

**the
Hippo**

MARCH 2 - 8, 2023

**GUITAR DUO
P. 34**

**ON STAGE THIS
WEEKEND P. 14**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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GRANITE VIEWS JEFF RAPSIS
Not all reasons are equal



Every time New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation presidential primary is in jeopardy, boosters cite many reasons for keeping the tradition intact.

Among them: the New Hampshire primary forces candidates to meet actual people instead of just spending money on advertising; the state is small enough for lesser-known candidates to be heard; Granite State citizens take the responsibility seriously, and so on.

All of these reasons are now being used to argue against the Democratic party's recent decision to put South Carolina in the lead spot in 2024 instead of New Hampshire. (Republicans are so far sticking with the traditional schedule.)

But there's one reason that often comes up, and it makes no logical sense.

It's the one about how in New Hampshire, we have a state law requiring us to hold the nation's first primary.

Gee, good for us! Yes, we actually passed a state law in the 1970s, when the state's first-in-the-nation status was being challenged by the idea of a New England-wide "regional" primary.

Am I the only person embarrassed by this law being cited as an actual, legitimate reason to justify the New Hampshire primary going first? I mean, we passed a self-serving, self-referencing law, and we expect voters in 49 other states to take this seriously?

More often than not, it's a cop-out used by those unable to justify New Hampshire's role on its own merits.

"Hey, I hear what you say about our state's lack of diversity and preponderance of elderly people and absence of big urban areas and all the many other reasons it would make sense for other states to go first. But hey, we have a law. We can't do anything about being first. It's our law."

Really? Well, what if Idaho passed the same exact law as New Hampshire? What would happen? If Alabama passed a law requiring the state to hold its presidential primary no later than seven days prior to a similar state, where would that put us?

This makes as much sense as minting a \$1 trillion coin to help reduce the U.S. national debt, an idea that's been seriously floated in some circles. But that's another topic.

If anything, citing our silly state law actually unmakes the argument that New Hampshire should hold the nation's first presidential primary. After all, any state capable of passing such a self-serving law really can't be trusted to make sensible decisions in elections.

Jeff Rapis is Associate Publisher of HippoPress and Executive Director of the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire.



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ON THE COVER

10 BIRRIA TACOS
Meet the birria taco! Looking for a new way to taco Tuesday? Try these tacos made with slow-stewed meat packed into a tortilla and grilled with a coating of the consommé the meat was cooked in, producing a golden-red color. In this week's cover story, Matt Ingersoll explains this trending taco dish.



Photo courtesy of Los Reyes Street Tacos & More in Derry.

ALSO ON THE COVER It's a big weekend for theatrical performances. *Little Women* begins its run at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, Bedford Off Broadway's *Skin Deep* starts its two-weekend run (see the story on page 16), *Vanities* at the Hatbox in Concord begins a three-weekend run and *Radium Girls* from Cue Zero Theatre Company has three shows this weekend; find details in the arts listings, which start on page 14. Also this Sunday, Symphony NH joins with two area choral groups to present Mozart's Requiem (page 14). The guitar duo of Nicola Cipriani and Brad Myrick hit the Bank of NH Stage in Concord on Sunday (see page 34). And, on Saturday, the Bank of NH Stage will host SouperFest, featuring soups, chilis and chowders from Concord-area restaurants (page 26).

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NEWS & NOTES

Scholarship

New Hampshire Federal Credit Union has announced a call for applicants for its Credit Union College Scholarship Program. According to a press release, three scholarships in the amount of \$1,500, funded by New Hampshire Federal Credit Union and the Cooperative Credit Union Association's statewide campaign "Better Values – Better Banking," will be awarded to three New Hampshire high school seniors who are enrolled in an undergraduate college or university degree program for the 2023-2024 academic year. Applicants must be a member or have a parent or guardian who is a member of New Hampshire Federal Credit Union or another New Hampshire Credit Union to qualify. There is no fee to apply. The application deadline is Wednesday, April 5. Visit nhfcu.org, call 224-7731 or email marketing@nhfcu.org to learn more.

Route 101 projects

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will hold two public meetings to share information with citizens and public officials regarding two proposed projects for New Hampshire Route 101 within the towns of Wilton, Milford,

Amherst and Bedford. The meetings will be held on Monday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Barbara Landry Meeting Room in the Amherst Town Hall (2 Main St., Amherst), and Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Square, Milford). According to a press release, the mission of the projects is to improve safety and address the high-crash segments along a 15-mile Route 101 corridor. Call 271-3921 or visit nh.gov/dot/projects to learn more about the projects.

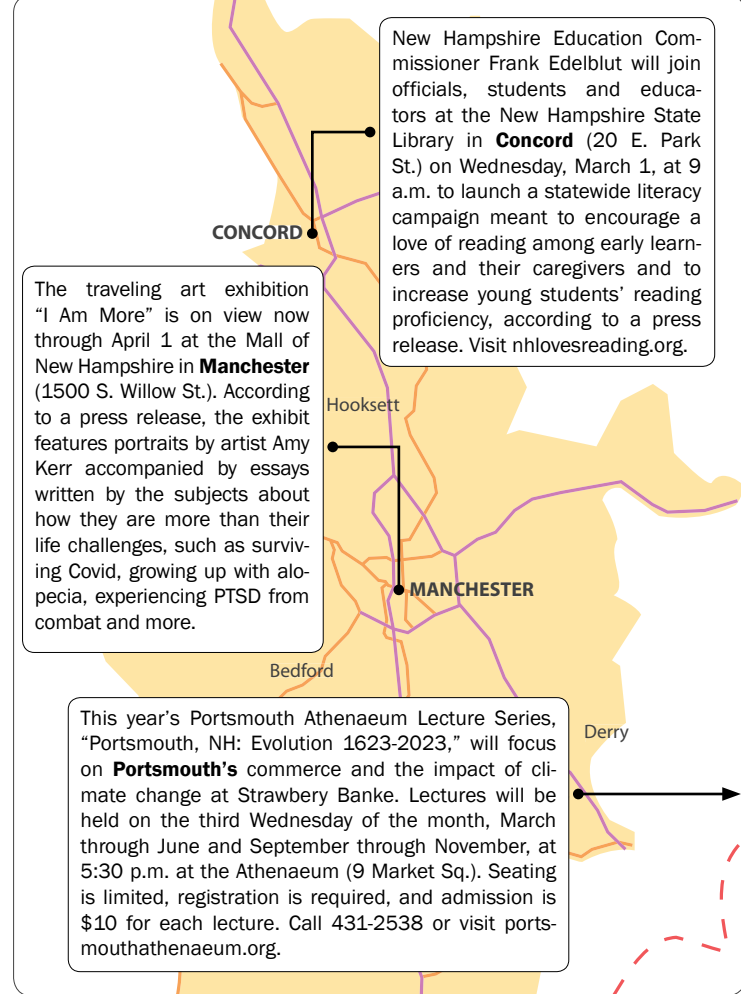
New accreditation

Catholic Medical Center has received a new quality-based accreditation from DNV Healthcare. According to a press release, the accreditation certifies that the Manchester hospital consistently meets or exceeds patient safety standards set forth by the U.S. The DNV accreditation program, also known as NIAHO (Integrated Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), involves annual hospital surveys and encourages information-sharing across departments to identify ways in which clinical workflows and safety protocols can be improved. It is the only hospital accreditation program to require compliance with the ISO

9001 Quality Management System, a trusted quality management system used by performance-driven organizations around the world to advance quality and sustainability objectives. "The DNV program is consistent with our long-term commitment to quality and patient safety," Natalie Gosselin, CMC's Executive Director of Quality and Safety, said in the release.

Music in schools

The New Hampshire Music Educators Association joins schools and music educators across the country in celebrating March as Music in Our Schools Month. According to a press release, the national campaign seeks to bring attention to music education in schools, raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children and remind citizens that all children should have access to music in school. Music teachers are encouraged to showcase their music programs to school administrators and the community and to highlight the benefits that music education can have for students of all ages. At the New Hampshire Executive Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 8, Gov. Chris Sununu is slated to sign a proclamation declaring March as Music in Our Schools Month in the state of New Hampshire. That same day, local schools, including Manchester Central High School, Auburn Village School, Keene High School, Windham Middle and High Schools, West Running Brook Middle School in Derry, Moultonborough Academy and John Stark Regional High School in Weare will present live musical performances on the Statehouse Lawn in Concord between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., free and open to the public. Visit facebook.com/nhmea.



New Hampshire Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut will join officials, students and educators at the New Hampshire State Library in **Concord** (20 E. Park St.) on Wednesday, March 1, at 9 a.m. to launch a statewide literacy campaign meant to encourage a love of reading among early learners and their caregivers and to increase young students' reading proficiency, according to a press release. Visit nhlovesreading.org.

The traveling art exhibition "I Am More" is on view now through April 1 at the Mall of New Hampshire in **Manchester** (1500 S. Willow St.). According to a press release, the exhibit features portraits by artist Amy Kerr accompanied by essays written by the subjects about how they are more than their life challenges, such as surviving Covid, growing up with alpecia, experiencing PTSD from combat and more.

This year's Portsmouth Athenaeum Lecture Series, "Portsmouth, NH: Evolution 1623-2023," will focus on **Portsmouth's** commerce and the impact of climate change at Strawberry Banke. Lectures will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, March through June and September through November, at 5:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum (9 Market Sq.). Seating is limited, registration is required, and admission is \$10 for each lecture. Call 431-2538 or visit portsmouthathenaeum.org.

Lecture series

The New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, in partnership with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, has announced the lineup for this year's Cottrell-Baldwin Environmental Lecture series. According to a press release, the series honors the environmental and scholarly legacies of Hillsborough residents Annette and William Cottrell and of New Hampshire's first research forester Henry Ives Baldwin while providing public education on topics related to historic preservation, wildlife and land conservation. "Every year, folks tell us how much they look forward to learning more about different natural aspects of our state,"

Inge Seaboyer, program forester at the Caroline A. Fox Research and Demonstration Forest, said in the release. The lectures will be held every Tuesday, March 21 through April 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fox Forest's Henry I. Baldwin Environmental Center (309 Center Road, Hillsborough) and will include "Covered Bridges of New Hampshire," "Black Bears: Understanding and Controlling Human-Bear Conflicts," "Ten Years and a Dozen Porcupines – an Informal Study," and "This Land was Saved for You and Me." All events are free to attend, but space is limited and registration in advance is appreciated. Visit forestsociety.org/events.

Correction

In last week's (Feb. 23) issue of the Hippo, the "Ready for camp" cover story featuring a roundup of summer camps included an incorrect website for Manchester Community College. The correct website for the college is mccnh.edu; for information on the summer camps go to mccnh.edu/summer-camps. Here is the correct listing for the summer camps:

- **Manchester Community College camps** 1066 Front St., Manchester, 206-8160, mccnh.edu

What: Week-long summer day camps with programs that include "Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs," "STEM Camp," "Solid Modeling" and "Robotics Camp." **Who:** Rising 6th- to 8th-graders. **When:** Sessions run Monday through Thursday or Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., dates offered from July 10 through Aug. 3, depending on the camp. **Cost:** \$175 per week.

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Citizen of the year

Manchester Chamber awards SNHU president

The Greater Manchester Chamber has named Dr. Paul LeBlanc, president and CEO of Southern New Hampshire University, its Citizen of the Year.

Q: Tell us about you and your background.

I was born in Canada in New Brunswick in a small farming village. I actually spoke French before I spoke English. There was really no work there for anyone, so my parents and my four older siblings and I immigrated to the Boston area when I was 3, and I grew up in Waltham, Mass. I went on to be the first mem-



Paul LeBlanc. Courtesy photo.

ber of my extended family to go to college. I think being a first-generation college graduate and an immigrant informs my sense of work and my sense of Manchester so much, because Manchester itself is a city of immigrants and of people who had to work hard and didn't have anything handed to them. I came to Manchester almost 20 years ago as president of SNHU. Before that, I had spent seven years as the president of Marlboro College in Vermont, and before that, I was heading up a technology startup for Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company in Boston.

We are often cited as being one of the most innovative universities in the country. That includes not only using online education to extend the reach of SNHU and to reach people who really need a degree to unlock an economic opportunity, but also being pioneers in competency-based education, which untethers people from time and allows them to move much faster. Innovating around delivery

models that work better in people's lives is a really important part of what we do. ... We have a national network of community partners that are deeply embedded in underserved communities, and we have something called the GEM program, which stands for "global education movement," and that brings degree programs to refugees. We've worked in refugee camps in Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda, and with refugee communities in South Africa and Lebanon, so we really do have a global reach. Our vision is to continue to try to make higher education more affordable and to put it in the financial reach of learners who are often left out and feel unable to access a system that's increasingly too expensive for them.

What do you consider some of your biggest accomplishments?

I always think of universities as playing an important role as an economic engine. When I came in, we had 2,500 students and were just a small, somewhat dated campus in the north end of Manchester. Today, we're a national and international university with 185,000 active students, making us the largest university in the country. But we've still always been very focused on Manchester as our hometown. ... I had this idea for a Center for New Americans, which we've created in conjunction with the YWCA, recognizing that Manchester's history is built on New Americans. It has programs for youth, language programs — a wide array of programming. ... During the pandemic, we, with partners, stepped up and took the lead with a number of things, like providing more than 210,000 meals during the first two years to kids who were on school lunch programs who might not have enough food at home; and working with the National Guard, converting the whole of our athletic complex into a spillover health facility for local hospitals. I think these are the things that I'm probably being recognized for as Citizen of the Year, but in reality, I'm accepting this [award] in the spirit of everything that SNHU and all of our people do.

What do you like about Manchester?

Manchester is a working city; it's got some grit, and, like every city, it's got real issues, like homelessness. But I love that it has such a strong sense of community and rootedness. ... It has an amazing diversity of people in a state that can often feel pretty homogenous, and there's energy and vibrancy that comes from that heterogeneous population. ... Its food scene is burgeoning. ... The Millyard is a hotbed of technology and innovation. ... People are doing things in the arts community. ... Yet it stays very modest. There's a great self-deprecating humor about New Hampshire and Manchester. No one gets too full of themselves.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I'm lucky enough to be able to do some really interesting travel. I just came back from Antarctica, which was the most amazing travel experience ever. I've been to all seven continents and 60-something countries. That's my passion. Closer to home, it's things like cooking, reading, writing. I've been going back to my writing more lately, which I very much enjoy. I've written two books in the last two years. — Angie Sykeny

What is your vision for the future of education?

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Mac Jones analysis



The Big Story – Fixing the Patriots: With free agency opening in less than two weeks it's time to look at what Coach B and company need to do to fix the Patriots for 2023, a crucial year in the "Tom vs. Bill" debate because

it's the fourth season since **Tom Brady** left the building and that's enough time to recover from losing their franchise player. So a big year for the coach's overall legacy.

There are two schools of thought about how big a fix is needed.

One says with a productive defense they can get back into the mix with the right moves on offense.

The other says no matter what they add they can't close the gap between them and the elites because the offense needs major surgery and that might include a change at QB because they can't go toe to toe with the likes of **Patrick Mahomes** or **Joe Burrow** with **Mac Jones** under center.

In any event, here's a look at what needs to be considered, starting with a focus on the QB.

No. 1 Question: If I'm the Patriots' owner, the first thing I want to know is why did a QB who was very good as a rookie take a dramatic step backward in his second season as Jones did. After that, I need to know if Mac is the guy to go forward with

Mac Jones: One theory is he's not that good, or he's limited, and **Josh McDaniels** helped mask that in 2021.

Thus one solution is to bring in someone else while recouping a couple of draft picks by trading him. One proponent of this is **Christopher Gasper**, who wrote in the Boston Globe last week they should dump Mac and bring back free agent **Jimmy Garoppolo**, in a column that was remarkably like him saying last January the Celtics had to trade **Marcus Smart** for a real point guard or they'd never go anywhere. Boy, he nailed that one.

This is the same. **Lamar Jackson** is one thing (though that would require major cap surgery). But the last thing they need is an injury-prone/slow-healing QB who'll cost three times what Mac does on his rookie contract, whose injuries derailed two of the last five SF seasons. And it would have been three this year if a circa-2001-Brady-like miracle hadn't surfaced when he broke his leg. Especially since it cost them once already when in 2016 all he had to do was last four games during **Tom Brady's** suspension and didn't make it to the second half of Game 2. Sorry, if you can't stay on the field you can't play. Don't want him.

Plus, while I'm under no illusion Jones did not have his own 2022 issues, I know what I saw in 2021, so I'm not willing to give up on him yet.

I think it was an amalgam of the following.

Play Calling and Game Planning: It's

no secret **Matt Patricia** in these roles was a total disaster. It was simplistic, predictable and overly cautious to the point where it seemed the goal was to not get a turnover rather than to make plays. It was also often done too slowly, which led to an unacceptable number of timeouts called to avoid penalties. All of which played into some publicized immature, frustration-driven sideline antics by Jones.

Offensive Line: In a word, it was awful. More specifically, penalty-prone, often porous and inconsistent from week to week. That likely contributed to the knock Mac locks on receivers. That leads to bad habits, as when you don't have a lot of time you look to get rid of it quickly, over going through progressions to find the open guy. And of course sacks lead to down and distance issues, which make sustaining drives more challenging.

The Weapons: They're below average. It's the same problem Brady had as he sulked his way through 2019 and **Cam Newton** had in 2020. They get little separation, don't do much after the catch (besides **Kendrick Bourne**) and no one puts the fear of God into defensive game planners. That was exacerbated by the play calling, because throws to **Hunter Henry** up the seam worked when tried but were rarely called until the end of the year.

Can They Fix It For 2023? It's a little of both schools of thought. I do like the defense, but, given their swing-and-miss ratio on recent personnel decisions, especially during the 2021 spending spree, I don't have much faith in the personnel department to have a good enough batting average to hit on enough FAs and draft choices to fill all the holes. However, it doesn't mean they can't do it. Plus with **Bill O'Brien** named to replace Patricia the play calling issue has been addressed.

The 2023 Fix: After one up and one down year it's too early to give up on Mac. You won't know what he really is until the other issues are fixed. If you don't believe me, compare Brady's 2019 numbers and when they no longer were an issue in Tampa Bay the next year. Help is needed *now*, so they should focus on the next three years and put whatever draft capital is needed for trades and aim all free agent spending to get ready on Day 1 solutions to do these things:

(1) Fix the offense line, which starts with getting two, new younger tackles.

(2) Bring in a consistent A+ home run-hitting deep threat/wide receiver that teams must game plan for. Exhibit A is what adding **A.J. Brown** to **DeVonta Smith** in Philly did for **Jalen Hurts**. Ditto for **Tua** after adding **Tyreek Hill** to Jaylen Waddle. Mac was better than both guys at Bama when he was teamed with Waddle and Smith.

(3) Apply whatever is left to plug other holes as needed.

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nutritious nibbles

National Nutrition Month®, celebrated each year in March, focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. In support of this year's theme "Fuel for the Future", and eating with sustainability in mind, try incorporating one plant-based dish per week, like the one shared below, into your meal plan.

Taco Spiced Walnut Veggie Wrap

Serves: 2

Ingredients:

- 2 Cedar's® Whole Wheat Wraps
- 2 Tbsp. Cedar's® Roasted Red Pepper Hommus
- 1/2 Avocado from Mexico®, peeled and mashed
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Taco Seasoning Mix
- Juice from 1/2 lime
- 2 Tbsp. red onion, diced
- 1/3 cup Hannaford Chopped Walnuts
- 1/2 Fresh Express® Romaine Heart, shredded
- 1 Roma tomato, diced
- 1/4 cup Cabot® Vermont Seriously Sharp Shredded Cheddar Cheese



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Parmley.



Directions:

- In a small bowl, combine mashed avocado, lime juice and taco seasoning. Spread avocado mixture and hommus evenly on each wrap.
- Layer remaining ingredients over avocado and hommus. Fold to wrap and enjoy.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving (1 wrap): Calories 520; Fat 32 g; Saturated Fat 8 g; Carbohydrate 48 g; Cholesterol 15 mg; Fiber 11 g; Protein 15 g; Sodium 660 mg; Sugar 3 g; Added Sugar 0 g

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX



Student-built RV-12 plane on display at the Aviation Museum. Courtesy photo.

See the student plane!

The first-ever aircraft produced by the student plane-building partnership between the Aviation Museum of NH, Manchester School of Technology and Tango Flight, finished last summer, is on display at the museum (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; nhahs.org) now through March 26. According to a press release, the working two-seat RV-12iS

light sport aircraft was completed in August 2022 after three years of effort by local students, mentor volunteers from the museum and other program supporters, with assistance from Tango Flight, a consulting nonprofit that specializes in student plane-building projects. The plane has already made numerous flights and special appearances locally and around the country.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Students are currently working on a new plane, the release said.*

Nominate your nurse

Nominations are open for New Hampshire Healthcare Heroes. According to a press release, the program, sponsored by Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, the NH Sector Partnerships and Initiative, Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center and others, celebrates health care workers in the state. Nominees may include clinical and nonclinical providers, administrators, educators, facilities, custodial and kitchen staff and others who provide direct or indirect care to patients and families receiving health care. A volunteer committee, made up of health care professionals across the state, will review the nominations and select one winner and two runners-up for each of the seven regions in the state. Each Hero will be honored in a pinning ceremony, hosted in partnership with their employer and streamed live on Facebook, and will receive a banner and customized swag bag.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Anyone can nominate a Healthcare Hero by submitting an online nomination form at nhhealthcareheroes.org. Nominations close on April 7.*

Almost showtime

The Nashua Center for the Arts and its management partner Spectacle Live will host a series of public information sessions regarding the new arts and entertainment venue set to open this spring. According to a press release, venue staff will be available to provide information and answer questions related to employment opportunities, venue renting and hosting special events, memberships and group sales and corporate sponsorships; and box office representatives will be available to patrons who are interested in purchasing tickets to upcoming shows. Upcoming sessions will take place at Martha's Exchange Banquet Space (185 Main St. in Nashua) on Tuesday, March 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Wednesday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Visit NashuaCenterfortheArts.com.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *The venue, which will be able to accommodate 500 to 1,000 patrons with flexible seating configurations, is expected to open in April and will host nationally touring musicians, live comedy, theater, children's performances and more.*

QOL score: 54

Net change: +3

QOL this week: 57

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS MARCH 2 AND BEYOND

Wednesday, March 8

The high-energy a cappella group **Ball in the House** is performing tonight at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St.) at 7:30 p.m. The Boston-based group has won several championships, including Boston Harmony Sweepstakes, and headlined



the 2018 and 2016 China International Chorus Festival in Beijing, according to a press release. This event is free to attend. Visit walkerlecture.org.

Friday, March 3

The characters from Louisa May Alcott's famous novel come to life in **Little Women**, opening today at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., in Manchester) at 7:30 p.m. Follow the life of the four March sisters (Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy) and their mother the girls grow up and find love and happiness in Civil War and post-Civil War New England. The show will run Friday, March

3, through Sunday, March 19. The shows are on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 to \$46. Visit palacetheatre.org.

Friday, March 3

The Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord) will present the play **Vanities** beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. The play is a comedy-drama that focuses on three

Texan women who began as best friends in their high school cheer-leading years, went on to be sorority sisters, and eventually became incompatible due to the trials of adulthood, according to the website. The show will run through March 19. Tickets range from \$16 to \$25. Visit hatboxnh.com.

Friday, March 3

The monthly **Super Stellar Friday** program today at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord) will look at an experiment sent to the International Space Station by Team Cooke of UNH Manchester to study novel methods of antibiotic discovery in space. The experiment looked at what happens to bacteria in soil when sent to space. It was brought back down to earth in January, and the group will let the public know their findings thus far, according to starhop.com. Tickets to the presentation cost \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students and \$9 for kids.

Saturday, March 4

Head to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester) for a **concert by Yung Gravy** tonight at 7 p.m. Called a trend-setting rapper, Yung Gravy got his start in 2017 after dropping hit song "Mr. Clean." Doors to the show open at 5:30 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$35. Visit snhuarena.com.

Wednesday, March 8

The Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) is hosting **Pure Prairie League** today at 7:30 p.m., doors at 6:30 p.m. Pure Prairie League, a country-rock group on its fifth

decade, brought the popularity of the subgenre to the forefront of the music scene, according to ccanh.com, where general-admission tickets cost \$53.75 (plus fees) in advance. 🎧



Save the Date! Saturday, March 18

Head over to Funspot (579 Endicott St. N. in Weirs Beach) for the **Fun for Paws triathlon** on Saturday, March 18. Groups will participate in candlepin bowling, minigolf and games (paintball, skee ball, and darts) to benefit Funds4Paws. The group with the highest score will win prizes and awards, as well as the people with the most fundraising. Registration fees start at \$200. Check in time is 9 a.m., and the games will begin at 10 a.m. Visit funds4paws.org to register.

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Birria Tacos

THE CRISPY, MEATY TACO TREND
AND WHERE TO FIND IT

Birria tacos from Los Reyes Street Tacos & More in Derry. Courtesy photo.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingsoll@hippopress.com

On the streets of Jalisco, Mexico, in the small town of Degollado, three generations of family members prepare large simmering pots of juicy, tender slow-stewed meat known as birria. The dish is cooked for several hours before generous heaping ladlefuls are served on plates to patrons, featuring a homemade mole sauce, salsa and a side of corn tortillas.

Crowds gather for a plate of birria — pronounced “beer-ryah,” and traditionally made with goat meat — from the family of Jose “El Chino” Reyes. Although Reyes continues to vend with his own father and son, one of his other children found restaurant job opportunities in the United States and eventually made his way to southern New Hampshire.

At Los Reyes Street Tacos & More, which opened inside Derry’s Hillside Plaza last April, Manchester couple Jose Reyes and his wife, Isabel, honor his family’s tradition with simple flavors of authentic Mexican street food. Birria is among their most popular items, and while you won’t find it with goat meat, you can try quesabirrias, or birria tacos inspired by the traditional stew and featuring beef, cheese, onion, cilantro and consommé, or the stewed broth, for dipping.

It’s a dish that has steadily gained traction across Granite State restaurant menus just in the last couple of years. Isabel Reyes said she believes that’s in part due to the viral nature of social media — the striking golden-red color of the taco shell and the oozing melted cheese look delicious in the many attractive, shareable photos that we eat with our eyes.

Birria tacos start with a simmering pot of slow-stewed meat. After cooking for several hours, the meat (and sometimes also cheese) is stuffed into a corn tortilla, topped with cilantro and onions and thrown on the grill.

The golden-red color of these tacos comes

from grilling the tortilla with a coating of consommé from the meat it was stewed in. Being able to dip them in a cup of that same consommé for extra flavor, Reyes said, also makes for a new and unique way to eat tacos for many.

“I feel like everybody at some point ... definitely needs to try birria at least one time in their life. It will maybe make you feel like you literally went to eat in Mexico, because it’s a whole experience,” Reyes said. “We do notice a lot of people that come in love to take pictures of the birria and post them on social media. ... People love to take pictures of their food, and it’s definitely helped us, because a lot of people, if you post a picture of the birria, they’d be like, ‘Oh my God, those look delicious, where did you get them?’”

Amanda Portillo, who runs Rico’s Burritos food truck with her husband, Danilo, also surmised the popularity of birria tacos has largely spread due to social media and word of mouth. The truck, which can often be found at Griffin Park in Windham, introduced birria tacos on the menu as a special last fall to resounding success.

“At first it was once in a while, but [they’ve been] in such popular demand that we have to make them much more often than before,” Portillo said. “It’s a unique entree, and the texture with the broth is different from most Mexican food, so people are drawn to it.”

In Milford, Rosana Vargas of Taco Time decided she would try and make quesabirrias at the suggestion of a customer, who was visiting the state from California. Today they’re among the eatery’s top-selling menu items — taco lovers sometimes travel from miles away to try them.

“People try it for the first time and they just get hooked,” Rosana’s husband, Rey Vargas, said. “We have people that don’t even try anything else on the menu except that.”

With differing variations in their own right depending on where you go, here’s a closer



Los Reyes co-owner Jose Reyes’s family are birria street vendors in Degollado, Jalisco, Mexico. Courtesy photos.



look at one of New Hampshire’s hottest taco trends and where you can try an order of birria.

Simmered to perfection

Jalisco, Reyes said, is a Mexican state best known for three things: mariachi, tequila and birria.

“Birria would be the process of how it’s prepared, versus the meat,” she said. “Birria can be any meat, but goat and sheep were the first two that originated in Mexico. ... It’s most commonly served for brunch ... [and] was not served in a taco the way it is served now.”

Because it’s common for Mexican street vendors to serve corn tortillas with a plate of birria on the side, Reyes said, some people like to scoop the tortilla into the meat and juices like a spoon. Quesabirria tacos, as they’re known today, became widely associated with the cuisines of southern California, and Tijuana, a city in northwestern Mexico just south of San Diego.

Featured on the menu at the Reyes family’s Derry restaurant are Chino’s birria tacos. The slow-stewed beef uses a house recipe combining various methods and ingredients from Jose Reyes’s family with those of his own. He even has a special pot he bought from Mexico that is specifically used for

stewing the birria.

The beef, typically mixed with several spices and dried chiles, is simmered for several hours until it’s very tender. The consommé provided with the tacos for dipping, meanwhile, is itself the same broth from that stew that is normally strained and set aside.

“It’s like a ritual. You literally have to put a lot of time into it,” Reyes said of cooking birria. “The stewing itself takes us about four hours, but the whole process altogether is about six hours, because you have to prepare it and marinate it beforehand.”

Birria tacos are always made with corn tortillas — that’s simply because they crisp up better on the grill when assembled compared to their flour counterparts. Like for most traditional Mexican street tacos, Reyes said theirs are then topped with onions and cilantro. Melted cheese is available as an added option.

“A lot of people think quesabirria ... is a quesadilla with the birria, but it’s not. It’s still the tacos, but just with cheese,” she said. “That’s why I ended up changing the menu. I left them as Chino’s birria tacos, and I just say you can upgrade it as a quesabirria, with cheese. It was just sometimes confusing having to explain the difference. ... It doesn’t [traditionally have cheese], but I feel like



Quesabirria plate from Taco Time Cocina & Cantina Mexicana in Milford. Courtesy photo.



Rico's Burritos Food Truck. Courtesy photo.

ican cuisine with that of Lopez's native country of Honduras. The eatery opened in the former Granite State Escape storefront on Maple Street in late 2021.

Not only does Iguana's serve birria tacos with shredded beef, but additionally it offers birria taco options with chicken and lamb. Rodriguez noted that even the ingredients and the time necessary for cooking the meat will vary among those three. Lopez will simmer the chicken for one hour, while the beef is simmered for five hours and the lamb for seven hours.

"She recovers some of the fat, and she makes it part of the recipe for the broth that the tortillas are dipped in, in order to grill it," Rodriguez said. "She uses the fat that [is released] from the meat itself ... and that's what helps make it crispy."

Taco lovers often have their own preferences and ways of eating birria, especially when it comes to the provided cups of consommé, Rodriguez said.

"Some people dip the taco in it, and some people don't, as a matter of fact," he said. "Some people love it just crispy like that and they don't want to touch the consommé at all. But then, you get others that ask for a bowl of it and they just dunk that thing in like they're dunking a doughnut in milk."

Over at Lounge 38 Bar & Grill in Nashua, owner Vince Villafan said his birria tacos feature yellow corn tortillas and a melted three-cheese mozzarella blend. Three tacos are served per order with a side of rice and some consommé.

"Many people get full with the birria taco plate, but we do also offer them individually," he said.

Villafan added that he has noticed more and more of his customers trying birria tacos for the first time.

"I think people have seen pictures and they are really intrigued by it and want to try it," he said, "but they'll still ask, like, 'Hey, what actually is this that I'm eating?'" So there is a lot of information that we give out to people when they are ordering."

Where to get birria tacos

Birria tacos (also frequently known as quesabirria when you add cheese) have popped up on menus of many local restaurants and food trucks. Here's a list of places where you can get them in southern New Hampshire — some offer them all the time, while others will serve them as specials on select days, or only on certain days of the week. Do you know of an eatery in the Concord, Manchester or Nashua areas offering birria tacos that we may have missed? Tell us about it at food@hippopress.com.

Baja Tacos and Burritos

494 Amherst St., Nashua, 417-5532, bajatacosburritos.com

Birria tacos are regular menu staples of this Nashua eatery, featuring three per order on homemade corn tortillas, with consommé available for dipping.

Cinco's Cantina

1 Brickyard Square, Suite 9, Epping, 734-2191, cincoscantina.com

Cinco's Cantina's Epping restaurant is the second of two owned by brothers Crescencio and Miguel Alberto Tellez, who opened the first one in downtown Dover in late 2014. Birria tacos are served a la carte, featuring stewed beef topped with freshly sliced radishes, onions and cilantro, and served with lime wedges and salsa.

Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria

454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7664, find them on Facebook @ [dayofthedeadaqueria](https://www.facebook.com/dayofthedeadaqueria)

A stone's throw from Mel's Funway Park in Litchfield, Day of the Dead is owned and operated by Karina Flores and her family, who also run Monarquía Mexican Restaurant in Amherst's Salzburg Square shopping center. Birria tacos are among the most popular dishes at Day of the Dead, which also offers pizza birria.

El Ranchito Bar & Grill

44 W. Hollis St., Nashua, 864-8157, elranchitobarandgrillnh.com

Birria tacos are among the most popular menu staples at El Ranchito — they feature corn tortillas with slow-braised beef, and a

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Birria tacos with lamb, from Iguana's Restaurant and Bar in Manchester. Photo by Matt Ingersoll.

side of consommé for dipping.

Iguana's Restaurant and Bar

245 Maple St., Manchester, 935-8917, find them on Facebook @ [iguanarestaurantandbar](https://www.facebook.com/iguanarestaurantandbar)

Iguana's Restaurant & Bar opened in the former Granite State Escape space on Maple Street in Manchester in November 2021, its menu featuring a combination of authentic Mexican and Honduran dishes. In addition to quesabirria tacos with shredded beef, Iguana's regularly offers chicken and lamb options — all come three per order with a side of consommé.

La Carreta Mexican Restaurant

545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705; 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 965-3477; 35 Manchester Road, Derry, 421-0091; lacarretamex.com

Both Manchester La Carreta Mexican Restaurants offer quesabirrias, featuring slow-stewed beef topped with cilantro and onion and served with a side of consommé. La Carreta's Londonderry and Derry locations, meanwhile, offer them on Wednesdays only.

Los Primos Mexican Restaurant

3 Amherst Road, Merrimack, 420-8860, losprimosmexnh.com

This Merrimack restaurant opened in late January 2020, in the former space of a D'Angelo sandwich shop. Birria tacos and quesadillas are available.

Los Reyes Street Tacos & More

127 Rockingham Road, Unit 15, Derry, 845-8327, losreyesstreetacos.com

Los Reyes co-owner Jose Reyes of Manchester comes from multiple generations of street food vending in Mexico — his father, grandfather and brother all continue to serve traditional goat birria on the streets of his family's home state of Jalisco. The Derry restaurant, which opened in April 2022,

honors Reyes's family's traditions with Chino's birria tacos (the name borrowed from his dad's nickname), featuring slow-stewed beef in corn tortillas with cilantro, red onions and consommé on the side. You can also turn them into quesabirrias by adding cheese, or try other related items like the birria burrito or the loaded birria fries.

Lounge 38 Bar & Grill

38 E. Hollis St., Nashua, 459-8314, lounge38restaurant.com

This Nashua restaurant, which opened in October 2020, blends traditional Mexican and Puerto Rican cuisines for many of its menu items. The birria taco plate features three fried tortillas filled with slow-stewed beef, cheese, onions and cilantro, served with Spanish rice and consommé on the side for dipping. Single birria tacos are also available a la carte, while other birria-inspired dishes include burritos, quesadillas and even birria ramen noodles.

Mi Jalisco Restaurante Mexicano

300 S. Willow St., Manchester, 606-2184, mijalisco.com/manchester.com

Quesabirria tacos are among the many grilled taco options at this Manchester eatery, served with rice, beans and pico de gallo.

Nuevo Vallarta Mexican Restaurant

791 Second St., Manchester, 782-8762, vallartamexicannh.com

Birria menu options at Nuevo Vallarta include three birria tacos per order — topped with cilantro and onions and served with rice, beans and consommé for dipping — along with birria burritos and quesadillas.

Puerto Vallarta Mexican Grill

865 Second St., Manchester, 935-9182, vallartamexicannh.com

Like its sister establishment, Nuevo Vallarta, this Manchester eatery offers birria burritos and quesadillas, in addition to birria tacos topped with cilantro and onions,

and served with rice, beans and consommé for dipping.

Rice & Beans 603

288 N. Broadway, Unit D, Salem, 890-1626, find them on Facebook @riceandbeans603

Longtime Manchester-area food trucker Tony Elias took over this Salem restaurant, his first brick-and-mortar location as owner, in mid-January. Birria tacos prepared with traditional Puerto Rican spices are among his regular menu items, in addition to empanadas and sandwiches.

Rico's Burritos Food Truck

475-4898, rcosburritosfoodtruck.com

Plaistow couple Danilo and Amanda Portillo launched this food truck last summer. Rico's Burritos gets its name both in inspiration from their son, Ricardo, and for the Spanish word meaning "tasty" or "delicious." The truck has a regular presence at venues across northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, perhaps most notably at Griffin Park (101 Range Road, Windham). Birria tacos are offered on the truck as a special, featuring three per order with a few freshly cut lime wedges and consommé for dipping.

Riviera Nayarit

116 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 521-8602, rive-rianh.com

Named after the popular tourist destination off the Pacific coast of Mexico, Riviera

Nayarit opened on West Pearl Street in Nashua in March 2021. Individual birria tacos featuring slow-stewed beef are available a la carte.

Taco Time Cocina & Cantina Mexicana
11 Wilton Road, Milford, 554-1424, taco-timenh.com

Rosana Vargas and her husband, Rey-mundo "Rey," are the owners of Taco Time, originally launched as a food trailer in 2018. Since then, Taco Time has expanded into a brick-and-mortar restaurant, which opened in January 2021 near the Milford and Wilton town line. Taco Time's quesabirria plates are among their more popular menu items, featuring grilled corn tortillas of tender braised beef with cilantro and onions, and a side of consommé for dipping.

Taqueria Y Pastelitos To Go

917 Valley St., Manchester, 232-3348, taqueriaypastelitos.com

Three birria tacos come per order from this Manchester restaurant, featuring marinated beef topped with cilantro and onions. They can also be ordered as meals with rice and beans.

Tim's Drunken Sauces and Rubs

244 Elm St., Milford, 967-4242, find them on Facebook @timsdrunkensauces

Parked outside of DHR Fabrications in Milford, this food trailer usually serves quesabirria tacos four days a week, from Thursday through Sunday. 🍷



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Birria: beyond the tacos

Birria doesn't have to be just about tacos — some Granite State eateries will utilize the same stewed beef on other menu items as well. Derry's Los Reyes Street Tacos & More, for example, offers birria burritos with Mexican rice and refried pinto beans, as well as loaded birria fries — those are topped with a cheese dip, an avocado salsa, sour cream and Southwest pico de gallo.

"The birria burrito is a huge hit," co-owner Isabel Reyes said. "We grill it the same way as the tacos."

In Litchfield, Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria offers pizza birria that's great for sharing. According to owner and founder Karina Flores, the pizza birria is very similar to the tacos but features two large flour tortillas that are stuffed with birria meat, cheese, cilantro and onions, all grilled and smothered with the birria broth. The tortillas are then cut into triangles.

Even birria ramen is a thing — you can get a bowl of that at Lounge 38 Bar & Grill in Nashua.

"We love ramen noodles ourselves here, and so we thought why not cook those same noodles in the birria broth," Lounge 38 owner Vince Villafan said. "The beef is the same, but we're just essentially cooking the noodles inside the broth after the meat has already been cooked ... and then we just throw on the cheese, onions and cilantro."



Birria ramen from Lounge 38 Bar & Grill in Nashua. Courtesy photo.



Birria fries from Los Reyes Street Tacos & More in Derry. Courtesy photo.



Pizza birria from Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria in Litchfield. Courtesy photo.

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Mozart Sunday

Classical groups join to present Requiem

By Katelyn Sahagian
ksahagian@hippypress.com

With the 100th anniversary of Symphony NH happening in April, the organization wanted to do something to celebrate its long-standing relationship with another classical music pillar of southern New Hampshire, the Nashua Choral Society.

“Thinking back to 2019, with everything that’s happened since then, lots have changed in four-plus years,” said Deanna Hoying, the executive director at Symphony NH.

The groups will be performing Mozart’s Requiem in D minor, a popular choice for

Mozart’s Requiem performed by the Symphony NH

Where: 216 East Dunstable Road, Nashua

When: Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m.

Price: \$45 for adults, \$35 for seniors 65 and older, \$10 for youth 10 to 17, \$10 for students 27 and younger with valid identification, and free for youth younger than 10 accompanied by an adult.

Visit: symphonynh.org.

full orchestras and choirs. The symphony performed the same piece in 2019, when it was hired by the choral society. This time, there are some differences.

To boost their numbers, Hoying said, the Nashua Choral Society invited the Nashoba Valley Chorale to perform with them. Another change is the location, with this concert taking place at the Immaculate Conception Church in Nashua.

“There’s a very different sound in a church facility than in a big concert hall,” said Hoying. “There’s something magical about hearing that work and singing that work in a church. I’m so grateful to have them; both choirs and church have been delightful to work with.”

A requiem is traditionally a Catholic mass for the dead, Hoying said. Preceding the piece, at first as a small joke, is *Death of a Poet*, a string orchestration composed in 2014 by TJ Cole, inspired by the poem written by Russian writer Mikhail Lermontov. Hoying said the symphony strives to pair contemporary, living composers with greats like Mozart.

Mozart’s Requiem is most famous for



Symphony NH’s full orchestra. Courtesy photo.

being a source of conspiracy theory by the music community, as it was the last piece he worked on before his death. In modern times, the piece was popularized by the movie *Amadeus* (PG, 1984), which follows the life of Mozart told through the viewpoint of his rival Antonio Salieri.

Hoying said this will be, in many ways, a more meaningful production of the mass than the performance in 2019. This performance will be part of the symphony’s centennial year, and it will be honoring the years of collaboration between the symphony and the Nashua Choral Society.

Even beyond that, the music will weigh heavier after the pandemic, Hoying said. She added that, even with the official end of pandemic-era restrictions, audiences have still been wary of coming out to shows. She hopes for the music to be cathartic and healing after years of isolation and loss.

“Everyone will have their own independent response, depending on their own experiences,” Hoying said. “There’s a level of joy that, for many of us during the pandemic, we missed that part. Even if it’s a requiem, there is such joy in this ability to recognize and move on.” 🌱

Art

Exhibits

• **“MULTI-MEDIUMS”** exhibit featuring works on canvas and panel, wall reliefs in ceramic and metal and sculptures in stone and wood is open now at the Art 3 Gallery (44 W. Brook St. in Manchester; 668-6650), according to a press release. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and a virtual exhibit should be available soon, the release said.

• **NICKOLAY MANULOV** Moscow-born Nickolay 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. 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. Manulov emigrated during the Russian invasion of Crimea, bringing his and his wife’s work with him, the release said.

• **“LOVE, PASSION & CHOCOLATE”** The Lakes Region Art Association’s exhibit will run 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. See LRAANH.org.

• **KATE HIGLEY** New Hampshire Art Association fine print-maker Kate Higley will have her work on display at the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce

Visitors Center (49 S. Main St., Suite 104, in Concord) through Friday, March 3. The gallery hours are general Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **“RELICS”** 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth; 3arts.org) features the architectural sculptures of Frank Poor in this exhibit, which runs through Sunday, April 2.

• **“WHERE PAINTERLY ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONVERGE”** at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust (321 Main St. in New London) features 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 and will feature the works of 12 painters and four photographers, the release said.

• **“GEE’S BEND QUILTS”** exhibit, on display at the Currier Museum of Art (50 Ash St. in Manchester; 669-6144, currier.org), features five quilts from Gee’s Bend in Alabama, where several generations of women collectively developed a distinctive style of quilt making, according to the website. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children age 12 and under and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday.

• **“MEMOIRS OF A GHOST GIRLHOOD: A BLACK GIRL’S WINDOW”** In the exhibit on display at the Currier Museum of Art (50 Ash St. in Manchester; 669-6144, currier.org), “artist Alexandria Smith has

created an immersive multimedia environment using wallpaper, paintings on wood, found objects and sculpture. It will be accompanied by an original site-specific composition, //windowed// by Liz Gre,” according to the website. Museum admission costs \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors age 65 and up, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17 and is free for children age 12 and under and museum members. Current museum hours are Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday through Wednesday.

• **ART ON MAIN** The City of Concord and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce present a year-round outdoor public art exhibition in Concord’s downtown featuring works by professional sculptors. All sculptures will be for sale. Visit concordnhchamber.com/creativeconcord, call 224-2508 or email tsink@concordnhchamber.com.

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. The show runs on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 & 7:30 p.m.

• **LITTLE WOMEN** The Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) brings the Broadway musical to the stage Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 19. The shows run Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 to \$46.

• **RADIUM GIRLS** Cue Zero Theatre Company will open its fourth season on Friday, March 3, with the play *Radium Girls*, by DW Gregory, about the women who painted watch dials with radium paint in the early 20th century and became sick from radium poisoning, according to a press release. The play will run Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire (19 Keewaydin Drive #4 in Salem). Tickets cost \$15 per person and are available online at cztheatre.com and at the door.

• **VANITIES** a comedy-drama by Jack Heifer and produced by Creative Ambitions Performance Studio, will run at the Hatbox Theatre (270 Loudon Road in Concord;

IN BLOOM

The New Hampshire Antique Co-op (323 Elm St. in Milford; 673-8499, nhantiquecoop.com) will present the show “In Full Bloom: Floral Still Life & Garden Paintings from the 19th Century to Present” Friday, March 24, through Thursday, Aug. 31. The exhibit will feature works from artists of the late 1800s to the present that capture spring and summer, according to a press release. A garden party opening reception will be held on Sunday, March 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Co-op is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Andre Gisson (1921-2003). *Still Life with Fruit and Flowers*. oil on canvas

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 16 issue of The Hippo, in the story on page 14 “Even closer to opening night,” the name of the theater at Nashua Center for the Arts was incorrect. The theater’s name will be the Bank of America Theater.

Theater

Shows

• **MAN OF LA MANCHA** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; seacoastrep.org, 433-4472) will present the musical *Man of La Mancha*, 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

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Update:** The Manchester Community Music School's faculty performance of "Chanson d'Amour" featuring Harel Gietheim on cello and Piper Runnion on harp has been rescheduled for Friday, March 24, 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.

• **Earth Day art:** The Manchester Artists Association has original art works on display in the exhibit "Love Our Planet" at the New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (6 Audubon Way in Auburn) through Saturday, April 29, from noon to 5 p.m. on days the center is open, according to a press release. Artists will exhibit more than 30 original works in oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolor, mixed media and photography, and the works will be available for purchase, the release said. See manchesterartists.com.

• **Telling her story:** Singer-songwriter Kimayo will perform at Bedford Presbyterian Church (4 Church Road in Bedford) on Sunday, March 5, at 5 p.m. as part of her "My Queer Faith" tour, according to a press release. The event is free (and open to adults and mature teens, the release said); reserve a spot at bit.ly/BPC-MQF-Concert.

• **Jazz jam:** Ted Herbert Music School, operated by the Majestic Theatre, will host an open mic jazz jam on Sunday, March 5, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. open to students and musicians of all ages and abilities, according to a press release. The cost to participate is \$5, free for current Ted Herbert Music School Students. The jam will take place at the Ted Herbert Music School Majestic Theatre Studios (880 Page St. in Manchester), the release said. No signup is required, just show up with your instrument (drums, piano and guitar amp will be provided), the release said. For more on Ted Herbert, see tedherbert.com or call



Ted Herbert Music School faculty. Courtesy photo.

669-7469.

• **Luck be a lady:** The Palace Youth Theatre is holding auditions for its May performances of *Guys and Dolls Jr.* on Monday, March 6, at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester) according to a press release. The auditions are for performers in grades 2 through 12. Auditioners will be expected to stay for their entire one-hour slot and will learn a dance and be asked to sing after (a short section of a song), the release said. To schedule an audition time, email MeganAlves@palacetheatre.org with the performer's name, age and preferred audition time, the release said.

• **Young artist competition:** The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra is accepting applications for its annual young artist competition with the winning high school musician to perform at the June 11 concert with a full orchestra, according to a press release. The competition is open to high school students from New Hampshire (as well as the Seacoast region of Maine and Massachusetts) performing orchestral instruments, the release said. Send an audition video and application by March 15; finalists will perform before a live audience on Saturday, April 1, the release said. See portsmouthsymphony.org for information about how to apply.

• **Crafting partnership:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) is partnering with the League of NH Craftsmen for a series of workshops with local master craft artists, according to a Currier email. The workshops will take place on the second Saturdays of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. On Saturday, March

11, the class is "Tapestry Weaving Basics" with Lisa Almeida. Students will create images using a simple tapestry loom, according to the description. The class costs \$125 and registration is open now. Future classes include "Basket Weaving" with Ruth Bolton on Saturday, April 8; "Jewelry Making" with Paulette Werger on Saturday, May 14, and "Soft Leather Cuff Bracelets" with Diane Louise Paul on Saturday, June 10, according to the website.

• **Art camp:** The Currier has also announced the themes and dates and opened registration for its summer arts camps for ages 6 to 14. The camps will cost \$350 per week and run the weeks of June 26 (when the theme is "Air"), July 10 ("Earth"), July 24 ("Fire"), Aug. 7 ("Water"), and Aug. 14 ("Energy"). Go to currier.org to register and for more information. For more area day camps (and a few overnight ones), check out last week's cover story in the Hippo. See hippopress.com to find the Feb. 23 e-edition; the

story starts on page 12.

• **Save the date:** The 2nd annual Manchester Arts & Crafts Fair will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Manchester, according to a press release. The event will feature more than 30 booths, food trucks, the Manchester City Library Bookmobile and an interactive art wall for kids run by Unchartered Tutoring, the release said. See manchesterartsandcraftsfair.com.

• **"I wish I were big":** Kids Coop Theatre will present *Big, the Musical*, based on the 1987 movie, featuring performers ages 8 to adults on Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 18, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 West Broadway in Derry). Tickets cost \$15 and are available at kidscooptheatre.ludus.com.

• **Coming up at Gibson's:** Several author events have been added to the schedule for March and beyond at Gibson's Bookstore (45 South Main St. in Concord; gibsonsbookstore.com, 224-0562). Journalist Sherry Boschert will visit Gibson's on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss her book *37 Words: Title IX and Fifty Years of Fighting Sex Discrimination*, according to a press release. Journalist and author Christine Kenneally will discuss her book *Ghosts of the Orphanage: A Story of Mysterious Deaths, a Conspiracy of Silence and a Search For Justice* (which looks at, among other places, St. Joseph's, a Catholic orphanage in Vermont), at Gibson's on Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., accord-

CONTINUED ON PG 17 ►

VANITIES



Creative Ambitions Performance Studio of NH, a new professional theater company, will present its first production, the comedy-drama *Vanities* by Jack Heifner, at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com, 715-2315), according to a press release. The show opens Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. and runs through Sunday, March 19, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22 for adults; \$19 for students and seniors, the release said. Courtesy photo.

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ARTS **Breaking free from insecurity**

Bedford Off Broadway presents Jon Lonoff's *Skin Deep*

By Mya Blanchard
listings@hippopress.com

Almost everyone has faced insecurity or felt down on their luck while those around them seemed to have it all. This is the case for Maureen Mulligan, the protagonist in Jon Lonoff's show *Skin Deep*. Bedford Off Broadway will be putting on a production of the show at Old Bedford Town Hall, which will run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from March 3 through March 12.

"She's down on her luck [and has] been single for a long time," Sarah Smith, who plays the role of Maureen, said of her character. "She had a wedding that was supposed to happen but didn't work out, and her younger sister Sheila sets her up on a blind date that she really does not want to participate in."

The four-person show follows Maureen, along with her blind date, Joe, her sister Sheila and Sheila's husband, Squire, as they each navigate their relationships and battle their own insecurities.

Smith's involvement in theater began when she was in middle school and became more serious during her high school years.

"I was a music major in college so I didn't really have time to do theater then," she said. "So once I graduated I started doing more shows in the community."

One of those shows happened to be a production of *Skin Deep* that she was involved in years back.

"I had done the show 11 years ago and I had played the other sister, Sheila," Smith said. "So when I saw that [director] Joe Pelonzi was doing it again, I decided to try out, and he decided to cast me as the other sister."

Bedford Off Broadway presents *Skin Deep*

When: Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 12 — showtimes are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays

Where: Old Bedford Town Hall, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford

Cost: Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$12 for children, students and seniors

More info: Visit bedfordoffbroadway.com. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance online at brownpapertickets.com/event/5718535



The cast of *Skin Deep*. Left to right: Abby Lefebvre, Dan Arlen, Sarah Smith and Jason Crowell. Courtesy photo.

The two sisters Smith has now had the chance to portray couldn't be more different on the surface.

"Maureen [is] in her mid 40s [and has] always kind of struggled with her self-confidence," Dan Arlen, who plays the role of Squire, said. "Her sister Sheila is ... [the] type of woman ... [that] every woman wants to be."

Helping one's own struggles with confidence is one way that being involved in theater can be beneficial, as Arlen points out.

"Theater itself really just allows you to kind of play with an insecurity or with something that you've wanted to do," he said. "For example, when I was around 15 or 16 I did a show at the Palace Theatre ... and I ... played a character who was very confident. ... At 16 I was ... not confident. ... I couldn't do it in my normal life, but for four hours a day I got to be this other character."

While our insecurities may cause us to feel isolated, they can be the factor that connects us to others, as is the case for Maureen and Joe.

"[The show] is ... about the two of them figuring out that ... [they] both have had kind of similar stories in [their] dating lives and in [their] lives in general of always being picked last," Arlen said. "It's kind of like the two of them uniting and saying, 'We can get through this life together.'"

Not only do these experiences bring the characters together, but they can also connect them with the audience.

"Regardless of who you are as a person, you can connect with one of these four people," Arlen said. "So I think it's an ability to recognize that maybe these four characters' stories are yours."



MARTIELLO ON THEREMIN

Chris Martiello will present a theremin concert on Friday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Whipple Hall (25 Seamans Road in New London) with a Q&A and light refreshments to follow. See centerforheartsnh.org.

Courtesy photo

ARTS

◀ ROUNDUP FROM PG 15

ing to a press release. Author Hank Phillippi Ryan will present her latest thriller *The House Guest* and discuss her work with author Sarah Stewart Taylor on Wednesday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m., a press release said. Vermont authors Rebecca and Sallyann Majoya will come to Gibson's on Wednesday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss their shared memoir *Uncertain Fruit: A Memoir of Infertility, Loss, and Love*. Dennis Lehane will discuss his newest novel *Small Mercies* as part of a virtual author event with indie bookstores with Gillian Flynn on Tuesday, April 25, at 8 p.m. (sign up online for this ticketed virtual event). Find more upcoming author and book events in our book listings, this week on page 31.

• **Irish afternoon:** The Center for the Arts will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a performance of Irish music from the Sunapee Singers and Irish step dancing by the McGongale Irish Step Dancers on Sunday, March 19, at 4 p.m. at Whipple Town Hall in New London (on the corner of Main Street and Seamans Road), according to a press release. Tickets cost \$18, \$8 for students (children 5

and under are admitted free); purchase tickets at centerfortheartsnh.org or with cash or check at the door, the release said.

• **History of the vote:** Liz Tentarelli, president of the League of Women Voters NH, will use historic photos and documents to discuss women's journey to obtain the right to vote, from the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls to the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, on Tuesday, March 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the Tracey Memorial Library (304 Main St. in New London), according to a press release. Reserve a spot by emailing info@centerfortheartsnh.org.

• **400 years of Portsmouth history:** The Pontine Theater will celebrate Portsmouth's 400th anniversary with the original production *Dearly Earned* at Pontine's 1845 Plains School House Theatre (1 Plains Ave. in Portsmouth; pontine.org). The play is based on Portsmouth's 19th-century industrial history and the lives of workers, according to a press release. Shows are Friday, March 17, through Sunday, March 26. Shows will take place Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$29. 🍀

hatboxnh.com, 715-2315) Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 19, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$22, \$19 for seniors and students.

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

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

• **CATS: YOUNG ACTORS EDITION** The Palace Youth Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) will present performers in grades 2 through

12 in *Cats: Young Actors Edition* Tuesday, March 7, through Wednesday, March 15, with shows on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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

Auditions

• **BE MORE CHILL** based on the novel by Ned Vizzini. Cue Zero will present the production at the Derry Opera House on Friday, June 23, through Sunday, June 25, and auditions will be Wednesday, March 8, and Thursday, March 9, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire in Salem. See cztheatre.com.

• **EMPATHY & JOIN** part of the Cue Zero Theatre Lab Series,

these original pieces will be presented in August. Auditions will be held Sunday, March 12, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire in Salem. See cztheatre.com for details and to sign up.

Classical

Events

• **"CHANSON d'AMOUR"** The Manchester Community Music School's faculty performance of "Chanson d'Amour" featuring Harel Giethem on cello and Piper Runnion on harp has been rescheduled for Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at the school, 2291 Elm St. in Manchester. Admission is free but pre-register at memusicschool.org to attend in person or online.

• **DRAWN TO THE MUSIC: MUSICAL TALES** at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Gernemonty Drive, Salem; 893-7069) will run Sat., April 15, and Sun., April 16, at 2 p.m. NH Philharmonic Orchestra. Visit nhpo.booktix.com.

UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS

The League of NH Craftsmen Meredith Fine Craft Gallery (279 Daniel Webster Hwy. in Meredith; nhcrafts.org, 279-7920) will offer two **Ukrainian Easter Egg classes** with Shannon Wallis on Saturday, March 25 (classes are at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.), according to a press release. Learn the Ukrainian method of decorating eggs and create an egg to keep, the release said. The class costs \$50 per student plus a \$12 materials fee paid to the instructor on the day of the class, the release said. Sign up by Friday, March 17, by calling 279-7920 or go to meredith.nhcrafts.org/classes.



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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Tips for buying and enjoying cut flowers

Bring the colors of summer inside

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

Winter drags on, even though the days are getting longer. The sun is often lurking behind gray clouds, and on a good day we only get about nine hours of light. I do miss the colors of summer, so I keep fresh cut flowers on our table — even though I have to buy them.

Cut flowers are among modern America's true bargains. For the price of a bottle of wine — or a couple of cups of fancy coffee — you can buy flowers that will grace your table for up to three weeks. But there are some things you should know about getting good table-life for your investment.

First, you need to buy fresh flowers that have been carefully tended — and you can't beat a florist for that. A floral shop has trained personnel who trim each stem in the store every other day and change the water to keep flowers fresh. Cut flowers need to take up water to stay fresh and healthy. Stems tend to scab over after a

day or two, which means they cannot take up replacement water, or not much, so they suffer.

Here are some things you can do to promote longer vase life. Cut off leaves that would enter the water in your vase. Leaves will rot, promoting growth of bacteria, which will impede water take-up. Cut off half to three quarters of an inch of each stem every few days, and change the water. Use the packets of white powder that often comes with flowers — it does help.

Keep your arrangement cool if you can. Putting it near a radiator or woodstove or putting it in a sunny window will shorten its life. If you have invested in pricey roses or tulips, you may wish to move the vase to the entryway or mudroom at bedtime to keep the flowers extra cool during the night.

Some flowers are better picks than others if you're on a budget and can't afford to buy new flowers every week. Here are my recommendations for good cut flowers:

Lisianthus. These look like silk flowers to me: perfect white, pink or lavender-colored bell-shaped flowers on long stems. Tough to grow in the garden, they are per-



Alstroemeria is a long lasting, inexpensive cutflower. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Lisianthus comes in several colors and lasts well. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

fect in a vase — I've kept them for up to three weeks.

Miniature carnations. Each stem has two to four blossoms. They come in a variety of colors. Mix dark red "minis" with red roses to make a bouquet of roses look fuller. And even after the roses go to Valhalla, the carnations will still be good!

Chrysanthemums. These come in a variety of sizes and colors, from the huge spider mums to little guys. I love the scent of the flowers — it's not overpowering, but it's there if you sniff them.

Statice. I grow these for use as dry flowers, which tells you that they really do last forever, even out of water. They come in blue, purple, pink and white.

Spray roses. Instead of a single blossom per stem, these have two to five blossoms, giving you more bang for your buck. These will last about a week, or even more with proper care.

Alstroemeria. One of the best for long life. Each long stem has clusters of 2-inch lily-like blossoms in pinks and reds, with yellow throats. If you buy them in bud,

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◀ GARDENING CONTINUED FROM PG 18

they will look good for three weeks!

Orchids. While not cheap, orchids as cut flowers can last up to a month. I love dendrobiums, though they are not common, even in floral shops. Cymbidiums have bigger blossoms and also last extremely well.

Kangaroo paws. These Australian natives are fuzzy and cute. They come in pinks, reds, orange and brown, and last very well. Not every florist will have them.

Asiatic lilies. I recently got a bouquet of five nice stems grown in New Hampshire that was sold at my local Coop food store. For \$12.95, they will bloom with great elegance.

You may wish to ask where the flowers you plan to buy are from. Holland, Colombia, Ecuador and Kenya are the world's top growers and export much of what is available. Some foreign growers have been criticized for producing flowers using strong pesticides and poor labor practices. The Sun Valley group in California is an excellent major American grower of cut flowers — but there is still the environmental cost of shipping them 3,000 miles to us. If you can buy flowers grown locally in greenhouses, do it!

Everyone loves to receive the gift of cut flowers, even us guys. So treat your loved one or yourself to fresh flowers this winter. They're cheerful and can make winter less oppressive for gardeners.

Henry lives in Cornish Flat, N.H. He is a gardening consultant and a presenter of garden talks with slide shows for clubs and library groups, both live and via Zoom. His email is henry.homeyer@comcast.net.



Statice is good flower for drying and will last for months. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



Ask for locally grown flowers like these Asiatic lilies I bought recently. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

*Hi, Donna,
I hope you can help me identify my antique oak chair. I would like to know the era and artist. Any information will be helpful. Thank you.
Donna S.*



finish. Your chair looks to be in clean shape but not necessarily all original. I think you could put the value in the range of \$400.

Thanks for sharing, Donna, and I hope you find a new home for your chair.

Donna Welch has spent more than 30 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing, and recently

Dear Donna,
It's tough to find a single maker of some Victorian era chairs. The style of yours was very popular and not uncommon. Chairs, tables and other pieces were made with the lion's head, paw foot style.

Some pieces, depending on how elaborate, can bring high values. There are some makers as well that will increase the collectibility today. But for most common styles the value is based on condition.

As far as a value, Donna, most collectors want them in original clean condition and

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.

KIDDIE

— POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Library happenings

• The Nashua River Watershed Association will be leading a hands-on **Nashua River junior scientist program** on Thursday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St.). Kids will use the Nashua River as their “outdoor laboratory,” to explore river issues and do activities related to river ecology, watershed protection, and look at this important resource through the lens of climate change, according to the library. Visit nashualibrary.org.

• Join the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St.) for a day filled with **retro games and pixel art** on Thursday, March 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. Families can play live-action versions of their favorite retro games, do game-inspired crafts, and create pixel art that’s used in older video games. The program is geared toward kids in grades 1 through 6 and their families. Visit manchester.lib.nh.us for more information.

Girl Scout fun

• Girl Scouts are hosting a **unicorn party and sign-up event** on Monday, March 6, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Hampstead Central School (21 Emerson Ave.) in the art room. Girls in kindergarten through grade 12, along with a caregiver, are invited to do a hands-on craft while learning more about the Scouts and how to sign up. The event is also virtual and can be accessed at girlscoutsgwm.org.

• And save the date: Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains are looking for girls to join their competitive rowing team for the upcoming **General Clinton Regatta** in New York. Girls don’t have to be a member of the Scouts to join the swift paddlers team, but will become an honorary member for the purpose of the competition. Practices will take place at Camp Kettleford in Bedford and the competition will be in September. To sign up or to get more information, contact customer-care@girlscoutsgwm.org or call 888-474-9686.

Get active

• The City Wide Community Center (14 Canterbury Road, Concord) is hosting **family drop-in basketball** for families in and around the capital city on Thursday, March 2. Games start at 6 p.m. and will be led by the recreation center’s staff. Children participating must be supervised by a teen or adult older than 16. Fee to participate is \$2 for Concord residents, \$3 for non-residents. For more information about this event, call 225-8690.

• The last race in the **Snow or No We Go** series is on Saturday, March 4, at 10 a.m.



Omnium Circus.

There are two races to choose from, a 2- or 4-mile run/walk. This race will be at the Prospect Acres Obstacle Course (4 Beaumier Drive, Franklin). Proceeds from the signup will benefit the Canterbury Shaker Village, Boys and Girls Club of Central NH, and Prospect Acres Obstacle Course. Registration costs \$25 per runner and can be completed at rungsiup.com.

Shows!

• Come to the Capitol Center for the Arts’ Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord) to see the **Omnium Circus** on Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. The circus’s new show “I’m Possible” follows the story of Johnny, who goes on a journey of courage and strength in a mad-cap circus adventure. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. Visit ccanh.com to reserve a spot.

• If you’re at the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org) on Sunday, March 5, check out the the Gallery 6 art exhibition: **Step into a Story – Art by New England Illustrators**, which closes March 6 (the museum is closed on Mondays). The project looks at the artwork and the creative process of storybook writers and artists from New Hampshire and neighboring states. Entrance to Gallery 6 is free and it is open during museum hours, which vary day to day. For more information, visit childrens-museum.org.

Save the Date

• Get a jump start on Maple Weekend with the Beaver Brook Association (117 Ridge Road, Hollis) at the **Maple Sugar Magic Family Event** on Sunday, March 12, at 1 p.m. The free event will look at the history of the maple sugar season and the process of tapping and collecting the sweet stuff, through crafts, puppet shows and more. Advance registration is required and can be done at beaverbrook.org/education.

• Join the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester) for **Fancy Nancy and the Mermaid Ballet** on Sunday, April 2, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The show follows Nancy and her best friend Bree as they audition for the fanciest of ballets, the Deep-Sea Dances. The production is put on by the Southern NH Youth Ballet. In addition to Nancy’s story, they will also perform *The Ugly Duckling*. Tickets start at \$20 and can be purchased at palacetheatre.org.

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Improving your car's aerodynamics always improves mileage



Dear Car Talk:

I removed the cross bars on my 2019 Toyota RAV4. My beloved queried, "What for?" I said to eliminate the jet propulsion din if we open the moonroof AND to

By Ray Magliozzi

get better mileage.

"How much better?" she asked.

So, now I need your help. Will I actually get better mileage, or am I full of bologna?

— Paul

P.S.: I miss your brother and his laugh. My brother and I miss our younger brother, especially his laughter.

Thanks, Paul, and condolences on your brother. I don't know whether you're full of bologna. But I'm sure your beloved has done extensive research on that, so ask her.

As for your car, improving your aerodynamics will absolutely improve your mileage.

Car makers know that anything that "catches" air adds noise and reduces fuel economy. Basically, the harder your car has to work to push through the air, the more fuel it has to use.

So engineers and designers go to great pains and enormous expense, using com-

puter models and wind tunnels, to make sure that air slips easily and smoothly over and around your car.

And then we — the buying public — take these carefully designed aerodynamic cars home and stick our kayaks on top of them.

I'm sure it makes the engineers cry when they pass us on the road, Paul.

Even without the kayak, the roof rack itself makes your car less efficient. One study, from Berkeley Labs and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in 2015, using crowd sourced data, reported that the loss from a roof rack alone can be up to 25 percent. That sounds high to me.

Consumer Reports, which does extensive fuel economy testing, found that the loss from an empty roof rack was between 2 and 11 percent. The sedan they tested, a 2019 Nissan Altima, saw its highway mileage drop 11 percent when driven with an empty roof rack.

The other vehicle, which happens to be just like yours, Paul — a 2019 RAV4 — saw its mileage drop about 2 percent with a roof rack. Consumer Reports speculates that the RAV4, as an SUV, was already a boxier and less efficient shape than the sedan, so the impact of the roof rack was lower.

It's like when I broke my nose, it didn't make me look much uglier, given where I

was starting from.

So the answer, for your car, is 2 percent, Paul. And the answer for everyone else out there driving with a roof rack, or removable cross bars, is to take them off when you don't need them. Or, rent a kayak when you get there.

Dear Car Talk:

In a recent column, you answered a question from a guy named Jerry who had problems with his 1947 Plymouth with a 6-volt electrical system. You suggested upgrading the electrical system, along with the wiper motor and other stuff, to 12-volts.

As I remember, my '48 Plymouth had a vacuum-driven wiper. Can you explain? Thanks. — Old Geezer Jim

Yes, that was just before they discovered the earth was round, right Jim?

Actually, it was pretty common in the old days to have vacuum-powered wipers.

When the pistons descend in their cylinders, they create suction. That's what sucks in the gasoline and air.

And some smart person figured out that you could use that suction to run things. In fact, there are still vacuum-powered parts in modern cars. Some vent doors in the heating and cooling system are operated by

vacuum motors. And early cruise control was vacuum operated.

The problem, as you may remember, Jim, is that when you really open the throttle, the vacuum drops. Vacuum is high when the car is idling and low when you're accelerating.

Think about your home vacuum cleaner hose. It's a about an inch and a half in diameter, and you have plenty of vacuum. Now, imagine that hose is 3 feet in diameter. You'd feel very little suction, right? That's essentially what happens when the throttle is wide open.

I'm sure you had the experience of stepping on the gas hard in your '48 Plymouth and having your wipers stop. Not exactly the height of safety engineering.

In more recent times, they used vacuum reservoirs, which were just plastic reservoirs that would hold vacuum in reserve, to be used when the car was under hard acceleration.

So, at the time, the 6-volt electrical system was an upgrade over vacuum wipers; 12 volts is even better. And now, we're seeing cars with 48-volt systems. Maybe I should have recommended one of those to Jerry. He'd set the Guinness record for windshield wiper speed on a 1947 Plymouth.

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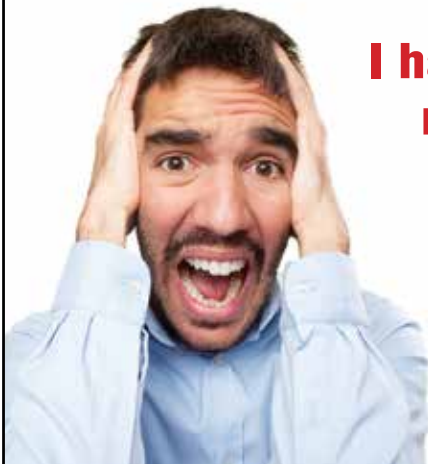
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ON THE JOB

MOLLIE SKUSE RANCH OWNER

Mollie Skuse is the owner of Chasing Dreams Ranch in Hollis.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

As of right now, I have no employees, so I'm the jack of all trades throughout the day. When I arrive at the ranch, everyone is hungry and happy to see me, so I start by making up everyone's grain, then walk around giving it out and checking the hay and the waters. Once everyone is happy and fed, I start the chores — mucking the stalls and paddocks, refilling grain for the night feed, refilling all my hay nets and taking care of all the other animals. I have more than just horses: the rescued baby sheep, two piglets, seven goats, three rabbits, some free-range chickens and barn cats. Then there's always the unexpected things happening ... The work is never done on a farm.

How long have you had this job?

I just recently took over ownership. Before that, I was the manager for the farm. In the middle of November 2022 the owners approached me and said they made the hard decision to get out of farming after more than 25 years. They knew how hard I worked and how much I loved each and every animal on the farm, and they offered me the opportunity of a lifetime.

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

I've always been a huge animal lover and knew my passion for helping animals would be a part of my career. In high school I wanted to be a dolphin trainer at SeaWorld, so I took vet tech to start learning. Then I went to college in Florida for marine biology and vet tech. I didn't finish college, and I came back to

New Hampshire, where I almost always landed myself a job with animals — local pet store, vet hospital, PetSmart and Petco ... I hadn't even been around horses or ridden them until about seven years ago.

What kind of education or training did you need?

Training included learning how to put halters on and off horses, let them in and out of stalls, groom them, and everything else from cleaning stalls to saddling up.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Most of the time you'll find me in jeans and cowboy boots and a hat. This time of year I have my Carhartt overalls on and matching jacket, as well as gloves and a hat and hand warmers.

What is the most challenging thing about your work, and how do you deal with it?

When an animal gets sick and you have to make hard decisions, and not taking on more animals than I can afford. I want to rescue them all, but financially, you have to learn to say, 'No, I can't at this time.'

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

I didn't have money saved when I gave



Mollie Skuse. Courtesy photo.

up my job as farm manager to become the owner, so I went into this with no income. It's stressful for sure. Animals are expensive.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

It's not all fun. Farm work is harder work than most people realize. Some days I'm there from dawn till midnight, and when I leave earlier I always

feel like I should have stayed longer and done more.

What was the first job you ever had?
Counselor at Girl Scout camp.

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

Don't give up or lose sight of your goals. The end results will be worth the struggle it took to get there. Life is tough, but I am tougher. — Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

- Favorite book:** *Run, Rose, Run*
- Favorite movie:** *Sweet Home Alabama*
- Favorite music:** Dolly Parton, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn — all the classic country music.
- Favorite food:** Pizza and cupcakes.
- Favorite thing about NH:** Live free or die, and tax-free

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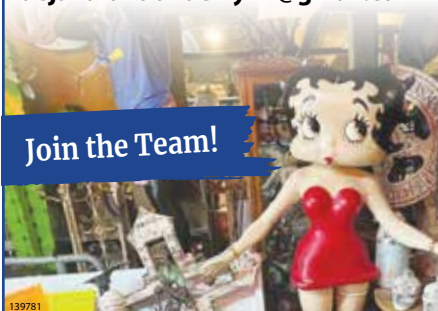
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News from the local food scene

By Matt Ingersoll
food@hippopress.com

• **Liquid gold:** It's **New Hampshire Maple Month**, and several farms and sugarhouses across the Granite State will once again be welcoming visitors for multiple weekends of tours, demonstrations, tastings and family activities, all revolving around local maple syrup production. A full list of local sugarhouses participating in the month (which includes New Hampshire Maple Weekend, set for Saturday, March 18, and Sunday, March 19) can be found on the New Hampshire Maple Producers Association website at nhmapleproducers.com.

• **Let the Guinness flow:** Join The Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua) for its annual **Guinness beer dinner** on Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m. The meal will feature multiple food courses with Guinness beer pairings, like salmon rillettes (poached and smoked salmon combined with house mayonnaise and Guinness brown bread); free range eggs with sage sausage and panko crumbs, and Guinness-braised short rib of beef with a forest mushroom saffron risotto. Branded Guinness souvenirs, raffle prizes and giveaways will also be featured. Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased online at Eventbrite. Be on the lookout next week for more St. Paddy's Day-related happenings at area bars and restaurants in our annual listings.

• **Get your Greek eats:** 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, March 12, from noon to 1 p.m. Now through Wednesday, March 8, orders are being accepted for boxed meals featuring dinners of vegetarian dolmades (stuffed grape leaves) with spanakopita (spinach pie) and a bread 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. You can also pay online by clicking "Contribute to Holy Trinity" on the church's website and following the prompts. The revival of the church's annual Greek food festival, meanwhile, remains tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30. Visit holytrinitynh.org.

• **Turning up the heat:** Portsmouth hot sauce maker **The Spicy Shark** recently announced the launch of the latest addition to its "6-Fin" series — the Mako Snake. According to a press release, the new sauce became available Feb. 15. The Indian-inspired Mako Snake is a masala-based sauce, made with ghost pepper, Carolina reaper and habanero. According to the release, the sauce's name and creature, a mythical half shark, half snake, were chosen to represent the "unique and intense" levels of heat and flavor. See thespicyshark.com to find out where you can find the company's sauces. 🌶️

FOOD

SouperFest returns

Annual tasting benefit moves back indoors for its 14th year



Concord's SouperFest tasting benefit returns on Saturday, March 4, moving back indoors after taking place outside the last two years, as pictured above. Photos by Mulberry Creek Imagery.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

For one day only, Concord's Bank of New Hampshire Stage will turn into a prime tasting destination for area soups, chowders and chilis. It's time for SouperFest — the event, one of the chief fundraisers for the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, returns on Saturday, March 4.

This will be the first SouperFest to take place indoors since 2019, and also the first time in its history that it's happening inside of the concert venue. After the pandemic forced its cancellation in 2020, SouperFest transitioned outdoors to a mostly takeout format the following two years.

Unlike with those events, which encouraged pre-ordering your soup online, this year's SouperFest will offer soups on a first-come, first-served basis at \$5 each while they last.

"The pre-orders made it very, very difficult, because we had a lot of individuals that didn't pre-order that were walking up ... and we'd have to count how many outstanding orders there still were," said Greg Lessard, CCEH's director of housing initiatives. "I always like to have extra but you just never know how many folks will turn up that day, and how hungry they are."

Eleven Concord establishments have donated a soup, chowder or chili to be served by volunteers during the fund-

raiser. The flavors are diverse, ranging from a vegetarian split pea soup courtesy of O Steaks & Seafood to beef and turkey chilis from The Common Man and Georgia's Northside, respectively. There's also going to be a turkey pot pie soup from The Red Blazer and a butternut squash soup from The Centennial Hotel's Granite Restaurant & Bar, among others.

"We encourage them all to make something different," Lessard said. "Every one of the restaurants that had done it for the last two years stepped up, and we actually picked up a few."

Attendees can get their eight-ounce cups of soup to go — along with complimentary rolls and water — or grab a seat at the venue to listen to RoZweLL, a rock cover group set to perform.

"The thought is that they will come and see acquaintances, have some soup and listen to the band," Lessard said. "The lounge area upstairs is open for our guests as well."

14th annual SouperFest

When: Saturday, March 4, noon to 2 p.m.
Where: Bank of New Hampshire Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord
Cost: \$5 per soup (no pre-orders); soups are available first-come, first-served while they last
Visit: concordhomeless.org/souperfest
Cash and credit cards will be accepted at the door, in addition to donations benefiting the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness.

As soups will be served until they sell out, Lessard said getting to the event early is a good idea.

"We anticipate that most folks will be there ... right at opening," he said. "Some soups will be more popular than others. ... If folks are getting hungry and there's a line that's taking a few minutes, they will have the opportunity to select from two soups while they're in line inside."

The Coalition has already raised more than \$60,000 through its dozens of business sponsorships, and all SouperFest proceeds will go directly toward its programs. 🌶️

Featured soups

- **The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern** (beef barley soup)
- **The Common Man** (beef and bean chili)
- **Concord Food Co-op** (clam chowder)
- **Concord Hospital and Karner Blue Café** (broccoli cheddar soup)
- **Georgia's Northside** (Santa Fe turkey chili)
- **Granite Restaurant & Bar** (butternut squash soup)
- **Hermanos Cocina Mexicana** (creamy mushroom soup)
- **O Steaks & Seafood** (vegetarian split pea soup)
- **Revival Kitchen & Bar** (mushroom beef and barley soup)
- **The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub** (turkey pot pie soup)
- **The Works Cafe** (lentil soup)

Get it made

Lighthouse Local, Bedford Baking Co. now open



Baked goods from Lighthouse Local. Photo by Linda Degler.

By Matt Ingersoll
mingersoll@hippopress.com

A new cafe and market now open in Bedford aims to be a one-stop shopping destination for a wide variety of New Hampshire-made goods, from jams, jellies and maple syrups to infused cooking oils, blended coffees and teas, chocolates and more.

Lighthouse Local, housed in the former Sweet Boutique space on Kilton Road, is also home to the Bedford Baking Co., which offers freshly baked breads and pastries alongside a menu of hot paninis and cold sandwiches. Both concepts arrived just after the new year, according to owner and long-time Bedford resident Linda Degler, who took over the space in September.

Degler, who also runs the Bedford Event Center and New Morning Schools, said the shop's original conception stemmed from her enjoyment of baking. The idea to feature a retail area of local products, meanwhile, came from coordination with the nonprofit New Hampshire Made.

"I thought, 'Yeah, we're local and we're small, but then so are they and so are they,' and so why don't we just bring them all together," she said. "I mean, it's basically like throwing a party. You have friends from this circle and friends from that circle and you introduce them and it's fun."

Out of the gate, the shop has retail prod-

Lighthouse Local/Bedford Baking Co.

Where: 21 Kilton Road, Bedford

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More info: Visit lighthouse-local.com, or find them on Facebook @lighthouse-local-cafe or on Instagram @lighthouse-local. Suppliers interested in getting their products on the shelves of Lighthouse Local can contact owner Linda Degler directly at lindadegler@gmail.com.

ucts available for sale from companies like Ben's Sugar Shack, Van Otis Chocolates, Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies, Monadnock Oil & Vinegar Co. and the Yankee Farmer's Market. Degler noted that the shop is also the first brick-and-mortar account for 603 Perfect Blend, run by a Manchester-based husband and wife team that is known in the local farmers market circuit for their loose-leaf teas and gourmet flavored sugars.

For several of its featured products Lighthouse Local offers samples during business hours. Degler said she plans to continue growing the retail space with additional purveyors. Although most hail from the Granite State, she said she is open to having others from neighboring states.

"This started with New Hampshire Made, and now people are calling us," she said.

On the bakery side, Degler has partnered with Trina Bird of the Bird Food Baking Co. to oversee pastries. Bird, of Goffstown, is perhaps best known locally for her craft doughnuts, of which she has made a countless number of wild flavors, as well as her cakes, cupcakes and cookies.

Degler has also recruited Natalie Camasso as an in-house baker; Fylisity Baker-Scott, who primarily runs the front; and Kyle Altman, a former manager at Mile Away Restaurant in Milford who created the shop's lunch menu. Offerings to start have included a few sandwiches and paninis, with some fresh sides, like cranberry coleslaw, cucumber pesto, and mozzarella and tomato with a balsamic glaze.

As with the retail area, Degler's goal is to grow the bakery arm of the business.

"I am interested in renting kitchen space ... maybe to new bakers who want to get a foot in but maybe they don't have a kitchen ... and we'll sell their products down here to get [them] started," she said. "I'd like to find somebody who supplies breakfast pastries. That would be a really good addition here, especially with all the office buildings around." 🍩

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IN THE KITCHEN

**WITH RACHEL MACK AND
SARA STEFFENSMEIER**



Rachel Mack (right) and Sara Steffensmeier, the new owners of Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies. Courtesy photo.

Rachel Mack and Sara Steffensmeier are the new owners of Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies (laurelhilljams.com), a Bedford-based producer of dozens of jams and jellies made from local fruits, wines and teas. The pair of sisters, who also happen to be next-door neighbors in Bedford, took over the business last month from founder Sue Stretch, who retired after 15 years. Stretch had previously worked as a teacher for more than four decades, and is also the former president of the Bedford Farmers Market. Working out of both of their home kitchens, Mack and Steffensmeier will continue to produce each of Stretch's more than 50 flavors of jams and jellies, and have some of their own ideas in the pipeline as well.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

Rachel: My must-have in the kitchen is my sister. ... I am just always happier and calmer when she is in the kitchen with me, and things just seem to go smoother. It is more than just having a second set of hands. It is more fun when we work in the kitchen together.

Sara: Probably my measuring scale. It helps me make sure I've got exactly the right amount of fruit to get the jam or jelly to set perfectly. And I like having my sister in the kitchen as well!

What would you have for your last meal?

Rachel: Some of my favorite food memories are from my aunt and uncle's farm. My Aunt Barb is the most amazing gardener and cook. She uses produce from the farm and local meat whenever possible.

Sara: Good Mexican food. It's a food that has always made me happy. Also, the calories don't count in the last meal scenario!

What is your favorite local restaurant?

Rachel: I would have to say Moat Mountain [Smoke House & Brewing Co.] up in North Conway. It is relaxed and fun and feels very New Hampshire to me. ... I don't feel like a trip up to the mountains is complete until we've eaten there.

Sara: I lived in Nashua recently and was always looking for an excuse to go to YouYou [Japanese Bistro]. It's delicious and is always a change from my home cooking.

What celebrity would you like to see trying one of your products?

Rachel: I know U2 isn't the coolest band in the world anymore, but I am still a massive fan. So I would have to say I would probably freak out if I saw either Bono or The Edge trying our jams or jellies.

Sara: There's no one in the world I could pick that would match the sheer super-fan delight Rachel would have if Bono tried her jam, so I'm going to clear the way on this one and let her have her dream.

What is your favorite jam or jelly that you offer?

Rachel: We have so many amazing flavors, but if I could only ever eat one flavor again I would have to go with our Superb Strawberry Jam. When you start with good-quality strawberries and take your time to make a small batch of the jam, the flavors build into something amazing.

Sara: Tough question! I love the sweet-tartness of the raspberry, which I use in oatmeal and sometimes as a smoothie add-on.

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

Rachel: One thing that I love about the New Hampshire food scene is the farmers market culture in our state. Obviously farmers markets are not unique to New Hampshire, but our markets have a bit of magic that is missing from ones I have been to in other parts of the country.

Sara: I love how so many people I know grow their own fruits and veggies and have livestock! I think it's cool that we're connecting back in small and large ways with where our food comes from.

What is your favorite thing to make at home?

Rachel: I love to bake bread. Sourdough is my favorite!

Sara: Anything gluten-free. My options at the grocery store are limited in that regard, so I like exploring what I can create, that I can eat, in my own kitchen. ... Plus, I need crackers and bread. They are great jam and jelly delivery systems!

— Matt Ingersoll 🍷

Baked brie with Zetz Red Pepper Jam

From the kitchen of Rachel Mack and Sara Steffensmeier of Laurel Hill Jams & Jellies

1 small brie wheel
1 4-ounce jar Laurel Hill Zetz Red Pepper Jam
Cooking spray

Lightly spray a baking dish with the cooking spray. Place the brie wheel in the center of the dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. In a saucepan, heat the jam until melted. Spoon the jam over the baked brie prior to serving.

DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

The thrill-seeker's drink

By John Fladd
food@hippopress.com

It was my bragging that brought on my most recent identity crisis.

It was Monday morning, and someone asked what I had done over the weekend. Instead of using one of the responses recommended in the official small talk manual — “You know, same ol’ same ol’” or “Not much; chew?” — I was feeling a little bit full of myself and gave an honest answer:

“I was a little tired on Saturday, and I ended up taking a three-hour nap....”

The response was all I could have asked for — something along the lines of, “Wow. You lucky bastard!” — but it got me thinking. Is this what my life has come to? I used to have dreams and ambitions. I planned to travel the world, get a regrettable tattoo, learn to bungee-jump, maybe act as a courier, delivering a mysterious package to a country ending in “-stan.”

But here I was, bragging — *bragging!* — about taking a medium-long nap. Even by napping standards, three hours is not all that impressive; I remember crashing for 14 hours once, after a particularly long night. Eighteen-year-old me would be pretty appalled with how I have turned out.

This is a riff on a cocktail by Colleen Graham, in which run-of-the-mill gin is replaced with cucumber gin and the wasabi is bumped up to adventurous levels.

Adventurer's Cocktail:

Cucumber Wasabi Martini

4 slices of cucumber
¼ teaspoon prepared wasabi paste
½ ounce simple syrup
1½ ounces **cucumber gin** (see below)
½ ounce fresh squeezed lemon juice
Muddle three slices of cucumber in a cocktail shaker.

Add simple syrup and wasabi. Muddle again.

Add gin, lemon juice and ice. Shake thoroughly, long enough to get halfway through a very groovy song.

Strain into a chilled martini glass. Gar-



Cucumber wasabi martini. Photo by John Fladd.

nish with the remaining slice of cucumber.

Go out and seek adventure, like, I don't know, fighting for a parking space at the gym or promising your daughter to go with her to the Barbie movie this summer.

Wasabi seems like an unlikely flavor for a cocktail, but surprisingly it's the cucumber that does the heavy lifting here. The wasabi supports it, linking arms with the lemon juice and providing backup vocals. The sweetness of the syrup brings out the fruitiness of the cucumber.

It's just really good.

Cucumber Gin

Persian cucumbers

An equal amount (by weight) of medium-quality gin — Gordon's is my go-to for infusing.

Wash, but don't peel, the cucumbers.

Blend the cucumbers and gin on the slowest speed in your blender. You are trying to chop the cucumbers finely to maximize the amount of surface area they have exposed to the gin, but you want them to still be in large enough pieces to filter out.

Store the mixture in a large jar, someplace cool and dark, for seven days.

Strain, then filter and bottle this very delicious gin.

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

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• **Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market** is Saturdays, from

9 a.m. to noon, at 7 Eagle Square in Concord, through April. Find them on Facebook @downtownconcord-winterfarmersmarket.

• **Milford Farmers Market** is every other Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inside the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Square). The next market is happening on March 11. Visit milfordnhfarmersmarket.com.

• **Peterborough Farmers Market** is Wednesdays, from 3 to 6 p.m., inside Peterborough Community Center (25 Elm St.). Find them on Facebook @peterboroughnhfarmersmarket.

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

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

CDs pg30

• Mona Mur, *Teen Icon* **B**

• Ledfoot & Ronni Le

Tekrø, *Limited Edition*

Lava Lamp **A**

BOOKS pg31

• *Weightless* **B-**

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FILM pg32

• *Cocaine Bear* **B**

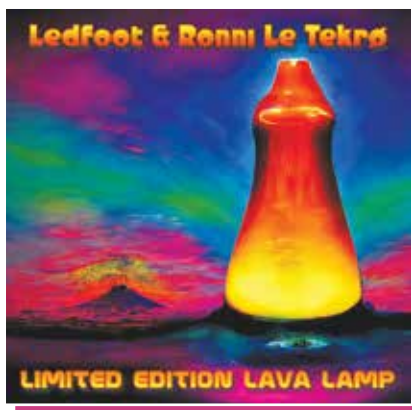
Mona Mur, Teen Icon (Give/Take Records)



Having kicked off her rebelliously edgy career during the punk explosion of the '80s, this German-born sort-of-icon has, through the years, collaborated with such artists as FM Einheit, Marc Chung and Alex Hacke of Einstürzende Neubauten, which places her in the position of fronting as an early prototype of Zola Jesus, or a female aggro-industrial William Shatner, take your pick. She put out an album called *Snake Island* last year, which had some good S&M club vibes, not

that it takes a huge amount of talent to cobble together something that sounds Rammstein-ish, and that takes us to now, and this two-sided single, wherein she covers two songs, Nirvana's "Smell Like Teen Spirit," and Siouxsie And The Banshees' "Icon." Just quickly, the latter tune goes down easier than the former, as the slowed-down "Teen Spirit" is about two minutes too long. The Siouxsie tune works better, what with its being buried in effects. This is a novelty record for goths, basically. **B** — Eric W. Saeger

Ledfoot & Ronni Le Tekrø, Limited Edition Lava Lamp (TBC Records)



I had Ledfoot (a.k.a. Tim Scott or Footless), an American singer-songwriter and 12-string guitarist who's had tunes covered by Bruce Springsteen and Sheena Easton, confused with current Lynyrd Skynyrd guitarist Rickey Medlocke, mostly because they look quite alike, scrawny, older scarecrow dudes with gray hair. Meanwhile, Le Tekrø is the Norwegian guitarist who founded the hair-metal band TNT. I was expecting a lot of blues-rawk that was long past its sell-by date, but

no, apparently what brought these guys together was a love of Dire Straits, or maybe Stealers Wheel, seeing as how this record's opening track, "Little Rosie," brings a vibe that's as close to "Stuck in the Middle with You" as anything I've heard in, well, ever. I mean, this is a mixed bag of vintage AM radio stuff, with "Crying" checking in with a sound that combines Willie Nelson with Roy Orbison. A valiant effort, and I'm sure they enjoyed themselves. **A** — Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• A whole wagonload of CDs will hit your stores and pirate radio stations this Friday, March 3, so beware the Ides of March, as we enter into literally the worst month of the year, with its teaser warm days that suddenly turn into "one last howling blizzard" that're always followed by 10 straight days of rain, sleet, grayness, and the realization that you didn't have enough money to pay all your February bills, and so you eat nothing but Beefaroni for a few weeks and everything feels hopeless and then suddenly the Easter Bunny shows up and you heave a sigh of relief, knowing that it's just about warm enough to say "who cares about rent anyway" and pack a knapsack and go live under the Interstate 93 overpass.

You know how it is, am I right, but meanwhile there are albums to mention, like *Ignore Grief*, from **Xiu Xiu**, the three-person California-based experimental art-rock band whose oeuvre is up to 13 albums now, as of this one, which is the band's first since 2021's *Oh No*, a record made up entirely of weird duets, for whatever reason. Anyhow, they have a new band member as of now, namely David Kendrick, who was formerly with Sparks and Devo, which is probably why he looks as old as Santa Claus. But never mind that, let's see if I can tolerate more than a minute of the teaser single "Maybae Baeby," I doubt it but let's just see. OK, this is just noise nonsense, a bunch of clanging wind-chime things or whatever, all while some lady recites some deconstructionist manifesto about how everything is sooo confusing and awful. I'd expound further on all this, but my stomach's had about enough of it for today.

• OK, very good, so next up is **The National Parks**, with their fifth album, *8th Wonder*. This American folk-pop band is from Provo, Utah, a slightly underrated city that's known for — well, Mormonism and a few pockets of enthusiastic anarchists to balance things out. For the last couple of years the band has gone in a more pop direction, but meanwhile they also embarked on a "Campfire Tour" in which they played intimate shows in small venues, all to prove that they haven't made up their minds as to what they want to be when they grow up, or some such. Right, so I'm listening to the title track from this new album, and it's very light and wimpy, like if Guster were possessed by Ben Kweller. It has all the rebellious antiestablishmentarian gravitas of the Brady Bunch Band, but that's OK, because we can always use a band that begs to be ignored.

• **Kali Uchis**, a Virginia-born R&B-reggaeton-whatever diva whose real name is Karly-Marina Loaiz, is releasing her third full-length on Friday, *Red Moon In Venus*. Uchis guested on a couple of Gorillaz songs on their 2017 *Humanz* album, and her second, *Sin Miedo*, album did pretty well. The new tune, "I Wish you Roses," would fit in fine in your Spotify between Lana Del Rey and Mitski; it's OK overall.

• We'll close with — good grief, what even is this, **Daisy Jones & The Six** is a fictional band in a real TV show of the same name, about a Fleetwood Mac-style band in the 1970s, except there's a real album out, called *Aurora*, which has a plodding, maudlin single titled "Another Love." The dude singer sounds like Peabo Bryson a little. Have fun with this nonsense, haters of good music. — Eric W. Saeger

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Weightless, by **Evette Dionne** (Ecco, 245 pages)

Are doctors who lecture their patients about their weight “fat shaming” them or “following the science”?

That’s the question at the heart of Evette Dionne’s *Weightless*, an account of her life as a Black woman with obesity who has had multiple health problems over the course of her often size 22 life and is now diagnosed with heart failure.

Part memoir, part journalism, *Weightless* explores Dionne’s struggles to fit into a society that prizes thinness even as it now demonizes “fatphobia” to the point of purging the word “fat” from Roald Dahl books.

In many ways, America has gone all in on what is commonly called “body acceptance.” Plus-size models are a thing, even making the swimsuit issue of *Sports Illustrated*. Most fashion designers offer extended sizes. There’s even a movement to help overweight women avoid being weighed at doctors’ offices (you can present a card that says “Don’t weigh me unless medically necessary”).

Despite all this, our culture “hates fat people,” Dionne says. “Whether it’s Netflix greenlighting a television show that glorifies losing weight as a form of revenge or airlines enacting policies that purposefully discriminate against fat people, the world believes that we must assimilate and become smaller — not that it should become bigger to accommodate us.”

Proclaiming “Fat people aren’t a problem that needs to be solved,” she catalogs a long list of problems that fat people need to be solved. These

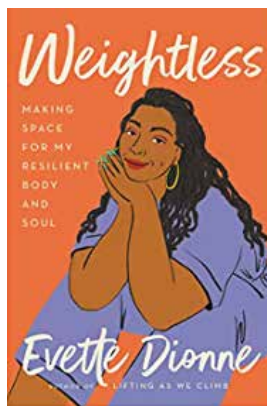
include the indignity of flying (needing seat belt extenders and sometimes having to purchase two tickets), the unceasing rudeness of strangers (on one flight she confronts someone who was texting insults about her) and the tendency of those in the medical profession to brusquely dismiss anything that’s wrong with an obese person as something that can be solved by losing weight.

“There’s a running joke around fat people that if you go to the doctor for a sore throat, they’re going to ask you to take a blood sugar test to make sure you’re not diabetic,” she writes. (I can confirm that happens even after death, having recently heard of a case in which “obesity” was put as the cause of death of a woman in her 60s who unexpectedly died at home.)

Dionne says she set out to write the book as a way of shining a light on the biases of the culture, to “shift how we individually and collectively understand the fat experience.” She says that fat people “want, need and deserve new stories.”

That may be true, but the experiences that Dionne describes here are in fact old stories. Anyone who has grown up overweight has stories about bullies; any obese adult has stories about not being able to fit in a carnival ride, or being rejected by a potential lover because of their weight, or getting an underhanded “compliment” about weight loss that feels like a punch.

Dionne writes movingly about her assort-



ed embarrassments and outrage in ways that could theoretically help other people be more compassionate, but the reality is, the cruel people she describes aren’t the ones who would read this sort of book, unless it was assigned. Her audience, her tribe, are those who have walked in her shoes.

As much as I empathize with Dionne, having lived through some versions of experiences

she describes, I found it difficult to embrace her premise, which is that “Weight discrimination is as serious and widespread as the issue of ‘obesity’ itself.”

The bulk of medical research suggests otherwise.

There are those who have argued that overweight people can be just as metabolically healthy as those who are of what doctors deem “normal” weight, or those who are underweight, especially if they exercise. But Dionne is not making this argument. In fact, from her opening page, in which she declares “I am in heart failure,” she establishes that she is not a healthy person, and her problems are not only physical; she also has battled extreme anxiety and depression.

She writes, in a chapter about wanting to become a mother, “There’s no doubt I will be a fat mother, just as my mother was a fat mother” and also, “I will be a chronically ill mother, who will often have to prioritize my own health needs above the immediate needs of my children.”

She also acknowledges the ways in which her life became easier after she lost some weight after becoming ill, but says that in some ways this made her sad.

“Whenever I discuss what heart failure has done and continues to do to my body ... my feelings are cast aside as people gush about how good I look. ‘You’re beautiful now’ is a common refrain. ‘You’re so small’ is another. What I also hear is: heart failure might have cost you, but sickness has also granted you something more important than your aches and pains.”

There is heart-rending truth here, and much pain bravely revealed.

But the book would have benefited from a chapter in which Dionne considered the ways in which the doctors she dismisses might be right — that obesity, not weight discrimination, is the biggest problem for people who are seriously overweight, that in fact, her obesity might have been responsible, at least in part, for many of her problems.

That is not to say that cruelty is ever justified, and I personally think she should have “accidentally” spilled a cup of water or coffee on the texting guy’s phone. And no, no one needs a diabetes test when they visit a doctor for a sore throat. But there is some reasonable middle ground when the subject is obesity, or at least there needs to be. Right now, it’s all finger-pointing and name-calling even as Americans keep getting larger and sicker.

As likable as Dionne is (but for some revelations that are truly TMI), disappointingly, *Weightless* breaks no new ground. **B-**

—Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **JANE HAIGH**, local author, will be at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Thursday, March 2, at 6 p.m. to talk about her new book, *Waiting for the Storm*. The event is free; register online.

• **JOSEPH MONNINGER** will discuss his new memoir *Goodbye to Clocks Ticking: How We Live While Dying* at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m.

• **JOHN FORTI** The Concord Garden Club will present a “literary lunchtime” (bring a sack lunch or order from the Gibson’s Cafe) on Thursday, March 9, at 12:30 p.m. at Gibson’s Bookstore with John Forti, author of *The Heirloom Gardener: Traditional Plants and Skills for the Modern World*.

• **MIKE MORIN** will discuss his new book *If These Walls Could Talk: Celebrating More than 100 Years of the Red Arrow, America’s*



Most Beloved Diner at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

• **CAROL PHILLIPS** will be at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Thursday, March 23, at 5:30 p.m. to talk about her new book, *Stop Struggling: Give Yourself the Gift of Healthy Living*. The event is free; register online.

• **CHRISTINE KENNEALLY** will be at Bookery (844 Elm St. in

Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Friday, March 24, at 6 p.m. to talk about her new book, *Ghosts of the Orphanage*. The event is free; register online.

• **AMY LABELLE** will be at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) on Sunday, March 26, at 4 p.m. to talk about her new book, *Wine Weddings*. The event is free; register online.

Poetry

• **GARY BOUCHARD** will be at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manches-

ter; bookerymht.com) on Friday, March 10, at 5 p.m. to read from his new book of poetry, *What News Horatio?*. The event is free; register online.

• **JULIA LISELLA & KATHLEEN AGUERO** presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, March 15, at 4:30 p.m. Lisella’s most recent collection is *Our Lovely Kingdom* and Aguerro’s most recent collection is *After That*.

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Cocaine Bear (R)

A bear does cocaine in *Cocaine Bear*, a movie that is 100 percent exactly what you think it's going to be.

This movie opens with title cards giving us facts about black bears citing Wikipedia as its source, which feels tonally perfect. Like, here's some information but we didn't work super hard to get it and we don't stand by its accuracy. (But, speaking of Wikipedia, a link on this movie's Wikipedia page will take you to the tale of the "real life" Cocaine Bear, who has apparently been stuffed and is now on display at something called the "Kentucky for Kentucky Fun Mall" and also the bear's nickname is sometimes "Pablo Eskobear" and, well, I definitely recommend the "Cocaine Bear" Wikipedia page.) This movie is directed by Elizabeth Banks and if you can picture her seriously reading you facts about bears, that gives you a sense of where this movie is, vibe-wise, even though she herself doesn't appear in the movie.

It's the "this is your brain on drugs" 1980s and a drug smuggler dumps duffel bags filled with cocaine out of an airplane and into a Georgia forest before jumping himself. Well, before *preparing* to jump himself. Before he can actually jump, he bonks his head, falls out of the plane and ends up splatting in someone's yard. But the gang expecting the cocaine — led by Syd (Ray Liotta, in his final role, according to IMDb) — knows that most of it is still out there and needs to go collect it so as not to incur the wrath of the cartel wholesaling it to them. Syd sends his son, Eddie (Alden Ehrenreich), who is still grieving the loss of his wife and is generally disinterested in his



Cocaine Bear.

dad's whole drug-dealing thing, and Dav-eed (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), a friend to Eddie but also no-nonsense in his approach to the cocaine retrieval, to find the missing drugs.

Bob (Isiah Whitlock Jr.), nominally a detective but primarily an Isiah Whitlock character, suspects that Syd's gang might be looking for the cocaine and goes on the hunt for it in hopes of nabbing them.

Before those opposing forces can get to the drugs, though, a trio of crime-minded dummies — whose IMDb names are "Kid (Stache)" (Aaron Holliday), "Vest" (J. B. Moore) and "Ponytail" (Leo Hanna) — find one of the duffels and hides it in the forest, hoping to go back for it later.

But before any of *these* guys start their cocaine search, a large female black bear finds some of the cocaine, consumes it and decides she *loves* cocaine. She is sin-

gle-minded on getting more cocaine — possibly grunting something like "yum yum" when she's near it? maybe that was my imagination. And while not usually portrayed this way, cocaine seems to give her the munchies, specifically for humans, the more clueless the better.

This is bad news not just for the cops and criminals on the search for the drugs but also for anybody who happens to be in the woods, like for example single mother Sari (Keri Russell), searching for her tween-ish-aged daughter Dee Dee (Brooklyn Prince) and Dee Dee's buddy Henry (Christian Convery), who have cut school to go to the forest in search of a waterfall. And forest ranger Liz (Margo Martindale), who is far more concerned with seducing wildlife expert Peter (Jesse Tyler Ferguson).

Everybody, every Margo Martindale and

Keri Russell and Ray Liotta body, seems to be having a total blast here — and why not. The movie is called *Cocaine Bear* and the coked up bear quickly overtakes all other storylines and character elements as being the key issue of the movie. This is not a horror movie, this isn't even a thriller really, it's just a bear, on cocaine, chasing O'Shea Jackson Jr., who like his dad (Ice Cube) is solid at being the straight man in a wacky situation. What's not to enjoy? The movie — like this year's *Plane* or last year's *Beast* — is totally and completely up front about what it is going to deliver to you and then it delivers exactly that. What are this movie's themes? Bear on cocaine. What is this movie's central argument? That a bear on cocaine will want more cocaine. What does this movie make you feel? That you are watching a bear on cocaine — or, you know, a good-enough rendering of a bear. This movie does have some gore, which feels more for the comic "ew" of it all than to really induce fear. There is a "glued on mustache" sensibility that pervades this movie, which perhaps keeps it from reaching some, I don't know, higher height of intoxicated bear cinema but also keeps things humming along at a nicely unserious, deliberately shabby level. Which is all to say, if *Cocaine Bear* seems both really stupid and like something you, with your daily stresses and worries, might need in your life, you are absolutely correct. **B**

Rated R for bloody violence and gore, drug content and language throughout, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Elizabeth Banks and written by Jimmy Warden, Cocaine Bear is an hour and 35 minutes long and is distributed in theaters by Universal Studios. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

Babylon (R)

Margot Robie, Brad Pitt.

Writer-director Damien Chazelle gives you three hours and nine minutes of 1920s and 1930s Hollywood, as the business adapted to sound and the movie industry machine chewed through the people involved. Here, we focus on Nellie LaRoy (Robie), a young woman who cons her way into a Hollywood party from which she lucks her way into a movie and briefly becomes a silent star sensation; Manny Torres (Diego Calva), who is working the party as a kind of general fix-it guy (help this elephant get up the hill to the house, help these goons dispose of an overdosing starlet); Jack Conrad (Brad Pitt), an established star who takes on Manny as his assistant; Sideny Palmer (Jovan Adepo), a trumpet player who finds stardom and a financial windfall in front of the camera but doesn't get any relief from the persistent racism he deals with as a Black art-

ist, and to a lesser extent Elinor St. Jean (Jean Smart), a gossip columnist who even in the 1920s knows that movie fame is fleeting.

A lot of names — Olivia Wilde, Max Minghella, Jeff Garlin, Spike Jonze, Flea — show up for cameos and as do actors playing historical types (Irving Thalberg, William Randolph Hearst). It's, uhm, cute, in the same way I found the *Citizen Kane* cosplay of *Mank* cute and amusing in a "photo book about 1930s Oscars" kind of way. Even better are process-y scenes that demonstrate, with some equally cute exaggeration, how these early movies were made — and some of the ways that pre-code films were a lot racier than the movies that were on screens a decade later. An extended sequence of Nellie and director Ruth Adler (Olivia Hamilton) trying to film a scene of a talkie while the cast and crew swelter in the heat (air conditioning would be too loud) and have to deal with the sensitivities of the microphones is particularly fun. There is also a nice bit of storytelling in who made it through the transition — not Nellie and her Harley Quinn accent, for example.

But.

But this movie is so much elaborate scene-setting, so much "The Magic of the Movies!" and so much Hollywood doing a guided tour up its own rear that it is, at times, completely intolerable. And, from *Singin' in the Rain* (which is a touchstone for this movie) to the most recent *Downton Abbey* movie, I feel like I've seen a lot of this stuff before. And it's more than three hours. Three. Hours.

Babylon is nominated for Oscars in categories for costume design, original score and production design and while I can understand those nominations, I don't think it would be my pick in any of those categories. **C+** (but a strong **B** for the "Nellie shoots in sound" scene.) *Available for purchase and on Paramount+.*

Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths (R)

Daniel Giménez Cacho, Griselda Siciliana.

Early in *Bardo*, co-written and directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, we watch as Lucia (Siciliana) delivers her and husband Silverio's (Giménez Cacho) son, Mateo. Moments after his birth, doctors tell her Mateo says he

doesn't want to be out in a world as messed up as this and so they put him back, er, in. This pretty well sets the scene for the movie we're watching, where Silverio jumps around in time and where the truth of a situation is often rendered lyrically more than realistically. Silverio, a journalist turned filmmaker, started his career in Mexico, where he and his family are from, but moved to Los Angeles with his wife and kids when they were young. He wrestles with the U.S./Mexico of it all — from the Mexican American War to the present relationship between the countries and what it means for the people who move between the two. He also has a conversation about Mexican-ness with Cortés and occasionally finds himself in the desert with migrants. He also wanders through his own life, suddenly child-sized when he talks to his father, and talking with his children Lorenzo (Iker Solano) and Camila (Ximena Lamadrid) while thoughts of Mateo are never far from his mind.

It can all read as sort of self-indulgent at times — a criticism the movie itself makes of itself in its foldy self-referential way — but the movie is so good-humored and genuine about what

it's doing and how it knows you know it knows what it's doing that I was, you know, never mad at it. It's weird and mournful but also joyful — and, here's where the Oscar nomination comes in, absolutely visually stunning. A nominee in the cinematography category, *Bardo* makes good use of its frequently very lovely settings but also of the dreamlike way it's shot and the way scenes morph into other scenes in the way your dream might take you from a memory to a fear to a recent conversation. I see how this movie could annoy someone — its lead is, after all, a Great Man Looking at His Life — and maybe I just got lucky and saw this movie at the moment I was most open to this kind of twisty, floaty ride but: **A** Available on Netflix.



To Leslie.

Empire of Light (R)

Olivia Colman, Michael Ward.

Olivia Colman can act the heck out of anything, is my main takeaway from *Empire of Light*, a ssssoooooow movie (that is actually only an hour and 55 minutes) about a woman and her unlikely relationship in 1980s Thatcher U.K.

Hilary (Colman) works at the Empire, a movie theater, in a town on the English coast that instantly made me think of the Morrissey song. Though we don't learn the full details for a while, we know that she has struggled with mental health issues and that the medication she is now taking has left her feeling flat. It's not that she's unhappy — taking dance lessons, making small talk with coworkers, engaging in a deeply unsexy affair with the theater's manager (played by Colin Firth) — but there just isn't a spark in her. And then arrives Stephen (Ward), a young man who didn't get into university and whose Jamaican heritage makes life difficult in a time when racism and nationalism seems to be on the rise in England. Stephen and Hilary take an immediate shine

to each other despite the age disparity. Their friendly coworker-ship soon turns into something more, but both of them are struggling with issues greater than a sunny romance.

Empire of Light is Oscar nominated for Cinematography and I fully get why — it's a beautiful-looking film, from the fading glory of the Empire, a movie palace that once had multiple floors and a rooftop cafe, to the lights and grays and shadows of the city. And I wouldn't be surprised if Colman was, like, 8 or 9 on the list of nominated actresses. Elements of this movie are very compelling. But the movie as a whole needed a jolt of energy. **B**

Available on HBO Max or for rent or purchase.

To Leslie (R)

Andrea Riseborough, Marc Maron.

Leslie (Riseborough, nominated for actress in a leading role*) goes to see her 19-or-20-year-old son James (Owen Teague) after being evicted from the motel where she had been living. He quickly kicks her out after she refuses

to stay sober and steals money from his roommate, sending her back to their hometown, where his grandmother and her boyfriend (the parents of his unmentioned father, I think) put her up. Nancy (Allison Janney) and Dutch (Stephen Root) are minorly supportive but also harbor deep grudges toward Leslie and she's soon kicked out of their house too. She floats around her hometown, eventually getting caught hanging out near a motel run by Sweeney (Maron) and Royal (Andre Royo). Sweeney takes pity on Leslie and offers her a job cleaning the motel along with a room to stay in, which begins a fraught and shaky friendship.

Riseborough gives an interesting and highly watchable performance as a woman who can't quite get out her own way — she won more than \$100,000 in a lottery years ago but squandered it partying — and is battling a serious alcohol addiction. Is it a strong enough performance to carry the weight of the * for which this small movie is known? The asterisk is the story surrounding Riseborough's Oscar nomination, the campaign for which was a grassroots affair by famous fans and, according to a New York Times explainer from Feb. 8, her manager. The Academy got involved in the uproar after nominations were announced and, whatever rules may have been bent, her nomination stands. It will probably always bear the stain of being the nomination that denied Viola Davis for *The Woman King* or Danielle Deadwyler for *Till* an Oscar nod. And while both of those are better performances than Riseborough's work here, they are also better than nominee Ana de Armas in the icksome *Blonde*, so really it's not all Riseborough's fault.

On its own merits, *To Leslie* is a solid movie worth a watch. **B+** Available for rent or purchase. 🍷



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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre

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

- *The Tower* (PG, 2018) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Wednesday, March 1, 7 p.m.
- *80 for Brady* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, March 2, at 4:15



Living.

& 6:46 p.m.; Friday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, and Sunday, March 5, at 4 p.m.

- **Oscar nominated shorts — live action** (NR, 2022) a 110-minute presentation of the live-action short films nominated for an Oscar this year will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord Thursday, March 2, at 3:45 p.m.; Friday, March 3, at 1:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 9, at 4 p.m.
- **Oscar nominated shorts — documentary** (NR, 2022) a two-hour-and-45-minute presentation of the short documentaries nominated for an Oscar

this year will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord Thursday, March 2, at 6:15 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.

- *Living* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, March 3, through Sunday, March 5, at 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 9, at 4:30 & 7 p.m.
- **Oscar nominated shorts — animated** (NR, 2022) a 95-minute presentation of the short animated films nominated for an Oscar this year will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord Friday, March 3, at 4 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, and Sunday, March 5, at 1:45 p.m.
- *Linoleum* (2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 4, at 2:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 5, at 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, March 7 through Thursday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.
- *Little Old New York* (1923) a silent film starring Marion Davies, will screen on Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m. with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis at Wilton Town Hall Theatre.
- *Hangman's House* (1928) a silent

film directed by John Ford with a young John Wayne in a bit part, will screen on Wednesday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis at the Flying Monkey in Plymouth.

- **NH Jewish Film Fest** runs Thursday, March 16, through Sunday, March 26, at locations in Manchester, Bedford, Keene, Concord, Portsmouth and Hooksett. The festival will include 11 feature-length films and a five-film shorts program, according to nhjewishfilmfestival.com, where you can purchase tickets for individual shows (\$12) or for an all-access package (\$200). Of the features, six will be screened in theaters and five can be streamed at home, the website said. From Monday, March 17, through Sunday, April 16, four of the films shown in theaters will be available to be viewed at home.
- *The Quiet Man* (1952) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Thursday, March 16, at 1:30 & 7 p.m.
- *Home* (PG, 2015) will screen at all three area Chunky's as part of the "Little Lunch Date" series on Friday, March 17, at 3:45 p.m. Admission is free but reserve a seat with a \$5 food voucher.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Sound & vision:** One of New England's great musical resources, **Mark Erelli** performs an intimate set. Diagnosed with a degenerative retinal disease a few years back, Erelli reflects on a new album, *Lay Your Darkness Down*, arriving later this year. His 2018 song "By Degrees" bemoans society's tolerance of preventable tragedies — "I thought something had to change," he sings, "but somehow it's become routine." Thursday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose Pub & Grille, 40 Andover Road, New London, \$25 at flyinggoose.com.

• **Folks up:** North Carolina favorites **Chatham Rabbits**, the husband-and-wife duo of Sarah and Austin McCombie, are joined by Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light. The bluegrass duo got creative during the pandemic by playing more than 200 neighborhood shows in their home state, on a rolling mobile stage. Ex-Twisted Pine member Sumner has wowed crowds with her modern folk sound, releasing a debut LP last year. Friday, March 3, 7 p.m., The Word Barn, 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, \$15 to \$20 at portsmouthtickets.com.

• **Rap reggae:** A pair of great local bands support headliner **Merrimack Delta Dub Set**, a groove-based combo described as a mash-up of UB40 and The Roots. Led by singer-guitarist Sean Stanton, they often feature freestyle raps in their sets. Rounding out the bill are the jamtastic and energetic Humans Being, along with Faith Ann Band, one of the region's most incendiary acts, who are currently in search of a new guitarist. Saturday, March 4, 9 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester, \$15 cover at the door.

• **Get motivated:** Best known for leading Recycled Percussion, **Justin Spencer** is also a philanthropist, writer and public speaker. His day-long "It's Your Life" seminar is an effort to help energize those looking for personal growth. "I promise that when you spend the day with me, I will arm you with all the tools you need to start carving out the new version of yourself," Spencer wrote in a press release. Sunday, March 5, noon, Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester; entry is \$99 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Country rock:** When their 1973 single "Amie" finally hit the charts in 1975, **Pure Prairie League** were helping define what's now called the Americana genre, with their Norman Rockwell album covers driving the point home. Past members have included Vince Guller, who replaced original singer Craig Fuller in the late '70s and sang lead on the band's biggest pop hit, "Let Me Love You Tonight." Wednesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$53.75 at ccanh.com. 🍷

NITE

One voice

International guitar duo performs in Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The best guitar duos carry on a conversation with their instruments, but Nicola Cipriani and Brad Myrick engage in musical mind-melding, two sonic serpents swirling into a rope of notes. The Italian-born Cipriani and Concord native Myrick recall the similarly synchronistic Tom Verlaine and Richard Lloyd, of the '70s rock band Television.

Those two, though, had amplifiers. not to mention lyrics and a rhythm section. Cipriani and Myrick speak strictly through their fretboards — and they're unplugged. On stage, they sit in angled chairs to play, with eyes moving fluidly between each other and an eavesdropping audience.

They also compose this way, a practice firmed up on the 2020 album *Reflections*. Released in the spring of that year, this fine effort disappeared in the pandemic's fog. A canceled world tour was another costly problem, and even worse was the lockdown's impact on their creative process.

"We tried to compose from a distance," Myrick recalled in a recent joint interview with Cipriani. "For the kind of music that we do, it ended up being impossible.... We need to be in the room together, have the interplay, the visual connection. We just found that it wasn't working out, so basically we were on pause for

Nicola Cipriani and Brad Myrick

When: Sunday, March 5, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Bank of NH Stage, 44 S Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$23.75 at ccanh.com

Also Monday, March 6, 8 p.m., Paul Creative Arts Center (Verrette Recital Hall), 30 Academic Way, Durham

almost three years."

Finally, the two have new a new album, *Silver Lining*, and are back on tour. They spoke during a pause on a Southern run that wrapped up in Asheville. It resumes with a show at Bank of NH Stage on March 5, and another the next day at UNH's Paul Creative Arts Center. In April they're in Italy, and they hope to book a few South American dates later in the year.

The cover of the new album is a monochrome Noemi Trazzi photo of Myrick and Cipriani facing each other in a terminal. This theme is explored in the opening track, "Ritrovarsi." The Italian word translates to "find again," and for Cipriani, the joyous, playful track has "a double meaning ... to find ourselves again as artists and composers, and find each other."

"Like reunite," Myrick added.

With all the talk of Covid silver linings in the world of music like extra time to reflect and write, there weren't many for the duo. That's reflected on the new album. With titles like "Ode To Solitude" and "Remember To Breathe," many of its songs came from "the experience that we had all been through," Myrick said. "There was a lot of darkness in there, some tension, some melancholy."

The seemingly ironic title was chosen, Myrick explained, because "we found that there was still so much good that we were able to pull out, even in this really challenging time — for me particularly." That said, *Silver Lining* isn't intentionally a pandemic album. "A lot of artists made those," Cipriani said, while allowing that "it was a perfect photography of where we were at the time, actually."

A suite in three stages, "Dragonfly Ritual" is one of the record's celebratory moments. "I think that speaks to silver linings," said Myrick, who wrote it as he watched the regal



Nicola Cipriani & Brad Myrick. Courtesy photo.

insects mating from his back window. "They're attached as they're flying, then they detach. I think they're the only animal that does that; it's this really incredible kind of ritual."

Though a tonic, quiet contemplation doesn't compare to the feeling Cipriani and Myrick had walking on stage and leaving with a standing ovation a few weeks ago at Coastal Carolina University, where they once recorded a live album.

"It was rewarding and it was inspiring," Myrick said. "It is just totally propelling us forward. For me at least, and Nicola can tell me if this is true for him, it's confirming that this is exactly what I should be doing artistically right now."

"It is a huge privilege, what we are able to do.... I never get the sensation that I'm doing a kind of a normal job," Cipriani agreed. "When we go to places like the university, and get the chance to meet a lot of people, especially young students that are really passionate and searching for their own artistic way, it's so inspiring."

One big benefit of live performance is it gives their instrumental music a narrative.

"We get to tell the stories and share the ideas behind it, so we can give people a little bit more information before they listen," Myrick said. "Here's what we were feeling, this is what sparked the idea; now maybe you have an idea in your head, and you can take it into a place, follow on the journey, and make it your own with us." 🍷

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Franklin Opera House

316 Central St., Franklin 934-1901, franklinopera-house.org

Fulchino Vineyard

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

Headliners Comedy Club

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

LaBelle Winery Derry

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

Murphy's Taproom

494 Elm St., Manchester scampscomey.com/shows

Park Theatre

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

Rex Theatre

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

Rochester Opera House

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

Tupelo Music Hall

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

Events

• **Jimmy Dunn** LaBelle Derry,

Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m.

• **Mark Scalia** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, 8:30 p.m.

• **Pouring Comedy** Fulchino Vineyard, Saturday, March 4, 6 p.m.

• **Joe Yannetty** and **Rob Steen** Franklin Opera House, Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

• **Robbie Printz/Alex Giam-papa** Tupelo, Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m.

• **Mike Donovan, Jay Chanoine** featuring **Mona Forgi-one, Bill Douglas** Murphy's, Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m.

• **Frank Santorelli** Headliners, Saturday, March 4, 8:30 p.m.

• **Tim McKeever** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, March 4, 8:30 p.m.

• **Christine Hurley & Friends** Rex, Friday, March

10, 7:30 p.m.

• **Steve Sweeney and Friends** Rochester Opera House, Friday, March 10, 8 p.m.

• **Brad Mastrangelo** Chunky's, Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, 8:30 p.m.

• **Chris D. featuring Eric Hurst, Colleen McCauley, Matt McArthur** Murphy's Taproom, Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m.

• **Chris Zito** Headliners, Saturday, March 11, 8:30 p.m.

• **Chris Zito** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, March 11, 8:30 p.m.

• **The Carol Burnett Collection** Franklin Opera House, Thursday, March 16; Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 19, at 2 p.m.

• **Comedy Poured St. Patrick's Day** Fulchino Vineyard,



Steve Sweeney

Friday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

• **Mike McDonald's Boston Irish Comedy Night** Park Theatre, Friday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

• **Cory Guglietti** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18, 8:30 p.m.

• **Dan Crohn** featuring **Tony Moschetto, Joni Grasse, Tom Severo** Murphy's, Saturday, March 18, at 8 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Foster's Tavern 403 Main St. 875-1234	224-5669	Crotched Mountain Resort 740 Second NH Turnpike 588-1800	61 High St. 601-7091	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954	Laconia Fratello's 799 Union Ave. 528-2022	Derryfield Club 625 Mammoth Road 623-2880	Country 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square 672-2270
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road 622-6564	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road 226-8667	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road 293-0841	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road 601-2801	Henniker Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road 888-728-7732	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100	Elm House of Pizza 102 Elm St. 232-5522	The Foundry 50 Commercial St. 836-1925	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr. 488-2677	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road 463-7374	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St. 497-8230	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545	London Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road 432-3210	Fratello's 155 Dow St. 624-2022	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Strange Brew 88 Market St. 666-4292
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square 601-2319	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road 943-7832	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St. 669-6144	South Side Tavern	McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct. 622-6159	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St. 627-RIBS	To Share Brewing 720 Union St. 836-6947
Concord Area 23 254 N. State St. 552-0137	Dover Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St. 343-4390	The Goat 20 L St. 601-6928	Jaffrey Park Theatre 19 Main St. 532-9300	South Side Tavern	Stromboli's 1279 S. Willow St. 935-9947	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St. 644-3535	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-3313	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722
Hermanos Mexicana 11 Hills Ave.	Epping Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy. 679-8225	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St. 967-4777	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125 369-6962	South Side Tavern	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St. 624-4020	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St. 625-0246	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy. 279-0876	Raga 138 Main St. 459-8566
	Franchestown Toll Booth Tavern	Shane's Texas Pit						Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave. 882-4070
								New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road 487-1362
								Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St. 659-7700
								Northfield Boonedox Pub 95 Park St.

Thursday, March 2

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.	Gilford Patrick's Pub: Sev and Company with Sunshine Street, 6 p.m.	Tower Hill: karaoke w/ Luke Skywalker, 8 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	Epping Telly's: Swipe Right, 8 p.m.	Shaskeen: Remy Roskin, 9 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.	London Stumble Inn: D-Comp, 7 p.m.	Nashua Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.	Franchestown Crotched Mountain: 12 Oz Soul, 7 p.m.	South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: River Sang Wild, 9 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic night with Matt Bergeron, 5 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Ross McGinnes, 6 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Dare to Dance, 5 p.m. Elm House of Pizza: KOHA, 6 p.m. Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m. The Goat: Suga Rush, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Peter Higgin, 8 p.m.	Newmarket The Stone Church: G-Nome Project, 8 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Rose Kula, 5 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Slim Volume, 5 p.m.
Concord Area 23: drum circle, 7 p.m. Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Meredith Giuseppe's: Paul Hubert, 5:30 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m. The Goat: Alex Anthony, 8 p.m. Wally's: KOHA, 8 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke with DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Jess Olson, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/ George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Milford Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Eric Grant, 7 p.m.		Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: All That 90's, 8 p.m.	Nashua Millyard Brewery: Matt Siopes, 6 p.m.
			Stratford Independence Inn: Alex Cohen, 6 p.m.		Newbury Mount Sunapee: Tyler Levs, 3 p.m.
					New Boston Molly's: Randy McGravey, 7 p.m.
					Newmarket Stone Church: Soule Monde, 8 p.m.
					Northfield Boonedox Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.
					Penacook American Legion Post 31: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.
					Portsmouth Gas Light: Justin Jordan, 9:30 p.m.



MARCH FORTH WITH THE DADDIOS

New Hampshire vocal quartet **Rockin' Daddios** have been recreating the doo-wop era with pitch-perfect accuracy for audiences throughout New England. Don't miss their appearance at the Majestic Theatre (880 Page St., Manchester; 669-7469, majestictheatre.net) on Saturday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

Friday, March 3

Alton Foster's Tavern: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.	London Stumble Inn: Rob & Jody, 7 p.m.	Manchester Backyard Brewery: The Kimayo, 6 p.m. Bonfire: Fat Bunny, 9 p.m. Derryfield: The Slaka's, 8 p.m. Fratello's: John Chouinard, 6 p.m. The Foundry: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m. The Goat: He Said She Said, 9 p.m.
Auburn Auburn Pitts: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Robert Allwarden, 6 p.m.	
Concord Area 23: Scalawag, 8 p.m.		

Sat., March 4

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

717-8267	Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane 436-6656	41 S. Broadway 458-2033	ern 530 Lafayette Road 760-0030
Penacook American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St. 753-9372	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St. 427-8645	Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway 458-2162	Strafford Independence Inn 6 Drake Hill Road 718-3334
Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St. 430-9122	Rochester Porter's Pub 19 Hanson St. 330-1964	Smuttynose 11 Via Toscana	Tilton Pour Decisions 500 Laconia Road 527-8066
The Goat 142 Congress St. 590-4628	Salem Copper Door	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way 760-2581	Red's Kitchen + Tavern

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Mojo's: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Salem
Luna Bistro: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.
Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Matty & the Penders, 6:30 p.m.

Tilton
Pour Decisions: Dan Fallon, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: Up-Beat w/J-Dubz, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Eric Grant Band, 9 p.m.
Whym: Brian Johnson, 6 p.m.

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Joppa Flatts, 8 p.m.

Laconia
Temple B'nai Israel: Kimayo, 11 a.m.
Tower Hill: line dancing, 7 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Brian Weeks, 7 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: David Corson, 5 p.m.
Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.

Nashua
Liquid Therapy: Klipper Music, 6 p.m.
Millyard Brewery: Garret Partridge, 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 4

Alton
Foster's Tavern: Garrett Smith, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Chris Lester, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Joe Birch, 6 p.m.

Concord
Area 23: acoustic circle with John Farese, 2 p.m.; 70s night, 8 p.m.
Downtown Farmers Market: Ryan Williamson, 9 a.m.
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: 603's, 8 p.m.

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

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Chris Perkins, 6 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m.
Fondry: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Brooks Hubbard musical brunch, 10 a.m.; Half-way to Summer Party with Pulse, 8 p.m.
McIntyre: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
Shaskeen: The Humans Being, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Johnny and the Two Timers, 9 p.m.
Wild Rover: Jonny Friday, 5 p.m.

Northfield
Boonedox 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: Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Bulletproof, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 5

Bedford
Bedford Presbyterian Church: Kimayo, 4:45 p.m.
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 6 p.m.

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

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COUCH TO STAGE

The seven-piece band **Couch** blends catchy melodies, ear-catching brass riffs and sassy vocal arrangements into an unstoppable indie-pop force. They touch down at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth; 766-3330, 3sarts.org) on Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$20 to \$25, plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Hampton
 CR's: Don Severance, 11 a.m.
 L Street: Up-Beat with J-Dubz, 9 p.m.

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

Londonderry
 Stumble Inn: Lewis Goodwin, 3 p.m.

Manchester
 Foundry: Nate Comp, 10 a.m.
 The Goat: Mike Forgette musical brunch, 10 a.m.; Mike Forgette, 7 p.m.
 Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.
 To Share: DJ Ras 1, 1 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: Jon Paul Royer, 11 a.m.
 Luna Bistro: Jon Paul Royer, 4 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, March 7
Concord
 Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
 Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
 Fratello's: Dave Clark, 5:30 p.m.
 The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
 KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
 Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
 Homestead: Dave Zangri, 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, March 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 St.: 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
 Fratello's: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m.

p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
 Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Thursday, March 9
Auburn
 Auburn Pitts: open mic jam, 7 p.m.

Bedford
 Copper Door: Charlie Chonopoulos, 7 p.m.

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

Goffstown
 Village Trestle: D-Comp, 6 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
 City Hall Pub: John Chouinard, 7 p.m.
 Currier: Rebecca Turmel, 5 p.m.
 Elm House of Pizza: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
 Foundry: Ken Budka, 5 p.m.
 Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
 The Goat: Sugah Rush, 9 p.m.
 Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
 Homestead: Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m.
 Tortilla Flat: Pete Peterson, 7 p.m.

Milford
 Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.

Nashua
 Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
 Shorty's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.

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MARCH 10 7:30PM CHRISTINE HURLEY

MARCH 24 7:30PM MARK RILEY & FRIENDS

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 Saturday, March 4th at 7:30PM
 With a unique blend of vocals combined with new arrangements to pop favorites, classic rock, Motown and originals, the Divas do not disappoint!

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 Sunday, March 5th at 12:00PM
 Justin has spent over a decade committed to leading the way for others to find who they are and address their mental obstacles.

AN EVENING WITH SINGER SONGWRITER: VANCE GILBERT
 Saturday, March 11th at 7:30PM
 Considered by many to be an integral part of the national folk scene, Gilbert's approach to the acoustic singer songwriter idiom is significant.

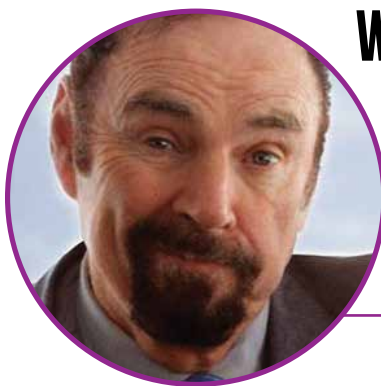
MARCH

THUR 16	NH Jewish Film Festival: Out of Exile	7:00PM
FRI 17	St. Patricks Day with The Spain Brothers	7:30PM
SAT 18	An Evening With John McEuen and The Circle Band	7:30PM
SAT 25	An Evening with Tom Rush and Matt Nakoa	7:30PM
FRI 31	Morgan James with Special Guest Kirk Hurmond	7:30PM

GET YOUR TICKETS AT REXTHEATRE.ORG

WINE AND LAUGHS

If you like wine and comedy, you won't want to miss **Steve Sweeney** at Fulchino Vineyard's (187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis; 438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com) Pouring Comedy show. The fun starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 4, and tickets cost \$29 plus fees.



Trivia

Events

• **The Office trivia 21+** on Thursday, March 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 with Game Time Trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223

Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry, 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
 • **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
 • **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.
 • **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10



The Office.

p.m.
 • **Monday** trivia at Crow's Nest (181 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 817-6670, crowsnestnh.com) at 8 p.m.
 • **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30 p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by

DJ Zati.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Area 23 (254 N. State St., Concord, 881-9060, thearea23.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
 • **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events/) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at The Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth, 427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 8 p.m.

Concerts

Venues

Bank of NH Stage in Concord
 16 S. Main St., Concord
 225-1111, banknhstage.com

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

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

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

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

Franklin Opera House
 316 Central St., Franklin
 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org

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

Granite State Music Hall
 546 Main St., Laconia
 granitestatemusichall.com

Jewel Music Venue
 61 Canal St., Manchester

819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.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

Lakeport Opera House
 781 Union Ave., Laconia
 519-7506, lakeportopera.com

The Majestic Theatre
 880 Page St., Manchester
 669-7469, majestictheatre.net

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

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

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

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

Rex Theatre

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

Rochester Opera House
 31 Wakefield St., Rochester
 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

The Spotlight Room
 96 Hanover St., Manchester
 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

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

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

The Strand
 20 Third St., Dover
 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 Word Barn
 66 Newfields Road, Exeter
 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows
 • **Kylie Morgan/Eric Marcs** Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Alexa Tarantino** Thursday,

March 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **G-Nome Project** Thursday, March 2, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Cathedral: The Tribute to Van Halen** Friday, March 3, 7 p.m., Rochester Opera House
 • **Chatham Rabbits/Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light** Friday, March 3, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Veronica Lewis** Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Mark Erelli** Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Chadwick Stokes** Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Watchhouse** Friday, March 3, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Soule Monde** Friday, March 3, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Yung Gravy** Saturday, March 4, 7 p.m., SNHU Arena
 • **Rockin' Daddios** Saturday, March 4, 7 p.m., Majestic
 • **Divas with a Twist** Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **The Machine** (Pink Floyd tribute) Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Billy Childs Quartet** Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Deb Talan** Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Moondance** (Van Morrison tribute) Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
 • **Il Divo** Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Couch** Saturday, March 4, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
 • **Chelsea Berry/Bad Penny** Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m., Rochester Opera House
 • **Nicola Cipriani & Brad Myrick** Sunday, March 5, 6:30 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Kelly Willis, Brennen Leigh, & Melissa Carper** Sunday, March 5, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Hamilton de Holanda** Sunday, March 5, 7 p.m., The Music Hall Lounge
 • **Classic Albums Live Presents: Dark Side of the Moon** Sunday, March 5, 7 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Jorma Kaukonen** Sunday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Ashley Pezzotti Quintet** Sun-



Yung Gravy.

day, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Elvis Costello & the Impostors** Monday, March 6, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **David Wilcox** Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Willi Carlisle** Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Pure Prairie League** Tuesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Squirrel Flower/Horse Jumper of Love** Tuesday, March 7, 8 p.m., Press Room
 • **Lurrie Bell** Wednesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Red Hot Chili Pipers** Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m., Colonial
 • **Highway Kind: A Tribute to Townes Van Zandt** Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m., Press Room
 • **Bob Seger Tribute: Live Bullet** Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m., LaBelle Amherst
 • **Cedric Burnside** Thursday, March 9, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Chris Voss** Friday, March 10, 6 p.m., Millyard
 • **Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience** Friday, March 10, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Bell Bottom Blues: The Eric Clapton Experience** Friday, March 10, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
 • **Jane Monheit** Friday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Lucy Wainwright Roche** Friday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **The Outlaws** Friday, March 10, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Dust Prophet** Friday, March 10, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Mr. Aaron's Album Release**

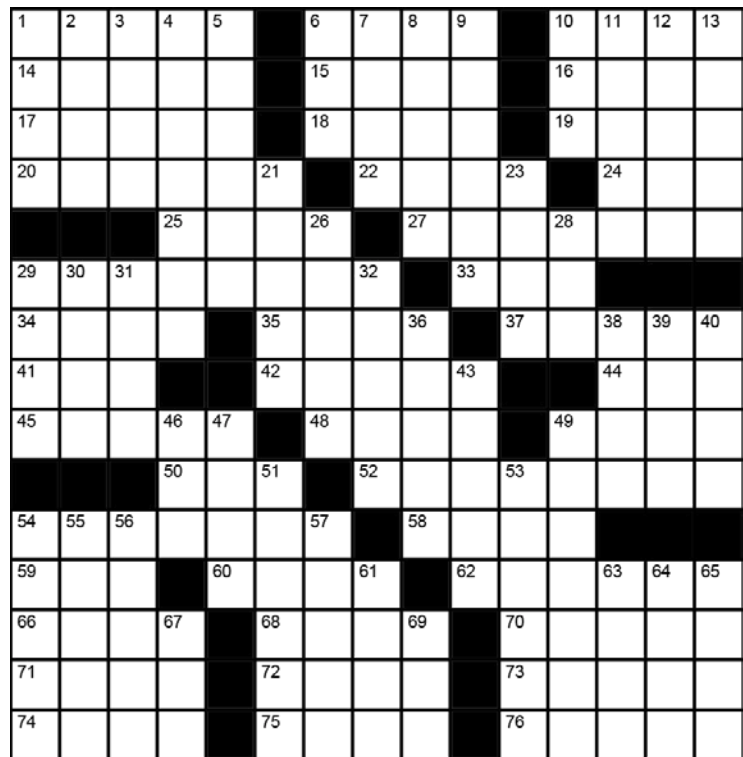
Party Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Stephen Marley** Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Lunasa** Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
 • **Waking Finnegan** Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre
 • **Vance Gilbert** Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Quiet Riot** Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **The Suitcase Junket** Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m., Press Room
 • **The Midnight Wrens** Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m., The Music Hall Lounge
 • **Panorama** (Cars tribute) Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Elton John Tribute** Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m., Strand
 • **Say Zuzu** Sunday, March 12, 5 p.m., Stone Church
 • **An Evening With Peter Asher** Sunday, March 12, 7 p.m., Jimmy's Press Room
 • **Howie Day** Sunday, March 12, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Sugar Ray & the Bluetones** Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki Trio** Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m., LaBelle Derry
 • **Benny Green** Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Soul Asylum** Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Wishbone Ash** Thursday, March 16, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Marcus Rezak Guitar Head** Thursday, March 16, 8 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Mark Driscoll** Friday, March 17, 6 p.m., Millyard
 • **Church of Cash** (Johnny Cash tribute) Friday, March 17, 6 p.m., Stone Church
 • **Glengarry Boys** Friday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Tupelo
 • **St. Patrick's Day with the Spain Brothers** Friday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Enter the Haggis** Friday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
 • **Beardy Dead** Friday, March 17, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House

FUNNY IN FRANKLIN

Jody Sloane, Frank Santorelli and Rob Steen, three of the funniest comics on the Boston comedy scene, come to the Franklin Opera House (316 Central St., Franklin; 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org) on Saturday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.



JUMP A LITTLE LIGHTER



Across

- 1. Kiss 'Every Time ___ At You'
- 6. Goes with GnR's 'Bedouins'
- 10. 'Little Wing' Hendrix
- 14. Has sister Marie Osmond
- 15. HIM say hang on 'Please Don't Let ___'
- 16. Blueswoman Popovic and Matronic of Scissor Sisters
- 17. Whitney Houston '___ Always Love You'
- 18. Part of 'Here & Now' band, w/Letters To
- 19. 'LA Song (Out Of This Town)' Beth
- 20. Offspring "Just a sucker with no self" this
- 22. Elvis Costello producer Nick
- 24. 80s R&B singer Peeples
- 25. Saigon Kick 'Love ___ The Way'
- 27. Anouk had 24 hours on 'Queen ___'
- 29. With idol's dance moves you did this in the mirror
- 33. 80s 'When The Rain Begins To Fall' singer Zadora
- 34. Presidents Of The United States Of America go '___ 5' speed
- 35. Jethro Tull keyman John
- 37. The "C" in RHCP
- 41. Kiss '___ Legend Tonight'
- 42. Vehicles stars ride in
- 44. More, to rock en espanol rockers
- 45. Sid Vicious girl Spungen
- 48. 30 Seconds To Mars Jared
- 49. Hung out w/Tony and Tone
- 50. Rapper/actor Def
- 52. Elton John '___ (Say So Much)'
- 54. 'Let It Out (Let It All Hang Out)' band
- 58. '95 Ani DiFranco album '___ Pretty Girl'
- 59. Jeff Lynne 'A New World Record' band (abbr)
- 60. fun. singer Ruess
- 62. Like collision two stage divers may

have

- 66. All-time favorite rocker is this, to biggest fan
- 68. Musical Instrument Digital Interface (abbr)
- 70. '14 Yellowcard album will '___ Sail' and hit the sea
- 71. Ramones 70s label
- 72. '13 30 Seconds To Mars song '___ The Air'
- 73. Smash Mouth guitarist Miller

- 74. Youth 'Angel' Donovan sang of
- 75. Springsteen "___ a breathless army breakin' like a cloud"
- 76. Stryper came 'Together ___'

Down

- 1. Morbid Blood, Sweat & Tears sang 'And When ___'
- 2. Not the career highs
- 3. Kool And The Gang 'Get Down ___'
- 4. '88 Proclaimers album 'Sunshine ___'
- 5. Savannah psychedelic metalers
- 6. Grech of Traffic
- 7. Jerry Lee Lewis '___ Be Me'
- 8. '12 Our Last Night album '___ Ignorance'
- 9. Lauryn Hill '___ (That Thing)'
- 10. Reggae God
- 11. Keith Sweat gets a burger at '___ Out'
- 12. '99 Blondie hit about a girl
- 13. Ray LaMontagne 'Can ___'
- 21. Road musician's stop
- 23. Texan guitarist Johnson
- 26. 1987's 'Wot's It to Ya' Robbie
- 28. Solos make you ooh and this
- 29. Keith Urban song that goes along with the plan?
- 30. Little Walter 'Tell Me ___'
- 31. Pete Townshend reply when asked, "Who can see for miles?"
- 32. Concert broads or these
- 36. Halestorm "I don't have wings so flying with me won't be easy, cause I'm ___ angel"
- 38. '85 Springsteen hit '___ Fire'
- 39. 'Lie To Me' Johnny
- 40. Bob Dylan 'Desire' song about Egyptian goddess, perhaps
- 43. Pet Shop Boys 'The ___ & Gomorrah Show'
- 46. Color Me Badd's 'I Wanna Sex You

- Up' album
 - 47. Scarlett Johansson sidekick Pete
 - 49. 1995's 'Possum Kingdom' band
 - 51. Dog-howling Pink Floyd 'Meddle' song
 - 53. Aretha Franklin 'A Rose Is ___ Rose'
 - 54. Beck 'Aphid Manure ___'
 - 55. Like song know as "goodie" also
 - 56. Pop singer Mandy
 - 57. REM singer Michael
 - 61. "Factory Girl" Sedgwick Bob Dylan
 - 63. U2 bassist early bushy hairdo
 - 64. George Thorogood 'Move ___ Over'
 - 65. 'Big Mouth' Martha
 - 67. Iconic 'Ten New Songs' sing/songer Cohen (abbr)
 - 69. Christina Aguilera 'Genie ___ Bottle'
- © 2023 Todd Santos
- Todd's new book Rock and Roll Crosswords Vol. 1 is available now on Amazon.

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

Eight words related to trees

Four musical instruments

Two three-syllable countries

Most-populous Canadian city

Molar, for example

Last Week's Answers: COVER TITLE FAIR DEAL CLUB / SPARROW
SWALLOW STORK SWAN / SPOON KNIFE FORK / JUPITER SATURN / SUDAN CHAD

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

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

1	12X	2-	
5+		2÷	
	3-		4+
2÷		3	

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CHALLENGING

1-		3	96X		2-
3-	2	11+			
	1-	11+		2-	
3			2÷	3÷	
2÷		5-		1-	
9+			3	1-	

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RULES

1 Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.

2 The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.

3 Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2÷	6X	1	3-
2	3	1	4
4	2	3	1
3-	7+	1-	
1	4	2	3
3			
3	1	4	2

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HIPPO | MARCH 2 - 8, 2023 | PAGE 39

"Just Visiting" – a monopoly on two initial letters.

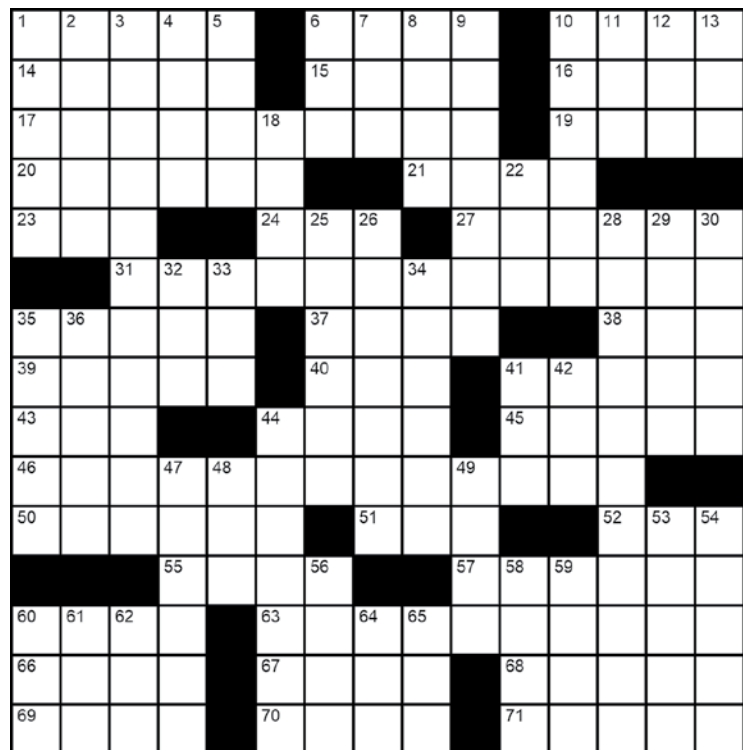
Across

- 1. Kama ____ Records (Lovin' Spoonful label)
- 6. Frittata ingredients
- 10. Aeration
- 14. "It's worth ____!"
- 15. Actress Petty of "Orange Is the New Black"
- 16. "Garfield" drooler
- 17. Fictitious "100% Colombian Coffee" farmer in an old ad campaign
- 19. Clue weapon
- 20. Sculptor, e.g.
- 21. Sailor's hook
- 23. Mil. mess duties
- 24. Acorn, later
- 27. Beastly sorts
- 31. Musician such as Stéphane Grappelli (and not many others in that genre)
- 35. Ooze with
- 37. Award named for a TV network
- 38. Sch. with a campus in Atlanta
- 39. Fundamental physics particle
- 40. They'll get to U afterwards
- 41. Religious crusade
- 43. CN Tower's prov.
- 44. Conditional suffix?
- 45. Courtroom figs.
- 46. Business partnerships
- 50. Eventually

- 51. "I ____ a lot of problems with you people!" (Festus "Airing of Grievances" line)
- 52. Move like a toad
- 55. Nest builder
- 57. Pooh's morose friend
- 60. Nursery rhyme pet
- 63. French science fiction novelist who's the second most-translated individual author in the world
- 66. Like the goateed twin, it's said
- 67. Shimmery gem
- 68. Fur tycoon John Jacob
- 69. Stare intently
- 70. Trees used for archery bows
- 71. Some Wikipedia entries

- 6. Pipe bend
- 7. Pan, for one
- 8. Actor Kinnear
- 9. In a rather large way
- 10. Not seriously
- 11. Altar-ed statement?
- 12. Five-digit address ender
- 13. Tappan ____ Bridge
- 18. The whole gamut
- 22. Part of TGIF
- 25. Disinclined (to)
- 26. Word spelled out after "sitting in a tree"
- 28. Cyclist's wear (for aerodynamic purposes)
- 29. Test type
- 30. Small earrings
- 32. Fuss
- 33. Type of garden with rocks
- 34. Decides on
- 35. Smiley face, for example
- 36. Element in strobe lights
- 41. Pasta sauce container
- 42. "Graph" ending

- 44. Make way happy
- 47. Just a bite
- 48. Initials for an oversharer
- 49. Sporty trucks, for short
- 53. "Ripley's Believe It ____"
- 54. Jury's makeup
- 56. Deceive
- 58. Performance assessment, for short
- 59. "Oh ____ can!"
- 60. One way to get your kicks
- 61. Director DuVernay
- 62. "Les ____" (Broadway musical, casually)
- 64. Congressional creation
- 65. Golfer Ernie



Down

- 1. "Wheel of Fortune" host since 1981
- 2. Unlawfully take over
- 3. "I'm as surprised as you ..."
- 4. Pasta ____ (boxed dinner)
- 5. Dune buggies, briefly

R&R answer from pg 47 of 2/23



Jonesin' answer from pg 48 of 2/23



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NITE SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Swim: Why We Love the Water*, by Lynn Sherr, born March 4, 1942.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *The fastest swimmers get to swim in the middle because there's less turbulence from competitors. The slower swimmers get to toughen up.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *And those colorful markers dividing one lane from another are not just colorful markers: they're scientifically engineered wave-destroyers to keep the pool from becoming a foamy water park. Certain things are more functional than they may appear.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *On the morning I enter the water in Curacao — my first workout in a rectangle fifty meters long — I understand why it's called an infinity pool. The barely visible far wall seems planted in another hemisphere. Like the end of the workday.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Pools glisten in the sun; they illuminate a dreary yard; they play with lines and light, as the wavy reflections of sun in water animate the straight walls. Shadows and shimmering patterns make endless new designs, always in motion.... Look around.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *On the other hand, swimming pools are a round trip to nowhere, over and over again. Sometimes you just want to go around and around for a while.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I like to think other adventures still await me. Because there's always another ocean, another pool, another wave, another continental divide. Another little frog pond.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *The camaraderie among swimmers, particularly in open water, is contagious. My Hellespont swim was preceded by a round of parties and meetings that produced instant friendships and mutual support. Instant friendships!*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *At Aqualab in England, Speedo's top-secret research and development facility, scien-*

tists investigate how the anti-drag properties in everything from jet planes to Formula One cars can be applied to speed suits, using high-speed underwater video to observe how water moves over a swimmer's body. There's so much to be learned.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *... I focus on my stroke. I'll never be a racer; can't come near the perfection of the elites. Unlike them, I have a land life; I play tennis. There are plenty of options for everyone.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *When a recent poll asked which sport they'd like to participate in, every age group listed swimming for fitness either first or second. But what were the other choices?*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *You can always get faster; but there will always be someone faster than you. Slower, too. Swimming doesn't have to be about winning. Let's see who can swim the slowest!*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *What you wear in the water depends on your needs, but everyone definitely needs goggles. If you're going to be in the water for more than two minutes 🧢*

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

- Seven Dwarfs member (6)
- Six Flags offering (9)
- five-sport Olympian (11)
- Four Tops' music genre (6)
- three-toed sluggards (6)
- twofold (6)
- one-star reviews (4)

SOLUTIONS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

ENT	ETE	NT	BLY	AMU
HS	PA	SNE	TO	MO
HL	DOU	SEM	WN	SL
PE	EZY	NS	OT	AT

Last Week's Answers: 1. CHECKERS 2. CRANIUM 3. BALDERDASH 4. BATTLESHIP 5. RISK 6. CAREERS 7. SORRY 3/5

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2023 WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES



TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

IN DERRY

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

IN AMHERST

THURS. 2/23 Takin' It to the Streets:
Doobie Brothers Tribute

THURS. 3/9 Live Bullet: Bob Seger Tribute

THURS. 3/23 Comedian Corey Rodrigues

THURS. 3/30 Workin' For A Livin':
Huey Lewis and
The News Tribute

THURS. 4/6 Barely Manilow

GET TICKETS TODAY AT

WWW.LABELLEWINERY.COM/2023-WINTER-PERFORMANCE-SERIES/

Sudoku Answers from pg48 of 2/23

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

2-6

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2-8

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2-10

Can't possibly be true

A newly released report from the U.K.'s Air Accidents Investigation Branch has determined that an inflight incident on June 29, 2022, could have turned out "very different," CNN reported. On that day, a flying instructor slumped over on a pilot's shoulder as they flew a small plane above Lancashire, England. The pilot, who had asked the instructor to accompany him because of wind conditions that day, thought his cohort was "just pretending to take a nap" as a joke, but after landing the plane, he realized the instructor had died. The report noted that the instructor likely "suffered a cardiac arrest as the aircraft took off." — *CNN, Feb. 22*

News that sounds like a joke

Oh, to never be a teenager again. Around 1 a.m. on Feb. 20, a homeowner in Centereach, New York, heard loud noises coming from his yard, Fox News reported. His surveillance video showed six people kicking down several sections of his fence. About three hours later, the suspects, aged 12 to 18, returned and ran through the fence together, apparently in completion of a TikTok challenge mimicking the Kool-Aid man. Officers caught up with the kids around 4:15 a.m. and charged them with several counts of criminal mischief; some of them had also destroyed fences in other parts of Suffolk County. — *Fox News, Feb. 20*

Great art!

Nick Stoeberl, 33, was awarded a Guinness world record in 2012 for the male with the longest tongue (3.97 inches), United Press International reported, and now he's putting it to good use. Stoeberl, who's been dubbed Lickasso, is making paintings with his organ, selling them for up to \$1,200 each. The California man said he wraps his tongue in plastic wrap first, then plies his art on canvas. "Why not express myself through that medium?" he asked. — *United Press International, Feb. 21*

Government in action

• On Jan. 19 in Austin, Texas, Chris Newby was sleeping when "the whole house shook," he said. "It sounds like a plane hit the house." Instead, according to KXAN-TV, it was a car — an impaired driver barreled through Newby's spare bedroom wall. "The entire room was just crunched," he said.

Ten days later, Newby received a letter from the city informing him that he was in violation of two codes: "One for having a hole in my house and one for having no window," Newby said. The letter was dated the day of the crash and stipulated that he had 30 days to get repairs completed or face fines of up to \$4,000 per day.

"It felt tone-deaf to me," he said. "I'm in violation for being a victim." But Matthew

Noriega, a division manager at the code department, said Newby has time: "If an extension is needed, we will give them that extension," he clarified. Still, Newby said Austin "feels a little less like home every day." Sad emoji. — *KXAN-TV, Jan. 19*

• In Florida, the state senate Democratic leader and canine fun-ruiner Lauren Book filed a piece of legislation that would make it illegal to let a dog "extend its head or any other body part outside" a moving car window, WTSP-TV reported on Feb. 21. The bill has other pet-related provisions relating to animal safety, including prohibiting pets riding in the open beds of pickups and drivers holding a dog in their lap. If passed, the bill will become law on July 1. — *WTSP-TV, Feb. 21*

Weird science

Just looking for a few minutes of peace and quiet? You might be tempted to step inside the anechoic chamber at Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington, Oddity Central reported. However, even if you were allowed to try it, you might find it unbearable — it is the world's quietest place, at -20.3 decibels. (Calm breathing clocks in at 10 decibels.) "As soon as one enters the room, one immediately feels a strange and unique sensation which is hard to describe," said Hundraj Gopal, a speech and hearing scientist who helped design the chamber.

"When you turn your head, you can hear that motion. The longest continuous time anyone has spent inside the chamber is 55 minutes," Gopal said. Microsoft uses the room to test microphones, receivers, headphones and speakers. — *Oddity Central, Feb. 20*

Awesome!

When friends presented tattoo artist Karen Green with a brand-new iPhone in 2007, she never even opened the box, CNN reported. She had recently upgraded her unsmart phone and didn't want to switch carriers, "and I figured it's an iPhone, so it'll never go out of date," Green said. On Feb. 19, Green's still-shrink-wrapped first-edition iPhone sold for more than \$63,000 through an online auction with Louisiana-based LCG Auctions. Featuring a 2-megapixel camera and "sharp corners front and back," the phone sold originally for \$599. Green will use the funds to support her tattoo business. — *CNN, Feb. 19*

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