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DECEMBER 7 - 13, 2023

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ON THE COVER

Find gifts for everybody
on your list. On page 12,
check out the list of area
arts organizations selling
unique items. Henry
Homeyer recommends
gifts for gardeners (page
19). John Fladd offers
ideas of gifts to make
(page 28) and gifts to buy (page 29). Find more
giftable eats on page 32. Michael Witthaus helps
you find perfect presents for music-lovers (page
44). And, if you're thinking about how you can
give to the wider community this holiday season,
see the Q&A on page 6.



ALSO ON THE COVER Symphony NH presents their
Holiday Pops show (page 42). Take a trip to the
Monadnock Region for the Currier & Ives Cookie
Tour (page 30). Plan those holiday meals now — Mya
Blanchard rounds up some of the eateries offering
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NEWS & NOTES

Treating substance use disorders

The Executive Council has approved an additional \$9.8 million for The Doorways program, elevating the state's total investment to \$57.8 million. According to a press release, this initiative, launched in 2019, aims to transform New Hampshire's approach to treating opioid and other substance use disorders. The program is set to serve around 24,000 individuals in the coming year, focusing on increasing access to support services, reducing overdose fatalities and improving substance use-related health care. Gov. Chris Sununu said in a statement, "The Doorways initiative has played a vital role in providing individuals across New Hampshire with critical treatment and recovery services — regardless of whether they live in rural New Hampshire or a more urban area. Today's renewed investment in the program will ensure New Hampshire continues the important work being done to curb the harm caused by the nationwide drug epidemic."

Transportation plan

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has initiated the biennial process to reassess the state's transportation infrastructure needs and has formulated a Ten-Year Plan for 2025-2034, proposing an investment of nearly \$5 billion across all transportation modes,

according to a press release. In the process of developing this plan, the NHDOT sought insights from Regional Planning Commissions and engaged with the public through 24 hearings conducted by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). The feedback from these hearings led to adjustments in the plan. After GACIT concluded its deliberations, the plan was forwarded to the governor for review. The next phase will see the governor presenting the plan to the New Hampshire Legislature in January for extensive review and debate, starting with the House's Public Works & Highways Committee, proceeding to the Senate, and aiming for final adoption by June 2024.

School funds

The Manchester School District has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance its community schools initiative. According to a press release, this initiative integrates additional services such as health and nutrition into the school system. Manchester, being the only recipient in New Hampshire, is part of a nationwide program that allocates \$74 million across 30 districts. This funding will be utilized to expand the impact on students, families and the community, with a focus on meeting basic needs to improve learning outcomes. The district worked in collaboration with

Manchester Proud and other partners in developing the grant application.

More nurses

Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, a member of Dartmouth Health, has launched a collaborative program with New England College (NEC) in Henniker to address the nursing shortage by providing nursing students with practical experience and college credits. According to a press release, this innovative model, starting in 2024, allows up to 12 students annually to work as licensed nursing assistants (LNAs) at Cheshire Medical Center while completing their three-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The program is designed to integrate hands-on clinical training with academic study, offering students salary and credits during their 14-week cooperative clinical experience each year. This partnership is part of Dartmouth Health's wider strategy to foster a skilled health care workforce, aligning with its commitment to nursing education and addressing the nationwide challenge of nursing staff shortages.

Zoom talks

The United Way of Greater Nashua, in collaboration with volunteers from the Emmaus Institute and Main Street Methodist Church, is coordinating "Let's Talk," a series of bi-weekly Zoom conversations aimed at reducing social

CONCORD

Prinoth, an Italian manufacturer of snow-grooming machines, recently relocated to **Concord**, moving into a 23,000-square-foot facility previously occupied by Concord Sports Center, the Concord Monitor reported. After 18 years in Gilmanton, the company will now have doubled space and a rail system for a 5-ton overhead crane. Prinoth, which serves ski areas across the East, from Ohio to Maine to Tennessee, will host the New Hampshire ski season's annual industry kickoff. Their high-end groomers, vital for ski resorts and snowmobile clubs, can cost up to a half-million dollars, while smaller models are priced in the low six figures. The Concord site is shared with sister company Demalenko, a snow-making machinery manufacturer.

MANCHESTER

Amoskeag Health is set to establish the Mark Stebbins Community Center in **Manchester's** West Side to improve access to health care and community services. According to a press release, the center will serve as a hub for Amoskeag Health and the Boys & Girls Club, among others. The location in Kelley Falls is part of a privately funded initiative that will not use taxpayer dollars. The project, still in its early stages, anticipates a 20,000-square-foot facility.

NASHUA

Rivier University in **Nashua** is launching a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree and a 4+1 program, set to begin in Fall 2024. According to an announcement from the school, this program offers concentrations in Data Science, Cybersecurity, Software Development or Game Programming, and the 4+1 option allows students to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees in just five years.

isolation among older adults. According to a press release, these online talks, supported by Greater Nashua Mental Health, Gateways Community Services, Nashua Senior Activity Center and Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County, offer a platform for homebound older adults and others to connect without a specific theme or agenda. The sessions are

scheduled for the first and third Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m., and the second and fourth Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m.. This initiative invites all interested individuals to participate via the link tinyurl.com/LetsTalkNH. For more information or to engage as a donor or volunteer, contact them at info@unitedwaynashua.org or visit unitedwaynashua.org.

Upcoming Events

Celebrate the Season with us!

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Baking Up Magic

Dawn Aurora Hunt
Owner Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery,
Salem, NH

The holiday season is upon us, and food has such a central role in most of my personal traditions. Like many people I have grown up with rituals around food and recipes handed down through generations. My earliest memories of being in the kitchen with my grandmother are deeply rooted in baking Christmas cookies. It was always my job to do the decorating and this employment was something I took very seriously. Every year a beat-up box full of cookie cutters, pastry bags and the trusty old cookie press was dusted off and the magic of our cookie ritual began. The importance of following recipes and using time tested methods was not lost on me. After all, these ornately decorated bites were going to friends and family as little bites of love. When the baking was done, huge brightly colored tins would be filled to the brim with dozens of treats all made with the intention of spreading cheer and holiday joy.

Throughout the years these traditions have followed me from home to home, year after year. The people in my life look forward to trays and tins full of cookies with my own spin as I've kept the ritual of baking and giving alive. Cookie baking, giving, swapping is something so many families have been doing for generations. These traditions go back hundreds of years to the Middle Ages when cookies were made of things like molasses, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger, the same ingredients we use today for common gingerbread cookies. The ingredients we use today may be different, but the love of gifting a sweet treat to loved ones helps ring in the magic of the season.

Using traditional ingredients these cookies are chewy and delightful yet not too sweet.

Spice Crackle Cookies

4 Tablespoons unsalted butter
1 cup sugar



¼ cup molasses
1 egg
2 cups flour (or Gluten Free all-purpose flour)
¾ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
1 Tablespoon ground ginger
1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon white pepper
¾ cup fine sugar (for dusting)

In a large bowl cream butter, sugar, and molasses. Add egg and beat until incorporated. Set it aside. In a separate bowl combine flour, baking soda salt and spices. Add dry ingredients to butter mixture and beat on low speed until blended. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Remove dough from refrigerator. Using a teaspoon of dough, form into a ball. Roll the dough ball in fine dusting sugar to coat. Place balls on the prepared baking sheet about 2 inches apart (Cookies will spread). Bake for 10-12 minutes until the cookies have flattened and a slight crackling takes place. Remove from oven and let cook on a wire cookie rack. Store in an airtight container for up to 10 days.

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

How to help

Food, housing costs & utilities bills are the big concerns

Karen Moynihan is the Vice President of Philanthropy, Catholic Charities New Hampshire, which provides a variety of services including food distribution through the New Hampshire Food Bank. See cc-nh.org.

Q: *What have you noticed about the community's needs right now and over the last year?*

We have more people coming to us looking for assistance than we have in the past — even more so than when the pandemic first hit in 2020 and continued into 2021. So people are struggling, and the primary reason is threefold: the cost of food has increased, utility costs in New Hampshire are some of the highest in the country, and the cost of housing. So people are having a hard time maintaining their monthly budgets when everything around them just keeps going up and up. We have more people coming to us for emergency assistance and really urgent needs. They're really one paycheck away from disaster.

What items can people give?

There are two programs that can take donated items: We have a veterans program here in Manchester, Liberty House, and they have a pantry that provides food and clothing and gear. A lot of our veteran population in Manchester is homeless. So they need camping gear and warm clothing and things like that. They list on their website what their needs are for the pantry; those could change on any given day. The other program we have is out at the Seacoast, and it's a transitional housing program for moms and children called New Generation. These moms and children are usually homeless, they don't have a job, and they've experienced trauma of some sort. Many of them have left abusive relationships. They may come in with some addiction challenges. They may come in without a driver's license or crucial documentation because they had to leave a situation quickly. The program works with these moms for about a year getting them back on their feet. ... By the time they leave the program, they



Liberty House in Manchester, a program of Catholic Charities. Courtesy photo.

have a job, they have child care, and they have an affordable place to stay. Anyway, there is a thrift store on site that takes donations of all kinds, because when those women leave that program, they also need household items. So folks can donate household items or clothing to the thrift store. They need everything from children's clothing to adult clothing to bedding to kitchen items, things like that. So that's another wonderful way to donate either gently used or new items.

What can monetary gifts be used for?

Monetary donations allow us the flexibility to quickly deploy resources for the most urgent needs. Oftentimes we can keep people in their homes by helping them get caught up on a utility bill, or helping them with a car repair that they can't afford because they're going to be evicted if they don't pay their rent. There are just so many enormous challenges that people are facing right now, and they are literally on the verge of losing the most important things — housing, food, medications.

Where are volunteers needed most?

We have one program here in Manchester that is in urgent need of volunteers. It's called Caregivers and this

Journey through Faith, Miracles, and Purpose



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141909

is a program for seniors on low fixed incomes who are just slightly above the poverty level. These seniors no longer drive and they need help to be able to continue to live independently in their homes. There are two things that Caregivers does for this network of seniors: they do deliveries of food to them — every senior gets a delivery of food once a month — and we give them rides to doctor’s appointments or the grocery store, whatever their needs are. These volunteers are sometimes the only connection to the outside world that these seniors have. They often don’t have

family or relatives nearby to help them, so this is a critical resource for them.

How can people find the right volunteering opportunity?

Visit the Catholic Charities website click on the “Get involved” button. This section lists various volunteer opportunities. Choose what inspires you the most. You can sign up or learn more about each opportunity directly through the website. If you have any questions or need guidance, you can always call our office and speak with our volunteer coordinator. — *Angie Sykeny*

How to help

Here are some of New Hampshire homelessness and housing support charities.

- **Cross Roads House** 600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, 436-2218, crossroads-house.org
- **Families in Transition** 122 Market St., Manchester, 641-9441, fitnh.org
- **Family Promise of Greater Concord** 79 Clinton St., Concord, 856-8490, family-promiseconcord.org
- **Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire** 3 Crown St., Building B, Nashua, 883-7338, familypromisesnh.org
- **Friends Program** 130 Pembroke Road, Suite 200, Concord, 228-1193
- **Liberty House** 221 Orange St., Man-

chester, 669-0761, libertyhousesnh.org

- **New Generation** 568 Portsmouth Ave., Greenland, 436-4989, newgennh.org
- **New Horizons Shelter** 199 Manchester St., Manchester, 668-1877, newhorizonsnh.org
- **Harbor Care** 77 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, 882-3616, harborcarenh.org
- **Marguerite’s Place** 87 Palm St., Nashua, 598-1582, margueritesplace.org
- **McKenna House** 100 S. Fruit St., Concord, 225-8610
- **My Friend’s Place** 368 Washington St., Dover, 749-3017
- **The Way Home** 214 Spruce St., Manchester, 627-3491

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141644

Breslow now on the clock



The Big Story – Big Week for New Red Sox GM: Except for the St. Louis Cardinals, the action all over baseball has been pretty slow so far this off-season. But with the winter meeting happening this week in

Memphis that's expected to change.

The first order of business for new Red Sox GM **Craig Breslow** is finding two starting pitchers. And if the desire is to preserve as much of the young farm system talent assembled over the last three years as possible, at least one needs to be a free agent.

The top target is Japanese import **Yoshinobu Yamamoto**. But with almost every team looking to upgrade their pitching and the pool of quality free agent arms limited, Breslow will need to have the checkbook open and be ready to act quickly if he is to get things started on the right foot.

Sports 101: Who is the oldest player to win an NBA championship?

News Item – Tiger Woods Returns: The biggest takeaway from **Tiger Woods'** return to golf last weekend at the Hero World Golf Championship was that his health/back held up. But in his first tourney since the Masters he was, as expected, rusty in finishing 18th out of 20 players and 20 shots behind the winner. Still the story was how he fared physically, so the weekend was good news.

News Item – Victor Wembanyama Update: The brouhaha over the 7'6" French import isn't translating into wins. The Spurs started the week 3-16 and battling it out with Detroit for the worst record in the league. For his part **Wembanyama** is leading the Spurs in scoring (19.2), rebounding (9.7) and blocks (2.7) while shooting at 43.7 percent. That puts him in a tight battle for Rookie of the Year with Oak City's **Chet Holmgren**, whose numbers are 17.6, 8.0 and 2.2 while shooting 53 percent.

News Item – Three Red Sox Questions:

(1) Should they get in the **Shohei Ohtani** sweepstakes? Yes — expensive, but getting Ohtani would give them the clean-up hitter needed to use **Raffy Devers** in a trade for a major starter.

(2) Trade Devers? Yes. He's a terrific hitter but a lousy third baseman who can't be moved to first base with **Triston Casas** the future there. Plus he's got a body that's a bad risk for the back end of his 10-year deal.

(3) How Do You Fix the Bullpen? Give the seventh and eighth innings **Tanner Houck** and **Garrett Whitlock** and make **Chris Sale** the closer. Risky, I know, but I'm betting the 3- to 4-inning-a-week work-

load does for Sale what moving from starter to closer did for **Mariano Rivera** and **Denris Eckersley**. Plus moving on from **Kenley Jansen** gives them more trade ammo.

The Numbers:

1 – wins the Patriots have the four times they've held their opponent to 10 points or less including Sunday, when they were a 6-0 baseball score loser to the L.A. Chargers.

12.3 – points per game the Patriots offense is averaging, which is the lowest in their 62-year history.

... Of the Week Awards

Win – The 49ers' 42-19 demolition of Philly in a chippy showdown win on the Eagles home turf.

'How'd They Do That?' Loss: The Dallas Mavericks, who somehow managed to lose to Oak City 126-120 despite having a 30-to-nothing run in the fourth quarter on Saturday.

Random Thoughts:

It's his life, but seeing Tiger struggle to make the cut each week is tough to watch. Fine for others, but he's a historic icon.

Aside from top pick **Trevor Lawrence** the supposed Year of the QB 2021 NFL draft that had five taken in Round 1 has been a bust. While seeing **Justin Fields** (11th) as the 14th-ranked passer is a bit surprising, his Bears are just 4-8, while 30th-ranked **Mac Jones** (15th) is benched and likely done in New England, **Bret Wilson** (second) is at 33 and a total bust in New York and third overall pick **Trey Lance** has already been traded by SF.

A Little History – Great Rookies: Putting the hype aside, **Wembanyama** has a long way to go to match the career starts of **Larry Bird**, **Lew Alcindor/Kareem Abdul Jabbar** and **Shaq**, who joined teams that had won just 29, 27 and 21 games respectively and by Year 2 Bird's and Kareem's teams won the title and Shaq had Orlando in the Finals.

Sports 101 Answer: The oldest NBA champion was 43-year-old **Robert Parish** as a reserve with Chicago in 1997.

Final Thought – Florida State Gets Screwed: The latest example of how morally bankrupt big-time college football is came Sunday when 13-0 Florida State was left out of the four-team CFP tournament because their starting QB, **Jordan Travis**, is out for the year. Which means a team that demonstrated the fortitude to overcome losing its first- and second-string QBs to remain undefeated is denied what they earned because the TV ratings won't likely be as good without Travis. Greed, Greed, GREED!

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS DEC. 7 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Dec. 9

The **Currier and Ives Cookie Tour** will run today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature 16 stops at inns, restaurants, galleries and more in the Monadnock region. Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased, starting at the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy and Frogg Brewing in Swanzey. See currierandivescookie tour.com and our story on page 30. Or make a weekend of cookie adventures with the **Annual Holiday Inn to Inn Cookie Tour** today and Sunday, Dec.



10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at nine White Mountains inns stretching from Jackson to Eaton, with inns at least 15 minutes apart. See cookie tour.square.site to purchase tour tickets for \$35.

Thursday, Dec. 7

Head to the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) for today's **Art After Work** (when admission is free from 5 to 8 p.m.). Tonight's musical performer is **Joey Clark & The Big Hearts**. And on Saturday, Dec. 9, admission is also free then for New Hampshire

residents (the **Second Saturday** program sponsored by The Botnick Family Foundation and E&R Laundry and Dry Cleaners). The museum is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9

The 9th annual **Hollis Luminaria Stroll & Town Band**

Concert will start today at 10 a.m. and include more than 2,000 luminaria lanterns, a Santa tractor parade, holiday craft shopping, a chili and cornbread dinner, music performances in Monument Square, a gingerbread house contest and a bake sale. The stroll and tree lighting will be at 4 p.m. at Monument Square. Visit hollisluminaria.org for a complete event schedule.

Saturday, Dec. 9

New England College will hold a **Holiday Maker Fair** today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at French Hall (148 Concord St. in Manchester). The event will feature arts and fine craft made by students, faculty and others, according to nec.edu/event/holiday-maker-fair. The event is free and open to the public. Demonstrations will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the website said.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Symphony NH will hold their **Holiday Pops** concert conducted by Maestro Roger Kalia today from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St., Nashua), and Sunday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord). The performances will feature an assortment of seasonal works and carols. Tickets start at \$10. Visit symphonynh.org.

Saturday, Dec. 9

Relax into your Saturday evening with the **Dave Mat-**

Save the Date! Friday, Dec. 15

Professional Bull Riding: Unleash the Beast will come to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester; snhuarena.com) on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:45 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 6:45 p.m. Tickets start at \$25. To get the rules on bull riding and see videos of previous events, go to pbr.com/unleash-the-beast.



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Serves: 2

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Directions:

1. Lay wraps on a flat surface and spread apple butter over half of each wrap.
2. Top apple butter with sliced cheddar cheese and thinly sliced apple. Fold wrap in half, making a half-moon shape.
3. Place folded wraps in a dry nonstick pan or cast-iron skillet that's large enough to fit both wraps back to back.
4. Turn heat to medium and cook quesadilla until browned on the bottom, about 5 minutes. Carefully flip over and cook the second side until browned and cheese is melted, 2 to 4 minutes.
5. Cut into wedges and serve.

Nutritional Information

Amount per serving: Calories 330; Fat 12 g; Saturated Fat 6 g; Cholesterol 25 mg; Sodium 480mg; Carbohydrate 45 g; Fiber 6 g; Sugar 15 g; Added Sugar 0 g; Protein 12 g

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Source: Recipe adapted from and image courtesy of the cabotchese.coop

139178

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX



Community Players of Concord. Courtesy photo.

Funding the show

The Community Players of Concord, an all-volunteer theater company founded in 1927, received a significant boost with a \$50,000 matching gift from an anonymous donor. According to a press release, this gift is aimed at establishing an investment fund to secure the long-term future of the nearly century-old organization. The fund, named "A Fund for the Players," requires the Players to raise an additional \$50,000 to access the full pledged amount. Already over halfway to their goal, the group plans to meet this challenge before their annual meeting in June 2024.

QOL score: +1

Comment: Contributions to this fund can be made through the Community Players of Concord's website, communityplayersofconcord.org.

Our holiday look

A "Most Popular Christmas Decorations 2023" study conducted by Lombardo Living found that New Hampshire ranks 7th among states for the most holiday decorating in 2023. The study, which analyzed Google search terms related to Christmas decorations, also indicates that the most popular decoration in New Hampshire is the window candle. This preference places New Hampshire within a unique niche of states that have chosen a specific type of holiday decoration that differs from the more commonly seen Christmas trees and lights that dominate other states' preferences.

QOL score: +1

Comment: The study reports that 83 percent of Americans are decorating for the holidays this year, spending an average of \$140 on decorations.

Jewelry thefts

The Manchester Police Department reported three mid-business-day jewelry thefts happening within a little more than a week at two local jewelry stores, according to a press release. Starting on Nov. 20, Day's Jewelers fell victim to a "snatch-and-grab" theft of a gold chain, a tactic repeated in a subsequent theft at the same store on Nov. 25. A similar theft took place at Market Square Jewelers on Nov. 28, involving a gold rope chain, the release said.

QOL score: -2

Comment: Manchester Police Department asks anyone for information about the thefts to call Manchester Police Detective Andrew Choi at 792-5514. Descriptions and photos of the men suspected in the thefts are posted on the police department's Facebook page.

QOL score: 87

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 87

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

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December

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Wed 20, Thur 21, Fri 22 & Sat 23

Christmas Eve Sun 24

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ARTS

Handcrafted gifts

Where to find one-of-a-kind gifts

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

This holiday season, go for gifts that make an impact by choosing local artwork and handmade crafts.

Year-round venues provide a selection of handcrafted items, from decorative to functional, made by local artisans.

Handmade gift shops

• **Currier Museum of Art gift shop** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org, open Wednesday and Friday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

• **The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fine Craft Galleries** (nhcrafts.org)

Concord (36 N. Main St., 228-8171, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Hooksett (530 W. River Road, 210-5181, open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Nashua (98 Main St., 595-8233, open Monday through Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Meredith (279 Daniel Webster Hwy.,

279-7920, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.)

• Locally Made

Salem (99 Rockingham Blvd., Salem, 890-7141, locallyhandmadesalemnh.com, open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Merrimack (80 Premium Outlets Blvd., Merrimack, 377-7610, facebook.com/LHMerrimackNH, open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Nashua (Pheasant Lane Mall, 310 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 598-9140, locallyhandmadesalemnh.com, open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

• **Manchester Craft Market** (Mall of New Hampshire, 1500 S. Willow St., Manchester, manchestercraftmarket.com, open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

• **Spriggs Shoppe** (Twiggs Gallery, 254 King St., Boscawen, 975-0015, twigsgallery.wordpress.com, open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.)

Holiday art exhibits and markets

Seasonal markets and exhibits feature artworks and crafts tailored for holiday shoppers, highlighting local artistic talent.

• **Twiggs Gallery's** (254 King St., Boscawen, 975-0015, twigsgallery.wordpress.com) annual **Sleighbell Studio** holiday showcase is going on now through Dec. 16.

• **The Craftworkers' Guild** hosts its annual **Holiday Fair Shop** at the historic Kendall House (3A Meetinghouse Road, Bedford). The fair runs through Wednesday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, along with an online shop and features a variety of items including seasonal decor, photography, fine art and prints, cards, gourmet treats, woodworking, fiber and fabric, stained and fused glass, mixed media and jewelry, all created by juried local artists and craftspeople. Visit thecraftworkersguild.org.

• **The Two Villages Art Society** (846 Main St., Contoocook) hosts its 2023 Winter Members Show and Sale through Dec. 23. The show features works from more than 30 member artists, including paintings, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and more. Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit twovillagesart.org.

• **The "Small Works — Big Impact"** holiday exhibit is up at Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St. in Milford) now



The Craftworkers' Guild Holiday Fair in Bedford. Courtesy photo.

through Dec. 31 and showcases work in various media from more than 30 area artists, with most pieces smaller than 12 inches in diameter, making them ideal for holiday gifts. The gallery's hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500.

• **The Seacoast Artist Association** (130 Water St., Exeter) presents **"Big Gifts Come in Small Packages"** during December. Artists are challenged to create affordable work, with each piece priced at no more than \$100 to make for perfect holiday gift buying. The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit seacoastartist.org.

• **Studio 550 Art Center Handmade Holiday Market** (550 Elm St., Manchester, 232-5597, 550arts.com) is open Dec. 18 through Dec. 23, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from noon to 8 p.m.; closed Wednesday and Sunday. 🌟

Art

Events

• **ARTIST CIRCLE** Two Villages Art Society (846 Main St. in Contoocook; twovillagesart.org) offers a monthly Artist Circle (next up is Thursday, Dec. 7; all from 6 to 8 p.m.). Bring your work to have it critiqued or just enjoy conversation with fellow artists, the release said.

Craft fairs

• **BEDFORD** The Craftworkers' Guild in Bedford (5 Meetinghouse Road in Bedford, the building at the bottom of the library parking lot; thecraftworkersguild.org) will open its annual Holiday Fair Shop through Wednesday, Dec. 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily as well as online.

• **CONCORD** The Bishop Brady Craft Fair will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bishop Brady High School (25 Columbus Ave. in Concord). See bishopbrady.edu.

• **NASHUA** Head to the Double-Tree Hilton (2 Somerset Plaza, Nashua) for the Holly Jolly Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9

a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be more than 75 artisans there selling their holiday wares. Visit joycescraftshows.com.

• **CONCORD** The New Hampshire Audubon's Holiday Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NH Audubon McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord;

nhaudubon.org).

• **MANCHESTER** The Very Merry Holiday Gift Festival will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel (700 Elm St. in Manchester), according to verymerryfestival.com. Admis-

sion to the event, a revamping of the Made in New England Expo, costs \$7 (\$6 for 65+ and kids 14 and under get in free).

• **HOOKSETT** Caya Reiki & Healing (caya-healing.square.site) will hold a Winter Wonderland Craft Market & Psychic Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to

CONTINUED ON PG 16 ▶

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ARTS

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas:** The Majestic Theatre (majestictheatre.net) will present the Meredith Wilson musical *Miracle on 34th Street* Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 West Broadway in Derry). Tickets cost \$22 for adults; \$18 for 65+ and \$15 for 17 and under, according to a press release.

• **More Carol:** *Dickens' A Christmas Carol* continues through Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road in Concord; hatboxnh.com) with performances Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and students.

• **Art and song:** The Mariposa Museum (26 Main St. in Peterborough; mariposamuseum.org) will present a performance by Windborne, a vocal group, at the Unitarian Universalist Church (25 Main St. in Peterborough) on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. A wassail reception will proceed the concert from 5 to 6:15 p.m. (tickets cost \$20 online in advance, \$25 on the day), according to a press release. While at the reception, visitors can view the exhibit "Stitching Time: The Social Justice Collaborative Quilts Project" featuring 20 quilts made by men serving life sentences at Louisiana State Penitentiary, the release said.

• **Birds:** Auburn artist Deirdre Cleary will display her carved birds — which include song birds and waterfowl carved from basswood, cedar or tupelo — at Griffin Free Library (22 Hooksett Road in Auburn; 483-5374, griffinfree.org) starting Friday, Dec. 8, and running through Friday, Jan. 12, according to a press release. On Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. the library will host an artist reception to open the exhibit and Cleary will be on hand to discuss her work, the release said. Master Bird Carver Don Combs will also attend to demonstrate how to carve a bird from a wooden block, the release said.

• **Music with their mouths:** The a capella group Rockapella will perform Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Stockbridge Theatre (44 N. Main St. in Derry; stockbridgetheatre.showare.com, 437-5210). Tickets cost \$35 to \$40.

• **Write it fancy:** Calligraphy artist Adele Sanborn will do a free gift tag calligraphy demonstration on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1



Jonathan Kaplan, Julianne Repucci and Steven Koch in *Miracle on 34th Street* at the Majestic Theatre. Photo by Robert A. Dionne.

to 3 p.m. at Twigg's Gallery (254 King St. in Boscawen; twiggsgallery.org). See Sanborn's work at cornerstonedesignnh.com. Twigg's is open on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Holiday with the Statesmen:** The Granite Statesmen, an a capella group singing four-part harmony, will perform their Christmas Chorus on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at Judd Gregg Hall (Nashua Community College, 505 Amherst St. in Nashua). Tickets cost \$20; see granitestatesmen.org.

• **New shows:** The Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St. in Exeter; seacoastartist.org) presents two new solo shows. "Dine," featuring the works of artist Debra Woodward, contains oil paintings featuring diners enjoying eateries around the Seacoast, according to a press release. Watercolorist Gwen Morgan will have her works featured in "Wonders of Watercolor," the release said. The artists will be at a "Second Friday" artist reception on Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. that will also feature food, wine and live music from violinists Dacha and Sava Thurber, the release said. The shows will be on display through Sunday, Dec. 24. From Wednesday, Dec. 6, through Christmas Eve (when the gallery will be open 1 to 4 p.m.), the gallery will be open daily, the release said.

• **Celebration of winter:** The folk-Americana band Low Lily will perform "Low Lily's Winter Solstice Celebration" on Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Bass Hall at the Monadnock Center (19 Grove St. in Peterborough). Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids. See pfmsconcerts.org.

• **Big Christmas sound:** The Manchester Community Music School (2291 Elm St. in Manchester; mcmusicschool.org, 644-4548) will hold Tuba Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. featuring players of tubas, sousaphones, euphoniums and baritones, according to the website. The concert is free and open to the public. If you play a tuba, sousaphone, euphonium or baritone and would like to join in, show up at 9:30 a.m. to register (the cost is \$10); a rehearsal starts at 10 a.m. For more infor-

CONTINUED ON PG 16 ►



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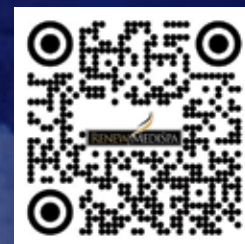


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ARTS

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 14

mation on participating, contact Hailley McConnell at hailley@mcmusicschool.org or 644-4548, ext. 208.

• **Holiday concert:** The Windham Community Bands will hold their 16th annual holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at Windham High School. The event is free to the public and will feature the Windham Swing Band, Concert Band and Saxophone Quartet, according to a press release. The event will also feature a bake sale.

• **Irish dance tunes:** Christmas with the Celts will come to the Stockbridge Theatre (44 N. Main St. in Derry; stockbridgetheatre.showare.com, 437-5210) on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. The show features a combination of “timeless ancient Irish



Erik Hodges as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Hatbox Theatre. Courtesy photo.

Christmas carols and lively Irish dance with modern contemporary songs but with Irish instrumentation,” according to a press release. Tickets cost \$30 and \$35. 🍀

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 12

4 p.m. at the Hooksett American Legion Post 37 (5 Riverside St. in Hooksett).

• **DOVER** The Wrong Brain Holidayze Bizaare (facebook.com/wrongbrain) will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at North Country Hard Cider (38 Littleworth Road in Dover). Admission costs \$1, according to the Facebook post.

• **HUDSON** New England Vendor Events will host a Hudson Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from noon to 5 p.m., according to a post at facebook.com/nevendorevents.

Exhibits

• **“ABSTRACTION IN THE CURRIER COLLECTION”** at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144), which will “fea-

ture abstract works together in the Currier’s collection, some of which have not been on view for quite some time, including sculpture, photography, ceramics and more,” according to the email. The Currier is open Wednesday and Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (with Art After Work, when admission is free, from 5 to 8 p.m.). Admission costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17, and is free for children under age 13.

• **“HEART OF THE MUSEUM”** at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester In this exhibit, “artist Saya Woolfalk’s commission for the Currier Museum of Art investigates the history of the institution and revisits its iconography and original design. The mosaics adorning the former

façade of the Currier (designed by Salvatore Lascari in 1929-1930) constitute the starting point for this new installation by Woolfalk that reimagines the Western art canons singular cultural perspective,” the email said.

• **FALL ART SHOW** Four new local artists exhibit their work at the Sandy Cleary Community Art Gallery on the ground floor of the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashuacenterforthearts.com). The artists are Bonnie Guercio, a mixed-media collage artist; Emily Pierce Edwards, who creates mixed-media paintings; Christian “Il Cents” Ramirez, an abstract artist, and Hsiu Norcott, whose works include hand-painted kimonos, according to a press release. The pieces will be on display through the end of December and will also

CONTINUED ON PG 18 ▶

HANDMADE



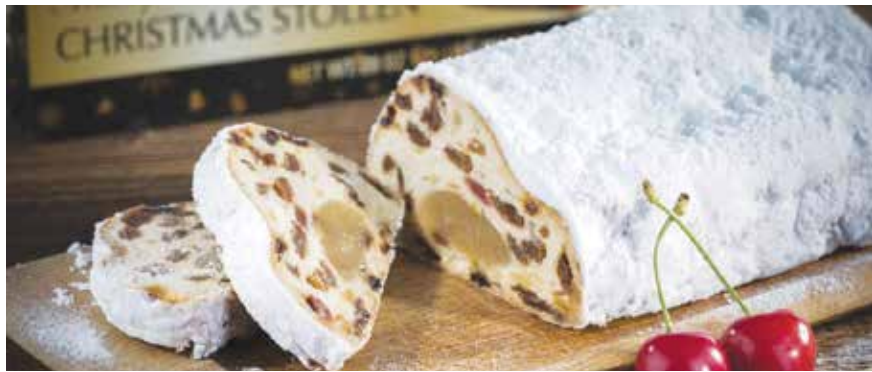
Studio 550 Community Art Center (550 Elm St. in Manchester; 550arts.com, 232-5597) has holiday happenings in December. The center will host its annual **Handmade Holiday Market** featuring pottery and glass art Monday, Dec. 18, through Saturday, Dec. 23, noon to 8 p.m. each day (except Wednesday, when the center is closed), according to a press release. Two rooms will be filled with pieces made by more than 30 makers, including studio members and staff, such as mugs, bowls, ornaments, serving ware and more, the release said.

Members, staff and other artists have also created more than 100 cups and mugs for the **Cups for a Cause** display; buy one of these cups or mugs and proceeds will support the International Institute of New England, which provides resources for new Americans, the release said. The cups will be in a separate display and run about \$20 each, the release said.

And when you’re in downtown Manchester in the week before the market, keep an eye out for mini-mugs and ceramic ornaments that will be hidden around town, the release said. Find an item and bring it to the market to win a prize.

Cup by Ian Young. Courtesy photo.

Holiday traditions from Europe to New Hampshire



Christmas stollen. Courtesy photo.

Written by
the Viking House staff

If you've ever crossed the Atlantic in late fall, you know that Europeans are cuckoo for Christmas. Holiday markets are a seasonal staple in many European countries, and an array of cultural customs have become a part of our celebrations on this side of the pond, too. At Viking House, we toast these traditions and the items and foodstuffs that bring them to life, and we do our best to help you incorporate them into your own festivities. In addition to hand-crafted wooden nutcrackers, pyramids and smokers for decorating your home, here are a few of our favorite seasonal traditions.

Advent calendars are a German invention dating to the 1800s, when they were used to mark the holy days of Advent. With the secularization of Christmas, Advent calendars (and Nordic "Julkalenders") have become a tradition for families the world over, counting down the days from Dec. 1 to Christmas Day. You can find Advent calendars in nearly any format, from a cute cardboard card with pictures hidden behind each die-cut door, to a box with a bite of chocolate or caramel for each of 25 days, to a handmade Advent calendar with tiny wooden compartments. Place treats and trinkets behind each door to fill this future family heirloom.

Brits come to Viking House looking for **Christmas crackers**, dreamed up by a Londoner in 1847 and now used across the U.K. and elsewhere as a festive way to cap off holiday dinner. Crackers look

like giant holiday-wrapped hard candies. They make a snapping sound when opened, releasing a small prize, a joke and a tissue crown. Sounds silly, right? It is, in the best way – even the most harried party host and uptight uncle can't help laughing, snapping crackers, sharing jokes and wearing funny tissue crowns around the table.

Here's another one: the **Christmas pickle**. This bit of relatively modern German-American folklore involves hiding a pickle-shaped ornament deep in the branches of the Christmas tree. The first person to find the pickle on the morning of the 25th receives a special gift or good fortune for the year to come. Pickle ornaments, with the delightful German name *weihnachtsgurk*, are often made of blown glass and come in many sizes to make pickle-finding more or less challenging.

There are as many holiday food traditions as there are families – millions of tables feature stollen bread, Christmas puddings, herring, Swedish meatballs and more. One tasty tradition that anyone can enjoy is **pepparkakor**, a thin, spicy ginger cookie from Sweden. Place a pepparkakor in the palm of your hand, make a wish and tap it with a finger from your other hand. If the pepparkakor breaks into three pieces, some Swedes say, your wish will come true. And if it doesn't, you still get a delicious cookie – win-win.

Looking to start or continue your own holiday tradition? We'll see you at Viking House in downtown Concord. *Cheers. Skål. Salut. Prost.*



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Very Merry

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Saturday, Dec. 9th:
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10th:
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The DoubleTree
by Hilton Expo Center,
700 Elm St., Manchester, NH

Tickets available at the door or online:
Adults: \$7 • Seniors (65+): \$6 • Children Under 14: FREE

Kids Shopping Area Sponsor:



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For more festival information, visit VeryMerryFestival.com.
Get updates at facebook.com/VeryMerryFestival.

ARTS

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 16

be available for sale.

• **POP-UP ART SHOW** Artists Charlotte Thibault and Byron Carr will have a pop-up art show running through Dec. 29 at 46 N. Main St. in Concord, the email said. Find work by Carr, which includes oil and watercolor of landscapes and waterfalls, at byroncarrfineart.com and find work by Thibault, who also works in oils and does landscapes, seascapes, harbor scenes, still life and concept paintings, at charlottethibault.com, the email said. The show will feature paintings, prints and cards and will be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (open until 8 p.m. on Fridays).

Theater

• **DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL** The Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) presents Dickens' A Christmas Carol through Dec. 17, with showtimes on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors and members and \$19 for senior members. Visit hatboxnh.com.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** The Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester; palacetheatre.org,

668-5588) presents A Christmas Carol through Dec. 23, with showtimes on Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., with an additional show on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$28 to \$59.

• **MIRACLE ON 34th STREET THE MUSICAL** Majestic Productions brings to stage Miracle on 34th Street The Musical at Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry). Performances are on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$22 for adults, \$18 for seniors 65+ and \$15 for children age 17 and under. Visit majestictheatre.net.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Turning Pointe Center of Dance at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 at the door or \$23 in advance at the dance school (371 Pembroke Street, Pembroke). Visit turningpointecenterofdance.com.

• **THE NUTCRACKER SUITE ACTS I & II** Dance Visions Network on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$24. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online.

Classical

• **FIDDLER EILEEN IVERS** presents A Joyful Christmas on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com).

• **A CELTIC CHRISTMAS** on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org).

• **HOLLY JOLLY FOLLY** The New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus presents its 2023 "Holiday Concert Series: Holly Jolly Folly" at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.; and Derryfield School (2108 River Road, Manchester) on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. Adult tickets are \$25. Visit nhgmc.com.

• **BOSTON POPS HOLIDAY TOUR** The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and Conductor Keith Lockhart will perform the "Unwrap the Magic" Boston Pops Holiday Tour at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. The concert features "Sleigh Ride," among other festive pieces, and is accompanied by the Metropolitan Chorale. Ticket prices range from \$79.50 to \$149.50 and are on sale now. Visit snhuarena.com.

POPS



The New Hampshire Philharmonic's annual Holiday Pops concert will feature the Philharmonic Orchestra joined by guest pianist Roxane Park (pictured) and Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive in Salem). The show will also include a classic sing-along, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$10 for students; see nhphil.org. There is a livestreaming ticket option for the Dec. 17 show. *Roxanne Park. Courtesy photo.*

'A TESTAMENT TO PEACE'



The Concord Chorale will perform a concert titled "A Testament to Peace," focusing on themes of peace and gratitude, with brass, organ, piano and percussion as well as The Purple Finches, a youth choir from Concord Community Music School, on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. (when there will also be a livestream option) at the South Congregational Church (27 Pleasant St. in Concord). See concordchorale.org/tickets for tickets to the event, which will also feature the chorale's new collaborative pianist, Elizabeth Blood, according to a press release. *Courtesy photo.*

Holiday gifts for the gardener 2023

Give the kids a wheelbarrow and a shovel

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

Once again it is time to find the perfect gifts for your loved ones. Gardeners are easy to shop for

because there are so many good things to shop for, and they will probably be pleased with whatever you choose. As a shopper I always try to support local, family owned businesses — they support our community and I want to support them when possible. Let's take a look at some ideas.

Think about **buying tickets** for you and your gardening friend to a special garden or perhaps one of the spring flower shows. This will allow the two of you to have some time together and to get some ideas about what you both can do in your gardens. One of my favorite gardens is **Bedrock Garden in Lee**, New Hampshire. This garden was devel-



Root Slayer spade and CobraHead weeder are excellent tools. Photo by Henry Homeyer.



I've had this Smart Cart for 20 years. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

oped by plant guru Jill Nooney and her husband, Bob Munger, over a 25-year period and recently achieved 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit. Not only does it have a fabulous collection of plants; Jill is a sculptor and welder who has created art that is displayed in the gardens. This is truly a gem of a place and worthy of visits. Suggested donation of \$15. See their website for schedules.

Another garden I love is **Saint Gaudens National Historic Site** in Cornish, New Hampshire. Augustus Saint Gaudens was

a world-known sculptor who lived and worked there in the early 20th century. The well-maintained formal gardens and grounds are enhanced by his fabulous life-size (or larger) bronze sculptures. The grounds are open year-round and the galleries are open from Memorial Day weekend through Oct. 31. Admission is \$10 and is valid for seven days.

Of the spring flower shows, the **Connecticut show in Hartford** is probably the biggest in New England, and well worth a visit. It will be Feb. 22 to Feb. 25

in 2024 and although tickets are not yet on sale you can make up a nice card inviting your gardening buddy to go with you.

Garden tools are generally a hit. On my second birthday I was given a **child-sized wheelbarrow, a watering can and a shovel**, all of which helped form me as a life-time gardener. Most garden centers sell good-quality tools for kids made of metal, not plastic. See what you can find for a small person in your life.

Adults like tools, too. For 20 years

CONTINUED ON PG 20 ▶

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Plant Pro-Tec Deer & Rabbit Repellent. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 19

now I've had a **Smart Cart**, a well-balanced two-wheel cart. The frame is made of airplane-grade tubular aluminum and the 7-cubic-foot body of heavy-duty plastic. It comes either with bike-type wheels or smaller, fatter wheels capable of traversing wet areas more easily and carrying heavier loads. I chose the wide wheels, which make the cart rated for 600 pounds. The narrower wheels are rated for 400 pounds. I've never had a flat tire and the cart has served me well. The bin pops out if you want to wash a dog in it or carry home manure in your

Subaru. It is not inexpensive but worth the investment.

My favorite weeder is the **Cobra-Head** weeder, a single-tine, curved hook that teases out roots with ease and precision. It has become an extension of my body — I use it for planting, weeding and more. About \$29 and available not only online but also from good garden centers and seed companies everywhere.

Although there may be no better mousetrap to invent, amazingly there is a new design to the shovel, one called the **Root Slayer**. It is all one piece of steel; it has a straight leading edge that comes sharp and stays sharp. The edges are serrated and able to slice through roots like a hot knife through butter. Great for planting in the woods or near trees. I still use my regular shovel or spade for digging in my garden or filling a wheelbarrow with compost. But if I want to plant a tree in a field, it is great for slicing through sod. I use it for dividing big clumps of daylilies and other tough perennials. It's available at good garden centers.

I know most of you probably keep track of garden events on your phone — things like when you planted lettuce seeds or when your delphinium bloom. I don't. I like an old-fashioned journal I

can write in with a pen. Blank books are readily available, and some companies even sell **special garden journals**. Gardening is a slow and thoughtful pastime and lends itself to the handwritten word.

If you know that your gift recipient starts seeds in the spring, or plans to, you might consider getting an **electric heat mat** as a gift. They considerably speed up the time needed for germination of weeds in the spring. So, for example, corn seeds can take two or three weeks to germinate in cold, wet soil but will pop up in three to five days when on a heat mat. Of course you then have to transplant the seedlings, but that is not bad for a small patch. I generally use a planting flat with 98 cells for corn and transplant them when they have leaves 2 inches tall.

If deer are a problem, some **garlic-oil clips** will add some protection in winter for your tasty trees and shrubs. I've had excellent luck with them, specifically with a brand called "**Plant Pro-Tec Deer and Rabbit Repellent**." They come in a package of 25 for about a dollar each and seem to last all winter. They are advertised as working for six to eight months. Of course, depending on how hungry the deer are, they may not be 100 percent effective.

Seeds are great gifts and serve well as stocking stuffers. If you save heirloom tomato or flower seeds, you can package up some of your favorites for a friend, along with a good description. And you can give a nice **houseplant**, particularly one in bloom. But most of us already have all the houseplants we need.

Lastly, books are great gifts for gardeners, especially now, in winter, when we have time on our hands. If I could select just one book, I'd pick **Essential Native Trees and Shrubs for the Eastern United States** by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge (2018, Imagine, Bunker Hill Studio Books, \$35 hardback). I'm totally behind the movement to plant native plants to support our birds, pollinators and wildlife and this book will answer all your questions — which plants are attractive to deer, salt-tolerant, good for poor soils and much more. It has excellent photos.

Enjoy picking good gardening gifts as you play Santa this year. Your loved ones will love you even more.

Henry is writing just one gardening article per month this winter. You may reach him at PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746 or by email at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.



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(Must pre-register and pay in advance)

Saturday, Dec 16 & Sunday, Dec 17

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE
Expo is now Very Merry
 Holiday gift festival features New England-made items

By Mya Blanchard
 mblanchard@hippopress.com

On Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10, the group that brings us the Made in New Hampshire Expo debuts the Very Merry Holiday Gift Festival at the DoubleTree by Hilton, a rebranding of The Made in New England Expo. As before, the event will feature nearly 100 vendors from around New England showcasing and selling local and handmade products such as jewelry, dog treats, candles and cookies, this time with a festive flair.

"We wanted to bring in a bit more of the holiday element [and] have more interactive things going on in addition to our vendors," said Christine Carignan, one of the owners of Granite Media Group, which puts on the event. "We've done a big rebrand with it, hoping that will get people in the holiday spirit and get them coming to the show."

Christmas additions include visits from Santa from 1 to 3 p.m. and holiday crafts all weekend with Mrs. Claus as a visitor from 1 to 3 p.m. Gingerbread Amy will be giving gingerbread house demonstrations, and there will be a caricature artist each day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., live performances by The Funky Divas of Gospel and Northern Voices A Capella, and puppies from Live and Let Live Farm.

"We have a special kids-only shopping area and we're calling it Candy Cane Corner," Carignan said. "We have small [\$2] items just for kids to go shopping for things for mom and dad or friends or their siblings, and our plan is to donate the proceeds to a local children's charity from that shopping area."

Vendors will be juried under stricter criteria this year to ensure the products and vendors align with the purpose of the event, as they will be for the Made in New Hampshire expo in the spring.

"It's somewhat similar to what we've done in the past but we've gotten a bit more strict about it," Carignan said. "We



Previous Made in New England Expo. Courtesy photo.

really wanted to curate a show where it's really handmade or locally made products ... [and] we really wanted to make the focus of this about the gifts and about locally made items that people can come and buy for everybody on their holiday list. We've really focused [in on] that. ... We try to keep an eye on the different categories of vendors [so] that we never have too many of one particular kind ... that way there's a big variety available."

Vendors include Lindsey Bangs of I Whisked it — who will bring sweet treats like homemade marshmallows, hot chocolate bombs, chocolate-covered pretzels, oreos and German stollen and will be offering cake preorders — Stark Brewing Co., Barkin' Biscuit from Bedford with handmade dog treats made with human grade ingredients as well as organic fruits and vegetables, FireFlight Photo with high end nature and wildlife photography and so much more.

"The goal of our festival is aligned with the mission of our company, which is always to celebrate and elevate businesses," Carignan said. "We want to be able to highlight the unique items that are available in our little corner of the country. ... We want people to have fun and find unique gifts for everyone that [they] need to shop for and for themselves too." 🍪

Very Merry Holiday Gift Festival

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester
Cost: Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors age 65+ and free for children under 14. Purchase online or at the door.
Visit: verymerryfestival.com

KIDDIE — POOL —

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Scenes from Santa's arrival last year at the Aviation Museum of N.H. Courtesy photo.

Mr. Claus travels in style

• **Santa Claus will helicopter in** and touch down at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. and hang out until 1 p.m., when he will depart on an airport fire truck, according to a press release. Families are recommended to be at the museum by 10:45 a.m. to park and watch Santa's helicopter arrive, the release said. Santa will visit with kids inside the museum and kids who talk to Santa will get goodie bags, the release said. The event will also include free coffee and hot chocolate from Common Man Roadside, the release said. The museum will be open free of charge to visitors from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then charge regular admission from 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday is also the opening day for the museum's exhibit "**Home of the Holidays**" featuring vintage World War II uniforms and posters on loan from the Wright Museum of World War II, the release said. The exhibit will run through Sunday, Jan. 14, and also includes trees decorated with aviation-related toys. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Regular admission costs \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 6 to 12 and 65+ and veterans/active military;

kids ages 5 and under get in free.

Find more holiday family fun in the Nov. 23 issue of the Hippo, our annual Holiday Guide; see hippopress.com for the e-edition.

Big screen Christmas

• **Chunky's Cinema Pub** (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com) will begin a week of screenings of *The Polar Express* (G, 2004), which you can catch at all three area Chunky's Friday, Dec. 8, through Thursday, Dec. 14, with at least one screening daily and three on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10. Buy a "**Milk & Cookies Movie Ticket**" to get a box with milk, cookies and a bell during the movies. "**Dinner with Santa**," where guests will be greeted by Santa before and after the show, with opportunities to take photos with him, will take place at some screenings Dec. 13, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21.

• *A Christmas Story* (PG, 1983) will screen on Sunday, Dec. 10, at AMC Londonderry (4 p.m.), Cinemark in Salem (4 p.m.), O'neil Cinemas in Epping (4 and 7 p.m.) and Regal Fox Run in Newington (4 and 7 p.m.), and on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at all four of those locations at 7 p.m. See fathomevents.com. 🍿

TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
We dug this out of my parents' estate attic. It's all complete but no papers or box. We are looking for a value, if any. Can you help?
Thanks.
Andrew



Dear Andrew,
Your aluminum mid-century tree appears to be in good shape. I grew up with one in my family!

There are a few different makers, styles and colors in aluminum trees. The value is higher if you have a complete one with the original box. We used to have ours in a big bag so my mom didn't have to reset it every year!

It was a treasure to find, though, Andrew. Values are in the range of \$200 and up. You can also find electric color wheels for

them. The value on them in working condition is in the \$40 range and up.

So no matter what you're going to do with your tree, keep or sell, it's a treasure. Hope this was helpful and thanks for sharing with us. It's a memory for me and lots of others I'm sure.

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

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Hybrid's battery should long outlast its warranty



By Ray Magliozzi
You've got the most fun column in the paper. In 2014, I bought a new Toyota Camry XLE Hybrid. It's the best car I've ever owned. It's got about 72,000 miles on it. Everything is working great. But the 10-year warranty on the "big" hybrid battery will expire next year. Replacing that battery costs between \$3,000 and \$5,000 at a shop. Is this a DIY job? If not, do I wait until the battery "dies" or just bite the bullet and replace it now before it wears out? Thank you. — Eric

No, and no.
 If you like the idea of 200 volts of electricity coursing through your most sensitive body parts, then, sure, Eric. Go ahead and replace the hybrid battery yourself. On the plus side, you'll also get a free, Bob Ross-style perm. Those battery packs are labeled "high-voltage" as a warning to people like us to not mess with them. So, I'd definitely let a well-trained shop handle the hybrid battery replacement.

The good news is that you may never need to have that battery replaced. Your bat-

tery warranty "only" runs for 10 years. But that doesn't mean the battery won't last longer than that. Sometimes much longer.

We've had more experience in the shop with Toyota Priuses than with Camry Hybrids, since they've been around a lot longer. But the hybrid systems are very similar.

We have some customers with 250,000 or more miles on their hybrid Priuses, and they're still on the original battery. There are even some that are used as taxis, so they've arguably been subjected to the toughest stop-and-go conditions imaginable, and many of those have their original batteries, too. That doesn't mean yours will necessarily last that long, but it could. So, under no circumstances should you replace your hybrid battery proactively. It'd be like replacing a car's gasoline engine at 72,000 miles just because the warranty was about to run out. That doesn't make any economic sense, does it? My advice is to start putting \$10 a week in a jar. And by the time your battery fails, if it ever does, you'll have the money to replace it. And if the battery never fails, you'll have a down payment on your next Camry Hybrid.

Dear Car Talk:
 Can you explain the physics and engi-

neering for the concept of "un-sprung weight?" I see people who drive cars like mine (a 2006 BMW Z4) talking about how to "reduce un-sprung weight." What are they looking to do? Thanks. — Russ

"Un-sprung weight" is an automotive engineering term. So don't feel bad that you didn't learn it in 6th grade vocabulary class, Russ, along with "egregious."

In the simplest terms, "un-sprung" is everything below the car's springs. So, it's things like wheels, tires, axles, and brakes.

If you want to get picky, there is some weight that's considered partially sprung weight. There are some suspension parts that attach both above and below the springs. But for the purposes of explaining the concept, think of it as mostly wheels and tires.

Why do people want to lose un-sprung weight? Well, aside from making your car look better in a bathing suit, people with performance cars want less un-sprung weight because it improves the car's handling.

When you drive over bumps, the tires and wheels get bounced up in the air. The lighter they are, the quicker the springs can force them back down on to the pavement and keep them there. The more time the tires spend in full contact with the road, the better

the car's handling.
 Heavier wheels and tires react more slowly, and when they hit the ground, they're more likely to bounce up again. It's more weight for the springs and shocks to manage.

This is not a perfect analogy, but imagine you were friends with my uncle Nunzio, and he gave you a pair of cement shoes. How maneuverable would you be? Not very, right? Your feet would be slow to pick up and move.

So, to reduce un-sprung weight, manufacturers (or car owners) replace steel wheels with lighter, aluminum alloy wheels. That's probably the most cost-effective change you can make. And for people who drive on the streets (as opposed to the track), doing more than that is probably not worth the money.

Still, some zealots will look for narrower wheels that can be fitted with narrower, lighter tires. And they might even replace steel brake calipers with alloy calipers and use carbon ceramic rotors. You can go nuts with this stuff and even try to save a few ounces with lighter-weight lug nuts. But by then, your family will have left you, Russ.

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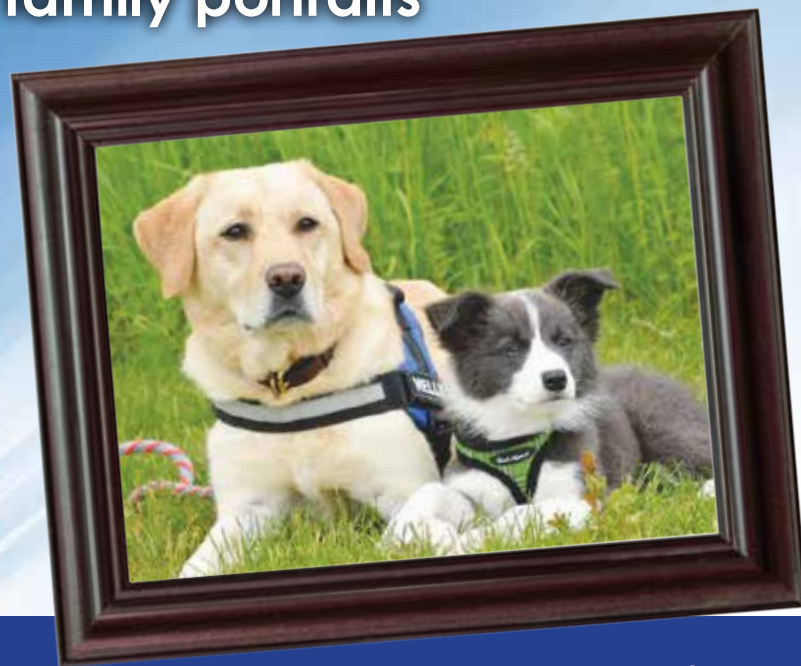


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ON THE JOB

MATT LAZZARO

WELDER

Matt Lazzaro is the owner-operator of Matt the Welder in Derry.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

There is no real typical day. Some days I'll be making a railing; another day I might be fixing a broken plow. Part of why I like it is that there's a good amount of variety.

How long have you been doing this?

I started the business about a little over three years ago, but I've been welding for close to 14 years now.

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

I used to work in restaurants for a long

time. And then I started having kids and the nights and weekends weren't doing it for me. I knew a couple of welders and they seemed pretty happy. So I decided to go back to school for it.

What kind of education or training did you need?

I went to college and I got an associate's degree in welding technologies. You don't have to do that to get into welding, but it allowed me to get more mid-level jobs out of school.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Usually burnt shirts and pants and boots and gloves. Even all summer long, I have to be completely covered in

boots, long pants and long shirts to protect from the sparks and the heat of the welding.

What is the most challenging thing about your work?

The most challenging is the back end part of it, like the books, answering all the calls and messages and giving price estimates and stuff. But I just do my best with it.

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

I really wish I had known earlier how much more I enjoy working for myself.

What was the first job you ever had?

Bagging groceries.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

I wish people knew the sacrifices that it takes to get to where I've gotten.

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

To show up when you say you're going to show up and do what you say you're going to do. — Angie Sykeny 🍌



Matt Lazzaro. Courtesy photo.

Five favorites

Favorite reading: Trade magazines, like Ask This Old House.

Favorite movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation




Favorite music: '90s and early 2000s rap.


Favorite food: Cheeseburgers.

Favorite thing about NH: The never-ending supply of rusty metal.

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News from the local food scene

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

• **Free wine tasting:** Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord) hosts a free wine tasting and holiday kickoff party on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit wineonmainnh.com.

• **Cookies with Santa:** Meet Santa, decorate cookies, listen to a story and enjoy hot chocolate at White Birch Eatery in Goffstown (571 Mast Road) on Sunday, Dec. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$20 per child. Reservations are suggested. Visit their Facebook page @WhiteBirchEatery.

• **Breakfast with Santa:** The Bedford Event Center (379 River Road, Bedford) hosts breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets (\$85 for adults, \$65 for children), including a breakfast buffet, a hot chocolate station, the opportunity to meet and take your picture with Santa, a sing-along with Santa and more. To purchase tickets visit bedfordeventcenter.com.

• **Holiday recipes:** Taste and learn to make a variety of holiday recipes such as a greeting eggnog cocktail, candied kielbasa, deviled eggs with LaBelle Seyval Blanc filling, LaBelle red wine caramelized onion dip, baked brie with LaBelle red wine fruit compote and LaBelle wine pairings (riesling, cranberry riesling and malbec) at LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst) at their Cooking with Wine class on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 6 to 7 p.m. Chefs will make the meals in front of you and you'll be sent home with a recipe card. Tickets start at \$43.40 and can be purchased at eventbrite.com.

FOOD

Homemade, delicious

Gifts for when you've run out of gift ideas

By John Fladd
food@hippopress.com

Not to blow my own horn, but I am an excellent gift-giver. I am thoughtful, I listen carefully when people tell me what kind of things they like and what their favorite memories are. I'm creative. Probably eight out of 10 times, I knock it out of the park.

I realize this makes me something of an outlier; most people have one or possibly two solid gift ideas in a given holiday season, then they find themselves emotionally exhausted. If you are feeling a little gassed-out creativity-wise this holiday season, here are two suggestions for food and drink gifts that are affordable and quirky and probably won't be put into a closet somewhere.

Geographic cookies

You have probably never thought too much about cookie cutters, but you can buy them in almost any shape, including any state or province you can name.

Manitoba? Boom! Six dollars on Etsy. West Virginia? Shazam! \$7.99 on Amazon.

You know that lady at work who's really nice, but you don't really know anything about her, except that she grew up in Toledo? Give her a plate of Ohio sugar cookies, with a mini-M&Ms glued more or less in the area of Toledo with melted chocolate. Did your family go on vacation in Chicago this summer? You can get the state of Illinois, or the skyline of the city.

Thoughtful, edible, and you'll only be out a couple of hours of your time and maybe \$10.

Roll-Out Sugar Cookies

Based on the King Arthur Roll-Out Sugar Cookies recipe, available at kingarthurbaking.com, which they credit to



NH sugar cookies. Photo by John Fladd.

blogger Amanda Rettke. (As opposed to the several other sugar cookie and sugar cookie-adjacent recipes they have; baking for someone gluten-free or paleo? They have that too). It's a very large recipe — three sticks of butter, five cups of flour — and I like that it has many of the ingredients listed in grams as well as cups. I halved it, made a batch of cookies to share at work and still have dough in reserve. The original recipe calls for 2 teaspoons of almond extract, but I have replaced that with Fiori di Sicilia, a King Arthur flavoring they describe as having bright citrus and warm vanilla flavors and that makes the cookies taste like a creamsicle. Be careful with the measuring; I spoke to a King Arthur recipe developer months back and she said too heavy a hand with Fiori Di Sicilia will make everything taste like perfume.

12 Tablespoons (170 grams) unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cup (198.5 grams) of granulated sugar

1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 teaspoon King Arthur Fiori di Sicilia

2½ cups (300 grams) all-purpose flour

½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon baking powder

Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and yolk one at a time, beating after each addition.

Slowly add the extracts (with the mixer on low) and mix until combined, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl.

Sift together flour, salt and baking powder.

With the mixer on low, slowly add to the butter mixture and mix until just combined.

Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and chill for at least 2 hours (or overnight).

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees and line baking sheets with parchment.

Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thick and cut out cookies. Place on parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, until they start to turn golden on the edges and the center doesn't look moist.

Bottle of pre-mixed cocktails

Depending on whom you're giving it to, booze is always a good call.

Find a nice bottle. It could even be an empty liquor bottle that you were about to put in the recycling. Wash it out and remove the label.

If it's a paper label, soak the bottle in hot water and scrape the label off with the back of a butter knife. If there's any glue residue left behind, a citrus-based cleaner like Goof-Off will take care of it. Martha Stewart suggests using a hair dryer to soften the glue. Once, I had a really nice bottle but the label had actually been painted on. I soaked it in vinegar overnight, and it came right off. I imagine nail-polish remover would do the same thing.

Before you remove the label, write down

CONTINUED ON PG 30 ▶

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The useful gift

Kitchen presents you can buy

By John Fladd
 food@hippopress.com

One or two labor-intensive sincere gifts are doable in a holiday season, but if you're trying to come up with something nice for each night of Hanukkah, or good stocking stuffers for an entire family — who has time to knit all that? Plus, sometimes it's just nice to get good stuff.

The following are some gifts you might consider for the serious cooks or drink-makers in your life. Most of them are reasonably priced stocking stuffers. At least one is a blowout extravagant gift. All of them are genuinely, how-did-I-ever-get-by-without-this, useful in the kitchen. Prices are approximate..

Microplane grater, about \$1

If you've ever wondered how TV chefs manage to zest an orange without making their kitchen look like a war zone, or put fancy chocolate shavings on a cake, this is ho. This is a wood rasp that has been adapted for kitchen use. It is ideal for grating fresh nutmeg.



Silicone baking sheet, \$10 to \$15/pair

How would you like to never grease a baking sheet again? Silicone baking mats used to be imported from France and were mostly for Very Fancy People. Now they are really inexpensive and — dare I say it? — life-changing. Nothing sticks to these bad boys — not cookie dough or granola or even homemade peanut brittle. They last for years and are tough enough to stand up to any heat an oven can put out, though sadly not a charcoal grill, which I found out the hard way.



Oxo Steel Angled Measuring Jigger, \$10

I own about a dozen jiggers for measuring ingredients for cocktails. It was only over time that I realized consciously that I have one that I keep coming back to, over and over. I'll find myself interrupting a dishwasher cycle to fish it out, rather than use a different, perfectly fine jigger in the cabinet in front of me. This Oxo jigger is angled to allow you to see exactly how much you are measuring to within a fraction of a flu-

id ounce, without having to crouch down to eye level. And it has a spout. It adds a little element of precision and elegance to your drink making.



Reconditioned blender — Vitamix, BlendTec, etc., around \$300

By far, the most useful kitchen tool I use on a weekly or often daily basis is a good blender. It makes smoothies and shakes of course, but also hummus, whipped cream, pie fillings and even ice cream. A top-of-the-line blender can set you back \$700 to \$800, but the high-end manufacturers often sell reconditioned used models. Mine is a reconditioned red Vitamix named Steve, who is pretty frustrated at how seldom I use his very highest setting, which I suspect could turn a chair leg into bark mulch.



2 in 1 stainless steel whisk egg beater & instant thermometer, \$15 to \$20

I don't know if you've ever been stirring something on the stove, waiting for it to hit a very particular temperature. For several years I found myself thinking that someone should invent a whisk with an integrated thermometer, before I actually thought to check online to see if anyone had. They had.



Digital kitchen scale, \$25 to \$30

Every time I save a recipe I convert the amounts from cups to grams. It makes my baking more accurate, and I can add ingredients directly to the pan or bowl and tare (zero) out how much weight I already have in it. An inexpensive digital scale will measure in several different units — grams, ounces, etc. — and is accurate to a tenth of a gram. It will last for years of robust cooking and make you look like a badass in the kitchen. 🍷



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FOOD

Cookie road trip

Eat your way through the Currier and Ives Cookie Tour

By Betty Gagne
food@hippopress.com



The 18th Annual Currier and Ives Cookie Tour is taking place on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Monadnock region.

This self-guided tour encompasses a number of local businesses and offers visitors and shoppers a unique holiday experience by serving homemade baked cookies at each stop. Participants include restaurants, farms, gift shops, a winery, a brewery, a historical society, a library and more, all within a 3-mile radius. Businesses participating in the tour are in Jaffrey, Rindge, Marlborough, Troy, Fitzwilliam, New Ipswich and Swanzy.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 and can be purchased at the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, the Park Theatre in Jaffrey, and Frogg Brewing in Swanzy.

Each facility is festively decorated and will offer baked goods. An admis-

sion ticket includes a map of all the stops on the tour, and those who visit at least 10 participating businesses will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 gift certificate that can be redeemed at any stop on the tour.

According to Holly LeClair, Marketing Director at the Inn at East Hill Farm, the cookie tour came together 18 years ago when the owner of the inn attended a similar type of event in the White Mountains and got the idea to start one in the Monadnock region.

Currier and Ives Cookie Tour

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Locations in Jaffrey, Rindge, Marlborough, Troy, Fitzwilliam, New Ipswich and Swanzy; Jaffrey, Rindge, Marlborough, Troy, Fitzwilliam, New Ipswich and Swanzy

Cost: \$20; tickets can be purchased at Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, Park Theatre in Jaffrey, and Frogg Brewing in Swanzy

More information: A list of participating businesses, a map of all the stops, cookie recipes from past years and a compilation of frequently asked questions about the 2023 Currier and Ives Cookie Tour are at currierandivescookietour.com.

“It’s a fun day for people to do something enjoyable with family for the holidays,” she said. “Over 300 tickets were sold last year.”

Each stop on the tour will provide their cookie recipes for collecting. This year Frogg Brewing will hold an outdoor German Christmas Market on the day of the cookie tour featuring more than 30 area small businesses, as well as food, beer and a three-piece German band.

A portion of the proceeds for the tour goes to Feeding Tiny Tummies, a resource center in Keene that distributes more than 10,000 meals per week. See feedingtinytummies.com.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 28

how big the bottle is — how many fluid ounces or milliliters.

Find a cocktail recipe that you think your friend would like — A Peanut Butter and Jelly Sour, for instance:

2 ounces Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey

3 ounces Manischewitz Concord Grape Wine

1 ounces fresh squeezed lemon juice

Normally you would shake this over ice, then pour it into a glass and drink it. But this time we’re going to do some math. (Don’t worry — there aren’t any exponents or variables involved.)

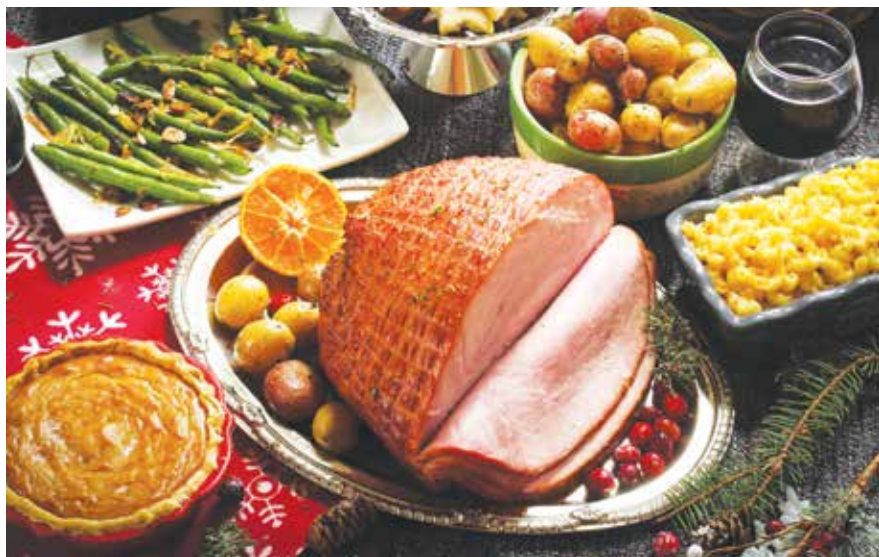
How many ounces of ingredients go into one drink? $3+3+1=5$. Five ounces.

Remember your empty liquor bottle? How much did it hold? I’ll bet it was 750 milliliters, wasn’t it? That’s equal to about 25 fluid ounces, or five PB&J Sours. Multiply everything by five (10 ounces, 15 ounces and 5 ounces) and use a funnel to pour it into your nice bottle. Screw the cap on — or put a cork in it, if you’re fancy — give it a shake, and you’re off the hook present-wise for another year. You don’t even have to wrap it — just write a tag and tie it on with rough twine, and you’ll look classy.

Ideally the recipient will ask you to stay and drink it with them. And maybe eat some cookies.

Whoopie pies & ham

Where to get all the holiday must-haves



By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Why make the pie when you can order it? Here are some of the restaurants, bakeries and other places making eats for your holiday celebrations. Know of a pie purveyor not mentioned here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com for inclusion in an upcoming Weekly Dish.

- **All Real Meal** (87 Elm St., Manchester, 782-3014, allrealmeal.com) cater this Christmas with appetizers like Buffalo chicken dip (\$25) and BBQ bourbon meatballs (\$38), full moon empanadas, enchiladas, quiches, salads, lasagna, gluten-free ravioli, chicken Parmesan and maple apple pork loin, and desserts such as lemon bars, cheesecake and blueberry coffee cake.

- In addition to gift baskets and daily specials, **Angela's Pasta & Cheese Shop** (815 Chestnut St. in Manchester; angelaspastaandcheese.com, 625-9544) offers items for order including antipasto and cheese platters, salads, heat and serve dinners and desserts. Call to order and check with the website for holiday updates.

- **The Bakeshop on Kelley Street** (171 Kelley St.) has cupcakes, pies — apple, lemon meringue, pumpkin pecan crumble and more — pastry trays with mini eclairs, cream puffs, cannolis and chocolate-covered strawberries and specialty desserts available for carry out and curbside pickup. Visit their website, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com, or call 624-3500.

- **Bearded Baking Co's** (819 Union St., Manchester, 647-7150; 580 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6878,

beardedbakingco.com) December cupcakes are chocolate peppermint bark, Christmas tree snack cake, gingerbread man, eggnog, rumchata cinnamon toast crunch, and milk and cookies. Visit their website to place your order.

- **Bread & Chocolate** (29 S. Main St., Concord, 228-3330) has a variety of offerings such as honey poppyseed bread, chocolate caramel bars, molasses cookies and more. Visit their Facebook page @ Bread&Chocolate.

- **Brookdale Fruit Farm** (41 Broad St., Hollis, brookdalefruitfarm.com, 465-2240) has plenty of pies for dessert, usually offering apple, pecan, pumpkin and more.

- **Buckleys Bakery & Cafe** (436 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, buckleysbakerycafe.com, 262-5929) is taking orders through Monday, Dec. 18, for cakes, like vanilla eggnog cake for \$46 and chocolate peppermint cheesecake for \$36; Yule logs, hot cocoa for \$45 and gluten-free raspberry white chocolate for \$48; pies, like apple for \$22 and chocolate peanut butter for \$32; pastries and more, like cinnamon pull-apart bread and breakfast pastry tray.

- **Buckleys Market & Cafe** (9 Market Place, Hollis, 465-5522, buckleysbakerycafe.com) has appetizers such as raspberry baked brie (\$20) and New England lobster dip (\$30), main meals such as boneless prime rib (\$29 per pound) and beef tenderloin roast (\$36 per pound). Orders must be placed by Sunday, Dec. 17.

- Items on **The Cake Fairy's** (114 Londonderry Turnpike, Hooksett, cakefairynh.com) December menu — cookie trays, pies, cheesecake, whoopie pie towers and more — will be available for preorder and

CONTINUED ON PG 32 ▶

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walk-ins throughout December. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 23, special first come, first served items will be available including DIY cookie decorating kits.

- **Chez Vachon's** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, chezvachon.com, 625-9660) holiday menu includes fruit and cream pies — pumpkin mousse, Key lime, apple, lemon chiffon and others — meat pies, and cakes like pistachio, apple spice and cookies and cream.

- On the menu at **The Common Man** (Lago, 1 Route 25, Meredith, 279-2253; Camp, 298 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-3003; Lakehouse, 281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221; 60 Main St., Ashland, 968-7030; 10 Pollard

Road, Lincoln, 745-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 1 Gulf St., Concord, 228-3463; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463; 21 Water St., Claremont, 542-6171; 231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764; 752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120; 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204; 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040; thecman.com) is a glazed ham dinner with mashed potatoes, pesto green beans, Parmesan-crust dinner rolls and cheesecake with mixed berry compote; herb-roasted prime rib dinner with sweet potato casserole, sweet bread and more with cheesecake with mixed berry compote also for dessert. Enhancements include pecan pie for \$19.95, peel-and-eat shrimp cocktail for \$28.95 and more. Orders must be placed by Tuesday, Dec.

19, and can be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 23, or Sunday, Dec. 24, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

- **Caroline's Fine Foods** (132 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, carolinesfood.com, 637-1615) is taking orders until 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15. Appetizers include pizzetti with port-poached figs, Gorgonzola and balsamic glaze (\$30) and brie en croute with raspberry and thyme (\$55). Entrees (each serve eight to 10 people) are pork ballotine stuffed with sausage herb and apple stuffing (\$155), roasted beef tenderloin with horseradish cream sauce (\$215). Sides are roasted butternut squash (\$65), carrot confit (\$70) and more. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 23, between noon and 3 p.m.

- Call **Concord Food Co-op** (24 South

Main St., Concord, concordfoodcoop.com, 225-6840) to place your catering order. The catering menu includes hors d'oeuvres like stuffed mushrooms and edamame dumplings, salads like pasta salad, strawberry spinach and Caesar, luncheon platters, breakfast platters and dessert platters and entrees such as baked salmon, tofu stir-fry and homemade lasagna.

- **Copper Kettle To Go** (39 Main St., Wilton, copperkettletogo.com) is taking orders until Sunday, Dec. 17, for breakfast and dinner and dessert options such as cinnamon rolls, French toast casserole, ham dinner, short ribs, cannolis and Yule logs. Orders must be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Crosby Bakery** (51 E. Pearl St., Nashua, crosbybakerynh.com, 882-1851) is offering rolls and breads, pies from apple to blueberry to pecan and pumpkin, meat pies, sandwich, salad roll and breakfast, pastry and cookie platters, Yule logs and cakes.

- **The Crust and Crumb Baking Co.** (126 N. Main St., Concord, thecrustandcrumb.com) has breads and breakfast items, such as cinnamon buns, dark gingerbread tea cake and old-fashioned sour cream coffee cake; pies, like Key lime, pumpkin and maple bourbon pecan; quiches, such as bacon cheddar and spinach, tomato and feta; and cakes such as cheesecake, citrus spice mousse cake, chocolate raspberry layer cake and more available for order through Friday, Dec. 15. Orders can be picked up at various times on Friday, Dec. 22, through Sunday, Dec. 24.

- **The Fresh Chef Press's** (775 Canal St., Manchester, freshchefmp.com) holiday catering menu consists of honey baked ham, mac and cheese, sides such as prosciutto-wrapped asparagus, red bliss mashed potatoes with onion, garlic and parsley, dips like spinach artichoke dip, salsa and guacamole, and a charcuterie board, cookie platter and mini flans.

- **Fabrizia Lemon Baking Co.** (2 Industrial Way, Salem, fabrizialemonbakingcompany.com, 458-1745) has a variety of limoncello desserts such as cookies, whoopie pies, truffles, cake jars and more.

- **Giorgio's Ristorante & Bar** (707 Milford Road, Merrimack, 883-7333; 524 Nashua St., Milford, 673-3939; 270 Granite St., Manchester, 232-3323, giorgios.com) has a catering menu that includes Caesar, strawberry goat cheese and other salads, appetizers like hummus, mussels and crispy cheese ravioli, subs and tacos and entrees like lasagna, mushroom ravioli carbonara, baked haddock, butcher shop classics such as grilled salmon, grilled shrimp, steak and chicken and mini desserts like cannolis and tiramisu. Place

Gift Ideas

- Send 10 portions of meals from All Real Meal (allrealmeal.com, 782-3014) packaged in their "You Are Loved" cooler bag to family and friends this holiday season. Meals include **grass-fed beef, wild-caught seafood, their bestselling desserts, high-protein sides** and a snack including **organic popcorn, chocolates and/or protein bites**. You can include a personalized message to be sent with your order.

- Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery (9 Delaware Drive, Suite 1, in Salem cucinaaurora.com, 458-6159) has limited-edition seasonal offerings available, like an **infused olive oil gift set** consisting of two 12-ounce bottles of their bestselling infused olive oils, roasted garlic and rosemary oregano. Each box comes with a booklet of holiday recipes; a 12-ounce glass bottle of savory sage infused olive oil; and a 12-ounce resealable packed of **Witch's Brew Coffee Holiday Brew**, dark roast coffee grounds with peppermint leaves, cocoa nibs and pink peppercorn.

- Emilee Viaud of Sweet Treats by Emilee will be attending the Milford Farmers Market (300 Elm St., Milford) on Saturdays, Dec. 2 and Dec. 16, selling popular items such as **chocolate gingerbread smash houses, snowmen hot cocoa bombs, new hot cocoa cups and tea bombs**. "Tea bombs are a sugar shell filled with flavored tea bags and edible glitter," Viaud said. "You pour hot water over the bomb and the sugar melts to create a cup of sweet glittery tea. Popular flavors are passion tea, orange, chai and green tea." Her products can also be found at the Manchester Craft Market in the Mall of New Hampshire (1500 S. Willow St., Manchester) and at Junction 71 in Pennichuck Shopping Square in Merrimack (707 Milford Road). You can find her on Facebook @SweetTreatsbyEmilee.

- **Fabrizia Lemon Baking Co.** (2 Industrial Way, Salem, fabrizialemonbakingcompany.com, 458-1745) is offering five Christmas gift boxes this holiday season: The

Kris Kringle Box, the Holiday Cheer Box, Cookie Sharing Box, Holiday Grande Cheer Box and the Holiday Deluxe box, each filled with an assortment of with **limoncello treats** such as **cookies, biscotti, candy, truffles limoncello cranberry pistachio bark, 16-ounce loaves** and more, ranging from \$49.99 to \$99.99. Each box has the option of coming with a personalized holiday themed note. Orders are available for pickup or delivery.

- **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren Road, Concord, granitestatecandyshoppe.com), also has gift boxes available with milk and dark chocolate, **truffles, peanut butter cups, dark peppermint patties** and more.

- **Gusto Italiano Market** (254 Wallace Road, Bedford, gustoitalianomarket.net, 488-1055) has olive oils, homemade gelato and pasta from the south of Italy and more gifts for the holiday season that can be bought at their location in Bedford.

- **Lindsey Bangs of I Whisked It** (iwhiskedit.com) will be offering **hot chocolate bombs, homemade marshmallows, brownie mix gift sets, chocolate-covered pretzels, and German stollen** for online ordering. Cakes and cupcakes will also be available for pickup at the Laurel Hill Jams and Jellies and Loon Chocolate showroom in Manchester (195 McGregor St., Suite 121) on Saturday, Dec. 23. Pre-orders will close on Monday, Dec. 11, or when sold out. She will also be selling her products at the Very Merry Holiday Gift Festival at the DoubleTree by Hilton (700 Elm St., Manchester) on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10.

- **Joppa Hill Educational Farm** (174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford, theeducationalfarm.org, 472-4724) has **holiday gift boxes** for \$50 and \$100 with an assortment of local and artisan products, like apple cider doughnut mix, maple almonds, maple syrup and infused olive oil. You can fill your own box or pick one of the prefilled options.



Hot Chocolate Bombs from I Whisked It. Courtesy photo.

Each box has a prep time of five days and orders can be picked up at the store.

- The Manchester Craft Market in the Mall of New Hampshire (1500 S Willow St., Manchester) has an array of food-related gifts, such as **saucers and dips, coffee, tea, freeze-dried candy, maple candy, maple syrup, olive oils, jamaes, jellies, granola, risottos, fudge, peanut brittle**, and accessories like chef knives, charcuterie boards, travel mugs, oven mitts, cookbooks and more.

- More sweets are available from Twelve 31 Events (twelve31.events) for delivery or pickup at their Concord location (100 N. Main St., Suite 101, Concord) or their Tilton location (261 Main St., Tilton). Each box of a dozen **Italian Christmas cookies** is filled with an assortment of kinds, including anisette, ginger, snowballs, pistachio macaroons, honey walnut and chocolate espresso. They will be available for pickup or delivery until Sunday, Dec. 24.

- **Van Otis Chocolates** (vanotis.com) has a variety of gift baskets to choose from, including the Christmas Gift Basket Box that consists of **assorted chocolates, salted cashews, Swiss fuge, caramels** and a five-pack of **chocolate-covered pretzel rods**, and the Holiday Tiered Tower. Call to place your order (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611; 15 S Main St., Wolfeboro, 515-1045).

your order for the Milford or Manchester locations online. To order from the Merrimack location, call the restaurant.

- **Granite State Candy Shoppe** (13 Warren Road, Concord, granitestatecandyshoppe.com) has a variety of Christmas candy and chocolate including white peppermint bark, chocolate snowmen and Santas, candy canes, spice drops, ribbon candy, gum drops, malt balls and more.

- **Greenleaf** in Milford (greenleafmilford.com) is taking pre-orders for Christmas with meals such as peppercorn and rosemary-glazed ham, chicken breasts with chimichurri, and beef tenderloin, and desserts like apple galette with salted caramel, holiday Yule cake and cranberry swirl cheesecake slices. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, Dec. 20, and picked up on Saturday, Dec. 23, between 4 and 8 p.m. at their prep kitchen in Milford (75 Mount Vernon St.)

- **Gusto Italiano Market** (254 Wallace Road, Bedford, gustoitalianomarket.net, 488-1055) has olive oils, homemade gelato and pasta from the south of Italy, panettone, torrone, Italian cold cuts and more to add to your Christmas feast.

- Contact **LaBelle Winery** (345 Route 101, Amherst; 14 Route 111, Derry; 672-9898) online to cater your Christmas meal.

- **Mr. Mac's Macaroni & Cheese** (497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 606-1760, mr-macs.com) is offering 10 percent off all party trays — with flavors like Philly cheese steak, taco, shrimp scampi and broccoli alfredo mac — throughout December.

- **New England's Tap House Grille** (1292 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, taphousenh.com, 782-5137) has French-Canadian meat pie, almond joy cheesecake, cookie and brownie tray, carrot cake and rolls by the dozen available for order by Friday, Dec. 15, and pickup on Saturday, Dec. 23, and Sunday, Dec. 24, by 5 p.m.

- **Queen City Cupcakes** (816 Elm St., Manchester, qccupcakes.com, 624-4999) has a variety of holiday cupcake flavors including peppermint hot cocoa, red velvet, sugar cookie, eggnog, gingerbread whoopie, cranberry lemon and more available for pickup on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call ahead to reserve yours.

- On the menu at **Red Arrow Diner** (112 Loudon Road, Concord, 415-0444; 137 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 552-3091; 61 Lowell St., Manchester, 626-1118; 149 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 204-5088, redarrowdiner.com) are cakes and pies, like almond raspberry cake and apple, pumpkin and banana cream pie, and a turkey dinner Christmas special with stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots and



squash. Call or go online to order.

- **The Red Blazer's** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) Christmas catering menu consists of beef tips, spaghetti, sweet Italian sausage with marinara, broiled haddock and more. Dessert options include a Yule log, pumpkin cheesecake and hot chocolate cake. There is a three-day lead time for all orders. Orders can be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 24.

- **Smoke Shack Cafe** (226 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, smokeshackcafe.com, 404-2178) has holiday season offerings that can be incorporated into existing packages or you can create a custom package. Smoked ham, smoked prime rib and bacon-wrapped turkey breast are available a la carte, and sides include butternut squash, brown sugar glazed carrots, cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes and more. Two meal packages are offered. Package 1 feeds six to eight people and includes smoked ham, two large sides, six pieces of cornbread and a half tray of salad for \$157.99. Package 2 feeds eight to 12 and comes with smoked ham, six large sides, 12 pieces of cornbread and a full salad try. Nine-inch apple, cranberry, pumpkin and chocolate cream pies are also available. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, Dec. 20, and can be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 23, between 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 24, between 9 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

- **Sweet Caroline** (28 Homestead Place, Alton, sweetcarolinebakerynh.com) is taking orders through Sunday, Dec. 10, for items on their holiday dessert menu like a Yule log that serves about 12 people for \$41.95, an 8-inch or 10-inch red velvet cake, carrot cake, raspberry mocha cake and others. Pastry trays and cookie platters are also available as well as pies such as apple blueberry, ricotta, lemon meringue and more.

- **Van Otis Chocolates** (vanotis.com, 341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611; 15 S. Main St., Wolfeboro, 515-1045) has countless treats for your holiday feast, like white chocolate kettle corn, cherry cordials, cream wafers, peppermint bark, caramel hot chocolate and more. 🍫

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IN THE KITCHEN



WITH KATIE POPE



Katie Pope of Confections by Kate.
Courtesy photo.

While Boscawen resident Katie Pope has always liked to bake and experiment in the kitchen, she didn't originally plan on starting her own bakery. The idea was planted in her mind after she made a unicorn cake for her daughter's birthday party and one of the moms asked her how much she charged. The idea was put into practice about five years later with the creation of Confections by Kate during the pandemic, after she experienced burnout in the health care field, as a way to support her family. She also makes cupcakes, macarons, cake pops, truffles and cookies and holds cookie decorating classes. Her goal is to open her own brick and mortar location in Boscawen with live music, local art and plants.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

A dishwasher! I spent way too many years being the dishwasher [and] I don't think I could live without it now.

Name a celebrity you would like to see eating in your restaurant?

Matt Rife or Payton Pritchard.

What would you have for your last meal?

Hands down the macaroni and cheese from Arms by Abbey in Worcester, Massachusetts. If you know, you know.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

Sugar cookies. There are endless ways to decorate them, but I really like decorating the ones that challenge my creative abilities. You can turn a sugar cookie into just about anything, and I'm always up for a good challenge.

What is your favorite local eatery?

SourJoes. Their pizza is amazing! I'm really loving the vodka pizza.

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

CONTINUED ON PG 36 ▶

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141887

Brown Sugar Maple Cookies

From the kitchen of Katie Pope

2½ cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled)

1 teaspoon baking soda

½ cup salted butter

1 cup packed dark brown sugar

1 egg

½ cup pure New Hampshire maple syrup

(we use Ice Mountain Maple's syrup)

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Maple icing:

1 Tablespoon salted butter

½ cup pure New Hampshire maple syrup

1 cup sifted confectioner's sugar

pinch of salt, to taste

Over medium heat, brown butter in a small saucepan until there is a nutty aroma.

Remove from heat, let cool to room temperature.

Whisk flour and baking soda together in a medium mixing bowl. Set aside.

In a mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream butter and brown sugar on medium speed until smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Add egg and beat on high until well-combined, about 30 seconds.

Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl; add maple syrup and vanilla extract. Beat on high until well-combined.

Mix dry ingredients to the wet ingredients; mix on low until combined.

Cover dough and chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

Using a cookie scoop, scoop out and roll cookies. Place on baking sheet at least 1 inch apart. Bake for 12 to 13 minutes until lightly browned on the sides.

Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack. Cool completely.

Make the icing: In a small saucepan over low heat, melt butter and maple syrup together, whisking occasionally. Once butter is melted and well-combined, remove from heat and whisk in sifted powdered sugar. Add a pinch of salt and whisk well. Drizzle icing over cooled cookies. Icing sets in about an hour.

Note: Browned butter gives a nutty taste greatly enhancing the maple flavor. Cookies can be made without browning the butter, but I promise they aren't nearly as delicious.



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BOTTLE TASTING NOTES

NOSE: Distinctly confidant liquorice-bourbon notes with near perfect bitter-sweet balance; burnt honeycomb and toffee also abound.
PALATE: Outstanding richness and sheen to the enormous barley-oak sweetness. Again there is a big bourbony cut to the cloth with all the liquorice and molasses sugar normally associated; but the barley adds that extra dimension.
FINISH: Long, wonderfully layered oak offering variation of a sweet dry theme; a touch silky with some cream toffee at the end.



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FOOD



JOHN FLADD COOKS

Gingerbread

Gingerbread is strange.

Not the actual gingerbread itself but what people do with it. I can't think of any baked good that people insist on making other things out of. We don't make little eclair men with mischievous smiles, or build chocolate chip houses or hang brownies on trees as ornaments.

A number of people claim that they don't like gingerbread when they've mostly had it as a flavor of tea, or an ingredient in ice cream, or baked hard and served as a cookie. I won't say that everybody loves warm, moist gingerbread fresh from the oven, because we all know that there are people in the world with questionable taste, but I do question whether people who don't like proper gingerbread are entirely trustworthy.

Here is a recipe adapted from King Arthur (kingarthurbaking.com).

Gingerbread

Dry ingredients:

- 2 cups (240 grams) whole-wheat flour
- ¼ cup (50 grams) sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda – this will react with the acidic molasses and buttermilk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg – it's much better if you grind your own
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon black or cayenne pepper – Penzeys makes a blend called Black & Red that I like
- ¾ cup (138 g) diced crystalized ginger

Wet ingredients:

- 8 Tablespoons (one stick) butter, melted
- ¾ cup (113 g) molasses
- ¼ ginger beer – many recipes will call for cold, black coffee, but the extra kick of ginger brings more zing to the party
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (227) buttermilk



Gingerbread. Photo by John Fladd.

Preheat your oven to 350°. Line either a 9x9" or a 9x13" baking pan with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine all the dry ingredients.

In another bowl, combine all the wet ingredients.

Mix the contents of the two bowls together.

Pour into the prepped baking pan, then bake. If you are using a square baking pan, it will probably take 50 minutes or so to bake to the point where a toothpick comes out clean. The larger pan will probably take 30 to 35 minutes.

Let the gingerbread cool for half an hour before cutting and serving. It is excellent with whipped cream, vanilla ice cream or butter. If you are adventurous, try it smashed up in a bowl, topped with eggnog; you won't be sorry.

Gingerbread is a cake that you don't want to be too sweet. This version gets a little sweetness from the sugar, the crystalized ginger and the ginger beer, but mostly from the molasses. That adds a dark muskiness and a slightly bitter quality that complements the spices. This isn't a celebration cake. It is a comfort cake to eat late in the afternoon, in the gathering dark, as the snow starts to fall. Eating it will bring a cat to sit in your lap, even if you don't own a cat.

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



◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 34

Definitely the food truck. My goal is to have my own within the next two years. I mean, who doesn't like mobile sweets?

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

My favorite thing to cook at home is pineapple beef teriyaki boats. [They] consist of pineapple halves [with] the insides scraped out. The pineapple gets filled with the beef and homemade teriyaki sauce and topped with pineapple scrapings. ❤️



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POP CULTURE

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KO Mini, *Chef's Kiss* (self-released)



We're seriously just about at the point where there's almost no need to list a music release's record label when writing about its merits or lack thereof, given that so many artists are completely independent (if the vampires at Ticketmaster and such could be prevented from buying up concert tickets and scalping them we'd be even better off). Anyway, what drew me to this little X-rated bubblegum EP was its tease that the single, "stoppingtohavesexwithme," "pushes the boundary of how much blunt humor and simultaneous sex appeal you should put into a song." In a word, I was anticipating something

funny, which it isn't; it's more about cruel rejection, not that most leering, overstepping incels don't deserve anything better, but the beat is cool enough, a lot of earthquakey Ed Banger booms going on underneath. It's a club-banging, Lolita-voiced break from the usual trap oatmeal, which, I'm sure you know by now, I absolutely cannot stand. The playful, fluttering/soaring "Sorry In Advance" is definitely worth checking into if you have some spare Spotify space. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

Escuela Grind, *DDEEAATHHMEETTAALL* (MNRK Heavy Records)



I didn't mean to riff on yet another metal release this quarter, but seriously, folks, this time of year I get sent like 50 of them every five minutes, and as well in my defense, at least this one's from a New England-based band, well, half of it's from Pittsfield, Mass., anyhow, go Patriots, amirite fam? The roster is three boys and two girls, one of the latter being singer Katerina Economou, who sounds like the dude from Cannibal Corpse, sort of, but more like Quorthon, like one of those raspy mini-sized cave-monster guys from the *Hobbit* movie, and the music is, as promised, very grindcore, like the sort

of music you picture your pet tarantula humming to itself while it walks across the table to surprise your mom. It's pretty epic for what it is, I suppose, not that I'd ever want these people to get mad at me, and thus I may be lying. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Hello, everyone, how was your late/second Thanksgiving, mine was fine except for when I completely ruined the turkey gravy by following a recipe I found online, at the Betty Crocker website, believe it or not, and it basically said I should combine equal parts flour and butter/turkey/whatever slime, but I took the recipe seriously and basically ended up with a cake that tasted like turkey; I've decided to cut this horrible disaster into a bunch of small compact cakes and sell them as "Gobbler Twinkies," watch this space for my initial public stock offering and get a prime seat on the victory train! In the meantime, Friday, Dec. 8, is the next date for new CD releases, and look at that, there are actual albums listed on my private, secret metacritic.com web page, a source that only professional music journalists like me are allowed to access unless you have a web browser! I'll stick to tradition and get the album I don't really want to even talk about out of the way first, that being *Before And After*, the ninety-bazillionth album from horrible-voiced Woodstock charlatan **Neil Young!** No, I'm kidding, you guys, his song "Ohio" was OK, I thought, and it's still OK even though it came out before SnapChat or the macarena or even electricity for that matter, and "Rockin' In The Free World" is pretty epic, despite the fact that his guitar solo, as always, sounded like a duck trying to imitate the *Storage Wars* auctioneer dude (hey, let me have a little fun while I still can, I'll be spending the next two or three columns complaining about the fact that there are no new albums coming out aside from box sets and hamster-wheel-metal albums from Finland!) OK, let's see if my stomach can even deal with this new album, which is composed of acoustic versions of his old songs, like "Burned" from when he was in Buffalo Springfield during the days of the Thomas Jefferson administration, and "Mother Earth" from his 1990 album, *Ragged Glory*. Here, let me check out his re-rub of his famous song "Birds" and give you my expert analysis: Ah, I've got it, it's an acoustic version of it and is absolutely no better than the original. Aaand moving on.

• Oh, great, time again for me to pretend I know anything about modern bubble-pop or divas or gigantic twerking butts or whatever the 11-year-olds listen to when they troll each other on SnapChat, because look folks, **Nicki Minaj** is back with a new album, called *Pink Friday 2!* There's an advance single here, called "For All The Barbz," and it features Drake and Chief Keef! The rhymes Nicki contributes are mindlessly pornographic, which adds to the je ne sais quoi, you feel me, and one of the dudes is using Auto-Tune, because it's still 2002, right? So glad I'm living in a timeline that favors quality over redundant quantity, I have to say.

• Just a second now, this might be OK, the new LP from **Alison Goldfrapp**, *The Love Reinvention!* You might know that she got her start by being featured on the 1994 Orbital album *Snivilisation*, meaning she was one of the first electronic guest-princesses; I have to hand it to her. The new single, "Every Little Drop," is understated warehouse-rave fodder, which I'm always glad to hear, just prettiness and sexytime romping, but there are no gigantic twerking butts and porn lyrics, what's a critic supposed to do with this.

• And finally it's California metalcore band **Atreyu**, with their new full-length, *The Beautiful Dark Of Life!* Wow, I have no idea what they're even doing on the new tune, "[i]," it's like some sort of Echosmith chillwave thing, I don't mind it. —Eric W. Saeger

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The Little Liar, by Mitch Albom (Harper, 333 pages)

There's a downside to being the author of a runaway bestseller like *Tuesdays With Morrie*. It's that every book you write from that point on will be compared to the most successful one.

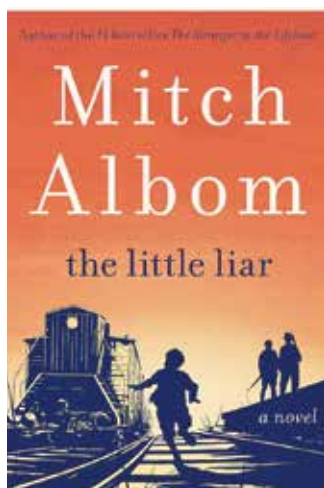
In Mitch Albom's case, the success of his 1997 memoir about conversations he had with his former professor, who was dying of ALS, made him turn to fiction. While his subsequent books haven't enjoyed the popularity of *Tuesdays*, which is among the best-selling memoirs of all time, Albom has a loyal following and continues to write columns and books. His latest, *The Little Liar*, is an imaginative and often troubling story that is part historical fiction and part morality play.

The titular character is an 11-year-old boy named Nico who, at the start of the novel, lives with his family in 1943 in Salonika, a city that at the time had the largest Jewish population in Greece. The Nazis have invaded and are driving Jewish families from their homes and into ghettos with the intent of sending them to concentration camps.

A Nazi officer recruits Nico to assure the families that they are merely being "reset-tled" and will have jobs and new homes in Poland. Nico is the ideal child for this job, as he is "a boy to be believed," having no experience with lying; he is so honest naturally that he doesn't fib even a little bit when asked, for example, if he has done the required reading in school, or if he was tagged in a game of chase. Nico's believability is enhanced by his good looks: He is an extraordinarily beautiful child, so much so that strangers on the street stop to comment on his appearance.

And because he is so honest, Nico does not doubt the lies fed to him by a young Nazi officer named Udo, who promises Nico that his own family will be safe. Because he does not lie, he can't envision that others do. So he willingly goes up and down the train platforms telling the anxious waiting families that he has heard that all will be well.

Things fall apart when Nico sees his own family loaded onto a train, and he finds out they are going not to new homes but to Auschwitz. Among them is Nico's oldest brother, Sebastian, and a family friend, the same age as Nico, named



Fannie. The rest of the novel follows each of those characters — Nico, Sebastian, Fannie and Udo — throughout their lives, showing how Nico's unintentional deceit affected all of them, even as adults.

These characters were invented by Albom, who said he got the idea for the novel after visiting a museum and learning that Jews were used to board

the trains bound for death camps. "That perversion of truth, with life and death on the line, stayed with me for months and even years later," Albom wrote in an author's note.

Some of the characters in *The Little Liar*, however, were real people, including Katalin Karady, a Hungarian actress who used her fame and money to rescue 20 Jewish children who were about to be murdered by the Nazis.

The main conceit of the novel is that the story is told in first person by a mythological being: the Angel of Truth. This character comes from an ancient parable about how, when God was creating the Earth, he consulted angels with names like Mercy, Righteousness and Truth, and Truth was the only one who advised God not to create humans, because, as Truth said, they would tell lies.

"So what did the Lord do? He considered all that was said. Then He cast Truth out of heaven and threw him to the depths of the earth," Albom writes.

This parable is not Albom's creation but part of the Jewish tradition. But Albom makes Truth the storyteller, which allows for occasional soliloquies into the nature of truth and lies, e.g., "*Truth is universal*. You often hear that expression. Nonsense. Were I truly universal, there would be no disagreement over right and wrong, who deserves what, or what happiness means." And, "Of all the lies you tell yourself, perhaps the most common is that, if you only do this or that, you will be accepted."

As the novel went on, this narration started to feel a little contrived, but it all comes together with a clever ending that is surprising and satisfying. This is no small feat, given the dark subject matter that comprises most of the book, during the events of World War II and in the anger, bitterness and resentment that festers in later years.

CONTINUED ON PG 40 ►

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POP CULTURE BOOKS

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 39

As the characters travel different paths — Nico turning into another person altogether in an attempt to atone for his past — Albom explores moral questions such as whether there are sins that can't be forgiven no matter what we do later in life,

and whether any amount of atonement can release us from the torment of our own conscience. These are complex questions for the simple language used in this book, but Albom, like his teacher before him, has proven himself to be an exemplary storyteller. **B+** —Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **CATHY STEFANEC ORGEN** author of *Pew!: The Stinky and Legen-Dairy Gift from Colonel Thomas S. Meacham*, a children's book about the big wheel of cheese given to President Andrew Jackson, and **TABATHA JEAN D'AGATA** author of *More Wishes*, a children's book about making wishes, will be at Balin Books (375 Amherst Road, Somerset Plaza, in Nashua; balinbooks.com, 417-7981) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 11 a.m. for a storytime and craft.

• **KAREN AKUNOWICZ**, chef and author of *Crave: Bold Recipes That Make You Want Seconds*, will be at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth)

on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., in conversation with Tina Sawtelle. There will be an audience Q&A and post-show meet-and-greet. Tickets cost \$50 and include a signed book and reserved seat; buy tickets at themusicall.org or by calling 436-2400.

• **MATT TAVARES**, author of children's picture book *Dasher Can't Wait for Christmas*, will be at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com) on Friday,



Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. for a talk, book signing and drawing demo, along with hot cocoa, giveaways, and a visit from Santa.

History, stories & lectures

• **THE BOSTON TEA PARTY – 250 YEARS LATER**

presented by Debra Dudek and Claire Evans via Zoom hosted by Nashua Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. To watch from home, register via nashualibrary.libcal.com. Or watch the live Zoom program together in the library theater; tea and cookies will be available and there is no need to register. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. for socializing; the program runs from 2 to 3 p.m.

Book sales

• **DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE** Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org).

• **HUDSON FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE** on the second Sunday of each month at the Hills Memorial Library building (18 Library St. in Hudson; 886-6030, rogerslibrary.org).

Film

• *The Holdovers* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 4 & 7 p.m.

• *Napoleon* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 3:30 and 6:45 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 8, & Saturday, Dec. 9, at 12:45, 4 & 7:15 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 & 5:15 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 11 through Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 & 6:45 p.m.

• *Max Lucado's Because of Bethlehem*, music and story based on the faith-based book, will screen on Thursday Dec. 7, mostly at 7 p.m. at Cinemark Rockingham Park, Regal Concord and Regal Fox Run (the movie starts at 7:10 p.m. at Cinemark on Dec. 6 and 7:15 on Dec. 7). See fathomevents.com.

• *Waitress: The Musical*, a filmed presentation of the Broadway musical starring Sara Bareilles, is screening Thursday, Dec. 7, through Monday, Dec. 11, at AMC Londonderry (3:30 and 7 p.m.), Cinemark Rockingham Park (3:25 and 7:10, every day except Dec. 11, when it's 3:55 and 7 p.m.), Regal Fox Run (2:30 and 7 p.m.) and O'neil Cinemas (2:30 and 7 p.m.). See fathomevents.com.

• *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at all three area Chunky's in Pelham, Manchester and Nashua (chunkys.com) Friday, Dec. 8, through Thursday, Dec. 14. See website for special ticket packages and event screenings.

• *The Boy and the Heron* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) dubbed on Friday, Dec. 8, at 4:15 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 4:45 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 11, 4:15 p.m. Subtitled on subtitled on Friday, Dec. 8, 1:30 & 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.

• *Florencian en el Amazonas*, a live in HD The Met broadcast, will screen on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 12:55 p.m. with an encore on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. at O'neil Cinemas in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington. See fathomevents.com. The broadcast will also screen on Dec. 9 only at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord.

• *White Christmas* (1954) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m.

• **Dickensfest** As part of its Dickensfest programming Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org) will screen *Oliver!* (1968) on Saturday, Dec.



Waitress: The Musical

9, at 1 p.m. and *The Man Who Invented Christmas* (PG, 2017) on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

• *A Christmas Story* (PG, 1983), a 40th anniversary presentation, will screen on Sunday, Dec. 10, at AMC Londonderry (4 p.m.), Cinemark in Salem (4 p.m.), O'neil Cinemas in Epping (4 and 7 p.m.) and Regal Fox Run in Newington (4 and 7 p.m.), and on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at all four of those locations at 7 p.m. See fathomevents.com.

• *Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night*, a faith-based feature film with musical performances by Andrea and Matteo Bocelli, will be in theaters Tuesday, Dec. 12, through Sunday, Dec. 17. Sign up on the website to receive ticket information. See fathomevents.com.

• **Exhibition on Screen: Hopper: An American Love Story** will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org) on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 1:30 p.m.

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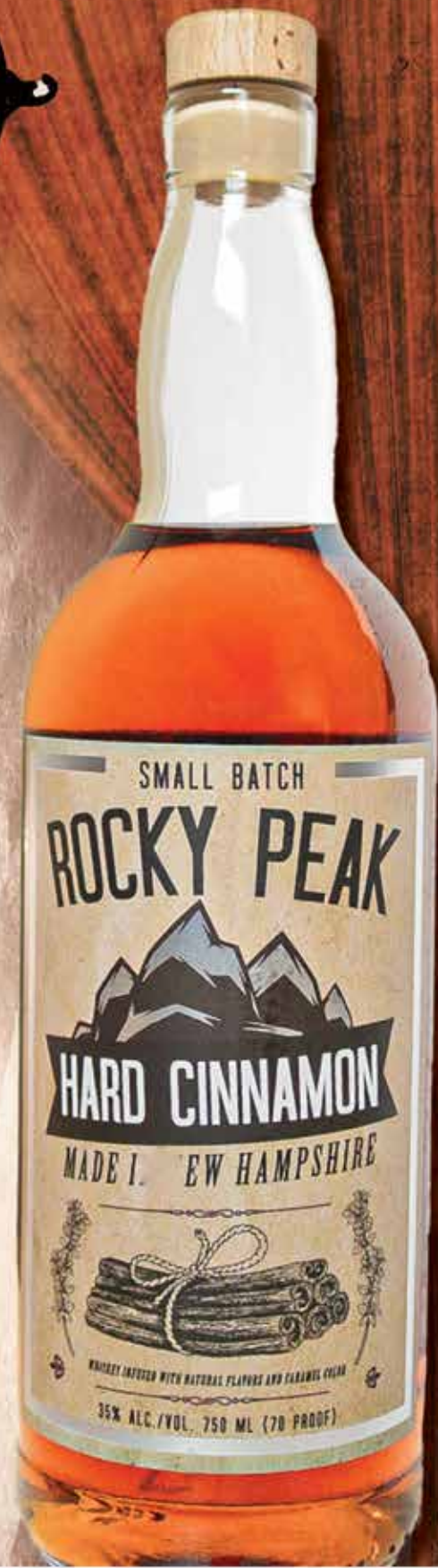
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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Old souls:** A throwback blend of old-school jazz and contemporary hits, **Postmodern Jukebox** returns for a New England run that's already sold out two of three venues, but good seats remain in the Lakes Region. Putting a new twist on the expression "everything old is new again," the group recasts Radiohead's "Creep" as a Dinah Washington turn and transforms the Spice Girls "Wannabe" into something else. Thursday, Dec. 7, 9 p.m., Colonial Theatre, 609 Main St., Laconia, \$59 and up at etix.com.

• **Channeler:** The world will never replace Robin Williams, but **Roger Kabler** brings him to life in an anything but ordinary show. Kabler's 2022 film *Being Robin* describes the chain of events that led him to create the tribute, starting with believing that he was possessed by the comic's spirit. Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$25 at palacetheatre.org.

• **In state:** It's opening night in Rochester, as Joshua Guptel's movie *The Battle for Granite Records* premieres. Filmed entirely in New Hampshire, it's the story of a father and daughter trying to save a business and of the uphill battle faced by hip-hop artists in its early days. Guptel, also known as standup comic Jay Grove, launched Olive Tree Films a few years ago. Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 pm., Rochester Performance & Arts Center, 32 N. Main St., Rochester, \$10 and up at eventbrite.com.

• **Holiday rock:** Born from a Trans-Siberian Orchestra covers show intended as a one-off, **Wizards of Winter** evolved into the first indie band in a genre that blends Christmas music and grandeur. Fifteen years later they're a top concert draw. Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$40 and up at tupelohall.com.

• **Helping out:** A weekly blues jam expands to benefit longtime New England performer **Arthur James** and his wife during a time of health and financial struggle. Hosted by Craig Thomas and Bluestopia, the event brings together the regional blues community and includes a raffle of a John Mayer-designed PRS Silver Sky guitar, donated by John Mann's Guitar Vault, along with a 50/50 raffle. Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Riley's Place, 29 Mont Vernon St., Milford, \$10; see facebook.com/events/560806412890214.

NITE

'Tis the season

Holiday pops in Nashua, Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

This year, Symphony NH will perform its Holiday Pops concert twice, at its home venue, Keefe Center for the Arts in Nashua, and at Concord City Auditorium. The evenings will include festive selections like "You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch," Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Christmas Overture," music from "The Nutcracker," a Hanukkah song and a sing-along to close things out.

It's the sort of program pops orchestras have done for years, but in a recent interview, conductor Roger Kalia, now in his fifth year, spoke of his vision for widening Symphony NH's reach. This includes taking it to places like Bollywood, inside a game console, and to a galaxy far, far away.

"Keeping things fresh and bringing a fresh view to this art form," he said, indicating that his eyes are set firmly on shifting the demographic. "Some young people ... may call [it] a little stuffy, but there's really so much great music out there."

Along with Symphony NH, Kalia conducts the Evansville Philharmonic, near his home in Bloomington, Indiana, and Orchestra Santa Monica in Southern California.

He co-founded the Lake George Music Festival and is its Music Director. An existence filled with frequent flier miles "comes with the territory," he said. "You kind of sign up for it when you're a conductor."

Coming to the Granite State was challenging beyond that. "I got

the job at a difficult time, right when Covid started; my first season, three concerts in, we had to shut down everything," he said, adding admiration for Symphony NH's resilience during the pandemic. "We were one of the few orchestras in the country to actually give concerts, and we did a virtual livestream concert format for the majority of the 2020-21 season."

2023 marked the 100th anniversary of Symphony NH and offered a landmark season. The Indian American Kalia was especially pleased with *Symphony Masala* last October. The Bollywood-themed



Holiday Pops. Photo by David Weiss.

show was "the first collaboration of its kind in history, as far as I know," he said, noting similar efforts were done with Indian instruments. "This was purely 100 percent Western instruments, with a singer ... we made history."

Another innovative concert offered this season was Wynton Marsalis's *A Fiddler's Tale* at the Rex, which combined jazz and symphonic elements. Upcoming in 2024

is *Penelope*, a song cycle from Sarah Kirkland Snider inspired by *The Odyssey* first presented as a livestream during the pandemic. "It involves a lot of pop music influences," Kalia said. "Think Radiohead meets Bjork meets classical. ... That's what you're going to get with *Penelope*."

Brass to the Max will be the first show of the new year and will feature the Nashua-based Spartans Drum Corps in an all-brass percussion music concert. Kalia considers the answer to the question "What is pops?" to be "music for films," which makes the final concert of the season in June a natural — *The Music of John Williams*, with selections from *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *Jurassic Park* on tap.

Kalia is especially looking forward to another first-of-its-kind effort called *Game Over(ture)*, set for March 23 at the Capitol Center's Chubb Theatre in Concord. Led

by guest conductor Austin Wintory, the first video game composer to be nominated for a Grammy, the program will feature music from Wintory's *Journey*, *Legend of Zelda*, *Super Mario Brothers*, *Final Fantasy*, *Prince of Persia*, *Halo* and others.

"It's a great opportunity to bring in new audiences," enthused Kalia.

While in Los Angeles, Kalia worked with famous performers, including Jack Black and Randy Newman, and organized *From Classical to Rock*, with Johnny Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls and Heart guitarist Nancy Wilson. He hopes to do something similar in New Hampshire, like a Beatles evening that happened here before he arrived.

"We've been looking at the possibility of either bringing [that] show back for a future season, or even doing concerts with blues artists," he said. "There's a great singer I know who specializes in the blues and New Orleans Dixieland jazz, that sort of thing."

Kalia feels like he's hitting his target.

"The past couple of seasons, I've been introducing newer work to our audiences, and they've really latched on to them; they expect it, I think," he said. "The programming we're doing ... is truly innovative and unique compared to a lot of other cities in this country that have small regional orchestras, and I'm proud of that."

Symphony NH Holiday Pops

When: Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Keefe Center for the Arts, 117 Elm St., Nashua

Tickets: \$10 to \$63 at symphonynh.org
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NITE

Make music merry

A fan's gift guide

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

It's the holiday season and once again time to make a music fan's eyes and ears light up like a Christmas tree. From modest to mammoth, and across a range of ways to access their passion, here are suggestions for your special someone.

If your giftee's passion extends to creating music, check out Teenage Engineering, a Swedish company that makes the **Pocket Operator**, a line of mini synthesizers that resemble a calculator and sell for under a hundred bucks. If you're feeling extravagant, the company has introduced the **EP-133 KO II**, a larger device with exponentially more groove and sequencing power; it's \$299 at teenage.engineering.

For the audiophile on your list, there's the **AudioQuest DragonFly Cobalt**, a device that bypasses the crummy audio delivered on cell phones and laptop computers to truly leverage the enhanced sound offered by streaming services like Qobuz and Tidal, \$199 at amazon.com, and for phones it's a good idea to include an adapter in the gift box.

Or you can keep it simple while still turning it up to 11 with the **Marshall Kilburn II Bluetooth Portable Speaker**. Befitting its brand, the "stout-hearted hero" weighs in at five and half pounds and boasts the loudest output of anything in its class, while providing more than 20 hours of portable power with a single charge, \$199.99 at marshallheadphones.com

Maybe your music maven is a purist with a throwback bent who loves only vinyl. Help them keep their prized albums clean with a **Boundless Audio Record Cleaner Brush**, perfect as a stocking stuffer at \$15. But don't give the leash without a puppy — there are many music box sets on offer this year.

Jason Isbell marked a decade since his breakthrough solo release **Southeastern** with a quadruple-vinyl, triple-CD edition

that has the remastered studio LP along with a live version and demos of every song, with special packaging, \$79.99 at amazon.com. The seemingly endless flow of Beatles music and the final drop of so-called new songs from the Fab Four continues with a repackaging of their **Red 1962-1966** and **Blue 1967-1970** albums, with a total of 21 previously unreleased tracks, \$69.99 at amazon.com.

Wanna feel old? Green Day's **Dookie** is turning 30 and the Berkeley punk stalwarts' first big release has the deluxe treatment, with a six-LP (brown vinyl, natch) box set that includes a bevy of tchotchkes to go with outtakes, demos and live takes, including four songs from their notoriously mud-splattered **Woodstock '94** set, \$121.32 at amazon.com.

Dolly Parton answered her induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame by inviting a big chunk of its membership (and Kid Rock) to work on **Rockstar**, her first rock 'n' roll record. She even reunited the remaining living Beatles, along with Peter Frampton and Mick Fleetwood, for a version of "Let It Be." It's available as a four-vinyl album box set for \$59.98 at amazon.com.

There is no shortage of books for the music fan. For superfans of the aforementioned Ms. Parton, give **Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones**, a fashion-focused autobiography that peeks into the singer's closet and is packed with more than 450 color photos, \$25 at amazon.com.

To (extravagantly) mark the 60th anniversary of Beatlemania for your favorite fan, give **1964: Eyes of the Storm**, a collection of photos taken by Paul McCartney with



Behind the Seams: My Life in Rhinestones by Dolly Parton

his 35mm camera from the end of 1963 through early 1964, the years when The Beatles blew up into an international phenomenon and altered the course of music history. It's \$77.79 at popmarket.com.

For those growing misty-eyed for the early days of Nirvana, Pearl Jam and other flannel-shirted rockers, Mudhoney guitarist Steve Turner's **Mud Ride: A Messy Trip Through the Grunge Explosion** covers the evolution and growth of Seattle's music scene, from DIY club shows to its



EP-133-KO II



AudioQuest DragonFly Cobalt

Big Bang, which removed most hair metal bands from the earth. \$28.79 at popmarket.com.

One of the latest classic rock memoirs is *My Effin' Life*, from Rush bassist, keyboard player and singer Geddy Lee. It's filled with anecdotes of his time with the prog rock power trio, along with personal stories of growing during World War II, with a grandfather who was murdered during the Holocaust. Novelist Michael Chabon praised the "warmth, care, artfulness, hard-earned wisdom and ... gently skewed humor" in his book. \$24.99 at amazon.com.

It's always a good idea to keep things local. Here's a thought: The next time you attend a show at The Shaskeen, Penuche's, the Press Room or Strange Brew, pick up a CD and pay it forward by giving it to a loved one who's unfamiliar with the performer's music. *That's* the most effective way to put cash in an artist's pocket.

Of course, there's always merch. Roots of Creation, one of the busiest bands

around, offers a huge selection of T-shirts, caps, pins and posters at their shoprootsofcreation.com website. Sepsiss, the female-fronted heavy metal band that just won another NEMA, has a line of T-shirts calling attention to the insidious practice of pay to play, where clubs force acts to buy tickets to their own shows and re-sell them for payment, along with other forms of financial exploitation. Available at sepsiss.com.

A few musicians have side hustles as artists making very cool stuff. Singer-songwriter Dan Blakeslee, who played his first main stage set at the Newport Folk Festival this year, sells line drawings (also available as T-shirts) at etsy.com/shop/DanBlakeslee. Nick Lavalley, front man for Manchester power pop band Donaher, runs Wicked Joyful, making bespoke action figures and apparel like the Devil Church Explorer Club hoodie or a Taco Tour at Tender Town T-shirt, at shop.wickedjoyful.com. 🍷

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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- Venues** 436-2400, themusichall.org
- Amato Center for the Performing Arts** 56 Mont Vernon, Milford, 672-1002, amatocenter.org
- Nashua Center for the Arts** 201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com
- Averill House Winery** 21 Averill Road, Brookline, 371-2296, averillhousevineyard.com
- Palace Theatre** 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- Bank of NH Stage in Concord** 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com
- Rex Theatre** 23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
- Capitol Center for the Arts — Chubb Theatre** 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- Ruby Room Comedy** Shaskeen, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 491-0720, rubyroom-comedy.com
- Chunky's** 707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham; chunkys.com
- Tupelo Music Hall** 10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com
- Colonial Theatre** 609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, coloniallaconia.com
- Events**
- **Queen City Improv Holiday Show** Rex, Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
 - **A Tribute to Robin Williams** Rex, Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
 - **Brad Upton** Colonial, Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
 - **Mike Hanley** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 8, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Brad Upton** Nashua Center for the Arts, Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
 - **Chris Zito** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Harrison Stebbins** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Alex Giampapa** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:30 p.m.
- The Flying Monkey** 39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
- Headliners Comedy Club** DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester, headlinerscomedyclub.com
- The Music Hall** 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
- The Music Hall Lounge** 131 Congress St., Portsmouth,



Alex Giampapa.

- p.m.
- **Chanukah at the Palace** Palace, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m.
 - **Emily Ruskowski** Music Hall Lounge, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
 - **Nick Hoff** Rex, Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
 - **Mark Riley** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Tupelo Night of Comedy** Tupelo, Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.
 - **Ken Rogerson** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Cory Gee** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
 - **Life's A Drag** Chunky's Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9 p.m.
 - **Andrew Pinard** Music Hall Lounge, Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 - **Kelly MacFarland's Christmas Party** Rex, Friday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.
 - **Juston McKinney Year in Review 2023** Music Hall, Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Wednesday, Dec. 27, 7 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	Concord Hermanos Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Dover Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390	The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	4020	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square, 672-2270
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777	Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947	Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225	Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St., 601-7091	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St., 669-6144	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667	Epsom Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485
Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875	Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	To Share Brewing 720 Union St., 836-6947	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230	Henniker Colby Hill Inn 33 The Oaks, 428-3281	Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722	Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Hampton CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Meredith Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876	San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St., 886-8833
			Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362
			Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS	Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub

Thursday, Dec. 7

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.	6 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: David Corson, 7 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Steve Kelly & Mike Moore, 6 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Chris Bonoli, 6:30 p.m. Lithermans: Scott King, 5:30 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Outliers Trio, 7 p.m.
Epsom Hill Top: music bingo w/Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Joey Clark & the Big Hearts, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m. The Foundry: Rebecca Turmel,

Music, live and in person

These listings for live music are compiled from press releases, restaurants' websites and social media and artists' websites and social media. Call the venue to check on special rules and reservation instructions. Get your gigs listed by sending information to adiaz@hippress.com.

Friday, Dec. 8

Alton Bay Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Paul Driscoll, 6 p.m.	Epping Holy Grail: Dan Walker, 7 p.m. Telly's: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.	Bisson, 8 p.m.
Bedford Murphy's: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m.	Epsom Hill Top: David Graham/Dave Ayotte, 7 p.m.	Jaffrey Park Theatre: Ashuelot Concerts, 7:30 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Jason Michelson, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Chris Bonoli, 6:30 p.m.	Hampton CR's: John Irish, 6 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Whym: Jake Bartolin, 6:30 p.m.	Litchfield Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Contoocook Contoocook Cider Co.: live music, 5 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George	Londonderry Coach Stop: Jared Rocco, 6 p.m. Pipe Dream: Skip, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Tape Deck Heroz, 8 p.m.



ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Before he was a comedian, Brad Upton coached track in Pasco, Washington. When he's not coaching the hurdling team at Shorecrest High School, he's winning comedy festivals, headlining the Grand Ole Opry or releasing a special through Dry Bar Comedy. Run to the Colonial Theatre (609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, coloniallaconia.com) on Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$36, plus fees.

95 Park St., 717-8267

Penacook
American Legion Post 31
11 Charles St., 753-9372

Pittsfield
Over the Moon
1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162

Portsmouth
The Gas Light
64 Market St., 430-9122

The Goat
142 Congress St., 590-4628

Rochester
Porter's
19 Hanson St., 330-1964

Salem
Copper Door
41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

Luna Bistro
254 N. Broadway, 458-2162

T-Bones
311 South Broadway, 893-3444

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers & Wings
5 Provident Way, 760-2581

Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North
350 Route 108, 841-5421

Sunapee
Sunapee Community Coffee House
9 Lower Main St., 398-8214

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: The Lone Wolf Project, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Phil Maurice, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Jimmy's Down, 8 p.m.

The Foundry: April Cushman, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.
Shaskeen: Emo Night karaoke, 9 p.m.

South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.

Strange Brew: Lisa Marie & All Shook Up

Meredith
Twin Barns: Kimayo, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Milford
Pasta Loft: Off the Record, 8:30 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough
Buckey's: Red Hat Band, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Richard Wallace, 7 p.m.

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

Penacook
American Legion Post 31: Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Colin Hart, 9:30 p.m.

Salem
Luna Bistro: Chuck Alaimo, 7 p.m.
Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Somersworth
Earth Eagle: King Dead, 6 p.m.

Sunapee
Sunapee Community Coffee House: open mic, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9
Alton Bay
Dockside: Mike Laughlin, 8 p.m.
Foster's Tavern: Brooks Young, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Rebecca Turmel 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Dan Weiner, 6:30 p.m.

Contoocook
Cider Co.: Alex Cohen, 1 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Karen Grenier, 7 p.m.
Telly's: J-Lo Duo, 8 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Kevin Horan, 6 p.m.

Hampton
The Goat: Russ Six, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Wildside, 9 p.m.
Whym: Sam Hammerman, 6:30 p.m.

Henniker
Colby Hill Inn: Brad Myrick, 1 p.m.

Hopkinton
Contoocook Farmers Market: Joey Clark, 12 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's Bar: Jenni Lynn Duo, 7 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: Bernie & Lou-

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RENAISSANCE MAN

Chris Zito is a podcast host, a motivational speaker, the drive-time radio personality on Mix 93.1, an actor — and a comedian. Don't miss his appearance at Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester, headlinerscomedyclub.com) on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.



NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

ise Watson, 5:30 p.m.; NH Gay Men's Chorus, 7:30 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.
Pipe Dream: Gary P & Wendy, 1 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Dakota Smart, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Lexi James, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Souled Out Show Band, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Jack Plante, 6 p.m.

The Goat: musical brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.

Great North Aleworks: Upright Dogs, 4 p.m.

Shaskeen: Feverslip, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Peter Poirier, 9 p.m.
To Share: Matt Litzinger, 5 p.m.
Wild Rover: Dave Clark, 5 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Tyler Levs, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jessica Olson, 6 p.m.

Milford

Pasta Loft: Neon Wave, 8:30 p.m.
Riley's: Down By Ten, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Wooden Soul, 8 p.m.

San Francisco Kitchen: Scott King, 6:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Robert & Rich, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light Pub: Gordon Turrissi, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: Brian Pacheco, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10

Alton Bay

Dockside: Mikey G & Ray, 4 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Phil Jacques, 11 a.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Mike Preston, 4 p.m.



A HEATHER PIERSON CHRISTMAS

Vince Guaraldi's classic score for *A Charlie Brown Christmas* gets the live treatment from Missouri-born, New Hampshire-based pianist and bandleader **Heather Pierson**. She returns to the Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com) on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.



A ROYAL HOLIDAY

Holiday parties can be fraught affairs, but Queen City Improv's annual holiday show is guaranteed to inspire feelings of unfettered joy. The comedy troupe — who won Hippo's Best of 2020 Readers Poll — returns to the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$19 plus fees.

ROCK AND ROLL CROSSWORDS BY TODD SANTOS

She was a fast machine

In the Nov. 30 issue, the wrong puzzle box ran with the clues to the "She Was a Fast Machine." Here are the clues again with the correct box.

Across

- 1. Penthouse star hotel room
- 6. 'Piece Of Me' ___ Row
- 10. 'Blue Suede Shoes' Perkins
- 14. Nebraska locale of Saddle Creek records
- 15. Steve Porcaro 'Rosanna' band

- 16. AC/DC "You're a toy for ___ (damnation)"
- 17. Old timey girls at shows
- 18. Like songs in same genre
- 19. '91 Gang Of Four album you hear in an indoor shopping center?
- 20. Zwan album 'Mary ___'
- 23. '00 Queens Of The Stone Age album for 17+ moviegoers
- 25. Sounds you make during best jams
- 26. The Bob ___ came before 'Till It

- Shines'
- 30. "Stars wrapped in your hair, ___" Cult
- 31. Tori Amos album 'Boys For ___'
- 32. Japanese metalers for a smartphone card
- 35. Blues Traveler will think or do this 'Over'
- 36. Buddy Moss 'Oh ___ Mama'
- 38. Drifters/solo soul singer ___ King
- 39. Chicago 'What Kind Of Man Would ___'
- 40. Larkin Poe 'Might As Well ___'
- 41. "Bag it, tag it, sell it to the butcher in the store" Phish
- 42. '97 Ben Folds album 'Whatever ___'
- 46. Sing/songer Lisa that did 'Stay'
- 49. Savage Garden 'I Knew ___ You'
- 50. Living Colour '93 hit for not touching something
- 54. Female jazz icon James
- 55. AC/DC "So, don't you ___ around, I'm gonna pull it..pull the trigger
- 56. Beatles "All the people that come ___, stop and say hello"
- 60. Rapper that gives us the writing on the wall?
- 61. Dido "___ angel, but does that mean that I won't fly"
- 62. R&B's 'Spirit' Lewis
- 63. Punk rock singer/guitarist Mike
- 64. American Graffiti song '___ Angel'
- 65. Overshadow, as friend's skill

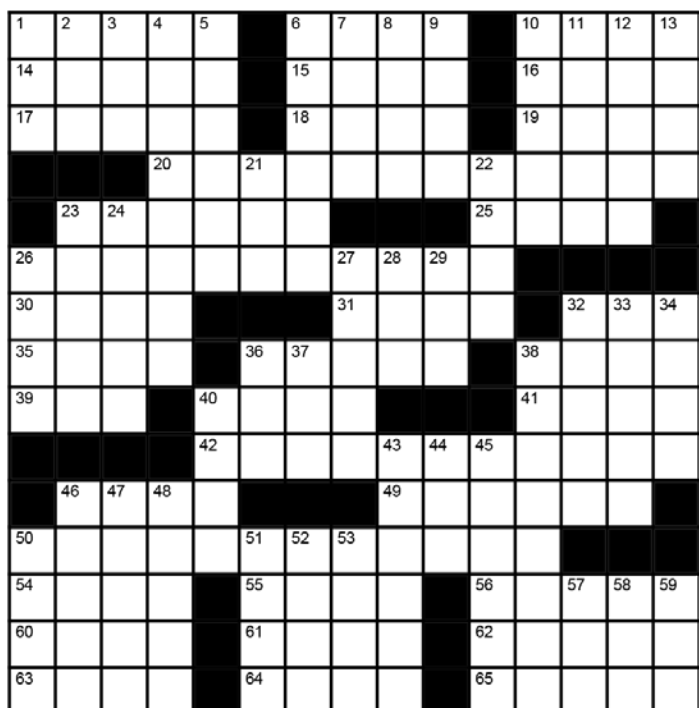
Down

- 1. 'Speak English Or Die' band (abbr)
- 2. Actress Thurman Fall Out Boy likes
- 3. "I can't explain you would not understand, this is not how ___"
- 4. '00 Pantera album 'Reinventing ___'
- 5. 'Amazing Grace' is sung on this holiday
- 6. Like the night on Don McLean's 'Vincent'
- 7. Iconic female blues singer Taylor
- 8. The 1975 'Love ___ We Made It'
- 9. Journey '___ Stop Believin'
- 10. 'Word Up!' R&Bsters
- 11. Embarrass ex-member with shameful story or do this
- 12. Leaders might handle different musical ones
- 13. 'Mirrors The Sky' Foy
- 21. They are put in papers to sell gear
- 22. Blind Melon 'Tones Of ___'
- 23. To recopy audio
- 24. Like Peter Criss' cat persona?
- 26. Third Eye Blind '___-Charmed Life'
- 27. Psychedelic pop band Polyphonic ___
- 28. 'Need You Bad' Nugent
- 29. Country rockin' Texan Joe
- 32. The Who '___, Feel Me'
- 33. Squeeze 'Black Coffee ___'
- 34. Sister 7 'Know What You ___'
- 36. Iconic 'You Want It Darker' sing/songer Cohen (abbr)

- 37. 80s 'Sugar Tax' synth-band (abbr)
- 38. Iron Maiden '___ World'
- 40. 'I'm Gonna Leave You' said Led Zep to her
- 43. Regina Spektor 'The Prayer Of Francois ___ (Molitva)'
- 44. Jeff Lynne 'Do Ya' band (abbr)
- 45. Bon Scott's real first name
- 46. AC/DC '___ Put My Love Into You'
- 47. 'Sara Smile' Hall & ___
- 48. Country singer Sara
- 50. 'Use Somebody' Kings Of ___
- 51. Sheryl Crow '___ Makes You Happy'
- 52. 'You Mean The World ___' Toni Braxton
- 53. Like first-class jam
- 57. Foo Fighter song for not making it to the hospital
- 58. Izzy Stradlin band (abbr)
- 59. Big Wreck 'The ___ (My Luck Is Wasted)'

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



Contocook
Cider Co.: Scott King, 1 p.m.

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Henniker
Colby Hill Inn: Brad Myrick, 1 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Triple Play, 4 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Redemption Trio, 2 p.m.

Manchester
Bonfire: free line dancing, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.; Justin Federico, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Milford
Riley's Place: blues jam, 1 p.m.

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

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

p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

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

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

Portsmouth
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 12
Concord
Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Shane's: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Henry LaLiberte, 5:30 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.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 8 p.m.

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

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13
Concord
Hermanos: State Street Combo, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Paul Wolstencroft, 9 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: open mic, 6:30 p.m.

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

Laconia
Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Dave Clark, 5:30 p.m.

Milford
Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: DJ Manny karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: open mic, 6 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson
The Bar: karaoke with Phil, 8 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: open mic, 6:30

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Boy band nostalgics, take note. **O-Town**, winners of the Breakthrough Act award at the 2001 Teen Choice Awards, and "Summer Girls" singers **LFO** touch down at the Angel City Music Hall (179 Elm St. in Manchester, 931-3654, angelcitymusichall.com) on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$20 to \$50, plus fees.





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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Trivia

Events

- **Elf 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).
- **A Christmas Story 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).

Weekly

- **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** music trivia at Day of the Dead Taqueria (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy. in Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Great North Aleworks (1050 Holt Ave., Man-

chester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.

- **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Yankee Lanes (216 Maple St., Manchester, 625-9656, yankeelanesentertainment.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** Opinionation by Sporcle trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road in Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Hop Knot (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Shooters Sports Pub (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday Kings** trivia at Game



Home Alone

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.
- **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 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.

- **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 Sea Dog Brewing (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Pizza 911 (401 S. Willow St., Manchester) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.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** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.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 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 at The Bar (2b Burnham Road, Hudson, 943-5250) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St.; Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

Concerts

- **U.D.O. The Voice of Accept** Thursday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Angel City in Manchester (angelcitymusicshall.com)
- **Jordan TW Trio Celtic Christmas** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **Donna the Buffalo** Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)
- **Postmodern Jukebox** Thursday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., Colonial Theatre in Laconia (coloniallaconia.com)
- **King Buffalo/Handsome Jack** Thursday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace in Portsmouth (3sarts.org)
- **Aaron Lewis** Thursday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **Artty Raynes Francoeur** Friday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Portsmouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)
- **O-Town/LFO** Friday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Angel City in Manchester (angelcitymusicshall.com)
- **Thanks to Gravity** Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Music Hall

Lounge in Portsmouth (themusicshall.org)

- **A Cappella Christmas Mixtape** Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **Nicholas Burns** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org)
- **Eileen Ivers: A Joyful Christmas** Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth (flyingmonkeynh.com)
- **Tab Benoit/Dirty Dozen Brass Band** Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusicshall.com)
- **Space Bacon/Leon Trout** Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket (stonechurchrocks.com)
- **Postmodern Jukebox** Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com)
- **Once an Outlaw** Friday, Dec. 8, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **New Martian Records Showcase** Saturday, Dec. 9, 12 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)
- **A Celtic Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.,

Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org)

- **Dan Walker** Saturday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Portsmouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)
- **Zach Deputy** Saturday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m., Angel City in Manchester (angelcitymusicshall.com)
- **Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., Colonial in Laconia (coloniallaconia.com)
- **Ed Gerhard Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **New Orleans Jazz Orchestra** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)
- **Boston Pops** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., SNHU Arena in Manchester (snhuarena.com)
- **NH Gay Men's Chorus** Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org)
- **Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusicshall.com)
- **Grateful 4 B.I.G.** (Grateful Dead/Biggie Smalls tribute) Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket

(stonechurchrocks.com)

- **GoldenOak** Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **The Rock and Roll Playhouse: Music of Dave Matthews for Kids** Sunday, Dec. 10, noon, Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **Anthony Nunziata: My Italian Christmas!** Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m., Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org)
- **The Wizards of Winter** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusicshall.com)
- **Symphony NH** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m., Concord Auditorium (theaudi.org)
- **Capitol Jazz Orchestra** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **A Charlie Brown Christmas with Heather Pierson** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **Social Animals Big Band** Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)
- **Sharon Jones** Sunday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusicshall.org)



Zach Deputy.

- **Eileen Ivers** Sunday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com)
- **Nick Moss Band** Sunday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)
- **Buzz Ball 2023** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **Eric Mintel Quartet: A Charlie Brown Christmas** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org)
- **PMAC Adult Rock & Blues Show** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., 3S Artspace in Portsmouth (3sarts.org)
- **Kat & Brett Holiday Show** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **Irish Christmas in America with master fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
- **Symphony NH Holiday Brass** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org)
- **Matt Schofield** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)
- **Diaspora Radio: Elephant** (White Stripes tribute) Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)
- **A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa** Friday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)
- **Scotty Austin** Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy** Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord (ccanh.com)
- **Thunderstruck** (AC/DC tribute) Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusicshall.com)
- **Mr. Aaron** Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)

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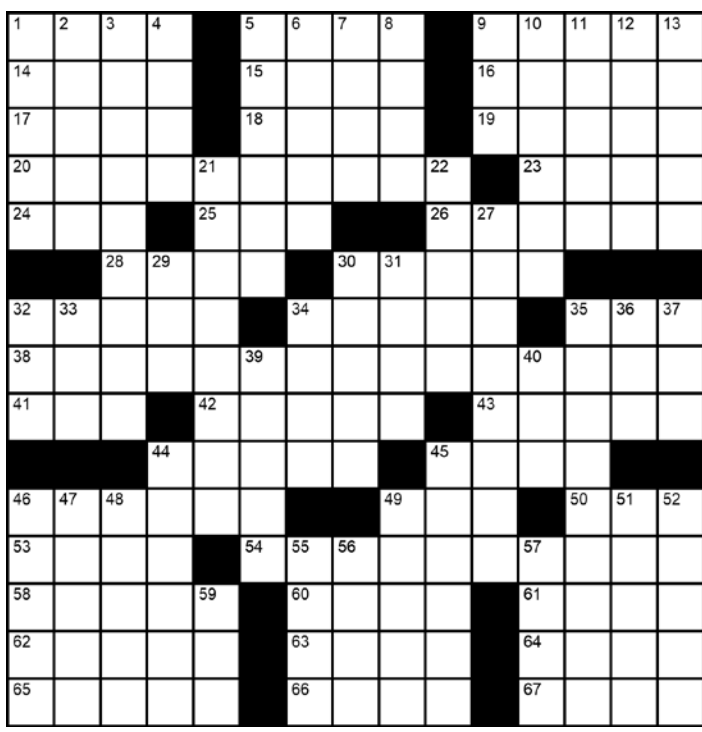


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Across

- 1. Bottom-of-the-drink add-ins
- 5. Color Me ___ (1990s R&B group)
- 9. “Harold & ___ Go to White Castle”
- 14. M.B.A. class subj.
- 15. Dog voiced by Harvey Guillén in 2024’s “The Garfield Movie”
- 16. Absurd
- 17. Element in diner signs
- 18. Pass out hands
- 19. Farmland measures
- 20. 1990s singer who’s foolish, per hip-hop lingo of the time?
- 23. Bone of the forearm
- 24. “Diners, Drive-___ and Dives”
- 25. Hockey milieu
- 26. Late English presenter Paul whose drag persona was Lily Savage
- 28. Paddock parent
- 30. Rotate like a baton
- 32. Trophy or medal
- 34. Come up
- 35. Everyone seems to be following it now
- 38. Mopey designer who says “Thanks for noticing the new look?”
- 41. Tater ___ casserole
- 42. Gorme who sang “Blame It on the Bossa Nova”
- 43. Cozy spots
- 44. Discourage
- 45. Poker variety
- 46. A-ten-tion span?
- 49. Took a lunch break

Down

- 50. General of menus
- 53. “Top Gun” org.
- 54. 1950s-’60s singer trying to get himself to the front of the alphabet?
- 58. “___ Game: The Challenge”
- 60. Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys
- 61. Air conditioning conduit
- 62. Elephant’s long teeth
- 63. Whipped up

- 64. State the same way
- 65. “Now you ___, now you don’t”
- 66. Just manages, with “out”
- 67. Ad option that might take a while in the free version

- Down**
- 1. Good Charlotte guitarist Madden
 - 2. Arctic, for one
 - 3. Well-read but not experienced, perhaps
 - 4. The A in A.D.
 - 5. Laced Victorian garment
 - 6. Her albums are named for ages
 - 7. Watch face
 - 8. Sandwich shop
 - 9. Sportage automaker
 - 10. Relax, as one’s toes
 - 11. Actress Gibbs of “The Jeffersons”
 - 12. Come to ___ (finish up)
 - 13. State the same way
 - 21. Stuff thrown from a park bench, maybe
 - 22. Distractions
 - 27. High-antioxidant drink
 - 29. Actress Graynor
 - 30. Hiking path
 - 31. Content of some cellars
 - 32. Talent show talent
 - 33. Question starter
 - 34. Assistant
 - 35. Source of a movable feast?
 - 36. Noah’s vessel
 - 37. Start of a U.S. capital
 - 39. Laid-back, personality-wise
 - 40. “Baba is ___” (puzzle game)

- 44. Mandrill in “The Lion King”
- 45. “Watermelon Sugar” singer Harry
- 46. Does some cleaning
- 47. Ending like “-like”
- 48. Reason why
- 49. Tolerate
- 51. 2014 Winter Games host city
- 52. In first place
- 55. “My treat”
- 56. Woodpecker’s tool
- 57. Citrus refreshers
- 59. “Spring ahead” letters

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EASY

1-		3	3-
3	2-		
3-	7+		6x
	2÷		

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CHALLENGING

8+		8+	20x	4	5-
6					
11+	3	5-		4-	5+
	3÷	24x			
		4		60x	
6+		11+			

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RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 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.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

6x	1	3	2	4
7+	3	4	1	2
8+	4	2	3	1
2-	2	1	4	3

4	6	5	3	1	2
6	3	1	2	4	5
5	2	6	1	3	4
3	5	4	6	2	1
2	3	1	3	4	5
8x	1	4	2	5	6

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle...**
- Six fruits ending with a vowel
 - ___ America
 - IRS: ___
 - “Shadow Dancing” singer (first/last name)
 - Optimum

Last Week’s Answers: FIDDLER HERMIT STONE BLUE KING SNOW / LIZARD TURTLE SNAKE / PERIOD HYPHEN COMMA / EAST WEST / FAIL TAIL

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

Nobodys

Across

- 1. 'Li'l Red Riding Hood' Sam The ___
- 5. "Say that you'll stay forever and ___" Oasis
- 9. Sunflower Cat/It Takes ___ To Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry
- 13. 'Love Shoulda Brought You Home' Braxton
- 14. Modern Family actress Vergara that comes from Colombia as does Aterciopelados
- 16. After Kix did 'Blow My ___' they had to call an electrician
- 17. Randy Travis 'Forever And Ever, ___'
- 18. Mike + The Mechanics 'All I Need ___'
- 20. Joy Division's successor
- 22. M Ward's Buddy Holly cover
- 23. Belgian composer/instrument maker Godfried-Willem ___
- 24. 'Taking Care Of Business' band (abbr)
- 25. Star hairstylist does this, perhaps
- 28. Frank Sinatra 'The Lady ___'
- 33. '70 thinly disguised Todd Rundgren solo album
- 34. Minneapolis supergroup Golden ___
- 35. Maggie's last name, to The Beatles

- 36. He was "goofing on Elvis", to REM
- 37. ___ Bruce Hampton & The Aquarium Rescue Unit
- 38. State school Neil Young sang about
- 39. Norah Jones 'What Am ___ You?'
- 40. Month summer fests heat up
- 41. Kenny Loggins hit 'This ___'
- 42. '04 Streets album 'A Grand ___ For Free'
- 45. Alias 'More Than Words ___'
- 47. Wrecking Crew drum legend Blaine
- 48. '97 Smash Mouth 'Walkin' On The Sun' album 'Fush Yu ___'
- 49. Rik of Triumph
- 52. 'At Seventeen' girl
- 56. 'Reunited' ___ Herb
- 58. Mexican shell snack 'Satan' gave Beck
- 59. '12 Madonna album
- 60. Carey of Tool
- 61. Heavy metal band that can fortell the future?
- 62. ELO ' ___ Bring Me Down'
- 63. "Bittersweet memories, that is all

- I'm taking with ___ good-bye"
- 64. Italian singer for zilch

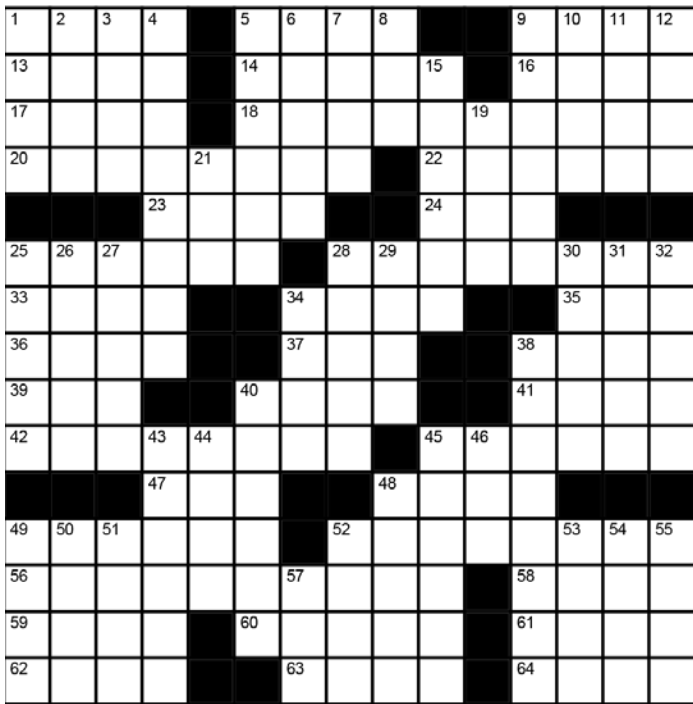
Down

- 1. Canadian folkster Rogers
- 2. Traffic 'Far From ___'
- 3. Pet Shop Boys "Cause you're ___ York City boy"
- 4. Green Day song that's not the majority?
- 5. Not b-sides Soundgarden comp (hyph)
- 6. So-so band is only taken in small ones
- 7. Where the last row sees from
- 8. Yames of Monsters Of Folk
- 9. "Do me ___ son won't you stay and keep Anna Lee company?"
- 10. San Franciscan 'Good Day' band
- 11. Norwegian city A-ha is from
- 12. Kind of idol for youngsters
- 15. Radiohead EP ' ___ /How Am I Driving?'
- 19. 'Wanted Man' hair rockers
- 21. Like Dead Kennedys and Minor Threat, to skaters in the 80s
- 25. Post-hardcore Illinois band
- 26. 'I ___ You' Lady Antebellum
- 27. Avett Brothers 'It Goes On ___'
- 28. "The teacher says that ___ big pain"
- 29. Dead Milkmen 'Fillet Of ___'
- 30. Drug addled rocker (1,4)
- 31. Band that is "all the rage" creates this
- 32. 'American Girl' Tom

- 34. Napalm Death album about a lowlife?
- 38. 'Beautiful Girls' Sean
- 40. Shocked, as with a cancellation
- 43. '76 Al Stewart album 'Year Of ___'
- 44. '08 Death Cab For Cutie single
- 45. '79 'Let's Go' Cars album
- 46. Singer/songwriter DiFranco
- 48. Naked ' ___ Chinese'
- 49. 'Gold Digger' rap duo
- 50. Beatles '62 debut 'Love ___'
- 51. 'Mighty Quinn' Manfred
- 52. Jefferson Starship hit from '79
- 53. Popular South Korean singing competition " ___ Singer"
- 54. Nailed, as with audition
- 55. Paul Thorn's crush wasn't Mona but ' ___ Lisa'
- 57. "That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang" Cooke

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



Jonesin' answer from pg 39 of 11/30



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

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

Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Bobby Flay Fit: 200 Recipes for a Healthy Lifestyle*, by Bobby Flay, born Dec. 10, 1964.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *And then I turned forty. And then forty and a day.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *I became a chef because I love food. A good approach, but you still need to develop skills.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Sauces, Salsas, and Relishes. I have made my living off of these three things, which can take the plainest piece of protein and turn it into a gourmet event. Go gourmet.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Once you've hit a groove, mix things up. Not only can doing the same thing day in and day out get boring, but your body needs to be challenged in new ways.... Mix things up!*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *... oatmeal is a blank canvas for a spectrum of dried and fresh fruits, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and even savory toppings.... Find your blank canvas.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Savory Oatmeal with Poached Egg, Parmesan, and Bacon. Don't laugh or roll your eyes — I swear this combo makes total sense. Put things together and see what happens.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *I love the flavor of coffee paired with anything, but I particularly like it with vanilla and chocolate. What do you like? If you don't know, find out.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *As little as a decade ago it felt like you couldn't*

pay people to eat Brussels sprouts. I'm happy to say we have moved past the era of overcooked soggy gray mini cabbages, and now, Brussels sprouts, just like kale, have popped up everywhere.... It's all about what you do with it.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *There's a world of flavor out there beyond fried potato chips. A world. A galaxy. Explore.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Does the world need yet another kale salad? Yes. What are you waiting for?*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Step away from the hummus in the refrigerated case at the supermarket! Farther.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *I'll admit it, the first time I saw 'cauliflower steak' on a menu, I was confused — a steak topped with cauliflower? Well, no, but that would be tasty.*

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 hidden message poetry form (8)	_____
2 witty biographical poem (8)	_____
3 poem with repeated words (7)	_____
4 19-line form from France (10)	_____
5 Malay-derived poetic form (7)	_____
6 poem developed by Chaucer (8)	_____
7 Arabic poetry style (6)	_____

STI	MAD	NA	GHA	RIH
EW	VILL	PAN	LLE	UM
OS	CLE	TO	ACR	GAL
ZAL	TIC	ANE	SE	RI

Last Week's Answers: 1. PARKAS 2. BALACLAVAS 3. SCARVES 4. MITTENS 5. BOOTS 6. SWEATERS 7. SNOWSUITS

Sudoku Answers from pg 40 of 11/30

Puzzle A

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

Puzzle B

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

Puzzle C

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

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Awesome!

Get those pens and pencils — OK, Google forms — ready! The Tampa Bay Times is inviting readers and anyone else around the world to submit their grievances, the best of which the Times will publish to celebrate Festivus on Dec. 23. United Press International reported that this will be the eighth year for the Times' Airing of Grievances. The custom is one feature of the holiday, which was introduced on a "Seinfeld" episode in 1997. (You might also remember the unadorned metal pole and feats of strength.) Happy Festivus, everyone! *U.P.I., Nov. 30*

The Passing Parade

"I'm having it my way!" appeared to be the message from a large inflatable Burger King Whopper that came loose outside a restaurant in Newberg, Oregon, and took off through the windy streets. KOIN-TV reported that the sandwich began its journey around 7 a.m. on Nov. 11 and crashed into a smoke shop before hitting an American flag and another business. Amy Kepler of the Newberg Police Department said that strangely, they didn't receive any 911 calls about the burger, and no injuries or damage were reported to police. "It happened very quickly and did not affect traffic," she said. *KOIN, Nov. 23*

Government in Action

• Iris Logan, 70, converted her front yard in St. Paul, Minnesota, into an expression of her individuality more than 30 years ago, the Associated Press reported. But the city inspector is fed up with her stones, statues and decorative art and has given her until Dec. 22 to clear it out. "I'm a rock lover," Logan said. "If I see a rock I like, I try and roll it in my car on a 2-by-4." A petition supporting Logan gained 150 signatures. "It's not just about aesthetics," said Justin Lewandowski, a community organizer. "It's about our identity and how we, as residents, engage with each other and with city policy." *A.P., Nov. 27*

• Kansans have spoken again: On Nov. 28, Gov. Laura Kelly announced that the state will halt production on the "ugly as sin" new license plates that were supposed to roll out in 2024. Fox News reported that some drivers balked at the design because it too closely resembled the University of Missouri's colors; others thought the gold-and-black plate was Kelly's nod to New York, her home state. Others called it "slapdash and dull." The governor promised a future public vote on possible new designs. *Fox News, Nov. 28*

The Continuing Crisis

Only in 2023. On Nov. 28, as a big gust of wind whirled through Washington, D.C., the fully decorated National Christmas Tree was blown over, WUSA-TV reported. The National Park Service had to replace a snapped cable and install reinforcement cables and concrete blocks to secure the tree, but the lighting ceremony went on as planned on Nov. 30. *WUSA-TV, Nov. 29*

The Golden Age of Air Travel

A woman flying from Orlando to Philadelphia on Nov. 20 on Frontier Airlines apparently couldn't hold it another second, WKRC-TV reported. "Sorry, everybody," she said in a video captured by traveler Julie Hartman, before pulling her pants down and squatting in the aisle to urinate. According to the woman, she had been told by a flight attendant that she couldn't use the restroom; one woman on the video can be heard saying, "That poor little boy" about a child sitting next to the spot where the woman squatted. *WKRC, Nov. 23*

Wait, What?

A 35-year-old man from Vietnam went to the hospital in Dong Hoi on Nov. 24

with severe headaches, fluid discharge and loss of vision, Metro News reported. When doctors did a CT scan, they discovered two broken chopsticks that were penetrating into his skull from his nose. Apparently, the man had been in a fight several months before and didn't remember much about it — but said he thought something might have been stabbed into his face. Surgeons removed the chopsticks, and the patient is recovering. *Metro News, Nov. 27*

Yikes!

As a man in Xiamen, China, used the "smart" toilet in his home on Nov. 10, he first smelled smoke — right before the toilet burst into flames. He didn't have time to pull his shorts back up, but he did manage to capture pictures of the toilet with flames emerging from the bowl. Oddity Central reported that the owner believed a short circuit was to blame; other incidents of toilets bursting into flame in China have been reported over the last two years. Burning ring of fire, indeed. *Oddity Central, Nov. 29*

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

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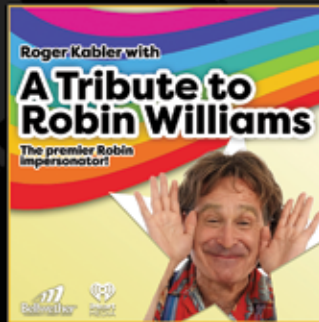


PRESENTS

DECEMBER



THURSDAY 7
7:30PM



FRIDAY 8
7:30PM

SAT 9	A Celtic Christmas	2 & 7:30
SUN 10	Anthony Nunziata: My Italian Christmas!	2:00PM
THU 14	Eric Mintel Quartet: A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas	7:00PM
FRI 15	Comedy at the Rex with Nick Hoff and Special Guest	7:30PM
SAT 16	John Denver Christmas: Chris Collins & Boudier Canyon	2 & 7:30
SUN 17	A Very Soulful Christmas with Morgan James	4:00PM
THU 21	Candlelight: Holiday Special featuring "The Nutcracker"	6 & 8:30
FRI 22	Comedy at the Rex with Comedian Kelly MacFarland's Christmas Party	7:30PM
SAT 23	A Sinatra Christmas with Rich DiMare	7:30PM
FRI 29	Whammer Jammer: Live J. Geils Band Tribute Experience	7:30PM
SAT 30	Swiffie Dance Party	2 & 7:30

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