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JANUARY 11 - 17, 2024

EATS FROM
TABLE P. 22

ART & THEATER
HAPPENINGS P. 14

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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ON THE COVER

10 Weekly trivia
nights abound at
area restaurants,
breweries and
even a movie
theater. We talked
to two experts
about how to put
together a team
and how the
games are crafted
and we give you a listing of some of the spots to
find trivia.



ALSO ON THE COVER Check out the extra helping
of art and theater events in the Art section on
page 14. Mya Blanchard talks to the woman
behind Table in Concord (page 22). Michael Wit-
thaus talks to Eric Gibson of the bluegrass band
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NEWS & NOTES

NH vs. DNC

On Jan. 8, the New Hampshire Attorney General, John M. Formella, issued a cease-and-desist order to the Democratic National Committee's Rules & Bylaws Committee for instructing the New Hampshire Democratic Party to inform the public that the Jan. 23 New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary election is "meaningless." According to a press release, this statement has been declared false and misleading by the Attorney General, constituting a violation of RSA 659:40, III, against voter suppression. The Attorney General has ordered the cessation of any conduct that undermines the state election law, emphasizing the primary election's legal significance and its role in the democratic process, despite the DNC's stance on delegate allocation. The situation is under continued review by the Attorney General's Office.

Paid leave

The New Hampshire Insurance Department, along with the Department of Employment Security and the Department of Administrative Services, is mobilizing community advocates to increase awareness of and participation in the state's Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) program. According to a press release, despite a strong enrollment in its first year, there is a recognized need to further inform the public, particularly those who could benefit but

remain uninformed or uncertain about how to enroll. The state agencies are urging advocacy organizations to help disseminate information and facilitate enrollment by appointing liaisons to work with the PFML team. The initiative focuses on the urgency of promoting the 2024 PFML open enrollment, which concludes on Jan. 29.

Mocktails

The New Hampshire Liquor Commission (NHLC), in collaboration with Brown-Forman, has initiated the fourth annual New Hampshire Mocktail Month, with nearly 70 local restaurants participating. According to a press release, the event is part of the ongoing "Live Free & Host Responsibly" campaign, started in 2016, to encourage responsible alcohol service and consumption. This year's mocktail month, which highlights several Brown-Forman brands, is designed to provide alcohol-free beverage options, enhancing a safe drinking environment for patrons. An online guide with mocktail recipes is available for those who prefer to create these drinks at home. The NHLC aims to leverage this initiative to foster responsible drinking habits and is encouraging social media engagement with the campaign. Visit liquorandwineoutlets.com/responsibility.

Cultural grants

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts is offer-

ing Cultural Facilities grants to arts and cultural organizations for facility improvements to enhance their venues for cultural programming, according to a press release. With a focus on projects that promote accessibility and long-term venue enhancements, organizations can apply for grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000 for use between April 1, 2024, and Jan. 31, 2025. Eligible applicants must be ADA-compliant, have a history of public arts programming, and hold a 501(c)(3) status, with the application deadline set for Feb. 9. Further details and application guidelines are available at nh.gov/nharts.

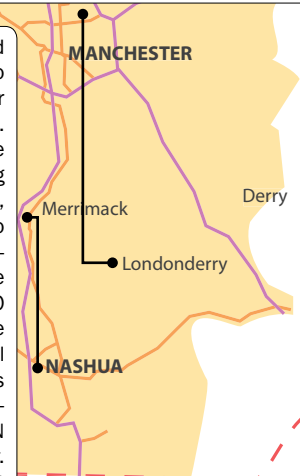
Keep the money here

A new economic study released by the New Hampshire Bankers Association has underscored the potential economic benefits of retaining taxpayer funds within the state, according to a press release. Conducted by Polecon Research, the study indicates that by investing public funds locally through the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (NH PDIP), the state could experience a surge in economic growth, with an estimated increase of nearly \$200 million in state GDP. Key findings suggest substantial boosts in available credit for small businesses, increased tax revenues, job growth and a significant rise in personal income for residents. Sen. Cindy Rosenwald has introduced the GLOW Act

Dixville Notch is set to host the state's only midnight vote for the 2024 first-in-the-nation presidential primary. Continuing a tradition that began in 1960, Dixville voters will cast their ballots at midnight as Jan. 22 turns into Jan. 23. This year, due to renovations at the Balsams' Dix House, the vote will occur in the Living Room at the Tillotson House. The event will be overseen by Dixville Town Moderator Tom Tillotson, son of Neil Tillotson, who initiated this unique voting tradition. The Balsams' principal owner, Les Otten, and the community's voters will be present, along with a special appearance by Cory "C Pez" Pesaturo, a renowned accordion champion.

Ken Perkins, a retired United Airlines pilot, will present "Lindbergh's Last Flight" at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire in Londonderry on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. The event will feature Perkins' first-hand account of the 1974 flight that transported a seriously ill Charles Lindbergh to Hawaii shortly before the legendary aviator's death. Part of the museum's speaker series, the presentation will offer unique insights into this historic flight and Perkins' experiences during the Golden Age of Aviation. Admission is \$10, with free entry for museum members. Visit aviationmuseumofnh.org.

The Be BRAVE Gala, presented by Safe Haven Ballet, is set to take place at the Nashua Center for the Arts on Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. This event, known for diverse artistic performances including ballet, contemporary dance, martial arts and music, aims to support survivors of sexual violence and trauma. Tickets are priced at \$35 for adults and \$30 for children and seniors. The Gala, which has been successful in raising funds for crisis centers in the past, will contribute a portion of its proceeds to HAVEN NH for building a larger shelter. Tickets can be purchased at NashuaCenterfortheArts.com or by calling 1-800-657-8774.



to capitalize on these findings, aiming to keep public funds invested within New Hampshire to maximize the economic impact. The study advocates for local investment as a strategic move to bolster the state's economy and support community needs like affordable housing.

The full report detailing these benefits is available on the NH Bankers website, nhbankers.com/PDIP, as they work with legislators to pass this initiative in the upcoming legislative session. 🌟

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Huge week for HC of NEPs



The Big Story – Bill Belichick's Future: After the season ended, what happens to **Bill Belichick** was the raging local question and would be until the answer comes, which may have happened by the time you read this. So stay tuned.

Sports 101: Name the four teams who've never played in the Super Bowl.

News Item – NFL Wild Card Weekend: The biggest national story is the opening of the NFL playoffs. The three most intriguing side stories are these:

Miami at KC: Tyreek Hill's return to Arrowhead Stadium.

Cleveland at Houston: It pits the team involved in bringing **DeShaun Watson** to Ohio against the one that not only now has the better QB anyway in **CJ Stroud** but also has all those draft picks Cleveland gave up for Watson.

L.A. at Detroit: Round 2 of who got the better of that **Matthew Stafford-Jared Goff** deal. Round 1 went to L.A. when they immediately won the SB with Stafford. But the Lions are now thriving with the much younger QB the Rams dumped and have a brighter long-term future thanks to the boatload of picks that came with Goff. A win for Detroit tilts the arrow toward them.

News Item – College Football Championship Game: The game between Big 10 Michigan and (not for long) PAC 12 Washington would have been played on New Year's in the Rose Bowl a generation ago. And while it's exciting for many, the two things that strike me are that it's the swan song for the PAC 12 Conference, and UM's coach is there despite being suspended twice for cheating this season. Oh, and semifinals-losing Texas had a back-up QB (**Arch Manning**) who made \$3.2 million in NIL money as a freshman. Welcome to college football 2024.

The Numbers:

7.8 – eye-popping yards per carry average (on 103) by rookie Miami back **De'Von Achane**.

15 – second best in the NFL rushing TD's done somehow by quarterbacks **Josh Allen** of Buffalo and **Jalen Hurts** of Philly.

236 – last in the league points scored by the pathetic offense of your New England Patriots.

... Of the Week Awards

Shot of the Week – Nikola Jokic: The big fella delivered a 40-footer off glass as time expired to make Denver 130-127 winners over stunned Golden State. Though I ain't buying Joker's claim he called the bank, so if it's H-O-R-S-E Nuggets lose.

Thumbs Down of the Week – NFL and NBC: For its sign of what lies ahead in putting Saturday's KC-Miami wild card game *only* on NBC's pay TV streaming service, Peacock.

Random Thoughts:

Disgruntled Patriots tackle **Trent Brown** wants to be elsewhere next year. Fine with me.

Speaking of Hayward: While durability is always his issue, if he's bought out by Charlotte, he'd fit perfectly as an affordable point forward, 3 and D option off the Celtics bench.

Sports 101 Answer: Three of the Super Bowl-less teams — the Lions, Browns and Texans — can end their streaks this month, while Jacksonville missed again.

Final Thought – Coach B:

Here's what my thinking on Coach B would be if I owned the Patriots.

Biggest Problems

Picking Talent: The player evaluation and draft strategy has been mostly awful since 2014. And the big free agent spending year of 2021 was a gigantic bust. It's left them devoid of talent, especially on offense.

Strategic Approach: He just doesn't seem to get how important a dynamic wide receiving threat is in 2023.

Can It Be Fixed? Yes, but it means a personnel chief must come in from the outside.

Biggest Issues Determining Whether Bill is the Guy to Fix It

- (1) Is he willing/able to work with someone else picking the groceries?
- (2) Can he adjust offensive strategy?
- (3) Can he still coach them up?
- (4) What's more important: winning SB 7 or him breaking **Don Shula's** record as a Patriot?

Answers:

(1) Doubtful, and who from the outside would want to do that?

(2) Maybe, since he did the same adding **Randy Moss** and **Wes Welker** after being run over by **Peyton Manning** in the 2006 AFC title game. Or if the unemployed **Josh McDaniels** (who was in **Bob Kraft's** suite Sunday) comes back as OC.

(3) Given all the crazy penalties, unnecessary timeouts and questionable game management moves the last few years I wonder about that.

(4) For me the wins record is the final exclamation mark to the dynasty, so it tops SB7.

Bottom Line: While I think he's leaving, if he accepts Issue 1 and brings back McDaniels I give him one last year. As for who has the stature to be Bill's boss, I give **Tom Brady** a minority share of the team to nix his Raiders deal and put him in charge of football operations. Then we're on to 2024.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

JANUARY 11 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Jan. 13

Enjoy the music of The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, The Animals, The Troggs, The Searchers, The Dave Clark Five, Herman's Hermits and others at "The British Invasion" tonight at 7 p.m. at the Majestic Studio Theatre (880 Page St. in Manchester; majestictheatre.net, 669-7469). Tickets cost \$20 and can be purchased by phone, online or at the door. Performers slated to embody the music of the mid-1960s include Dale Byrd, Emerson Carracedo, Glynn Cosker, Robert Dionne,



Jonathan Flower, Kate Flower, Angelo Gentile, Kristin Grant, Bo Guyer, Cady Hickman, Karen McGraw, Jim Rogato, The Rockin Daddios, Brynn Susi and Bruce Williams, according to a press release.

p.m., followed by the men's team at 3:30 p.m., both against Southern Connecticut State University. The games take place at Stan Spiro Field House (at the Southern New Hampshire University campus, 2500 River Road in Manchester); regular season games are free to attend. See snhupenmen.com.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Symphony NH and the Spartans Drum and Bugle Corps present "Brass to the Max," a show at the Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St. in Nashua) today at 7:30 p.m. "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.

make recycled paper beads in the style of artist Sanaa Gateja, whose show is currently on view, according to the museum's website.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Catch some Southern New Hampshire University Penmen basketball when the women's team takes to the court at 1:30

Sunday, Jan. 14

As of earlier this week, WMUR was predicting a 52 degree high and rain for Saturday, Jan. 13, and a 32 degree high today (Jan. 14), when you can hit the streets of Bedford for the 3-mile HPM Insurance Snowflake Shuffle at 9:30 a.m. Registration costs \$35 (\$30 for under 21). See millenniumrunning.com.

Monday, Jan. 15

Cellist Roric Cunningham will hold a solo recital (with pianist Elizabeth Blood) today at 7 p.m. at the Manchester Community Music

School (2291 Elm St. in Manchester; mcmusicschool.org). Tickets cost \$15 for adults, free for students under 21, according to the website.



Save the Date!

Saturday, Jan. 20

The New Hampshire Audubon Masses Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn; nhaudubon.org, 668-2045) will hold a class on "Winter Sowing of Native Plants" on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. with presenters Donna Miller, UNH Extension Advanced Master Gardener, and Stacey Scaccia, UNH Extension Master Gardener, according to the website. The cost is \$15 per person and you will "leave with a pot of native perennial seeds that will grow all year and be ready to plant in your garden next fall," the website said.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Today is the Second Saturday at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org), the monthly Saturday when admission is free for New Hampshire residents (the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. head to the Creative Studio to learn how to

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Butterfly in the sky

The New Hampshire Audubon's 2023 monarch butterfly tagging initiative has yielded promising insights, with a notable 40 percent return rate on detections from the 50 nanotags deployed. According to a press release, this research, building on the previous year's work, has revealed significant migration distances, including a record detection close to 850 miles away, enhancing our understanding of monarch butterflies' journey and informing potential conservation efforts. The repeated detection of monarchs along the same routes over consecutive years opens new avenues for targeted conservation strategies, marking a positive step in preserving these vital pollinators.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *This is especially significant given the monarch butterfly's status as a species of concern due to declining populations in recent years, the release said.*

Better bills

The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) has announced a 26 percent reduction in its base electric rate to 8.1 cents per kWh starting February 2024, maintaining its position as the provider of the lowest residential energy supply rates in New Hampshire for the third consecutive rate period. According to a press release, this new rate is expected to yield \$5.3 million in benefits for member communities. Serving over 120,000 customers in 28 cities and towns, with more joining soon, the Coalition offers cost-effective energy options, including choices for 100 percent, 50 percent and 33 percent renewable power, and provides savings to residential and mid-sized commercial customers.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *In March, an additional 12 communities will join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), expanding its reach to more than 50 municipalities.*

Seeking a stage

Steeplegate Mall in Concord is set for a transformation into a mixed-use development, requiring tenants without long-term leases, including the Hatbox Theatre, to vacate by the end of January, NHPR reported. This redevelopment marks the end of Hatbox Theatre's tenure at the mall, where it has been a part of the local arts scene since its inception in 2016. While some businesses like JC Penney and Altitude Trampoline Park remain unaffected due to long-term contracts, Hatbox Theatre faces immediate closure, disrupting its planned season, which included 15 scheduled productions, ranging from musicals to local playwrights' works.

QOL score: -2 for the upheaval, particularly for Hatbox

Comment: *Hatbox, which was slated to have its final show at the current location on Jan. 10, is looking for alternative locations. See hatboxnh.com for updates.*

QOL score: 48

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 48

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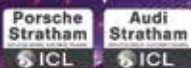
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Make it a Game Night

FIND FUN AND COMPETITION AT AREA TRIVIA EVENTS

Looking for an activity with your friends or a way to make new ones?

Weekly trivia nights abound at area restaurants, breweries and even a movie theater. We talked to two experts about how to put together a team and how the games are crafted and we give you a listing of some of the spots to find trivia. (Know of a trivia night not mentioned here? Let us know at adiaz@hippypress.com to get added to our weekly trivia listings that run in the Nite section.)

Ready for some white hot competition? Sharpen those pencils...

GAME MAKER

Heather Abernathy, a Manchester-based trivia host, runs general knowledge pub trivia at The Farm every Wednesday and themed trivia at Chunky's every Thursday. In this Q&A, she discusses her transition from player to host, her process for crafting trivia questions, strategies for keeping the atmosphere lively, and how she deals with answer disputes. Additionally, Heather provides advice for aspiring trivia hosts. Her experience spans various themes and formats, catering to a wide range of trivia enthusiasts.



Heather Abernathy. Courtesy photo.

How did you get started with hosting trivia nights?

I have such a wealth of random trivia knowledge, probably from watching *Jeopardy!* with my grandfather every night as a kid. ... I was always that person you wouldn't want to play against in Trivial Pursuit. ... I got started at The Farm in Manchester, because I was a player there. I played pretty consistently for about four years. And when the guy who was hosting before me decided he was done, the owners told him, 'If you can find somebody you think would make a good host, we'll hire them.' He reached out to me and said, 'You're smarter than I am ... and you're here every week anyway, so why not get a guaranteed paycheck for it?' So after a bit of hesitation, I decided, 'What the heck,' hung up my playing time, and switched over to hosting. That was in January of 2019.

What do you enjoy most about hosting trivia?

For my real job, I work in health insurance, and I work from home. So, it's boring, and I don't see a lot of people. Trivia is my way to get out, to be social. I've also made some good friends along the way. I really enjoy the interaction with the people that come out and play every week.

Can you describe the type of trivia you host?

At The Farm I mostly stick to general pub

trivia, because that's what my players like. I have thrown in themes once in a while, and my regulars tend to skip those because they prefer coming in and knowing they could be asked anything. Whereas at Chunky's I do a different theme every single week. For example, tomorrow night, in honor of the new *Mean Girls* movie, I'll be doing trivia on the original *Mean Girls* movie. But once a month I do something more music-themed. This month my music theme is The Beatles, but in the past I've done '80s and '90s music, which always sell out. Taylor Swift was another big one. And then once a month at Chunky's on Sundays — because my Thursdays at Chunky's are a 21-plus event — I do a family-friendly trivia where all ages are welcome. You can bring your kids, and I tend to do more family-oriented themes. So this month, for example, I'm doing Disney music as my family-friendly theme.

How do you create questions for your trivia nights?

For themed trivia, it's easy. If it's a movie, I will watch the movie and throw on my subtitles so I can make sure I'm getting quotes or spelling correctly. As I'm watching I'll think, 'Oh, that would be a good thing to ask.' So I jot down what I'm thinking. For the general knowledge trivia, I do a lot of scouring the internet for what strikes me as a good question. One unique thing about my trivia, which

I can't take credit for because I took the format from the guy hosting before me — if it ain't broke, don't fix it — is when I ask a question, I follow it up with a song. The song serves two purposes: it gives time for players to hand in their answers and it also acts as a hint for the question. Some weeks I really want an excuse to play a certain song, so I'll work backward and figure out a question that matches with the song. So for example, last week I asked a question ... 'Who was named Time Magazine's Person of the Year for the very first time in 1927?' The hint song that I played for that was REO Speedwagon's 'Time for me to Fly.' ... Charles Lindbergh was the answer to the question.

How do you maintain a good balance of topics and difficulty levels in your trivia questions?

I have a kind of mental checklist. For example, if I've already asked a geography question I'll move on to science, then maybe something pop culture-related. Generally, as the game progresses, at least for the bar trivia, Round 1 questions are easier than Round 3 questions. Also, my music hints might become less obvious as the game goes on. ... My rule of thumb is if I wouldn't have known the answer, odds are I won't ask it.

What strategies do you use to keep participants engaged and ensure a fun atmosphere?

The music is a big part of keeping participants engaged. Sometimes I'll play a hit song and, without realizing it, strike a nerve, and next thing you know half the bar is singing along. I do my best to engage with people. Anyone who knows me knows that I speak fluent sarcasm. I try to let my own personality come through, like engaging in banter with the players. ... I just try to keep it light and breezy.

How do you handle disputes or disagreements over answers during trivia nights?

It does come up, because I'm human. There's a real chance that I might come up with a question and not be right, or there could be an alternate answer. If someone comes up to me with a dispute, I respect that, because when I played I was that person who challenged the host. I'll do a spot check with my phone or laptop right there while hosting. I'm always open to being corrected. If it's determined that an alternate answer was acceptable, I'll admit it, award the points, and eat crow if I have to. On the flip side, if someone's answer is close

but not accurate, I might say, 'Close enough isn't good enough,' and not give points, or I might give half points for being close. I try to be flexible, because the goal at the end of the day is to get people to come back.

What advice would you give to someone interested in becoming a trivia host?

My biggest piece of advice is to have fun with it. ... You've got to have the confidence to go with it. Just get out there, have fun, and get to know your players. That has been key for me, because after hosting for so long these people are not just random attendees; many of them are now my friends. Establishing that rapport with players is crucial for retention. If people are having fun, they're going to come back. So try to relax, have fun, and when you see people returning that's always a good sign.

GAME PLAYER

Amy Leal, 51, from Salem, participates regularly in themed trivia nights at Chunky's in Manchester. She talked about her involvement in trivia since August 2020, her methods for forming and preparing her trivia team, the competitiveness of the games, challenges faced by the team, and some memorable experiences from the trivia nights.

Can you share a bit about yourself and how you got involved in trivia?

I just like collecting random information about various things. I've always enjoyed trivia-type games. For this particular weekly event, I got involved during Covid in August of 2020. Chunky's couldn't show movies, so they were hosting a Disney Pixar trivia event. My sister, knowing my interest in trivia and my love for Disney Pixar, saw it and thought I would be interested, so I went with my cousin Trish, who's the same age as me. We thought, 'Let's check this out.' We loved the format. It was a way to have a night out, kind of low-key during Covid, and do something fun. ... Three and a half years later we're still going just about every week.

How do you go about forming your trivia team?

For this trivia, you can have from one to eight people. Initially it was just my cousin Trish and I regularly. Then, when she couldn't attend, I invited another friend, who has been going with me ever since. She brought a friend from high school. I also asked a few more cousins, and we all joined based on the



Amy Leal (third left) and her trivia team. Courtesy photo.

themes Heather announced. We base our participation on our interests and strengths. Even if some of us don't know the specific show or movie, we go just to have a night out. Our team can range from two to eight players weekly, depending on the theme and what's happening in our lives. We have a diverse team, with people into music, movies, TV series and different genres. Everyone knows a little about everything, and some are experts in certain areas. So, for building a trivia team, the key is finding people interested in a wide knowledge base and looking for a night out, who can commit to more than once or twice a month. It's about sharing interests, being competitive, and a commitment to winning and being together.

What's your strategy, and how do you prepare?

Our approach for themed nights, especially if it's something we're not familiar with, is to watch the movie or TV show. We're lucky to know the theme a couple of weeks in advance, so we can plan to watch a movie or brush up on it. If it's a movie we haven't seen in 20 years, we rewatch it. For a TV series with multiple seasons, like *The Office* with eight seasons, different team members will

Try some trivia

Heather Abernathy provided some sample trivia questions:

1. Which of the founding fathers coined the phrase "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned," prompting people to leave pennies at his gravesite?
2. What is the mathematical term for a number divisible only by itself and the number one?
3. Juliette Gordon Lowe was the founder of what young women's organization, established in 1912 and famous for their annual sale of baked goods?
4. If you're competing in a triathlon, what are the three events in which you'll participate?
5. What English Earl's name is now associated with a type of sweater, most commonly seen on television's Mr. Rogers?
6. According to mythological legend, the pasta type tortellini is folded to mimic the shape of the belly button of what Greek goddess of love?

Find the answers on page 34.

watch different seasons. It's all just for fun; you can't remember everything. Our strategy is to watch the content and then have a group chat where we throw out questions to each other for practice, just to keep it top of mind.

How competitive do things get?

Our group is pretty laid back, and we enjoy being together and having something to look forward to every week. But there are times when we get competitive, especially if we disagree with how a question was phrased. We'll challenge the answer. Ultimately, Heather, who hosts the trivia, has the final say. Sometimes we feel that an answer wasn't accurate or was a bit twisted, but it's all in the context of the content. There's some competitiveness, especially since there are repeat teams. Since August 2020 about six teams have been regulars, and we've all gotten to know each other, often on a first-name basis. We congratulate other teams when they win, but we also feel like it should have been us, especially if it was our game to lose. Sometimes we go in overconfident, and depending on the questions we might blow it or win. But at the end of the day it's a game. We all want to win, but not everybody can.

What kind of hurdles do you run into with trivia and how do you handle them?

A challenge for us is that we don't always have the same people available every week because life happens. When we're missing someone we really feel it, especially if it's a question they would have known. We had a phase where we won almost every week for six to eight months, placing first, second or third each time. It felt great, especially since we won gift cards for Chunky's, which we used for meals. But not winning can be a downer, and we're in a bit of a slump right now due to inconsistent team availability during the holidays. We need to get back up and overcome this slump.

Do you have any memorable moments or stories from trivia nights?

Around February 2021, it was my cousin Jamie's birthday, and we had become friendly with Heather, the host. I sent her a childhood picture of Jamie, the classic school photo with the laser background, and asked her to

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put it up on the big screen in the theater to wish him a happy birthday. It was hilarious, and she even showed it a few times after just for fun. There was also this funny moment during a music round. We couldn't remember the artist of a song, so all I pictured was a white guy wearing a vest with chest hair sticking out. That's what we wrote as our answer. When Heather was reading the answers, she read ours out loud and it got a big laugh in the theater. Now, when we can't remember something, that's become our signature answer. And it turns out the artist for that song wasn't even close to what I was picturing. 🍷



Trivia at Chunky's. Courtesy photo.

Trivia nights

Liven up your weeknights with some fun and games. Know of a trivia night not listed here? Let us know at adiaz@hippypress.com.

MONDAY

- **Pub Quiz at Shaskeen** (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

- **Able Ebenezer Brewing** (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 p.m.
- **Sea Dog Brewing** (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Second Brook Bar & Grill** (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Lynn's 102 Tavern** (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Gibb's Garage Bar** (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) at 7 p.m.
- **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

- **Community Oven** (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Brews & Qs, 21+**, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Spyglass Brewing Co.** (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Earth Eagle North** (Barclay Square, 350 Route 108, Somersworth, 841-5421, earthaglebrewings.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Popovers** (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill** (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, [ing-events\) at 6:30 p.m.](http://revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcom-

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- **Don Ramon** (6 Whitney St., Merrimack, 420-8468) from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **KC's Rib Shack** (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo in Manchester, 7 to 9 p.m..
- **The New England Trivia Co.** at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-3751, nhhg.com) 7 to 9 p.m.
- **World Tavern Trivia at Fody's Tavern** (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

- **Reed's North** (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Mitchell BBQ** (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Station 101** (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Music trivia at Day of the Dead Taqueria** (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy. in Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Geeks Who Drink trivia at The Barley House** (132 N. Main St., Concord, 228-6363), from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Themed trivia at Cheers Bar & Grille** (17 Depot St., Concord, 228-0563) at 7 p.m.
- **Hart's Turkey Farm** (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Opinionation by Sporec trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill** (15 Fort Eddy Road in Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
- **Hop Knot** (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Shooters Sports Pub** (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Liquid Therapy** (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Game Changer Sports Bar** (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Strange Brew** (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

- **The Biergarten Anheuser-Busch** (221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 595-1202) from 6 to 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

- **Mountain Base Brewery** (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) at 4 p.m.

OTHER TRIVIA NIGHTS

- **Chunky's Cinema Pub in Manchester** (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com) holds regular 21+ trivia nights on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. with varying themes: The Beatles on Thursday, Jan. 11. General Knowledge on Thursday, Jan. 18. Barbie on Thursday, Jan. 25. Chunky's also hosts family-friendly trivia nights. Next up is Disney Songs on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m.
- Take part in *Schitt's Creek* trivia night on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at **Vine Thirty Two** (25 S. River Road in Bedford; vinethirtytwo.com).
- Trivia at **Fody's** (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodystavern.com) the first Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.
- Trivia on the first and third Thursday of every month trivia at **To Share Brewing** (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
- Trivia at **Park Theatre** (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 🍷

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ARTS

—THE— ROUNDUP

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

• **At the Currier:** It's the final days to view "Sanaa Gateja: Selected Works," an exhibit of "large-scale compositions ... primarily created using beads made from recycled paper, which Ugandan artist Sanaa Gateja rolls, dyes and affixes to bark cloth," according to a newsletter from the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org). The exhibition is open through Monday, Jan. 15 (when the museum will be open for Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations). Catch tours of the exhibition on Thursday, Jan. 11, and Friday, Jan. 15, the newsletter said.

Coming up later this winter are the exhibitions "Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)," which opens on Thursday, Feb. 29, and "I Live A Journey of A Thousand Years," featuring about 20 works by Raphaël Barontini, which opens on Thursday, March 7, the newsletter said.

Returning through April are the "Art Conversations From Home" Zoom conversations about Currier collections and current exhibitions, according to the newsletter. The events take place Wednesdays at 1 p.m., are free and last 30 minutes; registration is required (go online), the newsletter said. On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the planned discussion will focus on "Santa Casilda, after Francisco de Zubaran" by Roméo Mivekannin, which is on display in the Contemporary gallery, the newsletter said.

• **At Cue Zero Theatre:** On Friday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. Cue Zero Theatre (cztheatre.com) will present a reading of two new plays — *Murder in Residence* by MT Cozzola and *Meeting Mr. Right* by Stephen de Ghelder — as part of the Laboratory Series. The reading is pay-what-you-can and takes place at Arts Academy of New Hampshire (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, in Salem). The playwrights will be available for a brief talk-back after each reading, according to a press release.

Also on the schedule at Cue Zero is Cue Zero Cabaret with the theme of villains and anti-love songs on Friday, Feb. 9. Cue Zero is also offering a workshop series, starting with an introduction to directing on Sunday, Jan. 14, with Dan Pelletier and Crystal Welch and a "foundations of improv comedy workshop" on Sunday, Feb. 18; register online (the cost is a suggested donation of \$40), the release said.



Roméo Mivekannin's "Santa Casilda, after Francisco de Zubaran" (2023).

The mainstage season begins with a production of *Blood Relations* that will run Friday, March 1, through Sunday, March 3 (shows at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday). Tickets cost \$15.

• **More at Mosaic:** In addition to its new exhibition "This Is Us Plus Some," the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) has several events slated for January. Music night is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. and will feature Abner II (take a listen at [instagram.com/Abner_ii](https://www.instagram.com/Abner_ii)) and Regals (hear them at [regalsrock.bandcamp.com](https://www.regalsrock.bandcamp.com)), according to a press release.

On Thursday, Jan. 25, learn eraser printmaking with Jackie Hanson from 5:45 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$35.

On Friday, Jan. 26, Mosaic will host an artist talk with Gary Samson, filmmaker and photographer, from 5:40 to 7 p.m.

• **New show:** "Nature In Focus: Images of Flora, Fauna and Landscapes of New England" was slated to open Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; [nh.audubon.org](https://www.nh.audubon.org)) and will be on display through Friday, March 8 (an artist reception for the show was scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m.). The show features nature photography by Bob Fleck, a New Hampshire author and photographer, according to a press release. Visit the exhibition Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Art opening:** The Nashua Area Artists Association will hold an artists' reception for the exhibit at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St. in Nashua) on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The show, featuring works by local NAAA artists, will be on display through the end of January, according to a Facebook post about the event. Find out more at [nashuaarts.org](https://www.nashuaarts.org).

• **Join the choir:** The Manchester Community Music School (2291 Elm St. in Manchester; [mcmusicschool.org](https://www.mcmusicschool.org)) is putting out a call for an Adult Community Choir that will meet Thursdays 7 to 8:30



Emma Soldati in *The Poor Rich* coming to the Players' Ring Theatre Jan. 19 -21. Photo by HanJie Chow.

p.m. starting Jan. 25, according to a press release. The choir is open to ages 18+ and tuition costs \$200, the newsletter said. There is no requirement to read music or audition, but you will be asked to sing for the conductor to determine your choral part and singers should be able to meet the time commitment and have the ability to match pitch, the newsletter said. For more information email polly@mcmusicschool.org or, to register, registrar@mcmusicschool.org.

• **Upcoming show and a call for art:** "Blossoming Beyond," an exhibition that "showcases work that embodies the resilience, strength and beauty of both the natural world and the LGBTQ+ community," according to [queerlective.com](https://www.queerlective.com), will open Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn). The NH Audubon is partnering with Queerlective for the exhibit, which is taking artists' submissions for the exhibition through Monday, Jan. 15, at 11:59 p.m., according to the website, where you can find details about how to submit work. The exhibit will be on display through Saturday, March 30, with an opening reception Saturday, Jan. 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.

• **Just keep auditioning:** The Palace Youth Theatre will hold auditions for performers in grades 2 through 12 for its upcoming production of *Finding Nemo Jr.* on Saturday, Jan. 13, with slots at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester), according to an email from the theater. Rehearsals will be Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons in January and then Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays until the production on March 13 and March 14. Come prepared to sing a short section of a song a cappella, according to the email. Schedule an audition time by emailing meganalves@palacetheatre.org with the performer's name, age and preferred audition time, the email said.

• **Call for teen musicians:** Ted Herbert Music School will hold auditions for its Ted

Herbert Community Big Band for ages 13 to 19 on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Ted Herbert Music School and Rentals (880 Page St. in Manchester). Students in the band can rehearse, perform and learn in an ensemble setting and will be mentored by professional working musicians, according to a press release. The audition will feature sight reading and improvisation, the release said. Auditions are open to kids who are not 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 jeffsamataro-music@gmail.com or calling 669-7469. See tedherbert.com for more.

• **Author talk:** Concord author and doctor Lloyd Sederer will discuss his book *Caught in the Crosshairs of American Healthcare* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St. in Concord; [gibsonsbookstore.com](https://www.gibsonsbookstore.com), 224-0562) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m.

• **On stage at the Players' Ring:** The original surrealist drama *You, Me and The Woodsmoke*, by Catherine Stewart, finishes a two-week run at the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; 436-8123, [playersring.org](https://www.playersring.org)) on 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+.

Up next at the Players' Ring is *The Poor Rich*, written and performed by Gemma Soldati, on Friday, Jan. 19, and Saturday, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. See a trailer for the show, which is billed as 18+, at [gemmasoldati.com/work/thepoorrich](https://www.gemmasoldati.com/work/thepoorrich). Tickets cost \$28, \$25 for 65+ and students.

• **On stage at the Rep:** This is also the final weekend for *Cheap Thrills*, a show billed as "an evening of Janis in concert" featuring Alyssa Dumas and The Stu Dias Band recreating the music of Janis Joplin, at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; [seacoastrep.org](https://www.seacoastrep.org), 433-4472), according to a press release. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11; 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 12, and 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. Tickets start at \$37.

Next up at the Rep is *Children of Eden*, running Thursday, Jan. 25, through Sunday, Feb. 25. The website describes the production as "the story of Genesis from Adam and Eve through Noah" and a "compelling blend of theater and tech, where ancient



In the Garden of Z rehearsal. L to R: Jelizaveta Robinson, Sean Robinson. Courtesy Photo

stories meet modern possibilities.” Tickets start at \$37. Shows are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m.

• **On stage at New Hampshire Theatre Project:** The New Hampshire Theatre Project (959 Islington St. in Portsmouth, nhtheatreproject.org, 431-6644) will present *In the Garden of Z* (tagline: “Family. Propaganda. War.”) written by Sean and Jelizaveta Robinson and directed by Sean Robinson from Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 4, with shows Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. The play “tells the story of a Russian girl’s reaction to the horrors of the war in Ukraine,” according to the press release, which says the Jan. 19 show will be the play’s world premiere. Tickets cost \$28 to \$32.

• **See the queen in (New) London:** The Center for the Arts (centerforheartsnh.org) will present Queen Victoria at the Fleming Center at the New London Barn Playhouse (84 Main St. in New London) on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sally Mummy portrays the queen for the program, which uses Queen Victoria’s diary and letters to



Sally Mummy as Queen Victoria will come to the New London Barn Playhouse. Courtesy photo.

reveal “the personal details of a powerful yet humane woman,” according to a press release. Tickets cost \$23 per person (\$5 for students). Make reservations at info@cfanh.org and purchase tickets at centerforheartsnh.org, the release said.

• **Tax help for artists:** Queerlective (queerlective.com) will present “Taxes for Artists, Freelancers, and Creative Businesses with Hannah Cole,” a virtual workshop, on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. See bit.ly/taxes4artists to register; the workshop is free with a suggested donation of \$15.

• **Join the Granite State Choral Society:** Registration for the Granite State Choral Society will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the First Church Congregational (63 S. Main in Rochester), with rehearsals set to begin the next week, Sunday, Jan. 21, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., according to a press release. The chorus is open to singers of all levels ages 12 and up, the release said. Annual membership dues cost \$100, according to gschoralsociety.org, where you can find all the details about joining and chorus membership. Scheduled performances are April 28 and May 5, the release said.



MLK DAY AT THE CURRIER

The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) will open on Monday, Jan. 15, with free admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and programing from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., according to the museum’s newsletter. At 11 a.m., a curator-led tour “Black Abstraction” will be led by Bruce McColl, director of engagement, and a paper bead-making workshop (which will run until 2 p.m.) will take place in the Green Studio on the Lower Level. At noon, Rachael Kane, curator of education and interpretation, will hold a

tour of Kara Walker’s works, the newsletter said. At 1 p.m., chief curator Lorenzo Fusi will lead a tour of “Sanaa Gateja: Selected Works.” At 2 p.m., the Racial Unity Team of NH will offer a spoken word performance and screening of the “I Have A Dream” speech, the newsletter said. The museum will also offer free programing on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. related to King. At 5 p.m. Kane will offer the tour of Kara Walker’s works on view. At 5:30 p.m. Fusi will tour “Sanaa Gateja: Selected Works” and at 6 p.m. the Manchester Community Music School will offer a special performance. Photo: Dr. Martin Luther King Is Confronted, 1963, by Ernest Withers. From Currier website.

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6 & 8:30PM

FRI 26

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7:30PM

FEBRUARY

FRI 2

Comedy at the Rex with Dave Russo

7:30PM

SAT 3

603 Folk: An Evening of NH Based Singer Songwriters

7:30PM

WED 7

Candlelight: The Best of Hans Zimmer

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FRI 9

Comedy at the Rex with Al Park and special guest

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ARTS

Art

Exhibits

- **DEIRDRE CLEARY**, Auburn artist, will display her carved birds, which include song birds and waterfowl carved from basswood, cedar or tupelo, at Griffin Free Library (22 Hooksett Road in Auburn; 483-5374, griffinfree.org) through Friday, Jan. 12, according to a press release.
- **"POWER OF ART"** featuring paintings, sculpture, photography and mixed media, at Art 3 Gallery (44 West Brook St. in Manchester; art3gallery.com, 668-6650) through Monday, Jan. 15. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- **"CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE"** at the New Hampshire Antique Co-Op (323 Elm St. in Milford; 673-8499; nhantiquecoop.com) is featuring pieces from the late 1800s to the present, highlighting The White Mountain School, the Dublin Art Colony and the Hudson River School, according to a press release. The exhibit is on display through Jan. 31. The Co-op is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Theater

Shows

- **THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD GOES SILVER**, a dance revue by the Palace Theatre's Silver Stars, on 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.
- **A THERAPY SESSION WITH MYSELF** a play by Anthony J. Piccione presented as part of "Expanding the Canon: A Play Reading Circle" by Theatre Kapow on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. See tkapow.com for details.

- **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 nhtheatrealliance.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.

- **FOOTLOOSE — YOUTH EDITION** presented by Majestic Academy (majestictheatre.net) at the Derry Opera House (29 W Broadway in Derry) on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at 2 & 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 to \$15.

- **DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2** presented by Riverbend Youth Company will be performed at the Amato Center (56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford) on Friday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 3, at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Jan. 7.

- **BLANCHE AND STELLA** a play by A. A. Brenner presented as part of the "Expanding the Canon: A Play Reading Circle" by Theatre Kapow on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m. See tkapow.com for details.

Auditions

- **THORNTON WILDER'S OUR TOWN** Nashua Theatre Guild will hold auditions on Sat-

urday, Feb. 3, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library Theatre and on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Nashua Public Library large meeting room for a production to run on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 5, at 2 p.m. at the Court Street Theatre (14 Court St. in Nashua). See nashuatheatreguild.org.

Classical

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

Events

- **BRASS TO THE MAX** Symphony NH with the Spartan Drum Corps, on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Keefe Center for the Arts (117 Elm St. in Nashua). Tickets cost \$10 to \$63.
- **DRUM TAO**, a show with costumes and staging centered on Japanese Taiko drums, will be at the Capitol Center for the Arts Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$44 through \$76.
- **CANDLELIGHT: THE MUSIC OF HANS ZIMMER** from his movie work on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$43 to \$60.
- **MAHLER'S "RESURRECTION" SYMPHONY** will be presented by the New Hampshire Philharmonic on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. featuring choruses from Plymouth State University and Keene State University at Silver Center (114 Main St. in Plymouth). Tickets cost \$25 and \$30. The piece will also be performed at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (55 Geremonty Dr. in Salem) on Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. (with a streaming option for the Sunday show). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students. See nhphil.org.

'THIS IS US PLUS SOME'



Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) was slated to open its exhibit "This Is Us Plus Some" with an opening reception scheduled Saturday, Jan. 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. The show features "the distinct voices of select board members and esteemed guest artists" and "highlights the power of unity, shared passion, and the profound impact of art on communities," according to a press release. The exhibition will be on display through Monday, Jan. 29.

Peace of Mind 1 by Jozimar Matiman. Courtesy photo.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Connect with the natural world

Tanglewood Hollow offers classes, products and time with nature

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

Growing up, Allyson Speake developed a fascination with and appreciation for the natural world, something that she wanted to bring to others in the community. In March of last year Speake established Tanglewood Hollow, an educational supply store offering classes on a variety of nature-oriented topics for kids, toys and more on Storrs Street in Concord, to do just that.

“My grandfather was a naturalist and he grew wild cottage gardens for attracting wildlife and so I spent ... many years alongside him as he taught me more about wonder and curiosity and seeing nature through that lens,” Speake said. “He just opened my eyes to what an amazing world we live in, and his home was called Tan-

glewood Hollow, so that’s ... where the name came from.”

As a former teacher, Speake noticed that kids were struggling with what she called nature deficit disorder, and she wanted to find a way to foster natural curiosity and help them find connection to the natural world. Prior to opening Tanglewood Hollow, Speake would teach groups of homeschooled students from her home. She wanted to find a way to reach more of the community.

“I think it’s absolutely vital for us to build that relationship with nature,” she said. “If kids aren’t given that opportunity or are uncomfortable getting outside, how can we expect for them to really be the next stewards of our Earth and care for it and love it in that same way? Right now, it’s of utmost importance to care for our Earth and to do things to help it, so really I would say that’s probably the overall mission for us [is] helping to build the next stewards of our Earth.”

At Tanglewood Hollow, kids get hands-on experience during classes in the Nature

Lab on topics like microscopes, dissecting owl pellets, raptors, making slime as well as nature crafts and activities. In one class, children were able to build a rotting log community where they could hold creatures like beetles, millipedes and pill bugs before adding them to the community to observe the breakdown. They will also have the opportunity to see the leopard gecko, Berry, and the jumping spider, as well as Clementine the corn snake, who sometimes comes out for interaction.

“I’m a big proponent of teaching kids to love the unloved things, and these creatures are things that are very often misunderstood, and people are scared and fearful of them,” Speake said.

“We try as often as we can to get [Clementine] out with the kids so they can have a good, positive experience.”

Many items are available in the shop, such as stuffed animals, life cycle kits, rocks, minerals, foraging tools, bug catching nets, butterfly kits, and curiosities, which are monthly mystery boxes that contain four different items from nature,



Courtesy photo.

previously including North American porcupine quills and fossils, that come with a newspaper written by Speake that gives information about the items.

“We would love to do some special things for the solar eclipse that’s happening in April, some star viewing at night ... [and] more off-site classes for children and families,” Speake said. “We’ve got lots of plans for things. ... You never know what you’re going to find here.” 🐾

Tanglewood Hollow

Where: 93 Storrs St., Concord

When: Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m to 5 p.m.



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The fastest, safest way to warm an engine



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I read your column about the guy who wanted to warm up his car in the garage with the garage door open. You recommended against it.

A few years ago, one of our tenants called from our rental house to tell us that they had called 911, because their carbon monoxide (CO) detector had gone off in the house.

By the time I got there, there were trucks from the utility company and fire department, plus an ambulance already crammed into the tiny street. And there were enough flashing lights to open a disco.

They detected no CO, but had shut off the gas line to the house, and we had to have a plumber come to check the water heater and have the furnace serviced before they would turn the gas back on.

When all that was done, the utility company installed a sensor in the garage for 24 hours to monitor the area. Only then did a neighbor happen to come over to tell me that she had seen them warming their car up in the garage before driving off!

There was enough CO in the attached

garage to seep into the house where the sensor was to start this whole boondoggle. So ... your advice was absolutely spot on! — Serge

Thanks, Serge. Some houses share a ventilation system with the garage, which makes it even easier for fumes to get into the house.

Other houses with attached garages have an “indoor” quality door between the garage and the house, rather than “exterior” door that seals well against the weather (and fumes).

So, it’s not worth the risk. Back out of the garage if you want to warm up your car. Better yet, don’t warm it up. Just drive away gently and let the car warm up while you’re driving. That’s also the fastest way to warm the engine.

Dear Car Talk:
I live in Brooklyn, New York, and I had my catalytic converter stolen. My mechanic put in an after-market converter because there were no Toyota ones available. I guess they can’t keep up with all the converter thefts.

After I had the car towed to the mechanic, they replaced the converter; the “down-

stream oxygen sensor,” and the sleeve and clamp. They also did an oil change, air filter, cabin air filter, rodent droppings cleaning, and put a security shield on over the new converter to (hopefully) prevent it from being stolen again.

Here’s my problem. The car is now burning through fuel. I’m getting maybe 7 mpg. The pickup is sluggish. And when I press the gas pedal, the car roars and vibrates. The mechanic doesn’t know what is wrong! Please help! — Jennifer

What’s wrong is that they only stole the converter and not the whole car, Jennifer.

There’s a slim chance that, coincidentally, something else happened to the car at the same time — like your timing belt jumped. But it’s much more likely that you have an obstruction in your exhaust system.

If you drove into my shop with an older car and described these symptoms, my first guess would be that you need a new catalytic converter. When catalytic converters get old, the internal parts break apart, and they, essentially, clog up. When they get clogged up, the exhaust can’t escape from the engine. And if exhaust can’t escape freely, fresh gasoline and air can’t come in, so you get no power and terrible mileage.

And while it’s unusual for a new converter to have an obstruction, that’s the first thing I’d check for.

The easiest way for your mechanic to check for that is to remove that aftermarket converter and drive the car. It’ll sound like a Gatling Gun. He’ll scare the heck out of every pizza delivery guy in Brooklyn when he’s testing it. But if you’ve got poor acceleration with the converter installed, and he’s able to zoom away once that converter is removed, that tells him where the obstruction is. It’s either the converter itself or further downstream from the converter.

If the car seems to be “fixed” without the converter, then your mechanic should get you another new converter. Maybe from a different after-market company. If the problem persists, then something is obstructing the exhaust pipe between the converter and the end of the tailpipe, and he can look for that.

What’s causing the obstruction? Who knows. It’s possible that the thieves did some additional damage when they stole your converter and somehow obstructed your exhaust system. Maybe they were just converter thieves in training, Jennifer.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍷

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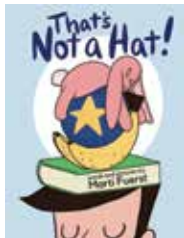
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Storytime at the museum

Local author Marti Fuerst is scheduled to visit the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org) on Saturday, Jan. 13, to read her book *That's Not a Hat!* at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. for visitors in the museum's morning play session, which runs from 9 a.m. to noon. There will also be a hat craft to take home, according to a press release. Admission costs \$12.50, \$10.50 for seniors, and is free for kids under 1 year of age, accord-



Learning the classics

The Rock and Roll Playhouse will present Music of Tom Petty For Kids on Sunday, Jan. 14, at noon at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets cost \$18.75. Find videos of The Rock and Roll Playhouse on their social media via therockandrollplayhouse.com, where the shows are described as giving the core audience of families, particularly those with kids ages 1 to 7, "games, movement, stories and most importantly an opportunity to rock out." 🍌

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Hi, Donna,
I have two old school desks I acquired several years ago from a small New Hampshire elementary school that was undergoing renovations. They're both for young children and two different sizes. Do you know if there is any value, demand or interest in these old desks?



Thank you for your help, Donna, I really appreciate it!
Susan in Nashua

refinished, painted etc. to fit in a new home.

Because school desks were made in mass amounts their values run around \$20 each. Older ones bring more, but mostly if they have a new purpose within a home.

I hope this answers your question, Susan. I think all cleaned up they could be a great desk for a toddler at home.

Thanks for sharing.

Dear Susan,
Your two school desks are from the 1930s. Imagine how many fun stories they could tell. They were made to last and take lots of use. Today you can find many of them still around in the secondary market.

I think the value of desks like yours would be in having a new purpose for them. They look structurally good but would probably be

Donna Welch has spent more than 35 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing. Her new location is an Antique Art Studio located in Dunbarton, NH where she is still buying and selling. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information to Donna at footwdw@aol.com, or call her at 391-6550. 🍌

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ON THE JOB

NORA RWATANGABO

BRAIDER/LOCTICIAN

Nora Rwatangabo is a braider/loctician and owner of Nora's Locs Haven in Nashua.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.

A day in the life of a braider/loctician is a dynamic blend of creativity, client care and personal connections. From morning preparations to evening clean-up, the day revolves around managing diverse client appointments, offering services ranging from braiding and wig installations to dreadlocks maintenance and specialized kids' styles. Each session with a client is akin to spending time with a best friend — filled with laughter, conversation, catching up and bonding. The unique aspect of this profession lies in the diverse experiences with each client, as every individual is different. These

personal connections not only contribute to client satisfaction but also create a vibrant and enjoyable work atmosphere.

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

Starting at the young age of 9, my skills were nurtured by a salon tenant back home, sparking a hobby that has seamlessly intertwined with my career. Despite considering it more as a hobby than a job, I've been braiding hair alongside my human services profession. The unique blend of my professional expertise in human services and my creative flair for braiding has not only allowed me to work with diverse hair types

but has also empowered me to train and uplift others. I've extended my skills to financially challenged individuals, providing them with the means to earn a living as braiders and locticians back in Africa.



Nora Rwatangabo. Courtesy photo.

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

I wish I knew more about the business side of things. Balancing my passion for braiding with practical aspects like marketing and finances would have been helpful. Learning about industry trends early on and realizing the potential of my skills for training and empowerment would have been great.

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

The toughest part of my work is sometimes managing a lot of things at once. To deal with it, I make sure to stay organized and prioritize tasks. Taking breaks when needed helps me recharge, and I ask for help from my team when things get overwhelming. Keeping a positive mindset and focusing on one thing at a time makes it easier to handle challenges.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

That my job is more than braiding hair. It's about making a connection and helping people feel happy. I also have some rules, like if someone is rude or doesn't appreciate the service, I might choose not to work with them. I believe in creating a positive and respectful environment for everyone.

What was the first job you ever had?

Administrative assistant in a nonprofit organization working with individuals with special needs and brain injury.

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

Always do what you love. — Angie Sykeny. 🍌

Five favorites

- Favorite book:** *The 5 AM Club*
- Favorite movie:** *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- Favorite music:** 'In Case You Didn't Know' by Brett Young — my wedding song
- Favorite food:** Matooke and groundnuts with avocado and green vegetables
- Favorite thing about NH:** People are friendly.

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FOOD

From her table to yours

Farmers market vendor opens shop selling meals and baked goods

News from the local food scene

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

• **Cookie decorating:** Decorate winter-themed cookies at Station 101 (193 Union Square, Milford) on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with Kate Saleau from Posy Cottage Cookies. For additional charge, Station 101 offers beer, beverages and snacks, and all necessary supplies will be provided for you to take home a box of six to seven cookies. Tickets are \$70 and can be purchased on eventbrite.com.

• **Willy Wonka wine dinner:** Enjoy a four-course Willy Wonka-inspired dinner and wine pairing at LaBelle Winery's (14 Route 111, Derry) Vineyard Ballroom on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tomato, basil and smoked Gouda bisque will be paired with a fizzy lifting drink for the first course, followed by baby green beans, shaved Brussels sprouts, roasted squash, cranberries, farro, herbs and honey rosemary balsamic for the second course with LaBelle Rose. The entree will include LaBelle Red Wine braised short ribs with whipped potato, roasted herbed carrots and demi glace paired with LaBelle Malbec, and blueberry crumble cheesecake with red wine blueberry jam and streusel crumble paired with blueberry pie martini for dessert. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased at labellewinery.com.

• **17th annual Chocolate Madness Wine Pairing Dinner:** Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown) hosts its 17th annual Chocolate Madness Wine Pairing Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 1, starting at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased via eventbrite.

• **Wines of Italy:** From the Vine 23 ▶

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

While opening her own bakery wasn't her original career plan, the universe had other ideas for Chelsea Annett, the owner of Table, a Concord bakery offering cookies, cakes, soups, chicken pot pie and more freshly made items made from locally grown ingredients.

"This business really chose me versus me choosing it," she said. "It just felt like something [that] had to be pursued and brought to fruition."

Annett's journey with baking started as she learned more about the local food system and seasonal ingredients from farmers at farmers markets.

"I started developing relationships with the farmers there and being curious about the things that people were growing and making, and having conversations about how to use them in food and really just becoming curious on my own about what I could make with those things," she said. "I think that [seasonal ingredients] are the most fresh, they have the most flavor, [and] I think that supporting our local farmers is critical to environmental protection and ... the future of food."

A natural caretaker and a self-taught baker and cook, Annett enjoyed cooking for her loved ones as a way to care for others and make them feel good. After experiencing burnout and going through major life changes, she left her 14-year career in special education to focus on



Photos courtesy of Table.

bringing her passion for baking from her own table to those of others.

"It never really felt like it could fully take off as a career because I don't have professional training, I didn't go to culinary school, I taught myself how to do everything," she said. "There was probably a little bit of imposter syndrome that I was dealing with thinking that I wasn't good enough to make it into a career."

She began in 2019 by selling products wholesale and at the Canterbury and then Concord farmers markets. For the past few years Annett would travel to a commercial kitchen in Derry to do her baking, as Concord's homestead food licensing rules prevented her from selling food made in her own kitchen. After looking for her own space, she found her current location in Concord, which she started working out of in June and opened for retail in November, and where her client base continues to support her.

"I'm extremely grateful I have beautiful, loyal customers that have sort



of been with me from the beginning," Annett said. "They've been waiting and waiting for me to have a place ... and they are great about telling their friends and bringing people in. I think I'm lucky that the product tends to speak for itself." 🍷

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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH CARA KARPINSKI



Cara Karpinski. Courtesy photo.

When Cara Karpinski moved to New Hampshire in 2020, she discovered that her new job was no longer being offered due to the pandemic. Needing to find a new way to provide for her family, she realized her true passion was for dogs. Being a dog-mom of four, she decided to create Barkalicious, a gourmet preservative-free dog treat business made with eggs from her own chickens, with the belief that all dogs should be “treat”ed with love.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

My must-have kitchen item is my KitchenAid mixer. I use it every day to combine my ingredients for the dog treats. I think it may be time to upgrade to a commercial version [of a] KitchenAid.

What is your favorite local eatery?

Currently, my favorite place for a romantic dinner is Buckley’s Great Steaks in Merrimack. For a more casual meal I enjoy the Coach Stop in Londonderry as well as Backyard Brewery on the Manchester/Londonderry line.

Name a celebrity you would like to see purchasing your dog treats.

It is hard to pick just one celebrity I would like to see purchase my dog treats, but the ones that come to mind are from HGTV. Tarek and Heather El Moussa from *Flip or Flop*, or Jonathan Knight from *Farmhouse Fixer*. I would say Taylor Swift, but I think she just has cats.

What is the most popular item on your menu?

Our most popular menu item is our bacon cheeseburger sticks. They are a little bit crunchier than our soft treats, but it has bacon on it, so how can it not be good!

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

The biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now is maybe pho. I had it for the first time a few weeks ago and it was fantastic. I am not really a hip [or] trendy foodie, but I do love all kinds of food.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

My favorite thing to cook at home is anything from scratch. I enjoy watching my family eat the meals I have prepared. It gives me great satisfaction when they love my hard work in the kitchen. The best meals I have made recently: beef stroganoff, chicken noodle soup and brisket.

Brisket

From the kitchen of Cara Karpinski

- 4-pound (or so) brisket
- 8 ounces fresh mushrooms, cut
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 or 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 or 3 boxes pre-made beef stock or broth
- salt, pepper, garlic powder and paprika

Season both sides of meat with salt, pepper, garlic powder and paprika. Heat canola oil in a pan and sear both sides of meat for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the pan. Add onions, mushrooms and garlic to pan and lower heat. Cook until onions are translucent. Add ½ cup water to scrape any solids in the

pan. Return the brisket to the pan. Cover meat with beef broth and simmer. Cook until tender (at least 6 hours). Remove brisket and let cool. Slice against grain. (I use a meat slicer to get very thin slices of meat.) You can also cut by hand. Let the liquid in the pan cool to about room temperature as well as the brisket. Once cooled, add the meat back into the pan with the liquid and put in the refrigerator overnight. About 3 hours before you want to have dinner, put the pot with the liquid and brisket back onto the stove and slowly warm. This meal goes very well with homemade mashed potatoes and carrots

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 22

to Wine hosts The Wonderful Wines of Italy at Stroll Café & Wine Bar in Portsmouth (15 Portwalk Place) on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. led by wine expert Anne Arnold. Tickets range from \$50 to \$65 on eventbrite.

• **Farm to table tasting:** Enjoy a farm-to-table tasting hosted by Restoration Acres

Farm at Black Swan Inn (354 W. Main St., Tilton) on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. featuring food from local farmers and artisans, wine and mead sampling from Hermit woods winery and live music by Audrey Drake. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased via eventbrite.

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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Rubber Ducky

On Jan. 10, 1992, the Greek container ship *Ever Laurel* ran into rough weather in the North Pacific, a couple of days out from Tacoma. At some point a stack of six shipping containers snapped its chains and plunged overboard into the Pacific Ocean. This kind of accident isn't common but it's also not unheard of. On average around 1,500 shipping containers are lost at sea each year. This is a tiny percentage of the estimated 500 million containers in use, but also nothing to shrug at.



Rubber Ducky Cocktail. Photo by John Fladd.

What made this particular accident noteworthy is that one of the containers was filled with 28,000 bath toys, including 7,200 yellow rubber duckies. Over the next several years the toys were carried north by ocean currents, eventually traveling through the Northwest Passage north of Canada, and dispersed by other currents around the world. Even now some of these toys are still washing up in unexpected places. They have been found as far away as the United Kingdom, Australia and Chile. Now that there is less Arctic sea ice than ever, some plastic ducks, turtles and beavers are being released to a new generation of beach-combers.

As I'm sure you're aware, National Rubber Ducky Day is this weekend. You are probably still in the process of getting rid of other holiday ornaments, and haven't had time to shop for rubber ducks, but if you're feeling a little spent, gray and empty with the start of a new year, it's probably worth raising a glass to our plastic yellow friends and reflecting on the fact that things could always be worse. You could spend 30 years, bobbing and smiling, through Arctic Sea ice.

Rubber Ducky Cocktail

- 1½ ounces Midori melon liqueur
- 1½ ounces 99 Peaches peach schnapps
- 2½ ounces fresh watermelon juice (see below)
- ¾ ounce fresh squeezed lime juice

Open your laptop, and place it on the counter next to you.

Open YouTube, and search for Hampenberg DuckToy Vocal Club Mix.

Turn your volume up to an unconscionable level and press play. This will be the perfect background music for mixing this drink. You're ready now.

Combine all ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake enthusiastically. Pour, including ice, into a rocks glass. Sip, vibing seamlessly — or, if you are like me, shuffling awkwardly — to the rubber ducky club mix playing on your computer.

This is a shockingly fun cocktail. The melon juice and the melon liqueur obviously go well together. The peach schnapps provides a floral fruitiness. By itself watermelon juice is surprisingly flat, but the acid from a jolt of lime juice brings it to life. This doesn't exactly taste like bubble gum, but it also doesn't *not* taste like gum of some sort. At first glance this might seem flighty and low-octane — and that may be true of the Midori — but the 99 Peaches actually clocks in at 99 proof, so this is not a drink to take for granted. Like a rubber ducky lost at sea, it might take you to unexpected places.

Watermelon Juice

Buy a one-quart container of pre-cubed watermelon at your supermarket. You aren't going to be laying this out on a fruit plate or pairing with a nice prosciutto, so it's OK to cut a corner during this process.

Pour the contents of the container into your blender and blend thoroughly. If you notice a seed or two, don't panic; your blender will take care of things. If you have an over-powered, overly enthusiastic blender like mine, he will probably look on any seeds as a challenge.

Using a fine-mesh strainer, strain off the watermelon pulp. Leave everything in the strainer for half an hour or so, to let the components say goodbye to each other.

This should net you about 12 ounces of juice. If you want to drink it as juice, add the juice of half a lime to de-flatten it (see above).

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

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Nigel J. Anderson, *Material Science* (Redwave Recordings)



I literally had to weed through a few dozen emails from public relations people trying to push metal bands on me before I found this one, and I'm covering it simply because it's not a metal album (trying to cut down here, folks, which is tough, because metal albums have been hitting this desk like tribbles during mating season). Having never heard of this U.K. techno DJ, I was delightedly surprised to hear a bunch of bright, bouncy but not smarmy attempts at upfitting traditional deep house; I honestly would have been all over this if it were still

2004 and I were looking for some drive-time euphoria, but either way it's super nice. "Material Science" brings a faux-steel-drum sample to the percussive fore of its afterparty groove, and man, it really works. Unfortunately, "Going Home" follows in a more goth-industrial vein, at which point I sort of abandoned any hope that this would be the sharply focused genre exercise I'd anticipated, although the next track, "Octopus," recalls Above & Beyond, which I'm always up for. Despite Anderson's obvious case of ADD, I'm giving it high marks owing to the fact that all the tunes are on point. **A** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Nnenna Freelon and Pierce Freelon, *AnceStars* (Redwave Recordings)



One of the slings or arrows I suffer on a yearly basis comes around this time of year, when all the public relations goblins request that I vote for one of their artists in the next Grammy Awards, not that I'm part of the cabal who has any say in all that; if I indeed were some sort of cog in the Grammy machine, I probably wouldn't vote for any modern artist, just 80-year-old Al Jolson compilation albums. But this one's interesting at least, a mother-son duo who are up for the Best Children's Album Grammy, so, just for the heck of it, I listened to it and am dutifully reporting and blah blah blah. Lyrically it's based on "the spirit world," i.e. ancestors, in particular Nnenna's husband (and Pierce's father) the late Phil Freelon, the architect of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History. The title track is a lilting/bouncing number combining Afrobeat with Spyro Gyra, a pleasant thing altogether. Most of the rest is hip-hop-tinted urbanity suitable for Sesame Street audiences or feel-good moments in general.

A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• OK, wake up, everyone, we are back to a somewhat normal-sized slate of stuff for our next general-issue CD release Friday, on Jan. 12! Look at this, though, sad-face emoji, there are no new albums made by artists and bands I can make fun of, no Neil Young album, no Dolly Parton or Willie Nelson album, not even an album from King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, which is weird, because they've been putting out new albums every two weeks for the last few years, I can't believe this. So I am forced to do research and perform random acts of journalistic investigation for your entertainment, so why don't we start with **The Vaccines**, whose new album, *Pick-Up Full Of Pink Carnations*, is fast approaching! Ack, this doesn't bode well, fam, the aggregate Metacritic score is already 62 percent and the album isn't even out yet, which means that a lot of people have either pirated it or they're just trolls, so why don't I go check out this album and make your minds up for you, that'd be great. The band is an indie band from West London in the U.K., and their hobbies include playing with other bands on stage. They've had guest spots with Lyle Preslar of Minor Threat, Ryan Jarman of the Cribs, members of Savages and Paul Thomson of Franz Ferdinand, and, wait, in 2013 they performed in Florida as John Fogerty's backing band, making them honorary Creedence Clearwater Revival dudes or something! And yadda yadda, let's go listen to "Love To Walk Away," a song from this new album, and hey, wait a minute, I don't mind this at all! It's kind of no-wave-ish, in other words loud and dumb, bordering on bands like Black Lips or even Half Japanese as far as sloppy sound engineering. There's on-the-phone patch on the vocals, too. It's a winner, let's go see if the next album will disappoint me, eh wot, chaps and chapettes?

• I always question the motives of bands that start out playing one genre of music and then move on to a totally different thing, like how Pantera started out as a Whitesnake band or whatever and then became Megadeth, or like how The Horrors made the greatest album of all time and then decided to become completely worthless overall, never forget! **Bring Me the Horizon** are another such — you know, thingamajig, like, they started out as a deathcore band and now they're regarded as something completely different, sort of along the lines of Imagine Dragons and such. The band's new album, *POST HUMAN: NeX Gen*, includes a song titled "Code Mistake" that's sort of Imagine Dragons-like but there's a lot of yelling and stomping, you know, like Slipknot, but less well-behaved. It's OK I suppose.

• **Marika Hackman** is a British singer who's put out two albums of cover songs, and when she's not doing that she's sounding a lot like a disaffected 1980s pop diva, for example on her biggest song, "I'm Not Where You Are" from 2019. Not saying it's bad, but it's a bit opportunistic if you ask me. Her new album, *Big Sigh*, drops this Friday, of course, otherwise I wouldn't be talking about it at the moment, but regardless, the new single, "Slime," reminds me of M83 a bit, which is more relevant than refrying '80s-pop, at least in my opinion; as always, your mileage may vary, a scenario that's out of my control.

• Finally we have **Kali Uchis**, an American singer from a Colombian family. *Orquideas* is her second Latin-language album and fourth one overall; it features the single "No Lay Hay," a bubble-pop type thing with an understated deep-house vibe. I found it sublimely acceptable. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Familia, by Lauren E. Rico (Kensington, 368 pages)

I started reading *Familia* in a hotel room while waiting for my daughter to get ready to go to dinner – and promptly lost all desire to go out to dinner. (I mean, we went — she wasn't about to buy “but I really like this book” as a reason not to).

Lauren E. Rico's novel is a fast-paced story that covers a lot of bases: family, obviously, but also different cultures and how they form us, a bit of a mysterious crime, and coming to terms with a life that can change in so many significant and unexpected ways.

A DNA test brings together Gabriela and Isabella, the former young woman fully believing the results were a mistake and the latter having no doubt that they weren't. Isabella, who has lived her whole life in Puerto Rico, used to have a sister, Marianna, and she disappeared when she was seven months old while in the care of their extremely inebriated father. Gabby, a magazine fact-checker who lives in New York City and was raised by now-deceased parents whom she loved deeply, does not believe it's possible that the parents who raised her — Mack and Lucy — were not, perhaps, her birth parents.

Gabby embarks on a trip to Puerto Rico, for the sole purpose of writing a magazine story about what happens when DNA test results are wrong. She thinks it's the perfect way to show her boss that she has talents beyond fact-checking and deserves a staff position as a writer.

It seemed a little unbelievable that Gabby is a fact checker — her job is literally to dig in and find facts — and yet she doesn't make much of an effort to dig into

the facts about her family history despite the DNA test results. I guess there's that emotional component that would make it difficult to believe that your history is anything other than what you remember and what you've been made to believe.

As Gabby explains to Isabella, “For what you're saying to be true, I'd have to believe Mack and Lucy would have —

could have — *literally* stolen a baby off the street. ... This isn't about not being able to believe that I'm your sister. It's about being able to believe that I'm *not* their daughter. And I just ... I can't.”

The story mainly alternates between Gabby's and Isabella's points of view, but there's a whole cast of interesting characters, and Rico gives most of them at least one chapter. This means the story is tied together from all sorts of perspectives, from Alberto's — the book opens with him, coming to on a street, baby missing — to the detectives' on the missing-baby case. It was a really fun way to see the mystery unravel, because, of course, nearly everyone has a secret. The narrative also switches between now and “that day,” the day the baby disappeared, offering another compelling angle.

There's the mystery, and then there's the juxtaposition of two young women who were raised very differently and have different kinds of intelligence; Gabby is more book smart while Isabella is more street smart. Rico shows this subtly



but effectively, in scenes like this one, from Isabella's point of view, as the women walk through one of the shabbier areas of Puerto Rico.

“When Gabby takes out her phone to snap a picture, all she can see is the mural — a spray-paint reproduction of the Mona Lisa draped in a Puerto Rican flag. All I can see are the two guys standing just out of the frame, conducting a little street-side retail.”

There's definitely a “wealthy girl from NYC vs. poor girl from San Juan” piece of the narrative, and while I personally didn't feel like it was overdone, I think someone who is of Puerto Rican descent or is more familiar with Latino culture would likely read the representations of Puerto Rico a lot differently than I did. A lot of the descriptions shine a negative light on the people and places of Puerto Rico, mainly San Juan and la Perla, and I can't pretend to know how accurate they are. The author does include a note at the beginning of the novel explaining her own family history and that she is trying to honor her heritage and the stories she heard from her Cuban grandfather and Puerto Rican grandmother, along with her extensive DNA connections to the island and her own experiences visiting there (which she acknowledges were from a tourist point of view).

Familia is a quick read that manages to be both fun and a bit dark, but it's also meaningful and has a lot of heart. **A-** —*Meaghan Siegler*

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Books

Author events

- **MAREK BENNETT**, author of graphic novels 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.
- **JOSEPH W. MCQUAID**, author of *War Fronts Home Fires*, will be at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St.,

Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. for a talk and book signing.

- **LEILA PHILIP**, author of *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America*, will be at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. for a talk and book signing.

History, stories & lectures

- **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. 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.

- **HARNESSING HISTORY: ON THE TRAIL OF NH'S STATE DOG, THE CHINOOK** presented by Bob Cottrell on Friday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m. at Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 225-8670). For details call the library or visit nhhumanities.org.
- **STORYTELLING THROUGH TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC** presented by local fiddler and guitarist Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. at Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson) and again Wednesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Paul Memorial Library at Newfields Town Hall (65 Main St., Newfields, 778-8169). See nhhumanities.org.

Poetry

- **WALKING IN THE WOODS**

WITH ROBERT FROST presented by poet and author Jeffrey Zygmunt, who will recite a selection of Frost's nature poems and provide background on Frost's life, on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. at Kimball Library (5 Academy Ave., Atkinson, 362-5234), and again on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 3 p.m. at Kensington Public Library (126 Amesbury Road, Kensington, 772-5022). See nhhumanities.org.

- **HYLA BROOK READING SERIES** at Robert Frost Farm (122 Rockingham Road, Derry, 432-3091, roberfrostfarm.org) brings acclaimed poets reading their work on various Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free and open to the public.
- **MANCHESTER POETRY MEETUP**, an ongoing series for poetry reading and discussion, takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. Visit meetup.com/manchester-poetry-meetup.

Anatomy of a Fall (R)

A man dies after a fall at his home and his wife becomes the prime suspect for his murder in *Anatomy of a Fall*.

“Fall” and “murder” are two potentially inaccurate words in that sentence. When Daniel (Milo Machado Graner), a boy with limited vision, comes home from a walk with his guide dog, all he knows is that his father, Samuel (Samuel Theis), is on the ground, bleeding and not breathing in front of the family’s home, a chalet in a small French town. Daniel calls for his mother, Sandra (Sandra Hüller), who frantically calls an ambulance.

Sandra is pretty sure Samuel fell from the attic he was renovating some three stories off the ground. As she is telling this theory to defense attorney Vincent Renzi (Swann Arlaud), clearly this story is not one the authorities are buying. Vincent suggests they pursue the idea that Samuel jumped to his death — the most believable possible alternative to the police and prosecuting attorney’s theory that Sandra pushed him. As Sandra stands trial, the story quickly becomes the anatomy of a marriage, with both sides pointing to “evidence” that feels subjective at best. The prosecutor’s expert says a blood splatter could only have been caused by Samuel being struck in the head before he fell; the defense’s expert says the splatter is clearly the result of Samuel having hit a small shed after he jumped. A recording that features Samuel and Sandra fighting about the state of their lives is either evidence of successful author Sandra’s controlling nature (they even speak English at home because Sandra, a native German, is still not super comfortable in French) and general dishonesty (she’s had affairs and blames Samuel for the accident that caused Daniel’s vision impairment) or it’s evidence of Samuel’s professional disappointment and inability to finish anything he starts. Even Daniel is dragged onto the stand, to talk about the day Samuel died and the general state of his parents’ marriage. The prosecutor (Antoine Reinartz) goes at him pretty hard despite his young age, getting him to weigh in about the likelihood that his father would try to end his life or that his mother would try to kill him.

Jack McCoy would never.

Admittedly, most of what I know about sensationalistic American trials comes from TV, largely from *Law and Order*, so who knows if the “*Real Housewives* reunion” vibe of the French criminal court pictured here has any connection to reality. Though we spend much of the movie’s runtime in court, I don’t think the legal case is the point so much as the perspectives on a relationship that even the two people in the relationship



Anatomy of a Fall

never truly get a full picture of. Samuel paints himself as a selfless martyr but also acts a bit like a sullen jerk. Sandra blames Samuel for a lot of his own misfortune but she doesn’t exactly seem like a fountain of empathy for her spouse. The movie does a good job of showing how, even in cases where people are being completely honest (and we get the sense that these two are never *completely* honest, not with each other or themselves), they can tell two completely different stories about what’s happening between them with both stories being basically true. Hüller gives a good performance as a woman who is sort of sliding down a muddy slope of trying to prove something as unquantifiable as her intentions while also trying not to lose her confused, devastated child. Even if there are moments when you feel like some of the movie’s nuance is being lost in language and cultural translation, the commentary on the complex nature of a marriage comes through clearly. **B+**

Rated R for some language, sexual references and violent images, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Justine Triet and written by Justine Triet and Arthur Harari, Anatomy of a Fall, which won Golden Globes for Best Screenplay and Best Foreign Language Film, is two hours and 32 minutes long and distributed by Neon. It is available for rent or purchase.

Saltburn (R)

A poor boy at Oxford befriends the son of a wealthy family with a giant estate in *Saltburn*, a comedy.

Like, a trashy, pitch black comedy full of purposeful shocks and pushing the limits of an R rating but still, this bawdy, violent song bellowed through the halls of Downton Abbey definitely feels like a comedy.

Dickensianly named Oliver Quick (Barry Keoghan) must give off the pheromones of “poor” because the kids at Oxford seem to instantly know to shun and make fun of him,

especially Farleigh Start (Archie Madekwe), who we later learn is himself poor but a different kind of poor. Farleigh’s mother is the sister of the very wealthy Sir James Catton (Richard E. Grant), who pays for Farleigh’s education. So Farleigh is money-adjacent — all of which we learn from golden boy Felix Catton (Jacob Elordi), James’ son and Farleigh’s cousin. Felix and Farleigh are studying at Oxford together — well, studying and partying. Oliver, with his sad clothes and his general slouchiness, is very much on the outside looking in at all of this but then, due to a busted bicycle tire, Oliver befriends Felix. Felix sort of takes him under his wing, and brings him along into the popular crowd. We learn that Felix has a tendency to do this sort of thing, eventually dropping the kid for a new person to serve as adoring audience. Before that happens with Oliver, though, Oliver turns to Felix to tearfully recount the news he has received about the death of his father, who, like Oliver’s mother, has long struggled with drugs. Felix feels sorry for Oliver and the poor, poor, poverty-filled impoverished background Oliver has mournfully told him all about. Felix invites Oliver to spend the summer in Saltburn, the family’s large estate in the country.

There Oliver quickly becomes enmeshed in the Catton family, which also includes Felix’s mother Elspeth (Rosamund Pike), Felix’s bundle-of-neuroses sister Venetia (Alison Oliver) and Elspeth’s visiting friend Pamela (Carey Mulligan) — whose presence suggests that Elspeth also likes to collect poor poor friends. The family, who are the personification of that *The Great Gatsby* quote that was all over the internet in late 2020 and early 2021 about people who retreated into “their money or their vast carelessness,” seems to more or less take a shine to Oliver. Farleigh, who is also at Saltburn for the summer, and the butler Duncan (Paul Rhys) are actively hostile to Oliver. Dressing for dinner and lounging louchely by the pool and just generally cosplaying Evelyn Waugh, the group gets along mostly until Felix makes a, *gasp*, shocking discovery.

Well, *gasp* shocking if you’ve never seen a soap opera before or weren’t really paying attention to the first half of this movie.

The bits of not-great reviews I heard about *Saltburn* had me dragging my feet to watch it until I heard Joe Reid on his *This Had Oscar Buzz* podcast paint it as, like, think of it as a *Cruel Intentions* type movie. So maybe I went in perfectly primed to not expect much and ready to enjoy some over-sexed trashiness. My suggestion would be to approach this movie that way and you won’t be disappointed — grossed out maybe but not disappointed because this movie really leans into its trashiness. *Saltburn* is vaguely

Brideshead Revisited-ish, says me, a person who doesn’t really remember *Brideshead Revisited* (and the movie knows the stuff it’s playing with, based on an in-film reference to Waugh and also the song “Common People”), in its outward trappings. But its heart is pure soap opera camp and mean humor.

And to this it adds solid performances. Pike and Grant are excellent at giving us the askew version of the empty-headed rich; they are so at an angle that I feel like their presence alone gives away the game if you think the movie is handing you a straightforward English manor drama. Keoghan is also doing perfectly calibrated work — serving up a never-not-(meanly)-funny blend of sad puppy and psychopath.

Saltburn might appear to be an exquisitely plated beef Wellington but is a good time if you enjoy it for the cheese-filled hot dog it really is. **B**

Rated R for so, so many things, like really, this is a capital R rated R movie but specifically, according to the MPA on filmratings.com, with my notes: for strong sexual content (also, weird sexual content), graphic (but hilarious?) nudity, language throughout, some disturbing violent content (also puking) and drug use. Written and directed by Emerald Fennell, who probably had a great time with this whole thing, Saltburn is two hours and 11 minutes long and is distributed by Amazon Studios. It is streaming on Prime Video.

Society of the Snow (R)

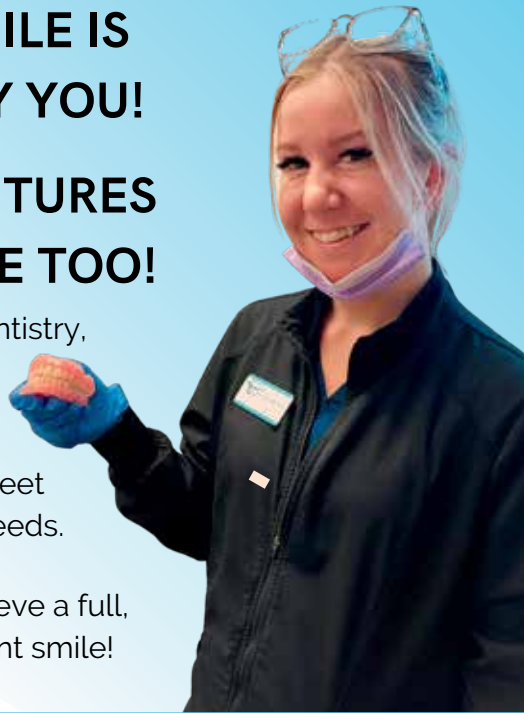
A flight carrying 45 people, including a Uruguayan rugby team, crashes in the Andes in 1972, with a dwindling number of people surviving for months, in *Society of the Snow*, which is, yes, based on the same true story as the 1993 movie *Alive*.

The one fact about this historical event that you probably know, even if you didn’t know “Uruguay” or “rugby” or “1972,” is that eventually the survivors had to eat the bodies of their deceased friends and teammates in order to stay alive in the snowy but otherwise barren environment (so, plenty of water but nothing else). Actually, “eventually” happens pretty quickly, at least as portrayed here, where after maybe a week or so of no food (there was a small amount of snacks from the plane) many of the survivors made the calculation that this would be the only way they’d live until a rescue. Not all of the survivors, mostly rugby teammates and a few people who traveled with them hoping to get a cheap vacation in Santiago, Chile, agree with the plan to use the, ahem, available protein to keep up their strength. But eventually, on a radio they’re able to get working, they hear that the search

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for the missing plane has been called off due to weather. With the prospect of no immediate rescue, it seems pretty much everybody makes the choice to survive.

Survival, not cannibalism, is the focus of this movie, which doesn't sensationalize the fact but puts it in the context of what is happening with the group and the struggle each person goes through to get over the taboo. One thing that seems to make a difference is when everybody offers their friends to "use" them if they die. And quite a few do die after the initial crash — from injuries suffered during the crash, from infections following injuries, from an avalanche. How they keep themselves and each other going in the face of these losses and relatively slim odds that they'll make it back home is the story that keeps the movie going.

The movie does a good job of mak-

ing this group of mostly men feel like real people stuck in a horrible situation. Some heroes go the extra mile, some people nearly break from the direness of what's happening — sometimes these are the same people at different times. The movie gives a fairly engrossing and realistic portrait of young men (mostly) who have to figure out how to save themselves. **B**

Rated R for violent/disturbing material and brief graphic nudity, according to the MPA on filmratings. Com. Directed by J.A. Bayona with a screenplay by J.A. Bayona and Bernat Vilaplana & Jaime Marques-Olarreaga & Nicolás Casariego, Society of the Snow is two hours and 24 minutes long and streaming on Netflix.

Film

- **Wonka** (PG, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 12, through Monday, Jan. 15, at 1:30, 4:14 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 16, through Thursday, Jan. 18, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.
- **The Boys in the Boat** (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Jan.

11, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 12, through Monday, Jan. 15, at 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 16, through Thursday, Jan. 18, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.

- **The Royal Hotel** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicHall.org) on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m.
- **Eileen** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicHall.org) on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m.

- **Maestro** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicHall.org) on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 14, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m.
- **Priscilla** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicHall.org) on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 17, and Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.



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Jody Reese
Hippo Publisher



Community Supported

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Crooner cuisine:** Enjoy supper and song as **Steve Blackwood** performs with his trio. The Detroit-born singer has a long blues resume, including a 2017 album of originals with guest guitarist Robben Ford; this time he'll stick to the Great American Songbook. Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Portsmouth Book & Bar, 40 Pleasant St., Portsmouth, \$12 at bookandbar.com.

• **Mood music:** Boston-based rock quintet **Long Autumn** plays a no-cover downtown show. Fans of both New Order and Pearl Jam will enjoy the group's layered, ethereal sound, which they bill as nu alternative dark pop. Songs like "A Million Reasons" and the Cure-adjacent "Surf Munk" pulse and quiver as the band does a stellar job of reproducing their studio sound on stage. Friday, Jan. 12, 9 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St, Manchester. See longautumnmusic.com (21+).

• **Light it up:** The official goodbye to Christmas is the **29th Annual Tree Burning** at a roadhouse restaurant located a stone's throw from Route 101. Returning to provide music at the holiday bonfire are Mixtape Heroez. Formerly Tapedeck Heroez, the rock covers band recently welcomed new singer Sinclair Bennett and bass player James Ramsey, along with changing their name. Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m., Auburn Pitts, 167 Rockingham Road, Auburn, auburnpitts.com.

• **Reigning champs:** Two-time Granite State Blues Challenge winners **Frankie Boy & Blues Express** perform in the Lakes Region. Once mentored by the legendary Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson — the band uses his amplifier on stage — the four-piece band made it to the semifinals in last year's World Challenge in Memphis, offering a full-throated brand of the genre. Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m., Tower Hill Tavern, 264 Lakeside Ave., Laconia. See facebook.com/FrankieBoyBlues.

• **Tom time:** For parents looking to get their kids rocking early, **Rock & Roll Playhouse Plays Tom Petty** is a good place to start. The national touring family concert series promises to let the young'ns "move, play and sing while listening to works from the classic-rock canon" like "American Girl" and "Don't Do Me Like That," and uses games, movement and stories to get them involved. Sunday, Jan. 14, noon, Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$15 at ccanh.com.

NITE

In good company

Gibson Brothers bring Darkest Hour tour to Rex

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

If great musicians wanting to get in the studio with a performer is a measure of success, the Gibson Brothers are a breed apart. The bluegrass duo has been produced by Ricky Skaggs, Dave Ferguson, Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys and most recently Jerry Douglas, on *Darkest Hour*, released in early 2023.

They even recorded a soundtrack album with T-Bone Burnett, a project that was shelved with the never-made movie.

"My brother says that we're the Forrest Gump of bluegrass," Eric Gibson said in a recent phone interview. "I mention something like that [Burnett] to people, and they look at me like I'm lying. I'm like, 'I don't have any proof, the record never came out.' ... but some of those records did."

While 2018's Auerbach-helmed *Mockingbird* had a burlier tone and modern touches like a cover of REM's "Everybody Hurts" with the Flaming Lips' Derek Brown on slide guitar, *Darkest Hour* featured more of the sound that's made the Gibsons a force in bluegrass music for over three decades.

A new wrinkle, though, was a focus on the duo's songwriting.

Before starting recording in early 2020, Douglas asked them to bring their best tunes that hadn't made it to other records. Among them was "I Feel the Same Way as You," which became an album standout, with Alison Krauss providing a backing vocal.

Leigh Gibson wrote the song in 2000. Eric remembers wondering, "Why the heck did we wait so long to record that? Then I thought, if we'd done it earlier, Jerry Douglas wouldn't be playing Dobro on it, and Alison Krauss wouldn't be singing harmony ... it was meant to be later."

Gibson Brothers

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester

Tickets: \$35 and \$45 at palacetheatre.org



Gibson Brothers. Courtesy photo.

The Dobro master's presence spurred the two to reach musical heights, as on "Dust," when Eric follows Douglas's soaring solo with a blistering banjo run. "You cannot help but be inspired," he said, calling it "a pinch-me moment — that's Jerry Douglas, and we're playing with him right now."

A big chunk of the LP was done live in the studio.

"We had some separation; if we messed up, we'd go back and fix it, but he's about capturing the feeling and capturing the moment," Gibson said.

"What a Difference a Day Makes"

was the first track recorded. Gibson called it "real meat and potatoes bluegrass ... kind of a Jimmy Martin-feeling kind of song."

A Northeast tour in support of the album kicks off Jan. 13 in Manchester.

The brothers will be joined by Mike Barber on bass and drummer Sam Zucchini, with Eric O'Hara on Dobro. O'Hara was their first music teacher while the two were growing up on a dairy farm in Ellenburg Depot, in upstate New York.

"He'd just graduated from college, we were 12 and 11, and he started showing us how to play the banjo and guitar," Eric recalled. "All these years later, he's play-

ing music with us."

There's more history in the onstage configuration. Their longtime bass player is the son of Junior Barber, who played Dobro with the Gibson Brothers when they were starting out. "Jerry went on and on about him when we recorded with him," Gibson said of the elder Barber, who died in 2017. "He was a legend in this area, and people like that would take an interest in us."

It's testament to their talent that two players from a town just below the Canadian border could rise to the top of a genre dominated by Nashville pickers, but Gibson recalls a collective purposefulness in their far-flung milieu. A memory of one band preparing to go on at an American Legion years ago is still fresh.

"They took it as seriously as if they were gonna go play the Opry," he said. "That stuck with me... wherever, whatever that stage is, you make it count."

The Gibson Brothers released their first album in the mid-'90s; years later, Eric Gibson is happy to be part of his genre, and sees bright days ahead.

"I think the roots scene is very strong," Gibson said. "Every so often you hear, 'oh, bluegrass is dead.' How is it dead when you have Billy Strings playing bluegrass? Molly Tuttle has found a heck of a big audience. Hopefully, there's a trickle-down effect for the rest of us, but I feel like that old John Hartford song. I'm still here, we're still doing it. We must be doing something right." 🍷

“Wherever, whatever that stage is, you make it count.”

ERIC GIBSON

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	483-4888	Hare of the Dawg 3 E. Broadway, 552-3883	18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	Hudson Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	126 W. Main St., 290-4887	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210	RIBS 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Concord Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Dover Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240	Hampton CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St., 644-3535	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square, 672-2270
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390	The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962	BluAqua 930 Elm St., 836-3970	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020	Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	Tandy's Pub & Grill 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777	Jaffrey Park Theatre 19 Main St., 532-9300	Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979
Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667	Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St., 601-7091	Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road	Kingston Defiant Records & Craft Beer 609 Main St., 527-8310	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Contoocook Farmers Market 896 Main St., 746-3018	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	Laconia Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022	The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	Henniker Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road, 888-728-7732	Hillsboro Main Street Grill and Bar	Litchfield Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722	Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
Candia The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub 285 Old Candia Road,	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Fracestown Toll Booth Tavern Crotched Mountain Resort 740 Second NH Turnpike, 588-1800		Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022	The Hill Bar & Grille McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct., 622-6159	Meredith Giuseppe's 312 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-3313	Hidden Pig 53 Main St., 402-9640
	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946				Tortilla Flat	Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876	Liquid Therapy 14 Court St., 402-9391
						Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022	San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St., 886-8833
							Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-

Thursday, Jan. 11

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: live music, 6 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.	Hampton L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: open mic, 8 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Candia Town Cabin: T. Paris, 6 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Tim Wildman, 6:30 p.m. Lithermans: Andrea Paquin, 5:30 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: Rob & Jody, 7 p.m.
Epping Telly's: Jason Michelson, 7 p.m.	Manchester BluAqua Restobar: Casey Roop, 8 p.m. Fratello's: John Chouinard, 5:30 p.m. Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.
Epsom Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.
Gilford Patrick's: Don Severance and Tim Gurshin, 6 p.m.	

Friday, Jan. 12

Alton Bay Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: musical bingo, 6:30 p.m. Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	Hillsboro Main Street Grill & Bar: Colin Hart, 6 p.m.
Bedford Murphy's: Jamie Hughes, 6 p.m.	Nashua Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m. Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.	Northwood Northwoods Brewing: Cecil Abels, 5:30 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: Cory Malm, 7:30 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Second Wind, 6:30 p.m.	Pittsfield Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.
Contoocook Contoocook Cider Co.: live music, 5 p.m.	Portsmouth The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.	Litchfield Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
	Salem Copper Door: Bella Perrotta, 7 p.m.	
	Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m. Red's: Kevin Alexander Herrerra, 7 p.m.	
	Somersworth Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.	



GET SOME SATISFACTION

In 2000 Chris LeGrand started **Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Show** to pay tribute to The World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band. More than two decades later, they're still playing all your favorite Stones songs in a wild live show. Don't miss their appearance at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets. anselm.edu) on Friday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45, plus fees.

4070	1253 Upper City Road, 1964 216-2162	ern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
New Boston	Portsmouth	Somersworth
Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362	The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122	Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
Northfield	The Goat	Sunapee
Boonedox Pub 95 Park St., 717-8267	142 Congress St., 590-4628	The Livery in Sunapee Harbor 58 Main St., thelivery.org
Northwood	Grill 28	T-Bones
Northwoods Brewing Co. 1334 First NH Tpk., 942-6400	Pease Golf Course, 200 Grafton Road, 766-6466	311 South Broadway, 893-3444
Penacook	Press Room	Seabrook
American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St., 753-9372	77 Daniel St., 431-5186	Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
Pittsfield	Rochester	Windham
Over the Moon 19 Hanson St., 330-	Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-	Windham Restaurant 59 Range Road, 870-9270
	Red's Kitchen + Tav-	

Londonderry Coach Stop: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Another Shot, 8 p.m.	Milford Pasta Loft: Under Cover Band, 8:30 p.m. Riley's: Glitter and Camo, 8 p.m. Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.	Pittsfield Over the Moon: Irish traditional music session, 7 p.m.
Manchester Backyard Brewery: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m. BluAqua Restobar: Matt Bergeron, 9 p.m. Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 9 p.m. Derryfield: Bob Pratte Band, 8 p.m. Foundry: Karen Grenier, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m. Murphy's: live music, 8 p.m. Shaskeen: Long Autumn, 9 p.m. South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m. Strange Brew: Faith Ann solo, 8 p.m.	Nashua Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Fody's: DJ Wensy Rivera, 10 p.m. The Hidden Pig: Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.	Portsmouth Gas Light: Krystian Beal, 9:30 p.m. The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m. Grill 28: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m. Press Room: The A-Beez, 9 p.m. Thirsty Moose: Closing Time, 9 p.m.
Meredith Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 5:45 p.m. Twin Barns: Kimayo, 5 p.m.	New Boston Molly's: Eyes of Age, 6:30 p.m.	Salem Luna Bistro: Peter Pappas, 7 p.m.
Merrimack Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.	Northfield Boonedox Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.	Seabrook Red's: DNA, 8 p.m.
	Northwood Northwoods Brewing: Ben Harris, 6 p.m.	Sunapee Sunapee Coffee House: Dylan Patrick Ward, 7 p.m.
	Penacook American Legion Post 31: Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	

Saturday, Jan. 13
Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.



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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Barrington
Topwater: Bobby Freedom, 5:30 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

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

Brookline
Alamo: Caylin Costello, 6 p.m.

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

Contoocook
Farmers Market: Joel Begin, 9 a.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Nick Rolser, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Kitchen Party band, 7 p.m.
Telly's: Tim Theriault, 8 p.m.

Francestown
Crotched: Charlie Chronopoulos, 6 p.m.

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: Sunshine Street,

6 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: live music, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Woodland Protocol, 9 p.m.
Whym: Liz Ridgely, 6 p.m.

Henniker
Pats Peak: The Murphys, 6 p.m.

Hillsboro
Main Street Grill & Bar: Tom Rousseau, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's Bar: Jeffrey Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Lynn's 102: Crescendo's Gate, 8:30 p.m.

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

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: The Slakas, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.
BluAqua Restrobar: Dave Clark Jr., 9 p.m.
Bonfire: Martin and Kelly, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Richard Wallace, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.
Great North Aleworks: Ian Gali-peau, 4 p.m.
The Hill Bar & Grill: Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.
Strange Brew: Amorphous Band, 9 p.m.
Wild Rover: Kat Ivy, 5 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Chris Lester, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 6 p.m.

Milford
Pasta Loft: Boom Box, 8:30 p.m.
Riley's: Roxanne & The Voodoo Rockers, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: Wooden Soul, 8 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Bootscam, 7 p.m.
San Francisco Kitchen: Scott King, 6:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Robert & Rich Duo, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Salem
Luna Bistro: Maddie Ryan, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red's: Redemption, 8 p.m.

Sunapee
The Livery: Eric Harpe Country Blues Duo, 7 p.m.

Windham
Windham Restaurant: Brian Walker, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 14

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

Brookline
Alamo: Robert Allwarren, 4 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Myles Bullen, S. Reidy, Folk Punk Dad & BlueR-asperry, 6 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: live music, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: No Decision, 4 p.m.

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

Manchester
Bonfire: free line dancing, 7 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Seabrook
Red's: Lisa Love Experience, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 15

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

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

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

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Brian Walker, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Chris Powers, 6 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Clint Lapointe, 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.

Nashua
Fody's: open mic with Devin Carol, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 8 p.m.
Press Room: Soggy Po' Boys, 9 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Concord
Hermanos: Kid Pinky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria & Grill: Ryan Williams, 6 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.
Hare of the Dawg: Caylin Costello, 6 p.m.

Hampton
Wally's: Mike Francis, 9 p.m.

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

Manchester
BluAqua Restrobar: Ramez Gurung, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Liz Ridgely, 5:30 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

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

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

HOMETOWN BOY GOES VEGAS



When Laconia, New Hampshire, native Justin Spencer formed **Recycled Percussion** for a high school talent show in 1995, he couldn't have predicted how successful the band would become. The ensemble was featured on the front page of USA Today, played a sold-out 10-year run on the Vegas strip and made a jaw-dropping appearance on *America's Got Talent*. They return to the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com) on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$37 to \$47, plus fees.

PUBLIC AUCTION

1st Priority Auto & Towing, LLC will be auctioning for non-payment, impounded/abandoned vehicles per NH Law RSA 262 Sec. 36-40. To be liquidated:

- 2018 Nissan Rogue 5N1AT2MVOJC835220
- 2002 Ford Ranger 1FTYR10D42PB71944
- 2005 Honda Odyssey 5FNRL38265B086560
- 2007 Honda Pilot 2HKYF18597H513543
- 2013 Infinity G37 JN1CV6AR5DM754284

Vehicles will be sold at Public Auction Jan. 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 26 Mason St., Nashua NH. We reserve the right to refuse/cancel any sale at any time for any reason.

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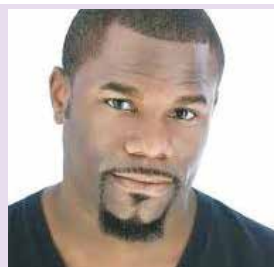
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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- **Cory Rodrigues/Maya Manion** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
- **Joey Carroll** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Friday, Jan. 12, 8:30 p.m.
- **Caitlin Peluffo** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Saturday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Steve Bjork** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 p.m.
- **Chris Zito** Chunky's Nashua (chunkys.com), Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 p.m.
- **Dan Crohn** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 p.m.
- **Amy Tee & Mark Scalia** Molly's Tavern in New Boston (.mollystavernnh.com), Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Christopher Titus** Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.com), Thursday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

- Thursday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.
- **Christopher Titus** Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Dan Boulger** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Friday, Jan. 19, and Saturday, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.
- **Amy Tee/Mark Riley/Kyle New Amato** Center in Milford, Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Mitch Stinson** McCue's in Portsmouth (mccuescomedyclub.com), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.



Corey Rodrigues

- com), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Cory G** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.

- urday, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford** Chunky's Nashua (chunkys.com), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.
- **Lucas Zelnick** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford/Rob Steen** Nan King in Hudson (nankinghudson.com), Thursday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
- **Lee DeWyze** Friday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org)

- **Kenny Rogerson/Jody Sloane/David Lamb** Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.org), Saturday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m.
- **Mark Riccadonna** Chunky's Manchester (chunkys.com), Friday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.
- **Alex Giampapa** McCue's in Portsmouth (mccuescomedyclub.com), Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m.
- **Dan Crohn** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.

Concerts

Venues

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Flying Goose
40 Andover Road, New London,

526-6899, flyinggoose.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Majestic Theatre

880 Page St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net

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

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

Nashua Center for the Arts
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

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

Pasta Loft
241 Union Square, Milford, pastaloft.com/live-music

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

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

Rochester Opera House
31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-

1992, rochesteroperahouse.com

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

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

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

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

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

- Shows**
- **Bill Charlap Trio** Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 - **Socks in the Frying Pan** Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
 - **Maurice Brown Quartet** Friday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
 - **Another Tequila Sunrise** (Eagles tribute) Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Palace
 - **Dirty Deeds** (AC/DC tribute) Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre
 - **Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Show** Friday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center
 - **Dueling Pianos** Friday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 - **Marcus Rezak Guitar Head** Friday, Jan. 12, 9 p.m., Stone Church
 - **The British Invasion: A Celebration in Music** Saturday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Majestic Theatre
 - **Reed Foehl/Dustin Murdock** Saturday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Word Barn
 - **Randy Armstrong** Saturday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Public Library
 - **Rust Never Sleeps** (Neil Young tribute) Saturday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., Palace
 - **The Gibson Brothers** Saturday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., Rex
 - **Eaglemania** (Eagles tribute) Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m., Tupelo
 - **Being Petty** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 - **The Rock & Roll Playhouse: The Music of Tom Petty for Kids** Sunday, Jan. 14, 12 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
 - **Recycled Percussion** Sunday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m., Rochester Opera



Being Petty

- **Pasquale Grasso Trio** Sunday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Trousdale** Tuesday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Ghost-Note** Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Tim Reynolds (TR3)** Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Guy Davis** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose
- **Jax Hollow** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Steve Rondo/The Far Out** Thursday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Dancing Queens: The Ultimate ABBA & Disco Tribute** Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 11, Palace
- **Ali McGuirk** Friday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **TR3 featuring Tim Reynolds** Friday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Midnight Wrens** Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Boogie Wonder Band** Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **A Band of Killers** Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m., Press Room
- **Bruce in the USA** (Bruce Springsteen tribute) Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Gunning & Cormier** Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Cormac McCarthy** Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., Press Room
- **Anthony Gomes** Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's

Trivia nights

Looking for our trivia listings? Check out this week's trivia night cover story, which starts on page 10. Know of a trivia night not listed? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com. Answers to sample trivia questions on page 11: 1. Benjamin Franklin; 2. prime number; 3. The Girl Scouts of the USA; 4. swimming, cycling, running; 5. Cardigan; 6. Aphrodite.

A TERRIFIC TWOSOME

Corey Rodrigues has taken his observational comedy from the barbershops of his family's barbershop in Milton, Massachusetts, to some of the world's biggest stages, and has raised money for organizations like the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. He brings his friend **Maya Manion** to his show at the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Friday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

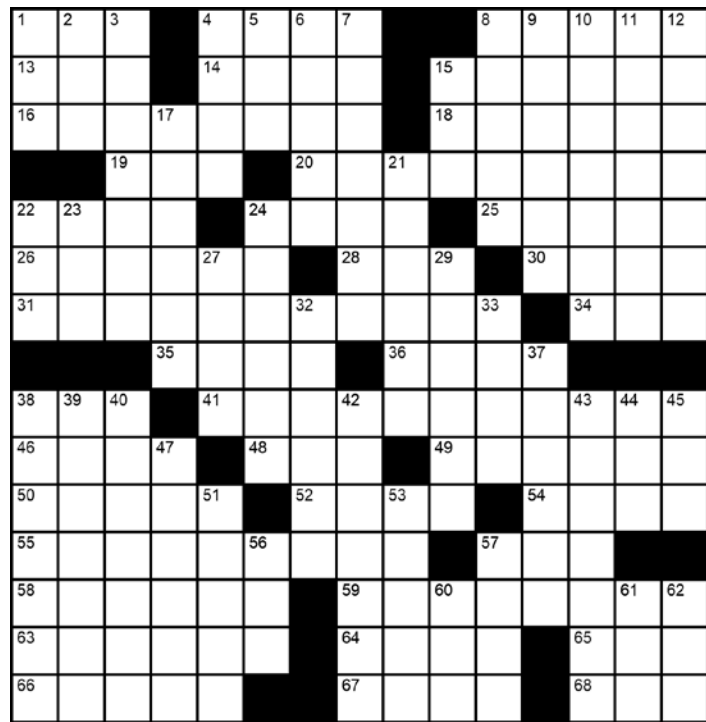


LOVABLE LOOSE CANNON



Caitlin Peluffo has made a name for herself by finding comedy in subject matter other comedians won't touch and by getting audiences to laugh at some of her most intimate foibles. Her fearless honesty and endearing stage presence have landed her a guest appearance on *Late Night* with Stephen Colbert and opening slots for comedians like Fortune Feimster and Maria Bamford. She touches down at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org) on Friday, Jan. 12, at 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 13, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$22 to \$32 plus fees.

"Best of 2023"—it's quite the year.



- 58. Dirty clothes basket
- 59. See 55-Across
- 63. East Coast toll-paying convenience
- 64. "Game of Thrones" actress Chaplin
- 65. Masseur's specialty
- 66. Second effort
- 67. Basic training figs.
- 68. "Lord of the Rings" beast

Down

- 1. "Huh...?!"
- 2. Animal that goes for a long swim?
- 3. New Hampshire senator Jeanne with a rhyming surname
- 4. "Deputy ___" (TV canine)
- 5. Chicken-king connector
- 6. Oldest of the "Animaniacs" siblings
- 7. "Popeye" kid whose name has an apostrophe
- 8. Actress Hannah of "Kill Bill"
- 9. Not-so-see-through
- 10. Major Spanish newspaper
- 11. Brand with a new label
- 12. More rocky
- 15. Hosp. heart ward
- 17. Like some cheesecakes
- 21. Beneficiary of, as an estate
- 22. Ballpoint brand
- 23. Ostrich kin
- 24. "Oh ___!" (Marcia Brady quote, in that episode with the football)
- 27. ___ Stadium (L.A. venue that hosted Super Bowl LVI)
- 29. Candy maker Russell
- 32. City near Buffalo, NY
- 33. Take advice from

- 37. Lackey
- 38. Cranky infant, perhaps
- 39. Befogged
- 40. Endeavor
- 42. Alphabetically last U.S. state capital
- 43. Former Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist Dave
- 44. O'Hare's airport code

- 45. Dictionary entries (abbr.)
- 47. Not quite good
- 51. Rhyming works
- 53. Like a specially formed committee
- 56. Many mos.
- 57. Shouts of discovery
- 60. Brian with the 2022 album "ForeverAndEverNoMore"
- 61. Not just my
- 62. "The Voice" network

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Across

- 1. "Asteroid City" director Anderson
- 4. Calendar pages
- 8. Active sorts
- 13. "Yeah, right" laugh
- 14. "There oughta be ___ against that!"
- 15. Ibuprofen option
- 16. Game whose sequel was Time's #1 best video game of 2023
- 18. Early parlor game (and nothing to do with drawing first blood)
- 19. Take an unfair share
- 20. His Best Supporting Actor Oscar win was part of CBC's best pop culture moments of 2023
- 22. "University Challenge" airtel, informally, with "the"
- 24. Be down
- 25. Monday, in France
- 26. "Fine with me"
- 28. Ice, in Germany
- 30. Part of a sword
- 31. Diane Morgan-starring British mockumentary series that landed on many U.S. "Best of 2023" lists
- 34. "___ the fields we go" ("Jingle Bells")
- 35. Got an ___ effort
- 36. Word after even or odd when describing mammals with hooves
- 38. Actress Carrere of "Wayne's World"
- 41. Highest-placing Taylor Swift song (at #19) on Rolling Stone's "100 Best Songs of 2023"
- 46. Tonsillectomy does
- 48. Ending for racket or rocket
- 49. Former Georgian president Shevardnadze

- 50. Consume
- 52. Custard fruit
- 54. Netflix stopped mailing them in 2023
- 55. With 59-Across, Hayao Miyazaki's final film, which made many 2023 top ten lists
- 57. ___ Khan University (Karachi institution)

WORD★Roundup™

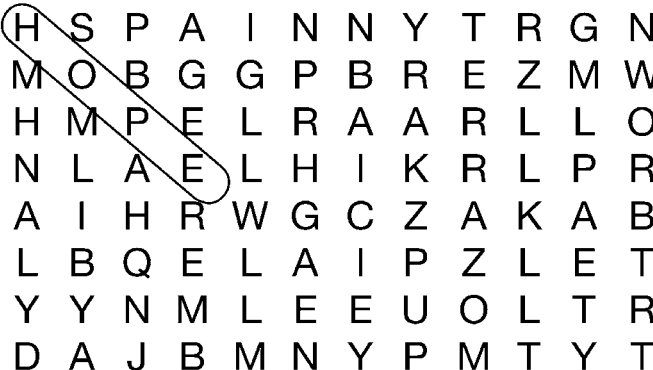
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Bob _____ □ □ □ □
- _____ bear □ □ □
- Three five-letter countries □ □ □
- Two words ending with LP □ □
- It borders France □

Last Week's Answers: ECSTATIC ECHELON ECLIPSE ECONOMY ECHO / BANJO CELLO PIANO / JEFF BRIDGES / JAMAICA ICELAND / HORSE ZEBRA

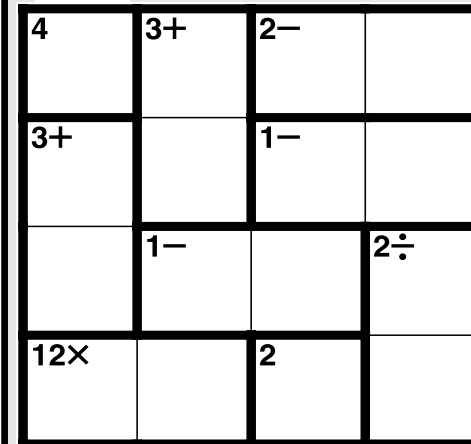
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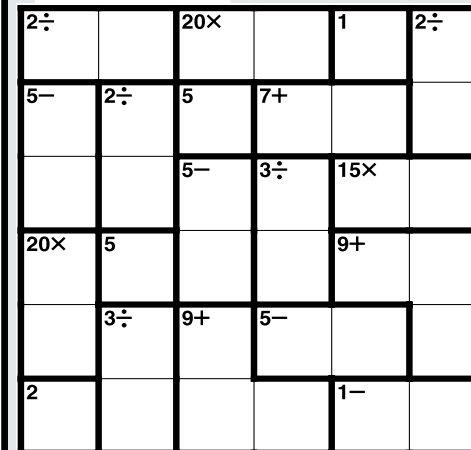
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CHALLENGING



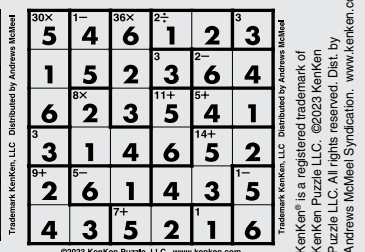
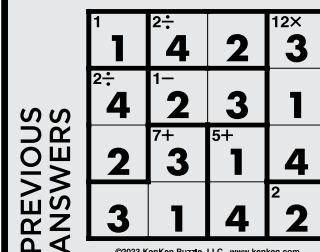
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RULES

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

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

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



Why she had to puzzle I don't know, she wouldn't say

Across

- 1. Last name of Beatles 'Eleanor'
- 6. Guitarists' cheat sheets (abbr)
- 10. Canadians The Tragically ___
- 13. Sum 41 '___ Deep'
- 14. Is "somewhere in middle America" to Counting Crows
- 16. "And I'm gonna be high ___ kite by then"
- 17. Opening song on Pink Floyd's 'More' album
- 19. 'Time Ago' band Black ___
- 20. They grow quite large for prima donna stars
- 21. Beatles "Why she had to ___ don't know, she wouldn't say"
- 22. Rapper ___ Kim
- 23. 'I Would Die For You' Jann
- 25. 80s band ___ Echo
- 27. Soundgarden "___ could hug my love, could I try"
- 28. Like qualities or pitches of a sound
- 32. What Michael Jackson's 'PYT' needs
- 33. Teenage Fanclub live on a 'Cul De ___'
- 34. Guster song about baby-talk for father, perhaps
- 35. "Gloria, I think they got the ___" Laura Branigan
- 38. Jawbreaker song that hurt?

- 40. 'Ring My Bell' Ward
- 42. Swedish 'What Have I Done' girl Ternheim
- 43. Department store where you bought an axe, back in the day
- 45. Bassist Kirkwood of Meat Puppets
- 46. Solos make you ooh and this
- 47. What Nekromantix want you to do 'In Hell'
- 48. '83 Barbra Streisand musical film
- 50. Pagnotta of Sugarcult
- 51. Dave Matthews covered Cat Stevens' 'Father ___'
- 54. Accept 'I'm A ___'
- 56. Japanese metalers for a smartphone card
- 57. 'Black On Both Sides' rapper ___ Def
- 59. fun. singer Ruess
- 60. Dishwalla do this song every 'Once ___ While' (2,1)
- 61. 'Whiter Shade Of Pale' band
- 66. Adam/Jack/Ryan Met acronymous band
- 67. Type of Brazilian dance

- 68. 'So There' singer Goddard
- 69. Shock rockers take it to this
- 70. "I've got my ___ pipe" Weezer
- 71. Reverend Horton Heat "I got a new ___ on life and things to do"
- 23. Rage Against The Machine is 'Without ___' under a mask
- 24. 'Right Here Waiting' guy
- 26. Jazz's Fitzgerald
- 27. Faces 'A Nod ___ Good As A Wink To A Blind Horse'
- 29. Sid Vicious girl Spungen
- 30. Nils Lofgren "You lit ___ and I'm burning"
- 31. Kind of Grammy awards
- 36. Stagehand will fix something w/hammer and ___
- 37. Tex-Mex guy Doug
- 39. Spill Canvas song about Himerus' sidekick
- 41. '68 Van Morrison album '___ Weeks'
- 44. Slams foot, as with pedal
- 49. Clint Eastwood wants death on '___ Dose'
- 51. Alicia Keys 'Teenage Love Affair' album
- 52. Vanilla Ice did '___ Rap' for TMNT II: The Secret Of The Ooze
- 53. 'Don't Know Why' Jones
- 55. Bobby "Blue" Bland 'Live On ___ Street'
- 58. Smashing Pumpkins 'Siamese Dream' song
- 59. Sing/songer Gundersen named after ark driver?
- 62. Company Sony acquired in '88
- 63. 'Fool (If You Think It's Over)' Chris
- 64. Tommy Lee & Kid Rock to Pamela Anderson
- 65. Last name of Beatles 'Maggie'

Down

- 1. 'Rockaway' Ocasek
- 2. Slipknot 'The Devil ___'
- 3. Steve Howe/Steve Hackett 80s band
- 4. Blasé Deftones song?
- 5. '98 New Radicals hit '___ What You Give'
- 6. Warrant 'Uncle ___ Cabin'
- 7. How ___ Supposed To Live Without You
- 8. Repeated word in ZZTop single off 'Rhythmeen'
- 9. Repeated word in '90 Cher hit
- 10. LSD may make you do this at the show
- 11. Safetysuit "Was it something ___?"
- 12. Half of Radiohead debut, w/'Honey'
- 15. Former Santana label
- 18. Jimmy Buffett '___ Son Of A Sailor'

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

R&R answer from pg 36 of 1/4

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

Jonesin' answer from pg 35 of 1/4

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

NITE SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 37.

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from Poor Richard's Almanack, by Benjamin Franklin, born Jan. 17, 1706.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *An empty bag cannot stand upright.*

Unless it's a sturdy yard waste bag on a still day.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow.*

Which came first?

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Anger warms the invention, but overheats the oven.*

Find other ways to warm your invention.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *A quarrelsome man has no good neighbors.*

It's not about the neighbors.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Bad commentators spoil the best of books.*

Save the commentary for later.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Would you persuade, speak of interest, not of Reason.*

Combine reason and interest and you've really got something.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Buy what thou has no need of; and e'er long thou shalt sell thy necessities.*

Prioritize your purchases.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *He's a fool that cannot conceal his wisdom.*

Save it for the right

time.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Old boys have their playthings as well as young ones; the difference is only in the price.*

Toys are more fun when you share them.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Have you somewhat to do tomorrow; do it today.*

After you do the stuff you were supposed to do yesterday.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Tis easy to frame a good bold resolution; but hard is the task that concerns execution.*

Think big, act in bite-size pieces.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *It is common for men to give 6 pretended reasons instead of one real one.*

Get real. 🍷

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 local leisure (10)	_____
2 midday meal (6)	_____
3 hybrid utensil (5)	_____
4 Britain-France connector (7)	_____
5 "Bailamos" lyrics, say (9)	_____
6 online manners (10)	_____
7 roadside inn (5)	_____

RK	IQ	CHU	MOT	BRU
NCH	NN	NGL	SPA	NET
AYC	ON	ISH	ST	TE
EL	ATI	EL	SPO	UET

Last Week's Answers: 1. NUISANCE 2. ARTISAN 3. BANISTER 4. PURSES 5. DAPPER 6. CHIROGRAPHY 7. BETROTHAL

Sudoku Answers from pg 36 of 1/4

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/18

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/20

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 12/22



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A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES
SATURDAY | JANUARY 20 | 8:00 P.M.



THE JOHNNY A BAND
SATURDAY | JANUARY 27 | 8:00 P.M.



THE THE BAND BAND
THE LAST WALTZ CELEBRATION
SUNDAY | JANUARY 28 | 7:00 P.M.



CLASSIC STONES LIVE
THE ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE
SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 3 | 8:00 P.M.



FORTUNE
SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 4 | 7:00 P.M.

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Creme de la Weird

Stick with me here. In 1899 in Peshawar, Pakistan, James Squid, a drunken British officer, arrested a ... tree because he thought it was a fugitive trying to get away from him. He ordered the tree chained to the ground, Oddity Central reported, and the chains have remained for 125 years, along with a plaque explaining them. While tourists are tickled by the strange restraints, locals see the chains as a symbol of British oppression. "Through this act, the British basically implied to the tribesmen that if they dared act against the Raj, they too would be punished in a similar fashion," one local man said. Others call it a living history.

Our Litigious Society

Cynthia Kelly, 18, of Hillsborough County, Florida, has sued The Hershey Co. for \$5 million because the Reese's Peanut Butter Pumpkins she bought in October didn't have a jack-o'-lantern face on them as shown on the packaging. ClickOrlando reported on Dec. 29 that Kelly accused the company of "false and deceptive advertising," and she "would not have purchased the Reese's Peanut Butter Pumpkins product if she knew that it did not have the detailed carvings of the mouth and/or eyes as pictured on the product label," the suit reads.

She also pointed out that the White Ghost and Football candies were missing their own key details.

Two years ago, Paul Kerouac stopped at a Dunkin' Donuts in Winter Park, Florida, where he used the restroom, the New York Post reported. While he was indisposed, the toilet he was occupying exploded, leaving him "covered with debris, including human feces and urine," according to a lawsuit filed on Jan. 3 in Florida's 9th Judicial District. Kerouac claims the Dunkin' workers knew there was a "problem with the toilet" and says he now "requires mental health care and counseling as a direct result of the trauma he experienced in the restroom."

Gone Fishing

Authorities are still fishing for a man who entered a Bass Pro Shops store in Fort Myers, Florida, on Dec. 20 and dipped a net into the indoor fishpond, capturing a 50-pound tarpon. USA Today reported that the suspect left the store with the dripping catch, and despite a cash reward and social media posts, the Lee County Sheriff's Office has not been able to identify or find him.

Not Holly Jolly

On Dec. 13, as a family in Arlington, Virginia, sat down to dinner, a Ring doorbell

notification alerted them to someone at the door, WUSA-TV reported. The woman told her husband, "There's this guy, he didn't ring the doorbell. He's just standing there and he's in a gingerbread man costume." The husband called the police non-emergency line to report the creepy visit, and about an hour later, another neighbor, Lindsey Churchill, spotted the gingerbread man. "All of a sudden my dogs were going crazy ... and there was a giant blow-up gingerbread man costume out on the sidewalk," she said. "We kind of locked eyes and the gingerbread man went on his way. It was not holly jolly." Police never actually caught up with the subject, who was not identified.

Getting Away From It All

Three armed suspects were busy robbing a check-cashing business in Commerce City, Colorado, on Dec. 16 when another thief mucked up their getaway plans, 9News-TV reported. The robbers' vehicle, which was probably stolen, was outside when a woman jumped in and took off with it, leaving the teenage suspects to try to escape on foot. Police were able to capture two of them, along with loaded firearms, and arrest them. The car thief is still at large.

In Wheat Ridge, Colorado, police

caught up with a burglar on Dec. 28 who had hired an Uber for use as a getaway car, 14News-TV reported. The man was taken into custody as he approached his hired ride, carrying a backpack with \$8,600 worth of stolen Milwaukee-brand tools inside. "Ordering an Uber as your getaway driver makes it that much easier for us to find you," the Wheat Ridge Police Department posted online.

News You Can Use

We've all seen the restaurant notices about automatic gratuities added for parties of more than six or eight people. A 10-person group in South Bend, Indiana, thought they would beat the system at the Wild Crab restaurant by splitting into two groups of five, WSBT-TV reported. A manager said the group was informed that they'd be subject to the 18% gratuity, even though they were seated in different sections of the restaurant. As the party left the restaurant, someone threw crayons at the manager and pepper-sprayed them. Firefighters responded to help the victim of the pepper spray, and a police report was filed.

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

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