

the Hippo

DECEMBER 14 - 20, 2023

FIND HOLIDAY
MEALS P. 27

FEAST OF THE
SEVEN FISHES P.26

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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SLOPES THIS WINTER



INSIDE: WEEKEND FULL OF LIVE MUSIC

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ON THE COVER

12 In this week's cover story, we take a look at the ski season via an interview with officials at McIntyre Ski Area, which held its opening day of the season on Saturday, Dec. 9. We also list a few places where you can hit the slopes this season and explain the science of man-made snow. **ALSO ON THE COVER** Bedford Village Inn celebrates the season with the Feast of the Seven Fishes (page 26). Restaurants that will be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (page 27). Naturally 7 plays Derry on Sunday (page 36), and find other concerts (page 42) this weekend.

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Get what you
want this
Holiday Season



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Higher ed

Gov. Chris Sununu has established a Public Higher Education Task Force, as outlined in Executive Order 2023-06, to address the strategic alignment of public higher education in the state. According to a press release, the Task Force, which includes members from various educational, governmental and business sectors, will hold its first meeting on Dec. 21. The goal is to ensure New Hampshire's public higher education institutions can navigate the changing educational landscape marked by declining enrollments and the rising costs of college education. This initiative follows unanimous support from the boards of both the University System and the Community College System of New Hampshire. The Task Force is expected to report its findings by March 31, 2024, aiming to maintain the state's institutions as vital contributors to the workforce and culture amid demographic and economic pressures.

Historic preservation

The New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has announced grant awards for 12 historic preservation projects, facilitating essential rehabilitation and restoration efforts. According to a press release, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, a statewide nonprofit organization, has played a pivotal role in the success of these

projects, providing planning grants for building assessments and technical assistance. Key beneficiaries include Mason's 1848 town hall and the Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester, both of which received state recognition and planning grants thanks to the Alliance's intervention. Additionally, Plainfield Town Hall, recently listed on the Alliance's 2023 Seven to Save list, will receive LCHIP funds to address moisture issues affecting its historic stage set. The grants, matched by double the funds from private and public sources, contribute to local economies and the state's cultural and historical fabric.

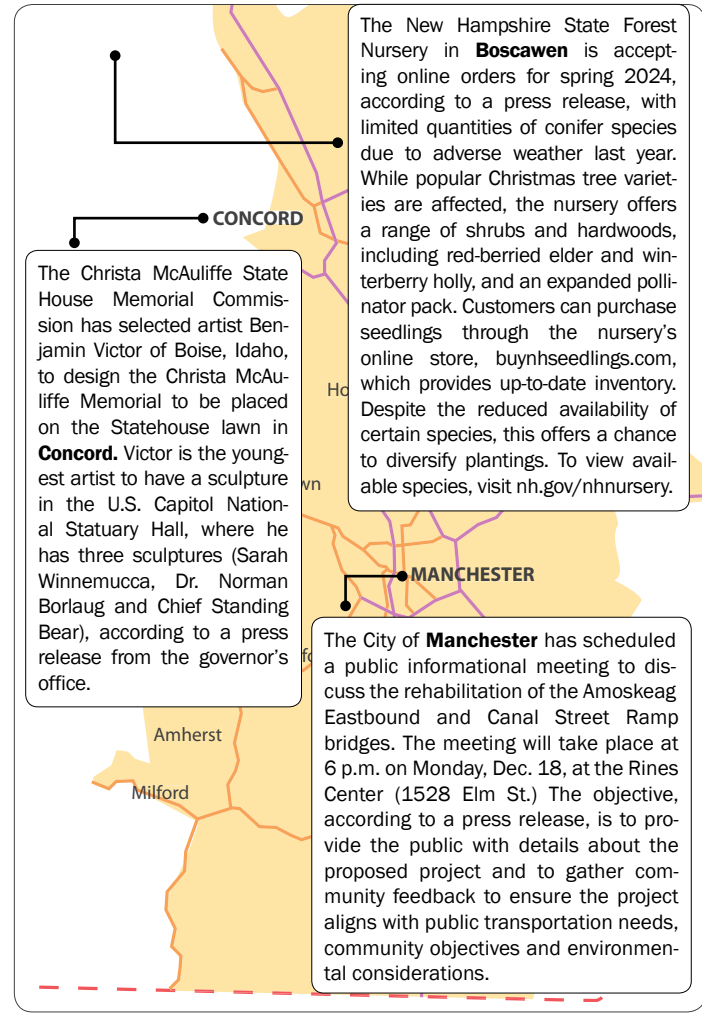
Recovery help

U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen has teamed up with Senators Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), John Cornyn (R-TX), Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Dick Durbin (D-IL) to introduce the Strengthening Communities of Recovery Act. This legislation aims to reauthorize and boost funding for recovery resources to support individuals with substance use disorder (SUD), addressing the severe behavioral health crisis and the rising number of overdose deaths, which in New Hampshire increased by 11 percent last year. The Act proposes to raise the grant program's annual funding from \$5 million to \$16 million over five years, enhancing peer recovery support and services such as advocacy, education and employment assistance. Sen.

Shaheen also contributed to the FY 2023 government funding legislation, which includes increased funding for SUD response grants and resources for supportive housing for women in recovery.

Funds for health

New Hampshire's community health safety net, comprising 11 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), has received a \$500,000 donation from Northeast Delta Dental. According to a press release, this contribution comes at a crucial time as four of the largest health centers in the state face a collective financial shortfall of \$3.5 million due to the public health pandemic, low Medicaid reimbursements and reduced pharmaceutical savings. This funding will help these centers continue to provide critical services such as primary care, behavioral health therapy and substance use disorder services to more than 102,400 people annually. Leaders from FQHCs across the state emphasized the importance of this donation, noting that without it the loss of services would lead to increased strain on emergency departments and gaps in treatment for chronic and emerging health conditions. The gift from Northeast Delta Dental is seen as a vital contribution to stabilizing the network and maintaining integrated health care services across New Hampshire.



Funds for BAE

U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, alongside U.S. Rep. Chris Pappas, joined Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo in Nashua to announce a \$35 million CHIPS funding award to BAE Systems. According to a press release, this federal investment, derived from the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, will modernize BAE Systems' Microelectronics Center, a Trusted Foundry for the Department of Defense,

enhancing U.S. semiconductor technology access for military use. The initiative aims to bolster the U.S.'s economic and national security, reduce dependency on international semiconductor manufacturing, and create jobs. Part of this funding will also foster a partnership with Nashua Community College to develop a workforce training program, reinforcing New Hampshire's position in the national defense manufacturing sector and contributing to the state's economic growth.



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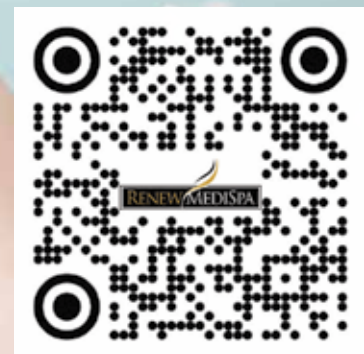
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141644

The week that was



The Big Story – A Weird Local Week:

No story dominated. The Red Sox actually got worse at the winter meetings and the Bruins surrendered their overall points lead in the NHL thanks to going 5-4-1

in their last 10 games, while thin-skinned refs heard it from **Jaylen Brown** after he was surprisingly ejected vs. New York on Friday. But most notable was D.C. political pub Politico reporting that for the first time in 20 years presidential primary candidates are now scheduling events during Pats games because the Pats are so bad. Exhibit A: the negative yacking about Thursday's win over Pittsburgh because it may hurt their draft position in April.

That's where we start the week.

Sports 101: On Saturday **Jayden Daniels** became the third player from LSU to win the Heisman Trophy. Name their other two winners.

News Item – New Hampshire Athletes: Two locals were in the news last week. Steelers tight end **Pat Freiermuth** of Durham had three catches for 18 yards vs. the Pats, and Merrimack's **Mickey Gasper** was taken by Boston in the Rule 5 draft after spending five years catching in the Yankees organization. He's got to stick all year with the Sox or he reverts back to New York.

Lakers Win First NBA In-Season Tourney: Yawn. That's all we got for that.

The Numbers:

3.2 – NFL lowest yards per carry allowed by the stingier than you think Patriots defense.

50 – second best in the NBA blocked shots recorded by San Antonio 7'6" rookie **Victor Wembanyama** after 19 games, with the 50th being his viral swat off the backboard of a layup attempt by T-Wolves big **Naz Reid**.

129 – points averaged by the Indiana Pacers, which will set the NBA record for most points per game ever if the number holds.

... Of the Week Awards:

Honors – Good guy Red Sox radio voice **Joe Castiglione** was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. After 41 years and 6,000 broadcasts he'll go in next July as the recipient of the Ford Frick Award for broadcast excellence. It's about time. Congratulations.

Grudge Match – The long feud between historically overrated **Chris Paul** and touchy referee **Scott Foster** grabbed headlines again after Paul claimed Foster's tossing him with two quick T's was "personal." The interesting side note is Paul's team has won just twice in the 20 games officiated by For-

ster since CP3 entered the NBA. It got both a (David) stern response from Commissioner **Adam Silver** to knock it off.

Stat – Patriots are 1-3 when they've given up 10 points or less, while the rest of the NFL is 53-0 when teams have done that.

Thumbs Up – Fisher Cats Sold: As first reported by the Union Leader, the F-Cats were sold to Diamond Baseball Holdings, the operator of 29 minor-league teams, who also bought the Red Sox AAA club in Worcester days earlier. Best of all they're staying put.

Thumbs Down – Sports Illustrated: In the latest flash-over-substance drone pick, the teenagers now running Sports Illustrated (into the ground) somehow named Colorado Football Coach **Deion Sanders** as its Sports Person of the Year, a guy who following a 3-0 start after running off almost every Buffalo from 2022 finished at 4-9. Who was their runner-up, **Kyrie Irving**? What planet do you people live on?

Random Thoughts:

Sorry, **Pat Mahomes**, you can't blame the refs for calling back **Travis Kelce's** oh-so-alert cross-court lateral/pass to **Kadarius Toney** that went for a TD vs. Buffalo. Toney lined up in the neutral zone, a preventable mistake that was entirely Toney's fault. No excuse for such a bonehead move.

Sports 101 Answer: The other two LSU Heisman Trophy winners were **Joe Burrow** in 2019 and running back **Billy Cannon**, who after winning in 1959 gave the AFL a huge publicity boost by being the first big name to sign with the fledgling league.

Final Thought – Yanks Got Better, Sox Got Worse: Aside from making their everyday line-up weaker by gift-wrapping **Alex Verdugo** to the Yanks for three pitchers no one ever heard of, **Craig Breslow** came away with a doughnut at last week's winter meetings.

Not sure it was the first mistake of the Breslow era. But it made the Yanks seem less desperate to improve their outfield and thus took some of the leverage San Diego appeared to have as they pursued slugger **Juan Soto**, who they got the next day in a seven-player blockbuster deal for what's been called a disappointing return.

This was done with a majority of the starting pitching trade options coming off the board and as the marquee free agents eliminated Boston from their wish list, most notably **Shohei Ohtani**. Though, since he almost landed in Toronto and got an astonishing \$70 million for 10 years from the Dodgers, the dominoes fell right with him.

But if this doesn't change right away, can you say last in the AL East? Again.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

THIS WEEK BIG EVENTS DECEMBER 14 AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 14

The Palace Theatre's (80 Hanover St., Manchester; palace-theatre.org, 668-5588) production of *A Christmas Carol* continues 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.



speakers and guest organizations, including Capt. Shawn Grinnell of the U.S. Space Force on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. The celebration is included with admission, which costs \$12 for adults, \$9 for ages 3 to 12, \$11 for 62+ and ages 13- college. Planetarium shows cost an additional \$6. The center is open from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive in Salem). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$10 for students and \$5 for Salem students; see nhpo.booktix.com for tickets. A livestreaming ticket option is available for the Sunday 2 p.m. concert. See nhphil.org.

to secure tickets. Find more fun family holiday screenings in the Kiddie Pool column on page 22.



Save the Date!

Sunday, Dec. 31

Sunday, Dec. 17

Catch a screening of *Elf* (PG, 2003) today at 3 p.m. at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St.; nashuacenter-forthearts.com). The event is free but go online

The Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave. in Concord) will have a **Disco-Themed New Year's Eve Celebration** on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The event will feature a buffet dinner, cash bar, cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, dancing to music from DJ Nazy and a midnight toast, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$90 per person and are available via the Grappone Conference Center's Facebook page and through eventbrite.com. Know of other fun ways to ring in 2024? Let us know at adiaz@hippypress.com.

Thursday, Dec. 14

Author Daniel Dain will discuss and sign his book *A History of Boston* today at 6:30 p.m. at Balin Books (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; balinbooks.com). Visit the bookstore's website to RSVP.

Saturday, Dec. 16

The McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Dr. in Concord; starhop.com) will celebrate "**Dozens of Decades of Flight**" today and tomorrow, commemorating the Dec. 17, 1903, flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright. The event will feature aviation activities,

Saturday, Dec. 16

The Little Mermen, described as "the ultimate Disney cover band for Disney fanatics of all ages," will play the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusicall.com) today at noon; doors open at 10:30 a.m. Tickets cost \$25.

Saturday, Dec. 16

Catch the NH Philharmonic's **annual Holiday Pops** concert tonight at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow, Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Welcome, winter enthusiasts!

New Hampshire has been recognized as the fourth-best state for a winter trip in the U.S., achieving a score of 9.31 out of 10 in a study by travel expert Viator. This commendation highlights the state's robust offerings for winter enthusiasts, including a high count of ski resorts at 28, the most among the top four states. In addition to providing numerous winter sports opportunities with approximately 61 inches of average snowfall, New Hampshire also caters to ice skating fans with 37 rinks available across the state.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Another reason to get excited about snow.*

Bird woes

New Hampshire residents have been noticing a decrease in bird populations, NHPR reported. Sean O'Brien, from the University of New Hampshire's cooperative extension, has been addressing this concern, identifying a mast year, where oak trees produce abundant acorns, as a key factor. This abundance of forest food reduces birds' presence in open areas. Furthermore, climate change is impacting bird species, with the National Audubon Society noting significant declines across the U.S. Migratory birds are particularly affected, experiencing habitat changes and increasing temperatures. In contrast, local winter birds like owls and woodpeckers are faring better.

QOL score: -2

Comment: *In the report, O'Brien highlighted the importance of native plants in supporting bird populations, recommending that gardens should comprise at least 70 percent native perennials to help birds thrive, along with minimizing pesticide use and keeping cats indoors.*

Reading help

New Hampshire is offering free training on the science of reading to parents and educators, NHPR reported, aiming to improve literacy among the state's elementary students. The Department of Education notes more than 3,300 individuals are already enrolled in the Lexia LETRS courses, with more cohorts opening for 2024. The training covers various aspects of reading education, including phonics and phonology, and is unique in its inclusivity, being open to all adults involved in children's education, such as parents and homeschool instructors. Funded by federal Covid relief funds, the program sees participation from more than 80 school districts.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *The report said this initiative responds to concerns about declining reading scores and the use of outdated teaching methods in the state. New Hampshire's reading and math scores have been falling since peaking in 2013, with current data showing about half of the state's fourth-graders not proficient in reading, according to the article.*

QOL score: 87

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 87

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Welcome to SKI SEASON

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE SLOPES THIS WINTER

By Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com

As the crisp winter air settles in and the first snowflakes begin to fall, winter sports fans eagerly anticipate the start of the ski season. We talked with Aly Coakley, marketing director of McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester where they kicked off the season on Dec. 9, to get an insider's perspective on gearing up for the winter months.

How are you getting ready for the season?

We have all the snowmaking [processes] on, and our staff is out there at every cold window of opportunity making snow. We have top-to-bottom on the Queen's Trail open, and our beginners' area is also set. We have quite a bit of snow stacked up. We haven't seen a ton of cold snow days, but at this point there's plenty of snow out there for people to get out and enjoy.

What is your expectation for the length of this season?

We're anticipating operating all the way until the end of March. That's usually our

goal. Last March we experienced a "miracle March" with so much snow. We're hoping for the same this year, maybe with more frequent snowstorms throughout the season, so we can keep going through March.

What are the environmental considerations in your snowmaking process? Is that something you have to think about?

Yes, paying attention to the weather is really important because we don't want to be making a lot of wet snow when it's too warm, as it's a waste of electricity and resources. We are very conscious of when and how we operate. Using better snowmaking equipment, like better snow guns and snow fans, allows for more effective operations. It's really important to stay on top of the latest technology to ensure that our environmental impact is as limited as possible.

Do you notice a difference between man-made and natural snow?

One of the big differences with man-made snow is that it's squeaky. The nice thing about natural snow is that it's all caught in the trees, and it just looks beautiful. There's nothing

better than waking up to a powder day with a nicely groomed trail of man-made snow underneath and natural snow on top. That combination makes the perfect powder day.

Are there any special events or unique attractions planned for the upcoming season?

Yes, we have some really cool events coming up. One highlight is our Park Affair event, a women's snowboarding competition that's open to any skiers and riders who identify as she/her/they/them. The first prize is \$5,000, which is a big deal. Park Affair is a great partner, and they'll be here on Sunday, Jan. 14. We'll have everyone from the youngest in our backpack program to really talented athletes who compete in larger competitions. In January, we also have our Gilman race, followed by several other exciting events with great prizes. Then, in March, we have our Little Max Jamboree, which is like a fun race where kids from our snow sports programs participate, dress up in costumes and compete for various prizes, like Best Costume. We also host our pond skim event, where people dress in Hawaiian outfits or any crazy costume they want and skim across a man-made pond we create at the end of the season. Last year we had a big balloon arch, which was wild. At the end of March we have the Vertical Challenge, a fun, free race. Participants who perform well can win tickets to go to Jay Peak for the finals. Alongside these, we have ongoing programs like our learn-to-ski and Tuesday night adult race league. Another popular program is our One Great Race, where for \$68 you can ski, snowboard, snow tube, take lessons, and it includes rentals. This program starts in January and has become hugely popular.

How does McIntyre engage with the local community or collaborate with other ski areas?

We collaborate quite a bit with other ski areas. Through Ski New Hampshire, which is our collective, we work together to address any issues we're facing as a group. In addition to that, we engage in a lot of reciprocal activities. We're part of the Freedom Pass program, which is included with our junior or adult season passes. This offers 30 free days on the mountain at any of the Freedom Pass partner locations. We've also partnered with



Photo courtesy of McIntyre Ski Area.

places like Pats Peak, Plattekill in New York, Ragged Mountain and Great Glen Trails. All these partners offer different ticket options to our passholders, which is a fantastic benefit for those skiing at McIntyre. If they're going on a ski vacation up north, they can check out Great Glen Trails or visit Ragged Mountain. We all work together to ensure that skiers get great value from their investment in our passes.

Looking ahead, are there any new technologies or innovations you're considering to enhance future ski seasons?

We're always looking to enhance our facilities and have a wish list of upgrades and what's actually feasible. We're considering RFID options and new lift technologies. Upgrades in snowmaking and the system itself, beyond just the fans, are on our radar. We're also focusing on expanding our programs in ways that are affordable for families but also cater to their varying needs. We've added a new rental fleet of snowboards from Burton and are looking to expand the snowboard line in our retail shop. Our seasonal lease program has grown with additional perks for those opting for seasonal rentals. We're staying on top of what consumers and our guests are looking for, as well as what makes sense for McIntyre. In the lodge, one small but significant change is adding a water bottle refill station. As a mom with two kids, I find it hugely convenient to fill up water bottles right there. We're doing these small things where we can, and then tackling bigger projects as they fit into our budget. The biggest future enhancement from my perspective would be implementing RFID technology, not just for smoothing operations but for our hill as well. This would reduce lines at the ticket counter and provide a more accurate count of guests going up and down the hill, among other benefits.

Snow making

President and general manager Ross Boisvert

Can you explain the technology and process involved in making man-made snow and its impact on activities like skiing, snowboarding and tubing?

Our system includes an air system and a fan gun system, which is water to our fan guns. These fan guns are state-of-the-art, pretty new within the last three to five years. They have onboard weather stations that measure temperature, barometric pressure, humidity and wet bulb temperature. This allows the guns to give us readings to operate them at their highest capacity. The colder and drier the air, the more snow we can make. For instance, last night, when [the temperature] was in the teens, we had much better productivity compared to the night before, which was evident just walking in from one morning to the next. Warmer temperatures and higher humidity decrease the productivity of snowmaking.

When we turned one of the guns on last night, which we had shut off during the day, we made more snow in an hour than we did all of the previous night. This morning we

walked into about a 10-foot pile at the base, compared to a couple of inches the night before. So we had a very productive night versus a very expensive night with low productivity previously.

We run fan guns, which look like cannons. They have big fans that push out air and water molecules, with onboard compressors that provide compressed air to help make the snow. Essentially, there's what's called a nucleus that puts out a bead of water. As more water is added, those crystals bond with other water molecules, creating snow quickly. Man-made snow has more density than natural snow. If you compare a pile of natural snow and a pile of man-made snow under a burner, the natural snow would melt quicker due to its lower density. Natural snow is smoother and quieter to ski on, but if we didn't have snowmaking abilities in this day and age, ski resorts really wouldn't exist. We rely heavily on our snowmaking system and, more importantly, our snowmakers, our staff that's out there at all hours of the night, making sure the guns are running efficiently. It's always great to go and hug a snowmaker.

WHERE TO SKI

Here are some of the New Hampshire spots to hit the slopes. Did we miss your favorite? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.

Abenaki Ski Area

390 Pine Hill Road, Wolfeboro
Hours of operation: Regular: Wednesday through Friday 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Holiday/Vacation: Dec. 26 through Jan. 1: Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; New Year's Eve: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; New Year's Day: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; MLK Day and Presidents Day: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Pricing:
 • Day passes: kiddie tow \$5, resident \$8, non-resident \$16, resident (weekend, holiday, vacation) \$10, non-resident (weekend, holiday, vacation) \$20
 • Season passes: youth \$50/\$100, senior (55+) \$50/\$100, adult \$75/\$150, family \$250/\$375 (resident/non-resident rates)
 • Rentals available
More info: 569-5639, wolfboro-nh.us/abenaki-ski-area

Attitash Mountain Resort
 775 Route 302, Bartlett

Hours of operation: weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; weekends and holidays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pricing: Pricing and availability are date-specific; visit the resort website for the most up-to-date lift ticket pricing
More info: 223-7669, attitash.com

Bear Notch Ski Touring Center
Where: 1573 Route 302, Bartlett
Hours of operation: Open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pricing:
 • Lift: adult \$22/day, junior (age 16 & under) free with a paying adult; senior (age 65+) \$20/day.
 • Season passes: adult \$195, senior \$175
 • Rentals: skis/snowshoes \$23/day; skate skis \$28/day
 • Lessons: private instruction \$50, group lessons adult \$60 adult, child \$40
More info: 374-2277, bearnotchskitouring.com

Black Mountain

Where: 373 Black Mountain Road, Jackson
Hours of operation:
 • Monday, Thursday and Friday (non-holiday) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holiday periods 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday periods include Dec. 26 through Jan. 1; Jan. 13 through Jan. 15; Feb. 17 through Feb. 25

Pricing:

• Adult (18-64) weekend and holiday \$91, weekday \$71; Junior (6-17) weekend and holiday \$65, weekday \$55; senior (65+) weekend and holiday \$60, weekday \$60; tot (5 and under) free.
 • Surface lift: \$25
 • After 2 p.m. ski free with purchase of full-price next-day ticket
 • Locals ski on Sunday afternoon for \$25 (with valid ID from specific counties)
 • Group sales: Special rates available, contact for more information
More info: 383-4490, blackmt.com

Bretton Woods

Where: 99 Ski Area Road, Bretton Woods
Hours of operation: Through Dec. 21, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; starting Dec. 22, Friday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pricing:
 • Lift tickets: Early season (before Dec. 22): adults \$91 to \$109, teens \$72 to \$82, juniors \$52 to \$62, seniors \$42 to \$105; Regular season (after Dec. 22): adults \$111 to \$139, teens \$72 to \$92, juniors \$52 to \$72, seniors \$42 to \$124
 • Season passes available for purchase with various options and benefits, including discounts at

resort retail shops and unlimited use of certain lifts

More info: 278-3320, brettonwoods.com

Cannon Mountain

Where: 260 Tramway Drive, Franconia

Hours of operation: Depends on Mountain Report; see website

Pricing:
 • Lift tickets: adult (18-64) \$96 to \$111, teen (13-17)/college \$83 to \$98, military \$58 to \$73
 • Two-day lift tickets: adult \$177 to \$192, teen/college \$151 to \$166, military \$101 to \$116
 • Season passes: Adult Cannon Pass starts at \$591, prices vary with purchase date and age categories
More info: 823-8800, cannonmt.com

Crotched Mountain Ski Area

Where: 615 Francestown Road, Bennington

Hours of operation: Sunday to Monday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pricing: Daily lift tickets: junior (7-17) weekday \$70, weekend \$84; adult (18-64) weekday \$80, weekend \$94; senior (65+ years) weekday \$70, weekend \$84
More info: 588-3668 or visit crotchedmt.com

Gunstock Mountain Resort

Where: 719 Cherry Valley Road,



Photo courtesy of McIntyre Ski Area.

Gilford

Hours of operation: weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pricing:

• Season passes: child (0-5) \$49, junior (6-22) \$599, adult (23-59) \$899, senior (60-69) \$599
 • Daily lift tickets: junior weekday \$63, weekend \$75; adult weekday \$87, weekend \$99; senior weekday \$63, weekend \$75

More info: 293-4341, gunstock.com

Loon Mountain Resort

Where: 60 Loon Mountain Road, Lincoln

Hours of operation: Non-holiday Monday through Friday lifts open at 9 a.m.; Saturday, Sunday and holidays lifts open at 8 a.m.

Individual lift closure times vary. Check the Mountain Report for times.

Pricing:

• Season passes: child (0-5) \$30, junior (6-18) \$919, adult (19-64) \$1,449, senior (65-79) \$1,099
 • Daily lift tickets: junior weekday \$59, weekend \$89; adult weekday \$71, weekend \$107; senior weekday \$63, weekend \$95

• Two-day pass: junior \$102, adult \$123, senior \$108

More info: 745-8111 or loomtn.com

McIntyre Ski Area

Where: 50 Chalet Way, Manchester

Hours of operation: full day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; night 4 to 9 p.m.; half-day morning 9 a.m. to 2

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Pricing:

- Season passes: adult (18-64) \$439; junior (4-17) \$419; senior (65+) \$35; toddler (age 3 & under) free with purchase of an adult season pass (special offer: buy two junior passes and get up to two adult season passes at \$179 each)

- Special tickets \$68 for 3:30-to-9 p.m. ticket (includes skiing, snowboarding, tubing, rentals) \$58 for 5:30 p.m.+ until 9 p.m.

- Lesson tips are available from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.; après ski with live music, hot cocoa and cash bar.

More Info: 622-6159 or mcintyreskiarea.com



Snow tubing at McIntyre Ski Area. Courtesy photo.

under) \$18

- Weekday, non-holiday lift tickets: adult (18-64) \$76 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), prices range from \$66 to \$79 for other time slots; junior (6-17) and senior (65+) \$62 to \$69 depending on time slot and area; child (5 & under) free Monday through Thursday, \$18 Friday

- Valley Area lift tickets (weekend/holiday and weekday, non-holiday) adult/junior/senior \$62

- Bluster Area lift tickets (weekend/holiday and weekday, non-holiday) adult/junior/senior \$39

- Beginner Area lift tickets: Friday/weekend/holiday \$39 (adult/junior/senior), Monday through Thursday, non-holiday free

More info: 428-3245 or visit pat-speak.com

Ragged Mountain Resort

Where: 620 Ragged Mountain Road, Danbury

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pricing:

- Lift tickets (window rates): adult (13-64) \$99 to \$119; junior (6-12) \$72 to \$89; senior (65-79) \$72 to \$89

- Half-day tickets (noon to 4 p.m.): adult (13-64) \$59 to \$69;

- junior (6-12) \$49 to \$59; senior (65-79) \$45 to \$55

- Advance rates also available

More info: 768-3600 or ragged-mountainresort.com

Waterville Valley Resort

Where: 1 Ski Area Road, Waterville Valley

Hours of operation:

- Through Jan. 15: weekdays 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; weekends and holidays 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Jan. 15 to mid-March: weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; weekends and holidays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Mid-March to Closing Day: weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; weekends and holidays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pricing:

- Adult (18-64) lift tickets: full day \$116, half day \$106, two-day pack \$204, three-day pack \$288

- Teen (13-17)/college/military lift tickets: full day \$106, half day \$96, two-day pack \$181, three-day pack \$255

- Junior (6-12)/senior (65+) lift tickets: full day \$96, half day \$86, two-day pack \$159, three-day pack \$222

- Tyke (5 & under)/80+ lift tickets: full day, half day, two-day pack, three-day pack: free

More info: 800-468-2553, waterville.com



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Mount Sunapee

Where: 1398 Route 103, Newbury

Hours of operation: weekends and holidays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; midweek 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pricing: Daily lift tickets for child (5-12) weekday \$64, weekend \$69; adult (13-64) weekday \$95, weekend \$103; senior (62+) weekday \$76, weekend \$82. Two-day pass for child \$128, adult \$190, senior \$152

More info: 763-3500, mountsunapee.com

Pats Peak

Where: 686 Flanders Road, Heniker

Hours of operation:

Pats Peak plans to be open daily until 4 p.m. Night skiing starts on Dec. 26.

Pricing:

- Weekend/holiday lift tickets: adult (18-64) \$95 (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), \$85 (12:30 p.m. to close), \$72 (4 p.m. to close); junior (6-17) and senior (65+) \$85, \$75, \$62 respectively; child (5 &

Winter forecast

Derek Schroeter, a meteorologist at the U.S. National Weather Service office in Gray, Maine, which covers weather predictions for northern New Hampshire, offered what insights he could into the winter 2023-2024 season, emphasizing, first, the uncertainty in long-term snowfall predictions.

“We cannot make any definitive predictions on snowfall,” he said.

The NWS is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA’s role is to provide weather forecasts up to a week in advance, Schroeter said, and while the Climate Prediction Center offers seasonal outlooks, it focuses mainly on temperature and precipitation trends rather than specific snowfall predictions. For the December to February period, “Northern New England is likely to experience above-normal temperatures, with equal chances for precipitation,” Schroeter said.

These forecasts are influenced by El Niño conditions in the Pacific, he said, typically leading to warmer temperatures in the northern U.S.

Despite the general trend, however, Schroeter recalls that past El Niño events have sometimes led to above-normal snowfall in New Hampshire.

“Statistically, the majority of El Niño events favor below-normal snowfall, but this does not rule out the possibility of this El Niño event leading to above-normal or near-normal snowfall,” he said.

Regarding the potential for repeat snow events, Schroeter noted the current absence of a favorable storm track, but remains optimistic.

“It’s too hard to pin down at this time range,” he said, “but typically, every winter, even in below-normal snowfall years, we tend to get into a favorable pattern for snowstorms that can lead to at least a short window of good skiing.”

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Elan Wildcat CX	158/86	\$1,000	\$325
Elan Ripstick	170/88	\$1,200	\$349
Elan Ripstick	180/96	\$1,200	\$399
Elan Wildcat Black Edition	164/86	\$1,400	\$399
Rossingol Expeince	159/82	\$749	\$299
Rossingol Expeince	167/82	\$749	\$299
Adult Mens			
Elan Playmaker	180/101	\$1,100	\$399
Elan Ripstick	180/108	\$1,000	\$450
Elan Ripstick	180/88	\$1,000	\$450
Elan Ripstick	178/88	\$1,000	\$450
Elan Ripstick	180/96	\$780	\$399
Elan Wingman Black Edition	178/94	\$1,300	\$399
Elan Wingman Black Edition CT	178/86	\$1,400	\$425

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Art of all kinds

Art 3 Gallery in Manchester explores the power of art with current exhibit

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Art 3 Gallery's final exhibition of 2023, "The Power of Art," on display through Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, showcases the art of 60 to 70 artists, from paintings and photographs to sculptures and mixed media.

"Twice a year we try to come up with an innovative idea for an art exhibit that is broad and representational enough to encompass all the artists that we carry," said Sue Jones of Art 3 Gallery. "We don't want to just focus on landscapes, or portraits or things that have people ... or animals in them, so we try to pick themes that are very broad and would cover a lot of different artists' artwork, so this particular one [is] called The Power of Art."

About 200 artists, local, national and international, show their art at the gallery.

"The Power of Art" at Art 3 Gallery

When: On display through Monday, Jan. 15. Gallery hours are 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

Where: 44 W Brook St., Manchester

Among them is Mary Graham, whose oil paintings "Vesper Light I" and "Vesper Light II" are featured in the show.

"My grandmother, when I was 8 years old, gave me a set of oils and I have been studying art ever since," she said. "I have a bachelor's in fine arts [and] I was a set designer and costume designer before going into fine art full-time, but I've been doing oil painting for the last 20 years or so exclusively. I've done some watercolor and drawing but primarily oil painting."

When her grandparents retired and bought a farm in New Hampshire, she realized it was where she was meant to be. After living in various cities, being originally from Manhattan, and having her first daughter, she finally made the move, drawing artistic inspiration from the mountains.

"I like to paint from high up rather than looking up at them," Graham said. "I like to hike and look down from them. I love the space, the air, the contemplative feeling that I get looking out over the summits and being in places that are unlike any other place on Earth."

Pre-pandemic, Art 3 Gallery would



"Vesper Light" by Mary Graham. Courtesy photo.

have live openings on Thursday nights. Now they post video walkthroughs of the gallery on their website and social media pages. You can also stop by the gallery to see the exhibition on weekdays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Other artists featured in the exhibition are Sunil Howlader, an artist from Bangladesh whose works, made from various media like oil and acrylic paints and pastels, are on display in Asia, North America, Europe and Australia; modern impres-



"Vesper Light II" by Mary Graham. Courtesy photo.

sionist Stan Moeller; and Patti Davis Ganek, a painter influenced by abstract expressionism.

"I paint primarily out of my love for this part of the world," Graham said. "Northeast New Hampshire's mountains is, I think, one of the most beautiful places I've ever been, and that's why I live here and that's why I paint, sketch, and draw and work with these mountain landscapes." 🌲

Art

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.

• **NASHUA** The Nashua Holiday

Craft & Vendor Festival Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Eagles Wing Bingo Hall at 10 Spruce St. in Nashua, according to the Bazaar Craft Fairs Facebook post.

• **MANCHESTER** New England Vendor Events will host a Manchester Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Club Canadian (128 S. Main St. in Manchester) featuring pictures with Santa and the Grinch, according to a post at facebook.com/nevendorevents.

Exhibits

• **"SMALL WORKS — BIG IMPACT"** at Creative Venture Gallery (411 Nashua St. in Milford; creativeventuresfineart.com, 672-2500). The show features work in a variety of media from more than 30 area artists and most pieces are smaller than 12 inches in diameter, according to a press release. The gallery is open 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., according to the website.

• **WINTER MEMBERS SHOW** The Two Villages Art Society will host its 2023 Winter Members Show and Sale through Dec. 23 at 846 Main St. in Contoocook. 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.

• **"ABSTRACTION IN THE CURRIER COLLECTION"** at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144), which will "feature 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 (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144). 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 Salavatore 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. The Currier is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (as well as from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays as part of Art After Work, when admission is free) and admission costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for 65+, \$15 for students, \$5 for ages 13 to 17, and children 12 and under get in free.

• **"SCHOOL OF PARIS PRINTS"** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) presents "School of Paris Prints from a New Hampshire Collection." "A New Hampshire collector's passion for 20th century European modernism resulted in a life-long pursuit of acquiring great works on paper by Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Rouault, Braque, and many others," according to the Currier. 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.

• **CITY EMPLOYEE & FAMIL-**



LAST WEEKEND OF HATBOX'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will close out its run at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord; hatboxnh.com) with shows Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. The show will be the final mainstage production at the Hatbox's Steeplegate Mall

location because Hatbox, along with most of the mall's other tenants, has received notice to leave their space by the end of January 2024, according to hatboxnh.com. The space's final performances after *A Christmas Carol* will be Queen City Improv on Friday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Discovering Magic with Andrew Pinard on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m. Check back with the website for updates on the search for a new venue, the statement said. Tickets for *A Christmas Carol* cost \$25 for adults, \$22 for students, seniors and members, and \$19 for senior members.

Erik Hodges as Scrooge. Courtesy photo.

ARTS

LY ART SHOW The Manchester Arts Commission's City Employee & Family Art Show is on display now at City Hall (1 City Hall Plaza in Manchester, just off Elm Street). The exhibit, which will run through Nov. 30, features works by dozens of artists — photos, paintings, ceramics and more, according to a press release.

• **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 be available for sale.

• **"SLEIGHBELL STUDIO"** Twiggs Gallery (254 King St., Boscawen) presents the annual "Sleighbell Studio" holiday showcase through Saturday, Dec. 16, and will feature a diverse range of local fine art and crafts priced for gifting. Visit twiggs-gallery.wordpress.com.

• **"DINE"** The Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St. in Exeter; seacoastartist.org) presents "Dine," featuring the works of artist Debra Woodward, which are oil paintings featuring diners enjoying eateries around the Seacoast, according to a press release. The show will be on display through Sunday, Dec. 24; through Christmas Eve (when the gallery will be open 1 to 4 p.m.), the gallery will be open daily, the

release said.

• **"WONDERS OF WATER-COLOR"** The Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St. in Exeter; seacoastartist.org) presents watercolorist Gwen Morgan in "Wonders of Watercolor." The show will be on display through Sunday, Dec. 24; through Christmas Eve (when the gallery will be open 1 to 4 p.m.), the gallery will be open daily, the release said.

• **POP-UP ART SHOW** Artists Charlotte Thibault and Byron Carr will have a pop-up art show running through Dec. 29, according to an email. The show will feature New Hampshire landscape paintings and take place at the old CVS, 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).

• **"BIG GIFTS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES"** The Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St., Exeter) presents a monthly themed group show. November and December they will be presenting "Big Gifts Come in Small Packages," in which artists are challenged to create beautiful and affordable work that customers can purchase for no more than \$100. The Seacoast Art Association is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Visit seacoastartist.org.

• **DEIRDRE CLEARY**, Auburn artist, 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) through Friday, Jan. 12, according to a press release.

• **"CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE"** at the New Hampshire Antique Co-Op (323 Elm St. in Milford; 673-8499; nhantiquecoop.com) is featuring pieces from the late 1800s to the present, highlighting The White Mountain School, the Dublin Art Colony and the Hudson River School, according to a press release. The exhibit is on display through Jan. 31. The Co-op is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"WHERE PAINTERLY ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONVERGE"** at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust (321 Main St. in New London) features 15 paintings and one sculpture displayed with photographs used as reference images, according to a press release. The exhibit will hang at Bar Harbor Bank for three months and will feature the works of 12 painters and four photographers, the release said.

Theater

Shows

• **DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at the Hatbox Theatre (Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord) 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.

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DANCE!

The Palace Youth Theatre will hold two dance master classes for ages 12 and up at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester). A Musical Theater Dance Masterclass with Jenna Bienvenue, a PYT alum and the current Ghost of Christmas Past, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. A Jazz Dance Masterclass with Sebastian Goldberg, the director of dance, will be held on Friday, Dec. 22, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost for each class is \$20. Contact meganquinn@palacetheatre.org for information on how to sign up.

The Aaron Tolson Dance Institute's Winter Intensive will be held Saturday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Dana Center at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive in Manchester; tickets.anselm.edu). Take one class in hip-hop, ballet, tap, modern or contemporary dance for \$30, or take five for a full day of classes for \$120. See the website for the schedule. *Aaron Tolson in courtesy image.*

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ARTS

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 start at \$28.

• **THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA!** at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth) through Dec. 20, with performances on Wednesdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. The apocalyptic holiday tale is a comedic take on Santa's marital woes and is recommended for "grownups who want a naughty giggle," according to the website. Viewer discretion is advised. Tickets cost \$37 to \$62. Visit seacoastrep.org or call 433-4793.

• **MATILDA** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; 433-4472, seacoastrep.org) will present the musical *Matilda* through Saturday, Dec. 23, with showtimes most Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth) presents *A Christmas Carol* through Dec. 23, with showtimes on Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., with an additional performance on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$31 for adults, \$28 for students and seniors and \$18 for children under 12. Visit playersring.org/shows/carol-23.

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** The Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester) presents *A Christmas Carol* from through Dec. 23, with showtimes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. and additional performances on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets range from

\$22 to 32. Visit rochesteropera-house.com.

• **HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR** Peacock Players present the *Holiday Spectacular* at Court Street Theatre (14 Court St., Nashua). This musical cabaret features holiday favorites and musical theater classics. The shows are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. Visit peacockplayers.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Northeastern Ballet Theatre performs *The Nutcracker* at the Paul Creative Arts Center (30 Academic Way, Durham) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$17.50 for students and children. Visit northeasternballet.org.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Ballet Misha presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 and 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$30 for children under 18. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** Safe Haven Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 for adults and \$40 for students and seniors. Visit safehavenballet.org/events for more info.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** New England School of Dance presents *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theater at Pinkerton Academy (5 Pinkerton St., Derry). Tickets cost \$32.50. Visit facebook.com/newenglandschoolofdance.

• **THE NUTCRACKER** The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (14 Canterbury Road, Concord). Tickets can be purchased at the door or in

advance at the studio (183 Londonderry Turnpike). There will be an additional performance on Sunday, Dec. 27, at 6 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the box office or online at palacetheatre.org.

• **ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; 433-4472, seacoastrep.org) will present a live production of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* — costumes encouraged (see website for rules) on Monday, Dec. 25, at 11:59 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 31, at 11:59 p.m.

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Includes classical, folk, heritage, pops, American songbook and other musical events.

Events

• **A CHARLIE BROWN JAZZ CHRISTMAS** Eric Mintel Quartet: A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org).

• **CELTIC HOLIDAY** The Manchester Community Music School will present a faculty show on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. — "A Celtic Holiday" featuring Aubrie Dionne (flute), Erin Dubois (flute and piccolo), Kylie Elliot (flute) and Rose Hinkle (flute), according to a press release. The show is free with preregistration, which is required. See mcmusicsschool.org.

• **IRISH CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA** will take place on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). It features music by master fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada as well as photo backdrops, history and humor that celebrates Irish culture during the holiday season. Tickets are \$45. Call 641-7700 or visit anselm.edu/dana-center-humanities.

• **HOLIDAY BRASS** Symphony NH Holiday Brass on Thursday,

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CALL TO ARTISTS



The Londonderry Arts Council is holding an open call for the 2024 Library Artist Program to artists in all media — painting, sculpture, photography and more, according to a press release. The pieces will be displayed on nine easels (or in locked cases for 3D items) for one month at the Leach Library, the release said. Apply by submitting digital images of works along with a brief artist's biographical statement to the Londonderry Arts Council at londonderryartscouncil.org/featuredartist. Email artscouncil@londonderry.com for more information.

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Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-9300, theparktheatre.org).

• **CELTIC CHRISTMAS** A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa on Friday, Dec. 15, at 5 and 8 p.m. via The Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com) at the Orchard Chapel (143 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls).

• **CELTIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS** Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy Present: A Celtic Family Christmas on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com).

• **TUBA CHRISTMAS** 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, sopsaphones, euphoniums and baritones, according to the website. The concert is free and open to the public. If you play a tuba, sopsaphone, 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 information on participating, contact Hailley McConnell at hailley@mcmusicschool.org or 644-4548, ext. 208.

• **WINDHAM 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.

• **CAROL SING** The Orchard Chapel Candlelight Carol Sing on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. and on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m. via The Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com) at the Orchard Chapel (143 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls).

• **SINGER FRANCO CORSO** will present "Christmas with Franco Corso" at Fulchino Vineyard (187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis, 438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.

• **HOLIDAY POPS** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra's Holiday Pops concert at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem) is on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students. Visit nhphil.org.

• **CHORAL SOCIETY'S STARRY NIGHT** The Manchester Choral Society will hold its winter concert Starry Night featuring "Stella Natalis" by Karl Jenkins along with a selection of holiday pops at First Congregational Church (508 Union St., Manchester), with performances on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and military, while students from kindergarten

to undergraduate level can attend free of charge. Visit mcsnh.org.

• **CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS** The Heather Pierson Trio with A Charlie Brown Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-9300, theparktheatre.org).

• **FREESE BROTHERS BIG BAND** presents "Swinging Into the Holidays" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-9300, theparktheatre.org).

• **AMERICANA HOLIDAYS** Home for the Holidays with Session Americana with Eleanor Buckland on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. via The Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com) at the Orchard Chapel (143 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls).

• **WIND SYMPHONY'S WHITE CHRISTMAS** at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester) on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.. The performance will showcase a variety of traditional and new arrangements celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and the new year, with vocal accompaniment and a full cinematic display. Tickets are \$20 for adults, with free admission for children under age 12 (ticket still required). Visit rochesteroperahouse.com.

• **IRISH CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA** on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-9300, theparktheatre.org).

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HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

Safe Haven Ballet (safehavenballet.org) presents *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$28. *Courtesy photo.*



NUTCRACKER BY CANDLELIGHT

"Candlelight: Holiday Special featuring *The Nutcracker* and more" on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org). Tickets to the 6 p.m. show cost \$45 to \$60; tickets to the 8 p.m. show cost \$43 to \$60. *Courtesy photo.*

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Accessing the junk in your trunk should be an easy fix

CAR TALK



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2011 Cadillac CTS, and my trunk will not open with the remote button inside the car or with the key fob.

When I use the buttons, I can hear it clicking at the latch.

Can you tell me what's wrong? Thanks. — Rick

Well, we can approach this problem using the process of elimination, Rick. How'd you like to eliminate this CTS and buy a newer car?

No, I'm kidding. This is fixable. Because you can hear clicking when you use the key fob (or the remote trunk release inside the car), we know that there's power getting to the latch. It's trying to do its job. That's good.

The way these things work is that the latch hooks and unhooks itself around a stationary "striker." Either the latch or the striker is attached to the trunk lid, and its mate is attached to the body of the car, just inside the trunk opening.

When you hit the trunk-open button on your key fob, it signals the latch to open and release itself from the striker. So, one of two things is happening. Either the latch is not opening fully enough, or the latch and striker are out of alignment.

The best place to take this is a body shop, Rick. They screw up the installation of trunk lids and lift gates all the time, so they're really good at fixing these problems.

If you ask a body mechanic there to look at it for you, he can activate the latch with your key fob while the trunk lid is open. And he can watch it, and see if it's opening fully.

If it's not, it may be a simple matter of lubricating it. If the latch is opening fully, then the way the two parts meet may be out of alignment. So, either the trunk lid itself or one of the two parts needs to be adjusted.

If the body shop guy can't see how it's misaligned from the outside, he can always climb in through the back seats with a flashlight and a meatball sub and watch how the trunk closes, and see how

the two parts are lining up.

Either way, this shouldn't be hard to fix, Rick. And I'm confident that in short order, you'll be able to get to your bowling shoes again.

Dear Car Talk:

You had a reader write in recently about a 2002 Saturn with air only coming from the defroster vents.

I had a 2000 Chevy Astro with the same problem. It started right after the dealer serviced it. The dealer told me it could cost \$1,000 or more to take the dash apart. A year later, I took the car to an independent repair shop for regular service and asked about the air problem. The mechanic said it was probably a disconnected vacuum line. It was. He didn't charge me to fix it. Could that be the Saturn's problem, too? — Dean

I don't think so. Fortunately, it's been a long time since I've worked on a 2002 Saturn ventilation system, so the memories — and the trauma — have faded.

But I don't think that particular car used vacuum motors for its blend doors. While some cars use vacuum motors

to control their duct flaps, I believe the 2002 Saturn used a servo, stepping motor.

So, a disconnected vacuum line shouldn't have affected the vent system on that car. It could have caused other problems, though, like making the car idle poorly. And if someone reported to me that their ventilation doors were behaving strangely, and their car was idling poorly, I would put "vacuum leak" on the list of things to check for.

You were fortunate, Dean. The guy with the Saturn — Tom — probably got the same \$1,000 "take the dashboard apart" estimate, and in his case, some poor mechanic had to spend a full day, upside down, with his head in the footwell and 20-year-old crud falling into his eyes.

But it was good thinking, Dean. You're not wrong in your logic. You just haven't owned a 2002 Saturn. I'm sure Tom would be happy to remedy that for you if you're interested.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

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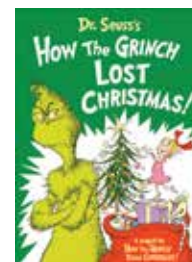
Family fun for whenever

It's a party!

• Catch **Mr. Aaron Holiday Party** on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; cconh.com). Tickets cost \$13.75. Mr. Aaron (mraaronmusic.com) is described as "a multi-instrumentalist performer and composer making music and videos for kids and their grownups," according to the venue's website.

• The cast of the Palace Theatre's **A Christmas Carol** will attend the storytime at Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St. in Manchester; bookerymht.com) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go online to reserve a spot for this free event.

• Enjoy a **Grinch-centric storytime** at Balin Books (375 Amherst St. in Nashua; balin-books.com) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m. Both the original *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and the new sequel *How the Grinch Lost Christmas* will be read and the event will feature hot cocoa, cookie decorating and crafts, according to the website.



Still a lot of Nutcracker

• Ballet Misha presents **The Nutcracker** on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 and 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$30 for children under 18. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online.

• Safe Haven Ballet performs **The Nutcracker** at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45 for adults and \$40 for students and seniors. Visit safehavenballet.org/events for more info.

• New England School of Dance presents **The Nutcracker** on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. at the Stockbridge Theater at Pinkerton Academy (5 Pinkerton St., Derry). Tickets cost \$32.50. Visit facebook.com/newenglandschoolofdance.

• The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (14 Canterbury Road, Concord). Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the studio (183 Londonderry Turnpike). There will be an additional performance on Sunday, Dec. 27, at 6 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the box office or online at palacetheatre.org.

Holiday on screen

• **Elf** (PG, 2003) will screen on Friday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Flying Monkey in Plymouth (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com).

• **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) will screen Saturday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. at Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org)

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
What can you tell me about these tiny drink umbrellas? They have tags on them that say 'Made in Japan.'

Thanks.
George



Dear George,
I can start by saying I remember going to Asian restaurants and begging my mom for one in my milk!

These novelty drink umbrellas were very popular mid-century. Yours were made in Japan, but they were invented in Hawaii. They started off to provide shade in a drink so the ice wouldn't melt too quickly. They were perfect-size accents for Barbies and other similar dolls.

The value on them original with the

bands seems to be under \$2. A box full like you have is probably in the \$30 range. Priceless, though, for the memories!

Thanks for sharing, George, and have fun with them.

Donna Welch has spent more than 35 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing. Her new location is an *Antique Art Studio* located in Dunbarton, NH where she is still 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.

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- Group Exercise Classes including Zumba, Yoga, aqua exercises and functional training systems
- Swim Lessons
- Fitness and Wellness Programs
- Adult Sports and Leagues
- Art, Music and Dance Programs



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ON THE JOB

GEORGIA BRUST LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

Georgia Brust is a landscape designer with her own company, The Floral Hound, based in Salem.

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

I am the owner and designer of The Floral Hound, a landscape design and fine gardening company. I meet with clients, walk the property and get a feel for the space and what they're envisioning. From there, I create beautiful yet sustainable outdoor spaces.

How long have you had this job?

The Floral Hound celebrated its official one-year anniversary in June 2023.

What led you to this career field and

your current job?

Growing up, my father had beautiful gardens all around our yard where he would always be working, so naturally I was always doing something in the yard. In 2016 I started working at Canobie Lake Park on the grounds crew and absolutely fell in love with gardening, maintenance and the design aspect of things.

What kind of education or training did you need?

In 2019 I started studying at NHTI. In 2021 I graduated with my degree in Landscape and Environmental Design. In fall of

2020, I took part in the UNH Extension Natural Resource Stewardship program. I learned a lot of neat little tips and tricks, but the best training is getting out and just doing the job.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

My beloved Timberland hiking boots that I've had for years, a long-sleeve shirt, and you can almost always find me in a pair of black leggings (Lululemon to be exact — I've tried a lot of leggings and these are one of the only brands that stand up to the demands of the job).

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

Mother Nature. A large part of my job is figuring out how to roll with her punches...

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

I wish I had invested in some kind of wrist and back brace.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

I wish others knew how rewarding the



Georgia Brust. Courtesy photo.

job actually is. I love creating something beautiful for a client that is living and will hopefully live for many years to come.

What was the first job you ever had?

Scooping ice cream at Find-eisen's Ice Cream in Salem when I was 15. I was still practicing getting my license, so my father would drive me to work.

His payment: ice cream at the end of my shifts.

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

A dear friend had told me once 'The devil is in the details.' ... Don't overlook the small things. — Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: I'm a sucker for the *Twilight* series.

Favorite movie: I'm sure you can guess from my favorite book

Favorite music: Folk-pop

Favorite food: Anything sweet

Favorite thing about NH: I love the ability to enjoy outdoor activities in multiple seasons. My favorite seasons? Fall and stick season.

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News from the local food scene

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

• **New Thai eatery in Plaistow:** After construction-related delays in the summer, the family-owned SaNouk's Local Thai Eatery has opened at 5 Plaistow Road in Plaistow, offering various curries and stir-fries; "appethaizers" such as spring rolls, summer rolls, fried dumplings and crab rangoons; and other dishes. SaNouk's is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Visit sanouks.com.

• **Free wine tasting:** Ambra from Crush Distributors will be at Wine on Main (9 N Main St., Concord) on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. with different wines from all around the world. Stop by for free samples and to purchase.

• **Sip and plant:** Create your own miniature ecosystem with The Knotted Finds at Spyglass Brewing Co. (36 Innovative Way, Nashua) on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 6 p.m. All materials and supplies will be provided as you are guided through the process of creating your own terrarium with three plants, rocks, moss, sand and soil. Each participant will receive a drink ticket for a glass of beer to enjoy during the process. It is \$35 to attend and you must be 21 years or older. Get your tickets at theknottedfinds.com/events.

• **Blankets and beer:** Make a blanket and enjoy a beer with Jill from The Cozy Co. at Pipe Dream Brewing (49 Harvey Road) on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$115 and include materials, the class and a pint of beer. Visit pipedreambrewingnh.com.

• **New Year's Eve party:** Ring in 27 ▶

FOOD

An Italian Christmas

Bedford Village Inn hosts Feast of the Seven Fishes



Tavola di Antipast. Courtesy photo.

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

The halls are decked at Bedford Village Inn with garlands, decor and an upside-down lighted Christmas tree suspended 30 feet high from the ceiling in the Great Hall, where the Inn will host the Feast of the Seven Fishes, an Italian-American celebration, on Thursday, Dec. 21.

"When you enter for the Feast of the Seven Fishes, which is traditionally held on Christmas Eve ... [you're] greeted by ... beautiful holiday decor," said Melissa Samaras, the sales and marketing director at the Bedford Village Inn. "There's courses all including fish that go out into an extended over-indulgent evening of incredible wine and cuisine that is very heavily focused on fish."

While the Feast of the Seven Fishes is not an official tradition or term, and its true origins are not known, eating fish on Christmas Eve could stem from the Roman Catholic tradition of abstaining from eating meat other than fish before communion, according to a post by Bri-

an Trembath on the Denver Public Library website. Sydney Dominick, writing for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, says the tradition comes from Italian immigrants who came to America during the 20th century.

"As the guests are seated for dinner, each course is going to be accompanied with a wine pairing that will complement each item being served," Samaras said. "We change the menu [but] it kind of follows the same prototype in a sense. [There are] certain things you always want to include."

The evening starts with a cocktail hour with passed and stationary hors d'oeuvres such as shrimp cocktail with bloody mary cocktail sauce and lemon, oysters on the half shell with Champagne citrus mignonette, and smoked trout crostini with chives. As per tradition, hors d'oeuvres are followed by a salad, which will be a grilled calamari salad with pickled vegetables, radicchio and arugula. The second course is spaghetti with clam sauce and parsley, followed by the third course of



Torre di Fruitti di Mare. Courtesy photo.

cod puttanesca with herb-roasted Yukon potatoes and green beans with garlic and almonds. Dessert includes assorted cannolis, tiramisu cups, ricotta pie, chocolate mousse and Italian cookies.

"People can vary as to what they offer," Samaras said. "You don't have to stick to any course options; they just have to be fish-focused."

Italian cuisine is special to Jack Carnevale, the owner of Bedford Village Inn.

"[It] goes back to [his] Italian roots. [He] just really [loves to celebrate] and bring that focus and those memories from his childhood..." Samaras said. "This celebration ... is near and dear to him and he wanted to create the event here to share with everyone else. ... It's really special for us to be able to extend those kinds of celebrations here..." 🍷

Feast of the Seven Fishes

When: Thursday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

Where: Great Hall at Bedford Village Inn, 2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford

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Meal on the town

Where to eat on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Looking for someone else to cook a special holiday meal? Here are a few places serving up special eats. Did we miss a spot open on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or serving a special holiday dish? Let us know at food@hippopress.com.

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) is hosting The Feast of the Seven Fishes on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres before a meal of three plated courses, all featuring fish, followed by Italian desserts like ricotta pie, cannolis, tiramisu, cookies and chocolate mousse.

• Through Saturday, Dec. 30, **Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-2581, colbyhillinn.com) will be serving its **Chef's Christmas Cheer Menu** from 4 to 8:30 p.m.; it will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Entrees on the menu include pork wiener schnitzel with cucumber dill salad, sweet and sour red cabbage and french fries (\$40), lobster and scallop pot pie with whipped potatoes and garlic confit (\$54) and ricotta honeynut squash ravioli with broccoli rabe, chanterelle and black trumpet mushrooms and truffle butter (\$40). Rum cake with coconut pineapple ice cream, peppermint panna cotta, apple strudel with whipped cream, an adult cookie tray and Black Forest cake are for dessert.

The Grazing Room will be serving beverages and food like bratwurst and apple strudel during the **Winter Wonderland Barn Market** on Saturday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 17, with local craft food and art vendors. Also that Sunday is **Christmas! High Tea** at 12:30 p.m. with mimosas, Christmas treats, holiday cocktails and punch. It is \$65 per person for this event.

Open Christmas Eve

• **Airport Diner** (2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040, thecman.com) is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Alan's Restaurant** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will serve a three-course prix fixe menu from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the dining room followed by a dessert buffet



and cash bar at the Great Hall. Dinner will also be served at Fondi from 4 to 8 p.m. as well as breakfast from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

• **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, buckleysgreasteaks.com, 424-0995) is taking reservations for Christmas Eve.

• **Chez Vachon** (136 Kelley St., Manchester, 625-9660, chezvachon.com) will be open regular hours.

• **CJ's Great West Grill** (782 S. Willow St., Manchester, 627-8600, cjsgreatwestgrille.com) will be open until 5 p.m.

• **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; Route 104 Diner, 752 Route 104, New Hampton, 744-0120; 61 Laconia Road, Tilton, 286-2204; 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester, 623-5040; thecman.com) is open for dining on Christmas Eve from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at their Lakehouse, Meredith, location, and from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ashland, Concord and Merrimack; Route 104 Diner in New Hampton is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoor.com) is accepting reservations until 8 p.m. and will be open until 10 p.m.

• **CR's The Restaurant** (287 Exeter Road, Hampton, 929-7972, crstherestaurant.com) is taking reservations for Christmas Eve dinner from 4 to 8:30 p.m.



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• **The Derryfield Restaurant** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880, thederryfield.com) will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **Epoch Gastropub** (90 Front St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) is open for Christmas Eve brunch from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **The Farm Bar and Grille** (1181 Elm St., Manchester, 641-3276) is open from noon to 4 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended.

• **Foster's Boiler Room** (231 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2764, thecman.com) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• **Fratello's Italian Grille** (799 Union Ave., Laconia, 528-2022; 155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) will be open until 8 p.m.

• **Friendly Red's Tavern** (22 Haverhill Road, Route 111, Windham, 437-7251; 111 W Broadway, Derry, 404-6606, friendlyredstavern.net) is open until 8 p.m.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daneil Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com/lakehouse-grille) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• **Pasta Loft Restaurant & Brewing Co.** (241 Union Sq., 627-2270, pastaloft.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

• **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) is open for its regular hours on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Concord, 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Londonderry, 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Manchester open 24 hours; Nashua 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.)

• **Surf** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293; 99 Bow St., Portsmouth, 334-9855, surfseafood.com) is taking reservations via phone.

• **T-Bones** (25 S. River Road, Bedford, 641-6100; 404 Main St., Concord; 39

Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave., Laconia; 311 S Broadway, Salem, greatnrestaurants.com) closes at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve at each location.

• Lobster ravioli, salmon, maple sausage pizza and more will be served at **Wild Rose Restaurant** (3351 White Mountain Hwy., North Conway, thewhileroseresaturant.com, 356-3113) on Christmas Eve from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit their website to make your reservation.

• **900 Degrees** (Dow St., Manchester, 641-0900, 900degrees.com) will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will be open until 6 p.m. for gift card sales.

Open Christmas Day

• **Airport 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) is open regular hours on Christmas Day at each location and will be offering a turkey dinner for \$18.99.

• **Lakehouse Grille** (281 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-5221, thecman.com/lakehouse-grille) will be open for breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a special Christmas menu.

• **Salt Kitchen and Bar** (Wentworth by the Sea, 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, opalcollection.com) will have a brunch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Wentworth Ballroom with smoothies, a Belgian waffle station and a carving station. Seats are \$89.95 and \$26.95 for children under 12 years old.

They will also have Christmas dinner from 1 to 10 p.m. with sliced prime beef tenderloin, Scottish salmon, sous vide pork chop and coq au vin chicken. Seats are \$69.95 and \$26.95 for children under 12 years old. Visit their website to make reservations. 🍷

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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH TRACY FITTS



Tracy Fitts. Courtesy photo.

Born and raised in New Hampshire, Tracy Fitts has had experience in the restaurant industry since she was 13 years old working at Golden Acres, a clam shack in Pinardville. Along the way she met Cyndee Williams, who went on to open White Birch Eatery in Goffstown. There Williams asked Fitts to join in, and she is now the executive chef and director of operations.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

There are so many tools, pieces of equipment and people that we need to do what we do. It's all important. I will agree with a lot of the other chefs that a good-quality knife is needed.

I wouldn't mind seeing Lenny Kravitz sitting at my table, but honestly, nothing makes me happier than one of our customers telling me how much they enjoyed their meal. It's why I do this and have done this for 30 years.

What would you have for your last meal?

Anything from Mama Reykjavik in Iceland, an absolutely delicious vegan restaurant with an artsy hippie vibe and the nicest people.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

Our vegan Reuben.

What is your favorite local eatery?

Aside from White Birch — I truly do love coming here — I would say if I am taking a bit of a drive it would be Green Elephant in Portsmouth. For Manchester, it's Restoration Cafe.

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

Restaurants offering alternative menus to include gluten-free and vegan options. It's so great.

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

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Noodle bowls, rice noodles, spicy broth or peanut sauce and lots of fresh veggies. 🍷

Warm Spinach Dip

From Tracy: This dip is a quick crowd-pleaser! All of the ingredients get stirred together and spread into a baking dish. The finishing touch is another layer of cheese. Bake your dip until it's hot and melted, serve with bread, or tortilla or pita chips.

- 8 ounces cream cheese softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 10 ounces fresh spinach leaves
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (save 1/2 cup to sprinkle on the top at the end and melt in the oven)
- 1 Tablespoon chopped parsley

bread, crackers and vegetables for serving cooking spray (spray your dish first to make clean-up easier)

The most important part of making this recipe is to be sure all of the water is removed from your spinach. You can squeeze the spinach between your fingers to remove the liquid, press it in a potato ricer, or wrap the spinach in a few layers of paper towels to wring out all the liquid. You can use frozen spinach or sauté fresh — just make sure to cool it and squeeze dry.

Bake at 350 for 25 to 30 minutes and remove and sprinkle the remaining cheese and place back in the oven for 10 minutes to melt.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 24

the new year at LaBelle Winery in Derry (14 Route 111) from 6 to 10:30 p.m. with a three-course dinner, music by the Freese Brothers Big Band, dancing and a stroll through LaBelle Lights. The first course is crab rangoon, followed by sake-braised short rib and black sesame profiterole. The vegetarian dinner option includes vegetable rangoon and soba noodle bowl. Tickets are \$120 and can

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• **Candles and wine:** Enjoy wine and make 19 custom tealight candles in the scents and colors of your choice with Ross, owner of Candle Tree Soy Candles at Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord) on Tuesday, Jan. 9, and Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person. Sign up at wineonmainnh.com. 🍷

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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Raspberry-Rose Rickey

It's a pretty good party.

There is good jazz playing in the background — Louis Armstrong, and Tony Bennet, and Nina Simone, with a sprinkling of Sinatra. Good stuff, but not distracting, nothing that anyone will have a deep attachment to from high school. Nobody's going to shout, "Hey! Crank that up!" and derail the vibe.

There's a nice blend of guests — obligatory family members, and actual friends you want to spend time with. Interestingly, your college roommate has struck up a friendship with your Uncle Charley with the conspiracy theories. They're both smiling and gesturing wildly, so they seem to have found some common ground.

You don't have a fireplace, but there's a Yule log burning on the TV screen, which also keeps your cousin from switching on the game.

Everyone has brought something for the Yankee swap. You've got a good feeling about this year. You spent all year combing flea markets and yard sales and finally scored a brass sculpture of an exotic dancer with a clock in her belly. She's wrapped inconspicuously in plain brown paper with a tag that says, "Open me. Or not. It's no skin off my nose either way."

Dinner went well — tacos, so everybody got a little bit of what they wanted. There's tres leches cake for dessert. It took a couple of years to convince the family to try it, but now it's become a tradition. A couple of years ago a slightly inebriated cousin spent 15 minutes enthusiastically explaining tres leches to your friend Maria, who grew up in Chiapas.

"It's like CAKE, but it's uh, um —," he said for the third time.

"Wet?" Maria suggested, with a small smile on her face.

"YES! It's CAKE but it's WET!" he half-shouted enthusiastically.

"And cold?" Maria suggested again.

"AND COLD!!!" he agreed, beaming at Maria, filled with goodwill and Budweiser, then staggered off to find a couch.

You have three or four children at the party this year and they are so full of tacos and cake that if it weren't for the promise of presents they'd have fallen asleep by now.

Your mother and her sister are getting



Raspberry-Rose Rickey.
Photo by John Fladd.

along tonight. It's always a toss-up whether they will get along, or end up looking at old family photos, which will remind them of some half-forgotten grudge from the 1970s, and releasing the Drama Kraken.

All in all, it's a pretty good evening, as long as you keep topping off everyone's glass. That's why it's a good idea to make batches of drinks

ahead of time.

For instance:

Raspberry-Rose Rickey

- 1 12-ounce package frozen raspberries
- 1 cup floral gin — I used Uncle Van's and was very pleased
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup fresh squeezed lime juice — about 4 limes
- ¼ teaspoon rose water
- plain seltzer

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Stir to combine, and leave, covered, for an hour at room temperature.

Mash the contents with a potato masher, re-cover, and leave for another hour.

Stir, then strain with a fine-mesh strainer. You will not believe how many seeds raspberries have in them.

In a rocks glass with ice or crushed ice, fill with the raspberry-gin mixture, then top with seltzer. Stir.

Roses and berries have a natural affinity for each other. In this case, the background flavor of roses should add a woody/floral note that will meld with the floral gin. In turn, gin and lime are a classic combination, as are lime and raspberries. The four main ingredients chase each other around and around, tickling your palate.

This is a fairly low-octane, not-too-sweet drink that even your most suspicious relatives will accept. Your actual friends will probably love it.

It's like RASPBERRIES, but WET, with ROSES dunked in it!

It's time to find somewhere to sit.

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

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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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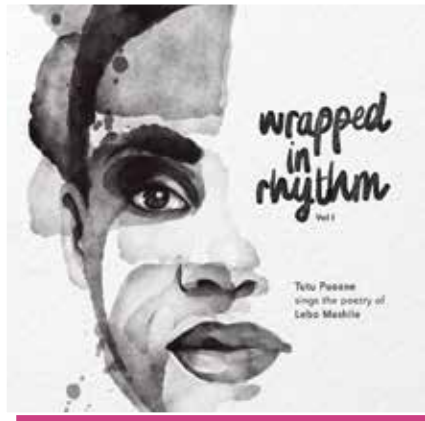
Asha Jefferies, *Ego Ride* (Nettwerk Records)



Debut album from this Australian pop-princess, steeped in queer sensibilities, aimed at the straight-ahead alt-pop demographic that gravitates to Liz Phair and such, and look, it's on the Nettwerk Records label, which always promises goodness. I'm way ahead of the curve on this one, which isn't out until April, but Katy Perry did pretty much the same thing with her first LP, like I was already sick of hearing about her months before her LP came out. I'll leave it to you to grok the parallels there, but in the meantime, this one's a winner from the word go. "Stranger" starts off in a casual Portishead-ish

direction, triple-layered with lazy synths, slow-bonked piano and orchestral statements, and even before Jefferies adds her Sarah McLachlan semi-yodel to it you're already envisioning its future as a roll-credits fadeout to a major movie, something of that sort. The artiste's people want me to talk about the single, "Keep My S—t Together," a master-class mid-tempo chick-rocker a la Sheryl Crow, and so here goes: It's pretty dreamy too. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Tutu Puoane, *Wrapped in Rhythm* (SoulFactory Records)



Another far-in-advance notice that's well worth the wait. Born in Pretoria, South Africa, and a resident of Belgium since the early Aughts, this theatrical singer has collaborated with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Bert Joris, the Flemish Philharmonic, Tineke Postma, John Clayton, Metropole Orkest and Black Lives — from Generation to Generation. Her lilting soprano, which you'll find here nestled among typical smoky room-jazz components like belled trumpets and such, is of the Toni Braxton variety, at least when she's in a more or less post-bop groove, but as well — and this should come as no

shock — she's got a world-music side to her, half-singing about esoteric concepts like the promises the Earth made to her forebears and how she feels them in her feet. This is a lot more advanced than what Braxton fans have become accustomed to over the years, but Braxton is without a doubt the touchstone here. The passages glide and swoop and become more irresistible by the minute. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Ack, ack, I'm supposed to be writing about albums coming out this Friday, Dec. 15, but I'll bet you there aren't any on my go-to critics' cheat sheet! Yup, nope, just one, an LP titled *One Wayne G*, the sixth one from Canadian jangle-pop annoyance **Mac DeMarco**, but since I'd rather go get a root canal than — wait, never mind, he's a cat person, he made a video about his cat, Pickles, who died recently, so in honor of Pickles I'll go check out whatever YouTube has on this album. Huh, looks like he named all this album's songs after the dates he wrote them. Here's one of the dumb things, titled "20180512." It's really mellow and upbeat and he thankfully doesn't sing; it's like what you'd hear if Spyro Gyra wrote an elevator music song for a yoga retreat, so forget all this nonsense, I'll look for something kind of normal at a little-known CD-release-information website called Amazon.com. Well well, the first thing I see is a soundtrack thing, titled *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street 2023 Broadway Cast Recording*. Now I know what you're thinking, you want to watch me predict what I think this album will sound like, as if I'm just here for your entertainment. Well, to heck with it, I'll tell you, I predict it sounds like bad but important-sounding music from a Broadway play that people stopped going to see back in 2011. Et voila, that's exactly it, the same music they played on the super-boring 2007 Stephen Sondheim/Johnny Depp film that was based on Christopher Boyd's 1970 play. Josh Groban sings the Sweeney Todd parts in this one, not that it helps any.

• There are so few new CD releases coming out as the "countdown to Christmas" winds down that I think we may as well just talk about new country & western albums for the remainder of the column, because that's all I'm really seeing. But before that, if you're wondering why you don't have as much fun during Christmas as you did when you were 11, it's probably because the mass media wants you to think there really is a "countdown," like you're not actually having fun or experiencing the joy of camaraderie yet, because the countdown is still going on. Or at least that's what "they" want us to think. The truth is that the journey is the fun part. In fact, when HannuKwanzmas day actually arrives, that's when the fun ends, you know? That's when things really get stressful as you run around trying to get your relatives out of your house, returning gifts and whatever. So enjoy the season, fam, and in the meantime you might consider buying country singer **Riley Green**'s new LP, *Ain't My Last Rodeo*. Green is of course a Jon Pardi wannabe, sounding sort of like Thomas Rhett or a tin-plated Merle Haggard, but at least it's not Rascal Flatts, so count your blessings, cowpokes!

• Sticking with this week's country music tangent, *Earned It* is the new album by **Larry Fleet**, who sounds like every modern male picker-grinner, and plus, he has a ZZ Top beard, at least at this writing. The title track is really bluegrass-y, which I respect, like, if Larry the Cable Guy could hold a tune it'd probably sound like this.

• We'll wrap up this week's horse-ropin', chicken-pluckin', pig-scrablin' column with the new full-length from Nashville's most famous "nepo baby," **Rosanne Cash!** The album is called *The Wheel*, and the title track is actually pretty good, some busy finger-picking guitar-tronica. Imagine Wilson Phillips trying to be seriously country and you'd be in the ballpark. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

NOTE: Local (NH) bands seeking album or EP reviews can message me on Twitter (@esaeger) or Facebook (eric.saeger.9).

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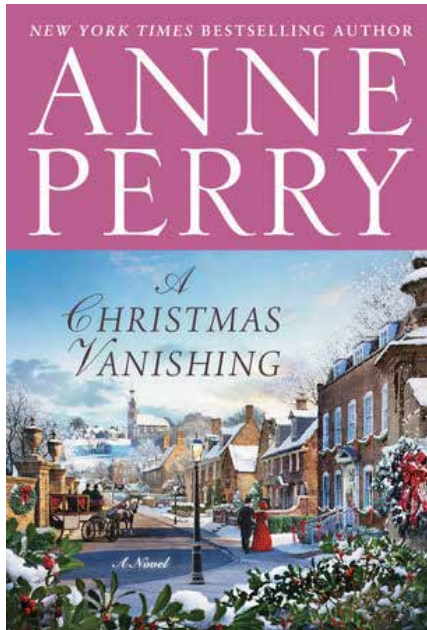
A Christmas Vanishing, by Anne Perry (Ballantine, 190 pages)

Since childhood, Christmas reading has been a large part of my enjoyment of the holidays; I could quote from *A Christmas Carol* in grade school, and one of my favorite books is a collection of Christmas stories from celebrated authors. I start scouring new releases in the summer looking for upcoming holiday books and was hopeful when I came across *A Christmas Vanishing* by the late Anne Perry.

Perry, born in London and raised in New Zealand, is one of a few authors (Debbie Macomber and Richard Paul Evans among them) who churn out yearly Christmas-themed. There is an assembly-line precision about Perry's 21 holiday offerings, which in recent years included *A Christmas Deliverance*, *A Christmas Legacy*, *A Christmas Resolution*, *A Christmas Gathering* and *A Christmas Revelation*—think of a noun, and Perry put "A Christmas" in front of it and turned it into a bestseller, and she would have continued to do so if she had not had a heart attack last December and died in April at age 84.

Perry is best-known as a crime writer, and the Christmas novels, set in Victorian England, follow that theme.

A Christmas Vanishing follows Mariah Ellison, a widow in her 80s (and the grandmother of a recurring character in Perry's novels, Charlotte Pitt), on a journey from her home in London to a small rural town where she has been invited to spend Christmas with a friend and her husband. Mariah



has known Sadie for a half-century but hasn't seen her in 20 years; she remembers a falling out of some kind the last time they were together, but she can't recall the specifics and is pleased to renew their friendship and see the town where she once also lived.

Also, "if she was being honest, she had to accept that she had nowhere else to go, which was entirely her own doing. Her daughter-in-law and grandchildren all had their own seasonal arrangements and she had not been included."

When Mariah arrives at Sadie's house via horse-drawn buggy (one of the occasional reminders that this novel is set during Queen Victoria's time), Sadie's husband, Barton, unpleasantly tells her his wife isn't there, he doesn't know where she is

or when she'll be back, and he's sorry-not sorry but she can't stay there. She goes to the house of another old friend but is told she can't stay there either, and is sent to the house of that friend's sister, Gwendolyn, where she finally finds a warm welcome.

Because this is a time in which there is no Nancy Grace or internet sleuths, and even Sadie's husband doesn't seem particularly interested in finding Sadie, Mariah struggles to assemble a search party, but soon she and Gwendolyn are joined by kindly bookstore owner Oliver, and they puzzle over the possibilities.

Did Barton kill or injure his wife? Did she take off on a lark? Was she in an accident? Has she run off with another man? Been kidnapped? The latter scenarios seem far-fetched given that Sadie is in her 70s and has no family money. The mystery deepens (as deep as this largely shallow story gets) when Oliver and Mariah learn that Barton spotted his wife, looking happy, in the window of a local vacant cottage not long after she disappeared.

There are hints that Sadie's life was not quite what it seemed, and neither was Mariah's. And Mariah is realizing she is trying to figure out the mystery of Sadie's disappearance based on the Sadie that she knew long ago, not Sadie as she would be now.

As the story unfolds, so do the secrets of the principal characters, and an element of danger is introduced that threatens Mariah.

"We all have things we would never want publicly known," Oliver tells her at one point, and that was true for the author as well. In 1994 she was outed by the Peter Jackson film *Heavenly Creatures* as having participated in a murder when she was 15. Kate Winslet played Perry's character in the movie, which was based on the true story of the killing of Perry's friend's mother. Perry is a pen name for the writer, whose given name was Juliet Hulme.

As was detailed in her obituaries, Perry, who had a chaotic childhood and struggled with mental illness, spent five years in prison in New Zealand before reinventing herself and becoming an extraordinarily successful writer, penning not just mysteries but also a series of novels about World War I. Hers is about as good a redemption story as you can get. We shouldn't speak ill of the dead or their books, and Perry's Christmas novels are beloved by millions. But I found *A Christmas Vanishing* more workmanlike than inspired, and it is a Christmas story only in that it is cold, homes are decorated and there are people roasting chestnuts on the street. C

—Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

• **DANIEL DAIN**, author of *A History of Boston*, will be at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com) on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

• **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.

• **WILLIAM R. GRASER**, author of *Smell the Gunpowder*, will discuss his books at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **MAREK BENNETT**, author of graphic novels and webcomics like *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby* and *The*

Most Costly Journey, presents "Drawing Community: Creating Comics from Shared Stories," on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at Tucker Free Library (31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471) and again Saturday, Jan. 20, at 9:45 a.m. at Peterborough Town Library (2 Concord St., Peterborough, 924-8040). See nhhumanities.org.

Book events 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.

• **GROWING UP IN COMMUNIST CHINA** presented by Lily Tang Williams on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. in the community room at Rodgers Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030). Registration is required; register at events.rodgerslibrary.org.

• **HENRY DEARBORN – FROM CAPTAIN TO CABINET SECRETARY** presented by George Morrison on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Dunbarton Public Library (Upper Town Hall, 1004 School St., Dunbarton. For details call 774-3546 or visit nhhumanities.org.

• **NEW HAMPSHIRE ON SKIS** presented by E. John Allen on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. at New Boston Community Church (2 Meetinghouse Hill Road, New Boston), hosted by the New Boston Historical Society. For details call 486-3867 or visit nhhumanities.org.

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Leave the World Behind (R)

An uptight middle-aged lady takes her Brooklyn family on a weekend trip to a beautiful country house on Long Island in *Leave the World Behind*, a dark, laugh-out-loud psychological horror.

The movie very self-consciously introduces us to marketing executive Amanda Sanford (Julia Roberts) and her roiling uptightness and anger by having her happily pack for a spur-of-the-moment family road trip as she explains to her college professor husband Clay (Ethan Hawke) that she spent the morning thinking about how much she hates people — and there was another, emphasis-adding word in there before “hates.” She’s rented a house for the family — which also includes teen son Archie (Charlie Evans) and just-turned-13 daughter Rose (Farrah Mackenzie) — in a hamlet called Pointe Comfort. The drive turns rural enough that Rose loses internet on the iPad where she’s binging *Friends* but the house is a design dream, with a large kitchen and a lovely pool. Amanda smiles sunnily as she meanders through the tasteful, dreamy master bedroom and has the same look of contentment as she loads purchases from the cute grocery market into her car, her mood only slightly darkening as she sees a local (Kevin Bacon) load up his truck with canned foods and water bottles. But all is well as the family lies out on the beach, enjoying the post-season sparse crowd and the sun and the view of the water where a large tanker ship seems strangely close. Doesn’t that seem close, Rose tries to say to her family several times but is ignored until Amanda, looking up from a snooze, is all, hey that’s really close and it’s not stopping. The family grabs their bags and rushes away just as the large ship runs aground up onto the beach.

Once they’re home, they find the internet is out and their phones don’t have service but everything basically seems normal and the kids jump into the pool while the parents make dinner. Later, Amanda and Clay are playing Jenga and enjoying wine when there is a knock at the door. G.H. Scott (Mahershala Ali), decked in a tuxedo, and his 20-something daughter Ruth (Myha’la), dressed in an evening gown, are at the door. G.H. graciously apologizes and calls Amanda by name when he introduces himself as the man she emailed with when she rented the house. This house is his house and they, G.H. and Ruth, have driven out to stay the night. The night or maybe longer — there’s a blackout in the city and he can’t walk the 14 floors up to his city apartment. With all the traffic and chaos, he doesn’t want to go back to the city and even offers to refund Amanda her money, unlocking a drawer and handing her cash, so that he and Ruth



Leave the World Behind

can stay in the in-law apartment in the home’s basement. Amanda is, er, the most printable description is probably “a brittle jerk” about this request and doesn’t entirely believe G.H.’s claims to own the house. Ruth finds her father’s extreme politeness to this snotty lady and her family excessive, especially since they are asking to stay in the basement of their own home. Eventually, though, everybody goes to bed with a general idea that they’ll make sense of things in the morning.

“Making sense” is not a task easily accomplished. After a vague emergency alert, the TV offers nothing but fuzz. No phones, no internet. Clay’s attempt to drive into town is disastrous without GPS. Rose keeps seeing weird animal-related things. But at least Archie seems pretty happy when Ruth comes down to the pool in her bikini.

Ruth and Amanda’s instant dislike of each other, Clay’s clumsy attempts at being useful and friendly, the kids’ them-focused problems (Archie wonders if he can visit his girlfriend vacationing an hour away, Rose just really wants to see the last episode of *Friends*), G.H.’s fears about what’s happening, Amanda’s whole personality — it’s all really well-executed in this movie that shoots even scenes of banal upper-middle-classness with theatrical dread. The characters are spikey but also get some humanity to them. They are helpful to each other but they also make things a little worse at all times with the information they don’t share. Amanda and G.H. seem to take turns condescendingly telling each other that things are going to be fine or that something is totally normal when neither particularly believes it themselves. And throughout there is a sense that one of the most fraught elements of whatever is happening may be the miscalculations and conclusions jumped to by these reluctant housemates about each other, with both Amanda and Ruth just wanting the other’s family to leave already.

Also, *Leave the World Behind* is funny — bleakly, sorta meanly funny, but funny.

I found myself laughing out loud frequently (and in that vein, it has a pretty great final note) and just sort of enjoying the way the movie frequently seems to be tickled with itself. **A**

Rated R for language, some sexual content, drug use and brief bloody images, according to the MPA at [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Sam Esmail (who also wrote the screenplay, based on the book of the same name by Rumaan Alam), Leave the World Behind is two hours and 18 minutes long and is streaming on Netflix. 🍷

May December (R)

An actress attempts to get into the head of a woman she’ll be portraying in a movie in *May December*, a well-acted disturbing drama from director Todd Haynes.

Elizabeth Berry (Natalie Portman) is a famous enough actress that people get wide-eyed when she passes by and will fan-out about her previous work. Her upcoming movie is a sort of indie production looking at a scandal from the 1990s involving Gracie Atherton-Yoo (Julianne Moore), who was then in her mid 30s. As Gracie tells it, she was married and working at a pet shop when she had a passionate affair with a coworker that led to the end of her marriage to her husband at the time with whom she had three children. Another way to describe that “affair” would be felony child sexual assault, as Joe Yoo (Charles Melton), the boy she was caught with, was 13 years old.

Gracie went to jail, where she gave birth to their first child, Honor (Piper Curda), now a college student. Gracie and Joe eventually married and also had twins, Mary (Elizabeth Yu) and Charlie (Gabriel Chung), who are, as the movie starts, days away from their high school graduation. Gracie and Joe, who is now in his mid 30s, live in Savannah, the town they’ve always lived in. So they have a support system of family and a small group of friends who buy Gracie’s home-produced baked goods but also Gracie occasionally

receives boxes of poo in the mail.

Elizabeth shows up to kind of shadow Gracie — to convey the truth of Gracie and Gracie and Joe’s relationship, as she tells everyone. Gracie might have her reservations but also seems to like the idea that she’ll have some control over the revisiting of her infamy. Elizabeth learns to mimic Gracie’s mannerisms and sometimes intentionally lispy speech and also inserts herself into the family’s life in a way that is mildly to moderately destructive to this already deeply damaged group of people. Included in this emotional quicksand is Georgie (Cory Michael Smith), Gracie’s youngest child by her first marriage, who was a tween when the scandal came to light and seems to have been destroyed by it.

Actually, even Elizabeth, who shows up with an almost journalistic pose of wanting to “understand,” seems pretty messed up in how she basically just wallows in the griminess of Gracie and her choices. She might claim to want “the truth” but that seems to always translate to the most tabloid-y approach. Portman is commendably game at letting us see the actory nonsense of her character without trying to convince us that Elizabeth is, like, doing art. Likewise, Moore is very good about leaving it vague how much of Gracie’s awfulness is the result of unhealed damage from her own youth and how much is self-conscious predatory behavior masquerading in false innocence. It’s an impressively unflattering portrayal.

The standout performance, though, is from Melton, who gives us a Joe so firmly stuck in the trauma of what happened to him that he can’t see his way out or even be particularly useful in shielding his kids from their mother’s emotional abuse. Melton does a good job of giving us a person who seems thoroughly flattened — someone who is never not screaming on the inside but is almost immobilized on the outside. It is all deeply unpleasant to watch.

And there’s your *May December* poster quote: “very well acted, deeply unpleasant to watch!” The movie has moments of (very dark) dry humor but those don’t exactly lighten the “aftermath of a horrible car crash” vibes that follow you throughout. I don’t think you’ll be sorry having seen it, particularly if you are a follower of Oscar-y, year-end movie conversation, but I won’t pretend you’ll have a whole lot of fun sitting through it. What’s that, like a **B+**? For all the quality?

Rated R for some sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and language, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Todd Haynes with a screenplay by Samy Burch, May December is an hour and 57 minutes long and streaming on Netflix. 🍷

AT THE SOFAPLEX

A Disturbance in the Force

If the words “Star Wars Holiday Special” conjure up an image of Bea Arthur or Carrie Fisher soulfully singing and give you a little devilish jolt of glee, then give yourself the \$5 treat of renting this documentary about the 1978 post-*Star Wars*, pre-*The Empire Strikes Back* television special that was a little bit Star Wars — I mean, there were Wookiees — and a lot bit 1970s variety show. I have listened to a whole multi-episode podcast about the special but never seen it for myself. But this movie’s clips from not only the special but other late 1970s Star Wars detritus, including a *Donny & Marie* episode that features dancing Stormtroopers and Paul Lynde, really put you in the moment. Aging geeks like Weird Al Yankovic, Kevin Smith, Seth Green (who worked on a Lucas property and watched the special with fellow writers in Lucas’ screening room) and Paul Scheer explain the fan perspective while the likes of Bruce Vilanch talk about what it was like to work on this cultural artifact that had a one-and-done airing. George Lucas so disliked the thing that it was never aired again or reissued — but it also earned such a place in the canon of nerd culture that it is now readily available on the internet. The documentary acknowledges the weirdness of what it is — a story about the Wookiee holiday of Life Day mixed with standard variety comedy and musical segments — and places it in the universe of weird 1970s specials and programming. It also explains the special’s role in the larger Star Wars marketing effort that included books, comic books and, belatedly, toys — all of which was in part an effort to first sell the original movie in 1977 and then

keep up interest in the Star Wars franchise until the next movie came out.

Whenever you plugged into Star Wars fandom, the documentary holds nostalgic charm for what the thing was before prequels and Disney+ shows. A

Available for rent or purchase on VOD.

Please Don’t Destroy: The Treasure of Foggy Mountain (R)

The comedy team of Martin Herlihy, John Higgins and Ben Marshall, who have cultivated a persona of pale, fragile indoor boys in their *Saturday Night Live* videos, bring that same sensibility to this 92-minute movie. They play roommates who work at Ben’s dad’s (Conan O’Brien) outdoor equipment store. They’ve been friends since childhood but John fears they’re coming apart, with Ben focused on trying to take over the store and Martin focused on buying a house with his girlfriend Amy (Nichole Sakura). When John realizes a compass they found years ago may hold a clue to the long-rumored \$100 million gold bust hidden on Foggy Mountain, he thinks a quest might be just the thing to bring them back together. Along the way the boys meet Taylor (X Mayo) and Lisa (Megan Stalter), two park rangers who decide to try to get the treasure for themselves. Well, actually, Taylor decides that, and Lisa is just wondering if maybe she and John will need to make out for the caper to be successful — like, maybe they should anyway?

The Treasure of Foggy Mountain is extremely stupid and I mean that as the highest of compliments. The boys are intimidated by a hawk, they run in to a cult featuring Bowen Yang, and John Goodman serves as a not-impartial narrator. This is not great comedy but it is dumb comedy and sometimes that’s exactly what you need. **B** Streaming on Peacock. 🍷

Film

- *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen at all three area Chunky’s (chunkys.com) through Thursday, Dec. 14, with at least one screening daily.
- *Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night*, a faith-based feature film with musical performances by Andrea and Matteo Bocelli, will be in theaters through Sunday, Dec. 17. Sign up on the website to receive ticket information. See fathomevents.com.
- *Wonka* (PG, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 15, through Sunday, Dec. 17, at 1, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 18, through Thursday, Dec. 21, at 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.

- *Elf* (PG, 2003) will screen on Friday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Flying Monkey in Plymouth (flyingmonkeynh.com).
- *The Boy and The Heron* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Friday, Dec. 15, at 1:30, 4:15 (s) and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 16, at 2, 4:45 (s) and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 17, at 1:30, 4:15 (s) & 7 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 18, and Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 4:15 (s) and 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 4:15 p.m. (s); Thursday, Dec. 21, at 4:15 (s) and 7 p.m. (“S” performances are subtitled; all others are dubbed in English).
- *The Polar Express* (G, 2004) will screen Saturday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org).

- *Arthur Christmas* (PG, 2011) will screen on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1 p.m. during Santa’s Party at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey.
- *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation* (PG-13, 1989) will screen with a five-course dinner party at the Chunky’s in Manchester on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. There will be a 21+ screening and Ugly Sweater party on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 8 p.m. at all three Chunky’s locations (chunkys.com).
- *It’s a Wonderful Life* (1946) will screen at all three Chunky’s locations (chunkys.com) on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.
- *It’s a Wonderful Life* (1946) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.



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RED RIVER THEATRES

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11 S. Main St. Suite L1-1, Concord

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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Holiday green:** Celebrating its 18th year, **Irish Christmas in America** is a multimedia show with music, song and dance, and a cast that changes from year to year led by Sligo fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada. Past members include Niamh Farrell, Séamus and Méabh Begley, Karan Casey and Michael Londra. It features fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, harp and bouzouki, along with energetic Irish dancing. Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, \$45 and up at anselm.edu.

• **Family band:** Cape Breton musical ambassadors **Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy** return for a Celtic-themed Christmas show that includes seven of their children taking turns entertaining. McMaster's fiddling has earned her an Order of Canada award along with a pair of Junos (husband Leahy has garnered three). Their performance is aimed at "the young and the young at heart." Friday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$43.75 and up at ccanh.com.

• **Retro foolery:** It's always a good time when **Mike Girard's Big Swingin' Thing** steps on stage, but the side project of the Fools front man offers even more at an upcoming Nashua concert. Along with reinterpreting rock 'n' roll hits, the 20-piece big band will serve up a bevy of holiday selections. Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 pm., Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, \$39 at etix.com.

• **Christmas magnetism:** Inspired by the success of her analog album *Memphis Magnetic*, **Morgan James** recorded a live Christmas disc with curated nuggets like William Bell's "Every Day Will Be Like a Holiday" and "Backdoor Santa" (from the 1968 Atco Records sampler *Soul Christmas*), along with standards and originals. She will perform from it and sing a few other seasonal selections at an upcoming show. Sunday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$25 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Helping out:** Enjoy dinner and a holiday-themed performance from singer **Sharon Jones**, backed by an all-star band that includes pianist John Hyde, Mark Michaels playing guitar, Marty Ballou and Les Harris Jr. on bass and drums and sax player Marc Laforce. Monday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m., Jimmy's Jazz & Blues Club, 135 Congress St., Portsmouth, \$125 (includes dinner) at jimmysoncongress.com. 🍷

NITE

Stealth band

Beyond a cappella with Naturally 7

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Close your eyes is the advice Roger Thomas gives fans seeing his group Naturally 7 for the first time. Because even though there are only seven singers on stage, their sound always causes listeners to wonder: where's the band? Along with lush harmonies, a guitar, keyboards, bass and drums are in the mix. The trick — the miracle really — is it's vocal only, group members mimicking instruments while others sing lyrics.

Technically, it's a cappella — music that's all voice and no instrumentation — but it's so different that Thomas, who founded Naturally 7 in 1999, decided a new name was needed.

"We coined the phrase 'vocal play,'" he said by phone recently. "To let people know it's something else."

Called Seven until a Southern act with a copyright forced them to change the name, N7 was an all-singing group at the outset. Fate intervened, however, in the form of a chance meeting with a music superstar.

"We were in a bookstore, and the owner said, 'Hey, Stevie Wonder's here, I want you guys to sing for him,'" Thomas recalled. Wonder seemed to enjoy their version "Amazing Grace" but at the end "he was like, 'I know who your favorite group is' — and that's how he left."

Thomas quickly deduced Wonder wasn't paying them a compliment.

"He was saying that we sound just like Take 6, and he knows they're our favorite group," he said. "From that point on — this was just before we formed N7 — I was like, 'We've got to find a way to make it something of our own.'"

Later, on a long car trip, Thomas's wife and mother-in-law grew tired of his cappella cassettes, except Swedish quintet The Real Group's song, which included eerily lifelike vocalized instruments. "They both said, 'That can stay in ... it's not a cappella.' I was like, that's it! We're going to be the first on the planet to imitate instruments as the mainstay of the



Naturally 7. Courtesy photo.

group. Not just a little piece of a show like so many people do, but all seven of us have to figure out what instrument best suits us."

N7's unique brand of vocal play has carried them across the globe and led to a lot of memorable collaborations. A management connection resulted in a tour with Michael Bublé, who wanted an opener that wouldn't add any equipment to an already crowded stage. "He was thinking it would probably be good to have an a cappella group," Thomas said. "We were supposed to do one leg ... we ended up doing three world tours and won three Grammys with him. That was eight years of our lives."

Coldplay's Chris Martin once watched them in London and invited them to hang out in his London studio. "They were singing one of our songs, 'Wall of Sound,'" he recalled. To return the compliment, N7 learned "Fix You" a few months later. "It seems like the obvious one to do, but we've got to do it, man. It's just the power in that song has everything to do with what we do."

Their upcoming show at Tupelo Music Hall will mix *Naturally 7 at the Movies*, with selections like "Axel's Theme" from *Beverly Hills Cop*, "Jailhouse Rock,"

"Shaft" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," along with Christmas songs both standard and original — "Satisfaction Guaranteed" shines among the latter. As always, they'll do "Fix You," which has become de rigueur.

"People get upset if we don't do it; it's part of who we are," Thomas said. "We want to leave people with something that's uplifting, even more so than just the circus part of our voices and the vocal play. We love when people give us credit [for doing] this vocally, but there's nothing like people saying the music touched them for a lifetime.... 'Fix You' is that type of song."

Thomas set out looking for a distinct sound.

"I want someone to know it's Naturally 7 within the first couple of bars, like it is for Earth Wind and Fire, the Temptations, Bee Gees or Beatles," he said. "That's how you know you've created something special."

It was a big lift, and at the start success wasn't certain.

"You don't know for sure that you can accomplish this, but you're going to try, and we were able to do it," Thomas said. "It's definitely a dream come true to go around the world now. Because the goal was to get out on the stage and have everyone not believe it. That's the key mark ... get to the point where people say, 'I don't believe it.'" 🍷

Naturally 7 - The Holiday Hits Tour

When: Sunday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m.

Where: Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry

Tickets: \$35 at tupelohall.com



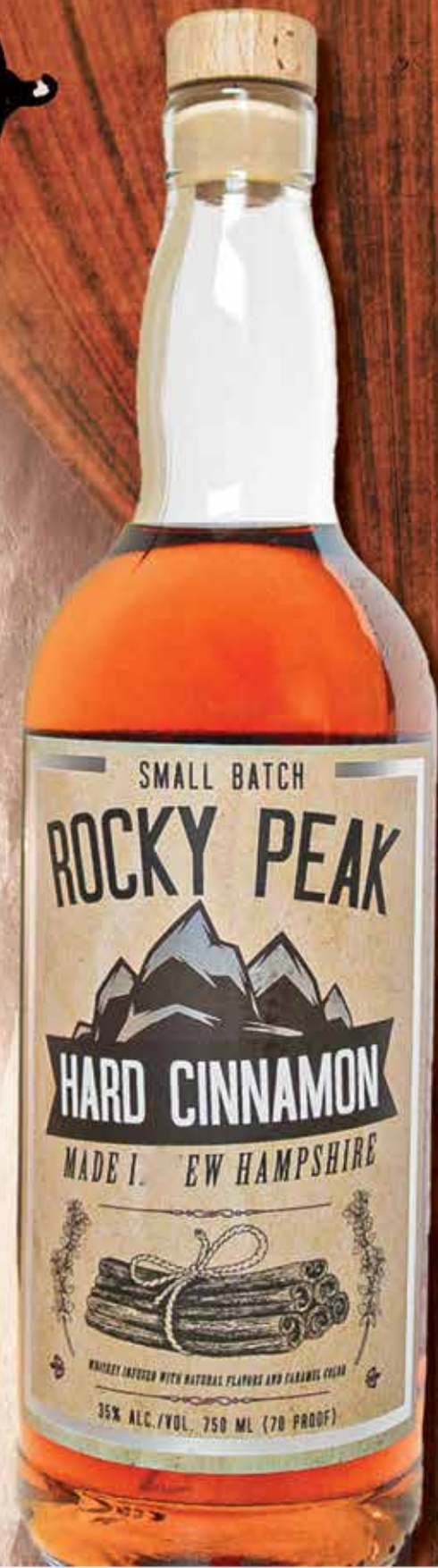
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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Contoocook Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	Exeter Otto 33 Water St., 810-6886	Epsom Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027	Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	Litchfield Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park, 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664	155 Dow St., 624-2022	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St., 793-5116	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Londonderry Coach Stop 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Meredith Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road, 406-1196	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230	Hampton CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210	Hop Knot 100 Elm St., 232-3731	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS
Barnstead Back Door Grill 107 Maple St., Center Barnstead, 269-3000	Concord Common Man 1 Gulf St., 228-3463	Dover Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240	Hampton CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Laconia Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St., 644-3535	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559	The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928	Litchfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020	Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020	Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479
Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777	Tower Hill Tavern 264 Lakeside Ave., 366-9100	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St., 669-6144	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947	Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480
T-Bones 169 S. River Road, 623-7699	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	Whym Craft Pub &	The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	Derryfield Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444	Stonemasons Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979
Bow Chen Yang Li					Fratello's	Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292	To Share Brewing 720 Union St., 836-6947	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
								Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015

Thursday, Dec. 14

Auburn Auburn Pitts: NKM, 6:30 p.m.	Exeter Otto: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.	7 p.m.	Somersworth Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.	Concord Hermanos: Eugene Durkee, 6:30 p.m.	L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: Small Town Stranded, 9 p.m. Whym: Tyler Levs, 6:30 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.	Gilford Patrick's Pub: Don Severance & Audrey Drake, 6 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Clandestine, 5 p.m. Foundry: Chris Lester, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m. Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m. Strange Brew: live music, 8 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 15	Deerfield Lazy Lion: NKM, 5:30 p.m.	Hudson Luk's: Erik White, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: D-Comp, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.	Alton Bay Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Dakota Smart, 6 p.m.	Epping Holy Grail: Kitchen Party, 7 p.m. Telly's: 603's, 8 p.m.	Jaffrey Park Theatre: Ryan Hood, 6 p.m.
Concord Common Man: Lucas Gallo, 6:30 p.m. Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 p.m. Lithermans: Eric Lindberg, 5:30 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	Barnstead Back Door Grill: Joel Cage, 6 p.m.	Epsom Hill Top: Bill and Dave, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: LU NH Music, 1 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Hudson Luk's: Lee Ross, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Nashua Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m. Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Millyard: bingo night, 7 p.m. Shorty's: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.	Bedford Murphy's: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Brian Booth, 6 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.
Epping Telly's: MB Padfield, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Pittsfield Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.	Litchfield Day of the Dead: music bingo,
Epsom Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.				
	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Chad LaMarsh,				

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@hippypress.com.



BARNBURNER COMEDY

Mark Riley sharpened his comedic skills while he was working as a referee for pro hockey teams in the Northeast. His top-shelf comedy flow has made him one of the most-booked comedians in New England, and he lit the lamp as a 2016 finalist at the Boston Comedy Festival. He returns to Chunky's Manchester on Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

Liquid Therapy 14 Court St., 402-9391	31 11 Charles St., 753-9372	Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186	254 N. Broadway, 458-2162
Millyard Brewery 125 E. Otterson St., 722-0104	Pittsfield Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162	Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St., 427-8645	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070	Portsmouth Clipper Tavern 75 Pleasant St., 501-0109	Rochester Mitchell Hill Grill & Brew 50 N. Main St., 332-2537	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706
New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362	The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122	Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
Northfield Boonedox Pub 95 Park St., 717-8267	The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033	Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
Penacook American Legion Post	Hearth Market 60 Penhallow St., 427-8631	Luna Bistro	

6:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Mostly 90's, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: FatBunny, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Eric Grant Band, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 6 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: live music, 9 p.m.
To Share: Jam Tomorrow, 6:30 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Taylor Marie, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.

Milford
Pasta Loft: Eyes of Age, 8:30 p.m.

Riley's: A Little Bit of Country, 8 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
New Boston
Molly's: Acoustic BS, 7 p.m.

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

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

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Sam Hammerman, 9:30 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Pop Daddy, 9 p.m.

Rochester
Mitchell Hill: High & Dry, 6 p.m.

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

Smuttynose: music bingo, 6 p.m.
Seabrook
Red's: Max Sullivan, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16
Alton Bay
Dockside: Luciano Monziona, 8 p.m.
Foster's Tavern: Mikey G, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Scott King, 7 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Robert Allwarden, 6 p.m.

Concord
Downtown Farmers Market: Carleton Page, 9 a.m.
Hermanos: John Franzosa, 6:30 p.m.

Contoocook
Cider Co.: The hArt of Sound, 11 a.m.



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ALL-STARS OF NEW ENGLAND STANDUP

Paul Nardizzi won the Boston Comedy Festival competition and appeared on *Late Night* with Conan O'Brien. Chris Pennie has risen through the ranks of open mics to place in the Plymouth Rock Comedy Festival and Dick Doherty's Beantown Comedy Riots. Greg Boggis (pictured) is a familiar face to Access Nashua viewers, who have seen two seasons of his talk show *The Boggis Hour*. Together these three kings headline Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 plus fees.

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Dover
Auspicious Brew: XO / Megan From Work / Blake Seale, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Acoustic Moxie, 6 p.m.

Hampton
The Goat: Santa Brunch, 11 a.m.; Russ Six, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Madhouse, 9 p.m.
Whym: Freddie Catalfo, 6:30 p.m.

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

Hudson
Luk's Bar: Shakedown Station, 7 p.m.

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Down Cellah, 8 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Richard Cummings, 6 p.m.
Tower Hill: Blue Monkey Band, 8 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Swipe Right Band, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Neon Rodeo, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Mostly 90's, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.
Great North Aleworks: Kevin Horan, 4 p.m.
Shaskeen: Jonee Earthquake Xmas Bash, 9 p.m.

To Share: Slim Volume, 4 p.m.

Wild Rover: Clint Lapointe, 5 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Sam Hammerman, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.

Milford
Pasta Loft: Not Fade Away, 8:30 p.m.
Riley's: Down By Ten, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: Jenni Lynn Duo, 8 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Shane Scarazzo, 6 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Chaz Proulx, 6:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
Clipper: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m.
Gas Light Pub: Tim Theriault, 9:30 p.m.
Press Room: Truffle, 6 p.m.; Chad Banks & SG603, 10 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Fighting Friday, 9 p.m.

Rochester
Mitchell Hill: Henry Goodwin, 6 p.m.

Salem
Luna Bistro: Bella Perrotta, 7 p.m.; Acoustic, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: live music, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17
Alton Bay
Dockside: Chris O'Neil, 4 p.m.

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

Brookline
Alamo: Daniel Gay, 4 p.m.

Chichester
Flannel Tavern: Brian Walker,

4 p.m.
Contoocook
Cider Co.: Andrew Geano, 1 p.m.

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: Max and the A Train, 1 p.m.

Henniker
Colby Hill: David Newsam, 1 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: John Paul and Dave Ayotte, 7 p.m.

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: Freese brothers Big Band, 4 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Cory Malm, 1 p.m.

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

Manchester
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

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

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

Portsmouth
Press Room: PMAC Jazz Institute, 6 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 18
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

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



MAESTRO OF MAGIC

In a career that's spanned a quarter century, magician Andrew Pinard has appeared at First Night New Hampshire, brought his original musical *Fantasmagoria Cabaret* to the Concord City Auditorium and took top honors in the New England Magic Competition — and that's just for starters. He's got shows at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org) on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$31 to \$41, plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

Jaffrey
Park Theatre: open mic, 6:30 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: Sean Coleman, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 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: musical bingo, 7 p.m.

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Lewis Goodwin, 5:30 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jeff Mrozek, 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. 20
Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew: open mic with Pete, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Lee Biddle, 6 p.m.

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Rebecca Turmel, 5:30 p.m.
Hop Knot: open mic with Bards on the Rocks, 8 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
Hearth Market: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.

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ERIC MINTEL IS COMING



'Tis the season for live performances of the score from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. This week, Eric Mintel — who has played by invitation at the White House and was praised by Dave Brubeck — brings Vince Guaraldi's beloved jazz score to the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$29 plus fees.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- Nick Hoff** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Mark Riley** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
- Tupelo Night of Comedy** Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusic-hall.com), Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m.
- Ken Rogerson** Headliners in Manchester (headlinerscomedyclub.com), Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
- Cory Gee** Chunky's Nashua (chunkys.com), Saturday, Dec. 16, 8:30 p.m.
- Andrew Pinard** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusic-hall.org), Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Kelly MacFarland's Christmas Party** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- Justin McKinney** Year in Review 2023 Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusic-hall.org), Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Wednesday, Dec. 27, 7 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.
- Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House (rochesteroperahouse.com) Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
- Ben Pratt** Chunky's Pelham (chunkys.com), Friday, Dec. 28, 6:15 p.m.
- Ben Pratt** Chunky's Nashua (chunkys.com), Friday, Dec. 29, 6:15 p.m.
- Ben Pratt** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Saturday, Dec. 30, 6:15 p.m.
- R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Bank of NH Stage (cchan.com), Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m.

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Trivia

Events

• **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).

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

• **2023 Year in Review 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).

Weekly

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

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

• **Thursday** 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., Manchester, 858-5789, greatnorthaleworks.com) from 7 to 8 p.m.

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

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

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



A Christmas Story

• **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.

• **Friday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

• **Monday Trivia at the Tavern** at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, redskitchenandtavern.com), signup at 8:30

p.m., from 9 to 11 p.m. Hosted by DJ Zati.

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

• **Tuesday** trivia at 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 Commu-

nity 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 Smuttynose (105 Towle Farm Road, Hampton, 436-4026, smuttynose.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** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcom-

ing-events) at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

• **Wednesday** trivia at 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.

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

Concerts

• **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 Diarmóda** Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center in Manchester (tickets.anselm.edu)

• **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)

• **Charley Carozzo** Friday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Portsmouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)

• **A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa** Friday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)

• **Dancing Madly Backwards** (Dave Matthews Band tribute) Friday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., Stripe Nine Brewing in Somersworth (stripinebrewing.com)

• **John Pizzarelli** Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)

• **Scotty Austin** Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)

• **Henhouse Prowlers** Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org)

• **Sneaky Miles/Jake Swamp & the Pine** Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket (stonechurchrocks.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 (tupelomusichall.com)

• **Mr. Aaron** Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m., Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com)

• **Steve Rondo** Saturday, Dec. 16, 12 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Portsmouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)

• **The Little Mermen** (Disney tribute) Saturday, Dec. 16, 12 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.com)

• **PMAC Teen Rock Show** Saturday, Dec. 16, 12:30 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)

• **John Denver Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 16, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org)

• **The Orchard Chapel Candlelight Carol Sing** Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)

• **Chris Robley** Saturday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Ports-

mouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)

• **Truffle** Saturday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)

• **Christmas with Franco Corso** Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Fulchino in Hollis (fulchinovineyard.com)

• **Taylor O'Donnell Trio** Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org)

• **Kat Edmonson: Holiday Swingin'** Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. & 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's in Portsmouth (jimmysoncongress.com)

• **The Heather Pierson Trio with a Charlie Brown Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org)

• **Mike Girard's Big Swingin' Thing** Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com)

• **Home for the Holidays with Session Americana with Elea-**



Greg and the Morning Buzz's annual Buzz Ball

nor Buckland Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)

• **Yellowhouse Blues Band** Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace in Portsmouth (3sarts.org)

• **Life's A Drag** Saturday, Dec. 16, 9 p.m., Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com)

• **Chris Robley** Sunday, Dec. 17, 12 p.m., Cisco Brewers in Portsmouth (ciscobrewersportsmouth.com)

• **Naturally 7—the Holiday Hits Tour** Sunday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m., Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.com)

• **A Very Soulful Christmas with Morgan James** Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org)

• **Freese Brothers Big Band** Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org)

• **PMAC Jazz Institute Show** Sunday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com)

• **Strafford Wind Symphony** Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Strand in Dover (thestrandardover.com)

• **Zachariah Hickman's Handsome Holiday Happening** Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)

• **Nat Zegree** Wednesday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org)

• **The Orchard Chapel Candlelight Carol Sing** Wednesday, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter (thewordbarn.com)

• **Strafford Wind Symphony** Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Rochester Opera House (rochesteroperahouse.com)

JAZZ KAT



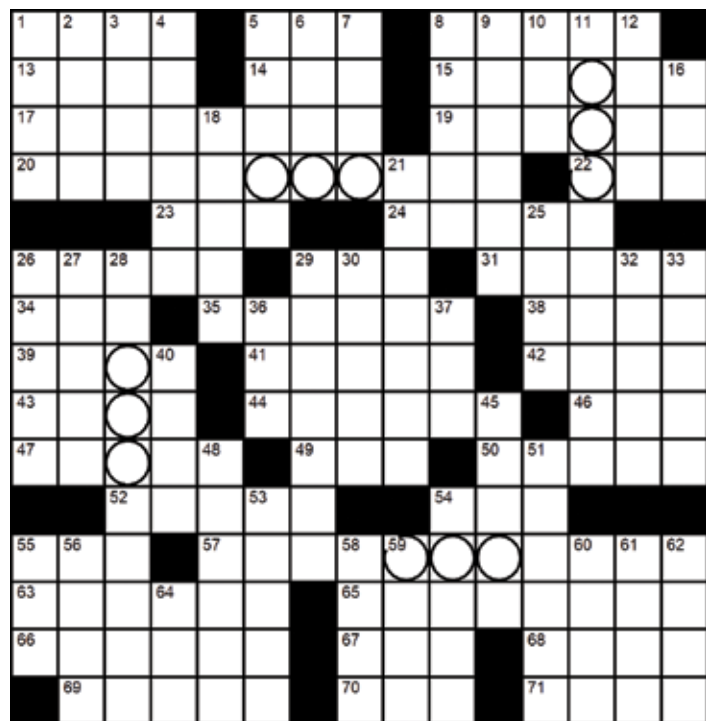
Kat Edmonson has made her name with jazz interpretations of everyone from Benny Goodman to The Cure, and her smooth vocals and light touch bring a warmth and playfulness to Christmas classics. Her annual engagement at Jimmy's (135 Congress St., Portsmouth, 888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com) takes place on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$55, plus fees. *Photo by Glynis Carpenter.*



A FOOL FOR A BIG SWINGIN' THING

Former Fools vocalist Mike Girard has brought his party-animal style to big band music, covering rock bands like the Rolling Stones, AC/DC and Green Day with what he describes as "a boat load of horns." The **Big Swingin' Thing** brings their holiday show to the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com) on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 plus fees.

"I'm Not Lost"—we did it!



Across

- 1. ___ fides (credentials)
- 5. Coll. deg. for artists
- 8. Mowed path
- 13. Long, long time
- 14. ___ Gatos, CA
- 15. Breathing space
- 17. "Are You Being Served?" and "Friday Night Dinner," for example
- 19. Shakespeare title setting
- 20. Minced veggie for stews and casseroles
- 22. Preschool activity
- 23. Near-eternity
- 24. Belief statement
- 26. Alcohol type used as biofuel
- 29. "Cats" poet's monogram
- 31. Backward-looking
- 34. Night sky feline
- 35. Urban growth
- 38. What lumberjacks do
- 39. They're on the books
- 41. Video game protagonist with a 2023 movie
- 42. Aucklander, casually

- 43. "Nah, it's all good ..."
- 44. Use your blinker
- 46. Former All-Star closer Robb
- 47. Video game character on a roll?
- 49. Poe's "Annabel ___"
- 50. Postal Service symbol
- 52. Piano practice piece
- 54. Bob ___ apples
- 55. "A Wrinkle in Time" director DuVernay

- 57. Tops that don't require a bottle opener
- 63. Download the wrong way, maybe
- 65. Closet-organizing device
- 66. "Stormy" seabird
- 67. Winner's take
- 68. Volunteer's statement
- 69. Go for a spin?
- 70. "All opposed" reply
- 71. Heartless

Down

- 1. Word before Ruth or Bjorn
- 2. Fiona, eventually
- 3. First name among astronauts
- 4. Rick often behind a slick click
- 5. Like some fuses or glass
- 6. Acronymic anxiety about exclusion
- 7. Part of WNBA
- 8. Take time to enjoy
- 9. Type of "mobile" for Oscar Mayer
- 10. Musical adaptation abbr.
- 11. Early score in a baseball or basketball game
- 12. 1980s tennis star Mandlikova
- 16. Talk excessively
- 18. Becomes less hot
- 21. Drink made from frozen grapes
- 25. Card pack
- 26. Author Bret Easton ___
- 27. "I love you," in Spanish
- 28. Words of astonishment
- 29. Promo of sorts
- 30. "Beetle Bailey" character
- 32. Spiked wheel on a boot spur

- 33. State one's views
- 36. Some U.K. statespeople
- 37. Mauna ___ (Hawaiian peak)
- 40. Comedy scene
- 45. Sierra ___ (Liberia neighbor)
- 48. General killed at Little Bighorn
- 51. Northern region
- 53. Flashlight battery size
- 54. Australian Rules, informally
- 55. Smartphone download
- 56. Vantage point
- 58. "SportsCenter" network
- 59. "Hold on there!"
- 60. West Coast gas brand
- 61. Bell ringing
- 62. Outlook action
- 64. Actress Graynor

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KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

2	48×		
9+		1-	3+
	2÷		3

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CHALLENGING

30×		2÷	12×
2-		3÷	4
1-		5	5-
2-	11+		2-
	3+	3	150×
1	7+		3÷

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RULES

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

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

1-	2	1	3
3	3	4	2
3-	1	3	4
4	2	1	3

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8+	3	1	5+
6	6	4	3
11+	4	3	1
5	2	6	4

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five types of teeth ☑□□□□
- Baseball □□□□
- Three Scandinavian countries □□□
- Two five-letter trees □□
- Your planetary home □

Last Week's Answers: : AVOCADO PAPAYA ORANGE MANGO APPLE LIME / CENTRAL NORTH SOUTH / INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE / ANDY GIBB / BEST

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

Jonesin' answer from pg X of 12/7



Something's wrong 'cause my mind is fading

Across

- 1. Beck "Where __, I got two turntables and a microphone"
- 6. '87 hit/band 'Living __ Box'
- 9. Lively dances
- 13. '09 Lamb Of God album about anger brought down?
- 14. Elvis "Shall I stay? Would it be a __, if I..." (cont. on 60. Down)
- 15. 'Into Outer Space With __ Pamela'
- 16. Michael Penn's wife/Til Tuesday's Mann
- 17. Little 90s grunge band?
- 18. They Might Be Giants 'Lincoln' hit
- 19. Bosstones ' __ Say'
- 21. Iconic 'Borderline' singer
- 23. 'This Kiss' Carly __ Jepsen
- 24. 'How To Save A Life' band
- 25. " __ loser baby, so why don't you kill me?"
- 28. Jack Vidgen said ' __ Am' when asked
- 30. Slippery Macklemore & Ryan Lewis say you 'Can't __'
- 35. Hozier confesses offences or these in 'Take Me To Church'
- 37. '99 Red Balloons' band
- 39. Kristin of Throwing Muses
- 40. Choir part
- 41. Billie Eilish 'You Should __ In A

Down

- 43. Festival attendee
- 44. 'Spirit' R&B Brit girl Lewis
- 46. He 'Raised A Cain' to Springsteen
- 47. Miracles 'You've Really Got A Hold __'
- 48. Part of 'Freebird' band, w/Skynyrd
- 50. Blueswoman Popovic and Matronic of Scissor Sisters
- 52. Jamaican musician __-AMouse
- 53. Repeated word in '68 Tommy James smash
- 55. 'Time Ago' band Black __
- 57. '03 Ill Nino hit ' __ Live'
- 61. Phil Collins smash 'Against __'
- 65. Frank Sinatra ' __ To Be You'
- 66. Rare find
- 68. Brock of Modest Mouse
- 69. 'Criminal' Apple
- 70. 70s 'From The Beginning' band (abbr)
- 71. Singer/pianist Shepard
- 72. Tragically Hip "Escape __ hand for the travellin' man"
- 73. Beck is from __ Angeles
- 74. STP "I am, I __, __, I said I wanna get next to you"

- 26. Teen pop star Cyrus
- 27. Actor/guitarist Yelchin
- 29. Oasis 'I Can __ Liar'
- 31. Kid's building block toy for Ed Sheeran's 'House'
- 32. Monotonous low sound
- 33. Hootie & The Blowfish's Bill Withers cover
- 34. Counting Crows 'Accidentally In Love' movie __ 2
- 36. One of the "Big Four" labels
- 38. Boston ' __ I'll Never Be'
- 42. Metallica's 'Seek And Destroy' album 'Kill __'
- 45. 'I See You Baby' band Groove __
- 49. McLean of 'American Pie' fame
- 51. Memphis 'Family Reunion' rockers that spit?
- 54. Elton John drummer Olsson
- 56. Billy Joel's 'My Life': Theme song for __ Buddies
- 57. LP player
- 58. 'Mr Pitiful' soul singer Redding
- 59. Security "Hold it right there!" call
- 60. From 14. Across..." __ help falling in love with you" covered by Beck
- 61. Electric guitars need them
- 62. Leader of Cradle Of Filth that is short for Daniel
- 63. '83 Alice Cooper album for your pops
- 64. Steely Dan '76 album 'The Royal __'
- 67. Jeff Lynne 'Xanadu' band (abbr)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40				41			42		43				
44				45			46		47				
48				49		50		51		52			
			53		54		55		56				
57	58	59	60				61			62	63	64	
65					66	67		68					
69					70			71					
72					73			74					

R&R answer from pg 48 of 12/7

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

R&R answer from pg 52 of 12/7

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

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

NITE SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *A Grandfather's Lessons: In the Kitchen with Shorey*, by Jacques Pepin, born Dec. 18, 1935.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) Many years ago, I bought arugula seeds in the South of France and planted them in my garden in Connecticut. Every year since then, I have been inundated with arugula. What seeds are you planting?

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) The fork or forks (dinner, salad) are placed to the left of the plate. Some people like to put the fork and spoon right side up, others upside down, which is less common. Whatever works for you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) Don't forget to cover the bacon with paper towels to prevent it from splattering all over the microwave. Small act, big impact.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) Don't chew with your mouth open, do not make noise when chewing, and, especially, do not talk with your mouth full. Do not interrupt people. Chew and listen.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) In summer, there is nothing like homemade tomato soup. With tomatoes at their peak flavor, best nutritional value, and cheapest price, I make hot, cold, chunky, smooth, and raw versions throughout the entire season. In the winter, eat popcorn.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) I always like to discuss the story behind a recipe, where it comes from and what it means. There is a small slice of life attached to recipes that matter, recipes with a history. Ask about the ketchup stains.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Like most kids (and adults), Shorey loves mac and cheese. We decided to add spinach, which is plentiful in her garden in summer, and ham. You can make the gratin without the ham and replace the spinach with Swiss chard or broccoli. Heck, you can add chocolate chips if

you want to, but that is not the same recipe.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) It's fun to expand Shorey's knowledge and introduce her to new, healthy, tasty ingredients. She did not know what quinoa was before we cooked it together. And now she does!

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) It is important to present an attractive plate, but this should never be done at the expense of taste. I do not fuss much with presentation; I like my food still hot and not handled too much, so it looks natural. Let food be food.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) There is a whole strategy and routine to the cooking and eating of artichokes, and Shorey was happy to explore the process with me. Explore your routine.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) I did not know sweet potatoes, or yams, until I came to the U.S. many years ago, but now I cook many variations of them, and they are a must for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Don't forget the sweet potatoes.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) The potatoes can be roasted a couple of hours ahead if need be. Just don't eat them all before dinner. 🍷

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 host of the 1896 Olympics (6)	_____
2 host of the 1928 Olympics (9)	_____
3 host of the 1952 Olympics (8)	_____
4 host of the 1976 Olympics (8)	_____
5 host of the 1992 Olympics (9)	_____
6 host of the 2000 Olympics (6)	_____
7 host of the 2012 Olympics (6)	_____

TER	NEY	DAM	ENS	LS
NT	IN	AMS	RE	SYD
KI	ONA	HE	AL	MO
LON	CEL	DON	ATH	BAR

Last Week's Answers: 1. ACROSTIC 2. CLERIHWE 3. SESTINA 4. VILLANELLE 5. PANTOUM 6. MADRIGAL 7. GHAZAL

Sudoku Answers from pg 52 of 12/7

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 11/20

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/22

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 11/24

New Year's Eve

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10p Dancing | 12am Champaign Toast | 1am Event Closes




Ken Rogerson Tim McKeever




Rob Steen Alex Giampapa

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Chunky's Nashua @ 7pm

Chunky's Pelham @ 7:30pm





James Dorsey Matt Barry Greg Boggis





Phillip Anthony Joey Carrol Pat Napoli





Jody Sloan Mark Scalia Dave Decker

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Awkward

Arnaldo Chamorro, chief of staff for Paraguay's Agriculture Ministry, lost his position on Nov. 29 after an embarrassing episode in which he signed a "proclamation" in October with the United States of Kailasa, Fox News reported. Trouble is, the USK doesn't exist; the fictional country is the brainchild of a fugitive guru, Nithyananda, who is wanted in India on several charges including sexual assault. Chamorro admitted during a radio interview that he was not familiar with Kailasa but said he signed the agreement because the country offered to help Paraguay with a variety of issues, including irrigation. News of the Weird has reported before (March 2023) about the posers, who have also fooled the United Nations and Newark City Hall in New Jersey, which signed a sister city agreement with the country. *Fox News, Nov. 30*

and ... it was because of this briefcase my grandma gave me as an early Christmas gift, and she said don't open it until you get to California." Gaffney followed her directions, but TSA wasn't having it. "They asked me what was inside, and I said, 'I don't know, I don't know.' They said, 'What do you mean? You're bringing a briefcase and you don't know what's inside?'" Turns out, Gaffney's nana had gifted him a vintage Smith-Corona typewriter. "Who am I, Tom Hanks?" Gaffney joked. He continued his story on TikTok: "I didn't think I'd use this, but here we are. It's so calming. All I want to do is stay home and type on my typewriter." Thanks, Grandma. *People, Dec. 4*

Animal Antics

The mystery of who has been slashing tires in the southern Italian city of Vastogirardi has been solved, The Guardian reported. The wave of damaged tires began in July and ramped up again in October in the town of about 600 residents, forcing police to place undercover cops on patrol. Finally, they mounted surveillance cameras, and in late November, they collared their suspect: a dog named Billy, who was suffering from a painful case of gingivitis. "It is a peaceful village — we knew it couldn't be anyone from outside as we are always aware

of any suspicious movements," said deputy mayor Remo Scocchera. "It's a positive thing that the perpetrator wasn't a person in the village." Still, Billy's owner will probably have to pony up for the damaged tires — not to mention dental work. *Guardian, Dec. 4*

The Golden Age of Air Travel

Yeah, yeah, another flight diverted because of unruly passengers. This story gets bonus points: On Dec. 5, just before a Breeze Airways flight took off from Orlando, headed to Providence, Rhode Island, a couple on board got into a heated argument, News4Jax-TV reported. It seems the man was unhappy because he wanted to get off the plane — which wouldn't have been such a big deal, but during the discussion, the word "bomb" came up. Passenger Rachael Corrigan said, "The people were talking about or claiming the other person had a bomb ... The people around them ... reported it to the airline, and they're obligated to land the plane." The pilot diverted to Jacksonville, Florida, where the man and woman were met by FBI agents and arrested. Breeze Airways canceled the flight. *News4Jax, Dec. 6*

News You Can Use

In Stenlille, Denmark, a vehicle fire also damaged a nearby house on Dec. 2, InShort reported. Police issued a warning to the community after the fire, cautioning people against using toasters under the front of cars to keep EV batteries warm. While there were no injuries, the car was heavily damaged, and the owner likely will have to pay a fine. *InShort, Dec. 5*

Least Competent Criminal

A 62-year-old woman from Haslett, Michigan, picked a poor time to dash through the self-checkout at Walmart with \$700 worth of merchandise in her cart, WJRT-TV reported. On Dec. 2, as the store participated in a Shop With a Cop event in Genoa Township, a clerk notified one of about 75 police officers on hand about the shoplifter. "I do have to say it surprised me," said Michigan State Police Lt. Rene Gonzalez. "When you see 75 cops in the store, I mean, I don't know if maybe they thought we were too busy." The alleged thief was detained in the parking lot and taken to jail. *WJRT, Dec. 5*

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

The Way the World Works

Can't a grandma send her grandson home with an early Christmas gift without raising suspicions among the TSA? No, she can't. Actor Brett Gaffney headed back to Los Angeles on Nov. 25 after spending Thanksgiving in his native Kansas, People reported. At Kansas City International Airport, he said, "I got stopped at the airport security,

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PRESENTS

DECEMBER



THURSDAY 14
7:00PM



FRIDAY 15
7:30PM



SATURDAY 16
2PM & 7:30PM



SUNDAY 17
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. Gells Band Tribute Experience	7:30PM
SAT 30	Swiftie Dance Party	2 & 7:30
SUN 31	Comedian Jimmy Dunn's New Years Eve	7:30PM

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- 12/16 THE LITTLE MERMEN 12/16 NIGHT OF COMEDY
- 12/17 NATURALLY 7* 12/30 ADRENALIZE (DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE)
- 12/31 THE ADAM EZRA GROUP (NEW YEARS EVE SHOW)*
- 1/5 CAPTAIN FANTASTIC (ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE)
- 1/6 MIA X ALLY 1/12 DUELING PIANOS 1/13 EAGLEMANIA!

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* Denotes Special Holiday or Christmas show!



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