (1 Plains Ave. in Portsmouth; pontine.org) on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. A Feb. 5 show is sold out but an online show is available (it is accessible about a week after the performance, according to the website. Tickets cost \$29. In the song-filled multimedia production Kowalchuk performs monologues and stories exploring the composting process as a metaphor for life, according to a press release. 🍄

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Scales and tails

New England Reptile Expo returns to Manchester

By Mya Blanchard
listings@hippopress.com

On Sunday, Feb. 5, reptiles of all shapes and sizes will return to the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the New England Reptile Expo.

“[It’s] the legacy of my husband,” said Meredith Lowder, the wife of the late Bruce Lowder, who founded the event. “About 30 years or so ago he started a snake show at the Greenburgh Nature Center in [Scarsdale, New York]. ... At the same time he was expanding the show, he started to have a show in New Hampshire.”

Since the expo started in the Granite State around two decades ago, what began as a show with only about 15 vendor tables has since grown to become known as the larg-

est in the area.

“We typically have approximately 200 tables, and some vendors have one table and some have as many as seven. ... On these tables are reptiles and invertebrates. Pretty much anything you could imagine that is safe to sell in the state of New Hampshire,” Lowder said.

These animals include bearded dragons, turtles and iguanas, as well as various breeds of snakes, geckos and spiders, to name a few.

“In addition to animals ... there are also supplies,” Lowder said. “If you need a tank, if you need a filter, if you need bedding, [or] if you need a warm rock for your new bearded dragon to bask [on] ... everything you could possibly need is there.”

Slither and Swim, a New Haven, Connecticut-based retail store specializing in reptiles and tropical fish, has been attending since the beginning.

“We bring all the terrariums, the bedding, the lighting, the heating, the accessories [and] the decorations,” store owner Paul Nixon said.

Ball python breeder Fred Kick, owner of Kicks Balls, will also be there, selling a vast array of reptiles at the expo.



Bearded dragon. Courtesy photo.



Green snake. Courtesy photo.

“[We’ll have] almost everything you could think of — bearded dragons, leopard geckos, ball pythons, boa constrictors ... all kinds of tarantulas, a little bit of everything,” Kick said. “We’ll probably have maybe 250 different types of reptiles.”

Like Nixon, Kick has been participating in the expo since it began. He’s been in business with his brother since 1987.

“The most important part of what I do is just taking care of the animals. They have to depend on us [and] we’re all they have, so we have to do a good job with what we

do,” he said. “Nothing’s better than seeing newborn babies that you helped create. It really is crazy to see them for the first time.”

Lowder said the expo attracts everyone from serious breeders and reptile enthusiasts to families. Three more shows are planned for later this year, on April 2, July 9 and Nov. 5.

“It’s a unique opportunity to see animals that you wouldn’t otherwise see,” she said. “I think anybody who would want to come would have a wonderful time.” 🍌

New England Reptile Expo

When: Sunday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm St., Manchester
Cost: Tickets are \$10 for attendees ages 13 and over, \$5 for children ages 7 through 12 and free for children ages 6 and under
Visit: reptileexpo.com

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— POOL —

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Library excitement

• Ever wanted to be in an episode of *Stranger Things*? The Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.) is offering something like that at its **teen escape room** on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. Teens in grades 6 to 12 are invited to hang out during the Teen Thursday, where the escape room will be happening in addition to usual activities including snacks and gaming sessions on the library's Nintendo Switch. For more information, visit manchester.lib.nh.us.

• Join the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St.) for a special event called **take your child to the library day**, sponsored by children's musician Steve Blunt and author and illustrator Marty Kelley on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Blunt and Kelley will perform a show with music, books and laughter all about going to the library. This event is free to attend. Visit nashualibrary.org.

Soccer star

• **Kim Chafee**, a children's author, is slated to attend the storytime and crafts event at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. She will read her new book *Courage in Her Cleats: The Story of Soccer Star Abby Wambach* and the event will include soccer-themed activities, according to the website. The event is free; register online.

Beary fun

• A special **Girl Scouts build-a-bear workshop** is opening at the New Hampshire Girl Scouts council office (1 Commerce Drive in

Bedford) on Saturday, Feb. 4, with a special gala taking place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location will have Girl Scouts branded merchandise for troop members to choose from. The gala will have raffles and giveaways while customers get the chance to explore the new location. For more information about this event, visit girlscouts-gwm.org.

Outdoor adventures

• The New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn; nhaudubon.org, 668-2045) is hosting a **cold creatures and hot cocoa** event on Saturday, Feb. 4, from noon to 1 p.m. Families can learn all about cold-blooded creatures like snakes, turtles, frogs, lizards and more, as well as meet some of them in person, all while sipping on delicious hot beverages. The Massabesic Center recommends this program for kids ages 5 to 13. It costs from \$15 per family and registration can be completed at nhaudubon.org.

• The NHS Scots second annual **great kilt skate** will be on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. at White Park (1 White St. in Concord). The organization will have Scottish tunes, hot chocolate, coffee and a few other wintery surprises. The group invites everyone to don a kilt, but dress warmly, and take to the ice with them in the free event. There is a warming house available for anyone who gets too cold. Visit nhscot.org for more information.

• Dreamer's Ranch (125 N. Lowell Road, Windham) is hosting a **Fire and Ice Winter Festival** on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 4 to 8 p.m. Take a wagon ride from the ranch's parking lot to the festival grounds, where there will be sledding, skating and other winter activities. Live music will be provided by local bands, and the ranch will have bonfires to help visitors keep warm. There will also be hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill. Tickets for the event cost \$15 and can be purchased in advance at youthstorm.org/dreamersranch.



Girl Scout Daisy Sehanya cuddles her Thin Mint bear. Courtesy photo.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Good morning, Donna! My name is Katie. I live in Hooksett and I have always enjoyed your segment in the Hippo each week. I wanted to see if you could give me any insight on my Levi's belt buckle.

Sincerely, Katie.



piece. In your letter you stated you sent information to the company and never heard back. That makes me more confident in my findings.

No matter what, Katie, it's a sweet buckle. Thanks for reading the Hippo and my column.

Dear Katie,
I did lots of research for you and never came up with your belt buckle.

I did come up with a couple reasons why I think you might have a knockoff (reproduction). First, the design in the leather doesn't match any of the cowboy themes all others have. Second, the marking on the edge, "Levi," was always followed by "Strauss." If it's not a reproduction it is an extremely rare

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

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE GARDENING GUY

Planning a garden in the lawn

Start with an outline and some compost

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

This is a good time to make plans. If you are willing to spend just 15 minutes a day, every day, from spring to fall you can create an edible showcase for beauty: the splendid look of ripe red tomatoes, multi-colored Swiss chard or glossy green peppers. It's not nearly as difficult as you think. And unlike maintaining a lawn, you get to eat the results of your labor. Here's what you need to do:

To grow good vegetables you need sunshine, at least 6 hours a day and preferably more. For most people, the sunniest part of the yard is in the middle of the lawn. A well-maintained vegetable garden can be as gorgeous as a flower garden. And if you like flowers, you can plant some of those in your vegetable garden, too.

Don't bite off more than you can chew — or weed. A nice lawn garden can be just 10 feet across and 12 feet long. Properly maintained, it will provide you with fresh veggies much of the summer.

Using string and stakes, define the borders of the garden and pry out the sod after cutting it into 1-foot squares with an edging tool or a spade. Use the sod to start a compost pile.

Start early enough in the season — say the first of May — so you can work just 15 or 20 minutes a day for a week or more to get all the grass out. That way you get in the habit of spending time in the garden, but don't develop blisters or an aching back. Gardening should be fun, not hard work. Still, it can give you a workout without going to the gym.

Your lawn garden will have two raised beds separated by a walkway. Once you have removed the sod, you can just mound up the soil to form beds about 30 inches wide with a walkway up the middle and a 6-inch space between the lawn and the beds all the way around the garden. To do this, (after removing the sod) loosen the soil with a garden fork, shake out the soil and then rake the soil from the perimeter and the walkway onto the beds.

Then spread out five bags of composted cow manure on each bed (each bag is usually labeled 30 quarts), and work it into the loose soil with your garden fork or favorite hand tool.

Alternatively, you can build wood-sided beds using ordinary 6- or 8-inch-wide planks. For more years of service, 2-inch-thick lumber is even better. Gardener's Supply (www.gardeners.com) sells a variety of brackets for building raised beds, and I suppose others do, too.

If you build wood-sided beds you will have to buy more filler than if using mounded beds. Most garden centers sell topsoil and compost by the tractor scoop, which is usually two thirds of a cubic yard of material. They'll dump right into the back of your pickup truck, or even



Adding composted manure enriches the soil. Courtesy photo.

deliver (for a price). I recommend a mix of topsoil and compost, a 50-50 mix.

If you make wood-sided beds you can place them right on the lawn without removing the sod, which saves a lot of labor. Just scalp the grass with the lawnmower and put a thick layer of newspapers over the lawn, then fill the box. Long carrots might hit the bottom the first year, but most other plants won't be bothered.

What to plant? Make a list of the veggies you like best and that taste best freshly picked. If you plant tomatoes, dedicate at least 24 inches of a row to each plant. And buy those wire cages for your tomatoes, so they won't flop over and shade out your carrots or broccoli nearby.

I like to plant lettuce seedlings all around the tomatoes at the beginning of the season while the tomatoes are still small. By the time the plants get big, the lettuce will have been harvested and eaten. Run your rows north-south, and plant tomatoes (or any tall plants) on the north end of the garden so they will shade other plants less. Buy some bagged organic fertilizer and stir some in at planting time.

Oh, and about those weeds: The easiest way to prevent a problem is to mulch. Put down six sheets of newspaper and cover it with straw, mulch hay or last fall's leaves. This will keep the soil dark, turning off the switch that weed seeds have to tell them when to germinate. Mulch also holds in the moisture during dry times. But when a few weeds do turn up — and they will — be sure to pull them before they get big and make more seeds. That's preventive maintenance.

Gardening is said to be a middle-aged sport. After all, what parent of three toddlers has time to weed? But if you wish to reduce your food costs and feed your family well, a garden is great. And done this way, you can maintain it in 15 minutes a day. I promise. Just keep at it daily, and you'll be surprised and delighted at how good your garden looks, and how much food you can grow — right in the middle of the lawn!

Henry is a UNH Master Gardener and the author of four gardening books. Send mail to him at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or e-mail him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

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Even cars headed to the junkyard have some value



Dear Car Talk:
We all have seen pictures of wrecking yards with stacks of crushed, rusting cars. What happens when those cars are EVs with large batteries installed? — Roger

By Ray Magliozzi

They won't have batteries in them, Roger. The batteries — even very used batteries — are too valuable to crush.

Regardless of age, batteries have anodes and cathodes that contain rare earth metals like lithium, cobalt and nickel. Those metals are really expensive. A recent price check lists a single ounce of lithium as selling for \$16,500. An ounce of nickel is \$22,000. An ounce of cobalt will set you back \$33,000.

The metals are also hard to get. They require carbon-intensive mining. And many of them now come from China, which presents certain national security, energy independence and even human rights concerns.

So, a big industry — or what the players hope will become a big industry — is getting started. There's a company called Redwood that's spending billions of dollars to build factories that recycle old batteries and use them to make new anodes and cathodes, which they'll sell to EV battery manufacturers. I'm

sure other companies will join in as well.

So, you'd better believe that any EV that arrives at a junkyard is going to have its battery pack removed before it gets crushed.

And the truth is, that's what happens with all cars, even those with internal combustion engines.

When a car arrives at a junkyard at the end of its useful life, there are many parts on it that can be sold and reused.

So junkyards remove all the valuable stuff — everything from the radiator to the steering rack to the window cranks — and even then, they often leave the cars lying around the yard for a while just in case someone needs a right side mirror housing for a '98 Dodge Neon.

Once the car has been fully stripped of its useful parts, only then does its shell go to the crusher. Then the scrap metal is put on a boat and sent to Malaysia where it returns to the U.S. as selfie sticks.

Dear Car Talk:

We will be gone later this winter for a couple of months, and I want to keep the battery charged on our 2018 Honda Accord while we're away. My plan is to buy a fully automatic battery maintainer for the car.

I will attach the thin wires to the battery, and the main unit will sit outside of the engine compartment and be plugged into a wall

socket. Do I need to keep the hood up while the battery maintainer is connected? My concern is that the rod that props open the hood will bend or warp over those months.

Option 2 is closing the hood on the wires. Option 3 would be to prop the hood open an inch or two with blocks on each side, allowing for ventilation while supporting the hood.

Thank you in advance for your advice.
— Tim

Sounds like you're worried about burning the house down, Tim. In which case, ask a neighbor if you can park the car in his garage. Actually, there's no reason why you have to keep the hood open at all.

The automatic battery maintainer you bought (sometimes called a battery tender) plugs into your wall socket and monitors the charge level of your battery. When the battery drops below a certain voltage, the maintainer turns itself on and charges the battery until it's full again.

That's a job normally handled by your car's alternator while the engine's running. But if your car is going to be parked for a long time, a battery maintainer ensures you won't come home to a dead battery.

And I'm guessing you're worried about the device producing too much heat. But charging your battery in small doses hardly

produces any heat.

Put it this way, if you were freezing to death and your only source of heat was a charging battery, I hope you'll consider leaving the 2018 Accord to me in your will, Tim.

Plus, there's already plenty of ventilation in your engine compartment. You have an open grill, and if that's not enough, the entire bottom of the engine bay is open to the outside.

So, Option 1 (hood all the way up) is unnecessary. Option 2 (hood all the way closed) risks pinching or fraying the charging wires and rendering the battery maintainer useless.

So, I'd lean toward Option 3. If the unlatched hood doesn't leave enough room to slip in the wires, then prop both sides of the hood by an inch or two with a couple of wooden blocks.

Or just run the wires up from under the car. You can route them around the engine, attach them to the battery, close the hood completely and forget about it.

But make sure you put a "Just Married" sign on the battery maintainer. That way, if you forget about it when you return in a few months and drive off, dragging it behind you, at least you'll get a few honks and congratulatory thumbs up.

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KRYSTYL JENKINS

CERTIFIED PARALEGAL, PROFESSIONAL OF HR AND MEDIATOR

Krystyl Jenkins owns her own business, Paralegal Solutions, based in Derry, in which she provides services as a certified paralegal, certified professional of HR, trained mediator and online business manager to clients throughout New Hampshire.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

I'm a jack of all trades. ... I help individuals start up or expand their own business or nonprofit, and I assist them with translating legalese and navigating the legal process. While I'm not an attorney and cannot give legal advice, I can help them fill out the basic forms and understand the general legal process for most types of legal cases. For small businesses, I could be handling their social media, monthly newsletters or blog posts or assisting with HR matters as needed, which

could include drafting or updating employee handbooks and training manuals and such. For attorneys, I generally handle document drafting, filing and other general paralegal tasks. As a mediator, I assist parties in coming to a resolution of the issue that brought them to me — or at least we try to come to a resolution.

How long have you had this job?

I've been a certified paralegal since 2008 and a certified professional of HR and mediator since 2020.

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

I kind of fell into it. When I was just a paralegal, I had been assisting friends and family in navigating the legal system and translating legalese for a while, and I realized I could do more than that. I set up Paralegal Solutions in 2018, but didn't really do much with it until 2020 when I had a friend ask me to help them start a business. Then, someone else wanted to expand their business into another state, and after that I helped a client start a nonprofit and receive their IRS 501(c)(3) certification.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I started with a B.S. in equine science and then gained a B.S. in paralegal studies. Along the way, I gained a Professional of HR certification and completed mediator training. I have 15 years of experience as a certified paralegal and running offices.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

If I'm just working at home, I'm dressed pretty casual. If I'm meeting a client in person, I'll aim for business casual.



Krystyl Jenkins. Courtesy photo.

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

That nothing is ever locked into stone, and the road is never flat.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

Communication is key.

What was the first job you ever had?

My first job was probably babysitting. I remember taking the American Red Cross babysitting course and then babysitting neighborhood children. That expanded when I began doing a paper route in the neighborhood.

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

Never stop learning. — Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: *in Death* series by J.D. Robb

Favorite movie: There are way too many to choose from.

Favorite music: I'm pretty partial to Halestorm.

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite thing about NH: New Hampshire has a little bit of everything.

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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Greek eats and happenings:** Join Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (68 N. State St., Concord) for its next boxed **Greek dinner to go**, a drive-thru takeout event on Sunday, Feb. 12, from noon to 1 p.m. Now through Wednesday, Feb. 8, orders are being accepted for boxed meals featuring dinners of beef stew with orzo, a Greek salad and a dinner roll for \$20 per person. The event is drive-thru and takeout only — email ordermygreekfood@gmail.com or call 953-3051 to place your order. In preparation for the Big Game — on Sunday, Feb. 12 — the church will be hosting its second annual **Soup Bowl Sunday of Caring** competition on Sunday, Feb. 5, sponsored by the Mother Maria of Paris Outreach Ministries. Participants will get to taste soups made by local parishioners and vote on their favorite, with prizes awarded to the winner. Donations will be accepted to benefit local charities fighting hunger. Additionally, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is hoping to revive its annual **Greek food festival**, to take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 — the first meeting on preparations for the event is due to take place on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m., according to the church newsletter. Visit holyltrinitynh.org.

• **Tastes for a cause:** Get your tickets now to **Crafts, Drafts & Barrels**, an annual tasting benefit to support Concord Hospital's Cardiovascular Institute. Sponsored by Martignetti Companies of Northern New England, the event is due to return to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord) on Friday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., and will feature beer, wine, spirit and mocktail samples from area breweries, vineyards and distilleries. Also included are a variety of small bites provided by local restaurants, as well as a silent auction and a chef's tasting with Corey Fletcher, owner of Revival Kitchen & Bar. Tickets start at \$75 general admission. Visit givetv.concordhospital.org.

• **A new restaurant family member:** **The Kitchen on River Road** (1362 River Road, Manchester) is now part of the Chopscotch Hospitality Group family, the restaurant group that owns the Hanover Street Chophouse and The Crown Tavern, administrative assistant Mairin MacDonald confirmed. The deli-style spot offers fresh baked goods, butcher meats and specialty pantry items, along with beer, wine and oven-ready meals to go. Online ordering is also now available for pickup within 25 minutes — the menu includes sandwiches and paninis made to order until 4 p.m. each day, along with soups, salads and more. The Kitchen on River Road is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit thekitchenr.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram @thekitchenonriverroad or call 782-8325. 🍷

FOOD

Love bites

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special dinner or sweet treat

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Valentine's Day is almost here, so if you're looking for a local spot to dine out with your special someone (or get your meal to go), or you want to give the gift of gourmet chocolates or sweet treats like chocolate-dipped strawberries, check out this list of New Hampshire businesses working hard to help you mark the occasion.

Since Feb. 14 falls on a Tuesday this year, several local eateries are electing to celebrate Valentine's Day the Saturday or Sunday before. Others are choosing to offer special menus on other days throughout the preceding week and weekend, or are opening their doors on weekdays they're usually closed. Where applicable, we've indicated the exact dates for each. Chocolatiers, candy shops and bakers with special offerings of their own have also been included — just be sure to contact the establishment directly for the most up-to-date availability. For Seacoast-area venues, see the end of the online version of this round up at hippopress.com.

Did we miss any local restaurants offering special Valentine's Day dinners that you know about? Tell us about it at food@hippopress.com and we can include a mention in the next issue.

• **603 Charcuterie** (603charcuterie.com) is taking orders for a variety of specials for Valentine's Day, including three-tiered charcuterie boards of New Hampshire-made cheeses and other products; four-, nine- or 18-sized packs of chocolate-covered strawberries; personalized heart-shaped wooden charcuterie boards, and do-it-yourself Valentine's cookie kits. Pre-order online for pickup at The Factory on Willow (252 Willow St., Manchester) on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 12, from noon to 3 p.m., or Monday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

• **All Real Meal** (87 Elm St., Manchester, 782-3014, allrealmeal.com) is taking orders for romantic five-course dinners for two, complete with reheating instructions, to be delivered to your door on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Included items are fresh baked rolls with lavender honey butter, butternut squash and bourbon bisque, winter salad with organic greens, spinach and berries, tender slow-cooked roast beef, Marry Me chicken, cheddar mashed potatoes, roasted veggies and red velvet cake and creme brulee cheesecake for dessert. The cost is \$95 and orders are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

• **Alpine Grove Banquet Facility** (19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, 882-9051, alpinegrove.com) will host a special Valentine's Day candlelight dinner and dance on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The five-course dinner will include assorted hors d'oeuvres, a seasonal house salad and strawberry lemon sorbet, followed by your choice of an entree (Champagne airline breast of chicken, duet of filet mignon and lobster tail crown cab-

ernet sauvignon demi glace, scallops and shrimp in a savory white wine cream sauce, cedar plank-glazed Norwegian salmon or butternut squash ravioli with a Frangelico cream sauce) and dessert (petit fours or chocolate-covered strawberries). Along with the dinner, there will be a cash bar, and music and dancing beginning at 8 p.m. The cost is \$160 per person before Feb. 5 and \$180 after Feb. 5. Reservations are required.

• **Atkinson Resort & Country Club** (85 Country Club Drive, Atkinson, 362-8700, atkinsonresort.com) will hold a special Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. featuring a prime rib dinner buffet and live music by the Brandy Band. Tickets are \$70 per person general admission and \$175 VIP admission, which includes a complimentary bottle of Champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries. You can also order a Valentine's package for \$350, which includes a private table for two, an overnight stay at the resort and a complimentary breakfast for two at Merrill's Tavern the next morning. Valentine's Day specials at the restaurant will also include scallops and bacon, arancini, confit duck leg, veal osso buco, filet and lobster, profiteroles and raspberry and blood orange sorbet garnished with fresh mint.

• **Averill House Vineyard** (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, averillhousevineyard.com) will host a special Valentine's celebration featuring a five-course chocolate-infused dinner with wine pairings. Two nights are available — Saturday, Feb. 11, or Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 6:30 p.m. — with party sizes of up to three indoors or four to eight out on the vineyard's gazebo or inside one of the igloos. Courses will include smoked salmon tartar, beet and fried goat cheese salad, lobster-stuffed ravioli, coffee and chocolate-crusted grilled petite sirloin and strawberry shortcake mousse for dessert. Tickets are \$89 per person (event is 21+ only) and reservations are required.

• **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com) is taking orders for milk, white or semisweet chocolate-dipped strawberries, cherry chocolate cheesecake, chocolate molten lava cake, crispy cream puffs with fresh fruit, chocolate mousse gâteau, shortbread hearts, cupcakes (Champagne, chocolate raspberry, red velvet, chocolate truffle and merlot) and more. They're also offering Valentine's samplers, featuring truffles, cannoli and dip, chocolate-dipped strawberries, heart-shaped shortbread cookies, mini

chocolate cupcakes with whipped cream dip and roses. The shop is normally closed on Tuesdays but will be open on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Bearded Baking Co.** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150; 580 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6878; beardedbaking.com) is taking orders for 4-inch bento box mini heart cakes for Valentine's Day (serving two — flavor options include chocolate, vanilla or red velvet) in addition to chocolate-covered strawberries in quantities of six or 12. Order by Feb. 7. Pickups will be on Saturday, Feb. 11. Both locations will



The Bakeshop on Kelley Street.

also have a variety of seasonal grab-and-go items in store starting Feb. 11, like cupcakes, red velvet whoopie pies and red velvet cheesecake brownies.

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will serve a special four-course prix fixe menu for Valentine's Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14, with seating times from 5 to 9:30 p.m. The meal will include your choice of an appetizer (New Hampshire oysters, pancetta and pea arancini, steak tuna tartare miso butter poached hake or cauliflower bisque); a salad (Lola Rosa or Boston bibb); an entree (savory lobster risotto, grilled filet mignon, Dunk's mushroom and spinach lasagna, New England seafood "Thai hot pot," Vernon Family Farm chicken statler or herb-crusted lamb rack); and a dessert (red velvet cake, coffee creme brulee, lemon semifreddo, galette frangipane, chocolate financier, a sweet and salty dessert board for two, or the Inn's famous sweet-heart chocolate bag to share). The cost is \$125 per person and reservations are required.

• **Birch Wood Vineyards** (199 Rockingham Road, Derry, 965-4359, birchwoodvineyards.com) will hold a special Valentine's Day four-course dinner with wine pairings and a cocktail reception on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 5 to 9 p.m. Courses will include tomato basil soup, baby field greens with Craisins, candied walnuts, goat cheese and a raspberry honey vinaigrette, your choice of an entree (a duet of beef Wellington with baked stuffed shrimp soubise potatoes and lemon Parmesan asparagus, or eggplant Napoleon with quinoa salad, marinara, balsamic reduction and basil pesto), and dessert du jour. The cost is \$90 per person (\$115 per person with the wine pairings) and a cash bar will also be available. Reservations are required — tickets will remain on sale through Feb. 5.

• **Bistro 603** (345 Amherst St., Nashua, 722-

CONTINUED ON PG 24 ▶

Flavors of Puerto Rico

Salem's Rice & Beans 603 gets new owner, menus



By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

Last year was eventful for longtime Manchester-area food trucker Tony Elias. He became an official mobile food vendor for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats as owner of the Superstar Tacos trailer, while his other truck, The Spot To Go, was hired to cook on the set of *Madame Web*, an upcoming Marvel film shot just outside Boston.

As 2022 came to an end Elias announced his newest venture: his first brick-and-mortar restaurant. He's the new owner of Rice & Beans 603, which reopened Jan. 14 on Route 28 in Salem with his menu of scratch-cooked Puerto Rican street foods.

Elias said he met the eatery's former owners last year while he was a vendor at Tuscan Village.

"They had a growing family, and I mean, in the restaurant business, it just requires you all the time, 24/7," he said. "So in their eyes, it became kind of selfish to their girls. But they called me up one day and said, 'We're thinking about selling, would you be interested,' and I mean, I just couldn't let this opportunity go."

A native of Philadelphia, Elias got his start in the food truck world when he launched the Made With Love 603 trailer in Manchester in 2014. He's known for items like beef and chicken empanadas, as well as combo plates with pork, rice and beans, and Puerto Rican jibaritos, or fried plantain sliders with pork, cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo ketchup. Elias's Puerto Rican tacos and canoas (roasted yellow sweet plantains sliced down the middle — like a canoe — and stuffed with beef, melted cheese, cilantro and an aioli) are also huge hits.



Photos courtesy of Tony Elias of Rice & Beans 603 in Salem.

These are among the many items Elias is now also offering at Rice & Beans 603, although he did decide to keep some staples the former owners had, like rice bowls and fried and stewed chicken.

"I'm keeping a good amount of the stuff they previously had, [but] just doing my flavors and interpretation of it," he said. "The menu has a lot of stuff from the food truck that I've integrated, so I've kind of combined both of them. ... The rice bowls, though, ended up becoming their biggest hits, so I mean I figured I'd be stupid to take those off."

Elias said he intends to continue slinging tacos at Fisher Cats home games once the 2023 season begins in mid-April. As for his larger, drivable food truck, the plan is for him to reserve that one for larger events and bookings — he usually gets hired by Recycled Percussion, for instance, during the band's annual round of shows.

A professional wrestler in his former life — a member of a two-man tag team called The Big Islanders — Elias said his experience with the Fisher Cats has even unexpectedly brought him out of retirement.

"The [front] office people at the Fisher Cats are actually fanatics of wrestling," he said. "So when they found out I was a wrestler, that was kind of the cherry on top for them. They ended up doing Wrestling Nights at the stadium. ... What gets me is that I caught the itch for it again, so now I'm actually doing a seven-city tour that I got to fit into my crazy daily schedule." 🍷

Rice & Beans 603

Where: 288 N. Broadway, Unit D, Salem
Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

More info: Find them on Facebook and Instagram @riceandbeans603 or call 890-1626

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6362, bistro603nashua.com) will serve a special features menu for Valentine's Day from Friday, Feb. 10, through Tuesday, Feb. 14, during which the eatery's regular menus will also be available. Reservations can be made online or via phone.

- **Bite Me Kupcakez** (4 Mound Court, Merrimack, 674-4459, bitemekupcakez.com) is taking orders for a variety of specialty items for Valentine's Day, like dairy-free breakfast in bed platters, featuring two Belgian waffles, two cinnamon buns, two doughnuts and fresh fruit available for waffle toppings. Also available to order are six-pack Valentine's Day cupcakes, chocolate-covered strawberries or heart-shaped whoopie pies, cookie boxes, mini heart-shaped cakes, and an "ultimate Valentine's Day" box, featuring two chocolate-covered strawberries, two cookies, two heart-shaped whoopie pies and two Valentine's Day-themed cupcakes. Order by Feb. 3.

- **Blue Bear Inn** (534 Mountain Road, Frankestown, 808-0174, bluebearinn.com) will serve a special five-course dinner with wine pairings for Valentine's Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14 — courses will include marrow toast, oysters on the half shell, pasta nero di seppia (pasta with squid ink), braised beef short ribs and creme brulee. The cost is \$135 per person and reservations are required.

- **Buckley's Market & Cafe** (9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522, find them on Facebook @ buckleysmarketcafehollis) is taking orders for heat-and-eat Valentine's Day takeout dinner boxes for two, featuring a shrimp cocktail, a surf and turf entree with pan-seared filet mignon and crab cake, roasted potatoes, spinach, tomatoes, Madeira demi-glace and remoulade, chocolate and raspberry mousse cups garnished with fresh berries, and a bottle of Prima prosecco. The cost is \$140 per box, or \$125 without the bottle of wine. Order by Feb. 8. Pickups will be on Monday, Feb. 13, or Tuesday, Feb. 14, after 10 a.m.

- **Caroline's Fine Food** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 637-1615, carolinesfood.com) is taking orders for romantic dinners for two, featuring your choice of an entree (beef tenderloin with a port demi glace, roasted duck breast with a cherry gastrique or horseradish-encrusted salmon), along with your choice of pot de creme or baby lemon cake for dessert. Sweet and savory dessert boards are also available to order a la carte. Order by Feb. 10.

- **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888, chunkys.com) is teaming up with chef Keith Sarasin and his team at The Farmer's Dinner for a five-course kitchen takeover dinner and screening of the 1998 Adam Sandler film *The Wedding Singer*, happening on Tuesday, Feb. 14. As of Jan. 24, tickets were still available — VIP ticket holders arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a "secret chef appetizer" and complimentary craft beer or wine. Non-VIP purchasers arrive at 6 p.m., with the movie starting at 7 p.m. Before the movie begins, Sarasin will speak about the locally sourced menu. The cost is \$75 per person and includes both the dinner and the movie. Vegetarian and wine pairing options are also available.

- **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) will serve a special three-course prix fixe menu for Valentine's

Day on Sunday, Feb. 12, with seatings from 4 to 8 p.m. The meal will include your choice of a first course (coconut curried squash soup, New England seafood chowder, heirloom beet salad, organic frisee salad or potato, roast garlic and goat cheese pierogi or Dutch meatballs); an entree (roasted hen in citrus and bay leaves, Burgundy-braised lamb shank, seared tenderloin, heirloom squash and goat cheese maultaschen or pan-roasted Faroe Island salmon); and a dessert (chocolate fondue for two, chocolate trio, passion fruit panna cotta, caramelized pineapple brown butter cake or sorbet duo). The cost is \$85 per person.

- **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, 654-2631, copperkettletogo.com) will serve a special four-course meal for Valentine's Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. Courses will include minestrone soup, arugula winter salad, your choice of an entree (braised short ribs with mashed red potatoes and carrots, or homemade ricotta gnocchi with scallops in a lemon butter white wine sauce with capers); and two options to choose from for a dessert. The cost ranges from \$64.95 to \$68.95 per person (depending on which entree you choose), and specialty drinks can also be purchased at the time of seating.

- **Cotton** (75 Arms St., Manchester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com) will be celebrating Valentine's Day with some seasonal specials on Tuesday, Feb. 14, and Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., in addition to its regular menu on both of those nights.

- **The Cozy Tea Cart** (249-9111, thecozyteacart.com) will hold a Valentine's Day afternoon tea tasting on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Gatherings at The Colonel Shepard House (29 Mont Vernon St., Milford). In addition to a selection of fine quality teas, there will be assorted tea breads, sandwiches and pastries, as well as chocolate-covered strawberries. The cost is \$39.95 per person and reservations are required.

- **The Crown Tavern** (99 Hanover St., Manchester, 218-3132, thecrownhanover.com) is taking a limited number of reservations for Valentine's Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14, when it will serve its regular menus. The restaurant is also adding an additional day that week, and will be open regular hours on Monday, Feb. 13.

- **Cupcakes 101** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 488-5962, cupcakes101.net) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a variety of seasonally inspired items available for order or for pickup, like cake pop bouquets, chocolate-covered strawberries, chocolate-dipped Oreos, chocolate-covered pretzels, hot cocoa bombs and more. Call or email to place an order.

- **Dancing Lion Chocolate** (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us) will hold a special Valentine's edition of its "down and dirty" chocolate class for couples on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 5 p.m. As of Jan. 25, signups were

still available. Participants will get to taste chocolate during this hands-on class, learning tips and tricks about making chocolate ganache for truffles and taking home what they make. The cost is \$350 per couple.

- **Frederick's Pastries** (109 Route 101A, Amherst, 882-7725; 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 647-2253; pastry.net) is celebrating Valentine's Day with all kinds of seasonally inspired sweets and treats, like Champagne tortes topped with chocolate-covered strawberries, as well as



cookie kits, assorted heart-shaped cookies, Champagne cake truffles, chocolate lover's cheesecake cups and more.

- **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (The Centennial Hotel, 96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9005, graniterestaurant.com) is accepting reservations for Valentine's

Day on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., during which it will be serving its regular menu with some "romance-inspired" specials. Reserve online through OpenTable.

- **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren St., Concord, 225-2591; 832 Elm St., Manchester, 218-3885; granitestatecandyshoppe.com) is celebrating Valentine's Day with all kinds of seasonal sweets and treats, like assorted chocolate heart boxes, freshly dipped strawberries in white, dark or milk chocolate, rose- or heart-shaped chocolate pop molds and more. Strawberries are available to order for in-store pickup only — they'll be available for pickup on Monday, Feb. 13, or Tuesday, Feb. 14, after noon and should be consumed within two days.

- **Greenleaf** (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a special five-course prix fixe tasting menu from chefs Chris Viaud and Justin O'Malley, which will be available on Friday, Feb. 10, Saturday, Feb. 11, Monday, Feb. 13, and Tuesday, Feb. 14. Menu courses will include spiced hamachi with cranberry ponzu and sesame puffed rice; beet gnocchi with duck confit, mushrooms, spinach and a whipped lemon ricotta; chicken milanese with arugula pistou, mache, pickled fennel and spiced pistachios; grilled New York strip with potato croquette, Gruyere cheese, carrot, parsnip, romaine and a beet foam sauce; and red velvet cake with pink peppercorn meringue, passion fruit, semifreddo spiced chocolate and cocoa lace tuile. The cost is \$125 per person, or \$155 with optional wine pairings. Greenleaf's regular a la carte menu will also be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, although on Tuesday, Feb. 14, only the prix fixe Valentine's Day menu will be served. Reserve online through Tock.

- **Hanover Street Chophouse** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) may be fully booked on Tuesday, Feb. 14, for Valentine's Day, but they have added an additional day — Monday, Feb. 13 — when a limited amount of reservations are being accept-

ed. Reserve online through OpenTable to see the most up-to-date available times.

- **The Hills Restaurant** (Hampshire Hills Athletic Club, 50 Emerson Road, Milford, 673-7123, hampshirehills.com/the-hills-restaurant) will host a special Valentine's Day dinner and dance event on Saturday, Feb. 11 — a three-course meal will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m., followed by dancing and lessons from 7 to 10 p.m. with the Royal Palace Dance Studio. Dinner courses will include smoked sugar beet and heart of palm with scallion, arugula and a charred citrus vinaigrette; your choice of an entree (red wine-braised pork osso buco, or roasted root vegetable tart); and vanilla bean cheesecake with red berry coulis and blush chantilly cream for dessert. Tango and bachata performances and lessons will follow, in addition to some time for open dancing. The cost is \$80 per person (\$75 for Hampshire Hills members). Reserve online through Resy.

- **LaBelle Winery Derry** (14 Route 111, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will host a special Valentine's soiree dinner and dance party on Saturday Feb. 11, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The evening will include a three-course dinner featuring a green salad with roasted root vegetables and a molasses red wine vinaigrette; your choice of an entree (chicken cordon bleu with mustard and Gruyere cheese, herbed duchess potatoes, braised kale and lemon veloute, or za'atar dusted cauliflower steak) and chocolate pot de creme with whipped cream and a chocolate-covered strawberry. Jazz cover group the KTO Band will perform live, and the dance floor will be open during the evening. A full bar will be featured, with wine, cocktails, beer and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Tickets are \$80 per person (event is 21+ only) and reservations are required.

- **Luna Bistro** (254 N. Broadway, Salem, 458-2162, luna-bistro.com) will serve a special Valentine's Day four-course dinner with wine pairings, live music, comedy and dancing — it's all happening on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. Courses will include grilled hearts of romaine with chilled crab meat, Parmesan wafer and passion fruit vinaigrette; pappardelle with guanciale, shallots, roasted garlic cognac cream sauce and grated Parmesan; Tuscan pork skewers with zucchini, squash, bell pepper, red onion and tomato and mushroom polenta; and chocolate lava cake with fresh whipped cream and chocolate-covered strawberries for dessert. All courses will be accompanied by Banfi wines. The evening will include live music by Joey Canzano, singing love songs from Elvis, Neil Diamond and others, along with comedy from Jason Merrill and magic by Phil Volonino. The cost is \$125 per person.

- **Michaela's Sweets Gluten Free Bakery** (Hooksett, michaelassweets.com) is taking orders for several specialty items for Valentine's Day, including cupcakes and whoopie pies (strawberry, red velvet, Valentine funfetti, chocolate-salted caramel and white chocolate raspberry); cake pops, available by the dozen or two dozen (chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, red velvet, Valentine funfetti and white chocolate); and brownie bites, available via half- or full-sized trays (chocolate fudge, Valentine funfetti, white chocolate chip

and chocolate raspberry). All of their treats are produced in their celiac-friendly home kitchen — you can order by filling out a form online through the website or requesting items via phone. A 48-hour ordering notice is appreciated, and local pickups and deliveries are available.

• **Mola Foods** (9 Simon St., Nashua, 877-593-8157, molafoods.com) will hold a special Taste of Africa Valentine's Day celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 6:30 p.m. — as of Jan. 25, tickets were still available. Guests will be treated to a culinary tour of Cameroon, Ethiopia and Morocco, and the dishes will be paired with wine from Brookline's Averill House Vineyard. Live music will be provided by Rabiha Shabazz. The cost is \$50 per person and the dress code is semi-formal.

• **Pearls Candy & Nuts** (58 Range Road, Windham, 893-9100, pearlscandynh.com) is celebrating Valentine's Day with specialty sweets and treats like gourmet chocolate heart boxes, conversation hearts, red- or silver-foiled milk chocolate hearts and more.

• **Presto Craft Kitchen** (168 Amory St., Manchester, 606-1252, prestocraftkitchen.com) is taking orders for four-course Valentine's Day dinners for two, featuring charcuterie boxes of domestic and imported cheeses, Italian meats, berries, crackers and other accompaniments, along with your choice of a salad (Caesar, field green with vinaigrette or caprese with balsamic Greek); an entree (sirloin Marsala over penne, chicken Parmesan over penne, heart ravioli with vodka sauce, shrimp scampi over linguine, roast filet with mushroom risotto and roasted Brussels sprouts, or cranberry cornbread-stuffed chicken and gravy with roast potato and carrots); and two desserts (triple chocolate cake, tiramisu, red velvet cake, Snickers cheesecake, chocolate-covered berries, lemon mascarpone cake, pistachio cake, macaroons and strawberry New York cheesecake). You can also order some a la carte desserts, like jumbo chocolate-covered strawberries, giant breakable chocolate hearts filled with desserts and candies, mini red velvet cake, Oreo cheesecake truffle pops and chocolate-covered Oreos. Order by Feb. 8. Pickups will be on Friday, Feb. 10, or Monday, Feb. 13.

• **Rambling House Food & Gathering** (57 Factory St., Suite A, Nashua, 318-3220, ramblingtale.com) is hosting the second installment of its Legends & Lore Storyteller Series, "Legends of Love," on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The evening will include your choice of selections from the eatery's full winter dinner menu, followed by a special appearance from humorist and author Simon Brooks, beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per table for two and reservations are required.

• **Ruby Cakes** (Milford, ruby-cakes.com) is taking orders for specialty flavors of cakesicles, including red velvet cake with a cream cheese frosting and chocolate cake with a chocolate frosting, as well as "hot choc-sicles" (milk



Cakesicle from Ruby Cakes.

chocolate shells filled with hot cocoa mixes and mini marshmallows — simply stir into a cup of warm milk). Orders can be placed through Feb. 13 and are available for collection between Friday, Feb. 10, and Tuesday, Feb. 14 — select your pickup date and time during the check-out process. Alternative pickup dates and times can also be arranged via the contact page (the order confirmation provides the address for pickups).

• **Sweet Treats by Emilee** (Milford, find them on Facebook and Instagram) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a variety of specialty sweets and treats available for preorder, like heart-shaped decorated and bagged sugar cookies, milk chocolate saltine toffee, brownie or chocolate chip cookie dough-flavored cakesicles, Oreo cookie chocolate-dipped lollipops, traditional or heart-shaped hot cocoa bombs, jumbo breakable hearts and more. Order by Feb. 7. Pickups will be available at the Manchester Craft Market (inside the Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester) after Feb. 9. See manchestercraftmarket.square.site for a full list of offerings.

• **Van Otis Chocolates** (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) is taking orders for milk, white or dark chocolate-dipped strawberries (available for in-store pickup only — ordering at least 48 hours in advance is required and consuming within 24 hours of pickup is recommended). The shop is also celebrating Valentine's Day with items like assorted chocolate heart boxes, jumbo marshmallow hearts, "I Love You" chocolate-dipped Champagne bottles, black forest Swiss fudge, strawberry Swiss fudge and more. Order by Monday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m. to ensure local delivery on Tuesday, Feb. 14. To arrive within New England, order by Feb. 7 at 10 a.m. To arrive outside of New England, order by Feb. 2 at 10 a.m.

• **Vine 32 Wine + Graze Bar** (25 S. River Road, Unit 107, Bedford, 935-8464, vinethirtytwo.com) is offering a special Date Night package for guests on Tuesday, Feb. 14, or Wednesday, Feb. 15 — reservations for 5:30 or 7:30 p.m. are available for those two dates. The package includes two \$25 wine cards (to access the onsite self-serve wine bar), along with a five-item cheese and charcuterie board, and a chocolate fondue or chocolate chip cookie skillet. The regular menu will also be available for add-ons.

• **Wolfe's Tavern** (The Wolfeboro Inn, 90 N. Main St., Wolfeboro, 569-3016, wolfestavern.com) is celebrating Valentine's Day with a special three-course prix fixe menu on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Courses include your choice of Caesar salad or tomato boursin soup, along with an entree (filet mignon or pan-seared chicken) and dessert (chocolate lava cake or raspberry creme brulee). The cost is \$55 per couple. Reserve online through OpenTable. 🍷

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH DANNY PILSBURY



Danny Pilsbury, owner and executive chef of Alexandra's Bistro in Penacook. Courtesy photo.

Danny Pilsbury of Salisbury is the owner and executive chef of Alexandra's Bistro (15 Village St., Penacook, 565-5066, find them on Facebook), which he opened in September, in the space long occupied by Donatello's Pizza, with his business partner, John Brusseau. Pilsbury's interest in cooking started while he was a junior at Merrimack Valley High School, where he enrolled in a two-year vocational program in culinary arts. From there he would go on to study at NHTI in Concord, and soon got his start as a prep cook and dishwasher at the Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London. He worked his way up the ranks in the industry, eventually becoming executive sous chef at The New London Inn and Coach House, just a few miles up the road. Named in honor of Pilsbury's late wife, who died of cancer in December 2021, Alexandra's Bistro is known for offering a lineup of locally sourced, scratch-cooked items like starters, sandwiches, pastas and other plated entrees, with seasonally inspired menu changes throughout the year. "People are definitely associating us, I think, with an anniversary [or] date night kind of place, which is great. That was definitely kind of my goal," he said. "I've heard from a lot of customers too that, considering how small it is, we have a decent variety."

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I cannot go without a marker. I have one in my pocket all the time. ... I label things so much all day. We make so many things from scratch here in the kitchen, and so I don't have things coming in with expiration dates on them. I'm making all of the labels myself.

What would you have for your last meal?

This one was a no-brainer for me. I'd get a nice, big juicy steak. Steak and potatoes, either mashed or baked, [with] some green beans and a nice big piece of garlic butter.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

The Millstone Restaurant. It's right up on Main Street in New London. It's owned by a previous manager of mine, Richard Stockwell, and he's just got an unbelievable staff over there. ... They have a really good burger there. I get it almost every time.

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

[I've] always been a big fan of comedies for sure, and I just think it would be really cool to have Adam Sandler in here.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

On the rotation right now, we have a duck pot pie that is just out of this world. ... I had

never made it before — I had done some other pot pies, but one day I was like, 'Oh, we should try it with duck,' and oh my God, it's amazing. We make the duck stock right there in house, and it's just super rich and thick and dark, and it's loaded with veggies and nice big puff pastries on top. ... I think it might be one of the best dishes I've ever created.

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

I think the whole farm-to-table concept is making a comeback, finally. I think chain restaurants have been dominating for a long time now, I mean, they've popped up all over the place, and there's just something boring and plain about those places that has formed over the years. ... I think people like to hear where [their food is] coming from, and that it's antibiotic free and hormone free. ... Just that natural kind of fresh, local, healthy food.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I like a good grilled cheese, almost always with some tomato soup, or I'll just put the fresh tomatoes right in the grilled cheese. ... For me, there's just a lot of nostalgia behind it. It was one of my mom's go-to lunches for us as kids. ... It's fast, it's easy and it's relatively affordable. You can't go wrong.

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Lemon basil pesto aioli

From the kitchen of Danny Pilsbury of Alexandra's Bistro in Penacook

- 1/8 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup basil pesto (store bought or made from scratch)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon white pepper

Whisk all of the ingredients together. According to Pilsbury, the aioli can go well on everything from sandwiches and flatbreads to pasta salads, french fries or even fried calamari

Zelda and the bison grass

I know that I don't need to remind you of it, but Feb. 2 is National Tater Tot Day. I'm sure you've already put up the decorations and picked out your outfit, but I'm afraid I'm going to have to weasel out on you.

I was going to develop a Tater Tot-themed cocktail, made, of course, with potato vodka. I thought about infusing it with actual Tater Tots or french fries. I was working on some solid puns for names. I was even — and I admit this was a personal low point — considering using ketchup as the sweet element.

But ultimately I had to ask myself whether I wanted to subject you, myself, or even a good-quality vodka to this kind of gimmicky cocktail indignity.

So let's take a big swing in the other direction and make an attempt at class and sophistication. I don't know about you, but sophistication has proved somewhat elusive for me over the past couple of years. I'd like to explore a Zelda Cocktail.

You know, Zelda. Zelda Fitzgerald. The novelist, playwright and artist? She was married to F. Scott Fitzgerald?

No. Not the *Legend of Zelda* princess. OK, when she's remembered at all today, Zelda Fitzgerald is known largely for her struggles with mental health, alcoholism and a really dysfunctional marriage, but for a brief shining moment in the 1920s she was widely known as one of the most beautiful, brilliant and sophisticated women alive. And a cocktail dedicated to her is a little-known classic.

Like Zelda herself, this drink is delightful, with an unexpected challenge. In this



The Zelda. Photo by John Fladd.

case the challenge is bison grass vodka.

You might hear rumors about Żubrówka vodka being illegal — and it was, apparently, for several years — but it is available in liquor stores, if you look for it hard enough. If you aren't up for a multi-state vodka quest, I'm going to make a substitution suggestion. If you muddle a sprig of thyme when you are muddling the mint for this drink, it will add a subtle herbal back-note that will make a guest

stop and wonder what is going on. Apparently the Zelda Fitzgerald experience was a lot like that — people would be overcome with delight in her presence, only to wonder, just a little, what they had gotten themselves into.

The Zelda
 Several sprigs of fresh mint. (As I write this, I find myself writing the word "mink," which I think would please Mrs. Fitzgerald.)

2 ounces Żubrówka Bison Grass Vodka or the best-quality vodka you have, plus a sprig of thyme

1 ounce fresh-squeezed lime juice
 ¾ ounce orgeat (almond syrup)

Muddle the mint (and thyme, if you are including it) in the bottom of a cocktail shaker.

Add five or six ice cubes and the other ingredients to the shaker. Shake vigorously.

Strain into a coupé glass and drink while it is very cold.

John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer, a father, writer and cocktail enthusiast, living in New Hampshire.



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CDs pg28

- Meg Baird, *Furling* A+
- Scott Crow, *Of Everything and Nothing* A

BOOKS pg30

- *The Thing in the Snow* B

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FILM pg29

- *Women Talking* A

Meg Baird, *Furling* (Drag City Records)



This singer and drummer is well-known in the indie/retro-folk scene, having helped to form the psychedelic rock supergroup Heron Oblivion after a several-album stint with Espers. The New Jersey-born, San Francisco-based hipster has other projects on her resumé, too, including three albums with her sister Laura as the Baird Sisters, and one with harpist Mary Lattimore, titled *Ghost Forests*, that reached No. 3 on the Billboard New Age chart. This one starts with “Ash-

es, Ashes,” an appropriately titled tune recalling *Dark Side of the Moon*-era Pink Floyd in its somber, piano-driven, slow-march-to-oblivion po-faced-ness; thankfully layered with cool things, it’s made quanta more fascinating through Baird’s use of ghostly, wordless warbling. “Star Hill Song” carries on similarly but on a more folk-pop bent; it’s here we first encounter her Joan Baez-ish soprano, a thing that’s about as folkie as it gets. This stuff is great Coachella bait, but it’s a lot more compelling than what one usually gets from that crowd. A+ — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

Scott Crow, *Of Everything and Nothing* (Emergency Hearts Records)



This Texan is becoming something of a Hunter S. Thompson of the alternative politics scene. A long-time anarchist author and activist in the anti-fascist, environmental and mutual aid movements, Crow presents here a mishmash of his first musical recordings since 1992, a collection of recent collaborations, some of which feature guest appearances from other artists and producers recorded in 2016 and up through the present. He’s had several projects over the

years, ranging from darkwave to noise rock, but this one opens with a surprisingly melodic New Wave/art-rock tune, “Stardust Supernova,” that recalls New Order’s late-’80s recipe. “Crown Slow 2.0” is a dirgey drone-a-thon that’s more in a Swans vein; the very pretty “R34L Falling Into Sleep” is super-refined krautrock if you ask me. Really impressive, nearly all of this, save for several remixes tabled by Portland, Oregon-based producer Televangel, whose technique is a bit messy-muddy for my tastes, even if many would probably hear a lot of Throbbing Lobster in them. A — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• It’s your boy here, takin’ a jaundiced look at the stinky batch of music CDs coming out on Feb. 3, regardless of whether or not they should! Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist **John Frusciante** is releasing two albums, but it’s complicated, ready? The albums are different versions of the same album, one for vinyl and the other for CD and digital. The former, *I*: (pronounced ‘one’), spans seven tracks, while *II*: (pronounced ‘two’) spans 10. OK, did you get all that? He wrote the music while he was listening to experimental artists like Oren Ambarchi, Klara Lewis and Ryoji Ikeda, and the melodic parts take inspiration from John Lennon, David Bowie, Iggy Pop, Jimi Hendrix and Brian Eno. I say all this only for the interest of RHCP fans, who wouldn’t care if the tunes were all inspired by the background music to Pac Man Cereal commercials (did you know that one of the Batmans, Christian Bale, was in one of those?), because as long as it’s RHCP, with the real Flea actually playing bass and the music is sort of like Frank Zappa but not actually funny at all, forget it, it’ll be a huge album for RHCP completists to buy and put away carefully without ever listening to. Just my luck, of course, there are no advance singles to listen to, but it’ll be ambient stuff, according to what I’m reading on the internet, and it’s likely there’ll be some jungle rinseouts, because he’s into that kind of thing these days, literally for no reason whatsoever.

• So you thought **Shania Twain** had given up singing goopy Top 40 songs and retired to some 50-acre horse farm to grow petunias and count hundred-dollar bills, did you? Well you’re wrong, those petunias and horsies cost a lot of hundred-dollar bills, so she’s putting out a new album this Friday, called *Queen Of Me!* Her 1990s heyday is over, so she’s been playing at Caesar’s Palace for mobsters and all those kinds of people, then she went through a horrible divorce with her producer, Mutt Lange, so the producer for this album is not Mutt Lange. But before I run out of room, let’s go take a listen to “Waking Up Dreaming,” since it’s probably the push single, given that it already has 2.5 million YouTube views from bots and people who accidentally landed on the video while searching for “We Will Rock You” or whatnot. The song starts off with a “Footloose”-style drum-beat, and then Shania starts singing, sounding kind of bored, for which I wouldn’t blame her, because as feisty and catchy she wants this song to be, it isn’t, it’s just kind of phoned-in and limp, which means she’ll probably sing it on some daytime TV show, causing IQ levels to drop worldwide, and that’s the only time you’ll ever hear it again, not that the song is completely worthless. OK, it is, but where would we be with hilariously disposable pop art, you tell me.

• British six-piece indie-rock band **The Go! Team** are releasing their newest full-length, *Get Up Sequences Part Two*, this week. The entire album is available to listen to on YouTube right now in one big lump without separation between song titles, and the first song is kind of dumb, like Flaming Lips but with a full brass band. I hate it, but your mileage may vary, lord help us.

• We’ll call it a column by checking out British pop songstress **Ellie Goulding**, whose new LP, *Higher Than Heaven*, has a single, called “Let It Die.” It’s an OK tune, like Avril Lavigne for soccer parents, not too energetic or listenable, just right for cranking in the minivan while you drop the kid off for practice, where the other kids will give you funny looks for being cringe. — *Eric W. Saeger* 🍷

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Women Talking (PG-13)

The women of a rural fundamentalist community must decide to stay or leave in *Women Talking*, a captivating exercise of storytelling through conversation directed by Sarah Polley and based on the novel by Miriam Toews.

After years of the women of the colony, as they call their settlement, waking up to find themselves bruised and bleeding, the rapists who had been drugging and violently assaulting female community members (ranging in age from little girls to their grandmothers) have been arrested. They are imprisoned in the nearby town and all the men of the colony have gone to bail them out. The leaders have told the women that when the men — rapists included — return, the women must forgive them. The alternative is to be cast out — of the colony, of the religion, of the eternal kingdom of God.

Before the men return, the women all decide to vote on what to do. Their options, as laid out with sketches for these women and girls who have never been allowed to learn to read and write, are to do nothing, to stay and fight or to go. “Do nothing” is a first-round loser but “stay and fight” and “go” are in a dead heat with a smaller committee of women being tasked with discussing the two options and deciding for all the women of the town.

All of the women are angry, a deep full-body anger. Salome (Claire Foy), mother of a 4-year-old girl who had recently been attacked, attempted to kill the accused men and vows that she will finish the job if she



Women Talking.

stays. Ona (Rooney Mara), pregnant from her attack, has some elaborate ideas about what a post-colony egalitarian community could look like but her ideas sound very pie-in-the-sky to Mariche (Jessie Buckley), who is stuck in an abusive marriage. Mariche is so rage-filled that she’s sort of firing indiscriminately at the other women and girls gathered in the barn, as likely to yell at a woman having a panic attack or wonder about whether really *all* the accused men are guilty as she is to rail against the injustice of what’s been done to them all.

At the beginning of the movie, a title card describes the story as a product of “female imagination,” which I think you can kind of take how you want in this movie written and directed by a woman based on a book by a woman and performed almost entirely by women — the only two non-female charac-

ters with significant roles are August (Ben Whishaw), the school teacher asked to take minutes of the meeting, and Melvin (August Winter), a young trans man who was also attacked. The discussion spreads out to all the edges of dealing with gender violence and with the general oppression under which the women have lived their lives. They come from a place of very strong core faith and an organization of their lives around God and it’s from that point of view that they argue about the right decision, what their duty is in terms of forgiveness, their duty to keep their children safe, their place in the community and what they deserve as humans. They worry about their sons — how do they keep them from becoming *these* kinds of men. In some ways it is a very stogy discussion and I feel like you have to decide to go with the conceit of what’s

happening — what and how these women are arguing, August’s role as meeting note taker, the way we learn everybody’s stories. I could see this movie not working for some people (I read some commentary on Jezebel that seemed to suggest the staginess got in the way of the writer’s really enjoying it). But for me, this sort of bottle-episode thought-experiment worked — and was boosted by some extremely strong acting talent. Not only is Foy absolutely magnetic throughout, Mara gives what could be a drippy character some roundness and humanity. Judith Ivey and Sheila McCarthy, playing the mothers of Ona and Mariche respectively, are also great, showing us how these two people who haven’t been given much can use the tools that they have to fight for themselves and their children. And, for all that it dives in to some awful places, *Women Talking* is filled with some lovely imagery of the farmland where these women live and shot with faded colors that help to put you in this alternate reality.

Women Talking received Oscar nominations for Best Picture and Adapted Screenplay, both well deserved but I would have added more — a few supporting actress nods, definitely a directing nomination — to that list. **A**

Rated PG-13 for mature content including sexual assault, bloody images, and some strong language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Sarah Polley, who also wrote the screenplay from the novel by Miriam Toews. Women Talking is an hour and 44 minutes long and is distributed in theaters by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

All Quiet on the Western Front (R)

A group of very eager, very naive school boys sign up to join the German army a few years into World War I in this most recent, German-language adaptation of the novel by Erich Maria Remarque. Paul (Felix Kammerer) and his buddies sport goofy grins as they listen to a local official charge them up, all fatherland this and manhood that. When Paul finds another man’s name on the uniform he’s handed, he accepts the army official’s story that it probably just didn’t fit that guy — even though we’ve seen, in one of the movie’s best sequences, that uniform go being worn by a young German soldier when he’s sent over the top of the trench to the laundry where his blood is cleaned out and the factory where bullet holes are patched up.

It’s telling to watch all the older soldiers just sort of “yep” with their eyes as these eager new soldiers get to the Western front, cheering and ready to shoot their French enemies. After about 24 hours — of mud, of

shelling, of collecting the dog tags of freshly killed comrades — Paul seems to let go of his childhood ideas of military glory and adventure.

We catch up with him 18 months later as he and the friends he has left are just surviving in roughly the same spot where they’ve been dug in for years. Intercut with this are scenes of German officials (including one played by Daniel Brühl) trying to negotiate an armistice over the objections of the military.

This movie — nominated for Oscars for Best Picture as well as extremely well-deserved cinematography and score nods, International Feature Film, Makeup & Hairstyling, Adapted Screenplay, Visual Effects, Sound and Production Design — really does wow with its visuals. The trench warfare is an impressive blend of absolute horror and surprising beauty, particularly in the long shots of the forests and fields around the battlefield. The score is impressive too — there’s a kind of machine-like quality that helps underline the idea of the soldiers as just raw materials for industrial-scale killing.

I think the movie’s greatest strength — that it takes the time to show us the nature and the small details surrounding these men

at war — can also be a weakness in that it leads the movie to underline and repeat itself on the futility of what’s happening. At two hours and 27 minutes, this movie could have afforded to slice some scenes and still get its message across. **B+** Available on Netflix, where you can watch it in German with subtitles or with English dubbing.

Triangle of Sadness (R)

Woody Harrelson, Harris Dickinson.

Director and writer Ruben Ostlund, also known for *The Square* and *Force Majeure*, presents this satire of wealth, class and status with just a bit of gender roles and colonialism thrown in. It’s a lot. It’s a whole college freshmen discussion about “the system.” It can charm in moments but also wear on you. And there’s an extended puke and poo situation that is — well “on the nose” feels like a very “ew” way to describe it.

The movie takes a while to get going as we see models Carl (Dickinson) and Yaya (Charlbi Dean) and their relationship, which is at least 50 percent about building their social media presence. They go on a cruise — influencer perks — where all of their fellow guests are fabulously wealthy, sorta nuts and some kind of a caricature, such

as the polite British couple named Winston (Oliver Ford Davies) and Clementine (Amanda Walker) who used to manufacture land mines but now focus on hand grenades. The crew, managed by Paula (Vicki Berlin), has been told to smile through all the insanity in hope of a big tip. But perhaps they should have “no, ma’am-ed” a request by Vera (Sunnyi Melles), wife of Russian fertilizer magnate Dimitry (Zlatko Buric), for all of the crew members, including the kitchen staff preparing the raw seafood, to go for a swim.

At one point, the ship’s oft-drunk captain (Harrelson) and Dimitry trade quotes about communism — the captain presenting himself as sort of a half-hearted Marxist and Dimitry as a capitalist. It’s cute, they have a chummy conversation as the guests puke and the ship is cast about on the waves; it’s also, you know, “yeah, OK, movie.”

And that for me was the movie — cute moments, some fun performances and a whole lot of “OK, calm down.” I get how this can be a better-than-OK viewing experience (except for the puking) but for me this wouldn’t have added up to Best Picture, Best Director and Original Screenplay Oscar nominations. **B** Available for rent or purchase. 🍷

***The Thing in the Snow*, by Sean Adams**
(268 pages, William Morrow)

In the windswept snow-packed emptiness of a place so remote it can only be accessed by helicopter is the Northern Institute, an abandoned research facility. Its staff has suddenly left under mysterious circumstances, requiring the employment of three caretakers tasked with keeping the six-story building functional.

Sound like your job? No? Keep reading. It will.

The light-hearted novel is a satirical take on the modern workplace, from the mind-numbing and largely unimportant tasks that can disproportionately consume a workweek, to the multitiered and often useless health plans offered by large employers, to mediocre supervisors obsessed with maintaining control.

The supervisor here goes by one name, presumably his surname, Hart. Like his two-person team, Gibbs and Cline, he seems to have come to his job with little information; he doesn't even have a good sense of where he is, having fallen asleep during the helicopter ride.

All Hart knows is that provisions and instructions will be delivered once a week by helicopter, and that while the work is simple, he has a protocol to follow, and follow it he will, even though he often feels disrespected by underlings who aren't appreciative enough that he provides them coffee and the opportunity for "light socializing" each morning before getting down to work.

Calling their tasks "work," however, is a



stretch. It is more like busy work — things given a person to do only so they have something to do. One week, for example, they are tasked with sitting in all the chairs in the building, ostensibly to test their structural integrity; another week, they measure the flatness of the tables by seeing if golf balls roll across them. The work is so boring, as are the surroundings, that Hart has trouble keeping up with the passage of time; he doesn't know how long he has been there or what holidays have passed. The only remotely interesting thing that happens is when one morning Cline looks outside the window on a particularly windy day and spots it: "the thing in the snow."

It's unclear what the thing is as, like everything else, it's covered with snow. But Hart, Gibbs and Cline all agree that it hadn't been there before. And because of some mysterious "snow sickness" that had befallen former employees at the facility, they have been instructed not to go outside. So they have no way to check it out.

There is only one other person on the premises: Gilroy, a researcher who was part of the previous team and for reasons unknown got left behind to continue working on some project regarding "the cold."

"Condescending, pretentious, and often outright batty, he's the kind of person who eschews empathy with such vigor that distaste is not just warranted, it is the correct evolutionary response," is how Hart, the narrator, describes him. Gilroy knows nothing about the thing in the snow, either.

Nor does the "health specialist" who arrives to administer the team's regularly scheduled checkups (and haircuts) later. In one of the more hilarious sequences of the books, the health specialist informs them that they are all on the "basic" health care plan, as opposed to the premium or platinum. The eye chart, therefore, only contains five letters, whereas the premium plan has 15 and the platinum plan the whole alphabet. Also, "The thermometer's readings come only in multiples of three, but we have the option to upgrade to the premium option of whole numbers or the platinum level, which includes decimals."

But that is just a comic aside. The mystery before our caretakers, of course, is what the thing in the snow is, and how they can find out.

The limitations of the characters and their surroundings necessarily immerse the reader into the blandness of their days; we're redeemed only by Hart's occasional dry wit and sardonic observations. But then there are small, strange mysteries that unfold, like cryptic messages Hart and Cline find written under tables. It's as if the most trivial dialogue from the Tom Stoppard play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* was inserted into the TV series *Lost*.

Meanwhile, because the Northern Institute was a thriving research facility at one time, surely it's possible that the caretakers are themselves being studied as they numbly perform the assigned rituals this week. Maybe the thing in the snow is a test of their compliance? Or is it something more sinister?

It would be wrong to classify *The Thing in the Snow* as a mystery or a thriller; it's much too sly for that, and the author, unlike his narrator, doesn't seem to be taking any of this too seriously, even when he's skewering the modern workplace.

What he does take seriously is the cold. A resident of Des Moines, Adams is as acquainted with the miseries of cold as New Englanders are. When at one point the characters are asked if they'd rather have a pay raise or the temperature in the building elevated a few degrees, they opt for the warmth, which is entirely plausible this time of year. The book is droll like that and doesn't ask much of the reader but to come along for the ride — under a blanket, of course. It's a pleasant distraction for a couple of winter evenings. **B**

— Jennifer Graham

Film

Venues

Chunky's Cinema Pub

707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, 635-7499; chunkys.com

The Music Hall

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

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

• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1, 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 9, at 4 & 7:15 p.m.
• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 4, at 2 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m.

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.

• *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.; 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.

• *Tár* (R, 2022) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m.

• *80 for Brady* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 4, at 1 & 6 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 7, through Friday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 11, at 1 & 6 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 14, through Thursday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m.

• *The Menu* (R, 2022) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

• *Portrait of the Queen* (NR) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1 p.m.

• *The Kid Brother* (1927) a silent comedy will screen Saturday, Feb. 4, by the Campton Historical Society at Old Campton Town Hall (529 Route



80 for Brady

175 in Campton) featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. The event, starts with a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. The film starts at 6 p.m. See camptonhistorical.org.

• *Dirty Dancing* (PG-13, 1987) screening at Chunky's in Nashua plus a five-course dinner on Sunday, Feb. 5, with the dinner at 6 p.m. (5:30 p.m. for VIP wine course ticket holders) and the movie at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$75 for dinner only, \$110 with wine.

• *A Man Called Otto* (PG-13, 2022) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Tuesday, Feb. 7, through Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

• *Safety Last* (1923), the silent film starring Harold Lloyd, will screen Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Rex Theatre in Manchester with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Tickets cost \$10.

• *The Fabemans* (PG-13, 2022) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

Books

Author events

• **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 MENSWARE**, author of *BlackSheep: Unleash the Extraordinary, Ave-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.



• **REBECCA KAISER GIBSON** will discuss her novel *The Promise of New Life* virtually via Gibson's Bookstore (gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

• **REBECCA KAISER GIBSON** will discuss her novel *The Promise of New Life* at Toadstool Bookshop (12 Depot Square in Peterborough; toadbooks.com, 924-3543) on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m.

• **ELISSA R. SLOAN**, author of the new novel *Hayley Aldridge is Still Here*, will appear in a virtual conversation via Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

• **PETER NOONAN**, illustrator and artist, will be at the storytime and crafts event at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 11:30 a.m. to read his new book *The Bike Bus: Adventures in the Queen City* (which Noonan wrote and illustrated). The event is free; register online.

• **FARZON A. NAHVI**, an ER physician at Concord Hospital, will be at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his book *Code Gray*, a memoir about his life in medicine.

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

• **CAROL PHILLIPS** will discuss her book *Stop Struggling: Give Yourself the Gift of Healthy Living* at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 5:30 p.m.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Gothiversary: The enduring twice-a-month dance night **Resurrection** celebrates its 17th year with double bill of turntablists, including resident DJ Pet and Rev Benjamin Powers, who in addition to making crowds dance hosts a Twitch channel and is, according to his Twitter bio, a “pro wrestling sage” and “walking ball of millennial angst.” That’s perfect for the goth/industrial music event, which has Swedish mysterious band Priest and similar fare. Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m., Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon St., Laconia, \$10 at the door.

• **Beachy keen:** A mainstay at this Londonderry brewery, **Slack Tide** plays the sixth annual All Summer Long indoor party, laughing at the subzero temperatures. The jam band stretches the genre’s definition and is led by Berklee-trained guitarist Chris Cyrus, who grew up on Jack Johnson and Sublime along with psychedelic rockers like The Doors and the Dead. On Saturday, Supernothing and DJ Connexions finish the fest. Friday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m., Pipe Dream Brewery, 49 Harvey Road, Londonderry, pipedreambrewingnh.com.

• **Double down:** Boston soul powerhouse **A Band of Killers** completes a two-night run that features both versions of the group. The Friday night set has ex-Soulive leader Tossaint the Liberator; Tim Gearan is out front on night two, with the elegant duo Dwight and Nicole opening. The regional “all-star rock ‘n’ roll soul circus” supergroup has been busy of late making new music, with two albums due out soon. Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 9 p.m., Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket, \$20 at stonechurchrocks.com.

• **Boys to men:** In 1999, *Making The Band* created the formula for reality TV talent contests and gave **O-Town** its start. They rode the boy band wave until it crashed; along the way they fell in with serial crook/manager Lou Pearlman, who fleeced them just as he’d done to N’Sync and Backstreet Boys. That spurred singer Jacob Underwood to earn an MBA and get better at the music biz. In 2015 the act reunited, and they continue to tour. Sunday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$35 at ccanh.com.

• **Broadway folk:** NYC-based singer-songwriter **Eleri Ward** blew up TikTok with her unique take on Stephen Sondheim, *A Perfect Little Death*, an album released in 2021. Critics hailed the effort; American Theatre called it “incandescent” and Forbes praised its “harmonious marriage of musical theater and indie folk music, with hauntingly beautiful arrangements.” Ward attended Berklee on her way to graduating with a BFA from the Boston Conservatory. Tuesday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace, 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, \$20 at 3sarts.org. 🍷

NITE

Born to fun

Comic Cory Gee debuts at Headliners

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When Cory Gee bounds onstage, he’s almost immediately mixing with the crowd. Learning who’s married, dating for the first time, celebrating a birthday. The rapid-fire back and forth helps the veteran comic size up the audience, but it’s not a call for conversation.

He’s setting up jokes, polished over time. Like the one about why asking a baby-faced cop how he caught him while riding a Big Wheel isn’t a good way to get out of a speeding ticket, or how single men shouldn’t plan bachelor parties, and the reason a VFW hall is a better venue for such gatherings than a strip bar.

Cory Gee really doesn’t want to hear about your day, but thanks anyway.

“In today’s TikTok era, crowd work is a necessary evil,” Gee said in a recent phone interview, noting that shutting down hecklers is a reliable way to get clicks. “I love to engage with the crowd, but what is frustrating for me as a comedian is when the crowd talks to me. Does that make sense?”

Sometimes, though, Gee’s high-wire act leads to comedy gold. “A perfect joke for me is the joke I never intended to do,” he said. Like when a random crowd remark sparks the memory of a long-unfinished bit. “You just start to work it, then it all

starts to fall into place ... and it’s like *this moment*. I was not meant to figure out that joke until just now.”

Gee will appear for the first time at Headliners in Manchester on Feb. 4. He’s talked for a while with promoter Rob Steen about playing there. “I pretty much know every headliner he uses on a regular basis, and they were all saying the same thing ... ‘You’d do so well in New Hampshire, those crowds would really enjoy you.’ I’m really looking forward to it.”

He began doing comedy in 2002 at Comedy Connection in Providence, Rhode Island. The decision to become a standup was an evolution. He majored in theater in college, left early to find fame in Hollywood, but only got as far as his dad’s home in Georgia, where he got work in a professional theater company.

It didn’t last past a series of grueling rehearsals for *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*.

“I was just tired of saying other people’s words,” Gee explained. “In comedy, everything sits on you, all of the writing is you, all of the performing is you, every movement you make on stage is solely you, [and] knowing I was in complete control was probably the moment that I realized ... this is what I want to be doing.”

It ended in 2013. His employer, a well-known nonprofit, gave him an ultimatum: jokes or a job. With two sons, Gee had little choice, so he quit, cold turkey. He didn’t write a bit, go to a show, or even think about comedy for five years. Then he got an offer at a new company. It was a lateral move; commuting costs actually reduced his take-home.

His wife had only one question. “She



Cory Gee. Courtesy photo.

said, ‘Can you do comedy?’ I said, ‘Yeah, they told me they don’t care what I do.’ She was like, ‘We will figure out whatever financial impact this will have; you have to get back to comedy,’” he recalled.

He’s ever grateful for the boost. After shows, she helps him deconstruct and decompress. “I took it for granted the first time,” he said. “It has definitely added a wrinkle to our relationship from a support standpoint. Not that it wasn’t there before; I just I didn’t realize how important it was.”

Gee returns the favor by co-hosting a podcast with her. *Ready, Set, Disney* offers tips for visiting the theme parks. It helps that the manic stage prowler is already a big fan of Disney World. “If you’ve seen my act, you know I can’t stand still,” he said. “So the idea of a vacation in which I sit on a beach and just kinda throw my feet up would not work for me. When we go to Disney, I’m constantly moving.” 🍷

Cory Gee

When: Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m.
Where: Headliners Comedy Club, 700 Elm St., Manchester
Tickets: \$20 at headlinersnh.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Events

- **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 Manchester, Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 p.m.
- **Rob Schneider** Chubb Theatre, Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.
- **Cory Gee** Headliners, Sat-

day, 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 Comedy Extravaganza** Rochester Opera House, Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.

• **Mark Riley** Headliners, Sat-



Stacy Kendro

urday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.

- **Mark Scalia** Chunky’s Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.
- **Bored Teachers Comedy Tour** Colonial, Friday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.
- **Paula Poundstone** Flying Monkey, Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- **Kerri Louise & Friends** Rex, Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

<p>Alton Foster's Tavern 403 Main St. 875-1234</p> <p>Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564</p> <p>Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677</p> <p>Concord Area 23 254 N. State St. 760-7944</p> <p>Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave. 224-5669</p> <p>Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square 856-7614</p> <p>Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road 226-8667</p>	<p>Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road 463-7374</p> <p>Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946</p> <p>Dover Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St. 343-4390</p> <p>Epping Popovers at Brickyard Square 11 Brickyard Square 734-4724</p> <p>Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225</p> <p>Epsom Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road 736-0027</p>	<p>Francestown Toll Booth Tavern Crotched Mountain Resort 740 Second NH Turnpike 588-1800</p> <p>Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841</p> <p>Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230</p> <p>Greenfield Riverhouse Cafe 4 Slip Road 547-8710</p> <p>Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319</p> <p>CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road 929-7972</p> <p>The Goat 20 L St.</p>	<p>601-6928</p> <p>L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777</p> <p>Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St. 601-7091</p> <p>Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954</p> <p>Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801</p> <p>Henniker Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road 888-728-7732</p> <p>Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road</p> <p>Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832</p> <p>Jaffrey Park Theatre</p>	<p>19 Main St. 532-9300</p> <p>Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962</p> <p>Laconia Belknap Mill 25 Beacon St. E., No. 1 524-8813</p> <p>Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022</p> <p>Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100</p> <p>Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road 437-2022</p> <p>603 Brewery & Beer Hall 42 Main St. 404-6123</p> <p>Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210</p> <p>Manchester The Alibi Lounge 137 Wilson St.</p> <p>Angel City Music Hall</p>	<p>179 Elm St. 931-3654</p> <p>Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545</p> <p>CJ's 782 S. Willow St. 627-8600</p> <p>City Hall Pub 8 Hanover St. 232-3751</p> <p>Crown Tavern 99 Hanover St. 218-3132</p> <p>Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144</p> <p>Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880</p> <p>Elm House of Pizza 102 Elm St. 232-5522</p> <p>The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925</p> <p>Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022</p> <p>The Goat</p>	<p>50 Old Granite St. 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313</p> <p>The Hill Bar & Grille McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159</p> <p>KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS</p> <p>Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020</p> <p>Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St. 625-0246</p> <p>South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947</p> <p>Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444</p> <p>Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292</p> <p>To Share Brewing 720 Union St. 836-6947</p> <p>Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722</p> <p>Meredith Giuseppe's</p>	<p>Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876</p> <p>Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy. 429-2022</p> <p>Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy. 424-4479</p> <p>Milford Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St. 380-3480</p> <p>Stoncutters Pub 63 Union Square 213-5979</p> <p>Nashua Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St. 577-9015</p> <p>Millyard Brewery 125 E. Otterson St. 722-0104</p> <p>Raga 138 Main St. 459-8566</p>
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Thursday, Feb. 2

<p>Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Bedford Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Concord Area 23: Drum Circle, 7 p.m. Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Epping Telly's: Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Gilford Patrick's Pub: Sev and Company, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Goffstown Village Trestle: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Hampton Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Laconia Fratello's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m. Tower Hill: karaoke w/ Luke Skywalker, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Londonderry Stumble Inn: Charlie Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Manchester Angel City: open Mic, 8 p.m. City Hall Pub: Steve Prisby, 7 p.m. Currier: Ruby Shabazz with Fee the Evolutionist, 5 p.m. Elm House of Pizza: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m. Foundry: Ken Budka, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Rebecca Turmel, 5:30 p.m. Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Meredith Giuseppe's: Paul Hubert, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Merrimack Homestead: Joanie Ciatelli, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>p.m. Tortilla Flat: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.</p> <p>Salem Copper Door: Clint Lapointe, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Stratford Independence Inn: Joey Clark & The Big Hearts, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Auburn Auburn Pitts: live music, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Concord Area 23: Crooked Cash & Joe M Trio, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Deerfield Lazy Lion: live music, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Epping Popovers: Chris O'Neill, 5:30 p.m. Telly's: Swipe Right Duo, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Francestown Crotched Mountain: Slim Volume, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Goffstown Village Trestle: Rose Kula, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Hampton Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m. CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Wally's: Pulse, 8 p.m. Whym: David Corson, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Kingstown Saddle Up Saloon: Taylor Hughes, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Laconia Fratello's: Paul Warnick, 6 p.m. Tower Hill: Andrea Paquin, 9 p.m.</p> <p>Londonderry Coach Stop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Last Kid Picked, 8 p.m.</p> <p>Manchester Backyard Brewery: Chris Lester, 6 p.m. Derryfield: Eric Grant Band, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Clark, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m. Shaskeen: Tree Inverter and more, 8 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: BJ Magoon & Driving Sideways, 9 p.m. To Share: Tyler Allgood, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Meredith Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 6 p.m. Twin Barns: Amanda McCarthy, 5 p.m.</p>
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SHOT OF WHISKEY-6, AND BRELAND

The Bank of New Hampshire Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord; 225-1111; banknhstage.com) plays host to up-and-coming country acts in its **Nashville Newcomers** series. Whiskey-6, Boston's preeminent country act, shares the stage with elastic-voiced singer-songwriter Breland. The boot-scooting starts at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, and tickets cost \$18.75, plus fees. *Photo by Robert Fraser Photography.*

Friday, Feb. 3

Alton
Foster's Tavern: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 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.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Amanda McCarthy, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Doug Thompson, 6 p.m.

Milford
Stoncutters Pub: DJ Dave O

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St. 886-8833	Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362	95 Park St. 717-8267	430-9122	77 Daniel St. 431-5186	458-2033	Wings 5 Provident Way 760-2581	841-5421
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700	Penacook American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St. 753-9372	The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway 458-2162	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030	Strafford Independence Inn 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
New Boston Molly's Tavern &	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St.	Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane 436-6656	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway	Seabrook Backyard Burgers &	Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108	Tilton Pour Decisions 500 Laconia Road 527-8066

karaoke, 9 p.m.

Nashua
Millyard Brewery: Lucas Gallo, 6 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Jae Mannion, 7 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.

Penacook
American Legion Post 31: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Justin Cohn, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Mojo's: Sam Hammerman, 7 p.m.

Salem
Luna Bistro: Sean Coleman, 6 p.m.
Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Tilton
Pour Decisions: April Cushman Duo, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4
Alton
Foster's Tavern: Amanda McCarthy, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Alex Cohen, 7 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.; 60's Night, 8 p.m.
Downtown Farmers Market: Andrew North, 9 a.m.
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.

Deerfield
Lazy Lion: live music, 7 p.m.

Epsom
Hill Top Pizza: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.

Hampton
Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m.
L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Rob Pagnano Band, 8 p.m.
Whym: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: Bernie & Louise Watson, 5:30 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Rustfeather, 8 p.m.

Laconia
Tower Hill: line dancing, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: The Slakas, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Malcolm Salls, 6 p.m.
Derryfield: Fox & the Flamingo's, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.
Foundry: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
The Hill: Dani Sven, 5 p.m.
Shaskeen: Wired For Sound, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Tootie Pa & His Big Fine Thang, 9 p.m.
To Share: Slim Volume, 4 p.m.
Wild Rover: Sam Hammerman, 5 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: David Lockwood, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Lone Wolf Project,

5 p.m.
Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.

Nashua
Millyard Brewery: The Groove Cats R&B and Soul, 4 p.m.
San Francisco Kitchen: Andrew Geano, 6:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: 21st and 1st (duo), 7 p.m.

Newmarket
The Stone Church: Tim Gearan & Jonny Trama, 8 p.m.

Newbury
Mount Sunapee: Paul Driscoll, 3 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub: live music, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light Pub: Austin McCarthy, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.

Salem
Luna Bistro: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North: Moses Irons and his Long Suffering Band, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 5
Bedford
Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 6 p.m.

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

Hampton
Bogie's: live music, 7 p.m.
L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.

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

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

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

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Salem
Copper Door: Phil Jacques, 11 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 6
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

Hudson
The Bar: karaoke with Phil

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

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

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 8:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Feb. 7
Concord
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Wednesday, Feb. 8
Concord
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: karaoke, 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.

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

Manchester
Derryfield: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.

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

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.

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

Newmarket
The Stone Church: Wired For Sound, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Alex Anthony, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Chris O'Neill, 5:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, Feb. 9
Bedford
Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: Gardner Berry, 7 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Doug Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: 603's, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Angel City: open mic, 8 p.m.
City Hall Pub: Ed Chenoweth, 7 p.m.
Currier: TBD, 5 p.m.
Elm House of Pizza: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.
Foundry: Jud Caswell, 5 p.m.
Fratello's: John Chouinard, 5:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.

HIS TURN TO SING

New England folk music legend **Livingston Taylor** observed the 50th anniversary of his career in 2019. He stops into the Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester; anselm.edu) on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45, plus fees.

Photo by Mim Adkins Photography.



Headliners
COMEDY
CLUB

**Voted Best NH
Comedy Venues**

**PRESENTS THIS WEEK
FEBRUARY 3RD & 4TH
@ 8:30PM**



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COREY GEE
FEBRUARY 4TH**



**MANCHESTER
MARK RILEY
FEBRUARY
3RD & 4TH**



**NASHUA
STACY KENDRO
FEBRUARY 4TH**

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



HeadlinersComedyClub.com

Many of our acts have been seen on:



NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Trivia

Events
• **Dirty Dancing** trivia 21+ on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com). Reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.
Weekly
• **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
• **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
• **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
• **Thursday** trivia at Yankee Lanes (216

Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
• **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechanger-sportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
• **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodys-tavern.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.
• **Monday** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.
• **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
• **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodys-tavern.com) at 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Area 23 (254 N. State St., Concord, 881-9060, thearea23.com) at 7 p.m.
• **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
• **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
• **Wednesday** trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.
• **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
• **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..



Dirty Dancing

• **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
• **Wednesday** trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.
• **Wednesday** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
• **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

Concerts

Venues
Bank of NH Stage
16 S. Main St., Concord
225-1111, banknhstage.com
Capitol Center for the Arts — Chubb Theatre
44 S. Main St., Concord
225-1111, ccanh.com

343-1899, thestranddover.com

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

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

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
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

Millyard Brewery
125 E. Otterson St., Nashua
722-0104, millyardbrewery.com

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

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

The Strand
20 Third St., Dover

• **A Night of Elvis** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Majestic Theatre
• **Pasquale Grasso Trio** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
• **Slow Cooker Sessions hosted by Jon Nolan and Good Company** Sunday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m., Stone Church
• **O-Town** Sunday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
• **Tea Eater & Lovecolor** Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m., Press Room
• **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., Chubb Theatre
• **Garcia Peoples** (Jerry Garcia tribute) Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., Press Room
• **Rich DeMare & the Ron Poster Trio** Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
• **Dreams to Stage** Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., The Strand
• **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.,

Shows
• **Blues Brothers: The Next Generation** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
• **Vintage Skynyrd** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
• **Alex Bugnon** Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
• **Breland/Whiskey-6** Thursday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
• **YunkerFunker Organ Trio** Thursday, Feb. 2, at 9 p.m., Stone Church
• **Lucas Gallo** Friday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m., Millyard
• **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., Chubb Theatre
• **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

• **Being Petty** (Tom Petty tribute) Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Strand
• **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
• **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Murphy's Taproom
• **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
• **The Convergence Quartet** Sunday, Feb. 12, 4 p.m., Park Theatre



Lucas Gallo

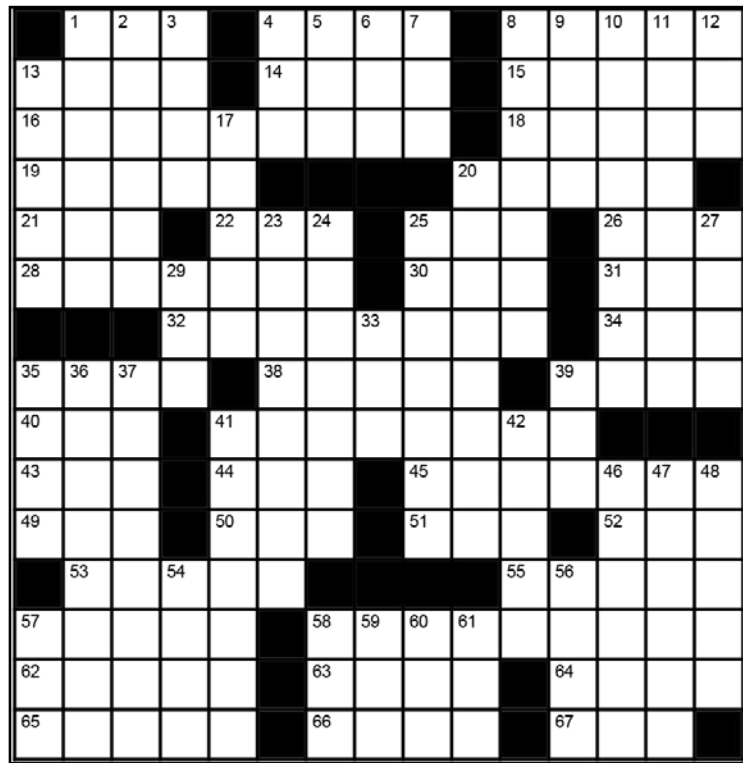
Chubb Theatre
• **Being Petty** (Tom Petty tribute) Friday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m., Strand
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ROB SCHNEIDER

Whether you've seen him on *Saturday Night Live* or on social media, Rob Schneider has never been one to hold back. The comedian and frequent Adam Sandler co-star comes to the Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; 225-1111, ccanh.com) on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$37.50 to \$100, plus fees.

PUZZLES ON MY SHOULDER MAKES ME HAPPY



Across

- 1. Bam Margera's brother's 'The Phoenix' band
- 4. Stabbing Westward 'Wither Blister + Peel'
- 8. Swedish House ___
- 13. Senses Fail hid an untruth on 'Buried ___'
- 14. Shawn Colvin ' ___ Small Repairs'
- 15. Stevie Wonder 'Moments ___ Moments'
- 16. Brazilian form of samba
- 18. LA Guns 'Hollywood ___'
- 19. '89 Bon Jovi hit 'Living ___'
- 20. 'Cry Love' John
- 21. 'Document' band
- 22. 'Puddle Dive' DiFranco
- 25. Part of 'Beth/Rest' band, w/Iver
- 26. Iconic lyricist David
- 28. Depeche Mode & Aerosmith songs w/same title
- 30. Blow away
- 31. Producer/artist Brian that worked w/David Bowie
- 32. John Denver "Let me drown in your laughter, ___ in your arms"
- 34. Famous record company
- 35. Mississippi rockers Saving ___
- 38. Steve Miller will 'Fly Like' one
- 39. 'Dwight's ___ Records' singer Yoakam
- 40. Paul McCartney 2012 reissue
- 41. Local H '96 album ' ___ Dead'
- 43. Alphabetical Jackson 5 hit
- 44. G3 guitar virtuoso Steve
- 45. 'Pushin' Against A Stone' June
- 49. Last word you don't want to hear at killer show
- 50. Metallica 'Garage ___'
- 51. Silversun Pickups blink from a 'Lazy' one
- 52. Funky dance band from the Bronx
- 53. Might grow one on your face between tours

- 55. Bachman of The Guess Who
- 57. John Denver "Today while the blossoms still ___ to the vine"
- 58. When you finally try to learn, you take this
- 62. '98 Jesus & Mary Chain album
- 63. Pink Floyd " ___ elastic bands keeping my shoes on"
- 64. "We're having a ___ wave"
- 65. Replacements hate endings on

- 'When It ___'
- 66. Reggae's 'Equal Rights' icon Peter
- 67. System Of A Down song off 'Steal This Album' that doesn't minus?

Down

- 1. Great guitar teacher that makes mirror images from beginners
- 2. Repeated request of '87 Cure album
- 3. '93 Melissa Etheridge album ' ___ Am'
- 4. To outlaw band from venue
- 5. Michael Schenker 'Phenomenon' band
- 6. 'Goddess on a Hiway' Mercury ___
- 7. 'Straight Outta Compton' rappers
- 8. '04 Franz Ferdinand hit 'The Dark Of The ___'
- 9. In New Jersey, Bruce is from the Long Branch this
- 10. These are thrown at bad artist, after tar
- 11. Moment of genius or this
- 12. What scalper did to ticket he couldn't sell (w/"it")
- 13. Beatles felt 'Free As ___'
- 17. Jim Croce 'I Got ___'
- 20. 'Collide' sing/songer
- 23. '02 Atreyu album 'Suicide ___ Butterfly Kisses' (5,3)
- 24. Lovin' Spoonful 'Do you Believe ___'
- 25. Eric Clapton "had enough" of it on '90 smash
- 27. Free carries a 'Heavy ___'
- 29. Eric Carmen ' ___ By Myself'
- 33. Bruisable item, w/bad review
- 35. 'Pass It To ___' Soulja Boy
- 36. Badfinger song about a child's sea colored eye, perhaps
- 37. Hosting

- 39. Play, as newly bought CD
- 41. Madonna classic 'Like ___'
- 42. To make buddy aware of show
- 46. What band did with paying for studio time
- 47. Decemberists are at a funeral on 'The King ___'
- 48. Charting soundtrack 'The Prince Of ___'
- 54. Canadian teen idol Paul
- 56. Cornershop 'Brimful Of ___'
- 57. Color Me Badd's 'I Wanna Sex You Up' album
- 58. Buddy Guy 'Key Don't ___'
- 59. Billy Joel ' ___ To Extremes'
- 60. 'Hljómaland' band Sigur ___
- 61. 'Crack The Liar's Smile' Drain ___

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



EASY

6×	1	2÷	
	2-	7+	
4			3-
6+			

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CHALLENGING

3	5-		150×	9+	
5+	2				1-
	2-	6	1-	7+	
120×		2÷			3÷
			7+		
3-		8+			6

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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

1-	2	48×	4
1	2	3	4
2÷	1	4	3
2	1	4	3
4	3	1	2
7+	4	2	1
3	4	2	1

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Six colors (four-letter min.) □□□□
- Three rodents (five-letter min.) □□□
- Two chess pieces □□
- Show with Muppets: " ___ " □□
- Two words starting and ending with C □□

Last Week's Answers: :: STRIKE GUTTER ALLEY FRAME SPARE LANE BALL / LAGOON HARBOR LAKE GULF POND / UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / GREAT / DASH

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

"Give it a Go" – it's been a long time.

Across

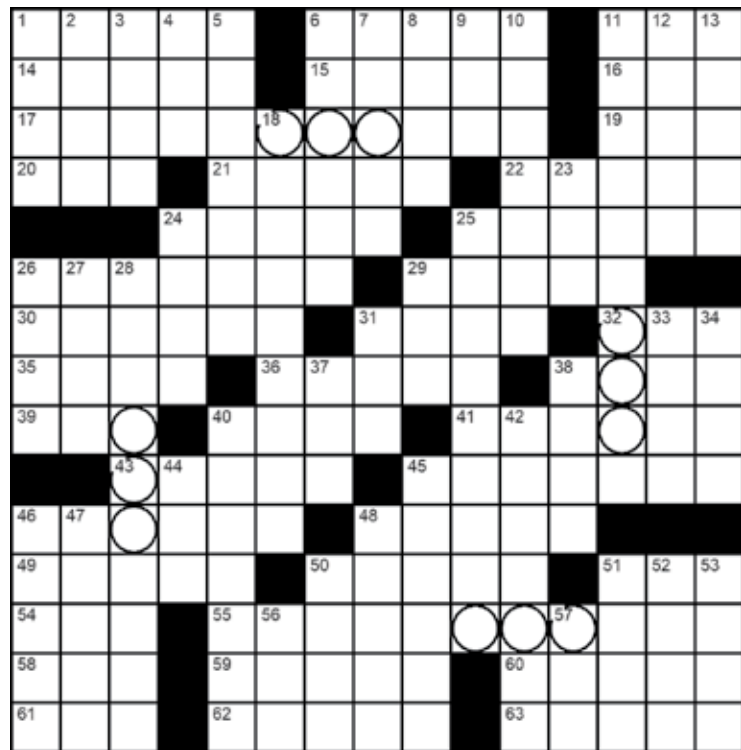
- 1. Strong poker hand
- 6. Fruit-flavored Coca-Cola brand
- 11. Bitingly ironic
- 14. Alvin of the American Dance Theater
- 15. Creator of a logical "razor"
- 16. "Ni ___, Kai-Lan" (2010s Nickelodeon cartoon)
- 17. Migratory honker
- 19. "Jeopardy!" ques., actually
- 20. "It's the end of an ___!"
- 21. First "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" host
- 22. "Of course!", for short
- 24. "Rainy Days and Mondays" singer Carpenter
- 25. Korea's national dish
- 26. School cleaner
- 29. Quilt piece
- 30. Napoleon Bonaparte et al.
- 31. "Ratatouille" rodent
- 32. ___ Technica (tech blog)
- 35. Minor damage
- 36. It comes in slices
- 38. Honor for Viola Davis if she wins her 2023 Grammy nomination
- 39. Ore-___ (Tater Tots maker)
- 40. Letter between Oscar and Quebec
- 41. Painter's movement
- 43. ___-Roman wrestling

- 45. Kind of leap or physics
- 46. Larry, for one
- 48. "You'd think ..." follow-up
- 49. About the year of
- 50. "The Imitation Game" actress Knightley
- 51. Catchall abbr.
- 54. ___ Faithful (Yellowstone geyser)
- 55. "Only Murders in the Building" actress who's less than half the age of her co-stars
- 58. Actor Kier of "Dancer in the Dark"
- 59. "In ___" (1993 Nirvana album)
- 60. "Buenos Aires" musical
- 61. "X" is gonna give it to ya
- 62. "Bye!"
- 63. Person evaluating something

- 4. ___ of Tranquility
- 5. Get some water
- 6. Insecticide device
- 7. Flip ___ (choose by chance)
- 8. Some mil. academy grads
- 9. Some proctors, for short
- 10. Hotel pool, e.g.
- 11. Question of possession?
- 12. Chicken nugget dip option
- 13. Mario Kart character
- 18. Lockheed Martin's field
- 23. "Better Call Saul" network
- 24. Highland Games attire
- 25. Ancient Sanskrit guide to life (and I'm sure nothing else)
- 26. "Star Wars" warrior
- 27. Involuntarily let go
- 28. Veruca Salt co-founder who left to go solo in 1998 (then rejoined in 2013)
- 29. Brick-shaped candy
- 31. Rapper with the alias Bobby Digital
- 33. Streaming device since 2008

- 34. Cherry attachment
- 37. Big Wall St. news
- 38. Cube master Rubik
- 40. Mythical creature with four legs and two wings
- 42. Scarlet songbird
- 44. "Arabian Nights" flyer
- 45. Rainy salad ingredient
- 46. Talent hunter
- 47. Mark in Spanish and Portuguese
- 48. Resembling lager
- 50. Bauhaus painter Paul
- 51. Cast out
- 52. Place for un beret
- 53. Old Russian ruler
- 56. Hot season for a Parisian
- 57. Anatomical eggs

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Down

- 1. Go up against
- 2. Unreliable informant
- 3. Forearm bone

R&R answer from pg 39 of 1/19



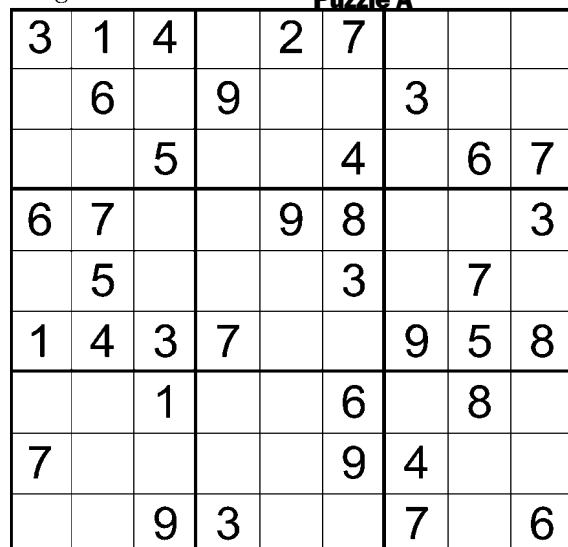
Jonesin' answer from pg 40 of 1/19



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 37.

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle A

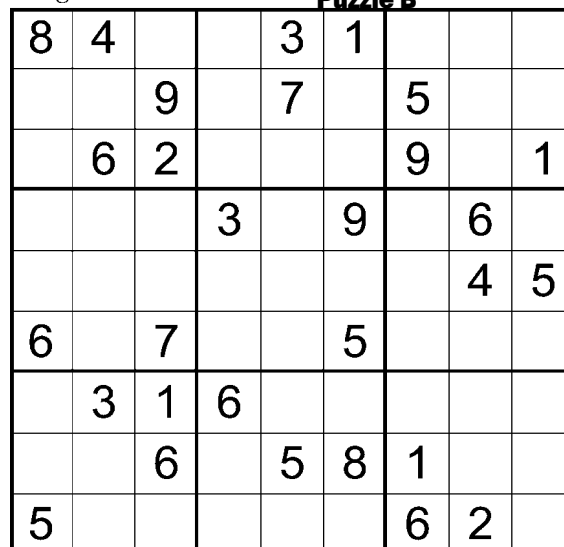


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Difficulty: ★

1

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

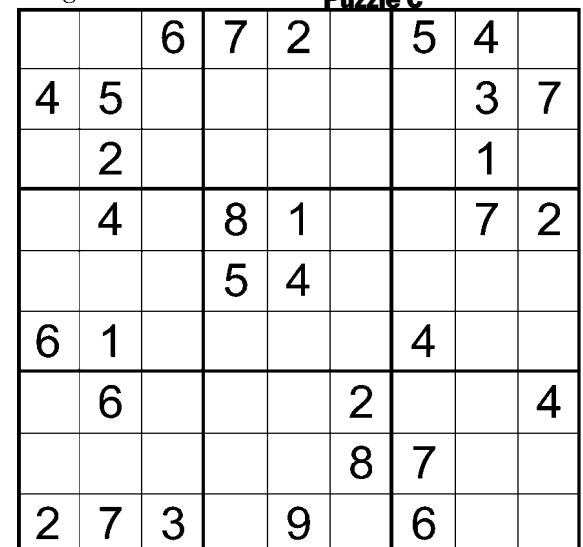


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Difficulty: ★★★

1

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C



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Difficulty: ★★★★★

1

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Go-To Dinners*, by Ina Garten, born Feb. 2, 1948.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Eggs are always my go-to breakfast for dinner because they're substantial without being heavy, but I like to dress them up, like adding spicy Italian Pecorino cheese and pepper. Dress up.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Whenever I have leftover baguette, I slice it diagonally and keep it in the freezer so I can make these cheesy toasts in minutes. Your slogan for the week: Cheesy toasts in minutes.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) The trick is knowing which elements of a recipe you can make ahead and when to combine them for the best texture, flavor, and color. All of them and now!

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) I also decided to relax my whole concept of what is considered 'dinner.' Why wouldn't the Easy Eggs in Purgatory that I would normally make for Sunday brunch be great for dinner with big shards of toasted bread? Well, it turns out, it is! Yes!

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Roasting is by far my favorite cooking method. When I'm cooking on top of the stove, every pot or saute pan seems to need my constant attention. The bottom starts to burn so I need to stir it, the heat is too high and it boils over, or the heat is too low and it's not even simmering. It's anxiety-making. Roast it.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) And if I don't look forward to dinner, I'm just not happy all day. Know yourself.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) One of my favorite recipes ... is made with ingredients available year-round: Roasted Fingerling Potatoes & Almost Any Green Vegetable. Now, that's a recipe.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) Instead of resigning myself to serving leftovers as is, I tried to think of new ways to be creative with what I had on hand. It became like a game to see how many different meals I could get out of the

dinners I was cooking! I would make Chicken in a Pot with Orzo one night and then add the shredded leftover chicken to Ravioli en Brodo to make the soup even heartier for the next night. Eventually it'll be dessert.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) You could stand at the stove stirring risotto for 25 to 30 minutes, or you could combine the ingredients in a Dutch oven, throw it in the oven for 35 minutes, and spend the time doing something much more fun. Take your pick.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Parsnips are really delicious and so underappreciated. They ARE.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) And because cooking fatigue is a real thing, even for me, I've also included lots of simply 'assembled' dishes and boards in this book that don't even require you to turn on the stove. It's not 'Avengers, Turn on the Stove.'

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Homemade tarts are always impressive to serve but even I get in a panic when it comes to rolling out tart dough. Instead, I make a shortbread crust that I just pat into the pan before baking. Nobody's perfect. 🍷

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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 Willy Wonka actor Gene (6)	_____
2 jean jacket material (5)	_____
3 genial (7)	_____
4 20th-century genius (8)	_____
5 combining genes, perhaps (8)	_____
6 genealogical resources (7)	_____
7 Old Hollywood's Jean (6)	_____

CH TE PER DS DE
REC HAR WIL SP IN
NS OR NIM LI CI
IP DER LOW NG EI

4. FIREWORK 5. AFRICA 6. ROYALS 7. BORDERLINE
Last Week's Answers: 1. HELLO 2. APOLLO 3. SEPTEMBER

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Sudoku Answers from pg 40 of 1/19

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty Level ★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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New world order

Sure, your fancy SUV may have ventilated seats and Wi-Fi, but does it have electrified door handles? The Guardian reported on Jan. 25 that a new vehicle has hit the market targeted at the particularly fearful driver — the Rezvani Vengeance. Costing up to \$499,000, the Vengeance has bulletproof glass, strobe lights, wing mirrors that emit pepper spray and no back windshield — instead, the driver can monitor a live video stream of what’s going on behind the car. Sure to win you a popularity contest in the pickup lane at your kid’s school, the Vengeance also has a loud-speaker so you can call to little Timmy without leaving the safety of your seat. Extras include bulletproof vests, helmets and gas masks. The Irvine, California, company teases potential buyers on the website: “Vengeance is yours.” Wow. — *The Guardian, Jan. 25*

Dream job

Five lucky participants will clear a cool \$1,000 to do what they wanted to do anyway: Eat cheese before bedtime. Fox5-TV reported that Sleep Junkie, a mattress review website, hopes to test the legend that eating cheese before bed causes nightmares, so they’re asking “dairy dreamers” to consume a wide variety of cheeses, log their sleep and provide feedback about sleep quality, energy levels and bad dreams. The best part? Participants will be reimbursed for the cheese! The catch: You have to sleep alone. — *Fox5-TV, Jan. 20*

That rule doesn’t apply to me

A dump truck driver in Contra Costa County, California, either couldn’t read or didn’t care when he barreled through a road closure barricade on Jan. 23, KTVU-TV reported, and ended up with his front left wheel in a sinkhole. The “road closed” sign was found beneath his vehicle, and the driver escaped without injury. Excessive rains have caused “flooding, mudslides, sinkholes and other issues” in the area, county officials noted. — *KTVU-TV, Jan. 23*

Bright idea

If you’re looking for a crafty project for 2023, the online shop Savor has you covered, Slate reported. For the low, low price of \$46.95, you can put together your own “In Case I Go Missing” binder, which Savor says “makes it super easy for the true-crime obsessed to record their key stats for their loved ones.” Those facts include medical and financial information, fingerprints and lists of “hangout spots.” One woman said she added “a hair sample just in case they need it for DNA testing.” Elizabeth Jeglic, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, soothingly says, “The majority of adults will not go missing or be kidnapped.” Her colleague Patrick McLaughlin offers some ideas for the kit, though: recent photos, the unlock code for your phone, pics of tattoos, scars or birthmarks, handwriting samples — but he warns that such binders might not be admissible as evidence. — *Slate, Jan. 22*

That guy

Dennis Garsjo, 73, of Glasgow, Montana, may not know your name when he greets you on the street, but he’ll call out to you anyway, using your birthday. “Top of the morning to ya, April 11,” he might say, according to KRTV. Garsjo has memorized more than 3,000 birthdays and says he came by the talent naturally. “My mother remembered all our relatives’ birthdays before she started getting dementia,” he said. “I don’t think my talent is all that special. I’m more impressed by musicians who can play a song from memory on the piano.” Still, residents of Prairie Ridge Village, where he works, enjoy The Birthday Guy, as he’s known, and he loves surprising people with their special day. — *KRTV, Jan. 25*

Awesome!

Vanyar, one of the equine competitors in the Tokay Stakes race on Jan. 22 in Nagoya, Japan, crossed the finish line first. However, Oddity Central reported, Vanyar was missing one thing, which led to his being disqualified: a rider. Vanyar’s jockey fell off as soon as they left the gate, and the second-place horse’s jockey couldn’t catch up to the riderless horse (although they were the technical winners). After crossing the finish line, Vanyar coolly slowed down and sauntered off toward the exit. — *Oddity Central, Jan. 22*

News you can use

KFC Thailand has partnered with perfume experts during the Lunar New Year to create what every finger-lickin’ good fan wants: fried chicken incense. Oddity Central reported that the incense sticks look good enough to eat and smell even better. Alas, you can’t buy them: The incense will be awarded through a raffle on KFC Thailand’s Facebook page. — *Oddity Central, Jan. 20*

Special delivery

During a basketball match between Duquesne University and Loyola Chicago in Pittsburgh on Jan. 25, officials briefly stopped play at the 16:10 mark of the second half, TribLive reported. At that moment, a man in a yellow hoodie walked onto the court and approached Loyola player Philip Alston, but apparently without malice: He had a McDonald’s bag in his hands, and a video recording caught him yelling, “DoorDash?” Commentators, officials and players seemed stumped about who ordered the food, but someone finally claimed the delivery. A Duquesne official said he believed the event was staged, and sure enough, a closeup of the delivery guy reveals a microphone clipped to his T-shirt. — *TribLive, Jan. 25*

Sources according to uexpress.com. From the editors at Andrews McMeel Syndication. See uexpress.com/contact

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