

the Hippo

DEC 28, 2023 - JAN 3, 2024

**COOKING
CLASSES P. 21**

**MUSIC THIS
WEEKEND P. 34**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

Year in Review



PLUS A PEEK AT THE YEAR AHEAD

INSIDE: TAYLOR GOLDSMITH OF THE BAND DAWES

Winter Location Now Open!



CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE
JAN. 13 · 4-7pm

INDOOR PETTING FARM & PLAY AREA!

Farm store with our own fresh
beef, pork & veggies!
NH maple syrup & honey!

MADE IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE



108 Ghester Rd. Derry
(603) 437-0535
HOURS: Thurs & Fri: 10-6
(closed Mon - Wed)
Weekends: 10-5

139361

FREE JUNK CAR REMOVAL!
We will pay up to \$600
for some cars and trucks.



**HELP
WANTED!**

55 Hall Rd.
Londonderry
425-2562

Please mention this Hippo ad

WE SELL PARTS!

141863



News and culture weekly
serving Metro southern New Hampshire
Published every Thursday
(1st copy free; 2nd \$1).
195 McGregor St., Suite 325,
Manchester, N.H. 03102
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
hippopress.com
email: news@hippopress.com

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor
Amy Diaz, adiaz@hippopress.com

Editorial Design
Jennifer Gingras
hippolayout@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Lisa Parsons, lparsons@hippopress.com

Staff Writers
Angie Sykeny
asykeny@hippopress.com
Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Contributors Michelle Belliveau, John Fladd,
Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Chelsea Kearin,
Dave Long, Eric W. Saeger, Meghan Siegler, Dan
Szczeny, Michael Witthaus

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

BUSINESS

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

Associate Publisher
Dan Szczeny

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

Production
Jennifer Gingras, Corinne Robinson

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

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

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

To place an ad call 625-1855, Ext. 126
For Classifieds dial Ext. 150
or e-mail classifieds@hippopress.com

Unsolicited submissions will not be returned or
acknowledged and will be destroyed.
Opinions expressed by columnists do not represent
the views of the Hippo or its advertisers.

ON THE COVER

In this week's issue, we consider the year that was with a discussion about the economy in New Hampshire (page 6), a look at the art scene (page 12), a taste of the food scene (page 20) and a look at the local music scene (page 32) as well as some of the year's best picks in books (page 26) and movies (page 28). And along the way we take a peek at some events coming up in 2024.



ALSO ON THE COVER Mya Blanchard looks at a new year of cooking classes at the Culinary Playground (page 21). Find live music before, on and after New Year's Eve in the Music This Week (page 34). And Michael Witthaus talks to Taylor Goldsmith of the band Dawes (page 30), which is playing a pre-New Year's Eve show.

INSIDE THIS WEEK

NEWS & NOTES

4 NEWS IN BRIEF

6 Q&A

8 SPORTS

9 THIS WEEK

10 QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

THE ARTS

12 YEAR IN REVIEW

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

16 CAR TALK

Automotive advice.

17 TREASURE HUNT

There's gold in your attic.

17 KIDDIE POOL

Family fun events this weekend.

CAREERS

18 ON THE JOB

What it's like to be a...

FOOD

20 WEEKLY SPECIALS The year in food; classes at the Culinary Playground; Weekly Dish; Drinks with John Fladd.

POP CULTURE

24 REVIEWS CDs, books and more. Amy Diaz will never stop talking about *Barbie* and *Slotherhouse*.

NITE

30 BANDS, CLUBS, NIGHTLIFE

Nite Roundup, concert & comedy listings and more.

33 COMEDY THIS WEEK

Where to find laughs

34 MUSIC THIS WEEK

Live music at your favorite bars and restaurants.

38 CONCERTS

Big ticket shows.

38 TRIVIA NIGHTS

Find some friendly competition.

ODDS & ENDS

39 JONESIN' CROSSWORD

39 KEN KEN, WORD ROUNDUP

40 ROCK N' ROLL CROSSWORD

40 SUDOKU

41 SIGNS OF LIFE

41 7 LITTLE WORDS

42 NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Welcome Home



Community Assisted Living at Poplin Way

A Deficiency Free assisted living facility
situated on 12.5 tree lined acres in the
picturesque town of Fremont, NH.



137466

Visit us at colonialpoplin.com
to learn about all of our services

442 Main Street, Fremont, NH 03044
603-895-3126 | Fax 603-895-3662 | colonialpoplin.com

FAST CASH FOR YOUR HOME ANY CONDITION "AS IS"

- You need to sell fast?

Single Family Home - Multi Family- Mobile Homes

- Inherited unwanted property?

- Need fast cash?

- Going through divorce?

- Tired of being a landlord?

- Need to get rid of a beat up house?

- About to be foreclosed on?

- Have a mortgage? No Problem



CALL TODAY (603)266-5015
EMAIL: danziger199@yahoo.com

142052

WELCOME TO HUNTINGTON EXCHANGE *Merrimack*



***ONE-MONTH FREE RENT WITH NEW
13-MONTH LEASE & \$500 INITIAL SECURITY
DEPOSIT WITH GOOD CREDIT ON ALL UNITS.**

Huntington Exchange Merrimack, is an animal-friendly apartment community, offering beautiful 1-2 bed apartment homes. Every unit showcases gleaming quartz countertops in both the kitchen and bathroom, stainless steel appliances, in-unit washer and dryer, and designer flooring throughout.

Huntington Exchange Merrimack is located off Route 3, and less than 5 minutes to the Everett Turnpike. Additionally, Huntington Exchange Merrimack is in close proximity to the Merrimack Premium Outlets, as well as shopping and restaurants on Amherst Street in Nashua.

Contact us TODAY for your personal tour.



huntingtonexchangemerrimack.com



603.402.2531



1 Innovation Way, Merrimack, NH

*Limited time offer, subject to change. New residents only, not transferable.
Restrictions may apply. Please speak to our Leasing Team for more information.

NEWS & NOTES



Courtesy photo.

Storm clean-up

In the aftermath of a massive storm system on Dec. 18, 2023, which brought heavy rainfall and strong winds to New Hampshire, both the state's Congressional delegation and the Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) have requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to a press release, the New Hampshire Congressional delegation, led by Sens. Jean Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, along with Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas, sent a letter to FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell expressing their support for the affected local communities. The storm resulted in extensive road closures, infrastructure damage and home destructions in northern New Hampshire, leading to the rescue of some residents by National Guard helicopters. The delegation urges FEMA to be prepared to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments in collaboration with state and local officials, should the state request it, especially as impending snowfall could complicate the assessment of the full extent of the damage. On the state level, the HSEM, on behalf of

Gov. Chris Sununu, initiated joint Preliminary Damage Assessments with FEMA to document the impact on communities, which is crucial for securing federal disaster relief funds. HSEM had nine teams visiting affected communities to assess initial damage estimates, working closely with communities to determine whether they meet the state threshold of \$2.53 million in damages.

Food help

NH Hunger Solutions and other anti-hunger advocates plan to attend a public hearing in Concord on Jan. 3 for SB499, the Hunger Free NH Act. According to a press release, this bipartisan legislation, led by Sen. Becky Whitley (D-Hopkinton) and introduced for the 2024 session, aims to address food insecurity in New Hampshire. Key objectives of the act include increasing participation in Federal Nutrition Programs (FNPs), removing administrative barriers for accessing these programs and improving participation in School Breakfast and Summer Meals programs. The act also focuses on making it easier for older adults and people with disabilities to access food and nutrition benefits. "Our food and nutrition support system is designed to work like a power grid that can move healthy food to communities and households — the problem is that the grid is well-powered in some areas and patchy or even non-existent in others," Executive Director of NH Hunger Solutions Laura Milliken said in the release. "At the same time, rising costs of goods,

housing and child care are straining household budgets. For many, it is increasingly difficult to meet basic needs." Milliken noted that over half of New Hampshire children and 46 percent of adults live in households with insufficient food as of Oct. 30. "The Hunger Free NH Act will connect more Granite Staters with nutritious food and bolster our food support system in NH," she said.

Historic registry

The Bald Peak Colony Club in Moultonborough has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a notable example of a rural country club from the 1920s, according to a press release. Located with views of Lake Winnepesaukee and surrounded by the Belknap and Ossipee mountain ranges, the club was founded in 1921. It stands out as one of New Hampshire's most preserved historic golf clubs, featuring 93 contributing buildings, sites and structures that maintain the Colonial Revival architectural style. The club's facilities include a symmetrical clubhouse, early cottages near the clubhouse, a variety of recreational buildings, and an 18-hole golf course that has kept its original layout since 1919. The listing on the National Register, administered by the National Park Service, recognizes the property's historical significance without imposing new restrictions on it. It also makes the property eligible for certain state grants aimed at conservation and heritage investment.

Pembroke received approval from the NH Public Utilities Commission to proceed with the Pembroke Community Power Energy Aggregation Plan, set to launch on March 1, 2024. According to a press release, the plan aims to provide residents and businesses with more affordable and cleaner electricity. Residents will receive information letters starting Jan. 22, detailing the benefits and explaining how to participate or opt out of Pembroke Community Power. The Pembroke Energy Committee will hold an informational public meeting on Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pembroke Academy auditorium.

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has announced the closure of the temporary E-ZPass Walk-In Center (WIC) at Exit 16 on the Spaulding Turnpike (Route 16) in **Rochester**, according to a press release. The center, which was set up to assist travelers in transitioning to the All-Electronic-Toll (AET) system implemented in September 2023, will cease operations permanently on Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. Walk-In Centers in Concord, Nashua and Portsmouth will continue to serve the public from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Upper Room, a family resource center in **Derry**, is launching a six-week series titled "Is This Crossing The Line?" to educate teen women on boundary setting, consent, sexting and personal confidence. According to a press release, the free program will run Mondays, Jan. 22 through March 4, from 3 to 4 p.m. Sessions will be facilitated by Valerie Mazzola, LICSW, from Clear Balance Counseling, to provoke insightful discussions among participants about maintaining healthy relationships. Attendance for all six sessions is required for participants. To register, call 437-8477.

Corrections training

The New Hampshire Department of Corrections has partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire (NAMI NH) for a training initiative funded by a grant from the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs. According to a press release, this collaboration aims to equip all corrections staff with specialized skills through programs like Building a Trauma-Responsive Correctional Setting and Crisis Intervention

Training, with a focus on application in correctional environments. This move comes after a significant number of individuals were referred for behavioral and substance use services upon booking, highlighting the need for enhanced staff training. The initiative, starting in Fiscal Year 2025, seeks to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals with mental illness and support corrections staff in managing complex issues within the criminal justice system.

Happy New Year Beautiful New Hair!

CUT • COLOR • STYLE
*single process only

Only \$80

Tues-Fri 'til 8PM
603-627-4301
904 Hanover Street
Manchester NH

Hairpocalypse
BARBERING & COSMETOLOGY
Big city style at a great neighborhood salon
www.Hairpocalypse.com

Accomando Family Dentistry
Natalie Accomando, DMD * Lynn Brennan DDS

We will create a dental experience that you will enjoy! Call us today
603.645.8510

1361 Elm St., Suite 330 * Manchester, NH
www.accomandofamilydentistry.com * 603.645.8510

We accept most insurance, including Delta Dental, MetLife, Guardian & Healthy Kids

Jowls Look Jolly on Santa, Not You!

Our beautiful client Amanda recently visited Renew for the first time and had Daxxify wrinkle relaxer upper and lower face. Powered by a special peptide and available only at exclusive locations, **Daxxify results often last 6 months and up to 9 months!**



Scan here to watch Amanda's Experience unfold!



EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER

DAXXIFY™
daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm injection



Dr. Lisa Vuich
Expert Injector, Laser Specialist

Southern New Hampshire's Premier Medispa since 2006

Every year for 9 years!

State of the state

A snapshot of New Hampshire's economic climate

Mike Skelton, President and CEO of the Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire, analyzes the state's economic climate for 2023. His comprehensive overview covers key topics such as inflation, housing and job market trends, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that have shaped New Hampshire's business landscape. Skelton reflects on the year's economic trajectory and provides projections for 2024, offering insights into the state's economic health and future prospects.

How would you characterize the economic climate in New Hampshire for the year 2023?

Q: I would say the economic climate in New Hampshire for 2023 was or is strong with some reservations and risk factors that inhibited the ability for some businesses to grow in the manner that they would like to or to make investments with full confidence. Those risk factors primarily were rising interest rates, inflation, consumer confidence and sentiment, as well as an overarching sense of potential risk with world events and whether predictions about some sort of recessionary environment were coming to fruition. The general conditions lasted through the bulk of 2023. However, as the year wore on, folks began to warm up to the fact that while those risk factors are present, economic conditions on the ground are reasonably strong. Unemployment remains low, job growth remains steady and demand remains high in most, if not all, sectors. Inflation was easing slowly, and the hopes of avoiding a recession and heading to the "soft landing," which was the Federal Reserve Bank's target with its rate adjustment strategy over the last year, became more and more plausible as a potential path forward.

What have been the key drivers of inflation in New Hampshire this past year, and how have they impacted local businesses?

The key drivers of inflation in New Hampshire are similar to those in any other place around the country. Depending on your perspective as a consumer or a business, you have too many dollars and too much demand chasing too few products or too little supply. As supply has increased — considering there were supply chain issues in the last few years, whether it was in vehicles or various consumer products, and those have moderated or corrected — inflation has followed that in terms of decreasing. And with the Fed's adjustments to interest rates, that obviously has an effect on dampening demand. So the impact on businesses is potentially seen in lessening demand. However, the surprise for many folks was that demand has remained



Mike Skelton

relatively high, whether you're in the services business or in the products business. Demand has remained pretty steady. It may be starting to slow a little bit now from the earlier breakneck pace, but it's still quite strong, and that's evident in what you see in economic indicators, job numbers and GDP. Where the biggest impact was felt was really in interest rates and how that impacts businesses' ability to borrow money and finance expansions or operations, or activities they're looking to invest in for future growth. This is probably most felt in the construction industry and the housing sector. But we're seeing some shifts now with the Fed signaling that they are done raising rates and that rate cuts are expected at some point in 2024. We've already started to see interest rates begin to decline, and that starts to build some momentum for 2024, in terms of businesses looking at better conditions for financing operations and financing expansions in the manner they would like to.

How did New Hampshire's housing market evolve over 2023?

The housing market continues to be extremely challenging, and it's something that is inhibiting our growth as an economy. We have workers and citizens who would like more housing options, who would like more affordable housing options, and we simply don't have enough supply. That's really the story of New Hampshire's housing market. It's similar to many other states

around us and locations across the country: We have too much demand chasing too little supply, and we're not building enough new units to satisfy that increasing demand. That, of course, has pushed average prices higher over the past several years, making it more difficult for new homeowners to enter the market, for homeowners who wish to upgrade or move into a larger housing unit to find that, and it makes it more difficult for older homeowners who look to downsize. We're seeing those stressors across the housing market, and, of course, that also translates to our rental market, where rental vacancy rates continue to be below 1 percent, well far off of what we would like to see as a balanced housing market. So this continues to be a challenge. There's a flip side of the issue where it is positive that people want to move here and want to live here. New Hampshire has a lot of desirable qualities, both in terms of job availability and quality of life, that attract people. That contributes to the demand in our housing market. But we can't sustain having this level of demand without it coming at the cost of holding back economic growth. If we're going to continue to grow as an economy — and for companies that wish to hire to find a qualified workforce — we need to create more housing opportunities here in 2024 and for the foreseeable future.

What changes have you observed in the New Hampshire job market? Are there any sectors that have shown significant growth or decline?

Overall, the job market is robust. New Hampshire continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, and I don't necessarily see that changing dramatically in 2024. We're going to continue to have an overall shortage of available workers compared to available jobs, and that underscores the need to create pathways for workers to move here, to work here, to open themselves up to opportunities here in New Hampshire. That cuts across multiple sectors, whether you're looking at workers in the retail sector or manufacturing sector, or the need for more workers in high tech or engineering, or more positions that require advanced degrees or training. It's really across the board, and I would expect New Hampshire to continue to be in fierce competition with surrounding states and other parts of the country, given the advent of remote work, to attract and retain workers here.

What were the major challenges and opportunities faced by New Hampshire businesses in 2023?

In this type of economy, where there [are] some overarching risk factors relating to changes in the interest rate environment, world events impacting the economy and consumer confidence, a challenge for businesses was navigating that uncertainty while continuing to invest in the future, without having necessarily a clearer picture of what the future might bring. Would there be a recession? Or would we navigate through that? Earlier this year at one point, national economists were forecasting, in some cases with 100 percent certainty, that there would be a recession in 2023. So, for many businesses, the challenge was bracing for a downturn in the economy that ultimately has not come, and we hope does not come, but through that, continuing to look toward the future and how they can grow. In terms of opportunities, this is a time where, for companies, depending on what their industry sector is, coming out of a challenging few years with the pandemic, with high pent-up demand across multiple sectors of the economy, this is an opportunity to grow and to discover new markets, new customers and new strategies for how to reach those customers. This was a year where if you were able to navigate the uncertainty, there were probably some pretty interesting and exciting business opportunities to discover that could position you for growth well into the future.

What potential impacts do you anticipate the upcoming elections having on New Hampshire's business environment and economic policies?

At this point, because we're in the primary season right now, it's a little early to say what type of impact it might have. Generally speaking, I think the business community looks to the political realm, first and foremost, for stability. And if an election cycle is particularly highly partisan and not necessarily focused on important policy issues, that can serve as a distraction from some of the important business issues that business leaders and those interested in the future of the economy would like to discuss. So, hopefully, the election cycle will allow for and have a platform where voters will be able to dig into what are the business policies and plans of each candidate, whether it's at the presidential level or congressional level, down to state officeholders, because those issues really matter and will have a material impact on the businesses in which

they work as well as their individual quality of lives. ... As is the case with most elections, economic issues, in the end, tend to bubble up to the top, and how voters perceive the health of the economy and the direction of the economy usually has a significant impact on their decision-making when they ultimately go to the polls.

Based on current trends, what are your projections or expectations for New Hampshire's economy in 2024?

I'll caveat this to say that I am not an economist, so this is not a traditional economic forecast, but from my perspective, as CEO of the BIA, I feel very bullish on New Hampshire's economy heading into 2024 and believe we have significant opportunities for continued growth. ... I think there is increasing optimism. There are certainly going to remain some economic challenges and risk factors, but the environment and conditions are improving or strengthening compared to where we were a year ago. ... New Hampshire has a favorable business climate with a business-friendly regulatory system. We have a highly educated workforce, and we have a strong quality of life and community. We're a state that is regularly rated as one of the best places to live and raise a family. We have all of these pillars of what makes the state a strong place

to do business already here, and in relatively good condition and health. That allows us to compete really well against our neighbors here in New England, and with some other states. Where we need to continue to focus is really the cost of housing, the cost of energy, and attracting workers; those are the key challenges, and I think we are making progress on them, but it's a question of how much progress can we make year in, year out to realize the growth potential that is here before us. In terms of 2024, if continuing in the current direction with a strong job market, a lower interest rate environment and an overall economy that's headed toward a soft landing — avoiding a recession — I think you're going to see a really strong year for New Hampshire economically, and businesses are going to have more confidence to move forward with hiring or expansion plans that they may have put off in 2023 that they were a little worried about. They wanted a clearer picture. ... So I think that is an optimistic and also realistic view of where we could be headed. I think New Hampshire continues to be well-positioned compared to many other states in the region and also around the country. — *Angie Sykeny*



Europe is closer than you think! A delightful selection of European imports, foods & fine gifts. Unique gifts for everyone and every budget!

Alf Incess smokers, Nutcrackers, Advent cabinets and calendars, Gift wrap and cards, Holiday pyramids and more are on sale now!



Deerfield Family Dentistry

LOOKING FOR QUALITY DENTURE CARE?

Our expert team is here to provide you with top-notch service and personalized care to meet your unique denture needs.

Let us help you achieve a confident, healthy smile!

RESERVE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Visit Our Website deerfieldfamilydentist.com

Give Us A Call **(603) 691-1150**

19 N Main St, Concord, NH 603-228-1198 | vikinghouse.com



THE GOOD DEEDS PODCAST



NEW EPISODE EVERY TUESDAY!

AVAILABLE ON YOUR FAVORITE PODCAST PLATFORM

AND AT FINEHOMESGROUPNH.COM

135543

Give your home the protection it deserves.

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that's worth protecting. We're here to help.

LET'S TALK TODAY.



Rene C LeClerc Ins Agency Inc
Rene LeClerc CLU ChFC, President
1100 Hooksett Road, Suite 107
www.reneleclerc.com
Bus: 603-668-0009



Dick Lombardi, Agent
1837 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03104
Bus: 603-623-4675
dick.lombardi.gz15@statefarm.com



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX

142074

2023 in review



The Big Story – As the year closes, it's time to look at the biggest stories of 2023 and to remedy Sports Illustrated's choice of **Deion Sanders** as Sports Person of the Year by giving five better nominees for that distinction.

News Item – Top 5 Sports Stories of the Year:

Women's Sports Growth in Business: The WNBA's Seattle Storm sold for \$160 million and an all-women group is putting up \$100 million to bring a NWSL expansion team to Boston. These are previously unheard of prices for women sports franchises, so it's clear the business of women's sports is finally on its way.

Collapse of Pac-12: The generation of fans who grow up with it may come to love the bloated conference world. But those of us who grew up with schools' regional identities tied to the conference they played in never will. Stanford in the ACC? USC, UCLA and podunk Rutgers in the Big 10? Creighton in the Big East? Give me a break. The culprit, of course, is money, with the first three schools mentioned being the reason behind the collapse of the once great Pac-8 (then 10, then 12).

Shohei Ohtani the \$700 Million Dodger: The final number makes it hard to see how it can match the return L.A. will get back. And you don't need much imagination to envision how an early injury to an already injury-prone guy can wreck this deal. But I'll still root for him because he put greed aside to defer all but \$2 million of his annual \$70 million salary to let L.A. afford more players, which happened less than a week later when the Dodgers (incredibly) also put prized Japanese hurler **Yoshinobu Yamamoto** under their Christmas tree for a paltry \$325 million.

Rise of Gambling in Sports: You can't turn on any TV sportscast without being overrun by legalized sports betting ads. It's gone from the ultimate taboo to "it's all fine with us, boys, as long as you keep sending the cash."

Collapse of the Patriots Dynasty We now have a clear answer to "Was it more Tom or Bill?," don't we? **Tom Brady** didn't play in 2023 but clearly he was even more important to the dynasty than most realized.

News Item – Sports Person of the Year:
Brock Purdy: He may not be Brady just yet. But by going from 2022's last player drafted to beating out the QB who cost the 49ers three first-round picks to get a year

earlier, to the MVP favorite, he's a Brady-like Cinderella story.

Pat Mahomes: The heir apparent to Brady's passing records won his second Super Bowl.

Nikola Jokic: He led Denver to the NBA title, so he actually did something in Colorado besides promoting himself.

Nick Sirianni: By leading Philly to the SB while somehow adding excitement to the ancient QB sneak with the unstoppable Brotherly Shove, he's a coach who actually did something besides promote himself.

Notable Deaths – RIP:

Tim Wakefield – 57: He wasn't the greatest player, but he did earn a special place in Red Sox Nation's heart.

Jim Brown – 87: The Browns 1950s-'60s fullback was simply the greatest and most indestructible football player who ever lived.

Dick Butkus – 80: No one was scarier or hit harder than da Bears' MLB. With all due respect to LT, he was the most intimidating player I've ever seen.

Bobby Knight – 83: Dan Patrick said it best on his radio show: "I had friends who played for him. I had people who swore by him and swore at him. ... This is a coach who demanded poise, composure, but he didn't have it." All true, but no one got more out of less athletic ability than the Indiana coach.

Vida Blue – 73: You had to be there to fully get how the A's fireballing lefty took baseball by storm in 1971 like no first-year player ever has.

Willis Reed – 80: No one has ever put the hopes of his team and its fans on his back like the Knicks captain did in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals. After two days of "will Willis play or won't he?" fears, he limped onto the Madison Square Garden floor to face Wilt Chamberlain and the L.A. Lakers to energize everyone watching, then scored the game's first two baskets to crush L.A.'s hopes 90 seconds into the game. I've never been more inspired or had a greater day as a sports fan.

Thumbs Up – Brad Stevens: Adding **Kristaps Porzingis** and **Jrue Holiday** to reshape the C's has worked perfectly. Add bringing back **Al Horford** and **Derrick White** to town and every trade he's made as Celtics GM has been a heist.

Thumbs Down – John Henry: He's currently destroying his legacy as the Sox' best owner ever. Save the legacy by taking the \$3 billion profit you've earned and sell to someone who wants to win.

Final Thought: Happy new year to all.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

DECEMBER 28 AND BEYOND

Sunday, Dec. 31

Catch **Adam Ezra** tonight at 9 p.m. at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusic-hall.com) — tickets cost \$45 for the show (\$95 for a dinner-and-show ticket). Find more ideas for **New Year's Eve celebration** in the Dec. 21 issue of the Hippo at hippopress.com, where you can flip through the e-edition. On page 28, find a list of **restaurants** with special meals and seatings; on page



36 find a listing of **music and parties**.

Band. This is the last Art After Work Thursday before a winter break, according to the museum's website.

Sunday, Dec. 31

Juston McKinney is just one of several comedians dishing out the last laughs at 2023. He's performing tonight at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashua-centerforthearts.com) at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$39. Find more comedy in our Comedy This Week listings in the Nite section.

Monday, Jan. 1

Start the year with a brisk run — the **Apple Therapy & Derry Sports Rehab Millennium Mile** in Londonderry steps off at a New Year's Eve party-attendee-friendly 2 p.m. Registration costs \$20 for everyone 12 and over; \$10 for 11 and under. The

course is described as "a point-to-point, downhill 1-mile course for all ages and abilities starting on Mammoth Road in front of Londonderry High School," according to millenniumrunning.com, where you can find out more about the race and register.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

Andrew North and the Rangers host **RangerZone Open Mic** tonight at the Bank of New Hampshire Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Signups start at 6:30 p.m. and partici-

pants will get a slot based on a lottery; music starts at 6:45 p.m. Bring your instrument; amps are provided and the band can serve as your backing band. Admission is free. 🗨️



Save the Date! Friday, Jan. 19

Heat up with winter with **Dancing Queens**, billed as "the Ultimate ABBA and Disco Tribute," at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 11, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, plus Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$28 to \$49.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Recycled Percussion begins its multi-show run today at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) running through Jan. 7 (see the Nov. 9 issue for an in-depth interview with Justin Spencer). Showtimes include today at 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 29, through Monday, Jan. 1, at 3 and 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m.;

Saturday, Jan. 6, at 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 7, at 3 and 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Take a moment for some art at the Currier Museum of Art's (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) **Art After Work** today from 5 to 8 p.m., when admission is free and live music will be provided by Max Sullivan

YOU ALREADY BELONG

YOU JUST NEED TO JOIN!



COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE SPECIAL!

Join the Y between December 11th and January 14th and bring 5 non-perishable food items to pay no join fee! Join online and consider a donation at your first visit.

www.nymca.org/joinus

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY BECOME A Y MEMBER TODAY!

At the YMCA of Greater Nashua, we provide the support and encouragement you need to achieve a healthier, happier you. With a range of programs and classes, many of which are included with your YMCA membership, our dedicated staff is here to assist individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, to help you develop a healthier spirit, mind, and body, fostering a strong sense of belonging within our community.

FOR KIDS

- Multi-Age Child Care
- Swim Lessons
- Competitive Swim Team
- Progressive Dance Program
- Youth Sports and Leagues
- Martial Arts
- Art and Humanities
- Ninja Obstacle Course

FOR ADULTS

- Personal Training
- 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



Scan the QR code, join the YMCA December 11 to January 14 and donate 5 non-perishable food items to enjoy a \$0 join fee (up to a \$100 savings).

Visit nymca.org/joinus for More Details!

MERRIMACK YMCA | NASHUA YMCA | WESTWOOD PARK YMCA

AMERICAN K9 COUNTRY



Best Doggie Day Care



Multi Day Care Areas

Tiny Tot Room & Access to Aquatic Fitness Room

- Pet Obedience • Competitive Obedience
- Agility Training • Rally Training
- Conformation Training

AmericanK9Country.com
336 Route 101, Amherst, NH
603.672.8448



142080

NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Toys!



12th Annual Tower of Toys. Courtesy photo.

The 12th Annual Tower of Toys initiative in Manchester marked another successful year by collecting approximately 1,100 gifts and raising more than \$15,000 for local children and families during the holiday season. According to a press release, the donated toys were assembled into a tower for public viewing at the Beacon Building's atrium before distribution to beneficiaries through schools, churches and nonprofit organizations. Local

businesses, individuals and 10 restaurants actively participated in the campaign, which also received support from various sponsors.

QOL score: +1

Comment: "With heartfelt appreciation, the 12th annual Tower of Toys initiative celebrates the collective generosity that has made the holidays truly magical for New Hampshire children and families," Larry Thibodeau, Tower of Toys founder and sponsor, said in the release.

Little extra

Following advocacy efforts by the New Hampshire and Vermont Congressional delegations, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced an increase in pay for federal employees in certain counties of New Hampshire and Vermont. According to a press release, this change, impacting workers in Carroll, Cheshire, Grafton and Sullivan counties in New Hampshire, aligns their locality pay with most counties in New Hampshire and the Greater Boston area. Over 1,000 federal employees, including those working at the White River Junction VA Medical Center, White Mountain National Forest and the Army's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, will benefit from more competitive pay rates.

QOL score: +1

Comment: The pay raise aims to improve hiring and retention of federal employees, which is crucial for initiatives like the implementation of the PACT Act, a law passed to secure health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, according to the release.

Money management

A recent analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts commended New Hampshire for its prudent use of the \$995 million received from the American Rescue Plan, NHRP reported. The state allocated the majority (72.5 percent) of these funds to one-time expenses and dedicated over 19 percent to direct pandemic response, such as vaccine distribution and support for long-term care facilities. Only a small portion (8.1 percent) was used for operating expenses, which are typically recurring and could lead to future budget shortfalls.

QOL score: +1

Comment: New Hampshire's strategic spending on pandemic response and one-time investments, like purchasing Hampstead Hospital and expanding housing, is in line with Pew's recommendations for minimizing the risk of future fiscal imbalances, the article said.

QOL score: 90

Net change: +3

QOL this week: 93

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

Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

75

50



ONE GREAT RATE

Saturdays in January!

Includes skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and rentals

\$68 from 3:30-9pm

\$58 from 5:30-9pm

Lesson tips available from 3:30-7:30pm.

Southern NH's Winter Playground



603.622.6159 | 50 Chalet Way, Manchester, NH
mcintyreskiarea.com

142069

Happy New Year!



Not All Chocolates Are Created Equal

Extraordinary Ingredients Create Remarkable Chocolates

These Delicious Hand Dipped Chocolates Make Every Occasion Special

Made by Our Master Candy Makers

Choose from our Gourmet Personalized & Custom-made Boxes of Chocolates

All Dark • All Soft • All Milk
All Hard • Milk & Dark • Home Style

Granite State Candy Shoppe
Since 1927

Ask About Our Custom-Made Chocolate Boxes

832 Elm St., Manchester, NH • 603.218.3885

13 Warren St., Concord, NH • 603.225.2591

www.GraniteStateCandyShoppe.com



138971

Well Loved... for Good Reasons

A LEGACY OF WELLNESS

Products with a relentless approach to providing premium quality, naturally sourced health products from the world's finest ingredient suppliers.



We're here to help!

We believe that empowerment comes from education. Our staff is here to help you become informed and navigate the options.



170 N. State St., Concord, NH • (603) 224-9341

Family owned since 1971

Vitamin & Supplement Superstore | Wine & Beer | Bulk Refill Station Natural Skincare | Provisions

141566

ARTS

A year of arts and theater

Experts talk about their 2023 achievements

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

From musicals, festivals, murals and new exhibitions, 2023 was an eventful year for the arts scene. To look back on the highlights of the year and to see what lies ahead in the new year,

we caught up with museums, theater companies and others involved in New Hampshire's art community.

Meg Gore is the artistic director, manager and founder of Ovation Theatre Company in Londonderry. This year they've produced shows such as Little Shop of Horrors, Newsies and Mean Girls among others. Here is how the year went for them and what lies on the horizon for 2024.

What show from 2023 that you were involved in are you most proud of and why?

In 2023, Ovation Theatre Company produced the poignant drama *Dark Road*. I am very proud of the director, Tim Gore, and the entire cast and crew for tackling and successfully presenting this difficult material.

What show that you weren't involved in did you enjoy most as a spectator and why?

This year I saw several productions that I was not involved with and thoroughly enjoyed. Most recently I saw a production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* put on by the Python Players at Pelham High School and directed by Shannon Krumlauf. What I appreciate about Shannon is that she singlehandedly provides a safe place for the students to express themselves and an opportunity for them to share their talents with others. In this production, all of the students portrayed

their characters with conviction and heart.

What shows are you most looking forward to in 2024?

In 2024 I'm looking forward to many new experiences with Ovation Theatre Company. I am excited to rock out and relive the '80s with *Rock of Ages* [Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4]. I am also thrilled to be directing the spectacular musical *Legally Blonde* [running Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20] and working with a combined cast that will include adults, college and high school students. And in the fall Ovation is excited to bring the reimagined enchanted tale of *Cinderella* to life with magical costumes and classic music.

From the Manchester International Film Festival to the Manchester Citywide Arts Festival, the Palace Theatre had quite the year. Here's what David Rousseau, the director of sales and marketing, had to say about it.

What show from 2023 that you were involved in are you most proud of and why?

Kinky Boots. It was the first time the Palace Theatre was producing this professional show and I and my staff were responsible for the entire marketing of the four-week show. The end result: incredible. Ticket sales and so many new faces in the audience made it a true success. Amazing choreography by Carl Rajotte, our artistic director.

What show that you weren't involved in did you enjoy most as a spectator and why?

The Palace Theatre's celebration of Night of 1,000 Stars. This is the end-of-the-year tribute to all graduating seniors from the Palace Youth Theatre program. These

are children that have matured into young adults, constantly gaining confidence and self-respect for themselves and the amazing wonderful friends they have met and acted with along the way. [It was] just a wonderful evening of celebration that included the granting of more than 20 college scholarships to many graduating seniors!

What events or shows are you most looking forward to in 2024?

The Children's Summer Series, the professional productions of *Dancing Queens*, *The Prom*, *Beautiful*, *42nd Street*, *A Christmas Carol* and all of the many Palace and Rex Theatre shows, performers and patrons.

2023 was a noteworthy year for the visual arts as well. We checked in with Yasamin Safarzadeh from Kimball Jenkins art school in Concord to see how things went there.

What show or exhibit from 2023 that you were involved in are you most proud of and why?

We had two completed murals with two different groups of interest from Waypoint and MyTurn.

There is extensive coverage of the latter in 603 Diversity, but the former did not [yet] receive too much coverage. These interns, about 15 a piece, were paid for their labor for over six weeks of work! Incredible. We also had a blast for our annual fundraiser, this year called Equinox.

What show or exhibit that you weren't involved in did you enjoy most as a spectator and why?

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Akwesasne and seeing their annual art and craft market. It was incredible to see the whole community turn out for the event and to meet so many people from a sovereign nation.

What events or shows are you most looking forward to in 2024?

[I'm] looking forward to having some of the Akwesasne artists come down to Kimball Jenkins for a three-month-long show with curator Margaret Jacobs! Many different nations will be represented for this contemporary indigenous show and the curatorial preparations have been great and we are so honored to be hosting this show.

The Currier Museum of Art knows the importance of diversity and representation, which they displayed this year through their exhibits and, according to their press con-



Ovation production of *Mean Girls*.
Courtesy photo.

tact, Courtney Starrett, plan to continue in the new year.

What show/exhibit from 2023 that you were involved in are you most proud of and why?

The Currier was delighted to display the current exhibition 'Heart of a Museum: Saya Woolfalk' — on view though Feb. 4 — shining a light on diversifying representation in museum galleries. Woolfalk's immersive and mesmerizing installations reimagine the narrative of traditional museum art work by predominantly white male artists. She takes it a step further by including cosmic and universal elements, reminding the viewer that we are all connected — to each other, to nature, to the universe as a whole.

What show that you weren't involved in did you enjoy most as a spectator and why?

We were thrilled to recently host the Manchester Choral Society on Dec. 2. It's always amazing to hear their voices soar with the beautiful acoustics of the 1929 Historic Court and see families and friends come back each year for this seasonal tradition.

What events or shows are you most looking forward to in 2024?

The museum looks forward to welcoming in the work of artist Kara Walker this spring, featuring her series 'Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated),' which continues our commitment to showing the best in American art. The show offers us an opportunity to process the brutality of enslavement by retelling the story of emancipation. Beautifully constructed, Kara Walker's artwork adds critical voices into our gallery through her visually impactful approach to storytelling.

In September, Mike Howat and Fallon Andrews opened Pillar Gallery and Projects (205 N. State St., Concord) with the intention of providing a hub for artists and the community. Here's how their first few months have been.

BRASS TO THE MAX

Symphony NH will team up with the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corp for "**Brass to the Max**," a show at the Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St. in Nashua) on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. "For the first time, Symphony NH's brass and percussion join forces with the award-winning musicians of Nashua-based Drum Corps International's The Spartans in a thrilling, high-octane performance of brass and percussion favorites.... The program will be visceral and high-energy. Be prepared to feel this one

all the way through your bones with great music like Aaron Copland's 'Fanfare for the Common Man' and 'Celebrate' by Kool and the Gang," according to a press release. Tickets cost \$10 to \$60 and are available at symphonynh.org or by calling 595-9156.

What exhibit from 2023 that you were involved in are you most proud of and why?

'Flora & Fauna' [and] opening the gallery. We opened in September with our inaugural exhibition, 'Flora & Fauna,' and we worked with a range of artists we admire. Connecting a range of creators and seeing the support from the community has been inspiring. 'Flora & Fauna' was meant to shake up what curatorial projects mean in New Hampshire and [we] have been excited at the response. We are looking forward to transforming the space with every show.

What show that you weren't involved in did you enjoy most as a spectator and why?

Katzman Contemporary's 'Paint Pals: Good Enough for Our House' features an artist takeover of the space by five regional artists. It's an amazingly immersive show with floor-to-ceiling murals covering every surface of the gallery walls, as well as exhibited works on the murals by the artists. The

space is entirely transformed with subjects ranging from geometric abstraction, to street art-inspired work and expressionism. Katzman Contemporary has become a regional hub and gathering place for artists in the Northeast. Their openings are always exciting, and you're always likely to run into some good people and artists.

What events or shows are you most looking forward to in 2024?

We're really looking to see our neighboring business, State Street Kitchen, run culinary events, ghost kitchens and classes in the new year. The community kitchen space opened last month with a lot of community excitement. There will be classes on knife skills, running a kitchen and a range of culinary education. The space will also have pop-up events of local chefs and bakers. We're excited to see how the project develops and grows. 🍴

In 2024

Palace Theatre Youth presents *Mean Girls*
When: Wednesday, Jan. 24; Thursday, Jan. 25; Wednesday, Jan. 31, and Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m.
Where: Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester
More info: palacetheatre.org

Majestic Theatre presents *Footloose the musical youth edition*
When: Friday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m.
More info: Derry Opera House, 29 W. Broadway, Derry

Polymer Clay Workshop
When: Friday, Feb. 2, 6 to 8 p.m.
Where: Manchester Craft Market, 1500 S. Willow St.
More info: manchestercraftmarket.com

Community Players of Concord presents *Witness for the Prosecution*
When: Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday,

Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.
Where: Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord
More info: communityplayersofconcord.org

Theatre Kapow presents *On the Exhale*
When: Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.
Where: Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord
More info: tkapow.com

BB King photographs by Charlie Sawyer
When: January through February, dates TBD
Where: Kimball Jenkins, 266 N. Main St., Concord

14th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival: A Gulf Coast Records Review
When: Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 to 10 p.m.
Where: The Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester
More info: rextheatre.org



YOU, ME AND THE WOODSMOKE

The original surrealist drama *You, Me and The Woodsmoke*, by Catherine Stewart, will come to the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; 436-8123, playersring.org) Friday, Jan. 5, through Sunday, Jan. 14, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. In the play, which runs two hours and has an intermission, two women are on a camping trip to rekindle a long-lost friendship, but the forest holds secrets, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$28, \$25 for students and 65+. Photo by: BenBagleyMultimedia.



BEST SELECTION OF USA MADE

JACKETS & VESTS BELTS TOO!
IMPORTED LEATHERS INCLUDING
BIG BOY SIZES 5X-8X
CHAPS. SADDLE BAGS. ACCESSORIES.



NH's Best Biker Shop
 94 South Road, Deerfield, NH
 (603) 463-5591
 deerfieldleathers.com

...**BUYING**...

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Jewelry
- Silver, Gold
- Complete Estates to Single Items

DONNA
FROM OUT OF THE WOODS
603-391-6550

141333

PHOTO RETRO

S. NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SOURCE FOR FILM PHOTOGRAPHY

Public Darkroom • Classes & Events
 Film Developing • Film Photo Supplies
 Portrait Studio



FRI 10-7PM • SAT 10-5PM • SUN NOON-5PM

141 St. Rt. 101A Unit B7 (in the back) Amherst NH 03031

photo_retro_nh

WWW.PHOTORETRO.BIZ

141613

The Gentle Side of Rye Whiskey

Maryland Style Rye

Distilled from a unique blend of thoroughbred grains from the Northern Neck of Virginia; 2/3 rye, 1/3 barley, hand-malted and kiln-dried with applewood and cherrywood smoke.

Double pot-distilled at a low 150 to 160 proof to enhance the fruitiness and matured in ex-bourbon barrels. Age: 4 years+

TASTING NOTES

Color: Copper and Macintosh apple
Nose: Sensual aromas of butter roasted chestnuts, clay, dried apple and pickling spices, rye grain sacks
Palate: Silky, with dried fruit and nuts, medium-to-full body, warm and inviting
Finish: Honeyed rye toast, peppery spice, cola, fig and mineral rich
Non-chill filtered. 45% ABV/90 proof



On Sale for \$39.99

Available at your local New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet

141881

Art

Exhibits

• **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).

• **"SMALL WORKS — BIG IMPACT"** at Creative Venture Gallery (411 Nashua St. in Milford; creativeventuresfineart.com, 672-2500) through Dec. 31. 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.

• **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.

• **"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.

• **"FABRICATING MODERNISM: PRINTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PARIS"** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) through Jan. 7. "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.

Theater

• **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 Sunday, Dec. 31, at 11:59 p.m.

• **THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD GOES SIL-**

VER, a dance revue by the Palace Theatre's Silver Stars, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m. at The Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.

• **THE BRITISH INVASION** an evening of music from the bands of the mid-1960s, at the Majestic Theatre (880 Page St. in Manchester; majestictheatre.net, 669-7469) on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.

• **DANCING QUEENS** The Ultimate ABBA and Disco Tribute, runs Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, plus Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$28 to \$49.

• **19th NH THEATRE AWARDS** will take place Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for

the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets cost \$45. See nhtheatrealiance.org.

• **MEAN GIRLS JR.** presented by the Palace Youth Theatre with performers in grades 2 through 12, at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15.

JOIN THE BAND



students

at Ted Herbert Music School. Band rehearsals will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month from February through June, the release said, with a final performance held on June 9 at the Majestic Studio Theatre (at the Page Street location). Reserve an audition spot by emailing jeffsamataromusic@gmail.com or calling 669-7469. See tedherbert.com for more.

Model Call

Get **25% OFF** the following services with photo video release agreement

- Dermal Filler -Face, Lips or Hands
- Vampire Face Lift (Filler + PRP)
- Captivating Eyes (undereye smoothing)
- Wrinkled Relaxers: Jeuveau and Daxxify
- Thread Lifting - Brows, Face, Neck
- Non Surgical Nose Job
- Sculptra: Face, Neck, Chest or Buttock
- O-Shot
- P- Shot for Men



Southern New Hampshire's Premier Medispa since 2006
603-931-4345 | RenewMediSpa.com



New Year's Eve CELEBRATION

December 31st 6:30 PM - 12:30 PM

Join us for a night of
STAND UP COMEDY

Headliner: Mike Koutrobis
Jen Dwyer & Ryan Gartley

Your ticket includes 3
comedians, Dinner &
Private Bar, DJ Dancing,
Champagne Toast

\$160 per person

For More Information or
Questions 603-210-1365



45 Whittmore Rd. Pembroke, NH
PembrokePinesCC.com



INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Is fuel-saving device too good to be true?

CAR TALK



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:

I've been reading about a device called Fuel Save Pro that plugs into my car's OBD II port under the dashboard. It says I can save 15% to 35% on fuel costs by letting this device optimize my car's fuel settings dynamically while driving. The cost of the device is under \$100, so that sounds like a good deal — unless it's not.

What do you think? What does the device really do? I called my car dealer and talked to the service department, and they had never heard of it. — Don

Neither have I. I did buy a Hair Save Pro once from the same company, though. It was supposed to regrow 15% to 35% of my hair, and I'm still bald.

The manufacturers optimize your engine for the best balance of performance, fuel economy, and emissions. And they spend millions of dollars a year trying to squeeze a percent or two more fuel economy out of their vehicles. So, if there were a way to

increase fuel economy by 15% to 35% for \$99, trust me, it would already come with your car.

I've never heard of this particular device, but most of them do two things. First, they remap the engine and transmission parameters that the auto makers have gone through great trouble to set. And if they boost one variable, like fuel economy, it will undoubtedly come at the expense of one or more of the others. So, the downside is that you might damage your engine or transmission, void your warranty, ruin your catalytic converter, give your neighbors' kids asthma, and/or fail your next emissions test.

The second thing they probably do, in my opinion, is exaggerate the results. So, you might not get anywhere near what they promise — even with all that downside.

Generally speaking, Don, when something sounds too good to be true, it is. And this sure fits that description.

My advice would be to forget about this thing, drive gently, avoid jackrabbit starts, quit warming up your car, and make better use of that \$99 by applying it to your gas bill.

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 2014 Toyota Tacoma. I cleaned the mass airflow (MAF) sensor with electronics cleaner and now the truck is running terribly.

A friend of mine said I probably ruined the MAF sensor because I didn't use MAF sensor cleaner. So, I replaced the MAF sensor with one from AutoZone, hoping for a quick fix.

It's still running terribly. I disconnected the hot wire for about 15 minutes, then reconnected it, but no improvement. I'm not sure what to do next. Can you help me? — Jeff

I knew I should have shifted some of my IRA money into MAF sensor futures. I'm going to guess that the MAF sensor is not your problem, Jeff. I think you must have done something else by accident when you went in to clean the MAF sensor.

The mass airflow sensor, as the name implies, measures the mass of the air coming into the engine. When air is drawn in, it passes the MAF sensor, which tells the computer how dense the air is, and the computer adjusts the fuel-air ratio accordingly.

Now you've got a brand-new MAF sensor, which is pretty hard to install incorrectly — you just plug it in. So I'm going to guess that

the new MAF sensor is working. Since my only hint is that you sprayed — I'm guessing here — a proverbial boatload of electronics cleaner into the air intake in an attempt to clean the original MAF sensor, one possibility is that you managed to foul one or more of your spark plugs with that stuff.

If you fouled a plug or two, the truck would run terribly, even with the MAF sensor working. That's because you'd be running on, say, four cylinders instead of six, which would cause the engine to shake and sound like it's stalling.

An easy way to test if the truck is running on all cylinders is to disable one cylinder at a time — while the engine is running. So, if you unplug the coil for cylinder number one, for instance, and the engine keeps running exactly the same, that's a pretty good hint that cylinder one was not firing to begin with.

Do that for each cylinder and you'll find out which ones aren't working. Then you can figure out why. You could have bad plugs, bad coils, or you could need a valve job. But start by checking for fouled plugs. Hopefully you'll find a few and it'll be a cheap, easy fix. Good luck.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🗨️



Cooking, Heating, Staying Warm with Palmer!

Call to learn more 603.898.7986!

Fuel Delivery • Service
Equipment Sales • Installation
24/7 Emergency Service
3 Storage Facilities



www.PalmerGas.com

License Number: MBE0005201

HOLIDAYS
are better
TOGETHER!

Family Owned &
Operated Since 1932!

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Everybody entertainment

• Catch the family-friendly magician **Ben Pratt**, whose show is described as “high energy and super fun,” at Chunky’s Cinema Pub in Pelham (150 Bridge St.; chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 6:15 p.m.; at Chunky’s in Nashua (151 Coliseum Ave; chunkys.com) on Friday, Dec. 29, at 6:15 p.m. and at Chunky’s in Manchester (707 Huse Road; chunkys.com) on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 6:15 p.m. Admission costs \$15.

• The **Harlem Globetrotters 2024** will come to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com) with shows Thursday, Dec. 28, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$44 through \$134, with pre-game VIP options.

• The **Swiftie Party at the Rex Theatre** (23 Amherst St. in Nashua; palacetheatre.org) is billed as an all-ages dance party event with space still available for the party at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 30. Admission costs \$25 for adults and \$20 for 12 and under.

More museums

Here are some museums with special offerings and hours through the holiday week.

• At the **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; nhahs.org, 669-4820) see the exhibit “Flying Home for the Holidays,” on display through Jan. 14. The museum is open daily through Saturday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as well as Sunday, Dec. 31, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$10 for ages 13 and above, \$5 for 65+, veterans/military and kids ages 6 to 12, and is free for ages 5 and under.

• The **Children’s Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org, 742-2002) has play sessions from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. daily through Saturday, Dec. 30. On Sunday, Dec. 31, a Family New Year’s Eve celebration takes place at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and will feature a “count-down to midnight” along with other activities. Buy admissions for a time slot online in advance; admission costs \$12.50 for adults and children over 12 months, \$10.50 for 65+.

• The **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) will have December Days Thursday, Dec. 28, through Saturday, Dec. 30, with a lineup of family-friendly activities daily including a magic show on Friday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. (tickets cost \$10 to \$30, depending on age, and are available online); the museum will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (and until 8 p.m. on Dec. 28) during those days. The museum will also be open Sunday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for ages 65+, \$15 for students and \$5 for ages 13 to 17 (children under 13 get in for free).

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
Found these 45 records and about 100 more. I think some were my parents’ and mine too. Can you tell me if there is any value to them? They are in pretty good condition for being in a basement. Thanks, Donna, for any help.

Carla



are in the range of \$10 to a few hundred dollars.

Carla, I’m sorry to be so vague. I think you should bring them to a used record store to have them looked at. This is the best way to get a better value. I hope you have a hidden treasure in your records.

Thanks for another memory of myself listening to my favorite 45’s in the 1970s.

Dear Carla,
Yikes, you got your hands full of records. 45’s have been around since the late 1940’s. It’s tough to put a value on a pile of them. Certain ones can be worth so much more. It depends on the artist, condition and sleeves. So you need to consider each one individually.

You want them in a scratch-free condition and with the original sleeve to bring a higher value. If they are scratched, it makes it easier unless they’re rare. Lots of 45’s from the 1950s through the 1960s in original condition

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



Your Year of Wonder

- ✓ Discover new worlds.
- ✓ Tap into a hidden talent.
- ✓ Get up close and personal with nature.

Explore all the possibilities that await you this year. Join your local Girl Scout community today!

girlscouts
of the green and
white mountains

At the Y I learned...



to make
connections

FIND YOUR WHY at The Granite YMCA

\$0 JOIN FEE
January 1 – 16
Valid 1/1 – 1/16/24.

\$5 JOIN FEE
January 17 – 31
Valid 1/17 – 1/31/24.

The Granite YMCA | www.graniteymca.org



to eat
healthier



my
alphabet

LOCATIONS: Manchester • Goffstown • Concord • Rochester • Portsmouth

ON THE JOB

KRISTEN GLENNON

DIRECTOR OF REHABILITATION, FITNESS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Kristen Glennon is the Director of Rehabilitation, Fitness and Occupational Health Services for Elliot Health System in Manchester.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

I oversee the inpatient (hospital) and outpatient rehab clinics for the health system, as well as our three fitness centers and our occupational health clinic. I help oversee the operations of the clinics, manage budgets, support staff and ensure the departments have what they need to be as successful as possible. I'm also a licensed physical therapist.

How long have you had this job?

I've been a physical therapist for 27

years and have been in clinic management for 11 years.

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

In high school I knew I wanted to go into medicine ... I observed some physical therapists in my hometown and thought it was great to help people get back to their functional independence. I decided to go to school for physical therapy ... After many years as a physical therapist in a variety of different settings, I decided to move into the management side of the operations.

What kind of education or training did you need?

When I went to school I received a bachelor's of science in physical therapy. Nowadays you need a doctorate in physical therapy to become a PT. As part of schooling, students do clinical affiliations at different clinics to get exposure to a variety of clinical settings. And there is a requirement for continuing education throughout your career. As I'm now in management, I am working toward my MBA to further my business training.



Kristen Glennon. Courtesy photo.

about your job?

We love to educate on prevention of injuries. While we're here to treat the injuries, teaching patients and caregivers how to prevent them is a major part of the work.

What was the first job you ever had?

In the rehab field, my first job was at a sports clinic in Boston when I was a co-op student at Northeastern University. My first job ever was at my hometown movie theater.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

As a physical therapist, you could be wearing scrubs, which is common within the hospital, or business casual attire for outpatient therapy clinics..

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

Understand what the patient's goals are and meet them where they are.

— Angie Sykeny 🍌

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

From a clinical perspective, having a patient that isn't getting better is definitely the most challenging situation.

What do you wish other people knew

Five favorites

Favorite book: *The DaVinci Code*
Favorite movie: *The Princess Bride*
Favorite music: Musicals
Favorite food: Tacos
Favorite thing about NH: How close you are to everything — the mountains, lakes, ocean and cities.

One Class. One Week.

Full Credit.



NHTI's "Winterim" courses run during Winter break – that's **1 week of condensed class time and transferable credits** to earn a full semester's worth of credit!

PHIL242C	Contemporary Ethical Issues	Jan. 8-12, 2024 9 a.m.-4:50 p.m.	On campus
PSYC105C	Introduction to Psychology	Jan. 8-12, 2024 9 a.m.-4:50 p.m.	On campus
ENGL120C	Communications	Jan. 2-12, 2024 9 a.m.-4:50 p.m.	Online
ENGL120MC	Communications: Mindful	Jan. 8-12, 2024 9 a.m.-4:50 p.m.	On campus

Scan to learn how to register for just a single course at NHTI!



LOOKING FOR NEW HIRES?



FIND THEM THROUGH

the Hippo

With unemployment below 3% in NH your best potential employees are not cruising the job boards. But they ARE reading the Hippo- the region's largest print publication!

Expand your pool of applicants by reaching the Hippo's local audience of 205,000 readers across southern New Hampshire.

Take advantage of our FREE design services to craft a hiring ad that stands out against other job listings!

For more information, call (603) 625-1855 Ext. 150

142103

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL
A Member of Covenant Health

NOW HIRING!!!

Incredible Benefits including:

- No co-pay or deductible with our HMO and PPO when using a St Joseph Hospital provider
- 50% Reimbursement for YMCA childcare
- Discount membership at YMCA
- Generous BAYLOR RN Program
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Accredited Vizient RN Residency Training
- Sign-on Bonuses for many roles

Text HAPPY to 78000

Apply online today
<https://stjosephhospital.com/careers/>
Contact Kimberly Martin: 603-884-3622 | KMartin@covh.org

141590

PITCO | Now Hiring

[P] 1.603.225.6684
www.pitco.com/careers

Contact HR at 603-230-5567
or hr@pitco.com
www.pitco.com/careers

Current Positions:

- Assemblers
- Welders
- Sheet Metal Operators
- Warehouse Workers
- and more!



Full-Time employees eligible for up to \$8,500 in bonuses within first 2 years

Start Your Next Career with Pitco

BUILD A
SUSTAINABLE
CAREER

WE ARE A
MANUFACTURER
OF FOOD SERVICE
EQUIPMENT

PITCO IS THE #1
PROVIDER OF
FRYERS IN THE
WORLD

141116

TRANSWORLD
Business Advisors

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL YOUR BUSINESS?

Transworld Business Advisors is the world leader in the marketing and sales of businesses, franchises and commercial real estate. Whether you represent an acquisition-minded corporation, or are personally interested in owning your own company, Transworld offers the professional services that successfully bring buyers and sellers together.

See our listings
<https://www.tworld.com/locations/newhampshire/>

Alyse Savage
603-493-2026 • asavage@transworldnh.com

195 McGregor St. Ste 325
Manchester, New Hampshire • 603-935-5099

142101



FOOD

Tasty treats and comfort eats

A look back at the dishes of 2023

News from the local food scene

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

• **Futuristic new year:** 815 Cocktails and Provisions hosts a futuristic, sci-fi themed New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to midnight on New Year's Eve with music, dancing, contests, a photo booth, an open bar menu and small appetizers. General admission tickets are \$120 and can be purchased via eventbrite.

• **New Year's at The Side Bar:** The Side Bar (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, thesidebarnh.com, 601-6311) will have their full menu along with drink specials at their New Year's Eve party from 9 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$10 on eventbrite and \$15 at the door.

• **Paint night at Spyglass Brewing:** Spyglass Brewing (36 Innovative Way, Nashua) hosts a paint night with All Ways Art on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. You'll be walked through the process of painting a 16x20-inch canvas while enjoying a free drink that is included in the ticket prices. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at allwaysart.com.

• **Winemaker's dinner:** Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown) hosts a winemaker's dinner on Friday, Jan. 19, at 6:30 p.m. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The welcome reception will include a seasonal charcuterie and artisanal bread display paired with Vintner's Select Semillon and Z Labs Chocolate Tangerine wine. Roasted winter squash, grilled leek and Gruyere savory bread pudding make up the first course with Zorvino Vineyards Gewurztraminer, followed by fig and pomegranate glazed "kurobuta" pork for the entree paired with Zorvino Vineyards Estate Grown Marquette. For dessert is chocolate ganache and caramelized banana tart with Z Labs s'mores. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased on eventbrite.com. 🍷

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

We asked some local food experts to talk about their year in food.

*While she has been baking all her life, 2023 marked two years in the bakery business for **Lindsey Bangs** of *I Whisked It*, specializing in custom cakes, cupcakes and cake jars as well as hot chocolate bombs with homemade marshmallows for the winter season. Here's how the year went for her.*

What was the most delicious thing you made in 2023?

That has to be my apple cider doughnut cake! [This was] the biggest experiment/surprise of the year for me. It is an apple cider doughnut flavored cake, coated in cinnamon sugar with layers of apple filling and cinnamon buttercream. I knew it would be good but I had no idea how good! It's everything I love about cider doughnuts in the fall but in flavor-packed cake form.

What was the most delicious dish or meal you had from another New Hampshire food business in 2023?

The Kang Luang from Daw Kun Thai in Manchester, which is a chicken curry dish with pineapple. It is always so fresh, filling without being heavy and is the perfect blend of sweet and spicy for me!

What are you most looking forward to in 2024?

My husband and I are planning a vacation for 2024 and I'm looking forward to trying new meals and desserts. Whenever we travel I always find inspiration to bring home and incorporate into my cakes.

Ann Marie Baril of Pastry Dream cooks

Food in 2024

Here are some events to look out for in early 2024.

Winemaker's dinner

When: Friday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main St., Sandown
Cost: \$85

Willy Wonka Wine Pairing Dinner

When: Saturday, Jan. 27, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Where: LaBelle Winery, 14 Route 111, Derry
Cost: \$85

Cookie decorating

When: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Station 101, 193 Union Square, Milford
Cost: \$70

17th annual Chocolate Madness Wine Pairing Dinner

up individual-size pastries with flavors like ginger spice cake, lemon raspberry, chocolate peanut butter, cheesecake and more. Here's what Baril has been up to this year and what plans she has for the new year.

What was the most delicious thing you made in 2023?

We transformed our original Chocolate Dream by topping with chopped pecans and coconut. Really yummy.

What was the most delicious dish or meal you had from another New Hampshire food business in 2023?

My delicious meal was at the Sea Ketch in Hampton. The view is spectacular and the clam chowder, scallops and clams were perfect for a birthday dinner.

What are you most looking forward to in 2024?

We are looking forward to working with local caterers to provide our delicious desserts for functions, parties and special events.

*With an ever-changing menu, **Kerry Fay** is always cooking up something new in Kerry's Culinary Creations & Curb Appeal Meals Food Truck — with tacos, paninis and sliders being staples — and 2023 was no exception.*

What was the most delicious thing you made in 2023?

The one most delicious thing I made is a hard choice. I guess my favorites were probably the items that weren't as common on my regular menu. Most people in the kitchen will tell you that eating the same things, no matter how delicious they are, will get boring after a while. So my tops for this past year, in no particular order, [are] falafel taco made young green chickpeas, tahini



Lindsey Bangs of I Whisked It. Courtesy photo.

sauce [and] Asian coleslaw; chili lime butter shrimp taco with avocado sauce, cotija cheese and slaw; and gnocchi stuffed with Asiago cheese in a cream sauce with roasted shallots, roasted butternut squash topped with bacon and shaved Parmesan.

What was the most delicious dish or meal you had from another New Hampshire food business in 2023?

The most delicious thing I had from another food place is also difficult, as I have several places [and] things I love. [One is] brisket from Up in Your Grill food truck. [It's] tender and dry-rubbed [and] yummy! [I] hate it when it's still chewy or when it completely disintegrates, [and] this stuff is spot on. [I] also love the bibimbap from Street in Portsmouth. This is such a satisfying meal with your choice of protein and all the perfectly cooked veggies, and their house-made gochujang sauce is outstanding. Kume sushi in Seabrook, Kashmir Indian in Salem, pretzel bread and delicious burger at Sawbelly in Exeter, wings and beer at Smuttynose in Hampton [are] also my go-to places.

What are you most looking forward to in 2024?

What I'm looking forward to most in 2024 is slowing down a little bit and having more time outdoors and with friends and family.

*In 2022 **Abbey Morrison** transitioned her meal prep business into Fresh Chef Press, a cafe on Canal Street in Manchester, along with her friend Shauri Gilo-Oquendo, with the intention of making food that is as nutritious as it is delicious. Here's what Morrison had to say about Fresh Chef Press's second year in business.*

CONTINUED ON PG 37 ▶

New year, new meals

The Culinary Playground offers new cooking classes



By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Looking to eat healthier, save money by eating out less, or just pick up a new hobby in the new year? The Culinary Playground, a recreational cooking school in Derry, teaches the essential skill of cooking through classes, camps and parties on everything from bread making to cake decorating, making homemade pasta and more with new classes coming in the new year.

“We offer classes from 3 years old all the way through adulthood,” said Kristen Chinosi, the owner of the business. “It is still very relevant [and] very popular. Everyone recognizes that cooking is an essential skill for ... well-being and I think any struggles that we had during the pandemic actually helped to reinforce the importance of knowing how to sustain yourself when you can’t go out to restaurants or maybe you don’t have the ingredients that you need at the grocery store.”

The Culinary Playground offers group classes, private classes, couples classes, and single or series classes that take place over multiple weeks. One such class is the artisan bread series that will run for three Sundays starting Jan. 28, 2024. Students will learn and practice the fundamentals and techniques of bread making and baking through the crafting of a wheat sandwich loaf, a boule, an olive rosemary loaf, a cranberry walnut loaf and lastly a sourdough.

“We’re really excited to offer this new class,” Chinosi said. “What’s great about [it] is it makes it very accessible. There’s a lot of variations”

The Culinary Playground

Where: 16 Manning St., Suite 105, Derry
Visit: culinary-playground.com



Photos courtesy of the Culinary Playground.

For all of the breads, aside from sourdough in the final class, participants will start entirely from scratch. Since sourdough takes a long time to make, the dough will be made prior and ready at the start of class for students to score and bake, and students will begin a starter to take home and finish later.

“What we pride ourselves on and differentiates us from some other cooking schools is that we are very hands-on,” Chinosi said. “Each student is seeing the process from start to finish. We don’t often have ingredients premeasured or premixed for them; they’re getting their hands involved from Step 1.”

The same is true for the mini chefs class, where children are encouraged to work independently, with the help of parents when needed, counting, sorting, measuring ingredients and cutting them with scissors.

“The parents are always pretty astounded by what their kid is capable of,” Chinosi said. “Obviously we’re in the kitchen, so safety is top priority.”

Returning in the new year is the Intro to Mediterranean Diet, a popular single-day class for adults led by a registered dietitian with dates on Sundays, Jan. 14 and Feb. 18. Another well-liked class that is set to return after slowing down during Covid is a meal prep class.

“We’ve been excited to get it back on the calendar because people are very interested in that with the busy work life schedule,” Chinosi said. “The biggest deterrent to eating healthy is convenience ... so a key to the success of more healthy eating is to be prepared.”

2024

is going to be

MAC-tastic!

Having a New Year's Party? Be sure to pick up a tray of Mr. Mac's Mac and Cheese!

Either **Hot and Ready**, or **Take and Bake**...

A party tray Mr. Mac's is the perfect way to ring in a delicious New Year!

Hurry! You can still save huge on Mr. Mac's gift cards up until 1/7/24!

Buy \$25 in Gift Cards - **get a bonus \$5** Gift Card!
OR Buy \$100 in Gift Cards - **get a bonus \$25** Gift Card!
Purchase in-store or online at mr-macs.com

Mr. Mac's
macaroni & cheese

603-606-1760 | Order Online! | mr-macs.com | We Have Gluten-free! | 497 Hooksett Road, Manchester, NH

A FINE-DINING ITALIAN EXPERIENCE!

Join us for
HAPPY HOUR!

Special Prices for Food and Drink!
Mon -Thurs: 3-6pm
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3-5pm



Carry Out or Delivery Available • Events • Catering

piccola MARTINI BAR

Open for Lunch Everyday!

815 Elm Street, Manchester

Reserve a Table at piccolarestaurant.com



PERSONAL SHOPPING & CURBSIDE PICK-UP
 603.625.9544
 HOURS: MON-FRI: 9-6 SAT: 9-4
 815 CHESTNUT ST. MANCHESTER
 ANGELASPASTAANDCHEESE.COM

FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

West 75th

New Year's Eve is supposed to be a romantic holiday. In my experience, it's a little over-hyped. The best New Year's Eve I ever had was when I was 8 years old. I was being babysat by an older cousin. At midnight we went outside and honked the horn of my uncle's car, then went back inside and ate buttered noodles.

I might be jaded about New Year's, because I've never been invited to a swanky party.

Be that as it may, when it comes to romance, nothing holds a candle to NASA.

The Mars rover Opportunity was launched in June 1993 and landed on the surface of Mars seven months later. It was one of a pair of rovers sent on that mission; its twin, Spirit, was sent to the opposite side of the planet. The two rovers took geological samples and surveys, made measurements and took photographs.

The mission was supposed to last 90 days, but through a combination of superb engineering and mind-bogglingly good luck the two probes kept working long past the point anyone had dreamed they could. After five years Spirit got mired in dust and couldn't move anymore, but Opportunity kept going month after month, for a staggering 14 years.

Eventually, after operating for 57 times its designed lifespan, Opportunity wound down. Before the ground team at NASA ended its mission in 2018, they broadcast one final message to Opportunity.

They played Billie Holiday's 1944 recording of "I'll Be Seeing You".

It's the most romantic damn thing I've ever heard of. I get teary-eyed just thinking about it.

Does this have anything to do with New Year's Eve?

Not particularly, except that much like Opportunity, most of us have lasted much longer than we've had any right to expect. And as we look back over the past year and wonder if we've accomplished any-



West 75th. Photo by John Fladd.

thing or not, the mere fact that we are still here is a little miracle, and if we're very lucky, some of us have someone to play Billie Holiday for us.

And whether we're at a swanky party or eating buttered noodles, it's a good occasion for a fancy New Year's cocktail.

West 75th Cocktail

- 1 ounce apple brandy – I like Laird's Applejack
- ½ ounce fresh squeezed lemon juice
- ½ ounce Chambord

raspberry liqueur
 2 dashes orange bitters
 3 ounces Lambrusco, chilled – Lambrusco is a sparkling Italian red or blush wine. It's a little sweet, so many wine enthusiasts can be a bit sniffy about it, but I like it, and it was *made* for this cocktail

Combine the brandy, Chambord, lemon juice and bitters with ice in a cocktail shaker. Swirl and shake to chill.

Strain into a Champagne flute.
 Top with Lambrusco.

If you are alone, sip, while listening to "I'll Be Seeing You." It's OK to cry. If you are at a party, sip, while playing "Tiny Bubbles" by Don Ho. The other guests will be confused but incredibly impressed when you sing the chorus in Hawaiian.

Lambrusco leans toward the fruity side of sparkling wine, which pairs well with the apple brandy. The apple brandy might make this drink a little too boozy-tasting, but the Chambord pulls it back to berry notes. That might make it a tiny bit too sweet, but the lemon juice and bitters pull everything back into line. This cocktail is a balancing act that succeeds like a pretty girl on a tightrope juggling knives.

It's a very small miracle, like Billie Holiday, buttered noodles, or a happy, sleeping space robot.

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

141505

EastSidePlaza

Hanover St. Manchester • EastSidePlazaNH.com

Made with only the finest and freshest hand selected ingredients.
 Order Online at manchesterpizzamarket.com



Pizza Market

ALOHA RESTAURANT • BELLA VITA DANCE COMPANY • DAVITA KIDNEY CARE
 DEANS CARPET ONE • DR. DENTAL • EAST SIDE DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDROMAT
 GNC • GOLF 360 • HANNAFORD • H&R BLOCK
 MANCHESTER ACUPUNCTURE STUDIO • NH NAILS • PIZZA MARKET
 POSTAL CENTER USA • QUEEN CITY ACE PAINT & HARDWARE
 RENT-A-CENTER • ST. MARY'S BANK • THE BREAK ROOM

139661

BOND BBQ

1015 Elm St., Manchester

603-218-3605

SUNDAY NIGHT SPORTS DEALS!

Now open Sundays, 11 a.m. to close!

1/2 PRICE WINGS & DRAFTS



**\$2 DRAFTS WHEN ANY BOSTON
TEAM IS WINNING**

Plus daily lunch and happy hour specials.

www.bondbbq.com

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Morbid Saint, *Swallowed By Hell* (HR Records)



Still a lot of metal in the pipeline, folks, so let's look at some of it, specifically from this Wisconsin band. This one comes to us "more than 30 years after their second LP, 'Destruction System,' was recorded but not finished, only to be officially published recently." And so they've been very not-busy of late, these fellas, but the only thing that resulted from their hilariously long hiatus is that, well darn, they've gotten pretty good, to be honest. If you've ever really loved Slayer you'll like this for sure; singer Pat Lind is still on board, tabling Tom Araya dead-ringer soundalike below.

The title track is rooted in Aughts-era black metal, which I'm sure you'll want playing in your baby's nursery; "Bloody Floors" is power metal, and such and so. They've got a great sound if you like this kind of thing. **A** —Eric W. Saegerr

Mary Tominy, *Untame The Tiger* (Merge Records)



This Washington, D.C., lady has been a fixture in the indie-rawk world for 30 years, playing with such bands as garage-pop power trio Ex Hex and post-punk troupe Autoclave. Although her voice is still a bit awkward, she's refined her style to a really noticeable degree; if you stick with album opener "No Thirds," you'll encounter some really stunning symphonics that put her in the same ballpark as Natalie Merchant. It's jangly, vaguely hopeful and easily accessible. "Summer" comes off like a Versus A-side, which means it has no commercial hope whatsoever,

not that that's a bad thing of course, but in the meantime she does add something of a Sheryl Crow break to it. "Looking For The Sun" is pretty trippy, for sure; imagine Chrissie Hynde going through a '70s Donovan phase, is how I'd put it. Overall she's aging like a fine wine that won't appeal to all palates, not that she cares about that by now, I'm sure. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Yay, groan, New Year's Eve is on the way, one of my least favorite days of the year, when my Grinch heart has to endure people looking all happy awaiting the mass amateur drinking contest that is the reason for the season, and we marrieds stay up until midnight, pretending to be relevant for whatever reason, watching all the Dua Lipas and Ricky Martins as they honk their Who-Flonkas and bash their Who-Bombas, and then they'll sing and sing and sing, and then comes the thing I hate worst of all, watching Ryan Seacrest and Anderson Cooper doing their potted houseplant imitations while wearing actual *ties* in order to "check in" on concerts from Poppy and Taylor Swift and the Beibs or whatnot, which is of course your kids' cue to run to their rooms in order to avoid catching a bad case of "Responsible Adult Cooties," where they'll listen to death metal and crunk and text their little friends about things you really don't want to know about. I have no idea why we celebrate New Year's Day; I mean, it's the *last gasp* of the holidays that started on Halloween with everyone dressing up as sexytime monsters and rolls of paper towels or whatever they do, so really, what's to celebrate? It's just going to be freezing and slushy for the next few months, and all that New Year's alcohol will be long worn-off by February. But let's put that aside for a second while I take a look at the (I'm so sure) tons of new albums coming out on Dec. 29. If there are two I'll be lucky to get through this column, maybe by riffing on a few other things, like the fact that I couldn't find actual candy canes for my HannuKwanzzMas tree literally anywhere for a day or so. Right, right, what do we have here, literally no albums except for stompy German band **Lord Of The Lost**, whose stupidly titled covers album, *Weapons Of Mass Seduction*, is on its way! These goth-metal frauds like to dress up like the glittery, certifiably crazy dude in *The Cell*, and in this one they cover songs from Billy Idol, Bronski Beat, Judas Priest and — well, you know, Sia, because those bands always have to do stuff like that. The teaser single is a Rammstein-ized version of Cutting Crew's "I Just Died In Your Arms" that's just as bad as you're imagining it, like they have a girl singer who has all the nuance and originality of a McDonald's french fry, and the male singer just sings the same nonsense an octave lower than her, and there are '80s synths in there. Ack, let's move on, if there's any place to move on to.

• Ack, ack, it's another metal band, called **Dominum**, with their new one, *Hey Living People*, but you know who'll want to know about this is famous local author and friend of the Hippo Dan Szczesny, because the leader of this euro-trash band used to be in the symphonic-metal band Visions of Atlantis. This band's trip is sort of like a zombie-centric version of Abney Park, with zombie stuff instead of steampunk stuff. "Patient Zero" is awesome if you like bad acting and (actually good) sympho-metal.

• Ten years ago Irish indie-folkie **Ciaran Lavery** didn't get enough attention for his album *Not Nearly Dark*, so he has re-rubbed the whole thing under the title *Not Nearly Dark (10 Years Later)*. It's stupid that the Bonnaroo crowd didn't get into him, he's like a cross between Jeff Buckley and Rod Stewart, so snooze on him this time, that'd be great.

• We'll end the last column of 2023 (good riddance, am I right?) with Mexican oi band **Malcria!** This one is tough and loud and punkish, and it's titled *Fantasias Histéricas*, which even I could roughly translate. —Eric W. Saegerr

New England
SHARPENING Company Inc.

Start your year off on
A FRESH EDGE

Full service
sharpening
for home and
industrial tools.

10% OFF with this ad

Pricing and Order Forms at: nesharpening.com
I also sharpen saws and axes!

28 Charron Ave. #14, Nashua
603-880-1776

139253

Nice to be young

COTTON

24 never looked so good

Serving Dinner Tues-Fri 5-8:30 PM Sat 4-8:30 PM 603.622.5488
75 Arms St, Manchester. Reserve your table now online at www.cottonfood.com

142049

THE
BAKESHOP
~On Kelley Street~

2024

Happy New Year!

Fresh Donuts Every Saturday & Sunday!

www.thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com
171 Kelley St., Manchester • 624.3500
Wed-Fri 7:30-2 • Sat 8-2 • Sun 9-1 • (Closed Mon & Tues)

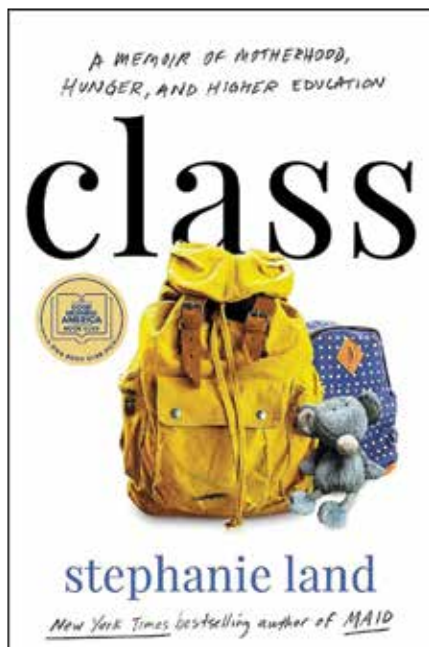
Class, by Stephanie Land (Atria, 272 pages)

Stephanie Land's dream of becoming a writer came through in a big way in 2019 when she published *Maid*, a memoir about working as a house cleaner for people who were clearly some of the worst human beings on the planet. The book landed at a time of increasing concern about income inequality, and the single mother's stories about scrubbing other people's toilets to pay the bills struck a chord; it was a New York Times best-seller, was adapted for a Netflix series and praised by former President Barack Obama as one of the best books of the year.

Land is now back with *Class*, subtitled "a memoir of motherhood, hunger and higher education." Because of the success of *Maid*, it was immediately chosen for the *Good Morning America* book club and will no doubt enjoy commercial success. Unfortunately, it's an Eeyore of a book, gloomy and resentful, which detracts from the social messages that Land wants to convey.

She begins in familiar territory, which can best be described as "He done me wrong." The predominant "he" in this case is the father of her child, Jamie, who readers of *Maid* will remember had little interest in being a husband or father, and who, according to Land, is the cause of many of her struggles. At the beginning of the book, he has, for example, abruptly said that he will not be able to take their daughter, Emilia, for the summer, as had been arranged. This left Land scrambling to find the vast amounts of child care that she needs because (a) she has to work, fair enough, but also (b) she is enrolled in college, a longtime dream that is contributing to her financial problems in a big way: She will soon graduate \$50,000 in debt.

On top of that, she's planning on getting a master of fine arts. "Writing," she says, "the real writing that mattered, was meant to be done without cartoons blaring in the background and someone asking for pancakes." There's nothing wrong with ambition, except for the fact that Land's young daughter seems to be standing in the way of everything her mother wants to do. She's 5 and is the most sympathetic character in this book. She has a father who's constantly canceling on her — saying he can't see her because he has to work — and a mother who keeps leaving her with babysitters or because she has to work. Children tend to love their parents no matter what, and so Emilia is not resent-



ful like her mother, even as she gets sent to detention for being late to school, and has people fail to pick her up when Land forgets it's an early release day.

Meanwhile, Land has many bones to pick here, not just the grievances she has with her ex, starting with her family. Her mother, she writes, resigned from parenting when Land was 21, moving to Europe to be with a new love. Her father, Land says, was not helpful at all when she called him to say she needed help paying for child care, asking if he would ask his sister to pay or contribute. The aunt is another Bad Person. "In my early twenties, she got upset over people not being grateful enough for the gifts she bought for Christmas," Land writes. "Ever since, we received a few pairs of socks from her instead. In her defense, they *were* nice socks."

Ouch. It is that kind of zinger that makes us want to put Land at arm's length as she continues with her story of woe, lest she find something bad about us to write in her next memoir. In Land's world, most everyone is unhelpful and unpleasant, from the guidance counselor at the University of Montana-Missoula to the judge who considers her request for a child support modification and deems her "voluntarily underemployed."

As in *Maid*, Land seeks to roll back the assorted indignations of the working poor, those who, for whatever reason, are at the mercy of student loans and credit card payments, with every dollar allotted, and then some, and little more than peanut butter and grape jam in the pantry. Along the way, she wants to take away the stigma of single mothers not being "enough" for their children without a partner. And she writes movingly of trying to date with a child: "Having

a kid and trying to date felt equivalent to hanging a wedding dress in my closet and bringing it out to show a person when they picked me up for the first time. Men no longer saw me as a lighthearted dating prospect. They looked at me and I could almost see the reflection of white picket fences and family dinners at five thirty in their eyes."

But as Land rolls through her days of struggling to take care of her daughter while working and going to school (and at this point, she's starting to shop around stories that would eventually comprise *Maid*), it can be difficult to sustain sympathy for her as she gets pregnant again (without being able to identify the father) and applies for another credit card. The people close to her who dare to question her choices get knifed. When one woman, who is giving Land a ride home because her car has died, says, "I'm worried you're not making good decisions here," Land writes about "concern trolling," which she said wasn't actual concern but "an opportunity to act as if they knew better than me."

At one point, Emilia, whose tender heart has been broken by her father multiple times, says to her occasional male babysitter and her mother's roommate, "Are you going to be my new dad?" The answer is no, but she will learn that she's going to be a big sister, right about the time her mom learns that she's no longer eligible for food stamps because Emilia has turned 6 (the SNAP formula says Land was able to work full-time then even though the school day was six hours). Not surprisingly, the child asks who the father of her soon-to-be little sister is. Land replies, "There's no dad, or he's not around anyway. The baby is just ours."

That's a sweet sentiment, which seems to set the little family up for happiness in the future. And despite the ongoing fight with her ex over child support, which seems to be the primary conflict the book is built around, we know how this story ends, or at least we do if we follow Land on social media. No longer a victim of men and circumstance, she is hailed as a voice of the underclass, a champion of those who are being trampled on by late-stage capitalism and predatory colleges and lenders. Nothing wrong with that — but the question remains: is this book, and her writing generally, substantially better for her \$50,000 college debt? We'll never know, nor are we allowed to ask. **B-** —Jennifer Graham 🍷



Visit BlackCoveBeverages.com to learn of the many ways to enjoy it.

Morecella is a registered Trademark of Black Cove Beverages. Please drink responsibly and Never Drink and Drive.

5141873

Rockingham Ballroom
Newmarket

New Year's Eve Party!
December 31st

The biggest dance floor in NH!

The ballroom turns 90 in 2024! Celebrate the present while dressing from the past!

DJ Johnny B Groovy & Soul Sister

\$40 Per Person

Last year sold out!

Get Tickets today!

rockinballroom.club
8500 SF, authentic, historic venue. BYOB

New Year's Day Brunch

Open from 10am - 3pm
for brunch on New Year's Day
and from 4pm - 9pm for
dinner on New Year's Day.



TAKE OUT • LOCAL DELIVERY • GIFT CARDS

Call or Reserve Online
603.935.9740

22 Concord Street, Manchester, NH • www.fireflynh.com

Best books of 2023

Books that earned "A"s from Hippo reviewers in 2023

Fiction

Life on Delay, by John Hendrickson

Life on Delay by John Hendrickson writes movingly of the small indignities of stuttering which stem from things that most people take for granted — the ability to place an order at a restaurant, to record a voice-mail, or even introduce yourself to another person. ... although the narrative is encased in difficulties which relatively few people experience, its broader theme is more universal: healing from childhood and family dysfunction.

... *Life on Delay* ... opens a window beautifully into human struggles that often go unseen. It is the rare sort of book with the potential to make us better human beings. — Jennifer Graham

Maame, by Jessica George

Maame covers all the bases of growing up with cultural barriers, without being heavy-handed or preachy. ... [Maddie's] story is often funny, and always heartfelt and engaging. — Meghan Siegler

I Have Some Questions for You, by Rebecca Makkai

When the protagonist of Rebecca Makkai's gripping new novel is a teen, she arrives at a boarding school in New Hampshire knowing little about the school or the region.

... It would be reductive to call *I Have Some Questions For You* a thriller or a whodunit, although it has many components of both. ... While it's a page-turner ... there are frequent mentions of real women who had violent, premature deaths, and the men responsible.

... Look for this one when the lists of the best books of 2023 emerge later this year. —J.G.

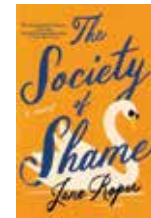
The Promise of a Normal Life, by Kaiser Gibson

The Promise of a Normal Life ... is a quietly revealing character study that wields power in lyricism and detail. —J.G.

The Society of Shame, by Jane Roper

... it's hard to imagine that there will be a smarter, sassier takedown of social media this year than *The Society of Shame*, Jane Roper's merrily caustic novel about cancel culture.

... Roper is a gifted comic writer, who knows how to throw a punchline and to sus-



tain a running gag, or two or 20. ... But it is the social media cameos that make the novel so hilarious, the ever-changing, irreverent hashtags... —J.G.

After the Funeral and Other Stories, by Tessa Hadley

The 12 stories in this collection are achingly beautiful at times, and painful in places. ... But women, in particular, will recognize the family dynamics for sure. —J.G.

The Last Ranger, by Peter Heller

As a writer, Heller has copious gifts of description. ... But Heller's novels are reliably gripping because they thrum quietly with tension, while slowly revealing the essence of characters who will stay with you for years.

The Last Ranger ... is an excellent companion for the dog days of summer, especially for anyone who is more comfortable outside than in. —J.G.

Save What's Left, by Elizabeth Castellano

This is not a tragedy ... but pure comedy, a book-length stand-up routine with a punchline every few minutes.

... Castellano set out to write an anti-beach read, meaning one that slyly makes fun of typical beach reads while exaggerating the foibles of beach town life. She does this spectacularly. She also is a master of hilarious apropos-of-nothing asides...

Save What's Left is a romp in the sun and sand.... It's all fun, especially if you've ever loved a beach town, or thought about moving to one. —J.G.

Happiness Falls, by Angie Kim

A less skilled writer could have taken the bare bones of this story and turned out a Hollywood thriller. But Kim makes it next-level by incorporating research on happiness.... And the novel is deeply researched on the subject of people who are unable to speak, because of severe autism or other disorders.

Happiness Falls is both an engrossing mystery and a family drama with multiple layers of complexity.

... *Happiness Falls* delivers, maybe not happiness, but a novel you can get lost in.... —J.G.

Mr. Texas, by Lawrence Wright

A Dallas native who lives in Austin, Wright has said he come up with the character of Sonny Lamb more than two decades

GIORGIO'S

Cocktails & Eatery ESTD 1995

HAPPY HOUR:
OPEN - 6PM | MON-FRI
.....
SUNDAY RAW BAR
\$1.50 Oysters And Shrimp
All Day
Milford and Manchester locations



**RESERVATIONS, CATERING, PRIVATE DINING,
ONLINE ORDERING AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

www.giorgios.com | Try one of our three locations!
MANCHESTER | MILFORD | MERRIMACK
We deliver with UberEats, GrubHub and DoorDash



140116

ago, and what is now *Mr. Texas* had earlier lives as a failed screenplay, a failed HBO pilot and even a failed musical. Which is fine, because it's now a first-rate novel.

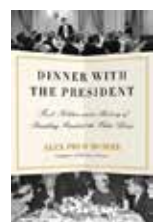
This is no *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, the classic 1939 film starring Jimmy Stewart, but it's a version for our time, at least in book form. —J.G.

The Good Part, by Sophie Cousens

The Good Part is the perfect combination of thought-provoking and funny, and the characters are loveable and real. It's a stellar example of what women's fiction has the potential to be. —M.S.

Nonfiction

Dinner with the President, by Alex Prud'homme



... Prud'homme has figured out how to make American history fascinating: tell stories connecting it to food. If my old high school history textbook, *The American Pageant*, is still in use, *Dinner with the President* should replace it immediately. —J.G.

Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma, by Claire Dederer

The question of what we should do with the art of problematic people has come up regularly in recent years, and nobody seems to have a good answer. Dederer ... attempts to craft one in *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma*. ... Dederer is like a dinner guest you don't want to stop talking because she's so well-read and interesting ... and her writing is delightful and fresh. —J.G.

All the Beauty in the World, by Patrick Bringley

In conversations with visitors to the [Metropolitan Museum of Art], and with his coworkers, he brings us fully into the job [as a guard] with him, letting us see through the eyes of first-time and regular visitors the effect that the ancient art has on them. —J.G.

How to Survive History, by Cody Cassidy

It's fanciful, of course, and a tad silly, but Cassidy comes to the task with a surprising gravitas and the right mix of 'yes, this is kind of crazy' but also 'this is serious stuff, pay attention.'

... Cassidy owns 'humor history' and it's top-notch for the genre. —J.G.

Better Living Through Birding, by Christian Cooper



Fame that erupts on social media is often fleeting and unearned. Christian Cooper is the rare exception—his is a story worth telling, and in this memoir he does so exceptionally well. —J.G.

The Heat Will Kill You First, by Jeff Goodell



... there's no disputing that Goodell is an engaging writer at the top of his game. He's like the love child of Ed Yong and James Patterson, with a little bit of Rachel Carson thrown in, which is to say he writes science-based, dystopian thrillers.

Goodell, a longtime writer for Rolling Stone, is a pro at the dialogue-rich narrative style that keeps readers turning pages. —J.G.

Elon Musk, by Walter Isaacson

Whether you admire or loathe him, Musk is one of the most consequential people on the planet, and Walter Isaacson, formerly head of Time and CNN, does a masterful job explaining why in his exhaustive new biography.

Isaacson's prose is sparse; he lets his subjects and interviewees do the talking, and they all had plenty to say. —J.G. 🍷



For an Exceptional Dining Experience

THE *Bistro*
AT LABELLE WINERY

345 Route 101
Amherst, NH 03031

• AMERICUS •
RESTAURANT

14 Route 111
Derry, NH 03038

Book a holiday party or make a meal reservation today at
www.labellewinery.com | 603.672.9898

141786

Books

Author events

• 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.
• LLOYD I. SEDERER, M.D.,



author of *Caught in the Crosshairs of American Healthcare*, will be at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. for a talk and book signing.

History, stories & lectures

• 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.

• NEW HAMPSHIRE ON SKIS presented by E. John Allen on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. at Elkins Public Library (Canterbury Town Hall, 9 Center Road, Canterbury). For details call 783-4386 or visit nhhumanities.org.



From our Family
to Yours



Get what you deserve!

Open January 1st, 2024

Order Online for pickup or delivery!

625-9660 • 136 Kelley St., Manchester • chezvachon.com

Open 7AM-2PM • Closed on Wednesday



Mojo dojo casa Slotherhouse

Considering the many facets of the cinematic landscape in 2023

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

Barbie is my favorite movie of 2023.

Why pretend otherwise? It's solid gold (solid pink gold) all the way to its core, with excellent performances, writing, casting, camera work, production design and use of music. It has great details happening in every shot. It excellently captures the toy element of the Barbie world, from the way people move (that Margot Robie sideways flop when she sits down despondently is perfect) to how extremely secondary Ken is in kid Barbie play. I rewatched *Barbie* recently (it's available for rent and purchase and streaming on Max) and caught little moments that I don't think I did the first time. I also gained a new appreciation for the absolutely knockout performance by Ryan Gosling; if ever Oscar wants to award a comedic (at least, on the surface) performance, this would be the one. Watch it — watch it and be impressed that Greta Gerwig could get this all done and put so much of her own sensibility in a toy tie-in movie.

As much as 2023 is the year of *Barbie* and as much as a *Barbie* is a movie I'm certain I'll watch again, probably before we even make it to this March's Oscar ceremony, which better have some serious *Barbie* representation among the nominees, that wasn't the only delightful, gleeful memorable movie watching experience I had this year. I speak, of course, of *Slotherhouse*, a Hulu movie about a killer sloth. No, let me back up, *Slotherhouse* is a mostly (at least for its first two-thirds) played-straight movie about sorority house drama where some of the sorority sisters mysteriously disappear *and also* a sloth adopted by one of the girls is giddily murderous. I described the sloth, named Alpha, in my review thusly: "Alpha is a little shy of standard teddy bear size and has a 'sloth puppet stretched over Teddy Ruxpin frame' look." This movie perfectly balances tone and it is an absolute blast.

What else is worth a mention from 2023?

• **Movie is absolutely, wonderfully, as advertised:** Part of what is great about *Slotherhouse* is that it is exactly what you think it is and it does that — *that* being sorority-sister-murdering sloth — perfectly. And, I will take that over half-assed execution of Serious Film That Wants to Say Something any day. (Is it unfair to put *Oppenheimer*, now available for



Barbie

rent or purchase, in that latter category? You watch and decide; I thought it was well-made but also, just, sigh, eyeroll, OK, movie, calm down.) Other movies that do well with a goofy, as-stated concept include *Plane* (rent or purchase and streaming on Starz), the Gerard Butler movie about action on and related to an airplane. Sometimes Butler is doing "plane" (he says stuff like "thrust" and "landing gear"), and sometimes he is off the plane fighting bad guys in order to save the plane passengers. Sink into this dumb movie like a comfortable chair and enjoy how little thought it requires of you.

Also in this category: *Cocaine Bear* (rent, purchase and on Prime Video). As is stated by Alden Ehrenreich's character in the trailer "the bear, it did cocaine." Elizabeth Banks masterfully directs this movie where, yeah, there are some side plots about drug dealers and a cop and forest rangers and some kids cutting school, but mostly a bear does cocaine and chases people. Adults like the late Ray Liotta and Margo Martindale and Keri Russell show up and have an absolute blast.

• **Horror and comedy — two great tastes that taste great together:** That you might hurt yourself laughing is the scariest element of nominal horror movie *Slotherhouse*. But several movies this year proved that comedy and horror work great together. *The Blackening* (rent, purchase and streaming on Starz) features a group of friends spending Juneteenth weekend together and finding themselves the target of both systematic racism and a murderous psycho. *Leave the World Behind* (Netflix) is not as big in its comedy but you can't convince me that comedy isn't largely what it's doing in this seemingly cool psychological thriller about, maybe, the end of the world? *Totally Kill-*

er (Prime Video) takes a modern teenager (played by Kiernan Shipka) back to 1987 to the Halloween when her mother's high school friends were murdered — and back to her mother as a teenage *Heathers*-esque jerk. From the Gen Z shock at the "Hooters waitress"-like gym uniforms to the perfect fringed white jacket Shipka wears, the movie is a hoot. Of course, the blend of absurdity and horror this year truly belongs to *M3gan* (rent, purchase and on Prime Video), the early-year release about a kid-sized robot doll and the horrors of same. This movie seems to hate technology and have no redeemable characters and I enjoyed both of those aspects. As I said in my review: "When I first saw the trailer for this movie, I probably thought something like 'ugh, what ridiculous nonsense.' After seeing it, though, my reaction is 'What ridiculous nonsense! 10 out of 10! Four stars! No notes!'"

• **The freshest popcorn:** It was not a banner year for sequels, in my opinion. I left movies like *Magic Mike's Last Dance* (rent, purchase, Hulu and Max) and *Creed III* (rent, purchase, Prime Video, Sling, Philo and, ha, MGM+) feeling like they were fine, a notch above OK, but not quite up to the standards of their predecessors. I had warmer feelings toward *John Wick: Chapter 4* (rent, purchase and Starz), *The Equalizer 3* (rent or purchase) and *Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One* (rent or purchase), both of which deliver rollercoaster fun even if they aren't the standouts of their series. My favorite of the sequel-franchise outings from this year is probably *The Marvels* (still in theaters; the internet predicts February as when it will land on Disney+). The Kamala Khan/Ms. Marvel-focused series *Ms. Marvel* is the only one of those Disney+ Marvel TV shows I've been able to bring myself to watch all episodes of and I loved it. Though this movie, a sequel to the story of Capt. Marvel/Carol Danvers (Brie Larson) and a movie introduction to adult Maria Rambeau (Lashana Lynch), didn't have as much Kamala and the Khans as the show, we do still get her excellent mother Muneeba (Zenobia Shroff) and we get these three women working together and learning how to be part of a team. Carol and Kamala also have some of that Tony Stark and Peter Parker mentor/mentee energy, which is cute. And there are some nice weird moments that make this feel like more than just another interlocking piece of the MCU (unlike this year's Ant Man and Guardians of the Galaxy



Slotherhouse

movies, which I found to be a slog — they're both on Disney+ if you want to see for yourself).

• **"I am the fury":** The hands down best action-packed, save-the-day movie I saw this year was not part of a major franchise but it was part of what I think of as the Nida Manzoor cinematic universe. Manzoor is the creator of the excellent TV show *We Are Lady Parts* (worth the price of a month of Peacock, where you can find all six episodes of the so-far sole season; it is also available for purchase). She also wrote and directed this year's *Polite Society* (rent, purchase and Prime Video). Would-be stuntwoman teenage Ria (Priya Kansara) is horrified when her big sister Lena (Ritu Arya) seems to be putting aside her art to settle for a marriage to a too-perfect Salim (Akshay Khanna), son of the suspicious (but awesome in her evilness!) Raheela (Nimra Bucha).

• **"Let me be normal and regular like everybody else":** There is a spectacular triple feature to be had in *Barbie*, *Polite Society* and, to kick it off, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (rent, purchase and Starz). This excellent adaptation of the Judy Blume classic features three strong performances in three stories of characters finding their way — Margaret (Abby Ryder Fortson) dealing with being 12 in a new school and the horrors of "your changing body" along with big questions about religion; her mom Barbara (Rachel McAdams) trying to figure out her place as the mom of an older kid and as a newly stay-at-home mom, and Margaret's grandma/Barbara's mother-in-law Sylvia (Kathy Bates), whose family is no longer in the city and who has to reconstruct her life for herself. Strong work all the way around, from the acting to the story adaptation.

• **“You are so not invited...”**: Honorable mention in the “taking tween/young teen girls and their feelings seriously” category goes to *You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah* (Netflix), starring Adam Sandler and his real-life daughters Sadie and Sunny. The way this comedy portrays the highs and lows of 13-year-old girl friendships is smart and funny and — triggering? Let’s just say it left me very happy to be decades away from 13.

• **Animated**: When I made my Vulture Movie Fantasy League picks (vulture.com; Joe Reid of *This Had Oscar Buzz* runs it and it’s great fun), I found myself struggling to limit my animated films. I personally loved *Nimona* (Netflix), a plucky adventure with a sophisticated heart about what makes a hero and what makes a monster. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* (rent, purchase and Paramount+) and *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (rent, purchase and Netflix) both feature solid storytelling and eye-catching animation that play

with the visuals of their respective comic book origins. My kids loved *Trolls Band Together* (in theaters and available for purchase) because they love all loud, bright Trolls content and they cracked up at *Leo* (Netflix), the Adam Sandler-starring/co-written weird but sweet animated tale of a classroom pet lizard.

• **Big Important Movies**: There are a fair number of Big Important Movies from the end-of-the-year rush that I haven’t caught up with yet, either because I haven’t had the nearly three hours (looking at you, *Napoleon*, which is still in theaters but, honestly, I’m waiting for its Apple TV+ debut in the hopefully near future) or because they only recently became available locally (*Wonka*, *Poor Things*, *The Color Purple*, *Ferrari*, ha *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* — all in theaters now) or on streaming (*Maestro* and *Nyad* on Netflix). But, if you’re looking for some serious fil-uhm, may I recommend *The Holdovers* (in theaters and available for purchase), a bittersweet Alexander

Payne-directed dramady starring Paul Giamatti as a seemingly unlikeable professor at a boys prep school in 1970s New England. Da’Vine Joy Randolph gives an excellent performance as a grieving mother in this “found family at Christmas” tale. *Asteroid City* (rent, purchase and Prime Video) is an extremely Wes Anderson Wes Anderson movie, all typewriters and rotary dial phones, that folds a stage play into a teleplay into, I don’t know, a music box of melancholy. The more I think about Sofia Coppola’s *Priscilla* (rent or purchase) the more impressed I am about what she’s saying about the 14-year-old girl who is pulled into Elvis Presley’s orbit. *Flora and Son* (Apple TV+), another movie from *Once and Begin Again* writer-director John Carney, is a delightful movie about a mom and teenage son working through their own life stuff and their difficult relationship with each other by making music (it is way less corny than that sounds).

My favorite of the Big Deal movies in 2023 — after *Barbie*, which I’d put up against auteur production — might be Martin Scorsese’s *Killers of the Flower Moon* (rent and purchase). This is not a perfect movie; it has its issues in structure, in focus and in how it tries to compensate for the struggle between the most compelling character (Lily Gladstone’s Molly) and the central characters (played by screen charisma runner-ups Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro). But Gladstone’s performance is one of the year’s best and when she’s on the screen the movie holds your attention absolutely. 🍷

2024, maybe, at the movies

With all the usual caveats about movie schedules being as unsettled as weather predictions at this point, here are some of the 2024 films I’m excited about:

- *Mean Girls* (Jan. 12) The film adaptation of the stage musical adapted from the 2004 movie was “meh” to me until I saw the trailer; now I’m excited (and for the return of Tim Meadows and Tina Fey in their original parts, along with the addition of gym teacher Jon Hamm).
- *Lisa Frankenstein* (Feb. 9) It’s a new

Diablo Cody-penned movie!

- *Dune: Part Two* (March 1) I guess I’ll be seeing this one — which is hopefully as visually dazzling as the Part One — on the big screen.
- *Kung Fu Panda 4* (March 8) Always good to have a reliable kid movie during the cabin fever part of winter.
- *Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire* (April 12) These movies have thus far been fun.

Film

Venues

AMC Londonderry
16 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry, amctheatres.com

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

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

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

Cinemark Rockingham Park 12
15 Mall Road, Salem

Fathom Events
Fathomevents.com

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

The Music Hall

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

O’neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square
24 Calef Hwy., Epping, 679-3529, oneilcinemas.com

Park Theatre
19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org

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

Regal Concord
282 Loudon Road, Concord, regalmovies.com

Regal Fox Run Stadium 15
45 Gosling Road, Newington, regalmovies.com

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

Wilton Town Hall Theatre
40 Main St., Wilton, wiltontownhall-theatre.com, 654-3456



Wonka

• *Wonka* (PG, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 1, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 29, through Monday, Jan. 1, at 1:30, 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 2, through Thursday, Jan. 4, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.

• *The Boys in the Boat* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 28, through Monday, Jan. 1, at 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 2, through Thursday, Jan. 4, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.

• *Dream Scenario* (R, 2023) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 7 p.m.

• *Wonka* (PG, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Thursday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Dec. 29, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Dec. 31, at 2 & 4:30

p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 2, through Thursday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Anatomy of a Fall* (R, 2023) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, Dec. 29, at 6:45 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 30, at 1:30 & 6:45 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 31, at 1:30 & 4:45 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 2, through Thursday, Jan. 4, at 6:45 p.m.

• *All Creatures Great and Small*, NHPBS Season 4 premiere, at The Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 5 p.m.

• *Nabucco*, The Met: Live in HD broadcast, will screen at Bank of NH Stage in Concord on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 12:55 p.m.

• *Eileen* (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m.

• *The Royal Hotel* (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m.

• *Maestro* (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 14, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.

RED RIVER THEATRES

THIS WEEKEND!

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT
(PG-13/2023/124 min.)



WONKA
(PG/2023/116min.)



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

redrivertheatres.org | Movie Line: 603-224-4600
11 S. Main St. Suite L1-1, Concord 141802

La Carretera
RESTAURANTE MEXICANO



Authentic Mexican Food
Made to order...
Just the way you like it!

Offering our complete menu!
Visit our website for online ordering for
Hooksett Rd, South Willow & Portsmouth!
Specials on Facebook

1875 South Willow Street, Manchester, NH 603-623-7705
139 Daniel Webster Hwy, Nashua 603-891-0055
545 Daniel Webster Hwy, Manchester, NH 603-628-6899
172 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 603-427-8319

www.lacarretamex.com

WILNEP
HUPPO BEST OF 2023
\$3 OFF
Any Lunch Entrée OR
\$5 Off
Any Order Of \$30 Or More
With this coupon. One coupon per order. Cannot be combined with other offers or promotions. Exp 1/31/24. Valid only in Manchester and Portsmouth locations.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Alchemistic:** Randy Roos leads the free jazz **Hall of Mirrors** for an early evening show at a Lakes Region winery's restaurant. The group — Roos playing guitar, pianist Steve Hunt, multi-instrumentalist/percussionist Dave Kobrenski, Tim Gilmore on drums and bassist Mike Rossi — begins with a minimal musical structure and build. The result is what's been termed "spontaneous composition." Thursday, Dec. 28, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods Winery, 72 Main St., Meredith, \$15 to \$25 at eventbrite.com.

• **Elevating music:** After Sublime With Rome ends next year, **Badfish** will remain the last act carrying on the SoCal ska punk band that existed only briefly in the mid-'90s. Thursday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., Wally's Pub, 144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton Beach, \$22.50 at ticketmaster.com.

• **Doppeljammers:** Paying tribute to J. Geils Band is a tall order, but **Whammer Jammer** rises to the occasion. Back in the 1970s the Boston rock powerhouse became headliners by becoming impossible to follow. Later they ruled MTV with hits like "Love Stinks" and "Centerfold." The band's namesake passed in 2017, ending chances for a reunion and leaving it to acts like this one to carry the memory. Friday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$35 at rextheatre.org.

• **Minutiae man:** Citing standups like Demetri Martin as inspiration, **Andrew Mayer** proves why introverts often make the best comedians. Mayer brilliantly breaks down his anxiety in social situations; he also has a hilarious preoccupation with pets. One of his best bits deals with the idea that if every animal were taught about how doors work, dogs would be the only creatures who wouldn't use them. Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester. See mayercomedy.com.

• **Bangin' band:** A totally throwback Eve of New Year's Eve bash has **All That 90s** playing hits from the Tamagotchi decade. It's the perfect event for anyone who understands the joke, "I dropped my cell phone, now I'm going to have to get a new floor." The quartet cycles through everything from "Ice Ice Baby" to "Tub-thumping" while also hitting the era's several boy bands and pop rockers. Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Stumble Inn, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry. See facebook.com/allthat90s. 🎧

NITE

SoCal stalwarts

Dawes returns to New Hampshire

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When Dawes steps on the Music Hall stage Dec.30, it will be only their fourth appearance in the Granite State, and their first in almost five years. Taylor Goldsmith, Dawes guitarist, lead singer and main songwriter, hopes the night-before-New Year's Eve scheduling will add to the impetus for locals to check them out.

"I'm very excited for that; I mean, obviously, it's good to get back to anywhere we haven't been for a while," Goldsmith said by phone from his home in Altadena, California. "I feel like everything is kind of shut down that week, and no one ever has anything to do. So I'm kind of eager to see how that feels."

Goldsmith is a creature of the road.

"When I'm standing still, I seem to disappear," he wrote over a decade ago in "Time Spent in Los Angeles," but these days that notion is tempered by new fatherhood. With his wife, *This Is Us* actress Mandy Moore, he has two sons; Gus, born February 2021, and Ozzie, who arrived in October of last year.

"Back in the day it was, 'How do we stay on tour, how do we not keep a house

at home?,' and now it's, 'How do I make these tours as fast as possible?'" he said. "I definitely feel like an essential part of myself ... only comes to life on stages [and] I've never had the inclination of, 'maybe I'd like to step away from this' — I just need to be a little more strategic. Because when I'm away from the guys, even the first hour hurts really bad."

The change has impacted his songwriting — up to a point.

"My world is so much smaller, and that is cool; I think it's something to be embraced rather than rejected," he said, while noting that he's not keen on writing an entire album about being a dad. "Even though that's very much what I think about and deal with on a minute-to-minute basis, I definitely have to make sure that I'm thinking outside of that."



Courtesy photo.

That said, his worldview has shifted.

"When I was young ... those Jackson Browne songs about heartache were all I wanted to hear," he said. "That's not my experience now, and it's a little harder for me to jump into that place. Now I want to hear observations on culture, politics ... the existential crisis that goes beyond romance."

With fewer and longer songs, Dawes' most recent album, *Misadventures of Doomscroller*, was a departure. Musically adventurous, it was recorded following a tour backing Grateful Dead bass player Phil Lesh. More than a few likened it to so-called jam bands, but for

Goldsmith it really wasn't that at all.

"We went in with an objective and more or less accomplished it," he said, adding that it was different from past albums where plans for a certain mood — more ballads, a softer sound for instance — were waylaid. "I like that the record tells us what it is rather than the other way around, more or less. But with *Misadventures*, it was like, let's go for one of those five or six songs, yet 45-minute, albums, like so many rock 'n' roll bands that we love."

Goldsmith shrugged off the label given

to them by some critics. "There are bands that deserve the moniker but don't have it," like Pink Floyd and Dire Straits, he said. "I don't see us as a jam band in the same way that I see the Grateful Dead.... I almost feel like that's more of a cultural observation [that] has more to do with who shows up than what we're doing on stage."

Missing from the upcoming show will be founding member Wylie Gelber, who left the band last year to focus on his handmade guitar company, and keyboard player Lee Pardini, who announced his departure earlier this month.

"Things change, and I'm excited in a way about embracing this newer identity," Goldsmith said.

It's an interesting response from someone who wrote, "I hope all your favorite bands stay together" a while back.

"Well, people have said that to me before ... so much for that," he replied. "That song is more about the REMs and the Replacements, bands that truly are not playing shows ... there's heartbreak there. Dawes is on tour ... I'm singing these songs, Griffin's playing the drums. We were there on Day 1, and we're still here. I think that is still the thing worth celebrating that that song tries to speak to." 🎧

Dawes

When: Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m.

Where: Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth

Tickets: \$70.50 and up at music hall.org



Thank You Advertisers and Sustaining Readers For Your Continued Support

Hippo is New Hampshire's largest circulation publication*, bringing the most readers our coverage of food, music, local events, the arts and news. Your support helps us to continue that important mission.

*Yes, much larger than any of the daily or Sunday newspapers.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Jody Reese

Hippo Publisher



Community Supported

LIKE A GUT PUNCH OF CINNAMON



**BUT YOU KNOW,
REALLY
REALLY
GOOD.**



**MADE IN DOVER, NH WITH BOLDER
CINNAMON, AMERICAN WHISKEY AND
MADAGASCAR FAIR TRADE VANILLA.**

**TASTES LIKE CINNAMON
WHISKEY SHOULD!**

**NOW AVAILABLE IN 50ML
SIZE FOR 99 CENTS**

**Available in all 64 New Hampshire
Liquor and Wine Outlets**

142102

One for the books

Looking back on 2023

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

2023 was an eventful year for the state's music and comedy scene. Here's a look back, and a taste of what's coming in the new year for live entertainment.

For one moment in May, the Granite State was at the center of the music world, as Foo Fighters performed at Bank of NH Pavilion in Gilford, their first full band appearance since Taylor Hawkins died in Colombia in 2022. Dave Grohl did "Cold Day in the Sun" on acoustic guitar in tribute to the late drummer. "Taylor wrote this song; we used to sing it together," Grohl said. "I'm going to do it for him tonight."

April Cushman had a banner year, winning her second consecutive Country Act of the Year plaque at the New England Music Awards. The same night, Manchester's Sepsiss took home its fourth Hard Rock/Metal Act of the Year award of the last five years. New Hampshire was shut out the rest of the evening; even its Rising Star winner was a band from Hudson that's played only two shows in the state since forming in 2019.

Nashua's Center for the Arts bowed, welcoming a steady stream of national talent, beginning with *American Idol* alums Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken on April 13 and Suzanne Vega performing solo on April 15. The venue's grand opening "Celebration of the Arts" showcased local artists like rapper Fee the Evolutionist, singer-songwriter Wyn Doran and Ian Ethan Case, along with theatrical performances.

In January, Doran brilliantly debuted



Wyn and the White Light. Photo by Mike Doran.

her new trio Wyn & the White Light to a small crowd at Bank of NH Stage in Concord, opening for Billy Wylder. The group began trickling out songs from a new album due for release next spring in late October. Moody tracks like "Heal Me" and "Places Unknown" show incredible promise from the chamber rockers.

Other standout releases from area musicians this year include No More Blue Tomorrows' eponymous first album, which ranged from lush pop rock a la "Iris"-era Goo Goo Dolls to punkier songs like "It's Kind of a Funny Story" and "Lonely." Low Lily's rootsy *Angels in the Wreckage* was another standout.

Dust Prophet, Otto Kinzel's latest project, released its debut album in January. *Eyeball Planet* from Mother Iguana — Mac Holmes and a long list of collaborators — was another highlight. Brad Myrick and Nicola Cipriani completed their Covid-interrupted *Silver Lining* instrumental guitar album and took it on a world tour

The summer concert season suffered from bad weather, as a big chunk of gaze-

Live shows upcoming in 2024

SNHU Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester
Tom Segura, March 1
Avenved Sevenfold, March 23

Palace Theatre 80 Hanover St., Manchester
1964 – Beatles Tribute Band, Jan. 21

Rex Theatre 23 Amherst St., Manchester
TR3 featuring Tim Reynolds, Jan. 19
603 Folk – An Evening of NH-Based Singer-Songwriters, Feb. 3

Bank of NH Stage 20 S. Main St., Concord
Rubikon, Jan. 5
Live From Laurel Canyon, Feb. 11

Capitol Center for the Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord
Croce Plays Croce, Feb. 15
Wanda Sykes, March 1

Nashua Center for the Arts 20 Main St., Nashua
Robert Cray Band, Feb. 22
Mike Koutrobis Comedy Special Recording, March 23

The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth
Christopher Titus, Jan. 19
Band of Horses, Feb. 1

The Music Hall Lounge 131 Congress St., Portsmouth
Socks in the Frying Pan, Jan. 11
Sarah Blacker Band, Feb. 10

Colonial Theatre 609 Main St., Laconia
Evening with Cowboy Junkies, Feb. 17

Bank of NH Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford
Parker McCollum, May 25

bo shows were moved indoors from May through July. Bands like Beatles tribute act Studio Two pared down their schedules to guard against last-minute no-pay cancellations, while more than a few “rain or shine” events had to throw in a wet towel.

It was another good year for comedy, with the last vestiges of pandemic Zoom shows in the rearview.

“I don’t know if we’re exactly back where we were,” Jim Roach, who books the Palace and Rex theaters and others, said in August, “but we’re very close and I think it’s going to continue to grow over the next couple of years.”

The handoff of comedy at Manches-

ter’s Shaskeen Pub was smooth, with Wednesday shows continuing apace. The event’s new manager, Geneva Gonzales, helped extend indie comedy’s regional reach through an ongoing series of pop-up shows dubbed *Don’t Tell Comedy*.

Perhaps the local comedy scene’s biggest success this year came when Drew Dunn sold out the Nashua Center for the Arts. A Nashua native, Dunn began at the Shaskeen and has grown into a nationally touring rising star. “The show ... was really special,” he wrote on Facebook and Instagram. “To have almost 600 people come to see me in my hometown was truly an unforgettable night.” 🍷

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Venues

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hatbox Theatre
Steeplegate Mall, 270 Loudon Road, Concord, 715-2315, hatboxnh.com

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

Kathleen Irish Pub
90 Lake St., Bristol, 744-6336, kathleensirishpub.com

LaBelle Winery
345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com

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

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

Murphy’s Taproom

494 Elm St., Manchester, scampscome.com/shows

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

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

Nashua Center for the Arts
201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com

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

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

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

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

Ruby Room Comedy
Shaskeen, 909 Elm St., Manchester, 491-0720, rubyroom-comedy.com

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

- **Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
- **Ben Pratt** Chunky’s Pelham, Friday, Dec. 28, 6:15 p.m.
- **Ben Pratt** Chunky’s Nashua, Friday, Dec. 29, 6:15 p.m.
- **Queen City Improv** Hatbox, Friday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Ben Pratt** Chunky’s Manchester, Saturday, Dec. 30, 6:15 p.m.
- **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Bank of NH Stage, Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m.



Jody Sloane.

- **Mark Riley** Headliners, Saturday, Dec. 30, 8:30 p.m.
- **Mark Scalia and Joey Carroll** Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua, Sunday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Philip Anthony/Joey Carroll/Pat Napoli** Chunky’s Nashua, Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.
- **James Dorsey/Matt Barry/Greg Boggs** Chunky’s Manchester, Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.
- **Mark Scalia/Jody Sloane/Dave Decker** Chunky’s Pelham, Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.
- **Jimmy Dunn’s New Year’s** Eve Rex, Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.
- **Preacher Lawson** Flying Monkey, Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
- **Justin McKinney** Nashua Center for the Arts, Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
- **Rob Steen/Ken Rogerson/Tim McKeever/Alex Giampa** pa Headliners Manchester, Sunday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m.
- **Andrew Pinard: Discovering Magic** Hatbox Theatre, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
- **Cory Rodrigues/Maya Manion** Rex, Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- **Caitlin Peluffo** Music Hall Lounge, Saturday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Steve Bjork** Headliners, Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 p.m.
- **Christopher Titus** Tupelo, Thursday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
- **Christopher Titus** Music Hall, Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.

Headliners COMEDY CLUB

MANCHESTER & NASHUA NH!

LOCAL & NATIONAL ACTS DOWNTOWN!

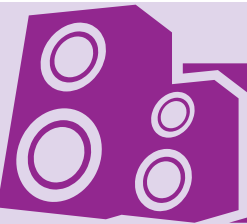
ORDER TICKETS TODAY!
603-988-3673 HeadlinersComedyClub.com

AMRUT INDIAN SINGLE MALT WHISKY

Amrut Indian Single Malt Whisky 46% ABV is made from 100% pure Indian 6-row barley grown at the feet of the Himalayas.

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

AWARDS & ACCOLADES



MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	Boscawen Alan's of Boscawen 133 N. Main St., 753-6631	Contoocook Cider Co. Pizzeria 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	19 Main St., 532-9300	Manchester 815 Cocktails 815 Elm St., 782-8086	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962	Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	Henry J. Sweeney Post 251 Maple St., 623-9145
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101, 672-9898	Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Henniker Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road, 888-728-7732	Laconia Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022	Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678	Jewel Music Venue 61 Canal St., 819-9336
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	Candia The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub 285 Old Candia Road, 483-4888	Hare of the Dawg 3 E. Broadway, 552-3883	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022	City Hall Pub 8 Hanover St., 232-3751	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS
Barnstead Back Door Grill 107 Maple St., Center Barnstead, 269-3000	Concord Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	Litchfield Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664	Currier Museum of Art 150 Ash St., 669-6144	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St., 644-3535
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	Hampton CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246
Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875	Contoocook Gould Hill Farm &	The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928	Nan King Restaurant 222 Central St., 882-1911	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947	East Side Club 750 Massabesic St., 669-1802	Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 1050 Bicentennial Drive, 625-1730
		L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777	Jaffrey Park Theatre	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210	The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	Soho Bistro 20 Old Granite St., 518-5657

Thursday, Dec. 28

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.	Epsom Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Duke Syner, 5:30 p.m.	Salem Copper Door: Chris Lester, 5 p.m.	6 p.m.	Epping Telly's: Redemption Duo, 8 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.	Gilford Patrick's Pub: Don Severance with Mike Gallant, 6 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Chris Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	Barnstead Back Door Grill: Chris Bonoli, 6 p.m.	Exeter Sea Dog: Vere Hill, 5 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Dan Carter, 6 p.m.	Manchester Currier: Green Heron, 5 p.m. Fratello's: Chris Gardner, 5:30 p.m. Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m. Strange Brew: Faith Ann, 8 p.m.	Somersworth Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.	Bedford Murphy's: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Harpo and Frankie Boy Blues, 6 p.m.
Candia Town Cabin Pub: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Greg DeCoteau, 6 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: Bad Fish, 8 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Joanie Cicatelli, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 29	Brookline Alamo: Matt Bordello, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Greg DeCoteau, 6 p.m. The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: Red Light, 9 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.	Hudson Luk's: Chris Cryus, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.		Alton Bay Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Steven Foster,	Dover Auspicious Brew: pre-NYE all-ages house party, 8 p.m.	

Music, live and in person

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



LIVING LOVING BAND

There's nothing better than an all-female tribute band to turn classic rock conventions on their ear. Lez Zeppelin may have been the first, and their live shows emphasize the unintentionally campy humor of Led Zeppelin while more than doing justice to their virtuosic and groundbreaking blend of blues and heavy metal. The femme foursome touch down at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com) on Friday, Dec. 29, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$30 to \$34, plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

4292	Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480	11 Charles St., 753-9372	41 S. Broadway, 458-2033
To Share Brewing 720 Union St., 836-6947	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979	Pittsfield Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162	Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway, 458-2162
Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485	Portsmouth 3S Artspace 319 Vaughan St., 766-3330	T-Bones 311 South Broadway, 893-3444
Meredith Hermit Woods 72 Main St., 253-7968	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400	The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876	Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015	The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706
Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022	San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St., 886-8833	Rochester Governor's Inn 78 Wakefield St., 332-0107	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St., 717-8267	Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964	Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square, 672-2270	Penacook American Legion Post 31	Salem Copper Door	

Hudson Luk's: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.	oke, 9 p.m. To Share: Paul Nelson, 6:30 p.m.	Northfield Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.
Laconia Fratello's: Kyle Dumas, 7 p.m.	Meredith Twin Barns: Dave Clark, 3 p.m.	Penacook American Legion Post 31: Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Litchfield Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light: Dave Clark, 9:30 p.m.
Londonderry Coach Stop: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Joannie Cicatelli Duo, 8 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Jennifer Mithell, 8 p.m. Riley's: Dave Clark, 8 p.m. Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.	Salem Luna Bistro: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.
Manchester Derryfield: Rob Randlett Exp, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 6 p.m. Shaskeen: X-Raided of Strange Music, 9 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Kara-	Moultonborough Buckey's: Garrett Smith, 6:30 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 30 Alton Bay Docks: Lewis Goodwin, 8 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.
	Nashua Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Bedford Murphy's: Pete Peterson, 6 p.m.



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

Before you ring in 2024, hop in the Delorean and throw it back to the 1980s. Covers band **Aquanett** brings a little bit of Sunset Strip sleaze and glamor to the Lakeport Opera House (781 Union Ave., Laconia, 519-7506, lakeportopera.com) on Friday, Dec. 29, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$20 to \$32, plus fees.

Furniture & More, LLC
Deja Vu

Check out new items on Facebook @dejavufurnitureNH

"Luxury is not about buying expensive things; it's about living in a way where you appreciate things"
-Oscar de La Renta

603.437.5571 | 113 Hillside Ave, Londonderry, NH
Tues-Friday - 9-5 | Sat 9-4 | Sunday 10-4 | Closed Mondays

Join Us for Award Winning

BEER, FOOD AND LIVE MUSIC



Tickets at flyinggoose.com
Hurry, these shows sell fast.

AN INTIMATE VENUE TO SEE GREAT TALENT.



GUY DAVIS
Thurs, Jan 18th, 7:30pm



DAVID MALLET
Thurs, Feb 1st, 7:30pm



MARK ERELLI
Thurs, Feb 8th, 7:30pm



ARI HEST
Thurs, Feb 29th, 7:30pm



LUCY KAPLANSKY
Thurs, Mar 7th, 7:30pm



PATTY LARKIN
Thurs, Mar 21st, 7:30pm



DAVID FRANCEY
Thurs, Apr 4th, 7:30pm



ORDINARY ELEPHANT
Thurs, Apr 11th, 7:30pm



GARNET ROGERS
Thurs, Apr 25th, 7:30pm



FRESH SEASONAL MENU!
Proudly Featuring Local Farms

20 hand crafted beers on tap

AWARD WINNING BREWERY AND PUB FOOD

Serving Lunch and Dinner Daily



Get tickets & See our full menu at FlyingGoose.com

603.526.6899 • 40 Andover Road, New London, NH

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Brookline

Alamo: Randy McGravey, 6 p.m.

Concord

Downtown Farmers Market: John MacArthur, 9 a.m.

Hermanos: Tim Hazelton, 6:30 p.m.

Contoocook

Cider Co.: Brad Myrick Duo, 1 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Peter Pappas, 7 p.m.

Telly's: Dave Clark, 8 p.m.

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: Sunshine Street, 6 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Old Gold Duo, 6 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Halley Neal, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: All That 90's, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Martin & Kelley

Derryfield: Off The Record, 8 p.m.

Foundry: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Chris Taylor, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.

Great North Aleworks: Max Sullivan, 4 p.m.

Shaskeen: Burn Permit, 9 p.m.

To Share: The Regular Gents, 5 p.m.

Wild Rover: Casey Roop, 5 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Colin Hart, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Nuisance Neighbor Band, 8 p.m.

San Francisco Kitchen: Ken Kadence, 8 p.m.
Budak, 6:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Freddie Catalfo, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31

Amherst

LaBelle Winery: Freese Brothers Big Band, 9 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.; Clint Lapointe, 4 p.m.

Boscawen

Alan's: Hell on Heels, 8 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Brian Weeks 4 p.m.

Concord

Eagles Club: Dave Graham, 8 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: DJ Jay, 9 p.m.

Dover

American Legion Post 8: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8 p.m.

Goffstown

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

Hampton

Wally's Pub: Scott Brown & the Diplomats, Highway 20 Fried, 9 p.m.

Henniker

Pats Peak: The McMurphy's, 2 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: Justin Jordan, 2 p.m.

Lynn's 102: Crave, 8:30 p.m.

Nan King: Patty's Energizer Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Bite the Bullet, 8 p.m.

Laconia

Tower Hill Tavern: DJ

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Last Kid Picked, 8 p.m.

Manchester

815 Cocktails: DJ Shamblez, Siren of the Circle Burlesque, 8 p.m.

Bonfire: free line dancing

Cercle: Mugshot Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band, 9 p.m.

East Side Club: DJ Keith, 9 p.m.

The Goat: Seven Day Weekend, 8 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Early NYE party with Matt the Sax, 4 p.m.

Henry J. Sweeney Post No. 2: Stray Dogs, 8 p.m.

Jewel: Pancake, Sasha Stone, Boston DJ Andrea Stamas, Chi Chi Marvel and CiCi Crystal, 9 p.m.

Shaskeen: live DJ, 8 p.m.

Soho Bistro: Medio Pollo, 9 p.m.

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

Meredith

Hermit Woods: Ashley Warwick, Craig Jaster and Brian Warwick, 7 p.m.

Milford

Riley's Place: Soultown Band, 9 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: DJ, 9 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

3S Artspace: prom party with Harsh Armadillo and Adra, 8 p.m.

Gas Light Pub: Pete Peterson, 10 p.m.

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.

Rochester

Governors Inn: Bad Penny, 7:30 p.m.

WHAT THEY DO IS SECRET



Local quartet Clandestine blends jazz virtuosity with funk spontaneity for an unforgettable evening of musical improvisation. They drop in to the Press Room (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, pressroomnh.com) on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Salem

Copper Door: Ed Chenoweth, 11 a.m.; Bella Perrotta, 4 p.m.
Eagles Club: Manhattan Band, 8 p.m.
Luna Bistro: Dueling Pianos, Joey Canzano, 4 p.m.

Seabrook

The Brook Casino: DJ Ryan Cabrera, 10:30 p.m.
Chop Shop: Who Made Who (AC/DC tribute), 6:30 p.m.
Red's Kitchen & Tavern: Redemption Band, 8 p.m.

p.m.

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

**Tuesday, Jan. 2
Concord**

Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Hampton

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Dakota Smart, 5 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 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, Jan. 3
Concord**

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Kingston

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Rebecca Turmel, 5:30 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.

Seabrook

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

THE REX
 23 AMHERST STREET | MANCHESTER, NH
REX THEATRE
 603.668.5588 | REXTHEATRE.ORG

Bellwether COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION
PRESENTS
DECEMBER

REX THEATRE
Bellwether
DECEMBER 29TH AT 7:30PM
WHAMMER JAMMER
 LIVE J GELLS BAND EXPERIENCE

REX THEATRE
 CALLING ALL SWIFTIES
 ARE YOU READY FOR IT?
SWIFTIE DANCE PARTY

SATURDAY 30
2 & 7:30PM

COMEDIAN
JIMMY DUNN'S
NEW YEAR'S EVE

SUNDAY 31
7:30PM

JANUARY

FRI 5	Dueling Pianos: Live at the Rex	7:30PM
SAT 6	Kent Axell: Psychological Illusionist	7:30PM
FRI 12	Comedy at the Rex with Corey Rodrigues and special guest Maya Manion	7:30PM
SAT 13	The Gibson Brothers: The Darkest Hour Tour	7:30PM
FRI 19	An Evening With TR3 featuring Tim Reynolds	7:30PM
SAT 20	Gordon Lightfoot Tribute: Tom DiMenna Sings Gordon Lightfoot	7:30PM

GET YOUR TICKETS AT REXTHEATRE.ORG



A MAGICAL TOUR

Stage magic enthusiasts and parents looking for vacation week entertainment have three opportunities to catch "professional dork" Ben Pratt. The Stoddard native brings his family-friendly show to Chunky's Nashua (151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; chunkys.com) on Friday, Dec. 29, at 6:15 p.m., and to the Manchester location (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 6:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 plus fees.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 20

What was the most delicious thing you made in 2023?

Our Cherry Garcia smoothie we had launched in February as our monthly special was hands down the best thing we created this year. The special was planned to end March 1; however, customers loved the smoothie so much they ordered it all the way into May until we finally put a stop to it, allowing our other monthly specials to shine. The Cherry Garcia smoothie was eye-appealing, nutritious, flavorful and nostalgic all in one sip.

What was the most delicious dish or meal you had from another New Hampshire

food business in 2023?

The best meal we had from another New Hampshire food business in 2023 came from Campo Enoteca. Their Pistachio Pestree with local cream and homemade tagliatelle is to die for. We love that the dish is made farm to table (similar to what we represent). The dish provides a mouth-watering effect, leaving you wanting more with each bite. We haven't come across anything else like it!

What are you most looking forward to in 2024?

In 2024 we are looking forward to expanding our menu and opening our consumers' palates, providing both a nutritious and delicious experience. 🍷

Trivia

Events

• **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 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.
 • **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
 • **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Friday Team Trivia** at Cheers (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0180, cheersnh.com) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lounge.
 • **Tuesday** trivia at Reed's North

(2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
 • **Tuesday** trivia 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** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglass-brewing.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Main Street Grill and Bar (32 Main St., Pittsfield; 435-0005, mainstreetgrillandbar.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
 • **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in

Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Wednesday** trivia 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.

Concerts

Venues

Angel City Music Hall
 179 Elm St. in Manchester, 931-3654, angelcitymusic hall.com

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

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

Jewel Music Venue
 61 Canal St., Manchester, 819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com

Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club
 135 Congress St., Portsmouth, 888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com

201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com

The Orchard Chapel
 143 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

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

20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899, thestranddover.com

Stripe Nine Brewing Co.
 8 Somersworth Plaza, Somersworth, 841-7175, stripeninebrewing.com

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



Andrew North and the Rangers

• **Rubikon** Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Dub Apocalypse** Friday, Jan. 5, 9 p.m., Press Room
 • **Scottish Fish** Saturday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 • **Cindy Bradley** Saturday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **The Brother Brothers** Saturday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Get the Led Out** (Zeppelin tribute) Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre
 • **Mia X Ally** Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m., Tupelo

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

LaBelle Winery
 345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com

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

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

nabis Crypt & Choke Out, Saturday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m. at Jewel

• **Swiftie Dance Party** Saturday, Dec. 30, 2 & 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Dawes: The Night before NYE** Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Music Hall
 • **Adrenalize** (Def Leppard tribute) Saturday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Franklin Ballroom Experience** Saturday, Dec. 30, 8:30 p.m., Strand
 • **A Very Broadway New Year's Eve** Saturday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
 • **Dueling Pianos** Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Headliners at DoubleTree Hilton
 • **Neon Wave** Sunday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Strand
 • **Adam Ezra Group** Sunday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Tupelo
 • **Rockspring** Sunday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 • **Harsh Promadillo: Harsh Armadillo's New Year's Eve Party** Sunday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., 3S Artspace
 • **Andrew North and the Rangers open mic** Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **The Greatest Love of All** (Whitney Houston tribute) Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre
 • **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones** Friday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 • **Captain Fantastic** (Elton John tribute) Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m., Tupelo

Cisco Brewers
 35 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth, ciscobrewersportsmouth.com

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

Press Room
 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, pressroomnh.com

The Word Barn
 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

• **Recycled Percussion** Thursday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 29, 3 & 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 30, 3 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 31, 3 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 1, 3 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 6, 3 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 7, 3 & 7 p.m., Palace
 • **Alex Rohan** Friday, Dec. 29, and Saturday, Dec. 30, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
 • **Whammer Jammer: Live J. Geils Band Tribute Experience** Friday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 • **Lez Zeppelin** (Led Zeppelin tribute) Friday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
 • **Aquanett** ('80s tribute) Friday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Lakeport Opera House
 • **Zach Nugent's Dead Set** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 • **Zac N Fried** (Zac Brown tribute band) Dec. 29, 8 p.m., Angel City
 • **Holiday Hardcore Fest** with Hollow Teeth, DHS, Stand Abandoned, Set The Bar Low, Alchemy NH, Bleach Temple, Death's Hand, Husk, Shapethrower, Iron Gate, S.A.C., BAG, Deep Fear, Ratblood, TFR, Can-

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

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

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

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

Shows

Concord City Auditorium
 2 Prince St., Concord, theaudi.org

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

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

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

Shows

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

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

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

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

Shows

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

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

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

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

Shows

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

Nashua Center for the Arts

The Strand

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

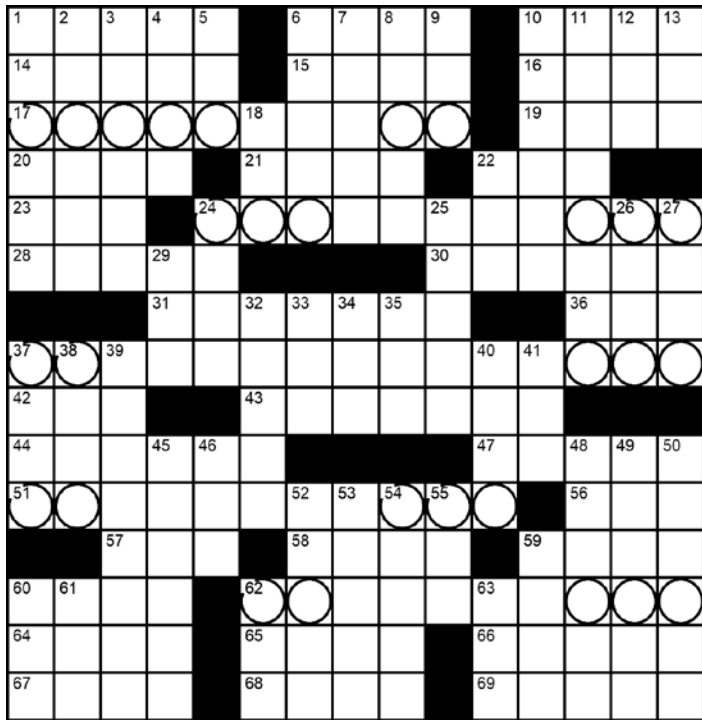
Shows

HYPNOTICALLY FUNNY



Throughout New England the Santos name has been associated with hypnotism and comedy for over four decades. Frank Santos Jr. has carried on his father's work as the "R-Rated Hypnotist," regaling regional audiences with unrepeatable evenings of comedy you won't soon forget. He stops by the Bank of New Hampshire Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com) on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.75, plus fees.

“Bundling Up”— plenty of layers.



Across

- 1. Yogurt-based Indian drink
- 6. ___ noche (tonight, in Spanish)
- 10. Onetime Kremlin figure
- 14. Had takeout, perhaps
- 15. Like a dime
- 16. Kitchen gadget and cookware company
- 17. Piece of paper with nothing on it
- 19. Seriously lack
- 20. Position in an ordered list
- 21. “Desperate Housewives” actress Hatcher
- 22. Initials on a Cardinal’s cap
- 23. “... and so on”
- 24. Obey Daylight Saving Time, maybe
- 28. Name not to say out loud right now (lest it turns on devices)
- 30. Pearl bearer
- 31. Do some coding?
- 36. Rita who judged on “The X Factor”
- 37. How a winning streak might be described
- 42. Floor decor
- 43. Driving levy
- 44. Letter-based British secondary school exam, once
- 47. Prearrange
- 51. High-grade, ultra-soft European fabric
- 56. “Messenger” material
- 57. Had been
- 58. Abel’s big brother
- 59. Mid-century music system
- 60. Parliament member
- 62. “You’re welcome to visit”
- 64. Alumnus, for short

Down

- 1. Tar pits location
- 2. Repetitively named Aztec
- 3. Medium setting?
- 4. Bathroom fixture
- 5. Tats
- 6. It’s a bit of a knockout
- 7. Rob Zombie’s spouse, fashion designer ___ Moon Zombie
- 8. Advertising gimmick
- 9. Six-legged creature
- 10. Place to the right of the decimal point
- 11. He-Man’s nemesis
- 12. Cy Young Award winner, probably
- 13. Tackle component
- 18. Engine additive and NASCAR sponsor
- 22. Put into words
- 24. Hourglass filler
- 25. “Yeah, yeah, I know”
- 26. Prefix for space
- 27. Sketch
- 29. Baby boomer’s kid
- 32. Paste shortcut, on PCs
- 33. Los Del ___ (“Macarena” duo)
- 34. 1950s singer Sumac
- 35. ___ Xing (street sign)
- 37. Trampled, with “on”
- 38. “The Handmaid’s Tale” streamer
- 39. Belinda Carlisle hit where she “can’t speak”
- 40. Conde ___ Traveler
- 41. Timber tool
- 45. Rarer Pokémon collectibles from the Sword & Shield Series
- 46. Interjections outside a Tim Hor-

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

Three four-letter numbers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Three five-letter gases	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Three four-syllable words	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Three five-letter zodiac signs	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Three continents	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Last Week’s Answers: CHAPTER AUTHOR TITLE PAGE / VIETNAM CHINA LAOS / FRACTURE DRAMATIC CONSPIRE / HEADS TAILS / HOUSTON DALLAS

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication 7/12

Z R A D O N F I V E W A

A E E U R O P E D Q A L

C B R J V I R G O H I U

I M H O Q C A R I E S M

R A L L I G A T O R A I

F X E N O N G A R G O N

A D B Q L I B R A V H U

A V I A T I O N I N E M

- spear-throwing tool
- 3. Medium setting?
- 4. Bathroom fixture
- 5. Tats
- 6. It’s a bit of a knockout
- 7. Rob Zombie’s spouse, fashion designer ___ Moon Zombie
- 8. Advertising gimmick
- 9. Six-legged creature
- 10. Place to the right of the decimal point
- 11. He-Man’s nemesis
- 12. Cy Young Award winner, probably
- 13. Tackle component
- 18. Engine additive and NASCAR sponsor
- 22. Put into words
- 24. Hourglass filler
- 25. “Yeah, yeah, I know”
- 26. Prefix for space
- 27. Sketch
- 29. Baby boomer’s kid
- 32. Paste shortcut, on PCs
- 33. Los Del ___ (“Macarena” duo)
- 34. 1950s singer Sumac
- 35. ___ Xing (street sign)
- 37. Trampled, with “on”
- 38. “The Handmaid’s Tale” streamer
- 39. Belinda Carlisle hit where she “can’t speak”
- 40. Conde ___ Traveler
- 41. Timber tool
- 45. Rarer Pokémon collectibles from the Sword & Shield Series
- 46. Interjections outside a Tim Hor-

- tons, maybe?
- 48. Pub contest fodder
- 49. Not noticed
- 50. Like sorted socks
- 52. Budgetary prefix
- 53. Gold fabrics
- 54. Opinions
- 55. U2 producer Brian
- 59. Frozen planet in “The Empire

- Strikes Back”
- 60. Golfing org.
- 61. Miss the mark
- 62. Nyan ___ (meme with a repetitive earworm)
- 63. Cashew, e.g.

© 2023 Matt Jones

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

$2 \div$		$12 \times$	
$3 +$			$7 +$
$1 -$	$5 +$	2	
			2

WORKSPACE:

©2023 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

CHALLENGING

$10 \times$	$3 \div$	$12 \times$	4	$10 +$
	$3 -$	1		
4		$8 +$	$7 +$	$20 \times$
$2 \div$		$3 +$		
$2 -$	4	$1 -$		$1 -$
	$3 -$	$11 +$		2

©2023 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

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

$6 \times$	$2 \div$	1	
3	4	2	1
2	3	1	4
$3 +$		$7 +$	3
1	2	4	3
$3 -$		$1 -$	
4	1	3	2

$1 -$	$11 +$	$3 -$	$6 +$
3	2	6	5
$2 \div$	3	2	4
6	3	2	4
5	1	4	2
$10 \times$	1	$3 \div$	$2 \div$
1	5	3	6
$14 +$		$9 +$	
2	4	5	1
4	5	1	6
4	6	1	3
$30 \times$		3	5
4	5	1	3

©2023 KenKen Puzzle, LLC www.kenken.com

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Fitter: Calmer. Stronger.*, by Ellie Goulding, born Dec. 30, 1986.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *I still love a smoothie (there's just something so great about whizzing all of those ingredients up) but now I am more balanced about what goes in. Be more balanced.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *I'm fully aware this is not the most rock-and-roll account of wanton destruction. ... but to be fair, you have bought a book titled Fitter. Calmer. Stronger. so I'm not sure what you were expecting. To be fair.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Your mindset is a collection of your opinions and beliefs that influences your behavior. If your collection is all about how rubbish everything is, you will find it hard to come up with dynamic, constructive patterns of behavior. If that's what you're going for.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *Journaling, as the practice of writing everything down has become known, makes me think of little Victorian ladies for some reason. And maybe it made them think of you.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Something happens to me when I first wake up. It is like my brain has only woken up the irrational part — and all I can think about is doom and gloom and that everything is [crap]. And the part that knows that this is just my old habit of negative thinking ... is still fast asleep. Give it time.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *You DO have time. Stop telling yourself that you don't. ... You DO NOT need an hour to exercise. Even ten minutes is good to get moving. One bicep curl is better than none.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *The way I feel when I'm boxing is pretty close to how I feel when I'm onstage. Busy, busy, busy.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *You don't have to run if you don't want to. You could try walking in an area with some steep hills.... Or just stand there and then do some jumping jacks.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Try a longer run than usual or a new gym class or online trainer. Variety is good.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *The solution to overworking is not underworking. What you need is some justrightworking.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *In a sense you can make this as simple or as complicated as you like! What do you like?*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *I've also made friends in my industry who are just fascinating human beings. ... But you know what? It's not the same as being able to fart in front of them like I would with my school friends. Not the same.*

J.A. Young & Sons Painting Co.
 50 plus years in business fully Insured.
 Interior painting, floor sanding, drywall repair, light carpentry.
Call Jeff
603-435-8012

Gift Cards are Always Available
Discover NH's VINYL/CD Headquarters!
 Over 6,000 NEW Vinyl Records AND over 50,000 USED titles... CDs and movies too!
Music Connection
 1711 South Willow St. Manchester
 603-644-0199 • musicconnection.us
 New Location in Turners Falls, MA! Open 7 Days

Still waiting for your carrier to pick up your vehicle?
Call American - we'll get you to Florida NOW!
 ★Guaranteed Pickup Date and Time
 ★Guaranteed Prices
 Ship quickly Nationwide
 Fast • Reliable
 Safe • Convenient
 Book your round trip now and save more
 The snowbird's favorite since 1980
AMERICAN AUTO TRANSPORTERS, INC.
 1.800.800.2580 • shipcar.com
 Text- 617-shipcar (617-744-7227)

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 usher, perhaps (6)	_____
2 game-finding pooch (6)	_____
3 elongated chair (6)	_____
4 agree to a compromise (6)	_____
5 vessel for boiling water (6)	_____
6 prickly plant (6)	_____
7 lie close to (6)	_____

© 2023 Blue Ox Family Games, Inc., Dist. by Andrews McMeel

Sudoku Answers from pg 44 of 12/21

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/4

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/6

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 12/8

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.
 Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase* valued at \$735.
 Call 866-643-0438 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

FPA INDEPENDENT FREE PAPERS OF AMERICA

VIAGRA and Cialis users! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental Insurance - Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Covers 350 procedures. Real insurance - not a discount plan. Get your free dental info kit! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! Leaf-Filter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pickup. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/31/24. 1-866-

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
 1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 19829165. NSCS 6802988. 09/24/15

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Eric Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. Limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call 1-844-501-3208

INURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-888-2038. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxisp Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTVStream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/ Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call 1-866-859-0405

Always Advertise The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above goods. Intending the value of their goods or product is reduced by this publication. In order to avoid misrepresentations, some advertisements and other materials designed to help the reader establish a real relationship and other business dealings. Under no circumstances should you send any money in advance or give the sender your banking license. All credit card numbers, bank account numbers, and other sensitive information should be kept safe and secure that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is likely to request any money before delivering to you. All funds are based in US dollars. All the numbers may or may not track.

News of the Weird extends greetings for a peaceful and happy new year full of many notably weird moments. While you're welcoming 2024, enjoy some of our favorite items from earlier in 2023.

Bright Idea

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

The Aristocrats

Wow! Things went literally and physically south on July 11 at a press dinner on New York's Upper East side in support of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s presidential campaign. According to Page Six, as Kennedy answered questions, someone posed one about climate change, but before Kennedy could answer, Doug Dechert, the event host, screamed, "The climate hoax!" Which brought a scold from art critic Anthony Haden-Guest, who called him a "miserable blob." The two continued their exchange, with Kennedy calmly looking on, until Dechert loudly released a "prolonged fart" while yelling, helpfully, "I'm farting!" After attempts to change the subject and more verbal antics, the evening wound down. The next day, Dechert told Page Six, "I apologize for using my flatulence as a medium of public commentary in your presence." How do I get on this guest list? *Page Six, July 12, 2023*

Bright Idea

Michael Raduga, 40, founder of the Phase Research Center in Russia, but — critically — NOT a doctor or neurosurgeon, nearly lost his life in June when he tried to implant a chip in his brain on

his own, in his living room in Kazakhstan. The Daily Mail reported that Raduga lost more than a liter of blood in his quest to control his dreams. He said he practiced on five sheep's brains and watched hours of neurosurgery on YouTube before starting on his own head. "During the first 30 minutes I was ready to give up many times because ... I was afraid I could just lose consciousness," Raduga said. "I finished the surgery, I took a shower and I worked for 10 hours straight. People didn't know." But neurosurgeon Alex Green of the University of Oxford wasn't having it. "This is an extremely dangerous thing to do," he said. "We are probably decades away from being able to synthesize new experiences." *The Daily Mail, July 15, 2023*

Weird Fashion

It's about time! Japanese garment company Takikou has developed a wearable bean bag, Oddity Central reported. "This concept was born out of the idea of a cushion that would allow you to totally let go, anytime, anywhere," said the company's Shogo Takikawa. "You can put this on and chill out in your living room or loads of other places." The bean bag is available in different sizes

and colors, but it does weigh about 11 pounds (which might make you want to sit down more often). Prices range from \$60 to \$119. *Feb. 14, 2023*

New World Order

Tired of your John Hancock looking like a child's scribble? Priscilla Molina of Los Angeles can help with that. The Associated Press reported that Molina's business, Planet of Names, will make over anyone's signature for between \$10 and \$55. People seeking her service are "not happy with their signatures. They don't relate to who they are. They don't give the message they want to convey to the world," Molina said. She designs up to 300 custom signatures per month, and offers a range of styles, from elegant and artistic to ... illegible. *Associated Press, Feb. 28, 2023*

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

PIZZICO MARTINI **BAR**
RISTORANTE
 DINE-IN | DELIVERY | TAKEOUT

JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR
 MONDAY - THURSDAY
 3PM-6PM

SPECIAL PRICES FOR FOOD & DRINK

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE
ASK ABOUT OUR CATERING MENU!

Two Convenient Locations!
 7 Harold Drive, Nashua, NH 603-897-0696
 7 Continental Blvd. Merrimack, NH 603-424-1000

www.pizzicorestaurant.com

\$5,000 MATCH & Win
HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY!

WEEKLY PRIZES

- FIRST PLACE* \$500 CASH
- SECOND PLACE* \$250 CASH
- NEXT 5 RUNNERS-UPS* \$50 CASH
- ONE RANDOM WINNER* \$250 CASH

*Each promo chip is one entry in the weekly drawing.

The River
 CASINO & SPORTS BAR
Food. Spirits. Gaming.

53 High Street, Downtown Nashua

Headliners
COMEDY
CLUB

New Year's Eve



The largest NYE event in NH!

Cocktails | Dinner | Dueling Pianos | Comedy | Dancing
4 Packages to choose from starting at \$35 per person
4 Great Comics Featured!

The Comedy Club

Tickets \$35 Per Person
8pm Showtime | 90 + Min
Comedy Show



Ken Rogerson Tim McKeever

The Gala

Tickets Starting at \$60 Per Person
6pm Cocktail Hour | 7pm 4 Course
Dinner | 8pm Dueling Piano Show
10p Dancing | 12am Champaign
Toast | 1am Event Closes



Rob Steen Alex Giampapa



3 COMICS LIVE! | 3 Locations
Packages starting at \$35 each

Chunky's
Manchester @ 7pm



James Dorsey Matt Barry Greg Boggis

Chunky's
Nashua @ 7pm



Phillip Anthony Joey Carrol Pat Napoli

Chunky's
Pelham @ 7:30pm



Jody Sloan Mark Scalia Dave Decker

The largest NYE event in Nashua!

Dinner | Comedy | Dancing & Toast | Special Guest DJ



Mark Scalia Joey Carrol

See 2 Great Comics!



Check Tickets & Info:
NewYearsEveEvents.com
or chunkys.com



141681



**NEW HAMPSHIRE'S AWARD-WINNING
MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE!**



ADRENALIZE

A DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE
SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30 | 8:00 P.M.



ADAM EZRA GROUP

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31 | 9:00 P.M.



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC

AN ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE
FRIDAY | JANUARY 5 | 8:00 P.M.



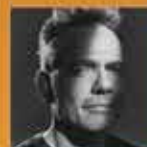
MIA X ALLY

SATURDAY | JANUARY 6 | 8:00 P.M.



EAGLEMANIA!

A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES
SATURDAY | JANUARY 13 | 8:00 P.M.



CHRISTOPHER TITUS

THURSDAY | JANUARY 18 | 8:00 P.M.

FOR TICKETS AND THE FULL SCHEDULE, VISIT:

TUPELOMUSICHALL.COM

141522



the **RESIDENCE** *at* **1000 ELM**

DISCOVER A NEW, STUNNING
HIGH-RISE APARTMENT COMMUNITY!

***ONE-MONTH FREE RENT WITH NEW 13-MONTH LEASE
& \$500 INITIAL SECURITY DEPOSIT WITH
GOOD CREDIT ON ALL UNITS. \$500 SECURITY DEPOSIT**

The Residence at 1000 Elm has it all: style, location, comfort, and convenience, all rolled into a modern, animal-friendly environment you'll love coming home to! The Residence at 1000 Elm offers beautifully renovated 2-bedroom apartment homes. These luxurious units showcase gleaming quartz countertops in both the kitchen and bathroom, stainless steel appliances, in-unit washer and dryer, designer flooring throughout, central air conditioning, garage parking, and conveniently located off I-293.



Contact us TODAY for your personal tour: 603.836.7909 | 1000elm.com | 1000 Elm Street, Manchester, NH

**Limited time offer, subject to change. New residents only, not transferable. Restrictions may apply. Please speak to our Leasing Team for more information.*